



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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One last winter punch ...



... and hope for a mild San Diego spring

Mother Nature unleashed her final winter fury of 2012 over the weekend, serving up cold, blustery winds that whipped across the Peninsula. The gusts, which generated high surf around the Ocean Beach Pier (captured **above** by staff photographer Jim Grant and, **left**, by amateur photographer Joe Cece), were a reminder that Mother Nature sticks to her own natural calendar, despite the onset of spring on March 20. As the storm made its exit Monday, the stage was set for what most locals hope will be a temperate spring season. **Above right**, Jim Grant captured this shot from Shelter Island of the storm making its trek to the east above the downtown San Diego skyline. The accompanying rain should fuel the growth of the Peninsula's wild sunflowers and other spring visitors planted and tended to by locals.

Photo at right by Jim Grant



Projected budget surplus lets city again tend to its own hearth

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

Mayor Jerry Sanders announced last week that the city's projected \$16.5 million budget surplus will allow the city to fully fund the beloved waterfront fire-pit program for the first time since 2009. Over the years, community organizations and private donors have stepped forward to keep fire pits available to the public while the city struggled with budget challenges.

"I'm proud to say that this is yet another example of how this city is turning the corner," said Sanders during a press conference at Mission Bay with city councilmembers Kevin

Faulconer, representing District 2 and Sherri Lightner of District 1. "San Diego can keep the fires lit itself. San Diego's 186 fire pits are an essential part of our beach culture. It's hard to imagine San Diego without them. Now we won't have to."

For more than three years, community organizations and private donors have cobbled together the funding for the annual \$120,500 upkeep of the concrete fire pits. The San Diego Foundation, working in concert with the La Jolla Community Foundation and Mission Bay Endowment Fund, helped secure anonymous donations that

SEE **FIRE PITS**, Page 7



District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer and District 1 Councilwoman Sherri Lightner take advantage of the reinstated city funding for fire pits with a sweet treat at Mission Bay on March 13.

Photo by Mariko Lamb | The Beacon

Police ramp up OB's parking enforcement

Overnight sleeping also a pre-summer target

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

As summer nears, San Diego's beach cities will be the point of destination for many travelers — especially Ocean Beach.

Though Ocean Beach lacks public campgrounds and paid overnight parking, the community continues to be a hot spot for oversize vehicles serving as a home away from home.

But that attraction is also bringing with it stepped-up law enforcement of the codes, cracking down on the nuisances and abuses.

With limited parking options, favorite places for oversize vehicle overnight parking are city-owned and/or operated parks and their adjacent parking lots, as well as residential streets around the immediate beach areas.

Two of the heavily frequented streets are the 5100 block of Saratoga Avenue and on Abbott Street. Both streets corner Saratoga Park next to the beach and next to



Converted to run on vegetable oil, this former diesel school bus with an attached trailer parked on Saratoga Avenue has prompted irritation from neighbors concerned about oversize vehicles and illegal overnight parking.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

the main lifeguard tower parking lot.

Beachfront properties with several units in that area recently sold for \$4 million, according to Sunset Pacific Realty Group, which manages property in the 5100 block on Saratoga Avenue.

Recently, some oversize vehicles

SEE **CRACKDOWN**, Page 5

PLHS students reap rewards of motivational tutoring program

Real-life street messages kindle drive to succeed

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

After five years working among San Diego gang members, Chris Yanov had seen it all: the spilled blood, the bullet-riddled bodies and the devastated families. He has stared down the barrel of a gun and stood between opposing gangs in attempts to prevent violence.

He was even stabbed once.

And after all this, he realized inner-city teens in San Diego knew more people who were victims of gang violence than people headed to college.

So when Yanov won \$23,000 on the "Wheel of Fortune" game show, he used it for a selfless purpose: he started "Reality Changers" in May 2001 and he's never looked back.

Beginning with four eighth-grade students at a church near

MAN ON A MISSION

"The mission of 'Reality Changers' is to provide inner-city youth from disadvantaged backgrounds with the resources to become first generation college students by supplying academic support, financial assistance and leadership training."

— Chris Yanov, founder and president, 'Reality Changers'



downtown San Diego, Yanov saw his organization become, by 2006, the largest provider of college scholarship awards in the county.

SEE **MOTIVATION**, Page 6



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A new wave of remote-controlled toys

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

A new surfing prototype has hit South Mission Beach and other local sand sanctuaries, delighting lifeguards and beachgoers alike with her performance of agile tricks on even the smallest of waves.

Melika is not the typical surfer girl.

At less than two feet tall, this next-generation surfer can ride the tiniest of waves and still launch five to seven feet in the air, showing off aerial surf tricks with ease. No matter how hard she falls, she always gets right back up again.

Melika is an RC Surfer — a remote-controlled surfer, that is — with a range of 300 yards, equipped with a propeller that turns at 20,000 rpm. She is mounted on a weighted board to ensure the surfer self-rights after each crash.

Australian Jason Hall invented the original radio-controlled surfing model 30 years ago after the swells on the southeastern coast of Australia went flat for a time and the natives began to get restless. In 1995, Hall's design was refined, and he launched his own radio-controlled surfer company called RC Surfer.

Longtime Midway-area resident Tom Dart first got involved in the hobby when Kyosho, a Japanese RC company, launched its own model in 2000. By 2005, however, the company no longer



Two-foot-high Melika catches air on waves near the Ocean Beach Pier. Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

produced the model, which left Dart with three broken surfers and no new parts to be had.

With a DVD from Maui RC Surfers, the modern-day innovators of the brand, Dart began building his own model — Melika — named after an old girlfriend.

He started his project with a \$20 surfboard he found on Craigslist, stripped the glass to get to the foam and got to work on his new creation.

"I had never shaped surfboards before," Dart said. "I had to learn so much. I got a how-to DVD called 'Shaping 101' and 'Glassing 101,' used YouTube a lot, and thank goodness for surfersteve.com," he said. "I also made scaled-down versions of common tools used in shaping. All this on top of the hardware installations."

Although Dart launched into a hobby that was entirely new to him, he found peace in shaping surfboard foam and a sense of accomplishment in making a "hot-rod little surfboard" out of someone else's scraps.

Throughout the project, Dart pieced together hardware from all realms of the RC world — from monster trucks to jet boats — until Melika was finally perfected.

"She is also made of surfboard foam, the scraps left over from the board glued together, glassed and painted," he said. "I think she was 16 little pieces glued together."

Dart said the six hours of sculpting Melika was "the ultimate rush," which

SEE RC TOY, Page 3



Tom Dart used multiple resources to gather materials for and assemble Melika, a remote-controlled, self-righting surfing toy. He frequently shows her off in Ocean Beach and South Mission Beach near the jetty.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon



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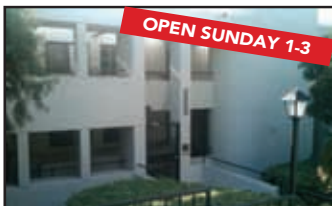


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QUICKHITS

Dillon named managing director of Malashock

The Liberty Station-based Malashock Dance has formally named Cynthia J. Dillon its new managing director. Dillon came out atop a national search for the position and will now oversee all operations of Malashock Dance.

"I am delighted to have Cynthia joining the Malashock Dance family," said founding artistic director John Malashock. "She clearly gets who we are and what we are trying to accomplish."

