

NEWS

Seeing the sea—Aquarium on Wheels is back

Aquarium on Wheels magnifies young scientist's curiosity

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Sea urchins, baby sharks and more aquatic creatures attended their first day of elementary school Thursday morning following the Aquarium on Wheels' two-year hiatus.

The educational program from The Aquarium of the Pacific was gleefully welcomed back with smiling faces despite the rain, at William F. Prisk Elementary in Long Beach. Two educators from the Aquarium of the Pacific spoke to the classroom for 30 minutes before allowing students to get hands-on experience with the animals.

The engrossed crowd of elementary school students Thursday morning learned "amazing animal adaptations," the different ways in which sea creatures have adapted over hundreds of years to suit the harsh and cold Pacific Ocean.

"I think this is wonderful because it allows a greater exposure to more students to the ocean and its inhabitants," said Jennie Dean, vice president of education and conservation for The Aquarium of the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Aquarium of the Pacific instructor Ty Frantz demonstrates how the nose of an elephant seal works while standing next to a life-sized inflatable model of one to the students at William F. Prisk Elementary during the Aquarium on Wheels event on Jan. 5, 2023.

Pacific. "It is also an opportunity for the hands-on aspect to exist in greater form. Several of the schools that we've served in the past have had students in them who have not been to the beach and have not seen a tide pool."

For preschool through kindergarten groups, the aquarium provides an "Under the sea shapes" lesson, where educators point out shapes hiding in nature, like the triangle fins of a shark and the diamond-shaped blades of kelp.

Students were also able to touch a replica of a sea otter fur pallet and feel a shark's jaw and sharp teeth. A large portable tidepool inside of the truck housed the stars of the show: sea stars, hermit crabs, baby sharks, urchins, anemones and a

friendly sea cucumber who call the Aquarium on Wheels their home.

Eager students lined up to give gentle, two-finger touches to each of the animals as educators pointed out their distinct biological intricacies and charms.

"There is something really special about touching the real thing as opposed to seeing an image or handling a plastic artifact," Dean said. "Students get very excited when they're able to touch a sea star live and see that the one side of it's very hard and the other side has hundreds of tiny little tube feet that kind of tickle their hand when it touches them.

"That joy and connection that is expressed on their faces or with their exclamations as they're hands-on with our tide pools is my favorite part of this," she said.

Aquarium on Wheels began in 2002 and visits locations within a 75-mile radius with a truck equipped with sea animals and oceanic lessons for viewers. The program was serving 35,000 students in Southern California before having to pause in the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Though the program only recently announced its return, the aquarium has already confirmed visits to 16 cities in Southern California, including Covina, Irvine, Northridge, Redlands, Riverside and Santa Ana.

The Aquarium on Wheels used

see AQUARIUM ON WHEELS page 5

NEWS

Community raises over \$2,000 for street vendor after cart is stolen

Kristen Farrah Naem
Staff Writer

Shautessia Woods has been peddling her handcrafted juice blends around the Pike Outlets in Long Beach since losing her job due to the pandemic in 2020. But her signature juice cart hasn't been seen in the area since it was stolen last month.

Woods had already been making healthy smoothies for herself, and thought the community might enjoy her nutrient-rich concoctions as well. She then began experimenting with cold-pressing fruits and vegetables rather than blending them.

To create her brand, Woods combined her love of music and healthy juices. The name of her business, Intl (International) Players Juice,

and each of her juice blends are named after Hip-Hop and R&B songs.

"In Long Beach, downtown in particular, there are a lot of juice bars," Woods said. "So it had to be different [...] I wanted to fuse two different things that I love: music and juice."

Woods credits her parents for her passion for music, and told the *Signal Tribune* they constantly played music in their home while she grew up.

Her best-selling flavor is named after a 1994 hit song by Snoop Dogg. To create "Gin N Juice," Woods cold-presses oranges, pineapples, turmeric and ginger to create a sweet yet healthy beverage.

For fans of green juices, "Kale You Stand The Rain" (a play on

the 1988 song "Can You Stand The Rain" by New Edition) mixes kale, spinach, celery, cucumbers and apples.

But a major wrench has recently been thrown into Woods' business plans. On Dec. 12, she learned that her customized juice cart had been stolen.

"It's been great," Woods said of her business before the theft. "The community has really supported me. It was great until somebody stole my juice cart last month."

Woods said she had been keeping her cart at a secure and gated location. After a burglary, the owner of the property called Woods to inform her that someone had broken through the gate and her cart was gone.

see STREET VENDOR page 2



Image courtesy Shautessia Woods

Shautessia Woods, owner of Intl Players Juice, hands fresh cold-pressed juice to a customer.



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EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, December 28

9:44 a.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 3500 block E. PCH
5:48 p.m., Grand theft, 2700 block Cherry Ave.
6:43 p.m., Robbery, 2400 block Cherry Ave.

