

ART GALLERY

Experience the legacy of Skondovitch at Greenly Art Space in Signal Hill

The works of the expressionist artist beloved in Fairbanks now on display until May 12



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A collection of abstract expressionist works by Alfred Skondovitch on display at the Greenly Art Space in Signal Hill on April 28, 2023.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

The collection of abstract expressionist paintings at Greenly Art Space in Signal Hill are as colorful and moving as the life of the man who made them.

Alfred Skondovitch lived on two different continents, survived World War II, fought fires in Alaska, unknowingly helped Picasso with a sculpture, once led a parade, gave parenting advice to Robert De Niro Sr., raised two children and was an avid storyteller.

But most of all, he painted.

Though art critics have equated his work to some of the most revered painters in the abstract expressionist movement, Skondovitch traded the world's recognition for family connections, beautiful landscapes and a supportive community in Fairbanks, Alaska where he lived out the last decades of his life.

Twelve years after Skondovitch passed away, his daughter Lara Duke has brought a small portion of his 1,400-piece portfolio to Southern California for the first time, hoping to continue his legacy and share his talent. The result is a moving exhibit, "Skondovitch: A Legacy" currently in Signal Hill's nonprofit gallery.

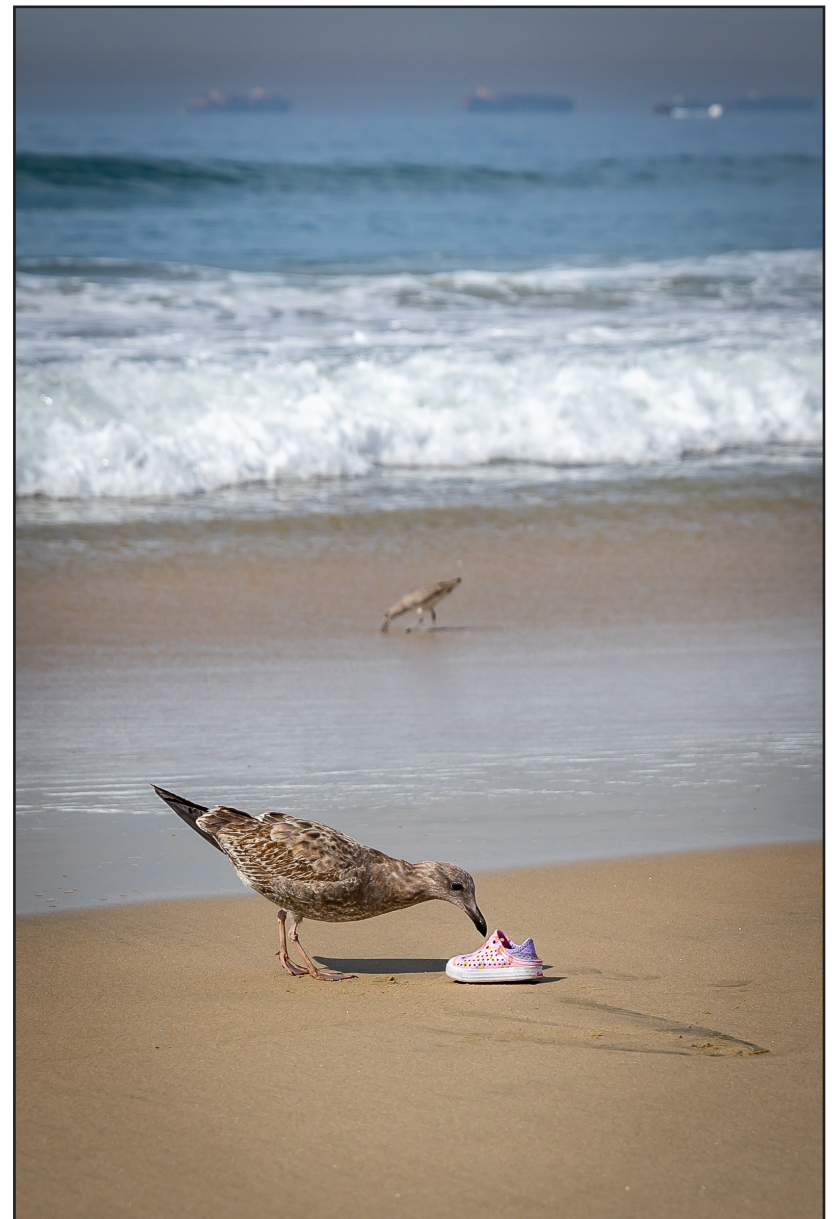
"It really has been a lifelong goal to get it in more of a public eye ... It was really overwhelming to walk in, it kind of felt like he was there with you and it's cheesy, but it did feel a little bit like he was looking down and he was sort of proud of us for what we've done," Duke said. "It made me happy to think that we've done something nice to help with keeping his memory alive and just to keep his legacy moving on."

Skondovitch was born in 1927 in London shortly before the start of World War II, the son of two Russian Jewish immigrant parents. At 12 years old, he was one of the thousands of children who were evacuated from London and sent to live with families in the countryside for safety.

see SKONDOVITCH page 6

ENVIRONMENT

Ocean Friendly Gardens presents a nature-based solution to pollution



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Birds pick at trash left on the beach near the Huntington Beach Pier on Oct. 4, 2021.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

While plants and vegetation in Long Beach reap the benefits of the recent rainfall, there is one downfall to the downpour: stormwater polluting oceans.

As the rain fills up gutters, storm drains and local rivers near and around Long Beach, all the contaminated water in the city eventually leads to the Pacific Ocean, prompting rain advisories, beach closures and debris washing up on shores.

The Long Beach chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit that works to keep oceans and beaches clean, has a solution that starts in local yards. Their Ocean Friendly Gardens Program is a low-cost, simple approach that can reduce stormwater runoff by 90% and drastically improve beach cleanliness.

see OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS page 9



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CONSTRUCTION

Upcoming changes to Reservoir Park in Signal Hill

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

The City of Signal Hill is asking residents to share what improvements should be made to Reservoir Park by taking an online survey by May 8.

The survey consists of 23 questions, which ranges from yes or no, multiple choice and short answer responses.

Among the questions that appear on the survey are:

- How often do you or your household visit Reservoir Park?
- What are things you like about the park?
- What are things you dislike about the park?
- What could the City of Signal Hill do to make the park a safer place?

According to the survey, the city is considering removing some picnic tables and allowing the covered picnic tables to be used by reservation only.

Reservoir Park is named after the Gundry Reservoir, located on the property. The survey is available on the page for Reservoir Park on the City of Signal Hill's website.

