Campbell delivers State of the District address
SEE PAGE 4

Surfrider starts beach cleanup strike teams
SEE PAGE 3

San Diego Community Newspaper Group
FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021

INSIDE

POINT LOMA’S HIDDEN GEM

The Point Loma Native Plant Garden is a quiet spot tucked in between Nimitz Boulevard and Voltaire Street.

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

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But Diaz wasn’t surprised by this most recent turn of events.

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Added Diaz: “You’ve just got to be ready to adapt. Things are going to change. That’s just how it goes.”

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Noting the new settlement, health protocols are somewhat different than the ones he’d been preparing for. Diaz pointed out uncertainty remains over the specifics.

“Right now, football players, for example, have to be tested every week,” he said. “There are a lot of little nuances. Our biggest thing

SEE SPORTS, Page 14

Point Loma’s Hidden Gem

The Beacon

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SEE SPORTS, Page 14
Surfrider seeks volunteers for beach cleanup strike teams

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

A local nonprofit is seeking volunteers for its elite beach cleanup strike teams.

Surfrider Foundation USA focuses on water quality, beach access, and beach and surf spot preservation while sustaining marine and coastal ecosystems. Its local chapter, Surfrider Foundation San Diego, has been active recently in forming and utilizing beach clean-up strike teams at Sunset Cliffs and elsewhere along San Diego’s 70-mile coastline.

“We’re pretty volunteer-powered,” said Mike Silverstein, Surfrider San Diego chapter manager, about those beach strike teams. He added they are “something new, a program we’re just launching for our chapter.”

Silverstein said the new program was initiated because “we lost the ability to do public beach clean-ups because of COVID’s legal and health and safety protocols. So we started throwing ideas at the wall to see what sticks.”

The end result was the creation of limited-number, carefully supervised beach strike cleanup teams. Operating under strict health and safety protocols, teams are limited to 30 volunteers or less and wear face masks and gloves while physically distancing at least six feet at all times. Volunteers avoid touching any public surfaces (handrails, benches). Participants are also required to sign a liability waiver. With those under age 18 required to get signatures from their parents/legal guardians.

Silverstein said beach strike teams are merely an extension of his group’s ongoing environmental mission.

“For us, beach cleanups have always been the gateway for the general public to get more involved in coastal issues in their community,” Silverstein said. And beach cleanups are doubly important for battling pollution because of their location, noted Silverstein.

“Any pollution, trash, plastic or other that’s on the ground, it’s all part of the storm drainage system that leads to the ocean sooner or later,” he said. “Which is why we’ve got these community-activated strike teams willing to volunteer to clean our local beaches.”

Beach cleanups typically take just two hours, mostly on weekends, to thoroughly scour a stretch of beach. Each team is supplied with a clean-up kit that includes gloves, a reusable bag or bucket for trash, and a reacher/grabber for picking up waste and to keep volunteers from having to bend over.

The cleanups are also useful in compiling data on beach waste.

“We have an app, a marine debris tracker,” noted Silverstein. “It helps us ascertain the big problems, the big cause of beach and ocean pollution.”

Noting the best way to clean the coast is “to prevent beaches from getting trashed in the first place,” Silverstein talked about the nature of the waste that turns up.

“The worst offender is single-use plastic pollution and Styrofoam from take-out, all the products we’ve come to rely on as a society, which we make to use once,” he said. “That’s 80% of what we find at all our beach cleanups. The Surfrider leader said Styrofoam is especially problematic because it’s non-biodegradable. ‘It just keeps breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces over time,’ he said adding it’s still washing up on beaches. ‘Plastic and Styrofoam pollution are skyrockeeting now because of the higher percentage of take-out restaurants have had to rely on during COVID over the last year,’ Silverstein said.

This brings up another objective of Surfrider’s mission: education.

“We strive to make the public literate about plastic pollution issues, and to encourage people to prevent beach pollution by adopting a more reusable lifestyle, not relying on single-use plastics, which create waste and trash the ocean and beach,” Silverstein concluded.
Campbell touts achievements in her state of the district address

By Dave Schiabi | The Beacon

In her recent state of District 2 address, Dr. Jennifer Campbell praised frontline COVID workers and defended her record while handing out beach community neighborhood awards.

This year’s “neighbor of the year” was Tyler Badet, a Point Loma High senior who helped rescue two surfers at Sunset Cliffs. “I don’t feel I deserve this recognition, the San Diego Lifeguards deserve all the recognition,” said Badet in a video spot. He also credited San Diego Junior Lifeguards for their training.

Recognized for being a top non-profit was Shoreline Community Services and Caryn Blanton. “We work together engaging the community to solve issues, like helping the unsheltered transition to permanent housing,” said Blanton. “We connect people to the resources they need that will move them into self-sufficiency.”

