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THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2018

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THIS WEEK



Mission Bay High graduates more than 200 students

SEE PAGE 2



Mayor's short-term rentals proposal causes a stir

SEE PAGE 5



The Benedettis to celebrate Paul McCartney's birthday

SEE PAGE 10

The fight for De Anza Cove Is Campland in the plans?

By DAVE SCHWAB



The beach on Mission Bay at Campland on the Bay is crowded on a summer day last year.

CHRIS LEGER / CONTRIBUTOR

Golf, tennis courts and athletic fields are in, but Campland on the Bay could be out in the De Anza Revitalization Plan that will attempt to re-imagine, repurpose and revitalize the massive regional park.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

SDPD looks to enforce helmet law for motorized scooters

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A crackdown to enforce motorized scooter safety, especially along the beachfront, will continue this summer to curb offenses by people riding without a helmet, on sidewalks, or intoxicated.

This recent announcement by police follows in the wake of last month's City Council vote opposing an emergency ordinance prohibiting motorized scooters on coastal boardwalks.

"Here's the problem... We have a bunch of these scooters laying out here, regulated by the vehicle code. The problem is we have

'The problem is [people] are not aware of the vehicle code.'

CARY OCHAB
SDPD OFFICER

tourists and other people who aren't aware of the vehicle code and, just out of convenience, they jump on the scooter and they just take off. They are not aware of the vehicle code," said SDPD Officer Cary Ochab, who was parked

SEE SCOOTERS, Page 4



Motorized scooter riders in Mission Beach.

THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS



Mission Bay High School's Class of 2018 throws their caps in the air to celebrate.

DAVE SCHWAB / BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mission Bay graduates more than 200 students

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mission Bay High School's Class of 2018 paraded into the school's football stadium on June 13, cheered on by family and friends on a sunny afternoon outdoors.

Students Madeline Lynch, Josie La Valle and Piatt Pund sung the national anthem to kick off the commencement ceremony.

Clad in caps and gowns with gold tassels, graduates were handed their diplomas personally by principal Ernest Remillard, who posed for a photograph with each student as their names were called out from the class list.

"We are gathered here today to recognize all 214 of these students for managing to survive and overcome the obstacles faced," said ASB Council president Cecilia Lopez. "We all know how hard it is to balance both our personal and academic struggles, while juggling work and sports with classes, sometimes sleeping only six hours a night – or pulling an all-nighter to study for a final – and waking up at 5 a.m. to catch a bus. But it was all worth it...

an unforgettable journey."

MBHS senior class president Bryanna Pintor said, "This is not an ending – but a new beginning." She thanked her mom, whom she described as her "best friend" noting, "She never allowed me to believe in obstacles, that I couldn't do whatever I wanted to do, or be whoever I wanted to be."

Of her friends, Pintor said, "Thank you all for shaping me and being there for me. Getting here was by no means easy. There were many times we thought we would never reach the finish line."

"But those struggles have only made this moment sweeter. We have the power to change the world. I am confident our generation will make change, not only in the way we think, but in our actions. It is our turn, and the good news is that all of us are ready," said Pintor.

Pointing out she "never liked being the center of attention," valedictorian Ciara Gray said she was "wiser today than four years ago." Pointing to balance as her prevailing theme, Gray thanked her instructors for "teaching me to

enjoy the journey," adding, "I am grateful to all the students, teachers and staff who shaped my high-school experience."

In his speech, salutatorian Luke Loomis thanked his peers, MBHS faculty and student parents.

Of parents, Loomis commented, "You are the bows from which your living arrows are sent forward." He thanked "all the parents and parental figures here today for their unconditional love, which has helped drive us to this moment."

Remillard congratulated the graduates for "pushing themselves" to meet graduation requirements noting, "Most of you exceeded those requirements."

"You have brought so much to this class," Remillard added. "This will be the first day of your new journey. I am confident Mission Bay High School has prepared you for this next step ... to achieve greatness in whatever journey your life takes you on."

"Enjoy the journey," was the principal's final piece of advice. "Please remember, Always be respectful. Go Bucs!"

Free Global Youth Ambassador Volunteer Camp

Global Youth Ambassador Project (GYAP) is a network of youth around the world with a mutual goal of international collaboration and cultural exchange. Leadership is a big part of the project, you'll gain a better understanding of who you are and what you have to offer, no matter your career path. Explore your strengths and talents as you unleash your natural leadership abilities while deepening your diversity and multiculturalism by sharing American culture and experiencing Chinese culture. Advanced International Academy is offering free camps to teenage volunteers to take part in the GYAP at Mission Bay High and Pacific Beach Middle. Camp fees and lunches are FREE. Build your community hours for one week or all four weeks by volunteering.

July 9 - August 9 - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. (619) 955-5955 emma.lotz@oneworldedu.org
Facebook: AIA Global Education Event: Global Youth Ambassadors

Advanced International Academy is offering FREE camps to teenage volunteers

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Camp fees and lunches are FREE.

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Marianne Kendall
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Mariannek@coldwellbanker.com
CalRE# 01236825



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Sleek contemporary feel / MLS#180008340



Mission Beach | \$1,945,000
4 br, 3.5 ba Custom Home / MLS#180016465

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PB patio furniture thief to be sentenced July 5

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A prolific thief who took patio furniture from Pacific Beach homes will be sentenced July 5 and the probation department is contacting victims for their input.

Some residents had security camera video of Jose Luis Ledesma Manjarrez, 44, during the night as he took patio furniture, umbrellas, and even cactus plants from back yards and porches in a series that started in October 2016.

Manjarrez loaded the furniture and items into a green Ford Explorer and sold the goods in Mexico. He may be ordered to pay all the victims back as part of the sentence.

Manjarrez pleaded guilty May 30 to five felony counts of grand theft and 14 charges were dismissed by San Diego Superior Court Judge Timothy Walsh. Manjarrez was arrested May 17 by San Diego Police and remains in jail without bail.

