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SUNSET CLIFFS SPIDERMAN?



TAKING IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL

An unidentified climber concentrates as he scales Ross Rock unassisted near Froude Street off Sunset Cliffs on Feb. 12.
Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

KIWANIS OB KITE FESTIVAL

Longstanding tradition set to take flight for 64th year

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

With springtime right around the corner, one historic community event is certain to light up children's faces with smiles as they brighten up the skies with their own hand-crafted, high-flying creations.

Each year, children at the Kiwanis Ocean Beach Kite Festival send hundreds of colorfully decorated kites fluttering into the Ocean Beach skies, just as their parents and grandparents did before them. The spectacle not only brings joy to children in the fun, carnival-style environment, but it is also reminiscent of times past for generations of Ocean Beach locals.

"This free family event is the oldest children's kite festival in the United States," said Melanie Nickel, president of the Ocean Beach Kiwanis Foundation. "It's such a long established tradition, now into the third generation. People who took part in the kite festival as children later brought their children and are now bringing their grandchildren."



A youngster gets a big round of applause from his mom during a previous Kiwanis Ocean Beach Kite Festival. This is the 64th year of the event. *File photo*

The Ocean Beach Kite Festival, now in its 64th year, is set to take place March 3. The event began as a small affair at Ocean Beach Elementary School.

"The Kiwanis Club started the

kite festival in 1948 to celebrate their 20th anniversary," said Nickel. "At that time, the Kiwanians — all men in those days — went into the schools and taught the kids how to make a kite during school time, then held a festival to show off all their kites."

Now, decades later, the festival is host to more than 1,000 attendees and has expanded into a full day of fun with carnival rides, games, live music, food and a craft fair.

Lunch will also be provided free for children and for a small donation for adults.

Youngsters at the event can make their own kites from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center. Whether it is a child's first or hundredth time flying a kite, San Diego Kite Club will provide a special kite design that is guaranteed to fly regardless of the wind conditions.

"Even the smallest child can make and fly one of our kites," assured Nickel.

Following the free kite-making

SEE **KITES**, Page 7

Ocean Beach crafting yearlong celebration for its 125th birthday

By **PATRICIA WALSH** | THE BEACON

At the age of 125 this year, Ocean Beach remains as vibrant and vital as ever. To celebrate the quasiquicentennial, the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA), Ocean Beach Historical Society and the *Peninsula Beacon* have partnered for the yearlong fete honoring the independent and successful beach town.

Ashley Lewis from Dog Beach Design kicked the party off by designing an anniversary logo that will appear on all events during the year. The logo captures the essence of Ocean Beach that has endured since its founding in 1887. It illustrates surfboards on top of a woodie stationwagon overlooking the ocean and pier at sunset.

By mid-March, special Ocean Beach

merchandise like T-shirts, stickers and medallions should be on sale at stores throughout town, said Denny Knox, executive director of the OBMA.

"Money from the merchandise will go into a pot for beautifying efforts and to clean up the beachfront," Knox said.

The celebration continues with a four-part business-development series being offered to OBMA members.

"It's an energetic start to the 125th to celebrate the community and enjoy what we have here, and to put our best foot forward," Knox said.

The next speaker in the series will be customer-service expert Susan Clarke. She will present a seminar free to OBMA

SEE **ANNIVERSARY**, Page 7



SPG Solar has worked with Point Loma Nazarene University since 2008 to deliver an intelligently designed, cost-effective solar solution for the campus.
Photo courtesy of SPG Solar

PLNU among state's bright stars in solar energy push

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

The Environment California Research & Policy Center, a statewide citizen-based advocacy organization, recently named San Diego top in the state for solar rooftop installations, announced Mayor Jerry Sanders at a press conference on Jan. 24.

According to the organization's California Solar Cities 2012 report — which measured the number of grid-connected solar electric systems and the systems' total electric generation capacity — San Diego is at the forefront of California's thriving solar market with 4,500 solar installations on residential, commercial and government buildings with the capacity to generate 37 megawatts of electricity at peak output.

"San Diego didn't become the state's No. 1 solar city by happenstance. It was the result of local policies and programs that encourage investment in solar power," said Sanders. "It's good for our environment, it's good for our reputation as a city that embraces innovation, and it's been great for our economy."

One such program, the California Solar Initiative, is a solar rebate program that drives solar power into the residential market. According to the report, San Diego is home to the only solar rebate of its kind that is jointly administered by a nonprofit organization, California Center for Sustainable Energy, and the local utility company, San Diego Gas & Electric.

SEE **SOLAR**, Page 5

Transit plan offers futuristic glimpse

Planners hear regional vision, but say no help offered to ease Midway gridlock

By TONY De GARATE | THE BEACON

There are all kinds of whiz-bang ideas out there to improve how residents get from one place to another that could be of keen interest to folks in the Midway area.

For instance, by year's end, Japan Airlines plans to offer nonstop fares from Lindbergh Field to Asia — for the first time ever.

By 2018, it may well be possible to take the trolley all the way to UC San Diego.

One day, bullet trains, trolleys, buses, a consolidated rental-car facility, moving sidewalks and all kinds of things related to improving one's arrival and departure at the airport could all be available at a much-hyped 23-acre Intermodal Transit Center along Pacific Highway, south of Washington Street.

A proposed study of the Interstate 8 corridor could identify ways to improve access to that freeway.

Those were a few of the nuggets that members of the North Bay Community Planning Group (NBCPG) and other planning junkies learned about Feb. 15 during a progress report of the Midway-Pacific Highway Corridor Commu-

nity Plan Update, a comprehensive effort that began in 2010.

The event served as a unique opportunity for members of the public to find out about the progress of transportation projects and studies galore involving a who's who of city, regional and state agencies including the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Metropolitan Transit System, California High Speed Rail Authority, Caltrans and San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

But when the two-hour meeting was over, reaction from NBCPG members, who make recommendations to the San Diego City Council on land-use and quality-of-life issues in the Midway-Pacific Highway Corridor, was largely blase.

SANDAG's much-ballyhooed 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, a document that seeks to meet the region's transportation needs over the next four decades with \$196 billion in improvements, doesn't adequately address everyday local traffic woes, said NBCPG Chairwoman Melanie Nickel.

"There's nothing in that plan that helps us," Nickel said. "Our traffic problems are severe and are going to stay severe."

She said the two missing connections in the Interstate 8/Interstate 5 interchange, which prevent southbound traffic on I-5 from going west on I-8, and eastbound traffic on I-8 from going north on I-5, were the source of much of the traffic problems in the Midway area.

"Everybody who wants to go north on 5 has to go through our community," Nickel said. "We have two of the worst intersections in the city because of the fact that people are going through Midway who don't want to be in Midway."

A mobility study by Fehr & Peers, a consultant working with the city, seemed to underscore that point.

Traffic in the Midway area is a mixture of local and regional traffic using the area to access highways 5 and 8, said Steve Cook of Fehr & Peers, a transportation planning and engineering firm that studied existing conditions having to do with traffic, parking, transit, pedestrians and bicycles in the area.