Now in its 24th season, the Malashock Dance School provides year-round classes, workshops and educational activities to children and adults of all abilities. The school works to advance the art and experience of dance through original pieces to create new forms of expression.

Dillon holds a Master of Arts degree in anthropology from San Diego State University, which she said gives her a unique perspective on human behavior and its cultural expression.

"Dance serves as a powerful expression of human culture," Dillon said. "It tells the human story through movement and music, drawing people into the human experience, allowing them to explore it, and encouraging them to share it with others."

Dillon's has also served as director of interpretation and visitor experience at the San Diego Museum of Man, where she worked for the last five years. She is also a member of the San Diego Junior Theatre Auxiliary Board, American



CYNTHIA J. DILLON

Association of Anthropology, the Society for American Archaeology, San Diego County Archaeological Society and SDSU's Friends of Anthropology.

Additionally, Dillon is an adjunct professor at Mesa College and has volunteered with a number of organizations, including the La Jolla Chapter of the National Charity League, Meals-on-Wheels, City Ballet of San Diego and the Salvation Army.

Dillon stepped into her new role with Malashock on March 5 and already has her eye on the future.

"As we anticipate our 25th anniversary next year, it is an exciting time to take our leadership in contemporary dance and arts education to the next level," Dillon said. "This means expanding our audience; increasing our local, regional and national impact; and sustaining our reputation for artistic and organizational excellence through exciting and innovative dance expression."

Malashock Dance School is located at 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 202.

For more information, call (619) 260-1622, or visit www.malashock-dance.org.

—Djani Schafer

Help sought to judge PLHS student exhibits

Volunteers are needed to evaluate the senior exhibition projects of Point Loma High School students.

On May 24 between noon and 4 p.m., every senior at the school will appear before a panel of four judges — ideally one faculty and three volunteers — to give a 20-minute oral presentation on a topic they have chosen.

The scores of the four judges will determine whether each student's project is acceptable and meets graduation requirements.

Volunteers will receive a briefing and a scoring rubric at a short orientation meeting that day before heading to their assigned classrooms. The rubric is also posted on the school's website at www.pointlomahigh.com.

Interested persons should contact Kris Spathas at kspathas@gmail.com.

—Scott Hopkins

Course offered in student career development

High school students sometimes have difficulty understanding the requirements and responsibilities of careers.

A Point Loma High School (PLHS) teacher is trying to help her students deepen their knowledge while defining careers they are interested in.

Leah Allen is teaching a course for PLHS freshmen called Introduction to Careers and is looking for area professionals to visit her class to share information about their work.

"I think when kids hear about different careers from people that are really in the field, they become more motivated and the career comes to life for them," Allen said.

Allen said her students have a wide range of interests, so virtually any career would be welcome.

The class is taught Mondays through Wednesdays from 12:27 to 1:18 p.m., Thursdays from 11:49 a.m. to 12:38 p.m. and Fridays from 12:17 to 1:13 p.m.

For more information, email allen@sandi.net.

—Scott Hopkins

PLHS sailing team to host fundraising car wash

Have you ever had your car washed by a national champion?

You'll have the chance March 25 when members of the Point Loma High

School sailing team scrub rides at Walgreen's Drug Store at Midway Drive and Rosecrans Street.

The event is scheduled to last from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. to raise funds for the team's regattas and activities (team members promise there is no extra charge for autographs and photos).

—Scott Hopkins

Homeless outreach group in need of freezer

The Second Chances Bread of Life ministry in Ocean Beach is in need of a freezer to continue its homeless outreach meals program.

To help, call Glyn Franks at (619) 886-4275, email secondchances-ob@yahoo.com, or visit www.feeding-america.org/GetHelpFindAnAgency/SecondChancesBreadofLife.aspx.

Don't Buy a Home Unless You've Read This Free Report

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

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

Whether you are about to buy your first home, or are planning to make a move to your next home, it

RC TOY

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

took time, numerous scraps of foam, glue, sandpaper and a photo of professional surfer Carissa Moore.

The entire project took Dart four months of hard work to complete, including time spent learning how to shape foam and glass on boards, how to make the wood fins, and vetting various prototypes to come up with the perfect model for his purposes.

Whether high tide or low tide, Dart and Melika can be seen regularly on weekdays at her favorite surf spots near Dog Beach and at South Mission Beach at the jetty.

"It's way too cool not to continue," he said. "Melika will not be alone. Nikki is on the way and Olivia will not be far behind — the RC Surf Divas."

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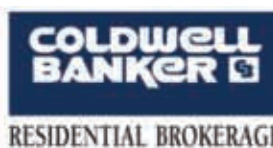
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Elaine E. Smith, 91, longtime OB resident

Longtime Ocean Beach resident Elaine Elinor Smith passed away peacefully on March 11 in Coupeville, Wash. at the home of her daughter, Elizabeth Krause.

Born in San Francisco, Elaine moved to Southern California with her family in the early 1920s, living briefly in Los Angeles, then in Vista. She proudly graduated from Vista High School in 1939. That same year, a young man came to have dinner with her family, and according to Elaine, she knew as soon as she looked at his bright-blue eyes that he was her love.

She married William Harold Smith on Nov. 18, 1939 and they settled in Ocean Beach, where they lived for most of their 55-year marriage. They welcomed their only child, Elizabeth Ann, in 1945.

Though she only had one daughter, Elaine tended to "adopt" others, and there are many men and women around the world who think of her as a surrogate mother or grandmother. She was an active member of Point Loma United Methodist Church for more than 40 years, and lovingly served her church family in many capacities, as she did the rest of her family, with equal parts kindness, generosity, wisdom and orneriness.

Elaine was an active contributor in the community. During World War II, she volunteered at Mercy Hospital as a nurse's aide. She also led Girl Scout troops, volunteered for Loaves and Fishes and the Ocean Beach Kite Festival. She walked everywhere, often carrying a homemade dish with her to various events and meetings.

The birthday cakes she baked probably numbered into the thousands. Even into her eighties, she spoke of visiting her "elderly shut-ins." She was well-known by everyone from bank tellers to meter readers for tipping with homemade cookies. Numerous babies have been warmed by her beautifully embroidered blankets and untold numbers of people have been comforted and nourished with the cups of tea, sandwiches, flowers or hugs that she offered at every opportunity. The world is a far better place for her having lived and she will be missed more than she would ever dream.

Elaine was preceded in death by her much-beloved husband, William Harold "Smitty" Smith and her sister, Wanda Mackey.

She is survived by sisters Betty Jane Lopez of Long Beach, Norma Auttonberry of Superior, Wis. and Ann Blackburn-McCarty (Harold McCarty) of

Anaheim; beloved cousin Betty Georgette Bird; daughter Liz (Elizabeth) Krause (Tim Krause) of Coupeville, Wash.; granddaughters Dawna Nolan of Los Angeles and Kelly Bullington (Andy Bullington) of Oak Harbor, Wash.; grandson William Ruh of San Diego; Kathy Vinole (Frank Vinole) of Murrieta; and John Krause (Kirsten Krause) of Concord. She is also survived

by her great grandchildren Jeremy Vinole, Quinnton "Twinkle-Eyes" Wallace, Emily Vinole, Carson Vinole, Coleman Krause and Scarlett Krause.

Services were held March 16 at Point Loma United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, Elaine requested donations be sent to Skagit Farm Supply, c/o Tim & Liz Krause, toward the cost of birdseed and deer food.



