LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

September 11, 2026

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Science, surfing, and shots



The Legends of Science and Surfing co-chair Jon Roseman, of Tavarua Island, hands out tequila shots during the luau on Aug. 15. The 33rd annual event in La Jolla blends philanthropy and surfing to benefit the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health. See more on page 11. (Photo by Margo Schwab/Special for Times of San Diego)

COVER STORY

Fifty years after the city saved them, La Jolla's historic cottages face challenges

Overlooking La Jolla Cove and owned by Cove Properties, the Red Rest and Red Roost cottages at 1187 and 1179 Coast Blvd. date back to 1894. They are thought to be the oldest wood-framed surviving structures in La Jolla Village. Under a proposal now moving through the city's permitting process, Red Rest, badly damaged by fire, would be demolished and removed. Red Roost would be reroofed and secured against further deterioration. But the La Jolla Historical Society appealed the city's approach, arguing that losing Red Rest would damage the integrity of the La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District. **PAGE 4**

PUBLIC SAFETY

California to formally recognize lifeguards as first responders

Senate Concurrent Resolution 192, which recognizes open-water lifeguards as first responders and emergency response providers, passed through the Rules Committee and the Senate before the State Assembly approved it in August. **PAGE 6**



BUSINESS

La Jolla Village Merchants Association offers Savings Pass

Running through October, the free Savings Pass app offers special deals throughout La Jolla Village. The Savings Pass discounts cover everything from brunches and dinners to salons and bridal boutiques. **PAGE 2**



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New Savings Pass – a smarter way to enjoya La Jolla Village

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – The summer may be over for tourists, but for locals it's just begun thanks to La Jolla Village Merchants Association's La Jolla Savings Pass.

Running through October, the free Savings Pass app offers special deals throughout La Jolla Village.

The approximately 1,300-member Association is a local business improvement district contracted by the city of San Diego to support regional commerce and promotion in its 30-block commercial area.

The group's mission is to aid Village merchants through marketing, events, advocacy and programs. That is exactly what the Savings Pass app is designed to do: give San Diegans the chance to rediscover La Jolla's beaches, restaurants and shops during its Locals' Summer promotion.

Central to Locals' Summer is the new La Jolla Savings Pass, a free app featuring special offers, discounts and perks from participating La Jolla Village businesses.



Dr. Maddie Wallace, chiropractor and owner of Awaken Family Chiropractic, holds a sign for the Savings Pass. (Photo courtesy of La Jolla Village Merchants Association)

The program offers discounts from participating merchants as well as a shot at winning a "Perfect Day in La Jolla" gift basket.

"We love our visitors, but after a busy summer, it's time to give San Diegans a little extra love," said Jodi Rudick, the Association's executive director. "Locals' Summer is an invitation for all San Diegans to come back to La Jolla and rediscover just how much there is to do right in our own backyard. We're also thrilled to offer all who download and use the app the chance to win incredible prizes."

Rudick said Savings Pass users will have an opportunity to win a $1,000-plus "Perfect Day in La Jolla" Basket filled with shopping, dining, and other favorite La Jolla activities and experiences, courtesy of Stepanie Silverberg of Compass Realty, Launched on Sept. 4, the La Jolla Savings Pass is already winning over local merchants. "As the owner of FACE FOUNDRIÉ La Jolla, I was encouraged to participate in the La Jolla Savings Pass, and I'm so thankful I did," said Monika Garratt. "We welcomed our very first client from the program just minutes after it went live. Thank you for creating such a great way to connect local businesses with both visitors and the La Jolla community."

The goal of the new Savings Pass is to "get locals to be more loyal to their neighborhood shops and stores," said Rudick.

Regarding creating the free Savings Pass app, Rudick pointed out it was a "natural extension" of previous smaller-scale efforts encouraging La Jollans to shop local.

"So, now what we're doing is using this app as our lighthouse to promote outside La Jolla," Rudick said, adding it gives merchants a very "action-oriented way" to attract and engage clients.

"This has become such a wonderful option for those merchants willing to offer a little perk to get people to try them out."

Savings Pass discounts cover everything from brunches and dinners to salons and bridal boutiques. "It's a very important part of our mission to bring a diverse audience of people from outside La Jolla to enjoy all that La Jolla has to offer, not only our natural resources but our shopping, dining and sunsets," said Rudick.

Of the potential of the Savings Pass promotion, Rudick concluded: "No matter how much you have or need, everybody is looking for a bargain. Everybody loves getting a good deal that makes them feel like friends and family. That's really what we want to do."

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Fifty years after the city saved them, La Jolla's historic cottages face challenges

By Karen Pearlman
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – Two of La Jolla's oldest surviving buildings are once again fighting to survive, more than half a century after the city of San Diego first stepped in to preserve them.

Overlooking La Jolla Cove and owned by Cove Properties, the Red Rest and Red Roost cottages at 1187 and 1179 Coast Blvd. date back to 1894. They are thought to be the oldest surviving wood-framed structures in La Jolla Village.

Under a proposal now moving through the city's permitting process, Red Rest — badly damaged in an October 2020 fire whose cause investigators ruled "undetermined" — would be demolished and removed. Red Roost would be reroofed and secured against further deterioration. No occupancy or interior work is proposed for either building.

In June, the La Jolla Historical Society appealed the city's approach, arguing that losing Red Rest would damage the integrity of the La Jolla Park Coastal Historic District. The 8-acre, 2½-mile coastal district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2024 with 35 contributing resources.

Both cottages have been individually listed on the National Register since 1976 and are cataloged in the Library of Congress. The city designated the pair as local historic landmark HRB #101 in January 1975 after a previous owner sought to demolish them.

