**VOLUME 11 ISSUE 13** 

June 28 - July 11, 2019



## San Diego



P. 16 Ballot for Best of Uptown

Hillcrest • University Heights • Normal Heights • North Park • South Park • Golden Hill • Kensington • Talmadge Old Town • Mission Hills • Bankers Hill

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Mural on school-to-prison pipeline

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What happened to Bankers Hill rail?

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Shakespeare summer festival

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Small Business of the Year named

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St. Paul's Cathedral lit up in honor of Pride (Photo by Susan Forsburg)

KENDRA SITTON | UPTOWN NEWS

[Editor's note: This is part one of a series examining the faith of LGBTQ+ people.]

As heavy May clouds swirled over a bright sky, the lead pastor of Missiongathering Church in North Park, Brandan Robertson, clicked open his email for another piece of hate mail. This one read "Sorry, Fa\*\*\*\*, 'Pastor' and 'Fa\*\*\*\*' don't go together. Your false narrative and satanic influence will lead you straight to a cell in hell."

The email was a reminder that although LGBTQ+ rights have advanced in some parts of society, among the conservative white Evangelical supporters that remain President Donald Trump's most faithful base, many see "queer" and "Christian" as incompatible identities that cannot coexist.

According to Robertson, who identifies as queer, a decade ago the fully inclusive church he leads would have been an anomaly in San Diego, but with a handful of affirming churches in Uptown, it's a burgeoning religious movement.

"Missiongathering five years ago would be a rare church. Today, you can walk down the street in San Diego and within a one-mile radius, there's probably five or six Christian churches that are fully affirming and welcoming of LGBT people. Now, there are dozens more that aren't, but things are changing and they're changing quick," 27-year-old Robertson said from his office during an April interview.

see DevOUT, pg 13

## Counting on San Diego's urban forest

**DELLE WILLETT | UPTOWN NEWS** 

to San Diego four years ago to Company. be CEO and president of the newly formed Balboa Park Conservancy, he was astounded that the park didn't have an updated tree inventory.

The last one was done by hand 20 years ago, taking seven years to do. Not having any of the technology that we have now, it was shelved, and the information was never updated, attributable to a lack of manpower in the city of San Diego's Parks & Recreation Department.

Shortly after Herrera-Mishler arrived, with the help of a steering committee of industry experts, key stakeholders, and

Parks & Rec staff, funding was identified to update the inven-When landscape architect tory, resulting in the hiring Tomas Herrera-Mishler came of Davey Natural Resources

We all know Balboa Park as a place with museums, restaurants and gardens. But it's really more

see Balboa, pg 3



(I to r) Shawn Bruzda, Davey Resource Group, and Mario Llanos, district manager, Balboa Park (photo courtesy Balboa Park Conservancy)

## An artist and her hares



In a shirt featuring one of her drawings, Bonnie Woods poses with two of her pieces. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

#### Bankers Hill artist publishes book

KENDRA SITTON | Uptown News

Over a year ago, Bonnie Woods was sketching inside her Bankers Hill home when the circles and lines she was charcoaling in as a background took shape. Specifically, the shape became the face of a hare with long legs outstretched. Situated next to the figure of a woman that typically dominates her art pieces, a new creature came to the forefront.

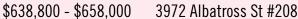
"If you look at my website, it's mostly about women because I love to draw and paint women. And then, all of a sudden, when I was drawing, this hare appeared. I did this little face and thought, 'Oh my goodness! Look, he's so cute!' and then they kept coming," Woods explained over coffee at Harley Gray in Mission Hills, where an art group she is in regularly meets.

Woods said she feels like she is channeling the creatures. They are often hopping through her mind when she wakes up and slip into her imaginings.

Since drawing that first hare, Woods has yet to stop. She has since created a series of watercolor paintings featuring the women iconic to her style sitting next to a hare. She has another 50 unfinished works in her home. The

see Hares, pg 4







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"I just realized that it was one year ago that John and I sold the house we had lived in for 30 years in North Park. We spent months making the tough decision to sell our family home, but we knew that timing is everything and we wanted to take advantage of the strong market. Nevertheless, the thought of getting our 102 year old Craftsman bungalow ready to sell, and the entire process of packing and moving, was unbelievably daunting.

Of even greater concern to us was choosing the right realtor to sell our house for us. We needed to find someone who would take the time to get to know us — who didn't look at our property as just another listing, but instead valued the significance of what it meant to us. We needed a realtor who wouldn't pressure us, but had the experience, savvy, and salesmanship to push hard when marketing our house and closing the deal with a buyer.

Long story short, we found our dream realtor(s): Mary McTernan and Z McT-Contreras, of the McT Real Estate Group. From the moment they first walked through our front door, we knew they were our match made in heaven. We already knew they were prominent local real estate experts, but what we discovered was how friendly, kind, calm, thoughtful, and patient they are. They listened to us and really paid attention. They explained the process, told us what to expect, and made some great suggestions, but not once did they try to "sell" us on their services — they didn't need to.

When we were ready to sell our house, they took care of everything; our job was done. We had multiple offers within a couple days of listing it on the market. Z and Mary handled the entire process seamlessly and, believe it or not, our sale closed in 10 days (which, I realize, is faster than most). But, honestly, we were wowed!

So, looking back now, one year later, I am so happy that we made the decision to sell when we did and even happier that we chose the right realtors; because in the process, we also made new friends. Oh, and did I mention... they love animals like we do!!!

We love Mary & Z McT!!!"

- C&J McGaughy

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McTRealEstateGroup.com

## FROM PAGE 1 **BALBOA**

than that. It's San Diego's arboretum, an urban forest with immense, widespread influence. Its diversity of tree species helps filter air and water, control storm water, conserve energy, and provide animal habitat and shade. And by reducing noise and providing places to recreate, it strengthens social cohesion, spurs community revitalization, and adds economic value to our communities.

Also, it is helping realize the San Diego Climate Action Plan, which has a lofty goal of 15% tree canopy by 2020 and 35% by 2035 for the whole city. (Balboa Park is at 30% but the city as a whole is at 5-6%.)

Using the data collected from the inventory, the objective is to develop and implement a management and reforestation plan for Balboa Park that includes replanting trees on an annual basis; increasing species diversity; experimenting with new plant introductions; propagating trees of historic and horticultural value; conserving unusual, rare and endangered trees; removing hazardous trees; maintaining and protecting trees; and interpreting park horticulture.

"The incredible value of this new survey has given us a real understanding of the condition of the park," said Herrera-Mishler.

To direct the inventory and



Todd Beals, of Davey Resource Group, in Balboa Park (Photo courtesy Balboa Park Conservancy)

nine other projects, the conservancy brought in Jackie Higgins, a landscape architect skilled in management information technology and restoring climate-appropriate and native California landscapes. The tree inventory was managed under her leadership and oversight, focused on establishing a baseline of data for the park.

Using GIS and GPS, the Davey team conducted the tree inventory from June 2017 to April 2018, identifying 15,515 trees throughout the park, producing up-to-date real-time information on each tree.

The Davey team collected around 20 attributes per tree including GPS location, age, site information, species, size, condition,

health maintenance, diameter at breast height (DBH), a photo of every tree, age of the urban forest and recommendations/tasks.

The conservancy also commissioned another baseline study of the economic impact of the park that identified the tangible economic benefits to the San Diego region.

For example, currently the forest's carbon storage is equivalent to annual carbon emissions from 5,770 autos, and the annual carbon emission from 2,370 single-family houses with a carbon storage value of \$1,060,000. (Cash values determined by the U.S. Forestry Service.)

Explained Higgins, "These 1,200 acres help to balance out the concrete jungle that we live in. Not only do we have to make sure that we are accounting for appropriate canopy cover for our parks, we are essentially taking on the burdens of all the other areas that can't have a canopy or other benefits that go along with that, for example, carbon sequestration, air filtration and purification, and stormwater mitigation."

"We're making progress," said Herrera-Mishler. "One of our goals is increasing the diversity of the trees in the park."

Having a broad diversity of trees is paramount for resilience from climate change and sickness. Twenty years ago, there were 348 different tree species in Balboa Park. Today there are 448, exactly 100 more. That's astounding,

Herrera-Mishler said. "And so now, with new technology, we are able to track exactly what species are doing well in San Diego with modern growing conditions. That's a valuable data set to share with the rest of Southern California."

Herrera-Mishler, who is especially interested in historic land-scapes, said "This urban forest is 100-years-plus [old] now, with Kate Sessions starting the process [in] the beginning of the last century. We now know precisely where the heritage trees are, the survivors that have weathered drought and climate change and air pollution and urbanization and smog and all those things."

Herrera-Mishler thinks it's important to note that tree plantings in the park have always been public/private partnerships. Since the park's very beginnings, regular folks have planted trees at their own expense, some successful, some not. Today, every one of the newly planted trees is being monitored by teams of volunteers called Tree Stewards, who are trained to work with other conservancy volunteer groups to plant the trees according to a very rigorous standard, working alongside other groups and representatives from Parks & Rec. Currently there are 40 Tree Stewards who monitor trees on a real-time basis, checking soil moisture at the base of a new tree, helping to insure the survival of the trees. With more funding, the Tree Steward program can expand to monitor all

Many cities have notable urban forests including Austin, Atlanta, Charlotte, Denver, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York City, Sacramento, Seattle, Washington D.C. and St. Louis. These cities are doing inventories with various other methods of gathering data.

#### 15,515 trees.

So far, in the 500 new trees they have planted in the last two years, through a grant from CalFire, there's a 98.4% survival rate. The success attributable for this rate is that Parks & Rechelped to get irrigation to the trees and the Urban Corp works with Tree Stewards and other volunteers to help with the installation of the trees.

Said Herrera-Mishler, "The conservancy is thinking about the park as a 'forever' asset for the community. It's really cool when your timeline is forever."

