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Old House Fair set for next month



Dave Blanchard, founder of Granny Smith Sports, in the company's new Uptown production studio (Photo by Jess Winans)

Hemp skateboard startup moves to North Park

By Jess Winans

If you opened Dave Blanchard's garage door, you wouldn't find a car, bicycle or tool box.

Instead, you'd find a production studio where he

handmakes his 100 percent biodegradable skateboard decks by pouring a plastic composite consisting of 80 percent hemp and 20 percent bio resin into a press.

Four years ago, Blanchard devised his hemp-based

brainchild, Granny Smith Sports, while sitting at the dinner table with his stepfather, business partner and fellow skateboarder, Nick Griffith.

see Granny Smith, pg 7

Uptown News BRIEFS

Mayor presents 2019 budget

On April 12, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer revealed the city of San Diego's Fiscal Year 2019 proposed budget of \$553 million, which is the city's largest infrastructure investment to date.

"We're continuing to put neighborhoods first by maintaining the key services we've restored in recent years and making the largest infrastructure investment in San Diego history," Mayor Faulconer said.

The increased funding will be supporting 390 miles of street repair, increased library and recreation center operating hours, the Climate Action Plan, Pure Water San Diego, Vision Zero safety measures, Clean SD, and programs to combat homelessness.

"This balanced budget

see News Briefs, pg 2

An 'authentic' Cinco de Mayo celebration

By Cassidy Klein

The 35th annual Old Town Cinco de Mayo celebration, happening May 4-6, is a fiesta Laurel McFarlane of McFarlane Promotions calls "authentic and amazing."

"It is an amazing festival and we hope all will come out and enjoy," McFarlane said. "[The festival] showcases Old Town, and it's free. We have worked really hard to bring authentic elements to it."

Around 100,000 attendees are expected to attend the free event. The fiesta will include a mercado (marketplace) with 50 food and merchandise vendors, entertainment from over 30 entertainers of multiple music



Dancers at last year's celebration (Photo courtesy of McFarlane Promotions)

genres, Lucha Libre fights, a car show, drink and restaurant specials and free activities for kids such as stagecoach rides,

face painting and arts and crafts. Attendees can also explore Old Town's museums and shops.

"[The Old Town fiesta] is one of the largest celebrations in the country, and not only has a huge event on the streets, but also has a large sister festival in the historic park at the same time," McFarlane said.

McFarlane Promotions has been involved in running the event for over 10 years. In that time, they have helped grow the festival from two days to three days and have incorporated more events and performances.

"We have added Lucia Libra and a LowRider Show and have worked hard to make the stage incorporate all types of Latin music," McFarlane said. "We also are doing a showcase of mariachis on Sunday [May 6]."

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Fire closes businesses at The Hub

Sara Butler | Editor

Two Hillcrest businesses have temporarily shut their doors following a fire on April 8.

The fire, which occurred on Sunday morning, started in Big City Bagels, a cafe located in The Hub Hillcrest Market. The cause of the fire is currently unknown, and the case is under investigation.

The Hub Hillcrest Market — dubbed The Hub for short — is a shopping center full of shops and offices in the center of Hillcrest, located at University Avenue and Vermont Street. Approximately 50 businesses call the Hub home; these companies include fitness studios, restaurants, grocery stores and more.

There were no fire-related injuries or deaths from the incident. However, two businesses were damaged: Big City Bagels and Fix Body Group.

Big City Bagels, where the fire originated, is located on the first floor on the southwest side of The Hub, parallel to University Avenue. Chiropractor Fix Body Group, the upstairs tenant directly above Big City Bagels, was also affected. Both businesses were



Fix Body Group (second floor) and Big City Bagels (bottom floor) are located on the southwest side of The Hub. (Photo by Sara Butler)

forced to close due to the building fire damage.

San Diego Uptown News was unable to reach Big City Bagels. Currently, the business' phone number plays the following voicemail:

"We are currently closed due to a building fire. We are hoping to reopen sometime in June, is our best guess. We will update our web page, voice-mail and social media sites as soon as we have further information."

Additionally, a handwritten chalkboard sign inside of their Hillcrest location reads:

"We will be back! We will miss you! Thank you for your love and support."

Due to the ongoing investigation, Fix Body Group was unable to comment on the specifics of the incident at this time. However, the day after the fire, Fix Body Group sent out the following email to their online subscribers.

"Unfortunately, as some of you may know, there was a fire at our Hillcrest location on Sunday morning. No one was harmed but there was considerable damage to the office. We appreciate everyone's patience

as we do our very best to accommodate all patients."

Big City Bagels has two other San Diego locations: Rental Car Center at 3225 North Harbor Drive, as well as coffee carts around San Diego State University's campus, 5500 Campanille Drive.

Fix Body Group has three other locations: 12171 World Trade Drive, 9920 Scripps Lake Drive #107 and 4031 Pacific Highway.

During Fix Body Group's closure, all Hillcrest patients will be seen at its Pacific Highway office. A sign outside of their closed office directs all questions to 619-295-9791 or billing@fixbodygroup.com.

Regency Centers, the property management of the Hub, declined to comment as of publication deadline. Both City Bagels and Fix Body Group said they will update customers, patrons and patients on their websites and social media pages.

We will provide follow-up coverage as more details about the fire become available.

—Reach Sara Butler at sara@sdcnn.com.

FROM PAGE 1

NEWS BRIEFS

will keep our foot on the pedal when it comes to fixing more roads, helping people into stable housing, keeping libraries and rec centers open for children, creating more housing affordability for working families, and putting more police officers on the street to protect our communities," Faulconer continued.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, the city projects improving revenue from property (5.5 percent), sales (3 percent) and hotel taxes (5.3 percent). View the entire proposed budget at sandiego.gov/fm/proposed.

Uptown physician launches new program

In response to the growing national opioid crisis, Mission Hills resident and Scripps Mercy physician Valerie Norton, M.D., has launched a program aiming to reduce opioid usage.

"Our goal is to return patients to healthy function as soon as possible without putting them at risk for opioid dependency or the side effects of opioid usage," Dr. Norton said. "This means taking advantage of all other pain management options before considering opioids."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 40 percent of opioid-related deaths involve a prescription opioid, including drugs such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and methadone.

The initiative emphasizes educating patients about opioids, maximizing other types of pain management solutions, disposing of unused opioids safely, educating medical staff on opioid prescription and post-operative opioid management.

"We can and must do everything possible to reverse this dangerous trend, starting by limiting and monitoring post-discharge opioid usage, and using other proven and effective methods to manage pain," said Jonathan Worsey, M.D., co-chair of the surgery care line at Scripps Health and one of several physicians leading the Scripps Opioid Stewardship Program (OSP).

For more information about the program, visit scripps.org.

City offers new water meter testing

On April 2, the city of San Diego unveiled new water meter testing equipment at a demonstration for media to show its features and how it works.

The new water meter calibration equipment is an upgrade that more accurately determines water flow and allows for adjustments for multiple meters and different sizes. The new \$400,000 equipment was purchased and installed following concerns by customers about water meter readings.

Recently, San Diego admitted to overcharging around 300 customers for water. The new equipment will allow

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Rogers steps down as HTC chair

By Mary McKenzie

This month's meeting of the Hillcrest Town Council (HTC) announced the departure of HTC's chair, Kath Rogers.

Kath will be moving to Los Angeles after accepting her "dream job" with the National Lawyers' Guild-Los Angeles. At the meeting, representatives of Congresswoman Susan Davis, president pro tempore of the California Senate Toni G. Atkins, Assemblymember Todd Gloria and City Councilmember Chris Ward presented commendations to Kath. The HTC board presented her with Champagne, flowers and a veg-an cake. She was also thanked by several community members for her dedication to Hillcrest.

Benny Cartwright now serves as HTC chair, with Jae Mohr stepping up as vice chair. Daniel Merk-Benitez was appointed to serve as HTC treasurer. Mary McKenzie will continue as secretary and David Vance remains the at-large board member.

Hillcrest's public representatives addressed the night's focus — "Good News in Hillcrest" — emphasizing great strides in the state and local fight against homelessness, especially of youth, and increased efforts for enhanced gun and school safety.

Zach Bunshaft from Susan Davis' office spoke about in-creases in the federal budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Community Block Grant program and



Kath Rogers with incoming chair Benny Cartwright

transportation infrastructure projects. He also announced that a federal court has dis-missed the lawsuit against her for displaying the Pride flag outside of her Washington D.C. office.

Community members were invited to join Davis for a panel discussion on "Understanding the Korean Crisis," featur-ing several local scholars and former Ambassador Karl Eikenberry at SDSU on April 21. (For more information about the discussion, visit su-sandavis.house.gov.)

Reverend Cheri Metier of the University Christian Church encouraged the audience to attend a Workers' Memorial Day Service sponsored by the Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County (IWUSD) on April 27. The Stonewall Citizens' Patrol invited the crowd to a public picnic sup-porting the Ronald McDonald House from noon-3 p.m. on April 29 at the corner of Sixth

Avenue and El Prado in Balboa Park.

Lastly, the keynote speakers were Gerrie Trussell — executive director of the Uptown Community Parking District — and long-time Hillcrest resi-dent Trent St.-Louis. Trussell reminded the community of the free Lunch Loop shuttle which runs along parts of Washington and University avenues from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. every Monday through Friday, as well as free parking opportunities at the DMV on weekends.

She also addressed the con-tinuing deliberations on the future of Normal Street, place-making in Hillcrest, and the efforts to work out a balance among pedestrians, bikes and cars in the neighborhood.

St.-Louis shared his thoughts and pictures of posi-tive changes in Hillcrest. These included the almost-completed fire station, new coffeehouses, fitness centers, and businesses along University Avenue; the anticipated MO's Universe restaurant at the "red build-ing"; and smaller cosmetic changes to several businesses to beautify the neighborhood.

The HTC invites community members to attend The Center's 12th annual fundraiser — Dining Out for Life — at Bo Beau on April 26. The summer social is scheduled for July 27, at a location to be determined.

Next month, the HTC is co-sponsoring a "LGBTQ Debate" between the Log Cabin Republicans and the Democrats



Benny Cartwright, former chair Luke Terpstra and Kath Rogers




The crowd at the April 10 meeting (Photos by Kaimi Wanger)

for Equality on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Center.

HTC meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Joyce Beers Community Center. The HTC always welcomes new volunteers. If you have any

comments or questions, look for the HTC on Facebook, or contact Benny Cartwright at bcartwright@thecentersd.org.

—Mary M. McKenzie is secretary of the Hillcrest Town Council.❖



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Bringing the Bard to a new generation

Shakespeare Festival features student performers

By David Dixon

A family tradition in Balboa Park is returning on April 28. On the last Saturday of the month, the 13th annual Student Shakespeare Festival, presented by the San Diego Shakespeare Society, will feature students from kindergarten to high school performing scenes that the Bard wrote for his famous plays.

The event was originally started by the founder of the society, Alex Sandie. Sandie was born and raised in Scotland, and now lives in Del Cerro after bouncing around the world.

Although he has since resigned as the president of the local company, Sandie still serves as the artistic director.

"We want to bring the education of Shakespeare to students at an early age," he said of the Student Shakespeare Festival's mission.

Six stages are being rented for the Shakespeare Festival, both at the El Prado pedestrian promenade as well as the Casa Del Prado area.

