



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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An exterior view of the new "comfort station" restrooms and showers near Dog Beach on Brighton Street.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

Custom-designed 'comfort station' reopens in Ocean Beach



An inside view of the new comfort station shows the facility's ceiling that is covered by Ocean Beach-inspired art by former OB resident Shinpei Takeda.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

By KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

The wait is finally over for Ocean Beach residents and visitors to the Dog Beach area, who have been without a permanent restroom and shower facility since the previous so-called "comfort station" was demolished three years ago.

The rebuild project, which has endured a confusing and messy bid process and then a botched reopening date in late May for the Memorial Day weekend, culminated July 2 when District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer — flanked by community leaders and city representatives — officially cut the ceremonial ribbon to signal the facility's rebirth.

The nearly \$1.2 million, custom-built comfort station has opened to early raves from observers, who applauded the locally-designed architecture and the facility's ceiling that is covered in Ocean Beach-inspired art. The facility also features three showers, six toilets and bike racks.

Among those obviously pleased with the final result was Faulconer himself.

"Today, we officially open a new restroom and shower facility that will make it easier for families, residents and visitors to enjoy the beach," said Faulconer. "Completed in time for the Fourth of July

SEE RESTROOMS, Page 5

'Big Bay Boo-Boo' disappointment may ignite redux

By KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

After the embarrassment of the botched 'Big Bay Boom' fireworks display around San Diego Bay that left an estimated half-million spectators scratching their heads in wonder on the Fourth of July, officials with the title sponsor Unified Port of San Diego repeatedly apologized for the operator's technical malfunction that shortened the planned 16 1/2-minute show to just a few seconds.



A barge at Shelter Island — one of five locations for the Port District's "Big Bay Boom" Fourth of July fireworks display — erupts in pyrotechnics all in one fell swoop, apparently due to a computer glitch.

Photo by Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

The show, which cost an estimated \$400,000 to produce, includes four barges around San Diego Bay, as well as a fifth location at the Imperial Beach Pier. One of the barge locations is at Shelter Island with another at Harbor Island. The Port District contracts the pyrotechnics show and related services to event producer, H.P. Purdon & Company, Inc., which, in turn, contracted with Garden State Fireworks, Inc. for the pyrotechnics display.

The New Jersey-based Garden State Fireworks, Inc., which was actually founded 122 years ago, was contract-

SEE FIREWORKS, Page 7

PLHS stadium overhaul begins in earnest for new athletic year

FieldTurf among facelifts touted for Sept. 1 schedule

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

The date Sept. 1 is likely circled on many calendars around the Peninsula.

For starters, it's Point Loma High School's annual "Kick-Off 2012," a football triple-header that involves hundreds of students as players, band members, NJROTC color guard and others.

But this year is even more special.

Bennie Edens Field, as it has been known for years in the community, is undergoing a total facelift. And the question that has prompted some nail-biting among football coaches and administrative staff is: Will the new field be completely installed and certified for play by Sept. 1?

The new field will be one that would likely make Edens proud. It will be made from FieldTurf, the leading surfacing in use today, the

same material underfoot at NFL and major league baseball stadiums, World Cup matches and more than 100 NCAA Division I universities.

Pointer Athletic Director John Murphy, whose girls' soccer teams will play on the new pitch, said he is thrilled.

"They will start putting down the new field on July 26," Murphy said.

An important part of the project, Murphy said, was giving students input on the new field's design. There was strong sentiment for one component.

"The kids were really clear about which of the school's mascots should appear on the new field," Murphy said.

Thus, the field will have the words "Point Loma" in one end zone and "Pointers" in the other, with the "angry dog" mascot snarling at fans from the 50-yard line.



A water truck sprays newly exposed dirt after the well-worn artificial turf of Bennie Edens Field at Point Loma High School was removed. Work crews will be installing a beautiful new playing surface to honor the legendary coach.

Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Permanent lines for other sports will also be included on the surface, using different colors for each, Murphy said.

Because of the PLHS field's

unique dimensions, Murphy was able to have the soccer sidelines placed a full 70 yards apart, making

SEE TURF, Page 7



Two bicyclists take to the street near one of the new "sharrows" symbols on Mission Boulevard, not unlike those cropping up around Ocean Beach. The new symbols serve as reminders to both motorists and bicyclists to share the roads that don't have dedicated bike lanes.

Photo by Marsha Kay Seff | The Beacon

New symbols don't represent street takeover by OB bicyclists

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

Wondering about the significance of the new bicycle silhouette symbols cropping up in the last few months in the right lanes of some Pacific Beach and Ocean Beach streets?

Well, they don't mean that harried motorists have to turn over more of the road to bicyclists. Neither do the silhouettes, known as "sharrows," indicate that bikes now have more of their own lanes on busy streets.

Rather, the sharrows are reminders to drivers that they need to share the roads that don't have dedicated bike lanes with bicyclists. Similarly, sharrows remind bicyclists they belong in the street, heading down the same side of the road as motorists traveling in the same direction — at a safe distance from parked-car doors — and not on side-

SEE SYMBOLS, Page 5

ON VACATION WITH THE PENINSULA BEACON



Gabriella Garcia, above, who will be attending Point Loma High School as a junior this fall, took her *Peninsula Beacon* to the beautiful capital of Stockholm, Sweden, where she visited the Royal Palace. Garcia has spent the last school year studying abroad.



Pat Rice of Ocean Beach holds her June 14 copy of the *Peninsula Beacon* in front of the landmark skyline of Denver. The edition of the *Beacon* Rice is holding contained a copy of her son's graduating class from Point Loma High. Pat and Tom Rice will be seeing their son, Garrett, off to college to join his sister, Alex, at Regis University located in Denver.

Courtesy photo by Debbie Beasley

Beacon writer Scott Hopkins claims 3 SPJ writing honors

A *Peninsula Beacon* writer captured three awards in a recent newswriting competition among local media.

Scott Hopkins was honored by the San Diego chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) during a recent banquet at the Bali Hai restaurant on Shelter Island.

A first-place plaque went to Hopkins for his account of a Point Loma High School (PLHS) student who won both local and national science fairs with his innovative "wing" design for sailboat hulls. The entry was judged the "Best Education" story.



SCOTT HOPKINS

John Murphy, PLHS athletic director, gave Hopkins exclusive access to news of the hiring of major league all-star and PLHS alumni David Wells and Jesse Nunez, who were charged with guiding the Pointer baseball program.

Hopkins turned the piece into a second-place winner in the "Breaking News" category.

Hopkins' interview and story about Ocean Beach optometrist Dr. Eli Ben-Moshe, focusing on children's eye-health issues, was awarded honorable mention in the "Health" story category.