City Council approves updates to the reservoir

Public Works Director Thomas Bekele said Gundry Reservoir was created in 1929, and consists of a 5 million-gallon cylindrical concrete tank. On April 25, Signal Hill City Council unanimously approved a contract with AGI Construction to design replacements for the roof and interior coating of the reservoir.

The original roof from 1929 was replaced in 1990, and another partial replacement of the roof was made in 2006.

A 2022 inspection of the interior and exterior of the reservoir found that the roof and interior coating



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The sign marking Reservoir Park with the namesake reservoir in the background on May 2, 2023.

of the concrete tank need to be replaced.

The city has allocated \$299,313 to the design of the Gundry Reservoir Roof Replacement and Interior Coating Project, as well as a \$29,931.30 contingency in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Bekele estimated that the designs for the project should be complete by August. Afterwards, AGI will

continue its contract with the City in an engineering support role until construction is complete.

The contract extends to June 30, 2024, with a 180-day contingency in case the project requires more time. However, Bekele said that construction is expected to be finished by April 2024.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A fence surrounds the reservoir, the namesake of Reservoir Park in Signal Hill.

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HOUSING

City approves new zoning codes in West Long Beach for commercial and residential development

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

In an effort to make the areas along Willow Street and Santa Fe Avenue more walkable and provide a variety of resources for its residents, Long Beach City Council unanimously approved rezoning codes in the neighborhood.

The changes are part of a Zone-In West LB outline that city staff created two years ago to make new developments in low-income areas of the city mixing residential and commercial uses. Central and North Long Beach have also begun similar Zone-In processes that follow guidelines set in the 2019 General Plan Land Use Element.

Long Beach issued a moratorium with temporary zoning codes along the corridor in July 2021 and set a deadline of early 2023 to make the changes official.

"We think about the generations of our communities and making sure they have what they need and a lot of that comes down to zoning," said Councilmember Joni Ricks-Oddie, who was on the Planning Commission that helped develop the plan.

At community meetings last year, West Long Beach residents said they wanted more affordable housing, public transportation, grocery stores, banks and pharmacies, according to staff reports.

Under the new zoning codes, new developments will have to include commercial elements such as restaurants, cafes, daycares, senior centers, fitness centers, banks or grocery stores with a residential element such as an apartment or condominium. The changes only affect future developments, and will not apply to any projects set in motion before the zoning changes.

"It all starts with a plan and the westside has been without a plan for a very long time," said Councilmember Al Austin. "The aim here is to expand the vitality of the commercial corridors on Willow Street and Santa Fe Avenue, ex-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Northbound traffic backs up to Burnett Street at the intersection of Orange Avenue and Willow Street in Signal Hill on Nov. 23, 2021.

pand small businesses and build quality housing."

A new land-use type was issued that prohibits any 100% residential buildings from being developed on the major intersections along Willow Street and Santa Fe Avenue. Long Beach also developed new zoning codes during the North Long Beach process that "reflect community priorities and concerns," according to staff reports.

North and West Long Beach are both deemed Community Development Block Grant areas by the California Department of Housing and Development, meaning the city should aim to improve the lives of its moderate and low-income residents through zoning and developments.

"What's important now that this is here is that we continue to make the investments necessary to make sure it comes to fruition," said Mayor Rex Richardson. "Zoning alone isn't going to bring the types of amenities and services the westside needs, it's going to take investment as well."

Only one West Long Beach resident spoke during public comment. John Talifi asked the city to guarantee that a pharmacy and a bank will be developed and for more parking spaces to help mitigate the density of new housing and commercial developments.

"Don't just bring a mass of build-up within our little community and leave us there without services to be reckoned with," Talifi said.

COMMUNITY

Celebrate National Bike Month in Long Beach

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

To kick off National Bike Month, the City of Long Beach is asking residents to donate their old and unused bicycles for the less fortunate on Saturday.

According to a statement from the City, the annual Recycle Your Bicycle event "promotes reuse and recycling while encouraging mobility in our Long Beach community."

The City of Long Beach will be collecting bicycles at the five following sites on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to noon:

- GoActiveLB Hub (223 E. First St.)
- Silverado Park (1545 W. 31st St.)
- El Dorado Park - West (2800 Studebaker Rd.)
- Houghton Park (6301 Myrtle Ave.)
- Whaley Park (5620 E. Atherton St.)

The bicycles collected will be given any necessary repairs by Pedal Movement and donated to local nonprofit organizations. Bikes that cannot be repaired will be recycled.

Bicyclists interested in helping shape local policy that affects them are invited to attend a community



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
12-year-old Jake Ribis kicks his feet out from the bike while doing a near-vertical wheelie on his bike at the top of the Pike Outlets Parking Garage before a ride out on April 16, 2022.

forum at local coffee shop Alder & Sage (366 Cherry Ave.) on Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.

The community forum will begin with a short presentation from City staff about upcoming bike projects in Long Beach, as well as the planning process for them. The majority of time will be used to give attend-

ees an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the City.

Bike lovers will get a chance to safely takeover downtown Long Beach streets on May 20 during the annual Beach Streets Downtown event, when the City shuts down the following street to vehicles from

see NATIONAL BIKE MONTH page 10

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COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT NO. 29
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
of
FILING OF A SERVICE CHARGE REPORT; and
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SERVICE CHARGE REPORT

The Board of Directors of County Sanitation District No. 29 of Los Angeles County will hold a public hearing on May 10, 2023, 1:30 p.m., in the Board Room at the District's Administrative Offices, 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601. The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with an opportunity to make comments regarding the Service Charge Report filed with the District Clerk on March 8, 2023. Please refer to the agenda for instructions regarding public participation. The boundaries of Sanitation District No. 29 are shown below.

Sanitation District No. 29 provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services. Residential and commercial users pay for their share of these services through the District's service charge program. The average daily quantity of sewage flow and strength from one single family home is equal to one sewage unit. All other user categories are assessed proportionately. The service charge rate for fiscal year 2023-24, as previously approved by the District's Board of Directors, is \$358 per year per sewage unit. No changes to the approved service charge rate are proposed.

The District intends to continue to collect the service charge as a separate line item on the property tax roll as the most cost-effective means of collecting the charge. To do so, the California Health and Safety Code requires the filing of and subsequent hearing on a Service Charge Report. Copies of the Report are available on the District's website (www.lacsd.org) or can be obtained by contacting District's staff by regular mail at P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998; by e-mail at Rates@lacsd.org; or by phone at (855) 240-9506 (toll free). In addition to providing comments at the public hearing, written comments regarding this matter may also be submitted to the District Clerk at these same addresses.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
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EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, April 26

12:11 a.m., Injury traffic collision; DUI, Stanley Ave./E. 19th St. (suspect arrested)

12:40 a.m., Injury traffic collision, E. PCH/Orizaba Ave.

