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The SDCCU Holiday Bowl returns to Downtown

KGB Sky Show added to college football game

By VINCE MEEHAN



U.S. Navy F-18s perform a flyover of the opening ceremonies of the Holiday Bowl. (Photo courtesy of the San Diego Bowl Game Association)

"We're gonna play a football game!" That was the declaration of Rick Schloss, director of media relations at the San Diego Bowl Game Association which puts on the annual college football holiday bowl. The San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl has become a tradition in San Diego that also includes concerts, a parade and a 5K run on game day. The annual bowl game pits a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) against a team from the PAC-12 Conference. Last year, the North Carolina State

SEE HOLIDAY BOWL, Page 16

Mayor Gloria promises to prioritize safety over vehicle speed on streets

SD County Bicycle Coalition, Families for Safe Streets host vigil for traffic crash victims


By WILL SCADDEN

On Friday, November 18, the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and the Families for Safe Streets organization hosted an eye-watering vigil at the Civic Center to observe the world day of remembrance for road traffic victims. City Council members Sean Elo-Rivera, Raul Campillo,



Will Rhatigan, advocacy director for the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition speaking to members of the media at Friday night's vigil. (Photo by Will Scadden)

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Save Starlight seeks to refurbish a forgotten gem

By VINCE MEEHAN

The Starlight Bowl has been a fixture in Balboa Park for over 80 years. Many people in San Diego have fond memories of seeing musical acts, plays, comedy and even Mexican variety shows at the starlight bowl when they were younger. There was always



(L to R) Save Starlight members Vicki Estrada, Steve Stopper, and Angelique (Angel) Ghadishah in the derelict bowl. (Photo by Vince Meehan)

something magical about seeing a live performance under the stars on a summer night, and longtime San Diego residents cherish those memories. But there are many here in America's finest city who do not even know that the Starlight Bowl exists, much less where it is located. The people at Save Starlight think that is a shame—and they intend to bring

SEE SAVE STARLIGHT, Page 11

Immigrant women own cutting-edge style at Omnia Salon & Spa

By VINCE MEEHAN

The owners of a cutting-edge beauty salon in Hillcrest are proud of showing what women, and especially immigrant women, can achieve.

"We are a women-owned business and we're not from here – we're from other countries – but still, we came here and did this thing so its like women empowerment. And we want people to know that its possible, women can do things!" said Nilima Shrestha, a co-owner of Omnia Salon & Spa.

She is originally from Nepal while co-owner Abhi Jaiswal is from India.

The people of Hillcrest have taken whole-heartedly to this specialized beauty salon as a way to stay current with the latest trends and keep their look fresh.

"We love being here in Hillcrest! I've been in the beauty industry for 15 years and this is the very first hair salon that I've owned," Jaiswal said. "I've worked at different salons in different places like Michigan and South Carolina, but

we are having so much fun here! It's a very vibrant community here, very lovely and happy people here. All our stylists are very happy. This is like a small family; it's less like work and more like a family!"

Shrestha and has a keen eye for fashion and high-end designer brands. She and Jaiswal bought the salon a year and a half ago, and have been going strong ever since. Shrestha studied at the Bellus Academy in Poway, then, decided to put that education to the test.

"I came here to study in college and I always wanted to work in the beauty field. After college I told myself, 'its time to do something!' And now I'm here running my own salon," Shrestha said.

The duo make the perfect team in creating a salon that caters to their stylish clientele who are very familiar with the new treatments and techniques that are all over social media.

"We are the second owners of the salon, and Omnia Salon & Spa is a one-stop for all the beauty needs. We offer a full range of hair services, customized body waxing, customized facial, eyebrow laminations. Whatever is a new trend— we have it in our salon," Jaiswal stated. "We are [a] very trendy and classy all-skills salon in Hillcrest."

Omnia Salon & Spa offers a wide array of services including hair cut and styling, waxing, hair



(L to R) Sachiko Oikawa, Rebeca McLaughlin, Abhi Jaiswal, Eric Martinez, Alex Padilla, (seated) Nilima Shrestha.

and lash extensions, micro-blading and eyebrow threading.

Using natural and organic products and processes is very important to both Jaiswal and Shrestha. They go the extra mile to ensure that their clients get nothing but the best.

"We even customize our own wax. We mix waxes because different skins require different waxes," said Shrestha. "We offer eyebrow laminations, eyelash lifting and tinting. We also have very

organic and natural henna brows. Those give you the tinting effect without using any harsh chemicals on the skin."

Both women are extremely proud of the stylists they employ and like to highlight the diverse expertise they offer.

"All the stylists here, they have their own flavor and flair when it comes to doing hair," Jaiswal pointed out. "They all have their own specialties and everyone is very passionate when they offer their services. Some of my stylists are very superb with the razor cut, and some of them are expert at color or extensions. All the stylists here in the salon are certified hair extensionists and have been at it for at least five years. We do not hire any stylists who have less than five years experience just so that we can provide the best customer service to our clients. Everyone here is like an artist!"

Shrestha is especially proud of the diversity represented in the stylists at Omnia Salon & Spa. She that is important not only

for San Diego, but especially for the Hillcrest community. "We are multi-ethnic, from all different ethnicities here. We are multi-lingual people; everybody speaks two or three languages here. A couple of girls here are from Mexico and they speak Spanish, and others speak Japanese and Korean. And they all have different specialties that they offer the community. If a client is looking for a certain look, we will refer them to a stylist which specializes in that technique. We will tell them who is best fitted for that procedure."

Jaiswal's 15 years in the beauty industry has allowed her to create a salon that offers in-house procedures that ensure the customer satisfaction that keeps her clients coming back for more. She said that people come from all over San Diego and even Orange County to visit her salon.

Shrestha said, "This is the community we want to serve. We feel very blessed that we can serve this community and we love what we do here!"

OMINA SALON & SPA

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(L to R) Abhi Jaiswal and Nilima Shrestha. (Photos by Vince Meehan)

Maple Canyon: A treasured urban exploration trail

By CYNTHIA G. ROBERTSON

For those times when you want a way to get away from the hectic pace of the city, it can be done without ever leaving it. Right in our backyard in Uptown is a good number of finger canyons that often link up to other trails and awe-inspiring spaces. Some of these trails lead through thick stands of trees and under the dramatic spans of meticulously built bridges. Others take you to the hiding places of birds and animals.

Maple Canyon is one such magical trail to take a quiet stroll while observing fascinating bridges.

Just a few blocks from the hub-bub of Uptown and layer upon layer of traffic on Laurel Street, Harbor Drive and I-5 with jet planes searing the sky above while preparing to land on the airstrip at Lindbergh Airport, there is an easy-to-reach retreat. From Laurel Street going west, turn right on State Street, and once again on Maple Street where there is parking for cars. Follow the end of Maple Street to the trailhead, and like magic, you'll find yourself surrounded by tall eucalyptus trees.

As you listen to the twitter of birds such as the California Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow and Cassin's Kingbird, you'll notice a deep ravine created by streams that run through during heavy rains. When the ravine is



Lemonade Berry found in the canyon.

dry, it forms perfect hobbit-like spaces where you can slip around and under tree roots and pass the time reading or daydreaming and watch the light change as the sun sets lower in the sky.

Go further up the one-mile there-and-back trail and you'll see an enormous bridge spanning over the trees. That is the elegant First Avenue Bridge. Built in 1931, the bridge was assembled completely in Ohio before being dismantled and shipped to San Diego. Cars driving over First Street create the soothing clip-clop rhythm, a sound reminiscent of a far-away time even though created by modern machines.

Along the dirt path are healthy bushes and plants such as Lemonade Berry, an evergreen scrub with white to pink leaves in the winter and tiny, tart fruit that tastes lemony. Laurel Sumac and Castor Bean plants bloom among the stands of palm trees and eucalyptus.

The stately Quince Bridge comes up next. The pedestrians walking across the wooden trestle bridge seem a mile high up. Built in 1905 for less than \$1,000, the bridge allowed easier access to the-then Fourth Avenue trolley station, in the days when electric streetcars crisscrossed the streets of San Diego's now-Uptown neighborhoods.

Along the stream bed past the Quince Bridge are palms and oaks, wild radish and nasturtiums,



The First St. Bridge, known as the People's Bridge, is one of the rare steel arched bridges in San Diego.



The large wooden pedestrian bridge is near the trailhead on Third Street. (Photos by Cynthia Robertson)

along with prickly pear cactus lining the sides of the canyon. A steep set of stairs underneath the bridge's elaborate ironwork will lead you to the other end of Maple Canyon at Third Street where you can reverse your steps and then re-enter the city.

Our next exploration will



The Quince Street bridge is open to pedestrians.

be nearby Arroyo Canyon and Spruce Street Bridge.

—Cynthia G. Robertson has been an award-winning local

freelance writer and photographer for more than 30 years. She has also penned a novel, "Where You See Forever." Her website is cynthiarobertson.com.

MAPLE CANYON TRAIL

1 mile trail from Maple St. to Third Ave.

