



A Point Loma woman captures the title of Miss Cities of San Diego 2011 to move on to the Miss California Pageant.

Page 5



Koneko Bishop, president the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society, reflects on the tragedy befalling the Japanese people after a devastating 9.0-magnitude earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis earlier this month. Bishop stands in front of the Japanese Friendship Bell at Shelter Island, a gift from the sister city of Yokohama in 1958. The local society is gearing up to join world relief efforts for Japan. PHOTO BY JIM GRANT | THE BEACON

San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society joins relief efforts

By DEBBIE HATCH | THE BEACON

Since the devastating 9.0-magnitude earthquake and ensuing tsunami that pounded Japan on March 11, each passing day has created worry and fear in the hearts of family members and friends around the world — as well as in San Diego.

San Diego's sister city, Yokohama, Japan, presented the city with a Friendship Bell in 1958. The bell is located on Shelter Island. The sister city agreement was signed by

the two cities in 1957.

Now, the local group's role is pivotal in the aftermath of the devastating Thoku earthquake and tsunami.

"The bell is the symbol of eternal friendship," said Koneko Bishop, president of the San Diego Yokohama Sister City Society (SDYSCS).

In the spirit of San Diego's eternal friendship with Yokohama, SDYSCS is collecting donations for relief efforts for the Japanese people. Bishop said 100 percent of the proceeds collected will be sent to aid the people of Japan.

Yokohama has a population of about 3.6 million people and is situated just south of Tokyo on the Tokyo Bay. Many people work in Tokyo and have homes in Yokohama, Bishop said.

"Yokohama to Sendai, the worst-hit area, is 120 miles away," Bishop said. "The nuclear reactor is 75 miles from Yokohama."

Firefighters and other public-safety personnel from Yokohama were sent to the damaged areas in the aftermath of the

SEE JAPAN, Page 3

Schools brace for worst after pink slips to teachers

Barnard and OB elementaries, Correia Middle may share pain

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

With the San Diego Unified School District facing an estimated \$120 million budget crisis, teacher layoff notices have been distributed across the district — possibly affecting a host of teachers at Barnard and Ocean Beach elementary schools and Correia Middle School.

Officials said they fear the worst hit will be to Barnard's teachers — who specialize in Mandarin Chinese within Barnard's magnet language program — but are hopeful these educators will be spared.

"I anticipate that the Mandarin-speaking teachers will have their preliminary layoff notices rescinded," said SDUSD Board of Education member Scott Barnett in an e-mailed statement. Barnett's office represents schools in the Peninsula area. He added that he opposed the current round of layoffs.

Peninsula schools have some of the largest number of layoff projections on the list of hardest-hit schools. Seven of the 17 total staff were given layoff notices at Barnard Elementary

last week, representing about 41 percent of certificated staff — mostly teachers — at the site.

About 14 layoff notices were handed out at Correia Elementary School in recent weeks and six at Ocean Beach Elementary.

Barnard Principal Edward Park said that if the school district lets staff go according to seniority, Barnard's newest teachers — those brought on specifically to teach Mandarin in the growing language immersion program — would be most affected. That strategy would "ultimately destroy" one of the most progressive education programs in the city, Park said.

"[The language program] requires a highly-needed specialty skill set for a specialized school like ours. We want to sustain and continue to offer programs so that our kids can be ahead in the 21st century," Park said.

Impending statewide ballot measures could help tomorrow's students.

California voters will be asked to vote on a five-year extension on a set of state taxes and fees set to expire this year. Along with

SEE NOTICES, Page 3

Planners nix sewer-pipe work this summer

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

According to local planners, summer is a time for surf, sun, sand and the resulting tourists with disposable income — not road rage from torn-up asphalt, annoying roadblocks and detours on the community's best-known street.

As a result, the Ocean Beach Planning Group denied a city request to work all summer long to replace or repair nearly two miles of sewer lines in a \$4 million project that involves Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

Hoping to make up 47 days of delay

so far because of bad weather and inaccurate maps, the city made the request March 2 at the planning board's monthly meeting. Though the board has only advisory powers, the city had agreed to abide by the planners' decision, said Sarah Chavez, the city's construction engineer for the project.

By a 7-4 vote, the board said construction on Sunset Cliffs during the summer would be too disruptive, especially to businesses that rely heavily on tourism. The board agreed to let the city finish working on pipes along Cable Street from West Point Loma

Boulevard to Del Mar Avenue, but stop after the project turns one block east to Sunset Cliffs. Barring further delays, construction will continue through early August — several weeks past the annual construction moratorium that begins Memorial Day weekend.

The final part of the project — replacing pipes along four blocks of Sunset Cliffs between Del Mar and Point Loma avenues — won't begin until after Labor Day and should be complete by Christmas, according to city officials.

SEE SEWER, Page 6




Residents and businesses are experiencing the inconvenience of a city sewer-pipe replacement project, primarily at the intersection of Cable Street and Newport Avenue. Parking spaces for businesses and homes have been blocked off and ramps have been installed to help motorists traverse the mess. PHOTO BY JIM GRANT | THE BEACON

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The Peninsula Woman's Club is asking the city for help in persuading federal postal officials to turn the 436,000-square-foot Midway Processing and Distribution Facility in Point Loma into a senior citizen housing and community center.

PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN / THE BEACON

Group urges Midway postal facility for senior housing

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

As plans move forward to sell off the federal property now occupied by the U.S. Post Office/Midway Processing and Distribution Facility in Point Loma, the Peninsula Woman's Club is petitioning city officials to lobby for help to turn the site into senior citizen housing and community center.

Lee Sharp, president of the Peninsula Woman's Club, said the growing number of elderly in the Point Loma and Ocean Beach areas would benefit most from the proposal.

"I just know that [there] is such a great percentage of seniors and they're in

need," Sharp said. "[The woman's club] has vans and volunteer drivers to take them to places they need to go."

Currently, volunteers with the woman's club and other organizations help seniors who cannot renew their driver's license. If several resources were consolidated in a single spot at the Midway Drive location, it would provide an easier way for seniors to have their needs met, Sharp said.

Sharp added that a community center there would provide a social element for those who are not able to get around.

The social/civic club recently sent a letter to the city asking that the property be designated for senior living and community resources.

The problem, according to Mayor Jerry Sanders' representative Rachel Laing, is that the city really doesn't have a say in how the property can be used.

