Bela Island Drive.
which runs for four days this month at the Sunroad Resort Marina on Har-

boats and powered boats during the San Diego Sunroad Boat Show.

Visitors can dream big or even lock in a purchase among a variety of sail-

outrigger canoes, kayaks and surf

dles races using one- and two-person

from the Belmont Park rollercoaster.

Mission Bay's Bonita Cove, across

aloha spirit, the event takes place at

Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge

W

atermen and women will

ate on Saturday, Jan. 28

during the 16th annual Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge

Paddling Race at Mission Bay.

Billed as a fun, variety-filled day of

ative Hawaiian outrigger-canoe rac-

ating and participating in competi-

tion that began at Bona Cove on Mission Bay on Jan. 28.

Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge to power across bay

Outrigger canoes, paddleboards and kayaks will battle one another in a friendly aquatic competition during the 16th annual Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge event that begins at Bona Cove on Mission Bay on Jan. 28.

See Challenge, Page 8

The increasing popularity of stand-up paddleboards has had an impact on the annual event, drawing 156 entries last year.

Photo by Don Balch | Beach & Bay Press

Environmental groups score city’s cleanest, trashiest beach areas

2010’s biggest offender, PB now at top of clean list

By Marko Lamb | Beach & Bay Press

The results are in for 2011’s cleanest and dirtiest beaches in San Diego, according to data compiled and evaluated from San Diego Coastkeeper and the Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter’s twice-monthly beach cleanups during the year.

The good news for Pacific Beach residents: Crystal Pier did a complete turnaround from its dirtiest finish in 2010.

Topping the environmental organizations’ charts as San Diego’s trashiest beach last year, however, was the Ocean Beach Pier, with a whopping 3.57 pounds of trash collected per volunteer at the site. Top items collected during the cleanup were plastics and cigarette butts.

Not all of the blame can be placed on Ocean Beach residents and visitors, however, according to environmental groups. Some litter is deposited there as a result of the “great trash migration” that occurs during major storms. This situation relocates litter from gutters, messy dumpsters and transient camps to San Diego’s bays and beaches, said Alicia Glaucus, education and marine debris manager at San Diego Coastkeeper.

Although some of the blame can be diverted from Ocean Beach residents and guests as being responsible for the overall volume collected there, Glassco pointed out the need for Ocean Beach to recycle, since

See Beaches, Page 7

Four-day boat show puts lap of luxury on public display

By Nicole Sours Larson | Beach & Bay Press

As thoughts begin to turn to spring and boating, one of the best ways to explore the wealth of watercraft options — and the great deals that are now available — is during the San Diego Sunroad Boat Show. The show opens Thursday, Jan. 26 and continues through Sunday, Jan. 29 at Sunroad Resort Marina, 951 Harbor Island Drive, located at the east end of Harbor Island.

This year’s show, now in its third year at Sunroad since its move from the downtown Convention Center, is expected to be about 10 percent bigger than last year’s, with about 150 boats on exhibit, including sailboats and powered boats ranging from 28 feet to 90 feet.

More than 100 vendors will offer an array of boating-related products, accessories and services.

See Boats, Page 6

Visitors can dream big or even lock in a purchase among a variety of sailboats and powered boats during the San Diego Sunroad Boat Show, which runs for four days this month at the Sunroad Resort Marina on Harbor Island Drive.

Photo by Nicole Sours Larson | Beach & Bay Press

Police arrest a suspect in a string of beachgoers in PB, OB,

154 car burglaries targeting surfers and beachgoers around the Pacific

music events.

A roundup of live

Police arrest a suspect in a string of

Visitors can dream big or even lock in a purchase among a variety of sailboats and powered boats during the San Diego Sunroad Boat Show, which runs for four days this month at the Sunroad Resort Marina on Harbor Island Drive.

Photo by Nicole Sours Larson | Beach & Bay Press

“Highway 5 on Mission Bay Drive” www.PacificNissan.com

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This 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse was built in 2005 and has dual master suites, 2 car garage, private patio, fresh paint, new carpet, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, bamboo floors downstairs, inside laundry room and so much more!
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This 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath unit has a view of the lush common area and pool and is upgraded with crown molding, tiled entry and bathroom, custom paint, newer fridge, stainless appliances and granite counters. Nice high ceilings and low HOA!
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This Spanish Style, 2,226 sqft, 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse was built in 2005 and has dual master suites, 2 car garage, private patio, fresh paint, new carpet, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, bamboo floors downstairs, inside laundry room and so much more!
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This 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath home has numerous upgrades, new forced air, tankless hot water heater, cozy fireplace, new carpet, fresh paint, new window coverings, detached 2 car garage, nice and private grassy backyard and much more!
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SALE PENDING

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SALE PENDING
Tom Lochtefeld, the former operator and master leaseholder of Belmont Park, filed a lawsuit in December and is suing the city for $2.5 million for breach of contract and fraudulent misrepresentation.

