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# Pacific Beach man pleads guilty of fraud using COVID-19 funds

By NEAL PUTNAM

A Pacific Beach man pleaded guilty on Nov. 16 to committing fraud in obtaining several million dollars from funds that were intended to help those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thomas Zolezzi, 61, operated a business known as Casamar Clean Oceans Inc. from his home address in Pacific Beach when he applied for three loans to cover payroll costs, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Zolezzi has agreed to pay \$700,884.75 back to the Small Business Administration and \$2,238,910.24 to Capital Plus Financial, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Although Zolezzi could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison, the emphasis will probably be focused on whether he can pay the full restitution figures back.

Sentencing is set for Feb. 5, 2024. He remains free on a \$50,000 bond.

Zolezzi pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in which he "knowingly transmitted" an application in interstate commerce for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan on May 14, 2020.

The charge says he used the funds "to pay for his personal expenses instead of paying the salary of his employees." The U.S. Attorney's office said Zolezzi falsely overstated the number of his employees, the payroll amount, and his annual revenue to obtain the loans.

In his plea agreement, Zolezzi admitted he submitted five loan applications containing false statements to trick lenders into providing the relief funds, according to the U.S. Attorney's office.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act, was enacted on March 27, 2020, to provide over \$2 trillion of economic relief to workers, families, small businesses, industry sectors, and other levels of government that were hit hard by COVID-19. The CARES Act authorized the Small Business Administration to temporarily guarantee loans under a new loan program called the PPP.

The Winter Fairy Princess and one of Santa's elves pose at Winter Wonder in Belmont Park, which is holding the ultimate beachside holiday experience through Dec. 31. Families can meet and greet Buddy the Elf as he creates festive balloon animals every weekend from 1-3 p.m. or the Winter Fairy Princess and Poinsettia Princess every weekend from 4-7 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BELMONT PARK

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# SANDAG implementing regional safer streets initiative plan

**By DAVE SCHWAB**

San Diego Association of Governments is advancing a safer streets initiative to include the development of the first regional Vision Zero Action Plan.

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Vision Zero challenges the belief that traffic crashes are inevitable, instead of viewing them as preventable.

The regional transportation agency's first Regional Vision Zero Action Plan will encompass 19 jurisdictions, 17 federally recognized tribes, and more than 3.3 million people in the San Diego area.

The data-driven plan, modeled on national and international best practices, will pinpoint high-risk areas for traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

"On average the San Diego region experiences more than 250 fatal crashes annually, with pedestrians involved in approximately one-third of these fatal incidents, which is unacceptable," said Antoinette Meier, SANDAG senior director of regional planning. She added the agency's board adopted a Vision Zero resolution in summer 2022. Since then, Meier noted that SANDAG has received two major grants.

"One is to improve traffic safety and advance the goals of the Vision



Zero resolution by developing an action plan, which we recently kicked off which will identify where traffic fatalities and serious injuries are occurring with solutions (slower speeds, traffic circles, curb realignments) proposed for those areas," she said.

"The other is a \$400,000 state grant to develop a public awareness campaign around the rules of the road. Last year, the state passed laws to improve traffic safety for people driving, walking, and biking. We want to make sure everyone understands these rules and is practicing safe, driving, biking, and walking habits."

"Our community deserves safer streets and we must prioritize improvements for our underserved communities who are disproportionately affected by traffic-related injuries and fatalities," said

SANDAG and County Board of Supervisor's chairwoman Nora Vargas. "Advancing Vision Zero initiatives ensure a more inclusive transportation system that is critical to achieving greater equity in all of our communities."

SANDAG has launched the Traffic Safety Dashboard, a new

online tool with interactive maps and charts displaying transportation injury and fatality data. This dashboard acts as a central hub for collecting, analyzing, and visualizing traffic data. The agency is also updating the Regional Active Transportation Plan to improve walking and rolling connections for daily travel and recreation. This update will align the regional bike-way network with the Regional Plan and consider post-pandemic travel trends, including the increased use of eBikes.

Meier said a major part of SANDAG's Vision Zero resolution called for the creation of a traffic safety dashboard which she noted is "built off data the state California Highway Patrol collects from local law enforcement on crashes, that can be used to create an interactive mapping tool allowing us to determine where the high-risk traffic areas are in

the region." The dashboard link is at <https://opendata.sandag.org/stories/s/5f7y-nefe>.

Regarding updating SANDAG's regional active transportation plan, Meier said: "That plan was developed in 2010 and is our long-range plan for connecting regional bikeways that we've been implementing linking them with things like parks, job centers, and universities. But a lot has changed over the last 13 years. So we needed to update the transportation plan to account for those changes. We just kicked that off, and the updated transportation plan should be completed by early 2025."

Meier added that SANDAG is also looking for feedback from the public on where dangerous traffic intersections and other stretches of road are. The link where people can submit their comments on that is at <https://engage.sandag.org/saferstreets>.

## City starts program to fix uneven and damaged sidewalks in all communities

**By DAVE SCHWAB**

The City has rolled out a Safe Sidewalks Program as part of an effort to improve sidewalks in all communities.

This will be accomplished by investing resources to fix uneven and damaged sidewalks, while also making it easier for people to make repairs in front of their private property. "Our team is focused on improving streets and sidewalks across the City, and we want to help property owners by making it as easy as possible to complete these needed repairs," said Bethany Bezak, director of the City's Transportation Department.

Starting this November and running through fiscal year 2026, the City will begin notifying property owners Citywide where sidewalk issues have been identified. The City Transportation Department estimates a backlog of 5,000 locations that need letters to be issued to private property owners with problematic sidewalks. The department is planning to submit notices on a Community Planning Area basis, utilizing the Pedestrian Priority Model to identify the locations to notify first.

The Pedestrian Priority Model, developed in 2006, has been used since then to determine the areas within the City with the highest pedestrian density. Each Community Planning Area will be ranked from high to low Pedestrian Priority Model. Community Planning Areas with a higher Pedestrian Priority Model will have letters sent first to prioritize improvements that would impact the largest number of pedestrians possible.

Under the Safe Sidewalks Program, fees will also be waived

for the permits to complete repair work. The program also allows property owners to save more time and money through a self-certification process where they can submit certification and photos of the completed sidewalk repair to the City's Transportation Department attesting that a licensed contractor performed the work in conformance with City construction standards.

Many property owners are unaware state law makes them responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks fronting their private property, creating a potential issue and legal liability. According to California Streets and Highway Code Section 5610, owners of property fronting a public street are required to maintain sidewalks in a safe condition for use by the public. Property owners may incur civil liability if a person suffers personal injury or property damage due to a sidewalk issue. Over the past 10 years, the average claim for sidewalk-related injuries in San Diego was \$46,000.

San Diego's City Council Policy 200-12 identifies certain conditions where maintenance of sidewalks will be performed at City expense, but many sidewalk issues remain the private property owner's responsibility, including damage caused by private trees and tree roots, deteriorating concrete and cracking, weather conditions, and normal wear and tear.

The Safe Sidewalks Program will waive costly permit fees and help expedite the process for property owners to make needed sidewalk repairs, saving up to \$2,100 per project. Additionally, the City is allocating \$300,000 per year to cover the costs of sidewalk repair projects for property owners in underserved areas.

For the duration of the Safe Sidewalks Program, the Transportation Department also proposes to reallocate the annual \$300,000 used for the 50/50 Cost Share Program to pay for 100% of the sidewalk repair cost at prioritized locations within Communities of Concern. This work will be performed by Transportation Department crews until the annual \$300,000 amount is expended. Locations within Communities of Concern that are repaired by Transportation Department crews will be prioritized based on PPM, with the highest pedestrian density locations prioritized first.

This work on eligible locations will be performed by Transportation Department crews, beginning with locations that experience the most pedestrian traffic. This allocation will cover only a small portion of known locations in need of repair. With limited funding and crews, this approach will allow the City to quickly repair the highest priority locations while eliminating barriers for other private property owners to make repairs that will keep their sidewalks safe and accessible for all users.

The City has 4,550 miles of sidewalks, and many of them were built during the rapid construction of the City's roadway system from the start of World War II through the 1970s. The sidewalk system also includes much older sidewalks with some dating to the early part of the last century. The typical useful life of a sidewalk is 50 to 70 years, depending on site conditions.

Learn more about the Safe Sidewalks Program at [sandiego.gov/safesidewalks](https://sandiego.gov/safesidewalks).

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# Helping to defeat breast cancer one step at a time

By DAVE SCHWAB

Bird Rock resident the Rev. Janet Farley just participated for the 14th time in the Nov. 17-19 Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk for breast cancer research this year in memory of her mother, a survivor who contracted the disease in her early 40s and lived past age 100.

"My mother was told she only had a 20% chance of survival," noted the 71-year-old Farley, who has walked Susan G. Komen since 2005, mostly in San Diego but also in San Francisco and Boston.

All Komen walkers are required to raise \$2,300 per walk. Farley did one better this year, having raised \$2,797 a day before the cancer fundraiser.

"I am walking again this year to raise funds and awareness to stop breast cancer," said Farley asking on her GoFundMe Page. "Do you know anyone who has/had breast cancer; perhaps a co-worker, friend, sister, cousin, mother, and/or spouse? I think we all know someone, who watched the battle with surgery, chemo, and gratefully, for most, the slow but successful recovery."

Added Farley: "I want to increase the number of breast cancer survivors as well as decrease the cases. That's why I am committed to raising funds as best I can. Yep, I am asking for your help in raising funds. As a commitment to the walk and a challenge to you my friends and family, I will match funds for the first \$1,200 donated. Your support means you are also helping to end breast cancer forever."

The Presbyterian minister noted a couple of her family members have fallen victim to the disease she characterized as "insidious," including members in her congregations. This year she walked alone, but added she typically walks with a group numbering



Bird Rock resident the Rev. Janet Farley participated in the most recent Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk. COURTESY PHOTO

10 or more people.

"Over the last 14 years combined, the church women I've walked with have raised well over \$250,000," Farley pointed out adding the Komen organization is extremely helpful in "showing their appreciation" to walkers via providing food, music, and entertainment at camp sights along their route.

