INSIDE

Bali Hai celebrates 65 years of good times and great views

SEE PAGE 9

Southbay Mike's Blackwater Tattoo Parlor opens in OB

SEE PAGE 10

OB Holiday Parade set for Saturday, Dec. 7

SEE SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

THE STAR OF THE HOLIDAYS

Peninsula neighborhood tradition of holiday lights started nearly 40 years ago by one family on Garrison Street has gone dark.

“It is the end of an era,” said Nazare Freitas Judd, daughter of John and Carolyn Freitas, who began Garrison Street lights 39 years ago.

Peaking at about 10 homes participating some five years ago, the event has gradually dwindled down to where it started — the Freitas home.

The Garrison Street Christmas light display began humbly, with just a small nativity scene. In subsequent years, a Santa was added, then angels and Mickey Mouse characters appeared in windows. Eventually, the event transformed into something more like Disneyland.

“It became something bigger than life,” said Freitas Judd. “Garrison Street lights became an annual event for families to come to, not only to celebrate Christmas but the holiday spirit itself.”

The event went along smoothly for many years until recently when, according to Freitas Judd, “things started to slowly change. It slowly downsized, and then people began getting older or sick, dying or moving away.”

Added Freitas Judd: “My family is still putting up lights. But they are pretty much the only ones on the street this year.”

“It’s really sad to see this end ... and it breaks all of our hearts, but it’s kind of changing times,” said Freitas Judd.

Putting up holiday lights was a major undertaking, noted Freitas Judd.

By Dave Schwab | THE BEACON
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Meet Your Point Loma Luxury Real Estate Professionals
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“...three to four weeks just to set up,” she said. “It’s a big huge chunk of time and effort.”

Freitas Judd said her parents “are so blessed to have been part of so many people coming together for so many years, creating a place for families to come and enjoy the holiday spirit. They are steeped in the traditions of Point Loma, and they have loved every moment of it.”

The Garrison Street light display coincided, for 18 years, with a Ybarra family hosting a hot chocolate fundraiser to benefit a needy Peninsulan. The Ybarra charity fundraiser or also initially started out small with their two daughters. One daughter, who was age 6 then, and her three best friends, set up a small hot chocolate stand to benefit a young girl in Tijuana they knew who was going to have surgery. They raised about $80 and took that money and bought the girl a Barbie doll, bringing it to her hospital room.

There were subsequently 18 different fundraising recipients of the hot chocolate fundraiser over the years. Those recipients included victims of domestic violence, a child with brain cancer, a boy who was shot and survived, a juvenile diabetes sufferer and a man who lost his arm in a boating accident. Rady Children’s Hospital was a recipient one year.

That event, which had run its course, was officially “retired” in 2018.

Lights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A section of the Garrison Street Christmas lights from two years ago.
Point Loma High staff receives training on emergency procedures

Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Teachers across the county, including those from San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), are being trained in a new program designed to increase student safety during emergency situations, whether caused by a natural disaster or criminal act including active shooters.

While officials emphasize schools today are safer than ever, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) has been working with local law enforcement agencies to develop a best-practices plan staff members can use in safeguarding their students.

The project was based on research and guidance from federal experts in law enforcement, education, and emergency management.

"Providing a safe environment for learning is of the utmost importance for our students, teachers, employees, and parents," said SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Marten. "Ensuring a safe environment means being prepared for emergency situations of all types."

The new program is an Option-Based Responses one, meaning it gives educators more options than the traditional lockdown and wait for rescue. Known as "Run, Hide, or Fight," adults on campus are being taught how to evaluate situations reasonably and prudently before selecting the best strategy, not necessarily in that order.

Following earlier school shootings, federal law enforcement created the program in 2013. They noted lockdown with the addition of barricading doors using classroom furniture is often the most effective response to active shooters although it sometimes can take hours for law enforcement to reach and release students.

"Lockdown (hiding) doesn't offer sufficient protection in every situation so the two new options – run or fight – have been identified and proven to increase survival rates in these attacks," notes Bob Mueller, leader of the Operations-Based Responses partnership at SDCOE. "What SDCOE has done is adapt the run-hide-fight program for the K-12 environment."

The new guidelines instruct adults to direct students to run to safety if it can be done safely, hide or lockdown in a secure location and barricade or, with no other options, use violent force to disrupt or incapacitate the shooter.

District officials emphasize students are not being trained to fight intruders. Such actions are intended for school employees.

SDCOE staff is providing training to districts throughout the county to implement the new options. Each district can determine how to best introduce the program.

At Point Loma High School, the staff was trained last month, according to vice-principal Dana Tolomeo, who is in charge of the program at the school. In addition, a practice total-school lockdown was held on Nov. 21.

Some writers on social media were critical of PLHS principal Hans Becker for not calling a school lockdown in late October when a bullet was found in a school restroom. Lockdowns can only be called by law enforcement officers and the onsite SDUSD police officer declared the school be safe.

"The whole idea is to give each employee the skills to assess their situation for the best response," Marten said. "We train adults to lead students to make the right decision.

Agencies collaborate to protect SDUSD students from abuse

The lead agencies involved in protecting children from abuse and assault took part in an action summit on Dec. 2 convened by the San Diego Unified School District. Participating agencies, including the offices of the District Attorney and City Attorney, Child Welfare Services, the County Office of Education, and the San Diego Police Department, outlined specific actions they will take to take to improve collaboration in the region.

