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Historic skyline remembered

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New Filipino bodega in NH

Still homeless despite housing voucher

Some landlords unwilling to accept voucher recipients despite government guarantee



Katrina Lewis-Gutierrez and her fiancé have lived in this Winnebago for the past two years while trying to find a landlord willing to accept their Federal Emergency Housing Voucher. They have taken in two cats. (Photo by J.M. Garcia)

By J.M. GARCIA

Katrina Lewis-Gutierrez starts work at ten in the morning by opening a box of paper cups while standing behind the counter of the Häagen-Dazs store in Fashion Valley. She enjoys the early hours. She gets more done working by herself and spends her time restocking for the afternoon and evening rush.

"You have chocolate?" Someone asks, poking their head in the door.

"Of course."

"I'll be by after lunch."

"I'll be here," Lewis-Gutierrez responded.

She wears a black T-shirt with a the Häagen-Dazs logo and ties her long hair in a braided ponytail. From her neat appearance, many customers

SEE **EMERGENCY VOUCHER**, Page 10

San Diego International Film Festival debuts new Women's Series



Civil rights activist Rosa Parks holds a poster of Malcolm X in 1972.

(Photo courtesy San Diego International Film Festival)

By KENDRA SITTON

COVID-19's disruption of art industries has required many organizations to collaborate anew, re-tool productions and find creative solutions to stay afloat. In the case of the Women's Film Festival San Diego, the solution was to fold into the region's premiere film festival after struggling with the switch to virtual.

Now, the San Diego International Film Festival (SDIFF) returns to an

SEE **FILM FESTIVAL**, Page 8

LGBT+-serving sobriety and recovery center closes

By MADISON BEVERIDGE

Since 1983, Live and Let Live Alano Club (LLLAC) has made it their mission to provide a safe, sober, community-focused space for LGBTQ+ individuals in San Diego. Yet after fundraising losses during COVID-19, the club closed its doors on Park Blvd. while struggling to pay the rent to continue its life-saving work. Whether that closure is temporary or permanent is up in the air – and depends

upon the success of finding a new permanent location.

"We really served our community so consistently," said former board member Richard Correale of the club's 39-year history before its recent closure.

LLLAC was founded after the realization that the city lacked a social environment for LGBTQ+ people that was not a nightclub or bar. In hopes of creating a space that fostered

SEE **ALANO CLUB**, Page 9



The front of the Alano Club's most recent rented location (Photo by Madison Beveridge)

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San Diego Community Newspaper Group

Father Joe's staff members turn ideas for helping people into reality with mini-grants

By J.M. GARCIA

Katina Harrison has noticed that when homeless people find housing they often have little to nothing to furnish their new dwelling. They move in without basic possessions such as a bed, furniture— even something as simple as soap and towels. The hollow space of their new home after years of living without shelter is almost a metaphor for the vacancies they may have experienced in their own lives.

"When we picture a house," said Harrison, a case manager at Father Joe's Villages, "we see a home with curtains, and dishes, toothpaste and utensils. That's not real for someone un-housed.

When they get a home it's an empty canvas."

A recently launched inter-agency funding initiative at Father Joe's Villages, the Innovation Lab, is filling those empty canvases for recently-housed people as well as starting other programs based on needs staff members identified. In August, the lab awarded eight mini-grants, ranging from \$1,478 to \$7,000, to staff members who wanted to launch new programs. To fulfill some of the needs they saw, the staff members created programs that include safety training initiatives, shelter and housing resources, youth and children mentorship programs and a lice treatment clinic.

The regional Task Force on Homelessness found that almost 8,500 people are experiencing homelessness across San Diego County, a 10% increase from 2020. Mayor Todd Gloria describes the solutions to homelessness as "complex."

"Frontline staff know where the needs are," said Bill Boldstad, the Chief Strategy Officer at Father Joe's Villages. "So, we created an internal, staff-led grant process. A staff member applies for a grant to a committee of their peers based on their experience and what that experience tells them is needed."

Harrison and a colleague, Michael Cruz, lead a Lab-funded effort called Home Club, a project

that helps families in the Golden Hall Bridge Shelter find housing and turning that housing into something that feels more like a home. The new program provides bus passes to families looking for housing and covers the costs of application fees. In addition, families enrolled in the program receive retailer gift cards so their new home can be furnished with kitchen ware, bedding and other essentials.

"Before the grant some clients had nothing," Harrison said, "only the clothes on their backs. They didn't have things in storage or a family holding stuff for them. We want our clients to feel comfortable. That first night in a new home, they should be able to take a shower because they have soap, towels, a shower curtain — all the things most of us take for granted."

Father Joe's Villages grant writer, Aleta Barthell, directs another Lab-funded program: The Stories of Compassion, Respect, Empathy, Empowerment and Dignity in Action or CREED. Teams collect stories and photos throughout the organization to inspire both clients and staff.

One CREED narrative by case manager Rita Latham tells the story of an afternoon when she stood in a grocery line: *I was in*



Veteran Desi Jones outside of his new apartment.

conversation with others in the line. How it got to employment I don't know. I mentioned I worked at Father Joe's Villages and this woman went on about how wonderful [Father Joe's Villages] was. She asked me if I knew "Rita," I did not say that it was me. I didn't know where she was going with this so I said, "Why?" She said that her daughter had been a resident here and that Rita changed her life. I was floored. She continued to say her daughter cleaned herself up and was doing incredibly well. She told me her daughter's name and quite honestly it had been a while and I didn't remember the client. But that was the moment I knew where I belonged. I changed someone's life and didn't even realize it. We help so many people daily and we never truly know what good we have done. I believe God set me up that day to find

SEE FATHER JOE'S VILLAGES, Page 6



A couple and their pet dog sitting in their new furnished housing unit.



A father and daughter enter their new housing unit in the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa.

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Man faces 197 years in ghost gun murder and shootings Downtown

By NEAL PUTNAM

A man who killed a Downtown parking valet with a ghost gun and wounded four others in 2021 has been convicted of first-degree murder, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. A jury deliberated the charges against Travis Sarreshteh, 34, about a day before finding him guilty on all counts on Sept. 14 in the death of Justice Boldin, 28, and the other assaults on April 22, 2021. Sarreshteh faces a sentence of 197 years to life in prison, said District Attorney spokeswoman Tanya Sierra. Jurors found that he used a gun in the homicide and attempted murders, so he could

receive 25 years per count on those charges. San Diego Superior Court Judge Evan Kirvin set sentencing for Jan. 19, 2023. Sarreshteh remains in the George Bailey Detention Facility without bail. Sarreshteh didn't know any of the people he shot randomly at 10:30 p.m. that night, but he earlier quarreled with his former girlfriend when she declined to have sex with him, according to testimony. He had rented a hotel room for them on Broadway, but she would not accompany him there, which angered him. Witnesses said he shot Boldin, who worked for Ace Parking, and when Boldin asked him why he shot him, Sarreshteh shot him again.

Boldin's mother, Denise Boldin, was interviewed after the verdict by KGTU (Channel 10) and said her son was enrolled in flight school and going to start in a week before he was killed. "We were hoping that justice would be done," said Denise Boldin, acknowledging she used her son's first name, Justice, quite a bit in describing the situation. "There's no way to bring my son back," said Denise Boldin. "We were so thrilled (Sarreshteh) was guilty on all counts." Alexander Balis, a tourist from New Jersey, was shot in the arm, and testified in the trial. "For him to be guilty on all counts – that was the result we all wanted," said Balis to reporters.

Steven Ely, 69, a retired teacher, testified he was shot in the abdomen while walking Downtown to a club where his musician son was playing for the first time since it opened during the pandemic. Vincent Gazzani, a New Jersey tourist, testified Sarreshteh asked him if he and others were laughing at him before he shot him. Gazzani said he was shot in the arm and back, causing him to lose his spleen and part of his stomach. Kevin Kania and Jatil Kodati were also wounded. Also testifying on Sept. 7 was Sheryl Kreipke, who was walking Downtown when the shots rang out.