Farley's grateful "to be healthy enough to walk," adding she "loves to tell the story about her mother (surviving)" to others along the way.

The minister prints out little cards with scripture verses that she passes out to fellow walkers along the way to help encourage them. And many need it. Last year, Farley met a man on the walk who'd lost his wife to cancer. She pointed out, "You're touched by the people who do this," adding she also appreciates all the "encouragers" who support the walkers as well as staff working behind the scenes to make the event happen smoothly.

"I would encourage everyone to walk," said Farley about Komen. "It's not a race. Almost anybody

## SUSAN G. KOMEN'S 3-DAY

A 60-mile walk dedicated to ending breast cancer, the annual Susan G. Komen fundraiser was held in 2023 in San Diego on Nov. 17-19. Hundreds of passionate participants walked over three days, to raise money for research that brings closer the cures for breast cancer and supports people impacted by the disease today. The 3-Day walk is a testament to the strength and commitment of breast cancer advocates, with each walker raising a minimum of \$2,300 while walking 20 miles a day for three consecutive days. This powerful event has generated more than \$154.7 million since its inception in San Diego, contributing to Komen's total investment of more than \$1.1 billion in research and \$2.5 billion in real-time support for patients and those living with metastatic breast cancer. Throughout the weekend, San Diego residents had the opportunity to encourage and cheer on 3-Day participants as they journeyed 60 miles (an average of 48,000 steps) throughout the streets of Del Mar, La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, Mission Hills, Hillcrest, and San Diego. Since 1982, Susan G. Komen has been at the forefront of leading research, public policy initiatives, global education and outreach, and providing direct patient care services to make the biggest impact against breast cancer. For 40 years, Komen helped reduce the breast cancer mortality rate by 42% from 1989 to 2019. The organization has invested nearly \$1.1 billion in research and more than \$2.3 billion in patient support services, including education, patient navigation, screening and diagnostic services, and financial assistance, serving millions of patients in more than 60 countries. Visit [komen.org](http://komen.org) or call 1-877 GO KOMEN.

in relatively good health can do it. Every time you help someone – you feel grateful to have been able to do that. And to see people who cheer you on, have signs thanking you for walking... It makes a difference in people's lives, and makes you want to make a difference in someone else's life."

# La Jolla tennis coach Nelson Alapi's family in need of community's support

By KYUNGMIN MIN

After the beloved tennis coach Nelson Alapi died, his family is receiving support from the community through a GoFundMe page.

Alapi was a staff member of the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. He mentored juniors to adults, assisting them in reaching their goals with passion. Alapi always kept positive energy, even when giving lessons seven days a week, 12 hours a day. Yet, he made time for his family at the end of those long days.

Crary Jagger, the organizer of the fundraising and one of the closest friends of Alapi remembered him as a source of joy and inspiration. "Nelson focused on inspiring and bringing people

together. His memory, words, and messages will remain with his family, friends, and students," said Jagger.

Unfortunately, as his support is no longer available, the family is now facing the aftermath and needs financial assistance.

He has left his family members behind – his wife Margaret Alapi and two children, Cristina and Nelson. Cristina is in college, playing for the San Diego State's club team. Little Nelson is set to enroll at Bucknell University this fall, where he was recruited for tennis. Both of them are putting forth efforts to seek support in their ways – Cristina has applied for financial aid at San Diego State, and Nelson has been granted a partial need-based grant at Bucknell.

At the time Alapi was in the



The late Nelson Alapi with his daughter Cristina and son Nelson. COURTESY PHOTO

hospital, Margaret started a jewelry business called 'Surfside Jewels' and became the breadwinner. She supported her children successfully and stood by Alapi's side while he underwent chemotherapy and a marrow bone transplant.

READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](http://sdnews.com)



# City makes progress toward zero waste goals with diversion rate

Marking a significant milestone in efforts to encourage recycling and limit waste, the City of San Diego has achieved a 71% diversion rate for the amount of waste diverted from the landfill, the highest it has ever been. According to data provided by CalRecycle, the diversion rate of 71% for 2022 was based on all waste generated by those who live, work and play within the city limits of San Diego.

Diverting waste helps the City move closer to achieving Zero Waste Plan goals.

“The City’s diversion rate is a clear signal that San Diegans are embracing recycling and are dedicated to meeting our climate goals,” said Councilmember Joe LaCava, chair of the Environment Committee. “This positive shift toward zero waste is the product of hard work by City staff to educate the public about the impact of waste diversion. It is in partnership with residents and businesses – who recognize the importance of recycling and the urgency to eliminate harmful greenhouse gases – that we will continue to see these diversion rates rise in the coming years.”

Zero Waste is a principle that calls for handling discarded materials as commodities for reuse rather than for disposal, and conserving those commodities through waste prevention, recycling, composting and other technologies. The City of San Diego Zero Waste Plan is a road map to diverting almost all solid waste from going into landfills.

“We are very encouraged by our progress in 2022, and believe that 2023 will prove to be even better, after a full year of San Diegans participating in the City’s new Organic Waste Recycling Program by diverting their food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard waste into green bins,” said Renee Robertson, director of the City’s Environmental Services Department.

The City’s previous highest waste diversion rate was 68% in 2012. The rate for 2021 was 63%, and the rates from 2013 to 2020 were in the 64% to 67% range. San Diego is close to reaching an initial Zero Waste Plan goal of 75%. Looking ahead, the next goals are 82% by 2030 and 90% by 2035, with the ultimate goal of zero waste by 2040.

“Diverting waste from our landfills is a crucial part of the City’s overall climate action goals, and we are delighted to see the progress to date,” said Shelby Rust Busó, chief sustainability officer with the Sustainability and Mobility Department.

**READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](#)**

# City of San Diego warns about unauthorized ‘water quality’ notices

In response to recent reports of City of San Diego residents receiving a “water update” notice at their homes, the City is warning people to be aware. The notices, which include a request to “Please call us ASAP,” appear to be from a private company that has no association with the City of San Diego and is not authorized to perform any work on behalf of the City. Residents contacted by the company are urged not to agree to services and not to provide personal information.

The City’s Public Utilities Department continually tests water quality, and our water meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality regulations. Detailed information about our water quality is available on the City’s Water Quality webpage.

“We want to encourage our customers to be vigilant and verify the information that is sent to their homes,” said Juan Guerreiro, director of the Public Utilities Department. “Our teams are committed to customer safety and delivering clean water to homes and businesses across San Diego. City staff will always identify themselves right away; please contact Public Utilities if you have any concerns about a notice left at your home.”

Recently, customers of the City’s Public Utilities Department in ZIP code 92154 reported receiving notices that could be misleading. Similar notices have been reported in other cities and regions around the country.

The City of San Diego will not request access to your home to test water quality. Any notification from the City regarding water quality would include a City logo and be delivered by City personnel with proper identification. City personnel are always willing to show proper identification and provide a supervisor’s phone number for verification.

Residents should check any phone number provided to ensure that it is legitimate. Anyone claiming to be a City employee who refuses to wait while the phone number is contacted for verification should be considered fraud. Report any suspicious personnel to the San Diego Police Department at its 24-hour non-emergency line at 619-531-2000 or Public Utilities Department’s emergency hotline at 619-515-3525 as soon as possible.

Public Utilities Department customers can also contact the City’s Water Quality hotline at 619-668-3232 or email [drinkingwaterquality@sandiego.gov](#) during business hours.

# New report finds poverty and inequity for San Diegans due to rising costs

A new report commissioned by the San Diego Foundation and developed in partnership with the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center found that one in 10 San Diegans lives in poverty, including 86,000 children, due to a lack of self-sufficient wages and the high cost of housing, utilities, transportation and food in the region.

“San Diego is a beautiful, diverse region, but not all residents experience the same quality of life, and the sobering data revealed in our report confirms that,” said Mark Stuart, president and CEO of San Diego Foundation. “This report helps us better understand the needs of San Diegans to attract more resources for just, equitable and resilient communities.”

The San Diego Foundation Economic Equity Report analyzed data from a variety of national and regional sources to zero in on the region’s greatest disparities, from housing and education to health care and life expectancy. Among the findings:

