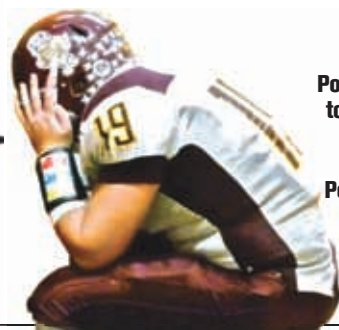




THE PENINSULA BEACON



Point Loma High falls to Cathedral Catholic for a fifth straight year during the Pointers' quest for a CIF championship. Page 12

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

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The San Diego Unified School District's Board of Education is poised to decide the fate of Barnard Elementary School — including selling the entire property, excess parts of the property or nothing at all. If the Mandarin Chinese language-immersion school is closed, it would likely grow into a Pacific Rim academy elsewhere.

Photo by Jim Grant | The Beacon

SDUSD poised to assess all magnet programs, funding Barnard Elementary's fate still uncertain

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

The Mandarin Chinese language program with a waiting list at Barnard Elementary is successful for many reasons, including the fact it secures its own funding. But when the magnet program's leadership requested a proclamation from the Board of Education to support grant applications, there was no rubber stamp.

Instead, the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) board decided it needed to evaluate the larger issue of what all magnet programs cost the district.

"We do not want to create a pall over this (Mandarin language) program," said beach-area SDUSD trustee Scott Barnett during a special school board meeting Nov. 29. "The budget is a pall over all our lives. But we need to have a discussion as to our magnet programs and what level of commitment we can give, given our budget constraints."

The board is expected to review

magnet programs at a workshop after the holidays.

Meanwhile, the Mandarin language program may find itself homeless if the board approves a pending closure and sale of the Barnard Elementary school site. The fate of the school site is one of only five points left on the district's original closure and realignment plan laid out two months ago.

Closing the Barnard campus is predicated on finding a larger site in better condition that will enable the Mandarin Chinese language-immersion program to grow into a Pacific Rim academy. If this is accomplished, it would allow sale of the entire Barnard campus, not just the excess portion as originally planned.

District officials said it would also save \$2.3 million in Prop. S school refurbishment money by selling the site.

In October, the school district, on

SEE BARNARD, Page 6

HAVING A JOLLY OLE TIME



OCEAN BEACH CHRISTMAS PARADE KICKSTARTS THE HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

The Christmas season lurched into full gear with all the bells and whistles of the season Dec. 3 as the 32nd annual Ocean Beach Holiday Parade streamed down Newport Avenue, thrilling thousands of holiday-minded spectators, young and old. The parade was, of course, headlined by Santa Claus and his young entourage that included Kyla Micheli (in purple) and Madison Wigler (in pink), among other smiling Ocean Beach children who greeted parade-goers. San Diego's only nighttime parade had a little something for everyone, including floats, bands and musical entertainment spanning the generations. Look for more parade photos inside this edition and two more 2011 *Peninsula Beacon* issues on Dec. 15 and Dec. 22. Photos by Paul Hansen | The Beacon



'Wings of Freedom': Will the USS Midway's plan create a new city icon or a blight on the bay?



A conceptual view of the proposed \$68 million Veterans Park project, including a 500-foot "Wings of Freedom" sculpture, as it may be seen from Harbor Island. Courtesy of the USS Midway Museum

By MARIKO LAMB | THE BEACON

The USS Midway Museum held the first of three town hall sessions on Nov. 29 at the Port of San Diego to vet public opinions about a vision to convert the Navy Pier into a dual-level facility with a parking lot on the lower level and five-acre Veterans Park on the upper level.

The \$68 million project, as currently proposed, would include demolishing the existing four-story Navy building on Harbor Drive to create an enhanced view corridor of the bay, transforming the Navy Pier into a gently sloping park with a 500-car parking lot beneath, and putting aside 1 percent of the total construction cost for local artists to provide art for the park.

The park's slope would gradually rise from the Embarcadero to a 20-foot viewing point, then slope gently back down to 14 feet at the end of the pier in order to

accommodate trucks, buses and other large vehicles in the parking structure beneath.

Although the entire project was to be discussed at the meeting, the conversation typically returned to one component of the proposal — a dramatic architectural element dubbed the "Wings of Freedom" that would be located at the head of the pier.

As currently conceptualized, the defining structure would consist of a pair of steel and titanium sails — one 400 feet in height, the other 500 feet — that would tower above the bay at the end of the proposed Veterans Park. Beneath the structure would be a 4,000- to 5,000-seat amphitheater for concerts and special events.

Mac McLaughlin, USS Midway Museum president and CEO, said the board embraced the idea to "build an iconic symbol that comes to represent San

Diego for future generations," as proposed by real estate developer Malin Burnham, architect Hal Sadler and philanthropist Denny Sanford — the latter of whom has agreed to fund the structure, estimated at \$35 million.

Greg Mueller, CEO of Tucker Sadler Architects, said the firm came up with the idea for the structure after studying iconic elements in other cities, including the Sydney Opera House, Seattle's Space Needle and the St. Louis arch.

"We started looking at architectural structures that people easily recognize across the world," he said. "We took some of those elements — looking at the heights, what the structure and makeup is, what the materials are — and we started using them as ideas for how to create something iconic to San Diego. Not to try to represent those things out

SEE WINGS, Page 6

Getting a handle on wintertime public restroom options in OB

By **BIANCA KOCH** | THE BEACON

With the number of visitors to Ocean Beach waning during in the winter months, the need for access to public restrooms has become minimal.

Stores and eateries frequently inform passersby that their restrooms are not for public use.

Still, three main locations in town generally offer relief: the main lifeguard tower facilities on Abbott Street, Starbucks Coffee on Newport Avenue and facilities in the Dog Beach parking lot with 16 portable restrooms, including two oversize, ground-level stalls for wheelchair access required by the American Disability Act (ADA).

The situation for those seeking relief, however, has suddenly become a bit more grim for those who need to go. About three weeks ago, Starbucks closed its restroom doors even to customers, much less the general public. A new "employees only" sign is now posted on the two restrooms.

Adding to the problem, in a different location, the portable toilets at Dog Beach were recently scaled back to seven stalls — none of which is now wheelchair accessible.

Some locals have their own theory as to why public bathrooms have been so

drastically eliminated.

Brooke Lombardi, 44, has been a resident since 1970.

"I think it's because of the homeless," Lombardi said. "They [the homeless] would use the bathrooms a lot. Some seek shelter in the disabled stalls at Dog Beach when it's cold or raining. Some people here don't like that."

Similar conclusions are drawn by Anthony Beck, 41, who moved to Ocean Beach about two years ago. He also is an occasional Starbucks customer.

