



Look for the next issue of the Peninsula Beacon on Jan. 27



Just leaf it alone

City sidewalk crews will now find a work-around to preserve this giant, leaning Torrey Pine tree on Long Branch Avenue in Ocean Beach, thanks to the help of neighbors and independent arborists.

PHOTOS BY MIKE MCCARTHY / THE BEACON

Neighbors go out on a limb to save leaning Torrey Pine

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

Residents of Long Branch Avenue won a victory last week with the help of some scientific needling — making it clear they were not barking up the wrong tree.

As a result, the 60-foot-tall leaning Torrey Pine shading the street will stay in place while city crews find a work-around to fix the sidewalk surrounding the giant, according to Hassan Yousef, deputy director of the city's Streets Division.

Yousef told members of the Ocean Beach Planning Board the city plans to use a rubberized sidewalk, a street "popout" to deter parking directly underneath the tree and other improvements to bring the surrounding walkway up to code.

"[However,] if it becomes a hazard we would take immediate action," Yousef said.

The tree had been the subject of community interest for the last few months after city crews marked it for removal as part of a planned, ongoing sidewalk repair campaign across the city. The resulting community backlash forced the city and independent arborists to

confer and take a second look at the pine's fate.

One certified arborist, Theron Winsby, found no evidence of decay or damage, and determined that it simply needs pruning, according to his report.

A second expert, however, did issue a caution.

It will be very important to watch and monitor the tree, said David Shaw, a farm advisor with the University of California, Davis, who also spoke at the meeting. Shaw said that as the tree continues to grow, the question becomes "When is it really too big?" for Long Branch Avenue.

Local residents also suggested applying for a city permit to independently watch and prune the tree. But even as the independent arborists, city staff and neighbors debated the fate of the tree, one young couple living across the street said they want something more firm done. The tree's lean seems a little too close for comfort, they said.

The couple, Alan and Michele Babke, have lived in their home across the street from the tree for about two years.

"It's a little uncomfortable," Alan said. "I just want to make sure it's safe."

While the towering and majestic tree

remains observably healthy, the back-and-forth between the city and independent reports does leave questions, according to the Babkes.

"We just want a straight answer on whether or not it's safe," Michele said. "We don't want to be the ones calling them saying that it fell on the house."



This image shows the full magnitude of the tree's size on Long Branch Avenue.

PHOTO BY MIKE MCCARTHY / THE BEACON

California's new truancy laws will turn screws on parental accountability

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

Parents who habitually fail to get their elementary or middle-school kids to class could be facing a fine of up to \$2,000 or potentially a year in jail, according to retooled California truancy laws that took effect Jan. 1.

Measures to prevent chronic absenteeism already exist through the San Diego Unified School District's School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Rules are set up to keep families out of the court system and students in class, said Crystal Cavanagh, manager of the SARB's attendance office.

"The focus is on the younger kids because that's when we need to get

them into the good habits to get them successful in graduating," Cavanagh said.

The most serious of penalties for parents is jail time, and typically occurs only after teachers and counselors have exhausted all means to address the problem with moms and dads, Cavanagh said.

First, counselors send home a series of letters notifying parents of unexcused absences. After schools fail to fix the problem with a parent or parents, a letter of referral spins the case ahead to the attendance review board.

Along with each attempt at intervention comes counseling appoint-

SEE TRUANCY, Page 7



U.S. postal officials are still considering options as they look to sell off the Midway Processing and Distribution Center on Midway Drive. A decision could potentially take another year, said one postal official.

PHOTO BY PAUL HANSEN / THE PENINSULA BEACON

Midway USPS mail-processing center's fate still undetermined

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | THE BEACON

U.S. Postal Service (USPS) officials said they are still weighing options over what to do with the Midway Processing and Distribution Center on Midway Drive, which they intend to sell off. USPS officials announced last year they intend to liquidate the asset in the midst of a ballooning budget deficit and shrinking demand for services, launching a bid to sell the once-central hub for San Diego mail processing.

The USPS opened the door to the process by soliciting prospective buyers and private ventures interested in taking over the 436,000-square-foot structure.

One of those ventures, a proposed homeless shelter for the area, was officially axed, confirmed Jeeni Crisenzo,

president and chief executive officer of the local nonprofit group Amikas, which pitched the proposal.

"It's interesting how communities don't want a homeless facility," Crisenzo said. "But if you go down to [other communities] where they have homeless facilities, you don't see people in the street."

Amikas also proposed the idea to the Midway and Point Loma planning groups — to no avail.

USPS spokeswoman Eva Jackson said she could not discuss the remaining potential buyers, although the housing project for the homeless and even a Costco store were batted about publicly as possibilities.

"We're still analyzing our options," Jackson said. "[USPS administrators

SEE USPS, Page 7



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'Dapper Bandit' suspect hears charges

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

The man suspected of being the well-dressed "Dapper Bandit" in multiple armed bank robberies — including a heist in Point Loma on Dec. 27 — appeared less-than-dapper during his arraignment Jan. 5.

Sporting large facial and neck tattoos and heavily-inked arms, John Richard Martinez appeared in court dressed in a green jail jumpsuit to hear the charges against him.

Martinez, 41, bore large script tattoos with the words "Shattered Dreams" on his neck. The number 23 was stenciled under his right eye and a gang logo was seen above his right eyebrow.

"The suspect discussed wearing

makeup to cover up the tattoos on his face," according to Deputy District Attorney Melissa Vasel. "The turtle-neck was worn [during the alleged bank robberies] to cover up the neck tattoos."

