

PENINSULA BEACON

October 2, 2026

timesofsandiego.com/peninsulabeacon

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Pointers celebrate Homecoming



The senior class displayed enthusiasm as they performed to One Direction songs in special T-shirts during half time of the Homecoming game. Point Loma lost to Del Norte 37-23 to snap a regular season win streak. See more on pages 10-11. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego)

GARBAGE FEES

**Councilmembers trash Mayor
Gloria over garbage fee error**

Last week, the city acknowledged a "glitch" with the garbage fee that impacted residents citywide. The city's admission to 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 6**

BUSINESS

**Winston's Beach Club in OB
closes, to reopen next month**

The live music venue and bar that has operated since 1987 announced its closure. It will reopen under a new name sometime in October or November. The venue's ownership has shifted, with the owner of Club 710, Scott Slaga, taking a larger stake in the business. **PAGE 16**



COVER STORY

**Governor signs
Midway Rising bill,
clears path for final
approval of embattled
housing, retail project**

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 344 into law on Sept. 29, allowing the massive redevelopment of the former San Diego Sports Arena area to begin construction. The bill, proposed by State Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, declares the environmental reports studying the impacts of the redevelopment as sufficient, allowing city officials to grant approval of the project. The plan, to convert the land around the arena into a project with 4,250 housing units, 130,000 square feet of retail, a new 16,000-seat arena and 14.5 acres of park space, has long been challenged by residents citing coastal height limits. With the bill now law, the Midway Rising project will soon go before the City Council for final approval. **PAGE 3**

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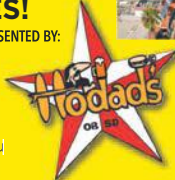
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Governor signs Midway Rising bill, clears path for housing, retail project

By Dorian Hargrove
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 344 into law on Sept. 29, clearing Midway Rising’s path to begin construction on a massive redevelopment of the former San Diego Sports Arena.

The plan, to convert the land around the arena into a project with 4,250 housing units, 130,000 square feet of retail, a new 16,000-seat arena and 14.5 acres of park space, has long been challenged by residents citing coastal height limits.

The bill, proposed by State Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson, declares the environmental reports studying the impacts of the redevelopment as sufficient, allowing city officials to grant approval of the project.

The bill states that because the Midway Rising project includes 2,000 affordable units, the environmental review approved by the city is enough and should not be held up by any further litigation.

With the bill now law, the Midway Rising project will soon go before the San Diego City Council for final approval. It also likely ends all legal challenges which thus far have thwarted progress on the redevelopment of the site around Pechanga Arena, as it is now known.

The project, proposed by local developer Brad Termini and his company Zephyr, is mostly owned by billionaire Stan Kroenke, who owns the Los Angeles Rams, the Los Angeles Angels, Arsenal F.C., Colorado Avalanche, and Denver Nuggets sports teams.

Kroenke is said to be the largest private landholder in the country.

Weber Pierson’s bill received wide support from Mayor Todd Gloria and other San Diego politicians.

After the bill was passed by lawmakers, sending it to the governor’s desk, Gloria reiterated his support for the legislation and the Midway Rising project.

“San Diegans have waited decades to

see the Midway District transformed. Today, we are one step closer to turning that long-awaited vision into reality,” Gloria said in an Aug. 30 statement.

Added Gloria, “For the Midway District, this means we can focus on delivering what San Diegans have been waiting for: 4,250 new homes, including 2,000 deed-restricted affordable homes, new parks, critical infrastructure and a new entertainment center.”

In response to the bill becoming law, Midway Rising’s Brad Termini said his team could start construction as soon as next year.

“This legislation marks an important step toward delivering the homes, jobs, parks, entertainment, and public benefits that San Diegans deserve and have voted twice in favor of,” said Termini, CEO of Zephyr. “We’re grateful to Gov. Newsom, Sen. Weber Pierson, and Mayor Gloria for their support and look forward to continuing our partnership with the city of San Diego and the

Midway community as we move toward final approval hearings.”

In a new statement, Gloria said he is glad to see the project move forward.

“This is an important step toward turning decades of discussion into action—building thousands of new homes and finally delivering the world-class arena and revitalized Midway District San Diegans have been promised.”

Long-time Midway Rising critics, however, were not at all excited about those prospects.

Attorney Everett DeLano, who represented Save Our Access, which successfully sued the city over preserving the 30-foot height limit in Midway, said the signing could be a slippery slope.

“Is it just me, or does anyone else see an irony in taking a bill that was supposed to be about the disposal of human remains,” DeLano said, referring to the original intent of SB 344, “and turning it into Midway Rising ‘fast track’ legislation?”



