



Rallying for injured American heroes

Skaters from across the country gathered at Robb Field in Ocean Beach on Nov. 12 to participate in a special 12-mile fundraising "Skate for the Troops" event for injured American veterans. Funds were raised for the non-profit Semper Fi Foundation, which has awarded more than \$55 million in grants to injured and ill service members and their families. The skateboarding event, which began at Robb Field and wound to Mission Bay Park and back, was organized by 27-year-old Derek Smith, left and above right. Smith, a former Marine who served two tours in Iraq, skateboards for Honey Skateboards and said he wanted to give back to Marines and other returning sailors and Army personnel. *Photos by Don Balch | The Beacon*

Local wildlife's impact on Ocean Beach parks

Which population-control method would you gopher?

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

Several recreational parks in Ocean Beach give residents an opportunity to exercise their pets and themselves. The parks are also a nourishing home to local wildlife.

Sometimes the presence of this wildlife — at least the ones classified as nuisances — means city intervention using various methods of population control that frequently pit animal activists and enthusiasts against those who simply want the problem taken care of.

A prominent example of this dilemma is that involving a furry, reclusive creature that takes up residence in OB's grassy havens — the pocket gopher.

Known for building complex underground tunnel systems, the massive digging work is done by only one gopher per labyrinth. Experts say gophers are solitary and do not like company. A single gopher can be responsible for hundreds of dirt mounds and is frequently blamed for destroying parks and gardens, killing trees, plants and shrubbery. Their vegetarian diet consists only of roots from trees, shrubs and grass, as well as flowers and other plants.

The furry critters' destructive eating behavior often leads to being categorized



Ocean Beach residents and visitors will likely recognize this scene at the entrance to Dog Beach Park — the after-effects of burrowing by pocket gophers.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

as rodents or pests.

Gophers are easily identified by their long front teeth, small ears and eyes and very short tails. They usually don't grow longer than 10 inches in length.

Oversize front legs and teeth are used to push dirt through the tunnels onto the grass above, frequently causing holes and hazards that can seriously injure an animal or jogger.

Parks like Dusty Rhodes, Robb Field, Cleater Park and Dog Beach Park all demonstrate signs of gopher intrusion and damage.

SEE **GOPHERS**, Page 6

OB planners endorse condo project — with reservations

By **TONY De GARATE** | THE BEACON

Some members of the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB) seemed to be saying recently there was something decidedly un-Obecian about a proposal to build a three-story, 29-foot-high, 10-unit condo at the corner of Saratoga Avenue and Abbott Street.

In the group's regular session on Nov. 2, planning board member Seth Connolly said the design viewed from the Abbott Street sidewalk smacked of a "fortress."

Planner Nancy Taylor said the site would be better off as a park.

Member Scott Therkalsen said it would seem "set off from the rest of the community."

Planner Landry Watson said, "If

you're going trick-or-treating in this location, it kind of says, 'Stay away,' not 'Come on in and check it out.'"

But in the end, most of the planners decided they had no basis to vote against the project, finding the applicant had made some changes in response to the board's feedback. The vote was 9-2 in favor of the project known as Ocean Park Villas. Taylor and fellow planner Tom Gawronski cast the dissenting votes.

The proposal involves demolishing the existing four buildings on a 20,154-square-foot lot on the north side of the lifeguard tower parking lot. Three of the buildings are apartments with a total of 15 units. The fourth building, a shack-like structure whose most recent tenant was Dempsey's At

Ocean Beach, has been boarded up for several years. It was also the original location of Hodad's restaurant.

The proposal includes a novel way of complying with Ocean Beach's controversial and somewhat complicated zoning requirements, which are more restrictive than in most San Diego neighborhoods. Throughout much of Ocean Beach, a developer must limit the total square footage to seven-tenths of the lot size, 25 percent of which must be allocated to enclosed parking unless underground parking is provided.

To achieve underground parking status for three spaces on the Abbott Street side, the architect lowered the

SEE **CONDOS**, Page 6

CIF postseason matchups yield first-round bye for PLHS

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

The Point Loma Pointers football team achieved one of its preseason goals by earning a top-four seeding and first-round bye in the upcoming California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs.

The Dogs emerged from a seeding meeting Nov. 11 with the No. 4 seed among 12 Division III teams that earned playoff spots. The team finished as Western League co-champions (4-0-1) and an overall record of 7-2-1.

While eight of the teams will begin to wage battle Friday, Nov. 18, the Pointers will sit it out with No. 1 seed Cathedral Catholic, No. 2 seed St. Augustine and No. 3 seed Olympian and a week to rest up and prepare for future games against the four winners of the Nov. 18 showdowns.

The Pointers' march to a fifth appearance at Qualcomm Stadium begins



PLAYOFF BOUND

The Pointers finish off their season by tying unbeaten Madison and humiliating Serra. Full coverage, pages 8 and 9.

Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Nov. 25 when they meet the winner of the Nov. 18 game between Mt. Carmel (6-4 overall, 3-1 in Valley League) and

SEE **CIF**, Page 4



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The 10-day run of the 2011 San Diego Beer Week kicked off at Liberty Station on Nov. 4, much to the delight of beer lovers. Among the notables that day were, from left, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, Sam "The Cooking Guy" Zien and Mayor Jerry Sanders. The event ended Nov. 13.

Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

Peninsula planners to hear Balboa Park revamp plan

No, they haven't picked up Balboa Park's 1,172 acres and moved them to the Peninsula.

But with all the buzz about bypass bridges, two-story parking garages, first-time-ever parking fees and other potentially radical changes, folks here seem keen to keep up on the redevelopment proposals being discussed as the venerable park's centennial in 2015 approaches.

And that's why the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) has called on all interested citizens to attend a forum tonight, Nov. 17, at its regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, located at 3701 Voltaire St.

The debate was sparked by a proposal unveiled in August 2010 by San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and Qualcomm co-founder Irwin Jacobs. The vision called for the removal of cars from the Plaza de Panama, the park's main square. To divert traffic, a new 265-foot-high, 30-foot-wide ramp off the bridge would sprout off the south side of the Cabrillo Bridge and eventually lead to a new 785-space underground structure that

would be built in the existing Organ Pavilion parking lot.

Presenting the Jacobs plan will be David Marshall, president of Heritage Architecture and Planning; and Gordon Kovtun, principal of KCM Group.

Bruce Coons, the PCPB's newest member and executive director of Save Our Heritage Organisation, will present the leading alternative backed by SOHO.

Jay Schumaker, an architect and PCPB board member, will also present.

Each of the three presenters has been allotted 15 minutes to speak and five minutes for questions and answers.

In other planning board news:

- Helen Kinnaird is now board chairwoman. Kinnaird, the only candidate nominated at last month's meeting, had been acting chair since August, following the resignation of Suhail Kahlil.

- Jarvis Ross was selected first vice chairman.

- Coons was selected to serve out the remaining portion of Kahlil's term as board member, which expires in March. Coons was the only announced candidate.

— Staff report

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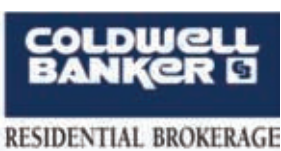
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CIF

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

El Capitan (3-7 overall, 2-2 in Grossmont-Valley League). The Pointers, by virtue of their record, will be the home team for the quarterfinal contest, to be played at San Diego High School's Balboa Stadium at 7 p.m.

CIF playoff games are played at 7 p.m. on Friday nights, meaning the Pointers will have to play an earned home game on the road. Several years ago, the Pointers were allowed to host these games at Bennie Edens Stadium on Saturday afternoons.

The playoff bracket is structured so private school powers Cathedral Catholic and St. Augustine cannot meet until the finals, set for Dec. 5 at 1 p.m., only four days after the semifinal matchups on Dec. 1.

A Pointer victory on Nov. 25 would likely pit them against Cathedral in the semifinal round. The Dons eliminated the Pointers in the same round last season.

For complete playoff schedules for all five football divisions and other sports, see the CIF website: www.cifsd.org/

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SURREAL RAINBOW

In a rare display, Mother Nature stunned weatherwatchers and photographers alike with this full – and double – rainbow arcing to both sides of the earth on Nov. 4 over Ocean Beach. The spectacular phenomenon was witnessed across San Diego, but few locations provide such a scenic foreground to complete the picture like Ocean Beach does.

Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

Maritime Institute puts mastery at fingertips of aspiring captains

By JOHNNY McDONALD | THE BEACON

Avast, ye mateys. Ready for a 10-day “crash” course in classroom seamanship that is directed toward a pair of captain’s masters bars?

That was the exhausting aim for 15 students recently at the highly successful San Diego Maritime Institute near Shelter Island.

To graduate, these aspiring ship captains had to endure eight hours of classwork each day, an added three hours nightly of homework and 20 hours of study at home on the weekends.

“The Maritime Institute is fully college-accredited to offer a degree in associates of applied science degrees in marine transportation and offers over 40 U.S. Coast Guard-approved licensed courses,” said the institute’s president and CEO, Capt. H. G. “Rags” Laragione.

Laragione said the institute is a complete source for the recreational, professional, military and law enforcement professions. The curriculum covers everything from basic maritime rules of the road to upper tonnage licenses. The institute has sent to sea more than 15,000 new captains nationwide, said Laragione.

“It’s for a basic masters license all the way down to the six packs, those little boats that run in the harbor,” Laragione said. “The educational courses have been designed to meet the needs of large yachts, small charters, recreational and sport fishing boats.”

He said the minimum class is for a masters license but there are longer sessions for those seeking a third mate’s license to qualify for larger 500- to 1,600-ton vessels.

There are seven full-time and three

part-time instructors, with another 10 in reserve. Most of the instructors are retired Navy or Coast Guard captains.

“We need the discipline for drills that includes all methods for damage control, like flooding or firefighting,” said Laragione, who is a retired Navy captain. “You must learn every part of a ship.”

The institute has expanded its range in 35 years of operation with private school branches in Bellingham and Whidby Island (Wash.) and San Rafael. Courses also are offered online.

Laragione was in the inaugural class in 1976. He retired from the Navy in 1991. The school itself was founded by Chief Boatswain Frank Gaines.

In retirement, Laragione and his wife went on a five-year cruise to Central America and the Caribbean in their 33-foot sloop. When they returned, they

bought the school, he said.

Over the years, San Diegans have come to appreciate the Maritime Institute’s support of the waterfront community as a part of the history of the San Diego sportfishing fleet and the generous support of waterfront charities like Make-a-Wish, Challenged America, VA Sports Clinic and the Sea Scouts.

“Our students come from the recreational, commercial, law enforcement and even the military boating communities,” Laragione said. “The most rewarding thing for us is to see how a captain’s license can change the lives of our students and open up all kinds of new opportunities for them,” Laragione said.

The institute is located at 1310 Rosecrans St., Suite G. For information, call (619) 225-1783, or visit www.maritimeinstitute.com.

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NEWSBRIEFS



A bank surveillance photo captures an image of the suspected "Geezer Bandit," believed to have struck a Rosecrans Street bank, among many others since 2009. A \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to his arrest. Courtesy photo by the Federal Bureau of Investigation

\$20,000 reward offered for 'Geezer Bandit' info

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced that a \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of an elderly-looking male who may be responsible for robbing 15 banks in Southern California since August 2009 — including a heist in the Midway District.

The suspect, dubbed the "Geezer Bandit," is described as a 5-foot-10-inch to 6-foot-tall white male, possibly 60 to 70 years old, weighing between 190 to 200 pounds.

Witnesses have described his clothing items as including a navy blue-colored blazer, navy or black baseball cap and dark pants. He may also be wearing a mask or rubber gloves as a disguise and is known to carry a revolver pistol in his left hand.

The "Geezer Bandit's" most recent suspected robbery took place at the Wells Fargo Bank inside the Von's grocery store in La Jolla on Sept. 30. FBI and local law enforcement also believe he robbed the San Diego National Bank, located at 1075 Rosecrans St., in Jan-

uary 2010.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact the FBI at (858) 565-1255.

— Mariko Lamb

Armed robbers strike Sprint store on Rosecrans

San Diego police are investigating a case of armed robbery at the Sprint telephone store on Rosecrans Street on Nov. 9.

Police said witnesses reported two black males entered the store shortly before 7:30 p.m. and one of the suspects produced a handgun and demanded cash. The suspects then allegedly tied up two store employees — one a male worker in his mid-20s and the other a female employee, also in her mid-20s.

The two suspects then fled with cash, according to police.

The suspects were described as between 25 and 30 years old, wearing grey hooded sweatshirts and something covering their faces.

No one was hurt during the robbery, according to investigators.

OB Holiday Parade set for Dec. 3; applications due

The Ocean Beach Town Council (OBTC) has slated the 32nd annual Ocean Beach Holiday Parade for Saturday, Dec. 3. Starting roughly at 5:05 p.m. ("OB Time"), the annual event is the only nighttime parade in San Diego.

Applications are now available for those who wish to participate in entries and may be accessed on the OBTC website by visiting, www.obtowncouncil.org. The deadline for parade applications, either submitted online or through regular mail, is Sunday, Nov. 20. Following that deadline, all applications will be reviewed and a letter of confirmation or denial, along with parade rules and reg-

ulations will be sent to all applicants afterward.

There is a \$50 fee per entry. Fees may be mailed to: Ocean Beach Town Council, Attn: OB Holiday Parade, PO Box 7225, Ocean Beach, 92167.

Checks should be made payable to the Ocean Beach Christmas Tree Committee.

For more information, visit, www.obtowncouncil.org, or contact OBTC Holiday Parade Committee Chairwoman Cyndee Hanna at (619) 523-1392 or oceanbeachparade@gmail.com.

PL Actors Theatre slates unique '24 Experiment'

The Point Loma Actors Theatre will launch a unique theatrical experience on Friday, Nov. 18 and Saturday, Nov. 19 in a "24 Experiment" that will sequester writers and test teams when actors and directors arrive the following day to play to an audience vote.

The theater group is inviting audience members to witness the experiment and vote for the winning performance that will pitch participants from all over San Diego at the Point Loma Assembly, located at 3035 Talbot St.

The "24 Experiment" is an extreme theater project, which has been performed several times in theaters across the country, includes a series of short plays written and produced by a group of risk-taking writers, directors and actors all in one single day.

The 24 Experiment is designed to bring together creative minds and connect artists to create a quick, intense performance piece for audiences. It is a social and artistic experience.

Theater participants will arrive at 7 p.m. on Nov. 18 and writers will lock themselves into the theater to write six short pieces.

At 7 a.m. on Nov. 19 the directors, actors and technical people arrive to rehearse and block. The pieces are per-

formed for the audience that evening, just 24 hours later.

The event will be facilitated by Gwen Walls Martin. Her credits include writing, producing and starring in the comedy "Fauxgers: A Salute to Coffee," staged and presented in Baltimore. Gwen has also performed in several productions for Fluid Movement in Baltimore.

The show will be held at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma Actors Theatre on Nov. 19. Tickets are \$10 at the door and at Event Brite. For more information, visit www.pointlomaactors.com.

Club sets Underwater Santa Photo Shoot

The San Diego Dive Club will hold its annual Underwater Santa Photo Shoot, Discover SCUBA and Toy Drive event to benefit the children at St. Vincent de Paul. The event takes place Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the

Point Loma Sport Chalet swimming pool, located at 3695 Midway Drive.

There is no charge for this event, but participants are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to the children of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Participants in this event will be able to download their pictures for free from the San Diego Dive Club web site. Participation requires no prior SCUBA experience but bring your C-card if you are certified. You must be 10 years of age or older to SCUBA with Santa.

Participants must be in good health and have signed a photo release and a liability waiver. Non-certified divers will also need to attend a free, 30-minute class prior to entering the pool.

Costume attire is permitted for the pictures. Bring a towel and your Christmas spirit.

For more information, visit www.diveclub.org/club/events/Santa/2011/index.htm.

Home Buyers: Discover How to Avoid These 6 Costly Mistakes Before You Buy

SAN DIEGO. A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make before buying a home.

Mortgage regulations have changed significantly over the last few years, making your options wider than ever. Subtle changes in the way you approach mortgage shopping, and even small differences in the way you structure your mortgage, can cost or save you literally thousands of dollars and years of expense.

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about the factors involved before you buy.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled, "6 Things You Must Know Before You Buy."

