

SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

DOWNTOWN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER GROUP

MAY 2011

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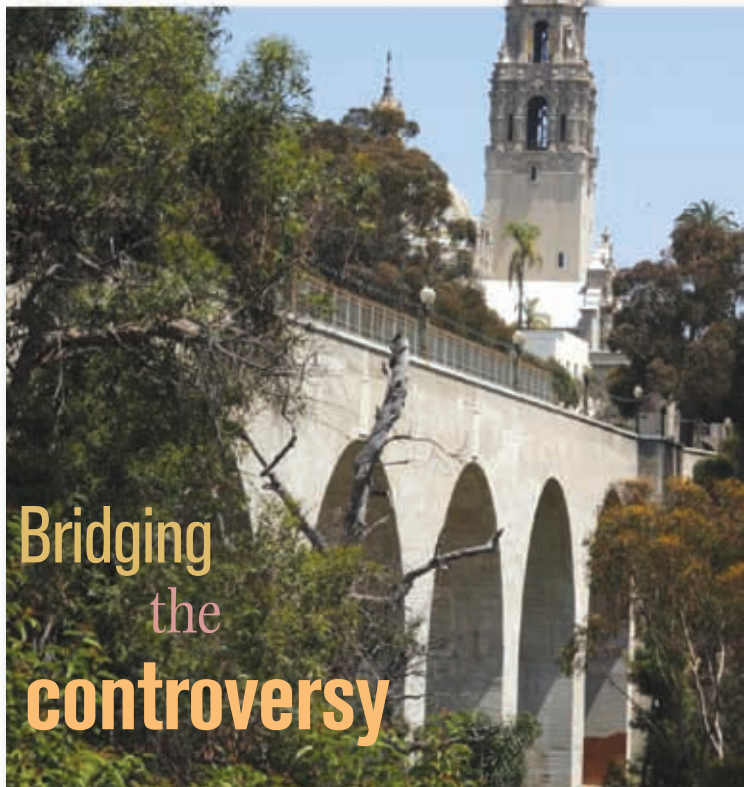
PAGE 12, NUMBER 5



Little Italy is clearly the place to be in May. Food, culture and all-out celebrations descend on the neighborhood this month, and there's something for everyone, Italian or not. Whether you're hankering for some mouthwatering pizza and pasta or hoping to take in some traditional Italian music while strolling through the streets, May has what every Italophile is looking for. Turn to Page 19 for a full rundown of the month's happenings.



Photos courtesy of the Sicilian Festival



Bridging the controversy

One of the proposals for an overhaul of Balboa Park includes a bypass bridge off of the Cabrillo Bridge, which would divert traffic around the Museum of Man to a proposed parking garage behind Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

Balboa Park makeover in the works

By MANNY LOPEZ | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Plans to clear cars out of Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama and turn it back into a pedestrian plaza in time for the centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition are currently being prepared for submittal to the City of San Diego.

The overhaul, however, brings with it a flurry of contentious debate.

After months of public testimony, the Balboa Park Committee, which serves in an advisory capacity to the mayor and city council on issues pertaining to the

park, will consider design alternatives and refine various elements of different proposals that will be put through the environment review process by the city's Development Services Department.

"San Diego doesn't really need this. There's nothing to like about this plan except for getting the cars out of Plaza de Panama."

Bruce Coons
Executive director, SOHO

Under consideration is a proposal by Irwin M. Jacobs, philanthropist and cofounder of Qualcomm. Jacobs' plan calls for construction of a 400-foot-long, 40-foot-wide two-way bypass road and bridge to divert traffic through the park.

The bypass road and bridge would abut

SEE PARK, Page 7



Blair Griffith, Miss Colorado USA signs autographs for homeless children at the Monarch School on April 20. The beauty queen, who became homeless one month after winning her title, came to the school to talk to the students about the importance of "not letting homelessness define you."

