PB RAPIST GETS 50 YEARS TO LIFE

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A man who raped a Pacific Beach woman and five others years ago was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison after the judge heard from three victims.

Christopher VanBuskirk, 47, did not face the three women and dozens of their friends and family members before San Diego Superior Court Judge Francis Devaney sentenced him.

The Pacific Beach rape and three others in Tierrasanta and Clairemont occurred in 1995, and the rapist’s DNA was saved, which led to charges being filed last year when a DNA match with him was confirmed.

The DNA match also solved two other rapes in Riverside County where VanBuskirk lived in 2002-2004. He lived in San Diego in 1995.

The mother of one victim told VanBuskirk her daughter received a medication during the rape exam that would halt the birth “of your demon child.”

“The fear was nothing like I had ever experienced before,” said another woman who said, “the rapist also stole my spirit.”

“The rapist took much from me, but not everything,” said the woman, who said she developed a stutter and was later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Devaney turned to VanBuskirk and said the purpose of hearing the women’s testimony was “for you to hear” about the effect of what he had done.

VanBuskirk pleaded guilty Dec. 16 to committing all six rapes, and realized he would be getting a consecutive term of 50 years to life.

Devaney ordered him to register as a sex offender in the event he is paroled, which is unlikely in his lifetime, as he will have to serve almost all of the 50 years first.

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Saint Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach is collaborating with the San Diego Food Bank to benefit low-income individuals and households experiencing food insecurity.

Begun Feb. 28 and recurring every fourth Friday of the month, there will be a free commodities distribution at the Catholic church at 4735 Cass St. from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

“As a parish, we have been looking for opportunities to be a more visible presence in serving the local Pacific Beach community,” said Saint Brigid Pastor Father Steve Callahan. “It is for that reason that we are very excited to collaborate with Catholic Charities in the San Diego Food Bank’s food distribution program to benefit low-income individuals and households in our community.”

The Emergency Food Assistance Program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program working to improve the health of low-income families by supplementing their diets with nutritious food.

Volunteers hand out oranges during the initial food distribution launch, which served 93 households, including many military families and seniors.

‘We’re reaching out to let people know about this new resource for low-income families in the beach and bay area.’

LEE HULBURT, SAINT BRIGID PARISH LIASON

COURTESY PHOTO
Anyone interested in applying for the election must submit their application to Steve Pruett by March 11, at 6 p.m.
- All Pacific Beach residents are eligible to vote, and there will be two opportunities to cast your vote:
  - Saturday, March 21, from 1-4 p.m., at the Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass St.
  - Wednesday, March 25, from 4:45-6:30 p.m., at the Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass St.

Circulate San Diego working to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists

Maya Rosas, policy director for Circulate San Diego.

Point Lomans reacted to the recent collision data.

Amy Stark, assistant manager at The Orchard Apartments at 4040 Hancock St., pinpointed several troublesome traffic spots in her Midway neighborhood including:
- Sports Arena/Midway/West Point Loma Boulevard corner;
- The bike lane on Sports Arena; and West Point Loma Boulevard heading to/from OB (new bike lanes and loss of car lane).

Stark characterized Sports Arena/Midway/West Point Loma Boulevard as "dangerous," noting The Orchard seniors have been hit several times there in the last few years. "It is especially treacherous for mobility devices because riders sit low to the ground and are hard to see," said Stark.

Stark argued new bike lanes on West Point Loma Boulevard and from OB is also a safety issue. "With the new bike lane and loss of a driving lane, bikes come in and out between parked cars, which seems dangerous," she said.

"The whole stretch seems poorly designed and will bottleneck even more on summer weekends (beach traffic) and rush hour on weekdays."

Of the bike-lane issue raised, Rosas of Circulate San Diego said, "There is no data that I am aware of that shows any negative safety or traffic impact of adding bike lanes... In Downtown, the newly installed protected bike lanes don't seem to have any impact on traffic or safety, besides making it more comfortable for bicyclists and scooter riders to ride."

Concerning the introduction of bike lanes on W. Point Loma Boulevard, lifelong Point Loman Robert Tripp Jackson noted, "There has been a 'learning curve' on the changes set forth. This may create confusion when a pedestrian, a bike rider or one in a car needs to determine how to share, navigate or become familiar with the new lanes."

Point Lomans Don Sevrens praised Peninsula Community Planning Board member Brad Herrin for "doing a great job of identifying unsafe intersections and forwarding them to the city for study or corrective action. That's a great start."