"With those missing connectors, it channelizes lots of traffic down Rosecrans and Nimitz to go through Midway Drive and Camino del Rio West,"

SEE TRANSIT, Page 6



IN THE SHADOW OF THE PIER

Liberty Solh Nyles, a 1 1/2-year-old from Santee, plays in the sand underneath the Ocean Beach Pier on Jan. 28. The photo was taken by her mother, Victoria. The family frequently visits Ocean Beach for a change of pace from East County.

Police nab suspect in murder of homeless man

San Diego homicide detectives arrested a suspect Feb. 8 in the murder of Darin Joseph, whose body was discovered by a passerby in some bushes near a parking lot on North Harbor Drive on Jan. 19.

Patrol officers found and arrested 55-year-old Shane Grattan in the 1600 block of Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach shortly after 11 a.m. and booked him on suspicion of Joseph's murder.

When officers and medics arrived at the North Harbor Drive location on Jan. 19, they noticed suspicious trauma to Joseph's body. The county Medical

Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy on Joseph, 45, determining he was the victim of homicide. Joseph was determined to be homeless.

Grattan, who also was a homeless man, was reportedly seen leaving the scene around the time of the death. He had been seen living in a dark-green Dodge Tradesman Camper Van in the beach areas of San Diego.

Anyone with additional information involving the case is encouraged to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293, or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

—Staff report



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Hedges to headline stellar cast of authors at PLNU's writer's symposium

By **MARSHA KAY SEFF** | THE BEACON

Chris Hedges, who was on the team of The New York Times writers that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002 for coverage of global terrorism, is among the guests at the 18th annual Writer's Symposium by the Sea. Point Loma Nazarene University, which sponsors the event from Feb. 27-29, is expecting about 1,000 students and community members at the Crill Performance Hall.



CHRIS HEDGES

The symposium should answer the question: "Why writing matters and why your writing matters?" according to Dean Nelson, director of the university's journalism program. "Storytelling has always mattered to people," he said.

Yes, blogging and tweeting count. Nelson said society has simply moved away from etching hieroglyphics in caves to writing books, blogging and tweeting.

"Whether you tell a story in 140 characters or 140 pages, storytelling still matters — and it always will matter,"

Nelson said. "The symposium recognizes and celebrates that fact."

The event includes afternoon workshops and evening interviews conducted by Nelson. The interviews feature Hedges and award-winning author and popular blogger Rachel Held Evans. Workshops will be headed by investigative journalist and crime writer Caitlin Rother and literary agents Elise Capron and Andrea Cavallaro. Special guest, author and screenwriter Dave Eggers, concludes the event.



DAVE EGGERS

Held Evans is the focus of the first interview at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27. From Dayton, Tenn., site of the famous Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925, Held Evans' first book was "Evolving in Monkey Town." It explores the relationship between faith and doubt and recounts the challenges of asking tough questions about Bible Belt Christianity. Held Evans recently finished a yearlong experiment in "biblical womanhood," in which she attempted to follow all of the Bible's instructions for women as literally as

possible. That experiment will be documented in a book published this year by Thomas Nelson.

Rother will conduct the first workshop, "When the Truth Hurts," from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The former investigative reporter for The San Diego Union-Tribune and author of The New York Times bestseller "My Life, Deleted," has written a host of books, including "Poisoned Love," about the Kristin Rossum murder case in San Diego. Rother currently is working on one about John Gardner, the San Diego man convicted of the rape and murder of two local high school girls.

Hedges will be interviewed at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Active in the Occupy Wall Street movement, he has written for more than two decades about wars around the world, including Somalia, the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans. His books include "War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning," "American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America," "I Don't Believe in Atheists," "Losing Moses on the Freeway" and "The World As It Is: Dispatches on the Myth of Human Progress." His most recent

book is "The Death of the Liberal Class."

The "Future of Publishing" is the topic of the workshop by Capron and Cavallaro from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 29. The two literary agents from the Dijkstra Agency in Del Mar will discuss where they believe the publishing world is headed and how to prepare to participate in it.

Eggers will round out the event at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 29. The New York Times recently called him "the magnetic center of a literary counter-establishment." His books include "Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius" and "How We Are Hungry" and, his most recent work, "Zeitoun." Among his screenplays are "Away We Go" and "Where the Wild Things Are." Eggers is also the founder and editor of McSweeney's, a literary journal, and a small publishing house committed to finding new voices.

Enthusiasm for the event has grown since the first year, when only 80 people attended, according to Nelson. Point Loma crime writer Joseph Wambaugh was the first guest and the one to request the interview format that caught on and has continued.

Other guests have included authors Bill Moyers, Ray Bradbury, Amy Tan, Gay Talese and George Plimpton.

The symposium emphasizes "the importance of our story to humanity," Nelson said. "I don't want us to ever to lose sight of its importance. This is how people connect."

Sure, he said, they connect around food.

"But when the meal is over, the connection is gone," Nelson said. "If you connect over a story, that is forever."

Tickets for the event at Point Loma Nazarene University, located at 3900 Lomaland Drive, are sold separately. Ranging from \$10 to \$15, they may be purchased online at www.point-loma.edu/writers or by calling (619) 849-2297.

Officers use stun gun to subdue uncooperative Correia Middle School student

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

A San Diego police officer used a Taser to restrain a 14-year-old student at Correia Middle School on Feb. 15, after the boy became physically aggressive during an arrest on suspicion of felony grand theft, said police officials.

The boy was being questioned in the school's library that morning by two campus security officers, two San Diego

police officers and the school's vice principal in connection with the theft of 20 school-owned iPods, valued at \$5,000.

After the unidentified student produced two of the iPods in question, officers moved in for the arrest. The boy then became violent, assaulting one of the officers, according to officials.

"The suspect refused to get handcuffed and became assaultive," said SDPD Capt. Walt Vasquez during a press

conference following the incident. "Initially, the suspect was Tased by the officer and it was effective, but the suspect took the barbs out physically with his own hands, removed the barbs of the Taser that were connected, and was Tased again."

The 5-foot, 10-inch, 150-pound boy injured two of the officers, one of whom was treated for knee injuries at a nearby hospital.

The boy was also treated at Rady Children's Hospital for wounds from the Taser barbs, but did not suffer any other injuries, according to police.

"He did assault the officers, and at that point the officers have many different options available to them. One of the options is a Taser," Vasquez said.

The boy, whose name was not released because he is a minor, was booked into Juvenile Hall.

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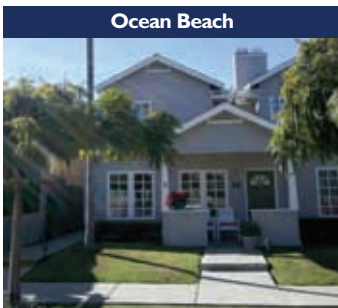


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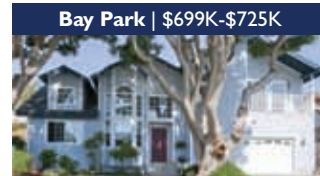
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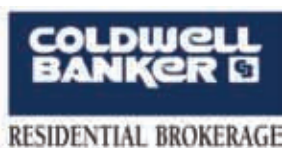
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NEWSBriefs

Two boys injured by cars in separate cases

Two young Peninsula boys were seriously injured over the last two weeks after being struck by vehicles while playing in the street, according to police.

