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A jammer on the Derby Dolls follows her teammates through the fray during a recent practice.

# **Rolling thunder**

# Derby Dolls get in the groove at secret urban practice space

By DEBBIE HATCH | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Tucked away in a secret location downtown is a space of about 8,000 square feet, housing two practice tracks for the San Diego Derby Dolls, a high-ranking professional women's roller derby team.

Under low lights and an unfinished ceiling in an open warehouse lined with blue and red lockers, and gym equipment are two oval derby tracks. One is flat and the other banked — one track for each of the leagues in which the Derby Dolls compete.

The location is kept under wraps for security reasons the all-female team intends to avoid unwanted visitors.

The Derby Dolls are the number one team in the country for teams that play on a banked track. Worldwide, it ranks at number 20.

"This [roller derby] is one of the fastest-growing women's sports in the country and the world," said Lynsey Richardson, whose derby name is "Hebrew Hammer."

# Who are they?

The Derby Dolls are comprised of mothers, legal secretaries, financiers, lawyers, small business owners and teachers. Derby Dolls are all shapes and sizes, said Richard-

The Derby Dolls are comprised of four teams. The women hail from locations across San Diego County. They commit approximately 12 hours a week, plus entire weekends spent traveling to away bouts. Each player chooses a

SEE **DOLLS**, Page 4

# No snow. No problem. Levi LaVallee to attempt snowmobile record jump at Embarcadero Marina in spectacular New Year's Eve fashion

On New Year's Eve, Minnesota native Levi LaVallee will attempt to break the world record for snowmobile distance jumping at Embarcadero Marina Park. The jump is the fourth installment of "Red Bull: New Year. No Limits" and will be televised on ESPN. Courtesy (c) Ian Fohrman/Red Bull Photofiles

# Red Bull brings record jump downtown

By ANTHONY GENTILE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

punctuate New Year's Eve in downtown snowcross and is the only person to San Diego. This year, pyrotechnics won't be the only show in the sky.

On Dec. 31, Levi LaVallee will attempt to break the world record snowmobile distance jump over Embarcadero Marina Park. The jump is the fourth installment of "Red Bull: New Year. No Limits," a series that has shattered action sports records and challenged the realm of possibility each of the previous three years.

"This event has been a continued success as it has consistently pushed the limits of what is possible in the world of motorsports," said Jordan Miller of Red Bull Communications. "Through a combination of dynamic athletes, iconic locations and extraordinary feats, the allure and anticipation continue to grow."

One of the most accomplished snowmobilers in the world, LaVallee can be considered a jack-of-all-trades in

PARK PLACE DISCOVERY ALTA METROPOLITAN FAHRENHET

Annual fireworks over Embarcadero the sport. The 28-year-old started in medal in all six snowmobile disciplines at the X Games and to perform a double backflip on a snowmobile.

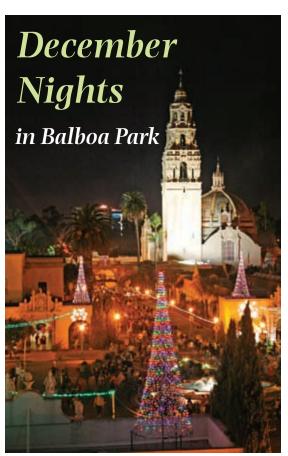
"Jumping a world distance record on a snowmobile is also a very huge feat and it just gives me the extra confidence to say, 'Hey, I think I got this.' I guess we'll find out if I actually do," LaVallee said.

LaVallee is attempting to break the record of 301 feet set by Paul Thacker in March. Thacker reached a top speed of 90 mph during his jump, which LaVallee is expected to match, if not exceed.

"I used to think it is a pretty simple concept — hold it wide open and jump as far as you can. The hardest part is once you get on the sled and you hold it wide open, you are flying," LaVallee said.

Attempting a snowmobile jump in

SEE **JUMP**, Page 4



About 300,00 visitors are expected to visit Balboa Park's December Nights this year on Dec. 3 and 4.

# Annual event starts off the holiday season this weekend

By MARIKO LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS

December Nights — Balboa Park's two-day festival of lights, music, theatrical entertainment, food and free admission to participating museums — is back this year to kickoff the holiday season. San Diego's largest free community festival will take place Friday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 from noon to 10 p.m. Participating museums will open their doors free of charge from 5 to 9 p.m. on both evenings.

Some new features at the festival this year include Cohn Restaurant Group's Chop Soo-ey food truck, the first annual Winter Coat Drive hosted by San Diego Padres pitcher Chris Young, and a free iPhone application that allows visitors to easily navigate their way through the 1,200acre park.

TRANSPORTATION: Free shuttle service is available from Petco Park, the County Administration Building north lot and City College lots. The shuttle will run from 4:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday. The last shuttle leaves all sites at 8:45 p.m. and the last shuttle from the park leaves at 10:45 p.m.

FOOD: Cohn Restaurant Group owner David Cohn is teaming up with executive chef and partner Deborah Scott to introduce Chop Sooey, a gourmet food truck showcasing Scott's Asian fusion barbecue cuisine. Inside the colorful truck designed with a cleaver-wielding samurai pig, Scott will be serving savory dishes including lime soy glazed carne asada tacos, BBQ pork wings, and curly tail fries with blue cheese and crispy pork belly.

 Also new, Cohn Restaurant Group and The Prado at Balboa Park have teamed up to operate the 2010 December Nights Holiday Spirit Lounge, located at The Prado in Balboa Park's House of Hospitality. In addition to mouth-watering appetizers, the Spirit Lounge will offer an array of seasonal cocktails including, The Prado's famous sangria,

SEE NIGHTS, Page 4

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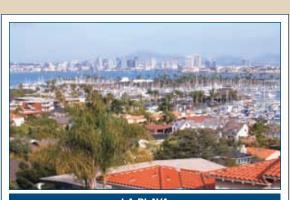
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The latest plans for expansion of the San Diego Convention Center call for a park on the roof overlooking San Diego Bay.

# **Convention center expansion plans continue**

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Several key projects have been set in motion — including a design change – as the city targets 2015 for the completion of its ambitious \$700 million convention center expansion that would make it the largest on the West Coast.

A mayor's citizen task force has worked on a funding plan, there have been public awareness workshops and Port District commissioners will begin an environmental impact study. The Port also extended the lease to 2024.

Mayor Jerry Sanders said unlike the Chargers stadium, he does not plan to ask for voter approval, as long as tax increases and general funds are not involved. Funding ideas have included downtown business assessments, taxi and rental car surcharges, and redevelopment property tax receipts.

As much as \$53 million in annual bond payments was earlier projected to cover the original budget for the expansion and addition of a second pedestrian bridge to the Gaslamp Quarter.

The task force estimates the expansion can generate \$698 million of economic activity annually in addition to the \$1.3 billion a year already generated. Since its opening in 1989, the center has generated more than \$1.7 billion by hosting more than 4,000 events.

# Court order reinstates ʻillegal lodging' misdemeanor

On Nov. 11, federal magistrate Judge William McCurine Jr. amended a court order that allows San Diego law enforcement to cite homeless individuals for sleeping on public property under certain conditions.

"Illegal lodging" is considered a misdemeanor between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. if a police officer confirms that a bed is available within a five-mile radius of 25th and Market Street, and the individual refuses to take it.

The amendment reverses a 20 eral court order that banned law enforcement from citing homeless individuals for illegal lodging due to insufficient alternative accommodations.

The city has increased its efforts to improve alternatives for the homeless in recent years, including working to transform the San Diego World Trade Center building into a permanent homeless service center and housing facility.

Over the past year, attorneys from the 2007 lawsuit have been working with the city to find common ground on actions regarding the homeless popula-

"We all agreed that the current situation was not good for anyone," said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith.

Goldsmith said the amended court order incentivizes the homeless population to get into a shelter and get helpor else go to jail.

— Mariko Lamb

Denver architect Curtis Fentress, ture business that it has already outwhose company was selected Nov. 9 for the project, said the design would make San Diego's expanded 750,000-squarefoot exhibit hall, a third bigger than the present configuration.

Originally estimated to cost \$710 million, the project is expected to be less expensive by locating loading docks and expanded exhibit space on the same ground level.

A wake-up call came from reports a few months ago that the tremendously successful Comic-Con was being lured by the Anaheim Convention Center. Instead, Comic-Con signed a new contract through 2015, the anticipated expansion completion year.

'Funding in the mayor's office is taking the lead on the financing," said Gary Show, the center's community relations director. "We're waiting on the cost estimate from the new designer that will come in the spring."

Shaw said the trickle-down effect will benefit tourism, the Gaslamp Quarter and hotels as well as generate 7,000 new permanent direct or indirect jobs throughout the region, not including construction.

"Right now, 12,500 jobs in San Diego County depend on the Convention Center." he said. "The expansion will allow the center to host larger meetings, recap-

grown and allow it to host multiple concurrent events at the same time. With the expansion, we'll remain at the top of our game into the next 15 to 20

The Port will begin a selection process for a consultant to conduct an environmental impact report, which could take 12 to 18 months to complete. A consultant is expected to be selected this  $month. \ In \ addition \ to \ the \ impact \ report,$ the project will require an amendment to the Port's master plan regarding land use changes prompted by the expansion and a proposed hotel project. The amendment and impact report must be approved by the California Coastal Commission. Port staff anticipates going before the commission for approval in the winter of 2012.

The public was advised of the initial design concepts at a workshop and listened to center president Carol Wallace and project manager Charles Black.

"Public input has been an important part of this project and has helped lead to a design we believe directly addresses the desires of the public in enhancing access to the waterfront, improving public parks and open space, and activating the waterfront," Wallace said in an e-mailed invitation to a November workshop.





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# News

# **DOLLS**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

derby name, something unique to each woman. They are 18 years old and older. Here are some details about a few of the team mates:

Angela Thompson, "PT Bruiser," did not know how to skate when she attended tryouts five years ago. Now, she attributes her newfound leadership abilities — as one of the team captains — to the confidence she gained from simply playing the sport.

Thompson, 41, is a mother, a legal secretary and a girlfriend, who is constantly attempting to find balance between the derby and her life.

Trish Ethier, "Trish the Dish," moved to San Diego in November 2008. She previously played roller derby in both Arizona and Nevada. The Derby Dolls drew her to San Diego.

"It [roller derby] is more and more complex as people get better at it," said Ethier, owner of Sin City Skates in Point Loma.

She said there is no thrill like skating in the derby. Kelly Cameron, "Lemon Drop," 44, started playing five years ago. She loves leaving her "normal" world behind and playing with some of the best women skaters in San Diego. The intensity is what continuously draws her into the sport. She is an MRI technician and a wife.

"Screwy Lewis," Steve McCargar, 34, is one of the few men allowed in the secret practice building. The reason: he is a referee for the practice session.

### What is the game all a-bout?

A bout, as a game is called, takes 60 minutes and is either comprised of four 15-minute quarters or two 30-minute halves. McCargar said.

Each round within a bout is one minute of play



Derby Dolls hip check and vie for position during a November practice session at their secret practice space located downtown.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

followed by 30 seconds of inaction during which the players get reorganized for the next minute's action. The clock does not stop, except for time- outs.

The banked track is more fast-paced and the hits are harder than on the flat surface, McCargar said. However, this does not make bouts on the flat track any less physical or intriguing to watch, he said.

During a bout, four women from each team skate around the track and attempt to block, or hip check, opponents in an effort to clear a path for the jammer — the fifth woman from the team — to advance through the crowd. The jammer gains a point for each person she passes.

"The object of the game is to slow and speed the track." Richardson said.

The women are simultaneously on both offense and defense, trying to thwart their opponents while supporting their own jammer. It is not uncommon to have scores in the high 100s.

"It's rough and tumble," Richardson said.

Regardless of the skill level, everyone starts in boot camp.

"We love our boot campers because they are the little flames that keep us going," said Jacquie Bazinet Tolson, "Shiva Mi Timbers."

Sometimes women drop out of boot camp because they do not realize the extent of the physical demands of the sport. To graduate from boot camp, a skater must pass a series of skill tests. One test is for the more commonly-seen "whips." This is a skating maneuver involving one woman skating from behind and being "whipped" forward — thrust with momentum — by grasping the front skater's arm and being propelled ahead.

The attire for the bout is sporty and a bit sassy at the same time.

"I think we want to keep a little bit of our feminine side while we're hip checking and blocking our opponents," Tolson said.

The uniform needs to be functional, but still stand out as eye-grabbing team apparel.

