The Rock Church has responded to criticism that the Body Shop strip club it bought in the Midway District last year is languishing, and that drugs and trash in the neighborhood has worsened.

"The building is still currently vacant as there are a multitude of renovations that must be done prior to the building being operable," said Monet Love, public relations director for Rock Church.

"Over the past several months we have been reviewing our options for the use of the property," continued Love.

"Our facilities staff goes a couple times a week to check on the property and see how we can help those individuals," Love said.

PENINSULANS reacted to the increasingly convoluted and volatile situation with people legally living out of their vehicles, as Mayor Kevin Faulconer on March 25 unveiled plans to try and make vehicle habitation illegal once again.

San Diego City Council recently repealed a 1983 ordinance prohibiting residents from living in a vehicle on streets within city limits. That decision followed U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Battaglia’s ruling in August 2018 that the ordinance “was both vague on its face and being arbitrarily and discriminatorily applied.”

“If you are living out of your vehicle because you have nowhere else to go, we want to help you,” said Mayor Kevin Faulconer, at Mission Bay Park on March 25, announces plans to pass a new vehicle habitation ban.

“We will not allow conduct that takes advantage of San Diego’s generosity and destroys the quality of life in our communities,” – MAYOR KEVIN L. FAULCONER

City also plans to expand the Safe Parking Program

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, at Mission Bay Park on March 25, announces plans to pass a new vehicle habitation ban.

Rock Church working on former strip club issues

Mayor wants vehicle habitation ban

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, at Mission Bay Park on March 25, announces plans to pass a new vehicle habitation ban.
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Point Loma Association planning canopy of lights for Rosecrans Street

There is a new project by the Point Loma Association to brighten the community: anchor lights.

Plans are in the works by the PLA, which is committed to improving Point Loma’s quality of life through beautification, education, charitable activities and civic collaboration, to string a canopy of lights across two blocks of Rosecrans between Talbot and Canon streets.

“We decided that the project came about nine months ago at a PLA board meeting,” said J.T. Barr, a landscape architect who chairs PLA’s new projects committee. He noted lighting is somewhat of a departure from the landscape medium and public sculptures the group has worked on recently.

“We didn’t want to be so singularly focused,” noted Barr adding, “we really wanted to be caring more about beautification, and having a greater vision, being able to dream big.”

The notion behind introducing new lighting said Barr was “to show PLA proposes to string a canopy of lights across two blocks of Rosecrans Street between Talbot and Canon streets.

we can have more of a visible impact on the community. This was an opportunity to showcase the Village by shining a light on it with festival lights strung across the street.”

Currently, there are a few streetlights along that designated stretch of Point Loma Village. But PLA wanted to raise the bar.

“We want to create a level of light and visibility that creates an ambience, an experience of elegance and scale,” Barr said.

Now that the lighting project has been proposed, Barr said the next objective will be to launch a private fundraising campaign to pay for the new lights and their upkeep.

“Our long-term objective is to finance the project through contributors,” he said.

Barr described the lighting project as long term.

“It’s a process,” he said. “It’s probably going to take about 18 months. We need to obtain all the City’s approvals and permits.”

It’s been estimated, said Barr, “that it will take $200,000 to install the new lighting.”

Barr added, “Anchor lights is a nautical term for a light that’s positioned on a boat that can be seen from a distance.”

Barr and the PLA are excited about the project.

“The community should be excited about it too,” he said. “It will have a meaningful impact on our community.”

PENDING

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New members for Peninsula Planning Board, area events discussed

By DAVE SCHMID | THE BEACON

I n March, Peninsula Community Planning Board elected new members and were briefed on this summer’s 19th annual Point Loma Summer Concerts series and a new Liberty Station banner program.

Seven of 17 candidates, including incumbents chair Robert Goldyn (top vote getter) and Brad Herrin, were elected to the city advisory group’s board on March 21. The three candidates who lost their vote tallies were: Robert Goldyn, 227; Margaret Virissimo, 202; and Jesse Chandler Benson, 158. There were three candidates with the same vote counts. Consequently, PCPB intends a recount of selected ballots of the tied candidates.

Outgoing board members Jerry Lohla, Joe Holasek and Patricia Clark (nine-year member) were given commendations by District 2 for their service.

Point Loma concerts

Kerri DeRosier, chairman of the board of the Point Loma Summer Concert series, revealed this year’s lineup:

“This is our 19th year and we’re digging deeper looking for sponsors,” said DeRosier noting concerts are pricey to stage.

“It costs more than $100,000 to put on these concerts paying for the bands, the stage, sound and lighting. It’s a big production that attracts 2,500 to 3,000 people. It’s a big deal — and a wonderful community tradition.”

The 2019 Point Loma summer concert lineup: July 12 – Fortunate Son, CCR cover band; July 19 – Band Overboard, yacht rock; July 26 – Full Strength Funk, Aug. 2 – Doctor Wu Steely Dan cover band; and Aug. 9 – Pine Mountain Logs.

