



PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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PUTTING DOWN ROOTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN OCEAN BEACH



ANNUAL TRANSPLANT IS SYMBOL OF HOPE, LOVE, PEACE FOR HOLIDAYS



It has been 34 years since an idealistic, simple Christmas tradition idea was brainstormed by a band of brothers in Ocean Beach who came up with the wild idea of taking ownership of this beachside community by bringing together brotherhood, love, peace and cohesion. The whimsical tradition that started so simply with a community holiday tree and a tiny parade turned into a massive community event that is now cherished by thousands of Obecians annually as the "Ocean Beach Holiday Parade," this year to be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:05 p.m. At top is this year's community tree, donated by a family on Coronado Street, shown at right. In the days that follow, community members and local schoolchildren will decorate and leave their mark on the tree grounded solidly in the sand at the foot of Abbott Street, left, for all to admire in splendor during the holiday season. Thank you to the volunteers and organizers who make this happen each year, who pour their hearts into this community solidarity and help us remember the true spirit of the season.

— Kevin McKay, Beacon editor
Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon



Get your OB parade face on — it's family soiree time in 2013

DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

The 34th annual Ocean Beach Holiday Parade and Pearl Harbor Day coincide on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The Ocean Beach Town Council-sponsored event, the area's only nighttime parade, kicks-off at 5:05 p.m. "OB time."

The parade stretches from the 4800 block of Newport Avenue to the beach and around the corner on Abbott Street.

This year's event theme, "100 Years of Wonderland,"

honors the anniversary celebration of OB's amusement park, Wonderland.

The parade headlines a day-long schedule of events and activities geared toward the whole family that features a community Christmas tree, as well as a food and toy drive benefiting local families and seniors.

"We'll have 100 entrees this year, the maximum number, as well as 100 volunteers, a major increase at the request of the city to have

SEE PARADE, Page 6



Children dressed as presents parade down Newport Avenue during a previous Ocean Beach Holiday Parade. Photo by Paul Hansen | The Beacon

SDUSD shelves master plan for Point Loma High until next year

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Nov. 27 at 2:58 p.m.

The fifth and final meeting to develop a site master plan for the future of Point Loma High School has been postponed until early next year, according to school district officials.

The change was announced in an email sent to previous meeting participants by the Facilities Planning & Construction Dept. of San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). The email was time-stamped

No new meeting date has been set, but department officials promised to notify previous attendees via email when it is scheduled.

The district explained the need for the delay is to conduct a "traffic study/analysis to ensure the viability of the concept(s) proposed at the SMP (site master planning) meetings."

SEE MASTER PLAN, Page 4

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San Diego Bay Parade of Lights to bring holiday cheer to Bayfront Dec. 8 and 15

Continuing a long-standing San Diego tradition, the 42nd annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights promises to dazzle bayfront crowds the evenings of Dec. 8 and 15.

Participants in this year's cherished holiday event will decorate their boats following the theme — "The Big Bay Toy Parade."

Presented by the San Diego Unified Port District, the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights brings more than 100,000 San Diego residents and visitors to the shores of San Diego Bay each December. The procession of about 80 lavishly decorated boats has become one of the most iconic holiday events of the region.

A wide variety of awards are presented to the best-dressed boats and those that best capture the event's theme. All participants receive a participant plaque and are invited to the awards dinner on Jan. 9, where a wide variety of prizes will be raffled off.

This year, the grand prize is a seven-day Caribbean cruise for two with Star Clippers, whose fleet includes three of the largest full-rigged sailing ships in the world, each with all of the activities and amenities of a private mega-yacht. Everyone who participates in both nights of the parade and passes both sets of judges will be eligible to win the Star Clippers cruise.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. each night, the parade slowly navigates west from Shelter Island past Harbor Island, then south along the Embarcadero and Seaport Village before turning back north to pass the Ferry Landing in Coronado. The parade takes about two hours to pass any given point and there are many comfortable waterfront viewpoints along the route. A map of the route is



The family-friendly San Diego Bay Parade of Lights returns for its 42nd year for two week-ends to wow spectators with the holiday spirit on Dec. 8 and Dec. 15. About 10,000 people are expected to turn out for the annual event. *Courtesy photo*

available on the event's website to make it easy to find your preferred viewing spot. Due to increased traffic and parking demand, observers are encouraged to plan ahead or take the trolley to the event.

For added insight into the participating boats, viewers can watch the parade from near the announcer's area, just north of the Maritime Museum on the Embarcadero. As each boat passes this viewing point, the announcer offers a brief history and description of the vessel.

Panels of judges are stationed at two points along the parade route, at the Maritime Museum and on the docks at Peohe's restaurant in Coronado. Participating boats must pass both sets of judges to be eligible for prizes.

Boat owners interested in participating in this year's San Diego Bay Parade of Lights can submit the registration form and the \$40 entry fee online at www.sdparadeoflights.org. Participants can also download the form and submit payment and registration to the Bali Hai Restaurant at 2230 Shelter Island Drive.

The fee covers both evenings, and watercraft of all sizes are encouraged.

For more information, call (619) 224-2240 or email questions@sdparadeoflights.org.

If interested in sponsoring the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, contact Joni Geis at (619) 823-5220 or via email at joni@boatlenderusa.com.

For more information and parade details, visit www.sdparadeoflights.org.
— *Staff and contribution*



DEC. 7: ALL SOULS' HOME TOUR SET TO WOW

WHERE: All Soul's Episcopal Church, 1474 Catalina Blvd., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$25 in advance; \$30 on the day of the event

WHAT: A Point Loma holiday tradition celebrates its 61st year with another splendid display of glorious homes showcased during the All Souls' Saint Nicholas Home Tour. The opportunity provides a rare look inside some of San Diego's most beautiful homes. Begin your holiday season with friends and family on a tour of five spectacular Point Loma homes.

