City officials are hoping more “habitation in vehicles prohibited” signage in the Midway area will help deter nuisances like this unsightly mess left by homeless residents living out of their vehicles.

Photo by Don Balch | The Beacon

City, North Bay planners tackle homeless, parking nuisances in Midway area

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

Homeless people who camp out in cars and motorhomes parked along public streets in the Midway area may soon find reminders that their presence is not going unnoticed.

The city plans to increase the number of “habitation in vehicle prohibited” signs and has asked for advice on where to place them, said North Bay Community Planning Group (NBPCG) President Melanie Nickel, who made the report during the group’s monthly meeting on Aug. 17.

The signs were first installed on a stretch of Sports Arena Boulevard east of Rosecrans Street, in response to a “solid row of motorhomes,” Nickel said. She said police like the signs because they underscore the activity is illegal and serve to aid law enforcement efforts.

“The city was kind of reluctant at first because [legally] it was already forbidden to sleep in a vehicle,” Nickel said. “But they feel it’s been successful.”

As a result of the request by the city, planners have asked for advice on where to place the signs.

SEE HOMELESS, Page 6

Khalil steps down from PCPB amid allegation, board discord

By TONY DE GARATE | THE BEACON

Like most civic leaders, Suhail Khalil was eager to establish his imprint when fellow members of the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) chose him to be their chairman in April.

He said his mission would be to do all he could to build the board’s reputation as a productive, credible organization. He vowed to begin and end every meeting on time. He wanted to increase productivity, credibility and encouraging community members to vet their ideas there. He wanted to increase community members to vet their ideas there. He wanted to increase their presence in the board’s monthly meeting, and links to board-related business.

But on Aug. 18, slightly more than two hours into the board’s monthly meeting, Khalil abruptly said, “Let me make this easy for you. I’m resigning.” With that, he packed up his computer, left the podium and headed for the parking lot of the board.

The purpose of the relays is to motivate lifeguards to fine-tune their rescue skills and athleticism, while also showcasing various rescue techniques to the public. The lifeguards are also simply able to blow off some steam after a hectic summer, Lerma said.

The lifeguard relay competition was named after veteran lifeguard and longtime Northern Area team captain Ron Trenton, who was lost at sea while piloting his private plane from Catalina Island to San Diego in 1997.

Photo by Paul Hansen | The Beacon

LIFEGUARDS PUT SKILLS TO THE TEST

San Diego lifeguards made a splash on Aug. 19 during San Diego Lifeguard Service’s 57th annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relay in Mission Beach.

The relay consisted of four teams competing in 1.2 legs to demonstrate a variety of rescue techniques, including running, swimming, paddle boarding and landline rescue.

The Central Area team, consisting of lifeguards from Mission Beach and Pacific Beach, took the gold, followed closely by La Jolla lifeguards on the Northern Area team. The Boating Safety Unit took third and the Southern Area team, made up of lifeguards from Ocean Beach and Mission Bay, placed fourth in the competition.

According to Lifeguard Services Lt. Nick Lerma, each team exchanged the lead throughout the race, culminating in a close race at the finish line.

Despite a hard-fought competition that came down to the wire — much closer than in past years — lifeguards from the South- em Area team, made up of guards from Ocean Beach and Mission Bay, placed fourth in the 57th annual Ron Trenton Memorial Lifeguard Relay held in Mission Beach on Aug. 19. Above, Nicholas Burgess from the Southern Area team sprung into action.

Insert, Ryan Miller digs into the competition with his rescue board.

Photo by Paul Hansen | The Beacon

SOUTHERN AREA TEAM MAKES VALIANT TRY IN RELAY, PLACES FOURTH

BY MARIND LAMB | THE BEACON

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Imagine using your smart phone to report local environmental problems to community volunteers the way a Neighborhood Watch program reports crimes. This is one vision Gale Filter, the new executive director of San Diego Coastkeeper, would like to implement as he settles into the top spot of one of San Diego’s foremost environmental watchdog groups.

