ONLY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST





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Gregg Neuman's storied career

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San Diego Community Newspaper Group



A view from inside the currently vacant lot of the City Heights Transit Plaza. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

190 units of affordable housing coming to El Cajon Blvd.

By Kendra Sitton

A \$2 million investment into affordable housing means a

City Heights Transit Center San Diego Foundation and on the border of City Heights and Normal Heights is one step closer to breaking ground. 190-unit development at the Mission Driving Finance, the

Alliance Healthcare provided a collective \$2 million initial

SEE ECB DEVELOPMENT, Page 13

E Street to be more pedestrian friendly

E Street Greenway Masterplan Provides Guidelines for Cohesive **Pedestrian Improvement Recommendations**

Art on the Land By DELLE WILLETT

The newly created Masterplan for the E Street Greenway in the Gaslamp Quarter and East Village will provide a framework for cohesive improvement recommendations on form, amenities, materials and landscape.

The masterplan was a team effort led by Ross Duenas, civil engineer, and Patrick Toth, engineer in training of CR

Rommel



SEE **E STREET PLANS**, Page 15

Rendering of a pedestrian walkway on E Street. (Renderings courtesy Schmidt

Elephant enclosure intruder's hearing set

By Neal Putnam

A Sept. 23 preliminary hearing has been set for a man who trespassed into an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo with his 2-year-old daughter in order to take a photo.

Jose Manuel Navarrete, 25, pleaded not guilty to felony child endangerment and trespassing in a March 19 incident in which he went through two barriers in order to take a photograph of himself and his little girl.

Navarrette, of Fullerton, Ca., posted \$100,000 bond and charges were not filed until late July in San Diego Superior Court.

Judge Joseph Brannigan ordered Navarrete not to return to the zoo as a condition of bond, according to court records. A public defender who represents him could not be reached for comment.

Zoo visitors took video of the incident which showed Navarrete and his daughter posing for a camera, with his back to an elephant, which then became agitated.

People yelled for Navarrete to leave and he dropped his daughter just as the elephant drew closer.

"It stuck its head up in the air, its tusks, and it started a fast trot towards him," said Matthew Passiglia, a witness who was interviewed by NBC News.

"I was standing 20 yards away from it. I yelled 'Dude, What are you doing? Get out of there. Get the baby out," said another man, who was interviewed on ABC News.

"It was about maybe a foot from making contact with the gentleman and his baby," said a woman at the scene.

SEE **ELEPHANT**, Page 12

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CONGRATULATIONS



TOP AGENTS in 92101

Total Sales by Real Estate Agent in 2020

(Incl. buyer sales and listings sold, January 1 - December 31, 2020)

1. Gregg Neuman	109	14. Gerry Burchard	8	27. Elcim Gulec	5
2. Chad Dannecker	43	15. Michael Lange	7	28. David Spiewak	5
3. Denny Oh	37	16. Franchesca Meram	7	29. Nicole Hazelton	5
4. Michael Chious	13	17. Ryan Ponce	7	30. Danijela Ripley	5
5. Francine Finn	12	18. Mark Mills	7	31. Brian Ruhl	5
6. Jeffery Nix	11	19. Jeff Grant	7	32. Kayoko Yoshioka	5
7. John Husar	10	20. Jeffrey OʻNeal	6	33. Katie Gilbert	5
8. David Stone	10	21. Michael Ciampa	6	34. Michael Brunnhoelz	5
9. Mike Althof	9	22. Todd DeBoer	6	35. Jeannine Savory	5
10. Claudette Cooper	9	23. Donna Egan	6	36. David Rudd	5
11. Alan Hamrick	9	24. John Reeves	6	37. Monica Stone	5
12. Jorge Castellon	8	25. Richard Combs	6	38. Sabrina Ortega	5
13. Melissa Goldstein Tucci	8	26. Sarah Scott	5	39. 11 tied with 4	

REAL Marketing, Inc. Congratulates the Top Downtown San Diego Real Estate Agents in 2019!

REAL Marketing Inc. has helped real estate agents build their market share and client retention for more than 29 years across North America, specializing in increasing market share and improving customer retention. We are pleased to announce our team has helped Gregg Neuman and the Neuman & Neuman Team extend their lead in Downtown sales for the ELEVENTH consecutive year.

Results for 2020

Total sales for the 92101 zip code decreased to 785 units last year, which is a 0.51% decrease from 2019. The average sales price increased 1.2% to \$674,200, while the average days on market have decreased by 19.6% to 37 days.

Gregg Neuman of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties tops the list for an eleventh consecutive year with 109 total 92101 sales. While his sales represent 63% of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Properties' sales in Downtown, he continues to outsell entire brokerages, including Pacific Sotheby's Intl Realty, Big

Block Realty, Coldwell Banker Residential, Redfin Corporation, Hunter & Maddox Intl. Inc, Keller Williams SD Metro, and Douglas Elliman of California.

With a total of 168 sales according to data available from Trendgraphix, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties finished another strong year and also sustains their lead over all other Downtown brokerages.

Congratulations to all Top Real Estate agents in Downtown San Diego for another outstanding year.

TOP 10 in 92101

Total Sales by Company

1.	Compass	241
2.	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices	168
3.	Pacific Sotheby's Intl Realty	89
4.	Big Block Realty	66
5.	Coldwell Banker West	54
6.	Redfin Corporation	52
7.	Hunter & Maddox Intl. Inc	30
8.	Keller Williams SD Metro	29
9.	Coldwell Banker Residential	29
10.	Douglas Elliman of California	26

Divina collection highlights international talent of San Diego designer

Fashion Files

Kenneth Barlis presented

By DIANA CAVAGNARO



his new collection Divina on September 7 in Rancho Santa Fe with live music and models to present the whimsical designs. Singer Aira Luna The Divina collection seemed right out of a fairy tale. FOX 5 anchor/reporter Phil Blauer emceed for the evening.

The fashion show was held at the estate of Allan and Megan Camaisa. The audience was seated on the grass and the fashion models came down the stairs from the house onto a long runway. The Divina collection seemed right out of a fairy tale. Noble Queen of the Universe 2020, Megan Camaisa, modeled alongside her court. The alluring voice of Aira Luna provided entertainment. She made you want to jump up and dance. Following Luna was the smooth sounds of violinist Amarah Mauricio.

Some of you may recognize the name Kenneth Barlis as the first fashion designer to win Fashion Week San Diego. As an



Kenneth Barlis picture for Project Runway's 19th Season (Photo courtesy Bravo)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 12 Fall Bridal Bazaar with fashion shows presented by Gretchen Productions at the San Diego Convention Center. Two shows presented at noon and 2:30 p.m. For more info: 760-334-5500

Thursday, September 16 Art of Fashion. The Country Friends partners with South Coast Plaza on the Annual Runway show and Luncheon at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. For tickets visit events@thecountryfriends.org.

Saturday, September 25 The Show Must Go On... So Strut! Vista Hill and A New PATH Fashion Show at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Boutique shopping, luncheon and theatrical fashion show presented by **Gretchen Productions. For more** Info: 619-670-1184.



international designer who was born and raised in Zamboanga, Philippines, he now has his home base here in San Diego.

