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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

WWW.SDNEWS.COM ■ VOLUME 26, NUMBER 6

BATTLE TO SAVE THE BLUFFS



Above, a family traverses Sunset Cliffs underneath a sign warning of unstable bluffs. **Left**, a walker peaks over the edge where sandbags are being used to bolster the cliffs. Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon

Race intensifies to halt slide, erosion of Sunset Cliffs

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | THE BEACON

From a distance, the bluffs at Sunset Cliffs Natural Park seem none the worse for wear, especially among those who like to take them in up-close-and-personal. Thousands of joggers, surfers, photographers, artists, birdwatchers and sunbathers have enjoyed the park's urban and ocean vistas since at least 1926, when the city acquired the first of two chunks of land that make up the park's 70 acres along the Point Loma Peninsula's southwestern shore.

But time has fueled an increasing dilemma at the park: the bluffs are actually in the middle of a slow crumble as waves pound them and as runoff from surrounding areas wears them away. This isn't exactly breaking news. Regional pollution regulators directed the city to address the dilemma 20 years ago. Now, however, media outlets have been taking notice of the vanishing park.

Last fall, Yahoo!'s Wanderlust website placed the park as the fourth most-rapidly

SEE CLIFFS, Page 7

Japan gifts cherry trees to symbolize blossoming friendship

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

The Yokohama Friendship Bell pavilion on Shelter Island and Tuna Harbor Park near the USS Midway Museum will get colorful pops of pink just in time for spring with the planting of more than 20 "Pink Cloud" cherry trees at the sites in late March.

The Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles donated the trees to the Unified Port District of San Diego to commemorate the anniversary of a similar contribution from Tokyo to Washington, D.C. 100 years ago.

In 1912, Tokyo's mayor

Yukio Ozaki donated more than 3,000 cherry trees that can be seen today in Washington, D.C. around the tidal basin and adjacent areas in east and west Potomac parks. Despite a violent history between the two countries during World War II, the gift was meant to symbolize peace and friendship.

As a measure of the ever-blossoming camaraderie between the United States and Japan, Japanese Consul Kuniko Nakamura presented Port chairman Lou Smith and vice chairwoman Ann Moore with the offer of the cherry trees alongside a

SEE FRIENDSHIP, Page 8



"Pink Cloud" cherry trees, when mature, blossom pink flowers that cover the tree's sturdy branches. The "Pink Cloud" – a stronger, more rugged variety – is best suited for the Southern California climate, said San Gabriel Nursery & Florist owner Mary Swanton. Photo courtesy of San Gabriel Nursery & Florist

Curtailed hours, services at libraries, rec centers to be restored after windfall

Timing is right as OB library reopens Saturday

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced good news on the budget front recently, declaring that a combination of money-saving reforms and a modest recovery of tax revenue will allow the city to restore some community services — including public library and recreation center hours — that were slashed in recent years.

As timing would have it, there is even more good news for local bookworms. The Ocean Beach Branch Library will be the site of a celebratory reopening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday,

March 10, marking the end of an eight- to nine-week closure for repairs, according to George Murphy, outgoing president of the Friends of the Ocean Beach Library.

The branch, at 4801 Santa Monica Ave., was shuttered in January for re-roofing, some fresh coats of paint and recarpeting.

Saturday's event will include an appearance by District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer.

Supporters will have not only the reopening to celebrate, but also the positive big-picture news for library and rec center users.

SEE BUDGET, Page 8



The massive Midway Processing and Distribution Center is expected to be formally closed in mid-May to help pull the U.S. Postal Service from the brink of financial collapse. It is one of 15 processing plants targeted for closure or consolidation in California.

Photo by Paul Hansen | The Beacon

Final chapter approaches for Midway postal facility

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

The Midway Processing and Distribution Center that has served San Diego since 1972 will close in mid-May, said postal officials.

The announcement was made Feb. 23 by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) when it released the official list of 223 processing plants set to be closed or consolidated nationwide. All of San Diego's mail processing will be moved to the Margaret L. Sellers Processing Center in Rancho Bernardo, according to the for-

mal announcement by the Postal Service.

There are 15 processing plants targeted for closure or consolidation throughout California, the most in any one state.

Last December, the USPS announced it must reduce its operating costs by \$20 billion by 2015 to return to profitability. The Postal Service said that since 2006 it has experienced a 25 percent decline in first-class mail.

SEE POST OFFICE, Page 8



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Airport lands accolades for energy efficiency, sustainable technology

By DJANI SCHAFFER | THE BEACON

San Diego International Airport has been recognized for its efforts in going green and encouraging sustainable technology.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) acknowledged Lindbergh Field's efforts by awarding the second-busiest single-runway airport in the world the Region 9 Outstanding Energy Project Award in Sacramento on Feb. 28.

The ASCE organization presented the airport with the award after Lindbergh Field's successful installation of energy-efficient airfield signage, taxiway lights and runway guard lights.

The project took about a year and a half to complete, becoming a reality in late 2010. Over the course of the project, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority replaced 119 airfield signs and 410 taxiway edge lights with new, energy-efficient LED lights.

San Diego International Airport is the first commercial airport in the nation to install and use LEDs across the airfield.

The new lights are helping the airport reduce its carbon footprint, as well as preventing runway accidents, lowering maintenance costs and improving operational safety.

The LEDs also use one-quarter of the energy and last 10 times as long as the old lights, which is already saving the airport money.

The bills for the airfield, which is on its own meter, dropped by an average of \$27,000 per month after the project was completed.

"This energy award is important because it recognizes how deeply the [San Diego County Regional] Airport Authority is committed to its sustainability policy ... The [American Society of Civil Engineers] feels this is the most significant energy project in the state."

"This energy award is important because it recognizes how deeply the [San Diego County Regional] Airport Authority is committed to its sustainability policy ... The [American Society of Civil Engineers] feels this is the most significant energy project in the state."

KATIE JONES

San Diego County Regional
Airport Authority



STRINGS ATTACHED

The 64th year of the Kiwanis Ocean Beach Kite Festival took flight March 3, much to the amusement of youngsters and parents alike. The children, like these, **above**, constructed kites from materials provided by Ocean Beach Elementary School, Kiwanis and the Ocean Beach Recreation Center. The kites were then flown at the school's playground in perfect weather conditions. **Below left and right in foreground**, 6-year-old Silvergate Elementary School student Eve Norban comes up with her own peace-sign design.

Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon



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3225 NEWELL #2

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\$272,000

3422 POE

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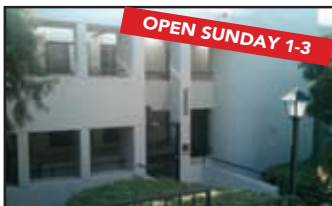
You will adore this perfect package of a home that boasts 3BR, 2 BA, a bonus den/TV room, gleaming hardwood floors, entertaining deck, and a large flat grassy back yard. Welcome home!

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3129 IBSEN, POINT LOMA

Originally built in 1940, this stylish, updated home in the heart of Loma Portal cohesively blends Spanish charm and modern improvements. Enhancements of this single-level residence include custom interior/exterior lighting and fixtures, wood and tile floors, French doors, wood plantation shutters, crown molding, unique built-in cabinets and vanity, custom paint, newer HVAC system and insulation, and laundry room with storage.

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Local planning groups prep for 2012 elections

By TONY De GARATE | THE BEACON

It's election time. But things have been oddly quiet on the campaign trail so far as the area's three community planning groups prepare for annual elections this month.

The three entities — the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB), Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) and North Bay Community Planning Group (NBCPG) — will host the balloting.

The respective groups are advisory bodies to the San Diego City Council and make recommendations on land-use and quality-of-life issues. For example, permits having to do with development projects are vetted by the planning groups before going to the city Planning Commission and the City Council.

Election buzz can be cyclical in Ocean Beach and the North Bay (Midway, Sports Arena and Pacific Highway area). But the PCPB has been especially lively in recent years, with issues like Liberty Station development inspiring community activists to fire off mass email blasts and to recruit candidates of like mind. Last year, the five successful candidates earned a total of 1,182 votes. Several runners-up weren't far behind.

It seemed almost bizarre last week, then, when few, if any, candidates had submitted applications as the original March 2 deadline approached to run for the Peninsula Community Planning Board.

However, a candidate forum tonight, March 8, will give procrastinators a last-minute chance to throw their hat in the ring, said Jarvis Ross, the group's first vice president and chairman of the PCPB's Election Committee.

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

LOCAL PLANNING ELECTIONS: AT-A-GLANCE

PENINSULA COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD

• **Jurisdiction:** Ocean Beach Highlands, Point Loma Highlands, Loma Alta, Loma Palisades, Loma Portal, Fleetridge, Roseville, Sunset Cliffs, Wooded Area, La Playa, Roseville, Liberty Station

• **Number of positions available:** 5

• **Length of term:** 3 years

• **Eligible incumbents:** Chris Veum, Nancy Graham, Rebecca Michael, Bruce Coons

• **Termed out:** Helen Kinnaird

• **Candidate forum:** March 8, 6:30 p.m., Pt. Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire St.

