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ALEJANDRO TAMAYO U-T PHOTOS

Campland on the Bay is pushing for more acres for camping in the proposed redevelopment of Mission Bay.

## RECREATION BOOSTED IN MISSION BAY REVISION

City dials back on wetlands in attempt to reach compromise on redevelopment plan

BY DAVID GARRICK

Backlash against San Diego's plan to transform much of northeast Mission Bay into marshland has prompted significant revisions, including a 10 percent boost in land devoted to golf, tennis, youth sports and other recreation.

City officials have also added new language to the plan promising to minimize disruptions if fields get relocated. It also requires replacement recreation sites to be created before existing recreation sites are turned into marshland.

While the revised plan stops short of giving recreation supporters long-sought assurances they won't lose their sites to new marshland, it is generally being embraced by community leaders as an encouraging step toward compromise.

The number of acres devoted to active recreation in the revised plan increases from 60 to 66. While that's still only a small sliver of the 505-acre area being redeveloped, it could allow all existing recreation activities to survive.

The area is now home to long-



Rewild, an environmental advocacy group, wants as much space devoted to wetlands as possible, saying the habitat improves water quality and absorbs carbon in the air.

time local institutions like the Mission Bay Golf Course, Pacific Beach Tennis Club, Bob McEvoy Youth Fields and Mission Bay Boat & Ski Club.

Those groups are competing with nearby Campland on the Bay, which wants as many acres as possible devoted to camping, and a group of environmental advocates known as Rewild,

which wants to max out climate-friendly wetlands.

The redevelopment process was sparked by the long-awaited closure of the De Anza Cove mobile home park, which freed up 75 acres of land and created the potential for city officials to re-envision the entire northeast corner of Mission Bay.

While none of the groups has

been satisfied with any of the proposals released by the city during the last seven years, recreation supporters have been the most vocal critics this spring.

City officials said Wednesday that the revised plan, released last week, is a direct reaction to complaints that recreation supporters made at meetings of the Mission Bay Park Committee and the Parks and Recreation Board.

"The plan we've put forward is our best attempt to reach a compromise between all these various and very divergent interests," said Kelley Stanco, the city's deputy director of environmental policy and public spaces.

"To give the recreation groups a little bit more wiggle room and assurance, we shifted 6 acres," she said. "We're trying to get as close to an ideal compromise as we can, but we realize that not everyone is going to get what they want."

Stanco said city officials can't guarantee any individual activity will survive the transformation.

"Everybody who has an inter-

SEE REVISION • A9

## HOUSE APPROVES DEBT DEAL TO AVOID DEFAULT

Measure negotiated by Biden, McCarthy heads to Senate

BY CATIE EDMONDSON

WASHINGTON

The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation negotiated by President Joe Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy to suspend the debt ceiling and set federal spending limits, as a broad bipartisan coalition lined up to cast a critical vote to pull the nation back from the brink of economic catastrophe.

The bill would defer the federal debt limit for two years — allowing the government to borrow unlimited sums as necessary to pay its obligations — while imposing two years of spending caps and a string of policy changes that Republicans demanded in exchange for allowing the country to avoid a disastrous default. The 314-117 vote came days before the nation was set to exhaust its borrowing limit, and after a marathon set of talks between White House negotiators and top House Republicans.

With both far-right and hard-left lawmakers in revolt over the deal, it fell to a bipartisan coalition powered by Democrats to push the bill over the finish line, throwing their support behind the compromise in an effort to break the fiscal stalemate that had gripped Washington

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JOSE LUIS MAGANA AP

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, heads to the House chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

## CALIFORNIA ADVANCES FENTANYL MEASURES

Some bills would establish more severe prison sentences

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

California lawmakers have advanced more than a dozen bills aiming to address the fentanyl crisis, including some that would impose harsher prison sentences for dealers, ahead of a critical deadline this week.

Legislators in the Assembly and Senate debated measures on Wednesday as they tried to wrap up several hundred pieces of legislation before Friday — the last day a bill can pass out of its original chamber and get a chance to become law later this year.

Fentanyl overdoses are killing roughly 110 Californians each week, officials said, and lawmakers are divided on how best to stem the crisis.

Some Democratic lawmakers support policies that focus on education, prevention and treatment, while Republicans and more moderate Democrats want more enforcement against fentanyl dealers.

State lawmakers across the country, including in Democratic-controlled legislatures such as Oregon and Nevada, have also considered harsher penalties on drug dealers — a tactic that many say would backfire.

But the majority of 16 fentanyl bills that advanced this past week in California focused on education, prevention and treatment of fentanyl overdose.

One would require public places such

SEE FENTANYL • A6

■ A6 • Lawmakers stall bill that would have severely restricted use of police dogs.

### LOCAL

#### FATHER JOE'S PLANS TWO NEW BUILDINGS

■ B1 • The eight-story, 100-unit buildings are part of the nonprofit organization's Turning the Key initiative, which seeks to create 2,000 affordable-housing units for homeless people. Groundbreaking on the project is planned for summer 2024, with openings anticipated in 2026.

### SPORTS



K.C. ALFRED U-T

#### HOLIDAY BOWL FILES SUIT OVER '21 GAME

■ D1 • The San Diego Bowl Game Association is suing the Pac-12 and UC Regents seeking to recover more than \$3 million in losses after UCLA pulled out of the 2021 game less than five hours before kickoff.

## HEALTH COVERAGE FOR THOUSANDS OF SAN DIEGANS COULD BE AT RISK

Officials concerned by slow pace of Medi-Cal renewals

BY PAUL SISSON

On April 24, the county mailed more than 26,000 Medi-Cal renewal packets to San Diego County's neediest residents whose health insurance coverage started in the month of June. So far, only about 2,400 of those packets have been returned.

These folks have until June 30 to complete the paperwork and prove to the government that they still qualify for Medi-Cal coverage. If they fail to do so by the deadline, the process of ending their health insurance will begin.

It is a situation that is causing concern nationwide.

On Tuesday, Daniel Tsai, deputy administrator and director of the federal Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, said that applications have been trickling in at a



DAVID MCNEW GETTY IMAGES

This year, thousands of people on Medi-Cal must submit paperwork proving that they are financially in need of the health care program.

slower-than-expected pace across the United States.

In some states, though not yet in California, termination letters are already in the offing.

"When we look at the numbers preliminarily coming out of states, of course, we are deeply concerned when we see large termination numbers, in particular for

non-response, because our concern is that they're eligible kids and families that, because of a lack of awareness of what is happening and what has resumed ... that people will not make it through the coverage transition," Tsai said.

Medicaid — called Medi-Cal in the Golden State — is

SEE HEALTH • A9

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