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## Plunging into preparedness

The Ocean Beach Pier area buzzed with excitement during the 44th annual Regional Lifeguard Academy training exercises recently. **Above**, lifeguards jump from an ASTREA (Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Areas) helicopter to simulate the rescue of a swimmer in distress. **Above right**, lifeguards pull a swimmer in mock distress onto a Jet Ski after being assisted by rescuers who dropped from the helicopter. **Right**, lifeguard candidates step off the end of the Ocean Beach Pier in a simulated rescue drill. **Below**, San Diego lifeguard Eric Meech instructs candidates about the proper technique of jumping from the end of the pier. Photos by Don Balch | The Beacon



## Border agents swoop in on panga boat loaded with immigrants in OB

By **BIANCA KOCH** AND **KEVIN MCKAY**  
THE BEACON

The vigilance of the California Border Patrol and other immigration officials paid off in the wee hours of April 16 as authorities waited in the shadows at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach for a panga boat loaded with about a dozen or so undocumented immigrants to hit the shore under cover of darkness.

As the boat named "Tatiana" beached around 2 a.m., Border Patrol and federal agents — backed by a circling helicopter and officers from the San Diego Police Department — moved in, rounded up and handcuffed several of the Mexican nationals, holding them on the sand for identification, according to authorities.

Within two hours, the undocumented immigrants were removed by Border Patrol and transported to holding facilities — including what witnesses said appeared to be two older Hispanic women and two male juveniles. As of press time, an exact count had not been formally released by federal agents. But witness estimates ranged from 12 to 15 people.

According to witnesses, the previously quiet night turned into a spectacle within seconds.

Stephanie Billings of Mission Valley said she was about to get in her car when she noticed a big group of people "coming out of the water."

"It was quiet, and before I could really wonder about the people, lights went



Federal agents detain some of the undocumented immigrants who tried to beach their panga boat at Dog Beach around 1:30 a.m. on April 16.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

## Coastal drug, human smuggling attempts keep agencies busy

By **KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI** | THE BEACON

The April 16 human-smuggling attempt in Ocean Beach is far from the first such case in the local beach communities. And it won't be the last.

Recently, federal agents converged on another panga boat in Pacific Beach with several other illegal immigrants aboard — one of whom was discovered dead.

Monday's Ocean Beach case was the latest in an ever-increasing string of human- and drug-trafficking cases being dealt with by the agency over the last few years in beach communities stretching from Point Loma to San Clemente.

The Border Patrol began tracking

SEE **SWEEP**, Page 6

SEE **TREND**, Page 6

## Garden walk to showcase Peninsula's finest floral explosions

By **DJANI SCHAFER** | THE BEACON

Spring is here and many people are just beginning to plant their gardens. The 11th annual Point Garden Walk, however, will entice gardeners, nature lovers and philanthropists the opportunity to tour the already-cultivated, gorgeous gardens of the La Playa neighborhood in Point Loma.

The self-guided walking tour starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 28. Maps will be distributed at the event's starting

point, 327 San Fernando St. Participants can choose their own pace and route.

There will be complimentary water and small snacks provided by Barons Market and other goodies like cookies from Cardamom Cafe and Bakery will be on sale. Although street parking is available, carpooling is suggested because spaces are limited and the tour can be done on foot.

"We decided to do a garden walk since our unit's members are mostly in

Point Loma," said Gail Parker, chairwoman of the Dana Auxiliary Unit of Rady Children's Hospital, which will play host to the event. "This was unique for us. It was something that our members wanted to work on. We all have gardens and like to do that sort of thing."

Each year of the garden walk features new homes in a new area of Point Loma. Each garden is as unique as its

SEE **GARDENS**, Page 6



Shown is one of the homes on this year's self-guided Point Loma Garden Walk tour, hosted by the Dana Auxiliary Unit of Rady Children's Hospital. The home emphasizes the use of drought-tolerant plants. Courtesy photo



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Will Wright, a senior at High Tech High Media Arts in Point Loma, takes his *Peninsula Beacon* with him on vacation. Here he is at the Barcelona Airport in Spain.

## ON VACATION WITH THE PENINSULA BEACON

It's vacation time! *Peninsula Beacon* readers are heading out of town and taking their favorite hometown paper with them! Don't pass up your chance to have your name and face published in *The Beacon*. Take us with you to whatever corner of the world you may be visiting and share your trip with other readers. Tell us your name and/or the names of your family members in the photo and give us a brief description of where the shot was taken. Email the photo and the information to [beacon@sdnews.com](mailto:beacon@sdnews.com). It's that easy!

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## Lack of fresh candidates eyeing board seats leaves vacancies, shoo-ins for local incumbents

Opportunities exist to get involved in molding OB's future

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

What's on your bucket list? Snorkeling with sharks? A trek to the Egyptian pyramids? Jumping from an airplane?

If holding elected office is on your list, it perhaps has never been as easy as it is right now in Ocean Beach.

When the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB) — like the 50-plus other planning boards throughout the city — held annual elections last month, only four names appeared on a ballot with seven district races. When the board holds its next monthly meeting May 2, three of the 14 chairs will be vacant, and can only be filled by appointment until next year.

"The vacancies are a concern," said former OBPB chairman Giovanni Ingolia. "We're stronger when we have 14 different voices and opinions."

At a time when, according to a poll released by the Pew Research Center in 2010, an estimated 41 percent of the public can't come up with the name of

### TO QUALIFY FOR THE OB PLANNING BOARD

To fill one of the three vacancies on the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB), potential candidates must:

- Be 18 or older and live, run a business or own property in the Ocean Beach planning area
- Attend one meeting in the last year
- Download and fill out an application from [www.oceanbeachpb.com](http://www.oceanbeachpb.com)
- Collect 35 signatures in any district with a vacancy; currently districts 3, 5 and 7 (see website for boundaries)
- Seek appointment from the OBPB.

When term is up, a candidate may only run in the district that contains the address of your business, property or residence.

• After appointment, attend a meeting known as COW — Community Orientation Workshop — or complete the workshop online. Anyone may download the hand-book at [www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cow.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cow.shtml).

— Compiled by Tony De Garate

SEE OFFICE, Page 5



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## OBMA business series highlights customer-service skills

By **PATRICIA WALSH** | THE BEACON

Ocean Beach merchants got up extra early last week for a feel-good session on how to keep the good OB vibe flowing through customer service.

Self-described “fun-ologist” Susan Clarke presented “The FUN-damentals of Believing, Achieving & Succeeding in OB.”

Her common sense, laugh-out-loud, candy-throwing seminar was a reminder for some and lesson for others on how to live life to the fullest with a positive mental spirit. Business owners nodded in agreement to Clarke’s sage advice.

“We have choices when it comes to making life positive or negative,” Clark said. “Getting out of a rut is as easy as driving a different way to work each day.”

She illustrated her point with a cartoon and caption that read “the only difference between a rut and a grave is dimension.”

All fun and games aside, Clarke is a certified behavior and values analyst who delivered useful advice to local business owners who, in addition to providing services and selling goods, are on the front lines of delivering OB’s authentic Southern California experience to residents and visitors.

Presented by Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA), the seminar was held at Electric Ladyland and is part of the OBMA’s 2012 Business Development Series and the 125th anniversary celebration of Ocean Beach.

According to Clarke, on any given day, a person receives 1,500 negative messages to 300 positive. She used the five-to-one ratio to illustrate that being positive is a choice.

“We choose to allow people to affect us,” Clark said.



Susan Clarke, left, gives Ocean Beach merchants an upbeat, practical lesson in the “FUN-damentals of Succeeding.”  
Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

“Business owners need to be cheerleaders and mentors,” Clarke said as she encouraged the group to share ideas.

She gave them a clock to make appointments to connect with other participants in the room and discuss how they keep work positive. Participants engaged and hurried about the room setting up appointments.

Dave Miles at Chase Bank said being polite and courteous helps him and a staff of 14 at the bank make each day a success.

“I always say, ‘Hello’ and ‘Thank you,’” Miles said.

One ingredient for success Clark shared with the group is to set goals.

“Think big, think outlandish,” she said. “Ask for what you want.”

Barbara Iacometti, OBMA president and owner of Details SalonSpa, attend-

ed the session with salon assistant Tyson Passey.

