City Council votes to ban motorized vehicles from boardwalks

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

On Monday, Dec. 16, City Council voted 5-4 to prohibit motorized vehicles, including electric scooters, on Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla Shores boardwalks, as well as Mission Bay Park bay-side path.

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry of District 1, was joined by colleagues Dr. Jennifer Campbell of District 2, Monica Montgomery of District 4, Mark Kersey of District 5 and Vivian Moreno of District 8 in voting for a boardwalk ban.

Dissenting City Council members were Scott Sherman of District 7, Council President Georgette Gomez of District 9, Chris Ward of District 3 and Chris Cate of District 6.

Previously in 2018, the City Council voted 6-3 against a scooter ban on boardwalks.

“There are no crosswalks or safe places for pedestrians to cross on the boardwalk with the motor vehicles.”

MATT GARDNER, MISSION BEACH TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Scooter riders on the boardwalk in Mission Beach.
PB Town Council wants curfew for Fanuel ‘felony’ Park

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

B y With some labeling being ‘felony park,’ Pacific Beach Town Council has launched a petition drive, netting 500-plus signatures, while appealing to the Mission Bay Park Committee to institute a curfew at Fanuel Park.

“Fanuel Park, aka ‘felony park,’ is a total problem area and has become a magnet for crime, much of it happening during the nighttime hours,” said Pacific Beach Town Council president Brian White. “Due to rampant illegal activity being observed by residents, the PB community is seeking a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew for Fanuel Street Park.”

Added White: “This park is a hot spot for criminal activity including open drug dealing, intravenous drug usage and chop shops for stolen bike disassembly. Needles have been found in and around the bathrooms, and in the grass where children play, which is an unacceptable situation for park-goers and nearby residents.”

The park, at the south end of Fanuel Street on Mission Bay, features a children’s playground, grass field and public restrooms. It’s a popular area for dog walkers and parents bringing their kids to play on the dolphin sculptures and rocking animals off the Mission Bay Park path.

White presented the council’s Fanuel Park curfew proposal to the Mission Bay Park Committee in December.

“The Mission Bay Park Committee approved a motion to support a nighttime curfew at Fanuel Park Dec. 3,” said City spokesperson Jennifer McBride. “The motion will now go to the City Council for approval to amend the City’s Municipal Code.

“Coastal Commission approval is also required,” McBride added. If the curfew drive is successful, Fanuel would join some 20 other City parks with nighttime curfews. That list includes Belmont Park in Mission Beach, Coast Boulevard south of the Wedding Bowl in La Jolla, Diamond Street in Pacific Beach, Fiesta Island (no vehicles from 10 p.m.-4 a.m.) and Bahia Point and Fanuel Street parking lots.

“Over the past several years, our residents have seen an increase in gang activity, drug dealing, drug use and discarded needles, litter, vandalism and prostitution happening in the park and surrounding area of our neighborhood,” wrote Robert Critrano, president of Bay Scene Owners Association, in a letter supporting the Fanuel curfew. “The well being and safety of our more than 100 residents is our top priority.”

Pacific Beach Woman’s Club concurred.

“Many of our club members, friends, and relatives living near Fanuel Park have noted many illegal and unsafe activities,” wrote Pam Egan. PBWC president in a support letter. “Our understanding is curfews are not targeted toward homeless people who use the parks, but rather towards criminals. We agree with this use of the curfews.”

In 2019, crime mapping statistics compiled by San Diego Police Department showed 36 alcohol/drug incidents reported in or near Fanuel Park. Those statistics included one assault with a deadly weapon, eight burglaries, eight-car thefts, 13 thefts/larcenies, four prostitution arrests, five vandalisms, three batteries, and 14 vehicle break-ins.

“Something needs to be done because the current state of affairs at Fanuel Park is an atrocious condition,” said White. “We believe a curfew at this park would be an added enforcement tool for our San Diego Police Department Northern Division officers to keep Fanuel Park and the surrounding area safer for all.”

The park, at the south end of Fanuel Street on Mission Bay, features a children’s playground, grass field and public restrooms.

Charles William Bradshaw, Jr. “Bill” May 18, 1931 ~ December 19, 2019

Charles William (Bill) Bradshaw, Jr., passed away peacefully at his home in Mission Beach on December 19, 2019; he was 88.

Bill was born in Hollywood, CA on May 18, 1931, grew up in Manhattan Beach, CA, and attended Redondo Union High School. He was a lifelong surfer beginning in the early 1940’s and was a founding member of the San Onofre Surfing Club. 1952 was a significant year in his life as he graduated from UCLA, married the love of his life, Peggy Sights, and began service in the US Air Force.

After his military service, Bill earned an MBA from USC and began a 30 year career in Human Resource Management/Labor relations in the aerospace industry working for Hughes Aircraft Company, retiring in 1988 as Director of Human Resources.

His retirement in Mission Beach has been an active one. He traveled extensively throughout the world with his wife Peggy, took up fishing and made regular trips to Baja hunting big game fish. He was actively involved in the Mission Beach community spearheading the widening of the Boardwalk and getting liquor out of our local beaches. He served as Captain of the Northern Division of RSVP and as a member of their Board of Directors.

