

A CITY ON THE MOVE

Decision time:

Several issues will re-shape downtown's skyline

Construction begins for Central Library

Officials broke ground on the new Central Library in East Village July 28, kicking off a three-year, \$185 million project that will serve the city's 35-branch system and put more than 1.3 million items into circulation. The nine-story facility will include a technology center with more than 400 computer workstations, multiple community gathering locations, a rooftop garden and a charter school. The first phase of construction, which will establish the building's core, is expected to be complete in January 2012. Members of the San Diego Public Library Foundation are still looking for an additional \$32.5 million needed to complete the second phase, which will address interior improvements.

Mayor reverses stance on San Diego Civic Center

Mayor Jerry Sanders has vetoed a decision made by the City Council on July 12 to put a proposal for a new City Hall building to a public vote in November. The veto represents a dramatic departure from the mayor's stance earlier in the month, when he appealed to the public and council members to consider the long-term cost savings associated with the new building, compared with the expense of "holding steady" in the existing Civic Center, which was built in 1964.

Sanders had championed the project as a way to save as much as \$236 million over a 50-year period, but ultimately vetoed placing



Streamers soar as the crowd celebrates the July 28 groundbreaking of the New Central Library.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

the project up for a public vote when representatives from the building's developer, Gerdling Edlen, expressed concern about the cost of running a campaign in support of the project.

There is still a chance the plan could move forward, however; the City Council has until Friday, Aug. 6 to override Sander's veto and put the plan back on the ballot, or they could vote to approve the project without seeking public approval. But in earlier discussions, several council members were adamant that such a project should not move forward without the public's support.

Proposed homeless center project moves forward

The city's Land Use and Housing Committee voted 3-1 on July 14 to approve a \$31 million proposal to create a one-stop homeless service center at San Diego's World Trade Center building. The project will now move to the City Council for a final vote. District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer, who represents the downtown area, voted against the

SEE CITY, Page 4

Sales-tax measure goes on the ballot

By ANTHONY GENTILE | Downtown News

With the deadline looming to place a half-cent sales-tax increase on the November ballot, the City Council voted 6-2 on Wednesday to put the measure before voters. The ordinance involves a five-year hike in local sales tax and is tied to various financial reform measures.

"It's kind of a compromise and an agreement," said Darren Pudgil, a spokesman with Mayor Jerry Sanders' office. "We know that reforms alone will not enable us to protect and restore city services, so it's essentially reforms before revenue. It's a combination package."

The reforms tied to the potential sales-tax raise include changes to retirement plans for city officials, a second-tier pension plan for firefighters and kickstarting the process to privatize the city's information technology services and the Miramar Landfill. Pudgil said the proposed ballot measure would require the city to meet those reforms before any money is collected from the sales tax increase.

"It's a very comprehensive reform package that must be put in place," Pudgil said.

The City Council has held three special hearings in a five-day span to discuss the increase. At the most recent meeting

SEE SALES-TAX, Page 4



Delicious Italian fare will delight visitors to "Ferragosto 2010, When in Rome" on Saturday, Aug. 14 in Little Italy. COURTESY PHOTO

'Ferragosto' is a night when everyone is Italian

By DEBBIE HATCH | Downtown News

The red carpet will be laid out, banners will be hung and pillars will line Amici Park in Little Italy on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 6 to 11:30 p.m. The park, situated on the corner of State and Date streets, will resemble the Roman Forum under the stars for "Ferragosto 2010, When in Rome."

It will be a fundraising event which organizers hope will only be the first of many more to come.

"It was established to bring the community together," said event chairman Luke Vinci.

Each year, organizers want to pull from a different time period and place in Italy and use it as a theme for celebrating Italian culture, Vinci said.

Proceeds will benefit Washington Elementary Foundation, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church and the Little

SEE FERRAGOSTO, Page 4

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Comic-Con is king

Economic impact felt countywide

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego Comic-Con International just wrapped up its 40th year on July 25, transforming the Convention Center and downtown into pop-culture heaven. Though the event was a sold out success, drawing roughly 140,000 people to the area, much of the talk during its four days — and on preview night — centered on whether or not the convention would leave San Diego after its contract expires in 2012.

Having hit capacity limits locally, both Las Vegas and Anaheim have actively sought to have Comic-Con International move to their cities. The hope is that by working with the city to iron out things such as hotel rates for attendees and a proposed expansion of the convention center, the event will remain a downtown fixture for decades to come.

Comic-Con organizers will be making an announcement soon on its future in San Diego, but it's loss would be a huge blow to not only downtown, but the entire county.

"It has a \$193 million economic impact," said Joe Terzi, president and CEO of the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau.

He cites figures of roughly \$25 million in retail income, \$40 million in restaurants and transportation, with direct spending alone totaling nearly \$100 million.

"It's a very important event for San Diego economically, but also from the standpoint of the press it gets. It's not just local and it's not just San Diego," said Terzi.

Indeed, Comic-Con garners worldwide coverage and is now regularly mentioned or featured in network TV programs from "The Simpsons" to CNN special reports. "There's actually more international press than there is national press," Terzi said. "That's important to us. We couldn't buy that."

Brandy Shimabukuro, a marketing and public relations expert with the Gaslamp Quarter Association, points out that sales greatly increase for many of the area's shops and restaurants during the convention, but just as importantly, there is a residual effect.

"A lot of places note repeat business throughout the year from people who attended the Con and wanted to come back and do a weekend or take their family to one of the local attractions," Shimabukuro said. "We love to hear that."

Downtown is known for having many large gatherings, from Mardi Gras to an annual Halloween party known as Monster Bash. However, Terzi notes there is no comparison on the impact economically or otherwise to Comic-Con.

The music festival Street Scene cancelled for 2010 after it's 25th anniversary staging in 2009 and was one of the largest draws to the area — at its peak attracting over 60,000 people. According to Shimabukuro, with Street Scene's cancellation so recent, it's too soon to tell what impact its loss might mean to the area, but Terzi notes that even beyond the numbers of actual attendees, there is simply no comparison between Comic-Con and anything else taking place downtown.

"Street Scene is more of a local event," Terzi said. "Some visitors come and stay from outside of town, but you're not going to produce anywhere near the economic impact that Comic-Con does."

He said while concerts and parades have a major, positive impact on the area, "if you added them all up together



Captain America pleads to keep Comic-Con in San Diego and not move it to another city when its contract expires in a few years.
DON BALCH | Downtown News



Hundreds of participants dressed in costumes and makeup to march down Fifth Avenue toward the convention center for the Zombie Parade held July 24.
PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



An epic battle with inflatable swords takes place on the grass at the end of Fourth Avenue. The swords were given away to promote the video game "Dragon Age II" as a promotion during Comic-Con.
PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

er they wouldn't come close to the economic impact of Comic-Con."

While it's expected that restaurants and hotels will pick up business during Comic-Con, so do retailers of all types. According to Erin Liddell, senior art consultant with the Chuck Jones Gallery, located on 5th Avenue, business nearly doubled during the convention. The animation art gallery was able to tie-in indirectly with Comic-Con, hosting appearances from artist Alex Voss and Marvel Comics founder Stan Lee during its run.

"There isn't anywhere else on this earth that we would want to be during Comic-Con," Liddell said. "From pub-

licity and press to the increase in people coming in to enjoy our artwork, it's 100 percent amazing for us. To lose it would have a huge impact on us."

Although the emphasis during Comic-Con is on the downtown area, both Terzi and Shimabukuro said they are thrilled with it's economic spill over into the surrounding areas.

"One of the great things about this event is that it affects other communities besides downtown," Shimabukuro said. "Whether its attendees going out to dinner in Pacific Beach, or heading to one of the area's many attractions, Comic-Con touches on everything in San Diego County."



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Instead of togas, participants will relive the glory days of Rome in cocktail attire on Aug. 14. COURTESY PHOTO

FERRAGOSTO

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

Italy Association. Organizers hope to raise money to provide scholarships and support school programs, as well as maintain the historical preservation of Little Italy.

"The church initiated the event," Vinci said.

Father Steve Grancini with Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church approached Vinci with the idea about a year and a half ago, and the two of them, alongside a long list of other key people, have been organizing and working hard to make it all come together.

"Its really unprecedented that a church institution is leading the way to raise money for a public school," Vinci said.

He mentioned that this act represents of one of the unique and genuine qualities of the people of Little Italy.

All attendees will be transformed into Roman citizens for a night. The only difference is that instead of wearing togas, guests will be in cocktail attire, Vinci joked.

There will be 18 restaurants participating and offering Italian food selections in true Roman style.

There will also be a silent auction with 65 different raffle items, including a \$3,500 travel voucher that can be used for a trip to Rome.

"Everything will be enclosed in the Roman Forum," Vinci said.

Two different local bands will play music under the stars. The house band from Anthology will also provide tunes for dancing.

Wine, beer and Limoncello — an Italian lemon liqueur — will be flowing.

"It's a great neighborhood to be sucked into," Vinci said.

He lives and works in Little Italy.

Participating restaurants include Bencotto Italian Kitchen, Tarantino, Pappalecco, Busalacchi's Restaurants, Landini's Pizzeria, Vigilucci's Restaurant Group and others.

Guests must be 21 or older.

Tickets are \$100 for the first 400 sold. The remaining tickets will be \$125 and can be purchased by calling (619) 234-4820, or by visiting www.ferragostosd.org.

CITY

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

project at the committee level, saying he would prefer a more comprehensive approach to handling homelessness. If the council approves the center, it will be a one-stop venue for services and shelter for up to 225 people; officials estimate that there are about 4,300 homeless people within San Diego's city limits. The project has been a source of controversy, as opponents fear the location of the center in the heart of the city's financial district will be detrimental to businesses.

Massive concrete pour scheduled Aug. 7

A huge mat pour for Father Joe's Villages newest development, a child development center at 15th and Commercial, will involve 264 truckloads of concrete pouring a foundation filling 2,640 yards of concrete ranging from 5 to 10 feet in thickness on Saturday, Aug. 7, beginning at 6 a.m. Portions of 15th, 16th and Commercial streets will be closed to accommodate the trucks through about 10 a.m.

The project will be three buildings in one: a new child development center, an updated Bishop Maher Center providing long term transitional housing, and affordable/ permanent supportive housing all under one roof.

Construction to start on downtown quiet zone

Construction on the city's downtown quiet zone is slated to begin at the end of August pending a 30-day waiting period to ensure that an ordinance approving construction and maintenance contracts is not derailed by a public referendum, said Scott Johnson, senior project manager at Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) — the agency overseeing the project. Although there has been no movement by the public to undertake such an effort, all city ordinances must comply with the mandatory wait, Johnson said.

If the proposal passes the public test, contractors will be able to obtain permits after Aug. 13 and begin procuring equipment. Johnson said contractors

SALES-TAX

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

yesterday, the council voted to approve a revised version of the ordinance presented by the city attorney.

With the council approval, the proposed sales-tax hike will now be put before voters on Nov. 2. Pudgil said the five-year temporary tax would raise an estimated \$103 million per year that the city would put toward city services, including fire, police and street resurfacing.



Dignitaries pose for photos following the July 28 groundbreaking for San Diego's New Central Library. PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



This architectural model shows the basic design of the New Central Library.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

will be working with railway authorities to minimize the potential impact to those who ride the trains and trolleys; most of the work at the intersections will be conducted between 2 and 4 a.m., he said.

The quiet zone plan went into action June 22 when the City Council voted to approve the 15-month endeavor, which will involve spending an estimated \$17.9 million on enhanced safety measures at 13 intersections along the railway from Laurel Street to Park Boulevard.

Balboa Park receives national award

The American Public Works Association (APWA) named San Diego's Balboa Park Ornamentation Restoration Project as a Public Works Projects of the

Year. It was chosen in the category of historical restoration, boasting a cost of less than \$5 million. The project is being recognized as an example of an outstanding alliance between the managing agency, contractor, consultant and their cooperative achievements. The San Diego Museum of Man is one of the two buildings in the project being named for the Spanish colonial architectural restoration. The second building, originally built in 1926, is the Museum of Art. The ornamentation on this structure was built of reinforced architectural precast concrete. The city of San Diego, Soltek Pacific Construction and Heritage Architecture and Planning will receive the award for their work on the project at the APWA's 2010 International Congress and Exposition in Boston from Aug. 15 through 18.

"It will be used to eliminate the rolling fire brownouts and it will be used to restore and protect essential city services," Pudgil said.

District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer voted against placing the sales tax increase on the ballot along with District 5 Councilman Carl DeMaio. Faulconer said the measure as presented doesn't present significant or guaranteed savings to citizens.

"The reforms in this tax proposal are a wish list. We need an action list," Faulconer said in a statement. "San Diegans need to know how much money

the city will save before we ask them for more."

While the half-cent sales-tax increase idea comes closer to the ballot box, the proposal for a new City Hall was taken off the ballot last week. On July 30, Sanders vetoed the City Council's plans to put the project on the November ballot. Pudgil said the developers for the project asked Sanders to remove it from the ballot, citing a lack of resources.