The property is under federal control. "If they decide they'd like to convey the

property to the city, as they did with the old Naval Training Center, we'd be thrilled to take it off their hands," Laing said in an e-mailed statement. "Sadly, however, that does not appear to be their intention."

Once the central hub of San Diego mail processing and distribution, postal officials slowly redistributed its work and are now slating the facility for eventual sale. Since announcing the move, proposals ranging from a Costco store to a homeless facility have been batted about.

No decision from post office headquarters has yet been disclosed. The sale and decision process could take several more months before anything is settled, said Postal Service spokeswoman Eva Jackson in January.

Today, the Midway Drive facility handles about 1.8 million pieces of mail each day — about one-tenth of the volume handled by the central distribution center in Carmel Valley, according to postal officials.



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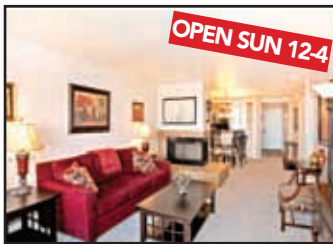


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OB planners back more relaxed pot dispensary rules

"San Diego City Council, you guys need to mellow out." That was the message from the Ocean Beach Planning Board, which determined at a special forum March 16 that the City Council was about to go too far in its effort to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

Board members said they view the upcoming City Council ordinance regulating dispensaries to be so restrictive it could force most of the dispensaries to close. As a result, the board voted 6-1 largely in support of a more-relaxed proposal cobbled together by the city's Medical Marijuana Task Force.

The final version of the ordinance won't be available until it reaches the City Council on March 28. But draft versions have reflected recommendations made by the council last September to restrict dis-

pensaries to relatively scarce commercial zones that don't allow residential uses and two types of industrial zones. No such zones exist in Ocean Beach.

Allowable zones are more abundant in the recommendations of the task force, which was created by the City Council in 2009 and issued its report in November of that year. The task force favored allowing dispensaries in three types of industrial zones and five types of commercial zones, regardless of whether residential use is also allowed. The prevailing type of commercial zoning in Ocean Beach — community commercial — would allow dispensaries.

The Ocean Beach planners also preferred task force recommendations having to do with buffer zones around libraries, daycare centers and the like, which are slightly less restrictive than the City Council's plan.

However, planning board members agreed with the City Council in two areas: a Process 4 conditional-use permit, which requires approval from the San Diego Planning Commission; and a ban on medical consultations at dispensaries.

Task Force recommendations allow lower-level conditional-use permits and do not ban on-site medical consultations.

Around three dozen people attended the Ocean Beach Planning Board forum. Of the 11 people who spoke, all but one was against the more stringent City Council recommendations and in favor of medical marijuana dispensaries. No one representing a local dispensary spoke.

Members voting in favor of the resolution supporting the task force recommendations and against the City Council plan were Chairman Giovanni Ingolia, Seth Connolly, Jane Gawronski, Brittany Taylor, Scott Therakalsen and Landry Watson. Craig Klein cast the lone dissenting vote.

— From staff reports



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Community invited to Participate in Fundraising Finale

The six Jersey Mike's Subs locations in San Diego County will cap off a month-long "Month of Giving" campaign to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego with a community fundraising event: Jersey Mike's "Make A Difference Day." The Boys and Girls Clubs serve over 25,000 in the County.

Jersey Mike's in San Diego has been part of a nationwide Jersey Mike's Subs initiative held throughout the month of March benefiting more than 60 charities. This final day of fundraising invites San Diego County residents to help make a difference by making a minimum contribution of \$1 to the Boys and Girls Club in exchange for a Free Regular Sub Sandwich, although the hope is that customers will respond by giving even more.

Help out a great cause! Standing shoulder to shoulder with our friends and neighbors, we hope to raise a lot of money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego. "Make A Difference Day" is the final event in Jersey Mike's March "Month of Giving" fundraising initiative for the Boys and Girls Clubs. Jersey Mike's Subs nationwide are holding "Make A Difference Day" celebrations for more than 60 charities on March 28 including this one.



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10:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

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JAPAN

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

destruction.

"Yokohama was fortunately unharmed," Bishop said.

Still, fear and concern abound for SDYSCS members and others in the Japanese-American community.

"We are all very concerned," said Thelma Press, vice president of the SDYSCS.

With the twin natural disasters and the threat of nuclear radiation in the food and water supplies, all of Japan will be affected by shortages, Press said.

Press has traveled to Japan 12 times and said she is in disbelief over the tragedy.

After the 2003 and 2007 wildfires in San Diego County, officials in Yokohama placed donation boxes all over their city and the funds collected were sent to aid San Diegans in its recovery, Bishop said.

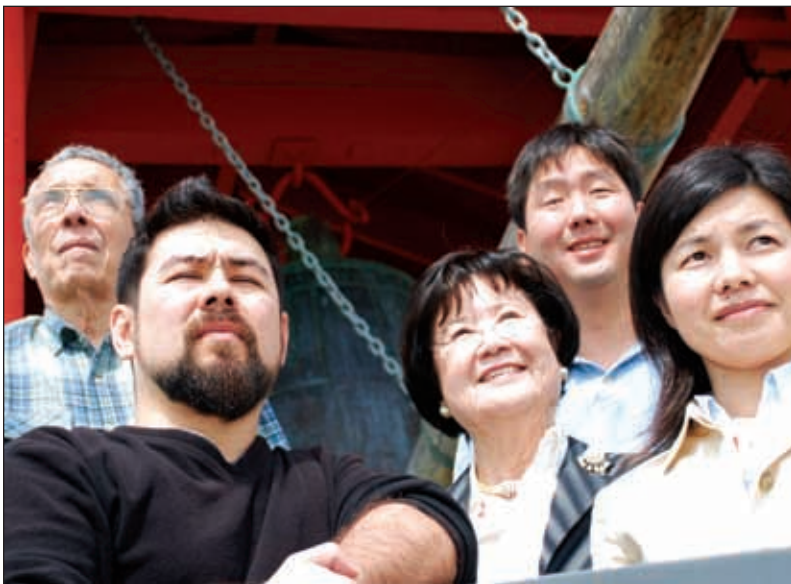
It was mandatory for all city employees in Yokohama to donate to the San Diego relief fund, she said.

Despite estimates of 10,000 people still missing across Japan, Bishop said that she believes the Japanese people will overcome the tragedies of this month and rebuild their country.

