

THE CATALINA ISLANDER



BRIEFS

Michael Hall, Jan. 31, 1950 - March 17, 2017

There will be a memorial for Michael Hall at Step Beach on April 2, 2017 at 1 p.m. followed by a Celebration of Life at Bird Park. See story, page 2

Only on Catalina

Chuck Liddell recalls the one time he attempted to pull an April Fools' Day prank. See story, page 3

On the Water

Springtime is squid time when you are fishing, according to Capt. John King. See story, page 4

22nd Annual Conservancy Ball to be held April 1

The Catalina Island Conservancy will celebrate "Taking Flight" at its 22nd Annual Conservancy Ball on April 1, at the historic Avalon Casino Ballroom. See story, page 5

Health Fair to offer low-cost blood tests

The Health Fair on Thursday April 27 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Casino Ballroom offers important medical screenings and \$25 blood tests for the community. See story, page 6

Sheriff's Lot

Capt. Doug Fetteroll, Avalon Sheriff's Station Commander, calls it a career and bids the community farewell. See story, page 6

View Chihuly at night during 'First Fridays'

First Fridays at the Museum on Friday, April 7, offers one of the first opportunities for the public to explore the new Chihuly exhibit at the Catalina Island Museum at night. See story, page 7

Straight Up Builders now leads the softball league

Straight Up Builders, Virgie's Snack Bar were both victorious in last week's games. See story, page 8

Letters to the Editor

An Avalon resident is concerned that Southern California Edison's water supply calculations are overly optimistic. See story, page 8

All Things Scuba

This week's scuba column takes a look at white sea bass. See story, page 10



The vintage postcard pictured above shows the Chimes Tower (in the foreground on the right) overlooking Avalon Bay. Artwork courtesy of the Catalina Island Museum

Museum adds Chimes Exhibition

Purchased by the Wrigleys, chimes first rang in 1926

BY GAIL FORNASIERE
FOR THE ISLANDER

Visitors to Catalina Island often notice the melodic sounds of chimes wafting over Avalon every quarter hour. The Chimes of Avalon were a gift to the community from William Wrigley Jr.'s wife Ada. Next week an exhibition about the history of the chimes will be added to the Catalina Island Museum's history galleries.

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Wrigley

purchased the chimes directly from inventor and manufacturer J.C. Deagan of Chicago. Mr. Deagan and his wife traveled to the island to be present the first time the chimes rang out over Avalon in March of 1926.

The Chimes of Avalon are housed within a custom Spanish-style tower on a platform with terraced walls above Avalon's iconic Casino building. Twenty cylindrical bells – the largest of which is 13 feet in length – hang inside the tower. An automated clock continues to sound the Westminster melody at the top of the hour, the quarter-hour, the half-hour, and three-quarter-hour. Originally

When the Cubs won the World Series, Avalon resident Jani Eisenhut played a rendition of 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' on the chimes.

the chimes were wired to the steamer pier where a keyboardist charmed the bustling crowds with songs like Aloha. Today, and since 1967, Avalon resident Jani Eisenhut plays the chimes

Chimes, Page 5

Mysterious Island

Catalina's facts, folklore, and fibs

This Week: THE ILL-FATED 'AROUND THE ISLAND' RACE OF 1928

BY JIM WATSON

Editor's Note: Jim Watson is the author of "Mysterious Island: Catalina," available on Amazon, Kindle and in stores in Avalon.

Over the dozen or so decades that have passed since the town of Avalon first hung out its shingle as a tourist resort, many valiant efforts have been made by those charged with attracting vis-

itors to the Island's shores to make the town a year-round destination.

No greater effort was expended to achieve those ends than those instituted by William Wrigley Jr., in the years following his purchase of the Santa Catalina Island Company, and therefore 99 percent of the Island, in 1919.

Before expanding on his attempts to attract the "tired shop girl, the clerk or the

Watson, Page 10

'Chamber Day' is under way

Fundraiser for Island's hyperbaric chamber is May 3

BY KEN KURTIS
FOR THE ISLANDER

We opened for business on March 1 and we're making good progress but we've got a long way to go and a little over a month to get there. We can only do it with your help. We have received \$7,000 in donations so far, with lots of places reserved on boats and evening tables reserved as well. But there is much to accomplish still.

Although the event opened for business earlier this month, your Chamber is open for business 24/7/365.

Ironically, the Chamber is the type of business that would really, in a perfect world, like to have NO customers. But we know the world's not perfect and neither are divers and when the need arises, we will be there.

We hope you'll be there for your Chamber too. Don't forget that this event accounts for close to 50 percent of the Chamber's annual funding needs. So it's critically important to the financial well-being of the facility.

So get involved with one or more aspects of Chamber Day 2017.

