**Border agents swoop in on panga boat loaded with immigrants in OB**

By BLANCA KOCH and KEVIN MCKAY  
THE BEACON

The vigilance of the California Border Patrol and other immigration officials paid off in the wee hours of April 16 as authorities waited in the shadows at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach for a panga boat loaded with about a dozen or so undocumented immigrants to hit the shore under cover of darkness.

As the boat named “Fatiana” approached around 2 a.m., Border Patrol and federal agents — backed by a circling helicopter and officers from the San Diego Police Department — moved in, rounded up and handcuffed several of the Mexican nationals, holding them on the sand for identification, according to authorities.

Within two hours, the undocumented immigrants were removed by Border Patrol and transported to holding facilities — including what witnesses said appeared to be two older Hispanic women and two male juveniles. As of press time, an exact count had not been formally released by federal agents. But witness estimates ranged from 12 to 15 people.

According to witnesses, the previously quiet night turned into a spectacle within seconds.

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“It was quiet, and before I could really wonder about the people, lights went on,” said Billings.

Federal agents detain some of the undocumented immigrants who tried to reach their panga boat at Dog Beach around 1:30 a.m. on April 16. (Photo by Don Balch / The Beacon)

**Coastal drug, human smuggling attempts keep agencies busy**

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | THE BEACON

The April 16 human-smuggling attempt in Ocean Beach is far from the first such case in the local beach communities. And it won’t be the last.

Recently, federal agents converged on another panga boat in Pacific Beach with several other illegal immigrants aboard — one of whom was discovered dead.

Monday’s Ocean Beach case was the latest in an ever-increasing string of human- and drug-trafficking cases being dealt with by the agency over the last few years in beach communities stretching from Point Loma to San Clemente.

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Will Wright, a senior at High Tech High Media Arts in Point Loma, takes his face published in his favorite hometown paper with them! Don’t pass up your chance to have your name and photo released by the Pew Research Center in 2012, when he served as executive director of the Pew Hispanic Center.

The Beacon

THURSDAY · APRIL 19, 2012

On vacation with the Peninsula Beacon

It’s vacation time! Peninsula Beacon readers are heading out of town and taking their favorite hometown paper with them! Don’t pass up your chance to have your name and face published in The Beacon. Take us with you to whatever corner of the world you may be visiting and share your trip with other readers. Tell us your name and/or the names of your family members in the photo and give us a brief description of where the shot was taken. Email the photo and the information to beacon@sdnews.com. It’s that easy!

Lack of fresh candidates eyeing board seats leaves vacancies, shoos-ins for local incumbents

Opportunities exist to get involved in molding OB’s future

Dr. TONY De GARATE | THE BEACON

What’s on your bucket list? Snorkeling with sharks? A trek to the Egyptian pyramids? Jumping from an airplane? If holding elected office is on your list, it perhaps has never been as easy as it is right now in Ocean Beach.

When the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB) — like the 90-plus other planning boards throughout the city — held its next monthly meeting May 2, three of the 14 chairs will be vacant, and can only be filled by appointment until next year.

“The vacancies are a concern,” said former OBPB chairman Giovanni Unglia. “We’re stronger when we have 14 voices, and we have 14 positions, so it’s like you have 14 different voices and opinions.”

At a time when, according to a poll released by the Pew Research Center in 2010, an estimated 41 percent of the public can’t come up with the name of the president, the two new board seats leave no shortage of potential candidates.

As of now, the three vacant board seats are districts 3, 5, and 7. To fill one of the three vacancies on the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB), potential candidates must:

· Be 18 or older and live, run a business or own property in the Ocean Beach planning area
· Attend one meeting in the last year
· Download and fill out an application from www.oceanbeachplb.com
· Collect 35 signatures in any district with a vacancy; currently districts 3, 5 and 7 (see website for boundaries)
· Seek appointment from the OBPB

When term is up, a candidate may only run in the district that contains the address of your business, property or residence.

After appointment, attend a meeting known as COW – Community Orientation Workshop – or complete the workshop online. Anyone may download the handbook at www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cow.shtml.

— Compiled by TONY De Garate
Ocean Beach merchants got up extra early last week for a feel-good session on how to keep the good OB vibe flowing through customer service. Self-described “fun-ologist” Susan Clarke presented “The FUN-damentals of Delivering, Achieving & Succeeding in OB.”

Her common sense, laugh-out-loud, candy-throwing seminar was a reminder for some and lesson for others on how to make life the fullest with a positive mental attitude. Business owners nodded in agreement to Clarke’s sage advice. “Your choice when it comes to making life positive or negative,” Clark said. “Getting out of a rut is as easy as driving a different way to work each day.”

