

The race to zero

Circulate San Diego, city officials focus on 'fatal 15' intersections amid Vision Zero campaign

By Dave Fidlin

San Diego's 3-year-old Vision Zero campaign gained traction this past month as city officials pledged funding and a series of renewed efforts to improve dangerous intersections in highly trafficked areas, the majority located in Uptown and Downtown.

The overtures are music to the ears of organizers behind Circulate San Diego, the independent, nonprofit advocacy group that has worked closely with city officials in seeking solutions to the so-called fatal 15 intersections.

In mid-April, city officials announced \$375,000 in municipal funds in the upcoming fiscal year budget will be allocated toward improvements at many of the intersections, which, in their current condition, lack such pedestrian-friendly features as walk signals, audible prompts and countdown clocks before traffic lights change.

Maya Rosas, director of policy for Circulate San Diego, said she is pleased municipal officials are allocating funds to bring design improvements and upgrades to the fatal 15 sites. The group played a pivotal role in singling out each of the intersections.

"We took information and analyzed it," Rosas said of the determining process. "It was a data-driven approach, based on when people's lives are most at risk."

The list of Circulate San Diego's fatal 15 intersections includes:

- Fourth Avenue and B Street
- Fourth Avenue and Market Street
- Fifth Avenue and B Street
- Sixth Avenue and Broadway
- 10th Avenue and A Street
- 11th Avenue and Broadway
- Broadway and Fifth Avenue
- Coronado and Thermal avenues
- El Cajon Boulevard and 33rd Street
- El Cajon Boulevard and 36th Street
- Euclid Avenue and Naranja Street
- Front and Ash streets
- Market Street and Sixth Avenue
- University and Fourth avenues
- University Avenue and 52nd Street

Fatal 15, however, is a piece of a larger picture designed to address a range of mobility improvements across the city.



City officials and Circulate San Diego announcing \$375,000 in city municipal funds allocated towards improvement of the City's most dangerous intersections (Photo courtesy of Circulate San Diego)

According to the most up-to-date statistics, more than 500 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured from vehicle-related collisions per year, on average, resulting in 22 fatalities.

On a broader scale, city officials have announced other overtures designed to increase safety between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists throughout the community.

Lee Friedman, a staffer within Mayor Kevin Faulconer's office, recently went before the City Council's Audit Committee and discussed the re-emergence of a task force devoted to the Vision Zero initiative.

The group has been dormant this past year, but Friedman, who is the city's infrastructure policy manager, said the task force is regrouping. The first organizational meeting of the year was held on May 17.

Despite the task force's dormancy, Friedman at the meeting said improvements have

been high on officials' radar screens within city hall this past year.

"City staff continued to make progress on improving intersections and engaging with the public to promote safe walking and biking and enforcing safe traffic laws to discourage unsafe walking, biking and driving habits," Friedman said.

"We've been doing that all along. But we know that continued engagement is necessary for programs like Vision Zero to thrive," he continued.

In addition to reconvening the task force, Friedman told the city panel a grant-funded study honing in on how to best address intersection deficiencies is nearing completion.

"This will be a complete report, with data that will be used for years," Friedman said.

Public outreach and engagement also is an effort Friedman said he and other staffers will be focused on in the near future. A tab on Vision Zero

within the city's website is due for an overhaul, Friedman said, in the hopes of more clearly disseminating information to the community.

"Moving forward, we're probably going to have to look at the best and most effective ways to stay engaged with Vision Zero stakeholders and other community members," Friedman said.

After the momentum gained this past month, Rosas said she is hopeful greater strides can be made in the years ahead so broader issues beyond intersection improvements can be explored.

"Looking ahead, it would be great to see a strategic plan," Rosas said. "It would be great to move beyond simple advocacy efforts every year."

—Dave Fidlin is a freelance journalist with a special affinity for San Diego and its people. Contact him at dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net.

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So long, but not farewell

Fifth Avenue's Babycakes moves forward with expansion

Albert H. Fulcher
Contributing editor

Building Babycakes from the ground up was truly the American dream for Christopher Stavros, the bakery/bar's co-founder and president. But after a decade, due to its huge success, this staple of Hillcrest is moving in June to a larger facility in Paradise Hills, a neighborhood located between National City and Bonita.

Stavros and co-founder Rafael Del Rio created a product and service from scratch that embraced the LGBT community, just as its predecessor David's Place did, which opened up during the height of the AIDS epidemic. Babycakes' involvement in the community is strong and passionate with its Sunday Fundays events. Babycakes allows the community to utilize the space for fundraisers and are a staunch supporter of many events with both its products and presence. With its friendly atmosphere, bakery, food selection and bar, this is more than a business to Stavros, Del Rio and their loyal customers. Stavros said that the move was not an easy decision to make but is adamant about their continued involvement with the people they love and serve.

Stavros and Del Rio believe that giving over the past decade has come back to them in many ways.

"We have supported the community when we were able and the community in turn has supported Babycakes. We will continue to support the community and we will never forget our roots, as our roots go deep. Given the expansion, we will have more opportunity to give. We understand the universal balance of ... give and you will receive."

Due to the overwhelming success of its award-winning cupcakes and memorable celebration cakes, the new bakery will quadruple in size with a storefront, ample parking and a convenient location at the intersection of Interstate-805 and Highway 54.

The Babycakes co-owners plan to keep their location in Imperial Beach open, and also have long-term plans to open a storefront in North County and East County.

Stavros said the sky is the limit as they build the Babycakes brand, allowing it to have a presence at its customer's dinner table by adding it to local restaurants' menus and on the shelves of neighborhood markets.

"There were many variables in making the decision [to relocate], including some that were out of our control," he said. "Babycakes has been a lifestyle for us, making it challenging for us to separate the personal and professional aspects of a business. At the end of the day, it is a



(l to r) Babycakes co-founders Christopher Stavros and Rafael Del Rio are expanding their business to a larger facility in Paradise Hills in June. (Photo by Albert H. Fulcher)

business and we ultimately need to make decisions that were in the best interest of the Babycakes brand. If the yellow brick road leads us back to Hillcrest, we would be honored to return. Hillcrest is where the heart is."

In the beginning, they opened during the recession with a lot of skepticism and opposition.

"This actually strengthened our work ethic to succeed and overcome the social doubt," Stavros said. "The experience of opening a business in trying times was personally rewarding and only possible with the support of the community and perseverance. I would not change a thing. Thank you to those who have supported Babycakes over the past 10 years, and you know who you are, with much gratitude."

Stavros understands the community's love and support of its current location.

"The spirit will always be alive at the venue while it stands, yet we are moving on and taking with us the pride in doing our best in continuing the LGBT history," he said. "We will continue to show our true colors at other future locations and hopefully make a positive impact on other neighborhoods throughout San Diego."

Babycakes San Diego's new location is at 2315 Reo Drive in Paradise Hills.

To keep up with the latest on Babycakes and the move, visit BabycakesSanDiego.com, or follow Babycakes on Facebook and Instagram at @BabycakesSanDiego.

—Albert Fulcher
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FROM PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS



San Diego Pride Festival (Photo courtesy of sdpride.org)

SD Pride launches new website

San Diego Pride has revamped its website just in time for the July Festival.

Over the years, Pride evolved from a one-day march and rally to an organization that focuses on year-round civic engagement. This engagement includes youth programs, service member outreach, advocacy, international diplomacy and more.

The website is "aimed to better serve its mission of fostering pride, equality, and respect for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities locally, nationally, and globally," according to a press release.

Pride's Executive Director Fernando Lopez said the new website meets the needs of the ever-evolving organization and community.

"Our new, mobile, adaptive website has new and improved accessibility features, automatically adapts to your browser's language settings, uses our reach to highlight events for other LGBTQ-serving organizations, and better tells the story of how our organization works in our community 365 days a year," Lopez said.

To complete the changes, the organization teamed up with web design firm Jacob Tyler Brand & Digital Agency. Les Kollegian, CEO at Jacob Tyler, was thrilled to assist with the project.

"Our team fully supports the LGBTQ community and is proud that we were able to

enhance the website user experience and look and feel to properly represent the quality and commitment San Diego Pride offers to the community," Kollegian said.

View the new website at sdpride.org.



Richard's Heart & Sole Run for Emilio

Mission Hills resident Richard Nares is running 1,700 miles — from Seattle to San Diego — to raise money for the Emilio Nares Foundation (ENF), a nonprofit for families battling child cancer.

The run, coined "Richard's Heart & Sole Run for Emilio", will start on June 4. Nares will run for about 12 weeks and stop at six different children's hospitals in Portland, San Francisco, Palo Alto, Orange County and finally, San Diego.

This isn't the first long-run for Nares. Back in 2013, he completed a 700-mile run from San Francisco to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. He raised more than \$75,000 for the foundation, which he started alongside his wife after losing their son Emilio to cancer.

"When Emilio was going through his cancer treatment in Boston and he saw runners outside the hospital room, I made a promise to him that I would run. This run is for my son Emilio and for all children battling cancer and the parents supporting them," Richard Nares said in a press release. "I believe my run is nothing compared to the long and grueling journey of a child battling cancer."

For more information about ENF or Richard's Heart & Sole Run for Emilio, visit enfhope.org.



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LGBTQ Debate

Local leaders face off at Hillcrest event

By B. J. Coleman

On May 8, Gina Roberts, president of the San Diego Chapter of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR), and Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, president of San Diego Democrats for Equality went head to head at the LGBTQ Debate. Hillcrest Town Council and Trans Narratives sponsored the debate. (Due to the event date, Hillcrest Town Council cancelled its monthly meeting for May.)

Held at the San Diego LGBT Community Center

in Hillcrest, roughly 60 attendees filled audience seats for the multi-hour political debate session. Both debaters focused their political perspectives and ideological views through the prism of LGBT issues and experiences. Rodriguez-Kennedy and Roberts expressed substantial areas of agreement, even though their views differed greatly on some major policy areas.