Preservation architect Dr. Diane Kane, a former staff member of the city's Historical Resources Board, spoke to the San Diego Community Planners Committee on Aug. 25, seeking support to save both cottages.

She quoted the late architectural historian Vincent Scully: "They are not insignificant pieces of American history. They are monuments of American architecture. Small as they may be, they constitute our fundamental American heritage."

Despite landmark status, the cottages have been largely neglected for decades, Kane said.

A city ordinance requires historically designated properties to be maintained



Historic photo from Bruce Coons of SOHO of the two turn-of-the-century beach cottages, the Red Roost & Red Rest in La Jolla. (Photo courtesy of Bruce Coons/SOHO)

in a "readily occupied state," but Kane said that requirement went effectively unenforced for 50 years.

"I was shocked when I saw the decision, and when I looked at how it was made," Kane told Community Planning Committee members, arguing the city bypassed required historical resource review.

La Jolla Community Planning Association President Lisa Kreideman said she felt "the city was throwing in the towel. They're saying demo it, and there's nothing else historically relevant about this."

The Community Planning Committee voted 22-2 to support the Historical Society's appeal, framing it as a citywide precedent.

In an Aug. 28 letter to San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava and the City Council, Community Planning Committee Chair Victoria LaBruzzo wrote that the committee acted "because of its potential citywide implications for designated historic resources and districts."

LaBruzzo noted the city issued a Notice of Violation on the property in 2002 — nearly two decades before the fire — for failing to maintain the structures.

"[The Community Plannin g Committee] is concerned about the precedent that could be created when a designated historic resource deteriorates over time and that deterioration is later relied upon as a basis for determining that the resource no longer retains sufficient historic integrity to warrant protection," she wrote.

She added that federal authorities, when listing the full district in 2024, expressly acknowledged the fire damage yet still found Red Rest a contributing resource.

The letter said the city failed to analyze impacts on the cottage ensemble or the district's setting and never meaningfully evaluated preservation alternatives such as stabilization, rehabilitation or reconstruction with salvaged materials.

LaBruzzo urged the council to grant the appeal and require full historic and environmental review.

CITY'S POSITION

City of San Diego spokesman Peter Kelly told Times of San Diego in July that a Historic Structures Report found Red Roost retained much of its historic material and could be secured for future restoration, while Red Rest suffered near-total loss of historic material in the fire.

City of San Diego Senior Public Information Officer Richard Berg confirmed the project's scope changed on April 29, 2025, when the applicant withdrew a four-story, eight-unit condominium from the earlier 2022 proposal, narrowing it to securing Red Roost and demolishing Red Rest.

Because Red Rest was already extensively damaged when the application was filed in November 2021, the city determined it had effectively been lost as a historic asset, leaving only Red Roost to evaluate. On that basis, the scaled-back project was found categorically exempt from further environmental review.

Kane disputes the finding, saying the fire changed the cottage's physical condition but not its historic significance.

"The fire didn't change the historical aspect of this property," she said, listing mitigation and reconstruction as the appropriate response.

The Historical Society's appeal cites the National Register of Historic Places nomination, which acknowledges the fire damage while still treating Red Rest as a contributing resource.

Laura DuCharme Conboy, president of the La Jolla Historical Society, said the current owner knew the cottages' protected status at purchase.

"They knew the two cottages were on the National Register of Historic Places," Conboy said, creating an obligation "not to demolish one of them but rather to protect and maintain them."

City sued for misinterpreting state housing law for projects near transit

By Dorian Hargrove
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Two California housing advocacy groups are suing the city of San Diego, alleging city planners illegally excluded properties from a state program meant to spur development near transit stations.

In a legal filing obtained by Times of San Diego, Californians for Homeownership and the California Housing Defense Fund say San Diego ran afoul of the state housing law by requiring that projects are connected to bus or rail stations by dedicated sidewalks to qualify.

Signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October 2025, Senate Bill 79 allows developers to build more housing than allowed by local zoning restrictions for projects that are near major transit stops.

In May, city officials adopted an ordinance that interpreted the state law to exclude any property within a mile from a transit stop that does not include a sidewalk connecting the project and the station.

Matt Gelfand, counsel for Californians for Homeownership, said that was a misinterpretation. The law calls for a "safe walkway," but the housing groups say that does not require a dedicated sidewalk.

As an example, the lawsuit cites a parcel near the 62nd Street Trolley Station in Encanto, which Gelfand said the city excluded from its list of sites for transit-oriented developments.

The site is 375 feet from the station but was excluded from the city's transit-oriented development map because pedestrians must traverse a 100-foot dirt alley to reach the station.

Because there is a gap in the sidewalk, the city excluded the area.

"The city of San Diego has misinterpreted this provision to allow the exclusion of a parcel based on any gap in sidewalk availability between the parcel and the qualifying transit stop," the lawsuit said. "As a result, the city is unlawfully excluding numerous parcels throughout the city, including parcels that are nearly adjacent to qualifying transit stops," Gelfand said the city's decision contradicts the law.

"This walking path issue is a San Diego issue and not what state legislators and the state law require," Gelfand told Times of San Diego.

He said there are many examples of locations similar to the example in Encanto that the city excluded from the map, but did not know of any specific developments that were rejected because of it.

"This is a common effort by local agencies throughout the state to minimize state legislation, and this is not unique to San Diego," Gelfand said.

Bill Fulton, the city's former director of planning and a professor of urban studies and planning at UC San Diego said the city likely erred on the side of caution when defining what walkable passages meant because state legislators failed to do so.