Lochtefeld was forced to give up the lease in June after a bankruptcy hearing awarded receivership to the East West Bank.

“We are confident in defending the city against Mr. Lochtefeld’s claims,” said Jonathan Heller, communications director for City Attorney Jan Goldsmith’s office.

Heller declined to address further about 800 percent, from about $70,000 to $550,000 — a clause city officials maintained Lochtefeld agreed to and knowingly entered into when he submitted his proposal.

The city’s relationship dates back to 2000 when the city asked him to take over the lease of Belmont Park. Lochtefeld launched improvements to the park, which included creating the Wavehouse Athletic Club in 2002 and the eye-catching wave simulation machine guests can board onboard.

The lease relationship began to sour after Lochtefeld proposed a plan to revitalize Belmont Park with a water park and hotels in 2006.

According to Lochtefeld, the plan was received positively by the city initially, but said he did not hear back from officials until 2008 when the city rejected his plan. City officials claimed Lochtefeld was in breach of contract for incorporating submitting his proposal.

The end result was that Lochtefeld was no longer eligible to receive rent subsidies and his rent increased by about 800 percent, from about $70,000 to $550,000 — a clause city officials maintained Lochtefeld agreed to and knowingly entered into when he submitted his proposal.

Lochtefeld, however, was unable to pay the rent hike, and the city declared him in default. Lochtefeld filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November 2011 and was forced to close The Plunge on May 26.

Belmont Park is currently operated by Ken Krasne of Los Angeles, the court-appointed receiver. The Plunge is scheduled to reopen after temporary repairs are made but there is no word yet on when those repairs will happen.

To keep the pool opened permanently, the facility will need another $1.2 million in repairs, according to an engineer hired by the city.

“It will probably be open for six months but there is no plan to go forward to permanently,” Lochtefeld claims.

When Belmont Park and The Plunge opened almost 87 years ago in May 1925, The Plunge was the largest salt-water pool in the time. Over time, the park fell into disrepair and was closed in 1976 but was reopened in 1990 thanks to a grassroots “Save the Coaster” campaign. The Plunge remained open except for a brief period in 1987-88.

There is a “Save the Plunge” website at www.savetheplunge.com.

Observers watch as mountainous sets of waves generated by a massive storm off Japan, scoured away some of the sand built up over the summer along Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. Crystal Pier was closed to hounds off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

After all, with the proper information, selling a home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don’t give up until you’ve read a new report entitled “Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for homeowners who want to sell your home yourself. You’ll find all the tips to sell your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time.

To receive a free copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

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SAN DIEGO - If you’ve tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put out the “For Sale by Owner” sign, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

All in all, with the proper information, selling a home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don’t give up until you’ve read a new report entitled “Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for homeowners who want to sell your home themselves. You’ll find all the tips to sell your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time.

To receive a free copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.
Sunny-flavored reggae, Alice Cooper tribute, return of the Big Bands

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**REMEMBER WHEN?**
**I'M NOT SURE** this even qualifies for Remember When, but what the heck. It’s a self-portrait of photographer C. W. Judd and family taken at Pacific Beach in February 1888. La Jolla is visible at the rear and a careful eye can spot the twos. Mr. Judd is pulling to snap the shutter on what would have been a camera the size of a television perched atop a wooden tripod. Photo courtesy of San Diego History Center
— John Fry may be reached at (858) 372-6655 or mail@johnfly.com.

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**MUST HEAR**
It’s hard enough to make a temporary mark on the public’s musical consciousness, but it takes a rare talent to stay in the public eye as a hitmaker over decades. Such is the case with Eric Clapton. Whether with The Yardbirds, Cream, The Dominos, The Bluesbreakers or as a solo artist, Clapton remains the guitarist of choice for generations of concertgoers, making him the perfect artist for tribute-band coverage. On Jan. 27, Brick by Brick hosts Clapton Hook, a quartet that covers it all from “Sweet Home Chicago” to “Layla.” Fronted by terrific guitarist Dan Litwin, the group nails the songs with both accuracy and a passion for the material. The bill also includes Classic Cream, for a night that promises to be a Clapton aficionado’s dream come true.

