Scripps Pier reveals itself to the public

By KENDRA HARTMANN | VILLAGENEWS

Scripps Pier has long been a thing of mystery, barricaded from the public for scientific research most of its existence. The 1,090-foot-long concrete structure has rarely been seen up close by those not involved in some aspect of oceanic research. Now, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Birch Aquarium are giving the rest of us the chance to observe what happens on one of the world’s largest research piers. For two days every month through October — including today and tomorrow — the public is invited to take a walk on the pier under the glow of the full moon and experience the Scripps campus in a whole new way.

“This is the public’s chance to go out and see the pier up close,” said Audrey Evans, an education specialist at Birch Aquarium. “It’s a great family activity. We have a lot of families and couples, and really anyone who wants to learn more about Scripps.

For $25 ($22 for aquarium members), visitors get more than just a moonlit walk. Evans said groups will get a tour of Scripps’ campus, and then at dusk as the full moon rises, they will experience a sample of the work done on the pier, including a squid dissection, plankton collection and observation of marine life. Led by educators from the aquarium, they will learn about the history of the pier, the research conducted there and will be provided with a wealth of information.

When to go

July 14-15: 7-9:30 p.m.
Aug. 12-13: 7-9:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-12: 6-8:30 p.m.
Oct. 10-11: 6-8:30 p.m.

$25 per person
Age 9+ (minors must be accompanied by a paid adult)
RSVP required:
Call (858) 534-7336 or visit www.birchaquarium.org/onsite.com.

Birch hosts ‘Snorkel with Sharks’ events throughout the summer

By JUDITH LEA GARFIELD | VILLAGENEWS

“It’s the coolest thing ever!” So gushed Valerie Balsh, who snorkled with sharks at La Jolla Shores on July 9 as part of an event put on by the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. One of four two-hour snorkel tours hosted by aquarium naturalists this summer, “Snorkel with Sharks” is a face-to-face excursion with local sharks. Beyond the famous leopard sharks, local species include horn, swell, soupfin, angel and gray smoothhound sharks.

In addition to snorkeling, naturalists at the event highlight the ecology of the sharks’ underwater home in the San-Diego La Jolla Underwater Park Ecological Reserve, a no-take reserve. The entry off La Jolla Shores is a unique beach where people can observe sharks in shallow water mere steps from the sand, making it an accessible classroom for discussing the reserve’s importance and the need for greater citizen stewardship.

“We hope participants gain a better understanding of the various local shark species,” said Art Smart, one of the aquarium naturalists leading the event. “Sharing an environment with sharks changes people’s opinions.”

During the event’s first half hour, everyone crowded a table set with skeletal shark jaws and pictures of the local species. The naturalists do a show-and-tell about local sharks, including special physiology, such as why their jelly-filled skin pores produce voltage in response to temperature change.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Sharks” is a face-to-face excursion with local sharks.

July 9 as part of an event put on by the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

New eateries that you’ll dig

By MARIKO LAM | VILLAGENEWS

The La Jolla Community Planning Association (LJCNA) voted unanimously to support the city’s proposal that Segment 4 of the Torrey Pines Corridor Project — on Torrey Pines Road between La Jolla Shores Drive and Prospect Place — should be the first phase to be completed.

Trustee Joe LaCava, who crafted the motion, added that city-owned structures and vegetation that interfere with sidewalks and bicycle lanes should be removed, traffic lanes along the entire length of Torrey Pines Road should be narrowed to provide traffic calming throughout the corridor, and coastal view access and safety debris measures should be improved immediately.

“It provides some measure of safety for the rest of the segments that can be done easily and cost effectively during the project — if not before the project starts,” he said. The addenda which were also supported unanimously by the committee.

District 1 Councilwoman Sherrid Lightner presented the city’s recommendation at the meeting on July 7 and urged the LJCPA to support the go-ahead for the project.

This project has been more than a decade in the making,” she said.

Twenty recommendations were approved by all of the community planning groups over the years and have been incorporated into the project’s preliminary design.