“I am proud to represent District 2 and the entire City as San Diego Council president,” said Campbell. “Twenty-twenty was one of the most trying years in recent memory for our City and country with many tragedies, including loss of loved ones and economic devastation from the pandemic. And it was a clear reminder that we have a long way to go when it comes to racial justice. All of this while the planet experienced the second-highest temperature year on record.”

But Campbell stressed the positive amid the chaos. “Those of us who could work from home helped to keep others safe,” she said. “We ran errands for those who could not. We supported our heroes – public health professionals, postal workers, and grocery store clerks. We realized we can get through this. And we realized we are all in this together.”

There were a “number of wins for our community and our district” in 2020, said Campbell. “We (City Council) supported COVID relief for workers, renters, landlords, and small businesses,” she said. “We placed a moratorium on COVID-related evictions and extended sick leave to hourly workers.”

The council member cited progress combating homelessness. “The City and council opened up operation Shelter At Home at our convention center to find permanent housing for our homeless community while protecting them from the pandemic,” she said. “In just nine months, we helped provide housing and wrap-around services for more than 1,200 homeless people and 45 homeless families.”

Campbell touted her record on short-term rentals. “In 2020 we saw a true breakthrough on one of San Diego’s most vexing issues: short-term vacation rentals,” she said. She claimed her newly passed STR ordinance accomplishes two goals: increasing housing availability for San Diegans by capping STR numbers and establishing rules of the road for holding STR owners/users accountable.

“The licensing and registration of STRs will allow and enforce the new rules and crackdown on parties, noise and trash by the bad actors,” Campbell said. “Those STRs have gone unchecked for years and it’s only getting worse. It’s time to have a real solution.”

The council president also described her legislative removing the 30-foot height limit from the Midway District.

“Midway is in desperate need of an upgrade to bring it into the next generation of great San Diego neighborhoods,” said Campbell.

“This can become a reality due to the overwhelming passage by voters of Measure E.”

Campbell talked about work that lies ahead in 2021. “We’ll be working on dealing with an issue that is long overdue, regulating street vendors,” she said, adding she’ll be re-instituting her “Java With Jen” coffees to talk with constituents directly in all of her District 2 neighborhoods.

San Diego City College nursing students vaccinating thousands against COVID-19 in collaborative effort

More than 30 San Diego City College nursing students are vaccinating thousands of local residents against the coronavirus in a collaborative effort with Family Health Centers of San Diego that is providing critical clinical hours needed before they can become registered nurses.

“The work our students are involved in is an example of the dedication everyone in the City College Community Nursing Program has in pushing forward during the pandemic,” said Vice Matilda “Tillie” Chavez, City College’s vice president of instruction. “I couldn’t be more proud.”

The vaccination effort is not only aiding the fight against COVID-19, it also has opened up invaluable clinical hours that have been hard to come by since the pandemic began. Nursing students must secure more than 1,000 hours in a clinical setting before they can take their National Council Licensure Examination.

“This really solves a challenge for everyone involved,” said Dr. Evelyn Vinegas, the City College Nursing Program’s department chair, assistant nursing director, and clinical coordinator. “Our students are receiving the clinical experience required by the Board of Registered Nursing while helping our community get vaccinated and turning the corner on this pandemic.”

Most City College students have been working at a Family Health Centers clinic on Gateway Center Drive in Southeastern San Diego. Larissa Johnson, vice president of the City College chapter of the California Nursing Students Association, has been working at a Family Health Centers of San Diego clinic in Mission Beach. “It’s been an amazing experience,” she said.

Vinegas said representatives from Family Health Centers of San Diego began discussing a collaboration with City College last fall as vaccines were being tested and approved. “They have been able to accommodate students who otherwise would not have been able to get their clinical hours,” Vinegas said. “Vaccine clinics also include administrative work, scheduling, and learning the protocols in operating a clinic.”

Thirty-two City College nursing students were working at Family Health Centers in February and will complete their final 120 hours of clinical experience by spring break.
A judge recently suspend-ed criminal proceedings for a man suspected of killing a woman in 2018 in the Midway District after his attorney said he doubted his client was men-tally competent.

A death penalty trial had been set in April for Shaun Douglas Ward, 41, who is charged with stabbing Diane Spaguolo, 65, over 60 times while she worked at the X-Spot adult bookstore at 3600 Midway Drive.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Joan Weber was required to suspend proceedings because of his attorney's doubts and she appointed a psychologist to ex-amine Ward in jail.

A hearing before another judge was set for March 18. A similar proceeding occurred in 2019 when Ward was found to be mentally competent.

At issue is Ward's muteness, which was an issue when he was first arraigned in 2018 and declined to say a word in response to questions from a judge. A not guilty plea had to be entered on his behalf.

