Surfers compete in OB at Revolt Summer Surf Series

More than 130 surfers from four different countries – Peru, Venezuela, South Africa and the U.S. – competed in the ninth annual Revolt Summer Surf Series’ second contest this year at Ocean Beach on Saturday, Aug. 15. Jacob Mariae Seekely of La Jolla won the Men’s Pro Am and Mariusz Shaw of San Clemente won the Women’s Pro Am. The third contest is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, north of Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach. The season finale will take place south of Crystal Pier on Saturday, Oct. 3, during the annual Pacific Beach Fest.

This year’s finale includes a Fire Fighters Charity Surf event, with all the proceeds going to the San Diego Burn Institute, plus The Battle at BeachFest – an SUP Cross event that will bring elite stand-up paddle competitors from around the globe.

— THOMAS MEULLE

Video witness: Officer ‘hastily’ shot unarmed man in Midway District

A San Diego police officer’s killing of an unarmed, mentally ill man in April was unprovoked, according to a sworn statement from someone who viewed security camera footage of the incident.

On April 30, San Diego police officer Neal Browder shot and killed Fridoon Rawshan Nehad in an alley outside an adult bookstore in the Midway neighborhood. Browder was responding to a 911 call about a man who was threatening people with a knife. Nehad turned out to be unarmed.

— WESLEY DOYLE

A policy document proponents say will promote the small-town charm of Ocean Beach while guarding against bulky, out-of-scale development passed its last major hurdle when it was approved unanimously Aug. 13 by the California Coastal Commission.

At press time, it was unclear whether the document, known officially as the Ocean Beach Community Plan and Local Coastal Program, would have to be formally ratified by San Diego City Council, which passed the plan in a slightly different form in July of 2014. But the Coastal Commission’s action makes it clear that, for all intents and purposes, the one square mile that makes up the community of OB has a new set of policies designed to guide growth for the next 20 years. A community plan is intended to be a blueprint for the future and contains specific proposals for land uses and public improvements. The Coastal Commission’s action capped a 14-year saga to replace the 1975 Ocean Beach Precise Plan, the oldest planning document in the city.

Ordinarily, community plans – there are more than 50 of them in the city – are drawn up by community members. After 14 years, OB has its plan

— BY ANTHONY S. DE GARATE

Coastal Commission gives its approval

‘(The video) was shocking to me and, I believe, to anyone else who sees it.’

WESLEY DOYLE VIEWED THE SECURITY FOOTAGE

Browder failed to turn on his body-worn camera before the incident, prompting Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman to change department policy to ensure

SEE SHOOTING, Page 4

SEE PLAN, Page 5

For the full story, see page 4 of this edition.

Maya Saulino (above) of San Marcos carves a wave during her first heat Saturday morning. Saulino finished fourth overall in the Women’s Pro Am. (Below) Vince Boulanger of Ocean City, Md., shreds some surf on his way to the semi-final round.

PHOTOS BY THOMAS MEULLE

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Volume 27, Number 13
San Diego Community Newspaper Group
Thursday, August 20, 2015
Welcome to Point Loma • 2BR/1BA • $649,000
Charming home in Point Loma, walking distance to schools. Gleaming wood floors, updated kitchen and bath, large fenced yard, spacious outdoor decks, room for vegetable garden. Coming in September. Call for details.
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Fine Art from Point Loma Artists
Point Loma Artists Association (PLAA) is a juried arts organization with its members residing in the peninsula area, which is one of the loveliest and oldest neighborhoods in San Diego. Members create art using a variety of media, from traditional to experimental, both two and three dimensional. Watercolors, acrylics, photography, collage, textiles, pottery, sculpture, and fused glass are represented.
We participate in events during the year that showcase our art and contribute to community culture in Pt. Loma.

Point Loma Artists Association
Art in the Park
On the lawn of the Pt Loma Hervey Library
Aug 22 10 AM - 3 PM
Original fine art for sale including fused glass, paintings, photography, pottery, mosaics, woodturnings and more.
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Traditional 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors, pella windows, 2 bay windows, 2 car garage with work room.
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Close to Bessemer Beach, San Diego Yacht Club and Point Loma Village, the historical and architectural details plus modern amenities define this timeless elegant 1914 Craftsman.
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POINT LOMA | $1,945,000
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Catrina Russell
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www.Catrinarussell.com

JUST SOLD

POINT LOMA | $695,000
In Escrow. 2br 1ba with remodelled kitchen with SS appliances, open concert floor plan and attached 2 car garage. Large bonus room. Pool-sized backyard.
Catrina Russell
(619) 226-BUYS (2897)
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SOLD

POIN LOMA | $825,000
3brs, 2bas, gorgeous inlaid hardwood floors, plaster walls, open beamed ceilings & 2 car garage. Tranquil backyard to a lush canyon & tree-top views.
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SOLD

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CLAIREMONT | $599,000
This stunning 3br 1.5ba and unit leaves nothing to be desired. Remodeled from top to bottom, 2 balconies and a very large private patio.
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POIN LOMA | $399,000
This stunning 3br 1.5ba end unit leaves nothing to be desired. Remodeled from top to bottom. 2 balconies and a very large private patio.
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POINT LOMA | $825,000
2 story 3 bedroom 3 bath home with 2 view decks. This community consists of 98 single family homes on 12 acres.
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POINT LOMA | $799,000
Traditional 3 bedroom, 2 bath, hardwood floors, pella windows, 2 bay windows, 2 car garage with work room.
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POINT LOMA | $409,000
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SOLD

POINT LOMA | $432,000
2 bedroom, 1.5 bath in Sea Colony!
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WWW.2744CHATSWORTH.COM

SOLD

POINT LOMA | $695,000
In Escrow. 2br 1ba with remodelled kitchen with SS appliances, open concert floor plan and attached 2 car garage. Large bonus room. Pool-sized backyard.
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(619) 226-BUYS (2897)
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JUST SOLD
Balboa Ave. bank robber gets seven years in prison

By NEAL PUTNAM | The Beacon

A bank robber who crashed his truck into a San Diego police car in the Midway area has been sentenced to seven years and eight months in state prison.

