PB ranks second in violent crime in city

By DAVE SCHWAB

In February, Pacific Beach Planning Group discussed the continuing distressing violent crime statistics from the beach community’s commercial strip, and approved installation of a “scramble” pedestrian crosswalk to improve safety at the city’s third-most dangerous intersection.

“Once again, out of 125 city of San Diego communities, Pacific Beach ranks second overall with 216 violent crimes,” said PBPG chair Brian Curry. “Only East Village had a higher incidence of violent crime. It is simply unacceptable that this criminal activity continues in our community. There were 11 ‘reported’ sexual assaults. We are averaging nearly 20 violent crimes per month.”

Characterizing PB’s ongoing violent crime problem as “just outrageous,” and “apocalypse now,” Curry pointed out that the “vast majority of our crime activities take place in the business district, with 607 incidents in the last six months within one-half mile of 1000 Garnet Avenue.”

Driver, who killed Pacific Beach girl, gets 10 years

By NEAL PUTMAN

A motorist who killed a Pacific Beach girl in 2010 after “huffing”/inhaling chemicals from computer keyboard cleaner cans was sentenced March 3 to 10 years and eight months in state prison.

However, attorney Kerry Armstrong, who represents Romeo Balbin Dumlao, 41, told the judge “he’ll be out in a couple of weeks” because he received credits for already having served seven years in prison.

Ashley Heffington, 9, died Jan. 12, 2010, after Dumlao’s vehicle struck her mother’s car at a stoplight at 9:15 a.m. on West Point Loma Boulevard and Sports Arena Boulevard 13 days earlier. Dumlao has been in custody ever since.

Armstrong said Dumlao only has to complete about half the prison term imposed because he was not convicted of inflicting great bodily injuries upon the girl’s mother and others injured in the collision. Dumlao received 16 years in prison in 2010.

City Ballet’s latest ‘is a milestone’ for the company

By LUCA VITI

The City Ballet of San Diego, accompanied by the City Ballet Orchestra, will perform “Balanchine and Beyond” at Spreckels Theatre on March 10-12. Artistic directors Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich offer San Diego a milestone – with performances for-}

City Ballet dancer Kimberly Green, who will perform in the show, poses above Law Street beach. PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE
City in process of clearing out trailers from De Anza Cove mobile home park

By DAVE SCHWAB

If you’ve driven by the former De Anza Cove mobile home park lately, you’ve probably noticed the trailers there are being removed.

“It’s going to be a long process, according to city officials.

“No residents remain in the mobile home park,” said city spokesman Tim Graham. “We anticipate it could take up to a year to clear the site of the remaining mobile homes, approximately 245 units.”

The city is midway through The De Anza Revitalization Plan, a three-year comprehensive outreach and planning program. The goal is to re-imagine, re-purpose and revitalize the 120-acre De Anza Special Study area within Mission Bay Park.

The special study area involves not only the former De Anza Cove mobile home park, as well as Camp Pendleton on the Bay campground, but also surrounding active uses including Mission Bay Golf Course, Mission Bay Boat and Ski Club, Bob McEvoy Athletic Field and Mission Bay Tennis Club.

The revitalization effort involves city and park officials working with the community and stakeholders to develop conceptual revitalization plan alternatives that result in a preferred plan, an amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan, and an environmental impact report.

The effort to redevelop the regional park was delayed by a decade-long court battle between the city and residents of the 500-unit De Anza Cove mobile home park, a 75-acre park on prime real estate jutting into the water in Mission Bay Park west of Interstate 5. Ultimately, the city reached a $3.6 million settlement agreement on one of three lawsuits involving mobile home park residents, which finally allowed them to relocate.

The revitalization plan’s ultimate goal is to create an iconic recreation destination that maximizes the benefit offered to the region by this asset and will be managed by that department.

Graham noted the special study area’s revitalization will “ultimately amend the MB Master Plan to outline those uses. The approval process will include the Mission Bay Park Committee, City Council and California Coastal Commission.”

Speaking on behalf of Pacific Beach Planning Group, current chair Brian Curry, said, “The old mobile home park is indeed the bulk of the DeAnza peninsula, so it is part of the larger DeAnza revitalization planning effort. In the end, we want ‘public’ amenities for area residents and visitors. This is public land that should be available to the public.”