• **Last day to apply:** March 8; visit www.pcpb.net website or attend forum

• **Election:** March 15, 3:30 to 8 p.m., Point Loma Library

OCEAN BEACH PLANNING BOARD

• **Jurisdiction:** North Ocean Beach, north of the mid-block between Santa Monica Avenue and Saratoga Avenue; South Ocean Beach, south of Niagara Avenue; and The Hill, east of Sunset Cliffs. Area is

split into seven districts.

• **Number of positions available:** 7

• **Length of term:** 2 years

• **Eligible incumbents:** Landry Watson, District 1; Barbara Schmidtknecht, District 2; Scott Therkelsen, District 3; Seth Connolly, District 4; Giovanni Ingolia, District 5; Jane Gawronski, District 6

• **Termed out:** Craig Klein

• **Candidate forum:** none

• **Election:** March 13, 4 to 7 p.m., Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

NORTH BAY COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

• **Jurisdiction:** Midway area and Pacific Highway Corridor.

• **Number of positions available:** 8

• **Eligible incumbents:** 6

• **Termed out:** Walter Andersen, Melanie Nickel

• **Candidate forum:** none

• **Election:** March 21

• **Last day to apply:** March 14; call (619) 226-2800 for more information.

Even candidates who have never been to a PCPB meeting can satisfy a requirement to have attended at least one meeting in the last year simply by making a stump speech at the forum.

The issue of satisfying the attendance requirement that way has long been a source of confusion, and the board last August approved by-laws language to specifically allow it. Even though the city has not yet approved the change, Ross said he has been advised by city officials to allow candidates who attend the forum to run.

Other than the attendance requirement, candidates must be at least 18 and reside, own property or run a

business in their respective planning area. Voters must bring photo ID and, if necessary, documentation of property ownership or business license.

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A SHINING NEW ADDITION AT SHELTER ISLAND

A Hollywood-style Shelter Island welcome sign was unveiled adjacent to the Brigantine Restaurant on March 2 amid much fanfare and celebration. The brilliant new sign showcases Shelter Island and its businesses. The event was hosted by the San Diego Port Tenants Association and the Unified Port of San Diego. Among the guests participating in the unveiling and ribbon-cutting ceremony was District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, center left.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

27 Tips to Drive up the Sale Price of Your Home

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggres-

sive marketplace.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

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Point Loma | \$549,000
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Ocean Beach | \$424,000
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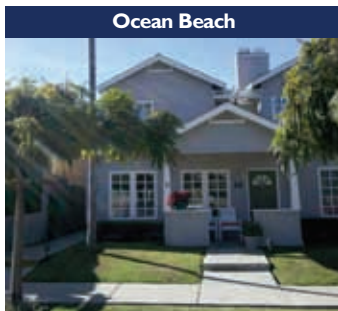


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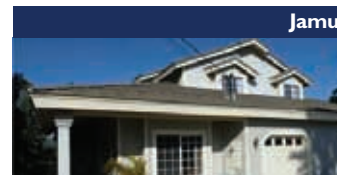
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Thursday Club's rummage sale offers treasure trove for shoppers

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

The Thursday Club's 85th annual Rummage Sale on March 10 and 11 is a thrifty shopper's paradise with valuable gems to be found at rock bottom prices — and all for a good cause. The history-rich Point Loma-based organization's flagship fundraiser has become the largest rummage sale in San Diego County, attracting more than 4,000 visitors and raising \$100,000 for a number of community organizations last year alone.

Whether an in-and-out shopper or one who enjoys perusing the aisles for hours, first-time visitors to this year's rummage sale at the Balboa Park Activity Center may be pleasantly surprised at just how easy it is to navigate the various departments within the 38,000-square-foot facility.

Sales departments include women's, men's and children's clothing, holiday decor, antiques, sporting goods, electronics, art, linens, designer clothing and even an area comprised entirely of new merchandise.

"It is a highly organized rummage sale," said Nancie Geller, event co-chairwoman. "One of the things we require of donations from our membership is that it has to be quality. You're not going to have clothing that is stained."

Member volunteers in each department thoroughly vet each donated item to ensure that only top-quality items are put on the shelves. The remaining items are donated to Goodwill Industries, a partner to The Thursday Club and one of the recipients of the organization's fundraising efforts.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit community organizations — half to Bal-

boa Park and its museums and half to community recipients like the San Diego Public Library Foundation, San Diego Hospice Foundation and San Diego Armed Services YMCA.

"It's gotten bigger and better and more revenue-producing each year," Geller said.

Last year, The Thursday Club raised a record-breaking \$100,000 for local organizations in Balboa Park and in the community, and the organization hopes to hit that number again with this year's sale. Geller said she expects attendance to be around 4,000 again this year.

"Some people even camp out overnight," said Geller of the community's enthusiasm for the annual sale. "Most people know if you are looking for a certain item, you want to be first in line. It's pretty exciting."

This year, the Point Loma marching



Maria Gonzalez of Mira Mesa receives pricing help from Thursday Club member Kim Powell during a previous Thursday Club Rummage Sale in Balboa Park — San Diego's largest such event. The Point Loma-based Thursday Club will host its 85th annual installment of the Rummage Sale on March 10 and 11 to benefit local charities and organizations. Staff photo

band will entertain those dedicated shoppers who waited through the wee hours of the morning with musical entertainment at 8:30 a.m. just before the doors open.

Another treat for visitors is a half-off sale all day Sunday for people to scoop up those remaining treasures at a heavily discounted price.

"It's a paradise for shoppers because there's always such a variety of good quality items," Geller said.

The Thursday Club's 85th annual Rummage Sale will take place on March 10 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and March 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.thethursdayclub.org or call (619) 224-5264.

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For more information call:
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OBITUARY

Nancy Shank, 95, longtime Point Loma resident, volunteer

Nancy Gregory Shank, a longtime resident and tireless community volunteer, died Feb. 11 at her Point Loma home. She was 95 and had lived in Point Loma for more than 50 years.

She was born Nancy Ashton Gregory on Aug. 20, 1916 in Stovall, N.C. She received a bachelor's degree from Longwood Teachers College in Virginia and worked in education for 65 years. Her last position was in the attendance office at Garfield High School, finally retiring in 2003 at the age of 86.

She was married to Paul W. Shank, who taught chemistry at Point Loma



NANCY GREGORY SHANK

High School for 30 years and who died in 2002. The couple met when both were teaching in the Fort Knox area in Tennessee. They had no children.

In addition to working full time, she was a valuable volunteer for a number of local charities. She volunteered for the Travelers Aid Society for more than 30 years, staffing the information booths at Lindbergh Field and the Santa Fe Railroad Depot. She regularly served as an election-day poll worker, greeting voters and giving out ballots for 30 elections, continuing until she was well into her 90s. She was a loyal member of the Point Loma Democratic Club and a member of the Save Our Heritage Organisation.

She loved cats and estimated that she had owned 70 cats during her lifetime.

She was a financial supporter of the Feral Cat Coalition and the Humane Society.

"She was most definitely a special and spunky lady," said her friend, Kelli Patri. "She was very loved and will be very missed."

She was buried in her family's cemetery in Stovall, N.C. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at the Point Loma Assembly Hall, 3035 Talbot St. Parking is allowed at the San Diego County Credit Union across the street.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Bone Appetit Cat and Kitten Rescue Center, 4845 Newport Ave., San Diego, 92107, or to the Paul Shank Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 7099, San Diego, 92167.



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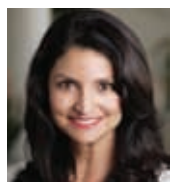
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Drivers in Ocean Beach and Point Loma are feeling the angst of escalating gas prices. According to a report by AAA and a study by the Lundberg Survey last week, San Diego prices are among the highest in the nation. According to surveys by www.sandiegogasprices.com, prices had risen on March 5 by 3.2 cents per gallon over the previous week, for an average of \$4.35 a gallon. A sampling of local stations over the weekend showed the Arco station at Rosecrans Street and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, **above**, among the lowest at \$4.41 a gallon for regular unleaded. Three blocks away, **below left**, the Union 76 on Rosecrans was \$4.49 (\$4.29 cash). Among the highest was independent Point Loma Gas & Market on Sunset Cliffs at \$4.59. To get the latest on prices, visit www.sandiegogasprices.com.

Photos by Jim Grant / The Beacon



NEWSInBrief

Stabbing victim dies; police probe as murder

San Diego police investigators have launched a homicide investigation into a stabbing that occurred Feb. 6 in Ocean Beach. Homicide investigators took over the case after the 24-year-old victim, identified as Andrew Bazan, died of his injuries March 5 — nearly a month after he was attacked.

Police officials said Bazan was stabbed by an unknown assailant in a parking lot in the 4900 block of Santa Monica Avenue shortly before 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 6. Bazan, who never recovered from his injuries, passed away in the hospital.

Because the case is unsolved, investigators are urging anyone with information to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

City Council rejects pay hike for itself, mayor

The City Council unanimously rejected on March 5 a proposed pay increase of \$100,000 for themselves and nearly \$135,000 for the mayor — a proposal recommended by the city's Salary Setting Commission.

