Burke murder trial goes to jury

OB man accused of killing PB man

Jury deliberations resumed April 12 in the murder trial of Thomas Burke, a pharmacist who is accused of killing his roommate’s boyfriend at Burke’s front door in Ocean Beach.

The eight-woman, four-man jury got the case Tuesday, April 11 at 3:47 p.m. after hearing hours of closing arguments and instructions from San Diego Superior Court Judge Melinda Lasater.

Burke, 32, testified Friday he shot Jess Matthew Robles, 34, of Pacific Beach, in self-defense after Robles sent him text messages that Burke said were threatening to him.

Verdict options as suggested by Deputy District Attorney Kyle Sutterley are first and second-degree murder.

Thomas Burke sent him text messages that Burke said were threatening to him. Verdict options as suggested by Deputy District Attorney Kyle Sutterley are first and second-degree murder.

Shelter Island boat ramp upgrades to begin soon

Boaters urged to use other facilities

The Port of San Diego has completed the bidding process for the Shelter Island Boat Launch Facility Improvement Project, with construction expected to begin in late April or early May and conclude in March 2018. One of the busiest boat launch ramps in California, with an estimated 50,000 launches annually, the approximately $9.5 million improvement project was designed with extensive public outreach.

It has received funding from the California Department of Boating and Waterways and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The bidding process for the project is complete and a contract award is imminent. Pending contract approval, construction is expected to begin in late April or early May and conclude in March 2018. Constructed in the mid-1950s with a single-lane boat ramp, it has received funding from the California Department of Boating and Waterways and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

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BOAT RAMP
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A concrete launch ramp, Shelter Island boat launch’s last major improvement was completed in the mid-1970s when the existing 10-lane boat launching ramp was constructed. The facility is used by recreational boaters from the general public, including small yachts, inboard and outboard motorboats, private fishing boats, fishing tournament boats and amphibious tour buses.

“This project recognizes that the boat launch needs to be enlarged, made more safe and more navigable and maneuverable making it easier for boats to move around within the basin once they’re in the water,” said Brianne Page, marketing and public relations representative for the Port District.

“It will increase the length of the boarding floats. We’ll be installing a public walking platform with viewing areas. We’ll also be installing more signage and better lighting, as well as bringing the restrooms up to current ADA standards.”

Due to safety concerns and to allow construction to occur, the Shelter Island facility will be closed to the public during most of construction.

One lane will remain open during the peak summer months, but ramp users should expect delays if launching from the IBRL during the summer months. They are urged to utilize several alternate launch facilities throughout the area.

Page noted, “We encourage the boating public to find an alternative boat launch facility in the area.”

Regarding the boat launch’s construction, Page noted, “We’re (Port) doing everything possible to minimize the impacts on the surrounding community.”

ALTERNATE BOATLaunches
San Diego Bay, 2869 Historic Decatur Road in Liberty Station;
MCRD Boat House, 131 Neville Road;
Glorietta Bay public boat launch, 1975 Strand Way (will be undergoing reconstruction and will not be available for use from April through the end of May);
Mission Bay Dana Landing, 2580 Ingramham St.;
Mission Bay South Shores, S. Shores Park Driveway;
Mission Bay Ski Boat Launch Ramp, Ingramham Street & Vacation Road;
Mission Bay Santa Clara Point, 1001 Santa Clara Place;
Mission Bay De Anza Cove boat launch, E Mission Bay Drive.

The Port of San Diego is a self-supporting public-benefit corporation established in 1962 by an act of the California State Legislature.

This artist’s rendering shows how the project will increase the length of the boarding floats, install a public walking platform with viewing areas, along with more signage and better lighting, as well as bringing the restrooms up to current ADA standards.

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Le Rondelet: Point Loma’s early high rise, celebrates 50 years this month

Dr KAREN SCARLETON | The Beacon

All the while Ocean Beach Fish- ing Pier was being raised over the Pacific, pier contractor Leonard Teyssier was conceiving his notion of building a luxury high rise on the site of an old tuna cannery in Point Loma.

Before dredging spoils were dumped on the unloved shoal that became Shelter Island, "Boats came up 10 feet to our building line," remembers 89-year-old Teyssier. "Fish were off-loaded into the can- nery, which was an old rusty sheet metal building. When my friends heard I was building down there, they advised me to stay away from that nasty, smelly cannery."

But Teyssier’s luxury Le Rondelet apartment complex was ideal with open walkway balconies so it looks recently constructed." Teyssier says, "and it has not fallen short of requirements during a home inspection. To help home-owners deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspec- tion" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn’t cost you the sale of your home.

Whether you own another home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. To help home-
What's up with the controversial housing development at 2269 Ebers St. in Ocean Beach?

More people are wondering that as they drive by the skeletal structure at the corner of Ebers and Greene streets, which some believe is oversized and out of character with the surrounding community.

The structure hasn't been worked on in months, and its exposed wood appears to be deteriorating.

Ocean Beach Community Planning Board chair architect John Ambert said he knows some of what's going on with the stalled development.

"The contractor for the project had his contractor's license suspended for failing to comply with an arbitration award," said Ambert, who added, "The loan/mortgage for the project appears to have gone into default, and the project was green-lit,"

Ambert's understanding is the project could "be sold as a short sale, sent to cash auction, or the owner can file for bankruptcy. I do not know which of these options will happen — or what the next steps are in this process."

Councilmember Lorie Zapf's office in District 2, which includes the Peninsula, said the project had been on hold but should have resumed.

"There was a stop work order on it," said Zapf aide Ryan Purdy, adding, "Our understanding is the developer came up with a plan to get things back in order, and the final project was going to be not more than 30 feet and not block anybody's views."

"The stop-work order should have been lifted once they (city) reached an agreement with the developers and the project was green-lighted," Purdy said. "It's mysterious it's not being worked on."

"The 2269 Ebers St. project is a total disaster ... and is not making progress."

