DON’T WORRY  BE HAPPY

There’s method in the madness of bulldozers flattening Sunset Cliffs

IT’S ALL PART OF THE MASTER PLAN TO PRESERVE THE PARK

STORY ON PAGE 4

Heavy earth-moving machinery grades a section of the south coastal terrace in Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, which is below Point Loma Nazarene University’s Young Hall.

Future of popular Famosa pump track takes a turn
SEE PAGE 5

‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ at OB Playhouse
SEE PAGE 13

Point Loma High School students learn effects of drunk driving
SEE PAGE 11

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TRAVELS

Visiting Mazatlán, with their Peninsula Beacon, while on a Christmas cruise to Mexico, are Hal Russell, Hazel Russell and Cecilia Pollock.

Debbie Hall / Contributor

BEACON TRAVELS

Teofla and Jerry Rich, with their Peninsula Beacon, recently vacationed in Grand Cayman, which has great diving and beautiful beaches. They left before Hurricane Irma visited.

Debbie Hall / Contributor
Ocean Beach | $395,000
North OB 2 br 1 ba detached, turnkey home in OB. Open floor plan, gourmet kitchen and 2 decks with fantastic views. Beach living just got great!

Ocean Beach | $1,999,000
Panoramic ocean views. 4 br 3.5 ba with fabulous sunsets & ocean views. Entertainer’s yard w/built-in BBQ & pool. 5-car garage, Tesla charger & pool house.

Ocean Beach | $2,199,000
Brand new 2 br 3 ba stunner has panoramic ocean views, gourmet kitchen, central heat & AC, gas FP, romantic master retreat & it’s a Smart Home.

Point Loma | $449,500
2 br 2 ba features updated kitchen, laminated flooring, dual pan windows, fireplace & balcony. Quite possibly the best deal in OB & Pt Loma. Quaint small complex w/ pool & spa.

Sunset Cliffs | $2,060,000
Stunning 360 degree ocean & bay views! 4 br/office/gym 3.5 ba. Remodeled, approx 3200 sq ft, open floor plan, large lot. Private yard w/resistance grounds.

Blossom Valley | $865,000
Single level 3 br 2 ba house in the countryside. Presently a licensed dog rescue w/ kennels & outhouses for their care. Over 2 acres of lush grounds.

Point Loma | $999,000
Quality construction and finishes and upgrades. This complex is located close to Shelter Island, bay front, shops and fine dining.

Point Loma | $999,000
Single level 3 br 2 ba house in the countryside. Presently a licensed dog rescue w/ kennels & outhouses for their care. Over 2 acres of lush grounds.

Point Loma | $1,099,000-$1,179,000
Build your dream home on this large level ocean view lot. Existing original fixer home on lot. Plans available for approx. 3500 sq ft, 4 br 4.5 ba custom Craftsman.

Point Loma | $1,520,000
4 br 3 ba, walk in cedar wine cellar, dream kitchen and cabana pool house. Approx 11,000 sq ft with city & bay views. Represented the seller and buyer!

Ocean Beach | $880,000
North OB 3 br 1 ba house on approx. 5,000 lot ocean views. Basement and 2 car garage. Private back yard and alley access. Perfect for your remodel. I helped this buyer and I can help you too!

Blossom Valley | $349,000-$369,000
Sunny 2 bedroom 2 bath top floor condo with a private covered deck & laundry closet! Ideal floor plan features dual suites on opposite sides of the unit.

Point Loma | $1,099,000
Brand new 2 br 2 ba townhouse with open floor plan, roof top patio w/water and city views and a second floor patio off bedroom.

Point Loma | $349,500
2 br 2 ba features updated kitchen, laminate flooring, dual pan windows, fireplace & balcony. Quite possibly the best deal in OB & Pt Loma. Quaint small complex w/ pool & spa.

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Ten years in the pipeline, Phase II of the Hillside Improvements Project, to include native habitat restoration and new trails in the 50-acre hillside section of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, has started.

Dedicated in 1983, Sunset Cliffs is a 68-acre, resource-based park stretching along the ocean bordering the western edge of Point Loma.