Iacometti, who has owned her salon for more than two decades, pointed to positive changes in Ocean Beach over the years. Her SalonSpa is located around the corner from busy Newport Avenue at 4993 Niagra Ave.

“When we first opened, there were a lot of empty spaces,” Iacometti said. “Now, the corner is busy and there’s a lot going on.”

For Passey, the seminar was a good refresher on how important it is to be positive.

“I like people with good energy and it’s important to be that good energy so others want to be around you,” Passey said.

For more information, visit [www.oceanbeachsandiego.com](http://www.oceanbeachsandiego.com).

## Stricken founder of April 22 cancer walk gives breath of hope to fellow patients

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

One inspiring cancer patient not only fights a tough battle against his own Stage 4 lung cancer, he also fights for others with the debilitating disease through his philanthropic efforts — always pushing the envelope to raise funds for research and increase awareness about the deadliest of cancers.

La Jolla resident Mike Stevens has undergone a dozen rounds of chemotherapy for six long years. Even now, as he battles new tumors that have formed in his lungs through another bout of chemotherapy, Stevens continues to fight for a cause that is near and dear to his heart — one that may one day help eradicate the cancer he deals with on a daily basis.

When asked what keeps him motivated to continue the fight, Stevens said, “Is there really a choice? If you want to live, you have to do what you have to do. I have two children in college. I don’t want to leave them without a father.”

Despite having more on his plate than most, Stevens channeled his energy into philanthropy, founding the San Diego Breath of Hope Lung Cancer Walk. The 5K walk, now in its fourth year, brings together more than 1,000 lung cancer survivors, patients, families

and friends in association with the Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA).

“It is important to participate to have our voices heard. There are very few survivors, so those of us that are still here need to be loud and vocal,” he said. “The San Diego Breath of Hope Lung Cancer Walk is an opportunity to celebrate life, meet other survivors and families, and show San Diego that lung cancer really does matter.”

Sadly, the survival rate for lung cancer has remained virtually unchanged for 30 years, he said.

“It is very low — 15 percent overall for the disease and 5 percent for those with Stage 4 like myself,” he said. “Basically, there are very few survivors to make noise and fight for increasing funding levels and the survival rate. I felt I had an obligation to fight for what I believed in.”

This year’s Breath of Hope Lung Cancer Walk takes place April 22 at Cancer Survivor’s Park, located at 4100 North Harbor Drive.

The expo begins at 7:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9 a.m. To register online, visit [www.sandiegobreathofhope.org](http://www.sandiegobreathofhope.org) or on site. Tickets are \$35 per adult and \$20 for children 12 and under.

For the full story and more details on the event, visit the *Beacon’s* home page at [www.sdnews.com](http://www.sdnews.com).

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## Blood drive for Point Loma Little Leaguer, 12, suffering from rare disorder

Wyatt Williams, a 12-year-old Point Loma boy was recently diagnosed with a rare and serious blood disorder known as aplastic anemia.

Aplastic anemia patients have lower counts of all three blood cell types, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Patients suffer-

ing from this disorder are often fatigued, at higher risk of infection and may experience uncontrolled bruising and bleeding.

Wyatt is a baseball player at Point Loma Little League and attends the sixth grade at Warren-Walker School.

A blood drive — along with other festivities — has been scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at Point Loma Little League, 1049 Catalina Blvd.

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



WYATT WILLIAMS

## Wheels in motion to establish a Point Loma community bike park

By MIKE RYAN | THE BEACON

Over the years, Peninsula-area residents have taken pride in turning leftovers into desserts. Locals saw the conversion of the end of the San Diego River flood channel into a dog beach and transformed acres of landfill at Robb Field Park into a skateboard park. Now, a group of local bike riders wants its own piece of the pie — a community bike park.

While some people may scoff at the idea of a public bike park — several attempts in Point Loma have been bulldozed — bike parks are operating successfully in Folsom, Calif.; Austin, Texas; Boulder and Ft. Collins, Colo.

The Olympics and X-Games respect the sport enough to feature BMX bike racing in its competitions. Earlier this month, the USA Cycling BMX National Championships was held at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. BMX Olympic hopefuls competed for one of five spots in the upcoming summer Olympics in London between Aug. 8 and 10. Riders raced around a 400-meter replicate BMX track like the one used in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Thanks in part to the popularity of the X-Games and the Olympics BMX bike riding has caught the attention of Peninsula-area youth. Scott Irwin, vice principal at Dana Middle School in Point Loma, is trying to peddle the idea of building a public bike park in Point Loma on the vacant lot at the corner of Famosa and

Nimitz boulevards, across the street from Bill Cleator Community Park.

"The proposed site is particularly popular with BMX riders because the unique terrain is ideally suited to riding bikes, and the dirt has a high water content that is perfect for building obstacles," Irwin said. "It is centrally located near several schools and is across from existing parking and restrooms."

Proposed landscape drawings for the bike park include picnic and observation areas, community gardens, walking paths and native plants for a "family-friendly environment."

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer is trying to set the wheels in motion by working with the San Diego Housing Commission, which currently owns the property, to transfer the site to the San Diego Park and Recreation Department for the possible bike park.

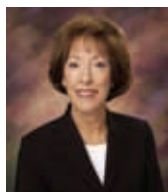
On Thursday, April 19, the bike group will present its Community Bike Park proposal to the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) and will ask for its support in changing the land designation in the community plan from multi-family housing to public park.

Irwin and his group are setting up meetings with neighboring apartment and condo complexes to field potential concerns.

— Mike Ryan spearheaded the Robb Field Skateboard Park and chairs the Park and Recreation Committee of the Peninsula Community Planning Board.



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## OFFICE

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

the vice president of the United States, it's understandable if you don't know the name of your representative on the OBPB.

But it's perhaps a bit more noteworthy to have vacancies in Ocean Beach, often considered a firebrand community with a history of citizen input, where the concept of community planning began in the 1970s.

In last month's election, the top three vote-getters — incumbents Barbara Schmidtkecht and Giovanni Ingolia, and newcomer Kelly Taing — received a modest three votes each. Incumbent Ronson Shamoun showed up the day of the election with his application and won as a write-in with two votes. District 1 incumbent Landry Watson was unable to gather the necessary signatures in time to appear on the ballot due to personal reasons and gained an appointment to his old slot at the board's April meeting. Ideally, he said he would have preferred to have an opponent for the position.

"I was honestly hoping someone else would run," Watson said after the meeting. "Democracy needs new blood and competition."

Other local planning boards also reported difficulty recruiting candidates. In the North Bay (Midway/Pacific Highway area), all eight incumbents ran unopposed. Two of the eight should have been forced out by term limits but, when no other candidates applied, they qualified for an exemption and were persuaded to stick around.

In the Point Loma area, the Peninsula Community Planning Board drew six candidates to run for five open slots. But the election drew far less interest from voters than in previous years. The top vote-getter, Julia Quinn, garnered 29 votes — or 8 percent of the total cast for last year's top winner, Norm Allenby (349 votes).

If the citizens who serve toil in relative obscurity, they take on some pretty weighty assignments. By law, development projects often must be vetted by community planning boards before they advance to the San Diego Planning Commission and City Council. As described on the city's website, planning boards are also "formally recognized" to make recommendations on land-use planning, quality-of-life issues, rezones, code enforcement issues and public facilities.

When the beach restrooms known as the Brighton Street Comfort Station were being designed, the OBPB was allowed to select the artist for the ceiling artwork, Ingolia said. The board also fought to keep certain design elements from getting scrapped when funding was an issue, like the rooftop photovoltaic cells, he said.

"To me, we're kind of like a watchdog. This is what's going on in the community and here's our take on it," said Ingolia, who was elected to his fourth two-year term last month.

Asked to explain why he first sought office, Ingolia said he was required to attend any community planning meeting and write a paper for a class in the urban planning and development certificate program at UCSD. He attended a meeting in Mission Valley and was intrigued enough to attend the next Ocean Beach meeting, this time without being forced.

He was approached after the meeting by Jane Gawronski — now the board's chair — and asked if he was interested in applying for a vacancy. In Ocean Beach, candidates have an additional requirement, uncommon among other boards, to gather 35 signatures in support of a candidacy. Ingolia, a former paperboy, said he was used to knocking on doors to hustle customers, and the requirement didn't deter him.