Having the right information beforehand can undoubtedly make a major difference in this critical negotiation.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter ID# 1004. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Elder Care Guides supports Assembly Bill 899, legislation that will require California's Department of Social Services to license and regulate home care agencies, holding the agencies responsible for ensuring that their professional caregiver employees are qualified and reputable. For information about this legislation and how to support it, please visit the California Association of Health Services at Home: www.cahsah.org.

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CONDOS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

floor 3½ feet and enclosed it by adding a four-foot wall on the east side, connecting the wall to the building with a trellis that extends five feet into the sideyard setback.

The top will be seeded with turf and serve as a play area for the residents, said Claude Anthony Marengo of Marengo Morton Architects.

Marengo said the encroachment is permitted under San Diego building codes. He said a planning review specialist at the city's Development Services Department had verified its compliance.

Eric Stevens of the San Diego Coastal District Office of the California Coastal Commission said his office received an email from the city vouching for the project's compliance.

Gawronski said he was not convinced. "It's a wild interpretation of the code solely for the purpose, as far as I can see, of allowing this building to be built," he said.

In previous drawings, the parking spaces along Abbott Street were at-grade and visible from the sidewalk. Marengo said it was designed that way to allow a smaller structure.

"The big beef is that we didn't want cars visible from the street. That's been solved," said board member Craig Klein. "I've always regarded this as a difficult site that was going to require creative solutions."

Board member Bill Bushe agreed, calling the project a "trend" for beachfront structures.

"I don't think they should be penalized for clever architecture," Bushe said. "This is not a bad deal."

Just getting a chance to vet the project was a hard-fought battle for the board. Last month, three board members attended a California Coastal

Commission meeting in Huntington Beach and won a two-month continuance.

"I think this planning board can take pride in voting tonight knowing they got involved and improved it," said Brian Driesse, development executive for the San Diego office of Clark Realty Capital, a Virginia-based company that bought the site in June of last year.

The California Coastal Commission will consider the project next month in San Francisco. If approved, the owner will apply for building document permits from the city, Marengo said.

In other planning board news:

• Two **board vacancies have resulted** from the recent **resignations of Catherine Cappelluci (District 6) and Secretary Brittany Taylor (District 5)**. Information for citizens interested in filling the remainder of the terms is available at www.oceanbeachpb.com. Klein has been selected as the new secretary.

• It's **haircut time for more than five dozen trees on Newport Avenue**. The tree trimming should begin soon and will be paid for using \$4,875 in discretionary funds from District 1 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer's office, according to Faulconer aide Michael Patton.

• A **proposal to replace a one-story duplex at 5170 W. Point Loma Blvd. with a three-story, single-family residence** will be heard at the board's next meeting Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave. The owner is asking for a variance that would allow the square footage required for a garage to instead be allocated for living space. The variance would be the third of its kind on the block, and the board opposed the previous two.

The board's Project Review Committee was scheduled to debate the matter Nov. 16 and make a recommendation to the full board.



Some dog owners believe their canine partners are doing an effective job in policing pocket gopher populations at Dusty Rhodes Dog Park. Photo by Bianca Koch / The Beacon

GOPHERS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Gopher enthusiasts like to emphasize the animals' positive influence on the local ecosystem. The burrowing helps aerate the soil and helps speed up the formation of new, richer soil by bringing minerals to the surface and mixing plant materials and fecal waste into it — leading to better plant growth.

Not everyone, however, is a gopher fan and not everyone appreciates the destruction resulting from the gopher burrowing.

To prevent the local parks from being destroyed, trees and plants are often protected by screen fencing and underground netting, bare ground or barriers of six inches of coarse gravel, according to gardening enthusiast Jay Kurcaba.

"The trick is," Kurcaba said, "to plant annual grains rather than seasonal plants. Their roots don't provide enough food or nutrients to the hungry gopher."

Normally, gopher overpopulation is mitigated by natural predators like coyotes, weasels, large snakes and owls.

Only one of these four hunters is a regular in the Ocean Beach area, however — the white barn owl.

A couple of years ago, white barn owls began nesting between the area of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Beacon Street and between Cape May and Del Monte streets. The owls mainly feed on rats and mice in those areas.

Instead of pesticides or other pricey methods used by the city's Park and Recreation Department to control the gopher population, some Ocean Beach residents have suggested relocating a few of the owls to the Cleator Park, Dusty Rhodes/Rhodes Ranch and the Dog Park areas.

OB residents like Mary Richards and Scott Richard exercise their dogs daily at Dusty Rhodes Dog Park. The two share



Signs near the dunes of the wildlife preserve trail adjacent to Dog Beach Dog Park identify the reclusive and often destructive pocket gopher that is frequently blamed for destroying parks and gardens, killing trees, plants and shrubbery. Photo by Bianca Koch / The Beacon

similar views on the gopher problem. They both take a "live and let live" approach.

"Gophers are here for a purpose," said Richards. "Let nature take its course. I definitely do not agree with poison. It pollutes the ocean."

Richard agreed.

"I wouldn't want my dogs to get sick from a poisoned gopher or from pesticides they come in contact with," he said. "It should be a natural, inexpensive solution."

Richard and Richards said they believe relocating the owls would be very beneficial.

James Whalen of Ocean Beach also supports a more natural approach to the removal of gophers.

"They shouldn't be eradicated, but they definitely need to be controlled," Whalen said. "It got out of hand last year when the main park [Dusty Rhodes/Rhodes Ranch] was overrun with hundreds of gopher holes. People

ended up injured from stepping into holes all over the place."

While Whalen said he doesn't object to relocating owls to the local parks, he sees other natural solutions already taking place.

"Inside the dog park [the fenced-in area inside Dusty Rhodes Park], we don't have a problem," Whalen said. "It's self-regulating, our dogs take care of it. They dig them up [the gophers]. Not a day goes by without the dogs catching a gopher or two."

Of course, more traditional methods are being applied by the city in lieu of an owl relocation, often becoming the source of local myth as to how gopher control is actually being done.

Clay Bingham, director of community parks for the Park and Recreation Department, said city officials are aware of resident concerns over the gopher-control methods being used and sought to set the record straight.

"To keep our parks safe for house pets and the public, we apply a very low-level gopher-control pesticide product called 'Gopher Getter 2' at all four [Ocean Beach] parks," Bingham said. "The only difference is in the frequency of applications of the product."

"Dog Beach Park, Robb Field and Dusty Rhodes get treated with the same frequency — once every week," he said. "Cleator Park, on the other hand, only receives an application of the gopher control product once a month. ... To insure the most professional and safest handling of the product, a professional applicator contractor has been hired by the city of San Diego to apply the gopher control."

Bingham said community parks staff members are available to answer questions or field concerns over the gopher control, and to collect suggestions or ideas about alternate means of nuisance abatement. Residents may call (619) 221-8901 — a direct line to staff members Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Rio Peligroso brings roadhouse-style music to Humphrey's

By **BART MENDOZA** | THE BEACON

While there are no actual roadhouses in San Diego — tough drinking establishments of the sort with chicken wire in front of the stage and a hot mix of country, rock and R&B on the stage — there are several combos that could hold their own in such an environment. Such is the case with the quintet Rio Peligroso, which performs at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge on Nov. 18.

Formed in 2008 by guitarist and singer Michael Rennie (ex-Roxy Monoxide, A.M. Vibe) and bassist David Lizerbram (ex-Kite Flying Society), the band has quickly become a club favorite, playing an eclectic mix of rock, country and alternative cover tunes.

"I'd been playing in originals bands for years and while I loved my time in all-original bands, I had this romantic notion of playing for a different kind of audience," Rennie said. "I always loved that scene in the Jerry Lee Lewis bio-picture 'Great Balls of Fire,' where Jerry is playing this roadhouse gig — bottles flying, knife fights on the dance floor, and people just dancing as if their lives depended on it. Rio Peligroso was created to be the archetypical 'blowing-your-paycheck-on-a-Friday-night' kind of band."

When Rennie and Lizerbram decided on the band's early set lists, a mix-tape approach was developed.

"Anyone who is music obsessive, who grew up in the 1980s, knows the immense satisfaction that comes from a well-crafted mix tape," Rennie said. "It's about getting that perfect blend of upbeat and down-tempo songs, mixing deep cuts with audience favorites. In mix-tape land, the art of the segue looms large. That was a big motivation in forming the set list for this band: picking songs that would please a crowd but also draw appreciative nods from the music



Rio Peligroso has quickly become a club favorite, playing an eclectic mix of rock, country and alternative cover tunes.
Courtesy photo by Jordan Custodia

snob leaning against the back wall."