Bill was an outspoken voice of the beach community writing hundreds of letters, testifying at council meetings, volunteering for numerous candidates, helping with the initiation of a Neighborhood Watch Program and encouraging the establishment of a beach recyling program.

Bill was survived by his wife of sixty-seven years, Peggy Bradshaw; son Timothy, wife Gayle (Jake) Bradshaw; and daughter Carly Garson-Vargas; daughter Laura Pojo, husband Robert Pokorny, and daughter Claire Pokorny; and beloved in-laws Robert and Judy Sights.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, February 1st at 2pm at the Mission Beach Women’s Club at 840 Santa Clara Place.
863 Agate #3
Great 3 bedroom 2.5 bath, approximately 1,449 square feet condo with Horizon Ocean View in La Jolla school district. Kitchen and baths completely remodeled in 2012. Two side-by-side garage parking spaces with storage and a large private patio. $839,000
Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
marianne@ilovepb.net
DRE# 01236825

3089 Cowley Way #32
This 2-story condo in Clairemont could be the perfect starter home and features 2 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms, 987 sq. ft., and a spacious, private balcony with sweeping canyon views. This home is in pristine condition, and its amenities include a community pool, an exclusive washer/dryer, and an assigned carport parking space. Call NOW to schedule your private tour.

4092 Crown Point Dr. #5
JUST LISTED
1 BD | 1 BA | 88 sq. ft. | Asking price of $479,000
This second-level condo is located across from the Wildlife Preserve and features gorgeous bay views from multiple rooms! Enjoy beautiful sunrises and views of downtown right from your exclusive balcony. Take a stroll down to the bay or ride your bike to Crown Point restaurants and coffee shops. Call NOW to schedule your private tour.

1885 Diamond St. #112
COMING SOON
1 BD | 1 BA | 653 sq. ft. | $299,000
This ground-floor unit in Court II is in original vintage condition, has a spacious patio, includes one assigned parking space and is the perfect blank slate for an investor or first-time homebuyer to make it their own. This one is priced to sell at $299,000 and has upside potential, so call NOW for more information before it’s too late!

4905 Chateau Drive, #2117
$507,000
Beautifully updated townhome in North Clairemont, central to everything. The freshly painted kitchen has gorgeous granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. The living and dining areas are spacious and filled with natural light, a gas fireplace, gleaming floors, and sliding doors to the front and back private patios for optimal indoor/outdoor living. The large master bedroom and both have vaulted ceilings and a private balcony. The huge two-level pool and spa are just steps away from your front door. Spacious two-car attached garage which has plenty of room for a full-size washer/dryer, extra storage, and epoxy floors!

4441 Mount Everest Blvd, #2117
4 bedroom 3 bath Tuscan Inspired home located on the coveted “Mount Streets”!!! This home boasts 3 bedrooms 2 baths on the main level, a birds nest master with en-suite bathroom and balcony on the 2nd level, stamped concrete driveway, large backyard for entertaining, granite kitchen, tiled bathrooms, travertine tile floors throughout, and AC! Located in one of the best pocket neighborhoods of Clairemont, walking distance to all!!!

12033 Alta Carmel Court #248, 92128
$307,000
Welcome home to PEACEFULNESS. If you’re looking for top floor, serene, private, affordable, pet friendly to restaurants, shopping and schools, look no further! This unit has AC, full size washer/dryer, crown molding, a private porch overlooking the greenbelt, stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. The complex has 2 pools, tennis, basketball, racquetball, clubhouse, gym, easy freeway access and low HOA fees. Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity to become a San Diego homeowner!

863 Agate #3
858.488.4090 | 4090 Mission Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92109
Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service, and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. ©2017 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. All rights reserved. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.
YEAR IN REVIEW – Scooters, dog parks, vehicle habitation, Plunge re-opens, Margaritaville coming, and more scooters

Last year, residents were pleased by the City’s decision to approve a more dog-friendly redevelopment option for Fiesta Island, as well as endorsing a ban on electric scooters on the boardwalk for Pacific and Mission beaches. What to do about short-term vacation rentals continued however to be a vexing problem with no easy solution approaching 2020.

January

• Dozens participate in Saska’s annual Polar Plunge run to the ocean on New Year’s Day morning in Mission Beach.
• “The biggest thing I want to change is the spirit of the town council. There has been quite a bit of drama this past year, and I want to make things better,” said new Mission Beach Town Council president Matt Gardner, a beach rental business owner.
• As of Jan. 1 new state laws: made surfing California’s official state sport; required dogs, cats, and rabbits sold in pet stores to be obtained only from animal shelters or rescue groups; required kids meals in most restaurants to have a milk- or water-based beverage as the default choice; and added a new law mandating repeat DUI offenders and some others to install a breathalyzer on their engine ignition for 12 to 48 months.
• Dog owners were elated as Mission Bay Park Committee Jan. 8 overwhelmingly selected the option they favored for reconfiguring the dog park on 470-acre Fiesta Island.
• BBP asked local psychics to look ahead and what they foresaw was Trump’s re-election, a change in world outlook and future problems with technological overload.
• City Planning Commission voted 6-0 in favor of the option which called for dividing the dog park at Crown Point.
• Pacific Beach Town Council ended their tenure.

