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MICHAEL SMOLENS
Columnist

Taxes, bonds easier to pass under 2024 ballot measure

San Diego would have billions of dollars more for transportation, housing and fighting fires — and maybe even expanding the convention center — if a proposal passed by the Legislature last week had been the law previously.

In the waning hours of this year's legislative session, lawmakers agreed to put a measure on the November 2024 ballot asking voters to lower the threshold for approving many local special taxes and bonds for public projects and services from a two-thirds majority to 55 percent.

Voter approval of such government revenue proposals has largely required a two-thirds majority because of several laws, including Proposition 13 passed by voters in 1978.

How Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 might have affected past ballot measures, had it been in place, may give a glimpse into the future of the potential voting change.

- In 2020, a \$900 housing bond was backed by nearly 58 percent of city of San Diego voters, but fell short of the necessary two-thirds. The money would have raised property taxes to pay for an estimated 4,700 subsidized rental units and 2,800 units of "permanent supportive housing" to provide homes and services for formerly homeless people. ACA 1 specifically singles out affordable housing for the 55 percent majority.

- In 2016, a countywide half-cent sales tax increase to expand roads and fund transit projects proposed by the San Diego Association of Governments failed to reach the supermajority threshold, yet gained more than 58 percent of the vote. That support came despite a scandal over SANDAG inflating the revenue estimate for this and a previous tax.

- In 2008, a proposed parcel tax of \$52 on county landowners to fund a fire-fighting authority fell just short of two-thirds with 64 percent of the vote. That election followed massive wildfires in 2003 and 2007 that devastated wide swaths of the region.

Those all would be considered landslide victories in typical simple-majority elections. There were others.

However, it's uncertain whether the ACA 1 threshold would have applied to the disputed Measure C in March 2020 to raise hotel taxes in the city of San Diego. The money would have funded homeless services and road repairs, which seemingly would have qualified. The money also would have gone to expand the downtown convention center.

Proponents might have argued that the center, a public building, is infrastructure, but that almost certainly would have triggered a court fight, like so many other aspects of the initiative.

Measure C was supported by more than 65 percent of city voters, just under the two-thirds threshold. Whether the measure was a citizens' initiative requiring only a simple majority, or a government-sponsored tax calling for the larger vote, is still pending in court. Citizens' initiatives had required two-thirds majorities, until a series of recent court rulings reduced that standard.

The state constitution requires a two-thirds vote at the local level for both gov-

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S.D. BACKS ORE. CITY'S CAMPING BAN

Council OKs filing brief supporting Grants Pass Supreme Court efforts

BY BLAKE NELSON

SAN DIEGO

San Diego will support a small Oregon city's attempt to revive its camping ban in a U.S. Supreme Court appeal that could affect how multiple states treat homeless-

campments.

The City Council met behind closed doors Monday to approve filing an amicus brief, a short statement submitted to the justices, endorsing Grants Pass' effort to ticket people sleeping outside.

While the brief is a symbolic endorsement — and comes at a time when San Diego is citing people camping near schools and parks — the city is not formally joining the case.

Mayor Todd Gloria celebrated

the move. "Cities must be able to address the significant public health and safety dangers posed by the unsafe and unsanitary encampments," he said in a statement.

For the past several years, Western states have had limited options for clearing camp sites because of a federal court ruling, known as the Boise decision, that says people generally can't be forced off public land if there are no available shelter beds.

A similar decision blocked Grants Pass from enforcing an anti-

camping ordinance. Earlier this year, lawyers for the Oregon city asked the U.S. Supreme Court to step in and allow officials to issue citations.

Gloria said he'd asked council members to weigh in.

The vote was 6-2 in favor, with Vivian Moreno and Monica Montgomery-Steppe opposed. Council President Sean Elo-Rivera was absent. All three had previously voted against the local camping ban.

SEE CAMPING • B2



NELVIN C. CEPEDA U-T

Visitors to the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve on Tuesday enjoy the short hike out to the West Overlook Trail for an ocean view.

