Pie Eyed: Pop Pie Co. keeps feeding Uptown

Four years ago, Steven Torres and his husband Gan Suebsarakham opened a cozy eatery in the heart of University Heights called Pop Pie Co. This unique shop features both savory and sweet pies along with comfort food sides such as creamed corn and mashed potatoes and gravy. Many savory pies are traditional meat-filled pies like chicken potpie and lemon and lime pies fill out the dessert menu. Their global options like Thai and Australian inspired pies add creativity to the menu. The menu is rounded out with a wide selection of beverages including coffee, tea, local craft beer on tap, wine and even cider.

As with all local restaurants, the state’s shutdowns have impacted Pop Pie Co. immensely and forced Torres to adjust and adapt to keep his eatery open. Luckily for him, the small footprint of his building has made the transfer into to-go service easier than most.

“I don’t know if easy is the word, but certainly compared to some of our peers that we see facing some challenges going from a service model that they are not accustomed to, to all of a sudden doing the take out thing,” noted Torres. “For us, we’ve had our doors closed since March – no one has been in here – and we’ve been really protective of appreciated the work.” Stone said. “I think it’s nice to have a woman of the year category because it shines the light on the...
Each transaction represents much more than a property being bought and/or sold. As you know, it represents a relationship... a bond of trust that has made a difference for all those involved.

One of those who knows all about those relationships is Jeannine Savory. As a realtor and team leader with The Savory Group as part of Coldwell Banker West, Jeannine builds relationships through advocating for the people most important to her.

“For my family, clients, team, and community, I am an advocate. I can’t not do it. It’s how I’m wired, it’s who I am,” she said.

**DESIGNING HER FUTURE**

As Jeannine graduated from high school, she designed a course for her future.

“As I went to college, I pursued life as a designer in Los Angeles,” Jeannine recalls. “I studied Interior Design at Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (F.I.D.M) and worked as a project engineer for a construction company on the San Diego State University expansion project.”

Jeannine also enjoyed internships, including taking train trips to Los Angeles, as well as an occasional trip to Hawaii. They also look forward to time spent with friends. Jeannine also enjoys international travel and in recent years has enjoyed working on film projects with a team.

“Filmmaking has been a great outlet for me. I needed a way to get out of the box and view the world differently,” she said.

**BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE TAKES A TEAM EFFORT**

Jeannine continued to build her business — along with a team.

As Jeannine’s success is rooted in her determination to diversify her expertise and resources in order to fulfill the needs of her clients, whatever their real estate goals. Today she and her team, The Savory Group, work with everyone from the sellers of small condos with multi-millions dollar residential and commercial properties.

“My team caters to whatever the client needs, versus specializing in any specific field or area of the business. We work with clients that can have very specialized needs and have the under-standing to meet their needs, including building a team of experts outside of our area of expertise to maximize our clients’ return on investment and other goals they may have,” she said.

**MAKING AN IMPACT**

The Commercial Transaction of the Year Award is an outstanding example of the drive and dedication that Jeannine and her team demonstrate.

“The project we earned that honor for was a complicated transaction that stretched over a few years. When I pitched for that project, I pitched against 14 other agents and was interviewed four times... it took five years,” Jeannine explains.

Through the team’s clients are diverse, approximately 50% of her business has evolved to servicing development projects throughout San Diego County.

“We'll help developers find the dirt... we facilitate the underwrit-ing on land, and we see what the residual is there to help developers acquire property. After that, they build, and we sell what they build,” she said. “It has really evolved to include an exciting and untraditional type of real estate.

The results have been rewarding. In 2019, the Savory Group received lofty accolades, including qualifying for the Circle of Excellence, the 40 Under 40 award, the Recognition of Excellence Platinum Award, and the Commercial Transaction of the Year from the San Diego Association of REALTORS®.

**HOME PRIORITY**

Away from work, Jeannine looks forward to time spent with her family, including her 16-year-old daughter, Jayden, and her 12-year-old son, Shane.

In their free time, they enjoy camping and traveling together, including taking train trips to Los Angeles, as well as an occasional trip to Hawaii. They also look forward to time spent with friends.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUNDS

Small businesses and nonprofits now have some extra time to apply for $500 million in State of California COVID-19 relief funds. The San Diego & Imperial Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Supervisor Nathan Fletcher and The San Diego Foundation have partnered to make sure those funds get into the hands of those who have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interested entities can apply at CalReliefgrant.com. This deadline has been extended to Wednesday, January 15, 2021.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced in December $500 million in grant funds for small businesses and nonprofits. This is not a first come first serve grant. All applications will start to be reviewed following the closure of the application period. These grants are to cover business expenses and specifically for small businesses hit by the pandemic.

“Our team of over 100 business advisors provided over 20,000 hours of one-on-one assistance in 2020 helping small business owners access disaster assistance and get through the pandemic,” said Daniel Fitzgerald, Regional Director, San Diego & Imperial SBDC Network. “With the new state and federal programs, our team will be ready and available to help small businesses who continue to need our help.”

The Federal Government’s new stimulus package, which includes new and renewed assistance for small business owners and nonprofits, including:

- Additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), allowing businesses who did not receive a loan to apply and receive a loan equal to 2.5 times their monthly payroll.
- Options for businesses who have had at least a 25% drop in revenue to apply for a second PPP loan. Certain industries hardest hit, such as restaurants and hospitality, can receive up to 3.5 times their monthly payroll.
- $15 billion for grants for live venues that have been shuttered, including theaters and museums.
- An extension of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, including a renewal for the up to $10,000 grant program for businesses that did not previously receive the funding.
- Availability of PPP loans for nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations.