Anyone interested in Balboa Park's trees and urban forest can Google "Open Tree Map" and download the Open Tree Map app and choose "San Diego Tree Tracker Map" within this app. Those interested in becoming Tree Stewards should visit balboaparkconservancy.org/project/ tree-stewards/

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellewillett@gmail.com.\*



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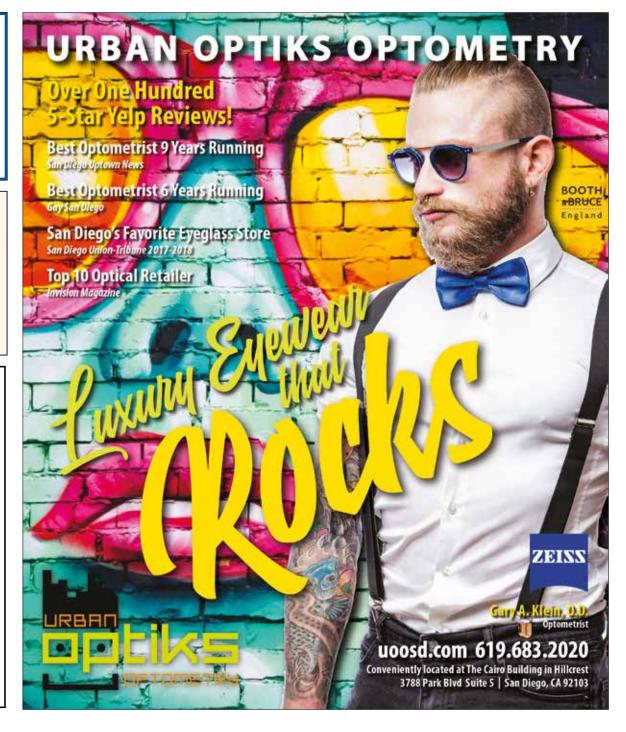


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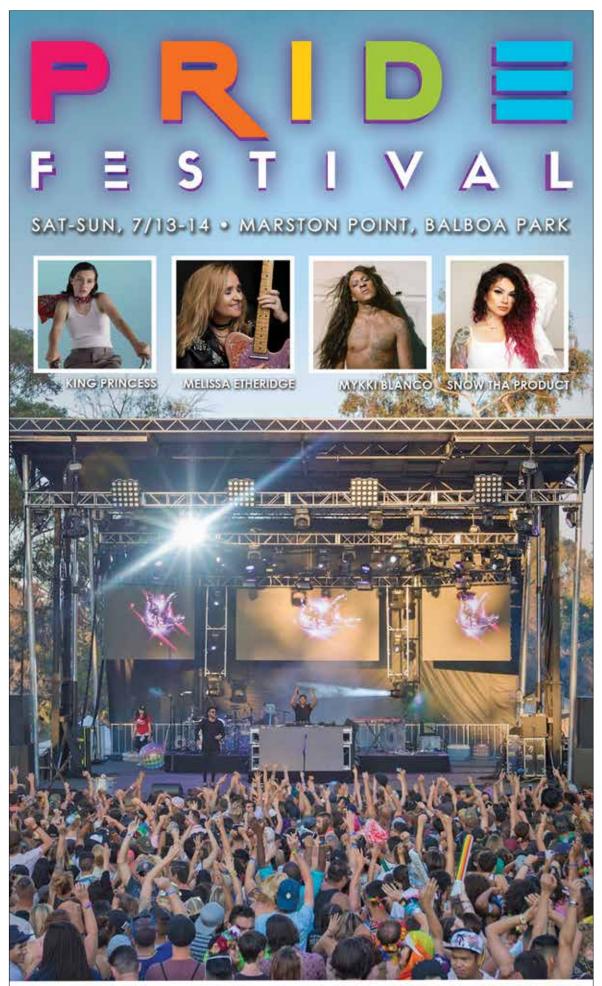
California: Starting July 1, 2019 a law will go into effect that will require

all newly installed residential garage door openers and new door installs be equipped with a battery backup. After the deadly California wildfires that killed 44 in 2017, Senator Bill Dodd pushed for revisions of SB-969. Of those who died during the fire, at least 5 were due to the inability to open there garage door because of power outages. A majority of homeowners use their garage door as the primary point of entry to their home. In times of emergency or a power outage, the battery backup will provide up to 24 hours of usage. A battery backup will engage when power is cut from the garage door opener. Ensuring your garage door opener is equipped with a battery backup is a step towards having a peace of mind if the occasion arises.

Garage Door Medics has been serving Southern California since 1990. Over the years we've developed a distinct familiarity with the neighborhoods and communities we work and live in. Many California residents have older garage door systems and heavy one-piece tilt up doors. Garage doors can weigh anywhere from 80-350 pounds or more. During times of crisis and power failure, manually opening the garage door may be difficult, especially for senior citizens or those with disabilities. Many residents are unaware of the Battery Backup law itself, and how it will affect them. At Garage Door Medics, safety is one of our top priorities. We find it important to keep our neighbors and customers informed and up to date with current available options.



Bonnie Woods holds the very first charcoal drawing she made featuring a hare. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)





get tix: sdpride.org



## FROM PAGE 1 HARES

series has earned awards and propelled Woods into the biggest financial windfall she has had since she began painting 20 years ago.

"Ever since I did that, they've been in major shows, they've won awards, they have sold. And I'm saying 'Wow, these little hares are just taking off," Woods said. "They're doing their thing and they keep wanting to come into my life."

In many of her paintings, the two figures of woman and hare do not touch or even interact. To Woods, the hares are a symbol, not a pet. She notes that hares represented different things across cultures and times, and can be found in Egyptian creation stories, Celtic myths and Greek legends.

"There's multiple meanings. It's never harmful. There's always good things attached to it. They just are trying to come through me, through my work to be shown to the world," she said. "The reason that I think it is working is because it is different than what everyone has ever seen in my work. Jurors in the major shows I've been in have gone, 'I've never seen anything like this.'"

Hares could be mistaken for rabbits except they have longer ears, more powerful legs, and do not burrow. While hares are associated with a variety of characteristics such as diligence, swiftness, impatience and even immorality, Woods resonated with them as protectors.

"These hares have come to me in a male form. Each one looks a

bit like it's masculine. I feel like they are a symbol of protection for the women — like a guardian. They're not a playmate. They're there as a presence," Woods said. "They love her and are there to be some kind of protection or guardian for her."

Now, those paintings are collected in one place — a book Woods created with the help of printer Scott Schaffhausen at So Cal Graphics. "Women and their Hares: An Artist's Journey" includes Woods' writings about how she drew that first hare, growing up in Texas, going to the circus as a child (an aesthetic that still informs her work), and musings about animals.

Part of the proceeds from sales of the book will be donated to San Diego Humane Society's Project Wildlife.

Woods has yet to see a hare in the wild, but from her home, she can look out onto Maple Canyon and see skunks, squirrels and sometimes rabbits.

"The reason I decided to involve the Wildlife Project is because I love those little critters in the canyon and I worry about them," Woods said with a laugh. The division gives injured, orphaned and sick wild animals a second chance at life. They are released back into the wild once they are healed.

Some of Woods' work can be viewed at Inspirations Gallery at 2730 Historic Decatur Road #204 or at the San Diego Water Color Society inside Liberty Station. To order a book or find out more, visit bonniewoods.com.

— Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.\*



"Hare of the New Moon" by Bonnie Woods (Photo courtesy Bonnie Woods)

## City Heights youth unveil mural as a symbol of hope

The Mid-City CAN Youth Council revealed their mural titled "Schools Not Prisons" on Thursday, June 20. The mural featured bright flowers and a large "I Am Possible" to highlight their message that youth can achieve anything with proper investment in their education and alternatives to incarceration.

Council President, Georgette Gomez, will spoke alongside local youth about community-led efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline (SPP) — the system through which students are pushed out of schools and into prisons.

According to the Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (CAN), students' first contact with law enforcement often starts with punitive policies at school. Once students are put into contact with



The new mural in Mid-City aimed at ending the school-to-prison pipeline. (Photos courtesy Imprenta Communications Group)

law enforcement for disciplinary reasons, many are then pushed out of the educational environment and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Mid-City CAN's analysis of 2017 data from the Automated Regional Justice Information System, used by SDPD and regional law enforcement agencies, found youth of color are disproportionately impacted by the SPP. In 2017, black youth in San Diego County were arrested at a rate 3.5 times higher than white youth and Latino youth were arrested at a rate 2.6 times higher than their white peers.

Mid-City CAN's Youth Council seeks to end youth criminalization and chose to create this mural to expand the conversation in San Diego about the need to invest in positive youth development and education.\*



Members of the Mid-City CAN Youth Council paint the mural.

## Bankers Hill Community Group hands out annual awards



for her work preserving Maple Canyon. (Photos by Peter Raymond)

Council member Chris Ward was on hand Monday, June 17, to present awards to the people and organizations being acknowledged for their contributions to the community. Toni Duran came as the representative for state Senator Toni Atkins. Residents, business and property owners



Peter Raymond (middle) was awarded for his work on the Bankers Hill Parking District subcommittee.

annually nominate people and organizations they believe helped improve the Bankers Hill neighborhood throughout the year. This year's winners are:

**Pine Tree Court** was recognized for creatively providing drought tolerant landscape.

Inland Industries was honored

for installation of drought tolerant landscaping and a doggie station.

Ben Baltic and Doug Scott were honored for the design, fabrication, painting and installation of a gate and public art at 1929 Fourth Ave. And for their many years of outstanding service to the Bankers Hill neighborhood and the cty of San Diego.

**San Diego Pride** was recognized for their extensive community involvement and generous giving.

**Tershia d'Elgin** was awarded for being one of the leaders in studying, planning and taking steps to implement protective measures for Maple Canyon.

Extraordinary Desserts was recognized for their nearly 30 years of loyalty to Bankers Hill as evidenced by the relocation of their Fifth Avenue eatery one block to the west in The Louie located at 2870 Fourth Ave.

Bankers Hill Parking District subcommittee was honored for the creation of 106 new parking spaces in 2018, and their tireless efforts for a broad vision for the parking and pedestrian needs of Bankers Hill.

