La Jollan works to solve trash crisis

PLJ, Town Council also involved

By ALYSSA RAMOS | VILLAGE NEWS

La Jolla coastal resident Chasan attended February’s Promote La Jolla (PLJ) meeting in an effort to solicit aid from the business improvement district after the City of San Diego rallied to save trash pickup costs by removing 14 beachside garbage cans.

“It’s a public safety hazard that causes bacteria buildup when the trash washes down to the ocean. It’s a health issue,” Chasan said.

The La Jolla coastal resident traveled to areas missing trash cans and snapped photos of their replacements – mountains of refuse and plastic rubbish bags that she says the ocean washes away. So stay-at-home mom Chasan called city, state and La Jolla officials, she said.

“The municipalities are required to maintain the trash. [City of San Diego Park and Recreation director Stacey LoMedico] is sending someone to see if there’s trash on the beaches,” Chasan said. “But there’s no trash on the beach [at the Children’s Pool].”

In an effort to end more than five years of litigation, controversy and fees at La Jolla’s Children’s Pool, San Diego City Council members voted 7-1 Feb. 17 to send legislation to Sacramento that would give the city power to add the term “marine mammal habitat” to the list of uses included in a 1931 California tidelands grant.

Seal advocates and pro-beach activists poured into Tuesday’s council meeting, offering their opinions before the council voted to pass a resolution that would end years of battling over use of the Children’s Pool.

“The City Attorney’s Office recommended to the council that the council approve the resolution,” said San Diego Deputy City Attorney George Schaefer. “We did our legal research and we have concluded that the legislature has the authority to amend the trust to add the use.”

Casa Beach, or the Children’s Pool, was among several areas the state gave to the city for certain uses in a 1931 state grant, including “public park, bathing pool for children, highway, playground and recreation purposes,” and to such other uses as may be incident to, or convenient for the full enjoyment of, such purposes,” the statutes stated, adding the right to fish off the waters. According to Schaefer, council members inserted a clarification into the resolution allowing the council discretion regarding Children’s Pool uses.

The council intends to add marine mammal viewing to the list of uses, which would settle ongoing state and federal cases regarding the area and its intended use while keeping the Children’s Pool’s current uses intact, Schaefer said.

TPES Kids Care Club collects for TJ orphans

By MRS. GORDON’S SECOND-GRADE CLASS | TORREY PINES ELEMENTARY

The Torrey Pines Elementary School’s (TPES) Kids Care Club (KKC) is asking residents to donate winter items to the Creatures for Comfort drive, in an effort to aid Tijuana children whose parents are in prison.

The drive continues through Monday, Feb. 23 at the school’s office.

“An event in 2007 inspired the PTO to hold the drive,” said KKC parent helper Friedman. “The first year the organization in Tijuana and wanted to help the organization,” KKC parent helper Amanda Friedman said. “It seemed like a really good idea.”

Friedman said the club — now in its third year — includes about 10 volunteers. At the beginning of each year, club members choose different organizations to focus on throughout the months, she said.

That’s what it was this month,” Friedman said. “Some-thing new. We’re collecting winter coats and new or gently used toys for children ages 2 to 15 at the Torrey Pines Elementary School office through Feb. 23. For information, contact Amanda@fourfriedmans.com.

For more information about TPES Kids Care Club, visit www.tpesfoundation.org.

Bishop’s girls soccer crowned in Coastal S

BY DAVE THOMAS | VILLAGE NEWS

With the CIF playoffs right around the corner, several local scholastic soccer teams are kicking it into high gear.

On the girls side, The Bishop’s School under head coach Brian Quinm headed into play this week with a record of 10-4-3, riding a seven-game unbeaten streak in the process.

Bishop’s posted its 10th win of the season last Friday with a 5-0 shutout over rival La Jolla Country Day School.

Bishop’s, which won the Coastal League South for the
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Jury awards firefighters $5,000 each

BY NEAL PUTRUM / VILLAGE NEWS

After three days of deliberations, a jury on Tuesday found four fire¬fighters were subjected to sexual harassment after being forced to drive a fire truck in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Parade in 2007. After the parade, the firefighters were subjected to sexual harassment after being forced to drive a fire truck.

The total award came to $34,300 to all four men, who all testified they felt uncomfortable and filed a lawsuit against the city. A previous jury deadlocked last October when they could not get nine votes on the question of whether the men were subjected to sexual harassment by parade spectators.

Their attorney, Charles LiMandri, said reporters “the report itself is not important” and called it a victory. However, LiMandri has paid for the cost of both lawsuits and depositions, and his costs and attorneys fees have reached $1 million, he said.

Deputy City Attorney Don Shanahan said his office would appeal the verdict, even though, in his words, “the damages are extreme¬ly low.” Deputy City Attorney Kristin Zlotnik said, “The policy was changed before they filed the lawsuit.”

Fire Chief Tracy Jarman testified at both trials and said she met with the four firefighters days after the parade. Jarman testified she and the department changed the policy the next week by only having vol¬unteer riders in future LGBT parades.

John Sotto was awarded other damages of $14,000 for past and future lost earnings because he testified he was transferred to another fire station where he no longer works as a paramedic. Chad Allison was awarded $10,000 for medical expenses, which repre¬sents the co-pay amount he actual¬ly paid for seven therapy sessions. Jason Hewitt and Alexander Kane were awarded $5,000 each.

Since the city lost the suit, LiMandri could ask San Diego Superior Court Judge Tommy Tay¬lor to order the city to pay his attorneys fees and costs. One juror said the highest amount of damages they consid¬ered was $10,000 for some of the firefighters. Other jurs did not reach agreement with that figure.

“It was thoroughly discussed and debated,” said the juror adding, “They (firefighters) made it clear they weren’t out for a lot of money.”