City consultants then broke the project into four segments in order to reasonably attack the reconstruction in a cost-effective manner, said Project Engineer Julio Fuentes.

The city recommended Segment 4 be completed first because a bluff stabilization project has already been underway there, the segment has the least amount of property rights and construction issues, and a project to build...
People in the news

- The San Diego Asian Film Foundation (SDAFF) recently announced the 2011 class for its youth documentary program, REEL VOICES. Marissa Dodds, a junior at The Bishop’s School, will represent La Jolla in the youth program.

Dodds said she was always interested in film, though she thought documentaries were a very distant way of communicating with an audience. Her opinion changed when she saw the Reel Voices student’s documentaries at the San Diego Asian film festival.

“The energy and passion the Reel Voices students infused into their documentaries opened my eyes to a new way to express myself artistically,” she said.

- Hilde Cheroutre, Ph.D., an award-winning scientist internationally recognized for her research on the immune system of the intestine and diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, has been promoted to lead the Division of Developmental Immunology at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology, one of six research divisions at the La Jolla Institute. An Institute faculty member for 13 years, Dr. Cheroutre said she was honored by the appointment.

Her expertise in the immunology of the digestive system has brought her to the international forefront of research on inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease and other intestinal disorders. Her research accomplishments, coupled with her novel approaches, have also brought her national recognition as a recipient of the prestigious National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pioneer Award in 2009.

- Scripps Research Assistant Professor Eros Lazzerini Dencich has been named a 2011 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Recipients of the rigorously competitive award for early career scientists receive $240,000 over four years to pursue their research without restriction.

Dencich was awarded for his work in examining how chromosomal uncapping can contribute to aging and disease. Established in 1985, the Pew Scholars program aims to encourage early career scientists to advance research that leads to important medical breakthroughs and treatments.

In a separate honor, Scripps Research postdoctoral fellow Tatiana Domitrovic, a native of Brazil whose research focuses on viruses, was named a 2011 Pew Latin American Fellow in the Biomedical Sciences.

This program provides salary support over two years for postdoctoral level scientists to work with leading researchers in the United States. Upon returning to Latin America, fellows receive additional funds to purchase essential equipment in order to establish research laboratories and promote scientific advancement in their home countries.

- Scripps Research Institute Associate Professor Marisa Roberto has been awarded the Cavaliere (knight) degree of the Italian Republic’s highest honor, the Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (Order of Merit), recognizing her scientific research in the neurobiology of addictive behavior. Traditionally bestowed by the president of the Italian Republic, the Order of Merit acknowledges “merit acquired by the nation” in literature, the arts, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic, and humanitarian activities, as well as for service in civilian and military careers.

“Being recognized for my research is at the same time inspiring and humbling,” said Roberto, “especially being honored by Italy, my country of birth, with the Knighthood of the Republic. I am deeply grateful.” Roberto was knighted last month in a special ceremony at City Hall in Volterra, Italy, before family, friends, and colleagues. The event coincided with the second International Conference on Alcoholism and Stress Research, a gathering she organized with George Koob, chair of the Scripps Research Committee on the Neurobiology of Addictive Disorders.

At Scripps Research, Roberto and her team focus on understanding basic mechanisms in the brain that trigger alcohol dependence and drug addiction. She also received the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2009.

APPRECIATING A FORMER UCSD CHANCELLOR

Mitchell Kronenberg, Ph.D., (left), La Jolla Institute president & chief scientific officer, presents a plaque of appreciation to Robert Dynes, Ph.D., (right) former chancellor of UCSD and a current board member of the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology, Kyowa Hakko Kirin California, Inc. (KKC). Kronenberg thanked Dynes for his “vision and leadership,” which played a key role in the development of the UC San Diego Science Research Park. The plaque was presented at a July 1 anniversary celebration of the state-of-the-art research facility, which opened five years ago.

The La Jolla institute and KKC, a wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary of Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. Ltd., a Japan-based global specialty pharmaceutical company, moved into its new 145,000-square-foot home in 2006, becoming the first tenants in UC San Diego’s 30-acre Science Research Park. KKC is the La Jolla institute’s longtime industry partner, and facilitates the pharmaceutical translation of many of the institute’s promising discoveries into new treatments for disease.

