After 30 years, Taco Surf in PB changes hands

Owned by Sam and Cindy McLarty for 30 years, Taco Surf at 4567 Mission Blvd. in Pacific Beach has been sold by them to new owners Matt and Melanie Gilmore.

“The opportunity arose and we jumped on it,” said Cindy McLarty of the sale of their Mexican restaurant to their friends the Gilmores. “Sam has known Matt, who has been general manager for a number of residents in PB, for 25 years.”

McLarty said the Gilmores have already assumed control of the restaurant, but added, “It hasn’t closed escrow yet, just one more hurdle to overcome, hopefully by the end of this month.”

Cindy said her husband Sam “wanted somebody that he trusted that everybody would love.”

That turned out to be the Gilmores. Melanie Gilmore said she and husband Matt have been patrons of Taco Surf since their children were toddlers. She added, “This is a true honor, a dream come true.”

Of the sale, Melanie said, “Sam asked Matt to buy Taco Surf once he found out Matt was looking for a quick-serving food business to purchase. We did not go in and say, ‘We want to buy this.’”

Melanie noted Matt was the original general manager of PB Bar & Grill. Matt was also employed previously at Hennessy’s in PB (now Duck Dive).

“Sam genuinely wanted somebody he cared about (Matt) who he knew would do a good job and that people would love,” said Melanie, who added no wholesale changes are planned for the restaurant.

“We want to keep the history of Taco Surf alive,” she said.
Here’s our list of amazing things to do and try for an awesome leap day

FEELING COMFORTABLE – AND SEXY – IN YOUR OWN SKIN

Luci Lampé, an Ocean Beach-based mom of four, author of “Achieving Sexy,” songwriter/model, and founder of the Sexy Mama Movement, shares her thoughts on trying something new on leap day.

“At first, I thought it would be weird being naked in front of other people. To my surprise, it felt so natural and very freeing! Our tan lines gave us away as newbies, but the regulars were so surprised at how comfortable we both were walking around, exploring the beach, even making friends (yes, naked friends. It wasn’t so awkward after all!). People there overall seem very accepting of themselves and their bodies, regardless of their shape or size. I love that.

Since then, it’s been our favorite beach to visit when we have some time to get away for a couple hours. The hike down and up is definitely a good little warmup, so be prepared for that; and bring lots of water and snacks. It may be a bit nippy out on Feb. 29, but even if you wait til it’s warmer, I hope you give it a try!

Victoria Beach in Laguna Beach features a tower, one of the sculptures at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the border wall and artwork at Playas de Tijuana.

THERE ARE ENDLESS OPTIONS HERE AND NEAR FOR 24 MORE HOURS OF FUN

You may live an additional 24 hours this Saturday, Feb. 29 due to the leap year, but will you live it up? What you would do if you only had one more day left?

Given it’s a weekend, and you’re likely not working your typical 9 to 5 gig, possibilities for things to do in San Diego, and indeed all of Southern California, are limitless.

Here are just a few suggestions for things to do, in and around San Diego, on your extra 24 hours, whether that be trying out something new, or taking a day trip elsewhere within a short drive.

• Try kite surfing. If you would like to feel the sensation of flight, water walking abilities and a superheroe complex, take kite surfing lesson from Jeff Rayne, who is based out of Osta Island. Kite surfing takes desire, commitment and time flying the kites. The more time you spend flying the kites, the better your kite control will be in the water and progress with your board skills. On average, about 8-10 hours of lessons needed before you can safely get on your own. About the first four hours are all land lessons so you will most likely not be touching the water on the first day. Call 760-840-0028 to set up some lessons.

• Yoga by the ocean: Come practice yoga by the Pacific Ocean in a free, donation-based class held every Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the end of Law Street in PB. This is a challenging class, all-levels class that will leave you feeling completely alive and invigorated, led by local instructor Steve Hubbard (aka: Namasteve).

Hubbard started out in yoga years ago to improve his volleyball game. “Very soon, I discovered that it provided way more than a better jump serve,” he said. “The overall feelings of physical vitality, emotional equanimity, and mental clarity were astounding.”

Hubbard describes yoga as “a tool in a journey toward personal growth.”

“My intention in teaching is to encourage students to discover their personal greatness,” said Hubbard. “We’re powerful beyond belief and yoga is a way of helping us remember that. The classes I lead are physically powerful, yet introspective and meditative. I encourage students to listen to their inner intelligences and to honor themselves.”

• Whale Watching: There are plenty of options for a whale watching trip out of San Diego and February is prime time for seeing gray whales off the coast. Just head down to Quivira Road in Mission Bay where they are several places offering cruises for whale and dolphin watching. Sometimes the smaller operations – such as the six-passenger Gone Whale Watching boat – offer a more exciting and intimate experience than the larger cruises.