All skill levels

Dogs must be leashed

Family friendly

No bikes

Entrances at Maple St., Third Ave. north of Quince St., or near historic bridges



The trail is accessed through a steep ravine which makes it inaccessible to wheelchairs and bikes.



The intricate ironwork of the underside of the First Street Bridge which is still used by vehicles.



Standing beneath the Quince Street pedestrian bridge. A steep trail north of the bridge can be another entrance or exit to Maple Canyon.

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“Theater kid” makes good

By Jean Lowerison

If there is such a thing as a born theater kid, Ocean Beach native Tyler Tafolla is it. His mom coordinated a local theater company in San Diego, and his dad directed and produced his own TV shows on local public station KPBS.

Tyler always wanted to be in musical theater, and when on a birthday trip to New York he visited a college he'd heard about (AMDA, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy), he reports that he was “hooked.” He immediately signed up, and one of the results from his time in the Los Angeles location – “Scott Robbins and the Traveling Show” – was just performed at Diversionary Theatre.

Set in 1935 in the Great Plains, the musical comedy written and directed by Tafolla is the story of a young man on the run who pretends he's a magician in order to work with a traveling circus. Eight actors play more than 100 roles. The cast includes Kelly Prendergast, Shaun Conde, Jordan Brownlee, Cameron Blankenship, Anna Duchi, Isabella Pruter and Russell Clements. A real traveling show, this wild and crazy musical played for one weekend in San Diego after success in New York, Los Angeles,



Thousand Oaks and in podcast form.

A second musical called “Seasons: A New Musical Song-Cycle” was produced in New York, and a concept album was released on Broadway Records. He reports that this – and his willingness to take chances – have made him a jack-of-all-theatrical-trades. He's taken a stab at producing and directing as well as writing and performing.

COVID put a crimp in his style as it has affected all of us, but he reports that he learned a valuable lesson even from that: though we can't always control circumstances, we have the choice of where to go from here.

There's no telling where this will lead Tyler Tafolla, but it's certain that he will keep on making theater.

Uptown // Downtown Briefs

STREET DEDICATED TO LGBTQ LATINO ACTIVIST

Longtime activist Nicole Murray Ramirez was permanently honored by the City of San Diego on Saturday, Dec. 4 when a section of Harvey Milk St. in Hillcrest was renamed honorary Nicole Murray Ramirez Way. The ceremony with Mayor Todd Gloria, Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins, the parents of Matthew Shephard, Stuart Milk and more present, coincided with his birthday. In addition, he received the medal of honor from the Harvey Milk Foundation at the event.

He has served as a political adviser to the likes of Mayor Todd Gloria and Carl deMaio. One of his other political mentees, City Councilman Stephen Whitburn, brought forward the resolution to dedicate the street to Murray Ramirez. The City Council passed the resolution unanimously.

“Nicole is an iconic community leader, not only in San Diego but across the state, country, and even around the world,” said Whitburn. “His decades of activism have ensured that so many underserved communities – including LGBTQ people and Latinos – have had their seat at the table. Our community owes much gratitude to Nicole.”

Murray Ramirez became a prominent activist during the AIDS crisis and has since served on many government boards

as well as significant nonprofit boards, such as San Diego Pride. He was also a part of the labor movement led by Cesar Chavez.

GLORIA SPONSORS PET ADOPTIONS THIS WEEKEND



San Diego Humane Society is hosting an adoption campaign sponsored by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria Dec. 10-11, 2022. During the event titled #Gloria100, adoption fees for the first 100 adult pets (7 months and older) will be waived. After 100 adoptions are reached, all adult animals will be \$25 for the remainder of weekend!

“This adoption promotion could not come at a better time — we have more than 600 pets available for adoption,” said Dr. Gary Weitzman, president and CEO, San Diego Humane Society. “It has been a tough year for us, with more pets staying longer than ever before, so we are incredibly grateful to Mayor Gloria for his support.”

“Adopting my rescue pup, Diego, brought me so much joy, and I know adopting a new pet can do the same for other families too,” said Mayor Todd Gloria. “I'm proud to host Gloria 100 because San Diegans are giving and loving people, so I'm confident we will be able to find forever homes for so many animals in our shelters.”

San Diego Humane Society is open for walk-in adoptions Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at its campuses in Escondido, El Cajon, Oceanside and San Diego. To view animals available for adoption, visit sdhumane.org/adopt.

PARADE OF LIGHTS ON DEC. 11, 18

It will seem like a fantasy on San Diego Bay on Sunday, December 11 and Sunday, December 18 when the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights transforms the waterfront



into a luminous lineup of sparkling boats. Approximately 80 vessels will take part in the parade, each decked out with lights and festive decorations that spotlight this year's parade theme, “FantaSEA.”

The action starts at 5:30 p.m. both evenings at Shelter Island. The route proceeds to Harbor Island, the North and South Embarcadero areas, Cesar Chavez Park Pier, and ends at the Ferry Landing in Coronado. The entire procession takes about two hours.

“The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights is one of the region's most anticipated holiday events,” said Chairman Dan Malcolm, Port of San Diego Board of Port Commissioners. “We're proud to sponsor this parade, which brings residents and visitors together to celebrate the season and enjoy the beauty of San Diego Bay.”

This is the 52nd year of the parade, which the Port is sponsoring through its Civic Event Program that supports community-based events and activities around the waterfront in the Port's five member cities.

On December 11, the Port is providing free bleacher seating on a first-come, first served basis at Broadway Pier. There will also be a shimmering selfie spot, and food and beverages available for purchase. At Cesar Chavez Pier, located in Cesar Chavez Park in Barrio Logan, the Port will be offering free coffee, hot cocoa and cookies on both parade dates.

The parade can be viewed from Shelter Island, Harbor Island, Spanish Landing, the North Embarcadero, Seaport Village, Embarcadero Marina Parks North and South, Cesar Chavez Park and Pier and the Coronado Ferry Landing.

NEW CLEAN & SAFE APP FOR DOWNTOWN SD MAINTENANCE

The Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe program has made it easier than ever for residents, visitors, businesses, and property owners to help resolve non-emergency maintenance and safety concerns in Downtown through the new Clean & Safe app.

Available via smart phones, the app easily connects community-generated service requests for issues such as graffiti removal, trash removal, power washing, security checks, safe walk services, tree trimming, and more directly to the Clean & Safe ambassadors who will be mobilized to address them. Enhanced maintenance and safety services like those submitted through the app are available 24/7, 365 days a year to ensure Downtown neighborhoods are clean, safe, and thriving.

“One of the things we hear most often from community members is that they want more ways to connect with our team to improve

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Two Chinese treasures on Third Avenue below Market Street

Gaslamp Landmarks

By **SANDEE WILHOIT**

In the earlier days of the Gaslamp, and long before the historical designation of the Asian Pacific District, the Gaslamp extended several blocks to the west. It is important to include some of the historic sites that serve as a reminder of the important contributions in commerce, culture and architecture made by the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Hawaiian communities.

Chinese people were the first Asians to live in New Town San Diego. They developed fishing villages both Downtown and in Point Loma. They anchored their fishing boats, built in San Diego and called junks, Downtown off the foot of Third Street. The first houses were built on stilts along the shore and the adjoining area inland gradually became known as Chinatown. The fishing and ship building industry Downtown was ultimately lost when the railroad was built through the area (Pacific Mail and Steamship Wharf). The Chinese Exclusion Acts of 1888 and 1892, additionally, harmed the fishing and ship building industry, by prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers.

Before the exclusion acts, Ah Quin, who became known as the Mayor of Chinatown, acting as a labor contractor, brought many Chinese laborers to the U.S. to work on the transcontinental railroad. Ah Quin went on to become a highly successful businessman, husband and father, with one of his twelve children serving in WWI.

The early residents of Chinatown worked primarily in the service industries as laundrymen, cooks, gardeners and household servants. Because of the strong support within the community, the Chinese businesses also grew and soon included merchants, barbers, produce vendors, tailors, and herbalists. As the community grew and prospered,

permanent buildings—many reflecting traditional Chinese architecture—replaced the early more temporary structures. Several of these structures are still present today and the thriving Chinese influence is still evident.

THE IDEAL HOTEL
(1912)
540-546 Third Avenue
Architectural Style: Commercial/
Residential

Formerly called the Plants and Fireproofing Building, the Ideal Hotel was built to house visitors of color to the Panama California Exposition of 1915. Consequently, it has a history of Chinese, African-American, and even Caucasian businesses and residents. This emphasizes how many marginalized groups managed to co-exist and thrive in the Downtown area.

It is a two story, 5,000-square-foot, hollow tile and brick structure with commercial space on the ground floor and residential space on the second floor. The ground floor has a central recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows with prism glass transoms. Small tiles in front of the entrance spell out “Ideal Hotel.” The first and second floors are separated by a string-course. Second floor windows are paired at the ends, but spaced further apart towards the center. Each window is topped with a keystone. The parapet above the second floor expresses elements of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. There is an outdoor staircase leading to a second floor landing in the rear of the structure. The interior is utilitarian with lightwells bisecting half the building and plaster coated walls.

