

STEVEN P. DINKIN A Path Forward

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PELÉ, ON AND OFF THE FIELD

I must admit: When it comes to football, I'm a fan of the American kind. And since I grew up in Wisconsin, you needn't wonder which team is my favorite. It's the Green Bay Packers, of course. (I'm even an owner of the team, along with 537,459 others.)

So, I sit here this Sunday feeling cautiously optimistic (and grateful I'm not a Bears fan). The Packers' record is 8-8 after a 4-8 start to the season; if they win today against the Detroit Lions, they're assured a spot in the playoffs as an NFC wild-card team.

But last week I found myself thinking about the other kind of football — soccer, as we call it — a sport that claims more than 3 billion fans across the globe and defines the identity of many countries.

I had one footballer in mind: Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known to all as Pelé, who died on Dec. 29 at the age of 82. On Monday, a 24-hour wake was held at the stadium in Santos, Brazil, where Pelé first played as a teen-

ager; officials estimated 230,000 people waited for hours to enter and pay their respects.

At a time when the term GOAT (greatest of all time) is almost overused, it perfectly fits Pelé, the only man to win the World Cup three times as a player. In his 21-year career, Pelé scored 1,283 goals in 1,367 professional matches.

Pelé is the GOAT not just in sport, but also in the game of life.

As a boy in Santos, Pelé played soccer barefoot on the streets, often using grapefruit or wadded-up rags because his family could not afford a real ball. It endeared him to the very poor, as he was once one of them.

But the adoration reached farther: Pelé was beloved worldwide, by just about everyone who ever saw him play.

He even stopped a civil war. Pelé's Santos team embarked on a world tour in 1967, including several stops in Africa. When they landed in Nigeria for a game against the Nigerian national

team, the country's two warring factions agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire.

Everyone who attended the game had only one goal in mind: to watch Pelé play 90 minutes of football. While the stadium was filled with armed military from both sides, there was only celebration; the game ended in a draw, with Pelé scoring two goals. Common Goal, a nonprofit that works to unite the global football community, described it this way: "It was Pelé that, albeit temporarily, united people of different backgrounds and mind-sets, giving them a taste of peace and companionships in an otherwise dark and dreary period of history."

Within days of Pelé's departure from Nigeria, the fighting resumed.

For someone who could command a ceasefire — and enjoyed worldwide celebrity — I was struck by Pelé's humility. As journalists Andrew Downie and Gabriel Araujo wrote, his fans would rush the field following games and

tear off his shorts, socks and even underwear.

Yet Pelé rarely complained. He believed his talent was a divine gift that allowed him "to travel the world, bring cheer to cancer patients and survivors of wars and famine, and provide for a family that, growing up, often did not know the source of their next meal." His reason for playing was to make people happy.

Pelé was coaxed out of retirement in 1975, when he joined the New York Cosmos to promote the game of soccer in the U.S. (As the story goes, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote to the Brazilian government, asking it to release Pelé to play here.) At his final match, three years later, Pelé encouraged a crowd of more than 75,000 at Giants Stadium to chant, "Love! Love! Love!" And they did.

On the very day fans were paying tribute to Pelé, Damar Hamlin, a 24-year-old safety for the Buffalo Bills, collapsed to the turf in cardiac arrest after tackling a Cincinnati Bengals player. For

many, it once again brought to light the violence of football, American style.

As Kurt Streeter noted in The New York Times, it's unclear whether Hamlin's medical emergency was related to the tackle. But, he wrote, "The specter of destruction on the field is part of what makes football such an American draw. That's why the highlight shows are full of the most jarring, brutal hits." We assure ourselves that it's just part of the game; the players will be fine.

I'll still watch the Packers game today and cheer when they score. But thinking about Hamlin — and others who risk their lives for our entertainment — I will enjoy it a little less. Even when the Packers win.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRCC's programming, visit ncrconline.com

OFFICIAL

FROM B1 focus now is on the remakes of both the civic core downtown and the Midway District that are already under way, he said.

