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Fish taco winner



Brianna Evleth of Pacific Beach holds up a fish taco from Duck Dive at Pacific BeachFest during the Best of the Beach Fish Taco Contest on Saturday, Oct. 3, saying it was her favorite. She chose well. Duck Dive claimed its second consecutive taco title at the annual festival. See more on page 14. (Photo by Thomas Melville/Times of San Diego)

COVER STORY

Accused kidnapper who built a new life as a San Diego chef for years, arrested by U.S. Marshals

On Oct. 6, U.S. Marshals arrested chef Brian Anthony Williams inside Miss B's Coconut Club in Mission Beach, after he had spent 14 years on the lam. Using the false identity of Troy Williams, he had been duping media outlets, restaurants, and federal agents alike. Williams described his rough upbringing in the Queensbridge Housing Project in New York City in a Times of San Diego profile story last year. But instead of running from the mean streets in NYC, Williams had actually been running from the United States Marshals Service in Iowa fleeing prosecution for his alleged role in the kidnapping and assault of a woman. **PAGE 4**



Brian Anthony Williams

GARBAGE FEES

Councilmembers trash Mayor Gloria over garbage fee error

Last month, the city acknowledged a "glitch" with the garbage fee that impacted residents citywide. The error immediately set off a new crisis for Mayor Todd Gloria, with one councilmember calling for him to resign and two others placing the screw-up at his feet. **PAGE 2**

COMMUNITY

San Diego Unified and city's new policy for joint-use fields

San Diego schools and the city have launched a pilot program using color-coded status systems, based on reports filed by principals, to try and settle the battle between schools and the community at large over waste left on joint-use fields. **PAGE 5**





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County releases data on city's trash fee error that overcharged residents

By Dorian Hargrove
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – A homeowner on Meade Avenue in Normal Heights was billed \$3,152 for the city's new trash fee, even though the correct annual charge was \$534.

The \$2,618 overcharge was the largest among 44,038 San Diego properties that received inflated trash fee assessments because of a city spreadsheet error.

County of San Diego data, obtained by Times of San Diego, shows 15 homes were overbilled by more than \$2,000 on their property tax bills.

The largest overcharges were scattered across the city, affecting homeowners in neighborhoods including Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, College Area and North Park.

In total, 1,026 property owners were overcharged by more than \$1,000 in trash fees, which differs from the 640 customers that the city identified on its website.

The majority of the 44,038 homeowners who received erroneous bills were overcharged between \$100 and \$1,000, while 13,822 were overcharged by less than \$100. A total of 97 homeowners saw their trash fees increase by less than a dollar.

In all, the average overcharge from the billing blunder was just under \$269.

District 9 had the highest share of overcharged customers, with about 62.9% receiving bills above the amount they signed up to pay.

The county released the data in a public records request that was submitted by journalist Marty Graham, who was one of the first to discover the city's mistake after reading a post on Nextdoor from a neighbor who spotted an overcharge on their bill.

Graham then got to work with a friend. They looked at the size of trash cans in their Normal Heights neighborhood and then went on the county assessor's website to look to see if their property bill matched the receptacle size. Graham and her friend found that 34% of the homes in their informal survey had the wrong trash fees listed.

Graham alerted the media. The county tax collector posted a message on its website. San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria soon released a statement calling for quick action.



A San Diego trash truck. (File photo courtesy of the city)

"San Diegans deserve accurate bills, and this error is unacceptable," Gloria said in a statement, three days after Graham first alerted the media.

The city is now trying to unwind the "glitch." Officials say they will notify residents directly if they were discharged and that in the meantime, they can wait on payments and will not be responsible for any costs associated with late payments.

That wasn't enough for Councilmember Henry Foster III, who, before the city's budget committee last week, said he was "disgusted and appalled" by the error, particularly because he said it would hit his constituents in District 4 hard.

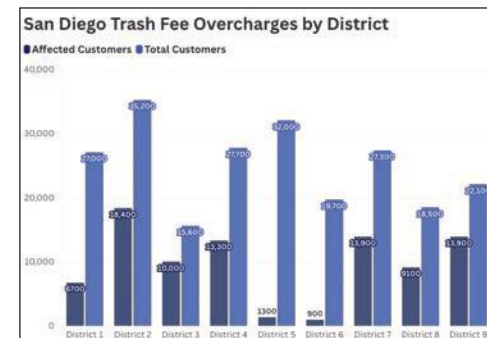
He then called for Gloria to resign. "The mayor needs to look at himself in the mirror and do what's right by the residents," he said. "Mayor Gloria needs to do the right thing for the residents of San Diego and step down."

The city, he said, "continues to make significant mistakes and that speaks to the competency of the mayor."

Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera, also at the budget committee, fell short of calling for the mayor to resign, but said: "...something needs to change drastically and quickly because the city and its residents can't afford more mistakes like this."

San Diegans, he said, need "someone who wakes up every single day with one job, and that's making sure the city is clean, services work and residents' bills are accurate. We have a job to do as council and that's to make good policy and govern in a way that makes life better." Gloria took over the role of chief operations officer for the city in early 2025 when he dismissed the city's top bureaucrat, who had previously held the position since 2022.

"San Diegans expect their city government to be accurate and accountable,"



(By Dorian Hargrove/Times of San Diego)

Gloria said. "When we fall short, my responsibility is to acknowledge it, correct it, and make sure it does not happen again. That is exactly what we are doing."

Not all are convinced the accountability and accuracy has been achieved.

"Throughout unscrewing this mess, it's been citizens doing the work, and the county," Graham told Times of San Diego. "The city told reporters it was typically \$100 overcharge for 44,000 households. Their own data shows that the median overcharge was \$201 and the average was \$269. The highest overcharge was more than \$2,600. Is it a lack of math ability or a lack of candor?"

Meanwhile, despite the error, the city still issued a call to encourage residents to sign up for their trash portal.

"We encourage customers who have not already done so to create an account in the Residential Waste Collection Services Portal at WastePortal.sandiego.gov. This will allow you to view your service information and receive future updates from the City about trash service," officials said in the city statement.

Councilmember Kent Lee called on Gloria to restore the chief operating officer position, rather than filling the role himself.

"If an error of this magnitude can occur without officials noticing, the problem goes deeper than any one employee or one mistake, and we must confirm the refuse fee program is operationally sound," Lee said.

"It's the City Council's responsibility to help the public get to the bottom of this, and it's the mayor's responsibility to put his house in order so people can trust that their bills are correct," he said.

Graham is awaiting city action.

"The city didn't know until we started shrieking," she said.

On heels of trash fee error, Gloria to take national affordability tour

By Drew Sitton
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Mayor Todd Gloria stood up on Sept. 25, at the close of last week dominated by City Hall’s latest management crisis, and explained how he approaches his responsibilities as mayor.

“This is not a job. This is a lifestyle. There’s not a day that I don’t work,” Gloria said of his role, which includes serving as the city’s COO and president of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM).

“I feel the pressure of the fact that no matter how good or bad a job I do, I only get to do this job for eight years, and so I’m going to make the most of every single day that’s there.”

He made the remarks recently in front of the fall leadership gathering for the Conference of Mayors. Gloria was flanked by dozens of other mayors at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront hotel to announce an upcoming “affordability tour” to show how cities are responding to the high cost of living.

The press conference came two days after the city admitted to trash fee errors that led to some residents receiving property tax bills up to \$2,700 higher than they expected. Others were undercharged. The mistake affects more than 87,000 customers.

Allies, though, touted his advocacy on the national level. Lincoln, Neb. Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird defended Gloria’s record of sending both dollars home and contributing to legislative solutions, including the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, passed by Congress in July.

“He’s a formidable advocate,” Baird said, noting Gloria’s leadership in shaping the massive bipartisan housing bill.

“He’s been there in those meetings, sitting at the table and explaining what San Diegans need, as well as what cities across the country need,” Baird said. “Especially in his role as president, it’s impressive and it’s making a difference.”

