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9/11 show is a hit



Ponce's Mexican Restaurant will participate again this year at Taste of Adams Avenue. (Courtesy of Adams Avenue Business Association)

Taste of Adams Avenue returns for 15th anniversary

Ken Williams | Editor

San Diegans love to eat out, and that's one reason foodie events are popular attractions in our local communities. Next up is the Taste of Adams Avenue, which will be celebrating its 15th anniversary on the last Sunday in June.

"The Taste of Adams Avenue is definitely growing," said Kat Carney, associate director of the Adams Avenue Business Association (AABA), the event's sponsor. "We have six new places on our list. Two of those aren't open yet, so it's a sneak peek of those businesses."

Chi Extraordinary Kitchen and Vida's Juice House will be opening soon along Adams Avenue, and Carney said they are eager to introduce themselves to foodies ahead of time.

The other four newcomers to the foodie trail are Backyard Café, Burnside, Moosie's Ice Cream and the Rabbit Hole.

Lather on sunscreen and put on a pair of comfortable shoes because the Taste of Adams Avenue



Yummy dessert samples at a recent Taste of Adams Avenue. (Courtesy of Adams Avenue Business Association)

sprawls for 2 miles along Adams Avenue from Circa restaurant between Alabama and Mississippi streets in University Heights to the Kensington Café at Marlborough Drive in Kensington. Those who go full circle will walk 4 miles and burn off some serious calories. A complimentary trolley will also be circulating the route, and organizers are also encouraging people to use their bicycles for transportation.

Last year, the Taste of Adams Avenue drew about 1,100 visitors, Carney said, noting that this is "an incredibly small event compared to other Taste

Of events" such as the ones in Little Italy, Hillcrest and North Park.

"There is no alcohol involved," Carney said. "This sets us apart from other similar events. We're a family-friendly event, and kids are welcome to come along."

Other participants this year, subject to change, are: Blind Lady Ale House, Café 21, Café Cabaret, Chris' Ono Grinds Island Grill, Clem's Tap House (21 and older), Daofu, DiMille's Italian Restaurant, El Zarape Mexican Restaurant & Tequileria, Hanna's Gourmet, The Haven Pizzeria, Incredible Cheesecake Company, Jyoti Bihanga, Lestat's Coffee House, Liquid Eden, Ponce's Mexican Restaurant, Sabuku Sushi, Senor Mangos Juice House, Soda & Swine, Subway Sandwiches, Tam's Thailand Food, Twiggs on Adams, Village Vino and Viva Pops.

"The whole idea is that the restaurants give away a sample of their signature dish," Carney said. "Blind Lady, for example, usually

see Taste, page 9

'The sting of defeat'

Bicycling advocates optimistic despite setback over University Avenue project

Ken Williams | Editor

Down but not out. That seems to describe bicycling advocates' reactions after the region's transportation panel voted against a compromise plan with broad community support that had been proposed to improve biking along University Avenue from Washington to Normal streets.



Logo for SANDAG project. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

"As you can imagine, we as advocates in the bicycling community and more broadly, as supporters of safer streets and vibrant communities, were very disappointed with the June 5 vote by the SANDAG Transportation Committee to move forward with the constrained University Avenue segment of the Uptown Bikeways Project," said Andy Kopp, Bike San Diego board president.

"As the main east/west alignment for the bike corridor, having robust, fully protected bicycle infrastructure on University Avenue is paramount to achieving truly safe cycling and increased ridership goals."

At a standing room-only gathering at SANDAG offices Downtown, which spilled over into another meeting room where the discussion could be viewed on a monitor via an Internet feed, more than

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Opposition rises to SR 94 expansion

By Dave Schwab

Opponents of a Caltrans/SANDAG plan to widen State Route 94 through Uptown between the 805 and 5 interstates have launched a petition drive attempting to block the effort, which they claim would negatively impact communities without bringing any direct benefits.

Firing back, the two transportation-related government agencies contend the project is absolutely essential to serve the growing needs of motorists in the area now and into the future. Transportation officials insist the project offers numerous benefits to commuters and residents alike.

Caltrans is the state agency responsible for highway, bridge and rail transportation planning, construction and maintenance. SANDAG is the San Diego region's primary public planning, transportation and research agency.

The SR 94 Express Lanes Project proposes to connect I-805 South Express Lanes with Downtown San Diego by constructing two new Express Lanes along SR 94, one in each direction, and a new direct connector between SR 94 and I-805. The Express Lanes would accommodate new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, in addition to carpools/vanpools traveling between South Bay and Downtown connecting to a wider network of Express Lanes on I-805, and at a

future date on State Route 15.

Golden Hill homeowner Valentina Pasquetto, a spokesperson for a group of residents opposing the SR 94 Express Lane Project, said the group's recent petition drive garnered 220 signatures from local residents against the project in just two weeks.

"We expect growing support in the next few months once the (project's) draft EIR is released," Pasquetto said. "Our hope is that other residents and influential groups will support us by signing the petition and actively engaging our city, state and federal elected officials to oppose the project."

see SR 94, page 24

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Music and memories in Mission Hills

Summer outdoor concerts return this week at Pioneer Park



Fourth of July is always a fun time in Mission Hills. (Courtesy of Mission Hills Town Council)

By Dave Fidlin

After nearly six months of putting pieces of the puzzle together, members of a Mission Hills organization are ready to take the wraps off this summer's outdoor concert program. The aptly named Summer Concerts in the Park series kicks off June 19 and runs Fridays through July 31. The Mission Hills Town Council is once again spearheading the festivities at Pioneer Park.

Lara Gates, who serves on the town council, is one of a half-dozen Mission Hills residents involved in planning this year's concert series. Because of the logistics involved — fundraising, coordinating schedules and promoting the community event — Gates said the effort begins in earnest in January each year.

"We have several strategy sessions and start laying a lot of the groundwork at that time," Gates said. "From there, it all starts to come together."

The concert series, a staple in Mission Hills for about two decades, has long been touted as a family-friendly affair. After dwindling to just a few concerts each summer, the town council took oversight of the program seven years ago, not long after the organization was formed.

"We've been able to boost participation and raise more money to make this a real neighborhood event," Gates said.

With an infusion of resources into the concert series in recent years, Gates said attendance has followed suit. Typically, 400 to 500 people at-

tend each performance.

David Espinosa, who also serves on the town council, is a first-year member of the concert planning committee. Espinosa, who operates a namesake real estate strategy company in the community, said he views Summer Concerts in the Park as an opportunity to link residents with the business community.

Nearly a dozen neighborhood businesses provide muscle behind the program, either as title sponsors or supporting sponsors. San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents Mission Hills, has also sponsored the concert series.

This year, Gates said the goal is to have an even wider array of acts on the roster.

The range of local, regional and national performers includes a number of tribute bands that will play music from the Beatles, Neil Diamond, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

The mix of entertainment also includes such acts as Hullabaloo, a two-person band comprised of guitarist and songwriter Steve Denyes and drummer Brendan Kremer. The duo has been friends since kindergarten and aim to dazzle children — and kids at heart.

The seven-week extravaganza follows a similar format throughout, with one exception: Independence Day weekend.

A concert will not be held on Friday, the eve of the holiday. Instead, the council will be hosting a grandiose Fourth of July itinerary on the actual holiday. It will begin with a

parade at 10:30 a.m., music from Dr. Elvis at 12:30 p.m. and the fifth annual Mission Hills barbecue competition.

San Diegan Stephen Shuchter portrays Dr. Elvis and has been part of the Summer Concerts in the Park series in prior years. Shuchter's act as an entertainer runs alongside his stint as professor of clinical psychology emeritus at the UC San Diego's School of Medicine.

While such crowd-pleasers as Dr. Elvis are back again this year, Gates said there are a number of newcomers as well.

"I think we have a number of really highly professional bands on the roster this year," she said. "We're looking forward to a great season."

For Espinosa, Summer Concerts in the Park epitomizes Mission Hills' attributes.

"This is a great way to just get out and socialize," he said. "We have a great, small town atmosphere in this community."

Gates offers similar sentiments as she reflects on past years.

"It's just so much fun to connect with people in the community," she said. "You might meet a new neighbor, and you might have the chance to visit with someone you haven't seen in a while."

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



Mission Hills Summer Concerts in the Park Series

6 to 8 p.m. Fridays, June 19 to July 31 (no concert July 3; special festivities, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on July 4)

Pioneer Park, 1500 Washington Place

Free, except for concessions

June 19 — Diamond is Forever (Neil Diamond tribute band)

June 26 — Petty Breakers (Tom Petty tribute band)

July 4 — Dr. Elvis

July 10 — Help! (Beatles tribute band)

July 17 — Hullabaloo

July 24 — Liquid Blue Band

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Congressional Watch — June

By Andy Cohen

We start the June edition with Congress' passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the fiscal year 2016 budget to fund the military. The bill passed the House of Representatives on a 269 – 151 vote. Only eight Republicans voted against the military budget, while only 41 Democrats voted in favor, including two of San Diego's Democratic members of Congress, Scott Peters and Susan Davis, joining Republicans Darrell Issa and Duncan Hunter. Juan Vargas was the lone no vote from the region.

Democrats by and large rejected the bill for its restrictions on closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, and for ignoring military spending caps established in 2011 by sequestration. Republicans, Democrats argue, are willing to ignore sequestration for programs they favor, but adhere to it in lock step for programs that are Democratic priorities, such as infrastructure and health care.

"I remain opposed to the across-the-board cuts known as



sequester that limit the ability of our military commanders to effectively plan for the future, and will continue pushing Congressional leaders to end this reckless policy," Scott Peters (D-D52) said in a press release. "In the end, I supported this bill because we must give our military the resources it needs to keep our country safe, which continues to be the most important job for Congress."

Peters also noted the importance of the military budget's role for the San Diego region.

Additionally, Peters introduced seven amendments that were included in the defense bill, includ-

ing one that required California's continued access to military firefighting aircraft; reforms in the military's acquisition process that allow smaller companies better opportunities to compete with large firms; and support for Department of Defense-sponsored camps for military children grieving the loss of a loved one.

Both Peters and Davis are again expected to buck their party's leadership when the bill to approve the Trade Promotion Authority, or "fast track" authority — giving the Obama Administration full authority to negotiate the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement and allowing Congress only to approve or deny any completed agreement without offering any amendments — comes to a vote.

The actual contents of the TPP will not be made public until the agreement between the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim nations is finalized. Local proponents of the TPP insist it will be a boon to the San Diego economy by opening up new business opportunities.

Darrell Issa (R-D49), the richest member in all of Congress, came under fire for his insistence to "CNN Money" that America's poor are the "envy of the world," seemingly insisting that poverty and income inequality are not a big problem in the United States.

"If you go to India or you go to any number of Third World countries, you have two problems: You have greater inequality of income and wealth. You also have less opportunity for people to rise from the have not to the have," Issa told CNN.

Issa, who has a net worth of nearly \$450 million, took umbrage

with "CNN Money" reporter Cristina Alesci when she suggested "we don't want to compare ourselves to India, we want to set the bar pretty high."

"You're wrong, we do have to compare ourselves to the rest of the world, we compete with the rest of the world," replied Issa. "We're in a global economy, and it's extremely important that we be able to amass capital, have a trained workforce, and quite frankly, if we want to get paid more we have to be able to produce somehow better than many of those countries, including India."

Issa ignores the fact that the productivity of American workers has risen steadily, making them among the most productive in the world, while wages remained stagnant. According to the International Business Times, the productivity of American workers rose 25 percent between 2000 and 2012, yet they saw no gains in wages.

Duncan Hunter (R-D50) continued to advocate for greater U.S. military involvement in the Middle East, insisting that the only way to drive out the ISIS forces that have taken over the Iraqi city of Ramadi is for the U.S. to take direct action.

"Somehow we need to get involved in this fight. No one else can get involved in this fight the way we can," Hunter told "Fox News." Hunter, himself an Iraq war veteran, continues to be one of the most hawkish members of Congress. In December 2013, Hunter suggested during an interview on CSPAN that American forces should attack Iran with nuclear weapons.

