Sounds of the season at Mission Bay High

San Diego has many great holiday traditions, but when it comes to music, few can touch the heart like the annual Winter Concert at Mission Bay High School. This year dubbed “Snow and Tell,” the concert takes place on Dec. 15. The Grinch, Santa, toy soldiers, marching bands and much more turned out for the festive event. See all the photos, Page 4.

ALL THAT JAZZ Mission Bay High School’s top-notch jazz band The Preservationists will perform at the school’s “Snow and Tell” winter concert on Dec. 19.

By BART MENDOZA

Residents learn of the hurdles, benefits to a greener PB

Residents in Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Mission Bay Park learned during a Dec. 11 Town Hall meeting that there’s a lot they can do to make their communities more eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable.

That was the mostly upbeat message delivered by several members of the American Institute of Architect’s (AIA) Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT). SDAT members are nationally accredited professionals in numerous areas of expertise, including urban design, planning, landscape architecture, renewable energy, and traffic and transportation. They were invited in by local stakeholders to offer their expertise on how best to make beach communities greener, cleaner and more economically lean.

But the news the SDAT team delivered wasn’t sugar coated: There are some problems to be overcome in making oceanfront neighborhoods more sustainable.

One obstacle to be surmounted is that beachfront communities need to become more economically diverse will be one hurdle to overcome. Urban design experts told residents at a recent Town Hall meeting that making the community more economically diverse will be one hurdle to overcome.

“Residents in Pacific Beach, Mission Beach and Mission Bay Park more environmentally friendly, but it won’t be an easy task. Urban design experts told residents at a recent Town Hall meeting that making the community more economically diverse will be one hurdle to overcome. Urban design experts told residents at a recent Town Hall meeting that making the community more economically diverse will be one hurdle to overcome.

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been out of the ocean for more than very few occasions where I have past 50 years or so, there have been
Between multiple deaths in my immediate family, extended hours at work and easily the worst four months of surf ever recorded. I have never surfed less in my entire life. Having been a wave rider for the homes on the market.
advantaged when they put their disillusioned and worse – financially dis-
quarters of homesellers don't get what
The overall end result was both a physical and mental degradation in my overall health. The body became soft and listless while the mind lost focus and became somewhat hazy. The smallest of irritations became major problems, while the lightest physical task became very tiring. Overall ambition and, for lack of a better word, “stoke” began to fade away. I was coming very close to forgetting a very important part of me—that of being a surfer. Then, one day in November, I went out. The sun was out and the surf was up a bit. Crowds were light, wind and tides were right and due to the recent time change, my wind of opportunity was extended. I threw my gear into the back of the old ’57 Plymouth wagon and headed to one of my favored high-tide breaks.

To order a FREE special report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter
To surf or not to surf: that is the question

Which of these costly mistakes will you make when you sell your home
SAN DIEGO. A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home. And a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today’s market. The fact of the matter is that fully three houses have become increasingly less

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When it came time to leave and go open up Bird’s Surf Shed, I exited the surf feeling refreshed and ready for the day. My mind was clear and my body sore. My stoke level was on the rise. I had a few minutes to kill, so I made a quick stop at my best friend Joe Roper’s repair shop just to shoot the breeze. We talked about some of my boards he’s restoring and reminisced over some classic photos hanging in his shop and then it was off to work. Robin Prodovitch was shaping in the Shed’s shaping room and new customers were waiting at the door. My right-hand man, Isaac Wood, showed up dripping wet from his surf session and within a few minutes, Skip Frye dropped in. He had come by to pick up his favorite sunscreen from the Headhunter company.

Soon we were all talking about the waves we had surfed this morning. Although all three of us had surfed the same break, each of us had done so at separate times. Skip took off to shape boards and Isaac said he’d watch the Shed so that I could go out and surf a second session.

I was out the door in five minutes flat on the way to my favorite low-tide reef break. More waves shared with a few friends as the sun set and I was through. As I walked up the many long stairs to where the Plymouth was parked, I enjoyed the feel once again of sore muscles and a clear head.

If there is a moral to this story, maybe it’s as simple as just relaxing and enjoying life more. Whether you surf, golf, play tennis or whatever, don’t lose sight of who and what you are. Keep your stoke level on high!

Till next time, Bird
Second lawsuit alleging harassment by Filner filed by city park employee

By DAVE SCHWAB

A city parks employee who claims former mayor Bob Filner grabbed her, put her in a headlock and rubbed her breasts in front of witnesses during a public event has filed a lawsuit against him.

