



# OCEAN BEACH HOLIDAY SECTION

ON PAGE 8 & 9



## THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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### Ready to greet the new year



#### Christmas done up in style as Garrison Street residents send off 2011 in sparkling fashion

As has been the case for decades, the residents of a short Point Loma section of road that is Garrison Street has been home to one of the most spectacular and celebrated neighborhood displays in all of San Diego. Busloads of holiday gawkers have made Garrison Street a must-see destination annually, as neighbors join forces to brighten the Christmas season and put a little extra sparkle in the eyes of children. Complete with an annual hot-chocolate fundraiser, the ornate designs cover the gamut — from rooftops to front lawns and from shining windowfronts to elaborate tree dressings. Photos by Mike McCarthy | The Beacon



### Merchant gets unexpected gift with a treasure trove for surfers

By **DON BALCH** | THE BEACON

Sometimes Santa comes early.

At least that's how Bryan Lowe must have felt when a crateful of vintage, highly-desirable surfboards was delivered to him on Nov. 25. The next day, the large, wooden box, trucked in from the East Coast and full of classic Skip Frye surfboards, was opened up in front of an enthusiastic gathering of surfing aficionados at Bird's Surf Shed, located at 1091 West Morena Blvd.

Lowe had acquired the treasure trove of surfboards, made by Frye — San Diego's legendary surfer and board designer — in a most fortunate fashion.

"I was on an online surfing forum that was discussing Skip Frye and struck up a conversa-

SEE **BOARDS**, Page 7



From left, Bryan Lowe and Eric "Bird" Huffman carry out a vintage 1980s Skip Frye-built surfboard that was crated from North Carolina. Photo by Don Balch | The Beacon

### Local suspected of embezzlement faces fresh new charges

By **NEAL PUTNAM** | THE BEACON

A Point Loma woman already facing charges of defrauding a former La Jolla restaurant has now been charged with defrauding her former mother-in-law out of more than \$1 million.

Tara Virginia Moore, 39, appeared in San Diego Superior Court on Dec. 16 on both cases, which have been filed separately. She has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Moore faces a Jan. 12 preliminary hearing for the embezzlement counts involving Jack's La Jolla, a fine-dining restaurant that closed in July 2009. She is charged with three counts of grand theft, two counts of fraudulent appro-

SEE **CHARGES**, Page 7



## Law enforcement makes difference in young lives

More than 300 law enforcement officers from at least 17 agencies participated in this year's "Shop With a Cop" event, co-hosted by the San Diego State University and University of California, San Diego police departments.

The event, designed to help at-risk youth and provide a fun activity during the holiday season, was also made possible by the San Diego Crime Commission and STAR/PAL (Sports Training, Academics, Recreation/Police Athletic League).

During the annual event, youngsters were treated to breakfast and a private animal show at SeaWorld before embarking on a \$100 holiday shopping spree at Target. The "Shop With A Cop" program provides not only holiday gifts for less-fortunate



More than 300 less-fortunate children ages 7 to 9 were treated to the joy of the 18th annual "Shop With a Cop" event that spread from SeaWorld San Diego on Mission Bay to the Target store on Sports Arena Boulevard on Dec. 3. *Courtesy photo*

families, but also reinforces a positive interaction with local law enforcement officers. For more information, visit [www.shopwithacopsandiego.com](http://www.shopwithacopsandiego.com) or [www.starpal.org](http://www.starpal.org).

## "Local homeowners sell their homes without a realtor"

SAN DIEGO, If you've tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the "For Sale by Owner" sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren't from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

After all, with the proper information, selling a home isn't easy. Perhaps, you've had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don't give up until you've read a new report entitled "Sell Your Own Home" which has

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*Courtesy of Dennis DeSouza Remax Lic. 01220680*

## OB Christmas tree more than a symbol to some

Icon one of few bright spots for local homeless during holiday season

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

Every year, Ocean Beach supplies and surprises residents and visitors with a unique, oversize community Christmas tree near the corner of Newport Avenue and Abbott Street across from the Ocean Beach Hotel.

Although fenced in, the crowds — especially self-described globetrotters — like to gather around and under the tree on Christmas Eve into Christmas Day to sing, exchange trinkets and enjoy the only Christmas tree available to most of them.

Some of these folks repeatedly make a special trip to Ocean Beach each Christmas to join the annual get-together.

One of them, John Mercy, a homeless visitor from Big Bear, came to enjoy Christmas recently by the community tree.

"It's [the tree] for everybody," he said, "but I wouldn't be surprised if people get asked to leave again, like other times."

Similar comments come from Paul Albert, a 40-year-old traveler from Escondido, who also came to visit the tree recently.

"It's the only one I get to see up close on Christmas," he said. "I come every year. It used to be a lot of fun, exchanging gifts and stories with old friends by the tree. But the last couple of years, people got arrested. Don't know why. That really put a damper on things. I hope it's better this year."

Ray Dix, who's been locally living on



Transients share a little holiday spirit with one another near the Ocean Beach community Christmas tree.  
*Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon*

the streets for more than four years, has his own take on the situation.

"It's unreal," said Dix. "I've been in OB for four years. Every year, it seems to look worse. This year tops it so far. Are they [the town] looking for Charlie Brown's Christmas tree? Then we got a winner!"

Uniquely decorated each year with the creative help of children's hands, the tree is and has been a welcome landmark in Ocean Beach.

Having lived in Ocean Beach for 32 years, local Jeff O'Connor thinks the tree and the decorating process is a great thing for the children. He also said he believes the tree should be enjoyed by everybody, and he said he's always

liked the idea of people flocking around it on Christmas.

"There shouldn't be any discriminating," said O'Connor. "All people should be able to enjoy their Christmas by the OB tree."

"[The state of] this year's tree, well ... There's been better and there's been worse [trees] than this one. I guess you get what you get."

Another local, known to many as "Brian J.," said the tree's appearance is secondary.

"The tree's looks are meant to be," he said. "It's a Charlie Brown tree beyond control. That, right there, makes it special. Thank you, Ocean Beach."



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District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer speaks at the Pacific Beach lifeguard tower on Dec. 13 to introduce the city's annual campaign to aid the Toys for Tots program. Joining Faulconer were San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgt. Ed Harris, far left, District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner and San Diego Lifesaving Association representative Jeff Hatfield (in Santa outfit). Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

## Faulconer, lifeguards kick off joint city/Toys for Tots drive

Local politicians and beach-area lifeguards gathered Dec. 12 to kick off the city's annual campaign to aid the Toys for Tots program.

At the Pacific Beach lifeguard station, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer and District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner were flanked by lifeguard representatives to announce that San Diegans can make a donation to the Toys for Tots program by dropping off donations at any beach-area lifeguard station.

Joining the councilmembers were San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgt. Ed Harris, San Diego firefighter/Marine Corps reservist Bill Waugaman and San Diego Lifesaving Association representative Jeff Hatfield.

Together, the speakers called on locals to help a family in need this holiday and, in turn, be treated to a brief tour of the stations.

