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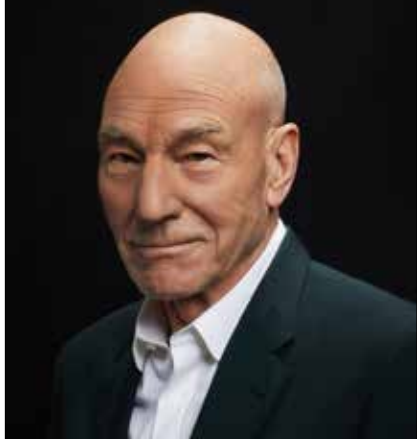
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THIS WEEK



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Cheers to La Jolla spirits
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Sir Patrick Stewart
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Stay strong and feel
younger with these tips
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LITTLE AMAL VISITS

Little Amal greets children in Balboa Park on Saturday, Nov. 4. In partnership with La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls program, San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, and San Diego Symphony, Little Amal went on an adventure in Balboa Park to celebrate the power of theater and the city's rich cultural diversity. Little Amal, the internationally celebrated 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, arrived in San Diego on Nov. 3 as part of her final stop during her epic 6,000-mile journey across the United States this fall. This week, she crossed the border to Tijuana and started a new journey through Mexico. **PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE**



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Greetings from San Diego: A perspective on interpreting this society

By KYUNGMIN MIN



Dear readers:

I would like to greet you for the first time, as I have had a great opportunity to participate with the San Diego Community Newspaper Group.

It has been three months since I arrived in San Diego, and I have been staying in Little Italy during this time. My life there has been fascinating because I could experience two different versions of scenery simultaneously: the ocean and the city. Also, it's hard to talk about Little Italy without mentioning how nice the restaurants are.

I am from Korea, and I know the feeling how comforting a foreign village can be for people from abroad. I also have enjoyed visiting Convoy Street to have some Asian food with my friends. Therefore, it meant a lot to me to be a part of the melting pot of Italian and American history, experiencing how Italians appreciate their own culture and food in San Diego.

Now, I have moved to Pacific Beach, and I am getting used to the new, more peaceful atmosphere that gives me a Californian mood.

Let me tell you more about my story. I am a university student in Korea, studying philosophy. As someone who is always eager to explore the wider world, I decided to come to the US with only one semester left until graduation. I am here as a participant in a cultural exchange program between the USA and the Korean government.

Over the past three months, I have taken a language course and had a tremendous opportunity to meet people from different countries and hear their stories. Every single story they shared has given me inspiration

and helped me find meaning in my life in this new city.

The people and culture here are vastly different from what I have experienced in Korea. San Diego is less hectic compared to the city where I was born and raised, which is Seoul. Therefore, I am learning how to ease myself and not be obsessed with perfectionism.

People here enjoy engaging in small talk with random people on the street and treat me as if we have been friends for decades. Small talk is one of the unfamiliar cultural practices that many Asians are not used to, and I also had a hard time with it at first. However, it has helped me a lot to get to know San Diego better over time. Now, I understand that this is one of the essentials of American culture.

Also, people here are more open-minded about diversity. Once, I volunteered as an interpreter for a program held by the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and the San Diego Diplomacy Council. The theme of the program was 'diversity and tolerance,' and it

featured influencers with various characteristics, such as homosexual, people who need more help, a drag queen, a North Korean defector, and more.

I remember that a drag queen told me she feels safer and more confident here because people compliment her fashion and take pride in her, saying she is astonishing and marvelous. However, back when she was in Korea, sometimes she had to endure insults from anonymous individuals. Even though Korea has been changing to better understand and embrace diversity than before, it is still conservative in some ways compared to the rest of the world.

Of course, as in the case of every city around the world, there are some problems here too. Rent and prices are too high for many people to afford, leading to being unhoused. Before I came to the US, I had heard that the homeless problem was getting more severe, but now it has become a reality in my life. I couldn't hide the shock when I first saw tents under a bridge and people living with their belongings in shopping carts.

Moreover, there might be various kinds

of difficulties that students from abroad or non-native Americans have encountered. The number of students pursuing bachelor's to doctoral degrees from other countries is increasing. At the same time, non-native populations are also on the rise.