"I saw something in his right hand. I started to get more concerned and nervous. I picked up my pace," she said. "As he was passing me, he said, 'Don't worry. I wouldn't shoot a girl,'" said Kreipke. It is not known how Sarreshteh obtained the ghost gun which has no serial numbers and could have been ordered online. According to testimony, he told his girlfriend he was "worried about world events" and that was the reason he got the firearm. Sarreshteh did not testify. His attorney argued it was a case of mistaken identity.

Inflation adds demand, constricts supply at local food banks

By WILL SCADDEN

As San Diego Hunger Awareness Month came to a close, food programs noted an increase in demand while inflation is also constricting how much food they have on hand to give. Father Joe's Villages' Emergency Food Pantry continues to do critical work feeding hungry San Diegans— even as inflation affects both the supply and demand of donated foods.

In 2021, Father Joe's Villages distributed an average of 1,200 food boxes per month. In 2022, that figure is expected to exceed 2,000 boxes per month. The homeless services provider expects to distribute 6,000 more boxes of food than in 2021, for a total of 24,000, indicating that rising food prices are causing more San Diegans to face food insecurity. Inflation is also affecting the availability of food at local food banks. Food inventories at the San Diego Food Bank are lower than usual. Furthermore, protein is in short supply and Father Joe's Villages will need to purchase protein items in the coming months. "As food prices increase across the country and here at home, many San Diegans are finding it harder to put food on the table," said Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO of Father Joe's Villages. "We are happy to be able to provide nutritious options to people who are in need, through our food pantry program, especially during this time of economic uncertainty." The Emergency Food Pantry is part of Father Joe's Villages' efforts to prevent homelessness and food insecurity in San Diego as inflation rises. Members of the community can receive food packages containing nonperishable foods, fresh produce, and other necessities such as adult and children's diapers through the programs.



A Father Joe's team member hands out boxes of food to people waiting in their cars at the emergency food pantry.

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Digital Lens
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Spider-Man exhibit explores cultural impact of web-slinger

By KENDRA SITTON

Celebrating the masked hero's 60th anniversary, the Comic-Con Museum is open for the public to view the world's first-ever Spider-Man exclusive exhibit, "Spider-Man: Beyond Amazing – The Exhibition" until Jan. 1, 2023.

In a recent visit from New York City, co-curator and Patrick A. Reed provided tours of the exhibit he and Ben Saunders put together ahead of this summer's convention.

While the pop culture historians behind the exhibit ensured that the legacy of Peter Parker was central, they also demonstrated that Spider-Man is more than just Peter Park and the Spider-verse now spans into an entire Spider-verse of related characters. In addition, Spider-Man is no longer confined to the panels of a comic book and is now a multi-media icon in nearly all forms of storytelling media.

"Everybody comes to Spider-Man from a different direction," Reed said.

The Comic-Con Museum has to cater to dedicated fans who care about the minutiae of Spider-Man's history as well as young kids who think Spider-Man wears a cool costume and does cool stuff like climb walls. Between movie props, multi-media installations, life-size sculptures and a plethora of original art lining the walls, Reed hopes there is something for everyone in the exhibit.

With an original score for the exhibit on loop, moving lights and digital screens throughout the exhibit, a visit that could just be a chance to look at flat art on the walls becomes an immersive experience. Still, Reed and Saunders included detailed explanations and unique artifacts that keep the exhibit from just being a multi-media experience like the Marvel characters featured in Disneyland's Innoventions before its closure in 2015.



A group of friends looks at the Spider-Man sculpture in the atrium at the beginning of the exhibit. A partially 3D Doc Ock sculpture emerging from comic pages, giant versions of comics from Reed and Saunders own collection, and huge projections fill the space. (Photos by Kendra Sitton)



Curator Patrick Reed next to a sculpture of Spider-Man. Marvel only keeps a digital archive of past comics so he and Saunders scanned hundreds of their own comics to use in the digital and design displays to preserve the pencil marks and Ben-Day dots present in the physical comics.



This suit worn by actor Andrew Garfield in the "Amazing Spider-Man" is on display in the retail store at the end of the exhibit.

Disney's influence is still apparent with the atrium before the exhibit is filled with 3D sculptures, projections on three walls, and giant printed comic panels that draw an attendee into the story, or in other words, the pre-ride. Then, attendees weave through the halls that make up the exhibit itself before landing in a gift shop crowded with Spider-verse merchandise (very similar to how rides at Disneyland end).

Once the meat of the exhibit begins, Reed and Saunders tell three simultaneous stories from the beginning. The curators tell the fictional story of Peter Parker's origin alongside the real history of co-creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko as well as later contributors. In addition, the evolving art of Spider-Man is prominent, first in archival sketches of comic book panels all the way up to props from the most recent film installation "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

The exhibit chronicles the first appearance of Spider-Man in a 1962 comic book in a series that was already canceled. When the comic was a runaway hit, the red-and-blue costumed hero got

his own series. It was important to Reed and Saunders not just to showcase a detailed history of the character but to demonstrate the impact the character had on pop culture.

Spider-Man debuted as teenagers were becoming a distinct segment of American society with spending money of their own that gave them influence. As media companies tried to cater to this new audience, teens resonated with a teenage hero who made mistakes and worried just as much about the girl he had a crush on as a villainous plot to take over NYC.

"It's the early 1960s. So the concept of the teenager, as an entity, is still fairly fresh in American culture. And there's a whole sub-section of media that's being devoted to appealing to teenagers. American culture is recognizing that this is a very potentially profitable demographic and at the same time, there's a lot of templates that have yet to be fully explored," Reed said, "Spider-Man... sets up a story of Peter Parker who is a not entirely popular teenager. He is misunderstood; he is shunned by his peers. He gains

these powers and does not immediately use them altruistically."

His costume also gave him unique appeal. Most previous comic heroes had partial masks obscuring their faces or in the case of Superman, no mask at all except as Clark Kent. Instead, Spider-Man is completely covered, giving anyone the ability to imagine he might be someone like them. As the Spider-Verse expanded with Spider-Woman, Miles Morales, and even Spider Ham, that is truer now than ever.

With limited space in the museum, the curators had to choose carefully what to leave out of the exhibit but in examining the cultural impact of Spider-Man, highlighted progressive and inclusive moves made by the creators as the universe expanded from just Spider-Man to include Spider-Woman in the '70s and '80s.

One artifact demonstrating this is an original sketch from Willi Smith of Mary Jane Watson's wedding dress. He was commissioned to design the dress in real life, which was worn at a

SEE SPIDER-MAN EXHIBIT, Page 15



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The limited space of the museum made the curators make tough choices about what to include and what to cut to tell the best story.



The curators reached out to private art collectors for many of the original artifacts in the museum, including these original scripts and mockups with penciled in edits from Stan Lee and Steve Ditko.



A lot of the exhibit is told chronologically with a few exceptions. Near the beginning of the exhibit, these display of Daily Bugle props from the original Spider-Man film trilogy are next to the introduction of editor J. Jonah Jameson as a character.



Sony granted Reed and Saunders access to their vaults to find items to use in the exhibit, like these hand-crafted items used in the credits of "Spider-Man: Far From Home" which released this summer.

The Pierce-Morse Building: Gone but not forgotten

Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



John Keats once said that “A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” That might be said of the Pierce-Morse Building, an important part of the San Diego sky-line of the late 1800s and the first part of the 20th century. The building has a long and interesting history and boasts a bevy of notable personalities who added to San Diego’s history— as well as to that of the building. They include James M. Pierce, Ephraim W. Morse, Dr. Emma Read, Cassius Carter, and E.M. Capps.

