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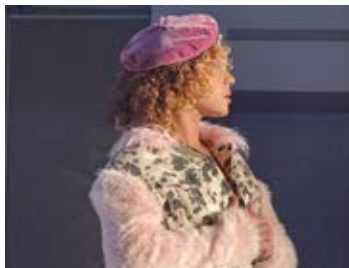
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San Diego Fashion Week awards

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Paris Sukomi Max, a longtime supporter of The Center who has also received transition-related services, hosted a drag show at The Center's 50th anniversary gala. (Photo by Drew Sitton)

SD's impact on LGBTQ+ history

By DREW SITTON

During LGBTQ+ history month in October, two events celebrated anniversaries only made possible by pioneering local activists. The San Diego LGBT Community Center held a gala (See page 8) in honor of its 50th anniversary – marking it as the second-oldest community center in the nation.

“We started off as an answering machine in a utility closet in Golden Hill by Jess Jessop and it served as a resource line for LGBT folks. So to see the growth that we've had in those 50 years specifically and responding to the needs of our community, that's a really special thing,” said Ian Johnson, the Center's director of development.

Then, InterPride held its

annual conference (See page 9) at the Westin in the Gaslamp on the 40th anniversary of when the coalition of Pride organizers held its second gathering here.

One of the reasons for InterPride being held in San Diego in 1983 was veteran LGBTQ+ activist Doug Moore being key in founding the organization after he compiled a list of Pride groups across the nation using the library, phone books and newspapers. InterPride founder Marsha Levine used his list to invite Pride leaders to Boston for the first gathering. From a handful of US participants originally, the conference now has attendees from 32 countries and six continents (Polar Pride Day organizers did not have a delegate at San Diego's conference).

“I'm proud of San Diego's history,” Moore said at the closing gala of InterPride.

San Diego's contribution to the advancement of LGBTQ+ rights can be overlooked in favor of larger cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City. Still, the region currently has the highest number of LGBTQ+-elected officials in California. Jen LaBarbera, San Diego Pride's director of education and advocacy, noted that the largest protest after the passage of Prop 8 in was here.

“We have always been amongst the first. The first of many things have actually been in San Diego,” they said. “The leading edge of a lot of this movement has been here.”

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SEE **INTERPRIDE**, Page 9

Soccer star Alex Morgan honors North Park student

By MADISON BEVERIDGE

North Park 8th grader Nina Asnani is making waves on and off the field after receiving the Alex Morgan Foundation Homebreak Leader of the Year Award.



Nina Asnani and Alex Morgan at the Celebration of Confidence. (Photo courtesy Alex Morgan Foundation)

Each year, the foundation distributes awards from nominations made by coaches of young athletes. The players, who attend home games for San Diego Wave FC as part of “Alex's Homebreak,”

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Many people come out to visit Little Amal at each of her stops as she treks across the U.S. (Courtesy photo)

Little Amal's final stop in U.S.

Little Amal, the internationally celebrated 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, will be arriving in San Diego on Nov. 3-5 as part of her final stop during her epic 6,000-mile journey across the United States this fall. Throughout the two-month trek, which will span more than 35 U.S. cities and towns for 100-plus events, some of the country's most influential cultural institutions and artists will come together to greet Amal and add their unique color to the rich tapestry of America's story.

During her stop in San Diego, the Blindspot Collective, Casa Familiar, City of San Diego, Estudio Teddy Cruz + Fonna Forman, Fundación Regalando Amor, Imagine: Brave Spaces, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego Symphony, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, University of California San Diego, UCSD-CASA Community Station, UCSD-Alacran Community Station, and the University of California San Diego Center on Global Justice will create a series of theatrical "events of welcome" for Amal.

All events along the route are an open invitation to the people of the towns and cities Amal is visiting. Some organizations and institutions that will share their unique vantage point of the U.S. narrative and take part in the journey include national and local cultural institutions, theaters, community groups, government bodies, arts, civic society, faith groups, and humanitarian organizations. All participating partners are outlined at WalkWithAmal.org/Friends/United-States.

Scheduled San Diego events:

- Amal arrives in San Ysidro, a border neighborhood in San Diego, at Living Rooms at the Border, 114 W Hall, on Nov. 4 at 11 a.m. to collect a message for migrant families living across the border in Tijuana. She walks through the UCSD-CASA Community Station welcomed by the local community and a parade of dancers, musicians, and students.

- La Jolla Playhouse will take Amal on a joyous adventure in Balboa Park starting near The Old Globe Plaza on Nov. 4 from 2-3 p.m. to celebrate the power of theatre and the city's rich cultural diversity. In partnership with La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls program.

- Exhausted from the day's commotion, Amal is caught between wakefulness and sleep. She can't believe her eyes when magical creatures appear... Is she still dreaming? In partnership with Imagine Brave Spaces, Monarch School Performance Ensemble, Voices of Our City Choir, Majdal Center, and Chicano Park Steering Committee, Amal will visit Chicano Park on Nov. 4 at 5 p.m.

- Amal is yearning to play with other children at South Mission Beach on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. when she discovers the remnants of cherished belongings that have been washed ashore. As she listens to the sea, she thinks about the millions of refugee children across the world, who, like her, are searching for a better life. In partnership with Blindspot Collective, Students Rebuild, ArtPower at UC San Diego, and Medecins Sans Frontieres — Doctors Without Borders.

- Join Amal as she takes the final steps of her long journey

across the United States. One last chance to say goodbye on Nov. 5 (location and time to be revealed).

People who wish to participate in this movement and are curious to learn about Amal's story and corresponding themes can peruse a Little Amal reading list, as well as an educational pack for adults will also include a series of "simple acts," which will suggest ways in which Americans can participate in migrant and refugee-supporting initiatives within their communities.

Amal Walks Across America is produced by The Walk Productions in association with Handspring Puppet Company, which also guided Amal's journey through her initial 5,000-mile walk across Europe in 2021 and through all five boroughs of New York City in 2022 in partnership with St. Ann's Warehouse.

Since beginning her journey, Amal has been welcomed in communities across the globe at various artistic-led events that are authentic and meaningful to the local people she meets. During her travels through Europe, Amal participated in events hosted by prominent cultural organizations and change-makers, including at an installation in Turkey that paid tribute to those who lost their lives crossing the Mediterranean in search of refuge and an appearance at Glastonbury alongside the Refugee Choir Citizens of the World Choir and global rock superstars Elbow. In New York City, she was welcomed at events hosted by world-renowned cultural institutions, including the American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Uptown // Downtown Briefs

REPORT FINDS HIGH POVERTY, INEQUITY FOR SAN DIEGANS

A new report commissioned by the San Diego Foundation and developed in partnership with the San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center found that one in 10 San Diegans lives in poverty, including 86,000 children, due to a lack of self-sufficient wages and the high cost of housing, utilities, transportation and food in the region.

HEALTHCARE WORKER MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES TO \$25 PER HOUR

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a bill raising the minimum wage for healthcare workers, gradually increasing to \$25 per hour. The legislation will impact a range of healthcare employees, including laundrers and gift shop workers. The new law will prevent cities and counties from using ballot measures to raise wages for a decade. Larger healthcare facilities with over 10,000 employees will see the minimum wage rise to \$25 per hour by 2026.