The 18-acre linear section of the park lies to the west of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard between Adair and Ladera streets. The 50-acre hillside section, designated multiple species conservation area, links to the 640-acre Point Loma Ecological Reserve beginning at the Navy property to the south.

The park’s topography includes intricately carved coastal bluffs, arches and sea caves. It affords inspiring panoramic ocean views, particularly during sunsets, including glimpses of gray whales migrating annually to Baja California.

“There is an immediate need to let the community know about Phase II of the Hillside Improvements Project, which is now beginning implementation,” said Ann Swanson, a longtime Sunset Cliffs resident involved in park planning.

“During the implementation process, the lower hillside parking lot will serve as the staging area ... meaning the parking lot and major areas of the hillside will be closed at various times,” Noting Sunset Cliff’s hillside portion is the largest park on the Peninsula, Swanson added: “There is massive erosion and agonizingly slow progress in putting in measures to slow or stop it.” However slow, Swanson added, “There has been much progress in revegetating the hillside, adding trails for public enjoyment and removing old residences, relics of a different era.”

The Peninsula Beacon accompanied Swanson, chair Gene Berger and Ellen Quick, both members of the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Committee, on a recent tour of the hillsides to be improved.

Phase I of the project, a large, orange-netted area beneath Point Loma Nazarene University, involved a trial project to re-introduce native plants.

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Phase I of the project, a large, orange-netted area beneath Point Loma Nazarene University, involved a trial project to re-introduce native plants. A success, the effort is being expanded.

“A separate project to improve hillside drainage will follow Phase II improvements,” said Berger, adding both projects are interrelated.

“If you haven’t guessed what the prime objective of the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Master Plan is, here’s a clue: It’s right in the middle of the park’s name. In the 134-page, master-plan document it’s stated upfront: The first priority is the recovery and preservation of “natural resources,” specifically targeting “urban runoff onto park land and cliffs” via implementation of a “comprehensive drainage program” to restore natural cliffs.

The start of work recently for Phase II of the Hillside Improvements Project brought a strong critical reaction from some residents objecting to bulldozers coming in and removing old eucalyptus trees onsite.

But that shouldn’t have come as a surprise to anyone who’s read the park master plan. In the plan’s section on native plant preservation, it’s stated: “The park contains native habitat including sensitive species which need to be protected... These habitats should be preserved, as well as expanded and re-established in more-disturbed areas. Exotic non-native invasive species have displaced native vegetation and should be eradicated and replaced with native vegetation.”

“Phase II will be extremely helpful as far as drainage is concerned,” said Berger, adding both projects are interrelated.

“The erosion is the number one problem in this park,” said Berger.

According to the master plan, the Ladera Street stairs, which are currently closed, would be refurbished.

The plan also recommends installing primary signage “to raise public awareness of the restoration program.”

Recommendations to upgrade the linear section include creating an entrance to the park west of the Adair Street/Sunset Cliffs Boulevard intersection that would become the trail head of the proposed “coastal trail.” The plan would block off-shoot trails with natural barriers and recover with native vegetation. The plan also considers a redesign of the chain-link fence barriers around surface sea cave openings at Luscomb’s Point.

Other upgrades include refurbishing the Ladera Street stairs and to consider an alternative alignment from the lower parking lot that would provide safe access to Garbage Beach.

The southern coastal terrace, the plan recommends installing an observation point near the south end of Garbage Beach, eliminating the existing athletic field and revegetating with native plants, razing the Loma Land properties and restoring the ocean view. The demolition of the Corbin House shall be determined, pending further historical analysis. More plans are to reduce the size of the upper parking lot and designate the upper canyon as a biological reserve dedicated to the preservation and study of native plant and wildlife habitats.

The comprehensive revegetation program in the master plan will be required to comply with the most current brush management guidelines of the San Diego Fire Department.

Other recommendations in the master plan include construction of a small, permanent public comfort station and beach shower near the lower parking lot, razing the Ladera Street properties and restoring native vegetation.
Future of popular Famosa pump track takes a turn

THE PENINSULA BEACON

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

The mayor’s office has called a “truce” in a long-standing land-use squabble between Point Loma residents and the City involving a homegrown pump track on property across from Bill Cleator Community Park, at the corner of Nimitz and Famosa boulevards.

