PB holiday celebration gearing up for family fun

A fun run, a holiday parade and a tree lighting will all be part of Pacific Beach’s yuletide celebration come rain or shine on Saturday, Dec. 13.

“Discover Pacific Beach will host the 2014 Holiday Celebration on Dec. 13th featuring the San Diego Santa Run, Pacific Beach Holiday Parade and Christmas on Crystal Pier,” said Sara Berns, executive director of the beach community’s Business Improvement District.

“Also, we are still accepting donations as we are about $3,000 short of paying for the parade.” Berns said the parade is funded by donations as well as $3,000 short of paying for the parade.

More than 100 volunteers gathered on Dec. 6 at the intersection of Haines and Felspar streets in Pacific Beach to paint the community’s second street mural. A joint partnership between BeautifulPB and Connect PB funded and supported the “Safe Route to School Street Art Murals Installation” project.

Pacific Beach Middle School seventh-grader Sonja Cayetano designed the mural and supervised the day’s painting with local artist Lorrie Blackard Friet and community volunteers.

City's District 2 'the best,' Harris tells community in final speech

Proclaiming District 2 as “absolutely the best in the city,” and with a nod to his family, staff and community volunteers, lifeguard turned legislator Ed Harris closed the book on his eight-month City Council term in his State of the District address Dec. 1.

“The state of the district is strong,” said Harris before an audience at Dana Middle School, noting that “without my staff, I wouldn’t have been able to serve you.”

The outgoing councilman pointed out that his office had an “all-hands-on-deck approach” to problem solving, noting that community volunteers “helped make their neighborhood better.

“It’s humbling to have worked with you,” said Harris, who will return to lifeguarding after the holiday break. He has announced his intent to run for Toni Atkins’ termed-out State Assembly seat in 2016.

Harris singled out cycling enthusiast Nicole Burgess for her advocacy in “ensuring people get their kids on bikes and safely to school” and for promoting nonmotorized travel and a more healthful lifestyle. He also credited the Optimist club for decorating the Peninsula with American flags and the Point Loma Association for “beautifying the entire district.

City charts course for future water reclamation independence

The San Diego City Council unanimously endorsed a water recycling program recently—a plan backed by a broad coalition of environmental and business groups that seeks to provide one-third of San Diego’s potable water by 2035, reducing reliance on costly imported water.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer urged the City Council to support renewed water reuse efforts aimed at “gaining water independence and the ability to control our own water supply for the very first time.”

The mayor described cultivating alternative local water supplies as “vital to our economy and maintaining our quality of life.”

Lauding the city’s Pure Water Project as “an investment in our future,” Faulconer thanked environmental, business and community leaders for coming together to “create environmentally friendly and cost-effective solutions to our water challenges.”

The Pure Water San Diego program is designed to purify enough wastewater to provide one-third of San Diego’s water supply after all three phases are fully operational in

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL WORK A second street mural promoting school safety with respect to traffic emerged Dec. 6 at Haines and Felspar streets.

Photos by Don Balch

Float riders ride atop an old fire engine, spreading goodwill to the crowd during a previous Pacific Beach Holiday Parade.

The PB Holiday Parade marches on.

Photos by Don Balch

WHAT'S INSIDE

District 2 City Councilwoman Lorrie Zupf was officially sworn into office Dec. 10. Her predecessor, Councilman Ed Harris gives a last take on how he would like to see the Belmont Park lease issue handled by the City Council. Page 4

Rose Creek is known for its flourishing birdlife. Recently, wildlife photographer Robert Little found an amazing gathering of all kinds of birds taking advantage of the sanctuary of Rose Creek. Check out our photo montage. Page 6

Sara Berns, executive director of the beach community’s Business Improvement District.

The mayor described cultivating alternative local water supplies as "vital to our economy and maintaining our quality of life."
Plan group OKs Foothill slowdown as Harris says farewell

BY DAVE SCHWAB
Outgoing District 2 Councilmember Ed Harris addressed Pacific Beach planners, who also unanimously endorsed “downshifting” the speed limit from 30 to 25 miles an hour on Foothill Boulevard. Those were the highlights of Pacific Beach Planners Group’s last meeting of the year, held Dec. 2.

A group of Foothill residents petitioned the group to support their drive to reduce the posted speed in their neighborhood along the windy stretch of Foothill from 30 miles an hour back down to 25.

Noting the speed was posted at 25 for some 20 years, neighbors said they noted a dramatic increase in the number of accidents — and overall traffic speed — since the recent increase in the speed limit went into effect. On Dec. 2, neighbor Jeffrey Rosan noted the average speed on Foothill has been determined to be 33.4 miles an hour.