• Alsea Eco Tours: Enjoy a local’s view of the large Alsea Bay Bridge and the Alsea Bay Bridge Park where you can take a very short hike to the lighthouse and nature trails to discover the local bird life. Tour times range from 1 to 2 hours. Call 760-839-1106 for more information.

• Mission Bay Kayak Tours: The San Diego Museum of Art has partnered with the Mission Bay Kayak Tour company to offer a new, restful and unique way to explore Mission Bay. The kayaking experience includes a guided tour of iconic San Diego Bay landmarks and a chance to paddle through the serene Mission Bay Lagoon. The tour is perfect for paddlers of all experience levels and is open to ages 10 and up. Cost is $40 per person, which includes access to the Museum’s 2nd Floor Deck. For more information call 619-234-2943 or visit mbkyak.com.

• The Sloth and the Heliconian: The Sloth and the Heliconian is a bistro bar and a pet store that rehabilitates sloths and heliconian butterflies. The Sloth and the Heliconian is located at 1700 Garnet Ave., Suite 101. For more information on the butterfly healing, visit theheliconian.org.

• Barrio Logan, Point Loma, Ocean Beach, and Mission Beach while indulging in the best tacos, craft beers, and libations that America’s Finest City has to offer. Visit tacotoursd.com for more information.

• Hike Bike Kayak Adventure Tours: Owned by native La Jollans Michael and Sharon Luscomb, HBK is exactly what their name implies, an adventure, and a local history lesson, on La Jolla coastal geography and ocean wildlife.

“Our tours run 90 minutes to two hours,” said Michael Luscomb noting he and his wife have run their family-owned and operated La Jolla Shores business for 25 years. “Our tours start at 9 a.m. and run every hour on the hour.”

Tour guides, who are lifeguard certified, are well versed in La Jolla’s wildlife, and place a heavy emphasis on educating guests about the ecology and conservation of native species they’ll encounter on their guided tours of the La Jolla Ecological Reserve. The reserve is home to California Sea Lions, Harbor Seals, Garibaldi fish, Brandt’s Cormorant, Brown Pelicans, Leopard Sharks, and dolphins, among others. La Jolla Kayak also rents an array of beach equipment including sun umbrellas, masks, snorkels, wetsuits and boogie boards.

“We explore the seven caves of La Jolla and discuss the history of La Jolla,” said Luscomb. “Our kayaks are extremely user-friendly and are very stable.” Call 858-551-9510 for more information.

• Visit Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and check out the amazing sculptures at Borrego Springs. There are more than 130 steel-welded sculptures created by ‘Perris Jurassic Park’ owner/artist/welder Ricardo Breceda at Galleta Meadows, including a 130-foot-long serpent, a scorpion and a huge T. rex. After taking photos of the sculptures, roam the 100 miles of hiking trails like The Slot or Hellhole Canyon to Maidenhair Falls. For more information, visit parks.ca.gov.

See LEAP, Page 4
Thinking of Selling Your PB or La Jolla Home?

Call Tim To Sell Your Home Fast and For Top Dollar!

20 Years Experience & A Top Sale of $4.4 Million!

COLDWELL BANKER

4007 Fanuel St. • Offered at $1,550,000

Wake up to gorgeous views of Mission Bay over Fanuel Park in this bright & open corner townhome that feels like a house. Featuring Brazilian Tigerwood flooring, dual master suites, flexible floor plan, 3 outdoor spaces, & rare, attached 2 car gar. + 1 stall parking space w/ storage (2+ car parking!). It also boasts a remodeled kitchen w/ wolf range, refrigerator w/ built-in coffee maker, Corian counter tops, pantry, & Sub Zero refrigerator. Just steps to the sand, park, boardwalk & entertainment!

Marie Tolstad
(619) 708-3523
marie.tolstad@gmail.com
DRE# 01874411/DRE# 02005764

863 Agate #3

Huge Price reduction! Horizon Ocean Views! 2 bedroom condo with murphy bed, 3.5 baths located in La Jolla School area. Kitchen and baths were completely remodeled in 2012. 2 side by side parking spaces with storage and large private patio. Walk to North PB shops, restaurants, and beaches. $799,000