"We're asking San Diegans to do what they do best — visit our beaches and bays — and bring with them a new, unwrapped toy for a child," said Faulconer. "The Toys for Tots lifeguard donation drive is a great way to celebrate our beach culture as well as the holidays."

Lightner also called on neighbors to catch the holiday spirit.

"Bring your children to the beach and have them bring a gift for a child who isn't so fortunate," said Lightner. "It will make the visit that much more memo-

rable while honoring the spirit of the season."

Donated toys will be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the San Diego area. City officials said checks in any amount are also accepted. All donations are tax-deductible.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserves has been collecting Christmas toys for children through the Toys for Tots program since 1947.

Donated toys can be dropped off at the Ocean Beach lifeguard stations, among others.

For more information, visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

— Staff and contribution

Watch for the next



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### Foodie opportunity at Barnard

Barnard Elementary School hosted a food-truck gathering on Dec. 17 to give participants a chance to sample taste treats and support the San Diego Unified School District's Mandarin Chinese language magnet school. Ten percent of the proceeds from the event went to benefit Barnard's programs. Among those enjoying the food-truck event, above, were Natasha Coons, 2-year-old Kinston Coons and 7-year-old Nalu Coons. The family sampled Italian lollipops from food truck Mangia Mangia Mobile, whose owner, Marko Paulinovic, is shown at right. The next Barnard food-truck event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, contact principal Eddie Park at (619) 224-3306.

Photos by Paul Hansen | The Beacon



## Harbor Police find stolen bikes and other surprises

By JOHNNY McDONALD | THE BEACON

Harbor Police, who may not always be given high-profile credit for their crime work, came to the rescue in apprehending two suspected bicycle thieves recently.

Bike owner Stephen Mann said he can't give enough praise to officers Michael Bishop and Robert Brownyard, who arrested two people trying to sell the high-end bicycles.

The bicycles were taken from Mann's 38-foot sailboat — the same boat he used in 2008 to travel around the world in eight months and five days. Now, he's back happily riding them again.

"I hope this accolade is reported wherever it can bring a smile," Mann wrote in a letter to the Port of San Diego's Harbor Police Department. "I am writing to say, 'Bravo!'"

The bicycles — one valued at more than \$6,000, the other valued at more than \$2,000 — were on the vessel that was moored in Marina Cortez in Harbor Island. Mann reported the morning theft on Nov. 10 to the Harbor Police Department, which provides police services throughout San Diego Bay.

Mann, a boat captain-turned-sleuth, scanned the Internet and found four Craigslist ads for his bicycles — complete with pictures. He reported his discovery to Bishop and Brownyard.

Brownyard conducted his own detective work. Posing as a buyer, the officer met the seller in a Mission Valley parking lot. Not only did he get the bicycles back, but he discovered some additional items, including heroin and stolen license plates.

As a result of the officer's discovery, a 27-year-old man from El Cajon was

"I have made offers to reward you somehow [the Harbor Patrol officers involved in the bike recovery], but have been told that you were just doing your job. So if you see a guy on a bike smiling and waving at you, it might be me."

STEPHEN MANN

Bike theft victim, grateful to have his recovered property back

arrested. He was charged with possession of stolen property, an unregistered firearm, a deadly weapon, stolen vehicle license plates and heroin.

His girlfriend, whom Harbor Police officers identified as a 19-year-old from Lakeside, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

"Unbelievably, my bikes were recovered — and promptly," Mann wrote.

The bikes were stripped of all accessories, including a \$500 lighting system and computer. Mann said he will spend more than \$1,000 to replace the accessories.

"I have made offers to reward you somehow, but have been told that you were just doing your job," Mann wrote to the department. "So if you see a guy on a bike smiling and waving at you, it might be me."

The Harbor Police is the law enforcement arm of the Unified Port of San Diego and has about 130 sworn officers — all of whom are trained as firefighters and police officers.

The jurisdiction of the Harbor Police includes San Diego Bay and the San Diego International Airport.

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## Willis Allen Real Estate's Sandy Collins Wins 'Realtor of the Year' Award

Collins acknowledged for her integrity, professionalism

Willis Allen Real Estate announced today that Realtor Sandy Collins has been awarded the 2011 Point Loma Ocean Beach Realtor's Association (PLOBRA) Realtor of the Year Award. Collins received the award at the annual PLOBRA meeting and holiday party.

The Realtor of the Year Award, presented by the PLOBRA Board of Directors, acknowledges an agent who consistently demonstrates the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. Willis Allen Real Estate's CEO and President Andrew E. Nelson says Collins is well-deserving of this honor.

"Sandy has deep knowledge of the San Diego real estate market combined with a caring style that makes her a trusted client advocate," says Nelson. "We join the PLOBRA board in recognizing her continued contributions to elevate the San Diego real estate profession."

Collins started her real estate career in property management with her husband, John. Together they bought, restored and sold 14 properties. Collins says this experience gave her a strong understanding of the entire real estate process and helped hone her ability to identify the value and potential in real estate properties. In 1986 Collins launched her residential real estate career. Collins partners with Judy Kettenburg-Chayka, and they have been with Willis Allen Real Estate for four years. Collins is also an accredited staging expert. She says this gives her the unique ability to know what it takes to get the best return on her clients' real estate investments.

For more on Willis Allen Realtor Sandy Collins visit her website or call (619) 224-0044.

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# Great-grandma isn't one to mess with, but she's sensei-tional

## At 72, third-degree blackbelt lends her skills to special-needs children

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

Seventeen pairs of eyes focus on the instructor as she reminds the youngsters to bow and repeat after her: "I promise to keep my hands and feet to myself at all times."

The class at USA Freestyle Martial Arts, off Midway Drive, could be at almost any dojo (school) in San Diego except for two things. First, the volunteer sensei (teacher) is a 72-year-old great-grandmother with a third-degree black belt in mixed martial arts. Second, the students, outfitted in pint-size gis (outfits) are special-needs children.

Mary Davis of Point Loma has been teaching STARS — an acronym for super talented and really sharp children — for four years. Though she has an education degree, she doesn't have a background in special education. And she teaches the 4-through-19-year-olds much like she does her class of kids without special challenges. With the help of 50-year-old instructor Joan Irvine, Davis said, "We learn as we go along."

Once a stay-at-home mom with three children, she has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She began studying martial arts when she was 57, alongside one of her daughters. Davis earned her first black belt by the time she was 60.

She said it seems natural to volunteer to teach what she loves, because Davis used to donate her time as an assistant soccer coach, Bobby Sox manager, Girl Scout leader, Sunday school teacher and Star of India tour guide.

"I try to keep on going," said Davis. "I basically don't have any arthritis. I

attribute that to moving like this."

While her contemporaries practice the slow forms of tai chi, Davis said, she boxes.

She spends at least six hours a week at the dojo, working out and teaching two special-needs classes, another children's class and a self-defense course for older adults through the Aging and Independence Services. Learning martial arts, she said, empowers both older adults and children, especially those with challenges.

"I love all these kids and I get such satisfaction from teaching them and seeing them improve in even the littlest ways," Davis said.

When they started, many of the children couldn't stand still. Now, they've learned to wait patiently and follow instructions.