“That’s why they raised it (from 25) to 30... to make it (speed) enforceable so it wouldn’t be considered a speed trap,” said group Traffic & Parking Subcommittee chair Michael Boltran.

State law requires that the speed limit of a roadway be posted at or near the 85th percentile of its average speed in order for it to be enforceable by police radar.

“It’s hard for people to get out of their driveways,” said Rosan.

“There have been a lot of accidents since the speed limit was increased, and the residents want this lowered,” agreed neighbor Tom Rosan. “Residents are scared of people speeding.”

Group chair Brian Curry said decreasing the speed limit is just the start of what needs to be done to make Foothill safer. He noted the need might be to introduce some kind of traffic-calming measures to force vehicles to slow down.

“This is a massive issue,” Beltran noted. “These residents are fearful.”

Outgoing District 2 City Councilman Ed Harris, who’d been making the rounds of District 2 in his final days before turning over his seat to Lorie Zapf on Dec. 10, thanked planners for their support. He said it was fulfilling to represent everyday people “who go to work and pay their taxes.”

Harris drew a round of applause and praise from Pacific Beach residents, who complimented his eight-month administration for its commitment to serve and its transparency.

Harris urged advisory board members and citizens to prioritize the community’s needs and get them to his successor, Zapf, noting, “If they’re items not in the councilmember’s budget, it’s not a priority.

“Government works for the people,” concluded the lifeguard turned legislator, who iterated his view that the initial compromise agreement for a lease extension at Belmont Park, voted down by the Council, was “a bad deal.”

Harris said the park’s lease extension as previously proposed didn’t hold developers’ feet to the fire in getting them to honor contract conditions. One of those conditions, he said, requires developers to pay not only for restoration and maintenance of the Plunge pool but also for the building in which it’s housed.

“We’ve seen over the years that it was a giveaway,” Harris concluded of the existing Belmont Park lease.

IN OTHER NEWS

- Group chair Brian Curry noted the Pacific Beach Taylor Library branch has hatched a proposal to allow four electric-car charging stations on its property.

- Sara Berns of Discover PB reminded residents that Saturday, Dec. 13, is the beach community’s Christmas celebration, which features a fun Santa run, a holiday parade and a Christmas tree lighting on Crystal Pier at sunset.

- Planner Henish Pulikal noted a recent code enforcement sweep down Garnet Avenue revealed 92 municipal code violations involving public right of way: signage and abandoned or unlighted newstands. He added 24 of those violations have thus far been addressed by business owners. “It’s an ongoing, continuous issue,” Pulikal said.

- “The current focus for beautifulPB is PB Pathways, a network of safe neighborhood routes encouraging people to walk, bike or skate to their destinations with traffic-calming measures and other features to improve safety,” said Kristen Victor, president of BeautifulPB.

- For more information visit www.pacificbeach.org, drop by 1503 Garnet Ave. or call (858) 273-3303.
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Holidays Can Add to Stress for Family Caregivers

Family members who care for cognitively impaired or disabled seniors may find the approaching holiday season to be more stressful than joyful. Caregivers may already feel overwhelmed by their day-to-day responsibilities and view holiday preparations as an additional source of stress. Family dynamics at the holidays can also be challenging. Primary caregivers may feel resentful toward visiting family members who they feel have not helped out enough. Family members returning home after a prolonged absence may be surprised and depressed by the decline in their senior loved one and feel that the caregiver hasn’t communicated well enough leading to arguments and discord among family members. Planning ahead and modifying holiday routines to accommodate the needs of the caregiver and the person being cared for can foster peace and good will instead of anger and frustration.

The Alzheimer’s Association (www.alz.org) suggests alerting family members and guests ahead of the visit to the current condition of a loved one with Alzheimer’s or other Dementia. This can be achieved through a letter or email explaining what to expect and offering suggestions for effective communication while educating them about daily routines. Being prepared allows family and guests to arrive with realistic expectations and an understanding that changes in behavior and functioning are caused by the disease and not the person.

It is also important for the primary caregiver to let family and friends know that their caregiving responsibilities may limit how much they can do in terms of holiday festivities. It is ok for caregivers to let others pitch in and only take on what they can reasonably manage. The Alzheimer’s Association suggests involving the person with Dementia in holiday plans, building on old traditions and adjusting activities as needed to stick to the person’s daily routine.

Seniors Helping Seniors is offering a special holiday discount on homecare services. Purchase 8 hours of service between now and December 31 and receive an additional 2 hours free. Call 800-481-2488 for more information.