Alonzo Horton originally sold two adjoining lots on the corner of F Street to George Hyde of San Francisco for \$700 in gold coin. In slightly less than four years, Mr. Hyde turned a tidy profit by selling the same lots to Ephraim W. Morse for \$1,600 in gold coin.

Morse was a pioneer, farmer, teacher and capitalist. He came to California during the Gold Rush, and like Alonzo Horton, was drawn to San Diego for the healthful climate. He became an associate judge of San Diego County, a member of the first County Board of Supervisors, a founder of the Bank of San Diego and the auctioneer when Alonzo Horton purchased the land for New Town.

He and Horton became such good friends that they selected the site for City Park (Balboa Park) together and Morse served as best man at Horton’s marriage to Lydia Knapp. Morse and his wife, Mary Chase Walker, San Diego’s first schoolteacher, hosted the wedding in the parlor of their home. State Supreme Court Associate Justice John D. Works officiated and afterwards the Morses hosted everyone to an elegant luncheon. Upon Morse’s death in 1905, Horton stated, “There is no man that has been truer to the inter-ests of San Diego than E. W. Morse.”

Morse chose James Pierce as a business partner when he sold him a half-in-terest in the two lots on F Street for \$800 in gold coin.



An historic photo of the Pierce-Morse Building before it was torn down. (Photo courtesy City of San Diego Archive)

Pierce also had a his-tory of civic involvement. He replaced Horton as a trustee of the San Diego Library Association, was nominated for State Assembly, and was president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Pierce died suddenly in early 1887 with no known relatives or children, and his formidable estate was not set-tled until 1895.

The building’s construction had already begun prior to Pierce’s passing, but the early details of the development are meager. However, the magnificent structure emerged in bold relief in June of 1887. It was five stories plus a large basement. The fifth story was capped by a tower accessed from the fifth floor, which could be used as an observatory or smoking room. Elegant and formidable, it could be seen from out at sea and definitely changed the skyline of San Diego.

The basement itself was a wonder. The southeast corner was reserved to house the power supply for the elevator and lighting, but the rest was filled with a restaurant. The space under the sidewalk was to be illuminated by prismatic skylights. The hall was 114’ by 64’ with a cement floor and attrac-tive iron uprights at intervals to support the floors above it. A Westinghouse hydraulic pump was incorporated to pump water to the upper floors, as well as a Westinghouse dynamo to power the Edison incandescent lights. The lights were regulated in each room by pushing a button to turn them on.

The first floor was divided into six large spaces with full length plate glass windows. The rooms were finished with hand-carved baseboards and mold-ings as well as stained glass transoms over the windows. The main entrance, located on “F” Street, opened onto a broad hallway leading to stairs to the second floor. The stairs, shallow and easy to ascend, broke on a landing halfway up to the second floor, where the elevator was located.

The second floor featured a large, wide hallway with shorter halls bisecting it, which led to offices and suites. At the end of the hall was a large plate glass window with a stained glass transom above it.

The third floor was reached by another flight of stairs with carved oak hand-rails and landing posts. This floor was an exact replica of the second floor, but with a better view.

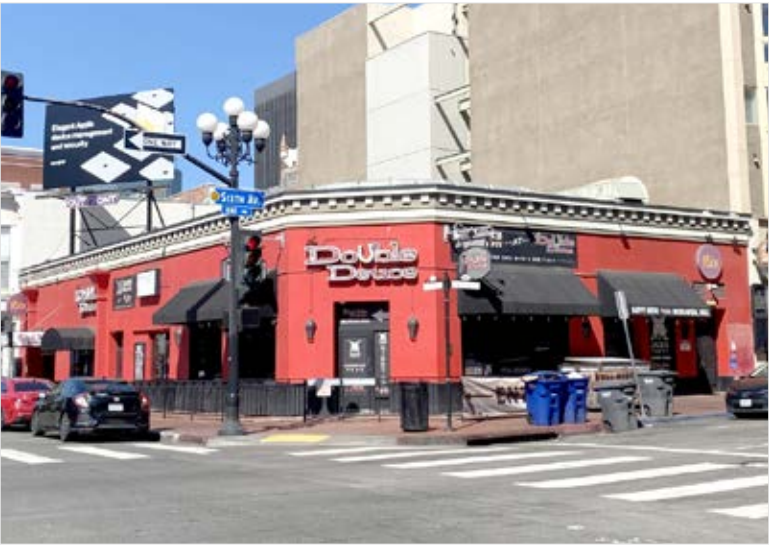
The fourth floor or “balcony” floor, was considered the “gem,” as it was wainscoted with polished

redwood and heavy paneled doors. The large windows were square, and could be lifted so that one could step out onto a balcony.

The Mansard, or attic space beneath the roof, was designed for use as lod-gings or offices. The rooms were complete with closets, full bathrooms and small balconies.

Fire provisions were also made for this magnificent structure, as each floor had coils of hoses attached to the water main and fire extinguishers.

Early occupants were Comstock and Trotsche, the architects of the



The remnants of the Pierce-Morse building is not only one-story tall. (Photo by Tim Trevaskis)

SEE PIERCE-MORSE BUILDING, Page 15

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Witching you a happy October in Little Italy

Little Italy News
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

Fall is officially upon us and it is time to reap this year's harvest in Little Italy. Whether you choose to dress for the spooky fun and scavenge through the streets of Little Italy in search of some candy and other treats or enjoy a relaxing Autumn stroll through the Little Italy Mercado in search of fresh local favorites, trick or treat yourself to some fun in Little Italy this October.

Join the Little Italy Association in welcoming back the most spook-tacular event of the season: Trick-or-Treat on India Street returns to Little Italy on Friday, October 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Vampires, witches, zombies, monsters and goblins of all ages are encouraged to dress up in disguise and enjoy a night of authentic trick-or-treating through the streets of Little Italy. The whole family can adventure through the streets, stopping door to door for some sweet (and sometimes sour) Halloween candy and other fa-boo-lous treats. Street maps of the participating businesses will be available at the Piazza della Famiglia and all participating staff will be wearing face coverings and gloves to ensure everyone's safety during this fun-filled trick-or-treat event.

If you're too scared of the dark, stop by Little Italy during the day to enjoy beautiful fall displays lining the street corners. The cobblestone sidewalks will be decorated with stacks of pumpkins, autumn leaves, and other beautiful seasonal flowers. While you're enjoying the autumn displays, be sure to head over to the Little Italy



A super family celebrates Halloween in Little Italy. (Photo courtesy Little Italy Association)

Mercato Farmer's Market for local produce like poultry, olive oil, pastured eggs, sauces, nuts, honey and much more. As always, the Mercato runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Before you leave, head over to Caffè Caritàzza or Caffè Italia for a tasty fall-themed coffee to sip on. Buon Appetito—or should we say Bone Appétit?

If you're looking for something to do to get to know the neighborhood better, don't forget to check out the Little Italy Experiences and Tours. Spend the day sampling iconic Italian classics all the way from Sicily to Torino with one of our Neighborhood Foodie Tours, chef up some authentic Italian dishes with some of San Diego's top chefs by attending one of our Italian Cooking Experiences, or learn to play Bocce Ball, the world's oldest sport, in Amici Park with friends as one of our Specialty Experiences. Little Italy offers endless fun and activities that would make the perfect date night for two or group activity with friends. Make sure to visit our special neighborhood and we

can guarantee that you will create lasting memories.

Stay tuned as more holiday fun is to come this winter in Little Italy with the well-awaited return of the Little Italy Tree Lighting & Christmas Village. The holiday spirit will transform the Little Italy neighborhood into a breathtaking winter wonderland, minus the snow of course! Our favorite urban neighborhood will be adorned with kinetic tree holiday displays, 10-foot-tall nutcrackers and of course the permanent 25-foot tree in the heart of Little Italy. The community will ring in the holiday with Christmas songs, live music, seasonal treats, a tree lighting ceremony and a special guest appearance from Santa! This is yet another Holiday-themed event yule be sorry to miss!

