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What insolvency could mean for SDUSD, PB schools down line

By MARIKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

If the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is unable to pass a balanced budget by July 1 next year, the district could be considered financially insolvent, causing a state takeover of the district, said SDUSD officials.

If that comes to pass, the school board would become an advisory body, Superintendent Bill Kowba would be out

one administrator to make all the district's decisions.

"They bring in one person who will essentially say, 'Close that school. Get rid of those programs. Increase class size,' but without any thought to the impact," said Scott Barnett, who represents beach-area schools in the district.

At minimum, the district faces a \$60 million deficit next fiscal year due, in

of a job and the state would bring in part, to four consecutive years of state budget cuts to public education. Since 2007, SDUSD has been forced to cut \$450 million from its budget and reduce staff by 15 percent.

> the state, "has used every budget trick in the bag to get through these difficult times," said Kowba. "These cumulative reductions have been sweeping and devastating and are now being felt in all of

This school year, students started the year with 1,000 fewer teachers and staff members.

To further pour salt in the wound, the SDUSD, like many other districts in state will trigger midyear cuts in December if the state's revenue projections optimistically presumed to be \$4 billion

fall short by \$2 billion or more. At the end of September, state revenue projections were already more than \$700

million below its budget target.

If the triggers are engaged, SDUSD's deficit could skyrocket up to \$118 million next year — a price tag Kowba said the district simply can't afford.

"Under that worst-case scenario, even with employee concessions and hundreds of teacher and support staff layoffs, a balanced budget will be very

SEE **DISTRICT**, Page 6





Court-appointed receiver targets late November

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI | BEACH & BAY PRESS

he Plunge, Mission Beach's iconic indoor pool, is being prepped for a reopening in late November.

The pool, a popular and historic centerpiece of Belmont Park, was closed in May after former master leaseholder Tom Lochtefeld became locked in a lengthy and bitter rental-increase battle with the city and subsequently lost his lease.

Under court-appointed receivership, the Plunge appears poised for a rebirth although details about the new direction of the pool facility and Belmont Park as a whole have not yet been publicly revealed.

'We don't have an exact date on when the pool will be reopened but it will be in late November," said Mike Garcia of Wave became subject to new terms of House Athletic Club's member services.

City officials have also said \$1.2 million in repairs are necessary in order to

keep the pool open. The work will include a new roof and replacement of 24 columns that support the roof.

"We plan on putting a second roof (scaffolding) under the current roof to catch any falling debris and we're not sure at this time what will happen with the columns," Garcia said.

The closure of the Plunge and the resulting court-appointed receivership created another chapter of drama for the city involving the historic pool facility.

Lochtefeld's lease feud was triggere after the city increased Lochtefeld's rent by about 700 percent. Lochtefeld, who had been paying \$70,000 annually since signing his lease agreement with the city in 2002, had run out of rent credits and \$480,000 annually.

SEE **PLUNGE.** Page 3

PB restaurant owner pleads to hiring undocumented workers

By NEAL PUTNAM

BEACH & BAY PRESS

The owner and manager of The French Gourmet restaurant have both pleaded guilty to charges involving the hiring of undocumented workers. Meanwhile, the restaurant has agreed to forfeit \$350,000 to the U.S. government as a penalty.

Owner Michel Francois Malecot, 59, and manager Richard Kauffmann, 58, will be sentenced Dec. 19 by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas

Whelan. Malecot and Kauffmann remain free on \$75,000 and \$60,000 bond, respectively.

Kauffmann pleaded guilty on behalf of the restaurant on Oct. 13 to hiring 10 illegal aliens. Kauffmann faces a maximum term of five years in federal prison because off alleged prior hirings of the same nature. Meanwhile, Malecot signed a document that allows federal prosecuto seek between

SEE **GOURMET**, Page 3



Diver Steve Schur shows off a large lobster caught at Mission Bay last year. Lobster-diving season has officially opened.

Lobster season: the thrill of the catch can be a deadly pursuit

By Mariko Lamb

REACH & RAV PRESS

Lobster diving season has hit the California coastline from Monterrey Bay to the Gulf of Tehuantepec, Mexico. Popular coastal sites in San Diego like Wreck Alley off Mission Beach's shore, the La Jolla Ecological Reserve and Point Loma's giant kelp forest draw in lob-

ster divers from all over the nation for the thrill of catching the delicious cru taceans.

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

SEE **DIVING**, Page 5



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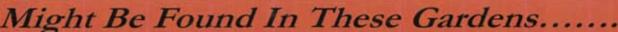


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PLUNGE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Lochtefeld's inability to pay caused the city to file a default notice and Lochtefeld's company, Wave House Belmont Park LLC, was forced to file for bankruptcy in November of 2010. Belmont Park was turned over to the East West Bank, which has now turned over control of the facility to Kenneth A. Krasne, a court-appointed receiver.

City officials repeatedly said during the financial feud that Lochtefeld signed the 2002 lease with an understanding of the higher lease rate later, and maintained he was trying to change the terms after the fact.

Lochtefeld, in turn, maintained the city's demand was unreasonable and that it rejected his vision plans years ago for redevelopment and enhancement.

The Plunge originally opened in May 1925 as part of the original Mission Beach Amusement Center, which was opened on July 4 that year



The direction of Belmont Park and its signature Plunge pool facility and wooden rollercoaster, above, is as yet unclear.

by former San Diego businessman John D. Spreckels. Spreckels hoped the amusement park would draw

tourists and eventually promote real estate sales in the vacant Mission Beach area. The Plunge was a novelty at the time as an indoor, saltwater

The park also included a wooden roller coaster known as the "Giant Dipper." The amusement park, which became known later as Belmont Park, fell into disrepair by the 1970s and was forced to close in 1976 until the efforts of the grassroots "Save the Coaster Committee" helped reopen the coaster on Aug. 11, 1990.

The roller coaster was added to the National Historic Landmarks in 1987. Throughout that time, the Plunge remained open.

The Plunge and the roller coaster are the only original featured attractions of the Mission Beach Amusement Center.

Lochtefeld, a local, bought the leases for Belmont Park and the Plunge before developing the Wave House Athletic Club, Wave House restaurant and the unique wave machine for water-sports adventurers.

Former PB man gets 15 to life for killing roommate in 2008

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A former Pacific Beach man convicted of second-degree murder in the 2008 slaying of his roommate was sentenced Oct. 21 to 15 years to life in state prison.

Although Ian Alex Suazo, 24, was convicted by a jury in March 2010 of killing Ocie Raines, 39, he had been considered mentally incompetent to be sentenced until recently.

Doctors at Patton State Hospital determined only recently that Suazo appeared to be mentally competent.