The competition included entries from local television stations, newspapers, magazines, Internet sites and blogs. Entries were judged by an SPJ chapter in Florida.

Hopkins, also a PLHS alum, has been writing for *The Peninsula Beacon* for nearly four years.



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. It's that easy!



The *Beacon* was treated to a backpacking trip to Havasupai on the Havasu Indian Reservation in the Grand Canyon near the village of Supai, which is remote enough to be the only remaining village in the country where U.S. mail is still delivered by mule! This photo was taken at Mooney Falls after the Point Lomans descended a hundred feet of cliff via precarious cables and chains. The Point Lomans, from left, are: Pat Menke, 49; Teresa Menke, 39; Maddie Menke, 14; and Fiona Jackson, 15.



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Fourth of July marshmallow fight triggers gooey cleanup

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

Each year, just as the last spark fizzles out from Ocean Beach's annual fireworks show, a friendly battle is waged on the beach surrounding the OB Pier, with marshmallows serving as ammunition for locals. Following OB's epic Independence Day combat, a battlefield of landmines in the form of sticky, gooey leftover marshmallows littered the streets and beaches.

"It is certainly the talk of the town, and it seems like people had a lot of fun acting like kids," said Denny Knox, executive director of the Ocean Beach Main-Street Association. "Since the damage doesn't seem to be permanent and it eventually wears away, we haven't gotten overly grumpy about the cleanup. Also, with so many people jumping in to help clean up — especially the perpetrators — the marshmallow fight is more fun than not."

More than 100 trash bag-wielding volunteers turned out for San Diego Surfrider's "Morning After the Mess" beach cleanup at the OB Pier, picking up more than 2,000 pounds of trash, according to Surfrider's chapter coordinator Haley Haggerstone.

"We had a number of volunteers who participated in the marshmallow fight also come out to assist with the clean-up this morning, which speaks volumes



Thousands of gooey marshmallows covered the streets of Ocean Beach on July 5 after the annual Fourth of July community marshmallow following the fireworks show at the OB Pier. Right, volunteers with the "Morning After the Mess" Surfrider cleanup get a chuckle over the marshmallow wads.

Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon



about the community of Ocean Beach and their commitment to keeping their beaches clean," she said.

District 2 Councilman Kevin Faulconer also attended the cleanup, lending a hand to restore the streets and beaches back to their original shine.

"I believe in protecting San Diego's beaches and bays," he said. "I was proud to partner with the Surfrider Foundation to clean up the beach following the

Fourth of July celebrations. I will continue to collaborate with the community on solutions to keep San Diego beaches clean, and I am open to a unified message from the neighborhood regarding any new ideas."

Local HTH school sites among those with 100 percent graduation rates

By **DAVE SCHWAB** | THE BEACON

The news on high school dropout rates for 2011-12 in Point Loma and throughout San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) almost couldn't be better as three charter schools — High Tech High, High Tech High Media Arts and Preuss at UCSD — all achieved a zero-percent dropout rate.

A recently released California Department of Education report showed San Diego County students and those statewide are increasingly earning diplomas within four years — and fewer of them are dropping out.

SDUSD, at 5.9 percent — down from 8.4 percent a year earlier — had the lowest dropout rate among the state's large, urban school districts. The next lowest district, San Francisco Unified, was at 10.4 percent. The highest rate, 27 percent, was Oakland Unified.

SDUSD officials credit, in part, aggressive efforts — knocking on doors, calling relatives — to track down truant students for improving graduation rates.

The district also claims its use of high-tech teaching aids, like Netbooks, iPads and computerized smart boards, are paying dividends in engaging students, persuading more of them to stay in school.

The district is also heavily invested in programs promoting culinary arts, construction and auto technology, serving job skill-oriented students.

The latest dropout-graduation figures for Preuss at UCSD, High Tech High and High Tech High Media Arts were encouraging, validating those schools' core curriculums and classroom philosophies.

High Tech High (HTH) operates 11 schools — two elementary, four middle and five high schools — countywide. Begun in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by a coalition of San Diego business leaders and educators, HTH has evolved into an integrated network of schools spanning grades K-12, housing a comprehensive teacher certification program and a new, innovative Graduate School of Education. High Tech High Media Arts serves about 400 students in grades 9-12 at HTH Village in Point Loma. Founded in 2005, the school implements all HTH design principles and features a strong foundation in liberal arts and sciences.

SDUSD also showed gains in ethnic groups that have been a focus of attendance-improvement efforts. For Hispanic students, a nearly 4-percent increase was registered over 2009-10. The 75.8 percent topped the statewide average of 70.4.



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Slight spike seen in Sunset Cliffs rescues

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Officials from the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department have witnessed an increase recently in cliff rescues along scenic Sunset Cliffs, with two such incidents over a week's span.

The most recent incident on July 3 was alcohol-related, according to rescuers.

The visual and auditory lure of the rugged cliffs draws large numbers of people to leave their cars and enjoy the surging waves, sparkling sea, soaring pelicans and nightly sunsets. The vista can range from dreary gray to blazing yellows, oranges and reds as the sun's rays filter through billowing clouds.

Many of those drawn to the cliffs, according to authorities, are inexperienced in traversing the rocky precipice, but they make their way to the beaches below anyway. Then, for varying reasons, they find themselves unable to get back up.

"Probably in the last six months, we've had three or four of these types of incidents right here [at Sunset Cliffs]," said Fire-Rescue Department Battalion Chief Steve Ricci after a late-June rescue that began at 9 p.m.

"It's a dangerous, unstable cliff area," Ricci said. "People go down there to have a little party and can't make it out once it gets dark."

Last week's rescue took place during daylight hours when — according to rescuers — a group of young adults allegedly drank alcohol on the sand below Sunset Cliffs Park, accessed by Ladera Street at the southernmost end of the publicly accessible cliffs below the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University.

When they decided to return to their car, a 20-year-old woman was reportedly too intoxicated to attempt the



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department personnel work to raise an unnamed 20-year-old woman from the beach below Sunset Cliffs Natural Park last week. The woman was arrested for public intoxication.
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

climb, prompting her friends to call for help.

A crowd of onlookers gathered as rescuers went to work.

Firefighter-paramedics made a quick assessment of the woman's medical condition. A small army of Fire-Rescue personnel — including lifeguards, firefighters and paramedics along with San Diego police officers — responded to the distress call.

They spent nearly an hour constructing an elaborate system of stakes driven into the ground with different-colored ropes and carabiners, all

meticulously threaded through pulleys that were eventually used to raise the unnamed victim below.

The woman was placed in a protective rescue litter and raised with care to safety above.

She was observed laughing during the rescue and several times attempted to remove Velcro straps securing her to the litter.

While the woman was being examined and questioned in an ambulance, a police officer told her companions, "Your friend will be going to jail for drunk in public."

