BREATHTAKING SCENIC STROLLS

By CYNTHIA ROBERTSON

According to many experts, walking is the best exercise for people. And at the recent Joy of Walking conference, hosted by Walkabout International at Liberty Station, those experts emphasized the healthy satisfaction of a brisk jaunt. The coolest thing about walking is you can do it alone, with a friend, or an entire group.

A couple stops to take in the sunset while walking along Sunset Cliffs in Point Loma, the No. 1 best walk on the Peninsula.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

WALK OFF THOSE HOLIDAY MEALS

Top 5 ‘Urban Hikes’ on the Peninsula

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

There’s a “big” day coming up for small businesses in Ocean Beach: Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25.

And the beach community is all in on the merchant holiday two days after Thanksgiving.

Ocean Beach Main-Street Association (OBMA) is celebrating Small Business Saturday with a Passport to OB contest to encourage the community to shop local this holiday.

The almost month-long contest kicks off on Small Business Saturday itself with shopping, fun giveaways and a giant sand sculpture on the beach. Attendees are encouraged to stop by the grassy area at Abbott and Newport from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive free Liberty Station ice rink opening delayed

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Though the opening of Liberty Station’s annual winter ice rink has been delayed, organizers promise the show will still go on.

“We’re not 100 percent certain what went wrong, but don’t want to lose any more time, so we’re laying pipes on the concrete to create ice as soon as possible,” said Bridgett Brown, president of the Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary, about technical difficulties that suspend- ed the planned Nov. 16 opening of the rink.

“We hope to be open for skating soon, so we are able to raise as much money as possible for the Peckham Center for...”

Shop Ocean Beach for Small Business Saturday specials

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

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‘Chameleon Bandit’ ordered to stand trial

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

A bank robber known as the “Chameleon Bandit” has been ordered to stand trial for holding up a Point Loma bank as well as robbing five other banks. His nickname came from changes in his appearance in later bank robberies.

One teller from the Pacific Western Bank, at 1661 Rosecrans St., was among seven other tellers and witnesses who testified in the two-day preliminary hearing of Darius Demon Lake, who is known as Lake.

Lake allegedly received $1,612 from several tellers and told them to stand trial on all counts on Nov. 15. Video surveillance at the Point Loma bank shows Lake entering at 1:37 p.m. on Oct. 12 and yelling a profanity loudly at one teller, which was followed by “give me all of your money,” according to court documents. Lake allegedly received $1,612 from several tellers and told them to get down on the floor before he left.

The bank robber wore a camouflage baseball cap, sunglasses, a heavy dark winter jacket with light colored stripes, gray shorts, and white sport type shoes. The “Chameleon Bandit” also used fantasies in making demands to tellers and threatened to kill one teller in the Bank of the West branch in El Cajon on Oct. 5.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Owner of Left Coast Collective arrested

In August, the San Diego Police Department’s Narcotics Unit served a search warrant at 3487 Kurtz St., in the Midway District. This location was an illegally operating marijuana delivery service called Left Coast Collective.

Twelve employees were arrested and the following evidence was seized: 41 pounds of high grade marijuana, 8,000 edibles/concentrates, 241 ounces of high grade marijuana, 8,000 edibles/concentrates, an indoor marijuana grow containing more than 100 marijuana plants, cocaine, $5,600 cash, and hundreds of business documents/records. At the time, the owner was not present and had not been identified.

Through extensive follow up, the owner of Left Coast Collective was identified as Sean Benjamin Smith (age 31). It was also discovered that Smith continued to operate his illegal delivery service despite the August search warrant.

On Nov. 15, a search warrant was served in the 1900 block of Kettner Boulevard. This location is associated with Sean Smith and his illegal delivery service. The following evidence was seized: methamphetamine, marijuana, narcotic paraphernalia, more than $9,000 in cash and business records of Left Coast Collective.

Smith was arrested and booked into jail on felony and misdemeanor charges.

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JUST LISTED

Point Loma | $395,000
This is the largest design model in the Point Loma Tennis Club. 2 bedroom 1.5 bath townhome with upgraded flooring throughout, even on the stairs.

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2727 Shelter Island Drive
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Point Loma | $1,895,000
Upgraded end unit 3 br 2.5 ba light and bright townhome. This is a convertible plan that can easily be turned into a 4 br. Park Point Loma complex.

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Ocean Beach | $1,300,000
2 on 1 in upper OB. 2 br 1.5 ba and 1 br 1ba, 3 garages, 2 additional parking spaces. Heated pool. Views of ocean. Close to Newport, schools, restaurants and beach.

Michele Kitchin
619.518.7707
www.MicheleKitchin.com
CalBRE# 00900040

REDUCED

Point Loma | $599,000
Upgraded end unit 3 br 2.5 ba light and bright townhome. This is a convertible plan that can easily be turned into a 4 br. Park Point Loma complex.

Ocean Beach Office
1851 Cable Street
San Diego, CA 92107
619.225.0800

Point Loma | $1,195,000
Sweeping bay/bayview views from spacious top-floor 5 br 3 ba Southwest custom home with elevator on deep, accessible landscaped canyon lot.

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2727 Shelter Island Drive
San Diego, CA 92106
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REDUCED

Ocean Beach | $2,495,000
Sunset Cliffs masterpiece perched high on the hill w/ fabulous, un-obstructable ocean views! 3 br 2 ½ ba, gourmet kitchen, solar, AC, elevator.

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Sunset Cliffs | $2,491,000
Sunset Cliffs masterpiece perched high on the hill w/ fabulous, un-obstructable ocean views! 3 br 2 ½ ba, gourmet kitchen, solar, AC, elevator.

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PENDING

Point Loma | $1,195,000
Sweeping bay/bayview views from spacious top-floor 5 br 3 ba Southwest custom home with elevator on deep, accessible landscaped canyon lot.

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2727 Shelter Island Drive
San Diego, CA 92106
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Www.CatrinaRussell.com
Homeless tent shelter to open in Midway community

**ANDRE SIMPSON**

**OF VETERANS VILLAGE OF SAN DIEGO**

Homelessness once again dominated the conversation at the Nov. 15 Midway Community Planning Group as Veterans Village of San Diego closed the advisory group in on their plans for operating a veteran’s tent shelter to open Dec. 1.

VVSOD will run one of three new homeless shelter sites in a vacant lot at 2700 Sports Arena Boulevard behind the Goodwill store.

