SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

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Unkindest cut



COURTESY KELLY HUTCHISON | DOWNTOWN NEWS

We all can relate to our first haircut-but years later, here's your chance to see what poor li'l you might have looked like on the day of reckoning. The rendering was part of the second annual Gaslamp Art Showcase, a juried exhibit that took place Sunday, March 29 at various locations in Downtown's Gaslamp Quarter. Some 5,000 were expected at the event, designed as a discovery tool on behalf of the historic neighborhood and its businesses. For more information on the Quarter, see gaslamp.org.

Two of a kind

As the Padres launch a new era, another franchise celebrates its own



By **MARTIN JONES WESTLIN**

You can all come out now. Seriously. The recession-the bane of this country's existence since the fall of 2007, the many-headed monster that's fueled such anger at the business sector's crimes against humanityhas run its course. The conclusive proof isn't in the recent gains on Wall Street or the big jump in February housing starts. It has its genesis, of all places, at Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres. Jeff Moorad, the new Padres CEO and central figure in the club's much-anticipated turnaround, has pledged that affordability, even in these bleak fiscal times, will become the cornerstone of the local baseball experience.

Scott Kaplan thinks this is an "extremely cool" thing. He said so on his Friday, March 27 radio show, the day after the Padres introduced Moorad to the outside world at a press conference. His enthusiasm echoed Moorad's in its infectiousness—if he's this jazzed about the new era taking shape in the East Village, imagine his delight when the recession finally does take its leave.

But first things first. The Padres' 40th campaign happens to coincide with the eighth anniversary of "The Scott & BR Show," marked yesterday, April 1, at Downtown's The Tilted Kilt sports pub. It's not like many kilts were tilting at that point-the program airs on AM's XEPRS, branded locally as "XX 1090," from 5 to 9 a.m. But from the sounds of things, Kaplan and partner Billy

Ray Smith didn't seem to notice, much less balk at the early hour. Padres broadcast coanchors Jerry Coleman and Ted Leitner; field manager Bud Black; first baseman Adrian Gonzales; USC football coach Pete Carroll; ex-Charger Junior Seau; the Great Friends band of supporters: Everybody's the focus of a testosterone-driven love-fest this morning, punctuated by trademark sound bites on Councilmember Donna Frye's supposed untruthfulness and one caller's alleged relationship with a sheep.

"You can't just say 'sausage in the pocket' and let the thing go. You have to explain that," Smith quips to former Chargers quarterback Drew Brees, adding that Brees holds

SEE TWO OF A KIND, Page 5



Co-host Billy Ray Smith, left, muzzles Scott Kaplan, anchor of morning radio's "The Scott & BR Show." The pair celebrated an unlikely eight years together on Wednesday, April 1.

Sound ideas: Airport Authority may get FAA's OK to implement D'town noise reduction programs

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | DOWNTOWN NEWS

the idea that the San Diego International Airport will operate at noise study called Part 150. Lindbergh Field for the foreseeable future, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority is looking for ways to make things a bit easier on the ears.

Over the last several months, the

Airport Authority has ramped up that we feel that would be relevant Hundreds of planes overhead munity for feedback on how to sent them to the FAA (Federal Avievery day make life in parts of reduce overall airport noise. It's ation Administration)," said Dan Downtown a little earsplitting at come up with a list of mitigation Frazee, deputy director of airport times. And as residents get used to procedures as part of a Federal noise mitigation. "Whether these Aviation Administration (FAA)

> Airport Authority representatives unveiled the noise-reducing measures Tuesday, March 10, during an airport noise workshop at Lindbergh field offices.

"We put together the elements

its efforts to reach out to the com- to further mitigating [noise] and elements will decrease the noise for individuals living within the noise [-affected area] is the criteria that the FAA will use in deciding whether to approve them."

If the FAA approves the Part 150

SEE **SOUND**, Page 3

City borrows \$103 million for deferred maintenance work

The city has borrowed \$103 million for capital improvements, including funds for fixes at Downtown police headquarters and

The city will pay Bank of America 3.9 percent interest on the loan through June of next year. The city plans to reinance the debt publicly by then prior to an interest rate increase. This is significant in that the city had been reeling from a poor bond rating for years. The city faces a \$1 billion deferred maintenance bill

Balboa Park's parking lots will be resurfaced with \$2.5 million of the funds, while \$750,000 will go toward resealing the windows at Downtown police headquarters. The Old Globe Theatre elevator will be upgraded at a cost of \$100,000. Work is scheduled to begin in August.

-from staff reports





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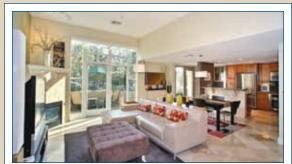
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SOUND

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

mitigation steps, the Airport Authority can apply for funds to sound-insulate homes in the most affected areas and for other programs, he said.

The Quieter Home Program uses window insulation to reduce noise. A modeled map of portions of Downtown and the nearby Peninsula determines noise levels in certain communities. The map is based on generated models, not actual noise levels, used by the FAA, Frazee said.

Although 24 instruments around the Peninsula monitor noise levels there, Frazee noted that the models are "not as accurate as they could be."

The Airport Authority plans to spend about \$12 million to soundinsulate homes in and around the noise contour maps this year, he said

Homes participating in the program may depreciate in value. Owners must give up the right to take legal action against the Airport Authority in exchange for the soundproofed windows.

Lindbergh Field's effect on property values and development has always been a concern for residents and commercial interests.

Peninsula Community Planning Board member Suhail Khalil, a real estate consultant, is also the PCPB airport committee chair and liaison to the Airport Authority on various noise-related advisory groups.

Khalil said commercial property values may increase near an airport because the airport attracts tourism dollars. But that's not the case for homes.

"There are huge mansions... that could be selling for millions of dollars, but they're not because they're under the flight path," Khalil said.

The Airport Authority encourages other potentially noise-reducing measures that include faster aircraft ascension and flight path adjustments, according to Airport Authority officials.

The Airport Authority suggests planes fly slightly to the north after takeoff. That, however, could also bring more noise to Mission Beach residents. Airport officials wish to prevent that by having planes fly out over the San Diego River basin, Frazee said.

Neighboring communities like Pacific Beach and La Jolla should not feel the impact, however.

Sending smaller planes on a southerly flight path from Lindbergh and restricting late-night departures are among some of the other measures officials hope would reduce noise. Airport officials can restrict departures by enforcing a departure curfew. They can't, however, stop arriving flights. As a result, planes can wake residents up in the early morning.

Khalil said several of the measures, combined with newer and hopefully quieter planes, should decrease overall noise level for residents.

"It's all about mitigation," Khalil said.

The San Diego City Council heard and approved the airport's expansion report in March after it was pitched by Mayor Jerry Sanders' airport ad hoc committee. The committee is charged with planning for the long-term development of Lindbergh Field.

If accepted, the \$4 billion pro-

posal would move a terminal, build a massive transportation center and fit airplane storage space near the northeast section of the airport's 661-acre envelope near Downtown's Pacific Highway.

Some Peninsula residents fear the planned developments will increase already-snarled traffic flow along North Harbor Drive.

District 2 Councilman Kevin Faulconer, whose district includes Downtown, was among those voting down the report. The Airport Authority approved the final report Monday, March 23.

Faulconer said he voted against it because the idea of a 5,000-car parking structure is "still floating around."

"I will not support shoehorning more cars onto North Harbor Drive. I also think that Lindbergh field only has one runway and pouring billions of dollars into this one plan will not change that."

With current operations at Lindbergh Field's single runway expected to reach maximum capacity within the next 5 to 10 years and political bigwigs pushing for the airport expansion, interested residents can attend future Peninsula Community Planning Board airport committee meetings as a way to get involved, Khalil said. He said he plans to hold several April meetings about the massive intermodal transit center planned for the airport.

The Peninsula Community Planning Board's airport committee meets on the last Friday of the month at the Sail Ho Golf Club, 2960 Truxtun Road at Liberty Station.

For more information, visit the Peninsula Community Planning Board's website www.pcpb.net/airport/.



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NEWS

Streetsweeps

Notes from the heart of America's **Finest City**

edited by Martin Jones Westlin

Police continue search for MTS shooting motive

San Diego police are interviewing witnesses who may have more information surrounding the Tuesday, March 24 shooting in which a Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) repairman opened fire in a downtown bus yard, killing one coworker and injuring another before being shot and killed by offi-

According to police, Lonnie Glasco, 47, entered the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System bus yard at 100 16th St. near the East Village early March 24 following his shift and threatened his coworkers with a gun, telling them, "No one's leaving here."

outside and critically injured one person. Witnesses reportedly heard the gunfire and tried to run second victim, 37-year old Beniamin Mwangi.

MTS officials said both victims are MTS employees. Mwangi was a 750 North Harbor Drive around

maintenance foreman position at

According to an acquaintance of Glasco, the suspect had been despondent over losing his wife and his home.

Officers are interviewing witnesses who may have more information on the details surrounding the shooting.

Glasco, a 29-year veteran of MTS, repaired MTS' automated fare boxes.

Deckhand sentenced in 2007 stabbing case

A former deckhand on the fishing vessel *Alaska* was sentenced March 19 to 13 years in prison for stabbing another crewmember in Police said Glasco then walked a 2007 incident and was ordered to pay \$12,000 in medical expenses to the victim.

Robert David Legerrette, 70, had when the suspect shot and killed a agreed to accept a stipulated sentence in the Aug. 11, 2007 stabbing of David Cunningham, 52, while the Alaska was moored at

5:50 a.m., according to court records. Cunningham was stabbed in the chest.

San Diego Superior Court Judge David Danielsen gave Legerrette credit for almost 1½ years served. Legerrette will have to serve 80 percent of his 13-year term before he can be paroled, according to court records.

The motive for the assault is unknown, said a prosecutor.

Legerrette was also accused of attempted murder and of being under the influence of Vicodin, codeine and morphine at the time of the assault.

These charges, however, were dropped in return for the plea agreement on the main assault

Legerrette drew a lengthy sentence partly because of his criminal record. He was convicted of robberv in 1971, attempted theft in 1997 and burglary in 2000, according to records.

Legerrette fled the ship after the 2007 assault, and San Diego Harhis picture.

Paramedics were trying to deal with an "unruly person" later that day when someone saw a flier and recognized Legerrette.

Harbor police responded and arrested him.

Groups grade city, county on environmental voting

Four leading environmental groups have released report cards on the environmental voting records of the city and county of San Diego, with county supervisors receiving an average mark for their efforts and their city counterparts scoring somewhat higher.

The League of Conservation Voters San Diego, San Diego Coastkeeper and the local chapters of the Surfrider Foundation and the Sierra Club gave the city council and Mayor Jerry Sanders an overall grade of B-plus regarding issues impacting local waters and coastal habitat over the last full year. "The 2008 San Diego Water Quality Report Card" includes information on the city's votes on water and wastewater rate increases, urban run-off issues, the beach alcohol ban and coastal protection funding. Five current and former councilmembers scored in the A range.

"The 2008 San Diego County bor Police distributed fliers with Environmental Report Card" assesses the county board of supervisors on their actions during 2008 related to water and air quality, land use and renewable energy. The average grade was a C, with supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Greg Cox receiving the

highest marks, at B-minus.

The report cards, released Feb. 26, were prepared by Strategic Community Consulting, a studentmanaged firm based at the University of California, San Diego. This is the first year the groups have issued an assessment of the county's actions; the city's report card is the seventh such document. The reports mark the first time all four groups have jointly released their findings.

Cuban TV tech defects during baseball classic

Yuri Boza, a Cuban broadcast television technician assigned to help cover his country's performance in the 2009 World Baseball Classic, defected in San Diego on Friday, March 13 to seek political asylum in the United States.

In an interview with a Miami TV station, Boza said he made the decision to defect when he'd learned he'd be traveling internationally to work on the games. Cuba's victory over Australia assured the team's visit to San Diego, where Boza boarded a flight for south Florida. He arrived in Miami, where a brother has lived for five years, the next day.

Boza, 31, said he also entertained defection during travel to the Pan-American games in Rio de Janeiro in 2007 and to the Olympics in Beijing last year.

"Young Cubans don't have anv loyalty to the revolution," Boza told a Miami newspaper. "We simply don't want to stay there because we see no future... and I'm not daunted by the current economic crisis because in Cuba we were born in and have always lived in crisis."

SDG&E hawks new kit that saves water, energy

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is offering a kit designed for double duty – the conservation of both water and energy – to all residential customers with an SDG&E account. And it's free.

The new Home Energy- and Water-Savings Kit includes aerators for the kitchen and bathroom faucets, a low-flow showerhead and a list of tips to save energy. Aerators introduce air into the water flow, maintaining high pressure while reducing usage; lowflow showerheads do pretty much the same thing and can cut the use of water by more than 50 percent.

One kit is available per household; please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. To order, sdge.com/energykit or call the company's energy information center at (800) 644-6133.

"Doctor Regrets Unfortunate Mistake..."

And what you should know about it...