"I just knocked on the doors and took a little step back so I'm not invading their

## LOCAL PLANNING GROUP ELECTION RESULTS

**Peninsula Community Planning Board**  
(visit [www.pcpb.net](http://www.pcpb.net))

- Election winners: Dominic Carnevale, Bruce Coons, Tyson Hempel, Rich Possanza and Julia Quinn

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

- Meetings: Third Thursday monthly, Pt. Loma Hervey library, 3701 Voltaire St., 6:30 p.m.

**Ocean Beach Planning Board** (visit [www.oceanbeachpb.com](http://www.oceanbeachpb.com))

- Election winners: District 2, Barbara Schmidtkecht; District 3, Kelly Taing (two years), Ronson Shamoun (one year); District 5, Giovanni Ingolia

- Jurisdiction: Area west of Froude Street, north of Adair Street and south of the San Diego

river. Split into seven districts; see website for boundaries

- Meetings: First Wednesday monthly, Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave., 6 p.m.

**North Bay Community Planning Group**  
(visit [www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/-profiles/midwaypacifichighwaycorridor/agendas.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/-profiles/midwaypacifichighwaycorridor/agendas.shtml))

- Election winners: Walter Andersen, Tod Howarth, Cathy Kenton, Melanie Nickel, Joe Scaglione, Kurt Sullivan, Kristy Swanston and Mike Swanston

- Jurisdiction: Midway area and Pacific Highway Corridor.

- Meetings: Third Wednesday monthly, San Diego Community College, Continuing Education, West City Campus, 3249 Fordham St., Room 205, 3 p.m.

space, introduced myself and asked what their concerns were in the community," he said.

A sincere approach goes a long way, and the majority of those asked signed his petition, Ingolia said.

"The signature part wasn't difficult," Ingolia said. "What's great is you get to know your neighbors. It opens up a real dialogue."

Asked what characteristics she looks for in a candidate, Gawronski, a former school superintendent, said she's not par-

tial to any particular resume.

"Especially in Ocean Beach, we try to be inclusive, not exclusive," she said. "It should be people with a passion for land-use issues, a passion for the neighborhood atmosphere in Ocean Beach, and at the same time, a respect for property rights," said Gawronski, who owns property in three of the seven districts in the planning area.

The group's bylaws state vacancies must be filled within 120 days, or remain vacant until next year's election.

## Peters, Saldaña take U.S. House election bids to planners, locals

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

Scott Peters and Lori Saldaña want to represent their constituents in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they're ramping up campaigns to win the hearts and minds of Peninsula residents by starting with Ocean Beach voters.

Earlier this month, it was Democrat and La Jolla resident Peters who made his election pitch to the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB). Peters is a former two-term San Diego City Councilman and currently serves as a member of the San Diego Unified Port District Commission. He was allotted 30 minutes at the April 4 monthly meeting of the OBPB.

For those who missed that pitch, Peters will appear again tonight, April 19, at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire St., to address the Peninsula Community Planning Board. That meeting gets under way at 6:30 p.m.

Next month, it will be Saldaña's turn to meet with Ocean Beach residents up close and personal as the other prominent Democrat in the race. The former California state assemblywoman will address the OBPB during that board's next monthly meeting

May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

The two hopefuls are among the 10 candidates set to appear on the June 5 primary ballot for the right to advance to the general election in November. If any of the other eight ask for equal time to speak before the PBPB, they will likely be accommodated, said Jane Gawronski, newly installed chairwoman of the OBPB.

Because of redistricting, Peninsula citizens no longer live in California's 53rd Congressional District, where they were represented previously by Democrat Susan Davis. Since redistricting, the Peninsula west of Pacific Highway — except for a tiny square north of Sports Arena Boulevard — now is in District 52. Republican Brian Bilbray is regarded as the incumbent in the 52rd District race, though he represented the 50th District before the maps were redrawn.

Peters said he would make infrastructure, education and scientific research three of his top priorities. He said neglecting those investments has placed the middle class at risk.

To view this story in its entirety, visit the *Beacon's* home page at [www.sdnews.com](http://www.sdnews.com).

# Congratulations to the 2011 Combined Health Agencies HEALTH HEROES

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San Ysidro Health Center • *American Diabetes Association*  
Dr. Tarek Hassanein • *American Liver Foundation*  
San Diego Gas & Electric and Mike Niggli • *American Lung Association in California*  
Dr. Nasrin Mani • *American Melanoma Foundation*  
Brian Reeder • *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association*  
Dr. Robert Sheets • *Arthritis Foundation*  
Dr. Siri Martin Andrews • *Autism Society of San Diego*  
Sunroad Enterprises • *The Burn Institute*  
Dr. Michael Docherty • *Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America*  
Dr. Henry Wojtczak • *Cystic Fibrosis Foundation*  
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The Bravo Foundation • *Hemophilia Association of San Diego County*  
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## TREND

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

maritime smuggling in 2008 for the Southern California coastline and officials have seen a steady increase of smugglers coming ashore. In 2008, there were 33 reports of vessels seized and 230 people taken into custody, according to Border Patrol records. There was a slight increase in 2009, when 49 vessels were seized and 400 individuals were apprehended.

In 2010, the number of reported vessel seizures and people arrested more than doubled to 110 boats and 867 illegal immigrants taken into custody, said officials. There was another slight increase in 2011 with 122 boats seized — but fewer illegal immigrants arrested.

Agent Jerry Conlin of the U.S. Border Patrol's public relations office attributed the fewer arrests in 2011 to a shrinking number of individuals per boat and an increase in coordination between federal and local law enforcement agencies.

"Originally, [illegal immigrants] were anywhere from three to 25 people on a Panga boat and up to 2,000 pounds of marijuana [per instance], but now they are closer to 10 to 15 people," said Conlin.

Conlin also noted the wide variety of boats or vessels seized, which range from Panga boats to cabin-style cruisers, from pleasure crafts to dive scooters and even land-based vehicles or trailers used to tow

the watercraft.

Since the Border Patrol has become so familiar with the Panga-style boats coming ashore, the types of watercraft used by drug and human smugglers has begun to change in attempts to evade the Border Patrol and other authorities, said Conlin.

"The Panga boats are the most commonly used because there are inexpensive and can be obtained easily in Mexico," he said. "We are now seeing the smugglers use more cabin-style cruisers, which can be seen in Coronado, Mission Bay, Ocean Beach, Carlsbad and San Clemente areas."

Consequently, the Boarder Patrol is urging residents of the beach communities to contact the agency at (800) 854-9834 or to call 9-1-1 if they see any type of open-style fishing vessel in the water.

"A Panga boat at night is always suspicious in U.S. waters," Conlin said. Residents should call our number even if they are not sure whether or not it's a Panga boat."

According to officials, there are increased consequences for anyone involved with maritime smuggling. Conlin said any individual arrested in connection with maritime drug or human smuggling will be formally deported from the U.S. and will not be able to apply for immigration here for five years. Any person who was previously arrested for maritime crimes who tries to re-enter the United States illegally faces prison time, he said.

## SWEEP

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

on, a helicopter with searchlights appeared, divers emerged from the water and uniformed people came from everywhere," said Billings. "And police cars. It appeared like they were expecting that group of people.

"At first, I thought they were filming some kind of action movie," she said. "I've never seen anything like it. It was unreal. People were yelling and screaming, police had their weapons drawn ... and then I noticed that little nutshell of a white wooden boat floating in the water. My first thought was, 'How can so many people fit in that little thing?'"

Panga boats — or open-style fishing vessels — are commonly used for human smuggling and drug transfers from Mexico to the United States. The "Tatiana" was a two-engine panga boat measuring about 20 feet in length.

Ocean Beach lifeguards struggled to pull the "Tatiana" onto the sand with their utility vehicle, but it was finally removed on a trailer from the lifeguard parking lot in the early-morning hours.

Such boats have been washing ashore from the Sunset Cliffs and the Ocean Beach Pier area up to Mission Bay, Pacific Beach, La Jolla and shorefront points to the north with more frequency over the last few months.

Tight surveillance of the waters and the area, especially near the Ocean Beach Pier is not unusual between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m., said authorities.

With the cliffs and Mission Bay cradling Ocean Beach and a heavy south swell coming from Mexico, the pier and beach stretching from the lifeguard tower at Abbott Street north to Dog Beach and the Mission Bay/Ocean Beach channel offers a lure for illegal waterway activities originating from Mexico, said Border Patrol and immigration officials.

