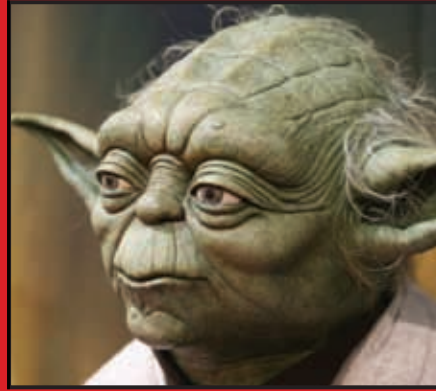


COMIC-CON



Out of this world

photos by PAUL HANSEN



Photos by PAUL HANSEN

Convention is place for both business and fun

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, San Diego Comic-Con International, taking place July 21-25 at the San Diego Convention Center, has come a long way from its humble beginnings. Attendance at the first mini-con, held at the U.S. Grant in 1970 as a fundraiser for a slightly bigger event the same year, was 145, a far cry from the sold out crowd of 126,000 people who jammed the aisles in 2009. This year's event is also a complete sell out.

Although originally centered on comic books, Comic-Con has always had a pop culture component, taking in horror films, toys and animation. However, over the past two decades, there has been a slight shift to include major film and television. In the process, the event has become known as a major place for Hollywood to debut product. With films such

as "Jonah Hex" and "Iron Man" or TV show "The Human Target," the crossover with comic books is obvious, but from the "Twilight" movie series to CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory," San Diego is now the place to promote studio projects directly to the fans, with cast and crew in attendance.

As fun as Comic-Con is for attendees, it has also become a crucial spot to conduct business, with all manner of media converging on one spot, from artists to publishers, writers to directors.

The San Diego area is home to numerous comics creators, all of whom consider Comic-Con the year's highlight.



"It's very important if you have a new book out," said artist Mary Fleener. "I think people enjoy meeting the person who draws it. I've met a lot of retailers and after a chat or two, they are usually more interested in ordering your book. You never know, someone who you talk to will buy a pricey painting from you months later, so there is a ripple effect that is great."

Batton Lash, creator of "Wolff & Byrd, Counselors of the Macabre," concurs on the event's importance to creators.

"From it I can gauge what the year was like and what next year might hold for the industry," he said.

Meanwhile, comic publisher BloodFire Studios gets up to 70 percent of its annual business through Comic Con, said co-founder Lee Kohse.

"Not in direct sales at the show, though

SEE COMIC, Page 4

Eight ideas for the Fourth

By DEBBIE HATCH | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Fourth of July weekend is upon us and downtown San Diego has no shortage of activities to choose from. Take your pick:

1. The Padres will host the Houston Astros at PETCO Park at 1:05 p.m. The first 10,000 children, age 14 and under, will receive a Padres T-shirt. For tickets visit www.padres.com.

2. Apple Pie Fourth of July on the USS Midway will begin at 6 p.m. The museum will remain open through the fireworks display on the bay. There will be live music and kid-friendly activities such as bobbing for apples, face painting, a jump house and more. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.midway.org.

3. Reenactments of the first salute, the first international recognition of the American flag, will take place at the Maritime Museum at the beginning and end of the fireworks show. The museum will also offer a barbecue, sailing on the Californian and cannon firings. For cost information and tickets visit www.sdmartime.org.

4. Summer Pops at the Embarcadero Marina Park South will feature Marvin Hamlisch conducting a patriotic performance of Broadway hits, marches and a salute to the military. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call (619) 235-0804 or visit www.sandiegosymphony.org.

5. The 10th annual Port of San Diego Big Bay Boom Fireworks Show will begin at 9 p.m. and consists of four simultaneous shows around the bay. Seaport Village, the Embarcadero, Harbor Island and Shelter Island offer spectacular views of the annual favorite. For more information visit www.portofsandiego.org.

6. San Diego Harbor Excursions will offer special Fourth of July holiday dinner and spectator cruises on the bay. Watch the Big Bay Boom from the deck of one of the Harbor Excursion's vessels. For more information visit www.sdhe.com.

SEE FOURTH, Page 4

Exclusive: Owners of the Cohn restaurant group share the story of their success. Page 12

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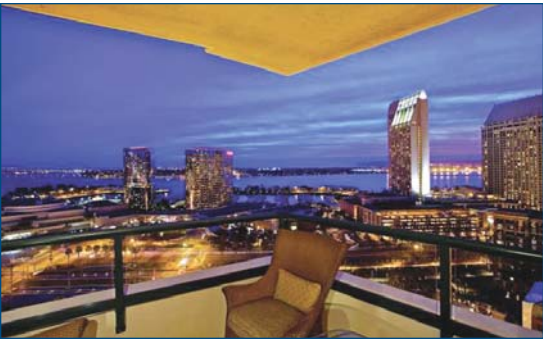
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Downtown quiet zone wins approval

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES
DOWNTOWN NEWS

Downtown residents and members of the business community celebrated a long-awaited victory June 22 when the City Council voted to approve plans for the creation of a downtown Quiet Zone.

More than 100 community members packed the council room at City Hall to express their support for the plan, saying that the frequent blaring of train horns on the coastal corridor has lead to too many sleepless nights for locals and tourists alike.

The 6-2 vote, which capped off 10 years of debate and discussion, authorized Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) to spend an estimated \$17.9 million on safety improvements

at 13 intersections along the railway from Laurel Street to Park Boulevard. The improvements would include new vehicle and pedestrian crossing gates, extended medians, additional flashing lights and warning signage, among other options, according to CCDC documents.

The changes are expected to be complete by November 2011.

Quiet Zone advocates, many of whom wore neon yellow buttons that read "QZ Now," repeatedly conveyed their aggravation at being disrupted by the 120-decibel horns. Long-time residents recalled countless nights of interrupted sleep; real estate agents reported declining sales within the vicinity of the tracks; hotel managers



Many Quiet Zone advocates wore neon yellow buttons to the June 22 City Council meeting.
HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | Downtown News

SEE QUIET, Page 4

Study on tax increment limit gets go-ahead

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES
DOWNTOWN NEWS

City Council members voted unanimously June 22 to authorize Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) to hire consultants who will study the potential impact of lifting the agency's tax increment limit.

When CCDC was formed in 1992, state law set two limits on the agency: the tax increment limit, which allowed CCDC to collect up to \$2.9 billion for redevelopment projects, and a time window that would close in 2033. CCDC officials estimate that the monetary cap will be reached in 2023, leaving approximately 70 projects in the city's community plan unfunded, according to District 2 Councilman Kevin Falconer, who represents the downtown region.

With the vote, CCDC will spend approximately \$500,000 on a study to determine how much blight (physical and/or economic deterioration) still exists in the downtown area and whether the extent of

that blight justifies lifting the limit.

Council members Donna Frye, District 6, and Todd Gloria, District 3, sought assurance from CCDC representatives that a "yes" vote would not commit the council to funding any future projects without further discussion, a critical point amid speculation from the media and the community that the council intends to lift the tax increment limit in order to generate funding for a new Chargers stadium, a claim that the council members were eager to refute.

Fred Maas, chair of CCDC's board of directors, said that any specific projects would be analyzed separately from the study and that the council will have multiple opportunities after the final report is released to discuss which projects would be funded if the cap is lifted.

Proponents of the study who spoke at the council meeting said that CCDC's redevelopment efforts to date have resulted in a significantly higher quality of life for residents, but said

that more work needs to be done in order to create the vibrant neighborhood that was envisioned in the community plan.

Other advocates stressed the need for more affordable housing in the area and asked the council to not only authorize the study but also raise the current percentage of CCDC funds allocated to affordable housing projects from 20 percent to as much as 40 percent.

Opponents said that lifting the tax increment ban will shift money away from the San Diego's general fund at a time when the city is suffering from budget shortfalls and enacting cuts to fire, police and emergency personnel.

They also expressed concern that CCDC's redevelopment efforts unfairly benefit the downtown region at the expense of other parts of the city.

With the city's approval, representatives from CCDC will move forward with the study this month and expect to have the results ready for council review in January 2011.

OBITUARY

Edith Shain: iconic and beloved nurse from world-famous VJ photo taken in Times Square dies at 91

Edith Shain was vivacious and lively throughout her 80s and made many public appearances bringing her special presence to numerous veteran events.

"Every event that Edith attended, the WWII veterans would cheer at her arrival. She would give all a glowing smile — petite and pretty in her nurses uniform, shoes and hat — and always gather a crowd. She danced with several Pearl Harbor survivors at the San Diego event where the 25-foot-tall monumental sculpture was unveiled, twirling to the upbeat tempo of 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,'" said Paula Stoeke, director of the Sculpture Foundation (owners of the sculpture).

Edith was proud to have met Eisenstadt, the renowned photographer who captured the famous "kiss" in Times Square. He recognized her formally as the nurse in the picture. The sailor's identity has never been confirmed.

"Edith had very clear and articulate views on politics and on striving for peace in the world. She



Edith Shain was captured in a world-famous photograph being kissed by a sailor in 1945 on VJ Day at Times Square. Here, she sits at the base of the statue named "Unconditional Surrender" by Seward Johnson, which duplicated that famous image and now stands next to the Midway Museum on Harbor Drive.
COURTESY PHOTO

honored all men and women who served in the armed forces with her powerful personal force. The 'greatest generation' has lost

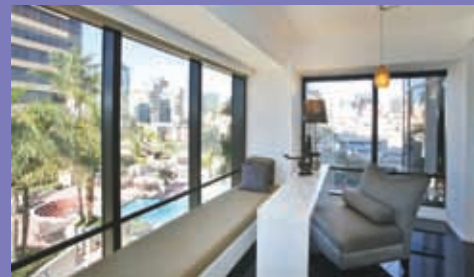
another voice, and we will miss her," Stoeke said.

— The Sculpture Foundation



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Is Comic-Con leaving San Diego?

Comic-Con International's contract with the San Diego Convention Center expires in 2013, giving the organization the opportunity to go elsewhere, but there is hope that an expansion of the facilities, due to be completed in 2015, will be enough to keep the event in San Diego.

With such a large influx of visitor's and the revenue they bring to the city, it's easy to see why both Los Angeles and Anaheim are trying to woo Comic-con to its facilities. An announcement on the future of Comic-Con is expected soon.

"It's very important," said Joe Terzi, president of The San Diego



Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It's one of the largest citywide conventions we have annually, going on 40 years. It continues to be a major driver of economic value to the destination."

There is also much value in the

media coverage the event generates.

"We get tremendous national and international press," Terzi said. "San Diego is highlighted all over the world in terms of what's happening at Comic-Con."

Terzi noted that there is a lot of business conducted during the convention, with a residual effect that lasts throughout the year.

"We also get exposure to a lot of the major studios and we have access to people that might not be here if the Comic-Con wasn't here," he said. "So yeah, it's a very important and impactful event for the city and one that has tremendous benefits."

— *Bart Mendoza*

COMIC

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

those are great, but through the contact with fans and various business meetings we have throughout the show," he said. "We find new talent for future projects, meet with our partners in other media, such as TV, film or Web-comics, and talk with other small companies to see how we can help each other."

Bloodfire's Dennis Greenhill agrees. "It's vital," he said. "Being the single largest concentration of fans and professionals in the United States, we have the perfect opportunity to connect with them, face to face. With Hollywood buying up so many titles, it is the place to get noticed."

He considers that there is both good and bad as far as major studios being such a large presence at Comic-Con.

"The upside is the high concentration of pros from outside the comic industry that allows us to network and move into other markets such as toy, TV and merchandise," he said. "The downside is that I do feel kind of squeezed out almost."

Greenhill noted the difficulty for a smaller company to compete against the giant movie studios in terms drawing sales.

"Attendees often rush past us to stand in line for some give-away," Greenhill said. "We just can't afford to give \$50,000 worth of stuff like that."

While the Comic-Con is definitely a work situation for creators, Greenhill concedes it's also a good time.

"It is four days when all is right with the world," he said. "It is a chance to meet people from all walks of life. Everyone is there to have fun. Downtown San Diego comes alive unlike any other time of the year."

He said the people watching is "world class."

"Where else can you stand at a bar, rubbing elbows with Hollywood elite, and laugh, in a good way, as costumed people roam the streets?" Greenhill said.

Kohse is aware of rumors that Comic-Con could leave San Diego for Los Angeles or Anaheim. A comics convention veteran, he feels the best location for Comic-Con is right here.

"I have done conventions in pretty much every major venue, in every major city over the past few years and the only one that has so many hotels as well as ample entertainment or restaurants centered around the convention center is San Diego and the Gaslamp District," he said.

Fleener was even more succinct. "The atmosphere is zero in Anaheim and it will be at least 15 degrees hotter up there, so I hope it stays here. San Diego is just prettier than O.C.," she said.

QUIET

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

stated that customer complaints over the noise had resulted in the loss of repeat business and thousands of dollars in refunds.

"The train whistle is the number one complaint of tourists downtown, which means less repeat business ... and the technology today has made it possible for people to warn others about where not to stay," said Gary Smith, president of the San Diego Downtown Residents Group, in his address to the council, adding that the noise has also caused residents with children to move out of the area.

In spite of the community support, council members Carl DeMaio, District 5, and Donna Frye, District 6, both expressed concern over the project, particularly about its potential impact on the city's general fund. Although CCDC is responsible for paying the multi-million dollar construction costs, the city will foot the bill for yearly inspections and maintenance of the project, which CCDC estimated would be approximately \$60,000 in the first year.

"There is no doubt that this is a problem. I've been downtown and heard the horns myself, and they are jarring," DeMaio said prior to the

council's vote. "But the reason why I'm in office is because of our city's financial problems, and my focus remains on, with every single decision I'm involved in, making sure that we can move our city closer to financial solvency, and so I have to look at the general fund impacts, and I have to look at the liability and the risk borne by city tax payers."

DeMaio called for an amendment that would require CCDC to report back to the council in four months with alternative means to fund the fees, but District 2 Councilman Kevin Faulconer, who motioned to approve the plan, declined to accept the amendment, saying that he would support that discussion within the city's budget committee in the future but that it was time to move forward with a vote.

Faulconer said he was pleased with the final outcome.

"This is a great victory for downtown after more than 10 years," Faulconer said. "It has such strong community support after a lot of hard work, so I am elated that we are moving forward."

Smith was also happy with the vote, but had harsh words for DeMaio.

"Thank you very much City Council — Carl DeMaio, you ain't gonna be mayor with a vote like that," he said.

FOURTH

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

7. Hornblower Cruises will offer a champagne brunch cruise as well as a dinner cruise topped off with views of the fireworks. For more information visit www.hornblower.com.

8. Altitude Sky Lounge at the Marriott Gaslamp, offering views of fireworks, will be rocking to club beats supplied by DJD-Skwiz during the day and DJ Ramsey into the night. For more information visit www.altitudeskylounge.com.

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23rd annual Stand Down aids homeless veterans

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Stand down is a term used in times of war when exhausted combat units require time to rest and recover while being removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety.

Now, with tents on the fields of San Diego High School, Stand Down can be identified here as a community-based intervention program to help homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets. It's scheduled for July 16 to 18.

The needs are many as veterans seek

medical attention, counseling and an overnight resting place during this 23rd annual gathering.

Darcey Pavich, coordinator of the three-day event, said she expects more than 1,000 to attend.

"It gets bigger ever year," she said. "It serves veterans from all parts of the county and a few outside the state."

For the most part, the message gets out by word of mouth.

"Sometimes they find out sooner than I do," Pavich said.

It's a rewarding achievement for more than 3,500 civilian and medical person-

nel who tend to everything from haircuts, eye exams and dental checkups to acupuncture and messages.

Thousands of caring volunteers and professionals give their time and expertise to address the unique needs of homeless veterans.