PAUL HANSEN | Downtown News

School gives homeless children 'fair shot'

By KENDRA HARTMANN & PAUL HANSEN
DOWNTOWN NEWS

Andrea Chacon knows the meaning of instability. At only 13 years old, she has been in and out of rescue missions and homeless shelters and has crashed with family members more times than many people move throughout their entire adulthood.

"We're working on getting our own apartment," she said. "But my mom doesn't see it coming too soon."

The Monarch School, where Cha-

con is in the eighth grade, is a K-12 school dedicated exclusively to homeless children. For Chacon, it's at least one beacon of security in a world where she has no permanent home.

"I've been to a lot of schools, but I think Monarch actually pays attention to students individually," she said. "They ask what's wrong, what's bothering us. It lets you grow and they help you and nourish you. At my other schools, I probably didn't know a thing I know now." She paused, then laughed, "Monarch is awesome."

On April 20, the school held a special event for its students. In addition to its monthly "Butterfly Birthday" celebration (during which children with April birthdays were thrown a party), the school hosted a very special guest. Blair Griffith, Miss Colorado USA, came to the school to meet the students and share her story. Griffith, it turns out, is also homeless. One month after winning her title, sheriff's officers knocked on the door, threw her

SEE SCHOOL, Page 7

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Resale Price	\$649,417	\$689,544	\$742,255	Trimmed Average Price	\$525,942	\$564,125	\$641,571
Median Price	\$436,970	\$463,500	\$532,980	Average Quality Price*	\$866,593	\$915,167	\$918,642

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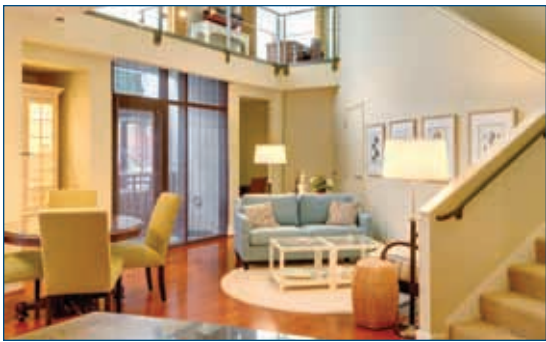
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Trading up for homeless teens



Local business owners Craig Yolles, Anamarie Lamme and Michael Elgo started a charity to benefit the community with a unique twist: they started with a simple pen and hope to trade up to a house for homeless teens.

Photos courtesy of Alon David Photography



Tim George, right, of The Egoscue Method poses with Father Joe Carroll.

George traded in a \$1,500 certificate to the postural therapy clinic for a \$100 gift card and T-shirt from the Crab Hut.



Kim Phan from Crab Hut trades \$100 certificate and t-shirt for a David Whitlam golf putter played by Dan Poole, (donated by Thomas Knopik, not pictured). Kim is pictured with House for Charity founder, Michael Elgo.

By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

During a meeting at the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Michael Elgo, Anamarie Lamme and Craig Yolles decided they wanted to do something particularly special to benefit members of the community. Using their combined backgrounds in real estate, marketing and graphic design, the savvy professionals started shopping around for a charity for which they could focus their efforts.

The trio made a visit to Toussaint Academy San Diego (TASD), a nonprofit that helps homeless teens in partnership with Father Joe's Villages. They were given a tour by a few of the teens, who showed a sense of pride and ownership in their home. A week later, the business owners struck up a partnership with TASD, and the House for Charity project was created with a lofty goal — and a unique way to achieve it.

They decided to follow the example of Kyle MacDonald, the now-famous Canadian blogger who, in 2005 orchestrated a series of trades — starting with a red paper clip — and ended up receiving a house. MacDonald was inspired by the children's game Bigger and Better, and over the course of one year bartered his way up to a two-story farmhouse in Saskatchewan.

The local business owners also set their sights on obtaining a house, to be used either for transitional housing for teens or sold for funding for the nonprofit by starting with an average, simple ink pen and trading up.

