



THE PENINSULA BEACON



INSIDE: OCEAN BEACH 125th ANNIVERSARY EDITION!

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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A WILL TO SURVIVE



...and compete

Diane Hotz of Ocean Beach rests between waves while surfing at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach.

Courtesy photo

OB woman completes 40th Rough Water Swim after cancer recovery

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

This year, Diane Hotz of Ocean Beach recovered from reconstructive breast cancer surgery while celebrating her 50th birthday and her 20th year of teaching, as well as marking one other personal milestone — completing her 40th Rough Water Swim at La Jolla Cove.

Hotz has been doing the marathon ocean-swimming event since age 8 in 1970. Last year would have been her 40th time participating, but she had to postpone it due to her surgery. “There’s no way I was going to

stop doing the Rough Water Swim,” Hotz said, though she admitted to allowing herself one concession this year.

“I just did the one-mile swim,” she said. “I didn’t think I was up for the three-mile (Gatorman).”

She intends to do both next year.

Hotz, along with her siblings, grew up on Loring Street in Pacific Beach. Her brother, Don, said the family has always had a kinship with everything aquatic.

“We’re a big swimming family,” he

SEE **COURAGE**, Page 5



Diane Hotz exits the water after this year’s La Jolla Rough Water Swim on Sept. 9. This was her 40th time participating in the event. Courtesy photo

Students defuse rat race of school life with gigantic hamster wheel

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

As senior pranks go, a group of Point Loma High School seniors created a memorable one.

On Sept. 13, a crew of students from the class of 2013 erected a giant hamster wheel at the school’s Chatsworth Boulevard main entrance.

School staff and students seemed in awe as they arrived for classes and spotted students — as well as principal Bobbie Samilson — taking turns run-

ning on the 16-foot circular treadmill and its 20-foot-tall stand.

Seniors Corlin Palmer, Jacob Syage and Toby Shirts designed the structure. Using \$900 collected from 55 classmates, a crew spent three weeks and 300 manhours building the wheel in Palmer’s backyard from galvanized, welded conduit pipe and chicken wire.

The students said they often felt like they were on a treadmill



Dozens of curious students and motorists were surprised to see a 16-foot hamster wheel set up in front of Point Loma High School last week. A group of seniors built the wheel as a prank with collected donations.

Courtesy photo by Jack Fogel

SEE **WHEEL**, Page 5

OB comfort station mural draws raves — and fresh debate

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

The ribbon-cutting was two years late and the project was overbudget by more than twofold. Nevertheless, the Brighton Street comfort station — the public restrooms north of Dog Beach — has earned solid reviews since opening July 2.

In fact, the public artwork — a mural adorning the ceiling that was designed by local artist Shinpei Takeda — has earned a nomination for an Orchid Award from the San Diego Architecture Foundation, which will announce its 2012 winners next month.

But at least one Ocean Beach resident who decided to check out the restrooms during a stroll thinks the community got more than it bargained for. Two community groups — The Ocean Beach Town Council and Ocean Beach Planning Board — have agreed that his concerns have merit and have scheduled separate public discussions.

The resident, Jeff Russell, said he was dismayed to discover the mural, inspired by a photograph of the historic Wonderland Amusement Park, is overlain with snippets

SEE **MURAL**, Page 6



Abel Kaase, owner of Sessions Public, is helping to unite Point Loma and Ocean Beach merchants in promoting local craft brews across the Peninsula.

Courtesy photo

Restaurants unify resources in celebration of craft beers

By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | THE BEACON

National Drink Beer Day is on tap Sept. 28 and there’s no doubt San Diego is at the forefront of the craft-beer movement. But there’s even better news. Point Loma and Ocean Beach locals don’t have to look any further than their own backyards to find a heady brew community and a team effort working hard to quench the thirst of beerlovers.

The local craft-beer movement is a collaboration between multiple local restaurants that has conjoined two communities on opposite sides of the Peninsula.

Leading this barley-filled friendship is Abel Kaase, owner of Sessions Public, located at 4204 Voltaire St. During his time working in real estate, Kaase witnessed the burgeoning of North Park businesses and was inspired by that community’s rapid expansion of brewpubs.

SEE **BEER**, Page 5

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ON VACATION WITH THE PENINSULA BEACON



James Gaulke was driving from the East Coast to help a friend bring his three dogs to the West Coast, and brought along his *Beacon* for extra companionship. While driving through Mexican Hat, Utah, Gaulke stopped by its namesake rock formation.



Josh Whalen, above, embarked on a recent business/vacation trip to Nicaragua with his wife, Kayd. Here, Josh holds his *Peninsula Beacon* in front of a cigar stand at the airport in Managua.

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In a scene that looks like it could have appeared in "The Sound of Music," left, Brad Linville whisks his *Beacon* off to Engelberg, Switzerland, standing at the base of the tram to the top of Mt. Titlis.



Michael and Rebecca Damsky of Point Loma hold their *Beacon* at a black sand beach in Waipio Valley on the Big Island of Hawaii. The area is accessible only by four-wheel-drive vehicles.



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'A MESSAGE OF HOPE'

'Sleepless': experiencing homelessness for a cause

By JOHNNY McDONALD | THE BEACON

For a single night under the stars, the general public will have a better understanding of what it might be like to be homeless.

It's the sixth annual "Sleepless America San Diego" event, scheduled to take place at Liberty Station on Sept. 29 to increase awareness of an acute problem. The event begins at 3 p.m. and ends the next morning at 7 a.m.

The message is clear. More than 10,000 men, women and children are homeless in San Diego. Some have endured chronic homelessness for more than a year.

Herb Johnson, president and CEO of the San Diego Rescue Mission, noted that since 1955 the mission has provided sanctuary and hope for the homeless.

"In collaboration with other faith-based, social service and community partners, we launched Sleepless America San Diego to bring attention to the challenges of chronic homelessness and the increasing number of people living on the streets in this wonderful city," he said. "We needed to do something to elevate the process of finding solutions and generate funds."

