A blunted round of budget cuts by the state of California buoyed the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) on Dec. 13, leading school board trustees to close out the 2011 calendar year by approving the first draft of their budget for the 2012-13 school session.

Just before the school board's last meeting of the year last week, the state announced mid-year cuts to the school district would only be $7 million — not the $30 million school officials were expecting. However, the SDUSD is still in a holding pattern as it waits for more news in January on the state budget from Gov. Jerry Brown.

The preliminary 2012-13 budget adopted by the school board still leaves a $73 million gap to close, which means the SDUSD still faces a significant budget shortfall. The budget includes using proceeds from real-estate sales, reaching into reserves and eliminating 15 vacant non-teaching positions. The board has until June 30 to approve a final budget.

SDUSD Superintendent Bill Kowba said the school board is committed to maintaining the district's financial solvency and will do all it can to safeguard K-12 education.

In other business, the board closed the book on a school realignment and closure plan that was set in motion in October as a result of the state’s projected revenue cuts. What started as a plan to close 14 schools citywide ended as a five-point plan giving the Mission Bay High Cluster the district’s only K-12 international baccalaureate program.

The new $200,000 Mobile Utility Surveillance Tower (MUST) vehicle purchased by the San Diego Police Department was tested in Ocean Beach in late November for its off-road capabilities and wind stability. The unit is expected to be used in multiple crowd-control and surveillance circumstances.
Faulconer, lifeguards kick off joint city/Toys for Tots drive

By STAFF & CONTRIBUTION | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Local politicians and beach-area lifeguards gathered Dec. 12 to kick off the city’s annual campaign to aid the Toys for Tots program. Donations to the program may be dropped off at any beach-life guard station, among those joining Faulconer were San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgts. Ed Harris, far left, District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner (in green) and San Diego Lifesaving Association representative Jeff Hatfield (in Santa outfit).

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer speaks during a press conference at the Pacific Beach lifeguard tower on Dec. 13 to introduce the city’s annual campaign to aid the Toys for Tots program. Donations to the program may be dropped off at any beach-life guard station, among those joining Faulconer were San Diego Lifeguard Services Sgts. Ed Harris, far left, District 1 City Councilwoman Sherri Lightner (in green) and San Diego Lifesaving Association representative Jeff Hatfield (in Santa outfit).

“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.

“A simple donation of a toy can make a lasting memory for a child during the holiday season,” said Harris.

The United States Marine Corps Reserve has been collecting Christmas toys for children through the Toys for Tots program since 1947. Donated toys can be dropped off at the following San Diego lifeguard stations:

- Ocean Beach;
- Mission Beach;
- Pacific Beach;
- La Jolla Cove;
- La Jolla Shores; and
- San Diego Lifeguard station headquarters on Mission Bay, located at 2581 Quivera Court.

For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org.

Planners kick around changes to South Pacific Beach oceanfront

By KEITH ANTIQUEVANNI

The Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) conducted a “design charrette” — or open workshop meeting — at the Discover PB offices on Garnet Avenue on Dec. 5 to gather community input on a proposed redesign of the South Pacific Beach oceanfront area.

The proposed oceanfront includes the area between Grand Avenue south of the lifeguard tower and Pacific Beach Drive on the south end of the Promenade shopping center and the area between Mission Boulevard and the boardwalk along Ocean Boulevard.

The Pacific Beach Planning Group is coordinating an effort to create something really special for the Pacific Beach oceanfront,” said PBPG member Chris Olsen. Among the proposed changes being considered:

- increasing value to real estate
- serving visitors, local residential community and commercial/business
- public safety
- increasing accessibility by making the area more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and making the area more bike, skate and pedestrian friendly
- expanding the boardwalk in contested areas
- relocating on-street parking
- improving use of off-street parking
- creating/ incorporating the “beach experience” into designs
- advocating and creating a public space/pedestrian area
- providing space for vendors and advertising for local businesses
- creating a unique style of landscaping to enhance the boardwalk
- promoting alternative transportation by closing streets for non-vehicular use
- advocating and creating “sustainability”
- create a destination
- improving view corridors
- replacing/relocating the bathrooms at Pacific Beach Drive
- undergrounding utilities
- advocating and creating public art
- promoting local community involvement
- improving the continuity between the south and north sides of Crystal Pier

The meeting was used by members to mark up an aerial map of the project area to give a visual representation of the proposed improvements and to get as much input as possible from the community.

