



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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OB's living history icon passes



Ruth Shepherd-Vallin, who was quite likely the oldest living resident of Ocean Beach today, dies at the tender age of 105. **Page 4**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION

The changing face of education on the Peninsula

Latest technology, facilities, creative fundraising ideas to greet students

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

It's that time of year again. The summer sun sets just a bit earlier each day, students of all ages are stocking up on school supplies and parents are finally getting a bit of relief that the kids will soon be out of the house for the day.

Ready for it or not, school is about to go back in session Sept. 4.

A few notable back-to-school developments and trends to look out for this year include a few revitalized facilities, schools embracing the use of technology to connect students, teachers and parents, and endless amounts of fundraising efforts and creative methods of conquering the devastating results of budget cuts that continue to plague the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD).

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

This school year, Point Loma and Ocean Beach schools are using the latest in technological advances to enhance the educational experience and learning environment in 21st-century classrooms.

- The SDUSD continues to roll out its Proposition S-funded i21 Interactive Classroom Initiative, a program that employs modern technology — like interactive whiteboards, audio-visual cabinets and netbook computers for

SEE CLASSES, Page 6



Point Loma High School Athletic Director John Murphy surveys progress on the school's new Bennie Edens Field. The facility opens Sept. 1 with the annual "Kick-Off" event featuring all three Pointer teams. *Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon*

Resurfaced Pointers playing field a tapestry of technology

ON CAMPUS

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

- A preview of the 2012 varsity gridiron season at Point Loma High, **Page 7**
- The high school's Voltaire Street stadium entrance closes for construction on a new entry building, **Page 9**
- Boosters prepare for the Sept. 1 football seasoner with their traditional "Kick-Off" event, **Page 9**
- A complete look at this season's pigskin schedule, **Page 9**

Bennie Edens would quite likely be delighted to see the new football field at Point Loma High School.

The field, which bears Edens' name, is looking like a million bucks these days, and that's pretty close to what the colorful new expanse will cost.

Work is progressing quickly on the Pointers' new field and it appears the long-awaited Sept. 1 "Kick-Off" event will come off exactly as planned by

event organizers.

And PLHS athletic director John Murphy said he couldn't be happier.

"We view our football field as another classroom," Murphy said. "Our P.E. classes and many other groups use it every day because of our space restrictions. The old field had become a safety hazard for students."

The new field is made of the same material (called "Field Turf Revolution")

SEE FIELD, Page 5

QUICK Hits

Point Loma's Rulon helps U.S. take gold in water polo

Point Loma native Kelly Rulon had four goals, five assists, one steal and one blocked shot combined over a six-game span to help the United States Olympic women's water polo team win the gold medal in London.

Rulon, an attacker who prepped locally at University of San Diego High School, played 15:20 of a possible 32 minutes as the U.S. thumped Spain 8-5 in the gold-medal match on Aug. 9.

Two days earlier, she had seen another 12:38 of action as the U.S. defeated Australia 11-9 to advance to the gold-medal game.

Prior to that, Rulon had scored two goals and also added one assist in a 9-6 U.S. victory over Italy.

In Group A Preliminary Round matches, Rulon had one goal, one assist and one blocked shot as the U.S. closed out China 7-6; one assist and one steal in a 9-9 U.S. tie with Spain; and one goal and two assists as the U.S. defeated Hungary 14-13.



KELLY RULON

— Rob Stone

Armed robber hits Midway 7/11 store

Police investigators are probing the armed robbery of a 7/11 convenience store in the Midway District on Aug. 18. According to police, a man described as white or Hispanic entered the store about 3:30 a.m. and pointed a handgun at the clerk, demanding money. He then fled the store on foot, said police.

The suspect is described at about 5 feet 6 inches, with a medium build. He was wearing dark pants, a dark sweater and a bandana over his face.

No one was injured in the holdup, said investigators.

OB Town Council looks to fill 7 board seats

The Ocean Beach Town Council (OBTC) is seeking qualified candidates to fill seven board positions that will be up for election in early September.

All candidates will be invited to address a special open meeting of the OBTC on Aug. 29 at a location to be announced. Successful candidates will begin serving a term of office on Oct. 10.

Interested candidates must submit a signed letter declaring candidacy and state their reasons for wanting to join the OBTC, relevant experience and skills, and submit the packets by mail, postmarked no later than Monday, Aug. 27.

Lifeguards flex muscles, pit skills in annual citywide ocean relays



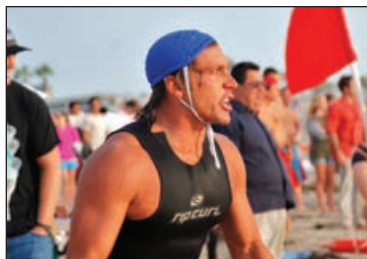
Todd Robinson, Courtney Hemmerly and Nick Burgess of Southern Division (Ocean Beach and Mission Bay), engage in a rescue race during the 59th annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relays at Mission Beach on Aug. 15. *Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon*

By KEVIN MCKAY | THE BEACON

Dozens of San Diego lifeguards descended upon Mission Beach on Aug. 15, sprinting into action with life-saving buoys, rescue boards, swim caps and dazzling speed.

But this was no real-life mass ocean rescue. The display was all part of the annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relays — a public contest putting rescue skills and team cooperation to the test while invigorating San Diego's lifeguards with a friendly competition among brethren.

Now in its 59th year, the relays drew scores of lifeguards and spectators from the city's respective zones for the sunset showdown: Northern Division (representing La Jolla-area beaches);



Cory Kieser of the Southern Division (Ocean Beach and Mission Bay) cheers on his teammates. *Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon*

Central Division (South Mission Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and north Pacific Beach); Southern Division (Ocean Beach, Point Loma and Mission Bay); and members of the San

SEE RELAYS, Page 6

SEE BRIEFS, Page 5



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ON VACATION WITH THE PENINSULA BEACON



Above, the Kim family – Sok, Alexis and Tracy – take their *Peninsula Beacon* to soak up some island paradise at Sunset Beach in Oahu, Hawaii.