Bishop, 81, was born in Japan, but has lived in San Diego for nearly 40 years.

"Mutual respect is our way of life in Japan," Bishop said.

She described the Japanese as hard workers who will remain positive



Members of the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society gaze in the direction of Japan from the Japanese Friendship Bell on Shelter Island. Shown are, from left, John Rodriguez, Clifford Sakata, Koneko Bishop, Steven Sigafus and Kimiko Sigafus. PHOTO BY JIM GRANT / THE BEACON

"Yokohama to Sendai, the worst-hit area, is 120 miles away. The nuclear reactor is 75 miles from Yokohama."

KONEKO BISHOP

President, San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society

through tragedy.

"They like to help each other," Bishop said.

Bishop said she is honored to be part of the San Diego community and said the SDYSCS is grateful for any monetary disaster relief her fellow San Diegans can lend.

For those who want to help, checks

can be made out to San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society (SDYSCS), and mailed to the SDYSCS, P.O. Box 122842, San Diego, CA 92112-2842. Checks should be noted for The Japan Disaster Relief Fund.

For more information, call (619) 583-8979, or visit www.sandiego.yokohama-sistercity.org.

NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

other tax proposals, the measure would generate about \$8.9 billion, according to a March report released by the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

"Needs for education and other public services have grown during the recession, while the levels of these services have declined," the report states. "If the voters do not approve the tax extensions, the additional spending reductions needed to balance the budget could severely harm critical state and local government services and result in even deeper cuts to higher education."

As the state prepares for a tough road


ahead, the effects of past budget decisions and the ongoing fiscal crises deepens the worry for local schools. Administrators are now hoping that California residents will vote yes on tax-related proposals to help education.

"We've got so many schools out there


that are specialized and we are hoping we will have that needed support of the public," Park said.

San Diego Unified must finalize and submit a balanced budget to the San Diego County Office of Education by June 30.

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DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN YOUTH

Local planning groups wrap up elections, to seat new members

There's more to March than college basketball, St. Patrick's Day and the arrival of spring. Citizens interested in land-use planning and quality of life issues went to the polls and elected members of their local community planning groups. These groups meet monthly and are officially recognized as advisory bodies to the city.

Here are the election results.

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD

This area includes seven square miles and the following neighborhoods: Ocean Beach Highlands, Point Loma Highlands, Loma Alta, Loma Palisades, Loma Portal, Fleetridge/ Roseville, Sunset Cliffs, Wooded Area, La Playa, Roseville and the former Naval Training Center renamed Liberty Station. Here are the winning candidates and their vote totals.

- Norm Allenby, 349
- Paul Webb, 225
- Mike Ryan, 204
- Pete Nystrom, 203
- Allen Jones, 201

OCEAN BEACH PLANNING BOARD

This area includes 742 acres and three residential sub-areas: North Ocean Beach, north of the mid-block between Santa Monica Avenue and Saratoga Avenue, South Ocean Beach, south of Niagara Avenue and The Hill, east of Sunset Cliffs.

- Dist. 1 - Tom Gawronski
- Dist. 2 - Scott Waschitz
- Dist. 3 - vacant
- Dist. 4 - Craig Klein
- Dist. 5 - Brittany Taylor
- Dist. 6 - Jane Gawronski
- Dist. 7 - vacant

Since no candidates declared in the vacant districts, these positions are available through board appointment. More information is available at www.oceanbeachpb.com.

NORTH BAY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

This area is made up of 800 acres between Old Town and Point Loma and is largely comprised of the Midway area and Pacific Highway Corridor. Of the four open seats, three incumbents were re-elected: resident Anthony Lombardi and businessmen Mike Drogin and Chuck Pretto. The fourth seat went to Celeste Grant, representing the management of the San Diego Sports Arena.

—From staff reports

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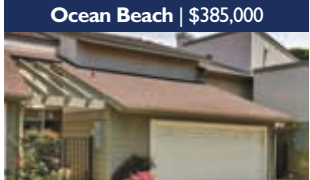


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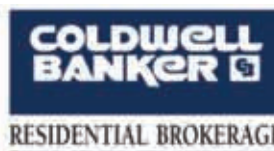
Ocean Beach | \$749,000-775,000

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Alleged ‘Tootsie Bandit’ pleads guilty

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

A Hillcrest man believed to be the cross-dressing “Tootsie Bandit” has pleaded guilty to an attempted heist at a bank on Rosecrans Street.

The same robber is believed to have held up a credit union and yet another bank, making off with more than \$65,000.

Robert Dean Tyndall II, 56, will be sentenced on April 6 by San Diego Superior Court Judge Theodore Weathers. Tyndall faces a maximum sentence of seven years and eight months in prison, said Deputy District Attorney Dennis Panish.

Court records show Tyndall wore a

blonde wig, a black blazer with a blue blouse, blue jeans and black boots when he held up the Inland Federal Credit Union in El Cajon on July 16, 2010. The FBI released six color photos to the media and said he appeared to be a white male dressed as a woman.

Tyndall then waited months before striking again. On Jan. 24, he approached the manager of the Comerica Bank on Rosecrans Street in the parking lot before the bank opened. He claimed to have a gun and ordered the manger to open the bank early. When the manager refused, Tyndall left empty-handed in a tan pickup truck.

On Feb. 1, Tyndall used a gun to rob

the Torrey Pines Bank in Clairemont. He ordered employees and customers to gather in the lobby and directed a bank employee to fill a bag with cash. He told them to wait three minutes before calling police and he drove off in a tan pickup truck.

Tyndall used women’s clothing only in the first robbery, but the “Tootsie Bandit” nickname stuck. It was applied by San Diego police to the other two robbery cases as well.

“Tootsie” was a cross-dressing character played by Dustin Hoffman in the title role in the 1982 comedy.

Panish said some of the stolen money was recovered. Tyndall remains in custody without bail.

NEWSbriefs



Shelby Macdonald was crowned Miss Cities of San Diego 2011 on March 19 and will move on to compete for the title of Miss California 2011 in Fresno this summer.

COURTESY PHOTO

Point Loman crowned Miss Cities of SD 2011

Shelby Macdonald of Point Loma captured the title of Miss Cities of San Diego 2011 on March 19 during the Miss San Diego Pageant at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts.