QuickHits

Police: July 4 holiday was 'safe and enjoyable'

Northern Division beaches and bays saw an influx of more than 400,000 visitors for the July 4 holiday, according to San Diego Police Department Capt. Brian Ahearn.

"Despite the large crowds at the beaches, bays, parks and entertainment district, the holiday was a safe and enjoyable one for visitors and residents alike," he said. "This is attributable to the successful ongoing relationships between citizen groups and city departments, as well as cooperative efforts and preplanning between police, fire, lifeguards and Park and Rec Department employees."

According to SDPD's statistics covering the two-day holiday period from 7 a.m. July 3 through 11 p.m. on July 4, officers made six felony arrests, 41 misdemeanor arrests, issued 101 misdemeanor alcohol citations and issued 36 citations for offenses other than alcohol. Officers also cited nine minors for possession of alcohol and issued 197 traffic citations and 57 parking citations.

— Mariko Lamb

Peninsula planners look to fill board vacancy

The Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) intends to fill a vacancy by board appointment during the group's scheduled July 19 meeting. The vacant term is for three years.

As a result, PCPB members are seeking eligible candidates to serve out the remainder of the board term.

To be eligible, a candidate must be 18 years of age and reside, own property, or operate a business within the PCPB's boundaries. The PCPB meets once a

month and has various subcommittees that also meet on a regular basis.

For candidacy details and additional information, call PCPB Chairman Geoff Page at (619) 694-7993, email pcpbem@gmail.com, or visit www.pcpb.net.

Local 'open call' set for 'Biggest Loser' TV show

Producers of the hit reality-TV show "The Biggest Loser" will hold an "open call" on Saturday, July 21 for contestants in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lose weight and compete to win \$250,000. The open call takes place at NTC venues at Liberty Station, 2640 Historic Decatur Road.

The open call is part of a 13-city cross-country search to find contestants for the 14th season of the show. The open call takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information on how to apply to the show and submit a videotape, visit www.nbs.com/casting or www.thebiggestlosercasting.com.

Electronics recycling event is July 22

Reconstruction Warehouse will sponsor a free electronics recycling drop-off day on Sunday, July 22 in partnership with All-Green Electronics, Inc. at the Reconstruction Warehouse location, 3341 Hancock St. in the Midway District. Money made from the recycling will go to benefit the Community Coaching Center, a children's autism center in San Diego.

Recyclables that may be dropped off include, but are not limited to, televisions (LCD, plasma, CRT), monitors, computers, laptops, printers, keyboards, computer mice, copiers, audio/visual equipment, cell phones and miscella-

SEE BRIEFS, Page 6

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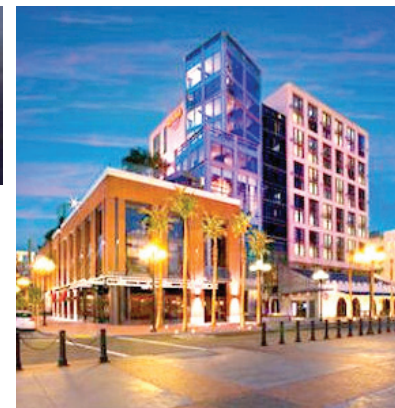
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RESTROOMS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

holiday, this unique building was designed to make washing up after a day at the beach simple and comfortable.”

The new facility now stands on the site of the one demolished three years ago because of health and safety concerns. The original comfort station was estimated to be about 50 years old.

Since the demolition, residents and visitors to the Dog Beach area have been forced to a series of less-than-ideal portable restrooms.

Faulconer said the city went to great lengths to replace the previous restrooms with a new facility that incorporates the distinctive character of Ocean Beach for the convenience of locals and visitors alike.

Here are some of the unique design

“Completed in time for the Fourth of July holiday, this unique building was designed to make washing up after a day at the beach simple and comfortable.”

KEVIN FAULCONER
District 2 City Councilman

features incorporated into the new comfort station, as provided by Faulconer’s office:

- Solar panels to generate energy for the facility.
- A thin, cantilevered roof evocative of a bird’s wing in flight, invoking the popular O.B. “flying seagull” emblem.
- A water fountain and three easily accessible exterior showers with a privacy wall, which will be useful for parents helping young children wash off sand.

- The letters “OB” carved into the west wall.
- A creative geometric shape without a single 90-degree angle along the entire wall — a slightly skewed design to reflect the unusual rotation of the Ocean Beach street grid.
- Six bicycle racks to accommodate locals’ preferred form of transportation.
- Design concept by local firm Kevin deFreitas Architects and artwork by former Ocean Beach resident Shinpei Take-da that covers the entire roof and can be experienced without ever entering the structure. The art depicts the Ocean Beach shoreline when it once hosted the Wonderland Amusement Park, which opened July 4, 1913 — 99 years ago last week. The text that overlaps the image incorporates stories from Ocean Beach past and present, and quotes from famous authors for whom local streets are named, like Froude and Voltaire.



District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer (center, in blue shirt) is joined by community leaders and city representatives on July 2 during the ceremonial ribbon-cutting event for the rebuilt Brighton Street restroom and shower facility near Dog Beach.
Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

SYMBOLS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

walks alongside pedestrians.

Sharrows emphasize that “Bikes May Use the Full Lane,” as new signs along Ocean Beach streets indicate. Cars can also use the lanes.

“We need to adapt to one another and be respectful of one another,” said Bill Harris, spokesman for the city’s Transportation & Storm Water Department, which installed the markers.

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition has worked closely with the city to initiate the process in the beach area, according to coalition executive director Andy Hanshaw. The organization’s mission is “to advocate for, and protect the rights of, all people who ride bicycles.”

“We promote bicycling as a mainstream, safe and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation,” Hanshaw

said.

He said sharrows, located on streets that include Mission Boulevard and Grand Avenue in Pacific Beach and Voltaire Street and Chatsworth Boulevard in Ocean Beach, are “effective communication and educational tools to let bicyclists know where it’s best to ride to be safest, including avoiding the ‘door zone’ where cars are parked and car doors can open at any moment and be very dangerous.”

The sharrows do not change or add to existing vehicle regulations but, rather, emphasize them, according to Hanshaw.

“Legally, bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists,” Hanshaw said. “We’re not creating any new laws here ... We encourage bicyclists and motorists to be more aware and less distracted when driving or bicycling.”

He said the California vehicle code states that people bicycling slower than other traffic are supposed to ride as far to

the right-hand side of the lane as practicable, but are not required to do so under many situations, such as when a lane is of substandard width, or too narrow to share side by side with motor vehicles.

In addition to using their bikes for recreation, an increasing number of bicyclists are riding to work today, Harris said.

He added that the desire to be more “green” is one reason; another is increasing gas prices.

