SDPD buys, tests a ‘must-have’ surveillance tool for officers

The San Diego Police Department has enlisted the help of a new device intended to increase visibility and response time in busy, crowded areas — including the tourist-filled beach communities — to make policing more efficient.

The cutting-edge contraption — officially called a Mobile Utility Surveillance Tower (MUST) — is a four-wheel-drive van with an observation tower that rises 25 feet above the van’s roof, providing the officer in command with an bird’s-eye perch and a 360-degree line of vision.

The observation capsule atop the tower can be fully deployed in two minutes, can withstand winds of up to 40 mph and can accommodate recordable digital or thermal-imaging camera systems, communication and radio equipment, and a computing workstation. The capsule can even accommodate two people, said police officials.

The $200,000 regional-purpose vehicle is built by Dallas-based TerraHawk LLC.

“The MUST can be used in a variety of situations where mobility is key, as this is a self-propelled mobile observation platform to perform command-and-control functions at events,” said San Diego police Lt. Andra Brown.

She said MUST could be used to observe and take control of situations at the beach on a crowded holiday weekend, in the Qualcomm parking lot during football season, local malls for shopper security during the holidays, downtown parades and galas, or assisting in the back-country during wildfires.

The new $200,000 Mobile Utility Surveillance Tower (MUST) vehicle purchased by the San Diego Police Department was tested in Ocean Beach in late November for its off-road capabilities and wind stability. The unit is expected to be used in multiple crowd-control and surveillance circumstances.

How much they handle

Mail processed in San Diego in the post office’s 2011 fiscal year:

- Originating from San Diego:
  - Letters: 2,409,395,841
  - Flats: 215,219,480
  - Packages: 77,922,817
  - Arriving to San Diego:
    - Letters: 4,881,102,817
    - Flats: 399,693,521
    - Packages: 95,208,899

Source: U.S. Postal Service

USPS again eyes Midway Post Office for closure

26-acre site drew few viable bids in round 1

Location. Location. Location.

As it turns out, the U.S. Postal Service planned well when it built the Midway Processing and Distribution Center in 1979 on Midway Drive.

The facility is on a generous-size lot in a good neighborhood — 26 acres in Loma Portal; its nearby neighbor is the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on the lot of national historic landmark; and it’s just minutes from two major freeways and San Diego International Airport.

The Midway Post Office was put up for sale in 2010 then taken off the market when no viable buyers came forward. Now, the facility and its land may be up for grabs again as part of the postal service’s plan to get back in the black.

OB planners put feet down over variances for out-of-place projects

The board, sanctioned by the San Diego City Council to gather citizen input on land use and quality of life issues, voted 9-0 to deny the project at its monthly meeting on Dec. 7. The reason, Ingolia said, is that the proposal, like the two that preceded it, requests a variance that would allow the square footage of the living quarters to be substantially greater than allowed by current zoning.

“I’m not against rebuilding within the rules and regulations of the zoning base laws,” Ingolia said, contacted after the meeting. “But everyone needs to play by the rules and regulations of the zoning base laws.”

The 26-acre Midway Processing and Distribution Center on Midway Drive was put on the sales block in 2010, then taken off when no viable buyer or buyers stepped forward. With the U.S. Postal Service entering dire straits in 2011 and beyond, the facility is once again on the market.

The 5100 block of West Point Loma Avenue is threatening to become the “epicenter” of bulky, out-of-scale development in Ocean Beach, according to the chairman of the Ocean Beach Planning Board (OBPB).

For the third time in recent years, a property owner wants to tear down one of the concrete, low-rise duplexes on the block and replace it with a stylish, three-story, single-family home. And also for the third time, the planners are pushing back, said OBPB Chairman Giovanni Ingolia.
Poring over solutions to stormwater runoff dilemma

By TONY DE GARATE / THE BEACON

Ocean Beach is addicted to the pipe and in need of intervention.

Want proof? Look at what happens when it rains hard, as it did early this week. In a conventional stormwater system like the one in place in Ocean Beach, a series of drains and pipes is designed to collect the water and get rid of it as quickly as possible.

But in areas like Newport Avenue, rain pushes down roof tops and out of rain gutters that lead to nowhere in particular; bouncing off sidewalks and into streets, overwhelming storm drains and leaving business owners scrambling to lay down sand bags as water spills over and covers the sidewalks.

This out-of-control surplus water becomes a toxic soup as it rushes to a storm drain, picking up dog feces, car oil, pesticides, trash, brake linings and anything else it absorbs on its way to the ocean.

But a new vision is being developed that could change this scene.

Imagine this: street asphalt replaced with permeable pavement that actually allows rainwater to soak into the ground before it reaches a storm drain.

Or this: take an area in front of a red curb where no cars can park anyway — like the north side of Newport Avenue just west of the Arco gas station.

Turn it into a “street garden” with native vegetation that holds water and filters out pollutants.

These may seem like small projects — the students who came up with them call them “interventions” — but a new vision of thinking about stormwater collection and means of replenishment.

The concept is known as low-impact design (LID), and a forum sponsored by San Diego Coastkeeper themed “Signs of the Tide — Put a Lid on Pollution” attracted more than 50 people last week at the Electric Ladyland Art and Music Center.

It’s an idea that began to take hold in the late 1990s as the link between declining ocean water quality and untreated stormwater became increasingly apparent, said Gabriel Solmar, advocacy director of San Diego Coastkeeper.

“Along came a new, old idea: mimicking Mother Nature so we can retain that stormwater and not let it run off,” Solmar said.

It was Coastkeeper that sought out the NewSchool of Architecture and Design to work with the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association and develop a real-world project, said Leslie Ryan, the founding chair of the school’s landscape architecture program.