6:43 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 3000 block California Ave.

9:11 a.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, Gundry Ave./E. 21st St.

11:59 a.m., Robbery, 900 block E. 33rd St.

2:44 p.m., Grand theft, 2400 block Cherry Ave.

6:35 p.m., Grand theft, 2100 block E. Willow St.

7:52 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2800 block Cherry Ave.

9:05 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block Gaviota Ave.

Friday, April 28

4:04 p.m., Appropriate lost property, 2200 block E. Willow St. (suspect arrested)

Saturday, April 29

12:36 a.m., Battery, 2800 block Atlantic Ave.

9:19 a.m., Auto burglary, 1800 block St. Louis Ave.

1:40 p.m., Auto burglary, 700 block E. Spring St.

10:49 p.m., Fire, 2600 block Gundry Ave.

Sunday, April 30

4:17 a.m., Carrying a concealed weapon; loaded firearm in public; illegally possessing any assault weapon, 3200 block PCH (suspect arrested)

9:53 a.m., Possessing controlled substance; 3 misdemeanor warrants, 2000 block Junipero Ave. (suspect arrested)

12:55 p.m., Indecent exposure, 2400 block E. PCH

1:18 p.m., Indecent exposure, 2100 block Gaviota Ave.

3:51 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Walnut Ave./E. Burnett St.

Monday, May 1

8:11 a.m., Child abuse report, 1900 block E. 21st St.

12:43 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Cherry Ave./Skyline Dr.

1:04 p.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, Junipero Ave./E. 20th St.

4:46 p.m., Person with a knife, 2800 block Walnut Ave.

9:18 p.m., DUI; Hit & Run with property damage, E. Willow St./Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)

Tuesday, May 2

No information available at time of print

LBPDP 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.

CRIME

Long Beach police searching for missing children of alleged scammers

Kristen Farrah Naeem

Staff Writer

An entire family has gone missing after last being seen in Long Beach on Dec. 29, 2022. The parents both have felony arrest warrants, and authorities believe they are concealing their two young children.

Claudiu Stoian and Madalina Paun were in the news in 2022 after they were arrested in connection with a string of scams and robberies that occurred in Los Angeles.

According to media reports, while Stoian and Paun were allegedly committing the crimes, they had two young children in the car with them. It could not be confirmed as of press time whether the two children they allegedly brought with them during their suspected crimes were their two toddlers, Matusalem Stoian and Amalia Stoian.

The couple would allegedly drive around the LA area in a SUV with the children, pull up next to pedestrians, and ask to “bless” their money or jewelry. Paun would then



Kat Wilcox | Pexels

A section of caution tape outside of a crime scene reading “Crime Scene Do Not Cross.”

allegedly remove the victims’ valuables before replacing them with costume jewelry and lottery tickets. The Los Angeles Police Department said that on one occasion Stoian allegedly took out a gun.

It is unknown at this time whether the current felony arrest warrant out on the two parents are related to their alleged crimes in 2022, or

on different charges.

While the Long Beach Police Department said it does not believe the children are in immediate danger, detectives are concerned for their welfare.

Anyone who believes they have seen the family or has information about their whereabouts is urged to contact the police.

MISSING PERSON

LBPDP continues investigation of 16-year-old missing girl

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Sixteen-year-old Daizy Macias has been missing for nearly two months.

She was last seen on Feb. 10, wearing a gray crop-top, black sweatpants, and slides of an unknown color, according to the California Department of Justice.

Macias is described as a Latina with brown eyes and brown hair.

Macias is one of over 600,000 people to go missing each year, according to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). Tens of thousands of these people remain missing for a year or longer.

Anyone who may have information about Macias’ whereabouts are urged to contact LBPDP at (562) 435-6711.

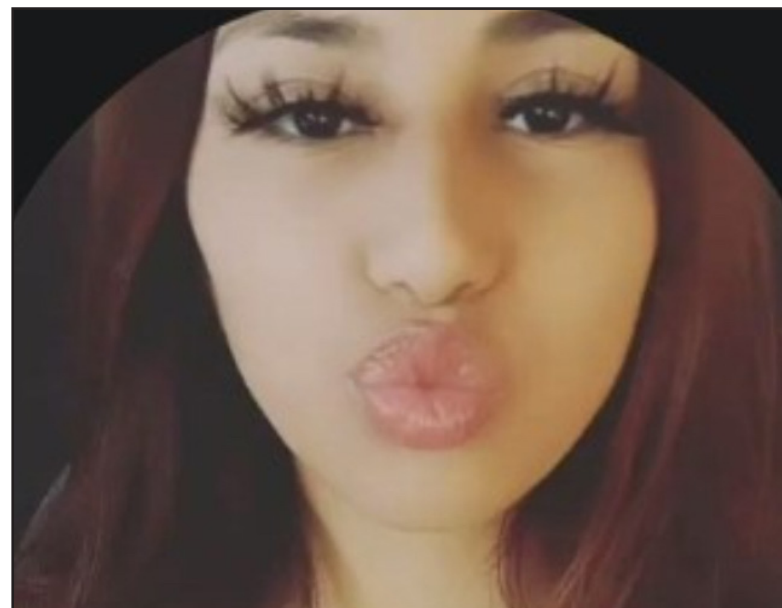


Image Courtesy of the California Department of Justice

Long Beach police are still searching for Daizy Macias, who was last seen on Feb. 10.

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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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EVENT PREVIEW

Inaugural Long Beach BBQ Festival hopes to highlight community food vendors

Ryan Hardison
Design Editor

Ian and Qiana Mafnas are celebrating the first anniversary of their pop-up restaurant Axiom Kitchen Smoked Meats & BBQ, and National BBQ Month, with a community barbecue festival highlighting a handful of their favorite vendors in Long Beach.

The origins of the festival can be traced back to October 2021 when Ian and Qiana got married. Soon after, they wanted to pursue Ian's passion for Texas-style barbecue as a business and decided to set up as vendors outside the Lakewood YMCA.

Now, Ian and Qiana have a pop-up location every Friday and Saturday at 4137 Norse Way, where they serve up their delicious barbecue including brisket, tri-tip, burnt ends and pork belly. Their rapid rise from street side vendors to community festival organizers shows how far their business has grown in a short span.

"It's a milestone that we can look back at a year ago and say, 'Wow we're still here, we're still pushing forward, we're growing and we're looking to expand,'" Ian said. "It's just a blessing all around, we're super excited to be in the position we are [in] and bringing barbecue to the community."

Since opening in April 2022, Axiom Kitchen has been a family endeavor, with Ian and Qiana showing their eight children the various ins and outs of the food industry.

Despite the presence of great barbecue throughout SoCal, Ian and Qiana acknowledge that the area doesn't have a renowned reputation for it. Much of the motivation for this festival is to dispel that notion whilst giving local barbecue vendors further exposure and community support.