The city, meanwhile, announced that it sent corrected trash fee information to the San Diego County treasurer/tax collector office.

It is now the county’s role to correct the flawed property tax bills, action which the city said would begin Saturday. With property taxes due on Nov. 1, officials urged residents not to pay the current listed amount until they are sent corrected bills.

Residents received bills associated with the wrong address, according to a FAQ on the city’s website. While half of people were undercharged, others faced costs substantially higher than the trash service they received.

For some council members, the error can be explained by Gloria jettisoning the city’s former COO, Eric Dargan. Gloria eliminated his role, the city’s top administrator, in February 2025, electing to take on the duties himself amid a budget deficit.

Dargan made \$375,000 per year. Councilmember Kent Lee said this week that the position should be restored. His colleague, Henry Foster II, called on Gloria to resign.

The trash fee mistake has led to conversations – among councilmembers and other critics – about whether Gloria is taking on too much. Gloria defended his ability to get everything done. Beyond overseeing the city’s basic operations, that includes keeping in touch with council members, city executives and constituents, he said, along with continuing to use roles like his Conference of Mayors presidency to represent the city.

“I will guarantee you, taxpayers in this city are going to get their money’s worth out of me over the next couple of years,” Gloria said. “I make the most of every day, including making sure that San Diego’s voice is heard at a national level.”

Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera disagreed with his assessment though, saying San Diego issues matter nationally, but San Diegans need to be heard at home too.

“Taxpayers get their money’s worth when the city works and right now, too often, it doesn’t. This trash billing failure is one of too many operational mistakes that, taken together, have cost the city millions of dollars and undermined residents’ confidence that we can get the basics right,” Elo-Rivera said.

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For 14 years, an accused kidnapper built a new life as a San Diego chef under a false identity

By Dorian Hargrove
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

MISSION BEACH — Troy Williams, the head chef at Miss B's Coconut Club in Mission Beach, described his rough upbringing in the Queensbridge Housing Project in New York City in a Times of San Diego profile story last year. To hear him tell it, he overcame police assaults, racial discrimination and poverty to become one of San Diego's up-and-coming chefs.

What he didn't say — and what nobody else knew until U.S. Marshals revealed it on Tuesday — was that Troy Williams was not his real name. He had been living under a false identity, duping media outlets, restaurants, and federal agents alike.

Instead of running from the mean streets surrounding the Queensboro Bridge, the man known as Troy Williams had actually been running from the United States Marshals Service in Iowa for 14 years. He was fleeing prosecution for his alleged role in the kidnapping and assault

of a woman, whom law enforcement says he and others later shot and left in a field outside of Davenport, Iowa.

On Oct. 6, U.S. Marshals arrested Brian Anthony Williams inside Miss B's Coconut Club in Mission Beach, after he had spent 14 years on the lam.

"This arrest is a perfect example of those who think they have bested law enforcement and evaded arrest," said U.S. Marshal Ted Kamatchus, U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa. "Deputy U.S. Marshals remain resolute in their relentless pursuit of the most dangerous offenders in our society."

Williams was charged in October 2012 for first-degree kidnapping, assault causing serious injury, conspiracy to commit a felony and first-degree arson, according to the Marshals Service.

Williams is now being held until he is extradited to Iowa to face charges.

The ownership of Miss B's Coconut Club could not be immediately reached for comment.

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Community fondly remembers guard killed near Crystal Pier while police search for shooter

By Thaïs Giraudet
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC BEACH — The community this week remembered the security guard killed Monday by a gunman near Crystal Pier while police continued to investigate his death.

Julie Neal, co-owner of Crystal Pier Hotel in Pacific Beach, was on the scene shortly after the shooting early Monday and said she was familiar with the guard, who was 31. The beach community, she said, is heartbroken.

"I just see him at night here. The guests loved him, he loved to talk to everybody," Neal said.

The scene, she said, was chaotic, as some people left 710 Beach Club and tried to chase down the suspect, but were unable to catch the person.

According to the San Diego Police Department, several people called 911 around 2 a.m. after hearing gunshots in

the 4500 block of Ocean Boulevard. While some people pursued the suspect, other employees from a nearby bar found the victim and began CPR while waiting for first responders.

According to SDPD, officers and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department arrived on scene shortly afterward. Medics took the man to a hospital, where he died.

Detectives confirmed the victim was unarmed and working at Crystal Pier at the time of the shooting. His identity is being withheld until his family could be notified.

There is no known motive and no suspect in custody, police said. The SDPD's Homicide Unit is gathering witness statements and surveillance videos from nearby businesses, according to the department.

Neal said the community is cooperating, pulling together to look at camera footage for any information they can give to investigators. She said she is confident that the police will find the perpetrator.

San Diego Unified and city create new policy for joint-use fields

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – San Diego schools and the city have launched a pilot program at three campuses to try and settle the battle between schools and the community at large over waste left on joint-use fields.

The sites, Pacific Beach Middle, Franklin Elementary in Kensington and Birney Elementary in University Heights, are using color-coded status systems based on reports filed by school principals.

When a principal at a pilot site reports pet waste on left a field, Samer Naji, a spokesperson for the San Diego Unified School District, said that field moves from green, or open status, to yellow, a warning alert.

Two additional reports while the field is in the yellow, move it to the red zone, triggering a 15-day closure.

Joint-use fields across the region are plagued by issues including animal waste left behind and turf damage from holes dug by dogs, which pose tripping and injury hazards for students.

Some residents also have complained that fenced school fields are frequently used as unauthorized off-leash dog parks by dog owners.

Heavy misuse of joint-use fields forces local authorities — such as San Diego Unified and the city of San Diego — to intermittently close fields to the public for weeks or months to repair turf and clean the facilities.

The pilot program prompted District 1 Councilmember Joe LaCava to call upon schools and the city to “get serious” about keeping joint-use fields clean and safe for students and the public. Last year, noted LaCava, the field at Crown Point Junior Music Academy in PB was closed

due to unsafe conditions.

“This closure was motivation for the city to pilot a new approach to protect students,” said LaCava, rather than closing the fields or banning dogs. Within weeks of its launch, LaCava said one joint-use field was in the red,



The sign on the exterior of the fence at the joint-use field at Crown Point Elementary at 4033 Ingraham St. (Photo by Dave Schwab/Times of San Diego)

another was in the yellow, but the third stayed clean and remained green.

After a closure, the field reopens in yellow status for 30 days before being cleared to return to green, Naji said. But if additional incidents are reported during that 30-day interim, longer closures result.

City-installed signage on each field indicates its current status.

“Because these fields serve our students during the school day and the broader community outside of school hours, it is important that we keep them clean, safe and available for everyone,” Naji said.

Pacific Beach Town Council president Charlie Nieto said the group “has long supported creative solutions to remedy the chronic deficit in parks within our communities.” But he added, of the joint-use fields, “a few bad actors did not do their part to look after this shared resource.”

He’s pleased with the green-yellow-red system.

“Through the new warning system, our local families, pet owners and community members will still be able to enjoy these facilities, with some new accountability measures in place,” he said. “We believe that even with a bit of a learning curve, this plan will put us on a pathway to additional park space that is safe, clean, and welcoming to all that love Pacific Beach.”

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SDPD now discloses why officers search Flock license plate readers

By Dorian Hargrove
and Tessa Balc

TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Police Department, for the first time since officials installed automated license plate readers at 500 locations across San Diego, at the beginning of the year started releasing the reasons officers tap into the surveillance tool.

San Diego Police Department spokesperson Ashley Nicholes said the step is meant to improve transparency and accountability.

"The reason field is one of the audit improvements we worked with Flock to implement, including required case numbers for searches," Nicholes told Times of San Diego.

Of the 114,692 times San Diego Police officers searched automatic license plate readers since the start of the year, 19,210 of those searches were for stolen vehicles, 17,141 were for arrest warrants and 13,221 were for gunfire or weapons offenses, according to SDPD's data.