Choosing covers is a mix of alchemy and instinct, and there's really only one rule, according to Rennie.

"Never play a band's biggest hit. We'll play (The Rolling Stones' song) 'Dead Flowers,' but never 'Satisfaction.'"

The band's music covers a wide spectrum, but there is a country lilt to much of their set list.

"Initially, we were all about those hippie bands pretending to be cowboys — Gram Parson, the 1970s-era Byrds, Neil Young and The Band," Rennie said. "But the great thing about having people cycle through the band is the other ideas they bring. That's how Hank Snow, the Sadies and Ricky Nelson got into the mix. Or the Blasters and old Gospel tunes. I take immense pleasure in slipping a Camper Van Beethoven song between Willie Nelson and Elvis," he said.

Lizerbram has since left the group, with the group's current lineup now including Rennie, singer Katie Spencer, bassist Darko Petrovic (ex-Roxy Monoxide) on bass and vocals, drummer Todd Caschetta (ex-Kite Flying Society) and guitarist Erik Olson (ex-Bill Cardinal) on guitar.

"We've had a lot of great musician's cycle through the band," Rennie said. "We've had guest harmonica players, guitarists, violinists and keyboard players. The idea was to have a core band that could be supplemented by guests. I'd love to have a huge band — six, eight, 10 members. But its hard enough coordinating schedules for the five of us."

While Rennie has played with many respected bands, he said Rio Peligroso is special to him.

"I've enjoyed every band I've played in, but it's different with this band," Rennie said. "I always feel like I'm sitting in with this really amazing pick-up band at a backyard barbecue."

He said he's particularly happy to play with musicians of this caliber.

"I've always heard that the best situation to be in is to be the worst musician in your band — to challenge yourself to greater heights and all that. For better or " Rennie said.

Rio Peligroso performs at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18, at **Humphrey's Backstage Lounge**, 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island. For more information visit www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

From bloomer to stinker: Jury's votes are in on Harbor Point

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

Harbor Point — initially nominated as an Orchid Award for architecture — instead received an Onion Award for architecture at the Orchids and Onions Awards ceremony Oct. 27.

The annual San Diego Architectural Foundation's awards program promotes positive and negative community dialogue on architecture, sustainability efforts, interior design, historic preservation and landscape architecture by offering residents the chance to nominate and comment on recently completed or developing projects.

Suzanne Clemmer, 2011 Orchids and Onions Awards co-chair, said jurors scored the Harbor Point project highly in online voting, but after they visited and toured it, the jury found the project was more onionworthy.

Grant Barrett, the awards ceremony's emcee, explained the jury's 180-degree flip decision.

"The Orchids and Onions jury determined that this project's missed opportunities greatly outweighed its merits," he said. "From the reflective windows on the ground floor disallowing pedestrian engagement to the narrow units that don't allow for natural cross-ven-

tilation, they found Harbor Point to be a hodgepodge of contours, questionable color and material combinations, funny little corners, strangely-shaped balconies and awkward setbacks and overhangs."

The two-level mixed-use building located at 5055 N. Harbor Drive features a lower-level retail space with a plaza, office and retail space on the building's upper level.

The nautical design theme includes a ship's wheel atop a lighthouse-shaped elevator shaft and an ocean-themed mosaic climbing up the main stairway.

"It was clear that although the intention was there and significant resources were spent, at some point during the design process, the message was lost in translation," Barrett said on behalf of the jury. "An attempt at lengthening the sidewalk experience by bringing people up and into a second-story commercial corridor was plainly unsuccessful."

"... The jury also felt that with commercial space vacancies at an all-time high, we need to be creative, sensitive and forward-thinking when creating a similar product," he said. "It behooves no one to build things that sit empty because they fundamentally do not function well."

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Pointers demolish Serra in regular-season league finale

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

After the Point Loma High School (PLHS) Pointers annihilated Serra's Conquistadors 61-13 in the season's final Western League football game Nov. 11, one question remained: did the Pointers save up enough points for the upcoming playoffs?

The Pointers, averaging just more than 22 points per game coming in, nearly tripled that total on a cloudy afternoon.

The Dogs grabbed the hapless Conquistadors by the neck and shook them into submission at Bennie Edens Stadium with scores coming from offensive, defensive and special teams units.

The carnage began after a Serra punt when, on the Pointers' first possession, Morris Mathews broke free for a 39-yard score just 2:50 into the match. After Serra roughed the kicker on the extra point attempt, Pointers head coach Mike Hastings elected to go for a two-point conversion, which Mathews punched in for an 8-0 lead.

Seconds later on Serra's first play from the 20-yard line following the kickoff, aggressive Pointer defenders hit the Q's quarterback as he was throwing. The wayward pass fell into the hands of linebacker Edmond Tucker, who returned it 30 yards for another Point Loma score.

A failed point-after kick left the score at 14-0.

"I like these kinds of games," said Hastings. "It shows we're a complete team and can do all the things we've practiced and do it pretty well as we head into the playoffs."

Mathews recorded his second touchdown of the day from six yards out after Matt Magers intercepted

another errant Serra pass. The Pointers' drive covered 80 yards in 14 plays for the score that carried into the first minute of the second quarter.

Serra, backed by several nice pass completions and 45 yards of penalties against the Pointers, managed a second-quarter score. But big Dog Jake Wambaugh, a 6-foot, 2-inch, 220-pound sophomore, picked up a failed Conquistadors punt attempt on the next possession and returned it 40 yards to put his team up 28-6.

Then, before halftime, the Pointers covered 53 yards in three plays spanning only 1:06, with quarterback Branden Martin hitting Magers on a 40-yard scoring pass for a 34-6 lead.

The floodgates had opened and the Pointers added three touchdowns in the third period sandwiched around a second Conquistadors score.

Eric Bueno capped a 60-yard drive with a two-yard run on the Pointers' first offensive series. Next, sophomore Dirk Lacy raced 69 yards as the Dogs covered 80 yards in two plays lasting just 28 seconds.

Magers added his second score on a 49-yard punt return and Johnny Maes romped 59 yards on the first play of an early fourth-quarter drive before the Pointers emptied their bench and game officials allowed the clock to run, the game ending in near darkness under overcast skies.

It was a busy day for statisticians.

The Pointers totaled 449 yards in offense and scored five touchdowns on only 38 plays — an average of 11.8 yards per play.

Through the air, Martin completed all three of his pass attempts for 60 yards.

The ground game (389 yards) was led by Mathews (seven carries, 104



Things aren't looking good for Serra High School quarterback Hunter Correll (No. 14) as Pointers Ikeem Wright (33) and Tevin Heyward (14) bear down on him during the Pointers' 61-13 victory.
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

yards, two TD's). Bueno (7-71, 1 TD), Jaivon Griffin (11-64) and Jamal Agnew (3-14) added to the long touchdowns by Lacy and Maes.

Defensively, Ikeem Wright (five

tackles, five assists) and Tevin Heyward put constant pressure on two Serra quarterbacks. Greg Verdugo (six tackles, one assist), Steven Arreola and Tucker led the team.

Aaron Watkins, the team's leader in interceptions, stole another.

BITS 'N' BITES

• Showing the absurdity of prep football playoffs, **the weak Conquistadors are in the postseason play** with an overall record of 3-7 (0-5 in Western League) The Q's "earned" a first-round game with Kearny (8-2, 6-0 in Central League).

• With a 2:30 p.m. kickoff for the game, the home crowd was treated to a **quarter of professional, calm, clearly-spoken public address announcing by PLHS art teacher Sean Wells.**

• **Miguel Alcantar**, a junior and heir apparent to senior place-kickers Ruben Diaz and Felipe Soares, made his **varsity debut** against the Q's, making three of four extra-point attempts and handling kickoff duties.

• The Pointer **junior varsity** finished its season with a **6-4 record**, losing only to Madison in league play.

• The Pointer **freshman team** won the Western League title again with a record of **7-2 (4-0 in league).**

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Pointers spoil Madison’s undefeated record with tie

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

In a rain-soaked Western League showdown Nov. 4, Point Loma High School’s (PLHS) Pointers succeeded in spoiling powerful Madison High’s effort to record an undefeated season. But the Pointers didn’t win, either.