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Ocean Beach Library closes for massive renovation, to reopen in 2028

By Roman Aguilar
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

OCEAN BEACH — Ocean Beach residents face nearly two years without their neighborhood library as the century-old branch undergoes a \$14.45 million renovation and expansion.

The Ocean Beach Library, near Sunset Cliffs Boulevard and Santa Monica Avenue, closed on Aug. 29 and is expected to reopen in summer 2028.

For local children, the closure means story times are no longer held inside

the library and visits with its mascots, Darwin the Ball Python and DK the Bearded Dragon, are on pause.

“Most importantly, maybe, we were a third place — a judgment-free zone where anyone can just be with no expectations that they spend money,” branch manager Christy Rickey Meister said. “Everyone is welcome at the library.”

Patrons who previously selected Ocean Beach as their pickup location now retrieve holds at the Point Loma/

Hervey Library, about 1.5 miles away on Voltaire Street. Metropolitan Transit System Route 923 stops near both branches.

The Point Loma branch is serving both communities despite citywide budget cuts that reduced its Saturday hours to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rickey Meister said library officials do not expect the reduced hours to change how they serve the community, although it is too early to know whether Point Loma will need additional staff or resources.

“As the temporary closure just occurred, we won’t know new operational needs until more data is available,” Rickey Meister said.

Some Ocean Beach programming has followed patrons to Point Loma. The Ocean Beach Book Club now meets there at 6 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month.

Other programs remain in the neighborhood. A weekly storytime is held

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. on the closed library’s lawn while staff members search for an indoor location. Library staff members are considering other meeting spaces, including the community room at the Ocean Beach People’s Food Co-op, where the branch has previously held programs.

“Some seniors just come in just to have socialization,” said Pat Wilson, president of the Friends of the San Diego Public Library, whose chapters support the city’s 37 library locations. Libraries are really community hubs.”

Wilson expects Point Loma to see more patrons but does not anticipate capacity problems. Some Ocean Beach residents may instead use the Pacific Beach/Taylor Library or another branch, she said.

“It’s a wonderful thing that we’re getting an expansion, and it’s really hard to expand a building without closing the building down,” Wilson said. “It’s not practical, and it’s not safe.”



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Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
Erosion Control Improvements
San Diego, California

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration announces the availability of, and invites public comments on, the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed erosion control and stormwater infrastructure improvements at the western edge of Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery (FRNC) in San Diego, California. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address slope instability issues at the cemetery. The erosion control and stormwater improvements are needed to ensure the cemetery continues to operate as designed and intended.

VA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA during the 30-day public comment period, which runs from September 23, 2026 to October 23, 2026. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Point Loma Library-Hervey Branch at 3701 Voltaire Street, San Diego, California, 92106, and on the VA website at <https://www.cem.va.gov/EA.asp>. Please email your comments to comments@scoutenv.com with the subject line “FRNC Erosion Control EA”. Comments must be received on or before the end of the 30-day public comment period.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mr. Homayoun Kazemipour, VA Project Manager, at Homayoun.kazemipour@va.gov. Reference “FRNC Erosion Control EA” in your correspondence.

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Councilmembers trash Mayor Gloria over garbage fee error

By Dorian Hargrove
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – Normal Heights resident Marty Graham read a post on Nextdoor on Friday, Sept. 18, alerting neighbors that their property bill showed the city of San Diego had misreported its trash fee to the county. Graham, a semi-retired journalist, and got to work looking into it with a friend who is an expert in data analysis.

The two recorded the types of trash cans up and down nearby streets in order to find what their likely annual trash bill would total. They then logged on to the County Assessor's website and looked up the property tax bill for those properties.

In all, they recorded the tax bills of 100 homes.

They found that roughly 34% had inflated bills. Graham and her friend contacted reporters and posted on social media.

On Wednesday, the city acknowledged the error, which officials said was discovered Monday. It impacts tens of thousands of residents, the city admitted, and 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.

Now, in the face of an already unpopular trash fee, Gloria says he has ordered city staff to get to the bottom of it.

"Yesterday, I was briefed by City staff about errors affecting the Solid Waste Management Fee on some property-tax bills. San Diegans deserve accurate bills, and this error is unacceptable," Gloria said in a statement.

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

The city is now trying to unwind the "glitch" that impacted up to 87,000 residents citywide. 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 Wednesday, 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.

"No amount of good policy work can make up for the basics not being done well, and we can't do that if the information we get is inaccurate, or basic operations can't be performed at the most basic of levels," Elo-Rivera said.

Graham is feeling the impact of that failure on her limited finances.

"(My bill) is \$224 higher, and my mortgage company will make me pay it via escrow," she wrote in a message to Times of San Diego after finding the error. "My mortgage payment went up \$100 a month already because of trash fees. I'm a senior on a fixed income in this inflationary economy."