The session with salon assistant Tyson Passey was lightened up by Christina Iacometti, who has owned her salon for more than two decades, pointed to the front lines of delivering OB’s authentic Southern California experience to residents and visitors.

Barbara Iacometti, OBMA president and owner of Details SalonSpa, attended the session with salon assistant Tyson Passey and Christina Iacometti, who has owned her salon for more than two decades, pointed to the front lines of delivering OB’s authentic Southern California experience to residents and visitors.

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According to Clarke, on any given day, a person receives 1,500 negative messages to 100 positive. She used the five-to-one ratio to illustrate that being positive is a choice.

“We choose to allow people to affect us.” Clark said.

“Business owners need to be cheerleaders and mentors.” Clark added and encouraged the group to share ideas. She gave them a clock to make appointments to connect with other participants in the room and discuss how they keep work positive. Participants engaged and hurried about the room setting up appointments.

Dave Miles at Chase Bank said being polite and courteous helps him and a staff of 14 at the bank make each day a success.

“What I always say, ‘Hello’ and ‘Thank you.’” Miles said.

One ingredient for success Clark shared with the group is to set goals. “Think big, think outlandish,” she said. “Ask for what you want.”

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Blood drive for Point Loma Little Leaguer, 12, suffering from rare disorder

Wyatt Williams, a 12-year-old Point Loma boy was recently diagnosed with a rare and serious blood disorder known as aplastic anemia. Aplastic anemia patients have lower counts of all three blood cell types, red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Patients suffering from this disorder are often fatigued, at higher risk of infection and may experience uncontrolled bruising and bleeding.

Wyatt is a baseball player at Point Loma Little League and attends the sixth grade at Warren-Walker School.

A blood drive — along with other festivities — has been scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at Point Loma Little League, 1049 Catalina Blvd.

For more information, visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/wyatt williams.

Wheels in motion to establish a Point Loma community bike park

By MIKE RYAN | THE BEACON

Over the years, Peninsula-area residents have taken pride in turning leftovers into desserts. Locals saw the conversion of the end of the San Diego River flood channel into a dog beach and transformed acres of landfill at Robb Field Park into a skateboarding park. Now, a group of local bike riders wants its own piece of the pie — a community bike park.

While some people may scoff at the idea of a public bike park — several attempts in Point Loma have been bulldozed — bike parks are operating successfully in Folsom, Calif.; Austin, Texas; Boulder and Ft. Collins, Colo.

The Olympics and X-Games have respect the sport enough to feature BMX bike racing in its competitions. Earlier this month, the USA Cycling BMX National Championships was held at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. BMX Olympic hopefuls competed for one of five spots for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Thanks in part to the popularity of the X-Games and the Olympics, BMX bike riding has caught the attention of Peninsula-area youth. Scott Irwin, vice president of the Lakeside BMX Club, said the club wants its own piece of the pie. Now, a group of local bike riders are trying to pedal the idea of a public bike park.

Proposed landscape drawings for the bike park include picnic and observation areas, community gardens, walking paths and native plants for a “family-friendly environment.”

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer is trying to set the wheels in motion by working with the San Diego Housing Commission, which currently owns the property, to transfer the site to the San Diego Park and Recreation Department for the possible bike park.

On Thursday, April 19, the bike group will present its Community Bike Park proposal to the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) and will ask for its support in changing the land designation in the community plan from multi-family housing to public park.

Irwin and his group are setting up meetings with neighboring apartment and condo complexes to field potential concerns. Over the years, Peninsula-area residents have taken pride in turning leftovers into desserts. Locals saw the conversion of the end of the San Diego River flood channel into a dog beach and transformed acres of landfill at Robb Field Park into a skateboarding park.

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Scott Peters and Lori Saldaña want to represent their constituents in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they’re ramping up campaigns to win the hearts and minds of Peninsula residents by starting with Ocean Beach voters.

Earlier this month, it was Democrat and La Jolla resident Peters who made his election pitch to the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB). Peters is a former two-term San Diego City Councilman and currently serves as a member of the San Diego Unified Port District Commission. He was allotted 30 minutes at the April 4 monthly meeting of the OBPP.

For those who missed that pitch, Peters will appear again tonight, April 19, at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library, 1701 Voltaire St., to address the Peninsula Community Planning Board. That meeting gets under way at 6:30 p.m.

Next month, it will be Saldaña’s turn to meet with Ocean Beach residents up close and personal as the other prominent Democrat in the race. The former California state assemblywoman will address the OBPP during that board’s next monthly meeting.
maritime smuggling in 2008 for the Southern California coastline. It is commonly seen on the horizon and is a recognized symbol of a successful smuggling operation.