Prior to the debate, the debaters' early point of agreement was the selection of Morgan M. Hurley — former editor of Gay

San Diego and contributing editor to San Diego Uptown News — as debate moderator. Questions posed to the partisan debaters were developed from community input over two months. The program began with brief personal background information.

Rodriguez-Kennedy said that he had been homeless for a time after his discharge from the Marine Corps under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" restrictions, and that led him into politics. Roberts noted her experiences as a transgender person inspired her need to bring forward LGBT issues and presence among Republicans.

Formal debate questions kicked off with purely political topics.

"Do LGBT people need a



(l to r) San Diego Log Cabin Republicans and San Diego Democrats for Equality leaders discuss party differences during the LGBTQ Debate at The San Diego LGBT Community Center on May 8 (Photo by Albert H. Fulcher)

voice still in politics?" Hurley asked.

Roberts replied yes, noting the need is more pronounced at the national level. Rodriguez-Kennedy agreed, quoting a political aphorism.

"As the saying goes, if you're not at the table, you're on the menu," Rodriguez-Kennedy said. He described Trump administration policy as deeply anti-LGBT.

Hurley then drilled down successively into splits within the respective political parties. To Rodriguez-Kennedy, Hurley inquired about racism among Democrats. He replied that he understands racism in a systemic context and admitted a Democratic Party racial divide in San Diego County. For Roberts, Hurley posed the question of experienced transphobia.

"No, absolutely not. I've had 99 percent total acceptance," Roberts said.

"Do Democrats need new leadership? How are Democratic progressives and old-schoolers getting along?" Hurley inquired.

Rodriguez-Kennedy pointed to a culture of toxicity that he believes can be overcome by bringing together all advocates of social justice causes, from all intersectional backgrounds.

"That's the whole point of being a Democrat," Rodriguez-Kennedy said, "We are a big tent party and solidarity is important."

"Is LCR recognized by Republicans? Is there middle ground between LCR and religious people among GOP activists?" Hurley asked.

Roberts assessed that the state of Texas has problem areas, with conditions similar to those in California five to seven years ago.

"We need to educate and engage," Roberts said. "About religious conservatives versus

LGBT conservatives. There is no pure party. We succeed in getting along by just doing it. We are not giving anything up."

"What about desired changes from the respective parties?" Hurley questioned.

Roberts cited California and national GOP platform language referring to marriage as between a man and a woman. Rodriguez-Kennedy spoke of membership growth and inviting new younger voters into the progressive Democratic fold. He singled out economic justice, transportation in particular, as the biggest issue driving new and renewed political activism.

"And transgender bathroom choice, whose rights are being infringed?" Hurley asked.

"Certainly not mine. I'm going to the bathroom. If you have a problem, you'll have to wait," Roberts said. She explained that she had never encountered objections while at conservative organizations and only once ever in a Southern state. Rodriguez-Kennedy stated that any transphobia would be grounds for dismissal of a member of Democrats for Equality.

Roberts added that the bathroom issue is not covered in the current Republican Party-political platform, making the case that the issue has backfired and has been abandoned among the GOP.

"If it hurts to shoot yourself in the foot, quit doing it," she said.

Hurley then addressed recent actions from local governments to respond to national-level border security policies.

Rodriguez-Kennedy praised local governments that oppose Trump administration moves toward tighter borders and tougher immigration standards.

see LGBTQ Debate, pg 8



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Local opposition

Uptowner reflects on his upcoming run for County Assessor

By Jess Winans

[Editor's note: San Diego Uptown News, or its parent company San Diego Community News Network, does not endorse candidates. This feature article's intent is to highlight an Uptown resident and his connection to our community. For more information about incumbent Ernest Dronenburg and his campaign for the position, visit vote-forernie.com/.]

On June 5, North Park resident and Democrat Matt Strabone will be challenging two-term incumbent San Diego County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk Ernest Dronenburg for his position. This run is part of the state-wide direct primary election. "I think it's OK to demand more from our county governments," Strabone said. "I think we could do a lot better, especially in this office. In pretty much every way, this office serves the people of San Diego County."

Strabone, originally from Queens, New York, moved to California to study law at University of Southern California after obtaining his bachelor's degree from University of Rochester. When his father became ill

with paraplegia, Strabone moved to San Diego to be closer to his family. He settled in North Park 14 years ago where he currently holds a private practice as an ethics attorney.

Since beginning his practice, Strabone has provided ethical advice to nonprofit organizations as well as elected officials nationwide, including former President Barack Obama.

The County Assessor/Recorder/Clerk's office determines property tax amounts, stewards public land records and issues marriage licenses and death certificates.

"I like to say instead, that [the position's] real purpose is to support us in some of the most important moments of our lives," Strabone said. "Whether we're getting married, having children or buying a home, among other things."

In preparation for this election season, San Diego Uptown News sat down with Strabone to discuss his background, Uptown connection, and intended plans for San Diego County.

Jess Winans (JW): Is this your first time running for political office?

Matt Strabone (MS): This is really the first foray.



Matt Strabone

I've given advice to elected officials as an ethics attorney and I wanted to run for this office in particular because of two reasons.

One, I have worked with a lot of county clerk/recorder/assessor offices across the country and I have a sense of what good leadership in one looks like. It occurred to me that we are lacking in our leadership in the one here, and I thought I could do a better job.

The other [reason] is in November 2016, when the election turned out the way it did, it occurred to me that I needed to do something more than just vote and occasionally complain on social media about our politics. I thought I'd do something a little more active.

JW: What inspired you to pursue ethics and nonprofit law?

MS: Ethics and nonprofit law has always interested me intellectually. I like giving charities and nonprofits advice and the better advice I give them, the more they are able to focus on their charitable mission. They don't have to worry about the operational stuff, the tax stuff in particular, that I can advise them on and that makes me feel good.

The ethics stuff, I suppose I've always thought that anyone who puts themselves forward to hold public office should have the best possible ethical standards. Public officials have asked me for advice on that front and I'm very happy to give it to them.

JW: Why are you running for County Assessor?

MS: I believe I can do a better job than the incumbent. For instance, right now approximately 150,000 homeowners in San Diego County are overpaying on their property tax. This happens because they neglect a simple one-page form that the County Assessor has where they just confirm that they live in the home they live in. The reason they don't fill out this form is because they don't know about it, and they don't know about it because the County Assessor doesn't tell them it exists.

That's why public outreach is one of the lynch-pins of my strategy to improve how this office works. I want to hold workshops across the county to let people know about this

exemption and others. I want to be able to help people get every property tax exemption they are eligible for and make their lives a little bit easier.

Public records should be as easily and cheaply available to everyone as possible. Unfortunately, my opponent has charged \$2 per page to access many of these documents that belong to the public and I think that's wrong. Very few of them are available online which I also think is wrong. So, one thing I'm going to do is digitize the public land records and make unregistered copies of them available for free online.

Another reason why I'm running is four years ago, the Supreme Court declared marriage equality was the law of the land. My opponent attempted to deny marriage licenses to same sex couples and he kind of ignored the rule of law and injected his own ideological views into the office. I think this office has no place for that and we need someone who will respect the rule of law.

JW: Which initiative is your priority?

MS: The outreach about the property tax rates. I think it's kind of ridiculous that we have 150,000 homeowners overpaying in San Diego County and that's money that they are wrongfully handing over and that's something we have to fix — we have to do that.

see Matt Strabone, pg 15



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Guest Editorial

Prioritize bikes, transit to fulfill climate promises

By Sophie Wolfram

Two years ago, San Diego put itself on the map as a city on the forefront of the battle against the climate crisis, the greatest threat to our health, safety and quality of life. With the support of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt a Climate Action Plan, or CAP, that makes a legally binding promise to slash our emissions in half.

Making alternatives to driving safe and accessible, as well as convenient and appealing, is a big part of what the mayor and council promised San Diego families in the CAP. The city has established quantifiable targets for walking, biking and transit ridership, and they're ambitious but achievable. That's something to be proud of.

It will take ingenuity, coordination, investment and political will to meet these goals. And it will be worth it. Facilitating alternative modes of transportation will clean the air, protect our hearts and lungs, improve public health and enable families burdened by transportation costs and lack of transit options to more readily access jobs, school and after-school activities.

But progress on transportation is limited at best. The mayor needs to make the CAP's walking, biking and transit goals a top priority to fulfill the promise of a better future for our children.

We need three things from our mayor: A roadmap detailing how we will meet the targets, investment in transit and bike infrastructure, and championing a regional plan at San Diego's Regional Planning Agency (SANDAG) that meets these goals.

First, the roadmap. San Diego needs a document that establishes

the vision and the blueprint for how our city will become a pedestrian-friendly, bike-friendly and transit-rich environment that supports mobility in a safe, accessible, inclusive, vibrant and livable city. In 2016, the mayor promised to develop a transportation master plan, but the public has yet to see a draft, and no information is available about when a draft will be available. That Transportation Master Plan needs to chart the course from where we are today to our transportation targets in 2035, and it needs to be finalized by 2019 so that we can get moving on the ample work that lies ahead to shift commuter habits.

Second, we can't change mobility patterns without investing in the protected bike lanes and sidewalks and crosswalks that make traveling on foot and by bike safe, attractive options. We at the Climate Action Campaign are calling on the mayor to back up his promises with investment in his proposed budget, due out in mid-April. The long-awaited Downtown bike network, the bike projects on El Cajon and University in City Heights, and the "Fatal 15" intersections must be addressed and implemented to begin moving the needle on pedestrian and bike ridership. To coordinate the many moving parts that contribute to a multi-modal transportation system, the city needs a director of mobility in the mayor's office and a mobility department that can deliver efficient, effective solutions.

