

Old Town • Mission Hills • Bankers Hill

Hillcrest • University Heights • Normal Heights • North Park • South Park • Golden Hill • Kensington • Talmadge

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A new drinking hole

▶ DINING P. 12



Angel tears

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Larger than life

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Quirky by design

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Contact Us

Editorial/Letters 619-961-1952 ken@sdcnn.com

Advertising 619-961-1958 mike@sdcnn.com

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The public still has time to comment about SANDAG's 35-year regional transit plan. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

SANDAG's 35-year plan anticipates density, population growth and transit needs

By Dave Fidlin

After 2.5 years of hashing through the finer points, leaders of a San Diego area intergovernmental planning agency are taking the wraps off a plan that addresses long-range transportation issues across the county.

The San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG, on April 24 released for public consumption a 172-page draft document, "San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan," that includes a vision for greater uses of various forms of public transportation.

SANDAG's lengthy plan addresses projected population and density growth in many areas of San Diego, including the city's Uptown, Mission Valley and Downtown areas.

Sustainability is also incorporated into the plan, with a variety of environmentally friendly practices that call for a reduction in greenhouse gas.

As a next step in the process of minting the plan, SANDAG officials will hold a series of public workshops in communities across the county, including several in the city of San Diego. Two formal public hearings will be held in June — an overture SANDAG officials say will assist in making possible refinements to the plan.

Taken as a whole, SANDAG's plan that extends through 2050 calls for building a regional transportation network, an ambitious endeavor that carries an estimated \$200 billion price tag over the course of the project.

Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents most of the neighborhoods in San Diego's Uptown area, also serves on the SANDAG board. Gloria is among a handful of governmental officials across the county who had a role in shaping the plan in its draft form.

Gloria described San Diego Forward as a "critical document" that will assist in planning for the region's future. Components of the plan, he said, are designed to

see SANDAG, page 16

A funny man calling the numbers

Ken Williams | Editor

Barry Shingle was a good little Catholic, even an altar boy, but he never got into his parish's favorite pastime: bingo.

Flash forward to his adult years, and Shingle is now known far and wide for his popular "Bingo with Barry" act at the swanky Rancho la Puerta spa in Tecate, Baja California, Mexico.

Shingle will bring "Bingo with Barry" to Uptown on June 6 as a fundraiser for the San Diego Indoor Sports Club in Bankers Hill. The fun evening will raise money for the repainting of the club at 3030 Front St. The club will soon be renamed Bankers Hill Clubhouse after the makeover.

The fundraiser will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour showcasing the expansive views of San Diego Bay and Point Loma. Visitors can also tour the building, which has been a "home away from home" to the disabled community since the 1950s. Bingo will begin at 7 p.m. with Shingle at the helm.

A resident of Hillcrest when he is not working at Rancho la Puerta as the resort's activity director, Shingle says he never intended to be one of the funniest men in bingo.

When I started working at Rancho La Puerta 15 years ago, they punished the new employees

see Bingo, page 8

Stars in their eyes

FilmOut's 17th annual festival returns with big-name celebrities

Ken Williams | Editor

Zachary Quinto and James Franco, both marquee stars of today, and Tab Hunter, the golden boy from the golden age of Hollywood, will be among the top attractions at FilmOut San Diego's film festival later this month.

The 17th annual LGBT Film Festival will run May 29-31 at the historic former Birch North Park Theatre building, now home to Observatory North Park, presented by the FilmOut board of directors and supported by a slew of dedicated volunteers.

Hunter, the blond-haired, blue-eyed boy next door who crushed it at the box office and on the music charts in the 1950s all the while hiding in the closet from his legions of fans, will be featured in "Tab Hunter Confi-

see FilmOut, page 9





(I to r) James Franco and Zachary Quinto star in "I Am Michael" at FilmOut San Diego's LGBT Film Festival, showing May 31. (Courtesy of "I Am Michael")



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Mission Hills Town Council update

By David Espinoza

The Mission Hills Town Council (MHTC) has been working to improve the experience of being a member of the community.

On Feb. 25, the MHTC and Mission Hills Business Improvement District (BID) jointly hosted a forum on the topic of crime and homelessness. More than 100 residents and businesspersons from Mission Hills and Bankers Hill met at the United Methodist Church along with San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents the district, and David Surwillo, a community relations officer with the Police Department.

This gathering was spearheaded in response to community frustration with recent occurrences of car break-ins, vandalism and homeless encampments. For 45 minutes, hands were raised and individual voices were heard regarding what is happening in the neighborhood. Councilmember Gloria took the floor and assured everyone that crime is down overall and that Mission Hills remains a "safe community." Further, Gloria said, if people do not feel safe, the issue should be addressed. A brainstorming of solutions followed and the MHTC, BID and Neighborhood Watch continue to work together in this effort.

The Uptown Regional Bikeway project remains a top agenda item for the MHTC. This project of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) has been presented at quarterly Town Hall meetings since 2013 to engage the community on this development. A portion of the bike path travels through Mission Hills on University Avenue, and the design for

a one-lane closure from Front Street to Ibis Street was distributed throughout the community in mid-2014. The MHTC has supported, through a study commissioned by SANDAG, the effects of a complete closure of this portion of University Avenue.

The SANDAG Transportation Committee, chaired by Gloria, will hold a meeting on June 5 to review the current status of the project. Community meetings will be scheduled later, pending direction from the Transportation Committee. Please contact Beth Robrahn, AICP, project manager/assistant planner for SANDAG's Active Transportation Program, to receive updates and agenda materials, at beth.robrahn@ sandag.org.

More of the bikeway plan will be discussed at the May 14 MHTC Town Hall meeting, which is open to the public.

The Mission Hills Town Council is hiring. The MHTC is made up of a 15-member, volunteer-based board of trustees who reside and/ or own businesses in Mission Hills. As the MHTC continues to grow its reach and involvement with the community, the need has arisen to hire an executive director. Among the key responsibilities of this position are the handling of operational and administrative details and the engagement of community communication through social media. This position requires a commitment of roughly 60 hours per month and pays \$20 per hour. Resumes will be accepted until May 15 by email to: belindasmithsd@gmail.com.

The fundraising and summer concert series band lineup in Pioneer Park are nearly complete. Seven concerts are slated on Friday evenings

from 6 to 8 p.m., starting June 19. Kicking off the series will be the Neil Diamond tribute band, Diamond is Forever, and followed the next week by a Tom Petty tribute band, Petty Breakers. Over 500 concertgoers will gather on the lawn to picnic to the sights and sounds of a "small town" Friday night. The Events Committee has already raised over \$22,000 from local business, residents, grants and government officials. Title, Supporting and Community Patron Sponsorships are still available. Sponsorships are a public or private opportunity to show support for events that create community. A list of the corporate sponsorship benefits is available by contacting the MHTC.

The Town Council encourages community members to attend the upcoming public Town Hall meeting at Francis Parker Elementary School at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 14. The voicing of opinions, information

Martinis above fourth

table + stage

and priorities is encouraged. Several updates will be presented including: Mission Hills infrastructure, utility undergrounding, and an announcement by a coalition of Uptown Planners regarding the Uptown Regional Bikeway Project.

Town Hall meetings are often attended by elected officials such as Congresswoman Susan Davis, state Sen. Marty Block, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins,

Councilmember Gloria and County Supervisor Ron Roberts and/or their representatives. For more information regarding the executive director position, the concert series or MHTC/Town Hall details, contact: info@missionhillstowncouncil.org or visit missionhillstowncouncil.org.

-David Espinoza is a Mission Hills Town Council board member.

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(I to r) Michael McGraw and the Butchers will perform at North Park Festival of the Arts. "Twiggs" (center) won the grand prize for artist Denisse Wolf, who also painted Frida and Diego. (right) (Courtesy of McGraw and Wolf)

Pursuing their dreams

From art to music, North Park Festival of the Arts showcases local talent

Ken Williams | Editor

Uptown artist Denisse Wolf is thrilled to see her bold painting selected as the grand prize winner in the Featured Artist Contest at the North Park Festival of the Arts.

"I feel extremely happy and excited to be chosen as the winner," Wolf said. "It is an honor to see my work recognized."

The winning piece, "Twiggs," will be showcased May 16 when the 19th annual festival returns to downtown North Park.

Wolf will join dozens of artists, dancers, entertainers and musicians, including North Park

resident Michael McGraw who will be performing with his band, the Butchers.

"North Park Festival of Arts is such a great vibe, always showcasing great art and music coming out of San Diego," McGraw said. "I feel it is a great way to get our music in front of people who will appreciate the songwriting and passion in what we do."

Like McGraw, Wolf expects the exposure to thousands of visitors at the festival will be a great way for her to be discovered by a larger audience.

"My goal this year is to try to branch out more in the San Diego community," she said, adding that she believes her hard work over the past four and a half years is "paying off."

Wolf's artwork is inspired by her professional pursuits as a graphic artist and illustrator; she works in North Park and and lives in City Heights with her husband. Those elements are combined within her paintings in what she terms "a marriage of both," with an emphasis on both positive and negative spaces.

She is known for her large portraits of famous people, such as Twiggy, Obama and Einstein. "I love strong personalities and bold and stern faces," Wolf said. "But it's mainly the stories behind the faces that inspire me."

For example, look at one of her latest works featuring Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. "The Frida piece challenged me to make it more than just a portrait," she said, noting that the painting illustrates her growth as an artist.



"I combined them in the painting, showing their love and their tormented relationship, and yet how they were bonded for life in love."

Wolf is naturally inclined toward Mexican artists, given that she was born in Tijuana. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen when she was 13, and attended the Academy of Our Lady of Peace in Normal Heights. She studied art, graphics design and illustration here and in Florence, Italy.

At 31, Wolf looks forward to her continued evolution as an artist. And for Michael McGraw, the festival weekend marks a big step for his band. Not only does the band perform at 1:30 p.m. May 16 on the Observatory Stage during the festival, but later that night Michael McGraw and the Butchers will unveil their new album.

"The CD release party is Saturday, May 9 at Soda Bar," McGraw said. "It is with a great band Hit Dog Hollar who is moving to Nashville and another local psychfolk band The Heart Beat Trail. We have some great new merchandise and cheap CDs so come out and let's share a whiskey. Should be a good time!"

The band has been around since 2009 when McGraw formed a three-piece studio band. He said the band would add big beats and fuzzy guitars, changing their image.

"We kept getting booked with pretty mellow acts and so the name 'the Butchers' just helped add a little attitude since our music has more bite than most singer/ songwriters. The current lineup are some longtime friends Archie Archbold on keys, Kevin Boyd on bass and Bryon Andersen or Nick Haliotis on drums," he said.

McGraw describes the band's current musical style.

"Every song we do as a band builds from the idea of a simple well-crafted song. We strive to create impactful songs that make you think about your own life and feel accessible, in the vein of Pete Yorn and Ryan Adams," he said. "It's a sound that combines a love for the Brit rock scene with the heartfelt sensibilities of a singer-songwriter. Someone once described us as a 'fuzzy Tom Petty meets '90s lo-fi rock."

