



THE PENINSULA BEACON

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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Planners eye alliance to fight development end-around tactics

By **TONY De GARATE** | THE BEACON

Getting little traction in its attempt to halt city-issued variances that allow property owners to build homes larger than prescribed by local zoning, the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB) has decided to it's time to enlist the aid of a potential ally.

The OBPB has scheduled a discussion about how to engage the Community Planning Committee (CPC), a larger group of citywide citizen planners of which the OBPB is a member. The OBPB will meet Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

Like the OBPB, the CPC has only an advisory role to the San Diego City Council on land-use and quality-of-life issues. But there are sympathetic members at the CPC, and adding that group's clout could be important strategy, said Landry Watson, the OBPB's vice chair.

Sparking the debate is the city's issuance of three variances to property

owners on the west side of the 5100 block of West Point Loma Boulevard, immediately south of the entrance to the Dog Beach parking lot. In each case, the city ruled that because the lot sizes are substandard, a larger percentage of the structure could be allocated for living quarters. In addition, the owners could build open car ports instead of garages.

The designs have been upheld by a San Diego hearing officer, the San Diego Planning Commission and the California Coastal Commission. City Attorney Jan Goldsmith last month, at the request of District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, also issued a statement vouching for their legality.

But the OBPB maintains the variances are inconsistent with city code and that development can take place without them.

In other OBPB-related news:

- Faulconer said he is excited about

SEE **PLANNERS**, Page 4

Battered beachfront parking lot high on city's priority list for OB

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

Locals have long been wondering when or if the pitted, crater-filled public parking lot on Abbott Street between the main lifeguard tower/public bathrooms and Saratoga Park will get attention from the city's Park and Recreation Department, which maintains this public area of Ocean Beach.

The answer may bring a sigh of relief to neighbors and visitors alike with new hope from the city that funding may be near.

It is a free parking lot, unlike most of the lots in the center of OB that are privately owned and metered.

The no-cost parking and the convenience of the public bathrooms and showers on one side and the picnic tables with grills on the other make this beachfront parking lot an attractive stop for recreational vehicles and campers from all over the country.

The location is also a popular surf spot, frequented heavily by waveriders from neighboring parts of the city who park their cars and trucks conveniently close to the surf area with an option to rinse off their gear in the showers adjacent to the lot.

The problem

The coveted parking spaces are a magnet for visitors and highly desirable, save for the disintegrating pavement that dots the lot.

Damaging potholes, some up to a foot deep and up to five feet in diameter, have



The public parking lot on Abbott Street, long the source of frustration for motorists and pedestrians because of its craters, cracks and crevices, is said to be among the city's funding priorities for Ocean Beach this year.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

been surfacing and growing over the last five years.

Patch jobs solve the issue temporarily, but they have not been able to withhold the weight of so many vehicles frequenting the beach parking lot daily.

Ocean Beach resident John Spatafino, 46, has been passing through the lot nearly every day for the last 12 years.

Spatafino drives a Ford F250 pickup truck loaded up with himself, his Labrador, a 10-foot longboard, a bicycle and his skateboards.

SEE **PARKING**, Page 5

COMMUNITY CROSS-SECTION

OB official: Troublesome young panhandlers don't fit the typical description



A man is taken into custody along Newport Avenue and Abbott Street, the epicenter of a long-running problem pitting aggressive, young panhandlers against merchants, residents and visitors to Ocean Beach.

Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon

Unruly behavior, unabashed drug solicitation largely defies solution

By **MARTIN JONES WESTLIN**

THE BEACON

Ocean Beach's latest brush with fame came last fall when Occupy San Diego was making local headlines from Downtown's Civic Center. The eats and shelter at the downtown movement were too good to pass up among some from Ocean Beach — members of an able-bodied but aggressive group that has the search for free food down to a science.

Even police recognized some of the neighborhood regulars on TV. One prominent local leader said that, with their absence from Ocean Beach by way of translocation downtown, the difference in the OB neighborhood was physically noticeable.

"Finally," sighed Ocean Beach

MainStreet Association executive director Denny Knox, "we had the beach to ourselves."

Just as Occupy San Diego shut down for the most part in the city center, so too did the regulars return to Ocean Beach. A Dec. 4 stabbing on Newport Avenue, which police said was perpetrated by a homeless man, serves as a case in point. Aggressive behaviors continue to undermine the civic pride that's overwhelmingly a hallmark of the Ocean Beach neighborhood, according to some locals.

But some merchants are saying the problem may now be on the decline. At the same time, Knox said, the dilemma is a symptom of a problem with national implications.