Oscar Esteban Valle, 28, held up the Wells Fargo bank branch on Balboa Avenue near Genesee Avenue in Claremont at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 20, 2014.

The money in a bank bag had a GPS track embedded in the cash, and San Diego police followed Valle to the Midway District. Valle crashed his truck into a patrol vehicle and another car after driving the wrong way on Interstate 8 at the Sports Arena Boulevard exit ramp. He fled on foot, with money falling out of a bag he carried, said prosecutor Jim Koerber. Some people began picking up the money, and most of the $9,800, if not all, was recovered, Koerber said. For that reason, he added that Valle was not ordered to pay any restitution.

Koerber asked San Diego Superior Court Judge Timothy Walsh for an 11-year sentence.

Court ordered to pay any restitution.

In a sworn statement filed in federal court, Wesley Doyle, an employee of KFRO, said he watched the footage at least 20 times. Doyle said Browder did not have his emergency lights turned on when he arrived, got out of his car and took a relaxed stance toward Nehad. Then, when Nehad was about 15 feet away, Browder raised his weapon and shot Nehad in the chest.

The video, Doyle said in the statement, “was shocking to me and, I believe, to anyone else who sees it. From what I recall, Officer Browder did not make any physical movement in an attempt to communicate with Fridoon, i.e., raise his hand indicating to stop. And Officer Browder did not use any other measures, such as a Taser, against Fridoon. He did not even get into a shooting stance. The shooting appeared to be unprovoked; Officer Browder appeared to shoot Fridoon hastily.”

Doyle said in the statement that Nehad slowed his pace toward Browder before the shooting and that Nehad appeared to come to a complete stop before Browder pulled the trigger. The video did not record any sound.

In an interview with Voice of San Diego, Doyle said that the video shows that the shooting was unjustified.

“When you see the video, it’s obvious he was not doing anything threatening,” Doyle said.

San Diego police have completed their criminal investigation into Nehad’s death, and the case is under review by District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, a DA spokesman said.

The shooting – and the video – were instantly controversial.

The San Diego Police Department has had the security camera footage since the aftermath of the shooting, and has refused to release it publicly despite public records requests, calls for transparency from interest groups and protests. Like body camera footage, the department is treating the security camera video as evidence and reasons is it therefore exempt from disclosure under state law. SDPD didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

“There’s a good reason why they don’t want this video to come out,” Doyle said. “It makes them look really bad.”

Days after first viewing the tape, Doyle said he contacted the offices of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City Councilwoman Marti Emerald, who heads the Council’s public safety committee, and Rep. Scott Peters to tell them that the video of the shooting was disturbing.

No one called him back, Doyle said, but instead two SDPD homicide detectives visited him unannounced at work to interview him about the tape. Representatives for Faulconer, Emerald and Peters did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis announced Aug. 4 that William John Cooper has pleaded guilty in the United Kingdom to three counts of harassment and one count of violating a restraining order in connection with a bomb threat he made to La Jolla Country Day School by phone and harassing emails he sent in February of this year.

Sentencing in Britain is set for Tuesday, Sept. 1. Cooper is also charged by the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office with making a bomb threat and phone harassment.

A warrant was issued for Cooper’s arrest by county law enforcement on May 27, because he carried out his threats while residing in England, officials there are able to charge Cooper and carry out the prosecution for the crimes he committed against individuals in San Diego.

Cooper was arrested by Hampshire Constabulary on June 26 at his home in Southampton, Hampshire, England.
The owner of a “perpetual remodel” on Plum Street in Point Loma has resumed work to complete his half-finished mansion, including needed property improvements like public sidewalk replacement.

“The property’s owner, Francisco Mendílola, has apparently done just enough work to satisfy the court. But he hasn’t appeased neighbors skeptical his project will ever be finished.

Local reaction against the unfinished housing project, which has been years in the making, has been strong.

“Eight years and counting … how much longer do residents have to endure this blighted building?”

JOHN PEDERSEN NEARBY NEIGHBOR

Mendílola, who has been in the city – don’t require approval from the Coastal Commission, which met this month at the Chula Vista City Council Chambers because Ocean Beach is located in the coastal zone, the Commission reviewed the plan to ensure compliance with state coastal protection laws.

When the City Council approved the plan last year, many observers assumed Coastal Commission approval was a fait accompli. But Mendílola’s work has been held accountable for the hardships placed on neighboring residents – Nobody downtown cares – Guys show up next door and start whittling down from 30 to a handful, said Brian Schoenfisch, principal planner with the city of San Diego. But as the meeting began, the two sides were at an impasse. Coastal staff said the plan still lacked sufficient teeth in three areas: ensuring affordable overnight lodging, protection of environmentally sensitive habitat and shoreline protection.

