Uncovering the names in La Jolla's underwater cemetery

Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz purchase Razor house

San Diego Polo Classic coming to Del Mar Arena

Topo Mendez is one of three players on the Porsche San Diego polo team.

The highest-rated arena polo game on the West Coast is coming to the Del Mar Arena this month. The San Diego Polo Classic will pit the all-Hawaiian pro team Tommy Bahama against the hometown Porsche San Diego team on Sept. 28. The event has been held at the Hotel del Coronado for the past three years, but the hotel's recent $200 million renovation led them to “take a break” and find another location.

Randy Russell, president of Polo America, said the classic is a great opportunity for people who have yet to check out the sport.

“It’s basically hockey on horseback,” Russell said, adding that the arena is much smaller than the polo players' typical venue. “An outdoor field is the size of nine, 10 football fields. Over here in the arena, it’s just a single football field. So the action is constantly right in front of you.”

A lot of that action will be brought on by Porsche San Diego player Topo Mendez. Polo players are rated by goals; -2 being a beginner and 10 goals being the best. Mendez is a 4-goal player.

Mendez is joined by Alejandro Nordheimer (5 goals) and Skyler Dale (3 goals), bringing the handicap of the team to 13 goals. For Mendez, all that talent comes from a love of the sport and time. At 56, he’s been playing polo for 40 years.

“The great part about the classic is being able to see the professionals,” said Russell. “I’ve known Topo for, like, 10 years and what he can do out there is amazing. He no longer rides the horse; he becomes the horse.”

Mendez smiles and attributes this skill to his trusty steed; of which he has five. “If you have a good horse, you can be everywhere,” he said. “They need to stop on a dime and take off like a Porsche.”

The gates for the San Diego Polo Classic will open at 6 p.m., with the first polo game starting at 6:30 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. During the event, there will also be a Fascinator Hat Contest for the most elegant and most humorous entries. Tickets cost $25 for general admission and $400-$800 for Millionaire’s Row boxes, which include a cocktail party to meet the players on Sept. 27, and a pre-game cocktail party on Sept. 28, from 6-7 p.m. The Millionaire Row tickets also include a dining option for an additional fee.

Read more online at sdnews.com.
Singer Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz buy La Jolla’s infamous ‘Razor House’

Former Charger receives life-saving procedure from Scripps

The Razor House overlooks Razor Point.

COURTESY PHOTO.

Singer Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz buy La Jolla’s infamous ‘Razor House’

Former Charger receives life-saving procedure from Scripps

During his tenure with the San Diego Chargers, Big Ed White was known as a player with heart. And so it was fitting earlier this month that White became one of the first people in San Diego County to benefit from a new, revolutionary heart procedure.

Performed by cardiologists at La Jolla’s Scripps Memorial Hospital, the minimally invasive procedure — transcatheter aortic valve replacement, or TAVR — is a promising alternative to open-heart surgery. Although TAVR was designed for patients too ill or frail to undergo open-heart surgery, the Food and Drug Administration last month approved the procedure for low-risk patients like the 72-year-old White, who lives in Julian.

“At Scripps, we have been doing the TAVR procedure on high-risk surgery patients since 2011,” said Teirstein. “And we’ve seen over and over how this technique, requiring only one night in the hospital, extends and improves patients’ lives.”

In the near future, the expectation is that the procedure will be offered to almost all patients with aortic stenosis. Teirstein predicted that most of the 70,000 aortic valve replacements done annually in the United States will use the TAVR procedure.

White was traded to San Diego in 1978 and played the final eight years of his career with the Chargers, becoming a Pro Bowl blocker for the formidable “Air Coryell” offense. White retired after the 1985 season and was later elected to the Franchise’s Hall of Fame.

“Scripps treats more than 7,500 patients annually throughout the region. Learn more at scripps.org.”

Former San Diego Chargers player Ed White and Scripps Clinic chief of cardiology Dr. Paul Teirstein.

