Unrelated accidents kill woman, 24, and toddler on same night

Two Point Loma neighborhoods were left reeling after separate traffic accidents roughly a mile-and-a-half apart left a 3-year-old toddler and a 24-year-old woman dead in the span of less than two hours on Aug. 2.

In the first instance, the toddler, reportedly visiting from New Mexico to attend his older brother’s graduation from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, died in front of a house in the 3300 block of Cañon Street near Willow Street. The boy, identified as Arthuro Roan, was struck by the truck and whisked by emergency officials to UCSD Medical Center before being transferred to Rady Children’s Hospital.

In the second case, the 24-year-old woman lost control of her Volkswagen Passat while driving in the 3300 block of Cañon Street near Willow Street in the Roseville/Fleetridge area shortly before 9 p.m. The vehicle traveled to the opposite side of the street, jumped the curb and smashing into a stand of palm trees, according to police.

The victim, who authorities said was seatbelted and alone, was identified as Taylor Alexandra Vasquez. She died at the scene.

The cause of the accident is unclear, according to police. — Staff report
Dr. Dan Kneer, above, whisked his Peninsula Beacon off to Greece and Rome for both business and pleasure. Above, he stands in front of the famous Acropolis in Athens. But during his stay in Rome, Kneer was allowed on to the floor of the Colosseum — something few visitors are able to experience.

It’s vacation time! Peninsula Beacon readers are heading out of town and taking their favorite hometown paper with them! Don’t pass up your chance to have your name and face published in The Beacon. Take us with you to whatever corner of the world you may be visiting and share your trip with other readers. Tell us your name and/or the names of your family members in the photo and give us a brief description of where the shot was taken. Email the photo and the information to beacon@sdnews.com. It’s that easy!

Shirlee James soaks up the vortex of Sedona, Ariz., with The Beacon.

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The Heberts of Ocean Beach caught the Team USA fever and took their Beacon along to the Summer Olympics in London. Above, Sherry Hebert holds her Beacon at Windsor. The couple watched Serena Williams in her victory over Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark. Left, Mike Hebert catches up on his home town news at one of London’s underground stops. Mike has been an assistant coach with the USA Volleyball developmental teams and has coached some of the women who played in this year’s Olympics.
Driver convicted of deadly hit-and-run to be freed in January

OB victim was walking home on I-8/Nimitz Blvd. onramp

By NEAL PUTNAM | THE BEACON

A 19-year-old hit-and-run driver who killed an Ocean Beach man will be released from jail in January after being sentenced to one year in jail following an emotional two-day sentencing hearing.

The grieving family of the victim, Sho Funai, 23, stared intently at the accused, Nikolette Kristina Gallo, when she was handcuffed July 27 by sheriff’s deputies and led away.

The victim’s family, prosecutors and the probation department officials recommended Gallo serve between three and four years in state prison. San Diego Superior Court Judge Dwayne Moring gave Gallo a year with five years’ probation.

Daisuke Funai, the victim’s oldest brother, said his brother earned a master’s degree in engineering posthumous-ly at UCSD, where he was a student.

“When I think of how painful it must have been, I cannot bear it,” said the vic-tim’s mother, Kazue Funai, tearfully.

“Each morning, I wake up in despair. He would have been a great engineer.”

Sho Funai’s death came on the 59th birthday of his father, Yuji, who said every birthday will now only serve as a reminder of his son’s tragedy. Sho’s brothers said they didn’t believe in drink-ing and driving and often acted as the designated driver for others.

Gallo stood and told the family she was sorry for their loss, adding, “I am in pain every single day after this tragedy. I will be regretting my actions for every day of my life.”

Although Moring urged the sheriff’s department not to release Gallo early, her projected release date is Jan. 11, according to the sheriff’s department. Gallo was ordered to perform 100 hours of volun-teeer work and to attend a DUI course.

She had originally been free on a $50,000 bond and received credit for one day in jail.

Her driver’s license was revoked and a Sept. 21 hearing will be held to see if she should pay restitution to the victim’s family.

Funai was killed March 11 at 4:30 a.m. while walking near the Nimitz Boulevard onramp on Interstate 8. A friend, Tiina Chang, told the judge Funai was just “one major street from home” at Sammis Cliffs and West Point Loma Boule-vard when he was hit.

Gallo’s attorney, former District Attor-ney Paul Pfingst, said Funai’s blood-alcohol level at death was 0.17 — more than twice the legal limit — and that Funai was walking on the freeway in dark clothing, which contributed to his death.