"Just seeing these kids try whatever we ask of them and never give up makes me know the class is more than worth the time we spend with them," Davis said.

Unlike many people learning a new skill, the special-needs students don't get embarrassed when following the exercises. Meanwhile, the sensei said, the children get stronger, with improved balance, focus, discipline and confidence.

Trish Fotinos, whose young son, Mathew, has Down syndrome, said, "It's amazing to watch the kids progress from running around to sitting still and listening."

She said Mathew doesn't have many language skills, but does well with the class because it emphasizes the visual.

Sioban Borclers, whose 5-year-old son, Liam, is mildly autistic and hyperac-



Mary Davis works with one of her special-needs students.

Photo by James Steinberg | The Beacon

tive, said the class is helping him, too. "This is something positive that he comes to and has fun," said Borclers. "Everywhere else, people tell him, 'Don't. Don't. Don't.' Here, the kids are accepting."

Meanwhile, Borclers said, "They talk about social skills and learn to say,

'Please' and 'Thank you.'"

With the children's attention on her, Davis reminds them, "We stand at attention and say, 'Yes, ma'am.' We need to be really good listeners."

A youngster responds, "You treat everyone the way you want to be treated."

Britt Buss, who often works out with Davis, said, "She's proof your life can go on to the fullest as long as you keep moving and stay active."

For more information about the class for special-needs children, call USA Freestyle Martial Arts at (619) 224-9600.

## Want "Top Dollar" For Your Point Loma or Ocean Beach Home?

**Experts Say:** Start planning for it 60 to 90 days before you sell. **Point Loma (CA)** — A recent interview with Jeffrey Middaugh of Coldwell Banker, revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their Point Loma or Ocean Beach home.

"Most owners think their homes will sell quickly. Everyone thinks that their home is special and will bring top dollar fast. In fact a lot of all new listings that go on the market eventually expire with the home still unsold."

If you're going to sell your house in the next six months, there are some things you can do now that will help you get top dollar for your home when you do sell it.

There's a free report available that shows you the things that buyers most look for in a home, and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. You'll learn

- Why buyers love model homes and how to make your house show like one.
- A little-known designer's secret that could net you \$1,000 to \$5,000 more when you sell your home.
- How to sell your house in as little as 24 hours — without ever putting it "on the market."
- Three things you can do to get your house on a buyer's "must see" list.

Jeffrey has compiled a free report that he calls **How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar — Fast!** This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jeffrey says the information in this report is the secret to his success in selling homes so quickly, and the reason he can guarantee to sell any house in less than 90 days.

To get a copy of this free report, **How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar — Fast!** just call 888-611-8015, ext. 38 for a free recorded message. There's no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!

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## GUEST VIEW

## Reflections: I remember Mr. Meyers at Christmas

By Dr. WARREN PATCH

Mr. Robert Meyers, “Bob Meyers,” as he was affectionately known in Ocean Beach, opened the Stewart & Meyers Mobile Oil gas station at the corner of Newport Avenue and Cable Street in October 1941. Six weeks later — on Dec. 7, 1941 — the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and we were at war. Gas was suddenly rationed.

“What were we going to do?” remembered Mrs. Meyers. “We had three small children, everything invested in a gas station, and now we couldn’t sell gas.”

I know how Bob got through it — service. He had a service station, not a gas station.

Can you remember then? You drove in, ran over the little black hose across the drive way, the bell would “ding!” and out would come the cheerful service station attendant. He would bend down to eye level and ask, “What pleaseth thee?”

The reply: “Two dollars worth of ethyl, please.”

That was enough to fill the whole tank with high-test fuel when it was only 10 or 12 cents a gallon. Then the attendant would check under the hood, pull the dip stick and show it to you, top off your oil and radiator, clean your wind shield, and fill up your tires if needed. You never had to get out of your car.

Stories of Mr. Meyers helping his neighbors and our community abound.

One foggy morning I left my headlights on. At the end of the day, I discovered my battery was dead. I called AAA, went outside, opened the hood of my car, and waited for the big blue-and-white tow truck. But what came? A little silver-gold, two-door Corvair sedan with a little old man and his wife inside. It pulled in front of my car and backed up. Mr. Meyers got out with a pair of jumper cables, opened his trunk, (which is where the engine is kept in a Corvair,) and hooked me up. Two minutes later, I was on my way. I tried to give him my AAA card, but he refused it. He and his wife were on their way home from the station, and he didn’t feel like bother-

ing with the paperwork to bill the Auto Club.

“Ahh, you just needed a jump. Get along on home to your family too, young fellow,” he said.

Service. Loving, caring service. When the Mobile Oil Company informed Mr. Meyers they were going to replace all gas pumps with the modern “do-it-yourself,” automated pumps, Mr. Meyers said, “Not at my service station will you. You can just take your gas pumps away and be gone with you!”

But he wasn’t done yet. He turned it into a tire store and kept on working and serving the public because he had one original employee who had not quite reached retirement age, and he wouldn’t hear of closing shop and denying his employee honest work.

As the years went by and Mr. Meyers aged, I got to be the one who served him. He came to see me for lower-back pain that radiated into his leg.

“I think I don’t have enough fat on me and my oil is running too cold,” he told me.

He was a loving family man. “I made a deal with my kids; I told them if they meet me at Jimmy’s Restaurant on Sunday mornings, I’d buy them breakfast,” Bob said.

His son was 65 when he told me that. Mr. Meyers was also generous and thoughtful.

He dropped by my office at Christmas time one year and handed me two, mint-perfect 1964 JFK silver half-dollars as a present. You know, I cherish them because Mr. Meyers gave them to me and I loved President Kennedy.

Always optimistic, cheerful, and quick of wit, the last time I saw him, I said, “Hello Mr. Meyers, how are you doing?”

He said, “Well, young man, at this age, not so well. But then, I don’t have any experience being this old.”

—Dr. Warren Patch is a doctor of chiropractics with an office on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. Bob Meyers passed away around 2003 or 2004 at the age of 94.

## NEWSBRIEFS



It was an early Christmas for the children at the Ocean Beach Child Development Center when members of the Point Loma High School (PLHS) Band came bearing gifts for each child this month. The PLHS “Band Together Toy Drive” netted plenty of toys and cash donations. Above, children at the OB Child Development Center sing to the PLHS students (in maroon sweatshirts, foreground).

Courtesy photo

## What is that thing up there in the sky?

Folks have been seeing it, but no one seems to know quite what it is. Is it a Christmas star, special light show or an unidentified flying object over

Dog Beach in Ocean Beach?

Residents have noted the round, orange/yellow light ball for several nights in a row recently as it appeared, hovered and faded out between midnight and 2 a.m. The light appears to be floating upward in the sky over the northwest part of Dog Beach, lasting up to ten minutes. It seems to float slowly higher, before disappearing.

— Bianca Koch

## Home-decoration contest winners are ...

The Ocean Beach Town Council’s Tree Committee has announced the winners of the 2011 Ocean Beach Christmas Holiday Home Decorating Contest on Dec. 15.