From its completion in August of 1912 until 1944, the structure was owned by the Mayrhofer, an old San Diego family of real estate investors. In 1914, Black businessmen Joe Robinson and his partner, Charles Edwards, opened Edwards and Robinson billiards on one half

of the ground floor. Two years later, Tom Chongynew opened one of San Diego's first Chinese restaurants in the other half.

In 1932, the Colored Directory lists Joe Robinson as the owner of the Ideal Rooms, with Pete Bias as the manager. In 1950, it was sold to Ming Tom, who rented it to many Chinese families. He, in turn, sold it to You Poo Hom and Lui Chu Hom in 1975. It continued to house a variety of businesses, and served as housing on the second floor. In 2006, the Red Lotus Society began an extensive renovation of the property, as it had been vacant for seven years, and in 2008, opened a Buddhist meditation center and yoga studio. They have since left. The upstairs is now the home of the 3rd Avenue Hostel, while the downstairs uses one half as a lobby and check-in, and the other half houses a massage parlor. The current owner is Amy Hom.

CHINESE CONSOLIDATED BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION BUILDING
(1911)
426-28 Third Avenue
Architectural Style: Oriental/
Commercial

This iconic building, built on the site of a former joss house (Chinese temple), derives its style from its embellishments rather than its architecture. It was built in 1911, notable since the year appears on the facade in honor of the year the Qing Dynasty fell and the Republic of China was established.

Ownership of the property dates back to 1883, when Ida Juch conveyed one half of Lot I, Block 91 to Yee Hing and Company for \$450. Mr. Hing immediately removed the tenements on the property and built the previously mentioned joss house. The building was first occupied by the Gee Goon Tong (Chinese fraternal society), famous for their help in plotting Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolution, which made China a republic.

It became the home of the Chinese Benevolent Association



The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Building located on Third Ave. (Photos by Tim Trevaskis)

in 1920. Their mission was to represent and protect the interests of all Chinese citizens in San Diego. The CCBA was founded by the earliest Chinese immigrants in San Francisco. Between 1937 and 1946, the building housed the Chung Wah School, which taught Cantonese since most of San Diego's Chinese resident were from Canton, as were their ancestors.

The 25 foot by 60 foot building is a two-story unreinforced brick structure with stucco coating the front facade. Originally, double hung, sash windows flanked the central entrance, but they have been replaced by large, commercial style plate glass. A large transom tops the entrance. Access to the second floor is through an entrance at the far left of the building.

The second floor features a large wooden balcony supported by wrought iron brackets, an iron balustrade and a tile roof. Across

the front is a central double door with a window on each side, and a transom above the door featuring Chinese characters. Most of the buildings Chinese character is derived from the second floor, which also features light bulbs fringing the eaves and the use of traditional red and green colors.

The CCBA is now responsible for the Lucky Lion Dancers, sales of Chinese cemetery plots, the celebration of Ching Ming (Chinese Memorial Day), and the operation of the Senior Garden apartments. They additionally organize the yearly festivities celebrating the Chinese New Year in late January or early February. The CCBA remains a focal part of the Chinese community today.

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



Ideal Hotel is one of the few remaining buildings from San Diego's Chinatown.



The historic Chinese district inside the Gaslamp Quarter

Project Wildlife celebrates 50 years

By Dr. Gary Weitzman, President & CEO,
San Diego Humane Society

This fall, San Diego Humane Society is celebrating Project Wildlife's 50th anniversary. For five decades, this essential program has served as our region's safety net for wild animals in



A baby skunk being fed via syringe.



A staff member holds a recovered opossum. (Photos courtesy San Diego Humane Society)



Dr. Andrew Kushnir holding an owl.

need. Since its founding, Project Wildlife has rescued and cared for hundreds of thousands of injured, orphaned or sick animals, and has transformed into one of the largest wildlife rehabilitation programs in the country.

It all started in 1972 when a group of San Diegans spoke out

after witnessing barn swallows being sprayed by power washers to keep them away from what was then Jack Murphy Stadium in Mission Valley. This early group of wildlife advocates decided it was time to bring wildlife to the forefront of the city's consciousness.

What began as one North Park home with a backyard space dedicated to helping wild animals in need soon grew into a network of satellite homes, each with their own aviaries, pens, kennels or other

SEE **PROJECT WILDLIFE**, Page 9

Ask a realtor: Can I still sell?

Maureen and Antoinette,

My wife and I are expecting our second child (yikes!) and want to trade our condo for a home with a yard plus my parents are finally ready to downsize into a more manageable sized property. Did we all miss our opportunity to sell earlier in the year when the market was on fire, or is now still a good time?

Thank you,
Jon T.

Hi John,

There's no denying the housing market is undergoing a shift this season, and that may leave you with some questions about whether it still makes sense to sell your home. Here are three of the top questions you may be asking so you can make a confident decision for yourself and your family.

1. Should I wait to sell? Even though the supply of homes for sale has increased in 2022, inventory is still low overall. That means it's still a sellers' market. While buyers have regained some negotiation power as inventory has grown, you haven't missed your window to sell. Your house could still stand out since inventory is low, especially if you list now while other sellers hold off until after the holiday rush and the start of the new year.

2. Are buyers still out there? If you're thinking of selling your house but are hesitant because you're worried buyer demand has disappeared in the face of higher mortgage rates, know that isn't the case for everyone. While demand has eased this year, millennials are still looking for homes. At about 80 million strong, millennials currently make up

the largest share of homebuyers (43%) in the U.S., according to a recent National Association of Realtors (NAR) report. Simply due to their numbers and eagerness to become homeowners, this cohort is quite literally shaping the next frontier of the homebuying process. Once known as the 'rent generation,' millennials have proven to be savvy buyers who are quite nimble in their quest to own real estate. It isn't a stretch to say they are the key to the overall health and stability of the current housing industry. Millennials, the largest generation in America, are actually a significant driving force for buyer demand in the housing market today. If you're wondering if buyers are still out there, know that there are still people who are searching for a home to buy today and your house may be exactly what they're looking for.

3. Can I afford to buy my next home? If current market

conditions have you worried about how you'll afford your next move, consider this: you may have more equity in your current home than you realize. Homeowners have gained significant equity over the past few years, and that equity can make a big difference in the affordability equation, especially with mortgage rates higher now than they were last year. For some of those equity-rich homeowners, that means moving and taking on a higher mortgage rate isn't a huge deal—especially if they are moving to a more affordable city. And San Diego IS more affordable than several cities whose "work from anywhere" workforce allows them to move to America's Finest City.

Contact us or send questions to MakeSanDiegoHome@gmail.com.

—Maureen Tess-Fieberg and Antoinette Embry

You're never too old to be fined for underage drinking

Parents, others can be held liable under Social Host law

City Attorney News

By MARA W. ELLIOTT



In the fall of 2019, when no one had yet heard of COVID, a San Diego teenager we'll call Daphne decided to get a few dozen friends together for a party at her house. Daphne was only 15 and many of her friends were also underage. A loud, drunken party ensued.

Responding to noise complaints from her neighbors, police arrived to find beer cans and red Solo cups scattered about and teens jumping the fence to avoid arrest. While some of the parties admitted to drinking that night, Daphne's parent, who was home and smelled of alcohol as well, denied any knowledge of the events leading to the noise complaints.

Making matters much worse, one of the minors had to be taken to the hospital after consuming too much alcohol at the party.

Whether the parent's neglect was intentional or merely unfortunate, in San Diego it was also criminal.

Adults allowing a party where underage drinking occurs are in violation of San Diego's Social Host law, passed in 2003 and expanded in 2019 to include marijuana and other drugs.

First-time offenses come with a minimum \$100 fine. The parent here was fined \$250 and is on notice because the fine doubles for a second offense and future violations could mean six months in jail.

With the worst of the pandemic receding, in-person parties are again on the rise, particularly as we head into the holidays.

As a parent, I know how important it is to keep our children safe. And as City Attorney, I know too many of our teenagers begin using drugs and alcohol at a young age. One thing you may find surprising is that most teens don't get alcohol with a

fake ID, but at a friend's house, sometimes with a wink and a nod from the parent.

You'll hear them say, "Better for them to drink here than out in the community." This logic is faulty. First of all, your teenagers should know that you don't condone underage drinking anywhere. But, also, think about those 16-year-olds at Daphne's house. They aren't going to call mom and dad to take them home at the end of the party. They are going to drive with their newly minted licenses. And some of them will end up with DUIs while others will get into collisions.

Under San Diego's social host law, Daphne's parent would be legally responsible for any damages done by those teens. That's not hypothetical. It happens all too often, and when it does, my office will hold accountable those who choose to ignore the law through arrest and prosecution.

By the way, you don't have to be a parent to be prosecuted under the Social Host law. The law allows the prosecution of any

adult knowingly serving alcohol to a person under 21 years of age. You also do not have to be in attendance. Under the law, you can't just say, "I wasn't there so I didn't know." It's enough to be held liable if you *should have known* a person under 21 was being served alcohol in your home.

