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The zoo's landscape architect

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Celebrate Mother's Day

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Delifruits moves to North Park

City launches interactive art program at parks

By KENDRA SITTON



The boxes made of shipping pallets are currently on display at Southwestern College until they are used as a moving wall at Park Social's opening event. (Photo courtesy Tim Murdoch)

A two-year-long effort from local artists to create temporary art at local parks officially launches in May. Kick-off weekend for the brand-new program funded by an anonymous family bequest endowment and the city's Public Art Fund is on May 21. Events and pop-up art installations will continue through Nov.20.

The 18 artists who applied and were accepted for the project are divided evenly between each of the nine city council districts. Inside those districts, the artists had a \$15,000 budget to create temporary art installations that encourage the public to interact with each other and the meaningful art. The project encourages people to go to public parks and also makes art more accessible to them as it comes to many different neighborhoods rather than being limited to galleries and museums.

SEE PARK SOCIAL, Page 2

Volunteers reunite siblings in foster care

By KENDRA SITTON

Hundreds of San Diegans help assist children in foster care each year in a variety of ways – from being a Court Appointed Special Advocate to mentoring foster youth as they transition to adulthood. With over 3,000 current and former foster youth in San Diego County, these volunteers provide services and fill in the gaps that overworked social workers cannot. May is Foster Care Awareness Month but these volunteers work year round to meet the needs of foster youth.



In addition to working directly with foster youth, Judi Sinopoli has also volunteered at Promises2Kids' fundraisers. (Photo courtesy Judi Sinopoli)

One nonprofit that seeks to care for the emotional, financial and academic needs of foster youth is Promises2Kids. The local nonprofit utilizes hundreds of volunteers each year for their core programs, which include helping foster youth attend college and reuniting foster siblings.

"Volunteers are critical to our organization," Stephanie Ortega, COO of Promises2Kids said.

SEE FOSTER CARE, Page 3

Where Greece meets the East Village

By FRANK SABATINI JR.

If you assume the fast-casual eatery Nick the Greek is owned by a guy named Nick, you are one-third correct.

As we learned when plunging into some of the kitchen's succulent, spiced meats and oregano-kissed french fries, there are three Nicks running the business. And each carries the same last name of Tsigaris.

The men are a trio of cousins whose fathers are brothers. They range in age from early 30s to



Assorted pita wraps at Nick the Greek (Courtesy photo)

SEE NICK THE GREEK, Page 8

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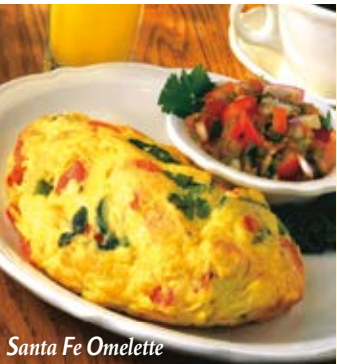
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Park social

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

At Kensington Park, Trevor Amery has installed his art piece and is excited that kids are already using it as an extension of the playground. Located between the small Kensington library and large playground, he built a 10-foot diameter platform that

is two feet off the ground with a curving surface that looks like the undulating ocean. He then carved kelp and other plants into the surface to advance his message of preserving the kelp forest amid climate change.

"It's just kind of a 24/7 jungle gym of kids climbing all over it, which is awesome. I love that," he said. Amery explained that lawsuits have made playgrounds



Tim Murdoch's moving wall of shipping pallets will appear at the opening and closing ceremonies of Park Social. (Photo courtesy Tim Murdoch)



"Collective Memory" is a textile art installation that invites visitors to sit on the blankets outside or inside the dome to process collective memories brought on by the pandemic. It was created by Sheena Rae Dowling and Yvette Roman. (Photo courtesy City of San Diego)

sterile so he is excited the children are relating to each other outside of metal and plastic materials.

Before installing the platform, he had to present his idea to a panel of city council members and community members. Their focus was on the "nuts and bolts" of the installation to ensure it was safe for kids. Based on that conversation, Amery chose a lighter hard wood so it would not get too hot under the sun and sanded and sealed the wood carefully to prevent splinters.

The platform functions as a stage—letting people create their own art. He is also hosting rubbing workshops on the first and third Saturdays for three months to teach the public how to etch the kelp carvings to build drawings. He is documenting the drawings people create and hopes to hold an

exhibition of the community-created art in the library at the end of the project. He is passionate about preserving kelp forests which is part of the message of the work.

"[Kelp forests] are a keystone species, providing the basis for their underwater ecosystem. For me this is a lot like the parks and the role they played during the pandemic. They create safe spaces for people to come together, to get that social nourishment that was so greatly lacking during isolation," Amery said.

The other artist working inside City Council District 3 is Tim Murdoch. His inclusion in the project was serendipitous as he had started working on an art piece for the Port of San Diego that officials decided against. He had already begun building boxes from shipping pallets when the

city's call went out for local artists.

"It was perfect because I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I sort of changed certain aspects of the project to suit the parks but essentially, I had already made the project," Murdoch said.

At the beginning of the pandemic, he became obsessed with building the boxes to eventually create a moving sculpture. He started by using every pallet available but eventually became very choosy, only using pallets that were colorful or had interesting patterns of wear and tear.

He will present the moving sculpture at the opening ceremony for Park Social at Fault line Park. With help from other artists in the initiative who can salsa dance, dancers will move the

SEE **PARK SOCIAL**, Page 15

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Sinopoli with other supporters of Promises2Kids in 2018 (Photo courtesy Judi Sinopoli)

Foster care

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Judi Sinopoli has volunteered over 500 hours for Promises2Kids since she was first introduced to the organization in 2016 through her sister. She was heartbroken after watching a video about the struggles foster youth face and wondered if she could make a difference. The finance and accounting specialist immediately started volunteering and has continued to do so ever since. It was the first time in her life she volunteered but she has since ascended to being on Promises2Kids' volunteer leadership team which plans events details and onboards new volunteers.

The Little Italy resident's favorite aspect of her volunteerism is getting to reunite siblings that were placed in separate households in foster care. She said a "staggering" 40% of brothers and sisters in the foster care system are separated.

"The love of a sibling is so important to your development and your mental health," Sinopoli said. "I think that the most near and dear to my heart is the Camp Connect because we get to see the siblings reunited."

Before COVID-19, the organization hosted monthly group events where around 50 kids would attend and get to see their siblings for the day. Many of the events were exciting adventures for the kids: they went to laser tag, the Midway, Big Bear and even Disneyland.

The pandemic limited those group events so instead the volunteers pivoted to helping the siblings reunite virtually. Ortega explained that the organization had to get creative. More recently, they have hosted individual sibling sets at the park so they can see each other in person in an outdoor space.