Court records say he faces a maximum sentence of five years and eight months in prison. The District Attorney's office has agreed not to ask for more than 270 days in jail.

Among items taken were a basketball hoop, pillows, a multi-colored hammock, a Martha Stewart wicker loveseat, Sheffield chairs and table, cast iron chairs, Adirondack chairs, and a 5-foot long

wooden bench, according to court records.

Manjarrez was seen on video taking off his shoes to lessen noise. He also would put a cardboard box over lighting. One resident noticed his parked SUV with its lights and engine off at 1 a.m. in an alley, and she took a picture of the Baja California license plate.

Probation officials are determining what the total loss is. The streets listed in court records where thefts occurred include Oliver Avenue, Soledad Road, Opal Street, Law Street, Reed Avenue, Beryl Street, Chalcedony Street, Fogg Street, Magnolia Avenue, Pendleton Street, Emerald Street and Buena Vista Street.

Police were alerted after Manjarrez crossed the border at 3 a.m. on March 22. He was stopped on Mission Bay Drive. There was no furniture in the SUV, but it had padded blankets, a bag of ratchet straps the rear seats were folded in a flat position.

Manjarrez has no prior record. Deputy District Attorney Allen Brown said June 21 there was a problem with the statue of limitations on some of the thefts because its value was less than \$950 and was considered a misdemeanor. Felony grand theft charges were filed where the furniture thefts were greater than \$950 and some misdemeanors that occurred within the last year.

Mini library in Pacific Beach into July

Now until sometime in July, the Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library, at 4275 Cass St., which has been closed since April 9 for roof and heating/cooling repairs, will be operating a mini library out of its community room.

Interim mini library hours are

Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Popular materials are available to check out. Staff will retrieve additional items from the stacks upon request.

Holds are also available for pickup. Library materials may be returned in the book drops.

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Pacific Beach residents and police work to improve community's quality of life

By ANDREW EAKES | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The San Diego Police Department created a new Neighborhood Police Division to stay on top of "quality of life issues" within San Diego County earlier this year. This comes just months after California was ranked last in the U.S. in "quality of life" by "Best States," an interactive platform developed by U.S. News.

Contributing to the California's dead last score, it ranked 47 in social environment, a score measured by community engagement, social support and voter participation, and 44 in natural environment, a score based on drinking water, air quality and pollution and industrial toxins. California was rated in the top-15 for drinking water quality, but was hit hardest by poor health risks and air-quality.

For Pacific Beach, increased homelessness was a large proponent in creating this new 60-officer unit, among other disturbances such as public drunkenness, graffiti, short-term vacation rentals and more.

They operate seven days a week and will not respond to crimes in progress or minor crimes. Residents can send in complaints via email at neighborhoodpolicing@pd.sandiego.gov, or through an app called Get It Done. Responses usually come within 48 hours after the complaint is made.

SCOOTERS >>

CONT. FROM PG. 1

at the boardwalk last month.

"We can write people a ticket today, for no helmet, excessive speed on the boardwalk, but tomorrow we have a whole new group of tourists and it's like starting all over again. To solve the problem you need a big sign posted to make people aware that there are rules to say 'Hey, before you take this scooter you need a helmet, you need to know the rules, and need a license or permit to actually operate them,'" Ochab said.

District 2 Councilmember Lorie Zapf, District 1 Councilmember Barbara Bry, and District 5 Councilmember Mark Kersey joined to support a scooter boardwalk ban. Council members Chris Ward, Myrtle Cole, Scott Sherman, Chris Cate, David Alvarez and Georgette Gomez all opposed the proposal, arguing they weren't convinced of its necessity, or that they felt the issue hadn't yet been properly vetted. Sherman said the problem was more about irresponsible riders than about vehicles being ridden.

The dockless bike and scooter craze, many of the vehicles motorized, has swept over coastal areas since the transportation mode first surfaced in San Diego in February.

'We want to show people that they have a voice and should feel empowered to make changes.'

MARCIE BECKETT
SAVE PB MEMBER

"Pacific Beach is not nearly reaching its potential," said Scott Chipman, a resident of Pacific Beach for nearly 43 years and member of Save PB, a group focused on addressing concerns in the Pacific Beach area. "The homeless issues in PB mirror the City's and those desperately need addressing."

Save PB is one of more than 60 community groups in Pacific Beach focused on improving the quality of life for residents. In 2005, they created a document titled "Need Help Solving a Neighborhood Problem?" Since then, more information is continually added and educates residents on who to contact in the event of several non-emergency issues including those with bars, noisy vacation rentals and party houses, unpermitted construction sites and more.

"We want to show people that they have a voice and should feel empowered to make changes," said

Marcie Beckett, another member of the Save PB group. "We provide information on issues around Pacific Beach and what people can do to take action."

Anna Nelson has lived in Pacific Beach for two years since graduating college and claims to have never seen the document before. She believes that the quality of life is high in the area but knows that there are risks as well.

"This [document] would be an amazing thing to be included in leases by PB apartment management companies," said Nelson. "I think people who live in PB also expect that they have to be smart when being out at night. Because there are so many bars there, I don't think it's exactly the safest place to be alone after dark."

Both Chipman and Beckett say that, since 2005, some of the original problems were resolved and the future of the area is bright. They say that persistence is the most crucial component needed in creating change.

"We want the business district to be more family friendly and have businesses and services that allow community members to shop, dine and be entertained locally," said Chipman. "The more you know the more you don't understand why city officials ignore obvious solutions."



A group rides electric scooters in Pacific Beach. THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

Ever since, the police and local government have been grappling with a growing number of complaints about numerous alleged electric scooter violations. The vehicles, which can travel up to 15 mph, are easily able to exceed the 8 mph boardwalk speed limit.

In the wake of the thumbs-down vote on prohibiting motorized scooters on coastal boardwalks, a City Council committee, chaired by Bry, has agreed to form a working group to explore creation of a permit and fee system for four dockless companies – Ofo, Mobike, LimeBike and Bird – operating citywide.