"House for Charity allows people in the community to donate something besides money during a tough economy," said Lamme. "They can donate their wares or services to help support children in need."

Since launching on April 21, the original pen has been traded up for a lava lamp, a bottle of wine, a laser printer, a golf putter, a \$100 gift card and T-shirt from Crab Hut, a \$1,500 gift certificate to Egoscue for postural therapy sessions and a 10-day stay in Princeville, Kauai.

With an estimated 2,000 homeless youth living on the streets of San Diego, TASD strives for their graduates to be on even footing with more advantaged peers upon leaving the program. In the last six years, 90 percent of their graduates have enrolled in post-secondary education. Raising the bar on what their graduates are capable of accomplishing, 95 percent obtain permanent or stable housing, establish savings and find employ-

ment. TASD, located at 1404 Fifth Ave., currently houses about 40 teens between the ages of 14 and 18 and provides college scholarships and aftercare services for graduates in need of continued case management, counseling and housing assistance.

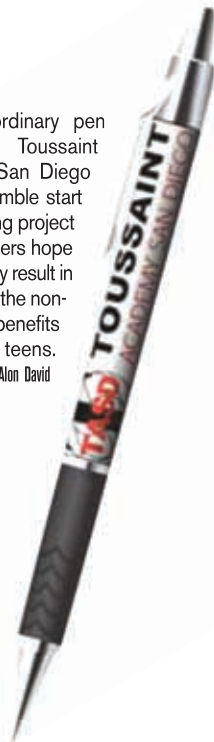
"TASD allows teens to take leadership and ownership of their lives," said director Rick Newmeyer. "They often come from homeless families, have incarcerated parents or have suffered abuse or neglect. Going home is either impossible or not a healthy option."

The teens at TASD decide on their own activities, menus and fundraising ventures. To raise money for extracurriculars such as beach trips, the teens have sold items at swap meets and held public talent shows. They are particularly engaged in the online trade as it relates to social media.

To follow or submit a trade, visit www.houseforcharity.com or www.facebook.com/houseforcharity.

An ordinary pen from the Toussaint Academy San Diego was the humble start of the trading project that organizers hope will ultimately result in a house for the nonprofit that benefits homeless teens.

Photo courtesy of Alon David Photography



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Hodad's brings burgers with a personal touch to downtown



Mike "Bossman" Hardin displays his burgers and body art, which yes, includes tattoos of burgers. Photo courtesy of Photography by Chana and Don

By KAI OLIVER-KURTIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

After much anticipation, the new Hodad's location has opened its doors to downtown residents, bringing the laid-back feel of its original Ocean Beach site and, of course, some serious burgers. After a few delays involving building permits and construction, Hodad's has set up shop in a historic building on the corner of 10th Avenue and Broadway, which provides double the kitchen space as the original location.

"After 41 years, we're an overnight success," said Mike Hardin, co-owner, who jokes about being "born with a greasy spoon in his mouth."

Although Hardin is not the type to take life too seriously, he has an undeniable passion for his craft and the employees and customers, whom he interacts with daily. As further proof of his dedication, Hardin has several tattoos of burgers entwined throughout his smattering of other designs.

Like many of his faithful Ocean Beach customers, Hardin wasn't immediately sold on the idea of adding a second Hodad's downtown. After some convincing from the building owners, he now views the expansion as a new challenge on which to focus his energy.

"We're not bringing the beach downtown, we're bringing our attitude, along with our food, name and atmosphere," he said.

With license plates and stickers covering the walls and giving a beach vibe to both Hodad's locations, Hardin explains how customers feel more invested and develop a sense of pride when they contribute their personal kitsch to the restaurant's décor.

Hardin has been a part of the family business since Hodad's opened in 1969. The building in Ocean Beach was purchased for \$600 and started out as more of a seasonal destination for summer tourists. The other nine months were used as an exploration time for Hardin, taking new jobs and learning about the attributes embodied by successful, respected bosses.