“We’re in tough economic times when we see government resources contracting,” he said. “People are going to be getting more involved and that’s what I want to do, help get [volunteers] involved.”

A retired environmental prosecutor and alum of the University of San Diego, Filter served as the deputy director of enforcement and emergency response for the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Department of Toxic Substances Control and alum of the University of San Diego, Filter said he helped that he also wants to find new ways for Diego Coastkeeper’s mission, he added.

Even paid and unpaid intern positions continue to support educational programs such as Project Swell, an educational program aimed at teaching elementary school students about marine environmental issues through various projects and programs, according to the San Diego Coastkeeper website.

“I don’t think we use enough of [technology],” Filter said.

It would be interesting, he added, to see how someone can snap a picture or send a message to a website. From there, volunteers and government officials monitoring the website would meet periodically to discuss and solve the reported problems.

City officials already meet with local planning boards to update residents on city projects. And though residents can already report nuisance pollution and other environmental code violations by calling the city, this proposed new group could request similar city attention, said Jose Ysea, San Diego Environmental Services public information officer.

That even with cooperation from residents, the city has strict labor laws that may limit the amount of work volunteers may do. Environmental group volunteers already help with some water-monitoring activities, with the bulk of the work done by local government.

“Because of liability issues and labor relations [the city] has to make sure we’re not filling paid city positions with volunteers,” Ysea said.

Even paid and unpaid intern positions must go through a strict hiring process, as Filter said.

“As Filter and the rest of the San Diego Coastkeeper team continue to keep citizen involvement up, other issues on the horizon also highlight the group’s agenda.”

Enforcement in protected marine sanctuaries off the coast of La Jolla Cove. Encinitas and neighboring shorelines will be something to keep an eye on, Filter said. Marine sanctuaries that protect certain pockets of shoreline would limit certain kinds of fishing, according to published reports.

San Diego Coastkeeper will also continue to curb sewage infrastructure problems.

“It has done many great things on the environmental front in San Diego by anyone’s standards,” Filter said. “It has a long list of credentials in consumer, environmental and legal services for the California Environmental Protection Agency’s Department of Toxic Substances Control and California District Attorney’s Association, now helms San Diego Coastkeeper. Curran joins other groups like the San Diego Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and with I Love a Clean San Diego. The organization has played a key role in helping to curb sewage infrastructure problems, water and marine life conservation efforts through periodic coastal cleanups, education campaigns and law enforcement lobbying campaigns. For more information or to volunteer, visit www.sdcoastkeeper.org.
A caravan of 800 to 1,000 police squad cars, Dapper Bandit clothing was also found to the robberies. The prosecutor said his wore a black turtleneck sweater and a designer hat. He also used makeup to locked over whether the air-soft pistol he used was considered a deadly weapon. Martinez's prior record. Martinez said he said he tried to enter the U.S. from Mexico 27, 2010. To disguise himself, the Dapper Bandit wearing from a federal marshal and of various drug charges. “He says to the probation officer, ‘I am a career criminal,” said Brown, adding, “[but] he’s been a perfect gentleman in my courtroom.” Brown told Martinez he was required to impose the long term because of Mar- white as he wore a green jail jumpsuit, sporting a shaved head and numerous facial and arm tattoos. San Diego Superior Court Judge Frank Brown ordered Martinez to pay nearly $2,400 to the victims and fined Mar- more than $700. Probation was denied. Because Martinez was a third-strike offender, he received 25 years for each robbery and 12 years consecutively for having prior convictions of robbery and weapons possession. He also has been convicted of escap- ing from a federal marshal and of various drug charges. Thousands of mourners — representing San Diego law enforcement and the civilian community alike — packed The Rock Church on Rose- cans Street on Aug. 12 to pay tribute to slain police officer Jeremy Henwood, who was gunned down by a suicidal man Aug. 6 while Henwood was on patrol in City Heights. Henwood was praised for his community outreach and mounted, right, by colleagues in the San Diego Police Department, California Highway Patrol, San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and several other agencies. Henwood’s 21-year-old killer died in a hail of bullets just hours after the unprompted attack.

