Christmas done up in style as Garrison Street residents send off 2011 in sparkling fashion

As has been the case for decades, the residents of a short Point Loma section of road that is Garrison Street has been home to one of the most spectacular and celebrated neighborhood displays in all of San Diego. Busloads of holiday gawkers have made Garrison Street a must-see destination annually, as neighbors join forces to brighten the Christmas season and put a little extra sparkle in the eyes of children. Complete with an annual hot-chocolate fundraiser, the ornate designs cover the gamut— from rooftops to front lawns and from shining windowfronts to elaborate tree dressings.

Merchant gets unexpected gift with a treasure trove for surfers

Sometimes Santa comes early.

At least that’s how Bryan Lowe must have felt when a crateful of vintage, highly-desirable surfboards was delivered to him on Nov. 25. The next day, the large, wooden box, trucked in from the East Coast and full of classic Skip Frye surfboards, was opened up in front of an enthusiastic gathering of surfing aficionados at Bird’s Surf Shed, located at 1091 West Morena Blvd.

Lowe had acquired the treasure trove of surfboards, made by Frye— San Diego’s legendary surfer and board designer—in a most fortunate fashion.

“I was on an online surfing forum that was discussing Skip Frye and struck up a conversa-
OB Christmas tree more than a symbol to some

Icon one of few bright spots for local homeless during holiday season

By BIANCA KOCH | THE BEACON

Every year, Ocean Beach supplies and surprises residents and visitors with a unique, oversize community Christmas tree near the corner of Newport Avenue and Abbott Street across from the Ocean Beach Hotel.

Although fenced in, the crowds — especially self-described globetrotters — like to gather around and under the tree on Christmas Eve into Christmas Day to sing, exchange trinkets and enjoy the only Christmas tree available to most of them.

Some of these folks repeatedly make a special trip to Ocean Beach each Christmas to join the annual get-together.

One of them, John Mercy, a home- less visitor from Big Bear, came to visit the tree near the corner of Newport Avenue and Abbott Street across from the Ocean Beach Hotel.

"It's [the tree] for everybody," he said, "but I wouldn't be surprised if people got asked to leave again, like other times."

Similar comments come from Paul Albert, a 40-year-old traveler from Escondido, who also came to visit the tree recently.

"It's the only one I get to see up close on Christmas," he said. "I come every year. It used to be a lot of fun, exchanging gifts and stories with old friends by the tree. But the last couple of years, people got arrested. Don't know why. That really put a damper on things. I hope it's better this year."

Ray Dix, who's been locally living on the streets for more than four years, has his own take on the situation.

"It's unreal," said Dix. "I've been in OB for four years. Every year, it seems to look worse. This year tops it so far. Are they [the town] looking for Charlie Brown's Christmas tree? Then we got a winner!"

Uniquely decorated each year with the creative help of children's hands, the tree is and has been a welcome landmark in Ocean Beach.

Having lived in Ocean Beach for 12 years, local Jeff O'Connor thinks the tree and the decorating process is a great thing for the children. He also said he believes the tree should be enjoyed by everybody, and he said he's always liked the idea of people flocking around it on Christmas.

"There shouldn't be any discriminat ing," said O'Connor. "All people should be able to enjoy their Christmas by the OB tree."

[The state of] this year's tree, well...there's been better and there's been worse [trees] than this one. I guess you get what you get."

Another local, known to many as "Brian J.", said the tree's appearance is secondary.

"The tree's looks are meant to be," he said. "It's a Charlie Brown tree beyond control. That, right there, makes it special. Thank you, Ocean Beach."
Local politicians and beach-area lifeguards gathered Dec. 12 to kick off the city’s annual campaign to aid the Toys for Tots program.

At the Pacific Beach lifeguard station, District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer and District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner were flanked by lifeguard representatives to announce that San Diegans can make a donation to the Toys for Tots program by dropping off donations at any beach-area lifeguard station.

Joining the councilmembers were San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgt. Ed Harris, San Diego firefighter/Marine Corps reservist Bill Waugaman and San Diego Lifesaving Association representative Jeff Hatfield.

Together, the speakers called on locals to help a family in need this holiday and, in turn, be treated to a brief tour of the stations.