Adding to the frustrations of both motorists and cyclists, according to Harris, “San Diego was not designed to be a bicycle-friendly city. It’s going to take us years and years to catch up. Sharrows are just one step.” He said San Diego is trying to create contiguous bike routes from east to west and has installed sharrows in several neighborhoods, including downtown, Hillcrest and North Park.

Though they resemble stencils, shar-

rows are really thermal plastic permanent markers affixed to the asphalt, Harris said.

There are 70 sharrows in the beach area and 65 more pending at a cost of \$200 each, Harris said. He said that from the 2000 to 2006 fiscal years, the budget included only \$47 million for road maintenance. From 2007 to 2012, he said, that figure increased to \$170 million. And the 2013 fiscal budget alone includes \$50 million for road maintenance.

Lest residents think the new sharrows are enough to satisfy vocal bicyclists, Hanshaw is quick to add: “While they are a tool for education and awareness, people who ride bikes throughout the county would like to have more places to ride where they feel safer and more connected to where they are pedaling. Ideally, this means more bike paths and bike lanes that serve their destinations.”

For more information, visit sdcbc.org/index.html.

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Two Edward Jones branch offices in Point Loma recently were ranked within the top 25 percent of the country for excellence in client service at Edward Jones.

Those financial advisors and branch office administrators receiving the recognition are: Financial Advisor, John McKean, CFP®; Senior Branch Office Administrator, Randee Parker; Financial Advisor, Kali Mistry; and Branch Office Administrator, Tracey Brown.

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In January 2012, for the 13th year, Edward Jones was named one of the best companies to work for by FORTUNE Magazine in its annual listing. The firm ranked No. 5 overall and No. 3 in Large Size Companies. These 13 FORTUNE rankings include top 10 finishes for nine years, consecutive No. 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003, and consecutive No. 2 rankings in 2009 and 2010. FORTUNE and Time Inc. are not affiliated with and do not endorse products or services of Edward Jones.

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COUNCIL CORNER

Budget restores libraries, protects beaches, guards tax dollars

By KEVIN L. FAULCONER

This summer, San Diego will begin restoring neighborhood services, better protecting our beaches and bays, reinvesting in public safety and guarding San Diego's tax dollars by strengthening financial safeguards. I recently voted for a balanced budget that delivers these results without unrealistic assumptions or accounting gimmicks. The 2012-13 budget includes:

- Adding eight operating hours per week to every branch library and five hours to every recreation center
- Investing \$130 million into road and other infrastructural repairs
- Increasing police academies to 120 cadets and holding the first firefighter academies since 2009, adding 60 firefighter recruits
- Restoring three lifeguard positions to improve beach safety
- Fully funding beach and bay firepits
- Supporting an economic development program to create, attract and retain jobs and businesses
- Funding to complete the Security and Exchange Commission's final reform recommendation and close the book on San Diego's troubled financial past

People have asked me how this good news is possible given several years of

deep cuts because of the recession and past fiscal mismanagement. It was not long ago the city planned to shut down core services like the Ocean Beach Branch Library and Cabrillo Recreation Center — a shortsighted proposal against which I joined hundreds of neighbors to permanently quash.

The simple answer is that we made tough and necessary decisions that put San Diego at the forefront of financial reform. Fiscal discipline and an improving economy are paying off. As cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco faced massive budget deficits this year (\$238 million and \$263 million, respectively), San Diego is positioned to begin reinvesting taxpayer dollars in its neighborhoods.

Since I was elected more than six years ago, I have worked with Mayor Jerry Sanders to bring to City Hall the same budget principles San Diego families and businesses practice every day. The city's budget crisis unfolded over several years, and solutions were not created overnight. The cost-saving tools we used to create this budget are possible thanks to reform efforts we San Diegans began years ago.

In 2006, voters approved a ballot measure to unleash the power of competition between the private sector and government employees. The managed competition process is now producing \$6 million in ongoing savings — with more to come. In 2008, voters ushered in a new, accountable system of city government by creating the independent Office of the City Auditor. This taxpayer

watchdog has identified over \$33 million in opportunities to increase revenues and decrease costs.

At City Hall, I've proudly guarded San Diego's tax dollars. Last year's landmark retirement health care reform plan will produce more than \$800 million in savings over the next 25 years. And a six percent compensation reduction for city employees has reduced costs by millions of dollars.

These victories have been hard fought, and we are not done. We must implement comprehensive pension reform, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters on June 5, to begin reducing the city's \$2.2 billion unfunded pension liability. We must double our efforts to repair San Diego's roads by improving coordination and communication between city departments, as well as increase efficiencies to award repaving projects to contractors in a timely manner. We must continue to eliminate waste, cut red tape and restore more city services.

Our work is not complete, but this budget reflects that we are on the right path. I am confident that together, through continued fiscal reforms, we will carry on delivering results for our neighborhoods that improve the quality of life for all San Diegans.

— Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Faulconer represents District 2 of the City Council, including Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Mission Bay.



KEVIN FAULCONER

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

neous computer equipment.

The event takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and a list of recyclables that can be accepted, call (619) 795-7326, or visit www.reconstructionwarehouse.com.

Foundation ramps up fundraising plans

Residents interested in joining The Ocean Beach Community Foundation (OBCF) in its mission to preserve, educate and improve the quality of life in Ocean Beach are being asked to get involved.

The OBCF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that partners with local businesses and corporations to raise money and increase resources for Ocean Beach.

One of the group's main goals is fundraising. In a recent example, OBCF partnered with Raglan Public House to raise funds for the Ocean Beach fireworks celebration. Patrons abounded at the standing-room-only event, and local businesses have expressed excitement at hosting similar fundraising events.

OBCF is rapidly expanding its efforts, including a new historic pier-entry project, fireworks funding, musical enhancement through the Peninsula Singers, commemorative historic plaques, Veteran's Plaza maintenance, holiday decorations and youth sports scholarships.

For more information or to contribute, visit wesupportob.com.

Cancer Society Discovery Shop slates sales event

The Point Loma American Cancer Society Discovery Shop will feature a variety of clothing, accessories and decor at its "Into The Wild" event on Friday, July 20 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday, July 21 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Proceeds go to cancer education and research. Free wigs and head coverings are available to cancer victims. Donations and new volunteers are welcome.