ADAM BEHAR / VILLAGE NEWS

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Gone Whale Watching raises money for lymphoma research

While riding next to a breaching humpback or getting close enough to almost touch a pod of dolphins is enough of a reason to book a whale watching tour, Domenic Biagini is giving one more.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, Biagini is donating all the proceeds from his Gone Whale Watching trips to cancer research after watching his father-in-law Percy Veloro battle non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Veloro was diagnosed in April 2017 at 49 years old after his family noticed he was having constant nosebleeds. He was diagnosed in April 2017 at 49 years old after his family noticed he was having constant nosebleeds.

“He was just a prime example of how this disease doesn’t discriminate,” said Biagini. “It can literally happen to anybody. He was an avid cyclist, loves long-distance bike rides, eats an extremely healthy diet, doesn’t smoke, doesn’t even drink socially — he just lived the ideal healthy lifestyle.”

After his diagnosis, Biagini said Veloro was resilient and continued to work as a high-level accountant for Pechanga Arena San Diego all through his treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation and even a bone marrow transplant.

Sadly, Veloro died Sept. 14. To honor his father-in-law’s memory, Biagini said he wanted to use his platform to remind people that this disease effects families all over the world and every penny raised to fight it counts.

“He always was fighting,” Biagini said of his father-in-law. “He’s an unbelievable example to value your life in whatever form it’s in. You just have to try to make the most of it. He and my mother-in-law were absolute superheroes through this whole process.”

Their efforts are what have inspired Biagini — who’s often referred to as Capt. Dom — to use his business to give back. Since he started Gone Whale Watching last month, he says he’s been running whale watching trips every single day.

All the proceeds from his Gone Whale Watching’s whale watching trips on Sept. 28 will be donated to cancer research.

“Never would have expected that was possible,” he said. “Seeing that there’s that big of an appetite [for whale watching] in the San Diego area, I wanted to see if I could use that to not only give people an incentive to go whale watching but also know that the money you’re spending is going towards a really good cause.”

“It’s an added bonus, really,” Biagini said he usually takes about five people out per trip, but he plans on “filling the boat” as much as possible for the Sept. 28 donation day. The morning trips are full, but he currently has space for some trips in the afternoon he hopes to completely book. He’ll take whatever money raised that day and donate it to the Lymphoma Research Foundation.

And after he posted about his charity event on Instagram to his 28,000-plus followers, he realized how many people are.

“One of the families that booked one of our morning trips said, ‘I’m a 16-year non-Hodgkin lymphoma survivor,’” he said. “To think that one of these nameless faces who follow me [on Instagram] are going through the same thing my family’s going through. I just want them to know that they all matter.”

“Together, the more everyone is willing to do, the better chance we have to keep families together.”

For more information about Gone Whale Watching and to book a trip, visit gonewhalewatching.com. Those who do want to donate their trips to cancer research should select the “whale watching for cancer research” option from the product list.

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LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

BY EMILY BLACKWOOD | LA JOLLA WEEKLY

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SELECT CARTS BUY 2 IG GET A PALM BATTERY $1
Kango, a ride-sharing, child care app, will launch in San Diego this month. Using this mobile app, parents can schedule transportation and babysitting for their children from highly trained and qualified child care providers. Driver/sitters wear T-shirts that don the company’s recognizable, namesake pink kangaroo. “Kango” is a diminutive for the Australian marsupial that is known for safely transporting their young in their pouch. Additionally, this abbreviation also sounds like “can-go,” which further refers to the Kango’s ability to transport.

“We’re not just aiming to be the lifesaving solution to logistical challenges for parents,” says Kango’s cofounder and CEO, Sara Schaer. “Kango enables everyone to be what they want to be. Parents don’t have to sacrifice their careers, and kids don’t have to give up the idea of being high level athletes or a star musician. Everyone can get where they need to go without having to sacrifice these goals.”

Schaer is a mother of two boys, and the idea to create Kango was inspired by her own transportation challenges. She initially developed an app that paired parents together to form carpool groups; but after receiving feedback from the parents who used the service, she modified the app to create Kango, the ride-sharing app where parents can choose from a database of highly qualified driver/sitters.

In 2015, Kango started in San Francisco as a fully licensed and insured ride-sharing company. By 2016, Kango had spread across the Bay Area, and the company traveled south to Los Angeles in late 2017. Starting this month, Kango will cover a roughly 25 mile radius based in Downtown San Diego.

