Redevelopment plan for Midway District hits glitch

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Regulations in a state law governing how and when cities can make public land available for private development could complicate, delay, or even return redevelopment of the former Sports Arena back to square one.

In 2019, the state legislature passed AB 1486, which sought to update the existing Surplus Lands Act specifying that a public agency must first offer surplus municipal property to other public agencies or affordable housing developers first, before selling it privately.

In August 2020, a City selection committee picked a proposal by Brookfield Properties and ASM Global to redevelop the former Sports Arena property in the Midway District. Brookfield and ASM plan to transform the 48-acre site into a vibrant community with public parks, new homes, office space, and a modern entertainment venue generating approximately 1,200 jobs and an annual economic impact of more than $300 million.

Reacting to this latest development, Brookfield Properties Development vice president Ted...
City showcases and brews up support for craft beer industry

In honor of National Beer Day on April 7, the City of San Diego is launching a Business is Brewing website to provide beer breweries in San Diego with helpful market information and City economic development resources they can use to support and grow their businesses.

The website, created and managed by the City’s Economic Development Department, is designed to promote the benefits of being a local beer manufacturer and educate everyone about the programs available to keep brewers, brew pubs and tasting stores operating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

“San Diego remains one of the country’s top 5 craft beer cities, and we want to make sure this important industry remains informed, supported and resilient as it continues to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Christina Bibler, director of the City’s Economic Development Department. “This interactive website is an innovative one-stop shop for beer manufacturers and beer enthusiasts, both locally and nationally, showcasing the spirit to brew and buy local during these challenging economic times.”

Features of the Business is Brewing website include:

- An interactive map with business and market information about the 110 operating breweries, brew pubs and tasting stores within City of San Diego limits.
- An economic report on the $1.2 billion San Diego regional beer cluster, which has supported 6,500 jobs (countywide) and $848 million in revenue.
- An interactive map showing the operating status of 144 breweries.
- Information about the City’s economic development programs that can assist breweries with launch, expansion and economic relief.
- A map tour of 23 breweries that produced award-winning beers at the Great American Beer Festival and the San Diego International Beer Festival in 2020.

For more information about the Business is Brewing website or additional programs and services the City provides to businesses during the COVID 19 pandemic, visit sandiego.gov/economic-development.

What’s changing when San Diego County moves to Orange Tier?

By JOSÉ A. ÁLVAREZ | THE BEACON

The County will move into the Orange Tier of the state’s COVID-19 prevention framework on April 9, further easing restrictions and allowing more indoor activities.

The region can move into the Orange Tier on March 17. The move comes after the state raised the case rate threshold for counties to meet after meeting a goal to vaccinate more than four million Californians who live in areas with the least healthy community conditions.

Now, to qualify for the Orange Tier, a region must have a case rate between 2 and 5.9 case per every 100,000 residents. The County’s case rate is now 5.8 cases per every 100,000 residents.

“We have made significant progress in lowering our local case rate,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., County public health officer. “San Diegans should enjoy the benefits while continuing to take appropriate measures to protect themselves and others, especially washing their hands, wearing a mask, watching their distance and, when it’s their turn, getting vaccinated.”

Here are some of the activities now allowed under the Orange Tier:

- Restaurants: Indoor seating increases to 50% capacity or 200 people maximum. The 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew is also ending.
- Gyms and Fitness Centers: 25% capacity indoors; indoor pools can open.
- Wineries and Breweries: 25% or 100 people indoors maximum.
- Movie Theaters: 50% or 200 people maximum.
- Museums, Zoos and Aquariums: 50% capacity for indoor activities.

For more information about the Business is Brewing website launch, expansion and economic relief, visit sandiego.gov/economic-development.

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A BETTER WAY TO WATCH SUNSETS?

Plan proposed to create mini park at Del Monte overlook

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

Point Loma residents are Mulling the creation of a mini park experience to improve the Del Monte Avenue overlook while addressing the sometimes problematic sun-setting crowds drawn there.

Mandy Havlik, a Peninsula Community Planning Board member speaking for herself, has been working with Del Monte residents around the overlook on possibly securing City approvals to transform the steep site into a mini park of some kind. Improvements envisioned include benches and landscaping.

Back in October (2020), we were approached by Gary Pence (City engineer) to review the area about making recommendations to the City about the issue brought up by neighbors about problems with crowds coming out for the sunsets and not necessarily being respectful and making noise and leaving trash,” said Havlik.

“We were asked by the City if we wanted to make a recommendation on whether or not to install bollards (a short post used to divert traffic from an area or road) or a barricade of some sort to stop people from parking at that lookout point.”

