Local cluster braces for upheaval as 2 elementaries targeted

By PATRICIA WALSH | The Beacon

The San Diego Unified School District’s (SDUSD) equation for solving its budget shortfall doesn’t add up for some Point Loma cluster parents and educators.

On the brink of bankruptcy with a $650 million to $1 billion deficit, the district is proposing to close 10 schools citywide — with Point Loma taking 20 percent of the hit — and realigning others to save $5 million, or $500,000 per school.

For Point Loma, that emerging plan means an increased enrollment at every school in the cluster except the high school. Cabrillo and Dana elementary schools would be shuttered if the recommendations move forward. The unique K-6 Mandarin language-immersion magnet program at Barnard elementary would be eliminated. The K-8 Mandarin language-immersion magnet program at Barnard Elementary School, above, would be closed and moved to Dana, where it would evolve into a K-8 Pacific Rim language academy.

Cabrillo Elementary School, above, and the 5-6 grade configuration at Dana Middle School could be targeted for closure by the beginning of the next school year.

As part of the San Diego Unified School District’s (SDUSD) equation for solving its budget shortfall doesn’t add up for some Point Loma cluster parents and educators.

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Most changes would be in place by the first bell of the 2012-13 school year, according to district officials.

“The district is making business decisions and we’re the only cluster where every single school is impacted by the recommendation except the high school,” said Darrell Klueber, a teacher at Silver Gate Elementary School.

“We are the most impacted: We’re getting better every year,” he said. “Why mess that up?”

Klueber asked his questions during a meeting of an ad hoc cluster committee formed by The Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation (PLCSF) to address the district’s proposal. The committee’s 25 members had many other questions — and no answers.

What will become of the music program at Point Loma? What will happen to Proposition S money? Is the district’s promise of choice priority to students at closed schools possible given the limited seats at remaining schools? How will the changes impact traffic in Point Loma? Why is it all happening so fast?

Also of concern is focusing on the busi-
Lobster diving season: the thrill of the catch can be a deadly pursuit

By MARKO LAMB | THE BEACON

Lobster diving season has hit the California coastline from Monterey Bay to the Gulf of Tehuantepec, Mexico. Popular coastal sites in San Diego such as the La Jolla Ecological Reserve, Point Loma’s giant kelp forest and Wreck Alley off Mission Beach’s shore draw in divers from all over the nation for the thrill of catching the delicious crustaceans.

San Diego safety officials and diving experts urge caution and proper knowledge of regulations when catching the elusive critters, which only come out at night and hide in rocks and reefs during the day.

Ignorance about lobster diving regulations can lead to hefty fines — up to $1,000 for fishing without a license, said Andrew Hughan, representative for California Department of Fish and Game’s South Coast Region.

According to California laws, lobsters must be measured underwater and those with carapaces less than 3 1/4 inches must be thrown back. Additionally, no more than seven lobsters can be taken per person per day, divers can only use their hands to take lobsters and all recreationally harvested lobsters must remain whole and intact while at sea.

Hughan said opening day of lobster diving season on Oct. 1 went smoothly.

“It was a great day — no safety violations, no one got hurt,” he said, although wardens did issue several citations throughout the day for undersized lobsters, although wardens did issue several citations.

River Steve Schur shows off a large lobster caught at Mission Bay. Lobster-diving season has opened along the California coastline.

Tanovan’s death marks the 11th diving fatality in San Diego since 2007. According to police, Tanovan went into the water alone around 7 p.m. He was found dead in waters south of Chil- dren’s Pool in La Jolla, an area known as “Hospital Point” — around 8:30 p.m.

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Lozano detailed the night for Lozano, describing the moment when he noticed something was wrong:

“I’m entering, I’m not familiar with the area, “conditions change frequently,” he said, urging divers to check surf, visibility and wind conditions beforehand and watch the water 10 to 15 minutes before entering.

“Lobster diving is really dangerous, so just because a diver is in shallow water does not mean the diver is safe. ‘This is one of those sports where ignorance is not bliss,’” he said. “Ignorance can get you killed.”

For more information about lobster diving regulations and safety tips, visit dfg.ca.gov or contact the Department of Fish and Game at (858) 467-4201.

“Even if a diver is familiar with the area, ‘conditions change frequently,’” he said. “But if you’re going to an area that you’re not familiar with, you should fist go during the day.”

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City Council OKs deal with Toyota on beach vehicles for lifeguards

by NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

The City Council voted 7-0 on Oct. 10 to approve a marketing partnership with Toyota that could save up to $1 million for the city to use Toyota vehicles for free for two years on city beaches as the “official vehicle of San Diego lifeguards.”

San Diego Lifeguards Services Chief Rick Wurts, along with Mary Lewis, the city’s chief financial officer, made the proposal to the City Council. Lewis estimated the savings between $555,000 and $1.1 million, and called for the free use of the Toyota vehicles without the obligation of purchase or lease during the two-year agreement.

“Toyota will loan 34 vehicles, some of which will be used in television commercials to be filmed at unspecified city beaches,” said Wurts. “One of the important things we need to do the job are reliable vehicles to get to the rescues. Other rescue officers echoed the sentiment.

“We’re grateful for this deal. We’re really in favor of this,” lifeguard Larry Sanders told councilmembers. “We understand that savings will be put toward our budget, which will help our training.”

District 8 City Councilman David Alvarez made the motion to authorize Mayor Jerry Sanders to sign the agreement, a move seconded by District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner.

In approving the deal, the council also authorized a commission of more than $49,100 to the marketing consultant who brought the Toyota deal to the city. Alvarez and District 3 City Councilman Carl DeMaio were critical of paying the commission, but Lewis said it was reviewed and recommended by the City Council beforehand.

No specific beach area was mentioned as to where the commercials will be made or where. The Japanese automaker will reportedly reimburse the city for the cost of staff time for recording commercials.

Toyota will be mentioned on the city’s website and direct marketing to municipal employees will be extended, according to the plan. Toyota will also sponsor city-organized “Water Safety Days” events in San Diego.

The proposal was first heard Sept. 21 by the council’s Budget and Finance Committee and was then forwarded on to the City Council for a presentation of terms and formal approval.

Motorcyclist to be charged in possible DUI crash in OB

San Diego police said they intend to charge a motorcyclist with suspected felony driving under the influences after a midnight crash on Bacon Street on Oct. 16.

Police said the 30-year-old man, whose identity was not immediately released, was southbound on Bacon Street at Coronado Avenue when he apparently lost control of the motorcycle and struck a guardrail.

The man was transported to a local trauma center with an unknown leg fracture and will likely be charged with a felony count.

The case remains under investigation by police.

— Staff report

27 Quick & Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

SAN DIEGO. Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here is a way to help you to be prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know To Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace.

In this report you’ll discover how to avoid financial disaster when selling your home. Using a commonsense approach you will get straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

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 1025. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW.