Thursday, December 29

8:32 a.m., Grand theft, 3300 block Cerritos Ave.
10:26 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle; misdemeanor warrant, 2800 block Walnut Ave. (suspect arrested)

Friday, December 30

6:20 a.m., Auto burglary, 180 block Temple Ave.
11:35 a.m., Auto burglary, 2600 block Lime Ave.
2:19 p.m., Auto burglary, 2000 block Cherry Ave.
6:21 p.m., 2 misdemeanor warrants, 1600 block E. Willow St.
7:24 p.m., Assault with a deadly weapon, 3000 block California Ave.

Saturday, December 31

10:37 a.m., Burglary, 2600 block Wall St.
12:02 p.m., Identity theft, 3200 block Lewis Ave.
2:01 p.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 3200 block E. PCH

Sunday, January 1

2:31 a.m., Fire, E. 19th St./St. Louis Ave.
8:06 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2600 block E. 28th St.
10:11 a.m., Identity theft, 2700 block Walnut Ave.
9:20 p.m., Burglary, 1400 block E. 33rd St.

Monday, January 2

10:48 a.m., Grand theft, 3200 block Lemon Ave.
2:19 p.m., Person with a knife, 1800 block E. Willow St.
5:49 p.m., Battery, 1800 block E. Willow St. (suspect arrested)
8:15 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block Redondo Ave.

Tuesday, January 3

7:54 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2500 block Cherry Ave.
8:52 a.m., Auto burglary, 1900 block Cherry Ave.

LBPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: longbeach.gov/police. Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application & type in an address.

You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.

STREET VENDOR continued from page 1

“The cart is basically how I would sell, at pop-ups or just down at the Pike,” Woods said. “It was the juice cart; that’s how people saw it. So it’s stopping me from heading out, I don’t have anything to take juice in. The attraction is not there.”

Woods made a police report and began searching for her cart, walking around the area and driving to places she thought it may have been taken.

According to Woods, police said that due to the unique look of her cart, the thieves most likely would sell it for parts or strip the vinyl wrapping off of it.

The custom-made vinyl wraps on her cart depicted juice cartons with faces wearing backwards hats, a heart formed from illustrations of different vegetables and the iconic quote, “You Got The Juice Now,”

from the 1992 film “Juice” starring Tupac Shakur and Omar Epps.

When fellow small business owner Kerrina Sanchez found out about the theft, she set up a GoFundMe campaign to help Woods replace her cart. As of Jan. 5, the online campaign has raised \$2,840 of its \$4,500 goal.

Other community members offered Woods the use of their carts, and she also received a donation of new vinyl wraps for her future cart.

“They’ve really stepped up and it’s beyond my wildest dreams,” Woods said.

To keep up with Intl Players Juice, follow @intlplayersjuice. Those who want to donate to the GoFundMe campaign for Woods can visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/supporting-one-of-our-own-small-business-owners>.

CRIME

Man charged with alleged DUI death of motorist on New Year’s Eve in Long Beach

City News Service

Southern California Local News

A Los Angeles man was charged Wednesday in connection with an alleged DUI crash that killed a 62-year-old man who was pushing a disabled van in Long Beach on New Year’s Eve.

David Jermain Grace, 33, is charged with one felony count each of vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence, driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and driving with a 0.08% blood alcohol content causing injury, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

The fatal crash occurred at 5:22 p.m. Saturday in the 300 block of Market Street, according to the Long Beach Police Department.

Police said Grace was allegedly speeding eastbound on Market Street in a 2013 Lexus and struck a disabled 1991 Dodge van that was being pushed by the 62-year-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Signal Tribune file photo.

old man, alongside his 19-year-old daughter.

The daughter was not injured in the crash, but the impact pinned her father between the Dodge and Lexus. The van then struck an unoccupied, parked Nissan truck.

Paramedics rushed the man to a hospital, where he died from his injuries. The man’s name has not yet been released.

Grace has remained behind bars since his arrest by Long Beach police that evening, jail records show.

CRIME

Driver leaves scene of fatal crash, calls police to report incident

City News Service

Southern California Local News

A motorist who fatally struck a man in Long Beach later contacted police to report the incident and cooperate with the investigation, authorities said Monday.

Officers dispatched at 11:10 p.m. Sunday to the area of Harbor Scenic Drive and Ocean Boulevard and located the victim in the roadway, appearing to have been struck by a vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene, the Long Beach Police Department reported.

“While officers were conducting their investigation, the driver of the vehicle that struck the pedestrian contacted police,” LBPB officials said.

Investigators said a 2013 Nissan Altima, driven by a 20-year-old resident of Lakewood, was going northbound on Harbor Scenic Drive towards the Ocean Boulevard bridge when the car struck a man



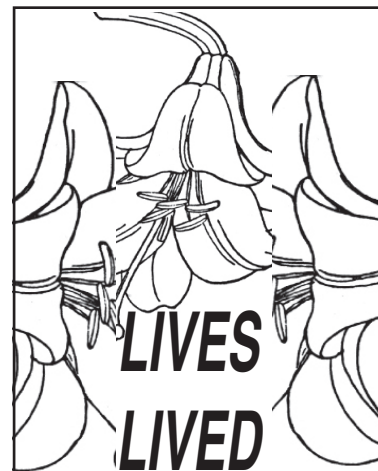
Kat Wilcox | Pexels

Crime scene tape.

attempting to cross westbound, on foot, across the lanes of traffic under the Ocean Boulevard bridge.