Open Friday Feb 21 noon-3PM & Sat Feb 22, 11AM-3PM

Marianne Kendall
(619) 708-3523
mariannepb@live.com
DRE# 01343048

3792-3794 Bayside Walk

North Mission Beach 2 unit Bayfront property! Panoramic views of Sail Bay & roof top deck w/ hot tub & views to the Pacific Ocean. Main residence is 3 floors, serviced by an elevator, full remodel & features a large outdoor entertainment space perched above the boardwalk. Top floor Master BR w/ a private view deck, AC & walk-in closet. Main level has an open floorplan w/ 2nd BR & full bath. Ground floor unit- 2BR/2BA w/ private patio & views of bay/beach/boardwalk. Laundry in both units & 4 parking spots! Sold for $3,450,000

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12023 Alta Carmel Court #248, 92128

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$308,000

Welcome home to PEACEFULNESS. If you’re looking for top floor, serene, private, affordable, yet w/ easy stroll to restaurants, shopping and schools, look no further! This unit has AC, full size washer/dryer, crown molding, a private patch 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!

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1104 Agate St

5 BD | 3 BA | 3,051 sq. ft.

Offered at $2,275,000

Stunning, two story home in Northwest PB situated on a corner lot with an abundance of lush greenery for privacy. This custom-built home was meticulously designed by local architect Mark Morris with Oasis Architecture & Design, and no detail was spared. Features include a custom, built-in entertainment center in the great room, an oversized kitchen island with an extended seating area, kitchen appliance garages, stainless steel Thermador appliances, a large, custom hood above the kitchen range, a walk-in pantry, built-in ceiling speakers, and two guest rooms downstairs. Upstairs boasts a private master suite with ensuite bathroom and large walk-in closet, two more bedrooms and a spacious entertainment area for a children’s playroom, game room, office, etc. Enjoy a pool, spa, built-in barbecue with a custom island, space for a conversation area/fire pit in the sizable backyard and tall, stackable sliding doors that create the perfect balance of indoor/outdoor living!

Call now to ask for a full features list and schedule a private tour.

1801 Diamond St. #209

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,032 sq. ft.

SOLD for $460,000

This second level fixer in the coveted PB complex, The Plaza Condominiums, has two master bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, an abundance of closet space, and a spacious balcony overlooking the lagoon. We were able to get this property sold for FULL asking price before it ever hit the market and represented both the buyer and seller!

Pacific Beach
888.488.4090 | 4090 Mission Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92109

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Why is there a leap year every four years?

The reason we have leap year, according to WorldTimeServer.com, is that “the calendar is designed to concur with the Earth’s revolutions around the sun. For example, it takes the planet about 365.242189 days – 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds – to circle one time around the sun. Therefore, we have 365 days in the calendar. The full rotation is called a tropical year, also known as a solar year, astronomical year, or an equinoctial year. However, those extra hours, minutes, and seconds – the ones that are part of the decimal at the end of the tropical year – add up over time. If we didn’t include a leap day every four years, we would lose nearly six hours each year. This would add up to a total of 24 days in a span of 100 years.” Over time, the calendar wouldn’t match up and things would certainly be off, thus we have leap year.
Pacific Beach planners endorse roundabouts for Foothill Boulevard

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Reacting to a groundswell of complaints about traffic and safety problems on Foothill Boulevard, Pacific Beach Planning Group Feb. 12 unanimously endorsed several traffic-calming measures there including a future roundabout on Vickie Drive.

Community activist Tom Coat, a Foothill Boulevard resident, has been collecting signatures from neighbors on two petitions to get traffic-calming approved along Foothill. He noted the thoroughfare is a major two-lane road accommodating as much as 20% of total daily trips into and out of PB.

“We need to resolve this issue once and for all,” Coat said. “We need urgent attention to solve it.”

Coat and others have gone door-to-door to attain signatures from at least 75% of neighbors living within 200 feet of proposed Foothill traffic improvements. He noted that is the threshold to qualify for traffic-calming measures there along the boulevard.

Initial traffic calming measures being sought on Foothill Boulevard are meant to be temporary until the longer-term fix is in: as many as three roundabouts, a process that could take several years in between design and construction.

Coat pointed out Foothill drivers frequently exceed 40 mph on the road that has a 25 mph speed limit. The boulevard is near Pacific Beach Elementary School and has lots of pedestrians and cyclists who are at-risk entering or crossing the road.

Coat and others added that accidents including fences being knocked down and parked cars being struck, happen frequently on Foothill endangering elderly neighbors, pedestrians and kids alike.

It was also mentioned that glare, at certain times of the day, can be blinding to drivers frequently exceeding 40 mph on Foothill.

Of the proposed traffic-calming measures Anderson said, “Most of the improvements we are proposing involve signage and lighting. For example, when pedestrians are crossing Foothill, all lights will turn red to protect them.”