February

• Love at first bite: BBP did a feature on best places along the oceanfront to grab a slice for national pizza day.
• Jim and Melanie Woods of Crown Point launched a petition on change.org that netted nearly 1,500 signatures the first week requesting more off-leash options for their dogs.
• Local environmentalist Karin Zirk of Friends of Rose Creek conducted a media tour of the waterway pointing out it isn’t getting the attention it deserves advocating for more City help in maintaining and cleaning up the creek and picking up trash.
• Charley Kausen and Natalie Sollock of PB voluntarily began picking up trash in the community while urging others to follow suit. The pair were providing 515 “loans” of branded buckets and trash grabbers for community clean-ups.

March

• Bill Walby, longtime manager at PB Hardware & Nails, retired after 23 years and was given a proper send-off on March 2.
• Pacific Beach Planning Group opposed allowing vehicle habitation.
• After two-plus years of service, beautifying the community, Pacific Beach Street Guardians closed down operations.
• The City said it would include a pedestrian-bicycle bridge in plans for the new Balboa Avenue Transit Station, though there was as yet no funding for it.
• On March 14 the City announced a major expansion of its pothole repair program to fill thousands of potholes that developed during heavy seasonal rains.
• A ban on styrofoam, a non-biodegradable plastic product, went into effect.
• Local environmentalists endorsing a San Diego Green New Deal to develop a regional vision to fight climate change and build economic sustainability.

April

• Pacific Beach Town Council began pursuing a new off-leash dog park at Crown Point.
• At a March 25 press conference, Mayor Faulconer unveiled plans for a new ordinance once again making vehicle habitation illegal.
• BBP ran a feature on top beachfront spots to grab a tasty burrito.
• On April 11 the City Planning Commission voted 6-0 in favor of Option A, the non-dog friendly option which called for dividing Fiesta Island with a road and reducing access for off-leash dog park users.

Improperly parked scooters.

See YEAR IN REVIEW, Page 5
Pacific Beach residents surveyed are largely skeptical that the City’s recent trade-off in reducing parking requirements to make it cheaper to build new affordable housing will work.

Some PB residents voiced their displeasure publicly following an 8-1 City Council vote to reduce parking requirements to a zero minimum at new multifamily residential developments within transit priority areas (TPAs).

A well-attended public protest sponsored by Mission Beach Town Council was held on the boardwalk days before a full City Council hearing on new scooter regulations.

The City Council voted unanimously in favor of new regulations for electric scooters and other shared-mobility devices instituting fees for operators, decreasing allowed speeds and designating where they can park.

Broken Yolk, which serves up Baja breakfast tacos, celebrated 40 years of eggcellent food and service.

The City asked the public to weigh-in on two initial concepts for new way-finding signs replacing the 30-year-old signs directing visitors to marinas, beaches, streets, boat launches and attractions throughout Mission Bay Park.

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• PB Middle School student and avid surfer Adrian Scavone raised the $4,000 needed through GoFundMe to have a state-of-the-art Flowater refill station installed on the school’s campus at 4674 Ingraham St.

• The City Council voted 6-3 to draft a new ordinance making vehicle habitation illegal once again in residential areas and near schools.

• The former Mission Beach Elementary School building on Mission Boulevard, vacant since 2013, was torn down to make way for 59 homesites spanning condominiums, townhomes and one single-family detached home.

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**YEAR IN REVIEW**

CONT. FROM PG. 5

**JUNE**

- The Association of National Olympic Committees announced it was moving the inaugural World Beach Games from San Diego and was looking for other cities to host the event.

- Campland and environmentalists debated a Campland proposal to be granted a short-term lease to do clean-up and asbestos removal at the long-abandoned De Anza RV area. Campland claimed it was a win-win. Environmentalists contested it was a land grab delaying wetlands restoration.

- City planners returned with a refined visionary plan to make public park and street space along Mission Boulevard more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly at a workshop.

- The San Diego City Council voted 6-3 June 24 to grant Campland on the Bay’s request for a five-year lease extension by the City to clean-up and do asbestos removal at the now-abandoned De Anza Cove mobile home park.

- Audience members practical-ly howled after San Diego City Council voted unanimously June 17 for the more dog-friendly of two options offered for redeveloping Fiesta Island.

- Rose Marie Renna of Pacific Beach celebrated turning 100 years old and living in PB.

**JULY**

- More than a dozen local kids splashed into the new Plunge pool in Belmont Park on July 3 to com-memorate its opening at a cere-mony presided over by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer.

**AUGUST**

- Momentum continued to build against electric scooters, as District 1 Councilmember Barbara Bry called for a moratorium on them, while a PB resident initiated an online petition drive to ban them netting more than 300 sig-natures in 48 hours.

- On Aug. 1 San Diego City Council unanimously passed a specific plan calling for greater housing density and multi-modal connectivity for the new Balboa Avenue Trolley Station but stopped short of dedicating Rose Creek as public parkland as a con-dition of project approval.

