

50 People to Watch in 2007

Thomas K. Arnold, Julia Beeson, Tom Blair and Ron Donoho



ACTORS AND A MODEL. Singers and a songwriter. A quarterback and a running back but not the ones you're thinking of. We've got a painter, plenty of politicians and three (unrelated) folks named Johnson. There are bikers and boarders, a surfer gal and our new radio pal. A new baseball manager, a couple of writers (both on the Internet) and a slew of do-gooders are also worth keeping an eye on. Oh, and say aloha to a weather woman named Aloha.



Steve Alexander

When this veteran communications strategist was appointed president of the Medical Board of California last June, he became the first public member to ascend to the post in seven years. Score one for consumers, observers say. The agency is responsible for licensing and

regulating the states more than 125,000 physicians, and Alexander a former regional director of Burson-Marsteller, the world's largest public relations firm has a clear agenda: Carry out Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's goal of providing healthcare access to everyone as we fulfill our consumer-protection mission, he says.

Michael Arms

He's San Diego's ultimate animal lover. As president of the Helen Woodward Animal Center, Arms has saved more dogs, cats and other critter lives than he can count. Since coming on board in 1999, he has quadrupled the number of pet adoptions, added all



sorts of programs and services, launched a capital campaign to revamp the shelter and established a training program that last year attracted shelter workers and managers from 14 countries. For the coming year, Arms says his agenda will remain focused on education and training so we can be more successful in the business of saving lives.



Brian Bilbray

In November, the North County Congressman bucked the Democratic tide and handily won reelection by trumpeting his hard-line stance against illegal immigration. Whats he going to

do now that like-minded conservatives no longer control the House, and theres both a president and a Democratic majority bent on amnesty and immigration reform? Not bend on what got him elected, Bilbray insists: The biggest issue is taking one congressman, one senator, at a time and opening their eyes to the absurdity of saying you are going to give someone more rewards for the longer he broke the law.

Bud Black

Black joined the Padres last November in his first major-league managing job.

Previously a pitching coach for the Anaheim Angels, Black is no stranger to San Diego:



He went to San Diego State University and lives in Rancho Santa Fe. Black, 49, spent 15 years in the majors, leading the Kansas City Royals to a World Series victory in 1985. Hes hoping for an encore in the series, or at least a division title. I think we have the pieces here to contend, he says. I cant wait to get to spring training and start the journey.



Adam Bollinger

After seeing his interview of Larry King for CHSTV, the Carlsbad High School student- run TV news program, an impressed CNN producer invited Bollinger to intern at Larry King Live.

Bollinger, 18, became the youngest intern in the show's history. The Chapman University freshman (and broadcast journalism major) is already a seasoned interviewer; he's done on-camera Q&A with Tom Hanks, Robin Williams and Katie Couric. Look out, Jon Stewart: Bollinger wants to someday host his own show, which he says would be formatted like a late-night talk show but air during the day.

Angela Brannon



The cofounder of the Its All About Kids Foundation is a dynamic, compassionate entrepreneur who wants to improve the lives of underprivileged kids. The nonprofit, which creates new and inventive programs to benefit children's charities, was established two years ago by Brannon and Realtor Shawn Heyl. Since then, the foundation has produced a wide swathe of events, from teach-ins that encourage kids to stay in school to etiquette and manners classes. A veteran of a food program for needy women and children, Brannon says her goal for 2007 is to do even more for the kids, because they deserve it.



Erin Chambers

Citysearch San Diego fired up on-line last year, and the Web site's new editor happens to be a former San Diego Magazine intern. With such auspicious tutelage, Chambers surely will masterfully manage the new online resource for events, bars, restaurants and other San Diego goings-on. A native San Diegan (Patrick Henry High), she's a graduate of Santa Clarita University and has written for BusinessWeek, among other publications. She's a downtown resident eagerly exploring (and reviewing) the city.

Janice Brown



A fresh face on the board of San Diego's Centre City Development Corporation, Brown



brings a keen legal mind to the public, nonprofit agency the city created in 1975 to oversee downtown redevelopment. Shes the founder of Brown Law Group, a six-year-old boutique law firm that focuses on business and employment litigation. Before that, Brown was a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justices tax division. At CCDC, expect her to keep an eye on what downtown needs and what the agency can do to meet those needs. I see 2007 as a year of innovation and collaboration, she says.