“There are a lot of talented people in our community who are volunteering their time to develop a vision for the future of Pacific Beach south of the main lifeguard tower,” Olsen said “This process will create a place that embraces the historical and current culture of Pacific Beach.”

The next step in the process takes place with a 5:30 p.m. meeting on Jan. 23 at the Discover PB Office, located at 1 S 503 Garnet Ave., as the planners present options that are being drafted, based upon community input.

For more information, email surferoly@att.net.

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3br/2.5ba, sun room & penthouse room, just 1666 sqft of elegance, solar, A/C, detached garage-port

By KEITH ANTIQUEVANNI

Members of the Pacific Beach Planning Group held an open workshop Dec. 5 to gather public input on proposed changes to the South Pacific Beach oceanfront area. Planners used an aerial shot of the targeted area to mark up potential goals and challenges.

LOCAL POLITICIANS AND BEACH-AREA LIFEGUARDS GATHERED DEC. 12 TO KICK OFF THE CITY’S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TO AID THE TOYS FOR TOTS PROGRAM. DONATIONS TO THE PROGRAM MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT ANY BEACH-LIFEGUARD STATION, AMONG THOSE JOINING FAULCONER WERE SAN DIEGO LIFEGUARD SERVICES SGTS. ED HARRIS, FAR LEFT, DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCILWOMAN SHERRI LIGHTNER (IN GREEN) AND SAN DIEGO LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE JEFF HATFIELD (IN SANTA OUTFIT).
Shop owner gets unexpected gift with treasure trove for surfers

BY DON BALCH | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Sometimes Santa comes early.

At least that’s how Bryan Lowe must have felt when a crate full 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.

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

“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 owned a quiver of 15 select board designs. “It financially stretched me, but I know the value of these boards, which are beauties and are meant to bring. So I feel fortunate to get them.”

Lowe said he will keep three favorites and let the remainder go for sale. “It’s 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 a viewing of the highlights of my surfing experience, sharing the surf stoke with all who enjoyed it,” said Huffman.

Lowe and Huffman arranged for a viewing of the highlights of my surfing experience, sharing the surf stoke with all who enjoyed it.”

“The boards were delivered to Bird’s Surf Shed, which is run by Eric “Bird” Huffman, a surfing historian whose surf shop is covered from 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 highlights of my surfing experience, sharing the surf stoke with all who enjoyed it.”

“Local homeowners sell their homes without a realtor”

San Diego. If you’ve tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the “For Sale by Owner” sign up on your lawn, the phone will start ringing off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start hounding you for your listing.

Aller, 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 home sellers like you. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside the report, you’ll find tips to sell your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your 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.

Welcome to the Pacific Beach Office!

Stefanie Dominguez

Angela Pirlo
Siers Brothers, ‘Sinatra’s White Christmas,’ and a speakeasy event

There seems to be no shortage of reggae/rock combos at the moment, but 3 Tone has put in the work to build a following.

Earlier on, we’ll conspire To write an offer, by the fire To the weekend’s festivities. Sing-a-long favorites is a wonderful lead in to the evening’s festivities.

KATHY EVANS 92109’s Top Producer (858) 488-SELL 5ellBeach.com

MUSTHEAR

While it seems like the “sell by” date for angst-ridden indie rock should have long since passed, it continues to be a dominating force in music, thanks to promising new groups like Lucky & Wild. The band performs at Brick by Brick on Dec. 23, celebrating the release of a new album. Founded in 2010 by guitarist Drew Greetbel and bassist Sean Sobash, the band excels at dynamic, driving, atmospheric rock, with songs like “Adult Life” and “Mannasa” combining the right mix of melody and bombast. Not a song in this band’s arsenal of tunes would sound out of place on today’s modern-rock radios.

- Lucky & Wild performs at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 21 and up. $7. www.reverbnation.com/luckyandwild—Jarl Morkova

MUSTREAD

Book recommendation from the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library

TUSCAN STYLE MASTERPIECE Panoramic postcard perfect views of ocean, bay & city from this extraordinary home. 46 bedroom beach house. 4BR, 4 full bath & 2 half bath, 3,845 sq ft. Brand new house is an entertain-er’s delight! Stunning floor to ceiling brand new house is an entertainment speakeasy event, themed to harken back to the Prohibition era of the 1920s. Like most venues on this night, there will be a cham-pagne toast and live music -- in this case, jazz and soul. But for The Griffin, that’s just a starting point. Other attractions this evening include belly dancing, burlesque shows, aerial arts, fire-eating and hoop dancing. Adding to the excitement will be casino games with a chance to win prizes. There will be no shortage of events to go to this New Year’s Eve, but with so much going on, this one will be hard to beat.