On Friday, San Diego Superior Court Judge John Einhorn denied Suazo probation and gave him credit for about 1,100 days spent in jail and in the mental hos-

At his trial, Suazo pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, but the jury determined he was sane when he stabbed Raines to death on Sept. 24, 2008 inside their Agate Street apartment. Following the stabbing, Suazo went outside and walked into the middle of the street around 9 a.m. and was hit by a car on Mission Boulevard.

Investigators said this was apparently a suicide attempt and Suazo was arraigned in a hospital bed while recovering from injuries he suffered when he was struck by the car. Suazo was 21 at the time.

Deputy District Attorney Ana De Santiago argued Suazo knew the difference between right and wrong and was able to keep a job at a bar in Pacific Beach before the slaying.

GOURMET

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

\$350,000 and \$650,000 in criminal forfeiture.

Malecot pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of "a pattern and practice of continuing to employ illegal aliens," according documents from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Malecot could receive a sentence of six months in federal prison, said his lawyer, Eugene

"We feel the restaurant can survive if forfeiture is set at \$350,000, but not more than that," said Iredale, who also represents the restaurant. "It employs over 100 U.S. citizens."

Iredale said some of the undocumented workers "were longtime

employees" and the owner did not want to fire them just because of their immigration status. Other undocumented workers misrepresented their status to Malecot when they were hired, Iredale

Malecot has owned the Turquoise Avenue restaurant for 32 years. Kauffmann has worked there for 28 years.

Charges of conspiracy and harboring illegal aliens will be dismissed during the sentencing, said court officials. When charges were first filed in April 2010, prosecutors initially said they would seek forfeiture of the restaurant and the property itself but later revised that to a forfeiture range between \$350,000 and \$650,000.

The former Immigration and Naturalization Service fined the restaurant in the 1990s for employing undocu-

mented workers, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The restaurant received letters in 2005 and 2006 from the Social Security Administration that several employees' names did not match Social Security numbers.

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NEWS & EVENTS

Benefit for musician, Guns 'n' Roses tribute, a spry 80-something bluesman

LIVEMUSIC

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Keyboardist "Mighty Joe" Longa has been a mainstay of the local music scene for nearly four decades, most recently performing with Joey Harris and the Mentals. Recent health issues have racked up significant medical bills for Longa, so local performing artists in the community are coming together en masse to put on a benefit show at Tio Leo's on Oct. 28. On hand will be a stellar cast, including Mojo Nixon, The Farmers, Private Domain, Chet Cannon and Modern Rhythm. This is a golden opportunity to hear some great music and help one of San Diego's most beloved musicians at the same time.

• 'Mighty Joe' benefit: begins at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 at **Tio Leo's**, 5302 Napa St. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.tioleos.com

Guns and Roses may currently be on tour, but if you want to hear and see what the band was like in their 1980s heyday, you can't get any closer than tribute band Dust 'n' Bones, appearing at the 710 Beach Club on Oct. 29. The band plays all the expected hits from "Paradise City" to "Welcome to the Jungle," but what makes it one of the hottest groups on the circuit is its dedication to the look of the group. From clothes to gear to wigs, Dust 'n' Bones has meticulously recreated the G 'n' R experience. At this late stage in the Axel Rose saga with his sidemen, Dust 'n' Bones may actually be better than the real thing.

• Dust 'n' Bones performs at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 p.m., at the **710 Beach Club,** 710 Garnet Ave. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.710bc.com

Anyone looking for music that avoids a template, yet hits all the right

notes when it comes to beats, melody and musicianship will want to check out Agave, which performs at the Tiki House on Oct. 30. The band celebrates its first decade this year with work started on a sophomore album, fusing just about anything musical they can find into a mix that's greater than the sum of its parts — from rock to reggae, calypso to funk and everything in between. It all adds up to a sound

Agave performs at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct.
 29, 9 p.m. at The Tiki House, 1152 Garnet
 Avenue. Cover TBD. 21 and up.
 www.agaveband.com

that's as infectious as it is danceable.

San Diego has many living legends in the area, but none works harder than bluesman Tomcat Courtney. Born in 1929, Courtney has been playing San Diego venues since the 1970s in a career that goes back decades before that. In the process he has given countless San Diegan's valuable lessons in the blues. Though now in his eighties, Courtney still performs three days a week at Café Bar Europa. Whether you're new to Courtney's sounds or even if he's a longtime

favorite, these intimate shows are a must for anyone who enjoys good blues music.

• **Tomcat Courtney** performs at 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at **Café-Bar Europa**, 873 Turqouise St. 21 and up. No cover.

www.theturquoise.com/wordpress

While concert halls, theaters and clubs are the most obvious places to catch live music, for quieter sounds, one of the best locations in the area is the Pacific Beach/Taylor Library, which offers up a free monthly concert. On Wednesday, Nov. 9, classically trained flute and guitar duo AlmaNova makes a special appearance there. Comprised of Jessica Pierce (flute) and guitarist Almer Imamovic, the duo mixes classical with world music from Spain, the Balkans and Latin America for what amounts to a musical trip around the world, all without leaving your chair in Pacific Beach.

AlmaNova performs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday,
 Nov. 9 at Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library,
 4275 Cass St. Open to all ages. Free.
 www.almanova.us



Dust 'n' bones, a tribute band that meticulously re-creates the heyday of rock band Guns 'n' Roses, performs at the 710 Beach Club n Saturday, Oct. 29.

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RE/MEX

There are many good blogs pertaining to San Diego's music community, but none really compare to Rosey Bystrak's SDdialedin.com. Seemingly, at just about every cool happening in town, Bystrak makes it her mission to report daily on local music happenings from locals and touring musicians alike. To celebrate the site's fifth anniversary, Bystrak has put together a party on Nov. 4 at The Griffin, featuring Fierce Creatures, Old Tiger and Josh Damigo, along with DJs Tim Pyles and Man Cat. Whether you go just to check out the bands or thank Bystrak for all the help she's given to area artists, this is the per-



Old Tiger performs Nov. 4 during Rosey Bystrak's SDdialed party at The Griffin.

fect event to kick off the fast-approaching holiday season.

• **SDdialedin party:** 9 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4 at **The Griffin,** 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. www.thegriffinsd.com

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– Bart Mendoza

MUSTREAD

Book recommendation from the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library AUTHOR: Lee Child TITLE: The Affair

SYNOPSIS: Lee Child traces the story of Jack Reacher's early life in the military leading up to the events that rendered him a vigilante hero on the road. This thriller takes Reacher and his readers right to the edge and beyond.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Investigators probe PB Starbucks robberv

Police investigators are looking into a commercial robbery at a Starbucks in Pacific Beach on Oct. 23, in which a white man with a bandana over his face made off with an undisclosed amount of

The suspect, believed to be between 35-40 years old and wearing all black, entered the store on Garnet Avenue shortly before 10 a.m. and waited in line until he reached the clerk, according to

The man told the clerk he was robbing the store and asked for money. The suspect did not display a weapon and it is unknown if he really was armed, said investigators.