Barlis said, "I can chase my dreams without leaving town."

He has designed for A-List of celebrities such as Carrie Underwood, Khelani, and Offset. Recently he designed a full collection for the K-Pop group Alamat. Barlis dressed the eight-member group for their recent music video.





Finale: Megan Camaisa, Kenneth Barlis and Aira Luna (Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)

Paris Fashion Week on October 4. He will show his womenswear collection called the Secret Garden: Where Dreams Come True. Next, he will show the majority of his menswear collection at LA Fashion Week later in October. In May 2022, he plans to put together a big show to celebrate 10 years in the fashion industry. His goal is to design 100 couture outfits for his clients and then have them model in the show.

In the meantime, the Bravo Channel announced their lineup for the 19th Season of Project Runway and Barlis is one of the contestants this year. For all the fashionistas out there, look for the new season to air on October 14. Stay tuned for more exciting news! To contact Kenneth Barlis visit KennethBarlis.com or @ Realkennthbarlis.



Universe 2020

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Kenneth Barlis' menswear



Kenneth Barlis' designs





Housing who's who in San Diego



Although the Dunham Building, a very utilitarian edifice, has a somewhat uninspir-ing facade, it is associated with many of San Diego's early "movers and shakers" in business and real estate.

First, on November 9, 1869, Alonzo Horton, our founding father, sold to Mrs. Au-gusta B. Dunham, a widow and longtime San Diego resident, the present site of the building for \$2,000. This was a large sum for the property. She promptly sub-divided the property, and in 1882, leased the south half of the property. It sup-ported a wooden structure known as the "Free Reading Room," which began in 1873. This, too, was associated with Alonzo Horton, as he had planned to sell his personal and very valuable library to the Reading Room Association. George Mars-ton, another early San Diego pioneer,

The Dunham Building
(1888)
750-752 Fifth Avenue
Architect - William S. Hebbard
Architectural Style - Victorian
Commercial

philanthropist and merchant, was a board member of the association. Horton offered to sell the book collection to the association for half of their worth (\$1,000), but the association balked, so Horton kept his books. Horton and the association finally made their peace and he donated the book collection. However, the association had no librarian, only a caretaker with no organizational skills, so many of the books were stolen and the Free Reading Room closed by 1882.

On May 30, 1887, George E. Dunham, the son of Augusta Dunham, sold half of the Dunham site to David Reed, a pioneer real estate developer, lawyer and insurance agent. Reed became Harbor Commissioner and was eventually elected Mayor of San Diego in 1897.

By 1887, a wooden structure had been erected at the 750 address. It had a shingle roof and a brick chimney. Lewis and Stocking Real Estate was located at the site. One of the owners, H.F. Stocking, became Superintendent of San Diego Parks. Ad-joining the real estate office was J. M. Van Zandt's shoe and boot store, which was easily seen from either end of the street by the "Big Boot" sign outside its door. Mr. Van Zandt served as the deputy sheriff for the city during the 1880s.

In 1888, the present building located at 750-52 Fifth



The Dunham Building (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

was constructed and became known as the Dunham Building. Designed by prominent architect William S. Heb-bard, the building was a two-story brick structure with a large skylight on the sec-ond floor. It featured iron chimneys and iron shutters on the windows. The interi-or doors were mahogany, and the rooms featured 14' ceilings and hardwood floors. The second floor was intended for offices and meeting rooms; a frame par-tition separated the meeting rooms from the offices. The first floor was designed to house commercial enterprises.

The original tenant was F. F. Wright and Company, who

advertised themselves as "a model shoe house." They claimed to have the best facilities, the largest assort-ment, lower prices and the latest styles! Other tenants included celebrated archi-tect Irving Gill and his nephew Louis Gill. Louis Gill went on to found the San Diego chapter of AIA and was appointed to the State Board of Architectural Examiners. He designed Scripp's Memorial Hospital, the Bishop's School and several animal grottos for the San Diego Zoo. His uncle, Irving, designed the Holly Sefton Memo-rial Hospital, the George W. Marston house, the H. H. Timken house, the La Jolla Women's Club, the Scripp's Institute of Oceanography and numerous other build-ings, not only in California but also on the East Coast.

Another tenant was A. E. Banks, a noted physician, who practiced in San Diego un-til 1940 and was a San Diego health officer. He had been partially blinded and later invented the portable braille writer known as the Banks

Pocket Braille Writer. This ingenious machine was produced by IBM and distributed by the Lions Clubs of America.

Consequent tenants at the site were a pawnbroker, a jeweler, hotels, taverns, res-taurants and billiard halls. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Bachelor Club and the Her-cules Club, both social clubs for men, occupied the premises as well.

A series of ethnic restaurants were housed at the site throughout the years, with Little Joe's Pizza House remaining a staple throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Currently, Urban India, featuring Indian cuisine, burgers and cocktail bars makes its home in the Dunham building. Judging by the amazing aromas emanating from their kitchen, this is a most agreeable fusion!

—Sandee Wilhoit is the Historian at the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org.







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A summer of disasters comes to its end



Summer sure is coming to a tough close this year. Parts of California are once again on fire and many of our neighbors in the state have had to flee with only what they can load into their cars as smoke and flames endanger their homes and communities. Sadly, we have lost American military members and Afghan allies, including Marines from our own Camp Pendleton to new violence in a 20-year-old war and refugees from that war now face an uncertain future—a future that depends on whether the rest of us are willing to tap into our faith and our humanity to help. And this is all on top of a rise in COVID cases across the nation, despite best efforts to convince the holdouts who still refuse vaccines and masks.

At times like this, it is easy to get frustrated and feel helpless in the face of powerful challenges. And, at times like these, I remember that I am blessed to be in a position where I go to work every day to help find and deliver solutions.

One of the things that has always made getting through wildfires and other disasters a little more bearable is looking around and seeing all the people who are helping: neighbors donating food and clothing to each other and showing support for weary firefighters and businesses; non-profits opening their doors to people who have lost everything; local, state and federal offices working together to cut red tape and get assistance out the door as fast as possible.

This September, I can't help thinking about another late summer morning, when thousands of people fled flames and smoke, and thousands more were killed. As we approach the 20th Anniversary of September 11, I know there is still so much grief for those lost and the survivors who loved them. I also hope there is increasing resolve that terrorism and violence can never be allowed to change the course of our nation and its institutions. And, as always, I am filled with great respect and admiration for all the first responders who run toward trouble on behalf of all the rest of us.

I remain enormously proud of San Diego and the members of our military. And I am proud that, once again, our communities are stepping up and providing welcoming and caring arms to the refugees seeking safety as the war ends in Afghanistan.

Seeing people have to flee their homes – for fire or disaster or war – really puts into perspective how trivial some of our day-to-day problems may seem. But there are so many real concerns, too.

In the legislature, we have to keep an eye on every level of the problem. What can we do immediately to mitigate or end an acute crisis? How to do we enact strategies to make continued progress on chronic problems, over both the short- and long-haul? And how do we plant

the seeds and fund the progress that delivers the light we need to see at the end of the tunnel?