"You don't want baggy fabric flapping about when you're skating," Tolson said.

The women wear tight fitting outfits, which sometimes include fishnet tights and racier items.

Each of the four teams within the Derby Dolls has its own uniform.

Home games are played at the Del Mar Fair-

Home games are played at the Del Mar Fair-grounds. The away games can take them as far as Baltimore or as near as Los Angeles. The woman who started the San Diego Derby Dolls a little more than five years ago, Bonnie D'Stroir, was originally a coach for the Los Angeles team. However, she lived in Oceanside at the time and desired to start a San Diego team.

The new season begins in January. However, the Derby Dolls season championship is Dec. 4 vs. the Tough Cookies in Los Angeles.

# **JUMP**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

snowless San Diego would seem to present problems, but that didn't deter Red Bull from picking it. Miller said the Embarcadero provides a great venue for LaVallee to accomplish the record.

"Red Bull has a longstanding, positive relationship with the city of San Diego based on the Red Bull Air Race, which also took place at Embarcadero Marina Park," Miller said. "In addition, San Diego is a sports mecca. From action sports to mainstream sports — the city embraces it all."

When told he would attempt the jump in San Diego, LaVallee was surprised. A Minnesota native, he kindly reminded event organizers that there isn't much snow in San Diego.

Snowmobiles can run without snow, but LaVallee said the lack of wintry precipitation presents a challenge. Changes had to be made to the craft to make it non-snow ready, including adding wheels to the skis for better traction on the Astroturf ramps.

"The snow works as a lubricant for the track that makes the machine go," LaVallee said.

LaVallee visited San Diego last month to see the jump site and do some tests with the snowmobile. He enjoyed the quizzical looks he got with his snowmobile in the back of a truck.

"It's hard to even make sense of it in my mind. Why am I looking at this run and thinking about jumping this with my snowmobile? This doesn't even add up," LaVallee said.

For LaVallee, the jump presents a greater challenge mentally than physically. In his test runs, he has become increasingly comfortable hitting the ramp.

"Every time you go to hit the ramp, you don't know what's going to happen. There's so many different things you're looking at that, mentally, it's hard to just keep yourself revved up to do something," LaVallee said. "This could be lights out if I mess up."

LaVallee will attempt the jump across the water from Embarcadero North park to Embarcadero South park at approximately 8 p.m. on Dec. 31 and it will air live on ESPN after the Chick-Fil-A Bowl. The jump is free to spectators and gates open at both parks at 6 p.m.

# **NIGHTS**

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

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• For a taste of something different, the House of Pacific International Relations will feature food and spirits from around the world at the International Cottages. Visitors are able to try unpronounceable dishes such as Ukrainian varenyky, Dutch aebleskiver and Indian palak paneer, to name a few. Beer,

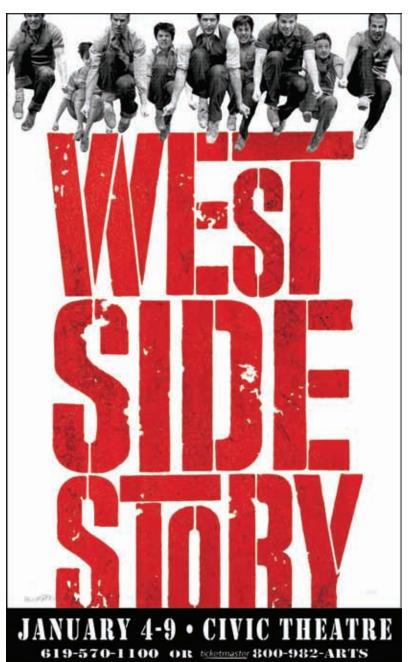
wine and specialty cocktails will also be served in the nearby beer garden.

KIDS ACTIVITIES: Children's activities are featured all around the park, including Reuben H. Fleet's interactive "Kid City," popcorn and a photo opportunity with The Grinch at The Old Globe, and the annual LEGO train exhibit at the Model Railroad Museum. A three-minute holiday ride on Santa's Express Miniature Railroad and Skyfari aerial tram ride gives everyone in the family a chance to rest their tired feet while enjoying views of Balboa Park and downtown. Santa's Rail-

road and the Skyfari tram are located near the San Diego Zoo exit. The cost is \$2 for a ride on Santa's Railroad and \$4 for the Skyfari tram.

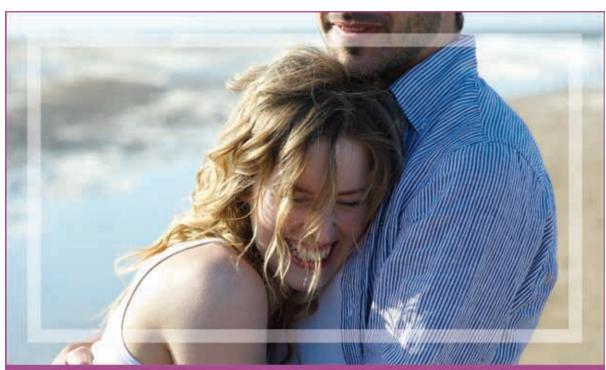
HOLIDAY LIGHTS: The light display that covers the center of the Plaza de Panama is one of the highlights that visitors return to see year after year. In addition, SDG&E will illuminate the park with energy-efficient LED lights to create a canopy over the plaza.

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# Cruise ship problem still a mystery

By JOHNNY McDONALD | Downtown News

Questions continue to swirl as inspectors pursue an explanation to why Carnival cruise ship Splendor's engine fire rendered it motionless and stranded 200 miles from San Diego.

Carnival Lines engineers and technicians, the Coast Guard, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, Panama Maritime Authority officials and the Italian boat builders congregated at the 10th Avenue Pier to determine the cause. Repairs are underway there in hopes it will be back in service by Jan. 16.

'What happened makes no sense to me," said Clark Dodge, the former chief engineer for Washington State Ferries. "If things were designed properly, all the power shouldn't have gone out.'

Marine experts say they want to know if there is a design flaw.

Dodge said large passenger vessels are designed so a fire won't cause a loss of all power. He said an engine-room fire and damage to a generator and switchboard shouldn't shut down the ship's other equipment.

"The Carnival Splendor was designed and built to standards that would prevent a total loss of power from a single generator catching fire," said Mike Crye, executive vice president of the Cruise Lines International Association.

The group represents Carnival and 24 other cruise lines.

"The ship was built in Italy and its design was approved by the Coast Guard and other maritime regulators," Crye said.

the Coast Guard since its first cruise on July 20.

The ship attracted worldwide attention when it became stranded at sea on Nov. 8 and was towed to San Diego's B Street



News trucks gather nearby as the Carnival Splendor sits at the B Street Pier after it was towed to San Diego following a Nov. 8 fire left it stranded at sea.

Pier. It had to be moved because the terminal was needed for two other ships scheduled to arrive Nov. 20. An engine generator caught fire in the ship's aft engine room, damaging a switchboard and preventing the transmission of electricity to other machinery, including the propulsion motors, according to Carnival spokeswoman Joyce Oliva. No one was injured in the fire, which was extinguished by crew members.

"The 952-foot-long Carnival Splendor It has been regularly inspected by has six engines, three in the aft engine room and three in a forward engine room. Electric cables connect each engine's generator to two switchboards," Oliva said.

The needed work has forced the can-

cellation of nine cruises, including popular voyages scheduled over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. It will resume service from Long Beach on Jan. 16 when it is scheduled for a seven-day voyage to the Mexican Riviera.

Meanwhile, it has cost Carnival \$50 million to cover refunds, cruise cancellations and offers of free bookings to more than 3,900 disappointed passengers. Eighty buses were used to transport the passengers and 1,200 members of the crew back to Long Beach. Overall, it has affected about 20,000 customers.

Carnival has worked with travel agents and contacted passengers in an effort to find alternative cruises.

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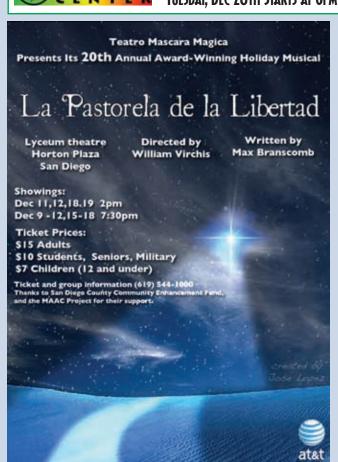
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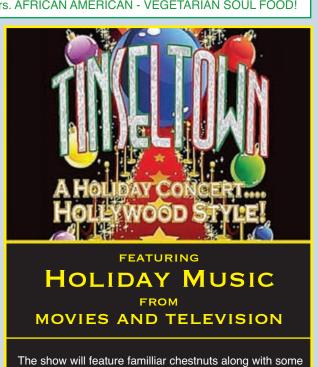
We will be having a family event celebrating Kwanzaa, an African American cultural holiday celebrating First Fruits and the Seven Principles (Nguza Saba in Swahili) Each of the 7 days of Kwanzaa has a principle, WorldBeat Center celebrates annually, the day of Self-Determination (Kujichagulia) This Principle is one of the founding principles of WorldBeat Center and is at the core of African American life.



WE WILL BE CELEBRATING 5 OF THE 7 PRINCIPLES. THIS 5 DAY EVENT STARTS ON TUESDAY, DEC 28th Starts at 6pm until 10pm FREE and open to All Families. Highlights of this event will be the ceremonial Candle lighting and Libations. Introduction to Kwanzaa. Live African music with African Drum & Dancers. AFRICAN AMERICAN - VEGETARIAN SOUL FOOD!







surprises! It will take place at the Birch North Park

site, www.sdgmc.com to buy yours today!

Theater on Saturday, December 11th at 8:00pm, with a

Tickets are selling out quickly, so go to the chorus web-

matinee performance on Sunday the 12th at 3:00pm.

# NEWS

# **NEWS** digest

- Thousands of San Diegans are expected to learn CPR aboard the U.S.S. Midway Dec. 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will serve as the final stop for CPR Across America certification drive and is expected to attract thousands to the deck of the retired ship. The free classes begin every 30 minutes. For more information, call (866) 4-HEART-U or visit www.cprprojectsandiego.com.
- The San Diego International Auto Show will take place Dec. 30 to Jan. 2 at the San Diego Convention Center, 111 West Harbor Drive. "Where the cars are the stars" is the theme of the event that will unveil several new decades of Ford Mustangs and an art sculpture made from old car parts. Mazda will sponsor a family day, during which children 12 years and younger can get in free with a paying adult. For more information, visit www.sdautoshow.com.
- At the 10th annual Legislative Breakfast at St. Paul's Senior Homes and Services, Friday Dec. 3, Jonathan Hunter will address the needs of homeless seniors. He is the recipient of St. Paul's Legislator of the Year award because of his extensive work in facilitating senior housing programs. Hunter is the managing director of the western region of the Corporation for Supportive Housing. He has helped many organizations with the predevelopment phase of establishing senior housing. The breakfast is open to the public. For more information, call (619) 239-6900. St. Paul's is located at 111 Elm St. The breakfast is from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

- The San Diego Crime Stoppers and the San Diego Police Department's Central Division still need the public's help in tracking down two women suspected of burglarizing two unattended vehicles in the parking lot of the San Diego Zoo on Nov.7 sometime between 1 and 5 p.m. That same afternoon, credit cards that were stolen from the vehicles were used at stores in San Diego including the Target Store in Mission Valley. The two female suspects were only described as white or Hispanic. Anyone with information is asked to call the SDPD Central Division at (619) 744-9500 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477. Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information leading to an arrest.
- The 16th annual Lamplighter vehicles. Highlights will include a Awards, given to outstanding leaders salute to classic VW buses, five in the community, include: Good Neighbor in Government, Officer Suzy de la Peña of the San Diego Police Department; Gaslamp Quarter Annual Design Award, Bridgeworks/Gaslamp Hilton Project, developed by S.D. Malkin Properties, Inc.; Chairman's Award, Nick Tomasello, Nicky Rottens Bar and Burger Joint/Sloppy Joey's Pizza and Pasta Joint: the Armond Award, Perri Spiller, Dick's Last Resort. Other winners included: The Lingerie Lounge, FLUXX, San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter and The Wine Bank. The awards were presented at a special ceremony Nov. 15.
  - Free WiFi will be offered throughout the Gaslamp Quarter for two hours per day. The Gaslamp Quarter Association offers this in partnership with California Micro Systems and Free WiFi San Diego. Users can access up to two hours of free wireless Internet connection anytime they are in the Gaslamp. To initiate the service, direct mobile devices or computers to www.freewifisandiego.com.