- On Aug. 15 aspiring teen lifeguards learned what it’s like to actually work in the field, being schooled by Junior Lifeguard in-terns at Mission Beach on first-aid and water-rescue techniques. Several local surfers and shapers were among legends of the sport inducted Aug. 11 into the San Diego Surfing Hall of Fame.

**SEPTEMBER**

- The Securities and Exchange Commission filed charges and obtained a consented-to asset freeze against San Diego-based ANI Development LLC, its prin-cipal, beach entrepreneur Gina Champion-Cain, and a relief

> The former Mission Beach Elementary School building was razed to make way for condominiums.

> The new Plunge pool at Belmont Park opened in July.

> The City Council approved Campland on the Bay’s request to clear-up and remove asbestos at the now-abandoned De Anza Cove mobile home park.

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defendant, for allegedly operating a multi-year $300 million scheme that defrauded approximately 50 retail investors.

AUDIT

A roundabout at Pacific Beach Drive is just one improvement envisioned by a new City active transportation plan to make Mission Boulevard more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly between PB Drive and Diamond Street proposed a new roundabout at Pacific Beach Drive.

After 65 years in business, the Pernicano family announced it would close its iconic north PB Pizzeria.

SD Taproom was lord of the wings champ in the annual chicken wings competition sponsored by Discover PB.

The City Council Sept. 17 approved a proposal to create a new joint-powers entity with cities across the region to provide residents the choice of greener energy.

**OCTOBER**

• Mayoral candidates Barbara Bry, Todd Gloria, and Tasha Williamson squared off in a far-ranging debate at MBHS Sept. 18.
• Pacific Beach Planning Group filed a proposed moratorium on electric scooters.
• In fallout from the Gina Champion-Cain investment scandal, a court-appointed receiver closed six of her subsidiary enterprises from The Patio Group, while turning temporary operations of four of her restaurants over to the Cohn Restaurant Group.
• The Guardian Angels announced they were forming a new PB chapter.
• A PB workshop highlighted the need for more affordable housing.
• Friends of Rose Creek sued the City over the new Balboa Avenue Station's impacts on the surrounding community, arguing the project’s environmental report failed to adequately address densification caused by the project.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

• Some Mission Beach residents complained that scooter corrals were impeding street cleaning putting the community at risk of flooding.
• A compromise agreement between San Diego Audubon Society and Campland on the Bay guaranteed new RV spaces Campland was creating on the De Anza boot would be as far away from the public bayfront — and future wetland restoration — as possible.
• Beach residents were reporting increased sightings and pet attacks from coyotes.
• On Nov. 12: Mayor Faulconer joined community leaders, along with William Gardner, to break ground on a much-needed makeover for the playground at Bonita Cove to be named after Gardner’s late wife Maruta, an educator and former MBHS principal.
• An attorney representing people living out of their vehicles claimed the City’s safe parking lots program was inadequate, while legally challenging the City’s new Vehicle Habitation Ordinance as being unconstitutional.
• Local leaders discussed a new strategic homelessness community plan at a Pacific Beach workshop.
• On Dec. 3, a hearing officer denied the City of San Diego’s petition to revoke Lime scooter company’s operating permit.
• On Dec. 17, the City Council voted 5-4 to ban electric scooters and other motorized vehicles on beach boardwalks. The council had mixed a similar proposal by a 6-3 vote two years earlier.

**YEAR IN REVIEW >> CONT. FROM PG. 6**

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer embraces William Gardner during the morning ceremony on Nov. 12 announcing the renovation of the Bonita Cove playground, which will be named after William’s late wife, Maruta Gardner, who was a Mission Beach community leader.
New state laws begin for rent control, minimum wage, and gun sales

By Dave Schwab | BEACH & BAY PRESS

New laws signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom that took effect Jan. 1 address everything from the minimum wage to grease traps to taxes on diapers and gun violence.

Following are some of the new laws and what they do:

• A new program for military veterans will be waived under SB 245. Under the law, shelters will confirm a veteran's eligibility using California's current veteran license designation.

• SB 1249 bans the sale of cosmetic products with ingredients tested on animals after Jan. 1, 2020, but does not apply to products sold globally where animal testing is required by law.

• AB 9 allows employees up to three years to file complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. Previously, employees had only one year to file a complaint.

• SB 142 requires employers to provide clean and safe lactation rooms for breastfeeding mothers including access to a sink and refrigerator in close proximity to the employee's workspace. It also requires the room be free of interference and employers offer mothers breaks specifically for nursing.

• SB 134 requires workplaces with five or more employees to provide at least two hours of sexual harassment training within six months of being hired.

SCOOTERS>
CONT. FROM PG. 1

death have compelled us to take action. We need to ensure safe space for residents and tourists who utilize the boardwalk.

"I was in favor of the ban," said Campbell. "Keeping these pathways clear ensures the safety of our pedestrians and the livability of our neighborhoods. Thank you to my city council colleagues for recognizing the importance of this issue to the communities of Districts 1 and 2."

"The City Council must rely on sound scientific data, not politics and emotion when considering good policy," countered Sherman. "Scooter regulations were just passed six months ago and an initial review shows that they have improved safety and reduced accidents. Data-driven, not a blanket ban, is the right path forward."