## Hillcrest Town Council prepares to clean up after San Diego Pride

MARY M. MCKENZIE | HILLCREST TOWN COUNCIL

The Hillcrest Town Council (HTC) had a lively agenda for its June 11 meeting. County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher began the meeting exploring the "new direction" being taken by the county board. As the only Democratic on the council, Fletcher's first proposal as a supervisor resulted in a new temporary shelter Downtown, funded by Jewish Family Services for all of 2019. Fletcher also has proposed that the county examine a property at the north end of Third Avenue to be developed as a behavioral health crisis-stabilization unit. The vacant property had been proposed for the development of luxury condos. Fletcher emphasized his commitment to veterans, child welfare, and to environmental justice. Among his many commitments, he serves on the California Air Resources Board. He expressed great concern that San Diego has consistently violated the Clean Air Act, which disproportionately affects lower-income communities where most big polluters

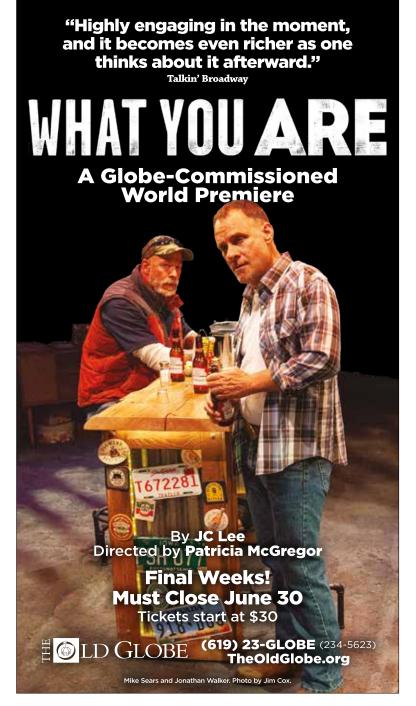
are located.

Christie Hill, advocacy deputy director of the ACLU, briefed the group on several critical bills in Sacramento focused on public safety. Hill spoke first about AB 392, the California Act to Save Lives, introduced by Assembly member Shirley Weber from San Diego. This bill allows police officers to use deadly force only when no other options are available. Hill then explained a 2020 ballot measure restoring voting rights to people on parole.

June is officially Pride month. San Diego Pride programs manager, Bob Leyh, elaborated some of the logistical details of the Pride. He emphasized that this year's festival celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion in New York, which ignited the LGBTQ movement for equal rights. The Spirit of Stonewall Rally takes place on July 12 at 6 p.m. at the Pride flag, where the Pride parade begins the next morning (July 13) at 10 a.m. For information: sdpride.org.

Community members heard public comments and were

see Hillcrest, pg 7



## Uptown News

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## County budget invests in people, services

#### **Nathan Fletcher**

District 4 Supervisor



"The noblest motive is the public good." That motto is inscribed in the seal of the County of San Diego and I see it daily when I enter the building. The public good is best served when we are taking action to address the challenges our region faces.

The recently adopted \$6.25 billion county budget is a step in the right direction of moving us toward action and progress, particularly in tackling the challenges of mental health, homelessness and housing.

The county is headed in a new direction with its spending and the board-approved budget reflects the community's priorities and those of my

Making a greater investment in behavioral health services was high on my priority list and now we are increasing our commitment. The county is funding a significant expansion in outpatient prevention services, including 177 behavioral health beds. We are also increasing our staff of behavioral health workers by 143. Targeted action and resources will help more people confront their mental health and substance abuse challenges and support regional efforts to tackle the homeless crisis. The Behavioral Health Services budget total is \$708 million for fiscal year 2019-20, a \$54.7 million increase over last year.

More affordable housing is needed across the county. In order to expedite the process, we added 11 Housing and Community Development Services staffers to help ensure the 600-700 affordable housing units in our pipeline

can be brought online faster. We also added \$25 million to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund.

In Child Welfare Services, we are adding more resources and 125 new positions, including a significant number of protective social workers. A few months ago, Supervisor Greg Cox and I were named co-chairs of the new Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board to bring greater accountability to the county's child welfare system. If we are going to honor this work and truly fulfill our responsibility to heal abused and neglected children and mend families, we needed to invest in expanding our workforce.

We have also budgeted \$200,000 in the Office of the Public Defender to help immigrant families retain legal counsel regarding their immigration status. These services will provide needed support with understanding the deportation process and immigrants. We have a moral obligation to help our immigrant neighbors make informed decisions.

Additionally, we needed to become more proactive with our public health initiatives in the year ahead, so we are hiring 27 public health nurses and other staff to carry out these duties. We are also going to bring on 15 people to work in the community to raise awareness and connect county residents with critical services such as Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWorks.

Throughout the county, but particularly in District 4, we are investing more in activities for youth. We have allocated \$300,000 to expand the San Diego Nights Program from unincorporated parts of the county to 10 nearby locations where we have higher rates of delinquency and poverty. This program will increase opportunities for youth to participate in safe, enriching activities.

The San Diego Nights Program is a proven model for reducing juvenile delinquency, preventing gang violence and it promotes overall community

These are just some highlights of the significant investments the county is making in people and programs in the next fiscal year. I attribute this shift in priorities to our more open and transparent budget process.

I believe our democracy works best when we have the highest level of engagement from the community.

To ensure this year's budget process offered more input from residents, we passed a measure to restore the evening budget hearing. In the lead-up to the evening meeting, I hosted three community budget forums in my district. Hundreds were in attendance.

At each step in this more transparent budgeting process, we successfully demonstrated the voice of the people was being heard. The sum of these actions helped to build trust between the community and the county; setting a new precedent for years to come.

The result was that together, the community and the county, have delivered a budget that ensures we meet our financial obligations, and that will provide programs and services that offer the greatest benefit to the people we serve.

To learn more about the County of San Diego's budget, visit SanDiegoCounty.gov. To connect with my office call 619-531-5544 or email Nathan.Fletcher@sdcounty.ca.gov. Follow us on Twitter @SupFletcher and Facebook @SupervisorFletcherSD.

— Supervisor Nathan Fletcher was elected in 2018 to represent District 4 on the County Board of Supervisors. \*

## Prevent financial elder abuse

#### District **Attorney News**

Summer Stephan



As your District Attorney, I'm committed to increasing communication and accessibility between the DA's Office and you, the community. One way I hope to do that is through this new monthly column, where I'll be providing information and tips on how you can stay safe. I'll also keep you updated on current trends and topics in the criminal justice system.

Since June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month, I'd like to bring your attention to important tips we give to seniors so they don't become the victim of financial abuse. Shame often prevents a senior citizen from reporting they have been a victim and we want to stop that mindset in its tracks.

#### **Every phone should have caller ID**

Even with caller ID, scammers use fake phone numbers to make it appear as if the call is local. If you don't know the phone number calling, don't answer. If the call is important, they will leave a voicemail and you can return the call if you determine it is safe.

#### Government agencies or utility companies do not call with threats of fines or jail

If you receive a call demanding payment from someone claiming to be from Social Security, law enforcement, the court or the utility company, hang up. This is a common scam in which fraudsters will try to convince you to pay or risk fines or jail time.

#### Gift cards are for giving, not making payments

Never purchase gift cards at the direction of someone you don't know. Scammers obtain money from elderly victims by asking them to purchase gift cards through iTunes, Amazon, Google or from large retail stores.

#### Choose a caregiver with caution

Never assume that a caregiver has been through a criminal background check even if hired through a reputable agency. Ask the agency directly or request that your caregiver submit to a background check.

#### Protect mail and use a shredder

Never allow incoming or outgoing mail to sit in an unsecured mailbox where the public has access. Shred discarded mail or financial statements containing identifying information.

#### News that you won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes is a scam

Don't be fooled by a caller or email saying you have won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes, but that to claim the money you need to pay taxes up front. These are scams.

#### Don't give in to hard-tactic sales pressures for a loan

If you are offered services, repairs or a solar system by a drop-in sales person, do not sign paperwork the same day. Ask for a copy and take time to review it, first. Door-to-door sales people may not disclose the associated costs or consequences of signing up for their services, products or loans. A reputable business will happily give you time to make a decision without pressure.

#### Don't send money to a love interest you have not met in person

Romance scams are prolific and result in significant financial loss. It's common for elderly victims to meet romantic interests online based on phony photos. Eventually the phony love interest will ask for money and describe an emergency situation. If you meet someone online, arrange a safe, public

see Grand/Prestoz, pg 8

## Financial planning with annuities

**BUSINESS / NEWS** 

**Uptown** Money Steve Doster



Annuities are extremely complex and dangerous! Most annuities should not be part of your financial planning. It's important to understand them at a high level to avoid trouble. There are three types of annuities: variable, indexed, and immediate. Let's look at all three types and how they work. But first, a financial planning spoiler alert — don't ever buy a variable or indexed annuity!

#### Variable annuities

Starting with the worst: variable annuities are not appropriate for smart wealth management. Financial advisors earn commissions by selling expensive variable annuities. Unfortunately, they are excellent at it, selling their U.S. clients more than \$100 billion of variable annuities in 2018! This is \$100 billion of clients' retirement money going into expensive financial products. And this is happening every year!

After boiling away all the marketing mumbo jumbo, a variable annuity is an expensive way to invest in mutual funds. There are several fees (insurance charge, rider fees, subaccount fees) that add up to about 3-5% per year. And once you sign the paperwork, you are locked into the annuity for several years unless you pay a huge fee of 7-10% of the cash value (sort of like ransom).

While your real cash value is being eaten away by high fees, those tricky financial companies send you quarterly statements showing a growing account value. Look closely though. These values on your

account statement will name it something like "accumulation value," "benefit base," or "annuitization value." These values are funny money accounts that are meaningless to you. The funny money values are used in a formula to calculate a monthly payment you could receive. You can never get your hands on these funny money account values. The only value that matters on your variable annuity statement is the section labeled "cash value." This is the actual value of your investment account.