“The new state and federal funding measures are an opportunity to bolster the nonprofit sector as it continues to provide much-needed relief for San Diegans impacted by COVID-19,” shared Mark Shaw, President & CEO of The San Diego Foundation. “We will educate and inform San Diego nonprofits about the SBDC services and training available to them to assist in application development so we can bring federal and state funds home to San Diego to help our community.”

LOCAL NURSERIES PARTNERING WITH KATE SESSIONS COMMITMENT TO PLANT TREES

Local nonprofit Kate Sessions Commitment is partnering with Walter Andersen Nursery, City Farmers Nursery and Mission Hills Nursery to offer new, affordable 5-gallon trees for a perfect pandemic-safe winter activity. Delia Juncal, Director of Tree Nursery Partnerships said, “Growing or gifting of trees demonstrates hope for the future, and planting a tree is such a positive way to start the new year.”

Kate Sessions Commitment is an active network of arborists, gardeners, community advocates, climate activists, local businesses, and neighbors across San Diego. Its mission is to advocate and take action for the equitable advancement of a San Diego County tree canopy to benefit community health, well-being, climate, and economic opportunities.

Explained Team Leader and Urban Forester, Anne Fegh, PhD., “Planting and caring for a tree is an act of creating a better future and leaving a legacy for future generations. And it’s something that can be done widely, outside in the fresh air, either alone or with family.”

The Kate Sessions Commitment program offers high-quality nursery trees that are relatively easy to grow in San Diego. Certified arborists have been working with local nurseries and have reserved ornamental, native trees, and fruit trees to receive the Kate Sessions Commitment logo as an indication of meeting quality standards. Participants can choose from over 20 varieties of trees including natives and fruit trees, hand-selected for optimal growth and sustainability in the local climate. View the full list of trees on the pre-order page at katestrees.org.

Kate Sessions Commitment chose to launch this program now, as winter is the ideal time to plant new trees. They chose 5-gallon trees because that is the ideal size for an individual or family to plant without the need for tree delivery or other assistance, keeping people safe during the pandemic. They also specified healthy young trees that have roots that can continue to stretch and grow.

The price range for the trees is $25 to $60, making it affordable for any neighborhood in San Diego, or as a viable donation or gift.

Trees offer many benefits: They create shade to cool our neighborhoods and reduce energy costs. They improve our air and water quality. They encourage people to get outside for fresh air and recreation, explained Fegh.

How to get the trees: The 5-gallon trees are now available at Walter Andersen Nursery at 3642 Enterprise, San Diego 92110; City Farmer’s Nursery, 3110 Euclid Ave. 92105 and Mission Hills Nursery, 1525 Fort Stockton Dr. 92103. Trees may also be ordered for delivery to Walter Andersen Nursery at the Kate Sessions Commitment website, katestrees.org.

CIVIC COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND NORWOOD DEVELOPMENT FORM MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING FUND

Civic Community Partners and Norwood Development Strategies announced the formation of a San Diego housing investment fund to increase the production of housing in San Diego County that is affordable to middle-income families.

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In the 1840s, many young men were heading west, hoping to make their fortune in the newly discovered gold fields in San Francisco and Sacramento. William Augustus Begole was no exception. In the 1852 California State Census, he was listed as a "miner" living in Calaveras County. But by 1855, he had settled in Red Dog Digging, Nevada. Begole seemed to do quite well in Red Dog, as he became a successful businessman, property owner and civic leader. He had learned the tinsmith trade and opened a hardware store. W. A. Begole, with his chief partner and cohort, Dr. D. A. Crane, also ventured into hydraulic mining, supplying water to miners and politics. He aligned himself with Horton, a "miner" living in Calaveras County and civic leader. He had learned the tinsmith trade and opened a hardware store.

Begole headed south to San Diego. He arrived in San Diego on September 24, 1868 with gold in his pocket, his tin smithing trade, Masonic connections and Republican credentials — all very good things to have in Alonzo Horton’s New Town. He promptly purchased a double lot at 529 Fifth Avenue with plans to open a tin shop. Within weeks, Begole aligned himself with Horton, Horton’s brother-in-law, Ned Bushyhead, publisher of the San Diego Union, Joseph Nash, Lewis Nesmith-Greeley Building. Upon completion, Higgins used a portion of the building for his real estate business, and rented the rest to Steiner and Klauber, who sold groceries, dry goods and hardware. They remained until 1877 and the Fashion Saloon then moved into the downstairs. They were followed in 1881 by Philips and Eisen, who operated a wholesale business dealing in wine, liquor, cigars and tobacco. The cigars were made actually was under the Creole Palace, known as the Cotton Club of the West. The Creole Palace, in the Douglas Hotel, was on Second and Market Streets. On the first floor, the Hong Kong Cafe, serving chop suey and chow mien, was under

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

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

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

Assume you own a home and some mutual funds, and you die intestate. What would happen under California law:

1. If, when you died, you were married and had two children, and the home and mutual funds were owned by you and your spouse as community property (meaning, essentially any property acquired by either spouse while you are married, except acquired by gift or inheritance), then they would pass by intestate succession to your wife, your husband and your two children.

2. If you were married and had two children, the home and mutual funds were owned by you and your spouse as community property (meaning property you, alone, had acquired by gift or inheritance, or had owned before you were married, your spouse and two children would each receive one-half of your estate.

