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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Thursday December 19, 2013

www.SDNEWS.com Volume 27, Number 15

Sun sets on 2013; new year prepares to dawn



A BEVY OF TWILIGHT BEAUTY

San Diego's beach communities have been blessed recently with a string of stunning sunsets, due in large part to a low-pressure weather system and cleaner air-pollution conditions this time of year. Beach dwellers and visitors have been treated to some magnificent sunsets, as exemplified by this one at Sunset Cliffs recently. And like the sky, the sun is slowly dipping into the horizon on 2013 as we prepare for the dawn of a new year. The Peninsula Beacon will be on hiatus Christmas week but will return Friday, Jan. 3 to embrace 2014 and the hope it holds for the new year.

OB Food and Toy Drive powers ahead as spirit of the season hits full tilt

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON



Volunteers sort food and toy donations as part of the Ocean Beach Town Council's annual Food and Toy Drive for disadvantaged families and individuals locally.

This year's yuletide season brings warmth, good cheer and the true spirit of giving in the form of the 34th annual Ocean Beach Food and Toy Drive, benefiting disadvantaged families locally.

"It's really very rewarding," said Claudia Jack, who's spearheaded the Ocean Beach Town Council-sponsored event for the last 21 years. This year, the Town Council will serve about 80 families, seven seniors and a woman adopted from a local domestic-violence house.

"It's all local," she said. "We probably are the only community, the only private organization that is not a corporation, that does this in San Diego."

Ocean Beach Town Council president Gretchen Newsom agrees.

"It's a very powerful experience, very meaningful," said Newsom, one of about 40 community volunteers who helps Jack do the collec-

SEE **DRIVE**, Page 5

Suspect nabbed after low-speed chase through OB

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Festive Christmas lights in the quiet Ocean Beach business district were overshadowed Dec. 13 by the flashing red and blue lights and screaming sirens of at least eight San Diego Police Department patrol cars and a helicopter overhead

The officers had been pursuing a stolen car for nearly 20 minutes before the driver was captured after turning down a dead-end street on Narragansett Avenue.

Arrested was Allen Blount, age 33, according to Det. Gary Hassen of the police department's Western Division.

Driving at speeds not exceeding 30 miles per hour, the

SEE CHASE, Page 4



An officer pats down suspected stolen-car driver Allen Blount, 33, after Blount's arrest in the 5100 block of Narragansett Avenue. Blount led police on a low-speed chase on Ocean Beach streets for 20 minutes on Dec. 13. Photo by Scott Hopkins I The Beacon

Overdue facelift of PLHS baseball field to unfold after 2014 season

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Peninsula-area students will have to wait awhile to see their Christmas gifts from the San Diego Unified School Dis-

School district board members voted Dec. 3 to add Phase I of two local projects that will greatly increase safety at local sports venues to the first round of Proposition Z bond fund projects.

With support from District C Trustee Scott Barnett, both an upgrade of the Dana Middle School baseball field and the multiple-use fields project at Correia Middle School were added to a lengthy list of early bond projects.

The 3.5-acre field at Dana has been home to the PLHS varsity baseball program for many years. It was dedicated David Wells Field on Feb. 20, 2010 in honor of the Pointer

SEE **FIELD**, Page 4

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QUICK*HITS*

Man pleads to mailing pot grown in Midway area

Christopher Gillen, 25, of Pacific Beach, pleaded guilty Dec. 11 to moneylaundering charges as part of a scheme to mail packages of marijuana that were mailed to customers after the drug was cultivated in a Midway-area warehouse.

Gillen asked for immediate sentencing and received credit for 11 days in jail with three years probation from San Diego Superior Court Judge Dwayne Moring. Deputy District Attorney Shanish Aloor said Gillen played a minor role in the scheme, and the money-laundering count was reduced to a misdemeanor.

Awaiting sentencing is the defendant's brother, Kyle Thomas Gillen, 26, of Pacif- the Ocean Beach area in the 4200 block ic Beach, who is believed to be the of Voltaire Street on Dec. 11, shortly after the prosecutor sought an 89-year prison

ringleader. Kyle Gillen and three others 3:30 a.m. have pleaded guilty to mailing packages of marijuana and money laundering and will be sentenced Jan. 14.

The marijuana was grown in a warehouse in the Midway area. It was raided May 29 by agents from the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Unit. About 300 marijuana plants were discovered. All defendants have posted bond since their arrests and remain free.

