



# The San Diego Union-Tribune

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MEG MCLAUGHLIN U-T

Janise Bocskovits runs with her son Dylan, 2, through fountains at the Santee Lakes Sprayground on Thursday. Temperatures have risen in the county, with an excessive heat warning for the mountains, deserts and valleys through Tuesday.

## SAN DIEGO PORT CEO ON LEAVE PENDING PROBE

Agency gives few details; vote set today on temporary fill-in

BY JENNIFER VAN GROVE

Roughly 2½ years into his post, San Diego Port President and CEO Joe Stuyvesant has been placed on paid administrative leave by the public agency's board, pending an internal investigation.

"As of Tuesday, July 11, 2023, CEO Joe Stuyvesant is on leave," agency spokesperson Brienne Page said in an emailed statement. "The board will meet in closed session on Friday, July 14 to discuss appointing an acting CEO."



Joe Stuyvesant

In the interim, port executives Jason Giffen and Job Nelson will oversee operations, Page said. Giffen is the vice president of planning and environment, and Nelson is the vice president of strategy and policy.

The announcement and scheduled acting CEO vote suggests that Stuyvesant's brief tenure has come to an abrupt end.

The port declined to provide additional details about the reason behind the executive's leave, citing the confidentiality of personnel matters.

However, administrative leave is imposed on employees in limited circumstances, according to the agency's policy. SEE PORT • A7

## THE HEAT IS ON, BUT LOAD ON GRID MANAGEABLE

No Flex Alerts expected so far, though record highs are forecast for desert areas

BY ROB NIKOLEWSKI

A scorching heat wave bearing down on San Diego County will cover most of California for nearly a week but — at least for now — the state's electric grid is holding up and there are no indications that power shutoffs are coming.

"It's definitely going to be hot but it's looking like the grid will be stable throughout the heat wave," said Anne Gonzales, senior public information officer for the California Independent System Operator, which manages the flow of electricity across the high-voltage power lines for

**"It's looking like the grid will be stable throughout the heat wave."** Anne Gonzales • CAISO official

about 80 percent of the state, plus a small part of Nevada.

After months of cooler and wetter than usual weather, the first real blast of hot weather is enveloping the San Diego area. The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat warning for the mountains, deserts and valleys through 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The story is similar through-

out California.

"There's a lot of excessive heat warnings, as well as heat advisories, basically covering the entire state of California away from the immediate coastline and into some mountain locations," said Elizabeth Adams, meteorologist for the weather service in San Diego. "And it also looks like Nevada and Arizona are almost completely covered."

In Sacramento, where forecasters predict a high of 106 degrees today and 110 for Saturday, the California State Fair canceled horse races out of concern for animal safety.

Hot weather puts stress on the state's electric grid, as homeowners and businesses crank up their air conditioners.

Last year, a similar "heat dome" that blanketed California and neighboring states in late August through early September led the system operator, known as the CAISO for short, to issue a record 10 consecutive days of Flex Alerts — that is, re-

SEE GRID • A6

## FDA APPROVES BIRTH CONTROL PILL WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Contraceptive Opill could be available by early next year

BY PAM BELLUCK

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved a birth control pill to be sold without a prescription for the first time in the United States, a milestone that could significantly expand access to contraception.

The medication, called Opill, will become the most effective birth control method available over the counter — more effective at preventing pregnancy than condoms, spermicides and other nonprescription methods. Experts in reproductive health said its availability could be especially useful for young women, teenagers and those who have difficulty dealing with the time, costs or logistical hurdles involved in visiting a doctor to obtain a prescription.

The pill's manufacturer, Perrigo Co., based in Dublin, said Opill would most likely become available from stores and online retailers in the United States in early 2024.

The company did not say how much the medication would cost — a key question that will help determine how many people will use the pill — but Frédérique

SEE PILL • A7

## MISSING REMAINS FOUND, BUT CASKET BADLY DAMAGED

Family to continue with suit claiming cemetery didn't follow directives

BY ALEX RIGGINS

When Thelma Cooper died in March, her children learned that Greenwood Memorial Park and Mortuary had lost the remains of their father, Sidney Cooper Sr., who was not buried in the couple's plot as he should have been.