The impact bashed in the left wind-

shield portion where the driver sits, which Pfingst claimed proved Funai was walking on the dark freeway and not on the freeway shoulder. Photos of the dam-aged car were shown to the judge.

Gallo told a probation official she thought she struck either a coyote or a sofa on the freeway and continued driv-

ing. She contacted her father the next morning after hearing news reports about a body that had been found on the freeway, prompting the father to contact an attorney.

Gallo surrendered to police at least nine hours after the incident and had no alcohol level in her blood when tested by police. However, Gallo admitted to drink-

ing at a party the night of the accident and to previously smoking marijuana.

Gallo pleaded guilty to a felony hit-and-run count resulting in death. The judge noted he was following the senten-cing guidelines to “punish the run-

ning and not the hitting.”

Gallo had no prior record.
 Developers who seek variances to city code and build houses larger than prescribed by underlying zoning need to be stopped before the practice becomes an accepted precedent, according to members of the Ocean Beach Planning Board.

The board voted 8-0 on Aug. 1 to request from the city a moratorium on variances in the RM 2-4 zone, a multi-unit zone that applies to most noncommercial property west of Sunset Cliffs Boulevard.

The board also requests an opportunity “to work out a policy solution with city staff” and resolve disagreements over how the variances are granted.

These disagreements are best illustrated by the 5100 block of West Point Loma Boulevard, a block that contains 13 similar-looking, one-story, concrete downtowns built in the 1950s on lots of 2,500 square feet. The modest square footstrips dramatically with a more recent, three-story, single-family home in the middle of the block that received a variance to allow a carport instead of a garage and more square footage for living quarters than permitted by code.

Since that house was built, an adjacent property owner received a variance to build a similar structure, which was appealed unsuccessfully all the way to the California Coastal Commission. Two other property owners in the block have made similar applications.

How big a house can be is determined by what local planners call the FAR requirement, or floor-area ratio formula. In Ocean Beach’s RM 2-4 zone, the square footage of a structure is limited to 70 percent of the lot size. Of that, 70 percent, one-quarter must be set aside for enclosed parking, unless underground parking is provided.

Under existing code for a 2,500-square-foot lot, this means a maximum of 1,312.5 square feet for living space and a 417.5-square-foot garage. The variance for the single-family house allowed the entire 70 percent of lot space — 1,749 square feet — to be allocated for housing, and a 161-square-foot open carport instead of a garage.

Board members have described the block as an “epicenter” of bulky, out-of-scale development and have tried nearly everything in their power to halt or at least clarify the variances:

• In July 2011, the board protested in a letter to the mayor the variances constituted a “reasoning ... without adhering to city procedures.”

• In September 2011, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer asked City Attorney Jan Goldsmith at the request of the OBPB to rule on the legality of the variances. Goldsmith issued a memo in December 2011 stating the variances did not constitute a reason.

• In February, the board persuaded the San Diego Community Planners Committee (CPC), a larger group of citywide citizen planners of which the OBPB is a member, to investigate the matter.

• Board members have testified against the variances at the San Diego Hearing Examiner, San Diego Planning Commission and California Coastal Commission. So far, the variances have been upheld.

The call for a moratorium shows the board still feels its position is correct, said PBPB Chairwoman Jane Gawronski.

“We’re trying to do is keep bulk and scale in harmony with the ambience of Ocean Beach,” Gawronski said in comments after the meeting. “That’s why we have rules and regulations to determine how big you can build.”

Vice Chairwoman Landry Watson said variances are being granted without substantial evidence to support their findings, and it’s unfair to hundreds of property owners who build a project by adhering to the development code with out variances.

Other OBPB Matters

• The beach restrooms near Brighton Avenue are barely a few weeks old, but improvements are already being considered. Citizen complaints have provoked the city to see if there’s any money leftover from the project to put doors on the stalls in the women’s restroom. Changes are good, said Faulconer aide Mike Patton.

• In the Japanese Gardens, while driving past the Ocean Beach Entryway Patton had high praise for a deal that allows the city’s Park and Recreation Department to take over maintenance duties from the Ocean Beach Community Development Corporation. He said that among its first priorities is weed removal.

• Stop signs ‘love’ em or hate ‘em? The corner of Bacon Street and Saratoga Avenue could be the next location where the red octagonals appear. Patton said the city, in response to a citizen, has determined the intersection meets all the qualifications but wants the OBPB’s opinion. The board’s Project Review Committee will take up the matter when it meets next on Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Ave.