An aspect about the Shakespeare Society that Sandie hopes to see evolve is the use of volunteers.

"We need more volunteer workers to head up the annual events," he said. "We need people to act as a treasurer, helping with fundraising, etc., with the six events that the society puts on each year."



Students performing a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the 2015 Student Shakespeare Festival (Photo courtesy of San Diego Shakespeare Society)

Sandie's daughter, Lisa, is the current festival director. Her responsibilities include getting volunteers, reaching out to schools that participated in previous festivals, and contacting new schools.

She has attended the event every year, to support her father and family. When asked about ways that the Shakespeare celebration can expand, Lisa feels that there are multiple ways to achieve success.

"I think that we need a bigger organization that can get the grants that we can't," she said. "We're going to be looking into ways to increase attending, funding, and publicity."

Outside of the festival, Lisa owns a homeowner's association management company. "The festival project has been passed

on from my dad as a labor of love," she said. "I want my children and grandchildren to appreciate the arts like my parents taught my sister and I."

Following the festival, Alex Sandie is going to continue being a part of the Shakespeare Society.

"I spend probably more hours than I should on the computer working on society business," he said.

Sandie loves the enjoyment that students get out of the festival.

"A teacher keeps on telling me that most of her kids say this is the best day of their lives," he said. "It's very heartening and educational for them."

Given how impactful the tradition continues to be for audiences and rising performers, Sandie has plenty of reasons to be proud of all his accomplishments. A large number of children and teenagers are going to become Shakespeare aficionados for life because of his work and success.

The 13th annual Student Shakespeare Festival will be held at Balboa Park on April 28. For tickets or more information, visit sandiegoshakespearesociety.org.

—David Dixon is a freelance theater and film writer. Reach him at daviddixon0202@gmail.com.



Traditional and contemporary Mexican music will be featured at Old Town Cinco de Mayo. (Photos courtesy of McFarlane Promotions)

FROM PAGE 1

OLD TOWN CINCO

Various Old Town restaurants, including Fred's Mexican Cafe, are known for their drink specials during the festival and enjoy being involved in the festivities.

"We try to be a part of the community," said Steve Bassium of Fred's Mexican Cafe. "Cinco de Mayo is the one time of the year when people from all over San Diego come. People from all over the world come, but it's just a real fun, great event."

Fred's is offering specials on Dos Equis drafts, Herradura margaritas, Frida Kahlos and more.

"Fred's is a little bit different from the other restaurants in Old Town in that we're a little less traditional, we're a little more Cali-Mex," Bassium said. "We're a little bit edgier, so we just kinda come in, have fun, throw a party and people enjoy themselves."

Cinco de Mayo is a historic celebration that commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory against Napoleon III's French army at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

McFarlane said that funds raised during the event go to the Historic Old Town Community Foundation which helps fourth-grade programs that teach California history.

McFarlane hopes families who attend will "enjoy the food and booths, visit the local merchants, dance to the live music, enjoy the children's area and go on stagecoach rides in the park."

Bassium encourages San Diegans to come out and not only enjoy the history and culture, but have fun drinks with friends as well.

"It's one big party," he said.

—Cassidy Klein is an editorial intern at San Diego Community News Network, the parent company of the San Diego Uptown News. Reach her at cklein0900@pointloma.edu.



Old Town Cinco de Mayo is a family-friendly event with lots of activities for children.

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Uptown artist Dani Camargo (*Photo courtesy of the artist*)

Larger than life

The journey of Banker Hills' emerging surrealist artist

By Lucia Viti

Dani Camargo believes that he was born to be an artist. Boasting larger-than-life, ethereal and abstract forms that tantalize the imagination, one would be hard-pressed to disagree.

Unique to say the least, the Bankers Hill resident paints with colored pencils and wax pastels, tools often uncommon in the world of fine art. While seeking to convey ideas “free of form” but full of collaboration, the self-described intellectual creative purposefully uses his art for interpretation and wonder.

He frequently poses the question: "How does the piece speak to you?"

Reflection spearheads Camargo's artistic endeavors. He uses a great deal of energy to tap into a mystical zone, a trancelike mindset that serves as the blueprint for creating his version of imperfect art.

“While I appreciate details, I don’t want my work to be too perfect, so detailed, that it looks like Photoshop,” Camargo said. “I like simple forms. I combine the element of simplicity with things that are complex. I think it reads well.”

He said his ritual begins on a blank canvas and evolves into an “exercise of listening to the white.” Void of preconceived images or ideas, he explains that his pieces are predestined for him to complete.

"I make elements and colors," he said. "I never know what will come to life. These pieces already exist in a parallel reality. Every piece becomes itself."

Driven by the power of love and the shadows present in humankind, Camargo intentionally depicts opposing forces between light and darkness, affording viewers the opportunity to witness the ying and yang of love, power and strength of helping others.

“Love is seen through light and dark shadows,” he added. “Both are powerful aspects of human nature.”

Working hours upon hours is routine for Camargo because he gets lost in his work. His spiritual mission is a “constant and reckless search for beauty

and truth, like finding a hidden treasure.”

“My art becomes a bigger-than-life world at the cost of my own personal cathartic exercise,” he continued.

While acknowledging that his inspiration is of divine ordinance, Camargo remains both humbled and inspired by other famous artists including Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali; H.R. Giger, a Swiss painter and an Academy Award winner for his design work on the “Aliens” franchise; and M.C. Escher, a Dutch graphic artist who made woodcuts, lithographs and mezzotints from mathematical equations.

“The beauty of their work reflects my inner self,” Camargo said. “Movies like ‘E.T.,’ ‘Avatar,’ ‘The Neverending Story’ and ‘Labyrinth’ with Bowie and Escher also impact me. I’m inspired by the fascinating amount of life forms concentrated on earth and in galaxies far beyond the human spectrum.”

Camargo grew up in Southern Brazil, an area he describes as diverse and nature-abundant. Surrounded by a family of artists, architects, painters, designers, poets, and writers, his childhood and teenage years were spent “intrinsically involved with art.”

"[Growing up] I was intrinsically involved with art," he said. "I was a hyperactive kid so the only way my mom could make me stop for hours was to draw."

Upset by natural catastrophes caused by human error—including the likes of oil spills and chemical contaminations—Camargo remembers creating storyboards as a teenager depicting a planet where all living things would transform within the 24 hours the earth rotated on its axis.

Camargo received Superior Degrees in Industrial Design, Graphic Arts and a bachelor's degree in architecture from EMBAP, University of Fine Arts, Curitiba, in Brazil. He worked as a designer and an architect until a desire to study English and a passion for surfing landed him in San Diego when he was 26 years old.

see Camargo, pg 7

Annual ArtWalk event set for April 28–29

By Lucia Viti

This month, Dani Camargo will join hundreds of local artists and exhibit his work in San Diego's Mission Federal ArtWalk in Little Italy. He is looking forward to the opportunity to connect with the art community.

“How could you not be excited to participate in ArtWalk?” he said. “The talent is amazing.”

“Dani’s abstract paintings and sculptural pieces depict organic shapes and figures in unique ways, enticing viewers to add their own emotions and interpretations,” Sandi Cottrell, director of Mission Federal ArtWalk, said. “We look forward to welcoming Dani to his first ArtWalk festival.”

Mission Federal ArtWalk's 35th annual event will



(Photos by Paul Nestor)

showcase a collection of paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry, metal and woodwork. Over 350 local, regional and international artists — both seasoned professionals and proven newcomers — will participate.

Touting the theme “Connective Creative Communities,” the free event will also host music, dance and spoken-word performances, interactive art activities for adults and children and family-friendly art projects on the KidsWalk. Visitors perusing the aisles of the popular art and cultural event are expected to exceed six-figures.

“We are proud to connect community and visitors to San Diego’s vibrant arts



scene,” Cottrell said. “ArtWalk is an open environment that breeds creativity and leaves attendees feeling energized by its live music, dance and interactive art activities — all in beautiful Little Italy.”

Dedicated to encouraging attendees to express themselves to uncover their inner artist, Cottrell described ArtWalk as a community staple designed to bring all walks of life together to experience art and expression.

Interactive activities will include fashioning art on Ampersand panels using Jacquard alcohol inks and POSCA acrylic paint markers, as well as producing a unique cell effect, likened to looking through a microscope. ArtWalk will also host a mural installation of rainbow color quadrants, led by Carly Ealey, who is known for her work for KAABOO Music Festival mural installations.

Mission Federal ArtWalk will intersect Ash and Grape streets in Little Italy between 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29. Visit artwalksandiego.org for more details.❖



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Winners for San Diego in the omnibus spending bill

By Rep. Susan A. Davis

The success of our nation's economy is based in part on the investments the federal government makes. These investments spur economic activity and create jobs.

They can help young people afford college, save lives, protect and provide the care our veterans deserve, or keep our nation safe.

Congress recently passed an omnibus spending bill that provides meaningful investments in America and the American people.

While it was great to see this bipartisan agreement come together, it followed a shutdown and six short-term funding bills that left federal agencies in limbo on implementing policy.

As your representative, I want to report to you how this will benefit San Diego.

Each year, I push for an increase in funding for life-saving medical research. Last April, I led 206 of my fellow colleagues in calling for an increase in resources for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

San Diego is a significant recipient of NIH funding to the tune of about \$800 million per year. In our region, there are thousands of scientists in laboratories making incredible discoveries and breakthroughs for medical science, which can improve or save a life immeasurably.

This NIH funding supports these jobs and is a benefit to our local economy. This is why, along with saving lives, I continue to fight for this critical investment. This year the NIH will see a \$3 billion boost.

Another top job generator for our region is the strong tradition of shipbuilding. As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I work to ensure that shipbuilding gets the attention it deserves in the annual defense authorization bill.

The bipartisan work we do on the



Rep. Susan A. Davis

Armed Services Committee filters over to the appropriations committee in funding for shipbuilding and repair. More than \$25 billion for shipbuilding was included for 2018.

To fulfill new contracts, local shipbuilders recently announced they will be hiring up to 1,000 shipbuilders for good-paying jobs.

For those of us who drive on our roads, we know all too well the need for repairs. San Diego faces an infrastructure shortfall of about \$300 million dollars, according to a recent report covered by San Diego Union Tribune. Additionally, a study by transportation research group TRIP rated San Diego's roads as some of the worst in the country.

The omnibus bill provides \$45 billion for roads and bridges, which will help close our region's funding gap and lead to vital improvements.

As San Diego faces a housing and homelessness crisis, I recently joined over 1,500 volunteers to help count and survey our region's homeless population. The stories of the men and women living on our streets are heartbreaking.

Programs to end homelessness have a proven record of success and

many of these housing programs will receive a sizable increase.

On whole, the Department of Housing and Urban Development will see a 10 percent increase. The largest share will go toward public housing programs.

Another \$8 million will go toward the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. San Diego's YMCA Turning Point Program will benefit as they work to get our children off the streets and into housing.

One of the more important investments we can make is in our children through education. Schools with high percentages of low-income students will see an increase in support from the federal government.

As Ranking Member of the Higher Education Subcommittee, I was pleased to see a greater investment in Pell grants. I believe we can do better. While this increase is \$175 per grant, I am sponsoring legislation to index Pell grants to inflation in order to keep up with rising costs.

We have a proud veteran community in San Diego. With this bill, we honor our commitment to our veterans with a nearly 10 percent boost for the Veterans Affairs (VA), including mental health care, suicide prevention and ending homelessness.

