

# Local

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**DIANE BELL**

Columnist

## La Mesa tween acts with stars in 'Asteroid City'

A highlight of being in the cast of a Wes Anderson film was solving riddles with actor Tom Hanks.

That's how Zoe Bernard, 12, often spent her breaks from shooting the movie "Asteroid City" in the countryside in Spain.

Anderson, known for his unusual, quirky films in which every detail is painstakingly planned and executed, always assembles A-list casts.

So, when the La Mesa girl, who first acted in a feature film at age 8, was selected for the role of a young space camp attendee, she was out-of-this-world excited.

Suddenly she found herself in a cast that included Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Bryan Cranston, Maya Hawke, Margot Robbie, Adrien Brody, Edward Norton, Jake Ryan, Jeff Goldblum, Willem Dafoe, Steve Carell, Matt Dillon, Rita Wilson and many more.

"I didn't think I was going to get it," Zoe says of the role. She wasn't told the name of the film or its plot when she did the online interview and script reading, only that it was a Wes Anderson production. And that was enough.

Anderson's 2012 "Moonrise Kingdom" is the longtime favorite of Zoe's older sister, Alicia Randolph, also an actress and former member of the teen electro-pop trio Pink Army.

"We are big Wes Anderson fans," says her mom, Christina Eris, a talent agent who represents her daughter and a roster of other acting clients.

The comedic sci-fi drama set in the 1950s premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on May 23 and was released in U.S. theaters late last month.

Zoe got the audition call in November 2020 and participated in numerous callbacks over the next several months. It wasn't until a couple of months before the September 2021 shoot that she got the green light.

She long has been homeschooled to accommodate her frequent trips to Los Angeles for auditions.

Once she appeared (wearing lime green slime) in a Nickelodeon commercial. She played a young "Hannah Stocking" in the popular YouTube video series by that name. She has parts in two more feature films, "10 Badass Women" and "Switch Up," both in post-production.

Her sister, Alicia, joined her in the cast of "Switch Up."

When Zoe isn't on a movie set, she is likely on a music tour. I caught up with her last Friday as she was headed with bandmates on a bus to Nashville for a performance that afternoon.

Zoe, who began music lessons at the unripe age of 4, plays drums and bass in the San Diego-based School of Rock House Band, which is wrapping up a summer tour in Ohio, Nebraska and Kentucky. She also plays in a Kid Tributes band here.

It all seems overwhelming for a preteen, but Zoe has strong Hollywood roots. Her father, Todd Bernard, is related to the famous family of four brothers who started Warner Bros. On her mother's side, revered director Elia Kazan is her great-great uncle.

Performing is just one aspect of Zoe's busy life, however.

There's also the entrepreneurial Zoe. At age 9, she started a website, Zoesbakery.org, and an enterprise of

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## FAA: PILOT TRIED TO LAND IN STREET

Cessna crashed next to La Mesa church after engine trouble Sunday

BY KAREN KUCHER

### LA MESA

The pilot of a single-engine Cessna plane that crashed next to a La Mesa church Sunday said he tried to turn toward Lake Murray after the engine quit just minutes into the flight, but he the plane would not make it that far.

John Brasil of Lemon Grove said he had problems with the plane shortly after taking off from Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport in San Diego.

"It stopped once, started up again, and then quit," Brasil said in a brief interview Monday from his hospital room. "I was thinking Lake Murray, but it wasn't going to make it there so I had to go to Plan B."

Brasil said he was trying to put the plane down without injuring anyone on the ground.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a preliminary inci-

dent report that the Cessna 185 experienced "engine issues" and the pilot attempted to land on a city street before plowing through a fence and sending the aircraft into a ravine around 3:05 p.m.

The plane ended up down a steep embankment behind La Mesa Community Church on Lake Murray Boulevard. According to Flight Aware, the plane took off at 2:59 p.m. and flew about 12 miles before it crashed.

"The aircraft experienced engine issues and attempted to land on a boulevard and clipped a wire,

went through a parking lot and into a ravine," the FAA said in the preliminary accident/incident report. One person suffered serious injuries and a second suffered minor injuries, the FAA said.

