January brings rain and cooler temperatures as well as the seasonal grey whale migration along the San Diego coast, which can be captured by locals and visitors alike taking boats or even kayaks.

Since 1935, sportfishing specialists H&M Landing, at 2803 Emerson St. in Point Loma, have been escorting passengers to their destinations, whether that be fishing in the La Jolla kelp beds or glimpsing migrating whales offshore.

“We’ve been doing three-hour whale watching tours since 1956 in our 80-foot boats with seating inside and out and a full galley departing twice daily at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.,” said Katrina Coleman, H&M spokeswoman.

Whale watching started early this year. “We’ve been sighting quite a few grey whales coming down, as well as common dolphins and sea lions,” Coleman said, noting H&M whaling-watching captain Scott McCandlis gives a well-versed narration on the leviathans, having previously worked on boats at Scrimmo’s Lagoon in Baja California, where whales spawn.

Greys migrate annually between feeding and breeding grounds. They can grow to 49 feet in length and weigh 16 tons. Living 55 to 70 years, they feed mainly on crustaceans from the sea floor.

Each October, small groups of greys in the eastern Pacific start a two- to three-month, 5,000- to 6,800-mile trip south, believed to be the longest annual migration of any mammal traveling along the west coast of Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Traveling nonstop, the grey whale averages about 7 miles per day. By late December to early January, greys begin to arrive in the calving lagoons of Baja. By mid-February to mid-March, the bulk of the population has arrived in the lagoons, filling them with nursing, calving and mating grey whales.

Those who prefer to view whales up close and personal can do so by kayak, renting them from institutions like Everyday California, at 2246 Avenida De La Playa in La Jolla Shores.

Why view whales from a kayak rather than a boat?

“It’s more environmentally conscious, not disturbing whales with noise pollution from (boat) engines, and you can get closer,” said Everyday tour guide Steve Anderson, who noted two guided typically host groups of ten persons each on kayak tours, paddling out for half an hour to cover the three miles needed to get out into the ocean pathways greys take migrating south.

Kayak whale watching tours go out three times daily from 9 to 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to noon and 1-2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., said Anderson, adding the cost is $40 per person. H&M’s Cole- man said whale watching excursions are $20 per person Mondays and Tuesdays and $45 a head the rest of the week, with fare discounts for seniors, the military and children.

January is a good year for Peninsula residents, whose leaders are looking ahead to an even better 2015. Meanwhile, the Beacon reached out to Peninsulans to talk about their wish lists this year and about what they anticipate happening as the new year unfolds.

Civic engagement, volunteerism head OB Town Council’s agendas for 2015

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

2014 was a good year for Peninsula residents, whose leaders are looking ahead to an even better 2015. Meanwhile, The Beacon reached out to Peninsulans to talk about their wish lists this year and about what they anticipate happening as the new year unfolds.

Mayor-elect Kevin Faulconer’s District 2 Council colleague David Alvarez defeated Councilman Kevin Faulconer defeated Councilman David Alvarez to become San Diego’s new mayor. Local planners continued with the update of their community plan, the blueprint for commercial and residential development.

It’s time to look back to see the paths the “Pointers” chose in getting to the new year. Here’s a month-by-month review of events as reported in The Peninsula Beacon in 2014:

January

A host of new laws – everything from vehicles being required to stay at least three feet clear of bicyclists to paid family leave of absence – took effect. The Point Loma Optimist Club launched a community-outreach drive. Phil’s BBQ in Point Loma closed six weeks for a $1 million renovation. Peninsula planners narrowly opted not to appeal the controversial Peeling Hill subdivision project.

Loma Portal neighbors Elaine Ftoinos Burrell and Karla Lapic spearheaded research and development of a new book, “Reading Between the Lampposts: The Literary Giants of Loma Portal,” about author-named streets in their area. The Midway Post Office complex went back on the auction block. Midway planners continued with the update of their community plan, the blueprint for commercial and residential development.

February

Point Loma and former District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer defeated Council colleague David Alvarez to become San Diego’s new mayor. Local planners gave thumbs up on Feb. 5 to a new $13,000 project at OB Elementary School, creating a raised, concrete crosswalk with curb cuts. The OB Historical Society saluted The Green Store for its community activism as the store celebrated its 25th anniversary.

March

On March 15, Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego’s only national park, celebrated its centennial with dinner and dancing after a walk in the lighthouse at sunset. The Point Loma High School girls volleyball team seeded their first CIF championship in 21 years. Claudia Jack of OB was honored as Irish Woman of the Year.

Shelley Zimmerman became the first female police chief for all of San Diego. City Council passed new rules allowing mobile food trucks but required them to be at least 300 feet from residences. With the “Blackfish” backlash, a state bill that would have banned using orcas with trainers in commercial shows was unsuccessfully introduced. Midway entrepreneurs began meeting to re-establish a new business improvement district. Midway planners also shared frustration with police over illegal vehicle encampments.