But, added Sevrens, "What is missing is even token enforcement... Speed limits or parking limits, without any enforcement, are meaningless."

Find tips at sdge.com/whenmatters

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Wake up to gorgeous views of Mission Bay over Fanuel Park in this bright & open corner townhome that lives like a house. Featuring Brazilian Tigerwood flooring, dual master suites, flexible loft space, 3 outdoor areas, & new, attached 2 car garage + 1 addl. parking space w/storage. 2nd floor parking! 8 solar panels to minimize kitchen w/ wolf range, refrigerator w/ built in coffee maker. Convinent countertops, pantry, & Sub Zero fridge. Just steps to the sand, park, boardwalk & entertainment!
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Marianne Kendall
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marianne@ilovepb.net
DRE#01236825

IN ESCROW

1040 Agate St
5 BD | 3 BA | 3,051 sq. ft.
Offered at $2,275,000
Stunning Coastal Craftsman 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. Some of the many features include a pool, spa, great room with a built-in entertainment center, high-end kitchen with Thermador appliances, upstairs play area, built-in ceiling speakers, and tall, stackable sliders that lead to the backyard for the perfect balance of indoor/ outdoor living!

IN ESCROW IN 2 DAYS!

1104 AGATE ST
5 BD | 3 BA | 3,051 sq. ft.
Offered at $2,275,000
Stunning Coastal Craftsman 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. Some of the many features include a pool, spa, great room with a built-in entertainment center, high-end kitchen with Thermador appliances, upstairs play area, built-in ceiling speakers, and tall, stackable sliders that lead to the backyard for the perfect balance of indoor/ outdoor living!

1885 Diamond St. #112
1 BD | 1 BA | 653 sq. ft.
This perfect starter condo is a fully-remodeled, ground-floor unit in the coveted Pacific Beach complex, The Plaza. Its features include water-proof vinyl plank flooring, new stainless steel appliances, new quartz countertops, new cabinets, new glass-tile backsplash, ship lap accent walls, decorative bathroom tiles, fresh paint, new fixtures and more. Call for pricing and more information before this one hits the market!

4092 Crown Point Dr. #5
1BD | 1BA | 588 sq. ft.
Offered at $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.

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COMPASS
Local health and school officials responding to coronavirus concerns

By DAVE SCHWARTZ | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A s concern over the coro- navirus builds, City, County and school health officials are addressing the situation and informing residents what they can do to guard against exposure.

That the local health community has made swift and significant efforts to deal with the COVID-19 threat, by working with federal and state agencies to care for travelers suspected of having the virus,” said Public Health Officer Dr. Wilma Wooten. “We have successfully protected the residents of San Diego County, as well as those suspected of having the virus.”

County officials recently declared a local health emergency effective for seven days. The Board of Supervisors subsequently took action to extend that declaration for another 30 days and can vote to extend it yet again.

“This declaration empowers the County to more effectively respond to COVID-19, seek mutual aid and ensure the County has all the necessary resources to address the disease,” said County Chief Medical Officer Nick Yphantides.

As of March 2, a total of 141 people have been tested for coronavirus in San Diego County. Of those tests, 130 have been returned; 107 were from public health supervision because they are at risk of having been exposed to coronavirus, County health officials said.

Presently there are two confirmed cases of the coronavirus in San Diego. Both patients were in isolation among more than 200 who recently flew from Wuhan, China, an area under public health supervision because they are at risk of having been exposed to coronavirus, County health officials said.

One patient was discharged recently after recovering fully. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff cleared the patient after rigorous testing to confirm the recovery and lack of contagiousness, officials said.

San Diego Unified and other local school districts have addressed the Coronavirus by sending out letters to parents. SDUSD’s letter informed people in San Diego County were being evacuated from the area of Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak.

The County Public Health Laboratory is now able to test for the novel coronavirus, the cause of the respiratory disease COVID-19, the Health and Human Services Agency announced.

Patients who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
• Wash your hands often.
• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
• Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others; particularly care providers working in settings with patients who are likely to have the disease.
• Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially after going to the restroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
• If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol; always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

The County Public Health Laboratory is now able to test for the novel coronavirus, the cause of the respiratory disease COVID-19, the Health and Human Services Agency announced.

That having that capability means that HHSA will no longer have to send all specimens to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, substantially reducing the time it takes for results.

This is great news for San Diego County and will help with our ongoing efforts to contain COVID-19,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “Being able to test locally means that when we have patients under investigation, we can more rapidly remove unneeded restrictions from those without infection. Should someone test positive, we will continue to keep them isolated.”