In return for the City halting demolition of the Famosa pump track, Darren Miller said he, and others who created the track, have agreed to keep their children and other riders off it, until a meeting between residents, the City and the Housing Commission is held to resolve the issue.

For years, Point Lomans have been voluntarily creating the handmade Famosa pump track to serve their off-season’s cycling needs, only to have their efforts periodically “undone” by the City Housing Commission. The commission owns the vacant property, which it intends to develop for future affordable housing.

DARREN MILLER
POINT LOMAN WHO HELPED BUILD THE TRACK

Miller, who found the track already half-levelled, “I stood in front of the tractor and pled with the [demolition crew] to stop.”

On March 19, in an oft-repeated pattern, a bulldozer showed up to raze the popular, impromptu Famosa pump track. Only this time, instead of dirt, the wrecking crew showed up to the Famosa site to bicyclists of all stripes. Robinson argued the Famosa pump track “is suitable for all levels of riders,” from 4-year-olds just learning, to advanced riders like himself. He added, “Lots of parents I’ve spoken to want their kids to go out and enjoy themselves outside on this track, rather than having them playing video games all day.”

Another Point Loma track advocate, Fred Robinson, said it’s hard to overestimate the significance of the Famosa site to bicyclists of all stripes. Robinson argued the Famosa pump track “is suitable for all levels of riders,” from 4-year-olds just learning, to advanced riders like himself. He added, “Lots of parents I’ve spoken to want their kids to go out and enjoy themselves outside on this track, rather than having them playing video games all day.”

After initially being told the crew had its orders to demolish the site by the following day, Miller noted his plea somehow got to the right ears, as the guy on the Bobcat finally hung up his phone saying his supervisor told him, “Pack up and head for the next job.”

The following day, March 20, a meeting was held between the mayor’s office, District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf’s office, and the San Diego Housing Commission. Thereafter, the mayor’s office requested the Housing Commission “to temporarily hold off on any maintenance on the land until we can get everyone to the table for a conversation about the realities of this lot, and how we may move forward with this.”

San Diego Housing Commission has characterized the Famosa pump track as being “unpermitted” and “makehift,” while adding “no trespassing” signs on it have since been illegally removed.

The commission issued this statement: “Without sufficient insurance, SDHC, a public agency, cannot allow the property to be used as a bike park... We are pleased to be working with the Community Planning Group on the future development of affordable housing at this site.”

“Another Point Loma track advocate, Fred Robinson, said it’s hard to overestimate the significance of the Famosa site to bicyclists of all stripes. Robinson argued the Famosa pump track “is suitable for all levels of riders,” from 4-year-olds just learning, to advanced riders like himself. He added, “Lots of parents I’ve spoken to want their kids to go out and enjoy themselves outside on this track, rather than having them playing video games all day.”

Robinson said the scenario being played out yet again with the track is only too familiar.

“If you’re a mountain biker or BMX rider you’ve probably read this story 100 times before,” Robinson said. “A lot of the locals were excited about the track being put back in,” he said. “A lot of them are upset it’s being threatened again.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

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NIKE TENNIS CAMPS at University of San Diego

Come join the fun and get better this summer at the Nike Tennis Camps at University of San Diego. Veteran director, Bill Scott, joined by USD Head Women’s Tennis Coach, Sherri Stephens, and Head Men’s Tennis Coach, Ryan Keckley have another amazing summer lined up with fun both on and off the court! With six weeks of junior overnight and day camps for boys & girls ages 9-18 of all ability levels, tournament training and high school players, there is a camp option for everyone! Highlights include: 5-6 hours of daily on-court instruction, a Nike Tennis Camp t-shirt, and fun evening activities for overnight campers. Camps run throughout June and July. Registration is currently open. See you on the courts this summer!