Testimony before the City Council vote Dec. 16 was weight ed heavily in favor of residents for a boardwalk ban on motorized devices.

Bicycling advocate Andy Hanshaw, who chairs the City's Mobility Board, argued the boardwalk ban was within his board's purview. He pointed out the board had not reviewed the proposed ban.

"Six words: Vision Zero, public safety, common sense," testified District 1 City Council candidate Joe LaCava of La Jolla. "Today is the day to take action: pass the ordinance."

Vision Zero is a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic. One boardwalk ban proponent argued the decision came down to "safety or greed."

Mission Beach Town Council President Matt Gardner spoke in favor of the ban noting, "There are no crosswalks or safe places for pedestrians to cross on the boardwalk with the motor vehicles."

Following the vote, the office of the City Clerk said the new ordinance will take effect some time in 2020. Mayor Kevin Faulconer has the right to sign off on the new ordinance or veto it. If Faulconer were to veto the ordinance, the City Council could override his veto by a two-thirds vote of 6-3.
Forget Deadwood, Dodge, and Tombstone. The bloodiest boom-town of the 1880s was San Diego, California.

Readers who love the 19th century “Wild West” will relish learning that San Diego was once dubbed “Scam Diego.”

According to Yogerst, “The attraction wasn’t gold or silver, but cheap land, the promise of an oceanfront paradise and the too-good-to-be-true deals offered by local real estate merchants. In the wake of bona fide settlers came the hucksters, con artists, and snake oil vendors – so many flimflam men (and women) that those duped called the town ‘Scam Diego.’”

Touting an era when the American flag hosted 18 states, “Nemesis” tells the story of the town with much historical fiction.” blends true life characters with those who “took shape in my imagination.”

The crimes for which “Nemesis” seeks re-venge were inspired by events that occurred in Southern California including the “racism-driven hanging of 18-Chinese men and boys in Los Angeles in 1871 (largest mass lynching in American history); the Moosa Canyon Massacre of 1888 near present-day Escondido; and the Fire of 1872 that destroyed much of Old Town’s commercial district.”

The Beach & Bay Press caught up with the self-described “nerd,” to find out more about the page-turner.

**BBP:** Describe your early years in Pacific Beach.

**Yogerst:** I was born in the old Scripps Hospital in downtown La Jolla – the building that now contains the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art – and spent my first 18 years in Pacific Beach. My brother Larry was the hardcore surfer; I was the nerdy little kid exploring the Bird Rock tide pools, hunting for fossils in Tournamile canyon, going to movies every Saturday morning (and later Friday night) at the old Roxy Theatre, and getting zapped by a stingray in Mission Bay.

**BBP:** There’s a lot of history in the book. Are you a history buff?

**Yogerst:** My parents had organized outings to explore San Diego County. So, the locations in “Nemesis” are places I spent a lot of time – Balboa Park, the Embarcadero, Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, Old Town, Horton Plaza, etc. I had a large memory bank of San Diego’s geographical points. After that, I read books about the Wild West era in San Diego and the amazing Journal of San Diego History, and old copies of the San Diego Union at the History Center in Balboa Park.

**BBP:** I’ve always liked stories about anti-heroes and anonymous vigilantes like Robin Hood and, in “The Burn Zone,” “for Vendetta,” and Southern California’s Zorro. I think many of us are attracted to characters that step outside the lines to remedy injustice because we see what’s going on in the real world. We want to believe that people work behind the scenes to fight evil.

**BBP:** Did you enjoy writing “Nemesis?”

**Yogerst:** For sure. But it’s not easy being a writer, spending hundreds of hours of sitting by yourself and living inside your own head instead of mixing with coworkers or other human beings. It takes discipline to keep creating when everything is derived from your own brain. “Nemesis” was a 10-year, labor of love that took place around my other journalism work. But I was head-over-heels with the story, its characters, and of course, old time San Diego.

**BBP:** Is there Nemesis II?

**Yogerst:** There are discussions about writing a series based on the lead characters.

Yogerst has written articles on travel, business, culture and sports that have appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Examiner, International Herald Tribune (Paris), Conde Nast Traveler, CNN Travel, USA Today, BBC Travel, Time, Newsweek, Travel & Leisure, and 32 National Geographic Books.

A search for enlightenment that evolved into a path of self-destruction

**By LUCIA VITI | BEACH & BAY PRESS**

**Cults. As modern-day history documents the bizarre path from fervor to fanaticism, one can easily question, how does one fall victim to the absurd?**

“It happens so slowly,” writes Renee Linnell, “So insidiously.”

Linnell, a former Pacific Beach resident, knows first-hand, the dangers of falling prey to life as a cult member. And she’s ready to share her experience with the world.

“The Burn Zone,” Linnell’s narrative memoir, recounts a journey that began with a search for enlightenment and yet, somehow, evolved into a path of self-destruction. Raw and riveting, the inspirational yet cautionary tale, details life entrenched in a Buddhist cult “severely brainwashed” at the hands of her spiritual teachers.