Harris gives final take on ‘fair’ lease deal for Belmont Park

By DAVE SCHWAB

Outgoing District 2 City Councilmember Ed Harris reiterated his view that the Belmont Park lease extension, as proposed, is a bad deal and urged the City Council to do better by the city in its renegotiations with park developer Pacifica Enterprises next year.

“I believe Pacifica has done a very good job of running the park,” said Harris. “But what we have to ensure is that we are maintaining a fair profit, getting fair-market value on our asset.”

It’s all in the fine print of the current lease contract, according to Harris.

“[It] took me reading the old contract four or five times until I saw that the lessee is required to spend 2.5 percent of its gross to ensure capital improvement. That’s $65,500 a year at today’s value,” he said. “That’s a lot of money.”

Harris said the biggest issue he has with the proposed lease extension, which he noted is “very clear” in the contract, is that the leaseholder is “responsible for the repair and maintenance of the [Plunge] pool, as well as the building itself.”

Harris maintains Pacifica’s feet should be held to the fire in terms of honoring the terms of the existing lease agreement, adding, “They’re making plenty of profit and should pay the full amount for the pool,” Harris said.

The lifeguard turned legislator contended that beach residents did not initially support Belmont Park as a commercial enterprise, characterizing the deal struck between the city and developers to lease the park initially as “improvement.” He pointed out the beach community actually launched a successful petition drive garnering tens of thousands of signatures in opposition to the commercialization of the park before it was leased out in the mid-1980s.

The amusement park, located in the heart of Mission Beach, features an athletic club, amusement rides, retail shops, restaurants, multiple bars, a miniature golf course and FlowRider and FlowBarrel wave machines. Pacifica has said it is not trying to reinvent the seven-acre, 88-year-old amusement park complex but rather to “localize” it.

There’s been speculation that a failure between Belmont Park’s operators and the city to iron out differences on an extension for Belmont could delay or even kill amusement-park expansion plans.

The centerpiece of that expansion has been redevelopment of the former Canes Bar & Grill, which closed in 2009 after a fire, into three distinct restaurants on the Mission Beach boardwalk: the beach-themed Cannonball on the 6,000-square-foot rooftop, not yet open; Draft, a brew-pub now open downstairs; and an Italian concept eatery. The complex’s other eateries include the WaveHouse Beach Club, North Shore Cafe, Belmonty’s Burgers and Plunge Pizzeria.

Harris talked about what kind of a deal he’d like to see struck between the city and redevelopers of the park.

The first thing that needs to be done, he said, is a full-on appraisal of the amusement park property.

“We need to have an outside, independent appraisal done by an independent budget analyst, a real estate expert, to make sure taxpay- ers get what they should get for the property,” Harris said. “Otherwise, we won’t really get a good deal.”

Harris called on his City Council colleagues next year to “renegotiate a deal for the public that maximizes our assets.”

Harris said increasing the city’s “take” from its lease with Pacifica to operate the park on the property the city owns could translate direct- ly into funding that could be spent elsewhere, like hiring more code-enforcement officers, police or fire personnel, who are desperately needed.

Belmont Park was initially developed by sugar magnate John Spreckels and opened on July 4, 1925 as the Mission Beach Amuse- ment Center. Besides providing recreation and amusement, the park was intended as a way to help Spreckels sell land in Mission Beach.

The attractions and rides remaining from the original 1925 park include the Giant Dipper historic wooden rollercoaster listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Plunge, an indoor swimming pool temporarily closed, which is now a freshwater pool, started out as a saltwater pool.

PB man who stole IDs of dead children handed prison term

By NEAL PUTNAM

A Pacific Beach man who used the identities of long dead children to hide gold and other assets was sentenced Nov. 17 to 57 months in federal prison and ordered to pay $2.2 million to the Internal Revenue Service.

Lloyd Irvin Taylor, 71, will get credit for serving 17 months in prison since he was arrested in April 5, 2013. He is a former tax attorney and certified public accountant. The pros- ecutor sought an 87-month sentence while his attorney asked U.S. District Court Judge Michael Anello for a two-year term.

Taylor’s attorney, Kent Johnson, said the government seized $1.6 mil- lion in gold before Taylor’s arrest and that covers most of the restitution. Uncirculated gold coins were found in protective tubes in his offshore bank accounts.

A jury deliberated about 50 minutes June 30 before finding Taylor guilty on 19 counts that included making false statements on U.S. pass- port applications, seven counts of aggravated identity theft, two counts of tax evasion and committing a cor- rupt endeavor to impede the IRS.