Johnson noted that sleepers will have a choice of sleeping on a cot, cardboard or plastic sheet to gain an appreciation of homeless conditions. Unlike the homeless, these 1,000 one-nighters can have snacks and can listen local musical groups. They'll also listen to testimonies of people who



Participants in this year's "Sleepless America San Diego" event at Liberty Station on Sept. 29 will get a taste of what it's like to be homeless, along with information and inspiration about what they can do to help remedy the situation. *Courtesy photo*

have been helped by partner organizations. First-aid supplies, a medical staff and private security guards will be provided.

"Ours is a message of hope," Johnson said. "And as sleepless campaigns expand across America we pray that our voices join together to help bring powerful coalition and solutions to the plight of homelessness."

He said that when the San Diego Rescue Mission first opened its doors to the homeless in 1955, the mission offered little more than a warm meal and some

shelter.

The organization has grown over five decades to provide a full range of comprehensive services to restore hope for hundreds of people each year.

"Our programs also serve San Diego's citizens by building stronger communities and by saving taxpayers an estimated \$50 million a year in emergency room and other costs related to those living on the streets," Johnson said.

To register or to find out more, visit www.sleeplessandiego.org.

school has experienced under charter school governance.

The free educational event will serve as the launch pad for community dialogue as Engage PL continues to explore various forms of school governance models that might best benefit Point Loma's 10 cluster schools.

To join the conversation, RSVP at www.engagepl.com. The discussion will take place on Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Liberty Station Marriott Conference Center, located at 2592 Laning Road.

Sunset Cliffs erosion curbing workshops set

Point Loma residents are invited to attend a series of workshops to learn how to curb erosion caused by stormwater runoff along the scenic Sunset Cliffs Nat-

ural Park by modifying their landscaping to absorb more rain water.

The workshops, which organizers said are intended to be fun and engaging, will help preserve the blufftop park and public open space that make the Sunset Cliffs a uniquely beautiful asset for San Diego.

Last year, the park at Sunset Cliffs was named one of the top five disappearing places alongside Florida's Everglades by *Wanderlust*. The San Diego Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation has been working to preserve the local treasure, in part, through its Ocean Friendly Gardens program aimed at educating residents on what they can do to protect the bluffs from erosion.

Surfrider will begin its Ocean Friendly Gardens workshop series with a Basics

SEE BRIEFS, Page 4

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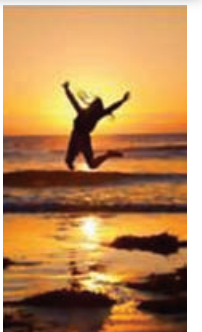


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Speakers: *Kristin Layous, Ph. D., student and researcher on happiness at UC Riverside and Peg C. Neuhauser, Business Mediator and author of I Should Be Burnt Out By Now, So How Come I'm Not?*



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BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

course on Monday, Oct. 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Point Loma Nazarene University, kicking off a three-part series on the economic, environmental and practical benefits of Ocean Friendly Gardens to homeowners and the community.

Other workshops:

- A Hands On Workshop (HOW) Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon (location to be announced, in the Sunset Cliffs area)

- A Garden Assistance Party (GAP) Jan. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (location to be announced, in the Sunset Cliffs area)

Participants can register at sandiego-surfrider.org. For more on the San Diego County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, visit surfridersd.org.

OB Pier Fishing Derby to lure young fishers

Children will have a chance to win prizes this weekend during the annual Kiwanis Fishing Derby at the Ocean Beach Pier.

The Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the fun, which runs from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22. The Ocean Beach Recreation Center is co-sponsoring the contest.

The derby is open to youngsters up to age 12, and free bait and refreshments will be provided. Fishing gear should be

brought or rented at the pier. No fishing licenses are required to participate.

Families are encouraged to fish together, but only fish caught by the children will be eligible for prizes, which include categories for: the most fish, smallest fish, biggest fish, ugliest fish and most unusual fish.

The Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club has served the community since 1928.

— Scott Hopkins

Paddle race to benefit wounded warriors

Isle Surfboards will host "America's Finest Paddle Race" at the NTC Channel at Liberty Station on Saturday, Sept. 22 in a fundraiser to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

The paddling event includes a one-mile "Fun Race," a 3.5-mile sprint and a four-member relay race, as well as a Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) Expo with paddle-sport-related vendor booths, afternoon SUP clinics, brand-board demonstrations and a raffle.

The event is open to all ages and all skill levels. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the first race starting at 9 a.m. The cost is \$45 per person for the general public or \$30 for military members. In the case of the relay teams, the fee is \$10 per member and there must be at least one female paddler per team.

The NTC Channel is located at Faragut and Chauncey roads in Point Loma.

For more information, call (888) 596-7873, email sales@tavapaddleboards.com or visit www.islesurfboards.com.

'Blessing of the Animals' event set Oct. 6

Pet owners of all types are invited to bring their furry, feathered, scaled or other companions for an annual "Blessing of the Animals" event next month at a local church.

St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church, located at 1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., will host the event Sat. Oct. 6 from 9 to 11 a.m.

All pet owners, regardless of religious beliefs, are encouraged to join in the continuation of an ancient tradition honoring St. Francis of Assisi, commonly regarded as the patron saint of animals.

As a new feature of the event, the San Diego Humane Society and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will join the event to promote animal adoption activities. Local pet-care businesses will provide information about their services.

St. Peter's by the Sea has been a part of the Ocean Beach community since 1946.

— Scott Hopkins

Several PLHS classes seeking out classmates

Several classes from Point Loma High School are looking for classmates to attend reunions in upcoming months.

- The class of 1967, which meets annually, will celebrate its 45-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 6 at Red Sails Inn on Shelter Island Dr. from 4 to 9 p.m. Contact MarcyPV@yahoo.com.

- The class of 2002, meanwhile, is preparing for its 10-year reunion Sept. 29 in The Coronados Patio & Lounge within Petco Park downtown. The group will attend a 5:35 p.m. Padres game, followed by an after-party. Contact alumni leaders at pointers@pointerassociation.org for more information.

- Meeting this month is the class of 1952 for its 60-year reunion on Sept. 21 at the San Diego Yacht Club. Contact pagopagogenie@cox.net.

- The class of 1962 will hold its 50-year reunion from Sept. 21-23 at Humphreys by the Bay and Half Moon Inn on Shelter Island. Contact Tenny or Bonnie (Carey) Aves at (619) 562-5479 or (619) 302-9246.

