The SDCCU Festival of Arts in North Park centers local businesses

KENDRA SITTON | Downtown & Uptown News

The SDCCU Festival of Arts in North Park is returning each Thursday and Saturday in October as a series of virtual events that support local businesses.

Kicking off the festival this Saturday, a Battle of the Bands will be held on the top of the North Park Parking Garage at 3 p.m. While there will not be an audience at the parking garage, people can attend a viewing at bars such as Working Class, Connect SD, and other local businesses.

A new space for artists recently opened on 30th Street after it was vacated by the Art Academy of San Diego in the spring. Connect San Diego is a place for artists of multiple disciplines to create, practice, sell their products, host events and connect with each other. The storefront on the busy street opens into a main room where bands can practice or photographers can host a photo shoot. Already, a dance crew used it to film their debut. The walls are lined with paintings, clothes and other merchandise artists are selling. In a post-COVID-world, it has the potential to host events.

Past the main room, a lounge filled with couches connects to two small recording studios. On the other side, a narrow passage leads to a large room with high ceilings and exposed brick walls. The space is currently used as a dance studio, but it has the potential to be transformed into a gallery or event space.

Artists connect in North Park

KENDRA SITTON | Downtown & Uptown News

A fenced area in the back of Connect SD allows graffiti artists to practice their art without risk of arrest.

(The photo by Kendra Sitton)

The pasta meal participants will learn to create from chef Accursio Lota.

(Photograph courtesy Cori Pastificio Trattoria)

Film fests fill October

KENDRA SITTON | Downtown & Uptown News

The summer passed with only a couple of the once prolific blockbusters that define American entertainment releasing. With movie theaters across the U.S. closed due to COVID-19, many major studios chose to hold onto their most expensive, and possibly most profitable, movies for fairer days. While “Mulan” went straight to streaming and Christopher Nolan’s “Tenet” made less than $10 million in its opening weekend.

Even as blockbusters suffer, many smaller and more artistic films are finding their way to audiences since many of San Diego’s film festivals are continuing despite the pandemic. The GI Film Festival, San Diego International Film Festival and San Diego Film Festival are all taking place in October, partially through virtual events.

SAN DIEGO ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

“This year, we are going virtual for everybody’s safety. We’re showcasing the best of Italian contemporary cinema, dedicated to the theme of activism,” said San Diego Italian Film Festival (SDIFF) Executive Director Diana Agostini in a press release.

The San Diego International Film Festival is the city’s biggest film festival each year. (Photo courtesy San Diego International Film Festival)

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(The photo by Kendra Sitton)
2020 Voter Guide
Fighting for LGBTQ+ Equality Since 1975
For Members and Friends of the LGBTQ+ Community

www.democratsforequality.org
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twitter.com/dems4equality

VOTE EARLY! ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOV 3!

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (vote for 1)
District 52: Scott Peters
Rated “QUALIFIED”
OR Sara Jacobs
Rated “QUALIFIED”

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Mayor: Todd Gloria
City Attorney: Mara Elliott

STATE SENATE DISTRICTS
District 39: Toni Atkins

SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL
District 1: Joe LaCava
Rated “QUALIFIED”
OR Will Moore
Rated “QUALIFIED”

STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS
District 78: Chris Ward
Rated “QUALIFIED”
District 80: Lorena Gonzalez

District 3: Stephen Whitburn
District 5: Marni Von Wilpert
District 7: Raul Campillo

SUPERIOR COURT JUDICIAL OFFICES
Office 30: Tim Nader

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES
Proposition 14 — YES
Proposition 15 — YES
Proposition 16 — YES
Proposition 17 — YES
Proposition 18 — YES
Proposition 19 — YES
Proposition 20 — NO
Proposition 21 — YES
Proposition 22 — NO
Proposition 23 — NO
Proposition 24 — No Official Position
Proposition 25 — YES

LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES
Measure A — YES
Measure B — YES
Measure C — YES
Measure D — YES
Measure E — YES

San Diego Democrats for Equality was founded in 1975 and has been at the forefront of local LGBTQ+
political activism by working to elect candidates who support LGBTQ+ equality, equity and social justice.
We have worked to support similar legislation to help achieve those goals.

Full list of our endorsements can be found at www.democratsforequality.org

Paid for by San Diego Democratic Club
PO Box 33050, San Diego, CA 92163
FPPC ID #861405
FEC ID #C00428516

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
@dems4equality
The eyes have it

Mona Van Cleve is an amazing makeup artist who has operated her Solana Beach Salon, Do’s & Lipstick for 25 years with her husband Derek. He styles the hair and she does the makeup and brows.

Van Cleve’s first time using makeup included applying MAX Factor Erase and then applying Vaseline in place of lipstick. She loved makeup and all through school did makeup for all her friends. On Friday nights she would go to her friend’s houses and do their makeup. She also enjoyed applying makeup for special occasions like proms and weddings.

As a teenager, she modeled for Sebastian’s in Canoga Park when they gave classes. This gave her the opportunity to learn as much as possible about makeup. They would let her go into the Research & Development Office (RD) where she learned even more. She spent hours staring at magazines and dissecting all the fashions.

Van Cleve went to college for a short while and decided it was not her thing because she just wanted to do makeup. Her parents were not pleased with this decision because they did not think it was a good career choice. She decided to get her Manicure License in the Valley and began doing manicures. Cassandre 2000 was the place where all the celebrities had their hair cut in the ’70s. Going there for a haircut, she met Eugenia Weston who was doing brows. Shortly after Weston moved across the street and started her own cosmetic line Senna Cosmetiques. Van Cleve took the opportunity to take lessons from her.

For a short while she lived in Hawaii, then got married and moved to San Diego. She received her Cosmetology License and discovered that she did not like doing hair. Starting a little salon in Cardiff, she began doing brow shaping and brought in the Senna Line. At this time, she was asked by Stu Segall Productions to do some work for Silk Stockings and Renegade. These were TV shows that were filmed here in San Diego. She also began commuting for jobs in LA and worked in videos for Elton John, Christina Aguilera, and Marilyn Manson. Van Cleve also had the opportunity to style brows for notables such as Paris Hilton and Hilary Duff. She also did makeup for Dianne Von Furstenberg at New York Fashion Week. More remarkable times in her career were doing makeup for Carlos Santana and his wife, Petro Zillia, and Lily Pulitzer.

With the crash of 2008, there were less jobs and everyone was on a budget. If you did get a job, they expected you to do hair and makeup both so she stopped going up to LA.

At one time here in San Diego she was Fashion Editor for Want Magazine. It was a small square magazine that you could pop in your purse. She also began doing photography realizing the similarities to makeup such as lights, shadows, and angles.

I asked Van Cleve what direction she will go now. She said that she loves what she does and now has a second generation of customers. During her career she has formed meaningful bonds with people that are priceless. Her goal is to enhance people’s natural beauty and make them look fantastic. She does not pay attention to trends because they might not fit her customers personality. Do’s & Lipstick has been closed twice and shutdown for 5 months due to the Covid 19. Thinking outside of the box, she has done personal shopping, taught makeup, and custom blended makeup for customers. Since everyone is wearing masks now, this is a very important time for eyes and brows.