GREAT GRUB ON THE PIER

Residents were treated Oct. 16 to a delicious meal with an unbeatable view during the Ocean Beach Town Council’s annual Pancake Breakfast on the Ocean Beach Pier. Offering some morning gray, guests were treated to something a little extra when several dolphins gathered and leapt not far from where the hungry breakfast-eaters were dining.
INCREASE IN QUARTERLY EARNINGS
SAN DIEGO TRUST BANK POSTS 60% YEAR-TO-DATE EARNINGS INCREASE

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Trust Bank (OTC: SDBK), one of the most consistently profitable banks in the State, reported its 28th consecutive quarterly profit today. Net Income for the recently completed quarter totaled $350 thousand compared to $218 thousand for the same period last year, representing a 60% increase in earnings. Net Income for the nine months ending 9/30/11 totaled $920 thousand compared to $626 thousand for the same period last year, an increase of more than 47% compared to the previous year. San Diego Trust Bank is the only bank in the county to post a profit every quarter for the past seven years.

Total Assets reached $212.5 million as of 9/30/11 compared to $191.8 million as of 9/30/10, representing an 11% increase from the prior year's figures, as more and more San Diegans seek to align their banking with one of the most well-capitalized and consistently profitable banks in all of California. Total Deposits increased 11.5% from a year ago and stood at $179.7 million as of 9/30/11, compared to $161.2 million as of 9/30/10. Core deposits (non-interest bearing DDA and MM accounts) represented 93% of all deposits as of 9/30/11.

The Bank has never held any "brokered" deposits. "We are thrilled to once again report such strong results to our loyal shareholders, despite mixed results reported from the banking industry and the many economic headwinds that continue to plague our local and state economies," commented Michael Perry, Chairman, President and CEO. "The tremendous efforts of our entire team combined with our proven ability to adapt to the economic realities of today’s marketplace has enabled our organization to continue to outperform," added Perry. "Our consistent profitability, exceptionally strong capital position, and substantial liquidity will allow us to continue to meet the needs of our clients while also increasing valuable market share as the community banking landscape continues to consolidate." concluded Perry.

The Bank’s consistently strong performance has not gone unnoticed. Earlier in the year, The Findley Reports, one of the most respected and well known bank research and rating firms, designated San Diego Trust Bank a “Premier Performing Bank”. This rating places San Diego Trust amongst the very best in its industry relative to “safety, strength, and performance” according to Findley. Last quarter, San Diego Trust Bank was recognized as one of the ten “Best Small Companies” to work for in San Diego County by the San Diego Business Journal. And for the 21st consecutive quarter, San Diego Trust Bank was designated as a “Five-Star” institution by Bauer Financial - a feat unmatched by any other bank in San Diego County.

Asset quality at the Bank remains exceptional with zero past due or non-accrual loans reported as of September 30, 2011. Liquidity, defined as cash, due from banks, and investment securities, was a record $163.3 Million as of 9/30/11.

As of September 30, 2011 the Bank’s Total Risk Based Capital ratio of 26.06% was among the highest in the nation for banks of similar size, and more than twice the amount needed to be considered “well-capitalized” by regulatory definition. San Diego Trust Bank has never applied for any tax-payer funded government assistance.

The Bank’s actual capital ratios as of September 30, 2011 are summarized as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Based Standard</th>
<th>Tier 1 Leverage</th>
<th>Tier 1 Risk Based</th>
<th>Total Risk Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well-Capitalized</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDBK</td>
<td>8.92%</td>
<td>24.80%</td>
<td>26.06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Founded by several of San Diego’s most respected banking veterans and business leaders, San Diego Trust Bank is dedicated to the timeless principles of superior local market knowledge, unparalleled service, and building exceptional shareholder value. With over four hundred years of experience in banking San Diegans, timely local decision making, and one of the most comprehensive product lines found in the market today, San Diego Trust Bank delivers “Performance You Can Trust.” San Diego Trust Bank common stock is traded on the Over-the-Counter Exchange under the symbol “SDBK”. For information on the company’s stock please contact our primary market maker, Mr. Richard Levenson, President of Western Financial Corporation at (619) 544-0260. For more information on the Bank please visit www.sandiegotrust.com or call (619) 525-1700. For bank rating information please refer to www.bauerfinancial.com

Bank contact: Michael Perry
Chairman / President / CEO
(619) 525-1727
mperry@sandiegotrust.com

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS
Statements concerning future performance, developments or events, expectations for growth and income forecasts, and any other guidance on future periods, constitute forward-looking statements that are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from stated expectations. Specific factors include, but are not limited to, loan production, balance sheet management, expanded net interest margin, the ability to control costs and expenses, interest rate changes and financial policies of the United States government and general economic conditions. The Bank disclaims any obligation to update any such factors or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future events or developments.
OB Town Council recognizes community movers, shakers

The Ocean Beach Town Council (OBTC) hosted its annual awards ceremony earlier this month to recognize the community’s movers, shakers and volunteers. Among the notable guests were state Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, District 1 county Supervisor嵴ine Kehoe, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, as well as representatives for Congresswoman Susan Davis, Sen. Chris-
Janet, in 1981, followed by two more late 1970s, Abou was able to open his mooned in Lebanon. He began working at a very young age, dropping out of high school to work full time as a mechanic. However, he valued education and completed his high school diploma in the United States many years later.

At the age of 20, he and his older brother opened their first car-repair shop. Their two older sisters had married successful men, and they gifted them money to buy the shop. The sisters told this story in Arabic to Abou’s daughter, Janet, as they described him “as the champion of the family.”

The family was large and very close (more than 40 nieces and nephews), all living in the same neighborhood. Family was of the utmost importance to Abou, and he was looking forward to getting married and starting his own family. His sense of responsibility grew after his father died in 1975, and he decided to increase his devotion to providing for the family.

Abou’s Amira, his future wife, in 1973. They had known each other as children, and Jalal and Abou had been close friends. Abou attended the same school. Abou’s older sister thought they’d be a good match and helped them get to know each other; and eventually they met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon other less than a year, they decided to get a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was enamored by her looks based on pictures of her from the U.S. and Abou dreamed of moving there for a better life. Only having known each other less than a year, they decided to get married that October and honeymoon immediately. They met, and they eventually met in Iraq. He was ename...
Chopper the Biker Dog will lead the canine parade during the Oct. 30 Ocean Beach Canine Festival at Dusty Rhodes Park.

Howl-O-Ween
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

lookalike and for the more standard categories like the biggest dog, smallest, cutest and so on. Groups of dogs and canines on “floats” of skateboards and wagons will be judged separately. But expect the unexpected, said event chair Melanie Nickel.

“Part of the charm of the event is the goofy contests they come up with,” Nickel said. “The judges make it up as they go along.”

The judges are members of the Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club. Qualifications for judging include a lively sense of humor and an appreciation for dogs.

The Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club started the event six years ago to pay tribute to Obecians’ love for their dogs. Every year, 60 to 80 dogs participate in the Howl-O-Ween party and this year the club expects up to 100 canines.