“Our move to UC San Diego’s Science Research Park in 2006 was a milestone on many fronts,” said Kronenberg. “Our larger, world-class facility has given us the space and enhanced scientific design to significantly expand our research activities, while our university proximity has facilitated important joint scientific projects that hold great promise for improving human health.

People
Four plead guilty in Jeanne Jones heist

Three of four men who robbed philanthropist and cookbook author Jeanne Jones in La Jolla will spend long sentences in prison after they all pleaded guilty July 8 to two robberies, false imprisonment and felony assault in the Nov. 5 incident.

Thomas Walter Clark, 42, accepted a term of 26 years imprisonment and felony assault in the September incident. Had the men been convicted after a trial, he said, they would have seen a 45-year term in part because he has a prior conviction for robbery. Aaron Jacob Epstein, 23, and Hector Guerra, 45, each accepted a term of 14 years and four months.

Deputy District Attorney C.J. Mody, said plea negotiations with the men’s lawyers have been ongoing since January. Had the men been convicted after a trial, he said, they would have seen sentences of about twice as long.

“Like it would have been if a wire was to fail. It was probably started by someone, he said. “But there’s no ongoing investigation. It’s just undetermined.”

The July 2 fire was bigger than the July 29 around 2:15 p.m. near Kate Sessions Park. Luque said both fires caused no threat to surrounding structures.

“We get a lot of these,” he said. “It’s a normal situation and we’re going to have a lot more.”

Fire season is all the time in San Diego. Luque said, noted just during the hot summer months. Most major wildfires actually happen in the fall, he said. Of the 15 most significant fires since 1913, ten have been in non-summer months.

What’s one of the best ways to prevent fires?

“Know what your kids are doing,” he said. “A lot of these fires are started by kids playing with matches.”

Cause of July 2 fire undetermined

Every season is fire season, officials say

By CLAIRE HARUM | VILLAGE NEWS

The cause of a three-acre brush fire that San Diego Fire Department official extinguished on July 2 has been deemed undetermined.

San Diego Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Maurice Luque said 9-1-1 calls coming in around 8 p.m. regarding a fire in the brush behind the homes near the 6000 block of Bellevue Avenue. A couple kids were seen running out the canyon and up a hillside, he said.

Fire crew and three helicopter water drops put out the fire quickly, Luque said.

“There were no evacuations and no serious threat that we know of,” he said.

The fire was not accidental, he said, like it would have been if a wire were to fail.

“It was probably started by someone,” he said. “But there’s no ongoing investigation. It’s just undetermined.”

The July 2 fire was bigger than another recent fire, which took place on July 29 around 2:15 p.m.

Avoid paying a comission when selling your home

SAN DIEGO, if you’ve tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the “For Sale by Owner” sign up, the phone will start ringing off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to bombard you for your listing.

All over, with the proper information, selling a home isn’t easy. Perhaps, you’ve had your home on the market for several months with no offers from qualified buyers. This can be a very frustrating time, and many homeowners have given up their dreams of selling their homes themselves. But don’t give up until you’ve read a new report entitled “Sell Your Own Home” which has been prepared especially for home sellers like you. You’ll find that selling your home by yourself is entirely possible once you understand the process.

Inside the report, you’ll find 10 inside tips to selling your home by yourself which will help you sell for the best price in the shortest amount of time. You’ll find out what real estate agents don’t want you to know.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-276-0763 and enter 1017. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how you really can sell your home yourself.

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PIER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of information about the organisms studied.

The original pier was built in 1915 and was used for research immediately after completion. It was open to the public prior to World War II, but during the war, a gate was put in place and the pier has been closed to the public ever since (the pier was torn down and replaced with the existing pier in 1988).

In addition to being ground zero for a variety of research projects for students, scientists and aquarium staff, the pier is also the home of the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP), the hub of all coastal weather-related activity.