A designer hat Martinez reportedly wore at the US Bank branch at 2150 Chatsworth Blvd. in late December was intentionally worn at an angle so the gang tattoo could not be seen by witnesses or security cameras, according to Vasel.

Prosecutors allege Martinez — as the so-called "Dapper Bandit" — stole roughly \$1,000 from the Point Loma bank. Martinez is also charged with taking about \$1,000 from a Mira Mesa check-cashing store on Dec. 20.

Martinez, of Tijuana, was arrested

Dec. 31 when he tried to enter the U.S. from Mexico inside the same blue car that investigators linked to the robberies, Vasel said. Martinez's girlfriend was the registered owner, but she is not believed to have been involved in the thefts, according to Vasel.

"Inside the car were both outfits he was wearing during the two robberies in San Diego," Vasel said.

The robber was dubbed the "Dapper Bandit" because of his wardrobe during bank robberies not only in Point Loma but also in Tulare and Fresno. Vasel said Martinez, has not yet been charged with the armed bank robberies in the latter locations.

According to Vasel, the "Dapper Ban-

SEE BANDIT, Page 7



TYING ONE ON

An urban artist captured the attention of passersby recently at the intersection of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Monaco Street, decorating this street sign with close to 100 men's ties. The artist, April Cromer, center, said she created the handiwork to inspire others to think.

PHOTO BY JIM GRANT / THE BEACON

Legal Issues When Shortselling Your Home

SAN DIEGO, When you buying or selling a home there are many small but important legal issues that you may be unaware of that are, nevertheless, critical to understand. Residential real estate is not an uncomplicated process. When such a major investment is transferred from one party to another, there are subtle details to take care of that can turn into major problems if not handled correctly.

It is essential to understand the legal ins and outs that will properly protect you when buy or sell a home. There are several issues that will certainly cost you if you are not properly informed. In a recent situ-

ation right here in the area, misinformation cost one local homeseller over three thousand dollars in the sale of their home. Don't let this happen to you.

In answer to this issue, Industry Insiders have prepared a FREE special report entitled "Legal Mistakes to Avoid When Buying or Selling a Home" hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1011. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to protect your investment when you buy or sell your home.

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Get your fill during San Diego Restaurant Week

San Diego Restaurant Week is gearing up again through Jan. 21, beginning with this year's launch date on Sunday, Jan. 16. More than 180 restaurants from all over San Diego County will participate and the list keeps growing each year.

Reservations, which are recommended, should be made with the individual restaurants. Walk-in diners are accepted if space permits.

The most recent Restaurant Week, held in September, drew more than 140,000 participants.

The three-course, predetermined menus from San Diego restaurants will be set at either \$20, \$30 or \$40 per person. Taxes, beverages and gratuity are not included.

For a complete list of participating restaurants visit www.sandiegorestaurantweek.com.
— *Debbie Hatch*

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(619) 224-2884
- **Nick's at the Pier** (\$30)
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- **Hornblower Cruises & Events** (\$40)
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The Bali Hai is among the dining meccas participating in San Diego Restaurant Week, which runs from Jan. 16 to 21.
PHOTO BY JIM GRANT / THE BEACON

To build or not to build...

By MANNY LOPEZ | THE BEACON

Talk of new City Hall building rises again

Should San Diego replace the aging downtown City Hall or repair the existing 1960s-era structure and put off building a new chief administrative facility until the city can get its financial affairs in order?

Mayor Jerry Sanders argues that now is the time for the cash-strapped municipality to break ground on a proposed \$293.5 million Civic Center redevelopment project that supporters say would allow the city to consolidate operations and save an estimated \$13 million annually on leased office space outside of City Hall.

In June 2010, the mayor presented a proposal designed by Portland, Oregon-based developer Gerding Edlen, which included a 19-story city administration building located on the four-block site of the existing City Hall on C Street and First Avenue. The 575,000-square-foot structure would provide enough office space for about 2,400 employees, a 400-seat City Council chambers, a 1.25-acre public plaza and two levels of underground parking.

Finished in 1964, the current 13-story City Hall building lacks mandated fire sprinklers on 10 floors, does not meet earthquake safety codes, contains asbestos and lacks the space necessary to accommodate the city's office staff. Officials estimate that it will cost nearly \$40 million to make "Band-Aid" repairs and maintain the city administration building over the next decade — a figure that some say would be better spent on a new structure since the old one will need to be demolished eventually.

Despite promises that the public would have an opportunity to vote on the matter, the mayor vetoed in July a City Council action passed by a 7-1 vote

that would have put the measure before San Diegans on last November's ballot. The Civic Center redevelopment project could still proceed if six council members vote to approve it.

Critics of the project assert that because of the economic decline, budget problems and the threat of cuts to public services, the city should consider whether now is the best time to talk about building a new City Hall.