The winners were:

- **Best Use of Commercial Lighting:** Tim Johnson, 4610 Newport Ave.
- **Judges Choice:** Monette Kelly, 4421 Orchard St.
- **Most Original Decoration:** 4311 Del Mar Ave.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Asks help to start fund for burn victim

I have been hearing about the RV that burned in front of the James Gang [Dec. 8]. Evidently, the man was burned pretty badly. When I first heard it on the news the next day, my first thought was, “What will become of this man?”

If his house had burned down, the Red Cross would have rushed in to help and probably the neighbors. Because he was living in an RV (it looked to be a nice RV), he is considered homeless. I have a friend who comes to Ocean Beach from time to time who has lived in an RV for more than 12 years. His young daughter died years ago and he ended up losing his marriage, his job and virtually everything else. He doesn’t not consider himself homeless. The RV is his home.

I would like to somehow help this [fire victim], but I don’t know how to go about it. I would be happy to help if someone is willing to collect donations to help him. I will start the fund with a \$40 donation and do any leg work that will help get the word out.

Does anyone else out there care? I hope so.

Trish Hausman  
Ocean Beach

## Questions motives of OB planners, advocates

I sure am relieved to hear that the “OB Planners put [their] foot down” and voted against recommending that a property owner be prohibited from leveling an existing “concrete, low-rise duplex” in order to construct a “stylish, three-story, single-family home” (“OB?planners put foot down over variances for out-of-place projects,” *Peninsula Beacon*, Dec. 15, page 1)

Thank goodness we have concerned citizens like Danny Morales willing to write letters to the Beacon bemoaning that a property owner should be prohibited from removing 15 dilapidated apartments in order to construct 10 new ones (“Appealing for change in thinking of OB planners,” letters to the editor, *Peninsula Beacon*, Dec. 1, Page 6). Morales cited *Beacon* writer Tony de Garate’s story, “OB planners endorse condo project — with reservations,” *Peninsula Beacon*, Nov. 17, Page 1)

Certainly, rundown concrete duplexes are more favorable and attractive than new single-family homes. Certainly, 15 derelict apartments are much more desirable than 10 new condominiums. What a joke. It seems a reasonable inference to this observer that folks like Morales and his pals on the OB Planning Board could truly care less about Ocean Beach. Rather, they appear quite obviously self motivated to keep Ocean Beach in as poor a

• **Honorable Mention:** 4621 Niagara St.

## Baby signing storytime happens Wednesdays

Baby signing storytime takes place every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at Day Break Restaurant, located at 2296 Bacon St.

Jennifer Duncan, owner of Signs at Play!, uses American sign language while reading children’s picture books aloud to introduce babies and parents to the benefits of signing. Find out what’s going on in a baby’s mind by teaching the baby to sign and lessen frustration brought on by miscommunication.

The interactive, 45-minute program also includes sing-a-longs, bubbles and ends with a question-and-answer period. The cost of the program is \$5.

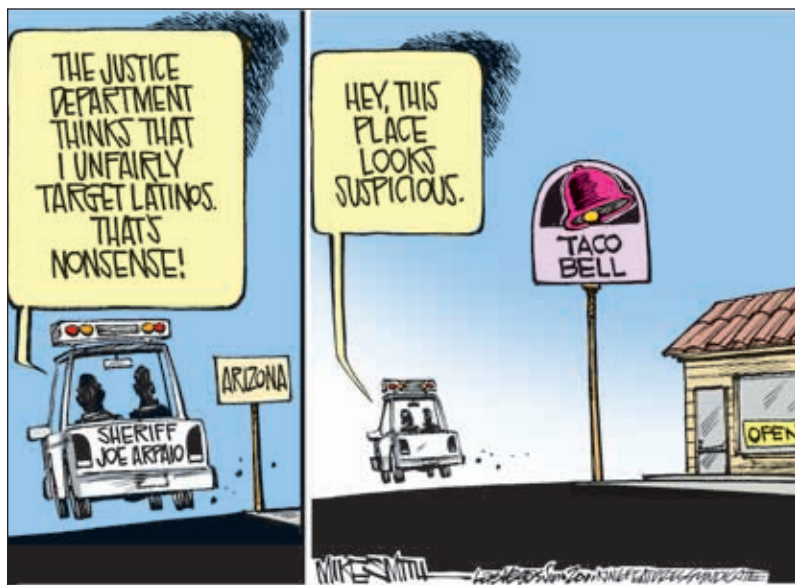
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state as possible for the sole desperate purpose of maintaining their rents in as depressed a state as possible. It’s the same, tired rant they forced upon us 10 years ago when Starbucks swept up the hypodermic needles and cleaned up that filthy, drug-infested corner.

These same folks will hold a fundraiser for the homeless person who last week lost his tattered motor home — that he was illegally living in — to fire. No reference, of course, will be made to the illegal lodging, the domination of parking spots, danger of fire or health concern based on the fact that the commode consisted of a hole in the floor. These are the same folks who will similarly offer excuses for the homeless man who recently stabbed another young man in front of a taco shop on Newport Avenue. No reference, of course, to the fact that such egregious violence is wholly unacceptable and has absolutely no place in our community.

If these folks wish to advance their own selfish interests, fine. But they ought to stop characterizing “the betterment of Ocean Beach” as their phony objective. The ploy is tired. As to the rest of the community, send a letter to District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer. Doing so will reaffirm his conclusion that the OBPB is to be smiled at, but hardly taken seriously.

Chip Flaherty  
Ocean Beach



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## SUBMISSIONS

Announcements, photos and story ideas are welcomed. We ask that content be sent at least one week prior to publication and include valid contact information.

## OPINIONS

The opinions expressed on the Opinion Page do not necessarily reflect those of this paper or the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. To submit a signed letter or guest column, please e-mail the respective publication’s editor (at right) or send to 4645 Cass Street, San Diego, CA, 92109. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, brevity and liability.

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Bryan Lowe (left) pulls out a decades-old Skip Frye-built "Summer Swallow" surfboard, one of seven vintage boards that were being stored on the East Coast, while surf shop owner Eric "Bird" Huffman watches.

Photo by Don Balch / The Beacon

## BOARDS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

tion with a guy in his 60s from Wilmington, N.C.," Lowe said. "He had family in Leucadia back in the 1960s and would come visit. He met Skip at Swamis (an area surf break) as a skinny, 16-year-old, when Skip (already well-known by then) had swam in and saved the kid's board from the rocks after a wipeout.

"This guy then got boards made by Frye over the following decades," Lowe said. "I, myself, grew up in the Pacific Beach surf scene in the 1970s and admired Skip, Bill Caster and other local board builders. I like that era of boards, so we had kind of a mutual interest as we talked.

"Recently, he mentioned he was retiring to Costa Rica after getting some knee surgery and hinted he was considering selling his Frye boards to raise some money," Lowe continued. "I had him send me pictures of the boards and he was upfront about the condition of them, so I took a leap of faith and bought seven of them without seeing them in person. A carpenter friend of his constructed a large crate and they were all sent out from North Carolina."