Above, Point Loma moms Heidi Mather and Jen Doud enjoy a moms/sons getaway with their *Beacon* to Catalina Island. Also shown are sons Kyle Mather and Kevin Mather – along with Ryan Arnold and Carson Arnold – here at Descanso beach after an exciting zip-line adventure.



The O'Beirne family, above, headed out for a vacation in Kauai, Hawaii, managing to keep their *Beacon* dry at Wailua Falls. The family had kayaked up the river and hiked to the falls. Shown are Kevin, Megan, Jill and Dan O'Beirne.

Take us on vacation with *YOU!*



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!



Dennis Pekin scaled the top of Mount Whitney – the highest summit in the contiguous United States with an elevation of 14,505 feet – with his *Beacon* along for the journey.



◀ Garry & Sherrie Scoby of Ocean Beach bring their *Peninsula Beacon* along to keep them company as they wait for a trolley in Zurich, Switzerland. "We took several pictures with *The Beacon* throughout Zurich," said Garry. "The trick, of course, was explaining the situation and convincing people to snap the shot. My mother and I, of course, had fun with it."

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The existing pathway at Robb Field has been an issue for walkers, stroller pushers and bicyclists who struggle to get up the hill. Phase II of the Ocean Beach Gateway Project will make the walkway compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and improve nearby crosswalks and intersections to bolster safety.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

Phase II of OB Gateway Project finally to bear fruit

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

The wait appears to finally be over for the second phase of the Ocean Beach Gateway Project.

City officials have released additional funding for the long-delayed Phase II near Robb Field to make the gateway area more accessible to walkers, joggers and bicyclists with a user-friendly walkway compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), intersection improvements and enhanced crosswalks to enhance safety, according to District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer.

The time for action has arrived, said Faulconer, who offered encouraging words to residents and visitors frustrated by the multiple delays of the gateway project over the years.

"Let's get this vision off the drawing board and make it a reality," Faulconer said.

Because of the renewed push, Faulconer said the city's chief financial officer authorized an increase in the capital improvements budget to the tune of the \$150,000 that will make the project a

reality. Of that figure, \$100,000 will come from a federal grant and another \$50,000 will come from an urban community development impact fee fund for Ocean Beach, said Faulconer.

No hard and fast date has been set for construction as yet because the project is still in the bid process, but Faulconer was obviously pleased by the development.

"I am very proud to have collaborated with the members of OBCDC (Ocean Beach Community Development Council) and the community regarding this project," he said. "It will definitely reflect the unique character of Ocean Beach and our community. The design of the walkway will be reminiscent to the conch-shell design that is reflected throughout the new plaza [part of the Phase I construction]."

The ADA-compliant walkway will help connect the new plaza with the north end of the project site adjacent to Robb Field. Other work will enhance crosswalks and improve the intersection at West Point Loma Boulevard and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

The vision for the entire 12,900-

square-foot gateway project area was shaped as the result of concerns and input by the OBCDC, Robb Field Recreational Council, Ocean Beach Planning Group, residents, visitors and recreational users.

News of the impending construction seemed to be welcomed by Ocean Beach resident Jason Kurcaba, who said he has also been frustrated by the "endless construction" at Robb Field entrance.

"I can't wait for this [entryway] to be finished," Kurcaba said. "So far, I like the plaza design. Although I haven't seen anybody frolicking there yet, hopefully it is not going to be another hangout for skaters and beggars. The current walkway down to the park is dangerous. I've seen people struggle there."

Kurcaba also praised the efforts to drive the gateway project on to the finish line.

"I applaud Mr. Faulconer's great initiative to have this unfinished construction zone completed soon," Kurcaba said. "My question is: are the public restroom facilities down there [at Robb Field] included in the project? Those could definitely use an update for everybody's sake."

—Kevin McKay contributed to this story

Margie Ann Pettit Brock HAPPY 64TH BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the love of my life! God bless the day I found you! Margie my love. Came into this world loving everyone on June 30, 1948. A thing of beauty is a joy forever. You are the joy the sparkle the essence of purest romantic love. You feel my senses and every need I have. Margie gets more beautiful as the years go by inside and out. True beauty is from within and it keeps on flowing like an eternal fountain. Margie was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and now resides in Sandy, Utah and San Diego California. She married Dr. David W Brock on Dec. 08, 2001 after falling in love in Israel. She is the adored mother of Wendy, Roger, Williams, Lisa Hansen, Shane Williams, Heidi McCartney, Todd Williams, Rebecca Bonner, Jacqueline Taylor, Deborah Green, and Cherish Finnegan. She is a graduate of Utah State University and is currently seeking a law degree. She is the owner of Acute Care.



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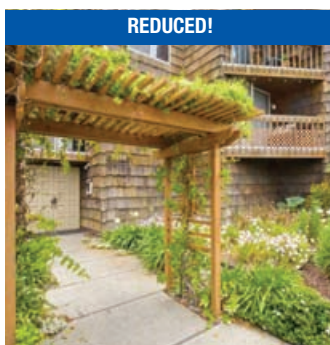
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Young surfers, commonly referred to as "groms," show intensity during a previous Gromfest Surf Contest in Ocean Beach. This year's event is scheduled to take place Saturday, Aug. 25. Photos by Don Balch | The Beacon

OB's annual Gromfest will put young skills to the test

By DON BALCH | THE BEACON

If one looks in "The Surfin'ary," a dictionary of surfing terminology and surfspeak, a "grommet" or "grom" is used to describe "an adolescent or pre-adolescent surfer," or "a 1960s Australian term for 'gremmie,' that has been adopted worldwide and is in current usage" or "a young surfer-type person intent on maximizing beach and in-the-tube experiences."

Such tubular experiences will provide the setting for the 11th annual Gromfest Surf Contest at the Ocean Beach Pier on Saturday, Aug. 25 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enthusiastic surfers age 16 and younger will be competing in boys' and girls' age-division events in both shortboard and longboard divisions.

