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University Heights gets its first brewery



An art vendor at the kick-off fundraiser for the redesign of Centro Cultural de la Raza, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020. (Photo by Francisco Tamayo)

Centro Cultural de la Raza kicks off anniversary campaign

Community center in Balboa Park fundraises to redesign interior

Kendra Sitton | Editor

Centro Cultural de la Raza — a community center founded in conjunction with the victory of activists who claimed and created Chicano Park — is preparing for its 50th anniversary. Ahead of the celebration, the volunteers who run the Centro are fundraising and seeking community input as they hope

to redesign the interior of the building that opened in 1970.

That effort kicked off on Friday, May 24, with a fundraiser and art reception unveiling the new exhibit, “Raza Visions: Revitalizing Centro Cultural de la Raza.” The exhibit is filled with works by SDSU students from the School of Art + Design. They were tasked with creating an

interdisciplinary project that imagines renovations to the space, including a lounge, café, artist workshop areas, library, store and other ideas. The designs will be exhibited for the month of June as community members are invited to continue providing input and vote on the design they think is best.

see Centro, pg 7

Dedicated bus lane coming to El Cajon Boulevard

Business association supports making city corridor safer for pedestrians

Kendra Sitton | Editor

The city is backing a plan to create a pilot program for a dedicated bus lane on a 2.7-mile stretch of El Cajon Boulevard in Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s updated budget, which is expected to be approved in the coming weeks.

Councilmember Chris Ward, who backed the plan in its early stages alongside Council president Georgette Gomez, praised Faulconer for making what has always been a community priority into a city priority.

“Improving ridership and transit efficiency is a necessary solution to meet our climate action goals and make transit a smarter, more viable option for all San Diegans,” Ward said in a statement.



A Rapid 215 bus passes the boulevard sign on El Cajon Boulevard. (Photo courtesy El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association)

see Boulevard, pg 13

Can San Diego's climate-action goals be met?

By Dave Schwab

San Diego has adopted an ambitious climate-action plan (CAP) to eliminate half of all greenhouse gas emissions — and to require all electricity used in the city to be from renewable sources — by 2035.

Just 16 years away, the big question is, will we make it?

“We’re really just scratching the surface right now,” admitted Sophie Wolfram, director of programs for the Climate Action Campaign (CAC), an environmental nonprofit advocating energy sustainability. “San Diego must make a real commitment to actually hit that 100% clean-energy target. We have a long way to go.”

Warns Wolfram, “The region is not on track to hit our state and regional climate targets, and cities are still working independently of one another.”

More importantly, the goals set by San Diego’s CAP don’t just set the bar high. They’re also legally binding.

If San Diego fails in cutting its greenhouse emissions in half by 2035, environmental groups or the state attorney general could file lawsuits against the city to force compliance by its elected officials.

The city is expected to ramp up the “baseline” funding levels for its CAP in future years, as it nears its targets in 2020 and 2035. Much of that initial funding focuses on improving streets and sidewalks to make walking and biking safe transit options, particularly in Downtown and other dense areas like North Park and Hillcrest.

Funding in the city’s budget will be devoted to a number of infrastructure improvements including: new road-improvement funding for pedestrians, such as restriping crosswalks and making them highly visible; and installing 10,000 feet of new sidewalks and pedestrian countdown timers for at least 50 intersections per year.

More than \$1 million is also being dedicated toward improvements for bicyclists with 50 miles of new and improved bike lanes, including high-priority lanes near San Diego State University and dense urban neighborhoods.

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Protected bikeways on Fourth and Fifth avenues closer to breaking ground

Kendra Sitton | Editor

After a long approval process and years of delays, Fourth and Fifth avenues are closer to getting protected bikeways. “We are working closely with the city of San Diego on getting those final plans set,” said Lisa Culp, who works as a principle planner at SANDAG. She said contractors will be invited to start bidding on the project in a couple of months and then the SANDAG board will approve a contract.

When it was approved in 2016, the project was set to be completed by 2018. Now, it looks like ground will finally be broken in 2019. Culp explained this is because the bikeway has many new features never before used in a San Diego project that required more coordination between the city and SANDAG’s design team.

“I think in hindsight we were a little optimistic in 2016,” Culp said. “A lot of the features that the city has approved in this project, we want to be sure that they’re approved in the next project and it won’t take as long because they’re more familiar.”

In other parts of the city with protected bike lanes, they are designated by bollards, which are vertical short posts. Along this route, a median is being constructed for the first time to fully separate vehicles and bikes.

Maya Rosas, Circulate San Diego’s director of policy, said, “I cannot wait for the Fourth



A cyclist rides on the sidewalk on the corner of Fourth Avenue. (Photos by Kendra Sitton)

and Fifth Avenue bike lanes to be installed. It’s been a long time coming — many years of planning and hearings to get the design approved and ultimately selected. And now we’ve been waiting three years just for it to be installed.”

There are still specific complaints about the project from the community, particularly from Hillcrest businesses losing parking spaces near their storefronts.

“If this goes through, businesses in Hillcrest are going to leave... I have a very elderly clientele. These elderly people are not going to be coming to Bread & Cie on a bike. Last year, when I brought that up with SANDAG,

they said there’s gonna be a lot of walkability. These people can’t even walk. They need to be able to have better access,” Linda Saltzman, retail manager at Bread & Cie, said during a Hillcrest Parking Committee meeting on May 23. The subcommittee is part of the Uptown Community Parking District. “Thirty-six parking spaces may not seem like a lot, but it is all in a compact and busy area of Hillcrest. So it is very impactful to the businesses in this small area.”

Overall, SANDAG estimates a net loss of 23 spaces along a six-block area from Upas north to Washington along both Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Not all areas along the bikeway are worried about loss of parking since SANDAG evaluated nearby streets to add diagonal parking. Bankers Hill and east Hillcrest are both gaining parking spots.

“It’s overall a gain (in parking) to the corridor. However, in the Hillcrest area, it’s a much more constrained area so we do show for certain blocks up there some parking loss. We do realize that’s a concern for business owners, but we do believe once we have this new bikeway open to the public, the public will be using it to come to many of those businesses,” Culp said.

Another complaint from the Uptown Community Parking District is the lack of communication between stakeholders and SANDAG. Since planning for the bikeway began in 2012, SANDAG briefed the public on the process at 100 different public meetings and held 10 community workshops. However, once the project gained approval, that communication dropped off as the final design was created behind SANDAG’s closed doors.

Back in 2016, the Bankers Hill Neighborhood Parking Committee voted to spend, according to member Peter Raymond, \$2.15 million to add beautification measures like landscaping, colored concrete and conduits.

“We put money in to ensure it got done right,” he said.

In what some Hillcrest members characterized as trying to

play “hard ball,” the committee voted down the same proposal in protest of the entire project going forward.

“Since SANDAG wanted us to spend money on the beautification of the bike lanes and we voted against that, they kind of washed their hands of us. They don’t communicate with us anymore. They just disappeared,” Saltzman said.

In a motion that was ultimately voted down by the subcommittee, Saltzman moved to withhold all funds from SANDAG projects, including the Normal Street Promenade. Instead, the group voted to invite SANDAG to give a briefing on what the final design included. They may also ask to see what community input was heeded.

The protected bike lanes, extending from B Street to Washington Street, are the first segment of five in the Uptown Bikeways project which SANDAG is championing as a way to improve connectivity between Uptown, Old Town, Mission Valley, Downtown, North Park and Balboa Park. The San Diego Regional Bike Plan is funding the project as a high priority bikeway. The other segments being added in Uptown are called the Eastern Hillcrest Bikeways, Washington Street and Bachman Place Bikeways, Mission Hills and Old Town Bikeways, and Park Boulevard.

The current bike lanes depend

see Bike lane, pg 4

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City backs AIDS Memorial at Olive Street Park

Kendra Sitton | Editor

Some Uptown Planners members' fears came to fruition on May 16 as the city's Park and Recreation Board unanimously approved plans for an Olive Street Park with a provision for a future AIDS memorial — an inclusion that did not come before the community oversight board in the latest proposal for the pocket park. Instead, the Uptown Planners recommended approval of the Site Development Permit for the 0.69-acre lot in a 9-3-2 vote on April 2 after listening to a presentation on the proposed playground, adult fitness area and an overlook facing Maple Canyon. Absent was any

official discussion of the memorial, but that did not stop some board members from accusing the city of misleading the community about the process so the AIDS memorial would have a home after the Uptown Planners voted down the initial proposal a year earlier in February 2018.