"I like to wash my hands before I have my pastry and coffee, but I'm usually not coming from home," he said. "When I walked in [Starbucks] last week, I had just gotten off work and was totally dirty. The 'employees only' sign on the (former) customer restroom door caught me by surprise. Even after I purchased my stuff, the guy wouldn't let me use the restroom."

Since then, Beck said he hasn't returned to Starbucks.

"I don't mind people off the street washing up in there, but I'm assuming that maybe other people had a problem with it," Beck said.

Allen Hilowitz, a spokesman for the Seattle-based Starbucks Coffee Co., explained the company's decision.

"First of all, our No.1 concern is for



Portable restrooms at Dog Beach in Ocean Beach — normally numbering 16 during the peak summer months, including two oversize wheelchair-accessible facilities — were scaled back for the winter to seven stalls, but none of them ADA-compliant. Once the city learned of the inadvertent removal of all wheelchair-accessible stalls, a brand-new one appeared the very next day. Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

the safety of our customers and employees," Hilowitz said. "Unfortunately, we had a lot of safety incidents at that particular franchise. They [incidents] increased considerably in 2011 and resulted in a physical attack by a transient on one of our local employees."

"We got to a point where local law enforcement had to be at the scene on a daily basis," he said.

The decision to close the restrooms to the public, however, was made in August, according to Hilowitz. It was based on several incidents and, as a

result, the Starbucks management team and security/safety team made the call.

"We also asked for and received positive advice and help from the local merchants association [Ocean Beach Main-Street Association] and the local law enforcement," said Hilowitz, "which were both highly supportive of the pending decision to close the restrooms of our Ocean Beach store in order to undermine and prevent disturbances and to keep [transient] individuals outside the store. We wanted to offer a safer environment to our customers and employ-

ees."

Hilowitz said the number of incidents drastically declined with the closure of the store's restrooms.

"Many of our loyal customers commented and welcomed the positive change," he said.

Not everyone agrees with that assessment, however.

"Somehow, it's not right," said Beck. "Same with the Dog Beach [portable restrooms]. I've seen people sleep in the

SEE TOILETS, Page 6

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Catrina Russell Ranks Amongst NRT's Top 1000



Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Ocean Beach is proud to announce that Sales Associate Katrina Russell was recently named to the NRT Top 1000 for exceptional sales productivity throughout the third quarter of 2011. This marks her second consecutive quarter being named to the prestigious list. The NRT Top 1,000 is a select group of agents and represents the top 1,000 sales associates of approximately 45,000 within NRT, the parent company of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

"This recognition is not only much deserved but speaks to the level of professional service for which Katrina Russell is being recognized," said President and Chief Operating Officer of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, San Diego County and Temecula Valley, Rick Hoffman. "I look forward to her continued success with Coldwell Banker and thank her for the unwavering commitment to real estate excellence while effectively serving and educating clients within our local communities."

Catrina Russell consistently ranks amongst the top producing agents within Coldwell Banker and has been an award-winning agent every year since she started her career in 1998. In May of 2011, Russell ranked #1 among all Coldwell Banker agents within San Diego County and Temecula Valley for her sales production. She is also currently on track to make the exclusive International President's Elite for 2011 which last year recognized only the top 2% of all Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide.

Catrina specializes within the central coastal region of San Diego which includes Ocean Beach, Point Loma and the surrounding communities. Katrina Russell can be reached at (619) 226-BUYS (2897) or via email at Catrina@CatrinaRussell.com.

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National Park Service volunteers at Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma zero in on an enemy warplane as hand-cranked sirens blared during a re-enactment of the Japanese attack on American forces on Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor. Last weekend's re-creation of the stunning aerial assault 70 years ago was reportedly the only such re-enactment to have taken place on the West Coast. Photos by Jim Grant | The Beacon

Cabrillo Monument stages only Pearl Harbor re-enactment on West Coast



American "doughboy" re-enactor Tim Siegert stands at the ready.

No doubt about it. Cabrillo National Monument is more than just a lighthouse.

The original lighthouse was declared a landmark in 1913, and that's what attracts many visitors today. But last weekend, visitors had a unique opportunity to learn about the historic military significance of the monument during the event billed as "Air Raid Pearl Harbor: Fort Rosecrans Goes to War."

Organizers said the event was the only Pearl Harbor re-enactment on the West Coast, and the first-ever held at Cabrillo. Members of the California Historic Group and other re-enactors represented men and women of the U.S. Army 19th Coast Artillery and set up camp displays throughout the park, complete with tents, vehicles and even a bicycle of the period.

Observation bunkers, the army radio

LOCAL LIFE IN WWII

A new exhibit opens in La Jolla with artifacts, photos and stories depicting life and the hardships endured by beach-area residents during the war. Story, page 13

station and other historic structures were open to view. The event also included a hike to a bunker that contains a 60-inch diameter searchlight, which scanned the skies for enemy aircraft. The bunker, located on the monument's Bay-side Trail, is often missed by hikers and joggers and is normally not open to the public.

Perhaps the highlight of the event was a re-enactment of the air raid itself, which took place 70 years ago this month.

— Staff report



California Historical Group 45th Field Hospital "nurses" Rebecca Metzger, Kirstin Camp and Laura Lane roleplay to dramatize the nation's reaction to news that America had declared war on Japan in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack.



Cisco Lacy shows off one of the props that made the re-enactment real. This is an M2 artillery gun. There are only 20 of these water-cooled guns left in existence. They shot 300 .50-caliber rounds per minute, with every fifth shot being a tracer round, according to military historians.



Above, American "doughboy" re-enactor Chris Simich comforts his girl despite news he is going to war after the attack.

Below, a "lookout" scans the skies for enemy planes from within a former bunker at Fort Rosecrans atop Cabrillo.



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Recovering missing holiday travel items no longer so worrisome

Lindbergh Field boasts impressive recovery record

By PATRICIA WALSH | THE BEACON

The first thing Gayle Irvine did when she arrived at San Diego International Airport from Vancouver, British Columbia, was stop at the ATM machine to get some spending money. Waiting at the luggage carousel, Irvine heard her name over the airport's public-address system, asking her to report to the lost-and-found area.

There, upon showing sufficient identification, Irvine was reunited with her ATM card.

"Some kind gentleman handed it in," she said. "I didn't even know I left it in the machine."

Irvine's ATM card is just one of more than 13,200 items that were turned in to the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority's lost-and-found department in the last year. With 900,000 travelers expected on incoming flights at Lindbergh Field and 900,000 on out-bound flights between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the lost-and-found bins have their annual holiday bulge.

"We get a lot more jackets and sweaters during Thanksgiving and Christmas," said Bonnie Costello, the airport traffic officer who works at the lost-and-found. "They are things people don't need so often here in San Diego," she said.

With an efficient tracking system and a staff dedicated to thoroughness, organization and customer service, it's more common than not for travelers to be reunited with property they left in a terminal, even after months have gone by.