Police said the motorist had a valid driver’s license and proof of insurance, adding that speed, distracted driving and driving under the influence do not appear to be factors in the crash.

The LBPB’s Collision Investigation Detail urged anyone with information about the crash to call 562-570-7355 or Crime Stoppers at 800-222-8477.



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David Cruise 50
Lawrence Seymour 76
Jacquelyn Bradney 72
Craig Hunt 62
Florencio Batalon 86
Richard Schmid 56
Curtis Keil 81
Earl Pettaway 75
Anna Salisbury 70
Sharon Savoy 81
Oscar Walton 70
Carlene Brown 77
Karen Burks 69
Renee Bucher 82

The families were assisted by McKenzie Mortuary. For more details on service dates and times, contact (562) 961-9301

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AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL

As we set our sights on a new year and the countless possibilities that come with it, now is the perfect time to gain perspective as a community. Long Beach is a large city, but the people living in our neighborhoods, shopping at our small businesses and volunteering at our parks and libraries make it feel like a small town, where each voice matters.

Our first Around Town edition for the year highlights just that—you will find opportunities to support local breweries and libraries, an invitation to explore the city's wetlands and a chance to refine your vision for the year among fellow neighbors.

Fill up Friday afternoon by taking in the arts, either with a classic film screening at the Billie Jean King Main Library or an exhibit at the Munzón Gallery. Saturday is a perfect day for those wishing to try new things in the new year. Search for sea turtles and learn local history with Los Cerritos Wetlands Saturday morning, then make it back in time to listen to a story in Khmer at the Signal Hill Library, donate gently used books at the same location or catch an online author talk on a new young adult series.

The week offers multiple fun and free ways to meet new people and hone new skills, so don't miss the chance to explore around town.

06 FRIDAY

BLOOD DRIVE

1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Belmont Shore Athletic Club (4918 2nd St.) is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Volunteers are needed to donate life-saving blood. To make an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit the Red Cross' website. Free.

CLASSIC FILM SERIES

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The public is invited to a screening of the 1941 classic drama "Citizen Kane" in the Billie Jean King Main Library's Miller Room (200 W. Broadway). The film follows the life-story of a wealthy man who begins a disastrous affair with a nightclub singer. Free.

CLOSING RECEPTION

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is invited to the Munzón Gallery (1730 E Anaheim St. #A) for the closing night of the group art exhibit "Filling The Void." Free to attend.

07 SATURDAY

TURTLE TREK

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Environmental educators will lead Los Cerritos Wetlands' first nature walk of the year, as they take attendees along the levy of the San Gabriel River, which bisects Los Cerritos Wetlands. Residents can search for sea turtles, learn about the Zelder marsh ecosystem and hear about the Signal Hill Petroleum's history and impact on the wetlands. Closed-toe shoes are required. The parking lot gate (at the corner of First Street and PCH) will close at 8:10 a.m. and latecomers will not be permitted. Children ages seven and older are welcome, though they must be able to walk for two hours without turning back. RSVP on Eventbrite. Free.

KHMER STORYTIME

11 a.m. to noon. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring children of all ages to the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.) to enjoy Khmer stories, music and movements led by local business Khemara Kids. Free.

AUTHOR TALK

11 a.m. to noon. The Long Beach Public Library will be hosting an online discussion by Namina Forna, author of the "Gilded Ones" series. The young adult fantasy book series tells the story of a teen girl with golden blood who is outcast from her village and becomes a warrior. To register for this event, visit <https://libraryc.org/lbpl/upcoming>. Free.

08 SUNDAY

HI-PERFORMANCE SWAP MEET

6 a.m. to 1 p.m. A wide variety of antique, classic and high-performance cars and parts will be available for purchase at Veterans Memorial Stadium (5000 E Lew Davis St.). Free to enter.

LBFD PREP WORKOUT

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Long Beach Fire Department invites anyone interested in becoming a firefighter to this workout that will familiarize them with the physical requirements for the job. The workout will be held at the Captain David Rosa Regional Fire Training Center (2249 Argonne Ave.). Participants are asked to bring T-shirts, shorts, workout shoes, work gloves, pen and paper. To reserve a spot, visit Eventbrite. Free.

09 MONDAY

DIGNITY ON WHEELS

9 a.m. to noon. We Hope Showers will provide showers and laundry machines for those in need at MacArthur Park (1321 E. Anaheim St.). Free of charge.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Two yellow-bellied slider turtles bask in the sunlight at the edge of the water at the El Dorado Duck Pond on April 26, 2022. The turtles will need to be rehomed during the upcoming restoration project.

STEAM STATION

2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring school-age children to the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.) to learn about building, engineering and designing. Free.

10 TUESDAY

RANCHO STORYTIME

10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring young children to Rancho Los Cerritos (4600 Virginia Rd.) to enjoy stories from diverse authors. Families are welcome to bring blankets, strollers and snacks. Free.