Tom DeLonge

The former blink-182 vocalist/guitarist has a new band thats also making eyes blink on the alternative-rock scene. DeLonges band Angels and Airwaves premiered its album, We Dont Need To Whisper, in May 2006. The song The Adventure cracked the top five on national pop charts, and the band and that single won Album and Song of the Year at the 2006 San Diego Music Awards. Politically outspoken, Poway- raised DeLonge is making a movie he intends to be soundtracked by his music.

Bonnie Dominguez

German ubermodel and Project Runway host Heidi Klum may have bid Dominguez auf wiedersehen on the third season of the popular Bravo reality TV show, but were still anticipating the fashion designers next move. Thirty-one-year-old Dominguez, a former apparel designer for Nike and Puma, took a break from her gig as head of womens design for San Diego based Reef footwear to film the show, in which designers compete for the chance to debut their duds at New Yorks Olympus Fashion Week. What does post-Project life hold for Dominguez? Stay tuned.





Daniel Dzwilewski

Talk about a straight shooter. In 2003, shortly after FBI brass appointed him special agent in charge of the San Diego division, Dzwilewski bluntly stated: Public corruption does exist in the city of San Diego. That was just as Strippergate broke, and well before the extent of the city's dismal state of fiscal affairs was made known. Since then, he has put public corruption on the same front burner as national security, while continuing to aggressively go after bad guys of all stripes, from cyber-crooks to the Mexican mafia.

Kevin Faulconer, Ben Hueso & Tony Young

They are the Nonnegligent Three San Diego city councilmen. Each came to office after their current counterparts voted for the nefarious Managers Proposal



II, which led to the city's infamous slew of fiscal reports, mud-slinging and lawsuits. The lengthy and costly Kroll Report labeled the other sitting councilmembers negligent in doing the city's business. Faulconer (District 2), Young (District 4) and Hueso (District 8) all came into office via special elections caused by fallout from the Strippergate scandal. To date, the Nonnegligents are untainted though still in neutral. Staying clean is a step in the right direction but pushing the city further toward righting its fiscal boat ought to be their ultimate goal.



John Fiske

This ain't your mama's radio show. So says Fiske about the Gen-Y University Radio program he cohosts on Free FM 103.7 (Sundays, 5-7 p.m.). Fiske, 23, and friends Brent Williams and Kris White throw around fresh ideas regarding the current social and political atmosphere

for an audience of roughly 25,000 listeners, mostly in their early 20s. Now Fiske is being courted by Jim Lehrers production company to cohost an on-line TV news-style program. And talks are under way with CBS for a weeknight spot. Things are going to start happening in a big way as interest in what young voters think increases for 2008, says Fiske.

Michael Flohr

His modern impressionist paintings inspired by everyday life, the work of Charles Monet and scenes from his beloved hometown are garnering acclaim by art critics, collectors and enthusiasts everywhere. Hes impacting the art world and destined to become one of the great masters of our time, says Ruthann Thorn, co-owner of Exclusive Collections Gallery. Flohrs workon display in more than 70 galleries worldwidewas selected for exhibition at San Franciscos historic de Young Museum.



Frankie J

Born Francisco Javier Bautista, the platinum-selling R&B/pop superstar and South Bay native is known to hordes of fans as Frankie J. His 2003 debut, Whats a Man To Do?, featured the chart-topping single Dont Wanna Try. His follow-up album, The One, shot to third on the Billboard chart. He collaborated with the whos who of R&B and hip-hop on his most recent release, Priceless, featuring the current hit single That Girl. Were looking for this album to be the biggest yet, he says.



Brian Guiltinan

Cooling home prices? No worries. Theres always a market for luxury real estate, and this tenacious San Diego native has carved out an exclusive niche: properties selling for





more than \$20 million. His first big score came in 2000, when he sold a \$22 million home in Rancho Santa Fe. The \$20 million-plus property is a different animal, and requires a different skill set, says Gultinan, who now heads the estates division at Prudential California Realty. His goal? To expand my operations beyond Southern California and work with these types of luxury properties throughout the United States.