– Neal Putnam

Woman carjacked during **Internet rendezvous**

Police are probing an alleged carjacking involving a 19-year-old woman who reportedly became friends with a male

Reportedly, the pair decided to meet in

The woman apparently got into the man's car, where he produced a handgun and ordered the woman out, roving to the woman's car and driving away

NEWS

He was described as a white man, 20 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a thin build

Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

Man gets 34 years in Midway, other heists

A prison term of 34 years and four months was handed down Dec. 16 for an armed robber of three 7-Eleven stores on Midway Drive and in Torrey Pines and 13 other stores elsewhere.

The attorney for Luis Alonso Cruz, 25, asked for the sentence he received while Judge Eugenia Eyherabide.

Deputy District Attorney Martin Doyle said Cruz pulled a gun on 13 people in small businesses in a robbery spree in 2012 and asked for consecutive terms. Three other victims were robbed without a gun pointed at them.

Eyherabide fined Cruz more than \$11,000. She specifically ordered Cruz to pay \$132 to the 7-Eleven store at 13835 Mango Drive in Torrey Pines and \$170 and \$100 each to the 7-Eleven stores on

term before San Diego Superior Court Midway Drive that were robbed in August 2012. She ordered Cruz to pay nearly \$3,000 to the other stores that were held up.

> Cruz pleaded guilty Aug. 27 to 16 counts of robbery and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

> Co-defendant, Alex Sanchez, 24, was sentenced Sept. 10 to 25 years in prison for 13 of the same robberies. The only gunfire was by Sanchez who shot into a wall in one 7-Eleven store in Clairemont.

— Neal Putnam

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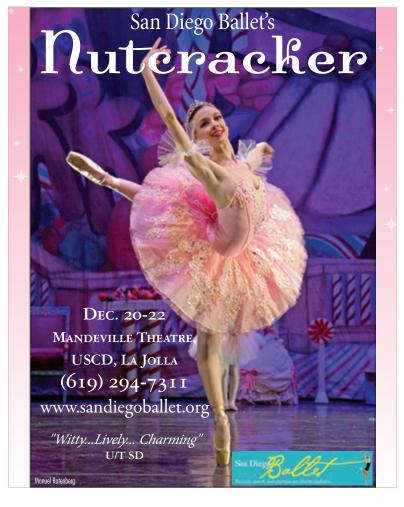
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Community plan guiding OB's future growth gets unanimous thumbs-up

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

There was a hint of a feeling that history was in the making Dec. 11 at a special meeting of the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB).

At exactly 7:50 p.m., board members voted 8-0 to finalize a document designed to guide growth in Ocean Beach over the next few decades, wrapping up a process that began in 2002.

The document, known officially as the Ocean Beach Community Plan and Local Coastal Program, must be reviewed by several agencies and approved by the City Council and California Coastal Commission before going into effect.

But for the OBPB, which is made up of elected citizens in the community who make recommendations to the City

Council and members of a subcommittee that oversaw development of the plan, the heavy lifting is, at long last, finished.

A community plan is intended to be a blueprint for the future and contains specific proposals for land uses and public improvements. Elements within the plan address things like zoning, transportation and urban design, as well as public facilities like libraries, parks, fire stations and recreation centers.

Ocean Beach, which is often credited as the birthplace of community planning in San Diego, currently operates under its 1975 precise plan. It's the oldest planning document in the city and hasn't been amended since 1991.

OBPB chairman Tom Gawronski was

SEE PLAN, Page 6

FIELD

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

league career and is now a pitching coach for the team.

The field has been plagued by an uneven playing surface, gopher holes and lack of an outfield fence.

Wells has discussed helping to fund improvements at the site, one of which was to bring in groundskeepers from the San Diego Padres' crew at Petco Park to that used there.

That will now be unnecessary, as the bond project will take care of surface leveling and installation of artificial turf, greatly reducing maintenance labor and eliminating watering costs.

"This will create a safer, upgraded facility with no more gopher holes," Barnett said in an email to district officials.

This project is targeted to begin follow-

ing the 2014 prep baseball season that ends in early June and be completed in three to four months.

The next phase of improvements will alum who went on to a lengthy major be augmented by PLHS Baseball Booster funds and community contributions. Mentioned are increased seating, a batting-cage structure, score booth and press box. All would be subject to approval by the district.

Another major hurdle in the process was cleared Dec. 9 when the City Council voted 4-0 to remove the Dana baseball field from a joint-use agreement with the level the surface and plant grass similar to city's Park and Recreation Department.