The event, hosted by the Sunset Cliffs Surfing Association (SCSA), is intended to preserve and promote the art of surfing, and has done so for more than 40 years. The surf contest is held in the memory of Carl Warner of Point Loma, a major surfing enthusiast.

Years ago, Point Loma residents Lisa and Rick Haux, owners of MOR Furniture For Less, reached out to the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA), a local merchant's group, with the desire to start something for local area kids in memory of

Warner, their long-time employee who had recently passed away. The OBMA worked with the SCSA to establish the Gromfest, and it has been an annual beach party since.

The surfing competition includes "Super Groms" (boys and girls 7 and under on any size surfboard); "Little Wahine" (girls 8 to 10 on any size board); "Groms" (boys 8 to 10, short board); "Menehune" (boys 11 to 13, short board); "Wahine" (girls 11 to 16, any board); "Jr. Boys" (14 to 16, short board); and a "Longboard Division" (open).

Surfers qualify to compete if they live in the 92106 or 92107 ZIP codes or who are SCSA members. The first 110 kids can register for a \$25 fee, and forms are available at South Coast Surf Shop, Pride, Julie Designs and Surf 'N' Sea Custom Wetsuits, all in Ocean Beach.

Activities include a barbeque, a raffle, silent auction and awards ceremony. All money collected benefits the SCSA Juniors Program, which sponsors various community events to benefit Ocean Beach and Point Loma area youngsters.

The Gromfest is an energetic, spectator-friendly, surfing spectacle that embraces the fun of the youthful wave-riding lifestyle and is definitely intent on "maximizing beach and in-the-tube experiences" for all in attendance.

OBITUARY

Living history: Ruth Shepherd-Vallin dies at 105

By MIKE MCCARTHY | THE BEACON

Ruth Shepherd-Vallin, possibly the oldest person living in Ocean Beach for 100 years, passed away peacefully at her home on Aug. 6, just 10 days short of what would have been her 106th birthday.

Ruth is survived by her son, Richard Vallin, 72; her younger sister, Dotti Shepherd-Duddridge, 85; five grandchildren; six nieces; five nephews; three great grandsons; three great-great grandsons; six great-granddaughters; three great-great granddaughters; eight grandnieces; four great-great grandnieces; six grandnephews; and four great-great grandnephews.

Ruth was born in 1906 and lived on 31st Street in San Diego. At the age of 6, Ruth's family, using a horse-drawn carriage, moved to Ocean Beach where the family purchased a tent house with a wood-burning stove, just next to where Jack in the Box is located today. Ruth entered the first grade at Ocean Beach Elementary School.

For the next 100 years, Ruth would call this sandy beach town her home.

Ruth was very active with the Ocean Beach Historical Society and would often share memories of her fascinating and unbelievably long life. At one time, she talked about her elementary school, which in the early days had only two classrooms to serve the first through eighth grades. When it was time for high school, Ruth had to travel using



Showing off four generations of Obecians, Ruth Shepherd-Vallin sits near the Ocean Beach Pier recently with her nephew Bill Ingram (right), his son Mike and Bill's granddaughter, Makayla. Ruth passed away Aug. 6 at the age of 105 – just 10 days shy of her 106th birthday. Photo by Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

a street car to attend San Diego High, where she graduated in 1925.

Point Loma High School was finally built and dedicated the year of her graduation.

Ruth started her working career as a secretary for California Packing Corp. in San Diego and was quickly promoted to an accountant position as a payroll clerk.

In 1934, Ruth Shepherd was married to Albert Vallin, a native San Diegan engineer and cost estimator. On Dec. 7, 1941, the very day that Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan, the Vallins moved into their first home in Ocean Beach. Here, on Del Monte Ave., Ruth and Al would spend the rest of their lives enjoying the ocean view.

Albert passed away in 1997 at the age of 89.

Ruth Shepherd-Vallin was

truly "living history" and someone very special to Ocean Beach. She certainly was one of the oldest living people in the city of San Diego at the time of her death. Ruth was a witness to both the progressive and modern eras, she lived through two world wars and survived The Great Depression.

Ruth watched everyone trade in their horse-drawn carriages for a new invention called the automobile. She was there when the world took flight and when a man eventually landed on the moon. Ruth was there to live our history.

When interviewed by Noah Tafolla in his documentary "Wonderland — Ocean Beach Part 2," Ruth was asked her secret of living a long life. Her response was simply, "Just to be happy and look for the good things in life."

POINT LOMA SUMMER CONCERTS 2012

Let there be music!

The Point Loma Summer Concerts don't just HAPPEN. They require an army of dedicated volunteers!

THANK YOU to the following committee members and volunteers who made the 2012 Point Loma Summer Concerts the most successful ever!

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- Wendy Gillespie - Treasurer
- Bill Klees - Peninsula Lions Club and Little League liaison
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- Bob Randall - Music Director, Main Stage
- Ellen Scott - Music Director, Junior Stage
- Judi Swift - Volunteers and Raffle

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Want to be a volunteer next year? info@plconcerts.org

Pac Shores charity golf tourney Aug. 24

The Pacific Shores cocktail lounge in Ocean Beach will host its fifth annual Ocean Beach Charity Golf Tournament at Riverwalk Golf Club on Friday, Aug. 24 to benefit San Diego Hospice.

The tournament, which begins at 7 a.m. with registration and a shotgun start at 8 a.m., is an opportunity to benefit to San Diego Hospice and provide end-of-life care and bereavement support to many San Diegans.

The Pacific Shores Charity Golf Tournament began in 2007 as a small group of friends interested in honoring a beloved bartender, Dave Contreras, from the Pacific Shores cocktail lounge.

The charity was a natural fit, as Contreras had used San Diego Hospice in his last days. As the group of friends canvassed the Ocean Beach community for supporters, it became apparent that San Diego Hospice touched the

lives of many in the community. Support for the golf tournament grew quickly in the early days, as people wanted to give back to the organization that had helped them.

"As our list of supporters and tournament participants has grown, so has the list of names on our memory board. This event is a great way for our local community to support one another in their grieving while raising funds for a greater cause," said Rita Coronado, golf tournament co-coordinator.

