

Man arrested on suspicion of arson

By Caleb Lunetta
UNION-TRIBUNE

SPRING VALLEY — A 35-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of arson after he allegedly used a small lighter to set a palm tree on fire near the Spring Valley Swap Meet on Monday, sheriff's officials said.

Deputies received a report around 6:30 p.m. from a resident that said they saw a

man lighting a tree on fire on Quarry Road just east of state Route 125, Sgt. Matthew Moser said in a news release.

The blaze resulted in the evacuation of nearby town-homes before firefighters were able to extinguish the flames, Moser said. No structures were damaged.

Following the report from the witness, California Highway Patrol officials and an unmanned drone began searching the area for the

alleged arsonist, according to Moser.

The drone found the suspect and tracked him south toward Sweetwater Dam. Deputies arrested the suspect near SR-125 and state Route 54.

Deputies reported finding several butane torches and drug paraphernalia in his possession. They also learned he was allegedly wanted on a felony warrant for suspected identity theft.

Police ID man who died after fight

By Caleb Lunetta
UNION-TRIBUNE

OCEANSIDE — A man who was found unconscious and mortally injured after a fight in Oceanside was identified Wednesday as a 68-year-old man.

Fasil Gashaw Kebede, an Oceanside resident, died shortly after police received

a report of an altercation on Buffum Drive near Pear Tree Lane around 6 p.m. Saturday, police Lt. Michael Provence said.

When officers arrived, they initially contacted Andrew Swan, a 51-year-old Oceanside resident, police said. They searched the area and found Kebede unconscious near a home.

They attempted to perform life-saving measures, but Kebede died.

Swan was arrested on suspicion of murder. He is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday in Vista Superior Court.

Details about the events leading up to the attack or the relationship between the two men were not released.

Today in history

THURSDAY, MAY 28

ON THIS DATE
1830: President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which forced nearly 50,000 Native Americans, primarily in the Southeastern U.S., to move to designated territories west of the Mississippi River.
1863: The 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, made up of free Black men, left Boston to fight for the Union in the Civil War.
1892: The Sierra Club was founded in San Francisco by naturalist John Muir.
1918: American troops fought their first major battle during World War I as they launched an offensive against the German-held French village of Cantigny; the Americans succeeded in capturing the village.
1959: The U.S. Army launched Able, a rhesus monkey, and Baker, a squirrel monkey, aboard a Jupiter missile for a

suborbital flight which both primates survived.
1972: Burglars working on behalf of the Nixon White House broke into the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., installing surveillance devices on telephones and taking photos of DNC documents. The ensuing scandal led to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974.
1977: 165 people were killed when fire raged through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Ky.
1987: To the embarrassment of Soviet officials, Mathias Rust, a teenage West German amateur pilot, landed a private plane near Moscow's Red Square without authorization. (Rust was held by the Soviets until he was pardoned and freed the following year.)
2013: In one of the biggest money-laundering schemes in U.S. history, federal

prosecutors charged seven people with effectively running an online, underworld bank, saying Liberty Reserve handled \$6 billion for drug dealers, child pornographers, identity thieves and other criminals worldwide. Its founder, Arthur Budovsky, was later convicted in the scheme and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS
Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is 82. Singer Gladys Knight is 82. Musician Billy Vera is 82. Musician John Fogerty is 81. Country singer Phil Vassar is 64. Singer-actor Kylie Minogue is 58. Actor Justin Kirk is 57. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is 55. TV personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck is 49. Actor Jake Johnson is 48. Singer-songwriter Colbie Caillat is 41. Actor Carey Mulligan is 41. Actor Lukas Gage is 31. Pop singer Dahyun is 28.

The Associated Press

FAIR

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Showcase Presented by Movement BE on July 5.

Another focus of this year's fair is affordability, with a variety of discounts offered on admission tickets, rides, games, food specials and transportation. To kick things off, admission tickets for all on opening day will be \$5 before 5 p.m. Children 5 and under are always free, and youth ages 5-12 get in free on Fridays.

This year's fair will feature concerts at four venues and exhibits of artwork, wood-working, gardening, flowers, gems and minerals, hobbies, photography and K-12 student projects. There will also be livestock competitions for children in 4-H, FFA and Grange programs.

Another favorite event for even more adventurous children is Mini Dwarf auto racing. Mini Dwarfs are small-scale race cars with a maximum speed of 34 mph. Drivers compete in three brackets, from ages 6 to 14. Eight-year-old Ryder Edwards of Ramona said he's having a great time in his third year competing in Mini Dwarf racing. Although Ryder's car overturned in a race last year, his dad, Joshua Edwards, said it's a lot safer than the motocross racing he did when he was young, so he's happy to support his son's hobby. The Mini Dwarf races will take place July 4th weekend in the Del Mar Arena.