Deputy District Attorney Melissa Vasel said Ward is “selectively mute” and that he talks to his mother when she visits him in jail.

“Mr. Ward is manipulating the system,” said Vasel, who added that deputies working in the jail have noted delusional behavior and he has not refused to take medication.

His attorney, David Thompson, told Weber that he didn’t know if his client under-stood what was going on.

Ward appeared on a video screen from the George Bailey Detention Facility. The hear-ing was broadcast online be-cause the courts are partially closed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

As the hearing ended, Thompson said, “Hang in there, Shaun.” Ward then spoke, and replied “OK.”

Ward is charged with two special circumstances charges that allege he killed the woman during a robbery and during torture. The DA’s office an-nounced in 2019 they would seek the death penalty if he was convicted of first-degree murder.

A detective testified in 2019 that she searched Ward’s home and found $300 in cash with blood on it in Ward’s wallet which was also stained with blood.

The victim’s daughter, Alexis Wylie, told a reporter her moth-er was a kind person who also worked at the Goodwill thrift store for many years.
When an individual’s health is declining, and that individual is having difficulty handling his or her own financial affairs, here are a few ways to enable a third party to step in and help that person:

1. One option is for the individual to grant a power of attorney to a selected third party (“agent”) to handle his or her financial affairs. The document can grant sweeping powers or may give only a limited power. It should also be a “durable” power of attorney, which means that it will remain in effect even if and after the individual granting the power has become incompetent (if that were to occur).

2. A second option is where the individual has created a revocable living trust, funded the trust with assets, and is serving as its trustee (in effect, the trust’s manager). When he or she begins to “slip,” he or she can resign such trustee (overseer) of the estate appointed under the trust instrument. This successor Trustee would then immediately be able to take over handling the financial affairs of the trust.

3. A third option with respect to financial accounts is for the individual to create a joint account with another trusted individual where each has checkwriting ability, enabling the trusted person to write checks from such account to pay expenses on behalf of the individual needing assistance.

4. As a last resort, a concerned third party might initiate a proceeding to have a conservator ( overseer) of the estate appointed by the court to handle the necessary individual’s financial affairs. This is not usually the best option, because, for this to occur, the individual would have to be declared incompetent by the court. This could be trying for the individual, and would be very expensive; further, all of the work of the conservator would be subject to court supervision.

The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader’s particular situation.

Our office is conveniently located at 2615 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 101 (in Mission Valley just east of Bully’s restaurant) (Telephone (619) 221-0279) www.richardmcintyre.com

### Irish bar Long Story a love tale coming to Point Loma

Long Story is not only the name of the new Irish bar under construction in Point Loma, it’s part of the back story, a love story, involving the establishment’s new co-owner.

“As corny as it sounds, love is what brought me to San Diego,” said Kyle Schubert. “I followed my heart, and her red hair, to San Diego and I am a happy man. I moved down to San Diego this year to be with the woman I love, and I’m just excited to bring our business model to Point Loma.”

Schubert is a veteran bar and restaurant owner who has previously co-founded three Irish pubs in Sacramento and Auburn in Central California.

And moving to the coast didn’t dissuade Schubert from setting up shop in San Diego.

“I’ve always been drawn to the ocean,” he said. “I’m building a beautiful new Irish pub in one of the most sought-after spots in Point Loma.”

Schubert, along with business partners Nathaniel Winnett, Jerod Meents and Joseph DeNigris, have designed Long Story as a traditional Irish drinking house. It is located where Royale most recently was at 4,204 Voltaire St.

Long Story will offer a menu of Irish-inspired eats like corned beef-stuffed egg rolls, Reuben fries, corned beef tacos, a St. Patty Melt burger, Shepherd’s Pie, and bangers and mash. The eatery will have a full bar featuring Irish whiskey and beers.

The concept will also have a sports-bar ambiance with 14 flat-screen telecommunications playing daily competitions, including soccer. Owners also hope the bar will be a nighttime destination with an Irish band trio, including a fiddler, furnishing the entertainment.

The names of the Irish bars he’s invested in have a special significance to Schubert.

“Names have always played a huge role in those bars, the way the names roll off people’s tongues and how they’re going to abbreviate it,” he said. “Boxing Donkey was my first Irish pub in 2008. Then there was Pitches and Fiddle. Diggins, my Irish pub in Auburn, sounded so Irish all it needed was a shamrock instead of an apostrophe.”

Why Long Story?

“When someone asks you what happened the first night you met

### Making Lasting and Positive Change for Our Community!

I have shown strong leadership and utilized my position on the board to advocate for our community with regards to traffic safety issues, sustainable development, improvement of parks and open space.