Finally, the mayor needs to play an active, consistent role in transportation policy at the regional level, starting with insisting that SANDAG adopt a Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP, that supports the city's

ability to meet its climate targets. Assembly Bill 805, passed in 2017, requires that SANDAG produce a regional plan that increases biking, walking and transit; reduces air pollution in disadvantaged communities; and is consistent with local climate plans. The mayor needs to direct staff to ensure that any scenario they put forth to shape the future of transportation in our region complies with those requirements.

I believe the mayor wants to do the right thing. Climate Action Campaign wants to remind him that slashing our carbon footprint in half, shifting half of our population out of cars, and becoming a world-class city doesn't just happen — those goals require sustained commitment, investment, and focus. We stand ready to partner with the mayor and council to ensure we meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

—Sophie Wolfram is director of programs at Climate Action Campaign.❖

Correction

[Re: "A look at Our Lady of Peace," Vol. 10, Issue 9, or online at bit.ly/2rN2x5n.]

In the May 4 issue of San Diego Uptown News, our PastMatters column about The Academy of Our Lady of Peace (OLP) referenced Beck Ellman Heald as a contributor to an article that appeared in San Diego Union's May 22, 1927 issue. Beck Ellman Heald was not a contributor; rather, it is the public relations company of Vince Heald. Vince Heald was the contributor of the article. We regret the error.❖

Working on healthcare

Notes from Toni
Toni G. Atkins



Imagine you've recent-ly given birth to your first child. You don't earn a lot of money, so you rely on Medi-Cal, California's safety-net health-insurance program, and you get your health care at a community health center. The baby won't stop crying, and the stress and lack of sleep are fraying your last nerve. You're really struggling.

You see your doctor during a regular health visit, and you tell her about all the

difficulties you're experiencing. She thinks it would help for you to talk with a therapist — today.

You're eligible to receive California's safety-net benefits, so the health center can bill Medi-Cal for your regular visit. The problem is, it can't do the same for a mental-health visit when it happens the same day.

So, the health center has two choices. It can make sure you see a therapist today, meaning it must absorb the additional cost for those services, or it can schedule an appointment for another day, delaying the treatment and risking the possibility that you'll cancel it because you can't get the

time off work, or for myriad other reasons. But your struggles might worsen without intervention.

Or, imagine you suffer from chronic disease and you're at the health center for a checkup. You tell your doctor how you feel, and eventually you reveal that you're depressed, and you think about just ending the pain — both the physical and the emotional — once and for all. There's no choice here: The health center will try to get you to a therapist right away, but it will have to absorb the cost.

These scenarios are realities for many Californians. They are similar to encounters I had with people back when I worked in community health clinics — I know these

situations firsthand.

There's no reason it has to be like this. If health centers can bill Medi-Cal for a mental-health visit tomorrow, why can't it bill for a visit today?

California allows health centers to bill for primary care and a dentist appointment on the same day — why not mental health, too? What's more, the federal Medicare program allows for same-day billing of behavioral health and medical services — Medi-Cal should too, as well.

Working with the Steinberg Institute and CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates, I have introduced Senate Bill 1125 to fill this hole in the system. It will require the state to allow Medi-Cal to reimburse federally qualified health

centers for primary-care and mental-health visits that occur on the same day.

There are more than 1,300 community health centers in California that provide comprehensive, high-quality care to 6.5 million people. That's one in six Californians. The vast majority of the patients served by community health centers lives at or below the poverty line, and a substantial share are uninsured or enrolled in Medi-Cal.

The good news is that we have broken down some of the stigma associated with emotional challenges and mental illness, and people are increasingly open to treatment, meaning there is a growing

see Toni Atkins, pg 15

San Diego priorities in the National Defense Bill

District 53 Dispatch
Susan A. Davis



The annual defense bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), is a rare area of consistent bi-partisanship in Congress. No matter where Democrats and Republicans stand on other issues, we all want and need to provide for our national defense, as well as our service members and their families.

On May 9, the House Armed Services Committee considered this year's NDAA in a marathon session that lasted over 14 hours. We considered hundreds of amendments from the more than 60 members on the committee.

In preparing for each NDAA, I look to build on past successes and always keep San Diego, our military families, and our veterans in mind.

As a senior member of the committee, I secured provisions critical to our region and national security. They make needed improvements in a wide range of areas including border sewage spills, child care for service members and health care for disabled veterans, as well as spending our limited dollars on aircraft maintenance rather than expanding nuclear weapons accounts the military has not requested.

San Diegans are all too familiar with the sewage spills

from Tijuana. Beach closures in Imperial Beach are becoming all too common, with 160 days of closures to parts of its shoreline over the past three years.

With the Navy set to build a 600-acre Navy SEAL training center along Route 75, we need to know the national security implications that future border sewage spills will have. The last thing we want is our elite Navy SEALs, our families and our visitors to swim in water contaminated with sewage. Additionally, we do not want vital SEAL training operations delayed.

To help find a solution to these sewage spills, I directed the Navy to assess those security concerns and report back to Congress.

While we must continue to push for infrastructure improvements on both sides of the border to stop spills, the Navy's involvement could give us more impetus to really get this done.

Military families face many challenges, including the difficulty in finding quality, affordable and available child care. Over 40 percent of service members have children and we have a tremendous backlog at Department of Defense (DOD) child care centers.

The DOD's child care program supports 180,000 children in 230 facilities. However, in the Army alone, more than 5,000 children are waiting to get into a child care facility. That's why I asked the DOD to look into the feasibility of expanding

operating hours, contracting with private-sector child care services, and adding services for the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Our region is home to over 200,000 veterans. A top issue I hear about from veterans is health care. My amendment, which the committee overwhelmingly approved, will help increase health care opportunities for disabled veterans.

Disabled veterans can lose access to TRICARE, the military's health system, if they have to enroll in Medicare Part B, where premiums are nearly five times higher than TRICARE. This costs these disabled veterans up to \$1,300 a year.

My Fair Access to Insurance for Retired (FAIR) Heroes Act will allow disabled veterans to choose their health care coverage through Medicare or TRICARE.

We need to know how many of our veterans find themselves in this situation. The DOD will report on the total number of these veterans to help give them the flexibility they deserve.

With readiness and our service members in mind, I put forth an amendment to increase funding for aircraft maintenance and readiness by \$154 million. So far in 2018, 27 service members died in aviation accidents, including one in El Centro that killed four individuals.

To pay for this, we should redirect funding from nuclear

weapons programs. These nuclear weapons programs are already set to receive an increase in resources; this \$154 million would have been an increase on top of that raise. There are better uses for this funding, such as ensuring our service members are flying safe aircraft.

I'm disappointed that my Republican colleagues on the committee were unwilling to join me on providing the necessary resources to keep up maintenance of our military aircraft. Even though my amendment failed, we must not give up on guaranteeing safety for our service members.

The committee process is just the first step in passing an

NDAA. It is on to the House next and then negotiations with the Senate. During this process, I will continue to fight for the provisions I was able to add to the bill and look out for our military personnel and their families.

—Congresswoman Davis represents central San Diego, including the Uptown 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.❖



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FROM PAGE 4

LGBTQ DEBATE

"Local governments have a duty to protect all others," Rodriguez-Kennedy said. "We oppose splitting up families. This is a cruel policy."

"Sanctuary cities are a bad thing. This is about criminal activities," Roberts said in response. She drew a distinction between the City of San Diego disfavoring enhanced border security and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors opposing sanctuary cities.

"The county runs the jails," Roberts said, "And county officers have to make reports to immigration officials."

"Entire spectrums of the public feel they cannot come to police to report crimes because they fear deportation," Rodriguez-Kennedy replied.

Roberts responded with another distinction. "We have to distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants. The focus should be on criminals," she said. Roberts continued that people should not fear reporting criminals such as drug lords to police. Further, she said that police should not query about immigration status for those reporting crimes.

Rodriguez-Kennedy took his argument further. "There is no fundamental difference between legal and illegal in immigration," he said. "This is just about a piece of paper. And people on that side lump all immigrants together as unfit."

"And about the proposed border wall?" Hurley inquired.

Roberts recounted on-scene reports from the Campo area, which she described as being totally open to cross-border traffic. She said Campo residents are reporting that after partial construction on personal properties, border-crossers who traverse landowners' property are less desirable people, including serious criminals.

Rodriguez-Kennedy scoffed. "The real reason the wall is talked about is that it's popular. This is all bravado. Trump likes to build big things," he said. "This is a waste of taxpayer money and resources, when money should be spent on repairing potholes and taking care of veterans, on real bread and butter issues."

"How untouchable is the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment?" Hurley questioned.

Roberts noted that she had recently gone to Washington, D.C., in a group of women to weigh in on behalf of firearms ownership rights.

"The Second Amendment refers to the right of the people to keep and bear arms," Roberts said. She stated that the phrase "the people" was carefully, purposely chosen. "The people who wrote the Constitution had just beaten the most powerful nation in the world, because of individual gun ownership," she continued. "Mass shootings are mostly in gun-free zones. Criminals don't care that they are breaking the law by bringing a gun into a gun-free zone. A gun incident takes two to three seconds, while police response time averages 15 minutes."

Rodriguez-Kennedy strenuously differed.



(l to r) Gina Roberts, Log Cabin Republicans San Diego Chapter president; LGBTQ Debate moderator Morgan M. Hurley; and Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, president of San Diego Democrats for Equality (Photo by Albert H. Fulcher)

"Those were wealthy white men who wrote the Constitution," he said. "When they wrote about the militia they meant only themselves. They had muskets then, and weapons today have advanced. This is a weird, almost treasonous belief in firearms being for overthrowing a tyrannical government. The Constitution is a living, breathing document."