“We had wanted for years to do a dog-related event because Ocean Beach is a dog kind of town. They take their dogs everywhere,” Nickel said.

Obecians love to dress their dogs for Howl-O-Ween. Among the highlights of past parades include a man dressed as a pirate with a Chihuahua riding on his shoulder dressed as a parrot, Nickel said.

Another year, the grand prize winner was a dog attired as Cleopatra with a gold earring and a wig, riding on a “barge” accompanied by five people dressed as slaves.

Admission to the festival is free for both dogs and humans, but registration fees to participate in the contests or the parade are $7 per single dog and $10 for groups of dogs or floats.

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Event parking is located on the Sunset Cliffs side of Dusty Rhodes Park, with overflow parking available at Robb Field.

For more information, call (619) 225-8705, email oceanbeachkiwanis@gmail.com, or visit www.oceanbeachkiwanis.org.

Howl-O-Ween happens:

FRIDAY, Oct. 21
• Silver Gate Elementary School will host its annual community Harvest Festival from 5 to 8 p.m. at the campus, 1499 Venice St. The event will feature games, food and plenty of Halloween fun, with a costume contest, haunted hallway, cake walk, games for the kiddies, pumpkin patch, face painting and other activities. Tickets for games and activities are on sale for $1 each at the door. For more information, visit www.sandi.net/silvergate.

SATURDAY, Oct. 22
• Point Loma Nazarene University will host its 2011 Fall Festival for the community from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event will feature a day of free food, fun and festivities at the university’s spectacular ocean-side campus.

Activities include an ice cream social and grand prize drawing with PLNU President Dr. Bob Brower at 2 p.m.; hayrides; a pumpkin patch; live music; pony rides; puppet shows; bounce houses; and a climbing wall. The event will also feature a free Taste of Point Loma restaurant area from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., an electronic recycling drive for computers, cell phones, TVs and batteries; community booths featuring university groups and local nonprofits; and a scooter giveaway at the 2 p.m. ice cream social. There is no cost to enter, but you must be present to win. Guests are also asked to bring a new or gently used children’s book (ages 4 – 9) to benefit Reading Room.

For more information, visit www.pointloma.edu/ FallFestival, or call (619) 849-2298.

SATURDAY, Oct. 29
• Ocean Beach Halloween Carnival at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center from 2 to 6 p.m. The event features food, carnival-style games, costume contests, jumpers and plenty of spooky fun. wristbands for all games and activities are available for $2. The rec center is located at 2726 Santa Monica Blvd. For more information, call (619) 531-1027.

• The 2011 Sunset View Halloween Carnival takes place from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Families are invited to dress up and enter the silly string spray zone, have faces painted, enjoy locally catered food, decorate a pumpkin and other activities. For more information, visit www.halloween-carnival.com.
"In the Crosshairs"

Two sisters from Somalia dressed in saris glide into the office at Barnard Elementary. They are using a nearby room to say their mid-day prayers. Principal Edward Park, a Korean-American, opens a compass application on his smart phone to be sure the students are facing Mecca.

"It looks like the United Nations here," Park said. "We're extremely proud of creating an environment of diversity."

Barnard is home to a K-6 Mandarin Chinese magnet school that began in Point Loma in 2007. The cluster beneficiary in the district's realignment plan. While the Barnard campus would close, the language program would move to Dana Middle School.

"Mandarin is a 21st century skill set."

In just four years, the school has become a success story. It's a California Distinguished School with a waiting list of 100 students. Successful partnerships like that with San Diego State University and the International Confucius Institute give the school international clout.

Eddie Kapeleanz, a student of Hispanic-Polish decent who is now at Correia Middle School, was one of the youngest invited to participate in the China Bridge Competition in Chongqing, China.

The program is the lone Point Loma cluster beneficiary in the district's realignment plan. While the Barnard campus would close, the language program would move to Dana Middle School and be expanded.

Barnard is one of the most ethnically diverse schools. The other two are Cabrillo Elementary and Garfield High School.

"Most people are naïve about Mandarin Chinese. It's the most-spoken language in the world," said Matt Spathas, president of the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation. "Mandarin is a 21st century skill set."

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Edward Spathas is also a former member of the district's Prop. S Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. During his time on the committee, he helped implement the district’s technology initiative and convinced the school board to pass a K-12 matriculation from Point Loma in 2007. The cluster beneficiary in the district’s realignment plan.

"We did look at every single cluster, to see if it's a moderate-size school district. The downside is you would lose diversity."

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"We have to keep up an image so parents, students and staff don’t freak out," said Nestor Sison, principal at Cabrillo.

A town hall meeting will be held with district officials from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24 in the Point Loma High School Performing Arts Center. The school board will make a final decision on school closures in December.

Here’s how the district’s plan would impact Point Loma’s 6,303 students:

2. Close Barnard Chinese Mandarin Magnet (K-6 grade structure with 247 students) in July 2012 and relocate the school and its program to Dana. Transition Dana to Pacific Rim language academy.
3. Eliminate the 5-6 middle school grade structure at Dana (a 5-6 with an enrollment of 776 students) over a two-year period.
4. Expand elementary schools from a K-4 structure to that of K-5 at Dewey, Loma Portal, Ocean Beach, Silver Gate and Sunset View.
5. Expand grades Junior High School from (a 7-8 grade structure with 839 students) to a 6-8 structure.
6. Consider sale/other of surplus property/schools (Barnard and Cabrillo).

Clusters identified by the district for possible individual school closures are: Chalmersmont, Crawford, Henry, Hoover, Kearney, Madison, Mission Bay, Morse, Point Loma, Serra and Taylor schools.

"We did look at every single cluster, and some areas had school closures in the past and it wasn’t possible to close schools there," said Gilbert Gutierrez, Point Loma area superintendent, who was on the SDUSD committee of 22 that developed the district’s plan.

The district also believes it can save more money by reallocating Proposition S funds from the closed schools to those that remain open. Prop S is a $2.1 billion bond program voters passed in 2008 to renovate classrooms.

"Prop. S funds that can be reallocated to other schools (within the same cluster) for special or additional projects (about $2 million to $8 million per school)," according to a written proposal from the district. "This makes the financial benefit to the district much greater than the initial $5 million. Could be $5 million or more."

The district’s plan “could mean certain clusters become their own school districts,” said Matt Spathas, president of the PLCSF.

Spathas is also a former member of the district’s Prop. S Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. During his time on the committee, he helped implement the district’s technology initiative and was trying to give Point Loma folks a chance to control their destiny," Delbeck said. "Their representative doesn’t have the background to understand the history and needs of the Point Loma community."

Spathas said there are a lot of alternatives for Point Loma if the district splits into smaller groups. "This is just me talking, not the cluster," Spathas said. "Point Loma would be a moderate-size school district. The downside is you would lose diversity."

One way to look at a difficult problem is to change the equation.
It’s late morning on a Friday and a silence hangs over Cabrillo Elementary.

