

SDMETRO

your business your life

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CHERYL NIEMAN BRECHLIN



SHAWNDA DORANTES

22ND ANNUAL

40

Under 40

SEE THIS YEARS WINNERS ON **PAGE 8**

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COVER STORY:

22nd Annual 40 Under 40 Awards

Among our winners are Kenya Huezo, a landscape architect and project manager for MIG Inc. who balances a heavy construction project workload with community volunteer service, and Jacob Leon, an associate planner at KTUA Landscape Architecture and Planning who was named ACE Mentor of the Year in 2020. Their careers are reflective of all the winners' contributions to the San Diego community. Page 8.



Recall Reflections

Writing in The City Journal, Joel Kotkin, executive director of the Urban Reform Institute, says Gov. Gavin Newsom's overwhelming victory in the Sept. 14 recall election was more a reality check for the Republican Party than an endorsement of progressive policies. Leading opponent Larry Elder's "sometimes-extreme libertarianism," he says, eventually got him in trouble.



Stunning Mid-Century Modern

San Diego businessman Aymerick Rondeau, a French immigrant who came to America in search of a dream, has turned the mid-century modern game on its side. Through hard work and determination, he's been cleaning up the furniture market with clean-lined, mid-century modern design. He delivers the biggest and best authentic Scandinavian mid-century modern furniture inventory in all of San Diego.



Travel Advisor finds Respite on Silversea Cruise

When flights were grounded, rental-car agencies were going bankrupt and borders were closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeff Lavender had the audacious idea to launch his own luxury travel firm, Travel Concierge by Jeff Lavender. "One thing I know for sure," he writes on our Travel page, "it's that travel is here to stay. It's resilient, and constantly reinventing itself through the ages." His first trip, a 10-day Alaskan cruise.



Historic Community College Baccalaureate Legislation

California lawmakers have approved historic legislation to make permanent the community college bachelor's degree pilot program.



Search for the World's Oldest Ice

Researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography will join colleagues from around the country in an effort to discover Antarctica's oldest ice and through it, learn more about how earth's climate has changed throughout its history.

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SAN DIEGO SCENE

SAN DIEGO SCENE

California's tallest, fastest and longest dive coaster to open March 2022 at SeaWorld San Diego

SeaWorld San Diego announced the opening of the highly anticipated dive coaster, Emperor, in March 2022. Joining other thrill rides at the park, Emperor will be the tallest, fastest, and longest dive coaster in California, as well as the only floorless dive coaster in the state.

Named after the world's largest penguin, the new coaster will mimic this species' amazing underwater diving ability. Climbing to 153 feet with feet dangling in the air, riders will be suspended on a 45-degree angle at the crown of the ride before plunging down a 143-foot facedown vertical drop, accelerating to more than 60 miles per hour. Riders will also experience inversions, barrel roll, Immelmann loop, hammerhead turn and flat spin as they race along the nearly 2,500 feet of track. Each of the floorless ride cars will hold 18 riders in three, six-person rows. This is the first seating configuration of its kind in North America.

SeaWorld San Diego's dive coaster Emperor.
Photo courtesy of SeaWorld San Diego.

Shore House at The Del, resort real estate property at Hotel del Coronado, is sold out

Shore House at The Del, the new resort real estate property at Hotel del Coronado, announced that it is 100 percent sold out, with all 75 luxury residences now placed under firm contract. Public sales for Shore House launched five weeks ago on July 22, 2021, following an pre-sales period resulting in nearly 85 percent of the available residences placed under contract.

Scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2022, Shore House represents the final piece of the Hotel del Coronado's \$400 Million Master Plan, a multi-year, multi-phase reimagination of the legendary hotel, located across the bay from Downtown San Diego on one of America's most iconic beaches. Celebrating its 133-year anniversary in 2021, the resort has hosted royalty and U.S. presidents as guests, and served as the sun-drenched backdrop for "Some Like It Hot" with Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon.



Rendering of Shore House at The Del.

San Diego County Bar Association to host inaugural Leadership Academy

The San Diego County Bar Association (SDCBA) will host its inaugural Leadership Academy in January 2022 as part of its ongoing efforts to train lawyers to be effective, service-oriented role models and leaders. The initiative aims to provide hands-on leadership opportunities to a diverse group of lawyers from a variety of practice areas and personal and professional backgrounds, and is the first and only program of its kind focused on the San Diego legal community.

The SDCBA is currently accepting applicants for the 2022 leadership cohort, which will launch in January with a two-part opening weekend session. The Leadership Academy's program will consist of monthly half-day sessions through June and will culminate with a capstone project and graduation celebration. It is open to lawyers with three or more years in practice who are members of the SDCBA. The application deadline is Sept. 15 for the inaugural January 2022 cohort.

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Ronson J. Shamoun, Principal Attorney and CEO of RJS LAW, is an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of San Diego-School of Law where he teaches a Tax Practice and Penalties class. He was recently presented with the following awards:

• San Diego Metro Magazine- Best Attorney 2016	• Martindale Hubbell's- AC Preeminent Rated 2014, 2015 & 2016
• San Diego Magazine- Top Attorney 2016	• San Diego Daily Transcript- Top Attorney 2014 & 2015
• San Diego Business Journal- Best of the Bar 2014, 2015 & 2016	• San Diego Metro Magazine- 40 Under 40 - 2015

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Poway costume company renews global rights for its LEGO costume line

Poway-based Disguise Inc., a costume company, announced a multi-year renewal of global rights for its LEGO costume line. Disguise will continue to design, market, manufacture and distribute costumes and costume accessories for the LEGO Group across the world. The Disguise and LEGO partnership first started in 2015 and helped Disguise launch its costume footprint around the world with high-quality products designed specifically for a premium brand such as the LEGO brand.

“The LEGO brand is a massive global brand that continues to lead and innovate in the toy world and has shown unprecedented growth, and we are pleased to continue our costume range with them,” said Tara Hefter, president and general manager of Disguise Inc.



Models wear LEGO Brick costumes from Disguise Inc.

San Diego Comic Convention begins construction on new Comic-Con Museum

San Diego Comic Convention (SDCC), the nonprofit organization that produces the annual popular arts and culture celebration Comic-Con, announced the start of construction on the new Comic-Con Museum in Balboa Park with the opening and daily operations set to begin Nov. 26. The event will coincide with Comic-Con Special Edition, a reduced-sized fall version of the Comic-Con convention held each summer in San Diego.

The Comic-Con Museum will allow fans and the public to see exciting and fun exhibits, art, and images connected to comics and

related popular art while serving as a meeting place for the community of fans and lovers of popular art in all its unique forms.

One of the two classrooms scheduled to open in the museum’s educational center at this time is the Cox Innovation Lab. Cox contributed \$175,000 to create the Cox Innovation Lab in the museum’s education center.