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MBHS girls soccer has record-setting season

By DAVE THOMAS

Some teams, like the most recent girls soccer squad at Mission Bay High, have had record-setting seasons along the way. When they do, those records may be there for years to come for players, coaches, alumni, and fans to look back on with pride.

This past season, Mission Bay finished with an outstanding 23-4-1 mark (15-0 at home), ending as champions of the City League.

“This team was a hard-working group that continually rose to the challenges presented them,” head coach Jorge Palacios remarked.

“The team chemistry was excellent from the first day of practice as the team was made up of five seniors, two juniors, four sophomores, and eight freshmen.”

According to Palacios, the thing that struck him the most was how consistent they were in their passion, competition, and teamwork.

“There was definitely a strong team-first mentality with this group that we will build on going into next season,” Palacios said. “This team loved to practice together, to hang out, and be teammates. I already miss our practices.”

According to Palacios, the graduating seniors include: Lindsey Price (natural leader, positive attitude, fun-loving personality); Kylie Kroeger (hard working player, athletically gifted, excellent student and athlete, competitive, model teammate); Diana Suarez (high soccer IQ, has matured over four years into a leader, leads by example); Claire Fitzsimmons (fastest on the team, determined, hard-working); and Emily Reyes (keeps things light and in perspective, great shotter, fun-loving).

Palacios noted the underclassmen to be: Lina Rodriguez (set single-season record for goals with 39 regular season scores, also had batting in quarterfinals, natural scorer with excellent ball skills, work ethic, amazingly humble); Jeryn Young (solid defender who came on late, super competitive yet fun-loving); and Ryana Bueno (leads by example, tough, gritty midfield/defender).

According to Palacios, the biggest win of the season were at San Diego on their senior night when Mission Bay clinched the league championship with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory in front of a hostile crowd.

“That win showed the team’s toughness and grit as well as their ability to finish.” Palacios remarked. He also highlighted a quarterfinal win over Monte Vista.

“That win showcased our ability to hold possession, play with speed, and finish. We completely overwhelmed a very good team at home,” Palacios added.

As important as a head coach and his or her staff are to a team’s ability to win, it is of course the players who lay it all on the line in both practice and in games.

Players delivered

Team captain Price was one of those players who showcased her leadership abilities time and again.

“Our team this year was successful because we recognized our potential from the very start of the season,” Price commented. “We took every practice, every game and every workout/conditioning as an opportunity for growth and we went out to every game with a positive mindset and just played our game.”

Price said she enjoyed this season more than any other because the girls were really like a family.

“Every day I looked forward to practice because I got to be with my best friends for two hours, forgetting about everything else happening in my life,” Price stated. “We all shared the same goal of being successful and we were.”

As for incoming advice for the freshmen looking to be a part of this successful program next season, Price advises them to make their mark early, realize this is where it all starts and then have the next four years to show everyone what they can do both on and off the field.

Another key component of this year’s team was fellow senior and captain Kroeger.

According to Kroeger, the leadership roles on and off the field allowed everyone to do their very best. Also having a supportive coaching throughout the season proved key.

“I loved how everyone was friends with each other and we all enjoyed playing on the field together,” Kroeger commented.

For this season’s team, you can bet a lifetime of memories was made.

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Pilates for Guys and Here’s Why

While women tend to dominate Pilates classes, Pilates holds plenty of benefits for men who rise to the challenge. Whether you’re a powerlifter, or you’ve never tried Pilates, a Pilates class can help fine-tune your performance. In my 20 years of experience working with men, their muscles don’t typically get a lot of attention formerly known as core. A big part of Pilates is focusing on those muscles that don’t typically get a lot of attention. In my 20 years of experience working with men, their muscles are a little tighter than women’s, especially in the hips and hamstrings, but exercises can be easily modified to allow those areas to stretch out gradually. Men that add Pilates to their routine can show improvements in a just a few sessions, including muscle strength, control, balance and posture. While I’ll never know what makes one guy pursue Pilates and another try it only once, one thing is true: Pilates does benefit men just as it does women.