• The board has only $255 and is on the verge of going broke once bills are due to a vendor that maintains the board’s website, Gawronski confirmed.

• Member Giovanni Ingiosa has been appointed to explore options for more revenues, like applying for grants from the Ocean Beach Town Council and local office holders. For now, board members don’t want to ask businesses for contributions to avoid conflicts of interest.
‘Relay for Life’ to make strides at Liberty Station for cancer patients

To raise money for those affected by cancer, the American Cancer Society will hold its nationwide signature fundraising event called “Relay for Life” on Aug. 11 and 12 at Liberty Station. Now in its fourth year, the Point Loma installment of “Relay for Life” is an overnight team relay for walkers and runners, with an area around the track for camping. The family-friendly event requires only one stipulation — that at least one member of each team be represented on the track at all times.

The theme for this year’s relay is carnival-inspired and will include traditional games like a dunk tank and ring toss. Other entertainment will include live music, karaoke and a nighttime movie screening.

Most “Relay for Life” events raise about $40,000 per race. Last year, the Point Loma event raised more than $45,000 among its 27 relay teams. Recognized as a relay within the California division, a large percentage of funds raised actually stay within the state.

“Participants can have a positive impact on their community,” said Jerry Webber, the local “Relay for Life” manager for the American Cancer Society. “It teaches children that they can make a tangible difference and contribute to a cause greater than themselves.”

Webber, an Ocean Beach resident and Peninsula native, said time spent around the track serves as an opportunity for reflection. During the relay, his energy will be focused on honoring his girlfriend, who lost her battle with cancer.

“It’s motivating and inspiring to feel like that person is with you,” he said. “It’s hauntingly beautiful to walk the track with the bagpiper [in memory of those who died of cancer].”

As a powerful visual reminder, personalized luminaries with the names of cancer survivors and those who lost their life to the disease light the track for relay participants through the night.

The relay kicks off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11 at NTC Park at Liberty Station and ends at 10 a.m. the next morning. Funds raised will help with research, advocacy, education and services for people living with cancer.

“This is a great opportunity for communities to come together to beat cancer,” said Webber. “I’m hopeful and optimistic about what the event will accomplish and think it will set the standard for future relays.”

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.relayforlife.org/ptlomaoceanbeachca.

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BEST BREAKFAST in the 2012 Reader’s Choice
City competition already saving taxpayers millions of dollars

By Mayor Jerry Sanders

At a time when other cities are grappling with large budget deficits and, in some cases, even going bankrupt, the city of San Diego’s financial turn-around continues to attract national attention.

Our rapidly improving fiscal health, evidenced by projected budget surpluses over the next five years and enhanced public services, can be attributed to a variety of reforms we’ve made, like managed competition, which is saving taxpayers millions of dollars a year.

Quite simply, managed competition allows private-sector companies to bid against city employees for the right to provide a variety of municipal services.

So far, four services have been successfully put to bid: fleet maintenance, landfill operations, publishing and street sweeping. All told, because of managed competition, we’ve cut our operating costs in these areas by $8.4 million a year.

Interestingly, but not surprisingly, the city’s employees have won all four competitions. I’m proud of their creativity and drive to perform to their work as efficiently as possible.

As for the savings, they are being put to good use: to increase service levels, to invest in new equipment at branch libraries and recreation centers, to hire more police officers and firefighters and to repair more city streets.

While the results have been impressive, we’re certainly not done.

We have launched competitions for six more services: street sweeping, fleet repair, trash pick-up, public utilities customer service, stormwater-facilities operation and maintenance, transportation engineering and capital improvement program delivery.

Regardless of the outcome, we have no doubt that millions more will be saved.

Managed competition is just one of the ways we’re rethinking what we do and reducing the cost of city government.

Among other things, we’ve streamlined and consolidated city departments, significantly cut expenses related to street sweeping and pensions, and reduced what we spend on information technology by more than 40 percent. We’ve done all this without any reduction in service.

I want to thank the people of San Diego for their continued confidence in our success — for supporting the steps we’ve taken over the past few years to turn our city around. Together, we’ve come a long way.

Letter to the Editor

Unfortunately, even with this economic barrier removed, there just aren’t enough providers in many areas of the state to dispense birth control in a timely way. That’s why Planned Parenthood and the California Family Health Council is sponsoring a bill, AB 2348, that would increase access to birth control by allowing registered nurses to dispense pills, patches and rings.

Birth control is so safe that many countries provide it over the counter. There is no reason nurses shouldn’t be allowed to dispense it. I urge senators to support this bill.