Ocean Beach makes for an ideal location for a stormwater runoff control project because it sits at the western edge of the San Diego River watershed, and Newport Avenue itself is a “micro-watershed” that runs all the way east to the top of the hill at Venice Street and feeds directly into the ocean and the river.

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San Diego is by no means lagging in LID, but neither is it a leader, said Bill Harris of the city’s Transportation and Storm Water Department. Many other cities make much greater use of rain barrels, planted roofs, cisterns and reused stormwater. But a handful of pilot projects here have shown promise, Harris said.

In La Jolla’s Kellogg Park, for instance, stormwater entering the beach from the parking lot has been reduced because of the installation of permeable pavement and bioswales, which can be thought of as a “great big ditch” lined with grass and surround-

ed by native plants, said 10News weatherman Robert Santos, who moderated the forum.

Next year, the city will begin offering rebates for rain barrel purchases, Harris said.

For more information, call (619) 759-7734, or visit www.sdcoastkeeper.org.

GIRAFFE INFUSES ELECTRICITY INTO OB PARADE

Girl Scouts and other local youngsters were intrigued by this animated “Electric Giraffe” during the 32nd annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade winding its way down Newport Avenue on Dec. 3. Russell the Giraffe wiggles its ears, speaks and is the product of a six-year, $40,000 art project by its creator, Lindsay Lawlor. Lawlor said Russell became “a project that got completely out of hand” — much to the amusement of children and adults alike as the colorful, self-propelled robot navigated the parade route. Thousands of spectators got a big thrill when the 10-foot-long, 17-foot-high robot lit up the cold winter night in Ocean Beach.

When the children rushed out to pet the robot’s nose, Russell would giggle and say, “Oh, that tickle!” Russell will soon be transformed, once again, with a fully segmented neck that can move in all directions. The robot’s head and teeth are the exact dimensions of a real giraffe. Lawlor can be contacted at electricgiraffe@gmail.com.
Fire erupts in RV, homeless owner injured

**By BIANCA KOCH | THE BEACON**

Flames erupted around this recreational vehicle during the early morning hours of Dec. 8 in Ocean Beach, gutting the vehicle and sending its homeless owner to the hospital with severe burns, according to investigators.

When firefighters arrived, the flames—apparently triggered by the explosion of a propane tank or bottle—had fully engulfed the front of the RV as it was parked in front of The James Gang print-graphics store on Bacon Street at the intersection with Santa Monica Avenue.

The RV’s owner, described by fire officials as a middle-aged homeless man, was flown to UCSD Medical Center with severe burns across his entire body. The victim, whose identity was not immediately released, was said to be alive, but not coherent.

Fire crews extinguished the blaze in less than a half-hour, and arson has not been ruled out, said investigators.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the SDPD’s Western Division at (619) 692-4800.

Damage to the recreational vehicle is estimated at $5,000, according to fire department spokesman Mauricqe LaQue. Damage was also estimated at $5,000 to a nearby AT&T pole and wires, along with an additional $2,000 in damage to the storefront window of The James Gang store.

SDUSD regains traction after state cuts downgraded

**By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON**

Doomsday will have to wait for the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD)—at least until 2012, if it comes at all.

As it prepared for the final school board meeting of the year Dec. 11, SDUSD trustees learned that mid-year cuts from the state of California had been scaled back to $7 million, not $30 million as originally projected. However, the district is still in a holding pattern as it waits for more news in January on the state budget from Gov. Jerry Brown.

At its meeting Tuesday, the school board adopted a preliminary budget for the 2012-13 school year. The budget includes using funds from real estate sales, reaching into reserves and eliminating 15 vacant non-teaching positions. However, that still leaves a $7.3 million shortfall for the 2012-13 school year another budget gap that will have to be resolved in the new year. The board has until June 30 to approve a final budget.

SDUSD Superintendent Bill Kowba said the school board is committed to maintaining financial solvency and will do all it can to safeguard K-12 education.

In other business, the board closed the book on a school realignment and closure plan that was set in motion in October by the state’s projected revenue cuts. What started as a plan to close 14 schools citywide ended as a five-point plan with one school OK’d for closure in Point Loma.

The school board gave the go-ahead to close the Barnard Elementary School site once the Mandarin Chinese language program that uses the school finds another facility in the district where it can grow into a Pacific Rim language academy. The Mandarin program language will likely remain at Barnard for the 2012-13 school year.

The board also approved a proclamation for the Mandarin program that will allow students to continue to secure grants and independent funding.

The district hopes to generate about $21 million in revenue by the combined sale of the Barnard site; the Mission Beach administrative site near Belmont Park, and Bay Terrace 11, an empty lot in Southeast San Diego.

The district also expects to save at least $2 million in Proposition S money that it would have spent to renovate Barnard.

Other actions the board took that affect Point Loma cluster schools:

**Swimming facilities:** The trustees approved an agreement with the Peninsula Family YMCA for Point Loma High School (PLHS) students to use the swimming facility for practices and games.

Because the school does not have an on-campus pool and there is a lack of city swimming facility for practices and games, San Diego Unified School District officials said.

The trustees sent the homeless owner to the hospital with severe burns.

Fire erupted around this recreational vehicle in Ocean Beach in the wee hours of Dec. 8, sending the homeless owner to the hospital with severe burns.

Photo by Bianca Koch I The Beacon

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**Mortgage regulations have widened than ever. Subtle changes in the way you structure your mortgage, can cost or save you literally thousands of dollars and years of expense.**

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Point Loma Assembly puts out call for new members to carry on 100-year tradition

The holiday season began for the historic Point Loma Assembly on Dec. 1 when its members held a grand tea event at their Assembly Hall, located at 3035 Talbot St.

The sterling silver tea-and-coffee sets sparkled, and trays of tea sandwiches and cookies were displayed in the festive room. The members of the assembly welcomed prospective new members to the clubhouse to encourage more Point Loma residents to get to know the assembly.