District 2 Councilmember Dr. Jennifer Campbell’s office said it is working with Del Monte residents to find a solution to crowd issues at the overlook, as well as community to find a solution to crowd issues at the overlook, as well as community to find a solution to crowd issues at the overlook, as well as community to find a solution to crowd issues...

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Birch Aquarium Summer Learning Adventure Camp

This summer Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is offering both in-person and virtual summer camps for children entering grades K-5. Campers explore underwater worlds and meet amazing ocean creatures in these fun and safe weeklong camps.

Led by Birch Aquarium’s professional staff, campers will play games, create fun crafts, engage in science activities, and of course, get up close with aquarium animals, live or virtually.

Safety is top of mind for everyone, and Birch Aquarium has adopted several new safety measures for in-person camps including requiring face coverings and social distancing during all activities. Additionally, kids will remain in their camp pods with individual supplies and materials for each camper. Camps run June 21-August 27 and extended-day options are now available for in-person camps. Registration begins April 12 for general public, with early registration available for aquarium members. Visit aquarium.ucsd.edu/sumercamps for details.

Point Loma High Class of ‘21 to graduate at Petco Park in June

By SCOTT HUPPERS | THE BEACON

The Point Loma High School class of 2021 will have one final unique experience as a result of COVID-19.

San Diego Unified School District officials have reached an agreement, subject to school board approval, with the San Diego Padres to allow all of the district’s 22 high schools to hold graduation ceremonies at Petco Park.

The Class of 2021 will be the 96th to graduate from PLHS and the spaciousness of Petco Park should allow much greater attendance while still complying with social distancing mandates. It is also hoped San Diego County will lift their restrictions on gathering by mid-June.

Principal Kelly Lowery expected board approval earlier this week and expressed excitement about the plans. He said seniors and their families will be notified of the exact date and time of their ceremony as soon as final plans have been made.

“I am thrilled we have found a way to bring all of our seniors together again for our 2021 graduation ceremony,” Lowery said.

Plans are said to include a stage on the baseball field’s infield. This news should come as a relief for Pointer administrators because the school’s Pete Ross Stadium, where commencement ceremonies are traditionally held, will be under construction in another phase of the whole site improvement plan. Already completed are two new classroom buildings, upgrades to all other classrooms, modernization of the school’s gym, communication, computer, and infrastructure systems.

Upcoming PLHS stadium upgrades will include bleachers for 500 visiting spectators on the north side of the field with a new concession and restroom building. On the home (south) side of the field, a press box will be constructed with elevator access. Also, an unstable retaining wall on the east end of the stadium will be rebuilt and damage to the school’s track from support braces for the wall will be repaired.

All San Diegans 50 and older can now get COVID-19 vaccine

By JOSÉ A. ALVAREZ | THE BEACON

More San Diegans will be able to get vaccinated against COVID-19 now that the state and the County have expanded eligibility to include all people between 50 and 64 years of age, the first group in Phase 2.

While more people now qualify for the COVID-19 vaccine, health officials are urging San Diegans to be patient since there is still a shortage of doses.

“We know some San Diegans are anxious to get vaccinated, but we’re asking people to be patient,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “As we get more vaccines, it will be easier to make an appointment and get vaccinated.”

Starting April 15, everyone between 16 and 50 years of age, the second group in Phase 2, will also qualify for the COVID-19 vaccine.

The state’s goal is to vaccinate 75% of people 16 and older to achieve herd immunity. That’s about 2.02 million San Diegans. San Diegans wishing to get vaccinated can make an appointment by visiting vacsnp.com. Those 65 and older can call 2-1-1 for help.

Free COVID-19 Testing is now available at three churches in San Diego County through June 10.

Playtime at Clatym

Celebrating 18 years of Summer Camps full of indoor art projects and well-supervised visits to the beach/tide pools (just one block away), whether for a day or several weeks, we have the perfect camp for your child! Camps are offered during the weeks that kids are on summer break. Kids 5 and older are invited to join our camps. Projects include: ceramic painting, mosaic projects, acrylic on can-vas, clay building, jewelry making and making tie-dye t-shirts and much more.

$250 half day all week, $175 full day all week. Single day is $75 full and 1/2 days $45. Call Caroline and reserve a spot for your child today. Limited to 8 kids per week. Camps fill up fast. Clatym - ceramics.com/for registration 

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• 5-6 hours of on-court training, and July, registration is currently open.
• Free comet to the courts this summer! Call 1-800-645-3226 or USSportsCamps.com/tennis

All San Diegans 50 and older, the first group in Phase 2, will also qualify for the COVID-19 vaccine.
Hodad’s surfboard deck rides the wave of outdoor dining

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Leave it to Hodad’s to do something really unorthodox – and stylish – with its outdoor dining enclosure on Newport Avenue.