Similar to other ride-sharing apps like Uber or Lyft, Kango is a mobile app that facilitates effortless ride requests and cashless transactions; however, Kango differs from these ride-share apps in its scheduling, communication benefits, and safety.

Parents who use Kango are involved in choosing driver/sitters, for they can elect to have a meet-and-greet with the professional before booking a ride. Additionally, parents can curate a group of preferred driver/sitters as their children form bonds with their favorites.

In order to become a driver/sitter for Kango, candidates go through a lengthy screening process. Potential employees need several years of child care experience, and they must have a vehicle that passes vehicle inspections and meets insurance criteria. They must also undergo two interviews, two background checks, and an orientation session. After passing these steps, candidates are then eligible to work for Kango.

And to insure the utmost safety, Kango offers open communication between parents, driver/sitters, and Kango operations members. Parents have the luxury to track the rides through the app, and Kango operations can oversee the rides to ensure that their employees answer parents’ requests.

Schaer looks forward to introducing Kango to San Diego parents, “We treat their children just like we’d treat our own kids—with the utmost care. And we treat parents with the best level of communication and service and empathy.”

To learn more about Kango’s services, visit kangoapp.co.
Update your home décor quickly dramatically with window treatments

Most homeowners are looking for ways to upgrade their home décor quickly and dramatically. One of the most overlooked pieces of home décor are the window treatments, which can alter your interior design more than you may realize. Take a look at these tips to see how you can update your home without compromising your style.

A Stylish Upgrade
Drapery is an easy way for any homeowner to layer onto existing window treatments bringing new life to an old look. It can also stand on its own and adds visual warmth and texture to any room. Drapery brings a variety of visual aspects to the space.

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Homeowners are always on the lookout for ways to save money, and the monthly gas/electric bill can be a sore spot. Start saving with window treatments that keep your home well insulated.

Drapery is great at controlling the amount of light that enters a room. During the summer, light entering a home will heat the interior and cause the energy costs to rise. Closing drapes during the day can reduce those costs because drapery acts as an additional layer of insulation. Drapery also acts as a barrier from the outside temperature during the cold winter months. No matter the season, drapery is the perfect way to help keep you comfortable inside, regardless of what the weather is doing outside.

Privacy
Sometimes, privacy can be an afterthought until you look out your window and see someone else looking back at you. Having control of who is seeing into your home is something that you need to account for. Before you say your windows are private enough, think about them at night. Once the sun goes down, and it starts to get dark, any light on in your home makes it easier to see in. With light filtering options you can determine the level of light entering or leaving your windows, allowing you to be able to see out without unwanted eyes peering in. Because of the variety of fabrics available, drapery is a stylish way to keep your home to your eyes only.

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New socially conscious store opens on Prospect

Social Concept was created with the idea of curating a space with high quality merchandise from socially conscious vendors. For our first round we have partnered with artisans from El Salvador who give back to their community by educating, training, and developing local talent. Together we donate a percentage of profits to various causes. All of our products are handmade and include handbags, women’s apparel, jewelry, and eyewear from our sister store Perspective Eyewear who carries independent brands such as Article One, Salt, GLCO, Moscot and Andy Wolf.

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La Jolla resident Sophia Bacino was the winner of the 2019 singer-songwriter contest at the San Diego County Fair. 

COURTESY PHOTO

La Jolla resident Sophia Bacino was the winner of the 2019 singer-songwriter contest at the San Diego County Fair.

By Jemma Samala

Sophia Bacino strides into Panikin Coffee & Tea carrying a ton of energy, and you are immediately drawn to the young, college-bound musician/songwriter. And music is what brought Bacino to our attention, as she was the winner of the 2019 singer-songwriter contest at the San Diego County Fair. We’ll get to that a little later.

Wearing her Pink Floyd tee, we immediately get along in our conversation talking about music, during which she shows me a better way to record conversations on my phone — I love the youth. Bacino has lived her entire young life in La Jolla’s Mt. Soledad area, attending All Hallows Academy and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace schools. She started writing songs at the age of 8, inspired by musical artists Taylor Swift and Coldplay. She also credits her music teacher Jamie, which guided her musical happiness — and still visits her once a week. That teacher-student relationship opened her up to thinking of “music as freedom.”