The change comes as controversy over Flock's mass surveillance tools has reached a new level. Opposition in San Diego became an international story last month, and national opposition has suddenly become a bipartisan issue. Concerns include allegations of officers misusing the software, including stalking romantic partners, and the technology's accuracy, after two San Diego men said officers errantly used ALPRs to tie them to an attempted carjacking, even though they were miles away from the crime when it occurred.

But the city's data on ALPR searches reveals that the new disclosure for the reason for a search doesn't always provide transparency.

The top three reasons for searches — stolen cars, arrest warrants or weapons and gun offenses — accounted for 43% of all ALPR searches from January through the end of July, according to the data, obtained and analyzed by Times of San Diego. The rest of the 10 most common reasons for searches were all in some way related to theft,



Automated license plate readers located at 2244 Moore St. (Photo by Adrian Childress/Times of San Diego)

weapons or drugs.

However, the 11th most frequently used category for a search is listed as "other." From January through August, officers disclosed "other" as their reason 3,962 times.

SDPD requires officers to provide a more detailed response when they use that selection —but those details are not publicly released.

Nicholes said that if a query like "immigration" or "reproductive care" is entered, the system automatically shuts down.

SDPD's dataset contains 152 different reasons for searches.

"SDPD mandates the use of ALPR technology strictly for legitimate law enforcement purposes, such as solving crimes and locating missing persons, while explicitly prohibiting personal use. SDPD's diligent compliance work under the TRUST Ordinance has even served as a model for improvements made across Flock Safety's platform, such as the required event or case number feature," Nicholes said.

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ACLU asks court to compel city to remove Flock cameras

By Tessa Balc
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Two organizations have joined forces to seek an injunction against the city of San Diego over the San Diego Police Department's use of automated license plate readers.

They're asking the court to make the city stop using ALPRs and terminate contracts associated with the technology, while uninstalling all streetlight cameras that operate as readers and deleting all the stored data that has been collected by the systems.

Last week, the ACLU Foundation of San Diego and Imperial counties and the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans, the plaintiffs in the case, stood in front of the Hall of Justice in Downtown San Diego to announce the suit.

The plaintiffs argue that the technology, due to the high density of cameras throughout the city of San Diego, violates the right to privacy protected in the California constitution.

By retaining ALPR data for a month-long period, the plaintiffs claim SDPD can create a pattern based on people's movements throughout the city – and others with whom they associate too.

"And let's be clear: These cameras do not just take an individual snapshot of an individual license plate so that somebody's car can be looked up later," Frederick Carroll, legal director at the ACLU foundation, said.

"They work like every other camera. They contain the whole image that the lens sees. So that includes make, model, color, license plate, bumper stickers, identifying insignia, the ball cap you're wearing when your window's down, the tattoos you're showing when your arm's out the window."

While the speakers highlighted the technology's capabilities, they were also quick to point out its shortcomings.

They cited a Times of San Diego report, also included in the lawsuit, that found a man had been wrongfully identified as the perpetrator of a crime by a Flock camera, and spent time in jail despite being innocent.



Audience members who object to the Flock ALPR contract seated in the council chambers at City Hall, Dec. 9, 2025. (File photo by Adrian Childress/Times of San Diego)

Homayra Yusufi, a senior policy strategist at PANA, said that despite being touted as a tool to be used in an emergency, ALPRs did not direct law enforcement toward the scene of May's fatal mosque shooting in time to prevent it.

"My community was ravaged in May after white supremacists shot and killed members of my community. On that horrific day, ALPRs were not just an affront to our democracy, but they were ineffective," she said.

"So, when you compile the fact(s) that these are ineffective technologies and who they are surveilling and targeting, we have to recognize that this technology is being used against us, not for us."

Carroll told Times of San Diego that to their knowledge this is the only local lawsuit targeting a city in an attempt to discontinue its use of ALPRs under the California constitution. He said, though, that there are complementary efforts, including a case in Northern California called Siren v. San Jose.

Seth Hall, of the Trust SD Coalition, formed in 2019 to push back against and promote responsible use of the smart streetlights in wide use across San Diego, said he believes the track the city is on is a slippery slope.

"When's it going to be a big enough deal? Hall said.

"Is it when the skies are filled with drones? When the police are able to pull the Ring doorbells, and the smart streetlights and the Flocks and the drones together to create a god's eye view?"

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D2 candidates Bailey, Crosby spar over city budget, homelessness

By Tessa Balc
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

POINT LOMA — The two candidates vying to represent San Diego's District 2 — which covers Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Pacific Beach and Clairemont — faced off on Sept. 28 over how to address city spending and homelessness, two reliable parts of any city debate.

But at the evening candidate forum they also jumped in on the recently re-ignited debate over automated license plate readers.

Both Nicole Crosby, a deputy city attorney, and Richard Bailey, the former mayor of Coronado, rehashed their respective positions on topics like the proposed Midway Rising development and Liberty Station leasing at the forum, hosted by the Point Loma Association and League of Women Voters at Liberty Station Conference Center. This time around, though, as the two candidates who survived the primary, they had more opportunities to take direct shots at one another ahead of the Nov. 3 general election.

The first question of the night, about where the budget should be cut, provided Bailey the opportunity to repeat a mantra from his campaign: The city has a spending problem not a revenue problem. The solution, he says, does not necessitate cuts to programs, but significant trims to personnel — as in back to 2015 staffing levels.

"We have to restructure City Hall, starting with cutting back personnel across most departments, so that we can actually do more with less instead of doing less with more."

For Crosby, this line of reasoning was an opportunity to question if it is effective to compare two different decades in city government, whether based on nationwide inflation or the city's specific circumstances.

"If we're looking at a 2015 baseline number that Mr. Bailey would like you to look at, we need to remember that we were operating with a shoestring budget," she said.

"Proposition B and the pension decimation and salary freezes in that era destroyed (the) city infrastructure we had, and I mean human capital as opposed to



Richard Bailey and Nicole Crosby sit side by side at the Sept. 28 forum. (Photo by Tessa Balc/Times of San Diego)

the longstanding infrastructure we have."

Instead, she believes the city does not need to rein in staffing, but to audit current contracts and leasing agreements while going after grants, a key piece of her proposed financial platform.

Bailey challenged Crosby's revenue stances, calling her proposed reevaluation of lease agreements insignificant in the scheme of the city's budget woes. Auditing, he argued, is already in place.

"A comment was made earlier that we just need to do more audits. Well, the city has an internal auditor," Bailey said. "They did 45 audits for the past five years. 20% of those recommendations still haven't been implemented by our current city council and mayor."

Despite wanting to reduce staffing across the board, there are positions that Bailey would like to fill. For one, he wants to bring back a city manager, doing away with the strong mayor form of government.

Crosby was less concrete on her personal feelings toward hiring a city manager, deferring to the will of the voters.

In addition, to reduce overtime spending, Bailey wants to see the city hire more police officers.

This, he says, would lead to quicker response times as well, amid a rise in calls for service for homeless individuals. Bailey's approach to homelessness in San Diego would be to advocate for more enforcement of ordinances like not allowing vehicle habitation.

Crosby called out these policies in tandem, saying she believes homeless

enforcement is not the best use of police resources and that those without shelter need housing and treatment to be able to make their way out of the system.

"I'm so glad that he proved my point because enforcing homelessness using police officers is not a way to do business. That is not a good use of city resources," she said.

"What's important is things have gotten more expensive, and overtime is more expensive. San Diego is a giant city, and there are people here that deserve to have their priority—one calls responded to in a very quick manner."

An element of San Diego policing that residents didn't bring up at the primary candidate forums in the spring was Automated License Plate Readers. Despite being a point of debate in pockets of San Diego for years, the topic has hit the national stage and enlivened the local discussion.