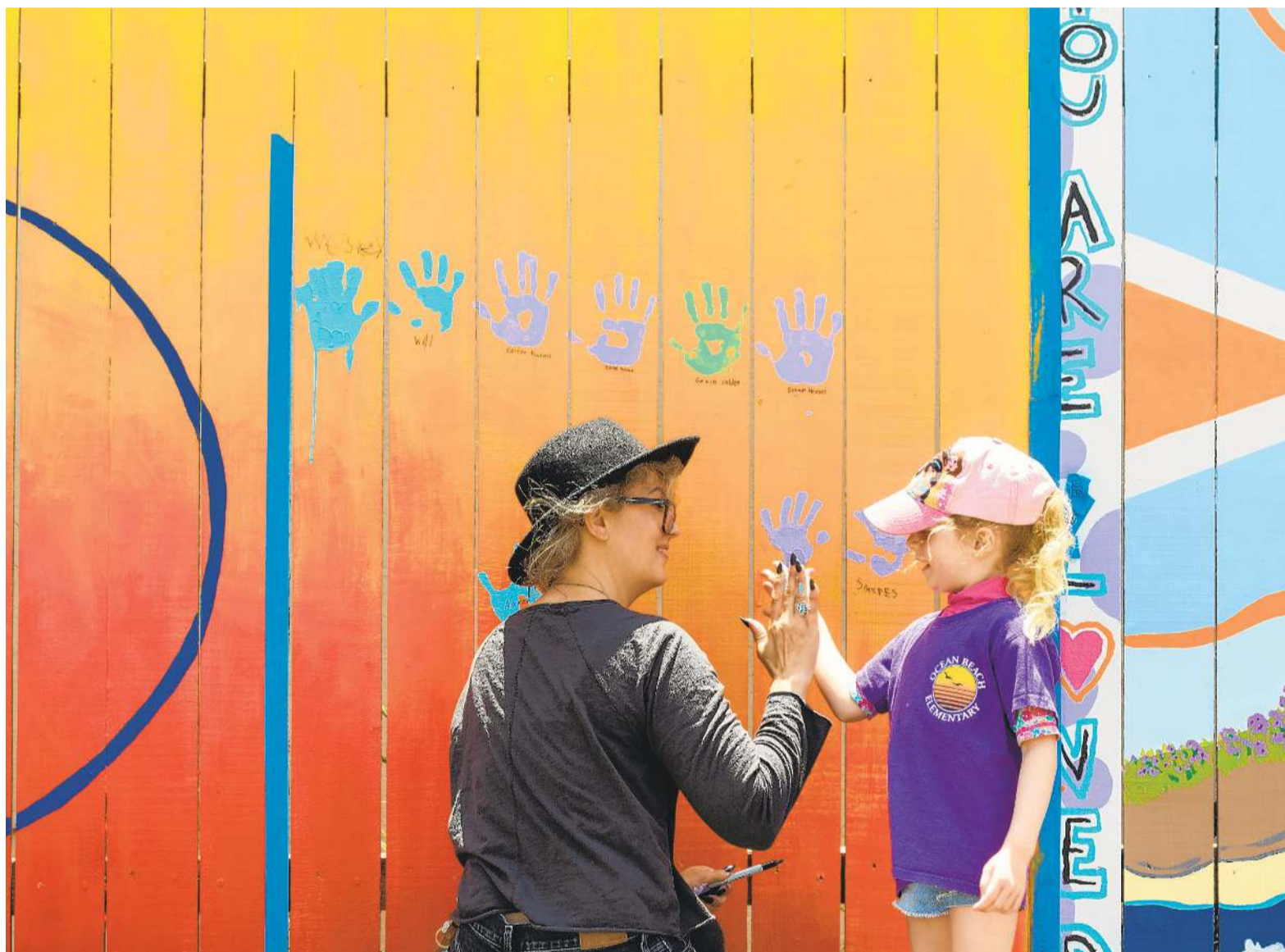
Brasil, the registered owner of the plane, answered a few questions Monday before asking to continue the conversation later.

When he called back a short time later, he said he didn't want to answer any more questions because he had not yet talked to the FAA.