Inheriting the restaurant from his parents, Hardin started making burgers the way he'd experimented with them at a young age — not scrimping on any portions. He runs his business with the most basic of governing principles: one should treat others the way they would like to be treated themselves. Unlike most restaurants, Hodad's requires all staff members to begin their training in the kitchen — typically the most specialized among

restaurant jobs. An accurate indicator of whether or not the employee will work out or not, the process inevitably creates a knowledgeable and flexible staff.

"We take care of the employees so that they'll take care of the customers," said Hardin. Hodad's provides full health benefits to staff members and has many long-time employees who appreciate "Bossman" Hardin's mantra: "It's not life or death. It's just lunch or dinner."

Producing around 4,000 burgers per day between both Hodad's locations, the restaurants often see customers lining up before operating hours, with a line spilling out the doors consistently for most of the day. Even with the large quantity of food served daily, Hodad's refuses to sacrifice its quality. All products are delivered fresh to the restaurants daily.

But Hodad's didn't reach its astounding success without a little help from the Food Network. Guy Fieri, host of the popular show "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," featured Hodad's during its "Seaside Eats" episode in 2007, which continually reruns on the network. Fieri endorsed the restaurant again on the show "The Best Thing I Ever Ate" during the "Burgers and Angry Mussels" episode, where Fieri claims Hodad's bacon cheeseburger as his favorite bacon dish.

Hardin was unfamiliar with "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives" until a week before Fieri's production crew arrived in his kitchen. He now sings Fieri's praises and compliments his spontaneous, off-the-cuff hosting style.

Hardin knows better than to mess up a good thing. Burgers are what he knows, and what he'll stick to making in the kitchen.

"Don't fix anything that's not broken ... or getting better," said Hardin.

He recently added two new burgers to the menu, which had not been altered in 30 years. Consistency is one of his main focuses, ensuring their burgers are the same whether served to a regular cus-

tomers or acclaimed food critic.

Apart from slinging beef patties, Hodad's also likes to flex its philanthropic might. The restaurant participates in a biannual fundraiser to benefit local schools, giving back to the same beach communities where Hardin's two children were raised. Hardin was personally selected by Fieri to be one of America's Chefs, a nonprofit that works with the military to provide entertainment and education to boost morale through culinary-related shows and demonstrations, both domestically and abroad. The chefs have traveled to places like Guantanamo Bay; Puerto Rico; Norfolk, Va.; Great Lakes, Ill. and Atlanta to perform cooking competitions and offer troops a taste of home.

"I kept seeing my son's face in the wounded soldiers who, many times, were around his same age," said Hardin.

His itinerary will soon be filled with additional destinations as the popularity of the chef's program has prompted organizations like Armed Forces Entertainment to bring spirited downtime to the troops.

So what does Hardin like to eat? When not eating a Hodad's burger straight from the kitchen, he said he can be found noshing on fare from some of his favorite local food joints such as OB Noodle House, The Old Townhouse Restaurant and Pokéz.

For more information, visit hodadies.com.

So what IS a hodad, anyway?

A term that became popular in the 1950s, a hodad was typically used to describe someone who spent time at the beach, possessed both a surf board and the general comportment of a surfer, but who never dared attempt the sport. A surf poser, essentially.



Co-owner Mike Hardin uses the knife of Guy Fieri, host of the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," to slice the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of the downtown location of Hodad's Burgers. Photo courtesy of Photography by Chana and Don

BUSINESSbriefs

• The Gaslamp Quarter Association nominated **Alexander Salazar Fine Art** for its Business Improvement District (BID) Business of the Year. The gallery at 640 Broadway celebrated its first anniversary in March. The association cited Salazar's quick evolution from a small display gallery to a large, space with areas for in-house artists and auctions. The association was also impressed with Salazar's regular usage of the space to assist local charities with fundraisers and to showcase all levels of artistic talent, including students and non-traditional artisans.