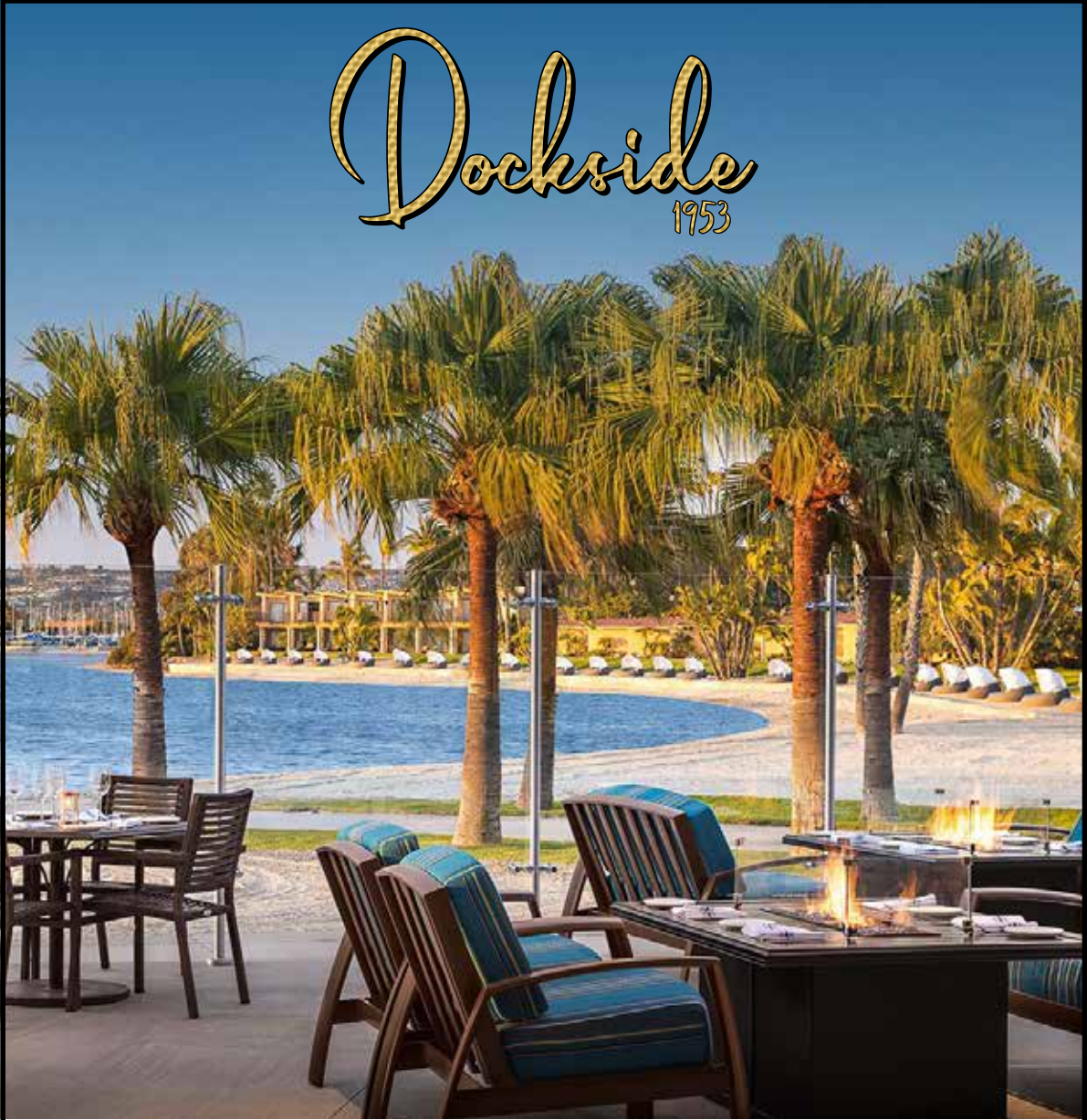
- **Wages and Housing Affordability:** Nearly 35% of San Diego County residents struggle to make self-sufficient wages.
- 38% spend more than the recommended maximum of 30% of their income on housing.
- Twice as many Latino/San Diegans live below the self-sufficiency wage as their White neighbors.
- **Poverty:** Approximately 335,000 San Diegans (11%), live below the federal poverty line (\$24,860 or less annually for a family of four), including nearly 86,000 children – enough to fill PETCO Park twice.
- San Diego County’s total poverty figure surpasses the entire population of 93% of all other U.S. counties.
- **Higher Education and the Skilled Worker Gap:** Latinos/as make up 42% of the population between 18 and 24 but comprise only 37% of people who have at least started college in that age group.
- While this is only a 5% difference, due to Latinos/as comprising the largest minority group in San Diego County it is equivalent to thousands who will not have the bachelor’s degrees needed to address the local skilled worker gap.
- **Health Equity:** The average Black or Asian San Diegan is expected to live to 75, five years less than the average White San Diegan.
- **Immigration:** San Diego County has the ninth highest immigrant population among U.S. counties; nearly 91,000 immigrants in San Diego County live in poverty – more than 4.5 times the population of Coronado.

“San Diego ranks amongst one of the costliest metropolitan areas in the country, but contrary to popular belief, San Diego’s population is not free of economic hardship,” said Daniel Enemark, Ph.D., chief economist with the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center. “Distinct inequalities are evident across the board. Unfortunately, poverty, limited access to higher education, insufficient wages, and lack of homeownership are more common in the county than expected.”

In the report, researchers reviewed economic needs in San Diego County and focused on areas of inequality. The report will be used to demonstrate the need and attract state and national funding to the region.

Data sources for this report include the U.S. Census’s American Community Survey; the California Department of Education; the County of San Diego’s Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services; among others.

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# International Baccalaureate art program at MBHS draws students



Senior IB Art student Emma Jo Grohn shares her Process Portfolio for her first project this year, The Glue. The Glue is an assignment for higher-level, second-year students in the IB Art pro-gram.  
COURTESY PHOTO



Completed project for The Glue by 12th grade IB Art student Emma Jo Grohn. Emma titled this effort The Mermaid.  
COURTESY PHOTO



Marco Trone, a junior enrolled in his first semester IB Art program, shows his Process Portfolio, a required element for his two-year journey to completing the art requirement for an IB Pro-gram.  
COURTESY PHOTO



Junior IB Art student Marco Trone's first completed project reflecting the genre of Fauvism.  
COURTESY PHOTO

Recent stories in the Beach & Bay Press (“Hard Work of parents and teachers keeps Mission Bay Cluster successful”) and Voice of San Diego (“The Learning Curve; Mission Bay High is still San Diego Unified’s Least Local High School”) described the many years of hard work, pro-active planning and dedication by teachers, parents, and school district staff to create programs at the elementary schools, PB Middle, and Mission Bay High that not only keep local students in PB schools but also to attract hundreds of students from all over the district

into the Mission Bay Cluster. The high school music program, athletics, and the International Baccalaureate Program are frequently cited as distinct features of Mission Bay High that attract students from local feeder schools as well as from other district clusters. There is another academic program responsible for attracting students to Mission Bay. The art program. The art program’s two teachers, Diane Parrish and Heather Henkes are experienced art teachers at Mission Bay High. Henkes teaches Art 1-2, the beginning art experience

for incoming fresh-men. Of the five students interviewed in Ms. Henkes’s freshman class, four of the students were from outside the cluster. Parrish is the instructor for the art students pursuing the IB Program in 11th and 12th grade. The IB Program is a challenging, rigorous sequence of courses across six curricular areas: English, world language, individuals and societies, experimental sciences, mathematics, and the arts. Coursework is completed and evaluated at a high level in all six areas during a student’s junior and senior years at Mission Bay.

For students attending the cluster feeder schools, the IB Program can start in elementary school (offered at Sessions Elementary) and continue at PB Middle. The IB Program is also offered to all students starting at Mission Bay from outside the cluster. “I conduct tours of our high school several times a year. Each tour is filled with parents interested in their student attending Mission Bay,” said Tracy Borg, IB coordinator at Mission Bay High. “They want to know about all of the opportunities available for their student. Mission Bay is one of only two schools in the entire district that offers the IB Program. It is a very challenging diploma program. In many ways, it is far more demanding than Advanced Placement course work.” In Parrish’s IB Art class, three students, a junior and two seniors have committed to the IB Pro-gram. Their IB Art work requires 10-12 original art pieces completed by the end of their senior year. Included in the successful completion and evaluation of each final piece is the student’s required Process Portfolio. “The Process Portfolio is where the student documents the entire journey of each art unit, from the investigations of art history, practice with certain media, initial ideas for the artwork they want to create, and reflections on the entire process,” Parrish said. “A curatorial essay and statement of intent is also required for each artwork completed. A minimum of one new art piece is due every 3-4 weeks. Upcoming units of study this year include digital portraits, acrylic portrait paintings,

contextual art, and jewelry making.” Mission Bay junior IB Art student, Marco Trone, started at Mission Bay in ninth grade after attending School of the Madeline. Trone said he can be inspired by “My surroundings and the environment I find myself in. I like to take my sketchbook outside and draw the nature around me.” Trone prefers to work in watercolor paints. When asked if as an artist he works in defined periods or bursts of inspiration, he said: “I like to work in bursts, whenever I feel inspiration or feel motivated to create. However, taking art classes has taught me to be able to work in more defined periods.” Senior IB Program student, Emma Jo Grohn, also enrolled in Parrish’s IB Art class, completed her first set of original art pieces last year as a junior with Parrish. Grohn’s comprehensive art portfolio theme is still developing. “The working theme I have based my previous works on is ‘nature.’ However, I am deliberating if I should begin to focus my artwork on more specific areas such as ‘adventure’ or ‘the ocean.’ I came across that theme after completing a wide range of works that all had that commonality. As I do more I will see how it changes and develops.” Senior Sophie Jetzer Gagneux’s portfolio theme is “Conveying Emotion Through Faces and Figures.” Jetzer Gagneux explained

that she decided her theme last year, about a third of the way through her junior year with Parrish. “I decided on my theme based on the pieces I had begun to create, basically letting my work tell me its theme. I love to draw people and faces, and wanted to challenge myself to use them to convey different emotions,” Jetzer Gagneux said. Next spring, the seniors pursuing the IB Program enrolled with Parrish will develop a slide presentation, perhaps 15-30 slides, that will document their two years of artwork and process. Jester adds, “The slide presentation will be sent off to an IB grader somewhere in the world and then I will receive a grade.” In the spring of 2024, the senior IB Art students will have an on-campus gallery exhibition of their work from their junior and senior years. Each student will share with the public their successful two-year journey as an art student at Mission Bay High. Plan on attending this special evening. The Mission Bay Cluster Committee is comprised of interested parents, teachers, school administrators, and Pacific Beach community members at large that have a continuing interest in the activities and projects regarding PB schools. The Mission Bay Cluster includes Barnard Mandarin Magnet Elementary, Sessions Elementary, Crown Point Junior Music Academy, Pacific Beach Elementary, Pacific Beach Middle, and Mission Bay High.



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Senior IB Art student Sophie Jetzer Gagneux shares her Process Portfolio as she explains her in-progress work for her assignment, The Glue.  
COURTESY PHOTO



Sophie Jetzer Gagneux's final effort for her IB assignment The Glue completed in October.  
COURTESY PHOTO



# Custom jewelry and repairs at House of Jewels in Pacific Beach



Leonid, Sofia, and Alex Shpigel in their Pacific Beach store House of Jewels.  
PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB



Wax molds for creating jewelry pieces.  
PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

HOUSE OF JEWELS

Where: 1772-B Garnet Ave.  
Hours: Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays and Mondays closed.  
Contact: 858-490-8097.

Sofia said they would then “draw what can be done. Then we have someone who does wax impressions (like a dentist).”

“The wax is used to make a negative, then the gold gets poured in and the wax gets melted and you have a rough copy,” pointed out son Alex.

“He puts in the wax the stones so the customer can see, after the wax is cast, how it’s going to look at the end,” said Sofia noting a typical job is one they did recently repairing an earring brought in that was missing a post that had broke.

Leonid pointed out that customers choose them because of their experience and because they do custom work. “If you buy something on the Internet they will sell you only a size 8,” he said adding, “If they need a size 6, they need to come to me.”

