

5 Things You Didn't Know About:

CLAY HOLDREN, OWNER OF HOLDREN'S STEAKS & SEAFOOD



Born and raised in SB, Clay Holdren is a San Marcos High School grad. He started working in the restaurant business at age 14, at his aunt and uncle's Italian pizzeria. He went to San Diego State, where his athletic skills were put to use on the school's volleyball team. Post college, he worked in various bars and restaurants as acted as a rep for Southern Wine & Spirits. After noticing the lack of a steak house on State Street, Clay opened Holdren's Steaks and Seafood in 2003, and we've been grubbing ever since. Here are a few more fun facts about the man behind the steaks (and seafood) on State.

1. I have two sons who are involved in local sports... right now I'm coaching 2

football teams.

2. I grew a love for wine once we opened the restaurant and take it very seriously. I love learning all there is to know about wine, and trips to Napa and the SY Valley are my favorite.

3. I love to go camping with my boys.

4. I was raised by a great mom and dad! I'm lucky that they are still living here so now my kids are reaping the benefits of great grandparents.

5. I love all sports on TV... my wife often rolls her eyes about how often they are on.

Holdren's Steaks & Seafood

512 State Street • (805) 965-3363

www.holdrens.com • Instagram: @Holdrens_SB

Jake A Hike

BY ANDY WOOD

SKOFIELD PARK



Jhe half-mile loop meanders up the hill, by the creek, and through the picnic areas, open lawns, boulders, oak groves and deer-frequented wilderness. Once the land of Ray Skofield, the park was used as a base camp for Los Rancheros Visitadores, the riding group of which he was a founder. It was sold to the city in 1964, and is now the only city-park with reservable camping areas for non-profit youth groups. With stunning views of the mountains that are accessible by nearby Rattlesnake Trail, the city surrounding Skofield Park becomes a distant memory.

Directions: Skofield Park

From CA-192, take a slight left onto Mountain Drive, turn slight left onto Las Canoas Road, take the third left to stay on Las Canoas Road; entrance will be on left. (If you hit Las Canoas Ridge Way, you've passed it by half a mile.)



MONTE SCHULZ AND THE SERAPHONIUM PROJECT

Known for his literary works, and as the eldest son of the *Peanuts* creator, Charles Schulz, Monte proves his talents go beyond bound pages of a book. Monte will showcase written lyrics and arrangements for The Seraphonium Project, stemmed from his second self, Seraphonium. He worked with over 70 musicians to create the album, 30 of which will perform along side the multi-novelist at the Marjorie Luke Theatre on November 20. (Monte will also perform solo.) The concert is a benefit to raise awareness and funds for The AHA! Foundation, an organization working to end violence against women and girls in the U.S. Monte takes five with The Local to catch up.



Q. I have to ask, what is your favorite *Peanuts* character?

A. As a kid, it was Linus because he's really clever and could do all sorts of tricks with that blanket. As an adult, my favorite character is Charlie Brown because *Peanuts* is his story. They called him the "lovable loser," but CB isn't a loser, his motivated by his passion for his own enthusiasm and determination to continue to try. He is endlessly hopeful, and as I'm an adult, I realize he's easily my favorite character.

Does your songwriting reflect the emotional state you happen to be in at the time?

A professional writer can control the emotion in the work. I could write the lyrics to sad love songs without experiencing sadness directly. I discovered this when I wrote (his most recent) novel, *Crossing Eden* (coming out in early December). It took me 10 years to write. I realized you can't be inspired all the time. If I wrote when I was inspired, it would take me 60 years to write. A professional writer has to be able to write in any emotion or physical state. For example, if you go through life long enough and you experience heartache, you can write about it in a song even if it's heartache that happened 30 years before. It doesn't have to be immediate.

**The Seraphonium Project,
a benefit concert for The AHA! Foundation**
Friday, November 20
Marjorie Luke Theatre
721 East Cotuit Street, Santa Barbara
For tickets: (800) 838-3006
or visit www.seraphonium.com