Graham found some bills appeared a few hundred dollars over the annual fee, according to the size of their trash receptacle. Another, she said, was nearly \$1,500.

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



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

opposed to 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."

Ocean Beach Oktoberfest

OB Oktoberfest adds to the revelry by turning back the clock to Y2K

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

OCEAN BEACH – San Diego's wildest 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."

Hudson noted Jägermeister herbal liqueur is once again sponsoring and



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



Attendees having fun during last year's Oktoberfest. (Photo by Andrew Middleton/OB Oktoberfest)

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."

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Fri, Oct 9th
4 PM - 11:30 PM

FLASHBACK FRIDAY
LOCALS NIGHT

4:00 PM - 2-for-1 Beers!
Celebrate the Oktoberfest way with 2-for-1 beers until 5 PM

4:20 PM - Electric Waste Band
5:45 PM - Pretzel Toss
6:15 PM - Doah's Daydream
7:30 PM - Local Legends Stein
8:00 PM - Fortunate Youth
9:30 PM - Men & Women's Stein
10:00 PM - Band of Gringos

Buzz Cannabis Electronica Stage
Gene Farris | Gettoblaster
Brett Rubin | Bondar | Acacia

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Sat, Oct 10th
12 PM - 11:30 PM

OB+RL BEACH PARTY
12-5 PM

12:00 PM - 2-for-1 Beers!
Celebrate the Oktoberfest way with 2-for-1 beers until 1 PM

12:00 PM - y2k2k!
1:00 PM - Y2K Lip Sync Battle
1:30 PM - No Duh (No Doubt Tribute)
2:45 PM - 2000's Dance Off
3:15 PM - The Bay Birds
4:15 PM - Mr. & Ms. Oktoberfest

5:00 PM - Three Legged Dog
6:15 PM - Brat Eating Competition
6:45 PM - *Headliner Announced 9.27*

8:00 PM - Limbo
8:30 PM - Porcelain
9:45 PM - Men & Women's Stein
10:15 PM - American Idiots (Green Day Tribute)

Buzz Cannabis Electronica Stage
Luke Andy
Mango & Ginger
Sharázz | Susio b2b Hylas
Rui | Match.a.Mor

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ELECTRONICA STAGE • 8-10 PM
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A portion of proceeds benefits our community partners: The Ocean Beach MainStreet Association and The Peninsula Alliance

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SAN DIEGO

Reader

MAKING FANTASY REALITY

Local filmmakers tell the story of *Infernal* PAGE 2

4 Small Shows to see this October PAGE 3

Left to right:
Brandon Self,
Darien Andreas
Brown,
Adrian Ross
(Photo by:
Matthew Lickona)

MAKING FANTASY REALITY

Local filmmakers tell the story of *Infernal*

By Matthew Lickona
SAN DIEGO READER

The story is famous enough that it still shows up on cinephile social media, over 25 years later. Peter Jackson was a minor director whose resume included some cult spatter-horror, a well-regarded indie drama, and a big-budget flop. So he did what any crazy dreamer would do and started pitching a two-picture film adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings*. New Line's Bob Shaye heard his pitch and asked: why only two movies when there are three books? Crazy, meet crazier. The rest is fantasy movie history.

It feels like San Diego filmmakers Darien Andreas Brown, Adrian Ross, and Brandon Self heard that story and said, "Hold our beers." They had put out one short film together, so they did what any trio of crazy dreamers would do and made *Infernal*, the 135-minute first chapter of a multi-film fantasy saga that has so far enjoyed two sold-out screenings in San Diego, won an award for Best San Diego Feature Film, and gotten *FilmThreat* critic Bobby LePire to write that "another visit to this world and these characters would be most welcome." And they did it by without formal training, filming on weekends for five months, on a budget south of \$10,000 — because, as Brown puts it, "No one told us no."

Brown, who wrote the original screenplay and also stars, co-directed, co-produced, and worked the boom mic, says that "It started with Adrian coming up with the idea for the short film *The Endless*, and him getting the ball rolling." Explains Ross, who plays the reluctant warrior Hiram in *Infernal* and also

co-wrote and edited, "I was auditioning for a ton of things, and you know how it is: you get some stuff, and you get rejected a lot. We were just like, 'Let's make our own stuff, and let that be our audition.'"

"It inspired all of us," continues Brown. "We're three people who don't really like to wait for an opportunity. It inspired me to be like, 'Let me try writing a script.' It came out of a personal experience. I was in debt, and I was facing a decision: either go to my mom's in Arizona, get a job, and lose my film life and the community I've built here, or stay and fight and not allow certain things happening in my life to control my destiny. That's essentially where the story and themes of *Infernal* came from. So I ended up writing this big old script, and I brought it to Adrian, and all he said was, 'Let's do it.' We've always had the confidence that we could do it. We just needed *The Endless* to kind of prove it to ourselves that we had what it takes to make a film."