City Park and Recreation Department district manager Stacy McKenzie said she was approached by Filner who asked her out on a date, then followed up with inappropriate sexual advances at the April 21 Clairemont Day at the Bay event at DeAnza Cove in Mission Bay.

“We’re asking for $500,000 in damages,” said McKenzie’s attorney, Dan Gilleon, who also commissioned the creation of an animated sequence re-creating the alleged incident that was posted on the U-T San Diego’s website.

Gilleon said the events at the park were witnessed by two park rangers.

Noting use of computer animation is “fairly cutting edge for sexual-harassment lawsuits,” Gilleon said it “tells Stacy’s story and is just a starting point,” adding “we downplayed some of the more severe acts by Filner ... The story and animation will be developed as depositions occur ... Sexual harassment usually occurs behind closed doors, when no cameras are around. We hope the employers out there who regularly sexually harass their employees with impunity will think twice when they realize their actions may end up on a screen in front of a jury someday in the form of an animation.”

McKenzie said she was the 14th woman to initially come forward several months ago with accusations of sexual harassment by Filner, which ultimately led to his resignation as mayor in August. She said she decided to take the next step and file a lawsuit because she hoped it would have a “chilling effect” on sexual harassment.

“If this ordeal and what’s being played out in the media detours at least one man — or woman — who might be a sexual harasser and make them change their ways, or makes one sexually harassed victim know they didn’t do anything wrong, that it wasn’t their fault, then I will have accomplished something,” McKenzie said.

Of the purpose of the computer animation, McKenzie said, “Hopefully, it will curb this behavior, change things a bit so people aren’t so afraid to speak up.”

Noting it was her belief that Filner and others in public office “done this for awhile (harassment),” McKenzie said she hoped coming forward would make it easier for others in similar circumstances to “speak up without fear of it reflecting on their jobs or on job ambitions.”

Filner attorney Harvey Berger declined comment, while another of the former mayor’s attorneys, Jerry Coughlan, could not be reached for comment.

At least 20 women have come forward alleging Filner made inappropriate advances toward them during his years as a political officeholder.

McKenzie’s lawsuit is the second to be filed against the ex-mayor whose former communications director, Irene McCormack Jack- son, filed a $1.5 million suit against him and the city. Filner has also pleaded guilty to sexually harassing three women while mayor. He was sentenced to probation and three months home confinement.
Pacific Beach welcomes the holidays to the neighborhood

Photos by Paul Hansen

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS Viewers of the holiday parade got an eyeful of all things Pacific Beach on Dec. 15. From local school marching bands to vintage cars to the lavishly decorated van often seen around the community (right), the parade was truly an homage to PB.

LOCALS ON PARADE The parade also featured locals who give Pacific Beach its unique flavor. Left, the Old Mission Beach Athletic Club’s (OMBAC) parade entry carried members of the organization, along with Miss Emerson 2013, left.
First annual Holiday Stroll celebrates the season despite chilly weather

The Seaside Farmers Market’s inaugural Holiday Stroll took place Dec. 7 as a few hundred volunteers, patrons and vendors braved the harsh winter weather of rain, wind and cold through-out the five-hour event to help raise money for Mission Bay High Schools’ new lacrosse team. The Holiday Stroll also featured an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast sponsored by volunteers of the fiddling MBHS lacrosse team, live music, free gift wrapping, face painting and a mix of vendors selling produce, coffee, roasted almonds, muffins, specialty breads, clothes and a variety of arts and crafts. The MBHS lacrosse team is scheduled to make its debut March 18 at Mira Mesa High School.

“When the skies cleared, Santa Claus made an appearance and was available for photos. “The sun is up and the people are nice. We are looking forward to meeting the neighbors here and hoping to make some money,” said Roxanne Fitzgibbons of Clawz Pet Boutique.

Clawz Pet Boutique specializes in treats and toys for dogs and cats and also makes appearances at the Ocean Beach and Point Loma farmers’ markets and Kobey’s Swap Meet. “This is a nice, big market,” said the pet boutique’s Joe Fitzgibbons. “It has a lot more arts and crafts then the other markets we work at. We’re excited to be here.”

The Seaside Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot west of MBHS at 2475 Grand Ave. All proceeds go toward MBHS.