April

Veteran San Diego lifeguard and ex-Marine Ed Harris was tapped to finish mayor-elect Kevin Faulconer’s District 2 term. Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation held a public meeting to
Immigrant licenses, bag ban among 900 new state laws

California lawmakers passed more than 900 laws signed by Gov. Jerry Brown during the 2014 legislative session that ended Aug. 11.

Here’s a look at a few of the more impactful measures, and the subjects they affect, that have gone into effect (or will) in 2015:

Transportation and natural resources

Immigrant driver licenses (AB 60) – The DMV must issue driver licenses to undocumented immigrants who meet every other qualification and pass required driving tests.

About 1.4 million people without U.S. citizenship are expected to apply for the licenses in the first three years.

Health and public safety

Yes means yes (SB 967) – To receive state funding, colleges and universities must consider sexual behavior on campus consensual only if both parties actively agree to it and are not incapacitated, throwing out the old refrain “no means no” and replacing it with “yes means yes.”

California becomes the first state in the nation to use this rubric for sexual consent.

Groundwater management (SB 1168, 1739, 1319) – This is a sweeping set of groundwater regulations that require local water agencies to manage how much water is drawn from wells.

The legislation makes California the last Western state to bring an end to “pump-as-you-please” rules during a severe drought.

Plastic bag ban (SB 270) – Grocery stores across California must follow the lead of cities like Los Angeles and stop bagging items in single-use plastic bags and allowing them to charge 10 cents for paper bags.

This, the first statewide plastic bag ban in the nation, is scheduled to take effect July 1.

Audrie’s Law (SB 838) – Teenagers convicted of sexually assaulting someone who is unconscious or can’t give consent will face stiffer punishments.

The legislation also makes sexual offender treatment mandatory for youthful offenders.

The bill is named for Audrie Pott, a California teenager who committed suicide after photos of her sexual assault surfaced.

Selfie revenge porn rights (SB 1255) – This expands a law that makes it a misdemeanor to distribute a naked picture of someone, often in an act of revenge, even if the photo was originally taken by the naked person.

Sex abuse rights (SB 926) – Children who claim they’re victims of a sex crime have until their 40th birthday to file charges, up from their 28th birthday.

This rights legislation applies only to crimes committed on or after Jan. 1, 2015.

Mandatory sick leave (AB 1522) – Starting July 1, anyone who works for 30 days is eligible to accrue sick pay under this law, known as the “Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act.”

About 6.5 million workers are estimated to be affected by the law.

Firearms and lifestyles

Massage parlor oversight (AB 1147) – Local governments get greater oversight of massage parlors, which have been used as fronts for sex trafficking.

Gun owner welfare check (SB 505) – This requires law enforcement agencies to encourage their officers to consult with gun ownership records when conducting welfare checks. This is something agents didn’t do before Isla Vista shooter Elliot Rodger killed six people in May.

Legislation passed by State Sen. Marty Block that took effect Jan. 1 includes:

Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) staff training and protection (SB 911) – Protects seniors living in RCFEs by increasing requirements for administrators and prohibiting retaliation against employees who call 911 when residents need urgent care.

Water quality testing (SB 1395) – This authorizes counties to use quicker tests to determine beach water quality if they comply with federal Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The legislation’s provisions on quick-notification to California’s 238 million beachgoers will assist in protecting public health.

Other bills include mandatory reporting to OSHA (AB 326), requiring an employer’s immediate report of a severe injury, illness or death to the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health; and

Prevention of abusive conduct (an expansion on 2004’s AB 1825), requiring that existing sexual harassment training include training on all types of abuse; and

The elimination of California waiting periods (SB 1034), which prohibits group or HMO health insurance contracts from imposing waiting periods on individuals.

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- Lauren Gablegher, Esq.

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Second Backdoor Bandit sentenced to 14 years

One of four Backdoor Bandits who par- ticipated in a series of armed holdups at restaurants and other businesses in Ocean Beach, La Jolla and Clairemont last year was sentenced Dec. 22, to 14 years and four months in state prison.

Ryan Patrick Churchill, 23, pleaded guilty last month to 13 charges, includ- ing robbery and attempted robbery. Deputy District Attorney Jalyn Wang said 11 businesses were robbed by the four between May and August of 2013, including Roberto’s Taco Shop on Voltaire Street in Ocean Beach, Rigoberto’s Taco Shop on La Jolla Boulevard near West- bourn Street and the El Costan restaura- nt on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

Twenty-seven people were victimized, Wang said. Judge Charles Rogers ordered restitution to a number of victims total- ing about $5,000.

The judge empathized with the vic- tims, noting their vulnerability as they were being robbed. “You wonder if you’re going to die even if you comply with the robber’s demands,” the judge said.

Churchill — who had dreams of being a lifeguard or a firefighter — said he was des- perate for money when he took part in the holdups. “I feel absolutely horrible and disgust- ed with myself,” Churchill told the judge as he apologized to the victims. “It’s not the way I want to live.”