Uptown Planners and Bankers Hill Community Group member Amie Hayes said after the recent approval, "It is disappointing to see the city go to such levels so as not to be transparent with the community."

She voted against the recent approval of the Olive Street Park when it came before the Uptown Planners and has since accused officials of trying to sidestep the

planning board because of its previous lack of support. "The city and AIDS Task Force has intended all along to have a regional AIDS memorial in this park, which is why the bifurcating tactic was used to work around Uptown Planners."

If the tiny park is not given a categorical exemption for filing an environmental impact report, city officials and the designers of the park and memorial, Domus Studio, will have to appear before the board again. This time, whether the memorial will draw too many people to the dead-end street and cause parking issues, will likely be the focus of the discussion. However, a negative recommendation from



An aerial view of the park's design (Photo courtesy SD Public Works Department)

the board is unlikely to derail the decades-long effort to build a quiet memorial where friends and family of people who died from AIDS can mourn. Work on the task force has also been central to Mayor Kevin Faulconer's wife Katharine Stuart Faulconer and her role as first lady. Mayor Faulconer has publicly supported the project.

Longtime LGBT activist Nicole Murray Ramirez praised the Park and Recreation Board's approval of the memorial at the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast on May 17. The crowd of more than 1,000 cheered as he announced San Diego will join the rest of the nation's largest cities with a public memorial to the many lives lost in the AIDS crisis. According to him, there are over 8,000 known San Diegans who died from the virus.

Alongside Susan Jester, he has been fighting for the memorial's creation for decades and

was key in urging San Diego government leaders to take action during the AIDS epidemic.

"I believe Olive Street Park is an entirely appropriate place for an AIDS memorial ... We wanted to pick a place where someone could come and sit and reflect, pray or meditate in honor of loved ones," Jester said in a previous interview with Uptown News.

Review of the park is still underway for the Site Development Permit and environmental review. A century after the land was donated for a park, the city's general fund is set to finally pay for the construction of Olive Street Park. Decades after the AIDS crisis claimed thousands of lives, the region is set to finally have a memorial dedicated to them.

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

FROM PAGE 3 BIKE LANE

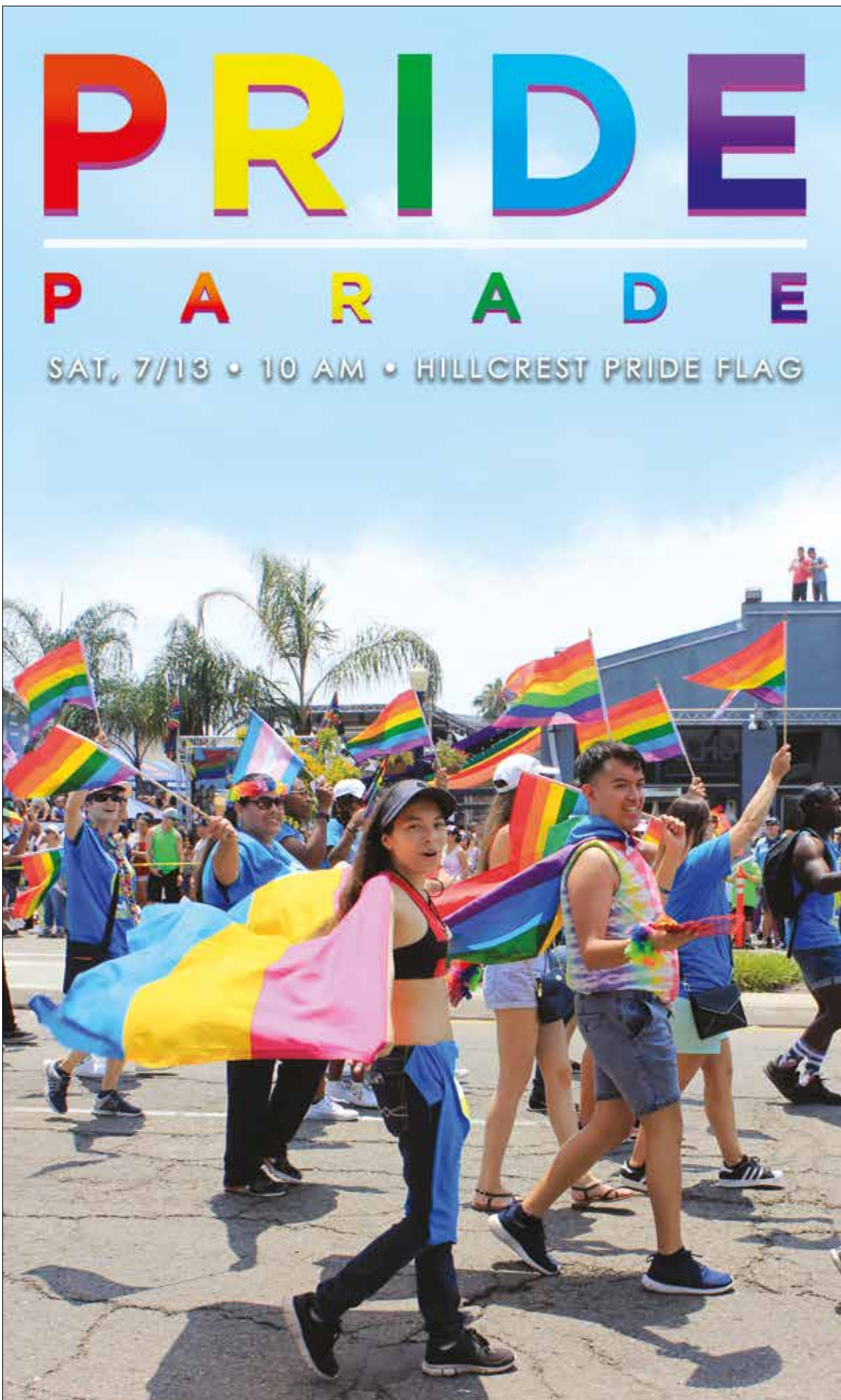
on vehicles respecting paint on the road. Advocates for the project say the physical barrier will bring an added sense of protection, which will attract more riders.

"You have a small segment of the population that they're going to ride anywhere, anytime. They're going to ride with cars. It doesn't bother them. They're comfortable. Then you have a small segment of people that just for whatever reason they're just not going to ride a bike. But then you have a pretty big portion of the population that are interested,

they want to get active, they want to use it for transportation but they're a little concerned. They don't want to be with cars. That's where we'll put some sort of barrier or protection," Culp said.

"We need protected bike lanes for more riders to feel comfortable riding. Fourth and Fifth is a crucial corridor for connecting Downtown to Hillcrest and Uptown and to connect to North Park, the University Avenue bike lanes," Rosas said. "It's a crucial segment to creating a connected network of bike lanes that will ultimately get more people riding."

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



sdpride.org



The current bike lane along Fifth Avenue

Under water for 2 years

North Park business suffers as city fails to fix leaky municipal water pipes

By J.M. Garcia

When Carol Shamon noticed water from city pipes had leaked into the basement of her North Park neighborhood business, she thought the problem would be easily fixed: Call the city and file a report. Repairs would be made, problem solved.

But after two years of municipal inaction, the water remains and Shamon, who is now suing the city of San Diego's pipe contractor, worries the foundation of her 100-year-old building may be affected.

"I contacted all the departments," said Shamon, 61, owner of Shamon Freitas Agency at 3916 Oregon St. "Everyone individually has been nice but their hands are tied, they can't do anything because they can't coordinate with any other department and no one does anything."

Shamon, who had been renting the basement as an art studio, estimated she has lost \$7,000 in rent and utility costs from running a dehumidifier 24 hours a day.

Her dilemma serves as an example of how a simple problem and a lack of basic coordination between city departments can create an inertia where nothing is done for weeks, months and now years.

"I never expected this," she

said. "I pay my taxes and assumed the city would fix this. If the city can't fix a leak in a street, what can it do?"

According to Shamon, the city installed new water pipes on Oregon Street in May and June of 2017. In August, she began to notice water seeping into her basement and her tenants moved out. Shamon said she contacted the water department several times in September and October. She said city officials blamed contractor Burtech Pipeline for the damage.