At the first trial, LiMandri asked for $4 million in damages, but his request was criticized by then-City Attorney Mike Aguirre. LiMandri did not suggest an amount in the retrial.

TRASH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those times because there’s high tide hitting the sea wall and taking it to the ocean.”

Chasan researched affected areas — extending from south La Jolla to Bird Rock — where, although city crews removed garbage cans, beachgoers continued to toss trash into the sea. Other local officials agreed with Chasan. Some said they were seeking solutions before summertime rolls around, bringing thousands of tourists to La Jolla’s beaches.

“We’re trying to figure out what our options are,” La Jolla Town Council President Darcy Ashley said. “The town council isn’t com¬mitted to anything, and I haven’t presented anything to the commun¬ity yet.”

Ashley said she spoke to Chasan and told her the council was in the fact-finding stages but was inter¬ested in purchasing Big Belly solar trashcans.

Chasan learned residents needed to purchase replacement can¬tainers and then search for a trash pick-up service, she said. So, Chasan contacted La Jolla’s bari¬ness improvement district, Pro¬mote La Jolla (PLJ). Newly elected PLJ President Rick Wildman told Chasan the group would extend its contract, covering trash pickup for about six of the 14 missing garbage cans — two at the foot and two at the coastal access points off Marine Street and two at the foot of Sea Lane, Chasan said.

Wildman said PLJ would help Chasan, allowing residents to “piggyback” on their trash service.

“The solution with PLJ is a good abridging solution,” Chasan said. “It’s $2,900 for three times a week pickup.”

While Wildman and PLJ helped solve part of La Jolla’s trash prob¬lem, eight more cans near Bird Rock would need pickup, accord¬ing to Chasan.

“The PLJ contract will cover probably six of the 14 cans. PLJ can only extend their contract in their region — not to Camino de la Costa,” Chasan said.

City officials told Chasan they tossed the old cans and residents must purchase costly “seagull¬proof” rubber containers, Chasan said.

“We have to replace them with seagull-proof garbage cans. We cannot afford the garbage cans,” Chasan said, adding that each cement seagull proof container costs about $1,000.

Replacing the 14 missing trashcans would cost more than $14,000, according to Chasan.

Rubbish is piled next to the retaining wall at Marine Street beach now that the city has removed many coastal trashcans.

“We have been looking into a grant from the State of California,” Chasan said, adding that the state grant application process opens March 1. “Solar garbage cans are completely seagull proof...They meet the criteria for EPA reduc¬tions and they meet grant crite¬ria.”

Chasan plans on applying for about 30 solar garbage cans which would replace about half and give half to the city on stand¬by, in addition to funding trash pickup, she said.

“The requirement from the grant is to prove that you can pre¬vent garbage from going down the storm drain,” Chasan said.

According to Chasan, starting March 1, she will apply to the State of California Department of Con¬servation grant to Increase Recy¬cling and Reduce Trash Buildup in Storm Drains.

When lit is a win-win,” Chasan said. “Next year, PLJ can’t afford PLJ.”

Chasan said her next step would be to start the permit process, ask¬ing La Jolla Parks and Beaches to issue permits for the receptacles.

“Eventually, yes, we’ll have to ask for a permit since they’re on the public roads,” Chasan said.

“The really terrific news is the ability of the town council and Pro¬mote La Jolla to work together on this,” Ashley said.

For more information about PLJ, visit www.promotelajolla.com.

For more information about solar garbage, visit www.bigbellsolar.com.

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We have to replace them with seagull proof garbage cans.

CYNTHIA CHASAN "YEAH, RESENT"
JROTC marksmanship takes a hit
Cheers, jeers greet school board’s vote

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ  VILLAGE NEWS

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) marksmanship program ended last week for Mission Bay High, Point Loma High and students across the Unified District.

College and high school student demonstrators waved signs both celebrating and decrying JROTC rifle ranges on campus, lining the hallways and grassy area of the Eugene Bruck-er Education Center during a contentious San Diego Unified School District board meeting Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Board members voted 3-2 in support of parent and student demonstrators efforts to remove air-pellet guns from campus in light of recent off-campus shoot-ings involving high school students.

Board President Shelia Jackson and board mem-ber Katherine Nakamura voted to keep the JROTC marksmanship program open. Board members John de Beck, John Lee Evans and Richard Barvers voted to close the firing ranges, effectively ending the marksmanship portion of the program.

During the meeting, board members praised the students’ peaceful demonstration that includ-ed about 100 Lincoln High School students, communi-ty organizers and parents. Lt. Col. Brian Josten, Mission Bay High’s JROTC instructor, said his students were disappointed with the board decision. “What did the demonstra-tors gain?” Josten said. “I sure know what we’ve lost, but what was gained?” Mission Bay High Princi-pal Cheryl Seelos said a lot of hard work and requests from students brought the Marine Corps JROTC marksmanship program to Mission Bay High about a year ago. Debate swirled over the program and potential conflicts with the San Diego Unified District’s “zero tolerance” policy regarding weapons on campus.

“It’s a collegiate sport and has nothing to do with killing people on the street,” Seelos said. “We’re going to fight this school board decision.”

The air rifles use 177-caliber pellets that are slightly bigger than the more common BB used in most air pistols, JROTC officials said.

An estimated $65,000 set aside for the program helps pay for staffing. The Marine Corps pays for the rest of the Mission Bay High program, including the cost of rifles and safety equipment, Seelos said.

Despite getting rid of the rifles and ranges, the rest of the program remains intact. School district board members voted to allow the program to fulfill physical education graduation requirements, along with the school’s marching band program.

Point Loma High School Principal Barbara Samil-son said her school was caught off guard by the school board’s vote on the marksmanship training. “We were definitely taken by surprise,” Samil-son wrote in an e-mail. “[JROTC marksmanship] teaches self-discipline, the value of hard work and practice and the value of working as a team.”