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

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

- In a May 31 *Beacon* story, ("OB Beach Ball draws disciplined crowd in kickoff for summer event series," Page 1) an editing error in a paraphrase and quote attributed to San Diego Police Department Sgt. Gary Mondesir led to the omission of a key word that changed the meaning of Mondesir's comment. The paraphrase and quote should have read: Mondesir added, however, that officers have *not* observed "a lot of intoxicated people this year."
- In a story about the recent Ocean Beach Chili Cook-Off Festival winners ("Chili gurus rewarded with top votes at cook-off," June 28 *Beacon*, Page 11) the Peoples Choice, second-place team should have been correctly identified as the Bar Key team.
- In a June 28 *Beacon* story headlined "Action urged as plan unfurled to stem erosion at Sunset Cliffs," Page 1, quotes were incorrectly attributed to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council board member Ann Swanson. The quotes should have been attributed to board member Dedi Ridenour, who chairs the council's Erosion Committee.



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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

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

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Ocean Beach High Tides and Flooding Circa 1941



Photos Courtesy of Faith Harvey

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





The end result of the planned 16-minute show was a spectacular that lasted just several seconds and ended with a huge plume of smoke over the bay. Photos by Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

FIREWORKS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

ed to operate the show as one of 15 spectaculars across the country this past Fourth of July. Company officials said the fireworks fizzle was a first, and also offered hearty and repeated apologies for the miscue that gained attention on the national stage.

Garden State Fireworks, Inc. co-owner August Santore told reporters last week that his company would do "whatever we need to do" to rectify the mistake, including the possibility of a redux show at some point at no cost to the Port District.

Officials with the Port of San Diego — which contributed \$145,000 in cash and in-kind services, including clean up, Harbor Police law enforcement service and traffic enforcement — said last week they were still weighing options.

"As title sponsor of the Big Bay Boom

Fireworks Show, the Port of San Diego is very disappointed that this year's event failed due to an apparent technical malfunction, which caused the fireworks to discharge early and all at once," said port officials in a formal statement July 5.

"Since 2001, the Big Bay Boom Fireworks Show has grown each year and successfully entertained hundreds of thousands of spectators along San Diego Bay on July 4th. The Port of San Diego has been proud to serve as a title sponsor and one of many public agencies, hotels, restaurants, marinas and other organizations who support the show," continued the statement.

Port District officials said funds raised above and beyond the cost of producing the show are donated to Armed Services YMCA, a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive services to military service members and their families.

TURF

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the field compliant with high school, NCAA and international size requirements.

Crews from Byrom-Davey, Inc., a San Diego firm specializing in athletic facilities, have been busy since mid-June tearing out the old turf, which was worn thin from more than a decade of intense use by Pointer sports teams and physical education classes, as well as various community groups.

But finishing the new field isn't just a matter of stretching a new carpet over dirt.

Below infill and backing layers, crews will install water piping under the entire field, giving Pointer officials the ability to flush, sanitize and cool the new surface.

Also, a special vacuuming/cleaning tool will be kept at PLHS for surface maintenance.

Byrom-Davey, Inc. has installed 194 stadium and track surfaces over the last 11 years, including practice fields for the San Diego Chargers.

FieldTurf claims its product "protects muscles and joints," with a "documented reduction in neural and lower-extremity injuries," something that is encouraging to school coaches and leaders.

"This field is going to be 100 percent better than what we had," Murphy said.

The Byrom-Davey website cites a record of performance, stating, "We normally are in advance of the schedule," saying the company has never missed a completion date. It lists numerous county public and private schools as references.

PLHS administrators, coaches, parents, players, fans and boosters are counting on the company's spotless record to remain so.



Above, Bennie Edens Field has been completely removed from Point Loma High School's stadium in preparation for the installation of a beautiful new artificial turf field to honor the legendary coach. Below, the well-worn artificial turf from Bennie Edens Field at Point Loma High School sits ready for removal as crews prepare the surface for installation of a beautiful new field. Photos by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

FIELD NOTES

- The school district's Proposition S website lists the field's cost range as \$200,000 to \$1 million. The high number may be closer to reality.

- Also running under the new turf will be an electrical conduit containing wiring for stadium speakers and a future press box that is scheduled to be built atop the seating area.

- Athletes will actually play on the "infill" level of FieldTurf. Made of cryogenic rubber and silica sand, the infill weighs more than nine pounds per square foot or 720,000 pounds for a field like Point Loma's.

- Parent boosters are busy planning an action-packed day for the Sept. 1 "Kick-Off" event, which will include an auction, events at halftime of each game and an official opening and tours of the Pointers' new, highly-praised weight-training facility, possibly featuring a



celebrity guest or two.

- The combination ticket booth/snack bar/restroom facility to be built at the stadium's Voltaire Street entrance is listed as a \$1 million to \$5 million project. A new contractor has been named after the original bid winner was deemed unqualified to perform specific project work.

- The rubberized track surface at PLHS is in good condition and in need of only minor repairs, so is not part of the field project, Murphy said.

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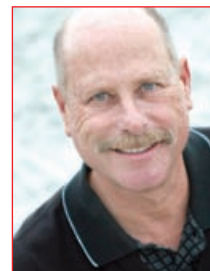
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OBITUARY

Mike Berrill, 64, longtime OB community advocate

By MIKE McCARTHY | THE BEACON

Mike Berrill, with family members at his side, passed away peacefully at his home on June 23. He was 64.

Mike had been fighting cancer for two years. He will be dearly missed by his family, a multitude of friends and the community of Ocean Beach, to which

he dedicated himself for more than 30 years.

Mike is survived by his mother, Eileen Berrill; wife, Sue Berrill; children Mike, Kristie and Amanda; daughter-in-law, Jenny; and grandchildren Riling and Olivia Berrill.

Mike grew up in La Mesa and graduated from Saint Augustine High School

and the University of San Diego with a master's degree in education. He was proud of his 30-year career as a special-education teacher at Santana High School in Santee and left his imprint on the lives of those he taught.

In the early 1980s, Berrill became an active member in the Ocean Beach community that continued to his final days.

He served as president of the Ocean Beach Community Town Council and helped develop many OB traditions that have continued over the years. The OB Christmas Parade, the OB Pier Pancake Breakfast and the Surfrider Clean Water Paddle were among his favorite projects to improve Ocean Beach.

Mike is probably best known as the major co-founder of the popular Ocean Beach Geriatric Surf Club & Precision Marching Surfboard Drill Team and Gidget Patrol. Known by club members as "Unc'a Mikey," he would lead the crazy antics of old-time surfers down parade routes of cities all over the country.

This crowd-pleasing group entertained at major sporting events, along with big names like The Beach Boys, and was always faithful to the OB Christmas Parade over the years.

Mike was passionate about the ocean. Surfing was the favorite pastime. His love of surfing and the friendships he made on the water stayed with him his whole life.

Along with his dad, Clem Berrill, Mike also became an experienced sailor, notching many races over the years. In recent times, Mike developed an interest in outrigger canoe paddling and helped establish the Kanaka Outrigger Canoe Club.

Mike's children will be his testimony and carry on his philosophy of life.