—Ken Williams is Editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and can be reached at ken@sdcnn. com or at 619-961-1952.

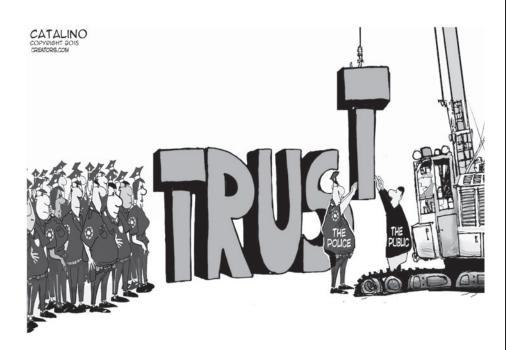


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Editorial

Preserve our military bases in BRAC process

Toni G. Atkins | Assembly Speaker

With a vibrant technology sector, sophisticated infrastructure, vast and beautiful lands, and a quality of life that can only come from months of sunshine, it is no surprise that America's best and brightest flock to California. The hardworking service men and women who keep our country safe are no exception.

According to the 2013 Defense Manpower Data Center report, California is home to the largest active military population in the nation with 168,820 active service members in residing in our state. California is home to more than 30 federal military bases and installations, which employ approximately 350,000 Californians, both military and civilian.

That is why the Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) process poses a particular threat to California. Started by the federal government as an efficiency measure to ensure our military can respond to shifting defense needs, the Base Realignment and Closure process has undergone five rounds since 1989.

In previous BRAC rounds, California lost more federal military jobs than all other states combined. And more than any other region, San Diego faces the possibility of being disproportionately affected by further base closures.

The greater San Diego area contains three of the top five military bases with the highest employment numbers in California: Camp Pendleton, San Diego Naval Base and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Twenty-two percent — or nearly 317,000 jobs in San Diego County are concentrated in the military sector. Whether the field is engineering, health care, information technology or food services, the military employs San

Last year San Diego's military sector brought \$25.5 billion in direct spending to San Diego County. This defenserelated spending will result in nearly \$39 billion of gross regional product for San Diego County, which amounts to nearly 20 percent of the total GRP.

With federal defense officials calling for another round of base closures perhaps as soon as 2017, it is important that we support a cohesive and coordinated effort to maintain California's military bases and the strategic defense and economic powers that they create.

The Military Council created by Gov. Jerry Brown continues to effectively coordinate efforts to retain and bolster California's vital role in our nation's defense. As Californians, now is the



Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins (asmdc.org)

time to stand together with the Governor's Military Council and our service members.

And let's be clear — California still has a lot to offer. Our educated, techsavvy workforce is a great resource for the cyber defense initiative that has become so necessary in our modern world. Our diverse landscape provides unique opportunities for a variety of different specialized training bases from air ranges to sea ranges. Our location on the Pacific coast means that we are strategically placed to respond swiftly to conflict in the Pacific Theater. Our private sector contains many thriving businesses that work in symbiosis with the military; and our unique quality of life makes our service people glad to stay in our beautiful state.

You can do your part to ensure California keeps its competitive edge in the next round of BRAC closures by voicing your support to your local elected officials and civic leaders and by supporting organizations like the San Diego Military Advisory Council and San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. as they implement proactive ways to keep California's military sector at the forefront of the nation.

Together, we can call on President Barack Obama and members of Congress to remember the harmonious partnership that exists between the U.S. military and the great state of California by preserving our bases.

—Toni G. Atkins is the Speaker of the California State Assembly. For more information, visit her website, asmdc.org/ speaker/ where you can sign up for her e-newsletter or get the latest news on legislation and other activities. You also may follow her on Twitter, @toniatkins.

Letters

Not just any 'old gas station'

Regarding the story on Kensington Commons [see "Kensington Commons, urban living fitting into a community," Vol. 7, issue 9]: There's mention of an old gas station at Adams and Marlborough. That was my gas station for years - totally convenient, easy entry and exit, easy to see before going in if there might be a wait, nice cashier who punched the credit card, etc.

I left San Diego in 1995, returned four years ago, happy to see my favorite gas station ... except now it's gone; replaced by Kensington Commons. K.C. is attractive and probably a plus for the neighborhood, but I really miss you ... old gas station.

Bet I'm not the only one.

-Mrs. Margaret Walker, handwritten and sent via U.S. mail

In the April 24 – May 7, 2015 issue of San Diego Uptown News, within the body of Lucia Viti's article on the Kensington Commons project, a caption under the lead photograph on the front page describes "a desolate, but high profile corner of Adams Avenue," and further on page 9, again a captioned photograph references "an old gas station on the corner of Adams Avenue and Marlborough Drive."

Such a dismissive description to the hundreds of faithful and steady customers of what was a virtual institution and necessity integrated within a realistically accepting and fair, balanced society gives short shrift to those of us with automobiles - meaning virtually everyone — who found this "desolate corner" to be what it might more accurately be described as — it was an automobile "service station," where one of the best mechanics on earth, Jacob, could do absolutely, positively everything for the many customers of this "old gas station," from change a flat, to replace the glass, keep engines in tune and replace old, worn-out engines.

All such services were rendered competently, honestly, cheerfully, and with an expertise I have never encountered anywhere else in my 70 years, 30 of them as a customer of the Kensington Auto Center.

To be sure things change and the face of an old established neighborhood with it, but for as long as the inhabitants of Kensington and its environs have the aggregate number of four wheels on the ground that we do, perhaps it would be fairer and kinder to use a respectable name and call a "service station" what it was — we all used it and will miss it.

And for those faithful and grateful patrons of the now gone "service station," you can still find Jason with all his attributes unchanged and intact at 2912 Adams Ave.

We miss him.

—Steve Hallock, handwritten and sent via U.S. mail

Your article which reads like a real estate advertisement designed to market the property it describes, cries out for a more objective response. In it, the developers of the project boast that Kensington Commons "adds value and fits perfectly," that its architectural details "add character and sparkle to the already sparkling Kensington" and that "now everyone is pleased."

We profoundly disagree, not only with the biased viewpoint of the article, but also with the delusional, overarching statements of the developers, who are, naturally, infatuated with their own creation.

Based on our completely un-scientific survey of people we know who live and/or work in Kensington, we have yet to talk to anyone who is happy with this monolithic, out-of-scale block, one which would be more at home in a North County shopping center than at the heart of a 100-year-old village community. The best that most people can muster is that "it could have been worse." The claim that the structure "maintains Kensington's village identity" is, like much else in the article,

see Letters, page 7

123 Camino de la Reina. Suite 202 East San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 519-7775 Twitter: @SD_UptownNews



EDITOR Ken Williams (619) 961-1952

ken@sdcnn.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Morgan M. Hurley, x110

Jeremy Ogul, x119

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Jen Van Tieghem, x118 jen@sdcnn.com

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

CONTRIBUTORS

Toni G. Atkins Charlene Baldridge David Dixon Dave Fidlin Dr. Ink **Dustin Lothspeich** Frank Sabatini Jr. Ron Stern ${\sf CodyThompson}$ Lucia Viti

ART DIRECTOR

Vincent Meehan (619) 961-1961 vincent@sdcnn.com

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Todd Kammer, x115 Suzanne Dzialo

SALES & MARKETING

DIRECTOR Mike Rosensteel (619) 961-1958 mike@sdcnn.com

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Sloan Gomez (619) 961-1954 sloan@sdcnn.com

Frank Lechner (619) 961-1971 frank@sdcnn.com

Andrew Bagley, x106 Lisa Hamel, x107 Robert Jones, x113 Ilka Weston, x105

ACCOUNTING

Priscilla Umel-Martinez (619) 961-1962 accounting@sdcnn.com

WEB DESIGNER

Kim Espinoza kim@kespinoza.com

PUBLISHER

David Mannis (619) 961-1951 david@sdcnn.com

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For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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FIRM WINS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AWARD

Tony Garcia, managing principal of AC Studios, is the recipient of a 2015 City of San Diego Historical Preservation Award for the firm's contributions to the architectural rehabilitation of the George and Kathagene McCormack House located on 28th Street, adjacent to Morley Field and the Balboa Park Golf Course in North Park.

Eight additional award recipients will be honored in a ceremony hosted on May 28 to celebrate the recipients' contributions to the preservation of San Diego's history and heritage.

see Briefs, page 8

FROM PAGE 6 **LETTERS**

based on wishful thinking.

As for the ersatz "Spanish Colonial" features that supposedly add so much charm to the edifice, they are so minimal as to be barely noticeable; skinny little tile eyebrows, too-small, cheap-looking lighting fixtures, tasteless ironwork and phony arches that are pastiches of genuine Mission Style architecture. Meanwhile, numerous large, hideously ugly sliding windows visually dominate the facade and little effort has been made to integrate the building with its surroundings. No doubt, economies had to be made to make the project profitable, at the expense of aesthetics.

It is truly a tragedy that this building will probably stand at the heart of Kensington for the next hundred years. Future generations will undoubtedly look upon it and ask, "Could it have been worse?"

—Hugh & Frances Kamen

A response to "Reckless on two wheels"

In the letter from Nick Beck [see "Reckless on two wheels," Vol. 7, Issue 9] there were some questions and statements that I'd like to answer.

I am a bicycling instructor trained by two national organizations, and most recently have been contracted by the California Highway Patrol to instruct their officers about bicycling.

People bicycling in California are subject to many of the same responsibilities for behavior in traffic as drivers of vehicles; see California Vehicle Code 21200 [tinyurl.com/1pkq].

Traffic signs and signals apply to people bicycling too. And by the same law, people bicycling have the same rights in traffic as drivers of vehicles. It is unfortunate, and sometimes brings tragic results, that too many people do not know or understand that the rules of the road apply to everyone - bikes, cars and walking. As our government and health officials are encouraging people to try other travel modes - transit, walking and bicycling — there will be some confusion about how best and lawfully to share our public roadways. Let me touch on just a few areas of misunderstanding.

Bicycling is legal on all public roads except some limited access roadways, most but not all freeways are closed to bicycling but are to have alternative routes for bicycling. More sharing of our public roads among people bicycling and people driving motor vehicles is going to mean reexamining some old beliefs for some people; roads are not only for motor vehicles.

People bicycling are to follow the same rules for movement as drivers of vehicles; ride on the right along with other traffic, stop and yield at stop signs, obey traffic signs, signals and laws, use a light and reflectors at night, etc. Enforcement as well as education can help and encourage us all to get along more safely.

While bicycling slower than other traffic is to occur as far right at "practicable" per CVC 21202, there

are many circumstances identified in that law when a person bicycling may lawfully occupy a full lane, seemingly in the way of others. Competent bicyclists have learned they are not required nor should they ride "... on the extreme right of any roadway."