> Under the previous agreement, adult teams using the field under city permit inflicted costly damage, including broken fences and driving vehicles on to the field, leaving deep ruts.

> Control of the field now rests solely with SDUSD, and field maintenance will be done by PLHS Baseball Boosters. The groundskeeper assigned by the city will divide time at other Peninsula city fields.

This was previously a major roadblock for potential contributors like Wells, and had to first be approved by the city's Natural Resources and Culture Committee on Sept. 25 before going to full City Coun-

Correia fields project funded

PLHS officials and community leaders have campaigned for the Correia project for several years. It would convert a very large and underused piece of campus land into three multi-purpose fields, all artificially turfed and permanently lined for several sports.

A baseball field already located there would be upgraded as well.

Also part of the project is a proposed two-story, 4,200-square-foot building on Valeta Street that would feature public restrooms and office space on the lower floor and a computer-equipped room

SEE FACELIFT, Page 7

Merry Christmas. Wenhe Mortgage and Realty Scott & Pam Wenhe

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CHASE

chase took on a parade-like nature as customers, employees and residents in the area scurried outside to view the spectacle.

Hundreds of curious onlookers, many with cell phones capturing the action, watched the event unfold as the stolen vehicle criss-crossed the area repeatedly, even driving right down store-lined Newport Avenue at one point.

Besides the police cars following the 1999 two-door black Honda vehicle, other patrol units raced up and down streets in an attempt to get in front of the vehicle, whose driver made random turns, at times retracing his route, said

At the corner of Abbott and Saratoga streets, police were successful in deploying a set of spike strips in front of the car, and the hollow spikes did their job, puncturing both of the car's left tires, said Hassen. Still, the suspect continued driving until the car was down to its rims.

But the suspect made a mistake when he turned westbound in the 5100 block of Narragansett Avenue, which deadends at the ocean. Hassen said officers were concerned the suspect might jump down to the beach below, but he was quickly taken into custody at gunpoint by a cluster of officers who had leaped from their cars as the Honda came to a

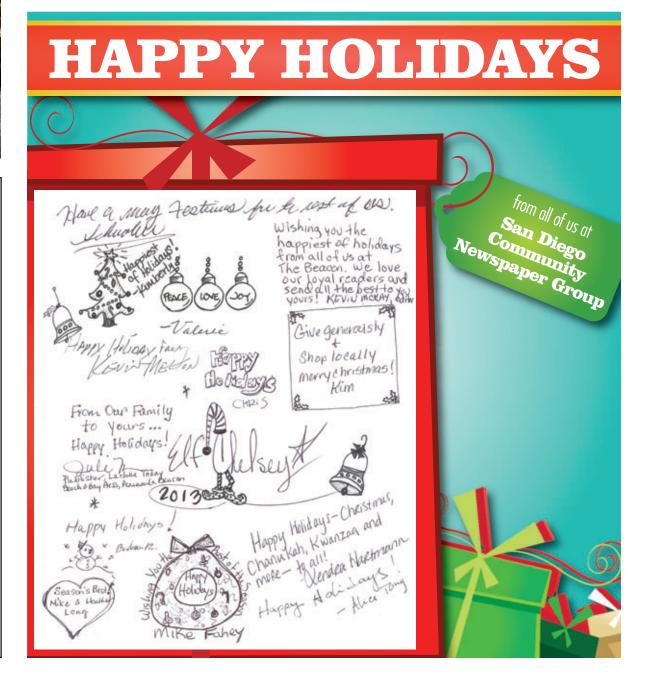
patrol officer spotted the Honda west- parole.

bound on West Point Loma Boulevard at Chapman Street. The officer radioed in the car's license plate to dispatchers, who quickly confirmed it was stolen.

The officer followed the Honda westbound as other patrol units, including a canine officer and a law-enforcement helicopter raced to assist. By the time the suspect reached Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, the procession included five patrol cars, with others en route.

When officers attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle near Abbott Street, the suspect refused to stop, and the chase was on, according to Hassen.

Blount is expected to be charged withreckless driving while attempting to evade police officers, possession of con-The incident began when an alert trolled substances and a violation of



CONTINUED FROM Page 1

tion and distribution of toys and food every year. "It's people in OB coming together in a grass-roots effort to take care of our community and those in need."

The food and toy drive helps locals in need through the help of numerous partners. Any necessary purchases are also made locally.

this year's toy and food drive.

"Congressman Scott Peters donated \$500, a portion of his paycheck when they had the federal shutdown to local organizations, including ours," Newsom said. "Assemblywoman Toni Atkins also donated 10 frozen turkeys."