“We’re asking San Diegans to do what they do best — visit our beaches and bays — and bring with them a new, unwrapped toy for a child,” said Faulconer. “The Toys for Tots lifeguard donation drive is a great way to celebrate our beach culture as well as the holidays.”

Lightner also called on neighbors to catch the holiday spirit.

“Bring your children to the beach and have them bring a gift for a child who isn’t so fortunate,” said Lightner. “It will make the visit that much more memorable while honoring the spirit of the season.”

Donated toys will be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the San Diego area. City officials said checks in any amount are also accepted. All donations are tax-deductible.

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserves has been collecting Christmas toys for children through the Toys for Tots program since 1947.

Donated toys can be dropped off at the Ocean Beach lifeguard stations, among others.

For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org.

— Staff and contribution

Faulconer, lifeguards kick off joint city/Toys for Tots drive
Harbor Police find stolen bikes and other surprises

By JOHNNY MCDONALD | THE BEACON

Harbor Police, who may not always be given high-profile credit for their crime work, came to the rescue in apprehending two suspected bicycle thieves recently.

Bike owner Stephen Mann said he can’t give enough praise to officers Michael Bishop and Robert Brownyard, who arrested two people trying to sell the high-end bicycles.

The bicycles were taken from Mann’s 38-foot sailboat — the same boat he used in 2008 to travel around the world in eight months and five days. Now, he’s back happily riding them again.

“I hope this accolade is reported where it can bring a smile,” Mann wrote in a letter to the Port of San Diego’s Harbor Police Department. “I am writing to say ‘Bravo!’”

The bicycles — one valued at more than $6,000, the other valued at more than $2,000 — were on the vessel that was moored in Marina Cortez in Harbor Island. Mann reported the morning theft on Nov. 10 to the Harbor Police Department, which provides police services throughout San Diego Bay.

Mann, a boat captain-turned-sleuth, scanned the Internet and found four Craigslist ads for his bicycles — complete with pictures. He reported his discovery to Bishop and Brownyard.

Brownyard conducted his own detective work. Posing as a buyer, the officer met the seller in a Mission Valley parking lot. Not only did he get the bicycles back, but he discovered some additional items, including heroin and stolen license plates.

As a result of the officer’s discovery, a 27-year-old man from El Cajon was arrested. He was charged with possession of stolen property, an unregistered firearm, a deadly weapon, stolen vehicle license plates and heroin.

His girlfriend, whom Harbor Police officers identified as a 19-year-old from Lakeside, was charged with possession of methamphetamine.

“Unbelievably, my bikes were recovered — and promptly,” Mann wrote.

The bikes were stripped of all accessories, including a $500 lighting system and computer. Mann said he will spend more than $1,000 to replace the accessories.

“I have made offers to reward you somehow, but have been told that you were just doing your job,” Mann wrote to the department. “So if you see a guy on a bike-smiling and waving at you, it might be me.”

The Harbor Police is the law enforcement arm of the Unified Port of San Diego and has about 130 sworn officers — all of whom are trained as firefighters and police officers.

The jurisdiction of the Harbor Police includes San Diego Bay and the San Diego International Airport.

Willis Allen Real Estate’s Sandy Collins Wins ‘Realtor of the Year’ Award

Sandy Collins acknowledged for her integrity, professionalism

Willis Allen Real Estate announced today that Realtor Sandy Collins has been awarded the 2011 Point Loma Ocean Beach Realtor’s Association (PLOBRA) Realtor of the Year Award. Collins received the award at the annual PLOBRA meeting and holiday party.

The Realtor of the Year Award, presented by the PLOBRA Board of Directors, acknowledges an agent who consistently demonstrates the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. Willis Allen Real Estate’s CEO and President Andrew E. Nelson says Collins is well-deserving of this honor.

“Sandy has deep knowledge of the San Diego real estate market combined with a caring style that makes her a trusted client advocate,” says Nelson. “We join the PLOBRA board in recognizing her continued contributions to elevate the San Diego real estate profession.”

Collins started her real estate career in property management with her husband, John. Together they bought, restored and sold 14 properties. Collins says this experience gave her a strong understanding of the entire real estate process and helped hone her ability to identify the value and potential in real estate properties. In 1986 Collins launched her residential real estate career. Collins partners with Judy Kettenburg-Chayka, and they have been with Willis Allen Real Estate for four years. Collins is also an accredited staging expert. She says this gives her the unique ability to know what it takes to get the best return on her clients’ real estate investments.