Last month, days after the Cooper children filed a lawsuit and went public with their ordeal, Greenwood personnel excavated a nearby unmarked gravesite where they believed

Sidney's remains might have been erroneously buried in 2001, according to a family attorney.

The body was there. But the excavation also revealed the casket was badly damaged and not covered in the plastic waterproof container the cemetery sold the couple in 1992 when they purchased the plot, attorney Eric Dubin said Thursday.

Sidney — a longtime San Diego business owner who came to be known as the "Mayor of Imperial Avenue" — and Thelma paid \$683 for the waterproof cover, Dubin said, so that the first casket would be in good condition at the time of the second burial if one of them died long be-

fore the other, which is what did occur.

"That was the selling point, that it would be in good condition if one of them died five, 10 or 20 years later," Dubin said. "First they buried him in an unmarked grave, then they failed to give him the waterproof container he was promised."

A Greenwood spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday afternoon, and the cemetery has not yet responded to the family's lawsuit, according to court records. In a statement last month, management from the cemetery's parent company acknowledged "an issue with placement" but blamed the mis-

take on "previous ownership and management."

Dubin said cemetery management last month tried to explain the issue by telling the family that instead of using the waterproof plastic cover, the cemetery had "unilaterally upgraded" the burial site to a concrete vault.

Such vaults are not legally mandated, according to California law, though many cemeteries now require them because they help keep the ground from settling after burial. According to the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Cemetery and Funeral Bureau, a vault made of concrete or other mate-

SEE CEMETERY • A6

## SYMPHONY DELAYS REOPENING OF CONCERT HALL

Extensive renovation project poses unexpected challenges

BY GEORGE VARGA

The San Diego Symphony is pushing back until next year its return to Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center, where the orchestra had been scheduled to open its 2023/2024 Jacobs Masterworks concert series on Nov. 4.

The reasons for the delay are being attributed to unexpected construction and redesign challenges that have emerged as the nearly 100-year-old hall undergoes a \$125 million renovation.

Several of the November concerts scheduled for Copley Symphony Hall as part of the statewide California Festival will now be held at The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park, the orchestra's outdoor venue. SEE SYMPHONY • A6



SAM ZAUCHSER SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY

Music Director Rafael Payare and CEO Martha Gilmer inside Copley Symphony Hall at Jacobs Music Center.

## DOUBLE STRIKE EFFECTIVELY SHUTS DOWN HOLLYWOOD

Actors fail to reach deal with major studios, join striking screenwriters

BY SAMANTHA CHERY, ANNE BRANIGIN & JANAY KINGSBERRY

A historic double strike will effectively shut down Hollywood beginning today after a union representing nearly all TV and film actors failed to secure a new contract with major studios.

The national board for the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) announced the call to strike at an

afternoon news conference on Thursday, a day after negotiations broke down.

The union's 160,000 members are forbidden from doing work or promotion for major studios and streamers. In effect, nearly every TV or film actor in the country will join 11,000 members of the Writers Guild of America who walked off set in early May, marking the first time Hollywood's writers and actors have simultaneously withheld their work in 63 years. A SAG-AFTRA strike means more than actors walking off the set of their films or TV shows. They are also prohibited from promoting their work, which could have a major

SEE STRIKE • A6

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BY PAM KRAGEN

# THE DISH

NEWS FROM THE BAR AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

## Chef Brad Wise to host fundraising dinner for Feeding San Diego

Brad Wise, the chef and owner of San Diego's Trust Restaurant Group, will collaborate with Feeding San Diego in September on a fundraising dinner for the nonprofit's School Pantry program.

Wise will create a multicourse gourmet meal for the Pairings With a Purpose dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Secret Garden



events venue in Rancho Santa Fe. Tickets are \$375 and will include the dinner with paired beverages, auctions and live entertainment for 120 people.