"This is what happens in California," Fulton said. "Legislators are vague and fail to define what a walkable pathway is, and now it's left up to a judge to be the one to define it."

The lawsuit will now make its way through state court.

The city declined to comment due to pending litigation.



Construction on student housing near San Diego City College. (File photo by Adrian Childress/Times of San Diego)

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California is only now recognizing lifeguards as first responders

By Thomas Murphy
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – California lawmakers will formally recognize lifeguards as first responders, a classification that supporters say is long overdue.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 192, which recognizes open-water lifeguards as first responders and emergency response providers, passed through the Rules Committee and the Senate before the State Assembly approved it on Aug. 19. The resolution will take effect after it is signed by the Secretary of State, bypassing the governor's office.

This is only the start. Advocates are promoting a broader effort to give lifeguards the recognition, benefits and protections afforded to other first responders.

"It's long overdue; a lot of states are doing this," said Chris Carlson.

Carlson's son, Ben, died while saving a drowning victim at Newport Beach in July 2014. Chris later started a foundation in his son's honor. A 15-year veteran, Ben was the first lifeguard to be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

California's resolution mentions the Ben Carlson Foundation, honoring his sacrifice and illustrating why supporters say lifeguards' work must be formally recognized.

Despite having performed over 1.4 million rescues in California's oceans, lakes and rivers, lifeguards are not recognized the same way as firefighters, police and other first responders.

California now joins New Jersey and Hawaii in formally recognizing open-water lifeguards as first responders.

Veteran San Diego lifeguard Drasko Bogdanovic calls this "a simple oversight,"



A San Diego Lifeguard station overlooking La Jolla Cove beach near Point La Jolla. (Photo by Thomas Murphy/Times of San Diego)

saying nobody thinks of lifeguards as critical public safety infrastructure "until you're the one that's not breathing out the back of six-foot waves and can't get back to shore."

The work of California lifeguards was celebrated this past summer in Santa Cruz after Ryder Williams, a 16-year-old California State Parks lifeguard, was captured on video rescuing a child from 8-to-10-foot waves at Seabright State Beach in Santa Cruz on July 25.

Video of the rescue went viral. Williams was invited to the White House, meeting President Donald Trump on Aug. 17.

"A 16-year-old lifeguard might see a dead body their first day at work," Bogdanovic said, who began his own career at 16-years-old protecting North County beaches. "How does that separate them from firefighters and law enforcement, who are dealing with similar things? Yet, the 16-year-old kid is part-time, doesn't get the same benefits or the same resources."

Bogdanovic, who leads the nonprofit Lifeguard Project, said the viral rescue and White House visit came at an opportune time for advocates pushing the state resolution. But he sees California's resolution as a starting point, not an end goal.

"I don't think this single resolution adds any crazy changes to our field, but they do start the process with recognition," Bogdanovic said. "It levels the playing field of what lifeguards are even considered from an image and response perspective, which then allows us to advocate more."

He pointed to broader issues facing lifeguards, including access to year-round, full-time work.

"There's lifeguarding year-round, but these seasonal guards are trying to work their hours so they can try to make a living the entire year. Yet, it's not classified as a full-time position," Bogdanovic said.

Seasonal support is another key issue for Bogdanovic, who says departments are often overburdened protecting California's coastline during peak tourist season.

"The ocean attracts everyone inland, and departments are taking the brunt of the impact from that visitation, not realizing what the real impact is that these lifeguards are burdened by," Bogdanovic said.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego lawmakers told Times of San Diego they support the measure, with every councilmember who responded unanimously backing the resolution.

"Every day, San Diego lifeguards put their own safety on the line to protect our communities and save lives. They pull people from ocean riptides and swift, chemical-laden waters during floods, respond to heart attacks and traumatic injuries on our beaches, and are often the first on the scene to provide medical care," Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera wrote.

Councilmembers Marni von Wilpert, Henry Foster III, Jennifer Campbell and Stephen Whitburn also expressed support.

Mayor Todd Gloria has not taken a position on the nonbinding resolution, a city spokesperson said. Council President Joe LaCava declined to comment, citing ongoing negotiations with employee organizations. Councilmember Vivian Moreno did not respond to requests for comment.

Council President Pro Tem Kent Lee wants lifeguards recognized for their lifesaving work, pointing to the unique niche they work within.

"They are routinely the first trained professionals on the scene for drownings, cardiac arrests, flood rescues, cliff rescues, scuba diving rescues, and boating emergencies," Lee said.

Councilmember Raul Campillo is glad to see the measure passed without opposition, pointing out that San Diego's lifeguards operate as part of Fire-Rescue without the same legal classification as firefighters.

That is how San Diego's department is set up, but lifeguards operating along California's coast are a mix of public, private and state employees — illustrating why a broad state measure is necessary to ensure they are all properly recognized.

State measures have made substantial progress, but there is also movement at the federal level that could change lifeguards' first responder status across the nation.

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Peters wants the feds to build a large-scale carbon removal system

By Alysa Horton
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO



Rep. Scott Peters. (File photo by Thomas Murphy/Times of San Diego)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Scott Peters is part of a legislative push to tackle climate change by removing carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

He's a co-sponsor of the Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act of 2026, a bill proposed in both chambers of Congress that would require Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to create a robust carbon removal regime within his department.

"San Diego will face the effects of climate change from sea level rise, more intense wildfires, and flooding, which we've seen over the past couple decades," Peters said in an interview with Times of San Diego. "It's important for the federal government to do what we can to lower emissions and slow the rate of climate change."