Roberts shot back figuratively. "The superior weapons for the colonists made the difference," she said. "They could shoot British officers off their horses at a distance with their rifles. And the framers knew that technology would change. Guns can if need be put down an oppressive government."

Hurley posed a related question about whether firearms can put down or deter anti-LGBT violence. "Concealed carry is great. People with concealed carry licenses are vetted to an incredible level," Roberts said.

Rodriguez-Kennedy replied somberly that he had lost two friends in the Pulse nightclub shooting. "Training is not the case for everyone," he said regarding gun use, especially widespread arming and use by the untrained public. "Any responsible person opposes that."

The debate continued on the subject of open transgender military service. Hurley gave background on the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), drawing parallels before DADT repeal to restrictions on transgender troops today. The debaters agreed on open service for transgender military personnel.

"There are deployability issues involved," Roberts said, citing recovery from transitioning surgeries being comparable to pregnancy in affecting unit readiness and deployment, as a matter of national security.

Hurley next asked debaters to define and discuss identity politics.

"The previous party in power was aggressive in pushing us into the tiniest pieces and fragments possible," Roberts said. "Republicans are not about breaking us up." She expressed exasperation and frustration over being labeled a racist automatically for belonging to the GOP. "This is used to vilify everybody."

"We are having these discussions on the Democratic politics

side too. For us, this is really a civil rights issue," Rodriguez-Kennedy said. "We emphasize diversity, equity and justice. We embrace our differences and build coalitions."

"My party believes let's just treat everybody equally," Roberts said. "But this is an ugly subject. There is no easy solution to it." She favored congressional and court action on identity politics policies rather than presidential edicts. Both debaters decried the current circumstance that 34 states permit unconditional firing of LGBT employees.

Concluding comments discussed how to involve more young people in the political process. The debaters generally agreed on the topic.

"The system has failed this generation," Rodriguez-Kennedy said. "Both parties in power have been racking up debt, and economic issues are important. We're falling behind in this generation. Our party has active outreach." He ended by citing Democratic support for student movements as bringing many new younger voters into the ranks of Democrats.

"Across our entire party, there are amazing young people running the party," Roberts said. "We are agreed on the national debt. Our solution as Republicans is to shrink government and allow businesses to grow by getting rid of regulations and cutting red tape."

"We are failing people. Young people are recognizing that they cannot find jobs," she continued. "We need to change, to increase the tax base, because otherwise there are no jobs."

[Editor's note: Due to space constraints, this article has been shortened. Read the full article at sduptownnews.com, or in the Vol. 9, Issue 10 of our sister publication Gay San Diego at bit.ly/2Gr0oAE.]

—B. J. Coleman is a local freelance journalist and editor/staff reporter with 22nd District Legionnaire. B.J. can be reached at bjjournalist@gmail.com.

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The lease for **Paesano** in North Park is up for grabs through the property brokerage firm, **Location Matters**. The restaurant's proprietor, Joe Romano, owns the building and has yet to decide whether he will retire or reopen at a different San Diego location once a tenant is found.

Paesano originally opened



An iconic Italian restaurant in North Park may disappear (Photo courtesy of Location Matters)

on nearby Ray Street in 1967 by Romano's parents. The restaurant moved to its current address in 1972 and has become a mainstay for pizzas and classic American-Italian entrees.

According to broker agent

Mike Spilky, "We're talking to multiple people interested in leasing the space for restaurant use. And we're looking for a long-term tenant that will be good for the community." 3647 30th St., 619-291-4090, paesanoofnorthpark.com.



Co-owner Matty Ramon and general manager Paris Sukomi Max (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



Lavender tea-braised pork belly from the entree list (Photo by Alejandro Ramon)

MO's Universe Group has added a chic restaurant-lounge to its portfolio of eating and drinking establishments, all located within Hillcrest. Named **insideOUT** because customers essentially end up under partly open skies after walking inside, the LGBT-owned venture occupies the ground floor of the new, striking-red **Eitol Towers** apartment complex at 1642 University Ave.

The restaurant boasts a sizable bar, a reflecting pool and a terraced patio with built-in wood benches. It opened quietly on April 27 without much marketing hoopla.

"We didn't want to overwhelm the staff," said Matty Ramon, a partner in the restaurant group, which also operates **Baja Betty's**, **Hillcrest Brewing Company**, **Gossip Grill** and **Urban MO's**. He added that the project was nearly two years in the making and describes it as "an elevated oasis."

Heading the kitchen is executive chef and co-owner Maryjo



The main dining area features a row of tables along the front windows. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Testa, whose menu points to grilled Spanish-style octopus, Moroccan-spiced chicken tagine, and filet mignon cooked tableside on hot stones. The cocktail, wine and beer lists were created by Mo Girtton of Gossip Grill. She, too, is a co-owner along with entrepreneurs Chris Shaw and Stefan Chilcote, and architect Mike Burnett.

When asked how insideOUT might affect competition within the neighborhood, and whether it will impact establishments within MO's Universe Group, Ramon said, "Our goal is to cooperate with other businesses within the community and create more business for everybody rather than steal it away. It's all about working together." 619-888-8623, insideoutsd.com.



An intimate omakase sushi bar is coming to San Diego (Photo courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

San Diego's first omakase-only sushi bar is due to open in Kearny Mesa by mid-summer. Named **Hidden Fish**, the 1,000-square-foot space will feature only 13 seats and offer dining sessions lasting either 30 or 90 minutes.

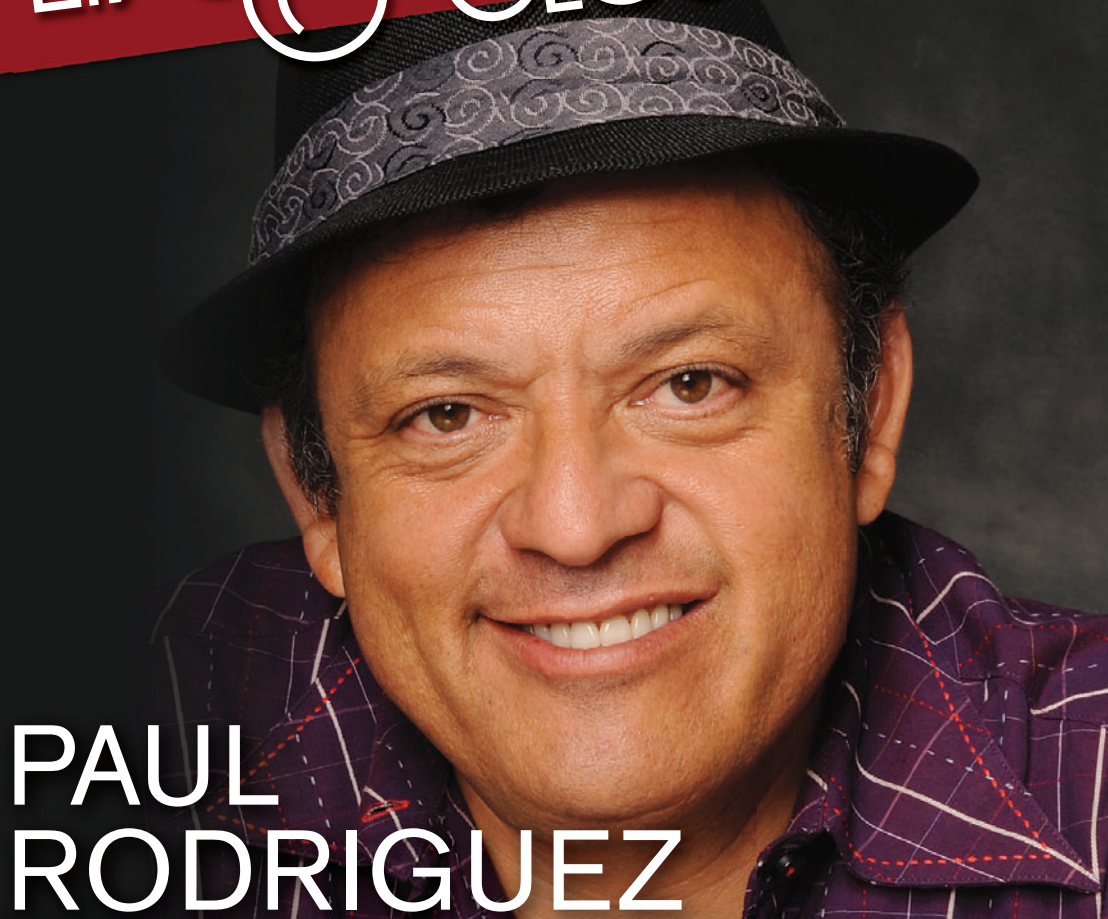
The Japanese term "omakase" means that customers leave the selection of what they eat up to the chef. Here, the menu will be void of pedestrian fare such as miso soup and California rolls and

instead feature artistic constructs using ingredients like local sea urchin, sea bream, caviar and truffles.

The restaurant is headed by chef John Hong (known also as Chef Kappa). He was previously the lead chef at **Bang Bang** in the Gaslamp Quarter. 4764 Convoy St., Suite A, hiddenfishsushi.com.

—Frank Sabatini Jr.
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From the streets of Thailand

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



Khwantha Osanai is exposing fans of Thai food to the street foods of Thailand in her debut restaurant, Soi 30th in North Park. If you're on the hunt for pad Thai and drunken noodles in their most pedestrian form, you've (fortunately) come to the wrong place.

Osanai is from Thailand's northeastern Isaan Province, where fiery chilies grow at the drop of a seed. But her food isn't drastically spicy. Nor is it necessarily indicative of Isaan.

"Mine is street food from all over Thailand. And I make it in my own style — not for American tastes," Osanai said, adding that she is proud of finally opening her own kitchen after working at other local Thai restaurants such as Plumeria and Sab-E-Lee.