By MANDY HAVLIK | The Beacon

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By: MANDY HAVLIK

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### A Most Unusual Election

(Pandemic style)

The Peninsula Community Planning Board election will be Thursday March 18 with options to mail in or drop off ballots. Voting is different this time, happening in a contact-free way.

**STEP 1:** Go to PCPB.net to get a ballot and instructions on how to vote. March 18 with options to mail in or drop off ballots. Voting is different this time, happening in a contact-free way.

**STEP 2:** Eleven open seats, 16 candidates – oh my! Hey, we’ve done the research and here is our list of eight strong candidates. It’s not usually the best option, because, for this to occur, the individual would have to be declared incompetent by the court. This could be trying for the individual, and would be very expensive; further, all of the work of the conservator would be subject to court supervision.

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**JESSE BENSON** Amazon driver, Mean Green Team, Voices of City Choir

**TINA-MARIE COMPTON** Business management, UCSD grad, parent

**MANDY HAVLIK** Incumbent, community advocate, Save Famosa Canyon

**JOE HOLASEK** PCPB experience, acclaimed architect/owner

**LUCKY MORRISON** Incumbent, civic organizations leader

**MATT SCHALLES** PCPB experience, UCSD post-graduate, bike advocate

**DON SEVRENS** Incumbent, community volunteer, parks advocate

**ANGELA VEDDER** Real estate agent, SDSU grad, civic organizations

**ISSUES INCLUDE:** Famosa Canyon preservation, dangerous traffic intersections, “granny flats” and overcrowding, and vacation rentals.

(Ad paid for by Save Famosa Canyon Committee)
A new ‘Template’ for art in Ocean Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

The Template is a place for artists in their space — whatever that happens to be.

In previous iterations, the freestanding building at 5032 Niagara Ave. has been a boutique, an electrical shop, a gym, surf retail and more than one coffee shop.

Today, it’s a functioning and ever-expanding artist’s collective that still sells coffee, while doubling as a community hub and a small-business nursery.

These days, the “team” leading the artist’s collective has four core members: Shine, Lucy Ray, Marie Perry-Smith, and Haley Brousseau.

“It’s a framework for the community,” said Shine describing their free-form enterprise. “If they want to share something, they can use this as their template. It just takes someone to say something, put it out in the air, and for the rest of us, as a community, to support that and be there to be a foundation.”

On The Template’s website, the business defines itself variously as “a collective of movers and shakers, a space where art happens sympathetic and unusual, that can break people’s walls a little bit, where people can be outside of their comfort zones,” said Haley.

“It’s an immersive, interactive experience,” concluded Marie. “Sense, touch, music, we cover all those things. It’s actually drawing you into the art. You are an essential part of it. That’s the direction we all want to move in.”

“We want to get more involved with more curated experiences as well,” added Haley. “We’d like to host events that fulfill all the senses.”

The team said they took over The Template just before the pandemic struck and “everything in the world shut down.”

Undaunted, they improvised. “We had been throwing events and workshops for years,” pointed out Lucy. “We had to pivot and have music outside, keep the coffee cafe. It was a place to start. We needed to be open in a way that still keeps the community together.”

“We got this place to be a community center and a performing arts center, a place for people to gather,” said Marie. “And then we were told. ‘You can’t gather.’ It’s been really difficult to digest. But we wanted everyone to still be connected in the community, keeping in mind their safety.”

“In a lot of ways, this might not have happened for us if we hadn’t all had to hit pause on our lives,” noted Haley. “We all had different careers that were starting to flourish in their own way. We all lost our jobs. This kind of shook us up. It was like, ‘OK, if not now, when?’”

Inspiration is what The Template is all about. “We’re always encouraging people whenever they come in here to do what you want to do more,” Marie said. “We will be open to letting you start something in here.”

“We’re just providing access to people,” said Shine. “Come teach. Come learn. Come paint with us. Come craft. Participation is just so important.”

“It’s exciting that we can offer something that’s strange and unusual, that can break down people’s walls a little bit, where people can be outside of their comfort zones,” said Haley. “That’s a really healthy place to be. We can offer some kind of experience that you might not have put yourself into.”

Every Thursday for two hours from 6 to 8 p.m. is open mic night, a highlight of every week at The Template. “Everyone comes in with something they want to share,” said Shine. “It’s not just music. It’s the spoken word, poetry, performance, storytelling, dance, clown acts, juggling.”

“People are afraid to even create because it’s scary and they’re vulnerable,” noted Lucy. “We wanted this to be a place where, whatever you’re making is great, as long as you’re making it and trying things out.”

“This has been a place to try new hats, new things and be vulnerable,” pointed out Marie. “We’re so glad we have that opportunity with this space.”