Lindbergh Field traffic officer Bonnie Costello points to rows of keys left behind by travelers and stored in the airport's lost-and-found department. Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

The items are as regular and random as the human race.

There are neck pillows and belts. There are shoes and socks. There are laptops and smart phones, iPads and books. Other items include car seats and toys, stuffed animals, sunglasses and hats, jackets, driver licenses, jewelry and watches, cameras, backpacks, crutches, canes, sleeping bags, military medals — even a barstool and a tube of lipstick.

Two of the most common items filling the lost-and-found department's bins, boxes and drawers are keys and belts. Costello opens a stack of drawers brim-

ming with rows of belts rolled neatly in plastic bags and labeled. Cars keys — many with expensive automatic door openers — are expertly organized in plastic bags and hung on a pegboard. Keys that have gone unclaimed over the last year fill a cardboard box. The box is as heavy as a weightlifter's kettle bell.

A deck of flash cards for slang terms is among the unusual items found.

"The cards had words like 'sick' and 'hot mess' and explained the meaning," Costello said. "I guess they are for parents to understand their kids."

Canes are the least claimed item, she

said.

"People go from the plane to a wheelchair and then to a car," Costello said. "They forget the cane is hanging on the back of the wheelchair."

In fact, because people think they won't see their stuff again, many items continue to go unclaimed. After 90 days, those goods — like the 3-foot-tall stuffed dog that's been around for months — are eventually auctioned off. The money from the auction goes to the airport's general fund.

"People call and say, 'I know this is a lost cause,'" Costello said. "But that's not

necessarily true."

An expensive camera had been on the shelves for more than three months and could have been headed for auction.

"I thought, 'Somebody is looking for this,'" Costello said. "I went through the lost-property database and found a description for a similar item."

Costello called the contact and, with a little sleuth work, determined it was the person's lost camera.

The camera had three photos on it, one of a computer screen. Costello zoomed in and saw an icon for a diet file. The owner remembered having to go to the doctor for high blood pressure and having the diet file. He described the icon in detail, got his camera back and sent a letter of appreciation.

Retrieving an item from the airport's lost-and-found department requires the ability to provide a detailed description and identification. Travelers can pick the item up or give permission for someone else to pick it up. That person's name must be on file with the lost-and-found department, and the person retrieving the item must show ID. Items can also be returned by Fed-Ex as well — at the owner's expense.

"If someone calls in, we ask as many questions as possible about the item," Costello said, "like color, any scratches or dents, or size. We even have a sizer to measure rings turned in. We're not going to just give someone a diamond ring if they said they lost one."



Photo by Patricia Walsh | The Beacon

ABOUT THE AIRPORT'S LOST AND FOUND

The Lindbergh Field lost-and-found department is located on the first floor of Terminal Two West at the San Diego International Airport. It is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., closed for lunch 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 7 to 8 p.m.

If you lose an item in a terminal at Lindbergh Field, you can call, email or fax the lost-and-found department. You can also report the missing item online at www.san.org. Click on "passenger services," then "lost & found."

The website also has a searchable database of items on its shelves.

- Phone: (619) 400-2140
- Fax: (619) 400-2141
- Email: lostandfound@san.org
- Web: www.san.org
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San Diego, CA 92101

The lost-and-found department does not take custody of items lost on board aircraft, in for-hire vehicles like taxis and shuttles, or from public buses or rental cars. For items lost onboard an aircraft, contact the airline.

— Patricia Walsh

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Local, 71, wins world Ironman event in her age group

By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | THE BEACON

You may well have seen her running or biking the streets or boardwalk in Ocean Beach. But you might well be stunned at what she's accomplished.

Susan Norman, a longtime Mission Bay resident and grandmother of four, is 71. She is also one of only two women over the age of 70 to hold both half- and full-Ironman world championship titles within the same year.

Norman took the top prizes in the 70-74 age group in September at the Las Vegas half-Ironman and again in October at the Kona, Hawaii full-Ironman World Championships.

She bikes, swims and runs six days a week in and around Mission Beach to keep her body in optimum shape for triathlons.

At age 38, Norman's friends introduced her to running as a sport. She attended a marathon clinic to get started with proper exercises and to began entering 10K races, which she always seemed to win.

The physically demanding trend runs in her family. Her husband won the full-Ironman event for his division at age 50, and her sons and daughters-in-law have all completed triathlons, so Norman figured she was just as capable.

While training for what would have been her first half-Ironman competition in St. George, Utah, Norman suffered her first and only training injury in January. While biking on Kearny Villa Road, she hit a pothole and tumbled to the pavement, breaking her arm and pelvis in two places. Norman underwent months of physical, rehabilitative, sports and water therapy at Wave House Athletic Club in Mission Beach, where she likes to get all her exercises in under one roof — taking spin classes, swimming in the pool and relaxing for a massage once a week.

Forced to miss the St. George race at the beginning of the year, Norman set her sights on the half-Ironman competition in Oceanside in April. Crediting her strong muscles for a swift recovery, Norman was the oldest female competitor in the race and placed first in her age division. Along with the trophy came a qualifying slot to the Ironman world championships in Las Vegas and/or Kona. Norman chose both.

This extra challenge motivated Norman to acquire a triathlon coach to instruct her on daily training — typically biking 40, 80 or 100 miles up the coast and frequently practicing the transition from biking to running.

"It's one-third mind, one-third nutrition and one-third training," said Norman, who drinks between two and eight glasses of electrolyte-enhanced water each day, and eats lots of fruits and veggies.

Norman's hard work and training



Mission Beach resident Susan Norman, 71, claimed first-place in her age division during the full-Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii in September, becoming only the sixth woman over the age of 70 to complete the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile marathon run.

Courtesy photo

paid off in Las Vegas, where she took home first-place honors in her age division.

Just four weeks later, Norman competed in the prestigious full-Ironman world championship in Kona, which calls for a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile marathon run which participants must complete in 17 hours, with a firm cutoff time of midnight. Norman finished in 16 hours, 57 minutes and 29 seconds — with less than 3 minutes remaining before the clock would have stopped and all her efforts would have been discounted.

"Crossing the finish line was the most fabulous feeling," said Norman. "Spectators were gathered there yelling and cheering, really making you feel special."

While nearing the finish, Norman anticipated hearing race announcer Mike Reilly say "Congratulations, Susan Norman, you are an Ironman," like he's been doing since the 1980s. Instead he said, "Susan Norman is 71 years old," an announcement she has since had the pleasure of teasing him about. With this

win, Norman became only the sixth woman over the age of 70 to ever complete the race.

"The last mile seemed like forever in the pitch dark," said Norman, whose husband was a race volunteer so he could be beside her throughout the day.

The heat, wind and hilly terrain made for a challenging race, but Norman laughs as she recalls her husband threatening, "If you don't finish, you're gonna have to go home and start training all over again instead of spending time with your grandbabies!"