Jack said people benefiting from the annual Christmas drive "get enough food for at least a week — a turkey, four or five cans of food, milk, bacon or sausage and bread rolls," adding toys

are given away to children "accordingly by their ages."

Regarding toys, Jack has one goal that she achieves every year.

"Everything is wrapped. Nothing leaves this place unless it's wrapped," she said, adding the reason for that is simple.

"A gift that's wrapped makes children feel special," Jack said. "There's nothing like seeing the twinkle in a child's eye receiving a gift that's wrapped."

The OB Food and Toy Drive for Local legislators also contributed to unwrapped donated goods began the week before Thanksgiving with collection box locations including Ocean Beach Elementary School, the Ocean Beach Farmers Market music area, Pruitt Realty, Remember to Breathe Health Center, Rowland Realty, Shades Oceanfront Bistro, To The Point Café and Union and US banks.

> Those collection points this year have netted a veritable cornucopia of good-

"We've gotten enough to fill close to

90 boxes," said Jack.

She said volunteers now have their hands full sorting through donations for distribution, which is handled through local schools and churches. Needy individuals are identified in advance and recipients' names are kept confidential. Local banks were also major participants in the food and toy

"People dropped off toys at Chase Bank," she said. "US Bank had teddy bear, book and angel Christmas trees at their two locations, where people could donate one of those, and they're brought in for the collection."

Jack said the significance of donating an unwrapped toy or food item is great every holiday season.

"It could be somebody out of a job, somebody just having hardship, somebody that has had an operation and can't work anymore. It could be a layoff," she said. "We just adopt families and people in need in Ocean Beach."

'Tis better to give than to receive,

THURSDAY · DECEMBER 19, 2013 THE PENINSULA BEACON

The packaged goodies from the Ocean Beach Food and Toy Drive will be distributed to about 80 families, seven seniors and a woman adopted from a local domestic-violence house by volunteers on Saturday, Dec. 21.

especially this time of year, Jack said.

"I'm a little older and I have everything I need," she said. "People ask me

what I want for Christmas, and I tell them 10 cans of corn for the food and

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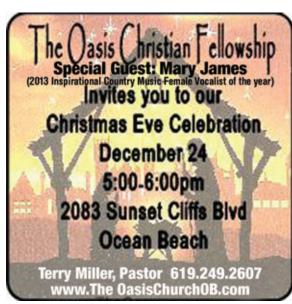
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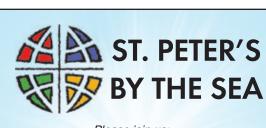
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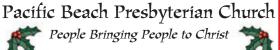


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News

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

a newbie on the board when work began on the current update.

"We were young, foolish and stupid," Gawronski said. "We thought we could get this done in a year. Wrong."

Work on the update had been in a period of dormancy for a few years. City officials cite budget constraints, though some board members charge a lack of interest during the tenure of former Mayor Jerry

Progress was revived this year and the city presented a 166-page draft document that was released to the public in June. The document and accompanying environmental impact report can be viewed online at sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/oceanbeach or in hard copy form

at the Ocean Beach library, 4801 Santa Dec. 11. Monica Ave.

Since the release of the draft, 138 comments or proposed changes — 60 from board members, 78 from other members of the public — have been collected. The OBPB's Precise Plan Update Subcommittee spent two meetings and seven hours scrutinizing the feedback, said Giovanni Ingolia, the subcommittee's co-chairman. The full board approved nearly 40 changes

"We're finally getting to the end of this process," Ingolia said. "This is probably the single-most important document that will affect us over the next 20 or 30 years."

In other OBPB news

Ingolia has been nominated to the Mission Bay Park Committee through the office of District 2 San Diego City Councilman Kevin Faulconer.

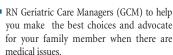
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Nine PLHS gridiron players named to All-League honors

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Nine players, including three juniors, from Point Loma High School's football team were selected for All-League honors by Western League coaches.

First team (offense)

• Running back Dirk Lacy again earned the respect of opposing players

and coaches. The 5-foot-10-inch, 185-pound senior gained 609 yards on 111 carries, a 5.5-yard average, also scoring six touchdowns. A second team selection as a junior, Lacy returned after an early-



season injury to showcase his abilities and rise to the top at his position.