TRUE COLORS: A patriotic youngster shows her colors while a marching band struts down Pacific Highway during the 24th annual Veteran's Day Parade held Nov. 11.



**OPENING NIGHT:** The Shining Blades synchronized skating team, composed of girls age 7 to 9, perform on opening night of the Horton Square ice skating rink Nov. 18. The rink will remain open through Jan. 9 at 225 Broadway Circle.

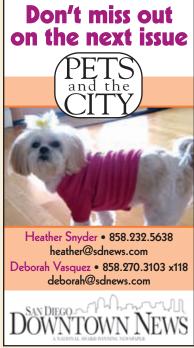


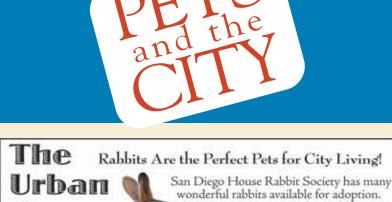
OVER AND DOWN: David Brigg, a staff member of Over the Edge, helps Jane McAuliffe as she begins her descent down the side of the Manchester Grand Hyatt during the Over the Edge for Kids Included Together fundraiser in which participants were PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News allowed to rappel 33 stories Nov. 6.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT: Young cast members of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" sing holiday songs during the annual Christmas tree lighting at The Old Globe theater Nov. 21.









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# Downtown Dining

# Brian's 24

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# Richard Walker's Pancake House

Richard Walker's Pancake House, an upscale fusion of traditional and gourmet breakfast favorites, is now open in the Marina District in downtown San Diego. Serving classic-style griddlecakes, crepes, omelets and other specialties, this pancake house is certain to become the "premier" breakfast destination for San Diego's residents, employees and the tourist community! Open 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 7 days a week, and if you are unable to stay and enjoy the atmosphere, take Richard Walker's with you as we prepare orders to go.

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# Bread on Market

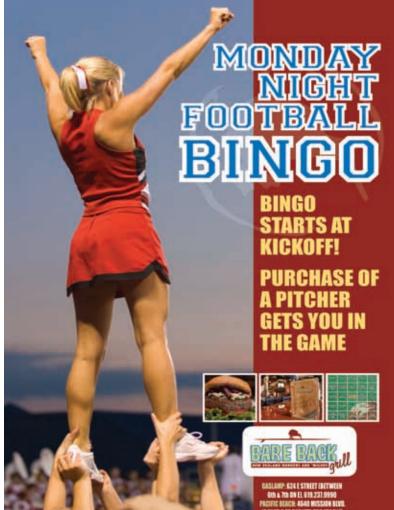
Downtown's Artisan Bakery, Breads On Markets is open from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Sunday - Thursday and 7:30 am to 5:00 pmFriday & Saturday. Holiday Party! We offer Catering for breakfast, lunch, cocktail hour, dinner, and you can book your private parties on our Patio. Enjoy wonderful cheese platers with beers, wine, sandwich platters or hot dinner plates; For desert we have cookies, brownies, and famous chocolate filed croissant, Yummy! Join us for Lunch and get the best meal of your day. Lunch specials for only \$7.95 half sandwich with hot home made soup or salads. We were voted Best Bakery 2008 from the San Diego Downtown News and received the Silver Folk Award from San Diego Home & Gardens. Take a loaf home with you or as a grift for the Holidays. Call in your order or come on in. 730 Market Street SD, 92101 (Between 7&8) 619-795-2730. For full menu go to www.breadonmarket.com











# Ross recalls her happy days at The Old Globe

By JOHNNY McDONALD | Downtown News

Marion Ross is enjoying a rewarding, never-ending career and has a definite fondness for The Old Globe theater her springboard to stardom.

The actress known to television audi-

1970's TV series "Happy Days" returns to The Old Globe stage Dec. 6. for a single-night comedic performance in "Celebrity Autobiography: In their Own Words." Fellow performers include Tovah Feldshuh, John Goodman, Paul

ences as Mrs. Cunningham on the Michael, Kathy Najimy, Eugene Pack, Dayle Reyfel and Michael Urie.

Last summer, Ross appeared in a record eight-week run at the Carter Theater with Paul Michael in "Last Romance," which received rave reviews. Now, there's talk about taking it to

"Sure, why not," Ross said.

From Point Loma High and San Diego State University to Hollywood films and television, plus roles on Broadway, Ross can reflect on what she describes as "such a wonderful life."

"I like to come down and take part in Globe activities when I can because of my association with longtime director Craig Noel runs very deep," she said.

Noel passed away int April at 94. Noel was impressed by the teenager's college performance as a cockney maid in a play called "Ladies in Retirement," and in 1949 he offered her a role in the "Twelfth Night."

He and actor Mel Ferrar, then a leading board member at the La Jolla Playhouse, were instrumental in opening a door or two in Hollywood.

"I had several people looking

out for me [at age 18], including my Spanish teacher at state," Ross said.

Marion Ross

"At the time, I felt it was a wonderful world to be on the fringes of this," she said. "I'd hang around [actress] Sadie Lou Tieri's home when all the actors would come there."

Ross wasn't in that many shows at the Globe, but Noel was always in the wings for encouragement and an assist.

"Every time my life went into a dip, Craig would say, 'Come on home and do anything you want to.' He was so impor- and all of San Diego."

Ross said its much easier to work in TV because of the dependence on the director and all the technicalities.

"On stage, you are all alone and responsible," she said.

"Theaters are going bankrupt all over this country, but not The Globe," Ross said. "That's a credit to Craig and Lou Spisto [CEO-executive producer]."

In 1982, she was selected as an associate artist.

Luckily, Ross said, the phone still rings with work calls, but she admits there aren't that many parts for her generation. So, she spelled out the letters O-L-D.

"I'm 82, you know," she joked.

Still, there's always something. She's planning another voice-over as grandma in the TV Sponge Bob cartoon series.

"We have a house at Cardiff where we stay in the summer," Ross said. "So, I remain connected with San Diego State



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# The human figure is alive and well

By WILL BOWEN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

"What a piece of work is a man" muses Shakespeare's Hamlet. At Noel-Baza Fine Art Gallery, 2165 India St., the show titled "Bare, Naked & Nude" provides a unique opportunity to ponder Hamlet's statement and contemplate the beauty of the human form.

The exhibition, running through Dec. 18, presents an eclectic amalgamation of the work of 26 artists who explore the art of the naked human body.

Noel-Baza, which is owned and operated by Tommy Noel and Larry Baza, put the show together in response to the recent publication of University of California, San Diego professor emeritus Bram Dijkstra's table top book "The Nude in America." Dijkstra's book is an important contribution to artistic scholarship.

According to Dijkstra, America has a love-hate relationship with the nude. Many of the most important works of the nude in art have been taken off display in museums because of the opinions of well meaning but puritanical until he went to Barcelona in the 1990s

donors. Dijkstra questions this attitude. He thinks "the nude is one of the most heautiful things around" and he is convinced that, "If we familiarize ourselves with the beauty of the human body, we are less likely to try and maltreat it.'

Artist Joan Sebastian has four outrageously bold paintings in the show. She is a nudist who likes to paint the naked body.

"I like the connection between me and the nude," she said.

Lou Anne Kromschroeder-Davis works in mixed media, combining acrylic, oil and watercolor to create a series of calm, translucent bluish images that blend the natural landscape of hills and mountains with the curves of the body. She said she loves the human form" and likes to combine it with nature.

Robert Nelson has two paintings of dolls with red lips and blue eyes in the show. He said his purpose is to "critique beauty contests for children."

Richard Becker has a master's degree in engineering from Stanford. He never really cared about an artistic pursuit



"Figure with Study Screen and Duvet" by Wade Reynolds is part of the "Bare, Naked & Nude" exhibit at Noel-Baza Fine Art Gallery, 2165 India St. WILL BOWEN | Downtown News

and fell in love with art. He makes sculpture with the lost wax technique that dates back to the ancient Greeks. He has created many large sculptural installations, including one for the Miramar National Cemetery, which is an extension of Fort Rosecrans. For this show, he produced several small nude figurines without arms or heads. One of his male figures is called "Endeavor" from the Thoreau quote, "Endeavor to lead the life you have imagined." He also has a female figure designated "Advance" from Thoreau's "Advance in the direction of vour dreams."

In conjunction with the show, on Dec. 14 from 1 to 6 p.m., Hugo Crosswaite will paint a picture on the nude body of a woman in the gallery.

For further information, visit Noel-Bazafineart.com or call (619) 876-4160.

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# Ring in the new year with music and flair

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The most anticipated party night on the annual entertainment calendar. New Year's Eve is a great time to let loose a little before tackling 2011 head on. There will be no shortage of options on that night, particularly if you're a fan of the area's major DJs — with clubs, restaurants and even battle ships vying for your attendance. Here are a half dozen of the night's best picks. All events are for those over 21 only.

# The giant

When it comes to major entertainment, nothing in town comes close to Big Night Out, held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Partygoers will have the choice of 12 themed party zones, including a Vegas Casino, Mardi Gras Ballroom and Retro Ballroom, with other rooms nightspot Woodstock, which offers one of devoted to hip-hop and electronic music, as well as a Guitar Hero Lounge. More entertainment was being added at press time, but artists performing will include R&B groovers Lady Dottie & The Diamonds, '80s tribute band Metro, and roots reggae group Jet West. Meanwhile, dance floor action will be provided by DJs Scooter & Lavelle, Happee, Edgartronic, Mike Czech and Mike G. The event is allinclusive, with your admission taking care of everything once inside, including drinks. With more going on than two or three of the other area events combined, Big Night Out is hard to beat

Big Night Out at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront: \$149-\$219. www.bignightsandiego.com

# A large-scale happening

The Hard Rock Café's annual bash will be a turntable-only event, with 11 DIs and five venues, including one with a 3,000-capacity dance floor. Entertainment will be provided by a DJ roster that includes Robbie Rivera, Danny Love, Al Squared, Craig Smoove and Two O Seven. While all the rooms provide great sound and lights, the best is rooftop



R&B groovers Lady Dottie & The Diamonds will be among the live musical acts performing during Big Night Out at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront on New Year's Eve.

the best views in town. If you find the thought of dancing under the stars as one of your evening's options appealing, this is the event for you.

New Years Eve 2010 at The Hard Rock Café: \$60. www.hardrocknye.com

### Smaller events

For indie rock fans, the best spot to be on New Year's Eve will be the Casbah. Featuring a bill topped by Transfer, as well as Rafter (Roberts) and Shape of Future Frames, the night promises to be loud and boisterous. Transfer is on a particularly hot streak at the moment, with sold out shows and much media attention. While they remain highly touted local heroes, their fan base now extends to Canada and Europe, with the rest of the world now in their sights. Transfer recently wrapped up a U.K. tour with Killers frontman Brandon Flowers, followed by their own headline North American tour. Currently touring behind their disc "Future Selves," they released a new U.K. single, "Losing Composure," this month.

Transfer at the Casbah: \$25. www.casbahmusic.com

There will likely be a no more unique setting for New Year's in San Diego this season than the bash being held at the USS Midway Museum. Taking place aboard the legendary aircraft carrier, this is an all-inclusive event and is black-tie optional. Music for dancing will be provided by the Big Daddy Orchestra. Between the historic setting and swanky dress, if you are looking for a more upscale, elegant event, this may just be the ticket.

Midway Aircraft Carrier New Year's Eve: \$159. www.midway.org

Fans of classic soul and R&B tunes of the sixties and seventies will find everything they need at downtown institution Patricks II. The evening includes party hats and favors, food and a champagne toast at midnight, with music from fivepiece Motown and soul review Soul Diego. The venue's intimate size and proximity to the performers is part of this club's allure. Anyone searching for a good old-fashioned communal New Year's Eve at a top neighborhood bar need look no further.

Soul Diego at Patricks II: Cover TBD. www.patricksii.com

Best known as the original home of jazz nightspot Dizzy's, the Culy Trucking Building is starting a new tradition in 2010 with the inaugural edition of "Downtown Countdown." The 15,000foot venue will be transformed into three distinct rooms with two DJ rooms featuring top drawer talent such as DJ Apaulo8 of 3rd Borough. Live music will be handled by one of the best and most versatile dance/cover bands on the planet, N.R.G. Adept at music of all styles, from Glen Miller to Pink, from The Andrews Sisters to Earth, Wind & Fire, this group performs with skill, accuracy and yes, an energy that's amazing. Admission to this event is also all-inclusive.