The apps of some dockless companies, like Bird, note riders are required to wear helmets, have a driver's license, be 18 or older, and obey all other local traffic rules.

According to a City of San Diego alternative vehicle information brochure, electric bicycles must follow the same rules of the road as non-motorized bicycles. Electric bikes have been divided into three categories: Class 1, pedal-assisted only maximum 20 mph; Class 2, throttle-assisted only, maximum 20 mph; and Class 3, pedal-assisted only, speedometer required, maximum 28 mph.



Signs like this one on Crown Point Drive are in neighborhoods around Pacific Beach. THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mayor creates a stir with his short-term vacation rentals plan

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Mayor Kevin Faulconer's much-anticipated new regulations on short-term vacation rentals, seeking to strike a balance between those who want them out, and the Airbnb industry promoting them, was greeted by both strong support – and vehement disapproval.

"What is being lauded as a compromise is in fact a concession to the short-term vacation rental industry," said Joe LaCava, former chair of the Community Planners Committee, which oversees the City's more than 40 citizen advisory groups making land-use recommendations.



Mayor Kevin Faulconer

"Despite more pressing problems facing our City, the extraordinary city resources proposed to justify these incompatible uses prioritizes short-term vacation rentals over the real needs of San Diegans and our neighborhoods," LaCava said.

John Thickstun, a spokesperson for Save San Diego Neighborhoods, a single-family neighborhood group formed to lobby for more restrictive short-term rentals, had a list of questions for the mayor to answer about short-term rentals.

Among them: What are the definitions of "primary" and "secondary" residences? Will rentals be limited to

'What is being lauded as a compromise is in fact a concession to the short-term rental industry.'

JOE LACAVA

FORMER CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNERS COMMITTEE

property titleholders? Does the proposed ordinance prohibit an individual from purchasing any number of residential dwellings and having others hold title and use the residences as short-term vacation rentals? Are short-term vacation rentals to be limited to "living breathing human beings" as opposed to trusts, associations, corporations?

Philip Minardi of the Expedia Group, the parent company of vacation rental platforms HomeAway.com and VRBO.com, had a different take.

"For generations, whole-home vacation rentals have played an important role for San Diego homeowners and for families visiting the City," said Minardi.

"We applaud Mayor Faulconer and City staff on their efforts to craft a fair and effective policy that addresses community concerns and recognizes San Diego's vibrant vacation rental community. We look forward to reviewing the proposal when it is released in full and welcome continued collaboration with all local stakeholders," Minardi said.

Faulconer characterized his new proposal as seeking to "strike a balance between growing the home-sharing industry, enforcement and neighborhood quality of life."

The mayor's proposal would:

- Create the City's first license-based system to manage short-term rentals.
- Charge cost-recoverable fees to administer licenses and enforce code violations.
- Establish a "Good Neighbor" policy to preserve neighborhood quality of life.
- Hire additional staff to respond to complaints about nuisance properties.
- Implement a per-night fee that would generate an estimated \$3 million annually for affordable-housing projects.

"This is a balanced approach that establishes clear rules of the road for short-term rental hosts and guests while protecting neighborhood quality of life through increased oversight and enforcement," Faulconer said.

"This is a fair compromise that allows the home-sharing economy and our neighborhoods to co-exist and gives everyone clarity moving forward. I look forward to working with the City Council on passing these proposed regulations."

Monday, July 16 is the date during which the full City Council will take on Faulconer's short-term vacation proposal.

Is the mayor's proposal a compromise or a sell out to the rental industry?

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Depending on who you speak to, Mayor Kevin Faulconer's short-term vacation rental proposal is either an impartial workable compromise – or dead on arrival.

"It's not a compromise at all," claimed John Thickstun, spokesperson for Save San Diego Neighborhoods, a grassroots group lobbying for tighter short-term rental controls. "Mayor Faulconer's proposed ordinance is not only ill-conceived and unenforceable, it is also unlawful."

"The mayor's draft ordinance is a fair and balanced compromise, which protects a homeowner's property rights, San Diego's thriving tourism economy and the right for neighbors to not be negatively impacted," countered Jonah Mechanic of SeaBreeze Vacation Rentals in La Jolla. "The current code is outdated, ambiguous, and confusing."

Under Faulconer's proposal, a maximum of two licenses can be issued to a host: one for their primary residence and one additional license for a secondary residence. The primary residence could be rented out for up to six months per year, with the secondary residence available for year-round rental.

Proposed new short-term rental regulations would require a three-night minimum stay for coastal and downtown communities. Units with five or more bedrooms will first be required to obtain a Neighborhood Use Permit from the Development Services Department. Rental owners would also need to register with

the City and pay an annual \$949 fee, per-year, per rental. Monies collected would be used for enforcement of the rental ordinance.

Asked what would be acceptable to coastal residents in a compromise, Thickstun replied: "The bottom line is that short-term rental are a transient use in the City's municipal code. Transient uses do not belong in residential zones. What you're talking about is changing the municipal code to allow these transient uses in every residential zone in San Diego. What [Faulconer's] doing is really putting one over on San Diegans."

Thickstun argued short-term rentals take away from the existing housing stock. He pointed out San Diego is presently in the throes of an affordable housing crisis. "Our housing stock is for people who live in this community," he said.

Crunching the numbers, Thickstun noted the Airbnb industry estimates there are 11,000 to 15,000 short-term vacation rentals in the city of San Diego. "If this is true, that means the majority of these [owners] have short-term vacation rentals. And half of these people don't live in the City of San Diego," Thickstun said. "There's no legal distinction between primary and secondary residences in the mayor's proposal. That leaves the door open for entities outside the city of San Diego to own secondary residences."

Defending the mayor's proposal, Mechanic noted, "As is the case with most compromises, neither side gets everything they want."

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

City releases report on housing affordability, supply and production

The City recently released its first Housing Inventory Annual Report that finds San Diego leaders are taking actions to make housing more affordable and have seen promising results such as an increase in local building permits, but it will take several years to create enough housing supply to meet the demand, especially for very-low and low-income residents.