The two teams battled to a 13-13 tie before a small crowd at the new Warhawks stadium complex after the Dogs’ tenacious defense and strong running attack staked the visitors to a 10-0 third-quarter lead. But it didn’t last.

In fact, only a pressure-packed 29-yard field goal in strong windy conditions by senior kicker Felipe Soares with 17 seconds left in the game prevented the Pointers from losing a game they had led almost all night.

The tie left the Pointers at 6-2-1 overall (3-0-1 in Western League) while Madison, who entered the game averaging 40 points per game, dropped to 8-0-1 (3-0-1).

The long-awaited game took an unexpected turn when Warhawks all-star quarterback Chase Knox left the game in the first quarter after suffering a dislocated finger. With backup Bo Kaimuloa under center, Madison went to an unproductive up-the-middle running game that the Pointers repeatedly shut down.

Pointers running backs, meanwhile, had picked up significant yardage against the stunned Warhawks, and a Jaivon Griffin 16-yard touchdown run sent the teams to intermission with a 7-0 lead in favor of Point Loma.

Knox reappeared to open the second half for Madison, but was ineffective until Soares’ first field goal of the night gave the Dogs a 10-0 lead with 5:34 left in the third period.

The Pointers again threatened to score, but a 38-yard field goal attempt by Ruben Diaz failed, giving Madison the ball on their own 20.

From here, Madison star running back Pierre Cormier, who had been bottled up all night, broke free for an 80-yard touchdown run, closing the Pointer lead to 10-7. Outside of this run, Cormier carried 15 times for only 14 yards.

After a 26-yard pass completion from Sam Augustine to Matt Magers, the Pointers threatened again after rains resumed in the fourth quarter, but an interception killed that drive.

The Warhawks then made their move, driving to the Pointer 8-yard line where, on a fourth-down play, Knox hit Kaimuloa with a scoring pass. Jon Denae Bailey’s block of the Madison extra point attempt and a desperate Pointer drive set up Soares’ crucial tying field goal.

The Pointers totaled 322 yards in offense, 269 of it on the ground. Griffin (23 carries for 112 yards) led the attack while Morris Mathews’ nine carries for 87 yards included a 49-yard burst. Eric Bueno picked up 46 yards and Branden Martin had 29.

In a strange series of events, an overtime session was agreed upon some 15 minutes after the end of regulation time. The teams had met for handshakes, while game officials left the field and many fans had left the stadium.

During the extra period, the Pointers were driving before Diaz’s 33-yard field goal attempt was partially blocked. The Warhawks’ possession resulted in a 41-yard field goal situation, but when a Pointer jumped offside, the resulting 36-yard attempt was successful.

champion based on the overtime results.

- **Diaz** was given the opportunity to **attempt a 52-yard field goal** in the first quarter. His booming kick bounced off the goalpost crossbar, falling perhaps a foot short.
- The **Pointers dominated** the unde-

feated Warhawks throughout **much of the game.**

- The **Madison junior varsity prevailed** 21-6 in a drenching rain before the varsity match, leaving the Pointers with a 5-4 record.
- The **Pointer freshmen topped Madison** by the same score, improving to 6-2.



Point Loma defenders stop Madison runner Bo Kaimuloa (3) during last week’s rainy Western League showdown. Tevin Heyward (14), Steven Arreola (56) and Greg Verdugo (53) helped their team battle to a 13-13 tie.
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon



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Bits 'n' bites

- **Many** in the audience and news media **questioned the need to play the overtime session.** The Pointers (CIF Div. III) and Warhawks (CIF Div. IV) are not pitted against each other in playoff seeding meetings. Madison, however, was declared the official Western League

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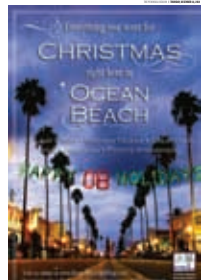
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A bottle of Mumm Cuvée Napa Rosé sparkling wine complements the Thanksgiving meal of carved turkey and stuffing, accompanied by Mandarin orange sweet potatoes, lemon cranberry sauce, and sautéed Brussels sprouts. All were prepared and served from a boat galley, equipped with a convection/microwave oven.

Photo by Nicole Sours Larson | The Beacon



Talkin' turkey: don't be scared off by the bird

By NICOLE SOURS LARSON | THE BEACON

During two years at cooking school in Paris — yes, the original Cordon Bleu — one of the few things I never cooked was a turkey, although it provided the centerpiece for a memorable international Thanksgiving feast held at an American student's apartment, with the 25-pound bird sourced from the American Embassy commissary.

When I returned home to Virginia, where whole turkeys were available year-round, I began experimenting with different methods of cooking turkeys: under foil; in a brown paper bag; in an oven cooking bag; under cheesecloth; high initial heat; even heat. I've cooked discounted frozen turkeys, butter-basted turkeys, fresh turkeys and Trader Joe's pre-brined turkeys and had satisfying results with every method.

Three years ago, I discovered my now-favorite: the super-easy, dry-brined technique *LA Times* food editor Russ Parsons calls the "Judy Bird," after San Francisco chef Judy Rodgers' chicken-cooking approach.

While it requires planning ahead, this produces a firm, meaty, moist and flavorful bird. The turkey absorbs the salt during its three-day refrigeration, yet isn't salty. It's fine to stuff your turkey, but reduce the stuffing's salt. Most important, don't be intimidated.

Just add your favorite side dishes and dessert and you're good to go.

The dry-brined or 'Judy Bird' turkey

(Read detailed recipes and FAQ at www.lat.ms/s074nK)

1 turkey, 11 to 16 lbs., fresh or frozen (turkey absorbs salt as it defrosts), giblets removed, rinsed inside and out, patted dry

Kosher salt

A 2½-gallon sealable plastic bag (available at supermarket)

Place 1 tablespoon Kosher salt per 5 pounds turkey weight (e.g., 3 tablespoons for a 15 lb. turkey) in bowl; prorate — do not oversalt).

Sprinkle salt lightly inside the turkey cavity. Turn it on its back to salt the breasts, using most salt on the thickest parts of the meat, the breasts and thighs; salt the turkey all over. Put turkey in the 2½-gallon bag. Squeeze out air and seal.

Refrigerate the bird three days, breast-side up for two days, breast-side down for one day. Massage the salt into the skin daily through the bag. Liquids will reabsorb.

Remove turkey from bag, place it on a platter breast-side up and let dry in the refrigerator for eight hours. Let sit for one hour at room temperature before stuffing (if desired) and cooking. Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees.

Place turkey, breast-side up, on a rack in a sturdy roasting pan (avoid aluminum throwaways) and put in oven. Reduce temperature to 325 degrees after 30 minutes and roast until an oven thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh reads 165 degrees, about 2½ to 3 hours. The turkey will cook faster in a convection oven or if using an oven roasting bag. (Mine cooked once in 1½ hours in a convection oven.)

Remove bird from oven, tent it with foil and let rest 30 minutes before carving.

Skim and discard fat from turkey drippings for use on stuffing or in gravy.

Nicole's stuffing

Stuffing — or dressing — is an art, not a science. My ingredients and pro-

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People
in the news

Beacon writer earns
press club awards

Peninsula Beacon news and sports contributor Scott Hopkins took home five awards in the recent San Diego Press Club “Excellence in Journalism Awards.” Hopkins captured two first-place awards in the non-daily newspaper category. His story of an inventive Point Loma High School (PLHS) student’s science fair project about sailboat keel designs was judged the top education



SCOTT HOPKINS

story. His photo of a cerebral palsy-afflicted PLHS student’s joy while receiving his diploma at graduation was named best in feature photography. A story about the great improvement in the PLHS girls’ volleyball team earned Hopkins a second-place honor in sports writing. He also received second-place honors in feature writing for his account of the life celebration service for former Aztecs and Chargers head coach Don Coryell. A third-place award in breaking news went to Hopkins for an exclusive Beacon story about the hiring of a new trio of baseball coaches at PLHS, including former major leaguer and Pointer alumni David Wells. The San Diego Press Club awards ceremony was held Oct. 25 at the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park and honored achievements in local newspapers, radio, television and public relations.

Hopkins is a retired educator and PLHS alumni.