You may also be told that it's a good idea to purchase an annuity with IRA money because annuities have tax-deferred growth. This is not true — actually, it's a horrible idea! Your IRA already allows for tax-deferred growth until you take distributions in retirement. Don't pay all the extra fees of a variable annuity for something you already have.

#### **Indexed annuities**

The second type of annuity is called an indexed annuity. These little critters are tricky! The financial advisor (aka salesperson) will promise you the upside of the stock market when it goes up, and your account value will never go down when the stock market corrects. While this is not exactly a lie, it's not the whole truth

Here's how indexed annuities work. Think of a certificate of deposit (CD) you get from a bank. It pays you an interest rate and never loses value. Indexed annuities work similarly. The difference is the interest rate comes from how the indexes perform. When you buy an indexed annuity, you choose how to "invest" your money. You might choose

50% in the S&P 500 index, 25% in the S&P Small Cap index, and 25% in the MSCI international stock index. Your interest rate will be tied to how those indexes perform each month. If they are negative, no big deal because you will just earn a 0% interest rate that month.

Here's how you lose in this deal. The annuity company puts a cap on how much they pay out each month. For example, the annuity company will say you can't earn more than 2% per month on the S&P 500 index. If the S&P 500 goes up 5% in one month, you get 2% (your cap) and the annuity company gets 3%. If the S&P 500 goes down 5%, you get 0% and the annuity company takes the hit for the 5% loss. You probably think "hey, that's not a bad bet." However, it is.

Annuity companies have the statistics to know that they will always win with this deal. Historical data shows that most market performance occurs in just a handful of days each year. For instance, missing out on the S&P 500's five best days each year results in investment returns about one-third less than money that is invested the entire year. Investment returns drop even

more when you miss out on the 10 best days of the year. This means those caps embedded in your indexed annuity hold you back from ever participating in those top five and 10 days every year. The annuity company collects all the winnings on those big earning days, not you!

#### **Immediate annuities**

Finally, we get to an annuity that can help with your financial planning and provide peace of mind if utilized correctly. Immediate annuities are an exchange of your money for a guaranteed payment for the rest of your life. An example would be buying a \$100,000 immediate annuity. This money is paid to the annuity company. In return, the person buying the immediate annuity will get a monthly payment for life. (The monthly amount is based on age and sex, but 5-10% of the original purchase amount is a typical range.) This can be a great trade-off for a person in their 70s in good health. The immediate annuity provides an income stream that will never be depleted and can help them achieve their goals of covering a certain amount of living expenses no matter how long they live.

The downside is that someone could pass away shortly after buying an immediate annuity. In that case, that \$100,000 is gone and will not go to any heirs or charities. However, there are payment options to avoid this problem by guaranteeing a certain number of years' worth of payments even if the person passes away.

Most types of annuities should not be part of your financial planning to achieve your goals. Be particularly wary of variable and indexed annuities. Immediate annuities can be a good option depending on your situation and financial goals. If you currently own a variable or indexed annuity (especially if you used IRA money), find a fiduciary financial advisor to help you understand your annuity and determine if it makes sense to surrender it.

– Steve Doster, CFP is the financial planning manager at Rowling & Associates – a fee-only wealth management and CPA firm helping individuals create a worry-free financial life. Rowling & Associates works to a fiduciary standard of care helping people with their taxes, investments, and financial planning. Read more articles at rowling.com/blog.\*

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#### FROM PAGE 5 HILLCREST

updated by several representatives of our elected officials. Zach Bunshaft reiterated U.S. Representative Susan Davis' support for the Equality Act and for DREAMERs. Tyler Birch, representing Council member Chris Ward, announced that more funding has been secured to trim trees and clear brush in our local canyons.

Acting HTC chair Jae Mohr announced that the council is again organizing the post-Pride cleanup in cooperation with San Diego Pride. Volunteers are asked to meet at 9 a.m. at Sirens on Monday, July 15. To learn more and to help keep our community fabulous, please contact HTC's Neighborhood Improvement Chair William Pontius at wpontiu@wgu.edu.

Mohr also explained that the Hillcrest Town Council is in a state of transition after the previous chair stepped down from the board. The remaining board members have expressed their continued commitment to the organization and the Hillcrest community.

The Hillcrest Town Council welcomes all community members. There is no regular meeting in July. Instead, the Hillcrest Town Council is hosting its summer social on July 26 at Sisters Pizza, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be Aug. 13. For more info or to help with the cleanup, check us out on Facebook or Meetup! Or contact hillcresttc@yahoo.com.

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



3452 HANCOCK ST

SAN DIEGO CA, 92110

## What happened to the San Diego Cable Railway in Bankers Hill?

JILL DIAMOND | UPTOWN NEWS

While the cable cars and underground wiring they once were operated by have long disappeared from the Bankers Hill area and throughout Downtown San Diego, there is still a reminder of the San Diego Cable Railway Co.

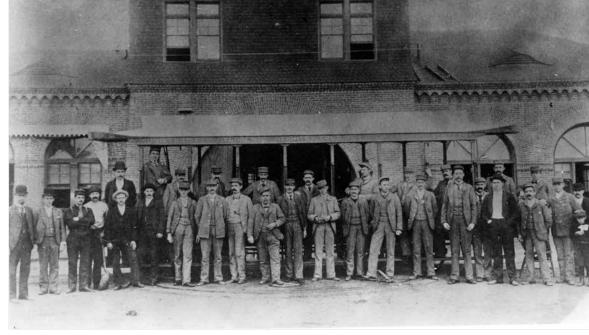
A one-level building designed by William Hebbard in 1913 stands at the corner of Spruce and Fourth streets that served as the railway's powerhouse, according to Bruce Semelsberger, archivist and historian of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum.

"The powerhouse was made of brick and used steam power to turn the large wheels around, which the cables were wound.

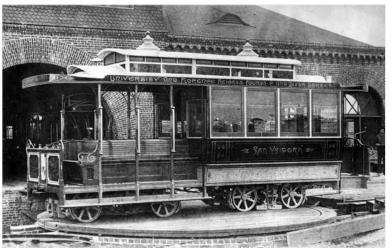
There were 12 cars, all had names rather than numbers," he

As for the railway, he said it was incorporated in August 1889 with the goal of building a cable car line like the one in San Francisco to go up and down Bankers Hill. It started at a turntable at Sixth and L streets and went up Sixth to Spruce streets, he said.

"The cars were latched onto a steel cable with a hemp center that ran through a slot in the street and was guided by cast iron yokes," he explained. "People used the railway to go to and from one part of town to another; to work, to shop ... It was a popular way to get around in



Cable company employees (Photo courtesy Southwest Railway Library of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in the Eric Sanders



A cable car posed on the powerhouse turntable (Photo courtesy Southwest Railway Librarywent to be entertained, picnic of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum in the R.P. Middlebrook collection)

those days and not that expensive for a roundtrip, perhaps about 5 cents."

Semelsberger said the capital stock was \$50,000 and it was financed by the California National Bank, a local bank. At Spruce Street, the line moved onto Fourth Street and latched onto a second cable up to Adams Avenue where Mission Cliff Gardens was built.

"Mission Cliff Gardens featured Japanese gardens overlooking Mission Valley where people

and visit the ostrich farm. It

also had a huge dance pavilion with dances on Saturday night," he added.

#### **Trial run**

Semelsberger said the former cable car line went into operation on June 10, 1890, when it had a trial run, and a few days later on June 12, 1890, a gala opening took place. Seven cars were decorated for the occasion and a platform for speakers was set up.

The project was completed at a cost of \$300,000 and when fully operational the cable cars essentially ran on a loop and went from Sixth and L streets to Spruce, and at Spruce made a little jog to Fourth Street. There were two separate loops that ran from the powerhouse — an upper and a Downtown loop the later breezed along at 8 mph, which was considered high speed in 1890. All in all, the cable car line went about four miles.

#### End of the railway

While popular in its day, the line only ran for 13 months, at which time the owners of the bank, J.W. Collins and D.D. Dare, absconded with all the money and the line was forced into bankruptcy, Semelsberger said.

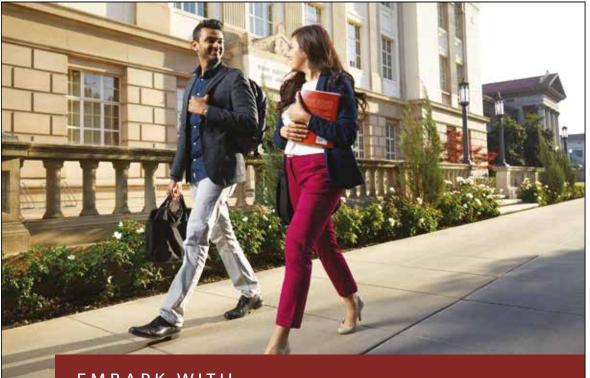
"The story goes that they ran off with all the money from the bank and the company ended right then and there," he said.

Semelsberger said others tried to raise money to keep the railway going, like company Vice President John C. Fisher, but it never happened due to the collapse of the great land boom in San Diego. He said by 1890 the boom was over and the population in San Diego was reduced to about 12,000 people. At the height, there had been 40,000 but after the boom ended, it had dropped and financing for anything was hard to come by, Semelsberger said.

Eventually the San Diego Cable Railway Co. was purchased and converted to an electric trolley line called Citizens Traction, which was later bought by John D. Spreckels and incorporated into his San Diego Electric Railway that ran until 1949.

"It was San Diego's original trolley system and was an extensive system," Semelsberger said. "It was a popular way for people to get around in San Diego from the Mexican border all the way to La Jolla."

 Jill Diamond is a Southern California freelance writer with a penchant for interesting historical pieces. Reach her at JillDiamond History@gmail.com.\*



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### FROM PAGE 6

place to meet before becoming too invested in the relationship. Also, never send money.