The suspect was given cash from the register before he fled. A customer followed the suspect into the parking lot and saw the suspect getting into a fullsize pickup truck before the man sped off eastbound on Garnet.

Tuesday Farmers Market to partner with schools

Organizers of the Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers Market are poised to support local schools beginning Tuesday, Oct. 25.

The event's organizers, SD Weekly Markets and Discover Pacific Beach, will rebate 5 percent of every dollar spent to a local school in Pacific Beach. The donation period runs through Tuesday, Nov. 29. Supporting local farmers and schools is the whole goal, organizers

The Tuesday Farmer's Market runs from 2 to 6:30 p.m. on Bayard Street from Garnet Avenue to Hornblend Street, and offers 60 farmers and vendors who provide fruits, vegetables, fresh-baked breads and grass-fed beef. Guests who make a purchase from any of the farmers or vendors can ask for and receive school tickets and will be given one ticket for each dollar spent.

Once the shopping experience is com-

pleted, shoppers can bring their tickets to the information booth on Bayard Street near Garnet and deposit them into any of the school jars.

Participating schools include Kate Sessions Elementary, Pacific Beach Elementary, Crown Point Junior Music Academy, Pacific Beach Middle School and Mission Bay High School. The donation program was created to help local schools weather severe budget cuts, while encouraging Pacific Beach families to shop local and educate children about local farmers and sustainable foods.

Donations will be provided to the specific school's PTA.

For more information, visit www.pacificbeachmarket.com.



Bruce the green sea turtle is released back into the wild Tuesday following a 10-month stint of recovery and treatment at SeaWorld Courtesy photo by Mike Aguilera/SeaWorld San Diego San Diego.

SeaWorld releases rehabbed sea turtle

Animal-care specialists and veterinarians at SeaWorld released a green sea turtle — the apparent victim of gunshot wounds, dehydration and lacerations — back in to the wild after a 10month stint of recovery and treatment.

Bruce the turtle was originally discovered in January by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials in the South Bay area, suffering from wounds, lethargy and shortness of breath. At the time, Bruce weighed about 250 pounds and suffered from several lacerations and a crack in his underside.

Since then, SeaWorld animal-care specialists have treated Bruce with antibiotics, pain medication and rehydration fluids to save his life. He now weighs a robust 300 pounds and can forage on his own, according to Sea-World officials.

Bruce was transported to the Chula Vista Bayfront Park, where he was released Oct. 25. The turtle was outfitted with an acoustic transmitter that replaces the one Bruce had at the time of his rescue.

Animal-care experts hope to monitor and track his movements in San Diego Bay and believe the threatened species will stay in the area.

For more information, visit www.seaworldparks.com/SeaWorld-

PB Town Council honors Starfish Award winners

The Pacific Beach Town Council honored the winners of its annual Starfish awards this month.

The award for the most outstanding low-water-use garden went to Ted and Suzanne Mecklenborg at 957 Oliver St. Town Council members said the creative use of cacti, succulents, grasses and rock is an eye-catching asset to the neighborhood.

Also honored were Suzanne and Jim Landa, who live just up the street at 1068 Oliver. Their sensitive remodel of a Spanish-style home — in keeping with the scale and history of Pacific Beach — earned them a Starfish Award for outstanding residential architecture. The home boasts a "charming" front fountain, surrounded by succulents and low-

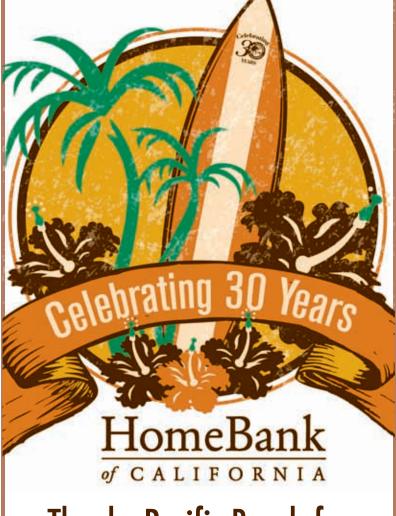
The judges for this latest round of Starfish Awards were co-chairs Eve Anderson and Adam Meyer, along with Scott Chipman and Jim Galvin.

water-use plants.

The Pacific Beach Town Council is accepting nominations for its spring Starfish Awards nominations.

For more information, visit www.pbtowncouncil.org.





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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

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

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 undersize lobster catches and exceeding limits.

The season has not gone all that smoothly since then, however.

One death already occurred from the aquatic pursuit — that of 35-year-old Jimmy Somphiringa Tanovan on Oct. 9.

According to police, Tanovan went into the water alone around 7 p.m. He was found dead in waters south of Children's Pool in La Jolla — in an area known as "Hospital Point" — around 8:30 p.m.

Tanovan's death marks the 11th diving fatality in San Diego since 2007.

Marine safety lifeguard Lt. John Everhart emphasized the importance of div-

"[For] something so simple as lobster diving, there's no real excuse not to have a safety buddy ... This is one of those sports where ignorance is not bliss. Ignorance can get you killed."

> MARK LOZANO Freediving instructor

ing safety during the height of the sea-

"Don't dive alone," he said. "You have to think that every diving death that we've had where a diver was diving alone could have been prevented. It's critical to have a buddy."

He also urged divers be aware of their abilities and surroundings both on the surface of the water with currents and swells and below the surface in the kelp forests, reefs and rocks.

"Most people go at night because the lobsters are walking around then," he said. "But if you're going to an area that you're not familiar with, you should first go during the day."

Even if a diver is familiar with the area, "conditions change frequently," he said, urging divers to check surf, visibility and wind conditions beforehand and watch the water 30 to 45 minutes before entering.

San Diego freediving instructor Mark Lozano recalled receiving a phone call last year from Daniel Garcia, diving buddy of Luke Ausdemore who died freediving for lobsters in Mission Bay last October.

"They were diving together, but they were about 30 yards apart," Lozano said. "If you go into the ocean with

another person and they're your buddy, but they're 100 yards away from you, they're not your buddy anymore."

Garcia detailed the night for Lozano, describing the moment when he noticed that Ausdemore was no longer at the surface of the water. Despite doing everything he could to save his friend, Ausdemore experienced a shallow water blackout - common in freedivers. By the time Garcia noticed he was missing in the water, 10 minutes had lapsed and it was too late to save

Lozano urged divers to have someone watching and waiting for them at the surface of the water.