ELAINE E. SMITH

Dorothy Davis, 97, Point Loma resident, volunteer

Dorothy Olive Dale Davis, a longtime Point Loma resident, passed away on March 4.

She was 97.

She and her family lived on Atascadero Street for many years and she worked for Dr. Koontz on Cable Street. She was also in the Job's Daughters International organization and was a Pink Lady at Sharp Cabrillo Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her



DOROTHY OLIVE DALE DAVIS

husband, Cliff, and daughter Carol.

Her survivors — son Donal (wife Karen), daughter Rilla (husband Neil) and two grandchildren (Lisa and Mark) — will miss her.

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CRACKDOWN

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

have been parked in the area for several days and nights, raising concern for residents and homeowners. Among those oversize vehicles is a sky-blue, 30-foot former diesel school bus powered solely by vegetable oil and converted into a house-trailer. A 10-foot horse trailer is attached to the vehicle.

The consensus of several residents and homeowners in the area seems to be that smaller vehicles are generally not a bother, but larger campers and RVs are viewed as much more problematic.

Residents and homeowners complain of trash being raided, discarded cigarette butts littering the area, sidewalks and lawns being used as restrooms and, as one local put it, "24-hour activity, running cars, overwhelming exhaust fumes and the distinct smell of marijuana."

Another consensus is also clear. As some of the oversize vehicle owners seemingly flaunt their takeover of the streets, residents and homeowners alike wonder aloud if there is even a city ordinance against recreational vehicles in beach, park and residential areas.

The answer, of course, is yes.

Conversely, some travelers interviewed said they were baffled by the lack of options in Ocean Beach when it comes to paid parking for oversize vehicles overnight.

Among them is Patrick Kensington of Newark, N.J. He and his wife, Doris, travel the country for eight months out of the year with their 4-year-old and 6-year-old daughters and the family dog in their "camp mobile." The family is staying in Ocean Beach for the third time around.

The Kensingtons said they enjoy the scenery, the nearby beach — particularly the area around Saratoga Park that offers barbeque stations and public restrooms/showers at the lifeguard station.

Doris Kensington said the park area offers a place where her daughters and the dog can play in the mornings.

Patrick Kensington said he would prefer a more secure camp lot over street parking, however.

"We've been trying to figure out why Ocean Beach doesn't offer an overnight lot," Patrick Kensington said. "I would gladly pay a reasonable amount to have more safety at night. Other cities offer night lots for \$10 or \$15 a night. That's an affordable rate, I think."

"But, by law, I am allowed to park on these streets for up to 72 hours before any-

body can take action against me and make me move my vehicle," he said.

Interpretations of the ordinances, however, tend to put travelers and residents — and the police officers who enforce the code — at odds.

According to the city's Municipal Code (Chapter 8, Article 6, Division 0, paragraph 86.19.2), "No person shall park a vehicle for more than 72 hours on city-owned streets."

It is this point that seems to cause confusion for many people.

Sgt. Jack Knish is the on-site supervisor for the Western Division's Task Force Unit in Ocean Beach. He said this particular Municipal Code applies to vehicles owned by residents or companies on that street, not to vehicles used as temporary housing or as a residence.

As a result, travelers and overnight sleepers don't qualify as a resident or company vehicle owner on that public street, making them subject to immediate ticketing.

"People need to understand the difference," said Knish. "The 72-hour time-frame does not apply if someone lives in a vehicle and uses it as a residence. Living and sleeping in a vehicle falls under the code for illegal lodging and sleeping, and results in a citation or ticket."

Such citations are \$52.50, including city fees.

He refers to the Municipal Code (Chapter 8, Article 6, Division 0, paragraph 86.23 (f)), which says "it is unlawful to use a vehicle while it is parked or standing on any street as either temporary or permanent living quarters, abode or place of habitation either overnight or day by day."

Knish urged residents to report oversize vehicles parked on residential streets, especially when the vehicles appear to serve as housing.

"We're heavily addressing those code violations this summer before it gets out of hand," Knish said. "MCs [Municipal Codes] will be strictly enforced."

He said officers look for typical signs of inhabited vehicles.

"We look for trash by the vehicle, overflow tanks, installed A/C units and generators," he said. "Pulled blinds usually are a typical indicator of people residing in the unit."

Another problem occurs at the parks and adjacent parking lots in Ocean Beach.

The Municipal Code (Chapter 6, Article 3, Division 1, paragraph 63.0102 (12) prohibits camping, lodging and sleeping overnight on park premises. This also includes people on foot. The violation could draw a fine of \$52.50.



The police department's Task Force Team in Ocean Beach recently arrested the inhabitant of a camper at Dusty Rhodes Dog Park. The man had already shrugged off an initial warning for illegal lodging and then, after a violation that prompted a citation for charging his generator at the restroom's electrical outlet, was arrested during this third police encounter.

Photo by Bianca Koch / The Beacon

Knish explained the mission of the Task Force Team for Ocean Beach.

"First of all, we're here to help and find

solutions," he said. "Unfortunately, people [transients] make it look like we're intentionally picking on the homeless. That is not the case. We don't automatically arrest individuals just because they don't have a permanent residence."

"The standard procedure on a first encounter is for the officers to collect the individuals' personal information and further to inform about the breach of code," he said. "This is considered a first written warning, nothing more."

The Task Force Team also offers help on the spot, and can call for assistance from the department's Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) or access to local housing and rehabilitation facilities.

"Our H.O.T unit can be called to the site in less than 20 minutes," Knish said. "The second time we encounter the same individuals at the same spot or vicinity, we have to write a citation for violation of the city code. This is where people need to pay their fine or go to court if they so choose."

"Unfortunately, people often ignore the initial warning and the citation," he said. "Most likely, we run into them a third time at the same location. Then, we are obligated by law to arrest the individuals."

Knish said police would prefer to see people in that situation accepting help, rather than getting arrested and possibly having their vehicle impounded.

"The drawback is, people don't want to be helped," he said. "They rather act as if they're entitled to sleep on city property."

To learn more about city codes, visit www.sandiego.gov and go to the Municipal Code/City Clerk link.

For problems with oversize vehicles or campers blocking residential streets, call the Western Division Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (619) 692-4800.

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MOTIVATION

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

In 2009, Reality Changers became the leading tutoring program for scholarships in all of California and moved to a new headquarters building in City Heights.

Last year, the College Apps Academy was begun, offering assistance to all high school students. And with a growing staff, donor list and many volunteers, Yanov is able to offer an increasing array of services to five inner-city students free for every single full-paying member.

In the San Diego Unified School District, Reality Changers has opened a Senior Academy on three high school campuses: Lincoln, Madison and Point Loma (PLHS).

Yanov’s dream has seen his \$300

seed money become more than \$15 million in scholarships for more than 300 students.

All students must demonstrate they are motivated and willing to complete tasks like working 50 volunteer hours every year in the community and submitting to random drug testing.

Inner-city students meet at the Reality Changers building twice a week at 6 p.m. for practice on SAT testing, vocabulary and communication development, a family-style dinner, guest speakers, speech contests, leadership development and one-on-one tutoring.

The PLHS Senior Academy group, comprised of 25 seniors, received help from Reality Changers’ business professionals and community volunteers with college applications, scholarships and financial aid.

PLHS Principal Bobbie Samilson, a staunch supporter of Reality Changers,

gathered four of her seniors to share their backgrounds and how they have benefited from the organization.