The self-described “soul-sick” student who attended a meditation seminar “beрагудingly,” left forever transformed. She then unwittingly carved a seven-year course into the “hands of hell.”

When emotional, physical and financial devastation reared their ugly heads, the tormented apprentice woke up and realized that she had been “had.” But how?

According to Linnell, the teacher appeared “at the right time” with an inviting message, “follow me, study with me, and I will bring you the peace you have been searching for.” Lured in with love, affection, compliments and the promise of protection, life within the realm of her teachers became magical.

“At first it’s like winning the lottery,” she writes. “She (the teacher) sees the true you, the bigger you, the one hidden inside, the you no one else can see, the you that was meant for greatness. You sit in front of this person and you feel so much light; you feel God.”

Once a free spirit, Linnell quickly became a “spiritual narcissist.” Judgmental and self-righteous, everyone else became “less evolved.” Friends and family were no longer wise enough to understand. Life anew had begun.

“You’re filled with new energy,” she writes. “Life takes on a magical quality. Every day is a new adventure.”

And then the dismantling began. Harsh criticism was dispensed as life lessons while leaders demanded money and unquestionable loyalty. Creating distance became imperative. Attendance at the University of Mysticism required the total detachment and relinquishment of possess-ions and personal power. Who was she no longer counted.

“The path is simple,” she writes. “Every day matters and only we are your family.” Ignoring her intuition, Linnell fully embraced this twisted theatre of Tantric Buddhism. Dominated and manipulated, she severed all familial relationships, moved from Southern Cal to New York, and was ordained as a Buddhist monk in Bhutan, South Asia, within four years. And she did so while serving her spiritual leaders as both housekeeper and sexual consort.

“I took my ordination seriously and truly considered myself a monk,” she told BBP. “But sooner or later self-denial, I forced myself to believe I was changed, radically this time. I was now utterly dedicated to God and solitude. I wanted to start life over. I wanted to erase everything. The saddest part is, I wanted to erase myself. I was so sure I was all wrong the way I was.”

Linnell was Bohemian. Her former self didn’t fit this personality profile. Growing up, the Linnell family — mom, dad, twin brother — split their time between a home in Florida and living on their boat. Proficient in all water sports by age 13, at 15, she lobbed a 50-foot Brettzilla through a Rica surfing. A double degree in dance and psychology from Jacksonville University completed her formative years.

Life then became an escapade that began in Oahu, Hawaii, surfing waves while working as a model. Modeling became a global adventure with a string of misadventures for the record books.

To order “The Burn Zone,” visit renellelinnell.com.
Grand opening in January for San Diego Mission Bay Resort

San Diego Mission Bay Resort, formerly known as the Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa, announced its grand opening is set for January, after completing a $21 million reimagining and renovation.

Located on the waterfront of Mission Bay Park, the largest aquatic preserve in the United States, the lavish 157-room year-round resort is for guests seeking to experience San Diego's idyllic, breezy beach lifestyle.

The new resort will also serve as a location for corporate getaways and business meetings with its proximity to airports, restaurants, destinations downtown such as the Gaslamp Quarter, and other well-known attractions around San Diego County.

“The newly unveiled San Diego Mission Bay Resort will appeal to couples, families, leisure and business travelers alike by offering effortless elegance with activities and comforts of the barefoot chic, vibrant San Diego lifestyle,” said Scott Colee, Noble House's chief marketing officer.

“We are especially excited to announce the launch of new curated programming that will engage every guest and visitor and capture the true essence of everything this luxurious coastal playground has to offer,” Colee said.

The hotel's grand opening debuts the comprehensive $21 million transformation of its guestrooms, the resort’s expansive conference center, and the executive board rooms. Guests will enjoy upgraded and enhanced technology, an expanded amenity base, all-new custom furniture evoking a classic elegant style, and new guest bathrooms with tubs and custom tiled showers throughout the resort.

In addition, visitors will notice the custom, original artwork displayed throughout the conference center.

With an eye pointed toward the future, Pebblebrook Hotel Trust, which owns the San Diego Mission Bay Resort, is requesting approval from the City of San Diego to invest an additional $10.5 million into the lobby, restaurant, and the expansive public spaces. The resort is operated by Noble House Hotels & Resorts.

“Noble House Hotels & Resorts is thrilled with the transformation taking place at San Diego Mission Bay Resort,” noted George Allen, Noble House area director of sales and marketing. “As with all of Noble House's distinct properties, we want to provide travelers with an exceptional experience that is truly authentic and celebrates the spirit of each of their respective communities.”

The resort offers a 4,000-square-foot outdoor pool area, five tennis courts, spa and fitness center, gift shop, restaurant, and poolside grill. Additionally, the Mediterranean-style hotel provides over 16,000-square- feet of interior meeting and function space and 9,600-square-feet of outdoor meeting space.

As a part of the hotel’s transformation, it has invested $21 million to ensure guest rooms and meeting space leave visitors wowed. This includes the grand ballroom at 10,000 square feet with 18-feet high ceilings.

SEAWORLD TO TEST DRONE LIGHT SHOWS

Fireworks and live-animal shows are giving way to roller coasters and alternative entertainments at SeaWorld San Diego.