Of The Template’s mission, Haley concluded: “We want to give people a chance to actually make a living from their passion, allow people to sell art or offer workshops or a class. We give them an opportunity.”

The Template is an ever-expanding artist’s collective at 5032 Niagara Ave.
For your child, are you seeking?
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We are more than a School!

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Point Loma High School instructor Anthony Palmiotto had an idea for engaging the interest of his cinema students: a project titled “How to be a social media influencer.”

The assignment was straightforward. Choose a topic and promote it via any social media platform.

Turns out, some of his pupils already had a head start.

“I have a student in the class who’s been doing digital media on YouTube for four years and he has 4,500 subscribers on a channel,” Palmiotto said. “I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool if you had a YouTube channel that was for social media influencing, sort of like digital marketing?’”

Added Palmiotto: “I’d hoped the project would allow students to continue to enhance their video production skills. I wanted them to step into the digital age by making a film, or a video, and put it on YouTube or on a social media site.”

Many of his students have exceeded Palmiotto’s expectations. One is senior Noah Sanford.

“Recently created a video talking about a fishing company called Roboworm,” said Sanford. “After the video was uploaded to YouTube, I sent them a link with a quick message, and in just 15 minutes they reached out to me and wanted to offer me a sponsorship. Of course I accepted, and this is hopefully just the start to a successful future in this industry.”

An avid fisherman, Sanford said his expectations are to “be able to promote the sport of bass fishing and the importance of catch and release, as well as respecting wildlife nature.”

An NFL fan, senior Cade McKaweney runs a successful YouTube channel called “Steelers Nation Highlights.”

“I produce content about the Pittsburgh Steelers and have amassed more than 75,000 followers on my social media platforms (62,000 subscribers on Youtube, and 33,000 followers on Instagram),” he said. “What started off as a hobby in 8th grade creating football highlight videos has grown into over 75,000 followers on social media and the opportunity to work closely with big-name NFL players. I’ve produced content for more than 50 NFL players,”

Added McKaweney. “My goal for my YouTube channel and Instagram account is to continue to attract as many followers and subscribers as I can, and to further expand my knowledge of modern high-end marketing.”

Senior Jessica Ellis created a video titled “The College Guide” (Get into your dream school – Jess’ College Guide on Youtube).

“It’s a short podcast about the college application process, what to expect when applying and getting decisions, as well as tips and tricks when it comes to writing applications, applying for financial aid and more.”

Added Ellis: “My hope for this channel is to be a trustworthy and helpful resource for students during this confusing and exciting process. I hope to share some of my experience with applying to college during a global pandemic, so that other students can learn from my triumphs and mistakes.”

Junior Aidan Cruz chose for his influencer project something familiar: making a YouTube channel trailer sharing his love for film.

“I decided to make mine on my top five films of 2020 because I have grown up watching similar reviews on YouTube,” he said. “And being someone who dreams of one day making films of my own, I thought making this channel to share my passion for film would be a good idea.”

The trailer I’m making is a form of promotion for the channel I made, Aidan vs Evil Dead, to hopefully build an audience.

“But I wanted to make my trailer stand out while still advertising what the channel offers. That’s why I decided to take inspiration from Rod Serling and shoot the trailer in black and white with an underlying horror theme, because that’s the genre that interests me the most as a filmmaker right now.”

Of his goals, Aidan said it is “to post any film-related project that I work on and expand my reach. To get my name out there (even if it’s just locally) would be a great help for my filmmaking career moving forward.”

Cinema teacher Palmiotto talked about his expectations for this assignment.

“Every company on the planet markets on the internet now,” he pointed out. “That’s a big deal. Every local business uses Instagram, Facebook, etc. The goal was to teach kids skills that are transferrable to marketing and advertising.”

Reach Dave Schwab at reporter@sdsnews.com.
your wife, you say, ‘It’s a long sto-
ry,’” answered Schubert, adding, “It’s my favorite name after 20
years of doing this.”

The secret behind Schubert’s
luck of the Irish isn’t complicated.
“Our business model relies
on three things,” Schubert said.
“Spotless cleanliness. Everything
is clean, every day, without fail. It
makes a big difference. The second
thing is never say no. If someone
doesn’t like their drink, mix them a
new one or give them a gift card for
their next one. It’s easy to say yes.

“The third part is customer
service and learning and re-
membering everyone’s name,” he continued. “They’re the ones
supporting you and paying your
rent. You’ve got to make people feel
like it’s family. If you do that – they
won’t go anywhere else.”

The German-Irish restaurateur
is planning on an April 1 soft
opening for Long Story with a grand opening 10 days or so later.