#### Bonus tip: Your grandchild is not in jail in a foreign country

One of the most popular scams is the grandparent scam. This is when you get a call that your grandchild is in peril. If you receive a phone call from someone saying your grandchild needs bail money to get out of a jail in a foreign country, hang up. This is a scam. Call your loved one directly to confirm.

I'm committed to holding accountable those who would take advantage of our elders, but I also know that if we raise awareness in the community, we can prevent crime from happening in the first place. If you have been the victim of elder abuse, report it to Adult Protective Services: 800-339-4661.

— District Attorney Summer Stephan has dedicated nearly 30 years to serving justice and victims of crime as prosecutor. She is a national leader in fighting sex crimes and human trafficking and in creating smart and fair criminal justice solutions and restorative justice practices that treat the underlying causes of addiction and mental illness and that keep young people from being incarcerated. \*

## You will like 'As You Like It'

JEAN LOWERISON | UPTOWN NEWS

Banishment by a mean old usurping king results in no fewer than four marriages, general merriment and a forest wedding party complete with confetti in the Old Globe's delightful recreation of Shakespeare's charming pastoral comedy "As You Like It," playing through July 21 on the theater's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre stage.

Jessica Stone directs her fifth Globe play with wit and a steady hand, moving it to the 18th-century Enlightenment period in France, where the woods are woodsier, the wine and music much better (the latter thanks to the luscious vocal stylings of Summer Broyhill and her guitar) and the wedding parties way more fun.

A lovely (and huge) center-stage pastoral painting by Fragonard is moved back and forth (and used as a scrim), posts become trees (well, nude ones), perfect for those love notes Orlando posts to Rosalind, and viewers get a sense of movement throughout which works well.

Love is the main topic here, but points are also made about injustice, forgiveness and the contrast between life invigorating nature and the phoniness of life in court.

Charming, take-charge Rosalind and her affable cousin Celia (Nikki Massoud) are both adorable and inseparable, so when usurper uncle Frederick (Cornell Womack) tosses Rosalind out of the castle, he loses his daughter Celia in the bargain, and both girls end up in the forest of Arden, where a near epidemic of romance is about to blossom. Rosalind's dad, Duke

Senior, will also take refuge in the woods.

The romantic stars here are Rosalind (Meredith Garretson) and Orlando (Jon Orsini), a young gentleman who has been mistreated by his older brother Oliver (Aubrey Deeker Hernandez). They will be joined by three other couples.

But first, Rosalind thinks a little deception would be fun. She will dress en homme and call herself Ganymede; Celia will fake poverty and call herself the shepherdess Aliena ("stranger"). They will travel with court fool Touchstone (Vincent Randazzo, impossible to miss in chartreuse tights).

Meanwhile, Oliver figures he'll make short work of Orlando by setting him up for sure defeat at the hands of court wrestler Charles (Roman Barris). But this play is full of twists, and Orlando wins, which entitles him to receive half of his inheritance.

Orlando's trusty old family servant Adam (Joseph Kamal) warns Orlando to flee and offers all the money he's saved. Orlando instead takes Adam along to the forest.

When Orlando spots Rosalind, er, Ganymede, he's fascinated (not to mention suspicious about her real identity) but he plays along, showing the new "gentleman" his many notes to Rosalind on the trees until he/ she offers to cure him of this pesky Rosalind affliction.

One day, Orlando spots brother Oliver about to be devoured by a lion. Orlando saves him, just in time for Oliver to discover that Celia is pretty cute and seems interested in him. Meanwhile, Touchstone sets his sights on





Jessica Stone directs the play by William Shakespeare which is playing at The

Old Globe until July 21.

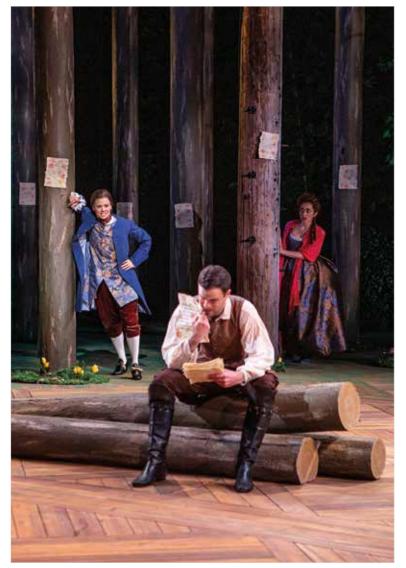
#### The details

"As You Like It" plays through July 21, 2019 at The Old Globe's Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Wav in Balboa Park. Some Mondays and Tuesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets: 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

dull-witted shepherdess Audrey (Yadira Correa).

In the forest, love is also in bloom, at least for some. Shepherd Silvius (Mason Conrad) has amusingly overthe-top hots for shepherdess Phoebe (Morgan Taylor), who does not return the compliment (she's hooked on "Ganymede") but, as Rosalind will later tell her, "Sell when you can. You are not for all markets."

Let's see, have I forgotten anyone? Oh yes, the melancholy Jaques (Mark H. Dold), who boasts "I can suck melancholy out of a song as a weasel sucks eggs" (charming, isn't it?) and does a splendid job on the famous "ages of man" speech. He will make himself useful by

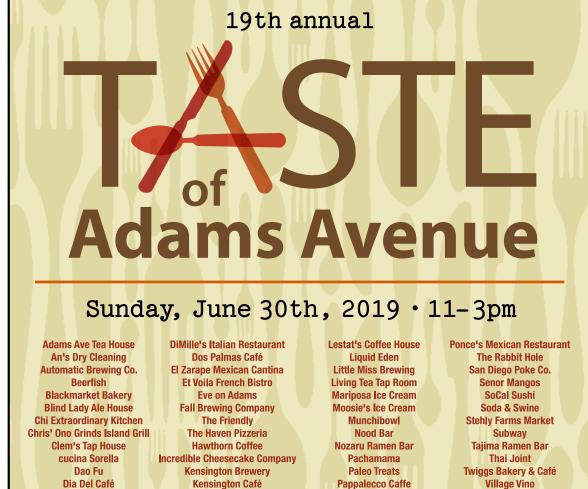


Meredith Garretson as Ganymede, Jon Orsini as Orlando, and Nikki Massoud as Celia in "As You Like It" (Photos by Jim Cox)

marrying the happy couples.

It's almost exhausting, isn't it? But well directed, wonderfully acted and a terrific night in the theater. Don't miss it.

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





**For More Info** tasteofadams.com



A triple-themed vegan eatery is moving into the structure where **Anthem** restaurant previously operated before it took over the kitchen at nearby **Toronado** a few months ago.

The ambitious project, called The Village, will offer Mexican food, sushi and menu items from the La Mesa-based Natural Delights Juice Bar, which also serves vegan wraps.

"We'll have three different menus all under the same roof," said Natural Delights manager,



This 'green giant' smoothie and other vegan drinks by Natural Delights are coming to a multi-concept restaurant in Uptown. (Courtesy photo)

Esmeralda Gutierrez, whose mother, Sonia Gutierrez, and aunt, Alondra Ruiz, own the operation.

Due to open by early August, the interior design, she added, may also have separated seating areas specific to the varied menus. 2611 El Cajon Blvd.

Los Panchos' Taco Shop in Hillcrest is due to reopen in about six weeks, according to owner Luis Diaz. The eatery will resurface one address away, in the corner structure on Washington Street and Fifth Avenue where **Brazen BBQ** previously operated (441 Washington St.). Dunkin' **Donuts** is going into that spot by

FOOD AND DRINK

In addition to its popular tacos and burritos, the revised operation will offer a full bar as well as entrees featuring seafood, steaks, fajitas and more.

"We were hoping to be open before San Diego Pride (July 12-14), but it wasn't possible," said Luis, who just opened a new Mission Valley location (6110 Friars Road) that offers the shop's standard fare, plus complimentary bean-chorizo soup that comes with all orders. A beer and wine license is in the pipeline for that location. 619-272-0626.



(I to r) Los Panchos' Taco Shop owner Luis Diaz and his brother Carlos at their new Mission Valley location. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Gather 'round the crackling wood-fire oven at Fort Oak's 14-seat dining counter for a six-course meal experience presented every two weeks on Wednesday and Thursday evenings by chef-owner Brad Wise. The exclusive dinners debut July 3 and will be held every other week starting July 17.

Customers will get to savor off-menu items involving locally grown vegetables,

grilled meats and fresh seafood crafted for the occasion by Wise and his culinary team. The price is \$100 per person. Wine pairings are available for an additional \$40.

The Mission Hills restaurant is part of the locally based group that also operates Trust **Restaurant and Hundred Proof.** 1011 Fort Stockton Drive, 619-722-3398, fortoaksd.com



Chef Brad Wise will create exclusive dishes at Fort Oak for guests seated at the counter. (Photo by Jim Sullivan)

The famed Chicken Pie Shop in North Park was recently named Small Business of the Year for 2019 in District 39 by California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins. She congratulated members of the Townsend family, who have owned the eatery since 2000, for upholding it as a San Diego institution.

"It has thrived for eight decades because it adheres to several core principles: high-quality product, first-rate customer service and an undeniable sense of community," Atkins declared in a statement.

The pie shop originally opened in Downtown San Diego in 1938. Its late founder, George Whitehead, moved the business to Fifth Avenue and Robinson Street in Hillcrest in the 1940s.



An iconic restaurant receives public recognition. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Because of continued popularity, it ended up moving to its current, larger space nearly 30 years ago. 2633 El Cajon Blvd., 619-295-0156,

chickenpieshop.com.

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Chef Ernesto Moreno is creating a menu for a new South American restaurant in Normal Heights. (Lindsay Brean Public Relations)

Former sous chef for **Urban Plates** in Los Angeles, Ernesto Moreno, will serve as executive chef at the all-organic **Pachamana**, due to open in Normal Heights in July by former professional tennis player and model, Victoria Vannucci of Argentina.

In keeping with the restaurant's South American slant, the chef will replicate dishes

indigenous to Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, Argentina and Chile, as well as Mexico and Cuba.