— Damaris Ancis, M.D.
HEALING
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

has always been unique," said Timothy the Astrologer, whose office for Astrolgia Service has been in Ocean Beach for 18 years. "It is the last of the authentic centers of the new age businesses in the town. All of the others have gone corporate.

The non-corporate face of Ocean Beach includes businesses like Tree of Life, Crystal Visions Rock Shop, the Philosophers Stone, In Harmony Herbs and Spices, Happy Healthy Herbs and Mad Monk Tea. Many of the so-called "new age" practices are as old as history. Herbs for healing predate written history; with written evidence of their use found more than 5,000 years ago. Tarot cards were first seen in Europe in the 14th to 16th centuries. Astrology dates back to Babylon in 1645 BC.

Diana Diamonse owns Tree of Life Metaphysical Books and Gifts. Her store offers classes on metaphysical and spiritual topics and hosts author events and book signings. The services of independent readers skilled in techniques from Norse rune to numerology are also available. Both Diamonse and Timothy said their businesses thrive in Ocean Beach because of the vibrations from the ocean and the open attitude.

Timothy, 70, specializes in the arcane arts and sciences of astrology, tarot cards, and palmistry. His full range of astrolgia and astrology services includes portfolio analysis and stock potential. In addition to his office in Ocean Beach, he keeps an office in Carlsbad and is the astrologer for La Costa Resort and Spa and Hotel del Corazon.

"I am a healer in the sense that healers don't heal, we inspire healing," he said. "I'm able to impart extra life-force energy — mental, emotional and spiritual."

His office is tucked away in Scrimshaw Square at 4966 Santa Monica Ave. A block-and-a-half from the ocean, the enclave is also home to Crystal Visions Rock Shop, Mad Monk Tea and licensed acupuncturist Lucas Hauser. "It's like time does not exist here," said Suzy Lambert, who opened Crystal Visions Rock Shop seven years ago.

Her store offers crystals, stones, jewelry, books and music. She has a room dedicated to crystal singing bowls. When customers permit, she reads their energy to determine what type of crystal they could benefit from. She has a six-page handout that explains how crystals transfer energy and benefit from. She has a six-page handout that explains how crystals transfer energy and what they are looking for. They are open to receiving what we have to say," she said. "We also get support from the OB MainStreet Association. They are wonderful.

Timothy the Astrologer has seen an increase in young people and more men coming to his business. What all of his customers have in common is the reason they come to see him. "It's an unutterable life longing," Timothy said. "It is a hunger so deep and profound there aren't words to express it. People are hungry for what they're here for. They want to know what the meaning is for them being on the planet."

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**Work begins for Sept. 1 pigskin opener**

By SCOTT HOPKINS | The Beacon

The Point Loma High School football team returns from a three-week break this week to begin preparing in earnest for the season opener Sept. 1 at the school’s annual “Kickoff” event.

For players, this week marked the beginning of so-called “Hell Week,” the traditional two-a-day drills that consume each teen’s daytime hours and likely their complete store of energy.

Head coach Mike Hastings and staff were busy issuing equipment earlier this week while workers on the school’s new artificial turf field began putting down the first pieces of the new, deep-green surface that will rejuvenate Bennie Edens Field.

In fact, with painting done by parent volunteers, fans attending games at Petco Park this year may see the venerable facility has never looked nicer.

Because of the construction, however, Hastings was forced to be creative in searching for a suitable venue for his program’s three teams to get in the crucial work that precedes the season opener.

That search resulted in an agreement to use Bill Chiator Park, home of Peninsula Little League, as a Pointer practice facility.

“We’re going to put down lines like a full football field,” Hastings said, as he plans to work the team there in the afternoons after morning workouts on campus at the softball field and a patch of grass near the stadium.

**PIGSKIN EXTRAS**

- Hastings, who took the Pointers’ reins in 2004, has compiled an overall record of 44 wins, 25 losses and one tie — an impressive .711 winning percentage. He and his staff said they hold players accountable on the field, in the classroom and as family members at home.
- In four different years, Hastings has taken his team to the CIF Championship game at Qualcomm Stadium. Due to scheduling conflicts, this year’s championship will be determined.
- The season opener Sept. 1 features a triple-header against South Bay’s Marina Little League, as a Pointer practice facility.
- Hastings has been forced to be creative in scheduling conflicts, this year’s championship game at the stadium’s Voltaire Street entrance.
- Point Loma High senior Brandon Martin is one of four quarterbacks vying for the starter’s job.
- Work on a new ticket booth/res-room/snack bar facility is set to begin at the stadium’s Voltaire Street entrance.