Downtown Countdown at The Culy Trucking Building. \$119.

www.downtowncountdownsandiego.com



# It's all Happening! Marc & Darlynne Menkin

It's a Thursday night, just after nine in the Gaslamp Quarter. Although the weekend hasn't officially kicked off, the vibe is a happening scene. Right outside Onyx on Fifth Avenue, a long line of people - some dressed casually, others dressed to the nines - are waiting patiently to get inside this popular nightclub. Welcome to Live & Local, Onyx's latest creation aimed at celebrating people who live and work in the 92101 ZIP Code. Held every Thursday from 8 p.m. until closing. Live & Local has something for everyone - featuring live bands and guest DJs who will play everything from pop to hip hop to rock.

"We wanted to find a way to give back to the downtown community, so we created Live & Local," said Charlissa Dodge, Onyx's director of sales and marketing. "Patrons who live or work downtown don't have to pay a cover charge on Thursday nights and they'll get 20 percent off

# We want to hear from you

A tropical, island-style shop has opened on Seventh and Island called Mainlanders. Stop by a special reception/sale on Saturday, Dec. 11 and take a creative photo of you, a friend and their 9-foot-tall mermaid. Post the photo on our Where You Want To Be Tours Facebook page for a chance to win two tickets to a Saturday afternoon Scavenger hunt/Amazing Race Adventure. A Mainlanders' Special Reception is Dec. 11 and includes drinks, appetizers and 30 percent discounts. The store is on 502 Seventh Ave. Be there. Aloha!

their tab. All they have to do is bring their driver's license and their business card."

That's not all. Even the bands, which are handpicked by the Onyx team, are hyperlocal. Greg Cryns, who sings and plays guitar for both Field Trip and Rareform Live, recently performed at Onyx

"We have great music in San Diego, so our goal

is to encourage locals to get out and hear these bands and really enjoy their neighborhood," Cryns

In addition to showcasing local music, Onyx also recently launched Live Comedy Live, which brings some of the best comics to San Diego. The show is held once a month and was founded by comedians Rajan Dharni and Christian Spicer. Dodge said the comedy show has been a great addition because it attracts a different group than the nightclub crowd, so it's a whole new scene. The next comedy show will be Dec. 19 and will feature headliner Mo Mandel, who's been seen on Comedy Central, "Chelsea Lately" and "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson." The show starts at 6:30 p.m. and goes to about 11 p.m. Admission is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

For more information on either Live & Local or Live Comedy Live, log onto www.onxyroom.com

Marc and Darlynne Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding scavenger hunts feature secret downtown areas, www.wheretours.com

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# <sup>z</sup>iņyard Plăce **MIKE KALLAY**

I was in that big warehouse store when I overhead a nice couple saying they should buy the cabernet sauvignon they were holding for Thanksgiving dinner and this got me to thinking that perhaps a number of us simply don't understand wine pairing at a basic level. Surely you've heard the old "red with meat, and white with fish" rules before? That statement is why so many generations of Americans felt intimidated by

Understand holiday wine pairing

Pairing wine with food means that you have to understand what elements are going to be in the wine, what the intensity of each element is, and how those elements would pair or clash with something like food. These elements are acidity, alcohol, fruit profile/flavor and tannin. At a basic level, we're only talking about 10 varietals or so. Those are the wines that we Americans predominantly purchase. I'm not going to cover all of them here, but let's just talk about a few bad matches for Thanksgiving/Christmas and a few excellent matches.

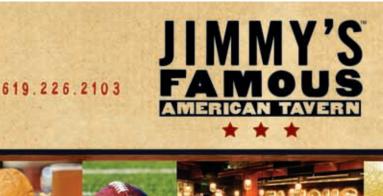
I've already illustrated one bad exam-



ple: cabernet sauvignon. What are the elements in cabernet? Acidity is usually balanced, or possibly low. Alcohol is usually medium to high. Fruit profile ranges from black currant to black cherry and chocolate. How about the tannin? Off the charts. Tannin is that chemical com-

SEE WINE, Page 14





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# Slim down for your pat-down with Tabata training's quick results

To help speed things up in the long security lines at the airport this holiday season, consider physically preparing yourself for your personal airport pat down. Make this a pleasurable experience for everyone by ensuring your derriere is tight, your belly is firm and your legs are strong enough to win that nod of approval from your new touchy, feely friends.

Let's face it, the more fit and lean you are, the less likely you will have the opportunity to hide anything on your body. So, what's the quickest way to get you in perfect, pat-down shape? Try Interval training.

Interval training combines short bursts of intense activity with periods of low intensity, or rest periods, like sprinting for 30 seconds and then jogging for a minute to recover. When you train this way you burn more calories because your body is forced to put forth more effort than it normally would during a steady workout of moderate intensity. Without a doubt, it is one of the best training techniques to use when you are short on time. A relatively new form of interval training that has made its way into mainstream gym workouts is the Tabata method. Tabata intervals are based on 20 seconds of high-intensity exercise, followed by 10 seconds of rest for eight rounds. Essentially, after four minutes, you are spent.

The idea behind Tabata training is that you push yourself to your max and work full-force during the

FIT SAVVY

By Connie Cook

active phase while completely resting during the resting phase. Even though the protocol was developed with professional athletes, the Tabata

Method is used by many fitness enthusiasts to improve their own fitness. But this kind of training is definitely not for beginners and you need to have a pretty good baseline of fitness before you take this challenge.

We have Dr. Izumi Tabata to thank for this intense kind of gut-wrenching training. He discovered it while working with a team of researchers from the National Institute of Fitness and Sports in Tokyo. Dr. Tabata realized this type of interval training produced much better results than aerobic training when his subjects (professional athletes) increased their maximum aerobic capacity by 14 percent. Maximum aerobic capacity is the measure of how much oxygen your body can take in, which determines how much longer and harder you'll be able to perform cardiovascular work like running or cycling. The subjects also showed an increase in their anaerobic capacity of 28 percent. Anaerobic capacity measures your speed endurance, or the duration you're able to sprint at full effort. So it was discovered the Tabata protocol is the rare workout that benefits both endurance athletes and sprinters.

At Fit, we've developed a class called T-Zone, which follows the principles of Tabata training. The class is divided into seven sessions of eight 20/10 rounds. Each session focuses on one body weight exercise (like a squat jump or a push up), a compound exercise (like a squat with overhead press) or a cardiovascular exercise (jumping rope or jumping jacks). For 20 seconds, students go all out and perform as many reps of the exercise as possible and then completely rest for 10 seconds. After eight intense rounds of each exercise, students are given a two- to three-minute break before the next session begins. This continues until all seven sessions are completed.

Tabata training is an amazingly efficient form of interval training and one of the best ways to work out when you are crunched for time. So, before you make your mad dash through the airport and stand proudly in front of the security pat-down pros, knock yourself out with eight rounds of Tabata intervals and show them what you're made of!



Connie Cook "C<sup>2</sup>"
Fitness Director
Fit Athletic Club

# WINE

CONTINUED FROM **Page 11** 

pound found in fruit and vegetable skins, as well as the wood used for barrels, that attacks the protein in your mouth and makes your mouth feel "dry." Thanksgiving dinner usually means turkey, stuffing and gravy. Why do we have gravy? Because no matter what you do to the turkey, it's going to be a challenge to keep it from drying out. The gravy acts as a "foil" to the dry turkey. And, this is exactly what we need in our wine. The last thing you want to pair with turkey is something that will fail its test as a foil to the dry turkey and actually do the opposite: amplify the dryness. That's what something like cabernet is going to do. Merlot and malbec would be similarly bad choices for pairing.

Let's pick a great foil. Which one of those

elements really "foils" the dryness factor in the food? The acidity. Think of what a little bit of citrus does to your mouth: it makes your mouth water. Isn't that the thing we need for our dry turkey dinner? So, what's a good match? We need a wine that has high acidity and low tannin. In addition to the wines I already listed as bad foils, you can also rule out barrel-aged chardonnay (high tannin) and domestic sauvignon blanc (low acidity). Good matches for this dinner would include riesling (high acidity, low tannin, complementary flavors), sparkling wine/champagne (high acidity, effervescence), pinot noir (medium acidity, low tannin, complementary flavors), and syrah (medium acidity, low tannin, complementary flavors). I'd also throw zinfandel into the good category for the same

What you're really trying to do with food and wine pairing is to not only weed out the

dogs, but to find those gems that elevate both your perception of the food and your perception of the wine. To do this, you're going to want to find complementary flavors to what you're eating. Holiday dinners include a lot of earthy elements like cranberries, sage, root vegetables, rosemary, apples, and pumpkins (with nutmeg and cinnamon). What kinds of wines have some of these elements? Pinot noir is the classic earthy red, frequently with flavors of cranberry and herbs like sage. Riesling frequently shows notes of apples, pears and spice. Of course, sparkling wine or Champagne is perhaps the most perfect match.

Don't be intimidated when trying to match wines with food. Use your knowledge of a varietal to help guide you.

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

### FILMING DOWNTOWN



The Chinese TV series "Rose Wedding" culminated with couples kissing in front of the Unconditional Surrender statue in Tuna Harbor Park.

# Unconditional Surrender statue draws 160 million viewers

By CATHY ANDERSON

**The Unconditional Surrender statue** – or as some call it, the kissing statue – in Tuna Harbor Park drew a lot of attention. A popular Chinese TV series called "Rose Wedding" that pairs 10 couples up who marry on the show, and then follows their honeymoon adventures. California became the location of the wedding in the TV series and San Diego was the final destination. The Chinese production company was delighted to conclude the TV series with the couples posing like the famous sailor and nurse kissing in front of the statue and our beautiful Big Bay. The segment was titled "Kiss of the Century." The set during the filming was a mass of giggles and these couples tried to get the posing perfect. The tourist cameras were busy snapping. Now, of course, San Diego gets the benefit with 160 million viewers tuning into this show in China.

• Asahi Broadcasting Corporation from Japan produced a travel show called Tabi Salada that filmed in San Diego for three days. There were seven crew people and several others used for this project. Locations included Balboa Park and Old Town Historic Park, as well as many other San Diego icon locations. These projects promote San Diego as a tourist destination at no cost to us. Since July, the San Diego Film Commission (SDFC) has worked on seven tourist films from Germany, China, the U.K. and Japan, to name a few.

• You may see lots of print shoots on our downtown streets in the weeks to come. Lots of catalogs are filming fashion for the holiday period and San Diego has wonderful, diverse locations. Wintersilks is here and there are also lots of car shoots, which is good to see again. The automotive industry was in such a bad financial state that our print and commercial business really suffered. Thousands of San Diego people work in this industry and depend on print, video and film work for their livelihood. There are more than 5,000 different types of jobs associated with this industry, so when you see a production truck parked downtown, be glad. That means San Diegans are working.

- 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 San Diego "Hollywood South."



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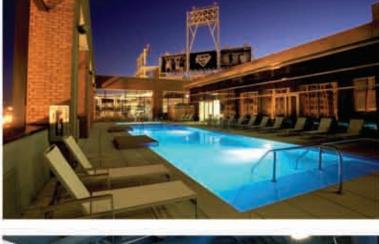
















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nome-away-from-home! Featuring stunning views to the South and East, it enjoys an oversize view terrace and two terrific parking spaces near the entrance. This resort-style ommunity is located in the heart of the Marina District.

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Downtown · "Electra"

residence boasts an oversize terrace, approximately 1488 square feet, quality finish throughout, and dual parking spaces! For full details in a recorded message,

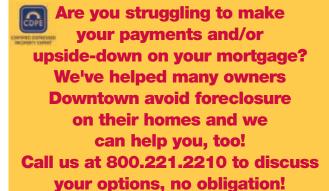
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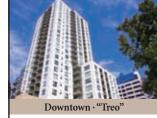


This expansive, 1684 square-foot town hom an oversize terrace, access from the street as wel

For full details in a recorded message

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This super 2-BR residence boasts southeast, urban views, corner location privacy and plenty of upgrades! Walk to the multitude of shops, wine-bars and restaurants just steps away in the Little Italy village!