For more information about this talented makeup artist contact dosandlipstick.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Oct. 17, 2020 - Fashion Week San Diego 2020
Passes on sale for the virtual runway show with nine designers. Purchase your virtual front row pass at fashionweeksandbox.com.

Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at www.DianaCavagnaro.com
The Combination Store is one of the oldest buildings in the Gaslamp, and, consequently, the building and the property on which it sits have a long, convoluted history. This one-story, rather modestly adorned brick structure predates the elaborate brick building next to it, the Yuma Building, which is often referred to as the “oldest, all-brick building.”

As with all lots in the downtown area, this land parcel was purchased from Alonzo Horton by Frank Caillard. Caillard purchased from Alonzo Horton an area, this land parcel was “oldest, all-brick building.”

“Combination Store” was built in 1868, and six years later, sold many of them, including the store lot, to Peter Peterson and his wife Mary. By November of 1874, Peterson had added a small dwelling to the property and declared it a homestead. Just one month later, the Petersons released their claim to the property back to Caillard for $1,000 in gold coin. The property was traded around for the next few years until 1880, when it was acquired by Charles R. Dauer and C.C. Westover.

Though no specific reference can be found as to the exact date of construction, several references in the San Diego Union infer that the “Combination Store” was built in 1880 by its original owners, Dauer and Westover. The structure was a one-story brick building with a 3½-inch parapet, a metal cornice and a frame porch. It had a composition roof with dentil detailing and extended 70 feet deep into the lot. As the lot was narrow but long, this left 30 feet vacant. When the structure was complete, the owners added a $400-pound safe and a large, artistically rendered sign over the porch.

The store sold dry goods and clothing, and carried stock purchased from Leopold Brothers and Company of Chicago, one of the largest clothing firms in the United States. The business prospered and was again mentioned in late September of 1881 in the San Diego Union, which stated that “Messrs. Dauer and Westover of the Combination Store, are removing their stock of goods into the new McGurck building next door to their former place of business.” This, however, was “fake news,” as this never occurred. The New York and Boston Combination Company, as it was sometimes called, remained in its original location until 1896. The only modification to the business occurred in 1886, when a single-story frame shed with a shingle roof was added to the rear of the store. In 1887, the San Diego City and County Directories stated that, “Messrs. Dauer and Westover, proprietors, carry besides nearly everything else known to a complete department store, a most elegant and complete line of dry goods.”

By 1889-1890, Dauer and Westover sold the Combination Store to a new proprietor, Tobias Czerwinsky. At this time, Westover left the San Diego area, and Dauer became involved in city politics. He served as County Treasurer from 1891-1893.

Czerwinsky, experienced in the dry goods business, expanded the Combination Store to include wholesale as well as retail trade. He had previously been a businessman in Tucson, Arizona and in Baja California. After his death in 1894, a relative, Julius Czerwinsky, took over the business. Unfortunately, he was not as skilled as his predecessor and the business was closed due to bankruptcy in 1896.

The building then remained empty until 1903, when it was opened as a grocery store by A. Sidney Smith. After three years, Smith turned over proprietorship to James and Henry Stansfield, who occupied the building until 1910. After they left, the structure remained vacant once more until 1914. When the building reopened in 1914, the structure had been subdivided into two storefronts, a clothing store and a shoe store. Throughout the ensuing years, the properties housed a variety of businesses including a jewelry store, a men’s furnishing store, a beverage store, cigar store, barber shops, a shoe store, a bar.

Both adjoining stores have a history of being taverns from 1935-1979. In the early to late 1980s, both sides were converted to the Follies Theater, an adult entertainment venue.

Today, the building remains relatively unscathed and unchanged, except for the removal of the porch and a shortening of the parapet. It now houses Lucky Brand, a trendy clothing and shoe store, harkening back to its origins. Fine clothing never goes out of style!

Sandee Wilhoit is the Historian for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swilhoit@gaslampfoundation.org.
As discussed in earlier PastMatters columns, many streets in North Park between University Avenue and Upas Street originally had the names of 1870s pioneers but were renamed in 1899 and 1900. This column examines some of the names in the Park Villas tract from present-day Arizona Street to Pershing Avenue.

In the street name change ordinances of 1899 and 1900, University Avenue became Arizona Street, Arnold Avenue remained the same, Hamilton Avenue became Walker Street (now Villa Terrace), and Driscoll Avenue became Oregon Street (now Pershing Avenue). Daniel Choate, Cyrus Arnold, and Charles Hamilton, all business partners and friends, were major stockholders in the College Hill Land Association, which initiated in 1870, helping to write the constitution and bylaws. The first Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, as modeled on other California cities, was incorporated in 1870, helping to write the constitution and bylaws. The first Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, as modeled on other California cities, was incorporated in 1870, helping to write the constitution and bylaws.

In San Diego, Daniel Choate specialized in real estate, and his involvement with real estate was extensive, and his involvement with the city. He served on the Board of Trustees in May 1886 and served as president for five years, and split amicably in 1878 to form their own highly successful enterprises: Hamilton’s Fine Foods and Marston’s Department Store. They were business partners and friends.

Hamilton married Elizabeth Gunn in 1876, and Marston married Anna Lee Gunn — Elizabeth’s sister — in 1878. Hamilton was elected to the City Board of Trustees in May 1886 and served as president until leaving the Board in April 1887. He had launched his grocery business at Fifth Avenue and C Street and later moved to Sixth Avenue and C Street. His final store at Seventh Avenue and C Street opened in 1928. This is the separate city of East San Diego in 1892 and was annexed into San Diego in 1923. The area is now known as City Heights. Choate formed several other tracts, including Arnold and Choate’s Addition. He initially partnered with Cyrus Arnold and then with his sons Franklin and Rufus when Arnold left San Diego for San Francisco.

The San Diego Union’s April 22, 1899 issue announced Daniel Choate’s death under the headline “Passing of One of San Diego’s Prominent Citizens.” Noting, “He was one of the most public-spirited citizens of the city, and labored incessantly for the upbuilding of this community.” He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Cyrus Mills Arnold (1842-1913) was born in Milan, Erie County, Ohio. He came to California in 1869 on the recently completed Union Pacific railway. He could not get a clerk position in San Francisco, but there he met Joseph Nash, who had opened a general merchandise store in San Diego. The two men traveled by steamer to San Diego, and Hamilton worked in Nash’s store.

In 1870, Hamilton met George Marston, a new arrival from Wisconsin who briefly clerked at the Horton Hotel, worked in Aaron Pauly’s store for two years, then joined Hamilton at Nash’s store. The young clerks bought out Nash in 1873, parted for five years, and split amicably in 1878 to form their own highly successful enterprises: Hamilton’s Fine Foods and Marston’s Department Store. They were business partners and friends.

The Daily Union’s April 15, 1871 issue presented a large real estate advertisement for “Arnold & Choate, Real Estate Dealers, Office 6th St. between 1 & 2.” Their offerings included “1000 Lots in Arnold & Choate’s Addition at $25.00 a lot.”