Crosby said that she neither supports nor trusts Flock, the ALPR vendor for San Diego policy, aggregating government data for private purposes.

"I don't trust the entities that are controlling that information, but I do trust our local San Diego police officers, and I think it's really important for our officers to be able to talk to people, do the real investigation, because errors happen, and we need to make sure that our communities are safe and they're not being overrun by big brother Flock," she said.

Bailey said that as a "civil libertarian" he is keenly aware of the slippery slope of government surveillance.

"It's something that we all, as Americans, should be keenly aware of and do whatever we can to keep that from happening," he said.

Though, he said, after reviewing the city's systems he believes private Ring cameras around the city have more surveillance power than the city's ALPR technology.

For him, it's an issue of placing more guardrails around technology. He proposed that the public database that logs ALPR searches should include license plate numbers, so residents can see if they are actively being surveilled. He also said he would like to see the city delete data after a week rather than a month.

Bailey called Crosby's opposition to the technology surprising considering the city attorney's office has signed off on the technology for years.

In their closing remarks both candidates continued to work to draw a bright line differentiating themselves from each other.

Bailey made an effort not only to paint his views as contrary to Crosby's but also to each of the current councilmembers. He said that the present composition of the council, made up of primarily former government employees and community activists, made him want to run to offer someone with experience in the private sector.

"I'm running to offer an alternative perspective on the city council. Right now, it seems that the city council is balanced between higher taxes and fees with lower service, and even higher taxes and fees with even lower service," he said.

Crosby quickly noted her private sector experience in her closing remarks, apologizing partially in jest that she did not note her experience as a commercial real estate broker, or a California Pizza Kitchen server. She went on to repeat her main talking point, bringing evidence-based solutions to City Hall, while taking a subtle dig at Bailey's stances throughout the night.

"I actually bring real solutions. I'm not here to talk to everybody about jargon and numbers taken out of context," she said. What we actually need to do is show up and do the work for the people who it matters for, and that's all of you."

San Diego to require warning signs on cryptocurrency ATMs to prevent scams

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SAN DIEGO – San Diego could become the first California city to require warning signs on or near cryptocurrency ATMs to prevent scams.

The proposal, from San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava, is intended to combat scams that allegedly focus on the machines and primarily target senior citizens.

In the schemes, the scammers persuade victims to deposit cash into cryptocurrency ATMs located in grocery stores, convenience stores and smoke shops. Once the money is transferred, authorities say it is difficult or impossible to recover.

LaCava, at a Wednesday news conference for his proposed policy change, said warning signs would interrupt the scam before it's too late.

"Stopping scams before they take place is critical," he said. "In many cases, funds lost to these criminal

“Stopping scams before they take place is critical.”

Joe LACAVA
City Councilmember

activities are difficult to recover and can prevent individuals from putting food on the table, making rent and purchasing needed medication.”

Cryptocurrency ATMs are common across San Diego and San Diego County. Tracking how many of them is difficult.

State data cited by LaCava show 111 cryptocurrency ATMs operating at 75 locations across the city. Nearly half of those machines, 55, are located at 24 Safeway and Albertsons stores, which share the same parent company.

However, the state data may not be complete. A Times of San Diego visit to a College Area location listed in the dataset found no cryptocurrency ATM. Meanwhile, a basic internet search identified several cryptocur-

rency ATMs at locations not included in the state data, suggesting the actual number of machines operating in the city could be higher than reported.

operators would be required to post warning signs informing customers about common scams and directing them to a city website with fraud-prevention information and reporting resources.

“Our objective is to inform members of the public about the dangers of cryptocurrency ATM scams and empower businesses to recognize and support San Diegans before they become victims,” LaCava said.

Before the committee hearing, representatives from AARP California and the city’s Senior Affairs Advisory Board joined LaCava to support the measure, describing the signs as a simple way to stop scams at the point of transaction.

“Imagine for a moment that you are a senior,” said Gwenmarie Hilleary, chair of the Senior Affairs Advisory Board. “You answer the phone when it rings. There is a friendly voice. You are told your bank account is compromised, or maybe you won a prize.”

Hilleary said scammers often spend days or weeks building trust with a victim before directing them to deposit money into a cryptocurrency ATM.

“There is a moment before the crypto machine is used,” Hilleary said. “If we put a bright warning sign on the machine, cautioning folks to stop and think before they act, we can prevent some heartache.”

Israel Hernandez, associate state director for advocacy and community engagement at AARP California, said adults 60 and older accounted for roughly two-thirds of the \$389 million reported lost through cryptocurrency ATM scams nationwide last year, or about \$259 million.

LaCava said the proposal was modeled in part on a similar effort in Omaha, Nebraska, where local officials and AARP reported a significant reduction in scam-related losses after introducing warning signs and public education campaigns.

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Federal prosecutors accuse 12 of operating sham daycare network

FROM STAFF REPORTS

SAN DIEGO – Federal prosecutors in San Diego have charged 12 residents for running what prosecutors say was an elaborate daycare scheme that generated more than \$10 million in proceeds from child care subsidy programs. According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of California,

federal, state and local law enforcement agencies teamed up to close down what they allege were sham daycare facilities. Prosecutors say the 12 people, aged 22-years-old to 63 years old with daycare facilities in San Diego and El Cajon, obtained home child care licenses and registered with Child Development Associates and the YMCA.

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LEGAL ADS

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME; CASE NO 26CU048500C SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego; Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, Hall of Justice TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner (name) a. Lisa Lee Romstadt Filed A. Petition With This Court For A Decree Changing Names As Follows: Present Name: a. Lisa Lee Romstadt To Proposed Name: a Sloane Rose Grande THE COURT ORDERS That All Persons Interested In This Matter appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that indicates the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: 10/27/26 8:30 AM DEPT: 61 ; a. A copy of this

Order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county (specify newspaper): La Jolla Village News, Beach & Bay Press & Peninsula Beacon. Date: September 14, 2026, by D. Donaldson, Deputy Clerk. Judge Michael S. Groch, Judge of the superior court ISSUE DATES: September 18, 25 & October 2, & 9, 2026. NO HEARING WILL OCCUR ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE. The Court will review the documents filed as of the date specified on the Order to Show Cause for change (JC Form#NC-120) If all requirements for a name change have been met as of the date specified, and no timely written objection has been received (require at least two court days before the date specified), the petition for change of name (JC Form#NC-120) will be granted without a hearing. One certified copy of the Order Granting the Petition will be mailed to the petitioner. To change a name on a legal document, including a birth certificate, social security card, driver license, passport, and other identification, a certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be required. Contact the agency(ies) who issues the legal document that needs to be changed, to determine if a certified copy is required. A certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be obtained from the Civil Business Office for a fee. Petitioners who are seeking a change of name under the Safe at Home program may contact the assigned department for information on obtaining certified copies. If all the requirements have not been met as of the date specified, the court will mail the petitioner a written order with further directions. If a timely objection is filed, the court will set a hearing date and contact the parties by mail with further directions. A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED. Do not come to court on the specified date. The court will notify the parties by mail of a future hearing date. Any Petition for the name changes of a minor that is signed by only one parent must have

this Attachment served along with the Petition and Order to Show Cause, on the other non-signing parent, and proof of service must be filed with the court.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9019829 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. POSTSEASON.COM, 975 1/2 Diamond Street, San Diego, CA 92109 is registered by the following: a. POSTSEASON.COM, LLC business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was: 08/29/2026 Registrant Name: a. POSTSEASON.COM, LLC This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Michael P McGrath, Sole Member The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 14, 2026, ISSUE DATES: September 25, October 2, 9, & 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9020007 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Daygo Medical Group, 10089 Willow Creek Road, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92131 is registered by the following: a. Katzen International Medical Corporation, business is conducted by: a corporation The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. Katzen International Medical Corporation, LLC This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Seth Katzen, President The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 16, 2026, ISSUE DATES: September 25, October 2, 9, & 16, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9020282 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. 007 Construction Cleaning, 4407 Caminito Pintoresco, San Diego, CA 92108 is registered by the following: a. 007 Cleaning, LLC business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was: 09/17/2026 Registrant Name: a. 007 Cleaning, LLC This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Sareya Shaheed, CEO. The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 21, 2026, ISSUE DATES: October 2, 9, 16 & 23 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-