**Memorial Service for slain officer puts Point Loma at center of citywide tribute**

**By NEAL PUTNAM | The Beacon**

Dapper Bandit earns 62-year prison sentence

Thousands of mourners — representing San Diego law enforcement and the civilian community alike — packed The Rock Church on Rose- cans Street on Aug. 12 to pay tribute to slain police officer Jeremy Henwood, who was gunned down by a suicidal man Aug. 6 while Henwood was on patrol in City Heights. Henwood was praised for his community outreach and mounted, right, by colleagues in the San Diego Police Department, California Highway Patrol, San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department and several other agencies. Henwood’s 21-year-old killer died in a hail of bullets just hours after the unprompted attack.
Merner, animal trainer with OB ties, dies at 55

Suzanne Merner passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, surrounded by her loving family. She fought a courageous 15-month battle with brain cancer. She was 55.

Born in San Diego on Feb. 28, 1956, daughter of Frances E. MacDonald and the late Dr. James MacDonald, she grew up in Ocean Beach and attended Sunset View Elementary School, Dana Junior High and University High School. The family lived in Hawaii, where she also attended Scabury Hall on Maui.

“Suzie” will always be remembered for her love of animals. She always surrounded herself with a menagerie of pets. She began her professional career at the San Diego Zoo in 1981 where she worked for 22 years, first as a nursery keeper at the Children’s Zoo, then as an animal trainer for various shows like the “Wild Ones Show,” “Animal Chat Show” and the “Sea Lion Show.”

She entertained and educated thousands of visitors over her lifetime, including world leaders like George and Barbara Bush and show-business personalities like Dorothea and Rob Hope. In 2005, she accepted a position as curator at the Santa Ana Zoo.

She was 55.

In the early 1960s on placid Point Loma, two words prompted a handful of civic-minded residents to begin organizing an effort to beautify a portion of Rosecrans Street: “Gasoline Alley.” Local pressure had plastered the dubious nickname on the “Village,” a portion of Rosecrans Street that was held in high esteem by area residents. Still, even locals had to admit the label fit.

At one time, the Village — Rosecrans Street from Canon Street to Nimtz Boulevard — was, in fact, an unsightly stretch. These 1.2 short blocks were home to 10 gas stations, 11 massive billboards and dozens of unsightly poles and overhead power lines.

Now, a half-century later, a veritable army of activists is preparing to celebrate a major milestone — the 50th anniversary of the Point Loma Association (PLA). The milestone will be formally observed Sept. 15 at the Kona Kai on Shelter Island. Tickets for the celebration are $75 each. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. will precede a presentation of “The PLA Story,” narrated by Iris Engstrand, professor of history at the University of San Diego.

The history is rich. 

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The history is rich. 

When a small group of volunteers first gathered at The Quarter on Shelter Island, a women’s clothing store on Rosecrans Street, the main objective was cleaning up and beautifying the Village.

The group formed Point Loma Village Beautiful, and its first-ever fundraising dinner at the San Diego Yacht Club in 1964 saw 200 founding members pay $2.50 a couple to attend.

With that seed money, the group bought and planted 65 jacaranda trees along Rosecrans Street.

The following month, San Diego Magazine headlined an October 1964 story: “Which will it be, Point Loma — Beauty or Billboard Beast?”

Change, however, was already under way.

The group’s name was Point Loma Beautiful before its current metamorphosis to the Point Loma Association. But no matter what the moniker is, the group points to an extensive list of accomplishments over five decades.

Those ugly billboards and power poles of 50 years ago have disappeared. The number of trees planted and nurtured has now passed 700 and the group maintains 15 separate beautification projects throughout Point Loma.

Other association projects have included the transformation of 30 utility boxes into artwork, the elimination of graffiti and the promotion of the Peninsula’s interests with city, county and federal government agencies, including the Navy.