It became the task of the Commission to choose between the wording offered by the two staffs, who generally were in agreement of the official and public draft language. The discussion ended in a 3-2 vote, with some cases disagreed about such arcane things as the appropriate place in the document to include the language.

Plan proponents who met before the meeting at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center supporting blue T-shirts with the words “Keep the Ocean Clean and Beautiful” and traveled together on a bus rented by the Ocean Beach Town Council (OBTC) were clearly growing weary of the exercise, and traveling together on a bus rented by the Commission to approve the plan once and for all with the city’s language. “It’s time,” said Manny Pellanier, former chair of the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB), who has chaired a committee to oversee development of the plan since the process began in 2002.

“No document is ever perfect. Delaying this further only hurts,” Pellanier said. Local businessmen and OBPB member Craig Klein agreed. “Get it put in jail, or be ordered to do public work service.”

Braun said Judge Rubin indicated that “if the sidewalk is not completed and will remain so, the plaintiff does not slip through the cracks,” added Braun, noting the next court date is Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 9 a.m. in Department 19 before Judge Rubin. The Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) discussed the Plum Street situation at a meeting in November 2014.

“No action was taken by PCPB on this matter,” said group chair Julia Quinn, of USD. “After a presentation by a representative from the City Attorney’s Office (CAO), a motion to send a letter failed.” Quinn added the consensus of a majority of PCPB board members was to “let the legal process be undertaken by the CAO be allowed to be completed.” Quinn said she is not aware of any extensions whatsoever, “but Schlegel, the court simply reiterated the deadlines as stated in the plea agreement stated Jan.

Edward Jones ranks No. 6 on FORTUNE magazine’s Best Companies to Work For List

Financial services firm Edward Jones ranked No. 6 on FORTUNE magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work For 2015” list in its 16th appearance on the prestigious list, according to John McKean, a Financial Advisor in the Point Loma community.

Edward Jones’ 16 FORTUNE rankings also include top 10 finishes for 12 years, top five rankings for six years and consecutive No. 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003. Last year, the firm ranked No. 4 overall.

In the FORTUNE survey of associates, for which the ranking is predominantly based, 94 percent of Edward Jones associates said they have pride in the work they do. And 96 percent of associates say that overall, Edward Jones is a great place to work.


FORTUNE partners annually with Great Place to Work to conduct the most extensive employee survey in corporate America to identify the 100 Best Companies to Work For. Two-thirds of a company’s survey score is based on the results of the Trust Index Employee Survey, which is sent to a random sample of employees from each company. This survey asks questions related to their attitudes about management’s credibility, overall job satisfaction and camaraderie. The other third of the score is based on the company’s responses to the institute’s Culture Audit, which includes detailed questions about pay and benefit programs, workplace practices, leadership effectiveness, employee training and open-ended questions about hiring practices, internal communications, training, recognition programs and diversity efforts.

In addition to the FORTUNE honor, Edward Jones was ranked No. 1 on the People’s Picks: 20 Great Workplaces in Financial Services list at the workplace review web site, Great Rated! That ranking comes from an anonymous survey of Edward Jones associates and also is “fiercely competitive.” Pellanier said the best way to measure employee satisfaction is to conduct an employee satisfaction survey, which Great Rated! uses to compare employees to other workplace culture experts at Great Place to Work.

Edward Jones has been recognized for its outstanding construction issues, which all his completion dates for the safety housing project, which has been years in the making, has been strong.

“Eight years and counting … how much longer do residents have to endure this blighted building?”

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Three hotels planned for Liberty Station at former Wally Park San Diego site

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

The Corky McMillin Cos. and InterMountain Management LLC have announced they're joining efforts to develop a 650-room, three-brand hotel destination at Liberty Station in Point Loma. The new hotels will sit on a 15-acre site that is former home to the successful Wally Park San Diego, an airport park-and-fly company that is ceasing operations after 13 years.

Construction for the $150 million project is expected to begin soon, with the first hotel opening in the summer of 2017.

"The NTC Arts & Culture District is very excited to have another 650 to 1,000 people a day staying at hotels within walking distance to our galleries, museums, cinemas and cafes," said Alan Ziter, executive director of the NTC Foundation.

"With many other shuttered military bases around the country sitting vacant and abandoned, with these new hotels, San Diego has made another significant advancement in the creation of a new walkable neighborhood at Liberty Station that the community envisioned for the former Naval Training Center," established in 2000, the NTC Foundation's mission is to renovate Liberty Station's 28-acre Arts & Culture District, transforming it into a regional arts and culture hub while creating new community gathering spaces.

The new hotel development at Liberty Station will consist of a 181-room Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton, a 222-room TownePlace Suites by Marriott, and a 247-room Embassy Suites by Hilton.

Dewey Weaver, owner of InterMountain Management, said, "The three brands are complementary and form a synergistic urban destination that will serve business travelers, leisure visitors and airport 'short stay' guests alike." We are extremely excited to start construction on this long-awaited hotel site at Liberty Station," said Scott McMillin, chair of The Corky McMillin Cos.

"This will be the geographic transition from Liberty Station to Downtown San Diego. The waterfront location will be a preferred destination for an array of travelers and guests," Redeveloped by The Corky McMillin Cos. and the City of San Diego, the former Naval Training Center, now named Liberty Station, is one of San Diego's largest and most successful redevelopment projects.

The 361-acre community includes parks and open space, shopping villages and restaurants, an arts and cultural district, a golf course, hotels, schools and homes for nearly 350 families. Liberty Station has become a prime San Diego real estate project.

