A March 22 preliminary hearing was set for a driver who allegedly struck two pedestrians in the Midway area while driving under the influence of alcohol and dragging one of them hundreds of feet.

A mayhem charge has been filed against Yosvaldo Steven Sixco, 22, due to the seriousness of the injury to one pedestrian. Sixco is also charged with hit and run, evading police with reckless driving, and causing serious injuries in the Dec. 18, 2016 incident.

One 24-year-old pedestrian suffered a fractured pelvis from being dragged at least several hundred feet on Sports Arena Boulevard, according to police. The pedestrian was dragged almost to Rosecrans Street. He and his friend, 25, were taken to a hospital.

Police responded to the hit and run around 10:15 p.m. and were told the damaged vehicle fled on eastbound Rosecrans. About 90 minutes later, the damaged car was...
San Diego expands electric vehicle charging stations

To help meet the goals of San Diego’s landmark Climate Action Plan, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer was joined on Feb. 13 by Councilmember Lorie Zapf and environmental leaders in Ocean Beach to announce the City has more than doubled the size of its electric vehicle charging station program.

“We hope that by locating charging stations in popular destinations, it’s easier and more convenient to use electric vehicles as well as encourage more people to purchase electric vehicles,” Faulconer said. “You can enjoy staying at a park, beach or library a little longer knowing you can charge your car there.”

By increasing the number of electric vehicle ports from 32 to 68, the City now has charging stations at 15 different locations citywide. With the new installations, San Diego continues to lead the way on environmental issues and takes another step toward slashing greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2035 — a key goal of the Climate Action Plan.

Local charging stations are at Mission Bay Aquatic Center (3), South De Anza Cove (4), Bonita Cove (4), and the Ocean Beach Lifeguard Tower parking lot (2).

The stations were funded through a $500,000 grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The City’s Economic Development Department secured the grant with partners Center for Sustainable Energy, San Diego Gas & Electric and Opt-Contact, a charging station operator and manufacturer.

The City’s charging station rates are $1.75-1.80 per hour, vehicles can be charged using credit cards.

Josh Gruenberg climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in February with a mountain guide group out of Seattle. It took five days to get to the top. It was about 10 degrees with a 40 mile an hour wind so it was cold. He followed that up with a flight to the Serengeti in a small prop plane for a three-day safari.
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Midway Community Planning Group got briefed in February by the San Diego Department of Government Services on a plan to implement the Mid-Coast Trolley extension linking Santa Fe Depot downtown to Westfield UTC, serving major activity centers along the way, including Old Town.

SANDAG is San Diego's regional transportation planning agency. SANDAG senior regional planner Miriam Kirshner gave a presentation on the implementation strategy for the Mid-Coast Mobility Hub in the Old Town Transit Center. The Mid-Coast Trolley will offer a one-seat ride from the international border to University City when it's completed in 2021.

The Mid-Coast Mobility Hub Implementation Strategy will identify services and amenities for stations like Old Town, which may include improved pedestrian and bike connections, secure bike storage, on-demand ride sharing services, wayfinding and supporting technologies.

"We're in the very early stages of data gathering and public outreach," said Kirshner, noting Mid-Coast is "a new project being funded by a grant from the Federal Transit Administration."

Kirshner added the implementation strategy is meant to "improve connections between neighborhoods and the transit centers."

Pointing out mobility hubs are "nothing really new or innovative," Kirshner said hubs allow "additional bike and pedestrian improvements including bike lanes, raised crosswalks with street markings and creation of new bike storage bins and racks."

SANDAG officials also passed out an implementation strategy questionnaire to fill out surveying trolley users on whether or not they have a Compass Card, a smartphone, whether they use shared mobility services like Uber, Lyft or other ride sharing, how often they use the trolley — and for what purpose — as well as asking them what their primary destination is using the trolley.

MCPG, which makes recommendations to the city on land use and issues of concern in the Midway-Pacific Highway corridor near Old Town and the airport, got other good news in February. The group learned that 2nd District Councilmember Lorie Zapf plans to bring the city's new home "cazz," Stacie Spector, to MCPG's April meeting.

A longtime public relations professional and former Clinton White House staff member, Spector was hired by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer recently as his senior adviser on housing. Midway has been particularly hard hit by ongoing problems with homelessness and vagrancy.

In other action:

- In her president's report, Cathy Kenton referenced a free mulch program available at info@chipdrop.in. She also discussed changes to community planning groups proposed recently by Scott Sherman, new chair of the city's Smart Growth and Land Use Committee.
- "He's (Sherman's) proposed making some changes in the 32 community planning groups including regionalizing them, and reducing their numbers by combining them," Kenton said adding the committee is also considering relaxing regulations on companion units, making approval of "granny flats" easier.
- For more information about Mid-Coast, visit www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/Mid-Coast.

Midway planners hear about Mid-Coast Trolley strategy
Planning Board approves liquor shop

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Overriding concerns from some neighbors, Peninsula Community Planning Board voted overwhelmingly in February to allow Sunshine Liquor to relocate up Voltaire Street to a strip mall near a consignment shop and a music center offering children lessons.

About a dozen merchants and nearby residents split about evenly on their testimony for and against the convenience store’s relocation. Supporters cited Sunshine’s long history of being a “good neighbor,” keeping vagrants away and having an unblemished police record.

Opponents, particularly other tenants in the strip mall on the corner of Voltaire and Wabaska Drive, where Sunshine would be relocating, said it’s the wrong place for a liquor store, they argued it would negatively impact their neighborhood invitiing the wrong element and exacerbating parking and traffic problems.

PCPB board member Mark Krenck noted the advisory group’s subcommittee voted 7-0 for the project. “We did require some conditions that would go along with our approval, including hours of operation, making a loading zone available for all mall tenants and replacing any existing or damaged landscaping.” Krenck said. He noted store hours would be 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays, closing an hour later at 11 p.m. on weekends.

Peter Najor of the family owned and operated Sunshine Liquor store said they lost their lease at their previous location at 3911 Voltaire St., temporarily putting them out of business and necessitating the move. “We’re just trying to get approval to go on with our lives again – this is our livelihood,” Najor said.

 Asked by PCPB board member Don Sevrens if they’d searched the area for other more suitable sites to relocate to, applicants replied they had, and that their search turned up no other viable alternatives. From the audience, several local residents testified that the Najors and Sunshine Liquor exhibited exemplary behavior during 16 years of operation in the community.

One woman said the Najors “kept their place immaculate,” adding “they never had problems with transients and I really felt safe.”

But not everyone was thrilled by the prospect of a new liquor store nearby. Neighbor Mike Stevens called out Sunshine, claiming they were guilty of “sign clutter” in violation of city codes. He also asked the PCPB board to postpone a decision on the proposed relocation, arguing the community hadn’t been offered proper notice to weigh in on the matter.