As Congress begins the process for funding the federal government for Fiscal Year 2019, I hope we don't have a repeat of past behavior of the delays, shutdowns and stop-gap measures to fund the government. We must come together and do what's right for our country. I am committed to doing just that.

—Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, including the communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge, Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista.❖

FROM PAGE 1
GRANNY SMITH

“I started doing research of things made out of hemp and I noticed a lot of companies were calling their skateboards hemp, but their ingredients were not 100 percent plant-based,” Griffith said.

Developing their plan, Griffith and Blanchard continued searching for hemp-plastic alternatives, lab tests or product-patents. When they couldn’t find the material needed to make the board, they decided to move on.

Blanchard shifted gears from skateboarding to producing music and moved to his current home in North Park. He opened a recording studio in his home — a project which ultimately failed due to financial issues.

“Luckily, the failure of the recording studio ended up working out for me in the long run,” Blanchard said.

Inspired by his environment, he began waiting tables at Cafe Sevilla in Downtown and continued brainstorming sustainable skateboard options.

Shortly after, Blanchard and Griffith stumbled across Arizona State research featuring a hemp-plastic white-water kayak prototype, published by engineer Greg Osusky.

The duo thought the plastic would be the perfect biodegradable channel to build the eco-friendly skateboards they were aiming for.

“I had built a hybrid hemp material for white-water kayaks,” Osusky said. “I made a kayak prototype that was one-third of the weight of a normal white-water kayak. By using hemp, I got weight savings of the composite but was able to make the durability of the plastic — all performance and little drawbacks of the weight.”

When Blanchard and Griffith pitched the hemp skateboard idea to him, Osusky — who grew up riding — liked the idea and hopped on board.

“They’re not doing it as a novelty, they get this could replace plastic and change the planet,” he continued.

Hemp, often associated with marijuana, is the fiber of the cannabis plant — sans tetrahydrocannabinol (or THC), the chemical compound responsible for marijuana’s psychological effects — and has been used for lotions, papers, granolas, ropes, stout fabrics, and other products as an international import.



Dave Blanchard holding one of his handcrafted skateboard decks (Photos by Jess Winans)

But now, alongside the legalization of marijuana in states like California, industrial hemp is being produced domestically; this makes it easier for companies like Granny Smith to produce their hemp products.

“We just got to this point in our country where people are growing industrial hemp. A lot of hemp was previously coming from overseas,” Blanchard said. “Now all of our hemp is domestic, coming from the country, so [people who handle the hemp] are not messing with product.”

The boards are composed of the 100 percent biodegradable deck atop imported grip tape, bearings, trucks and wheels. Blanchard plans to continue producing them this way until a hemp-alternative for those parts is created.

For the first two years, the skateboards were made at Griffith’s home in Texas. Now all production, branding, outreach and sales will operate out of Blanchard’s North Park garage.

San Diego’s eco-friendly environment made the decision to transfer production easier for the environmentally conscious entrepreneur.

“We’re moving production over here to diversify the product,” Blanchard said. “It’s a California company so we really want the identity and the brand to be designed and sold and made in Southern California.”

When he’s not working on researching, developing and branding Granny Smith Sports, Blanchard is a real estate agent for Bankers Hill and spends his free time painting, surfing and of course, skateboarding.

“[Blanchard’s] work ethic is amazing. He doesn’t shy away from anything. It’s always work,” Griffith said. “When he’s out surfing he’s talking business, when he’s out with friends

he’s talking business. It’s part of his passion, it’s part of him.”

The earth-friendly sporting company has a customer list based mainly in Colorado, New York City and California. Kristen Stewart, star of the “Twilight” film series, can also be found riding one.

“I thought the board was really new with the technology ... I’m waiting for the long board,” said Nick Colantuoni, a long-time Granny Smith customer.

“When it comes to the company, just think about the possibility of replacing plastic,” he continued. “That’s everything. We can have a safe environment and change the future. That’s what has so much potential, it’s not just a skateboard.”

Granny Smith Sports has been featured by “The List,” Fox 5 News and Ministry of Hemp and Envirotexiles, as well as at a booth at the Colorado NoCo Hemp Expo earlier this month.

On April 22, Granny Smith Sports will be participating in the Cannabis Village festival on Earth Day in Balboa Park.

Cannabis Village will be a community event focused on showcasing the positive effects of the cannabis industry on San Diego, such as job creation and increased sustainability.

In addition to attending local festivals and expanding product knowledge through social media, Blanchard is considering partnering with local head-shops and dispensaries for collaboration.

“We’ve had inquiries from a dispensary in Arizona who wants custom skateboards,” Blanchard said. “That’s a little more of a technical order to fill, we would make the boards with their logo, but we would love to partner with local head shops or dispensaries. I see that as a really good business move.”

The two complete decks — “The Sprout” and “The Cane Top Barefoot Cruiser” — can be purchased online at granny-smithsports.com for \$129 and \$139, respectively. Individual decks, guitar picks and Granny Smith hoodies and T-shirts are also available on the website.

For more information or to purchase a Granny Smith product, visit grannysmithsports.com and follow them on Twitter and Instagram @grannysmithsports.

—Jess Winans is the editorial assistant of San Diego Community News Network, the parent company of San Diego Uptown News. Reach her at jessicamwinans@gmail.com.✿



Blanchard working on a board in his new studio

FROM PAGE 5
CAMARGO

Within a year, he moved to San Francisco to serve as an architect for the same Canadian firm he worked for in Brazil. Ten years later, he moved back to San Diego after taking a stroll through Balboa Park while visiting. Today, the architect by day juggles artistry between his family and life, often working into the early hours of the morning creating art.

“Architecture pays my bills as I work to achieve financial independence as an artist,” he said.

Camargo nods at the last decade for producing his most mature work and raising his level of artistry. He notes that one piece, entitled “Reflections,” exposes his desire — and constant

struggle — to emerge as an independent artist.

“‘Reflections’ reminds me of what I want to be and where I want to go,” he said. “As the piece progresses, I rise until I get to the top. The top represents the future. I’ve arrived.”

In addition to his paintings and clay sculptures, Camargo accepts commission work, such as images imposed on surfboards, snowboards and T-shirts.

“People who love my work commission me to paint on something they own,” he said

Future plans include completing larger pieces, working with oils and casting sculptures in bronze. Camargo has been featured in several collective and solo exhibitions throughout Brazil and the U.S.

To learn more about Dani Camargo and his work, follow him on Facebook or visit dani-camargoart.com.

—Contact Lucia Viti at luciaviti@roadrunner.com.✿



One of Camargo’s pieces, titled “Reflections” (Photos courtesy of the artist)



“Neuronium” by Dani Camargo

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Father Joe’s Villages Children’s Charity Gala
1-800-HOMELESS
FJVGA.com

On May 5, Father Joe’s Villages’ 34th Annual Children’s Charity Gala: “Up, Up & Away” at the historic U.S. Grant Hotel offers an evening of food, drink, entertainment and philanthropy, supporting programs that lift children in need up and into a future of success. Father Joe’s Villages is at the forefront of programs that help families struggling with homelessness, providing life-changing therapeutic childcare, housing, job training, and more to over 450 parents and children each year.

At the event, Father Joe’s Villages will also honor the community leaders whose services have lifted up neighbors experiencing poverty and homelessness. The awards will recognize the honorees’ contributions to the mission to end homelessness. This year’s honorees include Qualcomm cofounder Franklin Antonio, Cathedral Catholic High School and St. Augustine High School and the Mulvaney Family.

The Children’s Charity Gala VIP Reception begins at 5:30 p.m., while the General Event Reception begins at 6:30 p.m. The program includes an exquisite three-course dinner, live and silent auctions, an interactive program and awards, and lively live music and dancing.

Help end homelessness for kids in San Diego. Purchase tickets and tables at FJVGA.com

FROM PAGE 2

NEWS BRIEFS

customers who think they have a problem with their bill to perform a “controversy test” for a small fee and whether their water meter was working properly or not, they will receive a new smart meter. The city has been replacing old water meters with new smart meters for its customers and hopes to have the approximately 270,000 customers it serves on smart meters by 2020.

To report a problem with your water meter or to request a test, call San Diego Public Utilities water department at 619-515-3525.

Earth Day event focuses on science and religion

First UU Church of SD presents “Intergenerational Weekend Celebration: A Reunion of Science and Religion, Head and Heart” on April 21 at 4190 Front St. The event will feature two speakers: Scripps climate scientist Dr. Ramanathan and theologian Dr. John B. Cobb Jr.. The program includes interactive music with the MLK community choir, giant rod puppets and ritual.

Suggested donation is \$10. Child care is available from 1:30–4:30 p.m. Attendees must register number and ages of children online.

The Sikh community, representing “the equality and oneness of all humankind,”

will provide a Indian vegetarian dinner. Please RSVP for the 5:30 p.m. free dinner and dancing at earthdayreunion.eventbrite.com.

Earth justice organizations will be available for a popcorn reception at 4:30 p.m. with music including co-sponsors SanDiego350.org and Church for Our Common Home, among others.

On the following day, Dr. John B. Cobb Jr. preaches on Earth Day at Church for Our Common Home at 10 a.m. in Rancho Penasquitos, 13014 Calle De Las Rosas. The April 22 event is sponsored by First UU Climate Justice Ministry, UU Christian Study Group, and First UU Adult Religious Education, and Church For our Common Home.

Creek to Bay Cleanup seeks volunteers

I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) is now accepting volunteers to register for its countywide Creek to Bay Cleanup.

This year will be the organization’s 16th one-day cleanup event that gives residents the opportunity to donate their time to create a cleaner, healthier San Diego County. ILACSD anticipates over 6,000 volunteers will participate in this year’s cleanup, held April 21, from 9 a.m.–noon.

There are 114 cleanup locations in neighborhoods, parks, beaches and open spaces throughout San Diego County for volunteers to get

involved. A complete list of cleanup sites is available at CreekToBay.org.

With a tagline of “Your Neighborhood, Our Environment,” Creek to Bay highlights the importance of acting locally to contribute regionally. Volunteers can get involved at a site in or nearby their neighborhood and make a difference for the overall health and beauty of the entire county. In 2017, more than 6,500 volunteers removed over 190,000 pounds of litter and debris during the three-hour event.

While trash removal is a large focus of the event, volunteers will also enhance their communities through beautification projects such as native planting and graffiti removal. These beautification projects restore local outdoor areas and evoke a strong sense of community pride.

Citing a commitment to zero waste practices, ILACSD encourages volunteers to bring their own reusable water bottles, gardening or work gloves, and buckets to this year’s cleanup. By choosing reusable options, volunteers will reduce the amount of plastic waste produced at the cleanup, keeping thousands of single-use bags and disposable gloves out of San Diego’s crowded landfills.

see News Briefs, pg 21



Attendees at last year's event (Photo courtesy of Urban Optiks)

Get ready to ‘Raise Your Glasses’ on May 9

Urban Optiks Optometry, a local source of eyewear and eyecare, presents its fourth annual “Raise Your Glasses,” a vendor trunk show and 10th anniversary celebration, on May 9.

In the past four years, the event has garnered national attention within the optometric world. It continues to grow in size each year as more vendors get involved in the evening of shopping, education and celebration.