First medical marijuana dispensary opens in Midway District

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

The first medical marijuana dispensary legally approved in Council District 2 under the city’s new ordinance opened more than a year ago has opened for business in the Midway district.

The Point Loma Patients Co-Op, at 1342 Hancok St., held its grand opening Aug. 15 after completing a lengthy vetting and permitting process with the City of San Diego.

The Midway district is a hodgepodge of commercial, industrial, office and warehouse land uses, plus limited residential, in a transitional area bordering Old Town, Point Loma, Pacific Beach and downtown San Diego.

"Doing things by the book and with community input was very important to us," said Adam Knopf, co-op owner. "I understand that there have been concerns in the community about dispensaries. But we are committed to being good neighbors and will demonstrate that our business will have a positive impact."

In addition to meeting strict permitting requirements, the co-op is housed in a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building, meaning that it meets stringent national standards for energy efficiency and environmental responsibility.

The dispensary will operate Mondays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. It will offer a variety of treatment options, including concentrates, juices, flowers, vaporizer pens and edibles. It will also offer delivery service and promotional discounts for first-time patients.

To obtain medical cannabis products from the co-op, patients must have a valid California driver license or ID and an original 8-by-10 doctor’s medical cannabis recommendation and must become a member of the cooperative.

The cooperative is known for the quality and variety of its medical cannabis products and has won a number of awards, including top honors in three categories at the 2015 Cannabis Professionals Cup.

The San Diego Planning Commission voted 4-2 in April to give final approval to the cooperative.

In February of 2014, City Council passed an ordinance allowing medical marijuana dispensaries but required them to be no closer than 1,000 feet from one another, schools, churches, daycare centers or other youth-oriented facilities.

The approval effectively kills the chances of at least four other nearby proposed dispensaries. A maximum of four dispensaries are allowed in each of the city’s nine council districts. Some council districts, however, do not have zoning that would allow any dispensaries to be sited there.

The local battleground over medical marijuana and states’ rights versus federal law dates back publicly, when 56 percent of California’s voters gave the thumbs-up to the Compassionate Use Act. Despite approval by state voters, the federal government maintains that marijuana remains illegal under U.S. law. Today, about half of the nation’s states allow the sale and use of medical marijuana.

Marijuana has been legalized for recreational use in Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington state and Washington, D.C. Legalization could be on the California election ballot in 2016. For more information, visit npbrc.org/.
Thank you, 2015 Summer Concerts Volunteers!

Gate Greeters
Shawn Fettel, Heather Stone, MADCAPS, Boy Scouts-Pack 500, Community Kids, Point Loma High School Instrumental Music Leadership.

Raffle Ticket Sellers
Margaret Cooper, George Klein, Lynda Cook, Lynne Doyle, ReNee Souza, Ryan Burger Family.

Concerts Committee
Martha Phillips, Chair
Wendy Gillespie, Treasurer
Leslie Harrington, Secretary
Kerri De Rosier, Marketing Director
Bob Randall, Music Director, Main Stage
Clint Bruce, Music Director, Junior Stage
Johnny Bell, Stage Manager
Kristin Gohlke, Director of Volunteers/Social Media/Raffle
Faye Fentin, Sponsor Liaison
Jody Applebaum, Security
Bill Klees, Community Liaison
Dave De Rosier, Main Stage Emcee, Field Logistics
The true state of San Diego’s music community is possibly best judged by the amount and quality of new young talent emerging. If so, then the kids are all right, with bands like the Bassics and singer-songwriters like Raelee Nikole, emerging into the spotlight recently and with events for under 21s increasing.

One such up and coming young group, with some band members still attending Canyon Crest Academy, is the Santana Brothers B.A.N.D., performing at the Ocean Beach Farmers Market at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The group first got together in December 2011, built around the core of brothers Brendan (guitar), Alexander (drums), Nathan (vocals) and Daniel (bass) Santana, with the actual size of the group varying up to eight members, depending on the job and budget of the client. Joining The Santana Brothers are Ryan Faison on rhythm guitar, sax and keys; on vocals, either Stellita or Andrea Blea; keys James Ferguson, and sometimes a percussionist is also added.

 Though all loved music since an early age, the actual formation of the band was a way of family bonding. “The band was formed by the brothers to support Nathan, who is autistic and has epilepsy,” explained mother and manager Gabriela Santana.

“Nathan always enjoyed singing; he tried bass but found that it was difficult because of some of his fine motor delays. Nathan’s dream was to sing in a band, so from a young age Nathan was always singing, Living with him was like being in a musical,” she said. The family had also been told that music would be good therapy for Nathan. “Incredibly the seizures that so dramatically affect Nathan’s everyday life do not affect the part of the brain where music is stored thus allowing Nathan to memorize lyrics without any difficulty.”

The band is a family affair, top to bottom. “Our parents are great; they support us in everything, they are the drivers, the roadies, and our mom books the band as well as manages a lot of the paperwork,” Brendan commented. “The balancing act is very difficult because we have school, work and we are all competitive swimmers. Two of us take it really seriously, and this next year is an Olympic year, so it will be extra challenging.”

So far the band is primarily performing cover tunes, though they have written a pair of original songs. According to Alexander, “If we had to pick (crowd pleasers), it’s probably Stevie Ray Vaughan’s tunes, some of the classic rock like ‘Separate Ways’ and ‘No One Like You.’ Right now ‘Uptown Funk’ is huge.” As might be expected considering their surname, Carlos Santana has been a big influence.