Point Loma High senior Brandon Martin is one of four quarterbacks vying for the starter’s job as the Pointers open preseason drills.

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**Barnes Tennis Center plays host to WTT Junior Nationals for 17th year**

By DAVE KENSINGER | The Beacon

If tennis legend Billie Jean King was in charge of tennis at the Olympics, there might be a better chance of seeing many more Team USA on the medal stand with the likes of Serena Williams.

But according to the tennis legend, who was recently in San Diego to host the WTT Junior Nationals for 17th year, playing their former rivals in an Oct. 5 showdown at home with a temporary lights at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 against league foe La Jolla, ironically, this is also the Pointers’ final home game as they hit the road for three final matches.

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Reconstruction Warehouse retools world of home improvement

A new kind of home-improvement store has opened its doors in Point Loma, offering eco-friendly retail options at its 7,000-square-foot warehouse at 3341 Hancock St. Reconstruction Warehouse is built around the idea that any old home-improvement material — including sinks, doors, granite countertops, windows, flooring, lighting, furniture and tile — can skirt the landfill by being salvaged, reused and made available to the customer at an affordable price. "Our mission is to keep products from accumulating in landfills and recycle them within our community," said Reconstruction Warehouse owner Chris Marek. "There’s too much building waste, and we’re changing that." Marek said he is able to offer his customers products far below retail price by scouring the country for overstocked, discontinued, misordered and unique materials that would otherwise build up in landfills or get lost in the masses at a huge furniture or home-improvement store’s warehouse.

Although the store does offer some products that are used, about 80 percent of them are brand new, never been used, items at exceptional prices, said Marek. "These are tough economic times for everyone," said Marek. "People want and deserve a break. And they’ll get one every time they walk in the door." Reconstruction Warehouse can also help its customers responsibly recycle leftover building products and electronics, and the company will even pay you for some used items.

The revolutionary idea behind Reconstruction Warehouse is centered on the simple idea of running and maintaining an ecologically friendly business in everything it does — from the products offered to its daily store operations, according to Marek.

"We utilize an iPad point-of-sale system, chalkboards for pricing, and offer the customer an emailed or printed receipt. It’s all about keeping costs low and passing great deals on to our customers," he said. A selection of the wide variety of unique products offered at Reconstruction Warehouse can be seen at www.reconstructions warehouse.com. To view the new products, visit the warehouse.

Store hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (619) 795-7326.

BY MARIKO LAMB

Reconstruction Warehouse

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To get listed please visit www.oceanbeachsandiego.com/obrel or call (619) 224-4906

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THE PENINSULA BEACON | THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2012 | PAGE 13
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The Peninsula Beacon, in cooperation with Ocean Beach Main Street Association, Ocean Beach Historical Society and the Ocean Beach Town Council, is excited to present a special edition celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Ocean Beach. This special souvenir edition will publish in the September 20th edition of the Beacon as a separate section. Additional copies will also be printed to help commemorate the 125th anniversary and will be available at the OBMA office and special events.

PUBLISHED: September 20th, 2012
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CONTINUED on Page 15
able to voice their opinions on issues that are relevant to the market. And, since the market is customer owned, profits stay local. Stop by People’s this month and celebrate our birthday on August 18, from noon until 3 p.m. We’ll be grilling outside where you can snack on organic veggie burgers, corn and watermelon, enjoy live music, and get your photo taken at the Co-op’s birthday fruit and vegetable display!

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HEALTH & BEAUTY
THURSDAY · AUGUST 9, 2012
THE PENINSULA BEACON
Young anglers ages six through 15 will again compete in the free Young Anglers’ Tournament this weekend at the Shelter Island Pier.

The tenth annual installment of the saltwater event is sponsored by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), the San Diego Sportfishing Council and the Unified Port of San Diego, and will feature a points system to allow for catch and release.

Winners — one in each age category between 6 and 15 — will be determined by adding up points for various fish caught. The angler with the most points overall will be recognized on the tournament’s perpetual trophy.

IGFA representatives and volunteers from the United Pier and Shore Anglers Club, San Diego Rod & Reel and the San Diego Anglers will be on hand to assist young anglers and to tally points. Young anglers in the competition are encouraged to bring their own gear, although a limited number of loaner rods will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Small quantities of bait will be provided to each angler while supplies last. The Shelter Island Pier Tournament takes place at 1776 Shelter Island Drive.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Fishing begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded by 2 p.m. Hot dogs, chips, and sodas will be served to all registered anglers. Lunch will be provided courtesy of Stump’s Village Market of Rancho Santa Fe and Tommy Gomes from Catalina Offshore Products and Specialty Produce.

