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Yerba Mate Bar opens in PB
SEE PAGE 6



Mission Bay candy bar team
SEE PAGE 11



Denny's in PB loses lease
SEE PAGE 4

CARJACKER GETS LIFE SENTENCE, PLUS 5 YEARS

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Life in prison – plus five years – was handed down Monday to a Texas man who kidnapped a college student during a carjacking in Pacific Beach.

Skyler Jace Battreall, 20, will likely have to serve the five year sentence first and then will be on-ly eligible for parole after he serves seven years of the life term.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Sharon Majors-Lewis ordered Battreall to pay \$5,051 in restitu-tion to Brett Charbonnel, 22, whose car was totaled after Battreall crashed it on Emerald Street on Oct. 14, 2018.

Charbonnel was parked on Garnet Avenue near Cass Street around 9 p.m. when Battreall asked for a ride. Charbonnel let him inside his Hyundai Elantra, but Battreall then became demanding and pulled an air soft pellet gun.

Battreall struck the Grossmont College student in the mouth with the gun replica, knocking out two teeth, and pushed him out of the car. Charbonnel thought it was a real firearm.

A jury convicted Battreall of kid-napping during a carjacking and inflicting great bodily injury on Sept. 3 after only two hours of delib-erations. They also convicted him of assault with a deadly weapon.

“He’s not going to do life,” said Deputy District Attorney James Koerber. “He’s going to have to con-vince a parole board he’s not going to commit a crime.”

The state legislature has de-termined that inmates with a life

See CARJACKER, Page 13

SAN DIEGO NAMED MOST BEAUTIFUL

PLUS - Christmas on Crystal Pier kicks off holidays

SEE PAGE 5



The annual lighting of the Christmas tree at the end of Crystal Pier will take place at sunset on Saturday, Dec. 7.

THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, SANTA RUN, AND PARADE STOKE THE SEASON

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Pacific Beach holiday season begins with Shop Small Saturday on Nov. 30, and kicks off in full swing with Christmas on Crystal Pier on Dec. 7 and then continues with the Santa Run and Holiday Parade, both on Dec. 14.

Yuletide events are hosted by Discover PB, the beach commu-nity’s business improvement district.

“This year marks the 40th Holiday Parade, and while we used to claim the longest-running



The Santa Run is one of the more popular holiday events in PB.

DALE EDWARDS / BEACH & BAY PRESS

parade, sadly, we had to cancel it a few years back,” said Discover PB executive director Sara Berns. “Don’t let that happen again. We are always looking for donations and sponsorships to help keep the parade going.”

Added Berns: “Any proceeds of our holiday events go to school sup-ply donations for our PB elementary

See HOLIDAY, Page 2



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CONT. FROM PG. 1

schools, or to help pay for the parade the following year. We are accepting school donations at Christmas on Crystal Pier as well."

School supplies needed include family-size hand sanitizers, tissue boxes, color, and white copy paper, staplers and staples, adult scissors, Post-its, white yardstick paper, spiral notebooks, glue sticks, and colored pencils and markers.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

The 10th annual Small Business Saturday celebrates small businesses and the positive impact it has on communities nationwide. American Express, having created the event in 2010, works with organizations and independent businesses to provide solutions that support communities and uplift local economies.

An average two-thirds of every dollar (\$0.67) spent at a small business in the U.S. stays in that local community helping to bring things like better schools, smoother roads, and new jobs.

Discover PB will kick-off the shopping season with Shop Local discount cards and specials promoted on its social media. Follow @discoverpb so you don't miss out on any deals. Discover PB will also host holiday events throughout the month including a business window-decorating

PACIFIC BEACH HOLIDAY EVENTS

Shop Local For the Holidays – Nov. 30 to Jan. 1 throughout PB.

Christmas on Crystal Pier – Saturday, Dec. 7, 2-5 p.m.

San Diego Santa Run – Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 a.m.-noon.

40th annual PB Holiday Parade – Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m.

contest. Grab a hot chocolate and check out decorative storefronts throughout the business district.

