Ace Pringle, a first-grader at Pacific Beach Elementary, was recently diagnosed with leukemia. It all started when his mother, Amber Pringle, noticed that her son went pale during his soccer game. Ace wasn’t feeling well and had a fever, and his parents, thinking he maybe had the flu or a common cold, took him to the doctor. His general practitioner and emergency room doctors assumed Ace had a virus, but his fever persisted. After visiting the doctor four times in five days, the doctors ran blood tests on Ace. That night, the Pringle family learned that Ace had leukemia.

“It came back that Ace had what’s called MPAL or multiple phenotype acute leukemia,” says Ace’s father and UC San Diego graduate, John Pringle. “It’s a very rare type of leukemia. Only 2-3% of leukemias are MPAL, and it’s difficult to treat.”

“He’s been taking it OK,” says John on a phone call from the hospital on his son’s 12th day of chemotherapy. “He’s been in the hospital for three weeks. He’s missing his family and his friends — his friends from school, his friends from the neighborhood.”

And Ace’s friends miss him, too. When he was diagnosed, his classmates made him get-well-soon cards. Some of his friends even came by the hospital to visit. Ace’s first-grade teacher, referring to Ace as “the light of the classroom,” misses his positivity. Ace will enroll in homeschool for the next six weeks. He’s missing his family and his friends — his friends from school, his friends from the neighborhood.”

Community rallies around PB Elementary student diagnosed with leukemia

By SAMANTHA WEBSTER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

PBES student Ace Pringle.

‘He’s been in the hospital for three weeks. He’s missing his family and his friends — his friends from school, his friends from the neighborhood.’

JOHN PRINGLE, ACE’S FATHER

The Christmas tree at the end of Crystal Pier during a spectacular sunset on Tuesday.
WIN A MURAL IN PB
For this holiday season, beauti-
fulPB will be selecting one person or
business to get a mural painted on
their location by the international
and world-renowned muralist Aaron
Glasson. Nominations close Dec. 31
at 11:59 p.m. Visit beautifulpb.com
for information.

The winning location or business
will be selected by a panel of San
Diego art and urban planning ex-
perts. The winner will be announced
by Jan. 6.

With the generous support of com-

munity members, organizations and
grants, there are opportunities to
beautify the community with art.
Contact LVictorArt@gmail.com with
offers of support and/or donations to
make more murals appear for the
public in Pacific Beach.

If you haven’t already seen the new
PB Art Map, locating all the public
murals in PB neighborhoods, you can
check it out at beautifulpb.com. If a
guided tour more your thing, contact
PBArtMurals@gmail.com for details.

CITY SEeks COMMENTS
ON HOUSING POLICIES
The City of San Diego is asking
residents for their input on a draft
document outlining the City’s future
housing policies, goals and activities.
City planners are looking for general
comments on the document, as well
as input on innovative ideas to in-
centivize homeowners to build com-
pansion units, how to help our elderly
residents and other ways to engage
residents about housing.

“As San Diego continues to grow
and change, this document will serve
as a policy framework intended to
guide housing strategy citywide and
identifies actions to help meet hous-
 ing goals,” said Mike Hansen, the
City’s planning director. “It’s impor-
tant we include the public’s ideas as we
move toward the completion of the docu-
ment.”

This input opportunity is part of an
effort to refresh San Diego’s housing
blueprint, also known as the Housing
Element, of the City’s General Plan.
The Housing Element, updated every
eight years, considers the City’s needs
regarding housing access, inventory,
affordability and quality. For this
cycle, the City will need to plan for
approximately 108,000 new hous-
ing units serving all income groups
by 2029.

While some of the City’s draft hous-
ing goals remain the same, such as
facilitating the construction of qual-
ity housing, improving the existing
housing stock and providing new
affordable housing, City planners
want to make sure the updated plan
also enhances the quality of life for all
citizens and is a model of sustainable
development and growth.

Before crafting the Housing
Element draft, City planners held six
public workshops, conducted an on-
line survey and attended other events
to gather public input. Now, com-
ments on that draft will be accepted
through Friday, Dec. 20. To submit
comments, visit the General Plan
Housing Element Update website.
After public review, staff will prepare
the final draft document. Ultimately,
the updated Housing Element will
be submitted to the City Council for
adoption.

CITY SEEKS INPUT
FROM OLDER RESIDENTS
The City of San Diego is asking for
input from residents 50 and older
via an online survey to help prepare
for the changing needs that come
with aging. The survey, which takes
approximately 10 minutes to com-
plete, seeks input across eight topics:
outdoor spaces and public places,
transportation, housing, social par-
ticipation, respect and social inclu-
sion, work and civic engagement,
communications and information
and community and health services.
Surveys are available in both
English and Spanish and only resi-
dents of the City of San Diego are el-
igible to participate. The public can
provide responses until Friday, Dec.
13. For more information about pro-
grams and services the City provides
to older residents, visit sandiego.gov/
agewell.