Dr. Karen Imagawa, director of the Audrey Hepburn CARES Center and Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles, delivered a call to action at the start of the meeting by highlighting the long-term impacts of child abuse on the victims and on society as a whole. Imagawa is board-certified in developmental-behavior pediatrics, general pediatrics and child abuse pediatrics.

Child Welfare Services made one of the most significant commitments to come out of the action summit. The agency plans to increase the number of children who receive high-quality forensic interviews following an allegation of abuse, from 100 to 1,000, in the coming years.

Child Welfare Services works principally with abuse that happens in the home and with students living in foster care settings.

This represents a major commitment to help protect our most vulnerable students," said Board of Education trustee Richard Barrera, who authored the resolution establishing the Multi-Agency Task Force to Recommend Comprehensive Strategies and Protocols for Inter-Agency Cooperation for the Protection of Students. "We need to make sure that any student who experiences abuse at school has access to these supports."

Among other commitments made by local agencies at the action summit include:

See Students, Page 18
On Nov. 28, around 8 a.m., the San Diego Police Department Communications Center got a call of an injured man in the 3100 block of Sports Arena Boulevard. When the officers arrived, they found a man with significant trauma to his neck. The man was taken to the hospital, but unfortunately did not survive his injuries.

Homicide investigators were called to the scene and are handling the investigation. The investigation revealed the victim had an altercation with the suspect, identified as 38-year-old Forrest Robert Brantley. At some point in the altercation, Brantley used a weapon to cause traumatic injuries to the victim’s neck area. Brantley was last seen walking away from the scene.

This morning at approximately 11 a.m., police officers from the Ventura Police Department saw Brantley in the area of E. Santa Clara Street and Junipero Street in the City of Ventura. VPD officers arrested Brantley without incident. Brantley is currently in their custody.

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As San Diego continues to grow and change, this document will serve as a policy framework intended to guide housing strategy citywide and identify actions to help meet housing goals,” said Mike Hansen, the City’s planning director. “It’s important we include the public’s ideas as we move toward the completion of the document.”

This input opportunity is part of an effort to refresh San Diego’s housing blueprint, also known as the Housing Element, of the City’s General Plan. The Housing Element, updated every eight years, considers the City’s needs regarding housing access, inventory, affordability and quality. For this cycle, the City will need to plan for approximately 108,000 new housing units serving all income groups by 2029.

While some of the City’s draft housing goals remain the same, such as facilitating the construction of quality housing, improving the existing housing stock and providing new affordable housing, City planners want to make sure the updated plan also enhances the City’s needs regarding housing access, inventory, affordability and quality. For this cycle, the City will need to plan for approximately 108,000 new housing units serving all income groups by 2029.

Before crafting the Housing Element draft, City planners held six public workshops, conducted an online survey and attended other events to gather public input. Now, comments on that draft will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 20. To submit comments, visit the General Plan Housing Element Update website. After public review, staff will prepare the final draft document.

Ultimately, the updated Housing Element will be submitted to the City Council for adoption.

LOCAL CHOIRS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Christmas Carols

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD & DRINKS

50-FOOT CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING SURPRISES THROUGHOUT THE EVENING!

One-of-a-kind, 40-foot show fountain! Take in a spectacular show of water, music, and lights synchronized to our 50-foot Christmas tree.

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LOCAL CHOIRS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Visit Santa Claus

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Surprises throughout the evening!

Start your new family tradition! Come to Legacy!

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Visit from Santa Claus

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Group suing City over new vehicle habitation ordinance

By Dave Schmeib | The Beacon

An attorney representing people living out of their vehicles claims the City’s safe parking lots program is inadequate, while legally challenging the City’s new Vehicle Habitation Ordinance as being unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, the City defended its safe parking lots program, noting it was a step forward when a public outcry over health and safety concerns over vehicle habitation on public streets forced the drafting of a new ordinance banning vehicle occupation.

“We have asked the court to amend our complaint in our lawsuit to add the new vehicle habitation ordinance,” said Ann Menasche, s

Claiming the new VHO is “worse than the first,” Menasche said nine of her clients who signed on to amend our complaint in our lawsuit in the last few years in the City.

Halsey said the City’s Real Estate Assets Department is searching for new safe parking lots sites, should the need arise. She added the City is also open to any private individuals who might step forward offering their own properties for the safe-lots program.

“We would love to talk to anybody offering their properties any time,” said Halsey.

Between 2017 and the present, Halsey noted “over 1,500 individuals have been served in the safe lots program including 300 children, and over 200 of those children have exited the program to permanent housing or other long-term, stable housing. We’ve also worked with individuals to increase their income through case management services and job training.”

There are presently between 200 and 320 spaces in the City’s three current safe parking lots administered by JFS. Halsey said those safe lots have mobile office trailers for caseworkers, access to restrooms and all of them have hand-washing stations. People living out of their vehicles are allowed in safe parking lots from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

In February, the City Council repealed its old VHO after a federal judge found it unconstitutional and halted all enforcement. The new VHO was approved by the City Council on May 14 following a backlash from residents complaining of unsanitary conditions and security issues regarding residents residing on city streets. A vehicle is considered inhabited if there is evidence of sleeping, bathing or meal preparation there.