"It's a very complicated issue and communicating that effectively to the public would have taken a significant amount of money," Pudgil said.

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DARLYNNE REYES MENKIN | Downtown News

CityTV doing more with less

By **DARLYNNE REYES MENKIN**
DOWNTOWN NEWS

CityTV is the city of San Diego’s gov-
ernment access cable channel, and
while the downtown-based operation
is small, the staff has mastered the art
of doing more with less.
The 24-hour channel provides live
coverage of the San Diego City Council
and other public meetings, as well as
broadcasting forums, public service
announcements and the annual Mar-
tin Luther King Jr. Breakfast.
“We cover anywhere from 20 to 35
public meetings a week and 150 to 200
press conferences a year, so we’re busy,”
said station manager Rick Bollinger.
That’s impressive given the fact that
there are only three people on staff. The
hours can also be long.
“If a council meeting goes until 9 or
9:30 at night, we’ll stay live on the air
until it’s over and then we’re back in
the office bright and early the next
morning,” Bollinger said.
CityTV launched in 1998 and back
then, the staff produced feature stories,

news segments and talk shows in addi-
tion to covering live City Council and
public meetings.
“We had a bigger staff, plus four to
five independent contractors, so we
could do more,” Bollinger said.
However, budget cutbacks in 2007
changed all that, so the staff members
had to figure out how to best utilize
their limited resources.
Despite the challenges, they’re mak-
ing it work.
“We’re a lean, mean, machine but
make no mistake, we’re bringing it,”
Bollinger laughed.
“I like the fact that we’re doing some-
thing that matters to people,” he said.
“There are so many people out there
who truly care about our city and want
to know what’s going on, so we get to
share that information with them.”
The Internet also plays a key role.
“People can watch us online and
that’s been a great resource. Our online
numbers are good,” Bollinger said.
CityTV is available on Channel 24 on
Time Warner and Cox cable, and Chan-
nel 99 on AT&T.

Taste of Downtown arrives Sept. 1

The 11th annual Taste of Down-
town will be held on Wednesday,
Sept. 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. More than
60 restaurants from downtown will
participate in the event that takes
place throughout the Gaslamp Quar-
ter, Financial District, East Village and
Little Italy.
Fare will be from a combination of
eateries, bistros, take-out places as
well as new restaurants. There will
be pastas, Asian fusion, American
favorites, desserts and drinks too.
It is a self-guided, walking tour of
the downtown streets. Tickets are
\$30 in advance or \$35 the day of
the event.

All proceeds benefit the Down-
town San Diego Partnership. This
organization is responsible for pro-
moting and enhancing the commu-
nity through programs such as the
Downtown Clean and Safe Program
and the Downtown Walking Map.
A complimentary shuttle service
is offered, which will take patrons to
and from each neighborhood. Cox
Cable and SignOnSanDiego.com
sponsor the annual tasting.
Taste of Downtown has sold
out for the past eight years. For
tickets call (619) 233-5008 or
visit www.dtsd.org.
— Debbie Hatch

National Doctors Tea Party set Aug. 7

The National Doctors Tea Party will
be held at 3900 N. Harbor Drive at Span-
ish Landing on Saturday, Aug. 7 from
noon to 3 p.m. Moderators and speakers
will feature Dr. Wayne Iverson and Dr.
Adam Dorin. Among the other speak-
ers will be Roger Hedgecock, local radio

talk-show host, who will share his opin-
ions regarding healthcare. The event is
free and open to the public. Sponsors for
the event are Association of American
Physicians and Surgeons and Physicians
Against Obama Care. For more informa-
tion, visit www.doctorsteaparty.com.

Summer concerts keep Coronado Ferry Landing lively

Here is the
2010 Coronado Ferry Landing Summer Concert Series
schedule for the month of August:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Aug. 7 – Teagan & Taylor Trio 2-5 p.m. | Aug. 21 – Stiletto’s, 2-5 p.m. |
| Aug. 8 – Coronado Big Band, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. | Aug. 22 – Kyle Van Band, 2-5 p.m. |
| Aug. 14 – Paragons, 1-3 p.m. | Aug. 28 – Blue Frog Band, 2-5 p.m. |
| Aug. 15 – Cool Fever, 1-4 p.m. | Aug. 29 – Crown Island Jazz Band, 1-3 p.m. |

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AUGUST *events***San Diego sculptor exhibit and reception set**

Fred Briscoe will exhibit his sculpture work at Alexander Salazar Fine Art through Aug. 15. A special artist reception is scheduled for Aug. 6 and 7 from 5 to 9 p.m. The exhibition is titled "Ascent," and features sculptures created by using different media. Briscoe was once a mason. His work can be found in Las Vegas, Beverly Hills, Coronado and other locations. Alexander Salazar Fine Art opened downtown in March and is located at 640 Broadway St. For more information, call (619) 531-8996. Reservations are required and should be sent to alexander-salazarfineart@gmail.com.

Clown around at the San Diego Railroad Museum

The San Diego Model Railroad Museum will be transformed into a circus on Sunday, Aug. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The family-friendly event will offer model circus trains running around various layouts. Families will also be able to make their own wooden circus trains and participate in carnival games. Popcorn, snacks and refreshments will be offered. Adult admission is \$7 and children under 15 are free. The museum is located in Balboa Park at 1649 El Prado St. For more information, call (619) 696-0199.

Festival of Sail arrives on San Diego Bay

More than 20 tall ships and other vessels from around the world will visit the North Embarcadero from Sept. 2 to

6 for the 2010 Port of San Diego Festival of Sail, hosted by the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The festival kicks off with a majestic parade of tall ships on San Diego Bay at 11 a.m., Sept. 2.

Festival visitors will enjoy touring the ships, entertainment at the Festival of Sail main stage, food and drink from dozens of restaurant booths, a family activity area, petting zoo and shopping for one-of-a-kind items among more than 100 festival vendors.

Ships at the festival will include the tall ship of California, the Californian, a replica of the original America's Cup racing yacht America, the Gaff topsail schooner Bill of Rights, the Brigantine from Antigua, the Kaisei and many more.

Several ships will engage in cannon battle reenactments on San Diego Bay during the festival. In addition, 12-pound cannons, known as Napoleons,

will be fired to salute morning and dusk. The museum's Shore Battery Artillery Team will also salute the ships with several rounds of fire as they pass by during the parade. The unit will demonstrate how the guns are cleaned and then will fire the three and four pound guns for a "noon salute" each day as well as firing volleys at the ships during the Gun Battles on the Bay.

The festival begins with a grand parade of sail on San Diego Bay at 11 a.m. on Sept. 2. More than a dozen majestic windjammers will parade into San Diego's harbor in a nautical procession. www.sdmaritime.org.

Bike the Bay event returns Aug. 29

Local bicyclists are set to pedal across the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge and then traverse along some of the county's most scenic bay shore routes during the third annual Bike the Bay ride on Sunday, Aug. 29. The non-competitive 25-mile "fun ride" starts at 7 a.m. at Embarcadero Marina Park South on Harbor Drive in San Diego and travels over the 2.1-mile bridge and along the expanded Bayshore Bikeway. The ride is open to riders 12 years and older and recommended for all cycling abilities. The route winds along bayside paths and down dedicated bike lanes through Coronado, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista and National City. The family-friendly event finishes at the Embarcadero Marina Park with post-ride festivities including food, entertainment and a Karl Strauss beer garden. The entry cost is \$55 and the event is limited to 2,500 riders. Tandem and corporate team entries also are available. For information and online registration, visit www.bikethebay.net. Ride proceeds benefit the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making area bicycling better.

Labor Day weekend stickball tournament set

The streets of Little Italy will soon come alive with stickball. While it is mostly an East Coast tradition, many in Little Italy look forward to weekend-long tournament. Every year, local teams come together to play for the opportunity to call themselves the king of the block. The champions are awarded that title. While there is

taunting and heckling, it is all done in good fun. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 4 and Sunday, Sept. 5 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Columbia Street between Beech and Cedar streets, and on State Street between Ash and Beech streets. The Little Italy Association sponsors the event. For more information or to register a team, call (858) 279-1924.

East Village offers Padres tailgate

For the first time, the East Village will close off two city blocks to offer a Padres tailgate party. J Street, between Seventh and Ninth Avenues, will be brought to life when the East Village Association and the San Diego Padres partner up to tailgate on Friday, Aug. 27 and Friday, Sept. 10, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Within the tailgate area will be a mini tasting zone, which will feature fare from five East Village restaurants. Local brewers will be selling hand-crafted beers as well. A retired Padre will be present at each of the two tailgate events. Entertainment will include live music and interactive sports games for adults. Admission is free, but only open to those 21 and older. For more information, visit www.eastvillagesandiego.com.

Regatta will benefit Sharp HospiceCare

The eighth annual Sharp HospiceCare Benefit Regatta will kick off Friday, Aug. 27 with a pre-race dinner at 6 p.m. at the Hotel Del Coronado. The evening will include a full-course dinner, dancing to the music of Detroit Underground, as well as live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$175. On Saturday, Aug. 28 at 11 a.m. the race portion of the fundraiser will take place. Yacht boarding and race viewing will be available from the Coronado Yacht Club. Tickets to this are \$125 and include lunch and a seat aboard a private yacht for viewing. The ticket also includes a barbecue following the regatta from 3 to 6 p.m., during which time there will be dancing and an awards ceremony. Proceeds will benefit the Sharp HospiceCare, an organization that provides support for patients and families dealing with a long-term illness. To reserve tickets or for more information, call (619) 740-4316.

SEE EVENTS, Page 11



HAPPY HOUR
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TUESDAYS 4PM to Close
\$9 Bud or Bud Light Pitchers
\$6 Angus Burger & Domestic Pint*
\$8 Angus Burger & Import Pint

WINGS WEDNESDAYS 2 PM to 7 PM
\$0.75 Wings (min. 5)
\$3.00 Firehouse Draft Pints
\$2.00 Domestic Pints

THIRSTY THURSDAYS 4PM to Close
\$2 Domestic Pints* • \$3 Wells • \$5 Jager • \$8 Domestic Pitchers*
\$10 Import Pitchers • \$4.99 Mozzarella Cheese Sticks
\$4.99 Crispy Grilled Quesadillas • \$4.99 Beer Battered Onion Rings
\$4.99 Jalapeno Poppers

FRIDAYS 2 PM to 7 PM
\$3 Domestic Pints • \$3 Import Bottles • \$3 Wells • \$5 Patron
\$5 Call • \$5 Philly

SATURDAYS 11 AM to 2 PM
\$5 Bloody Marys • \$5 Mimosa • \$4 Firehouse Draft Pint

SUNDAYS 9 AM to 2 PM \$5 Bloody Mary • \$5 Mimosa
4 PM to Close \$2.75 Domestic Pints • \$3.75 Wells
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Robin, Batman and Catwoman provide a photo op in the Sail Pavilion.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News



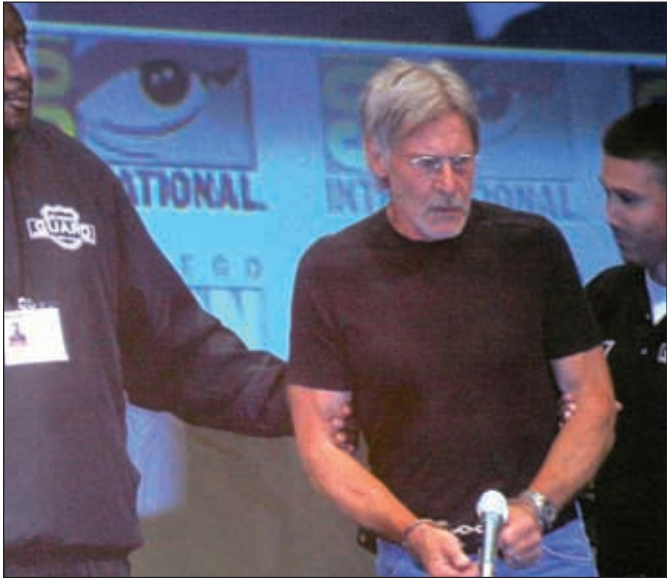
The biggest buzz at Comic-Con this year was the unannounced appearance of the entire cast of the to-be-filmed blockbuster movie "The Avengers," based on the popular Marvel Comics super-hero team. Making an appearance are (from left) Scarlet Johansson, (Black Widow); Chris Hemsworth, (Thor); Chris Evans, (Captain America); Samuel L. Jackson, (Nick Fury); Robert Downey Jr., (Iron Man); Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye); and Mark Ruffalo (The Hulk). A movie panel, packed with 6,500 attendees who thought the event was over, went nuts screaming as each star came out on stage without any warning.

DON BALCH | Downtown News



Iconic science-fiction writer Ray Bradbury (left) who came to the first San Diego Comic-Cons in the early 1970s, meets Jerry Robinson, who created the famous Batman villain "The Joker" back in 1940.