Representatives of Educa-tion Not Arms Coalition said at the meeting that the JROTC in high schools acts as a military recruiting tool. They said students were often encouraged to join the JROTC at schools throughout the district.

Seelos said students are not “tracked” into the Mis-sion Bay program and that the school offers the course as an elective requiring parents’ permission.

The University Community Planning Group (UCPG) will hold its annual elections March 10 in an effort to fill six vacant posi-tions on the board, including three resident seats and three business seats.

Voting members Per Krystl, UCPG Chair Linda Colley and secretary Patricia Wilson — representing UC residents — will run for re-election during the March meeting, along with voting members George Lat-timer, Harry Walker and Deryl Adderson repre-senting UC businesses.

Colley has served on UCPG since 2003, but resident Dayna Hydrick will run against the chair for the group’s B-1 seat.

Colley said she has lived in UC the past 41 years, served as Curie Elementary School’s PTA president, graduated from University of California, San Diego with a teaching degree and is a licensed insurance broker.

“This is my third term as chair,” Colley said, adding that she’s served on the UCPG board since 2003. “I’ve led many discus-sions in this room on controversial top-ics...and I’m concerned with safety issues, fire stations, the FBA — I’m concerned with water, or lack of water, and with open space.”

Hydrick said she has lived in UC the past 23 years and was involved with the Univer-sity City Community Association (UCCA). Hydrick said she joined UCPG seven years ago and will run for Colley’s seat during the group’s March meeting.

“Through the garden club I helped people with trees,” Hydrick said, adding that she worked on landscaping for various CalTrans projects. “I’d like to see the purple pipes come [to pass] so residents can use reclaimed water.”

UC resident Kurt E. Swanson will run against board member Krysl for his R-3 seat.

“I called it Ellis Island, because I never left,” Krysl asked. “Because I care about the neighborhood and I think it’s important that the residents have a voice.”

Though Swanson will run for Krysl’s res-idential board seat, he said he is a financial planner, practicing in the area.

“UC is a great community,” Swanson said. “I can’t imagine living anywhere else.”

The remaining UCPG board members will run unopposed.

“My priorities are to the community and to keep it family friendly,” said UCPG B-1 board member and candidate Adderson, who runs unopposed.

Lattimer served on the UCPG board since 1982, and the past few years he has served as chair of the Facilities Benefit Assessment (FBA) group, said UCPG board member Milt Phegley. Lattimer will run unopposed for the group’s B-3 seat.

UCPG B-2 board member and 2009 candi-date-in-the-caj for eight years his undergraduate degree from Rutgers Uni-versity and his graduate degree from Wash-ington University. Walker runs unopposed.

“UC is a wonderful place to live — every-one on the board we’ve been able to come together,” Colley said. “I’ve spoken in front of the planning commission and the city council on behalf.”

UCPG meets the second Tuesday each month. The group’s election begins Tues-day, March 10 at 5 p.m. University Town Center’s Forum Hall. For more information, visit www.uc-planning-group.com.
A WEEK ahead

19 Thursday

• La Jolla Sunrise Rotary, 6:38 a.m., 1 La Jolla Shores Hotel, 81165 Camino del Oro, 459-8271, (619) 992-9449
• San Diego Business Connection, 7:15-8:30 a.m., Cocco's, 4280 Nobel Dr., (619) 681-9110
• LeTip La Jolla, 8:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency Barcino Grill, 3777 La Jolla Village Dr., (800) 783-3761
• La Jolla Board of Trade, 8:45 a.m., Doyle Community Center, 8175 Regents Rd., 552-1655
• Origami exhibit by Jo Lylan Florence, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Scripps Mende Well Being Center, 4305 La Jolla Village Dr., patients only, 619-452-4233
• Toddler/preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., Rolf Library, 7555 Draper Ave., through February, 552-1657
• “Believe, Rework, Re-Create: The Gotthelf Goes Green,” art exhibit including recycled materials, through Feb. 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Gotheff Gallery, JCC, 4126 Executive Dr., 362-1164
• Gynecological Cancer Support Group, 11:10 a.m., Scripps Mende Well Being Center, 4305 La Jolla Village Dr., patients only, 619-452-4233
• Toddler/preschool storytime, 10:30 a.m., Rolf Library, 7555 Draper Ave., Scripps Mende Well Being Center, 4305 La Jolla Village Dr., patients only, 619-452-4233
• preschool groups must call ahead, 552-1655
• Doyle Park Bridge Club, all levels welcome, 10:30-1:30 p.m., Doyle Rec Center, 8175 Regents Rd., 561-7170
• Talk before school storytime, 11 a.m., University Community Library, 4155 Governor Dr., free, preschool groups must call ahead, 552-1655
• Audre Lorde Reading Circle, Interests: Women’s Sexuality, non-ucsc, UCSD Women’s Center, also Feb. 25 at UCSD Cross-Cultural Center, 9500 Gilman Dr., 534-1993
• Meditation workshop with Sher-ri Miller, 1 p.m., Ridolfi Bridge Club, free, members $5, 459-0831
• The death penalty and its aboli- tion in California, 3 p.m., UCSD Institute of the Americas, 10111 N. Torrey Pines Rd., 322-1606, visit lyceum.ucsd.edu for the week’s related events
• Toastmasters of the Cove, 6:15 p.m., Doyle Community Center, 8175 Regents Rd., www.tmcover.com, fee: $2.50
• Facts about the presidents, 6:30 p.m., Art Expressions Gallery, 2645 Financial Ctr., free, 656-7157
• Shopping and the Global Economy, roundtable with Phil Verleger, 7:30 p.m., UCSD Faculty Club, 9500 Gilman Dr.
• Carolona Chocolate Drops, string-band, and Chris Clark, guitar mandolin, 8 p.m., Sherwood Auditorium, 3030 Prospect St., (408) 656-1962