For more on Willis Allen Realtor Sandy Collins visit her website or call (619) 224-0044.
Great-grandma isn’t one to mess with, but she’s sensei-tional

At 72, third-degree blackbelt lends her skills to special-needs children

Dr. MARSHA KAY SEFF | The Beacon

Seventeen pairs of eyes focus on the astute face as she reminds the youngsters to bow and repeat after her: “I promise to keep my hands and feet to myself at all times.”

The class at USA Freestyle Martial Arts, off Midway Drive, could be at almost any dojo school in San Diego except for two things. First, the volunteer sensei (teacher) is a 72-year-old great-grandmother with a third-degree black belt in mixed martial arts. Second, the students, outfitted in pint-size gis (outfits) are special-needs children.

Mary Davis of Point Loma has been teaching STARS — an acronym for super talented and really sharp children — for four years. Though she has an education degree, she doesn’t have a background in special education. And she teaches the 4-through-19-year-olds much like she does her class of kids with out special challenges. With the help of 50-year-old instructor Joan Irvine, they said, “We learn as we go along.”

Once a stay-at-home mom with three children, she has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She began studying martial arts when she was 57, alongside one of her daughters. Davis earned her first black belt by the time she was 60.

“She said it seems natural to volunteer to teach what she loves, because Davis used to donate her time as an assistant scout leader, Sunday school teacher and soccer coach, Bobby Sox manager, Girl Scout leader, Sunday school teacher and Star of India tour guide.

“I try to keep on going,” said Davis. “I basically don’t have any arthritis. I attribute that to moving like this.”

While her contemporaries practice the slow forms of tai chi, Davis said, she bows.

She spends at least six hours a week at the dojo, working out and teaching two special-needs classes, another children’s class and a self-defense course for older adults through the Aging and Independence Services. Learning martial arts, she said, empowers both older adults and children, especially those with challenges.

“I love all these kids and I get such satisfaction from teaching them and seeing them improve in even the littlest ways,” Davis said.

When they started, many of the children couldn’t stand still. Now, they’ve learned to wait patiently and follow instructions.

“Just seeing these kids try whatever we ask of them and never give up makes me know the class is more than worth the time we spend with them,” Davis said.

Unlike many people learning a new skill, the special-needs students don’t get embarrassed when following the exercises. Meanwhile, the sensei said, the children get stronger, with improved balance, focus, discipline and confidence.

Trish Fotinos, whose young son, Mathew, has Down syndrome, said, “It’s amazing to watch the kids progress from running around to sitting still and listening.”

She said Mathew doesn’t have many language skills, but does well with the class because it emphasizes the visual.

Sioban Borclers, whose 5-year-old son, Liam, is mildly autistic and hyperactive, said the class is helping him, too. “This is something positive that he comes to and has fun,” said Borclers. “Everywhere else, people tell him, ‘Don’t. Don’t.’ Here, the kids are accepting.”

Meanwhile, Borclers said, “They talk about social skills and learn to say ‘Please’ and ‘Thank you.’”

A youngster responds, “You treat everyone the way you want to be treated.”

Britt Buss, who often works out with Davis, said, “She’s proof your life can go on to the fullest as long as you keep moving and stay active.”

For more information about the class for special-needs children, call USA Freestyle Martial Arts at (619) 224-9600.
It was an early Christmas for the children at the Ocean Beach Redevelopment Design Center when members of the Point Loma High School (PLHS) Band came bearing gifts for each child during Dec. 7, 1941 — the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and we were at war. Gas was suddenly rationed. What were we going to do?” remembered Mrs. Meyers. “We had three small children, everything invented in a gas station, and now we couldn’t sell gas.”

I know how Bob got through it — service. He had a service station, not a gas station.

Can you remember then? You drove in, ran over the little black hose across the drive way, the bell would “ding!” and out would come the cheerful service station attendant. He would bend down to eye level and ask, “What pleaseth thee?”

“I made a deal with my kids; I told them if they meet me at Jimmy’s restaurant, I would buy them a seafood dinner.” Mr. Meyers gave them to me and I loved President Kennedy.