MPOX CASES SURGE LOCALLY

The County of San Diego is reporting 11 new cases of Mpox in the month of October, mirroring a trend happening across the state. As of Oct. 21, 2023, the total number of cases in San Diego County is 492 since cases first emerged in July 2022.

Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is a virus that is spread through close physical contact with someone who has Mpox.

The county is encouraging people to get vaccinated.

REPORTS: SD LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY REACHES \$1 BILLION VENTURE FUNDING

Real estate firm JLL released a report in October studying the capital activity in local biotech companies. The most notable was that third quarter venture capital funding reached \$1 billion, exceeding the combined total brought in during the first two quarters of the year. Meanwhile, the IPO market, which has been frozen for the last 18 months, showed signs of thawing. Two San Diego companies, Turnstone Biologics and RayzeBio, went public during the quarter, raising a combined \$438 million.

JLL expects much stronger leasing activity in quarter four, with approximately 300,000 square feet of new leases under negotiations in the core cluster.

Meanwhile, Cushman & Wakefield released its September Life Sciences Update finding, San Diego continues to strengthen its position as one of North America's largest life sciences hubs, with 22.6 million square feet (msf) of lab inventory, an average asking rent of \$69.23 per square foot and an 8.2% vacancy rate. Continued

growth of the industry has been fueled by public, private and academic collaboration, a talented workforce and strong life science anchors such as Illumina, Pfizer and Lilly.

The life sciences cluster generated \$57.4 billion in economic impact in 2022. As of second quarter 2023, there were 5.9 msf (26 buildings) under construction, 25% of which are pre-leased. As venture capital investment returns to pre-pandemic levels and sublease availabilities increase, tenants will have an attractive choice in cheaper, move-in ready space, according to the report.

SAN DIEGO ZOO WILDLIFE ALLIANCE PARTNERS WITH THE SPECIAL SURVIVAL COMMISSION

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has been recognized for its expertise in wildlife biobanking, and has partnered with the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the world's largest conservation organization—the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)—to form the new Center for Species Survival: Biodiversity Banking. The new center is the first ever to have a strategy focus rather than a taxonomic one.

MISSION HILLS RESIDENT NAMED BOARD CHAIR OF HEBREW FREE LOAN

Graeme Gabriel has been named the new Board Chair for Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego, effective Jan. 1, 2024. Gabriel has been an active part of Hebrew Free Loan of San Diego since its



establishment in early 2021, serving on both lending and development committees.

Well established in the San Diego business community, Gabriel is an experienced professional in the real estate and development communities.

ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR PRODUCED \$1.1 BILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT IN CITY OF SAN DIEGO

A new study by the Americans for the Arts shows that San Diego's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated more than \$1.1 billion in local economic activity last year. The study, which looked at regions in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, measured the economic and social impact of nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences.

According to the Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study, which is conducted every five years, in 2022 San Diego saw nearly \$658 million in spending

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Dive into the Tivoli!

Gaslamp Landmarks

By SANDEE WILHOIT



When arriving in a downtown, thirsty travelers often ask where they can relax, become

acclimated to their new surroundings and find a sociable atmosphere providing reasonably priced spirits. In other words: Where is the local “watering hole” or dive bar? For over 138 years, the historic Tivoli (spelled backwards is “I lov it!”) has provided

a friendly welcome for locals and visitors alike. The beer is ice cold, the hamburgers are hot, the ambience is warm and inviting, and the service—uninterrupted even during Prohibition—is quick and efficient. What’s not to like?

It was built in 1864 (before Alonzo Horton bought all land in the area in 1867) and called the Walker House. It was then



The exterior of Tivoli Bar and Grill (Photos courtesy Gaslamp Museum)

a boarding house, a feed store, and a blacksmith shop. It was ultimately converted into a saloon and kitchen around 1885. The unimposing structure was basically a utilitarian building erected for commercial purposes. It had two windows, double-sashed, on each side. The first-floor windows now sport signature green awnings, and a sign proudly stating that the Tivoli is the oldest bar still operating in the Gaslamp. Structurally, nothing much has changed.

San Diego was growing rapidly during this period and the area surrounding the saloon became known as the Stingaree. Sailors making their way into the area from the port at the end of 5th said you could get quickly “stung” for your money by gamblers, ladies of the evening and other nefarious types. Much more dangerous than the little stinging fish in the bay! It was also not unusual to get “shanghaied” and find yourself at sea the next morning. This was because of a tainted drink to knock you out and a quick hustler to dump you off at a departing ship. All for a price, of course! Nonetheless, the saloon flourished.

The original bar, still a part of the current premises, was shipped around Cape Horn from Boston. This journey took between three and four months depending on the weather. The original cash register, acquired at the beginning of the 20th century, and the original safe are located behind the bar. During a renovation in 1999, workers also discovered a button attached to a wire leading to the nine upstairs rooms, which served “working girls” and soldiers and sailors during the two World Wars. These rooms were rented by the hour, so patrons could be signaled when it was time to leave or if they might be receiving a visit from the Vice Squad.

The saloon finally got its Tivoli name in 1915, when it was owned



Inside Tivoli in the mid-1900s.

by two Italian families. It has been debated as to whether the name was in homage to the Tivoli Gardens in Rome or the ancient town outside of Rome, a summer getaway for emperors and aristocrats.

During Prohibition (1920-1930), the Tivoli was converted into a “kitchen” supposedly serving food and non-alcoholic drinks. This was only on the surface, of course, as workers later found whiskey and wine bottles in the basement where the alcoholic concoctions were made. It was rumored that they were passed up through a trap door under the pool table! They were one of the few drinking establishments that remained open throughout Prohibition.

Throughout the years, the Tivoli has been host to many well-known personages, none more famous than Wyatt Earp. Although the handsome Earp was listed in the San Diego City Directory as a “capitalist,” he is more well known as a lawman, a gambler and the instigator of the famous fight at the O.K. Coral in Tombstone, Arizona. Earp, not a drinker, knew where the action could be found, and he frequented the Tivoli often. His picture is featured on their wall.

The current owners, the Romero family, have been the proprietors since 1972. The parents passed the property over to the brothers Roy, Robert, Wilfred and Mike when they retired. Mike, unfortunately, passed away in 2014. The family has decorated the walls with photos of not only Wyatt Earp, but also major league athletes, famous actors, friends, past employees, patrons, and previous owners. The Romero family patriarch, Spanish Lieutenant Juan Soza,



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TIVOLI BAR AND GRILL

(1885)

Corner of 6th and Island Avenue

Architectural Style: Victorian Commercial

Architect: Unknown

Finding joy in the 32nd Street Open Space Preserve

By CYNTHIA G. ROBERTSON

The 32nd Street Open Space Preserve is a wonderful place to explore—if you can find it. I set out with my husband one recent afternoon and we drove to one of the several entrance points. We first went to where the GPS map indicated an entrance point on Cedar Avenue between 32nd and 33rd streets. We found the streets, but no access to the trail. From the street bridge we could see the trail meandering through lush green space.