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5519



Boasting sweeping Northwest views to the bay

nd ocean, this 21st-floor beauty in Bosa Development's newest and most exciting residential community has it all! Dual edrooms and baths, quality cabinetry and inishes, and so much more! For full details in a recorded message,

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5559



Downtown · "Porta d'Italia

The ideal 2nd-home opportunity, this top-floor pied-a-terre boasts lovely bay and Pt. Loma views, a granite and stainless kitchen, and lovely furnishings that may convey! This small, intimate community is just steps to the Village of Little Italy with its multitude of shops

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



Downtown · "Icon"

Vait until you see the views to Petco Park and the urbar ights from this prime, Northwest corner, 2-Bedroom residence located at East Village's hippest residential ommunity! You'll love the gleaming hardwood floors, banks of sunny windows, a private view terrace, and dual parking, for starters!

call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5529



Downtown · "Watermark"

community enjoys a west-facing orientation, a private terrace looking toward the Old Police Quarters, and For full details in a recorded message,

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Downtown · "Icon' You'll be amazed at the views to Petco Park from thi

15th-floor, west-facing, two-bedroom residence! Mere steps to Petco, as well as to a multitude of

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Downtown · "Pinnacle'

njoy panoramic, 26th-floor city and Corona Bay Bridge views from this picture-perfect, wo-bedroom residence in one of the Marina District's most popular, luxury, residential high-rise communities! Wall to a multitude of estaurants and entertainment venues beautifully located development! For full details in a recorded message

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eautifully located on the pool level, this dual edroom, dual bath residence features a private patio, a granite kitchen, and two parking spaces! ust steps to Little Italy's many wonderfu ues, Palermo enjoys lush courtyards, a pool

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Don't miss this great SHORT-SALE opportunity to own a 2-bedroom, 2-bath in a wer community atop Cortez Hill for a bargain price! You'll enjoy dual secured parking and a For full details in a recorded message,

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injoy the vibrant lifestyle in the heart of the Gaslamp Quarter, & take advantage of this gre short-sale opportunity! Situated on the pool/ ourtvard level, this unique, 2-level townhome s beautifully upgraded & presented, complete flooring, and a granite and stainless kitchen!
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DECEMBER 2010 | Vol. 11, No. 12

# Sugar, spice and everything nice

Local mixologists stir up their holiday favorites



THE GRANT GRILL

### **Colossal Cranberry Tonic**

2 oz. white cranberry vodka 1 oz. Leopold Bros. New England Cranberry liqueur splash of cranberry bitters top off with tonic water (Grant Grill uses housemade red tonic)

Directions: Fill glass with ice and cranberries. Add ingredients in order and shake or stir.

**7** hile watching the Food Network show "The Best Thing I Ever Ate" a few weeks ago, local nurse Kelly Yascheshyn saw The Grant Grill's holiday drinks flash across the screen and she said they looked so well-crafted and unique that she had to try them.

By CLAIRE HARLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

"I saw it last week, and that's the reason I'm here," said Yascheshyn, enjoying a recent Sunday afternoon in the U.S. Grant Hotel lounge and restaurant, located at 326 Broadway. "I always just thought this was a hotel. I didn't know there was something so

Yascheshyn tried The Grant Grill's seasonal feature "The Smashing Pumpkin," containing pumpkin and star anise-infused 10-cane rum, and she said it was "delightful — and strong."

Amy Bissell, the Grant Grill's lounge supervisor, has shaken up a handful of new recipes this season, one of which — the "Harvest Spice" won first place in a recent San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival competition at the Se San Diego Hotel.

Bissell, who has spent almost a decade in the service industry, changes the Grant Grill's drink menu about four or five times a year to keep up with the seasons, and this year she said she went with drinks that would give lounge guests a "fireside feel." Her combinations incorporate honey, vanilla and "harvest flavors," she said, and she got to use one of her favorite ingredients — fortified wine.

The Grant Grill 326 Broadway (619) 744-2077



THE GRANT GRILL

It takes an Indiana Jones-like treasure hunt to find the Noble Experiment, but

once you get to the speakeasy-style bar, Anthony Schmidt will mix up quite possibly one of the most intricate and delicious beverages you've ever had.

To get there, go to Neighborhood, a restaurant and bar located at 777 G. St. in East Village. Then, walk past the bar and through the restaurant to the back hallway where the restrooms are. See that large stack of beer kegs past the ladies' room at the end of the hall? That's actually a huge door, which opens to reveal a hostess ready to take you into the Noble Experiment. With its cream leather booths, wall of faux human skulls and 19th century portraits covering the walls and ceiling, the swanky vibe makes the cocktail bar worth a visit.

But the drinks are the main attraction. Every ingredient is fresh and of good quality — as in, don't expect to find a Bud Light or Jagerbomb in this venue. Schmidt said he takes a good hour or two to cut ice by hand before each shift so he can serve drinks with blocks of ice so they don't lose flavor by getting watered down - a necessity for a true classic cocktail.

Schmidt says the bar isn't exclusive, but it only accepts reservations by text message and can book up as far in advance as a week.

The Noble Experiment (619) 446-0001

Christian Cardnuto, food and beverage director at Little Italy's Glass Door Restaurant, said the main thing one should consider about holiday cocktails is friends and family.

"You always want to have something that is approachable from many palates and not too progressive when serving a group," said Cardnuto. "To me, the holidays are about spending time with family and friends, and what better way to do it than with a drink that brings everyone together."

Cardnuto said fruity flavors are for the summer, and as the weather cools, it's time to start thinking of savory flavors like baking spices, brown spirits and ginger.

Cardnuto recently offered up the creamy "White Christmas" recipe and a variation of the "Presbyterian," containing rye whiskey, ginger ale and vichy (sparkling) water, that his grandmother used to make every year on Christmas Eve when he was growing up in New York. This drink is also known as a "press."

"I decided to take Mema's Christmas Presbyterian and give it a seriously California twist," he said. "The rye was replaced with blueberry vodka and lemon juice was used to tie it all together."

He calls the result the "Blueberry Press-byterian." Cardnuto said a great thing about making cocktails this time of year is drinking them as a way to warm up on a chilly day.

"Right now, we are having a lot of fun with hot toddys and coffee-based concoctions," said Cardnuto. "The other way to warm people up — use some spice."

**The Glass Door** 1835 Columbia St. (619) 564-3755

# THE GLASS DOOR

### **Blueberry Press-byterian**

1 1/4 oz. Stoli Blueberry 1/2 oz. Stirrings Ginger Liquore 1/4 oz. lemon juice 1 1/2 oz. ginger ale

1 1/2 oz. dry sparkling wine Directions: Mix all ingredients.

### **White Christmas**

1 1/4 oz. Absolut Vanilla

3/4 oz. Baileys Irish Crème

1/4 oz. Stirrings Ginger Liquore

1 tbsp. ground cinnamon

1 tbsp. brown sugar

Directions: Mix the cinnamon and sugar together and spread the mixture over a small plate. Combine all wet ingredients in a mixing glass and fill with ice. Top the glass with a shaker tin and shake the cocktail for a hard 10count. Then take a champagne flute, wet the rim with a touch of water and spin the rim of the glass in the cinnamon-sugar mixture until the rim is thoroughly coated. Strain the cocktail into the flute and enjoy.



Mini dresses such as this from BritBoy Fashions at Industry Showroom make a big splash once again for holiday DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

# **Holiday fashion trends**

Jumpsuits, minis and maxis are in for women; French cuffs and gray for men

By DIANA CAVAGNARO | DOWNTOWN NEWS

As downtown neighborhoods begin to take on a seasonal look for the holidays, so should the fashion-

conscious who want to make a proper impression at this season's big events. Whether it be a work party, a holiday dinner or a big New Year's Eve night out, no one wants to be left in the cold when it comes to personal appearance in the city.

Fortunately, downtown has more than its share of stores with both trend-setting styles and well-informed fashion- Jumpsuits are back. istas willing to offer advice. Here is what they have to say:

Maxi dresses with bright prints, the little black dress and jumpsuits will be popular for women.

Collarless shirts with French cuffs will be a hit for the holidays for men. Try adding a jacket and you are ready to go celebrate a New Year's Eve party. such as this from

**Brian Terry BritBoy Fashions Industry Showroom** 345 Sixth Ave.

SEE TRENDS, Page B3

DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

Collarless shirts and French cuffs are the trend for men this season.

DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News



THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT

# **Anthony Schmidt's Holiday Nog**

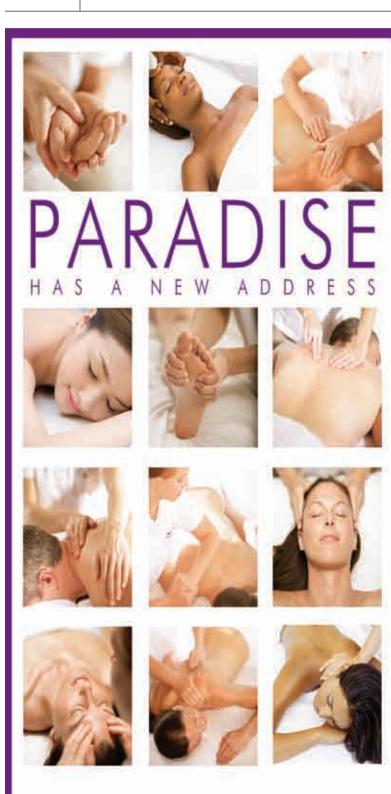
2 oz. Calvados VSOP or other apple brandy

1/2 oz. rich sugar or cane syrup

1 tsp. allspice liqueur

1/2 oz. heavy whipping cream or 1-1.5 oz whole milk

**Directions:** Add ingredients in order and shake well. But it's likely one can't achieve the art of shaking well, or at least not to the degree that Schmidt does. Each drink he makes has a Richter scale-strength "shake dance" that goes with it. In that case, he suggests, use a blender







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# Golden Hangar Awards, Medavog and Zupan



'Fashion Déjà Vu'

Fashion Careers College (FCC) presented its 24th annual Golden Hanger Fashion Show Awards Gala on Nov. 13 at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center. FCC founder Patricia O'Connor was chair and KUSI-TV news anchor Sandra Maas was mistress of ceremonies. Awards were presented to individuals who have given philanthropic contributions to the San Diego community. Phyllis Parrish, Victoria Hamilton, Judy Smith, Bridgepoint Education and California Marine were honored for their dedication to the arts.

The most popular segment is always the Make-A-Wish portion of the fashion show. Students design creations for celebrity models and Make-A-Wish children, and the fashions are modeled on the runway. The celebrities were downtown's Alexandra Rosa (Art Rocks 24-7), Margo Schwab (The Social Diary), Ashley Alcala (Miss Greater San Diego), Jesus Estrada ("Project Runway Season 7" contestant) and Maas. The audience was moved as the celebrities and Make-A-Wish children came down the run-

This extravaganza debuted the collections of FCC students and the theme for the evening was "Fashion Déjà Vu." The finale concluded with 13 costumes designed by the students from the Timken Museum and FCC's third Annual Art of Fashion exhibit. Tanya McAnear coordinated this entertaining show with Pam Wilson (producer/choreographer).



Celebrity model Alexandra Rosa on the runway with two Make-A-Wish children at the Golden Hanger Fashion Show Awards. DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was the recipient of the proceeds for the event. This fabulous organization grants wishes to children with life threatening medical conditions and has already

### 'Erte in the 21st Century'

given 187 wishes this year.

"Erte in the 21st Century" was the theme for Francisco Medavog's latest collection on Nov. 20 at Planet Rooth Design Haus on Fifth Avenue. The models gracefully came down the staircase holding on to the beautiful wrought iron railing that lead to the catwalk. The collection reflected old Hollywood glamour accessorized by the jewelry of Angela Picaard and Cirello. Medavog's interpretation of 'Erte in the 21st Century' showed off both exotic and romantic pieces to a crowd that went wild with enthusiasm and thunderous applause.

Planet Rooth Design Haus is owned and operated by furniture designer Gustav Rooth and jewelry designer Angela Piccard. Rooth designs furniture from bourbon wine barrels and Picaard designs one-of-a-kind jewelry. These designs are called up-cycling and are made from Lucite and vintage pieces of metal. Rooth was the originator of Ray at Night and this location promises to be another epicenter of art and design.

### 'No Place Like Home'

Natasha Zupan arrived from Mallorca, Spain to show her new collection "No Place Like Home" at the Alexander Salazar Fine Art Gallery. The process for Zupan's artwork is to: create a collage, make a digital print and then paint on top of that. Zupan combines fashion and art by adding silk, cashmere, wool and polyester materials to her creations. This artwork combines experimental with traditional work. Each piece is designed on several different levels, leaving a varietv of interpretations to the viewer.