• Senior Mike Serrano, a 6-foot-4inch, 290-pound lineman, was cited for

his consistent, dependable and tenacious blocking and pass-protection abilities. His presence on the line will be missed by returning players next season. Serrano has since taken his MIKE SERRANO talents to the mat,



where he is a Pointers standout as a heavyweight wrestler.

First team (defense)

• Leading the list is senior tight end Jake Wambaugh, a 6-foot-4-inch,

245-pounder who was also named first team as a junior. Wambaugh once again spent a lot of time in opposing team's backfields, where he made 30 tackles and was credited with 10 assists and five tackles for loss. He led the



JAKE WAMBAUGH

Pointers with 11.5 sacks and 12 hurries of the opposing quarterback while causing one fumble.

• Teammate Tanner Manion, a 6-foot-2-inch, 215-pound senior, also drew the

respect of opposing players and coaches from his linebacker position. Manion racked up 22 tackles and eight assists to go with two sacks to wrap up an excellent senior season.



ARMANDO

Second team (offense)

· Armando Smith was cited for his talents as a running back and occasional

quarterback. The 6-foot. 180-pound senior gained 500 yards on 87 carries for the Pointers and hauled in nine passes for another 88 yards. He also played defense, making him a very busy plaver.



guers. Senior Jared Polonitza, 6 feet 5 inches, 280 pounds, and junior Seth Irby, 6 feet 4 inches, 255 pounds, were singled out by league coaches for their effectiveness in the trenches, including run and pass blocking.



JARED

POLONITZA

SETH IRBY

Second team (defense)

The talents of two juniors with bright Pointer futures earned them All-League recognition.

• Defensive end Cole Kidd, 6 feet 1 inch, 195 pounds, transformed from a

junior varsity player as a sophomore to a ferocious varsity pass rusher and tackler. He repeatedly created havoc for opposing linemen, recording 3.5 sacks, 21 solo tackles and four assists. He also defend-



ed five passes, caused one fumble and recovered another.

• Kidd's line partner, Tim O'Brien, a 6-foot-6-inch, 245 pounder, used his

height to augment his defensive skills, making it difficult for opposing quarterbacks to throw over him. He was credited with 14 solo and five assisted tackles, 0.5 sacks and two passes defended.



TIM O'BRIEN

Broken down by schools, league champion Madison placed 15 players on the four teams, followed by runner-up Mission Bay with 12, the Pointers with nine, La Jolla with six and Kearny with

The Pointers finished the 2013 campaign with a 5-6 record and are already in preparations for their upcoming sea-



Point Loma High defensive standout Tim O'Brien, who stands 6 feet 6 inches, dwarfs Santana High's quarterback (No. 14) in a game this season. O'Brien, a junior, will return next season after being named to the All-Western League second team by league

Photo by Scott Honkins I The Reacon



CONTINUED FROM Page 4

above to serve as a homework and afterschool study center for area youth.

The field, currently home to the PLHS freshman AAU baseball team, is also home to many gophers, making awkward and dangerous falls by players possible. The surface is very uneven and it also has no outfield fence.

PLHS parents and coaches work to maintain this field. While Correia and PLHS students would have priority for field use during school hours and some after school events, the complex would largely be available for youth

Lighting is also being considered. "With the Correia complex, Cleator

Park, Robb Field and the Peninsula YMCA in close proximity, the Point Loma and Ocean Beach communities will have some of the best facilities for our youth available anywhere," said PLHS athletic director John Murphy.

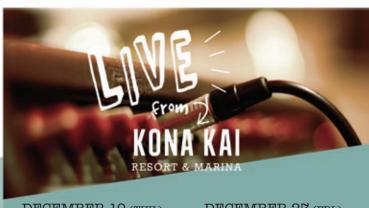
At a meeting two years ago, a SDUSD planner shared a proposed diagram of the project and estimated costs at \$9 million.

Barnett, who attended that meeting, told the audience, "We want a facility that is safe and well-received by the community.

While the project was moved forward in the Prop. Z process, no start football, soccer, lacrosse and other date or phase information was set.







