

Tom York >> SDBJ INSIDER

U.S. Marines Return the Favor for '06 Miramar Vote



The military vehemently opposed the November 2006 advisory ballot asking if city officials should pursue takeover of the **Marine Corps Air Station**

Miramar as a replacement for Lindbergh Field. And top brass was greatly relieved when voters shot down the measure by a wide margin. Well, it's bankroll time. Major Gen. **Michael Lehnert**, who heads operations in the Southwest, told our Reo Car that the Marines would be spending \$4.9 billion on regional military construction over the next three years. Given the economic turmoil, it's a bit of good news. "San Diego supported the Marines, and now they're cashing the check," says Lehnert ... Way to go, Oz! **Oscar "Oz" Sanchez**, who works at local defense contractor **Epsilon Systems Solutions** and who was recently featured in the Business Journal, is now officially the "World's Fastest Man on a Handcycle," according to a company news release. Sanchez competed in the **Beijing 2008 Paralympics** and won a gold medal in the men's individual handcycling time trial Sept. 12. Two days later, he took the bronze in the men's individual handcycling road race, despite losing a

chain during the final lap ... Well, here's something to bark about. The trust of **Marcella B. Coolidge**, daughter of artist and cartoonist **C.M. Coolidge** who painted those funny dogs seated around a poker table, has left \$500,000 to **UC San Diego** to support college-level classes for students 50 and over. Coolidge, a former member of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**, died in San Diego on Nov. 27, 2007, at age 97. Her father, best known for his portraits of canines in human-like situations, also founded a bank, newspaper and drugstores. His 16 "Poker Dog" paintings were commissioned to engage customers with "remembrance advertising" for an ad agency, says a UCSD handout ... Longtime **Technion-Israel**

Institute of Technology supporter and **Qualcomm** co-founder **Andrew J. Viterbi** was one of eight awarded a 2007 National Medal of Science — our nation's top honor for science and technology — at the White House on Sept. 29. Viterbi developed the Viterbi Algorithm, a mathematical formula devised to eliminate cell phone interference, which in turn has helped speed adoption of those ubiquitous wireless devices ... **San Diego Opera** launches a series of casual dinner programs to explain its offerings in the 2009 season. The first program, set for Oct. 22 at **Churchill's Pub & Grille** in San Marcos, will focus on "Peter Grimes," an opera about a fisherman facing the mob mentality of a small English village.

The second, set for Nov. 5, at **La Gran Tapa** in downtown San Diego, will focus on that famous windmill tilter "Don Quixote." **Ian Gardner**, CEO of **Helix Wind**, will explain how his company has been inspired by the famous Cervantes story in which Quixote attacks windmills because he thinks they are giants. Details and reservations at sdopera.com ... Oops. My bad. I mentioned here last week that U.S. Rep. **Bob Filner** was one of four House members from San Diego giving a thumbs down on first vote for the bailout bill. He is, of course, a Dem! And I'm the donkey!

Tune in to Mark Larson's Friday morning shows on San Diego 1700 AM to catch Tom York's weekly business update.

san diego attractions

BALBOA PARK Cruisy rollerbladers and casual gay volleyball groups flock to the park (along Sixth Avenue) on Sundays. It is also home to the San Diego Zoo plus 15 world-class museums and many breathtakingly sculpted gardens; balboapark.org

Some of the highlights include:

REUBEN H. FLEET SCIENCE CENTER The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center ("the Fleet") is located at 1875 El Prado, two blocks south of the San Diego Zoo on Park Blvd. The Fleet is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the public's understanding and enjoyment of science and technology. 619.238.1233; rhfleet.org

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART The San Diego Museum of Art is the region's primary resource for exhibitions and collections of fine art for more than 80 years. Located in the heart of Balboa Park, our galleries offer opportunities for learning, introspection, and connection with cultures from around the world. 619.232.7931; sdmart.org

MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM is a nonprofit, public foundation dedicated to furthering the understanding of art of all cultures of the world. Through the universal language of line, form and color, Mingei speaks eloquently of the similarities and distinctions of individuals and cultures. 619.239.0003; mingei.org

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF MAN The San Diego Museum of Man is an educational, non-profit corporation founded in 1915 to collect and preserve for posterity the life and history of humankind. 619.239.2001; museumofman.org

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS The mission of the Museum of Photographic Arts is to inspire, educate and engage the broadest possible audience through the presentation, collection and preservation of photography, film and video. 619.238.7559; mopa.org

SAN DIEGO ZOO Open every day of the year, including all holidays, the world-famous San Diego Zoo is located on Zoo Drive in Balboa Park, just north of downtown San Diego along Park Boulevard. From the Polar Bear Plunge to shows such as *The Wild Ones: Legends and Lore*, you'll find something for everyone. 2920 Zoo Drive; 619.234.3153; sandiegozoo.org

BELMONT PARK IN MISSION BEACH beachfront amusement center and home of the historic Giant Dipper Roller Coaster built in 1925, Belmont Park has "The Wave" for a stand in place perfect wave surfing, sit and drink cocktails while watching other people wipeout, walking by, or sun bathing; giantdipper.com

BLACK'S BEACH north-end is the major gay beach in the area, in La Jolla, just north of San Diego. Take the Genesee exit off I-5, head west, cross Torrey Pines, and turn right at the glider port sign. Two cautions here: The path from parking lot to beach is very steep and rather difficult to navigate without sure footing and some stamina. And the police sometimes crack down on the heavy cruising that occurs in the bushes above the beach.

CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT pays tribute to Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's exploration of the region in 1542 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr; 619.557.5450; nps.gov/cabr

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE which specializes in gay themes, is one of the oldest LGBT theaters in the country. 4545 Park Blvd, Suite 101; 619.220.0097; diversionary.org

KNOTTS SOAK CITY Lets get soaking wet! Rides, Slides, private pool cabanas, call or check website for hours of operation and directions; 714.220.5200; knotts.com

JULIAN Travel to this premier mountain getaway, just an hour east of San Diego in the beautiful Cuyamaca mountains, and take a step back in time to the days of Julian's beginnings rooted in the 1870s gold rush, get away from the hectic rush of city life or nurse that bloody hangover... discover the charms of Julian; Julian Chamber of commerce; 760.765.1857; julianca.com

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE is a creative haven for the most distinctive voices in the American theatre and has won more than 300 theatre awards, including the 1993 Tony Award as America's Outstanding Regional Theatre. 858.550.1010; www.lajollaplayhouse.com

MISSION BAY PARK has abundant paths for walking/jogging and 19 miles of beaches. Enjoy the quintessential So Cal experience north of the bay with a stroll along the narrow "boardwalk" that parallels Mission Beach and Pacific Beach, a magnet for bladders, cyclists and muscular guys.

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO 700 Prospect St, La Jolla; 858.454.3541; mcsad.org

NORTH COAST REP boasts an award-winning seven play, main stage season comprised of classical, contemporary and musical work. North Coast Rep conducts a new works reading series, showcasing both up-and-coming and established playwrights, and partners with other non-profit organizations and artists to present special productions throughout the season. For ticket and show information please call 858-481-1055 or go to www.northcoastrep.org.

NORTH PARK THEATRE just recently restored flawlessly to its historic greatness, always something fun going on stage, check out play listings, purchase tickets by phone or online; 619.239.8836; northparktheatre.com

OLD GLOBE features Shakespeare classics and contemporary plays and musicals on three stages. Balboa Park; 619.234.5623; theoldglobe.org

SAN DIEGO BOAT FERRY The ferry shuttles between the Broadway Pier (Downtown San Diego) and the Ferry Landing Marketplace (Coronado) year 'round, departs hourly from Broadway pier daily, 9 am to 9 pm, shop till you drop in Coronado, eat, and drink while enjoying the view of the harbor/city skyline; sdhe.com/san-diego-bay-ferry.html

SAN DIEGO HARBOR EXCURSION For harbor tours or whale-watching trips 619.234.4111 or 800.44.CRUISE; sdhe.com

SAN DIEGO OPERA Southern California's longest established Opera Company, presenting lavish world-class productions. Civic Theatre; 619.533.7000; sdopera.net

SAN DIEGO PERFORMING ARTS LEAGUE is a nonprofit organization that sponsors programs to increase community access to the performing arts. 110 W. C St, Suite 1414; 619.238.0700; sandiegoperforms.com

SEAWORLD Fun, educational, rides, aquatic shows, and a dolphin interaction program. Plan on getting splashed or completely soaked! Sea World Drive; 800.25.SHAMU; seaworld.com

SIXTH AT PENN THEATRE is a small & experimental venue that includes some gay shows in its mix. 3704 Sixth Ave; 619.688.9210; sixthatpenn.com

TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE is home to the rare and beautiful Torrey Pine trees that are found only at this reserve and on the island of Santa Rosa. Enjoy hiking on the many beautiful trails that wind through the reserve. 16500 N. Torrey Pines Rd, La Jolla; 858.755.2063; torreypine.org

TJUANA

Drinking age 18. 15 minute drive south from downtown San Diego, for a small and very touristy taste of Mexico. (Check your car rental agreement for insurance restrictions first or better yet, just park at the border and walk across.) It boasts a pretty lively gay scene, with numerous bars, including weekend hot spots:

CLUB EXTASIS (Viva Tijuana Shopping Center), one of the newest and nicest dance club with go-go boys and European style backroom, just a hop skip and jump across the U.S.-Mexico border; open Thur to Sun; Thur is Lesbian night.

BAR CAGUMAMAS, the more laid-back sister to Extasis right next door

BOB'S a dark, hacienda-style cantina popular with middle-class Mexicans (Avenida Madero near First Avenue) not far from Extasis for an adventure take a TJ cab ride!

PLANET G a stylish new video bar in the bustling Avenida Revolucion area; pool tables, art gallery featuring works of local gay artists; eastside of Avenida Revolucion between 9th & 10th streets.

LOS EQUIPALES a large disco and sister bar to Mike's (and very similar) but not too popular with the American boys; 7th Street just east of Avenida Revolucion.

MIKE'S DISCO this is a longtime venue of TJ's gay nightlife and a good place to dance to Spanish and English pop songs; well known as an excellent place to see a drag show; Eastside of Avenida Revolucion near 6th street.

TERRAZA a disco & show bar mostly for locals; north side of 6th street just west of Avenida Revolucion, very close to Mike's Disco.

NOA NOA a disco that attracts lots of young, but less well-to-do Mexicans who like to dance; on the eastside of Avenue D just north of 1st Street.

CASINO GAMING

BARONA CASINO & RESORT 1000 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside; 888.722.7662

CASINO PAUMA 777 Pauma Reservation Road, Pauma; 887.687-2862

GOLDEN ACORN CASINO 1800 Golden Acorn Way, Campo; 619.938.6000

HARRAH'S RINCON CASINO & RESORT 777 Harrah's Rincon Way, Valley Center; 877.777.2457

PALA CASINO 11154 Highway 76, Pala; 877.946.7252

SYCUAN CASINO 5485 Casino Way, El Cajon; 800.279.2826

VALLEY VIEW CASINO 16300 Nyemii Pass Road; 866.726.7277

VIEJAS CASINO & OUTLET STORES 5000 Willows Road, Alpine; 800.847.6537