The bill has five main components: increase carbon removal, create a rigorous tracking and reporting program for that removal, lower the removal cost over time, support new technology generation and create domestic jobs that serve local communities.

Erin Burns, the executive director of Carbon180, said California and its leaders have been on the frontline of carbon removal efforts and advancement.

"Peters (is a) huge carbon removal advocate ... He's been thinking about this and how it can help folks in San Diego," she said. "California has a lot of amazing carbon removal leadership in general."

Carbon180 is a national carbon removal advocate, pushing the federal government to embrace policies and projects that remove carbon at a gigaton scale — that is, billions of tons each year. Erin Burns said the scale Carbon180 is trying to help achieve is "what climate models show we need ... especially now."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2°C will require urgently cutting greenhouse gas emissions and removing substantial amounts of CO_2 from the atmosphere.

The Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act of 2026 supports the potential development of future carbon dioxide removal technologies, while currently focusing on direct air capture — where giant fans pull in surrounding air and pass it through chemical filters at an industrial plant.

Peters said that desire for new technologies could be an economic development opportunity for the San Diego region.

"We don't have a lot of heavy industry in San Diego," he said. "There are opportunities for things like direct air capture ... and that's something that does require a lot of a lot of land. That's something that could be set up in our county as well as any place else."

Wil Burns, the co-director of the Institute for Responsible Carbon Removal at American University, warned direct air capture can be complicated because of the need for ongoing storage.

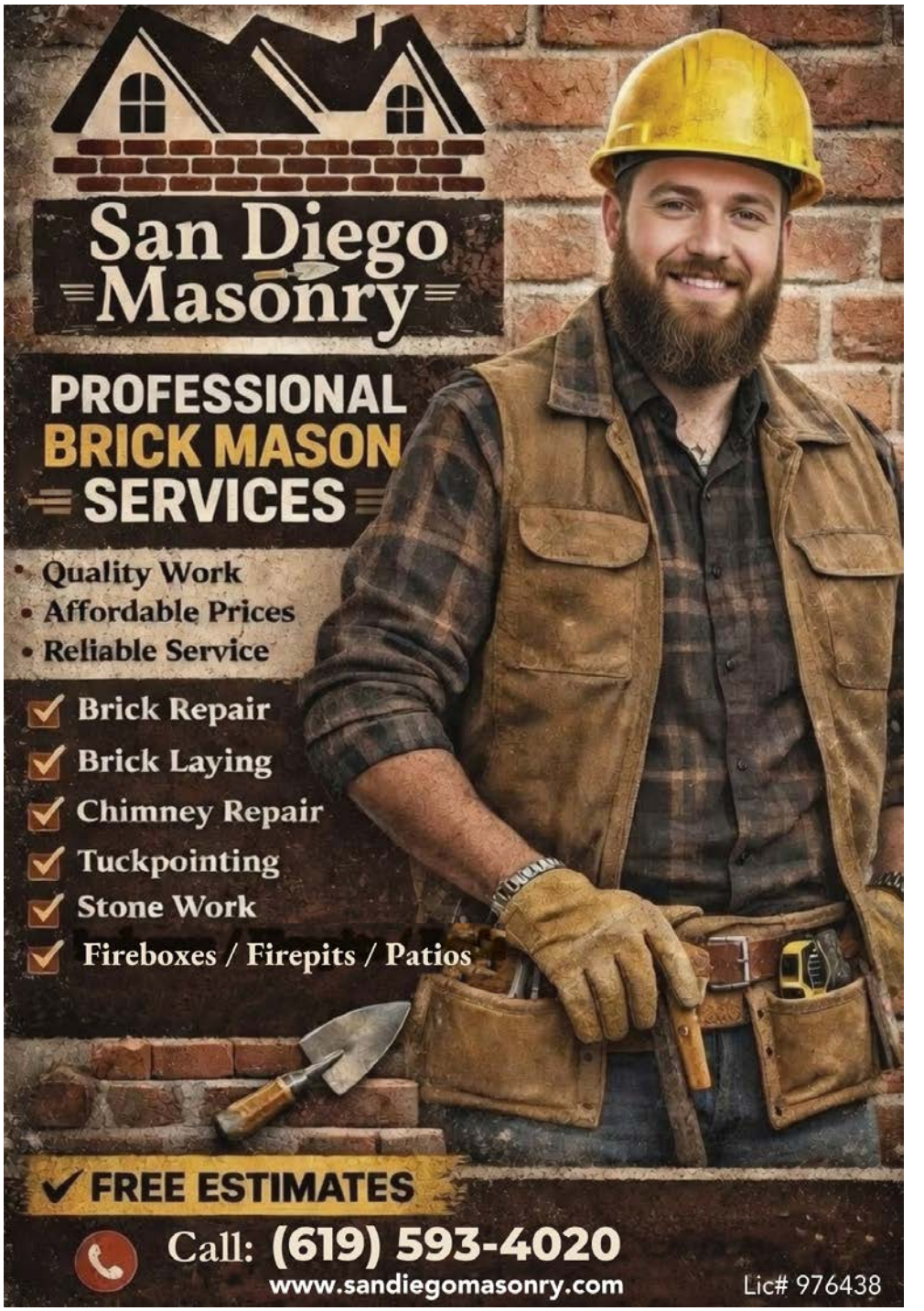
"You have to have areas underground geologically that are stable enough that you can store the CO_2 for long periods of time, so it doesn't leak into groundwater or end up back in the ground," he said. "You need pipelines or other things to get the CO_2 from where you've captured it to where it's going to be stored, unless you're lucky enough to have a direct air capture plant that's just right above areas that you can store the CO_2 — that's not usually what happens."