Lynell Hamilton

The San Diego State University running back was the school's top rusher in 2003 and again in 2005. He'll be a senior in 2007, and the \$64,000 question is whether he'll be able to regain the momentum he showed in 2003, when he was on the verge of toppling Marshall Faulks' record for rushing yards by a freshman, only to be sidelined by a devastating ankle injury. A hamstring injury in 2005 and a knee injury in 2006 led to more missed games, although Hamilton ended the 2005 season with three 100-yard games.

Liz Halliday

Her athletic star is rising in not one but two sports: car racing and horse riding. Halliday, an internationally known driver who competes in sports car and GT endurance races, is also an acclaimed equestrian out to make the U.S. Olympic team.



The American Le Mans has been absolutely fantastic, she says. I've been lucky enough to enjoy a great deal of success, and I'm hoping to build on that in 2007. The scrappy 28-year-old also has two horses competing at advanced levels this year, with an eye toward the gold at the 2012 Olympics.



Marvin Hamlisch

He's won three Oscars, four Grammys and three Emmys. He's composed more than 40 movie scores and has served as music director and arranger for Barbra Streisand. He adapted Scott

Joplins music for The Sting, which earned him a top 40 hit in 1974 with The Entertainer. And now

Hamlisch is principal conductor of the San Diego Symphony Pops. Of his new digs, he says: Its beautiful, its got a first-class symphony orchestra, and especially in the wintertime, its a great place to make phone calls to your friends on the East Coast.

Dr. Brian Issell



Scripps Health's new vice president of clinical research may never accomplish what many consider the impossible dream of coming up with a cure for cancer, but he's sure trying. He's charged with developing research programs to expand access to clinical research for physicians and patients throughout the Scripps system. Clinical research is the source of all healthcare advances, he says. Issell comes to Scripps with an enviable pedigree: When he was head of the clinical trials unit at the Cancer Research Center of Hawaii at the University of Hawaii, the facility won a prestigious National Cancer Institute designation as a cancer center.



Duncan Hunter

A member of the House of Representatives representing San Diego's 52nd District, Hunter has right-wing political leanings that never take us by surprise. No one was shocked to hear

the former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee call for a plan to build a triple-mega wall along the Mexico border. But he did catch us off guard with an announcement late last year that he was considering a run for president in 2008. Any race will surely be dogged by Hunter's ties to now-jailed

former Congressman Randy Cunningham, and a recent charge that Hunter underpaid his home taxes.

Josh Johnson

Win streaks that span multiple seasons and sold-out home games at Torero Stadium

are not the norm at the University of San Diego. The arrival of football coach Jim

Harbaugh was the first step toward changing that; the second was the outstanding play of non-scholarship

junior quarterback Josh Johnson. He passed for more than 3,500 yards and threw or ran for 40

touchdowns in the regular season. Some think Johnson will be the next great mid-major quarterback in

the NFL, but the junior has vowed hell return for his senior season.



Tracy Jarman

After joining the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department in 1984, Jarman rose through the ranks.

In 2006, she was planning to retire then Jeff Bowman unexpectedly resigned as fire chief. She

won the post in June, making her the first female fire chief in the city of San Diego. She's one

of just two dozen women across the country in such a post. Only San Francisco's female chief oversees a

bigger budget and staff than San Diego's \$160 million and nearly 1,000 firefighters, 85 emergency medical

services personnel, 124 lifeguards and 121 civilians.

Norma Johnson

The new director of San Diego's Head Start program came here in May from

Sacramento, where she held a similar post and earned high accolades for her passion

and leadership. Project Head Start is a federally funded program that seeks to help kids

from low-income families break out of the cycle of poverty and stresses the parents role as the child's

primary educator. For 2007, Johnson's goal is simple: Boost funding so the local chapter can serve even



more than the 10,000 families now enrolled in the program. Our children and families deserve the best, she says.