By DAVE SCHWAB

House of Jewels in Pacific Beach is a family affair with master jewelers Sofia, Leonid, and Alex Shpigel crafting personalized items for clients.

Located at 1772-B Garnet Ave. in the Pacific Plaza Shopping Center and Mall, the jewelry store

is in a retail space that once was Baltimore Bagels. The Shpigels create and repair jewelry in PB working with diamonds and other precious stones. They also do a lot of watch repairs.

Originally from Russia, Leonid was an engineer by trade and Sofia was a musician and piano instructor. He studied under a jeweler there before the family immigrated

to the United States in 1979.

After coming to the States, Leonid got a job with a jeweler in downtown San Diego, after which he worked for a time in La Jolla. Sofia noted Baltimore was bought by Einstein, and the company relocated vacating the Pacific Plaza mall space.

“In 1991, Leonid came here and opened up this store with one

salesperson,” said Sofia, who was still teaching at USD at that time. “Eventually, I partially retired and then we collaborated starting about 15 years ago.”

“She is in the front and I’m in the back,” noted Leonid of their division of labor.

Leonid is a designer who creates his jewelry pieces. He also does a lot of jewelry repair work, which Sofia noted is about “75% of their business.” Sofia explained the process involved.

“They (customer) will come into us and they bring a single center stone and a whole bunch of little stones,” she said. “And they’ll say, ‘I would like a pendant custom made.’”

# ALITY Designs, making every ‘body’ feel comfortable and luxurious

By KYUNGMIN MIN

ALITY Designs is a luxury clothing brand based in North Pacific Beach and La Jolla. The founder, Ality Richardson, who grew up as a tomboy, felt uncomfortable with the dichotomized off-the-rack clothing for men and women and decided to make her brand.

San Diego Community Newspaper Group met with her to delve deeper into ALITY’s story. Richardson used her given name as the brand name, which is also a suffix that means “the art of being.” Just as “reality” is the art of being real and “personality” is the art of being a person, ALITY encourages customers to become whoever they want to be.

Her fashion taste was greatly influenced by her father. “My dad was a very stylish man. He was outspoken and colorful,” Richardson recalled. Yet, finding high-end clothing with versatile qualities was challenging.

She wanted to put two senses together in her apparel – the fancy stuff and the comfort of lounge-wear – so that she wouldn’t have to change multiple times a day to suit different times, places, and occasions.

“I had the idea of blending the sophisticated sexiness of Tom Ford with the workmanship of Carhartt outdoorwear. An outdoor aesthetic combined with luxury appeal.” This desire led her to create her brand, ALITY Designs.

As Richardson was a third-generation family business owner, she had experience running a company. She also had know-how in



ALITY Designs is a luxury clothing brand based in North Pacific Beach and La Jolla.  
COURTESY PHOTO

marketing and a passion for design. She was ready to start a new phase of her life and launched the first collection in October 2022.

ALITY’s philosophy is based on three pillars: “low-key luxury,” “slow fashion,” and “gender-free.” Richardson explained that her team coined the term “low-key luxury” for the San Diego lifestyle, which is classy but also laid-back.

ALITY is also dedicated to sustainability. Their most significant effort is focused on small-batch production.

“Slow fashion is related to small-batch production, making things in our backyard not to have the emissions and all of the waste from cheap fabrics,” said Richardson. She expressed her pride in choosing their partners wisely and focusing on producing smaller quantities of higher quality.

One of the unique aspects of ALITY is their use of the term

“gender-free” rather than “genderless” or “unisex.” They chose “free” to motivate customers to demonstrate themselves freely, regardless of their gender.

“I am very proud of how well our first collection fits,” said Richardson. She has never been comfortable with tight-fitting clothes and didn’t enjoy shopping in the women’s section. However, men’s clothing wasn’t suitable either, as it would be too big or wouldn’t fit her curvy body. To solve this problem, her team was committed to creating the perfect fit for both men and women physically.

Now ALITY is working on creating their second collection. “Keeping small batches, keeping quality as the key, keeping our values aligned with supporting the small business is what I want to do.” For more information about their story and products, visit ALITY Designs.



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# Happy hour with a side of spontaneity at The Wine Shop

By FRANK SABATINI Jr.

Nestled within the backside of Old Town's Urban Market Food Hall is one of San Diego's most unexpected and fleeting wine bars, a place that offers a welcoming stay-awhile feel even though it might not stick around after Jan. 1.

The Wine Shop by Cucina Migrante is something of a nomad considering that its owners opened the venture in June under a six-month lease.

"We are a pop-up wine shop," explained Francesco Bonsinetto, an enthusiastic gourmand from Sicily who jointly operates the shop with friend and business partner Adisa Ziric. They took over the indoor-outdoor venue from a previous owner who ran it for about a year.

It is yet to be seen whether the shop will stay beyond the new year, move to another neighborhood, or vanish altogether.

"We are going to decide in December," Ziric said.

The duo also runs Cucina Migrante, a successful company that conducts private dinners and cooking classes around town. They launched it seven years ago and tagged The Wine Shop's name with the brand.

Ziric is originally from Bosnia and takes the role of creative director for both businesses. "But I

like to make fresh pasta for some of our cooking classes," she said while crediting Bonsinetto and a small team of chefs the company employs for menu development.

The Wine Shop has served as a versatile, advantageous sidearm to Cucina Migrante. Its temporary status hasn't stopped locals from taking advantage of what is a relaxing wine-centric sanctuary from Old Town's constant bustle.

Not only does the shop offer public cooking classes each month — plus live jazz on Sundays, and vinyl-spun music on Mondays — but it also presents happy hour from 4-7 p.m., daily. During that time, customers can enjoy the rare amenity of free cheese and charcuterie, which is part of what lured me in on a recent Saturday afternoon.

Ample outdoor seating on a multi-tier patio leads to the entrance inside, where a modern design splashed with colorful art and a couple of turntables for playing records flank a communal table. The nearby shelves are stocked with global wines, some of them made from lesser-known grapes. Think Godello from northern Spain (a white grape) and reds ones such as Frappata from Southern Italy and Tannat from Uruguay, though originally from France.

"You won't find our wines at



The Wine Shop owners Adisa Ziric and Francesco Bonsinetto. PHOTO BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

Costco," Bonsinetto insisted while pointing out that the shop carries about 80 different labels. Nearly 15 of them are available by the glass on any given day.

The shop is also where you can purchase the owners' cookbook, Happiness is a Red Tomato. It contains more than 30 Mediterranean-inspired recipes, including one for making limoncello.

I started my visit with a glass of New Zealand Pino Gris by Tinpot Hut. The wine's crisp, cool notes of pear and peach were the perfect come-on to a warm afternoon. My next choice was a glass of deep-purple Cabernet Franc by Fanatic Wine Company. It too

was served chilled, an anomaly for this varietal. But I didn't mind considering that it elevated the rich, fruity undertones of the wine. Bonsinetto seemed to know this when plucking it from the glass-door cooler.

Glass prices range from \$10 to \$18, depending on the label. And even if you hang around for only one glass during happy hour, you will receive a tray of artisan meats and cheeses—or some type of nosh.

My tray included shaved prosciutto di Parma, Sicilian truffle cheese, roasted cherry tomatoes, herbed olives and more. It was entirely satisfying. Outside of happy hour the tray costs \$10.

## THE WINE SHOP BY CUCINA MIGRANTE

**Where:** 2548 Congress St., Old Town  
**Contact:** thewineshopsd.com, 619-414-0691.

The offerings change regularly based on what the shop has in stock.

Much of The Wine Shop's appeal lies in its breezy structure. There are no hard rules as to where you can sit, how long you can linger, or whether you need reservations for certain cooking classes and events (they are preferred but if there is room for drop-ins, no problem). A communal, easygoing vibe pervades no matter when you visit. It is that exact carefree concept combined with a prime location that has kept the shop afloat, all while further branding the Cucina Migrante name.

"For us hospitality and environment are super important," Bonsinetto noted. "But right now we still don't know if we'll stay here in Old Town or create this in another neighborhood."

Until then, The Wine Shop has several cooking classes and dinners on the docket. They include: A four-course "secret foodie dinner" with a masquerade theme on Dec. 1; Tuscan cuisine on Dec. 6; and Milanese food on Dec. 20.

For prices and further details, call 619-414-0691 or visit thewineshopsd.com.

# Froggy's returns to North Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB

Hop on over to recently re-opened Froggy's serving up elevated bar food in a convivial atmosphere.

Located at 954 Turquoise St. in North Pacific Beach, Froggy's is a business partnership between consultant Billy "O" Orilio and Michel Malécot, owner/chef of The French Gourmet next store. They originally opened the restaurant together in 1991. It eventually sold, then closed in 2011 becoming The Bar Key, which continued operating until early this year.

"When I bought the building it used to be a little barbecue shack," noted Malécot, who's owned and operated The French Gourmet Restaurant-Bakery and catering business since 1979.

"Michel called me earlier this summer and asked if I wanted to do Froggy's 2.0," noted Orilio. "And I said certainly. I didn't expect it to be as grandiose as it is. Everyone I've talked to is just thrilled to death that we're back."

Froggy's serves food indoors and out on a patio with sun umbrellas. The establishment offers a menu of elevated, globally inspired bar food from The French

Gourmet chef Adrian Talavera. The cuisine is as delicious as it is diverse featuring a plethora of items including chicken wings and fingers, crispy shrimp, hand-cut regular and truffle fries, soups and salads, flat breads, burgers, and sandwiches. Breakfast is offered on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Froggy's also serves food late at night with its kitchen open until 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and until midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Of his business plan, Malécot noted Froggy's is "a restaurant with good eats, craft brews and signature cocktails." Asked what Froggy's relationship is to The French Gourmet he replied, "It's part of the more casual side of my business. We use the same dressings and some of the same resources."

Billy O concurred that Froggy's is a winning concept. "We've created a local neighborhood bar with elevated high-quality food," he said pointing out there is a lot of the old Froggy's in the new, like Rasta pasta from the old menu. "We're bringing it back," he added.