Get more tips at sdge.com/safety

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• Stay far away and never touch a power line.
• Never touch any person or equipment that
  comes in contact with a power line.

If a vehicle is involved and you are in it:
• Sit calmly until help arrives.
• Warn others not to touch the vehicle and
direct them to call 911.
• If the vehicle is on fire and you must leave
  it, open the door or window and jump clear
  without touching the vehicle and the ground
  at the same time.

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Tourist testifies about Pacific Beach rape at knifepoint

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A tourist wept as she described on Dec. 10 being raped at knifepoint in Pacific Beach. Two other women said the same man raped them, and he was ordered to stand trial on all eight sexual assault charges.

A young woman visiting the area from Washington, D.C., identified Seth Alan Beach rape at knifepoint while he was from Brazil. Roberts offered to take her to meet his roommates in Pacific Beach when Roberts, who was on a skateboard, began talking to her.

She said she mentioned being from Brazil and was walking around in Pacific Beach when Roberts, who was on a skateboard, began talking to her. She said she mentioned being from Brazil and Roberts offered to take her to meet his roommates, who was also from Brazil.

"Let's go to my house," said Roberts, who said his roommates girlfriend was at home.

San Diego Police detective John Clayton testified Roberts took the woman to a house in the 2000 block of Reed Avenue, but he didn't live there. Clayton said various businesses in Pacific Beach had video surveillance footage of the woman and Roberts walking in the area.

G.S. testified Roberts pointed out where he lived and said: "Let's go in from the back." She said she followed him, but then said "I noticed something was wrong" when they got behind the house.

"Can I have a kiss?" she said Roberts asked her, and she said no.

"He produced a knife. He threatened me he would kill me," said G.S. "He put it (near) my neck. He was screaming at me."

She said he raped her and then ran off. G.S. said she ran for help, but didn't know what to do. She ordered a Lyft ride and returned to her host family without telling them what happened.

"I was fearful. I didn't know what the reaction of my host family would be," said G.S.

She went with the family to Palm Springs three days later and she told them there what happened. "My host was shocked," said G.S., who added that he called Palm Springs Police. She was taken to a hospital there.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
Local leaders discuss strategic homelessness community plan at Pacific Beach workshop

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Homelessness experts from the City, County and law enforcement answered questions and presented the broad brushstrokes of the City’s new Strategic Community Plan on Homelessness at a Dec. 4 community workshop hosted by Council District 2.

The panel included: Lisa Jones and Kehly Halsey of Homeless Housing Innovations for the SD Housing Commission; Capt. Scott Wahl of SDPD; Omar Passons, County Health and Human Services; and guest speakers John Brady and Francisco Mendoza, who have both experienced homelessness first hand.

“This event acknowledges the gravity of homelessness,” noted event host District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell while pointing out, “Homelessness could happen to anyone of us.”

Campbell said the purpose of the workshop was to “talk about solutions and ask questions of local agency officials who are in the front lines, working every day to resolve homelessness.”

All of the speakers urged San Diegans to vote in favor of a March 2020 citizens initiative on the presidential primary ballot proposing a hotel tax hike that would fund a convention center expansion, homelessness, and infrastructure improvements.

The tax increase proposed by Mayor Kevin Faulconer would raise the city’s transient occupancy tax from 10.5% to as high as 15.75% in certain areas of the city, collecting an estimated $6 billion over 42 years.

Campbell discussed the City’s new three- and 10-year strategies for combatting homelessness, all 63 pages of which are available online at www.sdhc.org.

“The goals of our three-year strategy are to decrease the number of unsheltered by one half, finish the job of ending veterans’ homelessness and prevent youth homelessness,” Campbell said. “The 10-year strategic plan resolves the issue.”

Jones of the SDHC said the City’s new strategy for combating homelessness “creates a plan and action items for addressing the needs of the homeless that move our need forward. It identifies trends and solutions that make sense.”

Jones said the new homelessness strategy “builds on resources available while providing the tools to do that.”

“We didn’t want a plan that was just a bunch of words sitting on a shelf and not taking any action,” said Keely Halsey of SDHC. “We wanted special action steps to come out of that.”

SDPD Capt. Scott Wahl discussed the recently created neighborhood policing department.

“Homelessness is complex, and we knew if we wanted to have a positive impact, that we would need to adapt,” Wahl said. “So in March 2018, we started neighborhood policing, bringing outreach and enforcement under one umbrella. We’re headed in the right direction, able to balance compassion now with accountability.”

Passons of County Health and Human Services talked about “prevention being a worth a pound of cure” noting it’s important to “get way upstream” in working early-on with high-risk youth to “prevent very bad outcomes.”

Formerly homeless, John Brady talked about landing on the street.

“It’s incredibly challenging living on the streets day after day with the threat of losing your personal possessions and overcoming obstacles like lack of housing and re-engaging with employment without an address.”