JOHN AMBERT
OCEAN BEACH COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD CHAIR

The 2269 Ebers St. project is a total disaster ... and is not making progress," concluded Ambert. "There are multiple issues with the project."

Ambert however disputed the contention that the status of the project's permitting was clear.

"A stop work order was never issued for the project by the city of San Diego, only an inspections corrections notice with specific elements to correct, back in October of last year," he said.

Ambert said he was told by the city's permitting department that "the project has submitted for a construction change, and is being redesigned to enclose the two buildings together and make them to look more like one building."

"Nothing, we do not really know what is happening with this project," Ambert said the OB Planning Board is "very disappointed by the city's review process. This project skirted around the rules to avoid the Coastal Development Permit as an 'addition.' They submitted as a ministerial, 'over-the-counter process.'"

"Thus, the OB Planning Board did not get the opportunity to review the project," Ambert continued. "It was only when the community raised hell about what appears to be two units being built in a single-family zone, and the developer posted the renderings on Facebook, that we found out about it."

"The housing project's developer, Nelco Properties, previously said, "Nelco Properties is a strong supporter of the Ocean Beach community and its residents. With this project we are working to beautify the community and bring increased home values to the surrounding neighborhood."

"The project conforms to all required municipal codes, city development regulations, and has obtained all required permits; it has been approved by city and county agencies."

"We take our duty as responsible developers seriously. We have complied with all regulation necessary to construct this project. To ensure compliance, we have enlisted independent licensed land surveyors to survey the property. They have certified that the height of this structure is within the allowable 30-foot height limit. All components of this project have been stamped, approved and signed-off on by the city of San Diego to move forward with this project."

Nelco, and the architects involved in the project, could not be reached by the Peninsula Beacon for further comment.

‘The 2269 Ebers St. project is a total disaster ... and is not making progress.’

By: DAVID SCHWAB
THE BEACON

The structure hasn't been worked on in months, and its exposed wood is deteriorating.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

The big event this month was the the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Park Open House featuring the beautifully blooming 3 acre native plant garden south of the Ladera Street Parking Lot. The well attended event was held from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 8th. Many thanks to Rosamaria Acuta for her excellent job of organizing and to Dan Kimmell for his wonderful leadership in creating the garden and for sharing his tips for successfully growing native plants. Also appreciated are Gene Berger who set up the canopy, tables, etc. and the many SCNPC members who greeted visitors and enjoyed this fun and educational event.

The event was hosted by the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council (SCNPC) and Friends of Sunset Cliffs.

To volunteer and for additional information www.sunsetcliffs.info From Ann Swanson, Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Council Chair Please email her with questions ann@swanson2.com.
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Miss Cabrillo crowned
Scripps Ranch High School student Katrina Salehyan was named Miss Cabrillo Festival 2017 at the Miss Cabrillo Festival competition held at UPSIES Hall on March 26. Salehyan will represent the Cabrillo Festival at events in Ensenada and San Diego during the Cabrillo Festival in late September.

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Lenten food drive
Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church is holding its annual Lenten food drive through April 16. Consider donating non-perishable food or personal hygiene items that support the Mission Beyond Partners, Presbyterian Urban Ministries, Louves and Fishes Food Ministry, OB Community Dinners and Military Outreach Ministries. Any questions, contact Kathy Zorn and Eddie Dees at 619-224-2177.

You can drop off items at:
Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, 2128 Chatsworth Blvd, 619-223-1633;
Stump’s Family Marketplace, 3770 Voltaire St, 619-226-9575;
Jensen’s Foods, 955 Catalina Blvd, 619-550-2097;
US Bank, 2150 Chatsworth Blvd, 619-226-5557.

Talmadge Art Show
The Talmadge Art Show artists have created works of contemporary craft and clothing just for this show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 7 at Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laming Road. For more, visit talmadgeartsow.com.

OB photo contest
The Ocean Beach Town Council has started a “Share Your OB” photo contest. To enter just tag your best photos of OB with #shareyourOB and post on Instagram or Facebook.

BRIEFS

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Easter Sunrise Service

Easter is April 16 this year and the 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 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. The speakers this year are Capt. Howard Warner, commanding officer, Naval Base Point Loma, Lonnie Folsom, Kiwanis Division 21, and Matt Lemas, president Point Loma Kiwanis Club.

Free entry at Cabrillo National Monument

National Park Week is an annual week for celebration and recognition of national parks. Visitors to Cabrillo National Monument will be granted free admission April 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Republican Women monthly luncheon

Point Loma Republican Women Federated monthly luncheon meeting will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 19 at Point Loma Cafe, 4865 Harbor Drive. Program: Eric Golub – a popular Republican commentator and comedian. A no host lunch follows. Guests welcome. Call Marilyn at 619-222-9532 for information.

Veterans plaza fundraiser

Join the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation to honor veterans at Wonderland Ocean Pub on Abbott Street in Ocean Beach 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. This event is the kickoff for a capital campaign to raise $1 million to build a new regional veterans plaza in Ocean Beach in 2018. The event is sponsored by the OB CDC with the support of the Ocean Beach Community groups. All donations are tax-deductible and pledge-sheets will be available. There is a minimum $50 per person donation at the door. Detailed information about the new veterans plaza will be presented. For advance information, visit obcdc.org.

Meeting about Saratoga Park options

The Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation will hold its second neighborhood meeting regarding the children’s park/lifeguard fitness areas at Saratoga Park. This is an opportunity to meet the designers and have questions answered. The forum is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18 at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center.

Seashell hunt

Crystal Pier Bait and Tackle will be having a seashell hunt on Easter Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Children can come to Crystal Pier in Pacific Beach, find a seashell (one per child) and bring it to the shop for a treat and a chance to win a grand prize.