With qualifying slots to both of next year's Ironman world championships, Norman said she'll most likely do them again — this time aiming to beat the Ironman course record for women over the age of 70.

"You just have to think you can do it and never give up," said Norman, who also won the San Diego Rock 'n' Roll Marathon for her age group six years ago.

For more information about the competition, visit www.ironman.com.

Point Loma canine to be center stage at Gaslamp Pet Parade

By KENDRA HARTMANN | THE BEACON

Just like in the world of humans, dogs have friends and acquaintances. And just like us, they gravitate toward those with similar interests and hobbies. That's how Spike — who lives in Point Loma with owner Jocelyn Taylor — and Chopper came to be buds: a shared interest in doing good and helping others.

Spike and Chopper, however, are not the most likely of friends. The two canines will share the stage during the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade on Dec. 11.

Spike, a tiny papillon who was abused for much of his early life, is quiet and small and enjoys spending an afternoon curled up on his human mother's lap. At the other end of the spectrum is two-year-old Boston terrier Chopper, whose idea of a good time is riding high on his remote-controlled Harley Davidson.

Yet Spike and Chopper have one very important thing in common: they are members of an elite group of San Diego canines that use their talent and good looks for charity — a club that seems to thrive here in Southern California.

Spike and Chopper first met almost exactly one year ago, when Mark Shaffer, Chopper's human father and fellow Harley rider, noticed a post on Spike's Facebook page that made mention of a tiny wagon. In possession of a small wagon himself, he decided to get in touch with Spike and owner Jocelyn on the chance they'd go for a joint Harley/wagon-towing adventure.

Taylor, it turned out, was more than game, and the group met up at the 2010 Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade for a trial run. Chopper, as usual, helmed the bike while Spike rode in the wagon, both resplendent in their signature sunglasses.



Spike (owned by Point Loma's Jocelyn Taylor) won "Best of Show" at last year's Gaslamp Pet Parade. He returns Dec. 11 as co-grand marshal. Photo courtesy of Michael Trimble

es. Taylor and Shaffer figured they'd give the arrangement a try, and if Spike jumped out or otherwise rejected the wagon, they'd just walk alongside each other in the parade.

Neither dog so much as hinted at resistance to the arrangement — Spike, in fact, loved his wagon so much that after the parade was over and Taylor and Shaffer were packing things up, Taylor looked around for Spike only to find him sitting back in it, waiting for another round. The pair were a smash hit — so much so, they've been invited back this year as grand marshals.

The Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade takes place on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 1 to 5 p.m., starting from the Gaslamp Hilton Park, corner of Fourth Avenue and K Street. Viewing the parade is free, and entry to participate in the parade is \$10 per pet/handler duo. Register at www.gaslamp.org/petparade.

— This story originally appeared in the December edition of *San Diego Pets Magazine*, which is affiliated with the *San Diego Community Newspaper Group*.

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Bcn



The options for public restrooms in Ocean Beach during the winter months recently became slimmer when the Starbucks coffee shop on Newport Avenue closed its restrooms even to customers.

Photo by Bianca Koch | The Beacon

TOILETS

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

big ones. That's why those two stalls are gone. But what if someone in a wheelchair needs to use the restroom and can't get into the small ones with the step, or gets stuck and tips over? That could be a big mess for the city. They need to have a stall for the disabled."

Every year, the city's Park and Recreation Department has reduced the number of portable restrooms during the winter months because of decreased demand.

"Normally, we leave five singles [stalls] and one ADA [wheelchair-accessible stall]. At least one has to be there," said Dan Daneri, the city's district manager for shoreline parks and beaches.

Daneri said he was surprised to learn, however, that both ADA-compliant restrooms at Dog Beach had

been removed.

"I have not been aware of people sleeping in the ADA's, nor both [the wheelchair-accessible facilities] having been removed," Daneri said. "People trying to escape the cold is definitely not the reason for the removal [of the ADA facilities]."

"I have not been aware of people sleeping in the [wheelchair-accessible portable restrooms], nor both of [those facilities] having been removed. People trying to escape the cold is definitely not the reason for the removal ... There definitely has been a mistake [on the part of the removal company]."

DAN DANERI

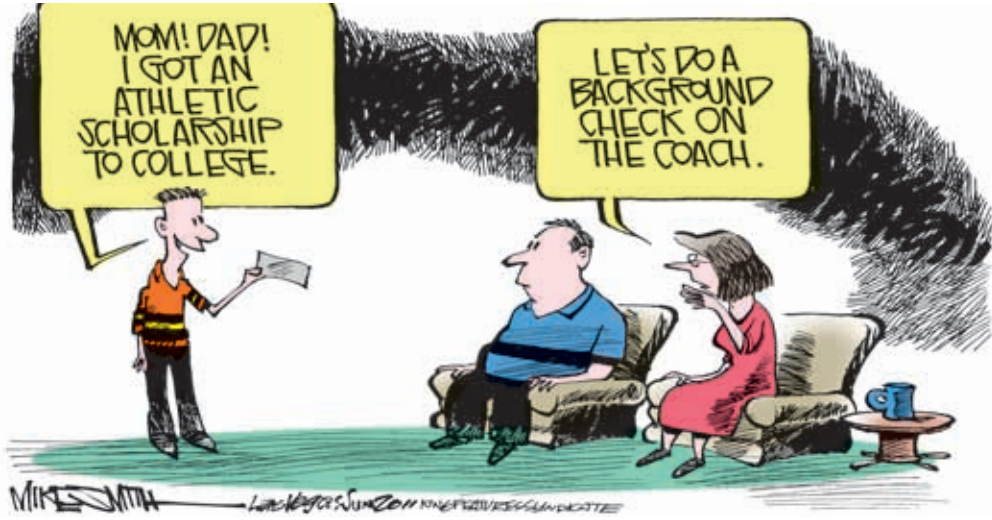
City district manager for shoreline parks and beaches

Having been surprised at learning of the removals, Daneri assured that his order to United Site Services — the company responsible for collecting the stalls — had been to leave five single blue stalls and one ADA-compliant one in the Dog Beach area.

"There definitely has been a mistake," Daneri said.

"The order got mixed up somewhere. I will make sure the problem will be fixed before *The Beacon* publishes this article."

True to his word, the next day five blue single portable restrooms and one brand-new ADA-compliant stall was again available to visitors of Dog Beach.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress needs to extend unemployment benefits

When I was unemployed, I remember the daily struggle: endless days sifting through Internet job listings, revising my resume dozens of times a week to fit each opening, countless trips to the dry cleaner to be sure my suit was clean for an interview, and then lining up transportation to get to those interviews.

The only way I was able to survive — Internet bills so I could job hunt, printing my resume, paying for dry cleaning, bus fare, let alone rent and putting food on the table — was thanks to the \$270 a week in unemployment benefits I received.