GAME NIGHT

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tabletop game enthusiasts are invited to play a variety of games at this monthly event held at the Billie Jean King Main Library's Miller Room (200 W. Broadway). From 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., players will be able to choose from chess, checkers, backgammon, rummikub, mahjong and cards. From 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. attendees will learn and play the game Nine Men's Morris, a centuries-old two-player board game. Free.

TRIVIA NIGHT

7 p.m. Those 21 and older are invited to Beachwood Brewing (210 E 3rd St.) to compete in various rounds of trivia. \$5 beers and food will be available for purchase. First, second and third place prizes will be given out at the end. Free.

11 WEDNESDAY

CAREER FAIR

9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Job seekers are invited to the Marriott (4700 Airport Plaza Drive) to meet

face-to-face with recruiters from a variety of companies. Attendees are asked to dress professionally and to bring an updated resume. Free.

COMMUNITY VISION BOARDING

12:30 p.m. Project Opportunity invites the community to create vision boards that will inspire them for the rest of the year. Participants will cut out magazine clippings to create their vision boards. Snacks and supplies will be provided, but attendees are welcome to bring their own art supplies as well. Those who attend will receive a complimentary planner for 2023. The event will take place at Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.) Free.

12 THURSDAY

TODDLER STORYTIME

10 a.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring toddlers from 9 months to 3 years old to El Dorado Neighborhood Library (2900 Studebaker Rd.) to enjoy stories, songs and more. Free.

LIVE COMEDY & MUSIC

7 p.m. The public is invited to watch a new live comedy show by Cara Connors and a musical performance by Bonded Jacky at Plantitas (2011 E 4th St.) Tickets for the event cost \$20 at the door, and \$15 if purchased in advance at caraconnors.com/tickets.

IS THAT IT?

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Signal Tribune

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The *Signal Tribune* welcomes letters to the editor, which should be signed, dated and include a phone number to verify authenticity. Letters are due by noon on the Wednesday before desired publication date. The *Signal Tribune* reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and space requirements. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The *Signal Tribune* will publish no more than one "pro" letter and one "con" letter on a particular topic in a single issue. The *Signal Tribune* does not print letters that refer substantially to articles in other publications and might not print those that have recently been printed in other publications or otherwise presented in a public forum. Letters to the editor and commentaries are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the *Signal Tribune* or its staff. Although the editorial staff will attempt to verify and/or correct information when possible, letters to the editor and commentaries are opinions, and readers should not assume that they are statements of fact. Letter-writers will be identified by their professional titles or affiliations when, and only when, the editorial staff deems it relevant and/or to provide context to the letter. We do not run letters to the editor submitted by individuals who have declared their candidacies for public office in upcoming races. This policy was put in place because, to be fair, if we publish one, we would have to publish all letters submitted by all candidates. The volume would no doubt eliminate space for letters submitted by other readers. Instead, we agree to interview candidates and print stories about political races in an objective manner and offer very reasonable advertising rates for those candidates who wish to purchase ads. **The *Signal Tribune* is published each Friday. Yearly subscriptions are available for \$100.**

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ART

Long Beach Creative Group celebrates anniversary, gallery renovations

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

The Long Beach Creative Group (LBCG) is celebrating its fourth anniversary and Annual Show—a batch of diverse art pieces from their all-volunteer board—with a newly renovated Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery space and an extended contract with the Rod Briggs Family Trust.

The LBCG will spend the next three years continuing its mission of creating opportunities for unknown artists throughout Southern California to show their work in the 2,500-square-foot gallery. Founder and president of the group, Marka Burns, reminisced on their humble beginnings from meetings in her living room to an unexpected invitation that eventually turned into their home.

“We never ever anticipated that it would go in this direction. We didn’t have any idea that we would be offered a major space to work from or to show from,” Burns said. “It became a great opportunity to extend our impact on the community and on the arts community.”

LBCG’s founding was based on the need for more art space in the city. Board members had been showcasing their work at the limited venues in Long Beach and speaking with City Council members about ways to use public space for local artists with little progress.

Burns was attending a gallery reception in November of 2018 and still searching for a space when Cameron Briggs approached her about his late father’s studio and

gallery. Rod Briggs was a celebrated Long Beach artist and educator who used a variety of styles to show the beauty in the changing landscape of his city over the decades.

“He said, ‘Well, how would you like to come and see my dad’s studio and gallery? And we could talk about maybe a way in which the creative group could have that space.’ So that’s how it started, kind of casually,” Burns recalled. “I sort of expected it to be like a little storefront, but we walked in there, and honestly ... It looks just like an LA gallery.”

The 30-foot-high vaulted ceiling and inviting skylight became a community staple, with the main space featuring as many as 50 artists at one time and the front gallery space showing pieces from Brigg’s collection chosen by his son Cameron to compliment each show.

From Jan. 8 to Feb. 4, the walls at the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery will showcase recent artworks from the all-volunteer board that makes up the LBCG in its Annual Show. Each artist was given free rein to share whatever creations they are currently proud of, resulting in a diverse, mixed-medium exhibit.