The city’s new Community Action Plan on Homelessness sets ambitious goals with targeted action items to help people living on the streets,” said District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell. “Today’s item creates the region’s first-ever flexible funding pool. This will help us fill gaps for needed programs like outreach, reunification, transitional storage and safe lots for individuals experiencing homelessness.”

The bridge shelter program — overseen by the San Diego Housing Commission – provides temporary relief from the streets to hundreds of individuals every day with beds, meals, showers, restrooms, 24-hour security, alcohol and substance abuse counseling and job training as well as help to find permanent housing.

Bridge shelter program expands to serve more families, homeless youth

Advancing San Diego’s efforts to reduce homelessness, the City Council on Dec. 10 voted separately to expand Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer’s bridge shelter program for homeless individuals and to create a flexible funding pool to bolster homeless services and programs.

The expansion will occur early next year at the bridge shelter at Golden Hall. Father Joe’s Villages currently operates the 141-bed shelter for women and families in the North Terrace rooms of Golden Hall and will now expand with up to 118 beds in the South Terrace rooms.

A portion of the new beds will specifically serve Transition Age Youth — at-risk youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who are transitioning from state custody or foster care. That group makes up 11 percent of San Diego’s unsheltered homeless population.

The expansion — which follows the opening of a fourth bridge shelter in November — will bring the total number of beds in the bridge shelter program to 931 citywide. The City’s bridge shelters include one run by Veterans Village of San Diego at 2801 ½ Sports Arena Blvd.

The City Council also approved the creation of a flexible pool of funding that will be used in innovative ways to bolster services and programs helping homeless individuals in San Diego using State Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding. In its first year, it will deploy up to $1 million in aid to individuals who need some form of low-level or short-term help to achieve housing stability, but who might not qualify for some of the City’s other homeless assistance programs. This will address a known gap in the system.

“Today’s item creates the region’s first-ever flexible funding pool. This will help us fill gaps for needed programs like outreach, reunification, transitional storage and safe lots for individuals experiencing homelessness.”

The bridge shelter program — overseen by the San Diego Housing Commission – provides temporary relief from the streets to hundreds of individuals every day with beds, meals, showers, restrooms, 24-hour security, alcohol and substance abuse counseling and job training as well as help to find permanent housing.
B each residents were largely astonished by a San Diego hearing officer’s Dec. 3 decision to deny the City of San Diego’s petition to revoke Lime scooter company’s operating permit.

The revocation hearing was scheduled after the city claimed Lime violated geofencing rules set forth in City permit guidelines established in July. The city accused Lime of disobeying geofencing rules that limit scooter speeds to 8 mph in areas like beach boardwalks, Ballboa Park and Petco Park.

However, City hearing officer Matthew Freeman determined the city’s accusations were based on speedometer reading on scooters and found that the city never investigated the accuracy of the speedometers. Freeman’s report also said the city failed to establish that its own speed testing of scooters took place within geofenced zones.

“Lime is pleased with the decision and we appreciate the hearing officer for recognizing our compliance in San Diego,” said Lime in a released statement.

“As San Diego’s longest-serving police force, we want our streets and sidewalks safe, and we appreciate the hearing officer for making our communities safer,” said Freeman in a released statement.

PB business owner Junior Leoso felt the decision sends the wrong message.

“Among many of the problems this presents... It also sets a precedent that the scooters have more power than we’re ready to admit,” said Leoso. “Our city should have cited them instantly and often. I think the scooters are a step in the right direction, but still, lack the follow-through that’ll make them a standard in our beach town.”

PB restaurateur Joe Bettles of Kono’s and Kono’s cafes had a different take.

“While I would like to see (scooter) regulations enforced, I think the failure of this lawsuit demonstrates that regulation is costly and difficult to enforce,” Bettles said.

“If the goal is to keep the volume of scooters at a reasonable level and improve safety, we might be better served by imposing higher taxes,” Bettles said.

“A higher cost for Lime would lower the number of scooters and the tax revenue collected could go towards infrastructure, which would make riding a scooter or bicycle much safer in PB,” Bettles said.

“I sat through two days of the Lime hearing and one thing in particular stuck out to me: Lime’s own experts doubt in the effectiveness of geo-fencing,” said Sarah Mattinson, owner of Olive Cafe on Mission Boulevard.

“The thing we are seeing now is for the company’s complete disregard for the City ordinance regarding staging.”

“It is almost as if the scooter companies are trying to see how much they can get away with. The ordinance states very clearly that only four scooters can be staged together outside of four,” Knight said. “We are seeing five-plus scooters staged together all the time. The scooters are much more manageable than they were back before the regulations took place.”

“The entire bike/scooter process has been another example of this city’s ‘ready, shoot, aim’ approach to policy,” said PB activists Scott Chipman. “At minimum, we should have had a full community-by-community vetting of these platforms prior to any implementation. City policymakers have not listened to residents and have been an embarrassment on this issue.”

