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The stories behind the songs

Ingrid Croce displays "Anthology," her latest book.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



Demonstrators attending a Feb. 27 Tea Party rally along North Harbor Drive waved signs carrying their conservative messages (above left), while a group voicing opposing viewpoints gathered across the street. PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



Tea Party draws conservatives

Those with opposing viewpoints rally nearby

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The rain eased a bit for an anniversary Tea Party rally Saturday, Feb. 27 at the foot of San Diego Bay along North Harbor Drive near Grape Street.

An estimated few hundred Tea Party movement supporters rallied against long-term government debt, accountability and for increased border security. Meanwhile, across the street, a group of about 50 others, mainly organized out of Ocean Beach, held "witness" to the rally waving signs calling for national healthcare and for higher taxes for the most affluent.

Former San Diego mayor and radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock spoke at the rally. Richard Rider, San Diego Tax Fighters chairman and local blogger, also spoke.

One Tea Party supporter, Paradise Hills resident Marcos Padilla, said he was more concerned about the city's pension liabilities than

state or federal government problems.

"There is disaster right around the corner, I think," Padilla said.

But while many Tea Party supporters rallied against high taxes at every government level, some on the other side of the road were calling for higher taxes for the rich.

"Everyone should pay his fair share and I think we're very, very far from it," said Ocean Beach resident Rick Callejon.

District 5 City Councilman Carl DeMaio also attended the rally, collecting signatures for a ballot measure that would require local government departments to open certain jobs to competition in the private sector. He said competition could help bring down municipal costs.

DeMaio added that he supports civic engagement like that which brought hundreds to North Harbor Drive that day.

"It doesn't mean you agree all the time, but you want people to be involved," DeMaio said.

Air races skip San Diego this year

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Red Bull Air Race, which last year flew across San Diego Bay with downtown's skyline as a backdrop, has skipped town and is headed for the Big Apple.

Race officials announced nine international stops for the aerobatic championship racing series and, apparently, New York-New Jersey has replaced San Diego on the schedule. A spokesman for the San Diego Convention and Tourist Bureau acknowledged that they heard about the change, presuming it was a matter of attendance and money.

May had been tentatively penciled in for another San Diego Bay event last fall but no news release was issued to indicate it had been canceled. The spectacle, involving 15 flyers from all over the world, drew crowds of approximately 150,000 in San Diego.

However, those figures were exceeded by more than twice that number in Perth, Australia; Windsor, Canada; and Dubai. San Diego was not alone, since London and Madrid were also dropped from the schedule.

The series format calls for a single race date in each country. The only exception was two years ago when Detroit and San Diego each were on the schedule. Detroit's race was moved across the border to Windsor. The fifth race of the 2010



The Red Bull Air Race was held above San Diego Bay from 2007 to 2009, with downtown's skyline as a backdrop. COURTESY PHOTO

calendar will be held in partnership with NYC & Company, Jersey City, N.J. and Liberty State Park over the Hudson River on June 19-20. Other countries include Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Germany, Hungary, France, Brazil and Portugal.

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SEE RED BULL, Page 5

Ingrid Croce shares thoughts about writing 'Anthology,' the tales behind 40 of Jim Croce's most-beloved tunes

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

It is possible that no other musician has made as big an impact on San Diego as the late Jim Croce, who passed away in 1973. He is practically synonymous with downtown thanks to his namesake restaurant, Croce's, opened by his wife, Ingrid Croce, in 1985. Meanwhile, his music is still heard on radio, TV and in movies. Such classics as "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" have been covered by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Dolly Parton, making them an indelible part of America's pop culture.

Recently, Ingrid published a new, 190-page book, "Anthology," detailing the stories behind 40 of Jim Croce's best-loved tunes. With full music and lyrics included, and lots of rare photographs, it's the ultimate book for Croce aficionados.

Though "Anthology" was only recently issued by

music publishing giant Hal Leonard, the seeds of the project go back more than 30 years to Ingrid's days on the East Coast folk circuit. Listening to other performers made her realize there were two tales within a piece of music: "Not just in the song, but also about how the song was written. I always thought this would be interesting to others," she said.

The opening of Croce's 25 years ago confirmed that thought.

"Over the years, people came up and told me things like, 'I've always loved this song, what did he write it about?'"

The stories in "Anthology" include several tales of songs co-written by Jim and Ingrid, including "Child of Midnight," offering wonderful first-hand insight. Additional information came from sources

SEE CROCE, Page 4

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Historic bridge open for traffic again

By LEE CORNELL | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A little bit of rain couldn't stop anxious onlookers in the Banker's Hill area from coming out to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 22 celebrating the reopening of the Historic First Avenue Bridge over Maple Canyon.

The bridge, which serves both pedestrians and vehicles, is located on First Avenue at West Palm Street.

"This is a remarkable achievement," District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer said. "This is a very important day for this community."

The bridge was originally built in 1931 and overlooks a patch of rolling green wilderness just a short distance from downtown. In addition to the serene canyon below, the bridge also offers excellent views of San Diego Bay, Coronado and Point Loma.

Besides the view the bridge provides, it makes the lives of residents more convenient. Work on the project began in



City Councilman Todd Gloria addresses the crowd Feb. 22 prior to the ribbon cutting for the Historic First Avenue Bridge over Maple Canyon while Councilman Kevin Faulconer looks on. COURTESY PHOTO

November 2008. During construction, people were forced to find alternate routes to get in and out of the neighborhood. For many this meant going four or five blocks out of their way.

"We're very excited from a convenience standpoint," local resident Marilyn Miles said.

Public transportation was also an issue. The number 11 bus, which passes over the bridge, was forced to make a detour during the closure. The change confused some residents who had a hard time figuring out where to get on and off the bus after the route changed. Now the bus can assume its previous and more direct route.

Work on the bridge encompassed three essential parts. First, it needed a seismic retrofit to prevent collapse in the event of an earthquake. Second, the bridge was cleaned of its lead paint and repainted in its original vibrant colors. Finally, street lighting to match the bridge's historical beginnings were put in place.

"We like the way it looks," Miles said. "We're really appreciative that they put the lights up. It gives a feel of days gone by."

Like many big construction projects there were some unforeseen delays including the discovery of an owl's nest that stopped work for about a week.

St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival set for March 13

By LILLIAN COX | DOWNTOWN NEWS



Members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick participate in a previous St. Patrick's Day Parade.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

The 30th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival will kick off at 10 a.m. March 13 with a flag raising at Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street in Balboa Park. The parade will begin at 11 a.m.

The Irish Congress of Southern California is again sponsor of the event which promises a day of family-friendly entertainment come rain or shine.

"You hear St. Patrick's Day and think 'beer, beer, beer,'" said Claudia Jack, board chair. "This is a family event. There will be kids in the parade doing Irish dancing. It's charming to see them with curly hair and dressed in costumes sent from Ireland."

Musical entertainment will be provided by marching bands, bagpipers and folk singers. With free admission, Jack said the event provides welcomed relief in today's recession.

Highlights include a patriot zone to give special thanks to local military personnel and their families. An authentic Celtic Village will provide insight into daily living in Ireland with demonstrations throughout the day of Irish swords and cooking. A fun zone will feature face painting, an inflatable bouncy jump, llama rides and carnival rides and games.

A shuttle will operate from the Prado in Balboa Park to the hub of activities at Sixth and Laurel. The festival ends at 6 p.m.



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CROCE

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

as diverse as period press interviews and old love letters between the two.

Though “Anthology” features all the hits, including “Time in A Bottle,” “Operator” and “I’ll Just Have to Say I’ll Love You in a Song,” it also includes a wealth of catalog material ripe for rediscovery. The songs were chosen “because they told stories and they resonated with me,” Ingrid said.

She describes the book as being like “a family album.”

“I included the first songs that he wrote, I included songs along the way, I used songs from every album that he released,” Ingrid said. “I included things that really told the story of our lives in his music.”

“That history really found its way into the song, all of that background. You can hear it in there when you go back and listen to it.”

INGRID CROCE

Keeping songs and stories in a timeline was important, but only to a point.

“I tried very hard to be chronological about the stories but in some cases it was impossible, as a song might have been started and written over a long period of time. Like for instance, ‘You Don’t Mess Around with Jim,’ was started when Jim was a teenager,” Ingrid said. “He listened to Lieber & Stoller and people of that period; rhythm and blues as well as what was played at the time on his parent’s Victrola. That history really found its way into the song, all of that background. You can hear it in there when you go back and listen to it.”

While she is happy to have the stories



Ingrid and Jim Croce are pictured during the early years of their relationship. COURTESY PHOTO

behind the songs told, she notes that the book’s biggest audience will be musicians wanting to learn how to play the songs themselves. The introduction of Jim Croce’s music to new generations is key to Ingrid’s projects.

“My work has been to keep Jim’s music and his memory out there,” she said. “That’s in appropriate places. I’m not interested in selling something I don’t believe in. I don’t want to see wine or perfume out there for ‘Time in a Bottle.’ I don’t want something out there that’s not quality.”

In addition to several “Best Of” compilations, over the past decade there have been several Jim Croce-related releases from the archives, notably the 2008 DVD collection of live and television clips, “Have You Heard.” The disc has sold more than 100,000 copies to date. Ingrid promises more archival releases will eventually see the light of day.

“There is a lot going on, even besides Croce’s Restaurant and Jazz Bar, which takes most of my time. I’ve got to kind of fit in the rest when I can,” she laughed.

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Association launches Little Italy Legends

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Little Italy Association will launch Little Italy Legends, a program designed to honor prominent Italian Americans who have local ties to the community, with a tribute to entertainer Frankie Laine at Piazza Natale on March 30, the crooner's birthday.