The San Diego Chamber of Commerce will honor each of the BID Business of the Year nominees from the varied communities that make up San Diego's BID Council at their Small Business Awards Luncheon and Business Exchange on June 8 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center. One BID Business will also be selected from all of the nominees as an overall winner.

• Denver-based **Smashburger** will sizzle into downtown San Diego with the opening of its fourth San Diego location on May 27 at 801 Market St. The restaurant chain plans to open a total of seven locations in the county over the coming year.

"We are very excited to open our downtown Smashburger location," said San Diego franchise co-owner David Whisenhunt. "The downtown community will now be able to take advantage of the better burger experience throughout the baseball season and into the summer."

• Design firm **Neil Alan Designs** opened a new studio and showroom in the heart of downtown San Diego, while expanding to increase its ability to donate to charity.

In addition to regular professional design services, the business has announced it will provide free design consulting for several downtown transitional housing groups and will make monetary donations to San Diego Habitat for Humanity, the international nonprofit that builds houses for people in need.

"My design firm is all about home," said owner Neil Alan. "Everyone has a right to live comfortably, to enjoy the comforts and warmth that home brings. Our firm is the perfect partner for San Diego Habitat for Humanity and people who are building better lives."

The design firm's new location is at 1353 Sixth Ave., (619) 825-8128.

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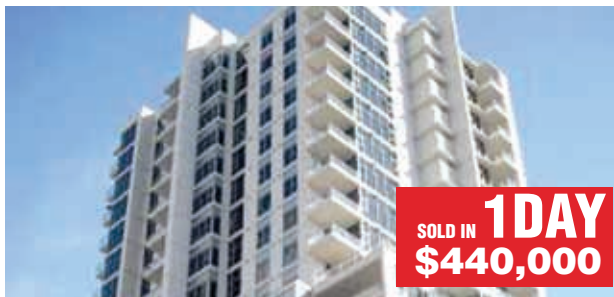


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Bringing nature's wild side to 4th and B

Steppenwolf to rock downtown for endangered species

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A lot of great music was released during the 1960s, but there are few songs as iconic as "Born to Be Wild" by Steppenwolf. Considered the first heavy metal song, the hard rock has been ingrained in the public consciousness since its release in 1968, heard everywhere from the film "Easy Rider" to "The Muppets." Most recently, "Born to be Wild" has been used as the title to an IMAX 3D film, the true story of orphaned orangutans and elephants given a second chance at survival. In this case, the song's use was no accident, as Steppenwolf front man John Kay is a longtime supporter of both human and animal rights.

It's in support of the latter that Kay and Steppenwolf will make a rare appearance at 4th & B on May 7 at 8 p.m. The benefit concert will help raise funds for the Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). While there will no opening act at this event, prior to the band performing, Kay and Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas of Orangutan Foundation International will introduce a trailer for the film.

In conjunction with this concert there will be a screening of the film at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center on Sunday, May 8 at 1 p.m., followed by a reception and a Q & A session with Kay and Galdikas. Funds raised from both events are earmarked to buy forestland to preserve critical habitat in Indonesian Borneo.



Steppenwolf front man John Kay will perform with the band at 4th and B on May 7 in support of the Orangutan Foundation International. Courtesy photo

While Steppenwolf once hit the road for months at a time, the band officially retired from touring in 2007, now preferring to play only a few special events per year. "Born to Be Wild" has held a place of pride in Steppenwolf's set list for over four decades. Kay said he is still thrilled by the response those opening chords get.

"That song is obviously the gift

that keeps on giving," he said. "It's a song, among several of ours, that energizes an audience. If you cannot, as a performer, be affected by the kind of enthusiasm and energy that comes back up on to the stage when you start playing those songs for them, then it truly is time to pursue a different kind of engagement somewhere. Thank goodness the songs we chose to record from '67 onwards, by and



John Kay and Steppenwolf made it big in the 1960s with their hit "Born to be Wild." Courtesy photo

large, have stood the test of time relatively well and the words don't stick in my throat."