DON BALCH | Downtown News



Actor Harrison Ford, who had never attended a Comic-Con, is jokingly led into a movie panel in handcuffs in front of ecstatic fans. He was promoting the upcoming film "Cowboys and Aliens."

DON BALCH | Downtown News



Wolverine and another character at Comic-Con pose for the camera.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

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BY GEORGE VASQUEZ
PUREFITNESS GENERAL MANAGER

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Committee works to raise cancer awareness in younger generations

By JENNA FRAZIER | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Cancer is quickly becoming a leading cause of death in the U.S., and four La Jolla High School (LJHS) alumni are fighting back. Along with a volunteer committee of 20 local young professionals, the team has transformed the downtown San Diego American Cancer Society Relay for Life from a modest affair to a booming spectacle in just four years.

Brothers Stacy and Jamie Meronoff, LJHS classes of 1999 and 2001 respectively, helped launch the downtown event in 2006 with about 100 participants, and raised a total of \$8,000. This year, Stacy said, the committee expects to attract more than 1,000 people and \$100,000 in funds for cancer research, advocacy and early-prevention programs through the American Cancer Society.

For 24 hours, teams of 10 or more people will walk continuously to symbolize that "cancer never sleeps," said Stacy, the committee's chairman. So far, 61 teams have signed up for this year's relay from Aug. 21 to Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the North Embarcadero just outside Seaport Village.

Jamie is serving as the food and hospitality chair for the 2010 relay.

"Younger people should pay attention and start thinking about this disease earlier in life. It's not just parents and grandparents who are affected. It's people our own age. We're not invincible."

David Lichtenstein,
LJHS class of 2001

"We've taken this event to another level," he said. "Seeing how much success we've had in a down economy, combined with all the corporate sponsorships we've gotten and increasing the level of participation has been really rewarding."

The cuisine will go above and beyond typical relay fare, Jamie added, with a buffet-style feast and a special lunch for cancer survivors donated by Dick's Last Resort.

"We try to get as many restaurants and eateries involved as possible," he said. "Everyone eats like a king."

Cancer has touched the life of each committee member through friends, family or loved ones who were diagnosed. Some won the battle and others did not.

About 10 years ago, Stacy and Jamie's cousin, Kevin, died of cancer at age 20.

"For the next few years, I was giving a check to cancer research," Stacy said. "Then a coworker invited me to be a team captain for the first downtown relay, and I got behind it because I really felt like this was a charity I could put all my effort into."

Brad Williams — public relations and publicity chair and Stacy's best friend from high school — lost his grandfather to cancer after a battle that lasted eight years.

"I was so grateful he had those extra years and that advancements in medical technology allowed him to play a greater role in my life," Williams said. "I relay for him, in the hopes that others will have more opportunities with their loved ones and that they will eventually beat this disease."

David Lichtenstein, LJHS class of 2001 who now works as a litigation attorney, is the corporate sponsorship chair and has seen cancer plague his family without regard for age or generation.

"Unfortunately, there's a very high prevalence of cancer in my family," he said. "This event is a way for me to feel

RELAY FOR LIFE

Cancer never sleeps, and neither will more than 1,000 participants in the fourth annual Downtown San Diego American Cancer Society Relay for Life on Aug. 21 and 22 at the North Embarcadero just outside Seaport Village. For a 24-hour period from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m., members of more than 60 teams made up of survivors, friends and families and even employees of local businesses, will take turns walking or running around a trail to raise more than \$100,000 for cancer research, advocacy and early-prevention programs through the American Cancer Society. The event will also feature refreshments and activities each hour such as live music, themed laps, raffle drawings and a luminaria dedication ceremony. To start a team, join an existing team, donate or learn more about the event, visit www.relayforlife.org/downtownsandiegoca.

like I can make a direct contribution to finding a cure for the disease."

The group hopes its assortment of young professionals, ages 25 to 35, will bring fresh energy to the event and help spread awareness to a younger generation.

"The advantage is that we're hungry," Williams said. "We're a proactive group that knows cancer will impact us even more as we move forward."

Jamie agreed.

"Not everybody that age has been touched by cancer yet, but chances are in the next several years they will be, whether it's a close friend, a relative, or themselves," Jamie said. "I think it's important to spread the awareness that this disease is very prevalent and affects everyone in some way at some point."

Lichtenstein said the indestructibility mindset needs to be overcome.

"Younger people should pay attention and start thinking about this disease earlier in life," Lichtenstein said. "It's not just parents and grandparents who are affected. It's people our own age. We're not invincible."

The committee takes a month or two of rest after the relay before the process begins again with an average of 10 hours of work per week, then 20 to 30 hours weekly in the last few months before the big day. For a young crew with day jobs and social lives, the hours add up quickly.

"It's a year-round process," Stacy said.

One thing Stacy said he has learned, however, is that any effort the group puts in will be matched tenfold by the community.

"The biggest thing I've learned is that people out there want to help," Stacy said. "You've just got to ask."

Each year, the group is reminded of the power that a small group of people with energy and focus can wield.

"I feel like I'm making a direct impact with tangible benefits in my community," Lichtenstein said.

Being surrounded by such a large community of people whose lives have been affected by the disease also helps put things in perspective.

"Now that I'm involved, I can't imagine not being involved," Stacy said. "It's a constant reminder of how lucky I am to be healthy, and how many people unfortunately are not. We've got to try to create better mechanisms to combat these issues."

Williams urged his peers to take action.

"We hope that more young people start getting involved in causes they care about," he said. "You don't have to wait until something impacts you to have a voice."

The first Relay for Life took place in Tacoma, Wash. in 1985. Today, more than 3,000 relays take place each year around the world with about 30 in San Diego County alone. To start a team, join a team, donate or learn more, visit www.relayforlife.org/downtownsandiegoca.



The committee for the San Diego American Cancer Society Relay for Life is preparing this year's event, which will take place Aug. 21 to 22 at the North Embarcadero just outside Seaport Village. COURTESY PHOTO



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High-tech dental office celebrates one-year anniversary

By DEBBIE HATCH | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Dr. Nathan Hornsby, D.D.S., M.S.D., purchased a 30-year-old practice downtown in July 2009 with the intent of turning it into a state-of-the-art, all-compassing dental practice. Last month, his new high-tech Cosmetic Dentistry Center of San Diego, located at 702 C St., celebrated its first birthday.

"The facility is amazing," Hornsby said.

Between the lighting, the surgical microscopes and the 22-inch televisions, the office is able to provide patients with state-of-the-art care and comfort. Among the comforts offered, patients can choose from a variety of programs to watch during their visit from a selection of Netflix offerings.

Hornsby described one example of updated technology as a water laser used to complete a job formerly done with a scalpel.

"The post-op healing time is much faster," Hornsby said.

He added that recovery from gum surgery and pocket-reduction surgery, which can be quite painful, is made easier with the use of the water-laser technology.

As a dentist who completed his doctorate at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine in New York, then stayed on to complete a three-year residency in prosthodontics and then received a master of science degree, one might think Hornsby would be bored by simple procedures.

However, Hornsby said one of his favorite things to do at work is to glue on crowns. To him, it represents the day that the patient gets to leave the office with a newly-completed smile and a new outlook on the world.

"We are providing a service to patients and I want to do

that at a specialty level," Hornsby said.

He has a team of multiple specialists from prosthodontics to pediatrics to oral surgery.

"I am the quarterback of the office," Hornsby said.

The all-encompassing practice facilitates case planning for patients who need to see more than one specialist.

Hornsby wants his patients to receive care from all dental specialties in-house. His office also offers the regular cleanings and check-ups available in general dentistry offices.

And even with a 3,000-square-foot facility, Hornsby wants to keep patient care on a personal level.

"The underlying theme is that patients want superior care," Hornsby said.

Patients want to have confidence in their dentists. Patients also want to rest in the fact that superior technology is being used in their care plan, Hornsby said.

The only option not offered is general anesthesia. Patients must go to a hospital for that, but Hornsby's staff is still present for the dental procedure. General sedation using analgesics and methods of conscious sedation are done with procedures at the office.

"Know your options," Hornsby said of choosing a dentist. "Do your research. do your homework. Know where people come from."

He encourages patients to choose a dentist who is right for them.

Hornsby's office also arranges hotel accommodations and transportation if the patient needs it. For more information, call (619) 544-0544, or visit www.dentistrysd.com.



Dr. Nathan Hornsby,
D.D.S., M.S.D

Ping pong fever hits the hip scene

FIT SAVVY

By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist



Fit Athletic Club owner Scott Lutwak and general manager Brandon Buzarde play a rousing game of ping pong. Believe it or not, ping pong has re-emerged as a popular social activity. COURTESY PHOTO

The tension is high, the room is hot, the crowd watches anxiously as sweat drips from the players' foreheads and puddles on the floor, creating a smell reminiscent of a high school boys' locker room after gym class. Bloodthirsty athletes with their souped-up, hard-hitting paddles show off their mind-blowing skills as onlookers cheer them on in awe and admiration. These warriors of the rectangular table are fierce and are in it to win it! It's official: ping pong fever has struck the masses.

What was once considered a "geeky game" is now a full-blown hipster sport, and an Olympic one at that. Yes, unbeknownst to many, ping pong (also known as table tennis) has been an Olympic sport since 1988. Although the game seems to be dominated by the Chinese, and considered by them to be their national sport, it was actually invented by the British in the 1880s as an after-dinner indoor relaxation game, mimicking outdoor tennis. In preparation of the hosting of the Olympic Games in 2012, London recently set up 100 ping pong tables all around the city in hopes of enticing more British people to play the sport by the time the games arrive.

Ping pong's popularity in the States is on the rise. HBO's pop-culture series "Entourage" featured the game in a recent episode at Los Angeles's trendy new table tennis social club, SPiN, (which is co-owned by Susan Sarandon). SPiN's LA venture is actually the first expansion outside of the company's original location in New York. Here in San Diego, ping pong is the new draw to several downtown hot spots. Game ON! Tournaments are held the third Tuesday of each month at Quality Social, downtown's newest "quality dive bar." Players battle it out for their chance to win generous bar tabs.

For those who have not participated in, or witnessed, a battle of the blazing balls, the idea may occur to you that ping pong is just a simple paddle game. For the novice, it may be just that, but for the athletic ball busters out there, it's much more.

Ping pong is fast and it demands quick hand-eye coordination and rapid reactions. Ping pong professionals practice relentlessly to improve their skills and their ability to master some of the basic biomechanical principals of all strokes, including: the application of force and friction (how to touch the ball), timing (when the racket's energy is transferred

to the ball) and where to contact the ball (always in the front).

Although ping pong may not be as physically-grueling as other sports, it still requires regular, intense training. Professionals, and the truly competitive amateurs spend hours doing drills to master different serves, returns and strokes, and they must keep their bodies in good overall condition. Being in good physical shape is important to play at your best level and can be the difference between two players with the same technical ability. Sometimes, form and footwork can decline after several matches when a player is not physically conditioned to endure the stamina required for long play.

To improve your stamina, which is also known as your aerobic conditioning, you need to perform some kind of aerobic activity. You can take a cycling class, run on the treadmill, go swimming, jog the neighborhood, jump rope or anything you choose that raises your heart rate and gets your blood flowing, and you should do it at least three to five times a week for 30 to 45 minutes to really produce results.

Ping pong keeps you up and moving the whole game. It will be important to have strong legs and abdominals to support you through and extend play time. Incorporating squats, walking lunges and powerful plyometric drills into your workout will help prepare your legs for the shifting and bouncing around ping pong requires. Likewise, focusing on simple abdominal exercises such as crunches and planks can help strengthen your back for a lengthy, intense game.

We have ping pong tables at Fit Athletic Club that are always occupied with enthused, competitive players before and after their workouts. And, I might add, we do have some of the best competitors in town dropping sweat on our floors on a daily basis. Regular ping pong play keeps you mentally sharp and since it's a non-contact sport, it's gentle on your body. Unless of course you play with a sore loser, then it could get physical and become a whole new kind of paddle crushing event.



Connie Cook "C2"
Fitness Director
Fit Athletic Club

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Filming downtown brings opportunities

By **CATHY ANDERSON**
San Diego Film Commission

Downtown offers so many opportunities for film production. Not only are there a diverse selection of “looks” for locations downtown, but filmmakers love eating in our great restaurants and staying in the downtown area hotels.

The Bandito Brothers production company was in San Diego for reshoots for their independent feature film project titled “Act of Valor,” which is an action/adventure/thriller. More than 20 experienced stunt people are working on this feature film. The film’s stars are actually active Navy SEALs. Other stars include Roselyn Sanchez and Emilo Rivera.

The story took place around the world with San Diego as one of the many locations. Other locations included Cambodia, Florida and Puerto Rico. The crew filmed at Blue Foot Bar and in a house in the North Park area. The crew stayed at the Indigo Hotel while they worked. This project is due to be released in 2010.