It gets more complicated where you have no spouse and no children. Your estate then passes by “degree of kinship” to your parents; but if none surviving, to your brothers and sisters; but if none surviving, to your grandchildren; and if none surviving, to your nieces and nephews, and on down the line.

The point of all this: to avoid what would perhaps be an unintended disposition of your property, and to avoid a costly and time-consuming court-required administration ("probate") of your estate, we should each pass on our estates by our wills, creating a living trust, and having our trust and wills drafted by an attorney knowledgeable in the area of estate planning and administration, having served the San Diego community as a lawyer for over 40 years. Chris von der Lieth is Dick’s associate lawyer, having worked with Dick for over 30 years. Affordable rates. Highest quality services. Hourly calls available.

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Meet the Robinsons
San Diego street names: Part nine of the series

KATHERINE HON
San Diego Downtown & Uptown News
January 2021

The original name of present-day Ray Street was Robinson Street. This narrow road marks the boundary between William Jefferson Gatewood’s West End tract and Joseph Nash’s Park Villas tract. Both men knew multiple Robinsons in early San Diego. One possibility for the original street name is William N. Robinson (1841-1878), who arrived in San Diego from Texas in 1850 as a young boy with his father and mother. The family settled in Old Town. In 1867, 10 years after his father died, William and his mother sold their large land holdings in the western part of San Diego and moved to a ranch in Jamul. The 1870 federal census listed him as a farmer.

He served in the state assembly in 1869 and 1870, during which time he was favorably mentioned in several issues of the San Diego Union. The December 30, 1869 issue noted, “Hon. W.N. Robinson, our member of the State Legislature, will please accept the thanks of this office for favors at Sacramento.” The February 3, 1870 issue reported under a letter from Sacramento, “I don’t know what our San Diego people are after, but I have noticed several of our leading citizens here lately. W. Jeff. Gatewood has been at the Capital all along, and within the past few days I have seen Judge Bush, Sheriff McCoy, and other familiar faces. Representative Robinson is always at his post, and votes regularly on every bill that comes up.”

Robinson and Gatewood connected in the effort to bring the transcontinental railroad to San Diego. The San Diego Union’s October 10, 1868 issue listed William N. Robinson as one of the directors of the San Diego and Gila Southern Pacific and Atlantic Railroad Company, of which Gatewood was president.

The San Diego Union’s June 3, 1871 issue related a connection between Robinson and merchant Joseph Nash in a short news item stating, “TALL OATS — We saw at Mr. J. Nash’s store yesterday, stalks of oats eight feet in height, that came from Mr. W.N. Robinson’s Ranch in the Jamul Valley. Mr. Robinson will cut about one hundred and fifty tons of oat hay on his ranch this season.”

When Robinson ran again for the Assembly in 1873, Gatewood endorsed him at a rally of Democrats, as reported in the Daily Union’s September 3, 1873 issue. Robinson lost the race, however, and the stress led to a mental breakdown reported in the Daily Union’s September 18, 1873 issue as a “sad calamity that has befallen one of the leading citizens of Southern California.” Judge Thomas Bush committed him to the Stockton State Hospital. After a few months, Robinson recovered and was discharged in January 1874. He returned home to Jamul and lived with his mother until his death on October 30, 1878 at the relatively young age of 37. His obituary in the San Diego Union’s October 31, 1878 issue noted he was “to be buried at Old Town where the remains of his father and wife repose.” This is El Campo Santo cemetery, although these Robinsons are not in marked gravesites, and their names are not on the list of known burials.

William N. Robinson’s street name could also recognize his father, James W. Robinson (1790-1857), a prominent California pioneer who played a significant role in Texas history before William was born. In 1835, when Texas was pursuing its independence from Mexico, James W. Robinson was elected lieutenant governor of the provisional government. He briefly served as governor in early 1836, when the original governor, Henry Smith, was deposed. But Smith refused to relinquish the office, so Robinson joined the Texas army and fought at the battle of San Jacinto. He served as a judge from December 13 to 1840, practiced law, fought in battles at San Antonio, was imprisoned in Mexico in 1842, and may have participated in negotiating the 1845 armistice between Texas and Mexico.

In 1850, James W. Robinson arrived in San Diego with his wife, Sarah, and their young son. They had traveled in a wagon train that included Louis Rose, another prominent San Diego pioneer. Attorney James Robinson took cases throughout the state, many involving land claims, his specialty. He served as district attorney from 1852 to 1855, and in this capacity, he prosecuted an individual who has surpassed most Old Town pioneers in name recognition to this day — “Yankee Jim” Robinson (no relation). Under the headline, “An Interesting Page of San Diego History — How the Pioneers Disposed of Offensive People,” the Daily Union’s October 4, 1872 issue related the story of a crime and trial that occurred twenty years earlier in the summer of 1852. The article described how James Robinson, alias “Yankee Jim,” a Canadian Frenchman of “dangerous character,” and two companions stole a boat in the harbor, afterwards deserting it and turning it adrift. The three men were arrested on the charge of grand larceny. The article noted that “James W. Robinson, father of Hon. Wm. N. Robinson, was at that time the District Attorney and conducted the prosecution.” Yankee Jim was found guilty. He was hanged a month later “on the spot where Whaley’s brick house now stands.” His spirit is reputed to haunt the Whaley House in one of San Diego’s most popular ghost stories.