The identities of six children who died in the San Francisco Bay Area in the early 1950s were used in the scheme because they did not have Social Security numbers. Taylor apparently used public records to research them.

The brother of one deceased vic- tim testified in the five-day trial, as did a blind elderly woman whose Social Security number was stolen and mis- used by Taylor. U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy said Taylor used the identities to hide about $5 million in income.

“For years, Lloyd Taylor stole the identities of deceased children and travelled internationally to obtain identification documents,” said Duffy in a statement.

“Mr. Taylor took advantage of his victims to line his pockets and avoid paying his taxes,” she said. “Identity theft is a dangerous crime that not only traumatizes the unsuspecting victims and family members, but also facilitates the commission of further crime activity.”

Taylor formed more than a dozen fraudulent tax-exempt religious groups and opened 31 bank and investment accounts in the names of fake churches, said Duffy.

“Taylor earned significant income through securities trading and invest- ments. The U.S. Attorney’s Office said he only filed a tax return seven times in his life, the last year for 2003.”

The ironic Plunge pool. Photo by Don Balch
A San Diego man is charged in a federal indictment that was unsealed recently. The man was charged with various drug and firearm offenses, including endangering human life while illegally manufacturing hashish oil, in connection with an explosion at a marijuana dispensary that he operated. The explosion resulted in the raid of a home near Mission Bay High.

Steve Elar Mora, 34, made his first appearance in U.S. District Court this week and was ordered held pending a detention hearing scheduled for Monday.

According to court records, the explosion occurred due to an illicit "butane honey oil" lab operating at the marijuana dispensary. Also called the "wax," hash oil is an extremely potent form of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects.

It is made by dissolving marijuana using a chemical like butane—or lighter fluid—and selling the resulting residue to users at more than twice the price of other high-quality marijuana products.

Efforts to extract hash oil appear to be on the rise. In October 2011, there have been about 20 butane honey-oil fires/explosions in San Diego County, according to authorities. The explosion connected to the incident of Mora occurred July 21 at the Greenworks Dispensary in the Clairemont area of San Diego.

While executing a search warrant after the explosion, law enforcement also found a handgun and ammunition at the scene, according to the indictment. Mora has been convicted of two state felons and is not allowed to possess a firearm under federal law.

DEA agents also found an AR-15 assault rifle during a search of Mora’s home near Mission Bay High School in Pacific Beach, according to court papers.

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MISSING MAN CHARGED WITH DRUG, WEAPONS COUNTS; PB HOME RAIDED

Man charged with drug, weapons counts, PB home raided

A San Diego man is charged in a federal indictment that was unsealed recently. The man was charged with various drug and gun offenses, including endangering human life while illegally manufacturing hash oil, in connection with an explosion at a marijuana dispensary that he operated. The explosion resulted in the raid of a home near Mission Bay High. Steve Elar Mora, 34, made his first appearance in U.S. District Court this week and was ordered held pending a detention hearing scheduled for Monday.

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PACIFIC BEACH PLANNING GROUP SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) is seeking candidates for its annual elections. The PBPG is composed of 20 community volunteers (15 residential and 5 commercial seats). The group advises the city on new development projects, parking, traffic, future planning and other issues related to the Pacific Beach Community Plan.

Candidates must be residents or business owners/operators in Pacific Beach and must have attended at least one PBPG meeting prior to the February 27 PBPG meeting.

PBPG meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library. For more information and candidate applications, visit www.pacificbeachplanning.org (www) or call Melinda McLendon at (469) 576-1870.

HELP NEEDED TO CONTINUE MAKING PB SPARKLE

Here in the United States, world king of trash, we now have 300 million people plus as the world population approaches 7 billion. That’s a lot of people who throw away an immense amount of trash.

What if each person picked up only one piece of trash every other day? That is 30 million people picking up 182.5 pieces of trash per year, or almost 5.5 billion pieces of trash. That is pretty powerful — billions of fewer pieces of trash going into our waterways and oceans.

In the Pacific Beach/Town Council (PBTC) it is our effort to keep Pacific Beach clean and beautiful. We need your school, business, organization or community service agency to get volunteers together for a couple hours on Saturday, March 1.

Pick one month, one day and one time of year that works for your organization; and do a neighborhood walk. Pick up trash in your streets, alleys and lawns.

We will provided all the supplies you need and some little thank-you as well. You can pick this items up at the PBTC office Mondays through Thursdays the week before your event; just call and schedule it so we can have supplies/wareys ready. After you are finished with your event, just bring back the unused supplies with all the signed waivers to the PBTC office.