COOLER WEATHER EXPECTED IN COUNTY AS FALL ARRIVES FRIDAY

Back-to-back low-pressure systems will prevent temperatures from hitting normal highs; some drizzle possible

BY GARY ROBBINS

San Diego County's hot, sticky summer will give way to a crisp start to fall this week with unseasonably low temperatures and widespread cloudiness over much of the region, the National Weather Service said.

The weather will genuinely feel like autumn on Friday night when the San Diego State University football team hosts Boise State at

Snapdragon Stadium in Mission Valley, starting at 7:30 p.m. The game will end shortly before the autumnal equinox occurs.

But during the Miramar Air Show at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar, clouds could make it harder to see aircraft on Friday and Saturday. The show ends late Sunday, when skies are expected to be mostly clear.

Back-to-back low-pressure systems will move ashore beginning

today, causing the marine layer to thicken and limiting daytime highs. San Diego is expected to reach 72 degrees today, 71 on Thursday, 73 on Friday, 74 on Saturday and 75 on Sunday. The seasonal high is 77.

Some drizzle could fall early today and Thursday in San Diego. But no significant rain is expected today through Sunday, when the Padres play the last home games of the season.

Sea surface temperatures have increased a bit over the past week. They're now in the range of 70 to 71 degrees. But those figures could dip as the air stays cool and the clouds linger.

San Diego will finish the rainy season on Sept. 30. The city has received 15.72 inches of precipitation since Oct. 1. San Diego averages less than 10 inches of rain a year.

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BEER, BRATWURST AND OOMPAH BANDS: A GUIDE TO OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS

County festivities include 21-and-older events and fun for the whole family

BY LINDA MCINTOSH

Oktoberfest celebrations with beer gardens, oompah bands and dancing along with German food, from wienerschnitzel and bratwurst to sauerkraut and German pastries, are happening across San Diego County in mid-September through October. Here's a guide to the festivals:

CARLSBAD

41st annual Oktoberfest: The Carlsbad Rotary Clubs' Oktoberfest Fall Festival is from noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Carlsbad Strawberry Fields, 1050 Cannon Road. Highlights include German meals from Tip Top Meats, live German music and the Bavarian Bier Garten. The Bier Garten will feature a variety of Oktoberfest beers on tap and various wines along with a Stein-holding Competition, Musical Hut Spiel (German musical chairs) and Schnitzelbank (short rhyming verse songs). There will be a raffle with a grand-prize trip to next year's Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany. Attractions include a corn maze, tractor rides, bounce houses and a marigold field. There will be a petting zoo, corn hole, kids zone, magic and science performances, and a do-it-yourself magic table. The fundraiser is hosted by the Carlsbad Rotary Club and Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club for Carlsbad charities. There is a \$10 entry fee to enter into the Carlsbad Strawberry Fields. Parking is free. Visit rotaryoktoberfest.org.

CARMEL VALLEY

Oktoberfest at One Paseo: The annual celebration features craft beers, live Hof-bräuhaus music, lawn games and German-inspired bites along with crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Oktoberfest from 2 to 6 p.m. Oct. 7 on



NANCEE E. LEWIS U-T FILE

Oktoberfest celebrations with plenty of beer, bratwurst and oompah are slated across San Diego County.

the lawn behind Harland Brewery at One Paseo, 3725 Paseo Place. The event is for ages 21 and older. Tickets are \$35. Visit onepaseo.com/events/oktoberfest.

EL CAJON

Two-weekend festival: The German American Societies of San Diego host Oktoberfest in El Cajon for two weekends, Sept. 29-Oct. 1 and Oct. 6-8, at 1017 S. Mollison Ave. An opening day parade with keg tap and the crowning of the 2023 Oktoberfest Queen is at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 29. Enjoy authentic German food and German beers and liquors. Watch traditional folk dancing, compete in games and contests, visit vendor and craft booths, and bring the kids to the Kids' Zone. Hours are 4 to 10 p.m. Fridays, noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 9 p.m. Sundays. Entry fee of \$15 for adults

on Fridays and Saturdays, \$5 on Sundays. Free for those younger than 21, club members with a current membership, and all active military. Tickets are at bit.ly/3DDgnx8.