Like everyone else, I paid into unemployment during the years that I worked, knowing that safety net would be there if and when I needed it. I am lucky to be working now, but there are millions of people in our country that are still struggling and need that vital lifeline.

It is time for Congress to remember who they work for, and who votes for them, and extend these benefits before the end of the year.

Jerry Tomaszewicz, Jr.
Ocean Beach

Planners decry SANDAG's lack of responsiveness

The following is an open letter to District 2

City Councilman Kevin Faulconer:

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has reported its responses to public comments on the Draft 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy. We are extremely disappointed that [the Peninsula Community Planning Board's] comments had little, if any, impact on SANDAG.

Although we cited the fact that roads like Rosecrans Street are "gridlocked" now at rush hour, Liberty Station development is not completed, a new terminal at Lindbergh Field will open soon and SANDAG forecasts a population increase in Point Loma of more than 17,000 residents, the RTP has placed the 1-8/1-5 improvements in the "unconstrained network."

This, despite our statement that one of the improvements could be done at 1/20th of SANDAG's cost estimate.

One example of the present problem is that there are 10 signal lights on Rosecrans Street between Nimitz Boulevard and Interstate 5 north.

At rush hour, it can take 30 minutes for this 3-minute trip without traffic, and Sea World Drive is no better. When cost in lost manhours, gasoline prices and pollution are considered, new ramps are a bargain! SANDAG referred the rest of the proposal to the city to incorporate in the General Plan.

Moving highway improvements from the "unconstrained network" to the "rea-

sonably expected network" and incorporating street improvements to the city's General Plan are political issues and require your assistance. This issue could be of political significance since an incumbent or candidate in the 2nd District could earn great favor with the Peninsula, Ocean Beach and Mission Beach communities if this project could be advanced.

The City Council may believe that all San Diego residents benefit from carpool lanes, express buses and high-speed rail serving North County residents, but the occasional trip to the north by a Peninsula resident is more than offset by the thousands of commuters traveling to the southern end of Point Loma each day.

We support the addition of mass transit to our county but do not support the commitment of all funds to mass transit at the expense of older communities that have struggled with current and growing traffic problems.

The people in these communities pay their share of the taxes in support of highway construction, yet SANDAG expects to spend nothing in the next 40 years to relieve an existing and escalating problem. We solicit your assistance in advancing this project.

Helen Kinnaird
Chairwoman,
Peninsula Community Planning Board

WINGS

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

there, but do something different."

He emphasized the importance of the Navy Pier's location as central to San Diego.

"Whatever we do on there, it's going to be seen. It's going to be seen by those who come in and take off by airport. It'll be seen by those who live in Point Loma, Coronado, downtown and those who come to the bay," he said. "It's centered in a spot that really has an opportunity to capture the heart of San Diego."

He said the structure is a loose interpretation of sails to symbolize San Diego as a home for sailing, but that the structure could be interpreted in many ways.

"The idea is coming up with something that could be expressed as a sail but doesn't just represent sailing. It could be aviation. Aviation is also something that San Diego is known for," he said. "It can be something that is interpreted in a different way by whoever is looking at it."

The individual interpretation of the structure was precisely the source of mixed reviews that incited debate at the November meeting.

One woman at the meeting interpreted the structure as "Playboy bunny ears" and said the structure would be the laughing-stock of the city. Another said the structure is a "monstrosity" that belongs in a science fiction movie.

Others were more receptive, calling the structure "fantastic," a potential

money-maker for the city and a structure that may not be appreciated now, but will be long into the future.

Another concern brought up at the meeting was that the structure would block the view of the bay and dwarf the already iconic Midway Museum and perhaps even San Diego itself.

Mueller said the sails would be separated so as not to impede the view, but said he would consider a suggestion to change material to a reflective glass that is transparent on one side.

"They are parallel with the ship, so you can look between them," he said.

"You can see the bay at an elevated level that is not currently available to anyone."

One resident at the meeting said the structure wouldn't block the view. It would be the view — the focal point of the city that people will be proud of in years to come.

McLaughlin said he and the board at the USS Midway Museum are taking all of the public's concerns and suggestions seriously.

"We have a responsibility to do something that San Diego is proud of. I'm taking all of this in personally, and I know the architectural partners are," he said.

"This is a grand plan, and this is a great rollout to begin the conversation with. I want to hear more. This is not Tucker Sadler's plan and this is not the San Diego Symphony's plan. This has got to be San Diego's plan, and not everybody's going to agree with it, but we're taking this input very seriously."

One more public meeting will take place before the Midway board presents its plan to the San Diego Unified Port District on Jan. 10. The next meeting will take place at the Port of San Diego, located at 3165 Pacific Highway, on Dec. 10 at 9 a.m.

BARNARD

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the brink of bankruptcy with a possible \$100 million deficit, presented a plan to close 14 schools citywide in an effort to save \$500,000 per school annually. The plan included moving the Mandarin language-emersion program to Dana Middle School and eliminating the 5-6 configuration at Dana.

But the Point Loma community and its cluster foundation rejected the recommendation, even though in 2006 the cluster recruited the program as part of its strategic plan.

Phil Stover, deputy superintendent of business for the district, told the board

the Mandarin program at Barnard got "caught up in the stress and tension of the Point Loma Cluster realignment. Folks didn't want to lose (Dana) as a neighborhood school."

As a result, he said, the program felt that it wasn't being embraced by the Point Loma community.

"The Barnard community has requested a new, larger site closer to the interstate," Stover told the board. "They have a vision to draw students from Poway and even Orange County. The group is very entrepreneurial and willing to get grants."

The Board of Education is set to decide on the closure plan and a proclamation for the Mandarin Chinese language program at its Dec. 13 meeting.



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Announcements, photos and story ideas are welcomed. We ask that content be sent at least one week prior to publication and include valid contact information.

OPINIONS

The opinions expressed on the Opinion Page do not necessarily reflect those of this paper or the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. To submit a signed letter or guest column, please e-mail the respective publication's editor (at right) or send to 4645 Cass Street, San Diego, CA, 92109. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, brevity and liability.

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INFORMATION

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Holiday beach spirit

PHOTOS BY PAUL HANSEN | THE BEACON



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CHECK THE DRUG LIST: Medication errors are a frequent cause of readmissions. Make sure your family member knows when and how to take new pills.

MAKE A DISCHARGE PLAN: Most hospitals provide a discharge plan in writing, but it may not be complete and it may be difficult to understand. Make your own plan that will be a guide for the patient, the caregiver and other doctors.

CONTACT THE PRIMARY DOCTOR: Request the discharge planner or hospital MD contact the patient's primary care physician to be followed up or you should do it yourself.

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Once-popular Blitz Brothers are reunited

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

One of San Diego's most popular rock bands during the late 1970s and early 1980s, The Blitz Brothers have reunited. Fronted by guitarist Richard "Blitz" Livoni, with drummer Dickie Dodd and bassist Barney Roach replacing original member Danny Jamison, the trio performs at Humphrey's Backstage Lounge on Dec. 9.