We encourage our businesses, organizations of your event, and your thank-you picture will appear in the Seashore Sez newsletter or the PBTC website.

It doesn’t take much to give back and be green. We are looking forward to seeing your organization on this year for your event.

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HARRIS CONT. FROM PG. 1 trict.

Harris said he had four goals when taking office: protecting quality of life, promoting community engagement, protecting taxpayers and supporting veterans.

A short slideshow titled “What We Accomplished Together” followed Harris’ remarks.

Afterward, Harris credited Ocean Beach merchants for “providing a private security pump to protect us during our opening.”

“Memories in the Making” is set for the second and fourth Fridays each month, except on Dec. 26. The library, located at 4275 Cess St., will be closed Dec. 26-31.

For more information about activities, call (858) 581-9934.

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WATER CONT. FROM PG. 1

2015, the 20-year capital improvement project calls for the construction of a nearly $2 billion water-purification plant on Harbor Drive and installation of advanced purification at the North City Water Reclamation Plant and the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant. The three facilities would eventually produce 8 million gallons per day per day of drinking water by 2035, enough to meet about 40 percent of the city’s current use.

“This vote represents a critical step toward solving San Diego County’s water supply issues and forms the basis of a new paradigm for water treatment and reuse in arid regions throughout the U.S. and Southern California,” said Marco Gonzalez, executive director of the Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation.

The proposed $1.7 billion project would increase the city’s water supply by 300 million gallons per day.

Some $130 million is needed to outfit the Point Loma plant with a secondary water-treatment system.

Lightner said.

“With the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats wastewater into drinking water is the largest recycling project in the world that treats wastewater into drinking water is the largest recycling project in the world,” Lightner said.

Since the late 1990s, environmental groups have championed large-scale potable water recycling as a win-win approach to solving the problem of continued substantial seawater discharge into the ocean, according to the council.

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San Diego needs to change its ways on medical marijuana

By AARON MANNIS

The legalization of marijuana has been one of the most controversial issues in America during recent election cycles. With two more states (Oregon and Alaska) and Washington, D.C. legalizing recreational marijuana in the recent election, the issue is more prominent than ever. Recently, President Obama pledged to cease federal interference in state-level marijuana issues.

Hundreds of medical marijuana dispensaries have opened in San Diego County in the last few years, making San Diego one of the biggest hubs of the medical marijuana industry in the United States. Despite this, local governments have resisted the boom and have cracked down on local shops. Citing nearly impossible-to-observe zoning laws and other legal obstacles, the city has shut the doors of more than 200 dispensaries in recent months. Whereas more continue to set up shop around the city, several more were shut down. This constant quarrel does not seem to be coming to a halt anytime soon.

When there is no legal backing for citing zoning laws in order to close the shops, the city has been known to harass landlords, sending inspectors to dig up any building violations and stack up numerous fines if the shop owners are not evicted. The shop owners struggle to find new locations due to intimidated landlords, who are wary of having medical marijuana shops as tenants due to city harass-ment. If a new location can be found in rare legal zoning boundaries, businesses have to move their entire operations to new locations, sometimes impossible for a newly opened shop. Shockingly, out of the hundreds of dispensary shop owners around the city, there is only one in all San Diego County (located in El Cajon) recognized as a legal operation by the city.

Why is the city of San Diego so grudging to accept medical marijuana, which is becoming only more normal on a national level? If any city should understand the benefit of regulating marijuana and keeping it out of illegal street operations, it should be San Diego, with its long involvement fighting Tijuana drug cartels.

The State of California legalized medical marijuana in 1996 by public vote – and in 2014, the city of San Diego needs to wake up to the reality that public opinion has moved in favor of marijuana (especially medical) and quit its shameful display of finding ways to criminalize something that has been legal for years.

— Aaron Mannis is political science at San Diego State University.

By AARON MANNIS

A group of snowy egrets observe the activity in the water.

Photo by Robert Little

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A group of snowy egrets observe the activity in the water.

Photo by Robert Little

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By MARIO PINTO

GUEST COMMENTARY
San Diego needs to change its ways on medical marijuana

By AARON MANNIS

The legalization of marijuana has been one of the most controversial issues in America during recent election cycles. With two more states (Oregon and Alaska) and Washington, D.C. legalizing recreational marijuana in the recent election, the issue is more prominent than ever. Recently, President Obama pledged to cease federal interference in state-level marijuana issues.