Infernal tells the story of Azrael, a man troubled by portentous dreams who is captured by the forces of the wicked King Herod and separated from his wife Rheiya, who becomes the prisoner of the King's Blade, Cain. Azrael escapes with the aid of the charming rogue Ephraim and sets out to find his wife, but both he and she find themselves caught up in something larger and more complicated — something hinted at in the opening monologue's description of a prophecy regarding a wolf and a falcon.

"I've always loved romance," says Brown. "And then betrayal becomes a theme, because how do you make romance interesting? You add more elements. And then

in the editing room, we came to realize that was the crux of our story."

"We had almost five hours' worth of footage," laments Self. "Trying to trim it down was some of the hardest stuff. But we had a test screening, and there was one piece of criticism that stuck with me: 'You should really just stick to the core story of what *Infernal* really is.' And that was Azrael trying to find his wife. But there's so much more to the story that we had to cut out. We definitely want this to be part of a bigger world." He mentions *Game of Thrones* — with its multiple houses competing for power — as an influence.

There are many others. Shakespeare shows in the occasional flights of high-flown dialogue. The talk between Cain and Rheiya veers into psychological territory, with its talk of broken chains and becoming who you really are. And as the names suggest, says Brown, "the stories in the Bible definitely played a part in crafting the story." But Azrael is no saint; he's not even a pure soul like Luke Skywalker — even if *Star Wars* clearly informs his relationship with Ephraim. ("I love *Star Wars*," grants Ross.) Brown cites *Lord of the Rings* and *Dune* as inspirations, but also the video games *Elden Ring*, *Bloodborne*, and *Dark Souls*. "I think that's what inspired the grittiness of the world, the murky tone." Self notes that video games even helped shape the story: "At the film's end, he has an item that he can't use, because he's not yet at the level for it. He needs time to build up his skills."

Talking of which: nobody here went to film school. "Our school was being on sets and making the film," says Self. "You learn terms very quickly when you're on

a set and you get told what something is. It's better than any flashcards you could make." On set is where the three came together: Self was the cinematographer (and more) on the micro-budget epic *Heroes of Pacific City*, in which Ross was acting.

"I've known Darien for 15 years or so," adds Ross. "Shout out to Roosevelt Middle School. We've always talked about wanting to make movies, and we've made silly things just for fun." After they hooked up with Self, "*The Endless* was our first step toward making a legit film: telling an entertaining narrative, finding the crew that were able to bring skills we didn't have, doing the best we could with the resources we had."

Ah, resources. Much has been made of the astonishing look of *The Lord of the Rings*, thanks in no small part to Weta Workshop's meticulous costume and prop work. The *Infernal* team had Temu and Etsy, and even that "was a lot of the cost" of the film, says Brown. "In the early stages, we tried making stuff out of cardboard and cans. That wasn't really getting the job done. But we saved on costs by building our own sets, making our own costumes. Adrian took up sewing."

"We bought all this fabric," says Ross, "and I just made all these tunics, and they worked. And we realized pretty quickly that it would cost a ton of money to have a set that looked like an actual set. So we shot 90% of the interior stuff in Darien's garage. We just hung these bolts of fabric around the interior of the garage to have it feel like the inside of a tent, and used different colors to signify the different camps." They pulled a similar trick for the



standoff between opposing battalions at the end: it's the same group of actors in different costumes, with scarves covering the bad guys' faces to hide the double-up.

Self continues: "The budget forced us to think creatively about every single decision. I feel like it helped us create something that's never been told in exactly this way." Where, say, House of the Dragon puts millions into the spectacle of, well, dragons, *Infernal* relies heavily on "keeping it close, forced perspective, making sure that 180-degree line was not being crossed" — camera techniques that help the viewer believe spaces are larger than they are. Especially when those spaces are mostly drenched in shadow, the way they would be if torches provided your only source of light.

King Herod's throne room was perhaps the biggest challenge. "We could do tents and we could do forests," says Ross. "But we didn't have a throne room. When we started production, we didn't know how we were going to do it." As they neared the end of filming, they still didn't. "We were fortunate enough to use the Actors Workshop Studios space in Sorrento Valley. We built a box, and we found some cardboard pillars. And we had walls, so we bought some stone-patterned wallpaper. Looking back, I think we could have gotten some better wallpaper, but the funds were running out."

Actors Workshop Studios provided more than just space: it provided key members of the cast. (Notably, instructor Mark



Infernal Movie Poster.
(Photo courtesy of Fab7)

Coulter plays Herod, and fellow student Adam Wallace plays Cain.) "We were very fortunate to have that connection," says Ross. "They were really helpful in finding actors we could pay with screen time, people who wanted to show what they could do. The project just took on a life of its own." Ricardo Concepcion, who found a dream role in the warrior Kodger, knew Connor McCluskey, who

owned lots of swords and spent weeks training the cast to use them. Travis Brock, who worked with the trio on *The Endless* and plays Ephraim, was engaged to a girl whose family owned a piece of property in Potrero that was varied enough to stand in for a whole world.