The 52-year-old Ocean Beach eatery, nationally known for its tasty, juicy burgers and beach vibe, has used a familiar theme in decorating its outdoor dining space: surfboards. Lots of them.

Jeremy Diem, Hodad’s president/CEO, said the eatery’s new outdoor dining space is as impressive as it is simplistic. But it took some doing.

“We built a good solid platform at first, but we didn’t know how long it was going to last because of the 60-mph winds we were getting pummeled with at the time,” said the restaurant’s manager about the outdoor enclosure that’s been open several weeks.

“We wanted to build something more permanent with a more solid foundation base that was better and more secure and not slated,”

Then the concept for making Hodad’s outdoor enclosure truly representative of OB became clear.

“I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool if we just had surfboards going around the whole side?’” asked Diem. Enter Coconut Peet’s Surfboard Repair and Trading Co. at 4103 Voltaire St.

Diem got a positive response from Coconut when he approached them about helping Hodad’s put their signature stamp on their outdoor dining enclosure. “They said, ‘Come down, we have a whole wall of surfboards you can have,’” he said. “They showed us up. So it was someone else who helped us put the bar up on our design. So we said, ‘Let’s go ahead and do this.’”

Of the finished product, Diem noted, “It came out really good.”

While pointing out, “It really looks cool at nighttime as we put out some hanging teardrop lights for it.”

Diem’s noticed recently there’s been a sea change in the social “climate” recently with the revitalization of spring and business beginning to bounce back as COVID vaccines become more widely distributed.

“The volume of customers has shifted so much, and we’re so busy, that it’s hard to find people to work,” Diem said about the 1,500-square-foot Hodad’s restaurant, which is now open for outdoor dining on a limited basis.

Hodad’s name is derived from the 1950s beach term for surfer wannabes who were into cars, music and counter-culture style. The restaurant started in 1969 by Byron and Virginia Hardin, who purchased both the business and its name.

Hodad’s was initially on the beach at the end ofSanta Monica Avenue.

In 1991, after several moves, Hodad’s opened on Newport Avenue where it is today. Mike “Bosson” Hardin, the unofficial mayor and “burgermeister” of Ocean Beach, died Feb. 5, 2015. Since Bossman’s death, the company has observed a customary appreciation day at the end of every summer. Mike Hardin’s son, and Hodad’s third-generation restaurateur, Shane Hardin, now runs the family-owned and operated restaurant-microbrewery business.

The eatery’s ambiance is eclectic. License plates from all over the planet dot the walls. There are also historic pictures: lots of beach memorabilia and picnic tables with surfboard-shaped seats.

A giant menu board over the customer counter proclaims “99 Gazillion sold.” The Hodadmobile, a mini-bus entirely plastered over with stickers from stem to stern, usually can be found parked out side next to the restaurant.

Though Hodad’s outdoor surfboard deck is built to last, circumstantial forces undermine Hodad’s vision of a sustainable San Diego. But Diem says, “I love it and I wish we could make a portion of Newport Avenue south of Bacon or Cable streets into a little promenade with al fresco dining, where people can walk around with no cars. Maybe we can walk with al fresco dining in Point Loma until the end of 2021. But I guarantee, the City is going to want their parking back.”

San Diego is now home to the eighth Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery with the newest opening in Point Loma at 3225 Sports Arena Blvd. The bakery will celebrate its grand opening in a few weeks with the two benefit days in addition to a day recognizing medical professionals. Nothing Bundt Cakes is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit nothingbundtcakes.com. 
Starfish Filipino Eatery proves popular in Ocean Beach

By Dana Schiavaglia | The Beacon

A new cuisine with Spanish and Asian influences has hit the scene in Ocean Beach.

Freshly minted restaurateur Anna Santos Hamilton opened Starfish Filipino Eatery at 1830 Sunset Cliffs Blvd, a month ago in the space formerly inhabited for many years by Pepe’s Italian.

Santos Hamilton is on a mission to introduce San Diego residents to Philippine cuisine, which she noted is an amalgam of tastes and spices from the 7,000-plus islands of the Philippines’ archipelago and other Asian nations, as well as Spanish, which ruled the archipelago for some 300 years.

“Before I even thought of this crazy idea of starting a restaurant, I’d been thinking. ‘Why do I have to go to National City or Mira Mesa to get Filipino food?’” asked Santos Hamilton. “So I ended up cooking it myself.”

Santos Hamilton had been doing catering for private clients, before opting to become a full-on restaurateur. “I found this place, and it was perfect,” she said of her new storefront. “So I just said, ‘I’m going to do Philippine cuisine. And here I am.’”