"If they show up on Friday they can get in if they are veterans," Pavich said. "We have 30 live-in tents and also some service tents. Families with legal dependents under age of 18 are admitted. Tent leaders are returning veterans who are no longer homeless."

The program is under the direction of

the Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) with assistance from more than 150 organizations, including the Veterans Administration, National Guard, Navy and Marine Corps. Last year there were 3,500 volunteers.

The Stand Down facility includes two baseball fields, tennis courts and a gymnasium.

It's a 24-hour operation with most services provided between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. There's entertainment in the evening with an on duty medical staff and security team.

Founders of the program are Dr. Jon Nachison and Robert Van Keuren. Phil Landis is president and CEO of VVSD.

The event continues to receive national attention. Now, there are more than 200 cities that have

Stand Downs, programs adopted from the Village's basic web site manual.

"The New York Times ran a story on our event last year and we're expecting other national media here this time," Pavich said.

Additional services will be homeless court, counseling, veterans benefits, employment and job counseling services, picture IDs, Veterans Administration and Employment Development Department registration, a visit to a clothing tent, showers and chaplain services.

Meals will be prepared by the VFW, American Legion, Veterans Village, Kiwanis, and supported by the Lions Clubs, Rotary and local food distributors.

City committee will make a decision on homeless service center proposal

By **HILLARY SCHULER-JONES**
DOWNTOWN NEWS

The city's Land Use and Housing Committee (LU&H) is expected to make a decision at its July 14 meeting on whether to support the San Diego Housing Commission's recommendation to establish a new permanent homeless service center in downtown's World Trade Center building, 1250 Sixth Ave.

The commission first presented the recommendation to LU&H in April, but committee members decided to table the issue for 90 days to provide more time for public outreach, amid protests from community members and local business representatives about the center's proposed location in the heart of the city's financial district.

The plan endorsed by the commission would create a "one-stop" homeless service center at the WTC that would house up to 225 homeless people and provide assistance such as medical and mental health care, case management and job hunting resources, all under one roof.

The plan was submitted by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) in response to a request for proposals issued in April 2009. Under its proposal, PATH would work with Affirmed Housing Group to create 150 interim beds and 75 permanent supportive housing units in the WTC, then partner with Family Health Centers of San Diego for ongoing services.

A selection committee comprised of representatives from the city of San Diego, Centre City Development Corpo-

ration (CCDC) and the commission, as well as community members from several community organizations, chose that proposal over another option, which was submitted by Father Joe's Villages, a non-profit entity that has provided homeless services through St. Vincent de Paul Village for more than 60 years.

Originally, the selection committee rejected both proposals because each called for new construction of facilities. The committee then asked both teams to revise their submissions with a strategy for utilizing an existing building. The PATH/Affirmed team came back with a proposal for the WTC site, while Father Joe's declined to revise its proposal, Fisher said.

Caryl Iseman, a 10-year East Village resident who was part of the selection committee and who also co-chaired the homeless advisory committee during the building of Petco Park, said that after thoroughly evaluating both proposals, she was confident that PATH had the best solution, and she criticized some of the temporary services proposed by Father Joe's that she said promote homelessness rather than breaking the cycle that drives it.

"His proposal frankly has all the things that most of the residents in East Village oppose: a lot of shelter beds, which we really didn't want, the in-and-out [services] like the Neil Good Day Centers, which we really don't want ... what people don't understand is that, while its good that you are helping the homeless, you're not really [helping them] — you are enabling them to be homeless

rather than being a solution," Iseman said. "You enable them when they know that they can bed down for a night, but then they are back on the street the next day. They'll keep doing this and doing this and doing this as long as no one breaks the cycle."

Father Joe, however, is adamant that the programs he currently runs are not contributing to the problem.

"People who say that have not been down there, and don't see what we do ... We have everything a homeless person needs to go through rehabilitation on the same site — we have medical, we have dental, we have psychiatric, we have addiction, we have job training, we have literacy, computer training — you name it, we have it on site."

He said he believes the best way to address homelessness is to provide both temporary and permanent solutions that will benefit a variety of people.

"Emergency is not the only answer; permanent is not the only answer. You need to have a continuum where people will get the type of program they need to put their lives back together," he said.

If the committee approves PATH's plan, it will move to the City Council, which will vote on whether to enter into an exclusive negotiating agreement with the PATH/Affirmed team. That agreement would allow the developer/operator to begin evaluating what needs to happen in order to make the proposed project a reality, said Cissy Fisher, vice president, special housing initiatives for the Commission.



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SUBMISSIONS Letters and photo submissions are welcomed. Those accompanied by an addressed, stamped envelope will be returned. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity.

DEADLINES All content must be received by 5 p.m. on the Thursday prior to publication.

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NEWS**briefs****Mayor releases results of Civic Center study**

Mayor Jerry Sanders has announced the results of a study conducted by Jones Lang LaSalle that analyzed the financial impacts of building a new Civic Center or "holding steady" in the current building, which was constructed in 1964.

The consultants found that staying in the current building would cost \$216 million over 10 years, while building a new Civic Center would cost \$179 million to \$231 million during the same time span. The study estimates a cost of \$554 million to \$600 million for a new building over 50 years, versus \$790 million for the current facility.

About 1,000 city employees work at the Civic Center now, and an additional 2,000 are in leased office space downtown. The city spends about \$13 million on downtown office leases annually, according to representatives in the mayor's office. The project will be on the ballot in November, when voters decide whether to move forward with the new construction.

Council approves new central library

On June 28, San Diego City Council voted 6-2 to break ground on construction for a new central library at Park Boulevard and J Street in East Village. The project had come under fire from opponents, who said that it would be financially irresponsible to fund the library at a time when the city has made cutbacks to other services like fire and police personnel. The majority of the \$185 million project will be funded through city redevelopment funds, San Diego Unified School District and a state grant, but the city is relying on an additional \$32.5 million in private donations to complete the second phase of the project, which is scheduled to

begin January 2012. The library is slated to open in July 2013.

Little Italy wins two awards

The Little Italy neighborhood has received two awards for its commitment to social responsibility and community improvements: the American Planning Association's Community Development award, which recognized the area's walk-ability and strong planning principles, and the Urban Landscape Institute's Smart Growth of the Decade award for its "eclectic blend of architecture and street life that builds on a rich history of community and ethnic heritage ..." according to ULI representatives.

Group studies economic impact of Gaslamp Quarter

The Gaslamp Quarter Association (GQA) has released an economic impact report that indicates that the Gaslamp Quarter contributed \$86 million in tax revenue to the city and the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) between fiscal years 1998 and 2008. Researchers included combined revenue from property tax, sales tax, transient occupancy tax (TOT) and tourism marketing district fees in their calculations. The study was conducted by the GQA and an MBA student consulting team from San Diego State University.

News digest

• Fifth Avenue Partners, owner of the luxury hotel **Se San Diego** at 1047 Fifth Ave., has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The hotel, which has 184 rooms and 23 unsold condos, opened in December 2008.

• **The Little Italy Association** (LIA) held a dedication ceremony at the corner of Date and India streets on June 25 to celebrate the implementation of a new recycling program in Little Italy. The Califor-

**YUMMY!**

Molly Lawson, 16-months-old, enjoys sampling the paella from Cafe Sevilla as father Reuben Lawson holds her and grandma Patti Fiocco provides assistance during the final day of Taste of Gaslamp, June 27. A total of 32 Gaslamp Quarter eateries provided samples of items from their menus for the popular two-day culinary event.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

nia State Department of Conservation and San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts collectively provided the LIA with \$115,000 grant funding the purchase of 123 distinct, recycling bins that will be placed next to existing trash receptacles in Little Italy. The bins are blue, but the tops showcase a colorful work of art created by San Diego artist Grant Pecoff.

• The Downtown Information Center is looking for **volunteer ambassadors** who will interact with local, national and international visitors at the group's kiosk in Horton Plaza. Contact (619) 533-7145 for more information.

• The **East Village Association** will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Hotel Indigo, 509 Ninth Ave. Representatives from the Port of San Diego and the Thomas Jefferson School of Law will make presentations. For more information, or to see the roster for the group's recently-elected board of direc-

tors, visit www.eastvillagesandiego.com.

• The San Diego chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) will present **Interior Experience**, a self-guided home tour, on July 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will give attendees the chance to experience design, art, fashion and cuisine together inside of five unique homes. The homes have been designed to reflect the personalities of the occupants. One downtown home featured is that of Michael Mack, the CEO of Garden Fresh Restaurant Corporation/Souplantation. Robert Wright of Bast/Wright Interiors designed the home to complement Mack's active lifestyle. The downtown condo features brick walls and vintage warehouse windows. For ticket information visit www.asidsandiego.org.

• The San Diego Better Business Bureau (BBB) will host a **business-to-business networking mixer** from 4 to 6 p.m., on Thursday, July 8, at the US Grant Hotel, 326 Broadway. The public is invit-

ed to attend. Admission is \$10 per person. For event information, visit www.sandiego.bbb.org and click "News Center" and "Events," or contact Andrea McNelis at the BBB offices, (858) 637-6199. Program underwriters for the BBB's 2010 mixers are Gaslamp Insurance of San Diego and AFLAC Insurance.

• Mayor Jerry Sanders has appointed **Stephen P. Cushman** as a special assistant to the mayor for the proposed 200,000-square-foot Convention Center expansion. Cushman will provide the mayor with guidance on all aspects of the project, including financing, negotiations and the approvals process, according to representatives from the mayor's office. Cushman, a fourth-generation San Diegan, has been Port Commissioner since 1999 and has served on more than 60 boards and commissions. He was also co-chair of the Citizen's Task Force that studied the expansion.

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Local realtors say future is bright for downtown housing market

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Real estate news has taken a dramatic turn in the last two years as foreclosures, bankruptcies and steeply-declining sales have dominated the headlines. But two local real estate agents are optimistic about San Diego's future, particularly downtown, and they have recently started their own business to capitalize on the predicted recovery.

Francine Finn and Raye Scott have a combined 45 years of real estate industry experience as agents, but they added "business owner" titles to their resumes in June when they purchased a Windermere real estate franchise and opened an office at 560 First Ave. in the heart of the Marina District. They are the first female owners of a Windermere franchise in San Diego County.

The duo said that their decision to venture out on their own came as a result of the positive indicators they have seen regarding the market's recovery.

"The recession has been a speed bump for downtown, not a roadblock, and we've already seen signs that it's recovering, that the worst is probably in our rearview mirror now ... the future is great for the downtown," Scott said.

Finn said that downtown is becoming an attractive area for buyers not just from other parts of the county, which have historically comprised about 60 percent of residents in the downtown area, but from other states as well.



Ray Scott (left) and Francine Finn opened a Windermere real estate office at 560 First Ave. The two have a combined 45 years of real estate experience. COURTESY PHOTO

"It's a very walk-able city, it's a very clean city, a very safe city, and it's getting better every day," Finn said.

The business partners are hoping to add 40 agents to their staff within the next year and they said that although those agents will be selling homes throughout the county, they will all need to be well-versed in the rapidly-evolving downtown market.

"Downtown is a market that you have to stay on top of, because there is still a lot of growth to happen," Scott said. "One unit may have a view today; it may be gone tomorrow. We need to know that and we need to stay

on top of that so we can educate our clients ... it's a full-time job."

Finn said downtown's small footprint, in comparison to other cities like San Francisco or Seattle, will spur recovery more quickly, for a variety of reasons: new homes currently on the market are being absorbed quickly, there are few build-able sites left and any new construction will take three to four years to complete, which sets the stage for an increase in demand for a finite inventory of existing homes.

While the pair points to numerous economic indicators that the market is recovering — flat average home prices

since last July (as opposed to the large declines seen previously) and more buyers paying with cash, for instance — Scott said she is also seeing empirical evidence that consumers are feeling more confident.

"Every time I look around, somebody

either has a new baby or is pregnant! People wouldn't decide to start their families or expand their families if they didn't think that things were getting better," she said.

For more information or to contact the agents, visit www.scottfinnhomes.com.

BUSINESSbriefs

Bayside sells 11 units

Bayside at the Embarcadero, a Bosa Development high-rise condo building in the Columbia neighborhood, sold 11 homes between May 1 and June 16, making it the fastest-selling residential project in the downtown area, according to MarketPointe Realty Advisors. Since opening in 2009, 139 of the facility's 232 homes have been sold. Prices start from the \$500,000s.

Food and beverage director wins award

Chris Schlerf, food and beverage director for Hornblower Cruises and Events in San Diego, received this year's Gold Key Award from the San Diego County Hotel-Motel Association and the local chapter of the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International.

The award, which was presented by Mayor Jerry Sanders, recognizes Scherf's leadership, community contributions and customer service, according to a statement from Hornblower.

Scherf, a 23-year Hornblower veter-

an, trains and supervises 12 crewmembers who serve approximately 250,000 guests each year at the company's eight venues. He also advocates for green initiatives such as sustainable seafood purchasing, recycling and composting.

Wilkinson earns management designation

Barbara Wilkinson of CityFront Terrace Homeowners Association has earned the "Certified Community Association Manager" designation from the California Association of Community Managers (CACM). To achieve nationally recognized designation, recipients must complete CACM educational program and fulfill work experience requirements.

Wilson to fill two positions

Neil Wilson has been hired for the dual role of marina manager for Fifth Avenue Landing, LLC, a megayacht marina in downtown San Diego, and director of business development for Marine Group Boat Works, LLC, a megayacht repair center in Chula Vista.

At the marina, Wilson will be responsible for managing slip reservations, increasing public awareness and drawing in new clients, while his position at Boat Works will require him to define scopes of work and liaise with megayacht owners.

Castro named president of Balboa Park Central

Architect Arturo (Art) Castro has been named president of Balboa Park Central, a non-profit organization that manages the House of Hospitality building and its programs, according to a recent press release.

The organization, formerly called the House of Hospitality Association, was created to promote the cultural and recreational use of Balboa Park. Its programs include the Balboa Park Visitors Center and the park's marketing and public relations office.

Castro is principal and chief operating officer of Tucker Sadler Architects. Other officers elected to the board include Gaidi Finnie of Imperial Beach, vice president; Pamela Crooks of La Mesa, secretary; and George Brooks-Gonyer of Escondido, treasurer.

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2009 Quality Average Price: \$891,107

2010 Average Price including Developer units: \$729,605

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Film downtown

By CATHY ANDERSON
SAN DIEGO FILM COMMISSION

San Diego downtown provides a rich environment for filming. With diverse, colorful locations varying from historic to modern and restaurants to entice any working crew, downtown is thriving with print shoots, television commercials, music videos, documentaries, reality shows, TV movies and series, as well as features.

There are three things that drive a decision as to where to film. First and most important is the budget. Each project has a budget and the producer is checking our competitors to see who comes in with less fees and location costs. Location is the second major consideration and even with story boards and art directors determining the "look," locations must stay on budget. Finally, the infrastructure is a factor and that includes qualified crews, talent and film-related services and hotels.

Last month was busy downtown. The popular reality show "What Not to Wear" was downtown filming on the Embarcadero and Marina Park. Reality shows typically have smaller crews and less in their budget to spend. The impact to the community is less, too, and they tend to move around at a faster pace.

About a year ago, Stephen Scott (who is one of the team at the Film Commission) pitched "Antique Road Show" for San Diego and now the popular PBS show is here filming three episodes of their six-episode tour. There are more than 10 million viewers for "Antique Road Show" each week and it remains

the most popular show for PBS. People come from all over the country to participate, and the taping is done at the convention center, thereby attracting people to our wonderful downtown area. Wrap-arounds were filmed of popular icon locations for use between commercial breaks, which brings lots of positive exposure to San Diego. It will air next season.