Although he said he still enjoys performing, Kay is happier traveling and trying to help the planet through his own Maue Kay Foundation. Named for his wife, fellow board member Jutta Maue Kay, the organization supports individuals and organizations engaged in the protection of wildlife, the environment and human rights.

"Rock and roll music is what I've been about for much of the last 40 years," Kay said. "While I was focused on the band and songwriting and what we do in the business, over the years, my wife and I became increasingly more involved in things. Like millions of others, we started off with a check now and then to the Sierra Club or World Wildlife Fund, or some other good organization that's preserving what's left of our natural

treasures."

Inspired in part by his daughter, who worked at an elephant sanctuary, he decided to become more hands-on with causes near to his heart. While he appreciates all the attention that continues to surround his work with Steppenwolf, he is happy to use this as a resource to shine a spotlight on the plight of animals.

"I prioritize my time for all those things that mean the most to me now," he said. "We used to play a lot but there's other stuff that will keep me excited and engaged. Music is not necessarily at the top of the list. It's important that people realize that we will all be, as human beings, impoverished if we lose some of our great fellow living creatures."

John Kay & Steppenwolf: Saturday, May 7 at 4th & B, 345 B St. 8 p.m. 21 and up. \$40-\$100, www.4thandbevents.com

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Gala to pave way to second chance for success for city's homeless, ex-cons

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

At the fifth annual Art of Success gala on May 5 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla, patrons will have a chance to dine, dance and bid the night away. Meanwhile, their money will be hard at work for the homeless and ex-convicts of San Diego County.

A nonprofit program called Second Chance, the beneficiary of the gala, is the city's guiding force for those on a pathway toward reentry into the employment market — and it's no small job.

"The first week [of instruction in the program] is geared to test their willingness to find work," said Second Chance president and co-founder Scott Silverman. "Many will agree they have never dealt with anything but a prison sentence after spending their entire life lying, cheating and manipulating. It's pretty powerful."

Silverman has been running the program out of the San Diego Rescue Mission for the past 12 years. In that time, more than 5,000 people have graduated from the program that consists of monthly, four-week, 150-hour refresher courses. In addition, the program hosted a job fair in Balboa Park on March 30, offering employer information and individual resume critiques by human resource professionals.

Silverman said he expects as many as 70 will turn out for the next indoctrination and close to half will complete the exercises that offer everything from resume help to navigating the Internet. On average, about 70 percent find jobs. "We (the taxpayers) can spend



Second Chance president and co-founder Scott Silverman addresses a recent group of graduates from the program. Courtesy photo

\$60,000 to keep someone in prison or we can help them find a job to earn \$20,000 to \$30,000," he said. "If they haven't worked for sometime, they'll probably need to start all over again, but the only thing they need to control is their attitude."

Silverman can recall many success stories of past graduates, but one of his favorites is about a woman named Angie.

"She went to work two years ago at Vons, stocking shelves," he said. "Later, she was selected for butcher's training. Now, she's only one of four women in San Diego County serving as a butcher."

Because of her achievement, Angie was nominated to the Second Chance board of directors. In effect, she's now one of Silverman's bosses.

"The woman who answers our office phone was involved in a bank robbery when she was 14," Silverman added.

"Forty percent of the staff are graduates from the program."

Second Chance has been so successful, in fact, that Silverman and his staff are now seeking to improve the lives of others in the community.

"We've expanded with programs for juveniles and veterans to help them make the transition into the community," he said. "Once employed, young people are encouraged to go back to school."

Silverman said he hopes the gala will provide some much-needed support.

"The state of California doesn't invest in us," he said. "We do it with the private sector."

The event, which includes an auction to benefit the Second Chance program, will begin at 6 p.m. at the museum, 700 Prospect St., and will be attended by District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, Police Chief Bill Lansdowne and Sheriff Bill Gore.

PARK

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

the historic Cabrillo Bridge, wind around the Museum of Man and end at a proposed multi-story, 785-space parking garage behind the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in the existing Alcazar parking lot.