We have been seeing a lot of that multi-tiered approach on some of the key challenges we've faced this year with COVID-19, with housing and homelessness, with police reform, and with climate change. So, once again, I think I want to focus on the positive—on all the people helping.

Thank you to Governor Newsom for leading California to one of the best vaccination rates in the nation. Thank you to the California Assembly for advancing SB 9 and SB 10 and other parts of the Senate's vital Housing Package. Thank you to the families, community groups, and law enforcement for banding together to improve accountability and outcomes in public safety. Thank you to the California businesses who understand the urgency of climate change and recognize the benefits that behavioral changes can bring to their bottom line.



Sen. Toni Atkins (Courtesy photo)

Just like the smoke eventually lifted from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the field outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the smoke will clear from the wildfires. Time will heal wounds and grief. This virus will recede. And every Californian will have the opportunity to have a safe home and a good job. But there's a lot of work that has to be done to get us there. I think we're up for it—and when I report back next month after we wrap up the 2021 legislative session—I hope to have some good progress to share on top of an already historic year.

And maybe it's something in the air, but I also think that this particular September, I'm going to take some extra time to hold all my loved ones close.

—Toni G. Atkins is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. Visit sd39.senate.ca.gov/ contact to contact her.

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For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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Keeping children safe online



Given the young age at which kids are accessing the Internet and the huge role technology is bound to play in their lives going forward, speaking with them about online safety early is the best strategy to keep them safe from online predators and scammers.

Not a day goes by that we don't see a news story involving a company getting hacked, personal data being leaked or a threat of infrastructure failing due to malicious actors. The same is true for predators hacking into children's lives.

Strangers approach children online daily through social media or games, for example. It's important to be aware of ways predators can access your children, to set limits on what your child can access online and to set time limits.

Here are some tips to help you keep kids protected.

• Do not allow smart phones to charge in your child's bedroom overnight. • Place your computer in a common area of the house.

• Encourage children to report bullying or tell you if they have posted something they now regret.

- Make reasonable rules and set time and use limits. Also enforce them.
- Do not allow children to go into private chat rooms, especially when you are not present.
- Talk to children about how the internet is not private, ever.
- Never allow your children to arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they met online without your permission.
- Do not let your child give out any personal information of any kind on the internet.
- Be sensitive to changes in your child's behaviors that may indicate they are being victimized.
- Be alert to a teenager or adult who is paying an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them gifts.
- Utilize your Internet service provider's parental controls and commercial blocking and filtering software tools.

SEE **CHILD SAFETY,** Page 13

Republicans hate this one weird trick

By Brian Schrader

Vote. It's really that easy. Even better, specifically vote no on whether to recall Gavin Newsom. Democracy depends on it and here's why.

Elections are one of the hallmarks of our democracy. They give the People say in their government and they work to ensure that corrupt behavior by politicians is punished at the ballot box in regular intervals.

However, elections are not incorruptible; their power rests on the assumption that elections are free, fair and highly participatory. A high-turnout election ensures that the will of the People is expressed and their preferences are noted. A low-turnout election is a recipe for rule by an unscrupulous and illegitimate minority of voters.

What does this have to do with Gavin Newsom? Well, in the 2018 Gubernatorial Election, in which Newsom was elected, over 64% of registered voters cast a ballot—the highest percentage since 1982. And in that election, Newsom received nearly 62% of the vote—an overwhelming victory. By all accounts, the 2018

Gubernatorial Election was one of the most representative elections in recent California history and Newsom won with an almost unheard-of level of support from Californians. When he was elected, Newsom was only a few points less popular than baseball, America's favorite pastime.

Fast forward to 2020 and a small minority of California voters, comprising about 13.5% of the 2018 electorate managed to force a recall of a popular governor. This hyper-polarized group, which had been trying to recall Newsom since 2019, is now attempting to subvert democracy and elect a candidate with extremely narrow appeal.

To make matters worse, the rules of the recall election mean that if the governor is recalled, his replacement will be the candidate with the most votes regardless of whether they earn a majority of support from voters. There is no runoff. With over 40 candidates in the race, it's likely that a replacement governor could be elected with less than 20% of the vote. Add on to that the simple fact that recall elections historically

SEE NEWSOM RECALL, Page 12

sdnews.com







COLLEGE COURIER

















New all-purpose sport field at **Logan Heights Boys & Girls Club**

Over the last 18 months, many kids have been isolated due to COVID, spending more time playing video games than playing outside with friends. Now, after being closed as a result of the pandemic, The Boys & Girls Club of Greater San Diego - William J. Oakes Branch in Logan Heights reopened to its members on Aug. 30.

As part of its activities this month to celebrate that reopening, the Club administration joined donors, UnitedHealthcare and W2W Sport, to officially dedicate the brand new multi-use sports field, made possible by a \$20,000 gift from UnitedHealthcare and built by W2W. Some lucky members had their first opportunity to try out the field in person with team defenders Elijah Martin, Josh Yaro and Grant Stoneman from the San Diego Loyal Soccer Team.





Michelle Malin, Senior Vice President of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego - William J Oakes Branch cutting the ribbon on the new sports court. Left to Right: Scott Bohrer, W2W Sport; Raul Herrera, UnitedHealthcare; Elijah Miller, SD Loyal Soccer Team; Malin; Grant Stoneman, San Diego Loyal; Josh Yaro, San Diego Loyal; and Monique Knight, UnitedHealthcare.

"The sports court will help kids develop a passion for sports and build healthy habits as children that will hopefully remain with





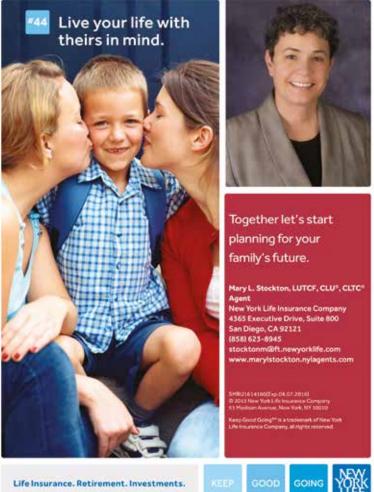
The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego - William J. Oaks Branch dedicated a new multi-sports field made possible by a \$20,000 donation from UnitedHealthcare and installed by W2W Sport. Kids from the Club got a chance to try out the new court with members of the San Diego Loyal Soccer team including defenders Elijah Martin, Josh Yaro and Grant **Stoneman.** (Photos courtesy of Sandy Huffaker/UHC)

them as adults," said Michelle Malin, Senior Vice President Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego. "Making memories, playing on this field — that's going to go a long way toward encouraging kids to enjoy our club's offerings. We appreciate all UnitedHealthcare and W2W have done to make this a reality."

The reopening is a milestone for the club. When the pandemic began, the club had to quickly adapt, and it did so by gearing up to help children and families impacted by the health crisis. More children and families needed social service support as well as a place where children could use computers for remote learning. These needs drove much of the Club's effort to seek private support.