Last year's tournament raised more than \$5,000 for San Diego Hospice.

The entry cost is \$120 per player, a portion of which is tax deductible. Riverwalk Golf Club is located at 1150 Fashion Valley Road.

For more information or to register, call (619) 459-0477, or visit pacshoresob.com/golf/.

BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

To qualify, candidates must live in, own property in, or operate or work for a business at a physical location within the 92107 ZIP code.

Letters can be submitted via regular mail to: OBTC Election Committee, P.O. Box 7225, San Diego, CA 92167, or online by visiting www.obtowncouncil.org, and clicking on the "Contact Us" link, or emailing info@obtowncouncil.org, using a subject line of "Letter of Intent." These must be time stamped by midnight on Aug. 27.

Candidates must be members in good standing of OBTC and must be at least 18 years old.

OBTC board members attend at least two meetings each month on the second and fourth Wednesdays, and actively participate in a number of OBTC events throughout the year like the Pan-

cake Breakfast on the OB Pier, Food and Toy Drive fundraising, Holiday Parade, beach and alley cleanups and other activities.

The OBTC provides discussion forums, hosts political debates, and sponsors numerous community events. OBTC is also involved in all aspects of the community, from traffic and parking issues to discussions impacting Ocean Beach's lasting identity and outlook.

For more information, visit www.obtowncouncil.org, or call (619) 515-4400.

OB bomb-threat case put on hold temporarily

Criminal proceedings were suspended July 24 at the initial court appearance for a man accused of making a bomb threat to a police officer at Robb Field in Ocean Beach.

The attorney for Kreyghton John Kilgore, 27, told San Diego Superior Court

Judge David Szumowski she doubted Kilgore was mentally competent to understand the court proceedings against him.

Even though it was Kilgore's first court appearance, the judge was required to suspend proceedings and ordered court-appointed psychologists to evaluate Kilgore in jail.

A hearing was set for Sept. 19, when another judge will determine if Kilgore is mentally competent or if Kilgore should be committed to a mental hospital.

Kilgore is charged with making a false bomb threat to an officer on July 20 and to making a criminal threat against a woman in Point Loma.

He is also accused of battery on a police officer when Kilgore allegedly spit on the officer during his arrest for making criminal threats.

Kilgore remains in jail without bail.

— Neal Putnam

FIELD

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

tion") used in college and professional stadiums, according to school district officials, and will cost an estimated \$1.4 million. The carpet carries an eight-year warranty, but with proper maintenance, the actual life is expected to be closer to 10 to 12 years.

Murphy has spent time at the field every day this month because he must sign off on the work completed each day.

"I am so happy with the quality of work and effort the contractor's (Byrom-Davey, Inc.) crews are putting into our project," Murphy said. "They have been working so hard to make sure our field is going to look the best and be ready for us on time."

And there's a lot more work that goes into the finished product than might meet

the eye.

The rolls of turf are manufactured and shipped with only the white lines that cross the field every five yards. These rolls are then put into place across the entire field. Blank rolls cover the remainder of the field.

Workers then go over the field and cut out where the large sideline numbers are to go and stitch each one into place.

Then, the sideline yard markers and hash lines, that is, 160 on each side, are put in the same way.

Later, the crew began cutting out spaces in the large end zones to stitch in the huge "POINT LOMA" letters in the west end zone and "POINTERS" in the east.

And, of course, there's the defiant "Angry Dog" school mascot that was stitched into the turf at center field.

Currently, the non-white lines for other sports are being cut from the green turf

and stitched in. Some, like soccer, require circular lines, so the Byrom-Davey crew must be accurate when making cuts.

As of last week, piles of silica sand, along with massive containers of cryogenic rubber, sat on nearby tennis courts awaiting addition to the field. The Field Turf company notes athletes actually play on this "infill" mixture, which weighs nine pounds per square foot, or more than 720,000 pounds for the Pointer field.

Some expected damage was done to the running track at Pete Ross Stadium where installation of water lines had to be cut into it. That damage will be repaired as part of the field project, Murphy said, before a new coat of sealant is placed on the track surface.

Byrom-Davey, Inc., with its main office in San Diego, specializes in construction of synthetic surface athletic fields and all-weather tracks.



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CLASSES

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

each student — in every classroom in the district to create an engaging learning environment for all students.

“The Point Loma Cluster has always been an early adopter of this initiative. Several years ago, we realized it was going to be an integral part of the next generation of learning,” said Matt Spathas, president of the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation. “Our cluster schools have done a great job embracing not only the devices, but ways that technology is going to alter, change or transform the learning environment.”

- Schools are able to facilitate information quickly and easily through the use of web-based tools, like Dana Middle School's use of ParentConnection and StudentConnection, which enhances communication among parents, teachers and students by providing access to student schedules, attendance data, homework assignments and report cards online.

- Correia Middle, Loma Portal Elementary and Ocean Beach Elementary schools are also in tune with the latest in educational technology, offering live online references and homework help through the San Diego Public Library and Question-Point chat sessions, which are available on the schools' websites.

- For parents to stay informed about all or a few of the schools in the Point Loma Cluster, sign up for the cluster's e-blasts,

which provide real-time information about the goings on in the district and in community schools.

“We've done a good job in communicating and sharing information cluster-wide,” said Spathas. “It's been fun to see the e-blast system grow from back in the day from 3,000 emails when we started to 7,000 [now]. We're probably the most networked cluster in San Diego.”

FUNDRAISING TO COUNTER CUTS

With school funding reduced for six years in a row in California, local schools learn to get creative in their fundraising efforts. From silent auctions and galas to grant applications and giving campaigns, local schools, PTAs, foundations and area businesses are finding new ways to fund classroom supplies, student amenities and educational programs to enrich students' educational experiences.

- Point Loma-based children's hair salon Pigtales and Crewcuts will donate 5 percent of every full haircut in August and September to the school of the client's choice. Last year, the salon gave \$800 to local schools, and the salon hopes to double that number this year.