Perhaps the fair's most popular attraction is the food, with vendors competing each year to serve the most trendy and outrageous must-try creations. Many of this year's new food items have Asian,



Cinnamon crunch cheesecake rice crispy cone and the Korean churro are among the new sweet treats at the 2026 San Diego County Fair. **NELVIN C. CEPEDA / U-T PHOTOS**



Mexican and Middle Eastern flavors. This year marks the 30th anniversary for popular food vendor Chicken Charlie's, run by San Diego resident Charlie Boghosian, who is famed for his deep-fried Oreos and Maui chicken pineapple bowl.

This year he's offering a deep-fried purple-hued ube funnel cake. But his proudest new creation is the crispy chicken shawarma wrap, inspired by the food he grew up eating in his native Damascus, Syria. It has marinated spit-cooked chicken with house-pickled turnips and cucumbers and toum garlic sauce on grilled pita. "This is a very personal dish for me," he said Wednesday.

Vendor Ricky Kasinak of Ricky's California Corn Dogs, is marking his 55th year as a year-round vendor at fairgrounds. For this year's fair, his company will operate four booths near the fairgrounds' Paddock selling lemonade, tropical drinks and desserts. But the corn dog is king in Ricky's sales, with an average of 200,000 sold each year. Also marking 55 years at the Del Mar Fairgrounds is San Diego-based Giant Fair Foods, which can always be found near the fair's entrance under the giant inflatable corn cob. Company

spokeswoman Jeannete Viera said the booth sells more than 300,000 locally grown fire-roasted ears of corn at the San Diego County Fair each year, as well as more than 3,000 baked potatoes. One of this year's new food items is a roasted sweet potato with caramelized brown sugar on top.

West Coast Weenies, run by Nathan Marcus of Orange County, has been a vendor at the San Diego County Fair for more than 40 years and it holds the title as the fair's No. 1 hot dog vendor. This year, he's running booths selling hot dogs and corn dogs, a pizza booth and a Korean food booth, with an all-new deep-fried mozzarella on a stick, dipped in Korean rice batter and crushed corn flakes.

The San Diego County Fair runs June 10 through July 5, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. Tickets vary in price by day of the week, age bracket and if they're purchased in advance. General admission prices for adults start at \$17, if purchased in advance. Children 5 and under are free, children 6-12 are free on Fridays. For tickets and other information, visit sdfair.com.

FERRY

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received a lease termination notice from the marina in March with no reason given.

Brad Engel, president of Flagship Cruises & Events, said the company sees room to grow.

"We look forward to growing the service and adding additional trips to the schedule in the future," Engel said in a statement.



The fare will be \$15 one way on a new ferry route linking Chula Vista to downtown San Diego. **FLAGSHIP CRUISES EVENTS**

Del Mar denies application for 259-unit Seaside Ridge project

By Luke Harold
U-T COMMUNITY PRESS

DEL MAR — The Del Mar City Council unanimously voted May 19 to deny the application for Seaside Ridge, a proposed 259-unit residential project on the north bluff, which had been deemed "incomplete" by city planners three separate times.

There was no council discussion before the motion to deny the project and a 4-0 vote. The decision follows a February letter from the state attorney general admonishing the city of Del Mar for keeping the Seaside Ridge application in "administrative limbo."

Property owner Carol Lazier submitted a preliminary application in October 2022, followed by three applications throughout 2023. Each one was deemed "incomplete" by the city because it did not include relevant documents to change the zoning and seek coastal approvals for multi-unit housing on the north bluff property.

Lazier filed a petition in Superior Court two years ago asking a judge to allow the

development to proceed. But Judge Wendy Behan ruled last year that she couldn't make a decision unless the city formally rejected it.

Attorney General Rob Bonta wrote in the February letter that the incomplete designation, which stopped short of a formal rejection, put the project in "administrative limbo" and obstructed Lazier from pursuing a legal challenge.

Lazier filed another petition in October 2025, after the City Council voted against considering an appeal. A hearing is scheduled for September.

City planners have said they're willing to accept the additional zoning and environmental documents that would move the application forward. But Lazier and her team have said the project should be eligible for streamlined approval under a state law known as the Builder's Remedy, which supersedes local zoning if a project application is submitted while a city does not have a state-approved housing element.

The Seaside Ridge preliminary application and first application were submitted months before Del Mar

received certification for its housing element, which outlines plans for the city to accommodate 175 new housing units for all income levels through 2029.

Del Mar Principal Planner Matt Bator reiterated the city's reasons for labeling the applications incomplete and now denying its processing.

"Without the necessary and required application materials, staff cannot analyze the proposed project in relation to the city and state regulatory framework, which is why the application is and has remained incomplete," Bator said.