"When you black out, you don't make any noise," said Lozano, explaining that when one blacks out, the muscle used to hold air in relaxes and the blackout only sounds like an exhalation of breath. "There are too many variables. Because of that, blackouts and motor control failures happen, and time is of the essence. [For] something so simple as lobster diving, there's no real good excuse not to have a safety

Lozano said the majority of diver blackouts occur after they have resurfaced or are within 15 feet of the surface, so just because a diver is in shallow water does not mean the diver is

"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 www.dfg.ca.gov or contact the Department of Fish and Game at (858) 467-

Halloween tends to bring out the little kid in all of us

WHAT'S IN THE AIR, BUD?

By KEVIN DI CICCO | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Vampires and ghosts have been a staple throughout Hollywood's history since its infancy. Dracula, Frankenstein and werewolves have taken center stage in many a movie that has instilled fright for the weak at heart.

Now, more than ever, vampire-type thrillers are big box-office draws for the young adult generation of moviegoers.

Believe it or not. Air Bud's latest installment, "Spooky Buddies," opened up on DVD at No 2 this month. In this film, the buddies must visit Spooky Manor to stop the evil Halloween hound and wicked warlock in order to save the

There is something about Halloween, with ghosts and goblins, carving jack-olanterns and dressing up that makes you feel like a kid again. Pacific Beach is certainly a stage for ghosts and goblins on Halloween night — perhaps now more than ever.

I was strolling down the 1400~blockof Garnet Avenue the other day when I noticed a beautiful pirate wench right out of the 1700s standing in the street waving at me. Curious, I stopped.

"Come on in to our Halloween Boutique," she said.

Delighted, I accepted her invitation. Since I can remember, these seasonal shops have opened up after Labor Day then disappeared after the ghost and goblins have invaded our town on Halloween night.

The owner of the Halloween Bou-



Halloween Boutique owner Keely Ulrich, left, and employee Beth Heitkemper, right, get into the Halloween spirit.

Photo by Kevin Di Cicco I Beach & Bay Press

tique, Keely Ulrich, is an entrepreneurial young lady who secured a two-month lease at 1416 Garnet Ave. and acquired an impressive inventory of just about every costume you can imagine. This year, popular themed characters range from vampires and zombies to Austin Powers and President Obama.

As for me, I will have to go back to the Halloween Boutique and check out the inventory. It's been years since I dressed up, and this year, think I'll give it a whirl. Keely is going to dress up as Wayne from "Wayne's World." She's a vivacious young lady who makes a wonderful addition to our beautiful seaside town, our beloved Pacific Beach.

— Kevin Di Cicco is the owner of Buddy the dog, who is best known for his roles in the long string of "Air Bud" movies and his ball-playing skills showcased on popular television shows. For booking inquiries, contact www.airbud.com.

Looking

ahead

Aea events, Oct. 29-Nov. 9: SATURDAY, Oct. 29

The Seniors Computer Group (SCG) of San Diego will celebrate the 27th anniversary at Wesley Palms, 2404 Loring St., ffrom 9:30 a.m. until noon. For more information, call (858) 459-9065, or visit www.scgsd.org.

SATURDAY, Nov. 5

The Pacific Beach Democratic Club hosts two speakers: Congressman Bob Filner and City Councilwoman Marti Emerald from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1405 Diamond St. For more information, call (858) 274-8173.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 9

The Pacific Beach Town Council will host its monthly sundowner social mixer at JRDN restaurant in PB at 5:30 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and one drink ticket are included in the \$5 admission. The restaurant is located at 723 Felspar St. For more information, visit www.pbtowncouncil.org.



REMEMBERWHEN?

In the 1920s, when Highway 1 to Los Angeles came west on Garnet Avenue and turned north on Cass Street, Pacific Beach Service Station — at the northeast corner of Garnet and Cass — was sitting in the cat-bird seat. Frank McAllister poses in front of the station in this photo. The Pacific Beach sign over Cass Street is long 272-6655 or mail@johnfry.com.

gone, but locals might recognize the home at the left as Cafe 976. The corner station remained until about 1959, when it was replaced by Home Federal Savings, which became Home-Fed Bank, which became Great Western, which became Washington Mutual, which became Chase Bank.

— John Fry may be reached at (858)

Possible school closures unfair to PB, Peninsula

The San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education should reject the staff recommendations to close two middle schools: Pacific Beach Middle School, and either Dana or Correia in Point Loma.

These are not merely school closures, but drastic realignments of the entire educational system in those two clusters. Such a radical change should not be undertaken just to save a buck, without any educational rationale or even any study of the educational impacts.

In the Mission Bay cluster, district officials are proposing to eliminate the middle school entirely and combine grades 7 through 12 on the Mission Bay High School campus.

The six-year high school is a concept that was abandoned by most of American education several generations ago, for sound educational and developmental reasons. Before going back to it, there should be a real evaluation of the idea, and the community and educators should be given a chance to buy into it or reject it. It should not be imposed by fiat from downtown for purely financial rea-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In Point Loma, the district is proposing to destroy a unique alignment that has produced some of the highest-achieving middle schools in the district. (Dana Middle has the highest API score of any of the schools proposed for closure.)

Currently, all fifth- and sixthgraders in the Point Loma cluster attend Dana Middle as a transition from elementary to secondary education, while seventh- and eighthgraders attend a traditional middle school at Correia. This highly popular system was developed with a lot of community input, and the results show how effective it is in educating these grades.

Again, the district staff is proposing to blow up this system without any thought to the educational effect of the change. All fifth-graders would be sent back to the elementary schools, increasing their student bodies by 25 percent (this includes the effect of an elementary school closure which is also proposed for the

The remaining 7-8-9 middle school would have to absorb a 50 percent increase in its enrollment. The district's own figures show that the elementary schools and the remaining middle school would not have the capacity for such an increase.

We all know the district has serious financial problems, but let's solve them is a way that is smart and fair. Go ahead and close elementary schools, where the students can be dispersed into nearby elementary schools without drastically realigning the entire educational system of the cluster. And spread the closures out more fairly throughout the dis-

The current plan puts half of the closures into just two clusters, Point Loma and Mission Bay. That's not fair and it's not right.

> Melanie Nickel Point Loma

Tula Ru: a specialty children's boutique — at reasonable prices

I'M 30 AND, **LOVE PB!**

By RACHEL HUTMAN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Now that I have a seven-week-old, I'm realizing how pricey children's clothing is — and how quickly they outgrow them. A new mommy friend of mine (we seem to coagulate wherever we go) told me about Tula Ru — a children's boutique in the heart of Pacific Beach.

Tula Ru specializes in gently-used children's clothing and new, unique toys. Not only are clothes sold at a discount, but there are adorable clothes that have been chosen based on condition and style. Tula Ru accepts upscale brands like Baby Gap, Lucky and True Religion, and nothing from the big stores. They also carry surf brands that those of us in San Diego long for: Hurley, Quicksilver and Volcom.