Jimmie Johnson

Finally. After two years in a row finishing as the bridesmaid, El Cajons fastest man behind the wheel finally won the NASCAR Nextel Cup title, car racings equivalent of the Super Bowl.

In six years on the NASCAR circuit, 31-year-old Johnson who started racing 50cc motorcycles at 4 has always finished in the top 10. Now hes a champion in addition to being an XM satellite radio host and landing on People Magazines Sexiest Men in the Fast Lane list.

Arturo Kassel

The young restaurateur is shaking up the fine-dining scene since his purchase of Fresh Seafood Restaurant & Bar in La Jolla this past summer. Kassels packed a lot of industry experience into his 26 years, earning a hospitality management degree in Switzerland and training at the French Culinary Institute in New York, where he also managed four of the citys hottest eateries: Kittichai, Ocean Grill, Blue Water Grill and Isabellas. Thirty-two year- old executive chef Ryan Johnston heads up Freshs revamped kitchen. While we take our food and wine seriously, we dont take ourselves too seriously, says Kassel. We love what we do, we love to have fun, and it shows.



Gavin Kaysen

Dubbed San Diegos young culinary wonder, Kaysen represents the United States at the prestigious Bocuse dOr international competition in France later this month. A graduate of the New England Culinary Academy, he trained under some of the worlds best chefs in

Europe and Napa Valley before accepting the chef de cuisine gig at Rancho Bernardo Inns El Bizcocho. He

hopes to become the first American to make the top three at Bocuse d'Or.

Floyd Landis

The exuberance that greeted his win in the 2006 Tour de France was quickly tempered by accusations Landis had been illegally doping during the epic bicycle race. The 31-

yearold Murrieta resident loudly denied the charges. In September, Landis underwent

hip-replacement surgery and within days was back on a training regimen. He has stated his intention to race in the 2007 Tour. It remains to be seen whether physical readiness or the final process of officially stripping his 2006 title will stand in the way.





Josh Knoefler

Going green is the latest trend in architecture and design circles, and Knoefler is a rising star.

He's the man behind the engineering and construction of Green Village in National City, an 8-

acre sustainable community with renewable energy sources, high-tech cooling and a cutting-edge water-recycling system for irrigation. The first project of its kind in the country, it's sure to be a model for other ecofriendly developments, particularly if Knoefler snags a Green Building/LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Scott Lewis

The voiceofsandiego.org co-executive editor is also the site's webmaster. He started a politics-oriented section that attracts some high-powered names as guest bloggers. He also authors a popular on-line opinion column called SLOP (Scott Lewis on Politics). A



former reporter for the San Diego Daily Transcript, Lewis is a leading part of a new voice in town aimed at digging into and reporting local news of import. In the most recent Press Club awards, Lewis beat out the traditional dailies to take first place for newspaper column.



Jennifer Luce

The Harvard-trained architects firm, Luce et Studio, has been cleaning house at industry awards ceremonies for its innovative designs. Its large-scale projects for Nissan Design

America in La Jolla and Detroit, and residential and retail designs for clients such as Karen Krasnes Extraordinary Desserts, have established Luce and company on the design vanguard. The firm's projects have been featured in exhibitions nationally and internationally, and Luce has received 12 design awards from the American Institute of Architects.

Monique Marvez



The Monique and the Man morning radio program (Jack 100.7 FM) burst onto the airwaves last year and continues to keep bubbling. Marvez had been in stand-up comedy for 15 years. The big break came when Sam Kinison discovered her in Miami.

Marvez style has been labeled as Hispanic Bette Midler, but shes also sort of a potty-mouthed Oprah Winfrey. She continues to do stand-up gigs in San Diego and elsewhere. Shes also writing a comedy pilot for NBC/Universal Studios.



Namara Mercer

You won't find a more hospitable representative of San Diegos hospitality industry than Mercer. It's in her DNA. Named executive director of the San Diego County Hotel-Motel

Association in 2005, she succeeded her mother, Rose Marie Starns, who reigned for two decades. The industry is strong, but City Halls continuing raid on hotel taxesoriginally earmarked to promote tourismhas caused a split. With one group of hoteliers pushing a self-imposed 2 percent surcharge for independent promotion, and another group opposed, Mercers challenge is to heal the division in hospitality.