The band has a serious pedigree. Roach is a well-known writer and promoter of the blues. Dodd is a former Mouseketeer and is an original member of the 1960s surf legends The Bel Airs, who scored a hit with "Mr. Moto" (1961). He was also the lead singer of garage icons The Standells, who recorded the classic "Dirty Water" (1966). Rounding out the lineup, Livoni, the band's frontman, is considered one of the top music producers in San Diego. Owner of Blitz Recording Studios, he has a diverse list of credits to his name, including collaboration with rhythm and blues icon Ike Turner, jazz legend Barney Kessel and punk heroes The Zeros.

The Blitz Brothers' original heyday was essentially 1973 to 1986, starting out in Orange County before relocating to San Diego. The band was hugely popular, with headline gigs and opening spots for artists like Slade (Civic Center, 1976) and Joan Jett (San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, 1982). 1983 was a peak year, with the Blitz Brothers' song "You'll Be Sorry" included on 101.5 KGB-FM's "Homegrown" compilation album.

Following the band's split, Livoni played sporadic shows with a number of groups. However, nothing has quite matched the excitement the Blitz Brothers can deliver, though there was no particular trigger for the reunion.



Blitz Brothers guitarist Richard Livoni.
Courtesy photo by Stella Livoni

"I just got to a point where I wanted to go back out and hit it again," Livoni said. "My friend, Barney, had been bugging me to do something and he would bring me to the blues festivals, where I would play as the Richard Blitz Band. That went over really good. Then he would hire me to play every six months or so at a couple of different blues shows," Livoni said.

The audience response was such that Livoni began to put together a new band.

"We started auditioning drummers," he said. "We went through seven or eight pretty great drummers, but nothing was quite feeling right. Then I had a dream about Dickie Dodd."

Contacting him the next day, the two quickly agreed to play on each other's projects. Livoni said he was pleased from the first rehearsal.

"It fit like a glove. It just clicked," he said.

For now, Livoni is looking to have the band perform once a month or so.

He said not much has changed since the Blitz Brothers roamed the Southland's stages.

"I can't sing as high," he laughed. "(Other than that), it's pretty much the same, only it's a little more bluesy show now than what we did in the late period of the band. That was a little more rock 'n' roll."

Livoni continues with other projects, including the recent release of "Strikes Again" from another of his groups, Sons of Edison. However, he said he's happy to have the Blitz Brothers back in action. While he doesn't have a preference, Livoni notes there are differences between his work and his band life.

"I love my job," he said, "(But) I think it's easier to play live than make a record. (Studio recording is) a lot more studious, nose-to-the-grindstone stuff. You're sitting at a computer."

He said he's pleased with the response to the band's pair of shows to date.

"It's definitely fun to get out and play again," Livoni said. "It kind of gets you back to what got it all started. You're just looking to give people some goose bumps. For me, that hour (onstage) goes by in ten seconds. It's so intense, it's a blur."

• **The Blitz Brothers** perform at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 at **Humphrey's Backstage Lounge**, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. \$15. 21 and up. For more information, visit www.humphreysbackstagealive.com



Dr. Joseph Allen of Point Loma, right, was selected as a team physician for USA Rugby and traveled to Australia for a rugby sevens tournament last month. At left is Dennis Green, the team's head athletic trainer. Ian Tattsall, middle, was the liaison for the host Australian team.

Courtesy photo

Pt. Loma doctor named team physician for hungry U.S.A. rugby sevens squad

By SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON

A Point Loma physician and artist was recently selected as a team doctor for the United States team in a sport that will make its first Olympic appearance at the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dr. Joseph Allen, who has an office on West Point Loma Boulevard, was screened and certified by the U.S. Olympic Committee before flying to Australia for a tournament of rugby sevens, also referred to as rugby 7s.

Using only seven players compared to the usual 15, rugby 7s is played on the same size field. Games pass quickly, as there are two halves of only seven minutes each, with a one-minute halftime.

"It's a much faster game," Allen said, "very athletic and higher-scoring. I saw many fans dressed in costumes having a really great time and making the event a true spectacle."

The Australia event was the first in a series of stops on the HSBC (Bank) Sevens World Series Tour. There were 16 teams entered in the tournament, with points given for overall performance accumulated toward the HSBC Sevens World Series trophy.

One of the tour stops will be to Las Vegas from Feb. 10-12. Other tournaments will be held in Dubai, South Africa, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Scotland and England.

The U.S. team is in residence and training at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista under head coach Al Caravelli.

"This experience was a total blast," Allen said. "Long days, but a really great experience. The Olympics in Rio is my ultimate goal."

Allen maintains a website of his artwork at www.joesworkshop.com.

For more information, visit www.irb-sevens.com.

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Pointers can't break Cathedral's CIF spell, fall for 5th straight time to Dons

By **SCOTT HOPKINS** | THE BEACON

Before the Dec. 1 CIF semifinal football game at Cathedral Catholic, members of the Point Loma High School team were unusually fired up, shouting encouragement and slapping each other's pads during pre-game warmups.

Three hours later, in a scene that has become all too familiar, the same players stood in stunned silence in their dressing room, having fallen short of their goal.

Some fought back tears. Others, tears streaming down their young faces, cried quietly. And many, unable to suppress their emotions, wept uncontrollably.

A couple players did not remove any of their uniforms, but sat quietly in a remote area of the locker room, heads bowed, hands shielding their eyes, where they remained until teammates came to console them.

Several minutes earlier, Cathedral's Manchester Stadium scoreboard had displayed numbers that told the evening's heart-wrenching story: Cathedral 24, Point Loma 0.

With the defeat, the Pointers ended their season with a record of 8-3-1 and a share of the Western League championship with Madison.

Cathedral went on to play in the CIF Division III championship game Dec. 12 at Qualcomm Stadium, mounting yet another shutout with a convincing 41-0 win against South Bay's Olympian.

Perhaps most frustrating for Pointer players was their inability to score on



Pointer running back Jamal Agnew (No. 35) is unable to hang on to a pass from quarterback Branden Martin as the Pointers fell to Cathedral Catholic in CIF semifinal action Dec. 1.

Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

the Dons' defense, something that has not happened in recent years.

"It was one of those nights where it seemed we couldn't get started," said Pointer head coach Mike Hastings as his squad began the long walk to their team buses. "It was frustrating, really, because I thought we had a great week of practice. The preparation was really good. The (assistant) coaches did a great job getting the kids ready and I thought the kids were ready, too."

Defensively, that was primarily true.

The Pointers forced numerous punts in the early stages of the game before Dons quarterback Garrett Bogart found 6-foot-3-inch wide receiver Brian Heinz behind a Pointer defender and his perfect 25-yard throw gave the hosts a 7-0 lead shortly before the end of the first quarter.