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YMCA Overnight Camps

Are you ready for positive, life-changing experiences in the outdoors? Look no further than YMCA Overnight Camps. We combine the fun your children want with the growth experiences they need. YMCA Camp Marston has been a San Diego favorite for thousands of children and families. Camp Marston offers you adventure, fun, friendships, and great staff – all on a spectacular 236-acre site – with activities including archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, and more. YMCA Raintree Ranch is a wonderful, small camp dedicated to western horseback riding. Thirty-eight horses, multiple instructional arenas, and miles of trails all provide an excellent learning environment. YMCA Camp Surf is a spectacular, ocean-front camp just south of San Diego. This 45-acre offers one & two-week sessions filled with surfing, bodyboarding, and traditional camp activities. Our camps add laughter, leadership, and lifelong memories to a host of activities. Learn more at ymca.org/camps

San Diego Junior Theatre

Join Junior Theatre this summer and experience the wonderful world of Performing Arts where campers will take classes in acting, dance, & singing. Musical Theatre, Acting, Performance and Advanced camps available in Balboa Park.

To register or for a list of camp dates, descriptions & pricing visit juniortheatre.com. Register early as our camps fill quickly. (619) 239-1311.

German Language Summer Camps

Does your child speak German? How about a German language camp at German Pacific School San Diego? GPSSD offers four weeks of very creative, imaginative camps with many hands-on projects. This year’s topics “Princesses, Knights and Dragons” (a fairy tale journey through Europe), an “Artist’s workshop” and “European Children’s Book Characters”. (See detailed plan on website.) GPSSD, a nonprofit school with four locations in La Jolla, Clairemont, Carmel Valley, and Poway, also offers classes on Saturdays and on weekday afternoons. The younger students learn German by playing, singing, theater, stories and games. Later the students focus on reading and writing. During their time at GPSSD students take different exams which lead to the AP exam and the German Language Diploma (DSD I and II). The DSD II exam is proof of the language proficiency for students applying at German universities. Registration for Summer camps is now open! More information: gpssd.org 858-461-9118 germanpacificschool@gmail.com

Birch Aquarium

Birch Aquarium’s week-long Summer Learning Adventure camps merge scientific exploration with hands-on fun and learning. From the classroom to the seashore, the aquarium’s accredited camps invite young ocean enthusiasts, ages 4-15, to investigate marine habitats, create ocean art projects, learn about diverse careers in oceanography, and combine science with water sports, all while making new friends and memories.

Campers age 4-7 explore Birch Aquarium, make ocean crafts, and dive into science experiments. For ages 8 and above, campers are eligible to attend both aquarium-based and off-site camps. Off-site camps meet at the beach, where snorkeling, surfing, and boogie boarding are interwoven with opportunities to enter Scripps Oceanography laboratories, speak with scientists, and get a close up view of world-class oceanographic experiments. There’s always something new to inspire and explore with Summer Learning Adventure Camps!

Summer Learning Adventure Camp at Birch Aquarium June 25-August 24 Week-Long Camps for ages 4-15 aquarium.ucsd.edu 858-534-7336
Palm Sunday
March 25 - 8:00am & 10:15am

Tenebrae
March 28 - 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday
March 29 - Family Service at 4:00pm & Service with Choir at 7:00pm

Good Friday
March 30 - Noon, 4:00pm (family service) & 7:00pm

Easter Vigil
March 31 - 7:08pm (sunset)
Reception following the service

Easter Sunday
April 1 - 8:00am & 10:15am with an Easter egg hunt and festive reception following the 10:15 service.

Child Care is provided at all Sunday morning and evening services.

San Diego First Church
3901 Lomaland Drive 92106
619.849.3100
www.sdfirstnaz.com

Easter Day
Sunday April 1
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Experience Hope
This Easter

Easter Services

All Souls’ Episcopal Church
1475 Catalina Blvd. • San Diego, CA 92107
(619) 223-6394
www.allsoulspointloma.org

Join us for Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday
March 25 - 8:00am & 10:15am

Tenebrae
March 28 - 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday
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Calvary Chapel
Point Loma
1050 Thomas Ave
92109

Easter celebration
Sunday, April 1 1st
9:30 a.m.
Or Easter Service begins at
1:30 pm followed by an Egg Hunt for the children and a complimentary brunch

Calvary Chapel, Point Loma
1425 Valarta Street, San Diego, CA 92107
(619) 223-6125
www.calvarypointloma.com

Easter Dining

The Peninsula Beacon | Thursday, March 29, 2018 | Page 7
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HURRY! DEADLINE MAY 1ST!
Upgrades ongoing for Upper Voltaire Street corridor

There is a dynamic renaissance of commercial and residential redevelopment gradually transforming upper Voltaire Street in Point Loma.