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When there is no legal backing for citing zoning laws in order to close the shops, the city has been known to harass landlords, sending inspectors to dig up any building violations and stack up numerous fines if the shop owners are not evicted. The shop owners struggle to find new locations due to intimidated landlords, who are wary of having medical marijuana shops as tenants due to city harass-ment. If a new location can be found in rare legal zoning boundaries, businesses have to move their entire operations to new locations, sometimes impossible for a newly opened shop. Shockingly, out of the hundreds of dispensary shop owners around the city, there is only one in all San Diego County (located in El Cajon) recognized as a legal operation by the city.

Why is the city of San Diego so grudging to accept medical marijuana, which is becoming only more normal on a national level? If any city should understand the benefit of regulating marijuana and keeping it out of illegal street operations, it should be San Diego, with its long involvement fighting Tijuana drug cartels.

The State of California legalized medical marijuana in 1996 by public vote – and in 2014, the city of San Diego needs to wake up to the reality that public opinion has moved in favor of marijuana (especially medical) and quit its shameful display of finding ways to criminalize something that has been legal for years.

— Aaron Mannis is political science at San Diego State University.

By AARON MANNIS

A group of snowy egrets observe the activity in the water.

Photo by Robert Little

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By MARIO PINTO

GUEST COMMENTARY
San Diego needs to change its ways on medical marijuana

By AARON MANNIS

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— Aaron Mannis is political science at San Diego State University.
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PB Rec Center launches winter season of youth basketball

The Pacific Beach Recreation Center is taking sign-ups for the 2015 Winter Youth Basketball season. The program attracts youths 10 and under, 12 and under and 14 and under. The season begins Jan. 10 and runs through Feb. 28. A basketball skills assessment will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 20 at the recreation center. Games will be played at the rec center, 1405 Diamond St.

The cost is $50 for the season. Register online using the following activation numbers at srecconnect.com: • 10 and under — 9811 • 12 and under — 9814 • 14 and under — 10181

Volunteer coaches are needed, according to program administrator Funk. To contact Funk, e-mail mittels2008@hotmail.com. For more information, call the rec center at (858) 581-5927.

Show your Pacific Beach spirit this holiday season by wearing a PB pink tank top. It’s a great gift for friends and family in or out of town. A $20 donation benefits Pacific Beach Middle School and Mission Bay High School. To order your shirts, contact ewills2008@hotmail.com.

MISSION BAY HIGH

• The Mission Bay High Music Department will host its annual Winter Concert “Snow & Tell” Dec. 11 in the MBHS auditorium. This concert will feature wonderful performance ensembles, including the award-winning Preservationists, Jazz Ensemble, Choir and Concert Band. Enjoy listening to these talented young musicians perform everything from holiday classics to jazz standards. Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door.

• A tour of the Mission Bay High campus is set for Dec. 17 at 8 a.m. in the library. Please sign in at the front office.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL

• The award-winning PBMS IB Music Department presents the Winter Concerts led by IB music director John O’Donnell. Enjoy the Winter Strings Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. and the Winter Band Concert on Thursday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

• Sessions’ annual jog-a-thon was a great success. Funds raised at the jog-a-thon support the music, art and library programs at Sessions. Special thanks to the jog-a-thon community supporters, including Ralphs, Trader Joe’s, Vons, PB Water Store and Woodstock Pizza.

• Kate Sessions will host a Holiday Program on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Enjoy the sounds of students as they sing winter songs from around the world.

• The teachers and administration at Kate Sessions thank all of the families at Sessions for their continued support and wish everyone in the community a happy holiday season.

BARNARD LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Barnard Elementary School recently held its annual jog-a-thon, the school’s largest fundraising event of the year. The theme was Rockin’ the Horse (this is the year of the horse), and the goal was $20,000. Principal Eddie Park agreed to kiss a horse if we made that goal, and we surpassed the goal, making more than $32,000 from the event. So on Monday, Dec. 8, Mr. Park kissed two horses! We want to thank our amazing community for the support.

Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools’ largest fundraising event is the School Yard Dash 5K Run and Mission Bay Cluster Schools Fair on Sunday, Jan. 25 and now is the time to set up your teams. Awards will be given for the top three finishers in each category and for the best team spirit. The morning will be a fun-filled event, with a kids’ fun run, a walk, a 5K run, local kids’ bands, school presentations, goodie bags and a vendor village. All proceeds benefit Mission Bay High and PB Middle enrichment programs. Register now at schoolyarddash.org.