CHRISTMAS ON CRYSTAL PIER

Tree lighting at sunset and decorated wreaths are hung on the end of historic Crystal Pier while guests may take photos with Santa on Dec. 7. No photos with Santa are guaranteed if arriving after 3:45 p.m. The end of Crystal Pier will be closed to the general public until 5 p.m.

Cost: \$10 or \$5 with a donation of supplies to help local schools.

HOLIDAY PARADE

Starts at Garnet Avenue and Haines Street and ends at Garnet Avenue and Bayard Street on Dec. 14. Keep the cheer in PB with this year's parade theme "Holiday Treats."

Build a float or decorate your business with visions of sugar plums and your favorite treats. The parade will have something

for everyone — the young, young at heart and even family four-legged members. Spend the day participating in the events, just spectating, or knocking off some holiday shopping at local neighborhood businesses. PB has it all from unique gifts, artwork and personalized ideas (think gift cards).

SAN DIEGO SANTA RUN

PB's most colorful holiday event, imagine scores of red-clad Santas converging in the annual run the morning of the parade. The run is actually three races, with the 5K Santa Run starting at 9 a.m. There is also a competitive Speedy Santa Mile Race and a Santa's Little Helper Mile (Dog Run) race for kids age 12 and under. Parents are welcome to join their children.

All 5K adult participants receive a Santa suit, hat, short-sleeve jacket, shorts, belt, and beard as well as one drink ticket and a pair of San Diego Santa Run sunglasses. For more information, visit pacificbeach.org, call 858-273-3303 or email sara@pacificbeach.org.

**SeaWorld introduces new Christmas celebration shows**

Taking center stage at the Christmas celebration this year is Winter Wonderland on Ice, an ice skating spectacular featuring 15 of the nation's top skaters.

Christmas glides into SeaWorld with an all-new ice skating spectacular featuring skaters from around the country performing Winter Wonderland on Ice.

Cirque Christmas, a jaw-dropping performance combining the traditional ballet of "The Nutcracker" with contemporary cirque-style entertainment, also debuts this year.

Along with these new and other holiday experiences, the park will be returning many guests' favorites. From sea lions to Santa Claus, there's something for everyone with marine park Christmas events kicking off Nov. 23 and running through Jan. 5.

CIRQUE CHRISTMAS

In collaboration with Cirque du Soleil NextGen, Cirque Christmas is a fusion of traditional and contemporary entertainment, with breathtaking acts performed by acrobats, aerialists, and dancers in the park's Mission Bay Theater. Ballet performances from "The Nutcracker" are juxtaposed with Russian bar, Lyra and teeterboard acts, and high-energy hip-hop dance.

SESAME STREET CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Some familiar furry friends from Sesame Street join Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves at the Sesame Street Christmas Village this year, with opportunities for hugs and photo ops. Elmo, Grover and Abby Cadabby are just a few of the Sesame Street characters that guests of all ages will be delighted to meet. Even "Cookie Santa" (Cookie Monster dressed as Santa) will be there.

TUNNEL OF LIGHTS

Park guests making their way between the Explorer's Reef and Ocean Explorer realms can take a special detour through the all-new stunning, 140-foot Tunnel of Lights, with more than 5,000 dazzling lights.

ICE SKATING SPECTACULAR

Taking center stage at the Christmas celebration this year is Winter Wonderland on Ice, an ice skating spectacular featuring 15 of the nation's top skaters including USA National and International team member, Brandon Mroz. This holiday experience will be performed nightly under the stars at SeaWorld's outdoor Nautilus Amphitheater, with more than a dozen ice routines skated to classic holiday songs, including a couples' waltz to "It's That Time of Year," and an upbeat toy soldier performance to "Jingle Bells."

RUDOLPH'S CHRISTMASTOWN

Rudolph's Christmastown has something for everyone, including photo opportunities with Rudolph and his friends Clarice, Bumble and Yukon Cornelius.