—Keith Antignocanni

27 Quick and easy fix ups to sell your home fast and for top dollar

Pacific Beach: Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is proba-bly one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you’ll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromis-ing your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here’s a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homeowners, a new industry report has just been released called “27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar.” It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today’s tough, aggressive marketplace. Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible.

In this report you’ll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

Order your free report today! To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-800-698-1493 and enter 2023. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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LIVE MUSIC >>

Indie rock fans will want to investigate an excellent bill at The Griffin on Dec. 21. Beginning at 9 p.m., a garage riff-driven combo fronted by Veronica Collins. All live artists on this bill have devoted followings and enough variety among them for a show that should be a packed fun night out.

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Concert >>

Among the highlights: Humphrey's Backstage Lounge will feature "80s"-focused combo PopRX. Beaumont's will showcase hard rockers Mower's covers-based alter ego, Slower; and Tio Leo's hosts classic rockers Serious Susie, who perform songs by everyone from the Beatles to Santana. Other notable events include Café Beverly Europa's "Sassy Vadeville Show," complete with a live dance band performing ragtime to swing tunes, but possibly the most interesting concert in the area closing out this year will be held at The Del Rey, which will host Cirque Del Rey, a mix of music and burlesque, including sets from reggae band Orbitty Mercer and a stage appearance from the ladies of the Hell in Heels Revue. While not everyone likes to go out on New Year's Eve, for those who do, there will be no shortage of musical ways to end 2013. En Comun, to his credit, already has years of touring experience and dozens of jazz and classical compositions.

Music: Must Hear >>

2014 is nearly upon us, but it looks like 2013 will get a fun-filled send off at area night spots. Cover bands seem to be the most popular offering, but with dozens of venues in the area, there is something for just about everybody on offer. Among the highlights: Humphrey's Backstage Lounge will feature "80s"-focused combo PopRX. Beaumont's will showcase hard rockers Mower's covers-based alter ego, Slower; and Tio Leo's hosts classic rockers Serious Susie, who perform songs by everyone from the Beatles to Santana. Other notable events include Café Beverly Europa's "Sassy Vadeville Show," complete with a live dance band performing ragtime to swing tunes, but possibly the most interesting concert in the area closing out this year will be held at The Del Rey, which will host Cirque Del Rey, a mix of music and burlesque, including sets from reggae band Orbitty Mercer and a stage appearance from the ladies of the Hell in Heels Revue. While not everyone likes to go out on New Year's Eve, for those who do, there will be no shortage of musical ways to end 2013.

Concert >>

Cont. from pg. 1

groups — New Orleans-style jazz band The Preservationists, Jazz Ensemble, Music Theory/Composition and Beginning Band — he notes a pair of additions to this year's concert.

“This is the first concert we will be showcasing our brand-new choir and concert-band program,” he said. “We might sneak some New Orleans-inspired tunes in there too.”

Balmat said Mission Bay's music program has significantly expanded this past year, including the addition of assistant band director and MBRHS alum Mike Horn.

“We have doubled our course offerings this year and our program has grown dramatically,” Balmat said. “We are now offering six different music classes, so students have more opportunities and we are able to place them by skill level and interest. This has made students more successful and the evidence is clear when listening.”

As much fun as the concerts are for both musicians and audience, Balmat considers them a vital component of the school year.

“They are a way to bring the community together and showcase our wonderful student talent at the school,” he said. “Ticket sales also help us raise money for purchasing new instruments, supplies and technology. Our program has doubled this year, so we are busy making sure students have what they need to succeed.”

Now in his seventh year directing the school's winter concert, Balmat said his favorite thing about the event is getting to be on stage directing his students.

“There is an energy in performance that is hard to replicate in the classroom,” he said. “The students all come together and their parents and the community are there to witness it.”

The school's musical legacy helps tie things together.

“A lot of the students who see that they are part of something special,” he said. “They understand the work (others) have put in before them and they want to leave the program stronger when they graduate.”

Balmat considers music to be an essential part of life.

“Music simply makes your quality of life better,” he said. “I can't imagine going a day without playing or doing something musical. I see my students find themselves through music. It brings them to school every day and gives them an outlet. We also focus on building our community inside the school so the students always feel a sense of safety and family here.”

Coordinating this many students for a single program can be challenging, but even with the addition of two new groups, Balmat is confident anyone looking for holiday-themed family entertainment this season will enjoy the performance.