9019324 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Turning Tides Speech & Language Therapy, 4716 Murat Place, San Diego, CA 92117 is registered by the following: a. Laura Culbertson, OCHS business is conducted by: an Individual The first day of business was: 09/21/2021 Registrant Name: a. Laura Culbertson, OCHS This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 04, 2026, ISSUE DATES: October 2, 9, 16 & 23 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9020709 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Versed Interior Environments, b. Versed Design Studio, 1120 Sycamore Avenue, 2G, Vista, CA 92081 is registered by the following: a. Versed Design Solutions, LLC business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name a. Versed Design Solutions, LLC This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Manuela Bravo Smith, President The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 25, 2026, ISSUE DATES: October 2, 9, 16 & 23 2026

SUMMONS: Case No.: 26CU041955C NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Donna Damson and does 1 through 2, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Suzanne Finch NOTICE - You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose

LEGALS CONTINUED ON PAGE. 11

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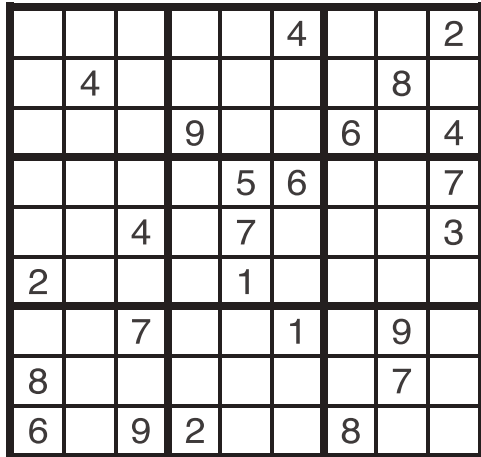
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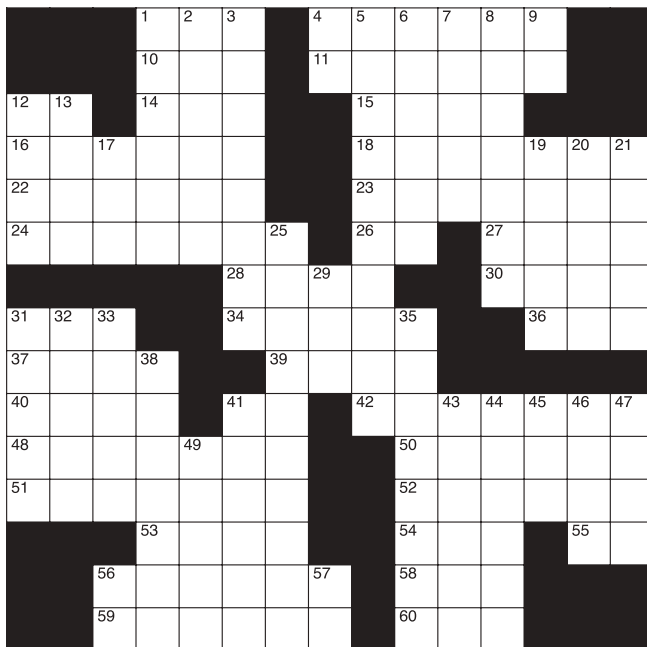
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
6. A major division of geological time
10. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was "blue"
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the alphabet
34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. \$10 bill

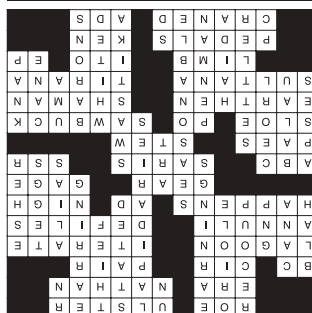
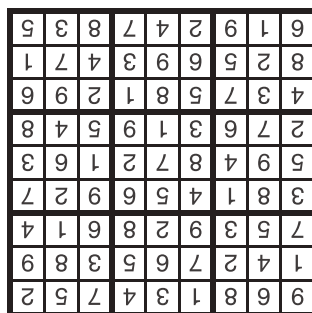
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to "Barbie"
59. Stretched to see or hear
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Wages
4. International organization of countries
5. Engravers of gems
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker
12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Alternative identity
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work
31. Recesses
32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Member of British nobility
45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
46. Helps people walk
47. Crest of a hill
49. People of southeastern Alaska
56. One's own device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

ANSWERS

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is County of San Diego Superior Court, Central Division 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, are: Karen R. Frostrom, THORSNES, BAR-TOLOTTA, MCGUIRE ,LLP, 2550 Fifth Avenue, Eleventh Floor, San Diego, CA 92103, Phone: 619-236-9363 Fax: 619-236-9653 Date: 8/6/2026 Clerk, by, M. Estrada, Deputy Clerk. ISSUE DATES: October 2, 9, 16 & 23 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9021102
Fictitious Business Name(s) a. AK Real Estate Media, 10439 Bosque
Dr, Lakeside, CA 92040 is registered by the following: a. Aden
Christopher Katra business is conducted by: an Individual The first
day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. Aden Christopher
Karta This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation
Title of the statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/
County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 30, 2026, ISSUE
DATES: October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026

CITATION FOR FREEDOM FROM PARENTAL CUSTODY AND CONTROL CASE NUMBER 26AD000496C ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address) MELISSA DIANE CIANCI, 29222 Rancho Viejo RD STE 122-C, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO CA 92675 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO 2851 MEADOW LARK DRIVE SAN DIEGO CA 92123; IN THE MATTER OF LEONARDO PEREZ MEDINA DATE OF BIRTH: 11/23/2010; A MINOR RESPONDENT(S): To ALBERT PEREZ ARBIETO You are ordered to appear in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Diego, in Department JC-02 at the court location indicated above on November 06, 2026 at 1:30 PM, to show cause, why (names) LEONARDO PEREZ MEDINA should not be declared free from parental custody and control (X) for the purpose of placement for adoption) as requested in the petition. This hearing will be conducted by video or telephone through the 2851 Meadow Lark Drive San Diego CA 92123. See attached instructions and call the court to have the video link emailed to you. At the hearing, the judge will read the petition and, if requested, will explain the effect of the granting of the petition, any term or allegation contained therein and the nature of the proceeding, its procedures and possible consequences, and may continue the matter for not more than 30 days for the appointment of counsel, or to give counsel time to prepare. The court may appoint counsel to represent the minor whether or not the minor is able to afford counsel. If any parent appears and is unable to afford counsel, the court shall appoint counsel to represent each parent who appears unless such representation is knowingly and intelligently waived. Someone over the age of 18 – not the petitioner – must serve the other party with all the forms and complete a proof of service form, such as Proof of Citation (Adoptions) (SDSC Form #JUV 300) telling when and how the other party was served and file that with the court. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your pleading, if any, may be filed on time. Date: 9/29/2026 Judge of the Superior Court TILISHA T. MARTIN Issue Dates: October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME; CASE NO 26CU052289C SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF San Diego; Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101, Hall of Justice TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner (name) a. Molly Elisabeth Pratt Filed A. Petition With This Court For A Decree Changing Names As Follows: Present Name: a. Molly Elisabeth Pratt To Proposed