I encourage Mr. Beck to look up CVC 21202 to learn for himself the situations when riding far to the right is not required. Sharing the road does not mean only side-byside sharing. When the available lane is too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to be next to each other in that lane, the person wishing to overtake should not do so in the same lane, but should wait behind for a safe opportunity to change lanes and pass. We encourage bicyclists to be as courteous as reasonable and to move aside when it is safe to share the lane side by side. Only on a two-lane road, when delaying five or more vehicles, are slow-moving vehicle drivers and bicyclists required to move aside when there is safe place to do so.

I encourage anyone considering using a bicycle in San Diego traffic to take advantage of information about bicycling's best and lawful practices. A local source for this information is from the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, sdbikecoalition.org. The California Department of Motor Vehicles also provides Fast Facts information at tinyurl.com/ofxfann.

See you on the road!

—Jim Baross CABO president REA president NHCPG chair EC/LCI/CSI





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COMMUNITY VOICES

FROM PAGE 7 **BRIEFS**

CHEF SWEENEY TO CLOSE R GANG EATERY

Chef Rich Sweeney has announced the closing of his Hillcrest restaurant, R Gang Eatery (RGE), with his last servings set for Mother's Day on May 10.

Sweeney, who came to fame as a contestant on Bravo TV's "Top Chef," has been busy with Florent Restaurant & Lounge, his swanky new restaurant in the Gaslamp.eSweeney seemed genuinely sad to be closing RGE, as he wrote on Facebook:

"You have all gotten to be a part of my first project which has helped me to grow and do so much more already — with more to come. (If you haven't been in yet, tick tock people. I have to thank my staff — no, they are my family. You have all TRULY been the driving force behind RGE, and I have been blessed to have so many incredible people in my life that I get to work shoulder to shoulder with. Thank you more than I can ever express — anyone who has worked at RGE over the last (almost) fiv5 years has been a part of my life, my dream, and my baby that is R Gang Eatery. I look forward to sharing some tots with everyone over the next week and a half, and cheering some Tang mimosas as we close the book on RGE. With love & tater tots, Chef Rich Sweeney"



Results

Should Florence Elementary in Hillcrest be renamed in honor of former state Sen. Christine Kehoe?

Yes - 18.1 %

No - 81.9 %

Visit sduptownnews.com to vote in the next poll.

RAY AT NIGHT RETURNS MAY 16

The monthly arts and culture experience, Ray at Night, returns on May 16 on Ray Street between University and North Park Way.

Art galleries, shops and coffeehouses will be open late with live performances from 6-10 p.m. featuring Digital Lizard of Doom, Creature and the Woods, Eddie G and The Impossibles, and Bill & Sandy.

Ray at Night is yet another event that makes North Park one of the fun places to visit. It's free and open to the public.

OC BAKERY COMING TO UPTOWN

Blackmarket Bakery, which has a devoted following in the Orange County cities of Coasta Mesa and Santa Ana, will soon be opening a new location at 4688 30th St. near Adams Avenue.

Pastry chef Rachel Klemek told San Diego Eater that the Uptown bakery will likely anchor an expansion into America's Finest City. The 30th Street bakery will take up 3,000 square feet of space that will include a shaded, dog-friendld patio comprising 1,500 square feet.

A glimpse at the bakery's website at blackmarketbakery.com shows a menu filled with breads, breakfast pastries, breakfast sandwiches, savory sandwiches, cookies, cookie sundaes, tarts and bread pudding, cakes, confections, bean to bar chocolates, jams and artisan products ... and even "sweet gear" to wear.

CONTRACTOR UPDATES BUILDING FOR IMAGING CENTER

Pacific Building Group and Raymond Fox and Associates have renovated a structure located at 150 W. Washington St. in Hillcrest. The 25,000-square-foot space will house Imaging Healthcare Specialists, an outpatient diagnostic imaging center.

The two-story building features state-of-theart technology in medical imaging, ample patient parking, improved patient convenience and comfort along with associated administrative and support spaces. "With the growing healthcare demands in San Diego, Imaging Healthcare Specialists had the need to consolidate two Hillcrest locations," said Jon M. Robins, MD, chairman and CEO of Imaging Healthcare Specialists, in a statement. "With this consolidation, Imaging Healthcare Specialists will be better positioned to serve the Hillcrest community by delivery of high quality, effective, patient-focused care."

FROM PAGE 1 **BINGO**

by making them do bingo," Shingle said. "I was raised Catholic (even an alter boy) but I do not care for the game itself.

"I have always been very sarcastic and quick-witted and so I started slowly using that in bingo. Trying different jokes, and within a year it took on a life of its own. It is the most-attended evening event at the resort and I do it once a week."

Another quirky hit are the collectible T-shirts featuring characters created by Shingle.

"Every year our artist comes up with a cartoon character of me doing bingo and it is one of the prizes that the guests can win. Some guests buy them to have a collection. My favorite T-shirt was a few years back — it has skinny me in a speedo looking in a full length mirror and the reflection coming back in the mirror is a ripped body builder with my face; the caption is 'Bingo with Barry; objects may be bigger than they appear.' There was also one with my face on Clint Eastwood's poster: caption — 'Go ahead, make Barry's day," Shingle said.

So what can the audience expect when Shingle performs at the Bankers Hill fundraiser?

"I have a comedy plan going into bingo, but my favorite humor comes from material the audience gives me on the spot. I really love to play off the audience and be in the moment," Shingle said.

"Sometimes at the resort, guests will give me material to use on their friends. I take a rip



Barry Shingle is a blast during "Bingo with Barry." (Courtesy of Barry Shingle)

"Bingo with Barry"

- Fundraiser for San Diego Indoor Sports Club in Bankers Hill — June 6: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. bingo
- The donations will help paint the building
- \$10 admission includes first bingo card. Additional cards may be purchased for \$5 each. Lucky participants will win prizes including gift cards from local businesses.
- Snacks and drinks will be available for a donation.
- For more information, call 619-298-0779.

out of the audience and if you do it with kindness they love it."

Shingle's comedy probably would make the parish priest blush.

"My bingo is billed as PG-13, and I do use naughty humor and sexual innuendos. The trick is to know what lines not to cross. I find that trying to change the way I do it for a particular audience does not work. I know what I do well and what works and I stick to that formula. When I am hired to do private events I will incorporate material they give me into the act, but I don't change the flavor. It's about timing and delivery," he said.

Shingle has lived in North Park and Hillcrest since he moved to San Diego in 2000 to take the job in Tecate. He has become hooked on the area.

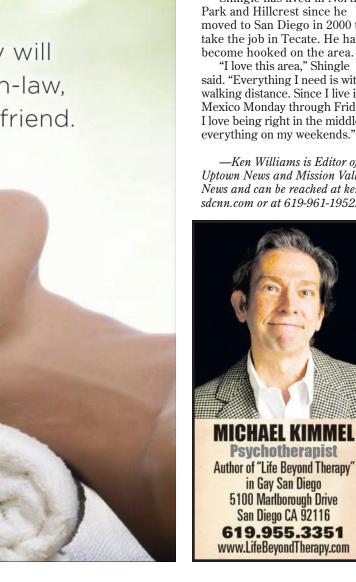
"I love this area," Shingle said. "Everything I need is within walking distance. Since I live in Mexico Monday through Friday, I love being right in the middle of everything on my weekends.'

-Ken Williams is Editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and can be reached at ken@ sdcnn.com or at 619-961-1952.

Psychotherapist

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FROM PAGE 1 FILMOUT

dential." The documentary by Jeffrey Schwarz weaves a fascinating tale — using vintage and current footage as well as archival interviews — of how Hunter hid behind famous beards such as Natalie Wood, Debbie Reynolds and Sophia Loren to protect his privacy from the prying paparazzi. It is a story of survival and redemption as Hunter's career waned but years later found new life as a favorite actor for director John Waters and cult diva Divine.

The opening night film will have its California premiere at 7:30 p.m. May 29. Hunter, who came out later in life, will be the guest of honor and presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. He will participate in the Q&A session after the film and attend the Opening Night Party across the street at the Sunset Temple.

Quinto ("Star Trek") and Franco ("Milk") star in "I Am Michael," Justin Kelly's film that got tremendous buzz at Sundance. The film is based on the true story of gay activist Michael Glatze (Franco) and his partner Bennett (Quinto). After facing a health crisis, Glatze turns to fundamentalist Christianity, renounces his homosexuality and eventually marries a woman. He becomes the darling of the "exgay" movement, yet can't quite give up his connection to Bennett, who has moved on with another samesex relationship.

As the closing night film, "I Am Michael" will have its California premiere at 7 p.m. May 31. After the Q&A with Kelly and some of the cast and crewmembers, the Closing

Night Party in the lobby between the theater and West Coast Tavern will conclude the festival.

In between, more than 30 feature and short films will be shown during the streamlined three-day festival, which draws thousands of movie lovers from San Diego and beyond. Many of the out-of-town visitors will be staying this year at the remodeled Lafayette Hotel on El Cajon Boulevard in North Park, a short ride from the theater.

Michael McQuiggan, the longtime programming director for FilmOut who is the ultimate decision-maker decider on which movies are chosen, thinks this year's festival has something to please just about anyone.

"My hope is that all the movies will be draws, but I would say that our opening night film 'Tab Hunter Confidential' and closing night film 'I Am Michael' will be the biggest draws — particularly due to the marquee value names Tab Hunter, Zachary Quinto and James Franco — all of whom are big draws in the LGBT community," McQuiggan said.

McQuiggan and his programming assistant Jeff Howell had the Herculean challenge of reviewing hundreds of movies from around the world from filmmakers who wanted to be in the popular FilmOut festival.

"The biggest challenge programming-wise is watching all of the submissions. This year Jeff Howell and I received a record number of almost 800 submissions. And since we have streamlined the festival down from five days to three days the past couple of years, it makes film selection a bit more daunting," McQuiggan said.

Some board members and volunteers also review some of

the top submissions to help in the selection process.

McQuiggan thinks he knows why FilmOut is so popular with filmmakers.

"FilmOut is a low-key, lowmaintenance festival, and we treat our filmmakers/talent with great respect and make them as

comfortable as possible," he said. "And it shows. Last year in an online poll by filmmakers/talent, we landed in the top 10 LGBT film festivals worldwide."

Not only does FilmOut score with the filmmakers, it also becomes a second home to more than a handful of dedicated volunteers who have become mainstays of the nonprofit organization. Just ask longtime volunteers

Tom Kirkman and Jeff Gilson. Gilson said he volunteers

because he likes to support movies that tell our stories.

"The stories told in independent LGBT cinema are important," Gilson said. "Whether it's the story of love or overcoming the odds, the stories are ours. Our voices are being heard through film. They are preserved for future generations to understand what happened today or in the past."

Kirkman, who has been a volunteer since 2007, said he wanted to give back to FilmOut because the organization always donated free tickets to seniors when he was executive director of the SAGE Center, which closed in 2009.