Joseph Smith, a former Del Mar planner working with Seaside Ridge, said Lazier could have pursued single-family housing on the property, but "it would not have delivered the type of public benefits and affordable housing that she actually envisions for her property." Seaside Ridge would include 42 lower-income units and 43 moderate-income units.

"You have an opportunity to approve this project and do something considerable for this city and the region," Smith said.

Summer Movies in the Park to hold screenings across county

By Abby Hamblin
UNION-TRIBUNE

For the next few months, residents can find a range of family-friendly movies playing during the week-ends for free in parks across the county.

Summer Movies in the Park, hosted by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, kicked off in Waterfront Park on Saturday with a single showing of "A Minecraft Movie." The movie series ramps up this weekend with multiple showings Friday and one on Saturday:

Friday: "How to Train

Your Dragon (Live Action)" at Teralta Community Park, "Dog Man" at Dusty Rhodes Park, "Lilo & Stitch (Live Action)" at Cesar Solis Community Park.

Saturday: "Sandlot" at Standley Recreation Center

The movie series will take place in parks as far north as Fallbrook and as far south as Otay Mesa. The selected films, which include classics, summer blockbusters and spooky fall and Halloween-themed titles, all range in ratings from G to PG-13. Some examples of movies to expect are "Hoppers," "GOAT," "Coco," "Hocus

Pocus," "K-Pop Demon Hunters" and "Jumanji."

Screenings start 15 minutes after sunset on each date. Locals are invited to bring their own chairs and blankets and some locations will have concessions available for purchase.

The final screening of the season will take place Dec. 11 but the schedule will run consistently most week-ends through Oct. 31. There are no scheduled screenings in November. These events may be canceled for rain.

See the full schedule, locations and other information at summermoviesinthepark.com.



Hoop houses along Sleeping Indian Road in Oceanside's South Morro Hills, where a property owner has received a cannabis cultivation permit. **U-T FILE**

CANNABIS

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"a bad idea."

"You add opportunity and stupid, and you're going to get crime," White said.

Cannabis cultivation conforms with the agricultural zoning on the property. All operations will be conducted indoors, and the product will be sold only to licensed distributors.

The facility will have a double-layer security fence with no public access, 24-hour on-site, armed security personnel, and security cameras with a live feed to the city's Police Department, according to a city report.

"Projects like this are

part of Oceanside's agricultural future," states a letter to the city from long-time local farmer Neil Nagata, who lives near the site. "The South Morro Hills 47 project keeps the land in productive agricultural use while operating in compliance with environmental and city standards."

The permit is at least the second for cannabis cultivation in Oceanside. A company called Zenleaf, LLC, received cultivation and nursery conditional-use permits from the city in 2021 for a site at 5712 North River Road. It operated briefly and then ceased production, according to city officials.

Oceanside has approved about 20 licenses for various

types of cannabis businesses, from cultivation to off-site distribution, of which only a handful are active. Each license holder also needs a conditional-use permit from the city and a state cannabis license.

Oceanside initially legalized medical marijuana in 2018 and since then has gradually expanded its licensing program. In 2020, the City Council agreed to allow recreational cannabis businesses and approved the first delivery-only retail sales.

In August 2025, the city approved a process to issue its first four in-store retail cannabis licenses. So far, no retail shops have opened in the city.

RAILROAD

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Leucadia Boulevard, where both vehicles and pedestrians cross the tracks.

The city is proposing to put one of its new pedestrian-only crossing points at Phoebe Street and the other at Grandview Street, thus creating two new crossing points in a 1.3-mile stretch between Leucadia Boulevard and La Costa Avenue, where there currently is no legal place to get over the tracks.

Encinitas held its community comment meeting Tuesday because the two crossing projects, which first were studied in 2018, are finally starting to move toward, city employees said.

In February, the California Public Utilities Commission granted Encinitas permission to pursue the projects — a decision that was much welcomed and highly unusual for the commission, city engineering director Dan Nutter said.

"Concept designs" for the two projects are about 30 percent complete, and the city hopes to have them done by the end of the year, city principal engineer Matt Widelski said. Encinitas already has started applying for grant funding for the projects, city employees said.

Councilmember Jim O'Hara told the crowd that the city will do all it can to "move forward in the best way possible," and Nutter repeatedly stressed that the

two projects will not proceed unless the city gets permission to install a bells and whistle system that eliminates the need for trains to sound their horns at the new crossing points.

Encinitas is considering using either a Pedestrian Audible Warning System, which is in use in San Clemente, or a Wayside Horn System. The Pedestrian Audible Warning System equipment is quieter and would be city maintained, and that's the city's preferred option, but it will require a special waiver from the Federal Railroad Administration, he said.

Many people in the audience asked the city to host a demonstration of the equipment, and O'Hara said this could be arranged.