"We wanted to put something together because there are a lot of really good places in Southern California, Los Angeles, Long Beach



Image Courtesy of Oso Good BBQ

The smoker at Oso Good BBQ out in broad daylight cooking barbecue. Oso Good BBQ will be one of seven barbecue vendors featured in the inaugural Long Beach BBQ Festival on Saturday, May 13.

that do offer really good barbecue," Qiana said. "We just wanted to highlight those businesses, give other people an opportunity to get out there, get some media and grow their business."

This festival will have seven vendors, including Axiom Kitchen, as well as two chefs teaming up to craft a menu of cookout classics such as mouth-watering ribs, brisket and mac and cheese. With each vendor offering their own take on classic dishes, the couple hopes the festival will showcase the diversity of styles and regions in barbecue.

Above all else, the organizers want the festival to emphasize community over publicity, and plan to donate 100% of the profits to a local charity.

"We hope this is the first of many barbecue festivals hosted by Axiom Kitchen to come," Ian said.

The inaugural Long Beach BBQ Festival will take place on Saturday, May 13 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Trademark Brewing, located at 233 E. Anaheim St. Entry is free and kids and pets are welcome as well.



Image Courtesy of @thehoodfoodie on Instagram

A collection of menu items at Axiom Kitchen including pulled pork, ribs, burnt ends and brisket.



Image Courtesy of Spicy Green Book

The Mafnas family stands for a group photo in front of their pop-up restaurant location.

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SCAN ME

SKONDOVITCH

continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A collection of abstract expressionist works inspired by what the artist, Alfred Skondovitch, saw after visiting a liberated concentration camp after World War II on display at the Greenly Art Space in Signal Hill on April 28, 2023.

Skondovitch celebrated his bar mitzvah, a traditional Jewish coming-of-age ceremony, in a rundown synagogue while tiles from the ceiling fell from nearby bombs.

At the end of the war, he felt the need to help those most affected, and at 18 years old he joined a youth group to bring aid to thousands of people newly liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany.

“He just saw horrors that seared in his mind forever,” Duke said. The youth group was expecting to board survivors onto a plane and help them transition to a better life in Israel, unprepared for the extent of terror happening at the camp. The group was met with piles of unburied dead bodies and thousands of survivors barely able to walk or talk.

“When I met him he would wake up in the night just screaming, having nightmares about it and it took him years and years of practice to not have to do that,” said Patti Skondovitch, Alfred’s wife.

Though her husband rarely spoke about his experience, it was one that would shape his mind and art decades later.

Skondovitch continued to study art and eventually moved to New York to work with Franz Kline, Hans Hofmann and other leaders of the abstract expressionist movement.

For nine years, Skondovitch flourished in the New York City art scene and made a name for himself among artists and critics alike. In 1956 he said farewell to the environment of mostly alcoholic, depressed artists in New York and boarded a bus to Southern California.

Students at Claremont College invited Skondovitch to fight fires in Alaska one summer to make some extra cash. This is where he met his wife Patti, and eventually spent the rest of his life.

“I don’t think he had any illusions that he was going to explode on the art scene in Alaska, given that there wasn’t a big draw for abstract expressionist type of art,” Duke said. “But he just stayed true to himself.”

Duke said that even though her father didn’t get the widespread recognition he deserved when he was alive, he often expressed appreciation for getting out of the lifestyle he was leading amongst other artists in New York.

The Fairbanks community embraced Skondovitch, and he had many galleries show his work both during his life and following his death. Patti says that Skondovitch is a household name in Fairbanks, and she hopes this will one day be

the case throughout America.

“I just want his name out there,” Patti said. “In the art world I want people to say, ‘Oh my god, you’ve got a Skondovitch’ like they say up here.”

Friends and coworkers eventually raised money and built Skondovitch a studio for him to paint in, a testament to the tight-knit community he had in Alaska. It was in this studio that Skondovitch was able to process his memories of the Bergen-Belsen camp and made over 60 Holocaust-inspired paintings.

Inside Greenly Art Space, there are over 20 of Skondovitch’s most poignant, moving paintings depicting his life-changing experience of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. While most of his pieces feature bright colors and figures hidden in abstract shapes and lines, his Holocaust-inspired work is much more straightforward.

The striking paintings depict ghostly figures with solemn faces of children, nurses, guards and prisoners at the concentration camp. It would be hard to miss the haunting quality of the paintings, with the figures in them clearly in pain or some faceless and lost in the gravity of horrors they experienced.

“I would say the images are horribly beautiful and they express an extremely deep sentiment of the grief and the horror of what had happened,” said Kimberly Hocking, owner and curator of Greenly Art Space. “When I hung the artwork it was quite a heavy experience for me.”

Hocking and her husband traveled to Alaska in August to visit the Skondovitch studio and decide which paintings to include in the exhibit. Of the pieces selected, she said there have been multiple people moved to tears after walking through the space set aside for the Holocaust paintings.

Duke and her mother have decided that rather than sell the Holocaust-inspired paintings, they want to send the art to Jewish cultural centers, museums and galleries to be used as a tool “to not forget what can happen when intolerance is allowed to run rampant.”

“Skondovitch: A Legacy” will be on display at Greenly Art Space at 2698 Junipero Ave. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

There will be a closing reception for the gallery on May 12 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There are prints of some of the paintings available for purchase. View more of Skondovitch’s art on his website.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An untitled work by Alfred Skondovitch on display at the Greenly Art Space in Signal Hill on April 28, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Director and Curator of the Greenly Art Space, Kimberly Hocking, poses for a photo in front of some of the works on display during the “Skondovitch: A Legacy” exhibit on April 28, 2023.

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AROUND TOWN

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



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A seagull glides across the water, passing ducks and other birds at the El Dorado Duck Pond on April 11, 2022.

There's activities aimed at all ages in Long Beach and Signal Hill this week, from storytimes for toddlers and children on Friday and Monday, to senior bingo and the Senior Olympics on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Locals also have multiple chances to appreciate cultures from around the globe, with the Filipino Festival, a Korean dance performance and a Cinco de Mayo-themed pet adoption event on Friday, as well as a watercolor painting class on Thursday.

Bird lovers can look for migratory and native avians at the Los Cerritos Wetlands on Saturday and Rancho Los Cerritos on Thursday.

05 FRIDAY

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AND PLAY TIME

10 a.m. Older toddlers and preschoolers ages 3 to 5 will be able to enjoy an hour of play, music, stories and snacks at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Free.

CUENTOS Y CANTOS BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Noon to 1 p.m. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring young children to read, talk, sing and play in English and Spanish at the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.). Free.