Churchill, Duran Caldwell, Thomas Abel Nelson and a 17-year-old boy were arrested in August of 2013 during a traf- fic stop not far from the scene of an armed robbery at a Smashburger restaura- nt on Ocean Beach in La Jolla. Inside the defendants’ car, officers found dark clothing, a black semi-automatic replica handgun, a backpack filled with cash and a cashbox from Smashburger.

All defendants in the case have plead- ed guilty. Caldwell was sentenced to eight years in prison. Nelson and the juvenile were scheduled to be sentenced Thursday, Jan. 8.

The Backdoor Bandits moniker stemmed from the way the thieves almost always entered businesses through a rear door, according to San Diego police.

Neal Putnam

Fiesta Island leads way in coastal debris cleanups

The Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter and San Diego Coast- keeper bare announced that more than 7,000 volunteers removed more than 10,500 pounds of debris from coastal areas in 2014, capturing it before it could pollute the ocean. Point Loma’s Fiesta Island, the groups said, led the way in pounds of trash collected.

Cleanup organizers reported that the volunteers removed more than 207 pieces of trash, including more than 75,000 cigarette butts, 23,500 plastic pieces and 17,500 bits of plastic foam.

Haley Haggerstone, Surfrider San Diego County Chapter manager, noted that cigarette butts move with ease through stormwater systems, meaning they don’t need to be discarded at the beach for them to find their way there. “As with most of the debris we remove,” she explained, “their minuscule size can be misleading.”

Items made of plastic or plastic foam took second place to cigarette butts as the most prevalent type of debris removed from county beaches. Most of these small pieces were less than one inch in diamet- er, and many of them were composed of nontoxic Styrofoam.

“This trash doesn’t necessarily start at the beach,” said Kristin Kuhn, Coast- keeper community engagement coordi- nator; “its path is one of wind and rain from the far reaches of inland San Diego County. Each year, I’m alarmed by the number of items and their weight, and I’m also reminded how these small pieces of debris indicate a much larger issue to solve.”

Fiesta Island had the most trash col- lected, with 1,431 pounds per volunteer. Fiesta also had the most trash removed overall, with 1,127 pounds total, and the highest average pounds removed per cleanup.

Some 40 cleanups are planned for 2015. For more information on them, please visit sandiego.surfrider.org or sdcoastkeeper.org. The groups ask vol- unteers to bring their own reusable bags, gloves and water bottles.

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The San Diego-Superior Court is seek- ing dedicated residents with sound judg- ment from throughout the county to serve on the 2015-16 San Diego Coun- ty Grand Jury.

The grand jury investigates citizen complaints and performs its traditional function as a “watchdog” over govern- ment agencies. It does not conduct crim- inal investigations.

Applications are now available by telephone at (619) 450-7712 or in per- son at the San Diego Superior Court in the Jury Services Office at the central (downtown) branch and the Jury Lounges at the north, south and east branches of the court. You may also download an application from the San Diego Superior Court’s website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov or the grand jury’s website at www.sdcounty- ca.gov/grandjury.

The 19-member body will work four days a week, about six hours a day, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 at the Hall of Justice, located in downtown San Diego. A stipend per day, plus mileage, and downtown parking are provided.

All application forms must be received by Jan. 16.

City awarded state DUI prosecution grant

The City Attorney’s Office receives all misdemeanor DUI arrest reports occurring within the city, excepting its South Bay commu- nities, as well as Poway and 4- S Ranch. In 2012, it issued 5,752 cases involving charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Funding from this DUI prosecu- tion grant will aid the City Attor- ney’s Office in handling cases throughout each of the crim- inal process, prosecuting both alcohol- and drug-impaired driv- ing cases.

Prosecution team members will work with the state’s Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program to expand knowledge and resources. The purpose of the program is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2012 there were 86 deaths and 2,317 serious injuries as a result of alcohol-involved crashes in San Diego County.
Portuguese-American whaling fete set for Jan. 25 at Cabrillo

Cabrillo National Monument will host the next leg of Yankee Baleeiros! The Shared Legacies of Luso and Yankee Whalers, New Bedford Whaling Museum’s traveling exhibit, with a public opening on Sunday, Jan. 25.

The exhibit celebrates the interwoven Portuguese-American stories of the Azorean, Cape Verdean and Brazilian communities in the United States from their early immigration in the 18th century through the latter half of the 20th century.

“The importance of Cabrillo National Monument to the Portuguese diaspora makes San Diego an equally significant destination to this rich, cultural narrative,” said James Russell, president of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The United States Census data suggest that 3 million American citizens identify with Portuguese, Cape Verdean or Brazilian ancestry. These distinct cultures are linked historically through heritage, language and the pursuit of opportunity afforded by the international network of Yankee whaling stations.

It was on whaling voyages during the 1800s that mariners from the Azores and Cabo Verde first interacted with, and often joined the crews of, New Bedford whaling ships. New Bedford, Mass., became the home port for the fifth largest Portuguese population in the United States. Yankee Baleeiros! reveals how the Lusophone migration is integral to the American story. See how distinct cultures and communities who share similar languages are linked by maritime commerce as well as by similar motivations for coming to America.