## News

## QuickHits

## Man stabbed in neck; suspect arrested

A 20-year-old man was stabbed in the neck April 14 after four people got into a fight near Bacon Street and Newport Avenue around 1 p.m., according to police.

During the fight, a suspect identified as 18-year-old Gibran Perez stabbed the other man in the neck with a sharp metal object, said investigators.

The victim was treated for non-life threatening injuries and Perez was arrested after the victim pointed him out to police.

## US Bank on Midway hit in holdup

The US Bank on Midway Drive in Point Loma Heights was struck by a robber using a note to demand cash on April 13, according to police.

Investigators said a white man between 40 and 50 years old entered the bank about 6:25 p.m. and gave the demand note to the teller before escaping with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect is described as about 5 feet 8 inches tall, and was last seen wearing a brown hoodie, black cap and glasses.

The police department's Robbery Unit is investigating. Anyone with information is urged to call (619) 531-2299.

## Cabrillo to celebrate National Park Week

Residents are being invited to celebrate National Park Week at Cabrillo National

Monument, with special Junior Ranger Day activities on Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme of National Park Week, which runs from April 21 to 29, is "Picture Yourself in a Park."

To make it easier to experience America's Great Outdoors, the National Park Service is waiving entrance fees, so visitors can enjoy Cabrillo National Monument and all of the other units of the National Park Service for free during that week.

The sixth annual Junior Ranger Day is April 28 and Cabrillo National Monument will host a day of activities. Visitors can participate in the new Climate Change Junior Ranger program and attend ranger-led talks and walks throughout the day. For those unable to visit Cabrillo, the National Park Service also has an online WebRanger program at [www.nps.gov/web ranger](http://www.nps.gov/web ranger).

Junior Ranger memorabilia, books, films and educational materials about Cabrillo National Monument and other national park areas will be available for purchase in The Cabrillo Store, at the park's visitor center. To learn more about the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation and how to join, visit [www.cnmf.org](http://www.cnmf.org).

## Annual Sustainable Feast at Liberty Station

The popular foodie tasting event known as Sustainable Feast returns for a second installment on Sunday, April 22 at Liberty Station in Point Loma to help raise money for the Outdoor Education Foundation's sixth-grade camp.

The event brings together San Diego's top chefs and local farms to support the initiative. Presented by Kaiser Perma-

nente, the event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will involve 11 top chefs, including internationally acclaimed culinary trailblazers who will cook onsite and educate about a variety of seasonally inspired and sustainable dishes.

Participating chefs include Chad White of Gabardine, Alex Carballo of Stone Catering + Beer Garden, Katherine Humphus of Bo Beau Kitchen + Bar and Stefano Ceresoli of Solare Ristorante & Lounge.

Music will be provided by the Teagan Taylor Trio and The Bayou Brothers.

Proceeds specifically fund outdoor camp scholarships to underprivileged students. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 per person at [www.stayclassy.org](http://www.stayclassy.org) and each ticket will allow access to all tasting tents, a raffle ticket to win several prizes (from a private suite at Petco Park for a Padres game to a golf package at the Grand Del Mar), and a commemorative cookbook with individual recipe contributions from each chef/restaurant.

For more information, email [ashley@sdoutdoored](mailto:ashley@sdoutdoored), or visit [www.facebook.com/events/253359041417675](http://www.facebook.com/events/253359041417675).

## Cancer Society thrift shop sets weekend sale

The Point Loma American Cancer Discovery Shop will help raise proceeds for cancer education and research by offering bargains from around the world on Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also on sale will be clothing, home decor, vintage and antique items.

The store is located at 3609 Midway Drive, Suite C. For more information, call (619) 224-4336. Volunteers and donations welcome.

## GARDENS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

owners, with every kind of inspiring scenery: waterfalls and fountains to outdoor rooms, canyon decks and other whimsical enhancements. The homes featured will not be revealed until the morning of the walk, but organizers said the diversity of each garden is what makes the tour so fun and fascinating.

While walking through La Playa, participants will pass Hope Community Garden.

"Here in this most lovely neighborhood, there is one whole lot that provides 16 garden plots where residents are raising food, with excess going to the San Diego Food Bank," Parker said.

New this year is the "Suzy's Zoo" corner, which will be situated in one of the featured gardens. Special items from Suzy Spafford's collection will feature loveable characters like Witzzy, the fluffy duckling. Witzzy, who is the garden walk's official mascot, will be waddling around throughout the day to say "hello" and be available for pictures.

The tour raises funds to benefit Rady Children's Hospital. Ticket sales from the annual fundraiser specifically support the Craniofacial Services Department at the hospital, which is made up of internationally recognized surgeons and doctors who treat debilitating conditions like cleft lip and other facial deformities resulting from trauma or birth defects.

The Dana Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliaries is a nonprofit organization that has been working with the Craniofacial Services Department since the group was founded. Its monthly meetings and volunteer opportunities are ideal for busy women who want to support the hospital and health center.

The group has worked under the supervision of Renee Buchhauser, a local businesswoman and artist, to create the whimsical items featured in the Point Loma Garden Walk's popular boutique.

"I love our boutique. In fact, it's getting quite a reputation," Parker said. "We work all year making things. There are handmade specialties, whimsical garden art and planters."

## Days of Fun Parade Circa 1970.



Photos courtesy Mike Akey.



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



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

## OPINIONS

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PLHS alums set to make impact on their collegiate lacrosse teams



Pointer alum Campbell Irvine is red-shirting this season for the nation's No.1-ranked lacrosse team at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Courtesy photo



Pointer alum Hunter Hirsch (No. 6 at right) celebrates scoring a goal for his UC San Diego lacrosse team against San Diego State University. Hirsch's goal wasn't enough in a 5-3 Tritons loss to the Aztecs. Courtesy photo

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Two members of last year's Point Loma High School lacrosse program have earned positions on the teams of their respective colleges as freshmen. Hunter Hirsch is currently playing for the UC San Diego Tritons while Campbell Irvine is red-shirting for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Mustangs, currently the top-rated team in the nation in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) rankings. The pair has given credibility to the Pointer program, which is beginning to show strength against longer-established county teams. Once popular at PLHS, lacrosse was brought back three years ago, capturing the interest of area youth all the way down to first-graders in a developmental

program created to feed the Pointer team. A mix of football, hockey and basketball, lacrosse is credited by many professional people as an integral part of their development. Hirsch, who played football throughout his prep career, was an original member of the reborn lacrosse program at PLHS in 2010, learning the game after never playing before. "Football taught me the value of hard work and dedication," Hirsch remembers, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn't be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Posternack. Some of their lessons still resonate with me on a daily basis." His Tritons are an MCLA Div. II team,

playing in the Southwestern Lacrosse Conference. The 34-man roster includes eight from San Diego County and players from Oslo, Norway and Singapore, Malaysia. "The people at UCSD are very motivated, intelligent and hard-working," Hirsch said, "so when you have a whole team full of those types of people, it provides a great environment for growth and improvement." Wearing jersey No. 6, Hirsch sees plenty of playing time as a midfielder on UCSD's La Jolla turf. He is second in scoring on the team with 12 goals and four assists. The Tritons currently sport a 4-6 overall record in the 13-team conference's Western Division.

SEE LACROSSE, Page 9

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Alice Alfreda

Oh wow... I found a really cute shop earlier this week in Point Loma. I was "wandering around" aimlessly in the neighborhood when I came across Alice Alfreda—I literally ran into it while driving. (No, I didn't actually hit the building itself but I did hit the curb—another story, another time...) As you all know, I love finding resale shops and am always on the look-out for bargains. Alice Alfreda offers a carefully edited collection of gently used and new upscale clothing, shoes and accessories. I spotted a fantastic black Kate Spade bag hanging on the wall for a mere \$45— and the bag was in perfect condition! The stuff here is great! It is a smaller shop which is fine as far as I'm concerned—easier to shop. I love handbags and shoes and the selection for both was excellent. Even with a small space everything was well-organized, neat and clean. I didn't feel like I had to "dig" to find things. Better yet—the girl minding the shop for the owner was friendly and helpful. I will definitely be back again!