The most recent case occurred Feb. 20 when a 4-year-old boy darted out from behind parked cars in a parking lot in the 700 block of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard shortly after 4:30 p.m.

The child was struck by a 2011 Mercedes SUV and suffered a fractured femur, said police.

In the second case, a 3-year-old boy was struck by a car in front of his house in the 2100 block of Catalina Boulevard on Feb. 11 and suffered serious head injuries.

The Point Loma Heights boy was playing shortly after 11 a.m. when he apparently walked out into the street and was struck by a Toyota sedan.

Alcohol was not a factor on the part of the drivers in either case, according to police.

Peninsula planners to host candidate forum

The Peninsula Community Planning Board will host a candidate forum on Thursday, March 8 in advance of its regular election on March 15.

The candidate forum will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library, located at 3701 Voltaire St.

Interested candidates must be a resident, property owner or business owner within the Peninsula Communi-

SEE BRIEFS, Page 5

MADCAPS show set to boost charities

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

The annual Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies (MADCAPS) musical-dance production is coming next month, putting local charities center stage to benefit.

The annual shows have been highly successful. During its 52-year history, MADCAPS has raised well over \$700,000 for an array of local charities. The shows also serve as the group's single-greatest source of funding, allowing them to assist selected beneficiaries.

This year's show will benefit St. Vincent's de Paul, Children's Hospital, Head Start, Therapeutic Recreational Services, YWCA Shelter School, A.R.T.S, Senior Olympics, Bayside Community Center, PACE, Habitat for Humanity, American Cancer Society and the San Diego River Park Foundation.

This year's theme, "On the Radio," showcases six age groups singing and dancing to different periods of pop music. Premiering on Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Correia Middle School Auditorium, the performances continue on March 9 at 8 p.m. and conclude March 10 with shows at 2 and 7 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$5 for the March 8 performance and range from \$10 to \$20 for other shows.

Musical themes and highlighted artists, by grade level, include:

- **12th grade** — Oldies: The Beatles
- **11th grade** — Big Band/lounge style: The Rat Pack
- **10th grade** — Pop: Michael Jackson
- **9th grade** — Disco: Donna Summer
- **8th grade** — Rock 'n' roll: Elvis
- **7th grade** — Country: Taylor Swift



Members of the Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies' (MADCAPS) 10th-grade class will feature the music of Michael Jackson in their music and dance fundraiser next month. Rehearsing are, from left: Paige Lindsay, Samantha Vaux, Taylor Horan and Alexandria DeMaria. *Courtesy photo*

Each group choreographs, directs and produces its portion of the show.

MADCAPS is a 52-year old organization with a membership of 150 young ladies from Point Loma and Mission Hills. Membership is limited to 25 in each of grades 7-12, who learn the value of giving back to their community while becoming sensitive to the needs of others. Giving back, MADCAPS style, means working all year for charities in diverse roles like childcare, assisting with various events, building houses, working with disabled persons and more. These donations total nearly 20,000 hours annually.

Each grade has a focus area: seventh-graders emphasize community service; eighth-graders focus on children's needs;

the ninth grade reaches out to individuals with disabilities; 10th-graders tackle issues involving drug and substance abuse; 11th-graders focus on cultural and community events; and the 12th grade allows for a choice from these same areas.

Being a member of MADCAPS is a song-and-dance experience for one brief weekend every year.

The MADCAPS shows take place at Correia Middle School, located at 4302 Valeta St. Tickets are available online at www.MADCAPS.us.

For more information, contact show co-chairs Maria Gibson at (619) 938-7897 (mgibson92106@gmail.com) or Gail Hewitt at (619) 226-4245 (gailhewitt2012@gmail.com).

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Lindbergh Field lures Japan Airlines, direct service to Tokyo

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

San Diego International Airport, the nation's busiest single-runway commercial service airport, is about to get busier.

"This announcement creates an even stronger tie between Japan and San Diego," said Ruben Barrales, president and chief executive officer of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"It will certainly help to attract more Asian investment to San Diego, and create more jobs in our region," he said.

Beginning in December, Japan Airlines (JAL) will offer direct service between San Diego and Tokyo Narita International Airport for the first time, according to Katie Jones, spokesperson for the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. The nonstop flight will be aboard the 787 Dreamliner aircraft. It will mark the first time JAL will have a presence in San Diego.

In December, flights are scheduled to depart Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at noon. Return flights will arrive at 5:30 p.m. The flights will be daily beginning in March 2013.

The flight departing San Diego will take 12 hours, leaving at noon and arriving in Japan at 4:55 p.m. the next day. Return flights will depart Narita International Airport at 5:30 p.m. and touch down in San Diego at 10:30 a.m. for a 10-hour flight.

The new service will start several months before the completion of the airport's expansion, Jones said, with JAL operating out of Terminal 2 East.

Made by Boeing, the 787 Dreamliner seats 210 to 290 passengers. It is considered a midsize, wide-body aircraft and needs less runway than the older generation wide-body aircraft.

Lindbergh field's runway is 200 feet wide and 9,401 feet long. The Dreamliner is smaller than the British Airways 777, which is the largest aircraft that operates out of Lindbergh Field, Jones said.

In the 12-month period ending May 2011, Lindbergh Field averaged 556 aircraft operations a day, according to AirNav.com, a company providing aviation information.

In 2010, Southwest Airlines was the leading carrier, handling 38.45 percent of the passenger load at Lindbergh Field.

United Airlines was second with 15.3 percent, followed by Delta Airlines with 10.9 percent, according to the Airport Authority.

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

ty Planning Board's boundaries.

The same eligibility applies for voters wanting to participate in the election on March 15. The election itself is scheduled to take place at the library from 3:30 to 8 p.m.

Candidacy applications are available online at www.pcpb.net under the website link "Elections." The website also describes the boundaries of the planning board and gives detailed information on eligibility.

Applications must be requested by March 2 and may be filled out online, or can be printed and mailed to: Peninsula Community Planning Board, P.O. Box 60447, San Diego, 92166.

Additional election and candidacy information is available at www.pcpb.net.

North Bay planners prep for March 21 election

The North Bay Community Planning Group (NBCPG) will host elections on March 21 for eight of its 12 board seats. Applications are being accepted through March 14.

The NBCPG is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the city on land-use, traffic and other development issues in the Midway/Pacific Highway/Sports Arena area.

The boundaries of the NBCPG extend to the San Diego River on the north; Interstate 5 to the east; to Barnett Avenue, Pacific Highway and Laurel Street on the south; and to Midway Drive and Rosecrans Street to the west.

To be eligible, candidates must live in the planning area, own property in the planning area, or own or manage a business in the boundaries.

Prospective NBCPG members must attend a monthly meeting, held on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month, attend one city training workshop on a Saturday and other meetings from time to time. Committee or subcommittee assignments are also available.