So, what can you do to ensure you are a responsible host?

Experts point to four key steps to take:

- Prevent access to alcohol and marijuana by minors;
- Limit how much you buy so you don't lose track of how much is being consumed;
- Verify the age of all party attendees so that you know who can legally drink; and
- Supervise the activities of all minors in your home to ensure compliance with the Social Host law.

As I mentioned, keeping all children in San Diego safe is one of the main goals of my work. Our Social Host law helps accomplish that goal. Please do your part and obey the law.

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Celebrating the Italian American of the Year

Bernadette Tarantino honored for decades of community event contributions

Little Italy News

By CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ



Each year, the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America honors a local Italian American community member with its prestigious Italian American of the Year award. This year, this longstanding service organization honored Bernadette Tarantino for her many years of service to the San Diego community.

For more than 40 years, Bernadette Tarantino has worked in sales for her family business, Tarantino Wholesale Foods—curating and distributing a fine selection of products—especially the delicious sau-sages the family name has become known for locally and abroad. Bernadette has also tirelessly given back to her beloved San Diego community for decades, most notably through her involvement with Saint Patrick's Day celebrations; the La Mesa, Ocean Beach, and Encinitas versions of Oktoberfest; Balboa Park's December Nights; ArtWalk; the Ocean Beach Street Fair; the Little Italy Festa; and the Sicilian Festa. Through these initiatives, Bernadette has been intimately involved as a participant, producer, and supporter—spending countless hours in their creation and organization.

Bernadette was born in Little Italy and lived on Union Street. Her father, Pete, a fisherman, hailed from Palermo; her mother, Nona, was a war bride from London. In 1960, Pete would stop fishing and begin his foray into the meat business. Bernadette graduated from Our Lady of the Rosary High School in 1969 and would soon follow in her father's footsteps to help the family business to prosper.

Today, you can find Tarantino sausages at Petco Park and at Snapdragon Stadium along with other Tarantino products at Costco, Whole Foods, and Trader Joe's. Business is certainly booming, and thanks to Bernadette and her siblings, the Tarantino name has ensured a longstanding family legacy that will continue to thrive through new generations at the helm.

In San Diego's Italian community, Bernadette first started volunteering for the Columbus Day Parade with Victor Tallarida, founder of the United Italian American Association. Since then, she has also served as a member and supporter of many San Diego-based Italian clubs: Sons of Italy, Italian American Civic Association, UNICO, House of Italy, Italian Catholic



Bernadette Tarantino (Courtesy photo)

Federation, and Convivio, to name many.

In perpetuating the tradition of the Little Italy Sicilian Festa, which began in 1994 under the direction of longtime Little Italy entrepreneur/baker Mario Cefalu, Bernadette took the reins in 1996. Through her festival work, she was instrumental in highlighting San Diego's rich and vibrant Sicilian heritage, folk-lore, and food. For the next 20 years, Bernadette would lead her dedicated team of volunteers to develop a Sicilian festival that would garner national recognition and acclaim. The festival brought together many clubs

SEE BERNADETTE TARANTINO, Page 13

Ring in the holidays is difficult this year

Notes from Toni

By TONI G. ATKINS



This is a difficult note to write. While the holiday season is here, recent tragedies throughout the country continue to take a toll. The deadly shooting at a Colorado Springs LGBTQ nightclub, anti-Semitic hatred running rampant, a shooting at a Virginia Walmart that left six workers dead. So much hate, at a time when we should be able to focus on love and understanding while feeling safe in our communities.

I'm also still reeling from the loss of my longtime friend and colleague, Deanna Spehn. Deanna had been part of my legislative team for 10 years, during my time in both the Assembly and the Senate. She advised me on a host of issues including agriculture, environmental quality, water, energy, transportation, parks and natural resources, historical preservation, and coastal protection. Before joining my team, she worked for a decade as a policy advisor to Christine Kehoe, my predecessor in both houses.

Since her passing on November 12, it has been so comforting for Deanna's beloved family and her countless friends and colleagues to hear the kind words and many stories that have been shared about Deanna—her brilliance, her love for her family and her work, and how much she gave to our community.

One of the saddest parts of Deanna's passing for me is how much progress we are making in San Diego and Sacramento on the issues she cared so deeply about and worked so hard to solve. With



(left-right) Former State Senator Christine Kehoe, County Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Deanna Spehn, Richard Spehn, State Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins (Courtesy photo)

the new legislative session, the opportunity to make even more progress will begin again and Deanna would have been in right there in the thick of it!

On December 5, re-elected Senators and just-elected Senators came to Sacramento to begin the legislative session that will last until 2024. It was an honor to join my colleagues old and new, especially my new Senate District neighbors, Senators Catherine Blakespear (D-38) and Steve Padilla (D-18)! Congratulations to everyone who was on the ballot last month, and especially to our Secretary of State Shirley Weber, not only for being elected to keep serving as Secretary of State, but for overseeing such a well-run election process.

When we come back to the Capitol this January, we will continue working to increase housing, especially affordable housing, and to bring down homelessness—the decades-old challenge that seems to break our hearts particularly strongly this time of year. We will continue to build on the historic advances we made on climate change, helping protect Californians from

wildfires at a time when a single lightning strike could destroy an entire community. And we'll be furthering our efforts to help coastal communities like ours fight the dangers of sea level rise, building on my 2021 bill SB 1 — a bill, that, of course, Deanna Spehn was involved in from the concept stage to it being signed into law. As we return to the Capitol, we are re-energized to address our ongoing challenges and find solutions that take California into the future. One of the things I am most proud of my colleagues for is the shared commitment the Senate has that real people with serious problems aren't looking for performance art, they're looking for political courage. And that is what we need to keep providing in 2023 and beyond.

Finally, I would just say Joy. Joy. Joy. Joy. Joy. Joy. That is what December is really all about, and whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's, the Solstice or all of the above in a wild month-long celebration, I hope all of us will find many opportunities this month to share and spread Joy wherever we can.

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Long sentence for man who shot at Harbor Patrol officer

Lucky misses saved officer, pedestrian in Convention Center shootout

By NEAL PUTNAM

A man who opened fire on a Harbor Patrol police officer and who also missed hitting a pedestrian Downtown has been sentenced to 45 years to life in state prison.

Daniel Quiroz, Jr., 31, received such a long sentence because a jury found he personally used a firearm in shootings in March, 2021. He received consecutive terms in prison.

Quiroz received 20 years as a penalty enhancement which was passed by the state legislature in 1997 called "Use a gun and you're done" law. This was consecutive to the 15 years to life term for the attempted murder of officer Cody Horn.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Kenneth So then added 10 years to Quiroz's sentence for felony assault with a deadly weapon on a pedestrian in which a bullet may have ricocheted off his eyeglass case in his pocket.

"This defendant had no regard for life when he recklessly engaged in a shootout on a Downtown street," said District Attorney Summer Stephan in a press release.

"Traffic stops are some of the most dangerous situations for peace officers as this case clearly demonstrates," said Stephan, who added this "sentence brings justice to the police officer and civilian victim in this case."

The shootout took place following a traffic stop on March 1, 2021, in front of the San Diego Convention Center after Quiroz ran a red light while driving a black Honda Accord around 7 p.m. near First Ave. and Harbor Drive.

A jury convicted Quiroz Sept. 13 of attempted murder and felony assault of Horn and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon on a bystander whose eyeglasses case deflected a bullet.

The officer asked Quiroz to step out of the car, but Quiroz pulled a gun and fired shots. Horn retreated, took cover, and fired back.

After a short time, Quiroz obeyed officer demands and raised his hands, dropped the gun, and was arrested. No one was injured.

Deputy District Attorney Fred Washington asked for the 45-year term on Nov. 14. So gave Quiroz credit for one-and-a-half years spent in jail awaiting trial.

Man on trial for killing boyfriend in Downtown hotel

Chilling phone conversation from jail revealed in preliminary trial

By NEAL PUTNAM

A man with a history of same-sex domestic violence has been ordered to stand trial for murder in the death of his boyfriend, who was beaten to death in a Downtown motel room in 2021.

"I could kill you if I wanted to. The only way out is the graveyard," said Ryan Edward Breeland, 42, in a tape recorded phone call to his boyfriend, Kenneth Banks, 32, while Breeland was in jail for assaulting Banks.

"The only way out is the graveyard."

Banks had just told him he wanted to break up, according to testimony in Breeland's preliminary hearing in San Diego Superior Court.

"No, that's not what will happen," said Breeland, according to homicide detective Grant Jobe who testified in the preliminary hearing.

"The only way out was death," Jobe testified, quoting Breeland in the phone call.

On cross examination with Breeland's attorney, Shonte Hobson, Jobe said Banks ended two of the calls with Breeland by telling him "I love you."

On June 9, 2021, Banks' bruised and beaten nude body was discovered in a Downtown motel room in which Breeland was the registered guest.

Following two days of testimony, San Diego Superior Court Judge David Gill ordered Breeland to stand trial for murder on Nov. 3 as well as two counts of committing earlier domestic violence against Banks.