"Both projects promise to bring enormous benefits to all San Diegians when done right," Serrano said. "With Jay advising, they will be."

Goldstone's long career in public service has provided him three separate public pensions.

In 2021, he collected \$111,000 from the California Public Employees' Retirement System, almost \$56,000 from the San Diego city pension fund and just under \$20,000 from the San Mateo County retirement plan, public records show.

Goldstone was already a public administration professional when he was lured to San Diego by then-newly elected Mayor Jerry Sanders. He had been the finance director for Pasadena for 10 years when he became San Diego's chief finance officer in 2006.

Sanders, the city's first so-called strong mayor after a public vote switched the job to a chief executive-style seat, promoted Goldstone to



SAM HODGSON U-T FILE

Attorney Michael Aguirre speaks to the city's chief operating officer, Jay Goldstone (left) in June.

COO the following year. He remained at San Diego City Hall in that role until 2013.

Goldstone began serving as provisional COO in December 2020 after Gloria was elected and served until November. He is now serving as a special adviser to the mayor, with general responsibility for overseeing the redevelopment of the downtown civic core and the Midway area.

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Goldstone served on a special committee aimed at

electing Gloria mayor, records related to the 101 Ash St. litigation show.

He returned to public service after Gloria was sworn in as mayor.

In the last weeks of 2020, Goldstone was brought in at \$140 an hour and logged 113 hours as acting COO, the Mayor's Office said.

By March 2021, Goldstone was working so many hours that Gloria administration officials asked the City Council to change the municipal code to permit retirees to work more than the 720-hour annual limit without setting aside pension benefits.

"The provisions related

to the removal of the 720-hour per fiscal year limit will apply retroactively to all hours worked by a provisionally appointed COO in Fiscal Year 2021," a memo from the Mayor's Office to the City Council said.

Jessica Lawrence, the mayor's director of policy, told council members that lifting the limit would save the city money because provisional employees are not enrolled in the pension plan, do not receive flexible benefit credits and are not eligible for paid leave.

"The salary costs incurred by the city for a provisional employee would be comparable to the salary costs incurred by a standard-hour employee," Lawrence wrote in her report to the council.

In April 2021, the City Council unanimously approved the request.

Goldstone went on to work nearly full time in 2021 — a total of 1,917.5 hours. Full-time work is generally considered to be 2,080 hours a year, or 40 hours a week.

Through October, Goldstone billed the city for 1,412 hours. His salary was raised to \$145 per hour in July 2021 and again boosted to \$193 per hour last July.

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CASA

FROM B1 would need to be removed as part of any renovation.

Thus, he presented plans to tear down the house and build a new three-story, 10,567-square-foot residence with decks. It would be similar in size and scale to what is currently there, he said.

When the project was reviewed by the DPR Committee, some questioned whether such a project could take place at a structure they considered potentially historic. The house is not listed on any historic register, but Seonaid McArthur, chairwoman of the La Jolla Historical Society's Landmark Committee, called La Casa de los Amigos "the first or second house built in Lower Hermosa. ... It has been a landmark for years."

She said the house qualifies for listing on the San Diego Register of Historical Resources under several criteria and would be historically designated if considered by the Historical Resources Board.

The DPR voted last month to postpone its final review of the project until the Historical Resources Board rules on whether La Casa de los Amigos is historic.

According to a report to the city, construction of La Casa de los Amigos was finished Dec. 31, 1924. Since then, the house has undergone alterations, primarily on the west facade, consisting of extension and partial

enclosure of the rear balcony and construction of a finished basement between 1934 and 1939. Four original windows on the west facade were replaced after 1946.

"Despite these alterations, the building was evaluated as retaining six of the seven aspects of integrity" that would be considered in a historical review, according to the report by BFSA Environmental Services.