- Speakeasy New Year’s Eve takes place beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 at The Griffin, 1910 Morena Blvd. 21 and up. $40. www.the graftinfo.com

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Reserve this book: www.sandiegolibrary.org;

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Two officers injured during scuffle with man

A male and female officer were hurt Dec. 15 after they responded to a disturbance call regarding a tenant playing loud music.

According to police investigators, when the officers arrived at 1866 Ingraham St. shortly before 10 p.m., a man identified as Tyler Torres, 30, opened his front door and confronted the officers before throwing his puppy at them. According to police, Torres then physically attacked the officers, punching them about the face and head.

Torres reportedly ran back into his apartment and closed the door, allegedly telling police he had a knife and a gun and that he would shoot them.

SWAT officers were called to the scene and assisted in taking Torres into custody. The injured officers were taken to a local hospital for treatment. The male officer suffered a broken nose and the female officer suffered a mild concussion, according to investigators. The puppy was unharmed, said police.

Torres was booked into the county jail on suspicion of assault likely to produce great bodily injury and for resisting arrest using violence.

Robber makes off with cash from gas station

A man wearing a ski mask held up the Vons gas station on Garnet Avenue on Dec. 18 before escaping with an undisclosed amount of cash, according to police.

Investigators said the suspect entered the station about 6:30 a.m. and walked around the counter to approach the clerk and demand money. No weapon was observed, but the suspect was given money before he fled eastbound on Garnet.

He is described as being in his 20s, about 5-feet-6 inches tall, weighing about 150 pounds. He was last seen wearing a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

Police investigate street stabbing

San Diego police are probing the apparent stabbing of a 22-year-old man as he walked along La Playa Avenue shortly after 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 4.

According to police, the victim was attacked by a “dark-skinned male” of unknown race, and suffered a defensive cut to his hand after the assailant came at him from behind. The victim also suffered a stab wound to the abdomen, but investigators said the wounds were not life threatening.

Gas station robbery probed

An armed robber held up the Arco gas station on Morena Boulevard shortly before 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 11.

Investigators said a Hispanic man in his 30s produced a handgun inside the store and pointed it at the clerk before demanding cash. He is described as 5-foot-tall with a medium build. The robber was last seen fleeing northbound on foot, wearing a grey and blue-striped hooded sweatshirt. Police did not disclose the amount stolen in the heist.

Sanwich store targeted in robbery

Police are probing a commercial robbery after the Subway sandwich shop on Mission Boulevard was targeted shortly after 8:10 p.m. on Dec. 14.

According to investigators, a white male wearing something over his face entered the shop and simulated a weapon before demanding cash from an employee. The robber, believed to be about 30 years old, was described as 5 feet 9 inches tall and thin. He was last seen wearing a black hat, gray sweater and blue jeans.

No one was injured in the holdup.

DUI checkpoint nets 10 arrests

A sobriety checkpoint in Pacific Beach on Dec. 9 resulted in the arrests of 10 suspected drunken drivers, according to police.

The operation, set up in the 1600 block of Garnet Avenue between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., saw 648 vehicles pass through. Of that number, 23 drivers were detained for further evaluation of sobriety. Eight vehicles were impounded during the checkpoint, and officers issued 11 citations for various hazards.

SeaWorld takes over care of ill sea otter

SeaWorld animal-care specialists have assumed the care for an ill California sea otter pup that was rescued about three months ago on a beach near Santa Barbara.

The female pup was initially rescued and treated for a viral infection by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Deemed non-releasable, the pup was transferred to SeaWorld on Nov. 29 for further care and a long-term home. The pup, which presently weighs nearly 14 pounds, is being closely monitored by SeaWorld veterinarians and animal-care specialists. If things progress as veterinarians hope, she will be introduced to SeaWorld’s two female adult otters in a few weeks.

When the pup was discovered, she was a newborn that had been separated from her mother but was of normal birth weight of three to five pounds. Staff at the Sea Otter Research and Conservation Laboratory are closely monitoring her in and will provide further treatment and a long-term home.