"It may not have been a monthly thing because of the volume of kids in foster care that are separated but they still were able to do something," Sinopoli said.

This year will see the return of the nonprofit's most ambitious program after two years of cancellations: Camp Connect. Siblings spend four days camping in Julian in August each year to spend quality time together. It takes 100 volunteers for the trip.

Ortega said reuniting siblings is an important part of the organization's work because separating

siblings is an additional trauma that foster youth face.

"The children in the foster care system are there at no fault of their own. They were exposed to horrific abuse, neglect, all different types of abuse and they were removed for their safety. And a lot of times, the brothers and sisters, they're the only ones that truly understand what each other had gone through," Ortega said.

The organization has facilitated over 2,000 interactions between separated siblings.

"You need those relationships forever, not just during your childhood. And our job for camp was really to make sure that those brothers and sisters can maintain a relationship and so that they can continue that beyond the foster care system and have that ability to have family safety, security, and just know that they

SEE FOSTER CARE, Page 12



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The North Park Music Fest returns

By VINCE MEEHAN

The North Park Music Fest will be held at the new North Park Mini Park at 30th Street and North Park Way on May 21 and 22. The event will feature live music on three stages including pop rock, world music, blues, spoken word performances and DJs. This event is being heavily promoted as a full-blown music festival in the same genre as Coachella or KAABOO. Music lovers can purchase a one-day pass for either day, or a two-day for the entire weekend.

The event will feature an eclectic line-up of local and regional bands brought to you by former Bar Pink



Stiltwalkers

owner, Dang Nguyen. Nguyen has years of experience booking shows for one of San Diego's most popular live entertainment bars. Bands slated to play the North Park Music Fest include Little Hurricane, Creepy Creeps, Whitney Shay, Finnegan Blue and Wavves. And for the DIY music lovers in the crowd, a karaoke stage will be set up along with interactive experiences to create a unique and eclectic vibe.

Angela Landsberg, the executive director of North Park Main Street, is excited about the idea of a new music festival in San Diego. "The diverse and creative community of North Park has proven that it can pivot and succeed," Landsberg said. "North Park Music Fest is an expression of what we have learned through 24 years of festival planning, and we couldn't be more excited to present this event to locals and visitors. There is nothing like this in the County, and we are excited to offer it in our community!"

Landsberg is especially excited that the San Diego band Wavves will be performing at the festival. Wavves is currently touring the nation in support of their new album "Hideaway" available on Fat Possum Records. Wavves is a four-piece band founded in 2008 that features a spacey/punky sound with a Southern California twang to it. With their countless tour dates throughout the year, North Park Music Fest guests will be fortunate to catch Wavves perform at the event between two of their concert legs.

Also on the bill are The Creepy Creeps, they are legendary in San Diego and the unofficial house band at The Casbah with their unique surf punk sound. They are also famous for the outrageous outfits worn at their live shows. They always bring it to the concert stage and their performance at the North Park Music Festival promises to be a must-see at the event.



Fans enjoying the music festival. (Photos courtesy of North Park Main Street)

LINEUP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MAY 21

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
1:30-2:10 ALL MONSTER REVUE	12:55-1:25 COME CLOSER	12:30-1:00 LANDIS
2:30-3:10 PLEASURE DEVICE	1:45-2:25 FISTFIGHTS WITH WOLVES	1:20-1:50 .357 MAGNUM
3:30-4:10 ROSA ROSSA	2:45-3:25 COCHINAS LOCAS	2:10-2:40 SUNDAY SHOES
4:30-5:10 TROUBLE IN THE WORLD	3:45-4:25 TALLER CHILDREN	3:00-3:40 GEEZER
5:30-6:10 TULENGUA	4:45-5:25 MONTALBAN QUINTET	5:00-5:40 BARBARA WIRE
6:30-7:10 PETTY SAINTS	5:45-6:25 THE COLOR FORTY NINE	6:00-6:40 OCELOT & THE 8-BALLS
7:30-8:10 LORD HOWLER	6:45-7:25 JULIA SAGE	7:00-7:40 GOLDETTES
8:30-9:30 LITTLE HURRICANE	7:45-8:25 CREEPY CREEPS	8:00-8:40 WHITNEY SHAY

SUNDAY MAY 22

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
10:00-12:00 ADRIAN DERMAIN	12:00-12:30 PURPLE KIEF	1:00-5:00 DJ ROOT, RIC SCALES & DUNEKAT PRESENT SLAPPIN' HANDS
10:00-12:00 SISTERS OF ST. JAMES PRODUCTIONS	12:50-1:20 SEABASE	
12:20-12:50 KID TRIBUTES	1:40-2:10 MOKOTO	
1:10-1:40 GRAMPADREW	2:30-3:10 YOUNG LIONS JAZZ CONSERVATORY BLUE TRAIN ENSEMBLE	
2:00-2:40 SUTTON JAMES & THE FINEST CITY BAND	3:30-4:10 EUPHORIA BRASS BAND	
3:00-3:40 SHAWN ROHLF	4:30-5:10 WAVVES	
4:00-4:40 FINNEGAN BLUE		
5:00-5:00 SILENT COMEDY		

Another San Diego fave to perform is Whitney Shay who's bluesy soul-style vocals, has earned her four San Diego Music Awards including 2019 Artist of the Year. Her rich and sultry voice has earned her a legion of fans and she has

a very prolific live performance schedule.

The North Park Music Fest will also feature beer from some of North Park's best craft breweries,

SEE NP MUSIC FEST, Page 11

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 Wifi customers 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.



North Park man accused of fatal stabbing released on bail

By NEAL PUTNAM

A North Park man accused of fatally stabbing a 23-year-old man in a red Ford Focus was released Monday, April 25 after posting \$250,000 bond.

Alberto Jorge Barraza, 32, has pleaded not guilty to killing Nikko Guardado, 23, on March 26.

Deputy District Attorney Karra Reed, who argued that Barraza should not be released, said Monday she heard he had posted bond.

Barraza's attorney, Andrea Mangarin, asked San Diego Superior Court Judge David Berry to set reasonable bail for her

SEE FORD FOCUS DEATH, Page 15

Man in elephant enclosure pleads guilty

By NEAL PUTNAM

A man who trespassed into the elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo has pleaded guilty to felony child endangerment when he carried his 2-year-old daughter with him inside so he could take a photo.

Jose Manuel Navarrete, 26, faces a maximum sentence of six years in prison, said Deputy

District Attorney Eric Bodnar, on April 26.