**Clapton Hook** performs at 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27 at Brick by Brick, 1110 Buena Ave. 21 and up. $10. www.brickbybrick.com

**Big Time Operator**
Does it better than Big Time Operator. Dancing was part of a night out, nobody was done with the sounds of the 1940s and 1950s when it comes to rhythm and beat, with an excess of melody. While Martin’s music is completely his own, fans of groups like Jethro Tull, Badfinger or early Queen will find much to appreciate in his songs.

**Kevin Martin Band** performs at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28 at The Griffin, 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. www.thegriffind.com

**Kevin Martin’s** take on indie rock will get his music out in front of a national audience. Appearing at The Griffin Jan. 28, Martin’s take on indie rock includes influences ranging from glam to powerpop, punk to classic rock, often with a lyrical social message and always with an excess of melody. While Martin’s music is completely his own, fans of groups like Jethro Tull, Badfinger or early Queen will find much to appreciate in his songs.

**Kevin Martin Band** performs at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28 at The Griffin, 1310 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. www.thegriffind.com

**Modern Bands** will perform improvisational interpretations of standards, combining jazz with whatever it takes to get their musical point across — from avant garde moments to zydeco rhythms — on Friday, Jan. 20, at Cafe-Bar Europa. Courtesy photo
Motorcyclist seriously hurt in PB crash

Traffic investigators are still sorting through details of a collision on Jan. 14 in Pacific Beach that left a motorcyclist seriously injured.

According to police, a 25-year-old man driving a Ford Taurus eastbound on Garnet Avenue around 5:30 p.m. made a left turn on to northbound Lamont Street in front of the 24-year-old motorcyclist heading westbound on Garnet.

The motorcyclist reportedly suffered a broken femur and lower leg injury.

Police investigators with Western Division displayed recovered property seized during the arrest of 40-year-old Curt Simnitt last week in connection with a series of vehicle burglaries in Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach and downtown.

The arrest of Simnitt comes a day after detectives identified him as the apparent suspect, they obtained a warrant and conducted a search at his residence, where they located property and evidence from about 50 vehicle burglaries.

A Navy SEAL who police believe accidentally shot himself in the head on Jan. 5 while displaying his handguns to a visitor in his Pacific Beach apartment died of his injuries Jan. 7.

The victim, identified at Petty Officer 3rd Class Gene Clayton, Jr. of Ohio, was pronounced dead at the hospital after surviving more than 48 hours on life support.

Navy SEAL dies of accidental gunshot

A Navy SEAL who police believe accidentally shot himself in the head on Jan. 5 while displaying his handguns to a visitor in his Pacific Beach apartment died of his injuries Jan. 7.

The victim, identified at Petty Officer 3rd Class Gene Clayton, Jr. of Ohio, was pronounced dead at the hospital after surviving more than 48 hours on life support.

Police were called to the Grand Avenue apartment around 2 a.m. on Jan. 5, where Clayton apparently had been showing several handguns to a female visitor and picked up one he apparently thought was unloaded, discharging a round into his head, according to investigators. He was rushed to Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, where doctors placed him on life support.

According to Navy records, Clayton was a special warfare officer who joined in March 2010. Navy officials said Clayton finished pre-basic SEAL training in Illinois in August and full SEAL training at the Navy’s elite forces training facility in Coronado.

Renamed PB committee seeks members

The Pacific Beach Community Advisory Committee (PBCAC) — formerly the Special Events Committee — will seek two new representatives during its Tuesday, Feb. 21 meeting.

The nine-member PBCAC consists of two representatives each from the Pacific Beach Town Council, Discover PB and the PB Planning Group, plus three at-large members to review and approve special events occurring on Pacific Beach streets.

The committee was also reorganized last year to review new alcohol licenses and changes to current licenses.

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer formed the committee in 2006, after problems developed during the final PB Block Party. The committee’s mission is to ensure community input on events.

At-large members should present a short biography during the PBCAC meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21 when the committee meets at 1503 Garnet Ave.

For more information, call (858) 273-3303.

PB Planning Group looks for new members

The Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBG) will hold its annual elections March 28, but time is running out for candidates who intend to run for a seat and have not yet attended a meeting of the PBG in the last year.

Candidates must have attended a meet- ing in 2011 or must attend the Jan. 25 meeting to qualify. Candidates must also be residents of — or own a business in — Pacific Beach. The March election will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library, located at 4275 Carm St.