Shamon began keeping notes of her contacts with city. On Oct 16, 2017, she wrote, "the city said they sent someone out and all was fine," although water was collecting outside her building. The following month, Shamon put in a sump pump for almost \$900. The pump appeared to keep the basement dry and new tenants moved in.

But in March 2018, water began seeping into the basement again. On two occasions, according to Shamon's notes, water department officials found leaks in nearby city pipes. On April 3, one inspector, Shamon wrote, found a leak "as big as a lake." Tests showed chlorine, which meant the water came from a pipe and not the ground. More calls from Shamon to the city followed.



Carol Shamon surveys the damage in her basement. (Photos by J.M. Garcia)

Her notes show that her calls were often not returned.

In October 2018, a water main break on Idaho Street flooded North Park streets, submerging cars. Water leaked into Shamon's basement. Shamon continued calling city officials. She said they told her that city contractor Burtech Pipeline or San Diego Gas & Electric was responsible for the damaged pipes. She met with a Burtech representative and city officials on Oct. 18. According to her notes, the two sides blamed each other for the leak in her basement.

"We got nowhere," Shamon wrote.

She spent her own money repairing the basement again but water continued to come in. "So strange," she wrote on Dec. 27, 2018. "There is still so much water coming into the building. Sump pump running all the time and emptying into the gutter. The water is like a river in the back of my building."

Since then, her basement has remained wet with thin streams of water snaking across the floor and the sound of a dehumidifier. Her new tenants have moved out.

In April, an inspector with the storm water department found that the leak was not coming from her building and filed a report with the public utilities department. She was encouraged to work with the public utilities department. At this time, Shamon said, city officials said San Diego Gas &

Electric might be responsible.

The water seeping onto Shamon's property has also spread to the patio of a restaurant next door, The Porchetta Shack.

"How can they do business?" said Massoud Asad, the landlord for The Porchetta Shack. "What we have is everyone has to work together to fix this. Every city department thinks it's another department's responsibility."

In the 30 years she has operated her talent agency, Shamon said she has never encountered a problem like this.

"I've lost my tenants," she said. "I'm worried about my foundation and mold. I'm worried about my staff with the odor. Mostly I'm amazed that nobody helps me. I didn't cause this thing that's happening and the city's not fixing it."

An inspection of Shamon's property ruled out storm water infrastructure as being the cause of the leak, said city spokesman Anthony Santacroce.

"It's kind of a mystery we're trying to figure out," he said. "There's been a lot of pipe work in that area."

Shamon has also been in touch with the office of her council member, Chris Ward, in District 3. In a statement, Ward's office said it had been working with Shamon for several weeks and had referred her to the office of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, "asking for an expedient resolution. Unfortunately,

city staff have yet to come to a solution to Ms. Shamon's extended issue."

In a May 21 email to Shamon, a staff member for Ward wrote, "I am sorry to hear about these continued issues. I have tried my best to get you connected to the right City staff to address these continued issues. [They have] the capacity to work with and direct City staff to address this."

The mayor's office and Burtech Pipeline did not return repeated calls for comment. A spokeswoman for SDG&E wrote in an email, "SDG&E sent a representative to visit the location, and we are confident that the source of the leak is not the product of work performed by SDG&E."

"They can't even stop water from coming into her building," said attorney Jerry Moe, who is representing Shamon. "It's common sense. Stop the damage and figure out who pays. This has been going on for two years. C'mon, this isn't rocket science."


Shamon remains determined to see the matter resolved.

"I'm not giving up," she said. "I'm not just going to live with this. This is my business. I worked hard for it. I just never thought it would take two years to fix a leak."

— J.M. Garcia is a freelance writer/photographer in San Diego. He can be reached at j446_garcia@hotmail.com.



Landlord Massoud Asad points out the flooding on the patio of the Porchetta Shack.



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Letters to the editor

This past weekend at our neighborhood's annual rummage sale, my friend asked about the price of a planter. When she readily agreed to it, the resident said she was glad she hadn't tried to 'Jew her down.'

In 20 years in this neighborhood, this is what's happened to us:

— My non-white husband was pelted with eggs while mowing the lawn.

— He turned the key in our front door while wearing a suit and carrying his briefcase, and was confronted by police asking if he lived here.

Here's how this happens, how it begins: at our annual block party a few years ago, my neighbor leveled a labored and vicious joke at my religion. I said nothing. I was wrong. Challenge hatred when you hear it even when the response is "Oh, I have Jewish friends" or "It's just a saying." Confront it even from those who see themselves as well traveled, educated, cultured, who discuss liberal politics over coffee in rainbow-flagged shops.

Perhaps especially those who fail to recognize it in themselves. The majority of good people here cannot let remarks from a few just pass. Confront hatred as my friend did this weekend while it's still just spoken — or we can't then be surprised when eggs become bullets.

Diane Brockington, Mission Hills

The new City Council regulations regarding dockless bikes and scooters are indeed welcome. However, there is still an urgent need for laws to be passed that all of them have horns, bells or whistles to alert pedestrians and drivers to their presence. Why is this not obvious? In New York City, when I was 3 years old, even then I was not allowed to ride my tricycle unless the warning bell was working.

Laura Walcher, a continuing Bankers Hill ducking and sidestepping resident

Re: David Wang's guest editorial
I commend him for his sincere

attitude and wish him well; what I must say, is that hate, envy and stupidity will never leave humanity regardless of our development, for it's a very integral part of the human psyche to blame others for one's shortcomings and failures, and to hate an identifiable group for any perceived advantages they seek.

It's the state of our media in the current era that causes these terrible retaliations on innocents by merely reporting an incident that, with no widespread notice would go unduplicated; a man hijacks a plane over New York to fly him to Cuba which gave us the term "skyjacking," followed by a man skyjacking a plane to drop him over Washington state with \$200,000 giving the world a new pastime.

They can't go unreported, of course, but this is what gives us repetition, and bloodbaths; news up the yin yang 24 hours a day.

Stnagunish Helfin!!!

Saul Harmon Gritz, Hillcrest

Nathan Fletcher reaches out Only Democrat on County Board of Supervisors engages community during budget discussions

Kendra Sitton | Editor

On May 16, County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher addressed a dozen City Heights residents while sipping coffee under the sunlit patio at Burly and the Bean. It was the second community coffee forum he appeared at that Saturday — his whirlwind day of outreach began at 4 a.m. with a flight from Sacramento and concluded with the first-ever San Diego youth-oriented budget forum.

Before he was able to get into specific policy goals, he first had to educate forum attendees about the services San Diego County is in charge of and how the board of supervisors governs them. Most of the county's budget goes toward Health and Human Services (HHS) and he also mentioned visiting the courthouse to get married and adopting his children — both of which are under the purview of the county. While the county has a significantly larger budget and more employees than the city, the intractable Board of Supervisor as long refrained from taking up any major initiatives.

"Prior to me being elected, you had very little turnover," Fletcher explained about county staff. "You had the same five folks that shared a general approach and ideology and background. I just said, well I think the county can do more. I think the county can take what its done and do exponentially more. It can be more committed to the neighborhood, more committed to the community and more committed to tackling a lot of the issues we face. A lot of that requires a more progressive approach, but also just a more aggressive approach."

In the wake of San Diego's "wholly preventable" 2016-17 hepatitis A outbreak, and with Fletcher altering the makeup of the board to include a Democrat, that reticence to take action could be changing. Since he took office five months ago, the board has agreed to the single largest jump in HHS funding in San Diego history, opened a courthouse to asylum-seekers, and on May 22, made stronger air pollution rules.

Still, it's clear the Marine Corps combat veteran is in the minority on certain issues — the board recently voted to oppose AB 392, the police lethal-use-of-force bill, and continued to support expanding freeways.

"We don't win them all but we're

pushing every day and we're engaging every day," Fletcher said.

Despite not all of his proposals passing, Fletcher campaigned for change and it is clear he is delivering it as the Republican-dominated board agreed to use reserve funds to bankroll affordable housing projects and is addressing other regional issues head on.

Although Fletcher said he is willing to work with the current board members, he is planning to campaign heavily in the next election cycle. Longtime



County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher speaks at Burly and the Bean. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

supervisors Dianne Jacob and Greg Cox are termed out, which means a total of 3 of the 5 seats will be in play in the next election.

"I would like a board that more reflects my views. I'll work to campaign for folks who share those and if they get elected, I'll work with them and if not, I'll work with whomever the people elect," he said.