Funded by a cooperative agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Boating and Waterways, CDIP collects data from about 50 wave instrumentation located throughout the coast. The data is then provided to the National Weather Service and is available on CDIP’s website (www.cdip.ucsd.edu).

Information like coastal conditions, real-time wave information and forecasts is collected, and the data is used by anyone from commercial and recreational fishermen to surfers and coastal engineers.

If the chance to step out onto the pier gets missed, the public can also take a virtual tour of the landmark. The Scripps Pier Cam, an HD web camera, provides live, streaming video of the pier (weather and commercial and recreational fishing activity). It was re-installed in March due to popular demand. It was brought back due to popular demand. It was open to the public prior to World War II, but during the war, a gate was put in place and the pier has been closed to the public ever since (the pier was torn down and replaced with the existing pier in 1988).

PIER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHARKS

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By the time the snorkelers are ready to get in the water, they understand enough about the shy, though toothy, fish to abandon the generally accepted nonsense that sharks are a blatant danger.

No theme park can compete with a snorkel adventure in the wild hosted by people who are knowledgeable about shark natural history. Exciting yet safe, snorkeling in a group relieves those feeling trepidation about the open ocean. And because the wildlife is not constrained in exhibits, even if one doesn’t see what he or she expected, surprises are always in store. On the morning of July 9, snorkelers saw some leopard sharks, but they also saw lots of shorelouse guitarfish rays, but rays and schools of topsmelt fish.

Was the event worth it? Caelen Proctor, visiting from Florida, said, “It’s a lot of fun. I’d do it again.”

High praise from someone who is used to ocean life yet safe, snorkeling in a group relieves those feeling trepidation about the open ocean. Also, CDIP collects data from about 50 wave instrumentation located throughout the coast. CDIP provides real-time coastal forecasting information from Earth Networks’ monitoring stations located on the pier.

Whether experienced virtually or physically, the pier is unveiling a sliver of its mystery and the curious public can now gain a small glimpse into an otherwise impenetrable monument. Information like coastal conditions, real-time wave information and forecasts is collected, and they get used by anyone from commercial and recreational fishermen to surfers and coastal engineers.

The Commission welcomes your participation and comments. If you are unable to attend these public hearings, you are encouraged to submit written comments to the Commission’s Public Advisor’s Office at 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013, or via e-mail to public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov. These hearings may be video recorded and transcribed. If you are unable to attend these public hearings, you are encouraged to submit written comments to the Commission’s Public Advisor’s Office at 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90013, or via e-mail to public.advisor.la@cpuc.ca.gov. These hearings may be video recorded and transcribed.
CIVIC report

Spending on Torrey Pines? Not for long …

Li. Rick O’Hanlon from the police department’s traffic enforcement division discussed the challenges of enforcing speeding on Torrey Pines Road.

“The speed limit on Torrey Pines Road is 35 miles per hour — not high enough to allow the use of police radar detectors for speeding violations, according to a state requirement that mandates a minimum speed limit of 45 miles per hour for traffic officers to use radar.”

Lightner said. “The problem that we run into from an enforcement angle is how to enforce the speed laws and ensure the safety of the public and the safety of my officers,” he said. “The way that the roadway is designed, you have no place to safely have officers there to pull cars over and I’m not going to have anyone get hurt.”

During construction of Torrey Pines Corridor project, officers will be allowed to use radar detection and the speed limit will reduce to 25 miles per hour.

In other news …

After revisions to original architectural design plans, including the reduction of an existing that exceeded height requirements and a readjustment of the location of the existing swimming pool, the LJCPA motioned to approve a Substantial Conformance Review for Kookani Residences I and II.

The LJCPA motioned to issue a response to the City Development Services Department to take exception to the city’s negative declaration for a 12,716-square-foot residential development proposal on Whale Watch Way, citing “bulk and scale” of the property as a potential impact for neighbors.

Not for long …

“Once you slow the speed of traffic down and you’re able to travel closer together, you actually get more people through the roadway,” Merten said. “Right now we race down Torrey Pines and slam on the breaks at Prospect Street. It is quite possible that narrowing the lanes to slow traffic flow may actually improve the number of cars getting into the Village.”