Jennifer Haagenson of Pacific Beach enjoys bringing her daughter, Avery, to Tula Ru

"It's so great having a store right around the corner that has such cute clothes for kids!" she said. "Plus, Tula Ru hosts fun events for families that bring the community together. It's really a special place and I have fun meeting

You will want to be a kid again the second you walk in. The bright colors, iars full of confections and shabby chic décor evoke a feeling of Candy Land. The store has been decorated lovingly by Casey Brossard, the store's owner. Casey and Damon Brossard opened the store in the spring of 2010. Their mis-



Jennifer Haagenson is all smiles with her daughter, Avery, at Tula Ru in Pacific Beach. Photo by Rachel Hutman I Beach & Bay Press

sion was to create a boutique-style store without the boutique price. When you walk into Tula Ru, its clear their goal was accomplished. From the pink chandeliers to the piles of vintage rag dolls, it's a special shopping experience.

Be sure to check out the unique selection of toys and gifts. The Sophie the Giraffe teether and Cherry Belli organic tummy soother are sure to be hits at any baby shower. Tula Ru also has a wonderful selection of children's books, from classics like "Corduroy" and "Olivia," to the unique "Good Night San Diego" and "My Surf Tricks."

Tula Ru also holds a variety of events at the store in the hope of bringing the community together. Visit their website or the store itself to join the mailing list and stay up-to-date on all the happenings. There will a children's costume contest on Sunday, Oct. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. with prizes, games and crafts.

• Tula Ru 5005 Cass St.

858-272-5622/www.tula-ru.com

DISTRICT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

difficult to achieve, challenging the fiscal solvency of the district," Kowba wrote in an opinion letter to the San Diego Union-Tribune on Oct. 13.

In a meeting with the La Jolla Cluster Association on Oct. 19, Barnett named a few solutions to resolve the deficits in both scenarios — all of which, he said, range from "grim" to

"District wide, we're going to have

to make these tough decisions. We need to think of everything just to keep the doors open next year — significant cuts to magnet and language schools to International Baccalaureate programs and pushing class sizes as high as we possibly legally can," he said. "Every horrible thing you think of is going to have to be on the table if we want to avoid financial insolvency."

SDUSD board members are creating parallel budget tracks, discussing a range of options, including more classified and certified layoffs, school closures and realignments, property sales,

tapping into already depleted reserves, program and transportation cuts, union concessions and reducing the school year by seven days.

"We need to get creative, and we're going to have to be bold and make tough decisions in order to salvage some semblance of quality education for our children in the next couple years and beyond," said Barnett. "This is not just Chicken Little. This is not trying to scare people. This is real. We're trying to save 100-plus-year-old insti-



LA IOLLA VILLAGE NEWS BEACH & BAY PRESS PENINSIILA BEACON



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Announcements, photos and ask that content be sent at least one week prior to publication and include valid contact information.

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Bucs erase 14-point deficit in Homecoming win

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It was a big day any way you slice it. It was Homecoming on Oct. 14 — and the team's biggest fan presence of the season could be felt. It was a chance for the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) football team to show how far it's come since a disastrous 2010 season. But perhaps most of all, it was a demonstration of support for a seriously injured former teammate.

Just before the game, MBHS head coach Willie Matson informed his team that a senior on last year's squad had suffered a major neck injury from a diving accident over the weekend. Buccaneers' quarterback Nate Long was asked if his team would be playing for his friend.

"Yes," he replied simply.

After opening the game with little emotion and falling behind 14-0 at halftime, the Bucs dug deep within to pull out a huge 17-14 win over Serra High. MBHS played a nearly-flawless second half to secure the victory.

"We went in at halftime and told [the players] they were losing respect from the other team," Matson said. "We tried to reach them that way and they took it to heart. The best thing for a coach is when you find out your team does have heart. They came out and said, 'We're not going to take it. We're going to fight to the end."

The comeback started when the Bucs drove down to the Serra 10-vard line to start the third quarter. Facing a daunting third-and-goal situation, Long dropped back to pass and lofted the ball to the far right corner of the end zone. Wide receiver Jaquan Madyun reached out with his body fully extended and caught the ball as his feet simultaneously dragged the turf just inside the end line. The touchdown cut Serra's lead in half.

"He pressed on me, so I got him off and used my hands and made a good



Mission Bay High quarterback Nate' Long eludes a Serra High School defender during the Bucs' 17-14 Homecoming win on Oct. 14. Photo by Lee Cornell I Beach & Bay Press

play on the ball," Madyun said. "The my last block and I just dove into the end quarterback put it in a good spot where only I could get it and the defensive back couldn't do anything about it. I looked down at the line to see my feet and I kept them in."

On the ensuing kickoff, Matson opted for some trickery by attempting and succeeding in recovering an onside kick. The Bucs used the momentum swing to their

Two plays later, senior MBHS running back Chris Byrd took a handoff from Long and showcased his explosive speed and elusiveness as he zigzagged back and forth across the field before finally sneaking into the end zone just inside the pylon for a stunning 49-yard touchdown scamper. The score was tied 14-14 with 3:40 left in the third quarter.

"I felt like I had enough energy to run side to side 20 more times, but it was the line [that opened the holes] and I followed their blocks," Byrd said. "They kept blocking all the way down and (senior offensive lineman) Lorenzo Pittman got

zone."

The Conquistadors tried desperately to recover some momentum on their next drive, but Bucs' linebacker Donshay Bandy continued the rally by picking off a pass by Serra quarterback and returning it 24 yards to Serra's 20-yard line.

"It was crazy," Bandy said. "I dropped back to my zone and put my hand up. Thank God I've got long arms.. I slapped it up, looked around and saw it redirect. I put my hands on it and took off."

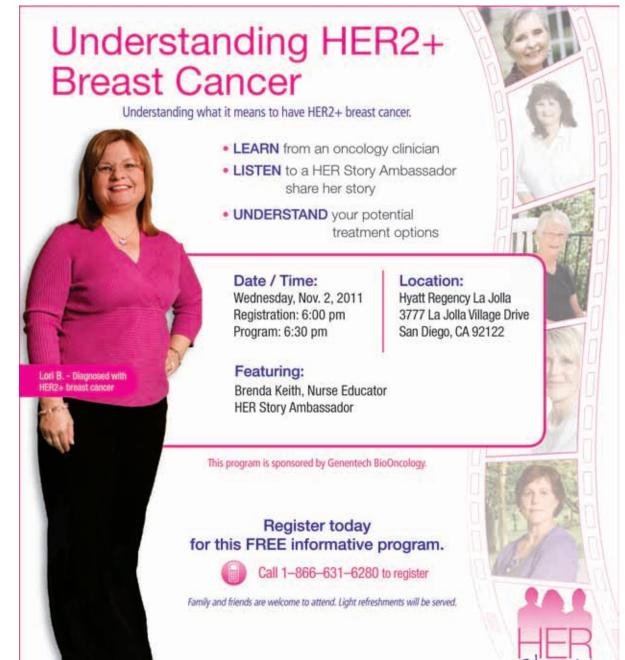
After a stalled drive, MBHS kicker Bryan Grnada split the uprights with a clutch 31-yard field goal, giving the home team a 17-14 lead with 48 seconds left in the third quarter.