Unaware that Yankee Jim’s story would reverberate through time while his own story would become obscure, District Attorney James W. Robinson continued his contributions to early San Diego civic development. He helped establish the Democratic party in the 1850s.

James W. Robinson was a prominent attorney and provisional lieutenant governor in Texas before he came to San Diego in 1850. Ray Street was originally named Robinson Street, possibly for James or his son, William N. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

The graves of James W. Robinson and his son William at El Campo Santo cemetery in Old Town are not marked. Ironically, “Yankee Jim” Robinson — a thief successfully prosecuted by District Attorney James Robinson in 1852 — has one of the few marked graves, possibly because Yankee Jim is reputed to haunt the nearby Whaley House. (Photo by Katherine Hon)
sponsoring the worker’s wages and benefits, the cost to cities, counties, and states is negligible and local agencies would need only to oversee the work and deter- mine the priority of projects.

A federal jobs program would effectively eliminate unintended unemployment in the United States — as well as reduce underemployment, where a per- son works less than they desper- ately need to but can’t find a job that fits their needs. This work- force should all be given bene- fits and be paid $15 per hour. People helping to restore our public community would bring pride to cities and counties across the nation, build camaraderie be- tween those who work a fed- erally-backed job and those in the larger labor market, help sta- bilize the economy during fu- ture recessions, and raise working standards for all Americans. Unemployment and disability insurance can and should still be made avail- able, but that should only temporarily out of work but looking for other private-sector employment or those who simply cannot work, but anyone unable to find pri- vate-sector employment would have the option of a job helping their community thrive.

While Taylor was a woman who saw this as another unpaid-for so- cial program, keep in mind that these workers would in fact pay work on local, city, and state taxes substantially. Additionally, studies by economists have demon- strated that such a program, even if implemented without increasing taxes to pay for it, would have a negligible ef- fect on inflation in a 10-year window and would go a long way towards bringing the U.S. economy to full strength. This easily offsets the impact of such deficit spending.

A universal federal jobs guarantee might seem like a fantasy, but America has done similar things before. After the Great Depression, the federal government sponsored grand building projects, in addition to promoting and celebrating a generation of artists and mu- sicians. While today’s iteration can and should be more uni- versal and less federally direct- ed, the foundation is already laid for us to build the future we want, one where everyone can have their share of the prosperity that is coming. We just need to give everyone a job.

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

In memoriam: Pat Taylor inspired reading
J.M. SCHRAMKE / DOWNTOWN & UPTOWN NEWS

Pat Taylor taught reading. But more than that she taught her students to love to read and to love the very idea of books and stories put to paper. She believed reading made people better citi- zens and exposed them to ideas they otherwise never would have considered. Taylor read endlessly. If a child liked turtles, she could recommend two or three books on the subject. She reached even the most reluctant student because she knew so many books.

“Pat never said why she liked teaching,” her husband, Don, re- called recently. “It was her gift, something she just had to do. She’d come home and say. ‘There was this kid with a negative atti- tude and I got him to read and he said he would like another book.’ That made her day.”

Taylor, 75, died of a heart at- tack on Dec. 13, 2020. She left behind her husband and dozens of friends and former students who attribute their love of read- ing to her. Actively engaged in community issues, she also made an impression on local officials. Sometimes she wrote to them on the back of advertising flyers, her way of promoting recycling and sustainability. Her handwritten notes, distinctive for her precise penmanship, interweaved her political thoughts with chat- ty, affectionate conversations. San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, who met Taylor in 2007 when he first campaigned for city council, ex- changed notes with her for a de- cade. The day before she died, he received a letter from her about the U.S. Senate races in Georgia.

“When I think of the model citizen, it’s Pat,” Gloria said. “She had a life of service as a teacher and was active in retirement. She was concerned about her community and the people in it.”

Taylor, however, prioritized teaching above all the oth- er interests. She oversaw the Independent Readers’ Club at McKinley Elementary School from 2001 to 2018 and the Rolling Readers program at Logan Memorial Educational Campus in 2009. At Logan, Taylor would meet students in the teachers’ lounge at 1:30 p.m. She came early and brought her daughter to help the children to arrive. She never went to them. She had expectations. She took the students seriously and when they showed up, they were prepared to discuss a book. She also engaged them in arts projects. They called her Miss Pat. I’m here to teach, Taylor would tell them, and we’ll have fun.

“Miss Pat had plans for the kids she worked with,” said Logan principal Antonio Villar. “She’d leave me letters with ideas she had. Miss Pat had a force of her own. I don’t know if I could have ever said no to her.”

Taylor grew up in Minniti- on, the fourth of 11 children. She graduated from college with a degree in elementary educa- tion and taught in Connecticut, Georgia and Minnesota before she and Don moved to California in 2001 to be near Don’s mother. By then, Taylor had retired after more than fifteen years of teaching but she remained commit- ted to working with young peo- ple. That year she approached McKinley about volunteering.

“Miss Pat would ask a kid to give her a report on the book they’d read,” said retired McKinley principal Julie Ashton- Gray. “She’d tell the other stu- dents to read reading but of course she knew they would listen to the student give their re- port and they did and then they wanted to read that book too. She could act gruff and pretend she didn’t care but she had these tricks to keep them engaged.”

College freshman and former McKinley student and book club participant Emily Mattson, 19, described the club as a “covert- ed program.” “To get an adult to give you individual attention about a book you read made you feel special,” Mattson said.
Making her mark: Marianna Brunetto

By TOM CESARINI

Growing up her best memory was of “our fat family gatherings, and I was very fortunate because it wasn’t just the holidays that we got together; it was every Sunday.” Marianna said.