Sponsors include Okuma Fishing Tackle, Anglers Distributing, De-Fishing Soap, Friends of Rolfs, Point Loma Sportfishing and H&M Landing. Pritz and raffle drawing items for the tournament include rods and reels, hats, T-shirts, fishing gear and deep-sea fishing trips.

Loaner gear, bait and tackle are provided by Okuma Fishing Tackle, Anglers Distributing and Friends of Rolfs.

The San Diego Sportfishing Council is a California nonprofit corporation established in 1979 and represents San Diego’s sportfishing industry. Its mission is to promote San Diego sportfishing as an attractive marine recreational activity to increase awareness of sportfishing opportunities on San Diego Bay.

For more information, call (619) 234-8793 or visit www.sportfishing.org.

— Staff and contribution
To hear David Sein tell it, it’s a sure bet that none of the 50 million people who vote their favorites on “American Idol” have been to a play in the last little while. So many distractions, so little time, he said — “If you want to go to the legitimate theater, unless you live in New York or possibly Los Angeles, it’s not part of our modern lifestyle. It seems like a dying art.”

The thing is, it’s people like Sein whose efforts fuel what life there is. Take Point Loma Actors Theatre, of which Sein is the founder and managing/artistic director. The group has been quietly fielding casts and creating actor-intensive workshops for eight seasons; its body of work includes 125 productions large and small under a staff whose live stage time totals more than 30 years.

And the instructors themselves aren’t exactly the hallmarks of inexperience. Noted local actor DeAnna Driscoll, Old Globe Theatre assistant director Hannah Ryan, San Diego comic Tony Calabrese and Sein himself, who’s directed and produced for 25 years, have taught classes and created shows off the beaten path, standing on very little ceremony as the city’s creative elite mount their pieces by the book.

The L.A.-born Sein, 68, cites theater as an inbred personal need. Storytelling has been an integral part of his commercial life — he’s a former documentary writer for PBS, and he launched a small theater in Palm Springs.

“Whenever I go, I try to start something,” he said. “It’s important to give people the opportunity to ply their trade. If we make money, that’s one thing, but it’s seeing them on stage doing their thing that’s most important.”

The play’s the thing, he said — the magical act of storytelling that draws people from every walk of life and level of talent. Sein’s charges feature wannabes, housewives, attorneys who want to perfect their dramatic acumen and retirees looking for a social setting. They all have a narrative, Sein said, including a long-time Broadway director who’d walked in and kept his occupation a secret until deep into rehearsal.

“The stage changes their lives,” Sein said. “That’s something I’ve seen happen over the course of the years I’ve been involved. Somebody walks in who’s not able to lift their head at first; 12 weeks later, you can’t shut ‘em up.”

The stage is located at 3035 Talbot St. in the Point Loma Assembly Building. Although Sein didn’t cite budgetary figures for Point Loma Actors, he said, “Our theater has been self-sufficient, and I can’t say that for most theaters. Artists aren’t businesspeople.”

Sometimes, they’re not even artists. In May, the group mounted its second so-called 24 Experiment program, which involves the productions of plays written by 24 itinerant playwrights, performed by 24 itinerant actors, helmed by 24 itinerant directors.

M. Susan Peck, left, and Catherine Dupont starred in the Point Loma Actors’ 2010 production of Tennessee Williams’ “The Glass Menagerie.” Peck (left) played Amanda and Dupont played Laura during the production.
For music fans living in San Diego, the party of the year takes place Aug. 13, when the San Diego Music Awards hosts the 22nd annual San Diego Music Awards at Humphreys by the Bay.

There will be 27 categories ranging from "Best Electronic" to "Best Tribute Band," decided on by music lovers, with performances from a slew of local heroes, including P.O.D., Unwritten Law, The Euphoria Brass Band, Hills Like Elephants, Dead Feather Moon, The Howls, Hynes and The Mattson 2. This year’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipient will be local icon dour Colin Clyne.

The event is open to the public, with proceeds going to the Taylor Guitars for Schools program to bring music back into the area’s classrooms following years of budgetslashes. More than 60 schools have participated to date, with nearly 35,000 students being given access to music education, thanks to the program.