The film crew from the TV series "Terriers" is shown on location in downtown San Diego. COURTESY PHOTO

You may have seen our new Twentieth Century Fox television series called "Terriers," starring Donal Logue filming downtown. They have recently wrapped their 12 episodes and are ready for the fall line-up on the FX Channel. The show is an updated "Simon & Simon" meets "Rockford Files." The location of the story reads Ocean Beach, however, they have filmed all over San Diego. The show hired more than 100 local crew people and used hundreds of local people as extras. They also used hundreds of local hotel rooms and services. Millions of dollars were spent in San Diego, which gives our economy a boost. Now, let's hope the ratings are good in the fall so we can have them back again to film another season!

Surveying each project after they film here determined that \$50 million was spent in San Diego this year by the film industry. Not bad!

— Cathy Anderson is the president and CEO of the San Diego Film Commission, and Film Commissioner of San Diego. Anderson has earned a national reputation for developing programs to foster the growth of the production industry in the region, and for making America's Finest City "Hollywood South" for more than 23 years.



It's all
Happening!
Marc & Darlynn Menkin

Searsucker and a new mystery dinner theater

"Slow down summer." This is a song that local musician Rob Mehl performs and it's also our request to the universe as we roll into the second half of the year. With so many new things happening downtown, we want to do it all this summer. Here are two highlights that are sure to be the talk of the town:

- After taking almost a year off from the restaurant business, San Diego celebrity chef Brian Malarkey is back. The award-winning chef and nightclub developer and Stingaree owner James Brennan are opening Searsucker, a 7,000-square-foot restaurant on the corner of Fifth and Market.

"I'm thrilled. We have a great team and a good location. I've always wanted to have my own restaurant, so I'm excited," Malarkey said.

Named after the fabric originally worn by the working class but now a popular fashion trend, Searsucker will offer something for everyone.

"I wanted to build a place where people can come, eat good food and hang out with friends as long as they want. This will be a neighborhood restaurant, a friendly place with a nice atmosphere," Malarkey said.

The new American classic menu will include quail, rabbit-and-rattlesnake sausage, pork belly and locally-brewed beers. Live music will also be part of the scene. Another plus — guests will be able to interact with Malarkey thanks to the exhibition kitchen with bar-style seating. Down the road, there will be brunch, a lunch counter and late-night service. Seems like these two have thought of everything.

- The Dinner Detective is a brand new interactive murder mystery dinner show. It all happens on the second floor of the Embassy Suites Hotel and unlike other shows, the action starts right away. That's because the actors aren't in costumes practicing their lines backstage. They're mingling with the real guests, posing as happy couples and tourists on vaca-



The crowd reacts to the antics of an actor in The Dinner Detective, an interactive murder mystery dinner show on the second floor of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

tion. No joke. Imagine our surprise when we discovered that the nice math professor we met in line was really an actor. While you're waiting, everyone is given a name tag and encouraged to have an alias. We decided to go with Chubby Limes and Abby Normal.

The people at our table were extremely nice. Too bad we couldn't tell if they were actors or real guests. The uncertainty made for an exciting evening.

Co-owners Allison and Kasey Learned bought the franchise in San Diego because it was a good business model they couldn't pass up.

"I previously acted in the Long Beach shows and loved it because performers may actually be seated at your table, so part of the fun from the beginning is trying to figure out who's involved in the crime and who's not," Allison said.

Marco Garcia, who chose "Fingers" as his alias, said he had fun trying to make people think he was part of the show. He was so good that some people thought he was the murderer. Turns out he was a local firefighter celebrating Father's Day with his wife.

"I love doing stuff where I have to figure things out," he said. "I had never done a show like this before. I liked how it was interactive and you could go to another table and mess with people in a fun way."

We do have some tips. Embassy Suites will validate your parking ticket, so don't waste time looking for a spot. Don't be afraid to visit other tables. As Marco told us — it's fun to keep people guessing. In the end, our two guesses were actually audience members. And that friendly guy who sat with us? He was an actor. Yup, we were punked.

— Marc and Darlynn Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding Scavenger Hunts feature secret downtown areas. www.wheretours.com



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San Diego entrepreneur produces healthful pet food



By Nicole Sours Larson

Local businesswoman Lucy Postins of The Honest Kitchen (THK) has a passion for her pets' health and well-being, a practical turn of mind and entrepreneurial instincts.

This trait has enabled her to develop her ideas for healthful, holistic pet foods and treats into a successful business which has thrived in the aftermath of the 2007 pet food recall, despite the recession, as consumers seek higher quality, additive- and chemical-free foods for their dogs and cats.

Postins, CEO and chief nutritionist for THK, which produces dehydrated human-grade raw food for both dogs and cats, started her company in 2002 after she began developing raw diet alternatives for her Rhodesian ridgeback, Mosi. The Bird Rock resident had trained in England at the Moreton Morrell College of Agriculture in equine and business studies, and had previously worked with a Southern California pet food manufacturer as an equine and canine nutritionist.

"When I got Mosi I was interested in (making) a raw food diet for him. I wound up with a messy kitchen and looked for an easier way to feed him," she said.

She explored the concept of a dehydrated raw diet, which she feels is safer than raw food because meats and eggs are heated to about 120 degrees and the fruits and vegetables to under 104 degrees, yet are still considered raw. Postins tested different combinations of ingredients and formulations for Mosi and commissioned a human food commercial kitchen in Los Angeles to make several dehydrated test blends. These original blends, all made from meats, vegetables and fruits graded for human consumption, remain among THK's core products.

THK uses organic produce when possible and has just

switched to using 100 percent sustainably-farmed, free-range poultry from Petaluma Poultry. Postins is proud that they do all their own selection and purchase of fresh ingredients for their pet foods, using no by-products, genetically-modified crops, hormone or antibiotic-fed meats, and no corn, wheat or soy products, often the source of pets' allergies.

"There's no excuse that we didn't know what's going into (our products)," she said.

What started as a small, home-based business in 2002 with an initial run of 2,000 pounds of one dehydrated raw diet — Verve, sold only on the Internet — grew in 2009 to 1.2 million pounds of six different dehydrated formulas for dogs and one for cats, plus an array of all-natural, human-grade supplements and treats for pets, sold in more than 1,700 resellers in the U.S. and Canada. All products are taste-tested and consumed by THK's lively canine office staff, plus "retired" feline Harry who works from home.

Despite the recession, the company's 2009 sales grew 29 per-

cent over the previous year. THK continues to bring out new products. Recent additions to the line include Keen, a back-to-basics, more economical dehydrated raw food for "hounds on a budget," that uses the same high quality, but simpler, less expensive ingredients: Lithe, a therapeutic anti-inflammatory herbal tea for dogs; and Wishes, a dehydrated Icelandic haddock fish treat. An as yet-unnamed haddock-based diet will launch this summer.

For Postins, ethics, sustainability and environmental responsibility are as important as high quality nutrition. THK does not offer its products in any store selling puppies and kittens from puppy mills or mass breeders.

She stresses that the company began not as a way to make money, but "as a solution to the problem of how to feed good raw food and a healthy diet and get back to basics. It's really slow food for pets."

For more information and product availability, visit www.thehonestkitchen.com

Remember to practice summer safety for your pets year-round

By Sindi Somers/San Diego Pets

We are blessed to live in sunny San Diego, however we need to remember to practice hot-weather safety tips year-round. With the onset of summer, it is especially important to consider our pets' potential to become overheated and dehydrated.

Fresh, cool drinking water needs to be available at all times for pets. On hot days you might want to put bowls in different areas, making it easier for pets to get to water and stay hydrated. Place water bowls in shaded areas to stay cool.

Cats instinctively get their moisture from food. If they are on a dry kibble diet, consider integrating moist food. You can even manually add a little extra water to whatever they are eating. If your cat does drink from the water bowl, giving some form of moistened food is still highly beneficial and encouraged year-round.

In addition to proper hydration, providing adequate shade is essential if your pets are outside for any length of time. A doghouse can trap heat and should not be considered shade. Nor is a shady tree always sufficient. Consider installing an awning or other tented structure that will remain shaded regardless of which direction the sun is shining. Airflow through the structure is also important.

If pets are indoors during the day and

you don't have air conditioning or want to minimize its usage, keep it cooler inside by closing the blinds. You might want to leave at least one window accessible for pets to see out. Some pets choose to rest on a tiled floor to stay cool.

When it comes time for exercise, extreme caution should be used on hot days. Schedule your dog's walks, playtime, beach visits and other outings in the evenings and early mornings to avoid the sun when it is at its hottest. This can help diminish the risk of your dog overheating or getting heatstroke, which can be fatal. Sidewalks, pavement and sand can also get very hot on your pet's paw pads. Paw boots are available for those dogs willing to wear them.

When venturing out, it can be beneficial for some pets to wear sunscreen. If the animal is a hairless breed or has been shaved, the shaved or exposed skin is at risk for sunburn. In addition, the nose — especially pale-nosed cats and dogs — need protection. There are sunscreens designed specifically for pets, but human-grade sensitive skin and baby sunscreens can be OK. Some ingredients, however, such as common zinc oxide, are toxic if licked off and should always be avoided. Bringing along water on walks and excursions is also a good idea. Portable water bowls are available for pets in a variety of styles.

One last but crucial reminder is to never leave your dog in the car on a hot day. Even in the shade with the windows down, the interior of a car can reach more than 100 degrees in mere minutes. Leaving a dog in an open-bed truck while driving or stopped is also dangerous. In addition to the hazards of the sun's rays, flying debris can get into animal's eyes. Keeping these precautions in mind can help you enjoy a safe, healthy and happy summer with your pets. I welcome your questions and comments. You can e-mail me at info@wildtame.com or visit me online at www.wildtame.com.



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- 1 DO NOT take your pet to fireworks displays.
- 2 Keep your pets indoors in a sheltered, quiet area.
- 3 Consider boarding your pet for the night if you will be out late.
- 4 Consult with your Veterinarian for ways to keep your pet calm.
- 5 Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags- if they escape their confines, they can be easily identified.
- 6 Never leave pets unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain.
- 7 If the party is at your place,
- 8 Do not leave your pet alone in your car.
- 9 Turn on your radio or television to help alleviate loud noises.
- 10 Do not use fireworks around your pets.

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Should the Friars stand pat?

Padres face dilemma come trade deadline

By ANTHONY GENTILE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Before the start of the season, most analysts predicted 2010 would be a rebuilding year for the Padres. Three months into the season, however, the Padres are still at the top of the National League West, coupling strong pitching and smart baseball to become one of the league's biggest surprises.

Along with those not-so-lofty preseason predictions came the assumption that when the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline rolled around, the Padres would be sellers, looking to move their players with high price tags for cheaper talent. Such a move would continue to build the team while maintaining the payroll figure mandated by management.

The Friars' front office made a similar trade in 2009, when they sent ace pitcher Jake Peavy to the White Sox for four players, including current starting pitcher Clayton Richard. When the trade happened on Aug. 1 last year, the team was 19 games under .500 and last in the division.

Now with multiple games over .500 and with one of the National League's best records through June, the Padres' front office must decide this month whether the team will be sellers, stand pat with current players, or even look to add a player or two who could make the difference in the race for a division title late in the season. The decision is not an easy one for management and General Manager Jed Hoyer to make.

If the Padres decide to be sellers at the deadline, the two most moveable players on the roster — and the two

frequently mentioned — are first baseman Adrian Gonzalez and closer Heath Bell. Gonzalez (\$4.875 million) and Bell (\$4 million) make up 23 percent of the Padres' total 2010 payroll of \$38,199,300.

If the Padres trade Gonzalez, an internal replacement would likely be Kyle Blanks, who is currently in the minors after hitting .157 in 103 at-bats to start this season. Bell could be replaced as closer by middle relievers Luke Gregerson or Mike Adams, but the Padres might not want to mess with the core of a bullpen that has been one of the best in baseball so far this season.

Should the Friars be in the surprising role of buyers when the trade deadline comes, the team would probably look to add power to their lineup.

In spite of the Padres' suc-

cess this year, their hitters are near the bottom of the league in home runs and batting average.

The Padres could also opt to stand pat at the deadline, counting on their bats to heat up and their pitchers staying healthy in what is shaping up to be a four-team race in the NL West. Their decision could depend on what the division rival Rockies, Dodgers and Giants do next month.

For a team that has a shot at the playoffs for the first time since 2007, the Padres would be best served to shop the market at the trade deadline for ways to make this year's team a stronger contender. Whatever decision the front office makes next month, it will affect the team for a few seasons to come.



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**World
Cup
mania**

By THOMAS CONROY | DOWNTOWN NEWS

On a summer night four years ago, I encountered a young woman sobbing on a street corner in the Gaslamp District of downtown San Diego. I asked if there was anything I could do to help her. She said nothing could be done as her team was just eliminated from World Cup competition.

That's called passion, as soccer or non-American football is universally loved. The failure by most Americans to appreciate this sport is often put aside by its enthusiasts every four years. The atmosphere in South Africa is at a fever pitch level with anticipation to the start of the quarterfinal round. In downtown, there are plenty of places that will make your viewing of the World Cup a memorable experience. Whether you're looking for a rowdy atmosphere, delicious food or beer overflowing from the tap, there's a place for everyone to root their country onto victory.

One of the best places to watch World Cup action is on the streets of Little Italy. I was fortunate enough to watch the 2006 World Cup Final (Italy vs. France) on JumboTrons that were set up at various points throughout the neighborhood. And you can't help but get caught up with the pride and passion displayed from the residents celebrating their beloved country's win.

Chris Gomez, district manager of the Little Italy Association of San Diego, cannot guarantee another outdoor event of this nature for this year's World Cup. But if Italy is fortunate enough to make a return appearance in the Grand

Advice for viewing the games downtown



Final, you might see a similar event again coordinated in a matter of days.

"Our neighborhood has a great cultural mix (dominated by Italians, Mexicans and English) and you cannot help yourself but get caught up in the pride shown by all," Gomez said. "Our local establishments are showing the games live and everywhere you go people are talking World Cup."

If such an event were to happen again, one suggestion is to get there early for big matches, as people stake out their spots all along India Street. You can expect to see Italy's competitors hung in effigy from the neighborhood's light posts. And if they repeat as champions, this could become the rowdiest party held this summer in San Diego.

• With an excellent British menu and

award-winning beer, Shakespeare Pub & Grille is one of the best locations in San Diego to take in all the action from South Africa. The atmosphere is lively, as soccer fans from all over the world come together here to cheer their countrymen on. Shakespeare can accommodate any party size, as they have a heated patio that overlooks the downtown skyline. All matches will be shown live, but there will be a \$10 admission for selected World Cup contests. Management will credit your bill that day if your tab exceeds \$10. Patrons will not have the opportunity to reserve tables as it's a first come, first serve basis. They expect full capacity for most matches.

• Another classic soccer meeting place is Dublin Square, an authentic Irish pub located in the heart of downtown. All of the World Cup matches are free to view, but expect to encounter an intense patriotic spirit from the patrons. Management is pleased to see a growing interest shown by all as the tournament progresses.

The interior has the feel of a pub straight out of Ireland, as they offer a wide selection of craft beers and a menu that showcases a variety of Irish-American delicacies. Everyone raves about two breakfast items, Tullamore's Irish Country Twist (corned beef topped with sunny-side eggs) or Irish Farm Platter (O'Brien potatoes smothered with eggs and melted cheese) that well-represent the true taste of Irish cuisine.

— Thomas Conroy is a free-lance writer in San Diego who specializes in sports reporting.



Don't fall for those fancy port glasses from the big crystal houses. The best port glass is any tulip-shaped glass.



Vinyard Place

MIKE KALLAY

As I write this, the sun is setting in San Diego — and a perfect excuse to bust into the 20-year tawny sitting on the shelf.

What's the difference between ruby and tawny, vintage, LBV, Colheita and dated single Quinta vintage port? Well, fresh off our tasting/education with Taylor Fladgate, I thought that I'd spell out the process in a very concise format so that even a wine novice could understand it and use it to impress their friends and family.