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Dining

Miller’s Field turns 10 with updated menu and style

By DAVE SCHWAB

Miller’s Field in Pacific Beach has a revamped menu and image celebrating its 10th anniversary in the beach community.

The decade-old sports bar, known as the home base for Kentucky, Penn State and West Virginia fans, Miller’s has a less-chattered look and feel now.

“We’ve taken down some of the massive volume of paraphernalia we had before,” said Miller’s general manager John Wantz.

A “sleeker” menu at Miller’s now emphasizes quality over quantity.

Renowned for its burgers and monster buffalo wings, Wantz said the establishment’s gone in a different direction in re-inventing its menu.

Buffalo wings, for instance, which used to be breaded and fried, are now served roasted.

Head chef Silvano Renteria is excited about the changes and the opportunity to showcase his ability to pair unique flavors and textures on otherwise traditional dishes. For example, he’s created a pizza with tequila-cured salmon baked atop a base of spinach and artichoke cheese spread, topped with capers, onions, and cilantro. He and his staff have captured freshness and sophistication in the Miller’s Field menu while maintaining the sports bar’s identity.

“Before the changes, we had the same menu almost since we opened – heavy, early sports-bar food, fried, with tons of big plates,” Wantz said.

“We added some healthier options, while creating more shareable plates of appetizers focusing more on the quality of the product. We lightened up our fair, cut out a lot of the fried stuff.”

Making things more current has contributed greatly to Miller’s rebranded, updated image.

“We decided to freshen things up, make us a 2017 sports bar, not an early 2000’s sports bar,” said Wantz, noting the idea was to polish the image, not change it entirely.

“We wanted to embrace our sports culture,” said Wantz acknowledging, “Sports orientation is our bread and butter.”

Of the rebranding, Wantz said, “We’re trying to be more activity-based. Instead of people just coming here to eat or watch sports, we’re having fun, interactive events, like ‘Family Feud’ night.”

A takeoff on the popular TV game show where contestants try to predict the audience’s most popular answers, Wantz said Miller’s version of the quiz show employs teams addressing sports-related questions to win prizes, like Miller’s Field’s gift cards.

Noting “variety is something more than the size of the dish – or the drink,” the general manager noted Miller’s has downsized, from 32 to 24 ounces, the size of its brews served in mason jars. He said they discovered that keeps drinks cooler and avoids waste.

The drink menu at Miller’s has also transformed under the direction of bar manager Jeff Shallcross. Sugary beach cocktails have given way to more mature, timeless craft cocktails like rum-based old fashions, modernized mules, and a mezcal-based, pina-colada infusion showcasing smoky flavors of coconut and strawberry.

Wantz added the culinary and cocktail “shift” is a work in progress.

“We’ll be constantly evaluating our changes listening to feedback from our customers,” he said.

Owner Glen Miller founded the establishment back in 1989 as Pizzeria Uno. In 2007, it transitioned into the more sports-related Miller’s Field with a massive reno-vation. State-of-the-art TVs and a sound system were put in, allowing patrons to watch different games in different areas.

Wantz said Miller’s will be celebrating its 10th anniversary this summer with a big party, the details of which will be forthcoming.

“We just want to give thanks to the community for allowing us to be here that long, and for continuing to support us,” he said. “If we weren’t so heavily visited by people here in PB – we probably wouldn’t have lasted.”
Crest Liquor has been serving PB for 70 years

By DAVE SCHWAB

A cornerstone business at a crossroads in Pacific Beach, Crest Liquor is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

The liquor store, deli and convenience store at 3787 Ingraham St., at the corner of La Playa Avenue, started out as a dozen vacant lots in Crown Point in 1947, noted Greg Cooper, adopted son of the company’s founder, Frank Herbert (Bus) Cooper Jr.

Recently, Cooper reminisced about the history of his family business, how PB has changed over the years, and how he’s marking Crest’s anniversary.

Cooper has historic photos of Crown Point hanging above his store coolers, including one dating back to 1917, before Ingraham Street existed. He pointed to it as he discussed his family’s enduring relationship with the neighborhood.

“There’s a little farmhouse here, and the guy who owned that owned this peninsula,” said Cooper, who noted Crown Point, before Mission Bay (once known as False Bay) was dredged, wasn’t an attractive place to live (bad smell before dredging).