"The facility will provide a safe and modern space for boys and girls to be physically active," adds Raul Herrera, UnitedHealthcare of California. "Investing in our communities, helping kids develop a love of sport and exercise, and supporting activities that help people live healthier lives is all part of UnitedHealthcare's efforts to be a valued community partner."





Alleged killer of teacher faces life sentence

By Neal Putnam

A special circumstance charge of lying in wait has been filed ter learning of his slaying. against a man suspected of kill- Alvarez allegedly used his hearing has been set for Oct. 18. ing a teacher in North Park who had been dating the man's ex-girlfriend.

This means prosecutors may either seek the death penalty or a life term in prison without parole against Jesse Milton Alvarez if he is convicted of first-degree murder of Mario Fierro, who taught at Cathedral Catholic High School.

Alvarez, 31, is suspected of waiting an hour outside the home of Fierro, 37, who was shot six times on Feb. 1. Fierro was found at 7:10 a.m. on the sidewalk of Kansas Street near Monroe Ave.

Fierro and another teacher who previously dated Alvarez

were engaged. Fierro was also a football coach and school officials canceled classes for three days af-

brother's car to travel to North Park to kill Fierro. Police arrested Alvarez at his Serra Mesa home about 13 hours later and seized a handgun that is suspected of being the murder weapon, according to prosecution documents filed in San Diego Superior Court.

Alvarez's ex-girlfriend ended their relationship in Sept., 2019. She filed a temporary restraining order after he repeatedly called her and went to her home. A judge declined to issue an order against Alvarez, so she changed her phone number, moved and deleted her social media accounts, according to prosecution documents.

Alvarez has pleaded not guilty to all charges and a preliminary

The District Attorney's office filed court documents asking a judge not to set any bail because it is a capital case and for public safety. A judge agreed not to set any bail and Alvarez remains in the George Bailey Detention Facility.

Attorney Kerry Armstrong, who represents Alvarez, said Tuesday he and another attorney are "still going through a ton" of police reports and other information about the case and could not comment.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter. Reach him at nealputnam@gmail.com.

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The penalties for a San Diego DUI conviction can be very harsh. For example, even if you are a first-time offender, you could be sentenced to up to one year in jail, five years on probation, a fine of \$1,000, and participation in a ninemonth mandatory drug and alcohol education program.

Susan L. Hartman knows the factors that prosecutors consider in determining how to proceed after a DUI arrest. She also knows what is necessary to succeed at trial. At the Law Offices of Susan L. Hartman, DUI defense is all we do.

If you are facing a DUI charge, contact San Diego DUI defense attorney Susan L. Hartman right now to find out how she can help you get through this difficult time.



CONSULTATION





Uptown Briefs

AGING IN PLACE 92103 LUNCH 'N' LEARN RETURNS

Lifetime learners and friends: It's been a tough 18 months, but it's time to regroup. Please join us in the Community Room of the Mission Hills-Hillcrest /Knox Library on Monday, September 13 from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and a beverage (individually wrapped dessert provided). Masks required; immunizations requested. To register please visit sandiego.librarymarket.com/events. Questions? Call Maggie Meyer 619-823-0099 or email Ladue1966@gmail.com.

COMIC-CON MUSEUM STARTS CONSTRUCTION

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.

The primary sources of revenue for SDCC are the comics and related popular art conventions it holds each year. However, due to the worldwide pandemic, the organization has not been able to hold an in-person event since the 2019 Comic-Con in San Diego.

"The consequences of COVID-19 have had its effect on SDCC, despite those challenges, the organization is moving forward with its promised construction and opening of the Comic-Con Museum," said David Glanzer, spokesperson for the nonprofit. "For a variety of reasons, chief among them the continuing global crisis, fundraising for the museum is not at the level we would have hoped." Therefore, the November opening of the Comic-Con Museum is just the first phase of planned improvements, with more to come over the next several years. The opening of all three floors is

scheduled for July 2022. To learn more about how you can support the Comic-Con Museum, visit comic-con.org/museum.

"We are eager to begin renovation on the old Federal Building and are excited to join the other esteemed museums in what is often regarded as the cultural heart of San Diego," said Glanzer.

"Comic-Con may be a San Diego institution, but people from around the world have eagerly anticipated this year-round home to celebrate the popular arts they love," said Mayor Todd Gloria. "With the museum's construction underway, we're closer than ever to welcoming a global audience to get a taste of the Comic-Con experience in the middle of our City's crown jewel, Balboa Park."

INVESTMENT INTO TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES IN SAN DIEGO REGION MORE THAN QUADRUPLED

More than \$2.4 billion in venture capital went to San Diego tech companies during the second quarter of this year, a 433 percent increase from the previous quarter and the first time that Tech received more VC funding than Life Sciences since Q1 2019, according to a San Diego Regional EDC report.

Life sciences funding fell from record levels, but still pulled in more than \$1.9 billion during the quarter, more than doubling the amount received in the same quarter last year.

Net absorption of office real estate was positive during the quarter, up more than 330,000 square feet, for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2019 as San Diego businesses began transitioning back to the office.

Additionally, tech companies such as Apple and AppFolio are expanding their San Diego footprint, helping push office vacancy rates down and rent growth back up.

Job growth returns amid continued battle for talent. San Diego's second quarter employment reversed the past year's downward trend as the vaccine rollout led to loosened restrictions on businesses and increased consumer confidence. Year-over-year total nonfarm employment increased by 17,700 in the second quarter, with Leisure and Hospitality leading the way. However, total employment remains about 100,000 jobs lower than pre-pandemic levels and some key industries, such as Health care, are in dire need of more workers.

COUNTY EXPANDS ASSISTANCE FOR STRUGGLING TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

The County's Housing and Community Development Services is rolling out two new initiatives aimed at assisting landlords and tenants who have struggled financially amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Both efforts are part of the county's existing Emergency Rent and Utilities Assistance Program,

which supports low-income renters impacted by the pandemic.

The first program will provide payments to landlords with rental properties whose tenants are late on their rent. The Rental Assistance for Small Landlord Program will compensate landlords or property owners for overdue rent payments accumulated since April 2020.

Recipients must meet several criteria, including the following:

- The property must be located in San Diego County and the owner must be a county resident.
- The landlord must own no more than five rental units
- Tenants in eligible units must be at least three months past due on their rent.

The county will pay benefits directly to the landlord and applications will be accepted until funding runs out. The application period opens Sept. 1.

The second initiative is aimed at making it easier for San Diego renters to come up with security deposits when moving to a new rental unit.

Through the Security Deposit Assistance Program, eligible applicants can receive security deposit assistance, limited to two months' rent, up to \$7,000.

To qualify, the applicant must meet certain income limits and must sign a six-months or longer lease for the unit they plan to rent. Landlord participation is a requirement and payments will be made directly to the property owner.

The application period for security deposit assistance opens Sept. 3.

The programs lessen housing cost burdens and maintain housing stability for low-income renters and landlords who have faced financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SD JUNIOR THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW SEASON

San Diego Junior Theatre, the nation's longest-running youth theatre program, is proud to present its 74th Season, The Impossibly Possible Season. All of the shows will celebrate how hope makes all things possible.