From there, we drove around and around looking for streets with dead-ends, which often serve as entrances to trails. And we did find one, along with an official trail entrance, at 32nd and C Street, complete with a sign and posts on either side to block vehicles. We got our hats and a bottle of water and set down the trail.

Just as it appeared from Cedar Street where we had stood looking down on the trail, it was lush and cool and beautiful. We came upon the biggest eucalyptus tree I think we've ever seen. Its trunk was so big that several people could stand around it. We kept walking the trail until it crossed a dry stream bed. The treasure trove of rocks tempted me, especially an unusual lavender-colored one, but it was too large and heavy for me to carry back to the car. We went on for another half mile admiring laurel sumac, lemonade berry, chaparral broom and a California scrub oak tree with a full, beautifully-shaped canopy. Though we could hear the murmurs and high-pitched chirps of birds, we could not find any.

"That is a California Towhee I hear," I told my husband.

"How can you possibly know what a particular bird sounds like?" He asked, incredulous.

I laughed and said it was the same sort of kind of thing when you recognize a friend's voice on the phone.

We were both impressed with the quiet of the canyon preserve. The trail double-backed behind people's back yards. We crossed the dry stream bed a couple more times, and I did finally find a smaller, easier-to-carry rock, a smooth one with light blue, brown and various shades of white. But suddenly we realized we had somehow ventured off the trail we'd been following. We went further and further back the trail trying to find how to cross back to where we'd been. All the while, the sun was lowering in the sky, already making deep shadows in the coastal sage scrub.

Finally, by the humongous eucalyptus tree we spotted a very steep dirt trail leading up to a street, so we took that to the very top. I was very happy we made it to the top, although the trail was slippery and I could have easily fallen without the helping hand of my husband. At the top, we breathed a sigh of relief and looked around, wondering where we were. A



A lovely Sugar Bush shrub is one of the myriad of healthy plants in the 32nd Street Open Space. (Photos by Cynthia G. Robertson)



Wild geranium known as Scented Storksbill grows at places in 32nd Street Open Space along the trail.



You'll find many varieties of trees, such as this Western Sycamore, in 32nd Street Open Space Preserve.

man was in his backyard doing errands and he greeted us, asked how we were doing. When we said we were lost and didn't know our way back to the car, he offered to drive us. It is a very good thing he did. Otherwise, my husband and I would have still been walking around trying to find our car, even after asking Siri for directions.

The man insisted that there were only two entrances to the park, but when we directed him back to where our car was—using Siri once again—he was completely surprised. He'd had no idea about that entrance, even though he lived in the neighborhood.

My husband and I thanked the man profusely and I told him to thank his wife, too, for letting him take the time to help us. Incidentally, that enormous



Raven on utility wire at entrance of 32nd Street Open Space Preserve.

eucalyptus tree we'd seen on the trail happened to be in his backyard. It really does make an excellent landmark.

I'm tempted to go back on my own and look for that one-of-a-kind gorgeous hunk of lavender rock I'd found in the streambed. But I'll just sit with it, listen to the birds and feel the breeze in the



Along the canyon trail in 32nd Street Open Space Preserve.

trees while I hold the rock in my hands. Then I'll put the rock back in the cozy rounded depression where it had made its home in the

streambed. And I'll remember to leave at least half an hour before the sun sets, just in case I get lost again.




The Toyon tree, sometimes called Holly Berry, thrives in the canyon preserve.



California Flannelbush flower in San Diego's 32nd Street Canyon Preserve.



Tunas on an Arborescent Prickly Pear cactus in 32nd Street Open Space Preserve.




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The Supreme Court case that threatens all of us

City Attorney News
By MARA W. ELLIOTT



Some of the bravest people I meet in my work as City Attorney are families who have lost a loved one to domestic violence. Every October, I join them to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month and remember the lives lost to this terrible crime. I meet people like Ivette Kuyateh, who was just eleven years old when her mother was shot and killed by her abuser. She found the strength to share her story with the world at an event in Balboa Park on October 2nd, which I was honored to attend.

October also marked the start of a new session of the United States Supreme Court. The Court is about to consider a case that is an affront to Ivette and all victims of domestic violence. It is an affront to common sense, decency, and the very fabric of our

country. That case, United States v. Rahimi, is a monumental case that could lead to catastrophic results for abuse victims.

Zackey Rahimi has threatened at least two women with gun violence and took part in at least five shootings in just two months around Arlington, Texas. The shootings occurred following a drug deal and as part of a road rage incident. One shooting even occurred after his friend's credit card was declined at a Whataburger fast food restaurant. The only reason Rahimi is not holding a gun right now and presenting an active threat to others is because his guns were taken away. The domestic violence protection order one of his victims obtained prohibits Rahimi from possessing firearms. Now, the Supreme Court is considering giving him those weapons back.

As a member of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, I joined an amicus curiae briefing before

the Supreme Court urging them not to tie the hands of prosecutors. Specifically, we should be able to seek protective orders that keep guns out of the hands of abusers. My office has obtained more than 1,000 Gun Violence Restraining Orders to separate truly dangerous individuals from their deadly weapons. That work has saved lives, and we have the evidence to show the program is working.

The link between domestic violence and gun violence goes far beyond the Rahimi case. Time and again, mass shooters have begun their terror campaigns by killing a family member. This was the case in Sandy Hook and it was the case in Uvalde. The presence of a gun in a home increases a domestic violence victim's chance of being murdered by 500 %. As the first woman and mother to lead the City Attorney's Office, I made confronting domestic violence and gun violence my

highest priorities. We will not shrink from this work, even as Washington holds its breath to see whether this Court will once again undermine the health and safety of women — exactly as they did a year ago by overturning reproductive rights and Roe v. Wade.

Those who have survived domestic violence have earned the right to be called survivors, not victims. In the same way, many Americans have survived the trauma inflicted by the fear of gun violence. Survivors understand the importance of action as part of the healing process. When we take action to stop someone like Rahimi from owning deadly weapons, we move one step closer to overcoming our national trauma and the gun violence epidemic. On behalf of Ivette Kuyateh and every domestic violence survivor, let's keep moving forward and making progress. We owe them — and we owe ourselves — no less than this.

Tech scams are financially devastating senior citizens

District Attorney News
By SUMMER STEPHAN



The number one scam overwhelming San Diego County seniors and robbing them of their life savings involves a tech hoax in the form of emails, texts or pop-up ads. The message is simple, but treacherous: their device has been hacked and they need to act. The situation quickly escalates when the scammer tells the senior that because their computer has been compromised, their financial accounts are at risk.

Since our lives are ruled by our computers and all of the personal and financial data that flows in and out of them, we are right to be concerned about computer safety and guarding against a virus or spyware.

But when San Diego seniors are draining their bank accounts nearly every day to these types of scams, warning the public is urgent. Do not believe unsolicited messages, do not click on links

sent by unknown senders and certainly do not provide financial information to anyone you do not know or trust.

In the latest iteration of this elder scam, bad actors groom the victims over weeks and months that their trusted financial advisors are under investigation and cannot be trusted. The victim is coaxed to give their money to the fraudster with a warning that they say nothing, or risk being harmed or going to jail.