Tickets are available for purchase online at www.allsouls.com and at the church, Walter Anderson Nursery, To the Point Cafe, Mission Hills Nursery and Ace Hardware. Call (619) 990-9758, or email lisa.faulk@att.net.

PUT THIS ON SANTA'S LIST – OCEAN BEACH-OPOLY

The Ocean Beach Main-Street Association has produced a community-themed board game and Ocean Beach is making its mark this holiday season with its one-of-a-kind, limited edition board game called Ocean Beach-opoly.

Ocean Beach-opoly has been locally designed to have the same eclectic beach-town feel and iconic landmarks in the community. The game will retail for \$40 and can be purchased through the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) at its office and through its website and select merchants around town.

The OBMA Promotion Committee developed the concept with a family-owned vendor to design and produce



1,000 games. Each detail reflects the fun-loving nature of the Ocean Beach community. Property spaces are local Ocean Beach businesses and landmarks; game pieces are symbols popular in the community – like a peace sign, palm tree

and dog; and each penalty or reward card reflects an Ocean Beach business, location or event.

The game went on sale Dec. 2 and is almost sold out. More have been ordered. For more information about the game, rules and details or to check for availability (after Christmas) visit www.OceanBeachSanDiego.com, or call (619) 224-4906.

QUICKHITS

OB kidnapping, rape trial set for next March

An Ocean Beach man charged with sexually assaulting two women will stand trial beginning March 3, a judge scheduled on Nov. 8.

Richard Christopher Butts, 26, had been scheduled for trial on Dec. 13, but because the trial is expected to take 2-3 weeks, it was rescheduled due to the upcoming holidays.

Butts waived his right to have a speedy trial in San Diego Superior Court. He is charged with kidnapping both women with the intent to commit sexual assault. Both charges carry life terms if he is convicted.

He is also charged with rape,

forcible oral copulation and two counts of assault to commit rape. He was arrested March 24 after a young woman was assaulted in the early morning hours while she was walking on Long Branch Avenue.

She testified she was grabbed and dragged to a dark area between a garage and a fence. Two women who were dog sitting next door heard her screams and ran outside, causing the attacker to flee. They called 911 and he was arrested.

Police evidence technicians discovered a DNA match from the March 24 incident to an unsolved rape on Aug. 25, 2012. Butts was then charged with another rape and kidnapping and on Aug. 16. A judge ordered him to stand trial in both attacks.

He remains in jail on \$300,000 bail.

— *Neal Putnam*

Grattan convicted of first-degree murder

A Pacific Beach man who was convicted of first-degree murder of a Point Loma man will be sentenced Dec. 9 and will likely get 25 years to life in prison.

Shane Brian Grattan, 57, was convicted Nov. 6 by a jury, which deliberated only three hours in San Diego Superior Court in a trial that lasted several weeks. He will be sentenced by Judge Amalia Meza.

Darrin Joseph, 45, was found dead in some bushes at 4960 North Harbor Drive on Jan. 19, 2012. His wheelchair was found abandoned and grainy security camera footage showed a man coming from a van and pushing the wheelchair away. The man's face could not be seen.

Joseph's blood was found on the

van's steering wheel, a window, on a tuna can, a rake and on a jacket and one shoe that Grattan wore, said Deputy District Attorney Amy Maund.

Grattan's attorney, Brooke LaFrance, told jurors it wasn't unusual for the victim's DNA to be in Grattan's van because he was temporarily staying with Grattan at the time. Grattan did not testify, but LaFrance told jurors he was not capable of murder, and suggested other witnesses in the case may have done it.

The trial began on Oct. 25. Grattan was arrested Feb. 8, 2012, in Pacific Beach and was living in his van at the time.

— *Neal Putman*

Sewage spill prompts closures in beach areas

South Mission Beach and Dog Beach were among areas adjacent to the San Diego River mouth affected by a water contact closure issued by the county Department of Environmental Health following an estimated 22,500-gallon sewage spill reported Dec. 1.

The spill entered the San Diego River near Interstate 15, health officials reported.

City spokesman Arian Collins said the spill was believed to have been caused by "roots in the sewer line."

Signs warning of sewage-contaminated water will remain in place until samples indicate the ocean water is safe for recreational use. Warning signs were still up as of Dec. 4.

— *Dave Schwab*



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Retired Rear Admiral cites changing trends in today's warfare; alarming spike in suicides for returning veterans

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

The changing face of the U.S. Armed Services was highlighted by a guest speaker for Veterans Appreciation Day at Torrey Pines (La Jolla) Rotary Club on Nov. 13 — with some very enlightening insight into the challenges of today's U.S. warriors.

Navy Rear Adm. (Ret.) Leendert "Len" Hering, Sr. captured the attention of service-club members — many of them veterans themselves — as he shared details on little-known facts about the changing demographics of the U.S. military.

"We've changed the dynamics of where we are as a nation," said Hering, who noted this is reflected in the changing composition of the nation's military forces.

"Today, there are 21.2 million veterans out of 315 million Americans; 1.6 million are female, 1.8 million are younger than 35," Hering said.

"Less than 6 percent of the population of today's America has served and, of those, 600 to 1,000 are passing [away] every day."

Hering said those coming from military families have "a propensity to serve, which is significantly higher" than the general population.

The U.S. military is changing in other ways though, too, Hering said.

"There are fewer and fewer individu-

als who can meet the education standards and skills required for the highly technical warfare of today," he said, adding the average annual income of veterans — about \$36,000 — is also significantly more than the average annual civilian wage of \$26,400.

A historian by nature, Hering urged Torrey Pines Rotary's veterans, and veterans everywhere, to "tell their stories."

"Who's going to really tell the stories of Iwo Jima, Bataan, the Battle of the Bulge, etc., to the folks who need to hear it — the 94 percent who have never served?" he asked.

With advances in medical technology, Hering said more combat soldiers who "previously would have been left on the battlefield as casualties," are surviving to return and rebuild their lives with disabilities.