Candidates must provide proof of eligibility, like a utility bill or property tax bill addressed to the candidate at a qualifying address, or a business license at a qualifying address along with proof the candidate is the owner, manager or designated representative of that business.

The March 21 election takes place between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. at the San Diego City College — West Campus, 3249 Fordham St.

Those wishing to vote in the election must bring proof of eligibility to present between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call Melanie Nickel at (619) 226-2800.

SOLAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

In addition to encouraging solar investment through local programs and policies, San Diego-based businesses are also driving the success of the local solar market through innovative designs in the photovoltaic structures themselves.

Desmond Wheatley, president and CEO of Envision Solar, emphasized the importance of making renewable energy appealing to a broader audience through sound design, as well as educating the local population about the benefits of solar.

The local company has been at the forefront of San Diego's solar growth since its founding by environmental architect Robert Noble in 2006.

The company's key product, the Solar Tree, is a patented photovoltaic shade structure designed to meet a variety of applications — from shading vehicles from the sun, producing energy and advancing the infrastructure for electric vehicles — all in aesthetically appealing iconic designs.

The Solar Tree arrays, or Solar Groves, have been planted throughout the city at locations like UCSD's Gilman and Hopkins parking structures, Kyocera's employee parking lot, and, most recently, SDG&E's Energy Innovation Center in Clairemont,

which utilizes Envision Solar's latest EnvisionTrak model, which silently tracks the sun throughout the day to capture even more of the sun's energy.

"We like to think we are reforesting San Diego," Wheatley said.

Although San Diego is a city that enjoys a nice climate, Wheatley said San Diego's top ranking can be attributed to more than the weather.

"The greatest impediment to solar is education. The simple fact of the matter is that a lot of people don't fully understand the benefits of solar installation," Wheatley said.

"In general, the population in San Diego is pretty well clued in to solar," he said. "The mayor cares about it, the City Council cares about it and the local population cares about it. When people care about these things, it makes it more likely that we're going to get these things deployed."

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GUEST VIEW

Middle-class scholarships can make college affordable for all Californians

By Assemblywoman Toni Atkins

California's public universities and colleges used to be a bargain for middle-class parents.

In addition to their relatively low cost, they were also among the top academic colleges in the nation. They were the ultimate equalizer because an excellent student could go to a world-class university — even if their parents were not wealthy.

Due to the national recession and chronic budget shortfalls, college fees have risen dramatically over the last decade. Since the 2003-04 school year, California State University fees have increased 191 percent, University of California fees have increased by 145 percent and community college student fees have also increased significantly.

While low-income students can rely on Cal Grants and Pell Grants, middle-income students whose families make just over the cutoff limit are being increasingly squeezed out of higher education.

To keep college affordable for all Californians, I am joining with Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez and my Democratic colleagues in the Assembly to propose the Middle Class Scholarship, a program to keep college fees down for middle-income families. These scholarships will be funded by closing a tax loophole for out-of-state corporations.

All students in the CSU and UC systems with family incomes of less than \$150,000 who do not already have fees

covered from another source will receive a Middle Class Scholarship that cuts costs by two-thirds. To apply for the Middle Class Scholarship, CSU and UC students will fill out the standard financial-aid forms.

Under this proposal, about 150,000 CSU students will receive the Middle Class Scholarship and save more than \$4,000 per year. About 42,000 UC students will also receive the Middle Class Scholarship and save up to \$8,169 per year. Further, community colleges will receive \$150 million to expand affordability efforts.

Investing in California's students is an investment in our future. For every \$1 we spend on higher education, the state gets a \$3 return on its investment.

Passing this legislation will require a two-thirds vote of the California Legislature, which means Republican and Democratic legislators will have to join together in supporting the plan. This won't be easy to accomplish, but with enough persuasion from students, parents, and all who depend on an educated workforce in California, it can become a reality.

For more information, visit my website at www.asmdc.org/members/a76/.

— Assemblywoman Toni Atkins represents the 76th District of the California Assembly, including Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and the southern portion of La Jolla.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Questions lighting setup for OB gateway project

An open letter to District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer:

Kevin, my name is Chuck Muller, an Ocean Beach resident for quite some time. First of all, I'd like to thank you for the work you're accomplishing in San Diego.

I'd [also] like to address the Ocean Beach Gateway Park Phase 1 completion to understand how it is that the lighting that was installed was approved. I find it overwhelming, to say the least. I would encourage anyone to visit the Sunset Cliffs Boulevard/W. Point Loma Boule-

vard intersection after dark. I believe ... users could argue it's a lovely addition to our community. And it is. However, while waiting for the traffic light to change, you can see at once that the height of the lighting here may not have been thought through.

I'd like to leave you with this last thought: consider discussing my concern with others on the Ocean Beach Planning Board. Possibly, this could be a change for the better.

Thank you, Kevin. I know you listen.

Charles Muller
Ocean Beach

Paddleout for Brian Davis, 68, set at Osprey on March 17

Brian Kent Davis died Jan. 20 with his family by his side at his home in Del Mar after a year-long battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). He was 68.

He was born at Mercy Hospital in San Diego on Feb. 16, 1943 to Alan "AB" Davis, a San Diego police officer, and Loma Davis.

A public paddleout for Davis, a lifelong North County surfer, will be held at Osprey Street at Sunset Cliffs at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17. An open house and celebration of life will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at Brian's Del Mar house, 461 15th St.

One friend said of Brian: "He had one of the most full and interesting lives of anyone from our generation. His life was full of great adventure and great friends. He truly lived life large."

Brian Davis was raised in Point Loma and graduated from Point Loma High School in 1960. He attended San Diego City College and San Diego State University in the early 1960s.

He served in the Marine Corps from 1966-67, achieved the rank of sergeant and was a tank commander stationed at Camp Pendleton. He served in the USMC

Reserves until 1972.

Brian was also always proud of the decade he served with the San Diego Fire Department, which spanned from 1967 to 1977.

He moved to Del Mar in 1970 and for many years made significant improvements to his 15th Street home. He was a skilled builder and tradesman. Through the years he helped many friends on their construction projects — often doing most of the work himself.

Brian started surfing in 1955 and became a proficient waterman. Through the years, he also enjoyed skin diving, boating, skiing, snowboarding and motorcycling. He was a real "car guy."

But his first love was surfing, and he lived in Kilauea, Kauai, and surfed in Hawaii for many years. "BD" followed his passion for surfing throughout California and Mexico and in many other Pacific Ocean locales. His favorite surf spots included New Break, which he helped pioneer at Sunset Cliffs, and Hanalei Bay. He was witness to and a participant in much early, colorful California surf lore and was proud to be an "OB local."

Brian had a great sense of humor, traveled widely, and was a great friend who could always be counted on — be it for help in a hurricane, fire or

mechanical breakdown on land or sea. He never lost his soldier's ethic of "leave no one behind."

He was a great fan of San Diego, knew the area and its history well, and enjoyed touring around the city pointing out major and minor landmarks to his diverse group of friends.

