

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019 BEACHANDBAYPRESS.COM





MBHS students join global walkout

SEE PAGE 11



Pacific BeachFest set for Oct. 5
SEE PAGE 12







Jenny Milkowski and Danielle Radin bite into Gringo and Garnet Vampire tacos at Backyard Kitchen & Tap.

HOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

Tasting San Diego's favorite food on National Taco Day

'I think I've tried every kind of taco - from tongue to stomach, to head tacos. I'll taste anything at least once.' - JENNY MILKOWSKI

By THOMAS MELVILLE | BEACH & BAY PRESS

rowing up in the suburbs of a Northeastern city in the 1980s meant tacos came out of a box shelved in the "international" aisle at a grocery store. One day a week – usually Wednesdays – we were exposed to "tacos" with greasy ground beef, shredded iceberg lettuce and mounds of mozzarella stuffed into delicate hard shells.

It was a fun mess and about as close to Mexican food as we got. But, like tacos, we evolve.

Just last weekend we were ordering al

pastor tacos in the busiest, noisiest, and probably, best taco spot in Tijuana. Tacos El Franc is a must-visit for any fan of the authentic street taco — the ambiance, the smells, and the flavors can't be beat.

But up here in the beach communities of San Diego, National Taco Day (Oct. 4) is celebrated a little differently as local restaurants think outside of the box. There are cauliflower tacos, vampire tacos and even poke tacos – and we tasted them all.

Our tasters, known for their taco infatuations, were Danielle Radin, digital

See TACOS, Page 13



The octopus taco at Oscar's Mexican Seafood.

Mayoral candidates have their say at debate

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

ix months before the March 3, 2020 primary, mayoral candidates Barbara Bry, Todd Gloria and Tasha Williamson squared off in a far-ranging debate at Mission Bay High School on Sept. 18.

The trio addressed numerous prepared questions covering a broad swath of controversial coastal issues including crime, electric scooters, affordable housing, short-term vacation rentals, water quality and homelessness.

Bry representing District 1, including La Jolla, is a tech entrepreneur and San Diego City Council president pro tem. She previously was a journalist for The Sacramento Bee and the L.A. Times. She has been involved in tech companies Connect and ProFlowers.com. She also co-founded Atcom/info, one of the first companies to develop technology for high-speed Internet access in hotel rooms.

Gloria was a former aide to Congress woman Susan Davis and a San Diego City Council person representing District 3. He is now California State Assembly member for the 78th Assembly District. That district is comprised of the cities of Coronado, Del Mar, Imperial Beach, Solana Beach and the central coastal communities of the City of San Diego.

Williamson is a community activist who works with families who have lost members from police violence. She held her own against her more-practiced competitors during a two-hour debate that drew frequent applause from a well-attended crowd.

Immediate past District 1 Councilmember Sherri Lightner and Pacific

See DEBATE, Page 2



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DEBATE »

CONT. FROM PG. 1

Beach Town Council president Brian White moderated the PBTC-sponsored debate.

According to a 10News/Union-Tribune poll conducted earlier this month, Gloria has a big early lead among the three democrats running for mayor. He polled 31 percent support compared with Bry at 15 percent and Williamson with 8 percent. The poll however suggests half of likely voters are still undecided.

Underdog Williamson, touting herself as the "no-nonsense" candidate, portrayed herself as a populist proclaiming, "The people should be above the mayor."

Bry, a proponent of stricter regulations for shortterm rentals and an outspoken critic of electric scooters who has asked for a moratorium on them, repeatedly referenced her entrepreneurial experience while attacking Gloria as a "career politician."

Pointing out he actually served as interim mayor of San Diego from the August 2013 resignation of Mayor Bob Filner until the March 2014 inauguration of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Gloria spoke of his long-term "vision" for San Diego. He claimed the nation's eighth-largest city suffers from a "smalltown mentality."

During one of the debate's more poignant moments, when the candidates were asked if they could be influenced by special interests, Bry responded: "You can't buy my vote. Just ask Campland, Airbnb, Lime and Soccer City (lobbies she opposed)."

Gloria, a third-generation San Diegan who is the son of a maid and a gardener, claims to be the candidate with the inside political savvy and networking connections to tackle San Diego's perplexing problems, like housing and homelessness.

"Homelessness is the number one issue facing our community," he argued, noting there's a tie-in with San Diego's housing crisis. "We have to make space in our neighborhoods for working- and middle-class San Diegans. We need to build a world-class transit system with real choices getting from point A to

point B. I have the experience to get that job done."

Taking an environmental and inclusionary bent, Williamson said: "We need to protect and restore our ecosystems. We need to have more people sitting at the table of government. People come first. The people's voice should be heard."

"Our planning groups, town councils and business improvement districts are the basis of our grass-roots democracy," said Bry of her political underpinnings. "We have to make sure we hear the voices of the entire city. It's also important that the state legislature not take away local control of land use. We should decide what gets built in our neighborhoods."

The candidates addressed homelessness.

"We can end chronic homelessness," vowed Gloria, who has long experience with homeless issues. "If you want to end homelessness — send a homeless advocate to the mayor's office."

"People with mental illness and drug addiction need to get the support and wraparound services they need," said Williamson. "We also need to make sure there are no gaps. The government has been great about having gaps in everything they create."

In closing remarks, all three candidates played to their strengths.

"I'm running for mayor because upward mobility cannot end, it must continue," said Gloria. "This City can end chronic homelessness, build world-class public transportation. We need to transform our small-town thinking into forward progress."

"I am no-nonsense, I talk the talk and walk the walk," said Williamson. "The City is corrupt, racist. We've got to stop the shenanigans, the parlor tricks. I want you to support the first black woman mayor in the City of San Diego."