In addition to changing the makeup of the county, he is helping to raise the profile of the county on the state level and also working with City Council after what Fletcher described as years of "hostile" relations between the two entities. His entire district is in the city of San Diego, making his close relationships with six of the council members,

"We have a governor who actually knows where San Diego is. We get forgotten about all the time because it's like the rest of the state can't see south of LA. [Newsom's] been down four or five times," Fletcher said.

He also mentioned Newsom spent an hour in his office on a recent visit which he said was the first time a governor of California has visited the county. The pair discussed each of their policy goals.

"We've kind of been this sleepy beach town. We're at that grinding inflection point where we're changing," Fletcher said. "I think there's an exciting decade coming in San Diego."

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

FROM PAGE 1
CENTRO

The Centro is run by a collective of artists, organizers and community members under the Arts Advisory Committee (AAC), which promotes Chicano, Mexican, Latino and indigenous art and culture.

During the event, Uptown News spoke with two of those organizers about the future of the campaign.

“The purpose is to enhance public engagement, come up with methods to preserve our own history, have an archive here and then to encourage new artist collaborations,” Evan Apodaca said. “This space is extremely meaningful to multiple generations here in San Diego because it’s a radical space — an art space for Chicanos, Latinos, indigenous, people of color. There’s a void for that.”

Apodaca said the art space was once revolutionary and the first of its kind, but has been neglected in the past. He hopes it can once again thrive.

“Things have just been



A Centro Cultural de la Ra Raza elder volunteer discusses the project titled “Your Voice.” (Photo by Francisco Tamayo)

unfolding to us. We really didn’t plan, ‘Oh let’s ask them to do this’ — it just fell on us and then just happened. But we have been working to revitalize this space,” Liz Huato, who is a part of the AAC, said. “It’s us thinking of how we’re going to make this space more engaging to the community. How are we going to continue to nurture the history, and also [use] that history to inspire the youth and also future generations?”

The Centro volunteers also did a spiritual cleaning of the space

so it could be livelier and involve the community again. Community input is one of the main reasons they have decided to leave the renovation process very open.

“We don’t really have a timeline. It’s still very abstract, very conceptual,” Huato said. In August, when the fundraising campaign is over, they will evaluate what they have the resources to do and go from there.

The volunteer-run organization is also hoping to make a permanent historical archive and exhibit



A woman looks at some of the designs created by SDSU students on exhibit. (Photo by Kendra Sitton)

as well as hire archival experts to properly house and digitize decades of art. To donate to the campaign, visit gofundme.com/centro-raza-visions.

centro-raza-visions.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com✧

FROM PAGE 1
CLIMATE

Mayor Kevin Faulconer brought together local environmental, business and community leaders to endorse the CAP, which was approved by the City Council in December 2015.

The CAP is a package of policies designed to benefit San Diego’s environment and economy by: helping create new jobs in the renewable energy industry; improving public health and air quality; conserving water more efficiently; and using existing resources to increase clean-energy production, improve quality of life and save taxpayer money.

Steps the city can take to achieve the 2035 CAP targets include: creating a renewable energy program; implementing a zero-waste plan; and changing policy to have a majority of the city’s fleet be electric vehicles.

The CAC and other environmental groups are calling for a “Green New Deal” to develop a regional vision to fight climate change and build economic sustainability. The goal is to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while shepherding the economy and energy sectors away from fossil fuels

and toward carbon neutrality by 2030.

“What the CAP sets out to do is very much about climate change: It’s an urgent threat,” cautioned Wolfram. “We’ve got to set a new vision to get our greenhouse gas-emission targets aligned with our climate-action goals.”

Wolfram said the objective now is to “close the gap between where we are — and where we need to be. The idea is we need a bigger, broader regional vision to fight climate change.”

Achieving ambitious environmental goals in the city’s CAP however is running into political blowback. One example is Transit Priority Areas. TPAs are defined as any area sitting within a half-mile of one or more planned or existing transit stops.

This year, the City Council voted 8-1 to reduce parking requirements to a zero minimum at new multifamily residential developments within TPAs. That’s been criticized by some as a sellout to developers.

But Wolfram countered that TPAs are an integral part of weaning people from their emission-belching autos.

“The TPAs are in urban core neighborhoods, and the targeted goal is to have 50% of

commuters taking mass transit, 18% biking and 7% walking in TPAs by 2035,” Wolfram said. “That’s where we are not seeing the progress we need to make to meet these targets.”

Though San Diego’s CAP goals are ambitious, and the time horizon to achieve them is short, Wolfram is nonetheless optimistic.

“They’re doable,” she said. “But we need to reshape the way people move around the city. It’s

not going to happen on its own, or by tinkering with a bus schedule here, or painting a bike lane there.”

In the final analysis, Wolfram said it will ultimately be up to local government to ensure that the city’s greenhouse gas emission targets are met — or not.

“Whether the city will be able to reach its climate-action goals will depend on the level of commitment we see in the coming months and years,” she said.

“The city needs to make a real investment in implementing the climate-action plan. If we do that, if we muster up the political courage, we can hit those targets.”

Failure is not an option, said Wolfram.

“This is really about the health, safety and survival of future generations,” she concluded.

—Dave Schwab can be reached at dave@sdnews.com✧

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Ken Ludwig's latest offering is less than divine

Theater Review

Jean Lowerison



"Lend Me a Tenor" it isn't, but "Ken Ludwig's The Gods of Comedy" does at least offer an escape from the increasingly horrifying news of the day and entrance into a plot far wackier than the looniest of farces.

Tony Award-winning Ludwig's latest effort has just arrived from a world premiere run at McCarter Theatre Center. I say "arrived" because it comes complete with the original director Amanda Dehnert, cast and supporting team, and plays through June

16 on the Old Globe's Shiley Stage.

Seven actors play characters from American college academics to a Greek peddler, a Russian janitor, an American movie star and several mythological Greek deities, who cavort and bounce off each other in a dizzying (not to mention goofy) plot which seems more determined to exhaust than to amuse the audience.

We first meet Aristide (George Psomas), a street peddler on the Greek island of Naxos, where heroine Daphne (Shay Vawn), a young classics professor at an unnamed American university, has just arrived for a summer program.

Daphne is stewing about the two actors she's just lost for the tenure-track production of



Brad Oscar as Dionysus, Jessie Cannizzaro as Thalia, and Shay Vawn as Daphne (Photos by Jim Cox)

"Medea" she's directing when Aristide decides she needs a little adventure. He gives her a talisman which will, he says, ensure that she gets whatever she wants.

She meets colleague Ralph (Jevon McFerrin), who has astonishing news: the manuscript for Euripides' "Andromeda" has just been found — and he has it.

Ralph entrusts Daphne with the book because he has a meeting with Dean Trickett (Keira Naughton) and doesn't want to "drag it all over campus."

She puts it on the desk and leaves for a fateful moment to answer the doorbell. While she's gone, Russian janitor Aleks (George Psomas) enters. The book has fallen off the desk and is sticking out of the trash can when Aleks picks it up and takes

this moment to practice using the paper shredder in the room. He shreds two pages, takes the book, vowing to try a different shredder, and exits.

When Daphne enters and realizes the play is gone, she mutters the fateful "Save me, gods of ancient Greece!" and leaves.

This is the cue for Brad Oscar as Dionysus (god of wine, madness, theater and ecstasy) and Thalia, the muse of comedy (Jessie Cannizzaro) to appear. Thalia is in flowing white. Dionysus is opulently and extravagantly attired in royal purple.

What follows is — to pick a single word — insanity, as the academics chase the lost book, the Greek gods drive the mortals even crazier by playing invisibility tricks, and American movie star Brooklyn (Steffanie Leigh)



George Psomas as Ares and Keira Naughton as Dean Trickett

The details

"The Gods of Comedy" plays through June 16 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets: 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

pesters Ralph for the starring role in what will surely be a film version of the Euripides play.

Amanda Dehnert keeps this frantic farce piece under a reasonable amount of control. Jason Sherwood's set design includes lots of leaves (a university, you know). Linda Roethke's costumes, Brian Gale's lighting and Darron L West's sound design work well, as does Jim Steinmeyer's "illusion design."

Don't try to make sense of this circus. Just sit back and giggle at the visuals, which include Ares, the god of war (George Psomas again, this time resplendent in a white skirt, gold-tone armor, bulging muscles, sandals with gold shin splints and a crazy-looking gold Trojan-style helmet).