André Simpson, executive vice president and chief operations officer for VVSD, the Midway District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf for “supporting this project.” He noted two other homeless tent shelters being created in the aftermath of the hepatitis A crisis located near Father Joe’s Villages near Petco Park and Balboa Park.

Simpson said the shelter being operated by VVSOD at 2801 1/2 Sports Arena Blvd. is a Navy storage lot to be converted.

“We will house 200 homeless men and women veterans in that facility,” which will provide services to those individuals,” Simpson said adding, “We’ll be working very closely with San Diego Police Department’s Western Division and their Homeless Outreach Teams.”

Simpson said the Midway homeless veteran tent shelter is scheduled to operate for two years, but has only been authorized thus far for seven months of funding.

“We anticipate it being re-funded after that,” Simpson said, adding arrivals at the new Midway tent facility will be offered “permanent housing intervention” through a federal voucher subsidy program.

Replying to audience questions, Simpson said Midway’s homeless tent shelter will have a “120 day or less turnaround” for housing veterans. He added plans are to “start out

Peninsula planners propose land parcel consolidation

A proposal to eliminate consoli-date substandard, contiguous land parcels handlined discussion by Peninsula Community Planning Board at its October meeting.

PCPB board approved writing a letter supporting consolidation of any substandard-sized parcels that do not conform to standards for minimum parcel size when lots/parcels have common ownership.

“We have small parcels that are going to cost the city a lot of money,” pointed out PCPB member Jerry Lohla, who added a letter has been sent requesting the city “identify all the missing small parcels and merge them if they meet the criteria for that merging.”

Lohla said about 50 such parcels in Point Loma have been informally identified as substandard. He added that two substandard-size parcels can only be merged if they have common ownership.

“This won’t solve all of the problems, but this letter will remind the city that it should have been on top of this a long time ago,” Simpson said, noting the applicable lot merger ordinance has been in effect since 1989.

In other action:

• Matt Strabone, a candidate for supervisor in the city council’s Fourth District, said the city council will “start out

Local hepatitis A public health emergency extended again

The local public health emergency for the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak was extended again for another two weeks by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

The board is required to review the need for the emergency, which was declared on Sept. 1, every 14 days. There have been 544 cases of hepatitis A associated with the outbreak as of Nov. 6, with 372 people hospitalized and 20 deaths.

The county’s public health services and community partners have given 90,735 vaccinations, including 76,982 to at-risk populations as part of the efforts to halt the outbreak.

As the number of new cases appears to be slowing down, local health officials are encouraging men who have sex with men (MSM) to get the hepatitis A vaccine in an effort to prevent an increase in cases among that population. Michigan, New York City and Colorado have all seen a recent outbreak of hepatitis A among the MSM population.

The county and the San Diego LGBT Community Center, 3909 Center St., are partnering to provide free hepatitis A vaccinations and flu shots to any member of the public. The next one is Nov. 22 from 3 to 6 p.m.

“We’re broadening our ongoing efforts to reach the MSM community because this is an area where the outbreak could potentially spread,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “We’re encouraging men to get vaccinated to protect both themselves and their close contacts.”

Locally, there have been 13 cases of hepatitis A in MSM in 2017, higher than the usual one to two cases a year, but not disproportionate to the overall number of cases in the current outbreak.

**News:**

**Man bitten, stabbed in Ocean Beach**

A 37-year-old male victim was walking along the sidewalk by the OB Pier when he bumped into a black male suspect around 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 18. The suspect got upset and bit the victim on his arm. They fought, and during the fight, they fell to the ground. The victim felt a burning to his right leg and noticed he had been cut.

**Felony hit and run in Midway District**

A 48-year-old female pedestrian was crossing at 3100 Sports Arena Blvd. in the west crosswalk of the intersection with Rosecrans Street on Nov. 18. An unknown vehicle was traveling eastbound on Sports Arena Boulevard and struck the female in the crosswalk. The vehicle fled the scene. The female sustained a fracture to her left shoulder and abrasions to the right side of her head and elbow. Traffic Division responded and was handling the investigation.

Anyone with information related to the above incident is encouraged to call the listed Command handling the investigation or Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477.

**Suspicious death in Mission Bay Park**

On Friday, Nov. 17, at 11:30 p.m., the San Diego Police Depart-ment Communications Center received a call regarding a person on fire in the field adjacent to 5200 Pacific Highway.

An off-duty California Highway Patrol Officer was driving west bound on Pacific Highway when he saw the person on fire and stopped to render aid. San Diego Fire Rescue also responded to assist. Fire personnel pronounced the man deceased at the scene.

The decedent has been identified as 38-year-old Aijalon M. Gomes, who recently relocated to San Diego from Boston.

The San Diego Metro Arson Strike Team responded to investigate the origin and cause of the fire. They requested the assistance of the San Diego Police Depart-ment Homicide Unit. Homicide detectives also responded to the scene to investigate the incident. The preliminary investigation indicates the death is not a homicide but rather an accidental death or suicide. A final determination cannot be made until the medical examiner completes their investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at 619-531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at 888-580-8477.
A nonprofit serving homeless youth, an entrepreneur and The Mean Green Team of the Point Loma Association are being honored this year as “under-the-radar heroes” by The Wine Pub in its eighth anniversary salute to Peninsula making a difference.

Each year, The Wine Pub invites a select group of unsung heroes out of the shadows and into the spotlight. This year’s list of homegrown heroes includes Doors of Change, an organization based in Ocean Beach, that works to alleviate youth homelessness.

Theresa Renfro, owner of three retail businesses — En Concordia, See/Saw and Good Dog Pet Outfitters — was also on the list. As well as three Point Loma volunteers from The Mean Green Team — Karen Davis, Jim Southender and Ryan Gagnon, were also cited for their community contributions.

Wine Pub honorees for 2017:

Debbie Rodriguez and Chera Tribble of Doors of Change, who bring their passion for social justice to their work fighting youth homelessness via a variety of initiatives. They lead the way with the “Taking Music & Art to the Street” program, that keeps youth from calling San Diego’s streets home.

Point Loma’s Connie Renfro was cited, not only for her business contributions with three stores, but for her work in gathering small-business leaders in the community together to collaborate on ways to strengthen the business district in Point Loma.

The Mean Green Team’s trio were cited for their volunteerism. Every Friday, Davis, Southender and Gagnon work in a variety of beautification areas throughout the neighborhood to pick up trash and maintain landscaped sites across the community.