Dear friend,

Mistakes are tough. Real tough. sometimes an admission can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my mistake, though, let me say a few other

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, people usually say, "Oh, yeah, you're Dr. Wong. I've seen your ad with that picture of you and the cute little girl." Let's start with me, the guy on the

Thirteen years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever. Let me tell you my story...

Back then I was working part time delivering fresh seafood when I developed an excruciating pain in the middle of my back. In my case it came on suddenly. The pain in my back was so intense that I couldn't bend over, twist, and sometimes I couldn't even button my shirt. I was afraid that I'd lose my job if the disability continued. After seeing a doctor and taking lots of pain medications, the discomfort was still there. I even remember one instance where I just couldn't stand the agony any longer, and I broke down and cried. Knowing I didn't want to take pain killers forever, I was desperate for answers. But, there's more...

A friend of mine convinced me to give their doctor a try. This new doctor did an exam, took some films, and then "adjusted" my The adjustment didn't hurt, it actually felt really good. I got relief, and I could bend over again. It worked so well for me, and I was so impressed with the other 'miracles' I saw in his office, that I eventually went to chiropractic school myself.

Now for Cierra, she's the little girl in the photo. Growing up, she was (and still is) very active. She slipped and hit her head on the sidewalk once before, she's fallen out of bed numerous times and on top of that, she suffered from ear infections. Cierra's been getting adjusted regularly now for over a year and she is as healthy as can be. She knows that her adjustments help her immune system to fight off the "bad stuff" when she's starting to feel a little sick. She loves getting adjusted and it seems like a huge difference to her.

It's strange how life is, because now people come to see me with their health problems. Also they come to me with their headaches. migraines, chronic pain, neck pain,

shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, backaches, ear asthma, allergies, numbness infections, limbs, athletic injuries, just to name a few.



Here's what some of my patients had to

* UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL *

"I was having so much back pain, neck pain and terrible headaches that affected my job. I was misdiagnosed so many times but now, I live pain free since I've been seeing Dr. Wong. My husband and kids used to call me 'grumpy' but not anymore! Thank you Dr. Wong!"

Signed,

Ligaya A, RN, San Diego, CA.

* UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL *

When I first came to Dr. Wong, I was in constant pain and could barely walk up the steps to his office. Now, after being under his care, exercise to strengthen my back and body, I can honestly say that I am pain free! I am no longer taking any pain medication. My bowling game is better and I am now walking about 3 miles a day. I am back to enjoying life as I did before my back problems.

Signed,

Larry D, San Diego, CA

Several times a day, patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can't really take the credit. My unfortunate mistake is that I've neglected to tell people that their bodies heal from within and that taking medications only covers their problems. My commitment is to tell as many people as **ADVERTORIAL**

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for a lesser amount for chiropractic. When you bring in this article, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$47. with computerized x-rays, testing....the whole ball of wax. This exam could cost you \$270 elsewhere. But, please call right away because this offer expires on April 30th, 2009, and I don't want you to miss out. By the way, further care is very

affordable and you'll be happy to know that I have affordable family plans. You see I'm not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. High costs can add up very quickly.

Great care at a great fee...Please, I hope that there's no misunderstanding about quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. My qualifications...I'm a graduate of the California State University System with a bachelors in biochemistry and then I completed my doctorate at Palmer College of Chiropractic in San Jose, CA. I've been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to elderly seniors, like my grandma and grandpa. After finishing my internship in San Jose, I moved to San Diego to start my own practice. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My assistants are Cindy and Liz, and they are really great people. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. Our office is called GREATER LIFE FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC and we're in Point Loma at 3689 Midway Drive, Suite G (we are in the Vons shopping center next to 24 Hour Fitness and Sport Chalet). Our phone number is 619-222-8885. Call Cindy, Liz or myself today for an appointment. We can help you.

Your Friend,

Dr. Henry Wong, DC

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CONTINUED FROM Page 1

a serious grudge for Smith's role in "ripping your soul out of your body as you had to leave San Diego."

But stuff like that is only a cover. Beneath the fun—and there's a ton of it every morning-lies a singular commitment to competition as a reflection of the local dialogue. Kaplan and Smith are exemplary

Good fans live and die with the Chargers, and they adore the Padres organization.

SCOTT KAPLAN ANCHOR, 'THE SCOTT & BR SHOW'

ambassadors thereof. For them, sports is as much an art form as great radio itself.

Kaplan, the impassioned intellectual. Smith, the extraordinarily affable harlequin. Together eight years in a business legendary for its turnover. The reason lies in the authenticity of the banter and of the men's backgrounds themselves. Both were in sports long before radio called; Kaplan, 39, kicked the daylights out of the football for the University of Pittsburgh, and Smith, 47, is a former Chargers linebacker and a twotime All-American from the University of Arkansas. Their history has its twists and turns-but the keyword is "their." with both men holding close to their roots in the explained, "[before] the Staples

sporting life.

"I don't think either of us really try to be journalists," Kaplan told Downtown News. "There's a real attitude that seems to come with the notion that 'I'm a journalist; I know more; I'm more inside and I'm smarter than you are.' Neither of us really feel that way."

That trait filters into a sizeable segment of the show's fan base. "If you're not a Padres fan or if baseball's too slow for you," Kaplan explained, "you may not come [out] for baseball games at night, but you can't wait to get your dose of Scott and BR in the morning."

The show seeks a demographic of 25- to 54-year-old males. But while the program is apparently successful in that bracket, the overall local sports climate is another matter.

"Because you have only two pro sports teams here and you don't have all four majors [and] you don't have [many] folks that are generational San Diegans," Kaplan said, "this is a sports market that is just not anywhere near as impassioned as folks are in other types of markets, like Boston or New York. But that doesn't mean that this isn't a good sports town or that the fans aren't passionate. It just means that they don't have as many choices. When you've got all four major sports-type teams, people live and die with their town and its teams. Here, we just don't have that year-round, crazed, passionate fans for the local teams, because the teams don't exist.

"Good fans live and die with the Chargers, and they adore the Padre organization. [Beyond that], we just don't have the numbers.'

So how do we get 'em?

"In downtown L.A.," Kaplan

it. It was a beaten-up, old, nasty part of town, kind of the way East Village was before Petco Park came into existence. Now, because of Petco, look at the beautiful development that has happened in Downtown San Diego. Because of the people that go to Lakers games and Kings games and concerts and circuses, they needed to build more amenities. They've got 'em. [Similarly], I think the city of San Diego could support an NBA franchise. We have the population and the fan base and the money to support another sport. But [the potential investors] can't do it alone. It requires a facility."

SPORTS

Until the city can find its way out of a \$60 million budget mess, those investors' words may (and should) fall on deaf councilmanic ears.

In any event, you're invited to join XX 1090 for a block party to fete the Padres as they open their

Center, there was nothing around home season Monday, April 6 against them stinkball Dodgers. The fun runs along J Street between 7th and 10th avenues from noon to 3:30 p.m. Doesn't sound like it'll cost all that muchand that's in keeping with Moorad's initial case in point. As he reportedly said during a conference call in February:

"It's critically important, whether it's concessions, merchandise or the baseball experience itself, that it is affordable, not only to the businesses that support the club but especially to the individual families and those who bring kids and experience baseball. Affordability has got to be the theme that rings true, and that certainly will be the theme as the new ownership group transitions in."

One franchise seeking to resurrect itself after a dismal 2008. Two guys that need no such redemption, who've come eons from the days they played at sports radio "with a plastic card table," as Smith said, "and a vice holding the microphone onto that card table.' Amid the April 1 celebration, those days represent a blur not unlike Jake Peavy's fastball.

"Get your skinny marathonrunnin' ass up here," Smith beckons to show regular "Antarctic Mike," a world-class endurance athlete who recently ran 26 miles over a Siberian lake. Mike obliges, reciting a litany of his latest feats. Maybe he'd never conceived of such milestones eight years ago, anv more than a U-T columnist gave "The Scott & BR Show" a chance in hell. If this is the best they can do, the writer said, "then the sports radio industry is in big trouble." How dare Kaplan accuse baseball players of steroid use.

Heresy. Interdiction. Blasphemy! In his own words, Kaplan's still waiting for the apology.



Matt Bush

Matt Bush charged in alleged assault in El Cajon

Former Padres pitcher Matt Bush, a Mission Bay High School graduate, has been charged with four misdemeanor counts of battery after allegedly assaulting some Granite Hills High School students during a lacrosse practice on Feb. 4 in El Cajon.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis filed the charges against Bush. If convicted, Bush could face up to four years in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Bush is scheduled to be arraigned April 28 at 8 a.m. in Superior Court in El Cajon.

Bush was allegedly intoxicated when he assaulted the players, who sustained minor injuries, according to Lt. Steve Shakowski, spokesperson for the El Cajon Police Department.

After the incident, the Padres shipped Bush off to the Toronto Blue

The incident is the third altercation Bush has been involved in since being taken No. 1 in the 2004 MLB draft. Two weeks after the draft, Bush was accused of felony assault and misdemeanor trespassing that stemmed from a nightclub altercation near the Padres spring training facility in Peoria, Ariz. Last summer, Bush was involved in another fight



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COMMENTARY

Jury duty's tough, but somebody's gotta do it

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

So death and taxes are life's only certainties, eh? Yeah, right. I'd heard that so many times that I was almost — almost — persuaded it's true. But recently, San Diego Superior Court gutted my take on that folkloric theory, in the form of an innocuous-looking summons delivered to my house uneventfully with some other innocuous-looking mail.

Jury duty. The cantankerous fly in the workaday ointment, coming and going as it ever-lovin' pleases, without the stingiest regard for the circumstances of the folks on whom it lands. If you've ever paid in to Social Security in any form, chances are you'll be tapped at some point, probably when you least expect it.

Sheesh. At least the Reaper has

sometimes, anyway). And with taxes, the infernal April 15 due date is etched in stone as well as in the public consciousness.

That summons was my ticket into the human race — a race I initially figured I'd rather sit out.

I'd soon learn that that "stingiest regard" thing was a product of my own ignorance. The local selection process isn't as arbitrary as all that. To sit on a jury, you do have to be 18 or older and a resident of San Diego County and conversant in written and oral English. And the summons does reflect that the Court makes concessions if your service will cause an economic hardship or some other major lapse in your quality of life; the powers that be can also arrange for you to serve in locations more convenient than those on West Broadway Downtown. And to boot, the grace to announce himself (or once you've done your duty, you

won't be called for at least a year. But whatever the Court may be,

it's not omniscient by any stretch. Accordingly, my stated reasons for requesting deferral fell on blind eyes after I mailed my summons back in. At 7:45 a.m. one day early last month, I found myself in a cavernous lounge in the Hall of Justice Downtown with about 250 other hardy souls, each of whom may also have had pressing business the Court would kindly preclude.

After a brief introductory film and a formal welcome from longtime Superior Court Judge Charles Gill, you're left with all the time in the world as the courtrooms determine the size of the day's juror pools. I opted to reread a book on Robert Louis Stevenson, my patron saint (that's to say favorite author), and his brush with civil unrest during his days as a late 19th-century resident of Western Samoa. New

French-built roads in the region, day's first litany of names over a he observed, overran sacred burial spots. European clerics were "educating" the natives in the "correct" ways of worship and obliterating a culture in the process. Young boys were taken from their homes as those same holymen forced their indoctrination. "Soul murder," Stevenson called it, adding that he found it tantamount to a military incursion.

A military incursion indeed, its planners oblivious to the concept of due process and fair representation. The kind of representation the Court was making its best effort to effect that morning.

And just as Stevenson bristled at the inequities in the South Seas, he'd have delighted in the democratic conduct that undermines

An hour passes, then another. A disembodied voice cranks out the state-of-the-art loudspeaker; a 100-minute lunch break follows. Two more rosters are called by quarter to 3, at which time the stragglers — including me — are dismissed, free and clear for at least 12 months. I grab my book and beat feet to my car, proceeding to salvage the rest of the workday.

But only then do I realize I'm in a profession with a job description not unlike that of an impaneled juror. Try as I might, I can't reason away my initial disdain for jury duty while pretending to uphold journalism's tenets. Stevenson had a law degree and wrote plenty of newspaper pieces in his day; it's a cinch he felt the same way.

And what's good enough for him should certainly be good enough for me.

Man, I wish I'd been called. Just wait'll next year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fossil story lends insight into promise of discovery

Re the March Downtown News piece on the mammoth and whale finds ["An elephant, a fish and the monster that ate 'em," page 1]: I wanted to commend you on Martin Jones Westlin's article. It is refreshing to read a popular article that is not only accurate but also offers insight into the intellectual promise of new fossil discoveries. For me, the "monster" in your article is the real story revealed by the TJSL fossils. Thanks for your thoughtful and well-written article.

> Thomas A. Deméré, Ph.D. **Curator, Department of Paleontology** Director, Department of Paleo Services San Diego Natural History Museum

Forget the seals; save the babes, and bring 'em on!