She completely remodeled the old Pepe’s giving it a fresh look and feel. “It’s like a more modernized Manilla,” Santos Hamilton said. “The décor is Eurasian style, like being somewhere in a cosmopolitan hotel or restaurant. This is what you’re going to see.”

Philippine delights on the menu of Starfish include pancit (noodles), adobo (slow food in marinade), lumpia (pork, beef and carrot rolls), island garlic prawns, Dulce de Leche cheesecake, siol (Filipino breakfast), sabaw (soup), matapsi (sweets/desserts) and vegan dishes. Most of the daily menu items are made from scratch.

“Lumpia is my in-house special recipe, and it goes as fast as we can make them,” said Santos Hamilton adding. “I learned how to make many of my dishes from my grandmother years ago.”

Added Santos Hamilton, “I want my menu items to change seasonally. I don’t want the menu to be static. I want it to be more organic and flowing through the seasons.”

Born and raised in the Philippines, Santos Hamilton moved to the States in her teens. She previously lived in Ocean Beach on Niagara Street by the OB Pier. Her business name has nothing to do with her menu, noted Santos Hamilton, speaking of its origin.

“It’s like you go to the beach when you’re on vacation and you stumble on a starfish,” she related. “You look at it and go, ‘Oh my. To me, that’s what Philippine cuisine is, just starting to get discovered, like a starfish.”

Starfish Filipino Eatery has been well received by Point Loma residents.

“OB has been very welcoming and supportive,” said Santos Hamilton. “People have even come in and thanked me for starting a restaurant that has something different. That made me feel good. That makes my heart full.”

Concluded Santos Hamilton of the impact she wants to make, “I really want to showcase the cuisine because nobody really showcases it the way I want to. I want it to be more accessible to everyone, not just Filipinos.”

The island garlic prawns at Starfish Filipino Eatery.

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The Port of San Diego advances new clean air, environmental initiatives

The Port of San Diego is making significant moves to advance new clean air and environmental justice strategies. During a recent meeting, the Board of Port Commissioners approved a resolution to support development of the County of San Diego’s Regional Carbon Sustainability Plan, approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with The San Diego Foundation focused on climate and coastal resiliency efforts, and received an update from staff on development of the Port’s Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) to identify and prioritize projects to further reduce emissions and improve air quality on and around San Diego Bay.

“The Port is committed to being a leader in cleaner air for our communities. At the start of the year, I made it clear that air quality and climate change issues will be important drivers in any effort, project or major deal we pursue and support over the next decade,” said chairman Michael Zucchet, Port of San Diego Board of Port Commissioners. “Supporting these initiatives are prime examples of how the Port continues to make progress by collaborating with regional partners to deploy new strategies and technologies.”

The Port has long collaborated with its member cities, the County of San Diego, academia, and others throughout the region to advance climate adaptation initiatives. These latest efforts are in addition to the Port’s Climate Action Plan, Port Master Plan Update, and others that establish goals and strategies for reducing the Port’s environmental impacts.

MARITIME CLEAN AIR STRATEGY

As an extension of the Port’s Climate Action Plan, the Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) will identify and prioritize projects to further reduce emissions and improve air quality. The MCAS is community-focused with bi-monthly meetings for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and goal setting. The MCAS is also intended to help clarify the role the Port can play in supporting the Port’s maritime tenants and terminal operators with transitioning to zero and near-zero technologies.

Recent maritime efforts include the demonstration of electric trucks and cargo handling equipment at both of the Port’s terminals, shore power at cruise and cargo terminals, and a designated truck route to keep commercial trucks out of Barrio Logan neighborhoods. The MCAS and the AB 617 Community Emission Reduction Program are complementary efforts, and each informs and supports one another. Port staff anticipates presenting a final draft of the MCAS for the Board’s consideration in the spring.

REGIONAL CARBON SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

On Jan. 27, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to develop a framework to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2035, ten years before the State of California’s carbon neutrality goal. The Regional Carbon Sustainability Plan is the first of its kind for the region and will be developed in partnership with the University of California, San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy.

The Port is one of many agencies in the region set to collaborate and support the plan that could make San Diego the largest county in the U.S. to commit to achieving such a goal by 2035. As a stakeholder, Port staff will contribute by providing information on sources of emissions that are unique to the Port such as goods movement vessels, vehicles and equipment.

“The Port’s contributions to the development of the Regional Carbon Sustainability Plan will be essential as there are important industries that only exist on the San Diego bayfront,” said vice chair Nora Vargas, San Diego County Board of Supervisors, who crafted the plan along with Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer and whose district includes much of the San Diego Bay waterfront. “This policy, developed in collaboration with the Port and other agencies, will incorporate strategies tailored to the region to achieve zero carbon in key sectors including energy, transportation, and land use. These strategies will help to reduce the burden on low-income communities, especially communities of color, while also providing good-paying jobs building the infrastructure that will propel the region into the future.”