Reacting to her being named a hometown hero, Tribble said: “Honestly, I feel honored to have received this award. However, I feel I would be remiss if I didn’t include a thousand thank you’s to my staff and volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time, compassion and never-ending passion to assist me in our mission to empower youth and ultimately work towards solving youth homelessness. “I have dedicated my life over the last 10 years to working with youth and hoping I can make a difference in their lives and inspire them to realize the overwhelming amount of resilience and talent they each have to change their lives and break their own personal cycles of abuse, neglect, violence and homelessness. “I can’t imagine dedicating my time and effort to anything other than helping youth transform their lives,” continued Tribble. “I am so grateful to be honored, but at the end of the day — it is the youth who are the true heroes.”

“The Mean Green Team is the heart and soul of the Point Loma Association,” Davis said. “We are volunteers of varying ages and backgrounds; many are retired. We are teachers, school principals, doctors, lawyers, naval officers and enlisted, business owners, home makers, flight attendants and real estate professionals.”

“Point Loma is the perfect place to have a home, family and business, and we’re focused on continuing to promote the positive changes that have made our business district a place where families and friends stroll and shop, coffee in hand, with little ones and four-legged family members,” Renfro said.

All Souls’ Episcopal Church Annual Christmas Home Tour and Marketplace

The All Souls’ Episcopal Church would love to welcome you to its annual Christmas Home Tour and Marketplace. Saturday, December 2, from 10-4 p.m., the Tour is a whole day of fun in beautiful Point Loma! Organize groups from your neighborhoods—book clubs, church, garden groups, work or service colleagues, family and friends! For the first time, a special reserved ticket price for purchases of ten or more at $25.00 each makes attending even easier! Of course, single peselle tickets remain $30.00 each ($35.00 on the day of the event). For more information and tickets, visit www.allsoulspointloma.org/hometour or email dere-lynns@gmail.com.

The All Souls’ Christmas Home Tour is a surprisingly fun, robust and welcoming experience! On church grounds, an expanded Marketplace offers delightful opportunities to turn towards festive planning and holiday readiness, with gift or decoration choices that include handmade treasures and home-cooked treats to fill Christmas stockings or the feast table! Gourmet food trucks, a coffee cart and local artisans join the event this year, rounding out an already sumptuous tea! Touring the very special James Hubbell stained-glass adorned church, and the newly acquired contemporary abstract pieces from the recent Icons in Transformation exhibit, as well as five uniquely appealing Point Loma homes are highlights of this community celebration. Distinctive residences shine with unique histories, captivating views and festive décor to pique all our imaginations! Which home will tantalize us with St. Nicolas Cookies’ fresh-baking delectable aroma? Which one will showcase a creative contemporary designer’s comprehensive remodel of a 1913 treasure? Which will treat you to expansive Pacific panoramas or spectacular San Diego Harbor and skyline views? Each home, around each corner, educates visitors with imaginative design, spectacular vistas or peeks into the many ways a family makes a house a home, and a home becomes a Christmas showcase!

Saturday December 2nd, 2017 | 10 AM – 4 PM
1475 Catalina Blvd. (619) 223-6394
Email office@allsoulspointloma.org www.allsoulspointloma.org

HONOR HEROES

Beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, The Wine Pub invites its heroes and their friends and family to raise champagne glasses and toast amongst a patio full of homegrown heroes.

All are invited to attend this community celebration while The Wine Pub blows out a candle in the shape of a number eight. Visit thewinepubsd.com for more information.

“Sandy and The Wine Pub were at the forefront of making this part of town a destination and I am honored to have been recognized for contributing to the revitalization of The Point Loma Village. We have a special place in San Diego history and seeing our neighborhood shine and watching our friends and our visitors enjoy it is a great reward,” Renfro said.

Some businesses celebrate company milestones when turning a year older, The Wine Pub chooses to do it differently by changing the focus from itself to instead honor everyday people making their neighborhood a better place. Commemorating eight years as a Point Loma restaurant, The Wine Pub insists on keeping community at the heart of everything it does. The Wine Pub dedicates its anniversary every year to residents in Point Loma and Ocean Beach who fly under the radar for their good deeds.
When Sunglass & Optical Warehouse co-owners Leroy Herszman and Max Phelps came to San Diego more than 30 years ago, they never imagined they’d end up in the eyewear business.

“Back in ’85, Max and I came to San Diego from Las Vegas looking to get into the pool business,” said Herszman. “We started selling sunglasses at Kobey’s Swap Meet. We were pretty aggressive and, in a manner of months we had three, four, five stands. We were driven. We wanted to make money.”

Leroy and Max even had a booth at the (first indoor) Kobey’s downtown swap meet in the old Walker Scott Building at Broadway and Fifth. Their business took off, and they were soon able to move into a brick-and-mortar spot near Kobey’s offices in the Midway District off Sports Arena Boulevard.

Top brands and friendly service at S&O Warehouse

Today, the company has parlayed their early swap-meet successes, transforming the business into San Diego’s largest retailer of sunglasses and optical. S&O Warehouse has three optometrists in-house and the retailer features specialty eyewear, including sports-specific sunglasses for baseball, tennis, fishing, cycling, skiing, water sports and event-safety.

S&O Warehouse at 3450 Kurtz St., Suite D, offers single-vision optical with same-day service, as well as handling manufacturer-replacement lenses for sunglasses. The warehouse carries top sunglasses brands like Ray Ban, Costa, Spy, Maui Jim and Zeal, all polarized.

One high-end brand S&O Warehouse carries, Tom Davies, deals in exotic-frame material like Buffalo horn using a leading-edge website fitting program that adjusts for bigger and smaller faces. The Buffalo horn frames run $1,100 to $1,400.

The wholesale aspect of it is why we’re here, this was a wholesale showroom,” said Herszman of the Kurtz Street location they’ve been in since ’89. “This wasn’t set up to be a retail location. But people knew us because we’d been out there for years and years.”

Herszman talked about what keeps S&O Warehouse clients coming back. “First of all, we’re well known and we’re trusted,” he said. “We have a lot (28 years) of experience. We’re also not a big heartless corporation. If you come in here, we probably know your name, and, if you have an issue, you’re sure to be taken care of. We take the time and, price-wise, we’re very competitive.”

The entrepreneur added S&O Warehouse goes above and beyond.

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San Diego Gulls and tequila reign at Banzai Bar

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | THE BEACON

The American Hockey League’s Ontario Reign had its royal way with the San Diego Gulls at Valley View Casino Center on Nov. 11, handing the home team a 5-7 record following a 4-1 win. Goalie Kevin Boyle’s 34 saves weren’t enough to stem the first-period onslaught — and the thing is, the Reign’s showing to this point in the season is even worse, as it occupies last place in the league’s Pacific Division (the Gulls are only one spot above).