SEE **DILEMMA**, Page 6



Despite signs discouraging it, this is a common sight at the seawall, where bands of young panhandlers often sleep in the open.



Many of the young panhandlers in Ocean Beach blatantly solicit passersby for money for drugs or alcohol.



Some of the panhandlers are said to be well known by emergency services crews and are repeatedly treated or arrested.



Drunken behavior is sometimes more the norm than the exception by the seawall at the intersection of Abbott Street and Newport Avenue.



PIER POUNDING

Large, powerful surf from a storm generated off Japan washes over the Ocean Beach Pier, above, on Jan. 6. The pier was closed for entry because of the day-long, dangerous conditions. Left, surfers off Osprey Street along Sunset Cliffs had to deal with potentially dangerous conditions as large waves slammed into normal entry and exit areas.

Photos by Don Balch / The Beacon

NEWSBRIEFS

Fight in OB leads to two stabbings

Police investigators are looking into a multiple-stabbing incident in Ocean Beach early on Jan. 8.

According to police, a Hispanic man became involved in an altercation with two white males in the 4900 block of Cape May Avenue shortly before 2:30 a.m.

The suspect allegedly stabbed the other two men, sending both to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The attacker is described a Hispanic man in his early to mid-20s, about six-foot one-inch to six feet four inches tall, with a thin build.

The investigation continues.

Police hunt for identity of 'Pigeon-Toed Bandit'

Investigators are working to uncover the identity of a robber who struck the Cabrillo Drug store in Point Loma on Christmas Eve — just one in a series of pharmacy robberies police are tracking.

The robbery series began in July and included three targeted pharmacies in the Point Loma areas, one in Pacific Beach and one in East County.

He is being referred to by police as the "Pigeon-Toed Bandit" because of his gait.

The latest case occurred on Dec. 24 at about 10 a.m., when a man wearing a Santa hat entered Cabrillo Drug, located at 955 Catalina Blvd., in the Fleetridge neighborhood. The man walked directly to the back of the store to the pharmacy counter and caught the pharmacist's attention.

He handed the pharmacist a note demanding Oxycodone, Xanax and money. The clerk put some bottles of the generic equivalents of the drugs in a plastic bag from the pharmacy. The suspect

walked out of the store and fled north-bound on Catalina Boulevard.

The same suspect is believed to be responsible for pharmacy robberies at Ralph's on Sports Arena Boulevard on July 23, Vons on El Cajon Boulevard on Aug. 12, Ralphs on Mission Boulevard on Aug. 14, Vons on Truxtun Road on Oct. 17 and finally the Christmas Eve job.

The suspect is described as a white male between 30 and 50 years old, five feet six-inches to 5 feet 10-inches tall with a medium build. He wore latex gloves in two of the cases and carried a black bag or backpack in most cases.

Anyone with information concerning this case is asked to contact the San Diego Police Department's Robbery Unit at (619) 531-2299.

Charges dropped against ex-surf shop worker

An embezzlement case was dropped Jan. 9 against a former employee of the South Coast Surf Shop in Ocean Beach after he pleaded guilty to robbing two clerks at a jewelry store in an unrelated case.

The surf-shop case against Derek Jacob Patterson, 22, involved the theft of surfboards, embezzlement and grand-theft charges, but the case was dropped because Patterson pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery, which are more serious charges, said Deputy District Attorney Dave Williams.

Patterson robbed Zales Jewelry store in Grossmont Center on June 14 after he was no longer working at the surf shop. He pulled out a black semi-automatic handgun and ordered employees to the floor while he took \$77,000 worth of rings and other jewelry.

He faces a maximum term of six years in prison, but El Cajon Superior Court Judge John Thompson said he would consider imposing a three-year term.

SEE BRIEFS, Page 3



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BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

Sentencing is set for Feb. 7.

Patterson, who was arrested June 27, admitted to posing as a customer at Zales for an hour before pulling a gun on employees around 8:15 p.m.

The stolen surfboards were not recovered during the investigation. Patterson remains in custody on \$170,000 bail.

—Neal Putnam

PLNU has 3rd-highest CPA exam pass rate

Point Loma Nazarene University

(PLNU) recorded the third-highest pass rate in California on the 2010 certified public accountant exam, according to a report by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA).

PLNU was No. 1 among private and Christian universities, according to the report. PLNU graduates also had the highest average score on the exam.

"I am pleased and proud of our PLNU accounting alumni," said accounting professor Carl Hammond. "It is rewarding to see their hard work pay off, so they are able to build valuable careers. It is an honor to teach at a university that recruits this caliber of students."