Banner program

Laura Albrecht of Liberty Station told PCPB about a new plan to put 40 to 50 banners on 15-foot-tall light poles throughout Liberty Station and on Rosecrans to support signature events like Taste of Liberty Station, Halloween and Salute the Season during Yuletide.

“This program has been in the development stages since the early 2000s and is part of the Master Sign Program approved by the City,” said Albrecht.

Board member Mark Krenklic asked if a sunset clause could be put into the program. “We can ask that question,” replied Albrecht.

“Will these banners be just on light poles, and will they be up all year?” asked board member David Dick.

“Yes, just on light poles,” answered Albrecht. “The same banners will not be up all year, but will be rotated (for events season).”

PCPB approved the banners with a letter, but attached a condition that the program be reviewed in five years.

In other action

• District 2 Councilmember Albrecht has announced Councilmember Jen Campbell will host her first Java With Jen community meet-up Sat., April 13 at The Wine Pub/Coffee Hub at 2907 Shelter Island Drive, from 10 a.m. to noon.

There will be lots of space inside and out and you can have a one-on-one conversation with the City Council member about whatever you want,” he said.

• Sandy Gade Algra continued her rounds of community planning groups lobbying for new legislation that would prohibit adults unaccompanied by children to be in designat ed children’s play areas. PCPB voted to draft a letter supporting her cause.

CONTROVERSIAL PLUM STREET HOUSE FOR SALE

A contemporary-style, newly rebuilt mansion in Point Loma, which was a “perpetual remodel” under construction for more than seven years at 1676 Plum St., is on the market with a $2.8 million price tag.

The home was sold to a local dentist following court action against the structure’s builder and previous owner, Francisco Mendola. In December 2015, the court gave Mendola a Jan. 7 deadline to either complete his unfinished mansion, dispose of the property or go to jail.

A real estate listing notes the Plum Street mansion is nestled on a quiet street with unique 120- to 150-degree views of Point Loma, downtown, San Diego Bay and Coronado Island.

The dwelling offers an open living room and kitchen with high-end JennAir Appli cances.

MIDWAY PLANNERS ELECT MEMBERS

In March, Midway-Pacific Highway Community Planning Group elected local residents Jeff Callahan and Justin Callahan, both re-electing Kurt Sullivan, Mike Swanston and chair Cathy Kenton.

The planning group advising the City on land use and other issues pertinent to the neighborhood is also actively seeking another location other than the Urban Corps center where it presently meets at, due to parking restrictions at Core headquarters at 3127 Jefferson St.

Several possible alternative sites are being researched, and the group will report back at its next meeting on April 17.

NEW HOTEL OPENS AT LIBERTY STATION

Hampton by Hilton announced on March 25 the opening of its newest property, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton San Diego Airport Liberty Station. Managed and developed by InterMountain Management, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton San Diego Airport Liberty Station features 181 rooms and offers amenities for travelers.

The hotel is located at 2211 Lee Court, adjacent from Spanish Landing and less than a mile from the San Diego Airport. The Nimitz Bridge connects the property to the heart of Liberty Station, which encompass es numerous restaurants, parks, commercial offices, and one-of-a-kind shopping experiences. The hotel features custom design décor, a fitness center, a board room, and an outdoor pool.

ALLEGED DRUNK DRIVER TO STAND TRIAL

An alleged drunk driver who killed an Ocean Beach man should stand trial for second-degree murder, ruled a judge. After a three-day preliminary hearing, San Diego Superior Court Judge Robert O’Neill held Lauren Ashley Freeman, 23, for trial for all charges in the Feb. 26, 2018 death of John Michael Dorf, 39, pleaded guilty to resisting arrest Sept. 28, 2018, and admitted he personally used a firearm against a police officer.

DORF will be released from the George Bailey Detention Facility on July 7, according to the sheriff’s department.

The incident took place shortly at 12:30 a.m. in the 1000 block of Devore Drive near Guizot and Hill Streets after a neighbor called police about hearing glass breaking and a woman screaming.

A woman came from the house and said there were two men inside who were drinking alcohol and had access to firearms. The shots only occurred after police officers arrived.

DOVER PLUMBING & HEATING UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Dover Plumbing and Heating is under new management, supported by former owner Bob Dover’s three daughters: Tiff, Carol and Laura. The company’s former location at 4870 Voltair St. has been sold. During Dover’s relocation, the first 25 callers who mention seeing this article will receive 10 percent off. Call 619-223-8832.

CABRILLO UNDER THE STARS IN MAY

In cooperation with the Cabrillo National Park, on Saturday May 18 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation will celebrate its fifth annual “Cabrillo Under the Stars.” Attendees will enjoy local fare from popular restaurants (Little Lion, Ketch, 3rd Corner, etc.), craft beer and wines provided by local brewers and vintners and auction items. And of course, the ability to enjoy the park “after hours” with its spectacular sunsets and night-time views. The money raised by this event is used to support the park’s programs.