Executive Director James Saba, Artistic Director Desha Crownover and the entire production team are very excited to welcome back Junior Theatre students for live performances after the prolonged shut down. "We have put a lot of thought into the safety and well-being of our performers and will be ensuring that everyone follows COVID guidelines that include masking by cast and crew, frequent sanitation and testing" says Saba. "We are revising our ticketing process, as well, to seat families in socially distanced pods, with face coverings required of all audience members. Junior Theatre is a family and family takes care of one another."

The season opens with A Year with Frog and Toad on Oct. 29-Nov. 4. The second Saturday performance of each production will be ASL- interpreted.

All Junior Theatre productions are performed in Balboa Park's historic Casa del Prado Theatre, at the corner of Old Globe Way and Village Place. Tickets are \$16 - \$18. Discounts are available for children, seniors and military. For tickets and more information, visit juniortheatre.com, or call the box office at 619-239-8355.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT COALITION RETURNS \$28,034,865 TO SAN DIEGO TAXPAYERS

•••••

211 San Diego, United Way of San Diego County, and the San Diego County Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition announced they returned a total of \$28,034,865 back to San Diego County individuals and families through federal and state tax refunds.

This tax season, the EITC Coalition completed 29,876 tax returns, which allowed 3,896 filers to claim a total of \$6,945,963 from the federal EITC, 5,062 filers to claim a total of \$998,857 from the CalEITC, and 3,236 filers to claim a total of \$6,416,316 from the Young Child Tax Credit.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps low- to moderate-income workers and families reduce the taxes they owe or increase their refund so they can put more money toward rent, school tuition, utilities, groceries, and other important expenses. Combined with the state CalEITC and the Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC), taxpayers can receive hundreds or even thousands of extra dollars back on their taxes.

This year, Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature expanded the CalEITC and YCTC to all California tax filers, including undocumented Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) filers who meet the other eligibility criteria. The state also announced the new Golden State Stimulus, one-time cash payments available to 2019 CalEITC recipients and ITIN filers this year who meet other eligibility criteria. Taxpayers can claim the EITC up to three years back if they are eligible, but did not originally claim the credit; the Golden State Stimulus is available to qualifying taxpayers who file before October 15, 2021.

The EITC Coalition is a body of organizations and providers that are dedicated to providing a clear pathway to tax assistance for families in our community. The Coalition is anchored by a partnership among 211 San Diego, United Way of San Diego County, the IRS, and the County of San Diego.

Individuals and families can call 2-1-1 to see if they qualify for the federal EITC, the CalEITC, the YCTC, and the Golden State Stimulus. If you are eligible for free tax preparation, 211's Community Connectors can schedule an appointment for you. For more information about available tax credits, visit 211sandiego. org/taxes or call 2-1-1.



9



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Gregg Neuman celebrates \$3 billion in deals, 40 years in real estate

By Kendra Sitton

Longtime real estate agent Gregg Neuman recently celebrated two milestones in his storied career: being an agent for 40 years and passing \$3 billion total in home sales. He has been in the business so long that he has helped three generations in the same family buy or sell homes. Editor Kendra Sitton spoke with Neuman about how he got started and where he is going.

How did you initially get into real estate?

Well in 1981 I was tending bar and I don't have a great deal of education, [only a] high school education, but I knew that the most amount of money to be made is in sales. And I didn't want to sell a whole lot of shoes, and it was hard to sell airplanes. I decided I would try real estate.

And so in 1981, which was an interesting time to start because like two weeks after I got my license the FHA standard interest rates went to 18% after the VA went to 16.58% — the highest it's ever been — and I didn't know you couldn't sell in that market and all the other agents were tearing their hair out. I was fortunate that I went forward and did it and had a great time. And then I bought a real estate office a month later, I should've known, should have been warned the woman sold me the office with no money down. But she let me use

her broker's license, and so I had to learn how to sell quickly.

I was selling more than all those [more experienced] agents combined — there were 17 agents in the office. I was outselling all of them. In my first eight months, I closed 10 transactions and it didn't even add up to a million dollars, which was pretty amazing because you could buy a house in San Diego for \$70,500.

And so from that point on I was tending bar at night, and working real estate during the day because I was getting accustomed to having food with my meals. And what happened was eventually I just got too busy to go on tending bar and then it was only tending bar two nights. People would come into the bar, I'd put a napkin down say 'hi, want to buy a house?' and they say 'no, it's a cocktail.'

I did my first business with people who are underserved, still are underserved — bartenders, waitresses, hairdressers— because people rely a lot of their income on tips or it's a little harder to get them qualified and documented.

And so then eventually I sold that office. I actually merged with Red Carpet Realty. People thought I sold rugs. But then eventually I merged my office with a Century 21 office. And that also didn't have a lot of people in it.

Eventually I figured out the smartest thing to do was just to be an agent on my own. And then in 2000 I decided it was time to locate and move Downtown because there were no offices downtown, especially in the Gaslamp district. I opened my office in the Gaslamp District. Two weeks later 9/11 happened. Business was a little slow, but then I've been here ever since.

And then the Gaslamp district got concerned about there being too many real estate offices in the Gaslamp district because immediately eight or nine more followed me into the Gaslamp area and they would lose their charm of restaurants, retail and things like that so they passed the rule that real estate offices could be grandfathered in, but nobody could open anything else now that wasn't a restaurant or commercial on the ground floor. When the market turned badly in 2008, all the rest of the offices shut down and I'm it — the only office permitted in the Gaslamp district on the ground, which ironically is the most visited spot in all of San Diego. That's kind of how I ended up here after starting 40 years ago. Time management is why I'm really down here because it's much easier to work because there's over 15,000 people but they're straight up in the air and like a mile and a half versus how many homes,



Gregg Neuman (Photos courtesy Neuman and Neuman)

you'd have to go visit to get 15,000 homes in Rancho Bernardo, in outlying areas.

One thing that stood out to me is you initially served this underserved populations in real estate and now you have a lot of these really large deals. What would a typical client be today?

One of the things when you start in real estate, your only real clients, unless you're fortunate, are buyers because you're too new in the market. Nobody really wants to trust you with their listing. So you work buyers. The challenge with working buyers of course is that buyers, you can only sell to them while they're sitting next to you. Especially when I started out, because we didn't have all these things that they have today.

But my clients now are mainly sellers, because I specialize in working the seller population. I do

SEE **NEUMAN**, Page 11



Neuman delivering a first pitch



Neuman with a house he sold





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Neuman

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

a lot of advertising for sellers because the listings work 24 hours a day. While I'm in bed, my listings are around the world.

I still get just as big a kick out of first-time homebuyers, although I don't do it a lot anymore, but it's still fun to see that people ... the excitement in somebody's eyes when they get their first home. And it's always a great pleasure to see the enhancement for a seller to be able to move into the next phase of their life, whether they're buying something else, whether they're relocating, whether they're downsizing, whatever they're doing, that's still very rewarding. I mean I can do anything now. I don't need to work, but real estate still offers that immense satisfaction that comes from helping people thrive after 40 years.

Since COVID hit, we've seen a very, very tight market, what's your insider's perspective on, the changes in real estate in the past year-and-a-half?

