Ocean Beach Pier turns 50 this summer

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

It’s the year of the pier. More specifically, 2016 is the 50th anniversary of Ocean Beach Municipal Pier.

And in keeping with this golden milestone, Ocean Beach will mark the pier’s half-century with a variety of fan celebrations throughout the year.

Additionally, Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, the beach community’s business improvement district, has a “Pierbook,” where people can share their enduring memories of the iconic structure.

“July is the 50th anniversary of the pier, which opened the weekend of July 2-4 in 1966,” said Isabel Clark, OBMA’s program director who’s spearheading the pier celebration. “We’re also collecting people’s pier memories at oceanbeachsandiego.com. If people have memories they want to share, we’d love to have them so we can share them with the world.”

Clark said the notion behind the Pierbook is that Ocean Beach Pier is more than deserving of the recognition and that there are more than just a few memories to be shared.

“People have gotten married on the pier, had their first kiss there or been parents sharing special moments with their children or grandchildren there,” she said. “It’s just Ocean Beach Pier turns 50 this summer

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“People have gotten married on the pier, had their first kiss there or been parents sharing special moments with their children or grandchildren there,” she said. “It’s just...
to CVS corporate that Point Loma resi-
dents don’t want another CVS in the
Point Loma area,” the online petition
said, adding, “There is a sense that it will
not be final yet, and the landlord is using
independent pharmacies. There are three existing CVS pharma-
cines in the Peninsula: at 3950 W. Point
Loma Blvd. in Midway Towne Center,
Loma Square at 3272 Rosecrans St. and
4949 Santa Monica Ave. in Ocean Beach.

Mike Saad operates Point Loma Cabrillo Drug
at 1105 Rosecrans St. along with a sister store at 955 Cabrillo Blvd. adjacent to the proposed CVS site.

Adding Saad, “A few high-quality grocery
tenants have expressed interest in the property.”

A special, awesome place.”

The Ocean Beach Municipal Pier is one of the most visited landmarks in San Diego County. It was officially christ-
tened and introduced to eager San Die-
gans on July 2, 1966. More than 7,000
people attended the opening ceremony. As
promised, it proved to be a poor solution for the town’s
fishing needs. Although the pier quickly became a
popular destination for locals and tourists, its original purpose was for fish-
ing. Local Ocean Beach fishermen need-
ed a way to prevent their fishing lines
and lures from getting tangled in the
vast kelp and rock beds that lie near the
surface of the water near the shores.

The construction of the pier enabled
anglers to fish in 25 to 30 feet of water,
avoiding most of the shoreline kelp
and enabling them to catch species of fish that live in deeper waters.

The pier extends 1,971 feet into the ocean
and is the second longest pier on the West
Coast. It is purported to be the longest con-
crete pier in the world. Its unique T-shape at
the property.

When the bridge was taken down in
1951, San Diegans were promised a replace-
ment for the tourists and fishermen who
enjoyed it. After 15 years, the city finally
came through on its promise and opened
what is now the OB Pier at the foot of
Napier Ave. in Ocean Beach. It is considered
a special, awesome place.”

Crab said more announcements about
events to celebrate the 50th year of the pier
will be forthcoming. She added the pier is
becoming an increasingly important mar-
ting to the Ocean Beach pier. The pier,
which has been doing the last 25 years here.”

There is also a pier jigsaw puzzle available
for $25 at OBMA’s office at 1868 Bacon St. or at select OB businesses. For more infor-
mation, visit OceanBeachSanDiego.com. The
official pier hashtag is #OBPier.
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The City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department is hosting its 42nd annual Christmas tree recycling program, which will run through Jan. 23. This year’s program offers 16 tree drop-off locations, available to city residents only, as well as curbside pickup for customers with curbside yard waste collection.

“Christmas tree recycling is a great way for San Diegans to do their part to help the environment by extending the life of the Miramar landfill,” said Mario Sierra, director of the Environmental Services Department. “Organic materials like yard clippings and Christmas trees make up more than 20 percent of the material buried in the landfill. By recycling trees, residents help reduce the amount of material in the landfill and give holiday trees a new purpose as compost, mulch or wood chips.

Residents can recycle their Christmas trees seven days a week at no charge. Only “clean trees” are accepted — residents must remove all tree stands, lights, ornaments, tinsel and nonrecyclable materials and must not dump any other items at the locations. Trees from commercial tree lots or fundraising projects are not accepted at the drop-off locations. Instead, these trees can be dropped off anytime during regular business hours at the Miramar Greenery for a nominal fee.

In addition to clean trees, flocked trees (those with fake snow) are accepted. If you are transporting your Christmas tree in a plastic bag for drop-off, please be sure to remove the tree and take the bag with you. All trees will be recycled into high-quality mulch and compost. City residents can self-load mulch and up to two cubic yards of compost for free at the Miramar Greenery throughout the year.

Curbside yard waste recycling customers can also recycle trees through the curbside collection program by placing trees at the curb with their regular yard waste recycling bin. Customers with automated greenery containers must cut up their clean trees into roughly three-foot pieces to fit easily inside their greenery container. Customers unable to cut their trees for manual collection or who cannot fit the trees into the green automated container should drop off their trees at any drop-off location. Curbside recycling program customers should remove all nonrecyclable materials before placing trees inside the automated bin or at the curb next to yard waste collection containers.