"Being a special-education teacher, our dad developed patience," reads a family statement released by Mike's children. "He was always friendly to strangers and never shy to strike up a conversation. To say our dad was 'well liked' was a huge understatement. Our dad never placed too much importance on winning or losing. The fun of the game and being a good sport was more important to him. His attitude was always based on practicality, including his famous phrase, 'If you pack it, you carry it.' His financial approach, 'tight and frugal,' helped us to become financially responsible adults."

The Kanaka Outrigger Canoe Club will hold an open celebration of life and a Hawaiian blessing for Mike Berrill on Saturday, July 21 at 10 a.m. at the north end of Liberty Station next to the Corvette Diner.

**MIKE BERRILL**

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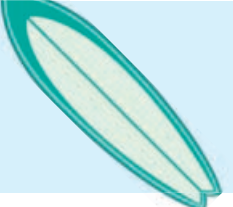
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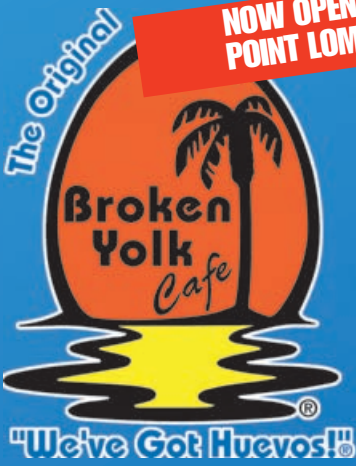
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Angie and John Patnode, left, recently opened "Pearl" with partner chef Bryan Hickey, right, to bring a little taste of the Pacific Northwest to Ocean Beach. Below, right, Hickey shows off some of the fresh catches offered by "Pearl."

Courtesy photos

OB Seafood Truck brings oceanic offerings to the street

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

Seattle transplants John and Angie Patnode are exposing Ocean Beach to a little taste of the Pacific Northwest with the recent opening their Ocean Beach Seafood Truck — the first food truck of its kind in the beach community.

John is a 20-year veteran in the seafood industry, having worked at the famed Pike Place Market in Seattle and Fishworks in London.

"We love our fresh seafood, so we wanted to bring everything about the experience to the folks in our new neighborhood," said Angie. "We saw a gap and a huge opportunity in the community to serve fresh, affordable seafood. To our surprise, much of this area's



seafood is delivered frozen from out-of-state — and for a pretty penny. That model just doesn't make sense to us. Our locals deserve fresh, delicious fare, and that's what we deliver."

The duo — along with partner chef

Bryan Hickey — believe in the power of simple recipes to highlight the freshness of the fish, and are eager to share their expertise in the realm of seafood by offering guests the freshest catches at affordable prices.

"We want our customers to see, feel, smell and experience what they are eating," said Angie. "We are also enjoying the opportunity to educate customers on seafood, whether that be from food we've prepared for them or fresh fillets they can take home and cook themselves."

The Ocean Beach Seafood Truck, dubbed 'Pearl' is typically located at its home base on Bacon Street near Newport Avenue. For more information, visit www.obseafoodtruck.com.

Disabled beachgoers have new tool to roam the sand

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

When the ocean's call beckons, San Diego's residents and visitors alike flock to the coastal communities by the hundreds, particularly during the city's warm summer months. For beachgoers with disabilities, however, a simple venture to the beach can be a daunting and discouraging undertaking.

Now, thanks to the efforts of councilmembers, community groups and advocates for those with disabilities, wheelchair-bound beachgoers, too, can effortlessly answer the ocean's enticing call.

Just in time for summer, community leaders have banded together to supply three new beach wheelchairs at San Diego's busiest beaches. The wheelchairs, which have oversize, all-terrain wheels and a water-friendly cushioned seat, allow those who are mobility disabled to easily access the ocean, at no cost to the user.

La Jolla Shores Surfing Association member Amelia Opean — an avid swimmer and wheelchair-bound paraplegic — spearheaded the fundraising effort to fix La Jolla Shores' only beach wheelchair last year.

"I've been swimming down at La Jolla Shores about six years," she said. "The chair wasn't working too well last year, so I stepped up to raise some money to get it fixed. Co-workers, friends, families — we all pitched in — and the La Jolla Shores Surfing Association was generous enough to match those funds."

When area councilmembers Sherri Lightner, Kevin Faulconer and Todd Gloria discovered Opean's efforts, they, too, decided to donate funds from their own office budgets for the cause.



District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer (at podium) and councilmembers Todd Gloria and Sherri Lightner donated funds from their offices to supply beach communities with new beach wheelchairs for disabled beachgoers.


Photo by Mariko Lamb | The Beacon

"I can't thank the councilmembers enough," Opean said. "To step up and actually buy a new wheelchair is beyond my dreams. I thought we were just going to get the old one repaired. Now we have plenty of chairs that can get me down to the water."

With the new additions, at least two manual beach wheelchairs are available for free at the La Jolla Shores, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach and Pacific Beach lifeguard towers. To reserve ahead, visit the lifeguard towers or call (619) 980-1876.

"All San Diegans and visitors deserve the opportunity to enjoy our city's beaches, bays and natural wonders," said Faulconer. "These new beach wheelchairs will help beachgoers and surfers with disabilities to feel every bonfire, taste every s'more, watch every sunset and catch every wave."

Other partners include the Disability Services Advisory Council, which donated funds for the new wheelchairs; San Diego's Park and Recreation Department, which will oversee the program; and San Diego lifeguards, who will assist beach wheelchair users.



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Point Loma Summer Concert Series getting ready to sizzle

Five Friday concerts on tap through Aug. 10

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

Now in its 12th year, few annual traditions in the area are as highly anticipated as the Point Loma Summer Concert Series. Held at Point Loma Park over five consecutive Fridays between July 13 and Aug. 10, the event has become synonymous with outdoor family fun.

Entertainment this time around will be provided by an eclectic mix of performers, including variety dance band Atomic Groove on July 13, Beach Boys tribute group The Surf City All-Stars on July 20, oldies specialists The Mar Dels on July 27, The United States Navy Band Southwest on Aug. 3 and Neil Diamond tribute Hot August Night on Aug. 10.

Additionally, there will be a "Junior Stage," featuring talent from local junior and high school students.

Music coordinator Bob Randall has been with the event for four years, charged with finding the right mix of music.

"We've found that what goes over best is cover bands, playing songs audience members have heard before," said Randall. "It's music they can relate to, reminisce to and dance to."

When it comes to selecting music for the series, event chair Martha Phillips agrees it's important to have groups with mass appeal.

"One of the things that is a little bit of a challenge for us is that people like to come and know all the words to all the songs, so original music or jazz don't work as well as old favorites," Phillips said. "When Dean Colley of Hot August Night belts out 'Sweet Caroline' and 3,000 people sing along, it doesn't matter how old you are, it's amazing."