“The main thing I want to get
across is that while our bars and
restaurants are focused on phe-
nomenal food, they’re more ser-
vice- and smile-driven,” Schubert
said. “We’re going to have a great
staff welcoming people in a place
that feels like home. You provide
people with great food and supe-
rior service, that makes for a fail-
safe business model.”

Reach Dave Schwab at reporter@ sdnews.com.

COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR
GLORIA’S CLIMATE EQUITY FUND

Mayor Todd Gloria’s proposal to
create annual funding targets to-
ward green infrastructure projects
was unanimously approved by
the City Council, establishing a
much-needed “Climate Equity
Fund” to help underserved com-
nunities effectively respond to the
impacts of climate change.

“For too long, our communities
of concern have been dispropor-
tionately impacted by the effects
of climate. The approval from City
Council to establish the Climate
Equity Fund is an important step
to ensure underserved communi-
ties directly benefit from our ef-
forts around climate action,” said
Gloria. “No one in any community
should have to fight for the inalien-
able rights they’ve been given —
which include clean air, water and
a climate safe environment.”

Read more online at sdnews.com
Family Health Centers of San Diego is the #1 enrollment entity for Covered California in San Diego County.

For free enrollment help, call (619) 515-2363.

For 50 years, Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCSD) has provided caring, affordable, high-quality health care and supportive services to everyone, with a special commitment to uninsured, low-income and medically underserved persons.

With over 23 primary care clinics around San Diego County, FHCSD provides care to over 227,000 patients each year. With a wide-range of health care services throughout the region, the organization also includes 10 behavioral health facilities, eight dental clinics, two mobile counseling centers, three mobile medical units, three vision clinics, a physical rehabilitation department, a pharmacy and an outpatient substance use treatment program. As part of their ongoing dedication to ensuring everyone who needs health care receives it, FHCSD offers free Covered California enrollment assistance.

Covered California is a private health insurance exchange that was established through Affordable Care Act legislation for individuals and families not eligible for Medi-Cal. The program allows California residents to purchase quality health insurance plans to fit individual and family needs. The cost of each insurance plan is based on certain factors, including family size and income.

**Covered California has extended its Special Enrollment Period from February 1 to May 15, 2021 without a qualifying life event.**

**Health Plan Benefits**
All Covered California health insurance plans provide comprehensive services, including:

1. Preventive, wellness and chronic disease management services
2. Pregnancy, maternity and newborn care (both before and after birth)
3. Pediatric services, including oral and vision care
4. Mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment (this includes counseling and psychotherapy)
5. Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices (services and devices to help people with injuries, disabilities, or chronic conditions gain or recover mental and physical skills)
6. Prescription drugs
7. Ambulatory and emergency services
8. Laboratory services and hospitalization (surgery and overnight stays)

**FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS OF SAN DIEGO**

For free enrollment help, call (619) 515-2363 or visit fhcsd.org/covered-california.
Point Loma Native Plant Garden a quiet, hidden gem

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood, the two-plus acre Point Loma Native Plant Garden is a neighborhood prize and a hidden gem.

“The neighbors call it their backyard,” said Al Field, a local volunteer who maintains the community garden. “And they’re very possessive about it.”

“This park is for the community,” agreed Jennifer Frey of the San Diego River Park Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to maintaining the 52-mile stretch of the San Diego River from the eastern mountains to Point Loma and the coast. “It’s taken care of by the community. We like to have the community come out and see how beautiful these native plants are, see how ecologically valuable they are to the San Diego watershed. We want them to take it upon themselves to be stewards taking care of this, and learning about why native plants are so important.”

Noting there were about 400 volunteers a year taking care of the garden every other weekend pre-COVID, Frey added, “It’s their garden, their backyard,” said Frey. “It’s City-owned and part of Colliers Park, but the beautification, enhancement and community engagement is managed by the River Park Foundation and volunteers do all the pruning, planting and watering. The native habitat is also a way to help protect the watershed because they don’t use as many fertilizers and pesticides, etc.”

Field noted all of the garden’s plants are native to California including the Catalina Islands. The Point Loma Native Plant Garden is community funded and donation-based with the support of grants,” said Frey. “Because of COVID we’ve had to go with a handful of select core volunteers that have been superstars during the pandemic,” she pointed out. Another 17-year native-garden volunteer, Joel Kalmonson, explicated a quick tour of the spacious garden complex featuring a lot of comfortable benches. During the tour numerous fragrant native desert plants are revealed, like Santa Cruz Island Ceonothis, canyon gray sagebrush, native milkweed (a Monarch butterfly habitat), and several cactus varieties, as well as prime specimens of the high-profile Torrey pine.

The garden, located at the corner of Greene Street and Mendocino Boulevard, also boasts a native plant nursery.

The best time to visit the garden?

“There really is something to be seen all year round, to see the changes,” responded Frey. “And the sage smells good year-round.”