"We have 3.6 million vets — more than 50 percent — who have service-connected disabilities," Hering said. "We have five times more amputees in this conflict [in Afghanistan] than any other conflict we've been in. Many more are being brought back into society, and the sad part is many of them are not recovering. Our suicide rate in the service today is at an all-time high. We lost more servicemen to suicide last year than we did in actual combat."

The roots of Veterans Day on Nov. 11 go back to the armistice signed between the allied nations and Germany in 1918 that ended World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in the so-called "war to end all wars."

Armistice Day didn't take on broader implications until former general and then-president Dwight D. Eisenhower in

October 1954 proclaimed that Nov. 11 would henceforth become a day "to honor American veterans of all wars."

Veterans suffer higher proportionately than the rest of the population from many difficulties resulting from the transition from military to civilian life.

"Vets are three times more likely to be unemployed," said Hering. "Why? Why do we have more than 900 vets, our brothers in arms, homeless in the streets of San Diego? The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten."

Hering said Veterans Day is the nation's most mixed-up national holiday.

"Memorial Day and Veterans Day are the most confused holidays in America," he said. "Most citizens do not truly understand the difference."

Hering said veterans, like those in the Torrey Pines Rotary Club, have a role to play in "how America moves forward and shapes what is Veterans Day."

What should Veterans Day mean?

"It's a time for the entire country to reflect on and celebrate veterans' achievements and service," Hering said, adding it's an especially poignant time for veterans to reflect on what they've achieved through their service because, "If vets don't do the reflecting — then the reflection is shallow."

Hering said there's a motto he, as a veteran, prizes: "Life, liberty and the pursuit of all those who threaten it. It's the home of the free because we are brave."

The son of an American sailor who spent most his adult life in the U.S. Navy, Hering said he has three sons, "an heir and two spares," whom he hopes will "carry on the charge."



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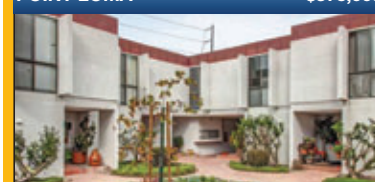
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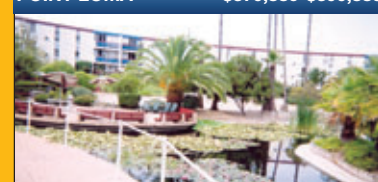
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Which of these costly mistakes will you make when you sell your home

SAN DIEGO, A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home. And a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and worse—financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

Courtesy of Dennis DeSouza Remax Lic. 01220680

As this report uncovers, most home-sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. I answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared for a free special report entitled "The 9 step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

To order a FREE special report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1000. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

MASTER PLAN

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The study is being done to assess community audience concerns about the proposed entrances to two new campus parking structures. The parking facilities would each have driveway entrances from Chatsworth Boulevard very near to a curve in the street.

Community members at a meeting on Nov. 20 had endorsed the construction of one parking structure to be built above the current staff parking lot on Clove Street. The structure would stand 1 1/2 floors above Clove Street after contractors remove a half-story of dirt below the current lot before building.

The second parking structure, including a student drop-off area, would be built on the site of the current main gym and cafeteria after the antiquated buildings are

demolished. After construction, a new main gym, boys' locker rooms, coaches' offices and cafeteria would be built atop the parking facility.

Depending on how much area is covered by the Clove Street building, campus parking would be increased to either 513 or 539 spaces, when added to another parking structure proposed for the Chatsworth Boulevard side of the campus.

One goal of the structures is to take traffic and parking off Clove Street. Also, they would significantly raise the number of on-site parking spaces from its current number of about 140 to an ideal number of 614 as determined by David Thompson of AVR Studio, the architectural firm contracted with SDUSD for the PLHS upgrade.

An audience member at the Nov. 20 session asked why such structures were being discussed when no traffic study had previously been conducted to determine

whether main entrances on Chatsworth Boulevard, including left turns, would be safe.

Also awaited is an environmental impact report (EIR) on proposed stadium lighting at the 88-year-old school.

Originally set to be released at the Nov. 20 meeting, district officials instead said the report was not yet complete.

When issued, the EIR is considered a draft and, after a 45-day period for public review, can be adopted as final by the SDUSD board.

Also, a group has begun meetings to draft a mutually acceptable agreement on nighttime usage of the PLHS stadium if lighting is installed.

The parking structures and stadium lighting are among other campus upgrades that have been suggested by community members and implemented into revised drawings by AVR Studio at each meeting.

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& Lighting of Tree
5:05 pm

Dec. 5th - 16th
Storefront
Decoration
Contest



Dec. 7, 14, 21
Craft Fair
(Newport
& Abbott)

Dec. 16th
Holiday Homes
Decoration
Contest

Dec. 16, 17, 19
Food
& Toy Drive

PARADE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

more hands on deck," said Gretchen Kinney Newsom, OB Town Council president and parade chair about 2013's festivities.

Claudia Jack, associate director of the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, who's in charge of the home decorating contest, said the parade event sprouted and grew from humble beginnings.

"Thirty-four years ago it was started by five brothers, called the James Gang, who wanted to bring a Christmas tree to town," Jack said. "Now there are so many people that attend the parade. It's such a family friendly event that everyone looks forward to. No one ever does anything else on the first Saturday of December. That's the day of the parade."

The OB parade has evolved over time and today enjoys a huge stature within the community.

"It is now a full-on, well-organized,

well-executed nighttime parade," noted Kinney Newsom. "We just have a whole slew of people in the parade. There's something for everyone whether it's the vintage cars or the carolers or the live bands or the community groups or Chopper the biker dog riding in his little Harley Davidson motorcycle."

Kinney Newsom said the OB Holiday parade is difficult to describe. You have to be there to truly appreciate it.