If you’re a fan, the news is enough to send you to the watering hole — but should you be so inclined, you could do lots worse than Banzai Bar, for several reasons: A glut of Gulls faithful has adopted the place as its clubhouse, which rests virtually on top of Valley View’s front door. You’ll catch up on some Gulls lore amid an assortment of tacos, salads, nugs, wings, burritos and every other appetizer in sight, each as generously portioned as the next. You’ll even have a visual aid at your disposal, as the bar plays the games in realtime on a 110-inch screen.

And thanks to bartender Chelsea, you might even find yourself reaching a personal landmark that’s eluded you all your 97 years. At the risk of betraying my extremely advanced age, I asked Chelsea for the Happy Hippie burger entry. This one’s a bit unusual in that the patty is made of black beans instead of meat. I was expecting something almost vegetarian in taste and presentation, but this is as flavorful as any burger you care to name, with garlic fries standing in as a spot-on complement.

Everything went down with a bit of Gulls history, in the form of a herkin’ blackberry old fashioned named for Canada’s Willie O’Ree. O’Ree, 82, was the National Hockey League’s first black player and a winger for the Boston Bruins dating to 1957. He capped his 22-year career with a Gulls stint when the franchise was part of the Western Hockey League.

That drink’s unmistakable note of plum fuels the further prospect of your company. Still, the best was yet to come.

I happened to mention that I’d never finished a margarita in all my days — and Chelsea was having none of it. Tequila and triple secclashed audibly in an everin chimney as she witnessed my rite of passage, breathless at its conclusion and portent.

The margarita was fantastic, along with everything else, which is to say that Gulls fandom is in the best of hands here.

BANZAI BAR
Where: 3048 Midway Drive, Point Loma.
Hours: 11 a.m. to midnight Sundays to Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Fridays to Saturdays.

Left, the fervor for San Diego Gulls hockey is the only thing bigger than the portions.
Crow’s Nest San Diego purchased by long-time yacht brokers

Crow’s Nest Yachts, a legacy yacht brokerage along San Diego’s Shelter Island for more than four decades, has been purchased by long-time yacht brokers Eric Pearson and Michael Selter in a shared co-executive partnership.

Building on its early heritage as a specialist in high-end sportfishers and luxury yachts, Crow’s Nest San Diego will be transformed into a boutique yacht brokerage with an emphasis on upgraded personalized service and the highest levels of “fit and finish” in all operations.

“We’re convinced this is the right time and the right property for us to undertake this exciting endeavor,” said Pearson, who like Selter, is a San Diego native who has spent virtually his entire life around boats of all sizes.

“Michael and I know the inner workings of this industry, which has always been a major focus of our lives, both personally and professionally,” Pearson said. “For us, this is our homecoming.”

Pearson and Selter plan to modernize all business operations as well as brighten the firm’s 1,650-square-foot offices, enhance exterior signage, and fully outfit its privately-owned 23-vessel capacity sales marina.

Since its founding in 1975, Crow’s Nest has been a vibrant part of the Shelter Island maritime district. Its reputation is based on offering a variety of sportfishers, recreational vessels and luxury yachts sized from 40 feet to 150 feet and longer, along with a highly desirable locale along the waterfront.

Pearson began his yacht broker career at Crow’s Nest more than a decade ago. He then moved to Fraser Yachts, where he has been a successful broker for the past 12 years. He spent much of his formative years working alongside his father, Ron, former owner/ founder of Pearson Fuel Dock, long a Shelter Island fixture that’s within walking distance from Crow’s Nest.

In serving the boating needs of their clients, most of whom they knew personally, the Pearson father-and-son team emphasized friendly, professional service with a smile, a hallmark of Crow’s Nest under its new ownership team.

Like Pearson, Selter is a long-time yacht broker and brokerage owner who was affiliated with Fraser Yachts, first in San Diego and most recently in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
The Box Foundation, the event Del Mar. Sponsored by Jack in Fame at the Fairmont Grand San Diego Business Hall of County held its 29th annual Achievement of San Diego Point Loman inducted into Junior Achievement's Business Hall of Fame on Thursday, Nov. 2, Junior Achievement honored these leaders for their impact, integrity, leadership and legacy of service.

Point Loman inducted into Junior Achievement's Business Hall of Fame On Thursday, Nov. 2, Junior Achievement of San Diego County held its 29th annual San Diego Business Hall of Fame at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar. Sponsored by Jack in the Box Foundation, the event raised $116,900 to support Junior Achievement's mission to impact 81,000 students this year by teaching them how to get a job, start a business and how to manage their money. Event co-chairs, Mike Schleyhahn, and Brian Cahill kicked off JA's signature event for 315 distinguished guests, which featured a dinner, an auction, and an awards presentation for the 2017 Hall of Fame Laureates. Highlights of the gala included inducting Point Loma resident Wendy Gillespie, along with four other visionary leaders, into Junior Achievement's Business Hall of Fame as Lifetime Laureates. This year’s laureates include: Gillespie, Janice Brown, Jack McGregor, Lori and Bill Walton. Junior Achievement honored these leaders for their impact, integrity, leadership and legacy of service.

In attendance were past laureates Anne Evans, Ingrid Croce, Joanne Pastula, La Jolla resident Mel Katz, Phil Blair, Stephen Williams, Susan Lew, Thomas Page, and William Geppert.

New art installation set to pump up holiday spirit at Liberty Station

Liberty Station is about to get the largest holiday gift ever. Each year, as part of the annual Salute the Season holiday event programming, the NTC Foundation has commissioned a local artist to create a holiday-themed art installation with lights. This year, with additional support from the Liberty Station Community Association, the historic former Naval Training Center Pump House from 1923 will be transformed into a giant holiday gift complete with LED animated snowflakes, a giant bow and festive ribbon. For added excitement and engagement, thousands of LED lights can be programmed for a multitude of effects.

Local scenic designer and stagecraft expert Jay Newington’s proposal was selected by the Foundation’s Art in Public Places Committee as the one that best uses art to create a festive atmosphere and helps illuminate the North Promenade between the ice rink at Liberty Station and the Holiday Tree. The goal for the project was to use a creative lighting installation to unify all the Salute the Season holiday events.

His piece, titled “Snow Time! Like the ‘Greetings’ mural, created by artist Victor Ving, helped turn the building into an attraction and popular selfie stop. The mural will be temporarily covered during the holiday season and will return to view in January.