“Spring, March through June, is the best because you get the flowers,” answered Field.

Field in a flowery spot in the garden.

Neighborhood Mike Rall, who lives a block away, showed up walking his dog on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

“Spring, March through June, is the best because you get the flowers,” answered Field.

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Neighborhood Mike Rall, who lives a block away, showed up walking his dog on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

“A showcase of how our natural, native plants can be beautiful.’

MIKE RALL, POINT LOMA RESIDENT

This is one of the only sites that stewards taking care of this, and learning about why native plants are so important.”

Added Rall, “It’s a showcase of how our natural, native plants can be beautiful, and they can be used in a garden setting to make this unique. And we get all sorts of wildlife here from marsh hawks, to barn owls, and a variety of jays and native birds like hummingbirds. This place is amazing.”

“We’re really looking forward to having events here again as soon as it’s safe to do so,” concluded Frey. “Now in the mean- time, we’d love to have people come and enjoy it and explore. There are a lot of different opportunities where you can enjoy the river right now.”

For a virtual tour, visit virtual tour of the garden.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden volunteers Jennifer Frey, Joel Kalmonson and Al Field in a flowery spot in the garden.
President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan on Thursday. Mayor Todd Gloria has unveiled his framework for how the approximately $350 billion expected in federal relief will be used to create a comprehensive economic recovery and provide help to its most vulnerable residents.

I am ready to get our city back on track. According to the American Rescue Plan, we will rollout an economic recovery plan that will build a better tomorrow for all of us.

Gloria will use the “Back to Work SD” plan he developed as a campaign as a blueprint to strengthen San Diego’s economy. Though the

City must wait further guidance from Washington on the specifics of how it can use this aid, Gloria’s plan will focus on defeating COVID-19, preserving core neighborhood services to protect jobs and equipping San Diegans for a better tomorrow.

DEFEAT COVID-19

To protect lives and livelihoods, a portion of the federal aid must support continued vaccination efforts. More than 5,000 vaccine doses could be distributed daily on city-owned properties.

Gloria is committed to supporting vaccination efforts in communities of concern to create a more equitable recovery. Funding from the American Rescue Plan will ensure that the City can continue to vaccinate people across the City regardless of their income level, transportation challenges or access to healthcare.

PROTECT CORE SERVICES AND SUPPORT FAMILIES

The bulk of the federal aid will go to addressing the City’s immediate budget crisis. In addition to the current $66 million budget deficit, the City is expected to lose $1.34 million short in the next fiscal year if it wanted to keep up with the services offered today.

Closing these gaps will preserve jobs, avoid salary cuts and ensure employees will continue to provide vital services residents desire.

The infusion of federal dollars will allow Gloria to continue his efforts to reduce homelessness and assist renters in investing in programs that will connect the most vulnerable San Diegans to their families, services and permanent housing.

Read more online at sdnews.com

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**SUDOKU PUZZLE**

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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1. To be in a fervid way
2. Calendar month
3. Skin condition
4. Car mechanics group
5. More (Spanish)
6. Trigonometric function
7. Representation of a plan
8. Molecules
9. Hostility
10. Leaseholder
11. Flat tableland with steep edges
12. A person’s brother or sister
13. In a fervid way
14. How (Spanish)
15. Work stations
16. In the year of our Lord
17. Expression of surprise
18. Crossword’s author
19. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
20. A person's brother or sister
21. How (Spanish)
22. Bribe
23. Employer
24. A person's brother or sister
25. In a fervid way
26. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
27. Common sense
28. Identity
29. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
30. A person's brother or sister
31. Any person who
32. A person's brother or sister
33. In a fervid way
34. How (Spanish)
35. Work stations
36. A person's brother or sister
37. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
38. How (Spanish)
39. In a fervid way
40. A person's brother or sister
41. In a fervid way
42. How (Spanish)
43. In a fervid way
44. How (Spanish)
45. In a fervid way
46. How (Spanish)
47. In a fervid way
48. In a fervid way
49. In a fervid way
50. In a fervid way
51. In a fervid way
52. In a fervid way
53. In a fervid way
54. In a fervid way
55. In a fervid way
56. In a fervid way
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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. 55. Calendar month
2. 30. Car mechanics group
3. 49. Hostility
4. 46. Leaseholder
5. 43. More (Spanish)
6. 31. A person’s brother or sister
7. 37. Representation of a plan
8. 35. Crossword’s author
9. 32. A person’s brother or sister
10. 38. How (Spanish)
11. 39. In a fervid way
12. 34. How (Spanish)
13. 41. In a fervid way
14. 48. In a fervid way
15. 47. In a fervid way
16. 45. In a fervid way
17. 42. In a fervid way
18. 44. In a fervid way
19. 40. In a fervid way
20. 36. A person’s brother or sister
21. 43. More (Spanish)
22. 28. Identity
23. 27. Common sense
24. 26. A person's brother or sister
25. 23. Employer
26. 22. Bribe
27. 21. How (Spanish)
28. 19. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
29. 24. A person's brother or sister
30. 18. How (Spanish)
31. 17. Expression of surprise
32. 16. In the year of our Lord
33. 15. Work stations
34. 14. How (Spanish)
35. 13. In a fervid way
36. 12. A person’s brother or sister
37. 11. How (Spanish)
38. 10. Leaseholder
39. 9. Hostility
40. 8. Molecules
41. 7. Representation of a plan
42. 6. Trigonometric function
43. 5. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
44. 4. Car mechanics group
45. 3. Skin condition
46. 2. Calendar month
47. 1. To be in a fervid way