The Point Loma Assembly is marking its 100-year anniversary. The organization was originally formed as a local “improvement society” for the benefit and development of the community. Land was donated for a facility by Frank S. Jennings, and fundraising began shortly after the assembly’s first meeting on Nov. 6, 1911. The building was completed in September 1914 and has provided a meeting place in the community ever since. The clubhouse has been used for youth groups, as a polling place, for PTA meetings for Cabrillo School just across Talbot Street from the hall, for Mr. Benjamin’s cotillion, civic meetings, parties and other activities.

During World War I, the Point Loma Assembly clubhouse was turned into a Red Cross distribution center for all of Point Loma for sewing and knitting. Classes were held in first-aid and nutrition.

The building was also used for civilian defense meetings, Coast Guard volunteer port security classes and other war activities. During the years following 1946, the Point Loma Assembly continued its civic, social and educational projects and remains an active part of the community today.

Time and use, however, have taken a toll on the building and there is a need for restoration and repairs. Residents interested in learning more about this Point Loma icon and about participating in the Point Loma Assembly are urged to call (619) 226-1333. — Contribution
On Dec. 5, the USPS announced it must reduce its operating costs by $20 billion by 2015 to return to profitability. To achieve that goal, the postal service must reduce email standards; mass mailings would take longer for mail to be delivered, and close 252 of its 487 processing centers nationwide. A key site—among them—the Midway Post Office.

The “Midway processing facility is very underutilized. There are provisions here, but no mail operations there,” said Elva Jackson, USPS spokeswoman. “There’s also a misconception that the facility is a distribution center.”

It’s not, Jackson said. Today, all mail dropped off at the Midway Post Office is sent 20 miles north to the Margaret L. Sellers Processing Center on Rancho Carmel Drive, which was opened in 1993 to replace the Midway facility. Mail destined for the 15 ZIP codes served by the Midway Post Office is then returned pre-sorted for carriers to pick up and deliver.

Some mail arriving to San Diego is processed at Midway. According to Jack- son, priority and express mail and some machine-sorted mail is handled at Mid- way. There are 347 employees at the facility.

The Midway Post Office is mostly a retail facility. “We probably have to negotiate to maintain the retail,” Jack- son said. “If we lose it, we lose it to a store — in a retail situation the community is not going to lose postal service.”

What will undoubtedly change if the site is sold is the use of the property.

San Diego’s main post office and mail processing facility wasn’t always located on Sixth Avenue and has had many homes throughout the city’s history:

- **1855:** The first post office is established in San Diego on the northeast corner of the Old Town Plaza on Mason and Columbia streets. San Diego has a population of 650 at this time.
- **April 9, 1885:** Richard Raitz is appointed the first postmaster of San Diego and opens the post office in the Dunham Building on F Street between Fourth and Sixth streets. San Diego has a pop- ulation of 2,300 at this time.
- **1876:** Space in the San Diego Union Building at Sixth Avenue and F Street is used as the main post office.
- **1885:** The first transcontinental train arrives in San Diego, bringing mail from the East Coast. San Diego’s population is now 3,500.
- **Oct. 3, 1887:** The letter carrier system of free delivery is inaugurated in San Diego. Four of the first carriers were Joseph E. Coolbruth, Charles E. Lamb, B.E. Hinman, and Jerome V. Hatfield.
- **Oct. 18, 1887:** San Diego letter carriers receive uniforms.
- **1888:** The Bonner Hotel, located on the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and C Street, rents space to the post office.
- **1890:** San Diego post office moves to a new five-story St. James Hotel on the northwest corner of Seventh Avenue and F Street.
- **1912:** The first facility built for the sole purpose of being a post office in San Diego is finished and located at 925 West F Street.
- **1936:** The main post office moves to Sixth Avenue and E Street in downtown San Diego.
- **Aug. 19, 1972:** Midway Processing and Distribution Center opens at 2535 Midway Drive as San Diego’s main post office.
- **1983:** Carmel Mountain Ranch processing facility opens at 1261 Rancho Carmel Drive.
- **2006:** USPS experiences a sharp drop in mail volume. The change is attributed to a lingering economy and increased use of technology for bill paying and communication.
- **2010:** USPS lists the Midway Post Office for sale and then takes it off the market when no viable buyer comes forward.

At this point, what will be any- body’s guess. In 2010, USPS teamed up with C.B. Ellis to sell the site. At that time, a USPS consultant estimated the potential prop- erty value of the Midway Post Office site was $62.5 million if it was used for pri- vate industrial use. The value was pre- sented to the San Diego Midway Community Planning Group.

A local nonprofit group called Amici came forward with a bid to use the land as a homeless center. The concept was quickly rejected and the mayor was also a rumor the site was being considered for a Costco store. The sale quickly faded and the property was taken off the market.

If the Peninsula Woman’s Club has its way, the site would serve the senior community. Club members have petitioned local planning boards and City Hall with their concept. But like everyone else, they are focused on keeping dollars in the area. The community is not about to sell the property, “If we sell the property, we’ll probably negotiate to maintain the retail,” Jack- son said. “If not, we’ll move it to a store front in the area. The community is not going to lose postal service.”

Jeffrey has compiled a free report that he calls How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast! This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jeffrey says the information in this report is the secret to his success in selling homes so quickly, and the reason he can guarantee to sell any house in less than 90 days.

To get a copy of this free report, How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar – Fast! just call 888-611-9015, ext. 36 for a free recorded message. There’s no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!
Red Cross offers tips for 12 days of holiday safety

By Teri Klemchuk, American Red Cross

Having a busy time getting ready for the holidays? Whether it’s shopping, baking, gift-wrapping, decorating and going to parties, the American Red Cross-San Diego/Imperial Counties chapter has several ideas to think about.