The County Public Health Lab now has the capability to do up to 40 tests in one run. The lab is one of dozens across the nation certified by the CDC to test for the new coronavirus.

“The number of specimens we’ve been getting for testing is currently low, but we expect the need to increase,” said Brett Austin, director of HHSA’s Public Health Lab. “We are ready to increase capacity as required.”

Prior to getting the testing kit, the County Public Health Lab had to send specimens to CDC and results took several days to return. Now, those tested for potential cases of COVID-19 will know their results in 24 to 48 hours. Positive tests will still need to be confirmed by the CDC.

“Workers shouldn’t be fired if they miss work because they’ve been quarantined or isolated due to a public health emergency like the coronavirus,” Gonzalez said. “We need to support workers so they can take every action necessary to prevent the spreading of this disease.”

On March 4, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in California over the coronavirus, which has now been reported in 12 counties in the state, sickening more than 50 people and killing at least one person.

The number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases increased to 74 after 11 additional fatalities were reported last week. The County Health and Human Services Agency recently announced.

The new flu deaths include a 26-year-old woman from South County who died Feb. 13 from influenza B. Only two of the 11 reported deaths occurred last week, and all had underlying medical conditions.

“Flu deaths increase to 74, but cases decrease in San Diego

By JOSE Á. ALVAREZ | BEACH & BAY PRESS

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School board approves filtered water stations for schools district-wide

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The San Diego Unified Board of Education recently unanimously approved a new clean water plan providing drinking water districtwide solely through filtered hydration stations to achieve the state’s strongest lead in water standard of 1 part per billion or below.

“This plan will go a long way in protecting student health,” said Samir Naji, San Diego Unified School District’s facilities communication supervisor.

“We know from working with health experts and CALPIRG that any level of lead in drinking water presents health risks to students, especially younger kids. By using filters at the point of service through the filtered hydration stations, and by eliminating all old drinking water outlets, we believe we will reduce lead levels to 1 part per billion or below, delivering the cleanest water available at any school site,” Naji said.

The cost of the hydration stations, including installation, is $12 million. The cost of the new district plan to get lead out of drinking water outlets, we believe we will reduce lead levels to 1 part per billion or below, delivering the cleanest water available at any school site,” Naji said.

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SDUSD used the lessons learned from the data generated from all its testing and is ready to implement the clean water plan by moving to filtered hydration stations districtwide.

“This a very substantial step forward for public health here at San Diego Unified and is a model that may be replicated throughout the state and nationally,” said Naji. “It has been a long road to get here. As you know, we did find elevated levels of lead at several school sites. We are fortunate to have had great community support and partners as we aggressively tackled this issue ... and built this plan that has been adopted by the school board.”

Consumer watchdog group CALPIRG also hailed the school district’s efforts to purify drinking water.

“We are thrilled about the new district plan to get lead out of school drinking water,” said CALPIRG public health advocate Laura Deehan. "Lead is highly toxic to children. Even exposure to very small amounts are now linked to irreversible damage to a child’s brain, and can cause IQ loss, ADHD and anxiety disorders."
Animal-rights activists to protest trophy hunting club event at Paradise Point

Group known to auction off hunts of black bears, leopards and elephants

Animal-rights activists are taking aim once more on hunting enthusiasts, intending to protest a March 7 fundraiser being held by the San Diego chapter of Safari Club International at Paradise Point Resort and Spa on Vacation Island Park in Mission Bay.

Claiming on Next Door social media that SCI will be “auctioning for hunts of the world’s most iconic animals,” animal advocates said they would picket the event, and we’re calling upon those sharing their perspective to “contact Paradise Point at paradisepoint@publicrelations.com to voice outrage.”

SCI is a tax-deductible non-profit with about 200 San Diego members advocating for the right to hunt, fish and participate in the shooting sports locally and internationally. The group’s website at sandiegosci.org claims it “does not participate in political activities,” while saying it spends the bulk of its income “on wildlife conservation, education, and humanitarian projects.”

“Paradise Point doesn’t have a place to accommodate the public, and Paradise Point does not discriminate against individuals or groups.”

Animal-rights activist Ellen Ericksen, a regular protesting against SeaWorld’s practice of keeping orcas in captivity, spoke against SCI and its mission.

“The Safari Club International promotes senseless slaughter of wildlife for sport,” Ericksen said. “The most killed animals for trophies include elephants, lions, rhinos and leopards. What are the ethics of killing animals for sport? Trophy hunting is not conservation. It is unethical to cause the death of innocent animals. It causes pain and suffering for these animals.”