Marianna’s introduction to the Little Italy Association— who would take her under his wing, especially as she already knew many of Marianna’s family members.

“When I started working for the bank, I went full time, after I stopped going to SDSU, and I just had a desire for more. I wanted to somehow get involved. My family contributed so much to what this neighborhood was, and I felt like I grew up and I enjoyed it. I really took pride in it. I was happy to grow up and be Italian American—all the values and the traditions that I grew up with. At that time I felt like, ‘okay, well, what’s my responsibility to carry this on? My grandparents and my parents aren’t going to be alive forever. I feel like they have their legacy in this neighborhood—what’s going to be mine?’” Marianna said.

“So I started talking to Louis because I knew he was involved in the Little Italy Association. I wanted to make sure that this neighborhood was something in 20, 30, 40 years. And he sat down and told me the board is the backbone of this community, and they needed younger people to get involved. But more importantly they needed people that have heart in the neighborhood and had ties to the neighborhood to get involved. So I came with him to a board meeting, and I loved it from the first one, because I felt like it was more than just a board,” she said.

Marianna contends that the neighborhood itself, as well as the changes it has undergone, influenced her idea of what it means to be Italian American. Moreover, the neighborhood is the foundation for her desire to preserve some of its more salient history.

“I want to make sure that the element of what this neighborhood wasn’t going to be lost. And I was fortunate to grow up here, and I love”
2021’s legislative priorities

By TONI G. ATKINS

Happy New Year. As we embark on 2021, there are unknowns and challenges ahead of us, but also opportunities.

January is all about fresh starts. This year though, more than most, our fresh start begins with meeting ongoing challenges.

As the 2021 Legislative Session gets underway on January 11, the COVID-19 pandemic remains our top priority. Too many lives have been lost and many more disrupted by this virus. The Senate will continue to work to find ways to help renters, homeowners, schools and businesses survive the impacts of this pandemic. In addition to vaccine procurement and distribution, the Legislature and the Governor have been working with our new federal partners on funding solutions for Californians.

COVID-19 has exacerbated what was an already-critical need for more affordable housing and more housing supply in our state. In taking a leadership role, the Senate has introduced the ‘Building Opportunities for All’ Senate Housing Package, which includes six bills aimed at advancing a $4.1 billion bond measure to help communities invest in climate resiliency—including addressing sea level rise, preparing for droughts, and preventing wildfires. I am also proud to co-author SB 2 with my colleague Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), which requires law enforcement officers to have their certifications revoked following the conviction of serious crimes or termination from employment due to misconduct. This legislation is a social justice commitment to ensuring that no one is above the law.

There is important work ahead. I am deeply honored to have been re-elected to represent the 39th Senate District and humbled by the opportunities my community has given me to serve. Should you ever need to get in touch with my office, please do not hesitate to reach out to my District Team.

By Phone: (619) 645-3133
Submit a comment online: sd39.senate.ca.gov

—Toni G. Atkins is President pro Tempore of the California Senate. Having previously served as Speaker of the California Assembly, she began her tenure in the Senate in 2016. As Senator for District 39, she represents the cities of San Diego, Coronado, Del Mar and Solana Beach. Website of President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins: Senate.ca.gov/Atkins

Don’t be fooled by counterfeit COVID-19 vaccines

By SUMMER STEPHAN

The end of the pandemic is in sight. The Pfizer vaccine has been approved by the FDA and the first phase of distribution to states has begun. In addition, the Moderna vaccine has recently received FDA approval. Even though the vaccine will eventually be available to all Americans free of charge, we are months away from that prospect and the demand will greatly outpace the initial supply. Pfizer and eventually Moderna will distribute 100 million doses each in the U.S. The distribution of these 200 million doses will be divided among the states based on population.

Only healthcare workers will receive the vaccine through their employers and public health agencies in phase one. Additional distribution phases will release the vaccine to elder care workers, residents of skilled nursing and long-term care centers and first responders before the vaccine is made available to the general public. There is no way to buy early access to the vaccine. Any claim that offers an opportunity to purchase the vaccine is a scam.

SEEN VACCINE SCAMS, Page 9

RAIN, WIND, AND FIRE...

“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

Family owned and operated and having been in business for over 30 years, Chimney Sweeps Inc. is a fully licensed and insured chimney contracting company (License # 976438) and they are certified with the National Fireplace Institute and have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
Chiara Arié is a multitalented designer with a retail store located in National City. She specializes in custom made garments for both men and women. Everything is made to measure. I asked Sailo when she first knew that she wanted to be in fashion. She said when she was 30 years old her mom went shopping at Christmas time and she didn’t like the designs or fabrics of ready-made clothes. This is when she knew that she wanted to design. Originally, she is from Burma and her parents were from Mumbai. She found businesses that could no longer import from China so they hired her to create the sketches, patterns and samples. Business was slow and when it picked up, she started getting orders for wedding gowns. These gowns take a minimum of two weeks to create from sketch, pattern, fittings, and the final wedding gown. The range of prices begins at $1600 and up. I asked her how people found out about her and she said that she relies on referrals and gives a 15% discount on regular clothing, eveningwear and 40% off for wedding gowns. Recently she started designing for customers overseas and does all of this with video calls.