Whenever I speak with the zealous supporters of the Children's Pool seals, I give them several very good, practical reasons why I don't think 200 seals should be squatting in downtown La Jolla. I always ask them for their counterargument, and so far all I've gotten is: "I *like* to look at the seals.

look at" 200 Playboy Playmates

untamed, raw nature that kids in a city (or the country, for that matter) don't often get to observe up close. And they might even attract more tourists!

A couple hundred naked babes at Children's Pool, in the middle of La Jolla Village, just wouldn't be appropriate, would it?

But then again, they wouldn't be *nearly* as inappropriate as those fetid seals. Consider the following:

- 1. Playmates would presumably avail themselves of modern sanitation facilities, thus Children's Pool Beach would no longer stink.
- 2. Playmates would respect the marine preserve, and even if they didn't, the lot of them could never eat as many fish in a month as a seal eats in a single day.
- 3. Playmates, while they are very attractive, are not so to sharks. Despite what you may have read or heard, the fatal 2008 attack in Solana Beach was the first and only shark attack on a human in San Diego waters, ever. If the seals remain, expect further attacks.
- 4. Ellen Scripps really did a lot for us La Jollans, but, like Flounder in "Animal House," she screwed up — she *trusted* us. And now the council and Kehoe OK. You know what? I'd "like to and all the rest of our reprobate "leaders" are doing everything out there, prancing about, buck- they can to undermine that trust. naked, playfully frolicking in the Why would *anybody* ever give surf and sunning their beautiful, *anything* to the city of San Diego wild selves on the sand. This is again? The presence of naked



Playmates, however, would not violate the trust.

5. Presumably, it would still provide James Hudnall and others of his ilk something they "like to look at" without ruining our beautiful town.

So, come on, everybody! Save the babes!

> Joe Guiney La Jolla

We were wondering...

Mayor Jerry Sanders, after declining most of his \$100,000-plus salary for his first three years in office, began to collect it on Dec. 8, the day he was sworn in for a second term. Should Sanders have continued to refuse full pay as a exemplary matter amid the city's budget woes?

To register your thoughts, please go to www.sdnews.com, scroll down and click yea or nay. And don't be shy about posing your own questions, one of which we may choose to post as part of this monthly feature. Fee free to contact downtown@sdnews.com with your concerns. They're important to us.





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OPINIONS Signed letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters must include a phone number for verification. The editor may edit letters for clarity and accuracy. Letters should be 350 words or less. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of this newspaper or staff.

SUBMISSIONS Letters and photo submissions are welcomed. Those accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope will be returned. The

editor reserves the right to edit for clarity. **DEADLINES** All content must be received by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.

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Sfit C A HUB









Fit members have got it going on all over downtown. Everywhere you go you'll see someone from the club grabbing a coffee, having lunch, picking up drycleaning, walking the dog, running errands, or just hanging out. Fit members everywhere.

They are very well-connected and love socializing in the center of our city.

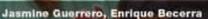
From the sleek and swanky restaurants and clubs to the cozy and cool cliques of coffee houses, Fit members take pleasure in the weekends and all they have to offer. Spending time with friends, attending social gatherings and sampling delicious menus from their favorite local restaurants are some of their favorite ways to pass their time.

Fit members spend a lot of their free-time at the club working out, taking fun fitness classes, watching sports games, hanging by the pool and sometimes playing ferocious games of pingpong. There's always something going on!

















After only two years, Twitter is oh-so 2009



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 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ **SANDRA SIMMONS**

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Twitter. "What's on your mind?" prods Facebook.

The way we receive information is changing at unprecedented speed. According to the excellent "Shift Happens" demographics video, it took radio 38 years to reach a level of 50 million listeners and television 13 years to garner "What are you doing?" asks the same number of viewers. The

619.234.6767

Internet gained 50 million sub- to realize how interconnected we scribers in just 4 years. The Facebook social utility did the same in half the time. And I venture to write that it took Twitter, founded in 2007, just months.

Hard to believe it's been only 10 years since the first blog was published, creating a revolutionary wave of social networks (Podcast, YouTube, Flickr, MySpace and LinkedIn, to name just a few). This second-generation Internet technology affects the way we connect with one another and how we gather information, and it represents a new way of doing business.

With more than 74 million members, Facebook-the largest of the networks-recently changed its prompt from "What are you doing right now?" to "What's on your mind?" The new question instantly changed the dialogue from action-based to more philosophical, thought-based responses. Seeking a way to better connect with my neighbors, I established a Facebook account and invited

are to one another.

Then, I discovered Twitter.

Just as e-mail made the art of manual letter writing obsolete, Twitter is supplanting long typed messages to friends and colleagues. With a tweet of 140 characters, one can create a clever, often witty, sound bite of information. A tweet can update a position in time and space to bring about a serendipitous connection, make the writer more human by offering a snapshot of life or just make someone smile.

Have you ever walked around a corner in a city other than San Diego and bumped into your college roommate? Or called a friend and discovered she was just that moment thinking of you? Or ever relayed an anecdote to find out the center of the story was your listener's sister?

I muse... What do you get when you cross 6 degrees of separation - the theory that persons A and B are genealogically separated by 5 Downtowners to join. It's amazing people at most, assuming persons

Brian Graham, of Nexus, says Twitter is quite addictive. He has company. Theoretically, the social utility, founded in 2007, already has 50 million users.

A and B aren't acquainted with each other — with the butterfly effect?

I asked Downtowner Twitterers why they tweet.

"I tweet because it keeps me in touch with my friends and business! Very simple. It's a great tool, catching the eye of everyone!" — Manny Cepeda, Bella Via

"Twitter is like blogging for the lazy. I was skeptical as to how useful it would be but quickly realized it's quite addictive!" — Brian Graham. Nexus

"I like using Twitter because it's easy and provides a streamlined message. I put a message up, my friends receive it. Everyone should join!" — Kara Galasso-Garcia, Villa Maria

Try it! Send me a tweet at twitter.com/SandraLSimmons.

Want to be connected to your neighbors? Send me an e-mail to join Viva-city's Facebook at Sandra@viva-city.info.

Viva-city, fostering a vibrant, welcoming community, where residents greet neighbors as friends! Visit www.viva-city.info.





PHOTOS BY SANDRA SIMMONS | DOWNTOWN NEWS Kara Galasso-Garcia (right), of Villa Maria, says Twitter is surprisingly easy and streamlines the user's work. Presumably, her young friend will feel the same way



Richard Walker's Pancake House, an upscale fusion of traditional and gourmet breakfast favorites, is now open in the Marina District in downtown San Diego. Serving classic-style griddlecakes, crepes, omelets and other specialties, this pancake house is certain to become the "premier" breakfast destination for San Diego's residents, employees and the tourist community! Open 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 7 days a week, and if you are unable to stay and enjoy the atmosphere, take Richard Walker's with you as we prepare orders to go.



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Situated in Bankers Hill, in a historic 1896 building is San Diego's newest, most unique and boutique Oenophile enclave. An elementally designed ambience with soothing samba or chill electronic makes one feel they're in another town somewhere far

Owner, Christian Gomez, a San Diego native, who sowed his roots in Venice Beach, from 1990-2006 is living his dream come true by providing a food menu like no other winebar. "My visions of offering bold and refreshing flavors to pair with an esoteric drink menu was something I knew would appeal to the winebar

April 12

Magazine's birthday marked by a sea of fashion (and don't forget the mojitos)



 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ **DIANA** CAVAGNARO

Ocean magazine hosted a bash at the W Hotel Downtown on Thursday, March 12, to celebrate the publication's 4-year anniversary. The first hour was a social hour, with a capacity crowd sipping on mojitos as the patrons waited for the fashion show, featuring the latest spring wear. The stage was set with the guests downstairs on the first floor looking up to the corridor on the second level, which was turned into the runway for the night.

Ocean is a nationwide publication headquartered in Corona del Mar featuring the scoop to fashion-forward women. The magazine's spring edition features model Kim Kardashian on the cover. The fashion show kept coming in waves of trendy new fashions down the runway, starting with Jet Set models in sexy bathing suits by Sauvage and Beach Bunny. Designer PetraO was on hand with her latest hand-painted designs. Participating retailers included Capricorn Boutique and Christie's Boutique. Chic accessories from Stephanie's Shoes, San Diego Hat Co. and Something Silver accentuated the collections.

For more information about this trendsetting magazine, visit oceanmagazine.com.

Fashion for a Cause

The W Hotel's rooftop was the scene for Fashion for a Cause charity event on Thursday, March 5, presented by La Chica Chic and Fashion Careers College (FCC). Everyone in the crowd was carrying a shoebox with a gift to donate — guests were asked to bring a pair of children's or youth footwear in its original packaging to benefit the nonprofit organization Shoes for the Soul. Boutique shopping was set up with Cristiane Valdez's delightful shoes and purses from her business, La Chica Chic. Tammy Neihart was on hand with stylish designs from Azzaria Boutique. Coastal EyeWear showed off its latest chic sunglasses.

Leonard Simpson, KUSI Style Guy and owner of Fashion Forward, kicked off the evening events by introducing Pat O'Connor, FCC founder/CEO, and Karen Morrissey of Shoes for the Soul. La Chica Chic and Azzaria Boutique preented their spring collection in the fashion show, which featured a long green bench as the catwalk. The runway for the second half of the fashion show was marked by the sand on the W's famous "beach" on the rooftop.

The last segment showcased designers from FCC and included a fashion competition. The guests voted for their favorite designer, and the winners were the team of Jose Maria Ybarra and Jesus Estrada, who created the winning dress. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, 1.5 million children in the United States go to sleep without a home at least one night of the year. Shoes for the Soul collects and distributes new shoes to disadvantage children. For more information, please visit

shoesforthesoul.org.

For your information...

Saturday, April 4: Soroptimist International of San Diego Up, Up and Away annual luncheon, awards ceremony and fashion show presented by Gretchen Productions at the San Diego Marriott. For info, (858) 277-2988.

Sunday, April 26: Spring Bridal Bazaar with fashion show presented by Gretchen Productions at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Three shows presented throughout the day. For info, (760) 334-5500.

Wednesday, April 29: Vista Hill Foundation annual boutique, luncheon and fashion show presented at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Fashion show presented by Gretchen Productions featuring styles from a variety of upscale San Diego boutiques. For info, (858) 514-5153.

Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally recognized hat designer and milliner. Diana has been operating a fashion business for 27 years, the last 17 years in Downtown San Diego's historic Gaslamp Quarter. She has been teaching in the fashion department at San Diego Mesa College for 17 years. Diana is an active member of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, theAmericanSewing Guild, the San Diego Costume Council and the Fashion Group International.

For more on Diana, please visit aheadproductions.com.



Above, a hand-painted dress design by PetraO catches the eye, while a long green bench (below) makes a decent impromptu runway.





PHOTOS BY DIANA CAVAGNARO | DOWNTOWN NEWS



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Stone Brewing & Wine Vault Bistro make a Meal to Remember

AROUND THE KEG

By Tony Clarke | Special correspondent

I was recently invited to attend a beer dinner hosted by the Wine Vault & Bistro and Stone Brewing Company. What is a beer dinner, you ask? A beer dinner is a fun-filled evening of great food paired with great beer paired with great education and conversation. Having been to a few of these events previously, I was delighted to accept.

The Wine Vault & Bistro is a place that takes pride in culinary expression and dining atmosphere. As you ascend the steps to the loft location, you get the sense you are being transported from San Diego to a picturesque Mediterranean bistro. The decor is clean and simple, with shades of white and open space dominating the design. The commotion on the street below is left behind, and relaxation envelops you as you sip a glass of wine and look out over San Diego Bay before dinner.

As I cozy up to the bar to order a beverage, I can't help but notice the fine selection of Stone beers on tap. As I am at a Stone beer dinner, this is to be expected. However, I am delighted to see some of San Diego's finest craft brews right next to some excellent wines.

I decide on a Stone Pale Ale to start my night. The beer is served to me at perfect cellar temperature, with a finger of head, in a wine goblet. Impressive start to the evening!

My wife and I take our seats for dinner at our table for eight. Everyone in the dining room is sitting with couples and groups outside their circle of friends. With the anticipation of dinner looming, we all quickly become friends. The conversation is light and interesting, and everyone is enjoying the company.

The service begins with a course of grilled local spot prawn, served in garlic butter and parsley, with blistered shishito peppers. The prawn is the size of a roll of quarters, and the garlic butter fills the air. We are given Stone's Levitation Ale as a pairing. Levitation is an amber ale with rich malt flavors, balanced by a big hoppy character and citrus overtones. The prawn is light and savory at the same time, and the peppers add a dimension of bitterness and color to the dish. Levitation enhances the sweetness of the prawn and the bitterness of the peppers in a balanced pairing.

Our second course consists of pan-roasted salmon over braised leeks and lentils. Stone Pale Ale is paired here. The salmon is light, flaky and perfectly cooked, with a beautiful crisping of the outer skin. The leeks and lentils are lightly salted and add a nice starch component to the dish. The savory flavors of the oily salmon and seasoned lentils go nicely with the robust and full-flavored pale ale. A distinctive hop spiciness allows the beer to complement and cut through some of the

heavier flavors.