Among the group’s important dates:

1965: The first billboard comes down
1966: The group is incorporated
1985: Point Loma summer concerts series
2006: Hugh Story, dubbed “Point Loma’s Johnny Appleseed,” passes away
2010: A memorial to Story is unveiled

For more information about the dinner and volunteering, contact Point Loma Association’s 50th anniversary dinner chairwoman Linda Fox at (619) 223-0164.

PLA beautification group celebrates five decades of local achievements
The Car Club Council of Greater San Diego has moved its signature car show event from Balboa Park to Liberty Station on Sept. 11.

By JOHNNY MCDONALD | THE BEACON

The Car Club Council of Greater San Diego calls its automobile attraction “the greatest show on turf.” So, they’ll use a new venue at Liberty Station to make the point with hundreds of cars on display on Sunday, Sept. 11.

This signature fundraising event for the San Diego Automotive Museum has been a tradition for a number of years at Balboa Park. But it has outgrown the park and Liberty Station’s “turf” was chosen to replace it.

The free show runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The car registration fee is $25. Personal favorites might be the 1955-1957 Chevys or the 1950s-era Ford Thunderbirds. Whatever their favorites, visitors will see that classic car shows offer a nice blend of nostalgia—a time when collectors say cars were cars.

For more information, visit www.carclubcouncilofsandiego.com.

LIBERTY STATION TO SHOWCASE CAR CLUB’S SIGNATURE EVENT SEPT. 11

By JOHNNY MCDONALD | THE BEACON

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PCPB CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library, leaving a room full of fellow board members and community members looking stunned.

There are, of course, two sides to every story.

Khalil had served for more than five years on the board, which is sanctioned by the city to provide citizen input on development projects, public facilities and land use related issues.

Following Khalil’s departure, the board managed to regroup and complete the remaining items on the agenda, led by First Vice Chairwoman Helen Kinnaird. Khalil’s resignation will likely appear on next month’s agenda, and the board’s bylaws allow 120 days to fill a vacancy, according to PCPB Secretary John Gott.

“I think this is an improvement for the board,” said fellow board member Geoff Page, Khalil’s most persistent public critic, who was contacted after the meeting.

Page charged that Khalil had gone rogue when he met June 16 with staff from City Planning and Community Investment (CPCI), the city’s arm that advises community planning groups, to review proposed changes to the PCPB bylaws. When the full board met that same day, Page alleges, Khalil didn’t mention the meeting.

According to Page, Khalil committed two violations of the PCPB bylaws without the board’s approval and he shared the proposed bylaw changes before the board had approved them.

“Since it wasn’t approved by the board, the city wasted its time looking at it,” Page said.

Some of the proposed changes were ultimately rejected by the board, which “made us look stupid” for having the city review them in the first place, Page said. But Khalil maintained he met with CPCI to ensure that an ad hoc committee he created when he took office to revive the bylaws was on the right track. He pointed out he posted CPCI’s response on the board’s website and even emailed board members to notify them of that posting.

Khalil defended sharing a letter drafted by the PCPB’s Environment and Water Subcommittee with Naval Base Point Loma on the same grounds. The letter expressed concerns about the condition of an aging pipeline that brings fuel from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to the base.

“There’s nothing in the bylaws that constrain chairs (of planning groups) from meeting with other agencies. On the contrary, it encourages it,” Khalil said, when contacted after the meeting.

I wanted to fulfill our duty of outreach and transparency and make sure we’re more productive. It’s beyond (belief) that they would construe that as misconduct,” Page said.

Page had an opposite interpretation. “The bylaws are pretty clear,” he said. “I’ve addressed for the betterment of my community,” Khalil said. “I’m proud of the time spent on the board on the matters of which I’ve been a part.”

Page offered this assessment: “The main problem was he was autocratic. He thought he should be able to make the board into the image he had in mind without the board’s input. I think those were his flaws and that’s why he ran into trouble.”

Early this week, there appeared to be a movement afoot for Khalil to return. At least five board members—Jay Shumaker, Rebecca Michael, Kinnaird, Paul Webb and Norm Allenby—circulated emails expressing that Khalil should reconsider his resignation.