What is port wine? Easy. Port wine is a fortified wine from the Douro region of Portugal that has been "shipped" through the city of Porto or Oporto, depending on your language.

What does fortified mean? Well, port wine begins just like any regular wine. The grapes are grown, harvested, pressed and allowed to "macerate" with the skins (unless it's a white port) for just a few days. The wine begins its initial fermentation, only to be stopped quite abruptly by the addition of a distilled spirit, which most of the time is a brandy. When you add something with the high level of alcohol like a brandy, the first thing to happen is that the yeast doing its work on fermenting the sugars to alcohol are instantly killed. Most ports are allowed to ferment to about 5 percent alcohol before the 80 proof brandy is added. What you're left with is a wine with high alcohol (~20 percent) and a good amount of residual sugar (r/s, if you want to sound cool).

Why the heck would you want this?

Port for dummies

Who thought this up? Very simply, it was the English. During their long war with France, England looked to their seaport allies for many things, including wine. Unfortunately, the wine didn't have great closures and would spoil before making it to England. Thus, the idea of "upping" the alcohol to protect the wine on its voyage. A happy accident — much like champagne, or heavily hopped ales.

Alright, now that I understand port wines, what are the differences between the different styles? At this point, nothing. All port wine is finished in the same way. Much of the pressing of the grapes is done by foot. This is because most of the Douro was without electricity until 1979. The juice gets a little taste of fermentation, then it gets punched in the face with the addition of brandy. Where then does it go? Wood vats called "pipes." All port wine stays in these wood vats until the second spring after harvest. It is at this point that each individual port house makes the decision to ...

Declare a Vintage!

That's the goal with all of your port. Declaring a vintage means putting the year of harvest on the label, waiting for the scores from Parker & Speculator, and then jacking up the price to get the most for your juice.

But, the better houses only declare a few vintages per decade, and even when they do, they pick only the best juice, sometimes a fraction of their entire harvest.

If they declare a vintage, the wine goes into bottles for aging and eventual sale.

What happens to all of the juice not included with the vintage, or all of the

juice in a non-vintage year? Well, one or more of the following happens:

1. Wine is bottled and offered for sale. This is called ruby port. Hey, isn't that the same as vintage port? Yup, except that the date can't be put on the label. It's non-vintage vintage port. This is usually the least expensive port.

2. Wine is bottled and held back for a few more years (four to six total years) and sold with a date on it. This is late bottle vintage, or LBV for short. The idea here is to offer a non-vintage expression of one vintage with proper minimum age on it to enjoy on release. These wines sell for a fraction of a normal vintage year with the benefit of being ready to drink.

3. Wine is bottled, labeled with a vintage, but not from a vintage year. This is single Quinta vintage port. The house wants to showcase their best wine from the single estate and designate it with a vintage year. These wines typically sell at a steep discount to vintage years, but can be the second most expensive of the ports.

4. Wine is put in small barrels for some time. If the wine from one year's harvest gets mixed with one or more other harvest years, this is what is known as "tawny" port. The age on a bottle of tawny represents the "average age" of wines in the mix. A 10-year tawny would have an average age of 10 years, and a 40-year one would equal an average age of 40 years. We tried a 40-year tawny at the Taylor tasting that had its oldest harvest year as 1909! Tawny ports usually have a brownish tint and are

SEE **PORT**, Page 14



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\$0.75 Wings (min. 5)
\$3.00 Firehouse Draft Pints
\$2.00 Domestic Pints

THIRSTY THURSDAYS 4PM to Close

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\$10 Import Pitchers • \$4.99 Mozzarella Cheese Sticks
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\$4.99 Jalapeno Poppers

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Cohn Restaurant Group finds recipe for success



The Cohn Restaurant Group owns and operates 12 San Diego restaurants:

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Indigo Grill
Island Prime & C-level
Kemo Sabe
La Jolla Strip Club
Tea Pavilion
Pineapple Grill
The Prado
Thee Bungalow

David and Lesley Cohn in the dining area at the Blue Point restaurant, 565 Fifth Ave.
DON BALCH | Downtown News

David and Lesley Cohn, with partner Deborah Scott, continue to create a dynasty of popular restaurants

By HILARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

As the old adage goes, when life hands you lemons, make lemonade — unless you are David and Lesley Cohn, owners of Cohn Restaurant Group (CRG). In their case, when life handed them a struggling meat market, they made a successful burger restaurant.

Today, the Cohns own some of San Diego's most popular establishments, including Corvette Diner and Gaslamp Strip Club. But their entrance into restaurants in the mid-1980s came as a result of trying to beef up a different venture that was suffering from unfortunate timing.

"Honestly, it was a little bit by accident," Lesley said of their first foray into the restaurant business. "David's family ... settled in San Diego in the very early '80s, and they had opened up a Mid-western-style meat market called Iowa Meat Farms, and it was right at the time when Californians stopped eating red meat. Everyone looked at each other and said, 'We've got to do something a little bit different,' so we started with a very, very small restaurant, a burger concept."

They soon added frozen yogurt to the menu, becoming San Diego's first self-

serve topping bar. It would be the first of many innovative ideas the Cohns would implement in their restaurants.

When the burger joint became a hit, Lesley said the Cohn family considered opening more locations with the same concept — until 1986, when they fell in love with a location in Hillcrest and came up with the idea for the Corvette Diner, a boisterous 1950s-style eatery that has become well-known for its loud waitresses and bright neon décor.

However, the Hillcrest of 1986 was a far cry from the gastronomic hot spot that it has become today. Only two other restaurants were open at the time, and the neighborhood was "pretty gritty," Lesley said.

"Nobody could believe we would go into a neighborhood [where] there was very little going on," she said. "But my husband ... really had the vision to move forward with that."

With Lesley on board as the interior decorator and David managing operations (plus some help from David's parents), they managed to not only make the restaurant a success but also transform the neighborhood.

That type of visionary thinking is still evident in the Cohns' eclectic portfolio of 12 San Diego-area restaurants and one franchise, none of which are exactly alike. The cuisine varies from Pacific Rim-inspired fare at Kemo Sabe to French country dishes at Thee Bungalow to Northwest-fusion recipes at Indigo Grill.

Over the last three decades, the Cohns have continued to find opportunities that others have missed and have consistently created distinctive restaurants with a unique variety of menu options.

Part of the group's success seems to stem from the addition of executive chef and partner Deborah Scott. She joined the Cohns in 1995 and has consistently been voted San Diego's top chef by patrons across the county (including voters in the 2010 *Peninsula Beacon* Readers Choice Awards) for her involvement with Indigo Grill, Kemo Sabe and Island Prime and C-level.

"She's fabulous," Lesley said of Scott. "She's in the restaurants all the time, she recognizes guests, they love her, she talks to them ... she really is all-in-one."

SEE COHN, Page 13

It is time to Explore Paso Robles wine in San Diego

By HILARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego is a fast-growing market for wineries all over the world, but some of the best wines come from a region mere hours away.

Paso Robles, a town 30 minutes north of San Luis Obispo, was once the land of cattle ranchers. But in the last two decades, wine producers have flooded to the area for its unique terroir and climate.

Half of the region sits just several miles from the ocean, on the west side of Hwy. 46, so grapes there get a strong coastal influence, with cooler temperatures and frequent fog.

The other half is delineated by Hwy. 101 and a mountain range, which halts the marine influence and causes temperatures to soar past 100 degrees even into the fall.

These geographic features give Paso

wines two distinct identities in many flavors, and fierce competition between the two halves has yielded truly amazing wine for every palate. Some of the following wineries plan to expand their distribution in San Diego in the future:

Adelaida Cellars

Adelaida Cellars is located on the west side of Hwy. 46, in an area that used to be part of the ocean floor. That history has

left its imprint in the soil, which is full of calcareous limestone, giving the taste of Adelaida's wine an earthy, mineral quality. Since all of their wine is estate grown, that taste profile is evident in each bottle.

A representative from Adelaida recommended trying the 2008 HMR Estate Chardonnay and the 2007 HMR Estate Pinot Noir to get a good sense of the

SEE PASO, Page 13



FOOD & DRINK

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A broadway hit, three musicals and Summer Pops



THE LIVELY ARTS Charlene Baldridge

Music in the outdoors fills downtown in July. Catch some notes at the following venues:

San Diego Repertory Theatre



Sam Woodhouse stages the Broadway hit musical "Hair-spray." Peter van Norden plays Edna Turnblad and Steve Gunderson "her" husband, Wilbur. Teen roles are played by students from San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts. July 17-Aug.

15 at the Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. www.sdrop.org, (619) 544-1000.

At the Civic Theatre

July 6-11 Broadway San Diego presents three-time Tony Award-winning musical, "Avenue Q." The story concerns recent college grad Princeton as he settles in Manhattan and stars actors/puppets in compromising situations (parent discretion advised due to full puppet nudity). San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue at B Street,



The Summer Pops will present Kool & the Gang, July 9 to 10, featuring (from left) Dennis Thomas, George Brown, Robert "Kool" Bell and Ronald Khalis Bell. Photo by Silvia Mautner

www.broadwaysd.com or (619) 570-1100.

In Balboa Park

Starlight Musicals presents the romantic classic musical "The Pajama Game," which concerns a union advocate's conflict with her boss that turns into a battle of the sexes. Hit tunes are "Hey There" and "Hernando's Hideaway." Thursday-Sunday, July 15-Aug. 1, 8 p.m., Starlight Bowl, Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park. www.starlighttheatre.org or (619) 232-STAR.

Embarcadero Marina Park South

San Diego Summer Pops is under way with programs every weekend through

Labor Day weekend, with July programs featuring Kool & the Gang (July 9-10) plus the music of Abba (July 16-17) and Motown (July 30-31) — 7:30 p.m. each night. Embarcadero Marina Park, www.sandiegosymphony.com or (619) 235-0804.

At the Old Globe

Three productions of the 2010 Shakespeare Festival 2010 continue at the Old Globe: "King Lear," starring Robert Foxworth in the title role, and "The Taming of the Shrew" with Jonno Roberts and Emily Swallow, plus Alan Bennett's "The Madness of George III." They play in alternating repertory through the end of September. Information: www.theoldglobe.com or (619) 23-GLOBE.

COHN

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

Scott, who hails from Virginia, said that her natural Southern hospitality has helped her engage customers.

"If your guests aren't happy, then there is no point," Scott said. "There is only one way to really, truly know, and that is to talk to them yourself."

Both Lesley and Scott attribute CRG's accomplishments to their commitment to hospitality, but Scott said that their achievements to date can also be credited to the unique strengths that each partner brings to the business.

"David has an extremely great marketing background, and he is an amazing businessman," Scott said. "Lesley is very creative in her design and she is very, very good at creating an image in a restaurant through design. I like the presentation and the development of the menu and the concept ... so I think between us we have a good energy and I think we all bring something important to the table."



A view of downtown from the Cohn's Island Prime restaurant, 880 Harbor Island Drive.

PASO

CONTINUED FROM Page 12

wines they offer.

"People think of Paso Robles as a warmer growing region, but those two are Burgundian wines that are typically grown in a cooler climate," explained Paul Sowerby, Adelaida's national sales representative.

Clautiere Vineyards

Clautiere is arguably better known for its Alice in Wonderland-themed tasting room than its wine, but its sales and marketing director Ron Wannagat said that in 2008 San Diego was one of its biggest restaurant markets. After losing its distributor and seven area sales reps

here in 2009, its market share suffered, but Wanagat's goal for 2010 is to rebuild in the region.

Its go-to wine is the Mon Beau Rouge, a unique blend of counoise, mourvedre, grenache and syrah. It is a big, peppery wine made in 30 percent new French oak barrels, and it would be a good addition to many of the local Italian restaurants and steakhouses in the area.

Minassian-Young Vineyards

Minassian-Young is owned and operated by David and Amparo Young. David is a native of San Diego and visits his parents here frequently. The duo bought the vineyard in 2003 and released their first commercial vintage in 2004.

The Amparos are committed to dry

farming, which means they don't have any installed irrigation, and the grapes they grow must rely solely on rainfall as the water source. They farm organically and the grapes they source from other vineyards come from sustainable farms.

"A vintage is only captured when you aren't irrigating away what happened that year," David said. "It requires us to be better farmers. We are riding the weather rollercoaster."

David said wines from 2007 should be particularly good, because the limited rainfall in Paso that year generated smaller yields with higher quality grapes. Try the 2007 Black St. Peter for a unique blend. It contains zinfandel, mourvedre, petite sirah, carignon and viognier.

Thee Bungalow

Spring of '69

dinner specials

OB Pier Bouillabaisse maine diver scallop, shrimp, mussels, seasonal fish, tomatoes, fennel, leeks, saffron tomato broth with grilled baguette and roasted pepper aioli 15.95

Bacon Street Burger hobbs apple wood smoked bacon, french swiss cheese, romesco and pommes frites 12.95

THEE Duck farmers succotach, and a choice of cumberland sauce, or pepper rum glaze 14.95

OBcean Fish & Chips grilled ahi with oven dried potato discs, baby tot soi slow, yellow tomato vinaigrette and shiso aioli 15.95

Peace and Love parmesan & wild mushroom parisienne gnocchi, organic vegetables, crispy tofu, papittas basil butter 11.95

Mussel Beach served with white wine sofrito broth, asparagus spears, grilled garlic toast 13.95

The Wonderland filet skewers, artichoke croquette, chopped salad, piquillo pepper remoulade 15.95

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PORT

CONTINUED FROM Page 11

much lighter in fruit and much more pronounced in nutty, butterscotch and marzipan flavors.

5. The last port, and one of my favorites (other than the first four favorites) is kind of a cross between number 2 and number 4. Colheita ports are those from non-vintage years that spend the first few years with all of the wine, but when a vintage doesn't get declared, the wines go into barrel — for a long time! The amount of time is determined by the customer. The wine doesn't get bottled until a customer orders it. Don't think of the customer as an individual, but more likely an importer of wine from another country. They'll bottle it, put the date of the harvest year (not a vintage), and ship it. These wines to me are the best example of one harvest, along with barrel aging, making it a cross between ruby, tawny and vintage, all in one.

Are we clear on all of this, or did I just confuse the heck out of you?

Oh, one more thing. I posted a question/contest on Twitter about the difference between a ruby a tawny port — in one word. Nobody got it right. This is right from Robert Bower, seventh generation of the Fladgate family. The difference is: air. Rubies are bottle aged, tawnies are barrel aged. The slats in the barrel allow oxygen in to accelerate the "aging" of the ruby ports. This softening would roughly equal in a very short time the aging you'd see in a bottle over a very long time.

So, there you go. All port starts out the same. All ports start out as Ruby ports. The path after the first two years is where things get different.

One last piece of advice: Don't fall for those fancy port glasses from the big crystal houses. Even Mr. Bower from Taylor Fladgate agreed with me — the best port glass is any tulip-shaped glass. We use brandy snifters and I wouldn't have it any other way!

Finally, this article is done, the night is in full effect, and my glass of wine is empty. I think it's time to steal another pour.

—Mike Kallay and his wife, Stephanie, own the Cask Room, a wine bar in East Village. www.caskroom.com

The ultimate wave comes to San Diego via IMAX

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego was considered the likely venue for the premier IMAX surfing film titled "Ultimate Wave Tahiti," which has opened its summer run at the Reuben H. Fleet's Science Center.

"And why not? This is a great surfing community," said executive producer Jeff Cutler before the press preview in the big domed theater. The film opens to the public today, July 1.

Cutler speaks with some authority because he lived in Cardiff by the Sea as a youth, and is able to recall also surfing off the shores of La Jolla, Mission Beach and Ocean Beach.

"San Diego is so much more surf-driven than Los Angeles, for example," he said. "You don't have the big swells here but you don't need big waves like Tahiti and Hawaii for good surfing. There are a variety of breakers."