The Miramar Greenery is located inside the Miramar Landfill, at 5180 Convoy St., just north of Highway 52. Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and most holidays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional information about the locations is available by calling Environmental Services Department Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For information on mulch and compost produced, please visit the San Diego Environmental Services Department Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For information on mulch and compost produced, please visit the San Diego Environmental Services Department Customer Service at (858) 694-7000. For information on mulch and compost produced, please visit the San Diego Environmental Services Department Customer Service at (858) 694-7000.

The drop-off location list includes:
- Carmel Valley: Carmel Valley Recreation Center, 3777 Townsgate Drive, lower parking lot
- Granville: Otay Ranch Drive at Woodward Street
- Golden Hill: Golden Hill recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive
- La Jolla: Kate Sessions Memorial Park, Soledad Road and Loring Street
- Logan Heights: Memorial Recreation Center
- 4202 Mercy Avenue
- Miramar: Miramar Landfill at Greerney, Convoy Street north of Highway 52;
- Mission Bay: Seaworld Drive at Pacific Highway;
- Oak Park: Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive, in Gloria’s Mesa parking lot;
- Ocean Beach: Roble Field Recreation Center, 2525 Bacon St.;
- Otay Mesa/Reister: Montgomery Waller Community Park (lower west parking lot) on Palm Avenue;
- Rancho Bernardo: Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center, 1844 W. Bernardo Dr.
- Rancho Penasquitos: Canyonside Recreation Center, 12350 Black Mountain Road;
- San Diego State University: Parking Lot D off Alvarado Road;
- Tierrasanta: De Pontes Middle School, 2015 Grove Drive, in Gloria’s Mesa parking lot;
- University City: Swanson Pool, 3585 Govemor Drive.

Additional information about the locations and opportunities to get involved can be found at Rewildmissionbay.org.

**Polar Bear Plunge**

The Ocean Beach Polar Bear Plunge is slowly joining the rolls of the Del Mar and La Jolla New Year’s day traditions. For the past three years, the Dana Middle School Surfriders have sponsored the Polar Bear Plunge at Ocean Beach. Joining together with the Silver Gate Elementary Surf Club and Cornelia Middle School, the Dana Surfriders have now opened the free family New Year’s day event to other schools and families in the area. Polar Bear participants met at Tower 5 at 9 a.m. to count down their charge the chilly waters of the Pacific. More than 50 children and a few adults braved the early morning challenge without the benefit of a wetsuit. A warm fire and hot chocolate awaited all those who started off the new year with a thrill.

**Everest International to consult on major ReWild Mission Bay project**

San Diego Audubon Society, an organization dedicated to fostering the protection and appreciation of local birds, wildlife, and their habitats, recently announced Everest International Consultants as its ReWild Mission Bay project consultant.

ReWild Mission Bay aims to restore the wetlands in the northeast corner of Mission Bay along Pacific Beach Drive at the mouth of Rose Creek.

“We selected Everest International for the ReWild project because they understand the importance of recreation, public access, and community input in developing restoration plans for the area,” said Rebecca Schwartz, project manager for ReWild Mission Bay. “The Everest team will balance data analysis, alternative plan development, and stakeholder outreach to protect and restore this part of Mission Bay.”

The Everest International team, including Norbord Biological, AECOM, and New West Land Co., has extensive experience in estuarine biology and ecology, coastal processes, habitat architecture, and wetlands engineering, which it will use to ensure ReWild develops creative and sustainable restoration alternatives.

As the project leader, San Diego Audubon will now work with Everest International to spearhead the second half of a three-year planning process that includes collecting community input and generating plans to restore precious wetlands on this part of Mission Bay.

In 2016, Everest International will work with San Diego Audubon and partners, stakeholders, and community members to document existing and historical conditions, identify opportunities and constraints, and design restoration plans.

By May of 2017, this process plans to yield at least three versions of a community-informed wetlands restoration plan. From there, the City of San Diego will need to approve a plan. Next steps include permitting and, ultimately, the restoration of the area’s wetlands.

Wetlands, including marshes, mud flats, and riverbanks play an important role in San Diego’s quality of life as they attract wildlife, foster a diverse ecosystem, improve water quality, and protect communities from flooding by providing a cushion during high tides. Currently, only 5 percent of the historic 4,000 acres of Mission Bay wetlands remain, making ReWild Mission Bay a critical and time-sensitive project for the area.

Rewildmissionbay.org serves as a resource to anyone curious, interested or passionate about restoring Mission Bay wetlands with a wealth of information and opportunities to get involved.

Rewildmissionbay.org is a project of San Diego Audubon in partnership with the CA State Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program. For more information, visit www.rewildmissionbay.org.
Local leaders share their 2016 goals and visions for the Peninsula

By DAVID SCHWAB | The Beacon

The Peninsula Beacon asked prominent Peninsulans to gaze into their crystal balls and tell us what they see ahead in 2016.

Here is what they said:

LORIE ZAPF

City aide Conrad Wear said his boss, Councilwoman Lorie Zapf, expects another busy year representing the residents of District 2.

“Policy priorities include a variety of issues facing the dis- trict, including continued dialog-ogue regarding short-term vacation rentals, advocating for the retention of waypoint LOWMA by the FAA, and con- tinued preparation and public outreach for El Nino, especially in neighborhoods prone to flooding,” Wear said.

“On a proactive note, Coun-cilmember Zapf looks to bring forth measures at her Smart Growth and Land Use Commit-tee that would make housing more affordable for middle-class families. And an update to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan.