Certain standbys, however, play into the bill of fare. Tom kha soup boasted gobble-worthy leaves of fresh par-cooked cabbage and a worthy zing from kaffir lime leaves. Her spicy chicken wings struck a commendable balance of sweet and hot, although they hardly came close to five-alarm fire.

Shrimp wraps and vegan egg rolls fall into the usual category of fried items, yet both were non-greasy and clean-tasting.

Other starters include some rare finds such as Thai beef jerky; fried pork belly with creamy mint sauce; and one of the menu's few Isaan specialties: sausage made with pork and glass noodles.

Visiting as a threesome, we proceeded to a trio of terrific entrees that included a newly introduced daily special called seafood pad pom kali. Rarely do you find dairy incorporated into Thai dishes, especially those involving green mussels, squid and shrimp.

We couldn't see it, but Osanai told us half-and-half is folded into this sensational yellow-curry sauce, which also houses onions, bell peppers and herbaceous Thai parsley. Whipped eggs played an invisible role as well, adding comforting richness to the dish.

My friends were thrilled to see "holy spicy basil" on the menu, saying they came to love it while visiting Thailand and cited its scarcity in American-Thai restaurants.

The dish's cousin — spicy basil-fried rice — mixes together bite-size pieces of meat or seafood with rice, onions, peppers, basil and scrambled eggs. The "holy" version separates the components on the plate. And the protein (chicken breast in our case) is finely minced like larb. In comparison, this offered more complexity and a greater exotic spirit.

Khao soi is a Burmese-style soup that hides a couple of oven-tender drumsticks inside a tangle of egg noodles, bean sprouts, mustard greens, cilantro and green onions. The curry-based broth is semi-spicy, and the entire cast of ingredients is made for an



Owner Khwantha Osanai (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

outrageously delicious dish that you don't expect from a humble eatery with fast-casual service.

Also memorable was the Kang Massaman I took home for later. Imagine beef stew with potatoes in classic brown gravy, but with coconut milk and micro bits of red chilies lurking in the recipe. It was nothing short of sensational.

Osanai opened Soi 30th in September 2017 and chose a colorful, industrial motif featuring bold, animated imagery from Thai artists. The enlarged prints hang aesthetically against corrugated metal and resemble some of the pop art of the late 1950s from the U.S. and Europe.

Soi, which means "street" in Thailand, is a welcome addition to this stretch of 30th Street. It's exactly the kind of authentic Asian kitchen the neighborhood lacked. Sorry, but Underbelly II across the street doesn't count; it's a whimsical invention from a local restaurant group, and for better or worse, focuses on putting

Soi 30th

3442 30th St.
North Park

619-892-7300
soi30th.com

Prices: Salads, starters and soups, \$6 to \$16;
rice and noodle dishes,
\$10 to \$13;
curries and specials,
\$11 to \$16

modern Japanese spins on ramen.
For now at least, the food at Soi has stolen my palate.

—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.❖

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If you're searching for a charming, full-service restaurant to slurp margaritas and nosh on familiar Mexican fare — sans the mariachis and guacamole-crazed travelers intrinsic to Old Town — look no further than Huapangos in Hillcrest.

Located on the vibrant intersection of Fifth and Pennsylvania avenues, the 10-year-old establishment offers a high dose of Spanish Colonial elan that's rare to this neck of the city.

If the ocean were across the street, this could pass for a restaurant connected to Hotel Hacienda Bajamar in Ensenada. The interior is replete with sturdy, wood tables and ceiling beams, wrought iron chandeliers, and colorful décor that escapes the kitschy style suited for spring breakers.

There are beer banners out front, however. That's the only demerit I'll give to the overall design of the property, which also features a welcoming front patio adorned in potted plants.

Numerous drink specials surface during happy hour, which is held seven days a week starting at 6 p.m., with some days lasting until closing.

The discounts offer tequila shots and bottled beer for \$4; well drinks, draft beer and

Huapangos

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Happy hour: 3 p.m. to
close,
Monday through
Thursday;
3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Friday,
Saturday and Sunday

house wines for \$5; standard margaritas for \$6; and flavored margaritas for \$6.50.

There are also plenty of cheap eats that rise to the occasion, from albondiga soup and Caesar salad with carne asada to ceviche, chicken empanadas, mussels, and of course, tacos. Served mostly in tapas-size portions, they range in price from \$4 to \$8.50.

I paired a hibiscus (jamaica) margarita to a decent serving of carnitas nachos. For the drink, my waiter explained the margaritas are premixed, but that right before serving them he spiffs them up with fresh lime juice to offset the sweetness. He also adds a splash of Gold Bar tequila for extra oomph. No objections there.



Huapangos' dining room is both stately and colorful. (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Indeed, the flavor was pleasingly tart, and the kick was noticeable. I felt limber halfway through the drink, just when my little mountain of nachos arrived.

The chips were draped with tender house-roasted pork, which admittedly tasted a tad fruitier in a couple of carnitas tacos I devoured here previously. Cheese, crema and pico de gallo were in abundance, and the plate was substantial enough to allow me to skip dinner. Not bad for only \$6.

Missing from the equation were complimentary table chips and the restaurant's famous jalapeno cheese sauce served with them. I'm not sure if that was an oversight or if the addicting chips and sauce are

reserved only for guests ordering full meals.

Fortunately, I came away with a bellyful of booze and food for \$15 with tax and tip. And for a short while, it felt as though I had been transported to some nice getaway south of the border.❖

RATINGS

Drinks: ♂♂♂♂

The drink deals during happy hour cover all bases, from micheladas and buckets of Coronitas to flavored margaritas, wines, tequila shots, and well drinks. The hibiscus margarita I drank had enough tequila in it to deliver a fast buzz.

Food: ♂♂♂♂

There are numerous discounted noshes for the choosing. Among them are nachos with a choice of meats or potatoes. The carnitas nachos were filling, despite being served on a fairly small plate.

Value: ♂♂♂♂

Most drinks and dishes are well below \$10.

Service: ♂♂♂♂♂

The waiters don white shirts and dress slacks, a professional look that matched my server's capable approach to customers.

Atmosphere: ♂♂♂♂♂

A solid Mexican motif prevails with a festively decorated patio that leads to heavy wooden tables, wrought iron chandeliers and colorful art inside.



A margarita flavored with hibiscus



Carnitas nachos

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Classic music never dies

'Smokey Joe's Café' takes you through an era of music

Theater Review

Jean Lowerison



You've seen fancy musicals and serious dramas and classic comedies. Now it's time to sit back, relax, and listen to the soundtrack of a generation.

"Smokey Joe's Café," playing through June 9 at OnStage Playhouse, offers a cast of nine fine singers and a band of six with an evening of 37 songs by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Shirley Johnston directs. Don't worry, you won't be looking at your watch.

Leiber and Stoller wrote primarily in the '50s, cranking out unforgettable novelty numbers like "Yakety Yak" (wherein mom lays down the law) and

"Charlie Brown" ("Why is everybody always pickin' on me?") as well as real standards like "Jailhouse Rock," "Spanish Harlem" and "Stand by Me."

And let's not forget that great classic "Little Egypt," about the dancer who had "a ruby on her tummy and a diamond big as Texas on her toe."

"Smokey Joe's Café" opened in New York in 1995. Nearly

five years later, it became the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history.

Notice that word "revue." Realizing it's not a play will save you the pointless effort of trying to "make sense" of what is essentially a concert.

The set design (by Teri Brown and Chad Oakley) is simple, with movable furniture and standing pillars that are draped with filmy fabric so that one or another cast member can stand behind them. The band is to the left as you enter, and they've nicely toned down the decibel level so it's not too loud in that small space.

The songs are mostly presented by two or more singers, but each singer gets a chance to shine in at least one solo. You'll see those familiar doo-wop moves (choreographed by director/choreographer Shirley Johnston) in the group numbers.

Belinda Pickens' "Hound Dog" will disabuse you of the notion that anybody is "cryin' all the time" (Elvis changed the too-racy original lyrics). And you'll love her beautiful, round sound on "Fools Fall in Love."

Dominique Dales comes in to her own in the poignant "I Keep Forgettin'" (we're not in

'Smokey Joe's Café'

Plays through June 9
OnStage Playhouse
291 Third Ave., Chula Vista
Thursday through
Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
Tickets: 619-422-7787
onstageplayhouse.org

love anymore).

Emma Rose Tarr demonstrates that she can shimmy, hit those high notes and belt out a song with the best of them.

Shirley Johnston gets to sing some of my favorites: the melancholy "Pearl's a Singer," the cheeky "Don Juan" and the suggestive "Some Cats Know" ("Some cats know how to stir up the feeling. But if a cat don't know, a cat don't know").

The women get their chance to shine together in the triumphant "I'm a Woman" — celebrating the strength of women — which may have inspired Helen Reddy and Ray Burton's "I Am Woman."

Tenor Kyle Leatherbury takes advantage of his ringing falsetto on "I (Who Have Nothing)."

Raymond Stradford III shines (with the less-than-interested Dominique) in the desperate "Love Me/Don't."

Reggie Hutchins has great stage presence, and his lead singing on "Poison Ivy," "Loving You" and "Dance with Me" is excellent.

Jake Strohl and Alexander Salazar-Dunbar were both in OnStage's wonderful production of "Spring Awakening" last year. Strohl is a fine tenor and a good actor.

Baritone Salazar-Dunbar seemed a bit tentative on opening night and doesn't move as gracefully as the others. But he came through vocally on the amusing "You're the Boss" with Dominique.

"Smokey Joe's Café" isn't Shakespeare, but it's a fine evening's entertainment.

—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) Reggie Hutchins, Raymond Stradford III, Emma Rose Tarr, Kyle Leatherbury, Dominique Dales, Alex Salazar-Dunbar, Shirley Johnston, Jake Strohl



(l to r) Dominique Dales, Emma Rose Tarr, Belinda Pickens, Shirley Johnston
(Photos courtesy of Adriana Zuniga-Williams)



Jake Strohl and Emma Rose Tarr

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Haysam Kadri, Denmo Ibrahim, and Nadine Malouf. Photo by Jim Cox.