Arnold and Choate partnered in real estate during the early 1870s. The Daily Union’s April 15, 1871 issue presented a large real estate advertisement for “Arnold & Choate, Real Estate Dealers, Office 6th St. between 1 & 2.” Their offerings included “1000 Lots in Arnold & Choate’s Addition at $25.00 a lot.”

Arnold moved from San Diego to San Francisco around 1876. He was listed in the 1877 San Francisco City Directory as operating “Arnold Bros (C.M. and G.C.) real estate and money brokers” at 423 Kearny Street, just a few doors down from where Choate had operated his clothing store in 1868. Cyrus Arnold’s youngest brother, Gilbert Conger Arnold, was his partner in the business.

Cyrus stayed in San Francisco until moving to Contra Costa in 1905. Gilbert moved to San Diego in 1881 and continued to deal in real estate. Gilbert joined their father, Philander, who had come to San Diego in 1873. Both Gilbert and Philander Arnold are buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. Charles Standhart Hamilton (1847-1913) was born in Milan, Erie County, Ohio. He came to California in 1869 on the recently completed Union Pacific railway. He could not get a clerk position in San Francisco, but there he met Joseph Nash, who had opened a general merchandise store in San Diego. The two men traveled by steamer to San Diego, and Hamilton worked in Nash’s store.

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Daniel Choate’s gravestone is to the left of the impressive Choate monument at Mount Hope Cemetery. Arnold Avenue between University Avenue and Upas Street was originally named Choate Avenue for him. (Photo by Katherine Hon)
Atkins: Vote in RBG’s memory

By TONI G. ATKINS

Ever since we lost our nation’s treasure, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I have been touched and moved by the tributes that have come her way: the flowers from ordinary citizens that have piled up outside the Supreme Court. The stories from fellow judges and clerks about her diligence and compassion in approaching the law. The people lined up for hours just to pay their respects. Social media has also been filled with posts in her honor—including some of my favorites, the ones pointing out that the best way for us to pay tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg is to vote.

One of the reasons it is so important for us to vote is to counter the misinformation and intimidation that we are seeing deployed against people who are simply seeking to exercise this most basic right.

With the election fast approaching, there are several things we can do to make sure our vote is counted. First, of course, is registering. The deadline to register for the November election is October 19. California law allows voting by provisional ballot for people who register after that deadline, but there’s no time like the present to sign up and get it done. The San Diego County Registrar of Voters website at sdvote.com has a lot of valuable information on how to vote safely and securely, including the latest word on County ballot drop-off locations and how to track your ballot to make sure it has been recorded.

California has also taken steps to protect survivors of domestic violence and stalking who want to register to vote, but need to keep their home addresses hidden. If someone you know is part of California’s confidential address program, Safe at Home, or you know someone who should be, please share with them that there are ways to register to vote confidentially. The Safe At Home program has a toll-free hotline 877-322-5227 for more information about registering and about this important program in general, I think Justice Ginsburg herself would be pleased at this ability of survivors to reclaim and exercise rights that others would have denied them. And that reminds me of maybe my favorite post that I’ve seen about her: When you vote, tell them Ruth sent you!

Looking for even more ways to honor all that RBG stood for? Volunteer to be a poll worker this year—there are ways to serve safely even during this pandemic, and you can help ensure the rights of others are being upheld at this critical time in our nation’s history. You can sign up at pollworker.sos.ca.gov.

In memoriam: Inspiration and hope in the life and work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

SUE GONDA | Downtown & Uptown News

“One of the things that concerns me most is that we will no longer have a pioneer in the civil rights movement or women’s rights movement on the court. And I think we are losing something now that we’ve lost that voice. We had it with Thurgood Marshall and we’ve had it with Ruth Bader Ginsburg. And I hope that somehow we can regain that.” - Prof. Anita Hill on NPR

Since 1970, Ginsburg was the architect of successful legal challenges to gender discrimination. In recent years she’s been a cultural icon (without prompting from her) as “the Notorious RBG,” a “badass” superhero-like crusader for equality and inclusiveness. Her small stature and soft-spoken style contrasted sharply with her edgy wit and withering condemnations of gender and race-based laws and practices.

“I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks,” she wrote in her own constitutional opinion.

Today, you can find many pages of her image or quotes on COVID-19 face masks, T-shirts, tattoos, internet memes, and even Halloween costumes. Look, and you will easily find, “I dissent” or images of her iconic headshot with a crown. She regularly “appeared” on Saturday Night Live. And even made a few hundred appearances on Late Night with Seth Meyers.

Some will say that your voice doesn’t matter. They will point to the simple fact that California will almost certainly go blue in the presidential race, as it has for nearly 30 years, regardless of your preference. This may be true, but there are two very simple facts. There is much more than just the presidency up for grabs. For voters who care about increasing rent prices, the housing crisis, internet privacy, police reform and climate change, this election matters.

In some cases, there are ballot measures, put directly to the voters, to address these issues. In other cases, about whom we should be decided who will get a seat at the negotiating table when these issues are discussed. From school board to county commission, from local business owner, soft-spoken and inclusive. Her small stature and soft-spoken style contrasted sharply with her edgy wit and withering condemnations of gender and race-based laws and practices.

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For those weekend warriors who love spending their Saturdays strolling through local farmers’ markets, the Little Italy’s Mercato has been attracting locals for over 12 years. The largest farmers’ market in San Diego, the Little Italy Mercato, has become a staple in the city, providing the freshest goods and produce from local farms and vendors.

Opened in June 2008, it didn’t take much for both residents and visitors to take a liking to Little Italy’s Mercato. It became a hot spot for local chefs to shop at for fresh ingredients. Many people began turning away from their local grocery stores and stocking up on produce sold every Saturday. It became the perfect place for people to enjoy their breakfast and lunch while listening to music and taking in the peaceful ambiance of Little Italy. By the end of the 2008, the Mercato became the heart of the city.

Following a brief hiatus in March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Little Italy Mercato returned in the beginning of April with a brand-new layout following strict San Diego County requirements, creating an environment where visitors can safely and efficiently shop for fresh groceries in a well-spaced, open-air shopping area, every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Since its reopening, the market has begun slowly and safely expanding from just two blocks to now four blocks providing plenty of space between the farm stands.

Located on W. Date Street, between Kettner Blvd and Union Street, visitors can shop from over 20 vendors offering a wide variety of goods including vegetables, fruits, meats, and fish, along with market favorites such as yogurts, coffee beans, and baked goods. Shoppers can also enjoy a section of locally crafted soaps, face masks, cards, and art.

In order to maintain social distancing protocols, the Little Italy Mercato has been restricting the number of people allowed inside at one time and ask shoppers to wear face masks and keep a minimum of six feet between them and the vendor tents. A new ‘point to purchase’ rule has also been put into effect in which shoppers are asked to not touch any produce prior to purchase and instead to simply point at which item they would like to examine and have the vendor place it on the table for them to observe, minimizing the amount of contact you before the purchase.