The ceremony will include live music and the unveiling of a granite plaque that outlines Laine's contributions to the world of entertainment and the local community. The plaque will eventually hang on a yet-to-be-determined building in Little Italy.

Laine began his career in the 1930s and rose to fame with jazz and R&B-influenced hits such as "That's My Desire," "I Believe," and "Mule Train." During his 75-year career, he released more than

100 albums and compilations.

He became a fixture of Little Italy's restaurant scene when he moved to Point Loma in the 1960s. He was particularly fond of the Busalacchi establishments, especially Trattoria Fantastica, Po Pazzo and Spaghetteria, said his longtime friend, producer and manager Jimmy Marino.

"Frankie loved Little Italy and frequented it often," Marino said. "His gold record for 'I Believe,' which was his all-time highest-selling album, is hanging at Po Pazzo; he gave it to Joe Busalacchi for Po Pazzo's opening."

Marino is captain of Team Frankie Laine, a group of the singer's supporters that formed after Laine's death in 2007 to keep Laine's music and image alive.

It was Marino who first approached the Little Italy Association about honoring Laine, and the association expanded his idea into the full-fledged Little Italy Legends program.

"It is important for [the Little Italy Association] to raise awareness about Italian Americans and mainstream their names," said Chris Gomez, the association's district manager. "We want to help people understand that Italians are not all the 'Sopranos;' they are not the 'Godfather.' They are about family, culture, arts and history."

The Association is currently developing further guidelines and criteria to decide who will be inducted next into the Legends program.



Frankie Laine will be honored March 30 as the first inductee into the Little Italy Association's Little Italy Legends.

Kettner Nights unveils another side of Little Italy

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES
DOWNTOWN NEWS

Little Italy may best be known for its authentic Italian cuisine, but a community of artists is adding a new dimension to the local culture with Kettner Nights, a bimonthly event celebrating the region's burgeoning art and design district.

On the second Friday of every odd month from 6 to 9 p.m., nearly two dozen businesses open their doors for a nighttime tour of the area's diverse artistic offerings. Visitors are treated to snacks, beverages and music as they peruse galleries featuring photography, fine art, paintings, sculptures, furniture, jewelry and print works. Even Harley Davidson contributes to the art scene, providing live entertainment in its showroom.

A group of artists created Kettner Nights five years ago to raise awareness about the growing art and design district in North Little Italy, which encompasses the area on Kettner and India streets between Laurel and Grape. Perry Meyer, who has organized the event since 2007, and who also owns the Perry L. Meyer Fine Art Gallery at 2400 Kettner Blvd., said that redevelopment in the region combined with the distinctive atmosphere of

Little Italy makes it a prime location for the emerging art scene.

"There is a strong and growing art community here. I've seen eight or nine new art or design-related businesses come in just the last year or two," Meyer said. "Each of us is really individualized in our arts — we're unique in our own way. And the fact that you can walk to the main part of Little Italy to check out the restaurants is also fun."

Meyer's wife, Kathy, who handles much of the

promotion for Kettner Nights, said they have had as many as 300 people come to the event.

"The event is well attended, and it's a nice tradition for all the businesses," Kathy said. "People get to see a lot at one time, and it brings exposure to this area so that people know there is a lot going on in the North end as well."

The next Kettner Nights event will take place Friday, March 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. on Kettner Boulevard.

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REDBULL

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

new and exciting sporting events that amplify its reputation as one of the most electrifying cities in the world," said NYC & Company CEO George Fertitta.

The Red Bull Air Race is different from all other motorsports in that it takes its race track with it wherever it goes around the world, bringing the action to the spectator. To do this, it takes a logistics operation unparalleled in the sports business to transport 380 tons of infrastructure and race equipment including 15 lightweight, 24-foot wingspan race planes and the sport's own traveling air traffic control tower.

"Staging a Red Bull Air Race in New York City and Jersey City marks an important milestone in the history of the global motorsports championship and we feel privileged to be given this opportunity," said Bernd Loidl, CEO of the Red Bull Air Race. "We look forward to our partnership with both cities and providing spectators with an incredible experience as well as enabling millions of television viewers around the globe to watch the best race pilots compete against the spectacular skyline of some of the world's great cities."

California Coastal Commission to Port of San Diego: Come back again in April

By **SEBASTIAN RUIZ** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The California Coastal Commission asked the Unified Port of San Diego, city and Coastal Commission staff to come back in April with revised plans to move forward with the first phase of North Embarcadero improvements surrounding the Harbor Drive and Broadway intersection. The estimated \$28 million project connecting the bay front to downtown could bring approximately 400 jobs to the area.

The port's proposed North Embarcadero Visionary Plan includes moving Harbor Drive 40 feet to the east, building an esplanade from B Street Pier to the former Navy Pier along Harbor Drive, public art displays, tree groves and open spaces, among other developments, according to port plans.

Coastal Commission staff recommended denying a coastal development permit because of changes to original plans, which call for a large oval park at the foot of West Broadway at Harbor Drive. Staff also cited an overall lack of parking in the proposed plans, according to Coastal Commission staff reports. California Coastal Commissioners sent the project back to planners during a February Coastal Commission public appeal hearing.

"[Port] staff is going to be meeting with Coastal Commission staff to try to work out something agreeable ... that would be a benefit to the area and add a nice feature and enhancement," said Unified Port of San Diego spokesman John Gilmore.

What that final plan would look like is still unclear.

As the project inches forward, fund-

"[Port] staff is going to be meeting with Coastal Commission staff to try to work out something agreeable ..."

John Gilmore
Port of San Diego spokesman

ing falls to the city and the port. The Unified Port of San Diego and the City of San Diego's Redevelopment Agency through the Center City Development Corporation (CCDC) plan to split the cost for the project, according to port officials.

The first phase of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan is part of an overall Port Master Plan aimed at developing the bay front along Harbor Drive and port tidelands with public spaces and furniture, marine terminal uses, tens of thousands of square feet of park space and other amenities resulting from a years-long public design and planning process.

The big plan also calls for projects like the Broadway Cruise Ship Terminal, a Navy complex, redevelopments of Lane Field just north of Broadway and the addition of the new 3.5 acre Ruocco Park, all near the intersection of Harbor Drive and West Broadway.

Michael McDade, former chair of an initial planning group comprised of local government agencies called the North Embarcadero Alliance, said this current phase would boost the state and national economy.

"[the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan Phase one] is in San Diego but it's

not for San Diegans. This is a major public entity for the United States and for California in particular. Millions of people will visit this park," McDade said to commissioners at the meeting.

He added that if stalled, the project could "go away."

But plans keep changing, said Point Loma resident Kathryn Rhodes. Rhodes appealed to the Coastal Commission about the project. Some California Coastal Commissioners also took issue with the project because of what some called piece-meal planning. Amendments to the plan are made implicitly through approval of other projects such as the Cruise Ship Terminal approved last year. The terminal could preclude the oval park at the foot of Broadway to make room for traffic.

"It looks like the Coastal Commission is holding [Unified Port of San Diego's] feet to the fire and not letting them do this whole piece-meal thing," Rhodes said.

Rhodes also pointed to a "presumed active" fault system beneath Port Tidelands. If ever confirmed, the fault system could preclude certain types of development, she said. However, port and city authorities show no signs of testing for fault activity.

The California Coastal Commission is set to decide on the project when commissioners convene April 14 through 16 at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, 800 South Victoria Ave., in Ventura.

Details of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan Phase one can be found at the Unified Port of San Diego's Web site www.portofsandiego.org.



MARDIS GRAS

A stilt walker and giant puppets were among the revelers roaming the parade route Feb. 16 during the 16th annual Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp celebration, held by the Gaslamp Quarter Association. Two parades took place during the course of the night. PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



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Bids are in for Quiet Zone work intended to avert railroad whistles

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Loud train whistles have been waking downtown residents and guests at wild hours of the night because of a federal requirement for train engineers to sound the horn at every street intersection. Residents have been trying to change that require-

ment for more than a decade.

They may get their wish this year with the establishment of Quiet Zones near intersections where enhanced railroad gate closures, median barriers, and temporary and permanent gate closures would allow engineers the discretion to sound the whistle. Changes will affect 13 intersections throughout the down-

town area from Laurel Street to Park Boulevard. These include converted segments of G Street from a two-way to one-way street, according to project plans.

"One of the impediments to residential and hotel development is the noise associated with train whistles. Creating a Quiet Zone to encourage people to live, work and visit downtown is an important thing for CCDC to address," Derek Danziger, Center City Development Corporation vice president of Marketing and Communications wrote via e-mail.

With added intersection changes, engineers would have the discretion, not a requirement, to sound the train whistle. This means the whistles could continue, just not as often.

Bidding for the estimated \$20.6 million project through the city opened Feb. 25, five bids were received and the low

bid was under the estimate by CCDC engineers. The project will be funded by local downtown property taxes.

Center City Development Corporation officials expect a contract for the project by June after approval by the City Council expected in April, according to Danziger. Estimated completion dates vary but could be as late as next year, according to CCDC timelines.

Gary Smith of the San Diego Downtown Residents Group has been blowing the whistle on trains for years. He said residents have been dealing with train induced insomnia for more than 14 years as the frequency of trains has increased since then.

"One [train] goes through 2:15 a.m. It's right at the worst time, when it rolls you out of bed and you can't get back to sleep," Smith said.

Resident Patrick McArron also creat-

ed the Web site, Quietzonesd.info, to disseminate and inform residents about the issue. He added that improvements could benefit residents through increased property values.

"It's all about improving the quality of life of people living near the railroad," McArron said.