The museum will continue to expand its interior display space and educational area over the next several months leading to a grand opening scheduled for July 2022.



Rendering of the Comic-Con Museum in Balboa Park (Courtesy San Diego Comic Convention)

That student in a community college class could be a bot

In what experts are calling one of the state's biggest financial aid scam attempts in recent history, California's community college system has identified more than 65,000 fraudulent aid applications that appear to have been filed by bots posing as students — and who are likely seeking to capitalize on \$1.75 billion in federal relief funds earmarked for the Golden State's community college students. At least 10 districts or individual colleges have seen increases in fake applications, registrations, financial aid filings or some combination of the three, according to a CalMatters investigation.

Though it's unclear how much, if any, aid was paid to fraudulent students, the bots are wreaking havoc in other ways: they're blocking real students from being admitted, they're filling up classes and preventing real students from enrolling, and they're demoralizing faculty and students.

UC San Diego School of Medicine receives \$2.6 million for health equity programs

University of California San Diego School of Medicine will receive \$2.6 million to expand its existing Program in Medical Education (PRIME) on healthy equity, and launch a new PRIME program focused on Native American health. The funding is part of a larger \$12.9 million budget to fund all UC PRIME programs, approved in the new California state budget by Gov. Gavin Newsom on July 12.

UC PRIME is a collection of medical school programs designed to support medically underserved populations and address the growing shortage of health care providers in California. Most PRIME students are from communities underrepresented in medicine, and often go on to practice medicine in underserved areas.

UC San Diego will use the funds towards student financial support and program development, starting as early as fall 2021. Class sizes in the School of Medicine will also increase from 134 to 140 students, with the first cohort of the program on Native American health joining in fall 2022.



Alec Calac, Alexandra Pryor, Sofia Aedo, and Katherine Garcia were the first students to participate in the Tribal Ambulatory Healthcare Experience, a new course at the UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Steve Tadlock named general manager of Pechanga Arena

ASM Global, the premier venue management and services company, has appointed Steve Tadlock as general manager of Pechanga Arena in San Diego, succeeding longtime GM Ernie Hahn.

An industry veteran with over 32 years of experience in event and facility operations, Tadlock joins ASM Global after long tenures with venue operators SMG and LML.

Tadlock spent 19 years with SMG, opening and operating two areas as general manager, most recently the Save Mart Center in Fresno. In addition, he had supervisory responsibilities of 14 facilities in the Western U.S. and Canada as regional vice president.

Tadlock succeeds Ernie Hahn, who has served as general manager and partner of Pechanga Arena since 1996.

After four decades of progressive leadership at the venue, Hahn will work with Pechanga Arena SD as senior business advisor while working on his new business Dream Hahn and Wonderfront Festival. In his new role, Hahn will provide his expertise in local event programming, book, sponsorship, and community engagement to Pechanga Arena SD as an events coordinator, business manager, general manager and partner. "I'm excited in this new role to work with Steve and our team to continue to bring worldclass entertainment to San Diego while working on other business endeavors."

RJS Law congratulates
this year's 40 Under 40
honorees including our
own Chandara Diep



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INTRODUCING THE 22ND ANNUAL

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Under 40

CLASS OF 2021

40 Under 40 is San Diego's premier event honoring outstanding young leaders.

Sponsored by SD METRO Magazine, 40 Under 40 began in 1999, making this the 22nd consecutive year. Over this period of time 880 of San Diego's most outstanding young people have been honored.



VICTORIA SWITZER

Victoria Switzer is chief financial officer at Gomez Trial Attorneys. She joined Gomez in 2014 and has held strategic roles ever since. She also manages the firm's Intakes Department. Her broad range of accounting experience over the past 12 years is critical to the success of the firm. Her experience within many industries has given her a unique perspective in implementing processes that have made Gomez Trial Attorneys function at higher levels than before. In addition, Switzer has immeasurable expertise in business management, budgeting, finance, and strategic planning. She is the daughter of immigrant parents who came from Poland before she was born. They helped mold and shaped her into the hard working and determined executive she is today. She lives in Santee with her husband Ryan, daughter Madison and two dogs, Sophie and Diesel.



CHANDRA DIEP

Chandra Diep is of counsel at RJS Law, San Diego's leading tax law firm. She has assisted in the settlement of multiple taxpayer liabilities through the IRS Offer in Compensation program, settled two liabilities of over \$100,000 for less than five percent of the amount owed, assisted in several high dollar audits, and successfully abated PIT assessments in several clients facing EDD liabilities. Diep also successfully set up several Franchise Tax Board payment plans and stopped collection activity. She has set up several corporations for clients and assisted them with small business tax issues, and assisted in several State Board of Equalization audits for Subway franchisees as well as local businesses. She joined RJS Law as a paralegal and has worked her way up to of counsel position. She teaches a Federal Tax Procedure and Policies class at the University of San Diego Business School. She was an honoree in the 2018 SD METRO Magazine class of Best Attorneys.



MEGAN COMER

Megan Comer is president of Alhiser-Comer Mortuary in Escondido, which is Escondido's oldest continually operating business. Her father had bought the business in 1989. Since she took over, the business has had record revenue/case volume levels. She has accomplished this by leading with strong goals and integrity, along with her positive attitude which creates a supportive work environment for the entire team. Comer also completely remodeled the building, making it ADA accessible and added a reception room to meet the growing demands of the community. She has continued to drive the business toward innovation and personalization with a passion for excellence in serving the community. During COVID, she and Alhiser-Comer gave away grocery gift cards and had a pumpkin giveaway where they gave away 300 pumpkins to kids in the community. She is a graduate of Regent University, and is a licensed funeral director in California.



CASSANDRA WEINLEIN

Cassandra Weinlein is director of government affairs for Cox. She advocates and educates on important policies and strategies which will help meet the broadband needs of local communities served by Cox. For years, Cox has been partnering with school districts and nonprofits to close the gap on the digital divide. During the pandemic, Weinlein and her team sprang into action to amplify those efforts so that schools could quickly connect their students who didn't have technology at home. She is also part of Cox's Communications Business Continuity team, which ensured that Cox residential and business customers and the community at large stay connected during a national disaster or other emergency events such as the pandemic. With a focus on digital equity, Weinlein led the charge for Cox on the "SD Access 4 All," which showcased how government and the private sector could partner together to expand connectivity in neighborhoods and close the digital divide. She is a graduate of UC San Diego.



EVAN MCDONALD

Evan McDonald is a senior vice president at Colliers, specializing in industrial R&D/Flex commercial real estate sales and leasing with an emphasis on the central San Diego area. His impressive roster of clients range from institutions, private capital, investors, owners and users who rely on his strong site selection, marketing and market trend analysis. He is Colliers' top producing broker in the region and was recently inducted into Colliers' Everest Club, a prestigious recognition for the top 10 percent of Colliers' revenue-producing brokers in the United States. McDonald has been president of the San Diego chapter of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors. He has helped his clients to successfully identify and achieve their real estate goals over the past 12 years. He has proven that persistence and hard work are the foundations for trust and long-term relationships. He is a graduate of UC San Diego.