Local community leader
honored at PLNU festival

Malin Burnham, chairman of John Burnham & Co. Insurance and Burnham Real Estate, was honored as the recipient of the Point Loma Nazarene University’s Presidential Community Service Award during the university’s annual fall festival in October. The award is given to individuals who express the university’s value of community service. In addition to his involvement with the Burnham Companies, Malin has been active as a board member of several major corporations. His present involvements include board member of Sanford|Burnham Medical Research Institute; UCSD Foundation; Rady School of Management; SDSU Cam-

panile Foundation and the USS Midway Museum; and co-chairman of the Stanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine. Malin also served as a trustee of Stanford University from 1985 to 1995. He also co-established the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego. Malin has been a world-recognized sailor for five decades and has helped San Diego achieve prominence in both local and professional sports. At age 17, he became the youngest skipper to win a World Championship in the International Star Class. In 1987, he played a leading role in bringing the America’s Cup to San Diego. Also recognized was Vincent Mudd, owner, president and chief executive officer of San Diego Office Interiors. Mudd has been recognized in the San Diego community for his leadership in entrepreneurship and sustainability. He

has also served as chairman of the Citizen’s Fiscal Sustainability Task Force, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the American Red Cross, numerous investment and audit committees, and is the current chairman of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit www.pointloma.edu/FallFestival.

Local among honorees at
Philanthropy Day event

The Association of Fundraising Professionals San Diego chapter feted a long list of honorees during its 39th annual National Philanthropy Day luncheon on Nov. 1 — including a Point Loma woman.



CAROLE FISH

Nearly 1,000 community members came together to celebrate some of the region’s most generous individuals and corporations, including Carole Fish of CFRE, who was presented the Outstanding Development Professional Award. This year’s event on 11/1/11 led to the 2011 theme of “One by One” to illustrate the power behind one person, one group, one gesture and the impact of each of these on the community as a whole. “National Philanthropy Day is always a special reminder of the deep spirit of generosity that is ever-present in San Diego,” said Charlene Pryor, event chairwoman. “This year’s theme of ‘One by One’ further illuminated the incredible commitment and community pride of each participant, each sponsor and each committee member. Those of us lucky enough to have been a part of it will be

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Pacific Sotheby's International Realty Welcomes Dianne Reichardt

Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty is pleased to announce that Dianne Reichardt has joined the Point Loma office as the Branch Manager. “We are thrilled that Dianne has joined us,” says President Brian Arrington. “She managed the #1 office on the peninsula from 1990-2008 and brings with her proven skills as a top manager and experienced professional.”

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Dianne is active in the Point Loma community. She is the current Vice President of the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of the Point Loma Association.

“My years as a Realtor® and Manager have given me the opportunity to help people achieve their personal and professional goals,” says Dianne. “I am excited to be part of an organization that provides both its agents and clients with unparalleled exposure locally and worldwide.”

The Point Loma office is located in Liberty Station. Over 200 agents in 8 offices serving 5 locations in the San Diego area represent Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty. Sotheby’s International Realty® has a global network of over 500 offices in 40 countries and has collectively established itself as a leading brokerage specializing in the luxury market niche but proudly serving all property types and price points.

SEE PEOPLE, Page 14

Clubs, Bars & Music Scene

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THURSDAY

11pm-1am
\$3 Appetizers

Late Night Munchies 11pm-1am \$3 Appetizers

Super Pint Night

Super Pint Night

Aloha Fridays \$10 pitchers of Kona Longboard Lager all day!

Aloha Fridays \$10 pitchers of Kona Longboard Lager all day!

Miller High Life bottles Shot of the Week \$3

Miller High Life bottles \$2 Shot of the Week \$3

Bloody mary specials. Try our new locally crafted beers on tap

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FRIDAY

8 sliders and a pitcher of domestic beer for \$19.00

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Aloha Fridays \$10 pitchers of Kona Longboard Lager all day!

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SATURDAY

Open 9am for Breakfast and Drink Specials Watch all the NFL & College games here!

Open 9am for Breakfast and Drink Specials Watch all the NFL & College games here!

Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers

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Watch all the NFL games here!

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SUNDAY

Open 9am for Breakfast and Drink Specials Watch all the NFL & College games here!

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Happy Hour 5-6pm 1/2 Price Pitchers

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Bloody mary specials. Try our new locally crafted beers on tap

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MONDAY

1925 Bacon St. O.B.
619-223-7381

Every Day: Happy Hour 4:30-6:30pm

\$6 for 1/4 burger, fries & domestic pint!

\$3 Turkey Tacos & House Margs all night!

5028 Newport Ave. O.B.
619-222-0722

Happy Hour 5 – 6pm Everyday 1/2 Price Pitchers

\$2 off All Pichers all night

\$3 off Micros Pitchers after 6pm

5034 Newport Ave. O.B.
619-223-0558

Happy Hour 3 – 7pm Everyday!

\$1 off U-call it 8pm-1am

Super Pint Night

4906 Voltaire St.
619-224-0834

Every Day: Happy Hour 4-7pm

Well Drinks \$2.50 Margaritas \$3.75 \$1.50 OFF all pitchers, \$1 OFF Premium Shots U-Call-Its

Free Pool all day

5083 Santa Monica Ave.
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Nightly Specials:

Happy Hour Food 4 to Close & Drinks 4 to 7

Nightly Specials: \$2.00 Tacos and \$5.00 Select Tequilas

1101 Scott St., Point Loma
619-224-2272
619-222-PIER

Nightly Specials:

\$3.00 Wing Basket & \$5.00 Selected Whiskeys

Nightly Specials: Burger, Fries & 16 Ounce Domestic Draft \$7.00

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Nightly Specials:

Happy Hour Food 4 to Close & Drinks 4 to 7

Every Saturday \$2.50 Mimosas & College Gamday!

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Nightly Specials: Burger, Fries & 16 Ounce Domestic Draft \$7.00

PEOPLE

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

inspired for years to come."

The Association of Fundraising Professionals San Diego chapter (AFPSD) is dedicated to empowering people and organizations to practice ethical and effective fundraising through education, certification, mentoring and diversity recruitment.

For more information, visit www.afpsandiego.afpnet.org.

2 PL women serving on ASID chapter board

The San Diego chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers recently announced leadership changes that included the election of a new president.

Among the board members are also

two Point Loma residents — Robin Carrier and Kathleen Kita-Palmer.

Elected chapter president was Solana Beach resident Mary Kellejian.

She is an award-winning interior designer who recently moved her design studio Polo Bay Interiors to the Cedros Avenue Design District after a 25-year stint in Del Mar.

Her firm offers comprehensive design services for commercial and residential clients, including new construction and

remodeling. She is also a certified real estate staging specialist.

Carrier has now become the ASID's president-elect, while Kita-Palmer will serve as director at large.

The San Diego chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers has more than 500 professional and allied members and is part of the oldest and largest organization of professional interior designers in the world.

Professional membership is earned through accredited education, years of qualifying experience and postgraduate examinations.

The American Society of Interior Designers helps protect the health, safety and welfare of consumers by encouraging and requiring members to keep abreast of evolving technologies, regulations and safety issues.

For more information, visit www.ASIDSandiego.org, or call (858) 646-9896.



ROBIN CARRIER



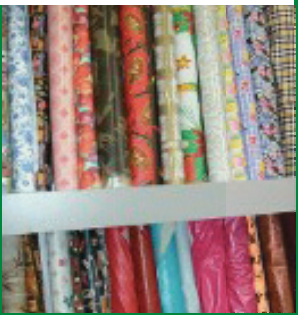
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Churches to host free Thanksgiving Day dinner

Churches in Ocean Beach, in conjunction with Second Chances Bread of Life ministry, will host a free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day for hungry residents.

The dinner, which begins at 11 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, located at 4776 Saratoga Ave., does not require registration. A volunteer orientation will be held at 10 a.m.

The church organizations are not seeking donations, but contributions of cans of cranberry sauce or vegetables will be accepted and distributed during the dinner that day. Volunteers are needed to help with serving and cleanup, according to organizers.

The event represents a chance for residents to break bread and comfort those less fortunate. For more information, call (619) 886-4275.

HOLIDAY

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

portions vary every time. Be creative and experiment. Be sure to taste and correct for flavor. I've experimented successfully with a brown Basmati rice-based stuffing with vegetables including zucchini, mushrooms, onions, carrots and garlic. Another year, I added maraschino cherries to my basic recipe — different and delicious.

1 loaf (1 ½ lbs.) good quality white bread, stale or dried for 1-2 days, or a combination of breads including oat, potato, whole wheat or corn bread.

