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.”

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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 such as the 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 if it falls short of its targets 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 safer; and installing 10,000 feet of new sidewalks and pedestrian countdown timers for at least 50 intersections per year.

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San Diego’s climate-action goals be met?

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“I am extremely pleased with my experience working with the McT Real Estate Group. Zee and Mary McT made the entire dreaded process of selling our house completely effortless. Last year we put our house on the market and listed with a different agency and the house did not sell. We subsequently heard the rumor that if you live in North Park and want to sell your home, go with Mary McT. So, we listed our house again, this time with the McT Real Estate Group and our house had an offer before it even hit the market. Zee had used her ample connections and savvy marketing skills to pre-market the house and generate lots of interest before the house ever appeared on the MLS. We closed today and are eager to move on to the really fun part — buying our next house! And of course, we will be using the McT Real Estate Group :)

— Christina P

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Protected bikeways on Fourth and Fifth avenues closer to breaking ground

Kendra Sittson | 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 first 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. “Lots 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 so 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. SANDAG’s Mike Sande, San Diego’s director of policy, said, “I cannot wait for the Fourth 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.

There is a need for 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 to improve connectivity 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

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Owned and operated by certified fitness trainer Chris Kanakaris, The Change Fitness personal workout training program offers a safe version of High Intensity Training (HIT). Clients experience private, one-on-one training sessions that last about 30 minutes. 20 minutes are devoted to the workout and the last ten minutes are a cooldown period incorporating stretching.

What makes this workout so effective is that individual muscle groups are targeted – making them as fatigued as possible for 60-90 seconds. This helps to make muscles stronger and bone matter to get denser. Clients move from station to station without rest, keeping the heart rate elevated, thus giving the client the benefit of a full workout in a short period of time.

Workouts begin in the lower body, then move through the largest muscles to the smallest, from back to chest to shoulders, and finishing with the abs. This is because working the biggest muscle group first has the largest effect on metabolism. The Change Fitness workout format is popular with people in their mid-50s to early 70s – often someone not addicted to exercise. They begin training because they want to work out in a time efficient manner - but stay because they see the benefits. And safety is emphasized throughout each workout session.

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City backs AIDS Memorial at Olive Street Park

Kendra Sittton | 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 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 future AIDS memorial — 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 the board is unlikely to derail the board’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 under way 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 Sittton 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 not so concerned. They don’t want to be with cars. That’s where we’ll put some sort of barrier 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 Sittton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.
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.

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.

“I 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.
Letters to the editor

This past weekend at our neighbor- 
hood’s annual rummage sale, my 
friend asked about the price of a 
platter. When she readily agreed to 
this, 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 
peeled with eggs while mowing the 
yard.

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

But how does this happen? It 
begins: at our annual block party a few 
years ago, my neighbor leveled a 
labored and vicious joke at my re- 
ligion. 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.”

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 
their beliefs as far better traveled, 
cultured, who discuss liberal politics 
over coffee in rainbow-flagged shops.

Perhaps especially those who fail 
to recognize it in themselves. The major-
ity of good people here cannot let re-
marks 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 be-
come 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. 
Lauru Welcher, a continuing 
Bankers Hill duchess and sidestep-
ping 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 our short-
comings and failures, and to hate an 
identifiable group for any perceived 
advantages we seek.

It’s state of the media in the 
current era that causes these terrible 
reticence to take action 
reporting on incidents that, with no 
spontaneous notice would go un-
punished; a man hijacks a plane over 
New York to fly him to Cuba which 
gave us the term “skyjacking,” fol-

followed by a man skyjacking a plane to 
San Francisco, gave us the term “skyjacking,” 
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give...
The Centre Cultural de la Raza, elder volunteer discusses the project titled "Your Voice." (Photo by Francisco Tamayo)

The Centre 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 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 to get the community involved.

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 2% 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, 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," she concluded.

Failure is not an option, said Wolfram. "This is really about the health, safety and survival of future generations," she concluded.

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

Liz Linderman
Professional Instructor: pisces.linderman@gmail.com

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OR MORE PER SQ. FT.
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 academies 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 Aristotle (George Psoimas), a street peddler on the Greek island of Naxos, where handsome Dionysus (Shay Vawn), a young classics professor at an unnamed American university, has just arrived for a summer program.

Daphne is stowing about the two actors she’s just lost for the tenure-track production of "Headspace," directed by Carly Usdin and starring Maria Darrall and Naughton) and doesn’t want to get the best of him most of the time. His insecurities make the decision to leave the Greek gods drive the mortals to turn to his best friend (who happens to be godly 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 visitation tricks, and American movie star Brooklyn (Steffanie Leigh)

Engaging short films

Bob O’Halloran / Special to the U-T

FilmOut San Diego brings short-film premieres in LGBTQ ShortFest

By Albert H. Fulcher

On May 15, FilmOut San Diego brought its LBTGQ 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 all over in another life he 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 Camilla comes to terms with her own obsessiveness 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 roommate.