The changes to the federal requirement were approved in 2005 and vetted by myriad local, state and federal agencies including railroad and transit companies, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), San Diego Imperial Valley Railway, North County Transit District, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Federal Railroad Administration. The process took so long because of all the different agencies involved, Danziger said.

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HBO's 'The Pacific' premieres at USS Midway Museum

San Diego's USS Midway was in the spotlight Feb. 25 when HBO premiered part one of its new 10-part mini-series at the museum. "The Pacific," created by Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman, follows three Marines as they navigate the brutal challenges of active combat during World War II.

One of the featured Marines, John Basilone, was briefly stationed at Camp Pendleton before being deployed to fight in the Pacific theater. He died in combat at Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945. In 2002, the Little Italy Association named Piazza Basilone for the fallen soldier.

HBO chose San Diego as the location for the premier after working with District 1 County Supervisor Gary Cox and San Diego Film Commissioner Cathy Anderson.

—Hillary Schuler-Jones



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Gala features Sue Wong

By DIANA CAVAGNARO | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A style-studded gala will be presented by The Fashion Group International (FGI) on March 26 at the Westin Gaslamp Quarter San Diego. The evening will include an awards ceremony and dinner followed by a fashion show with top designers, produced by Gretchen Productions.



Sue Wong

FGI announced that celebrity designer Sue Wong will highlight the evening with Style 2010 ... Night of Stars. The

house of Sue Wong specializes in opulent evening wear that is meticulously hand-beaded and embroidered.

"I strive for that alchemy, where the romance of the clothing transforms a woman into a goddess—an emissary of beauty," Wong said.

A goddess is what every woman feels like when wearing one of her signature styles.

Robert Rodriguez and local celebrity designers including Gordana "Goga" Gehlhausen ("Project Runway 6") and Jesus Estrada ("Project Runway 7") will show additional designs.

The Fashion Group will present awards to professionals who have demonstrated leadership and philanthropic endeavors. The awardees are: Sue Wong, fashion industry; Susan Lazear, education; Burl Stiff, media; Virginia Napierkie, community outreach; Maria Barry, interior design; and Gordana Gehlhausen, rising star. Burl Stiff, who has been an institution in our community for more than 30 years, also has a love of fashion and will show three creations that he has designed at the show. Julie Fought and myself are event chairs along with Honorary Chair Joyce Glazer and Honorary Celebrity Chair Tadashi Shoji.

Several fashion schools will have student representations at the event. Gladys Villacorta, a student from Mesa College, was announced winner of the Style Illustration Contest.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the fashion student scholarships as well as the Monarch School. For more information, call (619) 239-4287.



Opulent evening wear, meticulously hand-beaded and embroidered, from the house of Sue Wong. Photo courtesy of Sue Wong

QUESTION & ANSWER Downtown resident competes in 'America's Next Top Model'

By JOHN GREGORY | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Among the 13 participants in the 2010 "America's Next Top Model" series, which began airing last night, March 3, was Naduah, a 22-year-old full-time mother who calls downtown San Diego her home. Naduah took some time from her hectic schedule to answer questions last week before the first episodes of the Bravo TV show began. Here is what she had to say:

Question: What prompted you to try out for "America's Next Top Model?"

Answer: "I had been modeling locally for some time and it had become more than just a 'job,' it became an ultimate expression of art for me. I love to draw, to dance and to write poetry, and while modeling I feel all of these arts running through me. I use my experience from drawing to understand lighting and posing; from dancing I understand on-stage presence; and from poetry I learn to link it all together and make it flow. I had never really had the opportunity to take it to the next level, so I was enthralled by the possibility of doing just that by participating in 'ANTM.'"

Question: What will be the most difficult aspect of competing on this show: dealing with the other models or performing as a model?

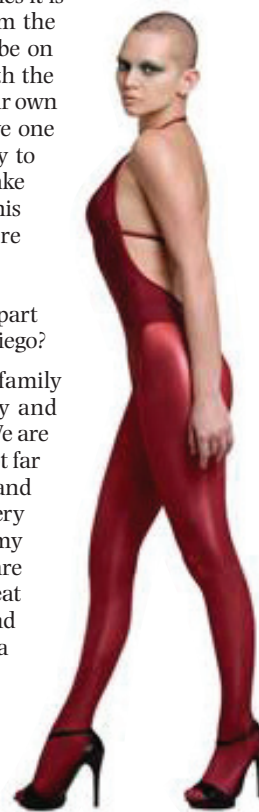
Answer: "Perhaps it will be most difficult to keep in mind the difference between just modeling and what it means to participate in a reality show. Knowing that it is not just about modeling or putting out artistically, but that it is also about being involved with everyone else on the cast for entertainment purposes does make it quite a different 'game.' I watch people a great deal and express myself most-

ly through my artwork, so at times it is as if I am looking at things from the outside when perhaps I should be on the inside and interact more with the other participants. We all have our own personalities and I do not believe one should distort themselves merely to be 'accepted,' but one should make the effort in a situation such as this to let others feel a little more involved with you.

Question: What is your favorite part about living in downtown San Diego?

Answer: "Especially being a 'family woman,' I enjoy the tranquility and activity possibilities of the city. We are not far from the shore, we are not far from SeaWorld or Balboa Park and the zoo. Seaport Village is also very nearby and that is one of my favorite places. My fiancé and I are both artists and San Diego is a great place to develop our interests and talents. We also both have a great love for the mixed martial arts, and this is one of the top places for it."

Question: What are your future plans beyond "America's Top Model?"



Naduah, a 22-year-old mother, is a participant on "America's Next Top Model." COURTESY PHOTO

SEE Q&A, Page 11

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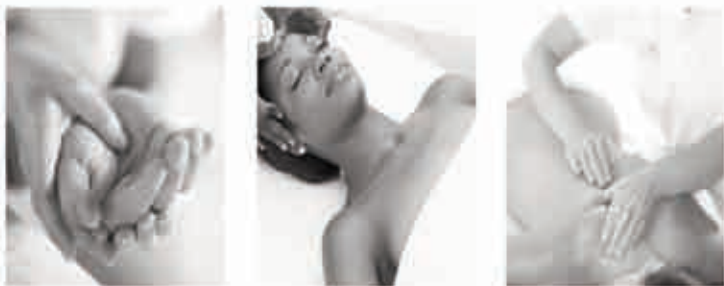
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Nicole Greer catches sunbeams in M. Dot's African Safari Romper.



Brittany Sackett is sitting pretty in M. Dot's Cebu Outfit.

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Photographer: Minh Huynh
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Styling: Jennafer Grace
Hair and make up: Rochelle Huynh
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Mahal Style
Mahal Style is a fashion team consisting of photographer Minh Huynh, hair and make up artist Rochelle Huynh and fashion stylist Jennafer Grace. The team works with local designers and artists to capture and showcase their work with Mahal Style's own brand of fashion photography/filmography.



Nicole Greer looks adventurous in M. Dot's Jungle Fever Jacket and Jennafer Grace's Suspect Zero Suit.



Kara Willingham is sure to attract her share of adoring glances in M. Dot's Brooke Dress.



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Hearts United

United Way and “Style Guy” Leonard Simpson presented a Valentine’s Day fashion show at the “W” Hotel on Feb. 12. Honorary chairwoman was Sally B. Thornton and event chairs were Jim and Tiffany Mahoney. The theme was Hearts United and all the attendees came decked out in their Valentine’s Day finery.

The show highlighted three emerging designers: the first bridal collection by designer Qadir Hamidi, fashion collection by Jose Maria Martinez Ybarra and couture designer Malgorzata Wieteska-Slocomb. Malgorzata debuted her latest collection “Birth of Venus” and created the beautiful Valentine Gown for the Hearts United invitation. Proceeds went to United Way. For more information visit www.uwsd.org

Princess Project Runway

Princess Project and the The Collective presented the second annual Princess Project Runway on Feb 11 at the Confidential Restaurant & Loft downtown. Students from Fashion Institute & Design Merchandising competed in a live prom dress design competition. Each student was given 1 ½ hrs to reinvent the prom dress.

Jodi Kodish (NBC San Diego) was emcee for the evening. The judges for the competition were: Gordana Gehlhausen (“Project Runway 6”), Lara Matthews (Founder of Thread Show), Gillian Flynn (editor-in-chief, Riviera magazine), Jason Wimberly (Rufskin) and Mahjuba Levine (fashion stylist).

The winners of the Princess Project were: 1st Place, Paul Hernandez; 2nd Place, Taylor Jensen; and 3rd Place, Romina Serio. All proceeds benefit The Princess Project, a non-profit organization that provides prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who could otherwise not afford them.

Q&A

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

Answer: “Hopefully the modeling industry will like my style and potential and I will be able to expand artistically and professionally and develop into a successful model and give my daughter as wonderful a life as I am able. I also will also be studying art and working on completing my artwork/drawings alongside my fiancé, and perhaps even write a book of poetry.”

Question: Will you tell us about your daughter?

Answer: “My 3-year-old daughter is the brightest, most adorable child I could possibly hope for. We named her Arcelia Shaitana Zen.”

Question: What is your favorite part of being a mother?

Answer: “Being able to play such a key part in her development, and seeing her grow and learn as fast as she does. She’s such a bright kid and a wonderful student of life, and nearly every day she surprises us with something else she’s learned. Zen’s father has been an amazing influence on her and I give him most of the credit for her intellectual and emotional strength, but it is so wonderful to me when I see her embrace something which I have taught her and how she puts it to use. Aside from my fiancé, she has been the biggest deciding factor in my life between failing and becoming something worthwhile. She and her father are what always pull me through in the end and keep me going upward. These are my family and dearest friends.