In 2010, the number of reported vessels seized and people arrested more than doubled to 110 boats and 867 illegal immigrants taken into custody, according to Border Patrol records. There was a slight increase in 2009, when 49 vessels were seized and 400 individuals were apprehended.

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PLHS alums set to make impact on their collegiate lacrosse teams

By Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

Two members of last year’s Point Loma High School lacrosse program have earned positions on the teams of their respective colleges as freshmen. Hunter Hirsch is currently playing for the UC San Diego Tritons while Campbell Irvine is red-shirting for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Mustangs, currently the top-ranked team in the nation in the Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) rankings.

The pair has given credibility to the Pointer program, which is beginning to show strength against longer-established county teams. Irvine is red-shirting for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this season for the nation’s No.1-ranked lacrosse team at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Pointer alum Campbell Irvine is red-shirting for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Mustangs, currently the top-ranked team in the nation in the Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) rankings.

The team full of those types of people, it provides a great environment for growth and improvement,” Hirsch said, “so when you have a whole professional people as an integral part of your team, it’s a good environment for growth and improvement.”

The Tritons currently sport a 4-6 overall record in the 13-team conference’s Western Division.

The people at UCSD are very motivated, intelligent and hard-working,” Hirsch said, “so when you have a whole team full of those types of people, it provides a great environment for growth and improvement.”

Wearing jersey No. 6, Hirsch sees plenty of playing time as a midfielder on UCSD’s La Jolla turf. He is second in scoring on the team with 12 goals and four assists.

Hirsch, who played football throughout his prep career, was an original member of the reborn lacrosse program at PLHS in 2010, learning the game after never playing before.

“Football taught me the value of hard work and dedication,” Hirsch remembers, “and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-сона, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостer-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentors like (coaches Dave) Aros, (Mike) Estanol and (Jon) Pостер-son, "and I can honestly say that without Coach (Mike) Hastings and the Pointer program, I wouldn’t be the person, student or athlete I am today. I also had great mentor...
Like any work in progress, the Point Loma High School (PLHS) baseball team’s coaches and players expect to see continuing improvement in every game. But when inevitable stumbles occur, teams are reminded how sports imitates life, the wisest learning from the experience and moving forward.

That’s a summary of the first half of the Pointers season as a tough non-league and tournament schedule fades in the rearview mirror with Western League competition now under way. Consider the Pointers’ first two league matches:

Exhibit A: In the April 11 Western League opener at Mission Bay, sophomore pitcher James Klueber — who was recalled from the Pointer JV squad — scattered four Buccaneer hits while the fumbling hosts’ six errors handed the Pointers a 4-1 victory.

Exhibit B: Back home at David Wells Field for Friday’s rematch, mental errors and a fly ball lost in the sun’s glare by Pointer fielders added a gift-wrapping frosting to a 5-3 Mission Bay victory. It marked the first win by a Buccaneer squad after four years of futility against the Pointers.

The Bucs made three more errors than the Pointers, but also pounded 11 hits, several of which were lasers down the left-field line. Five of those went for extra bases, including four doubles and a triple.

Because Western League scheduling dictates teams play each other twice consecutively in a home-and-home format, the Pointers will finish 1-1 against the Bucs.

New head coach Jesse Nunez has been working with his players in an on-campus conditioning program all year during a physical education period. Now, Nunez and his staff are working hard with their players to raise batting and fielding averages while minimizing both physical and mental errors.

The mood in the Pointer dugout seems positive and upbeat as Nunez and assistants David Wells, Joe Nunez, Mike Delgado, Riley Lillibridge and John Quann banter with players about technique and strategies.

The recently expanded varsity roster includes five seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores and a freshman who starts at first base (Jayson Pappas, 6’2”, 200 lbs).

Pointer statistical leaders

Batting average: Jackson Leslie, .341
Total hits: Leslie and Justin Baker, 15 each
Runs scored: Ryan Ament, 12
Runs batted in: Pappas, 11
Doubles: Ament, four
Triples: Ament and Brandon Keenan, 1 each
Home runs: Leslie and Pappas, one each
Stolen bases: Leslie and Tre Howard, one each

As a team, the Pointers are batting .255, while opponents are hitting at a .306 clip.

Remaining Western League schedule
April 20: Pointers at Cathedral
April 23: Cathedral at Pointers
April 25: Madison at Pointers
April 27: Pointers at Madison
May 9: University City at Pointers
May 11: Pointers at University City
May 14: Coronado at Pointers
May 16: Pointers at Coronado

Home games are at 3 p.m. at David Wells Field, Dana Middle School, 1775 Chatsworth Blvd.