The boards were delivered to Bird's Surf Shed, which is run by Eric "Bird"

Huffman, a surfing historian whose surf shop is covered floor-to-ceiling with more than 400 classic surfboards. It was even featured on the TV series "American Pickers" earlier this year.

Huffman arranged for a viewing of the crate being opened, knowing the interest that showcasing such a cache of classic Skip Frye boards would bring.

"It was an historic event and one of the highlights of my surfing experience, sharing the surf stoke with all who enjoyed it," said Huffman.

Viewers' anticipation made for jokes, referencing the opening of the sacred artifact box in the "Raiders of the Lost Ark" movie.

"Don't look inside!" yelled some.

Lowe and Huffman then unfastened the crate, unveiling seven well-preserved boards dating back to the 1980s — including an 11-foot "Eagle" model, three "Fish-Simmons" models and three shortboard designs that brought "oohs" and "aahs" from admirers on hand.

"It's great," said Lowe, who already owns a quiver of 15 select board designs. "It financially stretched me, but I knew the value of these boards, which are beauties and are meant to be ridden. So I feel fortunate to get them."

Lowe said he will keep three favorites and let the remainder go for other buyers to get their own early special Christmas gifts.



## Who let Shamu out??

In a scene few locals get the opportunity to witness, *Beacon* staff photographer Jim Grant captured this photo of a killer whale not far off the coast of Point Loma several months ago. Fortunately, no incidents have been reported involving the orca.

## Christmas Worship Guide 2011



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## CHARGES

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

priation by an employee and obtaining property by false pretenses.

An April 17 preliminary hearing was set for the latest case involving the mother of her former husband. Moore is charged with committing financial elder theft, grand theft and forgery of a real estate purchase and sales agreement that occurred on May 14, 2008, according to court records.

Deputy District Attorney Bill Mitchell said the preliminary hearing for the second case will last at least several days as it involves introduction of bank records

and financial information. The victim is 77 years old and lives out of state.

According to the charges, Moore told her then-mother-in-law she was a 50-percent partner in a \$70 million commercial building, but that was not the case, said prosecutors.

She borrowed the money from her then-husband's mother, saying it was needed for soil tests, permits and applications to the city.

Moore, who is free on \$500,000 bond in both cases, is represented by former District Attorney Paul Pfingst.

Pfingst has provided copies of documents that say Moore was helping the restaurant meet payroll and had loaned money to the owner of Jack's.

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*Reprinted from Barbara Wold, Professional Speaker's email.*

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# Whale-watching season offers chance to see San Diego in a whole new way

By KENDRA HARTMANN | THE BEACON

Every year, San Diego plays host to an event that provides tourists with another reason to envy locals. In addition to beaches and parks and the weather that (sort of) cooperates enough to enjoy them year-round, San Diegans get to take advantage of living in an area boasting incredible biological diversity.

One of the most impressive environments in which to see mother nature at her best is that property-value-increasing expanse of blue to the west, and this time of year, it is home to a truly fascinating natural phenomenon. The gray whale migration is once again upon us.

To provide a first-hand account of what one can expect when becoming an amateur whale watcher for an afternoon, *The Peninsula Beacon* took to the high seas aboard the Hornblower Adventure to observe the California gray whale as the species makes its annual 5,000-mile journey from the frigid waters of the Arctic to the sunny lagoons of Baja California.

The most obvious thing one expects to see on a whale-watching cruise is a whale. This, however, may not happen, and most local companies — Hornblower included — prepare for this with a guarantee: see a whale or get passes for another cruise.

Upon boarding the boat, most passengers anxiously anticipate the sight they've been promised, hoping they haven't just paid for one of the few cruises for which the whales choose not to make an appearance. What most don't expect, however, is what also happens while on board: they have fun, whale or no whale (some might even find themselves hoping they don't see a whale so they have a free chance to come on board again).

As it turns out, our oceans are chock full of life, and passengers would be hard pressed not to find themselves marveling



Passengers aboard a Hornblower cruise watch as a whale shows off its fluke, or tail. During the first half of the migration season, gray whales use a migration corridor closer to the coast, so cruises only go out about five miles. During the latter half, whales migrate back up to the Arctic further out and cruises may venture up to 12 miles off the coast to view them. Courtesy photo

at all the myriad components of our aquatic ecosystems, however large or small. At one point during our cruise, a pod of bottlenose dolphins decided to join us, riding our bow wave — jumping out of the water, turning in circles and spiraling alongside us for a couple of miles. And while, yes, “whale watching” was printed on our tickets, we were pretty satisfied with this display, whether or not it was the cetacean we had paid for.

Another pleasant surprise: even for locals, puttering around San Diego Bay and out into the open ocean just off our coast provided an unexpected opportunity to view the city in a way we don't normally see it.

As for our cruise, we did get the opportunity to see a whale. Not long after we passed through the last buoy marking the bay, the captain spotted a spout a few miles out. We followed it, and were able to find and stay with one gray whale

(or possibly two — they look remarkably alike to the layperson), which twice granted us full view of its fluke (or tail) as it headed down for deep dives. We learned, both from the captain and from the on-board volunteer naturalists — trained by the San Diego Museum of Natural History — that gray whales breed every other year, and with a gestation of 12 months, the pregnant females heading down to Mexico at this time of year are likely the same ones we saw last year heading down to breed. They'll come back this way in the spring with their newborns. We also learned the gray whale gets its namesake not from a naturally occurring color. In fact, the whales are born almost black, but eventually, barnacles that attach themselves to the whales scar the skin as they fall off, leaving behind a mottled, whitish-gray coloration.

Whales also have dominant sides of

their body, just like humans. Whales that favor their right side tend to have more scarring on that side of their body, and just like humans, “left-handed” whales are in the minority: roughly 15 percent of whales favor their left side.

There's also the possibility, while out on a whale-watching cruise, that passengers might observe some man-made “whales.” Our ship happened upon a helicopter carrier and a Navy submarine — complete with a visibly happy, homeward-bound topside crew — cruising into the bay.

The views will change for each individual cruise. Some may see one whale, some may see 20 whales and others may see none at all. Some might encounter pods of playful dolphins while others might happen upon frisky sea lions. But one thing is guaranteed: the experience gives locals one more reason to love calling San Diego home.