The participants ranging in age from 13 to 24 competed in the pageant against a total field of 35 young women. The pageant has been a San Diego tradition since the late 1920s and more than \$4,000 in scholarships were awarded this year.

Macdonald is a graduate of Point Loma High School and a student at Chapman University, majoring in broadcast journalism. She wowed

the judges with her piano performance, which accounted for 35 percent of the overall score.

Macdonald will move on to compete for Miss California 2011 in Fresno this summer, the official preliminary to Miss America. She will spend her year promoting her platform: The Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The contestants were scored on personal interview, talent, swimsuit (sportswear for teen contestants), evening gown and an on-stage question.

Winners receive the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve as San Diego’s official hostess.

Underage drinkers target of deputies, ABC

The San Diego County Sheriff’s Department will partner with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) through a county-wide grant to help combat underage drinking and other alcohol-related crimes.

In 2010, the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department received an ABC grant of \$100,000. The money will be spent in the communities patrolled by the Sheriff’s Department to help fight alcohol-related crimes and educate ABC-licensed businesses.

Sheriff’s officials said the goal of the ABC Grant Assistance Program is to partner with local law enforcement agencies to help make communities safer. The cooperative efforts of the Sheriff’s Department and ABC are aimed at building positive working relationships between all stakeholders and increasing safety in San Diego County.

On March 17, deputies — along with Investigators from ABC — conducted an undercover/directed patrol operation throughout the county of

San Diego. The operation resulted in 13 arrests and eight citations.

The arrests ranged from drug/narcotics violations, driving under the influence, and ABC / alcohol-related misdemeanors.

In one case, a bartender who served alcohol to an obviously intoxicated person was arrested, along with the intoxicated party.

Sheriff’s officials said grant-funded operations will continue. For more information, call (619) 956-4027 or e-mail nancy.blanco@sdsheriff.org.

Woman held after attempted bank heist

San Diego police officers arrested a 53-year-old woman last week after she attempted a holdup of the Wells Fargo Bank branch on Sports Arena Boulevard, according to investigators.

Denise Samuels allegedly presented a demand note around noon to the bank manager.

The note threatened a weapon and demanded a specific amount of money, according to Darrell Foxworth, a special agent in charge for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Foxworth, the manager did not have cash on hand and walked over to a teller and obtained a sum of money. After taking the money, the woman identified as Samuels walked out.

Foxworth said the bank robber’s description was communicated to officers, who located and detained Samuels. Samuels was later identified by a witness as the woman who robbed the bank. Samuels was taken into custody and subsequently booked into the Vista Detention Center.

The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, according to Foxworth.

E-WASTE: To be, or not to be

Which would you rather save: your pride, space, money, or planet?
You can save all that and more just by recycling your e-waste.

Consumer electronics constitute one of the fastest-growing waste streams around the world. In 2007, more than 40 million computers became obsolete, and discarded TVs, computers, peripherals (including printers, scanners, faxes), mice, keyboards and cell phones totaled about 2.25 million short tons of hazardous waste. Only 18% (414,000 tons) was collected for recycling, whereas 82% (1.84 million tons) was disposed of, primarily in landfills.

Electronics are complex devices made of a wide variety of material constituents, some of which—such as lead, nickel, cadmium and mercury—are hazardous materials that could pose risks to human health or the environment if mismanaged at their end-of-life.

Do you know the four characteristics of hazardous waste?

- Toxicity
- Reactivity
- Ignitability
- Corrosivity.

(It’s poisonous, explosive, flammable, and/or can eat through flesh and bone. That’s what all the fuss is about.)

Even worse, much of the “e-waste” that people throw away every day isn’t actually waste, but it is being wasted. “Obsolete” devices, equipment and parts are easily marketable for reuse or can be recycled for materials recovery. All electronics are made from valuable resources and highly engineered materials—including common and precious metals, plastics, and glass—all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Conserving natural resources avoids air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions caused by manufacturing virgin materials.

For example:

- Recycling one million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by 3,657 U.S. homes in a year. One metric ton of circuit boards can contain 40 to 800 times the concentrations of gold ore, and 30 to 40 times the concentration of copper ore, mined in the U.S.

For every million cell phones we recycle, we can recover 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium. In 2009 alone an estimated 15.3 million cell phones were sold in California, but only 4.1 million were reported as turned in for recycling.

And what about the social benefits of recycling cell phones and accessories? If they’re in good working condition, some collection programs donate them to worthy charities or provide them for sale. Some programs use the proceeds to benefit charitable organizations, such as domestic violence, environmental causes, and children’s safety. Others work to collect cell phones with schools and youth organizations as fundraising ventures. The principal markets for refurbished cell phones extend to people in developing economies who couldn’t otherwise afford such technology.

Recycling isn’t just a good idea; it’s the law. According to California’s Department of Toxic Substances Control, “Abandonment of e-waste constitutes illegal disposal of hazardous waste and will be prosecuted.”

Need a local solution? Think Recycle San Diego!

We host household e-waste collection events every weekend and offer on-site business pick-ups during the week.

Jeffrey Harding is the President and Founder of Recycle San Diego.

Founded in 2006, Recycle San Diego is the largest e-waste collection company in San Diego.

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PLHS player's killer begins 50-year sentence

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

Frederick Garcia Cruz has begun serving a 50-year sentence in state prison for killing two teenagers in 2008 — including Michael Taylor, a Point Loma High School football player.

The courtroom was packed March 11 with friends and family members of Taylor, 15, and Monique Palmer, 17, who was also shot to death after walking from a party on Dec. 6, 2008 around 12:50 a.m. in Valencia Park.

Cruz, 22, was sentenced by San Diego Superior Court Judge David Danielsen. Cruz has since been transferred from county jail to an unspecified state prison. He received 25 years for each murder and was fined nearly \$10,300.

"I feel justice has been served," said

Taylor's mother, Denise Saunders, afterwards. "I'm happy for the closure for my baby so he can rest in peace."

Mike Hastings, head football coach at PLHS, told Danielsen, "Our whole team is still grieving." He said they still have Taylor's No. 9 jersey, saying, "We look at it every day."

Deputy District Attorney Mike Still said Cruz must serve a minimum of 50 years before he can become eligible for parole. Cruz pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder on Feb. 10, but did not agree to a plea bargain.

Cruz made a remark during the sentencing that indicated he was not the killer, but he didn't follow through with what he was trying to say. The comment irritated family members, who said they believed he was the killer.