He was a loving family man.

“I think I don’t have enough fat on me and my oil runs too cold,” he told me.

He was a loving family man.

Mr. Meyers was also generous and thoughtful.

He dropped by my office at Christmas time one year and handed me two, mint-perfect 1964 JFK silver half-dollars as a present. You know, I cherish mint-perfect 1964 JFK silver half-dollars. It’s a Christmas star, special light show that has been lighting with the paperwork to bill the Auto Club, Dog Beach in Ocean Beach?

Mr. Meyers was also generous and thoughtful. He was affectionately known in Ocean Beach.

Mr. Meyers was also generous and thoughtful. He was a loving family man.

“I think I don’t have enough fat on me and my oil runs too cold,” he told me.

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I have been hearing about the RV that burned down from online Ocean Beach reflections. It was a Christmas star, special light show that has been lighting
it involves introduction of bank records and the case will last at least several days as said the preliminary hearing for the second estate purchase and sales agreement theft, grand theft and forgery of a real estate purchase and sales agreement. Moore is set for the latest case involving the mother of her former husband. Moore is 77 years old and lives out of state.

An April 17 preliminary hearing was set for the latest case involving the mother of her former husband. Moore is charged with committing financial elder theft, grand theft and forgery of a real estate purchase and sales agreement that occurred on May 14, 2008, according to court records. Deputy District Attorney Bill Mitchell said the preliminary hearing for the second case will last at least several days as it involves introduction of bank records and financial information. The victim is 77 years old and lives out of state.

According to the charges, Moore told her then-mother-in-law she was a 50-percent partner in a $70 million commercial building, but that was not the case, said prosecutors. She borrowed the money from her then-husband’s mother, saying it was needed for soil tests, permits and applications to the city. Moore, who is free on $500,000 bond in both cases, is represented by former District Attorney Paul Pfingst. Pfingst has provided copies of documents that say Moore was helping the restaurant meet payroll and had loaned money to the owner of Jack’s.

Deputy District Attorney Bill Mitchell said a preliminary hearing will be held to introduce the bank records for the preliminary hearing on April 17.

**BOARDS**

The boards were delivered to Bird’s Surf Shed, which is run by Eric “Bird” Huffman, a surfing historian whose surf shop is covered floor-to-ceiling with more than 400 classic surfboards. It was even featured on the TV series “American Pickers” earlier this year.

Huffman arranged for a viewing of the crate being opened, knowing the interest that showcasing such a cache of classic Skip Frye boards would bring. “It was an historic event and one of the highlights of my surfing experience, sharing the surf stoke with all who enjoyed it,” said Huffman.

Viewers’ anticipation made for jokes, referencing the opening of the sacred artifact box in the “Raiders of the Lost Ark” movie. “Don’t look inside!” yelled some.

Lowe and Huffman then unfastened the crate, unveiling seven well-preserved boards dating back to the 1980s — including an 11-foot “Eagle” model, three “Fish Simmons” models and three shortboard designs that brought “oohs” and “aahs” from admirers on hand.

“It’s great,” said Lowe, who already owns a quiver of 15 select board designs. “It financially stretched me, but I knew the value of these boards, which are treasures and are meant to be ridden. So I feel fortunate to get them.”

Lowe said he will keep three favorites and let the remainder go for other buyers to get their own early special Christmas gifts.

**CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Worship Guide 2011**

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- 7:00 p.m. Join Us

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- 5:00-7:00-9:00-11:00 p.m.
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**Christmas Services at These Churches**

**Enjoy Christmas Services at These Churches**

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**Christmas Eve Cantata**
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1984 Sunset Cliffs Boulevard
Ocean Beach, at Saratoga 619-224-2995

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- 5:00-7:00-9:00-11:00 p.m.
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Source: Small Business Administration

Reprinted from Barbara Wold, Professional Speaker’s email.

Help Support Ocean Beach – Shop Local!
Every year, San Diego plays host to an event that provides tourists with another reason to envy locals. In addition to beaches and parks and the weather that (sort of) cooperates enough to enjoy them year-round, San Diegans get to take advantage of living in an area boasting incredible biological diversity.

One of the most impressive environments in which to see nature at its best is that property-value-increasing expanse of blue to the west, and this year of time is home to a truly fascinating natural phenomenon. The gray whale migration is once again upon us.