• Prepare the vehicle for trav- eling to grandmother’s house. Build an emergency kit and include items like blankets or sleeping bags, jump-start cables, compass and road maps, shovel, tire repair kit and pump, extra clothing, flares and a tow rope.

• Drive the sleigh and reindeer safely. Avoid driving in a storm. If travel is a must, someone should cough or blow smoke away after use. If a tissue isn’t available, someone should cough or sneeze into their elbow, not their hands.

• Follow Santa’s fashion lead—dress warmly. If it’s outside, layer lightweight clothing available, someone should cough or sneeze into their elbow, not their hands.

• Avoid danger while roasting chestnuts on an open fire. Keep the kitchen free of clutter, greasy cooking or broiling food. If leaving the kitchen— even for a short period of time— make sure the oven is off. It’s important because unattended cooking causes nearly 90 percent of all kitchen fires.

• Take CPR classes. The Red Cross recommends at least one person in every household should take first-aid and CPR/AED training. Visit www.redcross.org/- training for details and to register.

• Designate a driver or skip the homey cheese. Buckle down, don’t drive impaired. If some- one plans to drink alcohol beverages, designate a driver who won’t drink.

• When the weather outside is frightful, keep the homey safe. Never use a stove or oven to heat the home. Never leave portable heaters or fireplaces unattended. Install smoke alarms.

• Cut down on heating bills with sources of heat. Be sure the furnace is cleaned and change the fil- ters. Make sure furniture isn’t block- ing the heat vents. Close off any rooms in not use and turn off the heat in those rooms. Turn down the thermostat when no one is home.

• Home for the holidays? Travel safely. Check the tire air pressure and make sure the windshield fluid is full. Be well-rested and alert. Give full attention to the road and avoid distractions like cell phones, if you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.

• Be ready for Red Cross—ready in the New Year. Get ready now in case someone in the house- hold faces an emergency in 2012.

— Teri Klemchuk is the communica- tions coordinator for the American Red Cross, San Diego-Imperial Counties Chapter. For more information about the American Red Cross, its programs or to support the chapter, call (858) 309-1200, or visit www.sdrc.org. You can also connect with them on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

It’s time to wake up, Ocean Beach

As a longtime resident of Ocean Beach, I am dismayed by the Ocean Beach Community Plan’s (OBCP) failure to honor the integrity of our beachfront on Abbott Street. By approving a 10-unit, three-story condo project on the west side of Abbott Street and just north of the parking lot at the lifeguard tower, the OBCP has wiped out decades of local struggle to keep an open view and free feeling along our precious shores.

Though the space is currently occup- ied by a few single-story beach rentals and an abandoned restaurant, local res- idents and visiting admirers of our lovely Ocean Beach can walk or ride along Abbott Street and see the ocean, pier and shore with its people playing in the surf. A three-story condo project will create a huge obstruction to the open view, as well as increase traffic problems, and cre- ate inaccessibility to that portion of the beach from Abbott Street.

When I was on the OBCP in the mid- 1980s, we received verbal requests to develop that particular section of the beach. We followed the Ocean Beach Master Plan, which prohibits commer- cial and other development on that sec- tion of the beach. In fact, the existing structure west of Abbott was grandfa- thered in, and any future development on that site was expressly prohibited by the OBCP.

Ocean Beach will lose one of its only open areas along the beach when this consideration is made. A huge barrier to our view of the beach will be erected right in the heart of what is symbolical- ly and, in reality, Ocean Beach’s greatest asset: its beachfront, surfing, swimming and sunset-enjoying community.

Shame on the OBCP for selling out to individual and commercial interests and stealing from its community our most cherished beachfront.

Bobby Smith
Frustrated Ocean Beach resident

One giant leap for childhood obesity

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 31 million chil- dren and adolescents are obese in the United States, with the prevalence almost tripling since 1980. These numbers are horrifying, yet food correlates aren’t leading the way—up to 200 of them are being “Cars” character fruit snacks in their lunches. And that’s not even counting the influence over consumers. They have incredible potential for promoting healthy diet and lifestyles, yet they choose to use their power for evil. Sure, we all face food marketing and shiny labels, but the difference between us is adults that we have the knowledge and understanding to make decisions know- ing the health effects.

Children, however, though aware of advertising and choices, lack the under- standing and self-efficiency to know what they put in their bodies affects their health and safety. Children are healthy and, in reality, Ocean Beach’s greatest asset: its beachfront, surfing, swimming and sunset-enjoying community.

Shame on the OBCP for selling out to individual and commercial interests and stealing from its community our most cherished beachfront.

One giant leap for childhood obesity

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Children, however, though aware of advertising and choices, lack the under- standing and self-efficiency to know what they put in their bodies affects their health and safety. Children are healthy and, in reality, Ocean Beach’s greatest asset: its beachfront, surfing, swimming and sunset-enjoying community.

Shame on the OBCP for selling out to individual and commercial interests and stealing from its community our most cherished beachfront.

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Everything you want for

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* Friendly People
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Ocean Beach MainStreet Association
1868 Bacon St, Suite A, San Diego, CA 92107
619.224.4906 | info@oceanbeachsandiego.com
Everything You Want for Christmas right here in Ocean Beach

Holiday Cheer • Friendly People • Great Food
Unique Shopping • Festive Atmosphere
www.oceanbeachsandiego.com

Happy Holidays!

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Christmas and Kwanzaa

Wide selection of canine floating toys,
holiday squeakers, soft cuddly
toys, and plenty of ropes and chews

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Wishing you & your family the Best this Holiday Season & In The New Year ahead. From your local community hardware store.