In public statements, Councilman Carl DeMaio, one of the project's most vocal opponents, accused the city of failing to explore all its options before

SEE CITY HALL, Page 7



A design by Portland-based Gerding Edlen includes a 19-story city administration building.
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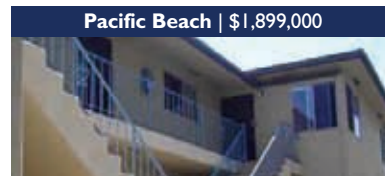
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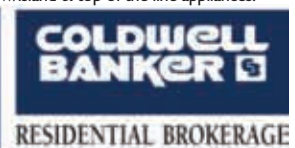


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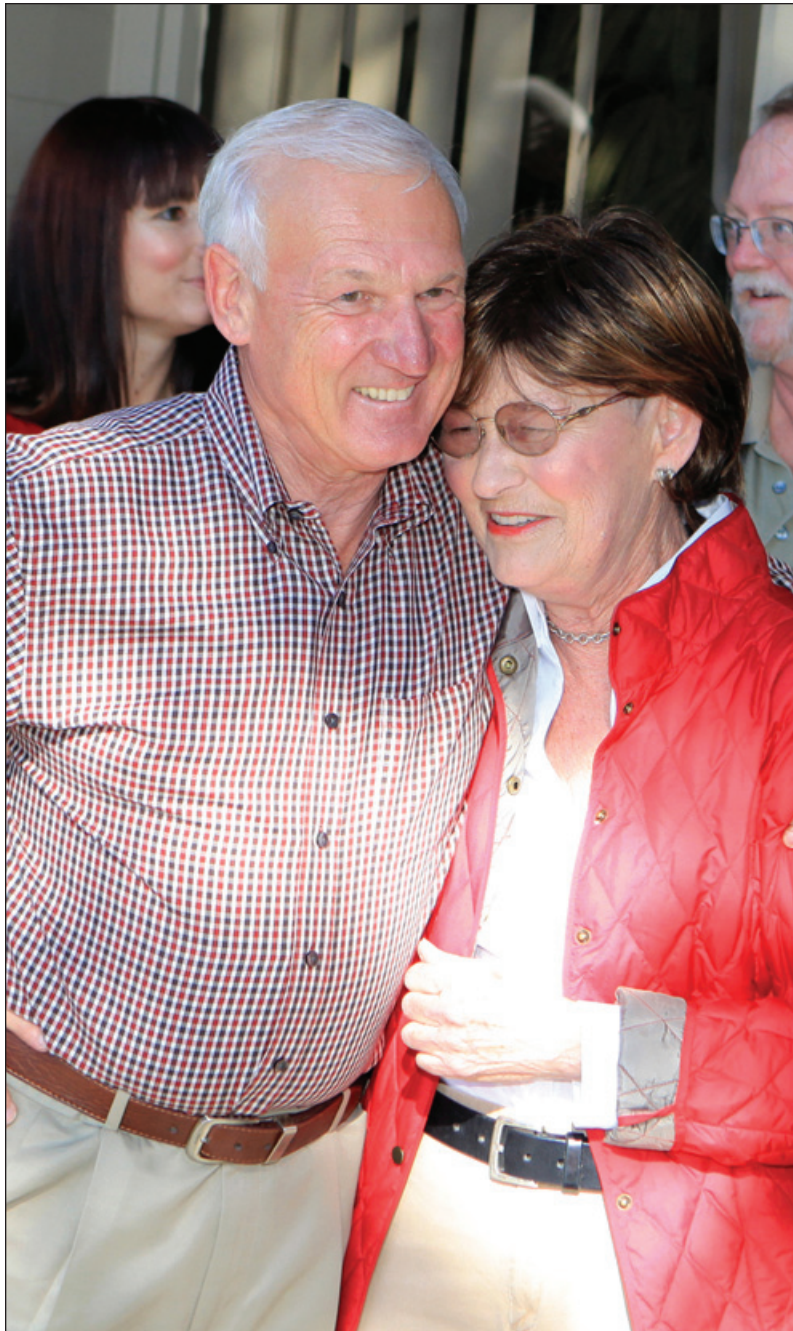
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San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts shares a laugh with Point Loma resident Hedwig "Hedy" St. John, who was feted for her years of community leadership during an appreciation ceremony at Rosecrans and Cañon streets on Dec. 11.

COURTESY PHOTO

NEWS**briefs**

Hedy St. John honored for community leadership

Dignitaries, colleagues and friends gathered in December to praise and thank Hedwig "Hedy" St. John, one of the Peninsula's most prominent community leaders for roughly a decade.

St. John was honored during an appreciation ceremony Dec. 11 in the 1100 block of Rosecrans Street, where she was lauded with proclamations from the city, the county and the state senate. Members of the civic group Point Loma Association also dedicated a tree and plaque in her name near the intersection of Rosecrans and Cañon streets.

St. John, who was diagnosed with brain cancer in June, served as the chair of the Peninsula Community Planning Board from 1992 to 1995, and was instrumental in leading to the redevelopment and private-public reuse of the former Naval Training Center as part of the nation's Base Realignment and Closure Commission efforts.

She also was an advocate of open-space preservation, one of the original members of the San Diego Association of Governments and a visible proponent of the Quieter Home program that provides noise relief to Peninsula residents living under the flight path of planes flying to and from Lindbergh Field.

During the Dec. 11 ceremony, St. John was presented a proclamation from the office of District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer on behalf of the City Council and was similarly presented a proclamation by Supervisor Ron Roberts in the name of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. A third proclamation was extended by state Sen. Christine Kehoe's office on behalf of the California state senate.

The appreciation ceremony was attended by an estimated three dozen or more well-wishers.

Free medical exams to be offered in OB

Second Chances Bread of Life is arranging a free medical examination for those in need on Saturday, Jan. 15. The checkups are being provided by trained physicians from the University of California, San Diego's mobile medical team.

According to Second Chances Bread of Life officials, the free exams will include on-the-spot treatments, referrals and basic medical supplies.