The University of California, Berkeley ranked No. 1 overall with a 60.2 percent

pass rate, while UCLA took the second spot with 58.6 percent. PLNU was just one-tenth of a point behind UCLA with 58.5 percent.

Rounding out the top five were the University of Southern California and Chapman University.

There were 57 schools in California ranked in NASBA report.

Rock Church robotics team set for SD qualifier

The Rock Academy High School robotics team is heading into the San Diego F.I.R.S.T. Tech Challenge Championship Qualifying Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 14 in hopes of moving on to the

World Championship Tournament in St. Louis.

This weekend's round at Madison High School will involve more than 400 participants from 48 teams representing California, Arizona and Nevada, according to officials with The Rock Church on Rosecrans Street in Point Loma.

The team, dubbed The Warriors, will compete to win The Inspire Award after recently winning second place at the Los

Angeles Championship Tournament, along with two other awards.

The Rock Academy participates in F.I.R.S.T. Robotics, which is a national robotics program for youth. The mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology.

For more information, visit www.sdrock.com.

OBITUARY

Dave Jessen of OB was volunteer and car aficionado

On Friday morning, Jan. 6, Dave Jessen — one of Ocean Beach's familiar and well-loved citizens — passed away quietly in his home in the arms of his wife, Linda.

Dave and Linda were seen regularly at Ocean Beach events and restaurants. I will miss seeing them in their little red convertible, sometimes a Volkswagen, sometimes a Honda 2000, sometimes a VW Rabbit, but always a red convertible, driving in Ocean Beach with his brown, shiny, bald head with Linda by his side.

Dave was always so friendly and helpful and loved Ocean Beach. He helped with the anti-graffiti campaign and the Police Officers' Association.

The two of them helped keep many a restaurant in the black by putting their money where their mouths were and supporting new and old eateries in town. He will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, friends may donate in his name to the Ocean Beach Community Foundation at www.wesupportob.com.



DAVE JESSEN

Courtesy of Dennis DeSouza Remax Lic. 01220680

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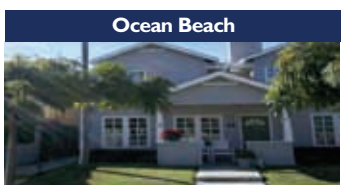
Rancho Bernardo | \$225K-\$240K

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Ocean Beach | \$289,900

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Carlsbad | 619,000

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Ocean Beach | \$329,000

Sea Colony! Plan 3. 2 br, 1.5 ba end-unit townhome with direct entry attached 2-car garage. Just painted, newer carpet. Unit wired for sound system in living room and master br. Faces west, 2 decks.



Ocean Beach | \$389,000

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OBITUARY

Winklea, furrier and longtime OB resident, was 94



MILLARD H. WINKLEA

Millard H. Winklea, our beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on Jan. 2. He was 94.

Born in Sandusky, Ohio on Dec. 16, 1917, he led an adventurous and productive life. Affectionately known as "Wink," his generosity of spirit and kind demeanor touched all who met him. He loved music, fishing and most of all, being with his family.

For more than 70 years, he was a resident of Ocean Beach. He was a highly creative person and his work was the perfect vehicle for his skills. He

owned and operated Millard's Fur Service in San Diego for more than 40 years, designing fabulous fur garments.

He shared his beautiful singing voice in church choir, at weddings and funerals, and with all who were lucky enough to hear him sing snippets of songs daily.

He was an active member of the Point Loma United Methodist church for 50 years.

Instrumental in organizing many of the 20/30 clubs in San Diego in the early 1950s, he was an active member

of the Downtown Optimist Club in the 1960s. He is survived by sister, Margaret Reiff; daughters JoEllen Hoobler, Mary Winklea, Deborah Winklea and Martha (Marti) Hess; grandchildren Jenny Suter, David Suter, Sara Heckman, Sonja Baczynski, Annie Larkins, Katie Hess, and Amanda Hess; as well as seven great-grandchildren.

Services will take place at noon on Feb. 10 at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, with a celebration of life to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to make a donation to San Diego Hospice in his name.

PLANNERS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

his newest assignment at City Hall: a group that could help create jobs in San Diego. Faulconer is a member of the Committee on Economic Development and Strategies, a newly created group that meets for the first time Jan. 30, according to Faulconer aide Michael Patton. Faulconer will continue serving on the council's Audit Committee and Rules Committee but will leave the Land Use and Housing Committee, Patton said.

• A ribbon-cutting ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for the Ocean Beach Entryway on Jan. 20 at 10 a.m., Patton said.