As important as the event is to local youth, it’s also a big deal for the music community, nominated for the opportunity to hear great artists, is the incredible opportunity to network with fellow artists, producers and promoters. One never knows who might be in attendance or presenting an award. Past surprises have included John Frithwistle of The Who, Wayne Kramer of the MC5 and 1960s icon Johnny Rivers.

Clyne, who relocated to San Diego from his native Scotland as well, said, “It definitely boosts your career,” he said. “Winning it last year, it was offered gigs on TV shows, ‘40s and ‘50s radio stuff.”

“We get a lot of people who come to see you the night we’re there. If you want to be in the business, if you want to be an actor, ‘I say, ‘Well, what are you doing in a workshop? If you want to be an actor, go out. Go get on a stage.’ We have huge amounts of talent in San Diego, but very few of them leave the nest. So, some do, and some are very successful.”

The Euphoria Brass Band, which is nominated in the category of “Best Americana Album” at this year’s San Diego Music Awards, includes band member JP Balmat, who is also the music director at Mission Bay High School.

JP Balmat of the Euphoria Brass Band, who is nominated in the category of “Best Americana Album,” is also the music director at Mission Bay High School. He’s seen firsthand the difference that brings kids and music together can make, so he said he is particularly thrilled to be involved in this year’s event.

“My favorite thing about the San Diego Music Awards is that it brings so many talented musicians from various genres together,” said Balmat. “It celebrates our thriving music scene in San Diego. And it goes back to our local schools, growing the next generation of music lovers and musicians.”

*The San Diego Music Awards take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 13, at Humphreys Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Dr. For more information, visit www.sandiegomusicawards.com.*

For more information on the group, visit www.pointlomaactors.com.
Local youth perform in Junior Theatre production

Point Loma’s Chris Zimmer Huber and Paige Pendarvis are among the 27 students from throughout San Diego County performing in San Diego Junior Theatre’s production of “Footloose.” Based on the 1984 film starring Kevin Bacon and John Lithgow, the production runs through Aug. 12 at Balboa Park’s Casa del Prado Theatre on Fridays at 7 p.m. and weekends at 2 p.m. The Aug. 11 show will be presented along with American Sign Language interpretation.

Mom to Madre launches book drive for students

A back-to-school drive aimed at putting books into the hands of disadvantaged Peninsula-area youngsters is now under way.

Mom to Madre, a nonprofit group, is working specifically to assist low-income mothers with children from birth to age 5. The drive runs until Aug. 17.

Donors are urged to drop off books suitable for young readers at the Ocean Beach Business Center, 4876 Santa Monica Ave.

The group, whose motto is, “We speak the language of familia,” is also accepting monetary donations to purchase books.

Donations can be made online at www.momtomadre.org, using either credit cards, PayPal or Google Checkout.

Volunteer opportunities with the agency are also available throughout San Diego County. Bilingual skills are helpful, but not required. The group’s needs include people to provide classes for pregnant and parenting teens and speakers for parent meetings.

For book drive or volunteer information, call (619) 309-5151.

— Scott Hopkins

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Please call 858-268-3999 for more information and visit our websites:
www.sandiegobahai.org • www.bahai.org

Looking ahead

Peninsula area events, Aug. 11-18

AUG. 11-12

Now in its fourth year, the Point Loma installment of “Relay for Life” is an overnight team relay for walkers and runners, with an area around the track for camping. Funds raised will help with research, advocacy, education and services for people living with cancer. The relay kicks off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11 at NTC Park at Liberty Station and ends at 10 a.m. the next morning.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.relayforlife.org/potlomaoceanbeachca.

THURSDAY, Aug. 16

The Ocean Beach Historical Society hosts its monthly meeting on the topic of “Angels at 7 o’clock—San Diego’s Pioneer Female Aviators,” a talk to be presented by state parks historian Alexander Bevil. The presentation will focus on the untold story of San Diego’s female aviators within the broader context of the history of women’s aviation. The meeting takes place at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit obhistory.wordpress.com.

SATURDAY, Aug. 18

The Free to Breathe San Diego 5K Run/Walk is a family-friendly event that brings the community together to inspire hope and create change for people impacted by lung cancer. All proceeds help support the National Lung Cancer Partnership’s vital research, education and awareness programs. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with the 5K walk/run beginning at 8:15 a.m. The event takes place at Liberty Station NTC Park on 2300 Renfrew Road in Point Loma. Online registration (through Aug. 13) is $20 and is $25 the day of the event. For more information, to register or to donate, visit www.FreeToBreathe.org.