The child endangerment count is the more serious of the two charges filed against Navarrete after the bizarre March 19, 2021 incident when Navarrete and his daughter went through two barriers and stood not far from the elephants so Navarrete could

SEE ELEPHANT ENCLOSURE, Page 15

Trial set for alleged ghost gun killer

By NEAL PUTNAM

A July 27 trial date was set April 19 for a man suspected of using a ghost gun to kill a parking valet and wounding four others in an incident in which he claimed he thought people were laughing at him.

Witnesses testified in a two-day preliminary hearing in which

Travis Sarreshteh, 33, was ordered to stand trial on charges of murder, four counts of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and domestic violence with his girlfriend.

"He said 'Are you guys laughing at me?'" said Vincent Gazzani, a tourist from New Jersey in his

SEE GHOST GUN, Page 15

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Creating authentic wildlife habitats

Art on the Land
By DELLE WILLETT

For the past 30 years, landscape architect Jim Neri has worked with a team of wildlife specialists at the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park to make the wildlife habitats as comfortable and authentic as possible.

After 12 years at KTUA Planning and Landscape Architecture, working extensively on Zoo accounts, Neri opened his own firm in 1997. The Zoo followed him as a client, involving him in many capacities.

With his portfolio of over 30 Zoo and Safari Park projects, Neri feels very fortunate to be part of the Zoo team creating projects as complex as a small city.

“It’s very intriguing. The team members are all specialists, dedicated pros working together to find a balance and make the space look and feel like a habitat, not an enclosure,” Neri said.

What Neri loves about zoo landscape design is that the idea you start with must be good, a “bamboo design, strong yet flexible,” that can withstand changes right to the project’s end. “It can be a bit frustrating at times since the plans are more of a guide, but in the end, it works because all the pieces are there, you just have to keep arranging them until they are right.”

With a BA in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and an MA in landscape



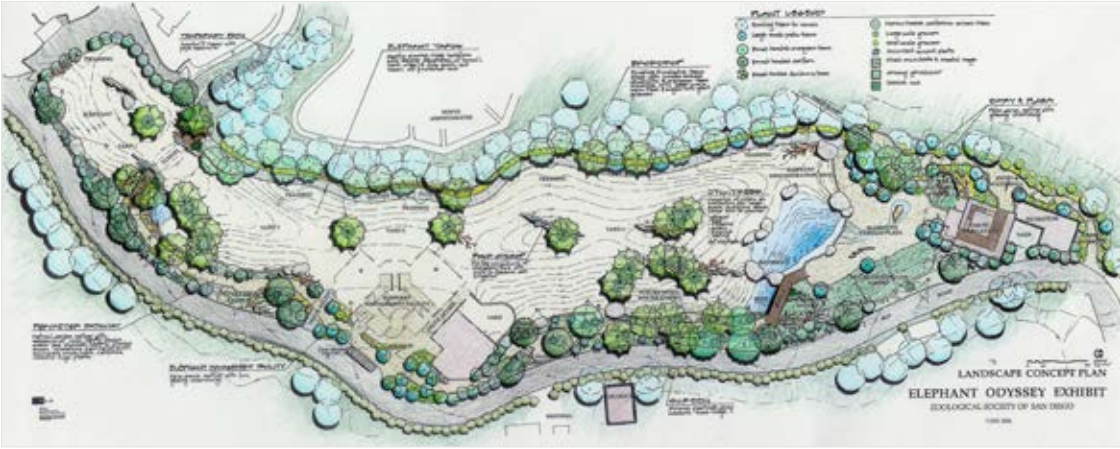
Jim Neri has worked for the zoo for decades.



A winding pathway through Africa Rocks



The gorilla habitat inside the Lost Forest



The plan for Elephant Odyssey



A garden inside Africa Rocks



The penguin habitat inside Africa Rocks

architecture from Cal State Pomona, Neri especially appreciates the zoo’s horticulture department whose boundless plant knowledge helps inform each distinctive habitat.

When they work together on habitat projects, Neri’s role is to provide the structure for the plantings and Horticulture’s



Elephants in the Heart of Africa.

to flesh it out with accessioned species of plants they wish to showcase to fulfill the promise of a zoological garden.

“The joke is the plants are ‘on wheels’ at the zoo and the park because we are constantly moving them to new locations as new habitats are being created,” Neri said.

As a landscape architect, Neri brings many skills to the team that include planning, design, management and nurturing of the built and natural environments in all communities including campuses, streetscapes, trails, plazas, residences, and other projects that strengthen communities.

Neri is proud of the work they’ve done at the “Heart of Africa” at the Safari Park. It is Neri’s favorite project because the barriers are hidden, visitors feel immersed, and the animals have an improved quality of life. Even though they are captive on the 32-acres they are a lot better off than they were before, he explained.

In a redo of the “Elephant Odyssey,” the elephants gained five times more space and much more enrichment. At “Monkey Trails” there are layers of primates and at “Africa Rocks,” eight acres are divided into six habitat zones to spotlight the amazing biodiversity found on the African continent, ranging from savanna to shore.

The zoo’s latest addition is “Wildlife Explorers Basecamp” (formerly the Children’s Zoo), three acres of wildlife adventure that encourage young Wildlife

Explorers to learn about nature, actively play, encounter new species and develop an empathy for wildlife.

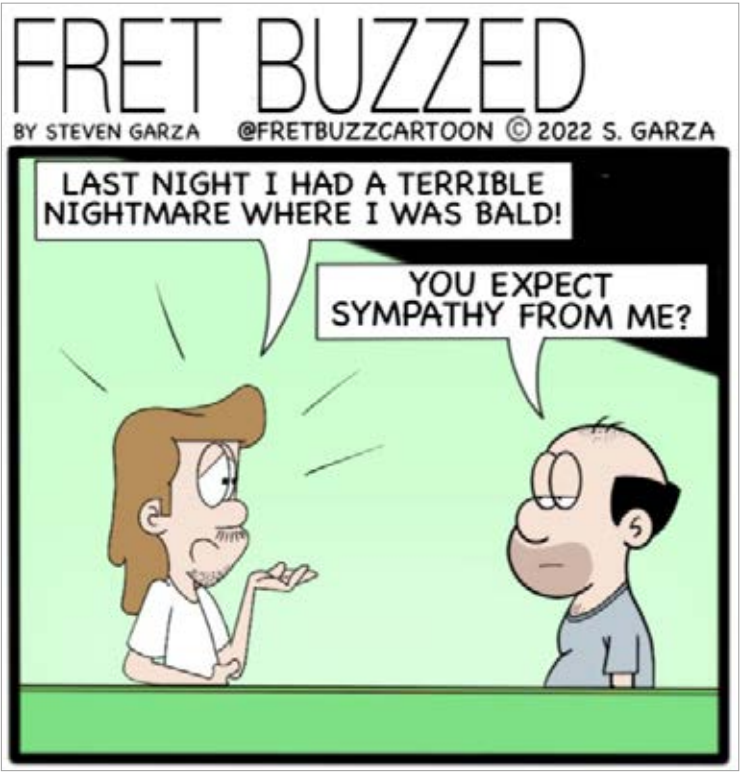
David Rice, former Director of Architecture and Planning for the zoo, was on the leading edge of current zoo design, which has evolved from animals in cages to world-class, award-winning habitat creations that inspire people to empathize with nature.