Newington is the third artist to be commissioned by the NTC Foundation to create an original piece for the holidays. Last year, Point Loma Nazarene graduate Ben Cabral created “Some Faces From Around Here” and in 2015 La Jollan Smadar Sampson created the brightly-lit ICE for display in front of the Dick Laub NTC Command Center. A 10-year resident of San Diego, Jay is the owner and creative director for scene-one, a San Diego-based Design I Fabrication studio specializing in large scale, themed installations.

In addition to projects with several local theatre companies, his work has been enjoyed by more than one million visitors each year at the San Diego County Fair. Newington has also done notable installations at Legoland California, San Diego Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla. He resides in Uptown.

Banyan Kitchen + Cafe and Chi Chocolat offer catering

Banyan Kitchen + Cafe and Chi Chocolat together is a one-stop shop for holiday planning. Neighboring businesses located in Liberty Station, this husband-and-wife team offers both full-service catering and premier gourmet artisan chocolate with a beautiful event space as a bonus.

“We both share a passion for rich flavors and delicate blends. Our goal is to make our clients’ vision come to life with creativity and exceptional execution,” said owner Tess Brown. “We treat all of our clients like family to create the perfect plate, perfect setting and perfect event.”

Banyan Kitchen + Cafe offers breakfast and lunch menu items with deep flavors and delightful treats.

The location can host events and private parties with seated luncheons and dinners.

Chi Chocolat offers fresh artisan chocolates, great for personal consumption and unique gifts for amenities, weddings or corporate gifts.

To find out more, visit banyankitchencafe.com and chiícocolat.net.
Local woman dances her way across Portugal’s islands with Point Loma troupe

Dr. SYDNEY CALHOUN | THE BEACON

Before I get into my adventures around Portugal and the beautiful islands, I feel it is crucial to specify exactly how the Portuguese-American Dancers got me there. This vibrant dance group has been performing at folklore festivals all over the country and even internationally for years. It all started in 1948, in the backyard of Mary Moniz, a Madeira native who believed in cultivating Portuguese heritage here in Point Loma.

While writing this story in the Lisbon Airport, I have truly come to realize how lucky I am to be in this country representing the community of San Diego, and what being Portuguese means to the youth of San Diego, and what being Portuguese-Amercian means to the Portuguese youth in America especially to their waterfalls and volcanic hot springs, I could not think of a more scenic and peaceful destination. Although we made numerous stops around the island, the fan favorite of our group was the “Lagoa das Sete Cidades,” which means “Lake of the Seven Cities.” This lake looked as though it was a framed “Van Gogh” painting, with blue and green waters meeting under a cobblestone bridge. In Sao Miguel we danced at the local Ginetes Festa and at Ponta Delgada’s City Nights, where the locals jumped out of their chairs to dance alongside us.

The second island was Terceira, where we stayed steps away from the beach and minutes from Angra Festa lights with colorful decorations. I would say my favorite memory from this island was dancing in the driveway of the family who so kindly hosted our group and drove us near and far. Dancing the Chamariño made my heart so full, and I will treasure it for the rest of her life. Balhinho doll to a lady who I’m sure was miles away at the University of Missouri, I know whenever I come home, there will always be Monday night dance practice. I truly had a fun and relaxing time in Madeira and created memories that will last a lifetime. Like normal Paulleiros, our group headed for the Cuis every day to soak up the sun and enjoy a mojito or two. My favorite memory was dancing in front of the church and handing my Balhinho doll to a lady who I’m sure will treasure it for the rest of her life. Watching her smile as she played with family was the type of thing we all heard stories about and I have never felt so welcomed in my whole life. Another fun gem about our stay in Terceira is that some of our dancers stayed in the home of the women who embroidered and sewed our minho costumes. It truly is such a small world.

The next island we hopped to aboard Sata Airlines was Pico, and for me, this was the absolute finest. For multiple reasons, I had the best times here, jumping 25 feet into Furna Bay while snorkeling in the breathtaking Atlantic. In addition to meeting family members, the people here truly appreciated our presence. The Santa Cruz natural pools were a fun experience for our group and a great escape from our San Diego sand.

From Pico, we headed to Madeira, dancing at the famous, Festa Da Lapa and Festa Da Banana in Madalena. One of those memories was the private dance we held for the vice president of Madeira at his residence and we were so honored. It was an incredible feeling to watch, as his eyes filled with tears, knowing the Portuguese youth in America appreciated their culture and brought it into his home, without even speaking the language.

I truly had a fan and relaxing time in Madeira and created memories that will last a lifetime. Like normal Paulleiros, our group headed for the Cuis every day to soak up the sun and enjoy a mojito or two. My favorite memory was dancing in front of the church and handing my Balhinho doll to a lady who I’m sure will treasure it for the rest of her life. Watching her smile as she played along to our performance of the Balhinho made my heart so full, and I truly realized how much the dancers mean to the Portuguese.

This trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I know personally, I wouldn’t have experienced four Portuguese islands; where I met a multitude of family members, and performed at a number of festas, without the grand efforts of Therese Garces and Evelyn Barandiaran. It took many spaghetti dinners to get us across the globe and I’m so proud to say I have toured and danced in the country my family is from while discovering my roots. Although people asked many times throughout our trip if “that blonde was actually Portuguese,” after this experience I now have a deeper respect for what that means and what our culture consists of, even if I don’t look it.

My 12 years as a Portuguese dancer have been nothing but amazing, and even though next year I will be miles away at the University of Missouri, I know whenever I come home, there will always be Monday night dance practice.

Left, in Madeira, the dance troupe performed at the famous Festa da Lapa.

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SHOP

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Ocean Beach is celebrating Small Business Saturday with a Passport to OB contest to encourage the community to shop local.

Shopping bags and other goodies before snapping a picture with the sand sculpture. Designed by Imperial Beach sand artist Leonard Gonzales, his sculpture will celebrate OB and shop small.

First observed in the United States in 2010, Small Business Saturday is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The merchant event encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick-and-mortar businesses that are small and local.

“It’s wonderful to have a day that focuses on small businesses, because they’re the ones that benefit the most from people spending their dollars in their business,” said Isabel Clark, OBMA programs director. “And that is what our association is all about. It’s a great vehicle to increase awareness about small businesses, and gives them an opportunity to give customers a chance to learn more about new and existing businesses.”

Clark said the centerpiece of OBMA’s Small Business Saturday campaign this year is the Shop Small OB Passport, wherein customers will get a card with the names of 26 participating merchants and their businesses on it that they can get punched for a chance at a future drawing.