- The 40-year reunion of the class of 1972 is also slated from Sept. 21-23 at the Catamaran Hotel on Mission Bay. Contact Jan Percival at (858) 414-4715.

All PLHS alumni are encouraged to register or update their information at plhsalumni.org/registger.html to be updated on alumni news, events and reunion information.

— Scott Hopkins

Peninsula Singers to launch fundraising drive

The popular Peninsula Singers are

preparing to celebrate 10 years of thrilling the local community and venues with song and will be launching an 18-month fundraising campaign with two 4 p.m. performances on Saturday, Sept. 22 and Sunday, Sept. 23.

The performances will be dubbed "Shakespeare: Soliloquies, Scenes, Swords and Songs," and will take place in the beautiful private garden of the Mature family in Rancho Santa Fe.

The event was conceived by Peninsula Singers' members Victoria Mature (soprano) and Vanessa Dinning (alto, who also serves as the Peninsula Singers board president).

The cast boasts performers from San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, Poor Players, Pasadena Playhouse, San Diego Symphony, Orchestra Nova and London's Royal National Theatre. Scenes from *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Hamlet*, *Othello* and more are featured, along with live music and original pieces.

All proceeds from the event go to help the choir's overall fundraising efforts to ensure that every singer is able to take part in Peninsula Singers' 10-year anniversary celebratory tour.

All tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by emailing president@peninsulasingerssandiego.org or by calling Vanessa at (619) 246-8735.

For more information, visit www.shakespeareinthegarden.com. For information about the Peninsula Singers, visit www.peninsulasingerssandiego.org.



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Point Loma High Principal Bobbie Samilson takes a turn inside a 16-foot hamster wheel constructed by a team of Point Loma High School seniors as a school prank. The students believe this to be the largest hamster wheel ever constructed. *Courtesy photo by Jack Fogel*

WHEEL

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

in their underclass days.

Originally planned as a 14-foot contraption, the builders discovered the Guinness Book of World Records lists a 15-foot hamster wheel as a record. The students said they felt their fully functional device will set the new standard. Samilson recently issued an email to

all Point Loma High families asking that traditional “senior pranks” not cause any campus damage, and she said she was supportive of the shiny device. “They surprised us this morning,” Samilson said, noting the students had consulted with physics teachers beforehand. She praised their creative use of skills. Meanwhile, Palmer and crew said they were proud of their accomplishment.

COURAGE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

said, adding it was hard not to be when you’re born and raised a couple of blocks from the ocean.

“It was imperative that we all learned to swim in the ocean,” he said. Don became a surfer while Diane went on to become a student, and then teacher, of oceanography. She even went so far as to do underwater research on great white sharks off South Africa, working in a shark cage about 10 years ago.

Participating in the Rough Water Swim is a family tradition, Don Hotz said — one that obviously had extra-special significance this year for Diane. “One of the things they give you when you get out of the water after the swim is a survivor medal,” he said. “I thought that was kind of pertinent given she’s just survived a very serious bout of breast cancer. It meant a little extra to her when she got that survivor medal this time.”

Asked whether her participation in this year’s swim felt extraordinary, Diane said simply, “It was,” particularly given that she had to overcome a physical disability from the surgery to compete at all.

“It was hard this year to get my strength back,” she said. “They had to take a muscle out of my back to create

a new breast and my whole left side is kind of numb. They told me I was going to lose strength in my arm. I had to build back up my other muscles to cope with the lack of a back muscle.”

Undaunted, Hotz was determined to make it back to compete in her 40th Rough Water Swim.

“I was kind of taking a stride every year and this year was more important because of what I’ve gone through with breast cancer and coming back from major surgery,” she said. “It made it more meaningful.”

After all, Hotz said, exercise is therapeutic.

“Don’t be afraid of trying something new just because you have a disease or have had surgery to recover from,” she advised others in a similar situation. “The more exercise you can get, the faster the healing process is. Stay with what you usually do and don’t back down on things.”

Hotz’s experience overcoming adversity has been an inspiration to her family and friends.

“In August 2011 she underwent breast reconstruction and had to miss her 40th swim in September 2011 but got back into the water in January 2012 and began swimming 1,500 to 3,500 yards getting ready to swim her 40th Rough Water Swim at the 82nd La Jolla Rough Water Swim,” said Don Hotz’s wife, Meg Halaska. “Diane also swam with a group one summer,



Diane Hotz proudly displays her “survivor’s medal,” along with a gesture indicating her 40th completion of the race. *Courtesy photo*

swimming two to three miles per workout, working their way from Ocean Beach up to Oceanside. Wherever they stopped one week, would be where they started the next. She would like to do this again.”

“She is an inspiration to everyone,” said Diane’s sister Karen, who lives in Sacramento. “She’s awesome.”

Hotz has a new goal in mind. “Next year will be my 41st Rough Water Swim, heading, hopefully, to 50,” she said.

BEER

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

“I said, ‘We should have that here’... a little closer to home,” said Kaase, who grew up along Sunset Cliffs.

Once he saw other nearby bars and restaurants focusing on quality craft beers, Kaase organized “Drink the Point,” a free monthly series that shut-

tles patrons to various local businesses, encouraging them to try new neighborhood hotspots. Similar to North Park and South Park’s “DrinkAbout,” “Drink the Point” takes the risk and hassle out of bar hopping with scheduled transportation and pre-planned stops.

Occurring on the second Wednesday of every month, “Drink the Point” drops guests off at Sessions Public, Pizza Port Ocean Beach, The Pearl Hotel, Harbor

Town Pub, Newport Pizza & Ale House, Raglan Public House and Slater’s 50/50. “Honestly, I wish we could’ve done it sooner,” said Kaase, “but there weren’t enough places to participate.”

Sessions Public continuously rotates craft beer among its 20 taps and often seeks out more obscure local breweries to give those labels some recognition. Sessions Public also incorporates beers into several dishes on its menu, like the

IPA bratwurst and beer-braised duck tacos. For those who enjoy a cocktail with brunch, Sessions Public offers “beer cocktails,” blending lambic with champagne and blonde ale with rye.

For more information, visit www.sessionspublic.com.