If you can’t participate in the race, but still want to support the school, consider making a donation (you can still come and enjoy the post-race activities with any donation, large or small). Also consider sponsoring the event at one of our higher levels and promote the event on all of your social media outlets. There will also be school booths and a vendor village. Register now at schoolyarddash.org. To sponsor the event, donate or offer a booth, visit the website for more information. The morning will also feature an All-Schools Fair showcasing all six of the Mission Bay Cluster Schools, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each school in Pacific Beach will feature their programs and unique opportunities.

The next FOPBSS meeting is set for Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. at the MBHS library. We will be voting on new teacher grants and discussing upcoming events like the new stadium opening celebration and volunteer needs.
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MISSION BEACH & PACIFIC BEACH

The Pacific Beach Community Foundation would like to thank the following for their support of our annual Harvest Wine Tasting & Auction on November 22nd:

Without a doubt the generous people at the Broken Yolk out did themselves in providing the room, good food and great service.

The generosity of the following businesses also contributed to our successful fundraising event:


Their participation enables us to raise the funds necessary to sponsor the Holiday Parade and many other community events. We ask all of our community partners to patronize these establishments.

The Pacific Beach Community Foundation (Jim Moore, Georgina Smith, Don Mullen, Ryan Kohut, and Karl Jaedtke.)

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City eyeing options on raising new revenue for infrastructure, housing

The city of San Diego needs to consider raising taxes or taking other significant steps to raise revenue to pay for infrastructure improvements and affordable housing projects in the future, according to a report to be delivered to the City Council’s Smart Growth and Land Use Committee.

Among eight options outlined by the city’s Independent Budget Analyst’s Office are raising sales, hotel and utility-users taxes and repealing a law that requires San Diego to provide free curbside refuse pickup.

“It is clear that if the city is to fully maintain its infrastructure, ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and provide increased services to the citizens of San Diego, additional revenue sources will be necessary,” the IBA report reads. “It may be useful for the City Council to consider these potential revenue sources as it determines how best to meet the needs of the city and its citizens.”

The city’s so-called “infrastructure deficit” could reach as much as $2 billion by the time assessment studies are completed, according to the report. San Diego and other cities also face expenses of up to $2 billion annually in succeeding years.

A report from the Independent Budget Analyst’s Office reads. “The city’s so-called “infrastructure deficit” could reach as much as $2 billion by the time assessment studies are completed, according to the report. San Diego and other cities also face expenses of up to $2 billion annually in succeeding years.”

The report anticipates the mayor’s plan will generate $28.8 million in the next fiscal year, but the total would shrink to under $20 million annually in succeeding years.

The IBA said the mayor and City Council could:
• raise sales taxes, which are relatively low compared to other cities in San Diego County and around the western U.S.;
• hike transient occupancy taxes, which are paid by hotel guests, and also have room to grow;
Mission Bay High football wraps up season with victory

By KEITH ANTIGIOVANNI

The Mission Bay High Buccaneers varsity football team completed its 2014 season on a winning note Nov. 7 with a 21-7 road victory over the Western League rival Coronado Islanders.

Mission Bay finished the season with a 4-6 record and 1-3 in league play. By comparison, the Bucs had played in the division finals the previous year at Qualcomm Stadium.

Despite finishing under .500 this season, the Buccaneers had a decent year after they were forced to play all 10 regular season games either on the road or a neutral site because of the construction of the new Mission Bay High School Stadium, which is near completion.

The Bucs’ offense played well this year, averaging 25.1 points per game, but could not compensate for a defense that surrendered an average of 29 points per game that included losses against Christian (49-10), Patrick Henry (41-14), La Jolla (51-7) and Point Loma (48-14), Madison (48-10), Horizon Christian Academy in week two. The Bucs wrapped up with a total of 356 all-purpose yards.

During the season, Darryl Dave, a senior, complemented Clark with 903 rushing yards and seven rushing touchdowns.

Junior Myles Dumas was the stand-out on defense, leading the team in tackles with 14 (13 solo), three interceptions, seven passes defended and a fumble recovery. Dumas also contributed on offense with 136 all-purpose yards (120 receiving, 16 rushing). He had an interception, three tackles and two passes defended in the season finale.

The Buccaneers opened the season with a 26-13 loss to West Hills, then followed it up with a 24-23 win over Horizon Christian Academy in a game played at Helix. The next two weeks, Mission Bay struggled in a 44-14 loss to Patrick Henry and a 49-10 loss to Christian. The club rebounded with a convincing 62-0 win over San Diego but was flat the next week in a 38-14 loss to Madison. The Bucs rebounded again with a 50-12 win over the Kearny Cougars but again had trouble in back-to-back defeats against La Jolla and Point Loma, finally ending the season with a win over Coronado.