Brian sensed he was sick several years before others fully understood that sad fact. He handled his increasingly difficult condition with dignity and strength, and took comfort from the company of his family and friends. Near the end of his life, Brian was especially appreciative of the care he received from Karina Ortiz and the companionship of his son, Taj Capri.

He is survived by his daughter, Cassidy Davis, and her mother, Karina Ortiz of Del Mar; daughter Tina White and her husband David; children Albert and Eli of Fairfield, Pa.; brother Gary Davis of Madison, Wis.; sister Elaine Bailey and her family of San Diego; son Taj Capri; and daughters Sarah Capri and Sofia Capri, all of San Diego.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to the Surfrider Foundation, San Diego County Chapter, P.O. Box 1511, Solana Beach, 92075.



BRIAN KENT DAVIS

Dion Goedken, 50, longtime Point Loman and surfer

Loving family and friends sadly announce the death of Dion Goedken, who died Jan. 12 in San Diego. He was 50.

Born in Iowa on Oct. 2, 1961 to Joseph and Vernelle Goedken, Dion was the youngest of five children. In his home state, he attended Kirkwood College and the University of Iowa. Soon thereafter, he arrived in San Diego and later married Sue Castle. Together, they had daughter Kalani, now 18.

In his youth and throughout his short life, Dion displayed three overar-

ching talents: organizational leadership in the retail grocery business; longboarding, surfing the big waves off California and Hawaii; and the pleasure of playing classical music on his Taylor guitar.

Like many, he started out as a teenage grocery bagger, but soon advanced to become general manager at Stumps Market in Point Loma, a position he held for 20 years.

More recently, he worked for Henry's Market in Santee. He was well-liked and respected by store patrons and employees.

Dion will be fondly remembered for his love of family, especially Kalani; his loyalty with friends; his joy of surfing; his kind and gentle heart; a bottomless

wit; and, of course, his enriching classical music.

He is survived by daughter Kalani; sisters Sandy Koelker of Dubuque, Iowa and Sherry White of Denver; brother Dan Goedken of Minneapolis, Minn.; sister-in-law Kathy Goedken of Washington, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Dion's death follows that of both parents and a brother, Dave.

An oceanside memorial service was planned in San Diego on Feb. 4, and a later graveside memorial in Worthington, Iowa is planned.

Memorial gifts are appreciated on behalf of his daughter's college fund: Kalani Goedken, 2026 Donahue Drive, El Cajon, 92019.



DION GOEDKEN

TRANSIT

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

said Cook.

He listed high traffic volumes, limited regional access, the mixture of regional and local traffic, problematic intersections and confusing signage as the major problems in the area.

Nickel had high praise for the Fehr & Peers report, but not for SANDAG and Caltrans.

"They (Fehr & Peers) have a very good and thorough analysis; they really do understand what we've been telling them about our traffic situation. [Unfortunately], Caltrans and SANDAG both told us, 'We have no help for you. You're on your own.'"

Chris Schmidt of Caltrans said the I-5/I-8 connectors don't rate as high a priority compared to other needs in limited budgetary times.

"We acknowledge it's needed and desired," Schmidt said.

He said the corridor study could identify improvements to better access I-8 and relieve congestion.

An economic market assessment report, a draft historic study and an archeological study will be presented at the next plan update session, said Tait Galloway, senior planner and staff member for the effort.

That meeting will take place March 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the West City Campus, San Diego Community College, 3249 Fordham St.



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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

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, 1888



Printed with permission by the Ocean Beach Historical Society

The Ocean Beach Historical Society has preserved Ocean Beach History with their collection of photos and other memorabilia. Photos and stories will be shared both on the Ocean Beach Main Street Association (OBMA) website (www.OceanBeachSanDiego.com) and through the SD News / Peninsula Beacon. People are encouraged to share their memories and photos and become a part of the celebration. Please email them to info@OceanBeachSanDiego.com. Check the Event Calendar on the OBMA website for details on all annual events and be sure to check with OBMA's online store for merchandise!



KITES

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

and instruction, children can enter their kites in a contest at the Ocean Beach Elementary schoolyard at 1 p.m.

"We give prizes in three categories: best decorated, most unusual and best theme. There are 10 age categories ranging from toddler to adult," Nickel said, urging children and adults alike to have fun with their designs.

The contest is not limited to kites made at the festival, said Nickel. Anyone can bring in a kite and enter it in the contest. Ice cream certificates from local favorite Lighthouse Ice Cream will be awarded for the winning kites in each category.

This year, the Kiwanis will even hand out "alumni" ribbons for older generations who have taken part in the festival in previous years to highlight the historicity of this long-standing tradition.

"It's a lot of fun for the kids, and it's something for families to do together," said Nickel.

The 64th annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival takes place March 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All kite-making materials will be provided, but



The Ocean Beach Kite Festival brings out hundreds of children and their parents with a backdrop of themes. File photo

bring cash for carnival rides, craft fair purchases and adult lunches.

For more information, email oceanbeachkiwanis@gmail.com.

ANNIVERSARY

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

members at 7:30 a.m. on April 10 at Electric Ladyland, 4944 Newport Ave. in the concert room.

In support of the anniversary, the Ocean Beach Historical Society is inviting people to share their memories. The historical society is celebrating its 18th anniversary this year. It was founded in 1994 when Carol Bowers put a notice in *The Beacon* inviting people to form a historical society.

"Eight or 10 of us showed up at the Ocean Beach Branch Library," said Pat James, co-founder. "And we were off the ground."

The historical society keeps a photographic archive at the United Methodist Church on Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. The collection may be viewed by appointment. James said he hopes to have a more permanent and accessible exhibit later.

"Ocean Beach has a pretty colorful history in only 125 years of existence," James said.

Knox said many people think their Ocean Beach experiences are not significant. But as a collective, individual memories are important and contribute to a detailed history for generations to come.

For instance, Robb Field wasn't always a part of Ocean Beach. Before it was an

all-encompassing athletic complex with everything from tennis courts to a skate park, it was a saltwater flat at one end.

M. Jeanne Faucon-Mooers remembers it as Smith's Point, where she went to study the tidepools with her seashore biology class from Point Loma High School. Faucon-Mooers, who is planning a 62-year high school reunion with her classmates, also recalls the days when the fire station was on Newport Avenue and her

father, Maurie Mooers, was fire captain.

"One day, kids were digging in the sandstone cliffs and a little girl was killed," she said. "Dad was quite shaken. Sandstone isn't meant to be stable."

But such is the tapestry of history woven over 125 years, setting the stage for more history and memories to come.

For more information, visit www-oceanbeachsandiego.com or www.obhistory.wordpress.com.

Get Your Flu Shots Now at Anderson Medical Center

Now is the time to get your flu vaccine. Influenza is a virus that causes fever and body aches. The flu can last for up to a week and make it difficult to get out of bed. The best defense against this is a flu vaccine.

The vaccine is formulated to fight the most likely types of influenza that are affecting people this year.