Well, it actually was good for the business in some ways because it taught a lot of us that we can work remotely and some of the inefficiencies are being ironed out of the marketplace because of the fact that you can have better viewing properties online and eliminate a lot without hauling somebody around. It has created a change in the marketplace where a lot

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more people working from home so they need more space. They were stuck together for a year and a half so there's a lot of babies coming along. They were stuck together for a year and a half so there's some divorces coming in. And then there's people that realize that being stuck a year and a half, the house wasn't big enough.

It was actually good for the market — the scarcity of the inventory and the low interest rates is what's driving this market right now. But I don't think we're going to see that change. I don't think we're going to have a huge downturn crash like we had in 2008. I mean, the prices are high, but we live in the finest city in the United States, best weather. People [could] get a great house in Arizona for a lot less. And I tell them 'but every morning when you wake up, you're in Arizona.'

I think the other thing that the COVID did for us is... it was kind of a culling. It took a lot of the agents that were not doing any business out of the marketplace. That's always good for the market because the people who remain are generally more professional and able to provide better representation for the buyers and sellers than the people who are just drifting through because they have a license and they're part time or their spouse works or something like that.

What are you most proud of in your career?

The thing that has helped me the most in 40 years was being

adaptive. When I started when interest rates were 18%, I was able to adapt to the market. That became a loan that was called a Fannie Mae blend where they blended interest rates. That gave me an interest rate of between 5 and 12%. So I think adapting to the market has always been my strongest suit.

I remember in '94 to '95, the builders, couldn't sell their houses because the people couldn't sell their houses so I created a builder trading program where you could bring your house to the builder and he would buy your house if you bought his. And instead of giving it a discount on his house, he would give me a discount that I could apply to the less expensive houses. And we did 550 of those from 1994 to '96 when the market was dead for everybody else. That's the F word in real estate, flexibility.

I think probably the most amazing thing is when you sell \$3 billion worth of property. At this point, it's a big deal to me because I've done it over 40 years and it took 6,700 houses to get there. Now, my average price house sells at a million dollars so I'm going to get passed up very quickly, but it's gonna take somebody a long time to sell 6,700.

I've averaged $165\ houses$ a year

The Nueman and Neuman team

for 40 years. The average real estate agent in the state of California does two deals a year. So, if you do 10 deals a year the brokers will fall over themselves to get you.

There are a few enormous producers but there aren't a lot of them. When I started, the houses were \$70k. You can sell 10 houses and that's about a million dollars worth of business. It's pretty astounding.

How many more years do you think you have in this business and what keeps you there?

Well, I'm very healthy. I am 75 years old. We have a house in Venice, Italy. It's still doing the deals. I still like coming to work. I don't like golf. I think it's a good walk ruined. I'm not a fisherman. If I travel for a couple of weeks, I'm ready to come home with my own bed.

I just enjoy the business. It's what keeps me young — working with people and dealing with people. It keeps me invigorate. I know too many people who have retired. Shortly thereafter they seem to fade away. I don't have another passion other than selling real estate and doing real estate. That

is my passion.

I'm very fortunate I have a wife who understands that. She goes to Venice for two months and then comes home for two



Gregg Neuman (Photos courtesy Neuman and Neuman)

months. During the two months she's gone, I work like a maniac. She comes back, I spend some time together with her.

We are helping people still and we are making money. It can't be any better this year: we've already closed over 150 transactions. And again, when you're asking about how COVID affected the market, my average sale price last year was \$700,000. Now my average sale price is a million dollars.

I think anybody who knows me knows that real estate is my life. It's what I truly, truly enjoy. I don't want to boast, but I'm in an enormously successful career. There are people who probably have sold more money than I have but I don't think anybody's sold more houses

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com.



Return your ballot by mail or to one of the Registrar's 131 mail ballot drop-off locations around the county. Visit **sdvote.com** to find a location near you.

Voting in-person?

In-person voting locations will be open across the county for four days, Saturday, Sept. 11 – Tuesday, Sept. 14.

Take advantage of early voting:

- At the Registrar's office, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- At a voting location near you or the Registrar's office Saturday, Sept. 11 through Monday, Sept. 13, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All again will be open on Election Day, Sept. 14, when hours change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit **sdvote.com** to find a voting location near you.

Why are we having an election?

California is one of 19 states that allows any elected official to be "recalled".

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- 1) Do you want to recall the governor?
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Elephant

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

San Diego Police officers were called to the zoo by the zoo itself and Navarrete was arrested without incident. Police said the man "wanted to take a photo with the African bull elephant."

The zoo said the elephant habitat "is home to our Asian and African elephants." They said the man went through "multiple barriers, purposely and illegally trespassed into a habitat" around 4:20 p.m.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter.

Newsom Recall

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

have a much lower turnout than general elections and you have a recipe for minority rule in California.

Some recall-sympathizers may see this election as a chance to "balance the government" and place a Republican in the Governor's Office, but such arguments distort the word "balance" to such a degree as to be meaningless. Californians have already spoken. We made the overwhelming decision to elect a Democrat as governor in an incredibly high-turnout election. Recalling a popular governor in a low-turnout election and replacing him with a fringe candidate who fails to impress even a majority of voters in that election isn't balancing anything; it's

frankly destabilizing.

Republicans in California (and nationally) have learned that they cannot win elections by actually appealing to a majority of voters. Instead, they abuse the rules of our democracy to subvert the will of the people and institute minority rule. We've seen this same tactic play out across the country and California is next. Republicans know that their only real shot at power is through these kinds of shenanigans. Instead of adapting to reality and adopting a message with broad voter appeal, Republicans resort to subvert-

ing the democratic process itself.

California needs a strong, visionary, forward-looking governor who focuses on the problems of inequality, climate change and homelessness. For his faults, Gavin Newsom has pushed forward policies and legislation to tackle these issues. By-and-large his prospective replacements are either Trumpists, QAnon supporters, or other opportunists looking to take advantage of a glitch in the system.

We should never have gotten to this point, but unfortunately we have — thrust here by a persistent and virulent hatred of a popularly-elected governor. The way out of this predicament is simple: vote. Vote no on the recall of Gavin Newsom and we can avert the subversion of our democracy. If you haven't already, open the ballot you got in the mail, vote no, and mail it back. Then tell others to do the same.

It's never been so easy to avert a catastrophe. Vote.

—Brian Schrader is a local business owner, software developer, writer and San Diego resident living in Normal Heights.

sdnews.com

Child Safety

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

- Monitor your child's cell phone and social media accounts.
- If you allow your child to have a cell phone or participate in social media websites, ensure you have the password to their phone as well as their password to every social media app.
- Have privacy settings but remember even friends can share your child's private posts by taking a screenshot.
- Remember, it's common for kids to have more than one account on a social media site.
- Don't ignore online bullying. Mean comments on social media hurt and harm a child as much as if it were done in person.

Make sure your children are comfortable speaking to you about cyber bullying or other incidents that make them uncomfortable. If any incidents happen that you believe may be criminal in nature, report it to local law enforcement as quickly as possible.

As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

—District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated more than 29 years to serving justice and victims of crime as prosecutor. Visit sdcda.org/office/contact/ to contact her.