“The more businesses you visit and get your card punched at, the better your odds are for winning a prize,” said Clark, adding the Passport program runs until Dec. 20.

“Then people turn in their cards and the drawing is held,” Clark said. “Participating businesses will have gift cards and other really cool things you can win.”

Passport participants include: Abbott Street Market, Apple Tree Supermarket, Arizona Cafe, Beach Sweets, Bone Appetit, Car’s Jars, Crystal Visions, Details SalonSpa, James Gang Printing Company, Lighthouse Ice Cream, OB People’s Organic Food Market, Ocean Beach Business Center, Pat’s Liquor, Pirate’s Cove Tiki Port, Raglan Public House, Reset Float Therapy, Shot From The Hart Photography, South Coast Surf Shop, South Coast Washines, Sunset Cliffs, Swanky Sugar, Synergy, Thistle Garden Floral Home, Tony’s, Sunshine Co. Saloon and Ocean Beach Main-Street Association.

Denny Knox, OBMA executive director, said Small Business Saturday is a great showcase.

“Ocean Beach has so many great local shops and restaurants,” she said. “We’re really excited to create exposure for the variety of retail, dining and services offered in our community to entice people to come to OB to shop small.”

“This is the first year we’ve done this on a scale, really doing a big push,” said Clark, adding, “Hopefully, it will become an annual thing, and we can expand it next year.”

Founded in 1978, the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association is comprised of area merchants and professionals dedicated to building a thriving business district that fulfills the needs of the neighboring community and visitors alike.

Learn more at OceanBeachSanDiego.com or shoplocalob.com.
SHOP SMALL
OCEAN BEACH

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY:
NOVEMBER 25, 2017

Join us at the foot of Newport Avenue from 9am to 4pm as we kick off the Passport to OB program and celebrate Small Business Saturday! We'll present a giant sand sculpture on the beach celebrating Ocean Beach and shopping small, and we'll be giving away shopping bags and other goodies at the grassy area at Abbott and Newport.

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Learn more at ShopLocalOB.com!
Find a best friend at Doggie Street Festival in Liberty Station

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

Two- and four-legged members of the public are invited to the ninth annual Doggie Street Festival Dog & Cat Adopt-A-Thon celebration of companion animals from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.

The event features more than 25 rescue groups from across San Diego County. On hand will also be a dazzling array of cool pet products and services, alongside pet professionals and veterinarians to advise on issues of spay/neuter, health, nutrition and training. Additionally, guests will be able to enjoy speakers, music and yummy eats.

New this year will be presentation of Festival Hero Awards to local search-and-rescue dogs and their humans who selflessly enter dangerous and challenging environments to rescue and save lives. The festival strives to showcase the essential bond between people and their extraordinary canine companions.

The annual Doggie Street Festival is the brainchild of event organizer Jude Artenstein, a San Diego-based filmmaker who is creator of the “Pet Lounge TV” series as well as the writer/director of the feature film “Love Always,” producer of “Break of Dawn” and line producer of "A Day Without A Mexican.”

SEE DOGS, Page 15

Salute The Season at Liberty Station

Each year, Liberty Station hosts a full event calendar during the holidays, known as Salute the Season. The community can find at least one festive event happening starting at the end of November through December. Salute the Season will kick off with its premier event, the Liberty Station Tree Lighting & Holiday Festivities, on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving.

Salute The Season at Liberty Station

It is that time to think about what will be on your holiday plate. Holidays should be for relaxing and spending time with the ones you love, don’t stress, let us do the work! We prepare delicious holiday meals with the highest quality ingredients and flavors. Pick up a whole roast beef, porchetta or a turkey. We’ll handle the cooking, you handle the praise. Roast is a lot of things: a sandwich shop, a meat shop, a place to pick up a last minute meal or a healthy salad. What unites everything we do is our singular commitment to craft exceptional, sustainably produced food that tastes great!

Roast Meat & Sandwich Shop

What: Dog and cat adopt-a-thon.
When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3.
Where: NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road.

SEE DOGS, Page 15
Liberty Station artist debuts colorful cat portraits exhibit

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Artist June Rubin has her “Cats The Encore,” a whimsical array of cat portraits in watercolor and mixed media, on month-long exhibit and for sale now at her Liberty Station Arts District studio in Suite 214 of Barracks 19 above See’s chocolates.

Her sale/exhibit kicks off Friday, Dec. 1 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the June Rubin Studio/Gallery at 2690 Historic Decatur Road 214.

Surprisingly not so much a cat lover herself (she’s allergic), Rubin said her muse for her most recent exhibit was actually a relative.

“The funny thing is, it’s my older sister, Linda, who is a huge cat lover,” said Rubin. “I could see how my sister, Linda, who is a huge cat lover, inspired me to do my very first cat lover,” said Rubin. “I could see how she prides herself on going ‘outside the lines.’ Many of her creations represent Jewish themes like Bar Mitzvah scrolls and Shalom pieces. Rubin comes from a family of talented, well-known Jewish artists. Her mother is a unique artist. Her sister creates mosaic pieces. Her brother is an artistic photographer. An active member of the San Diego Watercolor Society and chair of the Art Center San Diego Alumni Association, Rubin’s work has been exhibited in juried shows at the San Diego Watercolor Society, Athenaeum Library, Sophie’s Gallery, San Diego County Fair, ArtWalk NTC, and the Southwest Artists Association, where she was included in the “Top 100” juried exhibition. Recently she was an artist in residence in Yosemite National Park, teaching watercolors to all ages.

Rubin’s painting is notable for employing vivid colors in watercolor, oil, collage, and mixed media, expressing the rhythm and energy of her imagination. Her fanciful artwork is humorous as well as sophisticated, gleaned from her experiences, dreams, and travels to Indonesia, Japan, Israel, Europe, China and Mexico.

Rubin noted her small portraits on canvas starting at $40 make nice holiday gifts.

“People can enjoy my art and they don’t have to spend big bucks,” she said, adding she’ll be teaching Dewey Elementary School third-graders in Point Loma watercolors soon.

“Her Cats The Encore series features about 30 different felines includes one of Rubin’s favorites titled Ball Cat.

“It has the colors of that country, with a very loose feeling of a rice paddy in the background,” Rubin said of the artwork. “I just love it, and it really resonates with cat lovers. People like the whimsy — and the colors.”

For more information, visit junerubin.com.