Shortly before halftime, Bogart spotted Andrew Pascale in the clear and a 40-yard touchdown gave Cathedral a 14-0 lead at the break.

The final Cathedral six-pointer came with just over 10 minutes to play, after Bogart hooked up with JJ Stavola.

Bogart totaled 233 yards on 14 completions in 26 attempts. Many times, Pointer defenders Ikeem Wright, Jake Wambaugh, Steven Arreola and others were just reaching Bogart before he released the ball.

On offense, the Dogs were repeatedly frustrated by Cathedral defenders during the rare shutout.

Despite the end result, the Pointers posted an excellent record and enjoyed a highly successful season.

"Tip your hat to Cathedral," Hastings said. "They did a good job tonight. But we're proud of our kids. They played a great season, were Western League champs and have nothing to be ashamed of."

Three Pointers earned varsity roster spots as freshmen, playing four years on the top squad. They include Ruben Diaz, Eric Bueno and Kevin Desta.

Pointer seniors who played their last game included Aaron Watkins, Edmond Tucker, Matt Magers, Mohsen Gharrah, Morris Mathews, Tevin Heyward, Felipe Soares, Jaivon Griffin, Zalyn Bullard, Ikeem Wright, André Montano, Pablo Borjon, Jon Denae Bailey, Chris Schoenherr, Mike Lombardi, Roman Howard, Michael Solia and Nick Lilya.

BITS 'N' BITES

• The Dons have now prevented the Pointers from raising a CIF championship football banner for five straight years. Twice, in 2007 and 2009, the Dons defeated the Dogs in Qualcomm in the final game. In three other seasons (2008, 2010 and 2011) Cathedral eliminated the Pointers during semifinal rounds.

• Going into their championship game earlier this week, the Dons have won four consecutive CIF titles. Only Ocean-



A dejected Pointers player sits in front of the lockers after his team's CIF championship dreams were ended once again by Cathedral Catholic on Dec. 1.

Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

side (seven) has more.

• Cathedral's varsity roster numbers 64 players, while the Pointers list 48. The Dons also field multiple freshman teams. As a private school, Cathedral is allowed to bring students to its athletic teams from all over San Diego County. A committee formed by new CIF Commissioner Jerry Schniepp is looking at ways to balance this advantage. Many have urged private schools to play in larger-enrollment divisions, to play in separate divisions or even eliminate all regulations governing student residence and attendance.

• The other Cathedral points came as a result of their scoreboard clock operator just before intermission. After the clock stopped with seven seconds remaining, the Dons attempted a pass

play in which Bogart scrambled, looking for a target for some time before throwing the ball away in the end zone. The clock, which should have expired during the play, instead read 0.2 seconds. The Dons kicked a 32-yard field goal before the teams trotted to their lockers. Since it did not affect the outcome, Pointer fans chuckled at the gift.

• Hastings will welcome 27 varsity players back when spring drills begin. The Pointers' new weight room, located west of the Pete Ross Stadium seats, should be completed in time for next season's workouts.

• The last time the Pointers were shut out was in a 35-0 pasting by — you guessed it — Cathedral in November 2004.



One highlight for the Pointers in their 24-0 loss at Cathedral last week in CIF playoff action came when Ikeem Wright (No. 33) blocked a Dons' punt attempt. Photo by Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

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Coinciding with Pearl Harbor's 70th anniversary, exhibit opens on local life during WWII

By **MARIKO LAMB** | THE BEACON

The La Jolla Historical Society has readied an exhibit that has never been done before — one centered specifically on the effects of World War II on north Pacific Beach residents and La Jollans — casting light on local life during the 1940s.

The exhibit includes an enlightening component surrounding what was then dubbed the Naval Anti-Aircraft Training Center Pacific Beach — or Bird Rock, “depending on who you ask.”

Archivist and curator Mike Mishler and his volunteer staff diligently uncovered little-known facts about local residents during the war for a one-of-a-kind exhibit titled “Homefront La Jolla,” showcasing previously undocumented biographies, photos and war artifacts, which opened for display at Wisteria Cottage on Dec. 7 — the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor — and continuing through Memorial Day.

Although the idea of a World War II exhibit had bounced around the historical society's staff for several years, Mishler nailed down the concept two years ago when he stumbled upon the footlocker of Robert Larimer, a World War II veteran from La Jolla.

He knew if there was a perfect time for the exhibit, it was now.

“We're at the point now where it's the 70th anniversary for Pearl Harbor and it's almost impossible to get [interviews with] the people who were there,” said Mishler.

Additionally, research for the exhibit fills a gap in the historical society's archives.

“We have a really good collection from the founding of La Jolla through the 1930s,” he said. “All the stuff we've lived through we don't really think of as history. Now, we're able to add to the war



Iller's department store is pictured on the corner of Girard Avenue and Wall Street in La Jolla in 1943. The store is shown with sand bags and camouflage netting — a reminder to La Jollans to buy war bonds.
Photo courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

periods and the years after the war.”

The only trick was telling the story of World War II in a way that has never been told before.

“There are tons of histories on WWII — and there are a few on the homefront experience — but not one for La Jolla,” he said. “We tried to find a mix of people with different perspectives. We didn't just want to get the story of the soldiers, although that's an important part. We wanted to know what it was like to be a woman in La Jolla in the 1940s, what it was like to be a young mother whose husband was overseas.”

Volunteers for the society's Oral History Program set off on the arduous task of identifying people who lived in La Jolla during those years. The volunteers found more than 20 people, but that was just the first step in an abundance of research that was to be conducted over the course of the year.

To help with the daunting task, Mishler enlisted the aid of local high school students to conduct interviews with peo-

ple who lived in La Jolla during World War II.

“It's been fun because the students ask questions you wouldn't normally think of. They have a very different perspective,” he said. “They asked a lot of questions about high school — what was school like, what did they do for fun, things like that.”

Students also asked what people were doing when they heard about the Pearl Harbor attack, what kind of music they listened to, whether Hispanics or blacks felt marginalized in La Jolla at that time and whether or not they knew any Japanese who were taken away to internment camps.

In one particular interview, La Jolla High School student Ana Olevsky interviewed World War II veteran Don Schutte, who was taken as a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.

During the interview, Schutte showed her his collection of writings and pamphlets from the war — one of which was



Don Schutte, at left, and his family pose for a photo before World War II. Schutte said he carried the photo in his wallet during his time in the Army and as a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. Schutte's father was the head of the USO in La Jolla.
Photo courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

written entirely in Russian. Although he saved it for all this time, he had never been able to translate it — but Olevsky could.

For the first time, Schutte was able to understand the words on the pamphlet that he had held on to for so long, making the interview well worth it for both parties.