ENCINITAS

Oompah and Gemütlichkeit dancers: The 27th annual Encinitas Oktoberfest takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday along Mountain Vista Drive off El Camino Real between Wandering Road and Rambling Road. Hosted by the Encinitas Chamber of Commerce, highlights of the family-oriented festival and artisan fair include Bavarian music with oompah music and dance troupes from The Gemütlichkeit Alpine Dancers and the Encinitas Ballet, two beer gardens and traditional German food ranging from sausages and schnitzel to

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PUBLIC WORKSHOP IN CHULA VISTA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON MANAGING HOMELESSNESS

Oct. 5 event will also provide information on housing and services

BY TAMMY MURGA

CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista's unsheltered population is the highest it's been over the last five years. Officials are now considering policies to address the issue, but they want residents' feedback first.

An opportunity to provide input is scheduled for Oct. 5 at a workshop to explore "impacts, policies and opportunities" to better manage the homeless crisis, the city announced in a news release.

The workshop comes after a City Council directive last month to research laws adopted by other cities and recommend ordinances that could work locally. Currently, Chula Vista's municipal code prohibits sleeping or camping on city-owned or leased property, such as parking lots or when parks are closed, as well as obstructing the right-of-way.

San Diego is nearly two months into enforcing its controversial camping ban and Poway began its own a month ago, policies that allow law enforcement to force people off public land if shelter is available.

Chula Vista is looking at those as a

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LOCAL REPORTS

CRIME, COURTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Teacher's aide sentenced in sexual photo scheme

SAN DIEGO

A Carlsbad man who worked as a teachers aide, substitute teacher and youth hockey coach was sentenced Tuesday to nearly 16 years in federal prison for his role in a scheme to trick minors into sending sexually explicit material of themselves to him and two co-conspirators.

Daniel Dasko was arrested last year after federal authorities said he worked with two people, one of whom was a Philadelphia-area teacher, to solicit sexually explicit material from minor victims.

That teacher, Andrew Wolf, was sentenced earlier this year to nearly 39 years in prison, while another defendant, Kray Strange of Carthage, N.Y., was sentenced to 33 years in prison.

Federal prosecutors said the other two men worked to "catfish" victims by posing as teenage girls online. In a sentencing memorandum filed by prosecutors, they wrote that several of the minor victims were targeted "because Dasko provided their names and publicly available online information."

Dasko's defense attorney, Marcus Bourassa, wrote in a sentencing memorandum that his client's conduct differed from the other two defendants, who "were operating on a different scale" by directly baiting victims in the catfishing scheme.

Bourassa, who sought a seven-year sentence for Dasko, also said his client accepted responsibility early on by immediately seeking sex offender treatment from the outset of the case.

In a letter to U.S. District Judge Linda Lopez, Dasko wrote that while he "earnestly loved teaching and coaching," he could not "fault anyone who is disgusted with my career

choices in light of my crimes here. I share their disgust with myself."

Dasko pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of distribution of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

At his sentencing hearing, Dasko read a letter he had authored to the victims, in which he wrote, "I'm sorry that I will never be able to make amends to you. I am sure you all carry this unwanted burden on your shoulders every day and will continue to do so for the rest of your lives. ... I always will and I deserve to carry a great burden for what I have done to you."

Lopez, who imposed a 188-month sentence, also heard from the mother of a teenage boy who was 13 years old when he shared sexually explicit content of himself with someone he thought was a 13-year-old girl.

The woman said her son continues to suffer from feelings of humiliation and self-loathing, as well as fear that images of himself may be circulating.

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Motorcycle rider dies after crashing on highway

EAST COUNTY

A 56-year-old man died after crashing his motorcycle on Sunrise Highway near Mount Laguna on Sunday, the California Highway Patrol said.