To minimize crowds, visitors are being asked to do their shopping alone or bring no more than one other person for assistance. Once shoppers have obtained all their desired goods, they are being asked to please exit the market in order to allow others to enter. All staff members, vendors, and shoppers are expected to wear face masks while shopping inside Mercato and to refrain from eating or drinking inside the market. All ready-to-eat meals such as the Indian samosas and sushi burritos are still available for purchase to-go and can be enjoyed at home or a favorite open-air park or space.

— For the latest updates on the Little Italy Mercato, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD. Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@littleitaly sd.com.

The next PastMatters column will examine the original names of more North Park streets from 28th Street eastward.

— Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@north parkhistory.org or 619-294-8990.
Dependent elders need our help now more than ever

Don't get scammed next time you stream a movie

District Attorney News
By SUMMER STEPHAN

With COVID-19 keeping many families at home, streaming services have become a popular way to pass the time. Services such Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+ allow folks to quarantine at home without breaking the bank. Unfortunately, scammers have taken note of the rise in streaming service users and have sought to exploit the growing market.

Two main scams have surfaced recently: An email scam and a fake website scam. The first scam involves fraudsters using fake emails, commonly known as phishing emails, to obtain sensitive information from victims. These emails typically resemble emails from streaming services and advertise discounts and specials. Many offer a free trial period and other similar specials in exchange for a credit card number or personal information.

The second scam involves fake websites scammers create that closely resemble real streaming websites. Through these fake websites, swindlers obtain personal information, such as a credit card number, from their unsuspecting victims. Luckily, there are many signs that you can look out for in order to spot them.

Ways to spot scam emails include:
• Bad grammar or spelling mistakes
• The email does not address you by name or contains no directly identifying information.

See Scammers, Page 10

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San Diego Downtown & Uptown News
October 2020

By MARI W. ELLIOTT

As City Attorney, I’ve made it a priority to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, especially children, domestic violence victims, and elderly and dependent adults.

Some of the most disturbing cases our office handles involve elderly and dependent adults who reside in Independent Living Facilities (ILFs) that do not comply with local and state laws intended to keep residents safe. An ILF offers rooms in a single-family home for rent to people who often have no other residential options because they do not have family or friends to look out for them and they lack financial resources. Most ILFs are responsible and law-abiding and are often the only housing option that keeps these renters from being on the streets.

Now, as the pandemic continues, our most vulnerable are especially at risk because many are completely isolated from outsiders, especially medical professionals. Routine interactions that might have raised a red flag about the treatment of a resident aren’t happening and might not happen anytime soon.

Since ILFs aren’t nursing homes or assisted living facilities, they aren’t licensed or overseen by the County or the State, and this can lead to serious and potentially deadly problems for members of our communities. We’ve encountered ILFs that subject their tenants to truly deplorable conditions, including rodents, cockroaches and bedbug infestations, and serious code violations including exposed electrical wiring and non-working carbon monoxide detectors. In one case, inspectors found the residents wearing filthy clothes and the ILF operator admitted he’d unplugged the washer and dryer because he didn’t want the tenants wasting water.

In several cases, inspectors have arrived to find a tenant in such bad physical shape that they had to be immediately hospitalized. City inspectors found one resident lying naked, disheveled, and unresponsive in a dirty, trash-strewn bedroom.

Our office launched a concerted crackdown on substandard ILFs in 2018. In most cases, we file criminal charges, seek penalties against unscrupulous owners and operators, and shut them down.

Recently, our office charged an ILF operator with 23 criminal counts, including willful cruelty to a dependent adult, theft, and embezzlement. A paraplegic man in his care had to be transported to the hospital after paramedics found him covered in feces, suffering from severe bedsores, and hooked to a catheter that hadn’t been changed in weeks. Another resident had his $800 Social Security check stolen by the operator...

When I realized a team approach was required to hold ILF operators accountable for abuse and exploitation, I established the Independent Living Facilities Vulnerable Victim Program in our Criminal and Community Justice Division. I’ve also hired a Victim Services Coordinator to work with prosecutors to ensure the safe relocation of residents. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, our investigators continue to conduct extensive site visits to build criminal cases against problem ILFs.

Because the pandemic makes it more difficult to monitor ILFs, we need your help looking out for seniors and the medically fragile who have no family or friends checking in on them.

City Attorney’s Victim Services Coordinator at 619-533-5678 or by emailing cityattorney@sandiego.gov.

With your help, our work to protect San Diego’s most vulnerable residents will continue despite these challenging times.

—Mara W. Elliot is the San Diego City Attorney.
Restaurants in San Diego have had to take a crash course in survival during this pandemic and outside dining has become an absolute must for our eateries. During the first shutdown, many restaurants adapted by offering to-go options or curbside service for its customers. But that only accounted for a small percentage of their original sales and that meant only being able to keep a small percentage of the staff working. That shutdown was lifted and restaurants began to bounce back from the edge of failure. Then, the State of California slammed a second shutdown on the industry and it was back to square one all over again.

Through it all, the City of San Diego has fought for its business communities, especially the restaurants that make up so much of our economy. In this process, the city made exponentially easier to expand outdoor dining options for our restaurants, even if those options were extremely unorthodox. Bankers Hill has restaurants scattered throughout its boundaries, but has recently established a “strip” if you will, located along Fifth Avenue from Ivy to Upas. The hub of this strip is located at the corner of Fifth and Laurel anchored by The Corner Draughtouse, Ceviche, Cucina Urbana and Hachi Ramen House. Many of these eateries were designed with outdoor dining in mind, and now his business and staffing are back up to 100%. The ground was covered with wood chips, and the garden was supplied with wooden picnic tables and market lights. To adhere to the food mandate, URIN Pizza is onsite with a mobile pizza oven to provide fresh hot pizza for the beer lovers — a match made in heaven.

Barrio Star has been a highly successful Mexican restaurant in Bankers Hill for years, and featured a small number of outdoor seating. But by utilizing the sidewalk area around it to add seating, it is now operating at a much better capacity than before. The same goes for Hane sushi and Parq, which has taken advantage of the new normal. On the West end of Bankers Hill, Hob Nob Hill has created an outdoor patio complete with wooden picnic tables, a deck and market lights. Even the infamous Cherry Bomb dive bar located on the same block in a strip mall has transformed itself into the Cherry Bomb Burgers and Booze via an outdoor corral built in their parking lot.

The restaurants of Bankers Hill are surviving the pandemic and serving as a micro example of what every other hospitality community in San Diego is having to do as well. Adjust and adapt, is a credo for survival at the United States Marines instill in their recruits here in San Diego as a mechanism to survive, and this advice goes well heeded in Bankers Hill.

—Vince Meehan can be reached at vinnie_meehan@gmail.com.
Scammers
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8
• The email is sent from a suspicious email address.
• The email contains phone numbers or web links that are not affiliated with the streaming service.
• Clicking on any link takes you directly to a page asking for personal information such as your credit card number.
• The email is from a streaming service to which you are not a subscriber.
• The email asks you to download a file or attempts to take you to a webpage to download a file.
• The email advertises huge discounts, even a full year of streaming service.

