

# Travel

## GEO QUIZ

EDITORS **KATE FRANCO** (760) 778-4688 **MICHAEL FELCI** (760) 778-4775 or [features@thedesertsun.com](mailto:features@thedesertsun.com)

Where have the highest winds in the world been recorded?

**ANSWER ON E6**



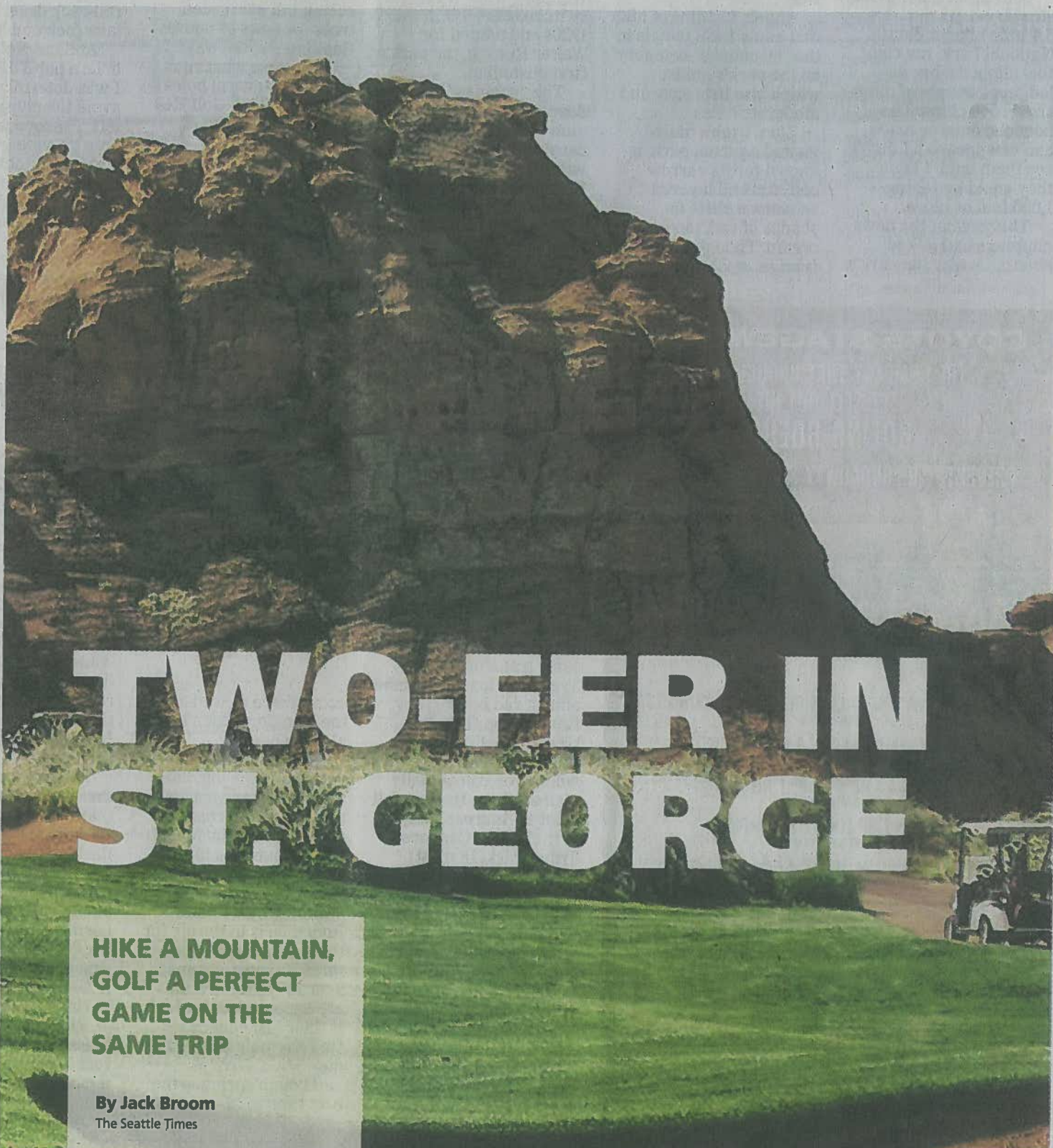
**Kathy Strong**

GOING MY WAY

## Point yourself toward Paradise

To some of us, 1962 does not seem that long ago. But when we look at the 50 years of travel history that have gone by, there are some big changes — such as the price of a resort room on the beach. When Paradise Point Resort opened that year, a guest room was just \$8. To celebrate the half-century of history, the resort is offering an Anniversary Special through the end of 2012. When you stay two nights, the third night is the 1962 rate of \$8.