"When I retired, I began to



(Left) Tab Hunter was cast as the All American boy in movies in the 1950s. (above) Charlie Carver (left) and James Franco star in "I Am Michael." (Courtesy of "Tab Hunter Confidential" and "I Am Michael")

volunteer for every festival," Kirkman said. "And now I also volunteer at the monthly screenings. This year's festival will be my ninth year of volunteering."

For Kirkman, who still speaks in a Boston accent after all these years in San Diego, said the LGBT Film Festival has a special place in his heart.

"There is so much that appeals to me about the festival, but primarily it is seeing our stories — our history — being told on film," Kirkman said. "I've been around long enough to witness much of our history take place in real time, but seeing our stories presenting on screen by so many capable artists brings me much pride knowing that much of our history will be preserved for many generations to come."

FilmOut San Diego takes place May 29 – 31 at Observatory North Park, located at 2891 University Ave., in North Park. Tickets for the VIP all-access pass are \$100. Opening night tickets, which include the film and the kickoff party at Sunset Temple, are \$25. Closing night tickets, which include the film and party at West Coast Tavern are \$15. Tickets for individual movies are \$10. For more information visit filmoutsandiego.com.

—Ken Williams can be reached at ken@sdcnn.com.◆

QUICK DETAILS

FilmOut San Diego's 17th annual LGBT Film Festival May 29-31 Observatory North Park

Website: filmoutsandiego.com VIP all-access ticket: \$100 Opening Night ticket, plus party: \$25 Closing Night ticket, plus party: \$15 All other tickets: \$10

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Barn Brewery has opened at 2850 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 3 in North Park, serving craft beer in a rustic environment. (Photos by Cody Thompson)



It seems as though a week can't pass in San Diego without something new and exciting exploding out of our craft beer scene. As you read this, new breweries and craft beer bars are in the planning stages, mere whispers in the shadows behind kettles and kegs between hopeful brewers and businesspeople looking to become the next newsworthy craft operation.

Few neighborhoods in San Diego are as familiar with these new ventures as North Park.

And you guessed it, there is yet another new kid on the block in San Diego's ever-growing Uptown beer scene.

Barn Brewery, located at 2850 El Cajon Blvd., Suite 3, is now open and pouring their newly crated craft beers for thirsty locals.

Barn Brewery is a project involving David Baker, a local real estate developer and craft beer enthusiast, who has teamed up with Chris Finch and Jennifer Alexander. Finch, who is the brewer over at Barn, is also the proprietor and brewer at Poorhouse Brewing Company located on 30th Street. Finch brings 20-plus years of brewing experience to the team's new venture.

"We wanted to share our love of craft beer and create a communal space that felt familiar yet entirely unique," Alexander said. "Good neighbors, good friends and good beer in a welcoming environment. We had been looking for the right space, and the Barn just organically presented itself at the right time.

With a name like Barn Brewery, the vibe is just what you might expect. Exposed wood beam rafters stretch overhead while guests are invited to sit beside a cozy brick fireplace. In a city like San Diego, evenings where a fireplace might be needed are few and far between. But similar to an already very famous San Diego sentiment, it's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and be bummed beyond words it doesn't exist.

The Barn is currently categorized as a nano-brewery and is brewing on a small one-barrel system. It is also complimented by the three-barrel system located at Poorhouse.

"A small system limits volume but allows for creativity," Alexander said. "We treat the system as

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a blank canvas, where we're free to experiment with innovative recipes and offer our customers something truly unique. We have a couple of crowd favorites, but we're always trying to discover new tastes."

There are currently 24 taps available with six pouring original beers. The rest will showcase a rotating list of guest beers both local and otherwise. In the future, expect to see local brewery "tap takeovers" being offered at the Barn.

"We are part of the brewing community and we encourage other brewers to be our guests," Alexander said.

During my visit, four of the six house taps were flowing. The beers offered that evening included two IPAs, one of which was a rye IPA, a blonde ale as well as an original stout. Their Daniel Boone Barn Stout was the highlight of my trip, offering scents of cocoa paired with flavors ranging from slight bitterness to inviting sweetness in this 9 percent ABV and deceptively drinkable beer. Both IPAs — Barn Rye and Haywire —show potential this early in the game and I look forward to

sampling again in the near future.

'We've created our own farmhouse saison yeast strain, which will be the basis for our farmhouse ales and some specialty brews," Alexander said. "In fact, many of Barn's brews will be specialty releases. Right now, we're pouring a delicious session IPA. It's a fantastic brew to sip on a hot summer day.'

As if craft beer, both house and guest taps, wasn't enough to bring you in to the Barn, soon you will find their kitchen up and running to offer locally flavored fare to the community. "We are currently working out the final details and talking with local suppliers as we devise our menu offerings," she said. "We hope to open the kitchen within the next 30 days, and have a grand opening for the Barn at that time."

Some of the food offerings are expected to include housemade sandwiches as well as burgers and more. Ingredients and items will be sourced locally from establishments in the neighborhood, including local butcher Heart & Trotter.

'Quite simply, North Park is our home. We love the people, the craftsman homes, the vibe, and of course, the water tower. We've got roots here," Alexander said. "Guests can look forward to a communal atmosphere where they can sip great craft beers, sample local foods and make new friends."

With the time I spent at Barn Brewery, I experienced just that — a warm and welcoming atmosphere that is being operated by friendly and inviting people. As time goes by, I am excited to see and experience the evolution and growth that is to come from the people at Barn Brewery.

Visit thebarnbrew.com for more information.

—Contact Cody Thompson at cody@threebzine.com.





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in and absinthe. What a powerful combination even when imbibing from a stemmed saucer glass used normally for sipping modest amounts of champagne.

The cocktail, called Corpse Reviver #2, is among 14 devious inebriants offered at S&M Sausage & Meat, where indulgences of the flesh and bottle occur throughout a sunny two-level space in eyeshot of a deli case stocked with gourmet sausages.

During happy hour, all drinks are \$2 off, including wine, beer and various liquor flights. Better yet, with each drink purchase you get a free strip of house-cured bacon coated in sweet or savory flavors.

While sipping on my cocktail, which tasted bright from the additions of lemon juice, lillet (a Bordeaux aperitif) and triple sec, I polished off a slice of hickory bacon that arrived to my bar perch immediately after choosing it. The flavor was spot on, as though it was fried to order. The reason for its fast delivery, I was told, is that the bacon is kept warm in the smoker and then tossed onto a skillet for a few seconds before leaving the kitchen.

I should have purchased several more slices à la carte or sprung for a venison meatball sandwich or wild boar sausage link from the regular menu in order to revive from The Reviver as the drink quickly sen

Reviver, as the drink quickly sent my head toward the clouds.

Outside of happy hour, bacon slices sell in pairs for \$3 and \$4. When ducking in for a meal on past visits, I savored the agave mustard and sesame-soy flavors, but I wasn't so nuts about the white-chocolate cashew strips, which

The cocktail list is divided into three sections: savory & salty, smoky & spicy and the classics in which the Corpse Reviver #2 is found. It's a cocktail dating back to the 1930s with earlier versions made with brandy and vermouth instead of gin. Consume more than one in its modern incarnation and you'll need a designated driver.

were too cloying for my taste.

Patrons visiting for happy hour can spread out anywhere in the dining areas or the spacious bar lounge. The latter features big, open windows looking out to Park Boulevard as well as a stack of board games free for the playing such as Risk, Trivial Pursuit and others.

Underneath them is a sign reminding us of the etiquette that comes with playing games of any kind while drinking in a bar, but specific to S&M's trendy swine theme: "The loser always buys the winner bacon. Always."

RATINGS

DRINKS: I I I I I

As proven by the Corpse Reviver #2 blending gin, absinthe, lillet and triple sec, the cocktails effectively put a swagger in your step. A focused list of craft beer and wines mostly from California are also discounted during happy hour.

FOOD: TITI

The bacon was thick, lean and flattened to perfection, making it easy to eat with your hands. Flavors include agave mustard, sesame soy and dark chocolate, although the hickory scores high points if you're a traditionalist.

VALUE: I I I I

Subtract \$2 off any drink and you end up with craft drafts averaging \$4 and assorted cocktails for \$9 apiece, and with a free strip of bacon to boot.

SERVICE: I I I I I

The bartender was quick to hand out menus and offer a knowledge-able rundown on the cocktails as the kitchen sent out the free bacon in less than a minute.

ATMOSPHERE: YYYYY

The two-tiered space is roomy, bright and comfortable with lots of whimsical art pieces and architectural details flowing throughout.



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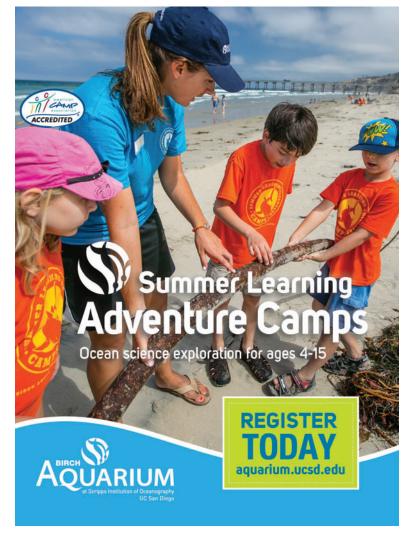
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Restaurant **Review**

Frank Sabatini Jr.

DOWNTOWN NEWS

BEST OF

DOMNLOMN

Sushi snobs might scoff initially at many of the rolls available at Fire Horse Nine Dragons Pan Asian Bar & Bistro before granting fast forgiveness.

The "crab" used in a majority of them is actually "krab," meaning it's the imitation stuff aficionados

know right off the bat as pollock and fish paste. The tradeoff, however, are the five-star presentations of nearly everything served here.

Sushi and other Japanese fare dominate the menu, but with footnotes of Korean dishes such as stone-potted bibimbap and kimchi rice plus a few Chinese standbys like orange chicken, kung pao stirfries and salt & pepper shrimp.

Helming the kitchen is an un-

named Korean woman with 25 years of Asian-cooking experience who prefers to be called "chef." Respecting her wishes for anonymity is owner Edward Chuh, also Korean, who previously ran House of Nine Dragons in Bonita for 36 years.

Fire Horse sits on a quaint block of Juniper Street that was home to the failed Juan Chou. The sushi and booze bars were kept, and the interior is optically warmer with colorful paper umbrellas hanging overhead, a festive come-on to the impressive sake inventory Chuh has acquired, which includes a \$300 bottle of imported Kikusui Kuramitsu.

"It's made with very fine rice and

tastes as smooth as water," he told us.

ears

Starting with "the tower" appetizer, we didn't mind the sweet, tender krab at all as it complimented precise layers of spicy tuna, cucumber, seaweed, avocado and bright-orange roe, known as masago in sushi speak. A little ponzu sauce in the scheme added an overall addicting flavor. Priced at only \$6, we were stunned at its artful construct.