Join us for a wicked awesome time this October in Little Italy!

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

Herbal kitchen wisdom for Autumn

By **CINDY SAYLOR**

In our busy modern lives we often forget to honor the changing of the seasons. In Southern California it can feel like our weather patterns don't vary too much but if you take a moment to pause—and fall is the perfect time to do so—you can feel a shift inside yourself and in the world around you. The days are getting shorter, the nights a bit longer; the beautiful sunsets come sooner.

Herbs can help us explore the seasons and cooking can remind us to honor these natural cycles.

Traditionally fall is the time of the harvest, abundance and giving thanks. It is a busy time to prepare for the coming winter and to take advantage of all of the abundance provided through the spring and summer by the natural world.

Traditions such as canning and harvesting berries and apples remind us of this special time of year.

After the fall equinox on Sept. 22, we began to tip into more darkness than light each day.

As we depart this tipping point, we may find ourselves craving a bit more sleep, a natural inclination to slow down and a desire to nest at home. This is a natural reaction as the dark times of the year are when we restore, rest and renew. Honoring this feeling within ourselves is a healthy response to seasonal changes.

To help you get into the vibe of autumn abundance, try out these herbal recipes. All are simple and easy to prepare. They will help you remember your connection to the earth and welcome in the special season of autumn.

RECIPES:

Infused Honey: This is such a simple, delicious and fun preparation that I think everyone should have a jar in the cupboard. You can use your honey as a sweetener or make a quick hot drink by taking a spoonful and adding hot water.



Infused honey, in this case lemon peel infused honey, is easy to make and use to create a warm drink.

My three favorite infused honeys are below. All are delicious and all offer health benefits.

- Lemon or orange peel
- Thyme
- Garlic or Ginger or both together.

Citrus Infused Honey
Choose lemon, orange or lime. Peel off the outer aromatic peel, leaving as much of the white pith



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Film Festival

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

in-person event with a brand new Women's Series sponsored by the Women's Museum of California – which previously hosted the Women's Film Fest. This year's combined hybrid event, includes

in-person events at Westfield UTC, Balboa Park's Museum of Photographic Arts, and the Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center as well as digital screenings of movies from Wednesday, Oct. 19 to Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022.

The 40-year-old Women's Museum hosted its 8th annual, and last, film fest in 2021.

"When we got into the pandemic and had to pivot away from an in-person film festival to a virtual film festival, we realized that we didn't have the infrastructure to move into this new line of business very well," explained Felicia Shaw, Executive Director of the Women's Museum of CA. "We recognized that there was already another

organization in town with San Diego International Film Festival that was screening women's film and we said, 'What are we doing here? Why are we working at cross purposes?'"

The museum leadership reached out to Tonya Mantooth, CEO and Artistic Director of SDIFF to discuss bringing their audiences together. Mantooth and Shaw realized combining their efforts to highlight woman filmmakers under one roof could lead to new opportunities. They both wanted to urge audiences to support female filmmakers and the need for investment dollars to get more films on screen.

"It's better to come together and leverage all of our contacts in order to accomplish this goal," Mantooth said. "I'm so excited to not only kick this off this year but to continue growing over time."

As to turning this abstract idea into a reality, the film fest opened up submissions to any films that had at least two of the three major roles – director, producer, writer – needed to be women. Not wanting to limit creativity, the storyline of the film did not need to be female-centric.

After a selection process, the slate of the Women's Series has six feature films and four documentaries. The film festival circuit is an important way for women filmmakers to get feedback on their work, find devoted audiences, and secure future funding.

While Mantooth noted that this is currently the best time in history to be a female filmmaker, there are still concerning gender parity disparities. She noted that this is especially apparent in short films.

"A man has an easier time getting funded," she said. That funding also means short films from men will largely have higher production value than those from women, which can give the filmmaker more experience ahead of securing larger projects. "[Men] can exercise the process in a way that the abundance of females don't."

The documentaries and fiction features that make up the Women's Series often focus on



Dr. Brook Parker-Bello is receiving a Humanitarian Award for her activism as part of SDIFF's efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking. (Photos courtesy San Diego International Film Festival)

social issues. The festival is promoting three films in particular, the first being "The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks," which is based on the bestselling book by Jeanne Theoharis and produced



A still of an Afghan woman raped and impregnated by her uncle than imprisoned for 'moral crimes' in the documentary "With This Breath I Fly."

by journalist Soledad O'Brien. The documentary focused on her lifetime of civil rights organizing and activism before and after the Montgomery Bus Boycott – which was intentionally obscured during her trial for remaining seated on a segregated bus so she would not be painted as

a radical communist while being used as a test case to challenge Jim Crow laws.

The second film Mantooth and Shaw are highlighting, "With This Breath I Fly," is also a documentary, this one focusing on the complicity of the European Union in supporting Afghanistan's justice system during the international occupation of the country. Two women speak out about being imprisoned for 'moral crimes' after being raped and suffering violent domestic abuse as well as the EU's efforts to censor their voices.

The most promoted film of the entire festival is director Alison Jayne Wilson's debut film "Exit – A Journey Out of the Heart of Human Trafficking," a documentary about how three women in extreme poverty are tricked into moving to Spain for a job and instead being exploited in the sex industry. For these three women, trying to leave comes with extreme difficulties and not all of them will make it.

The festival aims to raise awareness about human trafficking during this year's event, especially as San Diego is a hotspot for sex trafficking. Dr. Brook Parker-Bello, an activist against human trafficking, will receive the Humanitarian Award at the Night of the Stars Tribute on Thursday, Oct. 20.

The new Women's Series will be interspersed throughout the weekend's film fest with a special award at the end of the event.

SDIFF offers a variety of ticket types at different price points. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit sdfilmfest.com.



Debut director Alison Jayne Wilson sheds light on sex trafficking victims in Spain, like Vanessa, in her documentary "Exit."

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Alano Club

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

community involvement and recovery, the Alano Club did just that and has widened its offerings to include 12-step recovery programs. In addition to offering an uplifting sober community and standard meetings like Narcotics Anonymous, San Diego's Alano Club tailored their services to unique communities like trans people in recovery and the kink community as well as those who wanted to attend Alcoholics Anonymous but without the religious aspect.

Before its recent closure, the club prided itself on being open every day of the year – including on holidays. They offered recovery support to 40,000 participants annually. A main goal was to focus on “long-haul” support for people in recovery to ensure participants have access to resources to ensure a lifetime of sobriety. It is this goal that made LLLAC such a robust community for those in search of support.

In 2019, they moved to a new location on University Ave. and Park Blvd. However, they have been unable to pay the rent or find a cheaper alternate location.

Despite financial struggles since the pandemic began, they continued to offer important services to the community.

“This year, we joined with the County of San Diego and the San Diego Harm Reduction Coalition

to distribute Naloxone,” Dian Lee, the most recent program manager for LLLAC, said. “To date, this has saved numerous LGBTQ+ lives.”

Naloxone is a medicine that reverses opioid overdoses, something Lee said is a notable issue in the community.

“Multiple studies show that addiction to substance abuse is significantly more prevalent in our community,” Lee said.

In surveys of the U.S. population, LGBTQ+ people were more than twice as likely as their heterosexual counterparts to have a substance use disorder. Multiple factors contributed to this issue, including night life and bars being a historically safe space for LGBTQ+ people as well as LGBTQ+ people depending upon substances to cope with the social stigma and discrimination they experience for their sexual orientation and gender expression.

“Systemic discrimination and lack of competent care in the healthcare system can deeply exacerbate these issues even and especially for individuals seeking support. Organizations like Live and Let Live Alano Club create safe and welcoming spaces for our LGBTQ siblings seeking compassionate care in their recovery journey and a sober space to feel an ongoing sense of community,” said Fernando Lopez, the Executive Director of San Diego Pride.