$220,000 of approximately $800,000 in federal grant funding has been spent on design for the project. Fuentes estimates that 20 percent of the project’s total bill, an estimated $26.5 million, will be for the “soft costs” including design, environmental review, and construction permits.

“The problem is we don’t get it done. We need to have something to show folks to get money — and that requires a design,” Lightner said. “I think it’s time we stop talking and start moving forward.”


Strawberry: The new apple?

A recent study from scientists at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies suggests that a strawberry a day (or more accurately, 37 of them) could keep not just one doctor away, but an entire fleet of them, including the neurologist, the endocrinologist and maybe even the oncologist.

Investigations conducted in the Salk Institute’s Cellular Neurobiology Laboratory (CNL) appeared in the June issue of PLoS ONE. The report describes for the first time a drug that promotes survival of neurons grown in culture and enhanced memory in healthy mice. That fiesitin can target multiple organs strongly suggests that a single drug could be used to mitigate numerous medical complications.

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Birch unveils new playground designed to clean up our lives

By KENDRA HARTMANN | Village News

Most of us lead pretty dirty lives. Even if we try to drive as little as possible or consume less energy or eat locally, we live in one of the most energy-hungry nations in the world, and the vast majority of that energy comes from polluting sources.

In an effort to highlight the very real possibilities of cleaning up our act by harnessing renewable resources to power our lives, Birch Aquarium unveiled its newest exhibit: "Boundless Energy." A display for children and adults alike, the exhibit, which opened July 9, brings the complicated technologies involved in channeling the sun, wind and waves for alternative energy to the layperson.

"This exhibit is really meant to be multi-generational," Ngella Hillgarth, executive director of the aquarium, said of the variety of interactive displays. "Parents will enjoy reading the [scientific descriptions] and kids can play with the interactives, although I’ve noticed that the adults like playing on the interactives just as much!"

The exhibit, sponsored by Sempra Energy, includes a "Power Playground," complete with a kinetic water sculpture driven solely by human energy — in the form of two stationary bicycles and a hand crank, power the water sculpture in the "Power Playground." Designers to clean up our lives

Don Balch, right, curator of the "Boundless Energy" exhibit, plays on the teeter-totter with Lydia Cobb during the exhibit’s opening reception. The teeter-totter, along with two stationary bicycles and a hand crank, power the water sculpture in the "Power Playground."

"People would come out of that exhibit and say, ‘ugh,’" she said. "So we thought, ‘let’s expand on the solutions [to climate change] in a fun, playful way.’"

In addition to cheering visitors up, Zmarzly said she hopes the exhibit will engender an appetite for scientific innovation in the younger generations — one that she feels has been lost in recent years.

“This will help kids understand what the new normal will be in regards to energy: whether or not we decide to burn that last nugget of coal," she said. "We want to bring back the idea of invention, so kids don’t think we’ve got it all figured out already."

The exhibit, in addition to providing amusement and education, is also functional: a brand new trashcan powered by a solar panel, turns the teeter-totter motion. Water spills onto movable parts from the “Energee-saw” able gear parts from the "Boundless Energy" exhibit. Visitors as they contemplate the devastating effects of climate change. When people come out of that exhibit and say, ‘ugh,’” she said. “So we thought, ‘let’s expand on the solutions [to climate change] in a fun, playful way.’”

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Donovan’s Steak House

They may look good enough to eat, but the paintings and sculptures at Donovan’s do not belong in your plate limits—so you’ll have to content yourself with the USDA prime beef, the eater’s star attraction. If steak isn’t the plan, pork and veal chops and succulent seafood will satisfy the most discriminating of palates. And at Donovan’s, fresh seasonal vegetables and your choice of potato are always included with each entrée.