"I've spent my life challenging the status quo, standing up for others and getting things done," said Bry. "I used to be a single, working mom living paycheck to paycheck, not knowing what the future would bring. I will be open and transparent at city hall. My goal is to be relentless for you, really protect every neighborhood. We want to make this a city we can all be proud to live in."

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SDCNG launches new publication to cover College Area

San Diego Community Newspaper Group (SDCNG) continues its 2019 growth spurt with the addition of a new publication — College Times Courier.

The new community newspaper will cover news from the College Area and Rolando and will publish on the third Friday of every month.

"I feel this is a good addition to our community coverage of the east side of San Diego. It bridges the gap nicely between the Mission Times Courier to the north of Interstate 8 and east with La Mesa Courier," said SDCNG publisher Julie Main. "There are a lot of school districts and shared interests between these well-established communities."

The College Times Courier was created in response to community members and business leaders from the College Area who approached Main about returning coverage and distribution of the Mission Times Courier to the College Area.

The Mission Times Courier had previously distributed into College Area under publisher Jim Madaffer before he sold the paper to San Diego Community Newspaper Network (SDCNN) publisher David Mannis, who then consolidated coverage and distribution to the Navajo neighborhoods of Grantville, Allied Gardens, Del Cerro and San Carlos. Mission Times Courier, along with most of SDCNN's publications, were acquired by SDCNG in March.

Rather than extend coverage by Mission Times Courier, Main decided that College Area deserved a publication of its own.

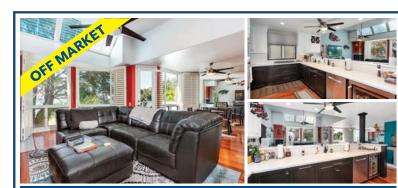
"We approached the San Diego Community Newspaper Group to discuss the possibility of extending the territory of one of their other papers (Mission Times Courier, La Mesa Courier) to include the College Area," wrote Collee Area Community Planning Board president Jose Renoso in a column for the inaugural issue of College Times Courier. "Fortuitously, the publisher felt that we are a unique community and the fact that we are currently undertaking a community-generated community plan update to create and implement the vision that the community has for itself, warranted a paper dedicated to the community."

College Times Courier's editorial team will be led by Jeff Clemetson who is currently editor of Mission Times Courier and La Mesa Courier.

"I love the fact that College Area communities are nestled between the regions I already cover. There's some continuity there, but it has always been obvious to me that College Area has its own characteristics — and now that I've been on the beat for the last few weeks, I've been excited to discover a community rich with new stories to write about and share with readers," Clemetson said.

Handling advertising sales is Lauren Vernon, who was hired in August. Vernon is originally from Fairfax, Va. and moved to San Diego in 2014. She has an extensive background in sales, most recently at Zoom Media.

For more information about advertising in College Times Courier, email Vernon at lauren@sdnews.com. To submit ideas for editorial content or calendar items, email jeff@sdnews.com.



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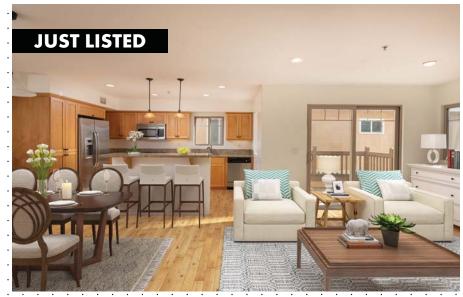


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City Attorney moves to dismiss low-level marijuana convictions

City Attorney Mara W. Elliott on Sept. 25 announced that her Office is moving forward on the dismissal of thousands of low-level marijuana cases prosecuted by the San Diego City Attorney's Office under laws that are no longer on the books. The Office is filing its first motion to dismiss roughly 30 convictions today. Additional motions will be filed on a regular and ongoing basis.

The Office is currently reviewing more than 5,000 misdemeanors and infractions from 2009 through 2018 and thousands more before that time period. Charges will be systematically dismissed to clear conviction records for acts that are no longer criminal.

"Marijuana convictions under obsolete laws should not stand in the way of anyone's future," Elliott said. "A clean record will make it easier for thousands of otherwise law-abiding citizens to obtain jobs and housing and fully participate in their communities. They should not be held back for activities that are now legal in the eyes of the courts, the State Legislature, and the voters of California."

This review of old marijuana convictions implements Assembly Bill 1793, which tasks prosecutors with affirmatively reviewing convictions that are potentially eligible for dismissal or reduction under the Proposition 64 framework before July 1, 2020. The City Attorney's Office is working with the Superior Court, San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan, and the Office of the Public Defender to develop a streamlined countywide process to identify all individuals eligible for relief. The process will involve a thorough review of convictions documented in the databases of the Superior Court, City Attorney's Office, and California Department of Justice.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Pacific Beach planners vote against proposed moratorium on scooters

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Pacific Beach Planning Group nixed a proposed moratorium on electric scooters at their meeting in September. The planning group voted against the moratorium following a debate between board members.

Bill Zent, author of the petition scooterban.com, advocated barring scooters region-wide. Immediate past president of Pacific Beach Planning Group Henish Pulickal defended scooters, claiming their benefits outweigh their detriments. "We need to get away from car worship and focus on shifting to something else (alternative transport)," Pulickal said.

Mayoral candidate and District 1 Council President Pro tem Barbara Bry has called for a moratorium on scooter proliferation until the City can catch up on properly regulating them. She also intends to re-introduce a ban on scooters on boardwalks, that failed once before, this October.