Pizza Port Ocean Beach, located at 1956 Bacon St., a popular neighborhood hangout, is also known for its large selection of craft beers. This year, to celebrate Ocean Beach’s 125th anniversary, Pizza Port created a limited-edition pale ale to be sold in restaurants and bars throughout OB.

“Pizza Port loves being a part of the OB community,” said general manager Steve Brown. “Most of our employees live and work in OB. Everyone who works here [at Pizza Port] hangs out at all the other businesses involved with Drink the Point,” said Brown. “We don’t view them as competition since everyone knows each other.”

Pizza Port takes an active role in the community through its involvement with the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association and San Diego Brewers Guild. It has received local, national and international recognition for its beer at the San Diego International Beer Festival at the San Diego County Fair, Great American Beer Festival and World Beer Cup.

For more information, visit www.pizzaport.com.

For those in need of a place to crash

after imbibing craft beer across the peninsula, The Pearl Hotel, located at 1410 Rosecrans St., doubles as a contemporary restaurant and chic hotel. The Pearl rotates its 10 beer tap handles between local favorites, offering popular San Diego and Southern California labels.

“It’s all about hospitality,” said owner Greg Strangman. “It’s really cool to be able to offer guests — both hotel guests and locals — beer that’s more indigenous to our region. Our restaurant serves seasonal, local food and we feel the same way about beer.”

The Pearl holds monthly “Meet the Brewer” events to create a more intimate dining service between diners and various local brewers. The restaurant has also hosted “Beer for Breakfast” brunch pairings, and will soon hold a “Bike for Beer” event and “Hops and Heels” night for women, featuring beer and dessert pairings from Azucar.

“Drink the Point” really connects the two communities of Point Loma and OB,” said Strangman, an Ocean Beach resident. “There are lots of great restaurants here that people should be aware of.”

To show its dedication to locals, The Pearl offers a discounted accommodation rate to residents from both 92106 and 92107 ZIP codes.

For more information, visit www.thepearl.com.

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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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CURIOUS SNIPPETS RAISE SOME EYEBROWS

Among the snippets of text resident Jeff Russell said he discovered on the ceiling of the Brighton Street comfort station:

- “blatant killing of a known homeless man”
- “killed and the police officer involved exonerated”
- “gunned down and killed by San Diego Police officers”

- “filled with bullets”
- “fatal shooting of a dog by police officers”
- “anger expressed on Newport Avenue will translate to violence”
- “unmitigated hatred”
- “angry, jeering mob”
- “Afghan police and military”
- “Don’t Feed the Bums”

— Tony De Garate

MURAL

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

of text from news accounts about events that don’t present an accurate representation of the community or its history.

During his first visit, Russell said he noticed the phrase “fatal shooting of a dog” outside the entrance to the men’s restroom.

“I thought, that’s kind of strange,” said Russell. “We’re right next to Dog

Beach.”

He decided to go inside and spotted on the ceiling, “killed and the police officer involved was exonerated.”

His interest peaked and eyebrows raised, Russell decided to come back with a notepad and take a more careful look.

The text is arranged in an artistic manner and is often difficult to decipher. Some snippets form circular patterns, much of it overlaps, and some phrases appear in all caps, others all lower-case. Russell contacted the city’s

Commission on Arts and Culture, but the commission’s account of the text was incomplete; it only knew of the text in the circular patterns, Russell said.

He put the snippets he could decipher through an online search engine and discovered the upper-case text excerpted the writings of authors for whom streets around here are named: Georg Ebers, James Anthony Froude and Paul Bacon.

Russell made a more curious discovery about the lower-case snippets. In every case, he said, they were excerpts from articles in the *OB Rag*, the local online newspaper.

None of the articles were more than four years old and, too often, centered on divisive and inappropriate themes, according to Russell.

For example, said Russell, many snippets were from an article, “6th Anniversary of death of Danny ‘the Walker’ ” — an article about the use of deadly force on a homeless man. Another article, “OB Heathens escape from exile to raise funds for summer party,” focused on a group described in the article as “artists, street performers and other free spirits.”

Russell asked, “Are the OB Heathens important to our history or maybe just friends of the artist?”

Snippets from an article, “Fear and Loathing at the Black” include “Don’t Feed the Bums,” a phrase that appeared on anti-homeless stickers on Newport Avenue two years ago and provoked much media scrutiny.

“It’s a horrible representation of Ocean Beach,” Russell said.

He added that many community leaders expected the artwork to reflect a more general representation of Ocean Beach history, and he pointed to a story in *San Diego CityBeat* where Takeda was quoted, “My work has to do with memory. I wanted to talk about what was here when OB was founded.”

Noting the current 125th commemoration of Ocean Beach’s founding, Russell said, “We’re celebrating 125 years of history. What kind of history is this?”

Denny Knox, executive director of the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, said she was “surprised by the negativity” of the text when Russell visited her office to share a file of his research.

“I like to think of OB for all the good things it has. I thought (the mural) would be more representative of our entire history,” Knox said.

The many references to deadly force used by police could create a false impression of an adversarial relationship, Knox said, when in fact, “We have the best relationship with police that we’ve had in 40 years,” she said.

Takeda is the co-founder and creative director of The AjA Project, which describes itself as an entity that provides photography-based educational programming to youth affected by war and displacement. Takeda was in Asia at press time but Sandra Ainslie, AjA’s executive director, spoke of Takeda in glowing terms.


“I’ve worked with Shinpei for seven years,” she said. “I think he’s a brilliant artist and I think he’s very truthful and authentic.”

Ainslie said she wasn’t familiar with the specific concerns about the Brighton Street comfort station mural, but offered that Takeda doesn’t try to be provocative for its own sake.

“His artistic expression is always to portray the most truthful narrative and story in a way that is neither sensational nor sugar-coated,” Ainslie said.

The Ocean Beach Town Council will hold a discussion on the matter Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma Masonic Lodge, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.


The Ocean Beach Planning Board’s discussion item takes place Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.



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Pointers toppled by Hornets for second straight loss in early going

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Lincoln's Hornets could not be called one of San Diego County's elite football teams, but they were good enough to put a 19-14 sting on Point Loma Sept. 14 at the Hive's Vic Player Stadium.