## WHALE-WATCHING OPTIONS

### BY BOAT

• **Birch Aquarium with Harbor Excursions:** departing at 9:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., 1050 North Harbor Drive, Dec. 26 to April 15, (619) 234-4111, [www.sdhe.com](http://www.sdhe.com), \$35 weekdays and \$40 weekends (discounts for children, seniors and military)

• **Hornblower Cruises:** departs 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., 1066 North Harbor Drive, Dec. 10 to April 15, (619) 686-8715, [www.hornblower.com](http://www.hornblower.com), \$35 weekdays and \$40 weekends for adults (discounts for children, seniors and military)

• **Seaforth Sportfishing with San Diego Whale Watch:** 10 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, December through April, (619) 224-3383, [www.seaforthland-ing.com](http://www.seaforthland-ing.com), \$38 adults, \$30 children/seniors/military

• **H&M Landing:** Daily departures at 10 a.m. from mid-December through March; 6-hour cruises to Coronado Islands departing at 10 a.m., (619) 222-1144, [www.hmlanding.com](http://www.hmlanding.com), \$25 adults, \$20 juniors and \$17.50 children (\$80 for 6-hour cruises)

### BY AIR

• **Barnstorming Adventures:** biplane, air combat and warbird flights, including whale watching; cost varies, (760) 930-0903

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• **Hike Bike Kayak Sports:** departs 9 a.m. and noon from December through March, 2246 Avenida de la Playa, (866) 425-2925, [www.hikebikekayak.com](http://www.hikebikekayak.com), single-person kayak \$70, tandem kayaks \$60 per head

### BAJA TOURS

• **Birch Aquarium:** excursions of four, five or six days following the whales down to their birthing grounds in the lagoons of Baja California, (800) 661-1325, [www.andiamo-travel.com](http://www.andiamo-travel.com), \$590-\$1,095

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## Las Posadas Holiday Event Draws Hundred to Park

Hundreds attended the Las Posadas procession in Old Town San Diego Historic State Park on Sunday, Dec. 11. The annual Las Posadas event is a candlelit procession that re-enacts the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. This year was the 61st annual procession in Old Town but the tradition has been happening since 1546 in Mexico and is practiced around the world.

Everyone was invited to join the candlelit procession as the players went from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession was led by professional actors in period costume. Pictured from left to right, Aminah al-Jaber as Innkeeper, Ramona al-Jaber as Innkeeper, Victor Contreras as Joseph, Reyna Morales as Mary, April Fisher as Angel, Eric George as Wise Man, Federico Moramar-



co as Wise Man, David Cohen as Wise Man, Austyn Myers as Shepherd Son, Steve Jensen as Father Shepherd and Willie, the acting donkey.

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# San Diego Surf delivers Central Valley Titans a loss to remember

Former PLHS Pointer Anthony Javey among contributors

**By ROB STONE | THE BEACON**

Former University of San Diego (USD) Torero Devin Ginty had a game-high 14 assists to go along with 19 points and five rebounds in leading the San Diego Surf to a 120-106 victory over the Central Valley Titans in an American Basketball Association (ABA) game Dec. 10.

Ginty, formerly a guard at USD, was followed in the Surf's scoring column by David Kinder (14 points, six rebounds), Aaron Tinsley (14 points), Chris Agnes (11 points, five rebounds), and by Point Loma High School Pointer alumnus Anthony Javey (eight points).

"The development of this team may take a while because we're so young,"

said San Diego Surf coach Shaun Manning. "We need to learn from every game, though. This time, we were able to disrupt Central Valley and take them out of what they do well."

On Dec. 11, the Surf suffered a tough 132-119 loss to the Los Angeles Slam.

San Diego's Durnell Webb sent a team-high 32 points whistling through the nets, while Kinder generated 14 points and pulled down six rebounds.

Ginty garnered 21 points, 13 assists, and two steals, Agnes added 18 points, and Javey had nine of his own for the Surf.

"Los Angeles has a lot of experience on us," said Manning. "But as long as we keep attacking, we'll keep getting better."

"The development of this team may take awhile because we're so young. We need to learn from every game, though. This time [against Central Valley on Dec. 10], we were able to disrupt [them] and take them out of what they do well."

SHAUN MANNING  
Coach, San Diego Surf



## Kickin' it in the rain

Storm surges made some of their final appearances of 2011 recently, accompanying chilly temperatures and spotty rainfall. One surfer took full advantage of the wave action recently underneath the Ocean Beach Pier, as captured by *Beacon* staff photographer Paul Hansen through his car windshield.



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## Anderson Medical Center opens in PB

Dr. Kenneth Anderson has been practicing family and sports medicine in Pacific Beach for 22 years. Now he has opened 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.

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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 [Andersonmedicalcenter.com](http://Andersonmedicalcenter.com).

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Caregivers often don't recognize when they are in over their heads, and often get to a breaking point. After a prolonged period of time, caregiving can become too difficult to endure any longer. Short-term, the caregiver can handle it. Long-term, support is needed. Outside help at this point is often necessary.

A typical pattern with an overloaded caregiver may unfold as follows:

- 1 to 18 months--the caregiver is confident, has everything under control and is coping well. Other friends and family are

lending support.

- 20 to 36 months--the caregiver may be taking medication to sleep and control mood swings. Outside help dwindles away and except for trips to the store or doctor, the caregiver has severed most social contacts. The caregiver feels alone and helpless.
- 38 to 50 months--Besides needing tranquilizers or antidepressants, the caregiver's physical health is beginning to deteriorate. Lack of focus and sheer fatigue cloud judgment and the caregiver is often unable to make rational decisions or ask for help.

It is often at this stage that family or friends intercede and find other solutions for care. This may include respite care, hiring home health aides or putting the disabled loved one in a facility. Without intervention, the caregiver may become a candidate for long term care as well...read this entire article by going to [www.planforcare.org](http://www.planforcare.org). The RN Care Managers at Innovative Healthcare Consultants can also help guide you in the ways to get help. Call (877) 731-1442 toll free or visit our website at [www.innovativehc.com](http://www.innovativehc.com).



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# New Year's Eve musicfests ready to usher in 2012

By **BART MENDOZA** | THE BEACON

San Diego offers a multitude of wonderful celebrations each year, but there is nothing quite like New Year's Eve. It's a chance to reflect on the last 12 months, as well as to look forward to an even better 2012.

This year, the festivities fall on a Saturday, making the whole weekend a potential party. As usual, look for just about every nightspot in town to offer some combination of entertainment and dining, with Ocean Beach and Point Loma among the hot spots for celebrating.

With so many options to choose from in the area, here are a few highlights, with something for just about every musical taste and budget.

- At the higher end of the scale, classic rock fans won't want to miss **Rockola, appearing at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge**, located at 2241 Shelter Island Drive. The show begins at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$59.
- "We play a lot of 'party' type events each year, but New Year's Eve is special," said guitarist Mark DeCerbo.
- "It's a night when everybody wants to have fun, so people are in extra-good spirits," he said. "Playing a show can be work, but a night like this can go by kind of quick."
- He said upbeat tunes go over best for events like this.
- "Anything that can get the crowd up and dancing is optimal," he said. "Tommy James' hit 'Mony Mony' or The Beatles' 'Twist & Shout' should tear the roof off the place, but considering that it's New Year's and the [2012] countdown, so should 'In the Midnight Hour.'"
- At the same time, **Gallagher's**, located at 5046 Newport Ave., the fun starts

at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$10. The event will feature music from indie rock favorites **Endoxi and DJ R2**.

A 2009 San Diego Music Awards nominee, Endoxi is one of the best bands in town, known for its driving tunes, as well as gimmicks like playing the guitar with a drill. The key to their success, however, is in the band's kaleidoscope of influences.

They may be a rock band, but their music encompasses everything from blues to psychedelia, often within the same song. The band has two releases, the most recent being 2010's "Earthbound," but Endoxi is a fun band that should be experienced live and this celebratory night is the perfect place and time to do so.