The exhibit will open at Cabrillo National Monument in the View Building, 1,800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive, on Sunday, Jan. 25. The public is invited to attend an opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m. hosted by the National Park Service and the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation.

The reception will feature remarks by Christina Connett, curator of collections and exhibitions at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The exhibition will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on display through April of 2015. It will close Sunday, April 12 with a free public lecture presented by James Russell, president of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Cabrillo National Monument is the first venue to host Yankee Baleeiros! in 2015. The San Diego “leg” of this exhibition is a partnership among Cabrillo National Monument and Foundation, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Consequences of Portugal in New Bedford and in California, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc., PALCUTS, the Portuguese Historical Center and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLIS) at the University of San Diego.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the world’s most comprehensive museum devoted to the global story of whales and the history and culture of the South Coast communities. For more information, visit whalingmuseum.org.

27 fast and easy tips to get the best price for your home

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life.

And once you have made that decision, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity.

Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should try report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should.”

Tentatively set for April 15, 2015 at 4:00pm

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us for the quarterly meeting of the Airport Noise Advisory Committee

San Diego International Airport

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

San Diego International Airport

Future Meeting Date

Tentatively set for April 15, 2015 at 4:00p.m

Please call Airport Noise Mitigation at (619) 400-2781 for directions

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Kati Mistry
Financial Advisor
2143 Ponsetta Dr
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Edward Jones
Making sense of investing

MAY

Off’s new community plan got a thumbs-up from local residents and later got the go-ahead from City Council. On May 29, local residents and public officials gathered at Robb Field Skate Park in OB to honor professionalism and skateboarding Tony Hawk for his philanthropy. The Point Loma Association held its annual Town Hall meeting at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall May 21 to elect officers and hear updates on the Unified Port of San Diego, a planned Navy fuel pipeline relocation and San Diego International Airport’s north-side redevelopment.

Point Loma High School alumnus and former major league baseball star pitcher David “Bloomer” Wells was officially appointed head coach of his alma mater’s baseball team. Ocean Beach Town Council launched “Mal- low Out,” a publicity campaign to discourage the annual Fourth of July “marshmallow war” tradition that had gotten out of hand, leaving the community a sticky mess after the holiday.

JULY

Major upgrades to a trio of athletic fields at Dana (now David Wells Field) Middle, Point Loma High and Correia Middle schools were officially launched. The annual Ocean Beach Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival delighted crowds with food, fun and an array of arts and crafts booths. The Mallow Out campaign, worked as authorities reported the annual marshmallow battle following the Fourth of July fireworks was indeed much mellower than in years past.

SEE REVIEW, Page 16

REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

discuss conceptual plans to construct Saratoga park improvements at the foot of the avenue. Plans for a new Point Loma pool in Liberty Station paddled ahead in fits and starts but eventually were stalled by contract issues.

A Creek-to-Bay cleanup by 1,000 A Clean San Diego drew 6,000-plus “helpers” on April 26. More than a dozen prospective medical marijuana dispensaries lined up for review by planners in the Midway District, one of the few spots in the city where they will be allowed under new City Council-approved rules.

Ocean Beach-opoly, created by Ocean Beach MainStreet Association BID as a fundraiser, scored big with merchants and customers. The Point Loma Association completed the first phase of its Nimitz Grand Entryway project improving medians with drought-resistant plants in early April.

The exhibit celebrates the interwoven Portuguese-American stories of the Azorean, Cape Verdean and Brazilian communities in the United States from their early immigration in the 18th century through the latter half of the 20th century.

“The importance of Cabrillo National Monument to the Portuguese diaspora makes San Diego an equally significant destination to this rich, cultural narrative,” said James Russell, president of the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The United States Census data suggest that 3 million American citizens identify with Portuguese, Cape Verdean or Brazilian ancestry. These distinct cultures are linked historically through heritage, language and the pursuit of opportunity afforded by the international network of Yankee whaling stations.

It was on whaling voyages during the 1800s that mariners from the Azores and Cabo Verde first interacted with, and often joined the crews of, New Bedford whaling ships. New Bedford, Mass., became the home port for the fifth largest Portuguese population in the United States. Yankee Baleeiros! reveals how the Lusophone migration is integral to the American story. See how distinct cultures and communities who share similar languages are linked by maritime commerce as well as by similar motivations for coming to America.

The exhibit will open at Cabrillo National Monument in the View Building, 1,800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive, on Sunday, Jan. 25. The public is invited to attend an opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m. hosted by the National Park Service and the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation.