Schuyler McFerran



When McFerran won the Roxy Womens World Longboard Championship in France last July, winning every one of the eight heats she contested, the surfing world went wild.

Vive Le San Diego! screamed the headline in Surfline. It was, after all, the worlds first-ever womens longboard championship sanctioned by the Association of Surfing Professionals, and her win garnered international acclaimand watchful eyes eager to see whats next. Not surprisingly, the 19-year-old from

Encinitas has racked up an enviable list of sponsors, including Billabong and Vans.



Bridget Naso

Naso has been part-time anchoring and reporting on Good Morning San Diego (KUSI-TV) since 2000. But as anchor Susan Lennon steps aside to be a full-time mom, Naso will take

over full-time at the desk, alongside co-anchor Dan Plante. Naso is a graduate of California State University, Fresno, and began her TV career in Bakersfield. Annually, she hosts a pair of telethons on independent channel KUSI: the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy extravaganza and the pledge drive for the Helen Woodward Animal Center.

Jim Nelson



The new executive director of the San Diego based AVID program has a lofty goal for

2007: Expand our program by 20 percent while maintaining the integrity of this

program so it is still true to its principles established 26 years ago. AVID targets students in the academic middle, grades 5 through 12, who need a little extra help in preparing for college. It began at Clairemont High and now is in 2,700 schools in 39 states and 15 countries. Even so, Nelson says, There are so many opportunities for growth in this country.



Craig Nichols

He joined the team at local sports-oriented Cox Channel 4 San Diego in 2005 as director of

TV operations. Less than half a year later, Dan Novak - who helped launch Channel 4 in 1997

- took a job with Qualcomm. Nichols quickly found himself the new vice president and

general manager. He says he is actively looking to add new programming to the channel, which broadcasts

more than 140 Padres games a year. And Nichols and crew will initiate a new station headquarters this

yearright inside the Diamond Tower at Petco Park.

David Peckinpaugh

It's been 15 years since anyone but Reint Reinders was president and CEO of the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau. Peckinpaugh took the reins last year as top



tourism executive and heads a ConVis that's had its funding cut by 37 percent to \$8.8 million and more than a few political dustups. Most recently, he served as chief marketing officer and executive vice president of sales and marketing for Conferon Global Services, and spent time before that as vice president of sales and catering for MGM Grand Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.



Rosina Reynolds

One of the city's most prolific and lauded actor/directors, Reynolds has played a starring role in elevating the quality of local theater. Born in London, she came to San Diego in 1978,

prompted by a San Diego Magazine article about the Old Globe Theatre. This month, she directs *Happy Endings Are Extra* for Diversionary Theatre; in the spring, she'll sport a bald head for her part in *Wit* at North Coast Repertory Theatre. There are new companies forming all the time in San Diego, says Reynolds. I like that constant sense of renewal.

Fred Sainz

San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders is a busy man. So when the mayor is busy attending to city business, his words are deftly carried by the voice of Sainz. The mayor's primary spokesperson is a governmental veteran. He came to San Diego working for the Republican Party, serving as a primary planner for the 2006 GOP National Convention. After the party, he stuck around as a member of Mayor Susan Goldings' team. Before finding his way back to a new mayoral administration, Sainz worked for the San Diego Convention Center and the Waitt Family Foundation.



Holly Steele

The self-dubbed Lyric Lady beat out 30,000 entrants to win the VH1 Song of the Year contest in 2005. She's won a host of other awards for her songs, mostly pop/rock and country, and was

a finalist in last summer's San Diego Songwriters Guild competition, where she met cofinalists and local singer Candice Graham. The duo is currently collaborating with industry guru Tim Turner (Blondie, Pat Benatar, Moody Blues) on an album to be released this spring.

Kathleen Ann Sellick





The same year it got a new name thanks to a generous benefactor what is now the Rady Children's Hospital & Health Center appointed a new CEO and president. Sellick has a pair of formidable shoes to fill those of retiring Blair Sadler but observers say she's more than up to the job. The previous executive director of the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle says she already has big plans for 2007: completion of major remodels, groundbreaking for an acute-care pavilion and strengthening our acclaimed pediatric programs.