Finding comfort in her songs, Bacino creates stories where you can find empathy in her lyrics; a place where the listener can live in others’ shoes, and the “listener becomes the character.” Bacino recalls a performance at Lesa’s, where a girl came up to her, telling Bacino that the song embodied exactly what she was experiencing; the words had spoken to her. That’s why she writes, because “someone needed it.”

Bacino’s sophistication in her thoughts comes through in her music. Listen to her songs such as “Indigo,” “Ghost,” and “Hypocrisies” and you can sense the intellectual storyteller bringing imagery to life. Many of her songs are about love, and while Bacino admits she may not be very experienced in that area, her lyrics and music artistically combine to create the feeling that it’s personal. You can really sense her sophisticated style when you watch her music video “Indigo” on YouTube. She may only be 18 years old, but her storytelling shows her maturity.

Performing in local venues throughout San Diego since she was 13, she gets the full support of her family, with her parents and brother acting as her roadies. Her “Papa Don” was also a musician in a gospel band, so there’s music in her genes. Bacino doesn’t like to have a set playlist, but instead looks to the audience to decide on which songs to play. She “feels the energy” at the time and continues her performance by establishing a “beautiful connection between the audience and performer.”

The genuine connection Bacino creates with the audience was probably the key factor in helping her win the singer-songwriter contest this past summer at the San Diego County Fair. Having to wait until she turned 18 to enter the annual event, she competed against over 100 entrants, which were not limited to San Diego area residents. Bacino became one of 10 finalists to perform a couple of original songs. Thinking only her submitted song “Walking On A Wire” was to be performed, she immediately sensed that her song “Indigo” would work for the contest’s audience. And her instincts were spot on. Since she had the foresight to listen to the audience, Bacino was reacted favorably, which I’m sure the judges picked up on since they announced Bacino as the winner soon thereafter.

Winning the contest, Bacino received a nice big trophy and a $3,000 prize, which will come in handy as she is packing up to attend UCLA this week. Bacino will be majoring in ethnomusicology, which is the study of the music of different cultures, especially non-Western ones. While attending university and living in Los Angeles (as a mom of college-aged kids myself, I warned her about the perils of living in the big city), Bacino plans to continue writing songs, performing, and getting involved in the LA pickup music scene. Through her connections, she looks forward to being part of that beautiful musical community, supporting each other with their goals.

Bacino is in a “nice, genuine place” and we’re looking forward to more opportunities in listening to her magic, as she grows with maturity. Many of her songs are about love, and while Bacino admits she may not be very experienced in that area, her lyrics and music artistically combine to create the feeling that it’s personal. You can really sense her sophisticated style when you watch her music video “Indigo” on YouTube. She may only be 18 years old, but her storytelling shows her maturity. Performing in local venues throughout San Diego since she was 13, she gets the full support of her family, with her parents and brother acting as her roadies. Bacino’s sophistication in her thoughts comes through in her music. Listen to her songs such as “Indigo,” “Ghost,” and “Hypocrisies” and you can sense the intellectual storyteller bringing imagery to life. Many of her songs are about love, and while Bacino admits she may not be very experienced in that area, her lyrics and music artistically combine to create the feeling that it’s personal. You can really sense her sophisticated style when you watch her music video “Indigo” on YouTube. She may only be 18 years old, but her storytelling shows her maturity.

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Bacino is in a “nice, genuine place” and we’re looking forward to more opportunities in listening to her magic, as she grows with maturity. Be on the lookout.

You can find Sophia Bacino’s music on YouTube, Spotify, and iTunes. You can also follow her on Instagram at Sophia.Jo.
Uncovering the names in La Jolla’s underwater cemetery — and its caretaker

By Dale Denton | LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

It’s hard to believe but the first organized dive club in the world started in La Jolla — and they were called the San Diego Bottom Scratchers.

While the pioneering members — 19 of them — are now gone, there is still an underground cemetery of tombstones bearing some of their names. It’s located a few hundred yards northwest of Boomers Beach/Point in La Jolla, next door to the preserve at the cave and at the bottom of the ocean.