Under the new VHO, people are not allowed to sleep in their cars on public streets from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Menasche said the City’s new VHO makes anyone having a pillow, blanket or some food or water in their vehicles a criminal. She noted the VHO also bars vehicle inhabitants from legally inhabiting “90% or more of the city,” because the ordinance precludes those vehicles from being located within 50 feet of a home or school.

“It is illegal for those sheltered in RVs or cars to be in most places in the city day or night,” said Menasche.

“People are being treated as criminals because they are poor when what they really need is housing that is affordable.”
Your Local Point Loma & Ocean Beach Experts

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Local legends honored at OB Historical Society

Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

The OB Historical Society had a packed house with their monthly meeting at the Waters Edge Community Church on Nov. 21. The crowd gathered to honor the incredible number of community contributions by the James family, known to many as the James Gang.

The James Gang has been instrumental in creating a major number of Ocean Beach traditions. For over four decades, five brothers of the James family, Mike, Greg, Ron Pat, and Rich, worked together with their wives developing the family business. Somehow they found the time to also dedicate themselves improving the community of Ocean Beach.

The James family was an integral part in the creation and leadership roles of the Ocean Beach Merchants Association, known today as the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association. They also have held leadership roles in the Ocean Beach Town Council, the OB Planning Board, and the OB Historical Society.

The brothers and their wives, over the years, have been the catalyst to many other events such as the OB Street Fair, and the OB Community Mural Project. Pat James and his wife Susan helped develop the OB Historical Society, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The James family contributions such as the Holiday Parade and the Christmas tree would not be financially possible without the annual OB auction. Auctioneer Mike James and the Sunshine Company hold this yearly event to help fund several of these traditions.

The family tribute by the OB Historical Society was a great success. What would Ocean Beach be without the contributions of the James Gang?

A special tribute was made to the family’s late brother, Rich James, who actually founded the Christmas tree tradition, and whose life epitomized the spirit of Ocean Beach.

Mike, Greg, Ron, and Pat James.
Bali Hai: 65 years of serving a good time with a great view

By Ali Diamond | The Beacon

Like a fine wine, some things get better with age. And as cliche as this may sound, it couldn’t be truer than when mentioning a local landmark still standing on Shelter Island: Bali Hai Restaurant.

Yes, before it was Bali Hai, it was “Christians Hut,” then “The Hut,” according to Larry Baumann, owner/manager and son-in-law to late founder Tom F. Ham Jr. It’s a somewhat long history, but worth telling.

Baumann explained that early on, restaurateur Arthur “Art” Gregg Wellington LaShell owned the popular Christian’s Hut on Balboa in Newport Beach. He based the tiki restaurant on the original Christian’s Hut he had opened on Catalina Island in 1934 for the cast and crew of MGM’s “Mutiny on the Bounty,” starring Charles Laughton and Clark Gable (as Fletcher Christian).

In 1952, Baumann said LaShell received approval from the Port of San Diego to build another of his tiki restaurants on the newly developed Polynesian-themed Shelter Island. The circular Tahitian “tiki-shaped” building was designed by architect Robert Benedict Brout with Raymond Frater and help from Boyle Engineering.

LaShell’s corporation reportedly spent more than $200,000 building the new restaurant, under the direction of Alina Hudson from Hollywood.

“She used hand-hewn, local timber’s from San Diego and moved ‘The Gool’ down from the Newporth Beach location to decorate the roof. Complete with a two-story birdhouse inside the restaurant (where the main bar is located today),” Baumann recalled.

Christian’s Hut opened in August 1952 but by the next month had dropped “Christian” in favor of simply, “The Hut.” The corporation spent more money than it took in, Baumann continued.

Then, Shelter Island Inc. filed for protection in bankruptcy court, asking for more time to pay some 139 creditors. That’s when Tom F. Ham Jr., a CPA, recommended it as a potential moneymaker to his client William Kirk.

Kirk purchased it only after Tom Ham agreed to operate it. Tom Ham Jr., a CPA, recommended it as a potential moneymaker to his client William Kirk.

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“The name Tom Ham came up with was while looking out the large bay view windows. Bali Hai translates from the musical ‘South Pacific’ (and ‘top of the isle’),” he said. “The Polynesian floor show ran Tuesdays to Sundays, two shows a night for almost 30 years, until the mid-1980s.”

More than 65 years and almost 3 million Mai Tai’s later, Ham’s family – Baumann included – continues to successfully operate the Bali Hai Restaurant, which remains one of the largest and most famous original “Tiki Temples.”

Sadly, Ham Jr. passed away quite suddenly in November 1973. His daughter Susie and husband Larry Baumann took over shortly after and now their son Tom Drake Baumann (Tom Ham’s grandson) manages Bali Hai.

In 2010, the Baumann’s renovated the Bali Hai using the incredible talents of the late architect Graham Downs who was able to understand the Bali Hai is much more than a building to many, many people. He saved the feel, the magic, the “aloha spirit.”

They also signed a 40-year lease with the Port of San Diego.

“The Bali Hai is a special place to many people. locals bring their out-of-town guests to show off the city and show them the Mai Tai counter. The family feels blessed to be here and further blessed to be woven in the fabric of so many families’ lives,” he said.