Zupan was commissioned by fashion designer Zang Toi to create two large Marie Antoinette portraits that were shown on the runway at Bryant Park in 2007 to complement his Marie Antoinette-themed collection. The interior design of Zang Toi's Upper East Side apartment is also in a Marie Antoinette theme and includes these two masterpieces. They are made with white gold, palladium and oil, and took two months to finish

Zupan has been named the muse for Larusmiani, which is the maker of toplevel fabrics and tailored designs in Milan. This company supplies hig-quality fabric to Zupan to create magic with her artwork. Check out the February Italian Vanity Fair issue, which will have

SEE FASHION, Page B3



### **OPUS 2010 CENTENNIAL GALA WITH YO-YO MA**

Friday, December 3, Gala 5pm, Concert 8pm

Balboa Theatre (concert) & The US Grant Hotel (Gala dinner and post-concert party) Jahja Ling, conductor; Yo-Yo Ma, cello BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 1 DVORAK: Cello Concerto in B minor

Packages Available: \$250 / \$1250 For information call 619.615.3906.



Tanya and Charles Brandes

### MAHLER'S "RESURRECTION" SYMPHONY

Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11, 8pm Sunday, December 12, 2pm

Jahja Ling, conductor; Janice Chandler Eteme, soprano Susan Platts, mezzo-soprano; San Diego Master Chorale MAHLER: Symphony No. 2, Resurrection

Don't miss Mahler's most popular worklush, austere, grandiose, and intimate.











CONTINUED FROM Page B2

a nine-page spread of Zupan in gorgeous haute couture designs. "No Place Like Home" will be on display for the next three months at 640 Broadway or visit: www.alexandersalazarfineart.com. The gallery is also showing some of her collection from "Flesh Fold," which is designed with bras and underwear.

### **Upcoming events**

- **Dec. 4** Model Training Centers' second anniversary gala at the Horton Plaza Event Space. (619) 220-8770
- **Dec. 5** Fourth annual Holiday Hit List at Masonic Hall, 3795 Utah St. from noon to 6 p.m. Holiday shopping extravaganza and fashion show.
- **Dec. 5** Tailgate at the Fleetwood, 10 a.m. at 639 "J" St., for the San Diego Chargers vs. Oakland Raiders game. Larry English's T-shirts will be for sale and 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to his L.E.A.D. Foundation. www.Larry-English.org
- Dec. 15 Leonard Simpson's 2010 Best Dressed Awards & Holiday Charity Fashion Show at the Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Ave. (800) 522-1564
- 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

# **TRENDS**

CONTINUED FROM Page B1

The trend for men will be to dress with more layers during the holidays. Gray is the new black and all shades of gray are in fashion. New York sets the tone and lots of accessories are what you will see, including scarves and hats.

Robert Salazar 5&A Dime haberdashery 701 Eighth Ave.



Men will be dressing in layers this year and sporting all shades of gray, as shown in this outfit from 5&A Dime haberdashery.

DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

**"Old glamour"** with long dresses and fur are a trend for the holidays this season. Short or mini dresses are always popular and jumpsuits with shoulder bags are growing in popularity.

Mariela Torres Bubbles Boutique 226 Fifth Ave.

**You can take a cocktail dress** and jazz it up with a coat and accessories to make it festive. Use a stunning piece of jewelry, a choker or two bracelets to dress it up. These bracelets or armbands are the next new trend

Gordana Gehlhausen GOGA by Gordana 401 Market St.

A cocktail dress can be jazzed-up with a dazzling coat at GOGA by Gordana.

BIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News





Mahbod Ghods is ready for a holiday party in a design from Lady Asher Boutique. DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

Kick up your heels
with a mini on
New Year's Eve.
This one-of-a-kind
dress by local
designer Ochea
can be found at
Bubbles Boutique.
DIANA CAVAGNARO
Downtown News

### **Customers want comfort**

and chic, so short babydoll dresses and tunics are big right now. Customers are now more choosey with their selection and are looking in their closet and creating a new look with accessories.

Zari Godwin Lady Asher Boutique 435 J St.

# Holiday Happenings Seaport Village



# Holiday Happenings Seaport Village



# SILVER CROSSING

One of San Diego's best kept secrets is Silver Crossing, a store in Seaport Village full of beautiful jewelry and inspirational gifts. Upon entering, most people say "Wow!" as they gaze at the collection of crosses in every size and color imaginable. Wind chimes, frames, candles, plaques and more all feature crosses, angels or inspirational words of wisdom. The selection of sterling silver jewelry can be overwhelming to the faint of heart, so plan to spend some time here.

Owner, Cindy McAdams, has spent over 26 years in retail at Seaport Village. The first 16 years she worked with her parents, Betty Lou & Bob, at their store, Trails West Silver & Leather Company. They worked every day together, as only a close family can. Betty showed Cindy what to look for when buying art and jewelry, and 10 years ago, Cindy opened Silver Crossing.

"I often thought about what my own store would be like, and in 2000, I was offered the space across from Trails West. It was perfect! "The store would have all types of silver jewelry, while Trails West specialized in Native American craft. I decided to add old world architectural items to the mix, a new theme in home decor back then, and I had my eye on a line of aluminum wall crosses for years. I received so many positive responses to the cross wall that I began searching for more sources. Within two years, the walls were filled with crosses, angels and religious items. "Call it fate or destiny, the name Silver Crossing fits the mix perfectly."

Betty retired and closed Trails West earlier this year, an emotional end to 35 years in business. Cindy's dad, Big Bad Bob, passed in August 2008. "Sometimes my door swings open, but no one is there. In my heart, I know it's my dad's way of saying hello."

823-B West Harbor Drive San Diego, CA • (619) 325-4925 www.silvercrossing.com Open 10 am to 9 pm Daily

# Greek Island Cafe Chicago Deep Dish Pizza

In 30 years, Greek Islands Cafe's quality of food has not changed and that is why we have such loyal regular customers. We hear wonderful comments about our service and food all the time. Our cook/chef,Peggy, a Native of a tiny village in the shadow of Mt Olympus, makes our spinach pie, stuffed grape leaves, pastries and more right on the premises, and has been with us for 25 years. Our wonderful manager Sylvia Ahdmadnia, walked in looking for a job 25 years ago and is still with us to this day.Our daughter is a Flight Attendant,wife and mother still has time to be here 4-5 days a week While Chris (International Ice Hockey skater) Keeps things going most every night.

Greek islands cafes sister cafe to ASAGGIO, right next door shares a waters edge patio with GREEK ISLANDS, ASAGGIO features ""the BEST DEEP DISH PIZZA WEST OF WRIGLEY FIELD". We have



Melissa Bishop More & Sylvia Ahdmadnia

many customers from Chicago that say hands down our pizza is authentic Deep Dish!

Also,great NYstyle thin crust pizzas, Homemade lasagna,our own foccacia ,sub sandwiches dripping with cheese ,Grandmas Recipe cannoli pastry & a waters edge beer bar with a fabulous view of San Diego bay & It's amazing sunsets....

Geek Island Cafe (619) 239-5216

Chicago Deep Dish Pizza (619) 234-2407





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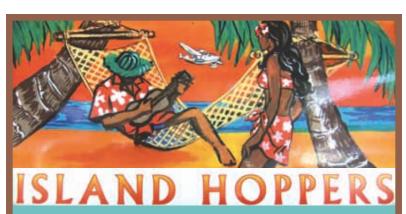




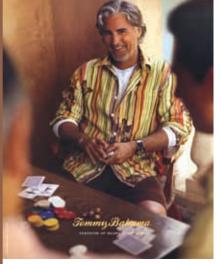




10th Anniversary Sale Ends 12-25-10 619-325-4925 • Seaport Village • 10-9 daily Mention this ad for 92101 Specials!



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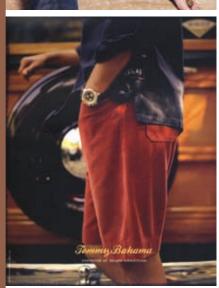




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# Find it all at the Ferry!

# Scottish Treasures

Scottish Treasures Celtic Corner is a family owned business with over 21 years of retail experience. The Lo-

gans opened the shop 12 years ago at the ferry landing in Coronado. If you're looking for something Scottish, Irish, English or Welsh, it's very possible that you will find what you are looking for in the shop. They stock kilts

and all the accessories, ladies, kids and clothing for babies, jewelry including Celtic wedding bands. There is an extensive grocery section all imported from the UK. You will find lots of very unique gift ideas that aren't available anywhere else in the county. Looking for that really great gift for the holidays? This is the place to come. Plus kilt rentals are available for special events.

(619) 435-1880 www.scottishtreasures.net

# Captain Coronado

For nearly 20 years, Captain Coronado's has offered Coronado visitors an array of Southern California souvenirs, clothing and gifts. Perched in the historic Ferry Landing Marketplace, with a million dollar view of the San Diego skyline and the Coronado bridge, Captain Coronado's is a must see for anyone who wants to enjoy the quaint experience of cottage shopping on idyllic Coronado Island.

www.CaptainCoronados.com



# La Camisa

This fun-spirited gift shop is filled with San Diego's/Coronado's finest souvenirs, in the center of picturesque Coronado Ferry Landing. You won't find better customer service or value anywhere. But you will find more than you could have imagined! If you thought La Camisa (Spanish for "the shirt") was only stocked with shirts, you'll be surprised by the vast variety of delightful merchandise here.

Of course, this is place for surf and San Diego-themed tees and sweatshirts-for kids, too. But you can also accomplish all your gift shopping in one happy spot-find gorgeous shells (including shell jewelry and nightlights), tote bags, toys, calendars, Mexican blankets, and much more. Why not outfit yourself in an entire San Diego-style wardrobe? Choose from twirly skirts, flip-flops, and bathing suits- and don't forget a sun-protective hat!

La Camisa celebrates 24 years in business in June. Treat yourself to a Coronado tradition!

La Camisa 1201 First Street #109 (619) 435-8009 lacamisa@sbcglobal,net



# Make Your Own "Magic" This Holiday Season at Coronado Ferry Landing



- Friday, December 3, 2010 Holiday of Magic begins! Events include:
- Santa arrives aboard the San Diego Coronado Bay Ferry to Coronado 3:20pm. Visit with him until 6:00pm
- Live Holiday Music by Jingle Brass and refreshments hosted by Coronado Ferry Landing 4:00-6:00pm
- Snow Mountain 3:00-8:00pm
- Arts & Crafts hosted by Parks & Recreation Department 3:00-6:00pm
- Shops OPEN Daily 10am-7pm

Parade of Lights December 12th and 19th Parade sails by Coronado Ferry Landing 7:30pm

(starts at Shelter Island at 5:30pm) Make your dinner reservations now!

Farmer's Market Tuesday's 2:30pm

- Welcome POINSETTIA BOWL FANS!! Kick off at Qualcomm Stadium at 5pm December 23, 2010
- Welcome HOLIDAY BOWL FANS!! Kick off at Qualcomm Stadium at 7pm December 30, 2010
- FREE Live Music Sundays 1-4pm adjacent to Kaffeen's:
- \* December 12, 2010 Stiletto's
- \* December 19, 2010 Teagan & Taylor Trio
- December 26, 2010 Cool Fever
- \* James 9 2011 Stilette's
- \* January 9, 2011 Stiletto's
- \* January 23, 2011 Teagan & Taylor Trio
- Holiday Office Parties? Make reservations now! Restaurants have extended hours
- Visit Santa here at Coronado Ferry Landing! He's making his list & checking it twice
  - Saturday December 11th 12-5pm
  - \* Sunday December 12th 12-5pm
  - Saturday December 18th 12-5pm
     Sunday December 19th 12-5pm
- \* For more event information www.coronadoferrylandingshops.com
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# Ho! Ho! Holiday performances abound

By CHARLENE BALDRIDGE | DOWNTOWN NEWS

### A devil of a time

Teatro Mascara Magica touts "La Pastorela" as San Diego's longestrunning professional theater production. Credibility may depend upon the breadth of your chimney, but in any case, the 20th anniversary of San Diego's "La Pastorela" is worth celebrating. This year's telling of the shepherds' bedeviled trip to Bethlehem, written by Max Branscomb, is titled "La Pastorela de Libertad," performed in English with Christmas carols sung in Spanish. The socio-political subplot concerns a Southwestern College journalism student whose new husband is deported. Dave Rivas and Rhys Green portray the devils — Satan and Moloch – and TV star Willie Green returns as Michael the Archangel. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 9-12; Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 16–18; and 2 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, Dec. 11–12 and 18–19 on the Lyceum Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. (619) 544-1000.