The film is a production of Steven Low, who is described by Cutler as an ocean fanatic with a passion for the Polynesian waters of the South Pacific.

Low has worked with noted director-producer James Cameron on "Titanic" and "Volcanoes of the Deep Sea."

"When the idea came up, we knew it would be about an area he knew," said Cutler, who now lives in Atlanta. "And, Tahiti had such a wide variety of good surf."

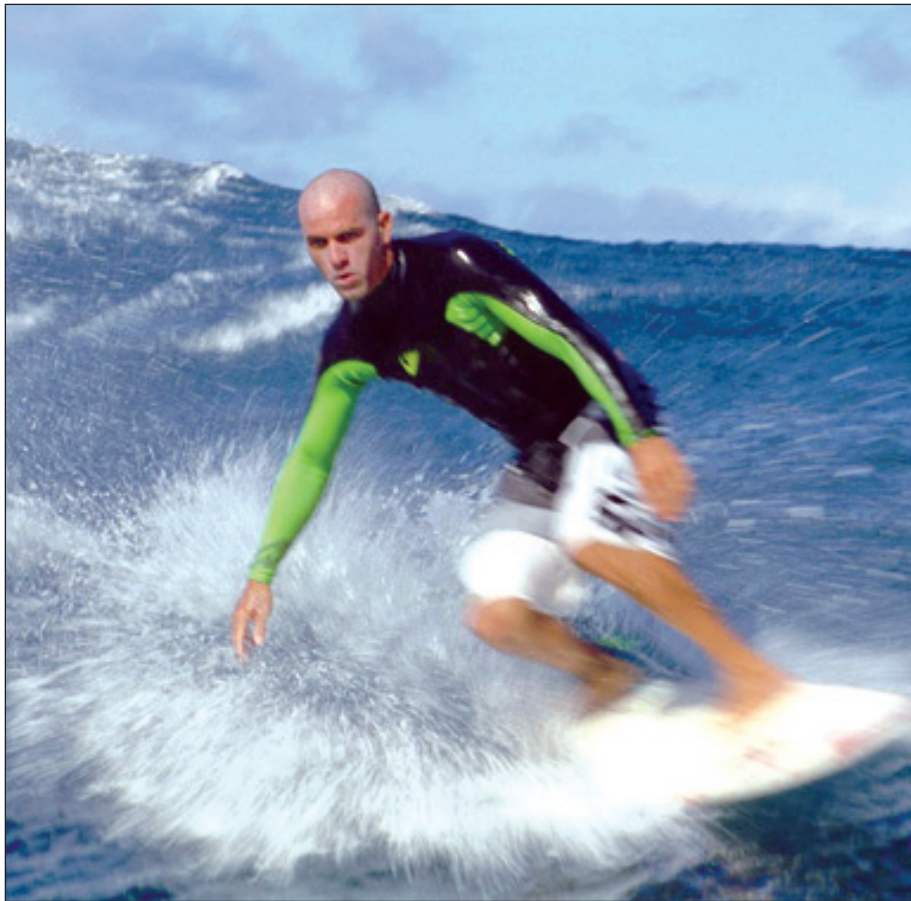
The IMAX Tahiti film is expected to be shown in 150 locations including Munich and Paris.

"Low did a large portion of the filming," Cutler said. "He's a hands-on director and understands IMAX's large format cameras better than anyone in the world."

The film is a blend of surfing and ocean science, starring nine-time world surfing champion Kelly Slater and Tahitian Raimana Van Bastolaer in Tahiti's famed surf site, Teahupo'o.

Viewers will see the power and speed of surfing on nature's most intense ocean waves in a series of multiple angles and views.

Cutler is founder of the National Surf League, an organization that was started in Encinitas, a team-based competition he ran for four or five years. From this stemmed the nation's only team-based high



Nine-time world surfing champion Kelly Slater rides Tahiti's famed surf site Teahupo'o in "Ultimate Wave Tahiti," now showing at the Reuben H. Fleet's Science Center.

COURTESY PHOTO

school surfing format which just completed a tournament in San Clemente.

"Surfing was probably considered a fad in the 1950s," Cutler said. "It went from the sub culture '70s to a new full-blown influential facet of pop culture with a lifestyle for apparel, an influence on music and other trends."

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SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

URBAN LIVING

JULY 2010 | Vol. 11, No. 7

Dip into summer fun

Rooftop pools offer scenic views, beautiful people and fun parties

By **DARLYNNE REYES MENKIN** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

It's a typical summer day in San Diego — 72 degrees, clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine. Sounds like a perfect day to spend outdoors soaking up the rays. The only question now is what's there to do? If you're into amazing views and hanging out with the cool crowd, there are a slew of hotel rooftop swimming pools worth checking out.

- At the Hard Rock Hotel, get ready to party like a rock star. Comfortable chaise lounge chairs, VIP cabanas, daybeds and a spectacular view overlooking Fifth Avenue and the San Diego Convention Center are all part of the hotel's Float pool lounge scene.

On Sundays, this popular rooftop is transformed into Intervention or as the locals say — the ultimate summer get-away.

"This is the best pool party in San Diego. It's great people watching and the DJs are out of this world," Anthony Rujillo said.

Tommy Tranbu, a frequent Float guest agreed.

"Where else would you want to be on a hot summer day?" he asked.

Employees at Intervention are a big part of the experience. One guy manning the grill who goes by the name "Ninja" flashed a big smile when asked about the popular DJ Deadmau5 who rocked the house a few weeks back.

"He has this huge mouse head with



The excitement is contagious at Intervention, held every Sunday at the The Hard Rock Hotel. Yes, there is a pool nearby somewhere.

COURTESY PHOTO

the eyes knocked out and he really keeps the music live. It's non-stop," he said "The heat, the pool and the beautiful ladies are excellent nutrients for the eyes. I'm feeling pretty healthy by the end of the party."

Intervention ticket prices vary between \$20 and \$100 and yes, that includes access to the pool.

- Up the street is Se San Diego's Siren Pool & Uberlounge — a stylish 7,000-square-foot pool deck and lounge featuring private cabanas with bottle service and an infinity edge pool. The ultra chic rooftop is a huge hit with locals.

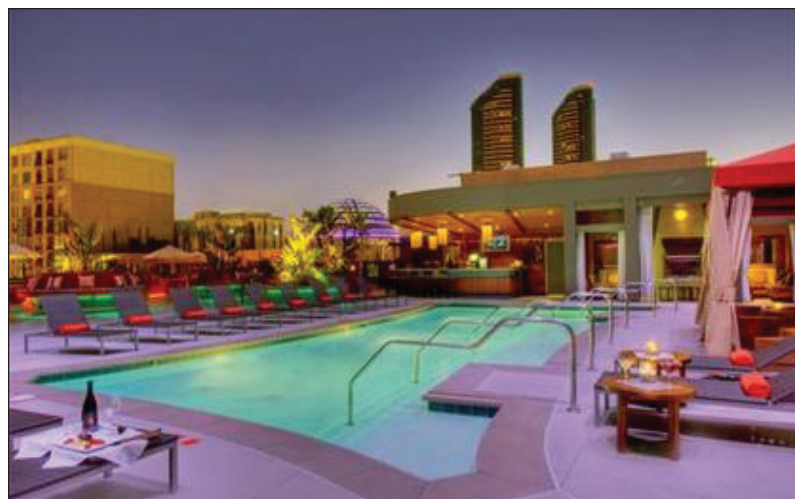
"I love it here because it's intimate and a great place to unwind and meet friends after a long work day," Lisa Davenport said.

Se San Diego also has its share of glamorous pool parties. For those who refuse to let the weekend end, Escape Sunday is held from 2 p.m. to sunset.

Its motto? Relax, Refresh and Revive.

"It's a fun event and high energy. There's no cover charge and everyone is welcome," said Craig Waterman, general manager of Se San Diego.

- Solamar Terrace, located on the fourth floor of Hotel Solamar is another favorite. The hotel's rooftop pool and LoungeSix is a winning combination with its unique rooftop garden and city skyline views. The swanky outdoor seating, private cabanas and inviting fire pits are a nice touch.

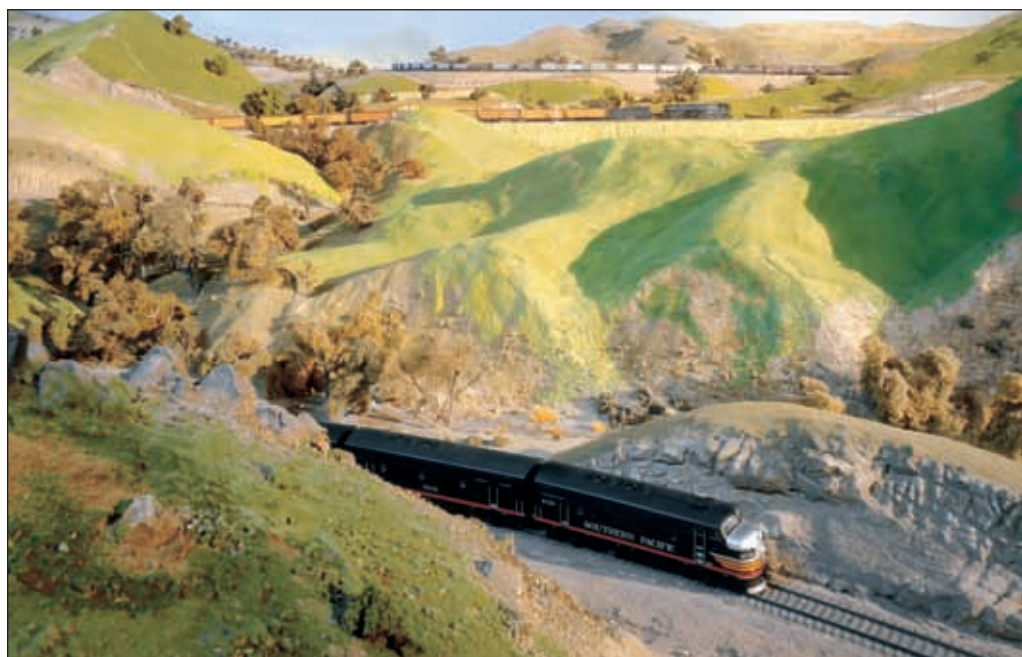


The pool on Solamar Terrace and LoungeSix, located on the fourth floor of Hotel Solamar is a winning combination with rooftop garden and city skyline views.

COURTESY PHOTO

SEE **POOLS**, Page 16

Model Railroad Museum chugs along at 30



Scale diorama layouts are highly-detailed and exact, such as this Tehachapi Pass exhibit by the La Mesa Model Railroad Club at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum

COURTESY PHOTO

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Model railroading is a meticulous work of detailed artistry and engineering as it "tracks" the fascinating days of train history.

To expound on the hobby's popularity, the San Diego Model Railroad Museum will show off its California collections with a special 30th anniversary celebration July 31 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All the the whistles and make believe chugs will come alive in the lower level of Balboa Park's Prado.

This unique museum contains four enormous scale and model layouts — Cabrillo and Southwestern, San Diego and Arizona Eastern, Pacific Desert Lines and the two-tier Tehachapi Pass — built by separate model railroad clubs.

The museum encompasses 27,000 square feet of scale models, toy trains, railroad history exhibits and a comprehensive railroad research library.

Assistant director Anthony Ridenhour explained that it's a hobby that finds interest from all ages,

"I knew nothing about model trains but I got caught up in all the fun six years ago and now

the museum is my career," said the 37-year-old.

He said he serves as a liaison from the front office to the tiny rail yards. Founder John Pot-san is the executive director.

The men responsible for handling the controls of the train displays will guide guests on tours and be handy to answer questions about the engineering masterpieces of the mid-1900s during the celebration.

Although the hobby would appear to be a plaything for the retired, Ridenhour believes there's a resurgence in interest among younger people in model railroading.

The San Diego and Arizona Eastern display is the center piece operated daily by San Diego Model Railroad Association members. Each layout is staffed by a different club.

"Roughly about 300 volunteer members take part in the activities ... running and building," Ridenhour said. "Members operate the trains daily while others come in the evenings for construction. This is the largest and only accredited model railroad museum in North America."

SEE **MODEL**, Page 16

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Hats Off to Local Milliner Diana Cavagnaro

Downtown hat designer preps for opening day at Del Mar

By MEAGHAN CLARK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

It's obvious that Diana Cavagnaro has a passion for hats, and not just because she's always seen wearing one. When talking about millinery's history or her own line — Designer Millinery — she lights up.

"I just love wearing hats," she said in her Gaslamp Quarter loft that doubles as a work space.

Cavagnaro has worked in millinery since 1981, learning the trade as an assistant in the Old Globe Theater's millinery department before she earned her degree in fashion at Mesa College. Her downtown business has earned national recognition after she created a well-publicized hat for Morgan Fairchild during her days on the sitcom "Fashion House" and also a hat for Oprah Winfrey.

Even with national exposure, Cavagnaro's biggest day of the year is the opening day at the Del Mar races. The local event has the designer prepping months ahead of time.

"Most people want the hat first and then they go out and buy the dress because [the hat] is the focal point," she said. "I always call [opening day] the biggest fashion show of the year."

Cavagnaro has fitted some of San Diego celebrities for the annual summer event, including Aloha Taylor and Kimberly Hunt.

Unlike department store finds, all of Cavagnaro's hats are fitted to perfection. For someone with a head size "a bit larger" than most, there is some personal appeal to making such specialized garments.



Hat designer and fashion expert Diana Cavagnaro bases her Designer Millinery work space in a Gaslamp Quarter loft.

MEAGHAN CLARK | Downtown News

"Anyone that has a head size that's larger or smaller gets so excited that they can come here and I can make a hat that fits their head," she said.

After just a few measurements and about seven hours, a Designer Millinery creation is ready to wear.

She attributes her current success to young women, especially those that take her hat making classes at Mesa College.

"It's really changed [since the '80s] because the younger generation loves to wear hats," she said.

Her expanding business is expected to grow with a line of golf hats and a store in Los Angeles.

Hats in every shape and size line the walls of her small showroom and workplace. Large brimmed hats sit atop faceless mannequins while accessories fill a brightly-lit glass display case. The six hat styles she keeps in rotation, aside from special orders, are made more unique by the material. In the past, she has used

mens' ties, a potato burlap sack and vintage ribbons.

"I love to repurpose things and like to use vintage supplies so that when I put something together it makes it one of a kind," she said.

It isn't easy to forget one of Cavagnaro's hats.

"Everybody has their own style and personality," she said, a trait she translates into each design, making a Cavagnaro hat a work of art.

Just as obvious as her devotion to millinery is her volunteer work. Cavagnaro donates her time and skills to cancer patients with the Look Good, Feel Better program, teaching cancer patients to tie head scarves and wear hats.

"It's wonderful to help the less fortunate," she said.

She was recognized for her work in 2003 when Look Good, Feel Better honored her with the California Division Sunrise Award.

POOLS

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

But it's the casual, relaxing atmosphere that has Tanya Billings coming back every week. "I like this rooftop pool because it's laid back and the people are friendly," she said. "I feel like I belong."

The pool is for hotel guests only, but

don't let that stop you from enjoying a sweet adult beverage.

Here are some other rooftop pools worth checking out:

- W Hotel: Known as downtown's first rooftop pool, WET may be off limits to non-hotel guests but at the rooftop BEACH bar, everyone is welcome. Just make sure you take your shoes off. Three tons of heated sand covers the rooftop bar, keeping things nice and toasty.

- Andaz, Ivy Rooftop: Impressive panoramic views, sleek outdoor seating and private cabanas surround this rooftop pool. Daytime and night time views are fabulous.