Marka Burns’ 27 paintings in “The Dada Surreal” series fall in line with her usual inspiration, honoring surrealist artists such as Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray. The cluster of orange, brown, black and white images create a mirage of faces and bodies and an homage to the surrealist style.

Auxiliary board member and graphic designer Mic Burns chose to showcase his “Galaxy” series of



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Mic Burns stands in front of his “Galaxy” series of paintings that will be on display at the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery during the Long Beach Creative Group’s Annual Show that runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 4.

paintings, five colorful and enticing pieces that get smaller in size as you walk down the gallery. The kaleidoscopic artworks are inspired by images taken by NASA’s space telescopes, Hubble and James Webb.

Members have already begun planning the five exhibits that will grace the walls of the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery in 2023. There will be a show for masters of fine arts and bachelors of fine arts students at Cal State Long Beach, a printmaking exhibit, a collaboration with the Long Beach Open Studio Tour and two open calls, one for pop-surrealism and one for macabre.

The group’s open calls for artwork have brought in over 400 pieces for a single show, Burns said, a testament to the need for a space like the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery in the region. They also

host more specific shows, where six to nine artists are chosen for their works that follow a theme, as well as working with students and educators from local colleges.

“I think what we’re doing is so fulfilling, is that a lot of the people that are chosen for the open call have never exhibited before,” Burns said. “They [the artists] are so elated, and they are so happy to bring their families and bring their friends, and I mean, it’s quite a big goal for a beginning artist to be shown in a proper gallery.”

With the next three years guaranteed at the space, Burns said it has allowed the group to start thinking about their future and how to engage the community even more. The LBCG will soon begin hosting

monthly pop-ups and artist salons, where a resident artist will speak to attendees about their project and creative process.

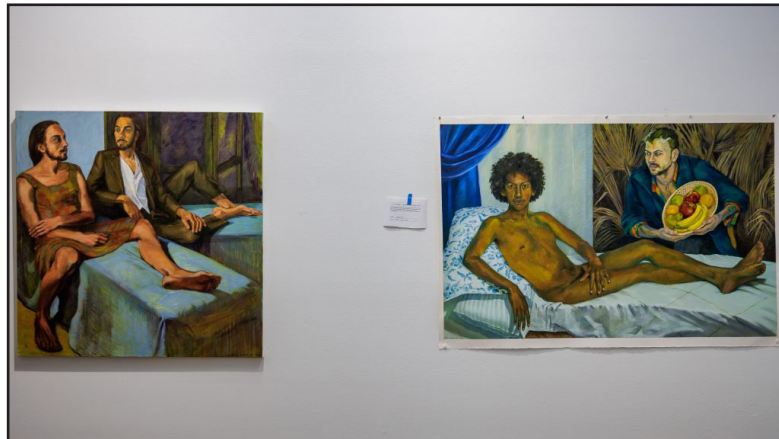
The first event of this nature will take place on Jan. 21 and 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., where three Long Beach artists will host a Contemporary Craft Pop-Up Sale for Valentine’s Day gifts. The sale will feature crafts from glassblower Stephen Woodruff, pieces by woodturner Joe Deviny and handmade accessories from Lisette Thierry.

Long Beach Creative Group’s Annual Show will be on display from Jan. 8 to Feb. 4 at the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery located at 2221 E Broadway. The gallery is open from Fridays to Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



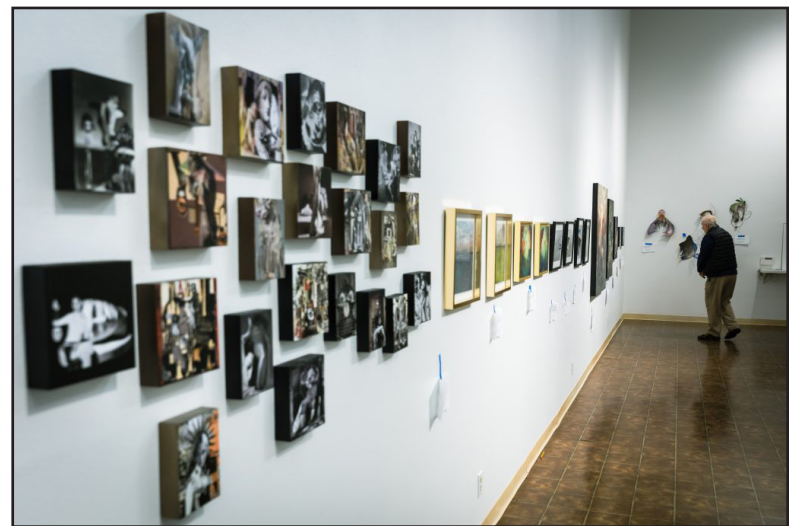
Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Marka Burns, founder and president of the Long Beach Creative Group, stands in front of the 27 pieces of work that make up her “The Dada Surreal” series that are on display at the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery during its Annual Show that runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 4.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Two of the paintings by Helen Cox adorn the eastern wall while the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery for their annual show that runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 4.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Mic Burns looks towards his “Galaxy” series of paintings that cover the end of the western wall of the Rod Briggs Memorial Gallery before the opening of the gallery’s Annual Show that runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 4.