Brittany Simpson and Malgorzata Wieteska-Slocomb wear Malgorzata Wieteska-Slocomb couture at the Hearts United show. Photo by Diana Cavagnaro

A Royal Affair

A Royal Affair rocked the runway at the ASR Access Show on Feb. 3 and 4. at the San Diego Convention Center. This upbeat fashion show is always one of the highlights of the expo and this year a new atmosphere was created with a fashion lounge. Right in the center of it was placed the catwalk surrounded with couches, giving a cozy,

down-home feeling. The theme A Royal Affair” celebrated the fashions of the modern day queen. These creations showed off 2010 Fall/Holiday Fashions. The popular colors were brown and black with some eye-popping reds. The biggest trend is accessories: belts, long necklaces and earrings, and everything on the head such as earmuffs, designer earphones, head bands and hats. This season shredded leggings and jeans continue to be big.

In conjunction with ASR was the second edition of Class@ASR! which gave buyers access to hundreds of leading labels. Concurrently this year was Crossroads across the street at the Petco parking lot. Crossroads was a new way for retailers to preview hard and soft goods from the skate industry.

Upcoming Events

- **March 13** will bring a fashion show for Park Manor Suites near Balboa Park called “Runway at the Park.” The show will include fashions from several local boutiques and designers. The event will be held at Park Manor Hotel and Suites. For more information, contact Glenn Osborne at (619) 291-0999.
- **On March 20** the Soroptimist International of San Diego will present “Splash of Fashion” at its 39th annual luncheon, Making a Difference for Women awards ceremony and fashion show presented by Gretchen Productions and featuring fashions from Macy’s at the San Diego Hilton Bayfront. For information, call (619) 670-9880

Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally recognized hat designer and milliner who has operated a fashion business for 27 years, the last 17 years in downtown San Diego. She has taught in the Fashion Department at San Diego Mesa College for 17 years. Diana is an active member of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, The American Sewing Guild, the San Diego Costume Council and the Fashion Group International. www.aheadproductions.com

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Spring into a new mindset

Welcome to what is now almost spring time. For some, that hopefully means spring cleaning, as in "out with the clutter" (you know, that pile of magazines in the corner, old bills you meant to file crammed in the kitchen drawer and that stray, matchless sock, or two, hibernating with the dust bunnies between the wall and the dryer, ewwww!).

FIT SAVVY

By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist

For others, it means Spring Break, that amazing time back in our youth that gave us the illusion of pure freedom as we delighted in a week-long blur of beaches and booze. These days, it's a little different. Now we're just happy to have time to sip a smoothie with the window rolled down while we dart from the dry cleaners to the bank on our lunch break.

And for a select mischievous few, a spring fling is in order. A short-lived romance complete with warm fuzzy feelings and passionate kisses, romantic dinners, a small disagreement here and there, walks in the park, running late for a date, slight annoyances, making up, more passionate kisses, missed calls, lame excuses, "It's not you, it's me," then on to someone else. Oh well, c'est la vie.

Whatever your definition of the season, spring definitely signifies rebirth and renewal. It's a perfect time to embrace life and take a peek at where you are in yours, and make sure you are living up to your full potential by striving to be the best you can be every day. That sounds cliché, but if you do your best, who can possibly ask more of you?

We are all capable of so much more than we realize. With the pressures of this world it's sometimes easy to feel inadequate, inferior or imperfect, but the truth of your genuine capabilities always resides within yourself. No one knows you better than you, so take some time to slow down, focus and get re-acquainted with yourself and how you live in this world. Evaluate where you are and invigorate yourself with new direction if you need it.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of our lives that we run through our workouts in a hurry and then check them off our "to do" list. While a quick, vigorous workout might release enough endorphins to make you feel an immediate rush of accom-

plishment, by slowing down and focusing on your mind as well, you can truly integrate your whole body into the process and become more mindful of your actions.

One way to calm your mind is with a guided meditation class. Meditation is a technique you can use any time and place to still your mind and restore peace and harmony within yourself. It's a great way to put things into perspective. You are what you think, so you should think as clearly and as positively as possible.

Another way to integrate your mind and body is through yoga. Yoga teaches you to focus on breathing while you hold the poses, which creates an all-over calming effect. In yoga, you "surrender" to the pose by letting go of the tension. Once you learn to use yoga breathing, stress and anxiety can be dissolved in any situation from the dentist's chair to being stuck in traffic.

Finally, consider taking a Tai Chi class. Tai Chi has a calming and meditative effect that makes it particularly helpful for reducing stress and anxiety. This traditional Chinese practice can promote peace and harmony in your mind by improving the flow of the internal energy throughout the whole body. It has a calming and meditative effect that makes it particularly helpful for reducing stress and anxiety.

Take a journey of mindfulness this spring and reap the rewards of finding clarity in your life. Learn to find your zen within and you'll be able to better cope with the curve balls life may throw your way.



Connie Cook "C2"
Fitness Director
Fit Athletic Club

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Bobbi Brown representative at Fit Member Appreciation Day.



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Kim Goods, Maggie Lesley, Blake Chaney, and Colin Supko at Fleetwood.

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tion of nature and the environment, try new activities and develop new skills, develop existing skills, learn Jewish values, build a sense of community and most importantly... create memories that will last a lifetime!

For more information, visit us at campmountainchai.com or call us at 858-499-1330

Summer Academy of the Arts

The Winston School is hosting its annual Summer Academy of the Arts for students in grades 6–12 from July 12th to 30th, 2010.

Focusing on a theatrical production, which this year is "Grease," stu-

dents have the opportunity to develop creativity in one or more art media — including visual arts, drama, digital arts, dance or music. Students produce a finished product and integrate their work with artists in other media such as a concert, a performance, or a film premiere.

The Winston School inspires hope and success in bright, creative students who have struggled to realize their potential.

The Summer Academy is Monday through Friday from 12:45 to 3:45 p.m. Tuition is \$440 per student plus additional materials or trip fee if applicable. Please visit www.thewinstonschool.com or call 858-259-8155.

Kid Ventures Getting Ready for a Sizzling Summer

Kid Ventures is San Diego's best indoor play village and parent cafe. We are gearing up for another sizzling summer with camps, regular drop in play, birthday parties, specialty classes and much more. Our 6000 square foot air conditioned facility is the perfect place to spend your summer with a two-story castle, pirate ship, child's village with a market, fire station, theater, nursery, '50's diner, library and art studio. Our parent's island offers free wireless internet and a cafe serving specialty tea/coffee, tasty treats, meals for kids and adults and the perfect Summer fruit smoothies. Check out some of our new and exciting improvements as we approach our one year anniversary this May.

Kid Ventures is conveniently located off the I-5 Freeway in Pacific Beach — we are a sister company to Gym Ventures gymnastics which is right next door. Come and check us out! www.sdkidventures.com (858) 272-2266, 5066 Santa Fe Street, San Diego CA 92109

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Animal Adventure Camp at the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA

Animal loving kids can enjoy the dog days of summer with furry animal friends, fun games and activities at the San Diego Humane Society's 2010 Animal Adventure Camp. Kids ages five to 13 will interact with dogs, exercise bunnies and guinea pigs, socialize kittens, enjoy animal related games and crafts, get behind-the-scenes tours of the Humane Society's state-of-the-art campus and much more! Week-long Spring and Summer sessions are available March 29th to April 2nd and June 28th to August 6th. All proceeds benefit the animals and programs of the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. To register or receive more information including rates and availability, contact the Humane Society's Education Department at (619) 243-3432 or at edu@sdhumane.org. To learn more about our other programs visit www.sdhumane.org

MBAC Camp is now "The Watersports Camp"

The exciting and popular day-camp at the Mission Bay Aquatic Center has changed its name and logo and is now known simply as "The Watersports Camp." While the name has changed, the camp will continue to offer the same great services and camps for all levels in wakeboarding, waterskiing, surfing, sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, and marine science. In addition, the camp will offer a few new options this year, which include a full day small boat racing camp, and a half-day multi-sport camp. The camp has been in operation for over 30 years and is offered by Associated Students of SDSU, UCSD recreation and the Peninsula Family YMCA. The camp offers both spring break and summer camp sessions. Expect to be impressed by their professional and friendly counselors and instructors. 858) 539-2003
www.watersportscamp.com

Expanding the Horizons of San Diego Youth

As summer approaches many of the children in our community will

go from days filled with the familiar structure of school to ones of loneliness with the television and video games providing companionship while parents work.

For over forty years, the Community Campership Council has provided memorable summer experiences for deserving San Diego children by funding a week at camp in partnership with 21 area American Camp Association accredited camps. We believe that the camp experience helps kids get to know our outdoors world, make new friends, learn new skills and values and socialize with a diverse group of campers. This broadens their perspective about the kind of life they can build for themselves if they work hard, treat people fairly and set goals for themselves.

Community Campership Council,
7510 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.,
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Summer Camps. Our days are filled with gymnastics, games, obstacle courses, crafts, general activities and snacks/lunch. The end of each week is the Gym Ventures Olympics where parents, grandparents and friends are invited to come and see what our super star campers have learned throughout the week. Don't let another Summer go by without coming to Gym Ventures Sizzling Summer Camps. We are conveniently located off the I-5 freeway by the Grand/Garnett exit. Call us today at 858-272-2266 or check out our website www.gymventures.com for camp information and to register.

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For Marston & Raintree Ranch, contact Simon at mtngroups@ymca.org or 760.765.0642.