"Nobody's going to vote for this. It's one of the easiest 'no' votes you can cast," said District 8 City Councilman David Alvarez. "I'm fine with the salary I'm making."

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer didn't comment Monday, but said previously he was aware of the \$75,386 salary when he ran for office and that he would not vote for a raise.

Right now, the mayor makes \$100,464 annually.

District 5 City Councilman Carl DeMaio, who is running for mayor, made the motion to reject the increase, and it was seconded by Council President Tony Young. Young said the city's charter required the council to consider raises every two years.

Attorney Robert Otilie, the Salary Setting Commission's chairman, suggested the City Council draft an ordinance and put something on the ballot that would authorize another agency to raise their salaries so they could avoid criticism during votes to increase their own pay.

— Neal Putnam

Makua, foster-care advocates to host panel

Makua, along with Voices for Children, will host a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) panel on March 14. The CASA panel discussion is designed to give the public a chance to hear first-hand accounts by local volunteer advocates who transform the lives of foster children.

CASAs are volunteers trained by Voices for Children to help guide children in San Diego's foster-care system. Makua is the primary fundraising auxiliary for the Voices for Children organization.

The Point Loma-based Makua members



Daylight saving time begins Sunday. Set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!

recently took their message to help local foster youth to the "Dr. Phil Show."

Dr. Phil applauded Makua's members on-air for their fundraising and awareness programs and encouraged his viewers to not only make donations to Makua's monetary campaign but to also volunteer their time to help and support foster children. Makua encourages the community to get involved with the program and said it takes only a little time to transform the life of a child.

There will be three CASAs speaking during the panel discussion in hopes of educating the community about the system and to urge community members to volunteer their time. Makua members said CASAs play a vital role in helping children find the right foster homes, making sure their education is on track, and asking for funding for clothing and medical care.

The CASA panel will be held Wednesday, March 14 at the Historic Rosecroft, 530 Silvergate Ave., from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.makua.org and www.speakup-now.org.

— Djani Schafer

Funeral home to assist food bank collections

The Beardsley-Mitchell Funeral Home will host a drop-off location for the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank.

Most requested food items are in the form of canned goods: meats (tuna, ham, chicken), soup, fruits and vegetables. Other requested items are in the form of dried goods: beans, rice, cereal, fruits and pasta. The food bank also requests peanut butter, powdered milk, infant formula, packaged nuts and seeds.

The food bank is unable to accept glass jars (including baby food), home canned items or baked products.

The Beardsley-Mitchell Funeral Home is located at 1818 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. and will be open for drop-offs Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. until March 15.

For more information, call (619) 223-8100 or visit www.beardsleymitchell.com.

— Djani Schafer

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San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 270-3103 Fax: (858) 713-0095

PUBLISHER

MANAGING EDITOR
BEACH & BAY PRESS
PENINSULA BEACON

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beacon@sdnews.com

KENDRA HARTMANN (x133)

ljvn@sdnews.com
reporter@sdnews.com

MARIKO LAMB (x132)

reporter@sdnews.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS

DON BALCH, JIM GRANT,
PAUL HANSEN, MIKE MCCARTHY

CONTRIBUTORS

BART MENDOZA, BIANCA KOCH,
CAROL OLTON, DIANA CAVAGNARO,
JOHN FRY, JOHNNY McDONALD,
JUDITH GARFIELD, KAI OLIVER-KURTIN,
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CLIFFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

disappearing attraction in America, ahead of Florida's Everglades National Park.

The bluffs are made of sandstone, porous enough to absorb water in large quantities without much effect. But strategically, even minimal erosion might lead to a much larger collapse of a cliffside, as has been the case in the past.

As talk about solutions and options

continues, the bluffs continue their slow descent, said one environmental watchdog official.

"The cliffs, in their natural state, are fully capable of dealing with runoff, what we call incident rainfall," said Julia Chunn-Heer, San Diego Surfrider Foundation's campaign coordinator. "Where we see the problem is the run-on to the park. The runoff surrounding the park becomes the run-on to the park from the hard roofs and from the adjacent Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and from our drainage system.

"When it's clogged with debris, the water skips over it and directly onto the bluffs," she said. "And right now, the parking lot is sloped toward the ocean, so all the water from that entire hard surface is concentrated to one area. The volume and velocity of the run-on is what's causing the erosion."

The city has been aware of the erosion problem since 1992, when regional monitoring agencies directed the municipality to address an emerging pollution issue near the park shore. The agencies said the effects of stormwater

compounded the erosion factor, which they linked to contaminants in the ocean.

Then came the California Coastal Commission's 2005 master plan, which urged greater efforts in drainage control. It criticized "[the] lack of a strong planning framework and a comprehensive systems planning approach," which has resulted in "soils compaction, loss of native vegetation and erosion from uncontrolled bicycle traffic [and] unde-

SEE **EROSION**, Page 9

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POST OFFICE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The Peninsula community is currently served by two full-service post offices — one in Ocean Beach at 4833 Santa Monica Ave. and another in Point Loma at 2931 Cañon St. A full-service post office is also located at 3801 Tientsen St. at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

None of these locations are on the closure list.

"The decision to consolidate mail-processing facilities recognizes the urgent need to reduce the size of the national mail-processing network to eliminate costly underutilized infrastructure," said Megan Brennan, USPS chief operating officer. "Consolidating operations is necessary if the Postal Service is to remain viable to provide mail service to the nation."

The only other San Diego-area postal facility considered for relocation is the La Jolla Post Office at 1140 Wall St. The Postal Service wants to sell the 14,451-square-foot facility built as a Post Office in 1935 by the U.S. Treasury Department of Public Buildings.

If a decision is made to close the La Jolla facility, the Postal Service plans to lease a new facility within a mile of the current location.

A group of citizens in La Jolla has organized through the La Jolla Historical Society to save the building from sale and redevelopment and to keep postal operations in the heart of the village.

A spokesman for District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer's office said in recent months that only one person has sent a letter in opposition to closing the Midway Post Office and to express concern for future use for the 26-acre site.

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A Guardianship is established when the parents are unable to care for a minor child or in the event they inherit funds or have a personal injury settlement, for example.

Both are court procedures that require a lot of time and paperwork to name another to take care of that person's estate and health care decisions. You want to avoid these if possible because they are time consuming and expensive. A judge ultimately will make decisions for the family. There is a conservatorship clinic in the San Diego Courts which helps those who want to attempt to do the paperwork for themselves.

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For 35 years, Walkabout has put best foot forward

Point Loma-based social networking walking group welcoming new members

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

Stanley Follis was ready to go. His camera was in hand as he wore his favorite beret, a heavyweight shirt, shorts and sturdy walking shoes. As he waited outside the Dance Building at Liberty Station, a chatty friendly group of folks gathered around. Many were meeting each other for the first time and getting acquainted. They, too, were eager to go. Once the invited guest speaker arrived, the group began its guided walk around Liberty Station.

The recent weekend walk was one of thousands organized throughout the year by Walkabout International, a nonprofit social network walking group. Headquartered at Liberty Station, Walkabout International is poised to celebrate its 35th birthday on March 17. Annually, the group offers more than 1,000 free walks in San Diego neighborhoods, as well as day trips in California, the U.S. and abroad.

Follis, 79, is a two-time Walkabout



Stanley Follis, foreground, president of Walkabout International — a social networking walking group based at Liberty Station — and other walkers gather for an event in Point Loma this month. The organization will celebrate its 35th anniversary March 17.

Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

International president and a Point Loma resident who has been pounding the pavement and leading walks since he first got involved in 1980.

"It's a nice way to meet people, stay active and see interesting things," he

said. "There's a great social aspect. It becomes a community, a support group where people get to know each other. You bond with people and feel like coming back. It's not like the gym where people don't know who you are."

Follis has two favorite walks he does regularly. On Friday evenings, he can be found on a Mission Hills walk. He also joins the Saturday Night Live walkabout that starts at the County Administration Building on North Harbor Drive and winds its way along San Diego's bay side.

On March 19, Follis will lead a 35th anniversary walk along Sunset Cliffs. Walkers will meet at Point Loma Avenue and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard at 3 p.m.

Newcomers are welcome to all walks, he said. The daily walk schedule is available on the Walkabout International website at www.walkabout-int.org. When participants find a convenient date and time, they just show up at the assigned meeting place.

The walks are free and no reservation is needed. For those who become truly involved walkers, a newsletter is available for \$20 a year.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

"After years of cutbacks, we see the light at the end of what has been a very long and dark tunnel," Sanders said. "I'm pleased to report the city's decades-long structural budget deficit is history."

The projected surplus — \$16.5 million over the approved fiscal year budget ending June 30 — is due, in part, to higher-than-anticipated sales and transient-occupancy tax revenues and savings from city reforms like managed competition, across-the-board cuts to employee compensation and department consolidation, Sanders said. Property-tax revenues are expected to be higher this year too — but the collections have not yet been factored into the reported projections, he said.

Five million dollars will be used to increase operating hours at all of the city's 35 branch libraries by four hours per week, increase operating hours at all of the city's 55 recreation centers by five hours per week, add 15 cadets to the upcoming police academy, and fund a new fire station alert system connecting the city's 47 fire stations with the dispatch center to replace a 20-year-old system.