OB Green Center annual celebration

Ocean Beach Green Center is celebrating Earth Day and 28 years of environmental, peace and social justice activism at its annual anniversary celebration fundraiser 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at 4843 B, Voltaire St. There will be live music and presentations on solutions to the homeless situation, climate change, and social justice issues. For information, visit oceanbeachgreencenter.org.
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ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station
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Point Loma Artist Wins Prestigious Award

Jean Silva, an artist and resident of Point Loma won Best Miniature in the highly competitive April Member’s exhibit, Seeds of Inspiration, at The San Diego Watercolor Society. Her painting titled “In the Garden” was given the honor by award-winning juror Helen Shafer Garcia. According to Garcia, “This piece demonstrates exceptional spontaneity, gesture and stance. It is inviting but not overpowering. Its linear quality balances the use of color and enriches the figure.”

After retiring from a 30-year career as a graphics artist with the Federal Government, Silva is enjoying being a mixed media artist, experimenting with new materials and techniques. “Nature is very important to me since so much of my inspiration and energy comes from it. I try to spend as much time as I can painting in Idyllwild, an artists’ community located in the San Jacinto mountains and also at Lake Almanor, a mountain retreat in northern California. My style is representational, painting landscapes and the figure. After taking an exciting mixed media collage workshop from the Southern artist Carrie Burns Brown, I now am discovering the excitement of new combinations of materials, continuing with nature themes but gravitating also to the abstract and non-representational. I am active with the San Diego Watercolor Society, the Point Loma Artists Association and several artists’ critique groups.

The exhibit will continue at the San Diego Watercolor Society’s gallery through Saturday, April 29th. The gallery is located in the ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station at 2825 Dewey Road, Bldg #202 and is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. The exhibit is free to the public. Log on to www.sdws.org to see all of the exhibition paintings.

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April 29-30 • San Diego Rose Show
April 30 • The Local Spring Bazaar
May 5 • Friday Night Liberty
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ENTRY RULES: You choose your favorite! Tell us who the best of the best is and you’ll be entered into our free drawing. Mail or hand deliver your ballot to: Peninsula Beacon, 1621 Grand Ave. Suite C, San Diego CA 92109. You may also submit your vote online at: www.peninsulabeacon.com. (look for the banner ad advertising the readers choice awards)

• 50% of the ballot must be complete to be counted in the drawing. • One ballot per person. • Limited to 92106 & 92110 zip codes. • Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered, by Thursday, May 12, 2017.
Point Loma senior earns SD Scholar-Leader-Athlete award

A member of last season’s Point Loma Pointer football team and its head coach each were honored by a national organization at its recent 45th annual banquet.

Patrick Rutledge, who terrorized opposing quarterbacks from his defensive end position, received a prestigious San Diego Scholar-Leader-Athlete award from the local Walter J. Zable chapter of the National Football Foundation. Only 27 students from more than 100 high schools in the region were selected for this honor. Point Loma has had a player selected in 38 of the 45 years.

Standing 6-foot 3-inches tall and weighing 190 pounds, Rutledge let-took on his responsibilities for his team. During his senior season, he recorded 18 quarterback sacks and two of three years. He also has volunteered at a local church for eight years and participated in internships at the San Diego Zoo.

After graduation, Rutledge plans to enlist in the Army and later attend SDSU to major in zoology. Pointer head coach Mike Hastings was also honored at the event as the local Meritorious Coach of the Year. Hastings will begin his 20th season as the team’s head coach in 2017 after he was named to succeed long-time legend Bennie Edens in 1997. He values seeing his players become great husbands, fathers and community leaders.

During his head coaching career, Hastings has compiled a record of 135-84-2.

Pointers baseball begins in Eastern League

The Point Loma baseball team finds itself with effective pitching while continuing to struggle at the plate as it prepares for play in a new league.

The team’s pitchers have compiled a 1-1 record (two complete games) through 1-4 games while hitters are producing 7.2 hits and 3.8 runs per game leading to wins over weaker hitting teams and losses against teams that make frequent contact with the ball.

With early-season tournaments and non-league games nearly complete, the Pointers’ record stands at 5-5-1, better than all members of the Eastern League except Serra (6-6). In CIF rankings, the Dogs currently stand fourth among 20 Div. II teams.

The new Eastern League lineup has the Pointers joining Serra, Patrick Henry, San Diego, Mira Mesa, Coronado and University City high schools to form the new circuit. The Pointers will bid farewell to former Western League foes including La Jolla, Madison and Cathedral. The league schedule calls for the Pointers to play each team twice, once at home, once away. Because of work on the Mira Mesa field, the teams played twice at David Wells Field last week with the Pointers winning both games to take an early first-place lead.

“We have a great chance to win this league,” said head coach David Wells, “as long as we’re doing our job out there and our pitching keeps us in the game we have a chance. We can’t take anybody for granted.”

In the first Marauder game, the visiting Pointers pushed across a run in the seventh inning to send the game into extra innings. They scored three runs in the eighth on three hits and a Mira Mesa error. Junior A. J. Shradar pitched the eighth to pick up a save in the 5-2 win.

In their true home game, the Pointers survived a shaky start by junior starter Mitchell Sardo who then settled down to throw a complete game shutout. He needed only 68 pitches for the win.

Offensively, the Dogs put together a few hits in the fifth inning, which, coupled with several Marauder mis-cues in the field, led to all five runs in a 5-0 win.

The PLLHS hitting futility can be seen in the stat line of senior outfielder Frank Rogozinski who has a league second-best .400 batting average, third-best slugging percentage (.555) and leads the league with 12 runs scored. But Rogozinski’s hits are coming with few teammates on base as his 12 hits, including three doubles and two triples have only generated two RBI’s, tied with 13 others for 37th place in the league.

“We’ve been playing this game a long time and it’s very seldom you see a team with all cylinders working,” said Wells. “It’s usually one or the other, and now the pitchers are working, and while the hitting’s okay, it’s nothing to write home about.”

Notable pitchers include senior Andrew Johnson with a 2-1 record and 1.38 ERA. He has walked only two batters and struck out 21 over 25.1 innings. He has thrown two complete game shutouts.