“My dad bought the property from the guy who owned that farmhouse.”

Cooper said his dad bought the 12 lots back in 1917. “Each lot, with the debt finance, was $12 per lot, or $144 per month,” he said. “My dad’s father loaned him the money to buy the 12 lots, four of which became the store.”

The original liquor store was slightly more than 800 square feet. It was expanded once in the late ’50s to 1,200 square feet and finally in 1969 to more than 7,000 square feet.

Of Crest’s clientele over the years, Cooper said, “By our calculation, two-thirds of the population of California have visited our business in the last 70 years. The customers of the store have included the famous and the infamous – thugs, gangsters, Hollywood celebrities, a mayor or two of San Diego, a president of Mexico.”

Cooper said Crest Liquor’s patrons list has included at least one Nobel Laureate, Dr. Francis Crick of La Jolla, whose discovery of the double-helix pioneered gene mapping and the unraveling of genetic inheritance.

Cooper noted his main competition these days “is the chains,” the

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Mission Bay’s RoBucs team competing in FIRST tourney, looking for sponsors

BY DAVE THOMAS

While some athletic teams or other school activities oftentimes get more notice, the Mission Bay High robotics team puts in its fair share of time and effort, creating some great innovations along the way.

In existence for seven years, the team was founded in 2010 by a small group of enthusiastic students. At its start, the team had a mere eight members and one mentor. As of this year, the team (4160 “The RoBucs”) is comprised of 15 students, accompanied by three mentors.

According to Alex Cannon, engineering instructor at the school and lead mentor for the robotics team, the squad has diversified and changed as new members join and old move on.

“The core values and ideas have remained strong,” Cannon commented. “We strive to educate, encourage, and inspire students from all walks of life to excel in the field of robotics, and as a result learn the valuable life lessons of teamwork and leadership.”

Cannon noted that Mission Bay High has other schools in San Diego that it competes with, such as the 1538 Holy Cows of High Tech High and the 1266 Devil Duckies from Madison High School.

“In fact, the FIRST Robotics Competition not only includes San Diego schools, but all other states, countries and nations willing to volunteer their high school in the competition,” Cannon said.

The RoBucs is currently competing in the U.S. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) annual robotics tournament for high school students, which takes place around the nation and the world through May. As with anything one does in life, learning from it tends to be a positive thing.

According to Cannon, some of the educational tools that students learn from being on the team include 3D printing, computer aid design, coding, and machine shop education. “We teach how to work with our own laser cutter, mill, and lathe,” Cannon noted.

For those MBHS students interested in joining the team, the Mission Bay Preservationists to Japan. The Mission Bay Preservationists have been selected to perform and represent San Diego in its sister city Yokohama, Japan, in April to commemorate the 16th anniversary of sister city relations. Tickets are available at ticketkups.com/MBHS-japan-fundraiser.

Pacific Beach Middle

The PBMS Music Program Pancake Breakfast will take place 9 a.m. Saturday, March 18.

Donations accepted

Competing in the FIRST competition means spending money. As such, the Mission Bay High team has an expected operating budget of $11,000 this year including $9,000 in registration alone. The remaining funds will go toward robot construction, travel expenses, and team gear.

If anyone is interested in helping to sponsor the team, it is certainly for a good cause. Past sponsors have included Qualcomm, JC Penney, and NASA, with donation amounts ranging from $500 to $6,000. Sponsoring is an excellent opportunity to get positive name recognition and encouraging the development of the next generation engineers, scientists, and technologists. All donations are tax-deductible and can either be mailed directly to FIRST or to Mission Bay High School using the following instructions:

Payable: FIRST Finance – Team 4160 Address: 200 Bedford St Manchester, NH 03101
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Community

New Location at Point Loma Plaza, Free Parking!

CREST Liquor

Where: 3787 Ingraham St.
What: Celebrating its 70th anniversary
Hours: Open seven days a week 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, open until midnight Fridays and Saturdays
Info: 858-274-3087

Crest Liquor features a big-box supermarkets, whom he said are challenging to go up against.

“We’re constantly buying products at better prices,” he said. “We own the property, the building, so we have less overhead. We provide good service, good pricing and have a good line of products.”