DECEMBER 19 (THU.) Kona Kai Lounge with Honeyrock 7:00pm

DECEMBER 20 (FRI.) **Book Signing with** Eric Edwards 7:00pm Kona Kai Lounge with The Deep Joint 8:00pm

DECEMBER 21 (SAT.) Kona Kai Lounge with Fuzzy 8:00pm

DECEMBER 22(SUN.) Sunday Brunch with Smooth Jazz 11:00am

Sunday Night JAZZ with Reggie Smith 8:00pm

1551 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego, CA 92106 resortkonakai.com | 800.566.2524

DECEMBER 27 (FRI.) Ugly Sweater Party with Charles Burton Band

DECEMBER 28 (SAT.) Kona Kai Lounge with Arnie & Friends

8:00pm DECEMBER 29 (SUN.) Sunday Brunch with Whitney Shay

11:00am-2:30pm

Sunday Night JAZZ with Jerome Dawson

8:00pm

8:00pm

DECEMBER 31 (TUE.) New Years Eve Celebration with Fish & The Seaweeds 8:00pm

DECEMBER 19 (THU.) with First Friday Club

New Years Day Celebration 4:00pm

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Holiday Insights- tradition, fun, December Holidays and Events: December Notes: facts and more!

You've arrived at Holiday Insights, • 7 Pearl Harbor Day where you will find fun, information, • 12 Poinsettia Day and lots more about every holiday you • 13 Friday the 13th can imagine. We've got you covered on • 21 Winter Solstice the big ones, the small ones, and all of • 23 Festivus - for the rest of us! 'em in between. So, whether you are • 25 Christmas looking up information, doing a school • 26 Boxing Day report, looking for Ecards or screen- • 26 Kwanzaa savers, clipart perhaps, or just having • 27 National Fruitcake Day fun, surf on through and come back • 31 New Year's Eve often.

December Holiday Happenings! This month in History:

It's hard to believe that December has arrived. Wow, where did the year go!?! With all the hustle and bustle of Christmas, the month will pass by all too quickly. But, make sure to find a few minutes to enjoy and savor the many other holidays and events that occur in December. From the birth of Christ to Santa Claus and Frosty, we've got you covered for Christmas.

- 1 Advent begins

Flower of the Month: Narcissus, Holly Birthstone of the Month: Turquoise, Zir-

Astrological Signs: Saggitarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21; Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 19 The Moon this month is called the Yule





Sun: 10am – 5pm Wednesday: CLOSED

December 7, 1877 - Thomas Edison shows off his new invention, the phono-

December 15, 1939- Gone With the Wind premiered in where else but Atlanta, GA

December 26, 1865 James Mason invents the coffee percolator.





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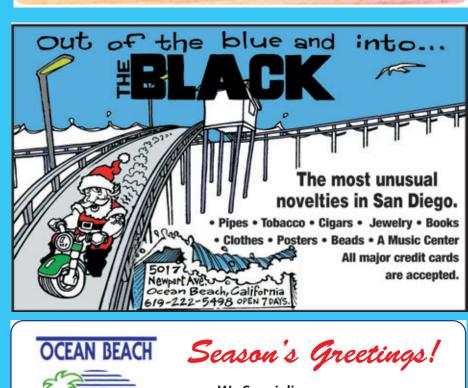
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HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN OB

The Angel Tree charity drive at Union Bank in Ocean Beach benefits disadvantaged children from Ocean Beach Elementary School and their families. Anyone can participate in the charity drive. A similar program – a Teddy Bear Tree - is set up at Wells Fargo Bank in Ocean Beach.

Angel sightings at OB's Union Bank part of drive to aid local schoolchildren

By TERRIE LEIGH RELF | THE BEACON

If you've walked along Cable Street and peered through the glass walls at Ocean Beach's Union Bank, you may have glimpsed them. If you're a customer, then you've likely seen them while taking care of your banking needs.

Angels, angels everywhere, floating amid the glimmering lights that adorn a Christmas tree, where presents are all around. And it's all in the name of charity for local disadvantaged Ocean Beach Elementary school students and their families this holiday season.

While some of these angels may be paper cutouts with doily wings inscribed with the age and gender of an Ocean Beach Elementary School student, there are many other angels afoot. These Photo by Terrie Leigh Relf I The Beacon include Union Bank, along with a host of

Ocean Beach and Point Loma residents, Ocean Beach Elementary School's com- the community," said Lamb. "We serve businesses and organizations.

And yes, The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association — complete with the always-visible OBMA representative Claudia Jack and her elves — are also at the heart of this community-honored

You may have wondered about the part OB Union Bank tradition plays in bringing this into being. According to branch manager Ernesto Hernandez, "When our customers walk in, they often want to know about the tree. The staff is more than happy to tell them about it. We're honored to have this charity in the office and consider ourselves lucky to be part of, and help out, the community.'

How do you become an angel? It's simple, according to Donna Lamb, teachers make the boxes that go out into

munity outreach and volunteer coordi-

"Just choose one or more angels, then purchase an age-appropriate gift to place by the tree," she said.