• Sabahudin Redzepovic

Family background: Family relocated from Sarajevo, Bosnia to Olm, Germany where he was born in a refugee camp in 1993. After five years, they made contact with a cousin and were able to move to Louisville, Ky., where his father, using a \$10,000 grant, opened a restaurant. Later moved to San Diego in 1999 because his father had always dreamed about “living next to an ocean.” Neither of his parents went to high school and his mother grew up on a farm with “farm work as her No. 1 priority.”

College goals: Has applied to six of the eight Ivy League schools, Stanford and four UC campuses, 22 universities total. Top choice: Princeton.

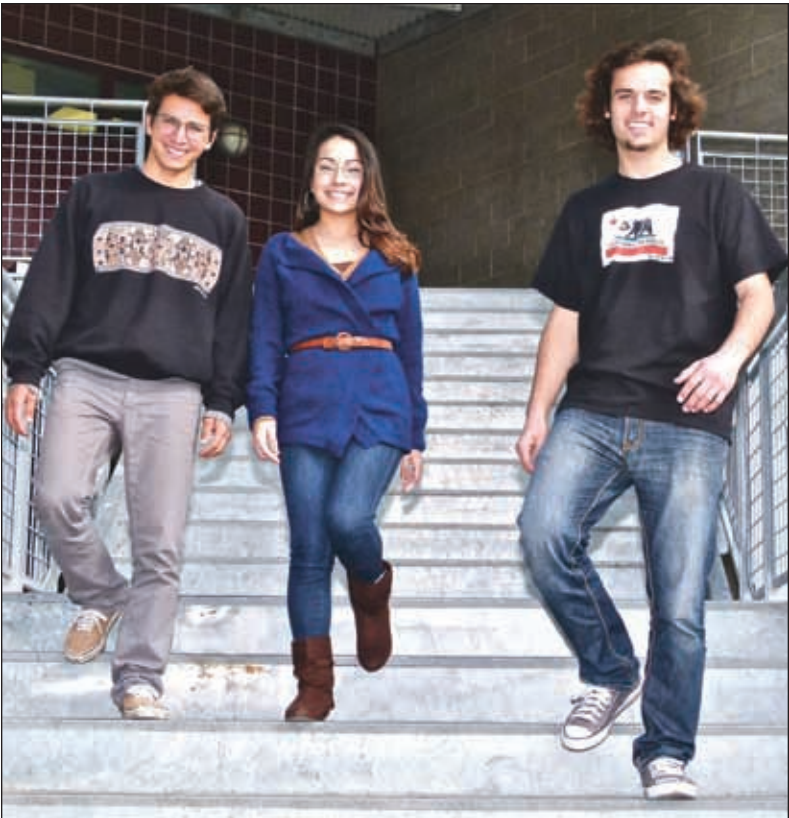
Career goal: An international diplomat or U.S. ambassador to his homeland of Bosnia.

On Reality Changers: “They helped me with the entire application process. The application is all about introducing yourself and letting them know what you can bring to that university. Before Reality Changers I had my story but they helped me put it together. Chris Yanov is one of the most modest men I have ever met. He gives himself little credit.”

• Tatiana Garcia

Family background: Mother came to the U.S. from Chile at the age of 2 when her parents were told their family may be killed by a Chilean dictator. Mexican father, born in the U.S., and mother both completed high school only. Parents divorced when she was 6. Father, uncles and cousins have gang and drug backgrounds. Credits grandmother taking her to church to help her “find my refuge with people there to support me.”

College goals: Has been accepted at



Among 25 Point Loma High School members of the “Reality Changers” program are, from left, Santiago Gonzalez, Tatiana Garcia and Sabahudin Redzepovic. Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU). Also accepted at San Diego State University (SDSU) where she is eligible for honors and presidential scholars programs. Also applied to four UC campuses, four state schools and “a few privates.” Tuition costs remain a major concern.

Career goal: Leaning toward psychology or social work “because I want to be able to give back and help people like (those in) my family. I know that nowadays helping people isn’t the best way to make money but that’s what is going to make my life.”

On Reality Changers: “My family didn’t know how to apply to colleges and

just told me ‘Do it!’ I actually cried when told I was going to be in the program. They are giving us \$2,500 worth of help, and it’s helped me so much because I didn’t have to do it alone. On our personal statements, they helped me make it a lot better. I wouldn’t have been able to do this alone.”

• Santiago Gonzalez

Family background: Mother’s family is from Mexico City. Father born in the U.S. but was in Mexico City when both met. Family lived in Florida when he was born. Neither parent completed college.

SEE YOUTH, Page 7

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YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

Parents never disciplined him with schoolwork. Cites their divorce during his freshman year as crucial at a time when he was deciding "who I was going to become" until he recovered during sophomore year.

College goals: Has been accepted at both Point Loma Nazarene University and San Diego State University. Credits a successful, college-graduate girlfriend of his father who believed in and mentored him.

Career goal: Plans to be in a helping profession, preferably a psychiatrist. "I struggled a lot my freshman year. I decided I wanted a better life for myself and to be happier. It's always intrigued me why people do the things they do and the way the mind and people work in general. It's always helped me when I talk with another person and I want to be that person."

On Reality Changers: "They really gave me the extra push that I needed. They motivated me not just on a minimal level but got personal with me. They read my story and told me it was worth hearing. They really motivated me and also helped with scholarships. I think that is why I had so much struggle, thinking about how I was going to get to college with the money issue. They let me know they believed in me and I can get out there and change the world."

• Chiara Gilbert

Family background: Mom "a very strict, traditional Italian," who played an instrumental role in becoming a motivated student. Also has Native-American and African-American background. Born and raised in San Diego, parents separated when she was three months old. Father lives in Arizona.

College goals: Plans to major in environmental policy, a career she found fas-

inating after realizing political science often focused on the past.

Career goal: Spent two weeks each at Yale and Princeton last year in summer programs.

Had a great experience at Yale that changed her perspective and opened new doors.

On Reality Changers: Her mom knew very little about the college application process having been raised in Italy. The organization opened many doors for her, including the large number of possibilities. "You get as much from the program as you put in and there are extremely capable people there to help. They guide you through every step of the process. The most difficult part of the process is writing your essay, the introspection. What makes you unique, different? I learned a lot about myself, and we laughed and cried together."



Chiara Gilbert is also among the PLHS students involved in "Reality Changers." Photo by Scott Hopkins / The Beacon

HTH robotics team wins honor, qualifies for world championships

The Holy Cows, an award-winning robotics team from High Tech High that has received national recognition for its work, demonstrated its technical prowess again this month. Competing in the San Diego regional robotics event called "Rebound Rumble" earlier this month at the Valley View Casino Center (formerly the San Diego Sports Arena), The Holy Cows earned the prestigious Chairman's Award and, by virtue of that, qualify for the For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) World Championship in St. Louis, Mo. from April 25-28.

The San Diego event challenged students to build a robot to play basketball while traversing a field of obstacles.

The FIRST organization is designed to ignite young people's passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but also to spread the message of FIRST to other people and to reach out to the community through volunteer work. Teams must be an active part of their community if they hope to win the coveted Chairman's Award, an honor more prestigious than winning the robotics competition itself.