"We were really fortunate to find that," says Self. "But you want to talk about where the budget went? Food and water. The land didn't have electricity or water or anything like that. I had to coordinate with somebody to bring a port-a-potty out. These are people with bodies you're dealing with, and these are things you have to think about."

"We'd spend the whole week preparing," adds Ross. "All of our gear, our props, our costumes, the set design, what we were going to be shooting. That was, Saturday morning would come around and everybody could just get into character and go through their lines while we were getting all the technical stuff set. We'd shoot anywhere from six to thirteen hours. It really became a family affair, people putting in everything they had."

Two years after giving themselves the green light, Brown, Ross, and Self have their movie, and they didn't even need help from Bob Shaye at New Line. Now they're submitting to festivals — Beverly Hills, Los Angeles Fantasy Festival, etc. — and waiting to see who notices their 135-minute audition for the next thing.

Four smaller shows to see this October

By Sgt. Tiki **SAN DIEGO READER**

DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979

Formed in Toronto, Canada circa 2001, Death From Above 1979 eschews guitar in order to play heavy noise rock, punk, and danceable electronic grooves using only a bass guitar, a drum kit, and vocals. They earned their underground rep on the strength of an acclaimed 2004 debut album *You're a Woman, I'm a Machine*, which featured cult hits like "Romantic Rights." Though they split for a while around 2006, they returned in 2011 and have continued to release successful albums such as 2014's *The Physical World*. Their fourth and most recent studio full-length *Is 4 Lovers* dropped back in 2021, but they have been releasing re-imagined anniversary editions of several classic tracks from their debut album. They also earned a small level of internet notoriety for their remake of the Journey radio staple "Don't Stop Believin'."



Death from Above (Photo courtesy of Billboard)

Where: Observatory North Park

When: October 10

Ages: All Ages **Cost:** \$54+



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MURSIC

Founded in 2013, symphonic metal band Mursic is a theatrical hard rock group with members based in both San Diego and Hollywood, including founding drummer Clay Hackett, formerly of romance-metal band Suicide Chords. Naming influences such as Faith No More, King's X, Dream Theater, Opeth, Marillion, Genesis, Yes, and Magnum, their sound is characterized by a blend of classical and synthesized keyboards, creating a heavy, operatic rock style. Their debut album, *Spawn From a Nightmare*, dropped in 2014, establishing their film-score-meets-arena-rock sound by fusing massive orchestration, haunting melodies, crushing guitars, and soaring vocals into a blend of symphonic metal, gothic rock, and progressive hard rock. They released a new album last year called *Oblivion*, as well as a newly remastered version of their 2014 debut. Also appearing will be local alt-metal band Find Me Falling, whose self-titled debut album dropped last year, and San Diego guitarist Rio. The Casbah lists the show at \$10, with doors at 7:30 and the show at 8:30.



Mursic (Photo courtesy of The Casbah)

Where: The Casbah

When: October 14

Ages: 21+ **Cost:** \$10

TILTWHEEL

Tiltwheel is a beard punk band fronted by Davey Quinn, aka Davey Tiltwheel, who writes a lot of songs about beer and has an indie punk side project called Come Closer. One of the early Tiltwheel releases from 1997, a 1000-copy-run seven-inch single, was the first release from underground punk label Accident Prone. They cite among their influences Fear, Leftover Crack, Black Flag, Flipper, and Dead Kennedys, and have appeared on split singles via Rad Girlfriend Records and Brassneck Records. The Little Italy show is headlined by Dillinger Four, a Minneapolis punk rock band known for their "D4-Core" sound, blending the fast, aggressive rhythms and dual-guitar attack of 1980s hardcore with melodic hooks. The group's lineup has remained intact for nearly thirty years, and they recently released their first new music in around eighteen years, a digital single for the track "Don't Happy Be Worry." The bill includes Prision Postumo, an urban punk band from Santa Ana well established in the contemporary Latin American and Spanish-language punk scenes.



Tiltwheel (San Diego Reader file photo)

Where: The Casbah **When:** October 11

Ages: 21+ **Cost:** \$30

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

Formed in the late '90s in Long Island, New York, Taking Back Sunday helped shape modern emo music, beginning with their debut full-length *Tell All Your Friends* and its fan-favorite anthem "Cute Without the E (Cut From the Team)." They exploded into the mainstream when their 2006 major-label album *Louder Now* reached number two on the Billboard 200 chart on the strength of the hit single "MakeDamnSure," their most commercially successful song. Early tracks such as "You're So Last Summer," "Twenty-Twenty Surgery," and "Liar (It Takes One to Know One)" earned them a perennial berth on college radio. The bill includes post-hardcore heroes Thrice, who were mostly inactive from 2012 through 2015 before reuniting, as well as pioneering emo/pop-punk band Saves the Day.