• Gibran Maciel, aide to District 76 state Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, introduced himself to OBPB members. He can be reached at gibran-maciel@asm.ca.gov, or by calling (619) 645-3090.

• Next month could be important for anyone who's thought about serving on the OBPB. Annual elections take place in March, so the monthly February meeting represents the last chance for hopefuls to meet a requirement that candidates attend at least one meeting in the year prior to elections. More candidate requirements and information are available at www.oceanbeachpb.com.

• Nearly 90 disadvantaged local families benefited from the generosity of residents who contributed to the Ocean Beach Town Council's annual Food and Toy Drive this past holiday season, said Watson, who also serves on that Town Council's board of directors. The proceeds were generated by a whole slew of Town Council-sponsored events during the year, like the restaurant walk, pancake breakfast, craft fairs, auction, parade, T-shirt sales and canned food drive, Watson said.

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Wednesday, February 8, at 6 p.m. \$75 per person.

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VALENTINE'S GETAWAY

Continue the romance with an exclusive Valentine's room package from the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. Enjoy oceanfront accommodations, a bottle of bubbly delivered to your room, an extraordinary dinner for two at The Marine Room on February 14, and more. Visit LJBTC.com/SpecialOffers for more information.

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Some locals blame personal injuries and vehicle damage on the pitted public parking lot on Abbott Street. Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

PARKING

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

"It's a perfect spot to park," Spatafino said. "I walk my dog, surf, skateboard or take my bike over to Newport Avenue. It's perfect except for the irritating craters in this lot. They're messed up."

Spatafino said he has twisted his ankles in the dark several times over the years.

"This lot is costing me money, let me tell you ... let alone [damage to] my truck," Spatafino said.

Not only have his truck's tires been damaged, he said, the craters have also led to a broken left balljoint.

"Who pays for that?" he asked. "Should I send a bill to the city? I mean, I pay taxes, why won't anybody fix this mess? Where does the money go?"

Fellow skater John Prather, who has lived in Ocean Beach for four years, said he has never seen the lot look any different than it does now. He said he thinks the holes have become even worse of late.

The frustration

"It's an obvious tripping hazard for sure," Prather said.

He said he doesn't drive often, but he rides his skateboard through the lot.

"Well, I actually have to walk my skateboard through the lot," Prather said. "It's unrideable. I wish, they [the city] would take better care of this beautiful place, take pride in this, the town, the beaches. Like, in La Jolla, they don't have potholes that sit there unattended for years, getting bigger by the day."

Prather said he believes the city should make the parking lot more presentable.

"Everybody comes here," he said. "It's a beautiful scene. Hey, I'm down to help fix it. I'll volunteer if they [the city] need helpers. We'll get a crew together. It

won't cost them anything. The place is worth my time for me."

Richard Stevens, 38, lives inland, but also wonders where his tax dollars are going. He said he has been driving his RV camper to Ocean Beach every summer since 1996, staying for four weeks at a time to surf as much as he can.

"I've noticed it [the parking lot] getting worse each year," Stevens said. "Don't the Park and Rec guys report these kind of damages to somebody?"

He believes the reason the lot isn't getting fixed is because of the proliferation of RVs and campers in the parking lot.

"It appears to me that campers and travelers aren't so welcome here," he said.

He thinks sending bills to the city for car alignments and other damages associated the lot might have an impact.

"Maybe that will get their [the city's] attention," Stevens said. "Or, even worse, if someone gets seriously hurt tripping, like older people or someone in a wheelchair or kids ... that might wake them up and do something."

Solution coming?

Dan Daneri, district manager for the city Park and Recreation Department's shoreline parks division that oversees the Ocean Beach public parking lot maintenance, provides a promising answer.

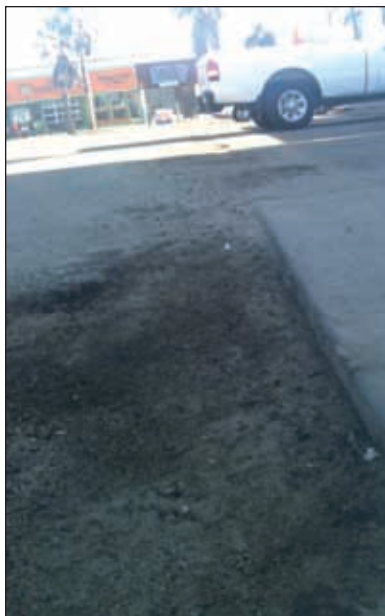
"The city has been well aware of the recurring damages to the property," said Daneri. "We have been working on that problem for a long time now. Unfortunately, for the past years, we've had a problem acquiring funds to accomplish the task. We've been limited to temporary patch jobs, only filling in the holes."