Juan Vargas (D-D51) introduced the Stop Blood Tomatoes

Act of 2015 in the House of Representatives. The bill calls for increased transparency on the part of corporations with revenues over \$1 billion by requiring independent audits of their supply chains to ensure that they are not selling products made by child or forced labor. The bill would also mandate that companies publish the results of the audits on their websites and be reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Vargas also lamented the Republican led challenge to DAPA — the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans — an executive order issued by President Obama that would allow undocumented parents of citizens or legal residents who have been in the country for five years or more to remain in the country without fear of deportation.

"These parents care for their children and relatives, serving as vital providers in their communities," Vargas said in a statement. "The Executive Action would have offered relief to immigrants who currently live in the shadows, in constant fear of being separated from their families."

Susan Davis (D-D53) defended women's access to abortion services in response to the passage of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act along partisan lines in Congress. "I'm dismayed to see the majority bringing up yet another attack on women's health," Davis said in a statement.

"It is not for the government to infringe on a deeply personal decision that belongs between women and their doctors."

—Andy Cohen is a local freelance writer. Reach him at ac76@sbcbglobal.net. ♦

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Small business wrap-up

Notes from Toni
Toni G. Atkins
Speaker of the
Assembly



Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. There are more than 3.5 million of them in California, and they account for more than half the jobs in our state. It's important to celebrate and recognize the successful stores, restaurants, offices, and family businesses that contribute to the character of our neighborhoods and add so much to our local economy.

That's why I'm happy to honor the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach as Assembly District 78's Small Business of the Year. The Belly Up Tavern was selected from a pool of 23 great nominees. I am proud to honor all of these businesses.

The Belly Up is one of our most popular local venues and has been repeatedly named the "Best Live Music Club" in San Diego County. It has featured acts as varied as the Neville Brothers, Jimmy Buffett, and Mumford & Sons, and in its 41-year history has maintained a connection with the community, hosting fundraisers that benefit a variety of causes, from ALS to Toys for Tots.

May was Small Business Month, and we continued the celebration in Sacramento on June 10 with the California Small Business Association lunch at the Sacramento Convention Center.

I co-hosted the event, where members of the state legislature honored small-business owners from around the state, including the Belly Up and co-owners Phil Berkovitz and Steve Goldberg.

I also will host a reception in San Diego on June 26 to recognize my Small Business of the Year honorees and present an Assembly resolution to each business owner as a thank-you for their vision and dedication.

There are 28 million small businesses in the U.S., according to the Small Business Administration, and the SBA's Region 9, which includes California, has received significant support, attracting more than one-fifth of the agency's loan activity in 2014. The SBA also provides outreach to veterans and women who already are small-business owners or thinking of launching a new venture.

The state works to support small businesses, as well. A quarter of the awards in the California Competes tax-credit program are

set aside for small businesses, and San Diego has performed exceptionally well. Thirty companies received more than \$27 million in tax credits in the last year, and much of that went to San Diego County small businesses.

In addition, I am sponsoring AB 437 to enable small businesses in the tech sector to tap into tax credits to reinvest in research-and-development activities, and AB 226, to make it easier for local fishermen to organize and sell their catch directly to the public at community fish markets.

I appreciate all the hard work of the tens of thousands of small-business owners in my community and will continue not just to advocate on their behalf, but also to encourage all San Diegans to support their local homegrown businesses.

[Editor's note: for more info visit asmdc.org/speaker.]

Around the District: I've launched "Socks for Stand Down," a sock drive through June 30 to support Stand Down, the annual event to assist struggling or homeless veterans. You may drop socks for our veterans in the box at my district office, located at 1350 Front St., Room 6054, at local community meetings, or at office hours where my staff appears. For a list of the office hours, please see the "Upcoming Events" on my website, asmdc.org/speaker. Stand Down takes place from July 17-19 this year ... The Balboa Park "Garden Party of the Century" was a great celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition. Here I am with Rep. Susan Davis and Councilmember Todd Gloria. It was great to see the children in the Floral Wagon parade and the U.S. Marine Corps re-enactment of their long-ago march across the Cabrillo Bridge ... I was shocked to learn so many college students struggle with hunger and homelessness. San Diego State has established an Economic Crisis Response Team to help and UC San Diego opened the Triton Food Pantry in February. California State University launched a yearlong study into the problem and I'm eager to see the results. Making sure that students are fed and housed are basic necessities that we as legislators, along with campus administrators, need to ensure.

—Toni G. Atkins is the Speaker of the California State Assembly. For more information, please 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. ♦



(l to r) U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins and San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria
(Courtesy of Office of Toni G. Atkins)



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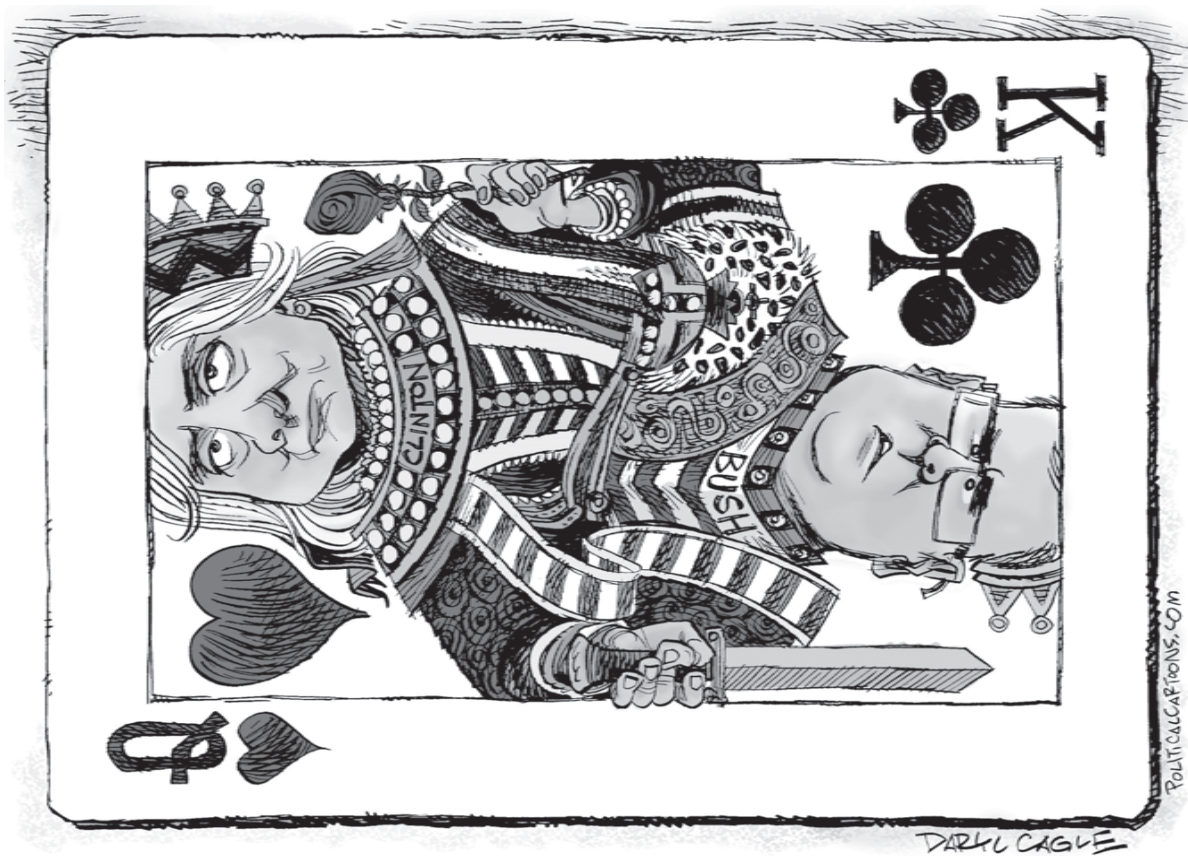
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Letters

A SANDAG lost opportunity

A lost opportunity is the best way to describe what happened June 5 in a SANDAG boardroom. After years of neglect, the government was trying to make good on its promises to bicycle enthusiasts to create complete streets that balance the needs of cars, bikes and pedestrians. The Hillcrest community had come together around a plan called Transform Hillcrest that tried to find the right balance. The plan was bold and imaginative, but it involved change. The change was embraced by all the community groups that reviewed it.

Unfortunately, the plan appeared dead on arrival at a SANDAG boardroom. A true compromise could have been had by making the plan work, but we ended up with the minimum that

could be done and members of the SANDAG committee still claiming credit for progress.

If we can't have the community that we wanted, I only ask that the plan does minimal damage. As we watch our beautiful medians on University Avenue between 10th and Normal streets get removed, I hope that the plan gives us something back. At the very least I would like to see mid-block crosswalks controlled by traffic lights coordinated with the lights at the intersections. The rebuilt pedestrian pop-outs will be all that is left to provide any sense of place; I hope that they are nice. If we have any doubts about SANDAG's standards, we can always look at their track record on Park Boulevard.

—Roy Dahl
Hillcrest resident

Christine Kehoe honored as 'local hero'

By Monica Medina | KPBS

Becoming a politician was the last thing on Christine Kehoe's mind when she was growing up in Troy, New York. She didn't even run for student government at her high school. Yet in 1993, Kehoe would open doors, becoming the first member of the LGBT community to hold an elected office in San Diego.

"The thing I'm proudest of is winning the San Diego City Council race in 1993," said Kehoe, one of KPBS and Union Bank's 2015 LGBT Pride Month Local Heroes. "I feel like it was really a people's campaign and I think it opened doors for the gay community to participate in the civic life of San Diego in an unprecedented way. Toni Atkins, an open lesbian, followed me [on to City Council]. Todd Gloria followed her. [San Diego County District Attorney] Bonnie Dumanis was first elected a year or two later."

Atkins is now Speaker of the California State Assembly and the representative for 78th district. Gloria recently announced he would be running for Atkins' Assembly seat after she is termed out next year.

"I'm not responsible for them but it paved the way," Kehoe said. "Now we have district attorneys and city council members for whom being an LGBT candidate or professional or appointee is just part of the conversation — and it didn't used to be."

Kehoe made her way to San Diego after graduating from State University of New York, Albany, with a Bachelor of Arts in English, more than 30 years ago. Despite not having a job waiting for her, it was a gamble she was willing to take.

"I came to California in the late '70s and I just loved it," she recalled. "Right away, San Diego was my home. I can still remember the first time I saw the Star of India, the palm trees and the water. It was a very liberating experience in a lot of ways, very different from upstate New



Then-Sen. Christine Kehoe shares a moment with Sen. Mark Lara. Kehoe has been named a 2015 LGBT Pride Month Local Hero. (Courtesy of Christine Kehoe)

York. Not having a job, I started volunteering at the Center for Women's Studies and Social Services, and my community activism grew out of that experience."

The Women's Center was located Downtown, at Ninth Avenue and G Street, across from the old Central Library. For Kehoe, working there proved to be an empowering experience. After the Women's Center, she spent time as a volunteer coordinator for the AIDS Assistance Fund, which eventually became the AIDS Foundation of San Diego.

"I loved organizing events and communicating with people, recognizing that they had the confidence that I was going to be a good and fair leader," she recalled. "I knew

I liked doing it, so I just started doing more. The work I was involved in didn't start out as political activity, in the sense of [seeking an] elected office. It was more about justice and equality. To go from looking at women's issues to realizing LGBT civil rights, I knew I was fitted for it. I found it very rewarding and wanted to do more of it."

Kehoe also served as editor of the San Diego Gayzette, a newspaper for the LGBT community.

"The idea of running a newspaper was extremely challenging," Kehoe admitted. "I was scared of it, but I dove in. It was so

see Kehoe, page 7

San Diego Uptown News

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Volunteers like these are needed each year to help clean up Hillcrest after San Diego Pride weekend. This year they will do it on the morning of July 20.