Last year, the San Diego County Elder Justice Task Force reported \$49 million in losses. Already this year we have exceeded that figure.

The elder tech scam can go down a number of paths, but they each end with significant financial loss. For example:

- The scammer says your longtime trusted financial advisors are under investigation and can't be trusted.
- There is a court order saying you must remain silent about being hacked.
- The scammer strikes every so often making you think your

computer has a new virus that you must pay to have removed each time.

- The credit card or banking information you provided to stop the virus may have unauthorized use.
- Your computer may get infected with spyware or remote access software allowing access to personal and financial records.
- You're told to deposit your money into a 'government' account where it will be safe.

Here are tips on how to deal with computer safety and tech support:

- Do not call phone numbers on pop-up ads about computer security.
- The best way to keep your computer safe from viruses is to update its security software.
- If you have concerns about the security settings or viruses on your computer, take it to a reputable brick and mortar computer repair business and ask them to sweep your computer for remote access software and other harmful software.

- If you get a pop-up ad that takes up your screen, has no way to close and suggests you click on it as the only way to rid the screen of the intrusion, take the computer to a professional repair shop.

Don't click, call or answer if:

- You get a phone call you didn't expect saying there is a problem with your computer.
- You get a message that a foreign spammer attacked your system and you need to pay to protect your banking information.
- If you are asked to make payment in Bitcoin or wire transfer, it is a scam.

The DA's Consumer Protection Unit is comprised of Deputy District Attorneys, Investigators and Paralegals dedicated to protecting consumers and law-abiding businesses from fraudulent or unfair business practices. To report a consumer complaint, you can call (619) 531-3507 or email consumer@sdcca.org. If you have been the victim of elder abuse, report it to Adult Protective Services: (800) 339-4661.

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 2

by local nonprofit arts and culture organizations. The study also measured \$528 million in event-related spending by audiences, things like restaurant dining, paying for parking or transportation, and even childcare.

Overall, the impact of this economic activity in the city supported 16,900 jobs and generated about \$276 million in tax revenue.

CUREBOUND CONCERT FOR CURES RAISES \$5.5 MILLION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Curebound, a San Diego-based philanthropic organization that raises and invests strategic funding in cancer research, raised \$5.5 million at the 2023 Concert for Cures on Oct. 20, at the Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. The sold-out event was headlined by four-time Grammy Award winner Ed Sheeran. The benefit concert raising awareness and funds for lifesaving cancer research. All proceeds from the event fuel innovative research grants among

collaborative scientific teams from California's top research institutions.

CONRAD PREBYS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$16 MILLION IN ARTS INITIATIVES

The Conrad Prebys Foundation announced \$16 million in arts initiatives to support and uplift the vibrant arts community of San Diego. "We seek to celebrate and strengthen the many forms and roles of San Diego's dynamic visual and performing arts

scene," said Prebys CEO Grant Oliphant.

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART RECEIVES \$1.6 MILLION GRANT

The San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) is pleased to announce that it is a recipient of the 'Access for All' grant funded by the Art Bridges Foundation, a national arts nonprofit founded by philanthropist Alice Walton. SDMA will receive \$1.6 million

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East Village businesses display American flags for Veterans Day. (Photo courtesy East Village Association)

Honoring veterans, celebrating the holidays in East Village

East Village News
By **ETHAN OLSEN**

November is finally here, meaning the most wonderful time of the year is upon us! For many, the winter season is very near and dear to the heart, and the East Village neighborhood stands as the hub to revel in these cherished holidays. With exceptional businesses nestled in the heart of Downtown, the community not only offers an array of festive delights but is also gearing up for the season with events that will ignite the community spirit.

EAST VILLAGE SALUTES!

This year, East Village will be paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served our Country! On Veteran's Day Weekend, the East Village Association will be hosting the inaugural East Village SALUTES! to honor the remarkable contributions that those in the armed forces continuously make within the Downtown community. Taking place on Sunday, November 12th from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the plaza of the Park 12 Luxury Apartments across from Petco Park, the free event promises a day of festivities, gratitude, and community spirit.

Commemorating the heroes of our country both in the past and present, East Village SALUTES! will give the community a chance to show extra support to those who have served by highlighting the thriving Veteran-owned businesses within the neighborhood and throughout San Diego.

With a street festival style atmosphere, the event will feature a variety of attractions, including vendor booths such as East Village Brewing, Doggos Gus and Hey Sugar!, live musical performances and family-friendly activities that promise fun for all ages. At 2:30 p.m., you won't want to miss a live performance from the renowned San Diego Marine Band's Jazz Ensemble.

Open to all ages, the event will feature a kid's station, hosted by the YMCA Armed Services, where the little ones will get the chance to write letters to veterans. Be sure to stop by after the San Diego Veterans Day Parade!

A LOOK AHEAD

As many begin to fill their calendars for all the fun holiday festivities, make sure to leave Saturday, December 9th wide open for the East Village Tree Lighting and Holiday Market. Taking place from 3 to 7 p.m., Quartyard and 13th Street will be transformed into a holiday extravaganza with a curated holiday market by San Diego Markets, live music, delicious foods, fun activities for the kids, a tree lighting ceremony and of course, photos with Santa Claus himself.

Feel all the joys of the holiday season with your friends and family at the East Village Tree Lighting Ceremony and festive Holiday Market. At 5:45 p.m., the East Village Association and San Diego's elected officials invite friends and family as they mark the start of the festive times with the special tradition of the Christmas tree lighting. Throughout the evening, guests will be able to check out the East Village Holiday Market which will showcase a delightful selection of wonderful hand-crafted gifts, giving holiday shoppers the chance to purchase delightful stocking stuffers while enjoying live music and the festive spirit.

There is truly no time like the holidays in East Village and this year there are new and returning festivities for the whole family to enjoy. We hope to see you in the neighborhood as we ring in the winter season.

For the latest updates on East Village Association, please visit us at eastvillagesandiego.com and follow us on Instagram @EastVillageSD, TikTok @EastVillageSD and Twitter @EastVillageSD.

Shopping small this season

Little Italy News
By **CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ**

The heat waves of sunny San Diego are finally starting to slow down meaning that the holiday season is finally upon us! Whether you choose to start your holiday shopping early, visit a new spot in the neighborhood or attend one of the most anticipated events of the season, there are many ways in which you can ring in the most wonderful time of the year right in the heart of the Little Italy neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS UPDATE

Have you noticed the new business in town yet? It's time to welcome the new location of Thr3e Punk Ales to the neighborhood. The bustling brewery is thrilled to be expanding to a second location in one of the most iconic and beloved neighborhoods in San Diego. Though the tasting room has an all-new look, the core values of Thr3e Punk Ales never go away. Enjoy good beer, music, vibes all with your Thr3e Punk Ales family! So, raise your glasses high to the new neighbors in Little Italy.

Having opened their first ever store front this fall, San Diego couple and store owners Jeff and Tim are thrilled to make Little Italy the new home for Apollo Emporium. From sleek, minimalist chairs and tables to luxurious sofas upholstered in plush fabrics, there is something to suit every taste and lifestyle. Taking pride in supporting local artisans and independent designers, Apollo Emporium offers unique, one-of-a-kind creations, making it the ultimate destination for design décor and gifts.