Other scammers will try to swindle you through fake websites. Here is how to spot fake websites:

• An incorrect domain name. For example, the domain name is hulu123.net instead of hulu.com.
• Spelling mistakes and grammar errors.
• Poor design with awkward graphics, incorrect logos, and fonts that are erratic and/or illegible.
• Clicking on any link takes you to a different website asking you for banking or credit card information.
• A lot of pop-up ads. Legitimate streaming services have few, if any, ads.
• Although knowing how to identify a streaming service scam is useful, it’s best to avoid them altogether.

Remember to:
• Stay vigilant, if something looks too good to be true, it probably is.
• Never contact any suspicious number or website.
• Use a strong password for all your online accounts.
• Never use a third-party to contact your streaming service. Always go to the official website or use the official number.
• Never provide sensitive information through email or text-message.

Always have your anti-virus software up to date.
• Avoid falling for “pressure tactics.” If an email or phone call is urging you to act quickly, tread carefully as it may be a scam.
• Verify you are on the correct website by examining the domain.
• If you in doubt, contact the company through their official lines of communication with information listed on their website.

If you think you have been scammed, file a report with the Federal Trade Commission or call their hotline at 888-287-3767. Be sure to change the passwords on any accounts that may have been compromised and contact your financial institution to verify all recent transactions.

Finally, if you received a phishing email you want to report, forward it to spam@uce.gov, an address that is used by the Federal Trade Commission for phishing scams.

As your District Attorney, I’m committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA’s Office and the public. I hope these consumer and public safety tips have been helpful.

—District Attorney Summer Stephan

County to expand COVID-19 testing, outdoor playgrounds open

The County announced on Sept. 29 it will be increasing the number of COVID-19 testing sites across the region to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The number of sites will increase from 29 to 41 and the number of tests available to be administered by public health nurses through the County’s lab contract with Helix will nearly double to about 30,000 weekly tests.

Testing by the County of school employees will take place at four regional locations the County identified through consultation with the San Diego County Office of Education. Testing of teachers and staff is recommended by the state for schools preparing to reopen for in-person instruction.

COVID-19 testing continues to be primarily conducted at hospitals with additional tests from commercial labs and community health centers.

Testing is available through your healthcare provider and health plans are required to cover the cost. Many County sites no longer require an appointment, but others do. To make an appointment, visit 211sandiego.org or call 2-1-1.

CDC GRANT SUPPORTS LOCAL FLU VACCINATION

The County Board of Supervisors today voted to accept $198,000 in grant funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support flu vaccination efforts — this flu season and next — for racial and ethnic groups experiencing disparities in vaccination rates.

Flu vaccination is especially important this season given the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. A flu shot can help to decrease the risk of getting the flu and COVID-19, both of which are respiratory illnesses.

OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS OPEN

The state has released guidelines to allow for the reopening of outdoor playgrounds in parks, campgrounds and other publicly accessible locations.

The County local health order will be updated to reflect the new guidelines which go into effect locally Sept. 30. They include:

• Use of face coverings for everyone 2 years and older; children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

Physical distance must be maintained, and children must be from the same household.

No eating or drinking in playparks, to ensure face masks are worn.

Wash or sanitize hands before and after using the playground.

Limit visit to 30 minutes per day when others are present.
Patres Development Team selected to transform Tailgate Park

With a vision of bringing life to an underutilized four-block area near Petco Park in the East Village, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer announced on Sept. 23 that the Padres Development Team – including partners Tishman Speyer and Ascendant Capital Partners – have won the competitive bidding process to transform Tailgate Park into a vibrant, mixed-use destination called East Village Quarter.

Across from Petco Park, Faulconer was joined by Padres president Erik Greupner, Tishman Speyer senior managing director Paul DeMartini, Ascendant Capital Partners CEO Russell Gimelstob and community supporters for the announcement.

The decision comes after a selection committee of City of San Diego staff and external experts at Civic San Diego and Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL) reviewed and scored the two top bids to the request for proposals (RFP) to redevelop the four blocks between K Street and Imperial Avenue and 12th Avenue and 14th Street in San Diego’s East Village neighborhood. Scoring categories included responsiveness to the RFP, community priorities for the development. The open house website received more than 12,000 views and 1,156 community feedback responses on what they'd like to see on the property and the most desired aspects of each proposal.

Highest priorities for the community included open space and amenities, retail, parking, events and active pedestrian and public space.

“The Padres have helped revitalize East Village through the construction and continuous improvement of Petco Park. We are excited to partner with our development team to further revitalize East Village through our vision for this site, which will enhance the game day experience for our fans and transform the Ballpark District,” Greupner said. “Block by block we’re breathing new life into the East Village and making it a vibrant district for San Diegans and visitors alike to enjoy.”

The next steps for the project include taking the Selection Committee’s recommendation for the City to enter into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with the Padres for consideration to the City Council’s Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and subsequently to the City Council.
North Park resident and retired pilot, Robin “R. D.” Kardon’s debut novel Flygirl, soared onto the bestseller list last fall with her tale of Tris Miles, a female pilot trying to break the blue ceiling when she’s blocked by co-workers determined to see her fail. But those guys didn’t expect Tris’ fearless determination and grit.

Flygirl was recently named a finalist in two categories at The 2020 International Book Awards. The overwhelming positive response to that book told her that readers are interested in the behind-the-scenes lives of pilots. She understands the interest. “I flew all over the world. I flew businesspeople and vacation travelers, sometimes into up to seven cities in a day. It was exhausting and exhilarating at the same time.”

In both of her novels, Kardon draws from her experiences as a female pilot. “I met many interesting people, pieces of whom found their way into certain characters. Flygirl was based on an actual job I had as a pilot, so all of the characters in that book are inspired by real people,” she says.

When she finished Flygirl, Kardon felt Tris Miles had more stories to share. She immediately jumped into writing Angel Flight. “The first time I heard the term ‘angel flight’ was when I was co-pilot on a trip flying a child burn victim from Chicago to St. Jude Hospital for treatment,” Kardon recalls. “That’s when I learned that the term was shorthand for a medical transport. As a corporate pilot, I flew a woman with a severe spinal cord injury to the Mayo Clinic for treatment in a private jet. My company donated the airplane and the services of the crew. Her family couldn’t afford to hire their own plane, and if it weren’t for us, she’d have no way of getting the life-saving treatment she needed. That trip inspired Angel Flight.”

Although Angel Flight is the second novel in which Kardon features Tris Miles, it is a stand-alone book. “I hope Angel Flight readers will want to know more about Tris and pick up a copy of Flygirl but starting with Angel Flight won’t spoil any surprises.”

Tris will face more career and personal challenges as she struggles to find and fit the pieces of the life she wants together, and hopefully leave her mark along the way. Look for the final book in the Trilogy in 2022.
Family Health Centers of San Diego will move out of the city’s navigation center before the end of the year, the nonprofit said, less than a year after it began serving clients at the controversial facility.

On Tuesday, the city notified Family Health Centers that it is terminating its lease for the navigation center building at 14th Street and Imperial Avenue and its contract to operate the service hub effective Oct. 29.

For months, the city and the nonprofit that runs health clinics throughout the county have been privately discussing how they could end the contract that had been set to expire at the end of the year. In the process, Family Health Centers has raised a slew of frustrations with city bureaucracy and the program model itself.