The loss dropped the struggling Pointers to 1-2 on the young season with just two non-league tuneup games before Western League action begins next month. Lincoln improved to 2-1.

On a day when game-time temperatures hovered in the 90s, it was the Hornets who jumped on the Pointers early, putting up 10 points in the first 5:27 of the game on the strength of an opening-drive field goal and a first-possession Dog fumble that was returned 30 yards for a touchdown.

The Pointers spent much of the game trying to get their sputtering offense in gear as a large but inexperienced front line labored through another trial-by-fire.

Once again, the Pointer defense did its best to keep its team in the game, not allowing another Lincoln point for two quarters.

When the Pointers' first drive of the second half stalled, Miguel Alcantar's punt bounced off a surprised Hive player, with alert Grant Wilburn recovering the ball at midfield, the first of several big plays for the senior cornerback.

At this point, Branden Martin replaced starting quarterback Avery Cramer and, on a keeper, raced up the middle to score from 50 yards on the first play, firing up the Pointer bench as they pulled to within three, 10-7.

That momentum swing was boosted when Wilburn picked off a Hornet pass on the Hive's next possession. But that was short-lived as the Pointers lost the ball again on a fumble two plays later.

This time, the Hornets drove to the end zone, taking a 16-7 lead after a failed extra-point conversion.

The game was still a toss-up in the fourth quarter after Sydney Rush scampered 15 yards for a Pointer score, cutting the deficit to 16-14 with 8:08 remaining.

A second Hornet field goal, however, proved the fatal blow as the Pointers furiously attempted to score a winning third touchdown.

"We had a lot of mistakes and turnovers — things we've got to correct," said Pointer head coach Mike Hastings afterward. "But our kids have a lot of heart, supported each other and never quit. We've got a young group and we will get better."

The Pointers return home to face Morse (also 1-2) Sept. 21 at Pete Ross Stadium. The Tigers are led by college

OFFENSIVE WOES MOUNT

Though Point Loma's defense continues to put up stiff resistance, PLHS is bitten by a hungry Olympian squad 38-10. **Page 9**

prospects Tracy McNair Jr. and Alfonso Wilson. Morse is coached by McNair's father. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m.

On Sept. 28, the Dogs trot up Interstate 15 for a 3 p.m. kickoff at Scripps Ranch High School. The Falcons started 0-3 this season, but have played county powers Eastlake and Poway. The Pointers topped the Falcons 31-21 last year.

EXTRA POINTS

- Wilburn also broke up a second-quarter Lincoln pass in the end zone, preventing a touchdown, to go along with his fumble recovery and interception.

- Sophomore defensive lineman Jake Virissimo had a fumble recovery.

- The Pointer junior varsity posted a 27-0 victory and the freshmen squad notched a 35-2. Both teams remain undefeated.

- Key Pointer defenders Tanner Manion and Jake Wambaugh remained out with injuries.



Pointer defensive end Weston Huff (No. 57), a senior, closes in on a Lincoln runner during the Sept. 14 loss, leaving the Dogs with a 1-2 record.
Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

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'Future Pointers' event to beckon local students

Youngsters from all Peninsula schools are being invited to attend a Point Loma High Pointers football game next month for a "Future Pointers" day.

The event takes place Friday, Oct. 5 when the varsity Pointers collide with the Kearny Komets in the first Western League game of the season.

Kickoff is set for 3 p.m.

"Future Pointers" include all area youth from the seven elementary and two middle schools of the Point Loma cluster.

Admission to the game is free to future Pointers with a paid adult on this day only.

Students and adults who accompany the students are encouraged to wear either their own school logowear and colors or the maroon and gold of PLHS.

Because of construction at the main entrance, all fans must enter the stadium through the school grounds.

— Scott Hopkins

Recognizing the Need for Help in Caregivers

A family member taking care of an elderly relative may not recognize when they are at a breaking point. Short-term the caregiver is fine. Long-term, often-times outside help is essential.

An article in "Today's Caregiver" states: "Nearly one in four caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias provide 40 hours a week or more of care. Seventy-one percent sustain this commitment for more than a year, and 32 percent do so for five years or more."

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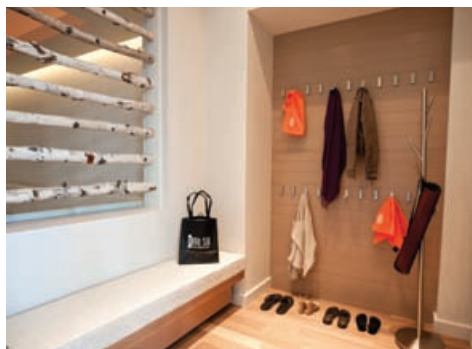
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Pointers bit by aggressive Olympian High squad 38-10

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

A hungry Olympian High Eagles squad buried the Pointers 38-10 on Sept. 7 to even the Dogs' record at 1-1 on the young season.

The Pointers, playing on the road, had already endured a transportation snag when their bus failed to show on schedule, causing them to rush onto the field without pre-game warmups or prep.

Then, a 17-point Olympian scoring blitz in just two minutes of the second quarter put the Pointers in a self-dug hole.

The Pointer defense again stood tall, holding the Olympians to 245 yards in total offense. Three plays — a 38-yard run and touchdown passes of 28 and 67 yards — accounted for more than half the Eagle total.

The Pointers continued to struggle on offense, however, as a big, but young, offensive line was unable to control the line of scrimmage.

Three Pointer quarterbacks combined to complete just six of 13 passes for 46 yards while two interceptions by alert Eagle defenders were returned 135 yards, both for touchdowns.

The first of those interceptions gave the hosts a 7-0 lead with 4:30 left in the second quarter.

Defensively, Greg Verdugo led with six tackles and three assists. Sydney Rush, Zack Eischen and Jamal Agnew were each in on six tackles with Rush adding an interception.

EXTRA POINTS

- The Pointers played without two key defensive starters, Jake Wambaugh and Tanner Manion, both of whom were injured.

- Game referees implemented a new

"running clock" rule, new this year to California prep football. When a team leads by 35 or more points entering the fourth quarter, or any time after, the game clock will not be stopped. Many coaches in the state are opposed to the rule, and Pointer head coach Mike Hastings said he was not pleased by its use.