Ditto for the Fire Horse roll, which contained shrimp tempura and spicy krab inside and tuna and avocado on top. Dotting each of the eight pieces were tiny droplets of gold gelatin called angel tears. Though flavorless,

Fire Horse Nine Dragons Pan Asian Bar & Bístro

3023 Juniper St. (South Park) 619-980-6708 **Prices:** Soups, salads and appetizers, \$3 to \$12; entrees and rolls, \$9 to \$16

Chuh says it's an expensive aesthetic priced at \$100 for a 3-ounce bottle. Upping the presentation was a hollowed-out cucumber in the center of the plate filled with flaming Sterno. It looks edible after dying out, but it's not.

Arriving unknowingly during happy hour, which is held daily until 6 p.m., the fried shrimp dumplings (shu mai) were discounted from \$6 to \$4. Draft beers and several other plates also come down by a couple bucks.

The bite-size dumplings were mediocre until swiping them through the accompanying plum sauce and tame hot mustard. But neither condiment seemed to rescue the lost flavor of the shrimp. Nor did the crisp, icy cold Tsingtao beer we drank along the way.

Judicious measures of spicy mayo bind the ingredients set atop delicate, fried dumpling skins in Fire Horse's tostadas, served four to an order. For good reason, they're a top seller - easy to handle and stimulating on the palate as sushi-grade tuna and salmon mingle with green onions, tomatoes, cilantro and masago.

Curious as to how the orange chicken would match up to the classic Chinese version, we opted for that as well. Unfortunately the tang factor went missing. So did the chili and green onion elements. Instead, the battered thigh pieces were coated only in teeth-sticking simple syrup, which to our relief wasn't as cloying as it appeared.

Other menu options include miso ramen, chicken katsu, Szechuan tofu, Korean marinated beef and lo mein noodles tossed with a choice of proteins.

In addition, there are more than two dozen rolls using a variety of house-made sauces that are sure to keep South Parkers well sated as the restaurant approaches its oneyear anniversary in August. Despite the couple misses we encountered. Fire Horse is a cheerful and welcome addition to a neighborhood largely deprived of Asian kitchens.

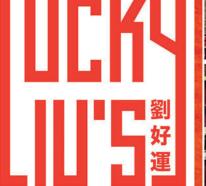
—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



Mama's Day is a culinary extravaganza benefiting Mama's Kitchen, a pantry providing meals to people living with AIDS or cancer. (Courtesy of Mama's Kitchen)

As San Diego's largest provider of nutritious meals to adults and children living with AIDS or cancer, Mama's Kitchen will hold its annual fundraiser in the form of a culinary extravaganza from 6:30-9:30p.m., May 8, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla. The Mama's Day event showcases more than 50 top-notch restaurants doling out an abundance of savories and sweets. No need to plan on dinner afterwards. The cost is \$125 in advance and \$150 at the door. 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, mamaskitchen.org.

Beer-centric North Park is also becoming a hub for coffee drinkers with the May 4 opening of **Holsem Coffee**, a small-batch roaster showing off a 2,200-square-foot "coffee parlour" designed in Calcutta marble and oxidized maple wood. Co-owner Salpi Sleiman, who also founded Roast Coach Coffee Bar, teamed up with Shane Brennan of Suja Juice and Comun Kitchen & Tavern for the new Uptown venture, which includes a 15-tap beer system as well. Look for about 18 different coffee drinks using sustainable beans sourced from around the world. Their recipes incorporate components such as house-made nut milks, fruit purees and syrups made from evaporated cane sugar. The menu also features espresso shakes, tea drinks and homemade sodas. 2911 University Ave., 619-546-8542.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Take a gustatory trip around the globe at Sea-World's Seven Seas Food Festival, which features 10 different food and drink stations around the park representing flavors from France, Baja, Asia, South American and more. The festival runs on weekends through May 23-24. The dishes, which highlight sustainable, local ingredients, are created by SeaWorld's Executive Chef, Axel Dirolf, who teaches culinary classes at the Art Institute of California, San Diego. Small-plates range from \$4 to \$5.50; although park guests can opt for the \$40 "sampler package" good for five food items and five drinks. Several craft breweries are also taking part in the month-long event. 500 SeaWorld Drive, 800-257-4268.

The third season of the KPBS series, Savor San Diego, debuted at 8:30 p.m. May 7 and continues every Thursday and Saturday for 12 weeks. Hosted by Su-Mei Yu of Saffron restaurants in Mission Hills, the new season spotlights artisan shops such as Venissimo Cheese in Mission Hills, Prager Brothers Bakery in Carlsbad as well as the food scenes in Little Italy and along Convoy Street. For a complete schedule, visit savorsdtv.com

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The recent soft opening of Barn Brewery in North Park features rollouts of the company's Wicker Basket Blonde, Homestead Hess and Haywire IPA. The suds were brewed off site in prior months, but they'll soon be made in-house. A food menu of burgers and sandwiches is also in the works. The rustic design greets with big barn doors and heavy wood beams across the ceiling. In addition, the bar carries about 20 taps featuring crafts from other local and national breweries. 2850 El Cajon Blvd., 619-955-8228.



Gourmet store Vom Fass opened May 3 in the HUB Hillcrest Market. (Courtesy of Vom Fass)

A franchised gourmet store specializing in oils, vinegars and spirits pulled from casks opened May 3 in the HUB Hillcrest Market. Vom Fass originally launched in Germany and spread across Europe before fanning out to 25 locations in the U.S. The San Diego shop, headed by franchisees Colleen and Jay Cavalieri of Coronado, will also carry pasta, syrups, pestos and spreads. Its spirits selection extends to brandy, whiskey, absinthe and more made by small-batch distillers from around the world. 1050 University Ave., Suite E-103, 619-534-5034.

A couple of unexpected closures have occurred around town. Royale Café in Bankers Hill, which began as a coffee house and recently added wine and full meal service to its format, has ceased operations because of an ownership dispute. And over in Liberty Station, the eight-year old Wine Steals closed its doors because of a rent increase. "The numbers were simply not working out," said CEO Ken Mills in a statement released to customers. The company's Hillcrest and Cardiff locations, however, remain unaffected and will honor gift cards and reward points obtained at the now-shuttered Point Loma location.

—Frank Sabatini Ir. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.





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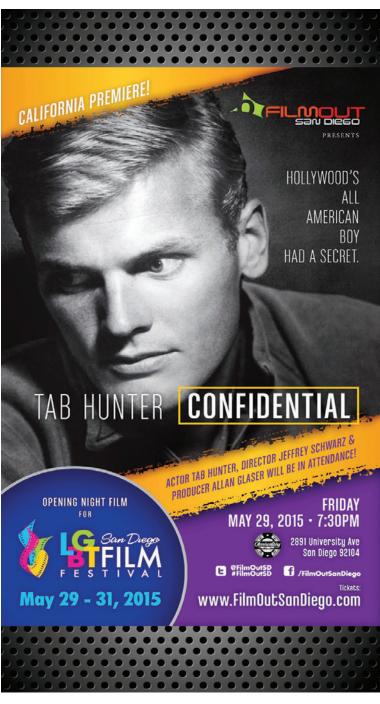
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Daniela Millan as Cari and Paul Araujo as her dad Manny in "Lesson 443" at Moxie Theatre in Rolando. (Courtesy of Moxie Theatre)

Take a 'Lesson' from this

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge

ey, it's not nice to rain on anyone's coming-of-age story, especially not that of a teenage girl who feels like a misfit because she's got a Mexican accent that complicates her assimilation into a high school in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to the accent (Tatiana Suarez-Pico's world premiere play, "Lesson 443" was originally titled "The Anatomy of an Accent"), 15-year-old Cari Gonzalez (Daniela Millan) also has a super-critical dead mother (Wendy Waddell) who harangues her every day; a stillgrieving dad named Manny (Paul Araujo, playing a man as rigid as the bulletproof vest he wears while driving for a politician); Aunt Lottie (her mother's twin sister, also played by Waddell, who may or may not have had/is having an affair with dad); and a rocker boyfriend named R (Anton Mabey) who wears eyeliner and packs condoms.

Cari's Anglo mom died of cancer when Cari was still an infant, so Manny took her to live with his parents in Mexico. Thus, Spanish was her first language. Two years ago they settled in Ohio to take advantage of better education and preparation for college. Like most teenage girls, Cari's desire is to fit in.

Maybe the protracted, one note story would go down more easily if either Millan or Mabey really played the guitar (Millan is only 16, and Mabey is her contemporary), or if the observer were persuaded to believe that any of these people, living or dead, truly gives a rat's ass about anyone other than themselves, or if there were convincing evidence that change is possible and permanent. Despite longing

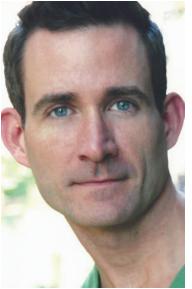
for sex and having of sex, neither couple packs much emotional heat. Despite the efforts of director Jennifer Eve Thorn, a young star is not born.

Lottie is much more intent on her career as a magazine editor than she is on loving her machismo brother-in-law or taking on his daughter. Manny is a frustrated writer/poet (not very good) who leaves groaner metaphors all over the place. Carrie's ghost is still pissed off, so she is not a reliable, truthful source of information. But ghosts seldom are.

Those seated in the dark deal with magic realism, delusion and an insurmountable Mexican accent, the latter being the primary, most explored dilemma. Granted, there are laughs, but it's a packed, overlong evening from Suarez-Pico, author of numerous plays, a staff writer for NBC's "Parenthood," and a graduate of Actors Studio Drama School/New School University.

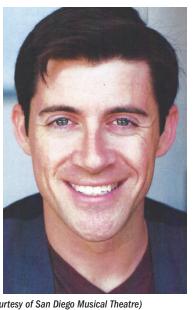
Perhaps Suarez-Pico will continue to work on "Lesson 443,"













(I to r) "Singin' in the Rain" cast members John Wescott, Lance Carter, Katie Whalley, Bryan Banville and Cameron Lewis. (Courtesy of San Diego Musical Theatre)

Splish, splash! "Singin' in the Rain" hits the stage

By David Dixon

Movie buffs consider "Singin' in the Rain" a musical masterpiece with so many iconic scenes, a triple-threat ensemble led by Gene Kelly, and memorable songs such as "Make 'Em Laugh" and "Good Morning." But the stage version is not as well-known and has rarely been produced in San Diego.

One of the reasons is because of the technical challenge of creating a rain shower on stage for the trademark dance scene. However, the San Diego Musical Theatre interpretation at the Spreckels Theatre has found a way to incorporate the precipitation in their production even though California is under a drought emergency.

A cast member who is excited to perform in the rain is University Heights resident Bryan Banville, who will be playing the Production Singer who croons the tune, "Beautiful Girls."

"I think it's going to be interesting dancing on stage with rain," he said. "It does not rain in San Diego, period. I come from the East Coast, so I am used to rain. It will be interesting working with local actors who probably do not get to experience it too often. To be able to do that on stage I think will be fun."