Extra bases
• Injuries and other issues prompted Nunez to bring several players up from the junior varsity level, increasing the varsity roster to 18.
• PLHS alum and former major league All-Star Wells has the undivided attention of the team’s pitchers when he offers instruction, tips and advice on pitching. From his many years with National League teams (where pitchers bat) he also shares hitting wisdom. Wells uses a very positive approach, handing out praise generously to players.
• Baseball boosters have big plans for David Wells Field, including installation of stadium seating, constructing an outfield fence, re-locating the scoreboard and more. Estimates for the projects puts the total cost in the $350,000 range.
• The Pointer JV team, under head coach Kyle Harvey, is off to a 9-2 start while the freshman AAU team is currently 3-4 “and improving with each game,” said head coach Jeff Sohls.
**All-League teams for winter prep sports have been selected by league coaches. The Peninsula Beacon congratulates the following athletes:***

**POINT LOMA HIGH**

- **Boys’ basketball (Central League)**
  - **First Team:** Kohl Meyer, senior
  - **Second Team:** Dan Enright, senior

- **Girls’ basketball (Central League)**
  - **Second Team:** Lea Martin, sophomore

- **Boys’ soccer (Western League)**
  - **First Team:** Ruben Diaz, senior; Evan Melone, junior
  - **Second Team:** Aaron Garcia, senior; Miguel Alcantar, junior

- **Girls’ soccer (City League)**
  - **First Team:** Lily Edwards, senior; Veronica Perez, senior; Marie Laube, senior
  - **Second Team:** Taylor Hopkins, freshman; Jewell Roth, junior; Megan O’Beirne, senior

- **Girls’ water polo (Eastern League)**
  - **First Team:** Monica Longworth, senior

- **Wrestling (Eastern League)**
  - **First Team:** Alex Blea, senior; Keegan Bell, junior; Baily Dugdale, junior; Jovanny Sanchez, junior; Kevin Desta, senior. Desta also named “Wrestler of the Year”
  - **Second Team:** Daniel Harris, sophomore; Michael Harris, junior; Anthony Melfi, junior

**HIGH TECH HIGH**

- **Girls’ basketball (Frontier North League)**
  - **Second Team:** Kearrah Smith, freshman

- **Boys’ soccer (Frontier North League)**
  - **First Team:** Dimitri Goulas, senior; Matt Ripley, senior; Ivan Castaneda, sophomore
  - **Second Team:** Diego Lota, junior; Ricky Gonzalez, senior

- **Girls’ soccer (Frontier North League)**
  - **First Team:** Sophia Thomas, senior; Hannah Burns, senior; Lindsay Mello, senior
  - **Second Team:** Taylor Wilkinson, junior; Shaelyn Washburn, senior

- **Girls’ water polo (Frontier North League)**
  - **First Team:** Sydney Daniel, junior; Michaela Mueller, junior; Brittany Mitchell, junior. Mitchell also named “Player of the Year”
  - **Second Team:** Jenne Fox, sophomore; Kaleva Schmitt, sophomore; Megan Moser, freshman

**THE ROCK ACADEMY**

- **Boys’ basketball (Frontier North League)**
  - **First Team:** Keelan Elliott, senior; Jonathan Dutra, sophomore; Holden Haskett, sophomore. Haskett also named “Player of the Year”
  - **Second Team:** Michell Hooper, sophomore; Jay Dutra, sophomore

- **Girls’ basketball (Frontier North League)**
  - **First Team:** Sydney Daniel, junior; Michaela Mueller; junior. Brittany Mitchell, junior; Holden Haskett, sophomore. Haskett also named “Player of the Year”
  - **Second Team:** Kelly French, sophomore

- **Girls’ soccer (Frontier South League)**
  - **First Team:** Alexis Gonzales, junior, Madison Phillips, junior
  - **Second Team:** Kelly French, sophomore

**SPORTS**

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

All-League teams for winter prep sports have been selected by league coaches. The Peninsula Beacon congratulates the following athletes:

**POINT LOMA HIGH**

- **Boys’ basketball (Central League)**
  - **First Team:** Kohl Meyer, senior
  - **Second Team:** Dan Enright, senior

- **Girls’ basketball (Central League)**
  - **Second Team:** Lea Martin, sophomore

- **Boys’ soccer (Western League)**
  - **First Team:** Ruben Diaz, senior; Evan Melone, junior
  - **Second Team:** Aaron Garcia, senior; Miguel Alcantar, junior