06 SATURDAY

FUN RUN

7 a.m. The Los Cerritos Neighborhood Association is back with an annual three-mile fun run beginning and ending at Los Cerritos Park (3750 Del Mar Ave.). This event is family and kid-friendly. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the run begins at 8 a.m. and will loop through the Dominguez Gap. The top three runners in each 10-year category will receive prizes. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for children ages 14 and under. Tickets can be purchased online or at registration.

HERON HIKE

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Residents are invited on a nature walk to look for

migrating birds and learn about the history of Los Cerritos Wetlands. This walk is appropriate for children ages 7 and older, and closed-toed shoes are required. Residents should meet at the intersection of PCH and First Street, at the border of Long Beach and Seal Beach. To reserve a spot, email elizabeth@lewlandtrust.org. Free.

FILIPINO FESTIVAL

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This annual celebration of Filipino culture features music, food, vendors, performers and more. This year's celebration will be held at Jackie Robinson Academy (2750 Pine Ave.). Admission costs \$10 at the door.

BIRTHDAY MARKET

Noon to 5 p.m. Local woodworking business Handy Dandy Brandy will be hosting this marketplace at Good Time LB (1322 Coronado Ave.). A variety of vendors will be selling vintage and handmade items. Adoptable dogs rescued from the streets of Mexico will be doing a meet and greet organized by Pups Without Borders from noon to 3 p.m. The first 50 guests will get a free slice of vegan birthday cake. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free to attend.

KOREAN MUSIC & DANCE

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W Broadway) will be hosting a performance of classical Korean music and social dances. This event is sponsored by Music Center LA's Arts Grown LA Program. All ages are welcome. Free.

CINCO DE MEOW

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Long Beach Animal Care Services (7700 E Spring St.) will have dogs and cats available to adopt for as little as \$5. This event will also celebrate Mexican heritage with music, food and more. Free to attend.

07 SUNDAY

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. About 100 large trucks, tractors, military, public safety and construction vehicles will be on display in the beachfront Granada Avenue parking lot (5000

E. Ocean Blvd.). The public will be able to see the vehicles up-close and touch them. Free.

HELLO SPRING MARKET

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A community marketplace will be held along Coronado Street between Anaheim & 14th Street. Various local vendors will be selling their products. Free.

08 MONDAY

SPANISH STORY TIME

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring children to enjoy stories told in Spanish at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Free.

TRIVIA NIGHT

7 p.m. Those 21 and older are invited to the Auld Dubliner (71 S Pine Ave.) to participate in a weekly trivia competition hosted by America's Pub Quiz. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free to attend.

09 TUESDAY

SENIOR BINGO

10 a.m. Seniors are invited to play bingo together at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Free.

CRAFT IT OUT

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Teens and tweens are invited to learn about the history of Japanese Zen gardens while making their own at the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.). Materials and snacks will be provided. Free.

10 WEDNESDAY

SENIOR OLYMPICS

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Older adults are invited to Silverado Park (1545 W 31st St.) to participate in fun competitions either solo or in teams. Free.

PARK RIBBON CUTTING

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The public is

invited to a ribbon cutting at Discovery Well Park (2200 Temple Ave.), commemorating the installation of new playground equipment, a pickleball court and a resurfaced basketball court. There will be a story time reading for kids. Light refreshments will be available for attendees. Free.

TEEN CAFE

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All teens are welcome to hang out at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.) and enjoy snacks, video games, crafts and more. Free.

11 THURSDAY

BIRDING OPPORTUNITY

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Bird watchers are invited to Ranchos Los Cerritos (4600 Virginia Road) before opening hours to roam the gardens and look for resident and migrant birds. Staff will be available to answer bird-related questions, though there will be no guided tours. Residents are encouraged to bring sunhats and binoculars. Free.

CHINESE WATER COLORING

10 a.m. to noon. Artist Gloria Teng will be teaching the public about Chinese watercolor painting at the Bach Neighborhood Library (4055 N Bellflower Blvd.). Space is limited. Call (562) 5701038 to register. Free.

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Los Altos Neighborhood Library (5614 Britton Dr.) and Sheena Langub of Rooted Harmony will be hosting a workshop where attendees will create a flower shadow box to gift on Mother's Day. Supplies are limited. Call 562-570-1045 to register. Free.

NUTRITION WORKSHOP

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Long Beach Health Department will be teaching the public about nutrition and healthy cooking at the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W Broadway). Free.

BICYCLE COMMUNITY FORUM

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is invited to learn about future bicycling plans for the city from the Public Works Department at coffee shop Alder & Sage (366 Cherry Ave.). Participants will watch a presentation about upcoming projects related to bicycling that the city has planned, followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and give feedback. Free.

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OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS
continued from page 1

Long Beach Recreation, Parks, and Marine Public Information Officer Jane Grobaty said the City is expected to spend \$1.5 million this year keeping beaches and shores clean due to increased rainfall and the after-effects of Hurricane Kay in 2022. Usually, this number is closer to \$1 million a year, Grobaty told the *Signal Tribune*.

Through multiple studies, the Surfrider Foundation estimates that for each inch of rain, there is 180 gallons of stormwater runoff accumulated, most of which is going down drains and into the ocean. Long Beach waterways happen to have a 48-mile drainage channel that dumps rainwater with each downpour.

“Whatever gets in the LA River will eventually make its way down to our ocean here in Long Beach,” said Long Beach Environmental Health Program Supervisor Keith Allen.

Allen is part of the team that tests Long Beach’s ocean water at least once a week to see if the water meets the state’s standards for bacteria.

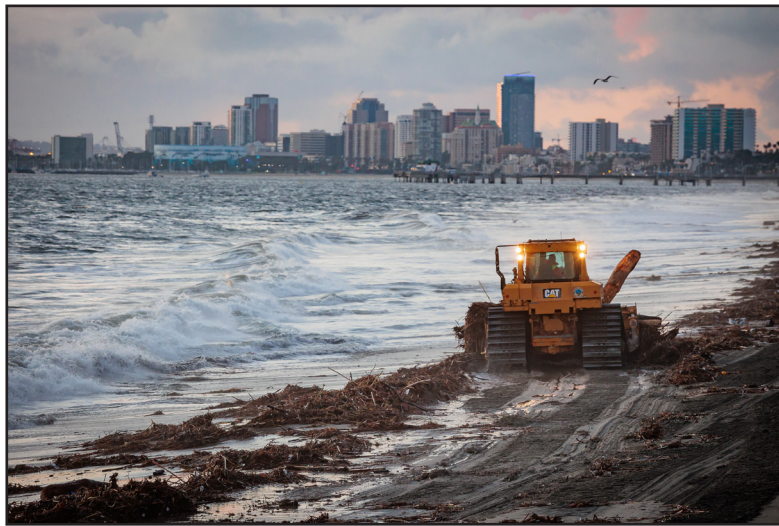
Beach watch conditions have four levels: Open if the bacteria levels are within state standards; Advisory if there are bacteria higher than state levels and contact with ocean water should be avoided; Rain Advisory if there is more than a 10th of an inch of rainfall which calls for a three-day advisory; Closed if there is a significant health risk.