“I tried several instruments but immediately gravitated to the guitar,” Brendan said. “I grew up listening to Carlos Santana and he was always a big inspiration. My favorite song in our set is the Santana medley, which includes: ‘Smooth,’ ‘Corazon Espinado,’ ‘Black Magic Woman’ and ‘Oye Como Va,’ because artistically it gives me more freedom to express myself. I can jam more.”

Though they are in the fledgling stage of their musical career, The Santana Brothers are thrilled with things so far. “We would love to get discovered like any other musicians, but realistically we see it as a great way to spend time together,” Brendan said. “We will always have the love of music to share. Our favorite thing about being a musician is bringing the gift of music to people and watching the enjoyment they get,” he continued. “Music changes people’s lives. We see how it helped our brother.”
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Find a new best friend at Doggie Street Festival in Liberty Station

By NICOLE SOURS LARSON | THE BEACON

If you've been considering adding a new furry friend to your family, don't dawdle—visit the Doggie Street Festival, returning to Liberty Station on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Whether you're looking for a Chi-huahua, a Labrador or a silly, charming mixed breed of puzzling origins—dog or cat—your future best friend may be waiting to greet you at one of the festival's many participating rescues.

The seventh annual free family-oriented fair, the region's largest adoption event, returns to its original Liberty Station location at NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road. Event hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking is available in Lot 1 on Cushing Road and elsewhere.

“IT’s a good location for everyone, accessible with good free parking,” explained founder and organizer Jude Artenstein, a filmmaker and “Pet

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Pier plunge
San Diego Junior Lifeguard Lia De Este and her mother Robin take the plunge from the Ocean Beach Pier (above) into the turbulent waters below on Monday, Aug. 17.

The twice-annual San Diego Junior Lifeguard Pier Jump is the culmination of weeks of training by the young guards, aged 9 to 16 along with some brave parents.

(Left) Junior lifeguards celebrate and encourage others to jump after they jumped.

PHOTO BY JOHN COCZOSA

Annual Fur Ball on Aug. 22 to raise funds for SD Humane Society

Some 600 people and nearly 300 dogs are expected for the 29th annual Fur Ball on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 6 to 11 p.m. at San Diego Humane Society (SDHS), 5500 Gaines St.

A dog-friendly event, the Fur Ball is an evening of exquisite dining, enjoyable dancing, live music, raffle drawing, appealing live and silent auctions and much more—all to raise money to support animals in the community and fund vital community programs and services for them.

This year, the Fur Ball will honor The Akaloa Resource Foundation and Phil Pace, owner of Phil’s BBQ in the Midway district, for their generous contributions provided to animals in the community. For more information or to see current animals available for adoption, visit sdhumane.org.

“Phil Pace has been a generous and dedicated supporter of SDHS and companion animals for many years,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, the nonprofit’s president/CEO.

“Giving back to the community is something Phil knows a lot about, particularly to children and animals. In addition to his support of SDHS, Phil’s newest project is designating five acres of his 20-acre property for horse rescue and equine therapy—all to help animals in need of a second chance. We’re grateful for all Phil Pace does for this community and proud to honor him at our 29th annual Fur Ball.”

The event, one of SDHS’s largest fundraising events, will feature a cocktail hour for people and their canine friends.

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Gulls choose veteran radio voice for season

SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON
The San Diego Gulls selected a local radio veteran as the team’s on-air voice for its inaugural season in the American Hockey League.

Craig Elsten’s voice is familiar to fans of the San Diego Gulls, where he has been their play-by-play voice for the past six seasons. He is also a pre and post-game host on the Mighty 1090-AM Padres broadcasts and hosts a talk show on the station.

The Gulls, the top affiliate team of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, recently announced all games will be broadcast on either Mighty 1090-AM or ESPN 1700-AM.

“Craig has well-established credibility in this market,” said Gulls president of business operations Art Segal. “He is a storyteller. We feel that Craig has the ability to create an exciting call that will appeal to new and existing Gulls and Ducks fans as well as hardcore San Diego sports fans willing to give us a try.”

Elsten resides in La Mesa with his wife Mitzi and 4-year-old son James.

The Gulls also announced a two-game exhibition schedule, with both games against the Ontario Reign, the Los Angeles Kings’ new top affiliate.

The first game will be played Oct. 2 in Ontario, followed by an Oct. 5 meeting at home against the Ontario Reign, the Los Angeles Kings’ new top affiliate.

Fan interest in the Gulls has been strong, with more than 3,000 fans signing up for season tickets so far.

Pointe sport sweeps title for 1st time

SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON
A member of the Point Loma High School tennis team joined a longtime tradition with the victory in the doubles title.

Ivan Thamma, who will begin his junior year next month, teamed with Bryce Pereira, a senior, and the team took the title, but not without a brief case of nervousness that peaked during the first set of the finals.

“I was definitely nervous in the final,” said Thamma. “After the first set, the nerves just went away, and we started playing our game, relaxed and focused. We’d never been in such a big place, but after the first set losses, we got ourselves back together and started playing.”

The two have played together since the age of 12.

“After our injury forced Thamma to withdraw from a recent doubles tournament with Pereira, Thamma said, “I had to make it up to Bryce in Kalamazoo.”

As a freshman at PFLHS, Thamma teamed with fellow ninth grader Keegan Smith to win the San Diego CIF section doubles title.