"In order to provide a proper and safe function for the use of that parking lot," he continued, "we're going to have to resurface and restripe the entire lot."

Daneri expressed concern and sympathy regarding public complaints and frustration.

"We're anticipating applicable funds to finance and start this important project," Daneri said. "Very, very shortly, I hope, we'll have the green light. No more patch jobs. The lot will be totally new. Reconstructing the Saratoga Park parking lot is one of the top-two priorities on our list to achieve in Ocean Beach this year."

For more information or to make a comment or suggestion, Daneri said he invites readers to call his main office Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at (619) 235-5914.



Some of the pitted areas of the parking lot are as much as a foot deep and five feet in diameter. Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

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Some locals express a real concern for their families in the face of unruly and aggressive behavior by young panhandlers and transients.

Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon

DILEMMA

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The group defies statistics, Knox cautioned, because its members rarely commit crimes against persons and thus leave law enforcement at a loss for correlating numbers (2011 police department statistics reflect no homicides and 83 armed robberies or aggravated assaults through September in Ocean Beach, a neighborhood of about 28,000 residents).

But the group's requests for food, cigarettes and money are colored with aggressive language — and Knox said that homelessness, the usual catch-all explanation for such behaviors, may or may not be part of the equation.

"I don't care to call them 'homeless,'" Knox said. "It's not necessarily homeless. It could be, but it's mostly young guys having it out with each other. It could be over drinking or drugs. Usually, they're so drunk they don't know what's going on. We try to call right away and get them emergency services, but sometimes, emergency services come out [several times] in a week for one guy. Emergency services know their names, and they pick them up over and over and over and over again. The cost is astronomical."

Figures on the annual cost of repeatedly arresting, transporting, jailing and filling out paperwork on Ocean Beach's offenders are unavailable. A 2009-10 grand jury report says the cost of these procedures for 90 people in the downtown area was about \$320,000 at the end of 2010, not counting the cost to city government, which also has to pay for public defenders, prosecutors and court time.

The cost in aggravation is perhaps considerably more. One Ocean Beach resident said he's leaving the community, having been "panhandled out" after 3½ years. A bar patron cautioned me to watch my back as I sought more street-level information for this story. And Knox herself, who's lived in Ocean Beach since 1966, was met with three or four "escorts" on her way to a Christmas lunch at an Ocean Beach restaurant, curious about the package she was carrying and asking for money.

However, two recent walks down Newport Avenue reflected fewer panhandlers than in months past (this reporter is a former Ocean Beach resident who noticed an escalation of the problem about two years ago, when the San Diego Police Department started citing "aggressive panhandling" as a neighborhood characteristic).

Young people still sit on public sidewalks, dotting the landscape with the ubiquitous guitar cases that double as collection plates. But more often than not, they'd begrudgingly obey the nearby merchants' commands to disperse.

Newport Farms Market sits on the corner of Newport Avenue and Bacon Street, arguably Ocean Beach's busiest intersection, and near the spot on which the Dec. 4 assault took place. This time, the panhandlers were absent, and, uncharacteristically, the entrance into the store was unimpeded.

"There aren't as many of them now," said a clerk who asked to be identified only as David. "It's not like before. Maybe it's because of the colder weather."

Spot checks at other shops and restaurants resulted in a similar response.

"We're starting to stand up for our-

selves," said Michelle Feirn, a longtime counter worker at Newport Avenue's landmark Little Chef Chinese restaurant. "They're starting to get the idea that we're not going to take this crap anymore."

Still, the problem lingers. One merchant who declined to be identified said she's met with aggressive requests for food or cigarettes some 15 or 20 times a day as she walks or bikes to work.

"I'm surprised it's not more than that," Knox said. "The locals we've known for a long time aren't usually that aggressive, and they usually keep to themselves. But there's sort of this new younger crew that feels they're entitled to everything that you have. People want an alternative lifestyle, and that's fine, but don't hang on me. I'm in my 60s, and I have two jobs. What're you doing?"

The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association has met with neighborhood and city officials many times regarding the problem, Knox said, with little result.

"Pretty much," Knox said, "what comes out of those meetings are requests for showers, bathrooms, safe places to sleep. They can't even afford those downtown, where there's a lot more money. That's kind of where we're stuck in the abyss."

Knox said the charities whose hearts are in the right place may be contributing to the problem.