“Finally, Zapf plans to sup-port Mayor Faulconer with another fiscally responsible budget including the repairing of more than 1,000 miles of streets over the next several years. She will remain a strong supporter of Proposition B, Pen- sion Reform, which is allowing the City to reinvest millions of tax dollars back into our neigh-borhoods.”

BYRON WEAR

Conrad Wear’s dad, Byron, was city councilman for District 2 from 1993 to 2002 and now runs Wear Strategies, a land use, trans- portation and strategic plan-ning firm. He has these top community goals for 2016:

- Retention of the 1998 FAA Breakfast-We Wear-negotiated LOWMA waypoint agreement and continued adherence for Lindbergh Field flight departures as supported by Faulcon-er, Zapf, Congressman Scott Peters and County Supervisor Con.  
- Resolution with Depart-ment of Interior on the terms for the long-overdue NTC Aquatic Center as a joint YMCA/San Diego Unified School District project to include a home pool for Point Loma High School.  
- Fundraising identified for the Phase III completion of the Peninsula Ryan Family YMCA on Valeta Street to include new expanded fitness, program space, gym, new locker rooms and an intergenera-tional space serving youth and seniors.  
- Initiation of planning design concepts for the new Ocean Beach Lifeguard Station and adjacent restrooms.  
- Identification of fundrais-ing strategies for a phased expansion of the Ocean Beach Library.  
- Completion of planning and final design for the new Ruth Varney Held Children’s Playground at Saratoga Street in Ocean Beach.  
- Completion of fundraising and ground breaking for the Ocean Beach Veterans Plaza.  
- Continued investment by Faulconer and the City Council in neighborhood and commun-ity repairs and infrastructure and street repairs.

KORLA EAQUINTA

Longtime Point Loman Korla Eaquinta talked about what’s important to her moving for-ward.

“My concerns for this new year are the pipeline (relocation from the submarine base of a fuel pipeline to Miramar along Rosecrans Street) and how it will impact our community,” she said. “Traffic disruptions are a given, but I am seriously wor-ried about the La Jolla Bay path and what will happen when they start on that.”

Eaquinta said she’s also con-cerned about code compliance. “There is a lot of development with minimal oversight,” she said. “This will impact traffic, parking and generally diminish quality of life on the Peninsula. Finally, I am terrified about the flight path change and how it will affect noise (quality of life) and how it will affect all our property values.”

JON LINNEY AND DON SEVERNS

Community planners and activists Jon Linney and Don Sevrens said they were looking forward to making progress on a project they’ve been spear-heading, creation of a new, neighborhood pocket park.

“A new park is coming to the vastly under-parked Point Loma peninsula, and 2016 will be a year of great progress,” the men said in a joint news release.

“The pocket park site on city-owned land is above Canon Street at the end of Avenida de Portugal. As yet unnamed, it will be special with expected nautical, ecological and Por-tuguese community historical themes. It is an honor to be leading the effort with a grow-ing team of volunteers. This year we expect City Council approval of the spending plan, public workshops on what the community wants and the beginning of the design phase. The park will make a great community even better.”

ALAN ZITER

Alan Ziter, executive direc-tor/vice president of the NTC Foundation at Liberty Station, said there’s a lot to look forward to at the redeveloped former Naval Base in the upcoming year.

“The community’s vision continues to be realized with the transformation of 26 aban-doned buildings into dance and music studios, art galleries, museums, shops and award-winning restaurants like Solare,” Ziter said.

“Within the buildings, the nonprofit NTC Foundation will continue arts programs for stu-dents and military families, keep rents affordable for our artists and nonprofits, preserve the NTC Navy Training Cen-ter San Diego and advance its new mission as The Arts Dis-trict (5 Liberty Station).”

Ziter said plans are under way for 2016 with the estab-lishment of a new Art in Public Places Committee, an expan-sion of its Liberty School Program for at-risk youth, and the return of the Latin American Arts Festival in March and Art- Walk in August. “Plus we have 10 more build-ings to renovate for their new mission in the Arts District,” Ziter noted. “Clearly, the job’s not done, and planning will revolve around what to do with the remaining buildings and how to fund renovations.”

Ziter said San Diegans can “look forward to several major openings in the Arts District in the first half of 2016, includ-ing the Liberty Public Market, the Lot cinemas and entertain-ment hub, and Friesby at the Puesto restaurant.”

“A new park is coming to the vastly under-parked Point Loma peninsula, and 2016 will be a year of great progress.”

JON LINNEY & DON SEVERNS  
PONT LOMA PLANNERS

‘...Zapf looks to bring forth measures at her Smart Growth and Land Use Committee that would make housing more affordable …’

CONRAD WEAR  
COUNCILWOMAN ZAPF’S SPOKESPERSON
SANDBAGS AVAILABLE AT FIRE AND LIFEGUARD STATIONS

The San Diego Fire-Rescue provides sandbags for city residents and businesses at every San Diego fire station and the Lifeguard stations in Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, La Jolla Shores and Pacific Beach.

There is a limit of 10 sandbags per household or business. Sandbags will be available only when personnel are at the station. Should they arrive to find the crew is on an emergency call, people may want to purchase sandbags from a retailer that carries them.

While they are able to provide the sandbags, the fire stations will not have sand available.