20 Friday

• LeTip Breakfast Club, 6:45 a.m., Radisson, 3299 Holiday Ct., 488-9569
• San Diego Blood Bank bloo-moblo- bine, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., The Market-
dian, 9245 University Ave., at 6290 Governor Dr., also 10 a.m.-4 p.m., YMCA, 3355 Cliffridge Ave., 800-255-6525
• La Jolla Newcomers Club Coffee Around Town, 10 a.m., Windansea Cafe, 6760 La Jolla East Ave., $400-0866
• Caring for Your Heart, lecture with Chris Messick, RN, 10:15-10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Executive Dr., 52.90, 362-1141

21 Saturday

• Ocean Sciences Bowl, area high school teams meet in marine sci-ences competition, 9 a.m., Scripps Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, 534-FISH
• Electronics recycling, monitors, printers, TVs, all electronics items, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., La Jolla High School, 750 Nautilus St., 272-7054
• Yoga: balancing your chakras, all levels, 10 a.m., La Jolla Cove Bridge Club, 1160 Coast Blvd, $35-4966
• Sea Secrets: Tiny Clues to a Big Mystery, book discussion with children’s author Beth Simmons, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, with admission, 534-3624
• University City Stamp Club, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Steak & Play Recreation Center, 3585 Governor Dr.
• San Diego Independent Scholars monthly meeting with simulation gaming pioneer Ron Stadsklev, 1:30 p.m., UCSD Chancellor’s Com-mad, 9500 Gilman Dr, (619) 296-4055
• “Let’s Party on Broadway,” star-ting the day, weeklong schedule, 8:30 a.m., Riford Center, 6811 La Jolla Blvd., 362-6001

22 Sunday

• Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., corner Girard and Center streets
• USCUSD campus tours, walking and bus alternating weekends, views of campus, welcome, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., meet at South Gilman information pavilion, 9500 Gilman Dr, 534-1165
• The Project Motel, six motels of sacred choral music, La Jolla Sym-phony Chorus, 5:30 p.m., Grace Theater, 102 Freeman St. in Oceanside, (10, 949) 388-1966
• Bell Sails National Audubon Fund Foundation screens documentary “Heart of the Sea,” Polynesian dance/poem, Grace Theater, 102 Freeman St. in Oceanside, (10, 949) 388-1966
• La Jolla Bridge Club hosts Duplicate Bridge, also Sundays and Wednesdays, noon, 1160 Coast Blvd, $20-members, 459-7000 or 456-1909
• La Jolla Kiwanis Club, noon-3 p.m., LJ Presbyterian Church Social Hall, corner Easts and Kline, members and guests only, 454-7713
• KC Bridge, daytime bridge party, 1 p.m., 4126 Executive Dr., 362-1141
• Living Spirits, Walking Dead: Makishiki and Ancestor Spirits of Congo and Zambia, 3 p.m., UCSD Social Sciences Building, #101, 534-7400
• “Making Space,” from the Milwaukee, “Every Instance Removed,” paintings by Derek Stroup, through March 25, opening reception 6-8 p.m., Quint Contem-porary Art, 7739 Druce Lane, 545-3409
• Film, “The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover,” 10 a.m., La Jolla High School, 750 Nautilus St., 272-7054

23 Monday

• Local health and wellness expo, 1-4 p.m., Scripps Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, 534-FISH
• Electronics recycling, monitors, printers, TVs, all electronics items, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., La Jolla High School, 750 Nautilus St., 272-7054
• Rell Sunn Educational Fund presents documentary “Sea Secrets: Tiny Clues to a Big Mystery,” 7 p.m., Aventine, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard, 362-6001
• “Sea Secrets: Tiny Clues to a Big Mystery,” 7 p.m., University City, 3202 Governor Dr., (800) 4MY-SDBB
• Ocean Sciences Bowl, high school teams meet in marine sci-ences competition, 9 a.m., Scripps Birch Aquarium, 2300 Expedition Way, 534-FISH
• Electromastics, recycling monitors, printers, TVs, all electronics items, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., La Jolla High School, 750 Nautilus St., 272-7054
• San Diego Blood Bank bloo-moblo- bine, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., La Jolla Colony Shopping Center, near Von's, 7788 Regents Rd., (800) 4MY-SDBB
• Jaeyong Lee, jazz piano mini-concert, noon, The Classics at La Jolla, 1008 Wall St., free, 545-5872
• La Jolla Pen Women meeting to celebrate Women’s History Month, in arts and letters, with author Maralys Willis, 1 p.m., La Jolla Colony Shopping Center, 1008 Wall St., public invited, 552-1657
• La Jolla Town Council parks and planning meeting, 1 p.m., 4th floor, LC Rec, 615 Prospect St., 552-1658
• Torrey Pines Triop 506 meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4th floor, LJ United Methodist Church, 6063 La Jolla Blvd., Mark Pallan, 483-3642
• Improving speaking and leadership skills, 1-4 p.m., SIO, 1 La Jolla Shores Office, torrey-masters.ucsd.edu
• Improving speaking and leadership skills through Toastmasters, 1-4 p.m., meet site alternates, check Web site, visitors welcome, 826- 6209, Torrey Pines Toastmasters, info@torrey-masters.ucsd.edu
• Black History Month: Charles Stroup, through March 28, opening March 1. Air and Space Museum, 11600 National Ave., Centertown, Metro to UCSD, $2.50, 362-1141
• Living Spirits: Walking Dead: Makishiki and Ancestor Spirits of Congo and Zambia, 3 p.m., UCSD Social Sciences Building, #101, 534-7400
• “Making Space,” from the Milwaukee, “Every Instance Removed,” paintings by Derek Stroup, through March 25, opening reception 6-8 p.m., Quint Contem-porary Art, 7739 Druce Lane, 545-3409
• Film, “The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover,” 10 a.m., La Jolla High School, 750 Nautilus St., 272-7054
• San Diego Blood Bank bloo-
Rich Jahnkow, a coordinator for the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities, said having air rifles on campus sends the wrong message to students.