The Ocean Beach Planning Group rejected the city's request to continue work on the sewer-pipe replacement project through the summer months, citing heavy disruption to local merchants during the prime tourist season. PHOTO BY JIM GRANT | THE BEACON

SEWER

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The board was persuaded by the arguments of merchants. Among them was Gary McKany, who manages Point Loma Gas and Market, who said he's trying to rebound from a bad economy and a disappointing summer of 2010.

"We had a terrible summer last year," McKany said. "I can't afford another bad summer."

Gavin Fleming, who manages the Inn at Sunset Cliffs, agreed.

"It simply comes down to timing," Fleming said. "Summer is my busiest season. People will turn around as soon as they see construction and not come here. Do it off season."

If the city were to be allowed to

work all summer, construction would likely be complete by Sept. 12, Chavez said. It also would save the trouble of moving six heavy-equipment vehicles in and out of the area, and pipes currently stored at Robb Field could be removed earlier, she said.

In the end, however, board members wanted to leave the community's highest-profile street unmolested.

"Sunset Cliffs is the elephant in the room," said board member Bill Bushe. "It can't be shut down in the summer."

Chavez said money available in a contingency fund would cover the delays. She said besides bouts with inclement weather, delays have been caused by bad maps that did not show water mains or showed them at wrong elevations.

In other planning board news:

• Stan Smith, a former member of

the Peninsula Community Planning Board, said a former officer's quarters at the old Naval Training Center (now Liberty Station) might make a dandy home for the Ocean Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars — and satisfy concerns of citizens worried about a proposed move to Point Loma Avenue. Smith said four 1920s-era buildings on Rosecrans Street are available.

"I'm all in favor of them staying in OB, but (it's a) viable alternative," he said.

• Michael Patton introduced himself as the new Ocean Beach/Point Loma representative for District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer. Patton had left after an internship with Faulconer's office and was recruited to return. He replaces Thyme Curtis, and can be reached at mpatton@sandiego.gov or (619) 236-6662.

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OBITUARY

Billie Hodge, 89, longtime OB resident, volunteer



LAVILLA "BILLIE" HODGE

Lavilla "Billie" Hodge, a longtime Ocean Beach resident and well-known community volunteer, passed away March 4 at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in Chula Vista.

She was 89.

She lived in Ocean Beach for more than 50 years and raised her family here. She was a very active member of Point Loma United Methodist Church, where she served as Christian education director for many years and later as Parish Visitor.

She was a 50-year member of the Ocean Beach chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Her numerous volunteer interests included Point Loma Little League, Silver Gate Elementary School, Meals on Wheels, Loaves and Fishes and the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach.

In addition to formal volunteer work, she served as an informal "sur-

rogate mom" to dozens of Ocean Beach youngsters and Navy service members.

"There are people all over the world that kind of adopted her as a mom or grandmother," said her son, Steve Hodge.

She was born and raised in Minnesota and taught school there before moving to San Diego with her late husband, Frank Hodge.

She is survived by her longtime companion, Carl Thornton; sons Vernon, Tom and Steve Hodge; daughter Betty Freeman; eleven grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held March 19 at the Point Loma Masonic Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Methodist Church at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., or to the Fredericka Club, 183 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, 91910.

OBITUARY

Pennell, 78, was 'young at heart grandmother'

Margaret "Margie" Pennell will be remembered by her family and friends as a vivacious, young at heart mother and grandmother. She was born in Marshalltown, Iowa in 1933. She passed away peacefully with her son by her side on March 10, 2011.

Margie was 78.

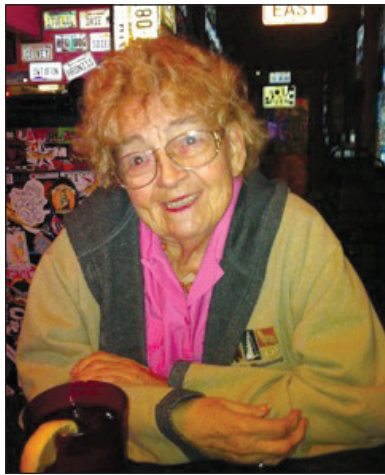
She and her parents traveled to San Diego in a Model A Ford in 1939. Margie spent her life at our beaches. She graduated from La Jolla High School in 1951. In 1950 she married Jerry Pennell of La Jolla. He was her devoted husband for 27 years until his

untimely death. She lived in the same house in Ocean Beach since 1955.

World travel was her favorite adventure. Margie worshipped at the First Baptist Church of Ocean Beach. As a longtime member, she participated in church plays and enjoyed many years as a choir member.

She is survived by her two children, Ralph "Ryan" (Deborah) Pennell and Linda (Peter) Williams; six grandchildren; one great grandchild; a brother, Don (Betty) Erickson; a sister, Gloria Erickson; and loving friends.

She is forever in our hearts.

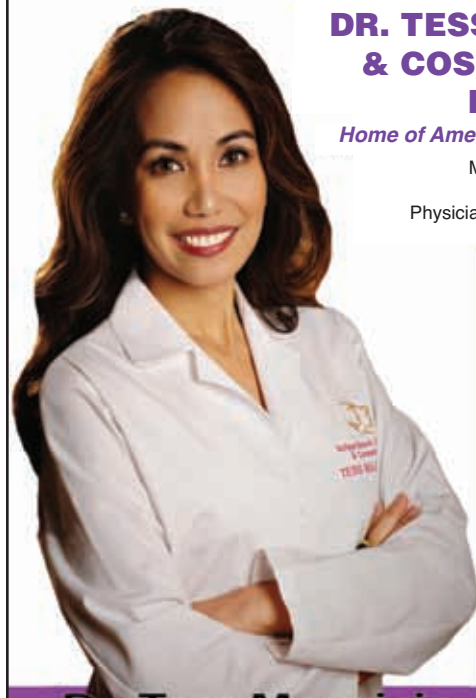


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Rock/reggae hybrid band to jam at 2 OB venues

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

As much as indie rock gets the headlines, anyone who frequents nightspots near the ocean would note that a rock and reggae hybrid has taken over much of the club scene. Mixing influences as diverse as punk and dub, bands on the circuit have carved out their own niche, which seem to be growing by the day. One of the hottest bands currently playing the local club scene is Pacific Beach-based quartet Jet West.