Now, the popular marine park at 500 SeaWorld Drive is proposing a limited duration test-run of a nightly aerial drone show during February. The shows would involve up to 500 illuminated aerial drones programmed to autonomously take off, perform an approximately 5-minute show up to 400 feet above SeaWorld accompanied by ground-level music, then return to land.

SeaWorld has applied to the California Coastal Commission to acquire the permitting to conduct its proposed drone show test. Such shows can serve a legitimate purpose, and at this scale, has not been proposed before to the commission.

However, because the municipal marine park also contains sensitive habitat in the form of California least tern nesting sites, that raises the potential of adverse impacts to sensitive habitat resources, water quality, and visual resources. Presently, very little is known about potential impacts associates with aerial drone shows.

The commission’s staff ecologist has reviewed the project in consultation with both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Fish and Wildlife and concluded that given the five-minute duration of the nightly show, the limited 15-day show schedule, and the February performances outside the bird breeding and bird migratory seasons, substantial adverse impacts to migratory birds or other species are unlikely.

Nonetheless, the project has been conditioned to develop a plan that monitors the noise, light and bird-strike impacts generated by drone performances. If the parameters included in the conditions regarding noise, light, and relationship or you’re a woman who wants to celebrate the wonderful ladies in her life, the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa has specials for both Valentine’s and Galentine’s days.

During February, celebrate love with a tart yet tangy cocktail – American Beauty. Inspired by the flower Rosa American Beauty, it is made with watermelon vodka, mint, simple syrup, lemon juice, sparkling rosé and garnished with small frozen flowers. Gather your gals for a night on Mission Bay at Oceanca Coastal Kitchen for Galentine’s Day from 5:30-9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13. Cheers with half-priced bottles of wine while enjoying California cuisine and live music.

Hearts and stomachs will be full at Oceanca Coastal Kitchen’s three-course Valentine’s Day dinner 5:30-11 p.m. on Feb. 14. Couples will be greeted with a complimentary rose and glass of champagne. Guests will have the choice of beautifully crafted entries like an herb-crusted rack of lamb or beet caramelese pasta, followed by Grand Marnier crème brûlée for dessert.

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San Diego's newest resort on Mission Bay set to launch after $21 million renovation.
LIVE MUSIC – Good vibes and irresistible rhythms at 710 Beach Club

T
de the 710 Beach Club will host an instant dance party on Jan. 10, from the moment Maíz hits the stage. The band performs funky Latino reggae tunes, mixing socially conscious word, good vibes and irresistible rhythms, as might be expected of a band that features members of 10-time San Diego Music Award winners, The B-side Players, including that band’s frontman, Karlos Paez. Now in its 22nd year, Maíz keeps a low profile as the players’ main band takes precedence, but their select gigs are always a good time.

Maíz: Fri., Jan. 10 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garret Ave. 9 p.m. and up. $5. 710bc.com.

On Jan. 11, Dizzy’s hosts a CD release show for a new album from Trio de Janeiro, “James Taylor Reimagined.” As the title implies, the album recasts a selection of the famed ’70s-era hitmakers songs by an all-star combo that includes Lori Bell (flutes), Ron Satterfield (guitar/vocals) and Tommy Aros (percussion). The album will be played in its entirety, mixing deep cuts such as “Sarah Maria” with evergreens such as “Fire and Rain,” making for a show that will please casual fans as well as die-hard attendees. 

Trio de Janeiro: Saturday, Jan. 11, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 8 p.m. $20. dizzysjazz.com.

You’ll want to get to Tio Leo’s early on Jan. 18 when the venue hosts a terrific double bill of The Sleepwalkers and The Shang Hai’s. The Sleepwalkers mix of cumbias, rock-a-billy and blues is always a great way to spend the evening, but also great is the evening’s opening act, The Shang Hai’s. The new group features former Sleepwalkers guitarist Alan Fuentes and bassist Ruben Ramos of the Bedbreakers, the band specializes in gritty barroom R&B, played with fire and passion. On the dance floor, will be a floor at will be on this night.

The Sleepwalkers & The Shang Hai: Saturday, Jan. 18 at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. and up. $12.

diezysjazz.com.

Music legend Rey Vinole is retiring after 44 years with one last show at Dizzy’s on Jan. 19. The beloved trumpeter has led his own big band for decades, packing dance floors at the venue’s big and small, but it’s perhaps his time as founder and director of Mission Bay High School’s acclaimed music program that he has had the biggest influence in music. Founded in the 1980s, and currently led by music director Jean-Paul Balmat, the program and the legions of musicians it has helped produce are one of the reasons that jazz is so popular in San Diego. If you enjoy big-band music this will be a great show, but even more special is the opportunity to thank and say goodbye to a wonderful man and fantastic musician. Rey Vinole & His Big Band: Sunday, Jan. 19, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 6 p.m. $15. dizzysjazz.com.

Triash Jetton, lead singer of Hirie, will be the host of Boom Shaka Music Festival at Pechanga Arena on Jan. 18.