• Did you know that the San Diego Film Commission not only attracts new business for San Diego in the area of film production, but we also permit the work on behalf of the city, county and port areas, give oversight and regulate the activity on a daily basis. When you stop to think that we coordinate stunts, pyrotechnics, car chases and weapons, we are quite proud of our record of no

lawsuits or incidents that have caused our government and city embarrassment. (At least not yet!) I credit good management and staff with expertise, passion for this business and dedication. They do work all hours to give proper oversight.

• Portions of a wonderful documentary titled “Last Men Out” was filmed over the July Fourth weekend. Producer Allison Litton and local director of photography Bruce Ando filmed interviews with Vietnam veterans who were some of the last men out of Vietnam. Some of the locations utilized were the Marriott Hotel & Marina, North Embarcadero Park, as well as the Midway. Hopefully, I can get you a release date soon.

• Currently, we have an exciting documentary filming a story connected to our very own Comic-Con. The project is titled “Comic-Con Episode Four: A Fan’s Hope.” The production plans to film all over San Diego with a special focus on the Gaslamp area. Production is picking up and that’s a good sign for the economy!

— *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

When we first moved to San Diego 20 years ago, a favorite Saturday morning ritual was riding bikes. With our boom box bungeed on the back rack, we’d ride along the Embarcadero while grooving to mix tape tunes. “Livin’ in the Wild Wild West,” Bob Marley and “Twistin’ by the Pool” are memorable tunes! Since we didn’t own a CD player, it was those home-made mix tapes that helped put us in a new West Coast spirit.

That’s why we’re so excited about the Horton Grand Theater’s new show, “MiXtape” — a musical journey through the ‘80s. The play kicks off Aug. 6 and will run through late September. The inspiration for writing the play comes from the minds of Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith.

“Ultimately, with ‘MiXtape,’ we wanted to create a show about the power of music,” Lorenz said. “It’s a collage and a collage is like a mix tape. You select things from culture that express something personal to you. We don’t do that today. We drag and drop. We create playlists. But a mix tape is really a labor of love. You have to pick your songs. You have to push record. Play, pause, rewind, fast forward. The messiness of it. We’re exploring music as a marking of your memories. Music as a time machine. Music as empowerment. Music as your secret place,” Lorenz said.

• Another trip back in time happens Aug. 12, when Anthology (1337 India St.) presents “A Musical Night at the Movies With Popcorn.” The unique show features a five-piece band performing a wide variety of popular hit songs from famous Hollywood movie scenes. The scenes play on a big screen while the band is performing, so it’s a true multi-sensory assault. Some of the highlights include shots of the dancing groundhog from “Caddyshack” while Popcorn plays the song “I’m Alright” and Tom Cruise riding his motorcycle in “Top Gun” while the band plays “Danger Zone.” Other song/video combinations are “Footloose,” “Car Wash,” and Forrest Gump’s greatest hits. If that’s not enough, audience members will be treated to the distinctive aroma of hot-buttered popcorn circulating throughout the venue. The musician behind this magical creation is Don Baskin, a former member of the band Syndicate of Sound. The classic 1960s band had a one-hit-wonder called “Little Girl,” which climbed to number 10 on the charts in 1966. They also appeared live with legendary bands

like the Young Rascals, the Yardbirds and the Rolling Stones.

Baskin, who established an alliance with Jolly Time Popcorn, said the favorite movie time snack will be available to eat so it will enhance the extravaganza.

“We wanted to recreate the experience of a drive-in,” Baskin said. “The music from movies, the vintage commercials and shorts will touch on what the times were like. When we perform, we can see the audience ooh and awe, from kids to older people. For me, it’s a memory thing ... a look back at a great hit from a movie will trigger thoughts of something.”

The show is being billed as a good fit for the family. It could be a good way to keep your kid away from the texting and tune into the background music and videos of the past.

— *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.*

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In the hit TV show “Lost,” one of the characters mentioned was making a mix tape. Who was that character? Post the two characters involved in this scene on our Where You Want To Be Tours Facebook Page for a prize!

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Neighborhood House Association’s Volunteer Program Invites Community Members to Become Part of the Legacy

Community members across San Diego County are taking an active role in helping the Neighborhood House Association (NHA) achieve its mission of developing children, families and future leaders of our community. In these tough economic times, community members have continued to support one of San Diego’s oldest nonprofit organizations by contributing countless service hours. More than 1,000 volunteers in the past year have devoted their time and efforts to helping those in need. Volunteers continue to make NHA “a neighbor you can count on.”

For nearly 100 years, NHA has helped thousands of individuals and families in San Diego County improve their quality of life by providing vital social services such as employment, healthcare, childcare, family and senior services. Community involvement is the key to enabling the agency to provide these services and without the voluntary support from individuals, clubs and organizations, NHA could not serve the thousands of families each year that utilize any one of its 10 different programs and services. The additional service hours provided by these volunteers play a vital role in maintaining successful operations at nearly 100 facilities throughout the county.

However, NHA is not the only one reaping the benefits. Many devoted volunteers are learning exactly how good it feels to give back to their neighbors in need.

Gwendolyn Miller, one of the agency’s most dedicated volunteers, has been donating her time to NHA’s Senior Service Center since 2006. Seventy-four year old Miller says she volunteers because “volunteering gives me an insight into things and allows me to use myself to really help others. It also gives me an opportunity to interact with my peers and show them that even though we are aging, that doesn’t mean we are old.”

College student Christian Limon says his days stocking and delivering food to the public for NHA’s Emergency Services program helped him gain the experience he needed to land his first full-time job. “NHA is a great place. It’s what helped me to get my job now. I owe everything to the Neighborhood House!”

With a variety of programs and services offered through NHA, chances are NHA has a volunteer opportunity that may benefit you. Whether it’s working with preschool children or seniors, helping people get access to health care or helping families buy their first home, NHA has a way for everyone to give back to the community.

To learn more about NHA’s current volunteer opportunities and how to become part of the legacy, visit www.neighborhoodhouse.org or call 858-244-8234.

EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM **Page 6**

Summer Sol fundraiser slated for Aug. 14

Young Audiences of San Diego will host its sixth annual Summer Sol fundraiser Aug. 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Expect psychedelic fun at this year’s 1960s-themed event, which will take place at the Joe and Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Ave. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$400 for a table of 10. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit arts education programs throughout San Diego County.

The event includes appetizers and drinks accompanied by live jazz as well as “popcorn performances” by featured Young Audiences artists like Mojalet Dance, storytellers and tap demonstrations. Attendees will

have an opportunity to bid on the Summer Sol silent auction, which offers a diverse selection of items including rounds of golf, tickets to the San Diego Opera, a weekend on Coronado Island and a seven-day at a private home in Provence, France. Three lucky guests will also win the Summer Sol opportunity drawings, laying claim to various prizes including a Blu-Ray player, a flat-screen TV and an iPad.

The first 100 tickets sold will be automatically entered in the opportunity drawings. For more information visit www.yasandiego.org or call (619) 282-7599.

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Mannis Communications
4645 Cass St. Box 9550
San Diego, CA 92169
Fax: (658) 270-9325
Ad Fax: (658) 713-0095

downtown@sdnews.com
(858) 270-3103



sdnews.com

PUBLISHER

Julie Mannis Hoisington
(858) 270-3103 x106
jmannis@sdnews.com

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

John Gregory x130
downtown@sdnews.com

NEWS EDITOR

Kevin McKay x131
anthony@sdnews.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Anthony Gentile x135
anthony@sdnews.com

REPORTERS

Anthony Gentile x135
anthony@sdnews.com

Hillary Schuler-Jones x133
Hillary@sdnews.com

Debbie Hatch x142
hatch@sdnews.com

ACCOUNTING

Heather Glynn x103
Patty Anglely x120
Accounts Receivable

AD CONSULTANTS

Mike Fahey x117
Marjorie Kirby x122
Michael Long x112
Ashlee Manzo x123
Heather Snyder x115
Deborah Vazquez x118
Markey Daniels x111

Maricris Angeles x147
Phil Doyle x121

CLASSIFIEDS MGR.

Heather Snyder x115
heather@sdnews.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Kim Donaldson x140
kim@sdnews.com

Sonya Godette x136
sonya@sdnews.com

PRODUCTION MGR.

Casey Dean x107
casey@sdnews.com

PRODUCTION

Chris Baker,
Anna Magulac

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Don Balch, Paul Hansen

CONTRIBUTORS

Hillary Schuler-Jones,
Charlene Baldrige, Diana
Cavagnaro, Johnny
McDonald, Bart Mendoza,
Neal Putnam, Sebastian
Ruiz, Meaghan Clark, Tawny
Maya McCray

OPINIONS Signed letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters must include a phone number for verification. The editor may edit letters for clarity and accuracy. Letters should be 350 words or less. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of this newspaper or staff.

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.

DISTRIBUTION *San Diego Downtown News* is available free the first Thursday every month.

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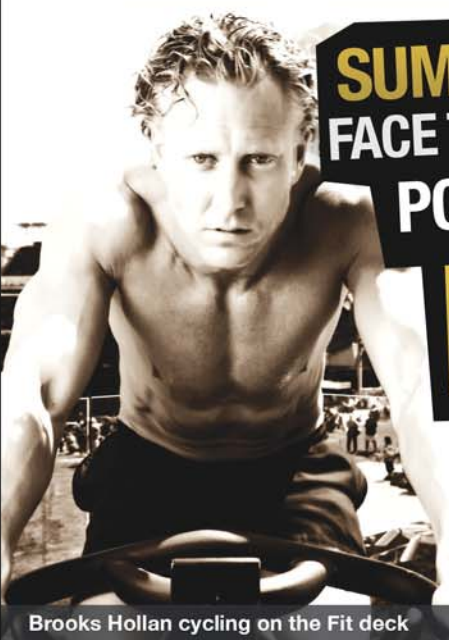
Dr. Mindy Mar, Magdalena Cernouskova and Connie Cook at the Searsucker opening



Christi Buzarde at Fit Athletic Club



Kat Castañeda, Jason Gregory and Ryan Kelter at The Corner



Brooks Hollan cycling on the Fit deck

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Trisha Kinsman at Fit Member Appreciation Day



Fit Nutritionist Alex Fiorini at the juicebar



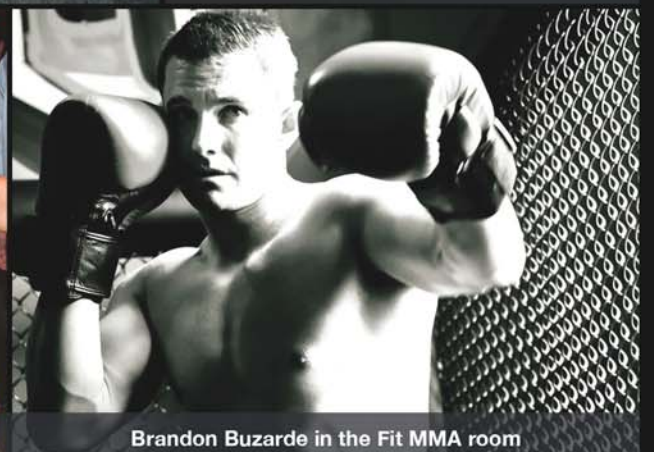
Fit Trainer Magdalena Cernouskova with clients



Fit Trainer Daniel Soto assessing a client



Brian Kawano and friends at Ivy



Brandon Buzarde in the Fit MMA room

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Padres keeping tabs on Latos' innings

By ANTHONY GENTILE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

As San Diego Padres starter Mat Latos continues to rack up wins in 2010, he also continues to approach his innings limit set before the season. As a result, the 23-year-old in the midst of a breakout year could see his work limited down the stretch.

"We'll talk about this with our organization," said Padres manager Bud Black. "A lot of that will be based on what we see with our eyes and how his arm feels."

Through July, Latos has an 11-4 record in 19 starts. His 127.1 innings pitched is already a career high and very close to the mark of 150 to 180 innings set before the season by Black and General Manager Jed Hoyer with the long-term aim of preventing injury.

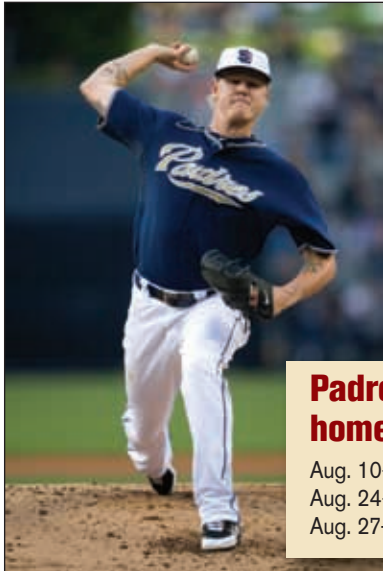
Latos said he understands limiting his innings in only his fourth pro season is in his own best interest. But the six-foot-six-inch right-hander isn't thrilled about the prospect of having to shut his arm down before the end of the season.

"I hope it doesn't happen," Latos said. "I want to go out there and I want to compete. That's the No. 1 goal. I want to keep playing."