Subcommittee suggestions for traffic calming included improved signage, flashing lights in both directions, installation of a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon and, ultimately, possible construction of three traffic roundabouts at Vickie Drive as well as at Loring and Tourmaline streets.

Of the status of the roundabouts Anderson said, “Loring is in design phase. Vickie Drive now has a completed petition to start the process and Tourmaline was listed, though there was opposition years ago when (first proposed — so it’s in limbo).”

Anderson added the need for traffic calming on Foothill is obvious. “Nobody dares to cross that street,” she said adding, “We aren’t transportation engineers and we don’t have all the answers, but we tried to listen to all the problems and come up with solutions.”

Audience members questioned whether stop signs might not be a better option than traffic calming on Foothill.

Civil engineer Ambrose Wong, who was in attendance and has done schematic drawings for the proposed roundabouts and other traffic calming proposed on Foothill, said stop signs are not an option.

“The whole idea of traffic calming along Foothill is not to stop traffic,” Wong said. “The city will not put in any stop signs along that stretch. They want traffic to slow, but to keep the flow going and never to stop it.”

Planner Joe Bettles asked if traffic-calming on Foothill Boulevard might have the unintended consequence of diverting traffic to side streets like Beryl.

Answered Wong, “That won’t happen because there are more stop signs on the side streets. It would never be faster to go around (traffic calming).”

Coat noted there is a solid coalition of community groups and others backing Foothill traffic-calming.

“People are very supportive and we have a community partnership between PB Town Council and PB Planning Group, as well as support from Campbell’s City Council office,” he said pointing out, “We need to get this through the City bureaucracy.”

Hit-and-run driver now facing grand theft charges

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A woman awaiting sentencing for hit and run in the death of a pedestrian in Pacific Beach has been ordered to stand trial for residential burglary in La Jolla involving an acquaintance.

Taylor Suzanne Johnson, 36, remains free on a $50,000 bond in both cases. She pleaded guilty in Oct. to hit and run in the death of Richard Edward Henkel, 52, who was killed Aug. 4, 2019, on Interstate 5.

Johnson was ordered to stand trial Jan. 30 by San Diego Superior Court Judge Patricia Garcia for burglary, car theft, grand theft, and receiving stolen property following a preliminary hearing.

“She burglarized the house of an acquaintance whom she doesn’t get along with,” said Deputy District Attorney Katherine Forbes at a previous hearing.
The South American Palm Weevil took out a tree at 1830 Reed Ave. COURTESY PHOTO

The South American Palm Weevil

The South American Palm Weevil is an invasive beetle that has been detected infesting palm trees in San Diego County. The beetle infests serious physical damage to the fronds, crown, and hearts of palm trees, as well as weakening palms' immune system to leave them susceptible to fungal and viral diseases. An untreated palm infested by palm weevils will ultimately die, usually within a few days, 70% of the (palm) fronds had turned brown. Unfortunately, added Cruz, “By the time you see it’s a problem — it’s too late.”

The City responded to news of the PB weevil infestation. “It all happened so fast, like overnight. I didn’t know what was happening,” said Carole Cruz, the owner of the now-deceased Canary Date Palm on Reed Avenue. “There was no forewarning. I had noticed the tree had flattened out on the top, on the crown shaft. Within a few days, 70% of the (palm) fronds had turned brown.”

Evidence of that is a dead palm in City Heights last year. Downtown and Hillcrest/Mission Hills were in City Heights last year. A few finds were in City Heights last year. Downtown and Hillcrest/Mission Hills were next.”

Added Santacroce, “More recently, we have found South American Palm Weevil in Point Loma, PB, Mission Valley, and a possible find in La Jolla.”

The South American palm weevil, Rhynchophorus palmarum, has a known distribution in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. This weevil presents an enormous threat to the ornamental and edible date palm industries in California, as well as the state’s urban landscape, which is defined by such palms. The South American Palm Weevil is a notorious palm pest in its native and invaded ranges.

Damage to palm trees results primarily from larval feeding in the heart of the palm. This relatively soft and fleshy growing material is typically found in the crown or top part of the palm tree, and it is responsible for generating new fronds. Heavy larval infestations in this region can result in crown collapse and palm mortality.

Highly damaged areas of palms take on a characteristic appearance as the crown tills, collapses, and dies. Palms in the advanced stages of attack and mortality have a flattened top, and the remaining holo of fronds that ring the top of the trunk dry down, the palm looks like a giant brown umbrella or mushroom. “It’s apparent that it (weevil infestation) is happening all over the City,” contended Cruz, adding she feels the City is spending public money elsewhere and “doesn’t have a dime to spend on community needs. This could be devastating here in PB with all these decades-old palms, which won’t be easily replaced.”