Gift-wrapping is optional, but appreciated, as the OBMA collects, wraps and then creates the gift boxes.

According to Lamb, this holiday outreach program has been a community tradition for at least 25 years. She has worked directly with Jack and her elves for 11 years now, and it's her job to know which Ocean Beach Elementary School families are in need of support around the holidays. Lamb collects the information and passes it on to the PTA, which makes the angels.

"The YMCA after-school program

38-40 OB Elementary School families per year. This year, we have 39 boys and 31 girls who come from families with anywhere from one to five children. Each family will receive a wonderful food basket that includes turkey with all the fixings, along with brand-new, ageappropriate wrapped gifts — even bikes. Each child in the family, 18 or younger, and regardless of whether or not they attend OB Elementary, will receive gifts. That's more than 100 children."

This year, according to Lamb, the outreach program added a Teddy Bear Tree in the neighborhood Wells Fargo Bank.

"It works the same way as the Angel Tree," said Lamb.

The OBMA and community volun-

SEE ANGELS, Page 14



CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN OCEAN BEACH!





Bring the whole family; we love kids and large parties. Last minute gifts! We have gift certificates and a large selection of Nati's logo T-Shirts.

We will close At 3:00 PM Christmas Eve so staff can enjoy the holiday with their families. We will be closed Christmas Day and re-open December 26 at 11:00 AM.



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Tech Pet Care: Pawsitively Prefurred by Pets and Vets

San Diegans now have a new choice in home pet care. Tech Pet Care was conceptualized by Jan Gorham, a local Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) with over 30 years experience. Jan has long realized that there was little, if any opportunity for animal owners in San Diego to find comprehensive in-home care for their pets provided by trained and knowledgeable animal health care professionals.

Most home pet care companies are staffed by individuals who have had little or no formal education or training in animal health care.

Conversely, veterinary technicians take a 2 year college program (similar to an associate degree in nursing) and then must pass a rigorous State Board examination to become registered. They also must complete regular continuing education to maintain their state licensure.

Tech Pet Care is definitely a step above traditional home pet care. When your animal is in Jan's care, you can rest secure knowing that your pet will receive loving attention from a licensed professional. Jan will provide the utmost in individualized care to meet your pet's specific needs, for today and the future. Whether your companion has specific medical needs or you would just prefer the higher level of care that a knowledgeable animal health care professional can provide. Tech Pet Care is now here for you and your treasured family member.

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OB storefronts, homes aglow for the holidays

Ocean Beach is lit up for the holidays since merchants began decorating their storefronts in early December in hopes of winning the title for the best holiday décor in the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association's (OBMA) annual OB Holiday Storefront Decorating Contest. Votes were cast by the public, via Facebook, for the first time.

"The social-media contest gave a chance for everyone who visits, lives in or loves OB to be involved in recognizing four [winning] businesses for their dedication to making OB a holiday wonderland at the beach," said Denny Knox, executive director of OBMA.

The contest ran from Dec. 5-16, allowing Facebook users to vote for the merchants they felt best exemplified the use and spirit of holiday décor. Votes were tallied by the number of likes each photo received in OBMA's Holiday Decorating Contest photo album.

"We saw some of the highest participation ever this year, and so many of our merchants were deserving of awards. We appreciate each and every person who decorated, whether they entered the contest or not. It really helps make OB extra special this time of year," Knox said.

With 13 total contest entries, the Facebook voting drew more than 750 ballots.

This year's winners were (clockwise): Ocean Beach Thrift Trader (first place, \$200, 302 votes); Edward Jones (second place, \$150, 140 votes); South Coast Surf Shop (third place, \$100, 90 votes); and Lighthouse Ice Cream (fourth place, \$50, 61 votes).

Annual OB Home Decorating Contest

Winners were also announced for the Ocean Beach Town Council's annual OB Holiday Home Decorating Contest for 2013.