Styrofoam ban in effect for San Diego

The first provisions of the City of San Diego’s Polystyrene Foam and Single Use Plastics Ordinance has gone into effect. The ordinance is being rolled out in phases to allow businesses and other entities time to implement changes with the overall goal of reducing the use of polystyrene foam and single-use plastics citywide.

As part of the initial phase, food vendors within city limits will no longer be permitted to distribute plastic or biodegradable utensils or straws unless requested by the customer. Additionally, all food service ware, coolers, ice chests and pool or beach toys made from polystyrene foam will be prohibited at City facilities (including special events).

Coolers, ice chests and similar containers; pool and beach toys; and dock floats, mooring buoys, and anchor or navigation markers made from polystyrene foam will no longer be legally sold or distributed in the City unless they are fully encased in another material.

The next phase of the ordinance goes into effect on May 24, with a ban on the sale and distribution of egg cartons, food service ware and food trays made in whole or in part from polystyrene foam. This provision includes bowls, plates, trays, cups, lids and other similar items designed for one-time use for prepared foods, including containers for takeout or leftovers.

Acceptable alternatives that will be allowed under the ordinance include recyclable plastics, aluminum and both recyclable and non-recyclable paper products. The drive-in, takeout food and leftovers.

READ MORE ONLINE AT sdnews.com
**Circulate San Diego says new MTS ballot measure could fund transit, pothole repairs**

*By Dave Schwartz | The Beacon*

Transportation think tank Circulate San Diego released a report March 6 finding that a Metropolitan Transit Service ballot measure could raise much-needed revenue to help the city meet its ambitious transportation- and climate-action goals.

“Our report, Transit Together, showcases that if MTS were to put a new ballot measure together for the region, that could fund up to $10 billion of new transportation improvements (during the next 40 years),” said CSD executive director Colin Parent. “These improvements could include a new trolley line from San Ysidro to Kearny Mesa, increasing the frequency for our existing bus facilities to Kearny Mesa, increasing the frequency for our existing trolley lines.”

“MTS has the opportunity to reinvest $10 billion in local revenue to improve our transportation network and create good-paying local jobs, and we look forward to working with MTS to ensure the proposal does just that,” said Armando Nuñez with the Southwest Carpenters.

Commented Andy Hanshaw, president of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, “This MTS measure is about safety, improving our roadway and sidewalks for bicycles and pedestrians to get safely to transit stops, schools, senior centers and local communities. It’s also about the potential to fill gaps in our regional bicycle network that will connect routes for bicyclists throughout San Diego County.”

“So, it’s also an opportunity to improve access and amenities in and around transit centers, and provide communities with needed funds to implement projects on their own that connect with transit. A strong transportation system benefits all of us whether we drive, walk or bike to work, school or our local businesses. It provides more choices to get us moving safely to more places.”

Parent said the purpose of the March 6 press conference was to do outreach to “get people talking about what they’d like to see if a ballot measure like this passes.”

“In order for the city to have a chance to meet its transportation mode-sharing goals in San Diego’s Climate Action Plan, Parent noted, “We’re going to have to have more (financial) resources.” He added the decision on whether to go for a ballot measure is up to MTS’s governing board to decide.

Circulate San Diego executive director and general counsel Colin Parent, speaks at the press conference at Old Town Transit Center.

Colin Parent, executive director and general counsel of Circulate San Diego, speaks at the press conference at Old Town Transit Center.

Circulate San Diego says new MTS ballot measure could fund transit, pothole repairs

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**Mayor announces major expansion of fixing potholes**

In response to severe winter storms that wreaked havoc on San Diego’s roadways, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer was joined on March 14 by City Councilmember Monica Montgomery to announce a major expansion of the City’s pothole repair program to fill thousands of potholes that developed during heavy rains.

Faulconer has re-prioritized resources to nearly triple the number of pothole repair teams from nine to 26 crews per day. These two-person crews will be working extended hours and on weekends to make repairs following one of the wettest winters in recent memory.

The City typically fills about 30,000 potholes each fiscal year. This fiscal year crews have fixed 25,000 and counting in less than nine months—on pace to far exceed a typical year. San Diegans are encouraged to make repair requests through the City’s Get It Done application via smartphone or computer.

“Our roads took a beating from repeated storms so we’re going to take advantage of this dry spell to fill as many potholes as we can,” Faulconer said. “We’ve heard San Diegans loud and clear and we’re making this a top priority. That means more crews in every neighborhood filling more potholes than ever before.”

In October 2018, Faulconer announced City crews had fixed 1,000 miles of streets. The increased pace of road repair is largely the result of operational changes to speed up the process, including:

- Tripling funding for road repair;
- Implementing changes to hold contractors accountable for the quality of their work;
- Sending street crews on a rotating basis into each council district to fill potholes;
- Expanding the City’s infrastructure program to have the capacity to fix more than 300 miles of street annually.

A decade ago, the City only repaired 2.5 miles of streets in an entire year. Now the City fixes nearly the same number of miles in a single month. Residents can monitor the City’s street repair progress for themselves at the City’s Fix My Street website.