The institute looks at developing technologies for carbon removal, like enhanced rock weathering, which can permanently store carbon, unlike direct air capture.

Enhanced rock weathering spreads finely ground rocks rich in magnesium and silicon over soil. As the rocks react with rainwater and CO_2, they break down and convert the CO_2 into stable bicarbonates and carbonates, locking the carbon away — a permanent storage.







$50M grant for UCSD researchers to tackle women's brain health

By Elizabeth Ireland
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – Women are nearly twice as likely as men to develop Alzheimer's disease, but scientists haven't locked down what drives that disparity.

New research at UC San Diego seeks to help doctors understand why.

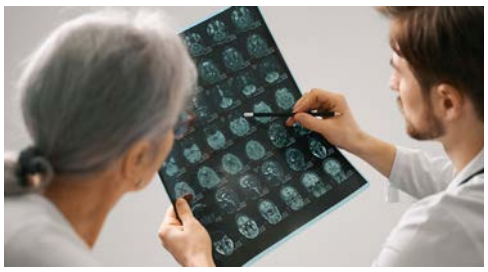
"There's a big open question mark around menopause," said Judy Pa, PhD, professor of neurosciences at UCSD School of Medicine and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study.

Pa and colleagues within the UC system have received two major research awards, granted over three years, as part of a more than $50 million investment in women's brain health led by Wellcome Leap CARE and other organizations.

These awards will fund an investigation into how menopause and hormone therapy may influence women's risk of dementia, as well as the development of an artificial intelligence tool for earlier detection of Alzheimer's disease.

The hormone therapy project led by Pa will use existing datasets to emulate a clinical trial, allowing researchers to study how women who initiate menopausal hormone therapy compare over time with similar women who do not.

By analyzing long-term health and cognitive outcomes, the team hopes to generate stronger evidence about whether



A patient and physician discuss an MRI of the brain. (Photo courtesy of UC San Diego News)

hormone therapy may alter dementia risk and which therapies may be most appropriate for women with different menopausal experiences.

The grants reflect a broader wave of attention to a field that has been overlooked for decades.

"There's been this silence around studying menopause science for the last 25 years," Pa said. "I'm grateful that I get to work in this area and there's a revival of interest."

Much of the silence Pa described traces back to the Women's Health Initiative, a large federal trial whose results, released in 2002, found that postmenopausal women on hormone therapy had higher rates of breast cancer and cardiovascular events than women on a placebo. The findings reversed decades of assumptions that hormone therapy could prevent disease in older women, and the fallout was immediate, according to Pa.

"It brought everything to a full stop," Pa said. "Physicians, clinicians, practitioners and providers stopped offering it (hormone therapy), stopped prescribing it because they were worried about the increase in breast cancer for their patients."

More than two decades later, newer data, including re-analyses of the original trial and subsequent studies, have softened that picture, suggesting risks depend on when therapy begins. But Pa said the damage to research and clinical practice has been lasting.

"Women have been suffering for over two decades now, having a very difficult time getting medications that are needed for this menopausal transition," she said.

And the knowledge gap extends well beyond hormone therapy.

"We know almost nothing about menopause," Pa said, adding that basic questions — such as how symptom severity, treatment choices or the age of menopause onset shape later brain health — remain largely unanswered.

Another newly funded study, the Longitudinal Menopause Project, will recruit women ages 40 to 55 and follow them before, during and after menopause, creating what Pa says could become a flagship program for perimenopausal brain health research in the United States.

The project is a collaboration between UCSD, UC San Francisco and UC Santa Barbara's Ann S. Bowers Women's Brain Health Initiative, with Emily Jacobs at UCSB, a neuroscientist with training in neuroendocrinology, taking the lead.

"We always say, science first, egos last," Pa said of the partnership. "We go into all of these collaborations trying to do the very best work that we can. We have momentum and we're trying to capitalize on that."

That momentum extends to policy. UCSB's Jacobs has also worked with California legislators on Assembly Bill 432, which would mandate menopause education in medical school curricula statewide. The bill narrowly failed after a veto but is being reintroduced, Pa said, noting that menopause training currently is not required for any medical specialty, including OB-GYNs.

"An event that happens for every single woman in the world is not required medical training," she said.

Still, Pa said she wants women to come away with a sense of agency. She likens brain health to a savings account: the steps women take now to protect their brains compound over time, building toward greater resilience later in life, much like interest accruing on a long-term investment.

"Women are at greater risk, but they can be empowered with this knowledge and say, 'These are the things I can do for myself now that will help my brain later,'" Pa said.

"I always tell folks it is never too early to start to protect your brain and it's truly never too late."

Salk Institute researchers make progress on ALS treatments

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – Salk Institute researchers have helped uncover a mechanism that could help target and kill nerve cells responsible for Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS), a finding that could propel new treatments for the neurodegenerative disease and other conditions, including cancer and autoimmune disorders.

Dr. Greg Lemke, a neuroscientist, immunologist and Professor Emeritus at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and colleague Youtong Huang participated in a study published Aug. 15 in Nature Communications.

The researchers found that immune cells in the central nervous system, known as microglia, identify and destroy specific motor neurons in the spinal cords of mice with late-stage ALS, worsening the disease.

The discovery shifts attention beyond motor neurons, which have long been the primary focus of ALS research. Scientists are increasingly investigating the role of microglia, the brain and spinal cord's resident immune cells, in driving disease progression.

ALS affects roughly 35,000 Americans, with about 5,000 new cases diagnosed each year. The disease typically targets those aged 55 to 75 and leads to the loss of motor neurons, resulting in muscle failure, paralysis and death.