Zent's petition over the past few weeks has easily surpassed its goal of obtaining 1,000 signatures supporting scooter expulsion. The petition drive has also solicited scores of comments from signers explaining their rationale



Scooter riders cruise down the Pacific Beach boardwalk.

THOMAS MELVILLE/BEACH & BAY PRESS

for ousting or more strictly regulating the scooters.

Zent led off the debate with a laundry list of complaints about scooters alleging lack of proper enforcement, inadequate containment corrals, and users ignoring regulations.

"I support a moratorium because scooters are adversely affecting home values, with some corrals even being sited below people's bedrooms," Zent said.

Noting his scooter petition page has received 21,000 views, Zent contended scooters "are causing clutter all over the beach and pose safety threats from tandem, underage and intoxicated riding."

Zent also disputed the claim that scooters are environmentally friendly. "It takes two trips (by fossil-fueled cars) to pick them up to recharge and return them," he pointed out.

"I'm the voice for the silent majority," countered Pulickal, likening the advent of scooters to early bikes replacing horses.

"Back in the 1860s horses died because of a famine in Europe and the number of people owning bikes went from one million to 10 million," he said. "People then were arguing they were a menace to society, scaring women and children."

Conceding scooters have been problematic, Pulickal nonetheless argued progress is being made in regulating them. "They're less intrusive now and managing them is getting better," he said, contending the government needs to keep up with technology.

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400 - 445 **ELECTRIC MUD**

445 - 515 DJ NICKY

515 - 630 MARTIN MCDANIEL

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BIKE PARKING RIDESHARE DROP OFF **BIRD SCOOTER PARKING**

Wellness warriors open yoga, massage studio in Mission Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Business duo Anne Kuhn and Daphinne Accomazzo are wellness warriors.

Which is helping them spread the gospel of yoga and massage.

Three months ago, they opened Mission Beach Yoga By Retreats to Go at 3788 Mission Blvd. in Mission Beach, combining both their disciplines into a new, stimulating yoga experience.

"We created a restorative yoga practice, and Anne does a handson massage technique during the yoga," said Accomazzo.

"We use essential oils and help adjust them," said Kuhn adding, "We're passionate about wellness and keeping our kids healthy, ourselves healthy, our husbands healthy, etc. It's a difficult thing to do."

The pair were introduced by their high school daughters about five years ago.

"Daphinne was a yoga instructor and I've been a massage therapist for a long time and we started working together," said Kuhn. "We thought, 'How can we combine our services and make this community a better place?' So we started Retreats To Go."

Currently, the only Mission Beach yoga studio, Retreats To Go offers innovative yoga styles such as stand up paddleboard



Mission Beach Yoga By Retreats To Go opened its doors this summer.

yoga, aerial yoga, wall yoga, and beach yoga. Their business also does reiki, tai chi and yoga sculpt utilizing weights. They cater to restorative practices but accommodates all fitness levels.

The hybrid business offers classes and instruction indoors and out with retreats in the field,

on the beach, and in the ocean. They cater to private parties including bachelorette and mom groups while facilitating team bonding and corporate wellness. The design day retreats are perfect for vacationers in the Mission Beach area, who are offered special packages.

"Our tag lines are sea, land, and air," noted Kuhn of their motto. "We have land in the studio, sea is our paddleboard classes on the bay, then air is our yoga wall and aerial (hanging from straps)."

Youth are a major focus for both women in their wellness practice.

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Where: 3788 Mission Blvd

Info: missionbeachyoga.org, 858-732-0099

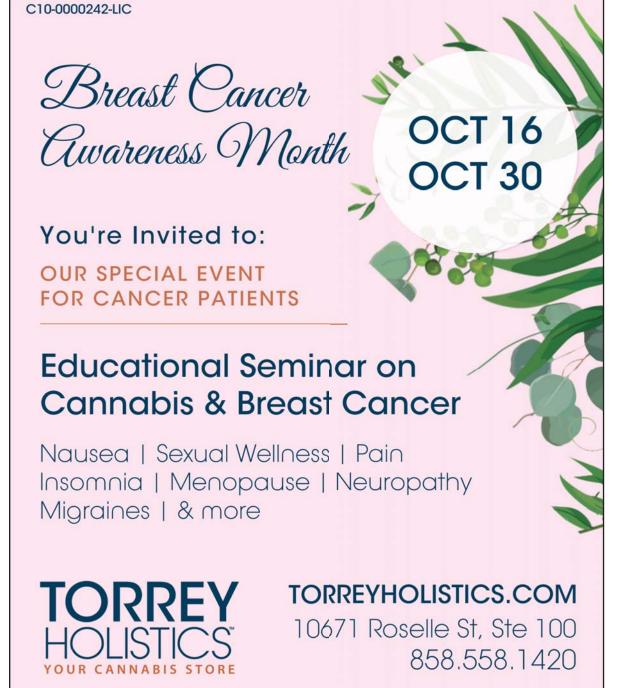
"We started out working with teams from Point Loma High School," said Kuhn. "Our passion is to work with the student population. We love these kids and we want them to have a safe place to unwind and get some skills. We think this little, neighborhood studio can bring so much peace to these kids."

Accomozzo concurred that their catering to students helps "with the college pressure, their (college admission) ACTs and everything that they have to do, including competing with each other and building their resumes so that they can get into college."

"We work with several different vacation rentals in the area to serve travelers," said Accomozzo about yet another aspect of their business.

Patrons can join up for monthly memberships or pay by the class at Mission Beach Yoga.

"It's a safe place and we want it to be a hangout," concluded Kuhn. "There's something for everybody."





