

## LOCAL REPORTS

## CRIME, FIRE &amp; PUBLIC SAFETY

## DUI crash suspect pleads not guilty after pregnant woman injured, baby dies

## ESCONDIDO

A pregnant woman critically injured lost her unborn child after her car was hit by a suspected drunken driver in Escondido over the weekend, a deputy district attorney said Wednesday.

The man accused of drunken driving, Jose Uriostegui, 33, was charged with two counts of DUI causing injury, a count of hit-and-run driving with injury, and a count of driving without a driver's license.

He pleaded not guilty on Wednesday. Uriostegui was placed on immigration hold, and faces up to 10 years and 8 months in prison.

The victim, who was six months pregnant, remains in critical condition, undergoing surgeries and treatment at a hospital, Deputy District Attorney Teresa Pham said. The woman's sole passenger was released from a hospital with broken ribs, the prosecutor said.

Pham said hospital staff indicated that around the time of the crash, early Sunday, Uriostegui's blood-alcohol level was 0.20 percent, above the 0.08 level at which a person is considered drunk and impaired. Results from a crime lab were still pending, she said.

The defendant was treated at a hospital for minor injuries before being booked into county jail.

Authorities say the Uriostegui's 2005 Ford F-150 ran a red light and crashed into the woman's 2013 Nissan Altima at Broadway and Lincoln Parkway, which becomes state Route 78 west of Broadway. The woman was making a left turn from

northbound Broadway about 2 a.m. when her car was hit by the eastbound pickup.

Police said Uriostegui tried to get away, but two bystanders held him until officers arrived.

The defendant's bail was set at \$1 million.

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## Suspect arrested after man's hand nearly cut off

## SAN DIEGO

A man's hand was nearly severed when an acquaintance attacked him with a machete at a City Heights home early Thursday, San Diego police said.

Officers used a tourniquet to slow the bleeding until paramedics got there.

Residents called police about 3:20 a.m. to report hearing a man screaming that his hand had been cut off, police Officer Travis Easter said. The victim was living in a shed behind a house on 40th Street near Myrtle Avenue.

The bleeding man gave officers the name of the man who attacked him and said he drove away in a smart car. Police pulled over the car on University Avenue at state Route 15 and arrested the driver at gunpoint, Easter said.

Paramedics took the victim to a trauma center. An update on the man's condition was not available.

Police did not know a motive for the attack.

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## Man has head burns after he's set on fire; woman held

## SAN DIEGO

A woman accused of lighting a man on fire was arrested in the community of Bay Terraces Thursday morning, San Diego police said.

The victim was taken to a hospital with serious burns to his head, shoulder and arm.

Someone called police after spotting the woman trying to ignite the man near Brookhaven Road and South Meadowbrook Drive about 7:25 a.m., police said.

Firefighters found the victim sitting on a curb. He told investigators that he and a woman had been sitting in a car, arguing, when she threw lighter fluid on him and ignited the fluid, fire department spokesman Lee Swanson said.

Police said the case is being investigated as domestic violence.

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## Fire forces evacuation of about 200 hotel residents

## DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

About 200 residents of a downtown residential hotel evacuated, many aided by firefighters, when smoke from a trash fire filled the building before dawn Thursday.

Three residents suffered smoke inhalation and were treated by medics with oxygen, but they did not go to a hospital, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department spokesman Lee Swanson said.

Someone in the office of the four-story Peach Tree Inn, on F Street at Ninth Avenue, called 911 at 4:48 a.m. to report smoke in the building.

Most residents got out safely by themselves, but Swanson said many are elderly or disabled and needed to be helped out by firefighters. One person assisted is blind, he said. Extra fire crews were called in to help with the escorts.

Firefighters found that the fire had started in a trash dumpster in the basement below a trash chute that runs up through each floor. They got the fire out quickly, then used fans to blow the smoke out of the building, Swanson said.