### **Cracking 'Nuts'**

City Ballet presents its 16th annual production of "The Nutcracker," created by directors Steven and Elizabeth Wistrich, fashioned after the original choreography of Lev Ivanov and featuring a company of professional dancers, children from the City Ballet School and a live orchestra playing music by



The California Ballet brings its annual production of "The Nutcracker" to the San Diego Civic Theatre.

Tchaikovsky. 7:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Dec. 10-11 and 17-18; 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Dec. 11-12 and 18-19; Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (858) 272-8663.

California Ballet performs its annual "Nutcracker" with San Diego Symphony under the baton of John Stubbs, guest artist Gennadi Saveliev, a soloist with American Ballet Theatre, and Cassandra Lund. Performances are 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec 18; 1 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19; and 2:30 and 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 21. San Diego Civic Theatre, Third and B streets. (619) 570-1100 or (858) 560-6741.

### Santa & all that jazz

South African singer/guitarist Jonathan Butler, keyboardist Brian Culbertson and Dutch saxophone star Candy Dulfer join saxophonist Dave Koz, who recently received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, to celebrate the music of the season for the whole family. One night only: Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave. (619) 570-1100.

### **Holiday Pops**

San Diego Symphony presents its annual Holiday Pops, conducted by

SEE **HO**, **HO**, Page B11



### ORWARD HOUSE LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

On Dec. 17, Santa Claus will appear at the Forward House, 108 lvy St. He will be in his sleigh from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will give candy canes to any child who would like one. The Forward House is known for being lit up with more Christmas lights than any other home in San Diego. The lights are on for public viewing from 5 to 10 p.m. each night of December. The Forward House is named for John Forward Sr., former mayor of San Diego who had the home built for him in 1904.

### DOWNTOWN'S

# HOLIDAY EVENTS

### **THURSDAY, DEC 2**

• Artisan jewelry show and sale at the Bead Society of San Diego in Balboa Park's Spanish Village, 1770 Village Place, Suite 21, will have shopping hours through Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (858) 566-1654.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 3

• **December Nights**, the annual holiday celebration held throughout Balboa Park will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 3 and 4. Museums will be open to the public and will offer free admission. (619) 239-0512, www.balboapark.org.

# Tree Lighting in Little Italy

Little Italy will present its annual tree lighting event at the Piazza Natale, corner of India and Date streets, on Dec. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive at 4 p.m. The lighting ceremony will take place from 6:15 to 7 p.m. and be preceded by shopping in the Little Italy Mercato Farmer's Market Christmas Village, which will open at 3 p.m. www.littleitalysd.com

### **TUESDAY, DEC. 7**

• The San Diego Hospice's "Light Up A Life" celebration will be held at 8 p.m. at the San Diego Civic Theater, 1100 Third Ave. The event will feature conductor Jung-Ho Pak and singer Eve Selis. The event is free and open to

SEE **EVENTS**, Page B8



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# HOLIDAY

# **EVENTS**

CONTINUED FROM Page B7

the public. (619) 278-6440

### SATURDAY, DEC. 11

- The Women's History Museum will host a holiday open house party from 1 to 4 p.m. at 2323 Broadway. A one-act play about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt will begin at 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. (619) 233-7963.
- The Save Our Heritage Organisation will hold a holiday open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Marston House Museum and Gardens, 3525 Seventh Ave. Admission is are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 years and younger. (619) 297-9327.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12
• The San Diego Model Railroad Museum will celebrate Holiday Family Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Families can learn about trains, craft holiday trains, enter a coloring contest, and watch the movie "The Polar Express." Adult

admission is \$7 and children under 15 are free. (619) 696-0199.

• The third annual Pet Parade will be held in the Gaslamp District at 3 p.m. in celebration of the holiday season. The event is sponsored by Downtown Ace Hardware and will originate and start at Fourth Avenue and K Street. All San Diego pet owners and their pets are invited to dress up in costumes and compete for best costume duo, cutest critter, best pet costume and best of show. To enter visit http://gaslamp.org/pet-parade or call (619)

### **SATURDAY, DEC. 18**

233-5227.

• The San Diego Rescue Mission will feed more than 1,500 homeless at its Congregate Christmas Meal, 2 to 5 p.m., 120 Elm St. For more information visit www.sdrescue.org

### **TUESDAY, DEC. 21**

• The Poinsettia Bowl Gaslamp March, a battle of the bands from the two competing schools that will participate in the bowl game, will take place on Fifth Avenue in the Gaslamp District at 6 p.m. Viewers will be able to vote by making a donation to the Make a Wish Founda-

### **Jungle Bells returns**

The San Diego Zoo will host Jungle Bells Dec. 11 through Jan. 2 when the zoo will remain open until 8 p.m., except on Dec. 24 when it will close at 5 p.m. Includes elves, light shows, magic shows and a nightly tree lighting. Jungle Bells is free with paid admission to the zoo. www.sandiegozoo.org.

tion. For more information call (619) 233-5227 or visit http://gaslamp.org/battle-of-the-bands.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 30

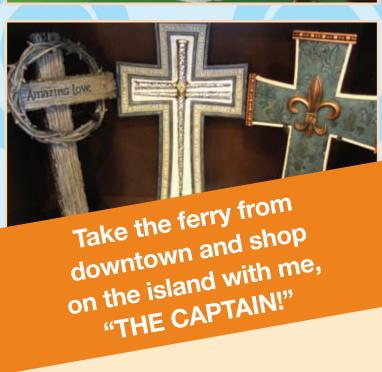
- The San Diego Maritime Museum will host a family day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children 12 and under will receive free admission and be able to participate in nautical craft making. Two children are free with each paying adult. For more information visit www.sdmaritime.org.
- · The Port of san Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade, 10 a.m. along N. Harbor Drive. Bands, floats, entertaining drill teams, and more balloons than any other parade. www.holidaybowl.com





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# AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

The Del is pleased to present the annual production An American Christmas, December 12-26 (excluding December 25), performed by the award-winning Lamb's Players Theatre.

### **VICTORIAN TEA**

As a special treat for tea lovers, or those who just want to relax and enjoy holiday piano entertainment, The Del serves Victorian Tea throughout the holidays.

### CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY DINING

Celebrate Christmas Eve with a lavish Victorian buffet dinner in the magnificent Crown Room from 5pm to 9pm with live musical entertainment.On Christmas Day, the oceanfront Ballroom and Crown Room will trimmings from 12pm to 6pm. For a more intimate celebration, both 1500

### NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

Ring in 2011 at The Del's New Year's Eve Gala. The evening will begin with a champagne reception in the magnificent Crown Room, followed by a lavish dinner in the oceanfront Ballroom, dancing, and a champagne toast at midnight.

Keep the party going on January I with the annual New Year's Day champagne brunch in the historic Crown Room.

> Call 619-522-8490 for details and reservations.





### ENTHUSIASTIC WEICOME

Santa and Mrs. Claus are greeted by an enthusiastic crowd in Seaport Village after Santa arrived by pirate ship Nov. 27. Later, the surfing Santa posed for photos with guests in front of a static curling "wave." Santa will be at Seaport Village at the East Plaza Gazebo every Friday, Saturday and Sunday this month from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and every day the week of Christmas.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

# Live performances warm the season



December offers several culturallywarm special events, plus the usual holiday offerings, which have a separate space of their own this month.

### At the Old Globe

The Old Globe has two holiday shows for the family this season. The 13th annual production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" features the return of actor Jeff Skowron as the hairy green guy; and Stuart Ross' "Plaid Tidings," in which the beloved Plaid quartet (Michael Winther, David Brannen, Jason Heil and Leo Daignault) returns to perform holiday favorites. Both productions play now through Dec. 26 at the Old Globe, Balboa Park, www.theoldglobe.org or (619) 23-GLOBE.

### At Copley Symphony Hall

San Diego Symphony Jacobs' Master- (619) 437-6000.

works Series presents Gustav Mahler's magnificent Symphony No. 2 in C minor ("Resurrection"), conducted by Jahja Ling and featuring soprano Janice Chandler Eteme, mezzo-soprano Susan Platts and the San Diego Master Chorale, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 10-11; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, Copley Symphony Hall, Seventh and B streets. www.sandiegosymphony.org or (619) 235-0804.

### At the Lyceum

San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Ed Bullins' "Storyville," a musical featuring 22 performers and a live band. With music and lyrics by Mildred Kayden, the work is set in early 1917 New Orleans and plays through Dec. 12 at the Lyceum, San Diego Repertory Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. Schedule and tickets at www.sdrep.org or (619) 544-1000.

### **At Horton Grand Theatre**

Lamb's Players Theatre has extended its hit musical revue "MiXtape" once again. The extremely popular, not-to-be-missed show plays Wednesdays-Sundays through Dec. 19 at Horton Grand Theatre, 444 Fourth Ave. www.lambsplayers.org or (619) 437-6000



Jahja Ling will conduct the San Diego Symphony in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor ("Resurrection"), featuring soprano Janice Chandler Eteme, mezzo-soprano Susan Platts and the San Diego Master Chorale at Copley Symphony Hall.

COURTESY PHOTO

# Hillcrest Business Association

When you dine and shop Hillcrest this holiday season you can enter yourself into a drawing for a fabulous Hillcrest shopping spree. The more you shop, the more chances you have to win; shop to play, shop to give, shop to win! Visit ShopHillcrestfortheHolidays.com for details and locations.

Hillcrest Business Association

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# Parade of Lights sails for the 39th year

By DEBBIE HATCH | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The Port of San Diego will present the 39th annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights on Dec. 12 and 19, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. both nights.

Each parade will kick off with a fireworks display at 5:30 p.m.

This is the 26th parade that Larry Baumann, owner of the Bali Hai and Tom Ham's Lighthouse, has been involved with.

The parade of lights began as a small event held in the bay near Shelter Island. A crew of sailors wanted to provide an enjoyable holiday event for San Diegans, Baumann said. The group of somewhat salty sailors were members of what they called the D.I.L.I.G.A.S. Society.

Over the years, it has grown and now traverses the bay from Shelter Island to the Coronado Ferry Landing.

"It has become a San Diego tradition," Baumann said.

The theme this year is "The Sounds of Christmas." Parade entrants will be judged by both their décor and the holiday sounds emitting from their vessels. Entrants compete for a variety of titles. **SAN DIEGO BAY PARADE OF LIGHTS** 

Dec. 12 and 19, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. The parade takes about one hour to 1 1/2 hours to pass any given point along the parade route.

### **Approximate times** for viewing the parade:

Shelter Island: 5:30 p.m. Harbor Island: 6 p.m. The Embarcadero: 6:30 p.m. Seaport Village: 7 p.m. Ferry Landing on Coronado: 7:30 p.m.

The top honor is the "Best of Parade" and the prize is a Holland American Cruise for two.

"The competition gets fierce," Bau-

Trophies will be awarded for a variety of categories depending on size, how the boat is powered and whether it is a commercial or private vessel.

One thing Baumann said he looks forward to each year is the enthusiasm of the crowd and the fact that so many people come together and share the spirit of the holidays.

Another perk is that the event, which started with the intention of giving back

to the San Diego community, continues in the same spirit today and is free for all to watch.

Boaters pay a \$40 entry fee to parade their creative décor.

Baumann said the Port of San Diego and other sponsors are integral in continuing to provide this two-day event.

"Last year, we had a tragedy on the water," Baumann said. "Little Anthony Cole DeWeese was killed in a terrible accident."

The 8-year-old boy was involved in an accident aboard his family's 24-foot Sea Ray, which was hit by a Coast Guard vessel heading toward a rescue. Baumann said this year's parade will be dedicated

Organizers recommend using San Diego public transit when traveling to the event. Parking will be available at metered spaces along Harbor Drive and on Shelter Island, which is free on Sundays. There are also several area paid lots such as at Seaport Village.

For more information, visit www.sdparadeoflights.org, call (619) 224-2240 or e-mail questions@sdparadeoflights.org.

throughout the day.

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clothing to art.

# Modeling school holds internationally-inspired gala

The San Diego Modeling Training Center (MTC) will host its second anniversary gala art and fashion show Dec. 4 at the Horton Plaza events space, Horton 97, 324 Horton Plaza.

MTC trains hopeful models for fashion and actingrelated work. Headquartered in Hillcrest, the school provides hands-on experience with photo shoots, red carpet

HO, HO

events and interaction with industry professionals. Its graduates have appeared on magazine covers and

gained runway work on the will also be displaying their work program "America's Next Top Model," according to a statement by Karla Mena, MTC president.