The PB Planning Group is composed of 20 community volunteers (15 residential and five commercial seats). The group advises the city on land-use and new develop- ment, traffic, parking, and other issues of importance to the community.

For an application packet, email Damon Winstead at dwinstead@san.rr.com, or call (858) 866-0496.
**BOATS**

"It’s the largest sailboat display in Southern California and may be bigger than Sail America in San Francisco," said show director Jim Behun, who doubles as the Sunroad marina manager. The mix is about 40 percent sailboats and 60 percent powered boats and includes both new and used or brokerage vessels.

Last year, an estimated 14,000 people attended the show, over the four days, generating numerous boat sales and introducing prospective buyers to yacht brokers. This year, to ease the flow of visitors, Sunroad is adding a floating dock as a bridge between the two main exhibits.

New this year is a charter section showing various boats available for day-, sail- or longer charters from several operators, Behun said.

"Sealord Yacht Charters will offer fleet boat rides and West Marine will have a large display of Avon Zodiacs — or hard-bottom inflatables — and will take people out for test rides," he said.

Among the new exhibitors is Precision Laboratories, which will have staff on hand demonstrating new methods of cleansing boats to eliminate mold, mildew, smoke and other odors and toxins.

Raymarine will again demonstrate the latest in marine electronics in a mobile exhibit. In addition to boats for sale, other exhibitors will showcase nautical furniture, custom-made mattresses, canvas and sails, specialized marine paints, lubricants and other supplies, along with marinas and yacht clubs for cruiser exploration and discovery.

The Unified Port of San Diego is sponsoring educational seminars that will cover a range of subjects from fishing to boating-related environmental issues to safety concerns in Mexico.

Barrett Canfield, president of South Coast Yachts, which will be exhibiting four new Beneteau sailboats ranging from 30 feet to 50 feet, and two new 25-foot and 10-foot Schock Day sailors, said he is enthusiastic about the Sunroad boat show, which he finds productive for both buyers and sellers.

"It’s the perfect central location by the airport," Canfield said. "I’ve done boat shows for 20 years and it’s the best-run boat show."

He said he also likes the show’s compact design, with vendors’ exhibits located under a tent near the entrance to the in-water boat display.

Jim Johnson, a broker with Chuck Hovey Yachts, which will exhibit a 55-foot Fleming raised pilothouse motor yacht, along with a 48-foot Offshore motor yacht and 49-foot Hylas offshore cruising sailboat, agrees.

"People are excited when they come to the show," said Johnson. "Every year, it has grown. Boats are sold from the show throughout the year. There’s a well-rounded selection of vendors and different types of boats. If you’re a boat-enthusiast, you’ll find what you want at the show."

The San Diego Sunroad Boat Show hours are noon to 6 p.m. on Jan. 26 and 27, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 28 and 29.

Children under 12 are admitted free with a paid adult. Adult tickets run $10 per person, making it easy and economical to bring the whole family to look for that long-contemplated dream boat.

Parking is available for $10 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina on Harbor Island, which also offers special discounted boat show rates for out-of-town visitors. Sunroad’s Island Deli will again offer its tasty tacos to hungry visitors.

For updated information and a complete list of exhibitors appearing at the boat show, call (619) 497-5254, or visit www.bigbayboatshow.com.
Local artists Fernando Pinon and Michelle Josey volunteered their time and talents to make the Tourmaline Canyon Surfing Park mural vibrant again.

PB Surf Club, volunteers revitalize Tourmaline surf park bathroom

Dr. MARKO LAMB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Tourmaline Canyon Surfing Park recently got a much-needed facelift, thanks to a few dedicated volunteers and their vision of returning a blighted public bathroom mural to its old glory.

The facility is now complete with a depiction of Pacific Beach point, a trio of crashing waves, the surf spot’s shoreline and a classic old Ford Woody to boot.

“The original painting was from 1998, and it sat there in poor condition for several years,” said Greg Miller, mural project coordinator and longtime PB Surf Club member. “The mural’s paint faded away long ago and was slowly peeling off.”

In 2010, the facility was considered under the purview of the PB Surf Club, due to the club’s call for the renovation. The duo encountered a few colorful locals along the way who were not shy in voicing their opinion about the mural’s dilapidated state and decided to do something about it. Nine months ago, the organization got city permission to renovate the old mural, few colorful locals along the way who were not shy in voicing their opinion about the restoration efforts.

With the mural completed, the restoration will continue to undergo a thorough restoration with a fresh coat of tan paint on the inner and outer walls.