Investigators had not determined what caused the fire, but Swanson said it was likely sparked by some burning or smoldering item dropped into the trash. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

Residents were allowed back inside by about 5:30 a.m.

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## Missing woman with dementia found safe

## SAN DIEGO

A 73-year-old woman with dementia who walked away from her Del Cerro home Wednesday morning was found safe in a canyon Thursday, San Diego police said.

Authorities, including sheriff's search and rescue teams, searched extensively for Jan Mattei after her caregiver reported that she left her house on Caminito Estrellado

about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

A San Diego police helicopter crew spotted her shortly before 11 a.m. Thursday in a canyon off Easton Court and west of College Avenue. She was in good condition, police Sgt. Ray Battrick said.

The canyon is less than a mile from her home, which is east of College Avenue.

Paramedics took her to a hospital for a check-up.

Police said Mattei has a history of wandering away. Her caregiver was vacuuming upstairs bedrooms when Mattei slipped out this time.

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## Man rescued, hospitalized after falling down cliff

## SAN DIEGO

Lifeguards and medics rescued a man who wound up unconscious after falling 40 feet down a cliff in Torrey Pines on Wednesday, a fire official said.

The victim, in his 20s or early 30s, was halfway down the Black's Beach bluff, south of the Torrey Pines Gliderport, when he fell about 3:30 p.m., San Diego fire spokesman Lee Swanson said.

He said a rescue crew found the man unconscious, but breathing and with a pulse. An update on his condition was not available.

The rescue team put the victim on a backboard and moved him to a flat area so a helicopter could airlift him to a hospital.

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## ENVIRONMENT

## Park-bred pocket mice to be introduced to wild

After facing extinction for nearly two decades, the Pacific pocket mouse may now have a fighting chance.

A four-year-old program at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido is preparing to introduce into the wild its first batch of this mice species bred in captivity.

About 130 of the rodents are being raised at the park. Fifty of them are scheduled to be moved early next week to the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park in Orange County.

The program is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The long-term goal is to find other compatible areas for the Pacific pocket mouse," said Jenny Mehlow, a spokeswoman for San Diego Zoo Global, the nonprofit that operates the zoo. "We're in the early stages."

The endangered rodent's native habitat stretches four miles from shore and from the El Segundo dunes in Los Angeles down to the U.S.-Mexico border. But today, Pacific pocket mice are found only near Camp Pendleton and in Dana Point, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Pacific pocket mice help ecosystems by eating and dispersing the seeds of native plants, as well as by digging holes that improve soil irrigation and encourage plant growth. This species is the smallest kind of mouse in North America, with the average adult weighing less than 8 grams.

Many wildlife specialists feared the species had died off until some Pacific pocket mice were found again in the early 1990s. After much deliberation, the zoo's conservation and research arm took 30 of the rodents into captivity in 2012 based on calculations the species wouldn't survive on its own.

"It was decided that they needed to attempt to save them and bring them in for a captive-breeding program," Mehlow said. "These mice were expected to be difficult to breed, but it went really well."

To prepare the Laguna Coast park for the pocket mice, biologists have fenced off an acre of coastal sage scrub habitat to protect against predators such as coyotes and snakes. They also installed mesh cages with biodegradable materials to serve as nests for the mice.

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## COUNTY FAIR

## 'Alice in Wonderland' theme picture-perfect

## DEL MAR

For photographers and aspiring artists, this year's "Alice in Wonderland" theme at the San Diego County Fair is becoming a popular source for artistic inspiration.

"They've got some good ideas here," San Diego resident Jill Elhard said Thursday, after using her cellphone to take a video of the teapots and towers of teacups spread along the full length of a giant tea table in the fair's theme exhibit building.

Located just a few steps away from the fair's main O'Brien Gate entrance, the theme exhibit building draws a steady flow of foot traffic each day. People enter the exhibit by walking through some special effects designed to replicate the disorienting experience of falling down a rabbit hole, just like Alice did in the "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" children's book.