The frogs, lots of them, have returned as well. Billy O noted the amphibians used to be all over the walls in the original Froggy's. "Whenever I saw a frog in a store, I would buy it," he noted. Now the frogs gaze down on customers



Consultant William 'Billy O' Orilio and Michel Malécot, chef/owner of The French Gourmet next door, at Froggy's on Turquoise Street. PHOTO BY DAVE SCHWAB

from mounted TV screens.

So far, after only being open a week, sports events and NFL football have been a big draw at Froggy's, where folks feel comfortable hanging out even after the games.

The business duo has also concentrated on beefing up the bar menu, which offers cocktails

using classic garnishes, beer, wine, and premium spirits with a focus on bourbon and tequila. From 2-5 p.m. on weekdays, guests can get Jameson for \$4. Add another \$1 for a Jameson-soaked pickle.

"It's a fun part of the business. We're all excited about it," Malécot said.



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# Parade, Santa Run, and other holiday happenings in Pacific Beach

By DAVE SCHWAB

Celebrating the year-end holidays, Discover Pacific Beach, the community's business improvement district, ushers in the season of peace and goodwill with its Decorate Your Wreath program.

## WREATH DECORATING

The program offers local businesses the chance to promote themselves with a wreath placed on Crystal Pier from Dec. 1 to Jan. 1 for a \$50 entry fee. Wreath decorating is a way for local businesses to showcase their creativity while reaching a wider audience, as Crystal Pier is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike. Participants become part of a heartwarming community tradition. Having a wreath showcased on the pier is also a unique branding opportunity supporting a great cause. All of the proceeds are funneled back into the community through Discover PB's annual programming focused on improvement projects in the community.

## CHEER ON THE PIER

It wouldn't be the holiday season in PB without the annual Crystal Pier celebration taking place Saturday, Dec. 2 from 2-5 p.m. on the pier at 4599 Ocean Blvd. The event kicks off with a tree lighting at sunset and illuminating the decorated wreaths. Listen to carolers, drink hot chocolate, and admire the beautiful wreaths on display.



The 11th annual San Diego Santa Run starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 912 Garnet Ave. PHOTO BY MARC WESTRAY

And don't miss your chance to meet Santa at the end of Crystal Pier from 2-5 p.m. for photos for \$10. To ensure you secure your photo with St. Nick, make sure to arrive by 3:45 p.m. at the latest. The last picture of the day will be taken at 5 p.m. The end of Crystal Pier will be closed to the general public until 5 p.m.

## SANTA RUN

You can be part of San Diego's most festive 5K of the year joining a "sea of Santas" in the 11th annual San Diego Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 9. The 5K Run starts at 8:30 a.m. at 912 Garnet Ave., followed by the kids 1 mile run at 10:30 a.m. and the dog 1 mile kicking-off at 11 a.m. The run precedes the annual PB Holiday Parade at noon. Registration cost is \$45 for the 5K and \$30 for both the kids and dog miles. All 5K runners will receive a sunny Santa

suit, sunglasses, chip timing, a custom bib, and a complimentary drink ticket for use at participating post-race partner bars in PB. Additional purchase items include a Santa suit and run T-shirt for \$20, and candy cane socks for \$12. Go to [sandiego-runningco.com](http://sandiego-runningco.com) to register.

## PB HOLIDAY PARADE

The 43rd annual Pacific Beach Holiday Parade goes from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 beginning at Garnet Avenue and Haines Street and ending at Garnet Avenue and Bayard Street. This year's parade is turning up the holiday fun with its Ugly Sweater theme. Don your most outrageous, sparkly, and downright ugly holiday sweaters. Watch dazzling floats decorated with holiday spirit, from traditional to the uniquely quirky. Enjoy the beats and melodies of local bands, dance troupes,

and performers. Keep an eye out for Santa Claus himself as he makes a grand entrance to the delight of kids of all ages. Bring the whole family for a day of community celebration.

## HOTELS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Bahia Resort in Mission Beach and Catamaran Resort in Pacific Beach are celebrating the season with sparkling décor, culinary delights, and festivities, including Jingle Belle Cruises. The hotels will have gingerbread house displays in their lobbies, created by the resorts' team members. The Catamaran puts its spin on classic gingerbread houses with decorated Hula Huts, reflecting the resort's island vibe, which includes a Polynesian-style Christmas tree in the lobby adorned with parrots, Tikis, and tropical flower leis. The Bahia brings a touch of nostalgia and whimsy to its lobby with mid-century holiday décor including a retro-style TV set, vintage 1950s aluminum Christmas tree, and a leg lamp from the cult classic holiday movie, "A Christmas Story."

## BAY JINGLE BELLS

Gather with friends, family, and Santa Claus aboard the William D. Evans sternwheeler for Jingle Belle Family Cruises on Mission Bay. Guests can enjoy joyful carolers, photos with Santa, cookie decorating, a balloon artist, a face painter, and tasty holiday treats and libations including hot cocoa and an espresso

coffee bar. Cruises depart from the Bahia and Catamaran resorts, Dec. 21-25. Reservations are required. The cost is \$45 per person, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Mama's Kitchen aiding individuals and families at risk of malnutrition due to critical illnesses.

## PARADE OF LIGHTS

Another cherished holiday tradition, the annual Parade of Lights returns to Mission Bay on Dec. 9. Visitors to the Catamaran Resort can cozy up bayside on the north lawn from 6-9 p.m. for a perfect vantage point to view the dazzling boat parade, featuring dozens of vessels festooned with lights and decorations. This family-friendly event also features holiday treats for sale such as cake pops and peppermint bark, hot cocoa, and warm winter cocktails.

## MINGLE WITH KRIS KRINGLE

Santa Claus journeys from the North Pole to the Catamaran Resort on Saturdays (3-5 p.m.) through December, to meet guests and hear their holiday wishes and to have holiday family photos taken. Throughout the season, Santa's Letter Stations will be set up in the lobby of the Catamaran and Bahia resorts, complete with a festive oversized mailbox, so children can send Santa their wish lists and good deeds for the year.

READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](http://sdnews.com)

# Winter Wonder, a Miracle, SantaCon, and Sinatra at Belmont Park

There are a plethora of events and seasonal happenings this holiday at Belmont Park in Mission Beach including a seasonal Winter Wonder, the Miracle pop-up bar at Draft, and the SantaCon party at the Beach House.

The oceanfront amusement park offers everything from classic rides and attractions to festive activities and family-friendly entertainment with plenty of holiday treats for all ages.

## WINTER WONDER

Belmont Park is hosting the ultimate beachside holiday experience with its fifth annual Winter Wonder through Dec. 31. Embrace the magic of the holidays and see how the park transforms with millions of twinkling holiday lights, festive activities, holiday treats, cozy drinks, and more. Belmont Park's favorite rides and attractions will also be sprinkled with holiday magic, including Peppermint Putt Putt at Tiki Wonderland, Sweet Escape at Escapology, and Polar Plunge at Plunge Pool.

## COLORFUL CHARACTERS

While exploring the park, families can meet and greet Buddy the Elf as he creates festive balloon animals every weekend from 1-3 p.m. or the Winter Fairy Princess and Poinsettia Princess every



The Koala Cooler is one of Christmas-themed cocktails at the Miracle popup at Draft. PHOTO BY MELISSA HOM

weekend from 4-7 p.m. Don't forget to grab seasonal treats like Red Velvet Funnel Cake, peppermint brownies, festive cookies, cake pops, cupcakes, and more.

## MIRACLE AT BELMONT PARK

Miracle at Belmont Park will debut at Draft at 3105 Ocean Front Walk featuring festive original cocktails, over-the-top decorations, and exciting new mug designs. This Christmas-themed pop-up cocktail experience will open on Nov. 20 and run through Dec. 31. Draft is open noon-8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends. This year Draft will feature new holiday-inspired cocktail creations along with some enduring fan favorites all served

in Miracle's signature kitschy glassware. Guests can also purchase some of this year's festive holiday mug collection available exclusively at Draft. At the end of the season, 10% of all proceeds from the retail sales of its signature Santa's Head, Santa Pants, and Christmas Carol Barrel mugs will be donated to Miracle's official 2023 holiday charity partner Seva Foundation.

## SANTACON

Get ready to trade in snow boots for flip-flops with San Diego's "official" SantaCon on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 1-10 p.m. The second annual SantaCon at Beach House, presented by Almost Nakey, transforms the beachfront



Take selfies at all of Belmont Park's holiday attractions during Winter Wonder. PHOTO COURTESY OF BELMONT PARK

boardwalk into the North Pole for the ultimate Christmas winter wonderland rave. This SantaCon will boast a main stage as Santa's Village at Beach House made from LED walls and snow canons, a second main stage inside Belmont Park, 50-foot inflatable Santas and Grinches, life-sized snow globes, Club Penguin Igloo Silent Disco, photos with Santa, Sky Deck's for VIPs, a Whoville and more.

Come dressed in your best Santa outfit and enter the costume contest for the chance to win early Christmas presents. Mrs. Claus will crown two winners at the end of the night. This exclusive 21-plus event offers tickets starting at \$60 for general admission

or \$140 for Santa's VIP, which includes perks like skipping the line to all rides within Belmont Park, private bars and lounges at Coaster VIP Terrace, VIP sections at both main stages, VIP entrance/check-in and more. A percentage of all ticket sales will go towards supporting Toys for Tots. Each ticket includes full access to all the rides at Belmont Park.

## SINATRA CHRISTMAS

Concerts Under the Stars will be holding "A Very Sinatra Christmas Special" from Dec. 19-20 at 6 and 8:30 p.m. on the Coaster Terrace at Belmont Park. Listen to a set list Frank loved to sing during the holiday season. Tickets: <https://feverup.com/m/138993>.





Marshall Whiteley

# San Diego Ballet's Latin lover dances at The Conrad in La Jolla

“The Many Loves of Don Juan” will take place at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center, 7600 Fay Ave. on Feb 24-25, 2024. Get swept away to the sounds of Spanish guitars in a rapturous, romantic evening devoted to love and the human condition. Follow the world’s most famous Latin lover through his triumphs and tragedies, as he journeys the world in his search for fulfillment. Soulful and sizzling. Truly poetry in motion.