On Sunday, firefighters said one

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## A JOB WELL DONE



JESSICA PARGA U-T

Sevanna Anderson high-fives Addison Smyres, 5, on Monday after her work on a mural at City Tacos in Ocean Beach. Assisted by local artists, children from Ocean Beach Elementary School painted murals on the fencing.

## MORE FLAGS ARE UP FOR DEBATE IN CARLSBAD

Council member says display of Confederate banner, others suggested

BY PHIL DIEHL

### CARLSBAD

Now that Carlsbad has approved flying the Pride flag at City Hall, Councilmember Melanie Burkholder wants the City Council to discuss the display of other banners including the Confederate, Christian, National Rifle Association and the Facial Pain Awareness flags.

Pride and LGBTQ discussions have drawn crowds, demonstrations and heated discussions at previous Carlsbad council meetings. Burkholder's proposal to take up again "constituent requests to fly commemorative flags" is the last item on Tuesday night's City Council agenda.

"Some of the requests on the list are really shocking," Burkholder said Monday, "but the council needs to come together to have a discussion of a flag policy ... if we are going to be fair, we have to do things that are difficult."

In May, the council failed to approve a proposed commemorative

flag policy that would have allowed the Pride banner, with Burkholder opposed. Only the United States and California flags should be displayed on city properties, she said Monday.

Each of the flags in her request for Tuesday was suggested by her constituents, said Burkholder, who represents the council's District 1 that includes the Village and Barrio neighborhoods.

Other flags she listed include the Christian, Juneteenth, POW/MIA, Straight Pride and Domestic Violence Awareness. Any one of them could be considered offensive by some people, she said.

It's not for her to decide which requests are legitimate, she said, adding that even "facial pain is a real thing" affecting her constituents.

"We can't prevent people from bringing them forward," she said. "I am not the arbiter of free speech in California."

A previous attempt to approve a commemorative flag policy failed May 23 when the council voted 3-2 against the proposal with Burkholder and Mayor Keith Blackburn opposed. Any new policy in Carlsbad needs four votes to pass.

Burkholder and Blackburn also opposed the council's 3-2 June 13

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## HIGH BALLOONS BAFFLING IN SOLANA BEACH

School put up 10 between 60-90 feet in air to show where light poles desired

BY LUKE HAROLD

### SOLANA BEACH

Decorations for graduation? Weather balloons?

Residents throughout Solana Beach have been left guessing why 10 red balloons are floating high above the city, visible to the west when driving through the city on Interstate 5.

They're also visible from much farther away than the 1,000-foot radius of homes that received notice from the city about their intended purpose: to serve as story poles for a proposed set of lights at Santa Fe Christian Schools.

The school has asked the city for permission to install four light poles at the school's softball field and six at the multi-use field, each one between 60 to 90 feet tall.

The city typically requires an applicant to use story poles so nearby property owners can see how a pro-



LUKE HAROLD U-T COMMUNITY PRESS

Residents have been asking questions about the balloons at Santa Fe Christian Schools.

posed structure would impact their views and community character. Installing 60- to 90-foot poles would have been difficult, so the City Council approved the use of bal-

loons instead of poles.

The Solana Beach View Assessment Commission and City Council still have to weigh in on the proposed lighting, with meetings ten-

tatively set for this fall, but some residents are already voicing their disapproval with the proposal and the lack of notification from the city.

Sue Beckman lives east of I-5, about a half-mile away from Santa Fe Christian Schools, well outside of the 1,000-foot radius of homes that received notification from the city. But the balloons are all clearly visible from her backyard, just beyond two Torrey pines. She said she assumed they were for a school event.

Beckman said she wouldn't have known their real purpose "if I hadn't had a neighbor who told me and she hadn't had a neighbor who told her."

"That shows you the level of misunderstanding of what's going on," Beckman said.

Mary Dhooge, who also lives east of I-5, posted on Nextdoor about the balloons and received more than 40 comments from neighbors who were largely unaware.

"Think about the light pollution that will fill up the beautiful sunsets and night sky for all those who enjoy views of the greenbelt and the ocean!" she wrote. "Everyone east of

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