It helps that many of Crest’s employees have been around for awhile.

“Our manager just retired two weeks ago after 40 years,” noted Cooper. “We’ve got a lot of people who’ve been here 20 years or more.”

And keeping up with changes in the market over time keeps Cooper busy as well.

“If you take the products that are on the shelf right now, they’re considerably different than what they would have been 20 years ago,” he said. “For example, there’s a surge in interest in whiskies and bourbons. Five, or 10 years ago it was a dead part of the market.”

“The Budweisers and Millers of the world were once dominant. Now it’s all craft beers. Boutique wines use to be big, 25 percent of our business. Now it’s about 10 percent. Now the beer market is starting to regress, and the wine market is starting to surge, with the whiskey market on an even plain right now.”

Of his business model, Cooper commented, “We are what our consumers demand of us.”

In celebrating Crest’s anniversary, Cooper said, “We’re not really sure the exact date the store opened. We’ve got the banner out front (with founder photo). We’re going to put my parents and my wife and my son on an easel, then leave that there in a frame (the window for awhile. The new bags we have commemorate our 70th anniversary. We’re going to have some commemorative shirts made up.”

But no firecrackers or Roman candles,” quipped Cooper.

Cooper said most of his clientele are locals, people who live in the neighborhood who come in frequently, though he has customers from as far away as La Mesa.

In the future, Cooper’s son Grant, a Marine Corps captain at MCRD, may take over. But that’s yet to be determined.

The liquor store owner is optimistic about his future.

“It’s a great location, about 25,000 cars a day on Ingraham Street,” said Cooper. “We’ve had a great clientele for these 70 years and we hope we serve them well, and we hope we’ve done well by the neighborhood. It’s always our intent to make sure this is a friendly and well-lit upscale type of environment.”
Mission Bay Preservationists to play at PB Women’s Club to raise funds for Japan trip

By BART MENDOZA

A fundraiser for the Mission Bay High School Preservationists will take place at the Pacific Beach Woman’s Club on March 22. The night will feature the band backing local music icon, pianist Sue Palmer, with the funds raised by the concert going to help with their visit to Yokohama, Japan to perform at a festival next month.

The MBHS music program is certainly one of local education’s gems, thanks to the likes of Ray Vinole and current music director JP Palma – with generations of great musicians learning in their music rooms, including the likes of Frank Zappa and many of the performers in Gilbert Castellanos’ “Young Lions” group.

MBHS Preservationists: Saturday, March 22 at Pacific Beach Woman’s Club, 1721 Hornblend St., 7 p.m. All ages. $10 to $50. www.missionbaymusic.com.

Blues diva Michele Lundeen performs a pair of shows at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge on March 9 and 13. Lundeen is one of the best blues vocalists and front persons in San Diego, her talent topped by a gritty, whiskey-toned voice and a manic stage persona that can move even the most jaded crowd.

She has excellent original tunes, but for these shows, look for Lundeen to play crowd-pleasing favorites such as “I Would Rather Go Blind” and “Some Kind of Wonderful.” If you are a fan of local blues music, the year’s highlight will easily be the SDMA Blues All-Star Showcase taking place March 15 at Tio Leo’s. The night will feature an unbeatable line up, with both solo acoustic performances and full band blow outs from the likes of Whitney Shay, Robin Henkel, Michele Lundeen, Tom Cat Courtney, The Premonts, Chickenbone Slim and The Biscuits, Chet and The Committee, and more TBA. All types of blues will be represented from Delta-styled foot stompers to Chicago-bred electric R&B.

SDMA Blues All-Star Showcase: Wednesday, March 15 at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Nape St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.tioleos.com.

Legendary contrabassist Bert Turetzky will celebrate his 84th “Bertday” with a special concert at Dizzy’s on March 19. Turetzky will be joined by an ensemble featuring Jane Zowerman (French horn), Mark Margolies (tenor sax), Nancy Turetzky (flute), Lorie Kirkell (cello) and narrator Chuck Perrin. He has had an amazing career with dozens of albums to his credit, including the recent “Bass & Word: Song of the Roots,” with Perrin and has worked with numerous artists including Charles Mingus.