(Courtesy of Benny Cartwright)

Hillcrest Town Council update

By Benny Cartwright

With the annual San Diego LGBT Pride celebration fast approaching, Hillcrest is getting ready to host the hundreds of thousands of people who will descend upon the neighborhood for the weekend. We are pleased to have a great partnership with San Diego Pride, the organization that produces the events, and got to hear from their executive director, Stephen Whitburn, at our most recent community meeting on June 9.

Whitburn talked about some of the highlights of the weekend, which include the Spirit of Stonewall Rally and the Pride of Hillcrest Block Party on the night of July 17, the annual Pride Parade on July 18 starting at 11 a.m. and the two-day Pride Music Festival in Balboa Park on July 18 and 19.

More details about Pride weekend can be found online at sdpride.org.

With so many people spending the weekend in and around the neighborhood on Pride weekend, it gets a little messy. Each year, the Hillcrest Town Council and Hillcrest Clean T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) host a post-Pride clean-up. This year's clean-up is scheduled for July 20 at 8 a.m. when volunteers will meet at the corner of University and Essex. HTC appreciates the help of as many people as possible, so please join us if you can. For more information contact HTC chair Luke Terpstra at 619-206-2018 or LukeTerpstra@cox.net.

Another exciting event happening in the community related to Pride is the lighting of UCSD Medical Center in rainbow colors.

While the hospital building has been lit in the past with red for heart health awareness and pink for breast cancer awareness, this is the first time the hospital will be lit in rainbow colors. The hospital will light up the building for the month of July in rainbow colors. This shows the hospital's commitment and support to the LGBT community, which has a long history in Hillcrest. A lighting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. at the hospital, located at 200 W. Arbor Drive. For more information or to RSVP, visit health.ucsd.edu/pridelighting.

Summertime is Hillcrest is a lot of fun, and we hope all of our neighbors and visitors enjoy it to the fullest. We also invite our neighbors to get involved in the community this summer, and consider attending a meeting of the Hillcrest Town Council and listening, learning, speaking up, and meeting other neighbors. For years, HTC has been a place for the residents of Hillcrest — whether they own or rent — can come and share concerns, learn more about the neighborhood, and get involved in making Hillcrest a better place.

The next meeting of the Hillcrest Town Council is scheduled for July 14 at 6:30 p.m. If you've never come to a meeting, or haven't been in awhile, please join us — we'd love to meet you. All meetings include updates from representatives of our local elected officials, a time for community members to share concerns, and special presentations on a number of topics of interest. We meet at the Joyce Beers Community Center in the HUB Shopping Center.

Learn more about us at hillcresttowncouncil.com. Happy Pride, Hillcrest!

—Benny Cartwright is secretary of the Hillcrest Town Council. ♦

FROM PAGE 6 KEHOE

much larger than I realized, but it taught me so much about Hillcrest and immersed me in the gay community. I was actually coming out at the same time."

In 1987, Kehoe made the decision to help openly gay candidate Neil Good run for the City Council District 8 seat. Though he didn't win, it gave Kehoe the knowledge and know-how she'd need when she ran for office five years later, at the suggestion of Joyce Beers, founder of the Hillcrest Business Association.

"Joyce Beers was one of the first persons to talk to me about a political career," Kehoe explained. "I think she saw things in me that I hadn't seen. She had encouraged me to take on the Hillcrest Business Association as executive director, because she wanted to retire, and I learned a lot about local policy issues. Neil Good's campaign helped me understand how important walking precincts were, and that you have to make every vote count. You have to go out and meet the voters. We covered every precinct in the district twice. For whatever reason, the community really came behind me."

Kehoe served seven years as the District 3 City Council representative, and two terms as State Assembly member, representing the 76th District, before moving onto the senate in 2004. Kehoe was also the founding chair of the Legislative LGBT Caucus in 2003. While in office, Kehoe introduced several

bills on LGBT rights, including ensuring equal treatment of LGBT domestic partners in insurance benefits and property taxes.

"In the early 2000s, California was leading the country in attempting to broadly eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation," Kehoe noted. "These bills and others set the stage for great progress later on, in advancing equal civil rights by showing the discriminatory treatment endured by LGBT Californians in so many legal, financial, property, medical and child custody cases."

In 2012, Kehoe left office due to term limits. Today, she is in her third year as the executive director of the California Plug-in Electric Vehicle Collaborative.

"Our mission is to expand the use of electrical vehicles in California, transitioning away from fossil fuels to clean advanced technology vehicles," Kehoe said. "That is going to greatly impact California, which is the leader in electric vehicle adaption. Currently, 3 percent in San Diego have adapted electric vehicles. It's small but it's growing. With electric cars we're talking clean air and less pollution."

The environment has always been important to Kehoe, who as state senator sponsored legislation establishing the San Diego River Conservancy in 2002. Kehoe said that, even though the river runs through Mission Valley, one of San Diego's busiest and densest neighborhoods, most people hardly notice it.

"The river is surrounded by a lot of habitat that is good for birds and wildlife," she explained. "[Through the conservancy], it is being pre-

served and enhanced, and allows for hiking, biking and wildlife."

Kehoe lives in North Park with Julie Warren, her partner of 30 years. The couple — who once registered as domestic partners — celebrated their milestone anniversary last November by getting married. Legally.

"It was surprising to us that after 30 years together, our marriage added depth to our long-cherished relationship," Kehoe said. "The rights and responsibilities of marriage instantly define the importance of our relationship to ourselves and the world."

"Looking back over the last three decades, the public embrace of marriage equality around the world — such as what happened recently in Ireland — is simply amazing," she continued. "So many people worked so very hard to lay this groundwork and now the future is brighter for LGBT people almost everywhere — truly a seismic shift."

The Local Hero program, launched in 1998, is co-sponsored by KPBS and Union Bank and honors two local residents each month of the calendar year, who go above and beyond for their respective community. Kehoe and Terry Cunningham were chosen as the 2015 Pride Month honorees. Watch for Cunningham's profile in the next issue of Gay San Diego and Uptown News.

To learn more about the program, visit kpbs.org/news/blogs/hey-neighbor/local-heroes/.

—Monica Medina is the director of diversity, engagement and grants at KPBS. She can be reached at mmedina@kpbs.org. ♦

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FROM PAGE 1
BIKES

70 people spoke in favor of the protected bicycle lanes for University Avenue through Mission Hills and Hillcrest. Many stressed safety issues, since this Uptown area is considered one of the most dangerous in San Diego for bicyclists and pedestrians because of the traffic congestion and narrow streets.

A handful of people supported doing nothing for bicyclists, mostly business owners who said they were concerned about losing parking spaces, and possibly customers, as a result.

After three hours of public comments and deliberations by the Transportation Committee, member Ron Roberts (county supervisor) made a motion to approve a watered-down version of the project that was seconded by Chair Todd Gloria (city councilmember) and passed.

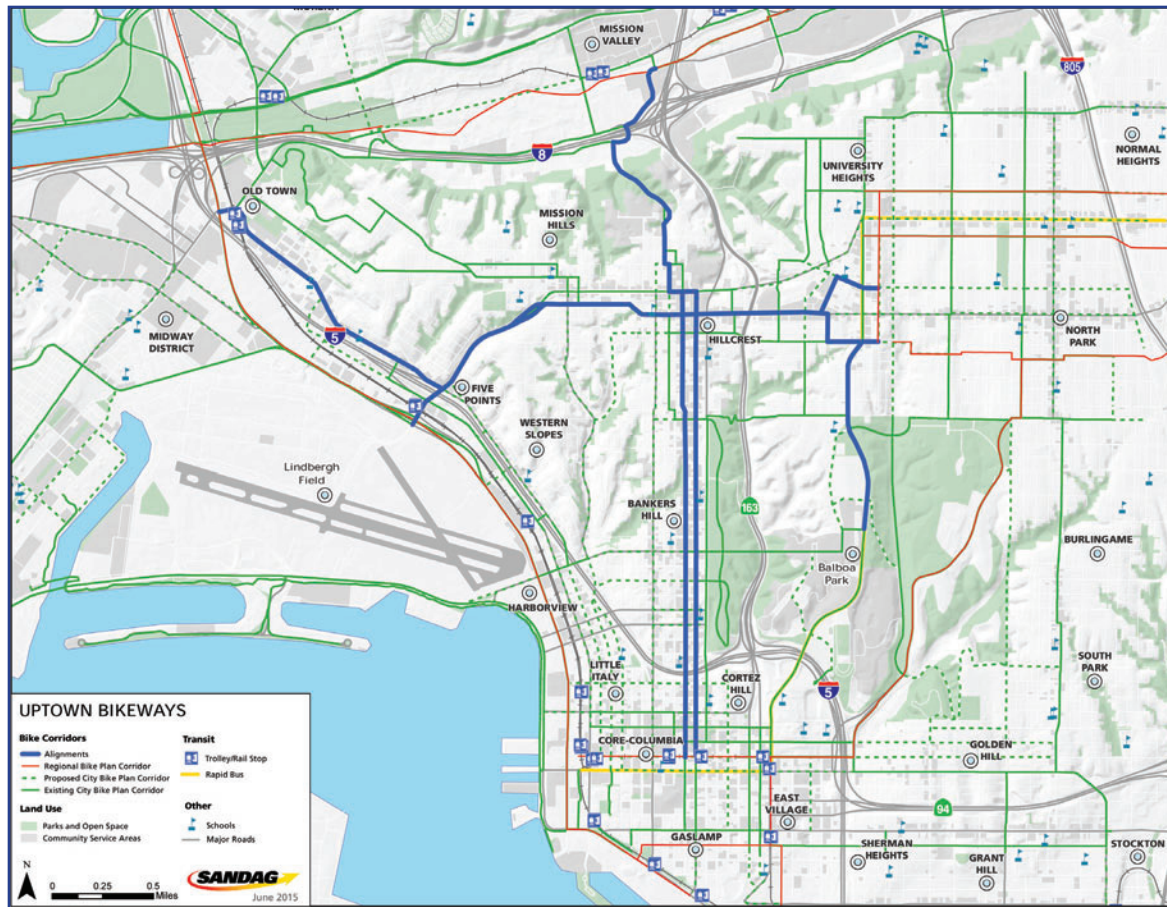
What was approved was essentially doing little on University Avenue from Washington to the State Route 163 overpass. SANDAG will paint sharrows (shared lane arrows) to indicate to drivers that bicyclists are entitled to share the lanes with motorists. The stretch from the SR 163 overpass to Normal Street — where University Avenue widens considerably — will be reconfigured to provide fully protected bicycling lanes.

Gloria told the audience that the eastern stretch with the fully protected bicycling lanes will become a model for the rest of the city. That did little to please some bicycling advocates but Andy Hanshaw, executive director of the San Diego County Bike Coalition (sdbikecoalition.org), saw room for hope.

"People will notice the impact. It's unfortunate that it does not continue, but getting something done that will demonstrate effectiveness to improve safety and bicycle ridership and ease congestion will be welcome," Hanshaw said.

Kopp was disappointed by the process.

"There was so much good work done over the course of more than two years to produce a design which would transform



This graphic shows the five proposed routes of the Uptown Bikeways project with the goal of creating safe "low stress" streets. (Courtesy of SANDAG)

University Avenue in Hillcrest into a thoroughfare worthy of such a great neighborhood," Kopp said.

"With the Transform Hillcrest alternative design, it seemed as though everyone was working in good faith to take in the concerns of businesses, community groups, and advocacy organizations, alike. In the end, we no longer feel that was the case. While publicly supporting the Transform Hillcrest design, the Hillcrest Business Association employed the lobbying services of California Strategies to pressure elected officials and key decision makers to strip the plan of the key infrastructure necessary to succeed as a robust cycling corridor," he said.

"In the end, the community lost because it was outgunned by a group with deeper pockets and misplaced concerns, acting only in its narrow, perceived self-interest, instead of for the greater community," Kopp said.

The day before the vote, Johnathan Hale, president of the Hillcrest Business Association, shared with

the media a letter he sent to Gloria.