—Ken Kurtis (Chairman) & the Chamber Day 2017 Committee
www.chamberday.org
310-652-4990



As the result of inclement weather, most of the contestants in the "Around the Island Race" of 1928 had to be rescued. Catalina Islander photo



Celebrate 'Taking Flight' at the 22nd Annual Conservancy Ball

Reserve your seats now for the April 1 event at the Casino

FOR THE ISLANDER

Please join the Catalina Island Conservancy as it celebrates "Taking Flight" at its 22nd Annual Conservancy Ball on April 1, at the historic Avalon Casino Ballroom.

The Conservancy Ball will welcome new President and CEO, Tony Budrovich, who is poised to lead the Conservancy into the future as the organization is "taking flight" on a number of strategic initiatives to better serve the Island. The Conservancy Ball will also celebrate the successful progress of the IMAGINE CATALINA campaign's two important milestones: the groundbreaking for The Trailhead and the launch of Trekking Catalina. The Trailhead will serve as the Conservancy's new, prominently located visitors' center, which is slated to open in 2018, and the Trekking Catalina project, the most extensive enhancement of the Island's trail system since the opening of the Trans-Catalina Trail in 2009. It is scheduled for completion this summer.

"We encourage everyone to join us in celebrating the Conservancy's 45 years of accomplishments and its exciting future under the leadership of Tony Budrovich, who is deeply committed to ensuring that the orga-

nization continues to evolve and advance its expertise to serve not only beautiful Catalina island, but a greater good that goes beyond its shores," said Suzy Gardner, Conservancy chief development officer. "The Conservancy also extends its thanks to all the sponsors, especially our Presenting Partner, Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc., and our Sponsor Reception Partner, US Bank."

The celebration will highlight the Catalina Island Conservancy's ongoing efforts to monitor the nesting population of the Island's native seabirds. Guests will be treated to dinner along with the big band sounds of Society Beat and live and silent auctions featuring one-of-a-kind items.

"We look forward to enjoying another memorable evening celebrating our collective passion for the Conservancy's mission," said Gardner. "Please reserve your seats today and support the continued protection of this beautiful Island."

What: Taking Flight – 22nd Annual Catalina Island Conservancy Ball

When: 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, April 1

Where: Avalon Casino Ballroom, Catalina Island

Attire: Black Tie – feathers optional!

Questions? Please call 562-437-8555 ext. 1239 or email Ball@CatalinaConservancy.org

For event details, to purchase tickets or sponsorship and to preview auction items, please



Conservancy Ball guests enjoy dancing in the historic Avalon Ballroom. Photo by Shana Cassidy Photography

visit CatalinaConservancy.org. Catalina Express will offer a late-night return boat at 11:58 p.m. on April 1.

About the Conservancy

Formed in 1972, the Catalina Island Conservancy is one of California's oldest land trusts. Its mission is to be a responsible steward of its lands through a balance of conservation, education and recreation. Through its ongoing efforts, the Conservancy protects the magnificent natural and

cultural heritage of Santa Catalina Island, stewarding approximately 42,000 acres of land and more than 60 miles of rugged shoreline. It provides an airport and 50 miles of biking and nearly 150 miles of hiking opportunities within its road and trail system.

The Conservancy conducts educational outreach through two nature centers, its Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden and

guided experiences in the Island's rugged interior. Twenty miles from the mainland, the Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The Island is home to 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina. For additional information, please visit www.catalinacconservancy.org.

Chimes

From page 1

on special occasions and holidays. When the Chicago Cubs won the World Series this past November, Eisenhut played a rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." (The Cubs used to train on Catalina Island.)

In conjunction with the opening of the new exhibition, the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation has invited the community to attend a special Bells

& Whistles event at the museum. The foundation will share its progress on the Chimes Tower restoration and answer questions.

The event will take place on Wednesday, April 5 from 4 pm to 6 p.m. on the second level of the Catalina Island Museum.

More information about this event can be found at CatalinaChimes.org.

The Catalina Island Museum offers the best in art and history exhibitions, music and dance performances, lectures by guest

speakers from all over the world, and the finest in silent, documentary and international film.

Open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, the new Ada Blanche Wrigley Schreiner Building is located in the heart of Avalon at 217 Metropole Avenue.

For more information, the museum may be reached by phone at 310-510-2414 or at its website www.CatalinaMuseum.org.

Catalina's Premier In-Room Visitor Resource!

The Catalina Islander In-Room Magazine is coming out in **June** to kick off the 2017 Summer season!

In addition to being launched inside The Catalina Islander, they are distributed in Avalon hotels, vacation rentals, shops, restaurants, spas, passenger boats, all over Avalon! The magazine also gets replenished in these locations throughout the rest of 2017! An exceptional value!

In-Room Magazine features editorial of the rich and fascinating history of Catalina Island including archives from our own 100+ year old Catalina Islander Newspaper! This has made the magazine a collector's item to many interested readers. Don't miss this opportunity to reach your customers where they sleep – in their room!

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