Residents are being urged to take advantage of this opportunity for free professional medical service, starting at 8 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at the northeast corner of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Santa Monica Avenue.

In conjunction with the free examinations, a free breakfast and free bottles of natural EarthSpringWater will be provided to participants.

For more information, call (619)

886-4275, or e-mail secondchance-sob@yahoo.com.

Silver Gate to open kindergarten registration

Silver Gate Elementary School will begin its kindergarten enrollment on Monday, Feb. 14 for the 2011-12 school year.

Enrollment takes place Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school, located at 1499 Venice St. All students who will be five years old by Dec. 2, 2011 and are residents of Silver Gate Elementary School boundaries may register.

Parents must bring a valid and current proof of home residence (utility bill, cable bill, tax bill, rental agreement, mortgage document or military housing orders); immunization record and the child's birth certificate or passport upon registration.

For more information, call (619) 222-1139.



A plaque dedicated to Hedy St. John by members of the Point Loma Association is displayed along the 1100 block of Rosecrans Street in honor of her accomplishments.

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SPORTS SNIPPETS AND ROUNDUP

Two-weekend festival offers ins and outs of lacrosse

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

A free event the next two weekends will acquaint area youth and families with the unique sport of lacrosse, also known as "lax."

The activity, dubbed "PL Lax Fest 2011," is open to all boys and girls who attend Point Loma Cluster Schools in grades 1-12.

Designed to widen interest in the growing sport, the event is hosted by Adrenaline Lacrosse and the Point Loma High School (PLHS) lacrosse teams.

Interested students and parents should arrive at the PLHS football field at 10 a.m. on either of the next two Sundays, Jan. 16 or Jan. 23. Participants are encouraged to wear T-shirts, shorts and athletic shoes. The event lasts until 1 p.m. both days.

The school is located at 2335 Chatsworth Blvd., but the stadium entrance is on the Voltaire Street side of the campus.

Organizers said no experience in lacrosse is necessary to participate and equipment will be furnished. Healthy snacks will also be provided.

Lacrosse leagues are currently playing at Robb Field in Ocean Beach with players as young as first grade.

Point Loma Cluster Schools include 10 schools with more than 6,000 students enrolled. Elementary schools (grades K-4) include Barnard, Cabrillo, Dewey, Loma Portal, Ocean Beach, Silver Gate and Sunset View. Middle schools include Dana (grades 5-6) and Correia (grades 7-8), in addition to PLHS participants (grades 9-12).

For more information, contact Carey Dawidzik at plhslax@gmail.com.

Big basketball crowd

There were two types of hot dogs at last Friday's PLHS basketball game, and the Pointer boys' team sent a large crowd home happy with a 60-51 non-league victory over Mira Mesa High.

Lured by \$2 tickets that included admission, a hot dog and soft drink, the PLHS gym was packed with noisy Pointer supporters.

The Dogs on the hardwood were also hot, jumping out to a 12-10 lead over the Eastern League's Marauders after one period, then 29-19 at the break and pulling away 45-31 after three quarters.

Pacing the Pointers were Nate George (16 points, seven rebounds, four assists), Christian Heyward (13 points, seven rebounds), Kohl Meyer (13 points, two blocks, two steals and three assists), Cody Harvey (seven rebounds, four assists), Marquis Clifford (seven points) and Daniel Enright (six points).

With the win, the Pointers moved to 4-6 overall (0-1 in the Central League), while the Marauders dropped to 5-8 for the season.

Lady Pointers roll

The Lady Pointer basketball team is off to a 7-2 start (1-0 in the Central League). In their most recent game, the locals defeated Preuss (UCSD) 50-31.

Pointers in the pool

In the water, the Pointers girls are making a big splash with a 6-6 (0-1 in Eastern League) start. In their most



The Point Loma High boys' basketball team is so far 4-5 overall and 0-1 in the Central League.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HOPKINS / THE BEACON

recent match, the Pointers shut out La Jolla Country Day by a 3-0 margin.

Leading the team is Arianna Conger with 29 goals and four assists. Following close behind is Monica Longworth with 19 goals and nine assists. Lexi Bohlman has 14 goals and seven assists, while Carolina Saboya has recorded 10 goals and 11 assists to round out the top scorers.

Pointer boys make it look easy

In boys' soccer, the Dogs boast a record of 4-3-3 (1-1-0 in Eastern League).

The team had a big day last week, defeating Morse in a 7-1 blowout.

Top scorers to date are Miguel Alcantar with three goals and Oscar Casillas with one goal and three assists.

Lady Pointers finding the net

The Lady Pointers soccer squad is off to a 4-4-2 start (2-0 in Eastern League).

After a 4-1 defeat of San Diego High School last week, top scorers for the Pointers are Megan O'Beirne with four goals and two assists, and Carly Holly with four goals and one assist.



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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us for the quarterly meeting of the
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San Diego International Airport

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
4:00-5:30 p.m.

The Noise Monitoring Room
Commuter Terminal @ San Diego International Airport
3225 N. Harbor Drive, 3rd Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

Park in pay lot — bring ticket for validation

Future Meeting Date

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Take heed in 2011: *Lining up one's shot applies to life, too*

By MILES McPHERSON

I recently took up golf, and I love it. Go figure! As busy as I am, and I decide to learn to golf. It has not been easy; it's a game you never master. Chasing perfection is part of the challenge.

One day, just after an approach shot from about 150 yards, my partner said, "I've got good news and bad news. The bad news is that you are in the water. The good news is that you hit the ball in the exact direction you were lined up."