“I have some great support from parents, so I'm sure everything will go smoothly,” he said. “The most time-consuming thing is working on all the music for the different groups. We have been practicing for this for the past three months. We just hope it shows when it's show time.”

SNOW AND TELL WINTER CONCERT: Thursday, Dec. 19 at MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL, 2475 Grand Ave., 7 p.m. All ages. $5. www.missionsbaymusic.com

MUST HEAR >>

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SEE MUSIC >> PG. 15
Those who love to frequent The Patio on Lamont Street but are inclined to stay inside on cool or wet winter days can rest assured their favorite eatery has covered, so to speak. The Patio recently installed a canopy to help with rain, wind and other inclement weather during the winter months, enabling all-year-round outdoor dining under the comfort of the new lid.

“Guests were intrigued watching the canopy in action,” said the restaurant’s director of operations, Lucas Reeve. “The added warmth it provides was a most welcome benefit.”

Reeve said the lack of overhead protection last winter clued the restaurant’s owner and operators into the need for such a covering, as even San Diego experiences cold snaps this time of year. “We recognized the need to provide further comfort and warmth for our guests,” he said. “Adding the canopy has delivered a truly unique outdoor dining experience in the winter months.”

— Staff and contribution
San Diegans now have a new choice in home pet care. Tech Pet Care was conceptualized by Jan Gorham, a local Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) with over 30 years experience. Jan has long realized that there was little, if any opportunity for animal owners in San Diego to find comprehensive in-home care for their pets provided by trained and knowledgeable animal health care professionals.

Most home pet care companies are staffed by individuals who have had little or no formal education or training in animal health care. Conversely, veterinary technicians take a 2 year college program (similar to an associate degree in nursing) and then must pass a rigorous State Board examination to become registered. They also must complete regular continuing education to maintain their state licensure.

Tech Pet Care is definitely a step above traditional home pet care. When your animal is in Jan’s care, you can rest secure knowing that your pet will receive loving attention from a licensed professional. Jan will provide the utmost in individualized care to meet your pet’s specific needs, for today and the future. Whether your companion has specific medical needs or you would just prefer the higher level of care that a knowledgeable animal health care professional can provide. Tech Pet Care is now here for you and your treasured family member.

Our pets deserve the best!

Please call us at: 619-807-5376 or visit our website at: www.techpetcare.com

Jan Gorham
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techpetcare@gmail.com

Tech Pet Care: Pawsitively Prefurred by Pets and Vets
### Events

**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 19, 2013**

**BEACH & BAY PRESS**

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**Through Jan. 4: Holiday Happenings at SeaWorld**

**WHERE:** SeaWorld San Diego  
**WHAT:** SeaWorld's Christmas Celebration runs into next month and includes holiday-themed animal shows, real snow, reindeers and more. Check out the 40-foot tree with an animated light show and SeaWorld's 320-foot Skytower Christmas Tree of Lights, plus the new Pets Rule Christmas show, which features animals adopted from shelters, as well as a winter wonderland with up to 35 inches of snow at SnowWorld® each day. The 2013 Clyde & Seamore's Christmas Special production runs every evening through Jan. 4, while Shamu's Christmas show plays on weekends through Dec. 21 through Jan. 4. (800) 257-4268 or www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com

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**Dec. 20-21: Belmont Park Holiday Events**

**WHERE:** Belmont Park, www.belmontpark.com, (858) 488-1549  
**WHAT:** On Friday, Dec. 20, get in some last-minute wish-list requests when Santa visits Belmont Park for a photo op and frame build-it clinic from 6 to 8 p.m. Parents, don't forget the camera. On Saturday, Dec. 21, Belmont Park becomes a crafter's paradise for the Home Depot Build-It Clinic from 3 to 5 p.m. Space for each activity is limited, so arrive early.

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Seared Scallops, Sunchoke Puree, Caviar Buerre Blanc, Micro Greens.  
Goat Cheese + Date Parcel, Arugula, Pomegranate Seeds, Balsamic Reduction.

**Entrees:**  
Pork Osso Buco Milanese, Saffron Risotto.  
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Grilled New York Strip Loin, Whipped Mashed Potatoes, Suzie's Farm Baby Broccoli, Chocolate Demi Glace.  
Grilled Albacore, Orzo, Savoy Spinach, Rutabaga Puree, Piquillo Pepper Caponata.