Another neighbor said they were angry about being deceived regarding the mall’s new tenants. He said he’d been told a high-end wine and cheese shop was coming, not a full-blown liquor store.

Scot Taber, owner of Paper Moon, a music lessons studio in the strip mall, spoke against Sunshine’s relocation.

“If you had a business catering to children, and you learned a liquor store was going in next door – I don’t think you’d be very happy about that,” Taber said. “The parents of our students are also alarmed at this.”

Expressing concern about the potential harm Sunshine’s relocation could pose to neighboring merchants, PCPB board member Jerry Lohla asked if the applicants would “not having the word liquor on their signage.”

The applicant responded they were considering renaming their new store as “deli and spirits.”

The PCPB Board voted 11-1 to allow Sunshine Liquor’s relocation.

How to save thousands when selling your home

When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range.

Your asking price is often your home’s “first impression,” and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it’s imperative that you make a good first impression.

This is not as easy as it sounds, and pricing strategy should not be taken lightly. Pricing too high can be as costly to a homeseller as pricing too low. A recent study which compiles 10 years of industry research, has resulted in a new special report entitled “Home-sellers: How to Get the Price You Want (and Need).” This report will help you understand pricing strategy from three different angles. When taken together, this information will help you price your home to not only sell, but sell at the price you want.

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Regional cycling hub proposed at Liberty Station

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

To create a hub for enthusiasts of all types is the inspiring vision behind bringing a new bicycling center to Liberty Station.

At a gathering at Stone Brewery on Feb. 16, members of the San Diego County Bike Coalition met informally to discuss reuse of an existing structure, the 20-by-80 foot Building 191. The structure was the 191th building constructed at the former Naval Training Center.

Located on dedicated city park-lands, now-vacant Building 191 straddles a major spur on the San Diego bike path system.

“We’ve been thinking for a long time of having this hub,” said Andy Hanshaw, SDCBC’s executive director. “We see it as a place for people not only to engage with cycling, but to learn more about it.”

New SDCBC member Elizabeth Thibodeau noted the effort to create a new regional cycling hub is all about “promoting healthy, safe riding for everybody. If we want to get people out of their cars and on a bike – they need to feel safe.”

Many other communities, including Long Beach, Calif. and Vancouver, Canada, have created physical spaces serving as bicycle centers. Why not San Diego?, asks the SDCBC, a nonprofit, which is prepared to act on behalf of the local cycling community to acquire, rehabilitate and operate Building 191.

SDCBC board member Richard Opper noted a new cycling hub would “enhance cycling culture,” encouraging people to “get on bikes and use them.”

But Opper added there are hurdles to be cleared in creating a regional cycling center.

“This is an old maintenance shed the city was just going to mow down because they didn’t have the funds to turn it into something: It’s just sitting there,” he said. “We’re saying we’ll raise the money, fix it up.”

Opper though admitted Building 191 will be challenging to convert given its relatively small size and long, narrow configuration.

“The cycling center would be part of enhancing that network,” said Miriello, noting there’s currently no place in San Diego for bike enthusiasts “to share and get together short of a club.”

Miriello said a new cycling hub would connect to Harbor Drive and the Bayshore Bikeway, providing a direct and safe bike path to downtown and beyond.

“The cycling center would be part of enhancing that network,” said Miriello, noting there’s currently no place in San Diego for bike enthusiasts “to share and get together short of a club.”

Miriello said the maintenance building could be utilized by a combination of nonprofit and for-profit cycling entities.

“This could be meeting space for the Challenged Athletes Foundation (which sponsors cycling in a triathlon), industry experts and the bike coalition,” he said. “It might also have historical spaces, where people could see how cycling has affected us during the last 100 years.”

“A museum – yeah,” chimed in Thibodeau, adding, “We’re looking for a place to have a race, or training races.”

Pointing out Building 191’s “fortuitous” location, Miriello described the game plan for redeveloping it.

“The first step is securing the building,” he said. “The next thing is getting funding.”

Miriello added the coalition is “pretty confident” a number of funding mechanisms are available to make the Liberty Station cycling center a reality.

Miriello talked about another benefit of a centralized cycling hub.

“We really want to build up bicycle tourism in this region for visitors and residents,” he said.

Hanshaw said a cycling hub would fit neatly in with the city’s Climate Action Plan, which he noted “calls for a 6 percent commuter mode share by 2020, 18 percent by 2035. We’ve been hovering around 1 percent for years.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Fundraising drive begins for new veterans plaza in Ocean Beach

The Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation has kicked off its long-awaited fundraising drive to create a new and improved plaza honoring military veterans.

“We got the right of entry permit that gives us access to the project on park and rec land,” said OB CDC president Tom Perrotti, of progress in redoing the veterans memorial, plans for which include relocating it to the end of the green space near the OB lifeguard tower. “The old (memorial) design was just no longer tenable. So we took this project on four or five years ago.”

Created in 1993, the OB CDC is a nonprofit benefiting Ocean Beach by developing resources for revitalizing the infrastructure of the community applying the OB “spirit.”

OB Veterans Plaza at the corner of Newport Avenue and Abbot Street was constructed in 1997 as a memorial to honor all military veterans. Due to salt-air and foot-traffic erosion, the existing plaza is currently in disrepair with many of the inscriptions now illegible.

Dave Martin, OB CDC treasurer, said the fundraising drive will be aided by creating a video presentation to help us as we put together several fundraising events. I am working on plans to have our first fundraising event in Ocean Beach by the end of March,” Martin admitted the fundraising goal is ambitious.

“Our estimated cost for completion of the project is $1 million,” he said. The vision for the new Ocean Beach Veterans Plaza is for it to have an “artistic/beachy” design. Plans call for an artificial rock wall mimicking Sunset Cliffs’ stratified geology with 1,500 veterans’ names etched into it in a series of granite slabs. Adjacent to the new memorial wall would be inland stars representing lives lost in battle. Other artistic flourishes are to include low-lyting artistic-themed meandering walls.

Perrotti said fundraising on the memorial project is commencing now that construction drawings are nearly completed. He said the original 84 names from the old plaza will be transferred to the new one once it’s done. Perrotti added there’s a long way to go with fundraising.

“Right now we’re about $100,000 into this $1 million project,” he said noting KTUA architects, who did the original design, have handed that task over to Vicki Estrada of Estrada Land Planning.

“Because of its (oceanfront) location, the Coastal Commission had input and they didn’t like that the memorial could potentially block significant views toward the pier, so we had to bring the wall back from the beach, and from the street as well,” Estrada said noting the project’s been “shrunk” from four walls down to three.

“The whole key to this is making it look like the cliffs at Sunset Cliffs, otherwise it will look hokey and corny,” Estrada said. “We want to honor Sunset Cliffs in OB: That’s a major concept.”