“The mural’s paint faded away long ago and was slowly peeling off.”

The mural painted faded away long ago and was slowly peeling off.

Fernando and Michelle graciously agreed to volunteer their time, talent and expertise to the project,” Miller said. “The two have spent numerous hours in all kinds of weather working on the project.”

It is not about the money, but rather the satisfaction of having done something that will benefit the community.

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“We can also refuse Styrofoam and support legislation to ban Styrofoam take-out containers here in California,” she said.

Some of the fascinating items beach cleanup volunteers have reported in their collections over the years include two headless statues collected in La Jolla Shores, a military badge at Belmont Park beach and a pregnancy kit at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach.

To date, San Diego Coastkeeper and the Surfrider Foundation’s San Diego chapter have successfully done more than 170 beach cleanups around the county to address the problem of trash in San Diego’s oceans, beaches and bays.

For more information about San Diego beach cleanups, visit Coastkeeper’s website at www.sdcoastkeeper.org or Surfrider’s website at www.surfridersd.org.
The organization also has children’s programs and fundraising events for a scholarship program for student athletes. Hanohano is a Hawaiian word, translating as “glowing happiness and praise and dignified.” The Hawaiian aloha spirit is a big part of the organization and the Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge event.

The challenge will have two courses, depending upon the competition. An approximate 9-mile course, which starts from Mission Beach’s North Jetty beach, heads out to sea, past the real Pier, takes a wide turn back before finishing back at Bonita Cove.

The approximate 4-mile course takes place in Mission Bay, starting at Bonita Cove, heading past SeaWorld San Diego, then doing a U-turn and returning to the core. There is also a 1,000-mile race for children under 12.

More than 400 watermen and women participated last year, including visitors from Las Vegas, Seattle, Arizona and Canada. Participants include professional lifeguards, former and present Olympic paddlers, pro triathletes and the junior Olympic kayak teams from San Diego and Newport Beach also take part. Notable paddle Olympians have included Phillipe Bocara, Cliff Meidl and Carrie Johnson. Danny Ching, one of the first pro Olympic paddlers, won last year’s prestigious Waterman title by winning the short course and then doing a U-turn and returning to the core. The Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge, visit www.hanohano.org/.

A surf ski is a long, narrow, lightweight kayak with a sealed capsule that the paddler sits on top of. It is designed more for ocean conditions. A kayak has an internal seating compartment that the paddler sits inside of. The Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge will have plenty going on besides paddling outriggers. SUPs, kayaks and surf skis.

“The biggest event of its kind and the first event of the year in the World Paddle Association series, so there is a lot of excitement,” said Van Dyck. “There will also be a product expo on site with lots of demo equipment to try out. Live music and the best raffling with plenty of seats to give away.”

One-man and two-man Huki outrigger canoes are included in the raffle. Sponsors include Huki Outrigger & Surf ski, Maui Jim’s Sunglasses, Quickblade, Yole Boards, Bell Taco, Rogue SUP, Paddleplex.com, Hansen’s Board Room, West Coast PaddleSurf, Sweet Waterwear, Zou Zou Athletic, OEX and others.

According to Anthony Vela, a life guard, ironman competitor and a top SUP finisher from last year’s challenge, “The event is growing by leaps and bounds and everyone is having fun with a smile on their face.”

Most events have a $20 entry fee, which includes breakfast, lunch, awards, raffle tickets, and T-shirt for the first 200 individuals to register. The online deadline is Jan. 26, with day-of entries on Jan. 28. For more information and entry into the 16th annual Hanohano-Huki Ocean Challenge, visit www.hanohano.org/.

Kayakers will take their shots in the competition Jan. 28, as well.
Get yourself rolling with PB’s bicycling family

WHAT’S IN THE AIR, BUD?

By KEVIN DI CICCO | Beach & Bay Press

The boardwalk here in our treasured Pacific Coast Bicycle always has such a wealth of the different walks of life. Every time I ride my custom cruiser there, it’s never the same experience twice.

Have you noticed how outrageously cool some of the beach cruisers are these days? Last year, at the Pacific Beach Christmas Parade, I met Joe Wivart while waiting in the concession area for the parade to begin. Joe and his wife, Lori, and their kids, Kimmy, Joseph, Nathan and Ross were on some of the coolest cruisers I’ve ever seen. I soon found out that Joe owns Pacific Coast Bicycle located at 1637 Garnet Ave.