LONGTIME JEWELRY SHOP MOVES TO POINT LOMA VILLAGE

A.L. Jacobs and Sons, a family-owned jewelry shop in Point Loma, moved four months ago from Liberty Station into the Village at 1055 Rosecrans St.

“I’d been in Liberty Station for eight years, and I just felt it was time for a change,” said third-generation jewelry store owner Chris Jacobs, a Point Loma Optimist and a member of the Point Loma Association (PLA), a nonprofit dedicated to beautifying and improving the Peninsula.

“This space presented itself, and I just liked the whole idea of Point Loma Village,” said Jacobs, who added that the retail space he now inhabits was previously a stand-up paddleboard place.

“I’m developing a little bit of a pattern because the last place I had been in in Liberty Station was a surf shop,” he said.

“Where I was before, people couldn’t see me from the street,” pointed out Jacobs. “Now I’m right on the street, so it’s more visible. And I just like the vibe that Point Loma Village has. It’s just really a cool place. I know all my neighbors well.

Jacobs was born in Point Loma and has lived there all of his life.

“It’s amazing how many people I grew up with who are still here,” he said. “If you moved here, you were smart enough, I was just lucky to have been born here.”

Jacobs hasn’t changed his jewelry shop’s business model much, other than to concentrate more on his estate jewelry department, which he described as a “fun area.”

Estate jewelry is anything that’s secondhand, said Jacobs, noting it doesn’t have to be any particular age, as compared with antique jewelry, which has to be at least 100 years old.

Jacobs is always looking for “new and interesting” jewelry items to include in his collection. The jeweler said, most commonly, the estate items he carries are from people who’ve inherited jewelry from relations that are “just not their style.”

“We can either repurpose, redesign pieces like that, or I can work with them on a customization basis to find the best possible market for it (jewelry),” Jacobs said.

A.L. Jacobs and Sons jewelers and gemologists carry everything from rings, bracelets and pendants to necklaces, including wedding rings. The jeweler also does watch and jewelry repairs. Jacobs also designs beautiful custom jewelry, and can even show customers 3D computer simulations of what their custom-made jewelry would look like.

Jacobs’ grandfather started the family business in downtown San Diego in 1917. It was originally located at Fifth Avenue, then moved a couple of times elsewhere downtown over the years before relocating to Liberty Station in 2007.

“I was one of the first retailers to move into Liberty Station,” Jacobs said. The jeweler talked about why he became active with the PLA.

“It’s just a great organization whose whole idea is just to beautify the Point,” Jacobs said. “I like that.”

Jacobs encourages the public to come in and browse in his one-person, one-stop jewelry shop.

“I think people will find different things here that are not your traditional mall type of things,” he said. “Plus I give the personal touch.”

A.L. Jacobs and Sons gives a 10 percent discount to military customers.

Jacobs said what he likes best about the jewelry business is being able to share in people’s lives by “giving them something really special. It’s a nice business to be in.”

For more information, call (619) 955-5007.

H&M LANDING IN POINT LOMA LANDS NEW MANAGING PARTNER

H&M Landing has announced that Frank Ursitti is the new managing partner of United Sportfishers/H&M Landing in Point Loma. Ursitti will be handling day-to-day operations of the West Coast’s largest and most diversified sportfishing fleet.

When Phil Lobred decided to retire his position of managing partner, which he had held for 36 years, he chose Ursitti as his successor. “I knew he had the experience, insight, temperament and entrepreneurial spirit to take the business forward,” said Lobred.

“Looking ahead, I am very proud of the fleet we have assembled here at H&M,” said Ursitti. “Many of the boat owners and captains have decades of experience providing successful sportfishing as well as eco-tourism adventures.”

“I followed my passion, and it paved the way for my success,” said Ursitti. 53.

He has been working in the sportfishing industry since he was a teenager. In the summer of 1977, he began working on sportfishing boats from Channel Islands Harbor and continued to work as a crewman on boats from the Ciscoo fleet until earning his master’s license in 1981, becoming the youngest licensed master at the time.

He then began operating boats for Channel Islands Sportfishing until February of 1990, when he purchased his first charter boat, the “Coral Sea,” and began spending five months each summer season fishing out of H&M Landing with the balance of the year from Channel Islands Sportfishing in Oxnard.

Ursitti has worked to improve and expand his own passenger boat business. In 1999, he purchased the first boat he ever worked on, the “Ranger 85,” to expand and diversify his charter business and his business portfolio to include whale watching and eco-tourism adventures in the waters throughout the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary.

In 2000, Ursitti formed Channel Islands Whale-Watching, offering whale watching and wildlife cruises into the waters surrounding Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. In September of 2014, he purchased the vessel “Constitution” to further enhance his ability to offer whale-watching tours through the Channel Islands. In addition, both the “Constitution” and the “Ranger” have extended range to offer longer fishing trips throughout the Channel Islands and down the Baja California peninsula.

In 1997, Ursitti founded Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab, a tactile marine-science field-trip opportunity for students. This program fosters stewardship of the world’s ocean and provides an in-depth look at the diversity of life in the ocean, from its very basic forms all the way up the food chain to the largest animals on the planet.

In San Diego, Ursitti will offer a school field-trip opportunity with H&M’s whale-watching program that features a pre-and post-trip curriculum meeting Common Core state standards.

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Wyland & Dennis Conner Collaboration

This Limited Edition Print is a collaboration with Wyland & Dennis Conner in 1999 and is signed by both.