More than \$8 million of the surplus will be saved and carried over into the



Sign-wielding residents joined District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer in May 2011 to protest planned cutbacks in the city library system's operating hours, launching a petition drive outside the Ocean Beach Branch Library.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

next fiscal year beginning on July 1, "just in case we have holes open up in the 2012 budget," said Sanders. Some of the surplus will also be set aside in a reserve for emergency infrastructure projects.

Faulconer, a longtime advocate for neighborhood services, helped rally support to skirt closure and severely reduced operating hours of the Ocean Beach Library and Cabrillo Recreation Center in

the past, despite facing ever-deepening budget cuts.

"Mayor Sanders' announcement is great news for our neighborhoods, libraries, recreation centers, police and fire departments," said Faulconer.

"There is more to do to guard tax dollars and reform City Hall, but this positive budget news is a step in the right direction," he said.

FRIENDSHIP

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

book on Kyoto's courtyard gardens and several limited-edition calendars featuring the art of flower arrangement during the Port's Feb. 14 meeting.

The donation, coordinated by the Japanese Embassy and the Consulates General of Japan, is one of 36 similar donations to cities across the United States to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Tokyo's gift to the nation's capital.

Nakamura said San Diego serves as an ideal location for the gift because of the large number of service members and Japanese-Americans in the area.

Smith, a retired Navy admiral, spent time in D.C. during his service and recalled enjoying the pink blossoms that adorned the cherry trees around the tidal basin in the springtime.

"This donation underscores our friendship with the people of Japan," said Smith. "The tree planting ceremony will be a time to celebrate our ties with our friends across the Pacific."

The planting ceremony on March 29

will begin with a tree dedication at 11:30 a.m. at Tuna Harbor Park, followed by a free public event aboard the USS Midway featuring live entertainment and Japanese food.

San Gabriel Nursery & Florist will supply the "Pink Cloud" cherry trees, which nursery owner Mary Swanton said are best suited for the Southern California climate.

"Compared to Yoshino, 'Pink Clouds' are stronger, more rugged, less graceful — straighter, stiffer branches — and bear a deeper pink blossom," she said. "They enjoy moist air and cool summers, and the 'Pink Cloud' variety is more suited to Southern California weather than other varieties that prefer colder weather. Our air is drier and the soil and water is more alkaline than in Japan."

The trees blossom bright, single pink flowers that cover the willowy, upright tree. The trees are expected to grow to a height of around 15 feet, with branches spanning a similar distance.

The trees that were donated are already beginning to bud, and San Diegans can expect to see blooms by the time the trees are planted in March.



More than 20 trees have been donated to San Diego by the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. The trees, shown here in February, will be planted at the Yokohama Friendship Bell pavilion on the southwest corner of Shelter Island and Tuna Harbor Park just south of the USS Midway Museum.

Photo courtesy of San Gabriel Nursery & Florist



Efforts are afoot to halt the erosion and crumble at breathtaking Sunset Cliffs. Environmental advocates and city engineers disagree on the most appropriate means of mitigating the effects of runoff and run-on.
Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

EROSION

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

finer pedestrian traffic.”

The numbers of visitors to the park are reportedly not recorded by the city.

Meanwhile, the city commissioned a drainage study in 2006 and will conclude it within the next couple of months, with an eye toward piping the cliffs. A series of drainpipes near the base of the bluffs would route the water toward the ocean in hopes of stemming the erosion.

City associate civil engineer Paul Jacob, who is managing the study, said the drains would be designed to intercept the runoff upstream, preventing it from reaching the bluffs.

“All the water that’s running off rooftops and driveways and roadways is all being focused along one narrow strip along the coast,” Jacob said. “That’s the problem. You’ve got an enormous amount of water focused on one small

area.”

The mitigation plan would cost about \$10 million, most of which would go toward construction.

Jacob said the city’s stormwater manual guides its engineers to solutions the study will call for — but Chunn-Heer cautioned that those fixes might cause further incursion onto the area.

“I think they’ve discarded how much green solutions can do,” she said. “The city wants to go in and build concrete



Sunbathers enjoy the beach next to the slowly eroding landscape at Sunset Cliffs.
Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

structures that erode the cliffs further, using classical methods with concrete and pipes and getting the water off the land as fast as possible, instead of trying to mimic nature as much as possible. But the idea of putting concrete pipes parallel to the coast with eroding cliffs around is kind of counterintuitive. That’s where we have our differences.”

Instead, Chunn-Heer said she believes the installation of natural vegetation, drainage courses designed to remove pollution from run-on, redirection of gutters away from the park soil and low-impact development plans would be more appropriate.

“These would allow the cliffs to behave in a more natural scenario,” Chunn-Heer said. “We like to say, ‘Slow it down, spread it out, sink it in.’”

Jacob said the natural scenario in and of itself, however, may be ineffective.

“These solutions are great,” Jacob said, “but [environmentalists are] proposing a naturalized solution in an unnatural environment. All along the park, you have an urbanized watershed. When it rains, you have a lot more water coming down toward the bluffs than would have ever occurred in its natural state, when it was just brushy hillsides. The whole notion of natural [redirection] is good, but that would be inadequate to handle the volume of runoff we have to deal with. There’s just too much water.”

Jacob said the runoff from the developed areas along Sunset Cliffs Boulevard is two to three times that on the undeveloped hillsides to the south. The city, he said, has never calculated the runoff ratio from the neighborhoods’ predevelopment state until today.

Tomorrow, however, is another matter. Amid budget crises, bureaucratic entanglements and what Chunn-Heer calls “lack of impetus,” another waiting period may precede the study’s release and the first visible signs of a remedy.

“That’s the \$64,000 question,” Jacob said. “Clearly, the last couple of years, we’ve had such severe budget problems that it’s difficult to get anything built. But it’s not always going to be like that.”

“I would certainly expect the future to be a lot more promising than the last couple years have been,” he said. “But having said that, it does take a long

time to get these projects built. It will take longer than anybody wants it to take.”

Mitigation has already taken 20 years. Environmental advocates said they hope the solutions for preventing Sunset Cliffs Natural Park’s crumble does not take 20 more.

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Trees Along Ocean Beach Streets Reveal Town’s History

By Ruth Varney Held

This story is in response to a letter to the editor of The Beacon asking, “Who planted all those pink oleanders on Cable and Brighton?”

On page 95 of “Beach Town” (my book on Ocean Beach History) is a picture of some members of the Ocean Beach Women’s Club in 1931. Some of them are wearing wide-flowing “beach pajamas” and beneath is a statement: “The Garden Department, under Mary (Mr. D.E.) was responsible for planting oleanders all along Brighton and Cable streets, jacarandas on Defoe (now Sunset Cliffs Blvd) hibiscus on Long Branch and acacias on Muir.”

Those oleanders were such a success that at one time you could stand on the corner of Cable and Brighton and look for blocks in each direction and see those lovely pink blossoms all along the way.

As for the other streets, perhaps the planting depended, on whether the houses were built before or long after the thirties, and nobody knew there was such a plan.

Checking on a big Monterey pine on 5050 Brighton, the kind that D.C. Collier had planted along W. Point Loma Boulevard and other streets, Priscilla found an interesting story. The lady who lives there loves that tree. One time when the city workers came along with their big saws to cut off branches that were interfering with some lines, she tied herself to her tree so they wouldn’t cut it down.

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There's something special in the oven at Con Pane Rustic Breads & Café

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

It's not your mother's Wonder Bread baking at Con Pane Rustic Breads & Café inside Liberty Station.

An early-morning visit confirms there's something special in the ovens. The place is humming and there's a line

of customers from the cash register to the door.

Added space is the reason Con Pane moved in 2010 from its original building on Rosecrans Street to the Dewey Road site in Liberty Station. Even now, proprietress and head baker Catherine Perez said the 4,000-square-foot bak-

ery and cafe and its 1,000-square-foot patio are packed until mid-afternoon.

The attraction is "artisan" breads, sandwiches and dessert goodies.

Though increasingly more eateries are touting "artisan" breads, Perez said hers really are.

"The definition depends on who you ask," Perez said.

But she points out that her approach is "more natural, away from processing."