Adult female California sea otters in the wild can weigh up to 44 pounds. The California sea otter is listed as a threatened species by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Threats include oil spills, entanglement in fishing nets and disease.
**Letters to the Editor**

**Great news! PB Middle School is not closing!**

Since Pacific Beach Middle (Jr. High) opened its doors in 1930, we have gratefully served families from Pacific Beach. Due to the support of our dedicated community members and staff, and our proven success in providing a high-quality program of international education, Pacific Beach Middle will remain open.

In addition to the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) recognizing our efforts in raising achievement and acknowledging outstanding commendations from our international baccalaureate organization evaluation, the SDUSD Board of Education has accepted a proposal that includes the following:

- Pacific Beach Middle School baccalaureate program
- Continued transportation of about 190 of our loyal San Diego High School cluster students to PB Middle from Kum- brough, Sherman, Rodriguez and Westmore Elementary Schools. New busing has been reduced from 14 to 13 buses.

This proposal will provide our learning community with a dedicated school focused on San Diego High School (SDHS) cluster area students who have cho-

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**Bicyclists in PB increasingly breaking the rules**

As a longtime Pacific Beach resident, I’ve seen the rules of the road for folks on bikes go from okay to ridicu-

Our city bicycle police pull over motorists as people on bikes are running red lights. The corner of Pacific Beach Drive and Crown Point Drive used to be a safe intersection for bikers. Now through traditions to get the city into the black. If a bike is approaching on Crown Point Drive, you know to slow down in a car because they will certainly run the stop sign and swing in front of traffic. And when it did become safe to ride your bike at night without any lights or reflectors? I’ll have time for a person to stand up for motorists’ rights.

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**Red Cross offers tips for days of holiday safety**

By Teri Klemchuck, American Red Cross

Having a busy time getting ready for the holidays? While everyone is shopping, baking, gift-wrapping, decorat-

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**Pacific Beach author puts shopping relationship in perspective**

By Cath DeStefano, Pacific Beach author

Author and artist Cath DeStefano displays a copy of her book, “It’s Not Nice To Cheat Your Customer: A Breakthrough Guide to Real Success,” at the San Diego Book and Author Fair last November.

As the prime holiday shopping and entertaining season approaches, most people would agree it’s increasingly important for businesses and employees to put their best foot forward to ensure customers have the best possible experience, attracting positive “buzz” and returns. Yet that’s often easier said than done, as the challenging economy places addi-

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**SUBMISSIONS**

For photos and story ideas we welcome. We ask that content be sent at least one week prior to publi-

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**Opinions**

The opinions expressed on the Opinion Page do not necessarily re-

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**AUTO ROUNDP**

Car makers offering ways to get a new charge out of life

by JOHNNY MCDONALD | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Getting a new charge out of life could mean park a Nissan Leaf in your garage. Or at least Mossy Nissan thinks so.

Getting a jumpstart on the opportunity, Mossy has received a shipment of 170 of the vehicles to distribute among its six dealerships, according to Leon Kamins, general manager of the hub-center Kearny Mesa store.

“We are proud to be among the first to offer this amazing vehicle,” said Kamins. “The Leaf is the first all-electric, five-passenger family car to enter mass production in the world. With 107 horsepower, it can go from zero to 60 in 8 seconds with a top speed of over 90 mph.”

In the competitive mix, however, are several companies who offer cars that can reduce the need for gasoline and point to a greener future.

General Motors’ Chevrolet Volt has a plug-in hybrid with 40 miles of electric range and 500 miles per gasoline fillup range. Ford steps in with the Ford Focus Electric, which they expect to aggressively challenge the Leaf.

World-leading hybrid seller Toyota will offer both plug-in hybrids and pure battery electric cars. Honda is preparing the Honda Fit EV and a plug-in hybrid for sale in the U.S. next year, while Mitsubishi is currently the electric car market leader in Japan with the iMiEV.

Even Mercedes is targeting an electric vehicle by 2013.

But, the Leaf has been accorded the honor of 2011 World Car of the Year. Regarding range, Kamins said he commutes in a Leaf from his home in Murrieta, about 56 miles one direction.

“It’s a short amount of time, I’m recharged again. Actually, I’ve only needed about 25 to 30 percent of a charge.”

A standard backpack battery cells for 110 volts, which needs a 20-hour charge to fill an empty tank. Idealistically, 240 (six hours) or an optional 440 (20 minutes to gain 80 percent) would be the way to go.