Phillips, part of a 12-person volunteer board, has been with the event since 2004, during which time it has doubled in size. Crowds now number up to 3,000, but don't expect it to get much bigger. "We're capped by the real estate," she said.

One of this year's highlights will be the appearance by the Surf City All Stars.

"We've never had a Beach Boys tribute group before," Randall said. "It's the 50th anniversary of the band and everybody knows the songs. You put all those things together and it seemed like a good year to have them."

Randall said his favorite thing about the festival is the search for bands. Among other criteria, bands can perform no more than two years in a row during the Point Loma Summer Concert Series and there has to be at least two groups each year that are new to the series.

As might be expected, a concert with a potential audience this large attracts a lot of interest from performers. Randall traveled to Los Angeles to audition the Surf City All Stars, one of a half-dozen Beach Boys tribute acts considered for the spot.

"It was difficult because the Beach Boys have a unique sound," he said.

Randall scored a coup in his selection though — each member of the Surf City All Stars has actually toured with the Beach Boys and even back members Al Jardine and David Marks on solo dates.

Surf City All-Stars drummer Dave Logeman said outdoor gigs like this are among the band's favorites.

"I just love the atmosphere," Logeman said. "I love seeing the families and the kids. There's just a good energy outside. It's a festive, fun thing that people are looking for. That feeling is contagious and definitely affects us on stage."

In addition to the main-stage talent, Phillips is also particularly happy to showcase talent from local schools. "We auditioned the kids at Point Loma Assembly. It was kind of like American Idol in Point Loma," Phillips

joked. "This gives the students an opportunity to play on a big stage with a real sound guy in front of a huge crowd. They're thrilled to be able to do that."

Even after eight years of hard work, Phillips remains enthusiastic about the concert series, with work already

under way for the 2013 series.

"People just have a wonderful time," Phillips said. "The best part is, you get paid in smiles."

• **The Point Loma Summer Concert Series** takes place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on July 13, July 20, July 27, Aug. 3 and Aug. 10 at **Point Loma Park**, 1049 Catalina Blvd. For more details, visit www.plconcerts.org.

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Left, crowds pack a previous Point Loma Summer Concert Series event at Point Loma Park. This year's series runs from July 13 through Aug. 10.

Above, A Rolling Stones tribute band performs during a Point Loma Summer Concert Series.

Photo by Mike Fahey | The Beacon

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ent.

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Assuming that "everything is fine" and that her mother knows and does what is best may be putting them at risk. Experts advise it is better to discuss the possible need for extra support before the need arises. Sit down with your parent and ask questions about what concerns them about the future, are they worried about losing independence; do they want to stay at home? Become their partner by knowing what legal and financial arrangements are in place.

For more resources to help children care for their elderly parents, call the Certified Geriatric Care Managers at Innovative Healthcare Consultants. These RN who are experts in geriatrics will help you know when it is time to bring in professional services to help or when the need to find new living arrangements is necessary. Call them at (760) 731-1334 or view the website at www.innovativehc.com.

The Anderson Medical Center

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

The Anderson Medical Center is located at 1945 Garnet Avenue. The clinic features the latest in technology including digital x-rays and electronic health records. Patients will be seen on a walk-in basis. This allows easy access with the extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The Anderson Medical Center is equipped to handle minor emergencies such as suturing and casting. It is designed to take care of patients of all ages

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COLD MELON SALSA FROM PEOPLE'S CO-OP

We've all had tomato or even mango salsa at a restaurant or party, but here is a salsa recipe with an unusual combination of ingredients. It takes the best of the season and can be used in just about any course from the appetizer to dessert. It's great as a dip with crispy baked tofu, added to mesclun salad, or as a topping to vanilla ice cream. The recipe serves 8 and is easily made in 20 minutes. It's great to make it the day before to allow the 4 hour chilling time and for the flavors to meld together.

3 ripe, firm tomatoes,	1/2 honeydew melon	1 cantaloupe	1 cup red onion
1/2 jalapeno pepper	1/2 cup fresh cilantro	1/2 cup almonds	3 T. fresh orange juice
1/4 t. salt	2 T. fresh lime juice		

Finely dice tomatoes, (for a smoother texture you can remove the seeds), peeled honeydew melon, and peeled cantaloupe. Put into a large serving bowl. Mince red onion and jalapeno pepper (you can add more chilies if you like a little more heat). Add to the bowl. Finely chop fresh cilantro and almonds, add to the bowl and stir with the other ingredients. Stir in orange juice, salt and lime juice. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours and serve topped with a few cilantro leaves.

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People in the news

Point Loman inducted in Intl. Forest of Friendship

Annelie Brinkman of Point Loma was honored June 16 as a 2012 inductee into the International Forest of Friendship in Atchison, Kansas. The Forest is a living, growing memorial to the world history of aviation and aerospace. Brinkman was recognized for her strong support of women's aviation in California, and particularly the San Diego Chapter of The Ninety-Nines, the International Organization of Women Pilots.

Brinkman is a longtime member of the Point Loma community, having spent her working years and now her retirement here.

In 1986, she learned to fly and got her private pilot's license. She became a member of The Ninety-Nines the next year. Since then, she has been a strong supporter of the group, giving her time to numerous leadership positions in the local chapter and attending many international conferences where she has made friendships and worked to foster the community of women's aviation.

Brinkman is an active member of the Koi Club of San Diego and the garden of her home is furnished with a koi pond. She also has rescued four ex-racing greyhounds and is involved in the greyhound rescue group known as Operation Greyhound.

For more information on the International Forest of Friendship, visit www.ifof.org.



**ANNELIE
BRINKMAN**

Young local actress gets call in 'Les Miserables'

Brielle Mussomeli of Point Loma has earned a principal role in California Youth Conservatory's upcoming production of "Les Miserables School Edition."

Mussomeli, a vocal dynamite, has been cast as Eponine, the love-torn French revolutionary who dies on the barricade after helping Cosette and Jean Val Jean escape from the inspector.

Based on Victor Hugo's classic novel, "Les Miserables" is an epic saga that sweeps through three turbulent decades of 19th century France.

Full of romance, passion, suspense and humanity, it is also the story of one man, the fugitive Jean Valjean, who is pitted against the pitiless and self-righteous Inspector Javert in a lifelong struggle to evade capture.

Propelled by a Tony Award-winning score from Claude-Michel Schonberg and librettist Herbert Kretzmer, the timeless masterpiece is directed by local professional actor/director Shaun T. Evans, with scenic design by George Gonzalez.

The performance opens on July 13 and runs for 16 shows through July 29 at the Welk Resort Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, located in Escondido.

For a full performance schedule, visit www.cyctheatre.com.