- Manchester Grand Hyatt, KIN Lounge: This harbor side rooftop lounge and pool have an unbeatable view of the bay and Coronado. What a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon — taking a dip in the pool and watching sailboats go by. Life is good.

MODEL

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

Minten Cronkite is credited as the park forerunner, setting up one of the first model railroad layouts for the 1935-36 exposition.

"We have the train that was exhibited then and it runs now on our O train

display," Ridenhour said.

New permanent public aisles, allowing for better viewing, have been installed. The children's room has a Thomas the train area, toy train gallery and an interactive pushbutton to control trains.

The museum intends to preserve the heritage of railroading through the

miniature representations of California railroads, research and to maintain the history of model railroading. It also serves as the umbrella for all the model railroad clubs.

Trains flawlessly rumble over miniature mountain ranges which have been replicated in every exact detail to bring you back to the days of yesteryear.



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Tour the city in a mini

By MEAGHAN CLARK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego's GoCar Tours is taking sightseeing to a whole new level. Inspired by European scooters, the vehicles are essentially street-legal motorcycles that are powered by a gas engine, said operator Liz Zakharia.

The two-seaters can be operated by anyone 18 years old or older and don't require a motorcycle license. In addition, each has a GPS system.

Meant for the street, GoCars have a 49cc engine and can go about 35 mph.

The basic tour route drives through San Diego's most prestigious locations, though the computer-generated route is a mere suggestion, Zakharia said. With the option to switch from the audio tour to music, drivers are encouraged to deviate from the guided path.

Typically, the guide directs GoCars to slower-moving areas, but if you want to take an unusual route, Zakharia makes one suggestion: "plan ahead — there is no reverse!"

San Diego's GoCar Tours has both a downtown and Point Loma tour, with more to come. The downtown tour, GoCar Tour's most popular, takes drivers to San Diego's tourist attractions, from



Renting a GoCar is a unique way to visit those places that are hard to get to on crowded downtown streets. COURTESY PHOTO

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Balboa Park to Old Town.

Drivers can find Downtown locations that are difficult to spot on bus tours by navigating in and out of Seaport Village, Gaslamp and the Zoo.

The average time is about an hour and a half with an option to go all day.



Tourists can see the sights throughout downtown via the eco-friendly Segways from Another Side of San Diego Tours. COURTESY PHOTOS

Tour the city on a Segway

By MEAGHAN CLARK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

"Why stroll when you can roll." That's the slogan of of Another Side of San Diego Tours, said president Kenneth Lippman.

His company started out in the back of a Mexican restaurant just two and a half years ago and has since expanded to locations in Los Angeles, Orange County, Las Vegas, Florida and Phoenix with various tour options.

The company's most popular adventure is the Segway, a two-wheel device which must follow the same rules as a pedestrian, according to California law. Helmets are required while a tour guide leads on the sidewalks, still yielding to walkers.

"It's like riding a magic carpet," though safety remains the number one priority even when flying, Lippman said. All safety concerns are addressed during the instructional video before the tour, though experienced riders can opt out.

Everyone weighing more than 70 pounds can hop on, Lippman said.

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"We like to have everybody in the family participate," he said.

The two hour Gaslamp Tour is the company's most popular, hitting San Diego spots like Petco Park, the Embarcadero and the heart of Balboa Park. Lippman assures customers that every ride will offer a unique introduction to San Diego's favorite destinations by way of the lithium battery-powered two-wheelers.

The company promotes tourism by providing eco-friendly entertainment in which "you can actually stop and smell the roses," Lippman said.

"People want something new and something different" and with the Segway tours from Another Side Tours, they will get just that, he said.

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Cycling in the city

By **MARC & DARLYNNE MENKIN**
DOWNTOWN NEWS

Now that summer is here, it's the perfect time to get out your bike and go for a ride. Downtown is a great place to ride because it's scenic and easy to get around. If you're looking for a cool adventure with no steep hills, try this favorite three-island spin:

- The bike lane that runs along part of Seaport Village and the Embarcadero is not only a relaxing ride, you'll see some exciting points of interest along the way such as the USS Midway aircraft carrier, the Star of India and the Urban Trees Public art project, which changes every year. Island Prime-C Level Lounge on Harbor Island is a good place to take a lunch break and take in the view of the bay and city skyline. The waterfront bar at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina is another pretty spot to grab lunch. If you ride all the way to the end of Harbor Island, lock up the bikes and visit Tom Ham's Lighthouse. The nautical themed rooms look like something out of a pirate movie.

Consider these three island-oriented routes from downtown

- Shelter Island is an easy 45- to 60-minute bike ride from downtown. Known for its A-frame buildings and superb views of the city and bay, Shelter Island is a delightful place to explore on two wheels. While riding along Harbor Drive, pass the San Diego International Airport and go toward the Point Loma signs. Turn left on Scott Street and look for Point Loma Seafoods, Humphreys and the recently-renovated Bali Hai Restaurant. If you time it just right, Humphreys has live music on Saturdays during happy hour.

The nearby NTC Promenade and Liberty Station are also worth checking out. There are plenty of art galleries and unique shops. Our favorite is Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater which features an impressive dance photo gallery.

- Load your bike on the ferry and take a fun 9-minute boat ride across the bay to Coronado. The view of downtown San Diego from Coronado is a whole different perspective and a great a photo opportunity.

For more ideas on cool bike routes, visit www.ridelink.org

New routes on the horizon?

The city of San Diego is considering a number of proposed bicycle projects that would add more bike lanes and bike routes in the 92101 ZIP Code. The projects are in the early planning stages. Some of the proposed facility types include Broadway from Park Boulevard to 19th Street; Ash Street from North Harbor Drive to Eighth Avenue; and State Street from Columbia to Market.

Sam Corbett of Alta Planning & Design is the project manager working with the city. Corbett believes the advantages of creating a bike-friendly community are endless.

"Not only is bicycling affordable, it's a healthy form of transportation," he said. "It's good for the mind and body not to mention great for the environment."

Local business owner Ramtin Dehkoda, founder of Eco-bike, agrees. "San Diegans are progressive when it comes to the environment and healthy lifestyle habits," he said. "This is the type of city that would embrace having more bike routes."



There are some good bike routes downtown, such as through the parks, but it takes a while to discover them. A few new bicycle projects are being considered by the city.



Balboa Park has night life of its own

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

City nightlife is not reserved just for the Gaslamp District. Have you visited Balboa Park lately?

Maybe the activity is a mite tamer, but since mid-June the cultural center has turned on the lights and opened its doors to nocturnal demonstrations and pageantry.

Twilight in the Park kicked-off its live music series on June 16 and included the popular 23rd annual organ presentations on Mondays. Visitors will have a wide choice of programs, ranging from military bands, Dixieland jazz, big band swing and Latin salsa at the majestic Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Musical entertainment will run through Aug. 27 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Hours will be extended at the San Diego Natural History Museum for its exhibitions, Sundays through Thursdays until 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays until 9:30 p.m.

They'll leave the lights on at the San Diego Museum of Art and Museum of Photographic Arts Thursday nights until 9 p.m.

Up ahead, San Diego Museum of Art's Screen on the Green returns on July 24 with a selection of free films. Dates are July 24, July 30 and Aug. 6. Screen on the Green movies begin at 8 p.m. on the east lawn. Kick-off night (July 24) will feature a Comic-Con special with selections of animated and live action short films: "Once Upon a Tide," "Abridged Iz—the Spirit of Aloha" and "Karma Café." "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" is set for July 30 and "Shadow Magic" on Aug. 6.

The Old Globe's popular Summer Shakespeare Festival will present three plays performed in rotation, running through Sept. 27. There will be two Shakespeare productions: "Twelfth Night" and "Coriolanus," along with Edmond Rostand's celebrated classic "Cyrano de Bergerac." All performances are under the stars in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theater.

Nighttime Zoo, the San Diego Zoo's summer adventure, runs through Sept. 7. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

And, the flight pattern stop-action Starlight Theater will offer musical favorites for the warm summer nights. Starlight Theater recently announced its show selections for the 2010 season. The shows that will be featured are "The Pajama Game," July 15-Aug. 1, and "Hello Dolly!" Aug. 19- Sept. 6. Meanwhile, go indoors to see the stars at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center with its "The Sky Tonight Planetarium Shows."

That's the first Wednesday of the month at 7 and 8 p.m. in the Center's Heikoff Dome Theater. Tickets are limited to 250 patrons.

IMAX's new presentation "The Ultimate Wave Tahiti" opens today, July 1. It follows nine-time world champion surfer Kelly Slater and Tahitian surfer Raimana Van Bastolaer as they explore the ultimate wave-riding experience at the famed Pacific surf site of Teahupo'o, Tahiti.

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You Are Not Alone: Adult Day Health Care Helps Families Care for Ailing Members

For many modern families, there comes a time when it becomes necessary to provide daily living care to an elderly or ailing family member. Many individuals and families who decide to provide this constant care themselves will eventually find themselves burnt out and with nowhere to turn. The Neighborhood House Association's Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC) recommends planning for respite care as early as possible, in order to provide the highest quality of life to both the family member in need and the family member(s) charged with their care.

"Even the most seasoned and patient caregiver gets to the point where they need support in handling their loved ones' needs," said ADHC Director Jennifer Hurlow-Paonessa, LCSW. "That's why programs like ours are so important to the community."

ADHC is a community-based program that supports families' efforts to keep their loved ones at home rather than prematurely placing them in a nursing home. The program helps families manage the health, cognitive and rehabilitative needs of family members experiencing a loss of functioning and/or decline in health.

"Being involved in the ADHC has increased the quality of my mother's life immeasurably. The socialization, recreation and therapies have made it possible for her to live at home," said Lois Thomas, the daughter of an ADHC participant.

Benefits of enrollment include:

A break for the caregiver

Fun, therapeutic activities and therapies for your loved one that encourage memory enhancement, peer group interaction and increase physical activity.

Nursing monitoring

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Help for the caregiver and your loved one in dealing with challenging behaviors, such as: social withdrawal, sleeping difficulties, mobility impairments, trouble with daily functions of life, wandering, hallucinations and a host of other issues

"ADHC is my home away from home. Being here has helped me become more social and my memory has improved," said ADHC participant Ramona, age 62. "This way I don't feel lonely or like I'm a burden to my family."



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Taking aim: Rock 'n' Roll photos at MOPA

By WILL BOWEN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) in Balboa Park opened a new exhibit on June 12 titled "Taking Aim: Unforgettable Rock 'n' Roll Photography Selected by Graham Nash." It's a collection of 100 photographs — covering a span of more than 50 years — of famous rock stars and their bands, taken by 40 different legendary photographers.

The exhibit was curated by Nash at the behest of the Experience Music Project (EMP), out of Seattle. MOPA is the first stop on a nation-wide tour. Jasen Emmons, the director of Curatorial Affairs for EMP, said this exhibit "provides a unique look at the musicians and photographers who captured the essence of rock 'n' roll and helped shape its image." The exhibit includes pictures of Elvis Presley, John Lennon, Mick Jagger, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Johnnie Cash and Neil Young.

Nash chose all the photographs for this exhibit, and some of his own pictures are included. He also wrote the commentary and narrates a smart

SEE MOPA, Page 26



Bob Dylan signs a poster at the Olympia Concert Hall in Paris, France, 1966. Copyright © Barry Feinstein.

Slick's artwork graces downtown gallery

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Sixties music icon Grace Slick will make a rare appearance at Alexander Salazar Fine Art on July 10 at 6 p.m. The recently-opened gallery will host an exhibit that evening, "The Art of Grace Slick," featuring a selection of artwork from the former rock star.

Slick, now 70, retired from the music business in 1989, concentrating her

efforts on artwork.

Best known for her work with The Jefferson Airplane and later, Jefferson Starship, Slick was featured on hits with the band through three decades, including "Somebody to Love" (1967), "Miracles" (1975) and "We Built This City" (1985).

Though she had sketched and drawn throughout her musical career, Slick's artwork first came to public acclaim in 1998, via her autobiography, "Somebody to Love? A Rock and Roll Memoir." The book included her portraits of musician friends. Soon, her paintings of fellow Jefferson Airplane members Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady were used for their side project Hot Tuna's "Best Of" album cover.

Slick first began to exhibit and sell her artwork in 2000. Drawing from experience, her work is largely based on her own life, whether it's friends who happen to be music legends or historic musical gatherings of the 1960s. Some of her best-known works were inspired by events The Jefferson Airplane played at,



Grace Slick, now 70, retired from the music business and concentrates on her art career. COURTESY PHOTO

including "Monterey" and "Woodstock."

Slick doesn't restrict her work to a particular medium, with works on display in a range of styles from pen and ink to acrylic paints. Portraits to date include Jimi Hendrix, Jerry Garcia and Janis Joplin as well as later artists such as Sting. In addition to the musicians, nudes and animals are frequent subject matter.

Notably, "The Art of Grace Slick" includes a sub-exhibition of her "Wonderland Suite," a 10-piece collection relating to her signature song, "White Rabbit" (1967), depicting scenes drawn from the first two chapters of "Alice in Wonderland."

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Lizz Russell, Urban Garden show, R•I•T•Z and the Shopping Soiree



Fashion Files Diana Cavagnaro

Lizz Russell at the Westgate

Celebrity Fashion designer Lizz Russell hosted a fashion tea at the Westgate Hotel on May 21. The elegant hotel was the setting for this delightful afternoon tea accompanied by beautiful harp music.

Russell showcased her signature collection, jewelry and handbags. The models came down the spectacular spiral staircase showing off her sophisticated designs — her signature handbags are designed with roses.

A portion of the proceeds for the afternoon event benefited the GBS/CIDP Foundation International (Guillain-Barre Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy). Patients vary from mild cases to being completely paralyzed. Russell has had this debilitating disease and is dedicated to raising proceeds to help others.

Two more teas are lined up at the Westgate Hotel — one on July 9 and another Nov. 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the Grand Lobby. If you would like to see Lizz Russell Designs or would like more information call (619) 557-3655.

Urban Garden

The Art Institute of California showcased designs from its fashion students at the San Diego Convention Center on June 4. This stellar evening began with a VIP reception and culminated with an upbeat fashion show. The theme of the show was Urban Garden. The students interpreted



A model wears designs by the Art Institute of California Urban Garden IT Winner Elina Sheripova.

DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

the essence of city life to be “where hard and soft elements intertwine.”

Awards were given to two marketing student, Rhocelli Pascual and Leslie Ainza, for their exemplary work. The student winners for the design contest were Tea Ninkovic (Atelier Winner), Jasmine Hampton (Trendsetter Winner), Anna-

lynn Luu (Innovative Winner), and Elina Sheripova (IT Winner).

Proceeds from the evening went to three different nonprofits: the Education Foundation, City of Hope, and Surf Aid International. For more information visit: www.artinstitutes.edu/sandiego

A Night in Paradise

Rendezvous In The Zoo (R•I•T•Z) was the 27th annual San Diego Zoo's black tie event on June 19. This fundraising gala brought the most fashionable San Diegans out in full force. These fashionistas entered the zoo on a red carpet surrounded by the look of the tropics. Guests were greeted with Hawaiian leis and Polynesian dancers. They were truly transported into “A Night in Paradise.”

The attendees arrived decked out in designer apparel. One of my favorite designers is Jordan. Jordan Art Couture creates gorgeous hand painted animals on four-ply silk. The animal art fit in with the evening and was seen on many of the guests. The co-chairs for the evening were Jessie Knight and Joye Blount. Blount was also wearing one of Jordan's fabulous designs.

Joan Embery, the San Diego Zoo's conservation ambassador, captivated the guests with her knowledge about a variety of animals such as a condor, porcupine, aardvark, toucan, and a macaw. Proceeds from the R•I•T•Z event benefit the zoo's conservation programs in Hawaii and the Caribbean. For more information visit: www.sandiegozoo.org.