Black described the inning count as flexible and recently said Latos could end up throwing as many as 200 innings by the end of the season — including potential postseason starts. Black said he is monitoring Latos regularly to make sure he is not overworked.

"Our conversation with him is just to stay in the present," Black said. "Don't fast-forward and count how many starts you have left. I know it's easier said than done."

Since the Padres drafted Latos in



Padres' upcoming home opponents

Aug. 10-12 Pirates
Aug. 24-26 Diamondbacks
Aug. 27-29 Phillies

With an 11-4 record through July, Padres starter Mat Latos is enjoying the best season of his young career. But with his limit of 150 to 200 innings fast approaching, Latos could see limited action down the stretch. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDY HAYT

2006, his workload has increased steadily. After throwing 56 innings in the minors in 2007 and 2008, Latos pitched 112 total innings last season. Fifty of those innings came in 10 starts with the Padres from July to September.

"Last year with Mat, we saw a little bit of his velocity come down," Black said. "More than anything I saw a little bit [of a decrease] on the concentration and the mental side."

In his second year up with the Padres, Latos is currently enjoying a career season. The righty leads the club in wins and was tops in the National League with a 0.99 WHIP (walks and hits per

inning pitched) at the end of July.

"[It is] me having the confidence and my teammates behind me confident that I can go every fifth day and go out and perform and give them a chance to win," Latos said.

Success on the mound in 2010 didn't come right away for Latos, who had a 6.20 ERA after four April starts. He admitted he had trouble adjusting to his big league surroundings during that first month of the season.

"I got knocked around a little bit early and I think that had to do with me not really knowing what was going on," Latos said. "Once I settled in, I got comfortable and got a lot closer to a lot of these guys on our team, and it just picked up from there."

Since May, Latos is 10-2 and has allowed more than two runs only once in 15 appearances. While his bread and butter mid-90s fastball has been great, Latos said improvement of both his curveball and slider have helped him this season.

"I have more confidence throwing it and the way that I'm throwing it," Latos said of his curveball.

Despite his key part in the Padres' success this season, Latos would need have to have his current workload reduced in order to both stay under the innings limit and be available to pitch into the later months of the season. How team management handles this situation will impact the Padres in a pennant race that looks more and more like it will come down to the wire.

'Ironman' rolls out new bike business

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Over thousands of agonizing miles on rough off roads, champion driver Ivan ("Ironman") Stewart often bounced around the elements on two wheels with a Toyota truck.

Now, the 64-year-old San Diegan is settling down to a slower, more comfortable two-wheel-style of business by opening a electric cycle shop in Little Italy with son Gary.

The Ivan Stewart Electric Bike Center is at 2021 India St., a modest location measuring about 700 square feet.

"We hope to open other branches in La Jolla and Del Mar," said Stewart said.

It's close to his high-rise condo overlooking the cruise ship terminal.

Stewart said he's liquidating his off-road business but will still be a representative for Toyota (27 years) and could show up again in November's Baja 1000.

On Aug. 29, much of his memorabilia, Stewart & Stewart pro truck company, cars and parts will be auctioned at his shop at 14402 Bond Court in El Cajon. Included from his collection will be a 1955 Chevy Bel-Air, a 1972 Plymouth Roadrunner and the race pickup that Stewart successfully campaigned in the Mickey Thompson series of stadium off-road races.

The legendary driver's 84 victories and 10 driver's championships were credentials enough for him to be inducted into the San Diego Hall of Champions' Hall of Fame. He has also been nominated for the national Motorsports Hall of Fame in Michigan.

McCormack Auction Co. of El Cajon is handling the sale of ProTruck and Stewart & Stewart Racing, as well as the auction of 150 top items at Stewart's facility.

"I'm simplifying my life and changing to something more suited to what I want," he said. "I'm just downsizing.



Champion driver Ivan Stewart shows off one of his shop's electric bicycles near the USS Midway Museum. Stewart has opened a bike center at 2021 India St. COURTESY PHOTO

Time to turn it over to someone else to run with the ball ... maybe one of the 53 owners who purchased pro trucks from us."

Stewart said he and his wife, Linda, want to travel.

"And what better place to live?" Stewart asked. "The train depot is a stone's throw away. There's the cruise ships down there and the airport is about a mile away."

"Most of the bikes are from China with names like Ezee, Hebb, Pebigo." Price tags range from \$2,000 to \$2,700 for six different models. Stewart said he'll show them at car and boat shows and let people ride them.

So, there won't be anything unusual about this big bicyclist riding around San Diego's busy streets. It's just off-road's Ironman promoting his new business.

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(Left) The metal "West Coast" sign might look new but it hails from 1927. (Right) Owner David Cohen was well known for his clandestine pub at a Montreal college.

Paul Body/San Diego Uptown News

Five-spiced Jidori chicken wings (left) are served with sweet/hot sauce, while poached white Mexican shrimp (center) come with spicy aioli for dipping. The tenderloin of beef skewer (right) is topped with a brush of salsa vert.

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AUGUST 2010 | Vol. 11, No. 8



"Walking Beach" by Justin Wood



"Cheap Jewelry for May Faire" by Tasha Kusama



"New Abstract #3 (Inverted Rainbow)" by Victor Rodriguez



"Paperbacks" by Gail Roberts



"Meso-Americhanics (Maneuvering Mestizaje)" by De la Torre Brothers

Art for art's sake

Huge visual fair downtown heralds global draw for city

By **ANTHONY GENTILE** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The city is on the verge of becoming a global art destination, said Ann Berchtold, who has worked in the San Diego art scene for the past 15 years. The founder of Art San Diego hopes its Contemporary Art Fair at the beginning of next month is part of that growth.

"We have a great potential here and we have a

great canvas to mature into," Berchtold said. "I think we're at a really interesting time in San Diego right now, where we're swelling with a great mass of artists. We have world-class exhibitions in this city."

The art fair will be held Sept. 2-5 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel downtown, kicking off with a VIP opening night on Sept. 2. The main focus of the fair is the 50-plus galleries — includ-

ing art from Los Angeles, New York, Japan and Mexico City — whose presence create a one-stop shop for collectors and browsers.

"One of our goals was to really establish a process for cultivating the strongest and most cutting-edge galleries," Berchtold said. "We put together a curatorial advisory group this year, which was comprised of some leading art experts in the U.S."

This is the second year of the art fair, but this year it has a new name and location. In 2009, it was known as the Beyond the Border International Contemporary Art Fair and drew 3,000 at The Grand Del Mar.

"We looked at the first year as mainly a test of the market," Berchtold said. "It exceeded our

SEE **ART**, Page 27

Art is alive and well in Spanish Village

By **WILL BOWEN** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Spanish Village is an art enclave located in Balboa Park resembling a small town with cute cubby-hole shops set around a large, rolling plaza which is covered with cement slabs painted every color of the rainbow. The shops are pinkish-beige stucco with red tile roofs. There are many plants, banners, tables, benches and lots of artwork both on the outside and inside the shops, which make this a very inviting and colorful destination.

Spanish Village was originally built in 1935 for the second California-

Pacific International Exposition with the theme of depicting a quaint Spanish Village. During the exposition, it housed restaurants and shops. After the exposition closed in 1937, it became an art colony with shops and galleries. During World War II the entire village was transformed into an army barracks and the war left the village in ruins for several years.

Starting in 1948, artists returned to Spanish Village to repair and restore it. Once again, the village became an art colony. Today, it is registered as a National Historic Landmark and houses six art guilds and 37 galleries/working studios and more than

100 artists. The guilds in the Village include San Diego Potter's Guild, The Art Glass Guild, Sculpture Guild, Enamel Guild, San Diego Woodcarver's Association and the San Diego Gem and Mineral Society.

The oldest art organization or gallery in Spanish Village is the Southwestern Art Association (SWAA), which was founded in 1949. The SWAA gallery is located in the middle of the village, on the east side, in Studio #23. You can easily identify it by the round watch watchtower on its roof. The inside of the gallery is a large

SEE **VILLAGE**, Page 27



"Desert" by Neal Evans.

New boutique, Bikini Week, hats and horses



Fashion Files

Diana Cavagnaro

M.Dot Design Studio

M.Dot Design Studio opened a new boutique at the Library Lofts downtown. The opening party was held June 26, featuring designs by Michelle Aquino, who also offers custom creations. This line is currently only available for women but Aquino will offer a men's line in the near future.

On June 25, M.Dot launched its new line in a fashion show at the YWCA downtown on "C" Street. The YWCA concurrently opened a new client-focused boutique for families in Becky's House Domestic Violence Programs, PASSAGES and the Cortez Hill Family Center. The fashion show began with seven outfits from the YWCA's boutique which were a combination of donated and recycled clothing. The afternoon concluded with dresses from Aquino's beautiful creations on the runway. For more information visit: [www.mdotdesignstudio\(N\).blogspot.com](http://www.mdotdesignstudio(N).blogspot.com) or www.ywcasandiego.org

Bikini Week makes a splash

The second annual Bikini Week was celebrated downtown from June 30 to July 4. This event celebrated the art and lifestyle of swimwear in five local hot spots. The first night on June 30 was at the FLUX Nightclub showcasing Francisco Medavog's 2011 couture line of bikinis. The Stingaree Nightclub showed off swimwear on the second night.



Model wearing swimwear by ABBL during Bikini Week.
DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

The Rooftop at ANDAZ (formerly the Ivy) featured a swimsuit fashion show overlooking the Skyline of San Diego on the next night. On Saturday, the Hard Rock hosted two fashion shows in the afternoon. Guests were able to sip cocktails as they lounged in the sun and watched the latest swim fashions. The week concluded on Independence Day at the Horton Event Space. This venue was converted into a beach atmosphere. Guests enjoyed a shopping soiree and two more fashion shows to wrap up the five days of festivities.

A silent auction was held and proceeds from the event went to Global Flying Hospitals, which has three 747 planes that are flying hospitals going all over the world to help people who do not have insurance. For more information, visit www.GlobalFlyingHospitals.com. To learn more information about the next Bikini Week, visit www.bikiniweeksd.com.

Hats and horses

Opening Day at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club was "Cool As Ever" on



Lena Evans, owner of Burnham House and Little Italy Inn, shows off her new chapeau.
DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

July 21. This is always one of San Diego's biggest fashion events of the year setting a new attendance record of 45,309 this year. The fashionably-dressed patrons came out in droves wearing the most glamorous chapeaus. This tradition for opening day brings out race goers all trying to outshine each other with the most stylish hats. For years, big, sophisticated hats have been the norm at the racetracks. Recently, Australia has influenced headwear with small, brimless fascinators and has made it acceptable to wear petite hats to racetracks. An array of small hats were seen this year.

This season, one of the most popular styles is the delicate sinamay straws that accent a women's head perfectly. The color of choice was black and white with an accent of Chinese red. Lemon yellow and amethyst were carried over from last season and were seen in abundance. A trend has been bows on hats and fascinators. Trims include exotic feathers, exquisite silk flowers and meticulously-crafted embellishments. Racegoers wore hats by many different milliners including Philip Treacy, Designer Millinery,



Katy Stockinger, winner of the Best Flower category, with downtown resident Mercedes Mafara.
DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

Arturo Rios and Del Mar Hats.

The One and Only Truly Fabulous Hats Contest brought out more than 400 entries this year. First prize was awarded to Katy Helen Stockinger of San Diego for the Best Flowers category; Frank Holtz won for Best Racing theme category; and Rosalyn Sidewater of Los Angeles won the Most Glamorous category. Fay Meitz won the Funniest/Most Outrageous category.

The race season runs from July 21 to September 8. For more information go to: www.dmtc.com/season/ or call 858.755.1141

Upcoming events

- Aug. 8: Summer Bridal Bazaar with three fashion shows at the San Diego Convention Center. Call (760) 334-5500.
- Aug. 13-15: ASR Expo at the San Diego Convention Center – fashion shows (Fashion Society) are Aug. 13 and Aug. 14 at 3 p.m. For information visit www.asrbiz.com
- August 19: Sassy City Chicks present Fashion Bash Sample Sale at the Hard Rock Hotel from 5 to 9:30 p.m. For more



Sarah Jackson sports the new trend in petite hats.
DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

information visit www.SassyCityChicks.com.

- Aug. 21 – St Madeleine Sophie's Center at the Sheraton Harbor Island East Ballroom, 10 a.m. with fashion show by Leonard Simpson.
- Aug. 24: Globe Guilders Fashion Show featuring Naeem Khan at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Call Jill Holmes at (858) 454-0014 for more information.
- Aug. 28: Timken Museum & FCC will host the third annual Art of Fashion at 6:30 p.m. and VIP After Party at 8:30 pm. For more information call (619) 239-5548, ext. 100.

— Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally-recognized hat designer and milliner. Diana has operated 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 a 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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'The Wiz,' 'Hello Dolly,' 'Sinatra Project' and 'Hoods'



THE LIVELY ARTS Charlene Baldrige

August is indeed a sunny month in and about downtown San Diego. Here is what to look forward to in the lively arts:

The Lyceum Theatre, Horton Plaza

Aug. 21-29: California Youth Conservatory Theatre presents "The Wiz," a funky, urban musical take on L. Frank Baum's "The Wiz-

ard of Oz," including favorite Oz characters, a professional band, adult professionals including "Big Willie-G," and teen talent.

Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. www.sdrep.org, (619) 544-1000

At the Balboa

Saturday, Aug. 7, 8 p.m.: Five-time Grammy Award-winner singer/songwriter Mary Chapin Carpenter performs one night only. Her latest album is autobiographical "The Age of Miracles" (2010), \$30-\$55.

Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave.
www.sandiegotheatres.org,
ticketmaster.com or (619) 570-1100

Starlight Bowl

Aug. 19-Sept. 5, 8 p.m., Thursdays-Sundays: Starlight Musical Theatre presents Jerry Herman's beloved musical "Hello, Dolly!", bursting with melodies such as "Before the Parade Passes By," "It Only Takes a Moment" and the title song. Starlight is suitable for the entire family with special rates (kids free on Sundays and Thursdays).

Starlight Bowl, Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park,
www.starlighttheatre.org or (619) 232-7827

Embarcadero Marina Park South

San Diego Summer Pops presents programs every weekend through Labor Day, with August programs featuring – among

others – Burt Bacharach (Aug. 8), Leann Rimes (Aug. 13-14), Family Movie Night (Aug. 20-21) and Michael Feinstein in "Sinatra Project" (Aug. 27-28), 7:30 p.m.

Embarcadero Marina Park,
www.sandiegosymphony.com
or (619) 235-0804

At the Old Globe

Through Aug. 22 in the Old Globe Theatre: A Broadway-bound musical, "Robin and the 7 Hoods," turns the Robin Hood story on its head with action set in Chicago's swinging '60s club scene and songs such as "My Kind of Town," "Call Me Irresponsible" and "All the Way."

Information: www.theoldglobe.com
or (619) 231-GLOBE.



Eric Schneider (left) stars as Robbo and Will Chase as Little John in the world premiere of "Robin and the 7 Hoods – A New Musical," at The Old Globe now through Aug. 22.

Photo by CAROL ROSEGG

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–T. Fujimoto, Japan/San Diego

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–B. Hynum PhD., San Diego

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–R.Manson, San Diego

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8:00 to 9:00pm—Level 3

Friday
8:00 to 9:00pm—"Nuevo" Fundamentals
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Air & Space Museum ramps up appeal

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

There's much more to Balboa Park's Air and Space Museum than static displays of historic flight — it's an aerial circus at ground level.

There's no one better at the controls than executive director Jim Kidrick, a one-time Navy fighter pilot and former organizer of major air shows. He even headed the Mission Bay Bayfair hydroplane races for eight years.

Museum officials have added a 3-D/4-D theater as a coupled entertainment entry with the ongoing "Science of Aliens" exhibit. There's a kid's hangar, an observation deck and many historical planes with scenes that depict progress of flight. Throughout are video presentations.

"(Previously), we had taken a survey and found that 81 percent of our visitors were from out of the area," Kidrick said. "Now, its 45, 46 and even 48 percent from our region. We have quadrupled the length of time of the average visit. There's always something different like the observation deck in the back patio.

"Have a hot dog or Slurpee and listen to the airport tower's instructions as airliners fly over," he said. "The experience (here) should be fun. These displays become more receptive when they can educate and inspire. A family in the past might say, 'We're going to the museum,' and it would sound as though you're taking them to the dentist."

He said in mid-August four additional joint strike simulators of the new F-35 Lightning program will be in place.

Coming in February to replace



The Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park has added plenty of interactive elements and movies to bolster its appeal to visitors. COURTESY PHOTO

the "Aliens" exhibit will be NASA's supported "Space: A Journey to our Future." It's about space — from the beginning to the end — with many interactive things.

"I saw it at the Smithsonian," Kidrick said. "We'll have an additional 3,000 to 4,000 square feet for it than they did."

Previous traveling exhibits have been "Star Trek" and "The Da Vinci Experience."

The "Aliens" exhibit is broken into four sections: alien fiction, alien science, alien worlds and alien communication. The "Science of Aliens" exhibit's limited engagement has extended well beyond January.

The 3-D/4-D Zable Theater seats 36 guests and employs unique special effects. They are played continuously each day at no extra cost. Just add some exciting motion with

the depth of third dimension.

One film is about a schoolboy's mythical jetpack adventure past skyscrapers and over freeways. The other is an exciting trip in the legendary Apollo 11 as it shoots to the moon. Then look back with an eye-popping view of Earth.

Funding for the theater was provided by the Walter J. Zable and Betty C. Zable Foundation, Cubic Corporation and the San Diego Air & Space Technology Center.

The Kid's Aviation Action Hangar offers preschoolers magnetic toys and aviation coloring books, with art equipment to sketch aircraft or to pedal planes. Grade-schoolers can board flight simulators or romp on the moon's surface in space suits.

Kidrick likes to discuss the many positive changes taking place. It's a busy place.



Third Eye Blind will perform at the third annual Party Animals! gala Aug. 21 at the New Children's Museum to benefit arts education in local public schools. COURTESY PHOTO



Party Animals! gala set at New Children's Museum

By MEAGHAN CLARK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The New Children's Museum will be the site of a rock 'n' roll benefit gala Aug. 21 where leather pants are the suggested attire and arts education in local public schools is the beneficiary.

The third annual Party Animals! gala will feature rock star performances by Third Eye Blind and culinary stars like Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille.

The event will feature an inaugural after-party at the Hard Rock Hotel, a big supporter of the cause, said Rachel Teagle, the New Children's Museum (NCM) executive director. The nightclub, which will welcome local band Get Back Loretta, is a step in introducing a new demographic to the NCM's cause.

"The [venue] is a great spot to raise money but also a place to generate public awareness,"

Teagle said. "Our core issue is that public schools can no longer provide the means for arts and enrichment classes."

This year's theme correlates to the museum's current exhibit, where 18 animals educate youngsters on the relationship between man and animal.

The menu for the evening will include local and sustainable vegetarian entrees from local kitchen rock stars Andrew Spurgin of Waters Fine Catering, Giuseppe Ciuffa of Giuseppe Restaurants and Chris O'Donnell of Dolce Pane E Vino.

The nonprofit New Children's Museum raises funds for San Diego's impoverished youth year-round, welcoming one child in five free of charge into the enriching educational complex.

The 2010-2011 goal is 63 percent improvement in local arts school programs, which will impact 25,000 school children, Teagle said.

California Crepes now serves up catering

California Crepes now offers catering, which will be savory to the eyes as well as the stomach. The restaurant, located in Horton Plaza, serves authentic French sweet or savory crepes. It will offer its catering to businesses, private parties, bridal

and baby showers.

Lorrae Hosseini opened the business in February and it has become a popular Gaslamp addition. Guests of catering events will be able to special order their crepe and watch the chef create it before

their eyes. Crepes can be eaten with a fork or wrapped in a cone shape. They can be the main course or an appetizer. For more information, visit www.cacrepes.com.

— Debbie Hatch

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Dog + surfboard + website = a rediscovered passion

By Nicole Sours Larson

Doug Hokstad always loved to surf. But 15 years ago, a serious car accident and several resultant back surgeries snatched away that passion, adding the risk of paralysis if he ever returned to the waves. The native San Diegan, who'd grown up surfing, reluctantly abandoned his surfboard and rarely neared the water or visited the beach.

Yet thanks to the persistence of his girlfriend, Gigi Bagaporo, who had grown up with English bulldogs and urged Hokstad to adopt, the Mira Mesa resident not only discovered the joys and responsibilities of pet parenthood, but also reconnected with his old love of surfing.

Four years ago, Hokstad was finally ready to take the plunge. Dozer, an English bulldog puppy, took over his and Bagaporo's lives.

Hokstad tried to interest Dozer in skateboarding, but found he preferred to play with the skateboard rather than ride it. About three years ago, Bagaporo took Dozer to watch the Helen Woodward Surf Dog Competition but discovered him eager to hop aboard a board.

"Our baby is a surfer," Bagaporo reported.

Suddenly, with Dozer on the board with Hokstad's assistance, Hokstad was able to reclaim his passion for surfing through his beloved pup.

"Now I'm out in the ocean in the waves. My son is surfing!" Hokstad said. "It's come full circle. I never thought I'd put a surfboard in the car



Doug Hokstad, who once abandoned his love of surfing after a serious car accident, has rekindled his passion with the help of his English bulldog, Dozer. Dozer is so adept at surfing he landed a role as a surf dog in the movie "Marmaduke." COURTESY PHOTO BY DIANE EDMONDS

again. It's changed my life once more."

Dozer began winning prizes, finishing first in his category in this year's Purina Incredible Surf Challenge held in Ocean Beach, and winning prizes in other surf dog events, including the Helen Woodward Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon and Loew's Coronado Bay Resort Surf Dog Competition.

Dozer's outstanding performance at Loew's, along with those of his surfing buddies Richochet, Nani, Guido, Kalani, Abbie and Zoe, snagged them roles as surf dogs in the movie, "Marmaduke," which opened in June. Dozer and Nani are shown surfing in the film, shot over three days at Zuma Beach north of Malibu.

The desire to post photos and videos of Dozer and his surfing buddies led Hokstad last year to develop a website — Dogtown San Diego (www.dogtownsandiego.com). He saw its potential as an information-sharing site for "all things dog," in-

cluding articles about rescue and animal welfare organizations, pet health, safety and well-being and fundraising events.

"I felt that just showcasing Dozer and his surfing pictures was self-serving," Hokstad said. "I turned Dogtown into a community site where local organizations could list their events and adoptions and businesses could showcase their services."

A former pastor turned insurance financial consultant, Hokstad had always been involved in charitable causes. He enjoyed staging fishing tournaments to raise money for Angel Tree, a nonprofit organization providing Christmas gifts to children of incarcerated parents.

As he became more involved with Dozer and other dogs he gravitated to animal welfare causes for his charitable work, drawing in his So Cal Surf Dog buddies. His new website gave him the perfect tool to publicize yappy hours and other events bene-

fitting animal-related non-profits.

Hokstad partners with dog-oriented businesses such as the Three Dog Bakery in Del Mar, Leash Your Fitness, and Pawtopia Dog Training and the Hotel Indigo in Little Italy to stage and promote animal welfare events.

"Our group is about having fun with our dogs in the ocean," Hokstad said. "We're supportive of animal welfare organizations and have raised money for Helen Woodward Animal Care Center, the Spay & Neuter Action Project (SNAP), Friends of County Animal Shelters (FOCAS) and the FACE Foundation," which provides partial grants to families struggling pay for urgent medical treatment for their pets.

Visit www.dogtownsandiego.com to watch videos of Dozer and the So Cal Surf Dogs in action, visit www.dogtownsandiego.com.



Read the full article in our August/September issue of San Diego Pets Magazine, or online at sdnews.com

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Fur cryin' out loud! surf dog clinics start this saturday!

"On-the-Board Training" for dogs (and people) to prepare for the, "Surf Dog Surf A Thon" benefiting Helen Woodward Animal Center (HWAC) begins this Saturday, August 7 at 9:00 and 10:00 AM at Dog Beach in Del Mar. More Surf Dog clinics will be held Saturdays August 14 and 21 leading up to the fifth annual, "Surf Dog Surf A Thon" on September 12.

"Helen Woodward Animal Center's first Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon in 2006 had a few dozen surfing dogs and 50 – 60 human surfers. Today it's the world's largest dog surfing event," says HWAC's John Van Zante. "Again this year we'll limit entry to 120 dogs and we're expecting more than 100 human surfers."

Sponsorship Wahine Nedra Abramson says, "When Helen Woodward Animal Center created the idea of Surf Dog we had no idea it would grow so large, so fast, and become a worldwide media event. Mahalo to the pet and surf product manufacturers that support Surf Dog including GT Surf Boards and Iams dog food. They're riding the wave of Surf Dog success. Proceeds support HWAC services for animals and people in-need."

During August "En Fuego" at 1342 Camino Del Mar in Del Mar is featuring a, "Surfdogarita." One dollar will be donated to HWAC for each Surfdogarita sold.

On Wednesday, August 11 from 6 PM until Closing En Fuego will host a, "Luau Night." Guest bartenders will include world champion surfer and board designer Guy Takayama, Bryce Rhodes (Helen Woodward's grandson), and HWAC President Mike Arms. 10% of the night's proceeds will be donated to HWAC.

Register now for the Doggie Surf Clinics on Saturday, August 7, Sunday, August 14, and Saturday, August 21 at 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Each one-hour clinic is limited to 25 dogs per session. The cost is \$45 per dog with a limit of no more than one dog per human. San Diego Surfing Academy owner Pat Weber will join pro surfer and board designer Guy Takayama and San Diego Pet Training owner Rob Kutty to teach dogs (and their owners) to surf safely.