So far in 2023, there have been 20 rain advisories and seven general advisories issued, and beaches in Long Beach have been closed eight times, according to reports from the Long Beach Bureau of Environmental Health.

Rain advisories are issued because even a 10th of an inch of rainfall causes “high levels of bacteria from storm drains, rivers, and polluted runoff” to enter Long Beach’s oceans, according to the Bureau of Environmental Health.

Historically, Long Beach has been seeing less rainfall in the summers, but higher than average rainfall in the winter and spring seasons. By May 2023 Long Beach is already at 20.73 inches of rain, nearly double the city’s historic average annual rainfall of 12 inches, according to the Los Angeles Almanac.

Grobaty said that Long Beach places ocean booms and skim-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
A bulldozer clears off debris that washed onto shore in Long Beach after a storm on Dec. 14, 2021.

mers, plastic floating devices, to try and keep debris from reaching its shores. Beach Maintenance crews also rake and clean the beaches five days a week during the winter and six days a week during the summer, but that’s after the debris has already been washed up.

The Surfrider Foundation has found that water runoff is the number one source of ocean pollution.

Surfrider’s Ocean Friendly Gardens can help keep 90% of rainwater runoff from reaching the ocean, and they have helped create at least 10 in the city already. Through workshops and walking tours they’ve taught residents how to install soaking soil, native plants, water-conserving mulch, rain gardens and more.

Grobaty said that Long Beach currently has no city-established Ocean Friendly Gardens in place, but there’s already a Long Beach program that can add in these components and help mitigate ocean pollution.

The Long Beach Lawn to Garden program helps residents transform their grass lawn into a drought-resistant landscape, but residents must pay out of pocket and then apply for refunds for the work done.

Long Beach Utilities Public Information Officer Lauren Gold Howland said that the city completes around 120 Lawn to Garden projects a year.

A pilot program in Illinois installed similar Rainwater Gardens in 17 homes to prevent pollution in Crystal Lake and saw significant results. If even half of the Lawn to

Garden projects installed a year were converted to Ocean Friendly Gardens, Long Beach could do the same.

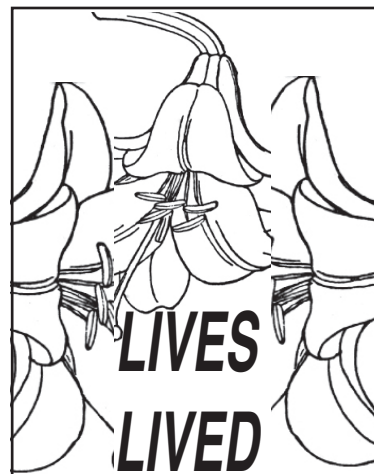
Ocean Friendly Garden leader and landscape expert Kai Craig helped the city implement rainwater retention options to the Lawn to Garden program, but it’s not required as part of the program.

“We want to give people the kind of tools to make these positive changes on their own,” said Kathryn Dressendorfer, Surfrider’s Southern California’s Ocean Friendly Gardens Coordinator. “Everyone really has an opportunity to make a positive impact on reducing runoff throughout the watershed because it all ultimately leads to the ocean.”

Dressendorfer said that most of these gardens can be completed in a month or two, but residents can also go step-by-step by installing a small rain garden or other water retention features at their own pace.

The Surfrider Foundation has an Ocean Friendly Garden Workday on May 20 at Willow Springs Park where volunteers can learn about this nature-based solution to pollution and help install native plants.

Volunteers can sign up for the workshop and learn how to create their own Ocean Friendly Garden at longbeach.surfrider.org/volunteer.



- Manny Chime 66
- Hugo Perez 44
- Michael Sherman 58
- Frank Otto 70
- Brenda Hudson 62
- Carol Huber 68
- Danny Ballinger 86
- Tangula Brown 60
- Richard Carrillo 72
- Ronald Ferguson 64
- Carol Lynn Black 83
- Curtis Foster Jr 84
- Martha Olivia Pena Vega 79
- Debra Salazar 66
- Linda Jean Shackeford 68
- Daryl Smith 70
- Mary Reiter 91
- Conrad Bullard Jr.
- Jose Gomez 49
- Steven Fallon 72
- Aaland Gray 54
- James Havness 73
- Sumie Hill 94
- Hilda Johnson 97
- Anderson Jordan 80
- Leah Hoblitzell 49
- Amy Lawrence 82
- Ofelia Moreno 94
- Christopher Holguin 52
- Kathleen Dawson 81
- Jensy Myers 75

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

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TEACHERS

LBUSD ratifies contract agreement with teachers association

Briana Mendez-Padilla
Education Reporter

The Long Beach Unified School District ratified its tentative agreement with the Teachers Association of Long Beach (TALB) at their Wednesday, May 3 meeting.

According to the newly ratified contract, teachers and certified staff will be getting a 9% ongoing salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2022 and a 3% one-time payment based on earnings for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The contract also includes the addition of two additional days to the 2024-25 school year for personal development.

“We’re very fortunate to be able

to settle [the contract] in April, it’s been a wonderful experience and we’ve had a good dialogue with our labor partners,” Director of Employee Relations and Ethics Steven Rockenbach said.

After multiple bargaining meetings, protests and rallies expressing teacher discontent with the contract, the bargaining teams from both parties reached a tentative agreement on April 5.

TALB members ratified the agreement on April 21 with an almost 80% approval rate for the K-12 contract and an around 95% approval rate for the Child Development Center and Head Start Contract.

According to Rockenbach, the



Briana Mendez-Padilla | Signal Tribune
The Teacher’s Association of Long Beach protest the proposed additional personal development days for teachers outside of the Long Beach Unified School District building on March 1, 2023.

payroll department will start distributing retroactive paychecks next week.

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Pet of the week: Benedict Cumbermutt

Benedict Cumbermutt (ID#A677214), 5 years old, has been in our shelter nearly a year—since June, in fact. He came as a stray last year, and he turned out to be deaf. Hard to imagine how he kept out of the way of cars or other dangers. But the staff and volunteers fell in love with Benedict not just for his bravery and happy-go-lucky nature but also because of his playfulness, affection and the adorable big, black spot on his rump. Benedict means “blessed,” and our fella needs to live up to his name. We hope he can be blessed with a special person willing to research how to communicate with a big guy with special needs and then foster or adopt Benedict right away. You can speed the process to adopt or foster Benedict Cumbermutt and any of our other pets by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or petfoster@longbeach.gov. You can also call (562) 570-4925. Even better, stop by during our hours every Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Our shelter is located at 7700 E. Spring St.