“Susie and I feel like the Bali Hai is one of our children. A great deal of our success is due to the fact and family is present much of the time,” he said.

HOLLYWOOD ENCOUNTERS

Shortly after Tom Ham took over Bali Hai the Half Moon Inn became a favorite of the Hollywood set that would come for the Del Mar racing season... the Bali Hai benefited greatly from many people, locals bring their out-of-town guests to show off the city. The family feels blessed to be here and further blessed to be woven in the fabric of so many families’ lives,” he said.

And don’t forget the Mai Tais, which span generations... to date almost 2.6 million served.

Recently a regular lunch custom- er came in with a young man in tow for happy hour,” Baumann said, “I greeted and said, ‘we don’t usually see you this time of the day.’

“She responded: ‘It is my grand- son’s birthday and I am buying him his first Mai Tai!’ My astounded look brought this response: ‘Oh, it’s a tra- dition in our family.’ My first thought was where else would this happen?”

And in October they celebrated the Bali Hai’s 65th anniversary with a grand party and the mayor giving a proclamation.

“We anticipate many more years of service to San Diego and beyond,” Baumann said. “People come here to have a good time: we just help them!”

As for what Tom Ham might think today if he saw his pride and joy: “My feeling is that Tom Ham would be pretty darn pleased with where we are today,” Baumann added.

“All the different rooms... the Bali Hai is much more than a building to many, many people. He saved the feel, the magic, the “aloha spirit.”

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“Susie and I feel like the Bali Hai is one of our children. A great deal of our success is due to the fact and family is present much of the time,” he said.

HOLLYWOOD ENCOUNTERS

Shortly after Tom Ham took over Bali Hai the Half Moon Inn became a favorite of the Hollywood set that would come for the Del Mar racing season... the Bali Hai benefited greatly from many people, locals bring their out-of-town guests to show off the city.
Blackwater Tattoo Parlor opens in Ocean Beach

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

Southbay Mike has brought his artistry from Chula Vista to Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. His was the first tattoo parlor in Chula Vista when he opened in 1996. Having finally decided to move, it only took him a single day to find a new home for Southbay Mike’s Blackwater Tattoo Parlor in the beach area.

“I wasn’t ever going to come to the beach. I had a neighborhood beach area,” Mike said. But when he finally decided to leave he told his wife, “If I have to move one more time — I’m going to the beach. I’m just going to go big because my work is good enough. I’ve got enough clients.”

Mike just happened to be driving through OB when he saw a for lease/going out of business sign at 5003 Newport Ave. Where The Black Bead had been. He got an interview with the landlord that very day.

“He liked me and said, ‘I just want to let you know, I was praying for tattoo,’” Mike said. “And here I am.”

Having started tattooing at age 14, Mike toured the world with San Diego-based P.O.D. punk band, tattooing and picking up tips from craft masters along the way. Tattoos date back many thousands of years with them having been found on mummified skin. The oldest evidence of human tattoos is believed to be from between 3370 BC and 3100 BC, with Otzi the Iceman, discovered in September 1991, who had tattoos. Egypt’s international trade spread tattooing to Crete, Greece, and Arabia. There is a history of tattooing in ancient China, as well as among Celic and northern European tribes, such as the Picts — literally “painted people” — and in Samoa and the Polynesian islands, where the word “tattoo” originated. Why tattoo? “I just like it,” said Mike, who is heavily tattooed. “It’s like wearing your favorite shirt all the time.”

Of his work, Mike said: “I want it to look good. It’s your responsibility as a tattoo artist to make sure this lasts for life. With me, you’re getting a high-quality tattoo. All my ratings are five stars.”

“I just really intrigued me and appealed to my rebel side,” said Mike of his tattoo clients, who pay a 20% deposit from them before he starts.

Mike collaborates with his clients on their tattoo designs. But the end result is his interpretation of their basic ideas. “I tattoo in all styles whether it’s portrait, black and gray, Japanese, American traditional, biomechanics, tribal: You name it,” said Mike. “I am a tattooer through and through.”

Mike consults with clients and takes a 20% deposit from them before he starts.

In the end, and most importantly, Mike said of his tattoo clients, “You want their experience to be fun.”

Hugo’s Cocina keeps improving food, atmosphere

Judi Curry | The Beacon

After a favorite restaurant of mine changes hands, I like to periodically return to the new one to see what changes have been made: whether it is a good as the one it replaced; how the service has changed, and, most importantly, what happened to the prices. It was time for the widows to visit the old Rancho’s— in the new guise of Hugo’s Cocina.

For anyone of you that were not familiar with Rancho’s before the change, Hugo was a server there. In fact, I discovered that almost all of the previous serving staff is still there. It was like “coming home” when we walked into...
The tradition continues – Ocean Beach Christmas tree planted in the sand

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

It’s entirely appropriate that the grand marshals for the 40th anniversary of the OB Holiday Parade, themed Miracle on Newport Avenue, will be the family that started it all: the James brothers of the James Gang Co. printers.

“Actually, it was my late brother, Rich James, who started it,” said Mike James of his family’s business and their historic contribution to the beach community’s annual holiday tree planting and festive parade.