"When the churches come down and feed the hanger-outers," Knox said, "[the transients] get on the circuit. They go from free feeding to free feeding. These are not families with children and all the tear-jerker stuff. These are guys who've made the decision to be here. They don't want to have to change their clothes. I



With the "live and let live" philosophy of Ocean Beach, some panhandlers are anything but shy about what they want and how to go about getting it.

don't know what to do with people like that in a free country.

"I'm not sure how you effect a change," she said. "It seems like the country hasn't figured out how to deal with this, especially California."

The problem, Knox said, is nothing new to Ocean Beach, long known for its generous spirit and commitment to community involvement. But no good deed

goes unpunished, as in the case of a downtown merchant who'd told Knox that those Occupy San Diego demonstrators had made their point. Despite his kindnesses, he lamented, the demonstrators' disruptions might cause him to close his doors.

"I had to laugh," Knox said. "I told him that our panhandler problem makes us go through that every day."



Police say crime statistics associated with some of the young, aggressive transients along the beachfront are often difficult to quantify because of the changing makeup of the group.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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JULIE HOISINGTON
KEVIN MCKAY (x131)
bbp@sdnews.com
beacon@sdnews.com

KENDRA HARTMANN (x133)
downtown@sdnews.com
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PHOTOGRAPHERS

DON BALCH, JIM GRANT,
PAUL HANSEN, MIKE MCCARTHY

CONTRIBUTORS

BART MENDOZA, BIANCA KOCH,
CAROL OLTON, CHARLENE BALDRIDGE,
DIANA CAVAGNARO, HOLLY BEEDLE,
JOHN FRY, JOHNNY McDONALD,
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Winston's elevates funny business to a whole 'nother level

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

If laughter is the best medicine, than Ocean Beach residents are fortunate to have one of the best comedy spots in San Diego — Winston's Beach Club — in their midst. Although the club is best known as one of the area's top music venues, for the last six years it's also been comedy central for a growing group of performers.

"Ocean Beach Comedy Night" takes place every Friday at 6 p.m., with a special Wednesday night "OB Comedy Competition" at 6 p.m. that takes place weekly from Jan. 18 through April 4. The contest will ultimately determine the funniest person in Ocean Beach, with a cash prize and the title of "OB's Funniest Person" among the spoils for the winner.

While comedy venues have not always met with great success in San Diego, comedian Jesse Egan, one of the event's founders and a mainstay of local comedy alongside booker Jeff Bilodeau, thinks the venue's location is partially responsible for this particular event's longevity.

"I think it's a great town for comedy," Egan said.

He said the audiences are diverse.

"A lot of comedians come and they expect it to be a low-brow, stoner audience, but actually, more obscure references and intellectual comedy, which sometimes doesn't work at other venues, seem to work really well at Winston's," Egan said. "It's a mixed bag. It's sort of like, if you do well at Winston's, you've really got something."

Egan said there is a big difference between Winston's and most comedy venues.

"It's a bar and it can be a little bit daunting for the comedian who has to keep the attention of an audience when they're sitting far back at the bar, as opposed to up close and listening attentively like they would in a comedy club," he said.

The club's website includes a note about this night not being "your average comedy show" and boasting no "timid crowds" or "cookie-cutter comics."

"The warning might be more ominous than it needs to be," Egan said. "Basically, we're just trying to have a funny show and hope that the audience has an open mind. We were just trying to let people know that it's completely uncensored comedy. We don't censor the comedians, so they shouldn't expect necessarily 'G-rated' material. We get a lot of variety."

He said the night's changing formats are also a part of the reason for the event's long run.

"We keep evolving it," Egan said. "We keep trying to do something new and something fresh for comedy."

He cites a "lightning round" section of their weekly events, during which comics jump on stage and tell a single joke in rapid succession, as a particular crowd pleaser.

Though Egan has had a lifelong love of comedy, his career as a comedian actually began with this very event.

"I basically started when we started, I'm about six years into it now," he said. Egan was originally the event host.

"We had a segment where comedians would take suggestions from the audience on slips of paper, and then pull them out of a hat," Egan recalled. "After awhile, I started writing my own jokes and putting them in the hat and then I would watch the other comedians doing stuff with them. I soon started thinking, 'Well, I can do something funnier with my own ideas.'"

Egan said he is thrilled with the way "Ocean Beach Comedy Night" has been embraced by the community, but he's also happy to be living a lifelong dream of making people laugh. Considered something of a class clown as a youngster, comedy has always been something he gravitated toward.

"My parents would play old tapes of Mel Brooks and his '2000 Year Old Man,' as well as Bill Cosby," he recalled. "I listened to a lot of Richard Pryor and artists like that when I was growing up. So it all finally sunk in. And now I get to do it."