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**CLUES DOWN**

1. 35. Crossword’s author
2. 29. A person's brother or sister
3. 28. Identity
4. 27. Common sense
5. 26. A person's brother or sister
6. 25. How (Spanish)
7. 24. A person's brother or sister
8. 23. Employer
9. 22. Bribe
10. 21. How (Spanish)
11. 20. A person's brother or sister
12. 19. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
13. 18. How (Spanish)
14. 17. Expression of surprise
15. 16. In the year of our Lord
16. 15. Work stations
17. 14. How (Spanish)
18. 13. In a fervid way
19. 12. A person’s brother or sister
20. 11. How (Spanish)
21. 10. Leaseholder
22. 9. Hostility
23. 8. Molecules
24. 7. Representation of a plan
25. 6. Trigonometric function
26. 5. More than 5,000 vaccine doses
27. 4. Car mechanics group
28. 3. Skin condition
29. 2. Calendar month
30. 1. To be in a fervid way

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Read more online at sdnews.com

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Read more online at sdnews.com
Pointers football, baseball teams ready to return

**BY SCOTT HOPKINS | THE BEACON**

After nearly one year of not being allowed on a school athletic field, athletes at Point Loma High are suddenly practicing earnestly for shortened seasons that begin in the coming weeks.

**FOOTBALL**

For new head football coach Joel Allen, this is neither the time nor the conditions he imagined as he was named to replace 22-year veteran Mike Hastings, accepting the position on Nov. 7.

Allen has been leading a limited turnout of players through drills and he will get a chance to see them compete in their first game action March 19. Some athletes chose to play other sports that are overlapping football during this unique season.

There will be no CIF playoffs or state bowl games this year however the next season is set to begin on Aug. 31 and should return to a normal season. At present, no fans or even players’ parents will be admitted to games.

**BASEBALL**

Varsity head coach Jeff Solis and his assistants held a team scrimmage early this week and nearly two dozen pro baseball scouts and cross-country checked attendees. They were focusing on a foursome of Pointer players who have elite talent at the prep level and may hear their names called in a future draft.

Diaz has had to make some tough decisions, including what to tell PLHS parents about the new health and safety protocols being put into place.

“I’m telling them these rules aren’t coach Diaz’s rules, they come from the state, guidelines for San Diego Union School District to follow,” he said.

Diaz noted the restart won’t be easy due to time already lost.

“Football wise, we’ve lost a lot of seniors and their experience,” he noted, adding the reboot is especially tough for students active in more than one sport. “Athletes playing multiple sports, they’re running all over the place. It’s a lot of chaos,” Diaz said.

The timing of prep sports’ seasonality has also been adversely impacted.

“In a normal year we have fall, winter and spring seasons,” Diaz said. “But everything was halted back in September or October 2020. We’re trying to squeeze in sports that are spread out over a whole year. Right now, for instance, we have football in a quick season.”

And, unfortunately, time remaining will not allow for football playoffs this year. “Hopefully with spring sports, we’ll have some playoffs,” Diaz added.

Diaz talked about the biggest disappointment in resuming sports this year.

“The biggest complaint I’m hearing from parents right now is why are there no fans?,” he said adding.

“We’re just trying to get us many of these kids out there safely following health protocols.”

**SPORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**
Lanz Correia not only specializes in the Ocean Beach and Point Loma area, he also specializes in selling unique properties like The Desert View Tower. This property boasts over 90 acres of stunning desert views. The Desert View Tower was originally built between 1922-1928. Includes three quaint homes, and a covered Balinese yoga and activity platform. The included adjacent rock caves, aptly named Boulder Park, feature large stones sculpted by an out-of-work engineer, Merle Ratcliff, during The Great Depression.
Coming Soon - First Time on the Market

Point Loma Dutch Colonial - 5 bed, 4.5 baths, 3793 sqft., library & family room - $1,595,000-$1,795,000

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