

SOLANA BEACH SUN

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 |

Two local youth rowers win national title

Carmel Valley students and rowers Gabriella Bigler and Thalia Makris won a national championship at the 2026 US Rowing Youth Nationals, held June 11-14 in Sarasota, Florida.

Gabriella 17, is a rising senior at Canyon Crest Academy and Thalia, also 17, will be a senior at Torrey Pines High School. The pair competed in the Women's Youth PR3 Inclusive 2X division. In this inclusive double skulls rowing race, an athlete with a physical or visual impairment is paired with an able-bodied rower. Gabriella was born with Aniridia, a rare eye condition where the iris and other eye functions are not developed, and she is legally blind in both eyes.

"This team and experience with Gabby is something I will never forget and further reinforces the love I have for this sport and my teammates. I enjoyed the opportunity to row together to the finish line and earn our National Championship," said Thalia in a news release. "After we crossed the finish line, Gabby and I just hugged, and it is something I will always remember."

Both girls are members of the San Diego Rowing Club (SDRC). At nationals, Gabriella also competed in the able-bodied Women's Youth 4-division for SRDC and finished ninth in the country.

After the Nationals, Gabriella will attend the US Rowing Paralympic



Carmel Valley students and rowers Gabriella Bigler and Thalia Makris won a national championship at the 2026 US Rowing Youth Nationals.

See **ROWERS** on Page A7



Del Mar City Hall. **KAREN BILLING**

Del Mar City Council adds e-bike regulations to workplan

By **Luke Harold**
LUKE.HAROLD@
DELMARTIMES.NET

The Del Mar City Council voted June 16 to add e-bike regulations to the council workplan, the first step in considering any potential changes to Del Mar's existing e-bike regulations.

"The council's interest in reviewing new e-bike regulations stems in part from the city of Carlsbad and a new ordinance that the city adopted to add age requirements and other measures aimed at improving safety."

"Since Del Mar adopted its ordinance, several San Diego County cities have continued to evaluate and amend local e-bike regulations, particularly in response to community concerns regarding youth riders, unsafe riding behavior, sidewalk conflicts, and enforcement limitations," according to a council agenda report. "Residents have continued to express concerns about bike safety issues in Del Mar, and one resident recently requested that the city review Carlsbad's

more recent e-bike regulations and consider whether Del Mar's ordinance should be amended to address issues such as age restrictions, speed and unsafe riding behavior, passengers, impound authority, structured education, and e-bike use on the beach."

San Marcos has also added a prohibition on e-bike riders 12 or under and a Ride Right campaign.

"The San Marcos approach includes school district coordination, Sheriff's Department enforcement, increased safety training, and signage prohibiting e-bikes on sidewalks in business districts," according to the council agenda report. "Other San Diego County cities, including Poway, Coronado, and Chula Vista, have also adopted under-12 e-bike restrictions under AB 2224."

Del Mar's existing ordinance includes rules for riding e-bikes on public roads, highways, parks and other public property, according to the council agenda report. The San

See **E-BIKE** on Page A7

Del Mar requests public workshop with fair board on affordable housing

By **Luke Harold**
LUKE.HAROLD@
DELMARTIMES.NET

The board of directors at the Del Mar Fairgrounds again considered pausing their deal with the city of Del Mar to discuss a possible affordable housing project on fairgrounds property, but decided to wait until their next meeting in August for more information about potential locations and impacts on their operations.

Del Mar Councilmember John Spelich told the board during the meeting that a decision to pause negotiations "triggers disastrous consequences" for the city, which faces a state-imposed November deadline to secure a lease with the fairgrounds before finding a developer.

Following the meeting, Del Mar Mayor Tracy Martinez and the city posted an open letter asking for a joint meeting between the two sides to address "misinformation" that staff from the 22nd District Agricultural Association, which owns and operates the fairgrounds, presented to the board.

The city of Del Mar made the fairgrounds the centerpiece of its plan to build 61 of 113 affordable housing units from 2021 to 2029 as part of the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

The city was supposed to have a "binding agreement" to build housing at the fairgrounds by April 2024. But the two sides were only able to reach a deal that mapped out steps to identify and study possible sites for the housing, which is in effect through April 2027 after the latest extension. The fair board retains the ability to pause or terminate negotiations at any time.