1 large onion, finely chopped

About ½ lb. mushrooms, thinly sliced

1-2 cups walnut pieces

2-4 cloves garlic, crushed

½ to 1 bunch parsley, finely chopped

¼ lb butter, melted

Chicken stock (can preferred)

Thyme, rosemary (fresh preferred), optional

Salt and pepper

Make stuffing the day before use. Tear bread into small pieces and place in large bowl. Add onions, garlic, mushrooms, walnuts, parsley and fresh herbs. Add butter and/or chicken stock to moisten stuffing. Add salt and pepper to taste, going light on the salt if stuffing inside dry-brined bird. Refrigerate until use.

Stuff turkey just before baking or bake in a pan, moistened with turkey juices, for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Marita's mandarin orange sweet potatoes

4-6 large sweet potatoes, baked or microwaved, peeled

4 tablespoons butter

6 tablespoons brown sugar, firmly packed

3 tablespoons dark rum (Meyers preferred)

½ teaspoon salt
1/3 teaspoon ground pepper
2 small cans drained mandarin oranges
6 tablespoons chopped pecans
Mash potatoes with 2 tablespoons butter, 4 tablespoons sugar, 3 tablespoons pecans, rum, salt and pepper. Add 1 can mandarins; mix well. Adjust seasoning. Arrange in 1 ½ to 2 quart casserole. Mix remaining butter, sugar and pecans; adjust seasoning. Spread atop potatoes. Arrange remaining mandarins on top. Bake uncovered 375 degrees about 25 minutes, or make ahead and reheat.

Pumpkin pie

(adapted from Marvin Small's The World's Best Recipes Cook Book)

For one 10-inch or two 8-inch pies

1 15-oz can pumpkin

1 cup dark brown sugar, packed

1 ½ cups evaporated milk or light cream

4 eggs

½ teaspoon salt

1-2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

½ to 1 teaspoon ground or fresh grated ginger

½ to 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

¼ to ½ teaspoon cloves

1/4 to ½ teaspoon mace

2 tablespoons dark rum

2 tablespoons cognac

Pie crust for one 10-inch or two 8-inch pies (or use pre-made pie shells)

Combine pumpkin, sugar, salt and spices in a mixing bowl. Beat eggs and evaporated milk or cream with rum and brandy and add to pumpkin. Blend well and adjust spices to taste. Pour mixture into unbaked pie shells. Bake in a 450 degree oven for 5 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour, depending on diameter of pie(s). Pie is done when a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.



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Las Posadas Holiday Event Celebrates its 61st Year

Dec. 11 will mark the 61st annual Las Posadas event in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The Las Posadas procession is a walking reenactment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. Everyone is invited to join the candlelit procession and sing traditional holiday songs in both Spanish and English as the players go from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession culminates with a live nativity scene in front of Casa de Estudillo as well as a piñata party.

"This event combines the Anglo custom of caroling with the Hispanic tradition of the procession and the breaking of the piñata," said Chuck Ross, owner and operator at Fiesta de Reyes.

"Las Posadas is a long-standing tradition in many Latin cultures and we hope to recreate the same kind of celebratory day that everyone can enjoy."

The Las Posadas procession will be lead by professional actors in period costume, including Willie, the acting donkey.

Before the procession that takes place at 5 p.m., this event will also feature a daytime celebration and preshow with live music, performances and activities for children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of local music and performing arts groups will perform from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For children's entertainment, there will be free craft activities that include making pioneer-style cloth dolls, as well as corn-husk dolls and paper holiday flowers. Hot cider, pastries, Mexican baked goods,

tamales, hot soup and more will be available for purchase in the park.

At end of the festival, a bonfire will be lit in the middle of the state park and there will be a piñata-breaking party following the Las Posadas procession at 6 p.m. Stores and museums within the state park will have extended hours until 8 p.m. that evening.

This is the second year that the Las Posadas procession is produced by the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park concessionaires. They expanded the procession to feature an entire festival that includes family-friendly seasonal activities.

Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-3100.

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Lift a pen



GUEST VIEW

Nancy Gardner

Lifting a pen can change so much. It can declare independence, write a constitution, sign a treaty, pledge marriage vows, connect with a loved one, design a house, prescribe an anticipated cure, write a check, figure a math problem, and learn to write. These days most of that can be done with voice command. Even a phone call and your computer can be directed by voice command. I don't talk to any of them yet, but they talk to me.

Lifting a pen, is how we increasingly pay for life. We are becoming a cashless society. On an airplane, we're not allowed to use cash, even for a \$6 snack. Have you noticed that when you get a refund from a department or specialty store, more and more often you get a plastic card to spend like cash, but rarely get cash? Even my home warranty protection plan gave me a plastic card refund instead of cash. Mercedes sent me plastic to use toward car repairs and more plastic to use toward detailing. We've gone from learning to live with no debt to living only with debt. Now I can pay Rotary bills and donations with plastic. I get airline miles for doing so. We are no longer "Pay Go", we use plastic.

We buy homes on the same concept. Down payments are not real cash, escrows aren't equipped to deal with it. Monthly payments are paper checks, direct debit, or plastic. In the planning stages is a way to chip us, most likely a finger, such that when going through airline security, applying for a job, buying movie tickets, groceries, clothes—all will be paid for by lifting a finger which will automatically tie to your banking, spending and traveling history, right next to your medical history. Your whole life style will be able to be read by lifting a finger, comforting...isn't it? That's in the future.

In the past our founding fathers were in favor of Pay Go. Our countrymen financed, fought and paid back all the money it took to secure America's freedom and to pay for the war we fought to keep our country from breaking in two. In 1913 under Woodrow Wilson this concept significantly broke down and has eroded under every President since then. I wonder when Congress is going to take their finger off the "spending button" and move it over to the "create private sector jobs button." Government jobs are not as helpful to the public weal. We end up paying the salaries, benefits and pensions. Private jobs create intellectual capital, goods and services to sell, invent and assemble stuff. That's what we need to improve our country's financial bottom line. A culture's ability to make and sell stuff is crucial to a healthy economy. We can't keep legislating fees and taxing to cover costs and stay a free country. California has a really tough job. It seems like we import illegal aliens and anchor babies as much as any product. They account for over 30% of the people we feed, clothe, and house in correctional institutions, a large portion of the free education, meals and housing we hand out, and over their lifetime receive



much more "free" money from our Government then the aging seniors who've worked over 40 years all the while paying into the system, hoping to receive some of their investment back over the last 20 years of their lives. The math doesn't work if you increasingly give proceeds away to those who never have contributed, while taking from those who do. Like Margaret Thatcher said, "Eventually you run out of other peoples' money."

That's in the future, now would be a really good time to focus on how and where you want to live before that happens. Best to get settled while you can buy the home of your dreams and get historically low rates while you still have control, and still have liquid / semi liquid assets. Let's count our blessings:

1. God loves and protects us.
2. We have beautiful, precious families, children and grandchildren.
3. Our environment in La Jolla is highly prized.
4. Natural wonders surround us with ocean, rocks, trees, hills, wild life, and domesticated life.
5. La Jolla home sales volume and prices are up significantly September of 2011 over September of 2010.
6. You can buy before home prices go up further.

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Why wouldn't someone want to buy a home and live here? Good idea to act now while the delta of Price/Value/Monthly Payment is so favorable, before the rates and pricing go up. Rents most surely will We will soon be running out of housing inventory—who wouldn't want to live here? Just lift a finger, and it's yours! The transaction will all be cashless anyway, right?

When the election comes around, don't be laissez faire about your rights... lift a pen, raise your voice.

—Nancy K. Gardner

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

public notice

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Anderson Medical Center Opens in Pacific Beach

Dr. Kenneth Anderson has been practicing family and sports medicine in Pacific Beach for 22 years. Now he is opening his own clinic.

The Anderson Medical Center is located at 1945 Garnet Avenue. The clinic will feature the latest in technology including digital x-rays and electronic health records.

Patients will be seen on a walk-in basis. This allows easy access with the extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The Anderson Medical Center is equipped to handle minor emergencies such as suturing and casting. It is designed to take care of patients of all ages as their primary care physicians.

Physical therapy will also be available on a scheduled basis.

Most insurance will be accepted. For more information you can call 858-224-7877 or visit our website at Anderson-medicalcenter.com.