Neri said, “For better or for worse, zoos have become gene banks and as a result are receiving more funds worldwide to support their conservation efforts because so many animals are losing their habitats and their lives.

“If we are ever going to repopulate these endangered animals in the wild world, if we ever wake up, it gives me peace of mind that in the long term the animals could be reintroduced. In the meantime, we are providing a better environment for their individual lives than they had before.”

Neri Landscape Architecture’s office is in Pacific Beach, just a short distance from La Jolla’s Windansea Beach. Raised in La Jolla from age six, Neri went to La Jolla Elementary and La Jolla High. He grew up on Windansea beach where he says he connected with nature. He still spends a lot of time volunteering with Friends of Windansea, and on the beach with family and friends.

The American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego chapter, thanks the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Safari Park for use of their photos.



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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

EDITOR
Kendra Sittton
kendra@sdnews.com

WEB / SOCIAL MEDIA
Kendra Sittton

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS
Mike Rosensteel
(619) 961-1958
miker@sdnews.com
Lauren Vernon
(571) 259-1530
lauren@sdnews.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Dave Thomas x130
Tom Melville x131
Dave Schwab x 132

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Diana Cavagnaro
Tom Cesarini (Downtown only)
Tyler Faurot (Uptown only)
Steven Garza
Chris Gomez (Downtown only)
Vince Meehan
Ben Nicholls (Uptown only)
Neal Putnam
Frank Sabatini Jr.
Brian Schrader
Jamie Southerland (Uptown only)
Sande Wilhoit
Delle Willett

BUSINESS CONSULTANT
David Mannis
(619) 961-1951
david@sdenn.com

ACCOUNTING
Heather Humble x120
accounting@sdnews.com

PUBLISHER
Julie Main x106
julie@sdnews.com

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The outside of the Blachman Bank Building (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

From banks to burgers

Gaslamp Landmarks
By SANDEE WILHOIT

Inflation, the cost of living, and the cost of housing is skyrocketing these days and it is now more expensive to live in San Diego than in San Francisco due to lower wages locally. The median price for housing in Downtown is currently \$849,000. This represents quite a change from 1867, when Alonzo Horton sold six city blocks to J.B. Beers for \$100. Two years later, Beers sold Lots A, B and C to James M. Pierce for \$2,000. One can never go wrong purchasing real estate in San Diego.

Throughout the ensuing years, several businesses occupied these strategically located lots including a gun shop, a fruit and cigar store, and a jeweler. Pierce passed away in 1887 leaving quite an extensive estate. The estate was finally settled in 1895, and at a public sale, L. E. Pratt purchased lots B and C for \$2,000. Pratt retained his properties until 1904, when he quitclaimed the south half of Lot C to the Blochman Banking Company for \$10. The following

year, Abra-ham Blochman retained Walter Y. Wentz to erect a bank building on lot C for \$3,000.

When completed in December of 1905, the building presented as a reinforced concrete structure with a 25-foot frontage on Fifth Avenue and running nearly 100 feet to the east. It was single story, 16 feet in height, with 12-inch walls separating it from its neighbors on the north and south in the front two-thirds of the buildings. The structure included a large lightwell (skylight) in the front portion of the building and a large vault in the center rear. The vault has now been converted into a partial second story. There were two small rooms in the back, a composition roof and no basement.

The interior was nicely finished in dark wood, with two teller's stations along the south wall and two marble writing stands in the center of the intricately tiled floor for customers' use. The Blochman Banking Company moved into the new location, 635 Fifth Avenue, from their previous location 607 Fifth Avenue, in December of 1905 and remained until 1913. The two principals of the company were Abraham Blochman and his son, Lucian. The elder Blochman was born in Alsace, France and arrived in San Diego in 1852 en route to San Francisco. He had hoped to seek his fortune in gold during the Gold Rush, but became distracted and remained in San Diego. He became a naturalized

BLOCHMAN BANK BUILDING
(1905)
635 Fifth Avenue
Architect: Unknown
Builder: W.Y. Wentz
Architectural style: late Victorian/
Commercial

SEE **BLOCHMAN BANK**, Page 12



Blachman Bank Interior skylight

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Nick the Greek

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

early 40s. Growing up in a Greek family, they fell in love with the street foods of Greece while visiting there on family vacations. But the story of how this rapidly growing chain got off the ground doesn't begin and end there.

The company was born soon after the youngest Nick had written a paper for his business class while attending San Jose State University. He described a fictitious place at the time called Nick the Greek, where consumers could savor a streamlined menu of Greece's most popular street foods. He envisioned the eatery becoming so successful that it turned into a well-branded franchise.

Ironically, he got a bad grade on the paper. So he quit school and set out to actually launch Nick the Greek only five blocks from the college, explained Rob Crider, who serves as the company's director of franchising.

Crider met the cousins in 2018 through a mutual friend when he was previously working as a shopping-center investment broker. He recalls that by the time young Nick and his cousins obtained franchising approval to grow the business, they were already operating seven or eight locations on their own, mostly in the San Jose area.

Crider has since moved to the Gaslamp Quarter to help oversee



The Grecian burger (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

San Diego's only location of Nick the Greek, which opened last summer and sits advantageously a half block from Petco Park at 927 J St.

Yet despite a business plan that didn't translate well in a college paper, Nick the Greek is currently soaring.

"We just opened our 31st franchise, and there are 51 others in the works," Crider noted, adding that most of them are stateside, with some also in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Austin, Dallas, and Kansas City.

"Southern California is our next emerging market," he added while indicating that additional locations within San Diego County will likely materialize in the near future.

The operation is thriving for several reasons that make sense from a business standpoint. For starters, the menu is succinct and easy to read. There are three cones of "stacked meats" sitting lusciously on spits—chicken, beef-lamb, and pork. The latter is a common protein choice throughout Greece, yet it is sometimes difficult to find in Greek kitchens throughout the U.S.

There are also a few meatless options and the meals are presented in wraps, bowls or plates.