Patricie Wilson, the elementary school assistant, is in the front office assessing a sick child. Other K-4 students, their colorful backpacks hanging uniformly on hooks outside buildings, are in class.

In the library, staff and parents, some from other schools in the Point Loma Cluster, sit somber-faced around a table. They are brainstorming ideas to keep Cabrillo, one of the oldest elementary schools in the district, from the chopping block.

“The pace and the sacrifice that we are being asked to make doesn’t make sense for a fluid and seamless transition,” said Principal Nestor Suarez. “But we’re not alone. The entire Point Loma Cluster is asking if the district is making the right decision.”

Kelly Touhill, a teacher at Cabrillo for 16 years, comes out of the library talking about questions for the district. The group’s list of concerns includes lack of transparency and information from the district, transportation impact and the legalities of using Proposition S money for other than it is intended. If the school closes, its Prop S funds would be shifted elsewhere, according to a written statement from the district.

Nestor Suarez is the principal at Cabrillo Elementary School, which may be closed in July if the school district’s plans for closures and consolidations proceed.

Music students at Dana will perform what may be the school’s last winter concert ever in the Jackson Theater at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15.

In the district’s emerging school realignment plan, Dana’s unique 5-6 grade configuration will be eliminated and the school site will become a K-8 Pacific Rim language magnet program. Under the proposal, fifth-graders would be absorbed into elementary schools and sixth-graders would move to Correia Middle School.

“We’re more than facility and square footage,” said Principal Diane Ryan. “We’re about children and programs and need to remember that every step of the way.”

Over the years, generations of Point Loma families have invested in keeping the school open and improving its facilities. Just last month, The Peninsula Beacon reported on the school’s completion of a $25,000 upgrade to the Ann Tripp Jackson Auditorium. All funds for the project were raised by the community.

When word reached parents about the district’s realignment plan, tempers flared and someone hung a banner outside the building that read: “Don’t steal our school.” The sign was taken down immediately and Ryan sent an email home to parents reporting the incident and asking them to focus on their children’s education. She encouraged people to share their ideas at Danamiddle.blogspot.com.

San Diego Unified School District trustee Scott Barnett is using the blog to address parents’ concerns. Regarding Dana, he wrote: “How can I, in these drastic budgetary circumstances, convince my school board colleagues that Point Loma should have TWO middle schools in one high school cluster? In these awful times, academic success is, unfortunately, not the overriding issue.”

Dana is no stranger to turf wars. When the district tried to unload the land in the past, Jackson, a former president of the Point Loma Association who died in 1990, led a community battle that got the site rezoned for educational use. The one-time administration center eventually became a sixth grade and then in 2002-03 became the cluster’s 5-6 school.

Jerry Hooper is the school’s former school principal. He retired and then, last month, became the principal at Correia Middle School.

“I get the money thing, but acknowledge us,” he said. “Over 50 percent of our students take part in band, orchestra, musical and theater arts. This has been a priority of the community.”

With a capacity for 1,056 students, Dana is at nearly 74 percent of that
The many ghosts of Old Town

By Karen Spring

It’s that time of year again, when Old Town’s fame for being the birthplace of California plays second to a host of resident spooks that live amongst us. Although there are frequent reports of paranormal sightings throughout San Diego, the most famous ones are found at the historic Whaley House. Tourists have had countless encounters with long-departed family members checking in on their past place of residence.

A frequent visitor from beyond is Yankee Jim Robinson, who was hung in 1852, on what is now the front steps of the house. On trial with a noose tightened around his neck and a poorly made scaffold beneath his feet, Yankee Jim was to be hung to death by a little boat called the Phenix. Death seemed like a hefty price to pay for such a small theft.

In fact, Yankee Jim’s two crotches were only given a one year jail sentence and a small fine. But there was a strong feeling of vigilance in these days, so if residents felt the law was too lenient and unanimously agreed that they needed to show a united force of intolerance to all who would consider coming to town and committing any crimes.

As a known desperado, Yankee Jim didn’t stand a chance against the towns concerns. During his capture, Yankee Jim had been struck across the back side of his skull so hard that it left him foggy during the trial where he was encouraged to defend himself. Inevitably, he was defenseless against his accusers who wanted him lynched on the spot instead of waiting the mandatory 30 days. Yankee Jim never thought in a million years that the town would favor him since stealing horses was a crime you got hung for... not a little boat!

Until that fateful moment when the orders to kick the mules were given, from atop to the crew, begging them to reconsider, but to no avail. The cruel moment arrived but without a major hitch that would haunt the minds of generations to follow. Instead of being killed swiftly by a broken neck, the poor workmanship of the scaffold led Jim to suffer a slow, choking death that would last well over an hour. It was not until the next day that he was pronounced dead. Today, Yankee Jim has been known to haunt the steps of America’s most haunted house and to plead his case to who’ll ever listen...

One of the most popular hauntings was "Lucy" the white deer of Presidio Park. Residents of the area used to feed and care for her and became used to her feeding times and behaviors. Unfortunately, this trust led to her fate of death by careless but concerned folks who tranquilized her in an attempt to move her to a safer area. The poor deer had the truck tire was cut out. After her death, memorial money was raised for a reflection pond at Inspiration Point in memory of her freedom and beauty as this was Lucy's favorite spot. Many locals today still report sightings of her scampering down the hills and munching on her favorite Zinnias – which are found nearby.

La Casa de Estudillo is the original adobe home of the wealthy Estudillo family and still stands proudly as a pristine museum in the State Park. For over fifty years, the house was a social center, offering a perfect view of its cupola to the public events held in the plaza below. When the Mexican War was in full bloom, the Casa served to protect many and its chapel served to sooth the town’s woes. By chance, well-known author Helen Hunt Jackson decided to write a historical novel and came to the Casa to research her project with then resident Father Antonio Ubach. Because of their common interest in the treatment of the local Indians, the novel “Ramona” was written – placing La Casa de Estudillo on the map forever.

Restoration projects have saved the home and throughout the years, many lovers have had an opportunity to get married on its magnificent grounds. Several brides have reported looking into the well to make a wish, only to have a beautiful young woman looking back at them. Most of these sightings have been passed off as premonitional jitters, but are they?

Along with classic reports of footsteps, moving objects, opening doors and mirrors that seem to look back at you, many have reported seeing a musician at the piano and hearing traditional Mexican melodies. Some Old Towners have reported hearing a distinct male voice that orders visitors to “Get Out!”

Unlike the Whaley House, this adobe home has little or no recorded tragedies, but one seems to know who really haunts it. Could it be Father Ubach protecting it from rain and destruction? Is it a bride who’s only happy moment was he day she made her wish in the well? And what about the music... and those more unusual stories? Call Ghostly Tours in History at (877) 220-8444 and take a walking tour to learn more about Old Town’s wonderful spooky past.

---VISITOR TIP---
Bring the family to view the interesting art that makes Dia de los Muertos so special.