Estrada said “different paving colors” are still planned from the vets plaza to the boardwalk. She added the project also includes rock outcroppings on the south side of the walkway that people will be able to sit on.

Estrada noted project construction drawings are now “about 95 percent complete.”

Once drawings are done, “OB CDC will put the project out to bid to a private contractor,” Estrada said.

WANT TO HELP?
For more information about the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation and its new veterans memorial project, or to donate, visit www.obcdc.org.

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Activists plan to spell out ‘Impeach’ in Ocean Beach to protest Trump

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

Taking the lead from a similar protest in Ocean Beach, San Francisco, a well-known Oceanian activist has campaigned on Facebook to have people spell out “impeach” on the beach Saturday, March 4.

“It’s a plea that’s prompted the claimed participation of some 400 San Diego supporters,” said the activist Dave Ish, of La Jolla, who has a text-messaging service, “Everybody’s going to actually do the beach cleanup, we decided it would be a good time to create the word ‘impeach’ as a human sign,” James said.

“I contacted San Francisco’s organizers to pick their brains and have them give me some ideas,” James said. “We decided to go ahead and replicate what they were doing.”

Conveniently, there was already a beach cleanup planned for OB on March 4 starting at 8 a.m.

“Since a lot of people were already coming down to do the beach cleanup, we decided it would be a good time to create the word ‘impeach’ as a human sign,” James said.

James said Dave Ish, of La Jolla, who has a text-messaging service, is pitching in to aid the protest.

To join in the texting component of the protest, Ish said participants should text the key word “obresist” and send it to the number 444999.

James said organizers will then use that text message to “coordinate all the people getting them in the right direction, telling them where to stand, etc.”

Once the human-sign “impeach” is formed, James said, “We hope to have a photographer there to record it and turn that out to the media with our mission statement.”

He added a drone will also likely be utilized in recording the event, which is expected to take place about 10 a.m. Trump demonstrators will march up from Dog Beach spelling out impeach in hundred-foot human letters. Their end point will be just north of the Ocean Beach Pier, where the annual Christmas tree is positioned.

“Welcome to the resistance,” states the OB Facebook protest page’s mission statement. “The March 4 impeachment is just one of thousands of events to promote the efforts to resist the Trump agenda. We resist his misogynistic, xenophobic and climate-denial policies, to name a few.

Of Trump opposition, James noted, “This is part of all the other resistance movements that are happening across the country. Our main goal is to have Congress actually do a real investigation of possible impeachable offenses that we feel the president might be involved in.

“We don’t want the Russian connection swept under the rug,” James continued. “We think it could be a real issue, a real impeachable offense, after the investigation is done. We want to see that investigation done.”

James believes Trump is “Not fully divorced from his business interests, and that he is not following the Constitution. We believe that by being president and going against the Constitution, that his companies are taking advantage of his presidency.”

Easter Sunrise Service at Cabrillo

Easter is April 16 this year and the gates to Cabrillo National Monument will open at 6 a.m. for 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 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 behind it.
Pointers basketball falls to Mt. Miguel in CIF playoffs

By SCOTT HOPKINS | The Beacon

The Point Loma High boys basketball team will not make a CIF championship appearance under first-year head coach Josh Aros, but they came close.

The Pointers, seeded fourth of 16 Div. III teams, were the highest remaining seed after numbers one, two and three were all defeated in quarterfinal action.

With a semifinal game win against No. 9 seed Mt. Miguel in a home game on Tuesday Feb. 28, the Pointers would have advanced to the Div. III title game against the winner of the game between No. 6 Montgomery and No. 10 Sage Creek. But despite being ahead for most of the game by as many as 13 points, the Pointers lost their game 64-57 to Mt. Miguel.

The Div. III championship game will be played at the Jenny Craig Pavilion on the University of San Diego campus March 4 at 11 a.m. “Mt. Miguel’s a good team,” Aros said, “and they’ve beaten some very good teams.”

Most notable, the Matadors eliminated No. 1 seed Coronado 55-45, a team that gave the Pointers fits this year. The Islanders, who won the Central League with an 11-1 record (28-4 overall), defeated the Pointers in both league meetings.

The Pointers finished second behind the Islanders with a 7-3 regular season record (19-7 overall).

Fourth quarter play has carried the Pointers to victory in each of their two tournament wins to date.

Point Loma defeats Cathedral, loses to St. Augustine in playoffs

By SCOTT HOPKINS | The Beacon

Last year, Point Loma High’s boys soccer team won a CIF Div. II championship when they defeated San Marcos 3-1. Their reward? The Pointers were automatically placed in the new 12-team Open Division.

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With a semifinal game win against No. 9 seed Mt. Miguel in a home game on Tuesday Feb. 28, the Pointers would have advanced to the Div. III title game against the winner of the game between No. 6 Montgomery and No. 10 Sage Creek. But despite being ahead for most of the game by as many as 13 points, the Pointers lost their game 64-57 to Mt. Miguel.

The Div. III championship game will be played at the Jenny Craig Pavilion on the University of San Diego campus March 4 at 11 a.m. “Mt. Miguel’s a good team,” Aros said, “and they’ve beaten some very good teams.”

Most notable, the Matadors eliminated No. 1 seed Coronado 55-45, a team that gave the Pointers fits this year. The Islanders, who won the Central League with an 11-1 record (28-4 overall), defeated the Pointers in both league meetings.

The Pointers finished second behind the Islanders with a 7-3 regular season record (19-7 overall).

Fourth quarter play has carried the Pointers to victory in each of their two tournament wins to date.
Emergency calls routed to SD Fire Dispatch may cause lifeguard delays

Editor:
On Dec. 15, the San Diego Lifeguard River Rescue team members were holding a deployment briefing prior to an imminent storm. Fifteen minutes before they were to deploy, they were given a new standard operating procedure imposed by the fire chief. The new SOP had several changes, one being that SD Fire Dispatch would now handle inland calls for water emergencies. Not all of the changes are without merit, but some changes create numerous problems.

The Lifeguard supervisors group was not consulted and there was no tabletop exercise to test for problems that may delay our response or cause confusion. The new SOP routes calls from police to a fire call taker, which takes 1-2 minutes or more. The call taker then sends it to a fire dispatcher queue where it waits in line, this can take several more minutes. Due to this change, we are adding precious minutes to our response.

The old procedure was simple; water calls were transferred from PD to Lifeguards. Lifeguards started units in 15 seconds, then requested Fire units if needed. This issue has been studied several times. Each time it was concluded that Lifeguards should continue dispatching water-related emergencies.

A 2007 BPR study stated: There is a good argument for having trained lifeguards perform lifeguard dispatch functions over civilian dispatchers. Aquatic emergencies are very time critical and immediate rescue response is necessary.

We often hear the term “best practices,” which means that this is how others do things. As a Marine and a 28-year Lifeguard in a para military organization, I can tell you that making changes to an emergency system that has been in place for over 35 years without discussion, training and proper testing is not “best practice.”