The new report – which will be issued annually as part of Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer's "Housing SD" plan to address housing affordability – will help City leaders and the public better understand the housing crisis in the short term and gauge which strategies are producing results for the long term. The San Diego Planning Commission will review the report as an information-only item at its Thursday meeting.

"The need to build more housing that people can actually afford has never been more critical as the

dream of homeownership is becoming out of reach for more and more San Diegans," Faulconer said. "The numbers in this report are a sobering reminder of the crisis we face to build housing and the importance of tracking the progress of the reforms we've implemented to spur new housing construction in the coming years. You can't change what you don't measure, so I believe sharing this information with the public is important as we push for civic action on permit streamlining and housing reforms."

At his State of the City address in January 2017, Faulconer said one of the biggest issues affecting California cities is a statewide housing shortage that has created an unaffordable housing market. For example, more than 70 percent of San Diegans can't afford to buy a house at the county's median home cost of more than \$500,000 – making San Diego one of the least affordable markets in the country.



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City Council members float styrofoam ban

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

There's likely another commonly used petroleum-based product that could join single-use plastic bags in the banned category.

If City Council members Barbara Bry and Chris Ward get their way, polystyrene (styrofoam) food and beverage containers may become the second ocean-polluting, plastic-based item to be prohibited for public use. Bry and Ward are co-sponsoring new legislation to do just that.

"What we have now is a draft ordinance," said Bry, noting the draft contains exceptions for "small businesses for customers requesting plastic utensils."

The impetus for taking action against styrofoam, said Bry, "comes from the realization that this is a major problem." She added environmental groups including San Diego Coastkeeper and the Sierra Club support banning styrofoam.

Reacting to the news that styrofoam use could soon be forbidden, two local restaurateurs said they favor converting to other packaging materials.

John Vallas, executive director of Beautiful MB, a nonprofit dedicated to public enhancement, said many beach businesses are ahead of the environmental-conscious curve shifting away from petroleum-based products.

"As a former restaurant owner that removed all styrofoam from service, replacing with corn fiber and recycled single-use containers, I understand the argument against banning styrofoam by the restaurant lobby," Vallas said. "The alternatives are more expensive. But times change, and people are more

'There are bits of styrofoam all over our beaches and communities.'

JOHN VALLAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BEAUTIFUL MB

educated, and more connected than ever before to the dangers and pitfalls of always looking for the cheapest solution."

Noting styrofoam's lightweight nature and its use with food products "make it difficult and expensive to recycle," Vallas added styrofoam comprises as much as 30 percent of total landfill volume and 20 percent of all litter ending up in waterways.

"As co-founder of Beautiful Mission Beach and organizing monthly beach cleanups ... I've seen the impact first-hand," said Vallas. "There are bits of styrofoam all over our beaches and communities, and birds and fish can eat the styrofoam, mistaking it for food, ending up in our food chain."

"Polystyrene does not biodegrade, it's made from fossil fuels and dangerous chemicals, and those chemicals leach into our foods. I'm excited to see polystyrene, or styrofoam, banned in San Diego and across the world," said Vallas.

"Surfrider supports the City's proposed expanded polystyrene reduction ordinance," said Michael Torti, executive committee chair for Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter. "Expanded polystyrene food ware containers and other single-use plastics are damaging the environment and marine life."

San Diego Humane Society to be new animal service provider

As of July 1, San Diego Humane Society will be the new animal service provider for residents of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, San Diego, Santee and Solana Beach. Pet owners will have expanded resources and services available to them and their pets, including:

- Lost and found;
- Licensing;
- Increased adoption services,

humane law enforcement and specialty programs like the Kitten Nursery, Behavior Center, PAWS San Diego and community outreach;

- Expanded service hours and coverage seven days a week.

"We couldn't be more excited about extending our safety net to more of San Diego and we look forward to working with these com-

munities to provide great animal services," said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society.

"This is one of the biggest milestones for animal welfare in San Diego. With our new services, we'll be able to care for more animals as well as the people who care about them, which translates to more lives saved. Our expanded services will help keep animals with their families, which is where they belong," Weitzman said.

Each City Council voted unanimously to approve a three-year agreement with San Diego Humane Society for animal control services. To learn more about the services available and how to contact San Diego Humane Society, visit sdhumane.org.

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Take a ride on the magic Cannabus in Pacific Beach

By LYNN WALSH | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Jaquelyn Mitchell, one of the Cannabus girls, said she has heard it all.

“People think we sell from the bus,” Mitchell said. “I tell them, ‘we don’t sell from the bus, but I can take you to where they do, for free.’”

Branded with bold white lettering that reads “Urbn Leaf,” the Cannabus is hard to miss if you’ve spent any time in the beach communities this year. In operation since February, the bus offers free rides to the Urbn Leaf dispensary on Buenos Avenue. Pick-up spots are located on Abbott Street in Ocean Beach during the week and on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach on the weekend, with added pick-ups in Ocean Beach on some weekends.

“Our OB route is the most popular,” Mitchell said.

During the 10-minute drive to the dispensary, riders enjoy cushy bench seats and tables with booths. They can also sync their phones to play their music, enjoy an adult beverage and light up a marijuana joint.

Mitchell said she and the other Cannabus girls check ID’s, to make sure people are 21 (if consuming alcohol). A built-in door separates the cabin and the driver, keeping it smoke free in the front seat.

The busses (there are two but only



The Urbn Leaf Cannabus picks up riders on Garnet Avenue in Pacific Beach.

THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

one operates at a time) are part of the Cali Party Bus fleet, Mitchell said. Urbn Leaf contracts with the Cannabus company to be the dispensary drop-off location and for the bus-branding.

Mitchell said she hasn’t had any issues with riders and so far hasn’t

had to call the police. The hardest part, she said, is finding parking and not staying in loading zones too long.

On average, there are 20 people riding the bus each day.

“Most people hear about us through word of mouth,” she said.

“Like, people from out of town ask their servers where they can get marijuana, and their servers send them here.”