From there, the Bucs ran the clock on offense and used a suffocating defense, which included back-to-back sacks by Isaac Griffin and Aaron Cobbler to finish off the victory. The win propelled MBHS to 3-2-1 on the season, raising its record above .500 for the first time since 2009.

SEE HOMECOMING. Page 11







The New Anderson **Medical Center**

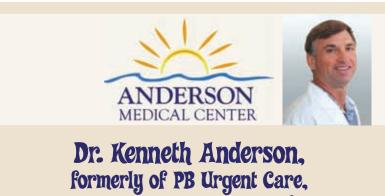
Dr. Kenneth Anderson has been practicing family and sports medicine in Pacific Beach for 22 years. Now he is opening his own

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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 longdeparted 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 for stealing a little boat called the Plutus. Death seemed like a hefty price to pay for such a small theft. In fact, Yankee Jim's two cohorts were only given a one year jail sentence and a small fine. But there was a strong feeling of vigilantism in these parts around the 1800s. The 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 crime, big or small!

As a known desperado, Yankee Jim didn't stand a chance against the towns concensus. 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 to lynch him on the spot instead of waiting the mandatory 30 days. Yankee Jim never thought in a million years that the town would hang him since stealing horses was a crime you got 'hung fer' . . . not a little boat !

Until that fateful moment when the orders to kick the mules was given, Jim spoke to the crowd, begging them to reconsider, but to no avail. The cruel moment arrived but not 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 scafford 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 use to feed and care for her and because of all the attention, she felt very comfortable around people. Unfortunately, this trust led to her fateful death by careless but concerned folks who tranquilized her in an attempt to move her to a safer area. The year was 1975 . . . and the public was outraged. After her sad demise, 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 views from 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 souls. By chance, wellknown author Helen Hunt Jackson decided to write a historic novel and came to the Casa to research her project with then resident Father Antonio Ubach. Because of their common interest in the mistreatment 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 premarital jitters, but are they?

Along with classic reports of footsteps, moving objects, creaking 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, and no one seems to know who really haunts it. Could it be Father Ubach protecting it from ruin and desecration? Is it a bride who's only happy moment was he day she made her wish in the well? And what about the music . . .

Want more real stories? Call Ghostly Tours in History at (877) 220-4844 and take a walking tour to learn more about Old Town's wonderful spooky past.

···· VISITOR TIP ····

Bring the family to view the interesting altars that makes Dia de los Muertos so special.

Check out Tienda de Reyes store 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!

Oct. 21, 22 · 7:30 pm

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31 • 6 & 7:30 Who's The Wickedest Ghost? A Spooky Trial"

Old Town merchants will hold an evening of scary, funny and tragic stories of people who once lived in San Diego during the 1800s. Spirits will answer to the comical judge Oliver Weatherby with the audience as their jury to determine "Who's the Wickedest Ghost". An hour-long walking tour will be given with the performers. For tickets, visit: www. brownpapertickets/event/19547 or call (619) 220-5422

Oct. 29 • Noon to 4:00 pm Old Town's Fall Festival

Fall crafts and children's activities a la San Diego in the 1870s will be held in the central plaza at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. Many merchants surrounding the park will also have activities. For more info, visit: www.fiestadereyes.com

Oct. 31 • 7:00 pm Danse Macrabre

Write Out Loud will present "Danse Macrabre" at the Old Town Theatre and featuring stories of magic and mystery brought chillingly to life by professional actors. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students, seniors and active military. For more info, visit: http://writeoutloudsd.com or call (619) 297-8953

Oct. 31 • 4:00 to 6:30 pm Trick-Or-Treating

Trick-or-treaters are invited to come out to collect goodies from participating shops and museums through the State Historic Park. Admission is free.

Nov. 1 & 2 - All Day Dia de los Muertos

This "Day of the Dead" event is designed to celebrate the history, culture and heritage of the region. Old Town's predominantly Mexican, Spanish and Native American legacy makes it the best site in San Diego to hold such a special, beloved celebration.

There will be a tour of more than 30 altars, a candlelight procession, face painting and live music. At Fiesta de Reyes, five life-size Catrina Dolls in historic dress will delight visitors as well as altars in nearly every store. This two-day-long activity will also feature workshops, performances and lectures. For more info, call (619) 297-7511



FIELD VIEW

The Black Pearl rigs up smooth sailing for Packers fans during NFL season



Green Bay Packers fans ham it up outside The Black Pearl at 1014 Grand Ave. Photo by Walter Ruskin I Beach & Bay Press

By WALTER RUSKIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Black Pearl, located on Grand Avenue at the corner with Cass Street. is a fine Pacific Beach restaurant/bar – and I would be derelict in my duties if I just wrote some humdrum foodand-beverage story about it. I mean, the name of the place is The Black Pearl, after all!

"The name came to me when I had returned to San Diego after a five-year hiatus," said owner Brigita Petrutis. "Originally, the name of this bar was The Australian Pub ... and when I returned, the establishment was in total turmoil, a complete shipwreck! So, after some hard work and restructuring of management, I felt as if we had raised and resurrected this old bar from

the depths of the bottom of the sea and thus, I christened her The Black Pearl."

For those of you who are history buffs and fans of "Pirates of the Caribbean." The Black Pearl was an actual ship in the Caribbean. It was registered to the East India Trading Co. and owned by Lord Cutler Beckett. Captained by Sir Henry Morgan, The Black Pearl was sunk in a battle. This ship was never extracted from the sea, but with a little Disney magic, The Black Pearl became a household name. Just thought you should know. You don't have to Google everything, you know. Sometimes we reporters do it for you.

Now that you know how The Black Pearl was named, the real question is, how did it become known for being a Green Bay Packers Bar?

"That's easy!" Petrutis said. "If you're going to name your bar after a pirate ship, you need a loyal crew and Packers fans are very loyal to their team."

While that may be true, you should also know that it's a savvy move on Petrutis's part, since The Black Pearl also serves some fine wines and — as everybody knows — Cheeseheads go great with wine!