Santacroce added the City is well aware of the South American Palm Weevil and its potential effects on palms. “We have been working with both the County Agriculture Weights and Measures team as well as UC Riverside researchers on actively removing infested palms,” he said. “We encourage residents to use the Get-it-Done App to report signs of declining date palms in parks or along the City right-of-way.”

More information on the South American Palm Weevil can be found at biocontrol.ucr.edu/south_american_palm_weevil.html.

Debra Levine is your Diamond expert in La Jolla!

Debra’s grandfather established their family’s first Jewelry store 100 years ago in Endicott, New York. “I developed a passion for gemology watching my Father and Uncle’s enthusiasm for gems” said Debra. In 1986 Debra moved to California to attend the Gemological Institute of America (G.I.A.), at the time in Los Angeles, where she obtained her Graduate Gemologist diploma G.G.. Upon her graduation she was selected to work at the G.I.A. as a diamond grader in their lab providing Diamond Reports! Debra’s desire to work more closely with people led her to transfer to the education division where she continued her career as a Diamond Grading Educator.

In 1990 she moved to San Diego where she became a partner in a diamond wholesale Company. Missing the personal connection with her clients she opened a small jewelry store near UTC and then moved to Mission Valley in 1998. She chose to open a store in Bird Rock with her son David because it has the intimate feeling of a small community, and is reminiscent of her hometown.

Stop by and say hello! For that personal touch in selecting the perfect engagement ring, designing custom jewelry, or expert repairs, they will take care of you!
Banfield Pet Hospital opens on Garnet Ave.

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Banfield Pet Hospital of Pacific Beach has come to partner with the community to handle its pet needs.

This is a brand new location for us,” said Erin O’Donnell, DVM, chief of staff of the new facility at 1530 Garnet Ave., formerly Evans Tires. The new full-service pet hospital held its grand opening Feb. 8. Banfield’s PB practice manager is Jennifer Katz, who is also a registered veterinary technician who assists veterinary doctors.

A national firm, most Banfield’s are located inside Pet Smarts, though, according to O’Donnell, “There’s no ownership by Pet Smart.”

Pointing out Banfield’s corporate office is in Vancouver, Wash., the firm, which started in Portland, Ore., is now national with more than 1,000 outlets. Banfield has been in San Diego for at least 15 years. Of the local market, with lots of pets owned by residents and beachgoers alike, O’Donnell pointed out Banfield determined “it made a lot of sense to open in PB.”

She added she already had numerous clients in PB, as well as in Point Loma and La Jolla. “I knew, for sure, this was going to be the location because we had already a base of clients that live already in this area,” said O’Donnell.

“Though we do surgery here, our priority is preventative care,” said O’Donnell. “We are not an emergency care clinic. We are not a 24-hour care facility. We’re here for preventative as well as illness care.”

Discussing the differences between treating humans and animals, who can’t tell you where it hurts, O’Donnell noted, “It’s all based on gauging responses to the physical exam and the results of lab work.”

The pet hospital chief of staff offered some preventative tips for maintaining pet health.

“We concentrate on five different elements of preventative care,” she said. “Some of the obvious ones are vaccines to infectious diseases out there, making sure they’re up to date. Parasites, preventing fleas, ticks, and heartworm.”

“There, people take their dogs to dog parks and Dog Beach a lot where there’s a lot of intestinal parasites and worms,” pointed out Katz.

Continuing her discussion of the five platforms of pet care, O’Donnell said the third element involves dentistry, “You should not wait until teeth are rotting out,” she said. “If we can keep them healthier, we can keep the pet alive longer with a better quality of life.”

The vet added nutrition is number four on the five basics list, “making sure people are feeding their pets something they can trust and is the right choice for their pet.”

The fifth element, O’Donnell said, is “potential behavioral concerns that come up, helping to keep that pet connected to their family.”

What's the biggest pet problem Banfield deals with? “Itchy skin and itchy stinky ears,” answered O’Donnell. “They typically end up on the top of the list. And definitely GI issues, vomiting, and diarrhea. Things not so obvious are weight loss, coughing, and allergies, as well as bad breath and dental disease.”

O’Donnell said Banfield recommends clients bring their pets in every six months “just because pets do age so much faster than people. We have a program called an Optimum Wellness Plan that includes all of the basics of preventative care.”
Lyft opens Driver Center in Bay Park

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Lyft unveiled its 35,000-square-foot, one-stop-shop driver center with a lounge and full-service auto repairs at a Feb. 11 press conference in a converted Bay Park retail space that once was a Toys R Us. “We’re proud to restore this building to support thousands of drivers who bring joy every day to riders across San Diego,” said Hao Meng, Lyft’s Southern California general manager.