The Holy Cows have won the award

four years in a row, including this year at the San Diego Regional. The team has now set its eyes on the World Championship Chairman's Award, having accumulated more than 4,000 community service hours this year. More than 1,000 student hours are dedicated during the six-week build season to build the robot, write award submissions and create press materials.

The team will compete next at the Silicon Valley Regional in San Jose from March 29-31. To learn more about FIRST, visit www.usfirst.org.

— Special to The Beacon

FIRE PITS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

totalled more than \$400,000 over the years.

The San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau and offices of councilmembers Lightner and Faulconer also contributed to the cause.

"Gathering around a fire pit with friends and family is part of the San Diego tradition, no matter where you live in San Diego. From roasting marshmallows to relaxing in the sand under the night sky, fire pits are where millions of San Diegans can make memo-

ries every single year," said Faulconer. "The lights will not be going out on San Diego beaches. As a proud representative of Mission Bay and many of San Diego's beach communities, my priority has been protecting and celebrating San Diego's bays and beaches for residents, tourists and for future generations."

Faulconer praised the mayor's leadership in bringing "efficiency and effectiveness to City Hall" and hailed the community's success in helping keep the tradition of fire pits alight.

"Through this leadership, combined team effort, and this fiscal reform, we are delivering results for our beaches and our bays and prioritizing services

to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans," Faulconer said. "To the San Diegans who have donated to fire pits over the years, you stood up for the amenities you love and City Hall has listened. We're going to have a great spring and a great summer, and the tradition of fire pits in San Diego will continue."

Funds from the projected surplus have already been allotted to restore library and recreation center hours, add 15 police cadets to the next police academy and replace an outdated fire station alert system with one that officials said will shave one minute off response time.

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Annual 'Hungry Dog Dash' fundraiser poised to sprint into action March 25

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

Who let the dogs out?

These Pointers dogs are members of the Point Loma High School (PLHS) cross-country team, and they're inviting neighbors to run and walk with them in a big upcoming event that promises fun for everyone.

The second annual "Hungry Dog Dash," a 5K run and walk event, takes place March 25 at Liberty Station, and organizers are promising a doggone good time for all.

Proceeds from the event will benefit PLHS cross-country team runners.

Starting at 8 a.m. from NTC Park, runners and walkers will enjoy waterfront views in this USA Track & Field sanctioned event.

There are several dash features that should leave both human and canine participants' tails wagging.

Dogs and strollers are allowed and encouraged, and participants will receive a Hungry Dog Dash T-shirt, goodie bags and dog tags. A "Poker Run" (extra fee), where persons along the course receive cards, is also planned with the best poker hand at the finish line receiving

a special prize.

Awards will go to the top three male and female finishers in each division.

In addition, a Finish Line Festival will feature music, a Community Vendor Village and PLHS Club Carnival with many clubs and organizations presenting carnival games and activities for all in attendance.

Those wishing to trot along may pre-register at www.hungrydogdash.org. An online form and instructions are posted including directions to the event venue.

Male and female divisions cover the following age ranges: 10 and under, 11-13, 14-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-plus.

Early registration has closed. However, current prices are \$30 for adults or \$35 day of event, and \$25 for ages 10-18 or \$30 day of event.

A Family Pack for an entire family includes two T-shirts and is priced at \$70, or \$80 day of event.

The "Poker Run" option adds \$10 to the cost, and for those who prefer to sleep in on March 25, an event T-shirt can be purchased for \$15 to support the PLHS cross-country team.

SD to Puerto Vallarta race features boats of note

By **MIKE MCCARTHY** | THE BEACON

The San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC) on Shelter Island has been a major facilitator of open-ocean sailing races for many years. It is also home to the oldest trophy in sailing and other international sports — the America's Cup.

For more than 50 years, the SDYC has hosted regattas to various ports in Mexico, including the popular biennial San Diego to Puerto Vallarta Regatta.

On March 1, the 31st installment of the race took to the ocean in a 1,000 nautical-mile challenge that in the past has featured such notable families as the Disneys and Scripps.

Two of the boats in the field of 15 challengers this year were of special interest.

The sailors did not have to rely on heavy winds to break the regatta's previous records and enjoyed sunny days and a full moon at night.

As expected, the LoeReal, a 60-foot trimaran skippered by H.L. Enloe of the Silvergate Yacht Club in Point Loma, was the first to cross the finish line, finishing in four days at a speed of 25 knots. Actor Kevin Costner used the LoeReal as his ocean-based home in the 1995 adventure movie "Waterworld."

The overall winner of the monohull division race was the San Diego Yacht Club's Dennis Pennell and the crew of Blue Blazes, finishing in five days, 16 hours, 5 minutes and 15 seconds.

Another boat of interest was the 47-foot sloop



The LoeReal, a trimaran favored to win this year's 31st Biennial San Diego to Puerto Vallarta Regatta from Shelter Island, once starred as actor Kevin Costner's ocean-based home in the 1995 adventure movie "Waterworld."

Photo by Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

"Katana." Katana's skipper is well-known author and radio personality Dr. Laura Schlessinger of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

For more information and finish times, visit www.vallarta.race/PV.2012 or www.sdyc.org/pv/.

PLHS readies for new turf field, amenities

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

When Point Loma High School (PLHS) seniors toss their caps skyward at the conclusion of their June 12 graduation ceremony, it will also mark the end for the well-worn artificial turf where those caps land.

And, while they will not be gone by graduation day, the line of sky blue, portable toilets behind the Pointer Stadium are also about to vanish.

And its about time for both projects, according to school officials.

After years of waiting to replace the old turf, San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) officials have given the go-ahead to completely replace the old surface with a beautiful new surface that will incorporate school logos, words and designs.

PLHS Athletic Director John Murphy is seeking input from students about which Pointer mascot drawing is preferred.

Work begins June 13 with the goal of completing installation in time for the first Pointer home football game in September.

Murphy said the old field, which is extensively used by community groups in combination with school use, was torn in a number of places. Twice in recent years, a crew has been summoned to attempt repairs by stitching pieces back together.

A SDUSD supervisor told an audience at Correia Middle School last year that the manufacturer of the PLHS field is no longer in business, but that the dis-

trict has found a new supplier whose product has been proven the best available. This company has been used to install all new turf fields at SDUSD sites in recent years.

The field was due for replacement several years ago but budgetary problems repeatedly stalled the project. In the end, Murphy said, the issue of student safety became the key factor.

The bank of blue portable toilets has been a source of embarrassment and inconvenience for visitors annually at Pete Ross Stadium. They were installed as an emergency measure when the previous restroom building was condemned by inspectors and demolition was ordered several years ago.

SDUSD officials are planning to make the Voltaire Street entrance site more attractive by constructing a combination building that will contain a ticket booth, snack bar and restrooms.

The improvements will make the new restrooms a welcome improvement, Murphy said.

But he said he also expects the new building to add efficiency to game-day operations, and parents in the snack bar should enjoy the added space and comfort, compared to the concrete dungeon where volunteers have worked for decades.

Construction on the project is due to begin in May, and guests using this entrance at the June 12 graduation will be walking through the project to access seating.

The current snack bar area will become a storage area for athletic equipment.

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Ocean Beach Coastline Circa 1940's



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Ocean Beach Coastline Circa 1940's

Musicians to band together for memorial concert

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

San Diego's music community constantly comes together to help a good cause, and that's especially true when one of those in need is a fellow musician. Such is the case with the Benefit Jam for the family of the late Jeffrey "Francois" Dixon being held on March 24 at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge.