Check out Tienda de Reyes stone in the Fiesta de Reyes courtyard for one of the largest selections of holiday-related folk art in San Diego. Bring your camera and take a picture of the kids in a holiday scene at the store!
number, with an enrollment of 776 students. Of these, 649 are residents from within the boundary and 172 are non-residents from outside the cluster. The cost per pupil for the 2010-11 school year is nearly $8,679.

“All of us need to step back, look at the big picture,” Ryan told the Point Loma Cluster Foundation’s ad hoc committee.

“The district is in financial mess and months away from receivership,” she said. “Changes must happen and need to happen by the end of the year. Realistically, something’s got to give in Point Loma and it will look different.”

The decision was a partial victory for members of the OBPB, three of whom traveled to Orange County to ask the commission to deny the amendment and make the applicant start the approval process all over again.

The project calls for demolition of the four standing buildings — three apartment buildings with a total of 15 units, and a long-since-closed restaurant building adjacent to the three that was once the site of Hodal’s. The new condos would include 25 parking places, 20 of which would be underground.

The Coastal Commission in January 2009 approved a similar 1.2-condo building on the site designed by Ocean Beach architect Steve Lombardi, but the land was sold last year to 1984 Abbott LLC, c/o Clark Realty Capital, headquartered in Virginia. The permit amendment became necessary when the new agent, La Jolla-based Marengo Morton Architects, redesigned the project. Among the changes: reducing the number of units to 10, moving the driveway from Saratoga Avenue to Abbott Street, moving the building’s eastern edge 30 feet to the west and changing the parking configuration.

The new design improves views and adds 1,300 square feet of landscaped, Claude Anthony Marengo of Marengo Morton Architects told the commissioners.

“We chose to reduce the project to get some better units and not make it so tight,” Marengo told commissioners. “We feel it’s a minor amendment, but a very effective amendment that renders a better project.”

But Tom Gavronski of the OBPB said the final design was “full of noncomformities” to municipal code and “not worthy of a coastal development permit.”

The parking configuration came as a “major shock,” Gavronski said, noting the underground configuration in the final proposal was different than the at-grade configuration that was proposed when the permit amendment application was first submitted June 27.

“This is a 14,000-square-foot building right in the middle of the beach. It’s going to be a defining structure for the community of Ocean Beach,” Gavronski said. “We understand someone’s going to build condos on that lot. We’d like it to be a conforming building and something the community can live with.”

The OBPB is sanctioned by the city to gather citizen input on development projects and land-use-related issues, but board members said the city didn’t ask for their review before submitting a local agency review form, which the Coastal Commission requires before considering a permit. The commission requires the form to ensure all local discretionary approvals, said Eric Stevens of the San Diego Coast District Office.

But commissioners said they were confused by a staff report that charged OBPB Chairman Giovanni Ingolia was contact three times and did not ask the staff to hold off on its report to allow OBPB members to review the plan. Ingolia acknowledged calling Stevens but said he had called to discuss a different matter. He said the final drawings, dated Sept. 29, were filed too late for the board’s regular monthly meeting.

Coastal Commissioner Esther Sanchez said she suspected the city erred by not reaching out to the OBPB.

Marengo said he planned to attend both OBPB meetings in support of the project. He said last-minute changes in parking were a result of community feedback.

“We decided to offer an olive branch and give the community something they could feel more comfortable with; something that would work on all bases,” Marengo said.

But the Coastal Commission staff reported the previous at-grade parking configuration did not meet code requirements, though the subsequent below-grade configuration does.

Clearing Barnard Elementary School’s site is necessary to make way for 15 new units. This could be the last year of the school’s 5-6 grade configuration, which started in 2002.

Diana Ryan has been the principal at Dana Middle School for nine years. This could be the last year of the school’s 5-6 grade configuration, which started in 2002.

Enjoy Haunted Halloween Activities in Old Town

Get a good scare and a bit of history with the lineup of spooky events this Halloween season at one of the most haunted areas in San Diego. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park and Fiesta de Reyes.

“WHOOOO’S THE WICKEDDEST GHOST.” DATES: Oct. 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m. On Oct. 28, 29, 30, and 31 two performances will be held: the first is at 6 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will hold an evening of scary, funny and spooky stories of people who once lived in early San Diego during the 1800s. Spirits will answer to the comical judge Oliver Weatherby with the audience as their jury to determine “Whooo’s the Wickeddest Ghost.” An hour-long walking tour will be given to the performances. For information, call 619-220-5422 or www.broadwaypapers.com/event/1595947 GHOST TOURS.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS: All October long Michael Brown leads San Diego’s only real ghost tours. During his 90-minute walking tours, guests will get to visit various paranormal active places in Old Town, historic homes, old churches, cemeteries and a haunted brothel located on the Whaley House property. He shares facts, tricks and techniques to find ghosts and other paranormal happenings in Old Town. Each tour includes photos, voices of the dead and a video vortex. His tours are every Thursday through Sunday in October. Walking tours begin at 9 a.m. in front of the Fiesta de Reyes fountain and no reservations are necessary. Adult tickets are $19 and children 6-12 are $10. Kids 5 and under are free. For more information, visit http://www.oldtowndiaofthemuertos.com or call 619-972-3900.

OLD TOWN’S FALL FESTIVAL: SATURDAY, OCT. 29 Fall crafts and children’s activities at the Sanchez House in the 1870s will be held from noon to 4 p.m. in the central plaza of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Many spooky activities will be presented; these free activities will have as well. For more info, visit www.fiestaedereyes.com. OLD TOWN FALL FESTIVAL DANCE MACABRE BY WRITE OUT LOUD DATES: Monday, Oct. 11 Write Out Loud will present “Dance Macabre” in the Old Town Theatre on Monday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. Dance Macabre will feature stories of magic and mystery brought chillingly to life by professional actors. Tickets cost $15 for adults and $13 for students, seniors and active military. For more information, visit http://www.fiestadereyes.com or call 619-324-0123.

DANSE MACABRE BY WRITE OUT LOUD DATES: Saturday, Oct. 22 against the backdrop of the beautiful Olvera Street, as professional actors bring a Halloween scene to life. With a menu of luscious Mexican dishes including delicious made from scratch tamales, corn on the cob and mantecadas; a bake sale and live music; and a free kids’ zone, this is definitely something you won’t want to miss.

For more information, visit fiestadereyes.com/ or call 619-324-0123.
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Points:’ rally lights up board vs. Hoover

Come-from-behind win ices Homecoming matchup

In SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

Volunteers had no trouble firing up 100,000 watts of portable lights used to stage the annual “Light the Night” Homecoming football game at Point Loma High School on Oct. 14. Firing up the Pointer football team proved a much more difficult task.

The whimpering Dogs left an overflow crowd squirming in their seats as visiting Hoover took a 14-0 lead midway through the second quarter in their much-anticipated class float competition.