Since the change, there have been several delays to emergency calls. One call occurred Jan. 21 when a woman sustained traumatic injuries when she was washed off the rocks by large surf in La Jolla and Fire dispatchers did not transfer the call to Lifeguards for more than five minutes. It is important to note that Lifeguards were only four blocks from the scene of the incident.

Teamsters 911 represents Lifeguards. They have filed a grievance that will soon be heard by the mayor.

Ed Harris
Lifeguard sergeant and former City Council member for District 2

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FOR INFO & TO BUY TIX:
PointLomaRotary.org OR Cnmf.org

Front page photo in Peninsula Beacon not fair and balanced

Editor:
If I wanted to see a front-page photo touting paid professional protestors’ non-spontaneously caterwauling against President Donald Trump’s lawful temporary hold on allowing anyone from the seven countries Barack Obama determined to harbor radical Islamic terrorists, as depicted on your Feb. 2 cover, I would have subscribed to the Donald Trump-hating San Diego Union-Tribune or the Los Angeles Times.

Or, if I wanted to read about how a teacher for a high school Cinematic Arts Program (anyone wanna bet what presidential candidate did not get a Cinematic Arts teacher’s vote?) assisted his angry students in using taxpayers’ funds to produce a video asking President Trump to apologize, as you reported in this same edition, I would read what the Democrat Party lickspittles are spewing at the New York Times or the Washington Post.

Therefore, I have told your publisher Julie Main to stop littering my driveway with your political pap. Ms. Main, in turn, told me it is not the policy of your paper to publish controversial politically pictures or pieces, and asked me to give the Peninsula Beacon a second chance.

So tell you what I’ll do: I’ll look at my neighbor’s copies of your next two editions, and if I see that you have made amends by being fair and balanced by publishing at least one captioned photo and at least one article complimentary of President Trump, his policies, or his supporters, I will promptly call Ms. Main and tell her to renew delivery of your paper to my home.

Al Rava
San Diego

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Out of the Blue and into...
Kilowatt Brewing opens in Ocean Beach

Kearny Mesa brewery Kilowatt Brewing has brought its colorful, black-lit tasting room style to a satellite tasting room in Ocean Beach.

Kilowatt joins a suddenly surging OB beer scene, which in the past few years has seen its Pizza Port brewpub joined by OB Brewery, plus tasting rooms for Mike Hess, Helm’s Brewing, Culture Brewing, and Belching Beaver.

The Kilowatt tasting room has taken over a 60-year-old former motorcycle shop at 1875 Cable St., just off Newport and around the corner from Pacific Shores, the 75-year-old cocktail bar famous for its black-lit ocean-themed artwork.

“OB is a one-of-a-kind community and it’s currently going through changes and being gentrified,” said Rachel Fischer, Kilowatt chief operating officer and co-founder.

“We’re remodeling and modernizing the space; however, we’re keeping most of the original architecture in place ... We want to keep the original vintage OB look and feel.”

Kilowatt shares an affinity for such fluorescent art, so a portion of its 1,000-square-foot lounge will feature black-light art installations, either curated by The Ancient Gallery artist collective or created by Kilowatt CEO Steve Kozyk. To add extra dimension to the artwork, 3D glasses will be available.

Kilowatt’s tasting room is designed to be both kid- and dog-friendly, which Fischer views as consistent with the character of the neighborhood.
watches March Madness in OB

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OBMA Awards Recognize OB Businesses and Community Leaders
Ocean Beach MainStreet Association held their Awards Celebration and Annual Meeting on January 26th to recognize local businesses.

Sheriff of OB Award: Julie Klein, Mary Orem

Promotion Committee Award

Mike Harden Award: Dave Martin, Shane Hardin

Community Partner Awards

Economic Vitality Committee Awards

Public Safety Committee Awards

SAN DIEGO VISITORS SPENT OVER 6 BILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR.
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Sheriff of OB Award: Julie Klein, Mary Orem

Promotion Committee Award

Mike Harden Award: Dave Martin, Shane Hardin

Community Partner Awards

Economic Vitality Committee Awards

Public Safety Committee Awards

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Ocean Beach MainStreet Association held their Awards Celebration and Annual Meeting on January 26th to recognize local businesses.

OBMA Awards Recognize OB Businesses and Community Leaders

SAVE SOME GREEN ON ST. PATRICK’S DAY!
Head to O.B. for a little luck and some tasty deals!
Brooke Whalen, a senior associate and landscape architect at KTUA, managed the project through completion. "We were really excited to work on this project from the very beginning," Whalen said. "This was a great opportunity to participate in an urban-infill project that has enhanced the neighborhood.

"Prior to the project, it was an underutilized facility that sat vacant for a very long time, but now it is bustling with students," said Whalen. KTUA was involved at the conception of the project and attended several community planning group meetings while preparing exhibits that assisted the client in gaining community support for the project. "EF was always very mindful of their neighbors," Whalen said. "They did everything in their power to ensure that their project fits into the community and always kept them apprised of what they were proposing to do with the site."

On behalf of the entire EF team, we were pleased to work with KTUA to conceptualize and construct a landscaped environment that will continue to inspire our students' learning for years to come," said Meghan Conway, vice president, EF Properties. "We are thankful for the efforts of the KTUA team, as they assisted us in completing this project on time and on budget.

Following the public outreach process, the team conducted interior and exterior renovations of the existing hospital building as well as some exterior site work to activate the street side of the property with new, landscaped green space and outdoor gathering and community areas.

The landscaped spaces feature sand volleyball courts, a speed soccer field with a shaded viewing area, and a pool and pool deck. The landscaped spaces feature sand volleyball courts, a speed soccer field with a shaded viewing area, and a pool and pool deck.

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Brooke Whalen, KTUA ARCHITECT

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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.

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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. Directors Bill and Shelly Scott, and USD Head Women’s Tennis Coach, Sherri Stephens, along with their experienced staff, 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, and a special High School program during the last week, 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!

Nike Rugby Camps

The mission of Nike Rugby Camps is to provide rugby education to young athletes and engender confidence and self-esteem on and off the rugby pitch. Participants have the opportunity to experience an entire week by staying at some of the most prominent athletic universities in the country and we are dedicated to providing our campers with one-on-one and group coaching from top college coaches and current members of USA Rugby. All aspects of the game are addressed during drilling, live scrimmaging, and staff demonstrations to ensure each athlete leaves with a greater confidence and passion for the sport.

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Ymca.org/camp

University of San Diego

NIKE RUGBY CAMPS

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SESSION II: July 30-August 2
1-800-NIKE-CAMP
ussports camps.com

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Among its claims to fame, Ranchos was reputedly the first Mexican restaurant in San Diego to offer an extensive selection of vegetarian dishes and other healthy alternatives, along with more traditional fare. Late last year, however, Ranchos was forced to close due to the illness of its owner, Marcos Mouet.