"[Students and parents] felt it was right to have the philosophy of the district to try to encourage students to not think about using guns," said Jahnkow, "So they felt that those [ranges] did not belong."

Former Mission Bay High School student Zulema Torres, 33, joined several students and parents from the Education Alternatives Coalition at the school board meeting. The coalition represents Latino and education-groups, including the Association of Raza Educators and local high school chapters of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), a student political group.

Many parents send their children to school...so they could get an education, not so they can learn to shoot weapons," Torres said.

College students also joined the debate face to face outside the school board meeting.

California College Republicans representative Matthew Donnellan, 21, rallied alongside former and current high school student supporters of the JRTOC program and said that those against the program are misinformed.

"The JRTOC shapes students to be leaders. It’s safe and supervised," Donnellan said.

Former San Diego State University MECHA President Luis Fuentes, 25, said high school should be a place to learn and “not train students to be leaders. It’s safe and super.”

Donnellan said that the JRTOC program’s 80-year history in San Diego schools shows an impeccable safety record. Josten said, with zero accidents reported annually migrates south. But only two or three whales of other whale species are discovered dead along the state coast each year, Cordaro said. In total, seven types of whales populate the California coastal waters, including the blue whale, gray whale, humpback whale, fin whale, sperm whale and the rare Bryde’s whale.

The online Los Angeles Times science page features a video of the dead mammal. ||
Turning the city into new county is a viable option

BY KIRK MATHER

San Diego does. The much greater vision than the U-T has shown.

Predictably, the county board of supervisors isn’t receptive to the idea. I imagine the 17 other cities in the county would be concerned about losing local control and would initially oppose such a measure if they were asked to participate.

There is another approach, however. Why not explore the possibility of the city of San Diego becoming California’s newest — the 59th — county? Let San Diego County and the other 17 cities carry on — or invite some of those cities to join the new county if it makes fiscal sense.

Currently, San Diego County receives 38 cents back on each dollar of property tax we send to Sacramento. The county keeps some and each municipality performs its own services. The state average is 47 cents returned on the dollar. Los Angeles and San Francisco perform much better than that, based on the percentage they received under a formula conceptualized in the 1930s. San Diego County suffers, and has done so for years, because we have been unable to perform some functions within the city, because of the proverbial state of San Diego’s dollars back into the city (theoretically a new county) limits? If the answer is yes, then San Diego would be concerned about losing local control and would initially oppose such a measure if only San Diego City’s split off. Should the city go it alone? A logical argument can be made for a new city.

Would a new county be able to solicit bids from the current county. Orange County and maybe elsewhere — competition might beget further savings.

Would the new county be big enough, by acreage or population? The answer to both questions is yes. San Diego County has more than 1.2 million people. That would rank as the 16th largest population in the 58 counties in California. At 324 square miles, the new county would be nearly four times larger than San Francisco and be the sixth county with fewer than 600 square miles. Conversely, the remaining county would be very large and have a greater population if only San Diego City splits off.

Interestingly, if the new county were, just San Diego County is now. Would Chula Vista, National City (von Morrison will kneel no!), Imperial Beach and Coronado most logically be served by a proposed new county? Probably. Do the socioeconomics and distance from downtown Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Santee, Oceanside, Vista, Escondido and Poway call for alignment with the existing, but restructured, county? Pris; stealing the required funds, and can require poor planning, but doing that is like sticking one’s head in the sand to avoid danger.

The net effect of inaction is to allow the deficit remains the current board majority’s attempt to balance a budget. The newly elected group is hanging their hat on bits and pieces of the immense total. If one ignores the $48 million, as they seem to be doing, you are dealing with books and supplies, water, heat and electricity.

These overhead items are not easily cut, and tinkering around the margin may save a few million, but that is like sticking one’s head in the sand to avoid danger.

The net effect of inaction is poorly considered massive cuts or a negative certification by the county superintendent. The negative certification will increase the costs of Proposition S bonds, and can require appointment of a county czar to oversee the operations of the school system. Then the board will have no decisions to make, because the new district czar will have the power to decide on his/her own.
Melody? You bet: SDO’s ‘Don Quixote’ subtle, affecting

By CHARLENE BALDORIDGE

Opera companies make suggestions. At the interval, mine remarked he hadn’t heard any catchy tunes and maybe that’s why Jules Massenet’s “Don Quixote” hasn’t been heard at San Diego Opera for 40 years. I hummed a few tunes for him and asked if he’d ever heard “Don Quixote.” Then I suggested that if he’d heard “Don Quixote” as many times as he said he had, the music would seem familiar to him. He agreed, and I then suggested that he might enjoy him with a similar adaptation of and lyrics for the Montgomery for his clever styles; to artistic director J. Sher-

of musical theater and operatic visual and aural. It’s an evening of the max, and imposes similar young conductor, brings back an and Sullivan’s “Trial by Jury.” He

and operatic organization’s 30th and the the-

anniversaries this month — the Park Theatre. To celebrate two must have been there all along,

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Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto is Don Quixote and American mezzo-

soprano Denyce Graves is Dulcinea in San Diego Opera’s production of “Don Quixote.”

The imagination and creativity must have been there all along, hidden under a bushel basket, even after Lyric Opera of San Diego’s move to the Birch North Park Theatre in 2006. To commemorate those two anniversaries this month — the organization’s 30th and the theater’s 90th — Lyric Opera has put together an interesting and unusual program of operas, light opera and musical theater. Forget all that. Apparently the company has marshaled its own and newer forces to establish a new tradition, and it’s high time.