Sando has a 3-3 record, 1.20 ERA, eight walks and 24 strikeouts through 23.1 innings. Opponents are hitting .176 against him and he has two complete-game shutouts.

Senior Santiago Gomez has a 1.71 ERA covering 16.1 innings with opponents hitting .188. Senior reliever Dan berry has a 0.00 ERA over 6.2 innings with opponents batting .150. Junior Austin Correia got the start over Mira Mesa in the teams’ Eastern League opening series. The Pointers won both games over the Marauders.

Extra bases

The team is finishing play in the fourth largest prep baseball tournament in the U.S., the Lions Tournament. Now in its 62nd year, the event draws 136 teams from throughout California. The Pointers are in Div. 6A and share a bracket with Rocklin (Calif.), Otay Ranch and La Jolla. To see more, go to lionsbaseball.org.

To schedule all of these games, a total of 95 local fields are used including David Wells Field.

Wanderlust 108 to fill Liberty Station

With the aid of yoga, one can exercise their mental muscles too. Those interested in trying, can do so at Wanderlust 108 at Liberty Station in Point Loma.

Hosted at the formal Naval base on Saturday and Sunday, April 15-16, Wanderlust, the world’s only mind-body program, is an all-out celebration of healthy living in a local park.

Saturday’s events are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This event is all about community, bringing together a 5k run/walk, an outdoor yoga experience and a guided meditation.

Following the triathlon, guests can choose their own mindful adventure by partaking in one scheduled activity, grabbing a healthy, organic lunch or stopping by Wanderlust’s True North Cafe.

From DJs on the main stage to lawn activities like hoop, and acroyoga, to local and craft vendors, there’s plenty to do when you’re not on your mat.

Nationally recognized teachers, speakers and musical talent are also featured at each event to make for a fun-filled day. There will be teaching training programs for those interested in becoming yoga instructors or in deepening their practices.

For more information, visit www.wanderlust.com.
Red Bull Air Race returns to SD

After eight years away, the Red Bull Air Race World Championship will return to fly over San Diego Bay April 15-16. Nicolas Ivanoff won the last race in the skies above San Diego and he'll be back to defend this month. Ivanoff beat Paul Bonhomme by more than a second in 2009, and this year he will be fighting 13 other Master Class pilots to try and win.

"I've got great memories of San Diego, and we have been good in America, so it should be a close race," Ivanoff said.

The pilots of the Red Bull Air Race have been doing their homework on the San Diego track and the variables such as the weather. Race director Steve Jones, who raced in 2007 and 2008 and has a wealth of experience in what can happen in San Diego, said the race this year will be about weather conditions.

"The weather can be a variable on the Pacific Coast," said Jones. "There is the marine layer, which is a bank of fog that rolls in off the coast and can cover the track. In the past, it’s rolled close to the track but never covered it, so we’ll be hoping that’s as close as it gets.”

One advantage the race committee has is that it is able to get a lot of forecasts and information about the weather. This is thanks to the two major airports and the U.S. Naval Air Base that are in close proximity to the track. Also Jones’ fellow race director Jim DeMartino lives in San Diego and knows the area well.

"Due to the track’s location, wind will definitely feature in this race," Jones said. "As we’re close to the ocean, it’s unlikely that it will be still. But if the wind is coming in from the coast it should still be smooth in the track. If the wind is coming off the shore, it will be turbulent because of the buildings, making it similar to Abu Dhabi.”

The track in San Diego is a 15 gate course over two laps. It has a tight 180-degree turn at one end and a vertical turning maneuver at the other. It looks to be a fast and simple track, but that’s what makes it exciting.

"Although it looks simple, it means the pilots will have to fly it absolutely perfectly if they are to win. One small mistake will see them out of the running," said Jones.

Once the pilots have flown through the Start Gate they have to navigate the chicanes and then they head to the 180-degree turn, which has Gate 3 at the halfway point of the turn, so the pilots have to get their wings level before carrying on. "There’s a lot of time that can be won or lost in this turn, depending on the line the pilots take," said Jones.

At the end of the turn is Gate 4, where they will have to level their wings again before heading to the single pylon at Gate 5. "This could cause problems. The pilots will want to fly super close to Gate 5 to set themselves up for Gate 6. If they fly too close, there's a chance they'll pick up a penalty," Jones explained.

As the pilots go through Gate 6 they will have to line up their race-plane for the vertical turning maneuver at Gate 7. Due to the safety line, this is a judged gate, meaning the pilots have to have their race-plane vertical before they can make the turn towards Gate 8.

If they don’t have the raceplane vertical before they turn they could pick up a one-second penalty for promoting vertical turning maneuver. "After the vertical turning maneuver, it’s on to the Start/Finish Gate for the second lap.

"The pilot who flies the vertical turning maneuver perfectly will have the best chance of winning. There are a lot of opportunities for penalties in the San Diego track, but it’s a great venue and we’re in for a really good race," Jones said.

On March 30, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) rolled out a new app called Compass Cloud, which can be used with both transit systems. Compass Cloud is free to download on any smartphone and allows riders to purchase tickets much easier.

You can purchase daily or monthly tickets for the MTS Rapid, MTS bus, MTS Trolley, NCTD Coaster, Sprinter, and Breeze; prices for tickets purchased via Compass Cloud are lower than Compass Cards, which are required to physically bring up on your phone screen later.

It also allows you to use multiple tickets at once, so riders with families or friends can all hop on at once with a quick show of your phone screen. This greatly reduces the time it takes for passengers to load up the bus and dispens the worries of missing a bus because you are still trying to buy a ticket.

Another inherent feature of this app is security. MTS and NCTD have been criticized for security flaws on the physical Compass Cards, which do not meet payment card industry standards, leaving riders vulnerable to credit card fraud. Compass Cards will not be gone with the rollout of Compass Cloud, but riders now have the option to use a safer alternative.