Clingaman, a well-known local businessman, is quick to point out that “Hugo’s is a new and different restaurant from Ranchos.” That being said, returning customers will likely experience a sense of familiarity once they cross the threshold of the new space.

For example, in addition to Carrillo, many of Ranchos former employees, including its long-time chef, Aurelio Dominguez, have returned. And although at the moment, for the time being, is shorter than the one offered by Ranchos, reveals that Hugo’s Cochina is being governed by a similar philosophy.

“Hugo’s will try to honor the influences that made Ranchos a household institution,” says Clingaman. “We will continually be updating the menu while trying to keep it health-oriented and appealing to as many different diets as possible. The plan is to keep Hugo’s free-flowing and allowing it to evolve. We will be open to new ideas and keeping it fresh.”

Clingaman has extensive experience in the restaurant business, and, in addition to his involvement with Hugo’s, is co-owner of the Thai Time Bistro, a Thai restaurant and bar located at the opposite end of the same restaurant strip mall as Hugo’s. He is also the owner of Ozzie’s Import Auto Repair, a block away.

Clingaman was responsible for the highly successful makeover Clingaman has extensive experience in the restaurant business, and, in addition to his involvement with Hugo’s, is co-owner of the Thai Time Bistro, a Thai restaurant and bar located at the opposite end of the same restaurant strip mall as Hugo’s. He is also the owner of Ozzie’s Import Auto Repair, a block away. Clingaman was responsible for the highly successful makeover of the Thai Time Bistro a couple of years ago.

Ironically, Clingaman was not looking for an investment opportunity when the Ranchos location became available. However, he couldn’t resist the challenge of opening another restaurant and the proximity of the storefront to his other businesses. He also empathized with the plight of Ranchos’ former employees, many of which had remained in contact with Carrillo after they lost their jobs.

Through Carrillo, Clingaman learned that Ranchos ex-employees wanted to return to work in Ocean Beach, were working only part-time, or were not enjoying their employment elsewhere.

“I wanted to put people back to work,” Clingaman said. “From that point on, things kind of fell into place.” Clingaman is especially grateful to have Carrillo on board. “Most customers know Hugo,” Clingaman explained.

“Everyone loves him. He’s a beacon of positivity. He remembers everyone’s name and what they ate.”

Like Clingaman, Cook brings a solid, 10-year resume in the restaurant business to his new venture. An affable 35-year-old given to easy laughter, Cook worked for Newport Pizza in Ocean Beach and Tiger Tiger, a popular restaurant and tavern in North Park. He is currently the general manager of the Belching Beaver Brewery on Newport Avenue and plans to continue working there for the foreseeable future.

An alcohol license for Hugo’s is pending, but as soon as it is granted, Cook envisions offering a selection of critically acclaimed Mexican craft beers. They will be served in an expanded bar area that has yet to be constructed. For the past two months, all three partners, assisted by several former employees of Ranchos, worked feverishly to prepare for Hugo’s opening. Customers returning to the new restaurant will notice an aesthetically cleaner and brighter ambiance, including distinctive wood slat partitions designed and built by Cook.

In six months to a year, when the dust settles and the identity of the restaurant is more firmly established, a more extensive re-modeling will take place, according to Clingaman and Cook. That will likely include an extensive overhaul of the outdoor dining patio and the restrooms.

“Things have been so frantic over the past few weeks, we haven’t even had time to plan for a grand opening,” Cook said as he juggled applying dark stain to a wood tabletop while answering a barrage of phone calls and text messages.
Mobile barber shop surfs local beaches for custom cuts

Being a surfing devotee helped Lawrence Mendez jump into the driver’s seat and launch his unique barber shop on wheels – Coastal Flow Barber Shop.

Lured by a personal need to be by the beach, Mendez purchased a used Los Angeles Police Department SWAT truck and transformed it into a rolling salon, which he parks along the Pacific Ocean at some of the best surfing spots in San Diego. "I love being a barber, and I'm a surfer to the core," Mendez said. "This business facilitates my lifestyle, and allows me to connect both of my passions."

From his decked-out, 24-foot-long panel truck, Mendez offers classic and modern haircuts such as business cuts, military style, skin fades, tapers, razor fades, fohawks, mohawks, scissor cuts and classic comb over’s. He also tailors beards and mustaches and does straight razor shaves with hot towels and foam.

According to Mendez, his idea has turned out to be a success. Since opening up in October 2016, he said that he gets numerous customers a day in the form of regulars, tourists and others who walk in while enjoying the beach or visiting neighboring restaurants and bars.

Born in Panama, Mendez has cut hair in four countries and various cities throughout the United States. With 28 years of experience, he felt it was time to take his idea on the road and unleash his entrepreneur spirit. "I first got the idea when I lived in an RV on the beach in Tijuana," he said. "Many people would come to my house looking for a cut, and they would ask why I didn't cut hair on the beach in San Diego."

Having tried different businesses involving surfing, such as a surf shop and surf school, Mendez said that they all got in the way of his personal time on the waves. Thinking that the mobile idea would be impossible to do because of the many regulations involved, Mendez nonetheless decided to give it a try. Since after researching extensively, he could not find another barber shop offering services on the beach.

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Stacey Steffe, president of the American Mobile Retail Association, a trade organization she co-founded in 2011 for mobile retailers, says that a truck is an attractive business model for a lot of people, especially small businesses, because of its low startup costs, flexible hours and ability to change locations. "We've been seeing all types of different mobile businesses opening up services as well as retail," Steffe said.

"I don't really feel like an innovator, or risk taker, because I hesitated a lot due to the fact that it's something new," Mendez said. "I just followed my passion and believed in my idea. Lucky for me my passions are surfing and cutting hair."

More information on Coastal Flow Barber Shop can be found on Facebook or by calling 619-647-0489.

Pizza Port and Marina Kitchen collaborate to create honey beer

Marriott Marquis San Diego's Marina Kitchen has teamed up with award-winning San Diego brewery, Pizza Port Brewing Co., to create a one-time spring brew, which was brewed and kegged at their rooftop hives (implemented to promote bee conservation while also allowing for honey-inspired fare) as well as pale malt for a full body and a robust finish.

Marina Kitchen’s team, led by sommelier Michael Pickering, collaborated with Pizza Port head brewer Matt Palmer, to create the special beer, featuring local lemons and honey sourced from Marriott’s own rooftop hives (implemented to promote bee conservation while also allowing for honey-inspired fare) as well as pale malt for a full body and a robust finish.

Marina Kitchen’s Pizza Port Brewing Co. beer follows their December 2016 collaboration with Stone Brewing. In April, Marina Kitchen will team up with Mother Earth Brewing Co. for more. Visit www.marriottmarquissandiego.com for more.
USDA program not targeting jetty cat colony

By Dave Schwab | The Beacon

Rumors that Mission Beach’s jetty cats may become part of the annual United States Department of Agriculture predator cull to protect endangered birds in Mission Bay has residents riled, leading to a petition drive initiated on Forcechange.com to protect the feral felines.