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Pampered Pup

Point Loma's only self-serve dog wash and boutique, The Pampered Pup, is a great addition to the neighborhood. Located by the Harbor and Shelter Island, it provides a new local place to take care of your pup's needs. Washes start at just \$10 for self-service and \$20 for full-service.

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Point Loma High's Justin Baker slides safely into second base as Mission Bay High's Sam El Goual is unable to glove the throw.  
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

## PLHS splits with Bucs to open league play

Pointers put grueling non-league, tournament schedules behind for now

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Like any work in progress, the Point Loma High School (PLHS) baseball team's coaches and players expect to see continuing improvement in every game.

But when inevitable stumbles occur, teams are reminded how sports imitates life, the wisest learning from the experience and moving forward.

That's a summary of the first half of the Pointers season as a tough non-league and tournament schedule fades

in the rearview mirror with Western League competition now under way.

Consider the Pointers' first two league matches:

Exhibit A: In the April 11 Western League opener at Mission Bay, sophomore pitcher James Klueber — who was recalled from the Pointer JV squad — scattered four Buccaneer hits while the fumbling hosts' six errors handed the Pointers a 4-1 victory.

Exhibit B: Back home at David Wells Field for Friday's rematch, mental errors

and a fly ball lost in the sun's glare by Pointer fielders added a gift-wrap feeling to a 5-3 Mission Bay victory. It marked the first win by a Buccaneer squad after four years of futility against the Pointers.

The Bucs made three more errors than the Pointers, but also pounded 11 hits, several of which were lasers down the left-field line. Five of those went for extra bases, including four doubles and a triple.

Because Western League scheduling dictates teams play each other twice consecutively in a home-and-home format, the Pointers will finish 1-1 against the Bucs.

New head coach Jesse Nunez has been working with his players in an on-campus conditioning program all year during a physical education period. Now, Nunez and his staff are working hard with their players to raise batting and fielding averages while minimizing both physical and mental errors.

The mood in the Pointer dugout seems positive and upbeat as Nunez and assistants David Wells, Joe Nunez, Mike Delgado, Riley Lillibridge and John Quann banter with players about technique and strategies.

The recently expanded varsity roster includes five seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and a freshman who starts at first base (Jayson Pappas, 6'2", 200 lbs).

### Pointer statistical leaders

Batting average: Jackson Leslie, .341  
Total hits: Leslie and Justin Baker, 15 each  
Runs scored: Ryan Ament, 12  
Runs batted in: Pappas, 11  
Doubles: Ament, four  
Triples: Ament and Brandon Keenan, 1 each  
Home runs: Leslie and Pappas, one each  
Stolen bases: Leslie and Tre Howard, one each

As a team, the Pointers are batting .255, while opponents are hitting at a .306 clip.

### Remaining Western League schedule

April 20: Pointers at Cathedral  
April 23: Cathedral at Pointers  
April 25: Madison at Pointers  
April 27: Pointers at Madison  
May 9: University City at Pointers  
May 11: Pointers at University City  
May 14: Coronado at Pointers  
May 16: Pointers at Coronado

Home games are at 3 p.m. at David Wells Field, Dana Middle School, 1775 Chatsworth Blvd.

### EXTRA BASES

• Injuries and other issues prompted Nunez to bring several players up from the junior varsity level, increasing the varsity roster to 18.

• PLHS alum and former major league All-Star Wells has the undivided attention of the team's pitchers when he offers instruction, tips and advice on pitching. From his many years with National League teams (where pitchers bat) he also shares hitting wisdom. Wells uses a very positive approach, handing out praise generously to players.

• Baseball boosters have big plans for David Wells Field, including installation of some stadium seating, constructing an outfield fence, re-locating the scoreboard and more. Estimates for the projects puts the total cost in the \$350,000 range.

• The Pointer JV team, under head coach Kyle Harvey, is off to a 9-2 start while the freshman AAU team is currently 3-6 "and improving with each game," said head coach Jeff Solis.

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Sports  
Standouts

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

All-League teams for winter prep sports have been selected by league coaches. The Peninsula Beacon congratulates the following athletes:

POINT LOMA HIGH

Boys' basketball (Central League)

First Team: Kohl Meyer, senior  
Second Team: Dan Enright, senior

Girls' basketball (Central League)

Second Team: Lea Martin, sophomore

Boys' soccer (Western League)

First Team: Ruben Diaz, senior; Evan Melone, junior

Second Team: Aaron Garcia, senior; Miguel Alcantar, junior

Girls' soccer (City League)

First Team: Lily Edwards, senior; Veronica Perez, senior; Marie Laube, senior

LACROSSE

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

Hirsch is majoring in computer studies and engineering after compiling a 4.4 grade-point average at PLHS.

"The academics here (UCSD) are a huge step up from high school," he said, "and I am constantly humbled to realize how many future doctors, scientists and engineers I have the privilege of calling my friends."

Both Hirsch and Irvine credit former PLHS head coach Will Akie for their knowledge and love of the game.

"He really opened my eyes to the game," Irvine said.

For Irvine, a long-time Pointer baseball player, lacrosse was a new spring sport for him last year at this time. He took on a huge task, trying out for a national power in the MCLA Div. I Mustangs. As might be expected, the sport is popular on the San Luis Obispo campus. No less than 43 players are listed on the active roster (13 from San Diego County) while Irvine and a dozen others are in training while saving their four years of eligibility as red-shirts.

At Cal Poly "the older guys gave the rookies a pretty tough time at first," Irvine said, but soon accepted him and "taught me a lot, giving me a ton of pointers (no pun intended) to help improve my game."

Next year, Irvine, who wears jersey No. 48, will become an attacker for the Mustangs. Meanwhile, the Pointer alum has seen his Mustangs take first place in the seven-team Western Collegiate Lacrosse Conference (WCLL) with an overall record of 13-1.

"Every game means a lot," Irvine said, "because if you lose once it could be devastating to your rank."

Entering Cal Poly with a 3.8 PLHS grade-point average, Irvine is enjoying his situation.

"San Luis Obispo is a great place to live," he said, "and the people are awesome. School is challenging, but really fun and there are a lot of things to do here."

Majoring in forestry and natural resources, Irvine said he hopes to one day become a helicopter pilot — either in the military or in a firefighting role.

Irvine's Mustangs will be favored in the WCLL Final Four tournament May 5-6 and hope to earn a spot in the MCLA National Championships to be held May 14-19 in Greenville, S.C.

Both student-athletes credit PLHS for preparing them for their current challenges.

"It's an awesome school with great sports programs that prepared me for the hard work it would take to succeed here," Hirsch said.

Second Team: Taylor Hopkins, freshman; Jewell Roth, junior;

Megan O'Beirne, senior

Girls' water polo (Eastern League)

First Team: Monica Longworth, senior

Wrestling (Eastern League)

First Team: Alex Blea, senior; Keegan Bell, junior; Baily Dugdale, junior; Jovanny Sanchez, junior; Kevin Desta, senior. Desta also named "Wrestler of the Year"

Second Team: Daniel Harris, sophomore, Michael Harris, junior, Anthony Melfi, junior

HIGH TECH HIGH

Girls' basketball (Frontier North League)

Second Team: Kearrah Smith, freshman

Boys' soccer (Frontier North League)

First Team: Dimitri Goulas, senior; Matt Ripley, senior; Ivan Castaneda, sophomore

Second Team: Diego Loza, junior; Ricky Gonzalez, senior

Girls' soccer (Frontier North League)

First Team: Sophia Thomas, junior; Hannah Burns, senior; Lindsay

Felice, senior

Second Team: Alexandra Schaefer, senior; Taylor Wilkinson, junior; Shaelyn Washburn, senior

THE ROCK ACADEMY

Boys' basketball (Frontier North League)

First Team: Keelan Elliott, senior; Jonathan Dutra, sophomore; Holden Haskett, sophomore. Haskett also named "Player of the Year"

Second Team: Michell Hooper, sophomore; Jay Dutra, sophomore

Girls' basketball (Frontier North League)


First Team: Sydney Daniel, junior; Michaela Mueller; junior. Brittany Mitchell, junior. Mitchell also named "Player of the Year"

Second Team: Kelly French, sophomore

Girls' Soccer (Frontier South League)

First Team: Alexis Gonzales, junior, Madison Phillips, junior






















Second Team: Jenee Fox, sophomore, Kalissa Schmitz, sophomore, Megan Moser, freshman



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	<p>Alo <b>ALOE VERA DRINK</b> <b>\$1.89</b> 500 ml + crv</p>		<p><b>WINE CORNER</b> Crane Lake Cabernet Sauvignon '10 ...\$2.98 750 ml Red Diamond Merlot '08 .....\$6.98 750 ml Foxhollow Chardonnay '10. ....\$2.88 750 ml South Coast California Girl Big Wave '11. \$10.98 750 ml Ménage à Trois Red '10 .....\$7.98 750 ml Cupcake Chardonnay '10 .....\$8.98 750 ml</p>		<p>Proud Sponsor Sunday, April 22<sup>ND</sup> Free Entrance with Pre-Purchased Food Tickets sdjewishfoodfest.com</p>
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PRICES EFFECTIVE 4-18-12/4-24-12



# Lawrence ‘Larry’ Sheehan, longtime resident, former Scoutmaster

Lawrence Joseph “Larry” Sheehan, a 50-year Point Loma resident and former Scoutmaster, died suddenly on March 27 at his Point Loma home. He was 78.