Name: Molly Elisabeth Pratt Sherman THE COURT ORDERS THAT All Persons Interested In This Matter appear before the court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that indicates the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: November 12, 2026: 8:30 AM DEPT: 61 ; a. A copy of this Order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county (specify newspaper): La Jolla Village News, Beach & Bay Press & Peninsula Beacon. Date: October 01, 2026, by D. Donaldson, Deputy Clerk. Judge Michael S. Groch, Judge of the superior court ISSUE DATES: Issue Dates: October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026 NO HEARING WILL OCCUR ON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE. The Court will review the documents filed as of the date specified on the Order to Show Cause for change (JC Form #NC-120) If all requirements for a name change have been met as of the date specified, and no timely written objection has been received (require at least two court days before the date specified), the petition for change of name (JC Form #NC-120) will be granted without a hearing. One certified copy of the Order Granting the Petition will be mailed to the petitioner. To change a name on a legal document, including a birth certificate, social security card, driver license, passport, and other identification, a certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be required. Contact the agency(ies) who issues the legal document that needs to be changed, to determine if a certified copy is required. A certified copy of Decree Changing Name (JC Form #NC-130) or Decree Changing Name and Order Recognizing Change of Gender and for Issuance of New Birth Certificate (JC Form #NC-230) may be obtained from the Civil Business Office for a fee. Petitioners who are seeking a change of name under the Safe at Home program may contact the assigned department for information on obtaining certified copies. If all the requirements have not been met as of the date specified, the court will mail the petitioner a written order with further directions. If a timely objection is filed, the court will set a hearing date and contact the parties by mail with further directions. A RESPONDENT OBJECTING TO THE NAME CHANGE MUST FILE A WRITTEN OBJECTION AT LEAST TWO COURT DAYS (excluding weekends and holidays) BEFORE THE DATE SPECIFIED. Do not come to court on the specified date. The court will notify the parties by mail of a future hearing date. Any Petition for the name changes of a minor that is signed by only one parent must have this Attachment served along with the Petition and Order to Show Cause, on the other non-signing parent, and proof of service must be filed with the court.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9021362 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Something More, 11821 Walnut Road, Lakeside, CA 92040 is registered by the following:
a. Stephanie Kay Lean business is conducted by: an Individual The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. Stephanie Kay Lean This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: October 02, 2026, ISSUE DATES: October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2026

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Family Health Centers renovating former Chase Bank, preserving mosaics

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC BEACH – The former Chase Bank branch at 4650 Mission Bay Drive in Pacific Beach is being transformed into the new Mission Bay Family Health Center by Family Health Centers of San Diego.

Constructed on a 1.73-acre lot in 1977, the two-story, 20,987-square-foot building was reportedly purchased by Family Health Centers of San Diego for \$11.025 million. Vacant for years, the former bank building is now completely fenced-in and has been under construction for months.

The property is adjacent to commercial structures on both sides with residential units to the west. There are 52 parking spaces. The redevelopment project is expected to open sometime in early 2027.

The adaptive reuse project will provide various primary and community medical services. It also will preserve the building's historic, exterior Millard Sheets mosaics depicting San Diego scenes.

Unfortunately, John Edward Svenson's bronze sea lion statue, which had been in front of the bank, was cut and stolen recently. It remains missing.

Fran Butler-Cohen, CEO of Family Health Centers of San Diego, has assured the public that the mosaics will stay. "We had a lot of questions about the murals, realizing that the community was interested in the idea of preserving them," she said. "They've been there for decades and we wanted to keep it. They were long overdue for cleaning and sealing, so we're doing that."

That came as welcome news for architectural preservationists.

"SOHO is pleased to see the historic mosaics being preserved. These remarkable murals, created by renowned California artist Millard Sheets and collaborators, are an important part of the architectural and cultural history of Pacific Beach and Southern California," said Save Our Heritage Organisation executive director Bruce Coons.

"The 1977 former Home Savings and Loan branch itself, is a rare example



The former Chase Bank site at 4650 Mission Bay Drive in Pacific Beach is being redeveloped as a complex for Family Health Centers. (Photo by Dave Schwab/Times of San Diego).

of New Formalist architecture, and its mosaics depicting San Diego scenes are an integral part of the building's design. We're very glad these pieces of Pacific Beach history will continue to be enjoyed by the community."

Founded in Barrio Logan in 1970, Family Health Centers of San Diego is a private, non-profit network providing affordable medical and support services. There are presently 90 sites countywide that receive 1.3 million visits a year.

Butler-Cohen noted Family Health's nearest clinic to PB is on Mission Boulevard in Mission Beach.

"There was a need in both PB and Clairemont for healthcare, and we determined this was a good opportunity to start one of those facilities in the gateway to both communities," she said.

The newest FHC facility will be full-service, with urgent care, pediatric, adult medicine, women's services, radiology imaging, chiropractic, acupuncture, sports medicine, mental health and substance use disorder counselors onsite.

"Most of those services are not easily available if you don't have company-sponsored health insurance," Butler-Cohen noted pointing out that 25% of FHC's clientele are uninsured.

She promised the centers will continue to fill healthcare needs and gaps, especially for the economically disadvantaged. "We're looking forward to this being quite the resource for this region," she said. "We're all excited about it."

Wild Fork brings 'protein wonderland' to Pacific Beach with frozen meats

By Frank Sabatini Jr.
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC BEACH – Make room in your freezers, San Diegans. The Brazilian-founded, Florida-based retailer famous for its encyclopedic variety of "blast-frozen" meats and seafood has staked a claim in Pacific Beach.

Wild Fork made its metro San Diego debut at 1701 Garnet Ave. on Sept. 24, in a 4,000-square-foot space previously occupied by the V-Outlet discount store. It arrives to the delight of die-hard carnivores on the hunt for selection, quality and affordability.

Some consumers are already familiar with the brand after visiting its Encinitas location, which opened a couple years ago. Others, however, are just beginning to learn that Wild Fork isn't actually a butchery, but rather an attractive store featuring freezer aisles brimming with the largest inventory of frozen meat in San Diego County—if not the entire country.

"It's a protein wonderland," said store manager Michael Carey while pointing out that all of the meats and seafood undergo a blast-freezing process at a temperature of minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit. "The method instantly freezes the proteins and keeps them at their peak conditions," he added.

First-time customers are typically astonished at the number of frozen proteins available, which include beef, pork, lamb, chicken, venison, organ meat, lobster, scallops, shrimp and more. They are harvested from various points within the U.S., as well as Brazil, Argentina, Japan and Australia.

Afterwards, they are cut, frozen and immediately packaged at facilities in North Carolina, Colorado and Kentucky. From there, the products are shipped to 70 store locations across the U.S. and Canada.

Looking to impress your dinner guests with a lush cut of Chateaubriand or Japanese A5 wagyu beef filets? Wild Fork has you covered—and you may decide to further splurge on a few North Atlantic lobster tails too.

Yet the store caters largely to



Wild Fork Pacific Beach store manager: Pacific Beach store manager Michael Carey at the picanha steak bin. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr./Special for Times of San Diego)

carnivores and pescatarians looking to make everyday, inexpensive meals. The freezer cases are neatly stocked with items ranging from a beef-veal-pork meatball mix and all types of chicken parts to pork chops, standard roasts, sausages and shellfish.

If shoppers come knocking simply for ground beef or bison, the choices are numerous in their different fat-to-meat ratios. Much of it is sold in one-pound packages, and some in preformed patties.

In addition, organic and grass-fed meats are found easily throughout the freezers.

Wild Fork's regional director, Paras Tulsiani, said Pacific Beach was chosen for the new store because "the area has a really good balance of young professionals, young families and retired people."

He added that, "We feel there is a good demand for healthy-quality proteins in this market."

Dr. Caroline Lutzky and her husband, Julio Morales, are Southern Florida transplants, which is where Wild Fork originated in 2018. They frequented Wild Fork in Miami before moving to Mission Valley—and say they are happy a store is now in easy reach.

Among their go-to purchases when living in Florida was the iconic Brazilian beef-sirloin cap known as picanha, which is abundantly available at the Pacific Beach location.