Reserved seating is \$30.50, however, some discounted tickets are available through CYC cast members.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.welktheatresandiego.com or by calling (888) 802-7469.



**BRIELLE
MUSSOMELI**

Looking ahead

Peninsula-area events, July 14 through July 28

SATURDAY, July 14

The Green Store will hold an open house from 1 to 6 p.m. at 4843B Voltaire Street in Ocean Beach. Residents are invited to celebrate the store's new location and 23 years of providing peace, social justice and environmental information to the community. For more information, call Colleen at (619) 225-1083

SUNDAY, July 15

Shades Oceanfront Bistro will join the San Diego Humane Society and Second Chance Dog Rescue to host an Ocean Beach adoption event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Puppies, dogs, kittens and cats will be available for immediate adoption on the patio of Shades, 5083 Santa Monica Ave. For more information, call (619) 222-0501, or visit www.shades-ob.com.

WEDNESDAY, July 18

The Point Loma United Methodist Church hosts a free session of "Intro to Gentle Yoga for Relaxation" from 11:15 to noon at the church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Participants will learn to release aches, pains and stress with relaxation techniques. No previous experience necessary. For information or to register, call (619) 788-4838, or email info@dharayoga.com.

THURSDAY, July 19

The Ocean Beach Historical Society will present a remembrance program featuring friends and family of Ocean Beach poet and activist LoVerne Brown and the important part she played in Ocean Beach's history. The program 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.

SATURDAY, July 21

St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church in Ocean Beach will host its annual Fun Fest with games, food, fun and fellowship at the church, located at 1371 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, from 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, call (619) 224-1689, or visit www.stpeters-bythesea.org.

The Point Loma Artists Association hosts an "Art and Ice Cream" event, featuring displays of original works like fine jewelry, paintings, photography, sculpture and more, along with an ice cream social as part of the free neighborhood show. All works of art will be available for sale. A portion of the proceeds from all art sales go to benefit the local library. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, 3701 Voltaire Street. For more information, visit www.pointlomaartists.com.

Producers of the hit reality-TV show "The Biggest Loser" will be holding an open call for contestants in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lose weight and compete to win \$250,000. The open call takes place at NTC venues at Liberty Station, 2640 Historic Decatur Road. The open call is part of a 13-city cross-country search to find contestants for the 14th season of the show. The open call takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information on how to apply to the show and submit a videotape, visit www.nbs.com/casting or www.thebiggestlosercasting.com.

SUNDAY, July 22

Reconstruction Warehouse will sponsor a free electronics recycling drop-off day in partnership with All-Green Electronics, Inc. at the Reconstruction Warehouse location, 3341 Hancock St. in the Midway District. Money made

from the recycling will go to benefit the Community Coaching Center, a children's autism center in San Diego. Recyclables that may be dropped off include, but are not limited to, televisions (LCD, plasma, CRT), monitors, computers, laptops, printers, keyboards, mice, copiers, audio/visual equipment, cell phones and miscellaneous computer equipment. The event takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and a list of recyclables that can be accepted, call (619) 795-7326, or visit www.reconstructionwarehouse.com.

July 26-29

The ninth annual San Diego Yacht & Boat Show, presented by the Auto Club of Southern California, cruises into the Sheraton Marina in Harbor Island for four days of fun on the water. The 2012 show provides attendees an all-access pass to discover the boating lifestyle and a chance to shop the newest boats and marine accessories. General admission is \$12; active-duty military and children 12 and under admitted free. The show takes place at 1380 Harbor Island Drive. For more information and a list of activities and times, visit www.sandiegoyachtandboatshow.com.

SATURDAY, July 28

The nonprofit group Labrador Harbor will host its second annual "Hounds for Hope Walk," a canine cancer awareness and wellness festival from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dusty Rhodes Park in Ocean Beach. The event will feature vendor booths with healthy pet products, along with doggie games in the Howlin' Hounds FurZone and raffle prizes. All proceeds will benefit Labrador Harbor, which has helped more than 300 dogs with more than \$68,000 in grants for surgeries and medical treatments. Pre-register at www.houndsforhopewalk.org. For more information about the organization, visit www.labrador-harbor.org.



ENJOY THE COLORS & BEAUTY OF OLD TOWN

STAGECOACH DAYS: CELEBRATING THE WEST ON THE MOVE

--All Aboard for Old Town; Next Stop Stagecoach Days at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park--

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is celebrating travel and transportation in the era of real horsepower at Stagecoach Days from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays in July and August.

The free event features a different theme each Saturday including California Day, Women of the West, Soldiers and Citizens, TwainFest and Vaquero Day.

Attendees will enjoy afternoons filled with activities that reflect life in early San Diego and celebrate the West on the move. Through vignettes, demonstrations, living history activities, stories and songs, visitors will gain an appreciation for early modes of transportation and daily life.

It's been more than a century since the last stage line

operated in San Diego. Beginning in 1857, stage lines passed through rural San Diego moving passengers, freight and mail. These new services helped bring the outside world closer to the emerging frontier community that we know today as San Diego.

The 2012 Stagecoach Days schedule is as follows:

July 14 -- California Day -- From 1821 through 1848, the people who lived in Southern California were called "Californios" rather than Mexicans. Those unique "Californio" cultural such as gambling and paper flower making will be presented.

July 21 -- Women of the West -- Women played an important part in the development of the West. Some of the daily activities of these women will be demonstrated on this Saturday.

July 28 -- Games and Amusements -- In the 1800s, games

and amusements were commonly associated with large celebrations that incorporated most of the local townspeople. This day will pay tribute to traditional games of the time.

August 4 -- Trades That Shaped Westward Expansion -- As towns developed in the West so did the need for specialized trades and artisans. Old Town San Diego will present pivotal 19th century trades that shaped the community of San Diego.

August 11 -- Vaquero Drive -- Cattle was the single most important economic resource for Southern California for more than 50 years. This day will give the opportunity to learn about the hide and tallow trade, chuck wagon cooking, roping, branding, saddle making and more.

August 18 -- TwainFest -- The festival marks 102 years of Mark Twain's passing and celebrates the American author

as well as some of his peers. Excerpts from famous works will be read aloud by costumed San Diego actors at a variety of park venues throughout the day.

August 25 -- Soldiers and Citizens -- In the mid-1840s, California went to war with Mexico. United States troops were stationed in San Diego County and fought here in an effort to support the war. This day will feature military practices that changed San Diego forever.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, with the support of the Boosters of Old Town and Fiesta de Reyes, is proud to offer these free activities for adults and children of all ages. The park is located on San Diego Avenue and Twiggs Street, conveniently located next to the Old Town Transit Center with Coaster, trolley and MTS bus service.

For more information, go to: www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego.



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