- **Girls’ soccer (City League)**
  - **First Team:** Lily Edwards, senior; Veronica Perez, senior; Marie Laube, senior
  - **Second Team:** Taylor Hopkins, freshman; Jewell Roth, junior; Megan O’Beirne, senior

- **Girls’ water polo (Eastern League)**
  - **First Team:** Monica Longworth, senior

- **Wrestling (Eastern League)**
  - **First Team:** Alex Blea, senior; Keegan Bell, junior; Baily Dugdale, junior; Jovanny Sanchez, junior; Kevin Desta, senior. Desta also named “Wrestler of the Year”
  - **Second Team:** Daniel Harris, sophomore; Michael Harris, junior; Anthony Melfi, junior

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**THE ROCK ACADEMY**

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- **Girls’ soccer (Frontier South League)**
  - **First Team:** Alexis Gonzales, junior, Madison Phillips, junior
  - **Second Team:** Kelly French, sophomore

**Sports Standouts**

Hirsch is majoring in computer studies and engineering after compiling a 4.4 grade-point average at PLHS. “The academics here (UCSD) are a huge step up from high school,” he said, “and I am constantly humbled to realize how many future doctors, scientists and engineers I have the privilege of calling my friends.”

Both Hirsch and Irvine credit former PLHS head coach Will Akie for their knowledge and love of the game. “He really opened my eyes to the game,” Irvine said.

For Irvine, a long-time Pointer baseball player, lacrosse was a new spring sport for him last year at this time. He took on a huge task, trying out for a national power in the MCLA Div. I Mustangs. As might be expected, the sport is popular on the San Luis Obispo campus. No less than 43 players are listed on the active roster (13 from San Diego County) while Irvine and a dozen others are in training while saving their four years of eligibility as red-shirts.

“At Cal Poly ‘the older guys gave the rookies a pretty tough time at first,’ Irvine said, but soon accepted him and ‘taught me a lot, giving me a ton of pointers (no pun intended) to help improve my game.’”

Next year, Irvine, who wears jersey No. 48, will become an attacker for the Mustangs. Meanwhile, the Pointer alum has seen his Mustangs take first place in the seven-team Western Collegiate Lacrosse Conference (WCLL) with an overall record of 13-1.

“Every game means a lot,” Irvine said, “because if you lose once it could be devastating to your rank.”

Entering Cal Poly with a 3.8 PLHS grade-point average, Irvine is enjoying his situation. “San Luis Obispo is a great place to live,” he said, “and the people are awesome. School is challenging, but really fun and there are a lot of things to do here.”

Majoring in forestry and natural resources, Irvine said he hopes to one day become a helicopter pilot — either in the military or in a firefighting role.

Irvine’s Mustangs will be favored in the WCLL Final Four tournament May 5-6 and hope to earn a spot in the MCLA National Championships to be held May 14-19 in Greenville, S.C.

Both student-athletes credit PLHS for preparing them for their current challenges. “It’s an awesome school with great sports programs that prepared me for the hard work it would take to succeed here,” Hirsch said.
Carl F. Thornton, 89, Kiwanian, pharmacist and longtime Point Loma resident

Carl F. Thornton, a retired pharmacist and a 35-year resident of Point Loma, died peacefully at his home on April 5. He was 89.

Thornton was born in Morrow, Ohio on July 4, 1922 and graduated from Ohio State University in 1944 with a B.S. degree in pharmacy. He entered the U.S. Navy in May 1944 and served in the pharmacy at Oakland Naval Hospital until being honorably discharged in May 1946.

He married Zoe E. Henkle, a Navy nurse, in February 1946. They lived in Madera, Ohio for 26 years. He was a practicing pharmacist his entire life, owning his own pharmacy, Thornton Apothecary, in Oakley, Ohio. He also served on the Madera City Council for 14 years.

In 1972, he sold his pharmacy and moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he owned his own pharmacy, Thornton Center (PSSC) for many years, including the years during which the pharmacy at Oakland Naval Hospital was closed.

Thornton was predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Zoe, in 1992, and also predeceased by his companion of 14 years, Lavilla ("Billie") Budge, in 2011. He is survived by his daughter, Jill T. Blatchley of San Diego and his sister, Mary Brunen, of New Jersey.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1974 Harbor Drive. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Point Loma United Methodist Church or Sharp HospiceCare.
Showcase to boost local music exposure on Web

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

San Diego has a vibrant music community, with plenty of opportunities for press, radio play and gigs. But where it has been surprisingly lacking is in online Internet broadcasts. There have been many attempts to shoot various concerts for the Internet, but most such programs have faded quickly.