As the conversation and laughter grow louder, we are presented with a cheddar and smoked porter soup with bacon lardons. This soup is made with Stone Smoked Porter and is paired with it as well. The soup is a deep golden-brown color, from the yellow cheddar and the deep mahogany color of the porter. The aroma of earthy produce and heavy cheese welcomes me on my first taste. The soup is light, with a deep flavor of smoked peat. The cheese subtly adds a component of richness to counter the earthy overtones. Stone Smoked Porter is the perfect pairing as it complements itself well!

Next on the menu, we had a lamb shepherd's pie served with Stone "Sublimely Self-Righteous" Ale. This beer is a treat for any "hop head," as it is a black double IPA boasting 90 IBUs (International Bitterness Units) and a healthy 8.7 percent alcohol content. Couple that with the fact that this beer is hard to come by, as it was first brewed for Stone's 11th anniversary. The intense hop flavors, melded

with the floral and citrus aromas, make for a wonderful tasting experience. Add in a smooth roasted maltiness, and you are hooked. The shepherd's pie was a nice pairing, as the heavy starch of the mashed potatoes and the concentrated flavors in the lamb provided comparable flavor intensity.

I remember as I eat that this is the second in a series of three dinners run by the Wine Vault and Stone Brewing, the first of which was held on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. I am quickly reminded again of this fact as our next course is a beautiful piece of corned beef and cabbage with German potatoes, baby carrots and whole-grain mustard. The meat was braised in a sauce tasting lightly of mustard and honey; the chefs declined requests for the recipe. Regardless, the corned beef was tender and beautifully flavored. The cabbage and potatoes added the authentic components to this dish, but the star was the

Stone brought its Oaked Arrogant Bastard Ale to pair. This deep red beer has a sweet aroma, enhanced by the vanilla from the oak. The sweetness was a hit at our table, and the hoppiness and well-balanced mouthfeel easily stood up to the big flavors on the plate.

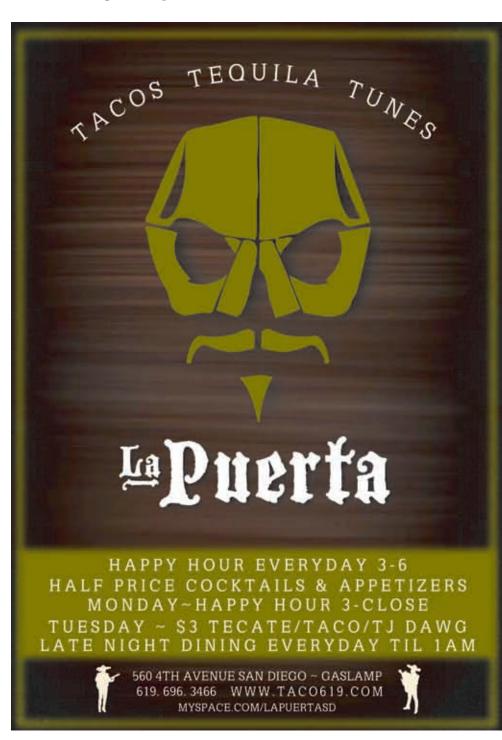
As the sixth and final course, we were presented with a slice of 5-Year-Aged Gouda paired with Stone Ruination Ale. The

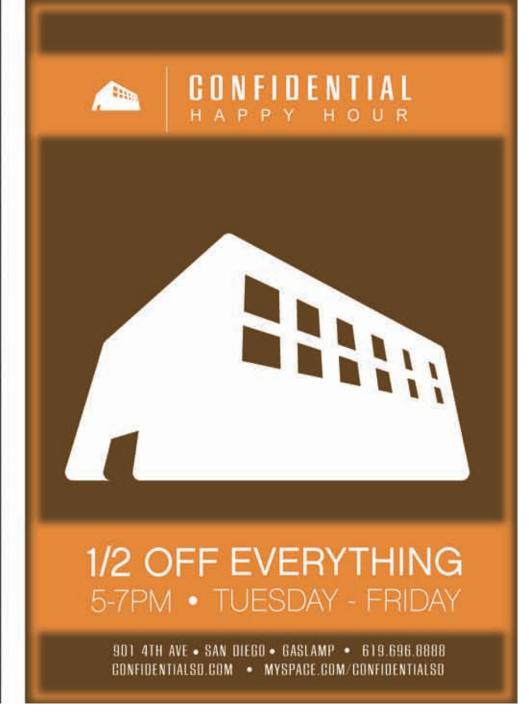
SEE **STONE,** Page 11



March 17-19 Wine Vault Bistro hosted a beer dinner with Stone Brewing Co.

Stone Ruination IPA was one of the beers paired at this event.





STONE

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

Gouda is served with a spot of honey to complement the bold fattiness and bitter flavor of the cheese. Ruination paired well, as it is one of the bitterest beers Stone makes. At more than 100 IBUs, the intensity of this beer easily cut through the strong Gouda, with its complex aged flavors.

By the end of the meal, I took a scan of the dining room, and no one was not enjoying himself. The chatter was deafening, and the smiles were abundant. The scene was a perfect example of how properly pairing food and drink can turn a meal into a meal to remember! I took the time to thank the servers and our hosts from the Wine Vault and Stone Brewing for a wonderful evening. If you have never been to a beer dinner, you should take the time and experience one for yourself. You won't be disappointed! Cheers!

The Wine Vault & Bistro is located at 3731-A India St. For more information, visit winevaultbistro.com.



Tony Clarke and his wife Liz own Airdale Brewing Company, located in San Diego. airdalebrewing.com

This month's spotlight: Malbec



By Ted Glennon | Special correspondent

Malbec, the leading red wine from Argentina, has exploded in recent years. Throughout San Diego a wide range of products from \$6.00 to \$250.00 a bottle can be found in wine shops and restaurants. The whole world seems to be participating in the latest "gold-rush," in the wineindustry. Legendary Château Cheval Blanc, winemakers such Michel Rolland of Bordeaux and Paul Hobbs of Napa, and Master Sommelier Fran Kysela, among others have set up shop in Argentina and are crafting/importing some delicious juice. So what is Malbec? Why the buzz?

Malbec is a thin skinned black grape, displaying flavors of blackberries, black cherry Jolly Rancher, dried strawberries, orange peel, crushed gravel, roasted meat, sweet mushrooms, and sweet to dried herbs. In the glass, the wine's color is opaque purple-black with an electric pink rim. Malbec typically is high in acid, aged in French or American oak barrels, and awash in hedonistic fruit when young and subtle power after some time in bottle.

Malbec is one of the classic Bordeaux black grapes along with Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Carménère. Throughout the world, where Cabernet and

to be found close by. Malbec is also an important grape for blending in the Loire Valley in names. France, where the grape is used in red and rosé wines, known introduced Malbec, Cabernet locally as "Côt." Cahors, France's oldest recorded vineyard (50 BC) is a small appellation in the southwest of France. Cahors has long been a producer of Malbec dominated wines, the regions current regulations demand a 70% minimum of Malbec in red wines. Malbec was at one point



Achaval Ferrer's Finca Altamira, one of Argentina's best wines.

Merlot is planted, Malbec is sure very popular in France and was grown in over 30 regions and has been known by hundreds of

> In 1868, Professor Pouget Sauvignon and Merlot cuttings from Bordeaux to Argentina. Malbec has a thin skin with a very intense color, the ripe clusters are rather large and the individual berries are very full. Typically this low ratio of juice to skin would infer a simple wine, however in the high elevation vineyards of the Andes Mountain Range in the Mendoza region of Argentina the book on Malbec has been re-written. The Andes provide a rain-shadow effect, which results in the dry climate of Argentina as opposed the lush and wet climate of Chile. Pacific storms travel across Chile and slam into the Andes Mountains, dropping most of the storms' power on the Chilean side, keeping Argentina rather dry. This has resulted in the highest elevation vineyards in the world, dominated by sandy soils, which prohibit many pests and diseases. It is not uncommon to find old Malbec vines in this area planted on their native rootstock, an anomaly in the wine world.

I love Malbec with foods such as duck confit, roasted leg of lamb, hard cheeses, BBQ ribs, pepper crusted steaks and especially a great hamburger. Due to the wines richness and acidity (the tart or refreshing character) it is a joy to throw fatty, sticky foods at it.



Malbec vineyard with the Andes Mountains in background

The real rock stars of Malbec in Argentina are the locals; look out for Luigi Bosca, Achaval Ferrer, Nicolas Catena, and Luca wines. All of the top producers release value offerings. If you get hooked; search for Achaval Ferrer's single vineyard wines; Finca Altamira and Finca Mirador, from La Consulta. The 2005 Finca Altamira is the single most stunning Malbec I've ever tasted, and is one of my favorite red wines of all time. Achaval Ferrer's wines are absolutely delicious and worth spending an evening contemplating.

Ted Glennon, is the Wine Director of oENOlogy, a modern wine tasting room at the Hotel Del Coronado. www.hoteldel.com www.enowinerooms.com



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EAST VILLAGE corner of 10th & Island

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café now serving Brunch

By ANGIE HARMAN | SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Imagine cool water flowing over smooth rocks, gurgling gently in the background as you sip a glass of exceptional wine. This is exactly the kind of soothing atmosphere Christian Gomez is aiming to create in his Banker's Hill wine bar, the Wet Stone Wine Bar and Café. Being housed in the first floor of an 1896 Victorian building, the cute antique exterior creates an interesting juxtaposition with its modern interior. The original concrete floors have been exposed to give the place a sense of its original character. Contemporary touches have been added to the decor like sleek light fixtures, cocktail height plank tables and stools and simplistic photography by Southern California artists. Cozy lighting, dark wood accents and smaller, intimate tables with leather seated chairs evoke a sense of tranquil-

ity.

"I want people to have somewhere to go where they feel they've been transported to a faraway place", says Proprietor and Chef, Christian Gomez. He adds that since everyone may not find the time to travel, the Wet Stone Wine Bar can be that getaway,

even if only for a short while. Easy, ambient music plays at a level perfect for toe tapping but is not obtrusive to conversation. Christian and his staff, including the resident Renaissance man, Jonas Rooth, offer a laid back and hospitable atmosphere without the pretentiousness some wine bars unintentionally (or perhaps intentionally) create. The staff is knowledgeable about the wines and foods they are serving and passionate about sharing that knowledge with their customers.

Wet Stone offers "small bites, big glasses". The wine experience is enhanced by the "small bites" menu which has been influenced by South American fusion. With selections like the Tomato Bruschetta, Caprese Salad or a fruit and cheese plate, there is plenty for foodies to be happy about. Unique items include the Olive and Nut Trio, the Quesadilla de Guayaba (a mix of three cheeses and guava paste) and Focaccia Flatbread Pizzas (Shiitake mushroom with fontina cheese and baby arugula, yum! Or the Chicken & Chorizo flatbread with Achiote chicken and chorizo bilbao). This wine bar has an impressive selection on its



BRUNCH ITEMS: Merguez lamb sausage with corn polenta

menu considering its size. Food presentation is simple yet elegant, and vegetarian dishes are also available. The small bites average around \$9. A selection of old and new world wines are listed by regions, with an emphasis on South American and Spanish wines. Christian hopes to educate people about the wines offered from these regions while complimenting the food selections. Glasses hover in the \$7 to \$12 dollar range. There are also a few specially chosen imported and domestic beers to choose from. Open since December 2007, the Wet Stone Wine Bar is working into its own style, attracting patrons who want a place to unwind after a day at the office or gather with friends for conversation over good food and wine. Happy hour is Tuesday through Friday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

with specials available on wine,

sangria and small bites.

Wet Stone is now offering a Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with such tasty choices as Chorizo Bilbao Frittata, the Shrimp and Avocado Frittata, Corn Polenta with Merguez lamb sausage and fried egg or Poached Salmon with fingerling potato salad and baby arugula greens. Be sure to ask about the "off-themenu" items...you could be in for a surprising treat like the Ciabatta French Toast drizzled with delectable café de olla syrup and served with fresh fruit. The fruits served with brunch, including fresh pears, mangos, and peaches, are a refreshing change from the standard fruit served at many restaurants. And of course, you are sure to find a wine, sangria or sparkler to accompany your brunch. The white wine sangria and mango mimosas are quite popular. Brunch entrees average around \$12 each.

Hours include Power Lunches Tuesday through Friday – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Small Bites and Big Glasses Tuesday through Saturday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Brunch Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Available for private tastings and gatherings Sunday evenings (closed Mondays). 1927 4th Avenue in Banker's Hill, San Diego. Ph: (619) 255-2856.



LUNCH/DINNER: Caprese salad





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Market 32 Produce opens in East Village

SPECIAL TO SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

Looking for farm fresh produce at incredible prices? Look no more Market 32 has officially taken over the fresh food scene in downtown San Diego. Located at 10th and Island, Market 32 is what happens when a traditional farmers market meets an urban neighborhood store. Farm fresh produce, flowers, and healthy snacks they grow themselves or source direct...which means big savings for you!!

ideal that fresh local produce and San Diego was a perfect fit a week!