SD Pride partnered with the Alano Club to host Recovery Village inside the Pride Festival



The Alano Club used to be open every day of the year, including holidays, to support members of the community. (Photo by Madison Beveridge)

annually as an intentional space for sober community members to gather together, find resources and even attend NA and AA meetings throughout the weekend. After years of providing tailored services LGBTQ+ people, the Alano Club may not be able to continue,

at least in the form of a neighborhood center.

“We remain hopeful that LLLAC will find a way to overcome their current obstacles and are committed to ensuring the sober community is welcomed and well served at our festival,” Lopez said.

During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, LLLAC lost a great deal of their sponsors. Several gay bars in Hillcrest used to donate a portion of their proceeds to the Alano Club but those proceeds diminished during quarantine restrictions. Support from paying members, coffee bar sales, fundraising events, and donations from local LGBTQ+ businesses were not enough to pay for rent on a storefront in Hillcrest.

With a growing need for support to continue their work in the LGBTQ+ community, the organization began fundraising to found a permanent LGBTQ+ recovery center. They also reached out to other nonprofits and government officials to plead for alternative interventions but did not find an underwritten or subsidized location.

Moving to a new space and continuing support for recovering members of the community will only be possible with help from members of the public, Lee said. The organization is still fundraising to open a new recovery center.

If LLLAC can find a permanent home, they will be able to continue offering assistance to those in the LGBTQ+ community that need their support.

“Anyone seeking recovery is welcome —regardless of sexual orientation, religion, sex, race,” Lee said.

Information on how to donate, how to seek support, meeting and event info can be found at llac.org/donate.

WHERE DOES YOUR PROPERTY GO IF YOU DIE WITHOUT A WILL OR TRUST?

By: Dick McEntyre and Chris von der Lieth, Attorneys at Law

Except where you hold title with another as a joint tenant, or have designated your beneficiary under an insurance policy, retirement plan, or IRA, if you die without leaving a will or a trust (called dying “intestate”), your entire estate will pass in accordance with what are called the laws of intestate succession.



Assume you own a home and some mutual funds, and you die intestate, here's what would happen under California law:

1. If, when you died you were married and had two children, and the home and mutual funds were owned by you and your spouse as community property (meaning, essentially, any property acquired by either spouse while you are married, except acquired by gift or inheritance) (in which each of you own an undivided one-half interest), your spouse would receive your one-half community property interest (in addition to the one-half interest that he or she already owned).
2. If, when you died you were married and had two children, and the home and mutual funds were owned by yourself as your separate property (meaning property you, alone, had acquired by gift or inheritance, or had owned before you were married), your spouse and two children would each receive one-third of your estate.

3. If, when you died you were unmarried and had two children, each of your two children would receive one-half of your estate.

It gets more complicated where you have no spouse and no children. Your estate then passes by “degree of kinship” to your parent(s); but if none surviving, to your brothers and sisters; but if none surviving, to your grandparents; but if none surviving, to your uncles and aunts, and so-on down the line.

The point of all this: to avoid what would perhaps be an unintended disposition of our property, and also to avoid a costly and time-consuming court-required administration (“probate”) of your estate, we should each pass on our estates by the appropriate written instrument – trust or will.

The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader's particular situation. Richard E. McEntyre practices law in the area of estate planning and administration, having served the San Diego community as a lawyer for over 40 years. Chris von der Lieth is a lawyer who has worked with Dick for over 8 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. House calls available.

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Emergency Voucher

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

with a stereotype of what a homeless person looks like would not guess that Lewis-Gutierrez does not have housing.

She has been at the store for about a year and earns about \$1,600 a month working part-time. Of all the jobs she has had, this ranks as one of her favorites. A four-year-old girl named Sophie recently asked her to be her best friend. Lewis-Gutierrez smiled and agreed. She has gotten to know a hairdresser and her three daughters.

Another customer cried when she told him she had applied for a job at a Target store off Interstate 805. It would be an opportunity to work there and convenient. She has lived in a 1982 Chevrolet P30 Winnebago with her fiancé on a side street across from the store for almost two years.

Of the nearly 8,500 homeless people in San Diego County, more than 700 live in vehicles, according to an annual countywide survey. Almost 500 emergency housing vouchers became available last



While Lewis-Gutierrez dreams of having a safe and permanent place to live, she said the aging Winnebago is an improvement from when she camped in the riverbed behind Fashion Valley Mall. (Photos by J.M. Garcia)



Lewis-Gutierrez and her fiancé Teddy Medhin have added two stray cats to their cramped living space inside the Winnebago while staying on a side street populated by other homeless people living in their vehicles.

year to address housing insecurity worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lewis-Gutierrez received one but a year later, red tape and the bias of some landlords toward homeless people has made it difficult for her to find a home before the voucher expires.

“One landlord told me, ‘All people on Section 8 have bed bugs,’” Lewis-Gutierrez, 39, said. “Rather than clump me in with a category, they should look at me as a completely different person.”

Lewis-Gutierrez grew up in a small, quiet town in Utah. During her high school senior year she met a young man and became pregnant. They married and had two more children by the time she was 24. She said her husband introduced her to heroin and pills. That led to years of substance use and a four-month prison sentence. They divorced in 2016 and the state took the children, turning them over to their father’s aunt. The following year, Lewis-Gutierrez moved to San Diego with a truck driver and stopped using drugs. But when he died of cancer in 2018, she became homeless and resumed her drug habit. With the support of her fiancé, Teddy Medhin, who she met at a 7/11 store the same year, Lewis-Gutierrez stopped using drugs again and has been clean and sober since 2019.

Like Lewis-Gutierrez, Medhin, 39, had a substance use disorder and spent time in prison. He said he has been drug-free for five years. He works at a gas station.

“I’m doing this sobriety for me,” Lewis-Gutierrez said. “A lot of homeless don’t quit because you quit and then you look around at the bushes and dirt you’re staying in and think, ‘I’m by myself and this is it,’ and you get high to get away from your life. You have to take the person out of the environment.”

Living in a dilapidated Winnebago may not be that far removed from staying outside but Lewis-Gutierrez prefers it to sleeping in the riverbed behind Fashion Valley Mall like she once

did. She and Medhin have organized their work schedules so that one of them can always be with the Winnebago to prevent someone from stealing it or breaking in. Once they find a place to rent, they hope to work the same hours so they can be home together.

“Katrina has struggled to find a landlord not too stringent on background checks,” said Cory Stapleton, an outreach worker with the nonprofit, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH). “Homeless people face a lot of obstacles and discrimination getting access to housing. Happens all the time in different ways.”

The emergency housing voucher issued to Lewis-Gutierrez applies only to San Diego County. She has asked to have it transferred to the city so that she can look for housing near her job. However, according to Stapleton, the city has not agreed to the transfer.

“We’ve been working to provide the paperwork,” Stapleton said, “but so far the city hasn’t accepted her request. She has a resource but she can’t find a home. It’s an unfortunate disconnect between the county and the city.”

Meanwhile, the city said the process is easy and landlords have plenty of incentives to rent to previously homeless households.

Transferring a voucher, also known as porting, should not be an issue, said Azucena Valladolid, executive vice president of rental assistant and workforce development with the SD housing commission.

“There’s a lot of flexibility,” Valladolid said. “There’re no restriction on transfers. We have many transfers. They just ask their caseworker to transfer to another jurisdiction. It’s an easy process.”

In addition, she said, emergency housing vouchers include incentives for landlords including \$500 for the first unit landlords rent to a homeless household and \$250 for each additional unit; up to two times the contract rent in security deposits and an average of \$100 in utility assistance per household; a contingency fund to help landlords cover repairs and other expenses that exceed security deposits; and the support of San Diego Housing Commission housing specialists.