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For full details in a recorded message,

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Downtown · “Electra”

New on the market, you'll feel like you're on top of the world at this 33rd floor, northwest corner luxury residence complete with dual terraces, dual parking, gleaming hardwoods and stone finishes & never-ending water views!
For full details in a recorded message,

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

Downtown · “The Mark”

You haven't seen another like it—builder only constructed a few of this popular floor plan with an open living area, dual view terraces, and dead-on views directly into the ballpark and to the scenic bay and Coronado Bridge beyond! You'll love the upgrades from this 26th-floor penthouse-level beauty, which may convey full furnished with the right offer! Dual side-by-side parking, too!
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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5279

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Boasting one of the best water views in the Marina District, this 20th-floor penthouse-level residence features over 2,000 square feet! Original owner recrafted the interior by creating an open living space and a gourmet kitchen to die for! Four balconies and dual side-by-side parking, too!
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“Electra” Builder Close-Out

Bosa Development has selected us to market their few remaining luxury residences at one of Downtown's most unique and desirable residential communities! Boasting stunning views, elegant finishes, and common amenities par excellence! Take advantage of these blow-out prices today! Starting at \$349,000!
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Downtown · “Park Row”

The ideal first-time buyer property, this lower level one-bedroom in one of the Marina District's original communities includes a private patio with storage and secured parking. The community includes security guard, pool, spa, and meeting room PLUS lots of guest parking for a lower-than-average HOA fee! Bargain-priced!
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Downtown · “Park Place”

You'll want to see this wonderful residence with lovely Southwest views, dual balconies, expansive stone flooring and an ambient 2-sided fireplace in one of the Marina District's most sought-after communities! May convey furnished!
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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5339

Downtown · “The Grande”

Featuring an upgraded and pristine interior, this lovely residence enjoys gleaming cherry hardwood floors, a bay view terrace, a black granite kitchen with glass tile back-splash and stainless appliances, dual secured parking spaces, and may convey “furnished” with a strong offer! Stunning!
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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5369

Downtown · “Meridian”

Nothing compares—approximately 40 staff members ensure the ultimate in luxury living in an urban environment! This unique residence in the premium southwest corner of the community features 180-degree water views, 1,900 sq. ft., an open “loft style” floor plan designed for entertaining and easy living, and top-quality finishes throughout!
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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5499

Downtown · “Alta”

Listed a year ago at approximately \$200,000 more, this super SHORT SALE is a rare opportunity to enjoy a prime, 14th floor, northwest corner beauty in one of Downtown's most exciting, newer communities, complete with stunning views, an oversize terrace, gleaming hardwood floors, & top-quality finishes and upgrades throughout! Take advantage!
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Time is of the essence, so please contact us as soon as possible and let us use our considerable experience to help guide you through this challenging process. There is no obligation! Visit our web site at www.SellSanDiego.com, click on the resources button, and watch a short video which explains short sales in more detail, or call us at **1.800.221.2210**

Downtown · “Park Terrace”

APPROVED SHORT SALE, this almost new, 5th floor one-bedroom looks out to the stands at Petco Park, which is right across the street! The residence includes a private terrace, secured parking, and a granite and stainless kitchen. FHA approved complex!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5389

Downtown · “Harbor Club”

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

Downtown · “Meridian”

The ideal second home or primary residence, this east-facing residence is in wonderful condition and boasts wonderful night-time views of the city lights and urban surroundings! Meridian is Downtown San Diego's own “Trump Tower,” complete with service and amenities beyond compare!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5259

Downtown · “Pinnacle”

This stunning beauty on the 17th floor boasts split, dual master suite design, a warming fireplace, gleaming granite and stone surfaces in the kitchen and baths, travertine floors in the living areas, and a private balcony with views to the Coronado Bay Bridge! You'll love life in this luxury, high-amenity tower!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5229

Downtown · “Harbor Club”

You'll want to make this lovely residence your home or home-away-from-home! Featuring stunning views to the South and East, it enjoys an oversize view terrace and two terrific parking spaces near the entrance. This resort-style community is located in the heart of the Marina District. For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5109

Downtown · “Electra”

Amazingly priced under \$400,000, this street-level row home in the original historical façade of the SDG&E Station B features street access as well as interior hallway access, rich hardwood floors, dual, separated master suites, and a granite and stainless kitchen!
For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5329

Downtown · “Harbor Club”

Enjoy over 2,500 square feet of luxury and expansive views to the West, South, and East from this elegant residence! The warm and inviting interior boasts gleaming marble flooring, walls of windows taking in the views, three bedrooms, three walk-in closets, and three bathrooms. A bonus is the three secured parking spaces! Truly a resort environment in the heart of the coveted Marina District! For full details in a recorded message,

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

Downtown · “Watermark”

Hold onto your hats, you will LOVE this elegant, beautifully re-crafted and remodeled beauty, complete with 2+ bedrooms, 2 baths, over 1,550 square feet, rich stone surfaces and high-quality appointments throughout, including Merano glass lighting, dual parking spaces, and a covered terrace accessed via the living area as well as the master suite. Stunning!
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Downtown · “ParkLoft Short Sale”

Almost 1,700 square feet of classic “loft” design are in evidence, including high ceilings, cement walls and ceilings, exposed ductwork, & custom lighting. A room-size, organized walk-in closet is a dream! Take advantage of this super, below-market opportunity! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5349

Downtown · “Breeza”

Brand new construction, choose from the ideal “starter” one-bedroom to 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, and scenic patios and lush, tropical landscaping!
For full details in a recorded message,

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

Downtown · “Icon”

The ideal Downtown starter property and NOT a short sale or REO, this pristine one-bedroom residence in East Village's “hippest” residential community enjoys hardwood floors, a private terrace, secured parking, and a gleaming granite and stainless-steel kitchen!
For full details in a recorded message,

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Gaslamp's shamROCK 2010 to provide a night of revelry

By SEBASTIAN RUIZ | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Thousands are expected to paint the Gaslamp Quarter green for a shamROCK shindig on St. Patrick's Day at Sixth Avenue and G Street. Live bands, DJs, traditional Irish folk music and, of course, local pub specials on green beer promise enough emerald entertainment for the entire night on Wednesday, March 17.

Proceeds from ticket sales will help keep local history alive by benefiting the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation.

"It's our special event as a fundraiser," said Melissa Trew, Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation executive director. "Very few know that their night of fun turns into weeks and weeks of learning opportunities for many."

Daniel Drayne, owner of The Field, Irish Pub and Restaurant, 544 Fifth Ave., partners with the foundation to sell tickets for \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the event.

While the event doesn't always raise a pot of gold because of recent economic woes, it's enough to help the foundation fund educational programs, including running the William Heath Davis House historical museum and, programs for kids, guided tours through the quarter and the foundation's yearly signature "Fallback" street fair in which history buffs dress in period costumes from the 1800s, Trew said.

This year's shamROCK will include Irish step dancers and performances by bands like the Young Dubliners, The Fooks, The Downs Family and No Doubt cover band No Duh, all spread across three stages around several blocks. The main events take place in the Gaslamp on F Street between Fifth and Seventh avenues; Sixth Avenue between E and G streets; and on G Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, according to event planners.

Planners emphasize driving home safely by providing designated-driving shuttles for those who may have had too much Irish whiskey or green beer. Organizers will also be handing out free nonalcoholic energy drinks for designated drivers, said Natalie Gomez, an event coordinator with McFarlane Promotions.

"We want everyone to come down and have fun," Gomez said. "But we also want them to leave and be safe."

For details and an entertainment lineup, visit www.sandiegoshamrock.com.



These models of Mei long, a small birdlike theropod called a troodontid, are featured in the exhibition "Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries," March 27-Sept. 5 at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The models are based on a fossil that was first described and studied by museum paleontologists.

Photo by Craig Chesek © American Museum of Natural History

New dino exhibit will bring ancient world back to life

By JOHNNY McDONALD | VILLAGE NEWS

Technological advancements during the past two decades have unearthed a greater comprehensive study of mammals that roamed the continents more than 80 million years ago. These microscopic new discoveries will be featured in a traveling exhibit called "Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries," opening March 27 at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

This exhibit will be curated by Dr. Thomas Demere, a Joshua L. Bailey Jr. chair of paleontology at the museum since 1993. His research has focused on the evolutionary history and paleobiology of pinnipeds and cetaceans.

"There are many new sophisticated techniques in the last 20 years, like medical scanners to look inside the mammals," Demere said. "More paleontologists are searching for dinosaurs and to determine

the many ways to analyze data. Even developing countries are supporting paleontology with training procedures.

"In our area, we've collected the remains of dinosaurs from the [time period of] 75 million years. Armour dinos, Hadrosarus and Technosaurus fossils have been located in Carlsbad, La Jolla, Point Loma and southern Orange County. They're mostly isolated bones. Southern California's record of dinosaurs are rather limited."

An exhibit highlight will be a 700-square-foot walkthrough diorama depicting the rich diversity of these animals in a Mesozoic forest in China — considered to be the most detailed recreation of a prehistoric environment.

Visitors can stroll through a replica of time 130 million years ago and come face to face with amazing creatures, including the largest Mesozoic mammal ever uncovered,

the badger-sized Repenomamus giganticus.

Another highlight will be the Bambiraptor feinbergi, a well-preserved Dromaeosaur fossil that, along with several other fossils, provides evidence that dinosaurs were closely related to modern birds.

This represents the most up-to-date look at how scientists are reinterpreting many of the most persistent and the puzzling mysteries of dinosaurs. It reveals what they looked like, how they behaved and how they moved, as well as the complex and hotly-debated theories of why — or even whether — they became extinct 65 million years ago.