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3685 Voltaire Street, San Diego, CA 92107 • 619-223-5229
Serve immediately. Chef’s note: If you prefer, substitute tempeh for the tofu.

**People’s Easy Vegetarian Chili**

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 12 ounces extra-firm tofu, cut into small pieces
- 2 cans (14 - 15 oz. each) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (14 - 15 oz.) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 - 15 oz.) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 3 Tbsp. chili powder
- 1 Tbsp. oregano
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

In a soup pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until soft and translucent, about 6 minutes. Add the tofu, tomatoes, beans, chili powder and oregano. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for at least 30 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in cilantro. Ladle into individual bowls and serve immediately. Chef’s note: If you prefer, substitute tempeh for the tofu.
Submit this ballot for a chance to Win Dinner for Two ($100 value) at one of the Peninsula’s fine restaurants.

Vote online at peninsulabeacon.com

ENTRY RULES: You choose your favorite! Tell us who the best of the best is and you’ll be entered into our free drawing. Mail or hand deliver your ballot to: The Peninsula Beacon, Readers Choice Awards: 1621 Grand Ave., 2nd floor, San Diego, CA 92109; or vote online at: www.sdnews.com or peninsulabeacon.com. Please complete at least 50% of the ballot. One ballot per person. Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered by Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE OCEAN BEACH RETAIL STORES & SERVICES!
New Kid Ventures brings physical, creative and enrichment play to Liberty Station

Kid Ventures Liberty Station will hold a grand opening event on Jan. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will include two hours of complimentary play, a meet-and-greet with the Kid Ventures characters, face painting, tours of the facility and light refreshments.

In a world where children are constantly exposed to cell phones, ipads, video games, television and other forms of technology, Kid Ventures offers an escape for imagination and creativity.

Complete with a village of themed sidewalk stores, a pirate ship, castle, rock climbing wall and a parents’ cafe, Kid Ventures has become the go-to place for quality family time.

“We started our business eight years ago, because we saw a need in the market that didn’t exist. Our commitment is to offer a highly creative space for children while providing physical, social and emotional engagement. We are excited to be a part of the Liberty Station and Point Loma community,” said Darren Solomon, CEO of Kid Ventures.

Kid Ventures was founded by a local mom and dad, Debbie and Darren Solomon, in 2008, as the next generation in boutique-style indoor family play centers. The facilities provide a space for children to build social and cognitive skills and stretch their imaginations and muscles in a physically active environment.

“The parents cafe will feature coffee from Cafe Calabria, and healthful choices for catering and birthday parties. ‘With the growing epidemic of childhood obesity, we want to educate our patrons and bring awareness to healthy options and alternatives,’ said Debbie Solomon.

Kid Ventures will be offering an amenity for parents looking to shop, dine and exercise at Liberty Station. Children will have their own creative play retreat under the supervision of trained staff.

Kid Ventures Liberty Station is located at 2865 Sims Road. For more information on Kid Ventures Liberty Station hours, membership rates and birthday packages, visit kidventuresplay.com.

Blessing of the Animals set at Old Town on Jan. 17

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will host the seventh annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Jan. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Rev. Richard Persich of the Immaculate Conception Church will bless the pets. Admission is free.

The event has taken place in Old Town for more than 150 years. In San Diego’s past, the annual Benediction of the Beasts celebrated St. Anthony of the Desert, the patron saint of animals.

The event will include adoption opportunities from various rescue groups and educational information on rescuing, rehabilitation and supporting the animals.

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

Participating exhibitors include Chi-hua Rescue of San Diego. Dogs on the Run, Emergency Animal Rescue, Helen Woodward Animal Center, Petrot Education and Adoption Center and Rancho Coastal Humane Society. The event is sponsored by Fiesta de Reyes.

For more information, call (619) 297-3100.

Beer tasting room, coffee shop concept for Point Loma

Moniker Group, a San Diego-based multifacted design and real estate company, has acquired the lease on its newest endeavor — a formerly uninhabited historic building in Liberty Station’s north end arts district.

Located directly across from Stone Brewing Co., at 2860 Sims Road, Moniker General will serve as a space for community and commerce, blending a multipurpose retail store, coffee bar and beer tasting taproom in one.

Moniker Group first made its mark on San Diego’s real estate landscape with the launch of Moniker Warehouse, a multipurpose arts and business center in downtown’s East Village neighborhood. The warehouse, which opened in 2005, serves the community as an outpatient for nonprofits, start-ups, artists and entrepreneurs as well as a home for Moniker’s design and fabrication brands, Moniker Design and Moniker Made.

Moniker General’s retail component will feature a curated selection of high-quality goods from a variety of local businesses, including Lone Flag, Bradley Mountain and Moniker Made, alongside a selection of national brands that San Diegans have come to love. The concept’s coffee bar will be operated by Moniker Coffee, which will pour a variety of small-batch local roasters as well as hard-to-find specialty roasters from outside San Diego. Its partnership with 12 North Brewing Company out of Miramar, Moniker General will create a unique taproom highlighting the specialty brewery’s favorite small-batch creations and seasonal selections.

The announcement of Moniker General at Liberty Station comes during a period of monumental growth and development for the Point Loma neighborhood. A burgeoning hub for San Diego’s most promising hospitality collectives, Liberty Station’s north end arts district will also be home to the highly anticipated new class of concepts in early 2016, including Liberty Public Market, Fireside by The Patio Group, Bassa Forchetta, The Lot and Kid Ventures, as well as the recently announced Breakfast Republic.