Many members of the club lived in Old Town, Point Loma, El Cajon, and other suburbs of a then-early 20th-century San Diego. However, La Jolla’s unique environmental characteristics certainly established it as the focal point of most early sport diving, said one expert.

“The San Diego Bottom Scratchers are widely recognized as the first organized dive club in the world, and as the first individuals in San Diego to consider sport divers,” according to Ashleigh Palinkas, scientific diving technician and marine biologist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

She said having been watermen all their lives, the Bottom Scratchers lived up to their name by scratching around the bottom of the ocean for food to feed their families and friends during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

It is also said that their name came from the scratching of horn shark horns dangling from their swim trunks, a trophy collected during one of their several formidable club initiation rituals, she said.

After a year of diving together and sharing their catch, the club was officially founded in 1931 by divers Jack Prodanovich, Ben Stone, and Glenn Orr.

Palinkas said throughout their lifetimes, members of the Bottom Scratchers were widely accredited for inventing goggles and subsequent facemasks, underwater camera housings, paddleboards, and spearguns among other miscellaneous tools for exploration beneath the surface.

“Jack Prodanovich and Wally Potts were the innovators of the equipment and as an example, Jack made the first goggles out of a woman’s compact mirror and set those in a cut radiator hose,” said the daughter of Potts, Lynnele Logan.

From her home in Paris, Logan, a retired real estate agent, added the club was indeed very special and not an easy one in which to become a member.

“In order to be initiated, they had to do various tasks that were rigorous — like one was to pick up three abalone in a depth of 30 feet in one breath,” she said. “It was a very exclusive club, that’s why there were only 19 members in total.”

**FAMOUS FOLK**

Word of the San Diego Bottom Scratchers continues to spread and in 1949, they were featured in the May issue of National Geographic Magazine. At that time, the article estimated there to be 8,000 skin divers in Southern California, Palinkas said.

But if you think you can join today, you’ll be disappointed.

The club ended around 1983, Logan recalled, and its last remaining member, Jim Stewart, longtime diving safety officer of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, passed in 2017. Palinkas said.

“There was no specific reason why it ended. My personal belief is that sport diving has gained such exposure and popularity over the years that it simply isn’t as concentrated into one club as it was in the ’30s, ’40s and even ’50s,” Palinkas said.

Logan said she believed the club ended because they “didn’t want to take new members.”

“I think it just died a natural death and they chose not to perpetuate it; it wouldn’t have been representative of the heart and soul of the club had it gone on in name only,” Logan said.

**SOMETHING TO SEE**

Cpt. Ryan Sweeney, owner/operator of Britik Expeditions and an experienced free diver, knows of the tombstone site firsthand having visited.

“It would be near impossible to find on your own, except for a few of the tombstones that are really large and noticeable I suppose,” he said. “Some are small and deteriorated over time.”

And while his business doesn’t offer excursions to the site, he has seen the tombstones up close and personal.

“It’s neat to see how they evolve over time, a shift in the currents and age as the growth takes over. Sometimes, I’ll scrub them a bit to keep them clean,” he said.

**THE CARETAKER**

According to scuba and free diver Volker Hoehne, who is a full-time business analyst, the caretakers of the tombstones’ well-being has been his responsibility. He also assisted in the discovery of the underwater cemetery and tombstones.

Hoehne, born in Solana Beach and president of the Watermen’s Alliance, a statewide spearfishing advocacy group, said while it is a task to clean them, he gets rid of algae growth and other types of ocean build-up so they look better.

He also stressed he doesn’t place any markers or tombstones; he just keeps them tidy.

“All the markers have names. Jack Prodanovich has a bronze one — a founding member of the Bottom Scratchers and father of the modern-day speargun, he died in 2008,” Hoehne added.

“Some are small and deteriorated over time.”

They [tombstones or markers] weigh a ton on land between 50 and 200 pounds and in the water often for that reason and also because you’ve got to be a pretty special personal to get one down there.”

In the end, La Jolla, in its early days, was indeed the place to be for the Bottom Scratchers who also explored all of San Diego County’s coastlines and Mexican waters up to Los Angeles areas, even out on the Channel Islands, Palinkas said.