"HBA representatives recently met with SANDAG to discuss the revised scope, and we appreciate SANDAG's commitment to improving the pedestrian experience along University Avenue while also providing additional bicycle infrastructure along Washington Street and University Avenue. Equally important, it is our understanding the revised scope will maintain eastbound vehicular access to University Avenue from Washington Street, and it will also minimize the parking loss along University Avenue throughout the Hillcrest business core," Hale wrote in the letter.

Benjamin Nicholls, executive director of the HBA, was among the speakers at the meeting who advocated for the plan that was ultimately approved.

For Kopp, even the eastern stretch with protected bicycle lanes is a cause for concern.

"It may sound counterintuitive, but it's possible that adding those few blocks of protected cycling lanes on University Avenue could actually be more dangerous. Cyclists exiting the lanes will have to re-establish themselves in auto lanes with drivers who weren't expecting their presence," he said.

"That merge is a hazard for cyclists and motorists, alike, and the confusion it creates could lead to the increased tensions of motorists who already don't like to share the road.

We've already heard from experienced cyclists who would just as soon remain in their position in the auto lanes, to say nothing for potential cyclists who will likely choose not to ride at all because of safety concerns. The only solution that will result in the increased mode share goals for cycling is to build fully protected, ubiquitous cycling lanes to separate auto and cycling traffic," Kopp said.

Bicycling advocates said they will continue to push officials to make University Avenue safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"Yes, we are looking at options for that now. It's a serious safety concern to have this gap along what is statistically the most dangerous corridor in the city for bicyclists and pedestrians. It must be addressed through the city or whatever means necessary to save lives and make our city bike-friendly," Hanshaw said.

"Despite this setback, we're very optimistic for the future, not only for the overall Uptown Bikeways, but for revisiting the constrained section of University Avenue, as well," Kopp said.

"More and more studies, including one just released by UCSD [read it at tinyurl.com/ps5envw], keep reinforcing a simple and compelling truth: Adding safe, protected cycling lanes to a community improves business. One of our jobs as advocates is to make sure that studies like these can no longer be ignored and to let our elected officials know that we

expect them to stand up and lead on the issue," he said.

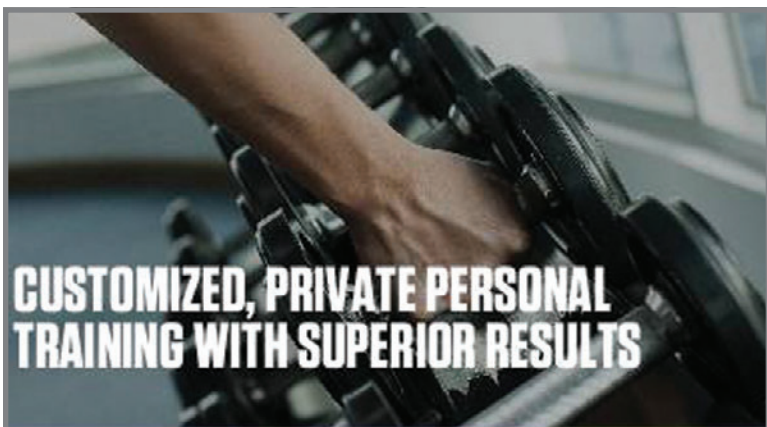
"Bike San Diego is continuing to advocate for revisiting this segment of the Uptown Bikeways Project, while also not losing sight of the bigger picture. There are many projects in the pipeline and the city simply cannot afford to see them weakened one by one. There are lots of competing interests surrounding every one of those projects, so we, as well as San Diego County Bicycle Coalition need folks to join us in this effort.

"With respect to the University Avenue segment specifically, our two organizations along with DecoBike, are hosting a new, weekly Share The Road ride on University Avenue to raise confidence and awareness for experienced and casual cyclists, alike, while riding in the full lane," Kopp said. "But that's not enough. We're exploring every avenue possible to bring this segment back to the drawing board, to restore the public's trust in a process gone awry, and for our elected officials to correct this mistake."

Hanshaw said his group would not back down.

"The safety concerns will not go away unless they are addressed by more than just the bicycling community. It should be a dialogue that everyone participates in. We have to begin to implement the funded projects in the Regional Bike Plan and in order to do so, people need to be willing to think about more than parking and car access to their communities," Hanshaw said. "Studies are clearly showing that bike lanes make for safer streets and increased business activity. Why wouldn't we want this?"

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



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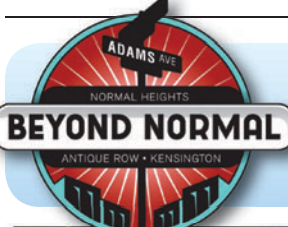
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21. Dimille's Italian

22. Subway

23. Backyard Café

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25. Ponce's Mexican Restaurant

26. The Haven Pizzeria


27. Vida's Juice House

28. Moose's Ice Cream

29. Village Vino

30. Clem's Tap House

31. Kensington Cafe

 = Trolley Stop

FROM PAGE 1
TASTE

gives away a slice of pizza. I'm sure Moosie's will provide a sampling of their ice cream."

Some restaurants have been along for the ride for all 15 years, and Carney cited DiMille's Italian Restaurant and Ponce's Mexican Restaurant as two of the original participants. Both restaurants are longtime fixtures in the Adams Avenue corridor.



Viva Pops will be back this year at Taste of Adams Avenue. (Courtesy of Adams Avenue Business Association)


Mike DiAnna, owner/operator of DiMille's, said he enjoys the opportunity provided by the Taste of Adams Avenue.

"We have always been active in with all aspects of the community, special events, fundraisers, schools, etc. I believe over the last 37 years DiMille's has participated in every event presented by the AABA to show support," DiAnna said.

DiMille's participation in the event isn't necessarily motivated by the desire to attract new customers, he said.

"I am not really sure how you would measure the return of new business from our participation," DiAnna said. "I just feel if we stick to our initial intentions of supporting the community and our incredible business district, serve some awesome Italian food, then everything else will work itself out."

—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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Pear Pearson built this house at 3351 Thorn St. in North Park in 1926.
(Courtesy of Katherine Hon)

Pear Pearson: Master builder and master businessman

By Katherine Hon

It is rare to get a glimpse into the minds of North Park builders from before the 1930s. They and most of their children have passed on, leaving unlabeled photographs and bits of paperwork to be puzzled over by grandchildren and distant relatives.

Recently the North Park Historical Society (NPHS) had the good fortune of connecting with descendants of Pear Pearson, one of San Diego's premier builders from the early 1920s. Through their family records we have gained valuable insights into how he conducted an exemplary

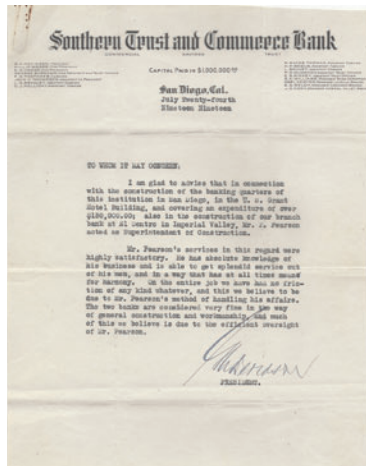
career in commercial and residential construction.

Pearson was an early North Park resident who has been recognized by the city of San Diego as a master builder. He was born Per Olsson in Sweden in 1887 and changed his name upon arrival in the United States in 1905. He lived in Denver, Colorado, where he was a cabinetmaker and contractor. He later moved to Berkeley, California and was responsible for many bank remodels in association with San Francisco architect H. H. Winner.

Perhaps attracted by the building boom stimulated by the 1915 Exposition, Pearson began



(above) Pear Pearson and his wife Helen proudly advertise a home he built. (Courtesy of Kari Koskinen) (left) Prominent San Diego banker G. Aubrey Davidson provided this letter of recommendation to Pear Pearson in 1919. (Courtesy of Kari Koskinen)



building homes in San Diego in the early 1920s. One of his first homes was 3602 Villa Terrace, which he built in 1921 for Fredrick and Ada Sedgwick. This wood-sided Craftsman home with tall, square porch columns has been designated as a significant historical resource by the city.

In 1922, Pearson built a home at 3636 Villa Terrace, where he lived with his wife Helen and daughter Vernetta for several years.

In 1925, he built a Spanish Revival bungalow at 2536 San Marcos

Ave. in what is now the Burlingame Historic District. The family lived there until 1936, when they moved to a house on Herman Avenue and later to Boundary Street before settling in La Mesa in the 1970s. He died in 1973 at age 86.

Although Pearson typically built in the Craftsman or Spanish Revival/Mission Revival style, several of his homes uniquely reflect his Swedish roots, particularly the charming bungalows at 2624 San Marcos Ave. built in 1925, and 3351 Thorn St. built in 1926. He had a long career building high-quality homes throughout the San Diego region, including in North Park, Loma Portal, Mission Hills and La Mesa. He also was responsible for commercial buildings, notably the large brick and concrete store at 1007 University Ave. in Hillcrest currently housing Ace Hardware, built for \$30,000

in 1926. The businesses at this location in the 1927 city directory are listed as University Avenue Furniture Co. and University Window Shade Co., at 1003 and 1009 University Ave., respectively.

One of the keys to Pearson's success was always doing high-quality work. Letters of recommendation saved by the family attest to his knowledge and supervisory skills. One letter, dated 1919, is from prominent San Diegan G.A. Davidson, president of the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank, complimenting Pearson on supervising construction of their banking quarters in the U.S. Grant Hotel. G. Aubrey Davidson was founder of the bank, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and is known as the father of the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition because the idea for the Exposition began with him. Pearson was still using G. Aubrey Davidson as a reference in 1943 when applying for federal construction work.

Another key to success was Pearson's organization and careful tracking of expenses. A ledger book saved by the family presents meticulous notes on prices of various materials and labor. Costs are recorded for 17 houses, including his own home on San Marcos Avenue in Burlingame. Items listed for a large Spanish Colonial Revival home Pearson built for his friend Leo Hoffman at 2704 Teresita St. in 1928 range from nearly \$800 for carpenter labor, \$535 for lumber, and \$400 for millwork sash and doors to \$6 for a folding ironing board.

The ledger is also an interesting source for names of specialty contractors of the time. The log for 2536 San Marcos Ave. includes Fred A. Heilbron Plumbing, Benton Roof Co. and Fred Cottrell Plastering. A favored source of hardware was Berger Hardware, a store still operating in North Park after more than 100 years.

NPHS is indebted to the grandchildren of master builder Pear Pearson for sharing their family photographs and records. We invite anyone with an interesting North Park ancestor or historical story to contact us at info@northparkhistory.org. For an outdoor lecture about many other early North Park builders, join our docents for a guided walking tour of the Dryden Historic District on July 11, 2015 at 9 a.m. Visit our website at northparkhistory.org for more information.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ♦

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How to garden wisely during a severe drought

By Gary Jones

Reducing water use in California is more important now than ever. State and local water restrictions are firmly in place as winter precipitation was below normal, providing no relief to our ongoing drought.

Instead of worrying, now is the time to take action. Readers will be able to ask questions and get answers via this column. Think of it as a community resource providing helpful tips and advice for your landscape, lawn and garden.

While state-mandated cutbacks are new, solutions to help homeowners and gardeners (green thumbs and novices alike) keep their lawns and gardens alive, use less water and stay looking beautiful are time-tested.

We can all meet watering guidelines by adjusting outdoor spaces to conserve water, providing a long-term water-efficient landscape and still maintain the beauty of our community. Research shows that Californians use up to 25 percent more water than they need, so watering less but more effectively is very important. Simple fixes such as repairing broken sprinklers, covering plant bases with mulch or adding compost to soil will help consumers save on water consumption.

For permanent solutions, California Certified Nursery Professionals (CCNP) and other certified landscape professionals can assist in water-wise landscape design and installation, including partial or full lawn replacements.

Here are 10 simple water-

saving tips to follow so you can reduce your outdoor water use:

1. Mulch — Placing a layer of organic mulch on the soil surface around plants can save hundreds of gallons of water each year. Mulch prevents water evaporation and stops weeds from growing.