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CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

TST6962

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

The City of Signal Hill (“City”) will receive electronic proposals only for the Civic Center Master Plan (“Services”), no later than 5:00 P.M. on June 1, 2023. Proposals shall be valid for 180 calendar days after the submission deadline.

The Services generally consists of providing services necessary to complete a master plan for the City’s Civic Center, to include evaluation and assessment of the site, review of City’s past and current planning documents, community engagement, and preparation of preliminary site plans, drawings, construction costs and schedule.

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the City’s Request for Proposals (“RFP”), which is available to registered vendors through the City’s electronic bid management system, Planet Bids, at:

<https://pssystem.planetbids.com/portal/36746/bo/bo-detail/104851>

Interested bidders may participate by selecting “Bids and Proposals” on the home page. The Contract Documents may be downloaded at no charge. Contract Documents will not be available for sale at City Hall. Proposals must be submitted in electronic format through the City’s electronic bid management system. The electronic bid management system will not accept late proposals. Electronic modifications to or withdrawal of proposals may be made by the Respondent prior to the proposal closing deadline. The price of each proposal will be available to the public at the closing deadline on the City’s website in the electronic bid management system.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M. on Tuesday May 16, 2023 at the City Hall Council Chambers, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755. Proposers who do not attend the meeting will be disqualified. A sign in sheet will be prepared and issued as an addendum.**

A contract shall be awarded, if at all, to the best qualified vendor. Determination of the best qualified vendor will be made solely by the City on criteria determined by the City. The decision of the City shall be final. In its discretion, the City may reject any proposal, abandon the purchase, or re-advertise. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informality or irregularity in any proposal received by the City.

Certain labor categories under this project may be subject to prevailing wages as identified in the State of California Labor Code commencing at sections 1720 et seq. and 1770 et seq. If applicable, employees working in these categories at the site must be paid not less than the basic hourly rates of pay and fringe benefits established by the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of the State of California wage schedules are available for review at www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/.

The successful Respondent shall post a copy of the prevailing wage rates at each job site. It shall be mandatory upon the Respondent to whom the contract is awarded, and upon any subcontractors, to comply with all Labor Code provisions, which include but are not limited to the payment of not less than the said specified prevailing wage rates to all workers employed by them in the execution of the contract, employment of apprentices, hours of labor and debarment of contractors and subcontractors. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, or enter into a contract to perform public work must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (“DIR”). No proposal will be accepted nor any contract entered into without proof of the contractor’s and subcontractors’ current registration with the DIR to perform public work. If awarded a contract, the Respondent, and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the DIR for the duration of the project. The contract awarded pursuant to this proposal may also be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the DIR.

For further information, contact Deputy City Manager, Grissel Chavez at (562) 989-7343 or gchavez@cityofsignalhill.org.

Posted in the Signal Tribune Newspaper May 5, 2023
Posted in accordance with S.H.M.C Section 1.08.010 on or before: May 5, 2023

TST6954 Case No. 23LBCP00121 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA, LONG BEACH, CA 90802 PETITION OF: Aeden Keffelew for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: AEDEN KEFFELEW has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: AEDEN KEFFELEW Proposed Name: AEDEN ANBESSAW KEFFELEW 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: May 23, 2023; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. 26. 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, April 14, 21, 28, & May 5, 2023 [//ss//](https://www.signaltribune.com) Michael R. Vicenciaz, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: April 10, 2023

TST6963 / 2023 095371 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: JUJUWORKS, 2191 E. 21 ST. ST. APT. I, SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: IAN MCILVAINE, 2191 E. 21ST ST. APT. I, SIGNAL HILL, CA 90755. State of Incorporation/Organization: (State). This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: IAN MCILVAINE, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use

this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in March, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on May 1, 2023. 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: May 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023

TST6961

Notice of Public Lien Sale

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of the California Self-Storage Facility Act Code, Section #21700, the undersigned will be sold by public auction at: Storco Self Storage, 3050 Orange Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807, County of Los Angeles, and State of California. Auction date of: May 23rd, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Terms of sale: Cash sale, all sales are final and purchased at buyers own risk. No guarantees or warranty of any sale are promised by seller. Storco Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid or cancel auction. Facility owner or its representatives has the right to bid on any and all units or stop sale at any time. Name of auctioneer: Climbers Auction Services. The following units are scheduled for sale: Unit # & Customer Name: Unit # B167/168/Jesus Reyes – Unit #C123/Managers Unit - Unit # C131/Kenneth Griffin. Unit contents may include but are not limited to: Electronics, furniture, appliances, garage items, toys, clothing, sporting goods, tools, automotive and miscellaneous household goods, unless otherwise stated. Publish Dates: 05/05/2023 & 05/12/2023.

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

continued from page 3

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

- Pine Avenue from Eighth Street to First Street
- Broadway from Pine Avenue to Euclid Avenue
- Linden Avenue from First Street to Fourth Street
- Cherry Avenue from Second Street to Fourth Street
- Fourth Street from Cherry Avenue to Junipero Avenue
- First and Second Streets between Cherry Avenue and Junipero Avenue

Bicyclists, skaters and pedestrians will be able to freely travel along these routes without fear of traffic, and are encouraged to socialize with each other as they en-

joy the open streets. Along the open streets will be musical performances, food trucks and more.

Those who want to get to know their city better while on a bicycle are invited to take a 30-mile tour of the city on May 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This family-friendly event is for beginner to intermediate bicyclists who are comfortable using bike paths and streets. The tour will start along the LA River Trail, before heading to Los Cerritos Park, the San Gabriel River Trail and back to the Marina Green. Helmets are strongly encouraged for adults, and required for minors. The tour is free, but registration is required through the city’s website.

LBUSD

LBUSD seeks community feedback on plans for tutoring and enrichment opportunities



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Students walk across the playground after recess at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School for the first day of school on Aug. 31, 2021.

Briana Mendez-Padilla

Education Reporter

The Long Beach Unified School District released a draft of its 2023-24 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and is seeking feedback from the community on priority areas.

The LCAP is a three-year plan that describes the district’s goals, plans and actions to support and address local and state priorities. The plan also outlines how to spend the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funds, which is the state funding of K-12 education.

The draft, presented at the May 3 board meeting, states goal measures and actions as well as reflections on successes and needs.

Based on past community engagement and feedback, the LCAP recognizes three priority areas: social-emotional well-being, enrichment and tutoring. The district is asking for specific feedback on what they can do to create a better experience for students in these areas.