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NEWS

Former Long Beach mayor Robert Garcia to be sworn into Congress this week

City News Service
Southern California Local News

Tuesday's scheduled swearing in of House members for the 118th Congress, including two first-term members from Los Angeles County, was delayed because of the inability to elect a new speaker.

When former Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia is sworn in, he will become the first openly LGBTQ immigrant to serve in Congress.

Garcia said he ran to represent the 42nd District "because I want every single kid in our country to have the same opportunity that this country gave me."

Garcia, who was Long Beach's mayor from 2014 through Dec. 20, defeated Republican John Briscoe, then a member of the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees, 68.4%-31.6%, in the race to succeed Alan Lowenthal, who retired after representing the district since 2013. The district also includes areas that had been represented by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, who retired after serving in Congress since 1993.

The district runs north from Long Beach through Lakewood, Bellflower and Downey to Huntington Park.

When Garcia was 5 years old, he moved to the U.S. with his parents and other relatives from Lima, Peru.

In a biography supplied by his campaign, Garcia said, "My mom brought me to America not knowing English, without an education, and without the right immigration

status. We came here on a temporary visa and stayed past its expiration date.

"But thanks to a progressive change in immigration law passed by Congress in the 1980s, we were able to apply for permanent legal residency. I became a U.S. citizen at 21. It was the happiest day of my life."

Garcia has pledged as a House member to support legislation to:

- Make the United States "the world's leader in pandemic prevention and biosafety and biosecurity planning."
- Increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25, where it has been since 2009, to \$15
- Expand paid family leave
- Change overtime rules
- Create public banks
- Provide universal child care
- Guarantee pre-K education
- Expand pathways to citizenship for immigrants in the nation without legal permission
- Expand affordable and accessible housing.

Garcia describes himself as a comic book nerd, educator and "progressive and proud American." Garcia was chosen as president of the freshman class of the House Democrats.

Garcia's mother, Gaby O'Donnell died in late July 2020 due to complications from the coronavirus at the age of 61. His stepfather, Greg O'Donnell, died from complications from COVID-19 Aug. 9, 2020, at age 58, one day after the family had a memorial service for Garcia's mother.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia speaks during the 9/11 memorial event in Signal Hill on Sept. 11, 2021.

The second new House member representing Los Angeles County scheduled to be sworn in Tuesday was former state Sen. Sydney Kamlager, who will succeed Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass in representing the 37th District.

Kamlager defeated former Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry, a fellow Democrat, 64%-36%, in the district that mainly includes portions of South Los Angeles, along with the Crenshaw and Pico-Robertson districts, Culver City, Palms and West Los Angeles.

Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, was unable to get the necessary 218 votes needed to be elected speaker Tuesday, delaying the swearing-in ceremony.

NEED TO POST A LEGAL NOTICE?

legalnotices
@signaltribune.com

AQUARIUM ON WHEELS continued from page 1

it's vacation time to make improvements on the truck. It's now equipped with a new life support system—the pipes that carry and treat the water with nutrients and antibiotics. The aquarium also replaced the stairs that students use to walk up and out of the truck and the wheelchair-accessible ramp attached. The interior of the truck received new wrapping which shows images of kelp forests, tide pools and different sea creatures along with their name.

The animals included in Aquarium on Wheels, Dean explained, are permanent residents on the truck rather than being constantly transported from truck to tanks at the aquarium. This allows for a consistent water circulation and temperature along with lower levels of stress for the sea creatures. Animals showing signs of distress are taken off the truck until their condition improves.

To book a lesson and hands-on experience with the Aquarium on Wheels, visit their website. Classroom programs of roughly 35 students are available with two different age groups, along with auditorium programs for more than 100 people, which offers more sea animals to touch.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
(Above) A young William F. Prisk Elementary student uses a magnifying glass to inspect the camera and photographer looking at him during the Aquarium on Wheels event on Jan. 5, 2023. (Below) Instructor Allison Patton teaches William F. Prisk Elementary students about the anatomy of sea turtles during the Aquarium on Wheels event on Jan. 5, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
William F. Prisk Elementary students reach into the portable tidepool from the Aquarium of the Pacific to touch an orange starfish on Jan. 5, 2023.



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**TST6861 Case No. 22CMCP00170
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COMPTON COURTHOUSE, 200 W. Compton Blvd, Compton, CA 90220 PETITION OF: Madeline Sophia Pivaral by and through her mother, Naomi Eulalia Barajas, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Madeline Sophia Pivaral, by and through her mother, Naomi Eulalia Barajas, has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing her daughter's name as follows: Present Name: Madeline Sophia Pivaral Proposed Name: Madeline Sophia Barajas 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: January 20, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. A, Room 904. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, December 16, 23, 30, 2022 & January 6, 2023 ___/ss/___ Michael Shultz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: September 28, 2022