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Christmas and Kwanzaa

Wide selection of canine floating toys,
holiday squeakers, soft cuddly
toys, and plenty of ropes and chews

Unique gifts for dog lovers such as
games, puzzles and Pet Blinkers

HAPPY HOLIDAYS ONE AND ALL!
Members of the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) are lighting up the neighborhood this year, participating in a new kind of holiday decorating contest.

The inaugural program, called “Celebrate with Lights,” was conceived as a way to group business owners together to participate in a light-based holiday decorating contest.

Residents are encouraged to take a drive through Ocean Beach at night to see the lights and check out the hard work of the merchants.

Carol Ladiges, owner of Lighthouse Ice Cream, originally came to the OBMA’s Promotion Committee with the idea.

“What better way for people to enjoy our community and shops during the holidays,” she asked. “It’s always so fun to turn a corner and find yourself on a street filled with lights. Why couldn’t our businesses do that too?”

The businesses were approached by members of the Promotion Committee and, in each of the nine business sections, a business owner stepped up to volunteer to rally their neighbors.

“It’s been a very successful contest for [being] the first year, with half of the sections getting 50 percent or more of their neighbors to participate,” said Triva Schriebrman, chairwoman of the Promotion Committee and owner of Wizard of Paws.

Congratulations to the businesses in the winning section — No. 9 — for all of their participation and hard work, and a special thanks to Matt Kalla and Reka Katona (Matt Kalla Insurance Agency) and the Section 9 Leaders for motivating your neighbors.

Section 9 includes businesses in the Catalina Boulevard/Voltaire Street/Chatsworth Boulevard business district. This section includes the following businesses:

• The Reunion
• Zed Electric
• To the Point
• CJ’s Bakery
• Whyte’s Antique Furniture
• Matt Kalla Insurance
• Cabrillo Pet Hospital
• Coastal Sage Botany
• Hostelling International Point Loma
• Embassy Dry Cleaners
• Coconut Peet’s Surfboard Repair
• Sunshine Liquor
• VCA Peninsula Animal Hospital
• Preferred by Pets
• The Venetian
• European Cake Gallery
• Paper Moon Music
• Karen’s Consignments
• Alexander’s Upholstery
• Pelletier Co.
• B Wood Insurance
• Flowers of Pt. Loma
• Pacific View Realty

A special nod from OBMA goes to the following businesses that went above and beyond: The Inn at Sunset Cliffs and Details Salon-Spa.

— Special to The Beacon from OBMA

Ocean Beach celebrates holiday season with storefront light pizzazz

Use Your Flex & Insurance Benefits by the End of the Year!

Contact Lens Package
• Complete Eye Exams
• All follow up visits
• Six month supply of disposable
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COMPLETE OCULAR HEALTH EVALUATION including exam for glasses

$58

COMPLETE OCULAR HEALTH EVALUATION including exam for glasses & contacts

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B&B queen rooms + 2 room suite + full breakfast
Condo - 1-3 bedroom(s)
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Ocean Beach
(short walk to pier and beach)
(619) 226-4133 www.bbinnob.com

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Everything You Want for Christmas right here in Ocean Beach

Santa Comes to O.B. Dec 17, 24 11AM-1PM • Newport & Abbot
OB Craft Fair Dec 17, 24 • 9AM-3PM • Farmer’s Market Every Wednesday, 4-7PM
Food & Toy Drive 5PM Dec 15, 16 PL Methodist Church
www.oceanbeachsandiego.com

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therapiedayspa.com   facebook.com/therapiedayspa
1918 Bacon St. Ocean Beach    619.224.2284

Thérapie’s Holiday Gift Box
Gift Certificate for a 1hr minute massage or Facial
Thérapie Signature Soy Candle
Trial Pack of our 5 favorite Skin Care products from IMAGE Skincare
All wrapped to go under the tree for just $49

Merry Christmas!

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Over 30 Years in OB!
Formerly at 1955 Bacon St. Randy Green

Season’s Greetings!

A Consistent Award Winning German Restaurant
Large menu selection, including such favorites as Roasted Duck, Wiener Schnitzel, Sauerbraten and Rouladen of Beef. Plus Smörgåsbord & Seafood. Daily Special, Full bar and Biergarten. Extensive selection of German beer on tap.

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(619) 223-1232
FAX 223-0820
obab1@sbcglobal.net

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Newport Pizza & Ale House
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We Specialize in all auto body work & insurance work
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Season’s Greetings!
Happy Holidays

from

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Happy Holiday Gift
from SUPERMAX!

$5 OFF
any purchase of $20 or more
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99¢ Margarita
with purchase of any combo
With coupon. House margarita only.
Not valid with any other offer. Expires 1/31/12

Happy OB Holidays!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Bravo’s
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5901 Newport Ave. Ocean Beach

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Feliz Navidad
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Relax & Enjoy a great meal with family & friends during the holidays
Ask about our Luncheon Banquet Room or Party Take-Out for large or small groups
Voted #1 Restaurant 2009 • 2010 • 2011
Serving the Peninsula for over 50 years!

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MIXING IT UP WITH ONE OF OB’S NEW BUSINESSES
The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association (OBMA) held a social mixer event for merchants and guests on Dec. 8 to welcome a new business in town – Therapie Day Spa on 4985 Voltaire St. Among the hostesses and participants were Therapie Day Spa aesthetician (photo left) Jess Sullivan and owner Kelly Robinson. Above are businesswoman Jan Mink, OBMA Executive Director Denny Knox, OBMA 2nd Vice President Mike Akey and OBMA President Barb Iacometti.