The winners were:

- Best Use of Lighting:
- Colleen and Brian Clune, 4551 Narragansett Ave.
- Most Original Decoration:

Louise Olesen, 4729 thru 4739 Newport Ave. • Judges Choice:

Kevin Harrington, 5074 Cape May Ave. - Staff and contribution



Inside shop



Front window













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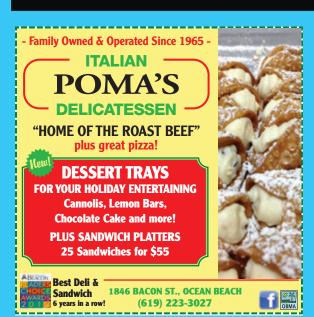




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Making a difference at holiday time

Auctioneer New York Myke and assistant Lady Borgia get top dollar for a banner celebrating the 125th anniversary of Ocean Beach during an auction held Dec. 5 at the Sunshine Saloon Company. The auction is sponsored annually by the OB Town Council to raise funds for the community Food & Toy Drive held for disadvantaged families locally. To contribute, contact Claudia Jack at (619) 846-6269. Photo by Mike McCarthy I The Beacon



ANGELS

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

teers get together the Saturday before Christmas at a local distribution site to create the baskets to meet the needs developed on Lamb's list. Each child receives four to five wrapped gifts. Diapers, formula or other infant needs would be appreciated in the case of expectant mothers.

"I couldn't do this without my administrative assistants Rebecka Garcia and Socorro Robles," said Lamb, "who assist me on multiple levels and with the Spanish-speaking families."

ensures OB Elementary students whose Family YMCA and the OB One Church families live outside the Peninsula area also receive toys and food baskets. According to Lamb, the police depart-

"I feel like the community hugs us. Not one of our community businesses has ever said 'no' to our requests [for holiday donations]. They have hugged our school, supported our students and parents. We are very fortunate to have the community we have, and are thankful for all of our community angels."

DONNA LAMB

Community outreach and volunteer coordinator, OB Elementary

The holiday outreach program also ment's Western Division, the Peninsula are involved with this part of the pro-

"If you would like to be an OB Angel mentary.com.

this year, or at any time in the future, please contact me. Sometimes, we have last-minute families, too," said Lamb.

Since OB Elementary is "in the hub of the community," said Lamb, "I feel like the community hugs us. Not one of our community businesses has ever said, 'no' to our requests. They have hugged our school, supported our students and parents. We are very fortunate to have the community we have, and are thankful for all of our community angels."

Union Bank is located at 1858 Cable St. You don't need to be a regular customer to step inside, choose an angel and return with a gift.

The same applies to Wells Fargo Bank, which is located at 4994 Newport Ave.

For more information, contact Lamb at (619) 223-1631, or visit www.obele-



CELEBRATE THE SEASON IN OCEAN BEACH!





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

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

- "Beach Town: Early Days in Ocean Beach," the audiobook (\$20)
- 125th anniversary coffee mug (\$5)
- 125th anniversary Farmers Market
 - 125th anniversary shot glass (\$5)
- Celebrate Ocean Beach Anniversary poster (\$20)
- Commemorative OB hat (\$25)
- · Ladies' crew neck 125th anniversary
- Men's crew neck 125th anniversary
- OB 125th anniversary charcoalgray 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







OB Elementary School students from teacher Karen Ritchey's first-grade class made the walk to the Ocean Beach Pier recently to meet individually with Santa. Photos by Mike McCarthy I The Beacon

Schoolchildren get early visit from Santa under OB's community Christmas tree

Ocean Beach had a chance to visit with Santa at the Ocean Beach Pier on Dec. 5.

For the last 34 years, the Ocean

Students from elementary schools in Beach Town Council has been bringing Jan. 2. During the holiday season, the Santa to town to meet with school able on Saturdays for the general public at the OB Community Tree until

Ocean Beach Town Council also hosts groups at the pier. Santa will be avail- the Ocean Beach Food and Toy Drive for disadvantaged families.

— Mike McCarthy



Lilly Rose and Alex Maynard, first-graders at Ocean Beach Elementary, get a special opportunity to meet with Santa.









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OBMA gift items perfect go-to presents for the holidays

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ket tote bag (\$15)

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sary T-shirt (\$20)

pint glass (\$5)

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- · Ocean Beach 125th anniversary ornament (\$25)
- · Ocean Beach 125th anniversary
- ornament (\$25) · Ocean Beach 125th anniversary
- Team Ocean Beach T-shirt, gray
- Team Ocean Beach T-shirt, navy
- · Wonderland Ocean Beach colddrink tumbler (\$10)

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WHAT'S Peninsula-area events, Dec. 16-Jan. 8

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 sponsor a Child or Teenage Book Tree dropoff. Residents can donate any canned or boxed items or a new, unwrapped toy. For more information, call (619) 846-6269 or (619) 515-4400. 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 7

in the 92106 or 92017 ZIP codes. For more information, visit www.mypointloma.com/FoodDrive.

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

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, located at 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539.

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