I hit a shot with a slight draw, right to left, just like I wanted. But I was lined up wrong. My feet, hips and shoulders were not pointed at my target.

My coach said to me one day, "Make sure you are lined up toward your target — just in case you make a good shot."

This principle is true in all aspects of life.

Where will you be in one year, three years or five years if your life actually goes in the direction you are aiming? What kind of family will you have? Career? What will your spiritual life look like? If you are not lined up right, you will probably end up in a place you don't want to be. That would be a very avoidable tragedy.

There is a line in a "rap" by a group called Cross Movement that goes like this, "Look, you aimed at nothing and congratulations, you hit dead on the button."

As you start this new year, don't set yourself up for failure by being lined up wrong. Make sure that your heart and mind are both lined up toward an honorable target. Decide soon what your goals are for the year, the month or maybe just today.

The goal can be related to your finances, a relationship, your spiritual life or your career. Since there are endless goals to choose from, start simple and make one goal for the year. Consider improving on one aspect of who you are as a person. Identify the most likely aspect of your character to be criticized. Set a goal to be more loving, patient, generous or disciplined.

Ask three or four of your friends for one way you can improve your character. If you are brave, consider asking an enemy or two. Keep in mind that the "wounds of a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Proverbs 27:6)

In others words, your real friends will be honest, even if they have to tell you something you might not want to hear. And sometimes your critics will give you your best advice.

Consider asking for God's help in the execution of your plan. He knows you better than anyone and can actually shape your heart. Simply say, "God, I want to be the person you made me to be. Please guide me in my journey." Say it to Him every day. And then watch out; He might just answer you.

Pastor Miles McPherson leads The Rock Church, located at 2277 Rosecrans St. in Point Loma.



PASTOR MILES McPHERSON



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government financing moral decay of our nation

In some states, more than 50 percent of births each year are to unwed mothers. This dilemma has multiple causes — the promiscuity promoted by the entertainment media, the removal of God and morals from our educational system, etc. But high on the list of causes is this — government is financing it.

With the creation of "The Great Society" during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration, the government told women, "If you have a baby outside of marriage, we'll send you a monthly check. The only way you can lose that check is to get married or get a job."

Recently, a social worker shared about hear-

ing a middle-aged mother explaining to her daughter that she (the daughter) needed to keep having babies because by doing so she was the breadwinner of the family.

Some years ago, I read a news article about the man who went to several women every month to collect his portion of the welfare check as his "siring fee" for fathering their children.

The number one "poverty indicator" in the U.S. is unwed motherhood. The government support provides the individual a near-poverty-level income. If the mother strives to better herself and earn more, she loses the government support. Therefore, the system perpetuates poverty.

To add to the financing of the national moral

decay, our tax laws impose a "marriage penalty." The tax codes are set up so that married couples pay higher taxes than couples who are cohabiting.

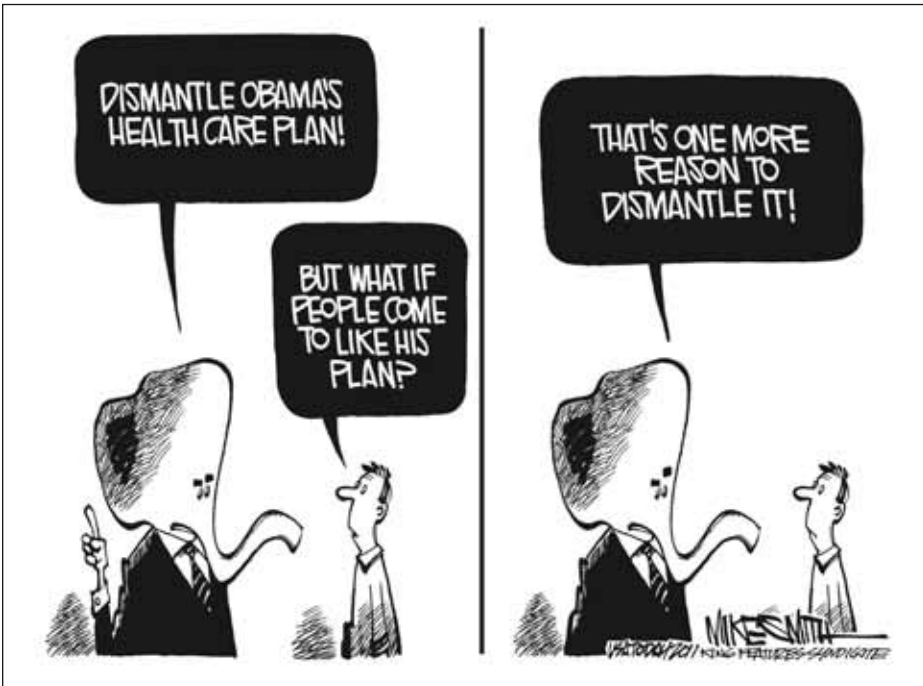
The result of this government "compassion" is most clearly seen in our prisons, where the percentage of inmates from single-parent homes ranges from 92 to 99 percent. So much for the Great Society where "it takes a village to raise a child."

Steve Casey
Stonewall, La.

The seal war has come to an end

It is easy, cowardly and pointless to target the seals. They have no voice, no money, no power — just nature's beauty and freedom. It's time to stop the war on seals. Move to the desert if you must.