Added Ericksen, “We have no right taking the lives of these animals. Animals are on the brink of extinction. Some of these animals are bears, rhinos, wolves, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, gorillas, orangutans, sea life, bird species, tigers and elephants. Protest and education will continue to happen locally and globally until this abusive business of killing animals for money and for sport stops.”

From its Washington, D.C. headquarters, People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals concurred with Ericksen.

“Reducing magnificent wild animals to corpses, floating over the kills, and then claiming that it’s all for ‘conservation’ is like killing some humans try to solve homelessness – it’s nasty, unethical and transparently absurd,” said Catie Cryar, senior PETA media liaison. “Humans have boundless opportunities for amusement, so it speaks volumes that trophy hunters only seem to get a thrill out of gunning down others who ask for nothing out of life but the chance to live in peace.”

After repeated attempts by Beach & Bay Press, Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association could not be reached for comment.

Hunting groups and organizations public and private are increasingly coming under fire from animal-rights advocates who insist that killing animals or keeping them in captivity and allegedly exploiting them commercially, is morally wrong.

Some animal-rights activists, who have been protesting against SeaWorld’s confinement of marine mammals and their exhibition in live wildlife shows for years, are now calling upon an end to horse racing in Del Mar, pointing to the growing number of injured horses having to be euthanized. Some are also advocating an eventual end to zoos and aquariums, arguing there are other more humane ways of exhibiting animals, either by utilizing video or by keeping animals in “sanctuaries” where they can be seen by the public but are not confined against their will.

“Rapid” CONT. FROM Pg. 1

He was given credit for serving 142 days in jail since he was arrested in Maricopa County, Arizona, where he worked as a manager of a restaurant. Three members of his family also attended the sentencing.

Deputy District Attorney Martin Doyle said DNA evidence was collected during the rape exams of the victims.

“It’s a great technological innovation,” said Doyle.

The San Diego Police Department worked with an FBI genealogy team and a match was made using a public access genealogical database.

“They put this case together and they did a fine job,” said Doyle.

The Pacific Beach rape occurred in the 1900 block of Missouri Street on Nov. 17, 1995, by a masked man who broke into the woman’s home.
Mavericks Beach Club celebrates two years in Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mavericks Beach Club pulled out all the stops in celebrating its second anniversary in PB with a Mardi Gras bash on March 2.

Pointing out Mavericks is a 15,000-square-foot, multi-level entertainment mecca on Garnet Avenue. It’s a cut above standard bar fare. "Our menu is very California-fresh. Baja-inspired delicious cuisine with substantial-size plates that are great for sharing," said Marcheschi. "We also have food for people on vegan and Keto diets. Everything we do make in-house. We're not just bar food. We're healthy. And we have a very wide selection." Marcheschi noted the pub debuts new menus every spring and winter. Those menus boast an array of mainstay tasty burgers, burritos, salads and chicken wings, which have been voted best in San Diego a few times, among other items.

Mavericks amenities include a dog-friendly patio, outdoor games, sports, drinks, food, live music and plenty of space. The club is equipped with coastal California décor, round tables for community seating, VIP booths, couches and cozy spots by the outdoor fireplace.

Mavericks provides a laidback landscape, welcoming everyone from surfers and sports fans to corporate parties. There are daily activities and live entertainment, as well as deals on food specials including chicken wings on Mondays and $10 all-you-can-eat tacos on Tuesdays.

Speaking of Mavericks’ menu, it’s a cut above standard bar fare. "Our menu is very California-fresh. Baja-inspired delicious cuisine with substantial-size plates that are great for sharing," said Marcheschi. "We also have food for people on vegan and Keto diets. Everything we do make in-house. We're not just bar food. We're healthy. And we have a very wide selection."

Above all else, said Marcheschi, “Each of our five separate bars has a different feel.”

Mavericks wanted to update the usual beach bar’s image, changing its look and feel for the long-term. "We purchased the whole land because we wanted a beach bar that would stand 20 years while paying tribute to all the places that were here before us that made this a landmark,” said Marcheschi. “We hope people will come back from before that. We weren’t going to be just another bar in PB. This has been the place to go for generations.”

Mavericks is still here.”

"When we were building Mavericks, we wanted to make sure to tie-in all the history this spot actually has,” said Marcheschi. “This has been bars (Pacific Beach Bar & Grill, Diego’s) for 50 years, and a residential home before that. We weren’t going to be just another bar in PB. This has been the place to go for generations.”