GUILLAUME RYON

Guillaume Ryon is the chief executive officer and owner of Le Parfait Paris, San Diego's award-winning authentic French bakery with five locations and 50 employees. This year's revenues are expected to be \$6 million. Le Parfait is known for its award-winning macarons, croissants, crepes, desserts and coffee specialties. Ryon is a bi-racial French citizen. His mother is from Africa's French colonial Ivory Coast and his father is from France. He spent his early years between the Ivory Coast and Paris. In France he studied law but his athletic prowess led him to the United States as a member of the French National Team, which went on to win the European championship. Ryon was lured to the U.S. to play college football which didn't pan out. He earned a bachelor's degree in business and finance from the University of San Diego. His flagship bakery is in the Gaslamp with other locations in the Skydeck in Del Mar Highlands and Liberty Station plus the Anaheim Packing District next to Disneyland.



BRANDON STEVENS

Brandon Stevens is senior project manager for Pacific Building Group. He has worked on projects of all sizes from the \$25 million Callaway headquarters remodel to the \$6.6 million Perkins Coie San Diego office and the \$25 million Aqua Caliente Casino remodel. On the Aqua Caliente project, he was on the team that built-out and remodeled the entire casino floor, main center bar, a food court and a steak house in just 45 days, all while the casino and hotel were fully functional and occupied. He is also the project manager representative for PBG's Safety Committee. In his role as a senior project manager Stevens has managed some of the firm's most discerning clients, like kangaroos, wallabies and down under geese at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. He played a critical role in managing the 3.5-acre naturalistic Walkabout Australia habitat. He is a graduate of UC San Diego.



CHERYL NIEMAN BRECHLIN

Cheryl Brechlin recently joined CGS3's San Diego real estate practice, after spending four years handling a series of high-profile transactions from the firm's Los Angeles office. She honed her legal skills as a litigator, gaining crucial hands-on experience that has given her the common sense, client-centric approach necessary to succeed in the fast-paced world of commercial real estate. Leveraging this unique background, Brechlin brings a competitive edge to each commercial transaction. She represents developers, property owners, businesses, investors and tenants in complex transactional real estate and corporate matters. She is active in the community and has been a mentor with Jewish Big Brother and Sisters of Los Angeles. She is a magna cum laude graduate of George Washington University and holds a juris doctor of laws from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

HOPE REILLY

Hope Reilly is the voice of transportation in the San Diego region. As the lead communications strategist for clients including SANDAG, Caltrans and North County Transit District, Reilly helps to build public understanding and support for major infrastructure projects that will keep San Diego moving well into the next century. Her efforts to promote bicycling and improve open space along the I-5 corridor help to accomplish the region's climate action goals by replacing car trips with alternative modes of transportation. Her efforts to extend State Route 11 has helped to create the first new land crossing of the U.S. southern border in a generation (Otay Mesa East) supporting the region's \$25 billion bi-national economy. She is president of the San Diego-Imperial County chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Reilly also helps to oversee communications for the East-West Bank, the largest Chinese-based bank approved to operate in the United States. She is a graduate of George Washington University.



KENYA HUEZO

Kenya Huezo is a landscape architect and project manager for MIG Inc. She is a PLA, ASLA, Leed Green Associate. She has managed and continues to manage or completed construction eight projects including parks, streetscapes and college campus housing. Huezo has volunteered with the International Rescue Committee's MAKE Garden Café in 2018. She has volunteered with the Community Preservation and Development Corporation in Alexandria, Va. She managed the establishment of a community garden. She and her sister are the first generation with college and postgraduate degrees in her family. Her parents immigrated from El Salvador and Honduras, and the family grew up in California. She lived in Germany from 2012 to 2015 before moving to San Diego. She holds degrees from Cal Poly in Pomona and UC Berkeley.



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Guillaume Ryon
CEO & Owner Le Parfait Paris
+ Co-owner Understory

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Congratulations to Jacob Leon,
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 service you consistently provide for our
 clients and our communities.

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SHAWNDA DORANTES

An acclaimed female entrepreneur, Shawnda Dorantes is a master nurse injector, cosmetic tattooist and co-owner of Beauty Lounge Medical Spa, a leading , full-service aesthetic destination in San Marcos. Prior to entering the permanent makeup industry and opening Beauty Lounge Medical Spa in 2018, her tailored expertise and innovative service offerings have paved the way for Beauty Lounge's proven success. She has 36,000 followers on Instagram. Beauty Lounge offers full service med spoa botox, filters, laser treatments, microneedling, non-surgical face lifts, body contouring, permanent makeup, teeth whitening and results-driven skin care treatments. To keep up with the high demand, Dorantes has expanded Beauty Lounge to a new state-of-the-art facility in San Marcos. She triple majored in biological sciences, women's studies and nursing from Cal State San Marcos. She has been named a Best Aesthetic Injector in America and has earned her Allergan Master injector certification. She also has a master's degree in nursing from the United States University in San Diego.



JACOB LEON

Jacob Leon is an associate planner at KTUA Landscape Architecture and Planning. He is a first generation Mexican-American and the first person in his family to graduate from college. He joined ACE Mentor of San Diego in 2013 to represent the landscape architecture and urban planning fields. He has volunteered at San Diego High School and is a member of the ACE Mentor board of directors. Every holiday he organizes a North County Lifeline Adopt-A-Family program on behalf of KTUA Leon was nominated as an Olmsted Scholar in 2013 and has received numerous awards . He was named ACE Mentor of the Year in 2020.



ERIKA SCHIMMEL GUILLES

In her 14 years at SDG&E, Erika Guiles has held eight distinct roles across several organizations, demonstrating that women can be successful and advance across areas like supply management, customer service, project management and operations. Her ability to translate her skills across different business units, focus on a growth mindset and inquisitive nature means she has learned different facets of the business. She currently mentors five women at SDG&E and she frequently meets with women who are looking for career guidance. Guiles is a consistent advocate for diversity and inclusion. She is a member of the Century Park Local Diversity and Inclusion Council. In 2019, she won the SDG&E Supplier Diversity Champion award. She is an avid philanthropist and gives a significant amount of her time to volunteer activities. She is a graduate of the University of San Diego.



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Cheryl Nieman Brechlin
for her recognition as
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A key member our growing team
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she represents developers,
property owners, businesses,
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**Congratulations
Evan McDonald**

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Gavin Newsom

RECALL REFLECTIONS

BY JOEL KOTKIN

Gavin Newsom's victory in California is more of a reality check for the Republican Party than an endorsement of progressive policies.