Near the fair entrance, an "Alice" clock that runs backward draws curious glances from young children. Just inside the gate, visitors are often greeted by costumed characters, including Alice.

Things become "curiouser and curiouser," to quote Alice, when visitors step inside the theme exhibit building. Wildly technicolor lighting gives the place an otherworldly look, and the collections of clocks, tea equipment and massive playing cards adds to that feeling. The Red Queen appears in the exhibit hall about 3 p.m. daily.

Barbara Henry is a freelance writer.

## San Diego County Fair

**When:** 11 a.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays; through July 4. Closed Mondays (except July 4) and closed June 14.

**Where:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar

**Cost:** \$9 to 16; free for kids ages 5 and younger. Look for discounts and deals, including the Best Pass Ever — all 26 days for \$26 dollars.

**Parking:** \$10 for cars or motorcycles, \$20 for RVs or oversized vehicles

**Online:** sdfair.com

## EAST COUNTY

## Anza Elementary installs native plant habitat

## EL CAJON

A native plant schoolyard habitat has opened for teachers, students and parents at Anza Elementary School in El Cajon. Starting in the fall, the 1,400-square-foot plot, filled with native plants, will also be open to the public.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the nonprofit Earth Discovery Institute partnered with the Cajon Valley Union School District to create the project in an area once filled with decomposed granite and weeds at the school at 1005 S. Anza St.

Since last winter, more than 600 students, staff and volunteers worked to improve the soil and plant the habitat.

Students in different grades will be in charge of five distinct areas: kindergartners will oversee the native grasses/annual seeds area; first-graders will be in charge of the pollinator area; second-graders will take care of the oak woodland area; third-graders will care for the desert area; fourth-graders will maintain the coastal sage scrub area; and fifth-graders will oversee the chaparral area and trees.

## Cleanup of Casa de Oro community Saturday

## CASA DE ORO

Residents and volunteers from the Casa de Oro Community Alliance will meet from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday to clean up a 1 1/2-mile stretch of Campo Road.

"This (cleanup) is just the first of many that will be required if we hope to revive our neighborhood and make it safe for generations to come," said Bob Yarris, chairman of the Casa de Oro Community Alliance.

Susan Caldwell, of the Institute for Public Strategies, said people in the neighborhood are "fed up with years of degradation, blight and problems related to too many liquor stores in the area once known as the heartbeat of Casa de Oro."

The institute works with communities to revitalize areas, fight crime and help prevent substance abuse.

Registration for the event starts at 8 a.m. at the Casa de Oro Plaza at 9716 Campo Road. A community barbecue will follow the cleanup.

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## EDUCATION

## UCSD to hold rare all-campus graduation

## LA JOLLA

UC San Diego will hold its first all-campus commencement for the first time in 16 years this Saturday in a weekend filled with graduation ceremonies for all colleges on campus.

The all-campus commencement is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. and will feature a keynote address from Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, founder of the global microfinance movement.

The ceremony is designed to strengthen a sense of community among UC San Diego graduates by providing an opportunity for all students to come together one final time as the class of 2016.

The ceremony will be on RIMAC Field and will include the conferring of degrees to 8,058 undergraduate and graduate students.

Also on Saturday, the graduate division will hold ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. inside RIMAC Arena for 1,820 graduating students. San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten will be the keynote speaker.

Earl Warren College will hold its ceremony for about 900 graduates at 2 p.m. Saturday, followed by a 5:30 p.m. ceremony for 1,000 graduates of Sixth College. Both ceremonies will be at RIMAC Field.

On Sunday, 1,050 students will graduate from Thurgood Marshall College at 8 a.m. on RIMAC Field. The keynote speaker will be John Marshall, son of Justice Thurgood Marshall and former Virginia secretary of public safety.