The latest contender, “SoCal Showcase,” can be a boon for the area’s music fans. With in-depth interviews, as well as expertly shot, multi-camera live footage, the program is a notch above most previous efforts. Thirteen episodes are now available for viewing, shot at various locations around town. The show will now have a permanent home at Winston’s Beach Club, with taping taking place each Monday from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

A labor of love, “SoCal Showcase” tapings are volunteer staffed, open to the public and have no cover, although a $5 donation is requested for the evening’s performers. Guests will find a wildly diverse bill each week.

“We’re going to be open to all types of music,” said showcase producer Joe Stevens. “The plan is to have shows be genre showcases, so one might feature all reggae, another one all rock and so on.” Stevens said there has been no shortage of performers asking to take part.

“Local artists don’t seem to have to do anything except sit back and wait for phone calls,” Stevens said. “I have help from several local promoters and other music professionals, but the word is also spreading from artists who have already shown up at the show and enjoyed the experience. So, I don’t really have to look anymore. The performers are finding us.”

Artists taking part so far include acoustic troubadour Josh Damigo, reggae group High Tide and punk combo Kitty Plague. A nice perk to performing at “SoCal Showcase” is that performers who draw well at their tapings have the chance to score their own headline night at Winston’s.

While at the moment most of the artists fall into the up-and-coming category of performers, Stevens has his sights set higher, aiming for national and international acts — especially those that are San Diego-linked. Names to watch for on future episodes include Ocean Beach-based Slightly Stoopid and international acts especially from Canada and Canada.

“I’d really like to get Adam Lambert. He’s done so much to help the music community around the world and is an amazing, dynamic person who gives a darn, so it excites me to think about that happening.”

Thirty-five people work on the show, including many who also work for the local network affiliates.

“We’re lucky to have such high-caliber people working on this show,” Stevens said. “It helps us to turn out a professional product.”

The show currently airs Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. on Time-Warner Channel 19, but will be branching out in June. At the moment, “SoCal Showcase” pulls in around 6,000 viewers per screening. While the numbers may not seem big, for a performer that’s still the equivalent of a sold-out audience at a venue like San Diego State University’s Open Air Amphitheatre. Those figures will likely be rising soon, because Stevens has recently struck several deals to air the show in wider markets.

“We’ve basically syndicated ourselves,” Stevens said. “We’re going to be on the Cox Network, as well as AT&T and hopefully soon after that on Direct TV.”

Stevens said the local music community is better than ever and he is thrilled to be able to document it.

“I feel like it’s getting stronger and, at least when everybody is around me, artists know this is about team play. We’re all in this together,” Stevens said. “A project like this is about everybody supporting each other. No egos or B.S.”

• “SoCal Showcase” takes place at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 23 at Winston’s Beach Club, 1921 Bacon St. No cover. 21 and up. www.livestream.com/socalshowcase.
Gabardine

Located in the coastal community of Point Loma, Gabardine is a haven for serious seafood enthusiasts and adventurous eaters seeking an exciting and distinct culinary experience. Gabardine plays host to an exceptional happy hour daily from 4-6pm featuring $1 oysters, $2 fries, $5 beers and $6 house wines. Gabardine’s Sunday brunch is a fun take on breakfast favorites coupled with playful, spirit-based cocktails, mimosas and an extensive selection of local craft brews. In addition to creative brunch dishes, guests can indulge in Gabardine’s cold bar delights such as razor clams and live-spot prawns.

Broken Yolk

The Broken Yolk Café is a favorite among local San Diegans and hungry visitors alike. With a strong dedication to good food and equally good service, the Broken Yolk has built a reputation for its large menu, ample portions and freshly-made flavor. Real shredded hash browns - not dehydrated potatoes. Salsa made fresh daily - never from a can or jar. With over twenty different omelets plus a large variety of breakfast favorites including pancakes, waffles and French toast, Broken Yolk satisfies even the heartiest of diners - all in a clean, comfortable and casual atmosphere. Breakfast is served all day long, but if it's lunch you're craving, try one of our signature salads, juicy half-pound burgers or street taco plates. Whenever you're hungry, Broken Yolk is your place for fresh food served everyday of the week.
Volare blends Old World charm with sumptuous Sicilian dishes

Dr. MARSHA KAY SEFF | THE BEACON

The cinder-block-and-stucco exterior is as unassuming as the interior is warm and inviting. Dining at the landmark Volare Italian Dining in Loma Portal is, as they say, “like visiting family in Sicily.”

And that’s where the generations-old simple, traditional recipes come from, according to owner Anna Sanfilippo, a Sicilian who treats all new and time-treasured customs as family.