Dixon, best known as guitarist with the band Rising Star, passed away last month. A host of musical friends will get together to throw an all-day tribute concert to help his family cover expenses. A number of San Diego's top club bands will perform, finishing off the night at 9 p.m. with a full show from Rising Star.

The event, the third of three held around San Diego, has been organized by Dixon's nephew, drummer Carleton Overstreet Jr., who will perform at the benefit with his own group, the Willovealots.

"I'm moved and I'm motivated to do the right thing by anyone who has touched me in my life," Overstreet said. "My uncle was a mentor, one of two uncles that inspired me to play music myself. Had it not been for his spirit of entrepreneurship, I don't think I would be nearly as successful as I've been where music and business is concerned. He also played a role in my family. So it was a no-brainer."

Dixon was a masterful guitarist and singer. One would have to be in a band as respected as Rising Star. While many bands are content to churn out the same old hits, this combo is particularly good on deep soul cuts and current hits, constantly adapting and adding to the repertoire. Classics by Earth Wind & Fire and Kool and The Gang are in the same set as tracks by Cee-Lo and LMFAO.

It's this fact that has helped keep them one of the top club bands in San Diego



Members of Rising Star will perform as part of an all-day tribute concert on March 24 to help raise money for the family of the band's recently passed guitarist, Jeffrey "Francois" Dixon, back row, second from left. Courtesy photo

since 1982, an amazing feat when you consider the volatility and short-lived nature of most musical projects. Notably at the same time, Dixon was also a master hair stylist and a martial arts instructor. But music was his passion. A wonderful showman, Dixon nailed the vocals and fretwork of the material, but also added choreography and the occasional comedic touch for music sets that were as much about the show as they were about getting people on the dance floor.

Overstreet is heartened by the response to the event so far.

"As is the case with a lot of musicians who are playing music for a living, they don't have health benefits," Overstreet said. "That was the case with him, so the family had to go out and do what we could to make sure the funeral service and other things were taken care of."

In addition to Rising Star and the Willovealots, performers at the show are set to include the groups Pleasure, Wild-

side, The Charlie Blue Band, Lady Star and Mystique Soul, with more guests to be scheduled.

"I've been trying to keep the exact schedule a secret from the public, so that there will be a few surprises," said Overstreet. "But this is definitely a show you want to get there early for. We've had a great turn out at the previous events and this one is going to be a lot of fun, too."

Overstreet said there was no shortage of performers wanting to take part and pay their musical respects to Dixon.

"He left a legacy," Overstreet said. "Any local musician that knew him didn't have any problem committing to these concerts. Everyone has been more than happy to help out."

• **Benefit for Jeffrey Dixon:** 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. \$12. For more information, visit www.humphreysbackstagelive.com.

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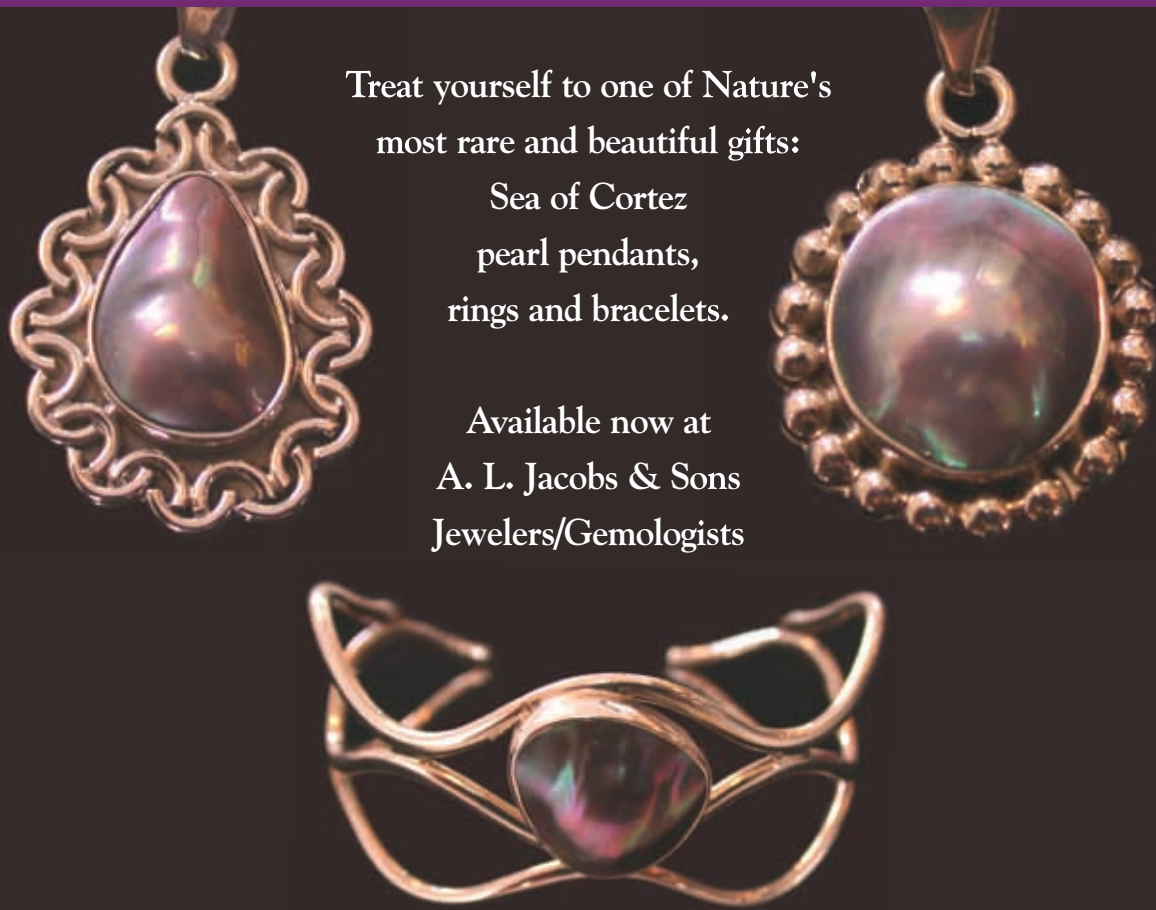
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Artist mixes 'military art' genre, abstract works; piece to be seen on Lifetime show March 29

By **BLAKE BUNCH** | THE BEACON

Shelter Island artist and resident Todd Krasovetz recently received national acclaim for his paintings in the genre of "military art." His work is on display in military hospitals and museums across the United States, and one painting in particular — "Wings of Hope" — will be seen on Lifetime Network's "Army Wives" on Thursday, March 29.

The "Army Wives" deal came about when the show's set director, Missy Ricker, saw Krasovetz's work online. Ricker was in need of some pieces for the set and had the show's attorneys send over a contract that same day. "Wings of Hope" depicts a wounded Marine being aided off of the battlefield by a Navy Corpsman and is one of his most widely publicized pieces.

Although Krasovetz has been working feverishly over the last 15 years, he remains ever the family man and patriot. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1970 while his father was stationed in the U.S. Army.

"We moved around a lot. You know, the typical 'Army brat' bit," said Krasovetz. "My brother was a corpsman for 12 years,

finished in 2008 and is thinking of rejoining. I find that my family's service and all the servicemen and servicewomen of our country are the totality of inspiration for what I do."