Sheehan was born in Roosevelt, N.Y. on June 21, 1933. After graduating from Brooklyn Tech High School he attended the Merchant Marine Academy, graduating in 1955. He spent four years in the Merchant Marine, then went to work for Western Electric.

He married Constance “Connie” Beach on Dec. 29, 1962, and the couple moved to San Diego. He went to work for Univac (now Lockheed Martin) and stayed with the company for 30 years, retiring as a principal applications analyst.

They settled in Point Loma where sons Larry III and Mike were born. In 1980, Sheehan joined with his friend, Matt Masterson, to reactivate Troop 500 at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Troop 500 had existed in Point Loma from the 1950s through the 1970s.

He served as Scoutmaster of Troop 500 for seven years. Under his leadership, the troop became known for the large number of Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle Scout, including his two sons.

Troop 500 had a strong program of outdoor activities, and he developed a lifelong love of the outdoors and of hiking. He accompanied the troop on annual trips to the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River, as well as to

Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and to the Sierra, including an ascent of the 14,505-foot Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the continental United States.

The Boy Scouts presented him with the District Order of Merit in recognition of his services to Scouting.

After his retirement he developed heart problems and underwent quadruple bypass surgery in the 1990s. His doctor told him to choose a physical goal as part of his recovery, so he decided to climb Mount Whitney again.

Enlisting Masterson as his coach, he undertook a training program, and one year to the day after his heart surgery, he stood atop Mount Whitney

for the second time.

His story served as an inspiration to other heart patients.

In addition to his scouting activities, he served as president of Point Loma Little League and as a lector at St. Agnes Catholic Church.

He is survived by Connie, his wife of 49 years; sons Larry and Mike; daughter-in-law Jessie; five grandchildren; and sister Alice Whyte.

A rosary and funeral Mass was held at St. Agnes Catholic Church on April 3, followed by interment at El Camino Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Village, 1501 Imperial Ave, San Diego, 92101, or by visiting [www.svdpv.org](http://www.svdpv.org).



LAWRENCE ‘LARRY’ SHEEHAN

# Carl F. Thornton, 89, Kiwanian, pharmacist and longtime Point Loma resident



Carl Thornton is shown in 2011 during a Kiwanis International honor ceremony marking Thornton's 53-year-long membership.

Carl F. Thornton, a retired pharmacist and a 35-year resident of Point Loma, died peacefully at his home on April 5. He was 89.

Thornton was born in Morrow, Ohio on July 4, 1922 and graduated from Ohio State University in 1944 with a B.S. degree in pharmacy. He entered the U.S. Navy in May 1944 and served in the pharmacy at Oakland Naval Hospital until being honorably discharged in May 1946.

He married Zoe E. Henkle, a Navy nurse, in February 1946. They lived in Madeira, Ohio for 26 years. He was a practicing pharmacist his entire life, owning his own pharmacy, Thornton Apothecary, in Oakley, Ohio. He also served on the Madeira City Council for 14 years.

In 1972, he sold his pharmacy and moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he worked in the Tucson Clinic Pharmacy.

He and his family moved to San Diego in 1976. He obtained his California pharmacy license and worked as a relief pharmacist at numerous pharmacies throughout the San Diego area. He finally retired in January 2010 at the age of 88. Several years earlier, he had been written up in the magazine California Pharmacist as the oldest pharmacist still practicing in the state.

He was active in the Ocean Beach community and was a member of the Point Loma United Methodist Church since 1977.

He served on the boards of Loaves & Fishes and Peninsula Shepard Senior Center (PSSC) for many years, including a stint as president of PSSC. He belonged to the Kiwanis Club of Ocean Beach and served as its president in 1979.

He had earlier belonged to a Kiwanis Club in Ohio, and in 2011 he was hon-

ored by Kiwanis International as a 53-year member.

He was a life member of the OSU Alumni Association and the American Legion. He was an avid golfer who kept playing well into his 80s and was a member of the Torrey Pines Men's Club.

He was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Zoe, in 1992, and also predeceased by his companion of 14 years, Lavilla (“Billie”) Hodge, in 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Jill T. Blatchley of San Diego and his sister, Mary Brunen, of New Jersey.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Point Loma United Methodist Church or Sharp Hospice-Care.

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Chinese Restaurant

Desserts

Dinner

Enchiladas

Family Restaurant

Fish Taco

French

Frozen Yogurt

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Happy Hour

Hawaiian

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Lunch

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Mexican Appetizer

Mexican Restaurant

Mexican Seafood

Most Romantic

Nachos

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Old Town Store (located in old Town)



## Showcase to boost local music exposure on Web

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

San Diego has a vibrant music community, with plenty of opportunities for press, radio play and gigs. But where it has been surprisingly lacking is in online Internet broadcasts. There have been many attempts to shoot various concerts for the Internet, but most such programs have faded quickly.

The latest contender, "SoCal Showcase," can be a boon for the area's music fans. With in-depth interviews, as well as expertly shot, multi-camera live footage, the program is a notch above most previous efforts. Thirteen episodes are now available for viewing, shot at various locations around town. The show will now have a permanent home at Winston's Beach Club, with taping taking place each Monday from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

A labor of love, "SoCal Showcase" tapings are volunteer staffed, open to the public and have no cover, although a \$5 donation is requested for the evening's performers. Guests will find a wildly diverse bill each week.

"We're going to be open to all types of music," said showcase producer Joe Stevens. "The plan is to have shows be genre showcases, so one might feature all reggae, another one all rock and so on."

Stevens said there has been no shortage of performers asking to take part.

"Lately, I don't seem to have to do anything except sit back and wait for phone calls," Stevens said. "I have help from several local promoters and other music professionals, but the word is also spreading from artists who have already appeared on the show and enjoyed the experience. So, I don't really have to look anymore. The performers are finding us."

Artists taking part so far include



Joe Stevens is the producer of "SoCal Showcase," being taped at Winston's Beach Club on Mondays. Stevens hopes the interview and music performance showcase will take the city's music scene to another level by offering online Internet broadcasts with higher-quality content. *Courtesy photo by Steve Covault*

acoustic troubadour Josh Damigo, reggae group High Tide and punk combo Kitty Plague. A nice perk to performing at "SoCal Showcase" is that performers who draw well at their tapings have the chance to score their own headline night at Winston's.

While at the moment most of the artists fall into the up-and-coming category of performers, Stevens has his sights set higher, aiming for national and international acts — especially those that are San Diego-linked. Names to watch for on future episodes include Ocean Beach-based Slightly Stoopid and members of Switchfoot.

"I'd really like to get Adam Lambert. We're talking to his people now," Stevens said. "I'm in pursuit of more of that sort of act. I'm trying to tie in the fact that there are a lot of great musicians on the radio that got their start

on the stages of this town. It's my dream to have someone like Jason Mraz on the show. He's done so much to help the music community around the world and is an amazing, dynamic person who gives a darn, so it excites me to think about that happening."

Thirty five people work on the show, including many who also work for the local network affiliates.

"We're lucky to have such high-caliber people working on this show," Stevens said. "It helps us to turn out a professional product."

The show currently airs Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. on Time-Warner Channel 19, but will be branching out in June. At the moment, "SoCal Showcase" pulls in around 6,000 viewers per screening. While the numbers may not seem big, for a performer that's still the equivalent of a sold-out audience at a venue like San Diego State University's Open Air Amphitheatre. Those figures will likely be rising soon, because Stevens has recently struck several deals to air the show in wider markets.