In addition to reducing GHG emissions, the plan will have co-benefits to public health and quality of life in the region, which complement the Port’s planning initiatives and climate goals.

PORT INVITES PUBLIC TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK

As an environmental champion of San Diego Bay and the surrounding waterfront, the Port of San Diego is developing a Maritime Clean Air Strategy (MCAS) as part of continued efforts to deploy projects that will improve air quality as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to transition to more efficient, modern, and sustainable maritime operations. Now, the Port is seeking additional community and stakeholder feedback.

To learn more about the MCAS and to review the Discussion Draft, go to portofsandiego.org/MCAS. Written community feedback will be accepted via email to MCAS@portofsandiego.org through Tuesday, April 20. In addition, the public may submit an aspirational vision statement to include in the final document.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Port and The San Diego Foundation have entered into a memorandum of understanding to advance a collaborative partnership to explore opportunities for program alignment and investment to support coastal access, climate initiatives and coastal resiliency, environmental conservation and stewardship, environmental justice, and a thriving, sustainable waterfront.

As regional leaders, the Port of San Diego and The San Diego Foundation embrace our commitment to improving quality of life in our communities.” shared Mark Stuart, president and CEO of The Foundation. “San Diegans will benefit from our new partnership with equitable access to and enjoyment of our ocean, bay, resilient coastal environment.”

The San Diego Foundation has been an active participant on the Port’s Environmental Advisory Committee since its inception in 2006. In addition, the Port and The Foundation have long worked together to improve quality of life in the region and provide public benefits through various projects including the creation of Ruocco Park, the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge Lighting project, the Port with No Borders Scholarship Fund, and a climate initiative called “San Diego, 2050 is Calling.”
Ocean Beach man ordered to stand trial in matricide case

By NEAL PUTNAM | The Beacon

An Ocean Beach man was ordered on March 26 to stand trial for killing his mother with the special circumstances of murder during torture and murder during a robbery.

The two-day preliminary hearing resulted in Daniel Chase McKibben, 39, being held to answer for the May 1, 2019, slaying of Heidi Green, 59.

If McKibben is convicted of first-degree murder with the special circumstance charges, he would face either the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Deputy District Attorney Kristie Nikoletich told San Diego Superior Court Judge Theodore Weathers the torture charge is based on the victim being stabbed 45 times in the face, neck, and head. She said one stab wound punctured the brain.

“The defendant is very angry with his mother,” said Nikoletich, adding the stab wounds were done “for the purpose of revenge.”

“He had everything handed to him,” said Nikoletich, adding that his mother helped him in paying for his truck and allowed him to live in an Ocean Beach condominium she owned.

McKibben’s attorney, Damian Lowe, disputed that he robbed his mother. “He didn’t need anything more,” said Lowe, adding that she paid off his credit cards, and truck payments.

“This is a very sad and tragic case,” said Lowe. “No one ever said he stole from them.”

The first witness was the defendant’s brother, Adam McKibben, who drove down to San Diego after not hearing from his mother. He testified he talked with his brother, who claimed he didn’t know where she was.

Adam McKibben said his brother “took off running” when he showed up at a home in the 5000 block of Niagara Avenue and opened the garage door.

The brother testified he found his mother’s remains in a trash can in the garage. She was wrapped in a blanket. He said he called 911.

Adam McKibben told his brother’s attorney his brother has bipolar disorder and he has had manic episodes in which he was homeless at times.

San Diego Police detective Tracey Guaderrama testified the victim’s ring, valued at $40,000, was missing along with some earrings and a bracelet.

Guaderrama said she found a “to do list” believed written by the defendant in which he wanted to get a passport and have enough cash for travel.

Guaderrama said after Daniel McKibben fled with a friend to La Mesa, he learned from online records that he was wanted for murder. She said he altered his appearance by shaving part of his head.

Read more online at sdnews.com
The Rosin Box Project moves into Arts District Liberty Station

Modern ballet has found a new home in Liberty Station.

The Rosin Box Project, San Diego’s innovative contemporary ballet company, recently set up shop at the Dorothy Laub Dance Place, 2650 Truxtun Road, in Arts District Liberty Station. The company moved into the Point Loma facility on March 1.

“We are a small company, about nine dancers,” said Carly Topazio, artistic director/founder of nonprofit The Rosin Box Project. “This is the very first place that we can call ours. Before we never had a specific studio to ourselves. Our new studio is a really incredible environment. So many other dance companies, schools, and organizations are also in this very same building. It’s just an incredible location with everything that goes on in the Arts District.”