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Suspect ordered to stand trial for four homeless murders

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A man suspected of killing three homeless men in Mission Bay, Ocean Beach, downtown San Diego, and a woman in North Park has been ordered to stand trial on all charges including other attacks in the Midway area and elsewhere where the victims survived.

The preliminary hearing of Jon David Guerrero, 42, is now over after San Diego Superior Court Judge Kenneth So ordered him to stand trial after hearing many witnesses.

Deputy District Attorney Makenzie Harvey said a possible motive surfaced in the hearing in which an officer testified a surviving homeless victim asked his attacker why did he stab him in the face.

"Because you're a bum," the officer said the attacker told him.

All but one of the victims were homeless, but that remark is the only time in which

someone said Guerrero said anything during the attack.

Guerrero is also charged with the special circumstance of committing multiple murders and a decision as to whether he faces the death penalty or life in prison without parole has not yet been made by the District Attorney.

He will get a trial date on Dec. 2. Guerrero has pleaded not guilty and remains in jail without bail.

Police detective David Spitzer testified the first victim was Angelo DeNardo, 53, who died July 3, 2016, while underneath the Interstate 5 bridge near Mission Bay. A railroad spike was hammered through his head and chest. He died from blunt force trauma and his body was set on fire.

Spitzer testified Guerrero is seen on surveillance camera footage at a nearby service station purchasing a red gas can along with gasoline some minutes before DeNardo was killed.

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COMPASS



Denny's in PB will not reopen; site to be redeveloped

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

The Denny's on the corner of Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue, closed since an October 2018 kitchen fire for repairs and remodeling, will not be reopened.

"They are not going to renew our lease," said Denny's franchisee Jeff Jones of the restaurant at 800 Garnet Ave. managed by landlord Covey Commercial. "They want to modernize that building that is over 50 years old. That is too valuable a piece of property for a single user. They want to possibly redevelop it as mixed-use with commercial on the bottom and housing on top."

Jones, who's owned the Denny's franchise for several years, one of six he manages in San Diego, expected to be closed four to five months for repairs and an extensive remodel from the 2018 fire.

That fire, suspected of being arson set, caused an estimated \$700,000 in damages to the structure, \$150,000 in damages to the contents. A suspect in the case remains at-large.

Pointing out that Denny's corner lot is "one of the most valuable pieces of property in PB," Jones added, "So the landlords are going with multiple users with both housing and commercial. It has to be redeveloped to achieve the maximum value of



The corner of Mission Boulevard and Garnet Avenue will be redeveloped into housing.

DAVE SCHWAB / BEACH & BAY PRESS

the property. Our hope and belief is that we will have an opportunity to be there (again) after the building has been remodeled — and we will be in the same spot for another 50 years."

Jones noted Covey Commercial owns the adjacent parcel of property to the PB Denny's, where Ramiro's Mexican Food is presently located. He said he owns four other Denny's franchises within 3 1/2 miles of the Pacific Beach one.

"I've got a year to relocate if I choose to do that," said Jones of his new timeline now that his lease has not been renewed. "So I've got a year to find a new site."

Jones noted his PB franchise was a "late-night Denny's."

"It was one of my better, and

harder, stores to run because of the late-night crowd," he said, adding his PB patrons were mostly millennials coming from the bars to eat after other restaurants in the area closed.

Jones said he has no regrets about his landlord's decision.

"It was inevitable," he concluded. "It makes no sense for them to lease to a single-story Denny's when they could build a three-story building on that corner, including the property they own next door with the Mexican restaurant. I can't blame them. It's the most valuable corner in all of PB, so one user can't just be on that property."

Covey Commercial could not be reached by Beach & Bay Press for comment.

Group suing City over new vehicle habitation ordinance

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

An attorney representing people living out of their vehicles claims the City's safe parking lots program is inadequate, while legally challenging the City's new Vehicle Habitation Ordinance as being unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, the City defended its safe parking lots program, noting it was a step forward when a public outcry over health and safety concerns over vehicle habitation on public streets forced the drafting of a new ordinance banning vehicle occupation.