“But the best diving was always found in La Jolla. This is why members of the Bottom Scratchers were dedicated to responsible preservation and conservation of the La Jolla area and were supportive of the establishment of the La Jolla Ecological Reserve and Marine Life Refuge in 1970.

“Today, this is known as La Jolla Cove and is a site visited by people from all over the world as a successful, untouched display of nearshore marine biodiversity,” Palinkas said.
I recently had lunch with my friend, the fun La Jolla Light columnist known as Ing a. We of ten eat together and, at times, send each other our columns for pre-publication feedback. I had a dilemma: I needed to get her input and advice. When I finished telling her my woes, she said: “That’s a column.” So here it is.

Six months ago, I fractured my sacrum carry

ing 500 heavy books for a book fair for our

Whitney. Refreshments will be provided. The

include: Barbara Bry, Todd Gloria, and Tasha

a range of topics, including affordable housing,

Diego Mayoral Forum on Sunday, Oct. 6, from

MAYORAL FORUM SCHEDULED

Change Begins with Me, an Indivisible Group in University City, will be hosting a City of San Diego Mayoral Forum on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 4-6 p.m., at Mission Bay Montessori, 2640 Soderblom Ave. The purpose is to provide mayoral candidates an opportunity to address a range of topics, including affordable housing, transportation, climate change, livable neigh-

bhoods, and more. Candidates scheduled include: Barbara Bry, Todd Gloria, and Tasha Williamson. Refreshments will be provided. The forum is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is required at ttinu.cc/dfymcz. For questions, con-

tact: ChangebeginsWithMeSD@gmail.com.

EDUCATE! OKTOBERFEST

Mark your calendar for the 11th annual EdUCate! Oktoberfest on Oct. 12, 1-6 p.m., at Standley Park on Governor Drive. Plan for the famous beer and wine garden, a variety of food offerings, music, booths, loads of games for the kids and more. The event has become an annu-

Mal Andrews Speaker Series kicked off the month’s events from 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 10, with a reception, book signing and lecture with psychiatrist, author, and superbug sur-

The Birch Aquarium relaunched the Tod-

ericans. For more info, visit uc.ucsd.edu.

ROCKTOBERFEST SNEAK PEEK

Get a preview of the beer being served at Ed-

 Library hosts seventh annual

In the seventh annual “Fresh Paint” exhi-

Library hosts seventh annual

Superbug survivor to speak at LJCC, Dinner at the Library Gala and other events

LA JOLLA COMMUNITY CENTER

The La Jolla Community Center will host literary, music, and art events throughout the month of September on 6811 La Jolla Blvd. The Friday Fiddle Series Speaker Series kicked off the month’s events from 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 10, with a reception, book signing and lecture with psychiatrist, author, and superbug sur-

Superbug survivor to speak at LJCC, Dinner at the Library Gala and other events

ART BY DR. SEUSS ON DISPLAY AT G A

Rare art and illustrations by the late Theo-

Community

Not Acting my age: undecided whether to listen to my body or my mind

The opposite image of sitting in a rocking chair by a fireplace knitting afghans. There should be an in-between: between doing nothing and doing too much...but it is not that easy.

What I hate is the indecision—should I go or stay? It is easy if the invitation or the event is not that interesting or I am truly exhausted. It is difficult when it’s worth going, but I’m tired. I know that if I go, I will enjoy myself; I always do. In any decision one must look at the worst-
case scenario: if I go, I might be tired the next day; if I don’t go, I will worry about shrinking. However, by refusing yourself to be an-

other person, it becomes more complicated: some of us tend to want to please others. On the other hand, accepting requests may entail feeling exhausted and unenergetic. The question is how much price are you willing to pay and how often.

Over lunch, Inga and I did away with the old, indecisive woman who sat down wearily and gave me permission to resuscitate the en-

ergetic woman who gets out of a chair without pushing herself up with a groan. However, it is equally important to honor one’s age and consider one’s health and energy level and not push past what is comfortable and/or reasonable. We need permission to sit still, stop running, stop doing, and just be quietly reflective, and go within. Both permissions are necessary.