The Rosin Box Project’s mission is to elevate and enrich the arts in San Diego and beyond through uniquely curated contemporary ballet and dance performances from established and emerging world-class artists. The project aims to encourage artistic growth and exploration by creating a platform in which professional artists can collaborate and amplify their voices, permitting audiences new access to the transformative power of dance.

Topazio pointed out The Rosin Box Project uses the Laub Dance Place for rehearsals. Her ballet troop usually performs downtown at the Tenth Avenue Arts Center at 930 10th Ave.

Upcoming performances of The Rosin Box Project are July 9-10, most likely at Liberty Station, and Aug. 19-22 at Tenth Avenue Arts Center downtown. Both performances are also being offered virtually. More information on upcoming performances are at therisinboxproject.com.

Of Rosin Box’s style, Topazio said, “What we do is more contemporary, breaking the mold of traditional classical ballet, which is kind of the foundation for all dance forms including modern dance, jazz, and hip-hop.”

Added Topazio: “Because classical ballet can be somewhat intimidating, our shows are in small theaters that are more intimate.”

Yoga outdoors more popular than ever in San Diego

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

Whether on grass, sand, or water, yoga outdoors is one of the best ways to practice and enjoy the discipline. And particularly in San Diego, where the weather permits year-round outdoor activity.

Just ask the yogis and their pupils.

“I have been teaching a donation-based yoga class on Sunset Cliffs on Saturdays since 2009,” said Jennifer Diamond of Jenergy Yoga, who holds classes there on weekday evenings as well as Saturday mornings. “Originally I started it as a way for my friends to be able to come to a class. Then the movement caught on and many others also began holding classes up here.”

Heather Gjerde teaches outdoors on a paved surface facing Mission Bay on Fridays and Saturdays at 10-11 a.m. at Paradise Point Resort & Spa (free to guests or $15 drop ins). She also teaches “Powerful Yoga Lunch Hour” on the grass at the end of Saratoga Avenue in Ocean Beach on Tuesdays noon-1 p.m. Her schedule also includes donation-based “all-levels flow yoa” there as well on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5 p.m.

Of her OB space, Gjerde noted, “They just leveled the sand dunes, which gives us a wonderful view of the ocean while we flow. There is plenty of space to do socially distance and practice safely.”

Gjerde pointed out that there are advantages – and disadvantages – to practicing yoga outside rather than indoors.

Obviously, some things are a little harder outside,” she said. “Outside, I prefer not to do a lot of things on knees. The beauty of a studio is sensory deprivation. But for people now looking for yoga, outdoors has given them their chance.

Lack of public restroom facilities at Sunset Cliffs is one of the biggest challenges of holding yoga classes there, according to Diamond.

“Additionally, there are now so many people doing it that a few of us keep it organized on groups on Facebook so that we don’t have time and space conflicts.

“We all try to be a community and support each other in teaching these special classes. We also support our students, our community, in having classes they can attend outside in nature with this glorious ocean view,” Diamond added.

“I just love outdoors and nature,” said longtime yoga and meditation instructor Corie Bordieri-Seibert, who teaches weekdays at Kate Sessions Park. “I much prefer to be outside than inside.”

“You’re in a less perhaps intimidating dating space because you can leave and you can come, whereas when you’re in a studio with a closed door, you’re stuck there,” noted Susan Harris, who teaches weekly meet-up morning yoga classes at Mission Beach.

“Yoga is a group of physical, mental and spiritual practices or disciplines that originated in ancient India as far back as 3,000 years BCE. Outside India, it has developed into a posture-based physical fitness, stress-relief, and relaxation technique.

“Yoga has eight ‘limbs,’ or facets. They are union, integration; external disciplines; internal disciplines; posture; breath control; withdrawal of senses; concentration; and meditative absorption.

Why do yoga outside? “For me, nature helps me meditate,” answered Angel Franquez, a surf instructor and a student of Gjerde’s. “Yoga, naturally, helps me ground more. open up more. It helps me relax as I’m trying to do certain poses because they’re a little more challenging.”

The yogis all teach the discipline a bit differently outside.

“Outside you have limited time frames,” explained Gjerde. “Outside we want to spread out to socially distance and simplify. I like to vary the routine, focus on strength one time, balance the next, breathing or stretching other times.”

“We’re outdoors you’re working with the elements,” pointed out Harris. “You’re learning how to partner with the elements and silence your mind from the distractions (sounds, passersby, etc.).” It’s a little more inviting to go inward and just be in your own space.”