“We respect the decision and look forward to adopting enhanced scooter regulations, which have already been presented to committee, that give the City even more tools to enforce public safety laws and keep our streets and sidewalks safe,” City spokesperson Scott Robinson said.
Guardian Angels ready to make presence felt in Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The game plan is for the Guardian Angels to be on patrol in Pacific Beach soon (with Ocean Beach next) and eventually throughout San Diego. The New York City-based nonprofit volunteer organization of unarmed crime-prevention revealed its intent in October to make PB its first neighborhood stop.

Still in the process of forming, new PB Guardian Angel’s chapter leader Ryan Luke noted the chapter conducted its first “mission.” “Our Sacramento chapter came down and took us on a preliminary patrol,” said Luke, adding it takes time to recruit volunteers who are trained in self-defense, basic martial arts, CPR, law, communication and conflict resolution. Guardian patrols protect the most vulnerable residents while responding to criminality within the law, all without weapons.

“We’re non-confrontational, non-hands-on,” said Luke. “Basically, if we see something, we call the police to try and handle it. We’re out there trying to make the neighborhood and streets safe. Just our presence alone serves as a deterrence.”

Another PB Guardian Angel volunteer, Sarah Bonesteel, agreed “... is to provide positive role models for today’s youth and work toward promoting community safety and betterment for the good of society overall. We accomplish our mission through training volunteers, who are multi-racial, to be effective as visual deterrents patrolling the streets in communities. Our emphasis is on coordinating a variety of community-based services, programs and activities to speak and fight against violence.”

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A Pacific Beach man will be sentenced March 6, 2020, after he pleaded guilty to selling fentanyl powder that caused the death of one man in Pacific Beach in 2018.

Maya Kol, 41, could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison before he is sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey Miller.

His plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s office says the minimum sentence is 10 years. The 47-year-old victim is only known under the initials of J.E. and the death was one of three that occurred in Pacific Beach on Labor Day weekend in 2018, according to court records.

The man who sold Kol the fentanyl powder – which was disguised as cocaine – himself died, along with another person. Kol is only charged with causing the death of the man with whom he sold the drug.

Kol admitted in his plea agreement that after he purchased a drug he believed was cocaine, he sampled it, and he noticed it tasted different. He became woozy and nearly lost his balance, according to a list of facts Kol initialed from the U.S. Attorney’s office and are court records.

Nevertheless, Kol sold a one-half gram of the drug – which was in actuality fentanyl powder – and told J.E. and two others the drug was cocaine. One of J.E.’s friends called Kol, saying he found J.E. unresponsive. The caller to Kol was himself hospitalized, but he recovered.

Kol went back to his Pacific Beach apartment and flushed his remaining fentanyl powder in the toilet. J.E. died from a mixture of fentanyl, alcohol, and Alprazolam, a tranquilizer, intoxication, according to court records. No information was in court records about the third death, as Kol is only charged with J.E.’s death.

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710 Beach Club celebrates 30 years of entertainment in Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Scott Slaga, co-owner of 710 Beach Club near Crystal Pier, has survived 30 years as a live music venue because he’s been willing to change with the times.

“The only way to survive for 30 years is if you evolve,” said Slaga, a Chicago native, who noted 710 has been voted best beach bar in San Diego by the Union-Tribune three out of the last four years.

Slaga said there is one thing over the years that hasn’t changed. “You have to give people the entertainment they’re going to like,” said Slaga, a big blues devotee, of the countless bands he’s hosted over the years. “I had to have people who work for me sit down and say, ‘Hey old man, this is what we like.’”

Interestingly enough, Slaga said there are four major changes now from when he took over the place in 1989.

“We didn’t own the restaurant next door (Dude’s), and our ceiling was much lower, about 8 feet,” he said. “The bar itself was the old school tiered shelves of liquor, all dark brown and it was all carpet.”

So, Slaga and three of his friends took the leap of faith and purchased a live music bar, though none of them had any prior experience. He said they made it work, virtually on sheer will. “I commuted for three years every day from L.A.,” he said. “I had to keep my (engineering) job. On the weekends, I would sleep on the stage.”

By Slaga’s own admission, Bangers was rundown and really needed some updating when they took it over.

“We changed the name to Blind Melons and we made a big splash by painting the facade out front fluorescent green,” he noted. “That and more upbeat danceable reggae works here.”

And, Slaga added, there was literally a cuisine explosion of sorts going on in the rest of PB that helped too.

“There used to be only half a dozen places you could go and eat here,” he said. “Now, there’s 50.”

Slaga’s got something really special planned for his bar’s 30th anniversary weekend on Saturday, Dec. 28 and Sunday, Dec. 29.

“On the 28th, we’re going to be going back to 1980s prices the whole day,” he said. “I’m bringing back some old school bands. And on Sunday, I have Dick Butkus (Chicago Bears’ Hall of Fame linebacker) coming in here for a benefit for Wounded Warriors veterans, who will be guest bartending.”