**Desserts:**  
Almost midnight.  
Chocolate Flourless Cake, Cherry Crème Fraiche Ice Cream, Port Glaze.  
A bright new year.  
New York Cheesecake, Apricot Glaze, Caramelized Apricots.  
Turning back the clock.  
Quinoa Tart Tatin, Caramel Yogurt, Vanilla Creme Anglaise.

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**San Diego Ballet’s Nutcracker**

**Dec. 20-22, Mandeville Theatre, USCD, La Jolla  
(619) 294-7311, www.sandiegoballet.org  
“Witty... Lively... Charming” U/T SD**

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San Diego Ballet’s Nutcracker is a must-see holiday classic. The story follows the adventures of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they journey to the Land of Sweets. With beautiful sets, enchanting music, and a talented cast, this production is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Join us on Dec. 20-22 at Mandeville Theatre, USCD, La Jolla. Tickets are available online at www.sandiegoballet.org or by calling (619) 294-7311. Don’t miss out on this magical holiday experience!
**MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL**

Did you know...

- MBHS’ Academic League Team went to the county semi-finals last year?
- MBHS has students attending from around the world?

**MBHS’ International Baccalaureate Programme teaches students to analyze various authors and debate their conclusions orally and in writing?**
- MBHS has a state-of-the-art weight room and stadium construction will begin in January?
- MBHS has a National Merit Scholar?
- MBHS has a Wimbledon player, a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, a NCAA track star and NFL stars as alumni?

Come and learn more about what goes on at Mission Bay High. Tours are Jan. 7, 23 and Feb. 12 at 8 a.m. in the library. Sign in at the front office. Visit www.sandi.net/-missionbay for future dates.

**PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Did you know...

- PBMS is home to three California International Baccalaureate Teachers of the Year?
- PBMS hosts teacher-volunteers from around the globe for up to three years from Germany, Switzerland, Denmark and China?
- PBMS is a California International Baccalaureate Spotlight School and has award-winning partnerships with HUBBS Research, Rotary Intl., SeaWorld and California state parks’ videoconferencing project (PORTS)?
- PBMS IB World School offers the IB Programme in a small-school setting and students have logged more than 13,000 hours of community service for the community?

Come to a monthly tour to learn more about PBMS. Next tours are Jan. 9 and Feb. 6. Visit www.sandi.net/pbmiddle for additional dates.

**KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY**

- Shop www.donornation.org for local services and restaurant vouchers. A portion of every purchase goes to Kate Sessions (or the school of your choice). Find vouchers for the Patio Restaurant, Seaside Farmers Market, La Jolla Playhouse, salon services and more.

- Sessions Elementary is looking for community businesses to support the annual silent auction. To donate items or underwrite expenses, email sessionsfundraising@gmail.com. All donations are tax deductible and help fund art, music, Spanish and library programs at Kate Sessions.

**CROWN POINT JUNIOR**

**MUSIC TO BE SHARED**

On Dec. 10, Pacific Beach Elementary School students entertained family and friends with song and music. The concert featured Mrs. Kenya on and the choir and Mr. Lyons with the band and string instruments. **COURTESY**
PBMS students volunteer and partner with community

“How can I serve my community and learn more about how my world works?”

This is not a phrase often associated with the average teen. Developing a sense of international-mindedness, defined by a caring, open-minded, problem-solving attitude, is part of the mission for all students at Pacific Beach Middle School and the cornerstone of the educational philosophy underpinning the International Baccalaureate programs.

Students at PBMS take the initiative to reach out and make a difference through service to the local and global community. Principal Erin Remillard said he understands the importance of education as a collaborative effort.

“We are thankful to be part of a community that has a clear vision to support today’s children who will be part of tomorrow’s future,” he said. “In the last two years, our 12- to 14-year-old IB students logged over 20,000 hours of personal action and community service. Our philosophy of education empowers them, while the community embraces them and is the vehicle for students who are ready to take charge.”

Students are learning the communication, collaboration, thinking, and social skills that are needed to take action. Through partnerships with local organizations, students make new toys available to refugee families for a small price in City Heights, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Gray coordinated the middle-school student volunteers who helped with toy donations, gift wrap, language translation and entertainment to the children on the day of the event.

In recognition of Gray’s success, Belmont Park gave an all-expense paid visit for an afternoon of rides for the winning class.