“I found that on exclusive highway travel it would be in the 65- to 70-mile range,” he said. “Exclusively for city driving, it would be just north of 100.”

An Autoworld magazine road test calculated it would cost 11 cents per kilowatt for a total cost of $2.64. “For me, it’s six cents per kilowatt [or roughly] $1.50 to $2.64. But what’s the difference? It’s far less than the gas price.”

“If a person commutes 50 to 60 miles a day [he or she] wouldn’t need to find a recharging station. It’s ideal to charge it at home in the middle of the night,” he said. “And less expensive. The at-home electric bill might be around $10 a month. There are public charging stations popping up throughout the county. They just put in Balboa Park, and there are other charger facilities in Kearny Mesa. Home Depot, Walgreens and Walmart plan to have charging stations. When we get to the point there is some at every McDonald or Starbucks, then you know you can just top off wherever you go.”

The 2012 Leaf model will begin at $26,950 and the car’s upper-grade SL model will sell for $38,100 — an increase of $3,530 over 2011.

There’s a federal tax credit of $7,500 available and a $2,500 California emissions rebate.

The proposal includes developing 2.67 acres of the school in two phases. Phase one would include an artificial-turf arena soccer field, an open, natural-turf athletic field — both fields will have lighting for night events — a track surface around the perimeter of the fields, a field house with administrative office space, storage and restrooms and additional parking.

The second phase would include renovation of the existing building on the corner of Felspar and Ingraham streets, which currently houses district staff. The building would be used by the YMCA for its staff and YMCA activities.

All costs to design, develop/construct, operate and maintain the recreational facilities and community center will be paid for by the YMCA, according to school district documents.

**SDPD**

Brown said she received inquiries regarding its potential use to detect undocumented persons entering the U.S. by way of the beach.

She said the vehicle was being tested in November for its off-road capabilities and wind stability, not for immigration interdiction.

“The vehicle has four-wheel drive capability and, as a city with a good portion of beach area, we need to test its capabilities — this is the test at the beach,” she said. “As for border patrol duties, those duties are handled very capably by U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel. We do not get into that sort of enforcement.”

The vehicle was purchased with grant funding, made available throughout the county, said officials. The police department has so far purchased only one, and there are no immediate plans to purchase another at this time, Brown said.

“The San Diego Police Department is only the trustee of the vehicle,” said Brown. “All agencies throughout the county may use it.”

The vehicle is in the ‘familiarization and training’ phase, but the department hopes to have the MUST ready for use by the beginning of the new year.

“We began the purchase process in 2009 with grant funds,” she said. “We are still in the process of transferring the paperwork so that we may take delivery of it.”

**CUTS**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Originally, the SDUSD planned to close Pacific Beach Middle School and consolidate the middle-school campus and high school to create a K-12 international baccalaureate program at Mission Bay High.

The board vowed to create and sustain Campus and community center will be operate and maintain the recreational facilities and a community center at Pacific Beach Middle School.

“...continues to fund, develop/construct, operate and maintain the recreational facilities and community center at Pacific Beach Middle School.”

**SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS: Mon - Fri 10:30 - 6pm, Sat & Sun 11 - 5pm**

**NEW YEARS EVE GUAVA BEACH & GRILL**

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9PM $2 U CALL ITS 10PM $3 U CALL ITS

11PM $4 U CALL ITS BACK TO $3 U CALL ITS AFTER THE BALL DROPS!

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**NYE DINNER SPECIAL: AN 8 OZ NEW YORK STRIP COOKED TO PERFECTION, SERVED W/ POTATO MASHERS AND BALSAMIC GLAZED ASPARAGUS, CHAMPAGNE & COUPLES DESSERT**

*PRICE ADJUSTMENT WILL BE MADE WITH DISHERS W/OD CHAMPAGNE, BUT NO SUBSTITUTIONS*
JRDN: Celebrate New Year’s Eve on the Strand

Pacifica Beach doesn’t lack New Year’s Eve options, and it can be tough to pick one locale among them all. However, New Year’s Eve does require a plan in advance, unless you want to be roaming, endlessly searching for the one bar without a line (hint: they don’t exist on New Year’s Eve).

JRDN (pronounced Jordan, like the country) hosts an amazing New Year’s Eve bash – one that will have you talking all year. JRDN is an upscale restaurant located right on the Strand, attached to Tower 23. If you haven’t been, New Year’s Eve is a great excuse to go.