Currently, the app is lacking some key features; only day passes and monthly passes for adults are available. However, this is only the first of several phases of releases. More features and improvements are in store, such as the ability to buy one-way tickets and discounted fares.

According to MTS, a survey showed that 85 percent of riders have smartphone devices and two-thirds of them would use a mobile ticketing option. Hundreds have already installed Compass Cloud since the rollout and the app is expected to be widely successful.

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MTS debuts new app for buying tickets

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A convenient feature of the app is the option to buy tickets anytime, anywhere. Moreover, you can purchase multiple tickets at once and digitally store them, with the ability to easily bring them up on your screen later.

It also allows you to use multiple tickets at once, so riders with families or friends can all hop on at once with a quick show of your phone screen. This greatly reduces the time it takes for passengers to load up the bus and dispels the worries of missing a bus because you are still trying to buy a ticket.

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The Golden Gate Bridge opened in San Francisco. Franklin D. Roosevelt was President of the United States. The first issue of Look Magazine was published. And in downtown San Diego, said the race this year will definitely feature in this race,” Jones said. “As we’re close to the ocean, it’s unlikely that it will be still. But if the wind is coming in from the coast it should still be smooth in the track. If the wind is coming off the shore, it will be turbulent because of the buildings, making it similar to Abu Dhabi.”

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Near Extinct Cult Wine Emerges in San Diego

San Diego CA – April 11, 2017 – In a state where Chardonnay, Cabernet and Zinfandel are kings, the nearly extinct Charbono is taking center stage in San Diego at Gianni Buonomo Vintners in the coastal community of Ocean Beach. With fewer than 70 total acres planted to this rarity, Charbono is truly a cult wine.

Once a darling of the Napa Valley, Charbono was the go-to wine at the venerable Inglenook from the 1940s through the 1960s. Inglenook produced Charbono from the late 1800s until the vineyard and estate were sold in 1998 to Francis Ford Coppola. In Napa, Cabernet means cash and consequently Charbono was jettisoned. Today, only about 17 wineries, all in California, do small productions of Charbono. Gianni Buonomo Vintners in San Diego is one of them.

San Diego winemaker Keith Rolle stumbled upon these elusive grapes back in 2014 when trying to source Barbera in El Dorado County. “I must have called 20 wineries looking for Barbera. I finally connected with Doug Laez who told me he didn’t have any Barbera, but he did have some Charbono. I flew to up to Sacramento the next day, rented a car, drove to Placerville and signed a grape contract with Doug.”

The 2014 Gianni Buonomo Charbono is a delight. Deep ruby in color, it delivers a bold, rustic and dusty essence of ripe black cherry with a delicate sweetness of lightly toasted oak. An enduring, silky-soft finish pleases everyone who loves a great glass of well-made red. “It’s like nothing I’ve ever tasted,” exclaimed San Diego ophthalmologist and wine fanatic, Chris Gualtieri. “Once you taste it, you won’t want to drink anything else. It’s that amazing!”

Gianni Buonomo Vintners is San Diego’s only fully-functioning beach winery. Just steps from the Pacific surf in the heart of Ocean Beach, Gianni Buonomo sources super-premium grapes from both El Dorado County CA and Washington state. Grapes are brought the to beach to vinify, barrel age, blend, bottle and serve in a line-up of truly exceptional wines.

What: Charbono Fest
When: Saturday, April 29, 2017
6:00PM to 9:00PM
Where: Gianni Buonomo Vintners Winery and Tasting Room
4836 Newport Ave. San Diego CA 92107
Tickets: $35.00
charbono.brownpapertickets.com
Contact: Keith Rolle
info@GBVintners.com
(cell) 619.991.9911
Information: www.GBVintners.com
OB Brewery releases Elevator Red IPA! OB Brewery’s Brewmaster Jim Milia recently released his Elevator Red IPA! The Red IPA is quickly becoming the Brewery’s flagship brew. It is also available on nitro.

The new North OB Committee of the OB MainStreet held a Mixer and Happy Hour at Voltaire Beach House on April 11th. The Committee is working to help promote North OB and the businesses in the area. Contact OBMA for more information on the North OB Committee.

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CAN YOU HELP?!

We’re looking for photos of the original OB Farmer’s Market (1992-1995) for our special OB Farmers Market 25th Anniversary special edition. Or do you have a special story or memory from the early days (or any) Farmers Market?

Please Contact Mike at (858) 337-8546 x117 or email mikefahey@sdnews.com

The Peninsula Beacon, in cooperation with Ocean Beach MainStreet Association and Ocean Beach Historical Society is excited to present a special edition celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ocean Beach Farmer’s Market. This special edition will publish in the May 11th edition of the Beacon.

Call Mike Fahey (858)270-3130 x117 or email mikefahey@sdnews.com for more info to reserve your ad space!
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Coastal Sage is more than a gardening center. It’s a highly responsible steward of our global village. It specializes in drought-tolerant and native landscapes and is experienced in the creation of all garden environments. Custom design, installation, maintenance, irrigation, repair, labor, consultation, the works. It’s all here. The shop even offers language instruction and a botany class for kids. Cool, huh?

MORTGAGE BROKER
Mark Chrisman  
CMG Financial
Voted the No. 1 Mortgage Agent on the Peninsula six years running, Mark has a proven track record of providing excellent service to homeowners, home-owners, and real estate agents. Mark has helped many Point Loma and Ocean Beach residents buy their first home and purchase rental properties. His focus is the Peninsula, but he can also help purchase or refinance all over California and in many other states. He enjoys spending time in the ocean or at the mountains with his wife, and two children. Mark is also president of the Point Loma Business Club and a board member of the Peninsula YMCA.

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Service and selection at Mark’s Guitar Exchange

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

It’s referred to by its owner as “an adult toy store.”

And Mark Augustin, owner of Mark’s Guitar Exchange at 3233 Midway Drive since 1985, has no shortage of “playthings.”