The Upper Voltaire Street corridor is a neighborhood commercial district extending from Point Loma High School to Ocean Beach.

New merchants are relocating to this increasingly attractive section of the Peninsula. Also in the works are much-needed residential projects, as well as well-timed infrastructure improvements.

Two new eateries — Car's Jars and Royale — recently moved into the corridor. New apartment and condominium projects are on the way. One, tentatively named Upper Voltaire, is under construction and another, tentatively named Nimitz Crossing, is in final design.

And major infrastructure projects, such as Voltaire bridge improvements over Nimitz, and Wabaska Drive feeder street being redesigned to make it more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly, are also in the pipeline.

"It's all good," said Point Loma insurance agent Matt Kalla, who sits on the board of the Ocean Beach Main Street Association.

"We just need people to communicate what their concerns are, and this includes the area from Voltaire Street and W. Point Loma Boulevard all the way to Chatsworth Boulevard, and the arms in between," Kalla said.

Kalla said redevelopment was necessary. "This is a much-welcomed need to clean up the corridor and make it a viable area to do business," he said.

"We just need people to communicate what their concerns are, and address them as a whole community. The renaissance will ultimately help the property values, make it safer for families to walk the streets and provide an enhanced business corridor." Clark Anthony, president of the Point Loma Association, also weighed in on Upper Voltaire’s transformation.

"Voltaire Street is a natural link between Point Loma and Ocean Beach," Anthony said. "The City’s upcoming construction on the Voltaire bridge has inspired volunteers to suggest additional improvements to the area, like acorn-style street lamps. New mixed-use projects in the area — Upper Voltaire and Nimitz Crossing — are upgrading housing and shopping opportunities. It’s great these developers and other businesses are committing dollars toward the additional improvements proposed by the community. We hope persistence pays off, and the spirit of cooperation will create a walkable, inviting area."

About four years ago, Carly McHenry and her family began a salad-in-a-Mason-jar home-delivery business. Car’s Jars now inhabits an Upper Voltaire storefront. Carly’s mother, Nancy, spoke glowingly of the ongoing Voltaire renaissance.

"It’s cleaned [things] up a lot," Nancy McHenry said. "The merchants in the area are all pulling together, and the area is really looking a lot better, not like it used to be. It’s exciting."

Nancy McHenry pointed out her daughter, Carly, began with a home-based business selling 40 jars of salad a week. "I believe we’re up to about 600 jars a week, including catering," said Nancy McHenry, noting a build-a-salad component may soon be added to the burgeoning business.

Nancy McHenry pointed out revitalization in the Upper Voltaire corridor is “really paying off and it is inspiring in the amount of [economic] diversification that is going on.”

Among the many retail changes happening along the Voltaire corridor:

• To the Point Cafe & Eatery: New owners Simone and Cecilia Scurzoni from Northern Italy have taken over and added new menu items/touches to the 4161 Voltaire St. restaurant.

• Royale: The new restaurant at 4204 Voltaire St. is now open for evenings and all-day weekends for burgers and cocktails.

• Pet grooming: Dr. Gary Rose’s animal-care operation is in the two-story building. The old one-story building has been refurbished for pet grooming.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Crash simulation teaches Point Loma students effects of drunk driving

By SCOTT HOPKINS | Jas Racan

Two students were killed and four others critically injured in a recent head-on crash on Chatsworth Blvd. in front of Point Loma High School as over 800 students looked on.

The accident scene and arrest were the first part of a two-day program for juniors and seniors called "The First 15 Minutes" designed to educate students about the dangers of drunk driving as wide-eyed students looked on. Thankfully it wasn't real.

The accident scene and arrest were the first part of a two-day program for juniors and seniors called "The First 15 Minutes" designed to educate students about the dangers of bad choices while driving, but also a group of parents about the massive penalties that can occur when they provide alcohol or drugs to minors. Raw emotions surfaced in many aspects of the event.