"We have asked the court to amend our complaint in our lawsuit to add the new vehicle habitation ordinance," said Ann Menasche, senior attorney with Disability Rights California. "We think we have a good chance of winning in court."

Claiming the new VHO is "worse than the first," Menasche said nine of 11 of her clients who signed on to the suit challenging the ordinance have since been cited for violating it.

"Not one of them has been offered housing," Menasche said. "The city has made things worse by taking people's vehicles. Stop impounding vehicles and throwing people in the street with the

clothes on their back."

Of the new City VHO, Menasche said: "It's very rigid. It's very patronizing. It doesn't solve anything."

Keely Halsey, the City's chief of homelessness strategies, defended San Diego's safe lots program. The program allows people living out of RVs and other vehicles to legally spend the night in three designated parking lots on Balboa Avenue, off Aero Drive, and on Friars Road across from Qualcomm Stadium, all run by Jewish Family Services of La Jolla.

"We're pleased with the results of our safe parking program, which has definitely served a segment of the homeless population," said Halsey. "That program has served families and children of people who've fallen into homelessness due to economic issues. It has filled a gap that we've become aware of in the last few years in the City."

Halsey said the City's Real Estate Assets Department is searching for new safe parking lots sites, should the need arise. She added the City is also open to any private individuals who might step forward offering their own properties for the safe-lots program.

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San Diego named most beautiful city... again!

By VICTORIA DAVIS | BEACH & BAY PRESS

From the best surf town to the best city for coffee fanatics, San Diego has been listed as a favorite more than a dozen times by publications such as Surfer Magazine, Culture Trip, Best Cities, and SmartAsset. In October, San Diego was once again featured in the spotlight during the Flight Network's The World's 50 Most Beautiful Cities campaign, ranking at No. 22, ahead of Madrid, Athens, and Jerusalem.

"It's certainly not the first time we've gotten recognition from editorial media or travel sites or even public opinion polls," said Candice Eley, director of communications at San Diego Tourism Authority. "I think it's pretty clear from anyone who lives here, that's part of why we live here — the amazing landscapes, how diverse the city is, how you can go from the beach to the desert foothills in the span of an hour."

According to the Tourism Authority, visitors passing through San Diego spend roughly \$11.5 billion every year. That amount of cash might make sense since the city also hosts 35.8 million visitors annually. Jam-packed to the brim with seaside taco shops (and trucks), breweries



The spectacular autumn sunset reflects in the San Diego River estuary.
THOMAS MELVILLE / BEACH & BAY PRESS

and beaches — not to mention the ample wine country hot-spots and historic towns — San Diego's daytime and nighttime activities are virtually endless.

"Something we also hear a lot from visitors is how clean our city is," said Eley, who has lived in San Diego since 2004. "For the size of a major U.S. city, it can be really a really surprising thing to visitors how nice the streets and buildings are. I think that, plus how culturally dynamic our city is, helps a lot with our reputation."

The Flight Network, which asked the opinions of more than 1,000 travel writers, travel bloggers and travel agencies from all around the globe, raved about

historic Balboa Park, home to "several different museums (as well as the famous San Diego Zoo) and tons of green spaces for biking, walking, or just frolicking around."

Eley says that while San Diego has always been known for its beaches and margaritas, in the last few years it's starting to be more recognized for its musical performing arts and culinary expertise.

"It's something that's been long overdue," she said.

But despite being the eighth-largest city in the country, San Diego is a surprisingly cozy, coastal, laid-back, beach-gor paradise with ample fine

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For more information, visit flightnetwork.com/blog/worlds-most-beautiful-cities.

dining and tourist attractions, from Little Italy to Old Town, to Gaslamp Quarter to La Jolla.

"That's actually part of how we describe San Diego when we're doing marketing promotions as a travel destination," said Eley. "We talk about San

Diego being a beach-city so it's a combination of that easy-going, coastal, chill lifestyle vibe that you'd expect from a small-town beach destination, but it's paired with great nightlife. It's that combination that makes us special and unique."