In fact, there are 400 guitars hanging from the music store’s rafters. That’s not counting his stock.

“We’re the largest independent guitar store in the county,” said Augustin. “We’re the last man standing. The last ones left.”

Augustin, quite literally, has grown up in the Loma Portal neighborhood of Point Loma. Where his shop is located now was a guitar store back in the ‘60s. It was also a pizza place before he took it over.

Who is Augustin’s competition? “Big boxes,” he answered, but added, “No one can compete with us.

Why? Because of our service, our prices, and our selection,” he said.

An old school guy, Augustin prides himself on continuing to do all the little things that have always made small-businesses successful.

Noting “every guitar is different, the weight of the wood, the grain, how straight is the neck, the way the neck is cut,” Augustin noted the real key to business success is taking care of the customer right and catering to their specific needs.

“What we do is look at every price point, and find the best value for every customer,” he said. “I tell people, ‘You want to support Main Street – not Wall Street.’”

Augustin added his merchandise is all-American.

“All my straps are American made. All of our cables are American made. I try to go back in time with service (delivery),” he said. “We’re not self-serve here. We’re full-serve.”

The guitar shop’s marketing consultant, Jeff Lazarini, explained why Mark’s is one of a kind.

“This store is unique because we treat people with kindness and patience,” he said, adding that rule applies regardless of age or musical style.

“You come in here. I don’t care if you’re 7 years old, or what genre you play , we’re going to treat you as an individual,” Lazarini said. “We’re not going to say, ‘You play bluegrass, or you play metal, we don’t like you, go to a music store.’”

Citing just one example, a 7-year-old girl named Abbey came in recently with her mom to buy a guitar.

Later, Lazarini said, another 7-year-old girl came in with her mother and asked, “Are you Abbey’s friend.”

When the answer was yes, the girl said, “That’s why we’re here.”

Augustin said Mark’s carries all three major guitar brands – Fender, Gibson and Martin. The store also has professional techs who handle guitar repairs.

“We are the only Fender premium showcase dealer in the county,” he said. “We have more selections than the big stores. We’re also the service center for everything that we sell. If they bought it online, they bring it here and we fix it.”

A musician himself with albums out who performs at local jazz and blues clubs, Augustin said he’s a nerd who likes fixing things.

“I learned how to repair guitars in the mid-’70s,” he said. “I would buy them from print want ads, then fix them up and resell them. That’s how I started, buying and selling, and it just grew.”

Mark’s carries everything imaginable for guitars from strings, to picks, to amplifiers, to pedals to all the spare parts anyone would ever need.

Guitars in Mark’s range from $70 to $30,000.

You can also learn how to play guitar at Mark’s, as local musicians like Charles Burton of the CB3 Blues Band, teaches at the shop.

“That’s why we’re here. I have my roots here,” Augustin concluded.
Like so many other projects taken on by his contractor father, Paul remembers sitting in the car when he mentioned the idea of building a high-rise apartment complex. “Oh, hell’s bells, Dad, just leave it alone, not another crisis,” Paul said.

Paul later doubted his father could pull off the huge job, but the construction lender wasn’t so certain. “Mother was always his sounding board.”

“Leonard’s office staff and foreman were extremely dedicated and followed him one job to another,” Paul said. “It was a tightrope. Dad attracted extremely loyal employees, and we kids were pressed to tasks suitable to our ages.”

The building had been opened a few months when a regional forest fire raged, and breezes blew ashes and cinders over Le Rondelet’s outside balconies. All eight children were sent to clean it up right away. The youngest carried buckets of water to help other kids.

Sun Ralph remembers that, “Once the project was done, we were still enrolled every Saturday — unless there was a Boy Scout campground — for pulling weeds, moving furniture, and vacuuming the buildings.”

There is a gentlemanly nature to Ralph, who worked on and added to an edge — a tenacity for big dreams and hard, honest work. When asked if he ever doubted he could do the job, he answers, “No, I didn’t know any better.”

Leonard has earned a reputation of over his long career. (At this, his eyes well up, and a broad smile comes across his countenance.)

Interestingly, as the construction superintendent did beg the insights for Le Rondelet, he discovered a buried diesel tank that had been used by the cannery. It was hauled out a week or two later, but a problem with water and oil in the hole caused some uproar at the nearby yacht club. “Hang him from the yardarm!” demands fussed. But when the commodore heard it was Leonard Teyssier’s project, he said, “Forget it, he’ll take care of it.”

When asked if he would teach students of contemporary construction, what would he tell them? His lofty lesson, “Don’t sell Le Rondelet!”

Teyssier’s $3.5 million complex that sold in 1972 for $6 million, is worth $80 to 90 million today.

Residents of Le Rondelet and special guests celebrated the historic occasion of 50 years strong with champagne, catered buffet, and music on April 8.

Happy anniversary, Teyssier family!
OB Surf Lodge opens the shades in Ocean Beach

New owners of OB Surf Lodge (formerly Shades) have let the outside in while introducing a new theme, menu and style.

"The bar is now indoor-outdoor," said Mina Desiderio of the surf-themed restaurant at 5083 Santa Monica Ave., which had a soft reopening March 15 after six months of remodeling.

Desiderio, the owner of Wonderland Ocean Pub upstairs from OB Surf Lodge, along with business partners Brennan Huffman and Hoffman Leung, now operate the reimagined Ocean Beach eatery.

"The whole restaurant opens up now, where before they had just windows," said Desiderio. "So now, on really nice days, we can open up all the windows and let the outdoors in."

Desiderio said extension of the restaurant's outdoor patio, a work in progress delayed by seasonal rains, will increase the restaurant's seating capacity from 140 to 186.

"We're putting on four of those a year," she said. "We're preserving it in a new way with our style."

Expect more than just a shade of the former place to remain in the Surf Lodge. But don't expect business as usual.