The rider was headed south about 1:30 p.m. when he failed to negotiate a left curve in the roadway, about 1.5 miles north of Old Highway 80, CHP Officer Jared Grieshaber said. The man's motorcycle crashed into a guardrail along the west edge of the roadway, throwing him about 100 feet down an embankment.

He was flown to a hospital, where he

died, Grieshaber said. The man's name was not released.

The investigation was ongoing Tuesday. Investigators had not determined whether alcohol or drugs were factors in the crash, Grieshaber said. They also hadn't determined how fast the rider was traveling.

DAVID HERNANDEZ U-T

Evacuation orders lifted after lithium battery fire

VALLEY CENTER

A lithium-battery fire in a storage unit at a commercial facility in Valley Center prompted road closures and evacuations for nearby homes and businesses on Monday.

The fire broke out just after 5 p.m. near Valley Center Road and Vesper Road, according to sheriff's Lt. William Amavisca. "The fire measures taken by the company have kept it pretty confined," he said.

As a precaution, businesses and homes along Valley Center Road, from Irish Oaks Road to Miller Road, were ordered to evacuate, according to the Office of Emergency Services online map. People on Turtle Rock Road and Cole Grade Road were evacuated if their homes and businesses were south of Valley Center School.

The orders were lifted just after 8:30 p.m.

Cal Fire Capt. Brett Pascua said precautions were taken because lithium batteries can heat up quickly, causing fire and chemicals to spread to each other or nearby buildings rapidly. But no smoke was showing from the shipping container Monday.

No injuries were reported.

CALEB LUNETTA U-T

MILITARY

New Navy ship to be named Harriet Tubman

A Navy fuel ship that's scheduled to be built in San Diego will bear the name of the abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who helped hundreds of enslaved people escape from the American South in the 1800s along a secret route known as the Underground Railroad.

The decision was announced last week by Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, maintaining the Navy's practice of naming John Lewis-class fleet oilers after civil rights leaders and social activists.

"Harriet Tubman is more than deserving of this recognition," Del Toro said in a statement. "She was born into unimaginable circumstances, but she dedicated her life to facing greater danger and adversity, becoming a 'conductor of freedom', helping others escape slavery."

"In addition, during the Civil War, Tubman was the first American American woman to serve formally in the military. Her legacy deserves our nation's continued recognition, and our fleet benefits from having her name emblazoned on the hull of one of our great ships."

Her name will go on a 742-foot Navy oiler ship that General Dynamics-NASSCO will begin building on San Diego Bay in late 2025. The historic yard has already built, is building or has plans to construct eight other Lewis-class ships.

The other ships are named John Lewis, Harvey Milk, Earl Warren, Robert F. Kennedy, Lucy Stone, Sojourner Truth, Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The Robert F. Kennedy will be launched into the bay this fall.

GARY ROBBINS U-T



LINDA LAMBIOTTE U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

San Diego's NASSCO will build a 742-foot Navy ship to be named in honor of Harriet Tubman.

TWO SAN DIEGO COUNTY SCHOOLS GET NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON HONOR

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Two San Diego County schools on Tuesday were among 33 across the state named National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

The honor recognizes schools based on their overall academic performance or on their progress in closing achievement gaps among students of different backgrounds.

A total of 353 schools across the country received the honor.

The San Diego County schools making the cut were Garfield Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District and Casita Center for Technology, Science & Math in the Vista Unified School District.

"The honorees for our 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it

means to Raise the Bar in education," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said in a statement. "The leaders, educators, and staff at our National Blue Ribbon Schools continually inspire me with their dedication to fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally."

FEEDBACK

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guide and may potentially enforce provisions in their laws, but the South County city will also need to consider how to enforce policies it may adopt, Mayor John McCann said in a previous interview.

"Staff will demonstrate and show (to the City Council) that we need to be able to have the tools to enforce people from not creating encampments in our parks, in our open spaces and that we can protect the neighborhoods and our citizens, too," he said.

Chula Vista had the second-largest number of people living on the streets at 318, a 54 percent increase

from 2022, according to a January countywide count. That figure did not account for the 122 in emergency shelters or transitional housing. Between 2018 and 2022, the number of unsheltered people varied from 229 to 206 and those in some type of shelter ranged between 108 and 79.