French Gourmet

Our award-winning restaurant offers California-influenced French cuisine in a quaint countryside environment. We are a long-time favorite of locals who appreciate the value of our menu and extensive wine list. Stop by our bakery for a sandwich or pastry to-go! It’s always a delicious day at The French Gourmet! (858) 688-1725. 960 Turquoise St, La Jolla, CA.

www.thefrenchgourmet.com

The Broken Yolk Café

The Broken Yolk Café offers a large selection of home cooked meals in a quaint countryside environment. We are a long-time favorite of locals who appreciate the value of our menu and extensive wine list. Stop by our bakery for a sandwich or pastry to-go! It’s always a delicious day at The French Gourmet! (858) 688-1725. 960 Turquoise St, La Jolla, CA.

www.thefrenchgourmet.com

NEW DIGS

Lobster rolls and Boston cream pies

There’s a new restaurant in UTC that’s serving up exactly what its name suggests—a Bile of Boston. Twice a week, owner Robert Major picks up 200 pounds of lobster (shipped from New England) to use in his signature lobster roll ( pictured) meaning his customers truly get a product they might expect to enjoy while on a trip to Maine.

Bile of Boston serves more than 30 sand-
Who said La Jolla’s not a live music hot spot? A number of local venues provide entertainment for any occasion.

The Turquoise, located at 873 Turquoise St., is an ideal spot for date night, and has live music seven days a week. Owner Brenda Goslin has created an old-world atmosphere in the neighborhood bar; serving tapas-style food in an un lcd, alluring atmosphere. The sophisticated ambiance of southern Europe is found in the dark, romantic ambience in the bar area, and carried into the illuminated open-air courtyard.

"It’s not your typical bar atmosphere," said Goslin. "We don’t line up shots on the bar or cater to the drunk. The Turquoise is a place where you can sit down at the bar, have a conversation over tapas and a glass of wine, hear the notes and enjoy the music."

SEE MUSIC, Page 11

The complete listing of 873 Turquoise St., is an ideal spot for date night, and has live music seven days a week. Owner Brenda Goslin has created an old-world atmosphere in the neighborhood bar; serving tapas-style food in an unlined, alluring atmosphere. The sophisticated ambiance of southern Europe is found in the dark, romantic ambience in the bar area, and carried into the illuminated open-air courtyard.

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SEE MUSIC, Page 11
Expires 8-4-11

FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT:
THE MUSEUM OF
CONTEMPORARY
ART IN LA JOLLA

WWW.LJFFF.COM

Watch for the special section in the July 21st edition of the La Jolla Village News!

Not your granddad’s ‘Peer Gynt,’ and the stars meet ‘Elegant Elaine’

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The play was Henrik Ibsen’s “Peer Gynt,” described as “The Mount Everest of Plays” by LJP Artistic Director Christopher Ashley (who celebrated his birthday that day). It was written (in 1867) to be performed with 50 actors playing 50 characters in five acts (40 scenes), taking five hours. But this was not to be your grandfather’s ‘Peer Gynt.’ Director David Schweizer has done this play several times over the decades — but this, he promised, was a re-imagined version of the classic, with just five very talented (and extremely busy) actors playing 40 odd characters in just two acts, and less than half the time.

Thus assured of a palatable performance — and fortified with the reception’s heavy hors d’oeuvres and specialty “theme” cocktails (such as “The Stag” and “The Sphinx”), attendees packed every seat in the theater. Doubtless, most remained skeptical of Schweizer’s guarantee, expecting the sort of dour and cheerless story often associated with Ibsen. But this was one of his earlier works, an epic fantasy wherein his famous wanderer, Peer Gynt, charms, dreams, brags, and

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THURSDAY · JULY 14, 2011

LA JOLLA VILLAGE NEWS

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There were live and silent auctions, a bar "Elegant Elaine," was parked at the entrance. Doug Gates' 1921 Rolls Royce, of Art. Historical Society, and the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts, the San Diego Silver Screen. "Beneficiaries this year are the Prado's gala, "Sirens and Sheiks of the screen." They arrived. The occasion was the Patrons of their ladies step from the classic cars in which they arrived. The occasion was the Patrons of the Prado's gala, "Stems and Sheaths of the Silver Screen." Beneficiaries this year are the Museum of Photographic Arts, the San Diego Historical Society, and the San Diego Museum of Art.