Larry Elder

What started as a lark, then became an impossible dream — a conservative resurgence, starting in California—ended, like many past efforts, in electoral defeat. With his overwhelming victory in the recall election, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and his backers have consolidated their hold on the state for the foreseeable future.

One can quibble about the political wisdom of the recall gambit, particularly given that Newsom was up for reelection next year. But the main reason for the stunning defeat lay with the state's highly bifurcated political economy, which might sustain a progressive mega-majority in the Golden State, but also alienates some voters—and limits the national appeal of the progressive governance model that Newsom embodies.

The sinking of the state's once-buoyant middle class undermines the base for a two-party politics in California. The kinds of taxpayers who called the state home during the 1980s and 1990s are leaving, and few families are moving in. Many of the leading companies that employed middle-class

workers—McKesson, Hewlett Packard, the oil and aerospace industries—are fleeing at a quickening pace.

California today works primarily for two key Newsom constituencies: unionized public employees and pop culture, tech, and financial leaders. Money from these groups gave Newsom a massive advantage in advertising and organizing. Newsom's coffers exceeded those of the nearly bankrupt recall campaign and all the prospective candidates combined by almost three to one. The combination of tech IPOs and federal money has also financed massive relief funds for a third Newsom constituency — California's highest percentage-in-the-nation poor population — allowing the governor to act like a modern-day Boss Tweed.

This electoral triangle remains too entrenched to dislodge, at least for now. Massive spending secured the votes of disengaged voters, even as the San Francisco Chronicle warned about “an alarming enthusiasm gap” among Democrats. The effort to reach enough of

these voters clearly worked.

The media played its assigned role. The overwhelmingly progressive press never much liked Newsom, but the threat of a potential Republican governor in the person of Larry Elder, the leader among the challengers, drove them to partisan distraction. Paul Krugman framed the recall as an assault on California's “progressive success story.” The New York Times's Ezra Klein referred to Newsom as a leader of “substance,” just months after he'd observed that the state has deteriorated so badly that it makes “liberals squirm.”

With the recall threat gone, Sacramento insiders expect more progressive moves—such as attempts to tax wealth, including unrealized gains, from the upper-middle class. More pressure will be brought to bear to restrict the use of contract workers, particularly with the recent court overturning of Proposition 22. The state will accelerate its program of ever-more stringent restrictions on water and energy use.

In this environment, California's blue-collar workers face a grim future unless

they're employed by the state. Progressive success drives out the very businesses—manufacturing, suburban homebuilding, the once-robust oil-and-gas sector—that historically employed middle-income workers. Indeed, the lack of stable jobs and a dependence on low-paid service workers contribute to the state's highest-in-the-nation unemployment rate. One out of every three households, notes the United Way, find achieving even basic security “elusive.”

Newsom's victory is more of a reality check for the Republican Party than an endorsement of progressive policies. Voter dissatisfaction, particularly among minorities and the young, has not waned. Polls show that many Californians don't see Newsom as effective at battling such problems as deepening income inequality, homelessness, rising crime, fires, and the pandemic. Some longtime progressives broke with the governor. But the state Republican Party could not capitalize—a sign that it remains largely marginal, particularly in the highly populated coastal areas, where dislike of Donald Trump has tarnished its brand.

To shift emphasis from Newsom's failures, the local and national media, the state's political establishment, and academics denounced the recall push as an operation carried out by Trumpian extremists. By the end of the election, the ongoing wildfires were being cast not as an indictment of Newsom's failed forest-management policies but of Republican inaction on climate change. Unrelated events—such as Texas Republicans passage of a restrictive abortion bill—may have helped Newsom, too.

The story may not be quite over, though. In 2020, voters defeated a tax increase backed by Mark Zuckerberg and other tech leaders and shot down an affirmative action measure supported by virtually every element of the state establishment. The reservoir of resentment and potential future turmoil remains deep. Even before Covid, 53 percent of Californians were considering leaving; almost two-thirds thought the state's best days were behind it. The New York Times may see California as a multicultural exemplar, but a 2019 University of California, Berkeley poll showed that 58 percent of African-Americans, 44 percent of Asian-Americans, and 43 percent of Latinos were considering leaving the state. A recent poll from Sacramento's Chamber of Commerce showed that roughly one-fourth of the workforce was contemplating a move out within three years.

Californians sense that the status quo does not work in their favor. In this sense, Elder's taking of roughly 40 percent of the vote in the now-discarded replacement primary may prove a first step to restoring two-party politics in the state. Elder's sometimes-extreme libertarianism eventually got him in trouble, but a self-made African-American with a keen taste for political debate made for an appealing contrast with John Cox, the GOP's weak 2018 gubernatorial candidate. Elder connected with Latinos and some younger people, and he made a brilliant contrast with the haughty Newsom and his wealthy supporters. Maybe Elder is not the ideal candidate, but he opened a class-based political approach that could bear fruit with the right spokesman.

When Elder spoke out for agency and aspiration as opposed to victimhood, he borrowed a Republican theme that worked well in 2020, particularly among Asians and Latinos. As late as July, before the media, advertising, and voter-turnout tsunamis formed, both those demographic groups favored the recall. Even the reliably progressive Los Angeles Times columnist Gustavo Arellano admitted that, among Hispanics, Newsom was about “as loved as a stale Mexican coke.”

If they want to become relevant in the state again, though, Republicans need a constructive agenda. The next opportunity could take place under more difficult circumstances for progressives. The expensive and unreliable electrical grid will continue to cause problems. The state is in such trouble that it has been forced to propose building five “temporary” gas plants to keep the lights on. Meantime, green-driven reluctance to stop water releases to the ocean risks taking jobs from workers in the now politically marginalized interior. Some 6,600 Central Valley farmers have already been told not to expect deliveries this year. Pension debt will mount; schools will surely not improve with the state's new ethnic studies curriculum. As the expansion of the welfare state competes with the demands of the public sector, the financial crush could lead to a tax hike—forcing California Democrats to choose between their wealthiest backers and the union—social welfare juggernaut.

In the near term, Newsom's recall victory could be seen as a boon to President Biden. Yet short of a massive federal bailout, the bill will come due for governance failures in this remarkably gifted state. And if the Biden agenda doesn't survive next year's midterms, neither can the wan hopes of extending California's agenda nationally. Gov. Newsom has survived the recall, but that doesn't mean that the Golden State is destined to become the role model for the country—it might not even represent the inevitable future for most Californians.

Joel Kotkin is a fellow at Chapman University and the executive director of the Urban Reform Institute.

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STUNNING MID-CENTURY MODERN RIGHT HERE? MAIS OUI!

By Carol Holland Lifshitz

Only with the help of a humble Frenchman could one find beautiful, authentic, foreign, vintage pieces of furniture right in San Diego County. Through hard work and determination, he's been cleaning up the furniture market with clean-lined, mid-century modern design.