Listen to your friends. Be sure to get oppo-
site views and contradictory advice and then pay attention to your gut reactions. What words make you feel “yeah, that’s right” and look forward to the event, but the next event or ac-
cept it with an experienced person or someone who might have had an experience with helping someone or without giving up with a groan. However, it is equally important to honor one’s age and consider one’s health and energy level and not push past what is comfortable and/or reasonable. We need permission to sit still, stop running, stop doing, and just be quietly reflective, and go within. Both permissions are necessary.

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site views and contradictory advice and then pay attention to your gut reactions. What words make you feel “yeah, that’s right” and look forward to the event, but the next event or accept it with an experienced person or someone who might have had an experience with helping someone or without giving up.
International designers show off fall, winter collections at annual ‘Art of Fashion’

Nibbles and Sips: The Patris Group's restaurant remains open, former chef Ross槿 cooks off changes

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

The Patris Group, which operates the popular restaurants The Patio on Lamont and Surfside Pizza in both Mission Beach and La Jolla, remains open despite the coronavirus pandemic. The group, founded by chef Ross槿, uses offcuts from its restaurants to make sandwiches (piada) and imported meats, cheeses and wines at the upcoming Ciao Piadina, which is scheduled to open in La Jolla on Oct. 24. Ciao Piadina was launched by the owners of Ambrogio 15, which has locations in Pacific Beach and inside the Little Italy Food Hall. The new La Jolla restaurant will serve piadine, the flatbread sandwich made from a feature a wine bar and patio. 510 Pearl St., ciaopiadina.com.

EL PESCADOR

El Pescador Fish Market & Restaurant in La Jolla is gearing up for a prolific season of sashimi and oysters, which has been a boon for commercial and sport fishermen. According to owner Sean Shan- non, the sweet-tasting clown-less creatures will start coming in live the first week in November for a couple of days through most of the season, which concludes in March. The lobsters will be sold at market price, as they arrive. The restaurant is open seven days a week. Beer and wine will be served. Reservation are required. 1213 Coast Blvd., La Jolla. 858-483-3300.

Chef Ross槿 hasn’t disappeared since leaving The Marine Room.

COURTESY PHOTO
Circling memory lane: A former La Jolla boy's field of dreams

By Harry Gundersen | La Jolla Village News

As a young boy growing up in the 1950s without a father, my male role models all lived inside a termit-riddled ballpark snuggled between the Santa Fe train depot and the San Diego harbor. It was a fanciful place where one's imagination could watch Navy ships and sailors arrive from faraway ports and trains depart with their whistling promises of adventure. It was a place where a kid could fall in love simply by watching grown men play baseball.

Lane Field was constructed in 1936 in just two months’ time by a Work Projects Administration program and $25,000 from the city of San Diego. When Bill Lane, who made his fortune in gold mining, relocated his Hollywood Stars 100 miles to the south, the San Diego Padres were thus born. For a city stuck with the boredom of an only child, they were to provide much more in return.

The ballpark was reflective of the quirky and colorful nature of the PCL itself. The wind would blow off the bay, boosting home runs over the right field wall and sending them careening off automobiles and rail cars across a busy highway. Some of the great sluggers of the day played here for San Diego. A scrappy local kid named Ted Williams signed a contract for $150 a month after a tryout while still remembering the day his mother had already granted them their first names. Not always in a favorable way.

Those scrambles for wayward baseballs were legendary. Olivier balls would bounce onto North Harbor Drive and cascade into the San Diego Bay, requiring both bravery and aquatic skills to emerge with your admission ticket. Chasing home-run balls while dodging speeding traffic on Pacific Highway was another matter entirely.

Once inside the park, new wonders awaited. I quickly developed a ‘working relationship’ with the visiting team’s bat boy, and after several seasons of diligence, was the proud owner of the world’s first and only collection of autographed cracked bats from the entire starting lineup of the 1956 San Francisco Seals. I was the envy of all my friends. Years later, when I went looking for Ken Aspromonte, Haywood Sullivan and Marty Keough, I learned that my mother had already granted them their unconditional release, banishing their bats to the trash heap and leaving me, to this day, with a souring regret.