SMALL BUSINESS SEASON

One crucial part about this time of year is checking off your holiday shopping list. Make each holiday purchase extra meaningful to both your loved ones and the local businesses in Little Italy by participating in Small Business Season. This year, find quality gifts that support local entrepreneurs and continue to beautify the community. With tons of local boutiques and specialty shops, shopping small in Little Italy allows you to complete your shopping within walking distance. As an added bonus? You'll get the chance to see the friendly faces behind the gifts you purchase!

Starting on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25, to the end of the year, locals and visitors are encouraged to check out the local clothing, jewelry, and gift shops along with the Little Italy Mercato taking place every Sunday and Wednesday for more produce and goodies.

Little Italy is filled with one-of-a-kind boutiques, galleries, and shops such as 1805 Gallery,

Architectural Salvage, Blick Art Materials, Brazilia Skincare, and D3 Homes for quality items that can only be found in this neighborhood. Find those perfect gifts for everyone on your list at shops that are staple to Little Italy like India Street Antiques, Irelia Fine Jewelry, Jacqueline Lavenu Studio & Gallery, JDC Fine Art and more!

Some locally owned businesses will be offering in-store specials and discounts for shoppers to enjoy, including longer business hours to find those perfect gifts for everyone on the list on Saturday. If you'd rather skip shopping in

person this year, online shopping is available from any of the Little Italy's shops as well as gift cards for future use.

From galleries and pampering services to restaurants and boutiques, it's a wonderful time to shop around and support many of the local businesses that call Little Italy their home. Remember to shop small and shop Little Italy!

A LOOK AHEAD

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? Make sure to mark

SEE **LITTLE ITALY**, Page 12

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The Center celebrates 50 years

San Diego has second-oldest LGBTQ+ community center in nation after LA

By DREW SITTON

The San Diego LGBT Community Center held a gala for its 50th anniversary at Hilton San Diego Bayfront on Saturday, Oct. 14 with 1000 guests in attendance who raised over \$700,000 for one of the oldest and largest LGBT centers in the nation.

Many celebrated the golden anniversary with Midas-touched outfits as they gathered to rejoice, mourn and renew their commitment to fight for LGBTQ+ rights. Key local LGBTQ+ figures and allies were at the event, including former San Diego Mayor Jerry

Sanders with his daughter and her wife and children as well as current Mayor Todd Gloria.

While Center founders who died of AIDS were mourned and national efforts to pass anti-LGBTQ+ legislation were waged against, the crowd took time to celebrate the hard-won victories of the community.

"We fought like hell to survive and thrive, to make it here tonight to celebrate 50 extraordinary years of this beautiful community," said the Center's CEO Cara Dessert during her keynote address. "It is now our collective responsibility... to ensure that our

community's hopes and dreams are not threatened by shifting political climates and by those who see us as less than human."

The nonprofit has three prongs: Advocacy, direct services and a physical community space for LGBTQ+ people. The in-house services at the Center are diverse, including mental health services, sexual health services, housing help and more. In total, the Center has 80,000 service visits per year.

HISTORY

The Center began after local gay activists visited LA to see the nation's first LGBT center. They decided to organize a similar local effort. What began as a resource phone line is now a sprawling nonprofit with nine properties and a \$13 million budget and staff of 115 people.

In addition to being one of the oldest LGBT centers, the Center also pioneered a Latino services program 19 years ago.

"What attracted me to come here was their commitment to work on immigration, unlike a lot of other centers across the nation," said Deputy CEO Kim Fountain, who has had a 30-year career in LGBTQ+ centers spanning Vermont, New York and Chicago before joining the Center's team last year.



Senator Toni Atkins, Dr. Delores Jacobs and Cara Dessert pose after Dr. Delores Jacobs, who served as the Center's CEO for 17 years, received a Lifetime Achievement Award. (Photos by Drew Sitton)



Trans activist Tracie Jada O'Brien and Center CEO Cara Dessert



Chris Kehoe (right) was the first out LGBTQ+ elected in San Diego.

San Diego's Center has embraced being a border city. When Border Patrol dumped immigrants at bus stops recently, the Center was one of the organizations that mobilized to connect them with services.

With the 2024 election on the horizon, the Center is mobilizing its advocacy network.

"We're building that community power to make sure that as 2024 approaches, we're ready for anything that happens," Fountain said.

A major area of growth in recent years has been in youth services. Director of development Ian Johnson shared his own story of arriving in San Diego at 19, homeless, in the 1990s when the Center was a much smaller organization.

"The Center was still growing and didn't have the robust youth

and housing programs we have today. It was only a dream for my friends and I who didn't have a place to call home. I often think back and think, what if? What if the Sunburst Youth Housing Project, what if the Hillcrest Youth Center, or South Bay Youth Center, or the Family Reunification Program existed?" he asked in his address to the audience. "I can tell you that a lot of those friends would probably still be alive today."

Those youth services are more critical as people are coming out younger than ever and still face discrimination at school and at home.

FUTURE GOALS

Looking to the future, the board and staff are focused on being

SEE CENTER TURNS 50, Page 12

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San Diego hosts Pride organizations from around the world

2023 InterPride conference marks 40th anniversary of coalition's annual event coming to San Diego thanks to Doug Moore

By DREW SITTON

InterPride, an organization made up of Pride coordinators from around the world, held its 41st annual conference in San Diego over Halloween weekend with hundreds of delegates from 32 countries representing over 150 Pride organizations. While San Diego hosts hundreds if not thousands of conferences each year, this particular gathering was an important reminder of San Diego's significance to the LGBTQ+ rights movement in the past through today.

San Diego Pride has a unique structure with year-round programming and volunteer

leadership compared to other Pride organizations. While Pride staff members, who support and coordinate those volunteers, have spoken about this model at InterPride conferences in the past, this was a chance to give a first-hand look at that model in action.

"We share that model with other Prides, but when they're here, they get to see it in person. They get to meet our volunteer leaders," said Jen LaBarbera, director of education and outreach at SD Pride. "We can't afford to send all 100 of our volunteer leaders to a conference in Athens. So bringing everybody here, they get to meet and see and learn from all of those people."

At the close of the conference, they hope volunteers made connections with people from small towns in Uganda, Thailand's capitol and Mexican Pride organizations they might otherwise never know.

The conference, held from Oct. 25-29 at the Westin Gaslamp Hotel, was filled with voting sessions, workshops, mixers and opportunities to socialize. Mayor Todd Gloria welcomed the delegates at a reception at St. Paul's Cathedral. Other events were held at Rich's, Diversionary Theatre, the Westgate Hotel, The San Diego LGBTQ+ Center and Hillcrest. While many attendees came from similarly LGBTQ+-friendly areas, some came from places where LGBTQ+ identities are criminalized, making these adventures in the city while meeting government, religious and business leaders especially meaningful.

"I think that's been really empowering and really impactful for people," LeBarbera, who is also the InterPride board's vice president of global outreach, said.