Moreno was also a kitchen manager at the Los Angeles location of **Cafe Gratitude**, the plant-based restaurant with a local branch in Little Italy. A native of San Diego County, his menu will feature only a small amount of animal proteins

sourced from humanely raised livestock. 3737 Adams Ave., 619-363-2358, whoispachamama.com.

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

## Flexing to the times

True North Tavern hits a milestone anniversary

### Come On Get Happy!

It seemed like only yesterday when I first ducked into True North Tavern for a couple of beers and a chargrilled burger. The establishment was fairly new at the time, and I've since made subsequent returns for bloody marys, craft brews and various bar grub.

In my most recent visit, not only did I learn that the commodious tavern just turned 10 years old (time flies at a frightening rate when you frequently drink around town), but that it has undergone a few changes since the adjoining Urban Solace shuttered several months ago.

The closure had a significant impact on True North because the two establishments shared a kitchen, and True North enjoyed culinary support from the Urban Solace team.

"We went from basically managing a bar to having to manage a restaurant after Urban Solace suddenly closed," said manager David Cabal, who presided over the recent streamlining of True North's food menu. In addition, the reconfigured kitchen is smaller.

He added that the food offerings haven't changed too much, except for losing a salad here and a sandwich there — and that the burgers are now cooked "smash style" on a flat griddle.



One of Uptown's largest drinking establishments just turned 10 years old. (Photos by Dr. Ink)

What remains feels adequate considering this is first and foremost a multi flat-screen sports bar that has always attracted crowds more interested in beer and mid-level cocktails rather than copious meal choices. Thus, the happy-hour deals apply only to booze.

Well drinks, El Jimador margaritas and domestic draft beers (plus True North Blonde Ale by Mission Brewing Company) are \$4 each. House wines by the glass are \$5. In the face of rising rents and increased competition, these are comfortable prices.

I went with the margarita after my waitress pointed out it's made with fresh lime juice

and agave instead of some lousy commercial sour mix. Spiked with an ounce and a half of the namesake tequila, it was one of those rare margaritas I could reorder a second and third time in one sitting. It's how I always wish the drink would taste — somewhere between a smidgen sweet and vaguely lip-puckering.

#### True North Tavern

3815 30th St. (North Park) 619-291-3815, www.truenorthtavern.com Happy hour: 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday

The tavern's Buffalo-style chicken wings have always impressed me because they're evenly sauced without going overboard. As of late, the appendages are given a light dry rub before hitting the deep fryer.

So from the regular menu I succumbed to an order of eight (\$13). The medium-size wings turned up extra-crispy as requested, and they were served with crisp celery and carrots and decent blue cheese dressing.

Tater tots are another longtime staple here. I ordered the "loaded" version (\$10.50) featuring a rather goopy queso sauce, chipotle crema, salsa fresca and fresh cilantro. The ingredients jived well, and every barrel-shaped tot was crispy and not riddled by salt.

The afternoon happy hour is a radical change of pace and atmosphere compared to True North's evening scene, when lines form outside the door and a \$10 cover charge goes into effect at 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays (sometimes earlier at

#### **RATINGS**

#### Drinks:

The very drinkable El Jimador margarita contains an ounce and a half of the namesake tequila and a blend of lime juice and agave. Discounted beers during happy hour are limited mostly to domestic brands.

#### Food: TTTT

The Buffalo-style chicken wings were perfectly sauced and served extra-crispy as requested. And the loaded tater tots were topped with tasty sauces and garnishes.

#### Value:

Price breaks on drinks and food during happy hour range from 30-50%.

#### Service:

In this late-afternoon visit, the wait staff was casually mellow, but completely efficient.

#### Atmosphere: TTTTT

Think giant sports bar, but in the middle of hipster North Park.

lower prices for special events).

For the anniversary, Cabal says plans are still in the works for some sort of public celebration in the coming months. Keep an eye on the tavern's Facebook page and website for updates.





## **UPTOWN CALENDAR**

#### Friday, June 28

50th Anniversary of the **Stonewall Uprising** 

#### Impride LGBTQ+ Pride **Comedy Festival**

Finest City Improv is partnering with San Diego Pride to bring you their fourth annual Impride LGBTQ+ Pride Comedy Festival, benefiting San Diego Pride. The festival features three days of LGBTO+ related improv comedy teams, featured shows, workshops, yoga classes, and parties. Finest City Improv, and the improv community in general, has offered a welcoming and safe environment for the LGBTQ+ community and this festival celebrates that shared pride! June 28-30. Workshops, shows and prices vary per event. bit.ly/2WR6HL2

#### San Diego Kings

It's the fourth Friday! That means the Kings take over Gossip Grill! June 28 is also one of the most important dates in LGBTO+ history, The Stonewall Riots. Come join the San Diego Kings as they remember the event that started it all! Your favorites take the stage with our special guests Leggs Benedict and Sister Allison Wonderland! Doors at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Come early to get the best seats in the house! \$7 at the door. Credit cards accepted, but don't forget your tip money. DJ Kinkyloops spins after the show to keep the party going, and Gossip's hotties pour cool drinks all night long! bit.ly/2IT8vcR

#### Saturday, June 29

#### **City Heights Business Expo**

The City Heights Community Development Corp. (CDC) will hosts its first-ever City Heights Business Expo on Saturday, June 29, to highlight small businesses and micro-enterprises that have received technical and financial assistance from local nonprofits in order to start up, grow and thrive in this unique Mid-City neighborhood. Aspiring entrepreneurs will be given free community resources and technical support. 4-8 p.m. at Fair@44, 4350 El Cajon Blvd.



#### San Diego Pub House Party

10 Barrel Brewing Co.'s San Diego brewpub is commemorating its second year in East Village this summer with a party on Saturday, June 29, from 2 p.m. until close. Open to the public, the event will feature a DJ, live music, games, giveaways and 20 beers on tap. In traditional house party style, 10 Barrel will transform the downstairs patio into a vintage basement party and convert the mezzanine into a backvard space, complete with a bonfire and lounge area. The pub will also offer games like cornhole and shuffleboard throughout the space, along with Nintendo 64 "Mario Kart" on the 12-foot

projector screen. Special guest DJ Pocket will spin on the rooftop from 2-5 p.m., followed by local band, Jet West, from 6-8 p.m.

#### 'Mariam's Tea Party: Broken **Blockbuster**

Featuring: Mariam T, Glitz Glam, Evelyn Rose, Michele Ada, Disco Dollie, Lolita Von Tease, Vanity Jones and Gro Tesqua. Special performance by The Diamond Dogs. Sounds by DJ Jon Williams. Tickets \$10. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Featuring Skrewball Whiskey. MO's Bar and Grill. 308 University Ave. bit.ly/2KtEHFP

#### 'Legislating for Our Lives'

Hosted by ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties, "Legislating for Our Lives: A Forum on AB 392 and ACA6" is a forum focusing on current legislation on two important criminal justice bills. Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 6 will restore voting rights to people on parole in CA. AB 392, the California Act to Save Lives, will update California's outdated use-of-force standard to ensure law enforcement officers avoid using deadly force when they have alternatives. Attendees will also hear how to advocate together for the passage of these bills. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Second Chance, 6145 Imperial Ave. Registration required. bit.ly/2wZCY3p

#### **Young Professionals Council Academy Graduation**

For the past eight years, the YPC Academy Graduation Brunch has celebrated the accomplishments and future endeavors of the Young Professionals Council Academy. We invite you to join the 2019 graduating class and members of the Young Professionals Council as we toast to their accomplishments. Single admission tickets are \$65 and include a buffet brunch. Additional supporter and sponsorship levels are available. The Prado at Balboa Park – Weddings & Events, 1549 El Prado, Suite 12. bit.ly/31DHzGu

#### **Dance workshop**

Enjoy a live DJ, drums, food for purchase by local vendors and a free dance workshop and performance hosted by PGK DANCE. Performances by Pasacat Dance of the Philippines, The Tyser-Dance Project, Allie Martinez, Montgomery Middle School Dance Arts and Southwestern College Dance. Doors open at 12 p.m. and performances start at 2 p.m. Arts Park at Chollas Creek, 5010 Market Street.

#### Sunday, June 30



#### **Taste of Adams Avenue**

The 19th annual Taste of Adams Avenue will take place from 11a.m.-3 p.m., along Adams Avenue, from University Heights through Normal Heights to Kensington. This year's taste will feature 48 Adams Avenue restaurants, coffeehouses, breweries, wine bars, and exceptional eateries in one of San Diego's most prominent neighborhoods. Taste of Adams Avenue tickets are \$35 in advance, and \$40 day of the event. Advance tickets may be purchased online at

tasteofadams.com

#### Thursday, July 4

#### An 1800s Independence Day Celebration

Come and celebrate a historic Independence Day with staff and volunteers in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The day includes a parade around the plaza, an old-fashioned square dance, 19th-century crafts and games. The day culminates with a visually stunning pie-eating contest for all ages. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Saturday, July 6



#### **She Fest**

She Fest is a woman-centered event that celebrates and supports the talents and contributions of women while fostering meaningful connections within and between the LGBT and larger San Diego communities. This event is free to the public and aims to provide a platform for inclusivity of transgender women, nonbinary and intersex folks, and gender non-conformist to feel represented and supported. North Park Community Park, 4044 Idaho St. from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Bid Park Summer Concert** North Park Community Association is hosting a summer dance party. Shake away the June gloom with a fresh set of funky jams from San Diego's premier all-nurnose soul outfit Jake Najor & the Moment of Truth. 3-7 p.m. at Bird Park.

#### Sunday, July 7

#### **PREP Social**

Come to PREP Social, a clothing swap for trans women and the nonbinary community! The event will include a pop-up swap, resources, entertainment and PrEP and sexual health topics. Although not required, don't forget to bring clothes/accessories to swap! Located at Good To Go San Diego at 3830 Park Blvd. 2-4 p.m.