So, Slaga changed with it, adapting his business model.

“The crowds got young in the ‘90s and 2000s that it was getting going, there was no reward,” said Slaga. “It used to be you didn’t eat when you drank, maybe you had popcops. “Slaga noted, adding, “The new drinker has to have food. There’s maybe only one or two bars left that I know of that do well without food.”

Slaga said he got a huge “lift” as well from the Ubers and Lyfts of the world who came in some five years ago furnishing a partial solution to the problems of parking and drinking and driving to and from a beach bar.

Slaga got another lift by changing his musical menu “to more young, hip, that’s what they (patrons) wanted, cover and tribute bands,” he said. “That and more upbeat danceable reggae works here.”

And, Slaga added, there’s 50.

For his future at 710, Slaga said, “In five years I’ll have an exit strategy. I’m hoping I’ve got 10 years left in the tank.”
SeaWorld has announced Emperor as the name of the park’s new dive coaster scheduled to open in summer 2020. This roller coaster will be the tallest, fastest and longest dive coaster in California, as well as the only floorless dive coaster in the state. Named for the world’s largest penguin, the new coaster will mimic this species’ amazing underwater diving ability. Emperor penguins can dive to a depth of 1,800 feet. Climbing to 151 feet with feet dangling in the air, riders on Emperor will be suspended on a 45-degree angle at the crown of the ride before plunging down a 141-foot facedown vertical drop accelerating to more than 60 miles per hour. Riders will also experience inversions, barrel roll, Immelmann loop, hammerhead turn, and flat spin as they race along the nearly 2,500 feet of track. Each of the floorless ride cars will hold 18 riders in three, six-person rows. This is the first seating configuration of its kind in North America. “There will be no other coaster experience like this in California,” said Marilyn Hannes, SeaWorld San Diego's park president. “Emperor will both thrill our coaster enthusiasts and also serve as an attraction that educates guests about the importance of animal and conservation issues.” This attraction will highlight an important new animal-conservation partnership between SeaWorld and Penguins International that will focus on penguin awareness and the conservation needs of this aquatic bird. A portion of the proceeds from sales of penguin merchandise at the Emperor retail store will be donated to Penguins International to support their important conservation, education, and research efforts. “We are excited to enter into this partnership with SeaWorld,” said David Schutt, president of Penguins International. “It’s an amazing opportunity that will help advance our penguin conservation programs at several high-priority sites and our public awareness campaigns that highlight the threats penguins face in today’s world.” The new Emperor coaster will be located adjacent to Journey to Atlantis in the southeast corner of the park to Journey to Atlantis in the southeastern region of the park. An artist’s rendering of the Emperor roller coaster, which is scheduled to open in 2020.
Kitten Lady gets personal rescuing at-risk kittens in San Diego

By VICTORIA DAVIS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Two book releases in the last couple months, an appearance on Animal Planet, and two advocacy awards show not only how quickly Hannah Shaw has been able to make a name for herself in the public eye, but also the ripple effect of her high-energy and hands-on approach regarding kitten advocacy, rescue and education.

“This has all happened much to my surprise and delight,” said Shaw, founder of the nonprofit Orphan Kitten Club, which provides lifesaving operations and the world’s first grant program specifically funding innovation in kitten welfare. “When people realize that these babies are all unique and so worthy of protection, I think that it gets a lot of people to go out and sign up to foster in their own communities.”

Nicknamed the “Kitten Lady,” Shaw provides educational media and training resources on her website and social media, as well as instructional workshops, all to help individuals and animal shelters learn how to save the lives of kittens.

“I wanted to create a fun community where people could see up close and personal what it looks like to rescue kittens, and also help people to feel like they know the individual animal,” said Shaw, who tries to share all the intimate moments she has with her rescued kittens, from helping them through a disease to helping them hit their first steps, making hats or even writing songs about the kittens.

“It hopefully helps with finding adopters and encouraging more fostering.”

Working closely with the San Diego Humane Society, East County Animal Rescue and Love Your Feral Felines, Shaw has helped to rescue dozens of kittens (and two neonatal piglets) since moving from Washington to San Diego, including Flapjack, a malnourished orange tabby who was covered in fleas when Shaw and her team found him in Spring Valley.

“Hannah has done a great deal for kittens all across the world through her human education program, and now that Hannah is local to San Diego, we are proud to have her Orphan Kitten Club as a rescue partner,” said Jackie Noble, nursery manager at San Diego Humane Society. “Not only does OKC care for these kittens at their in-home Kitten Nursery, they also help out our community through their Full Circle TNR (trap-neuter-return) program. Talk about the ‘purrfect’ partnership!”

Though his brother didn’t survive, Flapjack regained his health and was the inspiration for Shaw’s new Full Circle Program, where Shaw and her nonprofit team go out and sterilize the family, or colony, of the kitten they rescue.