While current treatments can slow progression, they do not stop or reverse the disease.

According to the Salk researchers, microglia use proteins known as TAM receptors to locate and eliminate motor neurons in ALS-afflicted mice.

In an interview with Times of San Diego, Lemke said one of the biggest challenges in ALS research is that scientists still do not know what causes most cases of the disease.

Of their scientific research, Lemke noted they've found that the body is "constantly renovating tissue" while removing dead cells. "A million cells per second are dying in your body," Lemke said, adding their research has "discovered the system that recognizes the dead cells and eats them up, keeping the tissues cleaned."

Why is this significant? Because, Lemke pointed out, there might be a way therapeutically to induce the body to "eat cells that are not good cells," like neurons with ALS or tumor cells with cancer.

"Scientists have modified the cell receptor system," Lemke noted. "It's a very complicated thing, but you can modify and adapt the system."

Lemke said genetic engineering therapy might one day be employed to extend disease victims' lives on the way to finding a cure.

But first, he pointed out, scientists must unravel the root cause of autoimmune diseases.

"Drug therapy currently only delays things," Lemke said. "It doesn't address the underlying molecular cause of the disease. That's really where work like ours is needed."

LJCD boys beach volleyball: Blasting things into outer space

By Ed Piper
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – Junior Anthony Casey has a fascinating story of launching sensors and even a marshmallow ("It shrunk") as a school project with middle-schoolers at La Jolla Country Day School two years ago.

"We helped build a weather balloon. It sent all sorts of sensors up," said the 17-year-old, a co-leader on a relatively young Torrey beach volleyball team that has incorporated several freshmen this year.

HOME SERVICE GUIDE



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"All the sensors"— a barometer, thermometer, accelerometer, and so forth — "were in a re-purposed metal lunchbox. We sent them out of the atmosphere."

"We launched it here on this field," Casey, whose squad celebrated a 4-1 win over Madison the next day (Thursday, Sept. 3), said, looking out over the LJCDS football field. "We tracked it on GPS as it updated."

Did they ever find the repurposed lunchbox they blasted into space? A visitor joked that they helped contribute to "putting junk into the atmosphere."

"It landed near Julian," said Anthony, friends with fellow junior Henry Alexander, who also stayed after team photo day to chat.

"Mr. (Dan) Lenzen, head of Innovation at LJCDS, and classmate Matthew DuBois, who graduated in June 2026" literally helped the project get off the ground.

As for said marshmallow, it probably didn't appear too appealing to taste after crash down in East County.

The Torreys, energetic and playful as a professional photographer first took each of the individual players' photos,



Torrey beach volleyball players hang out while waiting for team photos after school. (Photo by Ed Piper/Special for Times of San Diego)

then "herded cats" by getting them to kneel on a sand court in front of the net for a classic team photo, are rounding into shape as they enter the second week of unofficial, non-CIF competition (girls beach volleyball was officially sanctioned as a CIF sport four years ago — boys beach has not achieved that status yet).

"This is a good rebuild year," said Evan Trauth, a freshman. "We have a lot of players who didn't play last year. I play court volleyball also, but it's the first time I'm playing beach volleyball for my school."

Grant Alexander, ninth-grade brother of Henry, said, "Being on the team is a lot of fun. We joke around." The word he came to was "familiarity" — instead of the true-but-overused "family" concept. "It's kind of nice (entering high school) to have people know who you are."

Squad members credited head coach Lynne Galli, boys and girls teams' coach, for her ability to weave new players into the mix and build team spirit by varying partners in the two-man sport.

The older Alexander, Henry, 16, credits a spring break 2026 trip to France for the opportunity to bond with classmates, including teammate and fellow junior Cayden Scarff. Henry joked heavily about his new friend "liking to sleep on planes and he's not real energetic" until it's time to tour and visit sites. But Alexander concluded, "Cayden brings a lot of energy to the team." Others said, "Once our new players learn the sport more and channel their energy, we're going to be a good team next year."

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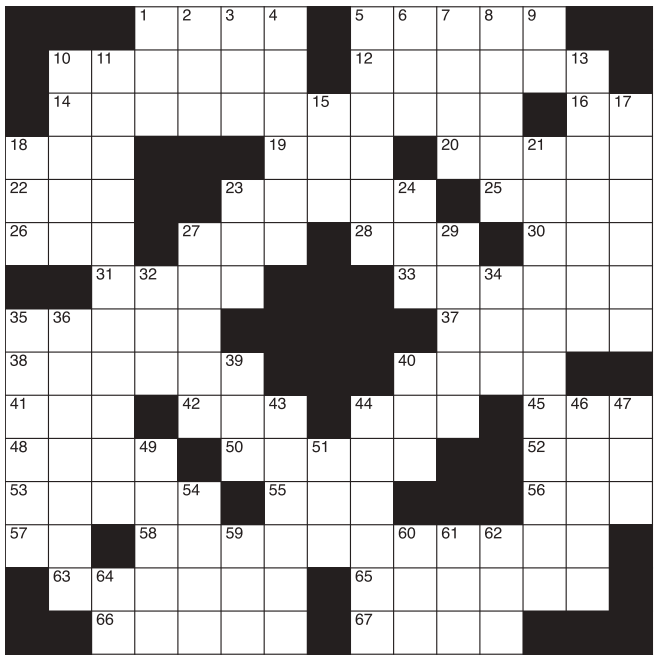
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CROSSWORDS