Secondly, the company reduces overhead by contracting with vendors from Chicago, where many of the nation's top-quality producers of Greek foods reside. Although for the meats, the vendors adhere to a proprietary mixture of



An understated facade leads into a taste of Greece.

spices that were determined by the Tsigaris cousins. However, for the Grecian burgers, a secret spice blend is mixed into the ground beef onsite.

As for the french fries, they are cut fresh to order and sprinkled with salt and oregano upon serving. (Think In-N-Out fries, but with much better flavor.) Get them "Nick" style, and you end up with a generous pile of the spuds crowned with your choice of protein, plus

feta cheese, green onions, garlic, and spicy yogurt sauce that sensitive palates can easily manage.

Also, consistency of quality is taken seriously. "We have secret shoppers who come in to each store twice a month for quality-control checks," Crider revealed.

Lastly, the company banks part of its success on the fact that its franchisees "are either friends



Director of franchising Rob Crider

and family or others who believe in our brand," Crider said. As a result, the company isn't dependent on expensive teams of brokers and recruiters.

Nick the Greek is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and until 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. It is located at 927 J St. For more information call 619-782-9444 or visit nickthegreek.com.

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Celebrating Mother's Day weekend in Little Italy

Little Italy News
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

Whether you're looking to create a beautiful brunch at home, spend some time at the park with a picnic or treat mom to a delicious brunch at one of the many trendy eateries in our neighborhood, Little Italy has everything you need to make to make mom feel like royalty all weekend long.



Mothers enjoying Little Italy. (Photo courtesy LIA)

Looking to give mom the ultimate weekend experience this year? On Saturday, make your first stop at Frost Me Café & Bakery for a delicious café and pastry you can enjoy on the go as you stroll through the Little Italy Mercato. Pick up some fresh fruits and veggies, flowers, and dips to enjoy at Piazza Basilone, Piazza Giannini, or Piazza Pescatore. You can also bring your yummy treats to the Amici Park Bocce Courts and watch the Amici Club play a game of bocce while you snack on your Little Italy Mercato bites.

From there head over to the Fir Street Cottages where you can unique gifts for mom, your home and even yourself! Shops include Love & Aesthetics, Rosamariposa, and Valmare Boutique. With your shopping done, mom is ready to be treated like a queen as she gets a nice blowout from Gloss the Salon, also located at the Fir Street Cottages.

After all of that shopping and the salon services, you know you'll be hungry! Walk down the street towards India St. and enjoy an early dinner at Civico 1845. Specializing in Calabrian food, Civico is the first restaurant in California to also offer a full Italian vegan menu, so it's perfect for any dietary restrictions. If you're looking for more of a celebration on Sunday, be sure to make reservations at one of our delectable eateries! With an extensive amount of restaurants

and breweries, you can have your own restaurant crawl or enjoy brunch, lunch or dinner – the possibilities are endless.

For the ultimate Mother's Day gift you just can't go wrong with, why not a pair of tickets to this year's Taste of Little Italy? Taking place on June 21st and June 22nd from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. both days. Tickets are already on sale for the culinary event celebrating the best bites and sips our neighborhood has to offer.

However you choose to celebrate in our neighborhood, we are sending the best wishes to all the moms out there. *Buona festa della mamma!*

—For more information, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on TikTok @LittleItaly.SD Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.



Captain Davi's route from Italy to the US. (Photo courtesy of Sergio Davi)

Italian ocean crosser to arrive in San Diego

Little Italy Culture & Heritage
By **TOM CESARINI**

Convivio, collaborating with the Italian Consulate in Los Angeles and Suzuki Marine, has planned a "hero's" welcome for Captain Sergio Davi when he arrives to the United States late next week. Capt. Davi has traveled 10,000 miles from Palermo, Sicily, to San Diego in a 10-meter rigid inflatable boat (RIB), often alone, battling winds and waves, an 1,800-mile solo open-ocean crossing, pirate-infested coastal waters, a bout with Covid and numerous challenges along the way.

Capt. Davi's first stop will be in San Diego en route to his final destination in San Pedro, CA. Utilizing its extensive relationships in San Diego County, Convivio has planned a cornucopia of activities including a media

event, numerous visits to locations in and around the city and Little Italy, dinners, a reception at Amici House and also has arranged for his accommodations while in town.

While Capt. Davi's exact day and time of arrival is not yet finalized due to unpredictable weather conditions, Convivio expects to greet him as he enters U.S. waters and escort him to United States Customs and Border Patrol on Shelter Island. He will then be escorted to a boat slip close to Little Italy where he will be greeted by a throng of fans and supporters to recognize his tremendous achievement. Convivio also expects key members of the San Diego Italian community, local dignitaries, and members of the media to be in attendance. The general public is welcome and is also being encouraged to attend.

In addition to satisfying an insatiable need for adventure and a


compelling drive to push himself and his equipment to the limit, Capt. Davi, who has been making similar voyages for years, uses these journeys to educate people in many countries about important challenges facing our planet's oceans. He takes water samples and conducts studies along the route, accessing remote areas not usually visited by biologists. His scientific partners on this journey include the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Piedmont, Liguria and Valle d'Aosta based in Turin, Italy, and the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Sicily, based in Palermo.

—Tom Cesarini is the chief executive officer and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian honorary consul in San Diego. Convivio provides advocates, donors, and volunteers the organizational capacity to advance Italian cultural identity, preserve Italian cultural-heritage assets, cultivate community and fellowship, and foster multicultural awareness through the arts, humanities, and other disciplines. Visit: conviviosociety.org | Follow: @conviviosociety

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Food & Drink Blotter.

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Apparently a lot of smiling faces, to answer the question.

Early reviews from our trusty first-in-line consumers of the newly-opened **Happy Does** in the Gaslamp Quarter reveal a spirited neighborhood-type bar atmosphere specializing in hardy cocktails and succulent chicken tenders served in a few different ways.

The project was launched by **Good Time Design**, the hospitality group that operates other Downtown establishments such as **Cerveza Jack's**, **The Blind Burro**, and **Moonshine Flats**.



Happy Does exterior: Good vibes at a new Downtown joint (Photo via Facebook)

Another draw is the ample outdoor seating, which spans across the patio left behind by **Dick's Last Resort** and the **Gaslamp Strip Club**. The interior accommodates live music and dancing.

Like the establishment itself, the drinks carry some quirky names when you consider the tequila-citrus "Happy Juice" or the "For Fonzies," which mixes together vodka, pineapple and ginger beer. For munchies, we have our sights set on the "Happy Wrap" filled with jumbo chicken tenders, Southern slaw, steak fries, avocado and cheese. 340 Fifth Ave., (858) 867-3931, happydoesbar.com.