“When we picked him up, we saw just how many cats there were in just his colony living as strays,” said Shaw. “These cats are coming into shelters at the rate that they are because there’s so many community cats outside. There’s no harsh winters in San Diego, so it’s kitten season year-round here.”

Orphan Kitten Club also takes on cases where the kitten’s condition is more challenging, perhaps too challenging for the average shelter, such as their most recent addition to Shaw kitty nursery, the tuxedo kitten named Apple. Apple was born with Swimmer Syndrome so her hind legs spread out like a frog’s, inhibiting her from walking.

For the next few weeks, Shaw will be wrapping and taping Apple’s legs so they can grow in a normal posture.

“A lot of kittens like her are euthanized because she can’t walk, but with us she will get to live a normal life,” said Shaw. “We work with the kittens that no one else will.”

Shaw is also a New York Times bestselling author, with her educational book on the U.S. kitten crisis “Tiny But Mighty.” Shaw is also released the children’s book, “Kitten Lady’s Big Book of Little Kittens,” in October. The book takes children through the life of foster kittens. Both books can be found at Barnes & Noble or on Shaw’s website, kittenlady.org.

“It’s all a lot more personal for me now,” said Shaw, who had been an activist for many years but never planned on getting this hands-on with the work.

“It’s not just theoretical. It’s not just data. You’re not just trying to convince people something matters because you read a statistic,” she said. You’re literally looking at a little life in the palm of your hand and knowing that there are so many other little lives like that who are out there in need of love and support and care.

“That’s why, whenever I teach, I teach using stories. It’s not a theory, it’s a real kitten that you can hold and see and feel and that needs your help.”

To apply to adopt any of Shaw’s rescues, visit orphankittenclub.org.

Hannah Shaw’s latest book, ‘Tiny But Mighty.’

Hannah Shaw and her cat and first ever rescue Coco.

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MISSION BAY MIDDLE
• Holiday music is in the air at PBMS. Led by music director John O’Donnell, the PBMS Strings Orchestra will perform 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17, and the PBMS Band Orchestra will play 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. Admission is free and the public is welcome to join in the fun.

BARNARD MANDARIN MAGNET ELEMENTARY
• Barnard held its annual bandage drive in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness month for the third consecutive year. More than 300 boxes of fun and colorful bandages were collected and delivered to Rady Children’s Hospital to help bring smiles to the third consecutive year. Barnard Mandarin Magnet School students collected more than 300 boxes of bandages for Rady Children’s Hospital during the school’s third annual bandage drive.

MISSION BAY HIGH
• Get into the holiday spirit and head over to the Mission Bay Music Winter Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m. $5 admission. Students and children are free of charge.
• Principal’s Coffee, 7:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20 in the MBHS Library.

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LIVE MUSIC – Jazz and swing at Mission Bay High’s annual Winter Concert

Mission Bay High School’s annual Winter Concert, helmed by music director JP Balint, takes place on Dec. 19. Featuring one of the most eclectic sound of holiday shows you are likely to come across, all of the school’s ensembles will take part, including acclaimed New Orleans jazz styled combo, The Preservationists, Latin jazz group The Mambo Orchestra and vocalists, the MBHS Swing Choir. Attendees will enjoy a night of holiday cheer, with the bonus that funds raised at this show benefit this school’s acquired music program, helping foster future generations of San Diego’s musicians.

Winter Concert: Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Mission Bay High School, 4745 Grand Ave. 7 p.m. All ages. $10. $5 students. missionbaymusic.com

By BAIRD MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

San Diego’s top jazz spot, Dizzy’s, will be full of the holiday spirit on Dec. 13, when the venue hosts, “Feliz Navidad: The Latin Jazz Side of Christmas.” The night will feature renowned pianist, Irving Flores, and his band, singer Katleen Dugas, bassist Justin Grinnell, drummer Kevin Higuchi, and accordionist Eduard Roey, performing holiday classics, such as “The Christmas Song,” recast with Latin rhythms and new arrangements. The concert’s biggest sing-a-long will likely be the show’s signature song, “Feliz Navidad,” but the whole evening promises to transform even a Scrooge into a fan of the season.

Felix Navidad: The Latin Jazz Side of Christmas: Friday, Dec. 13, at Dizzy’s at Arias Hall, 1717 Moreno Blvd. 8 p.m. $25. dizzyjazz.com

Grateful Dead inspired combo, Electric Waste Band, performs at the 710 Beach Club on Dec. 11. Known for their nearby three-decades-long residency at Winston’s, the band’s sets have become legendary amongst fans of Jerry Garcia and company, playing a blend of old favorites and deep cuts. Though the covers are faithful, the band adds its own feel to the proceedings, keeping the spirit of the music alive. A potential set list that tops 150 tunes keeps things fresh for returning fans and has made The Electric Waste Band San Diego favorites since 1992.