Taking Back Sunday
(Photo courtesy
of Live Nation)



Where: Petco Park (Gallagher Square)

When: October 11

Ages: All Ages

Cost: \$63.70+ currently listed

Reader

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Doah's Daydream to wake up Oktoberfest on Friday night



Doah Lee and her band will perform at OB Oktoberfest. (Photo courtesy of Doah Lee)

By Dave Schwab
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

OCEAN BEACH – Doah Lee has come a long way from Korea to achieve her dream.

Lee will be one step closer when she and her band, Doah's Daydream, take the main stage at this year's Ocean Beach Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct. 9, at 6:15 p.m.

The group lists its genre as "Island Grunge," describing it as a mélange of hard rock, punk and Hawaiian island pop reggae with powerful vocals.

Lead singer-songwriter Lee, who was born in Seoul and grew up in Oahu, Hawaii, recounted how music saved her from working in the corporate world, which just wasn't her.

"I moved to San Diego and was working a job that I absolutely hated and was miserable," she said. "It was the first job that I ever quit in my life, and I was depressed."

As a first-generation Korean American, Lee said the expectation was that she

would "climb the social ladder" by attending college and pursuing a career.

But music – and her love for it – eventually set Lee on a different path, far from the conventional life path that her family had laid out for her.

"Music redefined my definition of success in life," she said.

It wasn't easy. Lee started performing as a busker in Ocean Beach about eight years ago, before getting in a band and playing at open mics locally and onstage at venues like Winstons, The Harp and during Ocean Beach's Chili Cookoff.

Lee's drive has led her to assume the role of lead singer and chief songwriter for the band, which includes lead guitarist Ru Ramos, bassist Ian McIssac and drummer Josh Summerford.

"We cross genres including pop, Korean pop and Cali reggae," Lee said. We have a lot of original songs."

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Homecoming highlights Point Loma High's traditions

By Scott Hopkins

SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

Point Loma High Homecoming on Sept. 18 was a night for celebrating the school's rich history and traditions. Everyone from freshmen to alumni played a part in the halftime ceremony that included dance numbers with each

class selecting a "Boy Band" theme. A packed Pete Ross Stadium crowd cheered alumni, the school's marching band and cheerleader groups, and the eight students elected as "Homecoming Royalty." On Sept. 19, a sold-out Homecoming Dance in the Gaslamp Quarter concluded the festivities.



The school's cheerleading squad practiced long hours to perform their most difficult stunts for the crowd. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego).



Pointer alumni proudly parade in front of a cheering group of current students. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego)



Members of Point Loma's junior class performed to the music of the Backstreet Boys during half time of the Homecoming game. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego)



The Homecoming Royal Court included (from left) freshmen Hunter Whitmann and Kaya Conrad; sophomores Abigail Koskei and Lincoln Hancock; junior Max Kleiger; and seniors Zoe Kerrigan and Bernard King. Not pictured: junior Michelle-alexandria Clark. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego).



Class of 1976 cheerleader Elaine Hopf Davis showed up in her original cheer uniform worn 50 years ago. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego)

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Point Loma splits two games as bye week break arrives

By Scott Hopkins
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

POINT LOMA – A regular-season win streak for the Point Loma varsity football team that began Aug. 22, 2025, ended on Sept. 18 when the Del Norte Nighthawks swooped into Pete Ross Stadium and flew away with a 37-23 victory in their claws for the school's 99th annual homecoming celebration.

The last regular-season loss? A 55-6 blowout by Cathedral Catholic Nov. 1, 2024.

The loss to Del Norte only made the Pointers hungrier, following it with a 17-12 road win on Sept. 26 at Ramona.

Against Ramona, the Pointers had difficulty keeping the pesky Bulldogs at bay, and coaches were frustrated when defensive pass coverage faltered.

Scoring began on the Pointers' opening drive when Tanner Spradling hauled in a 35-yard scoring pass from Ryder Watson for a 7-0 lead with less than three minutes expired. In all,

Spradling caught seven balls for 137 yards.

The Bulldogs countered with a 39-yard scoring run early in the second quarter and, after a failed extra point, were within one at 7-6.

The Pointers scored again when junior Collin Scott made a nice catch of a Watson throw, getting both feet down as he ran to the left end zone sideline just 2:49 before halftime.

The Bulldogs took the second-half kickoff and drove to the Pointer nine-yard line before Lucas Zucker forced a fumble, which MJ Fowler recovered.