Feeding San Diego's goal is to expand its pantry program, which now provides

food for the kitchen pantries at 47 Title 1 schools in San Diego County. A Title 1 school has a high percentage of students living below the poverty line. The pantry program now serves 9,000 households per month, but there are 10 more schools on the waiting list.

"No one should go hungry in San Diego, so I am honored to partner with an establishment like Feeding San Diego to help eradicate food insecurity in our city. As chefs, we're here to feed people and provide hospitality, and in that respect this organization and myself have the same goal in mind," said Wise, whose company operates 10 restaurants including Michelin-recommended Trust and Fort Oak, as well as Cardellino and multiple Rare Society steakhouses and Wise Ox butcher shops. For tickets, visit [feedingsandiego.org](http://feedingsandiego.org).

## Tiff's Treats debuts in San Diego

Tiff's Treats, a 24-year-old Austin, Texas-based bakery service that home-delivers warm, fresh-baked cookies, opened its first San Diego County delivery hub on July 6. Working from a commercial kitchen in



Rice bowls from White Rice Morena, which also serves Filipino skewers.

OPEN GYM



SPENCER SELVIDGE

Double chocolate chip cookies from Tiff's Treats, which is now delivering.



EDUARDO CONTRERAS U-T FILE

Creme Brûlée Latte at Mostra Coffee, which has opened a shop in Hillcrest.

San Diego, Tiff's bakes the cookies only after the online order is received, then delivers them in a heat-insulated gift box within a 5- to 10-mile radius of the bakery. Its cookie varieties include chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, oatmeal raisin, sugar, sugar with M&Ms, and double chocolate chip. To order, visit [cookieedelivery.com](http://cookieedelivery.com).

## Mostra Coffee opens fourth location

Mostra Coffee, a San Diego-born coffee roaster and retailer, opened its fourth coffee shop location on July 8 in a ground-floor retail space at the Evoc Hillcrest apartment building at 3935 Normal St. Like other Mostra locations, it serves a full menu of fresh-roasted coffee and other drinks, locally baked pastries and snacks, and specialty items reflecting the Filipino heritage of its founders. [mostracoffee.com](http://mostracoffee.com)

## White Rice Morena in Linda Vista

Chef Phillip Esteban's White Rice restaurant group has opened its latest location, White Rice Morena, at 5299 Linda Vista Road, Suite B, in Linda Vista. Besides carrying the rice bowl dishes found at other White Rice locations, the new outlet serves Filipino street food skewers known as "ihaw ihaw." Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. [ricebowlsforall.com](http://ricebowlsforall.com)

## Chef Char's at Parkway Plaza

Chef Char's Seafood N Soul is the winner of Parkway Plaza shopping center's \$20,000 Taste for the Space competition. Chef Charlene Plummer beat out several small food businesses in the cooking contest, whose prize is three months of free rent at the El Cajon mall. Chef Char's will open in October, serving dishes such as gumbo, fried catfish and jambalaya. For updates, visit [chefcharseafoodnsoul.com](http://chefcharseafoodnsoul.com).

## Sweetgreen opens in Del Mar

Sweetgreen opened its second San Diego location Tuesday in the Del Mar Highlands Town Center, Suite 111, San Diego. The 22-seat restaurant, open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, serves made-to-order salads, bowls, fish tacos and tostadas. [sweetgreen.com/locations](http://sweetgreen.com/locations)

## 'Bachelorette' viewing parties

Mission Pacific Hotel is hosting Monday-night viewing parties of Season 20 episodes of "The Bachelorette" on its rooftop deck this summer. From 9 to 11 p.m. Mondays, the bar's Girls Night Out events feature light bites and drinks for sale. Guests can also visit the set where scenes from "The Bachelorette" were filmed for Episode 3 of this season. For details, visit [missionpacifichotel.com/the-bachelorette-oceanside-ca](http://missionpacifichotel.com/the-bachelorette-oceanside-ca).

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