"We've basically syndicated ourselves," Stevens said. "We're going to be on the Cox Network, as well as AT&T and hopefully soon after that on Direct TV."

Stevens said the local music community is better than ever and he is thrilled to be able to document it.

"I feel like it's getting stronger and, at least when everybody is around me, artists know this is about team play. We're all in this together," Stevens said. "A project like this is about everybody supporting each other. No egos or B.S."

• **SoCal Showcase** takes place at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 23 at **Winston's Beach Club**, 1921 Bacon St. No cover. 21 and up. [www.livestream.com/socalshowcaselv](http://www.livestream.com/socalshowcaselv).

## POINT LOMA SUMMER CONCERTS



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To schedule an audition time, contact Junior Stage Manager, Ellen Scott, at [erumpunch@gmail.com](mailto:erumpunch@gmail.com) or 619.269.1309.



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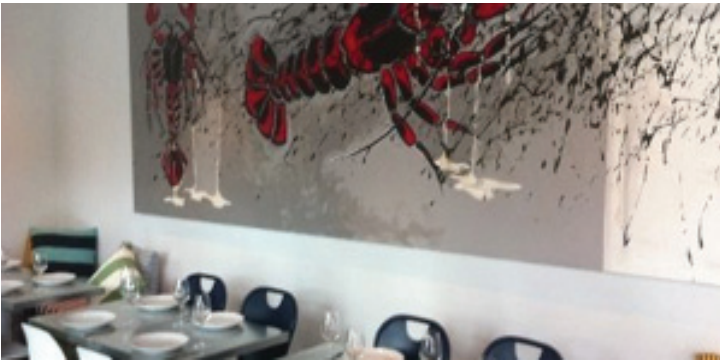
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Anna Sanfilippo, left, owner of Volare Italian Dining in Loma Portal, serves up Old World flavor with daughter, Antonella. Sanfilippo's husband, son, sister, nephew and niece also work at the restaurant. Other staff have worked there for at least a decade. Photo by Marsha Kay Seff | The Beacon

Volare blends Old World charm with sumptuous Sicilian dishes

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

The cinder-block-and-stucco exterior is as unassuming as the interior is warm and inviting. Eating at the landmark Volare Italian Dining in Loma Portal is, as they say, "like visiting family in Sicily."

And that's where the generations-old simple, traditional recipes come from, according to owner Anna Sanfilippo, a Sicilian who treats all new and time-treasured customers as family.

Her brother opened the restaurant on Barnett Avenue between Midway Drive and Jessup Lane in 1978. Sanfilippo, who followed her family to the U.S. and became a permanent resident in 1973, took the reins in 1999. She still manages the place, putting in six days a week.

A sign above the kitchen entrance claims, "Broken English Spoken Here," and Anna wears her Old-World accent with honor.

A true family affair, her daughter and a son work there, along with Anna's sister, nephew and niece. Sanfilippo's husband helps with the paperwork. The rest of the staff has become family because the servers have worked there for at least a decade.

Sanfilippo's daughter, Antonella, who has a degree in political science, used to do her homework at one of the tables. She joined the staff at 13.

Now, a consultant for the Navy, Antonella still hostesses and waits on tables two nights a week; the restaurant is just across the street from her day job. She enjoys the physical work after sitting at a computer all day.

As for working with her mom, Antonella said their only disagreements have been over policy.

"I like to stick with the rules and my mother tends to break them," she said.

Though the home-style cooking brings the customers back — fresh ingredients include a 25-pound wheel of Romano cheese cut and grated on the premises — the prices and generous portions don't hurt.

Among Anna's favorite are the pastas — "In Sicily, we eat pasta every day" — and the chicken cacciatore. Meat lasagna is on the menu for \$6.95 and the chicken for \$11.95. Pizzas are a customer favorite, with a whopping 28-inch, one-topping pie for \$21. Anna said she hasn't raised prices more than 75 cents since she's been running the place.

"You can pay for atmosphere at the fancy restaurants, but you are not going to get the feeling of home," added Antonella.

Though the brisk business strains the limited space, Anna has never set her sights on larger digs. She points out that Volare is centrally located. And with just 14 tables, she said, it's small enough to manage.

"I don't want to go big," Anna said. "That's a lot of work."

Through the years, Anna said she has done everything from cooking to washing the dishes. She has no plans to retire.

"I'm not tired," Anna said. "The restaurant keeps me busy. I'm successful and happy and nice people work for me."

She said she knows what most of her regulars will order even before they sit down.

Though many original customers are gone, Volare has a new crop of younger patrons, Anna said. Locals might drive by for years before finally stopping, she said.

"And many of them end up coming back," Anna said.

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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](http://www.BIGPLSALE.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, inter-

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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](http://www.innovativehc.com) or call us at (877) 731-1442.

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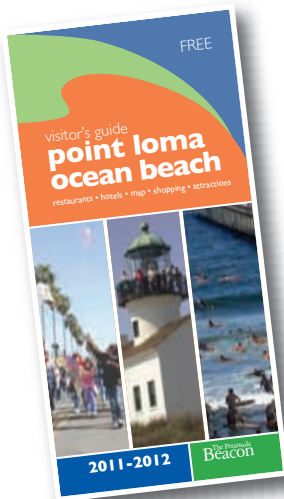
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## MADCAPS REACHES OUT TO AUTISM SPEAKS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

Members of Autism Speaks and other charities were presented with checks from the annual Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies (MADCAPS) 52nd annual Benefit Show last month totaling more than \$40,000. Accepting a donation on behalf of Autism Speaks are, from left, Emily LeBlanc, Kay Curry and Leticia Huezo. Representatives of several charities gathered at St. Agnes Church last week to receive their share of MADCAPS show proceeds.

Courtesy photo

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## PLNU business school fetes Student-Entrepreneur of Year

The Fermanian School of Business of Point Loma Nazarene University named 2011 alumna **Nitasha Stiritz** and current seniors **Arthur Cachero** and **Blake Harrison** as Student-Entrepreneur of the Year during the annual Entrepreneur Enrichment Program (EEP) Banquet on April 4.

The team received the top award for its innovative Launch Pad business plan, which will produce a web-based application to communicate critical firm startup information through enhanced video in 1-2 minutes to a prospective investor or backer.

The Launch Pad product will allow small startups to use quick and efficient tools that typically have been available to only larger firms. From the Entrepreneur Enrichment Endowment, created concurrently with the launching of the EEP in 2007, a cash award of \$2,500 was provided to the Launch Pad team.

Receiving \$1,000, including the \$500 Dave and Dorothy Latter Free Enterprise Award, was senior business student **Matt Joslyn** for his "Plane & Simple Tours" project. His business plan is to provide students with inexpensive trips and services that cater

toward their liking. By equipping all travelers with the basic tools to create their own unique adventure at low cost, he plans to attract a broader range of travelers.

The four other participating projects each received smaller cash awards. In addition, **Phil Herbig**, chief financial officer of WesPak Sales in Dinuba, Calif., received the "Inspirational Mentor Award" chosen by his peers and entrepreneurs, and the Plane and Simple Plan he co-mentored with **Robert Harp** and **Stephen Miller** will receive a \$15,000 comprehensive social media marketing plan provided by the San Diego-based firm ZBiz, founded by PLNU alum **Zach Johnson**.

The banquet represented the completion of the fifth year of PLNU's Entrepreneur Enrichment Program. The business plans this year represented a diversity of for-profit and non-profit interests from students and recent graduates from both the undergraduate and MBA programs at PLNU.

For more information on the EEP and activities and programs of the Fermanian School of Business, visit [www.pointloma.edu/Fermanian](http://www.pointloma.edu/Fermanian).

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## Announcing the 18th Annual Peninsula Beacon AMATEUR Photo Contest

### Who Has The Best Photo of the Peninsula Area?



**HURRY!**  
**Deadline for entries is Tuesday, June 19, 2012**  
Photos taken over the past year (June '11-June '12) may be entered!

Enter your best photo portraying the Peninsula area taken in the past year. Photos will be displayed at the Beacon booth during the June Ocean Beach Street Fair. The public will vote for their favorite pictures. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 photos & winning photos will be published in the Beacon.