GET YOUR INTAKE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES RIGHT HERE

Business owner Angel Arias has moved his popular **Delifruits** eatery from Chula Vista to North Park. In addition to a wide spectrum of smoothies, fresh juices, fruit bowls, and agua frescas made fresh daily, the kitchen belts out a noteworthy selection of sandwiches. Fans of tortas will find creations such as The Hawaiian made with ham, beans, pineapple and melted



Delifruits: Delifruits has arrived to North Park. (Photo via Instagram)

cheese, or The Milanese layered with breaded chicken and Swiss cheese. Additional offerings include salads, nachos and corn in a cup. 3066 University Ave., (619) 872-1101.

NEWS FOR VEGANS

Known for its ambitious vegan menu section, **Civico 1845** in Little Italy is rolling out new dishes in that category on May 10. We're told about 80% of the restaurant's meatless options will either be reworked or replaced entirely.

Among the newcomers are Cecina e formaggi, a rich vegan omelet made with red lentil flour, eggplant and plant-based cheeses. There's also an incoming risotto that combines broccoli with roasted almonds, shiitake mushrooms, vegetable demi glace, and Calabrian chili oil. The kitchen has even managed to create a dairy-free, egg-free version of the popular Italian custard dessert known as zabaglione. 1845 India St., (619) 880-3761, civico1845.com.

DIVE INTO SAN DIEGO'S BYGONE CULINARY SCENE

Where and what were San Diegans eating decades ago?

Martin S. Lindsey of **The Culinary Historians** of San Diego will explore those questions in a free presentation titled, "Treasures from the Past: Lost Restaurants of San Diego." The event takes place from 10:30 a.m. to noon on May 21, at the Neil Morgan Auditorium inside the San Diego Central Library.

Lindsey will use visuals to take attendees down memory lane as he explores the past restaurant scene in multiple areas of our city. 330 Park Blvd., 619-236-5800, sandiego.gov/public-library/.

THE BROTHEL THAT BONNIE BUILT

Look for the arrival of **Madam Bonnie's** on Market Street later this month, which will occupy a historic structure that was known as **Hotel Lester** around the time of San Diego's 1915 Panama-California Exposition. The building's operation took an interesting turn, however, in the early 1920s when Bertha "Bonnie" White took it over and turned it into a secret brothel. The address was subject to occasional police raids for about a 10-year period before the city shut it down.

Fast forward to 2022 as the ground level makes way for welcoming the restaurant and 40-foot stylish bar slinging drinks named supposedly after some of the former brothel's working girls. Look



Madam Bonnie: Madam Bonnie, circa 1920 (Photo via Facebook)

for a menu of rotisserie meats, butter burgers and retro cocktails, plus a hidden VIP booth. 411 Market St., madambonnies.com.

COFFEES FROM MEXICO

Flor & Seed has sprung up in Old Town with stimulating coffee drinks using beans sourced from all over Mexico. The owners, two entrepreneurs named Yan Ynez and Leo Nunez, buy directly from south-of-the-border coffee growers before roasting the beans themselves in small batches. House-made syrups are used in some of the coffee drinks for adding rich notes of vanilla or chocolate.

Their quaint cafe, replete with an espresso bar and colorful murals, also sells hot sandwiches as well as classic Mexican-style pastries and breads produced by **Pan Del Barrio** in Barrio Logan. 3985 Harney St., floralandseed.com.



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Lestat's West reopens as study space with live music planned

By BRIAN SCHRADER

After over two years of being closed to the public, Lestat's West has finally reopened. The iconic space, once the scene of open mic and comedy nights as well as the occasional big-name performance, has been converted into additional seating for the 25-year-old cafe next door. The quiet space has ample seating and is perfect for studying, reading and writing, and is just next door to the original Lestat's location on Adams Avenue. Lined with the cafe's signature custom tables and accented with the occasional baroque chair and couch, the spot is a welcome addition to the iconic Normal Heights cafe.

Lestat's on Adams opened in April of 1997 and has been hosting music at the next-door music venue since 2003. In that time, the venue became an entry point for musicians, poets and comedians looking to cut their teeth and break into the local performing arts scene.

The conversion of Lestat's West from live music venue and community arts watering hole to cafe extension comes as a result of the past few years of instability for live music venues and the need for more space at the cafe after the conversion of its eastern half into a new space home to Maya Moon Collective.

he loss of the iconic music venue was not the only change that

Lestat's has changed in recent years. After shutting its doors in March 2020, Lestat's pivoted to selling food to-go and bags of house-roasted coffee beans from its Hillcrest location in a bid to stay afloat. Though Lestat's had been roasting its own beans before the pandemic hit, the move helped keep loyal customers coming in until the lockdowns ended and its various cafes reopened. But another blow was dealt to the music venue when sound engineer and booking manager Louis Brazier passed away last August.

Even with the cafe on Adams now reopened, changes are still evident. The loss of the eastern half of the cafe is perhaps the most visible, though the western half did undergo a significant remodel. The back patio has been revamped and now provides ample outdoor seating under the shade of a grove of umbrellas.

Though for the students and night owls perhaps the most significant change has been the change of hours. Since 2004, Lestat's had been a reliable place to study and work no matter the hour and no matter the day. After the reopening, Lestat's has adjusted its hours numerous times but has yet to go back to 24/7 service.

All that said, work is underway to ensure Lestat's remains a convenient study spot for students and a pillar of the local music scene. Nick Garland, general manager at

Lestat's, was optimistic about the future of the cafe and of the return of music to Lestat's West.

Garland said he expects the chaos of the past few years to fade and for things at Lestat's to return to some form of normality, including the return of live music. When reflecting on the history of the venue, Garland said, "[Open mic night] meant a lot to a lot of people."

Now, the establishment is working to bring back a new kind of music to the space. Garland explained that the new design of the room allows for a pop-up stage and a stripped down set up with the ability to plug in an acoustic guitar and "three vocal mics... [but] not a full rock band." It may still be a while before music is back though. "Sometime before the end of the year would be nice," said Garland. "[We still need to] get the pieces in place."

Garland also hinted that it may not be long before Lestat's is once again open 24 hours a day. He explained that while it might still be some time before the all-night hours return, the change is expected to happen at some locations.

While the last few years have caused the business to make some changes, many don't seem to be permanent. Residents and visitors should expect a return to a new normal.

"We've become kind of a rock [for the community]," Garland said.



Inside the remodeled Lestat's West (Photo by Brian Schrader)

He explained that the cafe and the music had become part of the cafe's legacy and a foundation of the neighborhood culture.

"This shop, this theatre, and our reputation as a 24-hour spot has been our MO." And it seems that isn't likely to change anytime soon.