Featuring frontman Chris Warner

(guitar, vocals), Scott Floquet (vocals, guitar), Deren Schneider (bass) and Derek Potter (drums), Jet West will play two distinctive shows in Ocean Beach over the next two weeks: a performance for those 21 and up on March 24 at Gallagher's Pub and an all-ages set at the Ocean Beach Farmers Market on April 6. While the band pulls material from the same source for both shows, Warner notes the band takes a slightly different approach to the outdoor event.

"We try to remember that this is a more global audience, so we try not to

use bad words or inappropriate slang," Warner said.

Having performed at the Farmers Market in the past, he said the transitory nature of the audience at that venue may be the biggest challenge.

"With outdoor shows, you get a wide variety of age and backgrounds, so we try to play a few more covers that people can recognize and really try to engage the crowd," Warner said.

The band formed in 2008, but rehearsed for a year before hitting local stages. It played its first show in August 2009 at the now-defunct

Cane's Bar & Grill, quickly recording and releasing an album, "Dropping In," in 2010.

"Once we started playing live, getting the album together was relatively easy," Warner said. "All that work we did getting the band in shape really paid off."

The band has already begun work on a follow-up CD.

Although Warner has been playing guitar more than 20 years, Jet West is his first group. He said his delayed entry into the music scene was because of a lack of funds.

"My mom got me a guitar and amp when I was 13," he said. "I jammed with thousands of musicians. I hung out at college with the group Mystic Roots and thought, 'I want to do that.' But I waited. I got a job and experience, and then had the capital to be able to buy the equipment. When the opportunity came around to be in a band, I jumped at it."

Although it's not evident in Jet West's sound, Warner's earliest guitar influence was Iron Maiden's Dave Murray, with David Gilmour and Roger Waters close behind.

"There's really too many to count when it comes to influences, but they were going further than the norm

SEE JET WEST, Page 9

A&Ebriefs

Temple of the Dad to rock out, aid local schools

Temple of the Dad, the rocking band of fathers which frequently play gigs to aid fund-strapped school music programs around the Peninsula area will again be center stage for another fundraiser.

The band, whose children attend school in Ocean Beach and Point Loma, will play at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on April 9 to raise money for music programs at Correia and Dana middle schools.

Band member Kerry McKay said Temple of the Dad, which was formed four years ago, hopes to raise \$2,000 during the latest fundraiser. Last year, the band raised about \$1,500 during a Music4Music fundraising event for Correia.

This year, organizers are asking for a voluntary \$10 donation at the door and the event will feature music, happy-hour prices with drinks and food half-off that night.

Humphrey's is located at 2241 Shelter Island Drive.

For more information, call (619) 993-8397 or visit the band on Facebook at Facebook/Temple of the Dad.

Westminster Theatre sets two one-act plays

Westminster Theatre's Vanguard Ministries will soon be performing a politically-based production "Two for Tonight" — two one-act plays:

The plays are "The Atom and Eve" by Point Loma author Robert Landis, directed by Rob Hoadley, and "Bury The Dead," by Irwin Shaw, directed by Tom Haine.

In "The Atom and Eve," the year is 2021. The world is an increasingly dangerous and explosive one.

The U.S. Senate has, under consideration, a revolutionary initiative, which would transform international relationships forever. Sen. Eve Baldwin faces the most important vote of a lifetime and struggles through a titanic battle of pros and cons.

"Bury the Dead," written in 1936, was Shaw's first play. It turns upside down the rules of the life-and-death game. Through surprising dialogue, visitors will learn some of the most personal and intimate thoughts of the un-dead.

The dates of the production are March 25-27 and April 1-3, followed by April 8-10.

The performances take place at Westminster Theater, 3598 Talbot St. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, military and students.

For more information, call (619) 223-3193, or visit www.westminstersd.org.

<p>Dulcinea Mini Watermelon 2 for \$5</p>	<p>Blueberries 10 for \$10 6 oz containers</p>	<p>Organic Navel Oranges 2 lbs \$1</p>
<p>Broccoli Crowns Santa Maria 88¢ lb</p>	<p>Jumbo Artichokes Castroville 2 for \$3</p>	<p>Blue Lake Green Beans 2 lbs \$3</p>
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One of the hottest bands currently playing the local club scene is Pacific Beach-based quartet Jet West, which plays Gallagher's Pub on March 24 and at the Ocean Beach Farmers Market on April 6.

COURTESY PHOTO

JET WEST

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

when it comes to guitar playing," Warner said.

Warner said touring is the best part of Jet West's career to date.

"I love travel and changing other people's lives through music," he said.

It's clear making a connection with the audience is a top priority with Jet West. Though the Farmers Market's performing area is bare bones — just a small sound system on the street — Warner said it's a prime gig.

"The last Farmers Market we played was probably one of the most rewarding shows we've ever performed as a band," Warner said. "Kids were dancing and all the Obecians were just living it up. It was a cold night and the place stayed packed until we were done. We look forward to April 6 when we'll have a little warmer weather and to having a great time."

Jet West performs at 10 p.m. on Thursday, March 24 at Gallagher's, 5046 Newport Ave. The show is for those 21 and up. The next performance is at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6 at the Ocean Beach Farmers Market. All ages. Both events are free. For more information, visit www.jetwestband.com



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Point Loma sporting restaurant remodels

• Miguel's Cochina restaurant, located at 2912 Shelter Island Drive, has a new look. The old bamboo-looking reeds were removed from the ceilings, the roof beams were lightened up with fresh paint, new festive colorful carpets were added throughout and the upstairs bar area was opened up into a "friendlier" big room. The downstairs area also received fresh paint and refurbished terracotta tiles.

Owner Barbara Morton directed the design, which she estimated at a cost of about \$100,000. Morton assures guests the menu will remain the same, including the famous jalapeno salsa blanco (white dipping sauce). Morton and her husband, Mike, also own the Brigantine restaurant in the same neighborhood.

• Just a few blocks from Miguel's, after four decades of serving Italian cuisine with "the best cheesy bread and pizza to die for," the old La Scala restaurant at the corner of Scott and Cañon streets closed its doors and will reopen soon as the new Lighthouse Bar and Grill.

Restaurateurs Fabio Speziali and Antonio Mastellone, who own the Pomodoro Ristorante Italiano next door, will feature "bar food," including pizza, burgers and a variety of beers on one side of the venue, while the other side will serve "continental foods with an Italian Mediterranean flair." The bar will also have sports on television and occasional live music, but Speziali isn't sure they'll have opera music like La Scala used to have. The grand opening of the Lighthouse Bar and Grill is set for late March or early April.