His wife, dancer/ensemble member Katie Whalley Banville, will also dance in the rain. "I think the first pair of galoshes I've ever put on was for this show for my costume fitting," she said.

A dry sequence that Downtown resident Lance Carter is looking forward to is the finale. Carter is portraying Rod, the



head of the publicity department of the fictional movie studio, Monumental Pictures.

"It is always fun to be in the big finale," he said. "I am not much of a dancer, so I am sure I will be put in the back and maybe just move my feet and smile. That is what I hope happens, because I do not want to screw anything up."

Carter said that performing at the historical theater will be an unforgettable experience. "I am just excited to do a show in the Spreckels," he said. "I think that is going to be awesome."

Before rehearsals began, Hillcrest resident Cameron Lewis visited the Spreckels. He will be co-starring as Cosmo Brown, the role portrayed by Donald O'Connor in the original 1952 movie. Although Cameron has plenty of theatrical experience, "Singin' in the Rain" marks his San Diego debut.

"The theater is gorgeous, and the gorgeousness adds to the whole experience," he said. "I am looking forward to the day when the artists move from the rehearsal and into the space. That is always one of my favorite days."

Another date Cameron is anticipating is the first time the cast gets to work with a live orchestra. "Rehearsing with an orchestra adds excitement," he said.

Even though the ensemble members were interviewed early in the rehearsal process, Katie and Bryan hwave persuasive reasons why audience members should see "Singin' in the Rain." "It is a classic," Katie said.
"The tale is the embodiment of what American musical theatre is. This is a Golden Age musical, and it represents the beginnings of American musical theater and its development. Shows from the Golden Age of musical theater continue to be revived, because they will always be relevant and entertaining."

Bryan thinks audience theatergoers might want to watch the old-fashioned experience, because there will not be too many opportunities for San Diegans to see the upbeat adventure live.

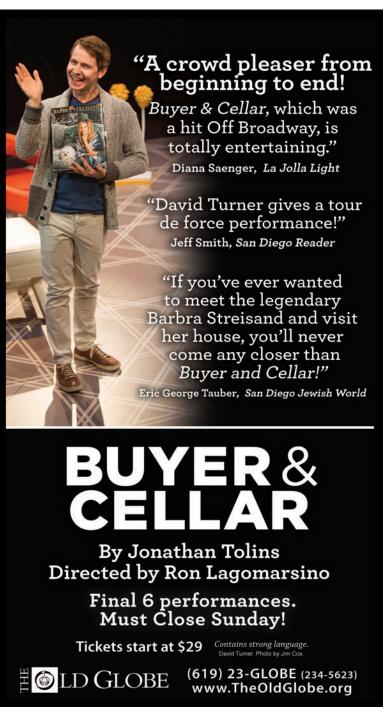
"This is the first time 'Singin' in the Rain' has been produced in San Diego in years, and will probably not be back for a while,"

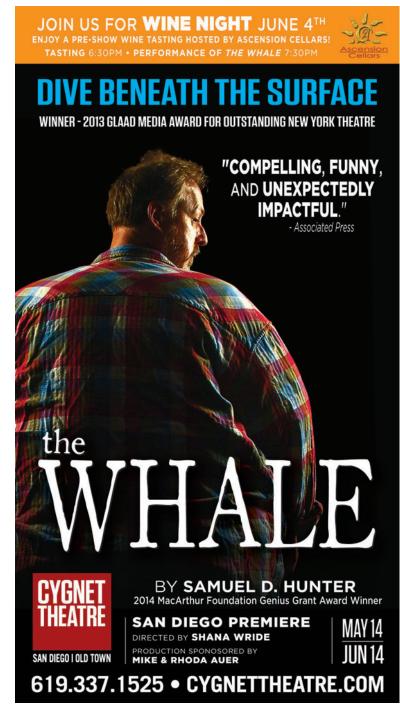
he said. "It is definitely one not to miss, because the opportunity to see it is fleeting a little bit, because of the technical elements."

Speaking of which, Bryan stressed that the tuneful adventure "will be a water-conscious production, so people do not have to worry about the water ban. And it is also one of the only opportunities to see rain in San Diego."

Be sure to buy tickets soon, since the SDMT rendition is having a limited run, from May 22 through June 7.

—A fan of film and theater from a very young age, David Dixon has written reviews and features for various print and online publications. You can reach him at daviddixon0202@gmail.com.









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Bicycling is being encouraged as an alternative transportation option in SANDAG's 35-year plan, with dedicated bike lanes currently on the drawing board. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

FROM PAGE 1 SANDAG

address the influx of residents entering the Uptown, Mission Valley and Downtown neighborhoods.

"The most exciting element of the draft regional plan may be its inclusion of four streetcars that would operate in several neighborrise by 2050, with nearly half of San Diego County being comprised of persons of Hispanic, Asian and other ethnic backgrounds.

Geographically, SANDAG is earmarking 55 percent of the region for open space, parks, habitat and farmland — a figure that takes into account higher density from today's levels in the remaining 45 percent of the area.

When tossed together in a

hoods to feel, where we can grow and how we can get from place to place," Gloria said.

Once the public input portion of planning is completed early this summer, SANDAG officials will compile residents' comments and make further refinements to the plan as needed.

—Contact Dave Fidlin at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net.



San Diego Councilmember Todd Gloria (center) serves on the SANDAG board and is enthusiastic about the proposed Uptown streetcar. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

hoods," Gloria said. "The Uptown streetcar is currently in the 2035 phase and includes routing through Hillcrest and Balboa Park with a downtown San Diego loop."

As with any long-range plan, a number of assumptions are incorporated into the document. As a guiding force, SANDAG officials anticipate an additional 1 million people calling San Diego County home by 2050.

With that swell in population growth comes an anticipated increase of 489,000 jobs and 330,000 more housing units within the timeframe.

Demographically, the median age within the San Diego region is expected to climb upward within the next 35 years. Projections suggest nearly 20 percent of the population will be at least 65 years old.

Diversity also is expected to

mixing bowl, SANDAG officials say the San Diego Forward document addresses all of the assumptions.

Jack Dale, who chairs the SANDAG board, said input from local agencies and a wide array of community members were taken into account as the tentative document was being assembled.

"The resulting plan encourages the development of vibrant, healthy communities that are connected by a range of transportation choices, including public transit, walking and biking facilities and roads," Dale, a Santee councilmember, said in a statement.

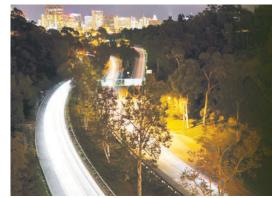
While SANDAG is at the helm of the long-range planning, Gloria said public input is an equally important part of the process.

"I urge San Diegans to look at the plan and weigh in so that it reflects how we want our neighbor-

FYI

The SANDAG board of directors has scheduled workshops at venues across San Diego County. Information on the 35-year plan will be presented, and public input will be taken. The workshops will be held on the following dates and times:

- •Tuesday, May 12, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Escondido City Hall, Mitchell Room, 201 N. Broadway
- Wednesday, May 13, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at La Mesa Community Center, Arbor View Room, 4975 Memorial Drive
- Thursday, May 14, 1 to 3:30 p.m., at Caltrans (District 11), Garcia Room, 4050 Taylor St.
- Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Oceanside City Hall, Community Rooms, 300 N. Coast Highway
- Thursday, May 21, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Casa Familiar Civic Center, 212 W. Park Ave., San Ysidro
- Wednesday, May 27, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Jacobs Center Community Room, 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego
- Thursday, May 28, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Westfield University Town Center, Forum Hall Community Room, 4545 La Jolla Village Drive, Suite E-25



WHAT'S MORE

SANDAG's draft plan can be viewed online at sdforward.com; comments can be made directly on the website

Comments to the plan also can be made by email at sdforward@sandag.org; by phone at 619-699-1934; or by mail at SANDAG, Attn: Regional Plan, 401 B St., Suite 800. San Diego. CA 92101.

Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101.

Two formal public hearings on the draft plan will be held in June with dates, times and venues announced later.



James Sullivan: Larger than life

By Lucia Viti

James Sullivan, a Hillcrest resident born and bred, will be featured as RAW's Visual Artist on May 21 at the San Diego's House of Blues. The artistic tour de force will exhibit his larger-than-life abstract paintings: images boasting with vibrant colors and soft edges that command attention for their sheer sake of beauty.

Selected by RAW for his undeniable talent, Sullivan will unveil his signature "street art graffiti modern" portraits. Urban undertones and flowing cascades that provoke the viewer's need to question "what and why," will brand the artist as a visionary and storyteller.

"My work is a real-time dialogue that questions, 'what does this mean?" the 35-year prodigy said. "The work's not dead. It's an excavation, an unraveling that incites thought, 'Why is this happening?' You don't just get it by looking at it."

Sullivan's work combines graffiti street art with illustrations that "evoke an understanding of the people and their expressions." Slightly outlandish and "kooky" images narrate tales of urban life. Colors balance together. Nothing is callous. "Pinks, blues, and yellows are coarse and rough," he continued, "but subdued so they're not raw. I wrap a street urban feel with light to create an all encompassed feeling of life."

Although inspired by the Latino graffiti art of East LA, Sullivan

refuses to label himself as a graffiti artist or a tagger. The impressionistic, part computerized, part hand-drawn graffiti modern was cultivated through trial and error. Successful pieces - lighthearted and tantalizing hues interlaced between a sea of faces that depict Sullivan's love for life and art - sell well.

"My large, colorful abstract work sells well," he said. "I wanted a style that would brand my work outside of abstract art. I can manipulate different mediums and distinguish myself among other abstract artists with graffiti street art. And the design allows me to work large scale; as a matter of fact, the bigger the canvas, the better it looks. Facial snapshots bring life and reality to the work while I bring my heart."

RAW chose Sullivan because of the uniqueness of his gift. "I found James on the Etsy website," said Heather Ireland, RAW's San Diego and Nashville showcase director. "I was amazed by his work and reached out with an opportunity to present at RAW San Diego. RAW picks the best of the best and James is an awesome talent with great communication skills, both of which will take him very far.

RAW is an independent art organization founded by artists for artists. Noted to "provide independent artists of all creative genres with the tools, resources, and exposure needed to inspire and cultivate creativity," RAW showcases artists

within the first 10 years of their career. Artists include those dedicated to film, fashion, music, visual art, performing art, hair and makeup. The monthly, one-night pop-up art arena spans 60 cities throughout the United States, Australia, Canada and the U.K. Described as an "amazing circus of creativity," the 6-year-old organization was founded by fashion designer Heidi Luerra for the "many people who are talented yet go unnoticed." Film screenings, live musical performances, runway fashion shows, and a visual art gallery reign among the featured spotlights "to be

Sullivan is no stranger to the harsh reality of life as an artist. Years in LA as a full-time artist lay the foundation for balancing supplemental contract jobs with his artistic endeavors.