- The Pointer freshmen (a 15-14 thriller) and junior varsity (23-8) defeated the Eagles to remain undefeated.

- Olympian opened in 2006 and first fielded a varsity team in 2007. Head coach Gil Warren is 71, played for Don Coryell at San Diego State and has coached at several South Bay schools in compiling over 200 victories since the late 1960s.

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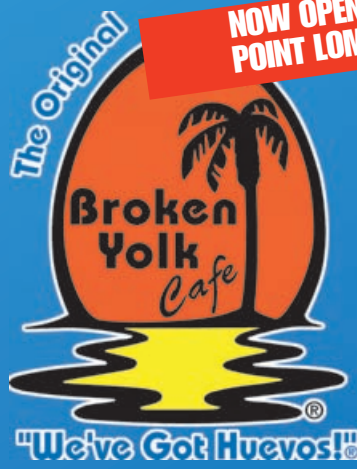
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Jeff Berkley & Friends bring special acoustic blend to Java Joe's

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

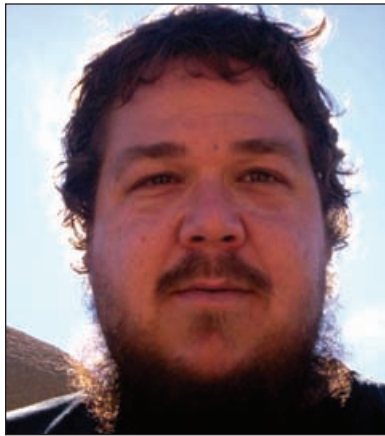
Long considered one of San Diego's premier singer-songwriters, the tag only scratches the surface when it comes to Jeff Berkley. In addition to his own music, Berkley, who performs at Java Joe's on Sept. 27, is one-half of the acclaimed duo Berkley Hart.

The pair has a San Diego Music Award to its credit in the Best Americana Album category for the disc "Twelve." A top-flight percussionist and guitarist, Berkley has also led a succession of popular local combos like Citizen Band. Additionally, he's a sideman seen occasionally on stage with artists ranging from Talk Like June to Jackson Browne.

Immersed in music 24/7, Berkley has also become one of San Diego's top producers at his own Berkley Sound Studios, with a resume that includes albums from the likes of acoustic troubadour Gregory Page and country singer Barbara Nesbitt. Despite helming the board on dozens of noteworthy titles, Berkley remains humble, giving the credit back to the musicians involved.

"I've been really lucky to get to work with great artists, which makes me look better," Berkley said.

The Sept. 27 show is part of a monthly residency begun in June, dubbed Jeff Berkley and Friends. To date, the focus



Jeff Berkley, a top-flight percussionist and guitarist, is half of the duo Berkley Hart, which performs Sept. 27 at Java Joe's.

Courtesy photo

has been on acoustic music, though there's no hard-and-fast rule as to what might take place on any given night. The "Friends" part of the bill changes each time, with an impressive roster of local notables that include Jeffrey Joe Morin, Rob Deez, The Lovebirds, Tolan Shaw and Podunk Nowhere.

"I wanted to give the audience a variety of music and not have it be the same singer-songwriter every minute," Berkley said. "I just have people come up and do a few tunes and if it's something we both know, we'll play together. If it's not, we don't."

Berkley's life in music was perhaps inevitable.

"It's in my blood," he said. "My dad was a musician. My grandfather before him was a poet and a musician. What inspired me was growing up watching my dad play bass in rock 'n' roll bands when I was a kid. It just made me want to do it."

During the late 1960s, his father played in such top area bands as Sound Foundation and Population Five and even worked with Elvis Presley.

"Then later on, when he was a minister, I learned to play music in his churches," Berkley said.

A quick study, Berkley's enthusiasm meant that by the time he was 15 years old around 1985, he had made his debut with the band, The Cry, at the now-defunct concert venue The Bacchanal. By the time he was 17, he was backing British guitarist Dave Sharp of the Welsh hitmakers The Alarm.

Upcoming projects include a new Berkley Hart album and a bluegrass album, as well as a possible new band that Berkley said will be "rockier," though he mentions a pedal steel player will be involved.

It's clear Berkley is in the eye of a creative hurricane. After more than 25 years of making music, which he said is the most important part of his life, he's still enthusiastic about creating

new sounds and live performance.

"Which is weird, because you'd have thought I'd have tired of it by now," Berkley said. "When I'm not playing with the band, I'm working in the studio. I'm not saying that you're happy at the end of every gig, necessarily. It's not like there aren't times — like everybody in

every career — where you're going, 'What am I doing? But I could never stop playing. I've got it in my blood now. I've just got to play.'"

• **Jeff Berkley & Friends** perform at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27 at **Java Joes**, 4976 Newport Ave. All ages. \$5. www.java-joes.com.

The Hot Spot pottery painting, candlemaking studio opens inside Liberty Station

The Hot Spot Studio has opened its doors with a scenic view of downtown amid the beautifully renovated historic buildings and landscaped grounds of the NTC Promenade at Liberty Station.

The studio is a paint-your-own-pottery and candlemaking studio where anyone can be artistic. The Hot Spot

offers hundreds of pottery items like picture frames, pasta bowls, dinnerware, flower vases and kids' items galore. It may be the only place in San Diego to offer chunky candlemaking.

The studio owners say this is a perfect place for a child's birthday party, ladies' groups or to bring a bottle of wine

and a date.

With seating for 60-plus visitors, the studio can accommodate large groups during corporate events and fieldtrips.

To plan a fundraiser, gathering, or for information, visit www.thehotspotstudio.com, or call (619) 223-1339.

—Contribution



Spirits of Mexico Festival Announces 2012 Winning Spirits Cava de Oro Extra Anejo Tequila Takes Home Coveted 'Best of Show' Award

SAN DIEGO (Sept. 19, 2012) – The ninth-annual Spirits of Mexico Festival celebrated 'La Vida Agave' and named the top agave spirits in the world earlier this month in San Diego. The week-long celebration attracted more than 2,000 attendees and featured a record-breaking number of agave-based spirits, totaling 79 brands with 213 expressions.