NP music fest

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

as well as hand made craft cocktails from some of San Diego's top mixologists. Kurt Bach is the Founder and CEO of Attitude Brewing Company in Barrio Logan and is one of the sponsors for the North Park Music Fest. He recently opened another location on El Cajon Boulevard near 30th Street that has become another hot zone for breweries, and is eager to support his new community. "We're very excited to be a part of the North Park Music Fest, we're new to the community and we look forward to engaging and supporting the community by donating beer to their charity," Bach said. "And I love music! It's another creative outlet for folks, just like painting or beer making, it's another art form that everybody can appreciate."

Concertgoers can also look forward to a wide array of food from more than 30 vendors featuring eclectic choices like paella, gourmet snow cones and a cheese bar.

Along with the music, The North Park Music Fest will feature interactive art exhibits, stilt walkers, silent disco and a DIY art tent. The event will also offer a VIP Sunday brunch hosted by Breakfast Republic and Eggies. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this exclusive event, which also includes admission to the



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Blochman Bank

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

citizen in 1861 and opened a highly successful general merchandise store. Additionally, he was elected director of the San Diego Board of Trade in 1892. However, he still had an inter-est in gold, and began buying and selling it in his store. Eventually, he began buying and selling so much gold that he and his son estab-lished a partnership, and be-came the Blochman Banking Company, the oldest private bank in San Diego.

Blochman Banking Company was so successful that, eventually, they handled all the gold bullion and gold dust from Lower California and San Diego County. Their extensive banking business boasted as be-ing the only banking business dealing directly with Mexico City, Guadalajara, Mazatlan, Ensenada and other cities in lower Mexico. They also dealt with Hong Kong, Yokohama and Manilla. At all times they had at hand large sums of Mexican and Philippine money, as well as funds from other foreign countries. The Blochmans also transacted general banking business in their Downtown location and in all their branch offices.

As they bought and sold gold and foreign money, issued letters of credit, bought stocks and bonds and exchanged foreign money, they were effectively the Travelex of the times.

In late May of 1906, the Blochman Banking Company sold the south half of lot C to Walter Wentz for \$8,000. Apparently, the two parties became involved in a dispute stemming from the estate of the late Lucius G. Pratt, and in 1913, Wentz sued the Blochmans for the north half of the lot. Wentz prevailed and the man who had built the bank building now had full title to the property. The Blochmans leased back the property from Wentz, but departed the premises in 1914. Thus, began the

saga of the Blochman Bank Company. The bank quickly changed its name to the Security Commercial and Savings Bank in 1914. In 1928, the bank became Security Trust and Savings Bank of San Diego. In 1957, the name changed yet again, as the company merged with Security First National Bank of Los Ange-les. In 1968, another change occurred, and the bank became Securi-ty Pacific National Bank. Finally in the early 1990s, Bank of America bought out Security Pacific National Bank and the saga of the Blochman Bank Company ended.

After the Blochman Bank Company vacated the premises in 1914, the property became a type of “combination store” housing several businesses occasionally simultaneously. These enterprises included retail cigar and tobacco shops, billiard parlors, barbers, restaurants and beverage stands. In 1958, the Independent Barber College took up residence and remained until 1977. They were followed in 1978 by the Royal Academy of Hair Design, who remained until redevelopment of the Gaslamp forced them to leave in the late 80s.

The new and very popular resident of the Blochman Bank Building is The Melt, a casual eatery specializing in burgers, ice cream sodas, mac and cheese and other grilled sandwiches and fare. They are al-so open until 2 a.m. to accommodate those who need a snack be-fore hitting the road after the bars close.

The building remains essentially as it was built, proving that old buildings can be repurposed, rehabilitated and adapted to meet the demands of changing times. In the long run, the Blochmans pre-vailed.

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

Foster care

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

have somebody who loves them and is there for them,” Ortega added.

Sinopoli said that some of the major trips with the kids are exhausting but it is worth it when she gets to see the excitement of kids seeing their siblings again.

“The kids are happy that they're building relationships. And so from that perspective, that's the joy I get out of it,” she said.

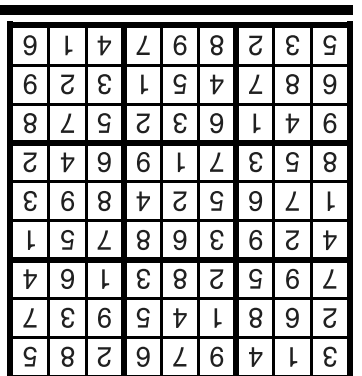
To learn more about volunteering with Promises2Kids, visit promises2kids.org.



One of the day trips for siblings Sinopoli chaperoned was a seal tour on a boat. (Photos courtesy Judi Sinopoli)



Promises2Kids has many long-term volunteers.



Fashion Redux returns

Fashion Files
By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**

Fashion Redux 2022 is a collaboration between the San Diego History Center and San Diego Mesa College. This is the 12th year that they have teamed up for this amazing project. Each year, a decade in history is picked and the History Center comes up with four garments in their history collection for the design students to use as inspiration for creating a contemporary design. This year the decade chosen was the 1940s.

Initially the students are invited to come to the History Center and view the Inspirational pieces. Next, they create a mood board, come up with a sketch, and then a designer statement. This year the top three students chosen were Hanieh Etedali with Back to the '40s, Ena Walters with A Wink Back-'40s and Cynthia Moreno with Flirty Forties Follies. On April 28, a Fashion Redux virtual event was held with collections specialist Jeremy Prince and development manager Sheila Thomas from the History Center and Mesa College fashion professor Jordyn Smiley. Smiley gave a

wonderful presentation and slide show on the fashions of the '40s which was divided into two sections. The dressing of the early years was very utilitarian as the women started to work and began wearing pants. The latter half saw a more feminine shape developing as the restrictions were lifted. We saw the rise of American designers and the New Look by Dior in 1947. During this virtual event there was a discussion panel with the top three student designers. Each talked about their conception for their contemporary creations and then a vote was held for the



The top three designers: (L to R) Hanieh Etedali, Ena Walters and Cynthia Moreno (Photos by Natasha Sachi)

People's Choice Awards. The winner was Cynthia Moreno. Moreno said that she was inspired by small detail such as fabric covered buttons, pleated fabric, and a fabric covered belt. She wanted to create a dress that felt feminine, sexy and elegant. This midi dress she created had gathers at the under bust and a high side slit with fabric covered buttons and loop fasteners. The prize she won was a one-year membership to the History Center and a \$100 gift certificate at Sewing Machines Plus. For more information about Mesa College visit sdmesa.org. The San Diego History Center opened an exhibit on April 15th with the four garments from their collection plus the three inspirational garments from the Design Students at Mesa College. Currently they may be viewed from Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Balboa Park. For more information visit sandiegohistory.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual fashion show – Presented by San Diego Mesa College Fashion Department on Friday, May 14. For information contact instructor Gretchen Bergman at (619) 670-9880.