Mitchell said all types of people hop on the bus, from college students to older people who want to look for balm and oils.

‘Tourists, we get a lot of tourists, and people who just hop on when they walk by.’

JAQUELYN MITCHELL
ONE OF THE CANNABUS GIRLS

“Tourists, we get a lot of tourists, and people who just hop on when they walk by,” Mitchell said. “I’ve had people from Germany, Austria. A lot more people are from out of state and a lot of people from hostels.”

Once the bus arrives at the dispensary, riders receive a wristband that allows them to skip the line and receive a free lighter. An ID is required to enter the dispensary, where “budtenders” help answer questions about products and fulfill your order.

After the dispensary, riders can choose to get back on the bus for the trip back to the beach or go their own way. People can also hop on the bus from Urbn Leaf. The trip from pick-up to drop-off takes about an hour.

Lynn Walsh is a freelance journalist and an Obecian. She works to promote trust between journalists and the public through the Trusting News project and teaches at Point Loma Nazarene University. Originally from Ohio, Lynn has grown to love living at the beach and posts way too many San Diego sunset photos on Instagram.

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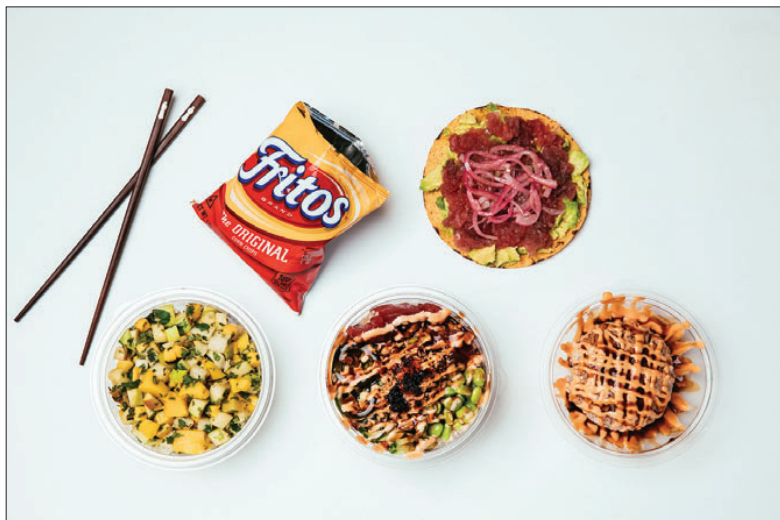
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Menu highlights include traditional sesame and shoyu-marinated tuna, salmon or tofu and the "Walkin Poke" combo of poke + Fritos.

Say hello to Aloha Poke and Pineapple Crush in PB

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Like a soothing ocean breeze, Aloha Poke Co. has swept into Pacific Beach bringing quality, sashimi-grade tuna and a new taste treat, pineapple smoothies.

"It is very trendy because it's really healthy and its fresh," said the company's West Coast executive director McKensie Kahnweiler of poke, a raw fish salad served as an appetizer, and sometimes as a main course, in Hawaiian cuisine.

Chicago-based Aloha Poke Co. is expanding quickly throughout Southern California, debuting June 27 at 710 Hornblend St. in a brand new building where der Wiener-schnitzel once stood.

"The bowls are like pieces of art," Kahnweiler said, adding, "It's a build-your-own situation. You pick it out first and then we make your bowl."

Kahnweiler said Aloha has teamed with Pineapple Crush, which makes smoothies in hollowed-out pineapples, to add some pizzazz to their menu. "We have our back counter dedicated to Pineapple Crush smoothies," she said.

Why eat poke?

"It's super healthy, full of nutrition," answered Kahnweiler. "Every single bowl has everything you need for that meal: a protein, a starch and mixed greens. It's a very flexible way to eat sushi whenever you want it."

Aloha Poke's mission is simple: rethink fast food by providing fresh, fast and tasty bowls full of quality, raw ingredients that fuel the day.

ALOHA POKE CO.

Where: 710 Hornblend St.

When: Opening June 27.

Info: alohapokeco.com..

Vegans, said Kahnweiler, will also be pleased by Aloha Poke's tofu, adding the cuisine in PB is also peanut-free.

And the Hawaiian isle-ambiance at Aloha Poke Co. was worth the wait. With super-high ceilings and a simple-but-tasteful floor plan, the new eatery is as attractive as it is understated.

"We wanted to create a place where people would want to hang out and offer a different experience than a typical poke restaurant," said Kahnweiler. "We just like to have a beach, grunge vibe where people want to come and walk over here with their sandy feet and grab a bowl, or a Pineapple Crush. The fact you can watch the sunset everyday out of the front windows is an added bonus."

Aloha Poke Co. stands out by using fresh, never frozen fish raised in the most optimal ecosystems and caught using sustainable practices. Menu highlights include traditional sesame and shoyu-marinated tuna, salmon or tofu and unique combinations and small bites such as toro on a corn crunch tostada, the "Walkin Poke" combo of poke + Fritos, or rice balls packed with shrimp or veggie crunch.

A typical lunch at Aloha Poke costs about \$11 and change.

For more information, visit alohapokeco.com.

Brazilian-influenced Koffee Kat finds success in PB

By PAIGE FULFER | BEACH & BAY PRESS

In 2015, owner Alex Goulart opened the doors to Koffee Kat on Cass Street.

Born in Brazil, Goulart brought his cultural roots to the U.S., explaining that his passion for coffee stemmed from his childhood in South America.

"I have been drinking coffee since I was a little kid, as it is very popular over there," says Goulart.

Goulart came to San Diego in 1998 for an education, after which he worked in construction, remodeling, and importing marble and granite. He kept himself busy with running the warehouse and showroom operations, but his entrepreneurial spirit called him to tap into his passion.

"I was always an entrepreneur, and I wanted to merge my love for coffee and Brazilian food," says Goulart. He used his finance and business background, paired with his passion, to open Koffee Kat, the coffee shop that has now become a North PB staple.