Urban Optiks’ signature vintage-inspired, eclectic style will come alive in the largest space for the event to date — the Conservatory Room at the Lafayette Hotel & Swim Club.

“The evening will showcase 20 of our high-end, hand-crafted frame lines in a mega trunk show experience providing a truly unique opportunity for attendees to see the entire collections from each vendor,” managing optician Kristy Cambone said. “There will literally be thousands of frames to view, try on and purchase.”

Attendees have an opportunity to learn about new technology available at Urban Optiks. The company will introduce a new Eyecare Education Expo with representatives from their digital lens manufacturers — such as Zeiss, Hoya & Shamir — as well as their exam equipment suppliers and LASIK vision correction partners.

Dr. Gary Klein, owner and principle optometrist of Urban Optiks, opened the business in 2008 with a mission to provide San Diego with a high level of eyecare by using the most advanced exam and lens technology available, cultivate a collection of high-quality eyewear, and provide exceptional customer service with attention to detail.

“I began my optometric career 35 years ago and ended up owning several optometry practices located within the big-box retailer LensCrafters,” Dr. Klein said. “Over the course of years, I began seeing the landscape change in the optical world and how it was starting to be controlled by large corporate interests with cost-cutting reductions

to services and quality products.”

Dr. Klein decided to sell those practices and pursue his dream of opening an optical boutique.

“I take extraordinary pride in taking the necessary time with each patient to provide an exceptional optometric and optical experience in a comfortable, caring and professional manner,” Klein continued.

Today, Urban Optiks has positioned itself as a heavy hitter in the San Diego market, staffed by an experienced, knowledgeable optical staff and supported by a growing customer base.

Dr. Klein’s care extends well beyond the exam room. He is active in the community and supports an array of charitable organizations. He is very honored to have been recognized for his philanthropy, but for him it’s always been a part of his life-long commitment to give back.


In keeping with that tradition, Raise Your Glasses will be raising funds for The Vision of Children Foundation, a nonprofit located in Del Mar working to cure hereditary childhood blindness and vision disorders. Through their organizationally-funded research, they are dedicated to improving the quality of life of visually impaired individuals and their families.

Representatives from the charity will be on-hand educating participants about childhood blindness and their research and development work. An opportunity drawing and silent auction raffle, with prizes donated by many of Urban Optiks’ community partners, will be just a few of the ways that funds will be raised.

Additionally, the social affair will feature food, craft cocktails, shopping opportunities and more.

Raise Your Glasses will take place on Wednesday, May 9, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Lafayette Hotel & Swim Club, located at 2223 El Cajon Blvd. A \$10 donation benefiting The Vision of Children Foundation is requested at the door. For more information and to RSVP, go to uoosd.com/raise.

San Diego's Biggest Luxury Eyewear Event Of The Year Returns!




Raise Your GLASSES


10th Anniversary Celebration & Mega Vendor Trunk Show

Wednesday, May 9 | 4pm-7pm


Mega Eyewear Trunk Show • Eyecare Education Expo • Food & Cocktails

Come celebrate Urban Optiks Optometry's 10th Anniversary as we present the largest collection of handcrafted luxury eyewear from around the world - all gathered in one place. There will literally be thousands of frames to view, try on and buy from over 20 vendors!





The Lafayette Hotel & Swim Club
2223 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104
\$10 Suggested donation benefiting The Vision of Children Foundation
More info & RSVP at uoosd.com/raise



Congratulations to this year's winners!



Smok'd Hog BBQ

Uptown is a unique place to call home. We pride ourselves on our historic districts and mainstay local spots, yet also embrace and welcome change to our vibrant community.

From residents to houses, our neighborhoods comprise a balanced mix of young and old, established and new. Why would the dining and entertainment establishments we frequent be any different?

We recently asked the readers of San Diego Uptown News to tell us their favorite local dining spots and entertainment venues found throughout and nearby our Uptown neighborhoods. Our ballot offered 70 voting categories, including brunch, comedy club, doughnut shop, food truck, happy hour, Irish pub, Mexican cuisine and movie theater.

From our numerous coffee shops and breweries to the buzzing night life scene, we featured categories to best reflect the feel of our distinctive community.

San Diego Uptown News covers nearly a dozen neighborhoods, including Old Town, Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, University Heights, Normal Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Kensington and Talmadge, as well as nearby regions of City Heights, Little Italy, Mission Valley and more. The range of winners reflect our diverse neighborhoods,

offering a glimpse of what it's like to be an Uptowner.

In this month's "Best of Uptown" special section, we feature an accumulation of these top establishments, showcasing them with colorful advertisements, photos, contact information and descriptions outlining their missions to serve their customers.

As you look through these pages, we hope you find familiar names along with new faces. Swing by these spots for a taste of life in Uptown, whether you attend a show at your go-to music venue or try a new restaurant outside of your palate.

Without further ado, here are your picks. From all of us at San Diego Uptown News, congratulations to 2018's Best of Uptown winners! See you around the neighborhood.

[Editor's note: This year, we split the ballot into two sections: dining/entertainment and business/retail. This issue exclusively features the best dining and entertainment venues. To vote for the best business and retail spots, stay tuned for our next ballot in print and online at sduptownnews.com.]

—The staff at San Diego Community News Network (sdcdn.com)



House of Blues San Diego

San Diego

Uptown News

BEST

OF

2018

UPTOWN

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The Deli Llama



Alexi's Greek Cuisine



The Mission

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1250 J STREET at 13th
619/232-7662



AMERICAN CUISINE

GOLD: Great Maple
1451 Washington St.
thegreatmaple.com/sandiego
619-255-2282

SILVER: Trust.
3752 Park Blvd., Suite 105 C
trustrestaurantsd.com
619-795-6901

BAKERY

GOLD: Twiggs Bakery & Coffeehouse
2804 Adams Ave.
twiggs.org/adams-ave
619-296-0616

SILVER: Cardamom Cafe and Bakery
2977 Upas St.
cardamomsandiego.com
619-546-5609

BARBECUE

GOLD: The Smok'd Hog
3749 Park Blvd.
thesmokdhog.com
619-546-5467

The Smok'd Hog features award-winning BBQ ribs on Saturday and Sundays, fried chicken on Fridays, and gourmet smoked meat sandwiches all week long. Check out our menu — you can dine in or order to go.

San Diego's best BBQ and gourmet sandwich shop is located at the corner of Park Boulevard and Robinson Avenue, just a few minutes from Balboa Park. If it's your first time, we recommend trying our signature pulled pork BBQ sandwiches, the "KC" or "Carolina." Or sink your teeth into a Florida-inspired "Cubano." On Saturdays and Sundays, we serve BBQ ribs smothered in our house hog sauce. You'll love our slow roasted mouthwatering meats, which are smoked in-house daily! Be sure to check our menu often. Don't forget, The Smok'd Hog offers BBQ catering in San Diego.

SILVER: Grand Ole BBQ y Asado
3302 32nd St.
grandolebbq.com
619-213-3765

The tradition lives on!
"I fell in love with Central Texas BBQ flavors as a kid and often wondered why there wasn't a venue that combines those flavors with great music in an outdoors setting in San Diego," said Andy Harris, owner of Grand Ole BBQ y Asado.

Harris spent more than 20 years honing his barbecue skills — from buying his first smoker at 20 years old to testing out all the best BBQ at all the best BBQ joints in Kansas City, Memphis, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

BREWERY

GOLD: Kensington Brewing Company
4067 Adams Ave.
brewerysandiego.com
619-400-6584

SILVER: North Park Brewing Co.
3038 University Ave.
northparkbeerco.com
619-255-2946

BILLIARDS

GOLD: Triple Crown Pub
3221 Adams Ave.
triplecrownpubsd.com
619-281-0263

SILVER: Gilly's
2306 El Cajon Blvd.
619-298-6008

BREAKFAST

GOLD: The Mission
2801 University Ave.
themiissionsd.com
619-220-8992

The Mission concept specializes in simple, healthy, and tasty food with a whimsical edge and a focus on artful presentation at an affordable price. By focusing on the use of simple and fresh ingredients, this vibrant urban bistro promotes living in an increasingly health-conscious world. Our entrees are creatively presented, resulting in artful culinary displays that are sure to please the palate. Guests dine in dynamic, inviting surroundings, featuring large, bright and airy windows along with eye-catching local artwork. The menu, which includes everything from classic pancakes and sandwiches to modern Chino-Latino cuisine, is sure to satisfy every appetite.

SILVER: Crest Cafe
425 Robinson Ave.
crestcafe.net
619-295-2510

BRUNCH

GOLD: The Patio on Goldfinch
4020 Goldfinch St.
thepatioongoldfinch.com
619-501-5090

SILVER: Fig Tree Eatery
416 University Ave.
figtreeeatery.com
619-298-2010

BURGER

GOLD: Cali "O" Burgers
1290 University Ave.
619-692-9999

SILVER: Crest Cafe
425 Robinson Ave.
crestcafe.net
619-295-2510

BURRITO

GOLD: El Zarape Restaurant
3201 Adams Ave.
elzarapeeatery.com
619-692-1652

see Burrito, pg 11

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Paul Rodriguez
MAY 19



Human League
MAY 16



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FROM PAGE 10
BURRITO

SILVER: Colima's Mexican Restaurant
2302 University Ave.
colimasmexican.menutoeat.com
619-297-2715

BUSINESS LUNCH
GOLD: Hob Nob Hill
2271 First Ave.
hobnobhill.com
619-239-8176

Opened in 1944 with the sole intention to provide quality food and exceptional services at reasonable prices, Hob Nob Hill has worked hard to stay true to its commitment. A full-service restaurant and bakery, Hob Nob Hill and its American Country-style furnishings offer its guests comfortable seating while they enjoy an array of tasty American classics. Whether it be breakfast, lunch or dinner — Hob Nob Hill's American styled menu provides their guests with generous portions, affordable pricing and a taste that's sure to entice its patrons for more!

Just about everything — from baking fresh muffins and cakes to curing corned beef — is done on the premises. And each recipe has been home-developed and home-tested to ensure that you, the customer, will experience the ultimate dining pleasure. For more information regarding business hours and menu details, visit Hob Nob Hill's website.

SILVER: Harley Gray Kitchen & Bar
902 Washington St.
harleygraykitchenandbar.com
619-955-8451

CASINO
GOLD: Sycuan Casino
5469 Casino Way
El Cajon, 92019
sycuan.com
619-916-4468

Feel at home as you walk through the doors of Sycuan Casino, San Diego's top choice for fun and excitement in a casual environment. Located in the heart of America's finest city, Sycuan Casino began as a humble Bingo Palace back in 1983. Now, it has become a community landmark. Undergoing a massive renovation in 2012 with additional enhancements in 2015, Sycuan now features 2,000 exciting reel and video slot machines; more than 40 gaming tables, poker, bingo; and a variety of restaurants to choose from.

Non-smokers will also enjoy over 800 slots and table games in the comfort of San Diego's first and largest fully-enclosed non-smoking room — complete with its own separate entrance and Paipa's Surf & Turf buffet. The GameDay Sports Bar & Grill has 39 wide-screen

TVs, including five 90-inch TVs; bar-top slot machines; a stadium sized menu; over 30 beers on tap; the Party Pit, complete with three blackjack tables; an extensive collection of sports memorabilia; and a high-energy atmosphere. Sycuan's intimate 457-seat entertainment venue, Sycuan Live & Up Close, features national musical acts and comedians year-round. Open 24 hours daily.