Breeland pleaded not guilty. A trial date was set for March 1, 2023.

Breeland's attorney submitted the case to Gill without argument as did Deputy District Attorney Taren Brast and he ordered him to stand trial on all charges.

The tapes of the recorded phone calls were not played in court in order to save time but will likely be played at trial.

Photos of the bruised and battered body of Banks were shown on a large screen in court by Dr. Robert Stabley, the deputy medical examiner who performed the autopsy.

He said Banks died of "blunt force head trauma" and had brain damage.

Breeland looked up at the screen once to view his partner's body and then looked down. He never looked back up despite it being on the screen for hours. He looked down during most of the hearing.

Banks had been punched in the face quite a number of times. Stabley said he had swelling, hemorrhages, brain bleeding, lacerations in his hair, contusions, and his frenulum in his mouth was lacerated.

Dorothy Sanchez, a housekeeper at the San Diego Downtown Lodge, testified she went inside the room after Breeland had checked out to discover a man under the covers in bed.

Sanchez said she tried to wake the man and had her supervisor with her when he tapped on the man's shoulder and there was no response. She discovered the man was "completely stiff" with "a bruised face."

"I went outside to try not to throw up when I saw his bruised face and saw he was dead," said Sanchez. "He had a black eye. He was not breathing."

SEE DV MURDER, Page 15

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.



Hillcrest mourns murdered transgender people, Colorado mass shooting victims

Two transgender people among death toll from targeted hate attack on Club Q

By KENDRA SITTON

Two tragedies converged on the queer and trans community on Sunday, Nov. 20. As the San Diego LGBT Community Center was being prepared to host a vigil for the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, people woke up to the news that a mass shooter had targeted a gay bar in Colorado Springs, killing five and injuring many more.

With vaccination cards in hand and donning KN95s at the door, people gathered that evening inside the Center for the first time in a few years to honor the memories of 'trancestors' lost in the past year.

The Center's vigil pivoted to include a moment of silence for the victims of Club Q before a program with an indigenous blessing, a keynote address from a transgender elder, and a reading of the names of the 32 transgender people in the US murdered in 2022 so far.

"This is heartbreaking. We don't have all the details. But what we do know is that the bouts of violence towards our community are far too common. And the rising extremism in this country is cause for concern," said Achi Vasquez, program manager of transgender and non-binary services at the Center.

During the ceremony at the Center, trans people, including

keynote speaker Tracie Jade O'Brien, shared the names and stories of the 32 people already known to be murdered nationally. For a few, all that was known was their name. The speakers noted that this is due to discrimination and other factors that disproportionately push transgender people to the margins such as poverty, homelessness, sex work, racism, and disability.

"Stopping trans murders is everyone's responsibility," Vasquez said, explaining that these murders occur because of systemic discrimination against transgender people, and in particular, against BIPOC trans women.

2021 was a record-breaking year for trans people murdered. 57 were killed in the US alone.

By the time the service ended, friends and family would be publicly mourning the loss of another transgender person who would be added to the list of 32 'trancestors.' Daniel Aston, a bartender at Club Q, was a transgender man remembered for being welcoming and kind to people coming out at the beginning of the pandemic. Patrons of the club took to social media to remember the man who made sure they felt comfortable and safe at Club Q.

The next morning, Colorado Springs Police would share the names of all the victims, including Kelly Loving, a 40-year-old

transgender woman beloved by the Denver trans community.

In her address, 71-year-old O'Brien encouraged the audience, stating that when growing up she was afraid to go to school and be in the street yet despite many struggles, she is still here. She said she is tired of crying and is choosing hope.

"We gotta learn to take care of ourselves," O'Brien said, urging the community to care for each other, love each other, and not be separated. She pulled a stun gun from her purse and made it buzz with electricity.

The LGBTQ community learned from the tragedy of the Pulse Nightclub in which 49 people were killed, partially because police waited two hours to enter the building so victims bled out while waiting for medical care. In Colorado Springs, a transgender woman and veteran stopped the shooter in five minutes.

Two blocks away from the Center at the Pride Flag, switched out to a transgender flag flown at half mast, a vigil was held for the Club Q victims by a coalition of leftist organizations including FreeStoreSD, Direct Action Drumline, and others.

A speaker at the vigil gestured at the police officers blocking the



Tracie Jade O'Brien spoke the name of Maddie Hoffman through sobs. The 47-year-old trans woman was killed by police during a wellness check in Charlottesville. (Photos by Kendra Sitton)

roads and watching the event at a distance, "They are not here to protect us. They will not protect us. That's not their job."

The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times that police officers do not have a duty to protect people from harm.

The organizers urged people to protect each other. They also gave out free Narcan to reverse overdoses, Fentanyl test strips, clean syringes, and other items to care for people.

A speaker at the Pride Flag also echoed Vasquez's statement that political fear mongering and anti-trans legislation were partially to blame for radicalized anti-LGBT violence.

"I am just so livid because this is not mental illness. These are f***ing loser a** incels that spend way too much time online thinking that drag queens are like converting our children and doing perverted s*** whenever they just want to read a story," the speaker said.

At a community meeting at Rich's on Nov. 21, SDPD Chief David Nisleit said hate has no place in San Diego and spoke with business owners about safety protocols. He promised to deploy more officers to Hillcrest. Mayor Todd Gloria urged people to report any suspicious activity.

The community then marched to the Pride flag, switched out to a regular rainbow flag at half mast, where people left candles and flowers in commemoration of those lost in Colorado Springs.

Project Wildlife

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

enclosures to give injured or orphaned wildlife a place to recover before returning them to the wild. Everyday citizens were at the core of caring for these animals in need, volunteering their time and resources to help rehabilitate them.

After officially incorporating as a nonprofit in 1976, Project Wildlife grew into a network of 70 satellite facilities and 600 volunteers. The largest leap in Project Wildlife's growth came in November 2014 when it merged with San Diego Humane Society. This merger was also one of the most meaningful milestones in San Diego Humane Society's history, representing the organization's commitment to serve all animals, companion and wild.

In recognition of that commitment, San Diego Humane Society undertook an important mission: creating a permanent facility for wildlife in San Diego County. In March 2019, San Diego Humane Society opened a state-of-the-art 5,200-square-foot home for wildlife — the Pilar & Chuck Bahde Wildlife Center. For the first time ever, San Diego now had a facility befitting the lifesaving work performed by Project Wildlife every day. Just a year later, Project Wildlife welcomed the 13-acre Ramona Wildlife Center, where they care for apex predators including bears, mountain lions and bobcats.

Today, San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife program boasts a highly skilled wildlife medicine team, including an intern program to train the next generation of wildlife veterinarians. They care for approximately 13,000 wild animals each year.

Project Wildlife exists because community members saw a need and decided to do something about it. Their spirit lives on in every volunteer with an aviary in their backyard, every citizen who brings in an animal hit by a car and every donor who sends a gift to support wild animals.

Here's to another 50 years of protecting San Diego's wildlife.



People held candles and left flowers at the base of the flag pole on Normal



Leftist organizations held a vigil for Club Q victims on Sunday, Nov. 20.

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Food & Drink Blotter.

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

PINKY FINGERS OUT

Fancy tea service tailored for the holidays will be held throughout December at **The Westgate Hotel**.

One of them is kid-friendly. It's called Santa's Story Time Tea, which features teas, pastries, finger sandwiches, and a storytelling Santa in the hotel's decked-out **Le Fontainebleau Room**. Keepsake teddy bears will be handed out to the young attendees. The tea sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dec. 10 and 11, and 17-23. The cost is \$105 for adults, and \$75 for children 12 and under.

An adults-only Winter Wonderland Tea will be held throughout the hotel's decorated **Grand Lobby** amid music by a live harpist. Sweets, savories and a glass of champagne will be served with the teas. The service takes place from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Dec. 9-11, 15-23, 26-31, and Jan. 1. The cost is \$105 per person. 1055 Second Ave., 619-238-1818, westgatehotel.com.

ATTENTION VEGANS

North Park Mini Park has made way for the **Vegan Food Popup**, which founder Michelle May recently debuted in the space after running it for several years exclusively in areas of North County.



A monthly vegan fest in North Park features a diverse lineup of foods. (Courtesy photo)

The dog-friendly event is held from noon to 4 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month. Visitors can expect dozens of rotating vendors selling everything from plant-based nachos and stir-fry



Elegant flutes for a celebrated spirit at Botanica (Photo courtesy Contour PR)

noodle dishes to wraps, sandwiches, sushi, sweets, and more.

Also in the offing are vegan-friendly dog treats, beauty products, home goods, and apparel. 3812 29th St., veganfoodpopup.com.

IN THE SPIRIT OF HOLLAND

The celebrated spirit of The Netherlands known as genever gets top billing at **Botanica**, which opened recently in North Park as the fourth local concept by **Be Saha Hospitality Group**.

Located within North Park's **Art Produce** building, the establishment is one of San Diego's few places serving up a diverse selection of genever, which is a botanical spirit that falls into the gin category. It's considered one of Europe's oldest distilled liquors, hence deserving of the elegant flutes in which it is served.