— **Mike Ryan**



Miguel's Cochina restaurant, top, and the new Lighthouse Bar and Grill.

PHOTOS BY MIKE RYAN | THE BEACON



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Every Night through Sunday in March

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Presented by Fiesta de Reyes, exciting shows take place every evening in February and March in the Fiesta de Reyes courtyard from 5:30 p.m.

to 8 p.m. With authentic outdoor furniture imported from Mexico, patio umbrellas and fire pits, the courtyard blends California history and modern flavor to create a festive ambiance that will make everyone want to celebrate.

On Mondays, visitors can expect a historic

drama presentation by actors who will reenact stories from 1850s. Tuesdays will be Potpourri Performance night with a variety of groups ranging from folkloric dancing to performing arts schools. On Wednesdays, the plaza will celebrate the Jalisco traditional dance of Folklori-

co and will feature folklorico troupes from all around San Diego County. On Thursday and Friday, live music will be performed by various Andean and Latin music groups, respectively. On Saturdays and Sundays, Los Rios will entertain the crowd with Mariachi Fusion music.

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Poker Party Fundraiser at Barra Barra Saloon March 27th



Guests dressed in their best 1870s outfits are playing poker at last year's poker party fundraiser at Barra Barra Saloon in Old Town.

Try your luck at Barra Barra Saloon's 1870s costume poker party on Sunday, March 27, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This fundraiser will help support the Park Merchants Association to help host future events in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The night will be filled with drinks, dinner, gambling and costume contests. Dinner will cost \$30 per person and \$50 for two. Prices include dinner, one drink ticket, and a fist full of poker chips.

All guests are required to come in costume (1870s or earlier) or black tie, so come in your Sunday's best for a chance to win. Games will include

bluff, poker, blackjack, Monte, faro and board games. There will also be fun contests, raffles, and prizes for the best costume and poker face.

This eventful day also marks the celebration of San Diego becoming incorporated as a city and Judge Joshua Bean becoming the mayor on March 27, 1850.

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PLHS spring sports gearing up for 2011 season

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

With the arrival of spring, the prep sports season at Point Loma High School (PLHS) is taking shape.

One Pointer spring sport will be working to defend a league title, while another will be looking for its first win in two years.

Here is a look at the upcoming spring teams:

BASEBALL

Head Coach: Jon Posternack (seventh season)

2010 record: 18-13 overall, 6-6 in Western League

Top returning players (and positions): seniors Kellen Urbon (P, 2B), Campbell Wear (P, C, IF), Dylan Morris (CF), Cody Harvey (1B) and Max Sorenson (P); juniors Connor Baits (P) and Jackson Leslie (Inf); sophomore Tyler Majofis (3B).

Notable newcomers (and positions): junior Ryan Ament (OF), sophomore Justin Baker (SS).

2011 outlook: Wear (UC Santa Barbara) and Urbon (Cornell) have already signed with Division I teams, and with Baits (9-2 with a 1.71 ERA last season), should form a potent trio on the mound. All three have been named team captains.

"Our starting pitching's experience and depth will be our team's strength," said Posternack. "Also, we have returning starters at seven of nine defensive positions. With a very challenging schedule, we are going to have to play consistently well if we want to make it deeper into the CIF playoffs in May.

"With two sophomores starting on the left side of the infield," he added, "our younger players will be tested. With speed throughout the lineup, we will look to generate the much-needed run support that our pitching staff deserves. We have tremendous team leadership and a great

mix of student-athletes. As team chemistry develops and our perseverance and stamina are tested, the 2011 season promises to be very exciting."

SOFTBALL

Head coach: Tom Kamfonik (sixth season)

2010 record: 12-13 overall, 7-5 in Western League

Top returners: seniors Ashley Nelson (P), Jill Duran (C), Justine Otsuka (3B), junior Katie McEachern (SS).

Notable newcomers: None listed

2011 outlook: The Lady Pointers will try to improve on last season's overall record and advance further into the CIF playoffs. Last season they absorbed a 6-1 first-round loss to Scripps Ranch. Kamfonik, who is also an assistant football coach at PLHS, has the respect of his players, all of whom play hard for him.

SWIMMING (GIRLS)

Head coaches: Jerry Rich (20-plus years), Jeff Hunt (fourth year), April Hunt (first year).

2010 record: 7-1 overall, 6-0 in league (league champions).

Top returners: seniors Erin Cox and Hannah Robertson (both CIF finalists the last three years and team captains), Cristina Colloca, Arianna Conger, Karin Davila, Evalina Monreal, Stephanie Navarro, Samantha Pugh, Sarah Shaw and Allison Sutherland; junior Monica Longworth.

Notable newcomers: freshmen Zachary Raymond and Morgan McFarland.

2011 outlook: With a lengthy list of returning seniors, the team's goal this year will be to bring another championship banner to PLHS. Also, the coaches will be working to prepare both individuals and relay-team members for competition in the CIF finals.

SWIMMING (BOYS)

Head coaches: Jerry Rich, Jeff Hunt and April Hunt

2010 record: 0-8 overall, 0-6 in league.

Top returners: senior Graham Scribner, junior Ryan Shoemaker, sophomore Cole Holderman.

Notable newcomers: freshmen Andrew Brady, Jason O'Brien.

2011 outlook: When competing on or in water, Pointer teams usually prevail. Sailing and surfing have been school strengths, while Rich leads successful girls' and boys' water polo teams. He summarizes this team's hope bluntly: "Our goal this season is to win a dual meet."

All the team's coaches will strive to prepare individuals and relay team members for post-season competition.

VOLLEYBALL (BOYS)

Head coach: James Sakasegawa (first season)

2010 record: 1-8 overall, 0-3 in league

Top Returners: seniors Paulino Ramos-Padilla (outside hitter), Reid Liechty (setter), Nate George (middle hitter/blocker), Andrew Spathas (outside hitter).

Notable newcomers: seniors Thomas Penney (middle hitter/blocker), Nathan Hoppe (libero/defense specialist), Joe Romano (opposite/right-side hitter), juniors Kirby Challman (outside hitter), Ruben Diaz (opposite/right-side hitter), Keegan Otsuka (defense specialist).