Joe was born and raised in Pacific Beach. His father, Eugene, moved from Seattle in the 1950s to join the Navy. He served his country, settled in Pacific Beach and started a family. Joe himself was born in 1970. He attended elementary, middle and high school here in Pacific Beach and met Lori during his junior year. A lot has changed since he was a kid growing up in PB in the 1970s, especially with beach cruisers.

“Everyone always enjoyed riding my beach cruiser,” Joe said.

So much so, he said that about 10 years ago he started selling bicycle accessories at a 10:00-by-10:00-foot booth at Koby’s Swap Meet. The success of his business allowed him to rent an 1,100-square-foot shop at Kobey’s Swap Meet.

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Crowds Come Out for 3rd Annual Blessing of the Animals

Dogs, cats, bunnies and their human companions flocked to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park on Sunday for the third annual Blessing of the Animals event. The event started a little after noon when Monsignor Mark Campbell took the stage to offer a mass blessing to every person and animal in attendance. Animals and their owners then lined up for a personal blessing from Campbell.

Presentations were given by Vanessa Barrera from Unleashed Dog Fitness, Nancy Conroy from Sky Hunters and Arden Moore, author of “Dog Parties: How to Party With Your Pup” and creator of National Dog Party Day.

The pet costume contest was the finale of the event and commanded a crowd as three dogs and one cat competed for prizes donated by Chula Vista Nature Center, Fred’s Mexican Cafe and Fiesta de Reyes.

Along with the blessing and presentations, there was also a pet expo of different products and services for pets and people alike including Love My Pet, Wire Companion, Dogs on the Run, San Diego Pets Magazine, Shelly’s Shelter, Chula Vista Rescue of San Diego, Santerie Bunny Shelter and Give the Deal Pet Coupons. Of course, no animal event in San Diego would be a success without an appearance by Chopper the Biker Dog.

This event was sponsored by j.smiths agency, Fiesta de Reyes and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

From left: Nathan, Lori, Joseph, Kimmy, Eugene and Joe Wivart in front of Pacific Coast Bicycle at 1637 Garnet Ave.
Coaster Saloon: largest hi-def TV screen at the beach

By WALTER RUSKIN | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Coaster Saloon prides itself on being the home of the largest high-definition projection screen in all the San Diego beach area. With dimensions of roughly 20 feet by 20 feet, visitors can sit on the patio and still feel like they are sitting in the stadium for all the remaining NFL postseason action.

Coaster Saloon is located at 744 Ventura Place in Mission Beach, directly across the street from Belmont Park and the famous — that’s right, you guessed it — rollercoaster.

As I looked at the screen, I joked, “I bet it would be awesome to play Nintendo’s Wii bowling on this thing.” I must be psychic, because apparently on Wednesday nights this gigantic monument to live sports transforms into the host of the Wii bowling tournament.

Coaster Saloon, located at 744 Ventura Place in Mission Beach, provides some tantalizing weekday dinner deals and the perfect place to catch NFL postseason playoff games.

Photo by Walter Ruskin | Beach & Bay Press

Coaster Saloon’s 20-foot-by-20-foot high-definition TV screen is billed as the biggest of its kind at any of the beach-area water holes.

Photo illustration by Walter Ruskin | Beach & Bay Press

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If you have not played Wii on 20 feet of screen, I suggest you try it, because it is amazing.

In addition to interaction and television viewing, Coaster Saloon offers more than 30 beers on tap and an extensive menu, including everything from seafood to steaks. Not only that, but from Mondays through Fridays between 5 and 7 p.m., everything is half price, according to Scotty, Coaster Saloon’s head chef. Scotty assured me that owner John Renna and his general manager son, Darren, want to create a place where folks can come in after a long day at work to enjoy the beach, have a nice meal and watch the sun set.

Isn’t it nice to know that after you put a 100 percent effort into your day that there is one place that you go to get at least 50 percent back on anything they offer — not just a few select items like chips and salsa?

To add to the fun, Coaster Saloon is introducing a new menu in January. Two items that Chef Scotty allowed me to preview while I was there were a new melted waffle (available on the breakfast menu) and a new Florentine stuffed-chicken sandwich. Delicious!

If you love high-definition televisions and great food, coast down to the Coaster Saloon, where it’s all larger than life.

For more information, visit www.coastersaloon.com, or call (858) 488-4418.