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

Engaging short films

FilmOut San Diego brings short-film premieres in LGBTQ ShortFest

By Albert H. Fulcher

On May 15, FilmOut San Diego brought its LGBTQ ShortFest to the Landmark's Hillcrest Cinemas for a double feature of 20 LGBTQ short films premiering for the first time in San Diego. The two showings included 10 original films in each tract with some Q&A sessions at the end with some of the producers and actors that were able to make the premiere.

All of the screened films exhibited originality, quality and purpose, regardless of their genre or cinematic elements. This was truly a festival of LGBTQ life and brought out a range of emotions from laughter to tears, delight and horror, and each film made you think about circumstances that our community faces today.

Making its California premiere, "Carlito Leaves Forever," directed by Quentin Lazzarotto, told the story of Carlito, a young man living in an indigenous village in the Amazon jungle. Rejected by his people, he makes the decision to leave the only life he knows to start it with another young man who seems to be in the same position. The story was sad yet touching and the cinematography was stunning as it traveled through the Amazon on

the titular character's journey to freedom.

"Headspace," directed by Jake Graf from the United Kingdom, was only a 4-minute film, but its impact was strong. This short takes viewers into the minds of transgender people and the fears that they face every day of their lives. Going from character to character, "Headspace" shows what happens when transgender people are faced with no access to a private restroom, when they walk in front of a group of construction workers, and when they are in a locker room and someone else walks in. The short film was so brilliantly composed, that you felt the fear and anxiety.

Directed by Carly Usdin and making its California premiere, "Misdirection" is a sweet story about a college student with obsessive-compulsive disorder crushing on her roommate. It's entertaining and has some good light comedy as Camilia comes to terms with her own obsessions and, by chance, finds a way to deal with the existing problems in her life and move on. That is, with a little help from a street magician.

"Miller & Son," directed by Asher Jelinsky, tells the story of a trans woman who juggles her life as a daytime mechanic in her father's shop and her true



(l to r) "He Drinks" actor Francisco Chacin, FilmOut San Diego Program Director Michael McQuiggan and Director Michael Varrati. (Photo courtesy of Michael McQuiggan)

identity that only emerges at night in clubs. All is well until a co-worker finds her while out at a bachelor party. Faced with being outed to her father, this film embraces the candid concerns of a parent, the struggles of living a double life and the bond of a family.

"Engaged," directed by David Scala (a San Diego Alumni filmmaker), is about Darren and his boyfriend Elliot. Darren is trying to propose but keeps failing and begins questioning whether it is coincidence or himself that is blocking his path. Darren's anxiety is humorous in this film as he tries to make everything perfect, but never finds perfection in timing. His insecurities get the best of him most of the time, but fortunately Elliot is

loving and understanding. The humor in this film carries the story with a compelling ease and has you rooting for a happily-ever-after ending from the very beginning.

Another San Diego filmmaker Mark Marchillo directs and acts in "Gay Camp." As cruel as conversion therapy is today, Marchillo, a straight man, came up with the idea of switching societal roles where homosexuality has become the norm and straight kids are sent to camp instead. This film is hysterically funny, and as outrageous as the concepts are in reforming the straight kids, it spotlights how ridiculous current gay conversion therapy is. "Gay Camp" sheds a light on conversion therapy in a comical way, but the subject matter is as serious as it gets.

"Romance Is Dead," directed by Todd Jackson (San Diego filmmaker), is a dark comedy horror story wherein Donovan turns to his best friend (who is straight) to help him with a crazy scheme to bring his dead lover back to life. The comedy in this film is superb with great timing and storytelling. The addition of presenting it as a partial musical was brilliant and more than just entertaining. Look for this film — it is well worth 13 minutes of amusement over on the dark side.

"Pasos en la Noche," directed by Daniel Garcia and Maximiliano Garcia (another San Diego film), is about a young man in Tijuana who enters a cumbia dance competition in the hopes of finally getting a dance with a man he has

secretly admired and desired. Set in the mid-'80s, this film examines the cultural differences in a Hispanic family, the struggle of coming out of the closet and the desire that compels you to do whatever it takes to live your life as your true self.

"Kathy," directed by Jonathon Hammond, is described as a "true(ish)" film about a young boy whose mother holds exorcisms in her house on a daily basis. The young boy is struggling with his sexual identity when Kathy shows up and disrupts his mother and her friends with her premonitions and godliness. But the question remains, is she godly or evil? The ending is remarkable and has a connection to the dilemma of whether or not to come out of the closet.

FilmOut San Diego provided a night of great entertainment with a little bit of everything that falls in our LGBTQ+ umbrella. This was a stellar selection of films and would love another chance to see them again. Next up for FilmOut is "50 Years of Fabulous," which recounts the rich history of the oldest LGBT charity organization in the world, the Imperial Court. Showing at Landmark's Hillcrest Cinemas on Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit filmoutsandiego.com.

—Albert Fulcher is the editor of Gay San Diego, a San Diego Community News Network publication. Albert Fulcher can be reached at albert@sdenn.com.

Don works hard and plays by the rules.
But the rules keep changing.

WHAT YOU ARE



Don scrapes together a living and struggles to support his family through hard work and good intentions. But everything around him, from his younger co-workers, to the technology in his office job, to even his own opinionated daughter, seems alien to the certainties and stabilities he once knew. When a simple misunderstanding at work escalates into an all-out confrontation, Don hatches a plan to set right all the things he feels have gone wrong. Can the people who love him manage to hold him together? JC Lee's Globe-commissioned world premiere is a riveting, of-the-moment exploration of the personal struggles that accompany sweeping social change. *Contains strong language.*

By JC Lee
Directed by Patricia McGregor

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Mike Sears, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Jonathan Walker, Omozé Idehenre, and Adrian Anchondo. Photo by Jim Cox.



Vegan meat that tastes like beef has arrived to Del Taco. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Fast food alert: As of early May, all San Diego locations of **Del Taco** began permanently offering tacos made with plant-based Beyond Meat as a ground beef option. The new crunchy "Beyond tacos" are available with grated cheddar, lettuce and tomato at 300 calories each — or with sliced avocado instead of the cheese at 260 calories. Each sells for \$2.49.

We tried the former and could barely tell the difference between the faux meat and real beef. The Beyond Meat, made from pea protein, carries a faint reddish tint from beet extract. It's also a little mushier in comparison. Otherwise, it stands to easily fool unsuspecting carnivores.

We also asked Del Taco employees at the Point Loma and Mission Valley locations how many Beyond tacos are sold daily since their introduction. None of them could cite figures, but each firmly answered, "a lot." deltaco.com.



A waffle with mashed potatoes, sausage and gravy at North Park's newest breakfast spot (Photo courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

If you've never had mashed potatoes and spicy sausage on your waffles, the new **North Park Breakfast Company** is the best to start. The eatery opened in mid-May as an offshoot to **Breakfast Republic**, a growing chain founded by Johan Engman of the locally based **Rise & Shine Restaurant Group**. The menu here, however, is different in comparison with more vegan/vegetarian options, craftier cocktails and "sweet-meets-savory" flavors inherent to many of the breakfast items.

Eclectic décor sets the stage for other dishes such as orange-thyme waffles; crispy chicken thighs with eggs and cauliflower confit; fried rice Benedict; and more. The restaurant is open daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **3131 University Ave., 619-269-2118, www.breakfast-company.com.**

The signage is up for one of Hillcrest's edgiest eating and drinking establishments, due to open by early July.

Breakfast Bitch will operate as a booze-centric breakfast spot by day (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and a laid-back after-hours speakeasy on Friday and Saturday nights (12:30 to 3:30 a.m.). In the day hours, look for dishes such as veggie scrambles, loaded hash browns and lobster Benedict. For the latter crowd, there will be games, CBD waters and non-alcoholic spritzers.

The project replaces the short-lived **Vancouver Wings** on a block of Fifth Avenue between University Avenue and Robinson Street that has seen a number of eateries come and go. Its owners, former college and professional football player Derrell Hutsona and his wife, Tracii, own the Los Angeles-based lifestyle management company **Elite Luxe**, which caters to athletes and celebrities.

Hutsona, a local native, told us he came up with the concept because "there's no place to eat after hours in San Diego." The couple was originally looking for spaces in the Gaslamp District until the Hillcrest opportunity caught their eye.