Flu shots contain no active virus and cannot make you sick. Flumist nasal immunization does contain the live virus. Flu vaccines are recommended for all ages. Anyone who has contact with a lot of people will benefit from the vaccine. Flu shots are especially important for the elderly, children and people who are involved in healthcare.

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Why Would You Need a Geriatric Care Manager?

Jim's elderly father lived several hours from him and Jim was concerned. He knew his dad

needed more help but wasn't ready for assisted living and wanted to continue living in his home. Jim went to The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers and did a search for a care manager in his father's area. He found Innovative Healthcare Consultants listed, interviewed and hired one of our RN geriatric care managers to assist in coordinating his needs.

Since Jim didn't have experience or live in the area, the care manager was able to get Jim's father into a daily meal program, through the VA, she got dad hearing aides and also got him a lifeline bracelet for emergencies. She takes Jim's dad to doctor's appointments, advocates for him, coordinates his medications and makes home visits to check on his well being. She reports back to Jim, with his father's permission.

Is it expensive? Not really when you consider the care manager is on call 24/7 for any crisis situation. The first few

weeks coordinating the care and concerns hours may be increased. Then once the person is headed in the right direction, hours decrease and your peace of mind is restored. Medical needs increase as you age, so hiring a nurse geriatric care manager who specialize in helping to achieve the best health outcomes may be desired. You want someone who has been in the field for awhile and has experience in dealing with elder ailments. All the RN Care Managers at Innovative Healthcare Consultants are listed on the national website.

Expect the care manager to be your eyes and ears to your parent or spouse. Jim's father eventually needed more care and the care manager was able to arrange the move close to Jim, which was the most economical option. Jim says "The care manager allowed me to stop worrying and enjoy my dad's final years." See our website at www.innovativehc.com or call us at (877) 731-1442.



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this, it could be a sign of corrosion or damage within the device itself and you should take it to your hearing professional to have it evaluated. FYI- hearing aids batteries are color coded so you always know you are purchasing the correct size battery. No matter what manufacturer, the batteries will always be color coded. Know your color and you will be just fine!



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PLHS grapplers make strong showing at citywide tournament

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

Point Loma High School wrestlers finished in fifth place overall and one team member won his weight class title during the recent City Championship tournament.

Kevin Desta, a four-year veteran of the Pointer team, defeated Nathan Bush of Mira Mesa for the 287-pound heavyweight title in the event held at San Diego High School. Desta's victory came in a 6-1 decision in the title match.

The Pointers totaled 149 points as a team at the meet, with Mira Mesa, champion of PLHS's Eastern League, winning the team title with 205.5 points.

La Jolla finished second at 188 points. Patrick Henry, which the Pointers defeated in an earlier league match, finished third with 164.5 points and Uni-

versity City was fourth with 161. In the 108-pound class, Pointer Chase Harris finished second after being pinned by Morse's Laron McGee. Pointer Ryan Martinez finished third at 154 pounds, defeating Cheng Moua of Hoover in a 10-6 decision. Keegan Bell of PLHS also took a third-place medal with a pin of Robert Lozano of University City.

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Pointer Ryan Martinez finished third at 154 pounds, defeating Cheng Moua of Hoover in a 10-6 decision.

Keegan Bell of PLHS also took a third-place medal with a pin of Robert Lozano of University City.

At 222 pounds, Pointer Jovanny Sanchez also took third-place honors with a 4-2 decision over Justin Trento of Mira Mesa.

Wrestling at 172 pounds, Pointer Bailey Dugdale pinned Cathedral Catholic's Peter Haddad for a fifth-place finish.

At 115 pounds, Harris' brother, Michael, finished in sixth place.

Chase Scillato of Point Loma finished sixth at 128 pounds, as did Pointer Martin Cervantes at 147 pounds and Tony Melfi at 184 pounds.

The strong showing by the Pointers put a validation stamp on the hard work coaches Phil Moore and Myles Doughty have done over recent years.

The coaches have also begun a wrestling program for youngsters in the Peninsula area to develop future Pointer talent.



Pointer wrestling star Kevin Desta, right, won the San Diego City Championship meet held recently at San Diego High School. Desta, a four-year veteran of the Pointer program, wrestles in the 287-pound heavyweight class.
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Adrenaline Youth Lacrosse poised to begin new season

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

Grab those sticks, helmets and shoulder pads.

With springtime approaching, Adrenaline Youth Lacrosse is getting ready for another successful season on the Peninsula with hopes for even more participation by area youth.

Boys and girls as young as first grade can sign up and learn the sport that is growing across San Diego County.

Adrenaline spokesperson Carey Dawidzik said she hopes to see the developing youth program grow to feed the sport at Point Loma High. To establish the connection, the Adrenaline teams go by "Point Loma Pointers."

Adrenaline parents are currently accepting registrations for the season

that began Feb. 20 and have announced the following divisions, ages and fees:

Point Loma Pointers boys' teams

- Division I — 7th/8th grades: \$375
- Division II — 5th/6th grades: \$350
- Division III — 3rd/4th grades: \$325

- Division IV — 1st/2nd grades: \$300

Point Loma Pointers girls' teams

- Division I — 6th/8th grades: \$375
- Division II — 4th/5th grades: \$350
- Division III — 1st through 3rd grades: \$250

Participants will be taught the skills and techniques of play, Dawidzik said. In addition, rental equipment and scholarships are available.

Students from the Point Loma Cluster

of elementary and middle schools are eligible to sign up, Dawidzik said. In addition, those attending private schools, charters and home-schooled students are welcome, she added.

Also, children attending the following elementary schools are welcome in the Adrenaline program: Bay Park, Bayview Terrace, Carson, Chesterton, Crown Point, Grant, Holmes, Linda Vista Annex, Linda Vista, Lindbergh Schweitzer, Longfellow, Nazareth, Pacific Beach, Pioneer Day School, Ross and Kate Sessions.

Other middle schools who may join include Francis Parker Middle, Halstrom High and Pacific Beach Middle.

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Birding by kayak is just one of 40 field trips offered during the San Diego Bird Festival, which is slated this year from March 1-4.
Courtesy photo by Karen Straus

2012 San Diego Bird Festival to soar in for a 4-day soiree

The 16th annual San Diego Bird Festival takes wing on Mission Bay between March 1-4, when beginning and expert birders flock to view some of the county's 500-plus species of birds. The multiple-day event includes guided field trips like popular pelagic birding adventures, a Birding & Optics EXPO, workshops, social mixers and bird-art classes.

March 4 is Family Free Day, with special art and nature events planned just for children and families.

Registration for the four-day festival is \$20 (the fee is waived for Family Free Day events on March 4). Fees for workshops and field trips vary, including some specialized trips, workshops and events that are free. Parking at Marina Village is free.

For information and to register, call



Courtesy photo by Karen Straus

(858) 273-7800, visit www.sandiego-audubon.org, or email birdfest@cox.net.

— Staff and contribution

Pharmacy has antidote for musical blues

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

Though it's easy to think that today's popular bands spring out of nowhere, a little digging almost always reveals that is not the case. Such is the story behind Pharmacy, a "new" band with a long history.