"It's so unique," she said. "The entries are very unique, very community oriented with an Ocean Beach flavor to them."

Political VIPs in the 2013 parade will include Congressman Scott Peters, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, Councilman and mayoral candidate Kevin Faulconer and the Point Loma Democratic Club hosting mayoral candidate Councilman David Alvarez.

What's best about the parade is that it's homegrown, noted Jack.

"We have a lot of neighborhood groups, a lot of local groups, a lot of non-

profits," she said. "There's something for everybody."

Jack talked about what she enjoys most about OB Holiday Parade day.

"It's just the twinkle in each kid's eyes as the lights go by and they're yelling," she said.

More than 10,000 people are expected to turnout Dec. 7 to watch the opening of the parade, which coincides with the lighting of the Ocean Beach community Christmas tree at the foot of Newport Avenue and Abbott Street running from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Guests will be treated to a wonderland of entertainment options, everything from music and food in local restaurants to a crafts fair with more than 20 artists participating at Veteran's Plaza (Newport Avenue and Abbott Street) running from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

While the day offers plenty of opportunities for fun and shopping, it's also a chance to help the less fortunate during the holidays. The Ocean Beach Town Council is again hosting its annual Food



and Toy Drive, and participants are encouraged to donate canned food or an unwrapped toy with drop-off bins located throughout the area.

"On Dec. 16, 17 and 19 we'll be doing the food and toy drive for the 70 families, 13 seniors and 15 residents of an Ocean Beach home for victims of domestic violence that have been adopted by the community," said Jack. "We'll be delivering the food and toys on Dec. 21. Everything we do, all the (parade) proceeds, go to the food and toy drive."

This year, festivities are also to include

a judged holiday home decorating contest with nine judges choosing the best three homes in three categories based on the best use of lighting and originality. Judges will turn in their "verdicts" as to which homes are best qualified on Monday, Dec. 16. Winners will receive a framed piece of art representing this year's theme, Ocean Beach Wonderland 100 years.

The community tree for this year's festivities was donated by a family on Coronado Street, Jack said.



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www.NewportAveOptometry.com

HOLIDAY BUSINESS BOOSTING OPPORTUNITY! FOR ALL OB MERCHANTS

Advertise your business in the Beacon's Holiday Sections

- Increase Holiday Sales
- Send a Holiday Greeting or Thank You to your customers
- Promote Shopping at small businesses in OB

SAVE OVER 50% OFF THE STANDARD RATES!

THURSDAYS
DECEMBER 12th
Ocean Beach Gift Guide
DECEMBER 19th
OB Last Minute Gift Guide

NEW! Special "Gift Guide Section" publishing on December 12th and 19th. Highlight your special gift idea with a photo & "Gift-Pick". Ask about special discount rates!

Contact Mike Fahey at
858-270-3103 ext.117, 858-337-8546 (cell),
or email mikefahey@sdnews.com

THE PENINSULA BEACON

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Unique Shopping • Festive Atmosphere

O.B. Christmas Parade Saturday December 7th at 5:05pm
www.oceanbeachsandiego.com • www.obtowncouncil.org

Get on The Nice List This Year! Help Donate to Families in Need

Alliance Group, Ocean Beach Town Council and the Ocean Beach Community Foundation will be collecting toys and food to support 100 local families

SAN DIEGO, CA – Alliance Group Real Estate Services has partnered with the Ocean Beach Town Council and Ocean Beach Community Foundation to collect toys and food for local families in need. People in the 92106 or 92017 ZIP codes who wish to participate are asked to register online at www.mypointloma.com/FoodDrive to indicate they will be donating items. Residents are asked to consider filling a grocery bag with non-perishable food items or new, unwrapped toys and place them on their door step Thursday, December 12 when Alliance Group volunteers will pick up the items. Goods can also be delivered directly to the Point Loma Methodist Church on December 16, 17 or 19. All items will be given to local families this holiday season.

The goal is to collect enough toys and food items to support 100 families. Gifts should be appropriate for children ages 5 -18 and cost \$10 – 15 to help ensure children in the same family receive gifts of similar value. All donations are tax-deductible.

Volunteers will also be needed to help deliver items to the families. If you are interested in volunteering, visit www.obtowncouncil.org. For more information on the toy & food drive, visit www.mypointloma.com/FoodDrive.



Newport Avenue is being prepped for fun with all things holiday in advance of the 34th installment of the Dec. 7 Ocean Beach Holiday Parade. Photo by Mike McCarthy >>

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Source: Rocky Mountain Institute

20 cents of every dollar spent with a chain store is
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Source: Small Business Administration

60 cents of every dollar spent with a sole proprietorship is
retained/recirculated in a community.

Source: Small Business Administration.

Reprinted from Barbara Wold, Professional Speaker's email.

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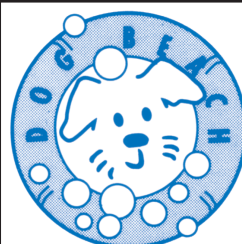
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Please help with the Dog Beach Holiday Clean-Up, Dec. 14, 9am - 11am

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- Holiday bandanas for Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas & Kwanzaa
- Wide selection of canine floating toys, holiday squeakers, soft cuddly toys, and plenty of ropes and chews
- Unique gifts for dog lovers such as games, puzzles and Pet Blinkers



OCEAN BEACH 2013

Holiday events



happy
OB
holidays!

Dec. 11, 18 • 4-7pm
Farmers Market.

Dec. 5
Local kids decorate tree with Santa.
9am-noon

Dec. 5
OB Holiday Auction at Sunshine Company. 21+ with ID. Great prizes, exciting auctioneers — don't miss it! To donate items for the auction, email info@obtowncouncil.org. 6:30-9:30pm

Dec. 5-16 (Online Voting)
Storefront decoration contest.

Dec. 7 • 5:05pm (OB Time)
34th Annual OB Holiday Parade on Newport Ave., from Sunset Cliffs Blvd. to the beach. Lighting of the OB Tree will begin the parade.