Electric Waste Band: Friday, Dec. 13 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. and up. 710bc.com

San Diego metal core band As I Lay Dying performs at SOMA on Dec. 14. Formed in 2000, the band is currently touring behind their latest album, “Shaped by Fire,” continuing to be a major festival draw, as well as chart contenders. The new disc scored at No. 50 on the U.S. charts also scoring high in Canada, and on the U.S. charts, hope is high for this album, as fans can rest assured they will find everything in place, from political commentary to bombastic chording. While not for the faint of heart, anyone who enjoys rock ’n roll will enjoy Cattle Decapitation’s adrenaline-charged music.

Cattle Decapitation: Sunday, Dec. 22 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 7 p.m. and up. $30. brickbybrick.com

There aren’t a lot of musical options on Christmas day, but jazz fans can head over to Humphrey’s Backstage Live for Christmas brunch with saxophonist Jason Brown. The early show will offer a wonderful soundtrack to go with the venue’s great views and food. Mixing vocal and instrumental tracks with plenty of seasonal favorites, Brown is comfortable with any genre of tunes, from gospel classics to modern soul tunes such as John legends’ “Tonight.” If you are a fan of the sax, Brown is well worth hearing, a terrific player who can solo with the best of them.


The Preservationists will perform at the Winter Concert 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Mission Bay High School.
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Pacific Beach artist turns seasoned surfboards into precious paintings

By VICTORIA DAVIS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The kitchen, an art studio. The street, a gallery. At least, that’s the case for JohnMichael (Mike) Becker, a Pacific Beach native, and surfboard street artist.

“It’s a lot more intimate working outside where people can watch,” said Mike, who makes a business out of taking old, unusable surfboards and turning them into works of art. “People are more likely to come up to you and ask about what you’re working on and why.”

While his most common workspace is on the north side, anyone cruising along La Jolla Cove will likely catch a glimpse of Mike hard at work, taking acrylic paints to board and creating scenes of sailboats in the sunset, sharks coasting near the shores and sea turtles gliding above coral reefs. Mike often takes requests on the spot from passerby-turned-customers, as well as lets his younger audiences help with painting the coral reefs.

“I’ll let the kids grab the brush and dab a little on the reefs and they get super excited,” said Mike, who was also recruited last year to paint the mural on the side of Ohana Café on Pearl Street. “My nephews and nieces have done parts of my paintings as well.”

Mike, who typically charges between $500 and $700 for his boards depending on size, has also been brought a handful of snapped boards. For one, he turned the board’s break into a massive shark bite.

“The great whites have been out here since I was a kid,” said Mike. “They’re residents. That’s why I paint them as well.”

Mike, age 59, also paints more abstract and unconventional scenes on boards, such as Eddie Van Halen with his Frankenstrat above an exploding volcano.

Mike’s artistic inspirations stem not only from growing up in Pacific Beach during the ’60s and ’70s – swimming with the bat rays in Mission Bay at Crown Point – but also derives from Mike and his wife Julie Becker living in the Hawaii countryside for 20 years, “embraced by the islands, the people and the ‘Aloha’ culture.”

“He has always looked for different things to paint on, like shells and old picture frames,” said Julie. “When Mike started doing surfboards, that’s when things went crazy. Everyone wanted one. But I can’t say I’m surprised because he’s been an amazing artist from the beginning.”

Mike, who has been “doodling in the books” since Crown Point Jr. Elementary, added, “I used to give everything I made away as gifts to people. It was Julie who inspired me to turn this into a business.”

When Mike and Julie moved back to Pacific Beach four years ago to be closer to family, Mike was quick to turn his home on Pacific Beach Drive into both an art studio and a place friends, family and perfect strangers could come to purchase painted boards, shells, motorcycle helmets, and picture frames. Mike puts his painted surfboards out on the front lawn with a window sign that reads, “Surf art for sale.” Anyone is also welcome to walk through the house and into the back yard where Mike sands and primes the boards before painting.

“We live right next to a stop sign and so people have to stop their cars anyway,” said Julie, an artist herself who creates leather purses made from cowboy boots and denim pockets, all hand-sewn with dental floss. “I’ve seen people just sitting in their cars looking over here. We’ve even gotten visits from park rangers who just want to watch Mike work.”

Mike added, “If I can create a little window that people can look in for a few seconds a day, if not longer, and the painting is whoever is looking at it, then I’m doing my job. If you look at my work and it makes your heart smile, I’m doing what I’m supposed to do here.”

Pacifi c Beach native JohnMichael Becker is a surfboard street artist.
Tallest Christmas tree in Pacific Beach brings joy to neighborhood

By JACK GATES | BEACH & BAY PRESS

L
ook up this holiday season. Way up. Topping out at 64 feet, nearly six stories high, it’s the tallest Christmas tree in Pacific Beach. Actually, the Christmas tree is only 6 feet tall. But it perches atop a flag pole that towers 58 feet into the air.

At night, the twinkling tree lights can be seen for miles around. It looks like the lofty tree is suspended in mid-air. Follow the bright beacon and it leads to CQ Welding on Cass Street in North PB.