I know, I know. You're not going to eat the Cheeseheads because they are made of rubber. However, if you do get hungry, The Black Pearl has a full menu for dinner and does have some of the best hot wings in Pacific Beach. They are made from a secret recipe they

SEE **PEARL**, Page 11

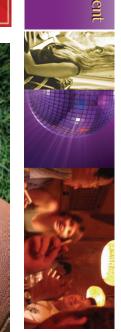


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mike Czech/\$3.50 Pacifico, bud

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corralejo silver tequila, fernet branca

THURSDAY

Nightly Specials:

8pm -close \$8 Pitchers, \$4 Seagram's sweet tea,

Chef Shelly V.

Thursday Special \$3 22 oz Mugs of House Beer \$3 U Call Its DJ Music - 10pm to Close

Nightly Specials: 2-4-1 burgers and chicken sand-wiches 5pm-to kitchen close/ \$3-u-call-its 8pm-close with DJ DEVOY /\$3.50 pacifico, bud, and negra modello drafts all day

\$3 Sushi Rolls, \$3 Good Times Gold 3pm to Close DJ Music - 10pm to Close.

Good Times Friday

FRIDAY

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8pm -close

\$4 Fridays:

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Nightly Specials: DAY/ 2-4-1 fish and chips or shrimp and chips 5pm-close

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Nightly Specials: Happy Hour Food 4 to Close & Drinks 4 to 7

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Ex-teammate's plight spawns emotional win

By LEE CORNELL | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Mission Bay High School (MBHS) football team had more than just the Homecoming game on its plate when it hosted Serra High School on Oct. 14.

"We just [heard about a former] player named Ryan Porteous, (No. 32, who played outside linebacker in 2010)," said Buccaneers quarterback Nate Long following the 17-14 victory over Serra. "Over the weekend, he paralyzed himself by diving into a lake and before the game, the coaches told us. I don't think our locker room's ever been that quiet ... ever. "

While details of the accident remained unclear, the emotional effect could be seen on the players' faces, especially members of the senior class who played with Porteous last year.

"He might not play here anymore but he's still in our hearts and he's still a Buccaneer," said running back Chris Byrd, a senior.

Byrd helped MBHS rally from a 14-0 deficit during the Oct. 14 contest when he scored the game-tying touchdown on a 49-yard, third-quar-

Long, who has grown into the

defining leader of the team, could be seen cheering on his defensive teammates while he was on the sidelines. On more than one occasion, Long demonstratively pleaded for fans to get up and get loud.

He has worked tirelessly the last two years to improve his athletic performance and achieve his potential. Besides preparing physically, Long has sought outside help to keep his mental approach sharp. Recently, he discovered a video on YouTube called "How Bad Do You Want It?"

Long has been preaching and playing by the words of that inspirational video ever since.

"I told my (teammates), when you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful," he said. "I've been telling myself that every morning after every class. I've been telling myself that over and over and living that life for the past week."

Although he didn't play his best game statistically on Oct. 14, Long used emotion, leadership and determination to help MBHS claw back from a big hole to win a game that won't be forgotten any time soon in the minds of many of Porteous' former teammates.

PEARL

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

refused to share with me because dead men tell no tales. What I can tell you is that the way they are prepared makes them the crispiest wings I have ever had.

There is something else you need to know about the Packers Crew that resides at the Black Pearl. They are different. Not the different kind you see on the boardwalk which asks you for spare change. They are the exact opposite. Here in California, we might see them as even a little crazy because they engage in friendly conversation without being provoked.

When I walked into The Black Pearl to do this story, a man named Gabe invited me to sit down next to him and bought me a drink. Then he asked me, with a friendly smile, "So, ya a Packers fan?"

I was truthful and said not really.

"Ohhh, that's OK," said Gabe. "You'll have to buy your next drink though. You understand, don't ya?" Sure, I understood. I felt kind of bad but he seemed to appreciate my honesty and then moments later turned to me and said, "You know? Never mind. I was rude. You don't have to like The Pack," and insisted on buying me another round.

Then I thought about it. Why didn't I like the Packers? I knew I didn't hate them. I guess I really never gave them much thought. While I was pondering my thoughts on the Packers, I was approached by a young lady in a Packers shirt, holding a white poodle named Cali, which was dressed in a Green Bay Packers cheerleading outfit. She introduced herself as Denise.

"Hi, I'm the mayor of Green Bay Fans

here at The Black Pearl," she said. So, ya don't like Girl Scout cookies either). But a Packers fan?'

Hmmmm ...

"I guess I don't hate the Packers," I replied.

That brought a smile.

"That's good enough!" said Denise. "You come with us to the game on Nov. 6 (a home game for the San Diego Chargers at Qualcomm Stadium at 1:15 p.m.). We have a party bus and you'll have a good time. You understand?"

Hmmmm ...

"Yes," I replied.

What else are you going to say when the mayor of Packer Nation invites you to a football game? You just go.

So maybe you don't like the Packers. Maybe you don't like bars named after ships (if that's the case, you probably

no matter what you don't like, I promise that you will enjoy the time you spend with the crew of The Black Pearl. You will feel like all of your problems are sailing away.

If you're a member of Facebook, you can 'like' their page and get updates on all their activities, like the party bus for the Nov. 6 Packers game against the hometown San Diego Chargers. But there really isn't any need to fuss with the stadium crowd when you have smooth sailing ahead in the comfy confines of The Black Pearl, conveniently moored at 1014 Grand Ave.

– Walter Ruskin is a member of the San Diego Community Newspaper Group's "Ugly News Team." Catch his videos and interviews at www.sdnews.com.

HOMECOMING BUC NOTES THE ME

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

"It's just like a wildfire," Matson said. "When it starts up, it isn't much. But once it catches and the wind gusts up a little bit, it takes off. I'm hoping that's what happens. We'll see."

 The MBHS football squad dropped a tough road game to Madison High, 43-7 on Oct 21.