Market 32 was founded on the for this family owned business. The East Village location will also should be available to those who have quick, and healthy snacks live there before it is shipped all for those on the go. Come by and over the world. The first location check out the great local and in Yuma, AZ was an instant hit, regional produce available 7 days



San Diego has a new way to enjoy Asian Cuisine

SPECIAL TO SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

J. Wok has hit the East Village and there's a new flavor in town. Using authentic Asian recipes from Thailand, China, Japan and Korea as a foundation we have created a new and exciting menu.

We offer an "Asian Modern Mix" with items such as a Korean BBQ Beef Sandwich Philly Style and Yellow Curry Chicken Roll. However, traditional stylings can be found on the menu including Kung Pao Chicken, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Spicy Basil Chicken and Pad Thai.

All ingredients are fresh, never frozen and prepared by our chef who has 20+ years of experience stemming from Thailand to Las Vegas and now San Diego. While you're here you'll also find an array of refreshing Asian drinks







EASTER AT THE DEL

- APRIL 12, 2009 -

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

The oceanfront Ballroom and magnificent Crown Room will host spectacular champagne brunch buffets with classic holiday fare, special selections for children, mimosas and Bloody Marys. Plus live entertainment and parking included, 9am - 3pm.

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What's Easter, without an egg hunt? Head on down to the oceanfront Windsor Lawn for tons of fun. Egg hunts for kids of all ages will take place at 10am and 12pm, Available for members, brunch, Sheerwater and hotel guests only. Advance reservations are required.

There will also be a fabulous holiday craft eggstravaganza open to the public from 10am - 12pm.

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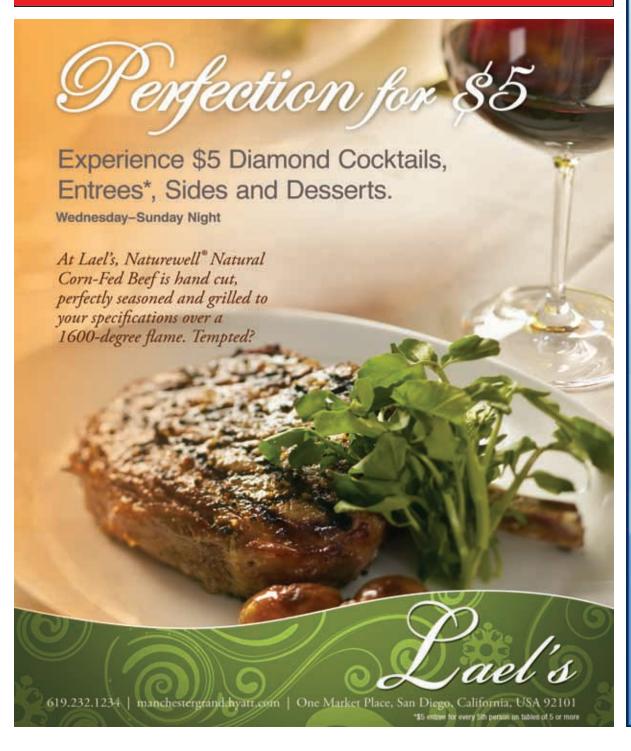
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Hotel Solamar's Dog Day Afternoons

Local dogs have something to look forward to each afternoon with the launch of Hotel Solamar's Dog Day Afternoons. Situated atop Hotel Solamar's rooftop playground, Solamar Terrace, pets find homemade treats, toys and friends by the bunch. Extending an open invitation to local dogs and their owners for Dog Day Afternoons, Hotel Solamar is a playful retreat for pooches and their best friends.

Known for its pet-friendly accommodations, Hotel Solamar created the Terrace Dog Park, an urban oasis that provides pets ample playroom just steps away from the hotel's shimmering Shore Pool. The Terrace Dog Park features cushy dog beds and plenty of comfy seating to sit back and enjoy the San Diego breeze.

While enjoying the sites and sounds of downtown San Diego, Dog Day Afternoon pooches are treated to signature homemade dog biscuits made using human-grade ingredients. Owners can sip on signature cocktails from the bar while their dogs sip on fresh water from dishes provided by the hotel.

With all of the snacking and drinking, there are bound to be accidents in the Terrace Dog Park. Hotel Solamar comes well equipped and has nature's accidents covered. Its special "In Case of Emergency" kits have everything needed to clean up after a dog leaves its mark, ensuring that the mixing and

mingling can carry on without a hitch. Dog Day Afternoons is free to the public and





runs every weekday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning Monday, April 13. Solamar Terrace and the Terrace Dog Park is located on the fourth floor of Hotel Šolamar, 435 Sixth Avenue, on the corner of Sixth Avenue and J

Photo submitted by

Mark Mills

& Xiaoning Yao

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VCA Main Street Animal Hospital

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Dawna & Spot (right)

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Obsessions: Chasing Rabbits

Submit your pet's photo to: jason@sdnews.com

Favorite Food: Almonds

Favorite Toy: Frisbee



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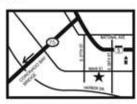
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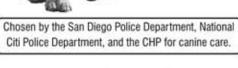
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Downtown · "The Grande"

Priced under all others in the community with this desirable, 1,944-square-foot floor plan, this elegant, 2-bedroom + den, 2-bath boasts stunning views from its southwest corner locale! You'll love the walnut flooring throughout, upgraded kitchen granite, dual balconies and parking spaces, and upgraded lighting!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5099



Downtown · "Breeza"

Brand new construction, choose from the ideal "starter" one-bedroom to the premier, southwest corner, 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence with stunning

the premier, southwest corner, 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence with stunning water and bayfront views! The heart of the community is its center courtyard, complete with a pool and spa, scenic patios and lush, tropical landscaping!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5069



It doesn't get much better than this and definitely doesn't get any higher in the stratosphere! Featuring the premium northwest corner of the top-floor of the highest residential building downtown, this amazing property has it all! Did we mention the view?

full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5429



You'll want to see this warm and inviting loft in the historic Soap Factory, which features rough-hewn timbers, brick walls, high ceilings, hardwood floors, and a one-of-a-kind community —Downtown's only brick development with an East Coast flair!

Dual pools and common amenities par excellence! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5399



You'll love this perfect pied a terre in the Marina District's premier, resort-style, luxury high-rise community! The residence boasts panoramic southeast corner views to the Coronado Bridge, Bay, and Petco Park. An elegant granite kitchen & an oversize view terrace. Enjoy! For details in a recorded message.

call 800-709-1995, Ext. 5269



Century Plaza Towers

Enjoy almost 1,500 square feet of upgrades in the area's landmark luxury high-rise hear Balboa Park! Featuring dual parking spaces and brand new Plantation shutters throughout, this pristine residence also includes a full-size laundry room, lovely views from its northeast corner location, and a private terrace! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5149



This top-floor cutie has been upgraded with rich hardwood floors, custom paint-tones, and a pristinely-presented interior! Perched in a quiet location in a low-density, beautifully manicured community with HOA fees under \$5500!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5299



New on the market, you'll enjoy a pleasant view of the entry courtyard and to the bay from this end-unit residence in one of Downtown's most sought-after luxury high-rises! Priced under all others of this floor plan, it represents a REAL value! For full details in a recorded message.

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5449



Take in the panoramic views from this 14th-floor, almostnew beauty in one of the Gaslamp Quarter's most exciting, uxury high-rise communities! Gleaming hardwood floors throughout and banks of windows bring in the active downtown skyline!

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5069

For full details in a recorded message,



You'll love the exciting lifestyle at one of the Marina District's most sought-after, luxury high-rise communities! This beauty boasts a prime Northwest corner location, dual balconies, custom lighting and paint, luxurious marble flooring, granite and stainless kitchen with gleaming Snaidero cabinetry, and dual parking! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5179



Ideally situated at the entrance to Petco Park, this fabulously-upgraded residence owned by a stone-mason overlooks the playing field as well as the Park at the Park! Offered fully-furnished so don't delay! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5079



One of the Marina District's originals, this popular mid-rise community boasts dual pool, a staffed lobby, and lovely, mature landscaping. This expansive 2-bedroom, 2-bath residence in a quiet location includes granite kitchen and a real, working fireplace! Dual secured parking spaces and a multitude of guest parking!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5029



Wow, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath residence in the heart of the Marina District is a great value for its size and location, balcony, and dual parking spaces! FULLY FURNISHED! Enjoy a granite kitchen and lower-than-average HOA fees! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5159



Boasting a premium north-facing location away from the usual train/trolley urban sounds, this expansive two-level town home is brand new on the market and truly priced to sell! You'll enjoy gleaming hardwood floors and dual side-by-side parking spaces! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5459



Enjoy life in this 'hip,' almost-new loft near Petco Park in one of the area's most desirable communities! Offered fully-furnished, it's ideal for the first-time buyer or second-home owner who is looking for a pristine, upgraded and 'turnkey' residence!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5219



You'll love this unique and pristine street-level town home, perfect for the pet owners who don't want elevators and long hallways to access the street! Gleaming hardwood floors throughout, secured parking and storatge, and a warming fireplace! For full details in a recorded message.

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5319



It's seller's loss on this highly-upgraded Southwest corner locale in one of Little Italy's most desirable luxury high-rise communities. Dual balconies and parking spaces plus a dead-on bay view make this a stunning opportunity! For full details in a recorded message, call

1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5239



This spacious studio loft on the terrace level features one of the few private patios in the development, a shiny granite kitchen, and a price below market as part of a lender SHORT SALE! Walk to everything downtown from this prime Gaslamp Quarter locale! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5379



The lowest-price two-bedroom in the development, this pristine residence overlooking the scenic pool features gleaming marble and granite surfaces, lustrous Snaidero kitchen cabinetry, dual parking + storage, and an oversize private terrace! Enjoy the highest quality common amenities, which ensure a lifestyle to be envied!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5409



Boasting incredible, 180-degree views to the west, south and east, this elegant penthouse features a wrap-around balcony taking in the views, a remodeled interior, and a lifestyle like none other!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5169



Seller savs he's not using his 2-bedroom, 2-bath in this

opener says ites not using its 2-octionit, 2-octin it its popular residential community in the bustling Gaslamp Quarter and wants to sell. Take advantage of this opportunity—complete with dual parking spaces and a gleaming granite kitchen!
For full details in a recorded message,

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Brush with the future

Downtown San Diego has a stake in keeping Deirdre O'Byrne's art alive

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The tallest building in Ireland — The Elysian apartment complex in the city of Cork — tops off at 17 stories, a little over one-sixth the number of floors at Chicago's mammoth Sears Tower. San Diego artist Deirdre O'Byrne cops to the chasmic difference in a couple respects. In the first place, she's lived in New York and Houston, the tips of whose skylines almost touch the outer Martian atmosphere; and early on, she toyed with a career in building science as she took in the workaday successes of her architect father.

But dad seemed to think O'Byrne would have more fun in graphic design — and a trove of low-lying Georgian architecture lay at her feet in her native Dublin, the inspiration there for the taking. The works you see at the right are prime examples of O'Byrne's present-day stock in the watercolor and oil trade, culled from 35 years' study, travel and devotion to the visual arts, fine and applied. Big fat citified buildings certainly have their qualities in this Mission Valley resident's mind's eye, but only as they complement a downtown core. Anything less washes away a city's character and its residents' sense of place.

O'Byrne, after all, has seen it happen before. Even in fabled Dublin.

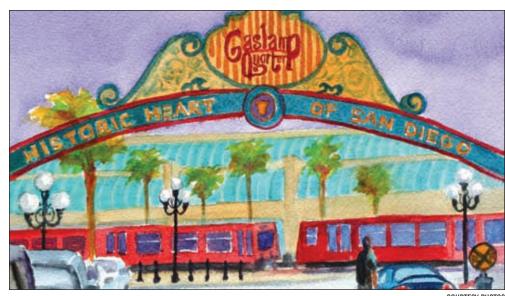
But this is San Diego, O'Byrne's residence for nine years and the steward of a true neighborhood environment the likes of which she's rarely encountered. "I think the different communities really make San Diego stand out," she told *Downtown News*. "Little Italy, the Gaslamp [Quarter], Hillcrest, North Park: They all have distinct little characteristics, all kinds of different architecture. And the signs (like the paintings of the overhangs you see here) are all different too, which is kind of interesting.

"I started off with the Little Italy [sign] because it's my number one favorite place," O'Byrne explained, adding that she plans to paint all 12 city-funded markers that dot the San Diego area. She prefers the plein air approach, which is a fancy term for painting on location. No photographs or visual aids for her — the rewards lie within the climate alone.