4991 NEWPORT AVE. (619) 221-2941
CORNER OF BACON • OPEN FROM 8AM TO 10PM DAILY

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CORNER OF BACON • OPEN FROM 8AM TO 10PM DAILY

Happy OB Holidays!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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HAPPY HOUR - EVERYDAY 4-7PM
WELL DRINKS: $2.50
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7 TVs • 5 Plasma TVs
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Special Holiday / New Years Section in the December 22nd issue of the Beacon

For additional information or questions regarding advertising contact Mike Fahey at 858-270-3103 ext. 117, or email mikefahey@sdnews.com

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Happy Hour 5 – 6pm Everyday 1/2 Price Pitchers
$2 off All Pitchers all night
$3 off Minute Pitchers
$3 Sunshine Lemonade all night
Super Pint Night
Aloha Fridays: $10 pitchers of Kona Longboard Lager all day!

Happy Hour 3 – 7pm Everyday!
$1 off u-call it 8pm-1am
Super Pint Night
$2 off anything on our menu all night!
$3 off pitchers after 7pm
$2.00 Miller High Life bottles
Miller High Life bottle $2
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$3 Bloody Mary’s all day!
Food & Drink Specials!
Watch the NFL & College Football!

Every Day: Happy Hour 4:30-6:30pm
$6 for 1/4 burger, fries & domestic pint!
$3 food, wine, well drinks, 1/2 price pitchers. Mon-Thurs 8 sliders and a pitcher of domestic beer for $19.00

Like us on Facebook! New 110” projection TV!

Every Day: Happy Hour 4-7pm
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Enjoy Happy Hour Every Day: from 4-6pm and 9-11pm!
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UNIT

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

 capability and, as a city with a good portion of beach area, we need to test its capabilities — thus, the test at the beach," she said. "As for border patrol duties, those duties are handled very capably by U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel. We do not get into that sort of enforcement.

The vehicle was purchased with grant funding made available throughout the country, said officials. The police department has so far purchased only one, and there are no immediate plans to purchase another at this time, Brown said.

“The San Diego Police Department is only the trustee of the vehicle,” said Brown. “All agencies throughout the county may use it.”

The vehicle is in the “familiarization and training” phase, but the department hopes to have the MUST ready for use by the beginning of the new year.

“We began the purchase process in 2009 with grant funds,” she said. “We are still in the process of transferring the paperwork so that we may take delivery of it.

In a response dated Dec. 7, Goldsmith requested his legal opinion.

Goldsmith’s opinion and how to said granting the variances did not con- c"ized Goldsmith’s opinion and how to said granting the variances did not con- c...
The holiday spirit just keeps on coming in Ocean Beach

Not to be outdone by other communities in San Diego, Ocean Beach residents continue to brim with holiday spirit and the joy of giving to those less fortunate — a long-held trait embodied by Obecians and their merchants. The selflessness continues this week with the annual community Food and Toy Drive. Goods will be delivered to the underprivileged on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Local schoolchildren were treated to the annual tradition of decorating the Ocean Beach community Christmas tree earlier this month, adding their own special ideas to brighten the neighborhood near Veterans Park at the sea wall. As an added bonus, the young students got to share their holiday wish lists with none other than Santa himself.

Photo by Mike McCarthy I The Beacon

Ocean Beach volunteer Mike Colpo lends his expertise in decorating the community Christmas tree with a little lift from a bucket truck.

Photo by Mike McCarthy I The Beacon

A bagpipe player puts his lungs into it during the 32nd installment of the Ocean Beach Christmas Parade down Newport Avenue on Dec. 3.

Photo by Paul Hansen I The Beacon

Smiling faces were everywhere on Dec. 3 during the 32nd annual Ocean Beach Christmas Parade.

Photo by Paul Hansen I The Beacon

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

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

Community newspapers provide strong, viable marketing vehicles to help you develop all or part of your business. Local resale shop biz permits, blueprints, Residential Designs. LOW

HELP WANTED 250

ANIMALS FEMALE BULLDOGS Adorable F. bulldogs slate color $600 each with spay permit. All are up to date. Easy to train. (619) 720-2801.

ANIMALS STUD FREE DOG/DOGS 10 months old AKC registered. Handsome F. bulldog $750. Contact: (619) 575-0298.

ANIMALS STUD FREE DOG/DOGS 2 male, 6 months old AKC registered. Handsome $300 each. Contact: (619) 575-0298.

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Anderson Medical Center Opens in Pacific Beach

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

The Anderson Medical Center is located at 1945 Garnet Avenue. The clinic will feature the latest in technology including digital x-rays and electronic health records.

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

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

Most insurance will be accepted. For more information you can call 858-224-7877 or visit our website at Andersonmedicalcenter.com.

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2011 winners of the
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Las Posadas Holiday Event Draws Hundred to Park

Hundreds attended the Las Posadas procession in Old Town San Diego Historic State Park on Sunday, Dec. 11. The annual Las Posadas event is a candlelight procession that re-enacts the biblical story of Mary and Joseph’s search for a birthplace for the Christ child. This year was the 61st annual procession in Old Town but the tradition has been happening since 1546 in Mexico and is practiced around the world.

Everyone was invited to join the candlelit procession as the players went from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession was led by professional actors in period costume. Pictured from left to right, Aminah al-Jaber as Innkeeper, Ramona al-Jaber as Innkeeper, Victor Contreras as Joseph, Reyna Morales as Mary, April Fisher as Angel, Eric George as Wise Man, Federico Moramarco as Wise Man, David Cohen as Wise Man, Austyn Myers as Shepherd Son, Steve Jensen as Father Shepherd and Willie, the acting donkey.

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Local author co-curates Balboa Park exhibit

Melanie Dellas, an Ocean Beach/Point Loma children’s book author, is now co-curating an exhibit at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park.

The exhibit began Dec. 12 and will be open to the public for six months. The exhibit is called “Our City, Our Neighborhoods,” and chronicles San Diego’s diverse neighborhoods rich in history and culture.

The exhibit covers the lengthy inhabitation by the Kumeyaay Indians, the discovery of what is now San Diego by Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, colonization efforts that began in 1774 and the city’s incorporation in 1850.