Dec. 7, 14, 21 • 11am-1pm
Santa at the foot of Newport Ave.

Dec. 16
Holiday Homes Decoration Contest. The Best-Dressed 92107 holiday homes will be judged. More information: 619-316-3403.

Dec. 16, 17, 19 • 5pm
Food & Toy Drive. PL Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Volunteer and bring a donation.

Dec. 21 • 8:30am
Food & Toy Drive distribution to seniors and families.



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THURSDAYS

DECEMBER 12th

Ocean Beach Gift Guide

DECEMBER 19th

OB Last Minute Gift Guide

SAVE OVER
50% OFF
THE STANDARD RATES!

NEW! Special "Gift Guide Section" publishing on December 12th and 19th. Highlight your special gift idea with a photo & "Gift-Pick". Ask about special discount rates!

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Slater's 50/50s: top honors in 'People's Choice Award' at wine, food festival

Point Loma's own Slater's 50/50 took home the People's Choice Award for best restaurant at the 10th annual San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival. Thousands of guests took part in the week-long festivities, which included cooking classes and competitions, extravagant dinners and exclusive wine and spirits tastings held throughout San Diego.

One of Southern California's largest culinary festivals, the event draws national talent every year and included several beach-area participants. "This is our 10-year anniversary, and we really had to turn up the heat," said event producer Michelle Metter.

The festival's culminating event, the Grand Tasting, held Nov. 23 at Marina Park North, featured 200-plus wine,

"This is our 10-year anniversary, and we really had to turn up the heat."

MICHELLE METTER
Event producer for San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival

beer and spirit purveyors. Here, guests crowned the Liberty Station burger bar Slater's 50/50 "People's Choice" among scores of participating restaurants.

"It's very exciting to celebrate our city and the wonderful wine and food festival," said Bernard Guillas, executive chef of the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club and La Jolla's Marine Room restaurant.

"The festival is a very well-respected and blossoming event. Nationwide, it has become the buzz."

—Loralee Olejnik



Slater's 50/50 took top prize with the People's Choice Award during the 10th annual San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival in November. Courtesy photo

CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN OCEAN BEACH!

O.B. Christmas Parade Saturday December 7th at 5:05pm
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OBMA gift items perfect go-to presents

The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association is offering up a sleigh load of gift ideas perfect for your loved one this holiday. The theme of the items reflects the 125th anniversary of Ocean Beach.

Come on down to the office at 1868 Bacon St. and choose from a wide variety of fun presents for the entire family.

Here are some of the fun items ready for you to choose from:

- "Beach Town: Early Days in Ocean Beach," the audiobook (\$20)
- 125th anniversary coffee mug (\$5)
- 125th anniversary Farmers Market tote bag (\$15)
- 125th anniversary shot glass (\$5)
- Celebrate Ocean Beach Anniversary poster (\$20)
- Commemorative OB hat (\$25)
- Ladies' crew neck 125th anniversary T-shirt (\$20)
- Men's crew neck 125th anniversary T-shirt (\$20)
- OB 125th anniversary charcoal-gray hooded sweatshirt (\$36)
- OB 125th anniversary



- light-gray hooded sweatshirt (\$36)
- OB 125th anniversary window decal, 3" (\$5)
- OB 125th anniversary window decal, 6" (\$8)
- Ocean Beach 125th anniversary ornament (\$25)
- Ocean Beach 125th anniversary ornament (\$25)
- Ocean Beach 125th anniversary pint glass (\$5)
- Team Ocean Beach T-shirt, gray (\$20)
- Team Ocean Beach T-shirt, Navy (\$20)
- Wonderland Ocean Beach cold-drink tumbler (\$10)

For more information, visit www.oceanbeachsandiego.com.

— Staff and contribution



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Hospitality Group



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THE PENINSULA BEACON READERS CHOICE AWARDS BEST RESTAURANTS 2013
VOTED BEST BAR!
And a Favorite for Bartender (Juli)

Ocean Beach Hospitality Group Directory

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Day Break | Island Grill
2296 Bacon St. • 619-222-0406

Hodad's
5010 Newport Ave. • 619-224-4623
hodadies.com

Tower Two Beach Cafe
5083 Santa Monica Ave. #1B
619-223-4059

Raglan Public House
1851 Bacon Street. • 619-794-2304

Village Kitchen Restaurant

W.O.W. Cafe
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BAKERY

Azucar

CJ's Catering & Specialty Baking
European Cake Gallery

BAR

Cheswick's West

Gallagher's Irish Pub
5046 Newport Ave. • 619-222-5300
gallagherspubob.com

Lucy's Tavern
4906 Voltaire St. • 619-224-0834

Mother's Saloon
2228 Bacon St. • 619-221-8100

Pacific Shores
4927 Newport Ave. • 619-223-7549

South Beach Bar & Grill

Sunshine Company Saloon
5028 Newport Ave. • 619-222-0722
sunshineob.com

The Arizona - Bar & Café
1925 Bacon St. • 619-223-7381
theazcafe.com

The Harp - Bar/Café
4935 Newport Ave. • 619-222-0168

The Tilted Stick - Bar/Food

Tiny's Tavern Sports Bar & Grill
4745 Voltaire St. • 619-523-1002
tinystavernob.com

Tony's
5034 Newport Ave. • 619-223-0558
tonysbarob.com

Winstons

BARBECUE

Bar-b-que House
5025 Newport Ave. • 619-222-4311
barbquehouse.com

CALIFORNIA CUISINE

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619-255-3358 wonderlandob.com

O'Bistro Cafe
4934 Voltaire St., #A • 619-223-2202
obistrocafe.com

Sessions Public
4204 Voltaire • 619-756-7715
sessionspublic.com

Shades Oceanfront Bistro
5083 Santa Monica Ave., Ste. 1F
619-222-0501 ShadesOB.com