"It's quite different," said Desiderio of the beach bistro's fresh ambiance. Desiderio pointed out the new ownership group "can't replicate something we didn't create. We're a different style of operation, ownership. We do what we know."

Desiderio noted the new and improved Surf Lodge is "brunch-heavy. And there have been major cuisine updates too."

"We're using a lot of organic, high-quality meats. Fresh-squeezing our own orange juice, serving organic coffees, and we have an excellent draft list of craft brews," Desiderio said. "We're also doing kombucha on tap, coffee on nitro, which is really the way to drink coffee."

Desiderio said the menu is moving on from foods that are frozen, processed or pre-made. A case in point on the retooled menu is homemade biscuits.

"We're baking them fresh daily," said Desiderio. "This is the first place we go. Whenever our relatives are in town, they would be kept on by the new management."

In an interview with the Beacon before Shades closed, Levitt confessed leaving was "real emotional" with customers telling them, "I took my wife on our first date here,' or 'Whenever our relatives are in town, this is the first place we go.'"
The 28th annual Taste of Point Loma hosted by the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce is returning Wednesday, April 19 with local eateries dishing out seafood, ethnic cuisine and decadent desserts from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

For one ticket price, attendees can savor the best food Point Loma has to offer, as participating restaurants will offer samples of their finest and most popular menu items. Cost is $25 general, with $15 discounted tickets offered to students, military or anyone going by bike to the event.

Returning to this year’s event is a celebration of Point Loma’s Portuguese heritage with the United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc. (U.P.S.E.S.). The Point Loma Portuguese community grew in the early 1900s around the tuna industry. U.P.S.E.S. will be providing samples of traditional Portuguese dishes along with entertainment.

“We are excited to celebrate and bring awareness to the rich Portuguese cultural heritage in Point Loma,” said Matt Kalla, president of the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. “United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc. does a great job at giving the community a glimpse into their traditional cuisine, customs and activities.”

Attendees will also have the option to purchase a drink that complements the restaurant’s food sample. Dog-friendly patios will be identified with a paw print next to a restaurant’s logo on the ticket. Shuttle services will be available to attendees throughout the night.

Proceeds benefit the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. This event often sells out, so those interested in attending are encouraged to purchase their tickets before it’s too late.

Tickets can be purchased online at tast eofpointloma.eventbrite.com, at The Wine Pub, Portuguese Hall, or Matt Kalla’s State Farm office at 4148 Voltaire St.

Event check-in for online ticket purchasers will be at United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc. at 2818 Avenida de Portugal. Attendees who purchase tickets at The Wine Pub or Matt Kalla’s office can start at any of the participating restaurants identified on the ticket.

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For more information, visit www.peninsulachamber.com or www.facebook.com/TasteofPointLoma.

Celebrate Portuguese flavors at Taste of Point Loma

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

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Participating restaurants include United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc., Blue Wave Bar & Grill, Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar, EAT at The Pearl, Fidler’s Green Restaurant, Miguel’s Cocina, Mitch’s Seafood, Old Venice Restaurant, Point Break Café, Pomodoro Ristorante Italiano, Pummaro, Quarterdeck Restaurant & Bar, Seaside Pho & Grill, Supannee House of Thai, Sushi Lounge, The Elegant Truffle, The Living Room Coffeehouse & Bistro and The Wine Pub. Returning to this year’s event is a celebration of Point Loma’s Portuguese heritage with the United Portuguese S.E.S. Inc. (U.P.S.E.S.).

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Easter Worship Services

**St. Peter’s by the Sea Lutheran Church**
1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.
(between Point Loma Avenue & Adair Street)

- **Maundy Thursday Service:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday Service:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday Services:**
  - 7:00 a.m. Cliffside Service
  - 8:45 a.m. + 10:30 a.m. in Sanctuary
  - Children’s Easter Event: Saturday 10:30 a.m.

**Easter Sunday Services:**
- Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
- Message by Pastor Cedric Collins
- Music by the Mt. Sinai Sanctuary Choir
- Directed by Julian Thomas
- DALE SORENSON
- GUEST ORGANIST

Information:
858-454-7324
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FREE PARKING

**Easter Sunrise Service**
In Balboa Park
SPRECKELS ORGAN PAVILION
SUNDAY, APRIL 16, AT 6:30AM

- Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
- Message by Pastor Cedric Collins
- Music by the Mt. Sinai Sanctuary Choir
- Directed by Julian Thomas
- DALE SORENSON
- GUEST ORGANIST

Easter Offering donated to the San Diego Rescue Mission

**San Diego First Church of the Nazarene**
3901 Lomaland Dr. 92106
619-489-3100

- **Good Friday Service:**
- **Easter Services:**
- **Easter Vigil:**
- **Easter Sunday:**
- **Easter Egg Hunt:**

**All Souls’ Episcopal Church**
1475 Catalina Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107
www.allsoulspointloma.org

Join us for Holy Week & Easter

- **Maundy Thursday:**
  - April 13 - 7:00pm
- **Good Friday:**
  - April 14 - Noon, 4:00pm & 7:00pm
  - (4pm service for children)
- **Easter Vigil:**
  - April 15 (Sunset) - 7:20pm
- **Easter Sunday:**
  - April 16 - 8:00am & 10:15am
- **Easter Egg Hunt:**
  - April 16 - Children 10 and under.
  - Will begin immediately following the 10:15am service or approximately 11:15am

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

San Diego has a well-established blues community, with many great players, but there are also many up-and-coming young artists emerging, ready to take the blues into the future. At the top of the list is singer Casey Hensley, who performs at a special early show at Winston’s on April 16, opening for blues favorite Earl Thomas.

Hensley has been performing since age 5 and recording in studios since she was 9, citing a long list of inspirations that includes Aretha Franklin, Etta James, The Allman Brothers, and Ella Fitzgerald. It’s no coincidence that the list of artists is heavily blues influenced.