But the outrage about the predator program removing members of the well-known cat colony may be misguided.

In December 2016, the City of San Diego posted a notice about the federal predator management program noting its purpose is to “protect the endangered California least terns and their nests from predatory animals at nesting sites through Mission Bay.”

The notice said actions against potential predators — skunks, raccoons and opossums including feral cats — may include monitoring, trapping, dispersal and shooting. That statement led to the rumors that the jetty cats could be targeted by the USDA program.

But according to a statement on the Jetty Cats - San Diego Facebook page:

“We have received a lot of messages and posts regarding the issue with the USDA. They are not trapping near our colony and any cats trapped in other areas will be taken into animal control.

“We have been working with several other groups regarding the safety of our cats and we have found that this is already an active project that the USDA has been doing for 10 years now.

“The sad news is any wildlife (predators to the protected birds) will be killed. The methods are not humane and this should not be tolerated in such a modern society. San Diego Humane Society is actively working to fight this.”

The Jetty Cats - San Diego Facebook page is run by volunteers who control the jetty cats population by using the trap-neuter-return program.

The dedicated volunteers also feed and look out for the health and safety of the jetty cats.

The annual Mission Bay predator cull is conducted by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, which noted previously: “Our predator management activities are meant to boost the survival rate of these endangered birds and increase their population numbers.”

“Our devices are adjusted to minimize non-target take, and if non-target animals are captured, they are released or taken to local shelters,” said a USDA spokesman. “We have captured five cats since 2014 while doing this type of work. All were unharmed and taken to local shelters.

“Wildlife Services posts signs and issues warnings to alert pet owners when wildlife traps or other devices are being used in an area for wildlife damage management,” the spokesman said. “These devices are only set at the request of and with permission from property owners or managers.”

A nonprofit dedicated to animal welfare providing adoption and veterinarian services, San Diego Humane Society acknowledged it opposes the USDA’s predator management program.

“Suggesting we trap and kill one group of wildlife to save another is contrary to the mission of San Diego’s oldest nonprofit, and not the answer,” said San Diego Humane Society spokesperson Kelli Schry. “For 136 years, SDHS has forged common ground in our community for working together on humane and effective solutions for companion and wild animals. No one denies that the problems caused by outdoor cats are real.

“We believe that trap-neuter-return programs, matched with effective public education campaigns to reduce the number of owned cats outdoors, will produce measurable results in the years ahead. Studies have shown that TNR is the most successful method we have of controlling healthy feral cat colonies. And it’s the most humane,” Schry said.

Noting San Diegans “have the power and responsibility to speak up for the voiceless,” Schry added, “TNR and the other humane strategies for outdoor cats and wildlife represents a forward-thinking approach that is in tune with both ecological sensibility and the practical realities of protecting our animals and preserving our ecosystem. We don’t need to war with animals so much as we need to work together to make sure our pets and wildlife are safe now and in the future.”

Asked their views on the jetty cat issue by Beach & Bay Press on NextDoor.com, several Pacific Beach residents responded.

“My point of view is based solely on my opposition to the notion of culling anything ... cruel and avoidable,” said Sara Jout-Nah of PB.

“Killing any animal, especially a cat, is never a ‘good idea,’” said Art Morris of PB. “Now, for the previous owners of abandoned cats ... don’t get me started.

“These poor cats need a chance to go to a good home rather than ending their lives because of humans who don’t care for them,” said Susan Stouse of Pacific Beach. “Please help these feral cats.”

Addressed to San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, a preamble to the Forcechange.com petition to save the jetty cats reads:

“A proposed roundup in the Mission Bay area of San Diego could result in the barbaric killing of stray cats by nearly any means deemed appropriate, including the shooting of cats.

“The intended proposal will involve the placement of traps throughout the Mission Bay area, and could threaten a well-maintained and beloved feral cat colony. ... The laying out of traps to capture these semi-tame and fed cats has them euthanized or possibly shot off, is cruel and unnecessary.”

The jetty cat petition in its entirety is at forcechange.com/164591/stop-the-brutal-killing-of-feral-cats.

America’s Schooner Cup Charity Regatta on April 1

The Maritime Museum of San Diego’s tall ship Californian, the official tall ship of California, will be participating in the 29th annual America’s Schooner Cup Charity Regatta on San Diego Bay Saturday, April 1. Tickets are limited and available to sail in the race on the Californian or as a spectator aboard the 1542 Spanish galleon San Salvador, a replica of the first European vessel to visit the Pacific West Coast.

Tickets on the Californian or San Salvador for this special event are $65 for adults and $48 for children and include general admission.
The strikingly beautiful sanctuary of All Souls’ Episcopal Church in Point Loma is being transformed into an international art show by acclaimed abstract expressionist Ludmila Pawłowska. On March 5, the “Icons in Transformation” traveling exhibition will open its doors to the public.

Father Joe Dirbas, rector of All Souls, is nothing less than honored to have the exhibition at the church. “This incredible exhibit of ‘Icons in Transformation’ provides a way for us to offer art to the San Diego community, but it is more than simply an exhibit,” Dirbas said.

The works of Pawłowska are based upon techniques of traditional iconography. As such, the artwork encourages the viewer to look inward and transcend this temporal world as they seek connection with the eternal, explained Dirbas.

Though icons are pieces of art, they are not referred to as painted but rather as written – that’s where the “graph” part of iconography comes from.

Dirbas explained that the icon writer, such as Pawłowska, embarks on a spiritual journey of prayer during the writing of an icon.

“The colors selected, the use of shadows, the concentration on the eyes, all of which you will find echoed in her works, contain meaning and are chosen with purpose. “In this way, these pieces, and the church as a backdrop, invite people to explore and develop their own spirituality as they come to discover who they are as children of God. This exhibit will be transformational for those who visit and add to the spirituality and arts of the All Souls’ Point Loma community,” Dirbas said.

The one hundred pieces of original art by Pawłowska will adorn the halls and walls of the sanctuary. She has always been an artist, from her childhood in Russia, where artists and free thinkers were repressed. When she was a young woman, Pawłowska moved to Sweden with her husband 20 years ago where she could paint in peace. Her paintings were of landscapes, florals and scenes from nature.

But when her mother died nearly six years ago, something shifted within her.

“Everything in my life changed. After the funeral, I went back to Russia. I questioned the meaning of life and talked to many priests in Russian monasteries. During that time, all these icons surrounded me,” she said.

These classic original icons were created by monks centuries ago,” said Pawłowska, whose own religious faith is ecumenical, including Catholic and Lutheran. As Pawłowska contemplated her conversations with the priests and spent time gazing at the holy images, she began to consider a contemporary approach to divine art.