The true number of homeless people is likely higher, however, according to city officials and homeless advocates. Chula Vista's Homeless Outreach Team has conducted its own count and has previously tallied about 700 people. The city is analyzing data from its most recent count and is expected to have it ready by the Oct. 5 workshop, said spokesperson Michele Clock.

A ban on encampments

or other policies would be the latest in a series of fixes, including opening a 65-unit bridge shelter and negotiating the purchase and repurpose of a motel into housing and safe parking for the homeless.

Many have criticized the city's operations of its new shelter because it has not been filled at or near capacity, as well as its decision to shut down a park because of encampments before the shelter opened or having other local emergency housing options in place.

The workshop, which will also be livestreamed on the city's website, is scheduled to start at 4 p.m. at City Council Chambers, located at 276 Fourth Ave.

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EVENTS

FROM B1

pretzels. A ceremonial parade is slated for noon. A free shuttle will run from Flora Vista Elementary School from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Visit encinitasoktoberfest.com.

Olivenhain Oktoberfest: Features local brews and German dishes from noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Olivenhain Meeting Hall Grounds, 423 Rancho Santa Fe Road. The Our Song band will serenade with a medley of German melodies, European harvest anthems and American pop hits. Put on your dirndl or lederhosen and pack chairs and sunshades. The menu features bratwurst and knackwurst from Tip Top Meats, hot dogs, potato salad, sauerkraut and strudel. The beer and wine garden features craft beer from local breweries and a wide range of wines. Soft Munich-style pretzels will be sold by the San Diego Pretzel Co. Food tickets are \$10-\$45. Visit olivenhain.org/pages/2023-olivenhain-oktoberfest.

FALLBROOK

Two days of festivities at vineyard: Celebrate Oktoberfest with beer, music and food from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday for ages 21 and older and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday for Family Day at The Vineyard 1924, 1924 E. Mission Road. Admission is \$10, free for kids younger than 12. For tickets for Saturday, visit oktoberfest2023sept23rd.eventbrite.com. For Sunday, visit oktoberfest2023sept24familyday.eventbrite.com. Visit thevineyard1924.com.

JULIAN

Church festival: St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church hosts its annual Oktoberfest fundraiser from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 7 at 2814 B St. The event features live German music, brats, beer, desserts, cake and pie walks, bingo and carnival games. There will be a silent auction and raffles. Visit stelizabethjulian.org.

LA MESA

50th annual Oktoberfest: Free German-themed festivities for all ages from 4 to 10 p.m. Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 30 and noon to 8 p.m. Oct. 1 in the La Mesa Village with German Polka bands, brass musicians and indie rock jams, dancing, "Glücklich" Games and a food court with traditional German food, including giant pretzels, bratwurst and schnitzel among other fare. An Artisanal Market will feature more than 100 vendors with handmade items. Biergarten passes are from \$5-\$45. Visit lamesaoktoberfest.org.

OCEAN BEACH

OB Oktoberfest: Ocean Beach Oktoberfest returns Oct. 6-7 at the Ocean Beach Municipal Pier parking lot, 5099 Newport Ave. The two-day event will feature Oktoberfest-themed contests and games (a Mr. & Mrs. Oktoberfest competition, a traditional stein-holding contest), brat eating, and live music from local and nationally touring artists, including Afroman, Ballyhoo!, Paging the 90s, Band of Gringos. There will be a 4:20 happy hour and OFest drag show. Guests ages

21 and older can enjoy the beer garden featuring traditional German brews, local beer, wine and spirits. O.B.'s Veterans Plaza will be home to the family-friendly area organized by the Ocean Beach Mainstreet Association with vendors and Oktoberfest activities. Proceeds will benefit the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association, The Peninsula Alliance and The Warrior Foundation Freedom Station. Hours are 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Oct. 6 and noon to 11:30 p.m. Oct. 7. Tickets are \$10 at the door. VIP tickets for \$49 can be bought ahead of time at oboktoberfest.com and include entrance, a 1-liter "OB Oktoberfest" mug filled with two beers, and access to a VIP area.