CLUES ACROSS

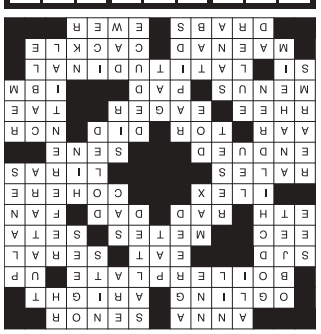
1. Longtime Vogue editor Wintour
5. A Spanish title of respect
10. A way of looking
12. Properly
14. Rolled steel
16. Not down
18. Law degree
19. Consume food
20. Intermediate ecological stage
22. Old world, new
23. Dispense justice
25. Stiff hair-like structure
26. Ethiopia
27. Cool!
28. Father
30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
31. Holm oak
33. Be united
35. Rattling breaths
37. Supermarket chain
38. Provided with a quality
40. Samoan monetary unit
41. Swiss river
42. Hill (Celtic)
44. Have already done
45. ATM company
48. Syngman ___, Korean president
50. Very willing
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
53. Food listings
55. Bachelor's place to crash
56. Big Blue
57. Sports magazine
58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator
63. Female follower of Bacchus
65. A type of laugh
66. Slovenly women
67. Large jug

CLUES DOWN

1. Boxing's GOAT
2. Zero
3. Midway between north and northeast
4. Concurred
5. Added flavor
6. Amount of time
7. Eggs of parasitic insects
8. S-shaped moldings
9. Atomic #45
10. ___ d'art: small artistic item
11. A godparent's "kids"
13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard
15. Hit lightly
17. Aircrafts
18. Witness
21. Alluding to something
23. Take to the limit
24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
27. Start over
29. Administered
32. Romanian monetary unit
34. Unit of liquid capacity
35. Equips with weapons again
36. Disney town
39. Female deer
40. Title of respect
43. A place to go rafting
44. A way to conclude
46. Type of television
47. Georgia rockers
49. Leonhard ___, Swiss mathematician
51. Slang for gun
54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina
59. Bar bill
60. Small, gray-headed crow
61. Frozen water
62. Norwegian krone
64. Commercial

ANSWERS

1	5	4	8	6	9	2	7	3
2	6	3	1	5	7	9	8	4
7	9	8	4	2	3	1	5	6
9	4	6	7	1	2	8	3	5
8	7	2	3	4	5	6	9	1
5	3	1	9	8	6	4	2	7
4	1	9	5	7	8	3	6	2
3	2	7	6	9	1	5	4	8
6	8	5	2	3	4	7	1	9



Torrey Pines grad Taylor Fritz stunned in 3rd round of U.S. Open

By Michael Lewis
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO



Taylor Fritz in action during a Men's Singles match on Sept. 7 of the 2026 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (Photo by Mike Lawrence/USTA)

FLUSHING, N.Y. – San Diego's tennis phenom Taylor Fritz stared down at the floor for the first few answers following his Sept. 5 loss at the U.S. Open.

His demeanor was unusual, as Fritz is known for giving some of the most thoughtful, honest interviews in pro tennis, always willing to look a questioner in the eyes and take time to give nuanced, detailed responses. He is a "tennis nerd" in the best sense of the term, always happy to get into the minute details that separate winning and losing.

But Saturday, after one of the most shocking defeats of his pro career, the former Torrey Pines High School student was as despondent as could be after a match, looking down at his hands and the table in front of him.

"I don't even know what to say. I don't want to, like – I don't really want to talk to anybody, see anybody. I kind of just need to, like, get out for a couple days and then just kind of get back to work. I don't know how I let that happen today," Fritz said during his post-match interview.

What happened was a stunning five-set loss to No. 24 seed Francisco Cerundolo in the third round of the U.S. Open at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows.

The 28-year-old Fritz looked untouchable through the first two rounds, not dropping a set and, with the upsets happening around him, looking like a solid bet to reach at least the quarterfinals or semis.

But Saturday, up two sets and in front of a supportive Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd, Fritz faltered. He stopped dominating the rallies and allowed the Argentine to sink his teeth back into the match.

The final three sets were 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, and Fritz had chances to win all of them.

The loss capped a disappointing few days for San Diego area players; Brandon Nakashima was upset by fellow Californian Alex Michelsen on Wednesday, followed by Zach Svajda's defeat on Thursday to France's Arthur Gea.

"It was nothing that I think wasn't already kind of happening," Fritz said of the comeback. "I was lucky to get through the first and the second sets, just because he wasn't serving great. He was making some mistakes. So, I was able to get breaks and then just kind of fight through service games."

Added Fritz, "He's a very good – like a very, very good returner. I think it made it look even –or feel even worse as well, the fact that I wasn't really hitting my spots enough on the serve. He was punishing me more than maybe a normal person would."

The Sept. 5 interview was in stark contrast to those previous appearances following his wins. During those, Fritz answered questions on all sorts of topics from the media, even referencing his Torrey Pines High days and why he'd miss the opening of the school year.

"I was always pretty excited to go back to school after the summer, excited for the first week or two, and then, 'Oh, it sucks now, I don't really want to do this,'" Fritz said. "I do remember when I first started playing juniors here, I would just straight up miss like the first two weeks of high school my freshman year, and I had so much catch-up work to do."

And Saturday, even with a step up in class of opponent in the 24th-seeded Cerundolo, Fritz seemed to be well on his way to a fourth-round appearance.

He broke Cerundolo twice in the opening set and then once more in the second set to grab a commanding lead, and then the 28-year-old broke the Argentine again to start the third; spectators at Arthur Ashe Stadium could sip their overpriced Honey Deuces and look forward to Coco Gauff coming on soon.