"It was a really scary experience," said Charlie Ekstrom who played the unconscious girl in the car who later dies. "We didn't know what was going on and the Jaws of Life was very loud, a very terrifying feeling having this giant mechanism over you. It's something that is going to stay with me forever."

Ekstrom recalls the moment when they pulled a sheet over her and said "it was a very surreal experience and not something I want to go through." The program, which included extensive videotaping and an overnight retreat for 31 "Living Dead" students, is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Each year, only 130 high schools in California are selected to participate. PLHS first had the program in 2016.

So realistic was the crash scene that passing motorists called 911 at least three times to report it over the two days. Before the event began, a video crew used six selected seniors to create the moments leading up to the collision.

One car with three boys skipped school to take a short drive to Pluma Park where they drank beer and hard liquor before one received a phone call from his coach about a game later that day. Showing lack of coordination, they jumped back into their car to head back to campus. In the second car were three other students who were headed to an award ceremony for 31 "Living Dead" students. As they left northbound on Chatsworth Boulevard the intoxicated boys crossed the center line on the curve just south of Browning Street and the video concluded as the cars were about to collide in a violent head-on crash.

Other elements of the video were added, including the actual parents of the two deceased students at a hospital being told of their children's fate and talking to them as they lay motionless. The suspected drunk driver was shown in a jail cell and later in court before a judge where the 18-year-old was sentenced to 26 total years in state prison.

On the first day of the program, all 31 students who had supposedly died in other drunk driving situations were taken after school to a retreat center in Pine Valley where their phones were collected and they participated in activities before spending the night. That left them out of touch with family and friends and their desks empty in classrooms to increase the feeling among peers they actually had died.
The first musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be produced for the professional stage, "Jesus Christ Superstar," has wowed audiences for more than 40 years. 

"Not too many people know that outstanding San Diego talents:  See Jesus, Chris Miller (Mater), Keri Miller (Mary), Kaleb Scott (Pontius Pilate, James (Mike) McCulloch as King Herod, Brian Evans as Caiaphas, Kyle Young as Annas, Meredith Russo as Simon and N. Cody Bach as Peter."

OB PLAYHOUSE & Theatre Company puts on Jesus Christ Superstar

OB PLAYHOUSE: What: "Jesus Christ Superstar"; music by Andrew Lloyd Webber; book and lyrics by Tom Rice; directed by Jennie Gray Connard; scenic design by Kirk Valle; produced by Bill Condon and Jennie Gray Connard. Where: OB Playhouse and Theatre Company. When: March 23 - April 15, Thursdays - Sundays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. Info: Tickets may be purchased at obplayhouse.com, 619-795-9305.
Pipeline replacement to close Cañon Street

Work began March 21 on a Point Loma pipeline replacement project that will close Cañon Street from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. through expected completion on May 15.

“The project started in October 2017 and is ongoing,” said city spokesman Alec Phillipp.

“Work on Cañon Street just began, and is on-schedule to be completed in mid-May. There will be other, miscellaneous closures between May 15 and project completion in fall 2018 due to trench repair, street resurfacing, striping, etc,” Phillipp said.

The public will have advanced notification of all street closure dates, according to Phillipp.

Planning board vacancy

The Peninsula Community Planning Board has a vacancy for a one-year term and the Peninsula Board has a vacancy for a planning board vacancy.

The board meets the third Thursday of each month, typically going dark in August and December. It gets first crack at advising on projects and planning issues on the Peninsula.

For more information, visit ppmcat.com or email Fred Kosmo at fkosmo@wilsonturnerksmo.com.

Easter Sunrise Service

The Kiwanis Club of Point Loma will again present an ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at the Cabrillo National Monument. The services will be held in the lower parking lot, giving those who attend a great early morning panoramic view of San Diego Harbor and the city.

Club president Joanna DuCosta notes that this year’s services will mark the 69th consecutive year that the Kiwanis Club of Point Loma has provided this popular community service for San Diego.