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MISSION BAY HIGH

• MBHS presents the Spaghetti Dinner and Trivia Challenge to benefit the MBHS Aquatics Program. Join in the fun with trivia games, opportunities drawings, delicious food, and a no-host bar. 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 at Mission Bay Yacht Club. $25 per person. Contact Bonnie Franklin for more information at leebonnie@san.rr.com.

• MBHS New Orleans Fundraiser will take place 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Pacific Beach Women’s Club. Enjoy a night of music, food, and dancing as Sue Palmer (Queen of Boogie Woogie) joins the Mission Bay Preservationists. All funds raised help the Preservationists travel to New Orleans in April. And bring your appetite because chef Carlos is cooking up his paella. For more information, visit missionbaymusic.com/events.

• Directed by Joey Landwehr at the David and Dorothea Gerfield Theatre in La Jolla, Mission Bay students Kai Bengston and Mariana Merlos, in her first Company production, will sing and dance in “Mamma Mia!”, featuring the ABBA hits you know. The show runs Jan. 11-26, with showtimes Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sundays at noon and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office or at cpjma.org. School shows are offered for class field trips on Jan. 10 and 17 with reservations. Promo code TAKEACHANCE2020 for $3 off regularly priced tickets.

MISSION BAY MIDDLE

• Missoula Children’s Theatre presents Jack and the Beanstalk, will take place 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 in the PBMS auditorium. Enjoy a musical performance by students from all of the Mission Bay Cluster schools.

MISSION BAY ELEMENTARY

• Thank you to the California Sock Co. for gift socks to every student at PBE. Their wish was to make sure all children received a gift for the holidays. Be sure and stop by their store on Garnet Avenue to say thanks.

CROWN POINT JUNIOR MUSIC ACADEMY

• CPJMA School Wellness Family Fitness Expo will take place 3-6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 in the auditorium. CPJMA’s School Wellness Committee invites community families and friends to their free first annual Family Fitness Expo to visit resource tables, demos, and family-friendly activities.

FOPBSS

• The next Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools meeting will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at PBMS library.

• Join FOPBSS on Sunday, Feb. 23 for the seventh annual Schoolyard Dash 5K and 1-Mile Kids Fun Run. Run, walk, or just enjoy the morning at De Anza Cove on Mission Bay. The 5K run/walk benefits Pacific Beach Middle and Mission Bay High Schools through the joint parent-teacher organization, Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools. Register at raceroster.com.

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Located on the waterfront of South Mission Beach, this newly constructed penthouse enjoys panoramic views and endless sunsets. This single-level 4BR/3BA features stunning coastal-contemporary finishes, GE Monogram appliances, gas fireplace in the living room, wood floors, private elevator, and spacious bedrooms and bathrooms. The 2 car side-by-side garage is spacious with plenty of room for easy parking and storage for all your beach toys!

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Richardson shining for Mission Bay girls’ basketball team

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Mission Bay girls’ basketball team is going to make a run at the CIF playoffs this season, one of the keys will be how well senior point guard Hannah Richardson does.

According to girls’ head coach Cameron Mitchell, Richardson brings a sense of calm among her other attributes to the Bucs. “On the court, Hannah never gets rattled or nervous,” Mitchell commented. “She never loses her poise and with our team being so young and inexperienced, it’s nice to have someone like that.”

Richardson does.

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Hannah Richardson looks to win a title in her final season of basketball at Mission Bay.

On the court, Hannah never loses her focus. “I believe that Hannah has championship leadership skills and is consistent with her shooting and is confident in the classroom working to stay competitive,” Mitchell remarked. “The main thing that I try to help Hannah understand is that it’s not always about how many points you score. I believe that Hannah Richardson has matured and has learned a lot.”

Hannah Richardson is supremely confident and competitive. To me, that’s what a young team needs from its leader and captain.”

Coming into the season a couple of months ago, Mitchell said he wanted to continuously see Richardson (sports a 3.7 GPA in the classroom) working to stay consistent with her shooting and playing to accompany junior Gwen Morris Lundstrom’s scoring. “I would love to see Hannah lead us to a championship,” Mitchell remarked. “The main thing that I try to help Hannah understand is that it’s not always about how many points you score. I believe that Hannah Richardson has championship leadership skills and lineage inside of her for sure. When Hannah is focused on the task at hand, I haven’t seen too many guards exhibit the intangibles that she possesses.”

Beach & Bay Press recently caught up with Richardson for an interview.

BBP: When did you first start playing basketball and what do you like about the sport?

Richardson: I started playing basketball when I was 8 years old and my favorite thing about basketball is competing.

BBP: Being your senior season, what are you looking to accomplish both individually and as a team?

Richardson: Individually, I’m trying to become a good leader on and off the court and make my teammates better players. As a team, our goal is to win a ring.

BBP: Are you going to college next year and any possibility of playing basketball there?

Richardson: Yes, I am going to college next year. I am not 100 percent sure if I am going to play college basketball.

BBP: For any young girls thinking of coming out for the team next season, what advice would you have for them?

Richardson: My advice for younger girls trying out for basketball is confident, stay calm, work hard and be patient.
Mission Beach Bayfront Detached Home

- Represented Buyer
- 2 Bedroom / 1 Bath Gorgeous Home
- Nice South Mission Beach Lot

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