Her brother opened the restaurant on Barnett Avenue between Midway Drive and Josefa Lane in 1978. Sanfilippo, who followed her family to the U.S. and became a permanent resident in 1973, took the reins in 1999. She still manages the place, putting in six days a week.

A sign above the kitchen entrance claims, “Broken English Spoken Here,” and Anna wears her Old-World accent with honor.

A true family affair, her daughter and a niece hostesses and waits on policy.

Anna Sanfilippo, left, owner of Volare Italian Dining in Loma Portal, serves up Old World flavor with daughter, Antonella. Sanfilippo’s husband, son, sister, nephew and niece also work at the restaurant. Other staff have worked there for at least a decade. Photo by Marsha Kay Seff | The Beacon

A true family affair, her daughter and a niece hostesses and waits on policy.

Though many original customers are gone, Volare has a new crop of younger patrons, Anna said. Locals might drive by for years before finally stopping, she said.

“I’m not tired,” Anna said. “The restaurant keeps me busy. I’m successful and happy and nice people work for me.”

Through the years, Anna said she has done everything from cooking to washing the dishes. She has no plans to retire.

“All work.” Anna said, “is on the menu for $6.95 and the chicken cacciatore. Meat lasagna—‘In Sicily, we eat pasta every day’—is $11.95. Pizzas are a customer favorite, including a 25-pound wheel of Romano cheese cut and grated on the premises — the prices and generous portions don’t hurt.

“I like to stick with the rules and my mother tends to break them,” she said.

Through the home-style cooking brings the customers back — fresh ingredients include a 25-pound wheel of Romano cheese cut and grated on the premises — the prices and generous portions don’t hurt.

Among Anna’s favorite are the pastas — “In Sicily, we eat pasta every day” — and the chicken cacciatore. Meat lasagna is on the menu for $6.95 and the chicken for $11.95. Pizzas are a customer favorite, with a whopping 28-inch, one-topping pie for $21. Anna said she hasn’t raised prices more than 75 cents since she’s been running the place.

“You can pay for atmosphere at the fancy restaurants, but you are not going to get the feeling of home,” added Antonella.

Though the brisk business strains the limited space, Anna has never set her sights on larger digs. She points out that Volare is centrally located. And with just 14 tables, she said, it’s small enough to manage.

“I don’t want to go big,” Anna said. “That’s a lot of work.”

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Since Jim didn’t have experience or live in the area, the care manager was able to get Jim’s father into a daily meal program, through the VA, she got dad hearing aides and also got him a lifeline bracelet. Jim’s dad to doctor’s appointments, advocates for him, coordinates his medications and makes home visits to check on his well being. She reports back to Jim, with his father’s permission.

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

THURSDAY · APRIL 19, 2012
THE PENINSULA BEACON

MACDAPS REACHES OUT TO AUTISM SPEAKS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

Members of Autism Speaks and other charities were presented with checks from the annual Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies (MACDAPS) 52nd annual Benefit Show last month totaling more than $40,000. Accepting a donation on behalf of Autism Speaks are, from left, Emily LeBlanc, Kay Curry and Leticia Huezo. Representatives of several charities gathered at St. Agnus Church last week to receive their share of MACDAPS show proceeds.

PLNU business school fetes Student-Entrepreneur of Year

The Fermanian School of Business of Point Loma Nazarene University named 2011 alumna Nitasha Stiritz and current seniors Arthur Cachero and Blake Harrison as Student-Entrepreneur of the Year during the annual Entrepreneur Enrichment Program (EEP) Banquet on April 4.

The team received the top award for its innovative Launch Pad business plan, which will produce a web-based application to communicate critical firm startup information through enhanced video in 1-2 minutes to a prospective investor or backer.

The Launch Pad product will allow small startups to use quick and efficient tools that typically have been available to only larger firms. From the Entrepreneur Enrichment Endowment, created concurrently with the launch of the EEP in 2007, a cash award of $2,500 was provided to the Launch Pad team.

Receiving $1,000, including the $500 Dave and Dorothy Latter Free Enterprise Award, was senior business student Matt Jodlin for his “Plane & Simple Tours” project. His business plan is to provide students with inexpensive trips and services that cater toward their liking. By equipping all travelers with the basic tools to create their own unique adventure at low cost, he plans to attract a broader range of travelers.

The four other participating projects each received smaller cash awards. In addition, Phil Herbig, chief financial officer of WesPak Sales in Dinuba, Calif., received the “Inspirational Mentor Award” chosen by his peers and entrepreneurs, and the Plane and Simple Plan he co-mentored with Robert Hark and Stephen Miller will receive a $15,000 comprehensive social media marketing plan provided by the San Diego-based firm ZBiz, founded by PLNU alum Zach Johnson.