This inspiration is paramount in his work, which covers all branches of military service. He has three paintings displayed around Camp Pendleton, as well as one at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot adjacent to Point Loma. In addition, the Walter Reid Military Hospital in Bethesda, Md., along with the Wounded Warrior Project, will be hosting an auction of two of his pieces in May and June, respectively. The proceeds will go to the charity of the buyer's choice, and oil paintings aren't cheap.

"I have spoken with doctors whose specialty is dealing with wounded servicemen, and am shocked by the positive responses," said Krasovetz. "Having been in the situations I depict, as in the case with 'Wings of Hope,' they are able to cope and know their service is appreciated at the same time."

Veterans and their families have been most thankful of Krasovetz's work. They are seemingly drawn to the respect con-



Shelter Island artist Todd Krasovetz stands with some of his "military art" work. One piece will be seen on the Lifetime Network's "Army Wives" show on March 29. *Courtesy photo*

veyed through his paintings, which provide a certain strength that may not be achieved through dialogue.

"Hearing positive feedback from this core group is why I do this," said

Krasovetz. "If it were not for them, it would be rather difficult for me to paint."

San Diego and all of its military history provides a solid background for Krasovetz to work from, though its natural beauty

drives an abstract side as well. He maintains a studio on Rosecrans Street and said he likes to keep typical hours. With a wife and young daughter, Krasovetz said a typical day involves taking his daughter to school, working steadily for several hours and then picking her up again.

Krasovetz said he plans to have an abstract-art show in New York by the end of the year. This work is quite oppositional to the more structured, military art he paints, although Krasovetz has a few pieces with abstract backgrounds contrasting portraits of military figures.

Krasovetz was recently commissioned to paint three murals at the swanky La Bec Fin restaurant in Philadelphia and he is working on illustrations for a children's book.

"The children's book was a lot bigger project than I expected," said Krasovetz. "Working with paint, I figured that illustrations would fly off the page much easier. They have taken me longer than expected, but it has definitely been an interesting project."

For more information on Krasovetz and his work, visit www.official-military-art.com.

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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 geri-

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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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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Celebrity chef opens Gabardine in Point Loma

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

Like a refreshing ocean breeze, celebrity chef Brian Malarkey and hospitality developer James Brennan have swept into Point Loma with an innovative, new dining concept to add to their expanding repertoire of popular restaurants like Searsucker in the Gaslamp District, Burlap in Del Mar and the forthcoming Herringbone in La Jolla. The recently opened Gabardine restaurant, located at 1005 Rosecrans St., is host to an invitingly bright and refreshing atmosphere that entices guests to “gab at the bar and dine” over creative, exquisitely prepared Portuguese-style cuisine, local craft brews, carefully selected wines and trend-setting aperitif cocktails by Snake Oil Cocktail Co.

“Gabardine is different from our other restaurants in that it is a more intimate and boutique-style experience,” said managing partner James Brennan. “Food enthusiasts can expect a unique experience in a vibrant atmosphere, where new culinary adventures can be had.”

Leading the kitchen’s adventurous takes on seafood is celebrated chef Chad White, dubbed by Malarkey as the “sea urchin guru of Southern California.”

“We couldn’t be more thrilled to have Chad White leading the kitchen at Gabardine,” said Malarkey. “Seafood lovers will be seduced by this sexy, niche eatery and the outstanding cuisine White will be crafting.”

White has come up with myriad fresh offerings at the restaurant’s seafood bar, which are categorized by style of preparation — including a cold bar, hot bar, aged bar, green bar and fry bar — in addition to small bites and sides such as pickled eggs, tremocos ragout, marble potatoes and corn succotash. Chefs will also prepare whole fish, shuck oysters



Award-winning executive chef and “Top Chef” finalist Brian Malarkey recently opened Gabardine, a new, fresh seafood restaurant and bar in Point Loma. Courtesy photo

and work with live sea urchin behind a Nantucket-style, screened-in porch station inside the restaurant.

In addition to sea-, garden- and land-based menu items, chefs at Gabardine will showcase their imaginative culinary expertise with featured specials that change daily.

Malarkey and Brennan are not known for operating bland, run-of-the-mill restaurant concepts, but for pioneering cutting-edge dining establishments with innovative menu items.

And Gabardine is no different.

To create that memorable, one-of-a-kind element to their latest concept, the duo enlisted the help of Snake Oil Cocktail Co. to create inventive cocktails and aperitifs — pre-dinner cocktails that contribute an essential role in the overall dining experience. The leading mixology specialists have created standout concoctions that fuse wine-based spirits

and boutique sodas in cocktails like the Isabella with bonal, juniper lime soda and an orange twist, the Miles with maurin, bubbly, cucumber-ginger syrup and a squeeze of lemon, and Spanish-style Kalimotxo elixirs.

To complete the atmosphere, design visionary Thomas Schoos — the same interior design master of sister sites Searsucker and Burlap — transformed the 3,000-square-foot setting into a fresh-take-on-seafood establishment. Instead of tacky lobsters and seafood characters staring down at customers as they dine, Schoos constructed the interior with raw wood textures, a stone-topped bar, white doors and windows, red and white-striped seat cushions on wooden benches, and an old wood barn ceiling.

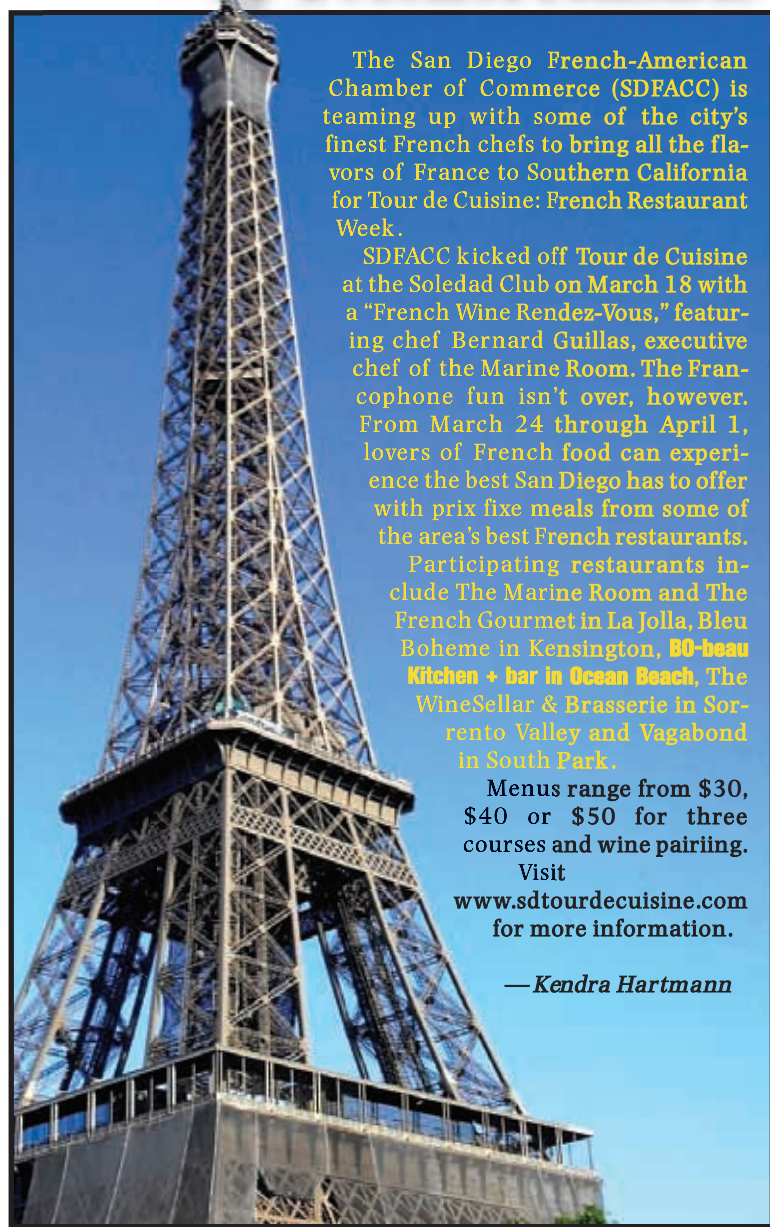
Smart design elements — like shared tables with cutout centers to catch seafood discards and hold ice buckets, lobster cases adorned with Schoos’ original paintings, and light fixtures that have been crafted from antique fishing poles — incorporate a bright Nantucket feel without overwhelming guests with over-the-top embellishments, a perfect pairing for the fresh fare offered by executive chef White and his team.