Entries may be dropped off at:  
The Beacon Offices 1621 Grand Ave.  
2nd Floor., Pacific Beach (Above Wendy's Restaurant) or Mailed to: The Beacon ATTN: Photo Contest, 1621 Grand Ave., Ste C San Diego, CA 92109

You're Invited!



### Town Hall Meeting

**Tuesday, May 1 6:00 p.m. at the Portuguese Hall**  
**2818 Avenida de Portugal**

Meet community leaders including:

- County Supervisor Greg Cox
- San Diego Mayoral Candidates including San Diego County DA Bonnie Dumanis; U.S. Representative Bob Filner; San Diego City Councilman Carl De Maio

And learn about issues affecting your community and the region, including Neighborhood Watch, Urban Agriculture, Code Compliance, and increasing access to sidewalks and bike paths.

Come for dinner at 5:00! Enjoy selections from the Cohn Chop Sooeey food truck and purchase cocktails at the UPSES Hall bar. Here's the agenda:

5:00 - 6:00 Chop Sooeey Happy Hour

6:00 - 6:20 PLA Info Membership Meeting

6:20 - 8:00 Presentations by SD Civic leaders and Mayoral Candidates

Questions? Contact Jana Garmo at [jana@lomalaw.com](mailto:jana@lomalaw.com).

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## People in the news

### PL couple to be honored by The Preuss School

Point Loma residents Malin and Roberta Burnham will be honored on Saturday, April 21 for their longtime support of The Preuss School UCSD — a charter middle and high school for motivated, low-income students on the UC San Diego campus.

The Burnhams will be recognized at “The Preuss School Promise: Lives Transformed,” a fundraising benefit for the school and its students. The Burnhams are also longtime supporters of many other charitable causes throughout San Diego. Malin Burnham is also a member of The Preuss School Founders Circle.

After cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner follows with a musical performance by



Point Loma couple Malin and Roberta Burnham will be honored April 21 for their longtime support of The Preuss School UCSD and other charitable causes. Courtesy photo

teacher and classical mandolinist Oscar Ramos, who will play Vivaldi's Mandolin Concerto in C with Preuss music students. Ramos and the students will be

accompanied by world-renowned pianist Cecil Lytle, professor emeritus of music at UC San Diego and former provost of Thurgood Marshall College.

Speakers will include Kelly Kovacic, chair of the Social Studies Department and 2010 California Teacher of the Year, and Jawid Habib, a Preuss alumnus and current law student at UCLA. Habib is the son of Afghan refugees who fled the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and later settled in San Diego.

The benefit will also feature a live auction with a variety of items up for bid.

For more information or tables, call (858) 534-1404, or visit [www.preuss-ucsd.edu](http://www.preuss-ucsd.edu).

### Coldwell's Dawn Leahy among top SD Realtors

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Point Loma has announced broker associate and Realtor Dawn Leahy has

been named a Coldwell Banker International President's Circle Award recipient for exceptional sales productivity throughout 2011.

The distinction puts her among the top 4 percent of about 85,000 Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide. In addition, Leahy was also named a 2012 Five Star Real Estate Agent by San Diego Magazine, an award representing less than 3 percent of the 21,900 San Diego area real estate sales licensees.

Coldwell Banker officials said Leahy is a consistent top-producing veteran agent and has helped her clients protect and advance their real estate investment aspirations with an arsenal of professional real estate certifications and extended education distinctions.



DAWN LEAHY

She affords her clients expert familiarity and experience and specializes within the coastal beach communities of Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach and Mission Beach.

Coldwell Banker officials said Leahy gives back through various foundations and charities, including Thursday Club Juniors based in Point Loma. Most recently, she co-chaired a Benefit for the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, raising about \$35,000 for local cancer research.

She supports the Foundation for The Children of the Californias, serving medical needs of underprivileged children on both sides of the border. She and her husband support Oxfam America, an organization creating lasting solutions to global poverty, hunger and social injustice.

To learn more, visit [www.sandiego-selectproperties.com](http://www.sandiego-selectproperties.com) or call (619) 992-4413.

## Looking » ahead

Peninsula-area events, April 19-May 19

### THURSDAY, April 19

• **The Ocean Beach Historical Society presents speaker Richard Dhu, program manager for the San Diego River Park Foundation.** Dhu's topic will be “A Tour of the Historic San Diego River.” The presentation takes place at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit [www.obhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.obhistory.wordpress.com).

• **The Point Loma United Methodist Church hosts a free “Intro to Gentle Yoga” event** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. This is a gentle yoga for all levels of physical ability, including seniors and those with special conditions. To register, call (619) 788-4838, or email [info@dharayoga.com](mailto:info@dharayoga.com).

### April 20-21

**The Point Loma American Cancer Discovery Shop** will help raise proceeds for cancer education and research by **offering bargains from around the world on Friday, April 20** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and **Saturday, April 21** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also on sale will be clothing, home decor, vintage and antique items. For more information, call (619) 224-4336. Volunteers and donations welcome.

### SATURDAY, April 21

• **Father Joe's Villages Fiesta de Flores 29th annual Children's Charity Dinner to benefit homeless children and teens** of St. Vincent de Paul Village and Tous-saint Academy. The event takes place at the Kona Kai Resort, 1551 Shelter Island Drive. Dockside cocktail hour and a silent auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by and the music of Society Beat at 8 p.m. Attire is black tie or fiesta finery. Individual tickets range from \$300 to \$1,000; tables for 10 range from \$3,000 to \$10,000. Village Ladies Guild members and one guest are admitted for \$250; young professionals are admitted for \$200. For information or to register, call (619) 446-2108, or visit [www.my.neighbor.org/fiestade-flores](http://www.my.neighbor.org/fiestade-flores).

• **Sacred Heart Academy hosts a book fair** from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Bookstar Barnes & Noble, 3150 Rosecrans Place. Proceeds help support the students of

Ocean Beach's Sacred Heart Academy. For more information, visit [www.s-h-a.org](http://www.s-h-a.org).

### WEDNESDAY, April 25

**The Point Loma United Methodist Church hosts a free program, “Yoga for Depression, Anxiety and Grief”** from noon to 12:45 p.m. at the church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Yoga can soothe depression, anxiety and grief regardless of flexibility or ability to be on the floor. No previous experience is necessary. To register, call (619) 788-4838, or email [info@dharayoga.com](mailto:info@dharayoga.com).

### FRIDAY, April 27

**Sacred Heart Academy's free art show** at 6 p.m. at the church, 4776 Saratoga Ave. The community is welcome to admire the art work of Sacred Heart Academy students, enjoy refreshments and listen to music. For more information, visit [www.s-h-a.org](http://www.s-h-a.org).

### SATURDAY, April 28

**The Dana Unit of Rady Children's Hospital Auxiliary presents the 11th annual Point Loma Garden Walk** to benefit the hospital's Craniofacial Services Department. The walk, which takes place in the elegant La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event also showcases local artisans and features a special plant sale. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online or at various merchant outlets. For tickets or information, call (619) 518-8663, email [info@point-lomagardenwalk.com](mailto:info@point-lomagardenwalk.com) or visit [www.pointlomagardenwalk.com](http://www.pointlomagardenwalk.com).

### SATURDAY, May 19

**The Point Loma Garden Club hosts its annual plant sale** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. The event takes place at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot St. Heirloom tomatoes, vegetables and herbs, stunning, exotic plants, succulent container plants, and many, drought-tolerant landscape plants will be for sale at reasonable prices. A Garden Boutique will be filled with specialty and one-of-a-kind items, including mini-succulent containers and fairy gardens. Master Gardeners will provide information on planting, pest control and answer questions. Club Cafe will serve coffee and sell home-baked goods. The plant sale will be held in conjunction the San Diego Floral Association's Historic Garden Tour. For information on the plant sale, visit [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org). For garden tour information and tickets, visit [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org).




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### SEND US YOUR ORGANIZATION'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If your group or organization has an event coming up that you would like published in the “Looking Ahead” calendar feature, send a brief summary of the who, what, where, when, why, how to [beacon@sdnews.com](mailto:beacon@sdnews.com) and be sure to include a phone number and/or website address for readers to get more information. To increase the likelihood of your event being published in “Looking Ahead,” submit items at least one week prior the next publication date of *The Peninsula Beacon*.





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