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Yerba Mate Bar & Empanadas brings Argentinian flavors to Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | BEACH & BAY PRESS

Yerba Mate Bar & Empanadas is on a mission to share the cuisine — and spirit — of Argentina with Pacific Beach.

Especially Yerba Mate tea, the specialty of the house. A South American beverage enjoyed for centuries, the tea is naturally caffeinated and is purported to be a rich source of antioxidants (more than green tea) packed with vitamins and minerals. Yerba mate is strong brew with a bitter and earthy taste, noted owner Lucia Landman.

Landman and her family started out selling at San Diego farmers' markets about 13 years ago. They opened a space at Liberty Public Market about four years ago named Paraná Empanadas Argentinas offering authentic empanadas developed from family recipes.

For five months, the Landmans have been operating at 956 Garnet Ave., which has a spacious sheltered patio in the back of the building.

"We wanted something closer to the beach and we love the vibe in PB," said Lucia Landman. "In PB, we wanted to change the name, and do the concept with Yerba Mate tea, which she said they offer in the "traditional" way, with tea floating on top of a gourd-shaped cup sipped through a filtered straw straining out the leaves.

"Yerba Mate can be served either cold or hot and we treat it as



Yerba Mate Bar & Empanadas spacious sheltered patio in the back of the building.

if it were a coffee," said Landman, noting they are adding coffee to their menu soon as a complement.

Landman said they offer 12 different flavors of their other menu mainstay, empanadas, which she described as "more like a turnover, like a hot pocket. We have different fillings for it."

Added Landman, "Empanadas are originally from Spain, but every South American country has its own style, either in the filling,

the dough or the cooking methods. Here we bake them, which is more healthy than frying them."

What makes Yerba Mate Bar's empanadas really special is the sauces used in creating them, which Landman noted, "We do ourselves from scratch."

One of the many amenities at Yerba Mate is that it offers a choice of environments.

"You can sit in front if you like the crazy noise," said Landman. "Or if

YERBA MATE BAR & EMPANADAS

Where: 956 Garnet Ave.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Info: hola@yerbamatebar.com, 858-900-3309.

you want something a little quieter for reading a book or using the computer, you can come and sit in the (rear) patio."

Open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily for all three meals, Landman noted Yerba Mate also has two salads on their menu plus a cheese spread. She said they will soon be offering acai bowls with fresh fruit and granola as well as toast.

Landman said Yerba Mate has been accepted into PB's business fold. "We have regular customers living close by who stop by three or four times a week," she said. "We've had a very good response from the local community."

In 2020, Landman said they're planning on letting community groups use their back patio to host monthly workshops on subjects like flower arrangement as an attraction to draw people. "Our goal is to have people see the patio as an event place," she said.

Yerba Mate does both takeout and catering.

There's one thing though Yerba Mate offers that you won't find on their menu. "We're giving a little bit of our culture to PB," Landman said.

LANGOSTINO LOBSTER TACOS RETURN

Langostino lobsters have made their annual return at all locations of Rubio's Coastal Grill, including those in Pacific Beach and Point Loma. The shellfish, which is technically related to hermit crabs, shows up as bite-size pieces in tacos, burritos, and bowls at this time of year.

Trawled off the coast of Chile, the items are available through Jan. 2. The locally-based taco chain was founded in 1983 as a walk-up stand in Mission Bay and has been sourcing the langostino for more than 20 years. rubios.com.

SUSHI BAR AND GRILL OPENS

A grill fueled by hardwood charcoal sits at the heart of La Jolla's new Blue Ocean Robata & Sushi Bar. The kitchen is headed by chef-owner James Pyo, a native of Korea who initially opened Love Boat Sushi in Oceanside as well as another Blue Ocean sushi house in Carlsbad.

In addition to a number of crafty salads and sushi rolls, the menu extends to dishes cooked on the grill (robato) such as ribs, pork belly, wagyu beef meatballs, and eggplant. The new venture shares space with Harumama Noodles and Buns, which is also owned by Pyo. 1250 Prospect St., 858-999-0323, blueocean-robata-sushi.com.