“The condition of our streets has been a longstanding concern of our residents. I am happy to join Mayor Faulconer as our City crews work to fill the annual 2,500 potholes in our district making roads safer and more drivable for residents,” Montgomery said.

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**Faulconer, joined by District 2 Councilmember Jen Campbell and police chief David Nisleit, said, “At the same time, residents and businesses have a right to clean and safe neighborhoods. We will not allow conduct that takes advantage of San Diego’s generosity and destroys the quality of life in our communities.”**

At a press conference, Faulconer and Campbell also addressed expanding a Safe Parking Program while finding more designated parking lots with restroom facilities for unsheltered, vehicle-bound San Diegans.

“I applaud the mayor’s action, which balances the need to provide more assistance and services to San Diegans living in their vehicles in need of a helping hand, with the concerns about health and safety we’ve heard from our beach communities,” Campbell said.

“The South Shores parking lot on South Shores Park Drive is an appropriate location for safe parking expansion with more than 200 spaces and bathroom facilities on site. South Shores could be rapidly transitioned into a safe overnight parking location with space for cars and oversized vehicles,” Campbell added.

Peninsulas’ comments on vehicle habitation:

“Overnight parking in the beach communities is a serious problem and not always synonymous with homelessness. People still see non-enforcement of overnight parking as a serious problem. How would the City go about ‘encouraging’ people to use a safe parking lot? And what else could be done to deal with the overnight parking problem in the beach communities?” — Coria Eauxmiler

“I worry about the impact this has on the environment. There’s no infrastructure for people living in cars. Where do they go to the bathroom? Where do they shower? How do they get water? Are they letting their cars run for hours when it’s hot or cold out? I think it’s safer and cleaner for everyone involved for people living in their cars to stay at designated parking lots. Especially for those living in their cars because they’re homeless. They need to be somewhere safe and protected.” — Sarah Mona Alemany

“I’m supportive of this measure (safe parking lots). It’s better than people camping out in front of homes, and the potential of waste on their front door step. If it (vehicle habitation) was at the Sports Arena or SCCU Stadium, they could have running water and restrooms. My concern was the potential of waste spilling over into the neighborhood. This has proven to be true.” — Robert Tripp Jackson

“People being allowed to sleep in their cars anywhere in the city puts an undue burden on the beach communities. There should be some kind of regulations, a geographic area, where they are allowed that supports trash and body functions. We fought long and hard to get the over-size vehicle ordinance, which has effectively (now) been rescinded. The police are overburdened and just don’t have the time to enforce park- ing and trash ordinances. Please continue to fight for our community by supporting some kind of regulation.” — Ocean Beach MainStreet Association

Faulconer intends to introduce his new anti-vehicle habitation ordinance at the April 17 meeting of the City Council’s Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee meeting.

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**Using Your Employer? Understand Your 401(k) Options**

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer’s plan, moving it to your new employer’s plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

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**THE PENINSULA BEACON**

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**VEHICLE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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“The South Shores parking lot on South Shores Park Drive is an appropriate location for safe parking expansion with more than 200 spaces and bathroom facilities on site. South Shores could be rapidly transitioned into a safe overnight parking location with space for cars and oversized vehicles,” Campbell added.
New food options at Liberty Market

There is a new surge of vendors joining Liberty Public Market’s roster of more than 30 food tenants. The latest addition is Bao Bar boba tea of more than 30 food tenants,

scheduled to open in March. Bao Bar will be run by Alisa Harutinian, owner of Liberty Public Market’s already-popular Mama Made Thai. Its Pan-Asian menu will feature an array of steamed Chinese buns, or buns, as well as fresh rice paper-wrapped spring rolls filled with meat or vegetables. There will also be a large selection of beverages.

Hold Fast, the gourmet sushi hand roll and sushi spot from acclaimed chef Rob Ruiz of The Land & Water Co. and The Charles Kenneth in Carlsbad joins the market. A champion of sustainable seafood and zero-waste practices, Ruiz plans to serve a nimble menu that will change daily according to local seafood and organic produce. Also incoming is The Pig’s Gig, a Texas barbecue-inspired outfit that will change daily according to Ruiz’s plans.

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High Tech Middle students become lip balm entrepreneurs

By DAKOTA CAMPAGNA | The Beacon

A group of 55 creative seventh graders at High Tech Middle School in Point Loma have started a lip balm business called SD Lip Balm.

The students began the business as their school project and it has taken off. To date, the team has sold $1,946 worth of products, with 33 products sold, and 28 orders processed.

“We just started brainstorming a lot of products that we could potentially sell such as lipstick, lip scrub, and candles,” said Melahni Owens, one of the project managers. “We have their products in six stores in Ocean Beach, including Saltwater Surf Supply and South Coast Surf, and then in another store in Bay Park. “I set up the first seven businesses, one in Bay Park, for them,” said Gina Wickstead, who is their teacher and project supervisor. “Then, on their own, they’ve been reaching out to other people. Melahni got us in the seventh business, Saltwater Surf Supply.”