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SEVEN SEAS CRAFT BEER & FOOD FESTIVAL

The annual Seven Seas Craft Beer & Food Festival at SeaWorld gets underway on March 7 and continues for nine consecutive weekends through May 3. The event spotlights an array of international cuisines and 150 beer options from nearly 30 breweries. It also features live entertainment across three stages.

New to this year’s list of represented countries are Germany, Spain, Argentina, and China. Among the dishes offered from some of those areas are bratwurst, homemade pretzels, and pork belly bao buns. In total, there are 45 food items in the lineup, served from 11 different themed areas throughout the park. Assorted wines and specialty drinks are also in the offering.

Access to the festival requires regular park admission, after which food and drink samples can be purchased a la carte ($5 to $7.50 per food sample) as well as through 10-item and 15-item punch cards. They cost $52 and $67 respectively.

In addition, SeaWorld’s “Waterfront” area will be utilized to afford patrons additional seating for eating and drinking while enjoying views of the bay. 500 SeaWorld Drive, 619-222-4732, seaworldsandiego.com.

NIKE TENNIS CAMPS at University of San Diego

Join Junior Theatre this summer and experience the wonderful world of Performing Arts in Balboa Park!

“We combine the fun your children want with the growth experiences they need. YMCA Camp Marston has been a San Diego favorite for thousands of children and families. Camp Marston offers you adventure, fun, friendships, and great staff – all on a spectacular 216-acre site – with activities including archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, more. YMCA Raintree Ranch is a wonderful, small camp dedicated to western horseback riding. Thirty-eight horses, multiple instructional arenas, and miles of trails all provide an excellent learning environment. YMCA Camp Surf is a spectacular, ocean-front camp just south of San Diego. This 45-acre oceanfront camp is the perfect place for kids of all ages. YMCA Overnight Camps are for overnight campers. Camps run for overnight campers. Camps run $67 respectively.

YMCA Overnight Camps

Are you ready for positive, life-changing experiences in the outdoors? Look no further than YMCA Overnight Camps. We combine the fun your children want with the growth experiences they need. YMCA Camp Marston has been a San Diego favorite for thousands of children and families. Camp Marston offers you adventure, fun, friendships, and great staff – all on a spectacular 216-acre site – with activities including archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, more. YMCA Raintree Ranch is a wonderful, small camp dedicated to western horseback riding. Thirty-eight horses, multiple instructional arenas, and miles of trails all provide an excellent learning environment. YMCA Camp Surf is a spectacular, ocean-front camp just south of San Diego. This 45-acre oceanfront camp is the perfect place for kids of all ages. YMCA Overnight Camps are for overnight campers. Camps run for overnight campers. Camps run $67 respectively.

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BMF means business.

“Taco Surf”

Are you ready for positive, life-changing experiences in the outdoors? Look no further than YMCA Overnight Camps. We combine the fun your children want with the growth experiences they need. YMCA Camp Marston has been a San Diego favorite for thousands of children and families. Camp Marston offers you adventure, fun, friendships, and great staff – all on a spectacular 216-acre site – with activities including archery, swimming, climbing, crafts, canoeing, more. YMCA Raintree Ranch is a wonderful, small camp dedicated to western horseback riding. Thirty-eight horses, multiple instructional arenas, and miles of trails all provide an excellent learning environment. YMCA Camp Surf is a spectacular, ocean-front camp just south of San Diego. This 45-acre oceanfront camp is the perfect place for kids of all ages. YMCA Overnight Camps are for overnight campers. Camps run for overnight campers. Camps run $67 respectively.

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Morning-after St. Patrick’s Day cleanup in Pacific Beach

The morning after St. Patrick’s Day on Wednesday, March 18 this year, residents will feel “a little better” knowing community leaders in Pacific Beach have organized Garnet Avenue/Cass Street cleanups following the annual Irish cultural fest. “I’ve participated in a few post-holiday beach cleanups over the years, but last year the morning after St. Patrick’s Day I saw that Garnet Avenue and Cass Street could use a little TLC too,” said PB community evangelist/activist Ed Gallagher, who’s spearheading the cleanup. “St. Brigid is the other patron saint of Ireland, and St. Brigid is one of the larger Catholic parishes in our community and is named in her honor. I thought, gee, this concept of a St. Patrick’s Day cleanup in partnership with St. Brigid’s Parish might be a match made in heaven.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnnews.com
LIVE MUSIC – Showcase concerts ahead of San Diego Music Awards

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The San Diego Music Awards take place on March 23 at the House of Blues. However, in advance of the ceremony, there will be a series of showcase concerts at venues around town, spotlighting some of the great talent nominated this year. All are local headliners at the top of their game, making these events a great show for long time fans as well as anyone wanting to dip their toes into San Diego’s music community. Proceeds from all these events go to the San Diego Music Foundations “Guitars In Schools” Program, helping keep music education in San Diego County Schools.