Perhaps more importantly, he has mentored generations of artists and is a distinguished emeritus professor of music at UCSD. This show will be a great opportunity for San Diegans to stop and say thanks to someone who has helped shaped San Diego’s arts community for half a century.

Bert Turetzky’s Birthday Bash: Sunday March 19, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd, 7 p.m. $15. www.dizzysjazz.com.

If you are a fan of local blues music, the year’s highlight will easily be the SDMA Blues All-Star Showcase taking place March 15 at Tio Leo’s. The night will feature an unbeatable line up, with both solo acoustic performances and full band blow outs from the likes of Whitney Shay, Robin Henkel, Michele Lundeen, Tom Cat Courtney, The Premonds, Chickenbone Slim and The Biscuits, Chet and The Committee, and more TBA. All types of blues will be represented from Delta-styled foot stompers to Chicago-bred electric R&B.

SDMA Blues All-Star Showcase: Wednesday, March 15 at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Nape St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD. www.tioleos.com.

On March 17, Grassroots Oasis will host the annual SDMA Singer/Songwriter Acoustic Showcase, featuring an all-star line up on two stages. Performers are set to include Eve Sells, Steph Johnson, Jeff Berkley, Sara Petite, The Ordeal, Lady Rogo, Sven Eric Seasholm, Jesse Lamonca, Veronica May, Donna Larwen, Sister Speak (solo) and the Voices of our City Choir with more to be announced. Funds raised by this show will go to the San Diego Music Foundation, which helps put music education back in schools.

SDMA Blues All-Star Showcase: Friday, March 17 at the Grassroots Oasis, 3130 Moore St. 7 p.m. All ages. www.grassrootsoasis.com.

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The Dewhurst & Associates crew breaking ground on their first La Jolla project in 1929.
Noting San Diego Police Department’s Northern Division has 166 officers, 42 in the field, to cover 42 square miles, Curry said, “I’m disgusted with the city building underground parking garages that cost $80 million and maybe a football stadium, when public safety should be the very first priority. “We don’t want PB to be a police state,” added Curry. “But we are paying taxes and visitors are paying transient occupany taxes (lodging) … and it’s just a constant battle. We have to go out and do this (public safety) on our own.”

Following Curry’s report, Sara Berns, executive director of Discover PB, gave a presentation on PB’s recently introduced Clean and Safe Program, which seeks to improve and beautify the community by beefing up cleaning and trash pickup, security and homeless outreach services.

This year, Pacific Beach made Circulate San Diego’s “The Fatal Fifteen” list of most dangerous intersections for pedestrians. The problematic intersection at Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue was the culprit. That crosswalk was No. 3 on the city’s most dangerous list, being the site of 16 total collisions with 17 serious injuries recorded between 2001-2015, according to Circulate San Diego.

The only two San Diego intersections ranked more deadly on the list were University Avenue and Marlborough Avenue, and University Avenue and 52nd Street.

At the Feb. 22 PBPG meeting, Michael Beltran, chair of the group’s Traffic and Parking Subcommittee, noted there is a possible solution to address the dangerous intersection at Garnet Avenue and Mission Boulevard: installing a pedestrian scramble.

“A pedestrian scramble allows pedestrians to cross every which way – diagonally, vertically, horizontally – for one minute while all car traffic is stopped,” Beltran said. “It gets people moving a lot quicker, and also prevents drivers from taking right-hand turns that hit pedestrians, a big concern here.”

Beltran said pedestrian scrambles have been used successfully elsewhere, like Los Angeles.

PBPG board member Tony Franco suggested another alternative solution might be to “shut down Garnet Avenue from Mission Boulevard to Cass Street to create a pedestrian walking and biking area.”

“We’d love to do it, but we can’t even get the farmers market moved to Garnet,” replied Curry.

PB COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
CRIME INCIDENTS FROM
9/1/16 TO 2/12/17

Assault 82
Burglary 34
Drugs/alcohol 306
DUI 21
Fraud 16
Homicide 0
Motor vehicle theft 26
Robbery 6
Sex crime 11
Theft/tamency 62
Vandalism 35
Vehicle break-in 24
Weapons 4
Total 867

Source: San Diego Police Department

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