Cava de Oro Extra Anejo Tequila won the highest award, "Best of Show." The Best Western Hacienda Hotel in Old Town San Diego was the venue for the IWSC Group's annual Spirits of Mexico Festival Tasting Competition. Entries included 100 percent de agave tequilas, mezcal, bacanoras and liqueurs as well as new Mexican spirits at this year's event, raicilla and Mexican rum.

The Tasting Competition was co-hosted by Robert Plotkin of BarMedia and Jack Robertiello of Drinks

Ink. Judges included Carlos Camarena, master distiller of tequilas Tapatio, El Tesoro de Don Felipe, Excellia and Ocho; Charlotte Voisey of William Grant & Sons; Courtenay Greenleaf of Richard Sandoval's La Biblioteca; Eric Hay of Wirtz Beverage Group; Levi Walker of Young's Market; Phillip Soto Mares, president of El Duende Tequila, Inc.; Thomas 'Mac' McFarland Gregory III of Starwood Hotels, and Zack Romaya of Old Town Liqueur. The newest judge was Anthony Hill of Aliu-ke't, who won a seat on this year's panel by entering the competition's essay contest.

Entries were judged on five key elements including appearance, aromatics, flavor, mouthfeel and finish, with a rating system totaling a maximum possible score of 100 points. The intensive blind-tasting schedule included judging of 113 entries.

A new packaging category was added to the 2012

competition, as Mexican spirits are known for creativity in package design. According to Spirits of Mexico Founder Dori Bryant, no other category of distilled spirit compares with the innovative and often whimsical productions found with agave spirits.

"Pina-shaped closures, tear-drop shaped bottles, elegant and intricate agave structures in the bottle," says Bryant, "beckon us to taste the juice housed within."

The first-ever Best of Show Packaging Award was given to Apocalypso Tequila. Scoring elements include bottle and label design, utility, innovation, overall package and general appeal.

Winners of the Tasting Competition's 'Best of Class' awards are: Tequila Blanco (29 entries): Tie - Jose Cuervo Platino and Pura Vida Silver Tequila Reposado (26 entries): Muerto Tequila Tequila Anejo (20 entries): El Jimador Anejo





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Ortegas is feast for the eyes with Mexican buffet, pizzeria

By MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

Juan B. Ortega bought a pizza parlor on Midway Drive and turned it into a Mexican buffet-pizzeria. Now, Ortegas Mexican Buffet and Pizza serves everything from chicken mole poblano to calamari, artichoke and garlic-sauce pizza.

Ortega purchased the restaurant 12 years ago, five years after opening Ortega's Cocina on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. His eight brothers and sisters run it now, while his wife and two of their daughters help at the buffet restaurant.

Ortega said the pizzeria was humming along, pulling in about \$1,000 a day, until the fateful Sept. 11, 2001, when business plummeted. Adding Mexican fare, including the buffet, was his attempt to attract more customers. It worked, and business started picking up, better at lunch than dinner.

"(The buffet) is not a great idea, but we've been surviving," Ortega said with his typical good humor.

Despite the proliferation of Mexican restaurants in San Diego, Ortega said, there are few Mexican buffets.

"You have to know what to serve and what not to serve so the food's not over-

cooked," he said.

The buffet offers 14 items, including the chicken mole poblano, chili verde pork and steak ranchero, plus vegetarian dishes and tortillas. For dessert, Ortega makes flan custard-filled pastelito pastries. He learned the secret of making them at his grandfather's bakery in Puebla, Mexico, Ortega's hometown.

"Only me and my grandfather make them and he's passed away," Ortega said.

The cost for the all-you-can-eat fare is \$8.99 for lunch and \$9.99 for dinner.

In addition to the buffet, Ortega, who said he's "the chef, the everything," serves up made-to-order dishes, from the usual Mexican fare of enchiladas and tortas to such exotic specials as two calamari enchiladas for \$8.99, and three red snapper taquitos for \$4.75. For dessert, there's an unexpected Italian tiramisu for \$3.99.

Prices start as low as 99 cents for beer-battered cod fish tacos and vegetarian tacos.

"We have to give them away," Ortega joked, adding that it's a good way to introduce customers to the restaurant. For more refined tastes, he also offers salmon and halibut tacos at \$2.99. Large specialty pizzas, including spinach



From left, Vanessa B., Marlyn B., Teresa B. Ortega and Juan B. Ortega.

Photo by Marsha Kay Seff | The Beacon

and chicken alfredo are \$14.99. Traditional, large one-topping pizzas are \$6.99.

Ortega points out that he even offers "my own beer on tap." Well, he doesn't actually brew Ortegas Pale Ale, "but I own the name."

Open at 8 a.m., Ortegas also offers a limited breakfast menu all day, including huevos rancheros at \$6.99; a breakfast burrito with eggs, potatoes, cheese and a choice of ham, bacon, sausage or chorizo for \$3.99; and a spinach, eggs, mushrooms, onions and mozzarella bur-

rito, \$6.99. He's grooming a nephew to cook the breakfasts and hopes soon to open even earlier and serve a wider selection of offerings.

His daughter, Marlyn, who received a degree in linguistics last year from San Jose State University, works the counter and keeps the books; his wife, Teresa, helps with the cooking, and his 17-year-old daughter, Vanessa, helps out on weekends. His oldest daughter, a teacher, used to work at the restaurant, as did Marlyn's twin, who's now an airborne medic in the Army.

Ortega said he gave his family no choice but to work.

"If you don't like this," he said he told them, "you can go to El Pollo Loco or Jack in the Box."

Ortega said he enjoys everything about running a restaurant — "except fixing the hoods and the plumbing."

• **Ortegas Mexican Buffet and Pizza**, 3445 Midway Drive. Open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; www-ortegas.us, (619) 224-0774. Delivery is free within three miles and with a minimum order of \$20.



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Looking Back & Looking Forward

Looking Back on my life, having worked as a factory worker for 45 years, I thought years ago when factory jobs and factories started moving out of America that this sad situation would push America into poverty. People, as they became more vulnerable because of diminishing finances, were tempted to accept the mark of the beast. (Reference King James Version – Rev. 14:9-11) (Rev. 13:1-18). I see people being drawn into a great deceptive situation without their knowledge. They were ill-equipped to fend for themselves because of their ignorance of the Bible's warnings.