The 3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro
2265 Bacon St. • 619-223-2700
the3rdcorner.com

The Pearl Hotel

CANDY STORE

Beach Sweets
5022 Newport Ave. • 619-222-3322
oceanbeachsweets.com

CATERERS

Surfside Cuisine

Hodad's Jr. Catering
5010 Newport Ave. • 619-818-2243
hodadies.com/jrcatering.html

CHINESE

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COFFEE HOUSE

Cafe Bella
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Jungle Java

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619-200-5016
lazyhummingbird.com

Dee's Newbreak Coffee Co. & Cafe
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619-226-4471 newbreakcafe.com

Newbreak Coffee Co. & Cafe
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newbreakcafe.com

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Ocean Beach
Hospitality Group

OBREL is changing it's name to Ocean Beach Hospitality Group

The Ocean Beach Restaurant, Entertainment and Lodging Group is changing it's name to Ocean Beach Hospitality Group. The Group will still be under the umbrella of OBMA and will continue to promote and support local businesses in the Ocean Beach area that provide food, lodging and entertainment. Their mission continues to be to work collectively as a group to provide the community with the best in hospitality services to locals and visitors. To get listed please visit:

oceanbeachsandiego.com/obrel
or call (619) 224-4906

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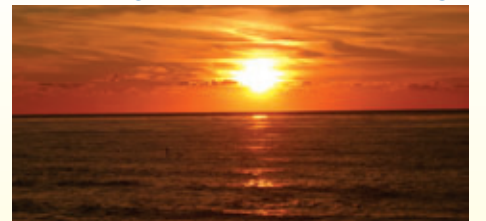
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Ocean Beach
Hospitality Group



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Pack up your taste buds and

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★

head to OB for the holidays!

★

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



OB CHRISTMAS PARADE

After party at Wonderland
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OCEAN BEACH HOLIDAY PULLOUT SECTION



Fig Tree Café's fresh cuisine spreads delicious fare to Liberty Station

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Fig Tree Café has taken root in Liberty Station, and its eclectic mix of architecture and California cuisine is flourishing in Point Loma.

"We call it rustic industrial," said restaurant co-owner Johan Engman of the ambiance of the third eatery in the local chain, which he established along with business partner Alberto Morreale in Pacific Beach in 2008.

Sitting underneath homemade artwork at the entrance of his Liberty Station restaurant at 2400 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 103, Engman notes, "We did pretty much all of it ourselves."

Pointing to a framed piece made from two disassembled wine barrels, metal strips from which were used to create overhead chandeliers, Engman said, "We were trying to be a little creative," which is obvious looking around.

Chalkboards lining the interior of Liberty Station Fig Tree bear some of Engman's favorite sayings like, "Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad."

"I love it here," said Engman of his retail space in a courtyard of the former Naval base, seating 40 people inside and 60 outside on the patio.

Engman said the former base's ongoing redevelopment is creating a "big buzz," attracting business for him. It doesn't hurt that there's lots of office space nearby, furnishing a nearly inexhaustible supply of hungry Fig Tree patrons.

"People don't realize there's close to 400,000 square feet of office space in Liberty Station," Engman said.

Engman is as grassroots as the name of his restaurant implies. He said he's

been in the restaurant biz all his life, working since his teens as a waiter and busser.

"I opened my first restaurant when I was 27 on a shoestring budget using plastic chairs and tables," Engman said, noting his idea was to capitalize on breakfast and using creative décor and an equally inventive menu.

"We didn't want to do the greasy spoon thing," he said. "We wanted to do more high-quality food."

Engman said Fig Tree uses local food sources, like a family ranch in Ramona that supplies the restaurant's eggs.

"You can really taste the difference," he said, adding he's benefited "tenfold" from using local food sources.

Fig Tree is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for breakfast, and for dinner from 4 to 10 p.m.

More than just the menu at the eatery changes for dinner.

"We like to think in the evening that we become more of a wine bar/sit-down restaurant," Engman said. "We have a good amount of eclectic, affordable wines coming from Spain and Argentina or elsewhere in South America."

Fig Tree's dinner menu is moderately priced.

"There's nothing over \$20," said Engman, noting the key to both his breakfast and dinner menus is adding that little extra culinary "twist."

"We have a breakfast item we call sushi with sautéed eggs and rice with man candy — thick-cut bacon marinated and baked in brown sugar," he said. "We've got a meat loaf hash."

Engman said Fig Tree also has a wide assortment of about 30 gluten-free items, including French toast, on the menu.

"It's important to be innovative and try



Fig Tree Café co-owner Johan Engman opened the first of the restaurant's three location in Pacific Beach in 2008.

to stay ahead of the trends," he said.

"Instead of stagnating, you always need to be reinventing yourself."

The restaurant's name came about in a surprising way.

"Our original location in Pacific Beach was surrounded by ficus trees, but I didn't feel Ficus Tree Café had a good ring to it," said Engman. "So I planted five or six fig trees and called it the Fig Tree Café."

The restaurant features daily specials. One recent weekday, the specials were New Zealand rack of lamb, pan-seared yellowtail and fresh fettuccini tossed with

salmon and a cherry tomato cream sauce. Sunday brunch is the biggest meal, with lots of patrons coming in after

services at The Rock Church.

For more information, visit www.figtreeeatery.com.

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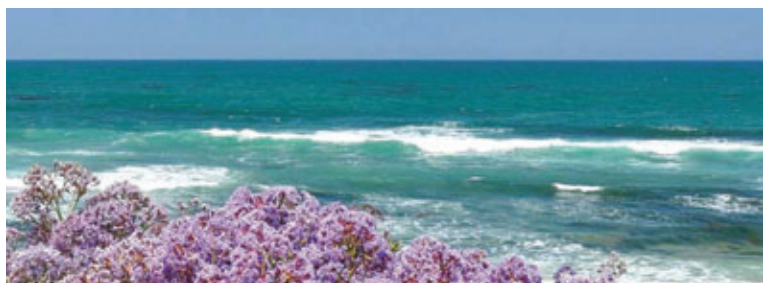
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Ocean Beach resident Andy Renwick of Lotus Street recently won the first-place prize for the best European Italian car at the Coronado Speed Week Festival. Renwick refurbished the car by himself in his garage at home.