2. Repair and adjust sprinklers — Observe your sprinklers as they run. Adjust them as necessary to reduce overspray on sidewalks, roads and patios. Repair damaged sprinklers immediately. Check pipes for leaks as quick repairs and adjustments can save as much as 500 gallons each year.

3. Install a smart sprinkler controller — The latest technology can help reduce your water use and water bill dramatically. Wireless smart controllers activate sprinklers via computer based on current weather data and information about the specifics of your garden. Simply replace your automatic timer with a smart controller.

4. Add lots of compost to your soil — Adding store-bought or homemade compost to all of your planting beds and pots will decrease the amount of water needed. Clay soils that are amended with organic matter will accept and retain water better. Sandy soils improved with compost will have significantly better water absorption and retention.

5. Use trigger sprayers when hand-watering — Every hose should be equipped with a trigger sprayer so that no water is wasted when watering containers and the rest of your

garden. Make sure to use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.

6. Minimize water loss in pots — Use water-retentive Danish Potting Soil in containers for all plants needing regular or ample water. For plants requiring moderate to low water, use Edna's Best Potting soil along with Soil Moist in containers. Soil Moist is a polymer that stores water for plants' use as the soil dries.

7. Use organic fertilizers — Organic fertilizers slowly release nutrients into the soil at a natural rate that matches plants' needs. With a slow, even feeding, there is no overabundance of soft green growth that chemical fertilizers produce. Thus, your plants need less water when fed organically.

8. Water deeper, but less often — Most gardens on automatic sprinkling systems in California are overwatered. Change your system to match local water district guidelines. You'll have less evaporation and water will be deeper where roots can continue to access the water.

9. Change watering times with the seasons — Adjust your automatic system at least three times a year: July-October (highest frequency), November-March (lowest frequency) and April-June (somewhere in between). During periods of rain, turn automatic systems completely off.

10. Water early in the morning — Set your automatic sprinklers to run in the early morning and finish before 8 a.m. This will reduce evapo-



(top) Limit automatic sprinklers during severe drought conditions. (left) Use a trigger sprayer to minimize water loss. (right) Mulching is a great way to preserve moisture in the soil. (Courtesy of Armstrong Garden Centers)

ration and lessen the likelihood of water waste due to interference from winds. You'll also find that it reduces plant disease and water damage.

Feel free to share any tips or questions you may have. We might just include them in an

upcoming issue.

—Gary Jones is Chief Horticulturist at Armstrong Garden Centers. Email your drought and gardening questions to growingdialogue@armstronggarden.com. ♦

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Making Home Selling More Affordable!

Whenever I go on a 4% listing fee appointment to sell a home, I usually get asked some of the same questions. How does a 4% listing work? What short cuts do you take? Are you paying the Buyer's representative a decent commission so they will show my home? Here's how it works....

There's nothing really magical about selling a property. Selling a \$350,000 home is about the same amount of effort as a \$3,500,000 home. All the agencies pull data from most of the same sources in consulting with a seller on a suggested list price. Agents use the local MLS (Multiple Listing Service) database of "Actives, Pending, and Sold" as well as the Tax Assessors Roll for other sales such as FSBO's (For Sale by Owners). After 25 years in the Real Estate business, and 15 years in selling the San Diego Metro area—as well as random sales around the county—I can tell you the bottom line in a property sale is in the seller's choice of pricing, a property's amenities, the condition of the property, and the curb appeal to a potential buyer. As one of my mentors said many many years ago, there's a buyer for every property. You just have to be sure that the property appeals to a mass audience to increase the chance of a timely sale.

Commissions in California are 100% negotiable. What the seller needs to understand

is what we call "local customary fees". These commission fees vary from city to city, and also state to state. Fees generally range from 5.0% to 6.0% for Metro residential properties as of late. Where a seller needs to start their decision making is in asking what the average "local customary fee" is for the Buyer's representative. Once you have established that percentage, then you can begin to negotiate what the listing agency will earn based on what you expect to pay as a total commission amount. In the Metro area for example, I think it is safe to say that the "local customary fee" for a Buyer's representative is about 2.5% for their commissions. The days of 3.0% for these fees have for the most part disappeared, but not entirely.

Most of the Real Estate community participates in the standard seller perks when taking a listing. Online and/or print advertising in some form, Open Houses, Broker's Caravans, flyers, yard signage, and then more Open Houses. Of course, a majority of agents take as many as 25 pictures of the property when warranted (either their own pictures or utilizing a professional photographer), and also virtual tours. I would venture to guess that in the near future there will be drone videos for some of the more exclusive properties. And for those homes that may need

a little help in presentation, there is "staging", which is usually paid for by the seller.

At the end of the day when it's all said and done, there is no real magical act that a Real Estate agency can perform to guarantee a property sale. The old adage "location, location, location" still has merit, but the market sets the price and the service ensures the sale. The property has to perform it's own magic, and when sold, it will vanish from our minds until the next time it's up for sale.

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Hopping down the Ale Trail

Suds in the city
Cody Thompson

For many locals, this time of year means drop everything and get outside. With our beaches, the flawless weather and countless attractions around town, it's no wonder our city is a beacon of hope for travelers from all over the world.

If you are like me, this is the time of year to get outside and hit the trail. No, not the kind up in the hills somewhere, covered in dust and poison oak. I am talking about the Summer Solstice Ale Trail — for beer lovers.

The Summer Solstice Ale Trail is a monthlong collaborative event brought to you by the folks at Societe Brewing Co. in Clairemont Mesa and Benchmark Brewing Co. in Grantville, who started the Ale Trail last year in an effort to celebrate both of their anniversaries. Joining them this year to create the hat trick of awesomeness is local favorite Fall Brewing Co. in North Park.

"We wanted to do something that was completely different than any other collaborative promotion, as far as beer goes, in San Diego. We are working together to share each other's breweries and beers, but we are each bringing what we do best when it comes to the beer," said Mike Sardina, assistant executive officer at Societe.

"We hope that the Ale Trail will bring people together for a unique experience, for a trip to all three breweries. Whether that trip happens in a day, a weekend, or simply in the month of June. Hopefully we reach

some new people who get to taste a beer that they would not have tried otherwise," he said.

When thirsty locals join the Ale Trail, they will be presented with a passport for travel and tastings. At each brewery visit in the month of June, travelers will get their passport stamped. Once they complete the trail, beer fans will be able to redeem their passport for a commemorative pair of San Diego drinking socks. Passports can be redeemed at any location while supplies last.

"Societe was part of the group with us last year, and this year rather than focus on when we opened, we decided to focus on what we are proud of. We are excited to celebrate these three breweries that are owned and operated by professionally trained brewmasters," said Rachel Akin, co-founder of Benchmark Brewing Co.

"We feel it's important to highlight this idea because it is unique and often not understood by the average craft beer drinker. Matt, Travis, Doug and Ray have spent years working under some of the great breweries in the country and we are proud of what that has translated to in these new ventures," she said.

"We are celebrating the way we got here, and the history of our brewers, we also wanted to give folks a reason to visit breweries outside their normal circle. But we always love an excuse to have a beer with friends," Akin said.

If socks are not enough to get you excited about the Ale Trail, be advised that some special beers will be tapping throughout the month of June, thanks to the event overlapping with both Benchmark and Societe's anniversaries.

PASSPORT

SUMMER SOLSTICE 2015 ALE TRAIL

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON....

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(above) Three local craft breweries have created a Summer Solstice Ale Trail, lasting till the end of June. (below right) Win your drinking socks. (Courtesy of Summer Solstice Ale Trail)

"The Ale Trail coincides with a portion of our third anniversary celebration, and we will be pouring this year's batch of The Gleaner, our saison with California Sagebrush. We will also be releasing a new Out West, hoppy beer that we have never poured before," Sardina said.

"We will have a new batch of The Bachelorette, our single-hop lager. On June 27, we will be tapping a keg of our new Feral-blend, The Thief. And finally, on one random day during the Anniversary, we will tap another keg of The Thief unannounced — some lucky Ale Trail travelers might have the good fortune of catching that beer on tap at any given day here at Societe," he added.

As for Benchmark, Akin said, "We will be releasing our anniver-

sary beer San Diego 71 mid-month and our table beer, brown and IPA will be released in cans toward the end of the month."

So grab those passports and hit the trail.

"Go to Benchmark and sip a mug of oatmeal stout or a glass of table beer," Sardina said. "Go to Fall Brewing and drink a nice pint of Plenty For All, an awesome pilsner. Come here and enjoy a glass of The Harlot or a full pour of one of our Out West, hoppy beers. Get a beer in our tasting room, and talk to the people around you. You'll love it. Trust me."

The Summer Solstice Ale Trail will go through the month of June, and drinking socks will be available while supplies last. For more information visit: societe-



brewing.com, benchmarkbrewing.com and fallbrewing.com.

—Contact Cody Thompson at cody@threebzine.com.

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Good hair day

The honeypot cocktail and spiced popcorn at Brooklyn Girl (Photo by Dr. Ink)

Come On
Get Happy!
Dr. Ink

If you've never experienced Brooklyn Girl on less than a full house, then go for happy hour. The bustling hot spot, which fills to capacity on most nights, feels bigger before the supper rush, like an open playground with easy access to all the amusements.

In this case, we're talking about landing a seat at the central U-shaped bar without competition and then receiving your own personal bowl of buttery, spiced popcorn for free.

Less congestion also allows you to chat uninterrupted with the person overseeing the marble-top oyster bar about the day's fresh selection. Seize them while you can within this precious time slot because they're discounted to \$8 for a half dozen or \$15 for a full dozen.

The restaurant uses the term "social hour" to attract bargain hunters to its \$6 specialty cocktails and \$5 draft beers. But it more so frames the mellow mood that prevails as customers fluidly cross-converse with one another compared to peak times when gaggles of dinner guests stick mainly to themselves while feasting on the lauded cuisine.

In a recent visit, while washing down handfuls of garlic-paprika popcorn with a fabulous "honeypot" cocktail, I was somehow pulled in to a lively conversation by two women at a high-top table who arrived rather thirsty from a nearby hair salon. They were celebrating their "new summer colors."

One was a blonde sporting fresh strawberry streaks; the other a brunette loving her added soft-brown highlights. We toasted a couple of times, and after they discussed the latest, innovative developer their stylists used, I came away more hair aware – and buzzed.

My tequila-based cocktail jived also to the dawning of summer. So fresh and citrusy, it smelled as though someone had just peeled an orange behind my back. Its flavor matched the aroma due to the fruity house-blended curacao in the construct along with a big, fat orange peel floating on top. Honey and a pinch of salt tied it together.

Among the other \$6 cocktails are the gin-based "bright and basil" with celery bitters; a "back pocket mule" that mixes vodka with strawberries, cucumbers and lemons; and "chai me a river" using aged rum and chai tea.

Brooklyn Girl

4033 Goldfinch St.
(Mission Hills)
619-296-4600
Happy hour: 4 to 6 p.m.
Sunday through Friday

Because of a late lunch and the large volume of popcorn I consumed, I skipped the oysters and discounted "noshables," which range from \$5 to \$11 for dishes such as hummus with plantain crisps, shrimp tacos, and bacon-wrapped Vietnamese meatballs that wowed

RATINGS

DRINKS:

The honeypot is a juicy and beautiful-tasting cocktail from a list of several signature creations constructed with aptitude. Its bright orange notes achieved from house curacao and orange peel softens the tequila in the recipe.

FOOD:

The discounted "noshables" include freshly shucked oysters in the half shell, bacon-wrapped Vietnamese meatballs, shrimp tacos and pizzas

VALUE:

Aside from free, spiced popcorn, the drinks and menu noshes drop in price by at least a few bucks, with the signature cocktails ringing in at only \$6 apiece

SERVICE:

Though not the chattiest bartender in town, he provided quick and efficient service without leaving any customer in wait.

ATMOSPHERE:

Cool, whimsical décor stretches from end to end in a layout that feels both airy and cozy

me in a past dinner visit.