DJ Smoke and Professor Stone, both Burning Man DJs, will be on hand to mix. The dining room will be open from 5 to 10 p.m., so you can have a full meal before the libations flow. From 8 to 9 p.m., there will be a hosted Ultimat vodka cocktail hour, where all drinks will be made with Ultimat vodka. However, be aware “hosted” does not mean free.

The cover for the event is $25 in advance and $35 at the door.

Pacific Beach resident Christina Kim attended JRDN last New Year’s Eve bash.

“I always love JRDN and it’s close to our house,” Kim said. “There was a really good, easygoing crowd and it was just busy enough so that we could still get drinks easily.”

Rooms are available at Tower 23 for those looking for a really short walk to bed.

JRDN
723 Felspar Ave.
(858) 270-5736
www.jrdn.com

Rachel Hutman, Shelley Bush and Joanna Staley enjoy a previous New Year’s Eve celebration in Pacific Beach.

COURTESY PHOTO

I'M 30 AND LOVE PB!

By RACHEL HUTMAN | Beach & Bay Press

Pacific Beach doesn’t lack New Year’s Eve options, and it can be tough to pick one locale among them all. However, New Year’s Eve does require a plan in advance, unless you want to be roaming, endlessly searching for the one bar without a line (hint: they don’t exist on New Year’s Eve).

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Rooms are available at Tower 23 for those looking for a really short walk to bed.

JRDN
723 Felspar Ave.
(858) 270-5736
www.jrdn.com

Making a difference in young lives

More than 300 less-fortunate children ages 7 to 9 were treated to the joy of the 18th annual “Shop With A Cop” event that spread from SeaWorld San Diego on Mission Bay to the Target store on Sports Arena Boulevard on Dec. 3. More than 300 law enforcement officers from at least 17 agencies participated in this year’s event, co-hosted by the San Diego State University and University of California, San Diego police departments. The event was also made possible by the San Diego Crime Commission and STAR/PAL (Sports Training, Academics, Recreation/Police Athletic League). During the annual event, youngsters were treated to breakfast and a private animal show at SeaWorld before embarking on a $100 holiday shopping spree at Target. The “Shop With A Cop” program provides not only holiday gifts for less-fortunate families, but also reinforces a positive interaction with local law enforcement officers. For more information, visit www.shopwithacopsandiego.com or www.starpal.org.
Laura is his “helper.”

The couple buys at swap meets, auctions and garage sales. They’ve also bought whole estates and cleaned out houses for owners who didn’t have the time. Lately, sellers have been walking into the shop with their discards.

The space is packed to the rafters. Dining-room chairs hang from the ceiling. The Pietrczaks specialize in solid-wood and wrought-iron furniture, which stands the test of time, according to Mike. Furnishings sell for anywhere between $2.5 for dining-room chairs to $3,500 for a hand-carved bed from India and $1,700 for a 1907 Lambert safe. In addition to the big pieces, The Estate Sale offers books starting at $1, CDs for $2, fashion earrings for $2.50 and lots of knickknacks.

“We buy low and sell low to keep a good turnover,” Laura said.

The Estate Sale also takes trade-ins. When there’s a lull in business, the couple enjoys its own inventory.

“We sit on for-sale chairs at a for-sale table, eat pasta on for-sale China and drink from-for-sale crystal glasses,” Laura said.

Customers come from all over the county, many with their kids and dogs in tow. Buyers include store owners and designers, as well as bargain hunters planning to furnish one room or a whole house. One in-state shopper spent $1,600 on two truckloads of furnishings for her young daughter’s future home. The girl is just 1 year old.

The Pietrczaks become friends with many of their customers, especially the regulars. Smiling as her husband chatted with a regular and carried a china cabinet to his truck, Laura said that although they live in a condo a few miles from the shop, “We’re here most of the time. This is our home.”

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Pennant/Beachcomber: a corner of football fun in Mission Beach

It’s Sunday, and you’re really not sure where to watch the Chargers game. How about the heading over to the corner of Mission Boulevard and San Gabriel Street? There, you will find two of Mission Beach’s most famous hangouts: The Beachcomber at 2901 Mission Blvd., and The Pennant at 2493 Mission Blvd.

The Beachcomber has been in business and has been a local tradition for more than 20 years. You don’t even have to say Beachcomber, really. You can tell your friends. “Hey meet you at the ‘Comber,’ and they will know exactly what you are talking about. The Beachcomber is more than just a cool name, however. It is a place where Charger fans have been going for years to cheer their home team.