- Another Point Loma-based business, Tops Valet Services, is giving up to 15 percent of a client's paid monthly invoice for dry cleaning and alteration services back to Correia Middle School.

- In addition to the school's year-round giving campaign, Dana Middle School will host a Scholastic book fair in September and a Jog-A-Thon in October to help stu-

dents benefit from hard-earned funds in the same school year.

- Sunset View Elementary School's foundation, Kids First at Sunset View, has recently launched a new website, www.kidsfirstatsunsetview.org, to make it easier for those in the community to learn about and get involved in its annual giving campaign, fundraising events, corporate sponsorships and volunteer efforts.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACE OF CUTS

Despite a shrinking district budget, a couple of newly constructed or revamped facilities are enhancing local schools this year because of the passage of Proposition S — a \$2.1 billion bond measure program — in 2008.

- Construction to replace outdated roofs on multiple buildings at the Dana Middle School campus will begin in the spring.

- Students and faculty at Loma Portal Elementary will benefit from upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning in the school's library this year.

- A portion of Point Loma High School (PLHS) Building 900 is being remodeled into a Motion Picture Industries Program Facility.

- Construction to convert an old wood shop area into a new music center at PLHS was completed just in time for the start of school.

- A new 3,190-square-foot weight room and exercise facility at PLHS was completed in May. The construction was funded by Prop S funds, and the exercise equipment was funded by the Jimmie Johnson Foundation and Lowe's Toolbox for Education Champions grant.

For a full listing of Prop S-funded school facilities projects, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net.

School offices are open and ready to enroll students. Classes start Sept. 4. For more district information, visit www.sandi.net. For information about schools in the Point Loma Cluster, visit www.pointlomaccluster.com, or call (619) 725-7131.



The 59th annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relays gets under way at Mission Beach Aug. 15 with a half-mile run down the beach. Shown are, from left, Chris Walsh of Central Division (Pacific Beach and Mission Beach), Ben Trent of the lifeguard Boating Safety Unit, Zach Emig of Southern Division (Ocean Beach and Mission Bay) and Brandon Pomerantz of Northern Division (La Jolla-area beaches). Photo by Jim Grant / The Beacon

RELAYS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Diego Lifeguard Services' Boating Safety Division.

The relays included 12 legs demonstrating the different rescue techniques used in ocean rescues: running, swimming, paddle-rescue boarding and landline rescue.

This year saw each division take, and then lose the lead over the course of the hour-long relay race in what many observers crowned the tightest, most competitive lifeguard relays in recent memory.

Ultimately, the Central Division displayed the most depth. Placing second was the Northern Division, followed by

the Southern Division and finally the Boating Safety Unit.

The win for the Central Division marked a second-straight victory over their counterparts. The Northern Division held the relays crown in 2010.

According to lifeguard officials, the relays serve three general purposes:

- motivation for lifeguards to fine-tune their rescue skills and athleticism;
- a means to blow off steam after a stressful summer; and
- an opportunity to showcase various rescue techniques to the public.

The annual relays are named after veteran lifeguard and long time Northern Division team captain Ronald B. Trenton, who was lost at sea while piloting his private plane from Catalina Island to San Diego in 1997.

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OB Library Circa 1933.

The library relocated to its current location on Santa Monica in 1928.

Photos Courtesy of OB Historical Society.



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

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2012 gridiron preview: Pointer power returns with retooled lineup

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

There is one event that is eagerly anticipated by players but that universally leads to a deflated feeling for every high school and college coach when it happens: graduation.

After working with and developing the talents of young athletes for four years, the "G" word rears its ugly head, and all the growth and improvement made over the span vanishes — in the case of Point Loma High School — in a maroon-colored cap and gown.

But with the lament of another graduating class moving on comes the promise of a new crop of student-athletes.

The best high school coaches are those who are highly skilled at identifying who, among an annual mob of squeaky-voiced freshmen, can be molded and polished into another collection of athletic gems before they, too, depart.

Mike Hastings and his tight group of assistants at Point Loma High School do this as well as anyone.

Taking over for the iconic Bennie Edens in 1998, Hastings, who played his high school football at University (now Cathedral) High and went on to play at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, has put his own signature on a Pointer program that continues to win both on and off the field.

Game scores are seen by the public, but like his predecessor, Hastings holds his athletes to a high standard of conduct at school, in the community and at home. These are the intangibles, the unknown work of a caring coach that often escapes the public's eye.

As Pointer fans eagerly await the referee's 3 p.m. whistle signaling kickoff at the varsity home opener on Sept. 1, Hastings offered this breakdown of his current team.

OVERALL

"I think our defense will be our strong suit, but we have a lot of speed on offense and we have a lot of big play-making ability. Our quarterbacks have worked really hard to become more versatile as far as passing the ball, and our throwing game has opened up a lot. I think we'll have a more balanced attack, but the ground-based arsenal is what we've relied on for years. I think we'll have an excellent running game and a much-improved passing game."

OFFENSE

Quarterback: "We have three seniors that have done a great job all spring and summer (Branden Martin, Sam Augustine and Avery Cramer) and junior Quinn Bohannon has competed well, too. Right now in the middle of camp, we've got a great competition going."

Running backs: "We have a couple returning guys (Johnny Maes and D.J. Lacy), both of whom are fast and explosive runners. Oscar Moya is a very strong, physical fullback and we're very excited he gets to blossom and play this role."

Z-back: "We use this position for speed to run our outside sweeps, and we're very fortunate to have guys like Ja'Marcus Watkins coming up from the JV and Sydney Rush, a returner, who is one of the best at what he does. Both are very quick."

Offensive Line: "We have some very good guys coming back, such as Jovanny Sanchez and Brian Thepkaysone. We were really sad when another returning leader, Anthony Riccardulli, went down with a serious leg injury during spring practice. Some of the big kids coming up are Zack Zugovitz, Michael Serrano, Jared Polonitza and Seth Irby, a sophomore who earned a starting position at center. They'll be backed up by guys like Kevin Ford and Andrew Caparell. This will be the biggest offensive line we've had in

years (averaging 6 feet 2 inches and nearly 260 pounds)."