Fair board members have consistently said they're not sure they want housing on the property, or, if they do, if they would be able to make that decision within the



An aerial view of the Del Mar Fairgrounds property, as pictured on Jan. 14, 2020. **JOHN GIBBINS / U-T FILE**

city's state-mandated timeframe. They're in the early stages of a master-planning process for the future of the entire state-owned fairgrounds, and board members have said it's too soon to determine how a residential housing project might fit into it.

"If it fits into what is best for us, and if we can accommodate, I would love to," board member Frederick Schenk said. "But it's got to be something that fits into our needs and the people we serve, and I haven't really heard that yet."

Fair board member Mark Arabo said there had been no due diligence on the impacts to fair operations that any of the sites would have.

"We survive by our operations, that's our oxygen, that's our blood," Arabo said. "Without checking our oxygen and our blood, how can we be a healthy organization?"

The mayor's letter said that operational impacts were included in a report prepared by a 22nd DAA

consultant. The letter addressed multiple other fair board questions that "were either not responded to or that were responded to with incorrect information" by district staff.

The board also discussed two of six potential sites for the affordable housing project that are located in the city of San Diego's small portion of fairgrounds property, and whether the state would give the city of Del Mar credit for those affordable housing units.

"We do look forward to the opportunity to work through those challenges with the district, the governor's office, the state Department of Housing and Community Development as well as the city of San Diego," said Karen Brindley, planning and community development director for the city of Del Mar.

If the city of Del Mar fails to secure a deal for housing on the

See **HOUSING** on Page A7

FOR SALE!

120-26 4th STREET

7 Bed | 7 Bath | 4,429 SF
4 Car Tuck Under Parking
\$5,998,000!

BEST DEAL IN DEL MAR TODAY!

Rare Beach Colony Coastal Retreat, Sweeping Ocean Views to La Jolla Cove, 4,429 SqFt Living Area, 7 Bed 7 Bath, Just One Property From the Ocean Front, Short Walk to 15th St, Walk to Dining, Surfing, Trails, and the Beaches!



Resort Style Flow, Open Spaces, Sun Filled Rooms, Ocean Breezes, Every Day Feels Like a Getaway!



Bob Angello
Associate Broker
DRE# 00308899
bob.angello@compass.com
M: 858-775-9100



Kathy Angello
Realtor®
DRE# 01234973
kathy.angello@compass.com
M: 619-742-4800



Blaire Kennedy
Realtor®
DRE# 02422145
blaire.kennedy@compass.com
M: 760-613-5222

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 15073865. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, size or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate. License Number 01916028, 01527235, 15073865.



CCA Aero Ravens Drone Team placed second this spring in the Teamwork Mission at the 2026 West Aerial Drone Championships in San Diego. **COURTESY OF CCA AERO RAVENS DRONE TEAM**

CCA students take new heights at drone competition

Six Canyon Crest Academy (CCA) students — known as the Aero Ravens Drone Team — placed second in a highly competitive high school aerial drone competition earlier this spring. In July, the team will be hosting an Aerial Drone Summer Engineering Camp (July 20-22) to mentor and teach drone technology to younger students, according to a news release.

The CCA Aero Ravens Drone Team is made up of Raquel Arias (11th grade), Joshua Baek (10th grade), Cayla Huang (9th grade), Edward Kim (12th grade), Jake Kim (10th grade), and Lucas Lee (11th grade).

Formed in 2024, the team won their first competition last year as they were awarded Skills Mission Champion at the 2025 West Aerial Drone Championship in San Jose. This spring, the students placed second in the Teamwork Mission

at the 2026 West Aerial Drone Championships in San Diego, held at the Balboa Park Activity Center (April 20-21), beating out 97 other middle and high school student teams.

The Aero Ravens are learning valuable career and technical education (CTE), led by team coach and CCA engineering teacher Dvora Celniker.

San Diego Union High School District (SDUHSD) — in which CCA is a part of — is now ranked No. 1 in San Diego and Imperial County for the statewide College/Career Indicator— thanks to a comprehensive CTE program that blends academic rigor, hands-on learning, and strong industry and college partnerships. Among these valuable partnerships is innovative work with San Diego-based Robolink, who brings engaging drone experiences into the classroom, the news

release stated.