Fold, Twist, Tie – This is a Paper Bag Hat exhibit by Moses at the Mingie International Museum in Balboa Park. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday on Saturday Wednesday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. The exhibit will be open until Oct. 2. In conjunction, there will be a lecture by Diana Cavagnaro on hats at Coffee and Conversation which will be on June 24 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Frances Hamilton White Art Library.

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in Alpine, California. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at www.DianaCavagnaro.com.

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People's Choice Award winner Cynthia Moreno



Designer Ena Walters



Designer Hanieh Etedali

Elephant enclosure

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

take a photo of himself and his daughter.

Patrons yelled at him to leave and one elephant began to charge at him. Navarrete then dropped his daughter. He hurriedly picked her up as the elephant moved closer to him and he left the enclosure. San Diego Police arrested him at the zoo after zoo officials called police. The story attracted media attention across the country.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Rachel Cano dismissed one charge of unlawful entry into an animal enclosure at the zoo. She set sentencing for May 26.

Navarrete, of Fullerton, Ca., missed court hearings in Jan., which resulted in an arrest warrant issued by a judge. Navarrete was arrested April 12 by sheriff's deputies. Bodnar said he did not know the circumstances of his arrest.

Navarrete remains in the central jail on \$150,000 bail. He pleaded guilty on April 25 and did not have a preliminary hearing.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter.

Ford Focus death

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

client, as Barraza had been denied bail earlier. Berry asked Mangarin what is reasonable bail to her, and she said \$100,000.

Mangarin said if Barraza was able to post bond, he would live with his father on Louisiana St. in North Park. Barraza's father was in the courtroom and she said he had agreed to house his son, who is also a father of an 8-year-old boy.

Mangarin said Barraza is employed as a self-employed handyman and has epilepsy which resulted in seizures on Easter and a hospital visit. She said he had no violence in his history and the slaying may have resulted from some type of accident. She noted he did not attempt to flee the area after the incident.

Deputy District Attorney Karra Reedy opposed setting any amount of bail, saying there were no changed circumstances since the arraignment. She said there

was a flight risk and Barraza was also a risk to public safety.

Reedy said the driver of the Ford Focus was parked in the 4600 block of Bancroft Street in North Park with Guardado inside the car. She said once Barraza learned Guardado was in the car, he went over to the vehicle with a knife.

Barraza tried to cut Guardado's hair with the knife, said the prosecutor. Guardado is Native American. Barraza stabbed Guardado in the leg under the knee, and it hit an artery, which resulted in a lot of blood loss in the vehicle.

The driver attempted to drive Guardado to a hospital but police stopped it at the intersection of El Cajon Blvd. and Texas St. for excessive speed. Officers attempted life-saving efforts and paramedics rushed Guardado to a hospital, where he died.

The preliminary hearing was rescheduled for June 23. Barraza, who stood behind a glass module while dressed in jail clothes and a white mask, did not say anything.

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter.

Ghost gun

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

20s. "That's when the event happened."

"I lost my spleen, my lung collapsed, part of my stomach they had to remove," said Gazzani, who was shot in the arm and in the back while walking with some friends in the Gaslamp area.

Chris Luciano was walking his dog on April 22, 2021 at 10:30 p.m. when he said he saw Sarreshteh shoot and kill Justice Boldin, 28, an Ace parking attendant.

"He fired two to three shots initially and then after [Boldin] hit the ground, that's when he turned around and shot him again," said Luciano.

"How was he moving after the shooting?" asked Deputy District Attorney Jessica Paugh.

"Like nothing even happened. Very cold," said Luciano.

Steven Ely, now 69, a retired teacher, said he was walking to a club where his musician son was playing for the first time since it opened during the pandemic. He

was some distance away when he was shot in the abdomen.

"I didn't think someone was running around with a gun--that was the last thing I thought," said Ely, who said a bullet went through his pancreas and is still lodged near his spine.

Paugh told San Diego Superior Court Judge Theodore Weathers the gun jammed and Sarreshteh could not fire more shots. She said "intent can be inferred," and successfully argued Sarreshteh be ordered to stand trial on all counts.

Also wounded were Alexander Balis, Jatil Kodati and Kevin Kania.

Two people on the street tackled Sarreshteh and held him down before 10 police officers showed up and arrested him. Officer Christian Reda testified he punched Sarreshteh for "pain compliance" to get him to put his hands behind his back to be handcuffed. Reda took the gun from his waistband.

Ted Mansour, a District Attorney's investigator, testified he interviewed Sarreshteh's girlfriend who said he choked her by placing his hands around her neck in two incidents in 2020.

"Mr. Sarreshteh told her he was worried about world events," said Mansour. "That was the reason he had a gun."

Paugh and Sarreshteh's attorney reached a stipulation in court in which they submitted an analysis of Sarreshteh's blood sample that showed he has traces of methamphetamine and amphetamine in his system.

Sarreshteh pleaded not guilty when he appeared before Judge Michael Groch on April 19.

It isn't known where Sarreshteh obtained the ghost gun which could have been stolen or ordered from a company that manufactured it without a serial number.

Ely was interviewed on KNSD (Channel 7) about ghost guns after the County Board of Supervisors and the San Diego City Council voted to ban possession of them.

"The manufacturers of these guns are selling them to crazy people like the guy who shot me and four others. I don't like that," said Ely. "That is insane, and it leads us to the Wild West."

—Neal Putnam is a local court reporter.

Park social

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

boxes in a wall that follows the line of the fault from the top of the park to the bottom. He hopes the audience will participate in moving the boxes as well. He will do a similar event at North Park Community Park and at the end of Park Social will do the same at Balboa Park during a closing ceremony.

He chose shipping pallets because they cross borders all the time.

"The project itself is really about the way that we create these borders and how they change all the time," Murdoch said. "We can unbuild and build these walls all the time and we still can come together as a community."

He appreciated working on a temporary art project because there was less political and bureaucratic systems to navigate.

"I like temporary work a lot because I think it's good for the community to see loads of different ideas presented," he said.

The thought-provoking art

will be at a total of 28 parks over the next six months. The city is using the project as a way to support local artists and revive the arts industry after the economic impacts of the pandemic.

The city has [over] the last few years really pivoted a lot to focus on elevating local artists and creating opportunities for them," Amery said.

This initiative is a first step in a larger plan to activate the city's park system through cultural engagement and support the arts.

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