Ladies Summer Shopping Soiree 2010

The Andaz Hotel Rooftop, formerly the Ivy Hotel San Diego, was the location for the Ladies Summer Shopping Soiree on June 23. A variety of vendors set up to make everyone's shopping experience



Models are wearing Ximena Valero & Alvarez, Miriam Jewels and Designer Millinery.

DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

enjoyable. Models were on hand to showcase all the fashionable merchandise. The booths included fabulous products such as jewelry, clothes by Ximena Valero & Alvarez, millinery, cosmetics, skin care and chocolates. One of my favorites was Miriam Jewels who creates incredible pieces of jewelry. She went to Peru to learn how to crochet gold and silver wire and is the only person in the U.S. to make jewelry using this method.

The guests enjoyed sipping cocktails and shopping for great deals while listening to tunes from DJ Playgirl. Proceeds benefit Invisible Children featuring MEND. This program teaches women how to sew handbags in northern Uganda and puts them back “on the MEND.” For more information visit www.invisiblechildren.com/mend.

Upcoming events

July 9: Lizz Russell Fashion Tea at the Westgate Hotel, 2:30 p.m. Tea mod-

eling will feature Lizz Russell's signature collection. Proceeds benefit GBS/CIDP. For information call (619) 557-3655.

June 30-July 4: Bikini Week will feature fashion shows all week — June 30, the Fluxx Night Club; July 1, Stingaree Roof; July 2, Ivy Roof Top; July 3, Float at Hard Rock Hotel; July 4, Culy Warehouse.

Aug. 8: Summer Bridal Bazaar with three fashion shows at the San Diego Convention Center. Call (760) 334-5500.

—Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally-recognized hat designer and milliner. Diana has been operating a fashion business for 28 years, the last 18 years in the Gaslamp Quarter. She has taught in the Fashion Department at San Diego Mesa College for 18 years. Diana is an active member of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, the American Sewing Guild, the San Diego Costume Council and the Fashion Group International. www.aheadproductions.com

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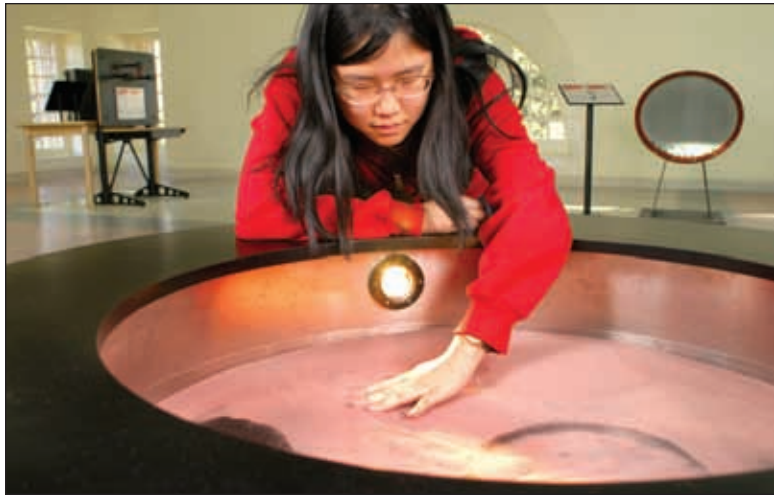
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Visitors to the "Earth Exposed" exhibit at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center can mimic a volcano's activity with air bubbling up through fine sand, suggesting a small-scale geothermal landscape.

Exhibit lets visitors command awesome forces of nature

By **JOHNNY McDONALD** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

"Earth Exposed" is a hands-on exhibit at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in which visitors can take control of the elements — in miniature, of course.

Come face to face this summer with erupting geysers, crumbling mountains and wind-driven waves at the new 5,000-square-foot exhibition, opening June 19.

Nature is a work in progress, and this collection of more than 30 exhibits will allow visitors to get up-close and hands-on with many of the fundamental forces that continually shape and reshape the planet.

"Earth Exposed" is a traveling exhibition that condenses the patterns, forces and phenomena unfolding across the planet, often over time and distances too large to fully grasp, into

interactive exhibits of a size and scale comprehensible to all ages.

The center's educational programming department will establish a lecture series this fall. Dr. Vic Camp from San Diego State University will broaden the scope when he discusses menacing and destructive earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis and tornadoes.

Camp, who specializes in volcanology and petrology research, said geologically, the earth has experienced five mass distinctive changes in 600 million years.

"We're encountering a sixth change now, largely in environmental terms of global warming, every bit as fast as the other five," he said. "There are the usual major geological upheavals. As for earthquakes, the larger ones with magnitudes seven or

SEE EXHIBIT, Page 26

FIT SAVVY

By **Connie Cook** | Guest Columnist

Whether you wrestled your BFF for the coveted Prada shoes at the last sample sale, you tried to impress your hot new yoga instructor with a perfectly-executed backbend or you simply lost your mind, your balance and a bet at the sports bar last week, the end result was the same — you threw your back out, and it now feels like the victim of a voodoo doll in the hands of a grudge-bearing ex.

After 22 years of teaching fitness classes, and injury free the entire time, I finally experienced back pain that left me breathless and almost unable to move. The oddest thing about it was that it seemed to come out of nowhere. I didn't slip and fall, I didn't lift too much weight and I didn't try to impress anyone with my physical prowess (at least not this time). I noticed my lower back was a little sore after class and becoming stiff one day. Then, after vegging out on the sofa that evening, I sneezed and it just locked up. I was stuck on my sofa like a fly in honey.

The next day I met a miracle worker. I made an appointment with Dr. Mindy Mar with San Diego Center for Health and hobbled into her office like a 90-year-old woman without her trusty cane. After explaining to me that our bodies are like cars, and mine happens to have a lot of intense workout miles on it, she told me that regular maintenance is necessary to keep us all in good running condition.

Did I stretch outside of my classes? Nope.

Did I get regular massages to work out knots in my muscles and the lactic acid build up? I wish.

Did I give my body time to recover after hard workouts? Not really.

And there you have it. I didn't practice what I preached to my students and now I was suffering the consequences.

I got your back

In three curative steps, Dr. Mar began my healing process.

She put me face down on her table and began my first treatment known as TENS, or Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation. She placed two sticky pads connected to electrodes on my lower back and told me the electrodes emit an electrical signal which stimulates nerve ending to help control the pain. She said I would feel a tingle that would gradually increase in strength and to tell her when I reached my limit. I took the tingle as high as I could, I soon felt the therapeutic benefit taking over.

While I was receiving the TENS therapy, Mar applied ultrasound to my lower back. Therapeutic ultrasound is a form of deep heat therapy created by sound waves. When applied to soft tissues and joints, the sound waves are a form of micro-massage that help reduce swelling, increase blood flow and decrease pain, stiffness and spasms. These two treatments together utilize and encourage the body's natural healing mechanisms and can drastically reduce the dependence on medications, which was great news to me since I'm not one to take medications unless absolutely necessary.

Fifteen minutes later the treatments were over. But before I was sent on my way Dr. Mar put Kinesio Tape along the injured areas of my back. When applied to an injured body part, Kinesio elastic tape expands (or sometimes contracts) injured muscles, allowing them greater movement and flexibility as they heal naturally over several days. Kinesio taping is done over and around muscles in order to assist and give support or to prevent over use or over-contraction of the injured muscles.

The taping of professional athletes such as David Beckham, Lance Arm-

strong, Venus and Serena Williams and the U.S. Olympic team has made the public more aware of its therapeutic effects.

As I got up to leave, I could already feel some relief in my lower back as the blood flow had significantly increased to the area. I made a follow-up appointment for four days later and I was amazed the way my back responded to the therapy. Each day was remarkably better, and my mobility returned almost to its pre-injured state.

When I returned to Dr. Mar's office, with a slight bounce in my step this time, she added one last treatment to my regimen known as the Graston technique. This method breaks up underlying scar tissue in the muscle using stainless steel instruments that glide along a patient's muscle, tendons, or ligaments and acts like a "scar tissue" stethoscope. When knots or bands of scar tissue are encountered there is a sense of restriction or granular feeling. The instrument can then be used to "break up" this restriction or adhesion. It was a painless procedure, but I could definitely feel the scar tissue that had built up in my lower back.

Now that I am back on my feet I am certainly a fan of prevention, but I'm a bigger fan of Dr. Mar. I can now empathize with those who are suffering from back pain and can confidently recommend they visit their chiropractor to receive the same treatments I did.

As they say, an ounce of prevention may be worth a pound of cure, but in my case the pound of cure was worth its weight in gold.



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Point Loma's Circa Now to light up Humphreys

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

There is no shortage of great rock 'n' roll bands in Southern California, but few have the over-the-top showmanship of Circa Now, which performs at Humphreys Backstage Lounge on July 15.

Two-time San Diego Music Award nominees, the trio — all Point Loma residents — recently released its sophomore album, "Hotter Than A Pistol," and will be heading out on tour this fall. The band already has dates with '70s classic rocker Pat Travers and '90s hit-makers Sprung Monkey under their belt. But the band is looking to cast its net as wide as possible.

"These guys have the right idea," said the album's producer, Alan Sanderson, who is best known for his work with The Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac. "It takes a bit of luck to make it in this business, but the key ingredients are still great songs and determination.

"This is a band that has that and then some, especially live," he said. "They truly have a 'take no prisoners' live approach that is rarely seen these days."

It's a testament to their live power that the band is legendary for once having played a show as a drum and guitar duo when their bassist was unable to make the gig. Even with their power cut by a third, they still managed wow the crowd.

Consisting of frontman Josh Pann (vocals, guitar, songwriter), Scotty Stover (bass, vocals) and Justin Botello (drums), the group has honed its sound on vintage rock 'n' roll, with echoes of T-Rex, the MC5 and Stones within their songs.

"We love the classics," Pann said. "It's one of the reasons we love playing with artists like Pat Travers. As musicians, those older tunes and older musicians offer a learning experience that's invaluable."

A prolific songwriter, Pann notes Circa Now only performs one cover tune: a storming take on the Rolling Stones "Paint it Black."

"We did have that in the set before we started working with Sanderson," Pann said. "We liked it because it's a pop song, but still has a dark edge."

For his own material, Pann prefers to keep things amped up and lyrically direct.

"I like songs to have a relation to everyday things," Pann said, "rather than coming up with things that only deep people understand."

While the title "Hotter Than A Pis-



tol" seems custom-made for a rock band, Pann said it comes from an unlikely source.

"I don't remember the name anymore, but it comes from an old Western movie I watched with my grandfather," Pann said. "When that phrase was said, it just hit me. I knew I'd use it eventually."

He said the album itself took months of preparation to get its nine tracks down.

"We worked everything out well in advance to maximize our time in the studio," Pann said. "You don't want to waste time going over a part when you've got someone like Sanderson behind the control board."

Though Pann has an arsenal of gui-

tars, he tends to stick to one: a 1981 Sunburst Telecaster.

"It was made the same year I was born," he said. "It's been modified for me. At this point, it's a major part of my playing. Other guitars are nice, but this one is a part of me."

Though Circa Now's album has only recently been released, band members are already working on a followup offering.

"Really, we started as soon as we left the studio with 'Hotter Than A Pistol,'" Pann said. "I don't want to stand still and I'd like to have more new music out by this fall, if possible. The music business is an uncertain thing and we want to keep up the momentum."

Art Ignites Minds this Summer at the San Diego Art Department

Discover, imagine, and explore your creativity this summer at the San Diego Art Department. SDAD offers four weeks of full day camps for ages 6-12 beginning July 12th running through August 13th. This year we are featuring a Teen Week for ages 12-17 (July 26-30th) focusing on Skateboard and Logo Designs. Camps take place in our professional art studio located in the heart of North Park's arts district. The weekly hands-on art activities provide students with the opportunity to let their artistic expression flow through painting, drawing, comic illustration, sculpture, print making, watercolors, skate board design and much more. On the last day of camp the students' work is exhibited in the gallery for parents and family members to view. "Get your art on" this summer at The San Diego Art Department! Less.

Please call 619-299-4ART for more information and to register.

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Introduction to Blues/Summer Day Camp: "The Gateway to All Music"

This summer Blues Lovers United of San Diego offers a week long Summer Day Camp for kids 11-15 at the Epicentre in Mira Mesa.

Camp runs Aug. 9-13 from 9am-2pm and includes a concert on Friday, Aug. 13, 6-7 p.m. The camp will be run by profes-

sional blues musicians.

You will leave the week with: Guaranteed improved musical skills, a harmonica, a personalized percussion instrument, your own blues nickname and an appreciation of the fun, creativity and power of music

For specifics, visit blusd.org/2010/05/first-ever-bits-summer-camp/

Jade Dragon Yoga Shala, Grand Opening

San Diego's newest yoga studio, owned by Bradlee & Jennifer Frierott. With extensive experience & friendly expertise, Jennifer & Bradlee use vinyasa styles to present and explore the subtle, dynamic techniques of yoga. Both owners have over 10 years experience in the international yoga scene, and have lived in India & the Himalayas studying yoga, under the rich influence of several traditions. Between them, East-West concepts of human potential merge. Yoga, Taoism, Poetry of the Heart, are some of their inspirations.

Bradlee & Jennifer are also long time

SD Automotive Museum is home to volumes of auto literature

By JOHNNY McDONALD | VILLAGE NEWS

When it's time to find a new home for auto books and periodical collections, the San Diego Automotive Museum has a welcoming committee for them.

Families must ponder an age-old decision. What to do with grandfather's prized collection: to a library or the dumpster? Not always an easy choice.

The museum's shelves might be bulging, but 11 volunteer librarians will make room. Duplications may be sold to others.

Guy Preuss, who's been the bookmaster there since 1992, said most auto museums, such as Petersens and Blackhawk, would rather digitize history and not bother with books.

"The paper collections will be around a lot longer than the digital process," Preuss predicted.

He refers to his expanding staff of librarians as car nuts.

"They haven't been associated with the car business ... they've just been car tinkers," he said.

The auto museum refers to itself as a resource center but Preuss said, "It's an old-style research library with a card index.

"We have well over 3,000 expensive and rare hard-cover books dealing with all facets of automobile history. There



are over 2,500 hard-back manuals going back to the '20s and 13,000 club magazines and newsletters."

And there are way too many other periodicals to count.

"The oldest is the San Diego Motor News, dating back to 1910 and Motor Magazines as far back as 1913," Preuss said. "The latter was the first automobile magazine, begun in 1895. The biggest collection is 30 volumes of Automotive Quarterly. We also have 14 volumes of Dykes repair manuals from 1910 to 1920. Never paid attention to what some of our collections are worth.

"If anyone needs some pages copied, we'll Xerox them at no charge. It's just a gift from the museum," he said.

The only cost would be admission to the museum. The only problem is, he can't get anyone to work weekends.

"When people retire and reach the volunteer age, they do other things on the weekends," Press said. "So, the library is closed Saturday and Sunday."

A retired master chief in the Navy, Preuss started there in 1992, learning from a staff librarian. When she left, he handled it by himself until Larry Oakey came along. Over the years others became interested.

"Once or twice a year we'll conduct a 'garage sale' at the Qualcomm Swap Meet or the San Diego Car Club's Car Show in the Park," Preuss said. "We also sell duplicates or triplicates on a walk-in basis.

"We accept anything related to automobiles that's paper. We'll take it under the proviso that if it is a duplicate or triplicate we reserve the option to sell them or maybe swap them to another museum."

Preuss said they have drawers full of pictures, but nobody has figured out how to identify them.

"We take them because the alternative is the dumpster," he said. "As time goes by maybe someone can figure out what we've got."

Distant plans call for a new building with a 2,500-square-foot library space.

"I'm not holding my breath for that to happen," Preuss shrugged. "If we did [get the space], we'd quickly fill it up."

CAMPS

CONTINUED FROM Page 24

massage therapists, who now study Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine at the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine. Jennifer also leads the pre/post-natal yoga program at the Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women.