— Staff and contribution

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CONCRETE MASONRY
The San Diego French-American School (SDFAS) welcomed students, parents, and the public to its Mount Soledad campus on Dec. 13 for its annual Marche de Noël, or holiday market.

The market presented a wide array of goods for sale, including everything from homemade jams to lavender toiletries to jewelry, art and other gifts. Vendors ranged from professionals who peddle their wares in farmers markets and other venues citywide to SDFAS parents and students who took the chance to become small-business owners for a day.

Students especially embraced the opportunity, setting up booths and demonstrating their best professional behavior to sell their products. One young, creative entrepreneur made carvings out of old 15mm film strips, while another worked hard to produce more than 30 jars of homemade — and delicious — preserves (pictured below).

The market also featured food vendors like Green Door Catering, a regular at the La Jolla Open Air Market that specializes in vegetarian and vegan food. Entertainment for children was provided in the form of a bounce house and a trackless choo-choo train on the school’s grounds.

**HOLIDAYS EN FRANÇAIS**

Les Confitures d’Emmanuelle (Emmanuelle’s Preserves), left, were on offer, as were sauces and salsas, above, lavender lotions and other products, and art and jewelry at the Dec. 13 Marche de Noël. Photos by KELLY VICKMAN

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**San Diego French-American School rings in the holidays**
Reeves said much can be done with “greenways” — long, narrow pieces of land where vegetation is encouraged for public recreation — and slow travel, to improve the walkability of urban neighborhoods. She gave a slideshow presentation detailing successful greenway development in cities like Seattle, Portland and Montreal.

Another SDAT team member, Adam Beck, an expert in environmental and social planning, pointed out that creating green infrastructure — water conservation, urban forestry, community gardens, water management — is not only an effort to create “good outcomes” environmentally, but also a way of “getting more bang for the buck” in terms of decreasing energy consumption.

Reacting to conclusions drawn at the Dec. 11 meeting, La Jolla architect Tim Golba, a member of the San Diego Planning Commission, which rules on development issues and projects citywide, including the beaches, said the idea of a community devoted to greener living would find a willing home in Pacific and Mission beaches, which, he said, are “perfect locations to advance the concept of an eco-district because of the natural attractions already present in these neighborhoods as being very walkable areas with such a conducive climate that makes them destinations for both residents and visitors.”

“The program was inspiring in that it sought out input for the entire community, not just planners or architects but everyone from business owners, employees, renters, property owners and of course, home owners,” Golba said. The Dec. 11 presentation, he continued, “reflected many great ideas to springboard from and advance to more concrete avenues that could include updates to community plans or local zoning codes.”

Pacific Beach Planning Group and Beautiful PB member Chris Olson urged residents to get involved with the project.

“Community meetings will start early next year for moving forward on these ideas and many more, so go do your homework,” he said. “Research these terms: green streets, complete streets, parklets, community gardens and walking bus. Once you are up to speed (or down to a safe speed) go to www.BeautifulPB.com and contact us to get involved.”

Kristen Victor, founder of Sustainability Matters and co-founder of Beautiful PB, also weighed on the eco-district concept, saying the idea could “inspire every city to remake itself from the neighborhood up fueling innovation to generate jobs, increase standard of living and protect the natural environment requiring smart planning and skilful execution resulting in economic growth.”

Golba expressed his hope that the concept would catch on in a larger way.

“Hopefully, this is just the beginning of the community coming together as a more unified voice to influence the built environment to be more responsive to traffic issues, employment, affordable housing and last, but by no means least, sustainable design,” he said. “While this is not an overnight update, the ideas that came from this eco-district forum can be used in small pieces and situations to make individual projects better, as well as on larger and more regional issues.”

Reacting to conclusions drawn at the Dawn Hall meeting, Brian J. Curry, chairman of the Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) said, “We are very excited about the SDAT recommendations and the PBPG and other community groups are moving ahead to implement those proposals which are short-term, while starting the forwarding plan for long-term goals and projects. The public will continue to have the opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations as PBPG is forming a Community Plan Update Subcommittee in January to begin the process. There will be a special public meeting in February (date TBD).”

“All of this activity is about improving the quality of life for residents, employed and visitors to Pacific Beach,” Curry said. “We much appreciate the volunteer work and effort on part of the SDAT and local committee that coordinated and contributed to the Dec. 11-13 events. The result of the recommendations and community efforts moving ahead are a great positive for the beach and bay communities.”
that were mailed to customers after the drug was cultivated in a Midway area warehouse.