OCEANSIDE

Surftoberfest: German food, local bands, dancing and "Bier" at the "Oceanside-Style" Oktoberfest from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Moose Lodge, 2017 S. Coast Highway. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Oceanside. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for members; \$5 additional at door. Visit surftoberfest.com.

Oktoberfest celebration: Carruth Cellar's HANGAR76 will put on an Oktoberfest celebration from noon to 8 p.m. Sept. 30 in its outdoor wine and beer garden, 3229 Roymer Road. Highlights include Javelina BBQ Special Oktoberfest menu, live music by Sonic Tonic from 5 to 8 p.m., Medium Foods Food Truck from 2 to 8 p.m., beer release from tipping pint and "Dress to Impress" gets visitors \$1 off wine and beer. Visit carruthcellars.com.

RAMONA

Ramona Motorcycle Rally & Oktoberfest: The Ramona Chamber of Commerce puts on the festival from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 7-8 at the Ramona Outdoor Community Center and Fairgrounds, 421 Aqua Lane. Oct. 7 will feature flat track motorcycle races in the dirt of the rodeo arena put on by Hell on Wheels MC, followed by three bands performing in the pavilion. There will be Oktoberfest beers and local craft beers, food and merchandise vendors. Oct. 8 features the seventh annual Custom Motorcycle Show and biker rodeo with motorcycle games. Admission is \$10 per day or \$15 for both days. Proceeds go to the chamber's scholarship programs. Visit ramonachamber.com/motorcycle-events.

Oktoberfest celebration: The Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church hosts Oktoberfest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 1 at 537 E St. with live Bavarian folk music and dancing, food and drinks, and games and crafts for children. A silent auction will offer themed gift baskets. A wine and beer tent will be in the adults-only area with a kids zone featuring inflatable obstacle course and a jumper. Proceeds benefit the church and its programs, such as the Feed the Hungry program. Call (760) 789-0583.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Rancho BERNARDO Festival: The 12th annual event for ages 21 and older is set for 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 21 at Webb Park, 16826 Bernardo Center Drive, hosted by

the Rancho Bernardo Sunrise Rotary Club. VIP admission is 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$65 to \$90 (VIP); \$10 for designated driver; \$10 for food ticket. Proceeds go to the Rotary's charity programs. Visit ranchobernardofestival.com.

SAN DIEGO

East Village Oktoberfest: The seventh annual celebration from 1 to 7 p.m. Sept. 30 in East Village, 1301 Market St., will have lots of beers on tap, a traditional German Polka band, tribute bands and music with a Latin flair. There will be soft pretzels with beer mustard and Bavarian sausages, stein-holding contests, rowing competitions and other games along with a classic car show. Dress in your lederhosen or dirndl. Tickets are \$7-\$60. Visit quarterlydsd.com/event/east-village-oktoberfest-2.

Oktoberfest Cruise on Mission Bay: An Oktoberfest party cruise on Mission Bay aboard the Bahia Belle from 8 to 11 p.m. Oct. 13 takes off from the Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 W. Mission Bay Drive. Highlights include a variety of beers and Bavarian-inspired bites, such as a giant pretzels, bratwurst with assorted toppings and gourmet fresh popcorn, along with live folk tunes on the first level and a DJ on the second floor for folks to dance the night away. General admission is \$25. The cruise is for ages 21 and older. Boarding begins at 7:50 p.m. Visit bit.ly/44VhNwJ.

Oktoberfest at brewery: An Oktoberfest will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday at Eppig Brewing's Pt. Loma Waterfront Biergarten, 2817 Dickens St. There will be fresh Festbier, Bavarian fare by Mastiff Sausage Co., German desserts from local baker Emily Weinberg and an expanded outdoor Biergarten with a traditional Bavarian festival tent and German beer tables. A stein-holding contest is planned for Saturday and Sunday with sign-ups around 2 p.m. Wear your dirndl or lederhosen. Admission is free. No advance tickets or reservations are required. Beer and food will be sold. Visit eppigbrewing.com.