The idea for this project originated in November 2018. And then Real World Scholars provided the start-up money to help them progress on their idea. For more information, visit sdlipbalm.com.

New yoga studio finds a home in Ocean Beach

By EMILY BLACKWOOD | The Beacon

After seven years of hosting nomadic, donation-based yoga classes at places like Kava Collective in Hillcrest, O.B. Garden Café’s rooftop and the beach, reUnify Yoga has finally found its home. Founder and long-time resident Nikki Rae Bose said she couldn’t imagine opening her studio anywhere but Ocean Beach.

“It’s a small beach town, and I love it that way,” said Bose, standing inside her studio on Bacon Street, surrounded by natural light and green plants hanging from the ceiling. “OB has been my family, and OB has been my community.”

While reUnify yoga will offer traditional yoga classes like yin, hatha, and vinyasa, Bose said she’s also offering memberships that will incorporate the practice of “seva,” which is Sanskrit for service. Seva members will get three additional workshops for a few more dollars a month that will be donated to charities like the Surfrider Foundation, the Sharda Yoga Center (an organization that provides yoga and art therapy to orphanages in Tijuana) and the Thabarwa Meditation Center— which is where this whole thing got started.

“We have a small business,” said Maya Lopez, one of the other project managers. “We want people to know that what they’re buying goes to something special.”

SD LIP BALM PROJECT MANAGER

WE WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT WHAT THEY'RE BUYING GOES TO SOMETHING SPECIAL.

MAYA LOPEZ

SD LIP BALM PROJECT MANAGER

Before she was a well-known yogi and surfer in OB, Bose worked full-time as a molecular biologist. When she realized that she wasn’t happy in her career, she quit her job and began a five-month solo travel journey that ended with her volunteering and living at the Thabarwa Meditation Center in Myanmar.

“Every person who lives there contributes to the camp,” she said. “When I first stepped into it as a westerner it looked like chaos. But then as I stayed there I realized what a living breathing organism it was because everyone was working together.”

“Yoga means union, and for me, it was the first time I had seen a group of humans actually living out yoga.”

So when she returned to OB from her trip, she quickly started reaching out to her friends and family, not only helping her get the studio ready but also through their participation in the grand opening party. Held from noon to 5 p.m. on March 30, the event will feature live music, sound bowls, and acrobats.

And though OB seems to be on board with giving — Bose said almost every membership she’s sold so far has been a seva — students aren’t required to donate monetarily.
OB couple builds a skate ramp for Tijuana orphanage

By VICTORIA DAVIS | The Beacon

It took almost six months of planning, but Brandon Means and Melissa Clark were finally able to achieve one of their humanitarain dreams — building a mini skate ramp for orphans in Tijuana.

“Fundraising and getting the word out definitely takes its time, but it was crazy how fast everything was able to come together within that one day of us bringing the ramp down and seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces and how stoked they were once it was all built,” said Means, a resident of Ocean Beach and full-time freelance photographer. “They really had no idea it was coming.”

The project was funded through Olio Artistry, a collaborative artistic design brand created by Means and Clark that aims to make a charitable impact across borders.

Fashioned with multi-media illustrations featuring photography by Means and graphic arts by Clark, Olio’s products include journals, iPhone covers, travel mugs, laptop sleeves and more.

“We were actually just doing laundry one day and started randomly printing out some of Brandon’s photos that he’d taken all over San Diego and throughout all of our travels,” said Clark. “So, I got some paint pens and just started doodling all over the pictures. That’s how Olio pretty much started.”

But the art business is frosting on the cake to what Means and Clark are most passionate about — charity work.

Since its launch in the summer of 2017, Olio’s art gallery fundraisers and farmers market proceeds have gone to support San Diego’s local charities, such as Ride for Water, a nonprofit organization that raises funds through cycling to deliver clean drinking water to countries like El Salvador. The couple also became connected with Unity 4 Orphans (U4O), which is based in San Diego but seeks to help neglected orphans in Mexico and Latin America.

“We wanted to have our brand support local non-profits in the area and encourage people to get involved with local charities,” said Means. “This is our two favorite passions coming together in a way that inspires people.”

After participating in mission trips to Mexico’s cities through Ocean Beach’s Newbreak Church, Means and Clark decided to put together their own “hands-on project” in Mexico. U4O paired Olio with Siempre Para Los Ninos Children’s Home in Tijuana, the name meaning “Always For The Children.”

With Clark and Means both having grown up in the West Coast surf and skateboard world, building a skate ramp for the kids at Siempre Para Los Ninos was a natural move.

“We just love the creative expression those kind of sports can bring,” said Means. “I also love to get the chance to influence children in a positive way and help give them that creative outlet. The goal is ultimately to find a way to bring joy to their lives every day.”

LEARN MORE
- For those interested in donating to Olio’s #RampsAcrossBorders, you can message Means and Clark on Instagram @olioartistry or email them at info@olioartistry.com.