Olive Baking Co. still rolling in dough after four years

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

n 2018, Sarah Mattinson marked the 13th anniversary of Olive Cafe at 805 Santa Clara Place in Mission Beach.

This year, she's celebrating the fourth anniversary of her companion business, Olive Baking Co. at 735A Santa Clara Place across Mission Boulevard.

Mattinson shared how her bakery came about.

"I actually went to Italy and saw them make bread," she said. "And I asked myself, 'Why aren't we making bread?' I decided, if I'm going to do it, I'm going to do it now."

Mattinson has a relation who operates a bakery in Little Italy, from which she learned, after graduating from school, everything she could about the art of baking.

Now it became her turn to show what she'd learned. She opened Olive Baking Co.'s doors on Sept. 26, 2015 in the heart of Mission Beach.

Matt Spencer, who owns restaurants in the area and is close friends with Mattinson, helped her start her new business, trusting her with his family starter that his dad could personally trace back 30 years.

Spencer's restaurant, Firehouse, was also one of Olive Baking Co.'s first wholesale bread



Olive Baking Co. is known for its bread, cinnamon rolls, muffins, and Kolaches

customers. Sarah's friends then started asking her for bread for their restaurants.

The beach restaurateur said her two food enterprises complement one another.

"I just love the idea we can make our own bread, and good bread," Mattinson said. "Then we began taking on wholesale accounts. There's a big demand for it."

Mattinson described being in the bread-making business.

"It is a labor of love," she said. "There is a lot of labor involved in bread making. Olive Baking Co. has become a family with love and support from our local friends who wanted our bread."

Added Mattinson, "I have bakerv in my roots."

Olive Baking Co. also bakes bread for sister restaurant Olive Café. Along with the café, Olive Baking Co. produces bread for a number of other restaurants in San Diego including Firehouse,

OLIVE BAKING CO. FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

Where: 735a Santa Clara Place

Info: 858-291-8222

Grass Skirt, Duck Dive, Miss B's, and Saska's in the beach area, and Kettner Exchange and WhipHand in downtown San Diego, as well as Louisiana Purchase in North Park and Park 101 in Carlsbad.

Besides bread, Olive Baking Co. is known for its cinnamon rolls, muffins, cookies and Kolaches. Kolaches, which have become very popular, are a savory and sweet Czech pastry.

A number of the recipes used at Olive Baking Co. have come from family, friends, customers and employees, said Sarah.

Mattinson recalled starting her cafe "with one full-time employee, one part-time employee — and me."

A lot has changed since. Her restaurant has more than doubled in size and, besides the nearby bakery, she also operates a part-time ice cream shop.

A transplant from upstate New York, Mattinson's family wasn't in the restaurant business. Her father was a mail carrier and

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Cohn Restaurant Group to operate four The Patio Group properties

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

In fallout from the Gina Champion-Cain investment scandal, a court-appointed receiver has closed six of her subsidiary enterprises from The Patio Group, while turning temporary operations of four of her restaurants over to the Cohn Restaurant Group.

ANI Development LLC and its principal and receiver, Krista Freitag of E3 Advisors, has been court-appointed to oversee and manage personal and business assets of Champion-Cain, including her many restaurants.

In August, Gina Champion-Cain, founder of The Patio Group, was civilly charged by the United States Federal Securities and Exchange Commission for allegedly operating a "multi-year, \$300 million scheme that defrauded approximately 50 retail investors."

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LIVE MUSIC – Local bands featured at Pacific BeachFest

By BART MENDOZA | BEACH & BAY PRESS

ne of the area's biggest events, Pacific BeachFest, takes place on Oct. 5. While there will be plenty of activities, including a 5K run, volleyball tournament, and a fish taco contest, the big draw is the music, with a wide range of artists on offer, including Electric Mud, The Routine, Casey Turner and more. All are well worth seeing, but the nod here goes to rock quartet Electric Mud. Fresh off a well-received set at KAABOO, the band is hoping to repeat their 2019 SDMA "Best Rock Album" win with a new album in early 2020.

Pacific Beach Fest: Saturday, Oct. 5 at Pacific Beachfest, Crystal Pier. 11 a.m. All ages. No cover. pacificbeachfest.org.

Legendary rock musician Jim Messina stops in for two shows at Humphrey's Backstage Live on Oct. 5. Now performing solo, with band, Messina has been a part of major combos since the early 1960s. First, as a member of surf band The Jesters, then as a member of folk-rock group Buffalo Springfield, a founding member of the country-rock group Poco, and in the 1970s as half of the duo Loggins and Messina. Attendees

can expect hits from throughout Messina's career, particularly the latter, but whatever material he chooses, fans will be thrilled to hear classic tunes such as "House On Pooh Corner" from a true music icon.

Jim Messina: Saturday, Oct. 5, at Humphrey's Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$39-\$104. humphreysbackstagelive.com.

Australian punk rock band The Living End perform at Brick by Brick on Oct. 6. Formed in 1994, though the band has yet to breakthrough in a major way stateside, at home they are a multi-platinum selling concern, with a string of Top 40 singles that started with 1997's "Second Solution." Consisting of original members Chris Cheney (vocals, guitar), Scott Owen (double bass, vocals) alongside Andy Strachan (drums), The Living End will appeal to fans of Green Day and Blink 182, but anyone who enjoys their rock 'n' roll loud and with plenty of youthful energy, will enjoy this trio.

The Living End: Sunday, Oct. 6 at Brick by Brick, 1130 Buenos Ave. 8 p.m. 21 and up. \$25. brickbybrick.com.