Festivities began in the Casa Del Prado courtyard. Doug Gates' 1921 Rolls Royce. "Elegant Elaine," was parked at the entrance. There were live and silent auctions, a bar-wor-

shirley 'Temple was there; so were Charlie Chaplin and Keystone Cops, a voluptuous Mae West, and two cute cigarette girls (you don't see them much anymore!). Harvey Ruben (unlit cigarette in hand) could have passed for Humphrey Bogart if he'd traded his Chardonnay's stemware for a tumbler of Scotch. Other men — sporting top hats, canes, and pencil-thin moustaches — helped their ladies step from the classic cars in which they arrived. The occasion was the Patrons of the Prado's gala, "Stems and Sheaths of the Silver Screen." Beneficiaries this year are the Museum of Photographic Arts, the San Diego Historical Society, and the San Diego Museum of Art.

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PoP: Above: Richard and Jeri Rosvold, Aubrey and Judy Buter (the ladies are event chairs), Vodi and Chris Eddy (she's PoP president) Below: Don and Dick Hansen, Margo and John Warner, June and Nel Ash (Honorary Chairs)
"Peer Gynt" an intriguing romp and romance

By CHARLENE BOLDRIDGE [VILLAGE NEWS]

As adapted and directed by David Schweitzer, Henrik Ibsen’s "Peer Gynt" (through July 24 at La Jolla Playhouse) is a romp and a romance that emerged from the folkloric, epic verse play created in 1867 by the Norwegian playwright, who considered it impossible to stage.

Staged it was in 1876, with incidental music by Ibsen’s friend and countryman Edward Grieg, and epic it was, with 50 characters and a five-hour playing time. Grieg was surprised that there were subsequent productions. People were intrigued by the title character and his picaresque adventures.

Nearly 100 years later, while a student at Yale, Schweitzer became intrigued with "Peer Gynt" as well. Over the ensuing 40 years, in five productions in several nations, he refined and reduced the huge play to scenes that fill two hours and capture the essence of the original work.

Literary critics of the time called "Peer Gynt" a satire of Norwegian egotism, narrowness and self-sufficiency Schweitzer diems Peer “a man with outsize dreams and aspirations and a very shabby sense of reality.” He further believes that in our culture of bloated expectations, the play remains an entirely fresh search for identity.

One cannot imagine a better company of actors to enact Peer Gynt’s search than Danny Gavigan, Luis Moreno and Evan Zes as Peer and others and Birgit Huppuch and Kate Cullen Roberts as all Peer’s women, including his mother, Ase, his true love, Solveig, the abducted bride, Ingrid, and Anitra, a Moroccan seductress.

As for Grieg’s music, there are bits woven into composer/sound designer Ryan Rumney’s pre-curtain music. His production songs might be described as pop ballads with a hint of Scandinavia. They seemed distracting, especially in the touching final scene, where Peer returns to Solveig and asks her to tell him where and who he’s been all these years.

Another retrospective scene takes place between Peer and the aged Ase, whom he takes on a sleigh ride to the pearly gates. His fight to get her admitted is typical-ly Peer, whose journey is akin to that of Voltaire’s "Candide.”

Having witnessed Peer’s phantasmagoric and hilarious adventures, from the realm of the Trolls to Egypt and Morocco, where he is separated from his fortune, the view-er is grateful for these human moments.

The riotous physical comedy is enhanced by the men’s differing body types. Zes is small and elfin; Moreno, char-acterful and capable of menace; and Gavigan, built like the hero with a touch of the oaf. Huppuch has depth and heart as Peer’s true loves, Ase and Solveig. Roberts scores deliciously with Anitra and others. Together the five make a per-fect ensemble, exuding joy and heart and light. You’ve got to love Moreno’s three-ffect ensemble, exuding joy and heart and light. You’ve got to love Moreno’s three...

Managing the Hospital Discharge

In April, my 92-year old mother went into the hospital to remove a tumor from her arm. The procedure went well and she was sent home. Three days later, she was back in the hospital because she wasn’t able to handle the com-...
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