“We couldn’t be more excited about expanding our roots into Liberty Station,” says Ryan Sisson, CEO of Moniker Group. “There’s so much growth taking shape within the community here, and we’re looking forward to sharing our creative vision while contributing a place for people to come together and socialize.”

Moniker Group will spearhead the design, build and fabrication of its new collective concept in-house. The build-out will feature a 4,200-square-foot open-concept interior layout and a 1,200-square-foot outdoor patio. Moniker General is slated to open its doors in February.

For more information on Moniker Group, visit MonikerGroup.com. Additional information about Liberty Station can be found at LibertyStation.com.

Barra Barra Restaurant Week


Dinner $20PP | Lunch $10PP

4016 Wallace St., BarraBarraSaloon.com (619) 291-3200

Enjoy the Beauty of Old Town

OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK HOSTS THE 7TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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Business
New GM plans more music for Kona Kai

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

After a break of a year, Shauna Aguirre returns to the Kona Kai Resort as general manager of the venue’s Ves- sel restaurant. This is of course a boon for area diners, but more importantly also for music lovers, as Aguirre has increased the focus on musical enter-tainment at the scenic location.

In addition to the excellent food, the Kona Kai is a great spot to hear acoustic music in particular, the patio setting inti-mate enough for a great date night but spacious enough for you to let loose a little should the urge to dance strike dur-ing your visit. Mix in the great view and ample parking, with no cover for most music events, and it’s hard to beat.

“We’re kind of revamping the whole music program,” Aguirre said. “We’re bringing in more national and interna-tional acts and planning for a summer concert series.” A clear indicator of the bigger events ahead is the recent Smooth Jaan Holiday Brunch, featuring Canadian saxophonist Warren Hill. “We are definitely looking to do more private lis-tener styled concerts in conjunction with radio stations and things like that,” Aguirre remarked.

New additions to the calendar include brunch shows on both Saturdays and Sundays as well as a Thursday night, “Locals Know,” event featuring local beers on tap as well as area music and performers. “We’ll be featuring bands who don’t get a chance to play here reg-ularly, that are a little off the beaten track, but that deserve to be heard,” Aguirre stated.

Upcoming shows include duo Doug and Jenny, featuring former Rockola bassist Doug Booth, performing at brunch on Jan. 9. Meanwhile, blues/rockabilly rising star Wyatt Lowe will perform special acoustic shows Jan. 9 and 10, with other highlights this month set to include blues singer Missy Anderson on Jan. 15 and two great per-formers on Jan. 16: country tinged troubadour Sara Petite for brunch and classic rock favorites Private Domain for the dinner show.

Artists perform right on the patio, overlooking the beautiful boat docks and the venue’s private beach, but for Aguirre it’s about more than the view. “It’s wonderful to be sitting outside listen-ing to live music,” she said. “For me, it’s really special because I grew up in Point Loma, so a lot of the clientele are club members and people from the area. Being able to provide some really unique music in the neighborhood is a really nice thing.”

While the entertainment is always scheduled for outdoors, in the rare case of inclement weather, the bands simply move a few feet indoors.

Aguirre points out that although she loves music, it’s actually not the focus of her bookings. However when it’s the right mix of artist and venue, everybody wins. “When I book bands, the inten-tion is for it to increase the food and bev-erage revenue of whatever place I’m booking,” she said. “It’s not just for the fun of booking bands: it actually has another purpose to it. So seeing that be a success and seeing people to respond to it and show up and listen to the music is really rewarding.”

For her part, Aguirre is thrilled to be back at the Kona Kai and is busy with plans to really put the resort on the San Diego entertainment map. “We’re working toward making the Kona Kai synonymous with having really great talent, really great shows, featuring some up-and-coming artists as well as highlighting the best of the local bands,” she said.

“I just want people knowing that when they go to the Kona Kai to hear music, they’re going to see somebody great.”

Pedros to add new beach-lifestyle space in right-center field

The San Diego Padres recently announced details surrounding upgrades at Petco Park for 2016. The centerpiece of the updates is a new two-level social space in right-center field inspired by San Diego’s beach lifestyle.

Locally based San Diego Boardshops has expanded its existing relationship with the Padres by becoming the present-ing partner of the space, which will be constructed in the location currently occupied by The Beachers seating area and The Beach play area.

As part of the design, the children’s sand play area will be preserved and relocated to a space along K Street, fur-ther removed from the playing field and safe from balls in play. Construction is set to begin this week.

“San Diego epitomizes what is unique and desirable about all of Southern California, and we are excited to expand our partnership with such an iconic local company that is emblematic of that lifestyle,” said Padres president and CEO Mike Dee.

“This project will transform the space in right-center field while preserving the view from the grass seating area in the Park at the Park. Together with Sun Diego, we will create an improved and unique experience for fans in what has previously been an underserved area,” he said.

The new space, with a design aesthet-ic modeled after Southern California’s iconic piers, will feature pilings and decking constructed from environmen-tally friendly recycled composite wood. Drink rails will line the front row of each level, with approximately 60 fixed seats between the two.

In total, the space will accommodate nearly 600 in a standing-room-only capacity.
call about a man threatening people with a knife in an adult bookstore. Brow- der encountered Nehad, who was hav- ing a nervous breakdown, in an area behind the bookstore. Nehad turned out not to have a knife and instead was hold- ing a pen.