“These icons are like poetry without words,” she said. “I wanted to communicate something of that.”

The centuries-old images proved to be a wellspring of fresh images for Pawłowska’s own work.

“You will notice all the eyes in the original icons and in my work. It’s about God watching you, yes, but not the kind that we all think of today, with cameras all around. This is a good thing. God loves you and watches you. He is listening to you. It is a two-sided conversation,” she said.

Pawłowska insists that her work is not really about religion. “They are about developing your own spiritual life and appreciating its mystery,” she said.

“The title of the exhibit, ‘Icons in Transformation,’ is provocative because you can’t change icons. However, the icons can change you. “Art never really answers questions. It raises more. It’s a journey of searching and seeing. I hope that all who visit the exhibit will receive this message,” she said.

Pawłowska chose All Souls’ Episcopal Church for this two-month installation of her work for the church’s unusual architecture. “It has a very different circular structure. I am inspired by the shape of the sanctuary and the colors of the stained glass. I have created several new pieces just for this church,” she said.

“This is a great cultural event for Point Loma and all of Southern California,” said All Souls’ vestry member Diane Sooy. “We are expecting thousands of people from all over to visit this exhibit.”

MADCAPS 57th annual benefit show 'On Broadway' March 9-11

Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies (MADCAPS) celebrates 57 years of community service with its annual benefit show Thursday, March 9 through Saturday, March 11, in Point Loma Nazarene University’s Brown Chapel Theater. The theme for this year is “On Broadway,” featuring Broadway hit shows such as “Grease,” “Chicago,” “Saturday Night Fever,” “School of Rock,” “Mama Mia,” “Wicked,” and “Newsies.”

Tickets for this year’s show are on sale with prices ranging between $5 and $25. Tickets can be purchased at www.sdsmadcaps.org.

“MADCAPS is thrilled to present this year’s theme ‘On Broadway,’ said Judy Parker, 2017 benefit communications chair. “We’re performing a variety of Broadway hit shows in a sensational, show-stopping format, as well as highlighting our real stars, the philanthropists that we work with.”

In addition, the group is supporting San Diego First Church of the Nazarene’s “Homeless Kits” project, by collecting various personal care items. Patrons are asked to bring items like new tube socks, small shampoo, soap and lip balms, which will be distributed to those in need. All of this would not be possible without the support of sponsors from the community.

“We sincerely thank The Irving Group, Ullman Sails, Bass Family, Ocean Dental, San Diego Fund- ing/Pacific Sotheby’s, and Smith Parker,” Parker said.

This annual musical extravaganza has become MADCAPS signature fundraising event to provide financial support to dozens of local charities. The underwriting of major production costs, proceeds from ticket and advertising sales, and the donated time and expertise of the girls, their families and friends make it possible to give to our community organizations. “Please support us and/or donate to MADCAPS at madcaps.org,” Parker said. “We are very excited to return to the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University and the additional capacity and comfort of the theater at Brown Chapel.”
Point Loma singer-songwriter Briahnna brings passion to performances

While many other musical communities are reporting their music communities are in decline, San Diego seems to be escaping that drought, with a wealth of new musicians emerging seemingly daily, both local talents and performers drawn by our thriving scene. One such artist currently making a splash is singer-songwriter Briahnna Schillings, known professionally as “Briahhna,” who next performs at the Casbah on March 26, in advance of dates in the Bay Area.

Now a resident of the Point Loma area, Schillings grew up in Medford, Ore., heading south in the summer of 2005 to pursue her dreams of a career in acting or music.

“I believe that music chose me first,” she said. “From the age of 7, I fell madly in love with every instrument I encountered. I started creating and mimicking songs, melodies would pour through me. I used music as my form of expression when words failed. Music gave me a voice and I am forever grateful and inspired for that.”

Within a year of her discovery of a love for music, she began to work as an actress. “The stage is my second home,” she said. “I began at the age of 8 performing and touring with ‘The Nutcracker’ in our local ballet company. I fell in love with theater, gaining my first role in ‘Alice in Wonderland’ as Alice’s shadow. From the age of 12 to 16, I was performing two to three performances throughout the year.”

Schillings recalled, “I continued to take part in theatrical performances around town while performing in the theater program at my school. I dedicated my life to art and it became my lifestyle.”

While she is cast as a singer-songwriter, her music has a modern pop edge, with echoes of artists such as Natalie Merchant, Stevie Nicks or Sarah McLachlan, as heard on songs such as “It’s All You,” from her recent self-titled E.P. While her performances might include songs by the likes of Patsy Cline, Tom Petty or Otis Redding, her focus is squarely on her original music.

“I hope my songs encourage you to embrace your fears and imperfections, feel empowered to put your personal emotions and ponderings.”

As much as she likes creating music, part of the attraction of being a performer for her is the opportunity to travel. Like many San Diego performers at the moment, she is finding particular success abroad. “I love touring Europe,” she enthused.

“Last summer, I toured through Basel, Switzerland, Vienna, Austria and one of my favorite countries, Germany. It has become my second home and holds a piece of my heart,” Schillings said. “The people, their appreciation and respect for music, is something that continues to draw me back again and again.”

Now a resident of the Point Loma area, singer-songwriter Briahnna Schillings grew up in Medford, Ore.

San Diego’s largest thrift, estate and garage sale

The 90th annual Thursday Club Rummage Sale – San Diego’s largest thrift, estate and garage sale – will be held Saturday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the large Balboa Park Activity Center. All proceeds will benefit the Thursday Club of San Diego.

The Thursday Club, started in 1921, is a non-profit, volunteer organization of more than 300 women. Our goal is to promote educational, cultural, social, moral and civic activities. The Rummage Sale is our biggest annual fundraiser with proceeds of more than $130,000 each year helping San Diego organizations fulfill financial needs.

All of our items (from basement bargains to the unique) and hundreds of hours are donated by our members. There will be thousands of items and bargains galore. We have furniture, tables, chairs, rugs, couches, lamps, sporting goods, toys, books, linens, bedding, holiday items, men’s, women’s and children’s clothes, art, frames, jewelry, hats, purses, household and kitchen items, electronics, appliances, antiques, books and more and gently used merchandise.

Free admission and lots of parking. Please bring cash.

For more information or to make a donation call (619) 224-5264 or www.thethursdayclub.org

The Maritime Museum of San Diego presents the second annual California Gold event, Sunday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will step back in time and relive the Gold Rush Days, pan for gold, climb deep into a “mine,” enjoy a train ride, make a covered wagon, and participate in other activities organized for all ages.

In 1849, thousands of gold seekers travelled to California by long narrow ships with extra-large sails called Clipper Ships. Between 1849 and 1869, 600,000 passengers boarded ships and used the Panama route to reach California. Tickets at www.sdmaritime.org are $17 for adults and $9 for children.