Pointe football season preview: first game Aug. 29

SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON
The Point Loma Pointers’ 2015 football season gets under way later this month, and it includes games against two teams that were CIF finalists last year and others that earned playoff spots.

Head coach Mike Hastings guided his squad to a 9-3 record last season before Madison eliminated the Pointers from Div. I playoffs in an unforgettable CIF scheduling matchup just 14 days after the Warhawks dismissed the Dogs for the Western League title.

The Warhawks were thus responsible for two losses on the Pointer schedule, and this year’s game, set for Oct. 16 at Madison, is surely circled on both teams’ calendars.

Homecoming, a major date for Pointer fans, takes place Oct. 2, when Hoover’s Cardinals fly into Pete Ross Stadium.

Scripps Ranch joins the Western League this year along with the Pointers, Madison, Mission Bay and La Jolla. A preview of the 2015 Pointers season:

• 3 p.m. Aug. 29, El Camino, Home. Saturday triple-header with Freshman (1:00) and JV (12:30) also playing. Last year, Pointers won 38-28.
• 7 p.m. Sept. 4, Ramona, Away. Pointer fans make the long trek to see the Bulldogs, who hung an early season loss (7-6) on the Pointers last year before going 8-3 overall (9-1 in Palomar League).
• 3 p.m. Sept. 12, Lincoln, Home. Official Saturday “Kickoff Game” against rival Hornets, who finished 6-6 overall (2-2 in Eastern League) before a quarterfinal loss to San Marcos in CIF Div. II quarterfinals. Last year, the Pointers won 49-20.
• 6:30 p.m. Sept. 18, Sierra, Away. The Conquistadors return to the Pointer schedule after an absence of several years. Last year, the team struggled, going 2-8 overall and falling to 1-3 in the City League. They did not qualify for the CIF playoffs.
• 3 p.m. Sept. 25, Olympian, Home. The Pointers also return to the Pointer schedule.

Last year, the team finished 4-7 overall and 2-1 in the Metro Mesa League before dropping in first round game to Vista by a score of 35-14.

• 3 p.m. Oct. 26, Hoover, Home. The Cardinals had a resurgence last season, posting a 10-3 overall record (4-0 to win the City League title). They went all the way to the CIF Div. II Championship game before falling to Christian.
• Oct. 9, bye week.
• 3 p.m. Oct. 16, Madison, Home. Pointers are eager to get back to the Warhawks, who beat them twice in 14 days last year (36-14 and 49-28) costing the Pointers the Western League title and eliminating them from CIF Div. II playoffs. Last year’s game, set for Oct. 16 at Madison, is surely circled on both teams’ calendars. Pointers fans should make the trip to see the Dogs, who hung an early season loss (7-6) on the Pointers last year before going 8-3 overall (9-1 in Palomar League).

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Tickets Now on Sale for Taste of Old Town

Enjoy the Beauty of Old Town tickets

The first time Taste of Old Town event, presented by Tequila Herradura last year, will return to the streets of Old Town Fan Diego on Thursday, Sept 10, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Event chairman Chuck Ross of Old Town Hospitality Family Corp., the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant, El Patio de Old Town businesses are providing a variety of food and entertainment, including 100 different dishes from the best in Old Town.

“Nearly 1,000 San Diego Islandaze through the streets of Old Town last year for the sell-out event, sampling selections of spirits and beer paired with culinary specialties,” Ross said. “Participating restaurants and tequila sponsors said it was wildly successful. We received glowing but rare reviews from the public as well.”

Produced by the Old Town Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Tequila Herradura, Taste of Old Town tickets are now available for $39 per person at tasteofoldtown.com. Designated drivers can purchase food-only tickets for $25. Ross said prices will go up $5 if people wait until the day of the event and they may risk missing out altogether.

“We sold out last year so we recommend people purchase their tickets ahead of time,” Ross explained.

Ross added that Old Town Trolley Tours will be providing free shuttle service throughout the event, so that attendees can become to visit each of the participating restaurants, restaurants, tequila brands and other Old Town businesses in an easy and enjoyable variety of wafle prices.


Stagecoach Days: Celebrating the Wild West in San Diego

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is celebrating travel and transportation in the area of rail transportation during “Stagecoach Days.” Come join in the old-fashioned fun at the mid-1800s from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday in August.

Sponsored by Vista de Reyes and Breton’s Old Town, the event features a silent auction each Saturday such as Days of the Aquinas, Women of the West, Soldiers and Sinners, Turnover and Taste of the Past. Attendees will enjoy afternoons filled with activities that reflect life in early San Diego and celebrate the West’s heritage. Through living history activities and demonstrations, music and songs, visitors will gain an appreciation for early modes of transportation and daily life. All activities are geared toward chil- dren ages 6 and up.

“This year’s Stagecoach Days will be the best in our park’s history,” stated Event Coordinator Gregg Giacopuzzi. “We have added many more family-friendly activities to the event this year as a way of welcoming back our visitors who have missed the park’s Stagecoach Days.”

The stagecoach Days schedule in Old Town.

30th August: “Main Street分离” – The California History Through thousands of people have passed through, seeking their fortunes up north. California State Parks will present demonstrations and activities that were part of the lives of those people who entered the...
Coasterr officially opens on Harbor Island

Cohn Restaurant Group debuts $15M waterfront restaurant

After nearly a decade in the making, Cohn Restaurant Group has announced the opening of Coasterra, the $15 million bayfront modern Mexican restaurant, lounge and event space on Harbor Island.