Scavenger hunt designed to help you explore Ocean Beach

By LYNN WALSH | The Beacon

While working at the Ocean Beach Business Center, Mike Saffran said he talked to a lot of tourists.

“We always had tourists coming in and asking for advice on what to do and where to go,” Saffran said. “The business center became a hub, but I didn’t have anything to hand them as they walked out the door.”

Wanting to change that, Saffran and his friend Brad Fernbaugh began brainstorming about creating an interactive map for Ocean Beach. Their brainstorming resulted in OB Bizmap, a printed map of Ocean Beach businesses combined with an interactive website that leads users on a scavenger hunt through the community.

“This is a totally unique way to create foot traffic in a walkable business district,” Fernbaugh said. The map is colorful and whimsical and quickly provides a reference to all three business districts.

The paper map can be found throughout Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla and hotels downtown. The web app allows users to participate in a scavenger hunt where they can win freebies and receive discounts.

“One of the beauties is each merchant makes their own decision about what to offer,” Saffran said. “Whether that is an amazing discount or a free hat.”

Some of the offers include free wax from Ocean Beach Surf and Skate Shop, a single ice cream scoop for $1 from Lighthouse Ice Cream and a “buy one beer get one for a nickel” special at Ocean Beach Brewery, Saffran said.

To participate in the scavenger hunt, users log onto obbizmap.com. The app will then guide participants around OB using Google Street View to three merchants. When users arrive at each merchant, they scan the QR code (barcode) and are awarded a prize at the third location.

Fernbaugh said they decided to make it a web-based app instead of a downloadable app because it saves space on a user’s mobile device. In addition, Saffran said, a web-based app does not save any information, so it eliminates the concern of personal data being saved or stored.

During a recent play through the web app, several of the QR codes did not scan properly. Fernbaugh said they are aware the code at Mike’s Taco’s needs to be replaced. In addition, he said, some of the scanning issues could be a result of glare while users are taking a photo of the QR code.

“We will need to stay on top of them (QR codes) and keep them up to date,” Fernbaugh said.

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THE PENNSILNA BEACON | THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 | PAGE 9
Artist creates ‘litter mosaics’ out of beach trash

BY DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Artist Mel Clarkston picks up plastic beach trash repurposing it into art. Clarkston reuses plastic she recovers in her intricate works of colorful and whimsical art. Her “litter mosaics” comprised of discarded trash, can have scores of individual pieces.

“I call it rare painting,” said Clarkston of her two-dimensional, unorthodox style incorporating rehabilitated plastic. “I do a lot of tiki and mid-century themes, kitschy things with a ‘60s or ’70s vibe. All have mosaics.”

Clarkston got started in plastic art accompanying her husband who liked to run on the beach. She didn’t, so she walked instead.

“I would find all these little pieces of plastic, and originally I would just throw them away,” she said. “But then I started collecting them and filling up bags or coffee cans with them. Then it got to where I would be collecting a big bucket of plastic pieces. [Plastic] is very pervasive. It’s everywhere.”

Clarkston works from a home studio and sells her art online, and also at art shows at various venues. She talked about the message she’s trying to deliver.

“No piece is too small is my tagline,” she said, adding the size of her work ranges from post cards to standard-size picture frames. “It’s all about the trash. I don’t want it to look trashy. My goal is to elevate [plastic] like any other media. It’s a challenge.”

The artist noted people often get the big plastic stuff, the bottles, etc, but what still gets left behind are smaller things like plastic bottle caps.

“Even if you don’t make art out of it, my message is get it out of the beach so it doesn’t go down into the ocean,” Clarkston said.

Nothing curbs Point Loma artist’s passion for painting

BY DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

H is heart is for art. That is why Point Loman Daniel Juarez, after a long hiatus, has come back to the Peninsula to begin a new career painting curbs.

Juarez’s art comes naturally. His father, Louie Juarez, is a well-known San Diego County artist.

Juarez talked about how he got involved illustrating curbs.

“Someone asked me to paint their curb a couple months ago,” he said. “Others saw it and asked me to do theirs. So far, I’ve done 20 around town — and all from word of mouth.”

Daniel has borrowed thematically from his dad. “One of the themes he is known for painting is sailboats,” he said, adding someone recently asked him to paint sailboats on their curb.

“It wasn’t very easy to do since my dad paints with watercolors, and I use spray paint,” pointed out Daniel Juarez. “Also, my dad is a more talented artist. But I was still happy to try and re-create his work.”

Somewhat surprisingly, Juarez noted that, during the past 20 years, there have been many “curb artists” in San Diego who have painted curbs.

But Juarez believes his curb art is a cut above.

“I do all mine free hand,” he said, noting, “Everyone else has used stencils.”

The curb artist takes special requests. “When someone asks me to paint something they have in mind, I never say no, and enjoy bringing their idea to life.”

Juarez lived in Point Loma years ago, and just moved back recently.

“I am so happy to be back in this community,” he said, adding he only charges “whatever someone can afford,” to paint their curbs, while adding he typically charges about $70 to $90.