Today, the city has more than 30 neighborhoods and an estimated population of nearly 1.4 million people. Featured in the exhibit is an overview of eight of these historic neighborhoods: Southeast San Diego, Barrio Logan, Little Italy, Mission Valley, downtown, Old Town, Point Loma and Hillcrest.

Along the halls of the history center is documentation of the rich history from the city’s origins in Old Town to the fishermen of Little Italy to downtown’s brothels, opium dens and Wyatt Earp’s gambling halls and saloons.

The San Diego History Center is located at 1449 El Prado, Suite 3. It is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $6 for adults, $4 for seniors, students and active-duty military and $2 for children ages 6–17. Children under 6 are admitted free. For more information, visit www.sandiegohistory.org.

--- Staff and contributed

3-day ‘Christmas Tabernacle’ to light up Liberty Station

By BART MENDEZ | THE BEACON

The NTC Promenade at Liberty Station in Point Loma will come alive for three days this weekend during the inaugural edition of San Diego’s newest Christmas spectacular, dubbed “Christmas Tabernacle.”

Between Dec. 16 and Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, visitors will be treated to a multitude of Christmas-themed happenings. Offering up something for just about everybody, options will range from a full, on-stage production of “The Nutcracker” by the San Diego Ballet to horse-and-carriage rides to a shopping village.

Organized by Jamie Sutton and Linda Lopez of Pacific Event Productions, the full-scale event is solely about the holiday tradition.

“We want to bring Christmas back to San Diego,” said Sutton. “So many things in the world in general — have taken the Christmas out of Christmas. We wanted to bring it back and start a new ‘old tradition’ for the area.”

There will be two stages set up during the holiday gala, featuring performers from several local churches and schools. The main stage will feature the event’s headliners, ventriloquist Kevin Johnson, crooner David Patrone, the Master Chorale Singers with the Westwind Brass and the Marashi Reel with folkloric dancers.

Notably, many of San Diego’s performing arts groups will be heavily involved, including the San Diego Ballet, The Cygnet Theatre and the BFOC Irish School of Dance, along with the House of Blues Gospel Brass Choir.

“There’s so much going on it’s almost like a theme park that we put up for four days (including a VIP preview night on Dec. 15),” Sutton said. “One thing we’re doing that is pretty unique is that we’ll have a full, outdoor living nativity scene. We’re going to have about 20 actors doing that is pretty unique is that we’ll have live actors and live animals, sheep, donkeys and camels and on so.”

Meanwhile, the Santa’s Village area will be complete with a snow hill for kids to go sledding.

“Next to that, we have live reindeer,” said Sutton. “So there are a lot of really unique things here that you’re not going to see every day.”

Sutton said he hopes this event will find a place in San Diego’s heart like other family-friendly holiday events around town. He said he hopes for up to 35,000 visitors throughout the weekend.

“We want it to be kind of like ‘December Nights’ is for Balboa Park, where you know it’s an annual thing and you kind of attach it to the venue,” he said. “That’s the sort of thing we want to see happen with this, where it’ll just be known as the annual thing happening down there at Liberty Station.”

Sutton said he is thrilled with the opportunity to bring an event like this to area residents.

“I’m a San Diego native,” he said. “Before this, I had a tourism company, where we deal in tourists and I just loved being able to share the city that I grew up in, the city that I love.”

He said he sees the event as a way to continue that San Diego feel-good feeling.

“If of course, No. 1, the point of this is to create a Christmas event, but second to that is to be able to see this community come together in a new tradition,” Sutton said. “Just having friends and family there together, enjoying themselves, sipping hot chocolate, sitting on Santa’s lap. Just that whole experience, to me, is what makes it worth it.”

Sutton admits there is hard work involved in putting “Christmas Tabernacle” together, but he said he is happy with the results.

“It’s been a full-time project since last November,” he said. “Every people that are close to us, we kind of tell them what’s going on, but I still don’t think they get it. They will when they show up through. When they get out there, they’ll be amazed.”

Christmas Tabernacle takes place beginning at 11 a.m. daily, Friday, Dec. 16 through Sunday, Dec. 18, at the NTC Promenade of Liberty Station, 2540 Historic Decatur Road. All ages. For more information, visit www.AChristmasTabernacle.com.
Local named to National Youth Leadership Society

Point Loma resident Michele Miller, 20, received national and local recognition during the Venturing/Sea Scouts annual dinner Nov. 18 at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla.

The local council, on behalf of the National Court of Honor, inducted Miller into the National Youth Leadership Society’s class of 2011. She also received the San Diego-Imperial Council (SDIC) Venturing Leadership Award in recognition of her unit and council work. Additionally, Miller was presented the Silver Award, the highest achievement award in Venturing, which is the co-ed outdoor leadership program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

“Point Loma resident Julie Anderson took the Best of Show Award at the December juried exhibition “All That It,” hosted by the San Diego Watercolor Society.”

Point Loma artist Julie Anderson captured the Best of Show Award in the San Diego Watercolor Society’s December juried exhibition with this work, entitled “Gentle Persuasion.”

The show will continue at the San Diego Watercolor Society’s gallery, located in Point Loma’s Liberty Station at 2825 Dewey Road. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, visit www.sdwcs.org.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Makua, the Voices for Children auxiliary group, to release CD

Makua, the fundraising auxiliary group of Voices for Children, has taken its outreach efforts to a new level with the creation of a recording of original music by San Diego-based musicians. The proceeds of all CD sales will benefit Voices for Children (VFC), the only nonprofit organization that trains volunteers to be court-appointed special advocates (CASAs) working on behalf of children in San Diego’s foster-care system.