Penalties were the credit for the Pointer defense which stopped the Dogs on downs at the 12-yard line in the first quarter. Defensive, Dirk Lacy (six total tackles and assists) led the Dogs. Edmond Tucker and Greg Verdugo racked up four while Aaron Watkins, Tevin Heyward, and Greg Verdugo racked up four of five league games on their own turf. Only a Nov. 4 contest at Madison (6:30 p.m. kickoff) remains on the road.

Soares’ two field goals (41 and 28 yards) were the longest in recent Pointer history.

“Once I got in, there was a fire under our butts, so they [the coaches] just left me in. When I scored a touchdown (giving the Pointers their first lead of 21-14 in the fourth quarter), I was pumping everybody up. They listened and we came out with a victory."

Joey Martin

PLHS QUARTERBACK WHO TRANSFERRED FROM CHRISTIAN HIGH IN EL CAJON JUST 29 DAYS BEFORE THE POINTERS’ HOME-COMING MATCHUP WITH HOOVER ON OCT. 14

14-0 win ices Hoosier game as Pointer offense dominates

Key to a victory was the Pointer defense which allowed 14 yards rushing and just 67 passing yards.

“I came right after Hell Week,” Martin said, “and I started as the third-string JV quarterback just learning the system. Last week, they [coaches] said, ‘We’re going to look at you on varsity now.’

“When Augustin completed only one of his first eight passes, Martin was summoned to jumpstart the offense. All he did was lead the Dogs on four second-half scoring drives (scoring twice himself) that turned a possible Pointer loss into a seeming runaway.

“I once got in, there was a fire under our butts, so they [coaches] just left me in. Martin said. “When I scored a touchdown (giving the Pointers their first lead of 21-14 in the fourth quarter), I was pumping everybody up. They listened and we came out with a victory."

Martin completed all four of his pass attempts for 16 yards. He and Augustin found Matt Mager three times and Griffin twice for catches. The Pointers’ longest play of the game was a 17-yard Griffin run, a credit to the Cardinal defense which stopped the Dogs on downs at the 1.2-yard line in the first quarter.

Firing up the Pointer football team with enthusiasm that caused cancellation of all district night games back in the 1970s.

“Once I got in, there was a fire under our butts, so they [coaches] just left me in. When I scored a touchdown (giving the Pointers their first lead of 21-14 in the fourth quarter), I was pumping everybody up. They listened and we came out with a victory."

Martin’s nickname is “Chops,” referring to his former mutton-chop behavior that caused cancellation of all district night games back in the 1970s.

“All three Pointer football teams posted a “W” last week. The freshmen won 4-0, improving to 4-2 on the season. The junior varsity’s 26-7 victory left them with a 1-3 mark.

“Pointers’ rally lights up board vs. Hoover. Jon Doneal Bailey (52) follows Martin as Jawon Griffin (21) watches.

Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

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Martin’s nickname is “Chops,” referring to his former mutton-chop behavior that caused cancellation of all district night games back in the 1970s.
A graduate from the class of 1945 was named the “Golden Pointer” at the Oct. 14 Point Loma High School (PLHS) Homecoming festivities.

Bill Ludwig graduated from PLHS several months before the Japanese surrendered in World War II and was smiling cheerfully while enjoying the honor last week as the most senior alumni in attendance.

Ludwig was joined at the event by his brother, Fred, a former PLHS track and cross country coach, who attended PLHS but graduated from Hoover — ironically enough, the evening’s football rival.

Special guests for the evening were family members of Michael Taylor, a PLHS freshman football and basketball standout whose life was taken by a gunman in 2008. Taylor has remained in the hearts of PLHS athletes and coaches, and a relative performed an inspirational dance at midfield before the varsity kickoff.

A column of savory smoke arose from burger patties sizzling on barbecues as the overflow crowd spotted old friends, reminisced about their days at PLHS and caught up with each other’s lives. Both the junior varsity and varsity Pointer football teams responded with victories.

As for present-day students, seniors Jake Reynolds and Natalie Ferreira were named Homecoming King and Queen. Their court included juniors Cecil Horston and Kristina Bautista, sophomores Jordan Goulet and Graysen Choy and freshmen Jayson Pappas and Gianna Gibson.

A group of PLHS alumni gathers for the annual Homecoming parade at the school Oct. 14. Photo by Scott Hopkins / The Beacon

Robert Pejovich, who coordinated lighting for the “Light the Night” dance event, reported a cost of nearly $4,000 for rental of the diesel-powered light towers for the football game. Supplier BJ’s Rentals on Pacific Highway gave PLHS a great price, Pejovich said, as other estimates he requested came in as high as $9,000.

School officials said they hope a PLHS alumni or local business will step forward to sponsor and connect their name with future Homecoming events.
O.B. People’s Healthy Halloween Carnival

This month Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Market celebrates with our annual Healthy Halloween Carnival on Monday October 31. Enjoy organic pumpkin bread and apple cider all day, Monday October 31. Enjoy organic annual Healthy Halloween Carnival on Organic Food Market celebrates with our

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Patients will be seen on a walk-in basis. This allows easy access with the extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The Anderson Medical Center is equipped to handle minor emergencies such as suturing and casting. It is designed to take care of patients of all ages as their primary care physicians. Physical therapy will also be available on a scheduled basis.

Most insurance will be accepted. For more information you can call 858-224-7977 or visit our website at Andersonmedicalcenter.com.

Women with hair loss can have thick hair!

According to the Women’s Institute for Fine and Thinning Hair, there are 10 million women who are currently experiencing hair loss. It can begin as early as puberty although it usually occurs between 35 and 55 years of age. In the past several years effective treatments have become available for fine, thinning hair. Professional hair loss products are most effective when used at the first signs of thinning or hair loss. Volume is the most requested service of all clients. Thick, healthy hair is never out of style! Even with all the excellent professional volumizing products available, nothing compares with the real thing; thick, healthy, human hair!

The unique patented process used at Judy's salon attaches a protein bond of real human hair to a small section of your own hair. The bonds are so discreet you can style your hair anyway you choose. This unique application process makes it the only system that does not further damage your hair.

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**A round of big wins for a small OB brewery**

A man who just five years ago began as an unpaid intern and had been brewing beer in his home has worked his way to becoming a multiple award-winning head brewer for Pizza Port in Ocean Beach.

Yiga Miyashiro joined the Pizza Port franchise in 2006 as an intern to learn about the craft of brewing. He diligently worked his way through Pizza Port in Carlsbad and Solana Beach, as well as at Pizza Port’s sister brewery, Lost Abbey, in San Marcos, holding every brewer-related position available from assistant brewer to keg delivery driver.

When he finally got his shot as head brewer at the newest Pizza Port in Ocean Beach in 2010, he took off with recipe ideas for the restaurant’s beers, adding a new chapter to the legacy of the already-growing Pizza Port franchise.

“Most of the recipes are ones I wrote, but there’s a handful of recipes that we have across all of the Pizza Ports,” Miyashiro said. “The great thing about Pizza Port is that we have a lot of creative flexibility in the beer-making process.”