Aloha Taylor

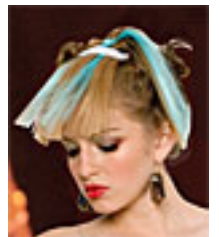
Aloha, Aloha. A native Hawaiian and Miss Hawaii 1996, Taylor started her stateside stint on television in 2001. From 2001 to 2004 she was the morning and noon meteorologist for

KFMB (Channel 8). We said aloha to Aloha after she met and married a surgeon, who took

her to Minneapolis. Now Taylor and husband, Gregory Campbell, are back as a threesome, with daughter, Taylor Alohalani Campbell and the 1996 Miss Congeniality is the weekday evening (10 p.m.) weathercaster for Fox6 News.

Aleksandra Vasic

The 14-year-old from Chula Vista recently became the youngest model to strut down the catwalk at London Fashion Week. After discovering Vasic through a local modeling school, fashion designer Zandra Rhodes flew the high school freshman to London for a starring role in her show. The designer says Vasic, who started modeling at age 10, is poised to follow in the footsteps of supermodels like Kate Moss.



Angelo Turner



Others might talk about getting out the vote, but he's taken matters into his own hands. This

31-year-old dynamo has launched a national on-line campaign to register young people to

vote and learn more about their elected officials and the voting process. His nonprofit's Web site

(usayfoundation.org) also has a voting-rights timeline that highlights milestones in the Civil Rights

movement. Turner, who has received letters of support from President Bush and other leaders, calls his

efforts a timely movement to get more people involved in their government . . . and reduce apathy and

cynicism.

J.P. Theberge

The Carlsbad resident captured silver for the United States at the 2006 Triathlon World

Championships (challenged athlete division) in Switzerland, finishing just shy of the

win. I was within two minutes of taking gold, he says, which I lost in the two transitions while switching

my feet with an Allen wrench. Theberge, 34, lost his leg below the knee in a motorcycling accident eight

years ago. He's since completed four marathons, 10 halfmarathons and 12 triathlons. A spokesperson for

the San Diegobased Challenged Athletes Foundation, he'll again go for gold at this year's championships in

Germany.



Danny Way

How can we not watch the 32-year-old pro skateboarders seeing-is-believing stunts? He's set

records for flying the highest and farthest on a skateboard and became the first (and only

skateboarder so far) to drop from a helicopter onto a skate ramp - a move dubbed the drop bomb. In 2005,

Way jumped the Great Wall in China on his board; a month later he won his second Big Air gold medal at

the X Games. Continually voted best skateboarder by fans and critics, Way isn't slowed by numerous

surgeries, the fallout from his aggressive bent on boarding.

Randolph Ward



Photos of Ward taking over as superintendent of San Diego County schools show the Harvard-educated administrator smiling broadly. His last assignments have been tough fix-it jobs in Compton and Oakland. Locals hope his connections with foundations will lead to the one thing the 42 districts served by the county office of education can use most: money. And Ward says his key goal is to work with superintendents, school boards, teachers, parents, students and the business community to close the achievement gap and accelerate learning for students of all abilities.



Shaun White

You say toe-may-toe, we say the Flying Red Tomato is one to watch in 2007. The 19-year-old, red-mopped, freckle-faced snowboarding prodigy became a household name during the 2006

Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, where he brought home gold. He won all five competitions

of the 2006 U.S. Snowboarding Grand Prix series and dominated last year's Winter X Games. Also a pro skateboarder, the mega-sponsored Carlsbad teen was the first athlete to compete in both the winter and summer versions of the X Games.

Jeffrey Wiemann

If anyone deserves credit for getting the local chapter of the Red Cross back on track, insiders say, it's Wiemann, appointed CEO last March after three years as part of the chapter's turnaround team. The rebuilding effort took vision, leadership and guts, and



Wiemann, as chief operating and financial officer, drew high marks for a series of legal, financial and operational strategies that returned the chapter to solid footing. He says his primary objective is to embed a culture of preparedness . . . because the only thing harder than preparing for a disaster is explaining why

you didn't.