OPINION / NEWS / CLASSIFIEDS / PUZZLES

The two adjacent parcels will make up this project (Photos courtesy Bridgedeck

ECB development

pre-development investment into the project being put forward by Bridgedeck Partners LLC. Since it can be difficult for affordable housing projects to find investors, this initial investment should help the development find investors to complete the \$80 million project.

The funding allowed Bridgedeck Partners, made up of local affordable housing developers Naturally Affordable Housing and The Hampstead Companies, to acquire the final parcel on the

site of community advocacy for decades that already resulted in the deck and transit plaza. When CalTrans extended the 15 freeway 2.2 miles into City Heights, 4,000 people living in the freeway's path were displaced. The community fought for changes to the initial plan, which would reduce pollu-

edge of Normal Heights needed for

the project. The first parcel was

purchased a little over a year ago

after winning a bid with the City

of San Diego, according to David

Iwashita of Bridgedeck Partners.

empty lots beside the bridge above

SR-15. The location has been the

The development will fill two

tion and improve public transit options, according to UCSD urban studies professor Jim Bliesner. A major concern of citizen activists was that the freeway broke down community cohesion and split a neighborhood in two.

Iwashita has dedicated his career to improving this area because of his family's own experience with displacement.

SEE ECB DEVELOPMENT, Page 14

RICHARD WOODS 619-347-9866

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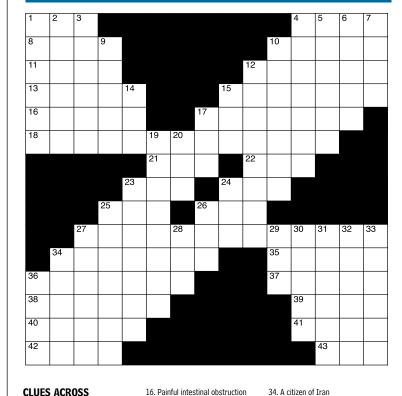
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SUDOKU PUZZLE

Fill in the blank cells using number 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

6 1 6 9 4 8 2 4 8 3 5 8 9 5 4 6 9

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLASSIFIEDS

From left to right: Art Madrid (Chair

of CalTrans), Christine Kehoe (City

Councilmember), Jackie O'Connor

(President, El Cajon Boulevard Business

Improvement Association), Gary Webber

(land use consultant and grant writer of

the award). This \$4 million award was to fund the build out of the actual bridge decks.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. It governs Federer and Nadal's
- sport 4. Golden apple tree
- 8. Central Mexican river
- 11. Egg-shaped
- 12. With tooth 13. French modernist painte
- 15. Disprove
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. A type of bomb 2 Pacific island country
- 4. A place to gather around
- 5. Expressed opposite views 6. Group that lives near Siberia
- 7. Ore deposit
- 9. Language related to Eskimo 10 Narrative piece of music
- 14. Glycoprotein hormone (abbr.)
- 15 Mathematical term (abbr.)
- 19. Jabbing

17. Baby shoes

18. Make the grade

21. Type of screen

23. Computer giant

22. Christian fraternal organization

25. Corporate executive title (abbr.)

26. Shout of welcome or farewell

24. When you hope to get there

- 20. Historic Swedish castle
- 23. Humorous expressions
- 24. Christmas and New Year's Day
- each have one
- 25 Filled up
- 12 Distance covered by normal stride 26 Nerve that serves the forearm

35. It can be sounded

38. Baking ingredient

40. Succulent plants

42. Jr. U.S. Senator Paul

41. Penny

27. Imaginary awards for good deeds 43. "Laurie Partridge" actress Susan

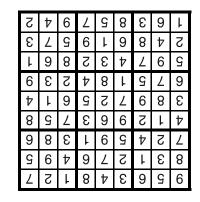
39. Share a common boundary with

36. Making dirty

37. Romanian city

- 27. One of British descent
- 28. A way to get at
 - 30. Group of arteries near the pelvis
 - 31. Picked up 32. Being three in one
 - 33. Obscene
 - 34. Dravidian language
- 36. Growl

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His family was interned during World War II in Arizona. When the Japanese people returned to San Diego, many could only find places in the old redevelopment areas in Southeast San Diego.

"When it goes back to eminent domain and these old redevelopment areas, and why they're so near and dear to my heart, is because of cycles of different pain that occurred in those areas," he explained.

City Heights remains housing stressed to this day. The finished project will be reserved for people earning between 50 and 60% of the area median income. The units come in a variety of sizes from studios to three-bedroom apartments. Many affordable housing projects only include small units so multi-bedroom options will be particularly helpful for low- and very low-income families according to Sarah Lyman, Executive Director of Alliance

Healthcare Foundation. Its location next to public transit foregoing the need for a car is also attractive to families.

"Housing is one of the primary social determinants of health and it's critical that we continue to grow as an active contributor to affordable housing solutions," Lyman said.

The project will receive funding from the city, county and housing commission. Bridgedeck Partners particularly credited current County Chair Nathan Fletcher and Councilmember Stephen Whitburn for their support. Past city councilmembers Georgette Gomez and Chris Ward helped with the development as well.

"San Diego needs to have affordable homes for everyone. This project is a perfect example of what we need—housing that is accessible to transit and financially within reach for low-income and working San Diegans. I look forward to seeing more projects like this come to District 3 and throughout all of San Diego so that we can ensure housing



Grand opening of the Bus Rapid Center Line in early 2018 located on the decks above the I-15 next to Bridgedeck project. (Photos courtesy Bridgedeck Partners)



Architectural rendering made in 2020 of the project.

opportunities for all," Whitburn said in a statement.

A challenge in creating afford-

A challenge in creating affordable housing is the many types of funding that need to be managed – from tax credits to affordable housing deals to grants and loans. Permits and government approval processes add another layer of difficult.

"It's like playing seven-dimensional Sudoku," said Laruen Grattan, co-founder and chief community officer of Mission Driven Finance.

"We were delighted to be able to use finance as a tool for change



Grand opening of the Bus Rapid Center Line in early 2018 located on the decks above the I-15 next to Bridgedeck project.

and help structure this \$2 million engagement combined across our firm, the San Diego foundation and Alliance Healthcare Foundation in order to get that crucial early capital that allows senior lenders, construction financing, permit financing time to come forth," she continued. "Because we want to see great projects like this – hundreds of units of affordable housing right on a transit corridor."

While the path to creating affordable housing projects is still extremely complicated and difficult, recent state laws and changes in local that allow dense infill housing near public transit were

essential for having this project move forward.

"I don't know if the work is going to be easier in terms of getting projects approved but at least there's a pathway now. And there's projects that you can build by right now that you could never ever build two or three years ago," Iwashita said.

With those approvals and permits as well as full funding, 190 more low- and very low-income individuals and families will be able to have affordable housing within the next few years.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com.





A rendering of the apartment building that can accommodate 190 individuals and families.

Quick tips to improve your home internet experience



As more households are working and learning from home these days, here are some easy tips to help improve your internet experience.

Use audio instead of video for virtual meetings. Video calls can be a strain on your service. Consider video for must-

see moments. Or turn the camera on only when you're speaking.