Wide receiver: "Two guys are competing really hard. Drew Rutledge played JV and varsity last year, and Raymond Goncalves, who has gotten a lot stronger and faster since his junior year."

Tight end: "We have three players here (Jake Wambaugh, Chad Ahumada and Bennett Reeber) all doing well in camp. Jake is playing a lot of defense, so Chad and Bennett are getting the majority of snaps in practice."

DEFENSE

Defensive backs: "Our defense is really anchored by our backs, and here we have free safety Zach Eischen and strong safety Jamal Agnew, both three-year lettermen. At corner, Sydney Rush is a shut-down guy along with Grant Wilburn."

SEE PREVIEW, Page 9



Jake Wambaugh (No. 19) is expected to play a big role in the 2012 team's offense and defense. Wambaugh earned a starting role last year as a sophomore. Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

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PREVIEW

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

Backing up both of them is Adrian Bueno coming up from JV."

Linebackers: "Senior Greg Verdugo is a returning second-team All-League kid, and an outstanding junior, Tanner Manion, who is talented, strong, athletic and only going to get better. Another returner, Tristan Bier, makes this a strong group."

Defensive line: "Jake Wambaugh is outstanding at the end position on one side. On the other side, we have Jacob Virissimo, only a sophomore, and senior Weston Huff, who played both ways last year. We also have Mario Fregoso, another up-and-comer, who did not play last year. Our defensive line is anchored by an All-League kid Steven Arreola, who is big, strong, and we're expecting big things from him. We have a young guy, Pedro Da Silva coming off JV and some other young guys we are developing, including Cameron Chesnut and Dan O'Beirne, a guy who has really impressed us, and was moved up to varsity during the first week of camp."



PLHS head coach Mike Hastings has notched a record of 101 wins, 64 losses and 2 ties over 14 seasons.
Photo by Scott Hopkins

2012 SEASON SCHEDULE

- **Sept. 1** vs. Mar Vista (home) 3 p.m.
 - **Sept. 7** vs. Olympian (away) 7 p.m.
 - **Sept. 14** vs. Lincoln (away) 6:30 p.m.
 - **Sept. 21** vs. Morse (home) 3 p.m.
 - **Sept. 28** vs. Scripps Ranch (home) 3 p.m.
 - **Oct. 5** vs. Kearny* (home) 3 p.m.
 - **Oct. 12** vs. La Jolla* (Homecoming) 6:30 p.m.
 - **Oct. 19** vs. Crawford (away) 3 p.m.
 - **Oct. 26** vs. Mission Bay* (away) 3 p.m.
 - **Nov. 2** vs. Madison* (away) 6:30 p.m.
- * Denotes Western League play

SPECIAL TEAMS

"We have an outstanding kicker, Miguel Alcantar, who has a very strong leg and can also punt as well and we're

looking to him to carry the kicking load. Tristan Bier is an outstanding long-sapper and holding will be the versatile Branden Martin with back-up from Zach Eischen."

EXTRA POINTS

• Hastings' overall record as head coach at Point Loma High over 14 seasons is 101 wins, 64 losses with 2 ties.

• The Pointers will see their first opponent contact in the Aug. 24 annual controlled scrimmage. This year, the Pointers return to Cathedral High where two other teams will allow each team to test itself against three different offenses and defenses. Junior varsity action begins at 4 p.m., with varsities taking the field at 6 p.m. Cathedral High is located at 5555 Del Mar Heights Rd.

• Hastings on the new field's effect: "It's very exciting to have our new field. Seeing it just gets your adrenaline going and I think that once we get out there we will have the same goal of protecting the home field, something we take a lot of pride in. Our goal is never to lose any games, but especially at home. It will be fun for this group to look back and say, 'We were that first team to play on the new field.' I can't wait to get out there."

'Kick-Off' tradition continues for season opener

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

On any other day of the year, the Pointer Association at Point Loma High School prides itself in emphasizing the 3-A's: academics, arts and athletics. But on Sept. 1, the focus shifts to the 3-F's: football, food and fun.

The association annually stages the "Kick-Off" event, an all-day celebration built around the start of the prep football season. It is the single-largest fundraiser of the year for the Pointer Association, with a goal of \$12,000.

All funds raised go directly back to the school in various forms, last year totaling nearly \$300,000 to offset some budgetary cuts and help PLHS students.

As part of school tradition, 2012 Pointer football teams will all make their

debut, with the freshman team playing at 10 a.m. and the junior varsity at 12:30 p.m. before the 3 p.m. varsity main event. All games are against Mar Vista High from Imperial Beach.

Athletes will also christen a new playing surface on Bennie Edens Field, adding to this year's festivities in Pete Ross Stadium.

PLHS parent and Pointer Association board member Maria Gibson is putting the community celebration together. Among the day's highlights will be:

- grilled hamburgers and hot dogs
- ice-cold sodas, water and sports drinks
- the first performance by the 2012 PLHS Vanguard band
- special halftime performances during all three games
- recognition of athletes in all fall sports

at PLHS

• a "silent auction" for fabulous items and packages

School board member Scott Barnett will be on hand to help dedicate the school's new weight-room facility, which has already drawn raves from visitors. The ceremony after the varsity game will include public tours of the building.

All equipment came from a \$90,000 "Champions Grant" from the Jimmie Johnson Foundation award two years ago after then-PLHS parents Lisa Tumbiolo and Ron Gemmill wrote the application. Senior class president Josh Morse made a video showing how a new weight room would benefit all students.

Guests are reminded the Voltaire Street entrance to Pete Ross Stadium will be closed.

Stadium work to close Voltaire Street entrance for a year

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

The Point Loma Pointers will play five home football games this year on their new turf field. Dozens of other events will draw people to Pete Ross Stadium as spectators and participants. But there's a catch.

All those fans and hundreds of students who use the Voltaire Street entrance to the school on a daily basis will have to use an alternate route.

Ground was broken Aug. 20 on the long-awaited stadium entry building, forcing the closure of the entrance for the entire 2012-13 school year.