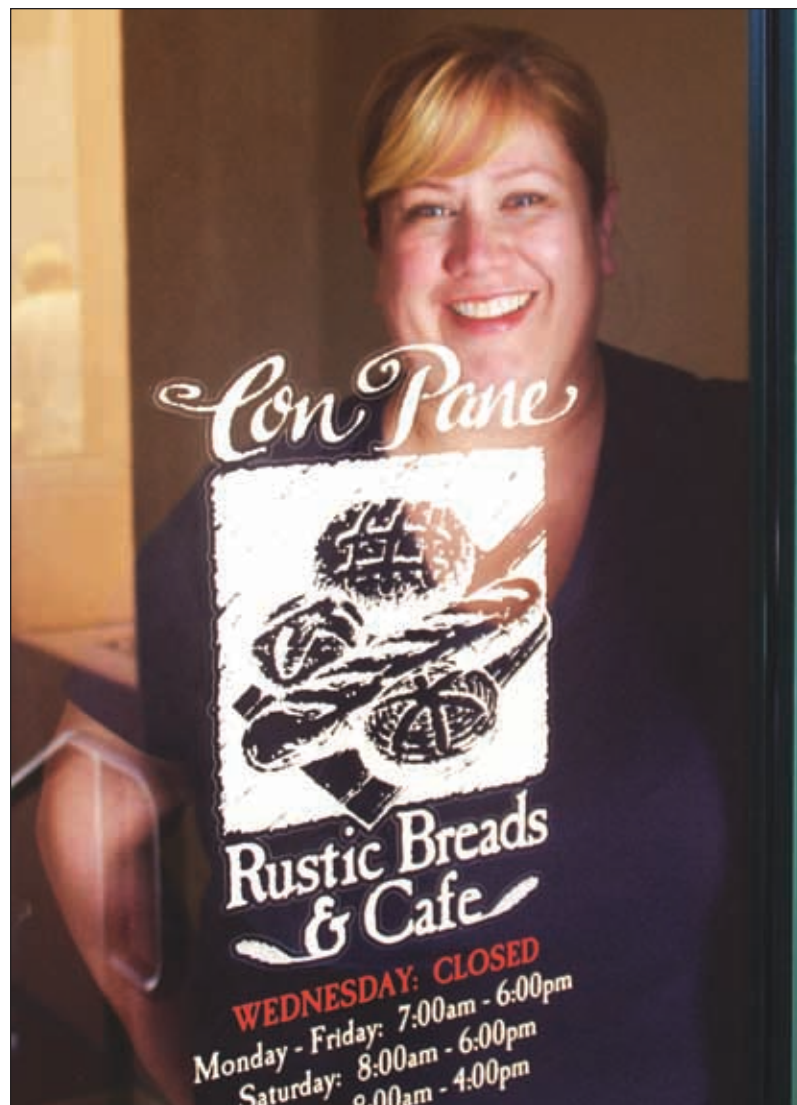
Her bakers follow old European methods, with natural starters, long fermentation and hand-shaping. Ingredients include unbleached wheat flour, whole wheat flour, filtered water, olive oil, cracked whole wheat and flax seed, depending on the particular bread. Then, loaves are baked directly on the stone deck of the oven, not in pans.

Daily breads include a variety of baguettes for between \$1.15 and \$2.35. Also on the daily menu are rosemary olive oil; French country; artisan multi-grain; Point Loma sourdough; raisin and hazelnut; ciabatta; Kalamata olives, and garlic, tomato and cream cheese focaccia. Most loaves cost between \$3.45 and \$4.25.

Then there are the weekly bread specials: German rye with caraway seeds (Mondays); cranberry, orange and walnut, as well as pesto and feta focaccia (Tuesdays); gruyere and chive, whole-wheat walnut and gorgonzola, roasted red onion and walnut focaccia (Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays); challah (Fridays), and pane ciocolatta (chocolate bread) on Saturday and Sunday.

For holidays, the café offers seasonal specials, like wild rice and onion bread for Thanksgiving and an Italian panetone for Christmas.

Perez said she can't pick a favorite bread, as "it depends which one goes



Catherine Perez moved Con Pane Rustic Breads & Café to Liberty Station in 2010 because she needed the added space. Even with the relocation, Perez continues to work hard to keep up with demand.

Photo by James Steinberg | The Beacon

John Mann conjures up an eclectic Irish Menu to honor St. Patrick

Beginning Friday, March 16, O'Bistro will serve the traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage with root veggies.

For those who prefer other Irish favorites try Guinness Stout Stew with Lamb Shanks or Shepperd's Pie.

*Prime Rib along with O'Bistro's regular menu will be available all weekend.

We hope to see you.
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bread, like a French baguette or ciabatta.

"If it's a simple meal," she said. "You want a bread that is a little more robust, such as rosemary and olive oil, Kalamata olive or gruyere and chive."

Specialty sandwiches include the turkey cobb, "which put us on the map," with roasted turkey breast, applewood smoked bacon, fresh avocado, crumbled gorgonzola cheese and house-roasted Roma tomatoes, \$4.75 for a half and \$7.65 for a whole. For vegetarians, there's a veggie cobb with Romaine lettuce, Mung bean sprouts, fresh avocado, house-roasted Roma tomatoes, onions and gorgonzola cheese, \$4.45 for half and \$7.15 for a whole.

Bread plates include a choice of three slices with cream cheese, \$3.95, and three slices with house-made basil pesto, goat cheese and olive oil, \$4.95.

Breads are baked fresh daily, starting at 1 a.m. Any leftovers go to either employees or St. Vincent de Paul.

For customers with a real sweet tooth, the brioche cinnamon rolls, with and without raisins, are the favorites at \$3. Con Pane also makes its own cookies, including butter toffee peanut butter and dark chocolate chunk for \$1.75. Rustic scones go for \$2.45 and include pear almond (daily), and apri-

SEE BAKERY, Page 15



Brioche cinnamon rolls are among the delights served fresh at Con Pane Rustic Breads & Café at Liberty Station.

Photo by James Steinberg | The Beacon

Dog Beach Design works to brand OB

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

Ashley Lewis is in the business of branding businesses. So when it came to naming her own company, she knew Dog Beach Design said it all.

"It identifies me with Ocean Beach and places me as part of the community," Lewis said. "I don't know why people don't use the name more."

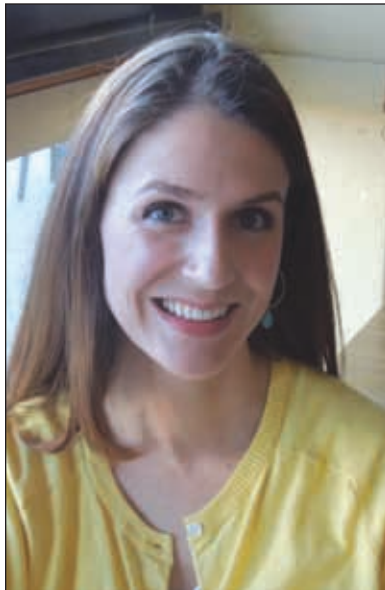
Appropriately, Lewis' colorful and iconic illustrations market Ocean Beach with resort, family-friendly images. She created the logo and street signs for the 2011 and 2012 Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off, the cover of the OB Business Directory and the logo commemorating this year's celebration of Ocean Beach's 125th anniversary.

When she opened Dog Beach Design three years ago, the first thing Lewis did was join Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA), the management organization for the OB Business Improvement District and the Newport Avenue Landscape Maintenance District.

Denny Knox, OBMA executive director, remembers Lewis getting immediately involved by volunteering for the OBMA marketing committee.

"Once we saw her design capability, we knew she could capture the essence of Ocean Beach," Knox said. For this year's Ocean Beach Chili Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off, set for Saturday, June 23, Lewis created a multi-generational image of a family of surfers.

"You really find out what's going on through OBMA," Lewis said. "They are



Ashley Lewis, who designs iconic illustrations to market Ocean Beach and its businesses, owns Dog Beach Design.

Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

truly invested in helping businesses succeed and making Ocean Beach a great destination."

A native of Utah, Lewis was an editorial cartoonist at the University of Utah while she majored in chemical engineering. She served in the Navy as a nuclear engineer aboard the USS Jarrett and USS Nimitz before settling in Ocean Beach. Through the certificate program at UC San Diego she reconnected with her passion for art and discovered her talent for design. The pro-

gram gave her the tools she needed to make a career change to graphic design.

Going from engineer to designer may seem unlikely, but for Lewis it is really the perfect blend of technical and artistic that every graphic designer needs to be successful.

"My Navy background gave me the skills to work with commitment to deadlines," said the 31-year-old entrepreneur.

Dog Beach Design provides graphic and web design, logo design, branding and small business marketing collateral. Clients include OBMA, the Coronado Tourism Improvement District, Coronado Chamber of Commerce, Voice of San Diego and agencies like (W)right On Communications.

Lewis, who lives in Ocean Beach with her husband, Scott, their 18-month-old son, Xavier, and mixed-breed dog Cali, says the 92107 ZIP code is a "perfect fit" for family and business.

"It's a great place to raise kids," she said. "There's a little downtown with fun things to do, a cute main street and homes on the hill."

And on any given day she can get a dose of what she calls "pure happiness" — that tail-wagging, ball-chasing, wave-splashing stretch of beach that is a brand of its own.

For more information on Dog Beach Design, visit www.dogbeachdesign.com. For more information on OBMA and the 125th anniversary of Ocean Beach, visit www.oceanbeachsan-diego.com.

BAKERY

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

cot cornmeal spice (Tuesdays and Fridays).

In addition to the retail business, the bakery has started selling wholesale to a small clientele of top restaurants.

"It was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to start my own business," Perez said.

She has a degree in finance from San Diego State University and worked in the field for a decade before deciding it was time to pursue her dream.

She studied with a French baker in Minneapolis for six months, then brought him to Point Loma to consult on the bakery set-up and recipes.

When Perez opened the original space, she began baking at 4 a.m. and didn't leave until 10 p.m.

"I was surprised how much work it was," said Perez. "I thought (opening a bakery) was like entertaining your friends at home."