Cats The Encore

When: Exhibit starts 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, runs through December.

Where: June Rubin Studio/Gallery at 2690 Historic Decatur Road 214.


DOGS

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

Explaining why she started ISF, Artenstein said, “Like many people, I was deeply affected by the 2008-09 economic crises, News stories chronicled abandoned dogs and cats left behind in empty houses — families losing jobs unable to keep their pets — shelters overflowing no longer accepting animals. Numerous heartbreaking consequences seemed destined to affect many innocent furry victims.”

When the recession hit, Artenstein was recuperating from a serious accident that shattered her knee, and was unable to walk for months.

“My golden retriever, Scout, was my constant companion,” she said. “As my health improved I was eager to do something for Scout and his four-legged friends — it would be my civic gratitude for his unconditional loyalty and friendship.”
SPORTS

Point Loma girls volleyball chasing state championship

By SCOTT HOPKINS | The Beacon

After nearly missing a local CIF championship, the girls of Point Loma High's volleyball team have set their sights on a state championship.

Indeed, the Lady Pointers have opened scoring in the game. But Oceanside came back to crush them the ninth-best regional team. The team has also been awarded a place in the CIF title. However, a different method of selection is used.

The team roster includes seniors Caitlin Brady, Sierra Caffo, Kylie Charlie Ekstrom. Juniors are Sophia Altobelli, Hailey Brockett, Olivia Rodriguez and Hunter Bell. Underclass members are sophomore Maggie Wolf and freshmen Abby Taddah and Jane Petrie.

Point Loma season ends with second-half Pirate barrage

By SCOTT HOPKINS | The Beacon

A second-half barrage of points by Oceanside High put an end to Point Loma's hopes for a state CIF title. The team has also been awarded a place in the CIF title.

Sophomore running back Gromyo Green should emerge as a top Pointer player next year. Green is listed as 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs only 135 pounds, but is very fast and able to make tackles miss.

Sophomore running back Gromyo Green should emerge as a top Pointer player next year. Green is listed as 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs only 135 pounds, but is very fast and able to make tackles miss.
Point Loma athlete Marcus Chischilly will be participating in the Stance ISA World Adaptive Surfing Championship in La Jolla on Nov. 29 through Dec. 3.

Chischilly lost his leg in an IED explosion in Iraq, but that doesn't stop him from doing what he loves: surfing and competing.

“Learning to surf again was not only therapeutic, it also challenged my body physically and it became something I enjoyed very much,” Chischilly said.

“The contest is a good opportunity to not only beat other international adaptive athletes, but it is also one of the biggest competitions you can participate in as an adaptive athlete,” Chischilly said.

“It also means a lot to me to compete for both Team USA and for the United States.”

The International Surfing Association (ISA) also announced that the Stance ISA World Adaptive Surfing Championship, presented by Vissla and the City of San Diego, will feature women’s divisions for the first time, highlighting the ISA’s dedication to promoting gender equality in both Para Surfing (also known as adaptive surfing) and surfing.

The event previously featured mixed gender divisions but will now adapt to accommodate the increase in women adaptive surfers worldwide. Of the six divisions that classify surfers based on their type of physical impairment, five will feature enough female participation to merit a separate division, which will ultimately crown the first-ever Women’s Adaptive Surfing World Champions.

In 2016, the event featured seven women from five countries across three divisions. The inclusion of separate women’s divisions has played a key role in more than doubling women’s participation in the 2017 edition.

Southern California-based surf brand, Vissla, has renewed as presenting sponsor of the event.
All Souls’ Episcopal Church, on Point Loma, will present an adaptation of Charles Dickens’s “A Christmas Carol” on Dec. 9 and 10. The two-man play has been adapted for the stage and is directed by Patricia Lynch. It features W. William Cobb as Ebenezer Scrooge and Raymond Lynch as a dozen other characters.

Cobb has recently retired from teaching theatre in Point Loma schools. He has performed as a folk singer and choral singer, as well as appearing on stage with Lyric Opera San Diego, Vanguard Theatre, and San Diego Musical Theatre.

Lynch has performed off-Broadway, at the Mark Taper Forum, and at Shakespeare festivals in Wisconsin, Colorado, and California. Locally, he has acted at the Coronado Playhouse, Pickwick Players, and the Old Globe. On television, his credits include playing Hot Lips Houlihan’s fantasy bridegroom on “M*A*S*H.” On the big screen, his credits include Sir Richard Attenborough’s “Chaplin.”

All Souls’ is hoping to re-emerge as a “go-to” place for concerts, art shows, and theatrical presentations. The Music on the Point series has been in existence for 21 years, and last spring the church hosted a photography exhibit by architect Robert Mosher (who designed All Souls’) and an art show by renowned artist Ludmila Pawlowska. The Bach Collegium is in residence at All Souls’, offering Bach at Noon concerts. Coming up in June will be Benjamin Britten’s opera for young performers, “Noyes Fludde,” based on the Biblical account of Noah’s Flood.

Performances of “A Christmas Carol” will be in Gooden Hall on the All Souls’ campus, located at the corner of Catalina and Chatsworth, in Point Loma. Performances begin at 7 p.m. on Dec. 9, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 10. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at allsoulspointloma.org.

Roots of Giving fair at Point Loma Nazarene

The Center for Justice and Reconciliation’s annual Roots of Giving fair brings artisans, farmers, immigrant businesses and other community members together on the PLNU campus to sell their fair trade and justly created goods. The fair runs from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, so stop by Café Lane before or after the Cider Celebration. Come grab some dinner and do some Christmas shopping all while doing good.

Santa Run in PB

Pacific Beach will be very merry indeed on Dec. 9, as more than 3,000 Santas take over Garnet Avenue for the fifth annual San Diego Santa Run, starting at 10 a.m. Hosted by High Performance Movement, the event consists of a series of waves, including a 5K Fun Run and one-mile runs that feature the Santa’s Little Helper Mile (for kids) and the Speedy Mile (for competitive Santas). Throughout the course, runners donning “Sunny Santa Suit” — complete with white beards, Santa hats and sunglasses — will get in the spirit as holiday music is performed live on corners along the route. Following the Santa Run, participants are invited to stick around for the 38th annual Pacific Beach Holiday Parade, down Garnet Avenue, beginning at 1 p.m. The parade is funded, in part, by revenue generated through the Santa Run and other events put on by High Performance Movement.