The banquet represented the completion of the fifth year of PLNU’s Entrepreneur Enrichment Program. The business plans this year represented a diversity of for-profit and non-profit interests from students and recent graduates from both the undergraduate and MBA programs at PLNU.

For more information on the EEP and activities and programs of the Fermanian School of Business, visit www.pointloma.edu/Fermanian.

— Staff and contribution

You’re Invited!

Point Loma
Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, May 1 6:00 p.m. at the Portuguese Hall
2818 Avenida de Portugal

Meet community leaders including:
• County Supervisor Greg Cox
• San Diego Mayoral Candidates including San Diego County DA Bonnie Dumanis; U.S. Representative Bob Filner; San Diego City Councilman Carl De Maio

And learn about issues affecting your community and the region, including Neighborhood Watch, Urban Agriculture, Code Compliance, and increasing access to sidewalks and bike paths.

Come for dinner at 5:30! Enjoy selections from the Cohn Chop Sooye food truck and purchase cocktails at the UPS5E Hall Bar. Here’s the agenda:
5:00 - 6:00 Chop Sooye Happy Hour
6:00 - 6:20 PLA Info Membership Meeting
6:30 - 8:00 Presentations by SD Civic leaders and Mayoral Candidates

Questions? Contact Jana Garmo at Jana@lomawlaw.com,
www.PointLomaAssociation.com

Announcing the 18th Annual Peninsula Beacon AMATEUR Photo Contest

Who Has The Best Photo of the Peninsula Area?

Enter your best photo portraying the peninsula area taken in the past year. Photos will be displayed at the Beacon booth during the June Ocean Beach Street Fair. The public will vote for their favorite pictures. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 photos & winning photos will be published in the Beacon.

HURRY! Deadline for entries is Tuesday, June 19, 2012
Photos taken over the past year (June '11–June '12) may be entered!

You may be dropped off at:
The Beacon Offices 1621 Grand Ave.
2nd Floor, Pacific Beach Above Wendy’s Restaurant or Mailed to: The Beacon ATTN: Photo Contest. 1621 Grand Ave., Ste C San Diego, CA 92109
Cancer education and research by Sacred Heart Academy will be the focus of the 29th annual Children’s Charity Dinner to benefit homeless children and teens. The benefit will also feature a live auction with a variety of items up for bid.

The Gala will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m., followed by a musical performance by the Dana Unit of Rady Children’s Hospital’s Craniofacial Services Department.

For more information or to register, call (619) 788-4858, or email info@dharayoga.com.

WEDNESDAY, April 25

The Point Loma United Methodist Church hosts a free program, “Yoga for Depression, Anxiety and Grief” from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the church, 1484 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. This is a gentle yoga for all levels of physical ability, including seniors and those with special conditions. To register, call (619) 788-4858, or email info@dharayoga.com.

FRIDAY, April 27

Sacred Heart Academy’s free art show at 6 p.m. at the church, 4774 Saratoga Ave. The community is welcome to admire the art work of Sacred Heart Academy students, enjoy refreshments and listen to music. For more information, visit www.s-h-a.org.

SATURDAY, April 28

The Dana Unit of Rady Children’s Hospital Auxiliary presents the 11th annual Point Loma Garden Walk to benefit the hospital’s Craniofacial Services Department. The walk, which takes place in the elegant La Playa neighborhood of Point Loma, will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event also showcases local artisans and features a special plant sale. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased online or at various merchants throughout Point Loma.

SUNDAY, May 19

The Point Loma Garden Club hosts its annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. The event takes place at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot St. Hezbollah, tomatoes, vegetables and herbs, stunning, exotic plants, succulent container plants, and many, drought-tolerant landscape plants will be for sale at reasonable prices. A Garden Route will be filled with specialty and one-of-a-kind items, including mini-succulent containers and fairy garden supplies. The Garden Club will provide information on planting, pest control and answer questions. Club Cafe will serve coffee and sell homemade baked goods. The plant sale will be held in conjunction the San Diego Floral Association’s Historic Garden Tour. For information on the plant sale, visit www.plgc.org. For garden tour information and tickets, visit www.sdfloras.org.

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Send us your organization’s calendar of events

If your group or organization has an event coming up that you would like published in the “Looking Ahead” calendar feature, send a brief summary of the who, what, where, when, why, how to beacon@sdnews.com and be sure to include a phone number and/or website address for readers to get more information. To increase the likelihood of your event being published in “Looking Ahead,” submit items at least one week prior to the next publication date of The Peninsula Beacon.
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