On Oct. 1, that creative flexibility paid off in the form of multiple award wins at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in Denver — the world’s largest commercial beer competition — including a gold medal for the “Skidmark Brown” and bronze for “Z-Man Stout.”

Despite the “small” titles, Pizza Port owners, siblings Vince and Gina Aubuchan get a fresh bag of hops.

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On Oct. 1, that creative flexibility paid off in the form of multiple award wins at the Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in Denver — the world’s largest commercial beer competition — including prestigious titles of “Small Brewpub of the Year” and “Small Brewer of the Year.”

Despite the “small” titles, Pizza Port and Miyashiro took home big wins for their quickly-named brews, including a gold medal for the “Skidmark Brown Ale,” silver medals for the aptly-named “Achievement Beyond Life’s Experiences American Stout” and “Rhino Chaser Imperial Red Ale,” and a bronze for “Z-Man Stout.”

“If you win anything there at Great American Beer Festival, it’s a big deal,” he said. “It’s such a competitive competition, I was extremely excited and completely caught off guard.”

Miyashiro was unable to celebrate at the festival in Denver because he and his wife had something else special to celebrate — a baby born just four days before the competition. He did, however, watch the awards ceremony on a live news feed online.

“There are no words for it,” he said. “I was so excited I woke up my son screaming.”

He credited much of the wins to Pizza Port owners, siblings Vince and Gina Aubuchan, for being so accommodating to his beer-crafting wishes.

“The owners are 100 percent supportive of what we do. They help us make all the beers we want to make, and that helps us achieve all that we have,” he said. “They’re really the unsung heroes.”

Miyashiro’s quality and brew style has remained consistent since he started brewing his recipes at Pizza Port in May 2010. His brew-making style focuses on beers with drier, cleaner finishes — “a beer that you want to have two or three of,” he said.

“I have grown to have a greater appreciation for all of the different styles,” said Miyashiro. “I am always trying to hone my skills and recipes.”

Miyashiro is brewing up a lot of “fresh-hop beers” — beers that contain hops freshly picked off the vine and delivered wet. Miyashiro described these beers as having more of a grapefruit-like flavor character that is fresher and brighter than typical dry-hopped beers. His favorite beer to drink is “The one that’s in my glass,” he said.

For check out Miyashiro’s brews, visit Pizza Port in Ocean Beach at 1956 Bacon St. For more information, visit www.pizzaport.com or call (619) 224-4700.

**A&E Roundup**

Local artist earns honors

Leslie Perls, who attended Point Loma High School and Dana Middle School, won the Best of Cold Glass Award at “50 Rockin’ the 50th” annual art exhibit sponsored by the Art Glass Association of Southern California.

Perls, an award-winning artist, has exhibited in all 30 shows. One purpose of the show is to educate the public on techniques of glass art. The first show featured only stained glass, but now includes glass blowing, fusing, etching, torch work, mosaic, mixed media and wearable art.

Perls won the award for her life-size mosaic piece “Swing,” inspired by her love of swing dancing. It features several glass techniques. She created stained glass marks at Sunset View Elementary School and Dana Middle School when her son, Eric Pratt, attended.

Actors Theatre hosts comedy showcase

The Point Loma Actors Theatre is set to launch a regular new comedy showcase that will bring top San Diego entertainers to a local stage. The first showcase will take place Friday, Oct. 21.

The workshop is the brainchild of Point Loma Actors Theatre director David Sein and top local comic Tony Calabrese, who’s been performing stand-up comedy in San Diego since 1995. Audiences 18 and up that are interested in good, clean laughter can find a home at the historic Point Loma Assembly on Talbot Street, where shows will be offered on a monthly basis.

Sein and Calabrese started a stand-up comedy class for beginners last summer, making San Diego one of the few places in the country to offer this type of instruction. Calabrese’s comedy blog, “Fugueaboutitblog.com,” has been read by more than 140,000 people and has been compared with the humor of Erma Bombeck and Dave Barry.

Calabrese founded Comedy Works in 1996, which connected comedians, masters of ceremony and auctioneers to charity organizations for fundraising efforts. That company is now merged into Comedy Incorporated, which created the “Comedy in a Box” used by dozens of groups to hold comedy night benefits.

To date, Comedy Incorporated has helped raise more than $2 million for nonprofits in San Diego. Calabrese is also the creator of the “Humor in the Workplace” seminar with curriculum designed to teach employees to be more productive by using humor to think creatively. That company is now merged with Comedy Incorporated.

The first showcase is at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21. For more information, visit www.pointlomacos- tumes.com.
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Cast members from Point Loma Opera Theatre at Point Loma Nazarene University are shown during a successful run of the production “Cendrillon” in 2010. The upcoming production by the opera group will be “La Finta Giardiniera,” beginning Nov. 4.

Opera theater group at PLNU launches ‘La Finta’

San Diego’s classical music community is thriving. This is especially true with opera, where grassroots efforts lead the way in preserving the art form. Such is the case with the student-run Point Loma Opera Theatre (PLOT). Established in 2009 on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University, the organization was created when the college was unable to continue its opera program.

Students mounted a campaign to raise funds by staging concerts anywhere a stage could be set up, from churches to retirement centers. Combined with letter writing and donation requests, the efforts proved successful. Major productions have been staged each fall since PLOT’s opening; dual programs of Henry Purcell’s “Dido and Aeneas” and Giacomo Puccini’s “Gioconda Scherzi” in 2009, and Jules Massenet’s “Cendrillon” in 2010.

This year’s production will be Mozart’s “La Finta Giardiniera,” directed by student Kirsten Shetler.

According to soprano Christen Horne, who will perform the role of Aminda in the production, there were many possible operas to choose from, but “La Finta” hit criteria beyond just the storyline and music.

“It fit the singers that we knew we had available, and it fit the language criteria,” Horne said. “We try to cycle through the standard languages every four years. We needed an opera in Italian since we performed a French opera four years. We needed an opera in Italian, but ‘La Finta’ hit criteria beyond just the storyline and music.”

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“La Finta” is performed in Italian with English subtitles projected. Look for the next production to be in German, said PLOT organizers.

While learning the music is difficult enough, Horne said staging the event itself is an enormous undertaking.

“All operas are extremely involved,” Horne said. “For ‘Finta,’ we started preparing for the opera in January.”

Although in the past PLNU faculty, community members, prospective students and alumni have been in the cast, this year’s program will be a student-only affair. Auditions were held in March.

“We bring in an outside panel of experts to cast the opera for that season to ensure no casting biases,” Horne said. “For ‘La Finta Giardiniera’ we brought in USC graduate students whose emphasis of study was opera, and who had been recently involved in USC’s own production of this very opera.”

Horne said each performance involves much more than one sees on stage.

“PLOT is run by six board members who are students and are participating in the opera via singing, conducting or public relations,” she said. “The PLOT board organizes the production from selecting the opera, stage director, artistic vision, set production, PR and working out the production logistics. The members in PLOT wear multiple hats as organizers and performers.”