Gillen asked for immediate sentencing and was given credit for 11 days in jail with three years’ probation from San Diego Superior Court Judge Dwayne Moring. Deputy District Attorney Shanish Aloor said Gillen played a minor role and the money-laundering count was reduced to a misdemeanor.

Awaiting sentencing is his brother, Kyle Thomas Gillen, 26, of Pacific Beach, who is believed to be the ringleader. Kyle Gillen and three others have pleaded guilty to mailing packages of marijuana and money laundering and will be sentenced Jan. 14. The marijuana was grown in a warehouse in the Midway area. It was raided May 29 by agents from the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Unit. About 300 marijuana plants were discovered.

-- Neal Putnam

PB BANK ROBBER GETS 16-YEAR SENTENCE — A Mission Bay man was sentenced Dec. 10 to 16 years in state prison for robbing two Pacific Beach banks in 2010 after DNA was linked to a hat he left behind.

Bryan Whaley Leasure, 51, was ordered to pay approximately $1,600 in restitution to the two banks by San Diego Superior Court Judge Albert Harutunian III. Leasure received credits of serving approximately 325 days in jail since his arrest on Jan. 16.

Deputy District Attorney Dennis Panish argued for a sentence of 25 years consecutively for each robbery. Leasure was convicted of five robbery convictions in Arizona in 2000, court records say. When Leasure pleaded guilty to both robberies on Oct. 17, Harutunian said he would consider a sentence of 16 years or more. Harutunian denied probation.

Leasure held up the Bank of America at 900 Garnet Ave. on July 12, 2010 after waiting in line with customers. He also held up the Wells Fargo bank at 1300 Garnet Ave. on Aug. 13, 2010. He used demand notes in both hold-ups. He was arrested by police as he was leaving his home in the 1400 block of Quivira Road. His DNA was on file because of his Arizona convictions.

-- Neal Putnam

MUSIC — CONT. FROM PG. 6

sitions in his repertoire. At the moment Morrin remains a rising star, but with dozens of awards from the likes of Downbeat Magazine and the Monterey Jazz Festival already on his mantelpiece, it’s clear this is a performer on his way to being a major name in music.

CHASE MORRIN: Friday, Dec. 27, at DIZZY’S, 4275 Mission Bay Drive, 8 p.m. $15. www.dizzysjazz.com

There are lots of options when it comes to music this New Year’s Eve, but when it comes to reggae, the 710 Beach Club just may be your best bet. Festivities kick off at 9 p.m. with music from one of the area’s top bands, The Devastators. The band formed in 2000, soon establishing itself as one of the area’s top club draws. By the end of the decade, The Devastators had won the 2010 San Diego Music Award for “Best World Music,” with three albums to their credit. As good as those albums are, live is where The Devastators have made their name and this end of the year blow out should be an even more celebratory event than usual.

THE DEVASTATORS: Tuesday, Dec. 31 at BRICK BY BRICK, 1130 Buenos Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. $10. www.brickbybrick.com

Anyone looking for variety in their soundtrack for a night out will want to check out Honey-Rock, performing at the KonA Kai Resort on Dec. 19, 7 p.m. The band covers a lot of ground, with hits from the late 1950s to the present. Sound like a pretty cool jukebox with a repertoire of more than 100 songs, the band covers a wide range of music from Johnny Cash to Oasis, C Lo Green to Amy Winehouse. Anyone looking for a combination of dancing to live music and dining will find this performance on beautiful Shelter Island one of the week’s bests.

HONEYROCK: Friday, Dec. 27, 7 p.m. at the KONA KAI RESORT, 1551 Shelter Island Drive, www.resortkonakai.com

Though the Bayou Brothers have won a San Diego Music Awards “Best Blues” trophy, it will be clear from the first note of one of the quintet’s performances that they lean far more heavily into zydeco. Appearing at Humphrey’s Backstage Live on Dec. 30, the core of the band is as a five-piece (including a Bayou “sister”) though additional musicians pop in as the need arises. San Diego may be some distance from Louisiana, but anyone wanting a taste of the region’s wonderful sounds need look no further.

BAYOU BROTHERS: Monday, Dec. 10 at HUMPHREY’S BACKSTAGE LIVE, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, 9 p.m. www.humphreysbackstagelive.com
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