With experience working as a journalist for a university newspaper in Korea, I truly enjoy hearing the voices of students who are the future of our society. As I have family members who are Korean Americans, I am also interested in people who are forging their own paths and communities in a world where they are recognized as strangers.

The world we live in is becoming more diverse as time goes by, and San Diego is no exception. Everyone is facing challenges in their lives and trying to find solutions. I hope I can serve as a bridge, conveying varied stories and offering new perspectives to interpret San Diego as someone who came from outside of this society through the San Diego Community Newspaper Group.

Kyungmin Min is an international intern from South Korea.

DISCOVER PACIFIC BEACH UPDATE

Discover Pacific Beach, the community's business improvement district, the second largest in San Diego with over 1,400 member businesses, reports October was a banner month for the organization. DPB seeks to revitalize and promote the Pacific Beach community, both physically and economically.

"It was a month filled with joy, camaraderie, and community spirit that truly defines the essence of our beautiful beachside neighborhood," said Sunny Lee, DPB's executive director. "Our BeachFest event marked the beginning of October with a bang. It was a resounding success, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our generous sponsors – High Noon, Mavericks Beach Club and Diamond Parking – who made it all possible, and we look forward to continuing this partnership into the future.

"Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that next year, DPB will be celebrating its 25th anniversary of BeachFest," continued Lee. "It's a remarkable milestone, and we're already hard at work planning an extraordinary event that will make it a year to remember. We can't wait to share more details with you in the coming months."

Board Elections – "Our annual meeting and board elections also took place in October," said Lee. "The dedication and passion of our board members are instrumental in shaping the future of our community, and we are fortunate to have this outstanding group of newly elected individuals leading us into the next year: John Anderson, Mavericks Beach Club, Eric Marenburg, San Diego Running Co., Wilber Lai, Ocean Park Inn, Randall Engstrom, Randall's Sandals, Shylah Hales, Diamond Parking. "We believe that with this dedicated team on board, we are well-positioned to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead," concluded Lee.

BEACH COMMUNITY COURT

Discover Pacific Beach business improvement district is seeking volunteers for the Beach Area Community Court Impact Panel, to help educate people who have committed quality-of-life crimes in your community. They need to hear from residents how these types of offenses diminish quality of life in the beach area, and how they affect you and your family every year.

When it comes from you, it's real, and they listen. Offenders of quality of life crime examples: alcohol related offenses, urinating in public, littering, glass on the beach, smoking, dogs off a leash.

These types of offenders can be given the opportunity to attend Beach Area Community Court. Community Court happens once a month during most of the year, and several times a month during the summer season. You can help once, or as many times as you like. Needed are a variety of voices and stories to reach participants and broaden their point of view regarding personal responsibility and making amends. The educational component lasts two hours, but participation is for about 45 minutes to an hour on a weeknight. There is also a short training session (2 hours) that you must complete before you can volunteer for BACC. The volunteer registration form includes the scheduled dates of the Impact Panel discussions. Volunteer Registration.

LJ SANDPIPER HAPPY HOUR

Sandpiper Wood Fired Grill & Oysters at 2259 Avenida De La Playa in La Jolla Shores offers all-day happy hour on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Happy hour on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays is 4-5:30 p.m. Specialty cocktails, well drinks, draft beer, and wines by the glass are all \$4 off during that time. Sandpiper is the sister restaurant to founder Trey Foshee's Georges at the Cove.

DUCK DIVE THANKSGIVING

This Thanksgiving, Duck Dive at 4650 Mission Blvd. will be serving traditional turkey dinner and a prime rib dinner. Traditional turkey dinner will be \$42, and includes turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, seasonal vegetables, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. The prime rib dinner is \$51, and consists of horseradish cream, mashed potatoes, seasonal veggies, and pumpkin pie. Thanksgiving dinner service will be 11 a.m.-close, while supplies last, and reservations are encouraged for groups of four or more. Duck Dive will also be serving fall-inspired libations throughout the day. Reservations can be made by calling 858-273-3825. Duck Dive will also be having a canned food drive on Thanksgiving day. Guests can bring in a can of unopened, unexpired food and receive a Jameson Irish coffee for only 1 cent.



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