The 28,000-square-foot venue introduces a combination of panoramic views of San Diego’s downtown skyline, carefully crafted Mexican dishes, and tequila-focused cocktails. Cohn Restaurant Group partnered with Sunroad Enterprises on this one-of-a-kind project.

“We’ve spent the past nine years developing Coasterra with the intention of building a truly iconic San Diego restaurant and event space. The most common reaction upon walking through the front door is, ‘Wow!’ and that’s exactly what we were going for,” said David Cohn, founder of Cohn Restaurant Group. “The San Diego views are unparalleled, seating is plentiful, and we’ve worked really hard to provide the same exceptional service and delicious food that our restaurant guests have come to know and expect.”

Design

Coasterra’s striking design comes from a contemporary local architect, the late Graham Downes (Graham Downes Architecture). Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm Downes and his design team spent several years drawing up the midcentury-influenced restaurant and event center with one central inspiration — the breathtaking views of the San Diego Harbor. Upon Downes’ untimely death, the project was completed with the help of Gensler, the architectural firm

Offering a panoramic perspective of the water and skyline from every vantage point throughout the building, the design also infuses modern furnishings, bold art and rustic statement pieces sourced from Mexico. At the front of the building an outdoor fire pit provides a swanky respite while waiting to be seated, and inside the restaurant a massive tequila wall greets guests upon entrance.

Inspired by Mexico’s natural surroundings, Coasterra’s wooden bar top illustrates Sierra Madre mountain ranges and famous beaches while an abstract stone wall was fashioned from imagery brought back from a trip to Mexico City. Industrial touches such as rebar and blackened steel screens, concrete floors and filigree light fixtures represent a modern take on old Mexico.

The south patio houses several cabanas and a steel fire pit with additional seating. Most of the restaurant seating is outdoors on the expansive waterfront patio where guests are shaded by a unique photovoltaic solar glass terrace that provides approximately 15 percent of the energy for the restaurant.

Renowned local artist Rafael Lopez was commissioned to create two massive murals on the interior and exterior of the restaurant. Lopez created a modern interpretation of work by mid-century painters such as Mathias Goeritz and Carlos Mérida with geometric illustrations that represent “Coasterra,” a fusion of two Spanish words that translate to “coast” and “land.”

The exterior art showcases blues and grays representing the coast, and the interior painting uses a warm palette of oranges and earthy browns as a nod to the land.

Food

Chefs John Gray and Deborah Scott are introducing a menu of regional Mexican cuisine with a focus on unexpected flavor combinations and an emphasis on local, fresh, seasonal ingredients. Shareable starters include ordering from the tableside guacamole cart (manned by “Guacamigos”), with specialty add-ons like lobster, crab and shrimp, or the Tostada de Atun with soy, garlic and sesame oil-glazed tuna, crispy tortilla, creamy coleslaw and cilantro sprouts.

Signature dishes include the Mary Tierra, a savory blend of beef short rib, oxacucan mole, lobster risotto cake and charred asparagus, as well as the Tamales de Champinon, with crispy crimini, goat cheese and pomegranate seeds, and topped with smoked poblano cream.

Chef team

As one of San Diego’s most renowned executive chefs, Scott is known for her diverse tastes and ability to create inventive dishes with an emphasis on presentation.

Scott first partnered with restaurateurs David and Lesley Cohn in 1995 and has since opened several of San Diego’s favorite restaurants, such as Coasterra’s Harbor Island neighbor Island Prime/C Level, Indigo Grill in Little Italy, and Escondido’s Vintana wine + dine.

Well known for her hands-on approach to hospitality, Scott can be found at each of her restaurants nightly where she oversees her kitchens and visits with guests to ensure a one-of-a-kind dining experience.

Executive chef Gray is tapped to lead the culinary program alongside Scott. With more than two decades of culinary experience at some of the finest restaurants in Latin America, Gray brings a worldly perspective to San Diego’s dining scene.
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Military funeral honors for Point Loma physician

By Mike McCarthy | The Beacon

Point Loma resident Dr. Martin Evan Glasser was simply known by his family and many friends as Marty. After a long battle with several hard-fought medical issues, Marty passed away on July 26 at age 72.

Glasser served proudly as a lieutenant commander during the Vietnam War. He was a young combat surgeon in the front line MACV-USA units near Khanh Hoa. He was exposed to Agent Orange and constant incoming mortar fire on the dangerous four years in Vietnam's combat zone.

As a commanding officer, Glasser went out on several reconnaissance missions with the 3rd Marine division. He served as a physician to many Vietnamese hospitals, clinics and villages. This assignment was also especially dangerous, since many village destinations were in enemy territory of the Viet Cong.

After Vietnam, Glasser’s primary practice was focused on the treatment for veteran combat PTSD patients and child-adolescent psychiatry. His training at UCLA prepared him for the assignment with the state department in Thailand. He later practiced medicine at San Francisco General Hospital and then transferred to the University of San Francisco as the director of the Child Study Unit. His late father and older brother were also medical doctors.

Glasser eventually ended up in San Diego as the medical director of the Children’s and Adolescent Inpatient Unit at the VA Medical Center on Parkways Highway. Along with a private practice in psychiatry, he also found time to consult the faculty at UCSF. Most recently, he held executive positions with several medical insurance companies, including Blue Shield of California, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico.

On Aug. 5, Glasser received full military funeral honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma. The service was well attended by family and many close friends he loved. He is survived by his wife Franey, four children, four grandchildren and a brother, Edward Glasser.