The video, which is graphic, shows Browder arriving, exiting his police car and, shortly afterward, shooting Nehad. Nehad appeared to be frightened and might have been stopped when he was hit.

The shooting occurs around the 4- minute, 20-second mark in the video. The original surveillance video had no sound, but Dumanis edited the video to include audio of the call prior to the shoot- ing that the suspect had a knife. We did not edit what Dumanis provided.

This is the only video we’re aware of that captures the entire shooting. Brow- der did not turn on his body camera before the incident.

Dumanis said Nehad declined to prosecute Browder and said it was reasonable for him to have felt threat- ened by Nehad, 42. In general, prosecu- tors do not have enough evidence to file charges against police officers in on-duty shootings.

Dumanis’ letter explaining her deci- sion to pay the settlement value to pro- vide a greater perspective of the shooting because it was mounted more than 20 feet away, the first day of business from where Broward was standing. But Dumanis also said the video supported the officer’s version of events because it showed he followed Nehad advancing toward him.

On Dec. 21, during a hearing for Nehad’s request that the board conduct an inquest into the shooting, Dumanis de- clared a reasonable belief that Brownder had a reasonable belief he was threatened and provided a host of infor- mation supporting her view. In addition to the facts surrounding the police call- traffic, Dumanis showed surveillance video prior to the shooting that she said showed Nehad dripping blood onto the ground with what they believed was a knife.

She also showed video of Nehad stabbing a knife sheath — the officer had not known about that before the shooting — a photo of the pen Nehad had on him at the time of the shooting. She also showed the family demonstrating how a butterfly knife was worked in an attempt to show how Nehad had been led to believe Nehad had a knife.

Federal law enforcement officials are now reviewing that case.

Nehad’s family said they had fought hard to keep secret, that she had fought hard to keep secret, that she had suffered from mental illness in San Diego County. She had a reasonable belief he was advancing to stab him, it is not obvious that Nehad was still walking or that he knew the car he was approaching was an offi- cer’s. The district attorney, recognizing the importance of proving that Nehad had his knife, shot, showed an enhanced slide from the video to prove that he was raising a fo- ot. While witnesses were heard that officer command Nehad to drop “the knife” or “it,” another did not, and the officer fired. It is not obvious that things had gone wrong. It is pretty good as an explanation why she did not prosecute Browder for murder or ma- nufacture.

But she had already made that deci- sion and explained it several weeks be- fore the press conference was a follow- up intended to help people understand the whole incident. In that, it was hor-ribly inadequate. Dumanis was so deter- mined to prove her decision not to prose- cut Browder was correct that she forgot to acknowledge the possibility that something had gone wrong.

Nehad’s family said it was just a “continuation of the pursuit of Friddon.” And they were right. We’ve heard about everything wrong with Nehad — his previous run-ins, his drug use, his mental health. The whole case served no purpose but to plaster him as deserving of what got him shot. If Nehad had it should have included something more. Unless you’re willing to say that Nehad should have died and that this was not his fault, there is no hope of an encounter between him and Browder, then you have to admit something went wrong and discuss it.

That’s the conversation Dumanis was not willing to have. It is apparent- ly why she is not willing to have the chief want to have, either. They did everything they could to avoid it – to hide the video as though we were not going to see it. They did everything they could to prove that Nehad was dangerous and not part of history. I don’t know if they survive on the myth that as long as we don’t do drugs, don’t stalk through dark alleys behind adult bookstores and aren’t men-acing people, we don’t encounter police of- ficers and therefore don’t have to worry about their trigger fingers.

We might as well be removed from those things as anyone else. They are successful, intelligent people who, like many others, could not just cage a brother and a son who was mentally ill. How many of us have families and friends who descend into addiction for their homes or their minds?

A fellow police officer accused Nehad’s family of just wanting a payday. But again, unless you think this was a bad idea, there is no point in an encounter between a government law enforcement officer and a sick civilian late at night. Nehad’s family is the only one that has lost someone and they were wrong and hold people accountable.

And something did go wrong. We have no more comforting explanation of what it was.

Scott Lewis is the editor in chief of Voice of San Diego. Contact him at scott@vosd.org or 619-550-5663 and follow him on Twitter at @vosdscott.

Liam Dillon is senior reporter and assis- tant editor for Voice of San Diego. He leads the newsroom and writes about how people interact with local government.

What should we write about next? Contact him directly at (619) 550-5663 or liam.dillon@vosd.org.
Point Loma tennis players win doubles title

**SPORTS**

**By SCOTT HOPKINS / THE BEACON**

Two Point Loma High School tennis players brought home top honors from the United States Tennis Association’s 2016 National Winter Championship tournament played last week, and they are only juniors.

Keegan Smith, playing with his doubles partner Billy Rowe of Coronado, won the tournament’s Boys 18 doubles championship in straight sets. Although seeded only fourth, the pair defeated the eighth-seeded team of Payam Ahmadi, of Rancho, Va., and David Horneffer, of Brookfield, Wis., by scores of 6-4 and 6-5.

Smith and Rowe have played together for several years, and ironically, the two faced off in last year’s San Diego Section CIF singles championship match, with Smith defeating his good friend.