Do Your Parents Need a Geriatric Care Manager?

John Hamilton's mother at 92 lived alone and independently in her home. Even though he visited often, he began to see indications that she needed more help. A friend told him about geriatric care managers and he gave one a call. It was exactly what his mother needed.

The care manager arranged for a new hearing aide and a lifeline for emergencies. She took his mother to MD appts. and called and e-mailed him regularly. She arranged a caregiver to come in for

several hours to cook her a meal and help with her personal needs.

Geriatric care managers can bridge the gap to allow the elder to remain independent for as long as possible. Medicare or Medicaid does not pay for this service, sometimes long term care insurance will but John says his peace of mind made the care manager worth the cost.

The RN Care Managers at Innovative Healthcare Consultants can help with referrals, resources and help from a RN experienced in working with seniors. Whether you need long term care for your parent or just a consultation – our nurses are available. Our care managers will be the eyes and ears for your elderly parent.

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Some examples are: improved speech-in-noise technology, feedback managers (to control whistling), cosmetics (smaller hearing devices) and wireless (Bluetooth) capabilities, to name a few. Recently, a hearing aid manufacturer introduced SoundRecover. This is a superior type of hearing aid technology that is specifically designed for those with high frequency hearing losses, or those who have trouble hearing speech in noisy environments.

High frequency hearing loss is very common with individuals who have been exposed to excessive noise. The hearing aid will effectively shift high frequency sounds down into a lower frequency range where the hearing is "healthier". This helps provide clarity of speech without over-amplifying unnecessary noise and sound. The technology comes in numerous styles of hearing aids – from very small in-the-ear technology, to the devices that sit on top (or behind) the ear.

Peninsula Hearing Center would be happy to evaluate your hearing or current hearing devices to see if there are any improvements that can be made to your hearing and speech understanding. Sometimes, simple programming adjustments can be made to your current devices to make a significant improvement in your hearing. Take care of your hearing and call the experts!

Send us your questions!

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Looking » ahead

Peninsula-area events happening from
Nov. 17-Dec. 17

THURSDAY, Nov. 17

Peninsula Community Planning Board will host a public **forum on the Balboa Park/Panama Plaza Project** during the planning group's regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. For a more exact time of the forum, visit www.pcpb.net or go the library to view the agenda. For more information, call Helen Kinnaird at (619) 224-9897.

Nov. 17 and FRIDAY, Nov. 18

Silver Gate Elementary School and Peninsula YMCA's Holiday Tree Sale and Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days at the school's playground, 1499 Venice St. Visitors can get an early jump on holiday shopping and order or buy a Christmas tree. **Pre-orders are ongoing to support the Peninsula Family YMCA and Silver Gate Elementary.** Fresh Nobel firs, grand firs, wreaths and garlands are available online at www.peninsula.ymca.org. Trees will also be available for purchase the day of pickup, but pre-orders are strongly recommended. Tree pickups may be made when the Silver Gate's Holiday Boutique continues on Dec. 3. For prices and more information, visit www.sandi.net/silvergate.

SATURDAY, Nov. 19

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market hosts its **People's Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can get an early start on their holiday shopping with one-of-a-kind wares, including jewelry, knit scarves and bags, trinkets, magnets, soaps, candles and stained glass. All booths will be in front of the market at 4765 Voltaire St. Admission is free. For more information, call (619) 224-1387, or email editor@oceanbeachpeoples.com.

Nov. 21-Dec. 17

Dog Beach Dog Wash will host a **food and toy drive for pets in need.** The dog wash is accepting new, unopened toys and food for San Diego's shelter pets. The dropoff runs daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the dog wash, located at 4933 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 523-1700.

TUESDAY, Nov. 29

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** will **erect the OB Community Christmas tree** at noon at the foot of Newport Avenue for children and residents to decorate. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

THURSDAY, Dec. 1

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** hosts its **annual OB school children tree decorating** from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

SATURDAY, Dec. 3

• **The Ocean Beach Town Council** hosts its **annual OB Christmas Parade** in the heart of OB along Newport Avenue at 5:05 p.m. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

• **The Point Loma Artists** hosts their **annual free Holiday Art Show and Sale** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3636 Curtis St., between Chatsworth Boulevard and Poinsettia Street. The event includes original oil and watercolor paintings, photography, woodwork, glass, weavings, mixed media and ceramics. For more information, visit www.pointlomaartists.com, or call (619) 223-6326.

• **Silver Gate Elementary School** will host its **Holiday Tree Sale and Holiday**

Boutique featuring items from local, home-based crafters from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school's playground, 1499 Venice St. **Tree pickups** take place this day. At the boutique, 20 percent of the retail sales will be donated back to Friends of Silver Gate. Crafters can reserve tables by emailing zoefeher32@gmail.com. For tree prices and more information, visit www.sandi.net/silvergate.

SATURDAYS, Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** hosts **weekly OB Craft fairs** at Veterans Plaza for all your holiday shopping. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

THURSDAY, Dec. 8

The **Rock Academy's elementary students** will present a Christmas program, **"Bethlehem or Bust,"** about a camel and his friends as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. The program takes place Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. and again on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Rock Church and Academy Sanctuary, located at 2277 Rosecrans St. Admission is free. For more information, email autumn.cropp@therockacademy.org.

Dec. 13, 15 and 16

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** brings it home for the holidays with its **annual community Food and Toy Drive** for local disadvantaged families. Volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and sorting of donated items (be on the lookout for the Christmas donation cans around Ocean Beach) during this three-day period from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Volunteers will **deliver goods from the Ocean Beach Town Council's annual community Food and Toy Drive** to seniors and families from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.



"Resting Giants" by
Dave Ness

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Thursday, November 24, from 12 to 7 p.m.

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December 10-11 from 7 to 10 a.m.

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HOLIDAY LUNCHES

December 1-2, 7-9, 14-16, and 21-23

From 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday, December 31, at 8:30 p.m.

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Sun 1-4pm	.7172 Country Club Dr.	.5BR/5.5BA	.\$2,795,000	.The Daniels Group • 858-344-2230

PACIFIC BEACH / MISSION BEACH / CROWN POINT

Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.1369 Hornblend St.	.3BR/2.5BA	.\$529,000	.Kathy Evans • 858-488-7355
Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.4627 Ocean Blvd. #221	.2BR/2BA	.\$769,900	.Kathy Evans • 858-488-7355
Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.4076 & 4080 Morrell St.	.4BR/3.5BA	.\$844,000-\$849,000/each	.Kathy Evans 858-488-7355
Sat 12-3 Sun 1-4pm	.1056 Chalcedony St.	.4BR/3.5BA	.\$949,000	.Kathy Evans • 858-488-7355
Sun 1-4pm	.2033 Oliver #1/2	.2BR/1BA	.\$285,000	.Monique Matthews • 619-307-9447
Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.5199 San Aquario Dr.	.4BR/3BA	.\$1,150,000	.Antoinette Hamilton • 858-922-2726

POINT LOMA / OCEAN BEACH

Sat & Sun 11-4pm	.885 Armada Terrace	.2BR/2BA	.\$995,000	.Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.951 Armada Terrace	.3BR/2BA	.\$1,195,000	.Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464
Sat & Sun 11-4pm	.876 Armada Terrace	.4BR/4BA	.\$2,275,000	.Robert Realty • 619-852-8827
Sun 1-4pm	.4270 Loma Riviera Lane	.3+BR/2.5BA	.\$365,000	.Tami Fuller • 619-226-8264
Sun 1-4pm	.5097 West Point Loma Blvd.	.2BR/2.5BA	.\$395,000	.Tami Fuller • 619-226-8264
Sun 1-4pm	.2117 Wabaska Court	.3BR/2BA	.\$549,000	.Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464
Sun 2-4pm	.3235 Madrid St.	.3BR/3.5BA	.\$675,000	.Daniel Toennies • 619-857-8168
Sun 1-4pm	.3718 Narragansett Ave.	.4BR/3BA	.\$985,000	.Cindy Wing • 619-223-9464

BAY PARK

Sun 1-4pm	.1995 Erie St.	.4BR/3.5BA	.\$699,000-\$725,000	.Tami Fuller • 619-226-8264
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ENCINITAS

Sat & Sun 1-4pm	.324 Calle De Sereno	.4BR/2.5BA	.\$950,000-\$1,075,876	.David Schroedl • 858-459-0202
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