Small gourmet bites are also

available. They're crafted by chefs Tiffany Tran and Janina Garay, who previously worked together at San Diego's Michelin-starred **Addison**.

Botanica is also one of the first bar lounges locally to exhibit non-fungible-token (NFT) art, which is displayed electronically within framed display screens.

Be Saha Hospitality also operates **Tahona** and **Oculto 477** in Old Town, and **Wormwood** in University Heights. Botanica is located at 3139 University Ave. For more info, call 619-310-6370 or visit botanicabarsd.com.

NEW CHEF, NEW DISHES AT IRONSIDE FISH & OYSTER

The new chef at **Ironside Fish & Oyster** is summoning her north shore Massachusetts roots for adding new dishes to the menu at the martime-themed restaurant in Little Italy.

Danielle Van Steen entered the culinary industry as a teenager, first as a pastry chef before branching into farm-to-table cooking, and working with sustainable seafood. Along the way, she became an advocate for women chefs.

Among the various new dishes she is presenting at Ironside is bone marrow with tuna tartare, smoked trout and salsa verde. She will also continue serving the classics such as lobster rolls and octopus a la plancha while adhering to locally sourced seafood across the menu. 1654 India St., 619-269-3033, ironsidefishandoyster.com.

BRANDY ALEXANDER WITH A LOCAL TWIST

One of our favorite retro restaurants is spotlighting one of our favorite classic cocktails in the month of December – the century-old Brandy Alexander.

Look no further than the historic **Hob Nob Hill** in Bankers Hill for scoring the boozy, wintertime drink, which became popular in the early 20th century after bartender Troy Alexander created it at **Rector's** restaurant in New York City.

The Hob Nob is selling it this month for \$10. Its construct features Ciroc VS Brandy, Creme de Cacao, and vanilla ice cream sourced from **Niederfrank's** in National City. The drink is garnished traditionally with grated nutmeg. 2271 First Ave., 619-239-8176, hobnobhill.com.



Afternoon tea service for the holidays at a Downtown landmark (Courtesy photo)



Chef Danielle Van Steen (Photo by Shannon Patrick)



A Brandy Alexander at Hob Nob Hill (Facebook)

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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

Save Starlight

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

that magic back for all to enjoy.

Save Starlight is a non-profit foundation whose goal is not only to reactivate the now inactive Starlight Bowl, but also bring it into the 21st century by equipping the historic venue with state-of-the-art audio and visual features. The idea is to restore the bowl to a fully functioning event site that the community can utilize for not only entertainment functions, but for weddings, graduations and cultural celebrations as well. The Starlight Bowl has been inactive for years and is now overgrown with weeds and shows clear signs of neglect. But Save Starlight hopes to get the bowl back up and running and become a gem again in Balboa Park.

Steve Stopper sits on the Board of Directors for Save Starlight. He is the foundation's founder as well as CEO. Many years ago, he ran sound as an audio tech for the theater when it briefly reopened in the 2000s, and has also produced many local community musicals. His theatre experience has given him a swagger that makes him one of the more outspoken members of Save Starlight. And his

passion runs as deep as his energy, which is infectious to anyone near him once he gets going.

"If you really think about it, this could be a one-of-a-kind thing – I think in the world –where we really do get a situation where you are creating a space of the community, by the community, for the community," Stopper stated. "This park is special, there's nothing like this park, and there's nothing like what we're planning on having here. The amount of things we could do – like I've had the San Diego Circus Center come in – we've had everything that could not normally do any kind of programing, do some programing. And I do think that's the strength of our mission and what were trying to do. And we're at a point right now where we have all our legs including the fiscal support going and we're ready to go!"

The one thing they do not have is a lease; and that is really preventing the foundation from moving forward with their planned renovations. Angelique (Angel) Ghadishah is the Vice President of Operations at Save Starlight and her calm demeanor is the polar opposite of Stopper's manic energy. She has been charged with securing the funding needed for the renovations by reaching out



The onsite media center will be available to San Diego audio/visual students. (Photo by Vince Meehan)

to philanthropists and prominent entertainment enthusiasts. Ghadishah is extremely confident that she has the needed donations lined up for the foundation to begin the first phase of its makeover. This consists of getting the upper section of the bowl fully operational for smaller shows and events as well as reopening Starlight's café and concessions with a new healthier menu.

Ghadishah says it will take \$2.5 million to get phase one operational including ADA compliance, but that would be a no-frills bare minimum situation. Instead of that, she would like to push ahead and take it to the next level by making it a state-of-the-art facility. However, the price for that would be 8 to 10 million dollars.

"If we get a lease tomorrow, I have ten donors right now that each want to donate over a million dollars," noted Ghadishah. "But they are not comfortable donating the money without a lease. They need that long-term lease, that long-term commitment because the reason that they are giving money is because they wanna come here. They want to enjoy it with their families, they were here when they were young and now they have kids and grandchildren who have never even been here or ever seen a show. So they want

to carry on that legacy, and it is about that generational legacy."

Also included in phase one is a digital media center, which is being installed upstairs in the old spotlight room. This media center will serve as a classroom and will be accessible to audio/visual students across the county. Save Starlight's goal is to empower students with an interest in the media and production arts through seminars and hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technology.

After phase one is up and running, Save Starlight will move on to stage two, which will be the renovation of the lower main amphitheater section and stage. Helping with that phase is Vicki Estrada who is acting as the Lead Architect for Save Starlight. Estrada is President and Founder of Estrada Land Planning, a premier landscape architectural firm here in San Diego. She designed Balboa Park's master plan in the '80s and is bringing direction to the Starlight team. Estrada is also a musician and often performs for Starlight gatherings. She actually played guitar in a folk band with Stopper's brother Ed who played flute before she formally met Stopper later on and joined Save Starlight.

"At a presentation many years ago, suddenly this guy came out of nowhere talking about Starlight – Save Starlight – and one thing led to another so here I am!" Estrada said. "I also played piano at age 12 on stage at Starlight in a recital so this has always been special to me. I mean there's been incredible acts – The Stones and Dylan – I mean all these people were here!" Estrada will help design a new facelift for the bowl to mimic some of the more modern amphitheaters and bring it up to code.



Phase one of the plan is to activate the upper area of the bowl including the café which will be open to visitors of Balboa Park. (Courtesy photo)

This will include reimagining the layout and possible bring in some lawn seating or a combination of both traditional seating and grass. "To see it in disrepair – and of course there's new regulations from Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – and my role is to try and integrate the design with different ideas and possibilities. This could also possibly include a smaller stage behind the main housing. Most people say that the jewel of San Diego is Balboa Park, and this is a key part of that jewel."

At this point, the main focus of Save Starlight is to raise awareness of the bowl to San Diegans that may not even know it exists. Because of its unique placement, most of the amphitheater is invisible to visitors even though it lies between the Air & Space Museum and the new Comic-Con Museum. This has led to the bowl being forgotten by many residents and has added to the decline of the once proud feature. But Save Starlight's mission is to reintroduce San Diego to it's forgotten gem so they can refurbish the theatre and help Save Starlight.

For more information on how to help, go to: SaveStarlight.org



Artist's rendering of the plans Save Starlight has for the bowl. (Courtesy photo)



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our urban neighborhoods and resolve challenges,” said Alonso Vivas, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of the Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe program. “Through the Clean & Safe app, we’re excited to provide an easy way to do just that and address the issues that matter most to our community. Just download the app, snap a photo, describe your issue, submit, and someone from our talented team will be on our way to take care of it – it’s that easy.”

Key features include records of requests so users can stay updated on status and know when their item has been completed, data reporting to help identify hot spots and allocate resources where they are needed most across the 275 blocks within the Property and Business Improvement District where Clean & Safe operates, and GPS location to quickly pinpoint the precise area in need.

In beta launches of the app, the average response time between receiving a service request and the request being completed was one hour. For community requests that do not fall within the Clean & Safe program’s enhanced services or service area, the app will easily refer those requests to the appropriate department within the city.

CITY OPENS CYBER LAB TO PREVENT CYBERATTACKS

With cybersecurity concerns on the rise following several major ransomware attacks nationwide, the City of San Diego has launched the San Diego Regional Cyber Lab to help local agencies prevent and protect against cyberattacks.

The Cyber Lab serves as a regional resource for small businesses, public agencies and educational institutions to utilize for specialized training with safe environments to simulate and defend against cyberattacks. The lab’s mission is to provide coordinated cybersecurity awareness for the greater San Diego region through collaborative access to the latest technology, intelligence and training tools.

“We’ve all heard the horror stories of high-profile attacks that have held companies and public agencies hostage, costing them millions in lost productivity or ransoms,” said Darren Bennett, the City’s Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). “We must remain vigilant in defending against these ever-evolving threats and, with this new San Diego Regional Cyber Lab, we’ll be stronger as a region by working together against a common enemy.”