As a boy, his mother cooked him meals from various ethnic backgrounds, including Brazilian, Lebanese, French, American, and Italian cuisine. Koffee Kat's menu directly reflects Goulart's love for the variety of foods he grew up eating.

Bringing a diverse selection of



The iced almond milk chai latte.

PAIGE FULFER / BEACH & BAY PRESS

savory pastries, desserts, and snacks to the menu was important to Goulart. "Snacking food is a big part of the culture in Brazil," he explains. "I wanted to bring that tradition to Pacific Beach."

Customers can find pastries such as rissoles (a small croquette rolled in bread crumbs, filled with gouda cheese and deep fried), esfiha (stuffed bread pie similar to pizza dough, containing beef, spices, spinach, and ricotta), and their signature Koffee Kat rolls (filled flour bread rolls with combinations such as ham and cheese or bacon, egg, and cheese).

His personal favorite? The pao de queijo, a baked gluten-free Brazilian cheese roll.

KOFFEE KAT

Where: 4750 Cass St.

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays,
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

Info: koffeekat.com, 858-412-4047.

The coffee shop even has its own Brazilian marketplace in the corner where they sell Brazilian products.

With its fun red, white, and black color scheme, the shop's curb appeal may be what initially brought the customers in, but it's the quality of ingredients that keeps them coming back.

"We always use quality syrups, flavors, etc. for our customers. Fresh ingredients are important to us," says Goulart.

The PB locals' loyalty over time is evident in the shop's atmosphere. With a quaint, cozy feel, Koffee Kat has established itself as a neighborhood favorite.

For instance, the coffee bar is now lined with adorable Polaroid pictures of guests coming in to enjoy their coffee and snacks, with their signatures at the bottom. The shop also offers plenty of seating and tables for the community to feel welcome and encouraged to converse.

With wifi, community seating, a diverse menu, and high-quality ingredients, Koffee Kat has a little bit of everything.

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The Benedettis to celebrate Paul McCartney's birthday at Dizzy's

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

In honor of Paul McCartney's recent 76th birthday, on June 30 Dizzy's will be hosting a celebration of his music, featuring The Benedettis. On hand will be guitar virtuoso Fred Benedetti with vocalists Regina Moomjean and Julia Picone, multi-instrumentalist/bassist Jeff Pekarek, and percussionist James Morton, performing music from the Beatles through to McCartney's current recordings. Benedettis' arrangements of these classic songs will please even the most jaded Fab Four listener, but fans of great guitar playing will find much to enjoy.

The Benedettis: Sunday, June 30 at Dizzy's at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 8 p.m. dizzysjazz.com.

Fans of classic 1960s girl groups won't want to miss The Corvelles, appearing at Tio Leo's on June 29. Billed as a Motown Revue, specializing in the songs of The Supremes, the vocal trio features a seven-piece backing band and a set list full of hit tunes such as "Baby Love," "You Keep Me Hangin' On," and "Where



The Benedettis featuring guitar virtuoso Fred Benedetti with vocalists Regina Moomjean and Julia Picone.

Did Our Love Go?" The Corvelles also include other female-sung soul classics from the likes of Aretha Franklin, and the Exciters, but it's their turn as the Diana Ross-led Supremes that most impresses, with signature moves, gowns and feather boas to go with the trio's excellent vocals.

The Corvelles: Friday, June 29 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. tioleos.com.

Psychedelic indie pop duo, Inspired & The Sleep perform at the 710 Beach Club on July 6. As heard on their new single "First Time," the pair excel at modern pop, with songs that combine plenty of melody, rhythm and sing-a-long lyrics. Radio friendly to a fault, Inspired & The Sleep's songs also include a dance element in such songs as "In My Labyrinth Mind," making them a band with national potential. A new

album is imminent, all they need is a break to hit it big, their music is already there.

Inspired & The Sleep: Friday, July 6 at the 710 Beach Club, 710 Garnet Ave. 9 p.m. 21 and up. 710bc.com.

On July 7, Brick by Brick will host a fundraiser, Tribute to Fallen Music Icons, for the organization, Children of the Night. While the lineup was

not confirmed at press time, several San Diego-area musicians will play the music of groups who have recently lost members, including Motorhead, Soudgarden, AC/DC and more, with special guests promised. A night out of great rock 'n' roll, is also a good deed in this case: All funds raised go to Children of the Night, an organization that helps combat child sex trafficking/prostitution in the United States.

Tribute to Fallen Music Icons: Saturday, July 7 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 8 p.m. 21 and up. brickbybrick.com.

Java Joe's is best known for it's singer-songwriters and folk music, but on July 7 the Old Town-based venue branches out a little with an appearance from San Diego's first family of jazz, The Spragues. Appearing on the night will be prolific guitarist Peter Sprague, multi-instrumentalist horn player Tripp Sprague and singer, Kate Sprague, mixing originals and covers.

Peter Sprague: Saturday, July 7 at Java Joe's, 2611 Congress St. 8 p.m. javajoessd.com.

Fireworks shows and more for July 4th

By ANDREW EAKES | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Big Bay Boom!

Fireworks will go off simultaneously at 9 p.m. from barges placed strategically around San Diego Bay off Shelter Island, Harbor Island, Embarcadero North, Seaport Village, Embarcadero South Marina Park and Coronado Ferry Landing. The display will last approximately 17 minutes.

OB fireworks

Hit the beach for the 4th of July in Ocean Beach. Fireworks will launch from the end of the OB Pier at 9 p.m. The fireworks will go off to a soundtrack that requires people to tune into KyXy 96.5 at the time of the launch.

SeaWorld fireworks

The SeaWorld 4th of July fireworks show will be a 15-minute display over Mission Bay set to a musical soundtrack from 9:40 to 9:55 p.m. Park hours that day are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Coronado fireworks

There are numerous 4th of July events in Coronado from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. beginning with the parade down Orange Ave. There will be live concerts in Speckles Park at 4 p.m. and a fireworks show launched from Glorietta Bay starting at 9 p.m.