“I like to be more heart- and mind-centered with yoga,” said Bordieri-Seibert, noting participants have to wear hats and sun-screen protection outdoors. “At first I was a boot-camp teacher. But my classes have mellowed. Yoga should be accessible to everyone. There is no room in my classes for egos. This is not a competition. This is a gift of health and well being to yourself.”

There are newer and more innovative ways to do yoga outdoors these days, like on a stand-up paddleboard.

“The SUPs are extra big and wider than a surfboard and have anchors in the sand so they aren’t moving,” said Gjerde, noting SUP yoga is offered at Paradise Point and in Mission Bay. “You have to adapt your (teaching) style on a board. You typically practice closer to the board, on your hands and knees, lower to the water.”

Instructor Nicole Turner teaches SUP yoga for hotel guests and locals every Sunday from 10:30 a.m.-noon at Paradise Point, with more classes to be added in spring and summer.

“With major physical, mental, and emotional benefits, SUP yoga can enhance any other exercise or sport you play or take your land yoga practice to the next level,” said Turner. “SUP Yoga is also a great activity for a group of people and can be a true bonding experience.”

Bordieri-Seibert employs crystal quartz singing bowls in her yoga classes.

“I like to add little tidbits of the philosophy,” she said. “These bowls are the superhighway to meditation. Just listen and open your heart and mind, and you will get into a state of meditation. They’re a great tool. I do these after the workout when everyone is relaxing lying on their backs.”

Outdoor yoga, to teacher Harris, is not so much a trend as an alternative to more standard, indoors instruction.

“It’s just a different option to be in a different type of space,” she said, adding it’s helped broaden her teaching landscape. “It’s a way of using my voice (talking over the background ocean). It helps you become a different kind of teacher, because right now you can’t be hands-on.”

The best part of outdoor yoga, according to Gjerde, is that it’s a way to bring the pandemic to promote and foster togetherness.

“What I love about yoga is it is bringing people together in community, which is something we’re all craving right now,” she said. “It gives you a dedicated time to show up and see some like-minded people who have similar values, and connect and foster togetherness.”

For more information, visit vin tenanza.com, meetup.com/Yoga- On-Mission-Beach, nanci topaz io yoga.com, birdrockyoga.com, jenergyfitness.com, meetup.com/ outdoor-yoga-sd, or contact yogaguru88@gmail.com, psy gos@gmail.com and facebook.com/jenergyYogaSD.
OBITUARY: DOTTIE VEAL – LONG TIME EMPLOYEE AT OB HARDWARE

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Long time OB Hardware em-
ployee Dottie Veal was loved and
respected and will be sorely missed
by all who knew her now that she
is gone, having died recently fol-
lowing a stroke.

That was the general consen-
sus of Obecians who shared their
lives with the extremely modest
woman, who never divulged her age – not even her birthday or
last name – and rarely posed for
photographs.

“She was an amazing person
who worked an entire career
as an educator then, after she
‘retired,’ began working at OB
Hardware, which she proceed-
ed to do for the next 30 years,”
said OB Hardware’s current
owner Michael DeEmedio. “She
became a legend in town and sin-
gle-handedly fixed thousands of
household problems in OB with
her advice to customers.”

“Highly of Dottie,” DeEmedio con-
cluded. “We miss her phone calls and lunch visits. She
embodied the soul of Ocean
Beach and its people. The com-
munity will miss her. She was an
inspiration to everyone around her
during her lunch periods, guess-
ing that was four or five miles a
day. She was always young at
heart,” he concluded, adding she
was very involved with United
Methodist Church.

“She was a remarkable be-
ing,” recalls John Noble. “She
was always so patient and lis-
tened carefully to figure out what
your whatchamacallit thing
was. She knew a lot. For years,
I have thought that there should
be a statue of Dottie somewhere
around Newport Avenue. Let’s
make it happen.”

Of the hardware store’s favorite
employee, colleague Jim Harvey
noted: “Dottie was an OB treasure.
What a sweetheart and she sure
did know her way around the OB
Hardware store. There was never
a question that she didn’t have the
answer to.

“My folks knew Dottie from way
back and she always asked me how
they were doing. I saw her walk-
ing a few weeks ago (she walked
everywhere). Thankfully, I pulled
over to say ‘Hi’. She smiled that
big smile and said, ‘How you do-
ing, Jim?’ She remembered every-
one’s name. I’m gonna miss sweet
Dottie.”

Dottie was a gem concurred
Brian Checkal.

“She was as sweet as they come
and had the most knowledge of
old plumbing parts of anyone I
have ever been around,” he said.
“She was a jewel for OB and OB
Hardware.”