"I'm not a starving artist today because I learned the hard way living in LA as a full-time artist," he said. "Months are great and months are not. An additional source of income lightens the load so everything isn't dependent on selling pieces – which is a career in itself. Anxiety, angst and apprehension make my artwork gloomy and ominous. I strive to create fun, positive art that vibrates with levity; pieces that people want to look at forever."

Sporting a bachelor's of science degree in business administration from San Diego State University not only enabled Sullivan to sustain himself through the economic downturn, it gave him back his art.

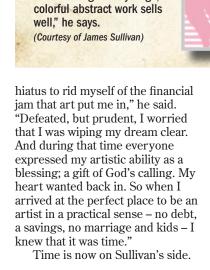
"I took a five-year corporate job

seen, heard, and loved."

More than 80 pieces are exhibited in multiple art galleries in San Diego, Los Angeles and Las Vegas as well as local coffee shops, salons, restaurants, yogurt shops and bars. The House of Blues event

opens at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 21. Cocktail attire is required. Tickets can be purchased at rawartists. org/sandiego/sensory

-Contact Lucia Viti at luciaviti@roadrunner.com.



James Sullivan creates

large abstract paintings

featuring vibrant colors

and soft edges. "My large,



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9 9/6	2	3			7			1

Uptown's Sudoku Puzzle

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Answer key, page 19

Uptown Crossword

Titles

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14 Purlieu

The

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15 Hautboy

16 Admiral Byrd's fox terrier

17 Tragic king

18 Encore!

19 Butchery request 20 Alice Walker's Pulitzer novel, with

23 Corporate VIP

24 Down and Out in Beverly Hills star

25 Chip in a chip

27 Darwin's ship

30 Fruit farm

33 Bruins great

34 Singers James and

Jones 37 Downy duck

38 Sculls

40 Golf score

42 Pudding thickener

43 Fur piece

45 Nest 47 Ont.'s neighbor 48 Facing

50 Skirmish 52 WWII gun

53 Malice

55 Prepare to fire 57 Herman Wouk's Pulitzer novel, with

The

62 Kind of mill

64 Musical finale 65 Sloth's home

66 Midnight Cowboy role

67 He was: L. 68 Dodge City marshal

69 Jacob's son

70 Marginal mark

71 Means justifier

DOWN

1 Soft mineral

4 Lamour's attire

5 Plenary

7 Joe, of the diamond

9 Hush

10 Super ending

2 Chocolate cookie

3 Brunch, e.g.

face!

8 Trickle

11 Booth Tarkington's

Pulitzer novel

By Charles Prestor 12 Solitary

13 Middling

21 Macbeth, e.g.

22 Malayan gibbon 26 Field's All and

Heaven Too 27 Encourage

28 Sappho's Muse

29 Sinclair Lewis's Pulitzer novel

30 Sonja Henie's birth-

place

31 Buick model

32 He bee

35 Sailors 36 Gone by

39 Venetian strip

41 Repair report

44 Set

46 Shearer's skirt 49 Kind of testing

51 Couch

53 Siesta sound 54 Bicycle part

55 Pearl Mosque site

56 Cleopatra's hand-

maiden 58 Like some tea

59 Kashan's country

60 Dweeb 61 Nopes' opposites

63 Wind dir.

Answer key, page 19

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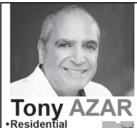
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Sudoku

Puzzle from page 18

6	3	4	1	8	2	9	7	5
7	1	9	3	6	5	8	2	4
8	5	2	4	7	9	6	1	3
1	7	8	2	5	6	3	4	9
3	9	5	7	1	4	2	6	8
2	4	6	9	3	8	1	5	7
4	8	1	5	2	3	7	9	6
5	6	7	8	9	1	4	3	2
9	2	3	6	4	7	5	8	1

Titles

Crossword from page 18

Т	0	М	S		С	Α	Т	S		S	Ε	Α	L	S
Α	R	Ε	Α		0	В	0	Ш		_	G	L	0	0
L	Ε	Α	R		М	0	R	Е		L	0	_	Ν	S
С	0	L	0	R	Р	U	R	Ρ	L	Ε		С	Ε	0
	_	_	Ν	0	L	Η	Е		Α	Ν	Т	Е		_
В	Ε	Α	G	L	Ε		_	0	R	С	Н	Α	R	D
0	R	R		Е	Т		Α			Е	_	D	Е	R
0	Α	R	S	_	Ε	Α	G	L	Ε	$\overline{}$	S	Α	G	0
S	Т	0	L	Ε	$\overline{}$	R	0	0	S	Т	_	М	Α	Ν
Т	0	W	Α	R	D	S	$\overline{}$	_	Т	U	S	S	L	Ε
	_	S	Т	Е	Ν		S	Р	1	Т	Е		_	_
Α	Τ	М	_	С	Α	Τ	Ν	Ε	М	U	Т	Τ	Ν	Υ
G	R	Ι	S	Т		С	0	D	Α		Т	R	Ε	Ε
R	Α	Т	S	0		Ε	R	Α	Т		Ε	Α	R	Р
Α	S	Н	Ε	R		D	Ε	L	Ε		Ε	N	D	S

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3028 University Ave 3049 University Ave. 3076 University Ave. 2046 University Ave Pleasures & Treasures 2525 University Ave. Posh Wash Coin Laundr Oueen Bees Redwing Bar & Grill Ritual Tavern 3128 El Cajon Blvd. S&D Property Managemen Santos Coffee 2899 University Ave. Starbucks 2419 El Cajon Blvd. The Laundry Room 1955 El Cajon Blvd The Old Mill Cafe Victoria House/North House

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Buddy Banter is a band that is going places. Catch them May 22 at Soda Bar in City Heights. (Courtesy of Buddy Banter)

Album ReviewDustin Lothspeich

With a band name like Buddy Banter, you'd think things would be all about fun and games — and you'd be right. While I don't place much stock in the existential "what does it all mean?" queries about band names and the thought process that goes into titling music projects, hearing this local indie rock trio's moniker always conjures up images of high-fives, pizza parties and good ol' shenanigans. I'm not the only one.

"We have fun," singer/drummer Steven Oira said. "We are best friends; we still dick around."

For those not yet part of the Buddy system, the group (which includes Dylan O'Bosky on bass and Kevin Glenn on guitar, in addition to Oira) has been around since mid-2012, even if it was in name only. According to their frontman, it all took flight with simply a guitar and a bass drum.

"I wrote about a recent heartbreak," Oira said. "And my friends liked it, so I asked them to help me with the music live. Now, shit, everyone is down to tour and have a blast."

Well that escalated quickly. Truth be told, all three lads in the band have been at the whole music game for a minute now, with Oira most notably helming the drum kit (which he plays standing up, curiously enough) for local surf/pop band Mrs. Magician for a while, in addition to playing in an emo band called American Heart (which found some label success between 2003 and 2008). Buddy Banter, though, sounds like neither.

On their upcoming EP, "I Am Nothing," Oira and company stretch out from their previous two efforts, the most excellent "Paradise Thrillz" and "Bummer Summer" EPs, with some of their heaviest — and softest — material to date. The band's sound has always been centered on extreme melody, the kind that eats its way into your brain and finds its way out in early mornings and late night drives. Their songs are sticky, swirling collages of hearty pop gusto and rollicking tempos, with Oira's wandering vocals belting out lyrics that consistently betray a genuine sense of regret, longing, and at the

bottom of it all, hope.

If Buddy Banter started out as way for Oira to exorcise failed relationship demons, it sounds like he's still at it. However, he insists there's a certain sense of comfort and calm at the root of the EP's title (and title track). their music videos, with more on the way. "I Am Nothing" and its upcoming record release show at Soda Bar on May 22 with Ditches and Witness 9 is just the latest step in their journey.

"['I Am Nothing'] is different for us, because change is constant,"



The album cover of "I Am Nothing" by Buddy Banter. (Courtesy of Buddy Banter)

"It's my favorite song on the album because it's moody," the singer/drummer explained. "I am nothing' is something I tell myself every day to help find nirvana and peace."

Indeed, the track is the perfect embodiment of that introspective element, an instrumental dirge of synthy waves and hypnotizing guitar and a spoken word recording of Charles Bukowski reading his poem, "The Laughing Heart," that partially reads:

"There is a light somewhere. It may not be much light but It beats the darkness. Be on the watch. The gods will offer you chances. Know them. Take them."

It's a fitting selection for the band to use. Whatever chances Buddy Banter have, they're certainly making the most of them. They've been up and down the West Coast on several self-booked tours, recorded and released their own albums, and self-funded

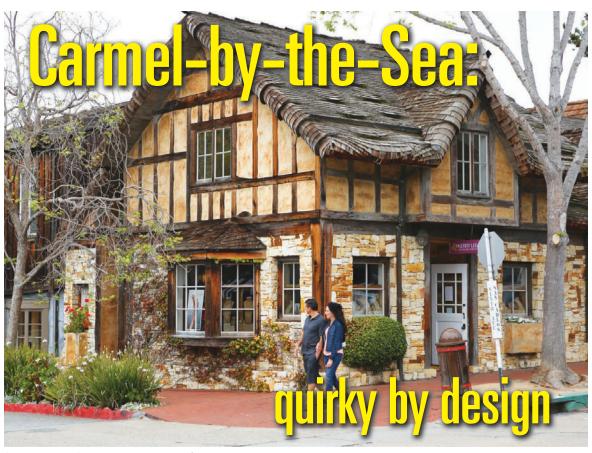
Oira said. "We're pushing our limits musically, exploring new sounds and other ways of writing. It's a team effort. We make music that we like and we like to be versatile, even though we know we don't really fit with any scene."

While the singer acknowledges that "getting a record deal would be cool," they'll keep on keepin' on because at the end of the day, the three buds of Buddy Banter are best friends — and they're still having fun.

—Dustin Lothspeich is a music writer in San Diego. Contact him at dustinlothspeich@gmail.com.

Friday, May 22

Soda Bar (City Heights) 3615 El Cajon Blvd. 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 Buddy Banter Ditches Witness 9



Carmel-by-the-Sea might remind you of a seaside English village. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Global Gumshoe Ron Stern



Imagine a sleepy coastal town whose lifting morning fog reminds you of a cozy English village set among towering pines and cypress trees. Now picture the same place with no street addresses, sidewalks, parking meters or streetlights; a place where houses have names like Periwinkle and Sea Urchin and where four-legged friends are as welcome as the twolegged variety. Is this a dream? No, you are in Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Not willing to become a conventional city, early residents consisting of writers, artists and studious types decided to make Carmel-bythe-Sea, sometimes referred to as Carmel, a very special and unusual place to live. Built on a slope overlooking magnificent Carmel Bay with its white-sand beach, one of its most famous architects was Hugh Comstock. In 1920, he constructed a small fairytale doll cottage to house his wife's expanding doll collection. Complete with rolled eaves and asymmetrical designs, these "Comstock houses" were in high demand. Today, 21 survive, including the Tuck Box Restaurant on Delores Street where, in keeping with the English theme, you can eniov afternoon tea.