No La Jolla fireworks

The La Jolla 4th of July fireworks were cancelled for the first time in

32 years as a result of lack of funding.

San Diego County Fair fireworks

The 4th of July is the last day of the San Diego County Fair. They offer a patriotic opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the O'Brien Gate and a fireworks display, at approximately 9 p.m. at the west end of the race track.

Old Town

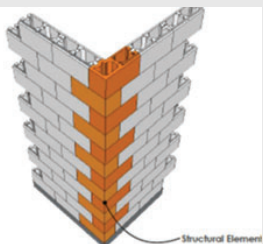
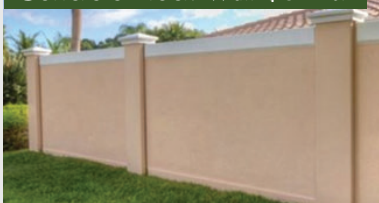
There will be an Old-Fashioned Celebration in Old Town. This is a free event including a parade around the plaza. They also have a contra dance, 19th-century crafts and games and more. This event runs from 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.



Crowds watch SeaWorld fireworks at Crown Point. THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

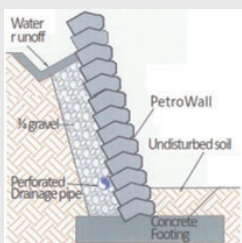
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Pacific Beach Tennis Club set for busy summer

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

It would not be summer around the area without a lot of tennis action taking place. With that in mind, look for a fair amount of action in Pacific Beach.

The annual Pacific Beach Summer Junior Satellite Tournament runs through the Pacific Beach Tennis Club July 27-29.



Zach Svajda

According to club manager Steve Adamson, there are usually some 100 participants in the event from all over San Diego.

Ages range from 10-18 years old, with players only needing a valid USTA membership to enter. This tourney is a Level 6 competition for intermediate-to-advanced-level

juniors (boys and girls).

Once the summer is over, the action does not stop there.

Among other events scheduled for the PBTC during the year:

- Oct. 12-14 – Steve Adamson Tennis Academy Junior Satellite Tournament.

- Nov. 3 – Annual PBTC Turkey Tournament.

- Nov. 16-18 – Pacific Beach Fall Junior Satellite Tournament.

Several younger members of the Pacific Beach Tennis Club have been having quite a time of it as of late.

One such individual is 15-year-old Pacific Beach resident Zach Svajda.

The son of Tom Svajda, who is a teaching pro at the club, Zach Svajda recently won a tourney by beating one of the top 1,000 ranked players in the world.

The win qualified him for his first professional tournament this

September in Los Angeles.

Meantime, fellow member Siem Woldeab just won the prestigious Southern California Sectional Championships in the Boys 18-and-under division.

Woldeab, who is currently ranked seventh in the United States, and Eshan Talluri, who also attends the Steve Adamson Tennis Academy at the PBTC, won the doubles title as well.

The PBTC is where the best juniors in San Diego come to improve their games with hopes of getting a college scholarship.

The club is currently offering a free week tennis camp for elementary school kids as a way to give back to the community that has supported the great players who have trained at the club in the past.

For more information on the PBTC, visit pbtennis.com.

Albion Cup National Showcase set

By DAVE THOMAS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

With the popularity of youth soccer continuing to grow in the greater San Diego area, it is no surprise that the Albion Cup National Showcase has been a hit over the years. Once again, many youth will flock to San Diego July 14-16 for the 18th annual showcase.

The tourney for boys and girls (U9-U19) is hosted at a number of different venues, with UCSD and Oceanside being the primary hosts for games.

Each participating team is guaranteed three games. The semifinal and championship are slated for July 16. Some groups will also have quarterfinals. There is a showcase division and a cup division.

Over the years, the event has hosted teams from all over California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada,

Colorado, the East Coast and more. There have also been participants from places such as England, Mexico, Canada and Brazil.

This year's event features more than 600 teams, 9,000 players, and more than 20,000 people. There will be players and teams from Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. These are mainly the Albion SC teams with a large local representation.

"We are hosting a high-profile event that allows the sport to be on the national stage. It really elevates the awareness locally," said Albion Marketing Sponsorship Director Valentine Zizka.

Zizka added that some of the top teams and players in the U.S. will be competing in the event.

The three-day event will attract college coaches and professional scouts nationwide.

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An aerial view of the swimming area, beach and marina at Campland on the Bay.

COURTESY OF CAMPLAND ON THE BAY

City's De Anza plans may swamp Campland

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The City is in the midst of a three-year process to analyze the 120-acre De Anza Special Study Area in the northeast corner of Mission Bay Park. Serving a diverse group of recreationalists on both land and water, Mission Bay Park includes a City-owned, 18-hole golf course, as well as ball fields and tennis and volleyball courts. Numbered among numerous aquatic park users are boaters, swimmers and kayakers.

Campland on the Bay, which provides RV and tent camping, has furnished lodging for Mission Bay Park users since 1969. The Campland property includes swimming pools, hot tubs, bathrooms and showers, a marina with 124 slips, watercraft and bicycle rentals, a game room, restaurant, market, laundry facilities, and views of adjacent Kendall-Frost marshland and bird sanctuary.

In April 2017, the City Council unanimously approved a lease extension for up to five years for Campland, to enable the campground to continue providing waterfront camping accommodations and recreation on Mission Bay while the city finalizes its De Anza Revitalization Plan.

That extension, however, may ultimately prove to be more a stay of execution than a reprieve for the popular campground.

"The De Anza Cove Amendment

CAMPLAND HITS HIGHEST OCCUPANCY LEVEL IN 10 YEARS

Campland on the Bay, one of Mission Bay's original lessees, achieved higher occupancy and revenue in 2017 than in any prior year since 2006. In 2017, Campland accommodated 121,974 site nights worth of reservations, with one of the highest occupancy rates on record.

The average occupancy rate in July 2017 reached 80.3 percent, with virtually no vacancy over the Fourth of July holiday and other busy summer weekends. Campland's annual visitors include tens of thousands of San Diego families, many of whom book reservations up to two years in advance.