The reception will feature remarks by Christina Connett, curator of collections and exhibitions at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The exhibition will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be on display through April of 2015. It will close Sunday, April 12 with a free public lecture presented by James Russell, president of the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Cabrillo National Monument is the first venue to host Yankee Baleeiros! in 2015. The San Diego “leg” of this exhibition is a partnership among Cabrillo National Monument and Foundation, the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Consequences of Portugal in New Bedford and in California, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc., PALCUTS, the Portuguese Historical Center and the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLIS) at the University of San Diego.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the world’s most comprehensive museum devoted to the global story of whales and the history and culture of the South Coast communities. For more information, visit whalingmuseum.org.

27 fast and easy tips to get the best price for your home

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life.

And once you have made that decision, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity.

Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace.

In this report you’ll discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home with a common-sense approach you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0747 and enter 1021. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW.
Point Loma High School’s acclained sailing team sent a message to other West Coast schools at the season’s first regatta last weekend: “We’re back!”

The defending national champions entered three boats in the Rose Bowl Regatta, all three finishing in the top ten of a 30-boat fleet. While the Pointers’ eight-year reign as regatta champions came to an end, their three-boat performance showed a team strength and balance that should serve them well as the 2015 season unfolds.

Hosted by the U.S. Sailing Center in Long Beach, the teams battled in 13-foot, 3-inch CFJ dinghies, each with a captain and one crew member. CFJ refers to the craft’s design class.

The regatta consisted of eight races each in Divisions A and B, with each team’s place finish becoming points, totaled for the score.

The Pointer varsity boat, with seniors Andy Reiter and Jennifer Johnson aboard for the A races, scored 45 points. Juniors Steve Leuck and Megan Lansdale in Division B scored 62 points. The total of 107 points was good enough to capture third place.

Newport Harbor High School grabbed the trophy with a 61-point performance, highlighted by an impressive 19-point total in Division B that included four wins, two second-places and a third-place in the eight races.

The second Pointer craft, labeled “Pointers JV 1,” took seventh overall. Junior Jack McGraw and senior Mercedes McPhee (74 points) sailed Division A races with junior Paul Didham and sophomore Remy Reynolds (81 points) aboard in Division B. For a 155 point total.

The third PLHS entry, “Pointers JV 2,” grabbed sixth overall. Seniors Johannes McElvain and Rebecca McElvain (78 points) sailed the Division A races, while freshman Jack Reiter and junior Katharine Bowman (70 points) manned Division B, for a 148 point score.

Veteran coach Steve Hunt has led the Pointers to national prominence.

High school sailing is conducted by the Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA), with districts covering the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, South- east, Midwest, Northwest and Pacific Coast areas of the United States.

Leuck represented the Pointers and the Pacific Coast region at the Cressy High School Singlehanded Championships, held in early November in Bellingham, Wash.

The other main events of the season include the Doublehanded Championship (Mallory Trophy), to be held in May, hosted by the U.S. Naval Academy, and the Team Racing Championship (Baker Trophy), coming up in May and hosted by the Chicago Yacht Club.

The Pointers are the defending Baker Trophy champions, having won in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The 2014 Mallory Trophy regatta, won by the Pointers, was sailed last May on San Diego Bay. The team finished fourth in 2013 and 2012.

The three major events are rotated annually among the seven ISSA regions.
The Ocean Hospitality Group was created by local business owners under the umbrella of OBMA to promote and support local businesses in the Ocean Beach area that provide food, lodging and entertainment. Our mission is to work collectively, as a group, to provide the community with the best we can offer to locals and visitors.

oceanbeachsandiego.com or call (619) 224-4906

Italy lives at The Venetian
San Diego's Italian community is among the city's most storied and resilient, from its post-World War II days as a major fish harvester to its present place as a business namesake (don't forget, it has an entire downtown neighborhood named after it). Cuisine, as you might imagine, also figures in its many legacies, thanks to one Vincent Giacalone, who in 1965 opened a restaurant serving up as original a fare as Giacalone could make it. Giacalone did the rest, fueling the venue's ambiance while TV personalities, food writers, pro athletes and chefs passed through its doors – and today, The Venetian stands as Point Loma's hallmark to the authentic Italian experience amid 50 years worth of family recipes and strict adherence to the mechanics that make the food some of the area's best. Chances are you'll run into someone here who you or your companion knows, in which case the three of you will revel in the savory shrimp Puttanesca over linguini, the hearty eggplant Milanese or the dizzying choices of classic pastas. Owners Frank and Joe Giacalone will delight in the camaraderie, as important to them as the quality of the food. “We appreciate the local business,” they say, “and enjoy meeting the people in the community that help our restaurant prosper.”

Italian cuisine and Italian esprit de corps are one and the same at The Venetian, located at 3663 Voltaire St. For more on this neighborhood staple, see venetian1965.com or call (619) 223-8197.

The Venetian - 3663 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach CA 92107
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venetian1965.com

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For Sandi Shaner, annual songwriters tilt is more than a contest

By BART MENDOZA | The Beacon

When it comes to your favorite tune, virtuoso playing is just the icing on the cake. At the foundation is songcraft. The best tunes are instantly memorable, hook-filled ear worms that a listener wants to hear time and again. While the general public tends to assume these things are created out of thin air, in fact with rare exception, virtuosity is a skill to be honed and built upon over a lifetime of playing.