“Rich brought the first tree down in 1980 from Mount Shasta, a 70-foot Star pine,” said Mike. “It was his idea to have a giant tree at the beach.”

Mike James and his surviving brothers Ron, Greg, and Pat will be marching at the head of a kazoo band on Saturday, Dec. 7 commemorating the very first planting of the tree preceding OB’s first-holiday parade.

Mike talked about how Rich got the first parade kick-started.

“The night after they put the first tree in the sand, my brothers went from bar to bar in OB handing out kazoos that you hum into and makes noises,” Mike said. “They all marched doing this impromptu parade down the middle of Newport Avenue to celebrate the tree.”

There has been a tree, and a parade, ever since in OB. Mike James has also doubled as an announcer for the tree lighting, which starts at 5:05 p.m. on Dec. 7 officially starting the parade.

James said entertainment will be furnished by the Ocean Beach Marching Kazoo Band. “Some of the band members are among the original people in the very first parade, as well as our family, friends and former employees,” he said. James said his family is proud to have begun their community’s annual holiday celebration.

“It is something we take great pride in, something that’s continuing,” he said. “We are thankful that the community still volunteers and keeps this tradition alive. This being the 40th year, it is very special — and nice — to be taking part in the parade as well.”

The annual transplantation of the Christmas tree, always offered by an anonymous donor, to the beach near OB pier took place Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.

That morning, San Diego Police escorted the truck carrying the tree through the OB community to the foot of Newport Avenue in a special place in the sand that was uncovered and cleaned out for it.

Two days later, on Dec. 5, local school children will make their annual pilgrimage to the OB Christmas tree to see Santa from 9 a.m. to noon, and to add their own hand-made ornaments to hang on it.

“We do have a tree this year that got chosen after being advertised on Facebook and Next Door,” said Grace Quigley, OBTC events chair. She noted such trees “usually are problem trees that are uprooting someone’s sidewalks or needs to be removed for some reason.”

Quigley said this year’s selected OB tree is about 40-feet tall.

Mike James said the first tree brought down by his late brother in 1980 was “straight, tall and absolutely beautiful.” However, for whatever reason, most trees selected since have been left-leaning — although, this year’s tree seems to be curving to the right.
OB Holiday Program to benefit annual Food & Toy Drive

One of Ocean Beach’s most popular holiday events, the OB Holiday Program, returns to the Farmer’s Market, on Dec. 11. The long-running show takes place outdoors at the intersection of Bacon and Newport Avenue from 4 to 8 p.m., featuring area musicians performing to benefit the OB Food & Toy Drive.

It’s a casual affair, with the artists right on the street amidst the hustle and bustle of the market. “This truly is an OB centric event,” said concert organizer, Michael Head. “It’s a live holiday soundtrack to the Farmer’s Market with the bonus that not only are many of the performers from the area, but items donated go directly to families in Ocean Beach, chosen by the OB Town Council.”

Folks can drop off cash, canned food or unwrapped toys to the donation box directly in front of the musician’s performance space.

“Every little bit helps and can really make a difference, especially at this time of year,” Head said.

For Head, booking the event is a labor of love. “I like to think ally make a difference, especially during the holiday and great for getting people into the spirit of giving, so having acoustic guitar classics everyone knows the words to, so having acoustic guitar helps give the event a sing-a-long vibe,” he said.

He notes that the music will include some variety. “Most of the performers will be playing holiday tunes, but not necessarily exclusively,” he said. While past years have included bands, this year’s event will be primarily acoustic. “It makes for a quick change over between artists,” Head remarked. “Many of the songs played will be classics everyone knows the words to, so having acoustic guitar helps give the event a sing-a-long vibe,” he said.

Musicians performing include Travis Oliver (4 p.m.), Dave Gilbert (4:30 p.m.), Blossom and Bloom (5 p.m.), an All-Star Jam at 5:30 p.m. and Fast Heart Mart at 6 p.m.

“The holidays are a really special time for everyone,” said bassist Spike Mike Muellenberg, who will take part in the All-Star Jam. The member of glam-rocker, The Spice Pistols, so revers the holiday and great for getting people into the spirit of giving, so putting this together each year is one of my favorite things.”

He considers another benefit to the event. “The music is always such a big part of the holiday and great for getting people into the spirit of giving, so putting this together each year is one of my favorite things.”

The Ocean Beach Town Council recently announced the fair dates for the Craft Fair as Dec. 7, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21. The Craft Fair will be held on the grass of the Veterans Plaza and will feature local craft vendors, a “Kids Corner” with activities and more. All proceeds support the OBTC’s Holiday Food Drive, Holiday Parade and Community Grants. For more information, visit oceanbeach-sandiego.com/community-group/ob-town-council.

The OB Holiday Program:
Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Ocean Beach Farmers Market, Newport, and Bacon Ave. 4 – 8 p.m. All ages. Free. oceanbeach-sandiego.com/events.

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Thank you to tonight’s sponsors & program partners:

San Diego Artist Wins Award

Nannette Farina has won second place in the highly competitive December Member Show of the San Diego Watercolor Society. “The Absence of Routine.” The stunning painting, “Wistful Lady,” was given the top honor by award-winning artist Charles Henry Rouse.