“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 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 concern of a parent, the struggles of living a double life and the bond of a family.

“Engaged,” directed by David Scalja (a San Diego Alumni film-maker), 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 happy-ever-after, ending from the very beginning.

Another San Diego filmmaker Mark Max teaches and acts in “Gay Camp,” as Cruze 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 folks are being outed to their families instead. This film is historically funny, and as outrageous as the conversion therapyuner. It goes straight ahead, straight into the comedic light on conversion therapy in a comical way, but the subject matter is serious as it gets.

“Romance Is Dead,” direct- ed by Todd Jackson (San Diego filmmaker), is a dark comedy horror story wherein Donavan 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 part- tial 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.

“Passos en la Noche,” di- rected by Daniel Garcia and Maximiliano Garcia (another San Diego film), is about a young man in Tijuana who en- ters a cumbia dance competition in the hopes of finally getting a dance with a man he has secretly admired and desired. The story 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 Jonathan Hammond, is described as a “true (s) film” of a young woman who is struggling to come to terms with her gender identity when Kathy shows up and disrupts her mother and her friends in her house. But the question remains, is she godly or evil? The ending is mind-boggling 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+ umbrel. This was a stellar selection with something for another chance to see them again. Next up for FilmOut is “San Diego Fan Fest” which recognizes the rich history of the oldest LGBT charity or- ganization 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@sdnn.com.
Don works hard and plays by the rules. But the rules keep changing.

**WHAT YOU ARE**

Vegan meal that tastes like beef has arrived at 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 root and carries a flavor and texture 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 Alternate 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 decor 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. 3331 University Ave., 619-269-2118, www.breakfastcompany.com.

The highly anticipated SoCal Sushi in Normal Heights is currently opened to a menu featuring more than a dozen specialty rolls such as the “tapyo 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.

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

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the owner 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@sandiego.com.

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

Innovative light-diffusing window fashions from Hunter Douglas turn harsh rays into herein are the property of Hunter Douglas or their respective owners. 19Q2MAGAPC3

By JC Lee

Directed by Patricia McGregor

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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 boom-centric breakfast (and by day (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and a laid-back after-hours speakeasy on Friday and Saturday nights (11:30 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, 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 eaters come and go. Its owners, former college and professional football player Derrell Hutsona and his wife, Traci, 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 space in the Gaslamp District until the Hillcrest opportunity caught their eye.

He added that the 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 root and carries a flavor and texture 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.

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 home-less 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 2 ounces each. Some will be dairy-free. Tickets range from $20 to $35. For more information, visit www.scoopsandsandiego.org.

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

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I Say it five times: Ki-row-uh

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.

Kairoa’s greeting system is the brainchild of three native New Zealanders: married couple Oliver and Andrea Peach, and Shanan Spearin, 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 flooring. They added a rooftop, plus bars on each floor, a kitchen, a production area featuring six tanks, and lots of seating options to plant your caboose.

The establishment is the brainchild of three native New Zealanders: married couple Oliver and Andrea Peach, and Shanan Spearin, 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 flooring. They added a rooftop, plus bars on each floor, a kitchen, a production area featuring six tanks, and lots of seating options to plant your caboose.

Kairoa’s 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. He steers away from the “darks” because “they don’t sell well in San Diego.”

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 Buggin. With faint hints of spice, he drank it with gusto as we both agreed it’s the kind of brew you’ll want to order 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 brown ale in Peach’s current repertoire during balmy summer days. A small handful of noshes could have done without their heavy batter. The sausage, made in-house, was delectable. 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.

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

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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 a suit wearing excessive, cheap cologne. Our waitress assured it will soon be replaced with another vegan option.

As we both agreed it’s the kind of brew you’ll want to order up while lolling on the rooftop patio during balmy summer days.

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

Kairoa Brewing Company
4601 Park Blvd. (University Heights)
Happy hour: 4 to 10 p.m., Monday, and 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

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 needed 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 when we observed, nobody was there to welcome incoming guests and distracted.

Atmosphere:

The space is airy and modern, yet warm. And the spacious rooftop patio is a boon for Uptown beer aficionados.

FOOD & DRINK
Friday, May 31
The Art of Comic-Con 50
Don't miss this rare opportu-
nity to see and experience the
process pieces that explore the
creation of 50 years of Comic-Con sou-
venir books. A popular feature of the
event, the Hall of Honor, celebrates
children, is an art-making sta-
tion where visitors are invited
to create their own version of
the Comic-Con souvenir book
cover. The Hall of Honor pieces
will be published in the real Comic-Con 2019
souvenir book. Free. The exhi-
birt will be open from 5-8 p.m.
at 2311 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 fam-
ilies with the community. St.
Patrick will invite you to join them in celebrating our many wonderful cultures
through food, music and en-
tertainment. 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
Cappa St.