Gates to Cabrillo National Monument will open at 6 a.m. with the non-denominational service beginning at 6:30 a.m.

There is seating for approximately 700 attendees and the public is encouraged to arrive early.

The speakers this year are Capt. Christopher J Cavanaugh, commodore, Submarine Squadron Eleven, Kiwanis Division 21 Lt. Gov. Doug Beckham, and Gary Jander, past governor Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha District. Chaplain Michael Williams, Fleet Chaplain, Third Fleet, will conduct the service.

The soloist will be Jojo Cadwell and she will be accompanied by Danny Green, who will also provide the musical prelude to the service.

$9,000 reward offered in Point Loma homicide

Authorities offered a $9,000 reward Saturday, March 17 for information leading to the arrest of a man suspected of gunning down a romantic rival last month outside a Point Loma Heights workout center.

Ernesto Castellanos Martinez, 41, allegedly killed 27-year-old Alexander Mazin of San Diego in a parking lot behind 24 Hour Fitness, 3675 Midway Drive, shortly before 11 a.m. Feb. 25, according to police.

Police soon identified Martinez as the suspected assailant and determined that he might have fled to an apartment in the 3000 block of Upas Street in North Park.

About an hour after the shooting, officers surrounded the residence and tried in vain to contact Martinez. Following a roughly six-hour standoff, a SWAT team forced entry to the apartment, discovering that the suspect was not there.

The victim’s parents told reporters their son had been going out with a woman that Martinez previously had dated and that the suspect had assaulted her several weeks prior to Mazin’s slaying.

Family and friends of Mazin have added $8,000 to a $1,000 reward in the case previously posted by San Diego County Crime Stoppers. Anyone who might be able to help investigators track down the suspect is asked to call the nonprofit agency at 888-580-8477.

– City News Service
Professionalism

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A new Living Room experience at the historic Jennings House on Rosecrans

Dr. JUDI CURRY | The Beacon

I wonder how many of the “old timers” of Point Loma/Ocean Beach remember the old Jennings House? I remember it from the 60s when I used to attend knitting classes in one of the many rooms devoted to small businesses.

If you were around in 1886 — that is not a misprint — that is when the Jennings House was built. While I was talking to Cathy, the relatively new co-owner of the Living Room, two women walked in and Cathy asked if she could help them. They said that they were just looking at the memorabilia on the walls.

Cathy introduced herself as the owner of the business and one of the women introduced herself as Laurel Belle Benchley, the great-granddaughter of Frank Jennings, the original owner of the Jennings House. The other woman was Beth Brust, who has been commissioned to write a biography of Belle Jennings, the original owner of the Jennings House when you go there and try it out, but I can almost guarantee that you will not be disappointed in the food and atmosphere.

There is a huge variety of coffees, with three specials every day, and there are more than 25 tea varieties. Recently, they received their beer and wine license and serve a delicious mimosa anytime of the day.

The location was owned in the late 90s (for a few years) by the Living Room Group, (two men that still own the La Jolla and State College locations). The Old Town, La Mesa, and Point Loma Living Rooms have been independent for about 18-20 years. They are not a franchise, but are sold with the rights to the name, marketing, etc.

Two new items have been added to the menu — kombucha in four flavors — ginger, carrot/turmeric, very berry, and beet, and something that interested me — ice cream specials. A sundae topped with chocolate or caramel sauce, whipped cream and a cherry goes for $3.75 and/or Affogato — espresso over ice cream for $4.50.

There is wi-fi for those that want to work while they eat; the upstairs can be reserved for private meetings, seminars, parties, and other private events. There is even take-out for groups, meetings, or office parties if enough notice is given. Cathy is looking into having live music during the summer months but has not made a decision on whether this is feasible or not.

I cannot guarantee that you will meet the granddaughter of the originator of Jennings House when you go there and try it out, but I can almost guarantee that you will not be disappointed in the food and atmosphere.

The location was owned in the late 90s (for a few years) by the Living Room Group, (two men that still own the La Jolla and State College locations). The Old Town, La Mesa, and Point Loma Living Rooms have been independent for about 18-20 years. They are not a franchise, but are sold with the rights to the name, marketing, etc.

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