Sailo has to follow trends very closely and uses the best fabrics for her wedding gowns. The fabric that she uses are lace, sequins, and see through fabric for the brides. For the evening wear designs the gowns are sexy and close fitting. The fabric is stretchy, shiny and glittery. Sailo always includes her logo in gold metal on each one of her creations. Sailo has designed for many customers on the red carpet. One is an Italian singer Chiara Arié who is a “mezzo soprano” that has crossed over to pop with her PopOpera Album. Most recently she made a custom-made gold gown for Antoinette Love Ransom for an editorial shoot for Playboy. Additionally Sailo has also started to teach people one on one how to sew, repair, and do alterations. She also gives training on how to cut the fabric without a pattern. I asked her what her future goals are and she wants to move to a bigger location and open a wedding store. Look for this in the times ahead. For an appointment call 619-534-7735.

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in Alpine, California.

Vaccine Scams
CONTINUED FROM Page 8

• If you buy a vaccine from any source, you are at a heightened risk of getting a counterfeit product.
• Even if the product is in an official looking vial, it is not real.
• Outside of the U.S., there are two other vaccines in use. Sputnik V in Russia, and SinoVac in China and Brazil. Both vaccines were released in their countries, but are not approved in the U.S. The United Kingdom is currently using the Pfizer vaccine but has a vaccine developed by AstraZeneca/Oxford in final stages of approval. None of these vaccines have been approved for use in the United States.
• Scammers may attempt to sell these foreign vaccines to desperate individuals. Counterfeiters may also attempt to repackagae foreign vaccines in Pfizer or Moderna packaging.
• The light at the end of the tunnel is real, but patience and following sound practices including wearing a mask, observing social distancing and frequent handwashing are still needed until the vaccine is widely available.

—District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated more than 28 years to serving justice and victims of crime as prosecutor. She is a national leader in fighting sex crimes and human trafficking and in creating smart and fair criminal justice solutions and restorative justice practices that treat the underlying causes of addiction and mental illness and that keep young people from being incarcerated.

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Regional Taskforce on the Homeless creates new board structure

Two boards rather than one will guide efforts by the Regional Taskforce on the Homeless (RTFH) to end homelessness in San Diego County while enhancing the organization’s ability to bring critical funding to the region. By separating its board of directors into a policy advisory board and a new, financially oriented board, the region’s 501c3 Non-Profit Board, the RTFH hopes to create a stronger governance infrastructure for the organization’s efforts to end homelessness.

One board, the Advisory Board, will continue to convene the region’s elected officials, service providers, and civic leaders for discussions about policy and best practices. The second board, the 501c3 Non-Profit Board, will focus on the fiscal oversight of the organization, acquiring funding and allocating it where it’s needed most.

“First and foremost, this was a decision-based in good governance,” said Tamera Kohler, CEO of RTFH. “The evolution of the RTFH into an agency responsible for tens of millions of dollars of funding to homelessness programs throughout the region created an opportunity for us to separate our policy experts and the decisions they make from those responsible for fiscal oversight. It also gives us the opportunity to more aggressively apply for government grants, fundraise and deploy funding in a more fiscally responsible way, with the intent always to create more people out of homelessness.”

The RTFH is the authority and lead coordinator in the San Diego region for new and best practices and policies to prevent, alleviate and ultimately end homelessness in San Diego.

The RTFH board of directors historically has had 11 members, has been chaired by an elected official and has included homeless service providers, elected officials, business and civic leaders and those with lived experience. That body, known as the Continuum of Care (CoC), remains intact and continues to advise on new and emerging initiatives and coordination of services throughout the region.

The RTFH also oversees the distribution of funding through out the San Diego region from a diverse range of sources, including the state of California’s Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant Program (HHAP), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Availability and a Flexible Housing Pooling. This funding responsibility will now be that of the new nonprofit board of directors and RTFH staff.

In 2018, the RTFH was given the responsibility of allocating more than $18 million in funding from the state of California’s Homelessness Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and nearly $8 million from the federal government’s Youth Preservation Grant Program (YHDP). “First and foremost, this was a well-thought-out decision that will help not just our own organization, but will better serve cities, organizations and people working to end homelessness in San Diego.”

The CoC remains responsible for the policy, advocacy, and research; the annual countywide Point-in-Time Count; and management of the region’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).

“The RTFH is an invaluable partner to service providers, government agencies, volunteers and people who are in need of housing,” said Rick Gentry, chair of the CoC and president of the San Diego Housing Commission. “They have the ability to work directly with the folks doing the work in the community because we are on their board. So they hear us, and then they look at things from the system level, see where things are and are not working to offer expertise and insight that makes our regional system stronger.”

For more information about the Regional Taskforce on the Homeless, visit RTFHSD.org.

SOHO releases annual list of endangered historical sites

Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO); San Diego’s only countywide historic preservation advocacy group wraps up this year with its 22nd annual Most Endangered List of 12 historic buildings, sites, and landscapes. The pandemic’s stressors of uncertainty, inequity, and loss underscore the unifying power of our shared multicultur al heritage and generated historic places. The pandemic also threatens historic buildings and places that are not now regularly used, visited, or monitored due to restricted activities.

These threatened sites also reflect and define San Diego’s authentic character, and cry out for protection before it is too late.

This year’s Most Endangered List, ranges from the seriously neglected Presidio Park in Old Town San Diego to Granger Music Hall, an acoustic gem in National City designed by renowned San Diego architect Irving J. Gill to dozens of century-old pepper trees under threat by the City of San Diego along historic Kensington streets.