To provide a first-hand account of what one can expect when becoming an amateur whale watcher for an afternoon, The Peninsula Beacon took to the high seas aboard the Hornblower Adventure to observe the California gray whale as the species makes its annual 5,000 mile journey from the frigid waters of the Arctic to the sunny lagoons of Baja California.

The most obvious thing one expects to see on a whale-watching cruise is a whale. Thus, may not, however, be the only reason one boards a vessel. With most locals — Hornblower included — prepare for this with a guarantee: see a whale or get passes for another trip.

Upon boarding the boat, most passengers anxiously anticipate the sight they will see. And, while many might be hoping for one of the few cruises for which the whales choose not to make an appearance, what most don’t expect, however, is what also happens while on board: they have fun, whale or no whale.

As it turns out, our oceans are chock full of life, and passengers would be hard pressed not to find themselves marveling at all the myriad components of our aquatic ecosystems, however large or small. At one point during our cruise, a pod of bottlenose dolphins decided to join us, riding our bow wave — jumping out of the water, turning in circles and spurring alongside us for a couple of miles. And while yes, “whale watching” was printed on our tickets, we were pretty satisfied with this display, whether or not it was the cetaceans we had paid for.

Another pleasant surprise: even for locals, putting a basket around San Diego Bay and out into the open ocean just off our coast provided an unexpected opportunity to view the city in a way we don’t normally see it.

As for our cruise, we did get the opportunity to see a whale. Not long after we passed through the last buoy marking the bay, the captain spotted a spout a few miles out. We followed it, and were able to find and stay with one gray whale (or possibly two — they look remarkably alike to the layperson), which twice granted us full view of its fluke (or tail) as it headed down for deep dives. We learned, both from the captain and from the on-board volunteer naturalists — trained by the San Diego Museum of Natural History — that gray whales breed every other year, and with a gestation of 12 months, the pregnant females heading down to Mexico at this time of year are likely the same ones we saw last year heading up to breed. They’ll come back this way in the spring with their newborns.

We also learned the gray whale gets its namesake not from a naturally occurring color. In fact, the whales are born almost black, but eventually, barnacles that attach themselves to the whales scar the skin as they fall off, leaving behind a mottled, whitish-gray coloration.

Whales also have dominant sides of their body, just like humans. Whales that favor their right side tend to have more scarring on that side of their body, and just like humans, “left-handed” whales are in the minority: roughly 15 percent of whales favor their left side.

There’s also the possibility, while out on a whale-watching cruise, that passengers might observe some man-made “whales.” Our ship happened upon a helicopter carrier and a Navy submarine — complete with a visibly happy, homeward-bound topside crew — cruising into the bay.

The views will change for each individual cruise. Some may see one whale, some may see 20 whales and others may see none at all. Some might encounter pods of playful dolphins while others might happen upon frisky sea lions. But one thing is guaranteed: the experience gives locals one more reason to love calling San Diego home.

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**HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE LAS POSADAS PROCESSION IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO HISTORIC STATE PARK ON SUNDAY, DEC. 11.**

The annual Las Posadas event is a candlelit procession that re-enacts the biblical story of Mary and Joseph’s search for a birthing place for the Christ child. This year was the 61st annual procession in Old Town but the tradition has been happening since 1546 in Mexico and is practiced around the world.

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

Las Posadas Holiday Event Draws Hundred to Park

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

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

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

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

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According to the Women’s Institute for Fine and Thinning Hair, there are 30 million women who are currently experiencing hair loss. It can begin as early as puberty; although it usually occurs between 35 and 55 years of age. In the past several years effective treatments have become available for fine, thinning hair. Professional hair loss products are most effective when, used at the first signs of thinning hair. Professional hair loss products are most effective when, used at the first signs of thinning hair.

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Recognizing the need for outside help in caregiving

Caregivers often don’t recognize when they are in over their heads, and often get to a breaking point. After a prolonged period of time, caregiving can become too difficult to endure any longer. Short-term, the caregiver can handle it. Long-term, support is needed. Outside help at this point is often necessary.

A typical pattern with an overloaded caregiver may unfold as follows:
• 1 to 18 months—the caregiver is coping well, has everything under control and is making rational decisions or ask for help.