Today, Con Pane bakes 365 days a year with a team of bakers. The café is open daily (except Wednesdays) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Though it's closed to customers on Wednesdays, employees still bake for the wholesale customers.

Perez said she no longer has to do all the work herself. She trains, coaches and manages her staff of 30. Even so, she's in by 7 or 8 a.m. and stays until 6 p.m.

She said her employees are diverse — "like crayons." In fact, she has a quote she once copied hanging in her office: "Employees are like a box of crayons ... Some are sharp and some are dull, some are pretty and some are interesting, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box."

Like the employees, Perez said, her customers are a cross-section of San Diego, including tourists; military personnel; retired fisherman; college students; Sunday churchgoers; "lady walkers, who incorporate a stop at the bakery in their walks," and yacht owners, who stock up for weekend regattas. Perez said she kept almost 80 percent of

her customers when she moved and new ones are coming daily. She greets many of the old-timers by name.

Asked when she has time for a social life, Perez asks, "Social life? What social life?"

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Homemade Bratwurst \$14.75

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Käsehähnchen \$16.25
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Pork Schnitzel \$16.25
Pork loin cutlet, breaded and sauteed in butter

Goulash over Spätzle (no side dish) \$16.25

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Peninsula area alive with sounds of baseball action

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

“Play ball!” is being shouted all over the Peninsula these days.

It’s baseball season and, as spring approaches, the sharp sound of balls rocking off wood or metal bats and the unique “pop” of balls being gloved on a

nearby “Field of Dreams” lures viewers to take seats in bleachers and stare through chain link fences, intently savoring every pitch.

Whether it’s 4-year-old preschoolers hitting off a batting tee, high school varsity players with major league-speed fastballs or an NCAA college program, there

is a level of baseball to satisfy everyone in the Point Loma/Ocean Beach communities who enjoys the game when played in its purest form.

There is one common benefit all programs share: admission is free.

LITTLE LEAGUE

In youth programs, the players are getting younger.

Kids are now introduced to the sport at the tender age of 4. These pre-school divisions are known as “T-Ball” at Peninsula Little League (PLL) and “Bam Bam” at Point Loma Little League (PLLL), which combine to serve area youth.

Parents, many with infants in strollers, cheer on their young players attempting to hit from a tee, as youngsters field and throw the regulation baseballs. But many parents laugh heartily as small bodies and the baseball fly in no particular pattern all over the grass field. No scores or outs are recorded and there are no umpires.

The most skilled Little League players play in the “Majors” division, which covers ages 10-12. The “Minors” division at PLL (ages 9-11) is broken down into “National League” (ages 7-9) and “American League” (ages 9-11) at PLLL. All 12-year-olds at both leagues play in the “Majors” division.

Also offered at PLL is a four-team “Juniors” division for ages 13-15 and a “Seniors” league (ages 14-16). A “Big League” team (ages 16-18) begins play after the high school season, competing against teams from around the county.

The most special Peninsula baseball program is the heart-touching Challenger Division program for young people with physical and mental disabilities previously prevented from playing organized sports. Begun nationwide in 1989 by Little League Baseball officials, leaders at PLL began a local Challenger program in 2010. Open to ages 5-23 (or completion of high school), games are played at



Returning Point Loma High shortstop Justin Baker (No. 7) scores an important run during last week’s 4-3 victory at Montgomery as teammate Brandon Keenan watches. The Pointers won both pre-season games under new head coach Jesse Nunez. Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

9 a.m. on Saturdays.

Several rule modifications help create the expressions of joy and ecstasy seen on the faces of Challenger players.

The only other Challenger Division teams in San Diego County are in Mira Mesa, Rancho Penasquitos, Scripps Ranch and University City.

PLHS POINTERS

Pont Loma High School (PLHS) fields three teams in baseball. Jesse Nunez has taken the reins of the Pointer program after a previous stint at The Rock Academy. Eyebrows were raised throughout the baseball world with the hiring of former major league baseball star (and PLHS alum) David Wells as pitching coach.

Competing in CIF Div. II and the Western League, the varsity and junior varsity Pointer baseball teams play at David

Wells Field on the grounds of Dana Middle School. The freshman team, an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) program, plays at Correia Middle School.

PLNU SEA LIONS

Finally, the collegiate game on the Peninsula is represented by Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU). The Sea Lions have played in the Golden State Athletic Conference (NAIA Div. I). However, a long-awaited jump will soon take place, elevating Sea Lions teams to the PacWest League, an NCAA Div. II conference (www.thepacwest.com).

The Sea Lions’ Carroll B. Land Field on the PLNU campus overlooking the ocean claims the title of “America’s Most Scenic Ballpark.”

PLNU freshman outfielder Sergio Guerra played at PLHS last year.

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ENJOY THE COLORS & BEAUTY OF OLD TOWN

Free Living History Activities in Old Town State Park

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

Barra Barra Unveils New Menu For 2012 Kids Now Eat Free Everyday

Old Town’s Barra Barra Saloon is unveiling a new menu inspired by border town barbecue and Mexican comfort food. The new menu will be introduced Feb. 22 and will include a variety of fresh options and specials.

“This new menu adds more high quality selections of meats and fish such as Ahi tuna and flat iron steak,” said Chef Jose Pulido. “While we have kept many of our customer’s favorites and added a new twist on existing dishes, we wanted to use the excuse of the new year to launch items featuring a new style and flavor not commonly seen on this side of the border.”

Barra Barra is also adding a special kids-eat-free menu for those under 10. It’s available everyday during lunch and dinner with each paying adult.

Among the new menu options are two new salads -- a Mexican Caesar with flat iron steak and a spiced, seared Ahi tuna with white balsamic dressing. These special dishes are not typically offered in Mexican restaurants on this side of the border.

The entrees anticipated to be the biggest hits on the menu include grilled Achiote

salmon, sautéed fresh sea bass, prawns sautéed in a light butter garlic sauce and Barra Barra’s seafood paella. The chefs are also adding a “meat lover’s” fajita plate, which will include carnitas, chorizo, chicken and beef all in one serving.

Black mussels a la diablo served in a thick spicy tomato diablo sauce, promises to bring a little heat to the taste buds.

The restaurant is also including a hickory smokehouse carne section to the menu, which will offer a variety of slow-roasted meats with hickory wood. Some of the entrees will be hickory-smoked chicken, guajillo barbecue brisket and flat iron steak.

Barra Barra Saloon is a part of the Fiesta de Reyes plaza, which is located in the northeast corner of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, at the intersection of Wallace and Calhoun streets. In addition to Barra Barra Saloon, the plaza boasts the Casa de Reyes restaurant and 18 specialty stores. There is free parking every weekday after 5 p.m. and all weekend only two-blocks from the restaurant at the CalTrans headquarters. For more information call (619) 297-3100 or visit www.FiestaDeReyes.com.

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<div style="float: right; font-size: x-small;"> CONTACT INFO (must be filled out for your votes to be counted and to be entered in the drawing): Name: _____ Address: _____ City / Zip: _____ Daytime phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____ </div>		
<p>Dining</p> <p>#1 Overall Restaurant: _____</p> <p>American: _____</p> <p>Appetizer: _____</p> <p>Bagel Shop: _____</p> <p>Bakery: _____</p> <p>Bar: _____</p> <p>Bartender (Name & Bar): _____</p> <p>BBQ: _____</p> <p>Beer selection: _____</p> <p>Best chef: _____</p> <p>Best Atmosphere: _____</p> <p>Best ocean view: _____</p> <p>Breakfast: _____</p> <p>Burger: _____</p> <p>Burrito: _____</p> <p>Cafe: _____</p> <p>Catering: _____</p> <p>Chinese restaurant: _____</p> <p>Chinese take-out: _____</p> <p>Coffee shop: _____</p> <p>Comfort food: _____</p> <p>Deli: _____</p> <p>Desserts: _____</p> <p>Dinner: _____</p>	<p>Donut shop: _____</p> <p>Early bird special: _____</p> <p>Family restaurant: _____</p> <p>Fish & chips: _____</p> <p>Fish taco: _____</p> <p>French: _____</p> <p>German: _____</p> <p>Greek: _____</p> <p>Happy hour: _____</p> <p>Hot dog: _____</p> <p>Ice cream / Frozen yogurt: _____</p> <p>Indian: _____</p> <p>Irish pub/bar: _____</p> <p>Italian: _____</p> <p>Juice bar: _____</p> <p>Late night eatery: _____</p> <p>Live music: _____</p> <p>Lunch: _____</p> <p>Margarita: _____</p> <p>Martini: _____</p> <p>Mexican (fast food): _____</p> <p>Mexican restaurant: _____</p> <p>Most romantic: _____</p> <p>New restaurant: _____</p> <p>Omelette: _____</p>	<p>Patio dining: _____</p> <p>Pet friendly restaurant: _____</p> <p>Pizza: _____</p> <p>Place for a birthday party: _____</p> <p>Place to dance: _____</p> <p>Place to go on a budget: _____</p> <p>Place to people watch: _____</p> <p>Restaurant service: _____</p> <p>Restaurant with wine List: _____</p> <p>Salad bar: _____</p> <p>Sandwich: _____</p> <p>Seafood: _____</p> <p>Senior Special: _____</p> <p>Specialty/ Trademark Drink: _____</p> <p>Sports Bar: _____</p> <p>Steak: _____</p> <p>Sunday Brunch: _____</p> <p>Sushi: _____</p> <p>Take-out: _____</p> <p>Thai: _____</p> <p>Vegetarian/Vegan: _____</p> <p>Vietnamese: _____</p> <p>Wine Bar: _____</p> <p>Wine Shop: _____</p> <p>Ethnic (other): _____</p>

Summer Camps

Point Loma Arts Academy 2012- “Handspun Dreams”

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The afternoon theater program is designed for drama-loving kids ages 7 to 15 and will be performing **Peter Pan**, directed by the talented Billy Stevens. This program is limited to 30 children. Each program is 3 weeks long running from **July 9-27** and includes all supplies, daily snacks, and an original tee shirt. The fee for each program is \$400. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information call **691-804-6648** or visit our website: **PLARTS.ORG**, and register today!!!