He added that the



Derrell and Tracii Hutsona are bringing an edgy concept to Fifth Avenue. (Photo courtesy of Breakfast Bitch)

establishment's campy bitch-speak concept, already evident on the website and voice greeting, isn't specifically intended for the LGBT community as many initially assumed, but that it's merely a fun, playful approach "open to everyone."

There is a LGBT connection to the project, however, with community member Carla Andrea in talks to serve as executive chef. Andrea runs a cooking show on YouTube and has already helped develop some of the menu for Breakfast Bitch. **3825 Fifth Ave., 877-732-4824, www.eatbreakfastbitch.com.**



Stella Jean's in University Heights is among dozens of ice-cream businesses taking part in Scoop San Diego. (Facebook)

Fast food alert: As of early May, all San Diego locations of **Del Taco** began permanently offering tacos made with plant-based Beyond Meat as a ground beef option. The new

San Diego's first ice-cream festival is coming to North Park, bringing together nearly two dozen local ice-cream makers in celebration of the centuries-old craft.

Scoop San Diego will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 23, at North Park Way and 30th Street. Organized by Daniel Szpak, a co-founder of **Hammond's Gourmet Ice Cream**, the event will benefit **Monarch School**, which

is dedicated to helping homeless students break the cycle of poverty.

Participating ice-cream vendors include Mariposa Ice Cream, An's Dry Cleaning, Chocolat, Moo Time Creamery, Stella Jean's Ice Cream, Scoops La Jolla and more. They will dole out samples in weights averaging 2 ounces. Some will be dairy-free. Tickets range from \$20 to \$35. For more information, visit www.scoopsandiego.org.



Specialty rolls and other Japanese plates are all the rage at the new SoCal Sushi. (Facebook)

The highly anticipated **SoCal Sushi** in Normal Heights recently opened to a menu featuring more than a dozen specialty rolls such as the "tipsy tuna" with mango salsa and unagi sauce as well as classic "spider" and "cat-erpillar" rolls. The quaint restaurant is owned by "Chef Goody," who also runs the acclaimed **Goody's Sushi & Grill** in National City. His

menu in Uptown is similar, but with fewer more-focused daily specials. **3454 Adams Ave., 619-255-7388.**

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



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Say it five times: Ki-row-uh

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

It was only a matter of time before University Heights received a brewery. Since January, the neighborhood became the latest San Diego locale to encompass the burgeoning trend, thanks to the arrival of Kairoa Brewing Company.

Kairoa's freshly designed two-level structure gives Uptown beer aficionados a rare bonus beyond the usual cool factor breweries bring with them. It offers a rooftop patio — a perk that too often goes missing in sunny and temperate San Diego.

The establishment is the brainchild of three native New Zealanders: married couple Oliver and Andrea Peach, and Shanan Spearing, who owns the adjoining Red House Pizza.

Situated on a prime corner of Park Boulevard and Madison Avenue, the trio transformed this circa-1924 structure into a graceful warm-industrial space by keeping the original wood ceiling beams and most of the framework. They added the rooftop, plus bars on each floor, a kitchen, a production area featuring six tanks, and lots of seating options to plant your caboose.

As for the name — “Kairoa” combines lettering from the couple's New Zealand hometowns of Kaikoura and Akaroa.

Their son, Joe Peach, is the head brewer. He crafts about a dozen beers of most varieties. But he steers away from the “darks” because “they don't sell well,” he said.

During happy hour, the house beers are \$5 per pint. My drinking companion, who loves all beers except hoppy IPAs, started with a smooth, light Belgian blonde named Cheeky Buggah. With faint hints of spice, he drank it with gusto as we both agreed it's the kind of brew you'll want to soak up while lolling on the rooftop patio during balmy summer days.

He switched to the only brown ale in Peach's current repertoire, a caramel-colored semi-malty creation named Bright Lights. It offered medium body and traces of toffee, though lighter in flavor than typical brown ales.

Throughout our visit, I

Kairoa Brewing Company

4601 Park Blvd. (University Heights)
619-295-1355, www.kairoa.com
Happy hour: 4 to 10 p.m., Monday, and 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday



The first and only brewery in University Heights has been gaining steam since opening in January. (Photos by Dr. Ink)

stuck to Back Paddock, a New Zealand pilsner accented reasonably with hops sourced from Kiwi country. Compared to classic German pilsners, this offered more character and a perkier finish.

A small handful of noshes are also only \$5 during happy hour. As of late, the “Impossible roll” using the namesake plant-based meat isn't available due to a supply shortage. Our waitress assured it will soon be replaced with another vegan option.

We chose a couple of shrimp “butties” (a New Zealand term for sliders or sandwich, we assumed) and a sausage roll enrobed in puff pastry.

The shrimp were tucked within a small, shiny brioche roll with spicy aioli, although I could have done without their

RATINGS

Drinks: Based on only three beers we tried from a dozen brewed onsite, they tasted clean, balanced and expertly crafted.

Food: The shrimp in a “buttie” slider needs a lighter batter, or none at all. And the house-made sausage served in delicate puff pastry could withstand to be made a few notches leaner.

Value: Everything on the happy hour menu is \$5 with the exception of wines by the glass, which are \$6 each.

Service: Our table service at ground level was excellent. But staffers handling incoming guests were negligent and distracted.

Atmosphere: The space is airy and modern, yet warm. And the spacious rooftop patio is a boon to the neighborhood.

heavy batter. The sausage, made in-house, was unctuous. But the excellent seeded mustard (also made onsite) cut through most of the fattiness.

Kairoa's greeting system struck us as confusing. A sign at a podium just inside the entrance read “Wait to be seated.” But as we observed, nobody was there to welcome incoming customers. Most of them, including us, had to traipse over to the bar and interrupt staffers chatting on their cell phones or in conversation with each other.

If you choose to sit on the inviting rooftop patio, a sign instructs you to order food and drinks through the bartender. We didn't last long there because a large number of tables were reserved for a private party, and there was some dude in the bunch wearing excessive, cheap cologne.

For now, as the brewery continues catching on, I direct my applause in regards to happy hour to the sleekly designed space and the well-crafted beer.❖

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(l to r) A blonde ale and pilsner from the tanks of Kairoa Brewing Company



A shrimp “buttie”

UPTOWN CALENDAR

Friday, May 31

The Art of Comic-Con 50

Don't miss this rare opportunity to view original art and process pieces that explore the creation of 50 years of Comic-Con souvenir book covers. A popular feature of the exhibit, especially with children, is an art-making station where visitors are invited to create their own version of the Comic-Con souvenir book cover. A selection of the finished pieces will be published in the real Comic-Con 2019 souvenir book! The free exhibit will be open from 5-8 p.m. at 2131 Pan American Plaza in Balboa Park.

Saturday, June 1

World of Flavors

St. Patrick School is sharing the diversity represented in our students and their families with the community. St. Patrick invites neighbors to join them in celebrating our many wonderful cultures through food, music and entertainment. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 and under. All proceeds benefit the school. 5-8 p.m. at St. Patrick School, 3014 Capps St.

Night at the Padres

Kids' Turn San Diego (KTSD), a nonprofit dedicated to changing family relationships in positive ways so children experiencing family separations are happier, will host its seventh annual Night at the Padres. Guests will enjoy the Padres game, an all-you-can-eat buffet and beverages, and all guests will receive a Padres giveaway! Proceeds from this year's event will go towards KTSD's programs: Family Workshops for Separated and Divorced Families and the Creating Brighter Futures Counseling Program for Children. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased online by visiting bit.ly/30UIPpd.

Tuesday, June 4

National Cheese Day



Mezé Greek Fusion, located at 345 Sixth Ave. in the Gaslamp Quarter, will literally light up the room with saganaki, a popular "meze" appetizer that's pan-seared and flambéed tableside, available for half price all day long. Served with freshly made pita bread, Mezé's saganaki selections include: classic saganaki pan-seared Kasserli cheese flambéed with brandy; saganaki glyko, pan-seared Kasserli cheese flambéed with Grand Marnier, topped with sesame seeds, dried figs, Greek honey and fresh orange; shrimp and ouzo saganaki, jumbo shrimp pan-seared with garlic, tomato, green onion and feta cheese, flambéed in ouzo; and more. More information and reservations are available by calling 619-550-1600 or online at gaslampmeze.com.