**TST6873 / 2022 273248
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: PETERSON BUILT, 23504 W. HEARTHSIDE CT, VALENCIA, CA 91354. LOS ANGELES COUNTY Registrant: DAVID DOUGLAS PETERSON, 23504 W. HEARTHSIDE CT, VALENCIA, CA 91354. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: DAVID DOUGLAS PETERSON, OWNER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on December 20, 2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: December 23, 30, 2022 & January 6, 13, 2023

**TST6866
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS
No. CA-22-926363-SH
Order No.: 220299895-CA-VOI**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 1/24/2020. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): ELSA L. WRIGHT, A SINGLE WOMAN Recorded: 1/29/2020 as Instrument No. 20200110283 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 2/15/2023 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona CA 91766 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$428,097.99 The purported property address is: 5711 OWENSMOUTH AVENUE UNIT 107, WOODLAND HILLS AREA, LOS ANGELES, CA 91367 Assessor's Parcel No.: 2146-026-097 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should

understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 619-846-7649 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-926363-SH. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 619-846-7649, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-926363-SH to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to Quality Loan Service Corporation by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 619-846-7649 Or Login to: [qualityloan.com Reinstatement Line: \(866\) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-22-926363-SH IDSPub #0182781 12/30/2022 1/6/2023 1/13/2023](http://www.</p>
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**TST6871
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No.
CA-18-841555-JB Order No.:
180199534-CA-VOI**

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/29/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): JOSE MANUEL CRUZ HERMANDEZ, A SINGLE MAN AND SUSANA CRUZ, A SINGLE WOMAN AND GLORIA VILLANUEVA, A SINGLE WOMAN, ALL AS JOINT TENANTS Recorded: 6/4/2015 as Instrument No. 20150654561 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, California; Date of Sale: 1/26/2023 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$419,635.21 The purported property address is: 1327 WEST F STREET, (WILMINGTON AREA) LOS ANGELES, CA 90744 Assessor's Parcel No.: 7416-001-020 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the

trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-18-841555-JB. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-18-841555-JB to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to Quality Loan Service Corporation by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: Quality Loan Service Corporation 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 Quality Loan Service Corp. TS No.: CA-18-841555-JB IDSPub #0182907 12/30/2022 1/6/2023 1/13/2023

**TST6880 Case No. 22LBCP00475
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GOVERNOR GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA, LONG BEACH, CA 90802 PETITION OF: Elizabeth Libby Clare Huff, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Elizabeth Libby Clare Huff has filed a pe-

tion with this court for a decree changing her name as follows: Present Name: Elizabeth Libby Clare Huff Proposed Name: Elizabeth Sinclair 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: February 17, 2023 Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 27. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023 ___/ss/___ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: December 29, 2022

**TST6882 Case No. 22CMCP00214
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COMPTON COURTHOUSE, 200 W. Compton Blvd, Compton, CA 90220 PETITION OF: Maccaia Denise Jones, for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Maccaia Denise Jones has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing her name as follows: Present Name: Maccaia Denise Jones Proposed Name: Maccaia Denise Perkins 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 7, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. A, Room 904. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755, January 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023 ___/ss/___ Michael Shultz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: December 23, 2022



**Pet of the week:
Arthur**

Arthur the adorable wishes you all a happy new year! Arthur is a tiny baby American breed whose foster is helping him put on a couple of pounds so that he can be safely neutered. As you can see, Arthur is perfectly content to relax in the arms of anyone who loves him. With all the affection his foster is giving him, he's bound to grow into a loving, playful little fellow. You can speed the process to adopt Arthur and any of our other pets by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Even better, stop by during our new open walk-in hours every Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Our shelter is located at 7700 E. Spring St. Ask for ID#A690666 to meet Arthur. We're at capacity, and everyone needs homes!

(This rescue encouraged by the usual suspects.)

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CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

TST6881
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, the City Council of the City of Signal Hill will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be conducted using a hybrid format in which members of the City Council, members of the public, and City staff may physically attend the meeting or virtually participate by audio and/or video. City Council will consider the following:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)
BUDGET FOR 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR**

The City has been informed that its preliminary CDBG funding estimate for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year allocation is approximately \$86,190. These funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including property acquisition, public services, and housing rehabilitation. However, in order to use CDBG funds for any of these eligible activities, it must be shown that the activity will: 1) directly benefit low and/or moderate income persons; 2) help to eliminate slum and blight conditions; or 3) address an urgent need. The following projects are proposed to be funded with CDBG funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. Not more than 20 percent of the 2023-2024 allocation, or approximately \$17,238, can be used for public services. The following projects are proposed to be funded with CDBG funds for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

Projects	Term	Budget
Food Distribution Program	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	\$17,238
ADA Street and Sidewalk Improvements	July 1, 2023 - June 30	\$68,952

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are hereby invited and encouraged to attend the public hearing to present written information, express their opinions or otherwise present evidence on the above matter.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AS AMENDED BY AB 361) to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this will be a hybrid meeting with in-person, and video and teleconference participation options.