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San Diego Surf delivers Central Valley Titans a loss to remember
By ROB STONE THE BEACON

Former University of San Diego (USD) Torero Devin Ginty had a game-high 14 assists to go along with 19 points and five rebounds in leading the San Diego Surf to a 1-20-106 victory over the Central Valley Titans in an American Basketball Association (ABA) game Dec. 10.

Ginty, formerly a guard at USD, was followed in the scoring column by David Kinder (14 points, six rebounds), Aaron Tinsley (14 points), Chris Agnes (11 points, five rebounds), and by Point Loma High School Pointer alumnus Anthony Javey (eight points).

“Los Angeles has a lot of experience on us,” said Manning. “But as long as we keep attacking, we’ll keep getting better.”

Point Loma High School Pointer alumnus Anthony Javey among contributors

Former PLHS Pointer Anthony Javey among contributors

THE PENINSULA BEACON
THURSDAY · DECEMBER 22, 2011

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New Year’s Eve musicfests ready to usher in 2012

San Diego offers a multitude of wonderful celebrations each year, but there is nothing quite like New Year’s Eve. It’s a chance to reflect on the last 12 months, as well as to look forward to an even better 2012.

This year, the festivities fall on a Saturday, making the whole weekend a potential party. As usual, look for just about every nightlife option in town to offer some combination of entertainment and dining, with Ocean Beach and Point Loma among the hot spots for celebrating.

With so many options to choose from in the area, here are a few highlights, with something for just about every musical taste and budget.

• At the higher end of the scale, classic rock fans won’t want to miss Rock & Roll, appearing at Humphrey’s Backstage Lounge, located at 2241 Shelter Island Drive. The show begins at 9 p.m. and tickets are $59.

• We play a lot of ‘party’ type events each year, but New Year’s Eve is special,” said guitarist Mark DeCerbo. “It’s a night when everybody wants to have fun, so people are in extra-good spirits,” he said. “Playing a show can be work, but a night like this can go by kind of quick.”

• Meanwhile, Riley’s, located at 2901 Nimitz Blvd., hosts its festivities beginning at 9 p.m. The cover is yet to be determined. The event will have a more traditional evening of dance music with live hip-hop from 2 the Hard Way, dance floor hits from DJ Reality and DJ Crease, with more groups and DJs to be announced. Budget-minded partiers will have several options to choose from this year.

• It might be considered a little cold this month for traditional island sounds, but reggae fans will want to head to Windansea Beach Club, located at 1921 Bacon St. The 9 p.m. show is poised to ring in the new year with no cover charge in a traditional evening of dance music with live hip-hop from 2 the Hard Way, dance floor hits from DJ Reality and DJ Crease, with more groups and DJs to be announced. Budget-minded partiers will have several options to choose from this year.

• Anyone who likes their music loud and manic will want to check out the Shakedown Bar, located at 1048 Midway Drive at 9 p.m. The no-cover-charge New Year’s Eve celebration includes sets from Nihilist, The Strikers, Deadbeat Diablos and Codex Reactor. While all the bands are well worth hearing, a lot of the nighttime attention will be focused on the Deadbeat Diablos, which includes bassist Sketer Thompson, formerly with legendary hardcore band Screaming Females. Earplugs advised for this one.

Westminster Presbyterian’s Vanguard Theatre to run ‘Hamlet’

For six engagements in January, Westminster Presbyterian Church’s Vanguard Theatre in Point Loma will present William Shakespeare’s memorable tragedy “Hamlet” — but with a modern flavor to appeal to both traditional and younger audiences.

This new production, directed by Tom Haine, features a company of dedicated and experienced actors committed to bringing the play to life. By giving the play a contemporary setting with “modern accessible associations,” students will be more easily able to identify with the characters, feeling more connected and closer to Shakespeare’s language, the’es themes and the emotions that run high throughout.

Regular admission is $10, but education groups are eligible for benefits. For groups of eight or more, tickets are $5 each.

Performance dates are at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. For tickets or more information, call the box office at (619) 224-6263, or visit www.vanguardsd.org.

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To our advertisers and our loyal readers we want to wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year!

Complimentary One-on-One Financial Appointments
Isn’t It Time You Sit Down With a Financial Professional to Talk About Your Portfolio?