- Meanwhile, **Riley's**, located at 2901 Nimitz Blvd., hosts its festivities beginning at 9 p.m. The cover is yet to be determined. The event will have a more traditional evening of dance music with live hip-hop from **3 the Hard Way**, dance floor hits from **DJ Reality** and **DJ Crease**, with more groups and DJs to be announced. Budget-minded partiers will have several options to choose from this year.
- It might be considered a little cold this month for traditional island sounds, but reggae fans will want to head to **Winston's Beach Club**, located at 1921 Bacon St.
- The 9 p.m. show is poised to ring in the new year with no cover charge in a night of performances by local favorites **The Devastators**.
- The 2010 SDMA winners for "Best World Music," the band has been together for more than a decade, featuring members who have played with the likes of Elijah Emanuel and the Revelations



A 2009 San Diego Music Awards nominee, Endoxi is one of the best bands in town, known for its driving tunes, as well as gimmicks like playing the guitar with a drill. They will perform New Year's Eve at Gallagher's at 8 p.m. Courtesy photo

and Quinazo, resulting in an authentic sound that has earned them a devoted following.

- Anyone who likes their music loud and manic will want to check out the

**Shakedown Bar**, located at 3048 Midway Drive at 8 p.m.

The no-cover-charge New Year's Eve celebration includes sets from **Nihilist, The Strikers, Deadbeat Diablos** and **Coda Reactor**. While all the bands are well

worth hearing, a lot of the night's attention will be focused on the Deadbeat Diablos, which includes bassist Skeeter Thompson, formerly with legendary hardcore band Scream.

Earplugs advised for this one.

## Westminster Presbyterian's Vanguard Theatre to run 'Hamlet'

For six engagements in January, Westminster Presbyterian Church's Vanguard Theatre in Point Loma will present William Shakespeare's memorable tragedy "Hamlet" — but with a modern flavor to appeal to both traditional and younger audiences.

This new production, directed by Tom Haine, features a company of dedicated and experienced actors committed to bringing the play to life. By giving the play a contemporary setting with "modern accessible associations," students will be more easily able to identify with the characters, feeling more connected and closer to Shakespeare's language, the 's themes and the emotions that run high throughout.

Regular admission is \$10, but edu-

cation groups are eligible for benefits. For groups of eight or more, tickets are \$5 each.

Performance dates are at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. On Saturday, Jan 14, students will have a chance to ask questions of the actors and director in a question-and-answer session held in the theater directly after the performance.

Westminster Theatre is located at 3598 Talbot St. General admission prices are \$10 and \$5 for students, seniors and military.

For tickets or more information, call the box office at (619) 224-6263, or visit [www.vanguardsd.org](http://www.vanguardsd.org).

— *Staff and contribution*



Amber Bonasso, an actress with extensive stage and film experience in Los Angeles and Orange County, will play the lead role of Hamlet in Vanguard Theatre's six-engagement production in January. Courtesy photo



### This tree's got the bends

Whether as the result of recent wind gusts from a series of winter storms or just a twist of nature, this tree at Dusty Rhodes Park in Ocean Beach has a mean lean.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

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# There's entertainment galore in store aboard sternwheeler with 'Once Upon a Wedding'

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | THE BEACON

Ever been to a wedding where everything goes wrong? This one will float your boat.

As a matter of fact, this wedding takes place on a boat. It's an entertainment titled "Once Upon a Wedding," which takes place aboard The William D. Evans, a sternwheeler docked at the Bahia Resort Hotel.

Everyone is part of the act, with visitors portraying "invited" wedding guests, who are greeted on the gangplank by the bride's great-uncle Julie (Harold MacPherson, Jr.). Julie considers himself a wedding expert, having been married nine times. He's the show's running gag. Fair warning: Ladies, he's looking for No. 10.

On Dec. 15, the ship was loaded with convivial guests ranging in age from around 8 to almost 80. Many were in groups celebrating the holidays. Among them were around 30 nurses from Sharp Hospital; others were couples celebrating anniversaries or just having a grand time being entertained, dining and dancing.

Written by Lisa Laughbaum, who plays the wedding singer, and young Ian Laughbaum, who portrays Chris

Crost, the wedding coordinator-in-training, "Once Upon a Wedding" concerns the bride's family, the Dudleys, and the groom's family, the DoWrights.

It's corny, yes, but also romantic, sincerely played and full of popular romantic ballads accompanied by Bill the guitarist (Michael Laughbaum) and familiar upbeat tunes like the Beach Boys' "Chapel of Love."

In the sincerity department, the father of the bride, Robert Dudley (Rick Rutti), and his reluctant-bride daughter, Daisy (T'pring McMillon) have a lovely scene. She's been reading marriage statistics and suddenly becomes marriage shy, leaving her handsome groom (Charles Evans) at the altar as she

hides under a banquet table.

Antagonism is provided by Zina Dudley (Glenda Gerde), the mother of the bride who thinks it's all about her. And comic relief is enhanced by the groom's sister, Debbie (Lindsey Pino), who spouts new-age philosophy. Debbie really wants Daisy for her sister-in-law and these two young women sing well together in close harmony.

Despite the chaos (by mistake, the rest of the wedding party, including the best man and the groom's father,



The cast of the delightfully entertaining "Once Upon a Wedding," which just concluded a performance Dec. 15, will load up for another performance in March aboard the William D. Evans sternwheeler docked at the Bahia Resort Hotel. Courtesy photo

took the dinner cruise on San Diego Bay), the wedding comes off and dinner is followed by dancing.

Many in the audience must have known. Gleeefully, they filled the dance floor with line dances and coordinated movements, a revelation to this onlooker. What a great time. Those nurses sure can dance! Who knew?

The real revelation, however, is the

talented company of singers and dancers, underpinned by indefatigable and excellent singer Lisa Laughbaum and guitarist Michael Laughbaum, who speaks little but plays big, thanks to electronic miracles.

The evening includes hors d'oeuvres, a three-course dinner, a champagne (or sparkling cider) toast, wedding cake and coffee service. The basic

price is \$55, with discounts for children 5-12 and hotel guests.

The next "Once Upon a Wedding" takes place aboard the comfortable sternwheeler March 8. In the summer, weekly "Wedding" cruises commence.

For information and tickets, phone (858) 539-8771, or visit [www.once-uponaweddingthemusical.com](http://www.once-uponaweddingthemusical.com).

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Scott Mallory of Ocean Beach immerses himself in the lifestyle of medieval times when he is not working as a jeweler at Golden Seashell. Mallory said the organization he belongs to – Adrian Empire – is proof that people today believe chivalry is not dead. Photo by James Steinberg

# ‘Integrity is not just a word ... It’s a lifestyle’

OB man immerses self in more chivalric times

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

Yes, m'lady, chivalry is alive and well. Just ask Scott Mallory.

Mallory, a jeweler by trade, works at the Golden Seashell in Ocean Beach. He is also the father of two, and dons full medieval armor in his off hours to celebrate the “positive aspects” of the Middle Ages.

For the last decade, he has been an active member of the Adrian Empire, a nationwide living-history organization that brings chivalric times to life through “combat,” school demonstrations and Renaissance fairs.