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Music

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Briahnna: Sunday, March 26 at The Casbah, 2531 Kettner Blvd. 7 p.m. 21 and up.
Free. www.casbahmusic.com

The Thursday Club, started in 1921, is a non-profit, volunteer organization of more than 300 women. Our goal is to promote educational, cultural, social, moral and civic activities. The Rummage Sale is our biggest annual fundraiser with proceeds of more than $130,000 each year helping San Diego organizations fulfill financial needs.

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From the beach to Balanchine: Latest performance a milestone for City Ballet

By LUCIA VITI | The Beacon

The City Ballet of San Diego, accompanied by the City Ballet Orchestra, will perform “Balanchine and Beyond” at Spreckels Theatre on March 10-12. Noted by critics for “polished, eye-catching, delightful and highly-entertaining” productions, the company has hosted 19 George Balanchine ballets, Steven Wistrich was coached by George Balanchine – the founding artistic director of the New York City Ballet – early in his career. The San Diego City Ballet is one of but a few companies to receive permission from The George Balanchine Trust to perform his ballets.

The George Balanchine Trust, the Jerome Robbins’ Trust and the New York City Ballet granted permission to the City of Ballet Orchestra for each program respectively. “La Source,” choreographed in 1965, with music by Claude Debussy; and Peter Martins’ “La Source,” choreographed in 1963, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky; Jerome Robbins’ “Afternoon of a Faun” and Nilas Martins – the son of New York City Ballet artistic director Peter Martins – staged “Hallelujah Junction.”

The George Balanchine Trust, Steve Wistrich described his dancers as professionals from the U.S., Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Russia, who spend 26 weeks of the year in San Diego dancing for a living. “We’ve built an amazing repertoire of iconic ballets performed by dancers from all over the world based on our world-class ballet company for the city of San Diego,” he explained. “We’re proud of our work. ‘Balanchine and Beyond’ is a milestone for our company and a major dance event for the city of San Diego.”

Noted by critics for “polished, eye-catching, delightful and highly-entertaining” productions, the company has hosted 19 George Balanchine ballets, Steven Wistrich was coached by George Balanchine – the founding artistic director of the New York City Ballet – early in his career. The San Diego City Ballet is one of but a few companies to receive permission from The George Balanchine Trust to perform his ballets.

“Balanchine and Beyond” will also debut ballets by Jerome Robbins and Peter Martins. Robbins directed and choreographed the Academy Award-winning film “West Side Story” and its Broadway counterpart. He served as the co-director of the New York City Ballet with Balanchine until the time of his death.

Wistrich described the Spreckels Theater as a “world-class historic theater and a wonderful venue” for a dance/ballet company. Former New York City Ballet principal dancers Eve Lawson staged “La Source,” and “Tchaikovsky Pas De Deux,” Rebecca Hirsch staged “Afternoon of a Faun” and Nilas Martins – the son of New York City Ballet artistic director Peter Martins – staged “Hallelujah Junction.”

“The Balanchine Trust, the Jerome Robbins’ Trust and the New York City Ballet granted permission to the City of Ballet Orchestra for each program respectively. “La Source,” choreographed in 1965, with music by Leo Delibes, and Jerome Robbins’ “Afternoon of a Faun,” choreographed in 1953, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky; Jerome Robbins’ “Afternoon of a Faun,” choreographed in 1953, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky; Jerome Robbins’ “Afternoon of a Faun,” choreographed in 1953, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky; Jerome Robbins’ “Afternoon of a Faun,” choreographed in 1953, with music by Peter Tchaikovsky.

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**Friday Night Liberty**

Spring into Art at Friday Night Liberty at Liberty Station on March 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. This is San Diego’s most unique, fun and authentic event to find locally made art and gifts. Experience Malashock Dance performances and site-specific theater with Circle Circle dot dot’s “San Diego, I Love You.” FX Dojo Popup gallery exhibit on Captain America, rock out with Recreation Music Center concerts in the North Chapel and in Barracks 17 Plaza, enjoy the newest works from artists in the Arts District. Visitors can start their stroll at the Dick Laub NTC Command Center – 2640 Historic Decatur Road and pick up a monthly program and District map.

Westminster Church’s spring production

Westminster Presbyterian Church’s Vanguard Theatre Ministry has announced its spring production “Who Am I This Time? And Other Conundrums of Love,” by Aaron Posner, which is an adaptation of three early comic masterpieces by Kurt Vonnegut. Take a walk through simple, mythical small-town America and catch a glimpse of humankind’s most elusive, complicated and basic sentiment. Real folks. Real love. Real fun. Shows will be March 24, 25, 26, 31 and April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at www.facebook.com/vanguardtheatre and www.vanguardsd.org. For group sales and other information, call the Box Office at 619-224-6263. Westminster Theatre is located at 3598 Talbot St.

**Westminster Women’s lunch**

Point Loma Republican Women Federated monthly luncheon meeting will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 15 at Point Loma Cafe, 4865 Harbor Drive. Program: Tony Krvaric, county chairman Republican Party San Diego, speaking on local and border issues. A no-host lunch follows. Guests welcome. Call Marilyn at 619-222-9532 for additional information.

**Garden Club**

Point Loma Garden Club meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon. The March 8 program is a presentation on Improving Garden Soil. Cindy Sparks will discuss how to improve the soil in your own garden to optimize plant growth and increase blooms. The meeting is free. The location is Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. PLGC.org.

**Nimitz Boulevard median art selection meetings**

The Point Loma Association’s next project is a piece of public art to be placed on the Nimitz Boulevard median, just south of West Point Loma Boulevard. Several well-known artists have submitted proposals. Now, you can help make the selection. See the possibilities and cast your vote at one of these public presentations:

- **Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m., in the Family Life Center at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, 2128 Chatsworth Blvd.**
- **Tuesday, March 28, at 7 p.m., in the Dick Laub NTC Command Center at 2640 Historic Decatur Road at Liberty Station.** For more information, visit pointloma.org.

**Gulls watch parties**

Banzai, at 3048 Midway Drive, will be holding San Diego Gulls watch parties 3 p.m. March 5, 5 p.m. March 18, 7 p.m. April 1, and 8 p.m. April 8. Grab your blue, white and orange jersey because Banzai is throwing parties with the Gulls Girls and Gulliver while watching your favorite team faceoff on the ice. Banzai serves honorary sake bombs each time the Gulls score. Not to mention, the hockey bar hands out chuck-a-pucks to the first 50 people who come in and order a drink to get ready for the big game, and sells them for $5 during all watch parties.

**Republican Women’s lunch**

Point Loma Garden Club meets monthly on the second Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon. The March 8 program is a presentation on Improving Garden Soil. Cindy Sparks will discuss how to improve the soil in your own garden to optimize plant growth and increase blooms. The meeting is free. The location is Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. PLGC.org.

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