The highlight of the anniversary celebration will be when Cristina Pineda of the Pineda Covalin Design House showcases many pieces from her native Mexican company, beginning at 8 p.m. The work she will bring

with her represents the culture and his-

Local designers and artists

Full-length concert performances at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18; and 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19. An abbreviated Holiday Pops Family Festival takes place at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, \$10-\$25, Copley Sym-

Modeling Training Center president. tory of Mexico.

Karla Mena, San Diego



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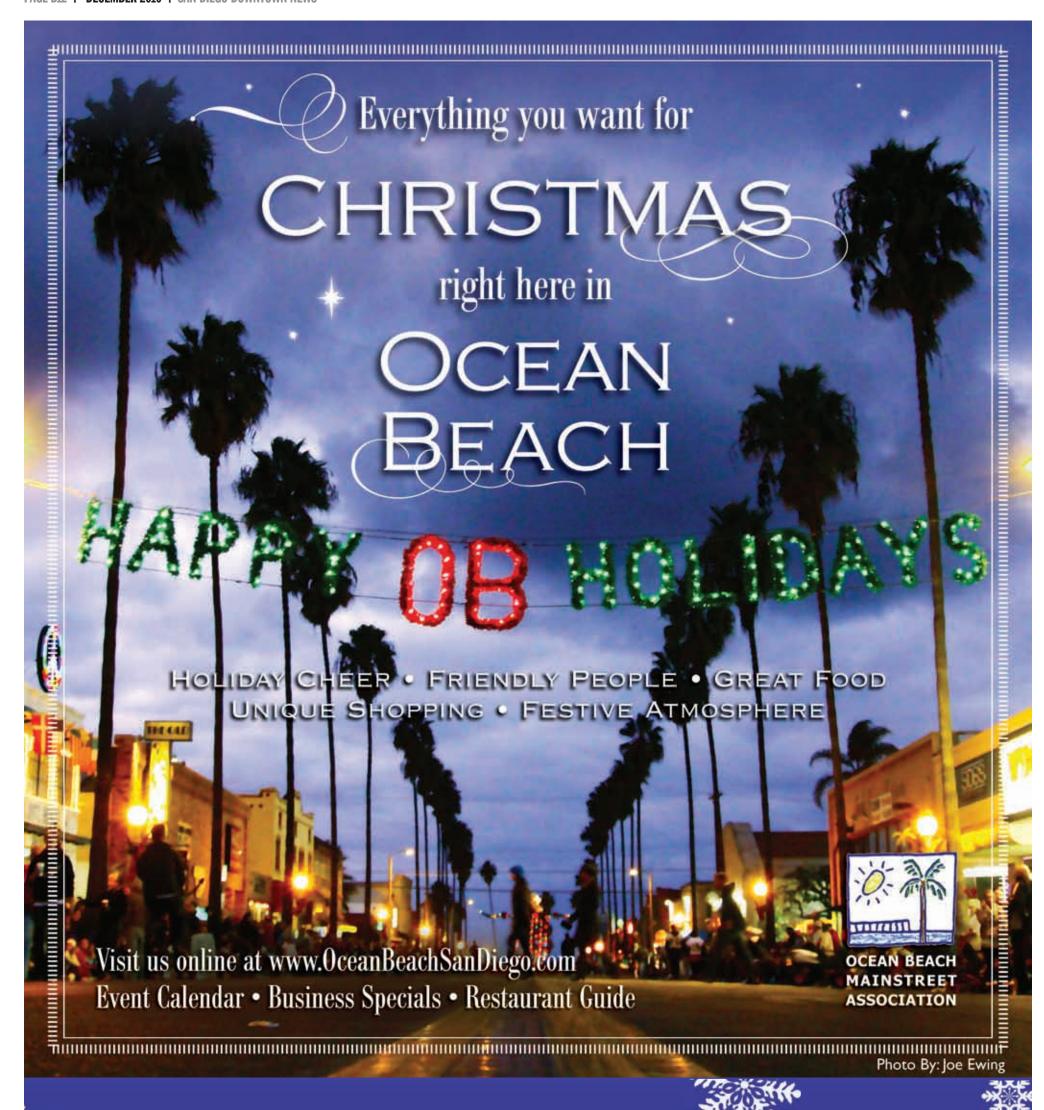
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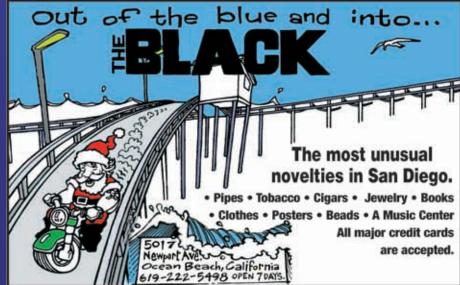
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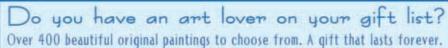
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# December 18

10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Open House, Carnival Rides, Win Prizes, Food". Carefree Travel Show, and Travel and Maritime Exhibits 10:00 a.m. - Noon "AJ in the Marning" and the STAR 94.1 Prize Patral 2:30 p.m. Artist Talk. Tidal Radiance by Leni Schwendinger 3:15 p.m. Blessing Ceremony by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaav Indians

4:00 p.m. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier Dedication Ceremony 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Elliott Lawrence Smooth Jazz Gultar

& Vocals Performance

### December 19

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Carnival Rides 5:00 p.m. San Diego Bay Parade of Lights Grandsland Seating Open to the Public 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

### Location

The Port Pavillan on Broadway Pier 1000 North Harbor Drive Downtown San Diseas





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# ENJOY THE COLORS & BEAUTY OF OLD TOWN

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# **Discover Holiday Gifts at Old Town**

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Bonfire in the Plaza, Saturday, December 11 just minutes from downtown and an option to the busy malls, offers a number of high quality unique gifts at reasonable prices in a quaint historic setting. Shoppers are offered a glimpse into yesteryear, where life moves more slowly in this part of town, and where the holiday hustle and bustle is balanced with history and fiestas. Special this December is a variety of events that offer visitors and shoppers the opportunity to experience the history of early San Diego

As part of Holiday in the Park, Old Town and the local community will be adorned with holiday decorations, lantern-lit museums, wagon rides, festive music, carolers, and the popular holiday performance tours will be available. Events kick off on Friday, December 10 with a Victorian Tea at the Cosmopolitan &

with the Historic Merchants Open House, and December 12 with the 60th year of Las

over forty specialty shops, offering products such as candles, decorative tin, jewelry, gems and minerals, ladies fine goods, cigars and pipe tobaccos, old time music, coffee, teas, spices, leather goods, pottery, native American hand crafts, and books. The State Historic Park also has a Park Store offering a variety of crafts and other related products, with proceeds going to the Boosters of Old Town, directly supporting the park's educational programs

If you work up an appetite strolling through the shops, the menus of five restaurants offer traditional Mexican and American foods, including children's menus. To keep the kids of

all ages busy, tours are offered daily, and there are a variety of museums including the 1830s mansion La Casa de Estudillo, La Casa de Machado v Silvas, San Diego's earliest newspa-Within the State Historic Park, there are per office, the McCoy House Interpretive Center, a working blacksmith shop, and the Seeley Stables, with newly rehabilitated exhibits on overland transportation and one of the finest wagon and carriage collections.

> Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is conveniently located next to the Old Town Transit Center with Coaster, Amtrak, Trolley,

For a list of stores, events, or additional information, contact Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, at www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego or phone 619-220-5422. Additional event information available at fies-

# FIESTA DE REYES

# 'Tis the Season to Shop & Dine at Old Town's Fiesta de Reyes

Throughout the month of December, bonfires and old-fashioned piñata parties will be bringing a festive holiday atmosphere to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

Presented by Fiesta de Reyes, El Fandango Restaurant, and all the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park merchants, bonfires will light up the winter nights at dusk and free s'mores will be provided.

At 7 p.m., El Fandango Restaurant will host a special piñata party where children of all ages will get a chance to whack a holiday piñata.

Bonfire Nights will take place Dec. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 28, 29, and 30. The event is a part of line up of festive holiday events taking place throughout December in Old Town.

Bonfire Nights is coupled with other festive holiday events in the park, such as the state's presentation of the Victorian Tea Party throughout December, Holiday in The Park on Dec. 11 and the Las Posadas procession on Dec.

Fiesta de Reyes in located in the northeast corner of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park at Wallace and Calhoun streets, a oneblock stroll from the Old Town Trolley Station. Fiesta de Reyes boasts 16 specialty stores open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call (619) 297-3100. Text "Fiesta" to 53137 to sign up for weekly updates on events at Fiesta de Reyes or visit FiestaDeReyes.com

# Las Posadas holiday event celebrates its 60th year

Posadas event in Old Town San Diego State to recreate the same kind of celebratory day Historic Park.

The Las Posadas procession is a walking reenactment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. Everyone is invited to join the candlelit procession and sing traditional holiday songs in both Spanish and English as the players go The procession culminates with a live nativity scene in from of Casa de Estudillo as well as a piñata party at El Fandango Restaurant.

"This event combines the Anglo custom of caroling with the Hispanic tradition of the procession and the breaking of the piñata," said Chuck Ross, owner and operator at Fiesta de Reyes. "Las Posadas is a long-standing

brate holiday traditions and create new memo-

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK On Saturday, Dec. 11,

from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., all of the museums, stores

and restaurants in Old Town San Diego State

Historic Park will be open and richly decorated

for the holidays. Guests will enjoy special holiday

treats, and extended shopping hours until 9 p.m.,

along with strolling carolers and live music. This

CYGNET THEATRE PRESENTS 'IT'S A WON-

DERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY' Cygnet

Theatre Company presents Joe Landry's "It's a

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through Dec. 31. The famous story of George

Bailey and Clarence the Angel comes to life as

a 1940's live radio play, filled with music, live

sound effects and plenty of heart. The perfor-

mance on Dec.30 will feature an appearance by

Karolyn Grimes, who played Zuzu in the original Frank Capra film of "It's A Wonderful Life."

For more information, visit cygnettheatre.com

or call the box office (619) 337-1525

ries all month long:

that everyone can enjoy."

The Las Posadas procession will be lead by professional actors in period costume, including Willie, the acting donkey.

Before the procession that takes place at 5 p.m., this event will also feature a daytime celebration and preshow with live music, perforfrom inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. mances and activities for children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of local music and performing arts groups such as Metro Dance and Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church will perform from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

> For children's entertainment, there will be free craft activities that include making pioneer-style cloth dolls, as well as corn-husk dolls and paper holiday flowers. Hot cider, pas-

WRITE OUT LOUD PRESENTS 'GIVING SEASON

Write Out Loud presents its 4th-annual holiday

program for families called "Giving Season,"

which includes stories by Bret Harte, A.A. Milne.

Grace Paley and others that are appropriate for

all ages. Kids 12 years and under are \$5 and

regular tickets are \$15, or \$13 for seniors and

military. Performances are at The Old Town The-

atre, 4040 Twiggs St, on Saturday, Dec. 11, at

12:30 p.m. and on Monday, Dec. 13, at 7:00

p.m. Call 619-297-8953 for more information.

VICTORIAN TEA AT THE COSMOPOLITAN

HOTEL & RESTAURANT Mrs. Sarah Robinson,

widow of the late Governor of Texas, James

Robinson, will be pouring tea for her friends at

an early San Diego 19th century tea party with

delicious food and beverages and typical Victo-

rian entertainment. This immersive theatre

experience will take place in the gorgeously

restored 1872 Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant

in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The

performance takes place on Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18,

28, 29 and 30 at 4 p.m. at the Cosmo. Adults are

\$40.00 per ticket; children 6 to 16 are \$18.00

For reservations, call 619-297-1874. For more

info visit parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego or old-

towncosmopolitan.com

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO

Dec. 12 will mark the 60th annual Las tradition in many Latin cultures and we hope tries, Mexican baked goods, tamales, hot soup and more will be available for purchase from El Fandango Restaurant and Barra Barra

> At end of the festival, a bonfire will be lit in the middle of the state park and El Fandango Restaurant will host a piñata-breaking party following the Las Posadas procession at 6 p.m. Stores and museums within the state park will have extended hours until 8 p.m. that evening.

> This is the second year that the Las Posadas procession is produced by the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park concessionaires. They expanded the procession to feature an entire festival that includes family-friendly seasonal activities. Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-

# Bonfire Nights Illuminates Old Town

Throughout the month of December, bonfires and old-fashioned piñata parties will be bringing a festive holiday atmosphere to Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

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