Doorbell cameras and pet cams. When you're home, lower the resolution on doorbell cams and pet cams. You can still effectively monitor the areas. And turn off pet cams if you're at home.

Get a 360 View. Cox Panoramic Wifi gives you wall to wall coverage, including those dead zones in your home. If you have Cox Panoramic Wifi, use the Cox Panoramic Wifi app to:

- Manage devices on your home internet;
- Pause the wifi on other devices (like the kids' iPad) when you're on important video calls.

Computer Virus Protection. Computer viruses and malware can slow down your internet. Use the free Cox Security Suite Plus powered by McAfee to protect your home computer. Cox Panoramic Wificustomers can turn on Advanced Security in the Cox Panoramic Wifi app.

Secure your wifi. Password protect your home wifi to keep out unauthorized users.

Location, location, location. Your internet experience may be slowed down if your wifi router or modem is in a bad location. Remember to:

- Elevate your modem or router on a shelf or tall piece of furniture (wifi signals travel outward and downward);
- Avoid placing your router near a microwave, mirror or fish tank, which can affect the signal.

For more tips, visit www.cox.com.



E Street plans

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Associates, a civil engineering and transportation planning firm, and JT Barr, principal, and Lindsay DeCeault, project manager of Schmidt Design Group, a landscape architecture and planning firm. Both firms are based in San Diego.

The project was managed by the City of San Diego's Urban Division and funded with a SANDAG Smart Growth Incentive Program grant written for the city by Civic San Diego. The proposed concepts for the greenway are a culmination of ideas presented to the community at public workshops.

The masterplan can be utilized by the city to facilitate the construction of the corridor on a block-by-block basis as development and funding opportunities arise

Said Brian Schoenfisch, the new Urban Division Deputy Director, "Greenways are an essential component of the Downtown Community Plan, helping the City achieve its climate goals by encouraging more people to get out of their cars and explore the City on foot and bicycle. Implementation of a network of downtown greenways will transform underutilized areas of the public right-of-way into places to build community, encourage healthier lifestyles, support our local economy, and fill our downtown with life."

The E Street Greenway is located between Horton Plaza and Interstate 5, starting on 4th Ave. and ending on 16th St. It is divided into two segments: The East Village District and the Gaslamp District. Each district's unique flavor will be honored through streetscape and urban design.



E Street will be pedestrian friendly. (Renderings courtesy Schmidt Design Group)

One of six designated Green Streets in the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan, the greenway intersects with the 8th Ave. Greenway, the 14th St. Greenway and two-way cycle tracks along 6th Ave. and Park Blvd. Together, these will establish balanced modes of transportation for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

The western two blocks of E St. between 4th Ave. and 6th Ave. celebrate the history of the Gaslamp Quarter while providing an expanded hardscape to accommodate nightlife crowds.

The remaining nine blocks along E St., between 6th Ave. and 16th St., alternate between social spaces and park spaces as the Greenway traverses East Village.

Each block will include outdoor gathering and dining responding to the evolving nature of urban redevelopment and the proposed adjacent commercial uses.

While all 11 blocks will be unified by the plant palette, furnishings and interpretive signage, each block will have unique elements that reflect the history

and character of the block and the neighborhood.

Plants play an essential role in the overall experience of the greenway. A proposed double row of street trees will provide shade, help improve air quality, reduce the heat-island effect, and increase the aesthetic experience. The shrub and groundcover palette includes drought-tolerant species having a range of scales, textures, and flowers. In addition, planted stormwater filtration basins will be incorporated to help filter stormwater run-off.

Furnishings will be consistent throughout the Greenway, including benches, moveable seating, urban rockers, bike racks, bike repair stations, play components, trash receptacles, raised planters and signage.

Artwork will be incorporated throughout, including permanent and temporary public art installations as funding becomes available.

Pedestrian experience and safety are high on the plan's priority list. Interpretative signage will be provided throughout the Greenway and may include way-finding—a means of informing pedestrians the location of their points of interest in the vicinity, such as parks and recreation facilities.

The pedestrian experience will also be enhanced by removing on-street parking on the north side of the street, traffic-calming measures, programmed amenities and enhanced plantings.

The design of street crossings will provide the maximum amount of security for the pedestrian. Natural landscape areas will serve as a buffer between the street and sidewalk and bulb-outs at the intersections, increasing pedestrian safety.

The three eastbound travel lanes along the Greenway segment of E St. will be modified to a single lane in each direction to be consistent with the alignment east of 13th St.

This Greenway increases the space for seating, play, discovery, dog runs and landscape while emphasizing adult and children's play. Secondary garden trails and interactive sculptural elements will also be found along the corridor.

Explained landscape architect JT Barr, the concept of play is integral to the overall Greenway experience, offering robust play opportunities that reflect the diversity of the city's residents and visitors. They create a continuum of play, ranging in type, activity level, scale, function and aesthetic. This rhythmic composition encourages users to navigate the entirety of the Greenway and discover all that it has to offer.

To see a completed block, click here bit.ly/3zzuGxT.

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, advising clients including the San Diego Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and others with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellewillett@gmail.com.

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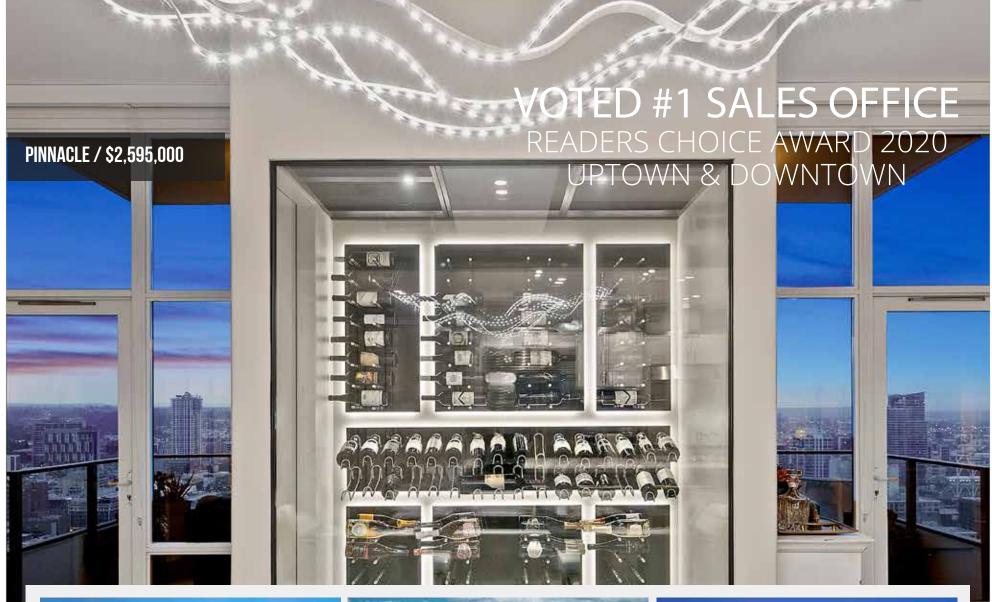
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