• **OB Comedy Competition:** Wednesday, Jan. 18 and 25, at **Winston's Beach Club**, 1921 Bacon St., 6 p.m. 21 and up. www.winstonsob.com



Comedian Jesse Egan, a founder of the "Ocean Beach Comedy Night" at Winston's Beach Club, said he attributes the longevity of the six-year-old event, in part, to the venue's location in Ocean Beach.

Courtesy photo by KRoehr Photography

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New Pointers weight room beginning to emerge after delays

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

Another new structure at Point Loma High School (PLHS) is nearing completion after many delays and difficulties that may now, ironically enough, be turning out best for students.

There won't be any textbooks used in this building, and it's likely no science experiments or historical debates will take place within its walls. Numbers, however, will play a key role as Pointer students do something else: sweat.

The school's new weight room, a key component in interscholastic sports success, but also in everyday physical education classes, is quickly taking shape in the southwest corner of Pete Ross Stadium west of the bleachers.

But, as The Beatles sang, the project has followed "(A) Long and Winding Road" since its proposal four years ago. The road included a funding grant, disputes among parents, school district demands and concessions — plus unforeseen construction issues.

When construction finally began several months ago, several problems arose, including the discovery of massive concrete footings from a long-ago structure,

that drove the cost above original estimates, said John Murphy, PLHS athletic director.

The project's fortunes took a big positive turn recently when the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) agreed to allow use of PLHS's discretionary Proposition S bond money to pay for increased costs above those previously allocated under the ballot measure.

With the building's costs covered, the original seed money for the project, a grant from the Jimmy Johnson (of NASCAR fame) Foundation two years ago, will now be used to equip the building with top-quality weight training and workout equipment.

Head football coach Mike Hastings has been poring over brochures and catalogs while he and Murphy meet with representatives of various suppliers to select the best components and stretch their budget to benefit the students.

After opening in the coming months, school officials expect the weight room to provide a modern, comfortable facility for many years that will help students improve their physiques and gain strength.

The school's former weight room was

housed in two portable classrooms at the same location, but the dilapidated buildings were condemned by inspectors and ordered demolished.

When officials at PLHS were surveyed for Proposition S site needs, the weight room was listed and included on the planned improvements at the school. However, it was not scheduled to be built until 2014.

In 2009, parent Lisa Tumbiolo applied to the Jimmy Johnson Foundation for funding that is given out annually for worthwhile projects at local schools. Johnson's "Lowe's Toolbox for Education" group, founded in 2006, donates to San Diego County schools. Johnson grew up in El Cajon.

The PLHS application, which included a video produced by then-school ASB President Josh Morse, was personally reviewed by Johnson. The foundation approved a grant of \$90,000 to help replace the facilities and invited PLHS leaders and parents to appear with Johnson at a "Homecoming Rally" at the Lowe's store in El Cajon.

Originally it was believed a basic weight room could be built by parents for \$185,000, but conflicts among

them stalled the project.

Then, SDUSD officials listed requirements for the facility that drove costs up.

The final project's configuration does not include air conditioning and water fountains that were part of the hoped-for features.

Like any project, recent changes had to be made to ensure enough electrical outlets were available for current exercise equipment that feature digital readouts.

The new building will also signal the riddance of a school eyesore where a temporary outdoor training area was set up on the school's tennis courts as old weight machines deteriorated and rusted while being exposed to the elements.

PLHS SPORTS ROUNDUP

Point Loma High School Athletic Director John Murphy reports 800 students at the school are involved in sports programs in fall and winter seasons. Spring sports should push that number even higher, according to Murphy.

Among winter teams, **girls' water polo** is off to an excellent start with victories over Clairemont (13-4), Santana (16-14) and Mission Bay (6-1) after a four-match losing streak

to powerful Valhalla, West Hills, Grossmont and Eastlake.

In **girls' basketball**, new head coach Dave Aros and his squad won their Central League-opener Jan. 6 with a 37-32 victory over Crawford.

In non-league action, the Lady Pointers recorded a 2-4 mark with wins coming against High Tech San Diego (51-18) and High Tech Chula Vista (52-24).

Other Central League games will be against Christian, Coronado, Madison, Kearny and Clairemont.

Perhaps the strongest winter team is that of **boys' basketball**, where an opening Central League victory over Crawford (77-49) improved their record to 6-4. Chris Brisco's team also recorded an 80-14 blowout of High Tech San Diego last week.

Scoring leaders are Kohl Meyer (15.3 points per game), Dillon Fitzmorris (13.1), Jamal Agnew (9.6) and Dan Enright (8.1). Fitzmorris has 29 three-point baskets while Meyer has 20.