Tanja Winter
La Jolla resident



YOUR VIEWS

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■ The opinion pages of *The Peninsula Beacon* are meant as an open forum for expression. The views expressed in the Letters to the Editor and editorials within this paper are not necessarily the views of this paper, nor those of the staff. *The Beacon* reserves the right to exclude any Letter to the Editor, or to edit Letters to the Editor for length and prevention of libel, or for other reasons as seen fit by the editors.

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SUBMISSIONS Letters and photo submissions are welcomed. Those accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope will be returned. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity.

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Taz Taylor Band readies off-the-hook show at Brick by Brick

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

One of the interesting sidebars to the rock 'n' roll explosion of the last five decades is the number of artists who have had to take their act on the road to get established in other countries before being appreciated in their homeland.

The list of these performers is as diverse as Jimi Hendrix and The Go-Gos, as well as newcomers like British-born guitarist Taz Taylor, who performs at Brick by Brick on Jan. 18. A hard rock aficionado who cites guitarist Michael Schenker as his biggest influence, Taylor has a strong following in Europe, with four albums and several tours under his belt there.

Ironically, it all came together after relocating to San Diego.

Taylor was born in Birmingham, England — the home town of bands and performers like Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and Robert Plant — arriving in the U.S. in 1997 with a guitar, a backpack and \$2,000, but no place to stay and no definitive plans. The dream was simply to make music. San Diego wasn't his first choice.

"I was initially drawn to L.A. to be honest," he said. "Just from what you see in the movies, etc. and knowing that so many musicians make their home there. Also, [the draw was] the whole Sunset Strip thing, The Whisky, Key Club ... legendary venues."

"It was a long time ago," he said. "I'm more jaded now and don't care about any of that. I actually settled here in San Diego rather than L.A. just because I immediately felt at home here."

Though he loves his adopted city, he hasn't been a part of the local music scene per se. Instead, he concentrated his efforts on Europe. He didn't begin to perform live until 2004, but Taylor hit the floor running, releasing the album "Caffeine Racer" within months. The album did well in Europe, resulting in the 2006 followup "Welcome to America," which was released on a British

label, Escape Music. The title celebrates Taylor's becoming a U.S. citizen in 2006. He toured Europe in 2007 and 2008, releasing the album "Straight Up" in 2009.

The band is a local proposition, but the Taz Taylor Band's lineup has included a pair of impressive names with a serious rock pedigree — Graham Bonnett and Keith Slack, both ex-members of the Michael Schenker Group.

Meanwhile, Deep Purple's Don Airey contributes keyboards to "Straight Up." It's a mark of the times that the recording collaborations were done over the Internet.

"Graham Bonnet was our vocalist for a couple of years — one album and two tours," Taylor said. "(He) recorded at his home in L.A. Keith Slack recorded at his home in Austin. In fact, we didn't meet face-to-face until we got together to rehearse for a couple of shows after the record was out."

Despite having had such high-profile vocalists, the band is currently performing only instrumental music. "We just wanted to get back to what the band was about when I first started it," Taylor said, "just a group of friends getting together and playing music for the sake of playing music."

The band includes drummer Val Trainor, keyboardist Bruce Connors and Ocean Beach resident Barney Firks on bass.

Taylor is currently in negotiations with a German label for a new album, which will feature vocals, to be followed by another round of touring. Though it's tougher than ever to make a career of music, Taylor said he is determined to get his songs to the masses.

"Music is what keeps me motivated in everything," Taylor said. "Music offers people what it always has. They just need to put down the video game controllers and get off Facebook long enough to go out and find it."

The Taz Taylor Band performs at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 21 and up. Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/taztaylorband



The Taz Taylor Band, which has boasted members with a serious rock 'n' roll pedigree, takes the stage at Brick by Brick on Jan. 18. COURTESY PHOTO



Resolutions 2011

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bank know that a caregiver is in the home and ask them to monitor anything unusual. Monitor the checkbook, bank and credit card statements for expenditures that appear "fishy". Never provide an ATM P.I.N. to a caregiver or if you must, keep only a small balance in the account that you monitor.

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DENA J. RISO, Au.D
DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

Liberty Station's Malashock readies for second run of sellout dance show

"It's the most astonishing – both wonderful and terrible – thing I have ever seen in a dance piece."

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | THE BEACON

"Malashock/Raw" was such a sellout hit last November at Sushi Performance and Visual Art that Malashock Dance is reprising the evening of dance at 8 p.m. Jan. 21-22, this time within the intimacy of Malashock Dance Studio at Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Suite 202, at Liberty Station.

Closer up and more personal, it is bound to be more thrilling and in-your-face than ever before. In the company vernacular it will shock, astonish and amaze. Ask one who's seen it, and the description possesses a ring of truth.

By its very nature, the distilled "Malashock/Raw: Stripped" seeks to dispel any preconceptions one might have of esteemed choreographer and artistic director John Malashock and his excellent 23-year-old troupe. A La Jolla native who danced with Twyla Tharp Dance, Malashock toured 10 years before returning to the San Diego area. (He and his wife, Nina, had a child by then, and believed that a more "normal life" awaited them in California.)

Malashock tried business for a while, but dance called him back big-time in 1988 with the founding of Malashock Dance.

"There was not much choice in the matter," he said with a smile. The *Los Angeles Times* recently named Malashock a "2011 Face to Watch."