Rady School of Management will hold its ceremony for 169 graduating students at 9:30 a.m. inside RIMAC Arena. Revelle College plans its ceremony for 850 graduating students for 11:30 a.m. at RIMAC Field. The keynote speaker will be alumnus Philip Wang of Wong Fu Productions.

The School of Global Policy will hold its ceremony for 105 graduating students at 12:30 p.m. in RIMAC Arena. The keynote speaker will be Tom Malinowski, assistant secretary of state for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Roosevelt College will hold a commencement ceremony for about 990 graduating students at 2:30 p.m., followed by Muir College's commencement ceremony for 940 graduate students at 5:30 p.m. Both ceremonies are at RIMAC Field.

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## SOUTH COUNTY

## Grand opening Saturday for new trail system

## TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY

The county is celebrating the opening Saturday of an improved trail system at the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park.

The 22.5-mile trail system for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians also marks the opening of the Dairy Mart Pond Overlook, a 1,200-square-foot wooden deck that offers views of birds across the Pacific Flyway.

The grand opening is being held at Dairy Mart Pond Overlook in the regional park at 11:30 a.m. To get there take Interstate 5 south to Dairy Mart Road, turn right. The pond is about 100 yards on the right.

The county's Parks and Recreation Department worked with more than 20 jurisdictions, agencies and groups to make trail system improvements because native vegetation was being damaged by park users who went off trail, county officials said. The trail system was closed last fall.

For Saturday's event, street parking is not allowed and limited parking will be available in the Dairy Mart Pond staging area, with overflow spots in the lot across the street.

## Libraries host Kindergarten Boot Camp

## CHULA VISTA

Two Chula Vista public library branches this summer are holding what's called Kindergarten Boot Camp.

The program prepares preschool age children for kindergarten through sessions designed to familiarize them with the kindergarten classroom and materials.

This program is a free partnership between the library and Altrusa International of Chula Vista.

The South Chula Vista Branch at 389 Orange Ave., will offer two sessions. Session one will be Monday through Thursday and another June 20-23. Session two will be July 5-7 and July 11-14. Parents are asked to register online at chulavistalibrary.com, or by calling (619) 585-5755.

The boot camp at the Civic Center Branch at 365 F St., will be June 20-July 1. Registration is required by calling (619) 691-5069.

All camps run from from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

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## ARTS

## Broadway's 'Hamilton' will play in San Diego

The smash-hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" is — wait for it — coming to San Diego.

The touring-show presenter Broadway/San Diego and lead producer Jeffrey Seller announced Thursday that the show, which is up for a record 16 Tony Awards this Sunday, will hit town sometime in the 2017-18 season.

Exact dates are uncertain, but subscribers to the current Broadway/San Diego season will be able to guarantee "Hamilton" seats if they renew for 2017-18. (Subscriptions to the 2016-17 season are still available; call (888) 937-8995 or go to broadwaysd.com.)

Buying a subscription probably won't be the only way to see the show, though.

Broadway/San Diego had no further information on ticketing. But Sam Rudy, a spokesman for the Broadway production of "Hamilton," told USA Today: "Single tickets will be available in every market where 'Hamilton' plays."

The timing is more tricky, but the show almost certainly won't arrive here before 2018.

The first North American tour of "Hamilton" launches in San Francisco in March 2017, and then heads to Los Angeles that August for a four-month run. Even if the San Diego run came immediately after the L.A. tour stop, "Hamilton" would arrive in January 2018 at the earliest.

The New York Times says a second touring production will launch in Seattle in 2018, so it's also possible San Diego would be part of that swing.

In any case, says Joe Kobryner, a vice president of Nederlander (Broadway/San Diego's parent): "We're thrilled San Diego will be one of the first cities in North America to see 'Hamilton' outside of Broadway."

The musical chronicles the life and times of Alexander Hamilton, the Revolutionary War hero and founding father who helped create the American financial system.

The hip-hop-driven show, created by and starring composer-writer-lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda, has set new standards on Broadway for the diversity of its cast and adventurousness of its music.

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