#### Wednesday, July 10



#### **Light Up the Cathedral**

Join interfaith leaders, elected officials, and San Diego's LGBTQ community at this official San Diego Pride 2019 event. To celebrate Pride Week, we will honor our LGBTQ interfaith community and witness the Cathedral's annual ceremonial rainbow lighting. This interfaith event will feature Jewish activist and Rabbinical student Steven Goldstein, who champions interfaith organizing as a method of combating transphobia, homophobia, and anti-Semitism as our keynote speaker. The service will also include performances by the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus, the San Diego Women's Chorus, and presentation of the Light of Pride award by Pride Executive Director Fernando Lopez to this year's honoree, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, for their service to the Jewish, LGBTQ, and refugee communities in our region. 7-8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2728 6th Ave.

#### '50 Years of Fabulous'

Presented by FilmOut San Diego, Unite! Music Festival and San Diego Pride. Director Jethro Patalinghug's "50 Years of Fabulous" recounts the rich history of the Imperial Council, the oldest LGBT charity organization in the world. Founded in San Francisco by renowned activist, drag queen and performer José Sarria, the council has helped shaped LGBT life and social history in San Francisco and beyond throughout the last five decades. Sarria was also the first openly gay man to run for political office in the United States in 1961. From its genesis as a critical public space for the community and capacity building of LGBT San Franciscans, to its vital role in the advocacy for LGBT human rights, "50 Years of Fabulous" documents the full scope of the organization's historical evolution up to its contemporary struggle in finding relevance — both in the wake of social progress it has helped foster, and in light of a newly empowered political coalition committed to rolling back a half century of civil rights achievements. Landmark's Hillcrest Cinemas at 3965 5th Ave. 7-9:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, July 11

#### **Summer Family Fun with** musician Craig Newton

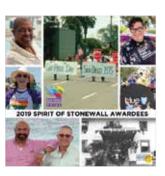
In this special family program, multi-instrumental musician Craig Newton will entertain children with catchy songs and rhythms. This show is one of several offered as part of Mission Valley Library's summer reading program. What is the summer reading program? It's a chance for everyone — babies through adults – to come to the library for fun programs, great reads (plus movies and music) and the chance to win books and other prizes! Visit sandiegolibrary.org for more information. 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Community Room at the Mission Valley Library.

#### Friday, July 12



#### 'In Shape and Mode: Murmurs of the Future

QTPOC Colectivo will hold its fourth annual art show featuring performer Amber St. James and artwork by Albie Cartagenes. 5 p.m. at Centro Cultural de la Raza, 2004 Park Blvd. \$5 donation suggested but no one will be turned away.



#### **Spirit of Stonewall Rally**

Pride celebrations everywhere trace their heritage to the evening of June 28, 1969, when patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City said "No more!" to police harassment. That protest has grown to annual events held in major cities throughout the world. In San Diego, our first rally was held in 1975. San Diego Pride's Spirit of Stonewall Rally is a time to recognize and honor leaders who are working hard to preserve our gains and meet the many challenges still facing our community. Come join us as cheering crowds and energetic speakers kick off San Diego Pride Weekend! 6-7 p.m. at Hillcrest Pride Flag, 1600 University Ave.

#### Saturday, July 13



#### San Diego Pride

Tickets are on sale for this year's San Diego Pride Festival on July 13-14. The festival is time to be out and proud in San Diego tradition. Enjoy the city's largest celebration with thousands of attendees, vendors and information booths. Entertainment includes more than 100 entertainers with four stages. General Admission: \$15-\$30. VIP Admission: \$150-\$200. High schoolaged youth and under admitted for free at the box office. Marston Point, Balboa Park, Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street. sdpride.org

#### San Diego Day

This day celebrates 250 years of diverse cultures in San Diego. This fun-filled day will have information and activities about the many cultures that have contributed to make San Diego what it is today. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Sunday, July 14

#### French Fête

Bleu Bohème, located at 4090 Adams Ave. in Kensington, will celebrate Bastille Day and its 'douzième anniversaire.' 12th anniversary, with a threecourse French feast and featured cocktails, available exclusively on Sunday, July 14. Created by owner and executive chef, Ken Irvine, the specialty dinner will begin with soupe au pistou, summer vegetable soup with white beans, campanelle pasta and fresh basil pistou with parmesan. For the entrée, guests may enjoy carre d'agneau, rack of lamb with sautéed spinach, farro-goat cheese gratin and red wine gastrique. The meal will conclude with crêpes suzette for dessert: sweet crêpes rolled with oranges and Grand Marnier, topped with vanilla ice cream. The prix fixe dinner is priced at \$58 per person or available a la carte, with selections priced individually.

#### **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. bit.ly/LestatsWest

#### Tuesdays

#### **Introduction to Buddhism &** Meditation

Join an all-ages introductory class to learn the basic Buddhist concepts as well as participate in a discussion and silent meditation. Weekly event led by Jeff Zlotnik. Free. 7-8 p.m. at Dharma Bum Temple 4144 Campus Ave. Also held on Saturdays at 11 bit.ly/dharmabum

#### **Thursdays**

#### **North Park Thursday Market**

Shop at more than 90 tents for locally grown produce, seasonal grocery items, fresh food and hand-crafted arts and crafts. 3-7:30 p.m. at 3000 North Park Way, stretching from 31st to Utah streets in North Park. bit.ly/ThursMarket

#### Thursdays at the Ken

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

#### **Fridays**

#### **Family Friday Nights at the** Fleet

Enjoy extended evening hours at the Fleet on Friday nights this summer and save! Peruse Pause Play late into the evening, light up the night at It's Electric and reconnect with all your favorite hands-on exhibits in Retro-Active Science. Friday nights will also feature live musical entertainment on the Fleet patio. Family Friday Nights run through Aug. 30, with discounted admission starting at 6 p.m. This event is part of "The Art of Summer," Balboa Park's summer celebration.

#### **Free Friend Friday**

Looking for a co-working space with value-aligned social entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofit professionals and local startups? Collective Impact Center offers a complimentary day pass to use shared desks and office space. Bring your laptop and check in on social media with #cicfreefriendfriday for free Wi-Fi. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Collective Impact Center, 3295 Meade Ave. bit.ly/free-Fridays

#### **Old Town Saturday Market**

This street market features original works 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 in Old Town. bit.lv/OTMarket

#### **Sundays**

#### **Hillcrest Farmers Market**

About 175 venders offer a variety of locally grown produce, handmade arts and crafts, and freshcut florals at one of the city's largest open-air markets. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Normal Street between University and Lincoln avenues. bit.ly/HillcrestMarket&

As more San Diego churches af-

firm LGBTQ+ identities, what have

long been sepulchers of LGBTQ+

exclusion are now being led by the

very people neighboring churches

By San Diego Pride's count,

there are 100 open and affirming

faith congregations in the region.

FROM PAGE 1

DEVOUT

condemn.

**Puzzles Sponsored by:** 

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				5		1			
8	6			1				5	Sudoku
9							8		Puzzle
		9							ruzzig
4				7		3			Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of
	2		4				5		
2			5					4	
	1			8			3		each digit. So must every column, as
6			2		4			7	must every 3x3 square.
9/6									© 2009 CNS/websudoku.com

**Uptown Crossword** 

Classics

To qualify for the lists, congregations must agree to and embody a statement calling for the equal treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people at every level in their faith community as well as under the law.

Puzzle answers on page 14

director of San Diego LGBT Pride, has worked to formalize the inclusion of spiritual and religious members of the LGBTQ+ community in Pride festivities. They plan to launch a formal interfaith coalition called DevOUT in July. Robertson is a key leader in that coalition.

Fernando Lopez, the executive

Lopez, who is Jewish, said in a phone interview, "I think our job here at Pride is to do our best to make a space that is as welcoming for as many people as possible who are in the LGBTQ community. That doesn't just look like one thing or one viewpoint or one value or one perspective."

Lopez's activism began in the early 2000s with pushing for same-sex marriage in California. They participated in interfaith or-

of the practice to the attention of lawmakers. Since Lopez grew up in a household with a Jewish mother and Catholic father, they studied different religions and noticed similar core values between them: respect, love, understanding, and forgiveness. However, they noticed religion was often used as a weapon against LGBTQ+ people but knew it could be used by both sides to create moral arguments.

"One of the ways that we were fighting back against those messages really centered around ensuring that we had open and affirming faith leaders, right there counteracting those sort of religious arguments against LGBT equality," Lopez said.

Lopez is not alone in seeing religion as a way to inform and catalyze activism.

Susan Jester, who is currently in seminary to become a layman minister (meaning not officially ordained) in the Episcopal Church, sees the religious left as a way to counteract messages from rightwing evangelicals.

"This is going to be a Christian right's last stand. They lost on abortion. They lost on all their other issues, but they still have the gay community to maximize [their] fundraising efforts and rally their troops through so-called religious freedom," Jester said in an interview at Peet's Coffee in Hillcrest. "In my mind, the only way to mitigate that — because you'll never shut them down — but the way to mitigate it for our community, to

make us safer and freer, is to find alliances and Christian communities and other faiths that have as loud a voice for equality and freedom as the evangelicals do."

She believes lawmakers need to hear the voices of both progressive and conservative religious leaders, instead of just one group. Jester became involved in St. Paul's Cathedral when she moved back to San Diego in 2011. When the church in Bankers Hill was poised to become the first cathedral in the nation to completely light up in honor of Pride in 2015, Jester made sure to invite San Diego's elected officials, including then-Councilman Todd Gloria. The event was historic because it was also the first time a church in a mainstream denomination officially recognized Pride.

"The public needs to know that gay people are people of faith and that there are faith practices that accept gay people and honor them," 75-year-old Jester said.

Jester separates the message of God loving and accepting LGBTQ+ people from earthly churches and demonenations.

At 16, Jester was married and by 17, she was widowed with a young son. Her church, Scott Memorial Baptist Church, became her support system and helped her raise money to care for her son. However, when she came out as a lesbian at age 40 in 1983 after struggling with her sexuality for years, that all changed.