“I have many fond memories of Point Loma and am excited to be back in this cozy fishing town, working alongside Brian Malarkey,” said White. “I look forward to bringing unique, local catch to the restaurant and creating new culinary experiences for diners and seafood lovers.”

Gabardine is open for dinner Sundays through Thursdays from 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 11 p.m., and for Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch buyouts and picnic basket style lunches are also available.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.gabardine-eats.com or call (619) 398-9810.

Take a tour of French cuisine



The San Diego French-American Chamber of Commerce (SDFACC) is teaming up with some of the city’s finest French chefs to bring all the flavors of France to Southern California for Tour de Cuisine: French Restaurant Week.

SDFACC kicked off Tour de Cuisine at the Soledad Club on March 18 with a “French Wine Rendez-Vous,” featuring chef Bernard Guillas, executive chef of the Marine Room. The Francophone fun isn’t over, however. From March 24 through April 1, lovers of French food can experience the best San Diego has to offer with prix fixe meals from some of the area’s best French restaurants.

Participating restaurants include The Marine Room and The French Gourmet in La Jolla, Bleu Boheme in Kensington, **80-beau Kitchen + bar in Ocean Beach**, The WineSellar & Brasserie in Sorrento Valley and Vagabond in South Park.

Menus range from \$30, \$40 or \$50 for three courses and wine pairing. Visit www.sdtourdecuisine.com for more information.

—Kendra Hartmann

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Looking ahead

Peninsula events, March 23 - April 11

FRIDAY, March 23
Sunset View Elementary hosts its 15th annual Dinner Dance Auction, dubbed “Improving Our View,” to benefit the school, featuring a silent auction, live auction and pre-event online auction. The event takes place at the Kona Kai Resort, 1551 Shelter Island Drive. The event’s emcee is Ch. 4 TV sports personality Jane Mitchell and the auctioneer is Point Loma native Chris Cramer, co-founder of Karl Strauss Beers. A hosted bar takes place from 5 to 6 p.m. with a no-host bar following. The silent auction takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Dancing to Las Vegas-style club music takes place until 11 p.m. The event website is www.kidsfirstatsunsetview.org.dda.

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.

• **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 Kid-ding Children’s Shop, located at 3619 Midway Drive, Suite E, in Point Loma. For more information, visit www.booksare-4kids.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 include 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.

WEDNESDAY, March 28
Point Loma United Methodist Church offers free gentle yoga and chair yoga to help participants relieve pain. Classes cater to those who are not flexible and who are unable to be on the floor. The class takes place from noon to 12:45 p.m. and includes a talk about the benefits of yoga therapy. No previous experience is necessary. The church is located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. To register, email info@dharayoga.com, or call (619) 788-4838.

SATURDAY, March 31
• **Free Easter-egg hunt, arts and crafts, stories and a sing-along** at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call head librarian Christine Gonzalez at (619) 531-1539.

• **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.

WEDNESDAY, April 11
The Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library hosts a free presentation, “A Girl, A Guy and a Piano: Broadway’s Golden Age” at 7 p.m. The library is located at 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call head librarian Christine Gonzalez at (619) 531-1539.

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Sean Germon

Sean has worked in the Real Estate industry for the past 20 years with both sellers and investors. Sean's investment analysis and development of green sustainable homes out of shipping containers sets him apart from the hundreds, if not thousands of Realtors in the industry. His goal this year is to build 30 homes from shipping containers and other sustainable products.



Alexandra Germon

Alexandra worked on developing properties in 2001 and decided to focus on selling real estate in 2006. Her area of expertise is short sales. She has helped many clients negotiate with banks to avoid foreclosure. Alexandra feels that it is important for homeowners in distress know what their options are in today's market. She has a masters degree in counseling that she often find very useful when helping her clients during the most stressful times in their life. Alexandra hopes to help as many people as she can this year.



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Pacific Sotheby's International Realty's Anne Herrin Receives Award



Anne Herrin, a real estate professional with Pacific Sotheby's Realty in Point Loma has received the "2012 Five Star Best in Client Satisfaction Real Estate Agent" award for the third year in a row. The award is limited to a select group, representing fewer than 7 percent of licensed agents in the San Diego area. "I am very proud to once again receive this honor. I strive to always give my clients the best in service. I care about my client's needs and my number one goal is communication and keeping my clients updated on all aspects of a transaction," says Herrin.

Pacific Sotheby's International Realty Announces Mike Marmion as New General Manager

SAN DIEGO, CA (March 2012) - Brian Arrington, President of Pacific Sotheby's International Realty announced that Mike Marmion has joined the firm as General Manager. "Mike is a dynamic leader who has extensive knowledge and experience as a manager," says Arrington. "His proven success in training agents to reach a higher performance level will be a tremendous asset to our company."

As a 24-year veteran of the Southern California Real Estate industry, Mike Marmion brings an exceptional understanding of the trends, opportunities and issues facing buyers, sellers and real estate professionals in the diverse San Diego market. As a manager, he credits his continued success to his habit of treating real estate agents as his primary clients, enabling them to better serve their customers. "I am first and foremost a partner for my agents and I believe that the only way I can judge myself as a success is if my agents are succeeding," states Marmion. "The international network and marketing provided by Sotheby's International Realty® is far beyond what any other real estate company in San Diego can offer and I am excited to utilize these tools to help my agents reach their greatest potential."

Prior to joining Pacific Sotheby's International Realty, Marmion served as Office Manager for Prudential CA Realty and McMillin Realty. Marmion has a well-known reputation as a skilled manager who fosters an environment of support and education for the agents in the offices he has worked. Recognized in the County as a true leader, Marmion was a San Diego Association of Realtors "Manager of the Year Finalist" in 2010 and 2011.



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

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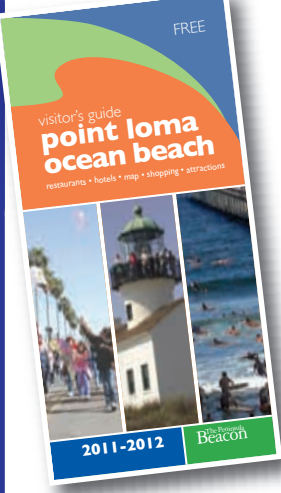


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