Mom to Madre’s book drive

The Ocean Beach Woman’s Club, located at 2160 Bacon St., recently introduced its 2012-13 board of directors. From left are: Becky Sorenson, vice president; Gloryanna Post, treasurer; Isabelle Lalonde, secretary; Lisa Morse, historian; and Donna Bergerson, president.

For more information call 619-222-1008, or email obwomansclub@gmail.com.

SchoolNotes

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 619-222-1008 OR EMAIL OBWOMANSCCLUB@GMAIL.COM

Sorenson, vice president; Gloryanna Post, treasurer; Isabelle Lalonde, secretary; Lisa Morse, historian; and Donna Bergerson, president.

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www.obbusinesscenter.com

Learn more about the book drive and the Ocean Beach Business Center is a place for driving your own car. We seek people who would be inclined to be involved in our automotive services offer assisted swimming in a warm water environment. The benefits are: Non-weight bearing on joints as seen on television. Facilitates full use of the front and hind legs, partial use as seen with underwater treadmill. Dogs can walk on a treadmill without the risk of other health-related problems. Reduces pain & inflammation. Muscle groups (helps correct muscle imbalance. Increases strength, range of motion & cardiovascular conditioning. Prevents overheating through proper water temperature. Increases tolerance for extended cardiovascular training. Increases recovery time. Reduces post-exercise soreness. Promotes good cross training for the cardiovascular system. Able to swim although unable to move their legs on land due to chronic spinal injury. AIDS manual techniques by therapists. Manual resistance in an affected joint. Swimming in a controlled environment is the safest way for elderly to exercise. Speeds recovery following injury/surgery. Improves flexibility & quality of life. Water requires less energy than land-based muscle groups helps correct muscle imbalance. Reduces pain & inflammation. Increases strength, range of motion & cardiovascular conditioning. Prevents overheating through proper water temperature. Increases tolerance for extended cardiovascular training. Increases recovery time. Reduces post-exercise soreness. Provides good cross training for the cardiovascular system. Able to swim although unable to move their legs on land due to chronic spinal injury. AIDS manual techniques by therapists. Manual resistance in an affected joint. Swimming in a controlled environment is the safest way for elderly to exercise. Speeds recovery following injury/surgery. Improves flexibility & quality of life. Water requires less energy than land-based
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SEALIFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

 seem to be increasing in numbers, according to observers. The blue whales, which normally are found several miles out at sea, have recently been observed from the shoreline in La Jolla.

Experts in the field agree that the recent swell in marine-life populations is due to females following the supply. Experts said other species, like the black sea nettle jellyfish, are showing up in greater numbers because they are drilling along with the upwelling of deep-ocean currents.

In La Jolla, the dark-burgundy colored jellyfish were spotted in San Diego Bay along the Point Loma shoreline.

According to Craig Barlottti, a marine biologist who lives in Point Loma, black sea nettle jellyfish are relatively rare and are usually found in deep water along the Pacific Coast. Barlottti said this particular species is actually more complex than most jellyfish and often has a main body — or “bell” — that measures up to three feet and tentacles extending up to 25 feet.

The species is carnivorous and preys on plankton and other jellyfish. To humans, their sting is nonlethal, but painful, and contact should be avoided, said Barlottti.

And the proliferation of unusual sightings doesn’t stop there.

“We’re seeing more sea life now than ever before,” claims Janet Morrisey, for the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

As the director of the museum’s volunteer department, Morrisey is getting reports of large numbers of marine mammals and sightings of rare species. Morrisey said, “I think understanding is that the cold-water upwellings are providing the food source, such as plankton and krill, that is currently attracting the higher organisms such whales and dolfinic congestion, parking problems, the need for a street closure — are directly related to a church not being compatible for the Liberty Station area.”

Church officials disputed the charges and said the church had taken big steps to help manage the thousands who attend one of the fastest-growing churches in Southern California.

Mark Stevens, the church’s chief operating officer, said the church has a paid traffic-control staff and dozens of volunteers to direct cars away from neighborhood streets and into 1,500 spaces at five schools and offices.

“We also voluntarily post ‘No Church Parking’ signs along the neighborhood streets and in front of the nearby merchants,” Stevens said.

But Bonnie Mann, a Liberty Station resident, said churchgoers have been known to scoff at such measures.

“They park where they’re not supposed to, and get very nasty about it when they’re questioned,” she said. “Two people take up a sign and throw it, saying, ‘Oh, we know we can’t get ticketed on Sundays’.”

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