School officials have been busy making plans to create alternate entry paths and ticket sales for events.

Parking will be offered in the school's Clove Street lot on the southeast corner of campus and on area streets. Current plans call for limiting parking in front of the school gym and tennis courts to those with handicapped placards.

The ticket booth will be physically relocated to a spot adjacent to the Lee Trepanier Gym near the stadium scoreboard, where all fans will be required to enter.

Temporary restrooms will be in use for the current school year.

When finished, perhaps in time for the class of 2013's graduation, the new multi-million-dollar facility at the Voltaire Street entrance will contain a new ticket office, restrooms and snack bar facilities.

A pathway will be kept open at football games for fans to purchase food and beverages from the current snack bar, which will become additional storage

area after the new facility is completed.

Pointer fans have been forced to use a collection of blue portable restrooms

since the stadium's restroom building was condemned and ordered to be torn down several years ago.

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Java Joe's, whose namesake is Joe Flammini, above, has returned to Ocean Beach with a club at 4976 Newport Ave.

Photo by Bart Mendoza | The Beacon

Reinventing Java Joe's: popular coffeehouse/club returns to OB

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

Let's hear it for lucky No. 7. The famed San Diego coffeehouse and music venue Java Joe's has returned to Ocean Beach for a seventh incarnation of the revered nightspot.

Now situated at Ocean Beach Surf and Skate Shop at 4976 Newport Ave., only a few doors down from the site of its heyday at Newport Avenue and Bacon Street, the club has been in busi-

"The whole time I was away from OB, I always wanted to come back, but I never thought it would happen. And then, when this spot became available, I knew it was time to come back. ... I get comments every day from people, coming by and telling me that they used to come by the old spot. ... A lot of people remember and a lot of people are encouraged that I'm back. It's always a good thing to hear positive feedback."

JOE FLAMMINI, founder of Java Joe's

ness in various locales, including Hillcrest, downtown, Poway and the College Area. Despite successes in the other loca-

tions, nothing has resonated with local music fans like the club's two previous Ocean Beach locations, where namesake Joe Flammini became a local legend and artists like Jewel, Jason Mraz, Steve Poltz and Gregory Page were regulars on his stages.

The building itself is mixed use: a retail and rental shop by day. However, with the quick movement of a few displays, the addition of folding chairs and a stage, it's an impressive transformation.

Music lovers can find local and national touring acts Thursdays through Saturdays, with an open-mic night on Sundays.

Though Java Joe's has a reputation as a top spot for acoustic music, bands are also featured — although nothing too heavy.

At the moment, the venue offers coffee and baked goods, but will soon have food available as well, prepared by Valerie Ugrinow.

"I just wanted to make food that was fresh and made to order — easy, fast food," said Ugrinow. "There's this whole push toward organic food, but usually you have to pay gourmet prices for it. I just thought OB needed something like that, which was fast and ready to go."

Food will be available for lunch and dinner. One highlight of the current menu is a selection of smoothies, named after local performers.

"We have one for Bushwalla, Jerry Garcia and for Steve Poltz, we have one we call the 'Lockjaw.'" Meanwhile, Gregory Page fans can purchase the "Heartstring" while Jason Mraz aficionados can partake of the "Beautiful Mess" smoothie.

After more than a decade away from his most successful location, Flammini laughs at the thought of ending up mere yards away from the original spot, which is now a Starbucks.

"The whole time I was away from OB, I always wanted to come back, but I never thought it would happen," said Flammini. "And then, when this spot became available, I knew it was time to come back."

While people come to Java Joe's from all over the city, Flammini said he is particularly happy with the response from locals.

"I get comments every day from people, coming by and telling me that they used to come by the old spot," he said. "I get a lot of support. A lot of people remember it and a lot of people are encouraged that I'm back. It's always a good thing to hear positive feedback."

Flammini is particularly proud of the reputation he's earned for helping many internationally respected musicians.

"I feel that I'm fortunate that I've met the people that I did," said Flammini. "It's always great to see people we know make it."

With so much musical success associated with Java Joe's, word of mouth about the club remains good among the nation's musicians.

"We get tons of phone calls every week," he said. "Lots of people want to play here, but there are only so many days in the week. It's great to know that after all these years, artists still want to be a part of this."

With decades of providing entertainment and caffeinated beverages to San Diegans under his belt, Flammini notes running Java Joe's, in whatever location, is just part of his lifeblood at this point.

"I just love the atmosphere, the music and the people I've gotten to know over the years," Flammini said. "I was out of it for three or four years and it didn't feel right. I feel more alive now that I'm doing it again."

• **Java Joe's** is located at 4976 Newport Ave. All ages. www.javajoes-sd.com.

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John, James and George Burrell of Loma Portal get up close in the cab of the "Big Red Rig" with firefighter Ed Cormode during the recent "National Night Out" in Loma Portal.

Courtesy photo by Mike Klose

Neighborhood Watch groups celebrate 'National Night Out' with block parties

The high heat and humidity didn't deter about 80 adults and children of two adjoining Loma Portal Neighborhood Watch "cells" from coming together for a festive block party, pot luck, sunset watching and camaraderie on Aug. 7 to support the county's "National Night Out."

The block party was just one of about 10 similarly themed Peninsula gatherings that evening to underscore crime awareness and the benefits of an organized law enforcement/neighborhood connection. Two community relations officers with the police department's Western Division, who initiated the events with local Neighborhood Watch block captains, dropped by to meet and greet partygoers, and to thank them for banding together and organizing 120 homes as the watchful eyes and ears of the neighborhood.

Since 2010, these two Loma Portal cells have witnessed a drop in crime, thanks to their enhanced connections, social gatherings and e-newsletter.

"I love our Neighborhood Watch program," said Loma Portal resident Elaine Burrell. "I have gotten to know so many more of our neighbors because of our group's communications and annual activities. Most importantly, though, I feel safer about my kids going around the neighborhood since we're all sort of watching out for each other."

Young and old were also treated to a surprise visit from the crew of Engine 15, based in Ocean Beach.