According to Rouse: “This is a very powerful painting, even though it’s small. There’s an impressionistic feel that’s on the verge of non-representational. The simplicity is beautiful. It’s a very attractive watercolor.”

After drawing and painting for some years, Farina, a San Diego resident, is a new member of the San Diego Watercolor Society. The exhibit will continue at The San Diego Watercolor Society’s art gallery through Saturday, Dec. 28. The opening reception will be held Friday, Dec. 6 from 5-8 p.m. The gallery is located in the Arts District Liberty Station at 2825 Devrolet Road, Bldg. 202 and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The exhibit is free to the public.

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CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE OF LIGHTS
The Mission Bay Christmas Boat Parade of Lights on Dec. 14 features boats decorated for the holidays that will sail around Mission Bay. A highly anticipated event in the San Diego community, dozens of vessels take to the water for the parade. The boat parade begins at 6 p.m. from Quivira Basin. Best viewing is from Crown Point, the east side of Vacation Island or the west side of Fiesta Island.

FIRST FRIDAY AT LIBERTY STATION
First Friday at Liberty Station on Dec. 6 will feature a free concert from San Diego-based musician Whitney Shay with opening act Lauren Leigh. The evening from 4-9 p.m. will also include Salute the Season at the Local Bazaar Pop-Up Market, craft beverages, a visit from Santa, open galleries, museums and artist studios.

The free concert will take place 6-9 p.m. at the Building 177 event center. The Local Bazaar Holiday Pop Up Market will take place throughout the Arts District from 4-10 p.m. Free photo opportunities with Santa will take place on the North Promenade from 5-30-8:30 p.m. along with the Surfing Santa Band.

POINT LOMA HIGH CHOIR PERFORMANCE
The Point Loma High Choir and Guitar programs are on a "Journey to Excellence" and are seeking to grow and expose their talented student musicians in the community. The group is raising funds to grow the programs with the purchase new instruments, sound equipment and bringing in specialized musicians to tutor and challenge the groups. Instructions for the fund-raising efforts can be found by searching Point Loma High School Choir on Facebook. School district funds cover only basic materials and a limited budget that leaves teachers and students having to provide the components of a quality program.

The public is invited to hear the students' talents in a Choral Winter Concert that also will feature the Correia Middle School Choir. The performance is being held Monday, Dec. 16 at the Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church. 2128 Chatsworth Blvd. and begins at 7 p.m.

REINDEER MONOLOGUES CONTINUES
Point Loma Playhouse continues its season with “The Eight: Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode,” directed by Jerry Pilato and Erica Livengstone. Starring David Janisch as Dasher, Eric Trigg as Comet, Christine McCoy as Prancer, Andrew Walkers as Hollywood (Prancer), Mclain Parker as Cupid, Melanie Mino as Blitzen, Michael Adler as Donner and Kellen Gold as Vixen, the show takes to the stage at the Point Loma Playhouse at 3035 Talbot St. at Point Loma Assembly.

With each deer's confession, the truth behind the shocking allegations becomes clearer and clearer and seems to implicate everyone from the littlest elf to the tainted Saint himself. Don't miss this expose of North Pole naughtiness. The show will run through Dec. 14. Performance dates are Dec. 6, 13, 14 Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

PIRATE PERFORMANCE
Maritime Museum of San Diego, home to one of the world’s largest collections of historic vessels from sail to steam to submarine, announces its final performance of the year of Boarded! Saturday, Dec. 28. This hilarious interactive show puts visitors right in the middle of the pirate action.

Participants will be sworn in as part of the ship crew, trained how to navigate, sword fight, bail water from a sinking ship, escape from the King's Jail, swab the deck and other pirate skills. Performances are 90 minutes and check in times are 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. A new little pirate costume contest is also planned for children 12 and under. Tickets may be purchased at sdmaritime.org or at the Maritime Museum ticket booth or Gift Shop located at 1492 N. Harbor Drive.
New volleyball coach helps lead Pointers to success

The Point Loma High School volleyball team.

Souikane continued to play competitively in tournaments around the world including competitions in Spain, Mexico, and Switzerland. In 2007, he officially became a member of the World Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Federations. Souikane brings more than 15 years of coaching experience with him spanning from high school, club, college, and professional. “I have trained and coached all over the world, but I am very excited to be at Point Loma High. We will be growing the teams, building on game strategy, and prepping the girls for college-level competition,” said Souikane. Currently, senior Maggie Wolf is committed to play at Point Loma Nazarene University the following year and plans to study kinesiology.

Souikane has brought a lifetime of experience and strategy to all the PLHS volleyball teams, which has been evident in their season’s victories. Since Souikane has been with the PLHS volleyball, the varsity team won second in the 2019 California Fall Tournament on Oct. 12-13. Seniors Abbey Tadder and Katherine Jacobsen received all-tournament recognition.

The junior varsity finished the season with three losses and scored a first-place finish in the Wolverine Classic. JV players Sophia Meyer and Chase Meyers achieved all-tournament recognition at the Wolverine Classic. Souikane also credits the season’s successes to the PLHS administration, parents and community for support and off the court.

Souikane looks forward to the spring season to take the experiences and lessons learned during the fall and continue to build the PLHS volleyball program.

For more information, team rosters and full season game schedule, visit plhsfightingpointers.com.