"There's still different compelling hypotheses about what happened to the dinosaurs," Demere said. "Including the notion that birds are closely related to dinosaurs and that

SEE EXHIBIT, Page B2

Orfila Vineyard and Winery: Award-winning wine in San Diego's backyard

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Orfila Vineyard and Winery, located at 13455 San Pasqual Road in Escondido, is only 30 minutes from downtown San Diego, but its idyllic setting in the San Pasqual Valley, on the way to San Diego's Wild Animal Park, makes it seem like a world away.

Pulling up to the tasting room, visitors are treated to a hilltop view of the valley, with 45 acres of vines stretching out between the facility and the rolling hills in the distance. Inside the warehouse-style building, a large wooden bar beckons visitors to try some of Orfila's 16 wines while observing stacks of barrels

and large steel tanks at the back of the facility where the wine is made onsite.

Visitors may also notice the rows of state and country flags that line the interior of the building. The flags are an homage to the winery's proprietor, Ambassador Alejandro Orfila, whose 40-year career in foreign service included posts as the Argentine ambassador to Japan and the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Argentina to the United States.

Orfila's international flair is especially fitting for this facility because of the diversity of the guests that visit the tasting room each year. The winery has

become a popular destination for tourists not just from the U.S. but from all over the world, due to its proximity to the Wild Animal Park.

This unique influx of international visitors has had a strong influence on Orfila's winemaking strategy. While most wineries in California focus on producing a few key varietals like chardonnay, cabernet, zinfandel and syrah, Orfila has expanded its offerings to accommodate its visitors' international palates with non-traditional options like riesling, gewurztraminer, sangiovese, muscat and tawny port. In all, the win-

SEE WINE, Page B4



Rows of state and country flags lining the interior of the Orfila Vineyard and Winery tasting room are an homage to the proprietor, Ambassador Alejandro Orfila, who had a 40-year career in foreign service.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Romantic comedies, a romantic tragedy, pipes and drums



THE LIVELY ARTS

Charlene Baldrige

March comes in like a lion, as they say, filling San Diego nights with earthly delights on the performing arts scene.

At the Old Globe Two romantic comedies

March 13-April 18 in the Old Globe Theatre: Marc Camoletti and Beverley Cross' London/Broadway "Boeing-Boeing" is a farce that concerns a Paris-

based architect who juggles three flight attendant "fiancées," that is, until turbulence hits.

March 20-April 26 in the Globe's new Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre: Another comedy, Kenny Finkle's "Alive and Well," which concerns an ill-suited couple searching for the oldest living Civil War veteran.

Tickets: www.theoldglobe.com or (619) 23-GLOBE.

At the Lyceum Siguenza's latest

March 21-April 11: San Diego Rep's Todd Salovey directs a workshop production of "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso," written by and starring Herbert Siguenza of Culture Clash. Siguenza sings, clowns, paints, sculpts and impersonates a matador, a Minotaur and a satyr.

At the Civic Theatre A romantic tragedy

March 13-21 at the Civic Theatre: San Diego Opera presents Charles Gounod's opera "Romeo and Juliet," based upon Shakespeare's great tragedy. In the title roles, the Cynthia Stokes-directed production stars real-life husband-and-wife Stephen Costello and Ailyn Pérez. Karen Keltner conducts. For information and tickets: www.sdopera.com or (619) 533-7000

At Copley Symphony Hall An all-American boy and a Russian pianist

March 12 at 8 p.m. only: Sensational American violinist Joshua Bell, who last month played a sellout recital for La Jolla Music Society, plays Max Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy" with San Diego Symphony. Also programmed: Dvorak's Slavonic Dances and Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings.

March 14 at 2 p.m. only: San Diego Symphony presents the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra in an all



San Diego Opera presents Charles Gounod's opera "Romeo and Juliet" at the Civic Theatre March 13 to 21. COURTESY PHOTO

Tchaikovsky program conducted by Alexei Kornienko and featuring pianist Alexander Sinchuk in performance of the Piano Concerto No. 1.

For tickets and information: www.sandiegosymphony.com or (619) 235-0804.

At Sushi

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16: Fresh Sound presents Scott Amendola, percussion, and Wil Blades on Hammond B3 organ. The San Francisco-based duo per-

SEE LIVELY, Page B3

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MEZZANINE

EXHIBIT

CONTINUED FROM Page B1

we still have them flying around."

This exhibit was organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, in collaboration with the Houston Museum of Natural Science; the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; the Field Museum of Chicago; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

A year ago, local museum paleontologists and construction workers excavating at the East Village construction

site for the new Thomas Jefferson School of Law downtown campus discovered partly exposed 500,000-year-old fossil remains of a gray whale and what they believe to be a southern mammoth, an unprecedented find in San Diego County.

These were displayed recently during a news conference at the museum. Shown were a mammoth skull with tusks, lower jaw, molar teeth, vertebrae and limb bones. Also produced were a gray whale's 8-foot lower jaw, rostrum, vertebrae and ribs plus smaller mammals.

Demere expressed the feeling that

many more fossils might be beneath the city.

"The dig depends on location," he said. "Torrey Pines State Park's erosion by the ocean has brought beautiful exposures ... rocks in the sea cliffs that are 48 million years old that could contain fossils. Another would be Mission Valley's erosion from the rock quarry. Heavy equipment has excavated into the slopes back 43 million years."

Paleontologists here lack the funds to explore, so they must rely upon building sites to come up with the surprise finds. Demere encourages them with his motto: "No hole is too deep."

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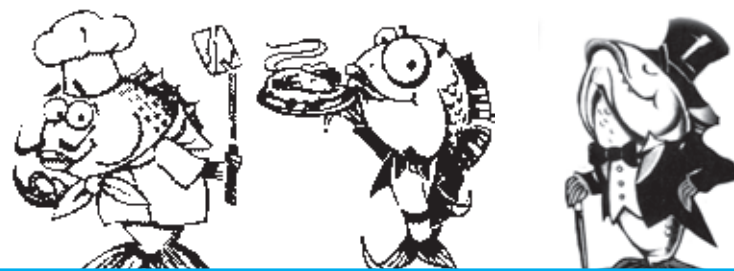
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Zombies and werewolves beware: Mystery Café Dinner Theatre cast is on your trail

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Mystery Café kicked off its 20th season last month with “Night of the Laughing Dead,” an original stage production that boasts dancing zombies, frightening werewolves, ghoulish villains and plenty of opportunities for audience participation.

The plot of the show centers on a film crew shooting the fictional movie “Werewolves and Zombies and Potatoes, Oh My!” The audience will be treated to the antics of an eccentric director, a creepy choreographer and a closing-number parody of Michael Jackson’s famous song “Thriller.”

Up to 20 audience members are recruited each show to take on roles as part of the film crew or the movie cast, and the rest of the audience can participate by trying to solve the mystery as it unfolds.

Producer Bud Godown, who bought Mystery Café five years ago, said the quality of the group’s production as well as its unique brand of humor sets the show apart from other dinner theater experiences.

“A lot of dinner theaters nowadays are bang-bang, shoot-shoot, somebody’s dead — it gets a little boring,” Godown said. “We change with the seasons and we’re comedy. We’re Carol Burnette and ‘Saturday Night Live’ put into a dinner theater room.”

The show takes place at the Imperial House restaurant at 505 Kalmia St., and a four-course dinner is included in the \$59.50 ticket price. The actors pull double duty as the restaurant’s waiters and waitresses before the show and during two intermissions, giving guests a further opportunity to interact with the cast.

Godown said that “Night of the Laughing Dead” will run at Imperial House as long as there is demand for the



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The cast of Mystery Café Dinner Theatre performs an original stage production that involves up to 20 audience members who help solve the mystery as it unfolds. The actors are also the restaurant’s waiters and waitresses, giving guests a further opportunity to interact with the cast.

COURTESY PHOTO

show. He is currently working on logistics for Mystery Café’s summer show, which runs Wednesdays and Thursdays in July and August at the Bahia Hotel. He will also be expanding the Mystery Café business by opening a takeout sandwich shop in the theater’s box office in La Mesa this year.

LIVELY

CONTINUED FROM Page B2

forms Duke Ellington’s “Far East Suite” as well as originals ranging from avant-garde to rock. Sushi Performance and

Visual Art, 390 11th Ave., \$10-\$15, www.sushiart.org or (619) 235-8466.

At the Balboa

At 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 7: the 80-strong Band of the Irish Guards/Royal Regiment of Scotland

celebrate with Irish and English pipes, drums and national anthems, just in time to put one in the mood for St. Patrick’s Day. Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave. at E Street, www.sandiegotheatres.org or (619) 570-1100.