"We recognize the profound impact of Career Technical Education in shaping students and in strengthening our workforce pipeline," said Manuel Zapata, director of Career Technical Education and Work Experience at CCA, in the news release.

The future is bright for these students. Edward Kim, the only senior on the team, will be attending the University of Chicago this fall, with plans to major in physics.

The REC Foundation's Aerial Drone Competition is the fast-growing educational drone sporting event that focuses on hands-on, student-centered learning. Teams learn to pilot drones, code Python, understand flight principles, and build their communication and social skills, all while expanding their interest in the growing drone-related workforce

and advanced career opportunities.

Designed in San Diego by Robolink, CoDrone EDU is the drone of choice for classrooms and the Aerial Drone Competition, allowing students to program with Blockly and Python to build STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and future-ready skills from their first flight. Robolink makes career-launching educational drones and learning experiences for grades 5 and up. The company's mission is to help educators engage students in coding, technology, and teamwork and prepare them for high-impact careers. Not every student will go into STEM, but every student should have the opportunity to see where it could take them, the news release stated.

School and district leaders interested in STEM or CTE programs can visit www.robolink.com/pages/our-products



Carmel Valley students and rowers Gabriella Bigler and Thalia Makris won a national championship at the 2026 US Rowing Youth Nationals. **ADAM BRUCE**

ROWERS

From Page 1

Development Camp in Boston to train with Paralympians and other hopefuls in pursuit of her goal of making the National Team, competing in the 2026 Rowing World Championships and eventually the 2028 Paralympics in Los Angeles.

"US Rowing Youth Nationals is so much fun and such an incredible experience, and I have so much respect for everyone I met there," said Gabriella in the news release. "Special shoutout to our amazing coaches Pat and Jane. We are so grateful to everyone for making it happen — parents, coaches, and fellow rowers at SDRC."

E-BIKE

From Page 1

Diego County Sheriff's Office also has the option to direct first-time violators to a diversion program.

Some of the specific measures the council wants to review include a prohibition on e-bike riders 12 and under, crafting a more specific definition of unsafe riding behavior, restrictions on beaches and sidewalks, and an education diversion program.

HOUSING

From Page 1

fairgrounds, the city will upzone north and south bluff properties as a backup plan enforced by the state. On the north bluff, the state attorney general admonished the city for holding up the application for a 259-unit residential project known as Seaside Ridge, which would add 42 lower-income units and 43 moderate-income units on the city's north bluff.

A petition by the property owner that would allow Seaside Ridge to proceed is pending in Superior Court. "To be clear, creation of affordable housing is not a problem," the mayor's letter to the fairgrounds says. "It is a responsibility we all share to ensure the most vulnerable among us have a safe and adequate place to live."

COLEMAN MOVING SYSTEMS

OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Serving La Jolla homes and offices since 1979

Stu & Matt Coleman

Family owned and operated. We offer:

- Free Wardrobe Use
- Last Minute Moves
- Packing/Unpacking
- Discount Packing Materials
- Moving services for all of California
- Piano moving
- Pod loading/unloading

**7 DAYS A WEEK
FREE ESTIMATES**

Call 619-223-2255

Insured Lic #CAL T-189466 BBB member

Get Del Mar news on the go with the e-Edition.

Access the digital replica of our printed newspaper from your computer, tablet or phone.

The San Diego Union-Tribune

DEL MAR TIMES

eNewspaper.DelMarTimes.net

Make a difference in the lives of older adults in nursing homes and residential care facilities

Become a Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer!

Visit local facilities on a regular basis

Inform residents of their rights

Advocate for residents and assist with conflict resolution

Ombudsman volunteers advocate to improve the quality of life for seniors who are residents of nursing homes and residential care facilities throughout San Diego County.

How to Get Started:

- Attend a free information/orientation session online
- Pass a medical and background check
- Attend a 36-hour certification training course
- Have access to reliable transportation
- Make a one-year commitment of about 20 hours per month

To learn more, call: **(800) 640-4661**
or email: AIS_LTCOP@sdcountry.ca.gov

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman program is a State of California program and is managed by Aging & Independence Services (AIS), a Department of the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency.