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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Thursday May 22, 2014

WWW.SDNEWS.COM ■ VOLUME 27, NUMBER 14



FIRE-FUELED PANORAMA

The spate of wildfires in San Diego County last week caused plenty of grief and hardship for residents in North County, but it provided fuel for some spectacular sunsets for beach communities, exemplified by this view of the Ocean Beach Pier on May 15.

Photo by Jim Grant

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Pointers edge St. George's for sailing crown



Pointer skipper Scott Sinks, left, and crew Johannes McElvain maneuver their A Division boat during a Mallory Trophy race earlier this month on a course along the Embarcadero. The pair helped lead their team to another national championship.

Courtesy photo by Jessica Meats

■ The Point Loma High swim and volleyball teams end season with league crowns. Page 16

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

In what may have been the narrowest victory in the 84-year history of the event, Point Loma High's highly regarded sailing team once again captured the Mallory Trophy — and with it another national sailing championship.

Sailing at home for once, on a course set up along the downtown Embarcadero with a spectacular city view, the Pointers prevailed in the last of 22 races when their B Division boat crossed the finish line in fifth place, edging out the sixth-place boat from St. George's School of Rhode Island.

The margin of victory: one foot.

The fifth-place finish left the Pointers with a score for 22 races of 138 points, the total of all 22 finish orders. St. George finished with 139 points.

Hosted by the San Diego Yacht Club May 11-12, the event was conducted by the Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA), which selects 20 schools from each of seven national districts to compete for the title, based on earlier racing performance.

SEE CHAMPS, Page 18

PRIMARY 2014

3 candidates chasing Dist. 2 City Council seat share platforms

EDITOR'S NOTE: After the ouster of former Mayor Bob Filner last year and two special elections to determine his successor, voters gave the nod to now-Mayor Kevin Faulconer. With Faulconer's ascension to mayor, his District 2 City Council seat is now up for grabs. A primary election is set for June 3 and will feature four candidates (alphabetically): Sara Boot, Jim Morrison, Mark Schwartz and Lorrie Zapf. To better inform our readers about the political views of the candidates, the San Diego

Community Newspaper Group developed a five-pronged interview we posed to the political hopefuls. The following is their response in the candidates' own words. Note: Morrison submitted no response.

SEE PRIMARY, Page 7



Boy Scouts and adult leaders prepare to plant hundreds of American flags at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in preparation for a previous Memorial Day commemoration.

Photo by Jim Grant

Patriotic spirit soars on Peninsula as Memorial Day celebrations near

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Memorial Day will be observed on the Peninsula with military fanfare and patriotic flair.

A Memorial Day program honoring the legacy of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation will be held Monday, May 26 at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive, starting at 10 a.m. The Fort Rosecrans program includes music, recitation of the Gettysburg Address and a 21-

gun salute in honor of the nation's fallen heroes.

The nearby Cabrillo National Monument will also be open from noon to 8 p.m. on Memorial Day. The park will be closed before noon on this day, however, in deference to the planned Memorial Day event and services at Fort Rosecrans.

Traffic on Catalina Boulevard at Navy Base Gate Post 2 and Cabrillo Memorial Drive south of the ceme-

SEE MEMORIAL, Page 13

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OBMA partners with Intrepid for more responsive, accessible website

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

The much-anticipated Ocean Beach MainStreet Association's (OBMA) retooled website is up and running, courtesy of webmaster Intrepid Network Multimedia Services & Business Solutions.

"We're still updating some things, but for the most part it's live," said Denny Knox, executive director of OBMA, the community's Business Improvement District (BID).

"It was completely redesigned with the help of about 20 people on our Promotions Committee," she said.

Knox credited the job done by Josh

Utley, Intrepid's president/CEO, for successfully redeveloping the BID's website making it truly cutting-edge.

"Josh did a phenomenal job, really put his heart and soul into this one," she said, adding the website is not only more responsive but more accessible now. It's designed to respond to phones, tablets, laptops, whatever. It's also designed to be readable no matter what device you're using. We're super-pleased with it."

Noting Intrepid designed OBMA's website back in 2009, Utley said the redesign involved upgrading its content management to improve search engine placement.

Utley said his recent work on the OBMA website is an example of "responsive design," in that the website is now configured to "respond to any size screen no matter the device."

"Whether you're using an iPad, a laptop, a tablet or a phone, you will be able to view it (website)," he said. "It's an improved user experience so people can quickly find what they're looking for."

Utley has been doing analytics on the OBMA site since he created it. He's uncovered some surprising facts during that time.

"A total of 75 percent of the people who visit the OBMA website have never been to it before," Utley said. "They're

usually looking for a restaurant or more information on an event or just checking on what there is to do in OB."

The web designer said there's typically a three- to ten-second window available to engage a visitor to the website to try and capture their interest.

One of the more popular items on OBMA's website is Dog Beach, said Utley.

"It's always in the top five (hits)," he said, adding that will trigger adding more information to that page, like relevant advertisers (such as dog washes or lodging) near the popular beach visitor site.

Web users these days are increasingly becoming less patient, said Utley, who

added its becoming more challenging to find ways to draw — and maintain — the interest of web surfers.

"You need to make your website more robust, feature-heavy with things like a slideshow and responsive design," Utley said.

He said adding search engine optimization is always key and that website design is "a lot more involved than people realize."

"If you don't update your content, it becomes stagnant," he said.

Fine-tuning is always required to "ensure images are high quality."

Visit OBMA's website at www.oceanbeachsandiego.com.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Forging a plan to improve City Council District 2's neighborhoods

COUNCIL CORNER

By City Councilman Ed Harris

On April 7, 2014, I was sworn in as the interim City Councilmember for District 2 to serve the remaining eight months of Mayor Kevin Paulconer's council term. I was one of 17 individuals considered by the City Council for this appointment, and I am honored and humbled having been selected.

For the past 25 years, I have served as a city of San Diego lifeguard. As a lifeguard, I'm an observer and a listener. My eyes are constantly scanning the beach and the water, and it's the beachgoers who tell me what's going on which often informs my actions. I'm taking this listening approach to my new job at City Hall.

Since last month, I've been meeting with constituents to hear what's on their minds, what's working well in their neighborhoods and what isn't. I've been hearing a lot and learning a lot.

Many residents in the Morena District need height limitations on new development to help combat density issues.

Midway District business owners need additional support to address homeless issues. Parents walking their kids to school need increased pedestrian safeguards. Point Loma needs representation regarding airplane issues. Bike commuters need road improvements to



ED HARRIS

ensure their safety.

What can I accomplish in eight short months? Well, it's my hope to take a page from City Council President Todd Gloria, who stepped in as interim mayor last fall and accomplished so much in just 184 days. From now until December, my focus will be on increased public safety, infrastructure improvements and maintaining neighborhood character.

I have been appointed to serve on four of the city's seven committees: Audit; Environment; Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods; and Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations. I look forward to working with my council colleagues in shaping policy that protects our way of life in San Diego and provides the city a greater return on investment for each taxpayer dollar

spent.

I welcome and need your input on how we can make our District 2 neighborhoods the best they can be.

To that end, please email me your concerns and ideas at edharris@sandiego.gov, or call my office at (619) 236-6622. I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the coming months.

— Ed Harris represents City Council District 2, which encompasses Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Mission Bay, among other communities.

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing your Home for Sale

SAN DIEGO. According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an older home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In

most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" 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.

Courtesy of Dennis DeSouza Remax Lic. 01220680

Memorial fundraiser to fuel scholarships for student filmmakers

An upcoming memorial fundraiser will soon be launched to help provide scholarships to aspiring filmmakers at Point Loma High School.

"PL Goes Hollywood" is a tribute to Pointer alum Chris Brinker, class of 1988, who died from an aortic aneurysm in February 2013 at age 42 after producing the cult classic "Boondock Saints" and several other independent films.

The community is invited to the event

on Saturday, May 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Stone Brewery in Liberty Station.

Brinker's family and friends have established the CB Film Foundation (www.cbfilmfoundation.org) in his honor to assist



CHRIS BRINKER

Point Loma students with filmmaking

or related-career interests.

Following his death, Brinker was honored by the San Diego Film Festival with creation of the Chris Brinker Award, now given to filmmakers for outstanding directorial debuts.

Brinker's directorial debut, originally titled "Whiskey Bay," was released last month as "Bad Country" and starred Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe and Matt Dillon.

— Scott Hopkins

Documentary explores the life of 'Star Trek' pop icon George Takei

By JACQUI NGUYEN | SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

With a smile on his face and a hand firmly holding his partner's hand, "Star Trek" pop icon and now-activist George Takei made an appearance on opening night of the fourth annual Spring Showcase in San Diego.

The Pacific Arts Movement — based at Liberty Station — launched the San Diego premiere of the documentary "To Be Takei" at the UltraStar Theatre in Mission Valley. The 90-minute documentary premiered at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year.

Most of us know Takei for his role as Sulu on the original "Star Trek" series and six "Star Trek" movies that followed. "To Be Takei" takes the filmgoers through Takei's trek of real life, liberty and love.

The film digs into the life of Takei and takes viewers along the journey during his time at a Japanese-American internment camp during World War II on to his remarkable career and personal life.



Former "Star Trek" star George Takei and partner Brad Takei take center stage during opening night of the fourth annual Spring Showcase in Mission Valley, where the Pacific Arts Movement (Pac Arts) launched the San Diego premiere of the documentary "To Be Takei." Pac Arts is based in Point Loma.

Courtesy Sam Ho

Takei has put his fame to good use through social media, with 5 million fans on Facebook, where he advocates for the LGBT and Asian-American communities.

Filmmaker Jennifer M. Kroot directed

"To Be Takei" by taking an in-depth look into the pop icon's star with his partner of 27 years, Brad Takei.

For more information on the many films Pac Arts promotes throughout the year, visit www.pacarts.org.

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