The Pointer offense sputtered for much of the second half, but when it stalled in the fourth quarter at the Ramona 28-yard line, Cleator came on to hit a 45-yard field goal that was to prove critical since the 17-6 lead prevented the Bulldogs from tying the game with a touchdown and two-point attempt.

And, with Pointer defenders having



A pack of Pointers brings down a Ramona running back after a short gain during last week's non-league game. (Photo by Scott Hopkins/Special for Times of San Diego)

trouble covering Ramona receivers, a 15-yard pass gave the Bulldogs their second score with 2:01 left to play. The Bulldogs missed a two-point conversion and failed to recover the ensuing onside kick attempt before time expired.

For the game, Cleator also booted two point-after attempts, caught four passes on offense plus intercepted a

pass on defense, and had each of his four kickoffs sail into the end zone for touchbacks.

Defensively, Chase Thomas, Nick Lemus and Fowler each recorded double-digit tackles, and Fowler recovered a fumble. Cleator averaged 49.5 yards on four punts.

"We'll use the bye week to make adjustments we think will help us," Pointer head coach Ryan Price said. "Every school will have five or six weeks of film on us so we'll try and throw in some wrinkles. Our team has quite a few guys with no varsity experience so we expect to improve as they gain experience each week. We'll use the bye week to give them a little break physically but push them mentally."

Next up for the Pointers is a home game on Oct. 9 against Scripps Ranch in a final non-league game against the 0-5 Falcons. Then, on Oct. 16, the Pointers travel to face Western League opponent Lincoln.

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LEGAL ADS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9018789 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Popperiffic, 882 Emerald Street, San Diego, CA 92109 is registered by the following: a. Quality Gain, LLC business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. Quality Gain, LLC This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Alisha Harris, Member The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: August 27, 2026, ISSUE DATES: September 11, 18, 25 & October 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9018922 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Julian Pie Company, 21976 Highway 79, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070 is registered by the following: a. Julian Pie Company, LLC business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The first day of business was: N/A Registrant Name: a. Julian Pie Company, LLC This Title of Officer,

if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor Timothy Robert Smothers, Member The statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: August 31, 2026, ISSUE DATES: September 11, 18, 25 & October 2, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2026-9019157 Fictitious Business Name(s) a. Little House Coffee, 4668 Lotus Street, San Diego, CA 92107 is registered by the following: a. Ryan Daniel Tafolla b. Cara Ashley Tafolla business is conducted by: a married couple The first day of business was: 01/01/2025 Registrant Name: a. Ryan Daniel Tafolla b. Cara Ashley Tafolla This Title of Officer, if Limited Liability Company/Corporation Title of Signor statement was filed with Jordan Z. Marks, Jr. Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on: September 02, 2026, ISSUE DATES: September 11, 18, 25 & October 2, 2026

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

LEGALS CONTINUED ON PAGE. 13

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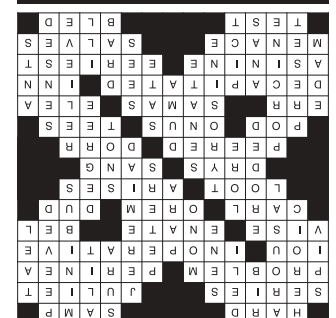
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Pop to New Wave to Punk Rock Royalty - this week in live music

By Bart Mendoza
SPECIAL FOR TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

Air Supply

Australian soft rock duo, Air Supply, returns to Humphreys Concerts by the Bay on Oct. 3. Currently on the road in support of their latest album, "A Matter of Time," 50 years after the release of their debut album, the pair are in fine form. The night's music will include new music, but fans can rest assured that the majority of the night will be devoted to Air Supply's run of hits circa the early 1980s, including "Lost in Love," "Here I Am, and "The One That You Love." Attendees will want to stick around through the encore, which this time includes their excellent version of the Badfinger hit, "Without You."

• **Air Supply:** Saturday, Oct. 3, at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 7:30 p.m. \$115 & Up.

Bow Wow Wow

British 1980s-era new wave sensations Bow Wow Wow stop in at The Holding Company for a show on Oct. 2. The group's career was short-lived, with Bow Wow Wow only releasing two albums during their initial run and featuring numerous lineup changes in the ensuing years. Today the sole remaining original member in the band is singer Anabella Lwin, but fans won't mind much as she's always been Bow Wow Wow's focal point. Lwin still delivers a solid fast-paced show, accented by heavy drum rhythms similar to early Adam & The Ants, and shouted vocals. Bow Wow Wow is most often seen in a touring festival setting playing short sets, so fans of vintage new wave won't want to pass up the opportunity to hear a full show with such quirky gems such as "C-30, C-60, C-90, Go" and their

Continued on page 15


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Continued from page 14

cover of The Strangeloves hit, “I Want Candy,” in an intimate club setting.