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Local business owners join forces to curtail holiday porch pirates

Two local postal and shipping store owners have announced their campaign to protect their neighbors' deliveries from porch pirates and prying eyes. Ann Marie Marvin, owner of Postal Connections in Clairemont, and Rita Warren, owner of Beach Mailbox and Gifts in Pacific Beach, are veterans of the package receiving business and they have a solution for keeping packages safe.

Both stores have offered private mailbox service for over 10 years. "With hundreds of mailbox renters receiving mail and packages at my store each week," said Marvin, "we know how much our customers appreciate using our address for their online orders, especially during the holidays."

Many customers already benefit from using a private mailbox location for packages. Beach Mailbox customer



Ann Marie Marvin, owner of Postal Connections in Clairemont, and Rita Warren, owner of Beach Mailbox and Gifts in Pacific Beach.

Bret Contreras has been subscribed to PackageSafe for the past year. "I love this service," he said.

"My house is on a busy street in PB and there's no way I'm letting packages sit on my front porch. They'd be gone in a second," Contreras said. "This is such a great solution – all my packages in one place and I know they're signed for and secure."

This year, an estimated 55% of gifts will be purchased online. And more shoppers would buy online if they didn't risk their spouse, mate, or kids being the one to answer the door when the delivery arrives.

"We help keep your gifts out sight from family members so that your surprise stays a surprise!" Marvin said. "Families can save so much time and money by shopping online and we can keep packages safe from prying eyes before the big day."

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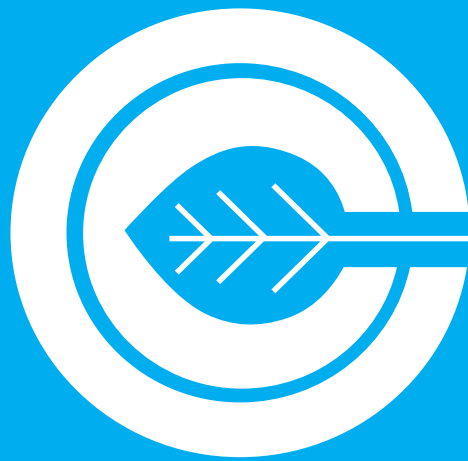
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EDUCATION
NOTEBOOK>>

MISSION BAY HIGH

▪ Support MBHS girls basketball at their two home games this week. MBHS vs. Valhalla High School on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. (JV 5 p.m.) and Thursday, Dec. 5 vs. Montgomery, 6 p.m. (JV 4:30 p.m.).

PACIFIC BEACH MIDDLE

▪ The PBMS annual toy drive is Tuesday, Dec. 3 to Thursday, Dec. 12. Students can bring a new unwrapped toy to their first-period class to benefit children in need through Bridge of Hope. The class that collects the most toys wins a pizza party.

BARNARD MANDARIN
MAGNET ELEMENTARY

▪ Students from Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary won six of the top 12 spots, including first place, in the visual arts (grades 3-5) division of a recent art competition judged by the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs. All six of Barnard's artists were chosen, among a pool of 130 entries, to advance to the district level of the National PTA's Reflections art competition. Reflections is the largest and oldest arts education program of its kind, and over 300,000 pre-K through grade 12 students nationwide create original works of art each year in response to a student-selected theme.

This year's theme was "Look Within," and Barnard's students produced an array of introspective, imaginative, and thoughtful pieces. Barnard fifth-grade student Holly C. won first place with her artwork titled "Inside Everybody." She explained that the multicolored circles in her piece represent the mix of feelings everyone can have: one color on the outside and another on the inside.

"I was surprised and happy when I found out that I received first place," said Holly. "Art is fun for me. I like that there are no limitations to what you can make." Holly's artwork and others from around the district will compete at the San Diego County Ninth District PTA in December.

From there, the winning pieces will advance to the state level and finally to the national level. Despite this being the school's first time participating in Reflections, Barnard students are aiming high and looking forward to making this an annual tradition.