“I first met Dottie in the early ‘90s through my husband as we
were regulars through the door
at OB Hardware,” said Martha
Bryson. “It’s sad to hear of her
passing. She will be missed. Dottie
was such a wonderful soul. She
had a generous spirit in many
ways. She asked about the health
and welfare of my distant relatives
who she had an occasion to meet
in the store as they sought out a
part for something while in town.”

Added Bryson: “Years after
meeting these family members,
Dottie still asked about them and
sent her good wishes to them
through me. She shared her
vast knowledge of hardware in
the aisles of OB Hardware as she
knew the inventory and anything
you’d need to know about the part.
Imagine throughout OB and the
Peninsula community all of the
repair jobs that she had a direct
hand in. That hand in some ways
made those repairs possible. In her
way, she touched the lives of ma-
ny. In her way she was a fixer, a
job well done. Thank you, Dottie,
again and again.”

A Syracuse, NY-native, Dottie
studied at the New York State
College for Teachers before mov-
ing to San Diego in 1957. For 30
years she was a special education,
elder education, and girls physical
education teacher. She earned a
master’s degree in general educa-
tion and administration from San
Diego State University.

Upon retiring, Dottie grew
bored and eventually approached
OB Hardware about a job, and
reportedly started working that
day same. Being proficient at ev-
erything she did, Dottie made
cuts, key glass, found products,
and counseled customers on a
daily basis. She said her familiar-
ity and adeptness with tools and
hardware came from her father,
who was a toolmaker and cr
during the Great Depression.

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Pointers baseball players winning, supporting each other

By Scott Hopkins | The Beacon

High hopes for the Point Loma High School baseball program are turning into realities as players support each other on and off the field. The Pointers’ roster boasts several D-1 college or professional prospects and, combined with a talented group of teammates, is raising eyebrows in the San Diego CIIF section.

Pointers visited Coronado and pounded 20 hits against the Islanders, Leaders were Vu (four), Diego Mansur and Lorenzo Sardo (three each), Nuanez, Ayden Rygiel, Chianello and Nuanez had two each. Vu struck out two doubles and Rygiel had a double and home run for three RBI's. Other RBI leaders were Chianello (three) and Sordo (two), Brawner, Dominick Nunez, Chianello, Blake Ledbetter and Otjen teamed up to hold the Islanders in a game that took over three hours to complete.

A look at the team statistics shows an overall batting average of .315. About 80 points above that of recent years. While some earlier Pointer teams did not hit a home run all season, the current roster has blasted six already, led by senior and four-year varsity player Duce Gourson (hitter), junior Ayden Rygiel (two), and one by senior Corbin Chianello.

A total of 52 runners have crossed the plate for the Dogs while a stingy pitching staff has yielded only 15 earned runs to date, holding opponents to a .244 batting average.

“This team is a legitimate family,” said head coach Jeff Solis. “I’m very proud of them. They really care about each other, look for each other, and want each other to succeed. Everyone is rooting for each other. It’s the most cohesive team we’ve had since we’ve been here.”

Highlights of each Pointer win:

Pointers 2, Torrey Pines 0: Pitchers Hunter Hargrett, Kien Vu, Duke Ektstrom, and Bubba Bubni combined to toss a three-hit shutout while striking out 14 in the second toughest in the CIIF.

Jet Taylor’s RBL combined with doubles by Ektstrom and Chianello led the attack. The Pointers played error-free defense.

Pointers 14, Capitan 4: Gourson had a huge day at the plate with two home runs and six RBIs. Chianello also had a homer while 14 hits included a double and two singles by Matt Nuanez and two hits by Ektstrom. Only three strikeouts were made in 45 plate appearances by Pointer hitters. The mound, Drew Brawner, Marco Lopez, Brevin Taf, and Jordan Otjen dogged the host Vaqueros for the win.

Pointers 11, Sage Creek 0: In their first home game, Pointer pitchers recorded their second shutout. Hargrett (one walk, six strikeouts in four innings) and Vu (three strikeouts in two innings) stymied the Bobcats. The attack was led by Gourson’s third home run, Chianello (double, single, four RBIs) and Ektstrom (two singles and two RBIs). Nuanez and Nuanez also had RBIs.

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High hopes for the Point Loma High School baseball program are turning into realities as players support each other on and off the field. The Pointers’ roster boasts several D-1 college or professional prospects and, combined with a talented group of teammates, is raising eyebrows in the San Diego CIIF section.

National prep sports website MaxPreps has the Pointers ranked ninth in San Diego and Imperial counties and fifth in DI. We have the team posting a 5-2 record in early play.

Division II baseball for decades, posting a 5-2 record in early play.

ties and fifth in Div. I with the team ninth in San Diego and Imperial counties, raising eyebrows in the San Diego talent pool.

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