2011 outlook: Ramos-Padilla, Liechty and George will be team captains. Each of the listed newcomers is new to competitive volleyball.

"The program is moving in the right direction," said Sakasegawa. "All the players are very athletic and are focused on

SEE **SPRING**, Page 11

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Point Loma High pitcher Connor Baits (22), one of a trio of talented hurlers on the 2011 baseball team, throws a pitch during the Pointers' season opener earlier this month. Awaiting a hot grounder behind Bates is first baseman Cody Harvey.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

SPRING
CONTINUED FROM Page 10

team work. The team has been working hard on skills and communication, two main requirements to be successful.” Sakasegawa’s team has experienced early success, as they have been victorious in their first three non-league matches.

TRACK AND FIELD (GIRLS)

Head coach: Keith DeLong (first year)
2010 record: Eastern League, records unavailable
Top returners (and events): seniors Meghan Breadmore (1600m, 3200m, 800m), Riley Hasche (pole vault, high jump, long jump, sprints), McKenna Doyle (high jump), Nikki Smith (100m, 200m, 400m); sophomores Elle Verhees (400m, 800m, 1600m), Victoria Gonzalez (400m, pole vault), Jewell Roth (400m, 800m), Jade Martz (high jump).
Notable newcomers (and events): freshmen Sara Bagnell (800m, 1600m), Johanna Walker (1600m, 3200m), La’-Tanya Welch (100m, 200m, 400m).
2011 outlook: DeLong takes over the girls’ track team this season after guiding the Pointer cross country teams. Breadmore, an all-CIF and state meet cross country runner, brings her skills to the long-distance events.

“While the girls’ team may lack some

depth in certain events, they should have an outstanding season,” said DeLong. “They have the potential to place well at the CIF meet in May, provided everyone continues to work hard and stays healthy.”

TRACK AND FIELD (BOYS)

Head coach: Manuel G. Diaz (seventh season)
2010 record: 4-4 overall, 2-2 in league
Top returners and events: seniors Sean McKaveney (high jump), Brennan Alcantara (pole vault), Giovanni Gonzalez (shot put and discus), John Castaneda (shot put and discus), juniors Aaron Bagnell (110 high hurdles), Taylor Boswell (mile), David Flores (800 and two-mile), Miguel A. Saucedo (800 and two-mile), Tez Wright (4x100 relay), Jaivon Griffin (4x100 relay), Matt Magers (4x100 relay), sophomores Sidney Rush (long jump), Zalyn Bullard (4x100 relay).
Notable Newcomers: none listed.
2011 outlook: “This will be a real young team that I am expecting to be very competitive in the league as well as in CIF,” said Diaz. “We should see a lot of improvement from last year, and I believe we will surprise many people.”

LACROSSE (BOYS)

Head coach: William Akie (second season)
2010 record: 0-2 in first varsity season.

Top returners: seniors Hunter Hirsch (midfield), James Hauoli (defense), Stephen Stapleton (midfielder), Travis Crenshaw (midfielder), Will Culhane (defense), Spencer Jefferson (defense), Lalo Rueda (defense), Dylan Siegel (attack), Charlie Mellor (attack), Jack Quinn (goalie), sophomore Will Mellor (goalie).

Notable newcomers: senior Campbell Irvine (attack), juniors Alex Barbosa (midfield), Nick DeHaven (midfield), sophomore Jason Irvine (attack).

2011 outlook: Hirsch and Hauoli will serve as team captains this season.

“We’re playing a full 16-game schedule in the City Conference, which should only increase lacrosse’s exposure at the school and bolster our prospects for the future, as well,” said Akie.

“We’ve got a senior-dominated team with some integral underclassmen contributing, which could benefit us this season, but also build a strong foundation for the future of lacrosse at Point Loma. Our players have committed to the program and have thrived with the increased practice time (five to six days a week, unlike two to three last season) and better location (on the PLHS turf instead of Dusty Rhodes Park),” he added.

“Although we lack the experience some of our league counterparts have, we make up for it with hard work in practice and a level of desire to get better I haven’t seen anywhere else,” Akie said.

SPORTS**briefs**

PLHS wins Stanford’s Cardinal Regatta

The Point Loma High School sailing team won top honors recently at the Cardinal High School Regatta in San Francisco, with two Point Loma teams tying for top honors. The junior varsity 1 team tied with the varsity team, each scoring 122 points at the event. With more than 50 West Coast high school teams competing, the Point Loma High sailing team demonstrated its depth of talented sailors with the junior varsity 2 team placing fifth in the event.

“A noteworthy fact is that we stacked A division in this event, the toughest division, with our top three upper classmen boats and they placed first, second and third,” said coach Steve Hunt after the race.

The junior varsity 1 team consisted of A division skipper Olin Paine and crew Max Maller, with B division skip-

per Scott Sinks and crew Grant Ricon. The varsity team was lead by A division skipper Jake LaDow with crew Will Herrin and B division skipper Will LaDow with crew Storm Brown.

Placing fifth was A division skipper Jake Reynolds with crew Maddy Brownsea and B division skipper Matt Hecht and crew Emilie McMahon.

Yacht Club to launch Benefit on the Bay 2011

Southwestern Yacht Club (SWYC) will host its annual Benefit on the Bay event beginning on Saturday, April 2. The three-day event, which continues April 3 and May 7, benefits San Diego Hospice and The Institute for Palliative Medicine and helps ensure that all patients facing life-threatening illnesses are provided with the highest quality of care, regardless of ability to pay. To date, more than \$450,000 has been raised by SWYC and its sponsors through this event.

The event begins April 2 with an evening gala called the Benefit on the

Bay Sunset Soiree. Tickets are \$100 for the gala, auctions and dinner. Silent and live auctions will showcase gifts, trips and adventures. The 3-day event continues April 3 with the 24th annual Charity Bay Race and Regatta — one of the largest charity regattas in the nation. Beautiful sailing yachts compete in a pursuit start on a challenging 10-mile course around San Diego Bay. Following the regatta, a post-race party, barbecue and awards ceremony will be held at Southwestern Yacht Club. Tickets are \$15. The race entry fee is \$70.

Finally, on May 7, the fun rolls on for fishermen with the 41st annual Bottom Fishing Tournament, which includes breakfast, a day of fishing and a Banquet/Fish Fry with incredible Raffle Prizes. Entry fee for the tournament is \$75.

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Spring cleaning

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