Social hour at Brooklyn Girl occurs at the bar and its surrounding communal high tops, under the gaze of New York artists and actors captured in large paintings. Trying to identify each of them makes for fun conversation, that is if your hair doesn't warrant discussion. ♦

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UPTOWN **FOOD BRIEFS**

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



Try your hands at making cocktails at Polite Provisions. (Courtesy of Let's Frolic Together)

The educational “Spirit Society” series that turns attendees into bartenders at their own workstations continues at **Polite Provisions** in Normal Heights, as celebrated barkeep Erick Castro presents a hands-on class in “cocktails 101” from 6 – 8 p.m. June 22. The program continues in the same time slot with “rum and sugarcane spirits” headed by Anthony Schmidt (of Fairweather and Noble Experiment fame) on July 27. It’s followed by Castro’s “American whiskey” on Aug. 17, and then another lesson in basic cocktails on Oct. 19. Classes are limited to 14 attendees. Tickets for each are \$60. 4696 30th St., 619-677-3794.

After a frenzy of free meals doled out to eager foodies during its soft opening on June 8 and 9, the Hillcrest branch of **Napizza** is now officially up and running. Owner Christopher Antinutti says more than 200 pizzas and salads were given away during the lead-up to what is now his third San Diego location of the Roman-style pizzeria. The others are in Little Italy and Rancho Bernardo. “A good location is a combination of community, energy and diversity — and Hillcrest is one of those neighborhoods that has all three,” he said. The pies rely on a dough recipe using flour imported from a small mill in Rome. Once mixed with yeast and water, the dough “levitates” for 72 hours before it’s stretched and baked.

“People who understand crust can taste the difference in their first bite,” Antinutti added. The 2,600-square-foot restaurant is located in The HUB and features indoor-outdoor seating. An official grand opening will be planned next month. 1040 University Ave., na-pizza.com.

Slated to open shortly before San Diego Pride Weekend (July 18-19) is **Ike’s Place**, a wildly popular and cutting-edge sandwich chain established eight years ago in San Francisco’s Castro District. Now with 10 offshoots mostly around the Bay Area, the incoming Hillcrest location at HUB brings to the area dozens of its signature sandwiches with zany names and creative constructs — many of them vegan-friendly. The “love triangle,” for example, features breaded vegan “chicken,” barbecue sauce, fresh honey and Jack and Pepper cheeses. And the “sometimes I’m a vegan” mingles artichokes with grilled mushrooms and soy cheese. Meat lovers will find halal chicken, meatballs and sliced rib eye used imaginatively in other sandwiches across the menu. The company was founded by San Francisco resident, Ike Shehadeh. His business partner, Chase Ottney, told us that sandwiches created and named exclusively after San Diego celebrities and sports figures are in the making. 1010 University Ave., ilikeikesplace.com.



The “meatless Mike” sandwich at Ike’s Place (Photo by Chase Ottney)

A few of life’s favorite pleasures will come together at the **Pancake & Booze Art Show**, to be held June 27 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at **57 Degrees** in Middletown. Set among an exhibit by 60 local artists and body painters will be an all-you-can-eat pancake bar included in the \$5 cover charge. In addition, fine wines and craft beers will be on sale until midnight. 1735 Hancock St., 619-234-5757.

Expect sleeker digs and more space at **Crazee Burger** in North Park, which is scheduled to reopen this week at a new location down the street. After operating for 10 years at its former address (4201 30th St.), the owners moved because of upcoming redevelopment to the property. Advance notice afforded them time to gut and remodel their latest home in a former pawn shop. 3993 30th St. 619-282-6044.

Microbrews from **Garage Brewing Company** will be paired to hop-friendly appetizers in the backrooms of **Barons Market** in Point Loma, Rancho Bernardo and Alpine, July 1, from 6 – 8 p.m. Geared especially to those throwing Independence Day parties, staff members from the store will present chicken chili, pulled pork sliders, tri-tip sandwiches and more. The cost is \$10, with all proceeds benefiting the San Diego Food Bank. 619-223-4397, baronsmarket.com.

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

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Restaurant Review
Frank Sabatini Jr.

The pastas and pizzas are gone. So are the lamb shanks and filet mignons that occasionally dotted the menu at Osteria Origano, which fed into a growth spurt of Italian restaurants throughout Uptown when it opened five years ago. Now, its chef and co-owner, Vincenzo LoVerso, takes us on an elite trawl through the oceans since re-branding the space as Fresh Catch Fish Market & Grill.

The concept of a fish market with full dine-in service came about recently due to “the saturation of Italian restaurants within several blocks,” general manager Preston Cobb said. Indeed, lasagna and pizza are easy finds in Hillcrest. But fresh Alaskan lobster tails and whole octopus bedded on ice — not so much.

A treasure chest of other raw seafood from various waters greets near the front door: oysters, mussels, sashimi, calamari steaks, red snapper, you name it. The selection doesn’t miss a beat. What you see displayed at the counter can be purchased to go or prepared onsite before landing in sandwiches, salads, plates and tacos.

Except on Sundays, seafood deliveries occur daily, right up until Saturday evenings when things like Manila clams and black Baja oysters might arrive while safely carrying over into the next day.

The refreshed interior shows off a modern nautical theme with handsome, wood tabletops extending onto an inviting front patio, which will supposedly make room for beach grass and other greenery in the coming month.

Origano’s tiled pizza oven remains in place, although it’s dormant until flat breads, lobster pot pies and whole-roasted fish eventually join the menu.

Geographically, the dine-in offerings swim in different direc-

Where the sea meets Fifth Avenue



Fresh Catch Fish Market & Grill
3650 Fifth Ave. (Hillcrest)
619-295-9590
Prices: Starters, \$4.95 to \$12.95; tacos and burritos, \$9.95 to \$13.95; sandwiches, salads and plates, \$7.50 to \$19.95



(from left) Fresh seafood is on display in case. Shrimp ceviche comes in a hearty portion. New England-style clam chowder is generously supplied with clams. (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

tions, from New England clam chowder stocked generously with tender clams and potatoes to teriyaki-sauced calamari and traditional fish tacos. There are also fish and chips, crab cakes and ceviche, along with an easily overlooked grilled chicken breast buried within this Mexican-Northeast-Asian lineup of oceanic fare.

We started with the chowder, which I expected would taste rapid because of its bleached-white color. But the cream and clam broth lacing the roux spoke volumes, as did a fair dose of butter we suspected was folded into the recipe. Fond memories of a culinary trip I made to Maine some years ago flashed back as my spoon went into locomotion.

We also tried the fisherman’s stew, a pleasant tomato broth stocked with tuna, salmon and swordfish. It tasted almost like classic Genoa-style cioppino found commonly throughout San Francisco if only we could have detected garlic and chili flakes in the mix.

An order of shrimp ceviche car-

ried weak citrus notes to the point of tasting more like shrimp cocktail, especially when dipping the coarsely chopped shrimp pieces into the accompanying tomato-horseradish sauce. Much like pizza and pasta, ceviche’s omnipresence could stand a break.

We split a halibut sandwich on a large, glorious ciabatta roll from Sadie Rose Baking Co., a local wholesaler that could excite me into eating jellyfish if tucked between their airy mouth-watering breads.

The filet, cooked expertly on a high-heat flat grill, was brushed in lemon butter and buried in lettuce, tomatoes and red onions. A smear of tartar sauce inside clenched the deal. Included with the sandwich was a sizable salad of shredded cabbage and lettuce. Its blue cheese dressing, however, was milder than we had hoped.

From the list of a la carte sides, such as beer-battered onion rings, steamed white or brown rice and seaweed salad, we opted for garlic potatoes served in a cask-iron bowl.

Roasted whole with their skins on, they were steamy and tender, although we yearned for some sort of dip — sour cream, tartar sauce or even ranch. We instead made due with various bottles of hot sauce on the table.

Fresh Catch is Hillcrest’s answer to the ever-popular Blue Water Seafood Market & Grill in Middletown, sans the painfully long lines we must usually endure before wrapping our paws around a fresh swordfish sandwich or cod taco. For now at least, you can expect instant gratification when the hankering for seafood strikes.

Note: Fresh Catch also serves brunch from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays to the tune of bacon-shrimp bloody Marys and spicy beer cocktails.

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

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.

9/6

©2009 CNS/websudoku.com

Answer key, page 19

Uptown Crossword

Dick, As a Grown-Up

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16				17						18				19
20				21				22				23		
24			25				26					27		
28						29				30				
			31	32	33					34				
	35	36						37						
38							39							
40						41					42	43	44	45
46					47				48	49				
50				51				52				53		
54			55				56				57			
	58						59				60			
	61						62				63			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ fide
 - 5 Contrary girl
 - 9 Skywalker, e.g.
 - 13 Playwright Bogosian
 - 14 *Dream Children* essayist
 - 15 Music critic Downes
 - 16 *Micki+Maude* actor
 - 20 Friend of Pooh
 - 21 Actor Tognazzi
 - 22 To a science
 - 23 ___ -fi
 - 24 Maintain
 - 26 Breakfast delicacy
 - 27 Fly catcher
 - 28 Visualized
 - 29 Geisha's accessory
 - 30 Ms. Doe's nickname
 - 31 Part of *Hamlet*
 - 34 ___ *Resatus*: Carlyle work
 - 35 Ford pardoned him
 - 38 Covered with canvas
 - 39 Convex moldings
 - 40 Out-and-out
 - 41 Uh-huh
 - 42 Geographical seven
 - 46 Educated
 - 47 Write hastily
- DOWN**
- 48 Armed fighting
 - 50 Flair for music
 - 51 Vehicle
 - 52 Match's partner
 - 53 Half a bray
 - 54 *Being There* actor
 - 58 Subject, usually
 - 59 As a result
 - 60 Coll. of writings
 - 61 Never Never Land dweller
 - 62 Parade stopper
 - 63 ___ majesty
- DOWN**
- 1 Yogi and Dale
 - 2 Camden Yards player
 - 3 Actress Kidman
 - 4 Ulm expletive
 - 5 Cumulate
 - 6 Gucci or Ray
 - 7 Periphery
 - 8 Type of holly
 - 9 Bump into
 - 10 Yalie
 - 11 Aggressively pursues
 - 12 Not idle
 - 17 Summer mo.
 - 18 Overpermissive
- DOWN**
- 19 Gunpowder ingredient
 - 25 Passed a bill
 - 26 Displayed, as merchandise
 - 27 Follower of Karl
 - 29 Evergreen
 - 30 Monopoly corner
 - 32 *Moonstruck* actress
 - 33 Small amount
 - 34 ___-cone
 - 35 Instructs again
 - 36 Paging device
 - 37 Top star, initially
 - 38 Potato, for one
 - 41 Over there
 - 43 Refrigerant gas
 - 44 Air-raid sirens, e.g.
 - 45 Boil inside
 - 47 See 9 Down
 - 48 Badlands National Park sight
 - 49 Give the boot
 - 51 Windmill blade
 - 52 Epiphany honorees
 - 55 Cry's partner
 - 56 Part of a bikini
 - 57 2001 computer

Answer key, page 19

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Planners to hear TargetExpress update

Ken Williams | Editor

Target Corp. officials will give a presentation about the planned South Park TargetExpress on Monday, June 22 at the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee meeting.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Balboa Park at Casa Del Prado (near the Botanical Building) in the Majorca Room 101.

The TargetExpress would go into the Gala Food site on the corner of

Grape and Fern streets, but faces stiff opposition from many residents. Target officials have projected the express store would open in October.

Care About South Park, a community group that opposes the TargetExpress project, is asking its supporters to attend the meeting. The group will meet beforehand at 6:15 p.m. by the fountain outside the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, before walking en masse to the meeting.

"This will be a unique opportunity to ask questions, document opposition, and express concerns about how this corporate retail project will impact our neighborhood," the group said in an email sent to San Diego Uptown News.

Care About South Park is selling "No to Target" T-shirts for \$6 at Mythology Eco-Boutique at 2365 30th St.

The agenda and plans provided by Target will be posted by the city's Planning Commission at tinyurl.com/oznqab.