The vouchers were provided to the San Diego House Commission by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. They became valid in July 2021 and last a year. Lewis-Gutierrez has had to apply for extensions to keep hers valid. Under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the federal government pays the rent of homeless household or those at risk of homelessness. The tenant pays a pre-determined portion of the rent based on their income.

The disconnect between the bureaucratic systems and programs in the city and county are an ongoing issue for those trying to access services. At a joint meeting on Monday, Oct. 3, San Diego County Board of Supervisors

SEE **EMERGENCY VOUCHER**, Page 13



Lewis-Gutierrez said her job at the Häagen-Dazs store in Fashion Valley has let her get close to many customers and ranks among her favorite workplaces.



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BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

LARGE-SCALE SEAFOOD HOUSE COMING ASHORE IN LITTLE ITALY

The first U.S.-based **Fisher's** will open in Little Italy at the end of October to the tune of fresh-caught seafood prepared in a variety of avant-garde styles. Headquartered in Mexico, the chain extends to more than 30 locations around the globe, with its most recent opening occurring in Madrid.

Locally, it will splash into the 8,700-square-foot space previously occupied by **Roma Urban Market** in the heart of Little Italy.

Fisher's San Diego will be headed by executive chef and partner Nino Franco, who has been with the company since 1993. His menu offerings will encompass a variety of seafood in everything from gourmet plates and a raw bar to tacos, chilaquiles and more.

Fisher's operates its own processing plant and transportation



Rendering of the stylish Fisher's San Diego, which is due to open in late October. (Photo courtesy Alternative Strategies)

network for delivering fresh, regional catches to each of its restaurants. 555 W. Beech St., fishers-sandiego.com.



Uptown's new Filipino bodega (Photo by Nathan Concepcion)

A FILIPINO WALK-UP ARRIVES TO NORMAL HEIGHTS

Acclaimed chef Philip Esteban has opened **White Rice Bodega** on Adams Avenue after successfully establishing the brand in Point Loma's **Liberty Public Market**.

The quaint eatery is tailored after a Filipino sari-sari (or bodega). It features a walk-up order window and an outdoor patio.

Esteban's menu spotlights traditional Filipino fare such as sweet rolls (ube pandesal), lumpia, crispy pork belly over rice (lechon kawali), mushroom-tofu sisig, and more.

Classic beverages such as calamansi iced tea and ube milk tea are also in the offering.

For every meal purchased, the restaurant donates a meal to various community groups such as **Father Joe's Village** and **National City Olivewood Gardens**. 3586 Adams Ave., 619-282-9182.

JACK FACTS

Did you know that the very first **Jack in the Box** opened in 1951 at 6270 El Cajon Blvd., supposedly the same year that Merriam-Webster published the term "fast-food" in its dictionaries?

The homegrown chain was founded by entrepreneur Robert O. Peterson, who would soon after open a second location in Pacific Beach before significantly expanding the brand throughout the 1960s. Today there are more than 2,200 Jack in the Box outlets in 21 states.

Perhaps a lesser-known fact is that the company introduced its famous fried tacos back in the 1950s. To the surprise of many consumers today, their mulchy fillings are not 100 percent beef. The mixture contains a near-equal blend of beef and soy—and they always have since the beginning, according to a rep



The first location of Jack in the Box on El Cajon Boulevard (Photo courtesy Jack in the Box Corporation)

from company's Kearny Mesa headquarters. This puts Jack in the Box far ahead in the game of using textured proteins and tofu in mass consumer products. jackinthebox.com.

SWING INTO ACTION AT JOHNNY WAHOO! GOLF BAR

The San Diego-based RMD Group has opened a bar and kitchen replete with full-swing golf simulators in the Gaslamp Quarter.



Cocktails and good eats at a new golf-themed bar in the Gaslamp Quarter (Photo courtesy J Public Relations)

Johnny WAHOO! Golf Bar was opened after its partnership with **WAHOO! Brewing**, which created for the venture a low-calorie lager and four beers boasting various fruit flavors. A variety of wine and signature cocktails are also in the offering to complement a creative food menu featuring glazed donut grilled cheese sandwiches, potato chip nachos, double smashburgers, lump crab corn fritters, and more.

Aside from the golf simulators, which flaunt high-res graphics of courses of in Pebble Beach and Bandon Dunes, the venue also offers interactive gameplay experiences in a dozen other sports, including football, baseball and soccer. 527 Fifth Ave., 619-642-2652, johnnywahoogolfbar.com.



A landmark property is entering a new era. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

MAJOR RENOVATIONS OCCURRING AT NORTH PARK'S HISTORIC LAFAYETTE HOTEL

The ever-expanding portfolio of eating and drinking establishments operated by locally based **CH Projects** has come to include the colonial-style **Lafayette Hotel** on El Cajon Boulevard. The property recently closed to the public to make way for a whopping \$26 million redo, which will come to include seven restaurants and bars within the hotel.

The ambitious remodel will also include upgrades to the hotel's guest rooms and pool area.

Slated to reopen in May, look for the introduction of venues such as **Mama Intento**, a stylish agave-centric bar replete with a wood-fired oven used for roasting a wide variety of meats. It will be designed around a 100-plus-year-old altar salvaged from a Mexican church.

There will also be a stylish cocktail bar and game room called **The Gutter**, featuring a bowling alley rigged with a gravity-fed ball-return system. Or for those seeking a vintage fine-dining experience, **Faux Pas** will spotlight crafty martinis and prime rib cut tableside. 2223 El Cajon Blvd., 619-296-2101, lafayettehotelsd.com.



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Ward to stay focused on Tijuana sewage fix if reelected

By WILL SCADDEN

The California General Elections are approaching, and San Diego's 78th Assembly District Member seat is on the ballot. As San Diegans prepare to vote, Democratic incumbent Chris Ward hopes to win his seat again.

With the new census, Ward would represent inland educational institutions like San Diego State University for the first time while no longer representing University of California San Diego if reelected after the 78th District boundaries shifted east away from the coast.

Assembly Member Ward recently sat down and spoke with SD News about his previous work to temper climate change and environmental issues as well as what he plans if reelected.

One of the environmental issues he is most concerned with is the raw sewage leaking into the Tijuana River Valley and contaminating San Diego beaches.

"It's a mix of both federal state and local and nonprofit bodies that all have a

role to play in the solutions that are needed there," Ward explained. "the federal investments that came last year have been helping meaningfully with some, modest fixes that can actually capture a lot of the debris making its way over."

The federal government and Mexican government have committed to a joint \$474 million project to fix the sewage treatment plant in Tijuana and clean up the U.S. side of the border damaged by the sewage.

While this joint international project will be finished down the road, the state of California allocated \$20 million this year to the State Water Resources Control Board to do smaller projects in the meantime like filter sewage that flows into small canyons where there is hardly any infrastructure to stop the sewage from leaking into the estuary and river on the U.S. side of the boarder.

Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill on Sept. 30 that would have allocated

SEE CHRIS WARD, Page 15

Herbal kitchen

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

behind as you can. A vegetable peeler works well for this job or a paring knife.

Stuff the peel into a small jar. A 4- or 8-ounce canning jar works well for this or any jar you have. Fill the jar approximately half full of citrus peel and then pour honey in the jar until it is about three-quarters full. You'll want to leave a tiny bit of space at the top because honey is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs water from material around it. The honey will be pulling all of the water soluble aromatics and medicinal properties out of the peel and infusing them into your honey. After one to two weeks this process will be complete. Your honey will be slightly syrupy, and oh so delicious.

Fire Cider has become incredibly popular in the past few years. It is essentially an herbal oxymel elixir of vinegar and honey. This slightly tart, sweet and spicy tonic is wonderful taken in the fall as the weather shifts. The original recipe for Fire Cider was first popularized by the renowned herbalist Rosemary Gladstar in the 1970s. A daily shot or spoonful will provide a boost of vitality. You can also use as you would any vinegar in salad dressings or when cooking.