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Saving the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge

By Leo Wilson

One of my earliest memories of Bankers Hill was walking across the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge. It was a rickety, old, wooden bridge that sparked safety concerns. Several years later, it appeared that I would never walk over the bridge ever again.

The Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge was closed because of safety concerns and was facing demolition. Thankfully, this did not happen, in large part because the local Bankers Hill community rose up to save this treasured old bridge.

The Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge was built in 1905. It is one of the few remaining wood trestle bridges in San Diego. The bridge — designed by a city engineer named George A. d'Hemecourt — is 236 feet long and 60 feet tall.

As with the Spruce Street Bridge, the Quince Street



Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge (Photo by Leo Wilson)

Pedestrian Bridge was built to provide access to the Fourth Avenue trolley for those who resided across a canyon in western Bankers Hill.

For over 80 years, the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge was a neighborhood landmark. However, in July 1987, it was declared unsafe and closed. A city inspector found that it was infested with termites, with some of its wood- en structure rotting.

The unannounced closure

came as a shock to the Bankers Hill community, as did a consultant's report to the San Diego City Council that the bridge was little used and unnecessary. The consultant recommended the bridge should be torn down and not replaced.

The Bankers Hill neighborhood rallied to save the bridge; over 1,000 people signed petitions to preserve it. Local residents pointed out the bridge's deck planks had already been replaced in 1974, and the

bridge's trestle bases were reinforced with concrete in 1981.

More importantly, they stated the bridge was a Bankers Hill landmark that needed to be preserved. Elinor Meadows, who lived a short distance north of the bridge, was a leader in this preservation effort. According to a Nov. 28, 1987 article from the Los Angeles Times, she placed a sign on the bridge which read:

"I am an old bridge. I was the pioneer structure across a lovely canyon. I have carried my share of walkers. I have provided a place to view the bay, a quiet place to pause, to stop and think. I have seen many changes. The bay is busy, the air is heavy, the streets are crowded. My people need me more than ever. But where are they? No one crosses me now. It's enough to make an old bridge weep."

In November 1987, the San Diego Historic Site Board designated the bridge as historic landmark, potentially saving it from demolition. The city

agreed to restore the bridge at a cost of about \$250,000. The original cost to build the bridge in 1905 was \$850.

After a two-year restoration, the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge opened again in 1990. About 70 percent of the wooden bridge was replaced, including support beams, decking and handrails. The replacement wood was pressure-treated Douglas fir. The bridge has remained open, except for about five months in 2011, after a eucalyptus tree fell on it.

If it hadn't been for Elinor Meadows and other Bankers Hill community activists back in 1987, the Quince Street Pedestrian Bridge would likely have suffered the fate of the hallowed Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge, which was torn down in 1980, despite the city's pledge to preserve it into the next century.

—Leo Wilson is administrator for Metro San Diego CDC and is a Bankers Hill resident.❖



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ASK KATHY:

A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

Kathy McSherry



Whether or not to stage a home?

Hi Kathy:

Question: Staging has become an essential element for maximizing the resale value of a home. Why is staging so effective? How much can a seller expect to pay for staging a property and will staging really yield a significantly higher sales price? Tom S.

Hi Tom:

You are correct. Staging, which is simply a method of decorating, enables a home to showcase itself in the best light possible in hopes of obtaining the highest price possible and in usually the quickest timeframe. In my opinion, staging can be essential when selling your home. It will really depend on the home itself and the current décor that is in the home. With that being said, first impressions do count. And, with 80% -90% of home buyers starting their search online, great staging makes for great photography and great pictures are powerful and essential to good marketing. According to realtor.com, staged homes sell 80% faster than non-staged homes and for 20% more!

A professional stager or Realtor understands current trends in the home industry and can advise a Seller what items should stay or go, how to de-clutter your home, and prepare the home to look its best.

Pricing for professional staging varies depending on how much staging you need: is it an empty home, is some of the furniture useable, maybe just artwork is missing; these questions will determine how much the stager needs to do and how much furniture or items will be rented. Some stagers charge for an initial consultation and then separately for the items that you rent; and also have a minimum monthly rental timeframe, typically two or three months.

A great way to save money and costs for staging is to concentrate on only the most important rooms in the home. Focus on the living/dining rooms, kitchen and the master bedroom.

Remember, a home needs to be welcoming. When in doubt, less is more. The less items in the home, the more spacious it will appear. There should be a balance between clean and lived in. De-clutter and make the home as clean as possible. Clear everything to make your home appear bigger, brighter, cleaner, loving and warm so that buyers will want to purchase it instantly.

Hope this helps Tom. Let me know when you are ready to sell your home!!

Best,
Kathy

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Email questions to her at kathymcsherry@outlook.com
www.kathymcsherry.com

Sponsored content

Community meetings

Mondays

Bankers Hill Parking Committee

First Monday of the month.
5–6:30 p.m. at Merrill Gardens,
2567 Second Ave. in Bankers Hill.

**North Park Maintenance
Assessment District**

Second Monday of the month. 5
p.m. at North Park Recreation
Center, 1044 Idaho St. in North
Park.

Bankers Hill Community Group

Third Monday of the month.
6:30–8 p.m. at San Diego Indoor
Sports Club, 3030 Front St. in
Bankers Hill.

**Hillcrest Business Association
Beautification Committee**
Fourth Monday of the month. Visit
bit.ly/2odxT3m to confirm monthly
meeting date. 3 p.m. at 3737
Fifth Ave., Suite 202 in Hillcrest.

Tuesdays

**Adams Avenue Business
Association**

First Tuesday of the Month.
Board of directors meeting. 8
a.m. at Normal Heights Commu-
nity Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
in Normal Heights.

**North Park Main Street
Design Committee**

First Tuesday of the month. 5:30–
7:30 p.m. at North Park Main
Street office, 3939 Iowa St., Suite
2 in North Park. 619-294-2501.

**Normal Heights Community
Planning Group**

First Tuesday of the month. 6
p.m. at Normal Heights Commu-
nity Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
in Normal Heights.

Uptown Planners

First Tuesday of the month. 6
p.m. at Joyce Beers Communi-
ty Center, 3900 Vermont St. in
Hillcrest.

Hillcrest Business Association

Second Tuesday of the month.
Board of directors meeting. 5
p.m. at Joyce Beers Communi-
ty Center, 3900 Vermont St. in
Hillcrest.

Hillcrest Town Council

Second Tuesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at Joyce Beers Com-
munity Center, 3900 Vermont St.

North Park Planning Committee

Third Tuesday of the month. 6:30
p.m. at North Park Christian Fel-
lowship, 2901 North Park Way in
North Park.

**Talmadge Maintenance
Assessment District**

Fourth Tuesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at Copley-Price YMCA,
4300 El Cajon Blvd. in Talmadge.

Wednesdays

**University Heights Community
Development Corporation**

First Wednesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at 4452 Park Blvd.,
Suite 104 in University Heights.

**University Heights Community
Parking District**

First Wednesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at 4452 Park Blvd.
Suite 104 in University Heights.

North Park Main Street

Second Wednesday of the month.
Board of directors meeting. 7:30
a.m. at North Park Main Street
office, 3939 Iowa St., Suite 2 in
North Park. 619-294-2501.

**Old Town Community
Planning Group**

Second Wednesday of the month.
3:30 p.m. at The Whaley House,
2476 San Diego Ave. in Old Town.

**Greater Golden Hill Community
Planning Group**

Second Wednesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at Balboa Golf Course
Clubhouse, 2600 Golf Course Drive.

**Ken-Tal Community
Planning Group**

Second Wednesday of the month.
6:30 p.m. at Copley-Price Family
YMCA, 4300 El Cajon Blvd. in
Talmadge.

**Burlingame Neighborhood
Association**

Second Wednesday of the month.
7 p.m. at Mazara Trattoria, 2302
30th St. in Burlingame.

**Mission Hills Business
Improvement District**

Third Wednesday of the month.
3:30 p.m. For meeting location,
visit missionhillsBID.com.

**North Park Community
Association**

Fourth Wednesday of the month.
6 p.m. at Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El
Cajon Blvd. in North Park.

South Park Business Group

Last Wednesday of the month.
8:30 a.m. at Eclipse Chocolate,
2145 Fern St. in South Park.

Thursdays

**University Heights Community
Association**

First Thursday of the month. 6:30
p.m. at Alice Birney Elementary
School auditorium, 4345 Campus
Ave. in University Heights.

**Mission Hills Town Council Board
of Trustees Meeting**

Second Thursday of alternating
months; next meeting March 8. 6
p.m. at 902 Fort Stockton Drive
in Mission Hills.

**Mission Hills Town Council
Town Hall**

Second Thursday of alternating
months; next meeting is March
8. 6 p.m. at Francis Parker Low-
er School Library, 4201 Randolph
St. in Mission Hills.❖

FROM PAGE 1

GARDEN ANGELS

Larabee has lived in Kensington for four decades. She taught at John Adams Elementary School in Normal Heights for more than 20 years and shared a historic home with her husband Dale until his passing in 2014. When she decided to retire, she dove her hands into the work of the Garden Angels.

Currently, Larabee leads the group with Bev and Dennis Lauck. While all volunteers are responsible for their own plots, they serve as resources for the members and offer help when needed.

Last year, the group saved enough money for a water truck, which Dennis operates. Though some plots have water sources or spouts nearby, others don't have that luxury, requiring many volunteers to load and lug jugs of water from their cars. Dennis now takes out the water truck and tends to these sites every other week.