HISTORY

In addition to showing off what San Diego has to offer, SD Pride wanted to host this year's conference because it is the 40-year anniversary of InterPride, then only a national coalition of Pride



All the delegates gathered at the San Diego LGBT Community Center's parking lot for a closing gala before heading to Nightmare on Normal.

orgs, holding its meeting in San Diego.

The first National Association of Lesbian and Gay Prides conference was held in Boston in 1982. Marsha Levine organized the weekend after a conversation with Rick Turner at a conference about the LGBTQ+ movement at UCLA. The pair were frustrated that not much information was being shared about the Pride movement both were involved in on opposite sides of the continental US.

Levine asked Turner, "Wouldn't be nice if we had a conference where it was just Pride coordinators and we all got together? We all talk about what we have in common and we all learn from each other? Because everybody's

at different stages and does things differently and maybe together we can build an effort."

A year later she called him wanting to move forward but he was too sick to help her organize it. Turner encouraged her to move forward despite this. Levine eventually got in contact with San Diegan Doug Moore, who had put together a mailing list of all Pride coordinators. She used the list to invite people to Boston for the first conference in October, 1982. The 16 attendees, representing Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, NYC, San Diego and San Francisco, pushed together three tables to form a triangle, then a



InterPride founder Marsha Levine (center) gets seated at the Saturday night gala, a tradition started in San Diego in 1983. (Photos by Drew Sitton)

SEE INTERPRIDE, Page 10

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InterPride

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

symbol of the LGBTQ+ movement, and spent two days discussing multiple Pride-related topics. At the end, they suggested meeting again the following year. Moore offered to host it in San Diego.

Moore was also one of the 10 attendees that slept in sleeping bags on the floor of Levine's studio apartment at the south end of Boston during the event.

When the conference came to San Diego the following year, it quadrupled in size.

"Our attendance increased from about 15 delegates up to 60

delegates and we were joined by a bunch of other cities. And that's where we started some of our traditions," Levine said.

Some of those traditions founded in San Diego still exist today, including holding a gala Saturday night. This year the gala was followed by the Halloween block party "Nightmare on Normal." Plus, delegates began selecting a theme each year so all Pride organizations worked together on a united campaign, starting with "Unity and More in '84" and the latest theme "Thrive" in 2023.

"The reason InterPride was started in the first place is because if we're all just trying to do the same thing, but we're not



Pride Executive Director Fernando Lopez as Cruella DeVille and the Devil wearing Prada's overworked assistant Andrea Sachs (aka Joe Fejran, Pride's executive projects manager) at the final gala.



LGBTQ+ activists from Tijuana crossed the border each day to take part in the conference. (Photos by Drew Sitton)



Acrobats and contortionists from Art in Flexion provided entertainment in the LGBT Center's parking lot.



One Pride organization's delegates dressed as the Addams Family for the Halloween gala.

talking to each other, then we're not building a movement. We're

just all in silos trying to all do the same thing," LaBarbera said.

InterPride had other milestones over the last 41 years, which included creating a mini-Pride march in Wichita, Kansas because Pride was outlawed there, taking part in a LGBT March on Washington, having Canadian Pride organizations join in 1984 then European organizations join in 1992 to make it an international group, and Long Beach and Los Angeles demonstrating Pride organizations collaborating by co-hosting a conference. More recent milestones include the first conference held in Latin America in 2022 with Guadalajara,

Mexico hosting and the United Nations giving InterPride special consultative status this year.

Moore continued to attend the conference until it started to travel overseas, starting in Glasgow, Scotland in 1999, when it became too expensive then his health declined. After 20 years of missing the conference, he attended many of the sessions in San Diego and was excited to be back. It was bigger than he could have imagined.

"What we started for 50 states ended up affecting everything and everyone. We did something good," he said. "I'm proud of San Diego's history."



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Happy hour with a side of spontaneity in Old Town

How Cucina Migrante's pop-up The Wine Shop operates outside the box

Restaurant Review
By **FRANK SABATINI JR.**

Nestled within the backside of Old Town's Urban Market Food Hall is one of San Diego's most unexpected and fleeting wine bars, a place that offers a welcoming stay-awhile feel even though it might not stick around after Jan. 1.

The Wine Shop by Cucina Migrante is something of a nomad considering that its owners opened the venture in June under a six-month lease.

"We are a pop-up wine shop," explained Francesco Bonsinetti, an enthusiastic gourmand from Sicily who jointly operates the shop with friend and business partner Adisa Ziric. They took over the indoor-outdoor venue from a previous owner who ran it for about a year.

It is yet to be seen whether the shop will stay beyond the new year, move to another neighborhood, or vanish altogether.

"We are going to decide in December," Ziric said.

The duo also runs Cucina Migrante, a successful company that conducts private dinners and cooking classes around town. They launched it seven years ago and tagged The Wine Shop's name with the brand.

Ziric is originally from Bosnia and takes the role of creative director for both businesses. "But I



Obscure wines fill the shelves

like to make fresh pasta for some of our cooking classes," she said while crediting Bonsinetti and a small team of chefs the company employs for menu development.

The Wine Shop has served as a versatile, advantageous sidearm to Cucina Migrante. Its temporary status hasn't stopped locals from taking advantage of what is a relaxing wine-centric sanctuary from Old Town's constant bustle.

Not only does the shop offer public cooking classes each month—plus live jazz on Sundays, and vinyl-spun music on Mondays—but it also presents happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. daily. During that time, customers can enjoy the rare amenity of free cheese and charcuterie, which is part of what lured me in on a recent Saturday afternoon.

Ample outdoor seating on a multi-tier patio leads to the entrance inside, where a modern design splashed with colorful art and a couple of turntables for playing records flank a communal table. The nearby shelves are stocked

**THE WINE SHOP
BY CUCINA MIGRANTE**
2548 Congress St., Old Town
thewineshopsd.com

with global wines, some of them made from lesser-known grapes. Think Godello from northern Spain (a white grape) and reds ones such as Frappata from Southern Italy and Tannat from Uruguay, though originally from France.

"You won't find our wines at Costco," Bonsinetti insisted while pointing out that the shop carries about 80 different labels. Nearly 15 of them are available by the glass on any given day.

The shop is also where you can purchase the owners' cookbook "Happiness is a Red Tomato." It contains more than 30 Mediterranean-inspired recipes, including one for making limoncello.

I started my visit with a glass of New Zealand Pino Gris by Tinpot Hut. The wine's crisp, cool notes



Complimentary cheese and charcuterie (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

of pear and peach were the perfect come-on to a warm afternoon. My next choice was a glass of deep-purple Cabernet Franc by Fanatic Wine Company. It too was served chilled, an anomaly for this varietal. But I didn't mind considering that it elevated the rich, fruity undertones of the wine. Bonsinetti seemed to know this when plucking it from the glass-door cooler.

Glass prices range from \$10 to \$18, depending on the label. And

even if you hang around for only one glass during happy hour, you will receive a tray of artisan meats and cheeses—or some type of nosh.

My tray included shaved prosciutto di Parma, Sicilian truffle cheese, roasted cherry tomatoes, herbed olives and more. It was entirely satisfying. Outside of happy hour the tray costs \$10. The offerings change regularly based on what the shop has in stock.