El Chingon, GBOD Hospitality Group's "Bad Ass" Mexican restaurant located at 560 Fifth Ave. in the Gaslamp Quarter, will bring the fun with half-priced queso fundido throughout the day. Made with melted mozzarella, manchego cheese, yellow onion and crushed red pepper, it is served with a choice of flour or corn tortillas. More information and reservations are available by calling 619-501-1919 or online at elchingon.com.

Wednesday, June 5

Colors on Canvas Awards Reception

The Mission Hills Business Improvement District's community-wide banner art contest Colors on Canvas Awards Reception is taking place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Frame Maker located at 3102 Reynard Way. Refreshments will be provided by Cake Bakery, Lazy Acres, Pizza e Birra and Thorn Street Brewery. You are invited to stop by to view the Mission Hills-centric children-created artwork, meet the artists, and enjoy food and beverages.

'Me, Myself and Everyone Else'

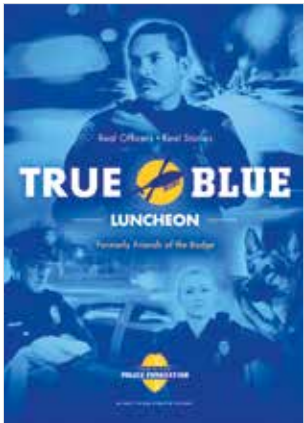


Christina Bianco, the "girl of a thousand voices," will make her San Diego debut with her hit show, "Me, Myself and Everyone Else" on Wednesday, June 5, at 8 p.m. at Martinis Above Fourth, located at 3940 Fourth Ave. The internationally-acclaimed performer will celebrate the world's most iconic vocalists and pop culture personalities through her soaring vocals and spot-on celebrity impressions. Tickets are now on sale at bit.ly/2Z6spbk.

Golden Hill Community Mixer
Tobey's 19th Hole is keeping their doors open late to host the Golden Hill community. Come meet your neighbors at 6:30-8 p.m. at 2600 Golf Course Drive.

Thursday, June 6

True Blue Luncheon



The San Diego Police Foundation proudly introduces True Blue, a one-of-a-kind experience featuring San Diego Police Department officers and their real-life stories. From harrowing to heroic, it's time to buckle up as True Blue takes you into the heat of the action in the fight against crime. Rated PG, for pulse-raising guaranteed! 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. 619-232-2130 x 111.

Saturday, June 8

'Awkward But Graceful'



This one-woman show is a story of survival performed by Nataša Warasch and directed by Grant Gelvin. Inspired by the sitcom "The Golden Girls," Nataša packs her bags and naively embarks on a journey from the Austrian countryside to America. Her dreams of making it in show business are challenged as she is exploited in Los Angeles and becomes homeless in Harlem before making a decision that alters her life. 8 p.m. at the North Park Vaudeville Theatre, located at 2031 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92104. Admission is \$15. For more information or to get tickets, visit MFpresents.com or call 858-550-8088.

Avolution Fest



The second annual Avolution Fest is back and better than ever! Meet Downtown on the water for the best party of the summer. Avolution Fest is a one-day immersive experience celebrating all things avocado with live music, art installations, food trucks and drinks at Broadway Pier in Downtown San Diego. 4-10 p.m. Live music by Tim Legend at 5 p.m., Lost Kings at 6:30 p.m., and St. Lucia at 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11

Cancer Prevention Class

Learn how you can reduce your risk for cancer at this free event hosted by Sharp HealthCare and the city of San Diego. 3:30 p.m. at San Diego Central Library, Mary Hollis Clark Room.

Gay Men's Book Club

The Gay Men's Book Club will discuss this month's selection, "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic," Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir about

coming out as a lesbian and growing up in a Pennsylvania town where her closeted gay father ran the family's funeral home. Anyone interested in novels, memoirs and plays with gay themes is welcome to join the club. 6-7:30 p.m. at the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library, 215 W. Washington St. Contact Ron Alsop at ronald.alsop@gmail.com or 908-347-3877 for more information.

Saturday, June 15

Hillcrest Wind Ensemble Summer Concert



Escape to the wonderful world of Disney when the Hillcrest Wind Ensemble presents, "The Black Hole, Music and the Mouse!" on Saturday, June 15, at the historic Mississippi Room in the Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Blvd. in North Park. Since Disney now owns so many franchises, this presents the opportunity to perform a huge variety of music. The program will include exciting music from "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," a comical piece from "The Muppets" as well as many of the Disney classics and many more. Doors open at 6 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and the concert starts at 7 p.m. No-host bars will be available throughout the evening and tickets for opportunity drawings will be sold for a chance to win some exciting prizes. The night is sure to bring out the kid in everyone! Tickets are \$25 and available online at hwesd.brownpapertickets.com, and The Windsmith, 3875 Granada Ave. in North Park, or at the door.

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day



Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant, located at 2202 Fourth Ave., will celebrate dads with a steak dinner and wine pairing. Chef de Cuisine Jason Gethin will prepare a 10-ounce New York steak and seasonal vegetables for the occasion, paired with a glass of Chappellet Mountain Cuvee, priced at \$40. Bankers Hill's full dinner, cocktail menu and extensive wine list will also be available to celebrate the holiday. Reservations are available by calling 619-231-0222. More information, including the full menu, may be found online at bankershill.com.

Thursday, June 20

Orange Bikeway Open House and Public Hearing

The open house and public hearing marks an important

step for the Orange Bikeway project. SANDAG, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will hold a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed project. During the open house portion of the meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to talk with project team members and provide feedback. The SANDAG Transportation Committee is anticipated to consider whether the proposed project is exempt from CEQA at its July 19 meeting. Comments collected at the public hearing and open house and written responses to those comments will be provided to the Transportation Committee for consideration before its July 19 meeting. Food, beverages and bike valet provided. Open house at 6 p.m., public hearing at 6:45-8 p.m. at Euclid Elementary School, 4166 Euclid Ave.

Red Shoe Day fundraiser



Volunteers are needed from across the county for Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Diego's largest volunteer-driven fundraiser to collect generous cash donations from morning commuters from 6:30-9:30 a.m. at more than 200 major intersections throughout the San Diego Community. Visit RedShoeDaySD.com to register as a volunteer or create a personal fundraising page to help support Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Sunday, June 23

Cici's Last Stand



Hillcrest resident, artist, musician and child abuse prevention advocate Cici (Porter) Artemisia, of legendary San Diego Bordertown, is releasing her new album, "The Lucky One," just before she leaves San Diego after 35 years. This is a going-away party for Cici, a celebration of "The Lucky One" CD, a video shoot for the title track, and a pop-up art sale. Cici wants to leave some of her highly coveted, brightly colored, earth-loving nature-inspired paintings behind. There will be plenty of music with an intimate, mostly-solo concert, peppered with guest appearances by Jeff Berkley, David Beldock, The Lunch Ladies, and more. Everyone will have a chance to be in "The Lucky One" video, from solo appearances to a flash mob dance scene. There will be food trucks, a no-host bar,

public mural painting, and keeping with "The Lucky One" theme, poker, horse-shoes, fortune-telling, lucky prize bonanzas, and Lord knows what else! Located at 450 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, 92024, the Heritage Ranch from 4-8 p.m. \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door and includes a "The Lucky One" CD or download. They can be purchased at ci-art.com.

Scoop San Diego



Summer is coming, and so is San Diego's first ice-cream festival! Scoop San Diego will bring the tastiest ice cream and gelato from shops all over San Diego to the heart of North Park on Sunday, June 23. Proceeds from the festival will benefit Monarch School, supporting homeless children in San Diego with educational needs. The Scoop San Diego festival will be open 11 a.m.-4 p.m., June 23, at North Park Way and 30th Street. Tickets are now on sale at scoopsandiego.org. Single tickets, which entitle guests to 10 delicious samples, are \$20. "Shareable" tickets, which entitle guests to a sample from each participating vendor, are \$35.