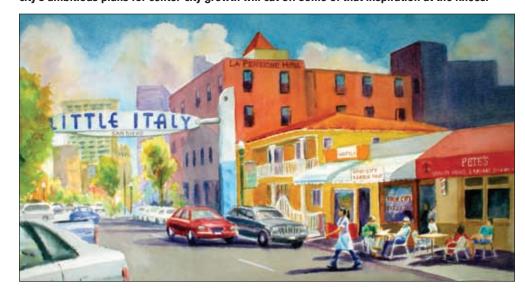
"It's all about the emotion and the feeling," O'Byrne, 49, said. "I'm not just painting a photograph. A photograph doesn't give you the sounds, the smells, the whole atmosphere. It doesn't create that excitement. When I paint on the spot, I'm painting my feelings and emotions of what I'm seeing in front of me. I'd rather be in the middle of it. My preference is to always paint from real life.

"If you want your painting to look like a photograph, then why not just take a photograph? And it's about color, too. Why not

SEE BRUSH, Page B8



The Gaslamp Quarter and its overhang certainly have their qualities, but for Deirdre O'Byrne, Little Italy is as good as it gets. O'Byrne, a local plein air oil painter and watercolorist, includes Downtown among her favorite San Diego communities from which to draw inspiration - but she wonders if the city's ambitious plans for center-city growth will cut off some of that inspiration at the knees.





COURTESY PHOTO

The third annual Seaport Village Spring Busker Festival, complete with some very brave street performers like the above, is set for this month--this time with a twist. For details and a directory of area venues, please turn to page B12.

The Bard of Balboa Park is the guest of honor at fourth annual Student Shakespeare Festival

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

William Shakespeare is expecting more than 200 kids from 35 city and county schools to show up for his birthday party this year.

The festivities take the form of the San Diego Shakespeare Society's fourth annual Student Shakespeare Festival in Balboa Park, set for Saturday, April 25. All are welcome at the free event, which commences at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion at 12:30 p.m. with a procession led by costumed actors that takes everyone to performance areas along the Prado. The day concludes with presentations of awards and closing ceremonies at 3:30 p.m.

Among schools participating

for the first time this year are dents — and she knows whereof says the experience has engen-Castle Park High (Chula Vista); Coronado School of the Arts (Coronado); Guajome Park Middle (Vista); Hoover High (San Diego); Monarch School (San Diego); Tierra Del Sol Middle (Lakeside); Valhalla High (El Cajon); and Wangenheim Middle (San Diego).

range from elementary to high school, will entertain on as many as five stages. They have worked with professional directors in preparation of 10-minute scenes from the Bard of Avon's plays.

One such director is wellknown local actor Linda Libby, who teaches at High Tech Middle Media Arts. Libby is a dedicated teacher who inspires her stu-

she speaks.

"Our school has participated since the first festival," she said. "That year, we did the Pyramus and Thisbe scene from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.' The kids had a great time — so much so that they came back. And they're still coming back. They're and ensuing celebration, during The students, whose ages in high school, and they seek out Snakespeare. I'm excited about informing him that he'd won Best that. They are really fired up about the Bard, and the festival gave them the chance to do that."

The inaugural group presented their scene at their school, and the younger kids became energized, too. And so it goes, on and on, with Shakespeare enhancing the students' skills and academic lives, according to Libby. She

dered attendance at live performances of Shakespeare.

Last year, Sam Hargrove, one of Libby's students, had to schedule his bar mitzvah around the festival. Some of his classmates and friends remained in Balboa Park; others went off to the rite which he received a phone call Actor for Touchstone in "As You

Hooray for the Bard! Hooray for the San Diego Shakespeare Society and numerous volunteers who make this annual outdoor celebration possible.

For additional information, visit sandiegoshakespearesoci-

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Mario Cespedes, one of this year's exhibitors in the 25th annual Mission Federal ArtWalk, often addresses pollution and the toll it takes on the planet. Brazil's River Tiete, he says, once acted as his partner as he dipped his canvas into its most contaminated area. For the first time, ArtWalk has a title sponsor, the Mission Federal Credit Union. The festival, which normally draws more than 100,000 visitors, is set for April 25 and 26 in Little Italy.

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Going with the flow: Brazilian river figures in Little Italy's 25th ArtWalk

By JOSEPH GREENBERG | DOWNTOWN NEWS

When I think of artwalks or festivals or outdoor markets, my mind is swept away into exotic bazaars marked by their hazy incense smoke. Or dirt alleys in the jungle, where monkeys get at your wallets just as easily as do the local artisans hawking their crafts.

Yet the art from some 300 regional and international artists. set to be shown at San Diego's Mission Federal ArtWalk on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, may provide some reasons for a travel snob like me to stick around.

One of the exhibitors supplying those reasons is Mario Cespedes, who was born in La Paz, Bolivia, a city shaped by its 12,000-foot elevation and its production line of colorful Alpaca textiles. At 14, Cespedes immigrated to Sao Paolo, Brazil, where he met and learned from other artisans in the city's public markets.

"When I was a kid, I took art classes in school in Brazil, and I saw how artists displayed their work in public places. I started showing my own work in a public park in downtown Sao Paolo. On Sundays, there was a fair for art and small crafts," Cespedes said.

Cespedes is aware of the distance between his style of art and that of the Bolivian and Amer-Indian artists, whose works are heavily influenced by earthen motifs and textiles. "I don't have the same feelings as the people back in Bolivia. I no longer see the images

have changed," Cespedes said.

"I went to explore the rainforest [in Brazil] because that's simply where I was living. I left my Indian heritage in Bolivia and began working with the rainforest and other South American themes."

One prominent theme in his art is pollution and the toll it takes on the planet. In one series titled "Sick Water," Cespedes immersed canvases in Brazil's River Tiete at the river's pristine source, at a point outside Sao Paolo and within the city itself, where the water was dark with pollution.

"The canvases were turned different colors based on where I put them in the river, and it made a very strong statement. The river was my partner," Cespedes said.

Cespedes began painting with oils and acrylics but has seen his medium change to involve more mixed materials. "Now, I work with wood, metal and any materials I can get. When I use other materials, it gives me more ideas,' said Cespedes.

The artist lives in San Diego and will be here until October, when he returns to Sao Paolo.

Two-hundred ninety-nine other visual artists and 30 bands or solo performers are coming to the 25th Mission Federal ArtWalk. The music will feature an impressive palette of international color, ranging from Novamenkos' New Age flamenco to Fiffin Markets' modern spin on Irish folk music.

Go back those 25 years and you

from that place in my mind, and I will find yourself in a time when ArtWalk managing director Sandi Cottrell was growing up in San Diego.

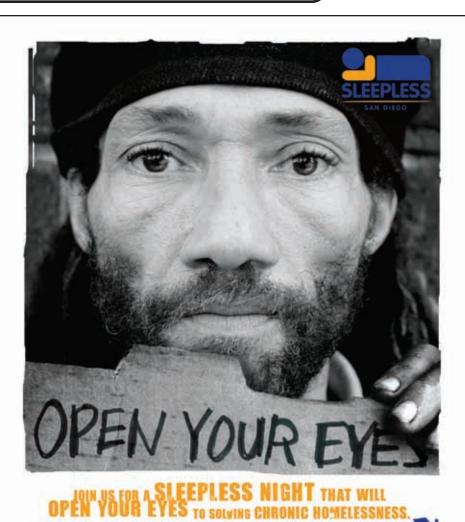
> "In its early days, the art was shown more from building to building, gallery to gallery. Art was even shown in empty warehouses and bank offices. Then in the '90s, when real estate was booming and inside display space became tight, organizers moved the art outside, Cottrell said.

> "2002 was the first year [art] was completely on the street. All of a sudden, your favorite restaurants along India Street became a great backdrop to artisans and their creations," Cottrell explained.

> 'The Mission Federal ArtWalk has grown over the years to become Downtown San Diego's biggest event," Cottrell added. The event normally attracts more than 100,000 patrons.

> This year is also ArtWalk's first year of title sponsorship. In the past, a number of small sponsors teamed up to fund the event. The organizers are now enormously grateful to have found the nonprofit Mission Federal Credit Union, a group that places the same value on art education in schools and other ideals the event is built upon.

> Practice pronouncing the mouthful that is Mission Federal ArtWalk as it comes to India Street in the heart of Little Italy on April 25 and 26 from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit missionfederal artwalk.org.



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On Tuesdays and Thursdays the kids work on mosaic projects. Chillearn to apply adhesive and grout their own pieces.

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camps that start June 8th. Full and half-day camps are available. Financial aid is also available for families in need.

Call 858-539-2003 for more information or to enroll today, or see their website at www.watersports camp.com.

YMCA of San Diego County

YMCA of San Diego County operates three distinct camps. All of our camps are mission driven, focused on the four core values of the YMCA; Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility. Your child will enjoy our safe and nurturing environment, all while having fun and making friends at our ACA accredited camp. Action packed days are followed by our legendary camp fires and skit nights. No matter what your child enjoys the YMCA has something for everyone.

YMCA Camp Marston is an activity based camp. Your child can choose from the 40-ft. climbing tower, archery, drama, arts & crafts, swimming, mountain scooters, and much more. YMCA Camp Surf is located near Coronado where water sports are supple-

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For Camp Surf contact Zayanne at zgardner@ymca.org or 619.423.5850. For Marston & Raintree Ranch, contact Simon at mtngroups@ymca.org or 760.765.0642.





For more information about our Summer Camps, contact us at: Tel: 760-765-0642 • Email: camp@ymca.org • Web: http://camp.ymca.org

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children, academia review, fun field Register by April 10 for a 10% early trips, and meeting new friends! In- bird discount! tegral Elementary School is child- $\,$ June 29 to July 24 - Tropical Adcentered, innovative, and maintains low student/ teacher ratios.

Please call 858-450-4321 for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. — Fri.

crafts, music and dance, yoga for more information and registration. \$850 for each 4-week session

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9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

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 ${\it Visit\ www. Super Camp. com}$ or call (760) 722-0072

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From June 16th-September 4th. We will serve your children with compassion, patience, skill and respect. Our goal is to introduce children to as many new experiences as possible and help each child feel confident and secure in a fun camping environment. We are dedicated to shaping the lives of our youth and to create friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

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Kid Ventures is San Diego's **Newest Indoor** Kids Village and Parent Cafe

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For more information on these camps, including dates, and on other DMA camps for kids and teens, please visit digital mediaacademy.org or call 866-656-3342.



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ing Julie Zedalis, Director of Summer Session, at zedalisj@ bishops.com or (858) 459-4021, Ext. 773. Come celebrate summer and learning on Bishop's beautiful campus in La Jolla.

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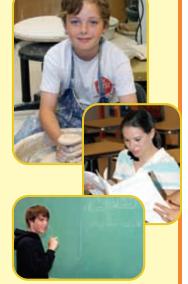
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For more information, visit aquarium.ucsd.edu or call 858-534-7336.

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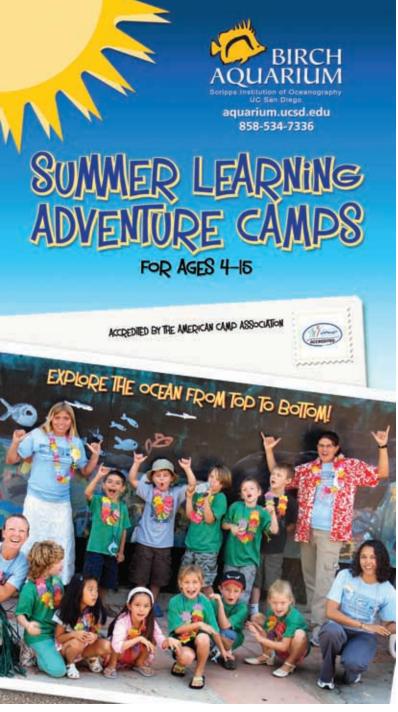
The top-notch GameBreaker staff is comprised of energetic and responsible coaches who look forward to teaching the next generation of lacrosse players better skills within a fun and positive atmosphere. Campers will learn better stick skills, enjoy positional drills, and play in fun and competitive full-field scrimmages. Each camper will receive a reversible jersey, water bottle and lanyard, as well as other great prizes from adidas

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We're excited to offer summer courses for small groups. Our 90minute structure and convenient scheduling will keep young minds and hands engaged. Our one or two-week courses include: Won-

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Our Fun Fridays will include a drop-in Arts & Crafts class and our free programs: a weekly Book Club for older, independent readers, a

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The 7th-12th program will also offer courses for Algebra Review and Geometry and Pre-Calculus Previews.

For information: www.wells academics.com. Contact Dr. Virginia S. Loh at *858-551-2650*.

Nike Baseball Camps

Director of the camp is Head Baseball Coach, Dan O'Brien. Coach O'Brien enters his 13th season as head coach of the UC San Diego baseball team in 2009. Serving as Lead Instructor for this week of NIKE Camp is Assistant Coach Michael Oseguera.

Campers will train on the beautifully groomed fields of UCSD. Tri-

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Last year the Tritons set a new

school record for wins, finishing the year with a mark of (43-18). UCSD also advanced to the NCAA West Regional for the second consecutive season. The Tritons enter the 2009 ranked No. 4 by the Collegiate Baseball Division II poll.

1-800-NIKECamp, www.USSportsCamps.com/ baseball

Warren-Walker School offers Adventure and Fun this Summer!