Much of The Wine Shop's appeal lies in its breezy structure. There are no hard rules as to where you can sit, how long you can linger, or whether you need reservations for certain cooking classes and events (they are preferred but if there is room for drop-ins, no problem). A communal, easygoing vibe pervades no matter when you visit. It is that exact carefree concept combined with a prime location that has kept the shop afloat, all while further branding the Cucina Migrante name.

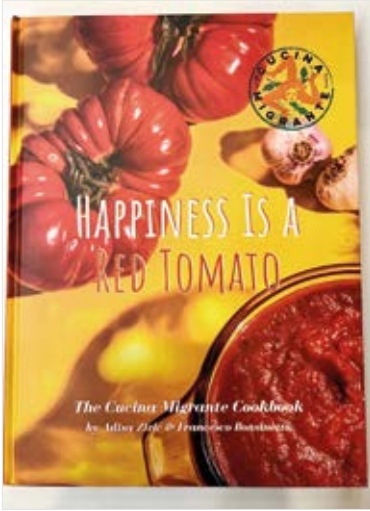
"For us hospitality and environment are super important,"



The shop's main entrance from Congress Street



Owners Adisa Ziric and Francesco Bonsinetti



A new cookbook co-authored by the owners

SEE WINE SHOP, Page 15

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North Park kidnapper pleads guilty to child porn charges

By NEAL PUTNAM

A North Park man who kidnapped an Oklahoma teen-age girl has pleaded guilty to transporting sexually explicit images of a minor across state lines.

The images were of the kidnapping victim, who was abducted in June 2022 and rescued by San Diego Police after she was able to find a cellphone and call her father and police.

The charge Ramsey Manuel Cervantes, 23, pleaded guilty to carries the same penalty as a federal kidnapping charge,

which is 20 years in federal prison, according to court records.

Sentencing is set for Jan. 10, 2024 before U.S. District Court Judge Linda Lopez. Cervantes has been detained without bail in the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

A federal kidnapping charge will be dismissed after he is sentenced. He will be ordered to register as a sex offender in whatever community he lives in after he is released.

Court records say he used his phone and laptop computer to record sexually explicit images

of the 16-year-old victim whom he met online. Cervantes transported her and the images across state lines in violation of interstate commerce.

Cervantes met the girl over four visits in Oklahoma in 2022, but she was 16 years old at the time. In the last visit, she said he put a knife to her side and said he would kill her if she tried to leave.

He gave her vodka while en route to San Diego and she was kept in a constant state of heavy intoxication, according to the U.S. Attorney's office. Cervantes left her in his North

Park apartment alone on June 22, 2022, and she found a cell phone where she called her father and police.

"This is a sad reminder to all of us to be careful who you trust online," said Police Chief David Nisleit at the time.

Cervantes has agreed to forfeit his laptop computer and cellphone to the government and won't get it returned back to him after he finishes his sentence.

He faces a maximum fine of \$40,000 but the U.S. Attorney's office indicated they would not be seeking a fine.

Center turns 50

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

ready to meet the needs of the growing LGBTQ+ senior community.

"The seniors are the generation that fought. The seniors are the generation that walked through the worst coals of despair and discrimination," said board co-chair Sue Reynolds.

Currently the Center operates an affordable housing building in North Park for LGBTQ+ seniors. With the housing and homelessness crises in the region affecting LGBTQ+ seniors, who are disproportionately poorer and less likely to have a spouse or family member to support them, those efforts need to scale up.

To learn more about the Center and its programs, visit thecentersd.org.

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Tivoli

CONTINUED FROM Page 4

is proudly honored. He was sent to the last Spanish garrison in the Southwest: Tuboc, Arizona. When he retired, Soza received a land grant in Tempe, which is

Little Italy

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

your calendars quickly because the Little Italy Association is thrilled to invite the community to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with the Annual Little Italy Tree Lighting and Christmas Village on Saturday, Dec. 2nd from 4 to 8 p.m. There's nothing like the feeling you get when you watch one of San Diego's most iconic neighborhoods go through a festive transformation with 10-foot-tall nutcrackers, kinetic tree

now the home of Arizona State University. The Soza family also received a proclamation by the State of Arizona honoring them as the first European family to settle Arizona territory.

As a San Diego historically designated building, the Tivoli has the distinction of being a part of

holiday displays on street corners, and twinkling Christmas light throughout the 48-square blocks. So, come down to Little Italy to take part in one of the longest-standing tradition with your loved ones through an evening filled with seasonal vendors, live music and entertainment, holiday treats, family photos with Santa, and above all, the traditional Italian countdown tree lighting ceremony for the Piazza della Famiglia 25' live tree. Holiday shoppers can also take advantage of the Christmas Village, located on India Street, to find unique stocking stuffers

the city's historical past and now a part of the vibrant Gaslamp and Petco Park scene. A favorite stop both before and after Padres games, the Tivoli still welcomes all who come to its doors with a smile and a cold beer. The more things change, the more it stays the same!

and other holiday goodies from seasonal vendors and select Little Italy Mercato vendors throughout the entirety of the event!

Be a part of the holiday magic that exists in Little Italy this November celebrating new businesses, supporting the various local businesses, and ringing in the holiday season in community!

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

News briefs

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

over three years to develop tailored programming for the local community, to launch in January 2024, including:

- Underwriting free admission on a designated "Access for All Day"
- Designing interdisciplinary and culturally responsive programs relevant to community interest
- Providing fully bilingual Spanish-English interpretation, assistive listening and visual systems, marketing, and programming
- Working with local organizations to provide additional accessibility
- Creating dedicated staff positions responsible for the creation of community engagement programming and more

The Art Bridges Access for All initiative represents a sweeping effort to get people back to museums after COVID-19 brought revenue, staffing, and attendance declines. With many museums seeing just 71% of their pre-pandemic attendance, the new initiative aims to restore pre-pandemic

levels – and open opportunities for all people to enjoy art by reducing barriers to access and strengthening community relationships.



NEW MURAL AT THE NAT HIGHLIGHTS BIODIVERSITY

The San Diego Natural History Museum (The Nat) is moving forward with exciting plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year. One priority is a significant refresh of the Atrium—the vast, five-story space in the center of the Museum that serves as

the arrival point from the north entrance.

Visitors can already enjoy a completed 33-foot mural by San Diego-based artist Eva Struble. Commissioned by The Nat, this mural is one part of a larger effort to turn the Atrium into a warm and inviting community gathering space that welcomes visitors to the museum and introduces them to the specialness of nature in our region. Titled "Frasera," the mural is inspired by specimens in the museum's collection and showcases the incredible biodiversity of Southern California and the Baja California Peninsula. It will be on view through 2024.