General Director Leon Natker镰刀 двух одинаковых оперет, один

the world premiere of “Rumpelstitlskin” and the other Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Trial by Jury.” He
double casts them, hires a new young conductor, brings back an accomplished chorus that he finds truly entertaining, and imposes similar styles on each work. The gamble pays off in dazzling performances of music, visual and aural. It’s an evening of amusement and amazement with British melodic, English wit and much of formerly absent subtlety.

“Rumpelstiltskin” credit is due to artistic director J. Sher-

woods Montgometry for his clever adaptation of and lyrics for the grim Grimm fairy tale; and to

then have the slightest gift for

and saucy ingénue acting style.

love familiarity, which arrives when melody imprints on one’s gray matter.

Hermit Cain’s libretto is deeply humane and quietly humorous. Panza is an inept helper who means well and is devoted to his master. We do not laugh at the debased old man who goes on a quest and mistakes windmills for monsters.

Time for celebration with Lyric Opera

By CHARLENE BALDORIDGE

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Las Patronas play Mrs. Santas

It has been said before (in this column, for one) but it bears repeating: There are very few things the 50 Las Patronas members enjoy more than giving away money, raised from the proceeds, for the most part, of the annual Jewel Ball (next one coming up on Aug. 8). A total of $1,215,258 was the amount last year and at the annual beneficiary luncheon, held as always at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, it was time to pay the pipers, so to speak. Recipients of each organization’s heart’s desire included Burnham Institute (they received a robot), Christian Community Theatre (a black box theater), Diversionary Theatre (a wheelchair lift for their second-floor space), Moores UCSD Cancer Center (equipment for their kitchen), Habitat for Humanity (a new phone system), San Diego Opera (three spotlights for the stage), San Diego Hospice (20 laptops), Scripps Heart Center (equipment used to treat arrhythmias), and A Reason to Survive, La Jolla Music Society, Salvation Army, Shirley Eye Center and Vista Hill, all of which received vans of one kind or another for special needs. The one for La Jolla Music Society was a “dingless” one to transport the Yo Yo Mas and Itzak Perlman in style. Yo for Yo Yo! At the luncheon’s conclusion, one L.P. was spotted writing a check for the centerpiece at her table and presenting it (the centerpiece) to Cheryl and Paul Russell.

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2. Laurie Allen, John Campbell and Jennifer Greenfield.
4. Linda Dicker, Mark D’arriog and Jacques Heil.
7. Cathy Carol and Mark Leslie.
8. Elaine Murphy, Mary Rose Schwartz, Sue Kalish and Denise Villa.
With their eyes focused on the upcoming CIF, the local scholastic basketball teams are winding down league play this next week.

On the boys side, La Jolla High under head coach Kamal Assaf headed into action this week with a 11-4 over Coastal Canyon (Leucadia).

Last week, La Jolla lost at Lincoln 56-52 on Friday and scored a 61-53 victory over Leucadia on Saturday.

“We are playing very competitive basketball against our league teams,” Assaf said. “Our players are getting more experience and they continue to improve their shooting, passing skills and their knowledge of the game.”

La Jolla’s loss to Lincoln was the 4-point deficit to Lincoln last week.

“Despite our record and a number of close losses this season, we have been battle-tested and will be ready for the playoffs,” Assaf said. “We are expected to make a strong push beginning in round one on February 25.”

La Jolla will close out league play on Friday when it visits Cathedral Catholic. Elsewhere, The Bishop’s School rallied from a 16-point deficit in the second half (Coastal South) with a 64-38 victory over La Jolla Country Day last Friday evening.

Bishop’s placed four players in double figures, with Malik Love and Dominique Kimbrough each scoring 15 points. David Stotelmyre scored 13 points, while Trevor Sinclair chipped in with 11.

University City High won its 19th game of the season last Friday, posting a 63-54 victory against La Jolla Country Day in the Coastal South and goalie Devan Osegeda has recorded five shutouts in the last seven.

Kaylie Davidson has been strong in the box with five goals in the current unbeaten stretch. La Jolla High head coach Ryan Leonard’s team has had a tough season this year, never being able to find a full lineup for dual meets.

“Because we have had so many injuries this season, but multiple injuries led to an inconsistent lineup,” Leonard remarked. “We went 1-5 in dual meet competition this year, giving up an average of 14 points in forfeits each dual. It is always very frustrating knowing that you will be starting out with such huge points deficits to overcome. We always fare well in the district, but it is a struggle, often winning more matches than we lose.”

La Jolla competed last weekend at the City League Tournament, the first tournament this season where the Vikings had all of its varsity athletes competing.

“It is proof that when we are healthy and whole, we can do well, as we finished seventh overall in team standings and beat every Western League school that we lost to in dual meets,” Leonard noted.

At University City High, head coach Jeret Needham and the Centurions finished with a 2-3 record in the Western League, good for fourth place.

According to Needham, key wrestlers included senior captains Anthony Esquivel (24-8), Victor Em (sixth place in City) and Dylan Ebere (22-11)

“These captains have led by example, both on the mat and in the classroom,” Needham said. “Victor Em, with a cumulative GPA of 4.67, has helped tutor younger teammates and will be attending college of his choice. Anthony Esquivel has been our top wrestler for two years now, placing at every tournament. He also has excelled in the classroom with a GPA of 3.67. Dylan Ebere is our hardest-working wrestler and he has paid off—he is a undefeated league champion this season.”

This Saturday the Centurions travel to Valhalla High School for the Division III CIF championships. The top six placers advance to Masters the following week.

University City’s Centurions Kids Club is in its third year with students participating from Standley, Curie and Spreckels.

Eighth-graders Josh Charles, David (Kaleb) Morris and Mark (Gabe) Goldberg have been wrestling great, placing at many tournaments, according to Needham. “They are definitely on our radar to be competing at the high school team next year,” Needham added.