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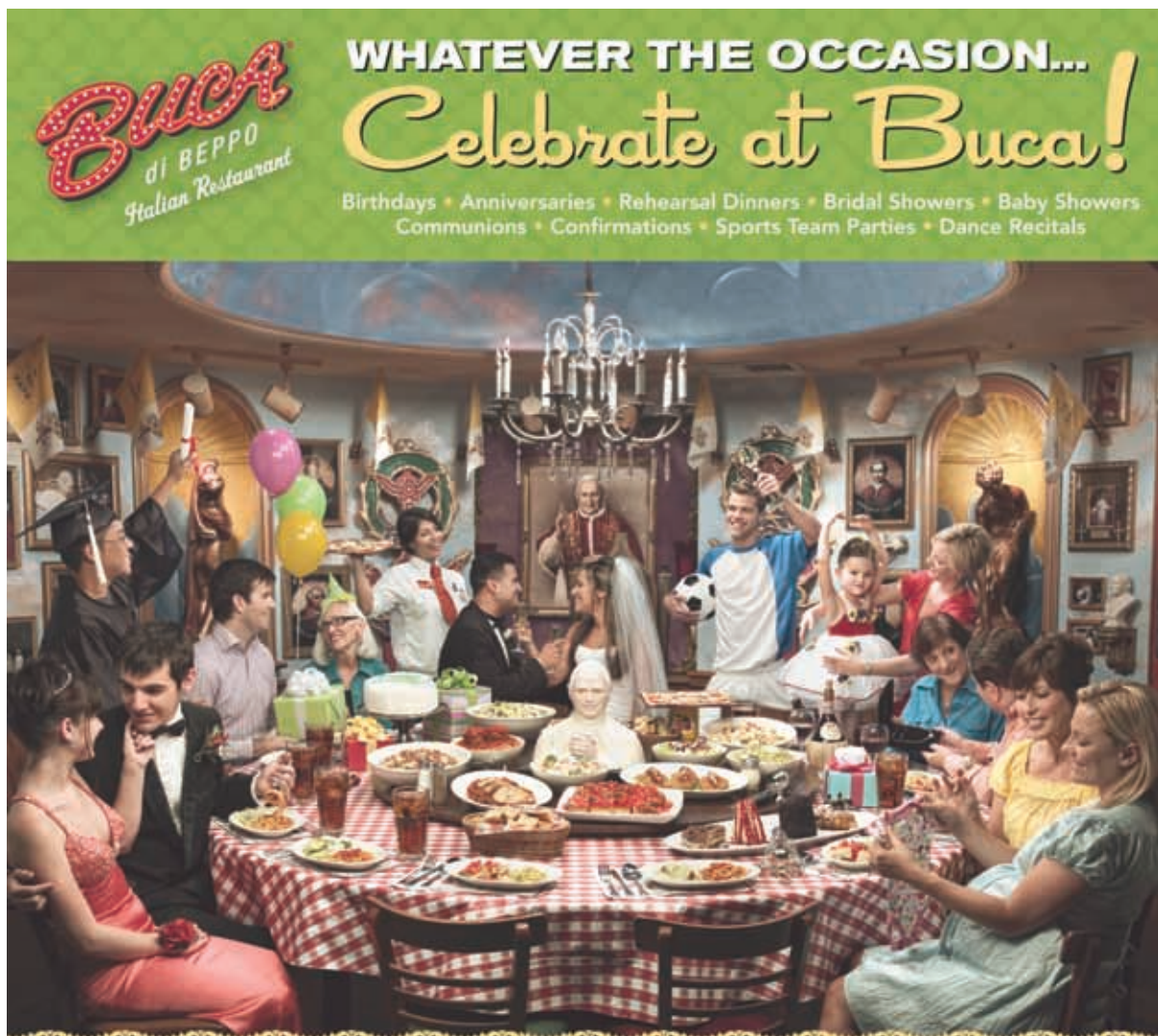
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ABOVE: Wine tasting at Orfila Vineyard and Winery is enhanced by a hilltop view of the valley, with 45 acres of vines stretching between the facility and the rolling hills. RIGHT: Orfila's executive winemaker, Don Reha, has embraced the opportunity to work with lesser-known varietals throughout his career. COURTESY PHOTOS



WINE

CONTINUED FROM Page B1

ery produces 13 different varietals.

Many winemakers would shy away from such a broad portfolio of wines, but Orfila's executive winemaker, Don Reha, has embraced the opportunity to work with lesser-known varietals throughout his career. He was one of the first winemakers to embrace single-varietal mourvedre while working at Cline Cellars from 1995 to 1999, and later he specialized in old-vine zinfandel production as the director of winemaking at Renwood.

"I like working with obscure wines and trying to make the best example of a varietal so that the varietal's unique characteristics shine through," Reha said. "We see such a mix of people that it benefits us to offer more, and if somebody wants to try our wine, we want to

have something for them."

Reha's winemaking philosophy is evident in each of Orfila's wines. "Lotus," an Estate Viognier blend made in the traditional Rhone style, has a jammy, marmalade finish that Reha describes as "biting into an exotic fruit." The Ambassador's Reserve Chardonnay, sourced from Edna Valley, is a smooth white that avoids the wine's characteristically strong oak finish without sacrificing the buttery-mouth feel that Chardonnay lovers expect. And the Ambassadors Reserve Merlot, one of Orfila's most popular reds, is rich and fruit forward with distinct hints of cherry and spice.

Orfila's Escondido tasting room is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with staff-guided tours every day at 2 p.m. The facility is also available for weddings and corporate events.

Orfila also has a second tasting room on state Route 78 near Julian, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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It's all Happening!

Marc & Darlynn Menkin

A gastro pub arrives

As San Diegans get ready to say goodbye to old man winter and hello to spring, one thing is certain — there's a lot happening downtown. Here are some highlights:

• Wine Steals is opening a fourth location in East Village this month. Located in the Park at Petco Park, this venture has a new twist. The 18,000-square-foot building will also be the home of Proper, a Gastro Pub with intriguing menu items like beef cheeks, shepherd's pie and their unique fish 'n' chips called chippees. "We want this new location to cater to locals," said founder Ken Mills. "We want to be known as the friendly neighborhood hangout."

Mills watched the gastro pub concept take off in England. One of his bartenders, Justin, was raised in Europe and also shares Mills' appreciation for the pub scene. When interviewing bartenders, they asked applicants to "build a drink in your mind and tell us about it." Their specialty cocktails menu fea-

tures unusual names. One drink called the Florodora was named after a popular London musical. Be sure to check out the outdoor seating area on the second floor. Overlooking Petco Park, you can tell it'll be the happening scene during baseball and rugby games.

• Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company kicks off "Self" (the remix) at the 10th Avenue Theatre. "Self" is a spoken-word, hip-hop play that mixes together stories, movement and music to tell the tale of an American child of Iranian and Guatemalan immigrants, growing up in California in the shadow of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The show runs through March 21.

• Anthology, on 1337 India St., will feature a Craft Beer Night and 52nd Street, an up and coming Billy Joel tribute band featuring local musicians Don Bowman and John Bowe on March 31, 7:30 to 9 p.m. We suggest getting there early for Happy Hour and getting a seat on the first floor.

• The annual Busker Festival is April 10 and 11 in Seaport Village. Most of the acts perform outside throughout the village from noon to 5 p.m. Prepare to be amazed by magicians, dance groups and other quirky street performers. A special "Buskers after Dark" performance will be held April 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. This show is best suited for those over 18 years old.

Marc and Darlynn Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding scavenger hunts feature secret downtown areas. www.wheretours.com

Urban Seder slated for March 29

Passover is different from all other nights, especially at sundown on Monday, March 29, when chef Matt Gordon and proprietor Scott Watkins will present their second annual Urban Seder at Urban Solace, 3823 30th St. in North Park.

Jews and gentiles will gather around the table for a lively dinner and Passover Seder, led by San Diego favorites Sam the Cooking Guy (Sam Zien) and restaurant critic Steve Silverman. And it's all for a good cause, as a portion of the dinner's proceeds will benefit Jewish Family Service's Project SARAH, supporting survivors of domestic abuse.

Sam the Cooking Guy and Silverman will conduct the Seder using the "Haggadah for Urban Solace" compiled by Silverman. Then, mixing his signature style with time-honored recipes, Gordon will serve family-style dishes including chicken liver pâté, charoset and house-made gefilte fish. The Seder will conclude with a four-course dinner paired with a selection of West Coast wines:

First: caramelized fennel and roasted garlic matzo ball with jidori chicken consommé.

Second: cold smoked char with asparagus/lemon/herb quinoa.

Third: braised shortrib, green garlic pistou, sweet potato-parsnip tzimmes.

Fourth: lemon blackberry cake with basil/mint and cracked almonds.

Passover commemorates the Jews' flight from Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. During the Seder, participants read from the Haggadah, which recounts the story of the Exodus.

The price is \$90 for adults, including wine, and \$75 for children. For reservations and information, e-mail Debi Saltzberg at events@urbansolace.net. Space is limited.

This is not a kosher meal but served "kosher style."

For more information, call (619) 295-6464 or visit www.urbansolace.net.

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Ever heard of a drinkabout?

AROUND THE KEG

By
TONY
CLARKE

Ever heard of a drinkabout? Sounds like a word play on the Australian term walkabout, meaning a nomadic excursion into the bush by Aborigines or anyone else who decides to partake (don't hold me to this definition, I'm just searching the 'Net like you... not an Australian culture buff!) From this basic definition, we might be able to deduce that a drinkabout would be an excursion dedicated to drinking? Close enough for now...

If you haven't heard, San Diego has become quite the national hot spot when it comes to great craft beer. So much so that San Diego was recently named the top city in America for craft beer by Men's Journal Magazine (October 2009 issue). Mentioned in that article as "the nation's best beer boulevard," 30th Street, passing through North Park and South Park. Along this stretch of hipster hangouts and eclectic farm-to-table restaurants you will find many of the nation's best beer bars serving tasty beverages with a local soul, story and flavor belonging San Diego.

So, what does this have to do with our loosely defined drinkabout? Well, once a month the proprietors of said beer bars along 30th Street get together and organize an event called a Drinkabout. Part social responsibility, part marketing, part just wanting to have a great time; the Drinkabout has been through three iterations since its inception and is gaining momentum with each event.

The way it works is, on the night of said Drinkabout, two complimentary buses are scheduled to work a set route around North Park, South Park, Normal Heights and University Heights, visiting eight great craft beer locations. The bus schedule is published well in advance, offering patrons the opportunity to hop on a bus every half hour at each location. The buses run from 7 to

11 p.m. and are promptly where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there! As mentioned before, this whole setup is complimentary and designed to allow you, the craft beer lover, the ability to visit your favorite bars and tap handles with ease and safety.