See LIVE MUSIC, Page 10

Thriller San Diego bringing zombie dance moves to PB

By VICTORIA DAVIS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

where spooky scares and monster mashes take over and Thriller San Diego is ready to get the party started. Beginning as sporadic zombie dance flash mobs on the Pacific Beach boardwalk, Thriller San Diego has grown from small pockets of friends performing random bouts of bloody dance sequences, to an organized group of teachers and dancers dedicated to teaching San Diegan's the moves to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

"People really have fun getting dressed up as zombies," said Larisa Hall, one of Thriller SD's dance teachers, who offers free Thriller classes at her Pacific Beach dance studio, Tap Fever. "You can make a zombie outfit out of pretty much any costume — you can be a zombie bride, a zombie nurse, a zombie cheerleader, anything. People always have fun and get creative with it, even during class."

Thriller SD has more than half a dozen instructors teaching wannabe-zombie-dancers the moves to Jackson's most iconic dance. The classes are free, with a suggested \$5 donation, and take place all over San Diego, from Pacific Beach to Coronado and La Mesa to Balboa Park. Another teacher, Christopher Olson, even teaches classes in his overly-sized



Participants rehearse dance moves during the Thriller SD class at Tap Fever in PB.

driveway in El Cajon.

"I'm a hairstylist by day, and a special effects zombie makeup artist and dancer by night," said Olson who has been a part of Thriller SD for seven years. "I had no idea this was going to blow up and become almost like a full-time job on the side, but it's so fun and I love it."

Another Thriller SD teacher, Denise Pocholski, added: "Growing up, my fantasy was to be able to perform Thriller. A lot of other people in San Diego must share that fantasy because every year we have new people, young and old, join Thriller SD to learn the dance."

The group also hosts classes at San Diego's downtown library, where they teach the Thriller dance to school kids and those at the youth center who are homeless.

"It gives them something to look forward to and lets them know that you can do anything you want to do and be anything you want to be," said Olson. "It opens up their world."

While classes can be as large as 20 students, Thriller SD has seen its biggest growth in the dance groups' monthly, and sometimes weekly, Thriller events ranging from zombie dances at the UTC offices and private parties, to performances at community gatherings like October's Monster Movies for Music and Pacific BeachFest.

Thriller SD will host a Zombie Walk at Pacific BeachFest Oct. 5 starting at the corner of Garnet and Ingraham. The group will also have a wagon in tow, with

THILLER SAN DIEGO

What: Zombie Walk on Oct. 5 starting at the corner of Garnet and Ingraham. Thriller dance at Pacific Beachfest's main stage at 5 p.m. On Oct. 19, the group of undead dancers will be performing in Old Town.

Info: tapfever.com/thriller.

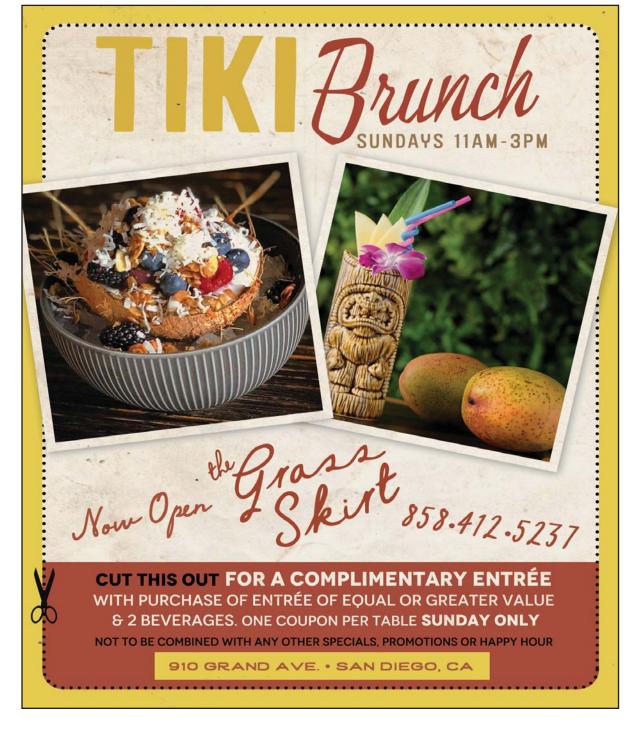
a boombox playing Halloween music. At 5 p.m., Thriller SD will also be performing the Thriller dance at Pacific BeachFest's main stage.

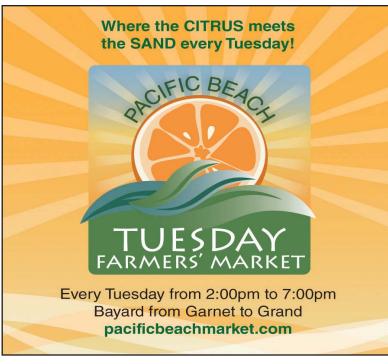
"Every year, people just get so excited about it," said Hall. "They'll run up to us even if they don't know all the moves and will try to dance along. It's fun. It's 'thrilling.'"

But with over 1,000 spectators and more than 200 dancers, Thriller SD's biggest event of the year is the annual Old Town Thriller. On Oct. 19, the group of undead dancers will be performing in Old Town for the eighth year in a row at Heritage Park.

"Despite the news and the documentaries that have come out about Michael Jackson, people still love the dance and this music," said Hall. "It's never not going to be iconic and there's still something to appreciate about a dance that gets people excited to put on a crazy costume and dance with total strangers."

To sign up for classes, register for events or make a donation, visit Thriller San Diego's Facebook page or go to tapfever. com/thriller.