“It’s a place that shines in local charm,” said ‘Dave,” a resident of Mission Beach. “I would not go anywhere else in Mission Beach.”

As a bonus, right next door is The Pennant. Also a landmark in Mission Beach. The Pennant has a unique charm and welcomes locals — along with beach visitors — all year long. Boasting an upper patio section, visitors can enjoy the sun as they watch football every Sunday.

But now for the real question. Do the regulars of the Beachcomber like the Pennant and vice-versa?

“Hey I like The Pennant just fine,” Dave said. “I just prefer watching football at the Beachcomber.” Allison, a regular at The Pennant, echoed the sentiment.

“I think the Beachcomber is nice.”
The beauty of both establishments is that they are separated by just an alley on Mission Boulevard.

--- Walter Ruskin is a member of the San Diego Community Newspaper Group’s “Ugly News Team.” Catch his videos and interviews at www.sdnews.com.
Coldwell Banker PB
branch manager honored

Brian Barber, branch manager of Coldwell Banker Pacific Beach, has been honored with an outstanding performance award for his stellar support of new agents in 2010 and 2011.

The award was presented by Bruce Zapi, president and CEO of NRT, LLC, the largest residential real estate brokerage in the U.S., and parent company Anderson Medical Center Opens in Pacific Beach

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.

Patients will be seen on a walk-in basis. This allows easy access with the extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

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 physician. Physical therapy will also be available on a scheduled basis.

Most insurance will be accepted. For more information you can call 858-224-7877 or visit our website at Andersonmedicalcenter.com.

Women with hair loss can have thick hair!

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 or hair loss. Volume is the most requested service of all clients. Thick, healthy hair is never out of style! Even with all the excellent professional volumizing products available, nothing compares with the real thing; thick, healthy, human hair!

The unique patented process used at Judy’s salon attaches a protein bond of real human hair to a small section of your own hair. The bonds are so discreet you can style your hair anyway you choose. This unique application process makes it the only system that does not further damage your hair. Most women who want this service suffer from thin, weak and damaged natural hair but since this application process has been applied, you will be amazed at the transformation that occurs, not only in your hair, but also in your outlook!

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Feel like a Kid in a Candy Store
These girls got game

Pacific Beach Middle School and its award-winning physical education department recently hosted the 2011 Intermost Girls' Flag Football Tournament. Going undefeated (6-0), the PB Middle School athletes, Brittany Barnes, Hannah Bloom, Chanlar Clarke, Hannah Lamb, Pearl Pacific Beach Middle School and its award-winning physical education department recently

Middle School athletes, Brittany Barnes, Hannah Bloom, Chanlar Clarke, Hannah Lamb, Pearl

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Happy Holidays! We would like to thank our friends and clients for their support and referrals during the past 10 years and we invite everyone to visit our new office at 4931 Cass Street in North PB.

Charles Stephens
858-682-5561
Gallery-Properties.com

Want “Top Dollar” For Your Pacific Beach or Mission Beach Home?

Experts Say: Start planning for 40 to 90 days before you sell.

Pacific Beach (CA) – A recent interview with Jeffrey Middaugh of Caldwell Banker, revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their Pacific Beach or Mission Beach Home.

“Most owners think their homes will sell quickly. Everyone thinks that their home is special and will bring top dollar. In fact a lot of new listings that go on the market eventually expire with the home still unsold.”

If you’re going to sell your house in the next six months, there are some things you can do now that will help you get top dollar for your home when you do sell it.

There’s a free report available that shows you the things that buyers most look for in a home, and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. You’ll learn:

• Why buyers love model homes and how to make your house show like one.
• A little-known designer’s secret that could net you $1,000 to $5,000 more when you sell your home.
• How to sell your house in as little as 24 hours — without ever putting it “on the market.”
• Three things you can do to get your house on a buyer’s “must see” list.

Jeffrey has compiled a free report that he calls How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar — Pacific. This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jeffrey says this information in this report is the secret to his success in selling homes so quickly, and the reason he can guarantee to sell any house in less than 90 days.

To get a copy of this free report, How to Sell Your House for Top Dollar — Pacific, just call 888-611-8015, ext. 39 for a free recorded message. There’s no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today.

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Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for a Prosperous 2012!

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