

Eye Street

"The Sandlot" follows the adventures of a group of kids who are a part of a rowdy pickup baseball team that plays every day in the neighborhood field.



20TH CENTURY FOX

Padre goes Hollywood with new movie night

BY ASHLEY FISCHER

For The Californian

If reliving movie classics from childhood sounds like a great way to spend a Wednesday evening, the scenario gets even better: Imagine doing it under the stars with an adult beverage in hand.

That's the irresistible offer from the Padre Hotel, which screens the films at Prairie Fire, the landmark's rooftop restaurant/bar.

Organized by Matt Howell, the hotel's new food and beverage director, movie nights at the Padre are an attempt to offer both guests and locals a unique way to spend a weekday evening.

"We wanted to do something that would be fun for guests of the hotel but something the community can enjoy as well," said hotel manager Jennifer Johnson. "Our mindset is that we would do something unique for our guests that people local to Bakersfield of all ages would enjoy. We've had small children all the way to elderly people out there watching the movie; it's just a lot of fun."

Every Wednesday beginning at dusk, the historic downtown hotel screens a movie with youth appeal, like "The Goonies," "The Breakfast Club," "Stand by Me" and "The Sandlot."

"It's getting bigger every single week," Howell said.

"Every time it's practically doubling in size. Now we're selling candy, we have a popcorn machine out there, and we have special menu items, like last week, when we showed 'The Goonies,' we had a deep-fried Baby Ruth ice cream sundae."

In addition to the themed menu items and the candy available for purchase

Movie Nights at Padre Hotel

When: Wednesday nights, now until the end of November, beginning at dusk; children welcome until 10 p.m.

Where: Prairie Fire at the Padre Hotel, 1702 18th St.

Admission: Free

Information: 427-4900

(think movie theater staples: Red Vines, Junior Mints, Sour Patch Kids), every Wednesday the Padre also sells for half price any bottle of wine normally in the \$50 to \$100 range.

And outside the cost of a cocktail and maybe a couple of boxes of Goobers, the Padre's movie nights are free. Start times vary with the time of the sunset, but Howell said the goal is to screen the film at dusk. He recommends arriving about 45 minutes to an hour early so you can order food and get a table.

The screenings, which began last month, will continue through the end of November, when Howell said the theme will switch from childhood favorites to holiday classics, such as "Elf," "Christmas Vacation" and "A Christmas Story."

"We're trying to show movies everyone has seen more than once and give them an opportunity to experience them differently," said Howell. "Where else can you watch a movie in the open air with a great view of the Fox Theater in the background? You can enjoy the nice weather and the downtown nightlife and culture of Bakersfield. It's just a really fun, really relaxed experience."