— Walter Ruskin is a member of the San Diego Community Newspaper Group’s “Ugly News Team.” Catch his articles and interviews at www.sdnws.com.
‘Painted Desert’ exhibit puts dreams on display at PB library

Dr. Will Bowen | BEACH & BAY PRESS

“To dream about a house is to dream about the self.” At least, so it is said in the old dream interpretation manuals. Artist Michael Wheelden is a dreamer. He has been dreaming about and drawing houses since he was seven years old, and he has made a lifelong career of his fascination.

An intriguing collection of 16 of Wheelden’s acrylic-on-canvas and wood paintings of houses, themed “Painted Desert,” will be on view until Feb. 25 in the semi-circular solitude of the gallery at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library at 4277 Cass St.

Wheelden’s paintings are simple but bold. They feature close-up, straight-on or frontal views of single-story houses — most Spanish-style bungalows, a few bungalows, rocks, boulders and gravel — all in keeping with Wheelden’s lifelong interest in the residential architecture common to this region’s oldest neighborhoods.

“I have lived here for over 35 years,” he said. “I am interested in the meaning of things here and what my relation to those things is.”

There is a great order, regularity and symmetry in Wheelden’s work, which he said is a reflection of the order and regularity with which he attempts to live his life.

The colors used by Wheelden for this series are muted and understated, using what he calls a “subdued palette.” They are characterized by the toned-down color scheme he uses. They are soft, gentle and clean, simple lines illuminate the structure or anatomy of his subject and create a peaceful and tranquil feeling of serenity. They appeal to those of us who like to contemplate houses built in the day when there was still enough space for lawns and gardens.

But perhaps the most unique and original thing about Wheelden’s paintings is the way the frame is incorporated into the artwork itself through the melding of panels of canvas with wood-framing strips, all of which are fitted together in a staggered manner to create a three-dimensional sculptural or architectural puzzle, which rarely takes on the standard rectangular or square shape we normally associate with paintings.

The clear lines and composition of Wheelden’s paintings transcend the ordinary and transport the mundane or ordinary to the level of the inspired.

“I strive to open up a whole new way of looking at and appreciating things,” Wheelden said.

Susan Harrison, who purchased one of Wheelden’s paintings from the show, said that after spending time alone in the gallery, she drove home and “Everything looked different to me. It reminded me of how differently the world looked after putting on my first pair of glasses.”

Some people feel Wheelden’s paintings are a metaphor which reflects on the inhabitants of his houses, the human condition and man’s relationship to his community and to nature — even though there are no people, animals or birds in any of his creations. Wheelden won’t comment on what exactly his paintings might be saying, only that they are a “snare” for the viewer’s attention “to make him think about what the paintings might mean for him personally.”

Mark Lugo, art curator for the San Diego Public Library System who organized the show in the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch library gallery — which Lugo calls the “hub” for all the libraries’ galleries — said, “I am very impressed with the enthusiasm with which people have embraced this show. I see the role of our library art gallery as introducing high quality art to people who normally would not feel comfortable going to an art gallery.”

For more information, call (858) 581-9934, or visit www.pblibraryfriends.org.

Get Your Flu Shot at Anderson Medical Center

Now is the time to get your flu vaccine. Influenza is a virus that causes fever and body aches. The flu can last for up to a week and make it difficult to get out of bed. The best defense against this is a flu shot. Flu shots contain no active virus and cannot make you sick.

Flu shots contain no active virus and cannot make you sick. Plurinst nasal immunization does contain the live virus. Flu vaccines are recommended for all ages. Any person who has contact with a lot of people will benefit from the vaccine. Flu shots are especially important for the elderly, children and people who are involved in healthcare.

Anderson Medical Center is offering the vaccine with no appointment necessary. Come in today and get your flu shot. We are located at 1945 Garnet Avenue. For more information you can call 858-224-7977 or visit our website at Andersonmedicalcenter.com.
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Jim Santini  619-414-6637

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Sat & Sun 12pm-4pm  
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Barbara Lemmenwerb & Carol Utte  619-991-0002

Sun 1-4pm  
7342 Eads  
Susan Weller  310-508-4757

Sun 1-4pm  
1144 Sutter St.  
Adam S. Allerton  619-223-1234

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Tami Fuller  619-226-8264

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Barbara Leinenweber  858-507-9995

Sat & Sun 11-4pm  
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Robert Realty  619-852-8827

Sat 1-3pm  
3235 Madrid  
Ruth Ann Fisher  619-733-4100

Sun 1-4pm  
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Cindy Wing  619-223-9464

Sun 2-4pm  
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Laura Hollister  858-354-8939