Since 2007, music-oriented San Diegans have had the opportunity to take part in the Performing Songwriters Competition, an annual contest organized by Sandi Shaner. Tryouts for this year’s event take place on Jan. 11 and Feb. 22 (both Sundays) at Winston’s from 5 to 8 p.m. There is no fee to enter the contest.

A panel of judges, including promoter Victor Nieto and guitarists Kisag Solis and James Steele, will award a top prize that includes $300, a demo session, a pro photo shoot, graphic design, a new guitar and a one-year membership in the songwriters guild. “We’re adding prizes daily,” Shaner said. “This is just part of what the top winner will get, with other lower tiers getting really cool swag bags.”

Shaner is a longtime advocate for local tunesmiths, performing with Top 40 band Get Groovin and running event planner Speaker Eventions. But even with a packed schedule, she’s stepped back a bit from the music side of her life. Recently, she’s set up a nonprofit foundation to help autistic children and nonverbal physically disabled children. “My daughter (Carly) is both,” she said. “We get iPads to kids and get them the apps,” she added. “We teach them how to use that to talk. My daughter, who is 5, never talked to me until she got an iPad. I never knew what she wanted.”

Even as caring for her daughter takes up much of her time, the competition remained important to Shaner. “I love the San Diego songwriting community,” she said. “Even though I had to step away because of Carly’s special needs, I just keep coming back to do the contest. It’s a way for me to be giving back to the community. I don’t make money on this. I put my own money into it. But it’s worth it, because it’s enabling people who are just starting out to get their songs out there.”

The contest attracts all levels of performers, which Shaner admits can make for interesting listening in the early rounds. “Performers get to do three songs,” she explained; “seven- or eight-minute songs are not going to cut it.” While melody is important, she points out there is no set way to bring your music to the stage. “A guy at one event got up and did a song on bass, using his toe to keep the beat,” she said. “I’d never seen anything like it. If he’d sung a harmony line to the bass, maybe it would have been better, but I just applaud him for being different. It was wonderful and it was weird at the same time,” she said.

Now that she’s firmly established in the local arts community, what’s Shaner’s favorite thing about being a musician? “At this point, I like getting paid when I perform,” she joked. “And it took a long time to be able to say I can do that. But as far as songwriting goes, it’s promoting the art and craft so that it doesn’t disappear. We’ve got to keep it local. We’ve got to keep it going.”

The 2015 songwriters competition begins Sunday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m. Winston’s is at 1921 Bacon St. in Ocean Beach. $5, 21 and up.

BY BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

The Performing Songwriters Competition is Sandi Shaner’s way of giving back to the local arts community. COURTESY PHOTO

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The Performing Songwriters Competition is Sandi Shaner’s way of giving back to the local arts community.
Health BRIEFS >>

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Piecing together care for your older par-
tent can sometimes be a puzzle. Hiring a
private caregiver from your own search
or asking friends and family to help are
short-term solutions for a long-term issue.
It can have adverse effects for everyone
involved. Hiring a caregiver privately is
probably going to be cheaper. Do you
want to tell your Mom you hired the
cheapest caregiver you could find to care
for her in her “golden” years? And the
cheapest could end up being costlier in
the long run. Consider these possibilities:
Your private caregiver calls in sick or
takes a vacation or just doesn’t show up.
Are you going to have to take off work or
cancel appointments to fill in?
What is a national background check done
and verification of prior employment done?
Is there a professional Geriatric Care
Manager to supervise and mentor?
Are you providing workers’ compensa-
tion insurance in case your caregiver falls
or strains her back? This is extremely
expensive but a required expense.
Are you paying her payroll taxes and
submitting the proper documents
required by the government?
Have you verified that the caregiver has
a social security card and is legally permit-
ted to work in CA?
Now maybe “cheap” has gotten a little
less attractive. At Innovative Healthcare
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canning and jarring. People’s carries all
of the supplies you’ll need to get started.
Purchase in bulk. Buying your beans,
grains, granolas and snacks from the Peo-
ple’s Bulk Dept. reduces costs and packag-
ing, while allowing you to purchase the
exact amount that you need. You can save
up to 80% or more when you need just
a pinch of a certain herb or spice and don’t
want an entire jar.
Use coupons. Pick up the Cov-op Deals
coupon book at People’s (located at each
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ics brands’ websites before you shop, and
chances are you’ll find direct links to
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Healthy Lifestyles
also interested to see how the referendum on the new California law that bans plastic beverage straws will play out.

“The OB Town Council is supportive of the ban because it protects our natural environment (clean beaches and oceans),” she said.

Denny Knox, executive director of OB MainStreet, the beach community’s 300-member business improvement district, offered up a short list of things to do in the year ahead.

“The OB security program will continue, and hopefully we’ll have the participation of residents in the next phase,” Knox said. Under the program, private security guards patrol the beach community’s district and environs, alerting police to problems.