KATE SESSIONS ELEMENTARY

▪ Happy birthday, Kate Sessions! A group of third-grade students took a field trip to Kate Sessions Park to celebrate and honor Kate Olivia Sessions on her birthday. During the event, students helped San Diego City Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell plant new trees in the park.

FOPBSS

▪ The Friends of Pacific Beach Secondary Schools School Yard Dash 5K and 1-mile fun run will take place Feb. 23. Start training now.



Mission Bay High School College, Career and Technical Education teacher David West, Principal Ernie Remillard, and MBHS students stand with their chocolate creations at San Diego Unified School District's State of the District event on Nov. 19 at Lincoln High School. MBHS students were invited to showcase their project, which involved researching ingredients, designing and producing silicone molds, and making chocolate, which was eaten by attendees.



Ron Greene presents a check for \$500 from Pacific Beach Surf Club to PB Locals/Pacific Beach Middle School surf team. PB Surf Club also donated \$300 to the Mission Bay High School surf team. "We appreciate PB Surf Club for the generous donation to support our surf-athletes and giving back to our community," said Todd Meza, PB Locals coach.



Three fifth-graders are among the six Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary School students whose artwork advanced to the district level of the National PTA's Reflections art competition.



The Crown Point Junior Music Academy Music Club performed at the PB Taylor Library on Saturday, Nov. 16. CPJMA's after-school Music Club is fun, free, and is open to students in TK through fifth grade.



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CARJACKER »
CONT. FROM PG. 1

sentence must serve a full seven years before they can be considered eligible for parole. A life without parole sentence means someone can never be released.

“Does the crime fit the time?” asked Battreall’s attorney, Christopher Montoya. “He does deserve a shot at parole.”

Montoya said the charge should not carry a life sentence and that Battreall will likely be “victimized in prison.”

“He’s going to come out a different person and not in a good way,” said Montoya.

Montoya had argued to jurors to acquit Battreall because he was under the influence of drugs at the time.

“I am truly sorry. There’s not

a day I don’t think about it,” said Battreall to the judge.

“Whatever (the sentence) is, I am determined to change myself for the better...make myself a better person,” said Battreall.

The judge gave him credit for serving 460 days in jail and fined him \$440.

Battreall testified at trial that he did not have a plan and when he pulled the gun replica out,

he also told the student he was wanted for murder, which was not true.

He acknowledged taking cocaine and Ecstasy pills during and after his bus trip from Corsicara, Texas, and he had only arrived in San Diego that day.

“I feel terrible about what happened to him,” said Battreall, saying he had remorse. “It’s an incident that shouldn’t have

taken place.”

Officer Christopher Johnson saw the Hyundai driving without headlights and saw it turn on Fanuel Street. Johnson activated his overhead lights and followed the car to Emerald Street where it crashed into a parked car.

The car was totaled and police officers found Battreall hiding under a tarp in someone’s back yard.

SEAWORLD »
CONT. FROM PG. 2

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Pacific Beach murder suspect in court

By NEAL PUTNAM | BEACH & BAY PRESS

A suspect charged with the murder of a man in Pacific Beach in June appeared in court on Nov. 22 and ordered to appear at a Jan. 21, 2020 preliminary hearing.

Desmond Alejandro Williams, 32, is charged with the June 22 stabbing death of Sean Snellman,

40, outside a 7-Eleven store near Mission Boulevard and Grand Avenue.

Williams has pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder and personal use of a knife in a homicide. There was reportedly an argument between both men, but the facts of the case have not been discussed in court.

A San Diego Superior Court

judge re-scheduled the preliminary hearing for Jan. 21, as it had been docketed for Nov. 26.

A prosecutor said Friday Williams was arrested in another area and was brought here Nov. 12 to San Diego Police. Snelling was stabbed in the torso.

Williams remains in the George Bailey Detention Facility on \$2 million bail.

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Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone, be Safe and Enjoy the Holiday.



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