“I leaned into the strengths of our company in selecting this season’s works and having a dancer with the strength, ability and passion of Marshall Whiteley,

provided an opportunity to present a work like Don Juan,” explained Velasco.

Born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and raised in San Diego, Whiteley was a nationally-ranked ice hockey player by the age of 11. At 13, he began formal ballet training and by 20, he was accepted as a corps de ballet member for the American Ballet Theatre. While with the company, Whiteley performed roles in most major classics, such as “Giselle,” “Swan Lake,” “Don Quixote,” “Nutcracker,” and “Firebird.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](#)

# Westfield UTC opens Peppermint Beach Club for holiday season



Westfield UTC’s newest holiday spectacular, Peppermint Beach Club, has arrived and offers families, friends, visitors, and locals a place to celebrate the holidays and relish in the magic of the North Pole San Diego style. Peppermint Beach Club will dazzle and delight with an array of activities including fabulous parties, retailer pop-ups, fan-favorite snowfall, playful visits with Mrs. Claus and the elves, and a live DJ to help spread holiday cheer.

■ Santa’s Villa – Stop by Santa’s Villa located in Palm Plaza through Dec. 24 to snap a holiday photo with Santa – or bring along furry friends for Santa Paws photos on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 from 4-7 pm. Reservations are highly recommended, visit here to secure your spot.

■ Queenstown Bistro – Set in the heart of Peppermint Beach

Club is Queenstown Bistro, offering patrons a curated seasonal menu inspired by Westfield UTC’s resort-like holiday destination. Featured highlights include a themed specialty cocktail menu, the comeback of the popular Holiday Sandwich boasting a delicious combination of oven-roasted turkey, brie cheese, stuffing, gravy, cranberry, and jalapeno relish served on sourdough bread, and a curated boozy and non-alcoholic hot cocoa offering.

■ Gift-Wrapping Station – After finishing your holiday shopping, leave the holiday wrapping to the professionals and personalize each of your gifts at the gift-wrapping station located near Aritzia. Benefitting Rady’s Children’s Hospital, the station will be available from Dec. 15 through Dec. 23.

READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](#)

# SeaWorld’s new baby emperor chick now has a name

More than 29,000 people voted for her name; two special viewing experiences added

After overwhelming public participation, the emperor penguin chick hatched at SeaWorld San Diego has officially been named Pearl. More than 29,000 people voted with Pearl receiving over half the votes.

Pearl hatched on Sept. 12, the first chick hatched at SeaWorld San Diego since 2010. SeaWorld San Diego is the only zoo in the Western Hemisphere where emperor penguins can be seen.

Pearl is expected to be ready to join the park’s penguin colony in early 2024, at which point she will be visible to the general public. Until then, in response to the extraordinary public interest in her arrival, SeaWorld has created two new special ticket opportunities to enable a limited number of guests to see her now behind the scenes, with 10 percent of the proceeds going to support penguin conservation around the world:

- Ultimate Penguin On-Ice Experience and Viewing of Pearl – For the first time, guests will be invited to step onto the snow among six different penguin species, including the emperor penguins, at Penguin Encounter. They will learn about penguins from an aviculturist, who will share what it takes to care for these highly specialized animals. Guests will receive a rare and extremely special viewing of



The emperor penguin chick hatched at SeaWorld San Diego has been named Pearl. PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAWORLD

Pearl. Tickets start at \$199.

- Penguin Up Close Tour and Viewing of Pearl – Guests will go behind the scenes at Penguin Encounter for an up-close interaction with one of the penguins from Penguin Encounter. They will meet an aviculturist and learn what it takes to care for these highly specialized animals. Guests will receive a rare and extremely special viewing of Pearl. Tickets start at \$94.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://seaworld.com/san-diego/animals/penguins/>.

“We have been amazed by the outpouring of excitement around Pearl’s hatching and cannot wait

for guests to be able to see her and follow her journey as she matures,” said Eric Otjen, head of Zoological Operations at SeaWorld San Diego. “This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most people given the rarity of the species, so these new limited-time viewings are something extremely special.

“We are always looking for new ways to educate our guests on the importance of emperor penguins and to help them understand just how specially adapted emperor penguins are for the extreme conditions of the Antarctic environment.”

READ MORE ONLINE AT [sdnews.com](#)

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021530 Fictitious Business Name(s) a.BROS EXPRESS, 573 LA RUE WAY, EL CAJON, CA 92021 Is registered by the following: a.MHSD TRANSPORTATION, INC This business is conducted by: A CORPORATION The first day of business was: 10/20/2023 Registrant Name: a.MHSD TRANSPORTATION, INC Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor MICHAEL HANNA, CEO The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 20, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9020709 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. VAL'S PALS, 4902 ELSA RD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92120 Is registered by the following: a.VALERIE JETTER This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a.VALERIE JETTER Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 09, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021590 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. THE HANDY CARPENTER SAN DIEGO, 3422 PALM AVE #1, SAN DIEGO, CA 92154 Is registered by the following: a.PRISCILLA CARMELO This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 04-1-2022 Registrant Name: a.PRISCILLA CARMELO Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 20, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021520 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. GIANT SEQUOIA JOURNEYS, 3750 MONROE STREET, CARLSBAD, CA 92008 Is registered by the following: a. GIANT SEQUOIA MARKETING, INC This business is conducted by: A CORPORATION The first day of business was: 08/25/2023 Registrant Name: a. GIANT SEQUOIA MARKETING, INC Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Gabriela Franco Sharples, President/CEO The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 20, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021621 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. ABBAS, DUTSON & CUNDARI CPAS, 3131 CAMINO DEL RIO N SUITE 360, SAN DIEGO, CA 92108 Is registered by the following: a. JEREMY DUTSON b. CHRIS CUNDARI c. TOMMY GERALD ABBAS This business is conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP The first day of business was: 08/17/2023 Registrant Name: a. JEREMY DUTSON b. CHRIS CUNDARI c. TOMMY GERALD ABBAS Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 21, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022001 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. LECOURT VINEYARDS, 16270 HIGHLAND MESA DRIVE, ESCONDIDO, CA 92125 Is registered by the following: a. R & J SPIRITS, INC This business is conducted by: A CORPORATION The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. R & J SPIRITS, INC Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor JOSHUA MC-COURT, President The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 20, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022156 Fictitious Business Name(s) a.PACIFIC COAST ASH SCATTER, 3377 CHEYENNE AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117 Is registered by the following: a. ECO DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC This business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY The first day of business was: 10/01/2023 Registrant Name: a. ECO DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor ERIC REED, MANAGING MEMBER The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 30, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022169 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. KIDS CHAWACTER ART, 4485 GRANGER ST, SAN DIEGO, CA 92107 Is registered by the following: a. WILLIAM A MUFFAT business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 10/28/2023

Registrant Name: a. WILLIAM A MUFFAT Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 30, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 3, 10, 17 & 24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022183 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. SAN DIEGO STAGE RENTAL, 962 LA SOMBRA, SAN MARCOS, CA 92078 Is registered by the following: a. PETER HURLEY business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 10/30/2023 Registrant Name: a. PETER HURLEY Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 30, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 10, 17, 24 & December 1

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021548 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. OVERTIME VENDING, 4079 GOVERNOR DRIVE #5140, SAN DIEGO, CA 92122 Is registered by the following: a. JESUS ANTONIO SANCHEZ business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. JESUS ANTONIO SANCHEZ Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 20, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 10, 17, 24 & December 1

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022469 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. JERMAINE AMIR RANSOME b. MAJOR LEAGUE HOLDINGS, 9076 BERKVIEW LANE, SPRING VALEY, CA 91977 Is registered by the following: a. JERMAINE AMIR RANSOME business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 11-03-23 Registrant Name: a. JERMAINE AMIR RANSOME Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 3, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 10, 17, 24 & December 1

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022340 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. NORTH POLE CHRISTMAS TREES, 4757 PALM AVE, LA MESA, CA 91942 Is registered by the following: a. INDEPENDENT SOLAR business is conducted by: A CORPORATION The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. INDEPENDENT SOLAR Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor ANDREW AQUINO, CEO The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 1, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 10, 17, 24 & December 1

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9021992 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. DIVINE CLARITY ENERGETICS, 409 CAMINO DEL RIO SOUTH, SUITE 308, SAN DIEGO, CA 92108 Is registered by the following: a. BROOKE RONNEY business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 09/15/2023 Registrant Name: a. BROOKE RONNEY Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 25, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9020699 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. SAFETY KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, b. EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT, 2305 HISTORIC DECATUR DR, SUITE 100, SAN DIEGO, CA 92106 Is registered by the following: a. JOSHUA KEVIN NYGAARD business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. JOSHUA KEVIN NYGAARD Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 09, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022692 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. SPARK & BRIM, 4482 34TH STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116 Is registered by the following: a. SONIA MARTINEZ-DICKERSON business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. SONIA MARTINEZ-DICKERSON Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 2023-9022944 Fictitious Business Name to be Abandoned: a.MB SBIZZ WIRELESS, INC The Fictitious Business name referred to above was filed in San Diego County on:11/30/2019 and assigned File No. 2019-9025356 Fictitious Business name is being abandoned by: MB SBIZZ WIRELESS, INC, 6712 FASHION HILLS BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92111 This business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).) Registrant name: MARISA BERTELSEN, PRESIDENT . Title of officer, if limited liability company/corporation. The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/ County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 13, 2023 . ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022199 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. ROOTS AND WINGS CAMP, 5011 DUBOIS DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117 Is registered by the following: a. ROOTS AND WINGS CAMP, business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY The first day of business was: 10/02/2023 Registrant Name: a. ROOTS AND WINGS CAMP, Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor ROBERTA M ROGERS, CEO The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 30, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022975 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. JESS RELAX MASSAGE & WELLNESS b. JESSICA DODGE SERVICES, 2180 GARNET AVE, SUITE 2H, SAN DIEGO, CA 92109 Is registered by the following: a. JESSICA DODGE is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 12-1-2022 Registrant Name: a. JESSICA DODGE Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 13, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022112 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. KAYODE RIVER, 3500 SPORTS ARENA BLVD, SAN DIEGO, CA 92110 Is registered by the following: a. RIVER KAYODE EDWARDS is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. RIVER KAYODE EDWARDS Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: OCTOBER 27, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 24, December 1, 8 & 15