There’s entertainment galore in store aboard sternwheeler with ‘Once Upon a Wedding’

BY CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | THE BEACON

Ever been to a wedding where everything goes wrong? This one will float your boat.

As a matter of fact, this wedding takes place on a boat. It’s an entertainment titled “Once Upon a Wedding,” which takes place aboard The William D. Evans, a sternwheeler docked at the Bahia Resort Hotel.

Everyone is part of the act, with visitors portraying "invited" wedding guests, who are greeted on the gangplank by the bride’s great-uncle Julie (Harold MacPherson, Jr.). Julie considers himself a wedding expert, having been married nine times. He’s the show’s running gag. Fair warning: Ladies, he’s looking for No. 10.

On Dec. 15, the ship was loaded with convivial guests ranging in age from around 8 to almost 80. Many were in groups celebrating the holidays. Among them were around 30 nurses from Sharp Hospital; others were couples celebrating anniversaries or just having a grand time being entertained, dining and dancing.

Written by Lisa Laughbaum, who plays the wedding singer, and young Ian Laughbaum, who portrays Chris Crost, the wedding coordinator-in-training, “Once Upon a Wedding” concerns the bride’s family, the Dudleys, and the groom’s family, the DoWrights.

It’s corny, yes, but also romantic, sincerely played and full of popular romantic ballads accompanied by Bill the guitarist (Michael Laughbaum) and familiar upbeat tunes like the Beach Boys’ “Chapel of Love.”

In the sincerity department, the father of the bride, Robert Dudley (Rick Ratti), and his reluctant-bride daughter, Daisy (“Perry McMillion”) have a lovely scene. She’s been reading marriage statistics and suddenly becomes marriage shy, leaving her handsome groom (Charles Evans) at the altar as she hides under a banquet table.

Antagonism is provided by Zina Dudley (Glennda Gerde), the mother of the bride who thinks it’s all about her. And comic relief is enhanced by Debbie (Lindsey Pino), who spouts new-age philosophy. Debbie really wants Daisy for her sister-in-law and these two young women sing well together in close harmony.

Despite the chaos (by mistake, the rest of the wedding party, including the best man and the groom’s father, took the dinner cruise on San Diego Bay), the wedding comes off and dinner is followed by dancing.

Many in the audience must have known. Gleefully, they filled the dance floor with line dances and coordinated movements, a revelation to this onlooker. What a great time. Those nurses sure can dance! Who knew?

The real revelation, however, is the talented company of singers and dancers, underpinned by indefatigable and excellent singer Lisa Laughbaum and guitarist Michael Laughbaum, who speaks little but plays big, thanks to electronic miracles.

The evening includes hors d’oeuvres, a three-course dinner, a champagne (or sparkling cider) toast, wedding cake and coffee service. The basic price is $55, with discounts for children 5-12 and hotel guests.

The next “Once Upon a Wedding” takes place aboard the comfortable sternwheeler March 8. In the summer, weekly “Wedding” cruises commence.

For information and tickets, phone (858) 539-8771, or visit www.once-uponaweddingthemusical.com.

The cast of the delightfully entertaining “Once Upon a Wedding,” which just concluded a performance Dec. 15, will load up for another performance in March aboard the William D. Evans sternwheeler docked at the Bahia Resort Hotel.

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‘Integrity is not just a word... It’s a lifestyle.”

OB man immerses self in more chivalric times

By MARSHA KAY SEFF / THE BEACON

Yes, m’lady, chivalry is alive and well.
Just ask Scott Mallory.

Mallory, a jeweler by trade, works at the Golden Shell at Ocean Beach. He is also the father of two, and owns full medieval armor in his off hours to celebrate the “positive aspects” of the Middle Ages.

For the last decade, he has been an active member of the Adriane Imperium, a nationwide living-history organization that brings chivalric times to life through “combat,” school demonstrations and Renaissance fairs.

“For us, chivalry isn’t dead in the mundane world,” Mallory says. “Integry is not just a word. It’s a lifestyle.”

He said he regularly opens doors and pulls out chairs for women, and he’s for “gentlemanly” roles as “knight.” But rather than one role as “knight.” But rather than one role as a knight in rusty armor.”

Mallory prefers his role as “knight.” But rather than one role as a knight in rusty armor.”