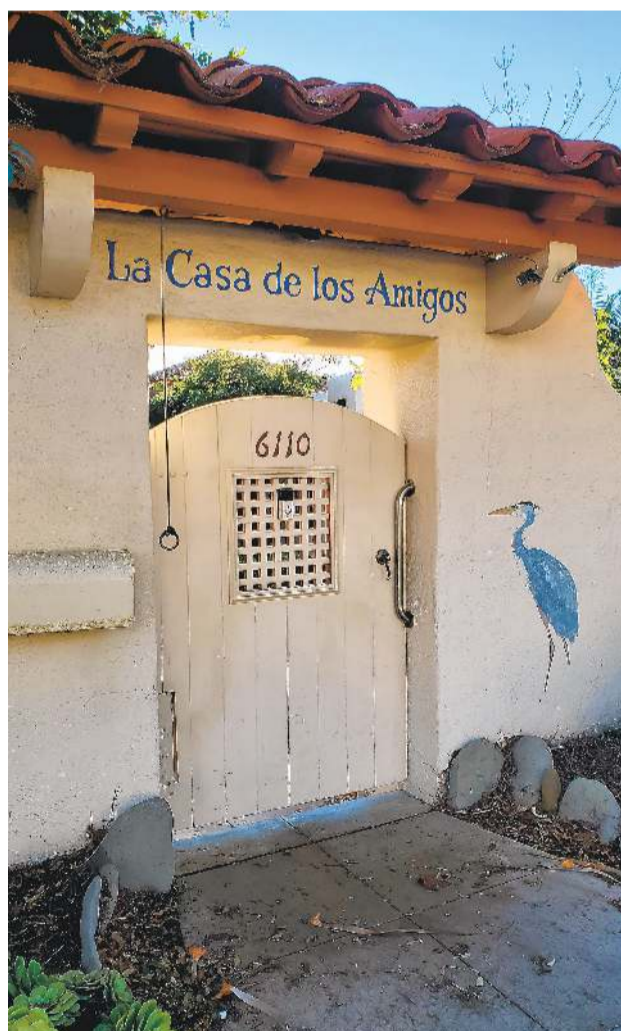
California Coastal Commission Coastal Program Analyst Alex Llerandi said that he could not comment on what would happen "should any or part of the residence be designated historic" because "each case is a little different."

The applicant team previously was under the impression that the rules regarding the setback would supersede the property's historical authenticity, but Llerandi later said that was not necessarily the case.

Segal and his father and business partner, Jonathan Segal, said they hope that if the property is historically designated, they will get clear guidance from the city and the Coastal Commission on what they would be allowed to do there.

The Historical Resources Board's Jan. 26 meeting will begin at 4 p.m. online. To learn more, visit sandiego.gov/development-services and click on the "Public hearings, meetings & notices" tab.

Macklin-Solomon writes for the U-T Community Press.



ASHLEY MACKLIN-SOLOMON U-T COMMUNITY PRESS

Little of La Casa de los Amigos is at 6110 Camino de la Costa in La Jolla's Lower Hermosa neighborhood.

ATTORNEY

FROM B1 fice, or until the City Attorney vacates the seat, whichever occurs first."

In an email, Googins said he did not vacate his seat because he "wanted to assist with the on-boarding of new City Council leadership and to continue providing legal support on a number of major city projects in which I've had major involvement."

Some in the legal community find the city's interpretation odd.

John Moot, an attorney who unsuccessfully ran for the position in June, called it a "completely novel legal issue."

"You have two sections of the charter now at odds with each other. The section on term limits and then you've got the charter provision that's saying (Googins) serves until his successor's elected," he said, adding that he would have expected the city to declare the seat va-

cant and name or hire someone for the interim. Moot said he has not decided whether to run in the special election.

William Priest, an attorney at Best Best and Krieger LLP, said Googins is entitled to continue holding office.