Now the city is officially boiling the nonprofit and preparing to move Housing Commission staffers into the former skyscraper facility that has sparked controversy since it was rushed to purchase it in 2018.

Before the navigation center ever opened, multiple City Council Democrats and homeless advocates questioned whether the project, which aimed to help move homeless San Diegans off the streets, would work. At the time, Faulton’s office told him it was the “coastal” model rather than the “city model” that was likely to work.

“Through Operation Shelter to Home, the city and Housing Commission have improved the housing navigation process, so we plan to take those lessons learned and apply them going forward,” Bailey wrote in a statement. “Although the facility won’t be managed by the same contractor, there is a strong plan in place to continue the elements of the program that have been successful, while making improvements and expanding services.”

Lisa Jones, the Housing Commission’s senior vice president of homeless housing innovations, said the commission believes the expertise and processes established during the Convention Center operation will help streamline the process to connect homeless San Diegans with shelter, housing and other services.

The commission had previously overseen the navigation center service contract.

The Housing Commission plans to present more detailed plans to the City Council next month.

As Family Health Centers CEO Fran Butler-Cohen made clear, the city is now considering a different model for the navigation center project and believes it’s ready to move forward with a new model at the navigation center and asked if he could talk to Family Health Centers about whether it would be willing to end its contract.

Mitchell said the city’s decision to pivot wasn’t surprising. Amid pushback from City Council members about the project, the mayor’s team had promised to try out the model and make changes as needed.

“Their comments about (the navigation center) from the moment this was announced but everybody understood that it was going to be tested to see if indeed if it was the best approach, and if it wasn’t, the city would change and find a new model, a new way to affect the lives of those struggling with homelessness,” Mitchell said.

“We all knew going in that this wasn’t going to be a forever model.”

Butler-Cohen raised a series of concerns about her dealings with the city in emails and calls in the months that followed.

The commission believed it was best to quickly execute Faulconer’s mission is the best interest of all parties, most important, the clients, to resolve outstanding issues and provide for an orderly transition, said the commission’s senior vice president, Keely Halsey.

“It seems to be in the best interest of all parties, most important, the clients, to resolve outstanding issues and provide for an orderly transition,” Mitchell said.

In an email to Faulconer obtained by VOSD, Butler-Cohen wrote that the Housing Commission plans to cover a portion of the nearly $228,000 in costs that Family Health Centers has asked the city to cover as it closes out its contract.

“The Housing Commission has reviewed the list of requests and identified a portion that may be reimbursable, and will reimburse what is allowable per the contract and for which

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Schmidt Design Group envisions Mission Valley’s future

By DELLE WILLETT

Schmidt Design Group Inc. (SDG), a San Diego-based landscape architecture and planning firm, is designing the future of Mission Valley from SDCCU Stadium to the outflow of the San Diego River.

Over the last century, the once-rural Mission Valley has undergone expansive development and urbanization with little regard for the San Diego River. But a renaissance has begun.

SDG is collaborating with developer Hines and team members, Project Design Consultants, and MVE Architects, to develop Riverwalk San Diego, a 200-acre, master-planned walkable community in the heart of Mission Valley.

This project is a significant contributor in reaching the recently updated Community Plan’s call for 28,000 new residential units while introducing nearly 100-acres of parks and open space.

With both the San Diego River and the MTS trolley traversing through the center of the project, this transit-oriented development will replace an existing 27-hole golf course with an urban hub consisting of approximately 4,000 multi-family residential units, a mixed-use development, a new trolley station, two civic plazas, and significant commercial office space.

The heart of the project is a new 80-acre regional river park that will feature passive recreational amenities such as walking and hiking trails, observation decks, interpretive education, and a significant expansion of the San Diego River Trail.

Woven throughout are multi-purpose fields, playgrounds, dog parks, flexible turf areas, children’s exploratory play, and a recreation center.

Several neighborhood parks and open-space corridors will offer a civic plaza, children’s play, dog parks, open play, overviews and more. A linear park will connect Friars Road to the San Diego River and a proposed regional park south of the river. Two civic plazas are also planned.

As subconsultants to Clark Construction and Project Design Consultants, SDG is also providing landscape architecture services for improvements to the approximately 165-acre SDSL Mission Valley site.

The design transforms a current expanse of asphalt and concrete into a vibrant mixed-use, transit-oriented community that expands the university’s educational, research, entrepreneurial, and technology transfer programs. The site plan invites green space into and through the site, creating more than 80 acres of open space and over four miles of hike and bike trails that circumnavigate the site.

These publicly accessible green spaces culminate near the San Diego River in a community river park that provides multiple sports fields, picnicking, ample flexible turf, plazas, and children’s play, all connected through a network of accessible and engaging walkways and trails.

What was once a sand and gravel quarry is now Civita, a mixed-use neighborhood in Mission Valley. The project is transforming 210-acres into a sustainable, walkable, high-density urban village.

SDG provided landscape architectural services for nearly 17 acres of parks within this new community.

Sudberry Properties commissioned SDG as the prime consultant and lead design firm for the parkland within the development. Team members include Rick Engineering and Architects Hanna Gabriel Wells.

The 14-acre flagship, Civita Central Park, offers numerous amenities for Civita residents and the greater Mission Valley community.

The park design is inspired by the legacy of the site and Mission Valley’s rich history and unique hydrology. The southern edge of the park is anchored by a large civic plaza, which includes an interactive water feature, stage and turf amphitheater, gardens, games and multiple seating opportunities. A formal promenade with urban gardens lines the eastern edge of the park while the western edge is home to “Civita Creek” which meanders adjacent to pathways and picnic areas.

The most recent phase of the park, opening to the public in July 2020, includes a “Relic Garden,” paying homage to the site’s mining history. Multiple themed gardens, overlooks, and shade structures allow visitors to immerse themselves in San Diego’s beautiful and diverse flora.

A large game court and expansive children’s play areas, featuring over 100 feet of climbing walls, provide active play areas for visitors of all ages.

Glen Schmidt, FASLA, founding partner, established Schmidt Design Group, Inc. in 1983 to reflect his passion for both artful and sustainable design. Schmidt’s extensive planning and landscape architectural design experience has earned him a reputation for professionalism, quality, artistic integrity and environmental sensitivity. In 2005, he was inducted as a National Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects for his “exceptional work and accomplishments sustained over an extended period of time.”

Partner JT Barr, ASLA, a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS in Landscape Architecture, works closely with Schmidt to set the creative vision for the office and lead the firm’s business development initiatives. Barr has a passion for engaging in the academic community. He received an auxiliary faculty appointment from his alma mater in 2009 and has been invited by many accredited universities to critique student works.

The SDG staff of 30 professionals unites under an artful and sustainable-design philosophy with the end goal of making a lasting positive impact on the communities in which they work.

Said Schmidt, “We are most fulfilled when our work improves the quality of life within a community and creates a positive environmental legacy.”

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellerwillett@gmail.com.
NP festival
CONTINUED FROM Page 1
Original 40, Bivoac Ciderworks and True North Tavern. People who vote in the contest are eligible to win.