Warren-Walker School is offering an adventure-filled summer for children 3 years old to entering 6th grade. Prekindergarten students will do the "Boot Scootin' Boogie and the Hula" as they travel through a different state each week experiencing hands-on activities, music, water play, and crafts. Each week-long camp is taught by our own experienced teachers.

Children Grades 1st- 6th will be challenged, engaged, and entertained by three different camp options — Art Camp, Game Camp, and Science Camp. Art Camp teaches children drawing and painting techniques, including Tshirt and hat painting, as well as craft-making such as origami, puppetry, castle building, and more. Our exciting Science Camp will have tons of hands-on experiments, gooey concoctions, and scientific investigations. Children will head into outer space, learn why and how to "Go Green," and enjoy a Safari adventure! Each 'scientist' will wear a lab coat and keep detailed records of their observations

and findings. Game Camp helps students develop strategies for play, use their creativity, and strengthen math skills. Campers will learn and play Chess, Backgammon, Boggle, Chinese Checkers, and student-created board games.

Weekly Camp Dates are June 15-August 14, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Extended care is available.

Call 619-223-3663 for more information or visit the website at www.warren-walker.com

Astrocamp

Astrocamp is located in the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains near the town of Idyllwild. We offer one and two week sessions for

ages 8 to 16.

Enroll Now for Summer Programs! VellsAcademic

We will continue to offer our individualized academic programs in addition to the following courses:

Conversational Spanish, Wonders with Numbers, Critical Thinking in Reading and Math, Multiplication Boot Camp, Literacy Toolbox, Writers' Club and Writers' Workshops, Study Skills, Mad About Science, and Arts & Crafts.

Our free programs include weekly Wells Book Clubs, Storytime, and Community Spotlights.

To enroll or for more information, contact Dr. Virginia S. Loh at 858-551-2650.

Visit us at www.wellsacademics.com or 6830 La Jolla Blvd.

Registration forms available on-line

click on "Our Program - Summer School"

Astrocamp is an enrichment camp accredited by the American Camp Association. Our activities are designed to inspire, educate and entertain.

Astrocamp will make a difference in the life of your child. Call us at 1-800-645-1423 or look us up on the web at www.astrocamp.org.



La Jolla Country Day School Developing the Scholar, Artist, and Athlete of Character for 83 years Summer Enrichment Programs Academic Programs Day Camps Sports Camps La Jolla Country Day School Nursery to Grade 12 www.ljcds.org

The Peninsula YMCA for a Camp Program on which You can Depend

With the Peninsula Family YMCA, ity. The Peninsula Family YMCA has you receive a camping program you can count on, not just for good supervision and safety, but for the personal growth of your child. We work hard to select leaders who will be positive adult role models for your child and who have demonstrated responsibility, maturity, and reliabil- Call 619-226-8888 for more info.

low enrollment numbers that help ensure that your child receives the highest quality of care at camp. Come be a part of our amazing camp, we know your child will have a wonderful summer.







Camp Dates:

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9 a.m. - 3 p.m.(Extended Care offered)



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Shut Up and Dance!

By Connie Cook | Special correspondent

When was the last time you felt the earth move under your feet? Or better yet, when was the last time you moved the earth under your feet? There's nothing like the freedom of ex- to your workout, the Brazilians pression and what better way to express vourself than to dance? Whether it's cheek to cheek, down and dirty, a sexy samba or just bustin' out a coffee, Carnival and of course cocktail infused moonwalk the new fitness craze capoeira. across the dance floor (I hate it Capoeira is considered a when that happens), there is uniquely Brazilian folk dance some kind of dance move for every personality out there.

good for you! It burns calories, strengthens your muscles, reduces stress and best of all it's head butts, cartwheels and portable! You can take your fancy moves with you everywhere you go. No fancy moves into smooth acrobatic play, or to share? No worries! Those of us who teach group fitness participants and opens the classes are here to help you door to yet another method of get your groove on and shape you up at the same time!

Group fitness has come a long way since the archaic times of the early 80's; think leashing your exotic side, belly leg warmers and spandex, "Flashdance" and ripped sweatshirts, Jane Fonda and Olivia Newton John. Now fast ments that give you an Eastforward to a generation of hip meets-West sensual dance hop dancers, salsa aerobics, experience. Belly dancing striptease classes and internationally inspired workouts like abs, thighs, butt and hips, just capoeira and belly dancing. We've gone from "feeling the Belly dancing classes will burn" to "feeling the rhythm."

If you're looking for a workout that leaves you feeling like ered-up craft of hip wiggling, a rock star, and all you wanna hand circling, and neck archdo is dance, a hip hop instructor teaches you MTV worthy hip scarves complete with jinmoves like popping and locking that are sure to get you movement and help you feel night club ready, or at least a like a true belly dancer. little more confident when you home in front of the mirror.

of the music. The first steps ter body! can be a little challenging, but once you get the basics down and truly let the rhythm move you, your inner Mambo King or Queen will take over in no time!

Feeling a little sultry and slinky? Is seduction your middle name? Burlesque stars may have perfected the art of the tease but cardio strip instructors have perfected the art of bringing out the sexiness in everyone. Think Pussy Cat

Dolls in gym shoes. These classes are tastefully choreographed bumping and grinding combined with provocative eight counts of mesmerizing hip swaying and "come hither" gazes. Inhibitions are left at the door and everyone is encouraged to just let loose. All hearts beat a little faster in this class, especially those of the onlookers!

To add an international flare offer several options that will also make your heart to beat a little faster: skimpy bikinis, excruciating waxes, delicious with improvised fighting movements that create a fluid spar-And guess what - dancing is ring ritual. The classes move in synch to tribal-like music incorporating sweeps, kicks, crouches that are choreographed by the instructor sparring. It attracts all kinds of rhythmic movement with an opportunity to learn basic Brazilian fighting skills.

If you need some help undancing classes fuse mysterious middle eastern beats with intriguing hip and arm movestrengthens and tones your ask Shakira, her hips don't lie! shake things up like crazy as you learn lessons in the coving. Most instructors provide gle jangles to enhance the

Dance inspired fitness pump up your own jam at classes are a great way to bust a move with your friends in an If you think salsa is just for upbeat environment that fochips then you need get your cuses on fun while you learn a cha cha heels on and experi- new way to let loose. Don't ence the caliente Latin rhythm worry if you lack rhythm or of salsa dancing. Salsa instruc- know-how, the instructors are tors are popping up in fitness there to teach beginners and clubs everywhere sharing experienced dancers alike. It's their fancy footwork with all about having fun and the those inspired by Dancing with more fun you have the better the Stars and those who are you'll look and feel as you simply drawn to the spicy vibe shake your booty toward a bet-



Connie Cook Fitness Director Fit Athletic Club

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CONTINUED FROM Page B1

use color where you can? It makes you feel good.'

Presumably, the jaywalker in the Little Italy piece has lived to see another day. If not, she's a casualty of Downtown's urbanization, which began in earnest in the mid-1980s with the opening of Horton Plaza. The Gaslamp's sleaze factor and Little Italy's physical deterioration eventually vanished. But the projects include plans for gen-O'Byrne is concerned Downtown may swing the other way.

"That's one of the things I hope

I'd have to go to the south of France or something and paint over there.

DEIRDRE O'BYRNE

San Diego's going to be really careful about," O'Byrne said, "and not wipe out a lot of the history and the beautiful old buildings that have so much character. I know every city grows. I've seen them. I've lived in Manhattan, Florida, Houston, Seattle and now here. Houston was nothing, and now it's grown into all these skyscrapers. And in the nine years I've been here, the amount of building that's been going on is phenomenal."

And there's so much more to go. Centre City Development Corpora-

tion (CCDC), the city's development arm, says that the Downtown population, now at just over 30,000, will triple in slightly more than 20 years. The C Street Revitalization Master Plan; a new federal courthouse; prospects for a North Embarcadero makeover; the Kettner & Ash mixed-use development; plans for the Civic Center renovation and more: CCDC would love to see 'em in place by the time the new folks get here. O'Byrne will be glad to learn that many of erous green space; moreover, the city is working toward the creation of more open space for Downtown in the coming years.

She won't be so pleased to hear that the current recession is costing the city dearly. The fiscal 2009 Department of Park and Recreation budget — about \$83 million would take care of about onethird of all the deferred maintenance costs at Balboa Park alone. And in a March 20 letter to Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Donna Frye predicts that the city's immediate budget deficit could be \$60 million, 33 percent higher than the city's current projection.

If the recession chokes off growth, it may also force the contractors to rethink their plans, resulting in fewer encumbrances on the landscape — a landscape that O'Byrne thinks has weathered the urbanization storm fairly well.

"I'm glad to see there's a cute little house in Little Italy they're going to save," O'Byrne explained. They're actually going to take it up off the ground and move it somewhere," out of harm's way amid some planned construction. "And the skyline from Coronado actually looks pretty good. But San to odoodle.com.



Deirdre O'Byrne calls San Diego a painter's paradise amid its beaches and disparate communities.

Diego's all about tourism and its beaches. If you put all the modern architecture in, where's your beaches?"

And then, indeed, where would O'Byrne be?

"I'd have to move. I'd have to go to the south of France or something and paint over there."

As it turns out, she's already been to the south of France. "It was fun," she said. "I met some people from Ireland there. The Irish will always go to where there's sunshine, and that's why San Diego's so great for me. San Diego is a painter's paradise, with all the beaches and beautiful scenery and, again, those little communities. That's what I hope they'll save. I hope the planning committee people are keeping that in mind.

We'll see.

For more information on O'Byrne, featuring her work on people, seascapes and animals, go







Yes, Buying Now Can Be the Right Decision...Just be Smart

By John Olbrich, President of American Security Mortgage

A client of mine approached me recently and said, "John, I need some advice. Real estate prices throughout San Diego County and California have dropped dramatically and, from what we read, might continue dropping. So, even though my wife and I saw a house for sale that we absolutely love, we are afraid to buy it. What do we do?"

Obviously, it is extremely difficult to predict future prices, since there are so many factors that influence those prices (e.g. supply/demand, interest rates, inflation, credit policies, lending practices, global economic issues, environmental issues, employment issues, local industry issues, to name some). However, buying a home isn't all about price; it is also about "value," which includes, among other things, your ability to make your monthly mortgage payments and your quality of life. Therefore, if you are in a situation, such as my client, I can offer some advice: buying can be the right decision for you now; you just need to be smart about it and understand your alternatives.

In that regard, let me point out a few situations that show how buying now could be the right decision.

marily as a result of our deep recession, we are now experiencing some of the lowest interest rates most of us have ever seen in our lifetimes. So, what does this mean to your decision to buy a home? Let me show

Assume you are looking to buy a home with 20% down and a loan for \$546,250. At today's financing options, you may be able to secure a 30 yr fixed rate loan at 4.9%. This would mean you would have a monthly payment of \$2,899.

Now, assume the price for this home goes down dramatically in the next year and you could buy this home with 20% down with a loan for \$363,551. However, assume that interest rates do not stay low and begin to move upward. If, instead of the 4.9% today, you were only able to secure a similar loan at 8.9% your monthly payment would be \$2,899.

What this example shows is that if you wait to buy a home, prices may, in fact, decline, but you might not be any better off with your monthly mortgage payment. Because interest rates are so low, your monthly payment if you bought now could easily be the same or lower than it would be if you bought the same house at a lower price a year from now if the interest rate is higher at The value of low interest rates. Pri-that time. Therefore, even if prices of

real estate continue to marginally decline, if you plan on holding the property for more than a few years, you may realize greater "value" by purchasing at today's prices with today's historically low interest rates versus potentially buying at lower prices and higher interest rates tomorrow.

Available "conforming limits" are set to change. In February 2008, the Economic Stimulus Package was approved and in it was a provision to temporarily increase the conforming limits for fixed rate financing. As a result, the largest providers of fixed rate financing increased the conforming limits for San Diego to \$697,500. However, that increase has now been reduced to \$546,250. Eventually, the temporary increases are set to phase out completely, reducing the conforming limits back to the \$417,000 pre-Economic Stimulus Package limits.

What does this mean to a purchaser? Qualified people looking to purchase homes within the conforming limits can secure financing at significantly lower interest rates than those homes that cannot be purchased within conforming limits (and we have already seen what higher interest rates do to your monthly payments). If you could purchase a home today for \$680,000 with 20% down under a conforming loan package, your monthly payments could be significantly lower than if you purchased the same home for a lower price under a non-conforming loan package. Further, there still exists financing packages today that allow you to purchase \$1 million dollar plus homes using a combination of conforming loan packages and second mortgages. However, these packages also may not be available in the future. Therefore, waiting for the prices to drop for homes that

limits or meet the combination conforming limit/second mortgage packages could ultimately cost you a higher monthly payment if conforming limits decrease and/or the combination packages are unavailable by the time you decide to purchase the home. If so, then there is real "value" in buying today.

The above examples show how buying today, even in the face of potentially further declining home prices, could be the right decision for you. You just need to be smart about today could meet the conforming it and understand your alternatives.