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9022906 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. MOONWOOD MARKETING, b. MOONWOOD EVENTS, 11018 W OCEAN AIR DR, APT365, SAN DIEGO, CA 92130 Is registered by the following: a. MICHELLE MAIELLO is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 01/31/2021 Registrant Name: a. MICHELLE MAIELLO Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 9, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 24, December 1, 8 & 15

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9023136 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. NORTH STAR NATURALIST, 1721 REED AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92109 Is registered by the following: a. CYPRESS HANSEN is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. CYPRESS HANSEN Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 15, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 24, December 1, 8 & 15

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-9023015 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. FRESYES REALTY GROUP , 1420 KETTNER BLVD #100, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 Is registered by the following: a. JASON JEROME FARRIS is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL The first day of business was: 11/09/2023 Registrant Name: a. JASON JEROME FARRIS Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, , Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: NOVEMBER 14, 2023 ISSUE DATES: November 24, December 1, 8 & 15



The roulette roll with torched salmon, crab, avocado, eel sauce, fried shishito peppers, and spicy mayo at JRDN at Tower 23. PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE

**NEW CHEFS AT JRDN**  
JRDN at Tower 23 has announced a new executive chef, Jerry Ranson, bringing fresh seafood and new, modern dishes to the beachfront dining and lounging destination. This follows another recent culinary team addition this summer of pastry chef Justin Sazon. The new duo have dreamed up the launch of brand new menus for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Ranson's new menu highlights are lobster tartine, seafood tower, tuna, tuna, tuna roll, oxtail bucatini, braised short rib, NY strip, sirloin, jerk chicken and tomahawk with sauces. Chef Justin's creative desert menu highlights include Citrus Tour with ube pavlova, passionfruit curd, yuzu anglaise, lemon poppy

wafer, tequila ice cream, dehydrated mandarins; Island Cruise with tapioca panna cotta, pina colada macaroon, tropical compote, mango granita, guava juice; and The Protégé with pistachio mousseline bombe, pomegranate mousse, orange sponge, orange buttercream, mint pomegranate sorbet, and pistachio brittle.

ART BY AUTUMN ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, Dec. 1, Art By Autumn at 4684 Cass St., is celebrating its one year anniversary by opening its doors for a special event. ALITY Designs, a California-made luxury clothing brand will be showcasing its van pop-up shop and debut collection, LAYERS, featuring the Drip Trip Hat, a collaboration with Autumn Love. Bri Schillings, local singer/songwriter, will be performing a live set with her band, Sweet Imperfections. The event is free and will run from 6-9 p.m. La Clouchette and Compass, will be sponsoring the event as well with food and drinks.

DICKENS AT DUCK DIVE

Pacific Beach's Duck Dive at 4650 Mission Blvd. has festive

plans for December. Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" is a story that has lasted through the years with countless retelling and twists, and Duck Dive is holding a Great Dicken's Holiday Pop-Up, beginning Friday, Dec. 1. The beach bar will be decked out in holiday décor reminiscent of a Thomas Kinkade Village and will feature its unique interpretation of the Great Dicken's through themed cocktails. Duck Dive's Great Dicken's Holiday Pop-Up will be available 4 p.m. to close, every evening, and reservations are encouraged. Reservations can be made by calling 858-273-3825.

MB TOY DRIVE

Mission Beach Women's Club is holding its annual toy drive to help support military families Nov. 15 to Dec. 15. All donations will benefit junior enlisted military families in San Diego County. The club will be collecting new unwrapped gifts at its Dec. 11 meeting from 4-7 p.m. at Mission Beach Women's Club, 840 Santa Clara Place. Suggested donation items include Legos, board games, toddler toys and Target, Walmart, grocery and Amazon gift cards. Questions, contact pamelagarvey@me.com.



# LIVE FROM SAN DIEGO – Music performances on the coast this week

By BART MENDOZA

## SPOTLIGHT

Music legend and Encinitas resident Jack Tempchin (right) performs at Humphrey's Backstage Live on Nov. 30. An integral part of the local music community since the 1960s, Tempchin is perhaps best known as co-writer of such 1970s and 1980s hits as The Eagles "Peaceful Easy Feeling," Johnny Rivers "(Slow Dancing) Swayin' to the Music," and Glen Frey's "You Belong to the City." After more than 50 years of making music, Tempchin is still going strong, most recently releasing the album, "One More Time With Feeling," but live is where he truly excels. Tempchin's concerts mix a lifetime's worth of stories with heartfelt renditions of his songs, each performance showcasing why he is considered a national treasure.

Jack Tempchin: Thursday, Nov. 30 at Humphrey's Backstage Live, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. 6 p.m. \$10-20. humphreys-backstagelive.com.

## RECOMMENDED

Johnny Cash fans won't want to miss Cash'd Out at Beaumont's on Nov. 24. Cash'd Out has more than 150 Johnny Cash songs in their repertoire, but their secret weapon is frontman Doug Benson. Backed by a three-piece band, his recreation of Cash's music, voice, and

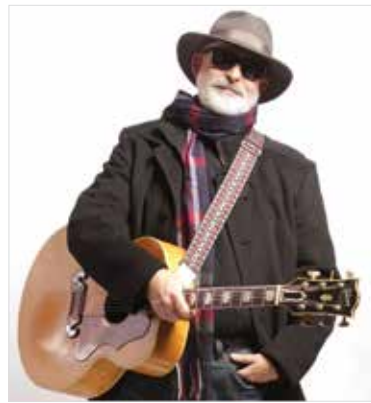
manner is uncanny and a key reason they are one of the most popular tribute groups out of San Diego. The night's set list will include standards such as "Folsom Prison Blues" and "Jackson," but whatever tunes Cash'd Out performs from Cash's immense catalog of songs, will please even the most diehard country music listener.

Cash'd Out: Friday, Nov. 24 at Beaumont's Eatery, 5662 La Jolla Blvd. 9 p.m. \$30. beaumontseatery.com.

Adventurous music aficionados will want to head to the Athenaeum on Nov. 27 for a free lunchtime set from Duo AYA. Jointly based in San Antonio, Texas, and Tokyo, Japan, Duo AYA features Rachel Woolf, flute, and Makana Jimbu, marimba, with the pair working together to stretch the boundaries of traditional chamber music. It's a wonderful combination, with the flute's haunting melodies playing against the marimba's percussive qualities. Anyone who enjoys new-age music, quiet storm soundtracks, or modern jazz will find much to appreciate from Duo AYA's music.

Duo AYA: Monday, Nov. 27 at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St. Noon. Free. ljathenaeum.org.

On Nov. 30, Moonshine Beach hosts a show with three of San Diego's hottest rising talents, Cassie B, Charlie Rae, and Ash Easton. All three are well worth hearing.



Singer-songwriter Rae's plaintive tunes have built her a solid following, while Easton's bluesy rock won her a "Best New Artist" trophy at the 2023 San Diego Music Awards. Closing the night will be Cassie B, one of the hardest-working musicians in town. She's a powerhouse vocalist, but her real strength is her songwriting, with songs such as her instantly memorable new single "Checkmate," incorporating both dance elements and strong pop hooks.

Cassie B: Wednesday, Nov. 30 at Moonshine Beach 1165 Garnet Ave. 8 p.m. \$12. moonshine-beachsd.com.

San Diego has a thriving music scene, and that's thanks in part to Mission Bay High School's amazing music program. Helmed by music director JP Balmat, MBHS has turned out generations of gifted musicians. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 5 and 6, the school will hold two concerts

showcasing the current roster of young players. Opening night will feature jazz, spotlighting the school's Swing Choir, Mambo Orchestra, and Preservationists, while the following evening's classical theme, will include the school's Symphony and String Orchestras, Concert Choir, and Wind Symphony. Admission goes towards supporting the school's music program.

Mission Bay High School Winter Concerts: Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 5-6, at Mission Bay High School, 2475 Grand Ave. 7-9 p.m. \$5. missionbaymusic.com.

Electronica pioneers Depeche Mode stop in at Pechanga Arena for two shows, Dec. 6 and 8. Formed in England circa 1980, the group's angst-driven, atmospheric sound is as influential as ever. Still led by singer Dave Gahan and multi-instrumentalist Martin Gore, Depeche Mode remains hugely popular on a global scale. The new album, "Memento Mori," is currently on the charts, but longtime listeners can rest assured this tour is heavy on fan favorites, with songs such as recent single, "My Favourite Stranger," joining a long list of their classics, including "Never Let Me Down Again," and "Personal Jesus."

Depeche Mode: Wednesday and Friday, Dec. 6 and 8 at Pechanga Arena, 3350 Sports Arena Blvd. 7:30 p.m. \$54 - \$244. pechan-gaarenasd.com.

## LJMS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

La Jolla Music Society's annual free Holiday Open House returns to The Conrad on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. This festive, free event for the whole family transforms The Wu Tsai QRT.yrd into a Winter Wonderland. There will be: cider and classic hot cocoa, storytime, crafts for kids, and holiday shopping with local artisans at a holiday market. Enjoy live musical performances of holiday favorites from the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus – with a special guest appearance by Davina Sowers from Davina and the Vagabonds. Holiday Market 4-7 p.m. in The Wu Tsai QRT.yrd and The JAI with local artisans, 6 p.m. storytime with Katia Graham, 7 p.m. performance by San Diego Gay Men's Chorus featuring Davina Sowers from Davina and the Vagabonds.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Share the gift of giving this holiday season with Geppetto's Toys. Through Dec.15, bring an unwrapped toy, or buy one on-site, and donate to the Toys for Tots campaign at all Geppetto's locations, including one in La Jolla at 7850 Girard Ave. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program is to collect unwrapped toys and distribute them as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

# Happy Thanksgiving!

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# Boulevard relocates, presents new looks at New York Fashion Week



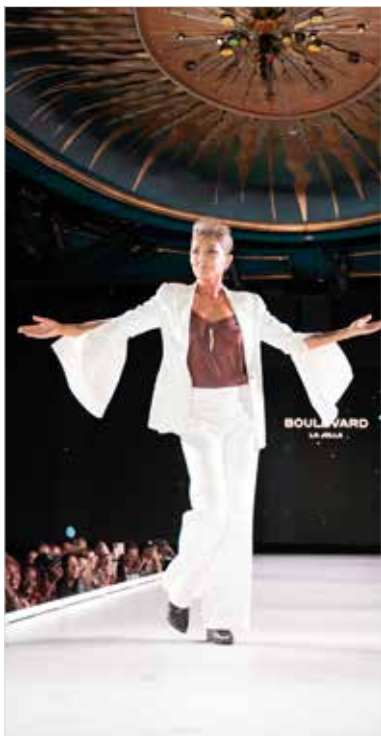
## Fashion Files

Diana Cavagnaro

**B**oulevard on Girard Avenue has moved to a new address at 7726 Girard Ave. in the back of the store, Boffi. Kate Whitney the owner of this high-end consignment store has been on Girard for two years and wanted everyone to know where their new location is. Whitney styles women and helps them find pieces they love. She said that it is important to dress the way you want to look. Wear things you love despite what the culture dictates.