Fire Cider Recipe:

To prepare a one quart batch:

- ¼ cup freshly grated ginger
- ¼ cup freshly grated horseradish
- Small onion - chopped
- 1 head of garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1-4 peppers (add according to your taste)
- 1 Lemon or orange chopped

When working with ginger, horseradish, onions, garlic, and peppers remember to keep your hands away from your face, especially your eyes and nose. If you have sensitive skin, you may want to wear gloves.

Add the chopped items to a quart jar. Customize your Fire Cider with fresh herbs!

For fall, wonderful herbs to consider are: Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme,



Fire cider is a popular tonic of apple cider vinegar and honey with other ingredients mixed in.

Chives, Turmeric, Burdock Root, Dandelion Root, and Calendula Flowers.

After you have added your herbs, pour in enough Apple Cider Vinegar to cover, leaving 1-2 inches at the top. If you have a metal lid, cover the top with waxed paper or parchment paper and then place the metal over the paper. Seal tightly. Let sit for 2-4 weeks in a cool dark place. Shake once a day. Strain the vinegar from the herbs and sweeten with honey to taste.

Finally, make your house smell like fall! Add a simmer pot to the stove.

Place a pot on the stove filled with water. Add crushed cinnamon sticks, cloves, nutmeg, slices of your favorite citrus and allow to gently simmer. Keep an eye on your pot as you don't want all the water to boil away.

Another wonderful version is Thyme, Lavender and Rosemary.

Wishing everyone an abundant and restful fall! Remember to count your blessings and be grateful for those that you love.

—Cindy Saylor is a certified herbalist and nutritionist. She offer workshops, private consultations, herbal potions and work at a monthly free clinic. She is teaching a hands-on workshop on making Fire Cider and Infused Honey and attendees will have an opportunity to harvest fresh herbs on Sunday, Oct. 9 in the garden at Wild Willow Farm. Learn more at everydayplantmagic.com and follow her on Instagram at @everydayplantmagic.

Emergency Voucher

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

Chair Nathan Fletcher and San Diego City Council President Sean Elo-Rivera pledged to work together to build 10,000 units of affordable housing on government property and streamline the processes of building new housing. Both city and county unanimously voted in favor of the resolution.

Valladolid said 480 emergency housing vouchers were issued last year and 449 voucher recipients have found housing. The remaining 31 recipients, like Lewis-Gutierrez, continue their search for a landlord willing to rent to them.

“I’m talking to a landlord now who is willing to work with me but she doesn’t have any openings,” Lewis-Gutierrez said.

For now, Lewis-Gutierrez makes the best of what she has. She speaks with her mother in Utah every day. Her children, she said, feel ambivalent about her. Her oldest son joined the Marines. Another son will soon graduate from high school. Her youngest, a 13-year-old daughter, is active in sports.

At night, two stray cats rescued by Lewis-Gutierrez and Medhin perch on the Winnebago’s dashboard and watch them sweep the sidewalk outside of Target. Nine other people live in their vehicles on the same street. A man in a white car works construction. Two home healthcare nurses live in a green car. A man who receives disability assistance stays in an RV.

“I want just a little yard, a cute garden and to feel safe,” Lewis-Gutierrez said. “Something comfortable. Something Teddy and I can call our own.”

Supervisor Fletcher visits Hillcrest Town Council

By DANIEL MERK-BENITEZ

The Hillcrest Town Council was happy to welcome back County Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher to the Sept. 13 meeting. Chair Fletcher shared an update on a wide range of work that he and the county are doing.

A very pressing issue is the outbreak of Monkeypox in San Diego County—especially within Hillcrest and the LGBTQ+ community. Chair Fletcher shared that while the county began with a deficit of vaccine supply, through informational campaigns, town halls, text alerts and other initiatives, it appears that cases are diminishing—a trend that seems to be happening nationwide. The Chair expressed that he was still working diligently to give more San Diegans access to vaccines to curb any future upswings in the outbreak.

A county-owned lot at the end of Third Avenue was originally slated to be redeveloped into a regional behavioral health hub with a hospital level facility operating to provide services for those suffering from mental health and addiction services. Chair Fletcher shared that in its review process, the county was able to find an existing building near Alvarado Hospital off Interstate 8. This existing hospital-level facility allows the county to move much faster in opening the hub—thereby fast-tracking access to these services. The Third Avenue lot will

still be developed as a behavioral health facility, but will provide different services like boarding care, long-term living and perhaps a drug treatment center.

Fletcher also shared that there is a new crisis hotline that has recently opened. The new 9-8-8 hotline will provide callers access to counselors and will be able to dispatch mobile crisis response teams for individuals experiencing behavioral health issues. Residents are encouraged to utilize the new hotline for behavioral health issues over calling 9-1-1.

Following Chair Fletcher, the HTC was joined by a team from Scripps Mercy Health to provide an update on their hospital redevelopment plan. The project, which began four years ago and covers 21 acres, is already underway with the construction of a new parking structure on Sixth Avenue. This eight to nine year construction project will include the new parking structure, a brand new hospital and medical office building. At the urging of the community, the new layout will also have ample outdoor space for patients, families and neighbors to enjoy.

The next Hillcrest Town Council will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 11 and will include an update from Mayor Todd Gloria. The mayor will also take questions and comments from community members. The meeting will be hosted via Zoom. For more information, please visit HillcrestTownCouncil.org.

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	1						5	
3			4			7		
	6				9			
			6	5				8
		8	9					
		7		4		5	2	
4			1					
		6				8	7	
	9	2		6				

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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56						57				58			
59						60							
62						63						64	

- CLUES ACROSS**

 - Towards the mouth or oral region
 - A way to season
 - North-central Indian city
 - Emaciation
 - Actress de Armas
 - A way to score in basketball
 - Odd
 - Scripting languages on IBM machines
 - A right of local jurisdiction
 - Hard, colorless compound
 - Diving seabird
 - Wild goat of the mountains
- CLUES DOWN**

 - Genus of owls
 - Hindu queen
 - Cain and ___
 - Hindu female deity
 - Islamic calendar month
 - Changes posture
 - More stubborn
 - Give work to
 - Round maps of the Earth
 - Gathered fallen leaves
 - Popular credit card
 - Separation of church and state
 - Founder of Sikhism
- CLUES ACROSS**

 - Not shortened
 - Someone who learns from a teacher
 - Is inclined
 - Still asleep
 - Antidepressants (abbr.)
 - Town in Surrey, England
 - Indian music patterns
 - Birth control means
 - People tend to be on one
 - A way to keep meat moist
 - Home of the Crimson Tide
 - Pasta type
 - Late 1990s rapper
- CLUES DOWN**

 - Crony
 - Surgical clamp
 - Leave unable to move due to lack of wind
 - Where rockers work
 - Valleys
 - Ancient lyric poem
 - Wise men
 - It lights a room
 - Assert
 - Fifth Roman Emperor
 - Ancient Greek city in Thrace

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Strut For Sobriety! event raises money with fashion show

Fashion Files
By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**

A New PATH presented the 18th Annual Strut For Sobriety! on Sept. 17 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. The event began with a boutique and silent auction in the foyer. Stacy Pecore provided music for all the guests. After a fun morning of shopping, guests adjourned to the Silver Pearl Ballroom for the luncheon and fashion show. The Visionary Dance Theatre greeted everyone as they were seated. Mary Jean Anderson, President/CEO of Anderson Plumbing Heating & Air was the Honorary Chair and Liz Crocker and Judy Lawton were the event co-chairs.