Saturday, June 8
Night at the Padres
Kids Turn San Diego (KTSD), a nonprofit dedicated
to changing family relationship-
ships for the better, is a way for chil-
dren experiencing family sep-
arations are happier, will host
the Padres game, an all-you-
flavor fest for a cause. Join
visitors are invited to view the Mission Hills-cen-
ter 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
hot show. “Me, Myself and Ever-
everyone Else” on Wednes-
day, June 5, at 5, 8, and 11
p.m. at the Mission Hills Civic
Theater, 3030 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA
92104. Admission is $15. For
more information or to get
tickets, visit MFPresents.
com or call 858-500-8088.

June 4
National Cheese Day
Mozi Greek Fusion, located at 334 Sixth Ave. in the Gas-
lamp Quarter, will literally light
up the room with the sana-
eck, a black pepper platter
that’s pan-seared and flamed.
To start your evening, sav-
tize that’s pan-seared and flamed, tabble,
available for $20.
Served with freshly made
dough, to start your eve-
ning, sav-
ning selections include: classic sa-
aganaki pan-seared Kasseri cheese with a swirl of fresh
saganaki gyro, pan-seared Kasseri cheese with Grand Marnier, topped
with sesame seeds, fried with
fresh tomatoes, avocado with
orange, shrimp and oazo sa-
aganaki, jumbo shrimp pan-
seared with garlic, tomato,
green onion and feta cheese,
tabbed in ouso and crutons.
More information and reser-
vations are available by call-
ing 619-256-5656 or online at
gaslampmozeo.com.

Thursday, June 6
True Blue Luncheon
The San Diego Poice
Foundation proudly introduces
True Blue, a one-of-a-kind
experience featuring San
Diego Police Department of-
cers and their families’ sto-
ries. From harrowing to be-
rootic, it’s time to buckle up
to hear the heat of the action in the fight
for justice. Raised in this pulse-raising guaranteed! 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, 619-232-2130 at
111.

Saturday, June 15
Hillcrest Wind Ensemble Summer Concert
Escape to the wonderful world when the Hill-
est Ensemble presents, “The Black Hole, Music and the Mouse” on Saturday, June 15, at the historic Mississippi Room in the Lafayette Hotel, 2222
Cajon Blvd. in North Park. Since Dia
now owns more than many franchises, this
presents the opportunity to per-
form a huge variety of music.
The program will include ex-
cerpts from “From Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” a comical set from “Mad Men” by Nat 
Ginvision by the sitcom
“Golden Girls,” Natasha
packs her bags and naively
exposes a legend from the Austrian countryside
to America. Her dreams of
making it in show business are challenged as she
exploits in Los Angeles and becomes homeless in Har-
lem before making a decision that alters her life, 8 p.m.
at the North Park Vaudeville Theatre, located at 3031 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92104. Admission is $15. For
more information or to get
tickets, visit MFpresents.
com or call 858-500-8088.

Sunday, June 23
Cici’s Last Stand
A personal story of
coming out as a lesbian and
coming up in a Pennsylvania
town where she chose to stay
the family’s
dual funeral home. Anyone in-
terested in seeing this meaningful and
plays with gay themes is welcome to join the club.
7 p.m. at Mission Hills-Hillcrest Library, 215 S. Oak Ave. Ron Alsop at ronald.alsop@gmail.com or 908-347-3877 for more information.

Monday, June 3
Recurring events

Mondays
LeSart’s West Open Mic
Weekly open mic event host-
ed by Robby Robertson every Monday at LeSart’s, 334 Adams Ave. bit.ly/LeSartsWest

Introduction to Buddhism & Meditation
Join an all-ages introducto-
ry class to learn the basic
Buddhist concepts as well
as participate in a discussion
and silent meditation. Week-
ly event led by Jeff Zlotnik.
Free, 7-8 p.m. at Dharma Room Temple, 1910 University Ave. Also held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at Dharma Room

Thursdays
North Park Thursday Market
Some of the best from for-
locally grown produce, seasonal and fresh food and hand-crafted
arts and crafts. 3-7 p.m. at 3000 North Road, stretching from 31st to Utah streets in North Park. bit.ly/ThursMarket

Thursday, the Ken
San Diego’s late-night jazz
jam convenes every
San Diego Union Tribune
May 31 - June 13, 2019
sdenews.com
CALENDAR
San Diego Uptown News
619-232-2130 x 111.
True Blue, a one-of-a-
kind experience featuring San
Diego Police Department of-
cers and their families’ sto-
ries. From harrowing to be-
rootic, it’s time to buckle up
to hear the heat of the action in the fight
for justice. Raised in this pulse-raising guaranteed! 11 a.m.
Saturday, the Ken
San Diego’s late-night jazz
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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 co-founding the Bachelors Inc., Barbour's next move is never a surprise when he landed one of the 30 coveted spots 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 meal.”

See Bachelorette, pg 15
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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.

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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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