Titled “Voices from the Heart,” the compilation CD-release party is set for Saturday, Dec. 17 from noon to 2 p.m. at San Diego Harley-Davidson, located at 5400 Kearny Mesa Road in Kearny Mesa.

The event features a free barbeque, a performance by the Lacy Younger Band and other artists on the CD, and marks the official call for submissions for the second CD in the series. Local artists will be able to submit their original recordings through the Makua website, www.makua.org.

This project was the brainchild of singer-songwriter Lacy Younger, whose 2007 hit “Something You Do,” remained on the Top 40 chart for 12 weeks. Younger became a supporter of Makua after she performed at the group’s 2008 fundraiser. Inspired by the passion and spirit of the Makua members, Lacy decided to join the group’s endeavor to raise funds for and increase awareness of Voices for Children.

The artists on “Voices from the Heart,” volume one of a planned series of compilation CDs, were selected from a call for submissions, gathered from November 2010 through May 2011. The professionally-mastered CD features 11 artists, whose musical genres range from alternative to pop, rock, country and reggae.

The 12-track CD is $15, and available for purchase through the Voices for Children and Makua websites. For more information about the CD and CD-release event, or to purchase a CD through the Makua website, visit www.makua.org/categories/ordered/order_cd.html.

For more information regarding Voices for Children and Makua, call (858) 598-2213, or email jennifer@makua.org.

People in the News

Point Loma resident Michelle Miller was a recipient of several honors recently at the Venturing/Sea Scouts annual dinner Nov. 18 at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla.

The local council, on behalf of the National Court of Honor, inducted Miller into the National Youth Leadership Society’s class of 2011. She also received the San Diego-Imperial Council (SDIC) Venturing Leadership Award in recognition of her unit and council work. Additionally, Miller was presented the Silver Award, the highest achievement award in Venturing, which is the co-ed outdoor leadership program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

“The National Youth Leadership Society recognizes the elite of BSA programs who have learned and practiced outstanding leadership through taking leadership courses and holding leadership positions. Additional, Miller received the San Diego-Imperial Council Leadership Society’s class of 2011. She was inducted into the National Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). She has also earned the Venturing Outdoor Brome Award and the Gold Award. As part of her Gold Award requirement, she was Conservation Project Leader at Mission Trails Regional Park, where she planned a community service project and recruited 30 volunteers to build fences to protect endangered plants and animals. Recipients of these awards have mastered many skills including wilderness survival, orienteering, backcountry cooking, search and rescue, backpacking, first aid and, above all, leadership through taking leadership courses and holding leadership positions.

For more information about the programs, email autumn.parker@scouting.org.

Artists take top award at SDIVS’s December show

Point Loma resident Julie Anderson took the Best of Show Award at the December juried exhibition “All That It,” hosted by the San Diego Watercolor Society.

Julie’s painting, entitled “Gentle Persuasion,” depicts a mother gently urging her child to climb up a small hill. It is done using opaque watercolors. There is an underpainting in bright orange and all shapes were then outlined in bright purple. Paint was applied to the shapes in a flat manner and then a pattern of lines, circles and squares was painted over each shape piece to create a flat, patterned, somewhat-abstract design.

The first-place award went to Gordon Bashant of Scripps Ranch for “Regata” and La Jolla resident Marion Mettler took second place with “Gentle Persuasion.”

The second-place award went to Gary Keller of Scripps Ranch for “Deconstructed Figure Series #10.”

For more information about the programs, visit the San Diego Watercolor Society’s website, www.sdwcs.org.

Enjoy Christmas Services at These Churches

Christmas Eve Services

Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church
2128 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, CA 92107 • 619.223.1633 • pointlomachurch.sdsu.edu

Christmas Eve Services

5:00-7:00-9:00-11:00 p.m.
Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church
2128 Chatsworth Blvd, San Diego, CA 92107 • 619.223.1633 • pointlomachurch.sdsu.edu

Christmas Worship Guide 2011
The Ocean Beach Town Council brings home the holidays with its annual community Food and Toy Drive for local disadvantaged families. Volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and sorting of donated items (be on the lookout for the Christmas donation cans around Ocean Beach) during this three-day period from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

SATURDAYS, Dec. 17 and 24
The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts weekly OB Craft Fairs at Veterans Plaza for all your holiday shopping. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

December 16, 17, 18
“Christmas Tabernacle” lights up Liberty Station in Point Loma. Visit www.christmastabernacle.com for more information. Location: Liberty Station in Point Loma.

THURSDAY, Jan. 12
Point Loma High School will host an informational meeting for prospective students and their parents at 6 p.m. The event will offer an opportunity for new students and parents to meet the school’s administrators, counselors, current students and parents, and teachers at Point Loma High. The event takes place in the school’s gymnasium, located at 2315 Chatsworth Blvd. The event includes an overview of various programs, clubs and music opportunities at the school and the course-selection process and enrollment process for ninth-grade courses. For more information, call the PLHS counseling office at (619) 223-1121, ext. 1129.

SUNDAY, Jan. 22
Annual meeting of the United Portuguese S.E.S., Inc. The meeting will be held at the United Portuguese S.E.S. Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal at 7 p.m. All members and prospective members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, call (619) 223-5880, or visit www.upses.com.

THURSDAY, Dec. 15 and 16
The Point Loma Garden Club brings home the holidays with its annual community Food and Toy Drive for local disadvantaged families. Volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and sorting of donated items (be on the lookout for the Christmas donation cans around Ocean Beach) during this three-day period from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

Looking ahead

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

THURSDAY, Dec. 22
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SUNDAYS
The Ocean Beach Town Council will begin services at the new location at The Episcopal Church Center, 2081 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. every Sunday at 9 a.m. with Pastor Terry. The traditional Christmas Eve service will be held Saturday, Dec. 24 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the church. For more information, visit www.edsd.org/ecd.