Craftoberfest at Liberty Station: The 10-day free event celebrates the art of craft beer with a variety of beer and foods from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Oct. 1 at Liberty Public Market, 2820 Historic Decatur Road. There will be Beerlympics and beer trivia and bingo games along with live music on the Main Patio Sundays. A Vinyl at the Market sale of records produced by Mo Records will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 1. Visit libtystation.com/do/craftoberfest-2023.

Beer Crawl: Black Plague Brewing, Bottlecrafter, Original 40 Brewing and Second Chance Beer team up for the second annual North Park Oktoberfest Beer Crawl from 5 to 9 p.m. Sept. 28 to give beer lovers a chance to win a \$600 prize package of gift cards and merchandise. Visit the four taprooms (which are within 0.3 mile of each other) and try each brewery's beer special; that earns you a punch on a special punch card. Complete the card to be entered into the raffle for the grand prize. Visit allstrategies.com/oktoberfest.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2023. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history

On Sept. 20, 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome.



AP

Billie Jean King arrives to the court at the Astrodome before her match with Bobby Riggs.

On this date

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed en route, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1881, Chester A. Arthur was sworn in as the 21st president of the United States, succeeding the assassinated James A. Garfield.

In 1946, the first Cannes Film Festival, lasting 16 days, opened in France.

In 1962, James Meredith, a Black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett.

In 1964, The Beatles concluded their first full-fledged U.S. tour by performing in a charity concert at the Pa-

ramount Theater in New York.

In 1973, Jim Croce died in a plane crash near Natchitoches, La., at age 30.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, AT&T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against Bill and Hillary Clinton.

In 2011, repeal of the U.S. military's 18-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" compromise took effect, allowing gay and lesbian service members to serve openly.

In 2012, Space Shuttle Endeavour, riding atop a Boeing 747, landed at a California Air Force base en route to its eventual retirement home, the

California Science Center in Los Angeles.

In 2017, Hurricane Maria, the strongest storm to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of power distribution lines and causing an island-wide blackout.

Today's birthdays

Actor Sophia Loren is 89. Musician Chuck Panozzo is 75. Actor Tony Denison is 74. Actor Debbi Morgan is 72. Musician Peter White is 69. Actor Betsy Brantley is 68. Actor Gary Cole is 67. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 63. Musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 59. Actor Kristen Johnston is 56. Singers Gunna and Matthew Nelson are 56. Musician Ben Shepherd is 55. Actor Jon Bernthal is 47.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMPING

FROM B1

The only council member to oppose San Diego's ordinance but support Grants Pass was Kent Lee.

In an email, Lee wrote that he hoped the Supreme Court could clarify "what strategies are and are not constitutional," which "could help make our local policy discussions more productive."

The council member added that more shelter space and affordable housing were the "only proven solutions" to alleviate the crisis. "No court case will ever change our moral obligation to provide shelter to the growing number of San Diegans who suddenly find

themselves unable to afford housing."

The city will sign on to a brief prepared by Seattle. The case has already been formally endorsed by a group of people who live and work near a large encampment in Phoenix.

San Diego's ban took effect this summer. In the first few weeks, police gave dozens of warnings and issued five tickets but had not made any arrests as of Sept. 10.

Critics have said these rules make it harder to connect vulnerable people with housing and supportive services without addressing the root causes of homelessness.

The mayor also touted recent efforts to expand the number of places homeless individuals can stay, including a "safe sleeping site" by

Balboa Park. There were 146 people living in 121 tents as of last week, according to a city spokesperson. Although 10 spots remained open at the time, officials previously said the waiting list far exceeded available space.

The spread of encampments has led to multiple legal fights around the state and nation. On Tuesday, a Sacramento prosecutor announced he was suing California's capital to force officials to clear blocked sidewalks.

It's unclear if the justices will be open to giving states more leeway. The court previously declined to overturn the Boise ruling.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. blake.nelson@sduuniontribune.com