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31. For a list of camp dates, descriptions & pricing visit Junior Theatre.com. Register early as our camps fill quickly.

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Westminster Presbyterian Preschool

Westminster is a preschool that started simply – just a mother (ex Kindergarten teacher) looking to educate her two-year-old – has matured into a local institution of sorts.

“It brings joy to my heart,” said Judy Stephens, founder of the school. “I love what I’m doing and I’m very enthusiastic about education for children.” The school offers part and full time programs for ages 18 months to 6 years of age.

Since Westminster opened, its approach has been to create a hands-on, fun experience that prepares children for kindergarten with science, language arts and math curriculums. For example, a recent lesson plan took students on an imaginary trip to Italy, complete with a plane, luggage, and even a mini-Pompeii created in the

school’s sandbox.

The summer Programs feature bimonthly themes such as Kid Olympics or Underground Adventures. Also available is “Success in Kindergarten,” a class designed for children starting Kindergarten in the Fall.

“We give the kids an ‘I Can Do’ attitude,” said Stephens. “They’re excited about school and the learning process.” This is the mindset that I want our kids to have.

For more information, call (619) 224-7403, or visit www.sdpreschool.com.

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PLHS alum puts up big numbers; Rock Academy suffers defeat in CIF hoops

SPORTS***inBrief***

PLHS grad Javey helps San Diego Surf slam LA

With the help of Point Loma High School (PLHS) Pointer graduate Anthony Javey, the San Diego Surf defeated the Los Angeles Slam 130-123 in an American Basketball Association (ABA) game played at Miramar College's Hour-Glass Arena.

Javey contributed 19 points to the Surf's winning effort and was joined in

the San Diego scoring column by David Kinder (29 points), Aaron Tinsley (24 points) and Dunnell Webb (23 points).

The Slam came into the contest rated as one of the top 10 teams in the nationwide ABA power rankings.

"Compared to our team, Los Angeles has got a ton of experience," said Surf coach Shaun Manning. "This time, we were able to disrupt them and take them out of what they do well. We need to learn from every game, though."

The Slam also features five former NBA players, including ex-Los Angeles

Clipper center Keith Closs, as well as Grammy Award-winning hip-hop artist "The Game."

— Rob Stone

Rock Academy falls to Foothills Christian

Despite getting a team-high 15 points from Jay Dutra, The Rock Academy High Warriors boys' basketball team suffered a 44-36 defeat by the Foothills Christian Knights in the CIF Div. V Finals at the University of San Diego's (USD) Jenny

Craig Pavillion on March 2.

Dutra, a junior guard, notched 12 rebounds and was followed in the scoring column by sophomore guard Jonathan Dutra (eight points), sophomore forward Holden Haskett (eight points, game-high 15 rebounds) and senior forward Keelan Elliott (five points).

Haskett also had a team-high two three-point goals for the Warriors, while Elliott added one of his own.

The Knights were paced by the performances of junior guard Nick Loudon

(15 points), senior guard Andre Johnson (15 points), sophomore guard Caleb Hoffman (eight points, team-high 12 rebounds), senior guard Joe Buenresto (four points) and sophomore forward Johnny Van Ommering (two points).

Loudon led Foothills Christian with a team-high five three-point goals and was followed by Johnson and Hoffman with three and two, respectively.

With the victory, the Knights improved to 20-11. The Rock Academy fell to 18-10.

— Rob Stone



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atric 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.

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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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Stop by People's this month, pick up a copy of our free newsletter and learn more about genetically engineered foods. While you're at the market, we encourage you to sign the petition to label genetically food, known as the "California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act." Sponsored by The Committee for the Right to Know (a grassroots coalition of consumer, public health, environmental organizations, and food companies in California) the petition is a California ballot initiative that we hope to get on the November ballot.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 4765 Voltaire Street. Please call (619) 224-1387 for more information. Visit us on the web at www.obpeoplesfood.coop

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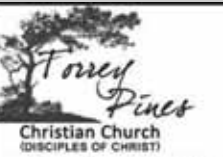
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Electricity, Humphrey's Blues Fest and a Grateful Dead tribute

LIVEMUSIC

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

The Gaslamp Quarter and Pacific Beach get much attention when it comes to nightlife, but discerning music fans know Ocean Beach and the surrounding area can more than hold its own when it comes to entertainment. From long-established venues like Winston's and The Harp to newer spots like The Shakedown Bar and Mothers, the Peninsula area offers up something musical for just about every taste. Here are a few upcoming highlights.

The Shakedown Bar is still fairly new in town, but it's made a major impact for anyone who enjoys punk rock or harder-edge music, with an amazing lineup of major indie touring acts ranging from Xene to the British band called The Business. On March 8, the venue plays host to New Jersey punk band Electric Frankenstein. Mixing punk influences like The Misfits and The Ramones with hard rock, a la Alice Cooper or AC/DC, the group blasts through its songs with manic energy and significant volume. Few groups put as much energy into their performances as this combo, but ear plugs are recommended for anyone near the stage. It's a loud and frantic show.

• **Electric Frankenstein** performs at 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 at **The Shakedown Bar**, 3048 Midway Drive. \$10. 21 and up. www.theshakedown.com

One of the most scenic venues in the city, Humphrey's Backstage Lounge is hard to beat for both sound and ambience. Boasting an eclectic booking schedule, the nightspot has become a



Electric Waste Band, the top band in the area for Deadheads, features the five-piece band playing some of its incredible repertoire of over 150 Grateful Dead songs. The band performs next at Winston's Beach Club on Mondays, March 12 and 19. *Courtesy photo*

favorite for fundraisers and other such events. If you're a blues fan, there won't be any better spot to catch a show this month when Mossy Volkswagen presents the 17th annual Blues Fest, taking place on March 10. Beginning at 6 p.m., Humphrey's stage will host many of the area's top blues players, including The Blue Note Project, The Whitney Shay Band, The Bill Magee Blues Band, Lady Star, Len Rainey and Midnight Players, and slide guitar wizard Johnny Vernazza, formerly of the Elvin Bishop Band, with more guests to be announced. Between its scenic location on the docks of Shelter Island and its amazing sound system, this is both a venue and a show that won't disappoint.

• **Blues Fest** takes place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, at **Humphrey's Backstage Lounge**, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. \$12. For more information, visit www.humphreysbackstagelive.com

One of the longest-running local residencies is held by Electric Waste Band, which appears next at Winston's Beach Club on March 12 and March 19. The top band in the area for Deadheads, every Monday night features the five-piece band playing some of its incredible repertoire of more than 150 Grateful Dead songs. Started up in 1989, all the group's members have their own musical projects. However, it's clear from their dedication to this weekly jam of the music of Jerry Garcia that the songs they play hold a special place for them. Performing with genuine enthusiasm for their chosen tribute group, if you're a fan of 1960s rock, it doesn't get better than this.

• **Electric Waste Band** performs at 9 p.m. on Monday, March 12 and Monday, March 19 at **Winston's Beach Club**, 1921 Bacon St. \$5. 21 and up. www.podunknowhere.com

One of the area's best-kept secrets is the amazing music that can be found playing the corner of Newport Avenue and Bacon Street each Wednesday as part of the weekly OB Farmers Market. From up-and-comers to established artists, shoppers at the market can find all manner of music from world to country and in between, thanks to the adventurous booking of Michael Head. On March 14, patrons will be able to catch multiple sets from world music favorites Todo Mundo. Led by Columbian guitarist Santiago Orozco, the band's energetic performances are both captivating and uplifting. Anyone wanting a mix of sunshine and good food with their musical entertainment need look no further.

• **Todo Mundo** performs at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 at **Ocean Beach Farmers Market**, Newport and Bacon Ave. Free. All ages. www.oceanbeach-sandiego.com/events/farmersmarket-wednesdays

St. Patrick's Day takes place on March 17 and, as usual, in the Ocean Beach area, party central promises to be Gallagher's. However, since St. Patrick's Day falls on a Saturday this year, the pub will be starting its celebration a day early on Friday, March 16 with music from Endoxi and DJ R2. For the main event on March 17, Gallagher's will feature drinking music with sets from Danicus, The Fooks and the Bad Blokes, and will serve up green beer and leprechauns. For those who want to get the party started early, there will even be bowls of Lucky Charms cereal, beginning at 7 a.m. They've thought of just about everything.