The three pieces composing "Malashock/Raw: Stripped" are as follows: Malashock's "Man Up," associate artistic director Michael Mizerany's "Bad Company" and guest choreographer Bradley Michaud's "This Is Not an Exit." Michaud is artistic director of Method Contemporary Dance in Los Angeles. Michaud's 2009 "This Is Not an Exit" begins with six dancers performing ritual movements that seem to promote balance and coordination (music by Trentmoller). One by one, they are afflicted by an indescribable malady, and chaos ensues with such violence that one finds oneself looking for blood. It's the most astonishing — both wonderful and terrible — thing I have ever seen in a dance piece.

Malashock's "Man Up" provides great levity as well as profound insight into our ideas of what's masculine behavior and what is feminine. A motley basketball team (females with names like Chip, Jeff and Rico) adopts male behavior, including crotch-grabbing, posturing and ploys to seduce a "real" female who appears.

If you haven't obtained tickets yet, do not hesitate or you might be turned away. "Malashock/Raw: Stripped" promises to be one of the most exciting evenings of dance in a long time. Tickets are \$15 and available at www.malashockdance.org or (619) 260-1622.



ABOVE: Guest choreographer Bradley Michaud's "This Is Not an Exit" is part of "Malashock/Raw: Stripped," to take place Jan. 21-22. **Right:** Dancers perform "Bad Company," one of three performances that make up "Malashock/Raw: Stripped," which has come to life via La Jolla John Malashock's dance studio. Courtesy photo



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WEB-ONLY FEATURE
Sign on to www.sdnews.com to catch a video glimpse of Malashock Dance's recent sellout performance of "Malashock/Raw: Stripped."



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Free Blessing of the Animals; Sunday in Old Town offers animal-themed entertainment

At this Sunday's Blessing of the Animal event in the Old Town Plaza, pets and their owners will be entertained with a line-up of animal-related activities and demonstrations.

From noon to 3 p.m., Chopper the Biker Dog will be making a special appearance at the event. Chopper is a one-year-old Boston terrier who is known all around the county for riding his own Harley Davidson motorcycle and his distinctive biker goggles. Owned by real estate agent Mark Shaffer, Chopper often appears at community events, festivals and parades.

The expo and animal adoptions start at noon. The SPCA and Human Society's Mobile

Adoption Unit will be on hand for those looking for a new friend to take home. Other groups that will have adoptable animals are Shelly's Shelter (bunnies), Friends of Cats, and Chihuahua Rescue.

At 12:30 p.m. will be a traditional blessing ceremony by Monsignor Mark Campbell from the historic Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in Old Town where all pet owners will have an opportunity to bring pets to be blessed.

The Helen Woodward Animal Center will present a demonstration on the humane care and adoption for orphaned animals and talk

about animal-centered educational and therapeutic programs for people. They will be bringing various educational animals that the public can interact with.

There will be a talk given by Sindi Somers of Wild and Tame Wellness Communications entitled Animal Communication. She will be offering tips to help enhance people's communication with their pets and also do a demonstration and answer questions from the crowd. Somers offers a variety of services for animals and people; psychic readings and energy healings for people and pets, animal communication, pet nutrition and behavior consultations, dog

training and meditation instruction for people. She is also a published writer and regular contributor to San Diego Pets Magazine.

The Chula Vista Nature Center will be bringing native animals to the event will educating the public about rescuing, rehabilitating and supporting wild animals. On hand will be many native animals that are rarely viewed up close that have been rescued but are now unable to return to the wild. The talk will also touch on interesting, fun facts barn owls.

Lastly, Tender Loving Canines Assistance Dogs will do a presentation on the various uses of assistance dogs and how they are able to

assist a people with disabilities.

Also participating in the event is the Emergency Animal Rescue, Howlistic, Avian and Exotic Animals Hospital, Golden Rose Psychics, Tijuana River Valley Animal Rescue, Parrott Rehabilitation Society and Dogs on the Run. There will also be a pet expo with treats for pets and owners as well as games for kids.

The event ends at 3 p.m. and takes place in the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Plaza at 4002 Wallace Street, San Diego, CA, 92110. Admission to this event is free. For more information, visit: facebook.com/fiestadereyes or call 858-297-3100.

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COOKING CLASS FOR LOVERS

Wednesday, February 9 at 6 p.m. \$65 per person. Enjoy an exciting cooking class with Executive Chef Bernard Guillas and Chef de Cuisine Ron Oliver, a delicious three-course dinner and wine pairings.

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND GETAWAY

Enjoy beachfront accommodations for two at The La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club on Saturday, February 12, champagne with chocolate-covered strawberries in your room upon arrival, a delicious three-course Month of Romance dinner at The Marine Room, and breakfast in Club Dining for \$559**.

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Monday, February 14 from 5 to 10 p.m. \$125 per person. A truly decadent four-course dinner at San Diego's "Most Romantic Restaurant"—entrée options include Ras el Hanout Lamb Loin, and Lemon Verbena Annatto Glazed Lobster Tail.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday, Jan. 16, 4 p.m., the Music on the Point concert series continues with Craig Cramer, professor of organ at the University of Notre Dame. Cramer will perform a solo concert on San Diego's unique Baroque pipe organ at All Souls' Episcopal Church, located at 1475 Catalina Blvd. A reception follows. There is a \$5 donation, although students are admitted free. For more information, call (619) 223-6394, ext. 13, or e-mail musicontheconcerts@gmail.com.

Through Jan. 30, the San Diego Watercolor Society presents "The More Things Change" exhibit, featuring about 95 paintings by national and international artists for display and sale. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The gallery is located at 2825 Dewey Road. For more information, call (619) 876-4550, or visit www.sdwso.org.