• The Bucs travel to Point Loma High on Friday, Oct. 28 for an important league matchup beginning at 3 p.m. Mission Bay rounds out its home schedule with a contest against Hoover **High on Nov. 4** at 3 p.m. The Buccaneers then travel to La Jolla for their final game of the regular season on Nov. 10, with kickoff set for

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AREAHALLOWEENHAPPENINGS

Pacific Beach/Mission Beach/Mission Bay

- The Pacific Beach Recreation Center will hosts its annual Halloween Carnival (rain or shine) on Friday, Oct. 28 with a night of activities that include a fire engine ride, games, a free costume contest, giant slide, food, cake walk and free arts and crafts. All games and rides cost 1-2 tickets and tickets are sold four for \$1. Costume contests are grouped by age and times are staggered. The event is sponsored by the Santa Clara/Pacific Beach Recreation Council and takes place at the rec center, located at 1405 Diamond St. For more information, call (858) 581-9927.
- Crown Point Junior Music Academy's PTA will hold its annual Trunk or Treat Halloween Festival on Friday, Oct. 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the school, 4033 Ingraham St. For more information, call (858) 273-9830, or visit www.sandi.net/crownpoint.
- The annual Kate Sessions Elementary School Halloween Carnival will take place Oct. 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the school, located at 2150 Beryl St. The community is invited to attend and enjoy games, food, pony rides and a spooky haunted house. Celebrate the fall season with the staff and families of Kate Sessions Elementary. For more information, call (858) 273-3111, or visit www.sandi.net/sessions.
- SeaWorld San Diego will hosts its final weekend of the "Halloween Spooktacular," in which children can meet some spooky and not-so-spooky animals, pose for pictures with mesmerizing mermaids and trick-ortreat in a sea-inspired atmosphere. Festivities are geared for kids 12 years and under, who are invited to come in costume and enjoy animal meet and greets, special Halloween shows and colorful costumed characters from 1 to 6 p.m. For more information, call (800) 25-SHAMU or visit www.seaworldsandiego.com.

Ocean Beach/Point Loma

• It's time to harness the imagination and create that special doggy Howl-O-Ween



Plenty of spooky scenarios are on tap around the area this Halloween for adults and children alike. Photo by Don Balch I Beach & Bay Press

costume for the Kiwanis Club's Ocean Beach Canine Carnival and costume parade. The canine caper features a costume parade led by Chopper the Biker Dog and an array of contests for doggies and humans on Sunday, Oct. 30 at Dusty Rhodes Park on the west side across from Robb Field at Sunset Cliffs and Nimitz boulevards. The activities get under way about 10 a.m. with the canine carnival and street fair, featuring vendors offering canine-related merchandise and services. For more information, call (619) 225-8705, or visit www.oceanbeachkiwanis.org.

La Jolla

• The La Jolla Recreation Center has planned three hours of free kid-friendly fun for its annual Halloween Festival on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. The festival will include pony rides, an inflatable jump and slide, carnival games, a balloon artist, cakewalk, face painting, music and free arts and crafts for kids. Halloween prizes will be awarded for carnival game winners and a traditional costume contest will award a total of 25 children - five children from each of five 10 and under age groups with prizes including a trophy and Target gift card. Tickets are four for \$1. Carnival games are one or two tickets apiece. La Jolla Recreation Center is located at 615 Prospect St. For more information, call (858) 552-1658.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

News, events and noteworthy items from Pacific Beach-area schools

• The Mission Bay Cluster Committee has been meeting over the last four weeks to focus on the proposals presented by the San Diego Unified School District to close and consolidate schools in the cluster. The committee has been analyzing data, walking campuses, talking with parents and staff and trying to compile and clarify information in order to present the district with recommendations. The goal of the Mission Bay Cluster Committee is to preserve the identity of Pacific Beach schools and support and protect the programs that work. To follow the progress and correspondence or to see how you can get involved, please refer to the MB Cluster blog at **mbcluster2010.blogspot.com**.

• FOPBSS (Friends of Pacific Beach Sec-

ondary Schools) thanks the Pacific Beach

- Town Council for its generous donations to Pacific Beach Middle School and Mission Bay High. Joe Wilding, president of the PBTC, attended the PBMS and MBHS open houses and presented \$500 to each school. These funds will help supplement the library at PBMS and provide college preparation materials at MBHS. The Pacific Beach Town Council's generosity and community outreach continue to positively impact the lives of the residents of Pacific Beach. Also, thanks goes to Woodstocks Pizza, which catered the open house at Mission Bay High, providing eight different kinds of pizza, Caesar salad and "cinnabread." Phils' BBQ donated chicken and ribs at the "Back to School Night" dinner at Pacific Beach Middle School. Thank you for supporting your local schools
- Red Ribbon Week will be held Oct. 24-28 at Pacific Beach Middle School. Red



Joe Wilding, president of the Pacific Beach Town Council, presents Pam Deitz, president of FOPBSS (Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary School) with a check for \$500 at the Mission Bay High School open house recently. Courtesy photo

Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug-free lives. Activities are planned each day of the week to reinforce the ideals of a drug-free America.

• On Monday, May 2 from 8 to 10:30 a.m., Pacific Beach Middle School will host a school tour beginning in the media center/library. If you want to learn more about the international baccalaureate program at PBMS and the opportunities for your incoming middle schooler, join the school tour called "a day in the life" of a PBMS student. You will meet administrators, learn about IB, meet teachers and see students in action in class. Your student is also welcome to attend this informative tour.

- Kate Sessions Elementary will host a family science night on Thursday, Nov. 3rd from 6 to 7:30 pm. The Reuben H. Fleet Space Center will provide standards-based investigations for students and their families. Funding is provided by "Operation Student Achievement," a grant from the Department of Defense.
- Friends of Kate Sessions PTO meeting Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m.
- Crown Point Junior Music Academy's PTA will hold its Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 24-28. The purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to present a unified, positive and visible commitment toward a safe and drug-free America. CPJMA will conclude the weeklong celebration with the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween Festival on Friday, Oct. 28 from 4 to 8 p.m.
- Come rock with CPJMA's Music Club. The music club is an after-school music program made up of third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders learning and playing the acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums and harmonica. The music club will be performing at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, located at 4275 Cass St., on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 10:30 am. Come out to support this group and hear great music.
- Friends of CPJMA will host their second annual Jogathon on Thursday, Nov. 10 from 9 to 10 a.m. to raise money for the school. All students, parents and siblings are welcome to come and participate. For more information, email crownpointfriends@gmail.com.
- The Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary will have their monthly PTO meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. in Room 9 at the school.

Jennifer Tandy

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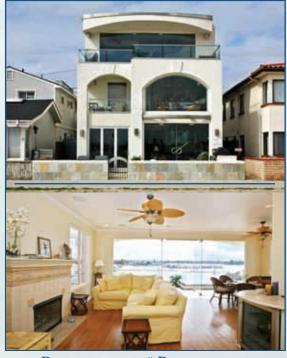


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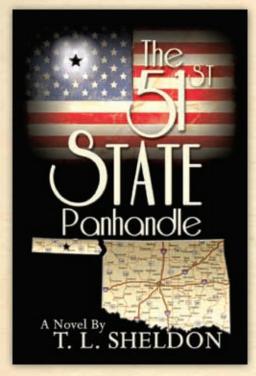
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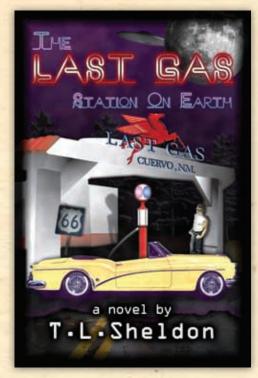
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