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Sudoku

Puzzle from page 18

6 8 4 2 5 7 3 9 1

2 5 7 9 3 1 6 8 4

1 3 9 8 4 6 7 5 2

4 9 5 6 8 2 1 3 7

7 2 3 4 1 9 5 6 8

8 6 1 3 7 5 4 2 9

5 4 6 1 9 8 2 7 3

3 7 8 5 2 4 9 1 6

9 1 2 7 6 3 8 4 5

Plus

Crossword from page 18

B O N A M A R Y J E D I

E R I C E L I A O L I N

R I C H A R D M U L L I G A N

R O O U G O P A T S C I

A L L E G E L O X M I T T

S E E N F A N J A N I E

A C T I I S A R T O R

R I C H A R D M N I X O N

T E N T E D O V O L I

U T T E R Y U P S E A S

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✓ Poll of the Month

Results

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plan for University Avenue in
Hillcrest

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141 University Ave.
3965 Fifth Ave.
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Coin Laundry
Coco's
Ecotop Restaurant
El Cajon Blvd. Market
Get It Clean
Grants Market
Heaven Sent Desserts
Isabel's Beauty Salon
Kevin's Barbershop
Kindred Hospital
Lafayette Hotel
Lips Club
Live Wire
Mary McMen's Real Estate
Media Arts Digital Gym Ctr.
Mission Cafe
North Park Cafe
North Park Family Health
North Park Fitness
North Park Library
North Park Main St.
Paesano Restaurant
Para's Newstand
Peets Bar
Pignet
Pleasures & Treasures
Poch Wash Coin Laundry
Queen Bees
Radway Bar & Grill
Ritual Tavern
S&D Property Management
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2340 El Cajon Blvd.
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2801 University Ave.
3028 University Ave.
3544 30th St.
3049 University Ave.
3795 31st St.
3076 University Ave.
3627 30th St.
3911 30th St.
2046 University Ave.
3827 30th St.
2525 University Ave.
1525 Fern St.
3925 Ohio St.
4012 30th St.
4095 30th St.
3128 El Cajon Blvd.
3191 30th St.
2899 University Ave.
2419 El Cajon Blvd.
1955 El Cajon Blvd.
4715 30th St.
30th & University
2441 University Ave.
4096 30th St.

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Hamilton's Tavern & Cafe
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Rancho Buena Vista Real Estate
Rebecca's Coffee House
The Big Kitchen
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The Whistle Stop Bar

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2977 Upas St.
1521 30th St.
2207 Fern St.
2334 30th St.
3023 Juniper St.
3003 Grape St.
3010 Juniper St.
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Three great SWISS summertime towns

A view of Bern, Switzerland and the Aare River from Bear Park. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Global Gumshoe

Ron Stern



St. Moritz, an outdoor playground

Located in the larger Engadin Valley, St. Moritz is a postcard-perfect playground for anyone who loves the outdoors. With its majestic snow-capped mountains, lakes, forests and meadows, St. Moritz offers the traveler a wealth of engaging activities.

Start off easy with a tour of the Ricola herb garden in nearby Pontresina. More than 100 Swiss farmers are involved in growing herbs for these popular medicinal drops and they are quite proud of

their final product. Next, rent an E-Bike for a ride through the Alps to Morteratsch. These cycles are partially powered, making you feel like a superhero gliding up and down inclines.

At your destination, enjoy a feast of meats, breads and cheeses at the Alpine cheese dairy.

In the early afternoon, take a train and gondola to Diavolezza Mountain for a top-of-the-world view of the Swiss Alps. While you're soaking in the scenery, you can relax with appetizers, wine and cheese, or a nice lunch. Here, you



(above) Alpine Cheese Dairy in Morteratsch; (left) famous clocktower in Bern (Photos by Ron Stern)



you past green meadows and stately pine trees to Lake Staz and the Hotel Restaurant Lej da Staz. Enjoy some typical Swiss dishes and for dessert, you simply have to have a generous helping of their creamy vanilla ice cream. Don't be surprised if this is best you ever had anywhere in the world. Happy cows, I guess?

Crans-Montana, natural family destination

Enjoying 300 days of sunshine each year, Crans-Montana is a mountain resort that lies on a plateau 3,000 meters above sea level. Surrounded by mountains, lakes and trees, it has one of the few alpine sandy beaches in the country (Crans-Montana Beach Club), making it the ideal family destination.

From the railway station, take the funicular from the town of Sierra up to Crans-Montana. The towns are spread out and offer a variety of restaurants, cafes and historic highlights. Stop by David L'Instant Chocolat for exquisite truffles, chocolate-covered almonds and other heavenly temptations.

Hiking trails are everywhere and the one that runs along the irrigation channels is particularly beautiful. Pink and purple wildflowers adorn the slopes as you pass by waterfalls and shaded country pastures. Near the top, you can enjoy a lunch in a rather modern restaurant constructed out of concrete and glass. There is nothing like having wine, risotto, meat and melting raclette cheese in front of a fire while gazing out at the idyllic landscape through large windows.



Bern has bears. (Photo by Ron Stern)

Bern, the Swiss capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983, this capital city is located in the heart of Switzerland. It is quite the cosmopolitan city with beautiful churches, bridges, the famous Zytglogge (clock tower), and even a bear park.

The Aare River runs around the town and is a popular swim-

will also find the highest elevation hot tub in Europe.

For your final activity of the day, hire a horse carriage to take

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(top) Hotel-restaurant Lej da Staz near St. Moritz; (left) view of a church in Crans-Montana; (right) concession owner on a mountain outside Crans-Montana. (Photos by Ron Stern)

FROM PAGE 20

TRAVEL

ming location at certain times of the year. The bear is the symbol of Bern and a newly constructed park is situated on one of the Aare’s banks, attracting thousands each year.

The 16th-century Zytglogge guards one of the city’s original gates and is an amazing feat of engineering. Each hour, figures on the outside turn and whistle, and crowds start massing early to watch the spectacle. Take the tour, however, to see the inside workings where one man, without any

formal training, created this amazing mechanism.

Bern has the longest covered arcades in Europe as well as a modern mall, and you can shop for jewelry, clothing, watches, chocolate and everything else under the sun. Dining options run from casual to elegant, and the Kornhauskeller offers great local fare set among warm wood tones and artful decor from the Baroque era.

—Contact Ron Stern at travel-writer01@comcast.net.

(FTC disclosure: All of the services received and mentioned in this story were sponsored by the Switzerland Tourism Board.) ♦

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St. Moritz
Hotel Giardino Mountain
giardino-mountain.ch/en

A charming upscale hotel with wonderful décor, scenic views of the Alps

Crans-Montana
Hotel de l'Etrier
hoteletrier.ch

A moderately priced hotel property with basic rooms and nice views of the town and mountains out back.

Bern
Bellevue Palace
bellevue-palace.ch/de

Luxury property with some of the best views of the city and the Aare River. As you would expect, rooms are spacious with upscale amenities. Breakfast includes freshly made juice combinations.

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Calendar of Events

FEATURED EVENTS

‘Love at First Fight’
Friday, June 19 – Thursday, June 25
Digital Gym (2921 El Cajon Blvd., North Park) will be showing this French film (“Les Combattants”) at various times over five days. The film – a Cannes Film Festival winner – presents the unlikely love story of a small-town man (Kevin Azaïs) and a doomsday prepper (Adele Haenel). Visit digitalgym.org for show times and to purchase tickets.

Operation Engage America: A PTS and TBI support, education and awareness event
Saturday, June 20

This daylong event is designed for first responders, veterans and their families living with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury. The event looks to support, raise awareness, educate and offer resources to attendees. Various workshops will be held throughout the day with the event starting at 10 a.m. and closing at 4 p.m. at Liberty Station Conference Center (2600 Laning Road). For more information visit OperationEngageAmerica.org.

‘Cocktails 101’
Monday, June 22
The second season of Spirit Society kicks off with this event (future classes are July 27, Aug. 17 and Oct. 19) at Polite Provisions (4696 30th St., Normal Heights). Each two-hour class focus on a specific topic or spirit for up to 14 attendees ages 21 and up. “Cocktails 101” will be led by Polite Provisions owner Erick Castro from 6 – 8 p.m. Each attendee gets their own workstation with equipment and ingredients to make up to three cocktails. Visit Spirits101June22.bpt.me for tickets and information.

‘Hollywood Hits’
Friday, June 26
The Hillcrest Wind Ensemble – a program of The San Diego LGBT Community Center — presents their cabaret concert at 8 p.m. at the Lafayette Hotel (2223 El Cajon Blvd., North Park) in the Mississippi Room. The 45-piece ensemble will perform movie theme songs and hits from films from the 1930s through the 1990s. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with complimentary hors d’oeuvres being served and a no host bar opening. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit SDArtsTix.com for tickets and visit HillcrestWindEnsemble.com for more information.

Local Habit’s fourth anniversary
Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27
For two nights, guests can try any three items on Local Habit’s (3827 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest) menu for \$25. Their Cajun and Creole offerings include jambalaya, fried chicken, alligator sausage and more. Louisiana-inspired cocktails — moonshine and Hurricanes — will also be available along with a special blackberry saison by Port Brewing created just for the celebration. Visit MyLocalHabit.com for more information.

Movie night: ‘Hotel for Dogs’
Saturday, June 27
Normal Heights United Methodist Church and Normal Heights Community Association continue their summer family movies series with “Hotel for Dogs.” This showing will be at Ward Canyon Park (39th Street and Adams Avenue, Normal Heights). The series alternates venues between Ward Canyon Park and Adams Park with the events starting at sunset. These family movie nights are free and everyone is invited to bring blankets, food and friends. There’s even a dance party at intermission! For more information visit nhunited.org/family-movie-nights for the full summer schedule.

Cancer Survivors Day
Saturday, June 27
In observance of National Cancer Survivors Day, Scripps Health will host a free public event for local cancer survivors and their families and friends. The event is open to all impacted by cancer regardless of where they received treatment. There will be stories of survival, an overview of advances in care, a complimentary brunch and more. Festivities are from 1 – 3 p.m. at Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego (4077 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest) on the lower level in classroom 5. Register for the event by calling 1-800-SCRIPPS.

‘Let’s Get Active’ healthy living and wellness fair
Tuesday, June 30
This wellness fair is a joint effort between SanDi-CAN, the county of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency and the San Diego Park and Recreation Department. There will be interactive information booths on a variety of topics including: mental health, healthy eating, brain health and more. There will also be information available on county programs include senior services. The fair is a free event and will be from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Building (3325 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park).

Party in the Park
Wednesday, July 1
The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club kicks off their Independence Week Celebration with this party on the patio of Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center (1 Junipero Serra Trail, San Carlos) overlooking the park. There will be a dinner (\$5 for members, \$15 for non-members), desserts, speakers and more. There will also be a silent auction, local wine and beer tasting, and a pie tasting contest. One highlight of the event will be special recognition for Councilmember Marti Emerald to thank her for the contributions she’s made for “progressive causes.” Visit

LaMesaFoothillsDemocraticClub.com for more on the event and the club.

RECURRING EVENTS
Daily:
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. Rhfleet.org.

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.com.

Tuesdays:
Curbside Bites: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curb-sidebites.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.
Uptown Democratic Club: 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. New members wanted. 1220 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.
Open Mic Charlie’s: 7 – 9:30 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.
North Park Brewer’s Club: 8:30 p.m., monthly meeting of the club every second Tuesday of the month on the back patio at Thorn Street Brewery, 3176 Thorn St., North Park. Thornstreetbrew.com.

Wednesdays:
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.
Storytelling: 7 – 8:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month featuring members of Storytellers of San Diego at Rebecca’s Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, Suggested \$5 donation. 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: 2:30 – 4 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: Sign-ups at 7 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.
Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at Saint Paul’s Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Libertytoastmasters.org.
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.
Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Additional showings Friday – Sunday. Tickets start at \$15. Topspresents.com.

Fridays:
Preschool Storytime: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

Saturdays
Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Also held on Sundays. 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. Sdmarketmanager.com.
Children’s Craft Time: 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.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.