SILVER: Viejas Casino & Resort
5000 Willows Road
Alpine, 91901
viejas.com
833-445-5400

CASINO BUFFET
GOLD: Valley View Casino & Hotel
16300 Nyemii Pass Road
Valley Center, 92082
valleyviewcasino.com
866-843-9946

SILVER: Sycuan Casino
5469 Casino Way
El Cajon, 92019
sycuan.com/dining/paipas-buffet
619-916-4468

CASUAL DINING
GOLD: Pop Pie Co.
4404 Park Blvd.
poppieco.com
619-501-4440

SILVER: Carnitas Snack Shack
2632 University Ave.
carnitassnackshack.com
619-294-7675

CATERING
GOLD: The Wild Thyme Company
7163 Construction Court Suite B
thewildthymecompany.com
858-527-0226

SILVER: Mastiff Sausage Company
3038 University Ave.
mastiffsausagecompany.com/catering
619-255-2777

CHINESE CUISINE
GOLD: Saigon on Fifth
3900 Fifth Ave. #120
saigonon5th.com
619-220-8828

SILVER: City Dragon
2885 El Cajon Blvd.
citydragonsd.com
619-280-2255

COCKTAIL
GOLD: Martinis Above Fourth Table + Stage
3940 Fourth Ave., Second Floor
ma4sd.com
619-400-4500

SILVER: The Caliph
3100 Fifth Ave.
thecaliph.net
619-298-9495

COFFEE SHOP
GOLD: Lestat's Coffee House
3343 Adams Ave.
lestats.com
619-282-0437

SILVER: Young Hickory
4096 30th St.
younghickory.com
619-795-6574

COMEDY CLUB
GOLD: American Comedy Co.
818 Sixth Ave.
americancomedyco.com
619-795-3858

SILVER: Comedy Heights
comedyheights.com
619-993-3402

COMFORT FOOD
GOLD: DiMille's Italian Restaurant
3492 Adams Ave.
dimilles.com
619-283-3153

SILVER: Pop Pie Co.
4404 Park Blvd.
poppieco.com
619-501-4440

DANCE CLUB
GOLD: Rich's 1051 University Ave.
richssandiego.com
619-295-2195

SILVER: Gossip Grill
1220 University Ave.
thegossipgrill.com
619-260-8023

DELI
GOLD: The Deli Llama
3702 Fifth Ave.
delillamasd.com
619-295-4666

It began with a concept — amazing sandwiches in a whimsical setting where customers feel at home. Ten years later, The Deli Llama has earned 29 “Best of” awards for its signature sandwiches, paninis, salads, house-made sauces, soups, and specialty chips and beverages.

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SILVER: Grant's Marketplace
2953 Beech St.
grantsmarket.com
619-231-0524

DESSERT
GOLD: Holy Matcha San Diego
3118 University Ave.
holymatchasd.com

SILVER: Extraordinary Desserts

2929 Fifth Ave.
extraordinarydesserts.com
619-294-2132

DINNER
GOLD: Dunedin New Zealand Eats
3501 30th St.
dnp-sd.com
619-255-8566

SILVER: Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop
640 Tenth Ave.
cowboystarsd.com
619-450-5880

DOUGHNUT SHOP
GOLD: Copper Top Coffee and Donut
101 Washington St.
coppertopcoffee.com
619-458-9045

SILVER: Donut Bar
631 B St.
donutbar.com
619-255-6360

FOOD TRUCK
GOLD: Mariscos Nine Seas Seafood
3030 Grape St.
mariscosnineseasseafood
619-279-0010

SILVER: Kiko's Place
4404 Texas St.
facebook.com/kikosplaceseafood
619-341-7397

FAMILY RESTAURANT
GOLD: Rudford's Restaurant
2900 El Cajon Blvd.
rudfords.com
619-282-8423

SILVER: DiMille's Italian Restaurant
3492 Adams Ave.
dimilles.com
619-283-3153

see Best of Uptown, pg 12

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FROM PAGE 11
BEST OF UPTOWN

FARMERS MARKET

GOLD: Hillcrest Farmers Market
3960 Normal St.
hillcrestfarmersmarket.com
619-237-1632

SILVER: North Park Thursday Market
3000 North Park Way
northparkmainstreet.com/events/farm-
ers-market
619-294-2501

FAST FOOD

GOLD: Five Guys
670 University Ave.
fiveguys.com
619-299-9105

SILVER: In-N-Out Burger
2005 Camino Del Este
in-n-out.com
800-786-1000

FINE DINING

GOLD: Dunedin New Zealand Eats
3501 30th St.
dnp-sd.com
619-255-8566

SILVER: Donovan's Steak & Chop
House
570 K St.
donovanssteakhouse.com
619-376-1184

FRENCH CUISINE

GOLD: The Smoking Goat Restaurant
3408 30th St.
thesmokinggoatrestaurant.com
619-955-5295

SILVER: La Bonne Table
3696 Fifth Ave.
619-260-8039

GREEK CUISINE

GOLD: Alexi's Greek Cafe
3863 Fifth Ave.
619-297-1777

Serving Greek, Mediterranean and
American food, this Hillcrest institution
has been delighting palates for over 20
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to spanakopita to Greek salads, Alexis
even offers vegetarian cuisine. For the
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Greek Café. No other Greek restaurant
compares.

SILVER: Olympic Cafe
2310 University Ave.
olympiccafesd.com
619-692-9082

GOLF COURSE

GOLD: Torrey Pines Golf Course
11480 North Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, 92037
torreypinesgolfcourse.com
858-452-3226

SILVER: Tobey's 19th Hole Cafe
2600 Golf Course Drive
619-234-5921

HAPPY HOUR

GOLD: Flicks
1017 University Ave.
sdflicks.com
619-297-2056

SILVER: Park & Rec
4612 Park Blvd.
parkandrecsd.com
619-795-9700

HEALTH FOOD STORE

GOLD: Barons Market
3231 University Ave.
baronsmarket.com
619-814-5555

SILVER: Lazy Acres Natural Market
422 W. Washington St.
lazyacres.com/missionhills
619-272-4289

HOT WINGS

GOLD: Wingstop
4403 University Ave. #400
wingstop.com
619-280-8000

SILVER: The Rail
3796 Fifth Ave.
thebrassrailsd.com
619-298-2233

INDIAN CUISINE

GOLD: Bombay
3960 Fifth Ave.
bombayrestaurant.com
619-297-7777

SILVER: Punjabi Tandoor
9235 Activity Road, Suite 111
punjabitandoor.com
858-695-0956

IRISH PUB

GOLD: Oscar Wilde's Irish Pub
1440 University Ave.
oscarwildespub.com
619-567-8249

SILVER: The Field
544 Fifth Ave.
thefield.com
619-232-9840

ITALIAN CUISINE

GOLD: DiMille's Italian Restaurant
3492 Adams Ave.
dimilles.com
619-283-3153

SILVER: Buona Forchetta
3001 Beech St.
buonaforchettasd.com
619-381-4844

JAPANESE CUISINE

GOLD: Azuki Sushi
2321 Fifth Ave.
azukisushi.com
619-238-4760

SILVER: North Park Sushi & Grill
3021 University Ave.
hanaoka-restaurant.com
619-297-0924

JAZZ BAR

GOLD: Seven Grand San Diego
3054 University Ave.
sevengrandbars.com/sd
619-269-8820

SILVER: Martinis Above Fourth Table
+ Stage
3940 Fourth Ave. Second Floor
ma4sd.com
619-400-4500

JUICE

GOLD: Project Juice
1080 University Ave. Suite H 207
projectjuice.com/hillcrest-cafe
619-452-2513

SILVER: Juice Crafters
401 University Ave.
juicecrafters.com
619-297-0235

LATE NIGHT DINING

GOLD: Rudford's Restaurant
2900 El Cajon Blvd.
rudfords.com
619-282-8423

SILVER: Uptown Tavern
1236 University Ave.
uptowntavernsd.com
619-241-2710

LIVE MUSIC VENUE

GOLD: House of Blues
1055 Fifth Ave.
houseofblues.com/sandiego
619-299-2583

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Sundays, House of Blues is truly where
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SILVER: The Observatory North Park
2891 University Ave.
observatorysd.com
619-239-8836

LOCAL WINERY

GOLD: Négociant Winery
2419 El Cajon Blvd.
negociantwinery.com
619-535-1747

SILVER: Wilson Creek Winery
35960 Rancho California Road
Temecula, 92591
wilsoncreekwinery.com
951- 699-9463

LUNCH

GOLD: The Deli Llama
3702 Fifth Ave.
delillamasd.com
619-295-4666

SILVER: EmpireHouse
127 University Ave.
empirehousesd.com
619-688-9283

MARGARITA

GOLD: Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro
141 University Ave.
ortegas.com
619-692-4200

SILVER: Del Sur Mexican Cantina
2310 30th St.
delsurmexicancantina.com
619-501-0643

MARTINI

GOLD: Martinis Above Fourth Table
+ Stage
3940 Fourth Ave., Second Floor
ma4sd.com
619-400-4500

SILVER: Born and Raised
1909 India St.
bornandraisedsteak.com
619-202-4577

MEXICAN CUISINE

GOLD: Del Sur Mexican Cantina
2310 30th St.
delsurmexicancantina.com
619-501-0643

SILVER: Ortega's, A Mexican Bistro
141 University Ave.
ortegas.com
619-692-4200

MOVIE THEATER

GOLD: Landmark Theatres Hillcrest
3107 Fifth Ave. #200
landmarktheatres.com
619-298-2904

SILVER: Landmark Theatres Ken
Cinema
4061 Adams Ave.
landmarktheatres.com
619-283-3227

NEW RESTAURANT

GOLD: Dunedin New Zealand Eats
3501 30th St.
dnp-sd.com
619-255-8566

SILVER: Shank & Bone
2930 University Ave.
shankandbone.com
619-458-9085

NIGHTCLUB

GOLD: The Rail
3796 Fifth Ave.
thebrassrailsd.com
619-298-2233

SILVER: Rich's
1051 University Ave.
richssandiego.com
619-295-2195

OUTDOOR DINING

GOLD: The Patio on Goldfinch
4020 Goldfinch St.
thepatioongoldfinch.com
619-501-5090

see Outdoor dining, pg 13

FROM PAGE 12

OUTDOOR DINING

SILVER: Underbelly
3000 Upas St.
godblessunderbelly.com
619-487-9909

PET FRIENDLY DINING
GOLD: Knotty Barrel
844 Market St.
knottybarrel.com
619-269-7156

SILVER: Del Sur Mexican Cantina
2310 30th St
delsurmexicancantina.com
619-501-0643

PHO/NOODLE HOUSE
GOLD: OB Noodle House
2218 Cable St.
obnoodlehouse.com
619-450-6868

SILVER: Underbelly
3000 Upas St.
godblessunderbelly.com
619-487-9909

PIZZA
GOLD: DiMille's Italian Restaurant
3492 Adams Ave.
dimilles.com
619-283-3153

SILVER: Filippi's Pizza Grotto Little Italy
1747 India St.
realcheesepizza.com/little-italy
619-232-5094

POKE
GOLD: Poké Go
3614 Fifth Ave.
pokesd.com
619-230-5549

SILVER: Fishmongers' Market
1735 Hancock St.
fishmongersmarkets.com
619-756-7345

ROMANTIC DINING
GOLD: Madison on Park
4622 Park Blvd.
madisononpark.com
619-269-6566