The 2020 list includes prominent and remote buildings and sites throughout San Diego County carried over from the 2019 list. Two were removed last year (La Playa Pier is likely saved, the national award-winning San Diego Stadium is being demolished), and six are new entries.

SOHO releases this annual list to raise awareness among the public, property owners, decision makers, students, and developers regarding threatened landmarks and memorable places in historic built and natural environments. These are the sites that stitch together an irreplaceable patchwork quilt of stories, deeds, and achievements. Any or all of these pieces could burn, crumble, topple, or otherwise vanish forever if not vigilant. SOHO is sounding the alarm about these 12 places.

• Chase Bank, Pacific Beach
• Kensington Pepper Trees
• Roberts Cottages, Oceanside
• Marine Corps Recruitment Depot
• Miramar House, San Marcos
• Presidio Park, Old Town
• Hillcrest Commercial Core Historic District, Uptown
• Red Roost Bungalow, La Jolla Cove
• Barrett Ranch House, Jamul
• Granger Music Hall, National City
• Big Stone Lodge, Poway
• Pottery Canyon Kiln, La Jolla

An image of the historic Hillcrest business district (Photo courtesy Vintage San Diego)
Little Italy News CONTINUED FROM Page 7

JUNIPER & IVY

We’ve been part of the Little Italy community for the past six years. We wanted to start a conversation around local ingredients and the people who source them. We wanted people to try new produce, meats, and seafood by using them in familiar, nostalgic ways while treating the more familiar, traditional ingredients in unique and unprecedented ways. What drives us is not just our passion for food and creative technique, and wanting to share that passion with our guests, but also the farmers, fishermen and local purveyors who find who the most pristine quality San Diego products and allow us to have fun with them. The best way to support us right now is through the Juniper and Ivy at Home Program: explorotec.com/juniperandivy — we offer a rotating menu of 3-course meals of locally sourced comfort food starting at just $25 each week, for curbside pick-up or staff delivery.

EXTRAORDINARY DESSERTS

We’ve been in business since 1989, but we opened our Little Italy location in 2004. Coming from a long line of amazing women bakers — my grandmother and her sisters and my mother and her friends who shared recipes and creative ideas in the kitchen — I just knew having my own pastry café was for me! The creative challenge to “Wow!” our clients and have them include us in their most celebratory moments and events is extremely fulfilling. It is what inspires me to continue to do what I do. The best way to continue to support us is by ordering takeout and delivery through our website. Something extraordinary for birthdays and other special occasions is still available for pick-up as well.

HARBOR BREAKFAST

Harbor Breakfast opened in 2014 in a building that has been a continuously operating business on India Street since 1887. We wanted to keep the historic building alive, after it was being threatened by re-development in 1995. We love the history that comes with the building, but also having people from all walks of life stopping by for a bite and telling their stories. Times have been very tough and the best way to support us right now is by ordering takeout.

LITTLE ITALY FOOD HALL

We’ve been part of the Little Italy families for almost 3 years now. The mission for all our Grain & Grit concepts (Little Italy Food Hall, Not Not Tacos, Graze by Sam) is to create the most compelling guest experience possible. For us, it’s more than just food. It’s about the people (the people and the people we get to serve), the connection we get to create with them, and the opportunity to positively impact as many people as possible. The best way to continue to support us, as you have for the past two years, is by ordering takeout — all our stations are open!
To launch the fund, Civic has contributed $400,000 through the Middlefield Fund which has in turn made its first investment in Secoya on Fifth.

“Secoya is an upcoming eight-story, 100-unit mixed-income housing development in the heart of Bankers Hill,” said Marianna Brunetto, a spokesperson for the Middlefield Fund.

According to developer Russ Murphy of Murphey Company, “we acquired the best site we could find near Downtown’s employment base along transit, designed a mixed-income housing development that intentionally mixes a broad spectrum of household income levels under the same roof. It’s breaking ground today (Monday), and the project should be complete in 2023.”

The goal of the Middlefield Fund is to provide $100 million in funding from employers, foundations, and social impact investors to invest in a number of similar projects located throughout the county. Civic and Norwood are actively working to identify qualified investors to receive this type of investment.

For more information on funding and the qualification requirements,
News briefs
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contact Michael Lengyel at lengel@civicsd.com.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ANNOUNCES NEW SAN DIEGO CHAPTER PRESIDENT
The American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter, announces a new president for 2021, Christopher Stebbins with KTUA Planning and Landscape Architecture, San Diego.

Christopher Stebbins

Stebbins is a specialist in urban design, environmental planning, and landscape design as well as urban public, and academic practice. Founded in 1899, representing national professional organization, Landscape Architects is the nation’s professional organization, founded in 1899, representing landscape architects in private, public, and academic practice.

The local chapter was formed in 1976 to serve both the professional and the public on local issues dealing with the practice of landscape architecture.

The mission of ASLA is to lead, educate and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning, and artistic design of our cultural and natural environments.

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT’S ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT $4.1 BILLION
The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) annually generates $4.1 billion in economic activity, according to the latest report from a labor market analytics firm that leads the SDCCD for playing a pivotal role in reducing economic inequities. According to Idaho-based Emsi, the $4.1 billion generated by the SDCCD is enough to support nearly 42,000 jobs, or 1 out of every 52 jobs in the region. Among other highlights of the report:

- 98 percent of SDCCD students remain in the region after graduation and their impact alone amounted to $3.5 billion in added income in fiscal year 2019-20.
- Students will see a return of $6.20 in higher future earnings for every $1 they invest in their education.
- For every dollar of public money invested in the SDCCD, taxpayers will receive $1.40 in returns over the course of students’ working lives.