The San Diego Regional Cyber Lab’s physical lab space is a no-risk sandbox environment where information technology professionals can further develop their cybersecurity skills in real-time scenarios. The lab has both PC and Mac environments connected to multiple servers running various virtual machines that can be manipulated, modified and attacked in different ways.

Cybercrime has soared in recent years with an estimated \$7 trillion in damages in 2022, according to industry expert Cybersecurity Ventures. There have also been several recent attacks on San Diego’s local agencies and institutions,

including Scripps Health, the Port of San Diego, the City of San Marcos and UC San Diego Health.

The city received two grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security totaling about \$928,000 to create the San Diego Regional Cyber Lab. The city formed a working group of cybersecurity experts, academics, local CEOs and public officials from across the San Diego region to help design and develop the lab.

As part of the development process, the city surveyed about 200 agencies in the San Diego region about cybersecurity preparedness. Most had zero cybersecurity professionals on staff or assigned cybersecurity responsibilities to a single IT staff member with little to no experience or training in cybersecurity.

“Cyberattacks are occurring with greater frequency and growing complexity, so it’s incredibly important that we have a united front as a region working collaboratively between commercial, critical infrastructure and government to defend ourselves against cybercrime,” said Macy Dennis, Founder of the San Diego CISO Round Table and partner at Ember River.

AIRPORT INSULATES 5K HOMES

San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (Airport Authority) is celebrating the completion of 5,000 sound-insulated homes through its Quieter Home Program (QHP).

The Quieter Home Program is San Diego International Airport’s residential sound insulation program in which certain residences around SAN, as determined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), may be eligible for sound insulation treatments to mitigate aircraft noise. Eligible homes may receive retrofitted exterior doors and windows, installation of a ventilation system, and other items such as weather stripping and caulking around openings, reducing noise levels by at least five decibels inside the home and providing a noticeable noise reduction.

Since its inception, the Quieter Home Program has retrofitted 5,000 single-family and multi-family residences immediately east and west of the airport, including the neighborhoods of Bankers Hill, Point Loma, Ocean Beach, South Park, and Golden Hill.

In September 2021, the Airport Authority received two airport safety and infrastructure grants through the FAA for noise mitigation measures totaling \$25.9 million. The grants marked the largest annual amount given to the Airport Authority by the FAA for the Quieter Home Program and one of the largest annual amounts given to any airport nationwide.

The \$25.9 million is being used towards sound-insulating approximately 400 to 500 homes per year, depending on the size of the homes. QHP recently expanded to sound-insulating non-residential facilities; a portion of this grant will treat two church and preschool facilities in the areas most impacted by aircraft noise. It is estimated that once this program component is fully initiated, one non-residential noise-sensitive property will be able to be sound-insulated per year.

The Airport Authority encourages area residents to see if their homes or non-residential facilities are eligible to benefit from the Quieter Home Program by visiting san.org/airportnoise.

San Diego Hunger Coalition hosts 4th Annual State of Hunger Event

By WILL SCADDEN

On Friday, Nov. 18, the San Diego Hunger Coalition (SDHC) hosted the 4th annual State of Hunger Luncheon, to present the latest research, data and solutions aimed at addressing hunger in the San Diego region. The event was also a celebration to the successes of the region-wide hunger-relief community.

The SDHC works to bring non-profit and public service organizations together throughout San Diego to create a hunger-free San Diego. For 45 years, the SDHC has worked to build a more effective system of delivering food assistance resources without leaving gaps.

“This event is really about community. It’s about bringing together and informing members of our community about how we can collectively move forward with solutions to ending hunger in our city and county,” said Anahid Brakke, President

& CEO at the San Diego Hunger Coalition. “With inflation causing grocery store prices to skyrocket, our research on hunger and policy-level solutions to address it are also becoming even more relevant.”

One of the initiatives discussed at length at the Nov. 18 luncheon was the SDHC’s Hunger Free Kids initiative.

Data provided by the SDHC shows that 1 in 5 children in the area don’t always have enough food to eat. This affects their ability to concentrate and learn. Access to nutritious meals is linked to better attendance, improved grades and higher graduation rates.

In response, the SDHC provides free technical assistance and support to school districts and non-profits to implement new youth meal programs and boost participation in existing ones.

SDHC reduces child hunger by working to expand the following strategies:

1. Universal Free Meals
2. Breakfast After the Bell
3. After School Supper
4. Summer Meals

“Access to nutritious and healthy food is essential to a child’s ability to learn, thrive, and grow into their full potential. Ending hunger in San Diego for all of us requires a joint effort from elected officials, local organizations and community members,” said Mayra E. Alvarez, M.H.A, President of The Children’s Partnership. “Together, we are stronger and I am honored to participate in the Coalition’s event to prioritize what works and commit to action.”

The SDHC also worked to provide food assistance resources throughout the pandemic, providing families with instructions on how to find food assistance resources.

To learn more, volunteer, or donate to the SDHC, please refer to their webpage, at sandiegohungercoalition.org/.

Bernadette Tarantino

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

and organizations that participated in presenting Sicilian cultural elements. A historical display of San Diego’s fishing community was part of the annual event, and it helped to

bring awareness to the vital role the Sicilian community played in this world-renowned industry. And next year, Bernadette’s dream is to bring back the grand tradition of the Sicilian Festa in San Diego.

To Bernadette, family is everything. She credits her successes to the life lessons and support of her lov-ing parents; her bothers, Pete and Mark; her sister, Tina;

her loving husband, Mike; and her son, Jesse. And lest we forget her precious pups: Angus, Buggy, and Luigi!

In honoring Bernadette, our community celebrates the dedication and resolve of one of our San Diego outstanding icons. For more information on the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, visit sonsofitaly-sd-1627.org.

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

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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60	61							62	63				64	
65							66						67	
68							69						70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Product or ____ (abbr.)
4. Zodiac sign
9. S. China seaport
14. Former OSS
15. Early English printer
16. Aphid genus
17. General's assistant (abbr.)
18. Aussies
20. Dissuades
22. Make law
23. Drench
24. Soak in a liquid
28. Male child
29. It cools your home
30. Small constellation
31. To call (archaic)
33. Explores beneath the Earth
37. Commercial
38. W. hemisphere organization
39. You can find it in a can
41. "Land of the free"
- 42 36 inches
43. Footwear
44. Challenges
46. They hold things together
49. Of I
50. Partner to flow
51. Not connected by kinship

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse mackerels
2. It can be viral
3. Prickly plants
4. Consciousness
5. Type of sarcoma
6. Tax collector
7. Sun up in New York
8. One who scorches
9. Influential psychotherapist
10. Situated at an apex
11. Communicative
12. Forearm nerve
13. Former CIA
19. Folk singer DiFranco
21. Employee stock ownership plan
24. Large-scale
25. School environment
26. Remove
27. Male parents
31. Large rodent
32. Weighed down
34. Held tightly
35. ____ route: going there
36. Explains again
40. Exclamation of surprise
41. Courteously
45. Lying down
47. Judge
48. Forcefully took
52. Loosely compacted sediment
53. High mountain
54. Portable conical tents
56. Cereal grass
57. Dining utensil
59. Thoughtful
60. Helps you walk
61. Indicates near
62. Midway between northeast and east
63. Local area network

N	E	A		S	O	N	E	S		S	D	I	E		
O	E	T		O	N	E	N	I		S	E	E	D	E	
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Satori Designs (Photos by Diana Cavagnaro)



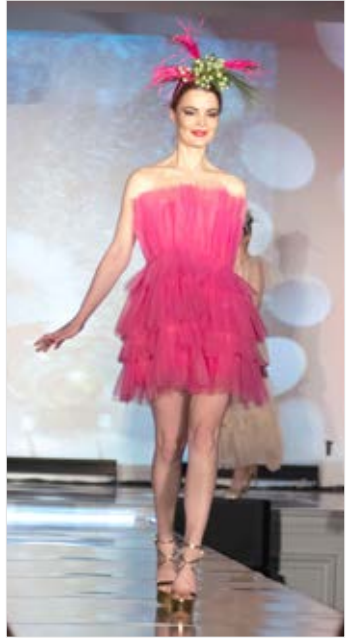
Emporio Armani



Fashion Forward coats by Leonard Simpson



Nolan Dean



Hidden Rose Boutique

Winter Wonderland fashion show benefits disabled San Diegans

Fashion Files

By DIANA CAVAGNARO



Winter Wonderland was presented by the ARC of San Diego on Dec. 2 at the US Grant Hotel Downtown. Guests were able to purchase gifts at the vendor boutique and the silent auction for Holiday shopping. At noon all the attendees moved to the main ballroom for the luncheon and fashion show. Maria Stanley and Cici Drummond were chairs for the event. The festivities were kicked off by the emcee, Brittany Shiperly.

The witty Clint Bell was the auctioneer for the crowd. He is such an expert at speaking off the cuff and kept the audience in stitches. My favorite live auction item was being first in line at the valet service. Since there was a huge crowd at check out, this was an invaluable item.