Mallory says he lived by the creed of which he espouses.

“Be courteous to people,” he said. “Treat them with respect until they do you wrong. Don’t judge because you believe you are the important person on the planet.”

As he talks, he begins the task of putting on his 7-pound suit of armor for a photograph. Even with help, dressing in heavy padding, 16-gauge steel mail shirt and solid bronze plate; leather belt; leg, arm and shoulder defenses; and a 14-gauge steel helmet takes at least 20 minutes.

He crafted his own silver belt buckle, breast plate and gauntlets for himself.

“I can build any piece of armor you want with enough time and financial incentive,” he said.

Mallory said his armor is accurate to standards of the late 14th century.

“It was a whole lot easier (to suit up) when I was 40,” said the 51-year-old Mallory. “I wasn’t a fat, old guy then.”

Mallory said he’s always been interested in history and medieval life. His adult son and daughter have inherited his enthusiasm and also are members of the Adriane Imperium.

The South San Diego and Imperial County chapter, which includes more than 100 members, calls itself the Kingdom of Terre Neuve. Mallory said the organization welcomes everyone “from infant to not-dead-yet.”

He said he has served as jurist and war, organizing monthly tournaments and ensuring that everyone’s coat of arms meets group standards. Currently, he’s the group’s herald, emceeing community events.

Medieval fencing, he said, is a style of Western martial arts.

Members of the Adriane Imperium wear full-length, medieval-style, suits of plate, axes, maces and the full range of medieval weapons.

On the battlefield, men and women use arrows made of fiberglass shafts and foam heads. Group members also use pole arms, “the medieval assault weapon.”

He finds competition “extremely exhilarating,” adding that “men stopped wearing armor when firearms made it useless.”

“Our group makes you earn your knighthood through group participation and tasks, including combat,” said Mallory. “It takes a minimum of 18 months.

Mallory earned his in 2004.

“Some people regard this as a game: I regard it as a lifestyle,” he said.

Thanks to the hardships of medieval times, he said, “I think I would have done well then. I wish I were born in the early 1400s.”

Unfortunately, in today’s mundane world, he complains, “Society spends billions telling women they are not beautiful. Women.

And he resents the way men are taught to women in order to avoid charges of sexual harassment.

“You can’t compliment them on anything,” he said.

So, yes, m’lady, Mallory prefers his role as “knight.” But rather than one role as a knight in rusty armor.”

For more information on Kingdom of Terre Neuve, visit www.kingdomofterre-uneve.org.

* * *
Upcoming events in the Peninsula area, Dec. 24-Jan. 22

**SATURDAY, Dec. 24**
- The Ocean Beach Town Council hosts weekly OB Craft Fair at Veterans Plaza for all your holiday shopping. For more information, call (619) 514-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.
- Second Chances Bread of Life ministry, in conjunction with churches of Ocean Beach and San Diego Food Bank/Food Feeding America San Diego, will host a free Christmas Eve pancake and chili breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Episcopal Church at 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Second Chances, which will also host a free New Year’s Eve breakfast at 8 a.m. at the same location, is in need of volunteers to prepare pancakes and cut fruit. For information or to help, call (619) 886-4275, or email secondchancesob@yahoo.com.
- The Oasis Christian Fellowship of Ocean Beach will hold a traditional Christmas Eve service with Pastor Terry from 5 to 6 p.m. at the fellowship’s new location in the Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit www.edsd.org/ecc.

**BEGINNING FRIDAY, Jan. 6**
Westminster Presbyterian’s Vanguard Theatre Company presents “Hamlet” by William Shakespeare. The production, directed by Tom Haine, begins at 7 p.m. on Jan. 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15 at the theater, 3598 Talbot St. Tickets are $10 for general admission; $5 for students, seniors and military. For tickets or information, call the box office at (619) 224-6263, or visit www.vanguardsd.org.

**WEDNESDAY, Jan. 11**
The Point Loma Garden Club hosts its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. and features floral designer Diane Citrowske, who has 26 years of expertise and is a former senior designer at Adelaide’s in La Jolla. She has participated in Art Alive and is an instructor with both Cuyamaca College and UCSD Extension. The event is $5 for guests. The meeting takes place at the Episcopal Church Center, 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

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

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Looking ahead

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