• On March 18, Tio Leo’s will feature a four-band showcase featuring guitarist Anthony “Fallbrook Kid” Cullins (Best Blues), surf rock combo The Tourmaliners (Best Rock Album), rock-a-billy quartet The Sea Monks and soul/rock inspired combo The Larry Grano Trip (Best Pop Album). The common thread here is that all the groups here are known for their ability to get crowds up and dancing, giving this night a bit of a party feel. SDMA Showcase: Wednesday at Tio Leo’s, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. and up. $12. tioleos.com.

• Meanwhile, the next evening Humphrey’s Backstage Live hosts a pre-San Diego Music Awards Showcase on March 19. On hand will be a wonderfully diverse bill featuring singer-songwriter Gaby Aparicio (Best World Music Album), alternative folk-rock group Trouble in the Wind (Best Country or Americana Album), acoustic duo Berkley Hart and bluegrass favorites MohaviSoul (both Best Country or Americana Artist), as well as R&B/Funk from The Jonny Tarr Quintet and pop pair The Spiritual Motels (both Best Pop Artist). A great way to take in a cross-section of local talent in one night. SDMA Showcase: Thursday, March 19 at Humphrey’s Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, 6 p.m. $10. humphreysbackstagelive.com.

Trombonist Matt Hall presents a special tribute show at Dizzy’s on March 13, For Art’s Sake: The Music of Bill Watrous & Art Pepper. Watrous was an acclaimed trombonist, while Pepper was known for saxophone playing, with the latter’s part played by Charlie Arbelaez (alto saxophone) and an all-star group that also includes Mikan Zlatkovitch (piano), Rob Thorsen (bass) and Duncan Moore (drums). Trombonist Matt Hall presents a special tribute show at Dizzy’s on March 13, For Art’s Sake: The Music of Bill Watrous & Art Pepper. Watrous was an acclaimed trombonist, while Pepper was known for saxophone playing, with the latter’s part played by Charlie Arbelaez (alto saxophone) and an all-star group that also includes Mikan Zlatkovitch (piano), Rob Thorsen (bass) and Duncan Moore (drums). READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Violinist and conductor André Rieu to perform at Pechanga Arena on March 18.

Rock-a-billy comes to the 710 Beach Club on March 12 with a performance from Rip Carson. For anyone who likes classic, 1950s Sun Records styled tunes, Carson is as good as it gets. It’s been almost 70 years since the genre first emerged but in the hands of new practitioners such as Carson, it’s clear there is plenty of life left. Songs such as “I Win You Lose” and “All The Girls Say” sound like vintage classics, down to the reverb. Perfect for swing dancing. Carson’s tunes are instantly memorable and a lot of fun. Rip Carson: Thursday, March 12 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD. 710bc.com.

Trombonist Matt Hall presents a special tribute show at Dizzy’s on March 13, For Art’s Sake: The Music of Bill Watrous & Art Pepper. Watrous was an acclaimed trombonist, while Pepper was known for saxophone playing, with the latter’s part played by Charlie Arbelaez (alto saxophone) and an all-star group that also includes Mikan Zlatkovitch (piano), Rob Thorsen (bass) and Duncan Moore (drums). READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

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EDUCATION NOTEBOOK>>

MISSION BAY HIGH
- The Mission Bay Talent Show is on Friday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Enjoy performances by local talent at the show. $5 per person. Bring some extra cash for the pre-show pizza and bake sale at 5:30 p.m.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE
- The PBMS Music Association Annual Pancake Breakfast is set for 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 14. Join friends and neighbors for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausages, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice while raising money to purchase instruments, music, and equipment for the PBMS music program. $6 per person.
- The PBMS Pops Concert will be 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. Join friends and neighbors for an evening of popular music played by PBMS music students, led by music director John O’Donnell.

PACIFIC BEACH ELEMENTARY
- Parents and students are welcome to the PBES Principal’s Chat and school tour on Friday, March 6, at 8 a.m.
- The Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 p.m. in the library. Childcare will be provided for school-age students.
- The PBE fourth and fifth-grade choir students will be performing the national anthem at the San Diego Gulls hockey game at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13, at the Pechanga Arena.