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Looking ahead

Peninsula-area events, Dec. 5.-Jan. 8

THURSDAY, Dec. 5

• The Ocean Beach Town Council welcomes students from all local schools to visit with Santa at the OB Community Christmas Tree at the foot of Newport Avenue from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

• The Ocean Beach Community Christmas Tree Auction takes place at the Sunshine Saloon with great auctioneers and helpers from Temptress Fashion. The event raises proceeds toward the Ocean Beach Town Council's annual Food and Toy Drive to aid disadvantaged families and children. The event takes place from 6 to 9:30 p.m. To donate, call (619) 994-8539 or (619) 846-6269. For more information, visit obtowncouncil.org.

• A joint Mental Health Board and Alcohol Advisory Board meeting is scheduled at the county Administration Building, Room 302/303 at 1600 Pacific Hwy. at 4 p.m. and all participants are welcome. Documents, minutes and director's reports will be make available at sandiego.networkkoffcare.org/mh/-home/meetings_agendas.cfm. For more information,

call (619) 5845086.

FRIDAY, Dec. 6 and SATURDAY, Dec. 7

Looking for something swanky for the holidays like a bit of glitz and glam? The Point Loma American Cancer Society Discovery Shop at 3609 Midway Drive, Suite C, is holding a Glitz & Glam Event on Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds go to cancer research and education. Donations and volunteers are welcome. The shop offers free wigs to the Cancer Society in its wig salon. For more information, call (619) 114-4336.

FRIDAY, Dec. 6

The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts a merchant storefront decoration contest with judging for most creative entries. Call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7

• The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts the annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade down Newport Avenue, beginning at 5:05 p.m. The lighting of the Ocean Beach Community Christmas Tree at the foot of Newport Avenue precedes the parade. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

• The Ocean Beach Craft Fair takes place from 9

a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans' Plaza at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

• Santa pays a visit with youngsters at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

• A free public Pearl Harbor Day remembrance ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. on the USS Midway Museum's flight deck. This is an especially powerful ceremony, featuring World War II veterans in their 80s and 90s. Suitable for all ages; a unique opportunity to meet a World War II veteran. There is free admission to the museum for all event guests. For more information, visit www.midway.org.

• Stop by Barons Market Point Loma on Saturday, Dec. 7 and enjoy performances by Correia Middle School's string quintet, Strings by the Sea and their award-winning Jazz Ensemble. Joining the music fun will be Alison Bell, Jaden Rosenthal, Ian Ross & Easton Espinosa of the popular band Fate by Friday. The food, fun, raffles and a pre-Ocean Beach parade kick off and holiday blast runs from noon to 2 p.m. in the Barons parking lot. For more information, visit www.baronsmarket.com.

• The Point Loma Artists Association will host a holiday show and sale, featuring the latest works from local artists — painting, photography, jewelry, wood-working, fabric and glass, sculpture and more. The event takes place at 3636 Curtis St. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for more information, visit pointlomaartists.com or call (610) 223-6326.

SATURDAY, Dec. 7 and Sunday, Dec. 8

The Vanguard Theater of Westminster Presbyterian Church will a free performance of "A Christmas Carol" at 3 p.m. both days at the church, located at 3898 Talbot St. Early arrival is suggested because there is open seating and no reserved seating. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, call (619) 223-3193.

MONDAY, Dec. 9 through WEDNESDAY, Dec. 15

Barnes & Noble hosts a bookfair benefiting Friends of the Ocean Beach Library. Barnes & Noble staff will wrap your holiday purchases Dec. 14-15. The event takes place at Barnes & Noble Hazard Center at 7610 Hazard Dr. Center Drive. A percentage of purchases will benefit the Ocean Beach Library. If you are unable to make it to the bookfair, you can purchase online at bn.com/bookfairs between Dec. 9-15. Enter bookfair ID #11090966 at checkout.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11

• The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts the popular OB Farmers Market along Newport Avenue from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (619) 846-6269.

• The Point Loma High School Site Master Planning (SMP) meeting scheduled for Dec. 11 has been postponed until the early part of 2014. Because of concerns raised at the most recent meeting regarding the feasibility of the proposed parking entrances off of Chatsworth Boulevard, the San Diego Unified School

SEE **CALENDAR**, Page 16

Correction Friday Night Liberties is December 6 (The first Friday every month!)

Friday Night Liberty — December 6th, 2013

— NOVEMBER 22, 2013

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Ballast Point Gallery — Discover the "Freshest Art" in beautifully staged exhibitions at our monthly First Friday receptions featuring live demonstrations, music and engaging interaction with the artists. Or catch us creating during regular hours (Noon to 5pm, Wednesday — Sunday). Happy Holidays from co-founders Joann Sandlin, Linda Mullen and Chuck McPherson!

Point Loma Tea — Celebrate the Holidays with Tea! We offer Custom Tea Gifts & Baskets with a Twist at Point Loma Tea. Exotic Christmas & Holiday Tea Blends are now available! Tea is the perfect hostess gift or stocking stuffer for everyone on your list. Tea is the affordable luxury for healthy living! Enjoy!

The Hot Spot — Having a get together or party? Come to The Hot Spot Studio and socialize while you create! You are welcome to bring food, wine etc. Thursday nights are Wine & Cheese Nights, just bring your wine and enjoy free appetizers all night. Nothing is more meaningful than a gift made by you or your kids. This year, come to The Hot Spot Studio to paint pottery or make candles! Grandparents love handprints on anything, and we have over 500 pottery pieces to put them on! Plates, platters, bowls, mugs, holiday items, picture frames, banks boxes and much more... Chunky colorful candle making is also a fun and fast way to make your own unique and beautiful gifts. Choose the shapes, colors and scents and take them with you the same day! You don't have to be a Monet to create a Masterpiece!

