

Family/Community Calendar from page 15
grunion begins at 9 p.m. in the John M. Olguin Auditorium. Prior to the predicted run, everyone will gather on the beach to await the grunion. The program cost is \$5 for adults and \$1 for seniors, students, and children. Warm clothing is recommended.

Details: (310) 548-7562;
www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org.
Venue: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
Location: 3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro

Theater & Film

May 6

Welcome to Shelbyville—Community Cinema Series

On the eve of the 2008 election, the town of Shelbyville, Tennessee finds itself embroiled in a struggle to come to terms with a new wave of immigrants and grappling with what it means to be American. The free event starts at 8 p.m.

Details: (310) 833-4813; www.grandvision.org
Venue: Warner Grand Theatre
Location: 478 W. 6th St. San Pedro

Italian American Reconciliation at Little Fish
Huey has a problem. While he is safely divorced from his shrewish first wife, Janice, who shot his dog and even took a bead on him, he feels he cannot regain his "manhood" until he woos and wins her one more time if only to put his broken marriage behind him once and for all. The show runs through May 28. General admission tickets are \$25. Seniors and students pay \$22.

Details: (310) 512-6030; www.littlefishtheatre.org
Venue: Little Fish Theatre
Location: 777 Centre St. (at 8th St.), San Pedro

May 11

Stones in His Pockets at Little Fish

When Hollywood descends on a peaceful Irish countryside, havoc ensues as the locals try to become "extras." Jake and Charlie discover that mixing with the film industry is not all it's cracked up to be as their dream job becomes more challenging than they had ever bargained

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Pets in focus

Questions to Ask Before Hiring a Pet Sitter

by: Lenni Hill, Columnist

Pet sitting is an excellent alternative to boarding that creates a stress-free environment for your pet. Julie Anderson, the owner of Stars Pet-sitting and Dog Walking, offers a few tips on how to find the right pet sitter. The search takes time, but it's well worth it once you find that perfect pet sitter. Pets are happier because diet and exercise routines are uninterrupted. The trauma of travel for both owner and pet is reduced. Your pet is not exposed to illness or disease and, most importantly, a professional pet sitter provides peace of mind. Make sure you use a sitter that is insured and bonded. You should look for a pet sitter that is a member of a professional association such as Pet Sitters International. This organization is nationally recognized as

one of the largest, longest serving resources for professional pet sitters and pet owners.

ANDERSON RECOMMENDS THESE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR POTENTIAL PET SITTER:

• **Can the pet sitter quote their fees immediately over the phone or via a website?** Professional pet sitters should have a published list of fees and be flexible with special services.

• **Does the pet sitter have references?** The references can provide details on the service provided as well as personal experiences with their pets.

• **Does the pet sitter meet with you and your pet(s) in advance?** Is there a charge for this meeting? Initial interviews are very important for you and your pet(s). You can discuss services and policies and see how they interact with you pet. Some pet sitters offer this service at no charge, while others charge.

• **Does the pet sitter use a contract or invoice describing services performed and fees?** The agreement should include all fees along with the time spent with your pet(s). This ensures that both you and your sitter have agreed on the level of service being provided along with any special requests.

• **How much time should the pet sitter spend to care for your pet(s)?** The average visit is 30 minutes, but more time may be needed for dog walking, special needs or if you have multiple pets.

• **Does the pet sitter have a Web site?** Most pet sitters have Web sites and provide email communication with pet owners. The Web site is a great way to provide information, published fees and background on their business.

• **What does the pet sitter do if medical care is needed?** Arrangements should be made with your veterinarian to allow the sitter to get medical attention for your pet while you are away. It is also good to provide the pet sitter with personal contacts, in case of emergency, if they are not able to reach you immediately.

• **During the in-home interview, is the pet sitter comfortable and competent in caring for your pet(s)?** This is extremely important when it comes to pet care since you can see how the sitter interacts with your pet. It's also important to verify if they will be the actual person visiting your pet. Some pet sitters "contract" other sitters to provide the service.

• **How will the pet sitter confirm your safe return home?** Your pet sitter should call or e-mail to confirm that you have returned home or ask that you call to confirm your return.

• **What are the payment terms?** Some pet sitters require payment in full for first time customers while others require a deposit and balance paid at the end of the assignment. There is no standard, so be sure you understand the terms of the business you choose.

• **Has the pet sitter confirmed the style or level of communication you prefer while away, i.e. e-mail or phone messages?** Most pet sitters understand that while you are away, it eases your mind to hear from the sitter, either daily, or based on a schedule that's comfortable to you. Make sure you let them know your preference. **RL**

DINO'S PET SHOPPE BOUTIQUE & BISTRO

May 6th & June 3rd

Anesthesia-free pet teeth cleaning by appt.
only. \$110, less \$10 coupon available

Saturday, May 7th

Dog Training Classes — 7 classes for
\$75. Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. with
Trainer Barbara Millman

May 15th & June 5th

Sundays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Low-cost vaccination clinic for dogs & cats

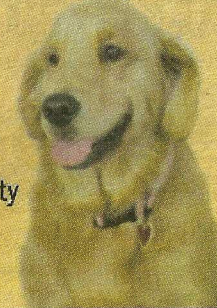
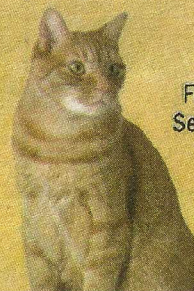
Dino's Pet Day Spa & Self-Service Dog Wash

Full service grooming available by appt. Wed.-Sat.
Self-serve \$16/wash, after 10 washes—11th is FREE

1724 Palos Verdes Dr. North, Harbor City

(310) 514-4924

M-F 9 a.m.-7 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Stars Pet Sitting & Dog Walking

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