I asked Whitney what would be new and she said they would have many new consigners, international retail designers, plus private Champagne parties in the shop. They will also have many upcoming popups like a Las Patronas holiday event and one with La Meridian.

Whitney recently went to New York Fashion Week on Sept. 8. This trip gave Boulevard a lot of exposure and online presence. She took a team with her to present 30 different looks on the runway, which included Federica Capasso, Boulevard's manager, and Nicole Diamond, who brought her hair



La Jolla resident, Kathleen Rafaat, at New York Fashion Week.  
PHOTO FROM GETTY IMAGES



Kate Whitney, modeling the dress that she designed, at New York Fashion Week.  
PHOTO FROM GETTY IMAGES



Model on the runway.  
PHOTO FROM GETTY IMAGES



Runway with Boulevard fashion.  
PHOTO FROM GETTY IMAGES

and makeup team. The jewelry was by LFR Designs. They had very little time to organize the models, decide what they would wear, and be on the runway, but Capasso said it all came together and you could feel great energy.

La Jolla resident Kathleen Rafaat flew to New York to model on the runway. The audience had a surprise on the catwalk with a male model showing off a Burberry cape. Whitney said they had such a

great turnout with about 25 clients from La Jolla who flew out to watch the show. Runway 7 Fashion produced NYFW, which was held in Sony Hall.

Whitney designed the dress she wore for the runway by collaborating with Kathie Taylor for the final look. After sewing the fabric, Taylor hand-painted the fashion designer's names on the muslin fabric and then finished with Boulevard written in red paint.

Whitney rocked the runway in this creative design. Be sure to stop in and say hello at the new location. You can follow them on Instagram @boulevardlj and at boulevard-consignment.com.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Dec. 1 – Winter Wonderland Luncheon and Fashion Show presented by The Arc of San Diego. The event will be at The US Grant Hotel and feature a fashion

show by Leonard Simpson. For tickets, call Jennifer Bates Navarra at 619-685-1175, ext. 1291.

Saturday, Dec. 9, – The Black Rac Fashion Show from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Marina Village Conference Center (Bayview). Tickets are \$35 at <https://bit.ly/47zkPbK>.

Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in the San Diego area. Learn more about our hat designer, teacher, and blogger at [DianaCavagnaro.com](http://DianaCavagnaro.com).

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## Buccaneers shutout Vaqueros to make CIF semi-finals, but Grossmont ends their season

By CLARK FAHRENTHOLD

The Buccaneers' season ended after a 30-14 loss to the Foothillers on Friday, Nov. 17 in the CIF Div. III semi-finals.

Mission Bay fell behind early giving up 14 points in the first quarter, but were able to bounce back with two field goals in the second quarter while keeping the opponent out of the end zone cutting the deficit to eight points.

Grossmont went back to what worked in the third quarter scoring 16 more points to put the game away while the Bucs only managed eight as the final quarter saw both defenses dominate with no points scored by either side.

The Bucs started the season with a 7-1 record with the loss versus La Jolla High School, 14-7, on Sept. 15.

### MISSION BAY 14, EL CAPITAN 0

Perhaps the oldest cliché in all of sports is that defense wins championships. On Friday, Nov. 11, Mission Bay gave another example of why that saying exists as the Bucs punched their ticket to the CIF Div. III semi-finals with a gritty 14-0 shutout victory over El Capitan Vaqueros.

Before Friday night's game, Bucs head coach Greg Tate knew that to come away with a win, it would come down to the team playing in the secondary. "Defensively, I think the play of our corners is going to dictate the entire game," said Tate, "While El Cap can run the ball, their QB and WR play is out of this world. It will take a group effort in our secondary to slow those guys down and contain their passing attack."

Well, consider the mission accomplished. Against an El Cap offense that averages



Mission Bay QB Charlie Hutchison avoids an El Capitan defender to make play. PHOTO BY STEVE SIDELL

over 350 yards of total offense per game and over 250 in the air, the Bucs' defense put the clamps on the Vaqueros. Holding them to under 250 yards of total offense while forcing four turnovers, including two red zone interceptions.

"For our secondary, they did their job exceptionally well all night," said Tate, "We knew with El Cap they rely on splash plays, so all week we stressed how important it was to stay over the top, don't bite on double moves if they did that we knew they're QB would throw us a couple passes."

Two of the turnovers would come from Gavin Marzion who logged an INT and forced a fumble both in the first half. Setting the tone for the Bucs defense.

Two INTs would come courtesy of senior Jacob Morgan. Up until just two weeks ago, Morgan had his hand in the ground playing defensive end for the last three years, but after being asked by his coaches to make a position switch, the senior responded with key red zone INTs

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## San Diego FC breaks ground on new Right to Dream Academy

By HECTOR TRUJILLO

Two weeks after San Diego FC unveiled its crest, logo, and colors as the team prepares for its first season in 2025, the team broke ground on the much-anticipated Right to Dream Youth Development Academy and Training Facility at Sycuan Reservation at Singing Hills on Nov. 9.

"It's one of those great, memorable, and historic events for our league," said Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber. "We're beginning to kick off a series of special moments with the launch of this team that takes the field in 2025. The development of young players, in this case boys and girls...is a big part of the DNA of our league."

Garber was among the attendees at the event along with Tom Penn (San Diego FC president), Mohamed Mansour (San Diego FC chairman), Cody Martinez (San Diego FC vice-chairman and Sycuan tribal chairman), Tom Vernon (San Diego FC founding partner and founder/CEO of Right to Dream), and Manny Machado (San Diego FC founding partner and San Diego Padres player).

The \$150 million facility will be situated on a 28-acre project site on the northwest portion of the Sycuan Reservation east of El Cajon.

"To see this project come to life is incredible," said Machado. "It's important for me to leave a lasting legacy in San Diego, which has been so supportive. Our San Diego FC vision for the youth development academy

means there will be more opportunities for young San Diego athletes, boys and girls, who may not have otherwise had them."

The Right to Dream Academy offers a unique model of talent development by way of its holistic approach of character building, football development, and focus on education. Unlike the traditional U.S. pay-to-play model, Right to Dream San Diego is a scholarship-based academy whereby all enrolled, residential athletes will receive full five-year scholarships regardless of football performance. Upon completion of the project, San Diego FC will become the first MLS club to offer a privately operated school combined with a residential football academy. The Right to Dream Academy San Diego will be part of San Diego FC's 125,000 square-foot campus that will include a 50,000-square-foot state-of-the-art sports performance facilities shared by the first team and academy teams, and five full-sized soccer fields, including three natural turf fields and two synthetic turf fields.

"Right to Dream San Diego will also offer several firsts in the U.S. and MLS footballing landscapes, including a fully-funded school, residences, and football academy that offers pathways for young talent to flourish both on and off the field," said Vernon. "As we have in Ghana, Denmark, and Egypt we will provide opportunities to student-athletes to reach their academic potential, affect positive change in their communities and become world-class football players."

## Vikings trample Broncos, head to Div. II championship game

By CLARK FAHRENTHOLD

The last time the La Jolla Vikings lost a game was on Sept. 8. Their opponent that day? The Broncos of Rancho Bernardo High. The same team the Vikings would face off against on Friday night in the CIF Div. II semi-finals.

In their biggest game of the year, the Vikings not only avenged their earlier season loss but punched their ticket to the CIF Div. II championship with an emphatic 42-14 victory over the Broncos.

"It was a special moment; you try to just soak it all in," said Vikings head coach Tyler Roach, "You assume it's always going to happen, but I've been doing this long enough to know winning games like this is special. This is an extremely special group of guys on this team, and they worked incredibly hard to get here, and I am very proud of them. But there was also a quick shift of focus that there is still one more to go."

On a wet and sloppy night, in conditions that could favor a run-heavy team like Rancho Bernardo, La Jolla flipped the script and dominated the line of scrimmage on both sides of the football.

On offense, La Jolla racked up over 300 yards of offense rushing. Running back Aidan McGill led with 148 yards rushing, Hank Hansen had 40 yards and a TD, and dual-threat star QB Jackson Diehl rushed for over 100 yards and three touchdowns. The QB would also connect with younger brother Carson Diehl for two TDs through the air.

"Our offensive line was on point, and they came out and set the tone up front," noted



La Jolla quarterback Jackson Diehl makes a play against Rancho Bernardo. PHOTO BY DAVID FREERKER

offense. But our guys just buckled down and took it to them."

The effort in the run-blocking game would not be exclusive to just Jett Thomas and company along the offensive line. The Vikings wide receiver core of guys like Hansen and Kia Fukuda were also instrumental in springing Diehl and McGill free at the second level.

On the other side of the ball, the Vikings' defense would also shine on Friday night. Facing an offense that at times has been nearly unstoppable and imposed their will against many teams. The La Jolla defense went toe to toe with RB in the trenches and held the Broncos to just 14 points.

The signature of this La Jolla defense all season has been their ability to generate turnovers. That trademark play style was on display once again as the Vikings came away with three interceptions courtesy of Andre Mclees Walker, Ryan Kestler, and Chris Johannsen.

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Roach, "And when that rain started coming

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