Quarterback Derrick Clark, a junior, led the Buccaneers run-heavy offense in rushing yards (1,519), averaging yards per attempt (11.9) and rushing touchdowns (23). Clark’s best game this year was a 251-yard rushing, five-touchdown performance in a win over Horizon Christian Academy in week two. The Bucs wrapped up with a total of 356 all-purpose yards.

Short-term vacation rentals remains divisive issue between residents, operators

By DAVE SCHWAB

Short-term vacation rental operators and residents concerned about them participated in a Dec. 6 subcommittee meeting in Pacific Beach, with residents insisting they don’t belong in single-family neighborhoods and operators agreeing to “reasonable” regulations governing them.

A Short-Term Vacation Rental (STVR) Subcommittee has been established by the Pacific Beach Planning Group (PBPG) to meet with stakeholders to come up with workable recommendations on regulating STVRs. Some PB residents feel the proliferation of STVRs brings noise, traffic, parking and other problems that need to be dealt with.

“Towns have an ordinance which outlines specifically what disciplinary actions can be taken against STVR property owners/managers.”

Resident Marcie Becket argued the number of short-term rentals in Pacific Beach has been growing significantly, adding to already-existing problems of noise, overcrowding and lack of parking.

“Vacation rentals are also causing long-term residents to move away, degrading our quality of life,” she said, arguing that STVRs crowd out “vested” residents who send their kids to local schools and contribute to the community’s long-term well being.

“This is an evolving dialogue,” noted subcommittee member Scott Chapman.

“Hopefully, we can finalize suggestions to present to the full PBPG in February,” said Krokee, suggesting stakeholders bring something to eat at the subcommittee’s next meeting Saturday, Jan. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library.

Krokee said the objective of the subcommittee is to come up with workable recommendations from stakeholders to address growing noise and other problems associated with vacation rentals.

“It’s (STVRs) becoming a big issue,” he added. “It’s important for the city to start thinking about what we do with vacation rentals.”

Krokee iterated that he felt it’s “absolutely imperative that we need a permit system to minimize (STVR) nuisance impacts.”

Vacation-rental industry reps weren’t in disagreement with the notion of a permit system or more regulations. But they did caution against “singling out” short-term rentals.

“Permitting process should have fees used across the board to enforce noise and other issues for all rentals, not just short-term rentals,” said one STVR industry rep.

PBPG chair Brian Curry said STVR issues now being vetted at the subcommittee level will be forwarded for a final decision to the whole planning group, adding the real power to change regulations governing them “lies with the mayor and City Council.”

“Absolutely imperative that we need a regulation for a final decision to the whole planning group,” said one STVR industry rep.

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Just like the Oversize Vehicle Ordinance (OVO), the City Council likes to do things citywide,” noted Curry. “It’s great to see the community involved in issues that are facing us.”

Neighbors pointed out new regulations governing STVRs need to have teeth.

“The key to what we do with an ordinance is enforcement,” pointed out one resident. “We need to develop a source of revenue dedicated to enforcing whatever regulations you have in place. Eventually, you can have an ordinance which outlines specifically what disciplinary actions can be taken against (STVR) property owners/managers.”

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When I read a recent post on Surfline where it called out that this winter is likely to be just average, my stoke factor increased a degree or two. That’s because of the fact that the last two or three winter seasons have been below average. That doesn’t mean that we haven’t had waves, but the frequency and size of the surf pretty much sucked for awhile in all of Southern California. A return to average means that we should be seeing more frequent swells with surf running in the chest- to head-high range on a more regular basis. If you are a big wave hunter, this might not be what you want to hear, but for the more mortal wave rider consistent moderate size surf will be just fine. Some solid over head days of surf are likely to occur in the months of January and February, so use these earlier times to train and gear up for them. Normal-size surf coming through with more regularity will also help to keep crowds down a bit as the tension that builds up between swells will not be as intense with regular go outs being more available. Smaller and wider boards will continue to rule the waters until some real and decent-size swells roll in. Then, the narrower step up or gunny boards can be dusted off and put to good use. If you are after the big stuff, there will be some, but you’ll have to do some motoring either toward the south or north to lock into anything in the XXL department. Now, you have to remember that the ocean is a very unpredictable place and I can’t be held responsible if she decides to turn on more, or off for that matter. What I can tell you with certainty is that we will have some type of surf sooner or later. If it’s an average year, we will all be stoked. If it turns out to be more than that, well, it will be a bonus.
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