SILVER: Et Voilà French Bistro
3015 Adams Ave.
etvoilabistro.com
619-209-7759

ROOFTOP LOUNGE
GOLD: Mister A's
2550 Fifth Ave.
asrestaurant.com
619-239-1377

SILVER: George's at the Cove
1250 Prospect St.
La Jolla, 92037
georgesatthecove.com
858-454-4244

SALAD
GOLD: Jyoti-Bihanga
3351 Adams Ave.
jyotibihanga.com
619-282-4116

SILVER: Barons Market
Barons Market
3231 University Ave.
baronsmarket.com
619-814-5555

SANDWICH
GOLD: Grant's Marketplace
2953 Beech St.
grantsmarket.com
619-231-0524

SILVER: The Deli Llama
3702 Fifth Ave.
delillamasd.com
619-295-4666

SEAFOOD
GOLD: Blue Water Seafood Market & Grill
3667 India St.
bluewaterseafoodsandiego.com
619-497-0914

SILVER: Point Loma Seafoods
2805 Emerson St.
pointlomaseafoods.com
619-223-1109

SPANISH CUISINE
GOLD: Cueva Bar
2123 Adams Ave.
cuevabar.com
619-269-6612

Established in 2010, Cueva Bar is a gem in the University Heights neighborhood. If you're searching for a small, neighborhood bar with an intimate setting, look no further. At Cueva Bar, we are proud to offer delicious, globally-inspired tapas, a sommelier curated wine list and a draft selection of (mostly) local craft beer. For our gluten-free and/or vegan patrons, we offer a very dynamic and flexible menu that fits your dietary needs. We specialize in bringing people together with the help of shareable plates, friendly service and an intimate setting!

SILVER: Cafe Sevilla
353 Fifth Ave.
cafesevilla.com
619-233-5979

SPORTS BAR
GOLD: The Rail
3796 Fifth Ave.
thebrassrailsd.com
619-298-2233

SILVER: Hamilton's Tavern
1521 30th St.
hamiltonstavern.com
619-238-5460

STEAKHOUSE
GOLD: Donovan's Steak & Chop House
570 K St.
donovanssteakhouse.com
619-376-1184

SILVER: Morton's The Steakhouse
285 J St.
mortons.com/sandiego
619-696-3369

SUSHI
GOLD: RB Sushi
3955 Fifth Ave.
bsushi.com
619-269-9900

SILVER: Azuki Sushi
2321 Fifth Ave.
azukisushi.com
619-238-4760

THAI CUISINE
GOLD: Amarin Thai
3843 Richmond St.
amarinsandiego.com
619-296-6056

SILVER: Bahn Thai
4646 Park Blvd.
bahnthai.net
619-299-6363

THEATER
GOLD: Diversionary Theatre
4545 Park Blvd. #101
diversionary.org
619-220-0097

SILVER: The Old Globe
1363 Old Globe Way
theoldglobe.org
619-234-5623

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Pop Pie Co.

The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others.

Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as "Dirty Rotten" "Scoundrels," "The Full Monty," and "Damn Yankees," have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.

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VEGETARIAN/VEGAN
GOLD: KINDRED
1503 30th St.
barkindred.com
619-546-9653

SILVER: Plumeria Vegetarian Restaurant
4661 Park Blvd.
myplumeria.com
619-269-9989

WINE BAR
GOLD: Négociant Winery
2419 El Cajon Blvd.
negotiantwinery.com
619-535-1747

SILVER: Village Vino
4095 Adams Ave.
villagevino.com
619-546-8466 ❖

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San Diego Reader

American

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Amanda Robles, Heather Velazquez, Jennifer Paredes, Natalie Camunas, and Crissy Guerrero. Photo by Jim Cox.

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SAN DIEGO UPTOWN NEWS

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Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



The small, assorted kebabs that are requisite to street festivals in Brazil have arrived in the heart of Hillcrest.

So have the sidekicks that go with them, including yucca fries, conical-shaped coxinha (chicken croquettes) and toasted manioc flour known as farofa, which Brazilians sprinkle onto meats and veggies to give them a little extra texture and a slight nutty flavor.

Unlike the decadent meat feasts (churrascaria) found at Brazilian steakhouses, espettos are inexpensive snack-size skewers of beef, chicken, seafood and veggies. They're eaten on the go or as noshes while lolling over a few drinks.

Espettos Brazilian Skewers is the radical rebranding of Sushi Co., which Brazilian transplants Ramon Barros and his friend Andre De Paula decided to close due to increasing competition.

"This is better because it's our own street food," Barros said while cutting up the prized cap of tri tip (picanha) from a slab of top sirloin. Both sections of beef end up on thin, wooden skewers measuring about 9 inches long.

With my spouse in tow on the first visit, we ordered four different skewers and the yucca fries. It was a Sunday afternoon and Champions League soccer was streaming on two flat-screens. Due to the

deafening shouts by a handful of jocks rooting for their teams, we fled and ate the food at home.

Every skewer was delicious, especially the picanha. Priced at \$3.99, it's the most expensive on the menu, seasoned only with a little salt and pepper so that the rich, beefy flavor shines through. And it did.

The mixed skewer contained an appetizing threading of top sirloin, chicken and pork sausage; the latter faintly resembled kielbasa. Another skewer yielded a few ounces of cubed chicken thighs. Barros says it's the only protein that gets marinated before hitting the grill.

Nonetheless, all of the meats were succulent and flavorful, even without the support of excellent chimichurri vinaigrette or above-average honey mustard sauce.

A tasty combo of zucchini, bell peppers, eggplant and onions comprised the vegan skewer, which served as the lean, healthy component to our meal. The powdery farofa struck a particularly good friendship to this skewer.

Yucca root is a starchy Brazilian staple used in a number of dishes throughout the country. It turns up here in the form of deep-fried logs resembling short, chubby french fries. Delicately crispy on the outside with fluffy mashed potatoes on the inside, they shouldn't be ignored.

Returning solo a few days later for lunch, the atmosphere was pleasantly mellow. A Brazilian TV channel played at very low volume. So I parked



A newcomer to Hillcrest for Brazilian street food (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

myself at a table and plunged into a six-piece order of chicken coxinha and a small paper basket filled with fresh potato salad.

The coxinha are made off-site by a Brazilian cook who encases trace amounts of shredded chicken breast and

cream cheese into potato dough. Tailored after croquettes, they're shaped into teardrop cones, deep-fried to order and yield about two bites each.

They arrived with ketchup, which steals their joy. Ask instead for chimichurri and you'll discover the perfect fit.

Espettos Brazilian Skewers

3803 Fifth Ave.
Hillcrest

619-600-0001

Prices: Salads, french fries, other sides, and chicken croquettes, \$1 to \$4.99; skewers, \$1.99 to \$3.99; weekday lunch specials, \$9.90

The potato salad was a simple, satisfying construct of finely cubed potatoes and tiny pieces of celery in a light mayo dressing. A liberal sprinkling of black pepper made it sing, although I had to ask for it at the order counter.

In addition to house wine, the eatery is stocked with domestic, craft and Brazilian beers in cans and bottles. Prices start at \$1.75 for Bud Light. There are also weekday lunch deals from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. featuring salad, a side dish, two skewers and a fountain drink for \$9.90.

Lindo maravilhoso Espettos! You're a marvelous addition to this block of Fifth Avenue. I don't miss the sushi at all.

—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. Reach him at fsabatini@san.rr.com.✧



(l to r) Mixed meat and veggie skewers

(l to r) Picanha and chicken skewers



Yucca fries



An order of coxinha, also known as chicken croquettes



Potato salad

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The San Diego LGBT Community Center's 12th annual Dining Out for Life is April 26. Restaurants, bars and coffeehouses taking part donate between 25 and 100 percent of their day's profits to The Center's HIV/

AIDS services and prevention programs. This year's participants — about 75 in total — stretch from Downtown to Oceanside. They include: **Cowboy Star** (lunch and dinner); **Hundred Proof** (any meal); **The Mission** (breakfast and lunch); **Babycakes** (breakfast, lunch, dinner, desserts and cocktails); **Gossip Grill** (any meal); **Blind Lady Alehouse** (dinner); **The Wine Pub** (dinner); **Kensington Cafe** (breakfast, lunch and dinner); **Hello Betty Fish House** (lunch, dinner and cocktails); **Burger Lounge** in Hillcrest, Kensington and La Jolla (lunch and dinner); and more. diningoutforlife.com.

Take a break from ping-pong, cornhole and other recreational activities with meats grilled by Chef Hanis Cavin during his **Carnitas Snack Shack** game day. The event will be held from 3 to 7 p.m., April 21, at the North Park location. It will feature a host of games in the eatery's back patio, where Cavin will cook from an outdoor grill and smoker. Customers can place their food orders at a nearby table rather than the walk-up window. The meals will feature a main protein plus a couple of side dishes for an average price of \$10. Wine and craft beer will also be available. 2632 University Ave., 619-294-7675, carnitassnackshack.com.



Chef Hanis Cavin presents games and meat in North Park (Photo courtesy of Carnitas Snack Shack)



Saffron Thai on India Street will open a bigger, second location near downtown La Jolla by early summer (Photo courtesy of Saffron Thai)

The long-established **Saffron Thai** in Mission Hills is branching into La Jolla by late June in place of a former **Chipotle Mexican Grill**. The new digs will be significantly larger and feature the restaurant's famous salad rolls, grilled chicken and stir-fried noodles along with additions such as Thai tacos and curry wraps. The expansion comes just over a year after Saffron founder Su-Mei Yu partnered with local hospitality firm, Karina's Group, which operates **Karina's Mexican Seafood**, **Savoie Italian Eatery** and **Karina's Ceviches & More**. 1055 Torrey Pines Road, saffronsandiego.com.



This year's food theme at the San Diego County Fair is centered on unicorns (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Culinary vendors for this year's **San Diego County Fair** (June 1 through July 4) have been asked to create "unicorn food" to tie in to this year's fair theme: "How Sweet It Is." According to the fair's public information officer, Annie Pierce, dishes on tap so far include rainbow grilled-cheese sandwiches; unicorn cotton candy ice cream sandwiches; and unicorn "crack" fries with caramel drizzle, sea salt, Fruity Pebbles and Pop Rocks. Also in the pipeline are unicorn beef sundaes and unicorn burgers. Their specs, however, remain a mystery. Pierce adds that fair-goers can expect all of the outrageous, fried foods as well, although a list of those items won't be finalized until sometime next month. The annual fair is held at the **Del Mar Fairgrounds**, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar, 858-755-1161, sdfair.com.



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Joining the crop of vegan establishments that have sprouted up in San Diego over the last several months, such as **Anthem** in North Park, **O.B. Garden Cafe** in Ocean Beach, **Starry Lane Bakery** in Hillcrest, and **Donna Jean** in Bankers Hill, is **Soulshine** in Mission Beach. The newcomer offers plant-based takes on Indian, Asian, Mediterranean and American dishes. Heading the kitchen is Mike Feil, an Alpine native who attended the Culinary Institute of America and worked at restaurants in San Francisco, Idaho and Maui. He was also a chef at **Casa de Luz** in North Park and **Trilogy** in La Jolla. The restaurant was launched recently by Amalia Huffman. She also owns the nearby **Barefoot Bakery** (3852 Mission Blvd.), which sells vegan, organic and gluten-free items such as scones, muffins and biscuits. Beginning in about a month, her bakery will also sell cakes by advance order. 3864 Mission Blvd., 858-886-7252, soulshinemb.com.