Jacobs' proposal had drawn stiff opposition from historical preservation societies throughout the United States, including Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) in San Diego.

Bruce Coons, executive director of SOHO, said the proposed improvements are more akin to something you would want to do for a shopping center instead of a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

Coons said Jacobs' plan was disgraceful, calling it the worst project that has been proposed for Balboa Park in 50 years. He expressed doubts it could be completed in time for the centennial celebration in 2015 and possibly also the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Diego in 2019.

"San Diego doesn't really need this," he said. "There's nothing to like about this plan except for getting the cars out of Plaza de Panama."

Estimated to cost about \$33 million, Jacobs' plan, which has been endorsed by Mayor Jerry Sanders, 26 park museums and the zoo, would be paid for through a combination of philanthropy and private money from large and small donors, with the remainder coming from revenues generated by paid parking.

Lead designer Mark Johnson of Civitas, a Denver-based land-planning and landscape architectural firm, said the basis of the NHL designation is not just the historic Spanish-style buildings, but the composition of structures and landscape. He said restoring the Plaza de California, Plaza de Panama and Esplanade back to their intended use will dramatically improve the historic preservation of the park and greatly increase access, while creating 6.3 acres of space for pedestrians.

trians.

According to Johnson, traffic and pedestrian counts conducted over a six-month period revealed that about 7,000 cars pass through the plaza every day. He defended the need for a bypass bridge, citing the need for space for pedestrians.

"It's a very large challenge to design something that's in a place that so many people love for so many different reasons," Johnson said. "Because there are so many different ideas, everyone can't get their ideal solution. It's all about balance, and we feel that the 6.3 acres of park is a very good tradeoff for some of the concerns that people have."

Betty Peabody, a 42-year volunteer in Balboa Park, said opening up the park and making it more pedestrian-friendly is something she has wanted for many years. She characterized the partnership between Jacobs and the mayor as "two legs of a three-legged stool to do some things the park deserves and has needed for quite a long time," adding that good infrastructure, traffic patterns and connectivity are necessary in order to do what's best for the greatest number of people and for the longest period of time.

"Our goal is to leave a legacy that will last for the next 50 to 100 years like the forefathers did who had such foresight and left it for us," Peabody said. "We want it to be all things to all people and guarantee that it will continue to sustain for future generations."

Jim Hughes, chairman of the board of the Friends of Balboa Park, said the organization remains neutral on issues affecting the park, though there are differences in personal opinions among board members regarding the plan, ranging from strongly in favor to strongly opposed.

"This matter is before the Balboa Park Committee and they alone will decide what is or is not in the scope of the Plaza de Panama project," Hughes said. "The Friends of Balboa Park will go along with whatever their conclusions are."

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

family's belongings into trash bags and evicted them from their home. Her mother, who had been raising Griffith and her brother alone since their father passed away when Griffith was 15, had health problems and was unable to work. Griffith said she was unaware the situation had deteriorated to that point prior to being evicted.

"I may not have a home to call my own and I am constantly wondering when I will be asked to find a new place to stay, but I have a support system of family and friends that will not allow me to fail or give up," Griffith said in her address to the students. "It is important to find your inner strength. There is no need to feel embarrassed by your situation."

Her message resonated with Cha-

con.

"I thought it was awesome she shared that with us," she said. "I don't think most people would be that open about being homeless. I wasn't open with my friends about it. But it inspired me. If Miss Colorado could do it, I think a student here could probably tell their other friends that they're homeless."

Cynthia Valenzuela, 16, who came to San Diego and Monarch by way of Arizona and an unemployed father, said she felt a sort of kinship with the beauty queen.

"[Miss Colorado's] story was really touching," she said. "My own situation went down pretty quickly. We sold everything and picked up and moved out here for a job for my dad that didn't work out. We moved around some, and we lived in our car for a while."

Monarch, she said, has been a saving grace.

"It's like a big family here. I feel at

home," she said. "Without them, I would have nowhere to be. I would not be in school."