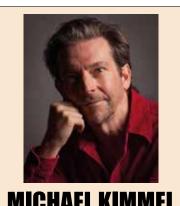
see DevOUT, pg 15

#### ganizing to bring clergy in favor **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Stores 39. Once-ubiquitous department store 6. Worthless entertainment 41. Portray precisely 9. Where scientists work 44. Thick piece of something 13. Pretty flower 45. Period between eclipses 14. A way to act 46. Indicates near 15. Double-reed instrument 48. Investment account 16. Type of acid 49. England, Scotland, N. Ireland, 17. Famed astronomer and Wales (abbr.) 18. Smooth, shiny fabric 51. Beak









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#### 38. Egg of a louse CLUES DOWN

28. Fresh Price of Air

29. Ancient city of Egypt

36. There's a north and a south

31. Basketball move

1. Draw out wool

19. Profited from

21. Secret clique

22. Infections

23. Crony

25. Suitable

33. Polished

- 2. Give someone a job
- 3. Chemical and ammo
- manufacturer 4. Footsteps
- 5. The Palmetto State
- 6. Books have lots of them 7. Diverse Israeli city
- 8. It's mightier than the sword 9. Confines
- 10. First month of the Jewish
- ecclesiastical year 11. Idaho's highest peak
- 12. Prevents from seeing
- 14. Determine time
- 17. Father children
- 23. Peter's last name
- 27. Allowances
- 20. Tab on a key ring 21. Dog genus
- 25. Request 26. Walk heavily

24. Teens go here every day (abbr.) 61. Type of restaurant

30. Fish-eating aquatic mammals 32. South Pacific island region

66. Nervous tissue compound

68. Muscles and tendons

29. English football squad

- 34. Unaccounted for
- 35. Small taste of whiskey 37. Ventilated

52. Void of skill 54. Walked back and forth

62. Spacious

64. Utah city

67. Body part

65. Tropical tree

56. A display of passion

60. Geological times

63. Edible seaweed

- 40. Helps little firms 42. One of means
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Turn upside down
- 50. S. African semi desert
- 52. Dutch names of Ypres
- 53. Instruct
- 55. Oily freshwater fish
- 56. Italian river
- 57. Sneaker giant
- 58. The men who man a ship 59. Some need glasses
- 61. Body part
- 65. Indicates position
- Puzzle answers on page 14

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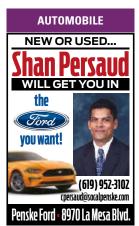
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#### **GARAGE DOOR PROBLEMS?**



#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

Sudoku Puzzle from page 13

#### Classics Crossword from page 13

## FROM PAGE 13 **DEVOUT**

"When I came out, they put me out. I didn't step foot in a church for 25 years, but I never lost my personal faith in Jesus," she explained.

Scott Memorial Baptist Church has been renamed Shadow Mountain Community Church, but it is still under the same pastor—televangelist Dr. David Jeremiah. The El Cajon megachurch brings in 10,000 people each week to its Sunday services. Jeremiah currently serves on Trump's Evangelical Advisory Board.

Since she was a little girl, Jester wanted to become a Christian missionary. When the church forced her out, she channeled that religious fervor into helping the LGBTQ+ community and eventually became an AIDS activist who founded the AIDS Walk in San Diego and was central in getting local politicians to respond to the crisis.

"One thing I learned during the AIDS epidemic — I was with so many folks in their dying moments - most of our community have some kind of faith practice. They either grew up in it or they have continued," Jester said. When she returned to San Diego and found St. Paul's, Jester remembered her commitment to become a missionary. She got involved with the church because of her desire to let LGBTO+ people know God loves them. "He has plans for you. You're made in his image and however he made you is however you are. So be the best you can. And then the place where you can worship God and feel welcome and productive and have a whole community of supporters is right down the street."

For her and Robertson, secular political activism may be central to what they believe is the role of the church, but they are also working to make the evangelical church less exclusive.

"The church and Christianity has done so much harm. It's hard for people to separate God from that. And I just want to help people see that. I believe the God that created us is a God that celebrates and loves and rejoices when we live into the diversity of our identity," Robertson said. He believes coming

to accept his sexuality has bettered his faith.

"I think that God is so infinite and diverse that it makes sense that humans are infinitely diverse and that it's in our diversity and in our complexity that we most reflect God," he said. "Now, my sexuality and my faith go hand in hand because through the diversity of sexuality and gender identity, I think we have a unique lens into the creativity of God and a God that is that creative is so much more interesting than a God who wants everybody to be the same and to conform."

It was seeing other queer Christians in a church service that first made him rethink his theology. While in college, he and fellow students went to a church just a few blocks from Moody Bible Institute. There, he saw a woman take the pulpit and preach for the first time in his life. At that point, the other students left, loudly. Despite believing a woman speaking in church was unbiblical, Robertson stayed. At the end of the service, he noticed two women holding hands while singing praise music. He said this was the first church he saw embody radical welcome for everybody and calling people deeper into who they truly are.

After he was outed publicly in 2015, Robertson spent years meeting with prominent evangelical leaders and debating them, or as he put it being a "fly in their ointment." Now, he has a different approach to changing the minds of conservative pastors.

"I think sharing stories and cultivating empathy is what will change conservatives' minds on LGBT issues. I've got the chance to sit with some of the largest churches in the country and just share who I am," he explained. "I've seen churches of 10,000 people where the pastor goes from anti-gay to completely affirming and trying to figure out now what do they do with their church of 10,000 people. How do you convince 10,000 people to change their mind?"

Robertson is also convinced queer people are the future of the church.

While Pew Research Center tracked a decrease in Americans identifying as Christians between 2013 and 2015, the number of



Susan Jester is in seminary to continue her work at St. Paul's Cathedral. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

lesbian, gay or bisexual Americans identifying as Christian actually went up from 42% to 48% in the two-year period.

One of the pastors Robertson has formed a relationship with is Miles McPherson, the pastor of the Rock Church in San Diego. The former NFL player brings in 19,000 people across five campuses in the region. Robertson pointed out a picture of McPherson he keeps in his office to remind him of why he needs to keep going.

When the mega-church pastor and Robertson meet, Robertson takes all issues of homosexuality in the Bible or politics off the table. He just wants to shatter McPherson's paradigm by being a gay Christian with an authentic faith. Robertson does not think the Rock will be an inclusive church anytime soon, but he does credit McPherson with continuing to meet with him.

Jester has less hope one of the major proponents of Proposition 8 will make any meaningful efforts at reconciliation with the LGBTQ+community. For her, McPherson privately apologizing to queer leaders about past harms will not remedy the damage perpetuated in his church today.

Jester said, "If he really wants to apologize, then he should start talking to his congregation about equality and equal rights for gay people. [They say] 'you're accepted.' Their line is 'we welcome you,' but they want you to ultimately change."

Still, she appreciates Robertson's youthful idealism, which is one of the reasons she has turned over the

reins for the interfaith coalition she spent years building around Light Up the Cathedral and Pride week.

She remains influential in DevOUT. In the wake of the Pittsburgh Synagogue mass shooting, Jester convinced Lopez to bring attention to Jewish gay people. That decision was further confirmed after the shooting at the Chabad of Poway synagogue.

"In the last few years, there's been a huge uptick in violence and hate crimes and toward the LGBT community, towards people of color, towards immigrants and particularly towards the larger Jewish community [from a] place of hate and white supremacy. Their roots are traced back to the same place and we really wanted to ensure that we were acknowledging that," Lopez said. "How can we find a healthy path forward to combating anti-Semitism, combating racism, and combating homophobia and transphobia and do that collectively? How are faith institutions doing that? How are they doing it together and how can we build strength through that diversity in our community to fight those battles together?"

At this year's Light Up the Cathedral on July 10, Lopez will give the Light of Pride award to Jewish Family Service of San Diego for their service to the Jewish, LGBTQ+ and refugee communities in the area. In addition, the keynote speech will be given by Jewish activist and Rabbinical student Steven Goldstein. Jester wanted to bring him to San Diego so he could teach interfaith leaders about how to organize and use their platforms to counteract hate at a workshop on July 11.

"We all have a common denominator and that is white supremacy or white nationalism. Anti-Jew, anti-Muslim, anti-gay — it's all the same. We're all in the same boat together and we need to find those things that we have in common and to fight back," Jester said.

The work of DevOUT will continue past Pride week with the interfaith coalition getting involved in legislation Jester characterizes as anti-LGBTQ+ disguised as religious freedom.

During Pride, the two-thirds of LGBT people who self-identify as spiritual or religious will have several ways to take pride in their sexual or gender identity and faith at the same time.

"Far too many young people hear from their faith leaders that their mere existence is a sin, a moral failure, and that eternal damnation awaits them. I was one of those young people," Lopez said in an email following the United Methodist Church's decision in February to strengthen bans on same-sex marriages and ordaining LGBTQ+ clergy. "While many of us still carry the trauma of the bigotry and harm we experienced in the name of faith, 65% of all LGBTQ people embrace their personal connection to faith."

The interfaith celebration of Pride kicks off with the annual rainbow lighting of St. Paul's Cathedral, known as Light Up the Cathedral, which will happen on Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The next day, faith leaders are invited to attend a workshop on how to change the world through interfaith organizing at Ohr Shalom Synagogue on Thursday, July 11, at 10 a.m. DevOUT is hosting Pride's first Interfaith Village where festivalgoers can access a chaplain for spiritual direction or counseling and find resources on affirming faith organizations. There will also be presentations, workshops, and spiritual practices held in the event space from July 13.14

Queer faith leaders will offer a prayer and blessing ahead of the Pride Parade under the Hillcrest Pride Flag on Saturday morning. The blessing, now an annual tradition, historically began with allies offering prayers but is now led by LGBTQ+ clergy.

"The 50th anniversary of Stonewall is this year and we see how much has changed in 50 years regarding sexuality and gender in American culture. It's faster than any other social movements in American history," Robertson said. "So we have a lot of reason to hope. Years from now, I don't even think we can fathom how different our society can become if we keep pressing forward believing that change is possible and working for that change."

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