After the Battle of the Bands, several businesses are hosting virtual events with food and drink tastings as well as demonstrations where people can participate from home. For instance, the store Pigment will be teaching a class on DIY succulent arrangements and Holsem Coffee will teach people how to make a maple pumpkin latte. Other events include a live art and wine tasting with Splash; cider and cheese tasting with Bivoac Ciderworks; and a mescal tasting with Bar Pink. While the online events will be free, participants can purchase party packs from the businesses with supplies for the class or tasting if they choose.

A DIY Nails demonstration will be led by nail artist Ashley Jansen at Hello Birdie Nail and Lash Salon. Owner Cindy Cate, who is not an expert on nails, will be in the video learning from the expert.

[] [Jansen] will be guiding the audience through all the best tips and tricks with nail prep and manicures as well as a variety of nail art styles and skill levels. She’ll be guiding and I’ll basically be there as the example audience, doing it on myself,” Cate said.

The $68 party pack for the Oct. 24 event includes several manicure tools as well as the branded nail polishes Hello Birdie launched during the salon’s closure to stay afloat.

“During the first closure, we built out an e-commerce platform and a website specifically to allow an opportunity for clients to be able to support us and have the products that we already had in-house online. But then we took it a step further and we created our own polish line for the first time,” Cate said.

The polishes are named with bird puns such as “This is Hawkward” and “Chicks and Giggles.” While the nail salon is open now, that could change if the county goes down a tier under the state guidelines.

Cate is hopeful for the exposure provided by the festival but is also taking the opportunity to give back to other new businesses by helping them plan their own virtual events.

“I’m so excited that I can now offer that back to new businesses. I’m just happy to participate and help encourage other businesses to participate because I know ultimately, as busy as we all are, participating is going to help us all,” Cate said.

One of the businesses participating in the festival for the first time is Cori Pastificio Trattoria, an Italian restaurant that opened in December 2019. Owner and chef Accursio Lota is hosting a pasta-making class so participants can have a restaurant-worthy dish at home with their families.

Lota will show the process of making pasta and the secret of his sauce, but to make it easier on participants, most items will be pre-made for those who buy the party pack. After picking up their kit on the day of the event, participants will just need to sauté shallots, mushrooms and garlic into the sauce and assemble the dish.

The hand-made pasta infused with Italian Black Truffles and sauce base of slow-braised sugo with house-made sausage will be provided. The pack costs $28 per serving for two and there is a vegetarian option. Participants can pick it up ahead of the video release on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

“I’m hoping they have a good time and have some quality time away from all the daily stress that we have today at home, with the kids that are in school, with work. Then I would like also to them to have a great meal, which I’m sure they will love it. And then I would like they will learn it and they will make again the similar recipe for their guests,” Lota said.

Since Cori Pastificio was so new when the first closure occurred, they did not have a loyal customer base who followed them and supported them during the shutdown. Lota hopes the event will connect the restaurant to new people and cement its place in the community.

The festival is made possible by sponsors including SDCCU, Observatory North Park, West Coast Tavern, 47D Creative Group, Asana and Mcfarlane Promotions.

“SDCCU is pleased to be the title sponsor of the San Diego County Credit Union Festival of Arts in North Park,” said SDCCU president and CEO Teresa Campbell.

“We are proud to be able to support the virtual event this year as it displays the local creative talent and art that has made North Park so unique and historic in addition to supporting the local businesses.”

To find out more about the festival, visit explorenorthpark.com.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.

‘Meet the Need’ Computer Drive
Sept. 28-Oct. 31 to combat the digital gap for low-income students, families

To meet the need of San Diego County students and families without home computers for distance learning during the pandemic, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cox Communications, the San Diego County Office of Education, and San Diego Councilman Chris Cate, District 6, are joining together with Computers 2 Kids to rally businesses and the public county-wide for a month-long computer drive to benefit local students.

During the “Meet the Need” Computer Drive Sept. 28-Oct. 31, San Diego County residents and businesses of all sizes are encouraged to donate computers, laptops, and tablets they no longer use but that can be refurbished for low-income families and kept out of the landfills.

Since school closures due to the pandemic, San Diego-based non-profit Computers 2 Kids (C2K) has already fulfilled more than 19,000 requests for refurbished computers to meet the needs of families struggling to help their children complete their education from home. But there are still many more requests from K-12 families, as well as college students, and C2K needs to restock its shelves.

According to the San Diego County Office of Education:

• 1 in 4 students started at-home learning without access to a computer

To find out more about the program and how to help others, visit meettheneed.com/”Meet the Need,” Page 10
Meet the Need
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
• 50% of low-income families still have no access to a computer or internet at home
• 95% of schools started this fall with remote learning only

“By donating their unwanted electronics, businesses and individuals will enable us to help more students and families who lack technology at home for their education,” said Cherri Pierre, CEO of Computers 2 Kids. “Our team will breathe new life into these devices so that they end up in the hands of a family in need for their children’s education, and not in our landfills.”

“I’ve seen first-hand the impact Computers 2 Kids has on our District 6 families. I applaud Cox Communications and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce for hosting the “Meet the Need Computer Drive.” Together, we can bridge the digital divide and ensure all families have this needed technology,” stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

Cox Communications has donated nearly 17,000 computers to Computers 2 Kids since the company has swapped out its office computers for new systems. In May, Cox donated $250,000 to C2K that included $230,000 in cash and $3,000 in PSA airtime to help the nonprofit refurbish and distribute nearly 17,000 computers to bridge the digital divide and ensure vulnerable student populations – is a first step in equalizing access so students have what they need and deserve to succeed.

Computers 2 Kids, which uses Department of Defense information sanitization protocols on donated devices, is also a Microsoft Registered Refurbisher and loads a new Windows Professional operating system to the refurbished computers, which includes Microsoft Office Suites, Microsoft Security Essential antivirus software, and various other useful software programs. Microsoft Certificate of Authenticity labels are then attached to each computer.

Computers can be dropped off at the C2K warehouse, or a pick-up can be scheduled for larger donations. To donate your computer or electronics, visit c2sdk.org/meettheneed.

RBG memorial
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
about voting rights in racist discrimination history. But her reputation as a social justice warrior was cemented before she was appointed to the Supreme Court.

Ginsberg attacked gender discrimination, arguing not just for women’s rights, but also revealing how gender-based practices hurt men. She knew how to get into the discomfort zone of the Supreme Court’s male justices.

In the ground-breaking 1972 case she brought with her husband Marty, Charles Moritz, an unmarried man, was barred from taking a tax deduction for caring for his sick mother.

The IRS said the deduction, by statute, could only be claimed by women, or widowed or divorced men. After she and Marty lost their case that day, her husband later recalled that, amazingly, the government petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court, claiming the decision “cast a cloud of unconstitutional over literally hundreds of federal statutes, and it attached a list of three with Defense Department computer software. Ruth said it was a “treasure trove” of laws to alter.

The Moritz case invalidated over 170 other discriminatory laws. As a lawyer, she argued before the Supreme Court winning five of six landmark cases. As a volunteer for the ACLU’s Women’s Rights Project, she played a role in 34 additional Supreme Court cases. Her volunteer work and role as a law professor at both Rutgers and Columbia Universities were framed by her own experiences.