A variety of internationally inspired vegan dishes await at Soulshine (Photo courtesy of Amalia Huffman)



Refreshed curb appeal and new brunch service at Beerfish (Photo by Kevin Jackson)

With fresh exterior signage in place, **Beerfish** in North Park recently debuted weekend brunch, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Chef Lety Gonzalez marks the occasion with dishes such as lobster breakfast burritos, multiple versions of eggs Benedict, and cornmeal biscuits with Old Bay-spiced gravy. The regular lunch-dinner menu is available on those days starting at noon. 2933 Adams Ave., 619-263-2337, eatbeerfish.com.

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

Scotch dive in South Park

**Come On
Get Happy!**
Dr. Ink

South Park’s smallest dive bar often schedules the kind of music and art events better suited for venues quadruple the size.

Evenings at the Whistle Stop usher in everything from Brit-pop dance parties and “videodrome” events to hot DJs and Booty Basement nights, where hip-hop of past eras offer respite from common playlists and turn the dance floor into a celebratory frenzy.

Lines and cover charges become the common consequences to such cultural events, especially when held in unpretentious watering holes located in cool, laid-back neighborhoods like this.

The bar’s mellower side, however, is for the taking during happy hour — draft beers are \$4; well drinks are \$5; and you-call-it

Whistle Stop

2236 Fern St.
South Park

619-284-6784
whistlestopbar.com

Happy hour: 4 to 8 p.m.,
Monday through Friday;
2 to 8 p.m., Saturday and
Sunday

cocktails are \$1 off. But be prepared to add a couple bucks to any of those if you show up without cash in your pocket. Credit and debit cards aren’t accepted, hence the ATM machine inside that slaps you with a \$2 surcharge for every withdrawal.

Before I ever began drinking beer, wine, tequila or gin, Dewar’s Scotch was the only booze that passed my lips. Considered the Olive Garden of scotch, I eventually moved on to better brands. But every once in a blue moon, its medium-bodied honey-kissed flavor calls, just as it did when I learned it’s the scotch



The Whistle Stop has endured a few changes of ownership since the late 1970s. (Photos by Dr. Ink)

used here in well drinks.

I initially took a seat at the bar, next to a customer who gave his frilly dressed dog her own bar stool. If only because she was ridiculously cute, I didn’t mind her cold, wet nose poking into my forearm. Even the nice, bearded bartender was smitten as he stepped away briefly to fetch her a treat.

As requested, the generous pour of Dewar’s mingled only with a splash of water and a few ice cubes.

Nostalgia swept over me while the jukebox cranked out tunes by Dylan, Blondie and Bowie, with the sun beaming through the front window onto peeling layers of band promos papering the entrance walls. This is what going out for drinks used to be like, before anyone called these kind of establishments “dive bars.”

After buying a second drink, I wandered out to the long, narrow smoking patio and took a few hits off my vape. A

few others flaunted similar devices while perched on stools parked at little wall ledges protruding from the funky green walls.

For the entire duration of my late-afternoon visit, there was plenty of space to move around. The bar’s only pool table was up for grabs. The dance floor, marked by a boldly colored mural of a train, was dark. And it was refreshingly easy to strike up conversation with other customers.❖



RATINGS

Drinks:★★★★

The bartender made my Dewar’s and water to my exact specifications without pause: a splash of H2O, three ice cubes and a generous pour of the scotch.

Food: N/A

In the absence of a kitchen, potato chips and Fritos are the only noshes for sale.

Value:★★★★

YDuring happy hour you’ll save about \$1 on draft beer and cocktails.

Service:★★★★

Kudos to the amiable bartender for offering treats to a customer’s dog and allowing the pooch to occupy a bar stool.

Atmosphere:★★★

This is a classic dive bar with grungy walls and floors, little décor, and a few high-top tables separating the bar from a modest-size dance floor. Though small, the space feels open and airy because it lacks booths and other furniture.



The bar features more than a dozen beer taps.

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Searching for meaning

Theater Review

Jean Lowerison



"There is always a suspicion ... that one is living a lie or a mistake; that something crucially important has been overlooked, missed, neglected, left untried and unexplored."

—Esther Perel

Is anyone really happy? Or is man preprogrammed to forever look for something else, something more, something different? And is that nagging gap between what we have and what we think we want even real?

The search for meaning is the major theme of Anna Ziegler's engaging and fascinating "The Wanderers," in its world premiere through May 6 at The Old Globe's White Theatre. The show is helmed by The Old Globe's artistic director Barry Edelstein.

Ziegler, whose play "Final Match" debuted at the Globe a few seasons ago, takes a similar approach here, giving us a glimpse into the lives of two widely divergent couples.

Newlyweds Esther (Ali Rose Dachis) and Schmuli (Dave

'The Wanderers'

Through May 6
The Old Globe's
Sheryl and Harvey White
Theatre
1363 Old Globe Way
Balboa Park

Tuesday and Wednesday
at 7 p.m.;
Thursday and Friday
at 8 p.m.;
Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.;
Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.

Tickets: **619-234-5623**
or **theoldglobe.org**

Klasko) are Orthodox Jews trying to navigate that awkward first night — and later, the meaning of Hasidic orthodoxy and woman's place in it. In a larger sense, they search for what it means to be Jewish.

The other pair is secular. Abe (Daniel Eric Gold) is a successful novelist and non-observant Jew while his wife Sophie (Michelle Beck) is half Caucasian/Jewish and half



(l to r) Daniel Eric Gold as Abe, Janie Brookshire as Julia Cheever, Ali Rose Dachis as Esther, Dave Klasko as Schmuli, and Michelle Beck as Sophie (Photos by Jim Cox)

African-American. Sophie, who has published one book that wasn't exactly a blockbuster, is beginning to question whether she's a writer.

Meanwhile, Abe begins to question the life he's living and wishes his dad had been more prominent in his life.

There's a fifth character here too: Julia Cheever (Janie Brookshire). Cheever is a movie star Abe met on one of his book tours, who later emails the writer. They have become email pals, much to Sophie's annoyance, though she is trying to believe there's no more to it than that.

This is one of the most inventive stagings ever seen at the White Theatre, each couple often acting as if alone, as well as overlapping with the others both spatially and conversationally, sometimes operating from the stage, other times from the aisles. The White Theatre's stage area sports a huge rectangular table. Here the couples eat, talk, sit, argue and even stretch, as the script requires.

Gold's Abe starts out the most certain of himself — until a family emergency puts him in a more pensive mode.

Sophie has found that it's hell being a frustrated writer. Being married to a successful

one doesn't help her confidence level, and neither does Abe's pen pal Julia. But Beck is convincing — even heartbreaking — as Sophie, dealing with all this and continuing to try to reach Abe.

Brookshire's Julia seems to be just what Abe's mind's doctor ordered. She's beautiful, funny, smart and, best of all, likes him.

Dachis and Klasko seem totally natural and real as Esther and Schmuli, navigating the difficulties of maintaining Jewish Orthodoxy in an increasingly secular world.

Ziegler has a way with engaging dialogue that keeps this from becoming either a '60s-style encounter group session or a stuffy philosophical discourse about meaning. Yet, she still leaves you with many things to think about.

You may want to grab a few friends and head for the coffee shop after your encounter with "The Wanderers."

— Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@cox.net.



(l to r) Dave Klasko and Ali Rose Dachis

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The cast of "The Wanderers" uses the rectangular table throughout the performance.

The new Old House Fair

HouseCalls Michael Good

Neighborhoods evolve. Some for the better. Some for the worse. Some even go extinct. The San Diego neighborhood of South Park has changed, adapted and flirted with extinction numerous times over the last 158 years. For the first 35 of those, it was more a neighborhood of the imagination than a community of plaster, wood, paint and people; the area was traded by investors, developers, buyers and sellers — with little actually getting built.

The name “South Park” first appeared on a deed in 1870. However, it wasn’t until 1890 that the area was subdivided by Erastus Bartlett, a shipping magnate from Maine. Bartlett didn’t live to see his dream for an exclusive neighborhood at the southwest corner of Balboa Park become a reality.

It was his grandson, E. Bartlett Webster, and Webster’s partners who finally put shovel to soil. Bartlett Estate Company graded and paved streets, put in sidewalks and curbs, ran water and electric lines, and planted palm trees.

For the time, this was a significant innovation — a ready-made neighborhood without the mud, dust and chickens of the typical 19th-century American suburb.

In its day, South Park was new and innovative. Selling lots in a neighborhood with all the amenities — including paved streets — was a novelty in early 20th-century San Diego. (As was a developer that actually built houses, rather than just sold lots.)

South Park scored a number of other firsts in its early years. It was the first housing tract in San Diego to have its public transportation in place at the time of its opening. A trolley line was up and running when the neighborhood had its official opening in May 1906.

It also was the first to require a minimum investment for homebuyers; houses had to cost at least \$3,500, a lofty sum at the time. There also was a comprehensive list of covenants, codes and restrictions — including a ban on commercial buildings and apartments.

Not all of these rules survived. Eventually, the developers lowered the investment requirement to \$2,500, opened a commercial district and invited other builders to participate.

Many of San Diego’s finest designers and architects left their mark on South Park including Irving Gill, David Owen Dryden, William S. Hebbard, Henry H. Preibisius, Charles and Edward Quayle, Richard Requa and Emmor Brooke Weaver.

South Park’s other big first? The neighborhood was first born among the city’s restrictive residential districts. Mission Hills, Kensington and Burlingame all came years later.

The housing tract’s birth coincided with the height

of the arts and crafts movement. Some of San Diego’s grandest examples of the style were built there, on oversize lots overlooking Balboa Park. By the time home building came to a halt with America’s entry into World War I, South Park was halfway built out — with spectacular, high-style arts and crafts homes.

In the ’20s, South Park became less of a destination for San Diego’s elite and more a middle-class family neighborhood. While the homes that were built were smaller, they were no less detailed.

Over the years, the neighborhood weathered a number of economic and social upheavals, including the Great Depression; an onslaught of Navy personnel looking for a room to rent, until they were transferred, six months later, to Norfolk, Virginia; the GI Bill, which

steered veterans to the freeway suburbs; and drugs, crime, hippies and hipsters.

Today, South Park may appear the victim of its own success. Everyone wants to eat and drink there, and often fight you for a parking space in front of your meticulously restored Craftsman bungalow.

The miracle is that the houses remain, spared from the wrecking ball. This is because South Park’s residents — rich or poor, quirky or respectable, artist or banker — have been willing to fight for their neighborhood. The latest effort has resulted in historic designation, including 299 of the better-preserved, architecturally significant houses. They still survive in roughly the footprint of the original South Park tract from those dreamy, palm-lined days of 1906.

see Old House Fair, pg 23



Stained glass masterpiece: The former Brooklyn Heights Presbyterian Church (now Christ United) is on this year’s Old House Tour.