Former Pointer water polo star continues to shine

After playing a key role on his Point Loma High water polo team that won a CIF title during the 2015 season, Brendan McMahon has gone on to stardom at the next level.

McMahon was the captain of that 2015 team that posted an incredible 27-4 record under head coach Ken Toma. In the title game, McMahon, a junior, scored four goals on five shots and dished out three assists as the Pointers defeated Bonita Vista 13-6 for the Div. III title.

That year, McMahon netted 85 goals, adding 41 assists for 126 points.

The Pointers, moved up to Div. II based on their 2015 success, were defeated in the quarterfinals in 2016, but McMahon poured in 69 goals and 40 assists for 109 points.


Toma's team has since been elevated to Div. I with the top teams in the region.

Fast forward to the recently concluded 2019 season where McMahon's Mesa College team captured the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) championship after recording an 18-9 regular season record.

McMahon, who now stands 6-feet-5 inches tall and weighs 195 pounds, has become one of the Olympians’ most physical and feared members.

McMahon and his teammates defeated Southwestern College 17-9 and Palomar College 11-8 to claim the PCAC crown. In the final match, McMahon started by handing out five assists to lead all scorers. The Olympians finished in third place in 2018.

During his freshman season (2018) he found the back of the net for 67 goals and added 34 assists, all in 23 games, to become Mesa's leading scorer. This year he was among the team’s leading scorers with 32 goals and 27 assists in 25 games for 59 points.
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Local artist turns seasoned surfboards into precious paintings

by Victoria Davis | The Beacon

The kitchen, an art studio. The street, a gallery. At least, that’s the case for JohnMichael (Mike) Becker, a Pacific Beach native, and surfboard street artist.

“It’s a lot more intimate working outside where people can watch,” said Mike, who makes a business out of taking old, unusable surfboards and turning them into works of art. “People are more likely to come up to you and ask about what you’re working on and why.”

While his most common workspace is on the north side, anyone cruising along La Jolla Cove will likely catch a glimpse of Mike hard at work, taking acrylic paints to board and creating scenes of sailboats in the sunset, sharks coasting near the shores and sea turtles gliding above coral reefs. Mike often takes requests on the spot from passerby-turned-customers, as well as lets his younger audiences help with painting the coral reefs.

“I’ll let the kids grab the brush and dab a little on the reefs and they get super excited,” said Mike, who was also recruited last year to paint the mural on the side of Ohana Café on Pearl Street. “My nephews and nieces have done parts of my paintings as well.”

Mike, who typically charges between $500 and $700 for his boards depending on size, has also been brought a handful of snapped boards. For one, he turned the board’s break into a massive shark bite.

“The great whites have been out here since I was a kid,” said Mike. “They’re residents. That’s why I paint them as well.”

Mike, age 59, also paints more abstract and unconventional scenes on boards, such as Eddie Van Halen with his Frankenstrat above an exploding volcano. Mike’s artistic inspirations stem not only from growing up in Pacific Beach during the ’60s and ’70s—swimming with the bat rays in Mission Bay at Crown Point—but also derives from Mike and his wife Julie Becker living in the Hawaii countryside for 20 years, “embraced by the islands, the people and the ‘Aloha’ culture.”

“He has always looked for different things to paint on, like shells and old picture frames,” said Julie. “When Mike started doing surfboards, that’s when things went crazy. Everyone wanted one. But I can’t say I’m surprised because he’s been an amazing artist from the beginning.”

Mike, who has been “doodling in the books” since Crown Point Jr. Elementary, added, “I used to give everything I made away as gifts to people. It was Julie who inspired me to turn this into a business.”

When Mike and Julie moved back to Pacific Beach four years ago to be closer to family, Mike was quick to turn his home on Pacific Beach Drive into both an art studio and a place friends, family and perfect strangers could come to purchase painted boards, shells, motorcycle helmets, and picture frames. Mike puts his painted surfboards out on the front lawn with a window sign that reads, “Surf art for sale.”

Anyone is also welcome to walk through the house and into the back yard where Mike sands and primes the boards before painting.

“We live right next to a stop sign and so people have to stop their cars anyway,” said Julie, an artist herself who creates leather purses made from cowboy boots and denim pockets, all hand-sewn with dental floss. “We’ve even gotten visits from park rangers who just want to watch Mike work.”

Mike added, “If I can create a little window that people can look in for a few seconds a day, if not longer, and the painting eases whoever is looking at it, then I’m doing my job.”

“If you look at my work and it makes your heart smile, I’m doing what I’m supposed to do here.”

Point Loma Artists Association Show & Sale

Saturday • December 7 • 10 am ~ 3 pm

3636 Curtis Street • Point Loma
in the door. And, not only is the original staff there, we were introduced to Hugo's grandson, who is also serving there now as well as Elena, Hugo's wife, who is a caterer in her own right.

One of the first things we noticed was that Hugo's seems much cleaner than Rancho's. There are still pictures on the wall, and Serapes draping the counters, but it just had a "clean" feel to it.

There is a new television bar – something I could do without – but I noticed even though it was luncheon there were some people sitting at the bar watching the program that was being aired.

And the second thing we noticed is that we were still served the wonderful homemade salsas and chips. I maintained when the restaurant was Rancho's that their salsa was the best in Ocean Beach. Nothing changed in that regard. They make it there; it is thick; a little spicy for some; but oh so good.