In the Boys 18 consolation match, the 12th-seeded team of fellow Pointer Ivan Thamma and David Goulak of Oaks Park, Calif., combined to defeat the 11th-seeded team of Adam Amrozy, of South Pasaden, Fla., and Bennet Crane, of Winston-Salem, N.C., to win third place in the event. Thamma-Goulak defeated their opponents by scores of 6-7, 6-1 and 7-6.

The tournament was played from Dec. 27 to Jan. 2 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Pointers tennis coach Mark Truver will have the luxury of having Smith and Thamma on his roster when the new season begins this spring. His team won the Eastern League crown last year, with an 11-1 league record.

Tryouts for the Pointer team begin Feb. 15 from 1:14 to 3:30 p.m. at Robb Field’s Peninsula Tennis Club. Truver can be reached at marktruver@gmail.com.

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**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

SDCAA Administration Building (former Commuter Terminal)

1st Floor 3225 N. Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

**Next Meeting Date**

TBD

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Randy Lawrence

303-550-4837

rlawrence2002@aol.com

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**Annual Randy Jones Run/Walk for Independence Home of Guiding Hands benefit set for Feb. 6**

Home of Guiding Hands, an organization designed to provide marked community support, critical housing and life skills training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in San Diego County, will hold its sixth annual Randy Jones Run/Walk for Independence (2K/8K) from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, at De Anza Cove in Mission Bay Park. Early bird registration is currently open and ends on Friday, Jan. 15 at 10 p.m. To register and for more details on early bird prices, visit HGH.kintera.org/Run/Walk or contact Jessica Brandon at (619) 938-2854 or via jessica@guidinghands.org. Sponsorships are available.

HGH and its annual event aspire to help children, adolescents and adults with special needs thrive in a setting that offers a more fulfilling lifestyle. The organization offers individualized attention, stress increased opportunities for self-sufficiency and encourages greater community integration and access. Overall, the event is designed to ensure that those with developmental and intellectual disabilities are able to live a life of dignity and purpose and are not limited by what they cannot do but enriched by what they can do.

HGH has provided community support, critical housing and life skills training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in San Diego County since 1961. It offers services to more than 1,500 county residents. “This is an underserved population in need of critical funding, and our sixth annual Randy Jones Run/Walk for Independence event helps us give back to a community that needs more recognition, encouragement and support,” said Mark Klaus, president and CEO of Home of Guiding Hands.

Proceeds from the event go directly to HGH to benefit the organization’s current programs: residential homes, community living, early childhood development, life planning and more. After raising nearly $35,000 last year, HGH aims to raise $40,000 at the 2016 event.

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**SDCRAA Administration Building (former Commuter Terminal)**

1st Floor 3225 N. Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

Next Meeting Date

TBD

For Questions, Call Airport Noise Mitigation, (619) 400-2309

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Capt. Charlie MacVean, former submarine commanding officer and Point Loma resident, will present the next lecture in a series on Point Loma’s military past on Thursday, Jan. 14, at Point Loma Assembly, 3035 Talbot St., from 5:30 to 7 p.m. A $10 donation will be accepted at the door. Pizza, salad and refreshments will be served.

The event is co-hosted by Point Loma Assembly and La Playa Trail Association. MacVean was born and raised in Ridgewood, N.J. He received his naval commission through the NROTC program at Dartmouth College and graduated in 1959. He later earned a Ph.D. in nuclear science and engineering at Cornell University.

MacVean’s 16 years of sea duty included qualification in submarine command, and he served aboard three boats before commanding Seawolf (SSN-575) at the height of the Cold War. Seawolf was the second nuclear sub ever built; five boats in all have been so commissioned.

MacVean stresses the importance of the work in the country’s defense just a half-mile from his home.

“Nowhere else,” he said, “can you find a locale such as Point Loma, combining a Navy organization with seagoing assets dedicated to deep ocean research and exploration.”

“Beyond Point Loma,” he continued, “was the intellectual capital represented by the University of California San Diego, University of San Diego and San Diego State University and, finally, the gathering of nearby pioneering companies vested in marine technology. I’ve been to every sub base, and there’s none like Point Loma in technique and technology.”

But what was life like living in the strange environment of an attack submarine?

“It boils down to trust. How do you go to sleep if you don’t trust the guy behind you to turn the valve at the right time?”

“We were blessed with wonderful people around us,” MacVean recalled. “I was always trustful that the people who were awake would do the right thing. You knew the training they went through. We relied on a trust up and down the sub force not equal to anywhere else in the world. And we took care of each other, at sea and of families at home.”

Environmentals say unlawful change to stormwater permit will decrease water quality

Last month, San Diego Coastkeeper and Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation (CERF) filed a petition to the California State Water Resources Control Board requesting changes to San Diego’s stormwater permit.

On Nov. 18, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board approved an amendment to the municipal stormwater permit that weakens a permit holder’s accountability for achieving pollution reduction and clean water. Coastkeeper and CERF, which rely on the now-weakened provision to fight pollution threatening the region’s quality of life, say the permit is both unlawful and inadequate to protect the region’s water or public health.

Polluted runoff is said to be San Diego County’s number one water quality problem; it’s reportedly what causes the county Department of Environmental Health to issue 72-hour polluted beach advisories when it rains and what causes our local streams and rivers to receive poor health ratings.

“We don’t want to give water polluters a pass just for saying they will prevent pollution from reaching San Diego’s waters – we want to reward actual results,” says CERF attorney Livia Borak.