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# Times

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## Infinity and Beyond

Dave Boehne of Infinity Surfboards  
pushes the boundaries of  
stand-up paddling

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Dave Boehne stand-up paddles the Echo Park Lake in Los Angeles. Photo by Chad Cheverier

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# News Bites

—Compiled by Katherine Sweet

PROPS, RECOGNITIONS AND MORSELS OF INFO



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► San Clemente residents can take part in the **25th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day**, which is slated for Sept. 19. One of the largest volunteer events of the year statewide, the city of San Clemente will organize an event starting at the San Clemente Pier from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"We report all the findings to the California Coastal Commission, and they use the data to help assess what kinds of pollution we're seeing most frequently on the beaches," said Mary Vondrak, who oversees the city's Watershed Task Force and works with the city's Environmental Programs team. "With that data they can target what the objectives need to be to mitigate what we're seeing with impacts related to pollution."

The data collection totals are also used by the CCC to help apply for grants.

Vondrak said bags and gloves will be supplied, but encourages volunteers to bring their own reusable work gloves if they have them. Members of the San Clemente Adopt-A-Beach program also will be on hand to help coordinate the event and share information about that all-volunteer program. Call Vondrak at 949.361.8204 or email [vondrakm@san-clemente.org](mailto:vondrakm@san-clemente.org) for more information.

► Have you made your getaway plans for **Labor Day weekend**?

Tired of the heat? How about cooling off along the Northern California coast?

Albion River Campground, south of Mendocino, offers a private cottage with a wood-burning stove for those chilly nights, in addition to trailer rentals and campsites for folks who have their own rig. And they've got plenty of boating, fishing and kayaking opportunities nearby.

Or head up to Tahoe Valley Campgrounds, which is featuring an "End of Summer" party with a live band playing top hits from the 1960s and 70s.

And if you're looking for some gentle rock climbing, try Sacred Rocks Preserve in the mountains of San Diego County. The park, located at the 4,000-foot elevation near Boulevard, features park model cabin rentals as well as campsites.

Or take your kids to Reflection Lake RV Park and Campground in San Jacinto, whose 17-acre lake is stocked with catfish in summer and trout in the winter. And while they're there, they can try out the park's new swimming pool.

These four campgrounds are among more than 40 private parks throughout California that still have vacancy over Labor Day weekend.

"If you log on Camp-California.com, click the 'Find a Park' tab and type in the dates you want to camp, the website will automatically locate campgrounds that have sites or cabins available those days," said Debbie Sipe, executive director of the California Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds. The Auburn-based association markets campsites and cabins through the Camp-California website.

► Last weekend, members of the San Clemente community came together to help one another, including Lowe's of San Clemente which proved they are a good corporate neighbor by playing a huge role in building a better community.

The Lowe's "Heroes Program" provided materials and sweat equity to demo and renovate seven kitchens and tackle landscaping improvements at the Henderson house, a transitional housing shelter in San Clemente. More than 30 Lowe's associates volunteered their personal time over the weekend on August 15-16 to support the City of San Clemente's neighborhood project.

Additionally, 80 residents (including their children) of the Los Mares neighborhood filled the Campana cul-de-sac and planted gardens with City staff and community volunteers. Weeding and landscaping was also completed at Family Assistance Ministries' (FAM) Gilchrist house (transitional housing facility for women and their children) by San Clemente Green, the San Clemente Collaborative and residents of the neighborhood.

Lowe's gave away energy efficient light bulbs and battery operated smoke detectors with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) on-site to field safety concerns and questions. Another community building idea was presented by San Clemente Green during a lunch donated by Albertson's of San Clemente. Residents and children viewed concept drawings of the Los Mares Community Garden and signed up to help provide more community input.

"Throughout this project, San Clemente Lowe's has proven to be a positive community partner," said Mayor Lori Donchak. "The local shelter's board of directors, staff, and the residents of the neighborhood are truly grateful for the improvements that have enhanced the quality of life of those residing here. Once again, I am reminded of what defines San Clemente and that is its incredible community spirit."