Through Jan. 30, Sophie's Gallery & Gift Shop NTC premieres "Ladies First" celebrating the career of artist John Agostini in his first one-man show of acrylics on paper, featuring fashionable women and Hollywood stars. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays at 2960 Historic Decatur Road. For more information, call (619) 578-2207.

Saturday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., the Emmy Award-winning "Smucker's Stars on Ice" show celebrates its 25th anniversary at the newly-renamed Valley View Casino Center (formerly the San Diego Sports Arena). The show is headlined by 2010 Olympic gold medalist Evan Lysacek and Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen. The premier figure-skating production brings an all-star cast of figure-skating legends as part of a 25-city national tour. Tickets went on sale Dec. 4 and range from \$25 and up, with special on-ice seating and group discounts for parties of 10 or more. For tickets and information, visit ticketmaster.com or the Valley View Casino Center's box office, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd.

COMMUNITY/CIVIC

Saturday, Jan. 15, 1 to 3 p.m., Friends of Famosa Slough host a free public bird walk featuring an easy walk with good views of a variety of birds and salt-marsh habitat. Participants are urged to meet at the first bench on Famosa Boulevard south of the intersection with West Point Loma Boulevard and to bring binoculars. For more information, call (619) 224-4591, or visit www.famosaslough.org.

Saturday, Jan. 15, 1 p.m., nutritionist Janet Little hosts a free "Detox Deletion" lecture to help participants get back to the basics and feel energized by learning a four-week detoxification strategy plan. The lecture includes information about foods and weight loss, natural supplements, cravings and blood-sugar levels and samples of gluten-free products. The event takes place at Henry's Farmers Market, 3315 Rosecrans St. For information or to reserve seats, call (619) 523-3640.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library hosts "Ancient Persia/Modern Iran" with speaker Karen Miller, who will share her striking photography from her 2010 trip to Iran – a country obscured by political conflict. The free talk will feature the deep artistic and cultural heritage of the lesser-traveled (619) 531-1537.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m., regular meeting of the Naval Base Point Loma's Restoration Advisory Board to discuss relevant issues. The meeting takes place at the Southwestern Yacht Club, 2702 Qualtrough St. The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call (619) 556-0193.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 5 p.m., Point Loma High School hosts its annual informational meeting for prospective students and their parents. The event offers an opportunity to meet administrators, coaches, counselors, teachers and current students and parents of PLHS. The meeting also offers course selection and "how tos" of ninth-grade course enrollment. For more information, call (619) 223-3121, ext. 1129, or e-mail mtolpen@sandi.net.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., the Ocean Beach Historical Society features local photographer Joe Ewing in a presentation on capturing the essence of OB in photos. Ewing has won the "OB Exposed!" photo contest with his work. The free event takes place at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For

more information, visit obhistory.wordpress.com.

Sunday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., annual "Contas" meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. The event, which is open to all members and prospective members, takes place at the United Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal in Point Loma. For more information, call (619) 223-5880, or www.upses.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 6 to 8 p.m., the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation hosts a dialogue for parents, teachers, staff and community stakeholders on "Rethinking Our Schools ... Is Charter a Better Way?" The foundation has been holding outreach forums and sending out surveys to get input from stakeholders and encourages participation in the event. To RSVP and learn more, visit www.pointlomaccluster.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, the Point Loma Garden Club's monthly meeting will be solely dedicated to celebrating the group's 50th birthday. Past presidents will be honored and long-serving members will be recognized. A special program is planned by Kay Harry and her committee. The event takes place at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

SENIORS

Thursday, Jan. 27, 10 to 11 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a practical information session with a licensed occupational therapist who specializes in hand therapy and injury-prevention training. The event takes place at All Soul's Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd. Reservations are required by calling (800) 827-4277.

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 9:30 to 11 a.m., Sharp Senior Resource Center hosts a free blood pressure screening at the Peninsula Family YMCA, 4390 Valeta St. The public is welcome and no appointments are necessary. For more information, call (800) 827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

SPORTS

Monday, March 21, 1 p.m. the Point Loma Sports Association hosts the 28th annual W. Sheldene Brown Memorial Golf Classic – the primary fundraising source of Point Loma Nazarene University athletics. The 18-hole four-person scramble takes place at Sycuan Resort. The cost is \$195 per golfer. For more information, call (610) 849-2265, or visit plnusealions.com and click on the link at the top of the page.

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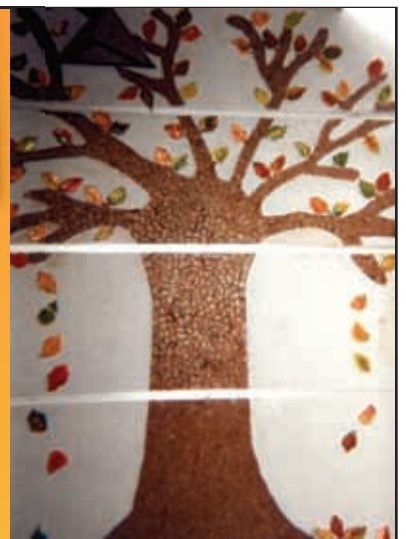
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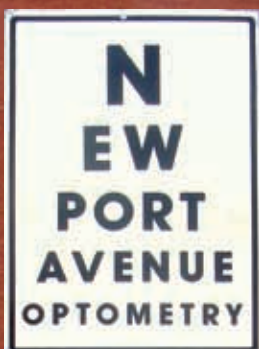
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