Many enduring elements of the game from those halcyon days have long since vanished. I recall how players left their gloves on the field between innings. Home games would stretch an entire week. Tuesday through Sunday, the Padres playing the same team for seven games. I would listen to away games on the radio, not knowing that announcer Al Schuss was still in San Diego recreating the game from a Western Union ticker miles away, relying on recorded crowd noises and raping a pencil against a table to mimic a bat striking a baseball.

Sports writers of the day seemed to enjoy an exciting and dangerous life to this young boy. I would watch them walk a risky and narrow wooden plank across the roof of Lane Field to arrive at their precarious reporting perch. They knew something the rest of us didn’t and I eagerly awaited the next day’s newspaper to find out.

It is not just the players and street pals that I remember. I spent the next week or so fantasizing cracked bats from the entire starting lineup of the 1956 San Francisco Seals. I was the envy of all my friends. Years later, when I went looking for Ken Aspromonte, Haywood Sullivan and Marty Keough, I learned that my mother had already granted them their unconditional release, banishing their bats to the trash heap and leaving me, to this day, with a souring regret.

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Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa completes $21 million renovation

Noble House Hotels and Resorts recently announced the completion of a massive $21 million renovation of the Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa, located at 1775 East Mission Bay Drive. The resort overlooks Mission Bay and offers 357 rooms and suites, an American cuisine restaurant and poolside lounge, waterfront dining, an extensive fitness center and a full-service spa.

“This is a major transformation of this exceptional resort,” said Don Dennis, president of operations for Noble House Hotels and Resorts. “With its extraordinary oceanfront location, beautiful grounds, and host of luxury amenities for both business and leisure travelers, we are very excited about the repositioning of this landmark resort.”

The Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa’s comprehensive renovation included all guest rooms, the hotel’s conference center, the executive board rooms, and all common areas and lobbies. In addition to new paint, flooring, lighting, finishes, wall treatments and upgraded technology, new custom furniture has been installed throughout the resort.

“We are always looking to identify and implement ways to improve the experience of our guests,” said David Daniele, senior vice president asset management for Pebblebrook Hotel Trust. “This property is located in one of the most beautiful areas of the country and, with these improvements, we have created the premier resort in the area for locals and guests from around the world to enjoy.”

For more information, visit sandiegohilton.com.

**Open Houses**

**PACIFIC BEACH**
- Sat 1-4PM: 3555 Presecvent St, 92109  -  $1,595,000 - $2,490,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377
- Fri 10-1, Sat 9-12 & Sun 9-4: 1711 Hornblende St, Apt C  -  $370,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377

**LA JOLLA**
- Sun 1-4PM: 7846 Rosehill Drve, 92037  -  $2,000,000  -  David Schmuckel 858-415-5300
- Sat 12-2PM: 4611 La Pacifica Drwe, 92037  -  $1,595,000  -  Daniel Wainwright 858-556-0779
- Sat 12-2PM: 5116 Vista Del Mar  -  $8,000,000  -  Peter Widdodone 858-022-3377
- Fri 10-1PM: 844 Persiddent St Unit 2  -  $1,095,000 - $2,199,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377
- Fri 2-5PM & Sat 12-3PM: 935 Coast Blvd Unit 4  -  $743,500 - $770,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377

**MIRA LOMA**
- Sun 1-4PM: 2820 Carleton Street Unit #5  -  $899,000 - $949,000  -  Garrett Wangler 619-687-6168

**RANCHO SANTA FE**
- Sat 1-4PM: 18201 Capy Dr Sol  -  $1,025,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377

**SAN DIEGO**
- Sun 1-3PM: 3697 Leonisa Street  -  $799,000 - $835,000  -  Bridget Graham 619-379-9688
- CAYOBY THE SEA
- Sat & Sun 1-4PM: 2013 Mackinnon Ave  -  $2,350,000  -  Theresa Parish 858-642-5658
- DIL SUN
- Sat 1-4PM: 15557 Tassaw Ridge Rd  -  $975,000  -  Kelly Dienes 858-662-3668
- CARMEL VALLEY
- Sat 1-4PM: 11251 Carmel Creek Rd  -  $895,000 - $988,000  -  Pete Widdodone 858-022-3377

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