Courtesy photo

► San Clemente dentist **Dr. John Marashi** participated in a new program called "Give Back a Smile" by donating his time and skills to provide full smile reconstruction for those in the community who are less fortunate. Recently, Marashi performed a full smile procedure on a woman whose first name is Sofik, who is originally from Eastern Europe and the mother of three who immigrated to the United States in 2005 after her husband left her and fire destroyed her home.

"This is an absolute dream come true," Sofik said in a release. "I wondered, 'Who am I to deserve such kindness from Dr. Marashi?'"



Courtesy photo

The program is co-sponsored by Frontier Dental Laboratory, the premier dental laboratory for aesthetic porcelain restorations, and the California Center for Advanced Dental Studies, with whom Dr. Marashi is the southern California Program Director. Sofik was chosen for the program based on her life's story and need for dental care.

"I'm absolutely honored to be a part of San Clemente, and this is simply a small way I can give back to this wonderful community," said Dr. Marashi. "What is truly unique about the 'Give Back a Smile' program is that we take care of everything. Whether sending a car to our patient for transportation or negotiating donated restorations from the dental lab, our 'Give Back a Smile' patients receive smile makeovers at absolutely no cost to them."

Informational fliers and applications for the "Give Back a Smile" program are located at local community shelters and social service agencies. Candidates' applications are carefully reviewed and selections are made based on need and situation. For more information call 949.493.9311 or visit [www.drmarashi.com](http://www.drmarashi.com).

► **Laura's House** recently was the recipient of school supplies from **Staples**, donated by the **Boys & Girls Club** of Garden Grove, in conjunction with the national DoSomething campaign, a partnership between Staples, DoSomething.org and Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter, Ciara. Over the summer, teens at B&G Clubs of Garden Grove collected school supplies, which they have chosen to donate to Laura's House. The supplies will be given to women who are entering our shelter program with their children, so that they will have a fully-stocked backpack to take with them to school this Fall.

According to a release from Laura's House, often when families in crisis arrive at the shelter they have nothing but the clothes on their backs. They rarely have the necessities they need, let alone school supplies.

### Have something interesting for the community?

Tell us about awards, events, happenings, accomplishments and more. Forward a picture along, too! We'll put your submissions into "News Bites."

Send your information to [editorial@sancllementetimes.com](mailto:editorial@sancllementetimes.com).



Courtesy photo

► **On The Rocks Jewelers** in San Clemente hosted a "Rags to Riches" Tie Dye party August 15 as a fundraising event for the **Boys and Girls Club** in San Clemente. While waiting for the tie dying to dry, necklaces and bracelets were designed. The Jewelry was made out of natural gemstones including Turquoise, Amber, Smokey Quartz and freshwater Pearls. The tie dying included shirts, hats and socks. Cookies and refreshments were served throughout the day. The tie dying was free of charge if you brought in something new or old to spruce up. Bracelets and necklaces were made at a cost of \$6-\$10. On The Rocks raised over \$200 in donations for the club. On The Rocks Jewelers is located at 207 N. El Camino Real (949.366.0022; [www.ontherocksjeweler.com](http://www.ontherocksjeweler.com)).



Left to right: Georgette Korsen of the Historical Society, Michael Kaupp, Bob Carrick and Gary Headrick of San Clemente Green. Photo by Heidi Meffert

► In an effort to expand the presence of Cypress trees in San Clemente, resident (and Planning Commission Chairman) **Michael Kaupp** has formed a joint venture with **Bob Carrick**, owner of **Shore Gardens Nursery**, to offer a free tree to anyone who can prove residency in San Clemente. Trees are available at Shore Gardens at 201 S. Ola Vista (949.492.3526).

To date, Kaupp has spearheaded efforts to donate more than 700 trees to the City and residents of San Clemente. In the past, Kaupp teamed up with the San Clemente Garden Club and donated 100 trees as well as with Caltrans to plant some 80 Cypress trees along the El Camino on-ramp.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation Website, aside from the aesthetic value of trees, one tree will absorb about a ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime. Carbon dioxide is the major cause of global warming. "Planting six trees can reduce your emissions by two percent annually. It can also provide shade for you and a home to birds and other wildlife."

"We hope that these efforts will bring the value of trees to the forefront and will help to gain a greater awareness in our ongoing General Plan update efforts," said Kaupp. "Being recognized as a tree city should be considered when updating our General Plan."