

PRESS-TELEGRAM

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

\$2.50 | MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 | PRESSTELEGRAM.COM

SAN PEDRO

New crosswalks bring history to life

Artist Lua Kobayashi's work pays tribute to the port's commercial fishing heritage

By Donna Littlejohn
DLITTLEJOHN@SCNG.COM

Back in the day, tuna was synonymous with San Pedro where scores of commercial fishing boats were docked and canneries filled the air with the smell of fish. It all put the ethnic, seaside

town on the map.

Now, in a tribute to that heritage, an artist's new work adorns two key downtown crosswalks in the town that is now home to the busiest container shipping port in the Western Hemisphere.

The colorful images of a school of blue fin tuna grace crosswalks at Sixth and Mesa

streets, a tribute to both the port's commercial fishing history and also to the waterfront's long-standing state designation as an Arts & Cultural District.

The state bestowed the designation — one of 14 statewide — on San Pedro in 2017. While San Pedro has been home to numerous artists and art galleries, the newly designated

See **FISH** on Page A6



Artist Lua Kobayashi created the design that reflects the town's tuna fishing heritage in two crosswalks in San Pedro.

PAMELA TORRANCE
— TORRANCE PRODUCTIONS

HEALTHCARE

Midwives are an untapped resource



Norma Bates-Fiallo, right, and Angela Sojobi, assistant nursing professors at Cal State Fullerton, demonstrate a robotic mother that can simulate giving birth in the school's sim lab at on Aug. 6. The school has the only certified nurse-midwife program on the West Coast. **JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

With a shortage of OB/GYNs, occupation makes prenatal and postpartum care more accessible for expectant mothers, families

By Rachel Fobar
RFOBAR@SCNG.COM

Annie is having a baby. She's crying out as she has contractions. Her stomach rises and falls with labored breaths. A monitor tracking her vital signs beeps in the background. "One more contraction," said Angela Sojobi, a certified nurse-midwife and assistant professor at Cal State Fullerton. And with one more push, the baby is born. "Congratulations!" Sojobi said.

But Annie can't hear her, because Annie isn't a human. She's a state-of-the-art mannequin that can simulate birth,



Midwife Kimberly Durdin examines Aysha-Samon Stokes' baby alongside 17-month-old Wyatt at Kindred Space L.A. in April 2021. **SARAH REINGEWIRTZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

and used to train midwifery students at Cal State Fullerton's School of Nursing.

This blinking, breathing

robot with silicone skin and flexible limbs can simulate a variety of birth conditions, including breech births,

preeclampsia, shoulder dystocia and other obstetric emergencies. While students perform the simulated delivery, professors watch from a neighboring room to give feedback. Annie won't deliver her baby unless the students are doing it right, Sojobi said. When people hear the word "midwife," Sojobi knows what they're thinking, she says: long hair, Birkenstocks, even voodoo.

What they don't picture: annual cohorts of about 45 nursing students who, by the time they graduate from Cal State Fullerton's master's program in nurse-midwifery, have delivered

See **MIDWIVES** on Page A7

MOSQUITOES

Record West Nile spread this year

Presence of the virus in SoCal has reached an all-time high, far exceeding 5-year average

By Madeline Armstrong
MARMSTRONG@SCNG.COM

As another heat wave overtakes Southern California, the presence of West Nile virus has reached record levels.

While West Nile virus always has been present in the state, this year's numbers have far exceeded the five-year average in many regions, from the San Fernando Valley to Long Beach to Orange County to the Inland Empire.

West Nile virus originates in wild birds and is transmitted through mosquitoes. So, if a mosquito bites a bird that has West Nile virus, the mosquito will then spread the disease to the next

See **VIRUS** on Page A7

LIVE MUSIC REVIEW

Foo Fighters join L.A. Phil to rock out Hollywood Bowl

Band, orchestra are perfect tribute to departing conductor Dudamel

By Peter Larsen
PLARSEN@SCNG.COM

Two songs into the Foo Fighters show at the Hollywood Bowl on Saturday, singer-guitarist Dave Grohl paused to acknowledge the special nature of the night backed by Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

"First of all, I don't know if you know, Foo Fighters never played the Hollywood Bowl before; this is our first time at the Bowl," Grohl said after the slow

See **DUDAMEL** on Page A6

TO SUBSCRIBE

Visit myaccount.presstelegram.com or call 562-499-1222. To place a classified ad, call 714-796-7983.

FORECAST

TODAY H: 91 L: 72
TUE. H: 95 L: 72
WED. H: 91 L: 71
Full weather report B12

INDEX

Bridge B9
Classifieds B9
Comics A9,10,B9
Local A3
Nation+World A12
Puzzles A8,10,11,B9

Volume 148, issue 236

Sports B1
Ship arrivals A2
Start Your Day A2



Local news matters.



Read the area's best news coverage anytime, anywhere, on any device.

PRESS-TELEGRAM

presstelegram.com

facebook.com/PressTelegram

[@PressTelegram](https://twitter.com/PressTelegram)