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News briefs
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Brewer award
CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Megan Stone holding their Craft Beer Marketing Award (Photo courtesy Megan Stone)

As she used her knowledge to help friends with small businesses, Stone found new opportunities to be a part of the beer industry as a marketing consultant and social media manager.

Stone has worked for San Diego breweries like Refuge, Mikkeller, Modern Times and Societe. Stone brewed collaborations in Panama and the U.K. In 2019, she founded a DEI apprenticeship at U.K.-based Laine Brew Co.

Beyond advancing her career, Stone used her platform to discuss problems she and others faced in the largely straight, white male industry. Stone said they always cared about equality and that they have focused on issues in the craft beer industry for the last few years because they are already so passionate about it. Advocacy was not something she initially sought out but started in response to other people making her feel she did not belong.

“Definitely had a lot of great experiences and a lot of great people in my life and great mentors, but sometimes the people who are not so great are a lot louder,” Stone said. “I try really hard to change people’s perspectives... I didn’t want to have a platform that was just beautiful photos. I wanted it to have some sort of impact. I realized that I had this platform and this sort of reach with an audience... and that it was very useful in encouraging people to be better and to do better.”

The CBMAs recognize 34 beer-marketing categories that celebrate the best of craft beverages. Presenting sponsor, Hildebrand supports CBMAs’ mission to honor the individuals and teams that promote beer industry growth through innovative and creative marketing.

“I’m so glad Megan was nominated for this award. Her passion is contagious. She is a human rights warrior!” said CBMAs co-founder, Jim McCune in a statement.

In 2020, CBMAs extended to judging hard seltzer, cider, and mead. New categories have been added and the competition now includes entries from all over the world to be judged by 330 industry professionals.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com.
who comes in our shop. So now, everything happens at our window. In the beginning it was really hard to speak through the masks and the plexiglass, not to mention the cars passing by, it was a challenge for our staff, but kudos to them for adapting and we’re all still here serving the community.”

There normally is a small seating section for customers to eat on site, but that has been closed due to COVID restrictions. However, a good number of Torres’ customers preferred to take their pies home even before the shut-downs, so the take-out service has made it possible to keep his staff working. In addition, local companies such as Kaiser Permanente, Sony and Motorola have been placing bulk orders of pies to serve in their lunch rooms.

As with many Uptown eateries and breweries owned by a married couple, there is usually one partner who runs the business side of things while the other is the creative chef. Torres is the business-minded one, while Suebsarakham creates the delicious pies that give the place its reputation. But how did these pies become a central culinary specialty in a place like San Diego?

“Our pies derive from a need really. Savory pies are a big part of a lot of cultures here locally, and we felt like it is underserved here in the states,” said Torres. “There are different ways to approach this, so we decided to go the craft route by making everything from scratch—as labor intensive as that is—and packaging it all with a solid brand and great product. And lastly, we focused on the long-lost art of customer service that a lot of places now struggle with. We figure that it is a huge expectation for what we do, to treat people right, with respect and give them a good product. And they keep coming back, so that’s been our model since day one.”

Suebsarakham is from Thailand, which has a very sizable British population, so he is very familiar with the savory pie phenomenon, which is so popular there. He uses this experience to make authentic pies for different cultures. “We have focus on one specific region, his goal was to be more globally inspired and represent many different cultures. The thought being that people could not only visit to enjoy their traditional pie, but to also be exposed to different pies from different cultures and expand their palates.

In addition to pies, Torres and Suebsarakham now serve ice cream in the property next door – Stella Jean’s Ice Cream, which they acquired two years ago – after taking over the lease of a food store. “That just happened by chance, I think a lot of things in life come organically that way. It’s our second child, it’s our little girl as we like to say,” said Torres.

Torres also credits social media as being a huge part of the success of his business by attracting out of town visitors to Pop Pie Co. Five-star reviews over multiple platforms create honest word-of-mouth advertising, which cannot be bought. Torres said over 1,000 good reviews keep customers coming for his pies. “I think it’s a credit to the choices we made with the food, and the service we provide.”

Along with the savory pies, Pop Pie Co. also serves sweet pies, which San Diegans are probably more familiar with. However, just as with their savory pies, Torres and Suebsarakham like to raise the bar with their unique selections such as a honey bourbon pecan pie – made with real bourbon – and a seasonal poached pear pie with an almond paste at the base of the pie. “My personal favorite is the salted maple. It’s a maple custard with some caramel in there,” said Torres with a grin. “It’s got a nice texture with sea salt flakes on top. It reminds me of a real good French toast that kind of touched the bacon a little bit so you get some of that saltiness.”

The guys are hopeful that things will return to normal soon, not only for their pies, but also for everybody else in the business. They are pleased that their unorthodox menu has been a hit in Uptown, and are looking forward to introducing more products and more customers to its pie scene. They feel they stand out locally, and give many transplants a place to find their comfort food.

“As a small business in San Diego with its thriving food scene, we decided to shed that whole town thing, even though town will always be in our blood.” Torres added. “We feel like we came at the right time where there was a lot more diversity in the types of foods here. So we kind of carved a little piece of that for ourselves – a piece of the pie!”

—Vincent Meehan can be reached at vincentmeehan@gmail.com.
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