Well-deserved success has come to an unlikely San Diego businessman. Aymerick Rondeau, a French immigrant who came to America in search of a dream, has turned the mid-century modern game on its side. His extraordinary eye for quality, unparalleled professional ethic, great restoration skills, and devotion to customers has earned him a unique place in this streamlined possessions market. Wise consumers are flocking to him with orders they're confident only he can fulfill.

People generally refer to him simply as Aymerick. Who is this one-moniker local celebrity? Now known far and wide, his name is synonymous with excellence. His

newfound recognition stems from a combination of two things. The first is how he got to where he is today: through sweat and perseverance, starting literally from the ground up. The second is the star-worthy product he delivers, namely the biggest and best authentic, Scandinavian mid-century modern furniture inventory in all of San Diego. Now just 44 years old, his tale began decades ago.

As a young man, Aymerick sought jobs in the hospitality industry during tourist seasons. The globe-trotting French native spent time first in Paris, then St. Martin, Miami, Hawaii and San Francisco. It was during his second stay in San Francisco from 2004 to 2010 that the previously itinerant man chose to stay put and expand his interest in period piece possessions.

Always a lover of 1960s automobiles, Aymerick became infatuated with interior design aesthetics from that period around the time his daughter was born in 2007. He

started to collect and restore pieces, squeezing all of them into the small apartment he lived in with his family. Aymerick began adding signature specimens that lent "some sense of history to my home," he says. "A lot of other options seemed dull. My casual fascination with 1950s-1960s flair grew into a full-fledged hobby."

He did this while still formally pursuing a career as a waiter, bartender, and maître d' in fine dining restaurants.

With little money, he began his quest for "The American Dream." He would define this aspiration as being able to solely manage an enduring business that he cherished, combined with the ability to sustain a nice lifestyle for his family through his efforts. After five years in San Francisco, he moved his kin from the city to a place with a more family-friendly lifestyle in North County.

It was not until around 2014, after

relocating to San Diego, that he took his interest to the next level, and began pursuing furniture acquisition and sale as a side hustle. That year, he registered the business, called Aymerick Modern, with the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, and just 24 months later, he began importing from overseas.

In San Marcos, Aymerick continued to toil as a waiter for several more years at the tony Mille Fleurs, Mister A's and Pamplemousse Grille. He gradually reduced his workload as he turned his attention to his budding business. As public desire quickly became apparent, Aymerick jumped into the venture fulltime in early 2019.

With a personal love for this aesthetic, and a trust that consumers would share his predilection, Aymerick found himself at the cusp of an exploding business. It includes the acquisition, full refinishing, and sale of vintage Danish and British mid-century modern furnishings, properly imported from Europe, to an ever-growing local and nationwide clientele.

Aymerick operates from a 6,000-square-foot showroom at 3208 La Mirada Drive in San Marcos. The space is set in an industrial area near a wholesale florist, microbrewery, and open air space (Sunset Park.) Today, it resembles a museum as much as it does a warehouse.

He describes his facility as a "Mad Men" set. That beloved TV series spurred even greater demand in all things from the 1960s, including vehicles, home goods and style of dress. The desire has endured long since the program ended in 2015. Aymerick, who loves the aesthetics of this period, can be seen cruising around town in either his 1964 Pontiac sedan or his 1962 Ford van when he's out making a local delivery.

What is it about this era of furniture that has fascinated Aymerick, as well as his rapidly growing clientele? Everything from that chapter of history, which lasted roughly from the mid-1930s to mid-1960s, has clean lines and minimal ornamentation. It is classic, graphic, understated and uncluttered. Sleek, geometric lines are juxtaposed with graceful, organic shapes.

Form follows function in this genre. Smaller scale, portability, maximum storage and comfort are key. Many Americans still favor these timeless attributes in their homes, which explains much of this style's enduring popularity today.

Aymerick features in his shop many iconic architects/designers of the Scandinavian modern golden age, such as Hans Wegner, Ib Kofod Larsen, Arne Jacobsen, Arne Vodder, Omann Jun, Johnannes Andersen, Folke Ohlsson, Eero Saarinen, and Niels Moller, to mention a few, and gladly accepts requests to seek out rare pieces from them that he may not already possess in his warehouse.

The term "mid-century modern" was first coined in 1984 by art historian Cara Greenberg. Le Corbusier and Bauhaus leaders were among its first supporters. It was based upon the ideals of simplicity, elegance, and functionality, and developed to be affordable to the average citizen. The movement prized the idea that good design



Crafted furniture dealer and importer Aymerick Rondeau.



MODERN FURNITURE

should be accessible to all...a tangible, great equalizer for humanity. The ultimate idea was that it could better the lives of all the world's inhabitants, not just the wealthy.

Aymerick today scours the world for classic, genuine 1960s Scandinavian looks, importing the best from Denmark, Sweden, Norway and England. Categories including seating, tables, storage units, and larger collections. He seeks out one-of-a-kind exclusives that have documented history and provenance. One example is the recently-sold, same-model rocking chair that once graced Frank Sinatra's 1960s Palm Springs home. That seat was seen in an iconic Life Magazine story on the Rat Pack crooner.

He used to travel to Europe three times a year, filling industrial-sized containers with Danish delights.

Trips to Scandinavia and England included meetings with multiple antique dealers/suppliers. But since 2020, with the cessation of international travel due to the Covid pandemic, he needed to rethink the way he did things in order to stay afloat. Currently, most purchases are done virtually and based on photos exchanged through emails, Instagram, WhatsApp, and the like. Aymerick looks forward to again circling the globe in search of treasures when world health concerns eventually subside.

To quote Aymerick, "My business is me, myself and I." He personally handles every stage of his passion-fueled operation including, but not limited to, the selection of the furniture, its importation, refinishing, documentation, sale and shipping. "I'm so grateful that I am the master of my own fate. This is a very personal, one-on-one business and it is precious to me. It is truly my passion," he says.

A modest and unassuming man, he neglects to mention that his prices are also quite reasonable when compared with the offerings of his nationwide competition. This is due to the fact that he chose not to opt for a classic brick and mortar modus operandi with its



The beautiful "Mingo" chair and its ottoman designed by Yngve Ekström in Sweden.



regular hours, but instead operates from a warehouse that doubles as a showroom.

Since 2014, Aymerick has been contracting all of his upholstered projects to highly-skilled Jose Velasquez from JVC Upholstery in Escondido. Jose V. has worked closely with him on hundreds of seating pieces. They have been given new life by maintaining the essence and integrity of their original designs while incorporating brand new period-correct upholstery.

Much more is involved in the enterprise's success than what goes on within the warehouse. Handling and shipping are among many important considerations when it comes to older specimens. Aymerick has developed a nationwide network of reliable white-glove carriers to ensure the safe delivery of furniture. For local clients, he sometimes delivers the goods himself.