Looking Forward – Be aware of man's laws that are against the laws of God. Many people can be tempted by greed and power over others. Evidence of this is the increase in crime, abortion, murder and other abominable acts and failure to follow the word of God. (See Rev. 17:1-18).

The Bible teaches that deceiving spirits in high places are also dwelling in people created for the destruction of this world. You will be drawn into their perception of the world and will be deluded into a false sense of security by deceptive practices and promises of wealth, security and other ideologies that invite greed and slavery to their very tempting offers of survival in a very volatile time. Anti-Christ spirits exist and their origins in Satan should give us ample warning to beware! I have accepted the Son of God, Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior. I highly recommend the King James Version of the New Testament to read before you pass from this world.

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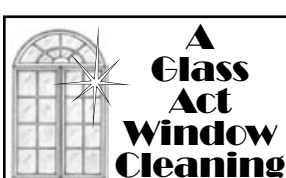
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Looking » ahead

Peninsula-area events, Sept. 20 through Sept. 29

THURSDAY, Sept. 20

The Ocean Beach Historical Society will present “Madame X, the Country Boy and Japanese Spy” by author

Richard L. Carrico with the Department of American Indian Studies at San Diego State University. From 1934 to 1936, a ring of Japanese agents and spies enlisted the help of U.S. Navy personnel to conduct espionage in Washington, D.C.; San Diego; San Francisco; and Los Angeles — events Carrico details. The presentation takes place at 7 p.m. at Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more infor-

mation, visit obhistory.wordpress.com.

SATURDAY, Sept. 22 and SUNDAY, Sept. 23

The Port of San Diego will play host to the seventh annual ArtWalk on the Bay at Waterfront Park near the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel. The event is expected to draw more than 150 artists and thousands of spectators to The Big Bay to peruse and purchase thousands

of paintings, sculpture, photographs and other original works of art. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days and is free to attend. Waterfront Park is located at 1 Park Blvd., behind the San Diego Convention Center. For more information, visit www.artwalkonthebay.org, or call (619) 615-1090.

SUNDAY, Sept. 23

A free wireless workshop will be conducted by Verizon officials from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Midway-area store, located at 3500 Sports Arena Blvd., Suite A. Participants can learn about their wireless devices, powerful features and applications and how to access the Internet on the go in personalized, hands-on sessions. Workshops are geared toward basic and advanced users. For more information, call (619) 521-2128, or visit www.vzworkshops.verizonwireless.com/vzworkshops.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 26

The Point Loma United Methodist Church hosts a free “Relax, Breathe, Share, Give” class from 4 to 4:45 p.m. at the church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Find your natural ability to relax and breathe easily. And with that discover your vast inner resources for being flexible and generous with life’s circumstances. The class features calming practices that you can do sitting, standing or in any situation. Reservations are required by calling (619) 788-4838, or emailing info@dharayoga.com.

FRIDAY, Sept. 28

• The United Portuguese SES in Point Loma hosts its “Splendor on the Grass

XV” golf tournament fundraiser at the Riverwalk Golf Club in Fashion Valley. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and the shotgun starts at 11:45 a.m. Later, appetizers, dinner and auction will take place at 6 p.m. at the SES Hall in Point Loma, located at 2818 Avenida de Portugal in Point Loma. The event cost is \$150 for golf and dinner. Dinner-only tickets are available for 50. For reservations or for more information, call Cathy Silva Dellenbach at (619) 226-8211, email upsesfesta2013@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/upsesfesta2013.

• Bodhi Tree Concerts: Performing Random Acts of Kindness presents Megan Weston (soprano) and Michael Fennelly (pianist) in a duet recital to benefit the microcredit organization Erase Poverty. The recital will include music of Mozart, R. Strauss, Liszt, Verdi and Gershwin. The performance takes place beginning at 7:30 p.m. at All Soul’s Church in Point Loma. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (646) 457-8707, or visit www.bodhitreeconcerts.org. For more information about Erase Poverty, visit www.erasepoverty.org.

SATURDAY, Sept. 29

GFWC Peninsula Woman’s Club will welcome guests for lunch, cards, conversation and relaxation during “Autumn in the Garden.” will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$20. For more information, visit www.peninsulawomansclub.org. For reservations, call Susan Townsend at (619) 223-1504.

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Linda Levy and her husband, Andy, recent transplants to Point Loma from Boston, are saddling up to provide horseback-riding lessons in East County. Courtesy photo

Point Loma couple saddles up to provide horseback-riding lessons

Linda and Andy Levy — recent transplants to Point Loma from Boston — are launching horseback-riding lessons in East County at the Triple S Ranch in Lakeside.

Linda will teach horseback riding at the ranch, which sits at the base of El Capitan Mountain on El Monte Road and boasts four riding rings, multiple round pens and direct access to the San Diego River trail system.

The Levys will work together to manage the riding program they have started at Triple S Ranch. Andy will schedule lessons and manage the business end of the program. In addition to teaching riding, Linda will also train horses. With 35 years of experience training horses and riders, Linda is an energetic and gifted teacher. Her direct and compassionate style enables her students to progress as riders and helps their horses remain happy in their work.

“Horses are often misunderstood because they are large and can be strong at times, but most domesticated horses are very gentle and crave the attention humans give them,” said Linda. “Horses are such wonderful teachers, they can mirror our emotions, sometimes telling

“Linda offers ‘A’ horse-show-level instruction to individuals who may not be interested in competing. Working on horsemanship skills promotes a sense of accomplishment, a sense of empowerment and a special relationship between horse and rider.”

ANDY LEVY
Point Loma

us things about ourselves we didn’t even know. Horses do not lie; they have strong human radar, telling us what they need if we take the time to listen.”

Andy is complimentary of Linda’s skills.

“Linda offers ‘A’ horse-show-level instruction to individuals who may not be interested in competing,” said Andy. “Working on horsemanship skills promotes a sense of accomplishment, a sense of empowerment and a special relationship between horse and rider.”

For more information, visit ridewithlinda.com, email linda@ridewithlinda.com, or call (619) 356-8033.

— Staff and contribution