Unfortunately, the trees in the plots are plagued with blight. Back in 2013, Scott Kessler of the Adams Avenue Business Association, who had been treating the suffering trees for years, proposed that they be removed and replaced.

Though that would mean uprooting the Garden Angels' existing plots, the volunteers were open-minded and optimistic about the change. Unfortunately, the expenses were deemed too expensive. Instead, they continue to trim, water and care for the existing trees.

"No one has enough money to take down all those trees and put them back," Larabee



Bonnie New, a 35-year Kensington resident who joined the group last year, tending to the garden she shares with her husband, Ernie

said. "So our goal was to save the trees, plus to make it look good around the trees. We're still on that path."

Though the funds didn't come through, Larabee said Kessler has been very supportive of the volunteer group and appreciates their work. He helps maintain the existing trees and paid for the tank in the Garden Angels' water truck.

According to Larabee, last year's rainy season revived the trees — unfortunately, that resurgence didn't stick. Larabee said she doesn't know what the answer is, but emphasized the group is committed to the cause.

In the past five years, the volunteer group has grown from 30 to 40 people. Larabee said that the volunteers' ages range from around 30 to 76 years old. Most members are retired, but some work full-time jobs.

Involved with the Garden Angels for about three years, one of the younger members is DeLayne Harmon,

a Kensington native who grew up on Terrace Drive. She moved into her grandparents' Craftsman home on Marlborough Avenue. Harmon's favorite part of the group is the close-knit community aspect, which is reflective of Kensington.

"Kensington is such a supportive, connected community," Harmon said. "Living for 26 years in La Mesa, which is a community also, is not the same sense I have of Kensington. I mean I feel so connected, and maybe it's just because I've thrown myself into being involved [in various volunteer groups]. People care about people. People care about the neighborhood and the community."

Larabee noted that she admires each volunteer's dedication to the plots, plants and program. Many of them pay for plants and soil with their own money, since the group's budget is limited.

Volunteers have complete autonomy over assigned plots and are encouraged to express originality within the sites. Larabee said the diversity of the group is seen in the gardens; each member's creativity produces a variety of plots that are representative of the neighborhood.

"[Kensington] is just not a ho-hum neighborhood where everybody's alike, either," Larabee said. "There aren't kids at every house. I like that — the diversity of the people who live here. And they choose to live here. They really choose to live here."

The next project for the Garden Angels is to enhance the entrance of the Kensington neighborhood. They have a small fund, started when Larabee's husband died, but more money is needed before they can move past the planning phase.

Many businesses have shown support for the volunteers and their work. In particular,

of single-family homes and condominiums and I imagine it would go a long way there.

North Park is one of the communities I'd want to hold a workshop with, and I look forward to partnering with the North Park Community Association, where I am currently a board member for public workshops.

There, we get together and help people by doing community cleanups, holding forums

about community issues like homelessness, and acting as an advocate for all things North Park.

For more information about Strabone or his campaign, visit votestrabone.com.

—*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.*

Ponce's Mexican Restaurant has a donation box, and the owner of Science Fitness Personal Training and Yoga tends his own garden plot.

Both Larabee and Harmon noted that though many of the community members do not know the story of the mini-gardens, those who do notice express appreciation.

"We do get a lot of compliments by people who walk by, and that makes you feel really good," Larabee said. "And they aren't all my friends. I've met strangers who volunteer too."

"A lot of people come by and ask you or talk to you," Harmon said, adding that many thank her and other volunteers for what they are doing.

On May 28, the Garden Angels will participate in Kensington's "Holiday at Home Parade," an annual celebration held every Memorial Day that has been a staple of the neighborhood for over 35 years. The Garden Angels will be walking next to their water truck, which will be decorated with handmade tissue paper flowers and draped with a sign that says, "Caring for your Adams Avenue Tree Gardens."

The free event is intended

to keep residents within the neighborhood for the holiday and celebrate the close-knit community they have created. It features a parade along Marlborough Avenue. In addition to the parade, the event hosts a pancake breakfast, Dale Larabee Miracle Mile Relay and awards ceremony at the Kensington Library.

Diane Larabee hopes the parade will give the Kensington Garden Angels more exposure, perhaps soliciting more volunteers or donations.

"[Our goal is to] show that we have to take care of our places, because the city doesn't have the time or the money," Larabee said.

She hopes someone may see the float and say, "Maybe I could be a Garden Angel."

For previous San Diego Uptown News coverage of the Kensington Garden Angels, written by Diane's late husband Dale Larabee, visit bit.ly/2Kt2JxN. For more information about the Holiday at Home Parade, visit ksac92116.org.

—*Reach Sara Butler at sara@sdcdn.com.*

FROM PAGE 7

TONI ATKINS

need. SB 1125 will allow health centers to hire more mental-health professionals to meet this demand.

The bill also works hand-in-hand with AB 1863. Signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016, AB 1863 allowed Medi-Cal to be billed for counseling services provided by licensed marriage-and-family therapists, and not just clinical social workers and psychologists, increasing the supply of service providers.

Health centers must be able to seamlessly provide same-day treatment for both physical and mental health — and be compensated for the full spectrum of care they're providing. It's only fair. SB 1125 will accomplish this.

I was pleased when SB 1125 passed the Senate Health Committee in late April and look forward to working with my colleagues in the full Senate, as well as the Assembly and the governor, to ensure that this important measure becomes law.

—*Toni G. Atkins represents the 39th District in the California Senate. Follow her on Twitter @SenToniAtkins.*

La Jolla Spotlight

Many people who become dependent on prescription pills are in a lot of pain and have a legitimate need for strong painkillers, such as opioids. Maybe it started with a back surgery, or a knee replacement, or a mastectomy. Regardless of the precipitating event, our bodies build up a tolerance to almost everything we ingest. In order for the same pills to curb the pain, a higher dosage is needed. Dependence is sneaky and can easily go unnoticed at first.

At La Jolla Healing Center, we assess dependence, and develop a treatment plan that addresses your pain and your well-being. There are a variety of options available to you if you're concerned you or a loved one may be developing a dependence to a prescription.

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FROM PAGE 5

MATT STRABONE

JW: How would North Park residents benefit from your election into this position?

MS: Well, I mean certainly the 150,000 homeowners I want to give an additional property tax [break] to would benefit. North Park is an area

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

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 17

Uptown Crossword

Classics

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
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63						64				65					
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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Mob chaser
5 Scare
10 Leaning
14 First class
15 Loops: geom.
16 Sole
17 One of the family
19 Edge
20 Passion
21 Asiatic weight
22 Dame Myra
23 Suggestive
25 A_U vowel connection
27 Ringo was one
30 One of the family
35 Automotive pioneer
36 Exploit
38 Chutzpah
39 Bon ____
40 Particulars
42 Loser to DDE
43 Baseball Hall of Famer
45 Healer
46 RBI, e.g.
47 One of the family

Sciaenidae
49 Badger's cousins
51 Catchall letters
52 Early rock musical
53 Road or bridge fee
56 River to the North Sea
59 Celebrities
63 Billy, of Rock
64 One of the family
66 Fairway cry
67 Vigilant
68 Warning word
69 Delius or Chopin, to friends
70 Place for a barbecue
71 Tennis rating

DOWN

1 Narrative
2 Kind of guide
3 Wife of Geraint
4 Replies
5 A cont.
6 Like some goals
7 Inter ____
8 Diva Stevens
9 Composer Gustav
10 Famous name in comedy

11 Concerning
12 Baba and MacGraw
13 Sylvia, of song
18 Russian inland sea
24 Grant
26 Country places
27 Across the ____
28 Fudd and Rice
29 Gallic goodbye
30 British prime minister
31 Wotan
32 Speechify
33 Pertaining to eye part
34 Orals
37 Vous ____
40 Nimble
41 Byron poem
44 ____ a rat
46 Machine-guns
48 Antarctic sight
50 ____ it the truth!
52 Matisse
53 Spat
54 Repute
55 Body of knowledge
57 She gets what she wants
58 Writer Harte
60 Meet event
61 Being
62 Molt
65 Ike's command

Puzzle answers on page 17

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see Classifieds, pg 17

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

'The Wind and The Breeze' Through June 10

Cygnnet Theatre presents a play that explores the politics of place, the unspoken expectations of friendship and what happens when we stand our ground. Dates and times vary at Cygnnet Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. Visit bit.ly/2wOy7op.

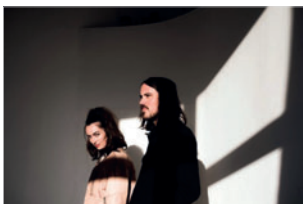
'A Thousand Splendid Suns' Through June 17

The Old Globe presents a production detailing the epic story of three generations of Afghan women and their remarkable resilience. The show is a theatrical adaptation of the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner." \$30-\$88. 8 p.m. at The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way. Visit bit.ly/2jg8B1r.



'Curious Objects' Through July 14

Art Produce presents an exhibit by Oceanside-based artist Carrie Minikel. The exhibit investigates one's current moment and location. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. A reception will be held on June 2, 6-8 p.m. at Art Produce, 3139 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2KxO5W3.



Cults at Soda Bar

Indie, retro pop band performs with Reptaliens. \$20. 21 and up. Two shows: 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2qXfuZS.

Coming of Age Film Festival at MOPA

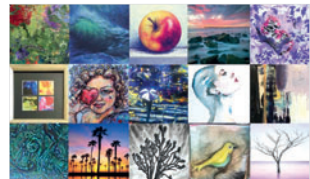
View a film screening of the adventure/drama "Embrace of the Serpent" at the Coming of Age Film Festival, an ongoing event about aging in media. Free. 6 p.m. at Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/2rKZRVS.



Junior Science Club at The Fleet

Children in grades 1 to 4 are invited to participate in a monthly science club.

Sessions will be filled with new challenges, hands-on activities and interaction with local scientists. \$13-\$15. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/2rMtDtv.