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Manny Machado bobblehead available

Just in time for Opening Day on March 28, the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum recently announced that the first Manny Machado San Diego Padres bobblehead is available for pre-order at their online store.

The bobblehead features Machado admiring a long home run at Petco Park and includes a billboard in the background that says “Welcome to San Diego, California.” The limited-edition bobbleheads are currently in production with expected shipment in July. The bobbleheads are being manufactured by FOCO.

According to National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, they are expecting the bobblehead to be a big seller given the record-breaking contract and excitement surrounding Machado.

To order the bobblehead, visit bobbleheadhall.com, the source for bobblehead-related information.
Maritime Museum of San Diego will race the 142-foot schooner Californian in the 31st annual America’s Schooner Cup Saturday, March 30, hosted by Silver Gate Yacht Club. About a dozen schooners are expected to compete.

Californian, the official tall ship of the state and popular on-the-water adventure attraction, is a replica of the 1847 Revenue Cutter C.W. Lawrence, which patrolled the coast of California enforcing federal law during the gold rush. Some of the West Coast’s most beautiful traditional vessels will hoist their gleaming white sails and cross the starting line at 11:30 a.m. as the 31st annual America’s Schooner Cup Charity Regatta takes place off San Diego Bay and raises funds for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), a Navy-sponsored public nonprofit organization that exists to help meet the emergent financial needs of active duty and retired sailors, Marines, and their families.

The public is invited to watch the race from shore – or come aboard a schooner and see the competition on the water first-hand. The regatta draws West Coast schooners of all size and vintages racing on a course designed to make it easy for the public to watch the start and finish from a beach near the launch ramp on Shelter Island.

Guests can purchase tickets from Maritime Museum of San Diego during the race and cheer volunteer sail crew surrounded by schooner competitors. Maritime, history and outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to join in the fun day on the water. For those interested in watching the race from the Spanish galleon replica San Salvador, representative of the ship explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay in 1542, tickets are available to come aboard the adventure day sail experience. Check in and boarding begins at 11 a.m. at the museum, departing at noon and returning at 4 p.m. Tickets range from $59 for ages 3-12 to $99 for adults.

Tickets to sail aboard Californian can be purchased at Maritime Museum of San Diego at 1492 N Harbor Drive located along the north embarcadero bayfront or at sdmaritime.org. This unique bay race experience is $89 for adults and $59 for children age 3-12. Check in begins at 9 a.m. with boarding at 10:15 a.m. at the museum.

Californian departs the Museum dock at 10:10 a.m. Crews will return passengers to the Maritime Museum following the race. For details and reservations visit sdmaritime.org.
Five Ways to Identify Spring in San Diego:

(Keep alert)

1. Longhorns: Daylight Hour
2. Gray Whales Migrating North
3. Vibrant Green Bay
4. Large Southern Hemis Swallows
5. College Students on Break

It's time to start planning your spring break! Whether you're looking for a fun-filled adventure or a relaxing retreat, San Diego has something for everyone. From the beach to the mountains, there's no shortage of beautiful places to explore. So pack your bags and get ready to enjoy the season's best activities. Whether you're a local or a visitor, you won't want to miss these top spots for spring in San Diego. Enjoy the sunshine and take in all that the city has to offer!
Ocean Beach-based Brothers Gow growing their fan base one town at a time

"Winston's is our home base for sure. It always feels good to play a show there, we are comfortable, fearless and know that fans will bring that energy you want to have at every show." - NATHAN WAHL-HAINES, DRUMMER FOR BROTHERS GOW

THURSDAY - MARCH 28, 2019
THE PENINSULA BEACON
The San Diego Center for Children’s 132nd Anniversary Celebration

The San Diego Center for Children’s 132nd Anniversary Celebration, Cherishing the Joys of Childhood, will take place on Saturday, May 11, at Humphreys by the Bay on Shelter Island. Funds raised from this event will support the Center’s program providing services to children, teens, and families struggling with mental, emotional and behavioral health challenges.

The power of expression and music will be woven throughout the night with a special recognition to longtime music director, Sundata Kata, who is celebrating his 50th year at the center. Sundata will be honored as the recipient of the Center’s 2019 PATH Award. The event starts at 6 p.m. and RSVPs are requested by May 1. For more information about the event, including tickets, sponsorships and advertising, visit centerforchildren.org/celebration.

OB HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S NEXT PRESENTATION ON APRIL 18

On Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m., the Ocean Beach Historical Society will present “WWII Letters from San Diegans” by Veronica Murphy and Walter Ritter, of Write Out Loud, at Water’s Edge Faith Community, 1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.

Hear history as it happened. Poignant World War II letters written by young San Diegans serving in the military will be the focus of the program. Guest speakers Murphy and Ritter will read from a treasure trove of 5,000 letters housed at San Diego State University’s Special Collections and University Archives. Murphy and Ritter are co-founders of San Diego’s Write Out Loud, a theatrical company that brings together experienced actors to do staged readings of literature to a live audience. Both have extensive backgrounds in local theater.