“For us, chivalry isn’t dead in the mundane world,” Mallory says. “Integrity is not just a word. It’s a lifestyle.”

He said he regularly opens doors and pulls out chairs for women, and he’s forgiving behind the wheel of his car.

“Some people are surprised at my manners,” Mallory said.

Mallory said he lives by the creed of which he espouses.

“Be courteous to people,” he said. “Treat them with respect until they do you wrong. Don’t believe you are the most important person on the planet.”

As he talks, he begins the task of putting on his 75-pound suit of armor for a photograph. Even with help, dressing in heavy padding, 16-gauge steel mail shirt and solid breast plate; leather belt; leg, arm and shoulder defenses; and a 14-gauge steel helmet takes at least 20 minutes.

He crafted his own silver belt buckle, breast plate and steel gauntlets for his hands.

“I can build any piece of armor you want with enough time and financial incentive,” he said.

Mallory said his armor is accurate to standards of the late 14th century.

“It was a whole lot easier (to suit up) when I was 40,” said the 51-year-old Mallory. “I wasn’t a fat, old guy then.”

Mallory said he’s always been interested in history and medieval life. His adult son and daughter have inherited his enthusiasm and also are members

of the Adrian Empire.

The South San Diego and Imperial County chapter, which includes more than 100 members, calls itself the Kingdom of Terre Neuve. Mallory said the organization welcomes everyone “from infant to not-dead-yet.”

He has served as minister of joust and war, organizing monthly tournaments and ensuring that everyone’s coat of armor meets group standards. Currently, he’s the crown herald, emceeing community events.

Medieval fighting, he said, is a style of Western martial arts. Members of the Adrian Empire fight with swords, axes, maces and the full range of medieval weapons. On the battlefield, men and women use arrows made of fiberglass shafts and foam heads. Group members also use pole arms, “the medieval assault weapon.” He finds competition “extremely exhilarating,” adding that men stopped wearing armor “when firearms made it useless.”

“Our group makes you earn your knighthood through group participation and tasks, including combat,” said Mallory. “It takes a minimum of 18 months.

Mallory earned his in 2004.

“Some people regard this as a game; I regard it as a lifestyle,” he said.

Despite the hardships of medieval times, he said, “I think I would have done well then. I wish I were born in the early 1400s.”

Unfortunately, in today’s “mundane world,” he complains, “Society spends billions telling women they are not beautiful. Wrong!”

And he resents the way men are taught to treat women in order to avoid charges of sexual harassment.

“You can’t compliment them on anything,” he said.

So, yes, m'lady, Mallory prefers his role as “knight.” But rather than one in shining armor, he jokes, “I’m usually a knight in rusty armor.”

For more information on Kingdom of Terre Neuve, visit [www.kingdomoftrereneuve.org](http://www.kingdomoftrereneuve.org).

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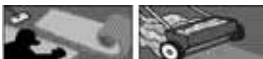
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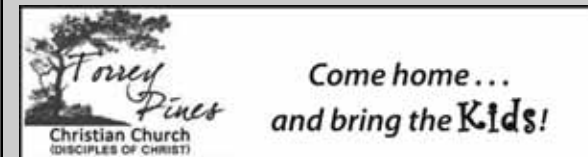
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# Looking » ahead

*Upcoming events in the Peninsula  
area, Dec. 24-Jan. 22*

**SATURDAY, Dec. 24**

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

• **Second Chances Bread of Life ministry**, in conjunction with churches of Ocean Beach and San Diego Food Bank/Feeding America San Diego, will host a **free Christmas Eve pancake and chili breakfast** 8 a.m. at the Episcopal Church at 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Second Chances, which will **also host a free New Year's Eve breakfast** at 8 a.m. at the same location, is in need of volunteers to prepare pancakes and cut fruit. For information or to help, call (619) 886-4275, or email [secondchancesob@yahoo.com](mailto:secondchancesob@yahoo.com).

• The **Oasis Christian Fellowship of Ocean Beach** will hold a **traditional Christmas Eve service** with Pastor Terry from 5 to 6 p.m. at the fellowship's new location in the Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit [www.edsd.org/ecc](http://www.edsd.org/ecc).



Amber Bonasso plays the lead role in Vanguard Theatre's "Hamlet." Courtesy photo

**BEGINNING FRIDAY, Jan. 6**

**Westminster Presbyterian's Vanguard Theatre Company presents "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare.** The production, directed by Tom Haine, begins at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 at the theater, 3598 Talbot St. Tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$5 for students, seniors and military. For tickets or information, call the box office at (619) 224-6263, or visit [www.vanguardsd.org](http://www.vanguardsd.org).

**WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11**

The **Point Loma Garden Club** hosts its **monthly meeting** at 10 a.m. and features floral designer Diane Citrowske, who has 26 years of expertise and is a former senior designer at Adelaide's in La Jolla. She has participated in Art Alive and is an instructor with both Cuyamaca College and UCSD Extension. The event is \$5 for guests. The meeting takes place at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org).

**THURSDAY, Jan. 12**

**Point Loma High School will host an informational meeting for prospective students and their parents at 6 p.m.** The event will offer an opportunity

for new students and parents to meet the school's administrators, coaches, counselors, current students and parents, and teachers at Point Loma High. The event takes place in the school's gymnasium, located at 2335 Chatsworth Blvd. The event includes an overview of the various programs, clubs and music opportunities at the school and the course-selection process and enrollment process for ninth-grade courses. For more information, call the PLHS

counseling office at (619) 223-3121,  
ext. 1129.

**SUNDAY, Jan. 22**

**Annual meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc.** The meeting will be held at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal at 7 p.m. All members and prospective members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, call (619) 223-5880, or visit [www.upses.com](http://www.upses.com).



## Decked out for the holidays

With Christmas just days away, a cheery and colorful Newport Avenue can be quite the welcome sight for last-minute shoppers.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon











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 <p><b>Castor &amp; Pollux Cheddar Cheese DOG COOKIES</b></p> <p><b>\$3<sup>99</sup> 16 oz</b></p> <p><small>DOG FRIENDLY THE PERFECT PARTY MONSTER</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHARE THE CHEER</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sterling "Vintners Collection" Merlot '06 .....</td> <td>\$6.99</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hess Select Chardonnay '09 .....</td> <td>\$9.98</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio '10 .....</td> <td>\$7.99</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michel Olivier Brut '08 .....</td> <td>\$12.99</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Piper Heidsieck Brut .....</td> <td>\$29.98</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon '07 ....</td> <td>\$59.98</td> <td>750 ml</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sterling "Vintners Collection" Merlot '06 .....	\$6.99	750 ml	Hess Select Chardonnay '09 .....	\$9.98	750 ml	Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio '10 .....	\$7.99	750 ml	Michel Olivier Brut '08 .....	\$12.99	750 ml	Piper Heidsieck Brut .....	\$29.98	750 ml	Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon '07 ....	\$59.98	750 ml	 <p><b>Amaretti Virginia Traditional Italian AMARETTO COOKIES</b></p> <p><b>\$5<sup>99</sup> 5.3 oz</b></p>
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