Sundays
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@sd cnn.com. ♦

Golden Hill Community Centennial Festival

Golden Hill Park on the East Mesa (at the end of 25th Street) Saturday, June 20

The Golden Hill Community is honored to have a joint celebration with Balboa Park in their 1915 Expo Centennial Festival. Festivities will take place on June 20 from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Join in on the fun for free. This occasion commemorates the affluent culture and history found within both the Golden Hill Community and Balboa Park. A major focus of the Centennial Festival is two historic exhibits being the Native Plants and People and the Lost Buildings of Balboa Park. History is not the only major theme and with exciting activities for all ages such as games and live music, there is something for everyone. The day will include the West Coaster Historic Beer Garden, an antique car show, face painting, and arts and crafts as well. In the Native Plants and People historic exhibition, Elena and Carlos Pelayo of the Peace & Dignity Project are inviting Kumeyaay artisans such as Mary Lou and others to share their passion and educate the public about what this form of expression entails, along with its traditions. Additionally, Kumeyaay history and relations will be discussed particularly during the period of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition and how Kumeyaay culture is viewed today. Native plants are also a major focus. Alan Bennet, a Florida Canyon stakeholder, has meticulously crafted a self-guided brochure that will allow users to see the park in a new light. You can take a piece of the park with you with native wildflower “seed bombs” thanks to the services of Daletron from Botanica. Throughout the second exhibition of the Lost Buildings of Balboa Park the work of Darrel McPherson and Alexandra “Sasha” Babic is featured. The pair were inspired by postcards from the original 1915 Expo, and in turn created their own postcards that capture the essence of demolished buildings within the park. Major pieces include the “Montana Building” by Babic and “Platinum Intersections” by McPherson. Both artists pay tribute to the past and wish to resurrect the forgotten buildings throughout Balboa Park. They were also moved by the La Jolla Historical Society’s current exposition of “What Was Is.” “(Some) Lost Buildings of Balboa Park: a perspective by David Marshal” will also be showcased and is a unique perspective on what a cloudy and windy day is like in Balboa Park. Performances by B-Side Players, Tribal Theory, Bill Magee Blues Band, Marz Jukebox, Eupohria Brass Band, and the SD School of Rock will also round out the day, and fresh food will be available to fuel your appetite. Don’t forget to participate in our mustache contest and the Urban Geo Tracking scavenger hunt. For more information please visit us online at goldenhillcdc.org or feel free to contact us at info@goldenhillcdc.org. Come learn about San Diego’s communities and history and have some fun as well. We will be happy to help and look forward to seeing you at the celebration!

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New musical with 9/11 as backdrop is a **hit**



(left) Jenn Colella and the cast; (top right, l to r) Astrid Van Wieren, Caesar Samayoa and Chad Kimball; (bottom right, l to r) Caesar Samayoa, Geno Carr, Joel Hatch, Astrid Van Wieren, Allison Spratt Pearce and Petrina Bromley (Photos by Kevin Berne)

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



Word gets around: “Come From Away,” the new musical at La Jolla Playhouse, was extended twice before it had a chance to fully open in previews. Having officially opened June 11 under the direction of Artistic Director Christopher Ashley, it now continues through July 12 in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre.

We meet two sets of people in Irene Sankoff and David Hein’s “Come From Away” — the inhabitants of Gander, Newfoundland, and “the plane people,” who came from away, having been stranded mid-air on 9/11.

When terrorists hit and destroyed the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York

City that day, American airspace was closed and planes around the world were ordered to land and stay until further notice. Thirty-eight international flights landed in Gander, and for five days the local inhabitants, who had long ago staffed a major refueling hub, hosted 7,000 people, providing whatever they needed. 9/11 changed our lives forever, but none more so than those of the hosts and the stranded.

From the opening chord of “You Are Here,” the husband-and-wife team of Sankoff and Hein, who wrote the book, lyrics and music, sweep onlookers through 14 songs into the suspenseful saga, telling of those who opened their hearts and homes and those bedraggled souls who received kindness, bounty and the courage to move on in a world forever changed. There is no doubt at any given moment which set of folks is center stage — they all are, wheth-

er playing Newfoundlanders or the stranded multitudes (there’s also an authentic eight-member orchestra on ethnic instruments such as Uilleann pipes, Irish flute and Bodhran). The 12-person acting/singing ensemble accomplishes multitudes with mere shifts in attitude.

The piece is filled with joy — musically and physically, set afire with skilled acting, superb direction, and a rollicking, unique music descended from the Celts and refined by generations who survived long winters on spirits, dance and song — and don’t forget “screech-ins” with the cod.

The storytelling, the story, the music and the warmth never stop as we become inured with painful unknowing. There is never a maudlin moment despite the pain, despite

the pathos — the work is simply awesome in every good and deep sense of the word. Not since “Memphis,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and “Jersey Boys” has a musical been so indelibly inscribed “hit.”

The ensemble comprises Patrina Bromley, Geno Carr, Jenn Colella, Chad Kimball, Joel Hatch, Rodney Hicks, Lee MacDougall, Allison Spratt Pearce, Caesar Samoya, Q. Smith, Astrid Van Wieran and Sharon Wheatley. Each creates an array of characters, none so endearing as the elder Englishman (MacDougall) who falls in love with a woman from Texas (Wheatley). Or a New York couple (Kimball and Samoya), both named Colin. Or the American Airlines captain (Colella), who fought so hard to become what she is and still managed to raise a family simultaneously. Gloriously, Joel Hatch sings and acts the



“Come From Away”

by Irene Sankoff and David Hein
Tuesdays through Sundays
Closes July 12

La Jolla Playhouse

2910 La Jolla Village Drive
lajollaplayhouse.org
858-550-1010

heck out of Gander’s warm and forceful mayor, and Geno Carr creates numerous distinct characters.

The whole evening — beautifully created by Sankoff and Hein — moves so swiftly and smoothly in one act with no interval. One is hardly aware that the actors, their airline seats, all the accouterments brought to bear, and even the band sometimes travel on scenic designer Boewulf Boritt’s turntable and populate his set, which evokes the watery landscape of desolation. Toni-Leslie James is costume designer; Howard Binkley, the genius lighting designer; and Gareth Owen, the sound designer who is ever supportive. Towering over all are August Erikson’s orchestrations, Ian Eisen-crath’s arrangements, and Kelly Devine’s choreography. It’s as natural as real and every bit as inspiring as the real story.

—Charlene Baldridge
has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlene-baldridge.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.

(l to r) Allison Spratt Pearce and Petrina Bromley
(Photos by Kevin Berne)

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Terence Archie, Sara Topham, and Rutina Wesley. Photo by Jim Cox.

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Clockwise from bottom left: Meg Gibson, Carolyn Michelle Smith, Lauren Blumenfeld, and JD Taylor. Actor photos by Jim Cox.

FROM PAGE 1
SR94

Pasquetto said the petition drive's aim is to heighten awareness that Caltrans and SANDAG intend to add two lanes to the SR94 freeway through San Diego neighborhoods from I-805 to I-5 to accommodate the BRT system, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and fast-track vehicles.

"This proposed project includes the construction of an up to 2-mile-long overpass and the closure of off-ramps and on-ramps vital to maintaining access to our neighborhoods," Pasquetto said. "It has always been put to us by SANDAG that there are two options for this project. There is always a third — no build at all."

Edward Cartagena, Caltrans media information officer, countered that the freeway expansion project is something the city cannot live without if it wants to avoid traffic gridlock.

"State Route 94 was built in the late 1950s and the operational demands have been steadily increasing to more than 149,000 vehicles a day — the most congested highway during the morning commute in the county," Cartagena said.

"Motorists from East County, the South Bay and North County flow towards State Route 94 to the downtown employment centers, tourist attractions and sporting events," he said.

SANDAG studies estimate nearly 1 million more people will reside in San Diego County by 2030. "Operational improvements are needed," Cartagena said.

Pasquetto said the project will bring disproportionate negative impacts to affected communities without providing any direct benefits by

"further dividing the community and bringing more noise and pollution, while providing no access to the managed lanes for bicycle or other pedestrian modes of transportation."

"It does not encourage people to leave their cars at home as the people riding the BRT are the same people that are already using public transport now," she said, noting that her group's ultimate objective "is to get Caltrans and SANDAG to rethink the entire plan around the SR 94. We request them to reallocate TransNet funding away from the freeway expansion and towards alternative transit options (light-rail, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure)."

Cartagena said the proposed project will benefit commuters by:

- Encouraging people to get out of their cars to utilize transit as an alternative form of transportation resulting in improved highway operation.
- Providing additional lanes between on- and off-ramps facilitating merging and reducing weaving of vehicles getting on and off the freeway.
- Replacing non-standard, left-hand connectors at the SR 94/SR 15 interchange.
- Reducing commute times for travelers heading into Downtown using the South Bay Bus Rapid Transit.
- Facilitating vanpools/car-pools reducing congestion while offering more commuting choices.

Cartagena said the freeway project will provide extra-added benefits to Uptown residents by:

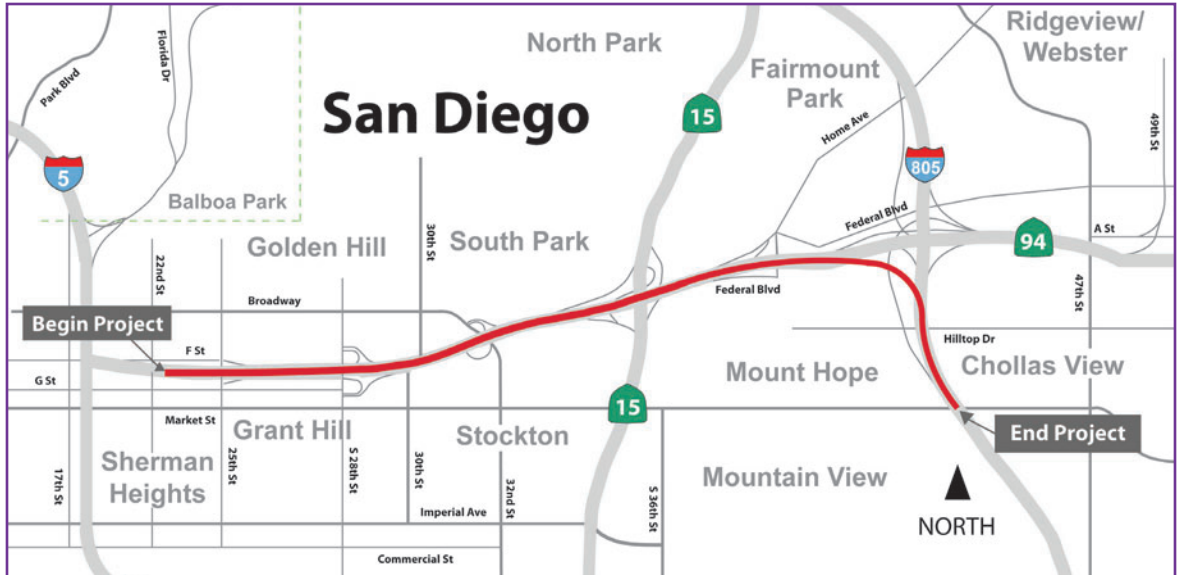
- Creating up to 6 miles of sound walls between I-5 to just east

of I-805.

- Improving access for pedestrians/bicyclists by widening of the overcrossings at 22nd, 25th and 30th streets.
- Building a pedestrian/bicycle-only plaza over SR 94 at 24th Street.
- Constructing a Class 1 bike path along SR 94 between Federal Boulevard and Market Street.
- Upgrading sidewalks and landscaping on F and G streets as well as Federal Boulevard.

Cartagena said the draft environmental impact report for the SR 94 Express Lanes Project is expected to be released for public review and comment at the end of June or early July.

— Dave Schwab can be reached at dschwabie@journalist.com.



The SR 94 Express Lanes Project proposes to connect I-805 South Express Lanes with Downtown by constructing two new Express Lanes along SR 94, one in each direction, and a new direct connector between SR 94 and I-805. (Courtesy of Caltrans)

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