Performing at The Shakedown Bar on March 2, the quartet features singer Kathleen "Kit" Johnson, drummer Jayden Fullerton, bassist Ramon "Ramones" Silva and guitarist Jonny Vee, the latter also known as a member of seminal local punk band Social Spit.

Pharmacy has been drawing enthusiastic crowds for just over a year, however, its roots go back to the early 1990s, though there were several breaks in the ensuing years.

The band originally known as Pharmacy became known as Kitten's Pharmacy in 1995, going on to release an album, "Recommended by Doctors," before splitting in 1999. Several short-lived reunions followed, but it's the latest version of the band that seems to have caught the public's ear. The band's sound is a basic driving mix of rock and punk influences, primarily focused on originals though it has been known to cover tunes like "Don't Push Me Around" by San Diego's own punk legends, The Zeros.

Today, frontwoman Johnson is known as a vocal powerhouse with a commanding stage presence, so it's hard to believe that she actually came into the music world late in the game.

"Considering I had a lot of friends in bands, it's kind of surprising that I didn't start sooner, but I didn't think I could sing," she said.

Johnson started out playing a few parties with friends and sitting in at the Princess Pub downtown.

"I'm surprised it's gone this far,"



The latest incarnation of Pharmacy takes the stage March 2 at The Shakedown Bar on Midway Drive.
Courtesy photo

Johnson said. "I've always had music in me and it was always fun to do. When I took a hiatus from music prior to this band forming, I really missed it."

Though previous versions of Pharmacy have had various levels of success, the current version seems to have made the biggest impact, with the band now on a regular tour circuit that includes Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

"Since we changed the music, it seems that more people are responding," Johnson said. "That's why we're trying to get out and play beyond San Diego, though we love local shows."

One of the biggest changes for the band is that Pharmacy now has greater songwriting input from Johnson herself.

"I never really wrote many songs in the previous bands, maybe one each," she said. "But I have five or six now, with myself and Jayden, the band's main songwriters with Jonny also contributing some great songs. Even Ramon is starting to contribute now."

Though her sound has shifted from

pop rock to a harder sound, akin to the New York Dolls, she cites The Beatles as her biggest influence.

"I kind of like to think our new sound is somewhere between the Beatles and Alice in Chains," Johnson said.

The band has recorded an EP, with a new disc in the wings once the band is done promoting the current tunes. But it's live where the band really connects with an audience.

"It's fun to get up there and perform," she said. "I just really enjoy it it gives me a total rush. I just like interacting with people to see if they like our music. The last couple of shows we did people really got into it. They were dancing and getting all crazy. I never saw that before in the other bands. It's like, wow, we really do have something good going on. It's really motivating and makes me want to be better."

• Pharmacy performs at 10 p.m. on Friday, March 2 at the **Shakedown Bar**, located 3048 Midway Drive. No cover. 21 and up. www.theshakedownsandiego.com.



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Free Living History Activities in Old Town State Park All Year Long

February may be museum month in San Diego but Old Town San Diego State Historic Park has more than 10 free museums open to the public year-round. These museums have ongoing living history activities every Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to educate the public about what life was like in San Diego in the 1800s. The park also hosts free tours daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. that begin at the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center.

"There is no denying that Old Town San Diego State Historic Park has a lot of great things to offer visitors," stated Interpretation and Education Manager Karen Beery. "We encourage all San Diegans to set a date to experience the state park and explore the way San Diego was in the 19th century."

Every Saturday of the month, the park offers a different taste of historic trades and craft guilds for visitors. The first Saturday of every month, the park

hosts the Print Guild and Tintype Guild. Visitors can have a first-hand experience of how printed word and photography was executed in the early days of California.

On the second Saturday of each month, the park hosts Californio Day. Between 1821 and 1848, people who lived in Southern California were called Californios. The unique cultural heritage and activities of the Californios will be shared and celebrated with visitors.

The third Saturday boasts presentations from the Quilt Guild, Fiber Arts Guild and the Mormon Battalion. Guest of the park will learn about the traditional methods of quilting, spinning, weaving and other fiber arts techniques. Visitors will also learn about the famous military unit, the Mormon Battalion, and how the impact of their service changed the history of San Diego and California.

On the fourth Saturday, the park hosts the Mountain Men and the Soap Makers Guild. Park visitors will learn about the historic mountain men and the discoveries they found as well as learn the art of soap making.

In conjunction with the different events every Saturday, the park also showcases the Blacksmith Guild's presentation every Wednesday and Saturday morning and the Quilt Guild every Wednesday afternoon. For more information about the guild schedules of the day and their location in the park, visit the board outside the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center and museums are open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. October through April and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May through September. To confirm hours of operation or for more information call 619-220-5422 or visit <http://www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego>.

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Liberty Station's Bravo School of Art is opening eyes

By WILL BOWEN | THE BEACON

"Everyone is born creative. I am here just to help them bring it out," said Lauren Becker-Downey, owner and director of Bravo School of Art, located on the second floor of Barracks 19 in the NTC Arts & Culture District of Liberty Station, 2690 Historic Decatur Road, Studio 206.

"In almost every one of my classes, there is someone who is worried about not being good enough, talented enough or creative enough. I say, 'Just relax into it. You will get better with practice. After all, you don't make it to Carnegie Hall the first time you sit down at a piano.'"

The focus at Bravo is on providing a safe and supportive environment for learning to do art.

"I never criticize my students," said Becker-Downey. "I am always positive and encouraging.

The aim is to provide a nurturing and fun place to awaken our natural creativity."

Becker-Downey heads a team of hand-picked teachers who offer more than 50 different art courses, including painting, drawing, mixed-media, fibers, jewelry, photography, book arts, decorative art, mosaic, children's art and "the artist way," which opens up to creativity.

One of her most interesting classes is "Paint Your Sneakers," where people paint their canvas sneakers in wild colors and patterns. Becker-Downey also creates custom-built classes to fit any-

one's schedule, like "Mom's Night Out," "Girl's Night Out" and "No-Talent Diva."

Some of Becker-Downey's more popular instructors include Carol Lang, who teaches pine-needle basketry; Patricia Hyman (drawing) and Jill Hall (artist's way), both the latter of whom are residents of Point Loma.

Becker-Downey opened her school at Liberty Station two and a half years ago. She was invited on the developer's first tour of Barracks 19, which was refurbished with an aim of creating an arts district. She bought into the concept right away.

"I just loved the light and the feeling of Barracks 19," she said. "I had looked at other locations for a school, like in North Park, but everywhere seemed isolated and lonely, and required too much fixing up. Here, all I had to do was unlock the door and it was ready to go. And it's

never lonely here, because there are 40 other people involved in the arts nearby."

Becker-Downey's growing school has students of all ages, shapes and sizes, but she said the lion's share of her students are women between the ages of 40 and 60, who finally have the time and opportunity to explore their creative side. Many come from as far away as Bonsal, Murrieta and Temecula to her attend her classes.