For more information visit Helen Woodward Animal Center at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe, call 858-756-4117 x 556, or log on to www.animalcenter.org

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TOAST Enoteca & Cucina, 927 J St. in East Village, opened in January.

COURTESY PHOTO

TOASTing Martin Gonzalez

Local restaurant owner launches innovative wine bar

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Martin Gonzalez spent the last decade building a reputation in the Gaslamp District as a skilled chef and restaurateur at Acqua Al 2. The popular establishment dishes up authentic Italian cuisine derived from Gonzalez' experience as a culinary student at Istituto Culinario Apicius in Florence, Italy.

In January, Gonzalez expanded his offerings by opening TOAST Enoteca & Cucina at 927 J St. in East Village. Unhappy with the way many area wine bars have made food an afterthought of the wine experience, Gonzalez set about to create a concept that would allow people to experience the natural relationship between wine and food. He has created a menu with dishes designed to compliment various styles of wine, and his servers are trained to help guests determine which combination will provide the best flavor profiles for their meal.

In addition, Gonzalez has installed Enomatic wine dispensers that keep



Martin Gonzalez opened TOAST Enoteca & Cucina as a way to allow guests to experience the natural relationship between wine and food.

COURTESY PHOTO

wine preserved for up to nine weeks, compared to the three-day (or less) lifespan of an uncorked bottle. The equipment allows customers to try 1-ounce

SEE TOAST, Page 27

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Hodad's to open downtown

By DEBBIE HATCH | DOWNTOWN NEWS

In 1969, Byron and Virginia Hardin opened Hodad's burger joint at the end of Santa Monica Avenue in Ocean Beach. After a few moves, it landed in its current location at 5010 Newport Ave.

Now, a second location is being readied for unveiling downtown.

The current owners are Mike "Boss Man" Hardin and Teri Rhodes. Jeremy Diem is the manager at Hodad's. He said the downtown location is expected to open in "Septober." This is his quirky way of saying the official opening date is not known because the location is still under construction.

The team at Hodad's originally wanted to open a restaurant in Carlsbad and almost did, but a miscommunication over a building ended that dream.

"We are a beach thing for sure," Diem said.

However, Obecians know how packed Hodad's can be, and Diem hopes that adding a second location will alleviate some to the congestion.

The new digs are on the east side of downtown at 10th Avenue and Broadway Street.

The team is excited about the new restaurant, Diem said.

"It was an empty shell," Diem said of the new building. "We are building it from scratch."

He looks forward to working in a restaurant designed with precise planning and thoughtful consideration about the little details that go into the everyday flow of Hodad's kitchen.

The owners sat all the employees down and asked them what would help them do their jobs better. The feedback came in and the team is trying to incorporate it in the design of the new structure.

"Our employees are our number one asset," he said. "If you have happy



Hodad's owners are hoping to capitalize on the popularity of the Ocean Beach location with a new version of the eatery downtown at 10th Avenue and Broadway Street.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

employees, you have a smooth, well-run restaurant," Diem said.

"Mike always said that he hires people that wouldn't be hired somewhere else," Diem joked.

However, the plan works. Diem said the restaurant has a loyal staff of hard workers who care about the business.

"We have a really good family [staff]," he said.

Diem pointed out that just because it will not be at the beach, does not mean that it will not be the same Hodad's.

The atmosphere will grow in the same manner as that of the Ocean Beach restaurant.

"Everything in the restaurant is decorated by the customers," Diem said.

Hodad's walls are covered in license plates, photos, bicycles; whatever a customer brings in can end up on the wall.

"We aren't bringing the beach to downtown," Diem said. "We are bringing Hodad's."

Hodad's has been recognized many times for its delicious burgers. It has been highlighted on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" with Guy Fieri, as well as having been named one of the top five burger joints in the country by CNN.

For the exact opening date, visit www.hodadies.com in "Septober."

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Vinyard Place MIKE KALLAY

We just returned from nearly a week touring the windy roads west of Paso Robles in California's central coast. Paso is roughly 30 minutes north of San Luis Obispo, or described another way — about halfway between L.A. and San Francisco on the 101.

Paso Robles was named for the large oak trees — literally El Paso de Robles, or “The Pass of the Oaks.” In terms of wine history, well, those crafty missionaries planted most of the region's original vines back in the late 1700s, just like in most of California's growing regions. Later, quite a few Europeans settled in the area and brought with them vine cuttings from Europe, including California's first appearance of zinfandel.

Zin is what Paso has most been known for, but that has been changing quite a bit in the last 20 years. Cabernet sauvignon actually accounts for 38 percent of the region's plantings, making it the most widely-planted varietal. Just as exciting though has been the increased plantings of Rhone varietals. Syrah and Grenache on the red side, along with Viognier, Marsanne, and Roussane on the white side make up a pretty healthy chunk of the balance.

We had the amazing pleasure of staying among the vineyards of Halter Ranch Vineyard (HRV), about nine miles east of the ocean in the rolling hills. HRV has always been one of my favorites in the area, and after touring the property that first morning with sales manager Jim Witt and vineyard manager Mitch Wyss, that affection only deepened. We boarded a Mule ATV and headed from the Victorian farmhouse built in 1885 through the nearly 1,000 acres of hillside vineyards. They have 19 varietals planted, with cab and syrah dominating the mix.

The thing that initially struck me about the property, and of the western part of the region in general, is just how hilly it is. Not only does this make the property stunningly beautiful, it makes for better grapes. You see, when a vine is planted in really flat and nutrient-rich soil, the grapes aren't “stressed” and the end product grapes are uninteresting. Mitch explained to us that the grape is like a battery for the vine. That is, storing up energy in the form of sugar to help keep the vine alive. If the vines have it too easy, there's no reason to keep your batteries charged, so to speak. It's only when the vine is planted



Halter Ranch Vineyard is about nine miles east of the ocean in the rolling hills of Paso Robles in California's central coast. COURTESY PHOTO

in an area where nutrients are harder to come by that the vine stores up energy in the fruit.

Of course, being in this vineyard in the middle of July means that the fruit hasn't fully ripened, so you are left with a gorgeous canopy of trellised or head pruned vines basking in the warm days and cool nights of westside Paso. We were encouraged to try the grapes to test the acidity and flavor compounds. It was great to taste some great obscure varietals like Picpoul Blanc and Tannat, although at this stage of growth they are little acid bombs!

It was interesting to see what I always knew to be true of great vineyard managers — dropping fruit. Again, too much competition for scarce nutrients makes for uninteresting grapes. Mitch and Jim both dropped whole clusters every place we stopped. Mitch stated that 50 percent would be dropped during the growing season, and of that last 50 percent, another 50 percent of those would be dropped to leave only the best looking clusters.

The proof is in the bottle as they say, and not only do the wines of Halter Ranch Vineyard show that attention to quality, but everywhere we toured had this same excellent fruit.

Our favorite wines on the trip were from L'Aventure & Adelaide Cellars, as well as HRV.

My lasting impression of Paso Robles is that it's one of the most beautiful of California's wine regions. And, I believe that the friendliness of and camaraderie between the growers is so strong that the sky is certainly the limit. As I said to Stephan Asseo, the owner and winemaker of L'Aventure, he is not only making the best wine in Paso, for my money, it's some of the best in the world.

It's a short 5 1/2 hour drive to Paso — certainly a small price to pay to visit the Frontier of Amazing wines!

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

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The Old Globe: The dilemma is selecting a production

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Readers may be aware that The Old Globe is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and have they got a summer festival season for you! Selected by Shakespeare Festival artistic director Adrian Noble, former director of the Royal Shakespeare, two works by William Shakespeare and another more recent work by Alan Bennett play in alternating repertory nightly except Mondays on the Globe's outdoor stage. Which to see if you haven't time for all three? It depends upon your taste.

Playing through Sept. 23, "**King Lear**" is Shakespeare's great tragedy about an aged ruler (played by television and film actor Robert Foxworth), who intends to divide his kingdom between his three daughters, Goneril, Regan and Cordelia. All they must do is say how, why and how much they love him. By the time the two eldest have spoken in glowing, flowery and most likely insincere terms, the youngest, Cordelia, who truly reveres and loves her father, is at a loss to express her feelings; and so she is disinherited and exiled to France. Lear goes mad, gloriously and inexorably, and with only his Fool (Bruce Turk) for company, he wanders the English moors, encountering benevolent and not so benevolent others, until at last he is reunited with Cordelia. Alas, it is too late.

Playing through Sept. 24, Alan Bennett's "**Madness of George III**" is a companion piece of sorts for "Lear" in that it, too, concerns a mad monarch, in this case George III of England, who ruled at the time of the American Revolution. King George is brilliantly played by British star Miles Anderson in his Old Globe debut. Foxworth portrays Dr. Willis, who cures his madness, at least temporarily. The contrast between Lear and Willis is extraordinary and this



Robert Foxworth (from left) as Dr. Francis Willis, Miles Anderson as King George and Emily Swallow as Queen Charlotte in the 2010 Shakespeare Festival production of "The Madness of George III" at The Old Globe through Sept. 24. COURTESY PHOTO



Robert Foxworth as King Lear and Bruce Turk as the Fool in the 2010 Shakespeare Festival production of "King Lear," running through Sept. 23 at The Old Globe. Photo by CRAIG SCHWARTZ

play's resonance with "Lear" is truly a joy. Emily Swallow, who plays the title role in Shakespeare's "**The Taming of the Shrew**," plays Queen Charlotte. Scenes between the king and queen, from whom he is unwillingly separated,

are among the best.

Playing through Sept. 26 is the comedy with which this season's festival leavens the tragedy of "Lear" and the medical torture of "George III." Among the Bard's most popular comedies, the play pits the Shrew (Swallow, a most intelligent and attractive woman) and a young man named Petruchio (Jonno Roberts, a fine actor, a magnificent hunk and portrayer of the murderous Edmund in "Lear"), who "comes to wife [sic] it wealthily in Padua." The chemistry between this sparring pair is palpable indeed. Festival costume designer Deirdre Clancy attires the lovers beautifully. Her production-spanning concept evinces high standards. Sound designer Christopher R. Walker provides a terrific a cappella chorus for the servants. Ron Daniels, formerly associated with the Royal Shakespeare's experimental company and who staged the Globe's hip-hop "Kingdom" last season, directs the

SEE **GLOBE**, Page 27



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Downtown real estate market: slow and steady for now

By HILLARY SCHULER-JONES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego's downtown area has been transformed by extensive redevelopment in the last decade, creating an environment that has attracted homebuyers from across the globe. But for all the benefits of living downtown — ocean-view homes, a thriving hospitality district and the tantalizing buzz and bustle of urban life — the area has suffered from the same plummeting sale prices, high foreclosure rates and surplus inventory that have plagued the rest of the nation since the real estate bubble burst.

There are some indicators, however, that the area is on the verge of a recovery.

Gregg Neuman, a San Diego Realtor

who was Prudential's top-selling agent in Southern California for the first half of this year, said homes priced at less than \$500,000 all around the county are selling more quickly, which is helping to stabilize a volatile marketplace. In the 92101 ZIP Code, 442 homes were sold between January and June 2010, an increase of more than 28 percent from the same period last year, he said, and there are other factors that indicate San Diego is gaining traction.

"I'm seeing that the builders are starting to move forward in planning for future developments that will be coming online in a couple of years, and that is probably the best barometer of all, because ... developers make a conscious financial decision whether they are going to move forward or not, and

they have to feel comfortable enough that there's going to be a profit and a buyer for their product at the end of the day," Neuman said.

Carl Iseman of Abbott Real Estate Group said she is seeing more interest from serious buyers, who are turning up at her office more frequently and attending more open houses. She is hopeful that changes in the pipeline for downtown, like the new Central Library, the rumored Chargers Stadium and the proposed Civic Center, bode well for the real-estate market in the long term. In the short-term, however, it is still comes down to money.

"A lot is going to depend on the global economy. I think we are affected not only locally but globally, because we do have a lot of people that are looking to locate in San Diego, but what they can buy and where they are going to locate is going to depend on the economy, if they are going to come at all," Iseman said.

Neuman and Iseman both said it will take a recovery at the lower end of the price spectrum to spark momentum



Gregg Neuman

sales over the million-dollar mark will remain sluggish for the foreseeable future. Still, they are encouraged by a trend in retirees taking their money out of stocks and putting it in real estate, which indicates a shift in confidence.

"We talk a lot about what would drive buyers to buy right now, and in the last couple of months, we've seen people pulling out of the stock market because they are tired of seeing it go up and down, so they are paying cash for large transactions," LeBaron said. "They might as well, because they aren't making any money off of it in the stock market or in the bank, and interest rates are not going to go up in the near future."

That shift, combined with market stabilization, may be enough to create momentum for luxury condos moving into next year.

"There is always a market for something if it is well priced and if it shows well, and I think in the outliers, people have adjusted their prices. So as they sell, it creates buyers in our market," LeBaron said.

throughout the rest of the market.