“Lyft’s new full-service auto maintenance and repair facility at 1240 West Morena Blvd, a “race car pit stop,” Meng noted. “This means drivers can get back on the road quickly and affordably to keep going.”

Both current San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, and past mayor Jerry Sanders, who is now CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the official opening of the driver center. Both men touted the center’s importance to San Diego’s economy. “I love the transformation,” said Faulconer. “Thank you for your investment in San Diego. Our business community welcomes it, supports it, and wants to see it continue to grow and expand.”

“From a business perspective offering sustainable, affordable and accessible transportation to our workforce is important to the growth and development of jobs throughout our region,” Sanders said. “Lyft’s thousands of drivers throughout San Diego are an important part of our transportation infrastructure. Lyft provides San Diego drivers with the flexibility to earn an income on their own schedule.”

Vehicle services offered at Lyft’s Driver Center include maintenance and routine services such as conventional or synthetic oil change, tire rotation and replacement, brake pad replacement, wiper blade replacement, filter changes, spark plug replacement, battery replacement, and free diagnostic assessments.

The center also serves as a driver hub, providing drivers a comfortable place to relax in between rides, with access to bathrooms, Wi-Fi, coffee, lounge, and workspaces. Drivers can connect in-person with Lyft community representatives for assistance, including vehicle inspections and app support.

Lyft’s Express Driver program also operates out of the San Diego Driver Center. It connects Lyft drivers to rental vehicles with standard maintenance and insurance coverage through a rental partner, Flexdrive. A rental fleet, including 100 hybrid vehicles, are available for Lyft drivers to rent as an alternative way to drive and earn.

When asked what distinguishes Lyft, Meng said, “We offer fast and affordable vehicle service along with driver support and rental vehicles through our Express Ride program, all under one roof. Our goal really is to deliver services that our drivers need. We focus on treating our drivers better, and we believe when we treat our drivers better, that they will treat our riders better.”

Faulconer said the new Lyft Driver Center will support the City’s efforts to enact “our landmark Climate Action Plan, where we are slashing greenhouse gases, creating more housing and increasing alternative mobility options. All of this is incredibly important because it puts us closer to our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2035 citywide.”

“The more options available for employees to commute to and from work is an asset to our region,” said Sanders. “This new driver center will keep San Diego Lyft drivers thriving and San Diego moving forward.”

Lyft was founded in 2012 by Logan Green and John Zimmer to improve people’s lives with the world’s best transportation and is available to 95 percent of the United States population as well as select cities in Canada. Lyft is committed to effecting positive change for cities and making cities more livable for everyone through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting transportation equity through initiatives that bridge transportation gaps, and by promoting 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Drifties are the first neoprene wetsuit-lined boardshorts.

**Pacific Beach surfers launch Driftline – wetsuit-meets-boardshort apparel**

By LUCIA VITI | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Wes Horbutack and Greg Oré are transforming the world of watersports for men, one comfortable, Driftles boardshort at a time. The college buddies recently launched Pacific Beach-based Driftline, an aquatic, fashion-apparel line for watermen. Innovative to say the least, their “passion” project features Driftles, the first neoprene wetsuit-lined boardshorts.

10.5 mm neoprene liner is sewn into the inside of a “stylish” outer boardshorts shell to provide warmth, comfort, and chafe protection for one’s “nether” regions.

“Surfers sporting boardshorts—a shell with no lining—often wear boxers, briefs or compression shorts beneath the shorts,” explained Horbutack. “Not only is it uncomfortable because of bunching and chafing, there’s no warmth. Driftles is a comfortable and durable hybrid option that provides warmth, support, and flexibility of movement.”

“Our unmentionables are the first to agree,” added Oré.

The idea became a lightbulb moment while the two were surfing their favorite Pacific Beach jaunt during October; a time described as a seasonal transition period when the water’s too cold for boardshorts and too warm for a wetsuit.

Placed with zero options, the duo spent two years tinkering with prototypes while learning the language of apparel. A provisional patent coincided with a business blueprint and a manufacturer that accepted the project (after 16 rejections), enabling Driftles to be launched last May.

The team then hit the ground running—while working their day jobs—to introduce the product the best way they knew how—by allowing everyone to touch them. “Driftles speaks for themselves when they’re in the hands of the consumer,” continued Horbutack.

“We’re running—literally—boots on the ground, hitting every outdoor event that involves watersports. The reception’s always positive. People comment, ‘I can’t believe how incredibly soft these are, or what a great idea, why hasn’t it been done before?’”