Becker-Downey grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. Her father worked in

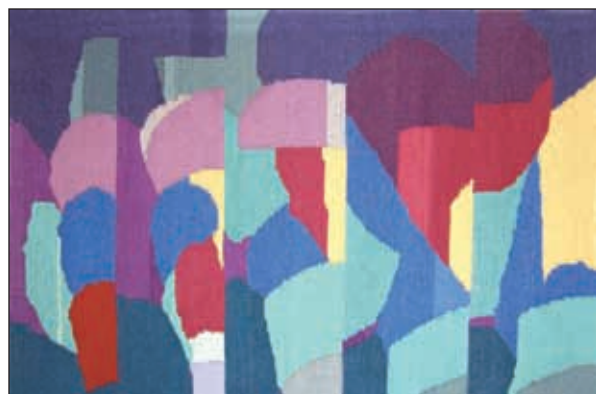
"In almost every one of my classes, there is someone who is worried about not being good enough, talented enough or creative enough. I say, 'Just relax into it. You will get better with practice. After all, you don't make it to Carnegie Hall the first time you sit down at a piano.'"

LAUREN BECKER-DOWNEY
Owner, Bravo School of Art



Lauren Becker-Downey is the director of Bravo School of Art at Liberty Station.

Photo by Will Bowen | The Beacon



A tapestry created by Lauren Becker-Downey, director of Bravo School of Art.

Photo by Will Bowen | The Beacon



Ann Maioroff and Pam McKay show off their "painted sneakers."

Photo by Will Bowen | The Beacon

SEE BRAVO, Page 12

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Elsbree House B&B: home away from home in OB



Co-owner Katie Elsbree welcomes new guests in front of the Elsbree House Bed & Breakfast, located at 5054 Narragansett Ave.

Photo by James Steinberg | The Beacon

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

Theirs is a story about “turning lemons into lemonade” and still savoring the taste more than two decades later.

In 1991, Katie Whalen-Elsbree and her husband, Phil, completed construction on the four condos that replaced the little Ocean Beach cottage they had lived in for 20 years. The couple had planned to live in one and sell the other three “just 500 feet from the ocean, beach and pier.”

But the real-estate market was soft and they decided to keep one unit for themselves and convert two of the others into a five-bedroom, five-bath bed-and-breakfast. They converted the remaining condo into a vacation rental.

The idea panned out, and the quaint New England-style building, which Phil designed, became Elsbree House Bed & Breakfast, located at 5054 Narragansett Ave.

Today, Katie, a one-time schoolteacher who taught at Ocean Beach Summit High School for her last six years in the classroom, is the innkeeper. As such, she’s in charge of guest relations, reservations, correspondence and hospitality.

Having studied interior design, she’s also in charge of décor.

“I have an excuse to buy and fix things up,” said Katie. “Our goal is to keep the house in the same shape as it was 21 years ago.”

The self-described “people-person” in the family, she regularly joins guests for breakfast, answering questions and helping with itineraries.

People who gravitate to B&Bs are not like regular travelers, Katie said.

“They want to connect with other people. I’m like their tour guide the first

day, then they meet other guests.”

Phil, a former math and science teacher for the San Diego County Office of Education, does all the behind-the-scenes work, including maintaining the grounds, making the beds and preparing an “extended continental breakfast,” including baking bread and scones.

Since their first guest on March 17, 1991, the couple has entertained thousands of people from around the world, including honeymooners, cruise passengers, visiting parents of college students and many friends and families of OB neighbors.

“There are so many people you really love, that are fun and funny and you’re sorry when they leave,” Katie said. “We keep in touch with some and have many, many repeats.”

Some of their guests are third-generation visitors to Elsbree House. Most travelers are great, she said, and give the inn top scores on vacation and B&B websites.

One of the few negative guests, Katie recalled, complained on the Internet there was no place to eat in OB.

Room costs at the B&B are \$109 a night in the winter and up to \$195 in the summer.

“Business is good,” Katie said. “We’re doing better this year than last.”

Though managing the B&B is a seven-day-a-week job, the Elsbrees do hire a relief when necessary.

And when they’re home, they’re glad to have some privacy. Guests have their own living room and dining room.

“Elsbree House has good karma — OB karma,” Katie said.

It pays the expenses on the property, with some money left over for travel. Yes, the couple often stay in B&Bs.

“No two are alike. They’re all unique, taking on the character and personality of the innkeeper,” Katie said.

Katie, the founder of Fostering Opportunities Dollars for Scholars, a group that helps kids who have aged out of foster care, is the current president of Ocean Beach Dollars for Scholars, for OB and Point Loma students.

For more information on Elsbree house, visit www.bbinnob.com, or call (619) 226-4133.

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BRAVO

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

the research division of Westinghouse and painted in his spare time. Her mother was a high school nurse.

“I think that I was born an artist,” Becker-Downey said. “I have been doing art for as far back as I can remember.”

She went on to attend Tyler College of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in textiles and weaving.

While in Los Angeles working for Paper Moon Graphics, Becker-Downey saw an advertisement in a magazine at the library, placed by someone who was looking for a co-owner of an art gallery. She jumped at the opportunity and moved to San Diego to help run Bravo Art Gallery in the Gaslamp District. After the gallery closed, she began to give art workshops at the Ratner Art Center in the East Village. From there it was on to Liberty Station.

Becker-Downey thinks that it is a shame that many of the public schools have cut art and music classes because of the budget crisis.

“Creativity is important in everyone’s life,” she said. “It’s relaxing and helps to reduce stress and it teaches you how to think in ways that help you better deal with today’s rapidly changing world.”

For more information, call (619) 223-0058, email workshops@bravo-schoolofart.com, or visit www.bravo-schoolofart.com.



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CONTACT INFO (must be filled out for your votes to be counted and to be entered in the drawing):

Name: _____
Address: _____ City / Zip: _____
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Dining

#1 Overall Restaurant:

American:

Appetizer:

Bagel Shop:

Bakery:

Bar:

Bartender (Name & Bar):

BBQ:

Beer selection:

Best chef:

Best Atmosphere:

Best ocean view:

Breakfast:

Burger:

Burrito:

Cafe:

Catering:

Chinese restaurant:

Chinese take-out:

Coffee shop:

Comfort food:

Deli:

Desserts:

Dinner:

Donut shop:

Early bird special:

Family restaurant:

Fish & chips:

Fish taco:

French:

German:

Greek:

Happy hour:

Hot dog:

Ice cream / Frozen yogurt:

Indian:

Irish pub/bar:

Italian:

Juice bar:

Late night eatery:

Live music:

Lunch:

Margarita:

Martini:

Mexican (fast food):

Mexican restaurant:

Most romantic:

New restaurant:

Omelette:

Patio dining:

Pet friendly restaurant:

Pizza:

Place for a birthday party:

Place to dance:

Place to go on a budget:

Place to people watch:

Restaurant service:

Restaurant with wine List:

Salad bar:

Sandwich:

Seafood:

Senior Special:

Specialty/ Trademark Drink:

Sports Bar:

Steak:

Sunday Brunch:

Sushi:

Take-out:

Thai:

Vegetarian/Vegan:

Vietnamese:

Wine Bar:

Wine Shop:

Ethnic (other):

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