Realtors Ann LeBaron and Dale Bowen, who specialize in luxury condominiums downtown, agreed there are positive signs of a turnaround for homes on the lower end, but said home

Interior Experience Tour displays high-end homes

By MEAGHAN CLARK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

San Diego's chapter of American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) showcased unique home designs in July with the first-ever Interior Experience Tour. On July 24, in the midst of Comic-Con, high-end residences created by designers were exposed to locals throughout the city.

"The idea of having the design but also showing the lifestyle and culture, and how well they tie in together" was a success, said ASID board member Robin Wilson Carrier. Carrier worked on The Met, a modern entertaining space atop the Omni Hotel that featured fashion designer Laura Gambucci at the pool deck and artist Elizabeth Washburn in the loft that overlooks Petco Park.

"I had a steady flow of tourgoers all day and was pleased to share this space and my knowledge with them," said Park Laurel project designer and La Jolla ASID Design Excellence Award winner Kellie McCormick.

The nearly 6,000-square-foot condominium overlooking Balboa Park featured a neutral palette ideal for previewing the owner's large art collection.

CEO of Garden Fresh Restaurant Corp./Souplantation Michael Mack opened his City Front Terrace residence, a minimalist two-bedroom unit that exposed the original brick and wood beams from its days as a silk factory.



This elegant hallway in Park Laurel by project designer Kellie McCormick was among the highlights of the Interior Experience Tour.

Designs were submitted blindly to the ASID review committee and were chosen for their fusion of design and culture.

"It was exciting to have the elements really relate to the interiors," Carrier

said.

Local designers included Bast/Wright Interiors, Marrokal, Studio One Inc. Interior Design, Brion Design and Robin Wilson Interior Design.

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Nine Interior Fixes to Sell a Home Fast



Real Estate Wisdom Changing?

Conventional wisdom with respect to selling a home might be falling by the wayside. Over the years, research on home sales has suggested the best season to sell a home is spring. Buyer demand has traditionally built through spring and into the summer months, when families often prefer to move because doing so does not force parents to uproot their children from school in the middle of the school year.

However, as the economy has struggled over the last couple of years, so, too, has the real estate market. According to the S&P/Case-Shiller home price index, home prices decreased by 28 percent from their national peak in the second quarter of 2006 to the end of 2009. Such figures have turned conventional real estate wisdom on its head, as have tax credits to encourage first time buyers to buy homes.

In 2010, first time home buyers who closed on a home by April 30, 2010 received an \$8,000 credit. As a result, home sales figures in February and March were expected to be higher than in years past, and therefore lower in the ensuing months.

For those homeowners forced to sell a home in less desirable seasons like winter, real estate professionals typically advise selling up certain points of the home. Suggestions include decorating a home for the holidays and shoveling any walkways or driveways should snow arrive while a house is on the market. What's more, sellers selling in off-seasons should be realistic about their selling price at the outset, as buyers might be reticent to buy in a season where so few homes are on the market. Selling a home at a desirable asking price, however, might increase buyer interest.

Despite low interest rates and declining sale prices, there is still a lot of home inventory available. That means homeowners thinking about selling have to do whatever they can to set their homes apart from the others available.

Real estate experts call it "staging," or presenting the home in the best light so that potential buyers can envision themselves moving right in. Just a few changes here and there can position a home to sell faster than the competition.

1. The nose knows. A house can be perfect inside and out, but if it smells bad, buyers will likely be put off. Make sure there is no noticeable odor, such as pet smells, garbage, stale smoke, etc., to turn off others.

2. Clear out. Make sure the interior looks as spacious as possible. This could mean taking out some furniture and temporarily putting it in storage. Be sure countertops in bathrooms and kitchens are free of clutter. And pack away knick-knacks that can collect dust.

3. Cater to the lazy person. Potential buyers generally want to move in and simply unpack. They don't want to make major repairs. Therefore, homeowners should do whatever repairs are possible, within reason. If that means tearing down dated wallpaper or replacing carpeting with

hardwood floors, it could mean a faster sale.

4. Do a deep cleaning. Whether a cleaning service is hired or the homeowner does it himself, tackling necessary cleaning projects could make the home shine. Now is the time to wash the windows, shampoo the carpets, regrout the bathrooms, and tackle all of those messes that could compromise a sale.

5. Add a fresh coat of paint. If walls are bright colors or eclectic, it could pay to paint rooms in more neutral shades to appeal to the masses. Just be aware that some buyers are suspicious of paint, especially freshly painted ceilings. They may think a homeowner is trying to hide something, usually water stains.

6. Keep the home updated. While one doesn't have to follow every trend, ensuring the home is ageless can make for a better sell. So if the cabinets scream 1985 and the bathroom is circa 1967, it could be time to do some updating.

7. Create "happy" spaces. Buyers don't want to purchase a dark home that seems full of doom and gloom. Open the windows, turn on the lights, add lights to dark rooms and use light colors as room accents. Generally buyers want a bright and light home.

8. Avoid provocation. One potential buyer could be an animal lover,

another a political activist. No one can tell who will view the home. So don't display personal items that might offend. Take down mounted deer heads and put away books that may seem offensive. It can be a good idea to store religious items as well.

9. Clean out closets and cabinets: Partially empty closets and cabinets

give the suggestion that the home is large and has plenty of storage space – so much so that it doesn't even all need to be used. Buyers who see jam-packed closets could wonder what's up with storage.

Selling a home in a tough market can be easier when homeowners take the steps needed to stage homes for a faster sale.

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VILLAGE

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

room covered with paintings and filled with jewelry, baskets, ceramics and pottery. In the far back of the gallery the featured artists of the month have many examples of their work posted up for viewing.

The SWAA has 55 members. Each one went through a jury process in which examples of their work were evaluated by the entire membership. Jo Ann Scott has been a member of SWAA since 1984. She is a landscape painter whose career began in the fifth grade in South Carolina when she drew The Nativity Scene on the classroom blackboard with colored chalk, she said.

"The SWAA is a wonderful organization. It motivates you, so that you take a lot of pride in what you're painting," Scott said.

Arlene C. James has been a member since 1981. She is multi-talented, but her latest interest is the rare and unusual method of "encaustic" art. Encaustic art is an ancient technique that was lost for many centuries. The word encaustic comes from the Greek "enkaustikos" — meaning to heat or burn in. Arlene uses a hot plate to heat up colored wax and then presses it onto paper or canvas. The wax is made of pure beeswax, damar resin and pigment. James says it was originally developed by the ancient Greeks, then taken to Egypt and used to adorn wooden mummy cases. Encaustic art was revived in modern times by the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera and by Jasper Johns.

Judy Hanford did not start painting until she was in her 50s. She is interested in painting wildlife, especially birds of the tropics. She said she loves their colors and wants to make people more aware of them so they will be conserved and not become extinct.

"Spanish Village is very peaceful and relaxing," Hanford said. "I especially love to hear the chimes of the hourly clock tower bells."

John G. Davis is from Massachusetts and has been with SWAA since 1996. He had a career as an electrical engineer with gas and electric companies back east, but always attended art class-



"Flower" by Judy Hanford.

es in the evening after work. When he retired and moved to San Diego his art work blossomed.

"My involvement with art is so relaxing — like being in Never-Never Land," Davis said. "The worries of the day do not exist for that increment of time spent creating a work of art."

Neal Evans is a younger newer member of the SWAA. He owns a frame shop Mission Hills, where he makes custom frames, boxes and protective glass for preserving valuable paintings from fading. Evans specializes in photograph-quality oil paintings that look life-like. He loves to paint old cars because he finds the reflections in their chrome bumpers and shiny paint fascinating. He said his style is "not hard, but very time consuming."

During the month of August the work of five members of the Association will be featured in the gallery. Judy Hanford and Ann Semasko will be on display now to Aug. 15. John Davis and Neal Evans will be highlighted Aug. 16 to 31.

For further information see SpanishVillageArt.com/ SWArtists.com or call SWAA at (619) 232-3522.

ART

CONTINUED FROM Page 15

expectations. We sold out our show and had maximum capacity as far as attendance."

That success allowed Art San Diego to bring the fair downtown, where Berchtold hopes double the space leads to a doubled attendance of 6,000. She said Art San Diego's goal is to bring in 30,000 people to the fair in five years.

"Our big goal is to become the premier contemporary art fair on the West Coast," Berchtold said. "We hope this event can generate strong ancillary revenue to the community and play a major role in making San Diego an important arts destination."

In addition to galleries featuring painting, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, videos and multimedia artworks, the art fair will host different programs during the weekend. The Art in the City conference will be held Saturday, Sept. 4 and art films and conversations with artists, including Larry Bell and Maurizio Serachini, will take place on Friday and Saturday.

"That conference will really bring world-class leaders in to talk about what success they've had and how we can do that here in San Diego," Berchtold said. "There are some phenomenal speakers coming."

The less-experienced collectors will have a chance to brush up on their skills at the Art Collectors Boot Camp from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 3. During boot camp, Los Angeles art critic and writer Jori Finkel will offer the ins and outs of collecting art and provide campers with play money to spend in the galleries. Berchtold said the fair will be fun and unintimidating.

"Galleries can sometimes be intimidating — you walk in and you have this person behind a desk and you have to interact and engage," Berchtold said. "Our fair is really loose. You have the ability to walk around with a cocktail in hand and network and meet a lot of the artists."

In conjunction with the art fair, Art San Diego is coordinating with 20 different art organizations around San Diego to create art labs that will run at each location for the entire month of September. For more information about the fair, visit www.artsandiego-fair.com.



TOAST Enoteca & Cucina owner Martin Gonzalez thinks a wine bar with quality food to pair the wines with is a great concept. COURTESY PHOTO

TOAST

CONTINUED FROM Page 20

tastes or single glasses of high-end wines, rather than charging for an entire bottle, allowing customers to experience a wider variety of vino without breaking the bank.

Gonzalez explained his strong feelings about serving wine with food, his decision to use Enomatic machines and how his time in Italy has shaped his current business.

DTN: You went to culinary school in Italy. How did that shape your philosophy about food and wine?

MG: "I picked up everything that I know there, because before I moved to Italy, I was not involved in the restaurant business, I was not involved in cooking. I didn't even drink. I became a new person. I was just moving there to spend some time, and I enrolled in culinary school to be around Italians and learn the language, to get more involved with the culture. I didn't know I was going to like it until I was there."

DTN: How did you decide on the concept for TOAST?

MG: "I think a wine bar made the real way with

a little food to pair the wines with is a great concept, a concept that nobody has done before, especially in San Diego. Most of the places I visited, and I think I've visited all of them, either served pizza and salad or cheese and olive platters, but not food to serve the wine with."

DTN: Why are wine and food better together?

MG: "My philosophy is that wine was created, and has been used as a drink, for the meal. It was never a drink to be enjoyed by itself, although now you can enjoy some of them. But the best way to enjoy it is paired with the right food."

DTN: You chose to use Enomatic wine dispensers instead of just opening bottles at the bar. Why was that the best option at TOAST?

MG: "I loved the idea of incorporating them into the concept so that I could offer my guests higher-end wine or more exotic types of wines for them to taste or have a glass instead of buying the whole bottle. I think that's a great thing, that you can go to a place and have a little taste or half a glass or a glass of really good wine if you want to, because most places offer by the glass only the cheapest wine that there is, and you are basically obligated to have that one when you are thinking about having only a glass, so it fit perfectly."

For more information, visit www.toastenoteca.com.

GLOBE

CONTINUED FROM Page 23

comedy. Noble stages "Lear" and "George III."

The joy of a repertory season is watching the extraordinary "stretch" an actor like Roberts makes when he moves from one role to another, playing a villain one night and a testosterone-filled lover the next. It's also great fun to see the modifications made to Ralph Funicello's scenic design from one show to another.

Each production has its virtues. No matter which one chooses, the pay off includes a glorious outdoor theatrical experience at the Lowell Davis Festival Theatre in Balboa Park, where the animals in the nearby zoo add unexpected sound and the stately trees are the real McCoy.

A complete schedule of performances may be found at www.theoldglobe.org or phone (619) 23-GLOBE.



Jonno Roberts as Petruchio and Emily Swallow as Katherine in the 2010 Shakespeare Festival production of "The Taming of the Shrew" at The Old Globe through Sept. 26. Photo by CRAIG SCHWARTZ

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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!
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Downtown - "The Metropolitan"
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Downtown - "City Walk"
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Downtown - "Park Place"
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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,
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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!
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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!
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Downtown - "Watermark"
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This super, courtyard-level, corner residence boasts an oversize terrace, approximately 1488 square feet, quality finishes throughout, and dual parking spaces!
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Downtown - "Watermark"
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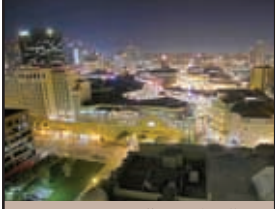
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Downtown - "Aria"
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