But Khalil said he would not return. “I don’t think one minute of my time spent on the board on the matters I’ve addressed for the betterment of my community,” Khalil said. “I’m proud of our accomplishments, but there was just an irrational focus on communicating with government agencies.”
Alzheimer’s Early Detection Technology

Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive and as-yet incurable condition, yet doctors and scientists are recommending new PET brain scans effective for early detection of the disease as an aid in determining appropriate medical treatment and helping patients plan for the future.

An Alzheimer’s diagnosis is a life-altering stressful and upsetting circumstance for anyone. Yet, the possibility of optimal symptom and time management gives both patients and caregivers the chance to see a better future. As PET scans reach the marketplace and patients begin to utilize medical technology to detect the disease as an aid in determining appropriate medical treatment.

Colleen Van Horn, RN, BSN, CCM, C.O.D.

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AUTHORS
TAMMY BARKER, MOUNTAIN OAKS
Pointers prep for hot new football season

The blood, sweat, tears are about to pay off

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

After months of perspiration, preparation and practice, it’s time to find out how the 2011 edition of the Point Loma Pointers football team will perform.

Head coach Mike Hastings and his staff have put in literally hundreds of hours reading their young athletes for battle against a tough non-league schedule and their annual Western League foes.

The school’s first test comes tomorrow, Aug. 26, when all three teams, numbering more than 100 players, get their first taste of battle in controlled scrimmages.

The varsity and junior varsity squads will travel to San Marcos to square off against Mission Hills High School’s best. JV action begins at 4 p.m. with varsity commencing at 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, the freshman Pointers, who have impressed coaches so far, will be tested on their home field at 4 p.m. against always-tough Cathedral High School.

All scrimmages are open to the public at no charge.

Each scrimmage will be videotaped so strengths and areas of improvement can be identified. This must be done quickly since the season-opening games are only one week away. All scrimmages are open to the public at no charge.

POINTER NOTES:

• Former Pointer standout Josh Wade (Class of 2008), now a highly-rated cornerback for the Poinsettia-Bowl champion San Diego State Aztecs, suffered a likely season-ending injury in the team’s Aug. 20 intrasquad scrimmage at Qualcomm Stadium.

Wade, a potential starter in a highly-rated SDSU secondary, went down with what is believed to be a ruptured Achilles’ tendon. Team doctors scheduled an MRI exam Aug. 23 to confirm the diagnosis.

The Pointers will also be heading north for those.

• All three teams will play at Escondido’s Orange Glen High School, with the freshman team kicking off at 3:30 p.m. on Next up is a Friday, Sept. 2 doubleheader, with JV action beginning at 4 p.m., followed by the varsity opener at 7 p.m.

The first opportunity for local fans to see the Pointers on their home turf comes in the big annual “Kick-Off” event on Saturday, Sept. 10.

The Pointers may make or break their season on the road, as they play four of their first five opponents away from home. Ironically, the next home game is the Homecoming match on Oct. 14.

Here is the complete 2011 varsity season schedule:

• Sept. 2 vs. Orange Glen, 7 p.m., away
• Sept. 10 vs. Lincoln, 3 p.m., home
• Sept. 16 vs. Mt. Miguel, 7 p.m., away
• Sept. 23 vs. Scripps Ranch, 6:30 p.m., away
• Sept. 30 vs. Steele Canyon, 7 p.m., away
• Oct. 7, bye week
• Oct. 14 vs. Hoover, 6:30 p.m., homecoming
• Oct. 21 vs. La Jolla, 3 p.m., home
• Oct. 28 vs. Mission Bay, 3 p.m., home
• Nov. 4 vs. Madison, 6:30 p.m., away
• Nov. 11 vs. Serra, 2:30 p.m., home
• Nov. 18 First round of CIF Div. III playoffs
• Nov. 25 Second round (quarterfinals) of playoffs
• Dec. 2 Third-round (semifinals) of playoffs
• Dec. 9 CIF Championship game at Qualcomm Stadium

THE SEASON’S MATCHUPS

• Point Loma head football coach Mike Hastings (in visor) reinforces important instructions with members of his 2011 varsity squad during a preseason practice session. The Pointers have their first taste of battle tomorrow, Aug. 26 in a 6 p.m. scrimmage at Mission Hills High School in San Marcos.