You might feel sorry for a new

UPS driver in Carmel as, unlike any other city, this one doesn't have any street addresses. Rather, residents pick up their mail at the post office, which was meant to encourage meeting your neighbors. How do you find a house, you ask? Simply head three blocks north of Mission to the green house on the west with the name Purple Petunia.

What other oddities mark this town? How about no high heels or ice cream cones. Yes, you heard right. The former was owing to the uneven nature of the streets due to intruding tree roots, which a city attorney a long time ago felt was a liability issue. The law has been on the books since the 1920s, but, never fear, you can get around it by going to City Hall where they will issue you an official waiver. Actually, nobody was ever cited for this offense, and the certificate is more for show than anything else. Men can even apply ... in case the mood strikes.

As for the ice cream cone ordinance, rather than see sticky goo end up all over their nice streets, they simply banned the sale and eating of this confection. Enter Clint Eastwood, aka Dirty Harry, who ran for mayor on a pro-business platform in 1986 and repealed the law.

All this isn't to say that Carmel doesn't have much to offer visitors. Quite the contrary. There are 45 small inns, about half of which are dog friendly; 90 art galleries; 14 wine tasting rooms; and 60 restaurants, all within 16 walkable blocks.

For a city that is only 1 square mile, you can choose from quite a range of food options (including ice cream). There are, reportedly, more restaurants per capita here than in any other place on Earth.

At Trio Carmel, you'll sample fine wines, vinegars and olive oil. The Carmel Bakery on Ocean Avenue is a popular place for coffee and pastries, and their humungous chocolate macaroons are a popular choice. The Cypress Inn, located at Lincoln and Seventh, is co-owned by Doris Day and is, of course, pet friendly. You can spend the afternoon or evening in their emeraldlit bar watching Doris Day's old movies, having a meal and enjoying some Prohibition-era cocktails. Try the Orange Blossom that comes with a side of jellybeans, a popular choice when Ronald Reagan was filming here.

If you visit, make sure you are in good health because Carmel doesn't have a cemetery. The only exception is for the town dog, Pal, who is interred on the grounds of the Forest Theater.

As day gives way to evening, you'll also notice another Carmel peculiarity - darkness. Except for the internal glow of some houses or businesses, you will find yourself walking along uneven streets in pre-Edison days. The reason is simple, to be able to see the stars and moon, which is a nice thing. So make sure you bring a flashlight to light your way.





Nearby are other attractions that you may wish to visit such as wineries (75 in Monterey County), Big Sur, Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The latter is a first rate operation with many dark hall exhibits including the mesmerizing orangehued crystal jellyfish.



(left) the Cypress Inn in Carmel is co-owned by Doris Day. (top and right)Carmel restaurants range from simple to elegant. (Photos by Ron Stern)

Camel-by-the-Sea may have its quirks but that's what makes it such an amazing place to visit. wWhen you're not out shopping or eating, you can relax all tucked in at a local inn, sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine and listening to the sounds of the waves lapping the ocean shore. Go ahead and live the dream.

FTC disclosure: Promotional considerations and sponsorship provided by those mentioned in this article.

—Contact Ron Stern at travelwriter01@comcast.net.





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CalendarofEvents

FEATURED EVENTS

Walk for Animals: Paws in the Park - San Diego Saturday, May 9

The San Diego Humane Society's (SDHS) 21st annual Walk for Animals: Paws in the Park -San Diego serves as a fundraiser for SDHS. The event includes a 2-mile walk, vendor village, pancake breakfast, doggy activities and more. Registration starts at 7 a.m., the walk begins at 9 a.m. and the activities and vendors will continue until noon. Walk for Animals will be held at NTC Park at Liberty Station (2455 Cushing Road). For more information and to register, visit sdhumane.org.



2015 Art Glass Guild Spring **Show and Patio Sale** Saturday, May 9 and Sunday,

May 10 The Art Glass Guild will host this annual event at their location in the Spanish Village Art Center (1770 Village Place, Studio 25, Balboa Park) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is the largest art glass show in Southern California boasting several forms of art glass including: blown, fused, cast, stained glass, etched and more. All items are hand made by more than 30 San Diego artists. The show will also include demonstrations of techniques

including flame working and glass cutting. All ages are welcome. Visit artglassguild.com for more information.

Celebrating Couture 2015 Tuesday, May 12

The Globe Guilders will host this annual luncheon and fashion show, to raise money for The Old Globe Theatre, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel (1 Park Blvd., Downtown). The event will begin with a champagne reception and silent auction at 11 a.m. with a live auction and opportunity drawing at noon, followed by the luncheon and fashion show. The fashion show will feature couture designer Naeem Khan's Fall Couture Line presented by Neiman Marcus. Visit globeguilders.org/fashion-show for more information and tickets.

Meet the author

Wednesday, May 13

San Diego author Susan Meissner will be this month's featured author. She will discuss her latest work- a historical novel, "Secrets of a Charmed Life." The novel is in the top 10 of Amazon.com's 100 hot new releases in historical fiction. The book jumps between modern-day Oxford, England, and the interview of an elderly woman with secrets to tell and 1940s England amidst the turmoil of World War II. This "meet the author" session will be held at Mission Hills Library (925 W. Washington St.). For more information visit facebook.com/ mhlibrary and susanlmeissner.

Alice in Circusland Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16

Performers from ages 3 to 58 will showcase their circus skills from clowning to magic to acrobatics at this unique event produced by Sophia Isadora Academy of Circus Arts. The show, which features both professional and amateur circus performers, will include a storytelling aspect wherein Alice joins the circus. The perfor-

mance on Friday starts at 7 p.m. with performances on Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. For more information, contact Regula Schmid at schmidregula@gmail.com or 619-990-6618.



Youth chamber music concert Saturday, May 16

Mainly Mozart's Chamber Music Institute presents this free concert at 3 p.m. at The Scripps Research Institute (10550 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla). This performance will be the culmination of semester-long work by individual chamber groups consisting of musicians ages 12 to 23. The groups have worked with the Hausmann Quartet and celebrity guest coaches. Visit mainlymozart.org/youth-orchestra for more information.

Grunion run

Wednesday, May 20

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego (2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla) leads these events on certain spring nights through mid-June. Following high tides, hundreds of small, silvery grunions will come on shore where females will lay

eggs in the sand and males will fertilize them before returning to the sea. Naturalists from Birch will guide participants in their viewing experience. Attendees should bring a flashlight and warm jacket. Tickets are \$14 for members, \$16 for the public ages 6 and up. Children 6 to 13 must attend with a paid adult. This session starts at 10:30 p.m. and ends at 12:30 a.m. Visit Aquarium.UCSD. edu for more information and to pre-purchase tickets (required).

RECURRING EVENTS

Don't Try This at Home!: Six varying times per day until September, a live science show is presented with demonstrations that are too messy, loud or shocking to try at home. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park, free with admission. Visit rhfleet. org for more information.



Mondays:

Singing Storytime: 1:30 p.m., learn what's going on inside your baby's mind, strengthen your bond and sing songs together at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.



Open Mic Night: 7:30 p.m., the mic is open to you at Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Lestats.



Tuesdays:

Curbside Bites: 5 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curbsidebites.com. Tasty Truck Tuesdays: 6 – 9 p.m., Smitty's Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. Sdfoodtrucks.com. **Open Mic Charlie's:** 7 – 10 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.



Wednesdays:

Wang's Trivia: 7 p.m., free trivia competition for prizes, tournament for \$1,000. Drink specials during trivia range \$3 – \$6. Wang's North Park, 3029 University Ave., North Park. Wangsnorthpark.com.

Wednesday Night Experience: 7 - 8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. Universalspiritcenter.org.



Young Lions Music Series: 7 p.m., each week features a new "young rising star" chosen by Gilbert Castellanos. Castellanos will also join in during the first set, the Expatriate Room, Croce's Park West, 2760 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, \$5 cover. Crocesparkwest.com. **Storytelling:** 7 – 8:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month

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see Calendar, page 23

FROM PAGE 22 **CALENDAR**

featuring members of Storytellers of San Diego at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, donations welcome. Ages 12 and up. Storytellersofsandiego.org.

Wednesday Jazz Jam Session: 7:30 p.m., Gilbert Castellanos hosts the Jazz Jam Session with special guest musicians at Seven Grand, 3054 University Ave., North Park, free. Sevengrandbars.com.



Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdurotary.org.

Gentle yoga for seniors: 2:45 - 3:45 p.m., presented by The Center and Silver Age Yoga Community Outreach (SAYCO) at The San Diego LGBT Center, 3909 Centre St., Hillcrest, free. Thecentersd.org.

North Park Farmers Market: 3 - 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind

CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

Kornflower's Open Mic: Signups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7 – 10 p.m. Family-friendly event at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

Kirtan Musical Meditation: 8:15 p.m., chant and sing contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3287 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, donation requested. Pilgrimageyoga.com.

Preschool Storytime: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org. Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Tickets start at \$15. Topspresents.com.

Saturdays

Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturday-

market.com. Golden Hill Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill, free. Sdmarketman-

Children's Craft Time: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org. Melodies in Balboa Park: 1 – 5 p.m., the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory ensembles fill Casa del Prado with classical music, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sdys.org.

Celebrity Book Readings: 2 p.m., local celebrities will visit the "Ingenious! The World of Dr. Seuss" at the San Diego History Center on the second Saturday of each month to read their favorite Seuss stories to those in attendance, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sandiegohis-

tory.org Comedy Heights: 8 – 10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twiggs Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. Comedyheights.com.



Sundavs

Free Pancake Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:45 a.m., every second Sunday this neighborhood breakfast precedes worship service and Sunday school at Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights. Email nancy@ nhunited.org.

Hillcrest Farmers Market: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., under the Hillcrest Pride Flag, Harvey Milk and Normal streets, free. Hillcrestfarmersmarket.com.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdcnn.com.

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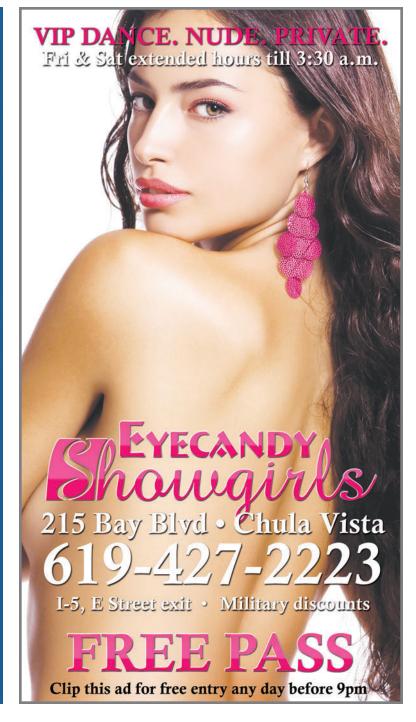
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