• **Bow Wow Wow:** Friday, Oct. 2, at *The Holding Company*, 5046 Newport Ave., 7:30 p.m. \$20.

Burt Brion

Keyboardist Burt Brion celebrates the release of his fourth album, “Beauty with Ashes,” with a performance at Humphreys Backstage Live on Oct. 4. A mainstay of the local club scene, Brion’s sound falls under the contemporary jazz umbrella, with touches of rock and pop in the piano-driven melodies. For this event Brion and his band will be performing seven selections from the new album, mixed in with a selection of dance-floor-filling favorites from the likes of Earth, Wind & Fire, Stevie Wonder, and Chaka Khan to round out the evening.

• **Burt Brion:** Sunday, Oct. 4 at *Humphreys Backstage Live*, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. 6 p.m. \$19 & Up.

Allison Adams Tucker

On Oct. 2, singer Allison Adams Tucker performs a free concert at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center. Tucker’s beautiful, crystal-clear voice has made her one of the area’s top jazz singers, but she’s great across genres. Tucker has released several albums, with 2016’s “April in Paris,” in particular, being highly recommended. For this show, Tucker is backed by pianist Melonie Grinnell, bassist Justin Grinnell, and drummer Duncan Moore. If you haven’t had a chance to hear Tucker in concert yet, this free, daytime performance at one of the area’s top music venues should not be passed up.

• **Allison Adams Tucker Quartet:** Friday, Oct. 2, *The Wu Tsai QRT: yrd at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center*, 7600 Fay Ave. 4:30 p.m. Free.

Laundry Day

Fans of modern pop won’t want to miss an appearance by New York-based rising stars, Laundry Day.

The band has recently released a new album, “Earworm,” and that title is indeed an apt description for their music.



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Grateful Dead Mondays aren't going anywhere, but not at Winston's

By Tessa Balc
TIMES OF SAN DIEGO

OCEAN BEACH — Monday nights at Winston's Beach Club in Ocean Beach have been the same for nearly 35 years. The same band, crowd, and jam.

Sept. 22, though, was the last Monday night at Winston's.

Monday morning the live music venue and bar that has operated since 1987 announced its closure at the end of week. It will reopen under a new name, not yet revealed, sometime in October or November, according to an Instagram post. The venue's ownership has shifted, with the owner of Club 710, Scott Slaga, taking a larger stake in the future of Winston's.

Yet Grateful Dead Mondays with Electric Waste Band are set to continue. Ed Fletcher plays drums with the band. He joined about two years after it started, and has played with them since.

He said when they were informed of the temporary closure, they thought that they would need to look for a new



Electric Waste Band playing their last night at Winston's in OB. (Photo by Tessa Balc/ Times of San Diego)

space for a while, but were told that they won't be missing many Mondays, if any. Fletcher said they're expecting to maintain their weekly Monday night slot at 1921 Bacon St., but they won't stop playing if that's not possible.

"If worst comes to worst, the Harp is right down the street," he said.

Fletcher, donning a graphic tee of Jerry Garcia, looked around before the band began its set. He said in the early years of Electric Waste Band, they "played to the doorman." Now, in his estimate, 75%

of the people around the room, filled by around 80 people, come here on a weekly basis.

"Sometimes I think they're more into this band than I am," he laughed.

Paul 'Doc' Farrell has known the Electric Waste Band for nearly 30 years. He doesn't miss too many Monday nights.

"As long as these guys are here on Monday nights, that's the only thing I come here for," he said.

"I don't care what they call it."

Jess Vaccaro does care what it's called. She's been going to Winston's on Monday nights consistently for the last two years. She first came to Winston's on a visit from Chicago. Her deadhead friends in the Midwest told her it was the place to see. She was supposed to visit San Diego, and move to Colorado thereafter. Winston's was something that drew her here to stay.

Mondays are an important part of her week. She said she shapes her plans around the day.

"I'm very sad to see it leave, to whatever extent that means. Even if it's the name," she said.

While Vaccaro knows she'll be at the first Monday the Electric Waste Band plays after the venue reopens, she doesn't know how the lineup of bands will look in the future. She comes to Winston's on other days for more Jam Band shows. The idea of those musicians not being in the lineup anymore, "breaks her heart."

The speculation is that DJs could dominate the new lineup.

Kevin Rudnik points out the new lights already installed in the rafters. They weren't on for Electric Waste Band, but he's ready to work with them. He says the other sound guys who work at Winston's might have a hard time — they don't know how to work lights. He does.

Rudnick works sound at Winston's and at the Music Box. One's a job to him, the other he calls his second home. He's at home this night, or rather "Monday night, church night," he clarifies.

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