• **St. Patrick's Day celebration** takes place at 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 17 at **The Harp**, 4935 Newport Ave. 21 and up. www.gallagherspclub.com



Vanguard Theatre Company presents Neil Simon's comedy "Rumors" through April 1 in Point Loma. Here, actors Deb Ford, David Pearson and Clark Lampard ham it up in a scene. *Courtesy photo*

ARTSinBrief

Vanguard Theatre readies production of 'Rumors'

Westminster Presbyterian's Vanguard Theatre Company is poised to present Neil Simon's classical farcical comedy "Rumors" through April 1 in Point Loma.

The production, directed by Tom Haine, centers around four affluent couples gathered for a dinner party. They encounter comic complications after finding that the deputy mayor of New York City has shot himself through the earlobe. Was it marital violence? Attempted murder? A failed suicide?

As the confusions and miscommunications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

Performances are slated for March 16-18, March 23-25, March 30-31 and April 1. Friday and Saturday performances take place at 8 p.m., while Sunday performances begin at 7 p.m.

The shows take place at Westminster Theatre, located at 3598 Talbot St.

General admission is \$15, with tickets for students, seniors and military at \$13.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS 100

▼ calendar/events

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▼ garage/yard sales

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Sons of Norway lodge to fete 100th anniversary

Shelter Island event for San Diego hall to take place March 17

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

The Sons of Norway is one of the largest ethnic fraternal benefit societies in the world. The largest Sons of Norway Lodge in Southern California is in San Diego — Valhall Lodge 6-25. In Point Loma, a detailed legacy of Norwegian heritage is kept alive through Lucy Leon's hobby of genealogy.

Leon, and her husband, Frederick Martin Leon, who died in 2008, shared involvement in the Valhall Lodge and enjoyed travel to Norway. Frederick attended Point Loma High School, where he played football in 1943 before he interrupted his education to join the Navy during World War II.

At her home in Loma Portal, Leon's dining table is covered with books and binders, photographs and maps that trace the Leon family heritage back to 1895, when Frederick's mother, Kristine Marie Johnsen, was born one of 10 children in Skog, on the Island of Rolla, Troms, Norway.

Kristine immigrated to the United States and made her way from New York to Washington and then California, where she married Frederick Leon, a native of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Frederick Sr. was a Navy man who moved to San Diego and eventually owned a health-food store on Seventh Avenue until he died in 1995 at the age of 105.

The Leon family history is the kind of conversation that stirs pride, especially during a centennial celebration.

On March 17, the Valhall Lodge will commemorate the lodge's 100th anniversary with a gala at the Kona Kai Resort on Shelter Island.

Tickets for the gala are \$65 per person. Founded on March 24, 1912, the lodge offers the experience of Norway with rosemaling, woodcarving, cooking and Norwegian genealogy research.

Lucy and Frederick Martin Leon made three extended trips to Norway.

"We have seen more of Norway than the natives," Lucy said. "We've been from bottom to top, back and forth and all over."

During her travels, Lucy's mission was to visit and connect all of the descendants related to Kristine Johnsen and her siblings. She found them all and made oversize black scrapbook



Lucy Leon with a photo taken of her husband, Frederick Martin Leon, in 1943 when he played football for Point Loma High School before he interrupted his education to serve in the Navy during World War II.

Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

binders full of photos and genealogy for everyone, including one for her own family.

Through her efforts, Norwegian countrymen who didn't know they were related became acquainted.

Lucy and Frederick Martin Leon have five children and six grandchildren.

Their granddaughter, Mary Grace Chosn, 18, a student at Our Lady of Peace, carries on her Norwegian heritage through her involvement at the House of Norway in Balboa Park, where she has served as queen since 2010.

Lucy said her large family is multinational, with one son-in-law who is Lebanese, a daughter-in-law who is Chinese and another daughter-in-law who is Irish. Thanks to Lucy's hobby, all of their children will be able to trace some of their roots back to Norway.

For more information on the Valhall Lodge, visit www.lodgeofvalhall.com. For tickets to the 100th anniversary of the Valhall Lodge, call (619) 299-9237.

Looking ahead

Upcoming events in the Peninsula area, March 11 - March 31

SUNDAY, March 11

All Soul's Episcopal Church hosts Music on the Point, featuring Christophe Mantoux, virtuoso and professor of organ from Paris. Mantoux will perform a concert of works by Bach on San Diego's unique Baroque pipe organ. A suggested donation of \$5 is requested and a reception follows. The performance takes place at 4 p.m. at the church, 1474 Catalina Boulevard. For more information, visit www.allsouls.music@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, March 14

The Point Loma Garden Club will host its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. featuring Elizabeth Podsiadlo, the Opera Singing Chef, who has been entertaining audiences for 15 years with cooking and singing performances. She is a chef, author, teacher and musician. The event takes place at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

WEDNESDAY, March 21

The Point Loma Peninsula Republican Women hold their monthly meeting at 10 a.m. at the Point Loma Café, located at 4865 Harbor Drive. Featured will be two San Diego mayoral candidates, Carl DeMaio and Nathan Fletcher. A no-host lunch follows and visitors are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn at (619) 222-9532.

SATURDAY, March 24

The Point Loma Association will team with Point Loma Nazarene University to clean up the frontage road median on Catalina Boulevard. The cleanup will tackle trimming, weeding and trash, beginning at 9 a.m. Participants are asked to bring tools to cut and prune with, but there will be plenty of rakes, shovels and brooms supplied. Participants are asked to gather at Lomaland Drive and Catalina Boulevard. For more information, call Robert Tripp Jackson at (619) 987-1970.

For more information, call Robert Tripp Jackson at (619) 987-1970.

Local author Brittany Hudson holds a book-signing event for her new children's book called "It's Good to Share." The event takes place at 11 a.m. at Only Kidding Children's Shop, located at 3619 Midway Drive, Suite E, in Point Loma. For more information, visit www.booksare4kids.com, or call (619) 224-1475.

Friends of the San Diego River Mouth, a chapter of the San Diego River Park Foundation, meets for its regular habitat restoration project from 9 a.m. to noon at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach. Activities will include a guided-walking nature tour through four distinct habitat zones, native-plant rescue and trail maintenance. All tools and supplies will be provided. Wear work clothes and closed-toe shoes. To sign up, call (619) 297-7380 or email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org.

SUNDAY, March 25

The Ocean Beach Historical Society (OBHS) hosts its annual Wisteria Tea Party at 1 p.m. at 4761 Niagara Ave., in Ocean Beach. The event will a drawing for prizes donated by local businesses and friends of OBHS. This year's event will serve as a tribute to longtime society member Ned Titlow. Under the largest wisteria canopy in Ocean Beach, guests will enjoy delectables and live music by violinist Alicia Previn, cellist Mark Sander, singer Antonio Johnson, singer/accordionist Bill Corwin, violinist Gina James and mandolin-player Kenny James. The minimum suggested donation is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information, visit www.obhistory.wordpress.com.

SATURDAY, March 31

Melisa & Kaye's Memorial 5K Walk and Fun Run is scheduled to begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. at NTC Park at Liberty Station. The event, which includes a health fair, live music and children's activities, celebrates the lives of loved ones and raises funds to support San Diego Hospice programs. The walk and fun run begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (619) 278-6441, email walkinfo@sdhospice.org, or visit www.sdhospice.org/walk.

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Community Yard Sale Day Planned

Point Loma realtor and lender to sponsor second annual Community Yard Sale Day, Saturday, May 12. The event started last year by long time Point Loma Realtor Bob Woodard was a huge success last year, Woodard decided to make it an annual event. Woodard said, "We had nearly 50 homes that participated last year. Our goal is to double that number of participants. The event brings loads of buyers from across the county and is a great way to clear out those unwanted items and turn them into cash. Last year there were many antiques to be found and there was even a 1950 Chevy at one of the yard sales. You just never know what people will bring out to sell." It's a great opportunity for me to be able to get out and discuss home values and sales trends with Point Loma homeowners.

This year Lisa Calabotta, of Bank of America Homes Loans, has joined in to help organize the event. "With such great rates at historic lows, many people simply need to know their options and we aim to help them determine just that." Said Calabotta.

Sign up to participate in the yard sale by calling Bob Woodard at (619) 227-LIST or go to the website at www.BIGPLSALE.com

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A recent interview with Jeffrey Middaugh of Coldwell Banker, revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their San Diego County home.

Many Home Owners think they can't sell their home in today's real estate market. The fact is over 33,000 homes sold in San Diego County in 2011. The good news is you don't need to sell below market. With the right marketing plan you can sell at 2012 market prices.

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- How to sell your home without even 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 can be mailed to you

How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast! This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale. Jeffrey says the information in this report is the secret to his 20 years of 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. 654, for a free 24 hour recorded message.

There's no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!

Jeffrey Middaugh, (619) 709-1251
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POINT LOMA COMMUNITY YARD SALE DAY

Saturday May 12th

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