Cutting-edge theater to be excited about this fall on San Diego stages

By Drew Sitton
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Theater boasts some of the biggest national successes for San Diego performing arts. For instance, this fall, a national tour of “The Outsiders” returns to the city in November where it originated, after winning the Tony for best musical in 2024.

But “The Outsiders” isn’t an outlier: Many plays and musicals first seen by audiences in San Diego have made their way to Broadway and beyond, starting with the Stephen Sondheim musical “Into the Woods” in 1986.

Here are the upcoming productions, including world premieres and other cutting-edge performances, that audiences hungry for new work should check out before the shows (potentially) move on to greater fame.

Begin Again

World-premiere musical “Begin Again,” through Oct. 18, The Old Globe Theatre. This pre-Broadway engagement will refine the new production, based on the 2013 John Carney film starring Keira Knightley as heartbroken songwriter Gretta. She is discovered by struggling producer Dan, played by Mark Ruffalo, and they perform songs across New York City.

In this musical, the band Train (remember the ‘00s hits “Hey, Soul Sister” and “Drops of Jupiter”?) lent their pop song prowess to compose an all-new score about “rediscovering passion” and the “courage to start over.” Tickets, The Old Globe.

Our Lady of the San Diego Convention Center

World-premiere “Our Lady of the San Diego Convention Center” from TuYo Theatre begins at The Old Globe and tours across San Diego through Oct. 18. The piece is set at the Convention Center in spring of 2021 when it became a mass holding facility for unaccompanied migrant children. The piece is writer Mario Vega’s second work for TuYo after the musical “Pásale Pásale.” It is produced in partnership with Casa Familiar, the San Ysidro-based organization that was among the providers of 24-hour care for young asylum seekers in 2021. That might make for a unique



Nolan White and ‘The Outsiders’ North American Tour company. (Photo by Matthew Murphy/Broadway San Diego)

insight into what actually happened at a San Diego venue that is one of the region’s biggest national draws. Tickets, reserve pay-what-you-can (suggested, \$25).

A Black-Billed Cuckoo

This world-premiere play “Black-Billed Cuckoo,” through Oct. 11 at La Jolla Playhouse, is the 13th play to be developed from the theater’s DNA New Work Series onto the stage. This quiet comedy comes from award-winning playwright Mat Smart with experienced director Shelley Butler. Smart explores a tight-knit Brooklyn-based birding group that is divided when some members spot an unusual black-billed cuckoo while others miss out on the rare sighting. Tickets, La Jolla Playhouse.

Good Night, Oscar

West Coast-premiere play “Good Night, Oscar,” through Oct. 11, North Coast Repertory. Written by Doug Wright and directed by Tom Frey, the show brings the “chaotic, brilliant world” of Oscar Levant to the stage during one glamorous appearance in 1958 on “The Jack Paar Show.” The neurotic Levant had a musical genius – pianist, composer, actor – only matched by his legendary sharp tongue. Tickets, North Coast Rep.

This is Government

San Diego-premiere comedy “This is Government,” from through Oct. 25, Moxie Theatre. Playwright Nina Kissinger brings dark humor into the cramped office where three congressional interns are trapped during a security lockdown thanks to a bomb threat. Considering Times of San Diego’s DC fellow got stuck at a hotel when shots were fired at the

White House Correspondents Dinner, there’s something to the claim that getting stuck late after work in a lockdown is part of the Capitol Hill intern experience. In this case, it makes the interns ponder what can happen when leaders play politics with people’s lives. Tickets, Moxie Theatre.

Odds Are

World-premiere production “Odds Are” from Oct. 2–18 from Mosaic Theatricals, The Bornemann Theatre at TERI Campus of Life in San Marcos. The autobiographical one-person play written and performed by Smita Russell, with live cello accompaniment, is being turned into a fully-staged production after a notable run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2025 and a grand prize win at the United Solo Festival. Russell touches on love, loss and luck after being dealt the world’s worst hand in a “funny and fearless piece.” Tickets, Mosaic Theatricals.

GRIM

World-premiere musical “GRIM” opening Oct. 27, La Jolla Playhouse. After hundreds of thousands of years on the job, the Grim Reaper is retiring, leaving the role to his daughter Diana. But how can she be in charge of death when on her first trip to Earth, she falls in love with dorky teen Josh, the chaos of humanity and even the DMV? The stacked production team in this cheeky, insightful piece includes director Sammi Cannold (Variety’s 10 Broadway Stars to Watch, Drama Desk Award winner), musical comedy trailblazers Joey Orton and Brad Silnutzer, and songwriters Petro AP (Renée Rapp, One Direction) and

Scott Hoying (Pentatonix). The playhouse says audiences should prepare to laugh, cry and be deeply moved. Tickets, at La Jolla Playhouse.

9 Circles

San Diego-premiere play “9 Circles” from Nov. 5–22 staged by OnWord Theatre at the Light Box Theatre (2590 Truxtun Road). This is one of the few plays in this roundup that is older – written by Bill Cain in 2010. However, the contemporary morality play is an interesting look at the post-9/11-era, as the U.S. has now withdrawn from Afghanistan, leaving the Taliban in control. Plus, it’s put on by Marti Gobel’s production company, and I’m quick to see anything the talented local auteur puts on. The “9 Circles” echo Dante’s “The Divine Comedy,” except each deeper ring of hell is the bureaucracy and the judicial system one fictionalized soldier experiences as he’s tried for war crimes. It’s based on Steven Dale Green’s role in the rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and her family, committed by five active-duty soldiers, and covered up by more. The production follows one of the instigators, a diagnosed sociopath, but has been praised for its nuanced look at his antisocial disorder and the psychological impacts of war, rather than just jumping to demonize Green. Tickets, On Word Theatre.

Arrowhead

San Diego premiere of “Arrowhead” on Nov. 12–Dec. 6 at Diversionary Theatre. The tastemaker queer theater stages Catya McMullen’s bold comedy about an accidentally pregnant lesbian hosting a secret abortion party that tests friendships.



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BeachFest draws thousands to PB



Volleyball players compete in the Volo tourney during the annual beachside festival last Saturday. (Photo by Thomas Melville/Times of San Diego)



The PB Shore Club booth hands out a fish taco during the annual contest on a steamy Saturday. (Photo by Thomas Melville/Times of San Diego)



Lauren Mortimer of Mission Beach takes a big bite of her fish taco from Duck Dive, which won the Best of the Beach Fish Taco Contest for a second consecutive year at Pacific BeachFest on Oct. 3. (Photo by Thomas Melville/Times of San Diego)



A BeachFest attendee receives a fish taco from the Sandbar booth during the Best of the Beach Fish Taco Contest. (Photo by Thomas Melville/Times of San Diego)

La Jolla Art & Wine Festival ready to pour for an 18th year

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

LA JOLLA – La Jolla Art & Wine Festival returns the weekend of Oct. 10–11 for its 18th year, showcasing juried artists, live music, entertainment, and fun for all, including an age 21-plus Wine & Beer Garden.

From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days, guests can experience world-class art, curated libations, live entertainment,

and community connection along the iconic streets of La Jolla.

Spanning Girard Avenue from Prospect Street to Torrey Pines Road, the festival draws 45,000 guests annually and will showcase more than 170 juried artists from across the U.S. and Mexico.

Event attendees can explore an expansive collection of fine art including painting, sculpture, jewelry, photography, ceramics, glasswork, and more.

Wild and woolly OB Oktoberfest returns the the beach this weekend

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

OCEAN BEACH – San Diego's wild-est Oktoberfest, Ocean Beach's take on the classic fall celebration, returns Oct. 9–10 with live music, beer, beachside attractions and a throwback vibe.

This year's Y2K-themed event promises a nostalgic weekend packed with 20-plus years of local Oktoberfest tradition. Festivities feature everything from pretzel toss, Mr. and Mrs. Oktoberfest, stein-holding and brat-eating contests, to nostalgic games, interactive experiences and turn-of-the-millennium surprises.