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SCHOOLS

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK>>

MISSION BAY HIGH

- Homecoming game, Friday, Oct. 4, against Clairemont High School. Kickoff is at 6 p.m. Homecoming dance, Saturday, Oct. 5, 6-9:30 p.m., at the Birch Aquarium.
- Join the Mock Trial Club at MBHS every Monday at lunch in Mr. Sheehy's classroom. The Mock Trial Team is preparing to compete in the San Diego County High School Mock Trial Competition in February. The case for the competition is a murder trial and will include students as prosecution attorneys, defense attorneys, pretrial motion attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs, and a clerk.

MISSION BAY CLUSTER

- Pacific BeachFest, Saturday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., on the boardwalk between Felspar and Thomas streets. Head over to the community stage to enjoy live music from local musicians from PB schools.
- Don Brown Golf Tournament benefiting Pacific Beach elementary schools, will take place at noon Thursday, Oct.

10. Register at mbrea.net/page/view/ GolfTournament or call 858-412-0386.

Fifth annual Future Bucs Night will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18 at MBHS stadium. Join this community event bringing all of PB schools together to cheer on the MBHS Bucs football team. Elementary and middle schoolers will gather on the field for half-time activities and the little ones can join the cheer team for the first half of the game. Adults \$7. Kids are free if wearing a Future Bucs T-shirt. To order a Future Bucs T-shirt, contact Heather at heatherworms@gmail.com. To learn the cheers, kids can sign up for cheer camp on Oct. 12, by contacting Coach Tonya at tonya@tonyamax.com.

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE

■ Principal's Coffee, 8 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17. Check-in at the front office.

BARNARD MANDARIN MAGNET ELEMENTARY

Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School students and alumni showcased their Chinese cultural arts talents and language skills at the 2019 Moon Festival in Balboa Park on September 14. This is the fourth consecutive year that Barnard's students have performed in this annual event. Presenting a mix of classic and contemporary talents, Barnard students performed a traditional fan dance, played the hulusi (a Chinese flute-like instrument), and sang and danced to a modern Chinese pop song. Barnard alumni were among the students serving as the mistresses of ceremony for the event, introducing each performance in both Mandarin and English. "I liked Moon Festival because I got to perform in front of a lot of people," said Barnard fifth-grader Kavi Z-T, who performed in both the fan dance and pop song numbers. "I also liked seeing the different types of performances from China." For information on Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School, or to find out about the District's School Choice program, visit sandiegounified.org/ barnard. The Choice application window for the 2020-2021 school year will open between Oct. 1 and Nov. 13 of this year.

PACIFIC BEACH ELEMENTARY

■ Principal's chat and school tour, 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4. Call 858-488-8316 for more information.

Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary meeting, 8 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8 in the Pacific Beach Elementary library.



Barnard Elementary School students perform a traditional fan dance during the 2019 Moon Festival in Balboa Park in September. PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM DIEGO CONFLOURS INSTITUTE

KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY

- Sessions families were treated to the annual fun day at The Bay on Sunday, Sept. 22. Mission Bay Sports Center graciously provided water equipment such as kayaks, paddleboards, and a lily pad for everyone to use.
- Back to School Night will be 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2. This adults-only night is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers, enjoy delicious food from the Groovy Greek food truck, purchase books at the week-long book fair, grab your spirit wear, and mingle with fellow Sessions parents.

FRIENDS OF PACIFIC BEACH SECONDARY SCHOOLS

■ FOPBSS needs your help to set all students and teachers up for success. Show your support by donating to the annual contribution drive, one of the few opportunities to directly fund important programs at PBMS and MBHS. From field trips and teacher grants to campus improvements, the money helps make better schools. Visit fopbss.org/donate to make either a one-time or monthly donation or return the yellow donation envelope that was sent home to the teachers or front office.



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LIVE MUSIC»

CONT. FROM PG. 8

Jazz saxophonist Paul Combs will perform a special "CD Celebration Concert" at Dizzy's on Oct. 11. The night's program will celebrate the release of Combs album, "Unknown Dameron - Rare and Never Recorded Works of Tadd Dameron." Backing Combs on a selection of pianist Dameron's music will be an all-star jazz combo featuring Derek Cannon (trumpet), Kamau Kenyatta (piano), Rob Thorsen (bass) and Richard Sellers (drums). Combs has recorded with numerous artists including rockabilly hero Sleepy LaBeef and blues guitarist Robert Lockwood Jr., but this new collection of tunes is special, bringing a spotlight on the music of an underrated

Paul Combs: Friday, Oct. 11, at Dizzy's at Arias Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd. 8 p.m. \$20. dizzysjazz.com.

Ska seems to be making a strong revival in recent months and one of the bands at the helm locally is 3rd Project. Specializing in the second wave ska of the 1980s, 3rd Project plays favorites, such as The Specials "Ghost Town" and Bad Manners "Lip Up Fatty," alongside less obvious choices such as "Man In A Suitcase," by The Police. With a setlist full of uptempo rocksteady tunes that will also appeal to reggae and rock fans, 3rd Project should have the dance floor filled from the first note.

3rd Project: Saturday, Oct. 12 at Tio Leo's, 5302 Napa St. 8 p.m. 21 and up. Cover TBD. tioleos.com.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com

Mission Bay High students join activists for Global Climate Walkout

s part of the Global Climate Walkout on Friday, Sept. 20, the ReWild Mission Bay coalition, in conjunction with San Diego 350 and the UC Natural Reserve System, joined with students from Mission Bay High School at Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve off Pacific Beach Drive for a "March to the Marsh" walkout for climate action and climate policy.

"Our climate crisis affects everyone, no matter their age, socio-economic background or political preference," said Mission Bay High student Vanessa Cascante, who spoke at Friday's rally, and who is also a member of the school's Eco



Mission Bay High students Mariah Evans and Aleeda Ohlin at Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve.

THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

Club. "As a youth, my hope is we will seize this opportunity to unite under one common goal in the march for a climate-secure future."

ReWild Mission Bay coalition members, neighbors and climate advocates marched from De Anza Cove Park on Friday morning, met with students and teachers from Mission Bay High and San Diego City College, and then continued to Kendall-Frost Marsh where there was a brief presentation at 1 p.m.

San Diego Audubon conservation director Andrew Meyer said the March to the Marsh was an opportunity to show solidarity with the generation that will have to live with the climate decisions made today, both good and bad.

"This is a priceless opportunity to walk with Mission Bay High School students as they push us all towards projects just like ReWild Mission Bay, which have the capacity to acknowledge, adapt to, and mitigate the coming climate crisis," Meyer said.

UC San Diego Natural Reserve System reserves manager Isabelle Kay noted the symbolic, and practical, benefits of Kendall-Frost Marsh serving as the destination of the March to the Marsh. "Students have the opportunity to study the science of this rare and dynamic ecosystem, and be inspired to communicate their knowledge," she said. "But they can also see the imminent dangers of global climate change, as the daily highest high tides foretell the future effects of long-term inundation of our coasts resulting from sea level rise."

Mission Bay High science and biology teacher Steve Walters, who serves as faculty advisor to the Mission Bay Eco Club,



Mission Bay High School students rallied at Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve for a 'March to the Marsh' walkout for climate action and climate policy.

noted how his students' concern and advocacy motivate him. "My students all know I often say, 'If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.' It's very inspiring to see my students are part of the solution."

Cascante added, "As a representative of my generation, I feel it is my civic duty to address the climate crisis as what it should be – our first priority."

The ReWild Mission Bay Coalition supporting the March to the Marsh included the California Native Plant Society, Citizens Coordinate for Century 3 (C3), Climate Action Campaign, Environmental Center of San Diego, Friends of Famosa

Slough, Friends of Mission Bay Marshes, Friends of Rose Canyon, Friends of Rose Creek, Outdoor Outreach, Rose Creek Watershed Alliance, San Diego 350, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego City College Audubon, San Diego Coastkeeper, Sierra Club San Diego, Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native American Scientists (SACNAS), Stay Cool for Grandkids, Sustainability Matters, San Diego County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, Unite Here! Local 30, and WildCoast.

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Volleyball, fish tacos and fun at Pacific BeachFest on Oct. 5



Pacific BeachFest-goers check out the booths on the boardwalk last year.

There will be plenty of free, fun and family-friendly action on the beaches and boardwalk at the 22nd annual Pacific BeachFest Saturday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Action starts early on the shoreline with PB's action sports tournaments including Vavi 4Sum Social Volleyball, Pacific BeachFest 5k with an early wave and a main wave run, and Shape Up Social for fitness classes on the beach.

Throughout the action-packed day, thousands of BeachFest goers can enjoy live music on three stages and DJ Lounge on the sand.

"The event is a crowd-pleaser," said Sara Berns, executive director of Discover PB.

"Pacific BeachFest is a day for the community to come out and celebrate what makes our neighborhood great, from local businesses showcasing services, goods, and food to our schools and community groups hosting booths," she said. "It's a great day to come out and get to know what's right here in our backyard. Pacific BeachFest has something for everyone, so bring the whole family."

Added Berns: "We pride ourselves on offering interactive experiences, so register for the 5k or the new Shape Up Social beach workout this year and feel good about eating all those fish tacos after.

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The Grand Avenue Stage sponsored by Moonshine Beach features local bands and country favorites along with the Moonshine Beach Line Dancing Team in the BeachFest Big Josh Beer Garden.

The SDCCU Community Stage features the best local talent and the Hornblend Stage presented by Slic Entertainment and 710 Beach Club will showcase today's hottest bands in town.

New this year is the Mix Lab DJ lounge where you can chill to cool vibes and sights on the sand. Shop and browse among the dozens of fine arts and crafts displays and visit the many eclectic shops and popular restaurants at the PB Merchant Sidewalk Sale.

No beachfester will go hungry with the 10th annual Best at the Beach Fish Taco Challenge where anyone can vote for their favorite fish taco. The Taste of PB Food Court furnishes a variety of PB's best restaurants serving up tasty cuisines. Enjoy the ocean view and wash it down at the beer garden and taste beers from locally crafted local breweries, as well as Kono Beer Co., Jack Daniels, and Cutwater Spirits.

Pacific BeachFest is a party for all ages featuring kids action alley where the youngest dudes and dudettes will be kept busy with beachside rides as well as other free fun games and activities and free arts and crafts.

"Attending BeachFest isn't just fun but helps support clean-up efforts in PB and all the local businesses that prepare for this day, and fill our hotel rooms for the weekend before we officially head out of summer," said Berns.

For a complete list of activities, to register for the 5k or see music lineups, visit pacficbeachfest.org.

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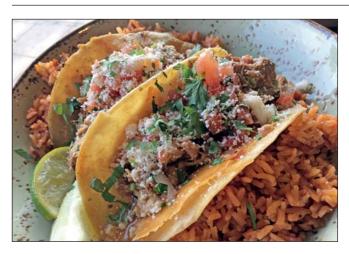
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TACOS» **CONT. FROM** PG. 1

anchor, and producer for Fox 5, and Jenny Milkowski, traffic anchor at CBS News 8. They tried and rated (on a scale of 0 to 5 tacos) a variety of tacos at Oscar's Mexican Seafood, Backyard Kitchen & Tap, El Prez, and Duck Dive.