As per the draft, the plan has five goals:

1. Provide basic services
2. Create supportive places
3. Foster academic progress
4. Foster college and career-readiness
5. Actively engage students in their learning

Each goal has different measures for success and actions to meet these goals. Some actions include using platforms for monitoring academic progress like ELLevation, iReady and PULSE surveys. The draft also mentions including more academic support personnel like recreation aides, counselors and curriculum coaches.

“The actions within each goal are the programs and services designed to support district work and student achievement,” Assistant Director of Equity James Suarez said, adding that each measure includes a baseline data point, two years’ worth of data and a desired outcome for the 2023-24 school year.

All actions will have budgeted sums but will not be included in the current draft until Governor Gavin Newsom presents the revised state budget in May. There will be a second draft presented to the board and community in mid-May with these revisions.

LBUSD parent Lilia Ocampo said during public comment that the district needs to provide better quality tutoring opportunities for students.

“Most of the time they have tutoring, but it’s general tutoring,” Ocampo said. “It’s imperative to help our students to get to where they’re supposed to be and that the tutoring that is offered to them is according to their needs.”

“Although LBUSD has invested millions of dollars into tutoring to support us, these investments are not effective because the time and place of tutoring are not convenient neither for us as students nor poor families,” said Angel Steven Garcia, a Poly High School student and leader with Latinos in Action California.

Garcia shared a recommendation for the LCAP to provide vouchers for parents to seek tutoring at a time and location that works better for their schedule.

Parents and community members can read the full draft on the district’s website and provide feedback online. There will also be opportunities for in-person feedback.

PHOTO GALLERY

Pictures from the People: Put your paws in the air

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Two weeks ago, the *Signal Tribune* announced its community-focused project "Pictures from the People" and our readers amazed us with vibrant California poppies from throughout Long Beach and beyond.

For our second edition of Pictures from the People, we'd like to spotlight your favorite furry family member.

This photo prompt has some caveats: please send in photos of a pup you've rescued from a shelter, pound or streets or big dog breeds such as pitbulls, huskies, great danes, retrievers and more.

The *Signal Tribune* is hoping to bring attention to all of the dogs available for adoption at Long Beach Animal Care Services, especially the large dogs that are having a hard time finding a home. We'll be sure to circle back around to spotlight small dogs, cats and other pets at a later date!

Please include your pet's name and extra points if they came from the Long Beach shelter. Entries can be sent to Newspaper@SignalTribune.com or through our Instagram page @SignalTribune.



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

Hippo sticks his head out the window while on the freeway.

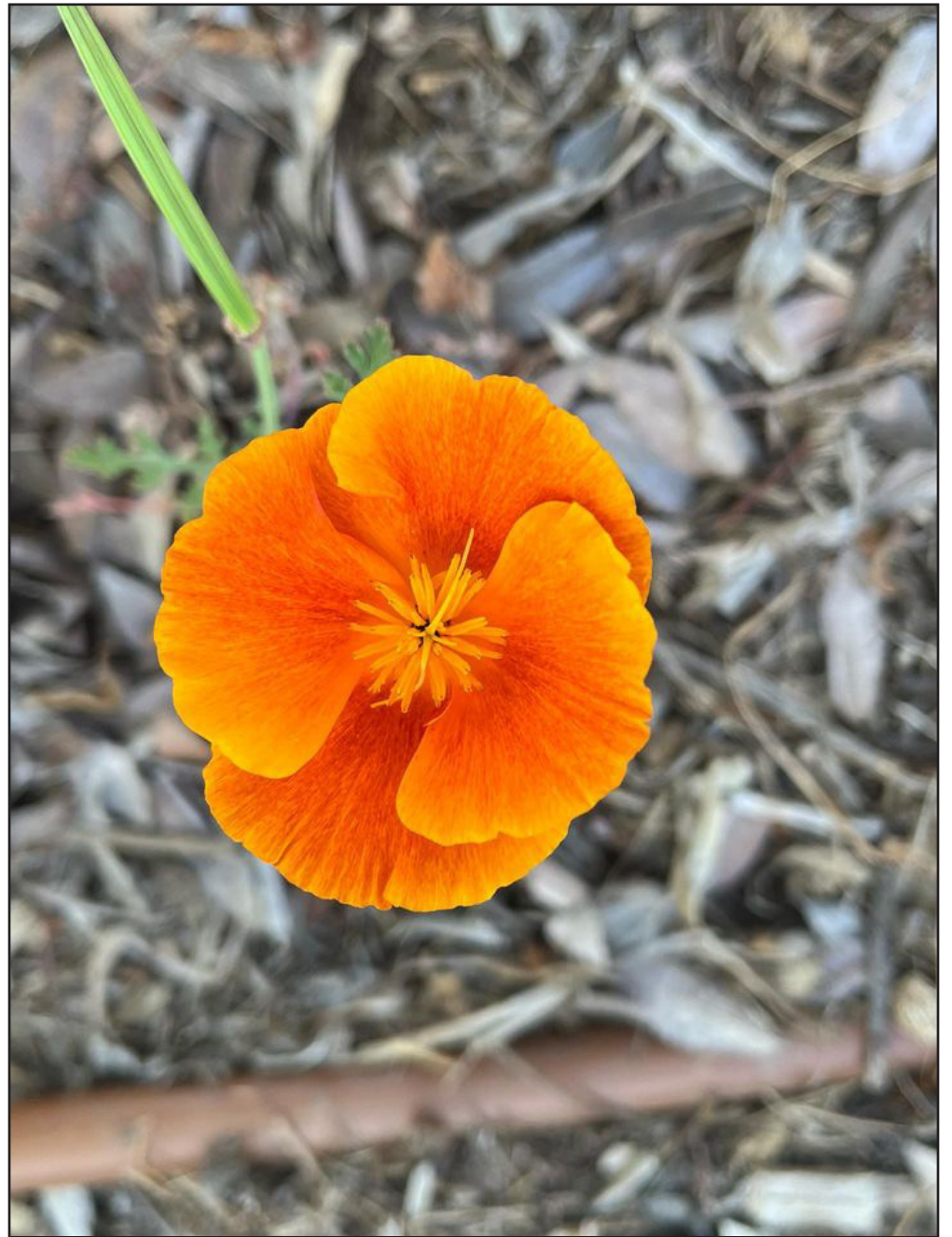


Image Courtesy of Michelle Rogers

Orange California poppies are in full bloom in a native-plant front yard from Michelle Rogers.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Pepper, a 3-year-old beagle, looks at the photographer while sitting in front of an electric fireplace.



Image Courtesy of Birgit De La Torre

A mini super bloom on a sidewalk in Bixby Knolls from Birgit De La Torre.



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