'minis 2018' Group Show

Opening Reception Sparks Gallery's exhibition will showcase small works by more than 20 Southern California artists. Opening reception wine sales to benefit California Veterans Legal Task Force. Free. Guests who RSVP receive one free drink ticket. 6-9 p.m. at Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Ave. Exhibition runs through July 10. Visit bit.ly/2KxMQWT.

Good Friday Gallery Second Reception

Three local artists are joining forces to establish Good Friday Gallery, a new model for the visual arts inspired by Silicon Valley start-up incubators. This is the second reception of the gallery, featuring special edition of 3•UP featuring Eleanor Bell, Czarina Scolari-Ortiz and Benjamin Dehart. 6-9 p.m. at The Studio Door, 3758 30th St. Visit bit.ly/2r4HeFl.

Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School

A life drawing event inspired by old fashioned drawing sessions. \$10. 3 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2wMoB52.

Budget Town Hall

San Diego's Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin leads a town hall that will provide an opportunity for residents of District 9 to learn about the proposed budget and voice their thoughts on the priorities for District 9. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Church of the Brethren, 3850 Westgate Place. Visit sandiego.gov/cd9/FY19.



Macramé and Math at Fleet Science Center

This Maker Hour explores knot theory through macramé, a form of textile manipulation that uses knotting techniques instead of weaving or knitting. Design and create a hanging macramé shelf and learn about how knots are related to mathematics. \$40-\$45. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/2KygXNx.

How to Receive Medical Aid in Dying
Learn how to utilize the

California End-of-Life Option Act. Dr. Bob Uslander, and Elizabeth Semenova will discuss finding a doctor, the steps required, the time frame to expect, what medication is used and more. Free. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Event Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South. Visit bit.ly/2kIUipF.

The Playground Sunday Night Dance Party

A dance party in Hillcrest with drinks and friendly faces. Free. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2KrJu7s.



Hurry Up at Soda Bar

Lo-fi punk trio performs with The Slashes and Mostly Sunny. \$8. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2wOZIG6.



Trevor Hall at Observatory

Folk and reggae singer performs with Mike Love. \$26. All ages. 7:45 p.m. at Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2KpdReW.



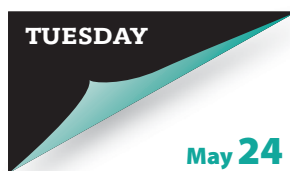
Ocean Alley at Soda Bar

Australian rock band performs with The Morning Yells. \$13-\$15. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2Kw41Ij.



Sango at Observatory

Hip-hop and dance music DJ performs with Kaelin Ellis. \$25. All ages. 8 p.m. at Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2Kwk8Wm.



Colouring at Soda Bar

The rebrand of a short lived indie pop quartet, Osca, performs with Nightly. \$12-\$15. 21 and up. 9:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2KsKF6L.



GBH at Observatory

English street punk band performs with Fireburn, The Widows and Authentic Sell-out. \$25. All ages. 8 p.m. at Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2KsLEDU.



Trick X:TRA

This dancing event features DJs Derek Monteiro and Gio Black Peter. \$10-\$15. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. 92103. Visit bit.ly/2KtkqNp.

Reel Science Film Series

A local scientist joins viewers to watch the sci-fi film, "Matrix," while giving context on the scientific themes presented in it. \$9-\$12. 7 p.m. at The Nat, 1788 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/2KvoX21.

Crossover: Where Comics & Science Meet

Comic book artists, writers and local scientists will give short talks, followed by open discussion, addressing the creative and scientific sides of comics. Enjoy local brews and conversations with comic book creators and fans. 6:30-8 p.m. at San Diego Comic Art Gallery, 2765 Truxtun Road. Visit bit.ly/2wR0vGt.



The Posies at Soda Bar

Soulful rock band performs with Terra Lightfoot. \$20-\$25. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2KuuplL.



Sofi Tukker at Observatory

House/EDM duo performs with Kah-Lo and LP Giobbi. \$21. All ages. 8 p.m. at Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/2Kv0klQ.



'Holiday at Home Parade'

Kensington's annual Memorial Day celebration features a pancake breakfast, Dale Larabee Miracle Mile Relay, parade along Marlborough Avenue and awards ceremony. The free event is intended to keep residents within the neighborhood for the holiday. This year's theme is "Let's Go Fly a Kite." Free. 8 a.m.-noon in Kensington. Visit ksac92116.org.

Noir on the Boulevard

Highly regarded film "Chinatown" will be presented at the Digital Gym Cinema. \$7.50-\$11. R rated. 7:30 p.m. at North Park, 2921 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2KxcMBY.



Lauren Ruth Ward at Soda Bar

'60s blues and modern pop singer-songwriter performs with Yip Yops and Somme. \$10-\$12. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2wPggO8.



Heir Gloom at Soda Bar

Alternative trio performs with New Speak and Dragon. \$6. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/2Kr6l3i.

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.

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/2HmaogX.

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 Thursday 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 31th 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. 9 p.m.-12:30 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/2KvuTYW.

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 Jordan Diamond and Sara Butler. Email calendar items to sara@sdcnn.com.

FROM PAGE 1
FESTIVAL

Local faces at Festival of the Arts



Patric Stillman with Cayce Hanalei of Hanalei Artworks (Photos by Connor McBride)

Patric Stillman

Patric Stillman is a North Park resident and owner of Studio Door, a local arts center that brings diverse artists together. For the festival, he partnered with Hanalei Artworks to host the second annual “Gallery in the Street,” held on 31st Street and University Avenue.

“We brought along 35 artists and created sort of a gallery environment within the festival. This year I brought Cayce Hanalei into the picture because she’s been doing [exhibitions for] a lot of local artists in untraditional spaces, such as bars and coffeehouses, including Mike Hess Brewing.”

—Patric Stillman

Stillman, Chris Smith and Cassandra Schramm also collaborated with the bike sharing company ofo, who offered special deals in the neighborhood in conjunction to the festival. The three artists painted three bikes that ofo had pulled from the streets to encourage attendees to not drive cars to the festival.



Two ofo bikes painted for the festival

Rae Stewart

Rae Stewart, a Chula Vista screen printing artist, recently opened up Inkies Diner on El Cajon Boulevard on the border of University Heights and North Park. Stewart studied graphic design, screen printing and metalsmithing at San Diego State University.

After working with the shirt design company Tag District, she decided to do open up her “shirts and signs” business. Though Stewart

attended the event last year, this was Inkies Diner’s debut on Ray Street and she appreciated the festival’s shift to promoting local talent this year.

“It’s always been the ‘Arts Festival,’ but I feel like this year they have really trying to push it and being like, ‘We want local people. We want to show what we have to offer. Like, hey, let’s make things local so people can see things [in our neighborhoods].’”

—Rae Stewart



Rae Stewart of Inkies Diner



(l to r) Alex Rivera, Dan Ercoli, Jenny Hecht, guest saxophonist Hank Bragg, and Kyle Reynolds

Sol Orchid

Sol Orchid performed at the Bluefoot Stage at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. The Uptown music group describes its sound as ‘Soul Rock,’ a mixture of soul and rock ‘n’ roll. They formed last year and regularly play Uptown venues including Seven Grand, Soda Bar, The Casbah, and Blonde Bar.

Band members include Golden Hill resident Jenny Hecht, vocals; Mission Valley resident Alex Rivera, guitarist; Golden Hill resident Kyle

Reynolds, bass; and North Park resident Dan Ercoli, drummer.

“We popped our festival cherry this year and hope to play more! We got involved through our friends Jason Noble at City Beat and Adam Cook at Bluefoot Bar. Our favorite part was playing with other awesome local artists and friends, such as the Wild Wild Wets, Bruin, and Mt. Pleasant, as well as the fun community vibe and professional crew.”

—Sol Orchid



Erika Davies Quartet performs at the SDCCU Main Stage on University Avenue



Local artists paint large murals in a Live Art Block, hosted by vis-ural



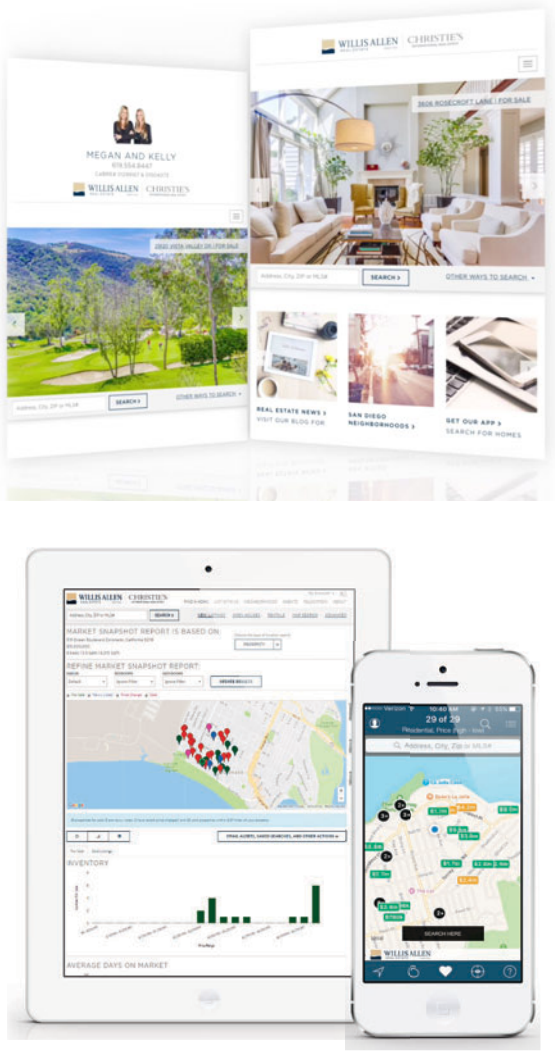
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