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/LestatWest

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 a.m.-noon 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

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			6				9	
1				8			3	
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9/6

Sudoku Puzzle

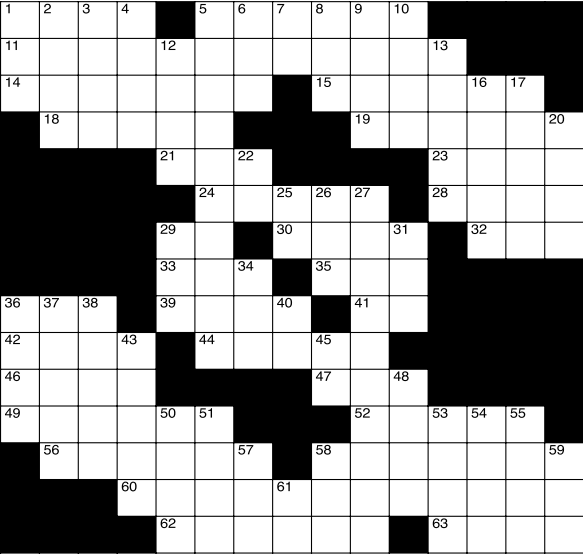
Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Puzzle answers on page 14

Uptown Crossword

Classics



CLUES ACROSS

1. Partially burn

5. Mind

11. Those who build again

14. Small chapel

15. Hot fluids

18. Makes beer

19. It can be done

21. Take to court

23. Line the roof of

24. Middle Eastern peoples

28. Longtime film critic

29. University of Dayton

30. Coat with plaster

32. Wife

33. Famed NY opera house

35. Health insurance
36. Inches per minute (abbr.)

39. Longtime London Europe Society chairman

41. Pa's partner

42. Lump of semiliquid substance

44. Grasslike plant

46. Large, wild ox

47. Make a mistake

49. A type of light

52. Books

56. Bothers

58. Two-colored

60. December 25

62. Save

63. Bangladeshi money

CLUES DOWN

1. Research exec (abbr.)

2. Famed jazz musician Alpert

3. Sixth month of the Jewish calendar

4. Network of nerves

5. Those who convince

6. Slick

7. Hello (slang)

8. Cost per mile

9. A type of honcho

10. Consequently

12. Couples say them aloud

13. Sharp slap

16. On a line at right angles

17. More guileful

20. Chipotle founder

22. Trauma center

25. Commercial

26. "___ humbug!"

27. Relaxing period
29. Calls balls and strikes

31. Decorative scarf

34. Korean family name

36. Antagonizes

37. Buenos Aires capital La ___

38. Exhibit grief

40. Gadolinium

43. Half-tamed horse (slang)

45. American conglomerate

48. Cape near Lisbon

50. Quantum physics pioneer

51. Medieval England circuit court

53. To the highest degree

54. Spanish city

55. Saturate

57. Female sibling

58. British thermal unit

59. Scandinavian wool rug

61. Sports highlight show (abbr.)

Puzzle answers on page 14

FROM PAGE 1
BOULEVARD

The pilot program would use a solid eight-inch line to designate lane-three of traffic on each side of the major roadway for buses only. Since the pilot program is only a temporary measure, the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) will evaluate whether the paint and signage work as well as looking at signal prioritization in order to improve travel time reliability.

The dedicated bus lane will extend from Park Boulevard to Fairmount Avenue, with the eventual goal of extending to San Diego State University.

This affects Rapid 215 and Route 1, which together carry 10,000 passengers per day. The goal of a bus-only lane would be to speed up their commutes as well as to expand bus service to even more people.

Unlike other projects like the recently passed protected bike lane along 30th Street that take out coveted parking spaces, the move to bus rapid transit (BRT) is receiving widespread community support. The El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association (ECB-BIA) was the main proponent of it through their Blvd. 20/20 Plan, which cast a new vision of the Mid-City corridor that runs through University Heights, North Park, Kensington, Talmadge and City Heights.

At public forums held by the business association, a top concern among neighbors is making the road more walkable. The corridor currently has one of the highest rates of pedestrian deaths in the city. With cars forced to drive in only two lanes, the proponents of the pilot program say this will reduce their speeds and create a safer environment for pedestrians. Businesses also think the change will improve their outcomes.

“El Cajon Boulevard a long time ago was designed as Highway 80 and that was decommissioned. It’s why Interstate 8 was built. It’s become a dense urban center of San Diego and it really does need to be transformed into one that’s more livable and amenable to doing good business,” Beryl Forman, the marketing and mobility coordinator of ECB-BIA, said. “We know we need to come around to a new alignment given that it is very wide and unsafe.”

The current plan allows for buses and bikes to share the lane, which, according to Circulate SD Director of Policy Maya Rosas, means cyclists would have the lane to themselves during the eight-minute intervals between buses rather than using “sharrows” (the painted signs telling cars and bikes to share the road) in a lane with a constant stream of vehicles.

Overall, she sees the project as a first step to make transit faster across the region.

“If San Diego is ever going to reach its climate action goals,

that means making transit competitive with driving by yourself. More people will choose to ride transit when it becomes time-competitive,” Rosas said.

The pilot program was pushed forward in part with assistance from the advocacy foundation TransitCenter, which helps cities across the nation improve their public transit. Kirk Hovenkotter, a TransitCenter senior program associate, spoke at a town hall meeting about how pilot programs have worked in other parts of the country.

“This is one of the busiest bus corridors in San Diego and we’re excited to see the mayor pushing forward the idea of implementing a pilot bus lane and also looking to expand upon that pilot to continue to speed up those trips,” Hovenkotter said.

“Projects like these benefit everyone who’s already riding the bus on the corridor and they also expand the capacity of bus service so more people will be drawn to transit and the street can handle more people. I think that’s why the business community is excited for it,” said Ben Fried, communications director for TransitCenter.

After the pilot program rolls out, officials will receive feedback and measure the success of the project in order to decide whether to make the dedicated bus lane a permanent fixture of the mid-city corridor.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at Kendra@sdnews.com.

FROM PAGE 12
CALENDAR

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.ly/ThursKen

Fridays

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](https://twitter.com/cicfreefriendfriday) for free Wi-Fi. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Collective Impact Center, 3295 Meade Ave. bit.ly/free-Fridays

Saturdays

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.ly/OTMarket

Sundays

Hillcrest Farmers Market

About 175 venders offer a variety of locally grown produce, hand-made arts and crafts, and fresh-cut 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

Mission Hills resident competing for heart of 'The Bachelorette'

By Emily Blackwood

From growing up playing lacrosse to earning a bachelor's degree in English to studying business in London to starting a career in finance to co-founding an app with his cousin, Dylan's Barbour's next move is never quite what you'll think it'll be.

So it wasn't much of a surprise when he landed one of the 30 coveted roles on this season of ABC's "The Bachelorette."

Barbour is now one of 15 men

left competing for the heart of Hannah Brown. While we know he's made it this far, Barbour was hesitant to reveal any specifics about his time on the show.

"I never thought I would do it," he said. "It was a great experience, and I'm really happy that I did it."

Barbour's contestant bio describes him as an entrepreneur who "loves to drive his boat, scuba dive and cook up a big

see *Bachelorette*, pg 15



San Diego resident Dylan Barbour is currently competing on this season of "The Bachelorette." (Photo courtesy Dylan Barbour)

FROM PAGE 13
BACHELORETTE



Cousins Dylan Barbour and Samantha Pantazopoulos co-founded Vizer in 2017. (Photo courtesy Dylan Babour)

meal.” While vague job descriptions have long been a point of amusement for Bachelor Nation contestants, Barbour’s is legit. In 2017, he created an app called Vizer with his cousin, Samantha Pantazopoulos, that encourages people to work out while also donating food to those in need.

Vizer works by setting activity challenges each day; either 30 minutes of exercise tracked with a wearable monitor like a Fitbit or an Apple Watch, or 10,000 steps tracked with your phone. You could also meet the daily fitness goal if you take a class at one of Vizer’s partner studios like Corepower Yoga in Pacific Beach or Verve Studios.

If you meet that daily goal, you can then donate one meal to the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, which earns you a point. Points can be redeemed for free drinks and appetizers at local restaurants like Bird Rock Coffee Roasters, Parakeet Cafe, Powerhaus Pizza and The Patio on Lamont.

While Barbour and Pantazopoulos hope to expand and one day take their business nationally, their original goal was to help their hometown of San Diego.

“It’s built by San Diego for San Diego,” he said. “I lived in LA, London, New York, and San Francisco, and San Diego just treats us really, really well. So being able to kind of give back galvanizes everybody behind one cause. You can see it actually impacting your community. It’s really cool and it makes it more real for everyone.

“It just feels good to be able to give back. We’re all, in the grand scheme of things, in really good positions in life. So being able to elevate others has always been the goal.”

For more information on Vizer, visit vizerapp.com. Watch Barbour compete on “The Bachelorette,” every Monday at 8 p.m. on ABC.

—Emily Blackwood can be reached at emily@sdnews.com.



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