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We are conveniently located off the I5 Freeway by the Grand/Garnet exit. Call us today at 858-272-2266 or check out our websites www.gymventures.com & www.sdkidventures.com for camp information and to register.

SD French-American School

Join San Diego French-American School campers for "Le Tour du Monde." See schedule below. No prior knowledge of French or Spanish is necessary. All are in French and English, except those in Spanish (S) or English only (E). Camps that are morning or afternoon only are a.m. or p.m., otherwise, camps are all day 9-4. More camps available July 26-30.

Ages 5-12

7/6-9: Up in the Air; Circus (Eng; a.m.) Circus/Performing Arts, Crazy Chem

Works (E; a.m.) Nature et Decouverte (p.m.) Surf (p.m.)

7/12-16: Castles, Garden and Nature: (a.m., p.m., or all day)

7/19-23: Mexican Arts and Crafts (a.m., p.m., or all day) Clay Animation Movie (p.m.); Nasa Academy (E; a.m.) Surf (a.m.)

Ages 3-5 - A.M. only or all day

7/6-9: Uno Dos Tres Vamonos/Playball (S); Ia Ora Na! Tahiti/Playball; Discover Amazing Artist/Playball

7/12-16: Vamos a Explorar/Playball (S); Nature et Decouverte/Playball; Discover Amazing Artist/Playball

7/19-23: World Movement Music/Playball (E); Nature et Decouverte/Playball

Call Valerie: 858-456-2807 x307

Expanding The Horizons Of San Diego Youth

For over forty years, the Community Campership Council has provided memorable summer experiences for deserving San Diego children by funding a week at camp in partnership with 24 area American Camp Association accredited camps. We believe that the camp experience helps

kids get to know our outdoor world, make new friends, learn new skills and values and socialize with a diverse group of campers. This broadens their perspective about the kind of life they can build for themselves if they work hard, treat people fairly and set goals for themselves. Many of the children in our community will go from days filled with the familiar structure of school to ones filled with loneliness and the television and video games providing companionship while parents work. You can help change this! show and how to draw like a fashion designer. We'll teach you about color analysis and wardrobe planning. You'll learn what a mood board is, and in fact create your own! You'll learn the basics of sewing and go home with a skirt that you sew yourself! We are also pleased to announce FCC graduate and Project Runway season 7 contestant Jesus Estrada will make a special guest appearance to inspire young fashionistas. He'll answer your questions and share his experiences.

Find out how by contacting the Community Campership Council, 7510 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, 92111, 858-268-9888, www.kidstocamp.org

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ROCK BOTTOM

MOPA

CONTINUED FROM Page 20

phone tour. Nash is most widely known for being a member of the county folk rock band Crosby, Stills & Nash. He started his musical career with the Hollies in the mid-1960s and later moved on to help form Crosby, Stills & Nash, all the while pursuing parallel careers as a photographer, photograph collector and digital image pioneer.

Nash said he is attracted to photography because “I sense the same energy in photography that I find in music. When I look at Ansel Adams’ ‘Moonrise Over Hernandez,’ I can feel the basses and the cellos in the shadows. I can hear the violins in the clouds. It’s all the same energy.”

Nash believes that the rock photographic image, as found on posters, T-shirts and album covers, was a critical factor in helping shape the musical genre of rock ‘n’ roll.

Nash said his chief goal for the exhibit is to “highlight the energy of rock ‘n’ roll from a photographer’s point of view, in order to convey the rock attitude of ‘Get out of my way, I have something to say.’”

Some of the better photographs in this exhibit include a character shot of Joe Cocker in front of ‘The Hague; an amusing color photo of the Buddy Holly Band

with one of its members balanced on the side of an upright bass; Tom Petty in a long, lonely brick corridor; and Nick Cave and his eerie demonic shadow. All the photographs with Bob Dylan in them have an allure, as do the two shots of Janis Joplin.

Karl Sharicz, who came to San Diego on business, visited the gallery. He thought the show had “amazing pictures.” His favorite photograph was the oversize blow-up of Charley Watts, the stoic drummer of the Rolling Stones.

“Every little detail, every pore on Watt’s face, was revealing,” Sharicz said.

The odd thing is that now, some years after their heyday, a little of the power and magic has gone out of the photographs. Once the images held more sway, had more verve, really struck you. They had the power to offend and to transgress; they were a mirror which reflected a sought-after counter-cultural identity.

These images were desired because they entitled their owner to possess some of that counter-cultural identity. Now the photographs are more interesting as works of art rather than as cultural icons.

For a preview of the show go to Youtube.com and type in MOPA 101 or see the MOPA website at MOPA.com. Bring your Smart Phone to hear the narrated tour.

The show will continue until Sept. 26.



Graham Nash, “Self-Portrait at the Plaza Hotel,” New York, NY, September 1974. Copyright © Graham Nash.



In the Confused Sea segment, air blowing over the surface of water inside a large plastic hemisphere mimics the action of wind over the ocean by generating waves. The waves slowly change and build until the entire volume of water is circling as one wave. COURTESY PHOTO

EXHIBIT

CONTINUED FROM Page 22

greater average about 17 to 20 a year. They are more severe because of population growth.

“On California’s side, there are many boundaries where two plates slide past one another. We probably wouldn’t experience tsunamis because those quakes are caused by vertical motion.”

He said geologists have a pretty good track record in California on long-term probabilities in areas like the San Andreas fault, where there is likely to be an earthquake within a 30-year period. The short term prediction is the problem.

“San Andreas fault is about the same as Haiti,” he said. “They are called transform faults and are rela-

tively shallow earthquakes.”

“As for hurricanes, we have a general idea how to chart them,” he said. “They move to the right-hand side, but high and low pressures make them unpredictable.”

“Tornadoes are very rare anywhere else but the middle portion of the United States. In numbers maybe there’s not a dramatic increase. However, different weather systems cause the problem.”

He agrees that geology doesn’t stop because there are always changes — slow changes. Mountains will disappear.

“We’ll see a rise in the seas anywhere from five to 60 centimeters in the next 100 years,” he predicted. “May not seem like a lot but storms will be that much worse.”

Meanwhile, center visitors can expe-

rience swirling sandstorms, rippling waves and rumbling quakes.

In the Confused Sea segment, they can mimic the action of wind over the ocean by generating waves or, in another segment, mimic a volcano’s activity with air bubbling up through fine sand, suggesting a small-scale geothermal landscape.

Visitors can experience the exploding eruption of a geyser by boiling water in a chamber so it shoots into the air. Then pour magnetic sand over an earth model and observe the particles lining up, demonstrating magnetic fields.

The Avalanche will be an invitation to play with an intricately-cascading landscape of black sand.

Exhibit admission is \$10 for adults; \$8.75 for juniors (3-12) and seniors (65+).

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10th Annual Big Bay Boom
San Diego Bay is the place to be for the 10th Annual Port of San Diego Big Bay Boom spectacular pyrotechnic light show

Four barges will be placed strategically in San Diego Bay off the shorelines of Shelter Island, Harbor Island, the North Embarcadero area and between Seaport Village and the Coronado Ferry Landing. The fireworks will be visible from all of the Port’s parks around the northern and central San Diego Bay area. These include Shelter Island, Harbor Island, Spanish Landing, Embarcadero Marina Parks North and South, Cesar Chavez Park, Coronado Tideland Park and the Imperial Beach Pier.

New this year is an added display on the oceanfront of Imperial Beach. Fireworks will be discharged off of the Imperial Beach Pier.

The show begins at 9 p.m., Sunday, July 4th at all five locations and all fireworks will be discharged simultaneously to live broadcasted music on 105.7 The Walrus FM radio. The show will be televised live on FOX 5 San Diego HD (high definition) and Cox 4San Diego. It is anticipated that the display will be approximately 16 ½ minutes.

The Port of San Diego is working with Old Town Trolley and Sundance Stage Lines to provide free shuttle service for Shelter Island and Harbor Island viewing. Shuttles will begin departing from two designated areas at 5:30 p.m. and will begin taking people back to their cars right after the fireworks show.

For Shelter Island viewing, the Old Town Trolley shuttle will pick passengers up at the corner of Carleton Street and Rosecrans Street in Point Loma, adjacent to West Marine.

Only street parking is available at this area. The shuttle will drop passengers in front of the gazebo on Shelter Island.

For Harbor Island viewing, Sundance Stage Lines shuttle will pick up passengers at the Port of San Diego employee lot located on the southwest corner of Pacific Highway and Sassafras Street. Parking is available in this lot and at the Port’s Administration building across the street at 3165 Pacific Highway. Passengers will be dropped off at Harbor Island Park.

After the show, passengers on Shelter Island will be picked up at the gazebo location. Harbor Island passengers will be picked up next to the Harbor Police Headquarters at 3380 North Harbor Drive, near the entrance of Harbor Island Drive. Shuttles will begin departing shortly after the fireworks show and the final shuttle run will be at 11 p.m. Shuttles tend to fill quickly and the wait time may be significant.

More than 750,000 people are expected to come to the waterfront for the Big Bay Boom. Additionally, the San Diego Symphony Summer Pops will be holding a concert in Embarcadero Marina Park South and the San Diego Padres will be playing a game at PETCO Park in the afternoon.

The Port of San Diego strongly encourages carpooling or taking the San Diego Trolley. Nearby trolley stops are located near the Santa Fe Depot in San Diego and close to Seaport Village.

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Downtown - "The Grande North"

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For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5049

Downtown - "Electra"

Amazingly upgraded, this fabulous, Northwest corner luxury residence on the 27th floor features all the bells and whistles PLUS amazing water views! Experience one of Downtown's most unique and desirable luxury communities!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5179

Downtown - "The Mark"

A truly amazing residence, this combined property boasts over 2300 square feet with a modifiable and flexible floor plan! Featuring multiple balconies, four parking spaces and views directly into the ballpark and the Coronado bridge beyond, the residence must be seen to be believed!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5279

Downtown - "Renaissance"

Boasting one of the best water views in the Marina District, this 20th-floor penthouse-level residence features over 2,000 square feet! Original owner recreated the interior by creating an open living space and a gourmet kitchen to die for! Four balconies and dual side-by-side parking, too!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5469

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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5139

Downtown - "Pinnacle"

This elegant and expansive residence in the premium Southwest corner of the community boasts fabulous water views, beautifully upgraded interior, dual terraces and dual parking spaces. It doesn't get any better than this!

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Downtown - "Electra"

Featuring a spacious, open floor plan with the den-wall removed to expand the never-ending views, this spectacular, 19th-floor, Southwest corner beauty boasts custom built-ins, upgraded lighting, hand-painted murals, and a multitude of other quality appointments. Live the good life!

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Downtown - "The Grande"

You'll enjoy one of the community's most popular floorplans with two bedrooms + a full den, two baths, and almost 1700 square feet. Lovely Northwest corner views to the ocean are yours and you will love the banks of windows taking in the vistas. Common areas are the best!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5159

Downtown - "Park Place"

You'll want to see this wonderful residence with lovely Southwest views, dual balconies, expansive stone flooring and an ambient 2-sided fireplace in one of the Marina District's most sought-after communities! May convey furnished!

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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5339

Downtown - "Breeza"

Brand new construction, choose from the ideal "starter" one-bedroom to the premier, southwest corner, 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence with stunning water and bayfront views! The heart of the community is its center courtyard, complete with a pool and spa, and scenic patios and lush, tropical landscaping!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5069

Downtown - "Harbor Club"

You'll want to make this lovely residence your home or home-away-from-home! Featuring stunning views to the South and East, it enjoys an oversize view terrace and two terrific parking spaces near the entrance. This resort-style community is located in the heart of the Marina District.

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5109

Downtown - "Renaissance"

You'll want to see this premium, West-facing, highly-upgraded residence in one of the Marina District's most desirable luxury high-rise communities! Gleaming hardwood and stone flooring, unique cable lighting, Venetian plaster & remote-controlled motorized drapes are just the beginning!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5439

Downtown - "City Walk"

New on the market, this expansive, 1684 square-foot town home feels more like a house than a condo! It enjoys an oversize terrace, access from the street as well as the interior of the community, and a private corner locale!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5119

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Enjoy almost 1500 square feet of upgrades in the area's landmark luxury high-rise near Balboa Park! Featuring dual parking spaces and brand new Plantation shutters throughout, this pristine residence also includes a full-size laundry room, lovely views from its northeast corner location, and a private terrace!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5149

Downtown - "Aria"

Virtually new, this two-bedroom beauty atop Cortez Hill boasts super urban views from its prime, southwest corner! You'll love banks of sunny windows, a private view terrace, and dual parking spaces!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5169

Downtown - "The Grande"

Featuring an upgraded and pristine interior, this lovely residence enjoys gleaming cherry hardwood floors, a bay view terrace, a black-granite kitchen with glass-tile back-splash and stainless appliances, dual secured parking spaces, and may convey furnished with a strong offer! Stunning!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5369

Downtown - "The Mark"

This super starter in East Village's most exciting, newer community, boasts terrific views overlooking the lush courtyard and pool, a pristine interior, and is available for FHA & VA financing!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5079

Downtown - "Pinnacle"

You'll love this lightly-used, second-home with 14th-floor, West-facing water views! Pristine, beautifully presented, and situated in the heart of the Marina District, with a strong offer, it may convey furnished!

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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5039

Downtown - "Electra"

Newly listed, this super, courtyard-level, corner residence boasts an oversize terrace, approximately 1488 square feet, quality finishes throughout, and dual parking spaces!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5189

Downtown - "Meridian"

The ideal second home or primary residence, this east-facing residence is in wonderful condition and boasts wonderful night-time views of the city lights and urban surroundings! Meridian is Downtown San Diego's own "Trump Tower," complete with service and amenities beyond compare!

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call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5259

Downtown - "Icon"

This new listing is the ideal first-time buyer opportunity! The split-level loft design is tres cool, and the unit enjoys the unique distinction of being one of few residences located in the historic Carnation Building facade! Hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, cement accents and exposed ductwork for starters!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5099

Downtown - "Pinnacle"

Enjoy panoramic, 26th-floor city and Coronado Bay Bridge views from this picture-perfect, two-bedroom residence in one of the Marina District's most popular, luxury, residential high-rise communities! Walk to a multitude of restaurants and entertainment venues from this beautifully located development!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5239

Downtown - "Acqua Vista"

Hurry hurry to take advantage of this great SHORT-SALE opportunity in super convenient Little Italy locale! Priced to sell, this one-bedroom includes a private terrace and granite kitchen! The community boasts a pool, spa, fitness center, and security!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, ext. 5399

Downtown - "CityFront Terrace"

Rarely available, this total remodel in the prime, Southwest corner, 11th-floor location of the building dazzles! You'll enjoy sweeping water & bridge views, over 1550 square feet, dual parking and storage, and a private and spacious view terrace! You will definitely want to call this amazing residence home!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5539

Downtown - "Alta"

Listed a year ago at approximately \$200,000 more, this super SHORT SALE is a rare opportunity to enjoy a prime, 14th floor, northwest corner beauty in one of Downtown's most exciting, newer communities, complete with stunning views, an oversize terrace, gleaming hardwood floors, & top-quality finishes and upgrades throughout! Take advantage!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5309

Downtown - "M2i"

Hurry to see this awesome SHORT-SALE in popular, East Village loft community, facing the lush courtyard, with two terraces! Cement accents, exposed ductwork, and a granite and stainless kitchen help make this the ideal first-time buyer property!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5019

Downtown - "Doma Lofts"

Welcome to Little Italy's hippest loft community! Enjoy a street-level, oversize terrace, soaring cement ceilings, exposed ductwork, & lots of cool features! SHORT-SALE priced to sell! Walk to a multitude of shops and restaurants in the Village!

For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5029

1-800-221-2210
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