After the luncheon, the entertainment was presented by style personality Leonard Simpson. He is a well-known television-style host and producer of high-profile fashion shows in San Diego, Los Angeles, and New York. The runway show began with a 'Global Fusion' look by Satori Designs. They have a colorful and very

international look. Next came the gorgeous Fashion Forward coats by Leonard Simpson. Emporio Armani showed off the latest trends. Next, Hidden Rose Boutique came down the catwalk with their ultra feminine dresses made from tulle and chiffons.

Bespoke tailor shop Zeglio Custom Clothiers added to the afternoon with impeccable style and fit. Satori had a repeat performance coming down the runway with their vibrant, colorful clothing. Creative headpieces by Gloria Parker were added giving pizzazz to the presentation. In keeping with the holiday season, glittery and sparkling gowns came down



Nolan Dean with model wearing his creation

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pet Parade in the Gaslamp at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. From 2-5pm is the Pups in the Pub Party & Awards Ceremony. Dress you and your pet in a holiday costume. Register at: Gaslamp.org or form.jotform.com/222855348637163.

Bridal Bazaar with fashion shows presented by Gretchen Productions at the San Diego Convention Center on Saturday, Jan. 15 2023. Three shows presented during the day. For more information call 760-334-5500.

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advice
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Travel Tips: How To Plan The Perfect Camping Trip In California

By Yacht — February 3, 2022

In Expert Advice, Uptown News
Reading Time: 3 mins read



California is a state of mind. The Golden State has an aura that is uniquely Californian, and it's not easy to capture in words. But if you want the real California experience, there's no place like camping in California. There are many things that you'll need to think about before you can go on your adventure, so if you are new to camping or would like some more information on how best to plan your trip, read on for some helpful tips!

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the walkway by Shangri La. They carry vintage and modern fashions. Nolan Dean presented his beautiful gowns in rich luscious fabrics.

Ford model Nikki Myer made a special guest appearance in two of the segments. The finale showed the designs of Debbie Nghiem. Ahead of the holidays, she showed standout designs in rich velvets, sequins, and feathers.

All the proceeds from this event benefit The Arc of San Diego. They provide services to persons with disabilities and help them to achieve their life goals. Founded in 1951, they provide programs at more than 20 locations throughout the county. For more information about his amazing organization visit: arc-sd.com/our-services/.



Debbie Nghiem

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



Debbie Nghiem



Nikki Myer wearing Debbie Nghiem

Traffic victims

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

and Stephen Whitburn joined the grieving families, and the ceremony also included a recorded speech from Mayor Todd Gloria.

Families for Safe Streets, a group of San Diego families who have lost loved ones in traffic crashes, placed 294 pairs of empty shoes on the steps of the Civic Center Fountain to represent the 294 people who were killed in traffic crashes in San Diego County in 2021.

Speakers from Families for Safe Streets then shared stories of those that they have lost due to traffic crashes, all of whom were cycling in designated biking lanes, and a call to eliminate traffic crashes in the future.

“No family should have to experience the pain that we will carry for life,” said Laura Keenan, founder of the Families for Safe Streets San Diego chapter. “Traffic deaths are almost 100% preventable. We hope that elected officials will use our voices and stories to help them push through needed changes in a sadly contentious space. We also hope that our voices can unify the community and refocus the conversation away from parking spaces, travel lanes, or traffic congestion towards what really matters: saving lives.”

Despite the City of San Diego’s 2015 Vision Zero pledge to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2025, more people died in traffic crashes in 2021 than in any time within the last decade. The increased amount of crashes has affected the most vulnerable road users the most: cyclists, pedestrians, and people using wheelchairs have all been involved in more traffic crashes than previously before.



The end of Mayor Gloria's recorded speech at the vigil for traffic crash victims. (Photo by Will Scadden)

“Despite the City of San Diego’s pledge to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2025, more people are dying on San Diego’s streets than ever before,” said Will Rhatigan, advocacy director for the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition. “Each of these deaths is the tragic consequence of our historical failure to prioritize safety over speed. We know that safe streets save lives, and we are calling on our leaders at all levels of government to invest in the proven road safety measures that will prevent any other families from losing their loved ones to crashes.”

In order to eliminate traffic deaths, members of Families for Safe Streets and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition are demanding the city to commit to three actions:

1. Double the funding for San Diego’s quick-build bikeways program in Fiscal Year 2024, to enable it to build eighteen miles of connected, protected bikeways each year.
2. By June 30th, 2024, lower speed limits and build physical

traffic calming measures on all eight of San Diego’s most dangerous Vision Zero Corridors.

3. By the end of 2023, approve an updated Bicycle Master Plan that follows NACTO’s guidelines for building bike facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

Members of both organizations spoke at length on how installing a protected, separate bike-way could easily prevent traffic deaths on many San Diego roadways. Speakers also called for a change in the city’s approach, so it transitions from a responsive to preventative approach to ending traffic crashes.

Multiple speakers shared how protected bike lanes were built on the same roads their loved ones passed away on—after they were hit and killed.

“It took my husband and one other person being killed less than a year later on the same road for the city to install a protected bike lane,” said an attendee of the vigil. “The city needs to become proactive and build protected bike lanes before people die.”

Mayor Gloria and City Council members shared their condolences with the grieving families, and promised a proactive and preventative response to ending traffic violence.

“Most of San Diego was built as a car-centric city with jobs and homes spread out away from the urban center and too little focus on making our streets safer for all users. My administration is trying to shift that mindset and prioritize safety and mobility,” Gloria said in a video address to the crowd.

“We’re including bike lanes in many of our road repair projects, such as the recent ones added on Park Boulevard and 47th Street,” said Mayor Gloria. “We’re continuously working on a mobility Master Plan, which will include new policies and strategies to advance safety for all road users. Recently, the San Diego police department received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to help fund activities that emphasize the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.”

DV murder

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

Sanchez testified other motel guests had complained about the couple's loud arguments and they once were banned from staying there.

Jobe testified Breeland was the only person seen leaving the room in camera surveillance footage. “It appears he's wiping off a knife,” said Jobe about one photo.

In previous domestic violence calls, Banks told officers his partner had ‘violent tendencies.’

Other police officers testified about what Banks told them while responding to previous domestic violence incidents with Breeland.

Detective Casey Moss said Banks told her that Breeland threw a chair at him while they were staying at a Motel 6 on Jan. 13, 2021. Banks said he “felt dazed” when he was struck by the chair to his back.

Banks said Breeland stabbed him in the buttocks and punched him following “another argument about cheating,” said Moss, who added that Banks said his partner “had violent tendencies.”

Jobe testified that Breeland was easily located June 9, 2021, after the body was found because he was on parole and wore an ankle bracelet. He was arrested within seven blocks from the Downtown motel.

Breeland remains in the central jail without bail.

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Holiday Bowl

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Wolfpack was selected from the ACC to vie against the UCLA Bruins from the PAC-12. That game was cancelled hours before kickoff due to Covid precautions in one of the most unprecedented events in San Diego sports history. But this year, the game is coming back to Downtown to be the first football game ever to be played at Petco Park.

The 43rd edition of the bowl pits The Oregon Ducks against the North Carolina Tar Heels. This is the Ducks fourth time at the San Diego Bowl and the first time an ACC team, this time from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be in the bowl.

"I think without the Covid restrictions – and getting healthier

– hopefully we're not gonna face what we did last year and have the game cancelled the day of the game," noted an optimistic Schloss. "I think that's the most important and positive thing that the game is coming back Downtown– and its finally gonna happen. I mean last year, it was kind of like going to the altar and not getting married!"

The game will be played on December 28 at 5 p.m. and will be broadcast nationally on the Fox Network. This year, the bowl game will also include the 101.5 KGB Sky Show, which itself is a legendary San Diego event. Having football and the Sky Show together Downtown will be a historic first that promises to be an epic show.

Mark Neville, who is the CEO of the SDCCU Holiday Bowl, was able to grab the KGB Sky Show

for this year's Holiday Bowl, which brings added interest to the annual event. "I can't tell you how excited we are that the SDCCU Holiday Bowl is now the home of the KGB Sky Show," said Neville. "Thanks to this partnership and our friends at iHeart, the fan experience at San Diego's bowl game will be off the charts and the best in the country. Our fans are in for quite a night!"

This year's Sky Show will celebrate KGB's 50th anniversary and the Sky Show's 45th anniversary by lighting up the San Diego skyline over Petco Park with its spectacular fireworks display. First launched in 1976, the KGB Sky Show is an eye-popping and crowd-pleasing fireworks display synchronized to music and broadcast over the radio at 101.5 FM and streamed live through the iHeartRadio App. The 2022 version of Sky Show will be unlike any other, featuring innovative effects in its revamped program.

"After Covid canceled the 101.5 KGB Sky Show the last few years, we knew we wanted to come back bigger and better than ever," said Noreen Ippolito, market president of iHeart Media San Diego.



The USC Trojans played the Iowa Hawkeyes in the final Holiday Bowl game at SDCCU Stadium in Mission Valley.



The Holiday Bowl halftime show is always a crowd-pleaser. (Photos courtesy of the San Diego Bowl Game Association)



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