To view or listen to the meeting live at 7:00 p.m.:

- In-person: Council Chambers of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, California.
- Call (408) 638-0968 (audio only) on the date and time of the meeting and enter the meeting ID 881-4793-6648, press # when prompted to provide participant ID, and enter passcode 374778. If you would like to make a public comment, please notify the meeting host by pressing *9 on the telephone keypad;
- Visit <https://zoom.us/j/88147936648> on your desktop computer or laptop and enter passcode: 374778; or
- Download the app from the app store if you are using a smart phone and enter meeting ID: 881-4793-6648 and passcode: 374778 when prompted.
- To make a general public comment or comment on a specific agenda item, you may also submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Written comments will be provided electronically to City Council and attached to the meeting minutes. Written comments will not be read into the record.
- The City is not responsible for meeting disruptions or technical difficulties; however, if you are disconnected, please repeat the steps above.

FURTHER INFORMATION and associated documents on this item may be obtained from the Community Services Department by calling Yvette E. Aguilar, Community Services Director, at (562) 989-7330, or by emailing comservices@cityofsignalhill.org

Published in the Signal Tribune newspaper on: January 6, 2023
Posted in accordance with S.H.M.C. Section 1.08.010 on or before: January 6, 2023

NEWS

Readers rejoice: Literary Women's Festival of Authors returns



Image Courtesy Raquel Landworth-Kleinhenz

Author Amaryllis Fox speaks with an attendee at Literary Women's Festival of Authors.

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor

Long Beach-based nonprofit Literary Women invites local bookworms to crawl out of their favorite reading spot for the 41st annual Festival of Authors on Feb. 11.

The oldest and largest nonprofit authors festival will highlight seven esteemed women authors who will speak at this year's event, spanning topics such as a heartfelt mystery set in Lahore, Pakistan; a historical fiction based on mystery novelist Agatha Christie; a story about sister triplets who band together to save their town; a debut novel exploring wealth, family dynamics and gentrification in Puerto Rico and more.

There is a wide range of experience from the authors in this year's lineup of speakers, featuring both debut authors and those with many years in the publishing field.

The Long Beach Convention Center will host the hordes of bibliophiles who wish to hear from emerging and established female authors. The speakers will each get 40 minutes to impart their wisdom of the publishing industry to the attendees.

"That's one of the joys of putting on this festival—being there with all these other readers who are so enthusiastic, they look forward to this all year long," said Anne Emigh, chair for Literary Women. "Sometimes best friends come together or mothers and daughters, or book clubs, but everybody sits there on the edge of their seats. These authors are like their rock stars because we love them so much."

The Literary Women's Festival of Authors began in Long Beach in 1982 when Harriet Williams and Virginia Laddey noticed the scarcity of female authors in many high school reading lists.

This year's lineup of authors includes:

- * Aamina Ahmad, "The Return of Faraz Ali"
- * Nina De Gramont, "The Christie Affair"
- * Laurie Frankel, "One Two Three"
- * Xochitl Gonzalez, "Olga Dies

Dreaming"

- Nana Nkweti, "Walking on Cowrie Shells"
- Nita Prose, "The Maid"
- Mary Roach, "Fuzz"

Emigh said the festival rarely has science nonfiction, but "Fuzz" was widely appreciated for its wit and humor involving rogue animals by the 25-person volunteer board that chooses the authors each year. The book explores the relationship between humans and wildlife as shrinking land developments draw us nearer to each other and result in dangerous, strange and oftentimes funny encounters.

"[Mary Roach] is viewed as the funniest science writer in America," Emigh said. "This lady travels all over the world doing research and she writes about crazy things that animals do that cause problems for humans ... crazy ways that humans have tried to solve these problems. She just has a really great sense of humor, but you really learn something."

Roach is among the speakers who will share their experiences in the publishing industry, their writing process and information about their book. Nearly 800 bibliophiles will hear from four of the authors in the main ballroom and then will have the option to choose one of three breakout sessions happening simultaneously.

The breakout sessions will be posted online after the festival for everyone to enjoy, according to a press release.

"It's really interesting to hear how people write; it's interesting to hear how they became writers and what influenced them," Emigh said. "People are just blown away at the end of the day. They're inspired to read more or read a certain genre that they wouldn't have thought they would have liked or they just learned something."

Among the eager festival-goers will be seven students chosen for the Emerging Writers Program from Long Beach City College, Long Beach State, Chapman University and PEN American. The students are recommended by mentors who serve in the school's writing pro-

gram and are given the opportunity to speak one-on-one with an author of their choosing.

The Emerging Writers Program aligns with Literary Women's mission to "showcase women's voices, dreams, and achievements in writing," according to the nonprofit's website.

Although the publishing and writing world is not as male-dominated as it was in the '80s, Emigh said that there is still a prevalent need to highlight women's experiences.

"It's wonderful for women to get to hear other women's stories. I think that's very important," Emigh said. "So many things have changed in women's lives publicly and through the news that there are more stories that reflect that. So I do think it's still very, very pertinent."

This is the first year that Literary Women is offering the option to reserve tables for groups who wish to be seated together. Emigh said that people sometimes line up for the festival as early as 7 a.m., so the tables guarantee reserved group seating.

Online registration for the Festival of Authors can be made through the Literary Women's website. Tickets begin at \$120.



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