Usually occurring on a Wednesday night, the drinkabout is more than transportation from bar to bar. As you progress through your evening, you will run into some old friends and make some new ones. The industry and fan base surrounding craft beer is one of the friendliest and unpretentious crowds you'll ever meet. My first drinkabout consisted of myself, my wife and one other friend, and by the end of the night we had bumped into more friends than I can count and struck up conversations

with some great people all out to have a good time and see what's on tap.

Another fun feature connected with the drinkabout is their "speakeasy" style of drink special promotion.

As you move from place to place, you won't see any special event or special deals being advertised. Instead, you will need to do some prep work and visit the drinkabout Web site (included at the end of this column) to see what special beers are on tap or food items are on discount. If you don't mention the drinkabout when you order, you might not get the benefits. Just sayin'...

I must mention that this is not a "pub crawl." This is a way to safely get out and try some great craft beer, eat some fresh food and interact with some like-minded people who appreciate what we have here in San Diego, a lot of great craft beer. If you do decide to make a go of it and try to have a pint at each bar, please make sure you are drinking responsibly and have a designated driver set at the end of the night. That being said, keep your eyes open for the next drinkabout, hopefully happening later this month. Cheers!

For more information, dates, and bus schedules on the Drinkabout, visit: Sddrinkabout.blogspot.com.

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

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California's rising star

VINEYARD PLACE



By
**MIKE
KALLAY**

One of the most wonderful aspects of California as a grape-growing region is the virtually unmatched diversity in growing sites. From the cool coastal regions like Santa Rita Hills and Sonoma Coast to the warm valleys of Sonoma and Napa to the hot areas like Lodi and Amador and the higher-elevation areas west of the Sierras like Eldorado. You would be hard pressed to find another growing region on Earth with both the climatic and geographical diversity of this state. (I'm sure the French may disagree, but they probably won't read this anyway.)

This incredible diversity means that not all varietals will ripen correctly in all areas. I don't want to name names, but let's just say that Cabernet from San Diego isn't too good, and I contend that Sauvignon Blanc ripens so well that it almost has none of the Loire's minerality or zestfulness, leaving it as uninteresting as a Steven Seagal straight-to-DVD movie.

But, there is one group of grapes that seems to be incredibly adaptable to the different parts of this state, and there's an advocacy group working hard to advance this agenda: The group is The Rhone Rangers, and I'm sure you can guess the group of grapes. The Rhone growing region in France officially has 22 varietals of grapes permitted for planting, with the primary four being Roussanne, Viognier, Syrah and Grenache. And guess what? They all do amazingly well here in many parts of this state.

Let's focus on Syrah. The mysterious, full-bodied, sometimes smokey, sometimes jammy wines are true chameleons. I don't think there is a better wine example that truly shows its terroir while still being adaptable to many different climates and soils. The good news for wine lovers is that plantings of Syrah are on the rise in this state, and for that we can thank winemakers and growers in The Rhone Rangers.

This group was formed in the '80s by Bob Lindquist of Qupé Wine Cellars, Randall Graham of Bonny Doon, and John Alban of Alban Vineyards. Their stated mission is, "Advancing the knowledge and enjoyment of Rhone wines produced in America." John Alban was allegedly the first to plant Syrah in the Central Coast — arguably the state's most revered region for the grape. The stretch of land between Santa Ynez/Santa Barbara up through Santa Maria and Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo and finishing around Paso Robles might just be the epicenter of great Syrah. Yet, as I finish that statement, I can't ignore the amazing Syrah coming from Monterey, or the amazingly Hermitage-like juice coming from Carneros & Russian River. What about those big brooding examples from Lodi, or the unfortunately under-represented ones from Napa? Lake County has some great examples too.

This might surprise you, but the best Syrah I've ever tasted from California was from San Diego! South Coast Winery's Wild Horse Peak vineyard at 2,400 feet produces a scant 1.5 ton/acre per winemaker Jon McPherson. Less fruit equals more interesting juice. The point here is that Syrah truly can grow anywhere in this state



AND show well, albeit differently.

Syrah plays really nicely in the vineyard. It is late blooming, resistant to rot and ripens early. This means that the grower can feel good about quality fruit every year as the blooming avoids Spring frosts, and it gets harvested early, missing the Fall rains. It ages well with the full fruit, medium-to-high alcohol and firm tannins.

It's probably best aged in American oak (again, don't tell that to any French people you know). Syrah pairs extremely well with food. It will stand-in for a Cab just beautifully when paired with grilled meats, and it will make your eyes roll back when coupled with some tangy Santa Maria tri-tip.

Who should be drinking California Syrah? You! Unlike some of the other red wines, Syrah is approachable when young, affordable, and very readily available. You can't go wrong with any of the Qupé wines. Bob actually makes five or six different Syrahs depending on the vintage.

They're all from different vineyards, or different blocks in the same vineyard. Zaca Mesa in Santa Ynez has been committed to Rhone varietals since the '80s. Not surprisingly, many of the Rhone Rangers' biggest advocates came through Zaca Mesa at some point: Bob Lindquist of Qupé, Ken Brown of Byron, Lane Tanner and Adam Tolmach of Ojai.

And to go for the hat trick of sticking it to the French in this article, President Clinton served Zaca Mesa Syrah to French President Chirac when he first visited the White House. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but I would say that Syrah can't be imitated. It's far too unique to its site to be made to look like something else.

Grab a bottle of California Syrah and have a one night stand with it. You'll likely fall in love!

Mike Kallay and his wife, Stephanie, own The Cask Room, a wine bar in East Village. www.thecaskroom.com



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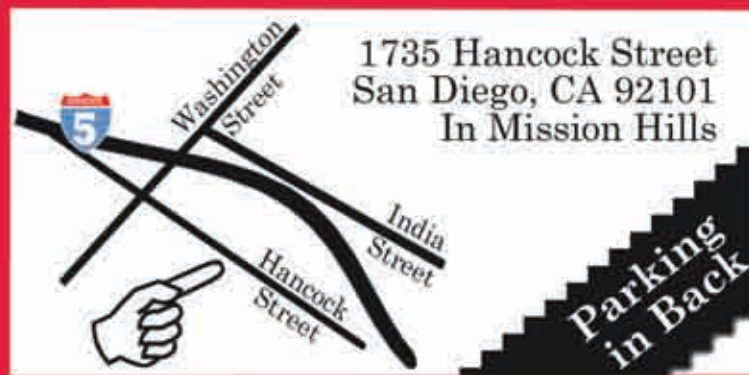
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FOOD & DRINK

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Panificio e Ristorante Solunto has been around for over 40 years. The name change from Solunto Baking Co is only to show that we added a restaurant for the evening. The décor has changed as well to uplift the ambiance for day and night. One of the last original family members still runs the new transition of a landmark that made San Diego exuberant in delicious Sicilian style bread, cookies and pastries. The lunch portion of the business still carries all the delicacies that made us flourish like sandwiches, hot food, and pizza. Now the dinnertime has a great influence in the Little Italy arena of great food. Hours are as follows: Bakery/Lunchtime Monday 9AM-3PM, Tues-Fri 9AM-5PM, Saturday 8AM-5PM Sunday 8AM-4PM Dinnertime Tues-Sat 5PM-10PM Address: 1643 India St San Diego CA 92101 619-233-3506 www.solunto.biz email: solunto@cox.net

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Salazar's Taco Shop

Salazar's Taco Shop Began as a dream in 1945 and turned into a reality in 1972. The owner and founder, Frank Salazar, began working at the age of 14 in the kitchen of the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe under the supervision of a German chef named Konrad. Today the "taste of home" quality of the food is enjoyed by many long-time customers and some of our new neighbors who are becoming our new regulars. The fine food at Salazar's can be enjoyed seven days a week, 6:30 am until 9 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as food to go are served all day. Bulk food orders with advance notice are available. The margaritas are real and the bottled beer is cold. The best thing I've ever been told by a customer is that "there's a genuine-ness about this place."

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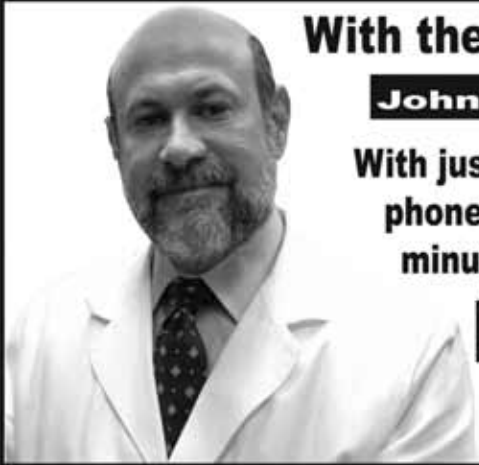
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6° San Diego: Cultivating the next generation of San Diego's Business Leaders

6 Degrees hosted their monthly mixer at Sidebar on February 24th and assisted with the launch event of SDOR Networks/San Diego Online Radio. Make-A-Wish San Diego was the Monthly Charity Partner and Gen-task was the event sponsor. We will be at 57 Below on March 24th with partners being Special Olympics of San Diego and Pure Water Technologies. 6 Degrees is also proud to announce the 6 Degrees Speaker Series titled "The Business of Sports. San Diego Sports and the Impact on the Local Economy," with the Owner of the San Diego Padres, Jeff Moorad, Special Counsel to the San Diego Chargers, Mark Fabiani, with George Chamberlin as Moderator for the first speaker series event. This engagement will be held on April 22 from 7:30-9:00am at the Hall of Champions. Details will be found at www.6degreesbusiness.com with Tickets available for purchase on March 8.



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