Knox said that on Tuesday, Jan. 13, the district will be hosting its annual members meeting to meet the district’s goals and business beyond your existing business off your downtown walk.

“We’re trying to get people off on the right track,” Knox said.

Knox noted that the community is looking even further ahead, gearing up for the 50th anniversary celebration of Ocean Beach in 2019.

“We be working on plans for that celebration in 2016, and I have no idea what’s going to look like yet,” Knox said, adding the district has other irons in the fire.

“We’ll be printing our new OB local business directory in early February,” Knox said. “It will bring more awareness to the general populace about OB businesses right here.”

Most importantly, Knox said the district will focus in the new year on “continuing to work with all the organizations that are really making things happen in the community,” like the veterans programs that we’ve put a lot of time and energy into (redeveloping), and that we hope the community will come up with action: making Congress work for the county again, creating jobs and promoting our region’s innovative sectors – this includes comprehensive immigration reform – and taking action on climate change.

Instituting “Congress is broken and needs reform,” Peters said that that necessitates “getting back to working for you.”

“I will be focused on making No Budget, No Pay permanent and reviewing regulations to make sure they are helping spur growth instead of delaying or stifling it,” he said. No Budget, No Pay centers on legislation for Congressional members if the body doesn’t pass a budget.

Peters noted that while the economic recovery, recovery and job creation picks up, “Congress must look to the future and avoid the self-inflicted crises that kept their country from its full potential. Passing commonsense tax reform, making college affordable and upgrading our crumbling infrastructure will help the econo-

The congressman also maintained that “We must take action to protect our community by taking action to stop the root causes of cli-

mate change while simultaneously mitigating its harm by building up resiliency against sea-level rise, wildfires and other natural disasters.”

“I will continue to ask your suggestions for Congress,” Peters concluded, adding, “If you have tax issues, consumer, or if you’re having trouble with a federal agency, please contact my office in San Diego or Washington. I am here to serve you.”
RESTAURANT WEEK: OB Warehouse’s décor looks good enough to eat

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | The Beacon

Looks kinda like a boatload of work went into the design at the fledgling OB Warehouse, from the overseen floor plan to the rafters that oversee every manner of light fixture and the vibey, quasi-industrial, sort-of-retro-but-sort-of-not color scheme and appointments. It opened only last August at 4839 New- port Ave. in Ocean Beach, former home of the Portugalia restaurant, but the comfortably cluttered, artsy-craftsy inte- rior is one reason it’s a proud participant in the latest San Diego Restaurant Week, which runs Jan. 18 to 24 at nearly 180 eateries citywide.

OB menu items and prix fixe fare pep- per the eateries’ offerings, as with every restaurant week – and OB Warehouse is no different as it sets to showcase two five-course entrées alongside the hip interior. Your first shot includes artichoke hearts, a roasted baby beet salad featur- ing wild arugula and goat cheese, a mixed green salad consisting of pears and pomegranate, buttermilk fried chicken oysters featuring shishito peppers and buffalo sauce and slow-braised carnita sopes drowning in avocado.

The second choice features a red wine-brainted shortrib, grilled mahi mahi with cauliflower, royal goan shrimp with basmati rice, chimichurri chicken with fingerling potatoes and boeuf triple-crown flatbread. For dessert, you have your pick of chocolate pudding, cranberry apple crisp and a bittersweet chocolate affar. Your meal will run you $30 per person, excluding tax and gratuity.

Any meal this sumptuous calls for compatible surroundings – and as the accompanying picture shows, the interi- or looks good enough to eat. In fact, one guy took a nibble out of a table leg, hav- ing mistaken it for a breadstick; he swore he’d soon be back for more.

You don’t have to go quite that far – the eclectic, globe-inspired menu that embraces everything from lamb burg- ers to ahi tartare (and a to-die-for happy- hour gin and vodka cocktail) is at your disposal anytime.

Ocean Beach funk and its architec- tural counterpart go together well here, with the great food holding considerable sway.

For more about OB Warehouse, see cobereateryrestaurants.com/obwarehouse or call (619) 222-1700.

From the rafters on down, OB Warehouse has the vibey look you’d expect from a place in Ocean Beach.


dine here with your valentine!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will host the 6th annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Jan. 18, from noon to 3 p.m. The main event will be the ever-popular pet blessing by Monsignor Mark Campbell between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. A Blessing of the Animals event has been happening in Old Town for more than 300 years. In San Diego’s past, the annual Benediction of the Beasts celebrated St. Anthony of the Desert, the Patron Saint of Animals. Activities for both animals and families make this modern interpretation of an historic event quite moving to all who partici- pate, according to event producer Chuck Ross of Fiesta de Reyes.

The event in the central plaza of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will have activities for adults, children and their pets. The pet expo will have pet treats for tasting, adoption opportuni- ties from various rescue groups and educational information on rescuing, rehabilitation and supporting the ani- mals in your area.

A pet costume contest will take place at 2:30 p.m. featuring prizes for several categories including best dressed and best pet-owner look alike.