For more information on Neighborhood Watch and forming a local cell, visit www.sandiego.gov/police/services/prevention/programs/neighborhood-watch.

— Staff and contribution

Newbreak Church debuts revamped 95-year-old OB site

With the 125th anniversary of Ocean Beach unfolding all this year, the community's history continues to evolve.

Case in point, the grand opening service of Newbreak Church's Ocean Beach campus — the debut of the facelifted 95-year-old institution formerly known as the Assembly of God Church — is scheduled to take place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 4694 Cape May.

The location is Newbreak Church's sixth multi-site location countywide.

If there were an "Extreme Makeover Church Edition," the building at the corner of Cape May and Ebers might be on it. Three years ago, Newbreak took ownership of the once-dilapidated property and renovated it from the ground up, while maintaining historic elements. These included the site's original classic stained-glass windows, which were reinstalled with new, energy-efficient, dual-pane windows at the front of the sanctuary.

"The stained glass is a beautiful piece that showcases the buildings' roots," said lead pastor and Ocean Beach resident Mike Quinn. "There is so much



The Assembly of God Church at Cape May and Ebers streets — now the site of Newbreak Church's Ocean Beach campus — is shown in its original state in a photo dating to around 1943.

Courtesy photo

tradition and character in OB that we wanted to preserve some of the history of this place."

Ocean Beach campus pastor Steve Bombaci agreed.

"It was very important to us to keep some historic elements," he said. "The building has been here since 1917, so it is somewhat of a landmark in Ocean Beach."

The stained glass may look slightly out of place juxtaposed with the backdrop of mounted speakers and big screens, according to church officials. Yet that's the intent. Newbreak's blend of "old school" with the technology is



This photo shows the completed renovation at Newbreak Church's Ocean Beach campus, which will open to the community on Aug. 25.

Courtesy photo

needed to help reach the community through contemporary music and videos, they said.

Newbreak's popularity has stemmed from having a strong community focus, which includes local outreach efforts — from gardening at the Ocean Beach Skate Park to repainting the OB Community Center — and global missions. Newbreak is also known for its friendly, relaxed atmosphere, "shorts and flip-flops" attire, upbeat worship bands and relevant messages.

For information, call (858) 576-0007, or visit www.newbreak.org.

— Staff and contribution

Phil's BBQ tailgate breaks fundraising record for military mentoring program

Phil's BBQ and Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County partnered for the fourth straight year on Aug. 6 to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters' military mentoring program, called "Operation Bigs." Phil's BBQ served more than 3,000 guests during the fourth annual Phil's Big BBQ at the Ballpark, and raised nearly \$70,000 for Operation Bigs.

This year's tailgate was the largest yet, breaking the previous fundraising record set last year by \$15,000. An additional 900 tickets were sold this year when compared to last year.

"We're thrilled with the outcome," said Phil Pace, owner of Phil's BBQ. "The tailgate party is the largest fundraiser our restaurant hosts, so it's always a great sense of accomplishment and lots of fun for our staff to be out here and see how much the kids and their families are enjoying themselves."

In addition to the public, 1,000 Bigs, Littles and their family members chowed down on Phil's chicken and ribs plus two side dishes, ice cream from Ben & Jerry's Seaport Village and played in the Kid Ventures Kids Zone. There was also a Karl Strauss beer garden and

Slurpee truck on site.

The \$25 ticket fee included the Phil's tailgate experience and a Padres game ticket, with all of the ticket sales benefiting the charity. 120 Phil's BBQ staffers donated their time to serve nearly 4,000 pounds of chicken and ribs to event guests.

In the four years Phil's BBQ and Big Brothers Big Sisters have partnered to benefit Operation Bigs, they have raised more than \$200,000 for the organization. To learn more, call (619) 218-3532, or visit www.SDBigs.org.

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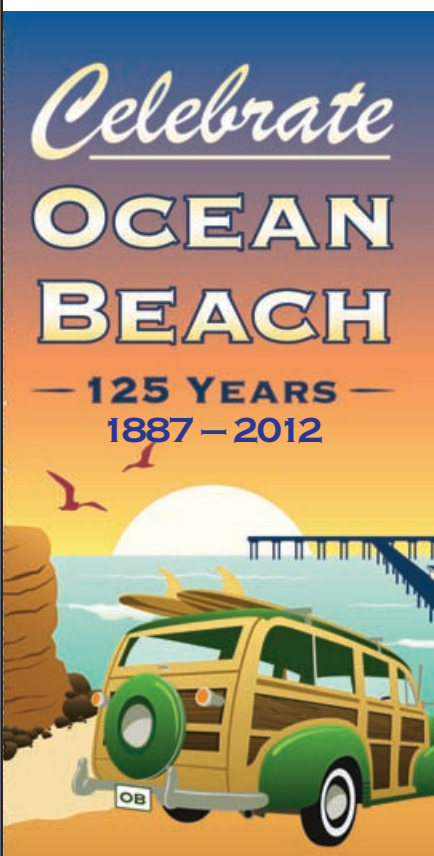
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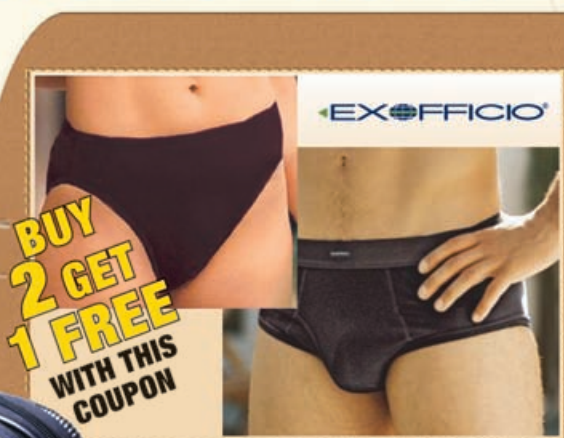
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Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is celebrating travel and transportation in the era of real horsepower at Stagecoach Days from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays in July and August.

The free event features a different theme each Saturday including Californio 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, demon-

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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:

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.

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