SCHOOLS

MBHS Advanced Placement Environmental Science students presented their research project on the water and air quality of Mission Bay at the Ocean Sciences Meeting held at the San Diego Convention Center on Feb. 19. The students also attended lectures given by scientists from around the world.

Kate Sessions Elementary School has a pop-up spirit shop that is open after school on Wednesdays, where students can purchase Smencils, spirit wear, keychains, and trade in box tops for Sessions Bucks. KSE partnered with Blenders Eyewear to offer a great deal on blue sunglasses as modeled by fifth-graders Makena and Kyle. Thank you to Blenders for this great fundraising opportunity.

San Diego Unified School District files suit against JUUL Labs

The San Diego Unified School District has filed a lawsuit against JUUL Labs, Inc. for the company’s role in cultivating and fostering an e-cigarette epidemic that disrupts the education and learning environment across the district. The suit was filed in the San Diego Superior Court (Case 37-2020-00000935-CU-MT-CTL).

The lawsuit seeks injunction and abatement to stop the e-cigarette epidemic, which has severely impacted the school districts by interfering with normal school operations. The districts also seek compensatory damages to provide relief from financial losses as a result of students being absent from school, coordinating outreach and education programs regarding the health risks of vaping, and enforcement actions such as vape detectors, video surveillance, and staff to monitor the school’s property in an effort to combat the e-cigarette crisis.

“Our district is in the business of educating students in a healthy and safe environment, said San Diego Unified Superintendent Cindy Marten. “This lawsuit supports district goals by holding JUUL accountable for its harmful marketing practices and unsafe products.”

Since entering the market in 2015, JUUL has dominated the e-cigarette industry and now controls over 70 percent of the market.

San Diego Unified School District, Compton Unified School District, and Anaheim Elementary District, all against JUUL for the same negligence and nuisance claims.

“Each lawsuit seeks injunctive and abatement to stop the e-cigarette epidemic, which has severely impacted the school districts by interfering with normal school operations. The districts also seek compensatory damages to provide relief from financial losses as a result of students being absent from school, coordinating outreach and education programs regarding the health risks of vaping, and enforcement actions such as vape detectors, video surveillance, and staff to monitor the school’s property in an effort to combat the e-cigarette crisis.”

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Mission Bay winter teams finish up CIF playoffs

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mission Bay High winter sports teams recently wrapped up play for the season with appearances in the CIF playoffs.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
The Bucs, under head coach Cameron Mitchell, finished with an overall record of 11-17 and a 12th place seed in the Division IV playoffs. Mission Bay fell in the first round of the playoffs.

“The ladies team had some key injuries down the stretch that changed the course of what was an extremely good season,” Mitchell commented. “Gwen Morris Lundstrom led our team in almost every statistical category especially scoring 23 points per game (26 ppg in conference) and our team fought extremely hard through all our second half adversity shining and with our heads held high.”

According to Mitchell, he is quite excited about the direction of the program.

“T’m so excited and can’t wait for next year when we definitely will be CIF champions,” Mitchell added.

BOYS SOCCER
Boys soccer, under head coach Joe Panian, finished with a 10-2-3 record.

“We came in second in the league and lost in the first round of playoffs,” Panian said. “The players of note for the season were Cody Armstrong, Trevor Reichenberg (senior defender), Anthony Munoz (senior midfielder), and Will Francis (sophomore forward).”

According to Panian, the team this year was electric offensively, creating chances, scoring goals (some fantastic, eye-catching goals) but were unable to solve defensive lapses and decision-making problems. As a result, it caused them to falter just a bit in the league and during playoffs.

GIRLS SOCCER
The Bucs had a fantastic season under head coach Jorge Palacios, which came to an end in the second round of CIF’s. Mission Bay went 17-1-3, won the Eastern League crown, and lost in the Division II quarterfinals.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Mission Bay, under head coach Marshawn Cherry, finished up at 12-18. The Bucs lost in the Division I quarterfinals to top seed Santa Fe Christian.

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Where to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in San Diego

By JILL DIAMOND | BEACH & BAY PRESS

St. Patrick’s Day arrives on Tuesday, March 17, and you best be ready. Whether you truly are of Irish descent or just want to be Irish for the day, there’s plenty of activities and places to drop by to celebrate the popular holiday. While it’s now a nearly global celebration, it was first created to honor St. Patrick, an Ireland patron from the fifth century. Several local bars and pubs are orchestrating various events and specials so put on your green attire, order some corned beef and cabbage, and a pint of Guinness along with the rest of the revelers come this St. Paddy’s Day.