Who are his customers? Recent ones have included celebrities like actor Val Kilmer. He bought a classic 1960s RCA stereo console during the fall 2015 Modernism Week at Palm Springs, where Aymerick was exhibiting. It was a present for Kilmer's daughter. Another recent celebrity fan is Finnish skateboard star Lizzie Armanto, currently a SoCal resident, who bought a true 1962 item from his collection. Aymerick, himself a longtime skateboarding enthusiast, was delighted to engage in commerce and conversation with the star who shared much in common.

Ordinary folks are just as smitten with his extraordinary offerings. Appropriately, his warehouse is filled with top-level products priced for those with non-superstar budgets to enjoy.

Clients come from near and far. They include: young millennials interested in setting up first homes with a cool look; baby boomers, who want to re-visit their earlier lives; investors who recognize value; and all categories in between.

Aymerick pursues a further vision that comes from a place deep in his soul. He believes in saving the planet for his children and future generations. His vintage business is at its core eco-friendly: he offers consumers used pieces of quality-made crafted furniture which have been given new life as an alternative to newly bought, mass produced, and poorly made pieces that do not stand the test of time.

Another wise reason to invest in collectable vintage pieces with character is that they'll not only last for a lifetime but also hold their value in the future...in contrast to some of today's

contemporary offerings. This is similar to the lure that well-maintained classic cars have for their devoted collectors.

An additional consideration is the strong international demand that is colliding with a shrinking supply from Europe. This is a solid reason to make purchases now before all these Scandinavian beauties are forever gone from the market.

While Aymerick spends a lot of time in his showroom, visits are through appointment only so he can give each customer the attention they deserve. He also conducts a lot of business over the Internet. By foot or by web, people come in search of hard-to-find and unique pieces. Many are referred to him by extremely satisfied buyers. Others find Aymerick Modern by searching online.

"If you shop with me," Aymerick says, "it is almost like a treasure hunt. You have to find me." His facility is not downtown, or in a San Diego neighborhood that has miles of competing stores. One won't bump into him by chance; one must call, which requires curiosity and desire.

Aymerick can be contacted online at aymerickmodern.com or by telephone at (760) 509-5974. When you call, do mention this article. You'll be glad you reached out to him. ABSOLUMENT!



A sculptural credenza in teak with a sled base style, designer/manufacturer unknown.

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FINALLY FREE

Exclusive Travel Advisor Finds Respite Aboard Silversea Cruise

By Jeff Lavender

Eighteen months of lockdowns, facemasks, and closures left our world in a panic and me in a state of reflection. We were going nowhere, literally, one day at a time with the calendar flipping months before our eyes. As a seasoned traveler, I had never pushed pause on excursions. There never was any reason to, until now.

Having worked for industry leaders including Pan Am, Travelocity, Amadeus, Sabre, Galileo France, Travel Impressions, Avoya Travel, and Key Travel, I had the freedom to travel the world as part of my job.

After devoting more than 35 years of my life to the travel industry, my career suddenly took an unexpected pivot. The pandemic hit, taking the world by storm and my career by the collar — resulting in the loss of my executive position at a multimillion-dollar travel company.

Without a power position on the horizon, it was now or never to navigate the direction of my future. And so, when flights were grounded, rental-car agencies were going bankrupt, and borders were closing, I launched my own luxury travel firm, Travel Concierge by Jeff Lavender.

Sure, no one was traveling when I went “all in” and hired an experienced staff of five; nor have we seen a full rebound. But one thing I know for sure, it’s that travel is here to stay. It’s resilient, and constantly reinventing itself through the ages.

Even now, Covid’s reputation of keeping us 6-ft-apart has left travelers wanting more space, more luxury, more privacy, and more personalized experiences. My team recognized this shift in travel trends, and we planned to stay ahead of the curve.

In less than a year, in the height of the pandemic, Travel Concierge has booked millions in travel. We’ve collaborated with premier travel partners such as Silversea, AMAWaterways, Classic Journeys, Cunard, and American Airlines.

Somehow, in the midst of planning itineraries and wishing my

clients “bon voyage,” I myself had watched the flame fade on my personal foreign travel. It had been over a year since I had embarked on my own adventure — near or far — or treated myself to the one thing I cherish most . . . travel.

From airlines to agents, the entire industry had taken a beating, with cruise lines being the most highly impacted. The long hiatus left luxury liners bobbing at port and cruise passengers dreaming of their next day at sea.

Finally, I would have mine.

It would be the trip of all trips, one that would reset life as I knew it — a sort of control, alt, delete experience. My agenda would be focused on rest, relaxation, revitalization, and renewal. This personal retreat was something I wanted to do alone, guiltlessly booking pampering treatments without hesitation and reflecting on the here-and-now. Although I seldom travel solo, this time it just felt right.

And so, I booked it, a 10-day Alaskan cruise on Silversea. Accommodating just under 600 guests, Silver Muse was the vessel that would become my floating “Four Seasons Resort,” redefining ultra-luxury ocean travel as we knew it.

Despite the chaos in the world, there was a calmness on the cruise I hadn’t felt in months. There was an air of safety and peace. Perhaps it was the fresh orchids adorning the ship, or the 4-to-1 staff-to-guest ratio for this sailing.

Whatever the case, I embraced it just minutes after showing my vaccination card and having my temperature taken. I felt safe, with Silversea’s daily temperature checks to ensure the upmost safety of its guests.

The ship pushed away from Seattle and the world fell behind, floating into an emotional state where my cares were met. At that point, I already felt freedom after my flight to Seattle, followed by an overnight stay at The Thompson Seattle, a boutique property with a view of the Seattle harbor and sights beyond. It was here that

Silver Explorer cruising in front of Unga Island, Alaska.



I toured Seattle's famous farmer's market, Pike Place, and slowly made my way to the spa and rooftop hotel bar.

Unlike "pay-as-you-go" cruise lines, Silversea's all-inclusive fare includes Economy Class air transportation, baggage handling, and chauffeured transportation from home-to-airport and return. Other perks include butler service, gratuities, onboard entertainment, dining, accommodations, Wi-Fi, and all beverages, including excellent wine and champagne.

Oh, how I needed champagne.

The last year had been overwhelmingly clinical, converting travel into a topic of fear and uncertainty vs freedom and exploration. What I found however, was that the heart of travel was still very much alive.

After embarking in Seattle, we spent two days at sea, followed by stops in Wrangell, Sitka, Skagway, Endicott Arm, Tracy Arm, Juneau, and then two days sailing back to Seattle.

The ship could have spun in circles for all I cared. Once I stepped foot on Silver Muse, I never wanted to get off, regardless of what excursion awaited onshore. And to be fair, there were over 40 to choose from, including whale watching, hiking, wildlife viewing, photo safaris, canoeing, jet boating, and more. Starting in 2022, shore excursions will be included in the Silversea cruise rate.