Model showing off Satori
(Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



Model wearing Shaneh
Boutique



Runway fashion by Moda
Lucido



Finale fashions from Macy's
Fashion Valley



Canine model Winston on
the runway

The Mistresses of Ceremonies were TV personality Geni Cavitt and NBC 7's Rory Devine. They announced the PATH to Recovery Awardees — the first went to Maria Alexander, the Executive Director of Center for Living and Learning and the second went to Jaime Arredondo Sanchez Lira who is assistant

professor at the School of Public Health & Social Policy at the University of Victoria, BC. They were both recognized for their work in reducing the stigma associated with substance use disorders. Shelby Perry was the guest speaker and told her inspirational story about recovery. There wasn't a dry eye left in the house

as the Perry, the manager of San Diego Coastal Sober, shared her tough experience with addiction and recovery. Next, Auctioneer Erin Liddell stepped onto the stage to lead the live auction. Various two-night stays were auctioned off going to this worthy fundraiser. The crowd was waiting in anticipation for the

fashion show produced by Gretchen Productions. Gretchen Burns is known for her high energy shows melding fashion and entertainment together. The models came down the runway wearing the latest fall fashions from Macy's and other local boutiques.

SEE **FASHION SHOW**, Page 15

UPCOMING EVENTS

FWSD22 Runway Shows at the Andaz from 6-10 p.m. on Oct. 8 will feature 10-piece collection from designers followed by a trunk show on day two on the rooftop. For tickets bit.ly/3SyMCC6.

Kenneth Barlis presents 10th Anniversary Event at the Port Pavillion on Broadway Pier beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22. For tickets visit kennethbarlisofficial.com/.



Children's fashions were also a part of the runway show.



Sophie Taylor from the San Diego Ballet dances as the Tre Tenores sing.



Singer Shelly Courchaine performs as model struts down the runway wearing Glamour Girlz Boutique



Hispanic Heritage Month Business Spotlight: Lolita's Mexican Food

If you've attended a San Diego Padres game, or live or work downtown, there's a good chance you've stopped by Lolita's Mexican Food across from Petco Park on Park Boulevard.

The popular location is always buzzing with baseball fans, downtown residents and tourists alike who want some of the best rolled tacos and California burritos in San Diego.

Dolores C. Jackson, president of Lolita's Mexican Food in San Diego, has been working for the family-owned business since 2001, but it's been part of her life for nearly four decades. In 1984, Jackson's parents, Joaquin and Dolores Farfan, opened their first location in Chula Vista. Today, they have six locations including downtown San Diego and Kearny Mesa.

"My dad is 75 and still works here every day," she says of the family-owned operation.

It's a priority for Jackson and her five siblings to be present at their locations. They all have different roles within the company including operations, safety, and marketing. During the height of the pandemic, the family stepped in wherever needed due to staffing shortages, including washing dishes, cooking and bussing tables, sometimes going from their daytime corporate role to a nighttime role at one of the locations without pause.

For 15 years, they've used Cox Business services supported by the San Diego team, with senior account manager Angelica Carrillo as their primary point of contact.

"When we first opened, we had basic phones, but as operations expanded, we added Cox Business Internet to ensure our point-of-sale systems were highly functional," Jackson said. "We also transitioned to phone lines with a queue system for takeout orders to have a smoother flow while also advising guests of the ability to order online."

Jackson also added televisions, powered by Cox Business, so customers can enjoy sporting events while dining in or taking out.

Jackson and her family are proud of how Lolita's has become a tradition for generations of Mexican food lovers.

"We see college students returning home and stopping by with their families, and they're students we've served since they were children."

Visit lolitasmexicanfood.com and coxbusiness.com for more information.



Pierce-Morse Building

CONTINUED FROM Page 5

struc-ture, as well as lawyers, doctors, civil engineers, real estate agents and Morse himself. Prominent lawyers Judge Moses Luce, his partner, J.J. Henderson, and Cassius Carter had offices in the building. Carter was an organ-izer and founder of the Cuyamaca Club, and was considered one of the foremost Shakespearean scholars of his time. A stage at the Old Globe The-ater commemorates his name.

E.M. Capps, a civil engineer, who was active in planning the Broadway Pier and prepared plans for the million-dollar harbor expansion, had his offices in the building. He, additionally, developed a rapid firing gun, served two terms as Mayor and acted as City Engineer for ten years.

No list of prominent tenants would be complete without mentioning Dr. Emma T. Read. Dr. Read is considered one of the pioneer women dentists of her time. Despite the male

dominance of her era, she was very successful, and was one of four women to be licensed out of a class with 56 men. She also helped many young people get an education and gave a home to old and needy citizens. Dr. Read remained in the building until 1923.

Unfortunately, by the mid 1950s, old age and weather damage had taken its toll on the Pierce-Morse Block, and this necessitated the demolition and removal of the upper floors. At this time, historical perspectives and resto-ration techniques were not implemented. Consequently, all that remains of this splendid and iconic structure are remnants of the original basement and first floor. The front of the building has been covered with stucco and inlaid with tiles. It does not reflect either the grandeur of the old building or the theme and motif of the Gaslamp. The Pierce-Morse may be gone, but the structure and the era it represented are not forgotten.

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



This web at the end of the exhibit showcases the many versions of Spider characters in the past and the future.



(Photos by Kendra Sitton)

Spider-Man exhibit

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

live ceremony officiated by Stan Lee at Shea Stadium and broadcast nationally before a baseball game upon the release of Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21. In the comic itself, a fictional Smith gifts the wedding dress to Mary Jane ahead of her wedding to Spider-Man.

“Willi Smith was a queer African American club kid from New York City. And he became a designer whose entire ethos was democratizing high fashion and making it accessible. He launched

the first line of streetwear and high fashion that was available at a reasonable price point in mainstream outlets,” Reed said.

Smith, a lifetime comic book fan, sadly died of AIDS in 11987 before the comic was released yet his fictional and real legacy is preserved through his part in the wedding.

Studio TK created the digital displays peppered throughout the exhibit that make the installation come alive visually. One such display at the end of the exhibit is a long wall of with a spider web embedded with small screens flipping through images of the many permutations of Spider-verse characters. Marvel even sent the studio images of characters who had yet

to be debuted or announced when the exhibit opened.

“It’s not only the past and present of the Spider-Verse. It also has some little hints toward the future,” Reed said.

The images even include little-known characters like Val, the first-ever Spider-Woman who appeared only once in a PBS special. As a Black woman with an afro in the 1970s, she is an example of the Spider-Verse being for everyone.

“[The web] is a really nice way to sort of bring home the vast potential and the expansiveness of the Spider-Verse and the sort of universality of the concept of Spider-Man at this point, and how pretty much everyone can be a Spider-Man,” Reed said.

Chris Ward

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

an additional \$100 million to fixing the issue.

“I had asked for another \$100 million. We were able to secure \$20 million for both the Tijuana River and the New River, which is out in Imperial County and also has a lot of environmental issues.” Ward said, “And again, we’re [state government] trying to do a lot of these short term, more

immediate and modest projects, while the federal government with our international partners figure out how actually to execute the big, big part on climate change.”

The part of San Diego most damaged by the sewage is Imperial Beach. Although IB will be in District 80 next year, Ward will still be involved in the issue of Tijuana River Valley contamination if elected.

“Part of what I’m hopeful with if we can extend my term is the

design and purpose of the work we’re doing here on the bigger facility. It is going to be able to have a water reclamation component, just like we’re doing here in the city of San Diego, so they can actually recapture the water and be able to actually turn that back into potable drinking water,” Ward said.

The incumbent Assembly Member is running for another two-year term in the California State Assembly against Republican Eric Gonzales.

Fashion show

CONTINUED FROM Page 14

Interspersed were performances from Sophie Taylor of the San Diego Ballet, the Visionary Dance, and many amazing singers such as the Tré Tenores.

This event coincided with September’s National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month. A New PATH is a non-profit working to reduce the stigma associated with addictive

illness. They advocate for therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies. The proceeds benefits A New PATH whose projects include lifesaving overdose prevention and Narcan distribution. For more information visit: anewpathsite.org

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