Participating exhibitors, lined up by press time, were Chihuahua Rescue of San Diego, Dogs on Deployment, Emer- gency Animal Rescue, Helen Woodward Animal Center, Petunia Education and Adoption Center, Paws Inns Grace Ani- mal Hospice, Friddy Girl Petcare, Ran- chos Coastal Humane Society, San Diego Happy Dogs and Sky Hunters. Chopper the Biker Dog will be on hand to enter- tain the crowd.

Sponsored by Fiesta de Reyes, the Blessing of the Animals event invites people and animals of all faiths and convictions to participate. Last year’s event attracted more than 500 atten- dants; the highest attendance record- ed in the modern event’s five-year his- tory. From a blue tongued lizard to a wolf hybrid dog, all animals were blessed by Monsignor Mark Campbell.

Admission to this event is free. For more information, call 619-297-3100.


drink

enjoy the beauty of old town

OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK HOSTS
THE 6TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | The Beacon

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Admission to this event is free. For more information, call 619-297-3100.
**ARTS ENTHUSIASTS PURCHASE OB PLAYHOUSE**

The Ocean Beach Playhouse – anchor tenant among a series of businesses located at the site of the former Newport Avenue VWV post – has been sold for an undisclosed amount to two likeminded owners whose 23 years’ creative training spans locales from Los Angeles to New York.

Tes Kempner and Stu Schreiber have assumed control of the space, at the rear of 4944 Newport Ave., site of Ocean Beach’s most recent effort at establishment of a permanent live theater venue. Recent productions there included John-Michael Tebelak and Stephen Schwartz’s “Godspell” and a locally written musical send-up called “Life Is a Cabernet.”

The locale was the site of Ocean Beach’s VWV Post 1392 thrift shop and lounge until 2010, when merchants Lynne and Paul Bolton assumed the space. Paul Bolton’s Electric Chair hair salon is located at the same address, as is Lynne Bolton’s Primitive Kool art gallery. The 100-seat playhouse fronts a small recording studio for rent by members of the community.

Kempner and Schreiber sport extensive backgrounds in acting, directing, dance, arts education and songwriting. “This project,” reads a post on the venue’s Facebook page, “has totally become (taken over) our lives, and we have had to recalibrate our consciousness to a genuinely, delightedly joyous vibration... as we approach the profound opportunity to draw humans together for the purpose of feeling, awakening, expression and celebration.”

For more information, visit obplayhouse.com or facebook.com/obplayhouse or call (619) 222-6836.

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**DIETER’S**

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Social service providers and police held a community meeting July 10 to detail efforts to curb homelessness, an increasing problem throughout the Peninsula.

The Loma Club (formerly Sail Ho Golf Club) at NTC got a new name and rebranded itself. Apparently bowing to public pressure, the city reversed itself in allowing under-21 participants in the 61st annual Over-The-Line (OTL) tournament, with City Attorney Jan Goldsmith noting the weekend beach tournament “is a San Diego tradition that the city welcomes.” Supporters rekindled efforts to start community fundraising to expand OB’s small branch library on Santa Monica Avenue. Point Loma Nazarene University declared itself an active member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Hodad’s hamburgers in OB marked its 45th anniversary.

August

Roseville residents in Point Loma began ramping up a campaign against high-density development in their neighborhood. As the drought dragged on, the city pushed for tougher restrictions on watering. The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority was awarded for its Green Build terminal-expansion project. Peninsula planners received an update on Point Loma Village, a mixed-use condo project at Roserans and Byron streets.

September

The annual Cabrillo Festival on Ballast Point in Point Loma Sept. 28 commemorated the European explorer’s first step in the New World in 1542 claiming the spot for Spain. An idea for a new pocket park on Canon Street was floated at the Peninsula Community Planning Group’s meeting. Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island held a blowout to celebrate its 60th anniversary. The Point Loma Association hosted a community workshop Sept. 17 to allow local residents to weigh in on prospective Nimitz Boulevard improvements.

October

The iconic Ocean Beach Youth Hostel changed ownership but not its mission as one of the pre-eminent hostels in San Diego. The Peninsula YWCA, sole bidder on a request for proposals to build a new public pool in Liberty Station, was rejected in its initial bid to build/operate a new facility. City Council voted Oct. 20 to go to “drought alert” status, requiring mandatory water-use restrictions at the end of the month in response to the severe statewide drought. Kiwanis Club of OB held its 9th annual Howl-o-Ween canine carnival pet costume contest Oct. 26 at Dusty Rhodes Park. OB’s 10th annual Oktoberfest, held Oct. 10-11, drew more than 7,000 guests.

November

U.S. Rep Scott Peters narrowly outlasted contender Carl DeMaio in the race for his 52nd Congressional District seat. Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation began a revamp of Veterans Plaza by launching a community fundraiser. New Naval Base Point Loma commander Capt. Howard Warner assumed the helm and shared his vision and mission in a Beacon interview.