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Music, human behavior intertwine in Globe's turbulent, brilliant 'Opus'



CHARLENE BALDRIDGE

Michael Hollinger's "Opus," an Old Globe Theatre piece playing through April 26 at James S. Copley Auditorium in Balboa Park, is as thrilling, well-constructed and turbulent as any Beethoven string

Playing in a string quartet, says fictional first violinist Elliot, should be "a discourse among four reasonable people." The reality is quite different. Because it is written out, with tempo and dynamics usually indicated as well, classical music is controlled. Human behavior is not.

Hollinger ought to know. He trained at Oberlin College as a violist and then switched to playwriting. "Opus" presents a gripping, intriguing character study of five musicians, each sensitive and, in varying degrees, volatile.

String quartets, especially younger American quartets, are less autocratic than before, even though some still believe the first violinist is the boss. Elliot (an the position needs immediate fillextraordinarily sensitive yet restrained performance by Jim named Grace (excellent Katie Abele, who played the second husband in The Globe's "The Pleasure ate), who hesitates, and not of His Company") may yearn to command, but in truth, the Lazara inner strife. She has an audition Quartet is run democratically; a the following week for first chair

majority, preferably unanimous, determines the group's personnel

and playlist.

Having met as students at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, the quartet is named for an 18th-century stringed-instrument maker. As part of their community property, they possess two Lazara instruments, a violin and a viola. Second violinist Alan (Jeffrey M. Bender) and cellist Carl (Corey Brill, also UCSD, MFA) are voices of reason, and yet they express strong opinions as well, ultimately deciding who stays and who goes. In the case of violist Dorian, they agree with Elliot to oust Dorian,

With his tousled hair and romantic good looks, Dorian (Mark H. Dold) is a perfectionist and the most emotional of the quartet. The audience learns in later flashbacks that he disrupted the final session in Lazara's complete recordings of the Beethoven string quartets. After being released from his contract, Dorian disappeared, off his mood-swing meds, his longtime, verboten affair with Elliot ended.

When the play begins, the remaining three are auditioning for a new violist. A White House command performance looms, so ing. They choose a young woman Sigismund, a UCSD MFA gradubecause she knows the quartet's

viola in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The others berate her, asking, "You'd trade playing in an orchestra for this?" She changes her mind.

In live performance, quartet playing is most exciting for players and audience alike. One never knows when a string will break. In a 1999 interview, Emerson Quartet cellist David Finckel said the audience doesn't pay to see perfection. "You want to be spontaneous," Finckel said. "The concert is the place to take chances. It should be unpredictable, alive and fresh."

The same can be said for Hollinger's play, which unfolds, in director Kyle Donnelly's sure hands, like a piece of chamber music, rife with movement, intertwining and overlapping dialogue, solo and duet sections. Although the actors do not play their instruments, they do a believable job of miming, albeit without hand vibrato, which kills the illusion for regular concertgoers.

Because the players switch places around the playing space and the placement of speakers is phonically stationary, it's sometimes unclear who's on first (pun intended).

Lindsay Jones' otherwise unerring sound design uses music of Bach, Beethoven, Pachelbel, Bartok and even The Beach Boys. Kate Edmunds' scenic design is composed largely of music stands. Denitsa D. Bliznakova's costumes are attractive, and York Kennedy's lighting design is immaculate.



COURTESY PHOTO

Grace (Katie Sigismund) is obviously less than thrilled with Dorian's (Mark H. Dold) advice in The Old Globe Theatre's 'Opus.'

bulent, shocking and bravely unresolved. There are no dull movements in "Opus," the best production yet in The Globe's temporary space. It continues at 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednes-

The denouement is thrilling, tur- days; 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through April 26 at the Copley Auditorium, San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. \$29-\$59. Visit oldglobe.org or call (619) 23-GLOBE.

Platt students feted for Latino Festival works

Platt College student filmmak- attend Downtown cultural events ers Jaclene Prongay and Donovan Manuel and instructor Lisa Franek were selected as this year's winners of the Nickelodeon Writer's Script Review at the San Diego Latino Film Festival, held last month at the UltraStar Mission Valley Cinemas.

"Beholder," Platt instructor Neil Kendricks' short film, was also selected to screen at the festival.

The festival, in partnership with the Nickelodeon children's television network, prepares applicants for submissions of their work to the Nickelodeon Writing Fellowship. Platt students frequently

as inspiration for their graphic design, writing and filmmaking.

Franek's script, "Puppy Love, is inspired by the NBC comedy "The Office," in which Michael proclaims his love on Valentine's Day with the perfect gift-a puppy. Manuel's entry is designed as a

30-minute episode of the "Hannah Montana" series. Prongay's script, "Squidward's Groovy Parents," was written as an episode of SpongeBob SquarePants, wherein Squidward struggles with his embarrassment over his very different parents.

— from staff reports



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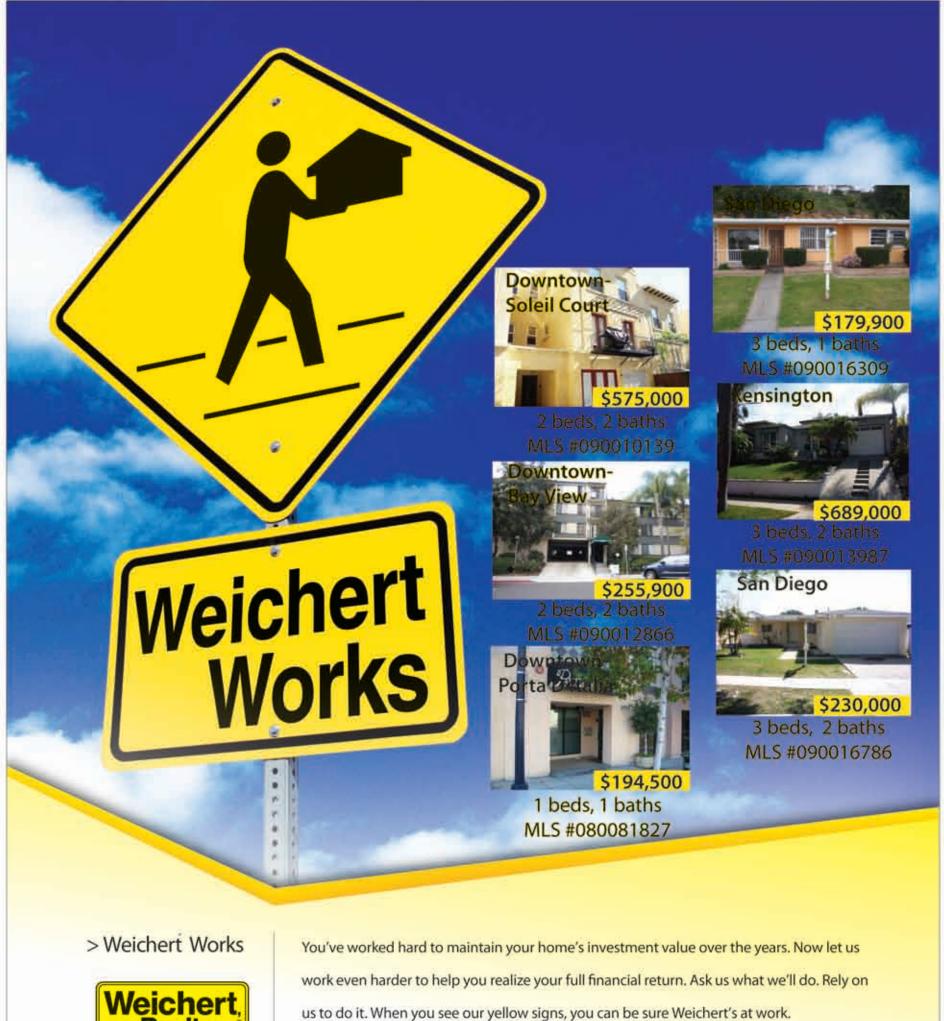
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Night moves: Buskers After Dark set

a flea on a continuum the size of your dog (the Europeans, after all, have been at it for billions of centuries). But the Seaport Village Spring Busker Festival has gained such a rep for its grass-roots entertainment value that the brass had no choice but to add a nightly performance slate this time. Buskers After Dark, which will feature a DJ guest appearance, is designed to

featuring an array of street-performing sword-swallowers, stiltwalkers, jugglers, acrobats, comedians and musicians. And again this year, the public gets to vote for its favorite three performers, who will earn prizes courtesy of the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. And don't forget the food and stuff. The fun takes place Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, from

It's only three years old this year, complement the daytime entries, noon to 5 p.m., with the nighttime edition running April 18 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Seaport Village is located at West Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway, adjacent to Embarcadero Park North. Visitors receive two hours of free validated parking with any purchase.

For more information, go to seaportvillage.com or call (619) 235-

Where to look for stuff to do

As a service to the leisure community and its insatiable desire for center-city entertainment, San Diego Downtown News presents the single handiest directory in the history of the universe. By no means is it comprehensive many venues present different types of fare at a given time (the Balboa Theatre is the home of the classical Mainly Mozart group, yet it's also a major site for ballet). Other than that, totally knock yourself out. All area codes are 619 unless otherwise indicated.

General information

Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, 402 W. Broadway, Ste. 1000, 544-1300, sdchamber.org

San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2215 India St., 232-3101, sandiego.org

Miscellany

Maritime Museum of San Diego, restoration/operation of historic vessels, 1492 N. Harbor Dr., 234-9152, sdmaritime.com

San Diego Zoo, 4,000 animals, panda research station, 2920 Zoo Dr., 231-1515, sandiegozoo.org

William Heath Davis House, oldest still-standing Downtown structure, 410 Island Ave., 233-5227, gaslamp.org

Gaslamp 15 Pacific Theatres, 701 Fifth Ave., 232-0400, pacific theatres.com **United Artists Theatres Horton Plaza** 14, 475 Horton Plaza, 234-4661, cinematreasures.org

Music

Anthology, jazz, rock, 1337 India St., 595-0300, anthologysd.com

The Casbah, rock, 2501 Kettner Blvd., 232-4355, casbahmusic.com

Copley Symphony Hall, classical, 750 B St., 235-0804, sandiegosymphony.com Croce's Restaurant & Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Ave., 232-4355, croces.com

Dizzy's, jazz venue, Second Avenue at J Street, (858) 270-7467, dizzys sandiego.com

Hard Rock Café, rock, 801 Fourth Ave., 615-7625, hardrock.com

House of Blues, rock, blues, jazz, 1055 Fifth Ave., 299-2583, hob.com

Performing Arts

Balboa Park, home to several venues, including the Old Globe Theatre, between Park Boulevard and State Route 163 above Bankers Hill, 239-

The Balboa Theatre, home of Mainly Mozart, 868 Fourth Ave., 570-1100, sandiegotheatres.org

The Civic Theatre, Broadway-style programming, 1100 Third Ave., 570-1100, broadwaysd.com

The Lyceum, San Diego Repertory Theatre and other troupes, 79 Horton Plaza, 544-1000, sdrep.org

The Old Globe Theatre, plays, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, 23-GLOBE, oldglobe.org

The Spreckels Theatre, home of City Ballet of San Diego, 121 E. Broadway, 235-9500. spreckels.net

Sushi, a Center for the Urban Arts, dance, plays, visual, 390 11th Ave., 235-8466, sushiart.org

The Tenth Avenue Theatre, plays, dance, 930 Tenth Ave., visit website of target performing group

Visual arts

Balboa Park, largest concentration of museums in the United States (15) including the San Diego Museum of Art, between Park Boulevard and State Route 163 above Bankers Hill, 239-

The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, many permanent and rotating exhibits, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd., (858) 454-3541, mcasd.org

The New Children's Museum, children's venue and playground, 200 W. Island Ave., 233-8792, thinkplaycreate.org

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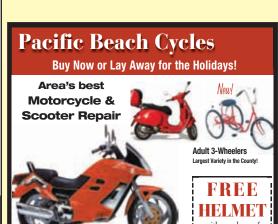






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Participation will be limited and will be on a first come, first served basis. An inside space will include a 6-foot table with cloth for \$100.00. An outdoor space is approx. 10'x10'. You provide your own table and/or awnings for \$75.00. This event will be publicized locally and flyers will be provided for you to distribute as well as an email version you can send. The proceeds from this event help the PBWC provide scholarships to deserving students from Mission Bay

> To secure your spot, contact Cheryl Alexander at calexander@san.rr.com. Reservations must be made by April 15, 2009.

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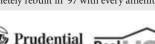




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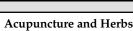
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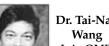
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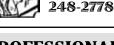
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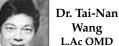
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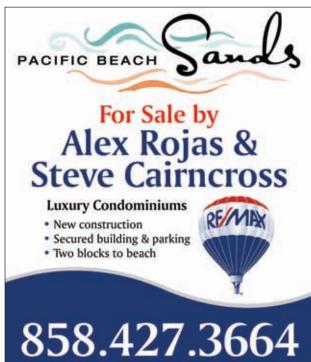




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