I blame my onboard contentment on Jay, my private butler who greeted me with a smile and a bottle of champagne which was promptly opened and enjoyed. He rolled out the red carpet with a butler consultation, taking notes on how strong I wanted my espresso to what vodka I wanted with my caviar.

Of course, Jay gave me the grand tour of my Veranda Suite, a 350-sq-ft room boasting fine linens, a walk-in closet, separate sitting area, tub, and spacious veranda. The place was immaculate, serviced twice a day and stocked with top-shelf liquor and Bvlgari bath amenities. For double the space (and double the price) I could have booked the Silver Suite which is crème de la crème with two rooms and an upper deck location.

As enticing as it was, I chose to invest instead in superior wines, daily massages, and a personal trainer — all at an additional cost. There was no hesitation or regret in these pampering purchases. Having been deprived of travel for over a year, I was willing to invest in myself.

And so, my daily itinerary went as follows: I woke up whenever I felt like it. At the push of a button my butler arrived with coffee, berries, and juice. First stop: the fitness center, where I met with my personal trainer for a workout. From there, I walked to the sundeck where I was greeted with my custom smoothie infused with protein powder. A few laps in the saltwater pool built up my appetite for lunch. Naturally, I sampled cuisine from a different restaurant every day.

There were over six to choose from including Atlantide's elegant bar, The Poolside Grill, La Terrazza serving authentic Italian, Spaccanapoli with its pizzeria, Kaiseki offering Japanese cuisine, Silver Note with mouthwatering tapas-style dishes, and 24-hour in-suite dining. After all play and no work, I stopped by the observation lounge to respond to client emails.



Jeff Lavender on cruise ship Silver Muse.

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Flying over Katmai National Park, Alaska (Credit: Richard Sidey)



City of St. Paul on St. Paul Island, Alaska. (Credit: Lucia Griggi)

Then, the true relaxation began with a nap, a massage, perhaps a beauty treatment, and then cocktail hour with new friends — many of them 50+ year-old professionals who were cultured, yet unpretentious.

On occasion, I attended a guest lecture, one on the history of luxury cars, one on the golden age of sea travel, and another on how to cook the perfect risotto. Full disclosure: I slept a lot, and it showed. Each day, I felt refreshed and ready to celebrate life.

Among the trip highlights were evening events such as live jazz, cocktail receptions, and formal dinners that gave me an excuse to dust off my dashing tuxedo. It had been two years since I had worn that suit, and I was ecstatic that it still fit perfectly. If it didn't, I had five suitcases of clothing as backup.

At the elegant French restaurant, La Dame, I indulged in fine wines complemented by a six-course bespoke menu. For a moment in time, I was “king of the world” with a ballet of waiters unveiling domed platters of escargot, caviar, filet mignon, lamb, and lobster bathed in lemon and butter.

For something more casual, I opted for The Arts Café where I sampled Belgian chocolates, afternoon tea, and English cakes. An entire library of books and movies were at my fingertips, as well as cognac and cigars at the refined Connoisseurs Club.

This element of whispered luxury was something I had yet to experience on any other cruise line. Everything was elegant, from the fresh flowers in the staterooms, to the fine art lining the common areas. Every need was anticipated, no request was ignored, and I was addressed by name.

If I said I wasn't surprised, I'd be lying. I had forgotten what it felt like to fly, to sail, to escape, and to be cared for. This feeling was something I had taken for granted, the ability to pack up and travel in a moment's notice. Now, the stress of the past 18 months could finally be put aside and forgotten. If only for 10 days, it was worth it.

My mind was as calm as the water, placid and still. Since the Silver Muse is considered a “smaller” ship, it has the ability to access small ports and navigate glacier coves. For hours on end, I sat on my private terrace and soaked it all in —the icebergs, the wildlife,

the rugged landscape.

Best of all, there was not a whisper about the pandemic. It was as if Covid didn't exist. Passengers were delighted to be going somewhere, anywhere, even if reality still lived and thrived on the shores around us.

As we neared the end of the 10-day trip, I felt the anxiety creep into my mind. I thought of countless ways I could prolong my stay at sea, or sail back-to-back excursions like several of the other passengers. It's no wonder that Silversea offers 120-day itineraries, because who wouldn't want to spend four months floating in paradise?

The price of such a heavenly escape can run in the \$700–1,000 per day range, plus spa treatments, a private trainer, top-shelf wines, and any other personal splurges. This rate is relatively standard for anyone booking a Silversea trip, and will fluctuate slightly depending on room category, itinerary, and departure dates.

There are over nine ships in the Silversea fleet, with trips covering Galapagos, Antarctica, Asia, Greenland, Central America, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, South America, and beyond.

Needless to say, I'm a Silversea client for life. So, what's next? I'm already cherry-picking new itineraries for 2022, and am embarking on my next Silversea cruise from Rome to Venice from Oct. 7–14, 2021.

Now, back in San Diego, here I sit in the real world one week after my luxury voyage on the Silver Muse. My butler is gone, as are the massages, excursions, and cocktail toasts. One thing remains however . . . those moments that started out as dreams turned into memories because I made the decision to be free.

If you'd like to receive \$500 off your next Silversea cruise (in addition to other promotions Silversea is currently offering), or want a complimentary consultation, please visit the link below. Travel Concierge by Jeff Lavender would also like to invite you to a future in-person Travel Concierge/Silversea event. Visit tc.jefflavender.com/the-silversea-experience to learn more, or call Travel Concierge at 310-774-7611.

Historic Community College Baccalaureate Bill Approved by California Legislature

By Jack Beresford

California lawmakers have approved historic legislation that would expand and make permanent the California community college bachelor's degree pilot program. Assembly Bill 927 now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk with the backing of educational leaders and dozens of businesses and trade organizations.

AB 927 seeks to eliminate the 2026 sunset date on existing baccalaureate degree programs at 15 California community colleges in workforce fields with high demand and unmet need, in addition to allowing for up to 30 community college baccalaureate degree programs statewide per year. The bill is sponsored by the Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, Jose Medina (D-Riverside).

"Community colleges are the founding pillars of higher education; offering critical baccalaureate degree programs will create greater accessibility to higher education," said Assembly member Medina. "The baccalaureate degree program will play a pivotal role in building back our State's economy."

A recent study by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) identified the need for more than 1 million bachelor's degree holders in California in the coming decade, especially in critical workforce fields. The PPIC found that, in order to keep up with the demand for a college-educated workforce, the state would need to increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded by 40 percent.

The bill mandates the California Community Colleges Chancellor to consult with and seek feedback from the California State University and University of California systems on proposed baccalaureate degrees and would require individual districts seeking approval to provide evidence of unmet workforce



Constance M. Carroll, president and CEO of the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Association, said the bill is urgently needed to address the state's workforce demands.

needs.

The baccalaureate degree pilot program was established when Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014 signed Senate Bill 850, sponsored by then state Sen. Marty Block. The bill allowed 15 colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in specific workforce fields. The program was set to end in 2023, but subsequent legislation from state Sen. Jerry Hill extended the program's sunset date to July 2026.