In March, UC will be traveling to Fresno for the Frosh/SophKids State Championships. This April, UC’s Junior Centurions will be competing in the World Championships in Reno for the first time.

UC’s Kids Club is currently ranked second in the county.

“I’d like to thank the administration at UC for all the support,” Needham added.
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Glamour reigns at Oscars
Critic picks ‘Slumdog’ for top prize

By JAMES COLT HARRISON | VILLAGE NEWS

The Oscars give the movie-going public what they want: sheer glamour. Academy Awards night has always been one to bring beautiful female stars and handsome leading men onto television screens around the world to thrill people who are starved for a glimpse of that old-time glitz.

Marlene Dietrich, she a veteran glamour-queen of icon status, was a great star during the Golden Age of Hollywood. She knew how to gain attention and elicit oohs and aahs from fans. In 1951, Dietrich was to be a presenter at the awards show. She had spied all over town find out what the “other” stars were wearing. She then hired Christian Dior to design a gown that would be a showstopper and the opposite of what any other, lesser star was wearing. The gown had a long slit up the side so that one of the sultry star’s famous legs would be shown from hip to toe and dazzle the audience. She accomplished the goal with the help of Mc Dior. She was a sensation.

Barbra Streisand made news for another reason in 1969. She won the Best Actress Oscar for “Funny Girl” and tied with the great Katharine Hepburn in “The Lion In Winter.” Streisand called up designer Arnold Scaasi (nee naas) to whip up a scandalous black tulle pant suit lined with skin-colored silk. When La Streisand hit the lights on stage, she looked completely made and

Rising star resurfaces on SD restaurant scene

By NANETTE | VILLAGE NEWS

Actually he has been on the scene for a number of years, honing his chops in such venues as Top of the Cove (16 months) and Star of the Sea for many years, but more recently he has been keeping his head down, so to speak, while multi-million-dollar renovations have been taking place at L’Auberge in Del Mar and the former J. Taylor’s, its staid, white tablecloth restaurant. Now the renovations are complete and Paul McCabe has emerged with all his powers intact, bursting with new ideas and a menu that sparkles with innovation, presentation and flavor.

Paul is at his peak and all the local critics have hailed him. To put the cherry on the cake, he has been asked to appear at the James Beard House on March 7, has been asked to appear at the local critics have hailed him. To

TINA’S ON TUESDAYS
Becca Votrian (above), 16, stirs up ticket-ets in the raffle bubble while adding new entries during the Feb. 3 open house at Tina Marie & Company, 7746 Herschel Ave. Business owner Tina Marie Weight (right) and photographer Danny Desanti, with one of his nine donated photographs, kick off the Tuesdays at Tina’s spa open house. A percentage of proceeds was donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to benefit Race to Stop MS, a half-distance (70.3 miles) Iron Man Race scheduled for April 4 in Oceanside.

Birds make plans to migrate to SD

By ADRIANE TILLMAN | VILLAGE NEWS

The 13th annual San Diego Bird Festival will fly by from March 5 to 8 to celebrate the more than 500 bird species that live or make an appearance in San Diego County for the winter.

The festival expects to attract more than 400 bird-watchers to the four-day affair of bird-watching fieldtrips and workshops. Outings include trips to the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley to search for more than 100 species, including the snow goose, sandhill crane, white-faced ibis and burrowing owl. Other day trips will send bird enthusiasts to the Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary, Anza-Borrego Desert and Camp Pendleton.

Three-day excursions will lead bird enthusiasts across the border to spot birds in tidal mudflats, fresh and saltwater marshes, sage scrub and grasslands in Mexico.

Workshops will feature topics such as bird topography, bird calling, spring wildflowers, digiscoping, bird blogging and “Why Woodpeckers Don’t Get Headaches.” San Diego is home to a wealth of bird species, especially during the
swiped a taste. What a creamy delight it was, topped with toasted, shredded parsnip.

Although it was on the starter menu as well, I chose the grilled octopus, so delightful I took some of it home to sample the next day, and it was even better the second time. It was a complex layering of flavors with an unexpected “pop” of heat from the shishite peppers crossed with the smokiness of green olives. I love octopus any style, from sashimi to dipper-

vassabi to the grilled baby octopus I enjoyed in a little cafe in San

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This stunning home defines contemporary elegance and style. As you enter the residence you are greeted by panoramic ocean view, city, and night light views captured through the two-story mullioned glass windows overlooking the view, garden and pool. Black Absolute marble in the entryway ledge and risers invites you into the living room, or off to the right into the large remodeled office with a built-in granite desk and built-in bookshelves. High ceilings, spacious living areas, and hardwood flooring on the main level provide ample space for stylish entertaining. The state-of-the-art Bulthaup kitchen features Dacor appliances, granite countertops, cherry wood cabinetry, two stainless steel sink areas, and a large gourmet chef's island. You will love the spacious breakfast area that captures a superb ocean view and has double French doors leading out to a view deck where an elaborate stainless steel barbecue with drawers and storage makes outdoor entertaining a breeze. Also featured on the main level is a striking master suite with fireplace, French doors and a remodeled master bathroom boasting marble tile, granite countertops, wet-bar with granite countertops, and walls. On the lower level you will find a well-appointed family room with a full wet-bar with granite countertops, and French doors that lead you to the pool area. A personal gym with rubberized flooring and ballet bar, plus more two more bedrooms — each with a private bathroom — are located on the lower level. Relax poolside or in the spa with waterfall, surrounded by travertine decking where you can take in the spectacular sunsets or take advantage of the basketball court and three-hole putting green. In addition, there is a house keeper’s room with private entrance. Other outstanding features in this home include a full poolside bathroom, temperature-controlled wine cellar with a 1,500-bottle capacity, a security system, steam shower, and recessed lighting. Come enjoy the contemporary ambiance this special home offers. For more information, contact Team Chodorow at 858-456-6850, or visit our website at TeamChodorow.com

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Padre ‘dads’ look to spring with high hopes

By JOHNNY MCDONALD | VILLAGE NEWS

The Padres’ rebuilding philosophy in becoming a contending team is to draft well and develop players through a productive farm system. Few, if any, will be free agents.