“There are some who are a part of PLOT who are not performing, but who are important assets to the organization, notably Shetler. She is joining PLOT for her third opera season.

“Staff at PLNU’s music department has also helped in making sure PLOT is able to run smoothly,” Horne said. Musical backing will be provided by Dr. Phil Tyler and the PLNU Orchestra, expanding the involvement of PLOT to more than just singers, but orchestra members as well.

“Zoey Flint, the production’s public relations manager, notes that with current economic pressures, support from local businesses has been key to PLOT’s success. In addition to donations, gift cards for raffles have been contributed by 18 area shops, including Stumps Family Market, Fiddlers Green Restaurant, Newport Avenue Optometry, Miss Match clothing shop, Good Point Gasoline, Ocean Beach Antique Mall and Baron’s The Marketplace.

“While Horne said she is thrilled to be a part of this year’s production, she said she’s also happy to be able to spread the word about opera in general.”

“PLOT provides needed opportunities for developing singers, directors, conductors and instrumentalists to gain performance and production experience, as well as provide innovative and exciting operas for the San Diego community,” Horne said.

“Through local concert series, we provide ourselves opportunities to share our gifts and our passion for opera with the community,” she said.

Though “La Finta Giardiniera” has not yet to be staged at the time of this interview, Horne and the members of the Point Loma Opera Theatre are already looking toward 2012.

“Next year, students still plan to continue PLOT, and have even started to explore through the German opera repertoire. The current and prospective student leadership is always looking ahead, constantly planning for future productions and concert venues,” Horne said.

“La Finta Giardiniera” will be performed at Point Loma Nazarene University, Point Loma Opera Theatre, 3900 Lomaland Drive, on Nov. 4, 9, 11 and 12 at 7 p.m., as well as on Nov. 6 and 13 at 3 p.m.

For more information about the production, visit (619) 226-7979, or visit www.ploptsandiegotheatre.com. For tickets, call the PLNU music department at (619) 849-2325.
San Diegans who frequent the Star- 
bucks in Ocean Beach, Gold's Gym in 
Point Loma or the San Diego Yacht Club 
have undoubtedly been fascinated by the 
vibrant and precisely detailed pas- 
tel and watercolor paintings that can be 
seen there.

David Linton, a local artist, has 
mantled such paintings on the walls. 
Such works can be described as “realist with an impres- 
sionist twist.”

Linton’s artwork has been commis-
ioned by countless organizations 
including the American Cancer Society, the Epilepsy 
Foundation and the Sher Foundation.

“You always have to give back,” he 
said. “Yeah, I sell paintings, but God gave 
me this talent and I have to give back. It’s good 
for your soul.”

When Linton’s paintings stand 
apart is his preference for a difficult-to- 
to-use but vibrant medium that many 
artists may consider a pain in the 
neck.

“Malashock says the paintings are 
not only his style, but also a way to 
work with,” he said. “It takes years to 
work on pastels. It’s a difficult medium to 
work with, but it’s an artist’s delight.” 

A lot of artists don’t want to work 
with pastels. It’s a difficult medium to 
work with,” said Linton. “I used to work 
years ago. I’ve worked with pastels for 
more than 40 years and can assertively 
say he has mastered “the oldest known 
medium.”

“The characters are really flawed — 
interesting but dysfunctional,” he said. 
“They compromise their emotions, their 
bodies and their physical safety for what 
they think they’ll get out of love.”

Linton said Malashock/Raw2 is 
more provocative and cutting-edge than 
it was last year. Prophetic? Certainly. 
Offensive? Perhaps. But it’s all in the 
eye of the beholder.

Malashock/Raw2: Runs Oct. 20-22

All shows take place at 8 p.m. Tickets: $20 in advance or $25 on the day of show. For tick-
estos or more information, call (919) 280-1822, or visit www.malashockdances.org.
SATURDAY, Oct. 22

The Library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, fill a vacant board position. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church.

TUESDAY, Nov. 8

The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts its annual Restaurant Walk from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 9

Laura Eubanks will present “The Lighter Side of Succulents” during a meeting of the Point Loma Garden Club. Eubanks, a Master Gardener, uses an “off the beaten path approach” to succulent design and use of companion plantings. The free event takes place at the United Methodist Church.

THURSDAY, Nov. 10

The Rock Academy in Point Loma invites individuals who have served or are currently serving in the military – along with their families – to join a special Veterans Day ceremony at 1 p.m. in the Rock Sanctuary, located at 2277 Rosescrans St. All church, school and community members who wish to honor these brave men and women are also encouraged to attend. For more information, call (619) 228-7925, or visit www.rockla.org.

SATURDAY, Nov. 19

Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Market hosts its People’s Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can get an early start on their holiday shopping with one-of-a-kind wares, including jewelry, knit scarves and bags, birdhouses, magnets, soaps, candles and stained glass. All booths will be in front of the market at 4765 Voltaire St. Admission is free. For more information, call (619) 224-1387, or email educents@oceanbeachpeoples.com.

THURSDAY, Nov. 29

The Ocean Beach Town Council will erect its annual OB Christmas tree at noon at the foot of Newport Avenue for children and residents to decorate. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

THURSDAY, Dec. 1

The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts its annual OB school children tree decorating event from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

THURSDAY, Dec. 8

The Rock Academy’s elementary students will present a Christmas program, “Bethlehem or Bust,” about a camel and his friends as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. The program takes place Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. and again on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Rock Church and Academy Sanctuary, located at 2277 Rosecrans St. Admission is free. For more information, email autumn.crosp@therock-academy.org.

Dec. 13 and 15 and 16

The Ocean Beach Town Council brings it home for the holidays with its annual community Food and Toy Drive for local disadvantaged families. Volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and donating of donated items (see on the lookout for the Christmas donation cans around Ocean Beach) during this three-day period from 9 to 7:30 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Volunteers will deliver goods from the Ocean Beach Town Council’s annual community Food and Toy Drive to seniors and families from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

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Marketing your business can be challenging, especially during these slower economic times. I have been in print advertising for over 30 years and worked extensively helping small to medium size businesses create effective advertising within their budgets.

There are many considerations you should take when creating an advertising campaign. First and foremost, make sure you understand how the advertising vehicle can work for you.

Community newspapers provide strong, viable marketing vehicles because they deliver what daily newspapers and other sources do not– local news. With more than 90 percent readership and knowledge – you know those are very good odds to combine with an effective marketing campaign. Here’s where I can help. I will gladly meet with you and discuss your marketing challenges answer your questions and help you develop a strategy that will help you reach your short-term and long-term goals for increasing business.

Please give me a call, any time. My door is always open, and I’ll come see you! And I can assure you that there will be no pressure to buy.

I hope you can help your marketing business in a more effective manner and provide tips from my 30 years of advertising and marketing experience, whether you utilize our community newspapers or not.

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Julie Heston
Publisher, owner
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