Marty fixed an exciting, compassionate and dedicated life. He was an unbelievable fighter when it came to overcoming personal illness and was widely respected within his profession. He was a good family man and my good friend for many years. Marty will be missed by many.

A silent auction supporting the festival will offer a wide array of goods, including Padres tickets, hotel suites and a basket of restaurant passes geared to the fervent foodie.

This year’s Doggie Street Festival Hero Awards will honor KUSI-TV meteorologist and jazz musician Dave Scott and San Diego UCA Hospital Manager Vilan Vlasek for their ongoing commitments to promote pet adoption and supporting the festival’s goal of saving pets.

Artenstein created the festival to promote adoption and contribute to ending the euthanasia of homeless pets.

Every year, the festival helps rescue groups find homes for more pets. In its early years, about 100 dogs found forever homes through the festival. More recently, that number has doubled to about 200 and now includes cats. Because of the festival’s success, Artenstein replicated the festival in Los Angeles, now entering its fourth year on Sept. 19. The festival also debuts in Phoenix Nov. 28.

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Lounge’ creator. This festival will be the largest ever, with more rescues, more pet-related vendors and a new emphasis on pet-related activities and education for children. Friendly, well-behaved leashed dogs are invited to accompany their humans.

Every year, thru-comfy residents entice the pet enclosures, eager to meet that special dog or cat – or even a pair – that’s their perfect match. About 25 to 30 local rescue organizations, including many breed-specific groups and public shelters, will bring an array of pooches plus a few courageous cats ready to settle into their “forever” homes.

Festival attendees can browse about 100 vendor booths offering a diverse selection of pet-related supplies, food, services, training and pet care information, all geared to improving the health and well-being of companion animals.

This year, the festival will again feature many of the booths that appeared previously along with some new participants.

In addition to showcasing local organizations and businesses that provide services and products to the animal community, the event will feature pet themed vendors that will have a wide range of products and services.

Festival attendees can expect to see a variety of animals including dogs, cats, and rabbits.

The festival will also include a dog show that will feature dogs of all shapes, sizes, and breeds. The dog show will be open to all breeds and will include several categories such as breed specific, obedience, and agility.

In addition to the dog show, the festival will feature live music, food and beverage vendors, and a pet photo booth where attendees can take pictures of their furry friends.

The festival is free to attend and will run from 10 am to 4 pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring a pet to enjoy the festivities.

Supporting animals and creating awareness about pet adoption are the primary goals of the festival. The festival is free to attend and donations are accepted to support the shelter’s efforts.

The festival is open to the public and will include a variety of activities and vendors for attendees to enjoy.

Festival attendees can expect to see a range of activities including live music, food and beverage vendors, pet photo booths, and a pet show featuring dogs of all shapes, sizes, and breeds.

The festival is not limited to dogs and cats as there will also be a variety of other animal-related activities and vendors.

The festival aims to raise awareness about pet adoption and provide a fun and educational experience for all animal lovers. It is open to the public and free to attend.

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Peninsular Nicole Burgess is Council District 2’s bicycling “cure” who leads by example putting her best pedal forward.

A native San Diegan from Bonita who’s lived in Ocean Beach the last 18 years, Burgess had an “epiphany” about six years ago. That happened when she took her love for cycling to the next level after the fact. Let’s prevent diabetes by getting more people on bikes (and exercising) plus fund it.

Burgess: Meetings once a month (with other bike reps) down at the Civic Center downtown.

Burgess: What needs to be done to promote bicycling throughout San Diego?

Burgess: We need our city to prioritize bicycling infrastructure – and fund it.

Burgess: What’s different about cycling in those places than here?

Burgess: They just accept it as their norm.

Burgess: Leadership. And money.

Burgess: What can parents do to encourage their children to take up cycling?

Burgess: Join them. Get out there and be their escort, ride with them to school.

Burgess: What can we do in San Diego to encourage more adult bike ridership?

Burgess: I had a crazy notion: Have a Saturday or Sunday bike ride with Mayor Faulconer. He could invite families. He could visit with people in each district. He would be remembered for that.

Burgess: What is San Diego’s overall bike commuter ridership now?

Burgess: About 1 percent. In Portland, it’s 8 percent. In Holland, which is cold half the year, it’s 40 percent.

Burgess: What’s so great about bicycling?

Burgess: I feel so good when I do it, being able to ride and explore and see new people and new cities. I’d rather say hi to people (on a bike) than being in a metal box. I try not to preach, just be a role model. I just do it out of pure joy.

Burgess: Are you optimistic we’ll be successful in getting more people out of cars and onto bikes in San Diego?

Burgess: If we put as much energy into bikes as we did into the Chargers stadium, we’d be there.

Nicole Burgess explains why bicycling is important.

PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

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Notable Ocean Beach retail building leased

Tony Franco

A 6,500-square-foot retail building located at 416 Newport Ave in Ocean Beach has been leased to two tenants, Gianni Buonomo Wines and Yogi's Yoga Studio.

Gianni Buonomo plans to offer high-class wine tasting to complement the other upscale restaurants that have recently opened on the 4800 block of Newport, such as The OB Warehouse and Culture Brewing tasting room. Buonomo's website is gbwinners.com, and the website to Yogi's studio is yogis yogastudio.com.

The previous tenant, Newport Avenue Antiques, was in the space for more than 20 years. The Franco Realty Group represented the landlord in this transaction and recently sold this building for $1.3 million in February, all cash.

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