In addition to profiling the experience of veterans like Schutte, the exhibit will feature documents, histories and artifacts that illustrate the lives of La Jolla residents and workers, the Japanese who were sent to internment camps and La Jolla's contribution to the war effort.

One such homefront contribution that will be showcased is a display of shell casings from a well-known — but little-documented — military base locally.

Locals often talk about Camp Callan, Camp Matthews and the bunkers at Mount Soledad, but they rarely speak about the base that was loosely dubbed the Naval Anti-Aircraft Training Center Pacific Beach.

Even the newspapers — which were mum on the subject until the site was about to close in 1945 — referred to the base as being in Bird Rock one day and in Pacific Beach the next.

“I thought someone was pulling my leg,” Mishler said when he heard about the base. “When you try to find anything about it, you only get stories from people who know about it.”

Mishler discovered that the base had served as a naval training center site where sailors would take a six-day course on anti-aircraft artillery.

“People talked about the guns going off constantly and the houses getting cracks in them,” he said. “It was only open from 1942 to 1945, but they trained about 300,000 sailors to shoot down aircraft during the course of the war.”

Many more previously unexplained facts about La Jolla during the war will be unveiled in “Homefront La Jolla,” at 780 Prospect St. For more information, call (858) 459-5335 or visit www.lajollahistory.org.

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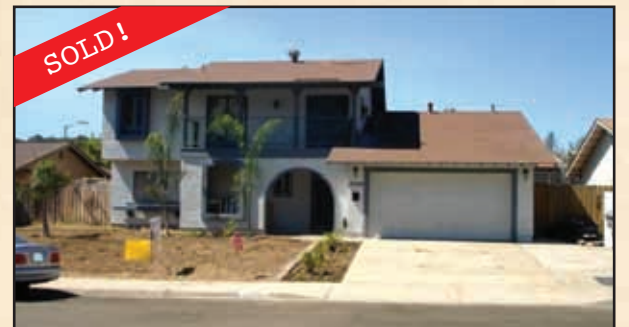
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Experts Say: Start planning for it 60 to 90 days before you sell. Point Loma (CA) – A recent interview with Jeffrey Middaugh of Coldwell Banker, revealed several helpful tips for anyone who is thinking of selling their Point Loma or Ocean Beach home.

"Most owners think their homes will sell quickly. Everyone thinks that their home is special and will bring top dollar fast. In fact a lot of all 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 – Fast!** This report details several specific ways to prepare your house for sale and how to make your house irresistible to buyers. Jeffrey says the 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 – Fast!** just call 888-611-8015, ext. 38 for a free recorded message. There's no cost or obligation and your report will be mailed today!

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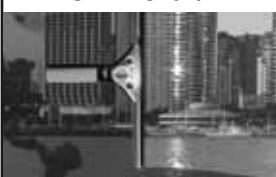
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Looking ahead

Upcoming events in the Peninsula area, Dec. 9-Dec. 24

FRIDAY, Dec. 9

• The **Peninsula Singers** will present their **annual Holiday Concert** at 7 p.m. at The North Chapel at Liberty Station in Point Loma, located at 2881 Roosevelt Road. The popular songfest will feature familiar holiday favorites and selections and solos from Handel’s “Messiah.” Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door. For more information, call (858) 922-9823.

• The **Rock Academy’s elementary students** will present a Christmas program, “**Bethlehem or Bust,**” about a camel and his friends as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. The program takes place at 6 p.m. in the Rock Church and Academy Sanctuary, located at 2277 Rosecrans St. Admission is free. For more information, email autumn.cropp@therockacade-my.org.

SATURDAYS, Dec. 10, 17 and 24

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** hosts **weekly OB Craft Fairs** at Veterans Plaza for all your holiday shopping. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

Dec. 13, 15 and 16

The **Ocean Beach Town Council** brings it home for the holidays with its **annual community Food and Toy Drive** for local disadvantaged families. Volunteers are needed to help with wrapping and sorting of donated items (be on the lookout for the Christmas donation cans around Ocean Beach) during this three-day period from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Point Loma United Methodist Church, located at 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit www.obtowncouncil.org.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14

• **Point Loma Garden Club** holds its annual **Holiday Tea and Bazaar** at 10 a.m. Available will be specialty holiday fresh and dried decorations, crafts, and home-made delectables, all created by Point Loma Garden Club members for sale. Visitors can find the perfect table centerpieces, wreaths and swags for the home and special gifts for hostesses, friends and family while enjoying refreshments. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. The event is free and takes place at the United Portuguese S.E.S Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. For more information, visit www.plgc.org.

• The **Peninsula Singers** appear at the Hervey/Point Loma Branch Library to perform selections from **Handel’s “Messiah”** and other favorites to celebrate the holidays and the season. The performance takes place at 7 p.m. at the library, 3701 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 531-1539

December 16, 17, 18

“A Christmas Tabernacle” lights up Liberty Station in Point Loma with two stages of entertainment, featuring “The Nutcracker,” It’s a Wonderful Life” and local bands. The event also includes horse-and-carriage rides, photos with Santa, live reindeer, caroling, inflatable, a model-train display, a shopping village and more. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Tickets: \$18 for general admission; \$15 for seniors and active-duty military; and \$12 for children ages 4-12. For tickets and information, visit www.christmastabernacle.com

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Volunteers will **deliver goods from the Ocean Beach Town Council’s annual community Food and Toy Drive** to seniors and families from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (619) 515-4400, (619) 846-6269, or visit

www.obtowncouncil.org.

THROUGH Dec. 17

Dog Beach Dog Wash will host a **food and toy drive for pets in need**. The dog wash is accepting new, unopened toys and food for San Diego’s shelter pets. The dropoff runs daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the dog wash, located at 4933 Voltaire St. For more information, call (619) 523-1700.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18

The **Musica Vitale chorus**, directed by

Elena Vizuet, will present a 4 p.m. **program of music of the season**, assisted by organists Hollace Jones and Geoffrey Graham. A donation of \$5 is requested at the door and no reservations necessary. A complimentary reception follows the performance at All Souls’ Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd. For more information, call (619) 223-6394, ext. 13, or email musicon-the.concerts@gmail.com

SATURDAY, Dec. 24

Second Chances Bread of Life ministry,

in conjunction with churches of Ocean Beach and San Diego Food Bank/Feeding America San Diego, will host a **free Christmas Eve pancake and chili breakfast** 8 a.m. at the Episcopal Church at 2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Second Chances is in need of a working refrigerator and freezer. For information or to drop off a refrigerator, call (619) 886-4275.

SUNDAYS

The **Oasis Christian Fellowship of Ocean Beach** will begin services at the new location in the Episcopal Church Center, 2083

Sunset Cliffs Blvd. every Sunday at 9 a.m. with Pastor Terry. The **Christmas Eve service will be Dec. 24** from 5 to 6 p.m. at the church. For more information, visit www.edsd.org/ecc.

SUNDAY, Jan. 22

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

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