DOWNTOWN'S E3 CIVIC HIGH SELECTED FOR MIT PROGRAM

e3 Civic High, located inside the San Diego Central Library, is one of eight school nationwide selected to participate in the prestigious Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams for 2023-2024. The InvenTeams are focusing on problems facing their local communities, with a

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

Fashion Week San Diego highlights sustainable designs from local artists

Fashion Files
By **DIANA CAVAGNARO**

Fashion Week San Diego took place this year on October 7th at the Andaz Hotel in Downtown. Local designers were highlighted DJ Billy the Kid spun tunes for the evening. Opening remarks began with guest hosts for the evening Jodi Kodesh and Jonathan Harris. Septimius the Great and Mario Bryant provided entertainment. The show began with Topo Chico presenting Upcycles and sustainable designs. Then, Nina Cicolo is a Brazilian designer who brought her cultural influences to the runway. She was the first place designer at SDFW 2022. Next was the edgy Swimwear from My



Nina Cicolo was the first place designer at SDFW 2022 (Photo by Shira DeJong)

Generation. Urban Pigeon showed a collection that was very unique and different. Many designs had



Unique designs from Urban Pigeon (Photo by Shira DeJong)

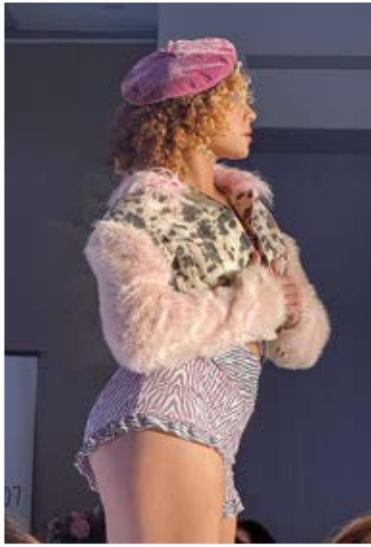
hand-painted art work on them. Radiant Robes showed off an eclectic bohemian style—think Coachella meets high fashion. Francis Taylor was inspired by the Victorian era up to the



The eclectic, bohemian style of Radiant Robes shone on the runway. (Photo by Shira DeJong)

‘80s. She gave her look a modern twist. Dorothea was back with a collection that was all about diversity and inclusion. Saulho had spicy swimwear for men. Pynk Pineapple had wearable modern art incorporated in their designs. Jump It Up Apparel was inspired by basketball. Oddbird Designs won second place at SDFW 2022. This year’s collection was inspired by the ocean and the fabric looked like water with sparkles and sequins.

The third place designer at last year’s SDFW was Sierra Mitchell. This year’s collection felt like old Hollywood glam meets dark fairytale. The show closed with the elegant designs of CW Couture. Top designers and models were awarded for bringing their fashion sensibilities to San Diego’s runway. TYLV won the People’s Choice Award for his



Another design from Radiant Robes (Photo by Shira DeJong)

incorporating fabric scraps in his designs and his passion for fashion. This year awards were given to the top three designers: First place went to CW Couture, second to Sierra Mitchell, and third place went to Saulho. Awards were also given to models with first place going to Malaya Maltez, second to Ariana Angel, and third to Tedi Atanassov. For more information about FWSD visit: <https://fashion-weeksd.com/>



Saulho designs for night clubs, parties, and swim. (Photo by Shira DeJong)



Saulho took third place in the designer category this year (Photo by Shira DeJong)



Sierra Mitchell took second place this year (Photo by Shira DeJong)



Pynk Pineapple created wearable art (Photo by Shira DeJong)



Jump It Up apparel (Photo by Shira DeJong)



This Odd Bird Collection was inspired by the ocean. (Photo by fashionphotosd)

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CW Couture received the top award at FWSD this year. (Photo by Shira DeJong)



Topo Chico showed off upcycled and sustainable designs. (Photo by Shira DeJong)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Designing Hollywood: Studio Wardrobe in the Golden Age
Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in the John D. Spreckels Hospitality Center in Coronado. Coffee and presentation with Author Christian Esquivin. General Admission is \$15. For tickets: bit.ly/3QxdeEV

Natural Tie Dyeing Workshop
Using fruits, herbs, and flowers from the farm, learn to tie dye on Nov. 12 from 1-4 p.m. PST. Located at Wild Willow Farm & Education Center at 2225 Hollister St. Price is \$35. For tickets bit.ly/3saxblq

Winter Wonderland Luncheon & Fashion Show
Presented by The Arc of San Diego, the event on Friday, Dec. 1 will be at The US Grant Hotel and feature a Fashion Show by Leonard Simpson. For tickets call Jennifer Bates Navarra at: (619) 685-1175, ext. 1291.



Team captain Alex Morgan checks out the NWSL Shield after beating Racing Louisville 2-0. (Photos by Riley Creer)

SD Wave wins NWSL Shield

San Diego secured their spot at the top of the standings, winning the NWSL Shield on Sunday, Oct. 15. They will play in the semifinals at the Snapdragon Stadium on November 5.



Christen Westphal plays ball upfield. Westphal was honored before the game for her 100th NWSL appearance.

Wine Shop

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

Bonsinetto noted. “But right now we still don’t know if we’ll stay here in Old Town or create this in another neighborhood.” Until then, The Wine Shop has several cooking classes and

dinners on the docket. They include: “cuisine from Rome” on Nov. 15; a four-course “secret foodie dinner” with a masquerade theme on Dec. 1; Tuscan cuisine on Dec. 6; and Milanese food on Dec. 20. For prices and further details, call 619-414-0691 or visit the web site at thewineshopsd.com.

Soccer award

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

are awarded based upon leadership, community involvement and drive both within soccer and across their day-to-day lives. Asnani was presented with her Leader of the Year Award at the Foundation’s inaugural Celebration of Confidence on October 11. Asnani, who is also a local Cadette Girl Scout, was ecstatic when she received the award. “It all has been really great. It has allowed me to connect with a lot of different people and I am very proud of myself and of my parents for helping me out and getting me to this point,” Asnani explained.

Asnani’s involvement within the San Diego community did not start with the Homebreak Leader of the Year Award. For years, her family, friends and community have been deeply involved through local organizations, such as Girl Scouts San Diego. “My family and I do a lot of work throughout the community. I am working on my Silver Award right now; it is 50 hours of community service. I chose to represent girls in sports for it and make sure girls in sports get the quality and treatment they deserve.



Nina and her team get to meet with Alex Morgan on the field after a San Diego Wave game. (Photos courtesy Alex Morgan Foundation)

This Homebreak award has been so helpful for that,” Asnani said. “I hope to make a documentary, with coaches and players and spreading awareness on the topic.” For Asnani, receiving the Homebreak Leader of the Year Award also means a big step in representation. “I know my parents did not have these opportunities when they were kids. They understand how important this is for me and they are so supportive. This has been such a great way to represent girls of my age and girls of

color. This is something I have also been looking to represent within Girl Scouts,” Asnani said. Now that Asnani has been recognized for her determination and ability to navigate the field and world, she is determined to not stop here. For years, soccer has been Asnani’s passion. She hopes to continue playing and eventually join a professional league. “I started playing soccer when I was three. At first, I liked it because it was about making new friends and meeting new people, but eventually I realized I love the sport and everything about it,” Asnani said. Asnani is thrilled to continue pursuing both soccer and Girl Scouts. Her team, North Park Matrix, has been cheering her on throughout the award process. “You can never know enough about something you love,” Asnani explained. More information on the Alex Morgan Foundation Homebreak Leader of the Year Award can be found at alexmorganfoundation.org.



Nina's team have a special banner for the rest of the season.

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