Both agree that as buyers “evangelize” the brand, they’re working to embed a “scalable” growth strategy for their unique brand identity. “Because Driftles is an innovative product, we’re focusing on brand awareness,” said Oré.

“Driftles are redefining how men interact with the water market by giving them the tools to meet every moment head-on with a clear head-space and total comfort. We’re here to say, ‘Go ahead, dive right in.’”

“The company’s name and logo represent their “innovation.”

“The Driftline logo shows fluidity at the bottom and rigidity at the top, a fluid motion with a hard facet,” continued Oré.

“That’s who we are—a technical company selling products within the relaxed surfing and waterports industry.”

Although redefining comfort “in the areas that matter the most” remains the driving force, longevity is truly the name of their game. “Driftles isn’t just a passion project,” they said. “We’re constantly focused on the details, using technical innovation, body comfort, and athletic functionality as our guiding force. We’re focused on leaving our stamp not only on the industry but on the world.”

Sharing a Pacific Beach apartment that serves as both an office and a distribution center, the two are working on future fashion-forward, yet functional, long-lasting clothing “that will be able to withstand the brunt end of the ocean and watersports.”

“We’re incredibly humbled when our products are purchased with a consumer’s hard-earned money,” continued Oré. “Even though our days have become a 24/7 juggling act, we’re proud of our work and the support of others who would like to see us succeed.”

Future goals include a line for women and children to “keep every water athlete in the water longer, happy and content with the product that is on their body.”

Driftles should be hand-washed in cold water ideally with wetsuit cleaner and hung dry out of direct sunlight. Driftline also offers T-shirts and hats.
MISSION BAY HIGH

- The MBHS Pops Concert will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 in the auditorium. Featuring the Concert Band, Swing Choir, String and Full Orchestra, music will be from your favorite films, musicals, and pop standards. Tickets are $5 for adults. Kids and students are free.

- The Mission Bay Talent Show will take place at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 in the auditorium. Enjoy performances by local talent. $5 per person. Remember to bring some cash for the pre-show pizza and bake sale at 5:30 p.m.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE

- The PBMS Talent Show will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 in the auditorium. The annual show will feature talented middle school students. It’s always a great show!

- PBMS tour on Thursday, March 5, 7:45 a.m. Sign in at the front office and head over to the media center to meet Principal Meng and learn about all of the great changes coming to PBMS.

FOPBSS

- The seventh annual Schoolyard Dash 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will take place Sunday, Feb. 23. Run, walk, or just enjoy the morning at De Anza Cove at 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.

- FOPBSS meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6 p.m. Mission Bay High School library.

Mission Bay High School’s award-winning music program will launch a series of fund-raising efforts to support its 2020 international excursion to Cuba this summer. A one-of-a-kind school band, the Mambo Orchestra plans to travel to Cuba, the birthplace of Latin Jazz, to perform and study music and culture. To fund the band’s international excursion, the music program is holding a Jazz in the Garden Concert series at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park as well as a fund-raising night of salsa music, dancing and tasting called Salsa for Students.

Concerts will be held the second and fourth Thursday from February through April, and the first and third Thursday of May. Ticket prices are $20 for adults and $10 for students. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. providing guests the opportunity to tour the beautiful Japanese gardens and the concerts start at 7 p.m. Beer, wine and sodas are available for purchase.
Mission Bay girls soccer finishes regular season unbeaten

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It can be quite a task no matter how much talent a team has to finish a regular season unbeaten. And that is what the Mission Bay girls soccer team has done this season.

With the CIF playoffs getting ready to start the first week of March, the Bucs head into the postseason on a high. Mission Bay went 17-0-3 during the regular season for head coach Jorge Palacios.

Heading into postseason play, Palacios believes his team’s hard work and positive attitude could take them far.

“The goal every year is to try to win every game,” Palacios commented. “We’ve had a bunch of tight wins, comeback wins that were exciting and fun.”

Like with any good team, you often do not have to look any further than senior leadership to see why it is doing well. For the Bucs, this season’s success starts with seniors Leilani Ferguson, midfielder, Juliette Tran, forward, and Jeryn Young, center back.

“They along with our entire senior class set a positive tone for the season,” Palacios said. “We also had great contributions from junior midfielder Gina Queck and sophomore forward Camrin Peaslee, who have phenomenally high work rates and lead by example.”

Speaking of some of those tough wins during the regular season, Mission Bay has had a few of them.

“Early in the season, we went to Mountain Empire and played on an extremely windy, chilly evening coming back from down 0-1 to win 3-2,” Palacios said. “More recently, we had a bunch of illness and injuries, and were down 0-1 at Christian and scored twice in the last three minutes to win. In both cases, they were total team victories as we had contributions from everyone on the roster.”