The weekend kicks off with "Flashback Friday Locals Night," on Oct. 9 with a Local Legends Stein Hold, cash grab giveaways and 2-for-1 beers until 5 p.m. On Oct. 10, fun and games continue with the OB+RL Beach Party from noon to 5 p.m., featuring the Mr. & Ms. Oktoberfest Bikini Competition and the Y2K After Dark Neon Party from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the Electronica Stage, with throwback beats late into the night.

"Y2K is having a real moment right now, and since OB Oktoberfest started back in 2002, it felt like the perfect year to go full circle and throw it all the way back," said Heather Hudson, OB Oktoberfest's director of partnerships.

"There's no better place than San Diego to throw a beach party like this," she continued. "We're recreating the energy of 2002 from the TRL Spring Break era and iconic Y2K style to the music everyone grew up with, before transitioning into the classic OB Oktoberfest experience that people come back year after year."

Of this year's musical entertainment, Hudson said, "We have a phenomenal lineup of live music on two stages, in-between stage activities, with the contests and new twists to keep things interesting. Saturday is our fun Y2K-themed day, where we're hosting our OB beach party from noon to 5 p.m. It's an event-within-an-event with lip-syncing and dance-off contests."



Participants in the Mr. Oktoberfest competition on stage during last year's event. (Photo by Andrew Middleton/OB Oktoberfest)

Hudson noted Jägermeister herbal liqueur is once again sponsoring and presenting OB Oktoberfest. It also marks the second year of the event's two-stage format, with live music on the Jägermeister Main Stage and DJ sets on the Buzz Cannabis Electronica Stage.

The Oktoberfest organizers "pride ourselves in giving back and supporting the OB community," which is why, Hudson added, they partner every year with OBMA and the Peninsula Alliance.

OB Oktoberfest proceeds will benefit the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association's Friends of OB Program and The Peninsula Alliance. The event raises over \$50,000 per year for community partners and has raised \$850,000 to date.

"Our Oktoberfest is different from all the others," said Winstons Beach Club owner Scott Slaga. "We don't follow tradition. We have some good German food and beer, but we have our own music, not oompah. We're right on the ocean and that always adds to the revelry."

This event is 21-plus and general admission is \$20 at the gate. VIP tickets are \$75, which includes entrance, a custom one-liter "OB2K Oktoberfest" mug filled with two beers, access to the Main Stage VIP area and restrooms, and priority re-entry. VIP tickets can be purchased online.

When Pacific Beach grew lemons instead of houses and bars

By Debbie L. Sklar
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

It is hard to picture Pacific Beach as a place of lemon ranches.

Today, houses, apartment buildings, shops, and busy streets fill the neighborhood. But in the late 1890s, much of Pacific Beach was covered with young lemon trees, and growing and shipping the fruit had become an important part of the community's economy.

The transformation began after the San Diego College of Letters closed in 1891. Some families who remained in Pacific Beach turned to fruit cultivation, particularly lemons. In 1892, the Pacific Beach Company encouraged agricultural development by dividing much of the area into roughly 10-acre "acre lots." New owners plowed the land, installed irrigation pipes, and planted thousands of trees.

By 1895, lemon ranching was well established.

The industry grew quickly. In 1897, Pacific Beach shipped its first full carload



People packing lemons at Pacific Beach, c. 1890. (Photo and caption info courtesy of the San Diego History Center)

of lemons east to Duluth, Minn. The following year, grower Franklin W. Barnes reported about 25,000 lemon trees in bearing. Pacific Beach growers were producing Lisbon, Villa Franca and Eureka varieties, with thousands of boxes being shipped to distant markets.

The lemons needed somewhere to be prepared for shipment, too.

In 1896, lemon grower Sterling Honeycutt acquired property that included

the Pacific Beach Company's hotel and dance pavilion. The buildings were moved from the beach to a site near what is now Hornblend and Lamont streets. The former dance pavilion was converted into a lemon curing and packing house, with a railroad siding where boxcars could be loaded.

By 1900, the scale of the industry was striking. A San Diego Union account described roughly 300 acres of lemon groves in the center of Pacific Beach, with orchards ranging from about 2½ to 10 acres. During the preceding year, the report said, the groves had produced 30 carloads of lemons.

Photographs from the period show just how different the landscape was. One San Diego History Center photograph, taken around 1904, shows the packing plant surrounded by lemon orchards and early Pacific Beach buildings. Another image documents lemon ranches near Garnet Avenue and Jewell Street.

But the lemon boom did not last.

A later account by G.W. Brooks, published by the San Diego History Center, recalled

that Pacific Beach had "lemon orchards" and "a lemon packing plant" for years before the business was undermined by problems involving duties on Italian lemons. He recalled that the lemon business eventually ended, followed by increased subdivision activity and the destruction of the orchards.

That transition changed Pacific Beach permanently.

Land that had once been measured in acres of lemon trees was increasingly divided into residential lots. The orchards disappeared, and Pacific Beach evolved toward the residential and commercial neighborhood recognizable today.

For a neighborhood now associated with beaches, nightlife, and densely developed streets, its lemon-growing years offer a very different picture: Pacific Beach was once a place where the landscape was dominated not by houses, but by rows of citrus trees and the business of getting their fruit onto railroad cars bound for markets across the country.

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Mission Bay field hockey looks to right the ship after 3 straight losses

By Hector Trujillo

SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

PACIFIC BEACH — After back-to-back-to-back losses to La Jolla on Sept. 29, Bishop's on Oct. 1, and most recently to Scripps Ranch on Oct. 6, Mission Bay field hockey looks to recapture the level of play that helped it go undefeated in league last season, starting in this upcoming match against Canyon Hills High on Thursday, Oct. 8.

"It's been a rollercoaster with some good wins and some tough losses," said head coach Kris Auer. following the team's loss to Bishops. "We won Eastern League the last couple of years, but now we are in the Western League, which is a really big jump up from what we have been in the past."

The Bucs started the season off strong with a 7-0 win over Otay Ranch on Aug. 18 but then suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 defeat to University City on Aug. 27.

Mission Bay bounced back with two straight wins over Bonita Vista on Aug. 31 by a score of 4-1 and followed that up

with a dramatic 2-1 victory versus Point Loma on Sept. 2; however, then went on to suffer three consecutive losses to La Jolla by a score of 2-0, Clairemont 1-0 and a 2-1 overtime defeat to Olympian.

"These Western League teams are tough," Auer added. "We don't do too well against them, but we are accepting the challenge and accepting our fate. Having been a successful program, it is what it is."

The Bucs managed to recover from those three close losses by winning their next two games over La Jolla Country Day 5-0 on Sept. 23 and then 1-0 versus Mira Mesa the following day before dropping the following three against La Jolla, Bishop's and Scripps Ranch by 3-0, 13-0 and 5-0 scores, respectively.

"You learn, and you are picking up things. You are learning what doesn't work the hard way," said Auer.

Among the standout players for Mission Bay have been goalkeeper Sorelle Muto and teammates Cali Christ, Madeline Stiles and Claire Dunn.



Mission Bay's Olivia Lynch (3) controls the ball in La Jolla territory during the Bucs' loss on Sept. 29. (Photo by Steve Sidell/Special for Times of San Diego)



Mission Bay's Mia Menolez (5) brings the ball up against La Jolla in a 3-0 loss on Sept. 29. (Photo by Steve Sidell/Special for Times of San Diego)

The Bucs have five more games after the upcoming match against Canyon Hills, followed by a home meeting with Cathedral Catholic on Oct. 13. Mission Bay will then host Bishop's on Oct. 20 before traveling to Scripps Ranch on Oct. 22, closing out the regular season at home

on Oct. 27 versus Canyon Hills and then on the road to face Cathedral Catholic on Oct. 29.



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PB FUN FACT:

Did you know? The temperature of the face of the sun and PB have been basically the same for the last few weeks. Stay cool, PB!