For an in-depth roundup of this week's Point Loma High School spring sports programs, visit us online at www.sdnews.com and click on the *Peninsula Beacon's* sports link.



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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.

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Looking
» ahead

Peninsula-area events, Jan. 13-Feb. 14

THURSDAY, Jan. 12

Point Loma High School will host an **informational meeting for prospective students and their parents** at 6 p.m. The event will offer an opportunity for new students and parents to meet the school's administrators, coaches, counselors, current students and parents, and teachers at Point Loma High. The event takes place in the school's gymnasium, located at 2335 Chatsworth Blvd. The event includes an overview of the various programs, clubs and music opportunities at the school and the course-selection process and enrollment process for ninth-grade courses. For more information, call the PLHS counseling office at (619) 223-3121, ext. 1129.

FRIDAY, Jan. 13

Free presentation called "Shifting into the Real World: Preparing You for Humanity's Shift out of the Substitute World and into the Real World." As the old, unevolved structures the world has been based on are crumbling around us, the world is quickly evolving into a new experience of reality. Learn how to be a part of this shift, rather than at the mercy of it, with intuitive and transformational counselor, teacher and author Jane Ilene Cohen. The free event takes place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Ocean Beach People's Co-Op community room, 4765 Voltaire St. The event is limited to 18 people. To RSVP, call (760) 753-0733 or visit www.JaneCohenCounseling.com.

SATURDAY, Jan. 14

Friends of Famosa Slough will host a **work party** to care for California native plants and remove invasive plants. The event takes place from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to meet at the southeast corner of W. Point Loma and Famosa boulevards. For more information, call (619) 224-4591.

MONDAY, Jan. 18

Naval Base Point Loma's Restoration Advisory Board meets from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Southwestern Yacht Club, located at 2702 Qualtrough St. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, call (619) 556-0193.

THURSDAY, Jan. 19

The **Ocean Beach Historical Society** hosts **local photographer Joe Ewing**, whose topic will be "The Sequel." Ewing returns for the second consecutive year as he showcases some of his spectacular shots of Ocean Beach beaches, pets and the community at large. The event takes place at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.obhistory.wordpress.com



Nature and wildlife artist and safari expert Fred Krakowiak will be featured at a book-launch party at O'Bistro on Jan. 22

Courtesy photo

SUNDAY, Jan. 22

O'Bistro restaurant in Ocean Beach will host a **book-launch party and art show** for Arizona-based nature and wildlife artist and safari expert Fred Krakowiak from 2 to 4 p.m. Krakowiak's new coffee-table book is titled "The Artist's Safari: Capturing Africa with Pen, Lens, and Paintbrush." Books and artwork will be available for sale at the event. O'Bistro is located at 4934 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 795-3498, or visit www.maverickbrushstrokes.com.
Annual meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. The meeting will be held at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal at 7 p.m. All members and prospective members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information, call (619) 223-5880, or visit www.upses.com.

The Music on the Point series features a concert by **pianist Jacqueline Schwab** at 4 p.m. The event takes place at All Souls' Episcopal Church, located at 1474 Catalina Blvd. A donation of \$5 is requested. A reception follows. For more information, call (619) 223-6394, ext.13, or visit www.allsouls.com.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1

Sharp Memorial Hospital's Senior Resource Center will host **free blood pressure**

checks. No appointment necessary and the public is welcome from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Agnes Catholic Church, located at 1145 Evergreen St. For more information, call (800) 827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

MONDAY, Feb. 6

A **benefit concert for the Westminster Community Garden** at 7 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3598 Talbot St. Featured work will be the Schubert Octet, performed by Alyze Dreiling and Joan Zelickman, violins; Robert Zelickman, clarinet; Rebecca

Campbell, viola; Glen Campbell, cello; Leyla Zamora, basson; Jane Lam, Horn and Margaret Johnston, bass. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, call (619) 223-3193 or visit www.westminstersd.com.

TUESDAY, Feb. 7

Sharp Memorial Hospital's Senior Resource Center will host **free blood pressure checks.** No appointment necessary and the public is welcome from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Peninsula Family YMCA, located at 4390 Valeta St. For more information, call (800)

827-4277, or visit www.sharp.com.

TUESDAY, Feb. 14

Sharp Memorial Hospital's Senior Resource Center will host a **free lecture on diabetes, treatment, education and management.** The lecture will be given by a Sharp certified diabetes educator. The event takes place from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, located at 4425 Valeta St. Registration required by calling (800) 827-4277, or visiting www.sharp.com.

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