Constance M. Carroll, president and CEO of the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Association, said the bill is urgently needed to address the state's workforce demands. Carroll co-chairs statewide legislative efforts advocating for the baccalaureate program with Foothill-De Anza Community College District Chancellor Judy C. Miner. She said the fact that the bill moved through the Legislature without a single "no" vote is evidence that it enjoys strong bipartisan support.

"Twenty-five states in the nation authorize their community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees in workforce fields recognizing that many employers and fields now require baccalaureate-level education rather than associate degrees," said Carroll, who recently retired after serving 17 years as chancellor of the San Diego

Community College District. "This legislation addresses that in a manner that provides for local access, high quality, and affordability, without duplicating programs at public universities. We hope that the governor will sign it to benefit our local communities and students."

The California Legislative Analyst's Office has found that more than half of students surveyed would not have pursued a bachelor's degree if their community college program had not been offered. Approximately 60% of students enrolled in a community college baccalaureate program come from communities of color and disadvantaged backgrounds and are paying a little more than \$10,000 — a fraction of what it would cost them at private institutions.

Business organizations that support the bill include: California Dental Hygienists' Association, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Water Works Workforce Development Group, National Association of Social Workers, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, California Society for Respiratory Care, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce among others.

RESEARCH

SEARCH FOR THE WORLD'S OLDEST ICE

Scientists hope ice samples as much as five million years old can preview what society will face in coming century



Researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego will join colleagues from around the country in an effort to discover Antarctica's oldest ice and through it, learn more about how the earth's climate has changed throughout its history.

The National Science Foundation-funded Center for Oldest Ice Exploration, or COLDEX, will be created under a five-year, \$25 million Science and Technology Center award announced today. COLDEX scientists intend to generate knowledge about Earth's climate system and share this knowledge to advance efforts to address climate change and its impacts.

Geoscientists Jeff Severinghaus, Sarah Aarons, and Jamin Greenbaum of the Scripps Polar Center are among center collaborators.

"The goal is to understand how climate behaves in a warmer world, like the one we're headed for in 100 years," said Severinghaus, a co-principal investigator. "To find out, you need to go back at least two million years."

The oldest continuous record of Antarctic ice – collected by drilling miles down from the continent's surface – currently goes back about 800,000 years. The researchers hope to find a continuous record that goes back 1.5 million years, said Ed Brook, a paleoclimatologist in OSU's College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences and the principal investigator for COLDEX.

"The characteristics of the climate system were really different in the period between 800,000 years ago and 1.5 million years ago," he said.

COLDEX collaborators also hope to locate much older ice, perhaps up to three million years old and even older. Ice that old is not likely to be found in a continuous record, but initial research shows that patches of older ice are trapped in the mountains around Antarctica.

Severinghaus' lab identified 2.7 million-

year-old ice in the late 2010s though the samples did not present a continuous record.

“We’re pretty optimistic about getting into three million-year-old ice,” said Severinghaus, who estimates it will take the full 10 years of the anticipated total grant period to reach it. “We hope to get back as far as five million but that might be a bit pie-in-the-sky.”

“This ice and the ancient air trapped in it will offer an unprecedented record of how greenhouse gases and climate are linked in warmer climates and will help to advance our understanding of what controls the long-term rhythms of Earth’s climate system,” said Brook.

Aarons said her team’s role in COLDEX will be to investigate dust biogeochemistry during large-scale climate transitions.

“Dust is a fundamental part of Earth’s climate system, and the data from ice older than 1.5 million years can potentially reveal some fundamental remaining questions about what controls the length and intensity of Earth’s glacial-interglacial cycles,” Aarons said. “Pairing dust flux measurements with CO₂ values can help to answer whether dust fertilization of the Southern Ocean resulted in the longer and colder glacial cycles we experience today.”

The role of Greenbaum’s research group will be to support the aerogeophysical remote sensing component of the project, including acquiring airborne ice-penetrating radar data to locate candidate sites where old ice may be located.

“Locating old ice is a complex interdisciplinary problem combining observations and numerical modeling,” said Greenbaum. “The ambitious airborne remote sensing planned on this project will really help constrain that work, increasing the odds substantially that the drilling campaigns will find the oldest ice.”

COLDEX is one of six new science and technology centers announced by the National Science Foundation. NSF currently supports 12 centers, with the last group funded in 2016. The objective of the program, established in 1987, is to support transformative, complex research programs in fundamental areas of science that require large-scale, long-term funding.

University partners on the project include Amherst College; Brown University; Dartmouth College; Princeton University; University of California, Berkeley; UC Irvine; the University of Kansas; University of Maine; University of Minnesota, Duluth; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; University of Texas; and the University of Washington.

“Drilling ice cores is super hard, very expensive and can take years of planning,” Brook said. “We’ll be doing a lot of modeling and also developing new tools to help us pinpoint the best locations to search.”

One COLDEX collaborator is building a device known as an “ice diver” that would melt through layers of ice and provide researchers information about the age of the ice as it moves through each layer.

“This is something that has never been done before. The idea is



Sample of ice from the Allan Hills blue ice area located on the East Antarctic Ice Sheet. Researchers analyze the chemistry, geometry, and concentration of mineral dust entrained in the ice to learn about past Earth surface conditions and atmospheric dynamics. (Photo by Erik Jepsen/UC San Diego)

that it would have an optical device that could detect the amount of dust in the ice,” Brook said. “We know that the atmosphere tends to be dustier during colder periods, and that shows up in the ice layers. We could then count the dust cycles to get an idea of how old the ice is the further down we go.”

A similar technique for rapid drilling with optical dust logging of the borehole for dating, known as the Rapid Access Ice Drill (RAID), has recently been successfully proven in Antarctica. RAID will also be engaged in the hunt for the oldest ice, and has the advantage over “ice diver” that it returns actual ice samples for dating, said Severinghaus, who is the RAID principal investigator.

Additional COLDEX partners include the American Meteorological Society, Inspiring Girls Expeditions, the Earth Science Women’s Network, and the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, who will help researchers meet another goal of the program: enhancing diversity in Earth science fields.

Funding will be available to support research experiences for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars, with the aim of recruiting diverse pools of candidates for those opportunities, Brook said.

COLDEX will work with the American Meteorological Society’s educational arm to develop a summer professional development program on ice cores for K-12 teachers who work with students from underrepresented backgrounds. The program also will offer professional development for college professors who teach classes that include ice core science through a partnership with the National Science Foundation’s ice drilling program housed at Dartmouth.

“If COLDEX continues for 10 years as is common for STC programs, the hope would be that we’ve created a pipeline by which young people are exposed to this kind of science, become captivated by it, have opportunities to participate and eventually join our scientific community to continue the work,” Brook said.

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