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OCEAN BEACH is thrilled to welcome the 6th Annual Jazz88 OB Music & Art Festival this year on Saturday, Sept. 10th. Newport Ave. will transform into a bustling beachfront block party with 8 stages as venues throughout the neighborhood, over 50 fine artists at Artists Row (4900 Block of Newport Ave.) and beachfront vendors along with the Community Stage.

Four of the eight stages are all ages, so bring the family to enjoy a day of music and art in Ocean Beach. Visit obmusicfest.org for ticket info or stop by the office: OBMA 1868 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 92107.

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**‘Kick Off’ event to christen 2011 season**

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

The first home football game of the season is always a big event for Point Loma High School and the community — and this year is no exception.

Volunteers have been busy cleaning and sprucing up venerable Pete Ross Stadium in preparation for the big event in just over two weeks.

The Pointers will battle Lincoln High School on Saturday, Sept. 10 in the annual “Kick-Off” event, and the three football games are just part of the fun promised.

Every Pointer team will see action in the triple-header. The freshmen game begins at 10 a.m. with the junior varsity following at 12:30 p.m. The varsity “main event” gets under way at 3 p.m.

The Pointer Association will host an open-air “Kick-Off Fiesta” on the school tennis courts with dinner, music and a silent auction.

Tickets for both the games and the dinner announcement followed by the Imu pig presentation, a lavish Hawaiian buffet including Kalua pig, Hawaiian and Polynesian specialty dishes, fresh salads and lavish desserts.

**TEENING IT OFF**

Volunteers with the Pointer Association are making final preparations for the traditional Kick-Off event on Saturday, Sept. 10 as the Point Loma High football teams prepare for their season home openers against Lincoln High. The excitement continues even after the games conclude for the freshman, junior varsity and varsity squads.

At $12 for adults and $9 for students, Game ticket prices are $9 for adults and $6 for students and seniors. Special seating for four people at the dinner table is $48 ($36 for members). Special seating for eight people can be pre-purchased through a link on the school website, www.pointloma-high.com.

Tickets for both the games and the dinner can be pre-purchased through a link on the school website, www.pointloma-high.com.

The “Fighting Pointers” are preparing for a brand-new season with high hopes for a Western League crown — and quite possibly much more down the road in CIF postseason.

Here is the Point Loma High School 2011 varsity roster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andre’ Montano</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jake Conyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>D.J. Lacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Darnell Brooks</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Edmond Tucker</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Chad Ahumada</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Matt Magers</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mohsen Gharam</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Morris Mathews</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tanner Manion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Samantha Moore</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**THE PENINSULA BEACON**

THURSDAY · AUGUST 25, 2011

**THE BEACON**

**SPORTS**

**THIS YEAR’S PLHS GRIDIRON WARRIORS**

Points: 0

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San Diego’s Hawaiian Isle

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San Diego’s Hawaiian Isle

This exciting event is a great and affordable experience for the whole family or group gatherings including complimentary parking.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a Lei Greeting and a welcome mai tai, ice tea and Hawaiian punch. This authentic Luau includes the conch shell dinner announcement followed by the Imu pig presentation, a lavish Hawaiian buffet including Kalua pig, Hawaiian and Polynesian specialty dishes, fresh salads and lavish desserts.

You’ll experience the beautiful sounds of the Islands sharing dinner followed by a complete Polynesian dance show with musicians from the culture of the Islands. This spectacular show offers dances from the various islands with dancers ranging in age from children to adults.

The show is complete with musicians, singers, drummers and fire dancers. The Luau’s run Friday night through Sunday evening. The show begins July 1 through September 2, 2011.

Seating is limited, so call early for reservations: (800) 566-2524. The price is $44.95 per adult and $22.95 per child (5-12). (The price includes tax and service charges for adults in $44.50, children 5-12 $21.95 and children under 5 free.

Combine your Luau experience with a “Drive to Hawaii” accommodations package, available year-round and includes: complimentary parking, a welcome mai tai and pupu platter in Trade Winds lounge, a welcome fruit basket, ice bucket, and more.

For details and more information on special offers and packages visit their website www.resortkonakai.com or call 1-800-566-2524. The Kona Kai Resort Spa & Marina is located at 1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106.
Many musicians have had lengthy careers in San Diego, but few could match the collective accomplishments of The Farmers, who appear at Humphrey’s Backstage Lounge tonight, Aug. 25. One of the most beloved bands in San Diego music history, the quartet’s mix of rock ’n’ roll, blues and R&B makes it the ultimate roadhouse band, with a slew of original hits and a lineup of great covers.

Though the band’s members had known each other for years and had played in various combinations since the 1970s, The Farmers first got together in 2002. An indirect offshoot of The Beat Farmers, who played the world’s stages between 1983 and 1996, The Farmers released “Loaded” in 2005 with a lineup that included the original band’s Jerry Raney and Buddy Blue on guitar, as well as Rolle Love on bass and latter-day drummer Joel Kmak.

Blue’s death in 2006 and Love’s exit not long after found a revamped lineup comprised of Southern California’s most inspiring bands of the last four decades, including Glory (Raney), The Penetrators (Sullivan) and the Hittmakers (Kmak). The Farmers’ most recent album is 2009’s “Fulmination,” with studio work on a followup beginning this fall.

Kmak said the appeal of the band is in its presence as a high-energy bar band, with a restless nature. Anything can happen at a Farmers’ show, including recasting of old favorite songs and medleys that can top 10 minutes — all while keeping the dance floor packed.

“Every gig is different,” he said. “The songs change. There is freedom and trust between us as musicians, so the band is open enough to follow where ever Jerry might lead us.”

He said one of the band’s most popular songs, “Aw Man, C’mon!” started as a jam session, while a Yardbirds/Animals medley can be expanded or contracted at will.

He said that during the band’s five-year run with this lineup, it has gotten even tighter. Having played together for so long, the quartet practically has interband telepathy, even honing its older original material.

SEE FARMERS, Page 12
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The Farmers have more low key, with just a pair of tours through the Pacific Northwest and Canada to their credit so far. However, the band has a dedicated group of fans that follows them from show to show.

Kmak considers this to be a direct result of the band’s own excitement during performances.

“We just love playing,” he said. “I’m 54 and I look forward to every second of every gig. And I think everybody in the band feels the same way.”

Kmak noted that although time off from the band is rare, even when it comes, it’s often wasted.

“When we have a weekend off, we all call each other and ask, ‘What are you gonna do?’ It’s a curse to our loved ones,” he joked.

The Farmers perform at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27, at Humphrey’s Backstage Lounge, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. $15. For more information, visit www.humphreysbackstage.com.

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$1 off U-call it 8pm-1am
Super Pier Night
$2 off anything on our menu all night!
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PLHS graduate wins scholarship honor

Point Loma High graduate Samantha Briers has won first-place honors in the National Woodie Club Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was open to all graduating high school seniors who plan to attend any community college, university or trade school in the fall, and who are children or grandchildren of current members of the club. The contest rules called for a 100- to 500-word essay on one of 19 topics. Briers chose to write from the topic of “The car’s view of life.”

Briers’ family has been restoring a 1950 Woodie wagon for the last four years — an effort that is said to be nearly complete. For her efforts, Briers won a $1,500 scholarship to offset expenses as she heads off to college at the University of Hawaii. According to Briers’ mother, Kelly, Samantha learned of the honor at the baggage-claim area the day Samantha flew into Honolulu to begin her college career.

Briers graduated from Point Loma High with nearly a 4.0 GPA. Both her parents attended PLHS.