Sat & Sun 1-4pm  
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Kathy Evans  858-488-7355

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Marti Gellens  858-551-6630

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David Schroedl  858-459-0202

Sat 1-3pm  
3052 Rue D'Orleans #121  
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Sun 1-4pm  
553 Bonair Place  
Maryl Weightman  858-354-2913

Sun 1-4pm  
7020 Via Estrada  
David Schroedl  858-459-0202

Sun 1-4pm  
553 Bonair Place  
Kara K. & Mark Stewart  619-981-6599

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Barbara Leinenweber  858-507-9995

Sun 1-4pm  
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Robert Realty  619-852-8827

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Barbara Leinenweber  858-507-9995

Sun 1-4pm  
220 Coast Blvd. #2-E  
Tami Fuller  619-226-8264

Sun 1-4pm  
5519 Chelsea  
Tammy Kyo  619-384-3490

Sun 1-4pm  
7575 Eads Ave  
Maxine & Goldie Singapal  858-340-9095

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Sun 1-4pm  
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WINNING WAYS OF MBHS BASKETBALL

Congratulations to the Mission Bay High School (MBHS) girls’ basketball team. Over the holiday break, the Lady Bucs participated in two tournaments. One was in Arizona, where the team placed second overall. The other was in Oakland, where the team earned the champion title of the consolation bracket. Britaresha Solomon was named National Player of the Week by ESPN. Congratulations also, to the MBHS boys’ basketball team. They are the champions of the National Surf and Slam Tournament after beating Newport High School 71-46. Gerald Albritton was named the MVP of the tournament.

MISSION BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Mission Bay High, an international baccalaureate middle school, will host a tour Tuesday Jan. 31 from 8 to 10 a.m., beginning in the library. Learn more about the international baccalaureate program and all that Mission Bay High School has to offer. Meet the principal, staff members and parents while learning about the many varied opportunities for students in the high school. Mission Bay High School’s Weeks of Green student garden recently. Garrett was required to take action to improve his community as part of his Eagle Scout project, and as part of the international baccalaureate aspirations at Mission Bay High School. Garrett worked to identify a community need, communicate with everyone involved, plan and fundraise, organize and oversee volunteers to install the project, said Sally Kaufman, PB Middle’s librarian technician and Garden Club advisor. “He’s an internationally-minded and resourceful young man who met the non-friendly requests by using reclaimed materials from Mission Bay High School to complete the project. He also coordinated the troop’s installation of a new planting bed and a new bench for students.” To culminate this event, Garrett will reflect and present in front of a board of community members. He was required to take this opportunity to meet the administration, walk the campus and discover the rigorous, balanced IB curriculum at Mission Bay High School. For more information about the tour call (858) 273-1313.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

led by Mission Bay High School student Garrett Gutstadt, volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 506 installed a surf shack storage shed at Pacific Beach Middle School’s “Waves of Green” student garden recently. Garrett was required to take action to improve his community as part of his Eagle Scout project, and as part of the international baccalaureate aspirations at Mission Bay High School. Garrett worked to identify a community need, communicate with everyone involved, plan and fundraise, organize and oversee volunteers to install the project, said Sally Kaufman, PB Middle’s library technician and Garden Club advisor. “He’s an internationally-minded and resourceful young man who met the non-friendly requests by using reclaimed materials from Mission Bay High School to complete the project. He also coordinated the troop’s installation of a new planting bed and a new bench for students.” To culminate this event, Garrett will reflect and present in front of a board of community members. He was required to take this opportunity to meet the administration, walk the campus and discover the rigorous, balanced IB curriculum at Mission Bay High School. For more information about the tour call (858) 273-1313.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE

There will be a Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools (FOPBSS) meeting Wednesday Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Pacific Beach Middle School library. FOPBSS is the parent/teacher non-profit organization that supports PB Middle and Mission Bay High. You will get a tour of the campus led by staff and get to see students in action in class. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet the administration, walk the campus and discover the rigorous, balanced IB curriculum at Mission Bay High School. For more information about the tour call (858) 273-1313.

Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools (FOPBSS)

PBMS Math and Science Night

Family Math Night is supported by “Operation Student Achievement,” a federal grant from the Department of Defense that aims to support all students and teachers in math, science, engineering and technology. “The Friends of Kate Sessions are gearing up for their annual Silent Auction Event in May. Community businesses interested in making a product donation are encouraged to contact kateses-sionselementary@gmail.com. Donations are tax deductible and are a great way to gain exposure for your business while supporting local schools.