“We came up with the idea several years ago,” according to Chuck Quillen, owner of CQ Welding. An American flag usually waves from the flag pole, but Quillen says a string on the pole needed work. He perched atop a flag pole that towers 58 feet into the air.

Then, the raising of the tree became a soaring seasonal favorite in North PB. The residents around here get a big kick out of it,” said Quillen. “We get Christmas cards from people we don’t even know thanking us for putting up the tree. We enjoy it and they enjoy it.”

Quillen gets emotional when he thinks how his once crazy idea has turned into something that’s now beloved by the neighborhood. “It makes me cheerful. I smile every time I see the tree. And if it brings others cheer and makes them smile, then isn’t that what this season is all about?”

New executive director to lead Beach and Bay Family YMCA

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Beach and Bay Family YMCA in Pacific Beach has a new executive director: Leane Marchese, who has a lifelong commitment to improving recreational quality for all.

Previously having served as regional associate executive director for five years at the Mission Valley YMCA, Marchese was chosen for her new role after an extensive search. She has effectively served as the interim executive director at the PB branch at 4606 Ingraham St. at the corner of Felsgar, for the past six months.

“Leane is a tremendous asset to the Y and to our community-at-large,” said Lisa D’Angelo, area vice president for the YMCA of San Diego County.

“The Y’s vision is to expand its presence in San Diego’s beach and bay communities by building a state-of-the-art YMCA fitness center in Pacific Beach. With Leane’s leadership and operational experience, we are looking forward to bringing this vision to life,” Marchese’s hire comes at a propitious time. Two years ago, the Pacific Beach YMCA celebrated the first phase of a shared venture with San Diego Unified School District. It hosted a ribbon-tying to debut its new joint-occupancy turf field surrounded by a track. The new field is striped for multiple sports including soccer, field hockey, and girls and boys lacrosse.

That was followed a year later by the construction of two state-of-the-art padel tennis courts behind the YMCA’s outdoor fitness facility. A community pool is planned in the future.

Marchese sees her new position as a golden opportunity. “Everybody doesn’t get the opportunity to build a new YMCA, it’s very exciting,” she noted pointing out being on Pacific Beach Middle School’s campus “gives us the ability to do some programming and parenting with them.”

Marchese said the expanding Beach and Bay YMCA is working “on a new after-school program for mainly middle school students, as well as a fitness program to help cancer survivors live longer and healthier lives.”

Discussing the YMCA and its mission, Marchese said, “It’s an inclusive community organization with the goal of improving the quality of life. We are focused on helping people realize their potential.”

The new executive director revealed the results of a recent YMCA user study. “People are telling us they want more programs for kids,” Marchese said. “There are a growing number of families in PB and they want a place to recreate and have a swimming pool where they can swim and Mission Bay High School’s water polo and swim teams can use, and to teach water safety and water exercise for older adults.”

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Mission Bay winter sports gearing up for big seasons

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

BOYS SOCCER
Head coach Joe Panian’s team lost 1-2-4-1 a season ago on route to winning its league and the No. 1 seed in Division IV. Mission Bay lost in the CIF quarterfinals.

According to Panian, some key players this season include junior midfielder/forward Andrew Hutchinson and senior midfielder Anthony Munoz.

“We have a great group of guys this year,” Panian said. “Our goals are to play possession-oriented, cohesive soccer that is very offensive-minded. However, this year with many new defensive players we will have to work tirelessly on our organization, defensive shape/team defense. There are high expectations after a solid year last year and some new exciting incoming players.”

Panian added that the team’s goals are to repeat as league champions and go further in CIF even though they moved up to Division III this year.

Mission Bay will be at home versus Gompers Prep Academy on Dec. 13.

GIRLS SOCCER
The Bucs, under head coach Jorge Palacios, went 11-4-3 and lost in the first round of Division II CIFs.

According to Palacios, key players this season should include junior forward Camrin Peaslee, senior midfielder Juliette Tran, and senior defender Jeryn Young.

“We are committed to being the best team we can be,” Palacios said. “We play in a tough league against quality opponents. At the same time, we have an experienced, talented squad of players, many who have been playing varsity since their freshmen year, and the sky is the limit for this group.”

Mission Bay will host Escondido Dec. 13.

GIRLS WATER POLO
The Bucs, with head coach Lyndsay Satterley at the helm, went 16-11 overall (6-2 in league play) a season ago. Mission Bay went to the Division III CIF semi-finals last year.

This year’s team will be led by senior attacker Piper McCarty, senior goalie Callie McClain, senior attacker Jesse Grigolite and senior attacker Nevaeh Carino, according to Satterley.

“We have a really young team with some fresh new energy,” Satterley commented. “We are looking forward to seeing how this develops in our season as we take on Division II.”

Mission Bay is in action versus Serra on Dec. 16 at Clairemont Rec Center.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
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