"I think I've tried every kind of taco from tongue to stomach, to head tacos. I'll taste anything at least once," Jenny said.

"You had me at tacos," Danielle said. "If we're tasting tacos, I'm always ready to eat."

Their conclusions, along with a summary of some of the best taco spots from La Jolla to Point Loma, are below.

Oscar's Mexican Seafood

703 Turquoise St.

Oscar's specializes in seafood tacos such as battered fish or shrimp tacos, smoked fish tacos, or grilled octopus tacos. Oscar's also offers specialty tacos like tacos al pastor, shrimp, and chorizo tacos, and even shrimp and bacon tacos. Vegetarians can enjoy veggie tacos and soyrizo tacos.

At Oscar's, Jenny tried the smoked fish and Danielle had the grilled octopus.

"First bite, I was like, yum," Jenny said. "But I wish there was more fish and it had a smokier flavor. It was good. I rate it 3 out of 5 tacos."

"It was really good, zesty with a good texture, which is hard to do with octopus," Danielle said. "I liked it and I recommend it. I rate it 4.8 out of 5 tacos."

Backyard Kitchen & Tap

832 Garnet Ave.

This American gastropub serves some of Pacific Beach's best tacos. Choose from Backyard's fun taco plates such as the Garnet Vampire, which is slow-roasted pork carnitas, pico de gallo, and cotija on a cheddar crusted corn tortilla, and the Gringo, which is chipotle chicken, cabbage, and jalapeno crema on a crispy corn hard shell.

At Backyard, Jenny and Danielle tried both the Gringo and Garnet Vampire tacos.

"The Gringo taco has a hard shell with a lot of chipotle-flavored chicken and it was OK," Jenny said. "The Vampire taco was juicy and filled with delicious pork. You're not going to walk away hungry after one,



Jenny Milkowski and Danielle Radin discuss tacos at Oscar's Mexican Seafood. (Top, from left to right) Garnet Vampire tacos from Backyard Kitchen & Tap, chicken tinga tacos from El Prez, and poke tacos from Duck Dive. THOMAS MELVILLE/BEACH & BAY PRESS

but who am I kidding, I would eat two. I like it a lot. I rate them 3 out of 5 tacos."

"This Vampire one was filled with a lot of pork and authentic flavors," Danielle said. "It's huge, so one will get you full. Going from the pork to the Gringo taco was like night and day. I like the crunch of the hard shell and it had a good sauce. I rate them 3 out of 5 tacos."

El Prez

4190 Mission Blvd.

El Prez throws a taco-filled fiesta evervday. Guests can choose from more than 13 different types of tacos served in freshly-made tortillas. Favorite El Prez tacos include seared ahi tacos, cauliflower tacos, and filet mignon tacos.

(Skip the boring movie)

Jenny tried the cauliflower tacos and Danielle had the chicken tinga tacos.

"It was pretty good, but I didn't like that the cauliflower was fried because I like to feel that I'm being healthy," Jenny said. "It had good spice and the crema was tasty - I liked it. I rate it 3 out of 5 tacos."

"It has fried cheese on top, which threw me off at first and it was big - kind of an aggressive taco," Danielle said. "It was really good and mango salsa gave it a sweet and savory taste that I enjoyed. I rate it 3.5 out of 5 tacos."

Duck Dive

4650 Mission Blvd.

Duck Dive and its ambiance is an ode to the rich surf and beach culture that resides just steps away from the Pacific Ocean. Their menu takes on classic American dishes as well as coastal favorites. They serve the usual fish and carne asada tacos but offer a twist with the poke taco served with a wonton shell.

Jenny and Danielle both tried the poke tacos. "I got super excited to try these because I love ahi tuna," Jenny said. "The wonton shell is big and the lettuce is not necessary. It's a fun new taco and I liked it. I rate it 3 out of 5 tacos."

"The wonton had a good texture, the sauce is really good and the poke went well with it all," Danielle said. "It is something new and different. I liked it. I rate it 3 out of 5 tacos."

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With Vallarta Express' 24/7 service, guests can order tacos at any time of the day. Guests can also order tacos through the drive-thru. Some of Vallarta's many taco options include favorites like shrimp or carne asada tacos and more adventurous choices like the Philly Taco, which includes a choice of steak or chicken with melted cheese, mushrooms, peppers, bacon, and salsa; or the Buffalo Taco, which includes lightly breaded chicken, buffalo sauce, romaine lettuce, ranch dressing, and salsa Fresca.

Fat Fish Cantina Grill

4474 Mission Blvd.

Fat Fish Cantina Grill mixes Southern California tacos with flavors from south of the border. Choose from a variety of taco plates such as surf and turf tacos, shrimp tacos, carne asada tacos, and more. On Tuesdays, Fat Fish celebrates Taco Tuesday with \$1.25 street tacos and \$2 shrimp tacos. Fat Fish also observes Taco Thursday with fish tacos for only \$2.50.

Tacos Mimi

4508 Cass St.

Tacos Mimi specializes in authentic Mexican tacos. Meat lovers can choose between a variety of classic street tacos such as carne asada, al pastor, pollo asada, and birria. Champiñones, avocado, and papa tacos are all suited for vegetarians. Additionally, Tacos Mimi also offers a selection of seafood tacos.

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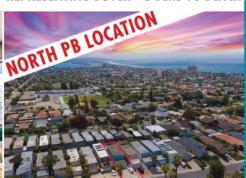




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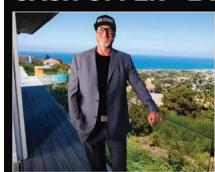
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