When movie producer Jack Skirball was introduced to the 44-acre island nestled within the man-made Mission Bay Aquatic Park in San Diego in the early '60s, he saw the perfect spot to relocate the elaborate sets that normally were dismantled after movie production ended. His vision was to create a permanent fantasy



# TWO-FER IN ST. GEORGE

**HIKE A MOUNTAIN,  
GOLF A PERFECT  
GAME ON THE  
SAME TRIP**

**By Jack Broom**  
The Seattle Times

Cleopatra to the state's largest collection of mission bells that once lined El Camino Real. The new resort brought families and a steady flow of celebrities, from Natalie Wood and Paul Newman to singer Andy Williams. It also became the setting of many movies through the years.

Skirball commissioned the resort's signature landmark, a 70-foot tall observation tower that looks out over the bay and the resort's tropical landscaping filled with lagoons, waterfalls, blooming hibiscus and palm trees. Guests today are invited to climb the 81 winding steps to the top where a sculpture of red-eared slider turtles rotates.

A recent \$20-million renovation has totally refreshed the beach bungalow-style guest rooms with a more edgy feel, including 106 suites with lagoon, garden or bay views. Five pools, including an adult-only pool, a Balinese-inspired spa, a fitness center, 18-hole putting course, tennis courts and NBA basketball court offer more fun. Park the car

**Please see KATHY, E6**

manicured fair way, where a carpet of emerald green offers a striking contrast to the red-rock desert?

At first blush, the two outings might seem to have little in common. But having done them on successive days in Southwest Utah this fall, I can identify two key similarities: Both call for sunscreen and each goes a lot better if you avoid going off a cliff.

Visiting the dramatic spires and vistas of Zion National Park has been on my to-do list for decades. And recently a friend mentioned that St. George, Utah, the closest sizable city, has become a bit of a golf Mecca.

That revelation, and a little online research, turned the matter from a notion into a plan: hiking boots and golf clubs were tossed into the Camry trunk for the

**Please see ST. GEORGE, E6**



# Kathy

Continued from E5

and travel the island by way of beach cruisers or surreys.

The overwhelming draw to Paradise, history aside, is the water. The resort is surrounded by a mile of sandy beaches, highlighted by a full-service marina with sailboats, speed boats, kayaks, paddleboards and jet skis — all for rent or charter. Just a walk or short drive from Sea World, guests of the resort can opt to take the water passage to the park. Jump on the Sea World Water Taxi that departs from the Paradise marina and enter the park through a private entrance.

For fine dining, BALEEN offers an innovative menu blended with land and sea specialties, but it's The Barefoot Bar (opened in 1962) that sparks nostalgia. Its opening year was at the height of the Cuban Mis-



Movie artifacts and mission bells are sprinkled all around the property of Paradise Point Resort. COURTESY PHOTO

sile Crisis, with the threat of Russian nuclear attacks being launched just 100 miles from the U.S. shore. Because of this, many structures at this time were built with bomb shelters, and the Barefoot Bar was no exception. The nightclub structure was sunk into the beach, and the thick roof covered with sand. It became known as “a place you can get intoxicated, but not bombed.”

Located off the water's edge, the Barefoot Bar became a haven for

## IF YOU GO

**Paradise Point Resort & Spa**, 1404 Vacation Road, San Diego, (858) 274-4630; [www.paradisepoint.com](http://www.paradisepoint.com)  
**San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau**, [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org)

celebrities and locals, with flocks of people visiting the bar each night. It's now called the Barefoot Bar & Grill, and is a local favorite for its panoramic views of Mission Bay and American cuisine, including pizza, wagyu burgers, fresh fish and salads.

The best dessert at the resort is on your beach front. Grab a s'more kit and bundle of wood at the gift store to have your own private s'more party by a cozy fire at one of the fourteen pits that line the sandy beach.

Follow “Going My Way” on [twitter@KathyStrong2](https://twitter.com/KathyStrong2).



MARCH  
4-17  
2013



**Daily Tickets On Sale Nov. 7**  
[bnpparibasopen.com](http://bnpparibasopen.com)