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

District is planningto have a traffic study/analysis conducted to ensure viability of the concept(s) proposed at the SMP meetings. A new date is determined for the final SMP meeting and notices will be emailed accordingly. For more information, contact project manager Lynn Roxas at aroxas@sandi.net, or call (858) 573-5715.

- Correia Middle School Instrumental Music Program will presents “Holiday Extravaganza: World Celebration I and II” during two performances on Wednesday, Dec. 11 and Wednesday, Dec. 18. Take part in a holiday world tour as Correia’s instrumental ensembles explore the many cultures of the world and how it celebrates the season. The Dec. 11 concert begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Correia auditorium, featuring the orchestra, band, flute choir and jazz bad. The Dec. 18 concert also takes place in the auditorium, featuring the guitar ensemble. For more information, visit www.correia-music.com or call Christina McKay at (619) 993-7758.

SATURDAY, Dec. 14

- The Ocean Beach Craft Fair takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Veterans’ Plaza at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.
- Santa pays a visit with youngsters at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

- The Rock Church’s motorcycle ministry in Point Loma is riding to collect toys for the 17th annual Toys for Joy. Each biker will bring one unwrapped toy as registration for the Toys for Joy toy drive. Toys For Joy will take place at Abraham Lincoln High School. More than 12,000 people are expected to attend the free distribution where families in need will receive toys, food, clothing, and groceries in time for the holidays. The event formally begins on Saturday, Dec. 7 with registration at 9 a.m. and rider taking to the road at 10 a.m. The route will begin at Sweetwater Harley Davidson, 3201 Hoover Ave. in National City and end at the Rock Church in Point Loma at 2277 Rosecrans St. For more information, visit www.toys-for-joys.org.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 11

The Point Loma Garden Club will host its monthly meeting and annual Holiday Tea and Bazaar from 10 a.m. to noon. There will be specialty holiday fresh and dried decorations, crafts and homemade delectibles — all for sale. Come find the perfect table centerpieces, wreaths and swags for your home and special gifts for hostesses, friends and family. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. The event is open to the public and takes place at the Portuguese United S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

MONDAY, Dec. 16

The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts its annual Holiday Homes Decoration Contest. The best-dressed 92107 holiday homes will be judged. For more information, call (619) 316-3403.

Dec. 16, 17 and 19

The Ocean Beach Town Council will host its annual Food & Toy Drive for local disadvantaged families and children from 5 to 7:30 p.m. each night at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Union Bank will sponsor an Angel Tree for food and toy dropoffs; Chase Bank will host a Teddy Bear Tree dropoff; and US Bank will spon-

sor a Child or Teenage Book Tree dropoff. Residents are invited to donate any canned or boxed items or a new, unwrapped toy. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

- Santa pays a visit with youngsters at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18

- The Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library will be the site of a free performance by the Point Loma Singers in a holiday concert engagement. The concert takes place at the library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.
- The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts the popular OB Farmers Market along Newport Avenue from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (619) 846-6269.

SATURDAY, Dec. 21

- The Ocean Beach Craft Fair takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Veterans’ Plaza at the foot of Newport Avenue. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.
- Ocean Beach Town Council members and community volunteers will begin delivering food and toy packages to disadvantaged families and children beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8

Free presentation by speaker C.E. Poverman, who will discuss his fifth novel, “Learning by Drowning.” The work is an acutely intelligent, psychological thriller involving a volatile bond between two brothers and the mysterious woman who consumes their lives. The presentation takes place at 6:30 p.m. at the library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.

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<p>Niman Ranch HAM STEAK \$7.99 lb</p>	<p>Red SEEDLESS GRAPES Coachella Valley 97¢ lb</p>	<p>LAMBERTZ YARD OF COOKIES \$9.99 28 oz</p>
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<p>Tofurky VEGETARIAN FEAST \$24.99 3.5 lb</p>	<p>DON'T FORGET... Fluegge Extra Large Eggs\$1.89 dozen Terra Sweets & Apple Chips\$3.49 6 oz Grandma Hoerner's Pecan Pie Filling.....\$6.99 21 oz X-Mas Stollen.....\$6.99 26.4 oz Roland Cookie Butter.....\$3.99 14.1 oz Imported Danish Blue Cheese.....\$8.99 lb</p>	<p>BEER FINDS Sierra Nevada Celebration Fresh Hop Ale ..\$8.99 6 pk bot Anchor Christmas Ale\$11.99 6 pk bot Port Brewing Santa's Little Helper Imperial Stout ..\$6.89 22 oz bot Rogue Santa's Private Reserve Ale ...\$11.99 6 pk bot Ale Smith Yule Smith Imperial Red Ale ..\$8.99 22 oz bot Barrel Trolley Pale Ale\$3.99 6 pk bot + crv</p>
<p>Crystal Geyser ALPINE SPRING WATER \$3.99 24 pk/.5 liter/+crv</p>	<p>Point Loma 4001 W. Point Loma Blvd. 1 Blk. W. of Midway Dr. (619) 223-4397</p>	<p>Rancho Bernardo 11828 Rancho Bernardo Road In the Mercado (858) 485-8686</p>
<p>Temecula 31939 Rancho California Road Corner of Meadows Pkwy. (951) 693-1111</p>	<p>Wildomar/Murrieta 32310 Clinton Keith Rd. 1 Blk. W. of I-15 (951) 609-9200</p>	<p>baronsmarket.com</p>

Hours: Everyday 8 AM to 9PM (except holidays) Limited Quantity on Some Items. Not Responsible for Misprints

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