"Campland on the Bay is proud to be an important economic driver for Mission Bay Park and the City of San Diego," said Jacob Gelfand, Campland's vice president of operations. "Campland's growth in occupancy over the past decade illustrates how the demand for waterfront camping and recreation continues to rise.

"We're seeing more and more millennials investing in both new and vintage RVs, campervans, tents and other forms of camping as an affordable, family-friendly way to access the laid-back fun and natural beauty that makes Mission Bay the jewel of San Diego and an envy of the world."

to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan includes space (approximately 40 acres) for RV camping, cabins or other similar guest housing uses," said Arian Collins, City spokesperson. "Specific details on the type of guest housing that will ultimately be at De Anza will be determined following the environmental review."

Added Collins, "Campland on the Bay is intended to remain at its current location until a plan and associated environmental impact report is completed for the project and approved by the City Council, and subsequently the California Coastal Commission.

The proposed De Anza Revitalization Plan includes the conver-

sion of the area now occupied by Campland into marshland and wetland habitat. "Since the plan has not yet been approved, there is no current timetable for the project," said Collins

One of Mission Bay's original lessees, Campland achieved higher occupancy and revenue in 2017 than in any prior year since 2006. Last year, Campland generated \$2.8 million in City rent and transient occupancy tax, improving upon the \$2.6 million it provided the City in 2016.

Asked about Campland's fate, Jacob Gelfand, Campland's vice president of operations, said: "Any plan the City puts forward should reflect the community's growing

need for waterfront camping access, while also fulfilling the goals of local land-use plans. While it's up to the City to decide the future location of camping, both the De Anza site and current Campland property have historically provided waterfront, visitor-serving accommodations.

"The Mission Bay Park Master Plan identifies the De Anza site as an ideal location for visitor-serving uses and affordable coastal access," Gelfand said. "Throughout the planning process, there has been overwhelming support from San Diegans for preserving waterfront camping on Mission Bay, and planning exercises rank waterfront camping as a top priority for the public."

Existing Mission Bay Park active recreational facilities – tennis courts, athletic fields and golf course – would be retained in the new De Anza Revitalization Plan. However, the current proposal calls for "several (unspecified) facilities to be upgraded and relocated for better functionality and to enhance public accessibility, and a City ranger station would be added to the area designated for the tennis center."

To have a say in the planning process, send email comments to: Sara Osborn, environmental planner, City Planning, at PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov with the project name in the subject line, before July 11.

PB leaders express support for keeping Campland around

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Weighing in on the news that Campland on the Bay could be a casualty of the ongoing De Anza Revitalization Plan, residents defended the popular bayfront business.

"I think Campland is great," said Henish Pulickal, chair of Pacific Beach Planning Group. "I've never been a camper there, but I've rode my bike through a few times and even rented a stand-up paddle board from their part of the beach.

"I believe they provide a valuable resource as affordable accommodations in the area. Having a campground in the area is important for allowing visitors of all economic means to enjoy our parklands," Pulickal said.

Sean Schwab, spokesperson for Friends of Campland, said the support group "Is disappointed the City's planning concept would result in a net loss of affordable campsites and dramatically reduce waterfront camping access in northeast Mission Bay.

"This [plan] is unacceptable, especially when the need for more affordable coastal accommodations in San Diego is greater than ever," Schwab said. "We request these impacts be studied in the environmental review, along with an alternative that retains the 820-plus affordable campsites that exist today.

"It's critical to preserve the same number of campsites directly overlooking the beach and bay that exist today. Camping should be included further out onto the De Anza peninsula to utilize the beachfront and bay access that already exists and is ideal for camping," Schwab added.

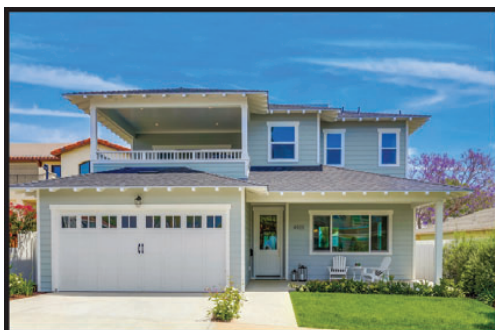
"De Anza Revitalization has been hijacked by folks with very narrow selfish interests," argued fellow PB planner Ed Gallagher. "It is a huge plot of land that should be used to provide much-needed community amenities like a skate park, dog park, sand volleyball courts, high-density affordable housing – all things that would reduce traffic congestion and lower carbon emissions. De Anza would be the ideal location for so many of these much-needed public resources."

"What San Diego needs is more affordable housing and more multi-use public space ... not 'open space' that's only open to use by the birds," Gallagher added.

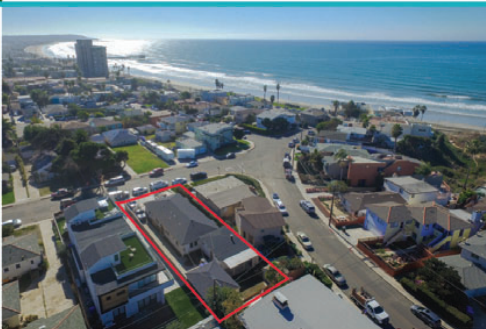
"Campland is the low-cost opportunity to stay in Mission Bay," said PB activist Scott Chipman, noting, "You can put two people in a hotel room on Mission Bay for more than \$300 a night, or four or more in a campsite for about \$100.

"Between Campland and the camp/RV sites over on the east side of Rose Creek, there are currently 800 campsites. The city consultant plan will limit 'guest housing' to 500 sites. It is ridiculous to do a major land-use project and get less than we have now," Chipman said.

"What's worse, is that the consultant plan moves camping and public access away from the shoreline taking more than 30 acres of existing peninsula parkland for marshland," he said.

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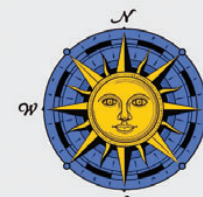
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