Peninsula Singers holiday show

Peninsula Singers will present “Glad Tidings: A Holiday Concert” 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8 at All Souls Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd. Repertoire will include a blend of old-style carols, newer selections and classical holiday favorites. Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for students, seniors and military. Children age 10 and under may attend for free. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit peninsulaingerssandiego.org.
OB Historical Society debuts movie about walks and talks

‘O.B. Walkabout-Talkabout’ stars Dean Hollenbeck

BY MIKE MCCARTHY | The Beacon

A special monthly meeting was recently held by the Ocean Beach Historical Society on Nov. 16 at St. Peter’s By The Sea Lutheran Church.

Members and guests met at the beautiful church hall across from Sunset Cliffs for the premier showing of the new movie: “O.B. Walkabout-Talkabout.”

Board members Kathy and Ray Blavatt produced the film, starring Dean Hollenbeck, exclusively for the OB Historical Society Archive Library.

Ocean Beach is known for its characters, and Hollenbeck is one of many known around the beach community. Basically, Hollenbeck loves to walk and talk. At 89 years old, Hollenbeck sometimes walks up to 16 miles a day, depending on how many people he stops to talk to.

Kathy and Ray Blavatt filmed Hollenbeck on several of his daily ventures as he spoke with other interesting longtime OBceans. These discussions were actually of historical interest as the tales and histories of living in OB for many years were shared with Hollenbeck.

Hollenbeck moved to Ocean Beach in 1948 and shares a lot of his history with those he meets on his daily walks.

Living history is unique to this community by the fact that so many moved here long ago, fell in love with Ocean Beach, and made this their home for life. Now they have the opportunity to share their stories with Hollenbeck and the OB Historical Society.

Featured film guests included Flickie Dormer, Virginia Davis, Shoeshine Willie, and Darlene the Garden Lady.

Virginia Davis, Ray Blavatt, Dean Hollenbeck, and Kathy Blavatt at St. Peter’s By The Sea Lutheran Church to watch the Ocean Beach Historical Society’s new film ‘O.B. Walkabout-Talkabout’.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCCARTHY

WALKS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The other cool thing is that even while you are working out, walking at a comfortable pace for you, the things you see can take your breath away, especially right here in the neighborhoods of Point Loma and Ocean Beach. Here are five walks that will take your breath away.

1.) The Sunset Linear Park stretching from Adair Street to Ladera Street along Sunset Cliffs Boulevard, south of the Ocean Beach Pier, is perhaps the favorite go-to place for both locals and visitors, respectively. The round-trip walk covers 2.6 miles and can be done within an hour. Allow extra time for selfie and ocean shots. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy the sunset, especially in the fall and winter when so often there are vibrant color shows in the clouds once the sun has gone down.

2.) The Bayside Trail at Cabrillo Boulevard, south of the Ocean Beach Pier, is the favorite go-to place for both locals and visitors, respectively. The round-trip walk covers 2.6 miles and can be done within an hour. Allow extra time for selfie and ocean shots. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy the sunset, especially in the fall and winter when so often there are vibrant color shows in the clouds once the sun has gone down.

3.) Luscomb’s Point to San Diego Yacht Club. The one-way walk is 1.7 miles; plan for a full day at 3.4 miles round-trip. Almost exactly halfway through this walk is a perfect stop for a coffee break at a Peet’s Coffee. The round-trip trek from Dog Beach to the pier is two miles. The pier itself stretches for just over a third of a mile over the ocean, the longest fishing pier on the West Coast. A must-have for lunch or even a light dinner is the lobster tacos at the Pier Café. Stay for the sunset and enjoy the sky show on the walk back to Dog Beach.

5.) For the Shelter Island Stroll, you can begin on either end of this small 1.2 mile-long peninsula. Originally a sandbank in San Diego Bay, Shelter Island is a visual goldmine of all things beautiful and interesting, any time of day or night.

The Bali Hai Restaurant is on the northern side, the Japanese Friendship Bell on the southern side. You’ll see everything from giant cargo ships to elegant cruise ships sliding through the bay, their giant wakes causing the moored boats to wobble on the ocean.

Every kind of bird, from brown pelicans to great blue herons and ospreys, make their home here. The pelicans that hang out at the Shelter Island are friends of the fishermen – or vice versa – who will toss the birds some of their own catch. Below the pier, sea lions will sometimes steal the fish for themselves. Shelter Island is a wonderful place to watch people play and the world go by. What’s more, the San Diego skyline provides a dramatic backdrop for the full moon rising during the spring and summer months. Walkabout International has a weekly group that meets at the Bali Hai each Thursday morning at 10 a.m.

Cynthia Robertson has been a reporter and photographer for newspapers in San Diego County since the 1980s. She has written a novel, which will be published in 2018. Email her at c1g2robertson@gmail.com
**HOLIDAYS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

Rady Children’s Hospital at 6:15 p.m. Throughout the evening there will be entertainment, shopping and more. The main event is a tree lighting, which will happen throughout Salute the Service. The lighting of the 88-foot Norfolk pine at Liberty Station will take place at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29.

**Friday Night Liberty’s Holiday Extravaganza** from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1: Connect with working artists, enjoy dance, theatre and musical performances as well as children's activities. For more information, visit liberrytheatre.com.
SHOWCASE OF HOMES

City Council approves plan to replace West Mission Bay Drive bridge

A plan nearly two decades in the making to replace the decrepit West Mission Bay Drive bridge over the San Diego River was unanimously approved Nov. 14 by the City Council.

The $155 million project will replace the 1950-era four-lane bridge that connects the Midway area and Mission Bay Park with two three-lane bridges. Up to $140 million of that sum will come from federal grants. The remainder will be paid for by the city.

The West Mission Bay Drive Bridge was constructed in the early 1950s to meet the demands and standards of its time. It was built with four travel lanes, 5-foot-wide sidewalks, concrete pier walls on timber piles and a concrete median barrier. Because the daily traffic volumes on the bridge exceeds its current capacity, the California Department of Transportation evaluated and classified the bridge as functionally obsolete.

The existing bridge will be replaced with two three-lane parallel structures for both northbound and southbound traffic. This project is federally funded through the Federal Highway Administration Highway Bridge Program. The project is located on West Mission Bay Drive between Interstate 8 and Sea World Drive, approximately 1.25 miles west of the Interstate 5/Interstate 8 (I-5/I-8) interchange within the City of San Diego.

The project will replace the existing four-lane bridge with two separate three-lane structures, providing an improved transportation link across the San Diego River.

The improvements include two new parallel bridge structures with three travel lanes in each direction; and a Class 1 (completely separated right of way) bike path on both bridges.
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