Craftsman, with a touch of Swiss: The grounds for this 1911 house once covered the entire block. (Photos by Christie Turner)

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

9/6

Sudoku Puzzle

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

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Puzzle answers on page 21

Uptown Crossword

Classics



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Ewe-talk
5 Tops off
9 Exhort
13 #2
14 Quaker gray
16 Bologna boniface
17 With 31 Across, timely date
20 Fellow sailors
21 Recital
22 Capp and Hirt
23 See 28 Across
24 Pest
28 With 23 Across, timely year
31 See 17 Across
32 Get on in time
33 Torso feature
35 Rug type
36 Intimidated
37 Gourd
38 Lulu
39 Looks out for
40 Abominated
41 Tried to refute
43 Bedevil
44 Uncork
45 Supporting
46 Certain curtain

DOWN

49 Had a yen
54 Timely poem
56 Otherwise
57 Grasps the nettle
58 Topnotchers
59 Roe or doe
60 Mouse house
61 Submerged

1 Tub scrub
2 Racqueteer Arthur
3 On the briny
4 Trick ending
5 With craft
6 Throes
7 Nadir
8 View
9 Acquired
10 Labor Dept. organization
11 Like ___ of bricks
12 Hurl the gauntlet
15 Experienced again
18 ___ Depends on You
19 He played Phileas Fogg
23 Social affairs
24 Breath taker
25 Leaf-sucker
26 Enswathe

27 Covering leaf
28 Crosscut
29 Greek letter
30 Sounds of pain
32 Actress Sophia
34 Pea holders
36 Provided as specified
37 Links norm
39 Dido
40 Gives ear to
42 Kegler
43 Trustworthy
45 Gets on
46 Hustled
47 She played Della Street
48 River to the Wash
49 On earth
50 Eventful periods
51 Costa ___
52 Serene scene
53 Rolltop
55 Carryall vehicle

Puzzle answers on page 21

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see Classifieds, pg 21

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

'A Little Night Music'

Cygnnet Theater presents the romantic and comedic musical "A Little Night Music," with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. \$46. 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. Show runs through April 22. Visit bit.ly/2F2ox4c.

Last Chance Indies: 'Foxtrot'

The latest Last Chance Indies film event at Digital Gym Cinema highlights "Foxtrot," an award-winning Hebrew drama. \$7.50-\$11. Screenings runs April 27-May 3. Various times at Digital Gym Cinema, 2921 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2vmqi8H.

'Expressions of Wabi-Sabi: Embracing Impermanence'

View the mixed-media paintings of artist Dana Mano-Flank, who incorporates the traditional wabi-sabi Japanese aesthetic to capture the beauty of nature. Free with Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) admission. Runs through Sunday, April 29. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily at JFG Exhibition Hall, 2215 Pan American Road East. Visit bit.ly/2ypqn3rm.

FEATURED EVENTS

FRIDAY

April 20



Watercolor Lecture and Demo

Art on 30th's "Finding Your Bearings with Watercolor" features a lively painting demonstration and discussion with watercolor aficionado, Chuck McPherson. Free. Noon-1 p.m. at Art on 30th, 4434 30th St. Visit bit.ly/2HqLHIL.



Birdy Bardot at Soda Bar

Ocean Beach native Birdy Bardot performs with Creature Canyon and Mike Pope. \$10-\$12. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2HewZyn.

The Penske File at Tower Bar

The Penske File will perform with Decent Criminal, Squarecrow and The Dodges. \$8-\$10. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Tower Bar, 4757 University Ave. Visit ticketf.ly/2vec7Tc.



Runs Deep at The Merrow

Metal band Runs Deep performs with Sundrop Electric, Little Heroine and Polux. \$5. 21 and up. 7 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nMHA8I.

SATURDAY

April 21

Hillcrest Community Clean Up

Join for an Earth Day 2018 collaborative community cleanup. Sign up at creekto-bay.org and select Hillcrest Street Sweep site. 9 a.m. at Florence Elementary in the staff parking lot on the corner of University Avenue and Front Street. Email Heidi@hrcsandiego.org.

Midnight Madness at Ken Cinema

Join Landmark Theatres Ken Cinema for a Midnight Madness showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," featuring live shadow cast Crazy Imaginations. Ken Cinema, 4061 Adams Ave., Kensington. Visit bit.ly/2JwaNxV.

The Moondoggies at Soda Bar

Rock band The Moondoggies performs with Erik Blood and Malachi Henry and the Lights. \$10-\$12. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2HeSZJk.

SUNDAY

April 22

EarthFair and Earth Day Parade

The 29th annual EarthFair in Balboa Park is the largest free, annual environmental fair in the world, drawing around 60,000 people. This year's theme is "We're All in this Together" and will feature more than 300 exhibitors, theme areas, a food pavilion, children's activity area, four entertainment venues, the eARTh Gallery arts and crafts show, the Cleaner Car Concourse, and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado. Visit EarthDayWeb.org or EarthParade.org.



The Powerballs at Soda Bar

Rock band The Powerballs performs with Bedlam Rebels. \$6. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2vbUPpH.

MONDAY

April 23

Storytelling workshop at Finest City Improv

Instructor Nathan Young, a public speaking coach and storytelling consultant, leads a crash course in storytelling and the craft can be used in public speaking, writing, performance or conversation. \$45. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana St. Visit bit.ly/2urGl4E.



Marian Hill at Observatory

Marian Hill performs with Michl. \$25. All ages. 8 p.m. at The Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2Hi3hIz.

TUESDAY

April 24

Prof at Soda Bar

Rapper Prof performs with Mac Irv, Cashinova and Willie Wonka. \$12. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2vbet4Y.



Daytrip at the Merrow

Pop-rock band Daytrip performs with Michael McGraw and Retra. Presented by Tim Pyles of 91X Loudspeaker. \$5. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nMHA8I.

WEDNESDAY

April 25

Vaccines at The Center

Stop by The Center from 3-6 p.m. for a free vaccination clinic. San Diego County will be offering vaccines for hepatitis A and the flu. If you

joined last year for the first round of hepatitis A shots, make sure to stop by for your booster. Visit bit.ly/2GDfWT7.

THURSDAY

April 26

Free2B Celebration

Join multiple-Billboard-charting singer/songwriter Debby Holiday at her CD release party. 8 p.m. at Martinis Above Fourth Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Ave. Visit bit.ly/2Ey2zBL.

Dining Out for Life

The Center presents its 12th annual Dining Out for Life San Diego. Dozens of participating restaurants, bars, coffeehouses and nightclubs in San Diego will donate 25-100 percent of sales for The Center's HIV/AIDS services and prevention programs. Visit bit.ly/2H0iw8W.



Ash Williams at Tower Bar

Punk band Ash Williams performs with Abraskadabra, Midnight Track and Privileged. \$10. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at Tower Bar, 4757 University Ave. Visit ticketf.ly/2qq6cpg.

Locksmith at the Merrow

Rapper Locksmith performs with J. Lately, Leon the God, Odessa Kane and other guests. \$12-\$26. 21 and up. 8:45 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nMHA8I.

FRIDAY

April 27

Eridia at Tower Bar

Rock band Eridia will perform with Iguanodon and Fused. \$10. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Tower Bar, 4757 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2Hi0ZZW.

SATURDAY

April 28

Adams Avenue Unplugged

The seventh annual Adams Avenue Unplugged will feature 60 artists performing on 24 stages along Adams Avenue, from University Heights through Normal Heights to Kensington. There will be a beer garden for \$19, which will include four 14-ounce beers and a plate of food from City Tacos. Visit bit.ly/2Iin6g3.

Sweet Puppy and Pockets at Finest City Improv

Improv groups First Sweet Puppy and Pockets take to the stage to perform a show packed with different scenes

and themes. \$13. 9 p.m. at Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana St. Visit bit.ly/2qAIHK2.

Shocks of Mighty at The Merrow

Ska band Shocks of Mighty performs with The Georgetown Orbits and Mochilero All Stars. \$7. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nMHA8I.

MONDAY

April 30



Jenny Don't & The Spurs at Soda Bar

Roots-country four-piece Jenny Don't & The Spurs performs with Trevor McSpadden. \$8. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2IP9mJG.

TUESDAY

May 1

Mainland at Soda Bar

Post-punk rock band Mainland performs with Wilding and Rad Horror. \$12. 9 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2v5ogtk.

The Windermers at Tower Bar

Rock band The Windermers performs. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Tower Bar, 4757 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2HmIcwZ.

WEDNESDAY

May 2

LAYNE at Soda Bar

Pop duo LAYNE — Layne Putnam and Alexander Rosca — performs with Selfish Things, LoveGlow and Jara. \$10-\$12. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2vaVLKL.

FRIDAY

May 3

First Thursday at Lafayette

San Diego Made hosts an evening for music, makers, workshops and libations every first Thursday of the month. Each event features a creative workshop, free giveaways, live music, a pop-up shop featuring local makers, and more. Free. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2qprnJd.

RECURRING EVENTS

Mondays

Lestat's West Open Mic

Weekly open mic event hosted by Robby Robertson every Monday. 6:30-11 p.m. at Lestat's, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nWco63.

SOULful Monday

DJ Rebekah Hardt spins Deep House beats on the patio every second and fourth Monday. Enjoy all-you-can-eat spaghetti, alcohol specials and more. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at Gossip Grill, 1220 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2uyaW0z.

Tuesdays

Trivia Night at Brew Project

Here's Johnny! Answer five to seven rounds of questions and participate in team challenges for raffles and prizes. Weekly event hosted by Johnny Grant. 7 p.m. The Brew Project, 3683 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest. Visit bit.ly/2HmaoXg.

Lestat's West Comedy Night

Weekly comedy night event hosted by Dustin Nickerson every Tuesday. 9-11 p.m. at Lestat's, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/2nWco63.

Thursdays

North Park Farmers Market

Shop more than 90 tents of locally grown produce, artisan grocery items, prepared foods and hand-crafted goods. 3-7:30 p.m. at 3000 North Park Way, stretching from 31st Street to Utah Street, North Park. Visit bit.ly/2H9AItc.

Thursdays at The Ken

San Diego's late-night jazz jam convenes every Thursday night. Hosted by musicians Ian Buss, Robert Dove and Hugo Suarez. \$5. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/2DFUTwS.

Saturdays

Golden Hill Farmers Market

Stop by the open community space to pick up California Certified Organic Produce from local farmers. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill. Visit bit.ly/2DHRZrg.

Old Town Saturday Market

The street market features work from local artists including paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Every Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town. Visit bit.ly/2J7CvA2.

Sundays

Hillcrest Farmers Market

About 175 vendors offer a variety of locally grown fruit, produce, gifts, arts and crafts, flowers, and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Normal Street between University and Lincoln avenues. Visit bit.ly/2FC4slg.

To view a comprehensive calendar of events happening throughout San Diego, visit our online calendar at bit.ly/2H11z9m.

—Compiled by Sara Butler. Email calendar items to sara@sdcnn.com with the subject line: "Uptown Calendar Request." ❖

MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING

HAPPY HOUR!

Thursday,
May 3rd

5pm - 7:30pm

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CANDLES, CARDS

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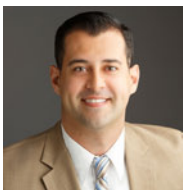
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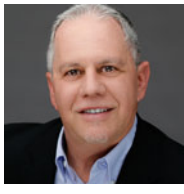
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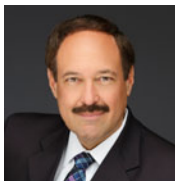
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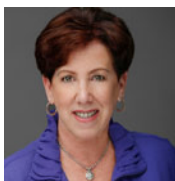
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