The menu has been expanded, and they have more items that are vegan than any other Mexican restaurant I have ever been to. Our soft drinks were served immediately while we looked at the menu, and beer and wine are now being offered. (When they first opened up they did not have these licenses.)

The offerings are many: breakfast, starters, quesadillas, salads, soups, Hugo's specials, burritos, tacos, tostadas, tortas, enchiladas, tamales, a kids menu, sides, drinks, etc. And in almost every category you can get a vegan and/or gluten-free item.

I wanted to try something that I always ordered when I went to Rancho's, so decid-ed on the shrimp burrito. Irene had never had a machaca burrito, and since that is my favorite item I suggested that she try it. I should say that Irene is a very finicky eater; I knew that if she didn't like it she would definitely tell me about it!

Additionally, she ordered a regular Coke, an environmental impact study first, Dickson said. "That will take a minimum of two years," he noted. "It will be a four-year process before you see anything really change. There are no shortcuts."

"This is going to impact our community (Midway)," said MPHCPG chair Cathy Kenton. "My desire is to get the community actively involved in the process. We want Midway to be a true community. Something as important as this, with its potential impacts, our community should have a voice in it."

MPHCIG will be dark in December and we'll meet next at 3 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Bay City Brewery, 3760 Hancock St. and it was served in a huge bottle with a glass of ice and I ordered a lemonade, which was refilled every time it got below the half-way mark!

My shrimp burrito was stuffed full of shrimp – I counted nine large size shrimp as well as stuffed with rice, cheese, sauce, etc. It was even better than I remembered it. It was so large that I had to take more than half of it home for lunch the next day. I ordered mine a la carte, but I could have had rice and beans with it if I desired it.

And Irene loved her chicken machaca burrito. It had onions, green, red and orange peppers, rice and cheese and seasoned items that were delicious. Here was also huge, and she took her's home for lunch and dinner.

I have to say that the prices were slightly higher than they were at Rancho's, but in all fairness, the minimum wage has gone up and it is reflected in the prices. But at least they are not charging the horrific surcharge that many other restaurants are charging and this is an honest price increase.

Hugo's offers a "Taco Tuesday" special, and also special prices between the hours of 3-5 p.m.

I am so happy to find that Hugo’s Cocina has really improved over what it was when it was Rancho’s. There is no question that I will return again, and again. Want to join me?

HUGO’S

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

The shrimp burrito.

JUDY CURRY/PENINSULA BEACON

NAVY

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

About two years ago, the Navy began seeking private and public partners in possibly redeveloping its approximately 70-acre Old Town site.

"We went out with requests for interest from developers and we had five significant responses come back with ideas on how to develop and use this land," Dickson said. "SAN Diego said they had an interest in developing a transit hub. That's the important responses come back with ideas on from developers and we had five signif-

icant (Midway)," said MPHCPG chair Cathy Kenton. "My desire is to get the community actively involved in the process. We want Midway to be a true community. Something as important as this, with its potential impacts, our community should have a voice in it."

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STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

- SDPD will provide school police with all case disposition, as available, and present quarterly training to School Police on legal updates and best practices.

- The District Attorney established the new Student Safety in School Systems Task Force and hotline to report child abuse.

- The City Attorney will develop a public service announcement for students to understand what behavior may constitute a crime.

- The County Office of Education committed to disseminate the DA’s Mandated Reporting information campaign to all county school districts.

- School Police added a child abuse reporting section on its Crime Stoppers app and will email reports to SDPD instead of delivering paper copies.

Superintendent Cindy Marten has committed to getting information from the task force out to the 100,000 students served by San Diego Unified in order to create what she called a culture of reporting, where every student and district employee feels comfortable reporting an allegation of abuse. She thanked all regional agencies for their participation in the task force.

"The families we serve will be heartened by the fact that every leading agency in our region that deals with the protection of children from assault and abuse has come together to make sure the public knows it should report these crimes, because our partners in law enforcement take every report seriously," Marten said.

Chair of the task force, San Diego Unified School Police Chief Michael Marquez, said the summit represents a robust spirit of collaboration among agencies in the region.

"I’d like to thank each of our regional partners for their dedication and commitment to take meaningful action for the protection of our students," she added.
FRIDAY · DECEMBER 6, 2019

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Sun 10-12:30 6111 La Pintura Drive 5BR/4.5BA $1,895,000 Patty Cohen 858-414-4555
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This cute, single-level, Spanish home boasts charm and pride of ownership. Potential for additional units in the back while keeping the original charm, or possibly demo and completely redevelop as zoning is RS 3-7. This corner lot property is 2 bedrooms, one bath, with a wood-burning fireplace in the living room, spacious backyard with mature fruit trees, and a 2 car garage in the heart of Point Loma. Walking distance to Shelter Island and restaurants.

Call Lanz Correia for more information
619-564-6355
correia@correiagroup.com
3144 Fenelon St, San Diego, CA 92106

The Peninsula Beacon

19
Real Estate Reimagined
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Exclusive to Compass, our Concierge program covers all upfront costs and offers a suite of services to prepare your home for the market.

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Cortney and Kevin Bennett
619.929.6858
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