According to Dan Lang, general manager at Hennessy’s Tavern in La Jolla, this is the biggest day of the year for the venue by far. Some of his favorite Irish sayings include: “Eirinn go Brách,” which translated in English is, “Ireland forever”; “slainte!” which means “cheers!” or “cheers to your health”; and “ni neart go cur le cheile,” which means, “there is no strength without unity.”

PACIFIC BEACH
- Make sure to don your best green attire and head to Duck Dive, at 4630 Mission Blvd. The open-air beach bar will host a festive Taco Tuesday featuring $3 Green Beer and $3 Corned Beef and Hash Tacos, beginning at 5 p.m. If you’re looking to start the St. Patrick’s excitement early, head in for weekend brunch and enjoy Green Beer, a specialty Shamrock Shake and Irish Breakfast Shots!
- Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with a twist at Pacific Beach Shore Club, at 4343 Ocean Boulevard. The beach bar will host Dia de los Leprechauns, featuring festive food and drink specials. Fans of the signature Red Bull Slushie can enjoy themed Green Slushies alongside $5 Jameson and a specialty Lucky Charms White Russian. Make sure to feast on Corned Beef Tacos and Reuben Sandwiches, served all day.
- Call it a lucky coincidence that St. Patrick’s Day lands on a Tuesday this year. Enjoy the best of both worlds with an Irish Taco Tuesday at Mavericks Beach Club, at 860 Garnet Ave. Join the fun beginning at 5 p.m. and indulge in a $10 All-You-Can-Eat Taco Bar, complete with specialty ‘Irish’ Tacos. Keep the party going with live music and drink specials!

FESTIVAL AND PARADE
- Before imbuing some Irish whiskey and good Irish food fare, you might want to kick off the St. Patrick’s holiday by going to the San Diego’s largest St. Patrick’s Day Block Party 2020 on Saturday, March 14, from 2 p.m. to 11:55 p.m. Come celebrate shamROCK’s 26th year and paint the Gaslamp Quarter green with Irish fun.

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Kristina Watson

Kristina Ellen Worthington Watson, a bright light and force of nature in the Pacific Beach community, passed away peacefully on Feb. 27. Family and friends gathered around to send her off, knowing their lives were better for having her with them.

A celebration of Kristina’s life is being planned for 1 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at the Mission Bay Yacht Club (colorful clothing and flashy, comfortable shoes are encouraged for a festive celebration). In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Pacific Beach Middle School Music Association, the Mission Bay High School Music Program, Prevent Drowning San Diego, or Mission Bay High aquatics program.

Kristina was born at Grossmont Hospital on July 13, 1970, to George (Barry) and MaryDell Worthington and grew up in La Mesa. She attended Helix High School where she was very active in ASB and various service organizations, continuing her service to the community and volunteerism throughout her entire life.

Kristina went on to receive her bachelor’s degree with a dual major in social ecology and art history from the University of California, Irvine. After working in the field of property management in South Mission Beach for several years, Kristina ultimately achieved a master’s degree in reading and language arts from San Diego State University and taught kindergarten for five years.

Kristina married the love of her life, Tom Watson of Pacific Beach in 1998. Kristina and Tom shared many adventures together and built a beautiful life in PB where they’ve raised three wonderful children. Kristina was a cornerstone of her family, both immediate and extended, as well as her community.

Over the past two decades, Kristina had been extremely involved with the schools. (Friends of PB Elementary and Friends of PB Secondary Schools), the school music programs, aquatics programs, PVSL Blast Soccer, and the Assembly Committee.

In addition, she worked as a real estate agent, was involved in several small business endeavors and organized a branch of “Moms in Motion” – a running and lifestyle group for women from which so many long-term friendships were built.

Kristina was an organized planner and goal setter and deceded in her 30s to become a marathon runner. She accomplished her goals and completed dozens of half and full marathons including the San Diego Rock and Roll Marathon, the (very hilly) Catalina Eco Marathon, and the 33-mile Holcomb Valley Trail Run in the Mountains of Big Bear. She inspired so many to keep running, walking or being active in some way.

Although Kristina had been fighting breast cancer, which eventually became metastatic, for over six years, she stayed actively involved in everything, becoming a founding member of the Pacific Beach Middle School Music Association, organizing fundraisers, attending her children’s sporting events and music performances, and making sure everyone around her was always where they were supposed to be.

None of this begins to tell the story of the beautiful and bright soul Kristina was, or the numerous lives she touched. She was a unique personality who chose to live loudly, with color and with the perfect shoes for every occasion.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com