Even with that success in the regular season, the playoffs can be quite a challenge.

“The playoffs will be a challenge as every team in Division II is good,” Palacios said. “It’s a completely new season and we’re excited to see if we can string together a three-game winning streak.”

Future Bucs inspired by current Mission Bay girls soccer team

Teaching a girl to love a sport that you played for so many years is something special. A group of girls from PB, who have played on and off together over the last year, are taking their soccer game to the next level. Practicing in the offseason and watching older girls play are some of the many ways the girls are getting into the sport. With the direction from local parents, who were active soccer players in their younger days, these girls are learning skills and training while having fun from some of the best in PB.

The parents of this tribe of soccer lovers decided to take them to see a game at Mission Bay High where the girls’ varsity soccer team is currently undefeated.

The sound level of the game tripled from past games when the seven girls and all their siblings and parents joined the fans to contribute to the cheering of the Buccaneers.

Watching these young ladies see what their future holds was priceless for all, from the attendees in the stands to the varsity team playing on the field. The young girls’ presence was noticed by all. The young girls were invited down to the field at the end of the game to meet the varsity team and their coach. The coach and team shared about teamwork and working hard but mostly about encouraging one another to never give up.

These are just some of the reasons why PB is such a beautiful community that supports young athletes and families alike. Best of luck to the Mission Bay Buccaneers.

– Lindsay Smith

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Taylor shooting for successful finish to scholastic career

“I’ve been our leader on and off the floor,” Cherry said. “He has shown how to lead by example with hard work on the court and in the classroom, carrying over a 3.5 GPA. He is a true student-athlete. He’s our force inside the paint with his thunderous dunks and timely blocks.”

Heading into the latter part of February, Mission Bay was looking to secure a berth in the CIF playoffs. For Taylor, to go out on top his final season would certainly be a dream come true.

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

BBP: How old were you when you first began playing basketball and what got you interested?

Taylor: Basketball runs in my family so I’ve been playing it for as long as I can remember. I never took it seriously until I came to Mission Bay and now it’s become my life. All I want to do is get better.

BBP: Coming into this season, what have you been looking to accomplish?

Taylor: My first goal for my senior season is to win the Division I CIF championship and my second is to get to a college that’s a good fit for me.

BBP: Do you have any NBA players you try and pattern your game after and if so why?

Taylor: I’ve watched a lot of players throughout my life like Lebron and Kevin Durant. This season, I’ve watched a lot of Kobe Bryant video just for his killer instinct which I’m trying to build.

BBP: Any college plans next fall and hopes of playing basketball?

Taylor: Yes, I know coach Marshawn is working really hard off the court to get me to a school that would be a good fit for me.

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Very few tribute bands get as close to the real thing as The Fox Fighters, who perform at the 710 Beach Club on Feb. 22. Playing the music of Dave Grohl and company, the band nails not only the Fox Fighters sound but also their look. In fact the band’s guitarist/singer, Nicky Rich could pass as Grohl’s twin, making Fox Fighters shows a must for fans. With their namesake band playing arena’s and stadiums, these days an intimate show such as this is the best way to get up close and personal with the music of Foo Fighters.

The Fox Fighters: Saturday, Feb. 22 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. $5. 710bc.com.

Heavy metal fans won’t want to miss a four-tribute band bill taking place at Brick by Brick on Feb. 22. On band will be Anarchy X (Queensryche), Blackout (The Scorpions) and Woke Up Dead (Megadeth). While all are solid rockers, the night’s highlight will likely be Anarchy. With the recent passing of Rush’s drummer Neil Peart, their music has been put back in the spotlight reminding everyone what a gifted musician he was. Anthem is up to the task of playing Rush’s adventurous music, though they perform as a quartet rather than in the original band’s trio format.

Anthem: Saturday, Feb. 22 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. $12. brickbybrick.com.

Mardi Gras comes to Winston’s in Ocean Beach on Feb. 23. The celebration will run from 4-8 p.m., featuring three of San Diego’s favorite bands; rock-a-billy quartet The Sleepwalkers, roadhouse blues band Lady Dottie and Cajun party combo. The Bayou Boys. It’s a diverse bill sure to keep the dance floor filled, each band being headliners in their own right. The event includes host Madame LaRoux (aka blues singer Michele Lundeen) and such Mardi Gras essentials as beads and red beans and rice, but this would be a noteworthy music line up no matter the day of the week.

08 Mardi Gras: Sunday, Feb. 23 at Winston’s, 1921 Bacon St. 4 p.m. $10. 21 and up. winstonsofb.com.

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