It was the combination of her personal and profession- al self that surpassed her extraordinary social justice legal career and Supreme Court appointment — launching her to a nationally beloved hero.

When she graduated from law school in 1959 and looked for a job, she said she had three strikes against her: she was Jewish, a woman, and a moth- er. She could not find a paid job practicing law. Ginsburg’s experiences led her to develop her legal strategies.

As Shana Knizhnik, the blogger who launched the “Notorious RBG” movement, says, Ginsberg’s “own experience of being discriminat- ed against, overcoming that and reaching the highest level of the judicial system is really inspirational to young women.”

When she successfully argued the case of Reed v. Reed (1972), it was the first time the Supreme Court struck down a law because it violated the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. That became the strategic foundation of her attacks on legal discrimination. Then, as she learned they had their son, Idaho law mandated that the father, as a male, be sole executor of the estate. The comment on behalf of the mother resulted in striking down that law.

She also found inspiration in her husband, also a lawyer, who was a key supporter.

In Reed, she had two co-authors — women lawyers whose ideas helped build her arguments: Caroline Bettinger-Nelson advocated for women’s rights, and the brilliant Pauline Murray, an African American feminist, activist, and co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW), who had pioneered the idea of using the 14th Amendment to achieve women’s rights.

Some may have been a bit unimpressed with Ginsberg’s personal, low-profile demeanor and decades-long approach. Rather than look for big media cases, she was system- atic in striking down individual laws violated the Equal Protection Clause.

She was, however, too. By the time she reached the Supreme Court, and as it became more conservative, Ginsberg became more outspoken in her opinions and dis- trict arguments. She realized her decisions were as important as decisions — they laid the foundation for future legal change.

In 2006 when the Court ruled against Lilly Ledbetter, who had been paid less than male co-workers at Goodyear, Ginsburg was then the only woman justice on the Court. She read aloud her scorching dissent stating that “the court does not comprehend...the brutality that women can be victims to discrimination...The ball is in Congress’ court,” President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act a year and a half later.

Now, we mourn the loss of both her legal and cultural-political influence and inspiration. Ginsburg was a storyteller, focusing on the facts of history and law to shed a light on women’s lived experi- ences. Thankfully, the plethora of Ginsburg films, interviews, books, and legal writings live on. May all her history and imagery remind us of her successes in this time of political ugliness and debates about women’s rights.

In the words of another feminist legal pioneer, Anita Hill, “The fact that she continued to advocate on behalf of equality, even when she was in the minority, I think, that is what has inspired a lot of people.” Like the Ledbetter case, “...even when you’re not the one in the majority, your job is to get the win, and your position may seem to be lost, there are ways that you can move on to win.”

—Sue Gonda is professor of history at Grossmont College and former lecturer for over two decades at SDSU’s Women’s Studies Department. She is also the board secretary of Women’s Museum of California in Liberty Station.

Technology tips to help stay connected during wildfire season
Preparing and protecting your home or business in the event of a wildfire is a reality for those who call San Diego home.

A top priority for Cox during a natural disaster is to keep customers connected so they can stay informed, check in with family and friends, and access their shows away from home.

Cox also works to keep business customers, including hospitals and emergency responders, connected so they can continue to serve our communities.

Wildfire season now begins earlier and interrupted in a neighborhood where the power company shuts off power. During a PSPS or a disaster, Cox posts outage updates and other information on Twitter. Customers can follow Cox at @CoxCalifornia.

During a PSPS, Cox services may be interrupted in a neighborhood where the electric company shuts off power. During a wildfire or PSPS, Cox works closely with the power company and public safety agencies to monitor the situation and ensure the safety of its network and facilities to keep residential and business customers connected.

There are also some things customers can do to prepare.

Have a charged backup battery and corded phone. Most cordless home phones require electricity and won’t work in an outage.

Make sure you have a corded wireless phone available for use during a power outage.

In addition, power is needed for your other telephone equipment to place and receive calls. If Cox’s network is operating during a power outage, make sure you have a charged backup battery to help ensure you can receive a Reverse Call. Purchase a backup battery by calling 855-324-7700 or visiting a Cox Solutions Store.

Get updates on Cox’s Twitter handle. During a PSPS or a disaster, Cox will provide outage updates and other information on Twitter. Customers can follow Cox at @CoxCalifornia.

Download Cox apps before a wildfire or PSPS occurs:

• Cox app - Manage your account; receive outage notifications from the app when there’s an outage in your area and when the outage is over.

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Connect SD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
leads to an outdoor patio that fenced walls are already covered in graffiti art. The graffiti is just one of the ways that the new storefront is connected to its next-door neighbor Visual, an art supply store that sells spray paint.

When the Art Academy left the space earlier this year, the owner went to long-time tenant Jason Gould, the owner of Visual, to see if he wanted to expand into the space. The owner of the space contacted Gould to see if he would be interested in the vacant space.

“It basically just sat there empty and took a lot of energy away from the art community,” Gould said. “I wanted to set up a collective of artists because it was already set up for artists.”

Gould was overwhelmed with his own business, art gallery and other projects in the community so was not sure he could run the collective himself. After a couple months of searching for a new tenant that would match his vision and debating whether he should acquire the space, he reconnected with Robert Blume, a former student of the now-defunct Art Institute of California-San Diego.

Blume is a young photographer, DJ and artist from New York who moved to San Diego for art school. Blume was a RAW artist and even planned quarterly shows for the network. While doing this, he saw many of the artists struggle in the long gaps between shows. He began planning his own events that would be more expensive for artists.

“I was meeting all these artists from these RAW shows. It just seemed that nobody was able to fill this void of meeting each other as well as just showing their artwork. I was meeting a lot of new artists who just wanted to showcase,” Blume said.

Through the RAW shows and other event planning, as well as art school, he met a network of artists in different disciplines that largely didn’t know each other. “These rappers and hip-hop guys and these techno DJs and these artists and these dancers — in San Diego, nobody knew each other somehow and I knew them all. I knew each one of them but they didn’t know each other,” Blume said.

He decided he wanted to make events that would ultimately connect San Diego artists with each other.

Blume began hosting events for artists of all types starting in March 2018. He named the interactive art events Connect San Diego and made an old-fashioned gold telephone its symbol. At one of the first events, Gould created a large mural for attendees. The pair reconnect ed when Blume offered to help watch Visual while Gould was out of town.

When Gould returned from the trip and saw Blume had successfully cared for the shop, he realized Blume might be the person he is looking for to lead the artist collective.

When he raised the idea, Blume immediately came on board and contacted the owner of the building. Within a couple weeks, Blume took up residence in the storefront.

After three years of pop-up events across San Diego, Blume is excited to expand into a permanent space in North Park. The business is funded through monthly membership fees. At different tiers, artists have access to the building to practice, perform, sell merchandise and host events. Memberships start at $50 per month with a one-time fee of $50. There is no long-term agreement so members can quit anytime. In the first two weeks, 27 members joined.

The space is free to enter for non-members 11 a.m.-8 p.m., but costs money after hours. For members, it is always free to enter the space.

―Kendra Sittin can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.

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