“I sing blues because it is honest,” she said. “There’s no B.S. You can feel it. That is what music is all about. Sure, it needs to sound good, but for me, the feeling always comes first, especially as a singer: it needs to come from your soul,” she continued.

“People can tell if you are being truthful and sincere. That’s what the blues is all about. You can’t fake it. That’s why I love it.”

Born in Los Gatos, Hensley arrived in San Diego after a brief stop in Orange County. “My dad had a job opportunity and we moved to San Diego after living in Orange County for a few years,” she recalled. “San Diego is by far my favorite place I have lived.”

Hensley’s choice of music as a career was likely influenced by her family. “I was really fortunate to have music-loving parents,” she said. “There was always an amazing album blasting in the house. We don’t listen to music quietly in my family,” she laughed.

“One of my earliest memories is setting up my stuffed animals as my audience and standing on my bed and singing to them. I have never wanted to do anything else. Music has always

SEE CASEY, Page 20
No joke, comedy workshop at Point Loma Playhouse may improve your lifestyle

Point Loma Playhouse has resumed hosting an intensive, six-week stand-up comedy workshop and showcase taught by professional comedian Tony Calabrese.

The class will be held Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. in the playhouse theater at 3035 Talbot St. from April 19 to May 24. Class size is limited.

The stand-up comedy workshop can benefit those wishing to improve their humorous speaking, offering all the tools and skills needed for personal improvement.

"It's for all skill levels, beginners to working comics," said banker-turned-comedian Calabrese, who's had students who've "taken it as many as eight times."

A discipline for people looking to improve their communication skills, Calabrese noted the stand-up workshop can benefit any public speakers who want to interject more humor into their presentations. He noted it's especially helpful for salespeople.

Calabrese said it's also important for prospective students to note that none of the humor taught in his class is off-color.

"I really work clean," he said. "Clean is green."

A fan of comedy since childhood, Calabrese was president of Point Loma Community Bank before he had an epiphany and became a stand-up comedian. He pointed out it's easy for a comic to tell whether they're succeeding or not.

"The audience votes," he said. "If they're not laughing – it's not funny."

Calabrese said humor can be taught.

"I can teach anyone to craft a five-minute set that's funny," he said adding, "I can't make 'em funny. But I can help them craft their jokes. Taking this class will help them to be able to look at anything in life and make it funny."

There's no other thing students will learn in Calabrese's stand-up comedy class.

"My class is about writing, speaking and editing," the comic said. "Stand-up is as much about writing as it is about the spoken word."

"'The audience doesn't care about the spoken word,' Calabrese fessed Calabrese. "The audience votes," he said. "If you have a knack for it, there's nothing like being a comic, confessed Calabrese.

"It's quite an adrenaline rush," he said. "Nothing comes close. I'm on stage for minutes to an hour, and when you come off, the feeling you get is on top of the world. It's addictive."

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Your speaking style by interjecting humor, or polishing your overall presentation, Calabrese said his workshop may be for you.

"It's for people who want to light up their presentation and get people to laugh and pay more attention to you," he said.

Engagement is critical to captur- ing an audience, no matter what the speaker's purpose, said Calabrese.

"The audience doesn't care about you," he cautioned. "You're nothing to them – until you make them laugh. When you do that, they're connected. By making them laugh you're getting them engaged. This class really helps with that."

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For her band, Hensley has partnered with drummer Evan Yearsley. "I attended a lot of blues jams, because I know that I wanted to put a blues band together," she said. "I had known Evan for many years because I recorded at his dad's studio and on his mother, Candye Kane's, last record. I started going to his jam and playing with people like Evan and guitarist Laura Chavez."

Chavez soon became a mainstay of Hensley's band, while all the time playing together with Yearsly also led to romance. "After spending so much time together Evan and I fell in love," she said. "We both loved playing music together, so we decided to put all of our effort into making a great band and being a team."

Hensley recently released her debut album, taping an in-studio concert for "Live!" It's a great representation of Hensley's mix of originals and cover tunes.

"People really love when I do Aretha Franklin and Etta James songs, and they also love the originals. There is one song in particular on our new record "Casey Hensley Live" that's called 'Don't Want It to Stop' that everyone really seems to love," she said.
Abalone taken from protected tidepools at Cabrillo National Monument

U.S. park rangers at Cabrillo National Monument and special agents with the National Park Service Investigative Services Branch (ISB) seek the public’s help after a man was seen leaving the park's tidepools with an abalone.

On Sunday, April 2 at approximately 2:30 p.m., a park visitor took photographs of a man who she saw holding a living abalone and witnessed him putting it into a cooler bag.

The subject is described as a white male, in the age range of late 40s to mid-50s, wearing a wide-brimmed hat, white shorts and white gloves. The photos were taken by a park visitor who was upset by the violation.

Superintendent Andrea Compton is, “very appreciative of the reported violation by the park visitor and encourages visitors to report violations to park staff.”

Due to the declining number of species, like abalone, Cabrillo established the Tidepool Protection, Education and Restoration Program in 1996 to provide a refuge area for intertidal flora and fauna to recover.

All wildlife in the park is protected. The removal of animals, shells, rocks and any kind of collecting is against the law.

If you have any information, call the Investigative Services Branch at 888-653-0009, text to 202-379-4561 or call Ranger Bonnie Phillips 619-557-5450 ext. 4586.

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With your designer touch turn this gem into a jewel. Offered at $750,000.

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Three charming units in a fantastic location! Just a short walk to the waters edge. Main building consist of two 2 bedroom 1 bath units with lots of charm. The third unit is a stand alone 1 bedroom 1 bath. Laundry room with 2 washers and 2 dryers to share. There are at least 5 parking spaces and a couple of common area picnic spots.

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JOE & LOU GHIO | 619.261.3002

La Playa | 439 La Crescentia Dr | $6,800 per month
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Sunset Cliffs | 4563 Alhambra | $2,395,000
SAL DEMARIA | 619.813.6400

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