The Social Diary – Scientists and surfers synergize for UCSD Cancer Research

By Margo Schwab
SPECIAL FOF TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

The Legends of Science and Surfing on Aug. 15 got it spot on with the return of the luau, a local favorite, held at the Scripps Pier and Seaside Forum. This annual event is now 33 years strong in the UCSD Moores Cancer Center's battle to eradicate cancer, and there are reasons to cheer. Among them is this year's Rell Sunn honoree Kevan Shokat, who is leading the way on pancreatic cures with daraxonrasib, which binds to KRAS mutations including G12C G12D and G12V, shutting down cancer's progression ability, thus doubling projected life span and quality of life. Genius!

Speaking of doubling, a lot of money was raised including megabucks for a trip to surf mecca destination Tavarua in Fiji. Bidding went big as Jon Roseman threw in an open bar; Rusty Preisendorfer 3 Rusty surfboards, and JoJo Roper volunteered to be the wave guide. It went for nearly 30K, twice! Bravo!



Local surf industry legend Rusty Preisendorfer, with Diane Simeone the super director of the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health, and cancer survivor and thriver, surfer Scott Johnston. Thank you, to UCSD's Tyler Seibert!



Jay Hogan with Gerry Lopez and Hogan's new Lightning Bolt board.



Margo Schwab, a supporter from year 1.



Event co-founder Sam Armstrong, event co-chair Jon Roseman of Tavarua Island, pancreatic cancer super breakthrough researcher Kevan Shokat and Rell Sunn Awardee, Gerry Lopez the Surfing Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, event co-chair and cancer survivor, TEDX San Diego speaker Tyler Callaway, Diane Simeone the director of the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health, and event co-founder John Otterson. (Photos by Margo Schwab/Special for Times of San Diego)



Super co-chairs Tyler Calloway and Jon Roseman.



Event artist Tim Bessell, world renown and museum exhibited, with Mr. Lightning Bolt' Gerry Lopez, standing by Bessell's painting 'The Queen and the Prince.'



Brilliant entrepreneur Lee Stein on the right with colleagues.



Margo Schwab and Mr. Pipeline legend Gerry Lopez.



Big wave surfer JoJo Roper and his wife Kim.



Gerry Lopez, Joe Roper, Sam Armstrong, Buzzy Kerbox, and Jay Hogan.



Annabelle Wirths-Tihanyi center with her parents Todd Wirths and Izzy Tihanyi of Surf Diva. Izzy is also a cancer survivor.



Event volunteer for 33 years, scientist Sam Iacobellis, and UC San Diego Health CEO Patty Maysent.



First place surf team, 'The Pancreatic Cancer Terminators,' Sam Armstrong, Max Diaz, Ozstar de Jourday, Jonathan Melendres aka 'Gordo,' Kevan Shokat, event co-chair Jon Roseman, J.P. Marengo, and Dr. Valerie Armstrong the team captain.

What makes San Diego cool? Design Week has an answer

By Elizabeth Ireland
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Walk into a swanky hotel lobby and you feel it before you can explain it. Put on an outfit that makes you stand taller. Step into a space that helps you breathe easier.

Eric Weiss, president of the nonprofit Design Forward Alliance, has been asked to define design more times than he can count. He always lands on the same answer.

"Design is what makes everything cool," Weiss said.

The cool factor will be on display across San Diego County from Sept. 15-20 as San Diego Design Week returns for its sixth year with about 75 tours, talks, workshops and showcases organized by the DFA.

Each day will focus on a different design theme — multimedia, digital, spaces, fashion or health and well-being — with programming at an anchor location. The broader design community also will host events throughout the county.



Guests enjoy happy hour at Charade Speakeasy at last year's Industry Day with a live interactive performance by Queer Clown Collective. (Photo courtesy of San Diego Design Week)

Weiss said typical attendance is usually 7,000 over the course of the week, drawn from design students, tech workers, fashion enthusiasts and what organizers call the "design curious."

This year marks the first time fashion and costume design will have its own dedicated track at Design Week, organized by board member Olga Cecilia Sanchez, a retail buyer, business developer and the designer behind the label "Eclectique Mode."

The main fashion track is Sept. 17, at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in La Jolla, with an exhibit featuring work by local designers and students from Palomar College and Mesa College, the last two schools in San Diego County with fashion design and merchandising programs.

Rather than a traditional runway show, Sanchez built the day around exhibits where designers can explain their process.

"We want to be able to showcase the designer or the students, and they can talk about their work and inspiration behind it," she said.

The day also includes discussions on Isaac Mizrahi, a preview of the unreleased documentary about English fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and a Dazzle Lab, where attendees can bring blank items to zhuzh with rhinestones and stencils.

Leading up to the MCASD event, Sanchez arranged a rare, ticketed tour of the San Diego History Center's clothing archive in Balboa Park, which holds more than 77,000 items, including pieces from Rhodes and Bob Mackie. It is not normally open to the public.

"This tour is an exciting way to build a bridge between San Diego's fashion history and what is happening in the present," Sanchez said.

Other fashion track activities include free tours of the La Jolla Playhouse costume department and an Uptown sewing collective.

Sanchez said the goal is to create experiences that connect students, designers and the larger community.

"I want to create memories like I have from when I was in fashion school," she said. "I want to give back to the amazing community that supported me."

Design Week's reach extends into San Diego's hospitality scene through Jennifer Findley, an art consultant for Oram Hotels, which owns One Ameria Plaza and The Guild and Granger hotels downtown. Findley is a San Diego native and founder of JFiN Collective.