General manager Kevin Towers, speaking at a Feb. 12 Hall of Champions Sports at Lunch event, said it is the desire of the new management team to go in that direction.

Manager Bud Black, also appearing, asserted that the audacity that this year’s team will be a vast improvement over last year’s 62-99 disappointment.

“We spent more money than we ever had in the amateur draft,” Towers said. “Last year we had as strong a signing class than anyone in baseball. We spent $5 to $6 million in international signings.”

“The free-agency market is hurting because of the economy. The players who are in arbitration right now are in better shape.”

Towers agreed that it was the desire of the new ownership team to stress building a strong farm system to reach its goal. John Mooarad, Towers said, will move in as the CEO, replacing Sandy Alderson. It’s a position he previously held with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Padres will audition 21 of their starting minor league pitchers when they join the 40-man Spring Camp roster. Among those being showcased will be hard-throwing pitchers Wade LeBlanc, Josh Geer and Cesar Ramos.

Towers and Black pinned last year’s problem on a bullpen that couldn’t deliver between starter and closer.

“Our middle relievers let us down,” Towers said. “With eight to 10 fighting for five spots, it feels that problem will be shored up. However, the Trevor Hoffman “closer” gone will have to be replaced this year by a Bell — Heath Bell.”

Towers said that trimming the budget closer to $40 million was the primary reason for letting Hoffman and K Hodt come go. A big chunk remains since the deal with the Chicago Cubs for pitching ace Jake Peavy fell through.

The current payroll is believed to be $44 million, with eight players guaranteed $12 million. Some of the other 17 may be bordering $40 million. Instead, Peavy will resume his No. 1 starting assignment.

“Overall, we have to keep healthy, have less strikeouts, more contact, steal some bases and do some drag bunting.”

Black regards the acquisition of pitching ace Jake Peavy and said could be the team leader we didn’t have last year,” he said. “The third through fifth starters will be determined following spring drills.

Towers said it’s going to be different without Trevor out there. “Bell is a little more of a crazy, mayhem, and closer. Heath Bell is a little more of a crazy, mayhem, and closer.”

Donna Marsh is open Mondays to Friday at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and last Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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shocked a billion fans around the world. The most sensational outfit to appear on the show was Cher’s Mohawk Indian black-beaded outfit designed by Bob Mackie (he who designed Carol Burnett’s famous drapery red dress for her “Gone With the Wind” spoof). Clearly Mr. Mackie has a great sense of humor. Because Cher is something of a wild celebrity, the outrageous costume was perfect for her image.

Times have changed and the gals are not so spectacular in their choice of gowns. We will have to wait until the ceremonies take place on Sunday, Feb. 22 to see what hits and egregious misses take some of the stars will make.

As for the films, these are my choices for the winners this year. It has been a varied year for movies, many with no-name stars, some with has-beens and some with wildly popular stars of today.

For me, the Best Picture nod should go to “Slumdog Millionaire.” Why? Because it offers hope to some of the most miserably poor people in the world. From falling literally into the toilet to rising up to be a winner it is inspiring, fun and joyful. The Academy members may disagree and choose “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” for the sheer magnitude of its production. Along with the Best Picture win, it then follows that Danny Boyle should win Best Director for “Slumdog Millionaire” into the biggest box-office hit in the history of the academy.

My choice for Best Actress is Kate Winslet as the Nazi security guard in “The Reader.” I feel she is much more real than Meryl Streep as the nun in “Doubt” with that phony Brooklyn accent. But Streep has been nominated a million times and the acting community may reward her for her efforts.

Best Actor for me is a toss-up. I select Mickey Rourke for not only a sensational performance in “The Wrestler” but for pulling off the greatest comeback of any star in recent memory. Frank Langella did a sterling job capturing the subtleties of Richard Nixon in “Frost/Nixon.” I loved Sean Penn in “Milk.” But I think the Academy should go to the heartbreaking portrayal of Viola Davis in “Douly.” On screen for eight minutes, she does no less a good job than Beatrice Straight in “Net-work” and Judi Dench in “Shakespeare In Love” for their oh-so-brief Oscar-winning parts.

My choice for Best Costume Design goes to “The Duchess,” Best Cinematography to “Slumdog,” Best Art Direction to “The Duchess,” Best Score & Songs to “Slumdog,” Best Makeup to “Button.” Best Adapted Screenplay to “The Reader” and “Slumdog” (a tie). I’m probably all wrong with my personal choices, but what do I know?

Village News film critic James Colt Harrison (left) with “Slumdog Millionaire” director Danny Boyle. “Slumdog” is nominated for Best Picture and Director.

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It would open the appearance line-up is locked in place, with Adrian Gonzalez at first, newcomer David Eckstein at second, Luis Rodriguez at short, Kevin Kouzmanoff at third and Chase Headley, Jody Gerut and Brian Giles in the outfield with Nick Hundley behind the plate.

Looking at the position players, Black said, “We’re going to be OK. On the bench we still have some spots open.”

There could be speed on the base paths on the horizon, assuming Will Venable nails down a utility role and Everth Cabrera can snag a spot.

“We’re excited about Cabrera, a rule 5 selection,” Black said.

The 23-year-old shortstop stole 72 bases in the minors last year.

Black was encouraged about ex-All Star pitcher Mark Prior’s progress a second after shoulder surgery.

“He’s throwing free and easy and his location is good. A couple rehab starts in Elsinore and he can be back by the middle of May,” Black said.

“Get 70 games out of Jake and (Chris Young) and bring in Prior,” he added with spring optimis-
mism.

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