"(Y)ou don't have anybody else," he said. "You don't hire elected officials. The people have to vote them in. You can hire outside counsel, you can hire more deputies for the civil service system, but you wouldn't be hiring anybody as the elected city attorney."

Googins said he doesn't "know how common it is" for someone to continue serving despite being termed out, "but it doesn't strike me as unusual."

Other municipalities have similar language on term limits for elected officials in their rule books. San Diego's charter, for example, reads that its city attorney "shall hold office for the term prescribed ... and until a successor is elected and quali-

fied."

San Diego election attorney Bob Otilie said "it's not uncommon at all" to see someone stay in their role until they are replaced. "The idea is to keep somebody there if there's any hiccups," he said.

Per the city's charter, the next city attorney must be chosen by election. If Googins were to resign before the November special election, the City Council would need to appoint an interim city attorney to serve until someone is sworn in, according to outside counsel's interpretation of the charter.

"There is not a specific provision in the charter for that particular occurrence," Shamos said. "And, so, there is certain discretion built in under that charter."

Googins said he plans to continue serving as city attorney but did not specify until when. He said would remain in the role "at least for the near term, in order to assist with the City's transition to new leadership, and to ad-

vance a number of key projects my group has been working on."

Mayor John McCann said the council will prepare to keep the seat filled should Googins resign before the special election.

"What we would need to do, as a council, is be able to put an interim in until we have a new city attorney," he said. "I believe if we do that, the best, most productive and nonpolitical way is to be able to hire an outside law firm."

McCann said that while the city has a running City Attorney's Office that is nearly fully staffed, keeping Googins "helps us maintain consistency."

"We have a tremendous amount going on in the city and Glenn has a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge and knowledge on current projects. ... It will take anybody who's new time to come up to speed," he said.

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APPEAL

FROM B1 based on insurmountable traffic, huge safety concerns, not to mention air and noise pollution," the appeal states. "Both the north and south sides of Fire Mountain are already gridlocked and bottlenecked, and the city has no fixes at this time or in the future."

City planning officials, the developer and a majority of the Oceanside Planning Commission members said Ocean Creek meets all the requirements for "smart growth," the planning term for infill development near

public transportation and other services. The developer proposes to reserve 10 percent of the apartments for low-income households, and the project will provide jobs and help the city meet its housing goals.

Traffic data collected for the project shows it "will not significantly increase traffic in the Fire Mountain neighborhood," states a staff report presented at the Planning Commission's Oct. 10 meeting, where the project was approved.

"Transit-oriented development projects generally have lower household vehicle ownership and a smaller share of auto trips," the re-

port states. "The project is also designed for expected future conditions, which predict that vehicle ownership will decline, greater use of car sharing and shared mobility options, and an increase in work-at-home."

Ocean Creek will have five four-story apartment buildings on 18.9 acres at the southwest corner of Crouch and Skylark. It also will have access from a proposed extension of South Oceanside Boulevard, which is a separate road south of and parallel to Oceanside Boulevard, just east of Interstate 5. The ground floor is designed for restaurants and retail stores, though so far the tenants

have not been announced.

The previously graded, undeveloped site is along Loma Alta Creek next to the Crouch Street station on the Sprinter rail line that runs between Oceanside and Escondido, and is within 200 yards of a bus stop.

The studio, one-, two-, or three-bedroom apartments will range from 591 to 1,301 square feet, and 30 units will be reserved for low-income households.

Parking will be in garages, carports and open stalls with a total of 476 spaces for residents and 10 spaces for commercial activities.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On Jan. 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an "unconditional war on poverty in America."

On this date

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having received word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1935, Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Miss.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing

to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced in November 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

In 2016, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the world's most-wanted drug lord, was captured for a third time in a raid by Mexican marines, six months after walking through a tunnel to freedom from a maximum security prison.

Today's birthdays

Former CBS newsmen Charles Osgood is 90. Shirley Bassey is 86. Bob Eubanks is 85.

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