CABRILLO OFFERS VISITORS ELECTRONIC PARK PASSES

Cabrillo National Monument recently announced that park visitors can now purchase entrance passes electronically through YourPassNow. Visitors can purchase and save their digital pass to their cell phone, or print and bring their pass with them. Rangers will scan their pass at the entrance station. Passes will be available at yourpassnow.com/parkpass/park/cabr.

PARKINSON’S ASSOCIATION WALK AT LIBERTY STATION

The Parkinson’s Association of San Diego (PASD) is holding its annual Step by Step 5K Walk on April 7 at Liberty Station. CBS News 8 anchor Carlo Cecchette will emcee the event that will feature speakers from the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the Davis Phinney Foundation. The walk commences at 9 a.m. with check in starting at 7:30 a.m. The fee is $50, which includes a Step by Step 5K Walk T-shirt. PASD is offering free rides to and from the 5K walk for those requiring assistance. Rides are provided through FACT (facted.org). To request a ride, call 888-924-3228.

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5BR/3BA  
$1,995,000  
The Reed Team  658.395.4033

Sun 1-4pm  
5621 Beaumont Ave.  
4BR/4BA  
$2,595,000  
Nelson Brothers Team  658.215.3739

Sun 1-4pm  
8690 Robinhood Lane  
5BR/3BA  
$1,800,000 - $2,000,000  
David Schroed  658-535-5300

**San Carlos**

Sat 11-2pm  
8374 Beaver Lake Dr.  
3BR/2BA  
$595,000-$625,000  
Tom Kowalski  658.354.8704

Sun 1-4pm  
8374 Beaver Lake Dr.  
3BR/2BA  
$595,000-$625,000  
Kathy Sanchez  619.886.8936

**Pacific Beach**

Sun 1-4pm  
1477 Chalcedony  
2BR/2BA  
$849,000  
Melissa Duncan  658.215.3739

**Ocean Beach**

Sun 1-4pm  
3921 Wabaska  
2BR/1BA  
$790,000  
Lisa Perich  619.865.1022

**La Jolla**

Sat 1-4pm  
5962 La Jolla Corona Dr.  
3BR/2BA  
$1,695,000  
Michelle Dykstra  658.344.7653

Sat 1-4pm  
6435 Avenida Cresta  
3BR/3BA  
$2,995,000  
Vincent Crud  658.215.3739

Sat 1-4pm  
7905 Lowry Terrace  
4BR/4BA  
$3,565,000  
Linda Daniels  658.361.5561

Sat 1-4pm  
305 Genter St. #202  
1BR/1BA  
$579,000  
Arlene Sacks  658.822.3900

Sun 1-4pm  
305 Genter St. #202  
1BR/1BA  
$579,000  
Arlene Sacks  658.822.3900

Sun 1-4pm  
5302 Calumet Ave.  
3BR/2.5BA  
$5,999,999  
Susana Corrigan  658.229.1120

Sun 1-4pm  
3129 Bremerton Pl.  
5BR/3BA  
$1,995,000  
The Reed Team  658.395.4033

Sun 1-4pm  
5621 Beaumont Ave.  
4BR/4BA  
$2,595,000  
Nelson Brothers Team  658.215.3739

Sun 1-4pm  
8690 Robinhood Lane  
5BR/3BA  
$1,800,000 - $2,000,000  
David Schroed  658-535-5300

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Sat 11-2pm  
8374 Beaver Lake Dr.  
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$595,000-$625,000  
Kathy Sanchez  619.886.8936
Elite Escrow Services of San Diego – A Leader in the Escrow Industry since 1971.

Elite Escrow is one of the few fully-independent escrow companies left in San Diego and has been performing only escrow services since 1971. As an independent third-party, Elite offers real estate agents and their clients the advantage of neutrality and security and has the most stringent guidelines for escrow professionals in the State.

The Elite Escrow Liberty Station branch opened in 2009. The business model is simple, hire educated and experienced Escrow Officers and enhance client experience with quality service. The Liberty office is led by Manager, Jane Beltran along with Escrow Officers, Jaclyn Giaquinto, Becki Lampkin, Laura Calderon and Cheryl Goldbarg and Business Development Representative, Carol Miller. Their goal is to guide clients through the escrow process with ease, compassion, and top-notch customer service.

With decades of experience, Elite Escrow has become a leader in the industry for knowledgeable, professional, and educated Escrow Officers. Coupled with their dedication to customer care, Elite has proven to be San Diego’s most reputable and trusted escrow provider.

Elite Escrow Services of San Diego - Liberty Station  
(Located in Liberty Station above Vons)
Carol Miller, Business Development/Sales Executive  
(619) 787-2288 | Carol@EliteEscrowServices.com
Jane Beltran, Escrow Officer/Manager  
(619) 516-8020 | Jane@EliteEscrowServices.com
EliteEscrowServices.com  
*Ask us about our Military Discount!*