Founded in 1988, the school at 808 West Cedar St. serves about 175 students at any given time. It provides food, clothing, backpacks and school supplies, as well as medical and dental services, personal hygiene kits and transportation, among other services. Its student population has grown 75 percent since fall 2009. It has been so successful, in fact, that a new, larger campus is in the works, scheduled to break ground this September at 1625 Newton Ave. near Petco Park.

"Our enrollment is constantly increasing," said Laura White, vice president of development for the school. "We currently have 165 students, but we'll be able to double that, with room for up to 350 students in the new facility."

Sarita Fuentes, CEO and co-principal

of Monarch School, said that with the recent economic turmoil, the school needs to be ready to handle an ever-growing student body — especially one whose appearance is rapidly being altered.

"For the first time ever, we've had students enroll whose families had been homeowners, so we can see the face of homelessness changing," Fuentes said. "And the question becomes, 'How will we break that multi-generational cycle of living in poverty if we don't reach our students one student at a time?' They are being impacted by homelessness, but they can still succeed in life. If we don't invest the time and energy to help each and every student today, that student won't have a fair shot at being a productive, contributing citizen in the future."

For the students who attend Monarch, Miss Colorado's message of

making goals and pursuing dreams echoes the encouragement they've been given by their teachers and administrators. Valenzuela said that, after she graduates, her first goal will be to find a stable place to stay. After that, however, she plans to go to college for music. She and some of her classmates even wrote a song for the school. They called it "Worth the Wait."

Chacon is also very sure about what she'll do after she graduates from Monarch.

"Come back and visit," she said with a laugh. "I made lots of friends and lost lots of friends, but most have come back. Once you're a Monarch person, you're always a Monarch person."

Again, she repeated, "Monarch is awesome."

For more information or to donate to help fund the school's new facility, visit www.monarchschoools.org.

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PRODUCTION

ADVERTISING SALES

LEGAL / CLASSIFIEDS
ACCOUNTING

JULIE HOISINGTON
KEVIN MCKAY (x131)
bbp@sdnews.com
beacon@sdnews.com

CLAIRE HARLIN (x133)
ljvn@sdnews.com

KENDRA HARTMANN (x132)
downtown@sdnews.com

ANNA MAGULAC
CASEY DEAN
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PHOTOGRAPHERS
DON BALCH, JIM GRANT,
PAUL HANSEN, MIKE MCCARTHY

CONTRIBUTORS
BART MENDOZA, BIANCA KOCH,
CAROL OLTON, CHARLENE BALDRIDGE,
DIANA CAVAGNARO, HOLLY BEEDLE,
JOHN FRY, JOHNNY McDONALD,
JUDITH GARFIELD, KAI OLIVER-KURTIN,
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MANNY LOPEZ, MEAGHAN CLARK,
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SCOTT HOPKINS, SEBASTIAN RUIZ,
TAWNY MAYA MCCRAY,
VINCENT ANDRUNAS

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Don't miss it!FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT downtown San Diego, VISIT
sdnews.com**FRIDAY, May 6**

• **Leo Dan and King Clave**, 8 p.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., performance by two legendary Argentinian performers, www.sandiegotheatres.org, \$51.50-\$97.50

SATURDAY, May 7

• **San Diego Air and Space Museum: "Hollywood Studs and Starlets,"** 5:30 p.m., 2001 Pan American Plaza, guests are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite star and enjoy a gourmet dinner and live entertainment, \$250

• **Sangam San Diego 19th annual Culture Show**, 6 p.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., student-run show featuring the cultures of South Asia, www.apneaap.org, \$18

• **Coronado Island Nature Cruise**, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., H&M Landing, 2803 Emerson St., starting May 7 and lasting through May 29, the San Diego Natural History Museum will offer nature cruises to the wildlife sanctuary near the Coronado Islands where viewers will enjoy whales, sea lions, dolphins, sea birds and other marine wildlife, www.sdnhm.org, \$50 for adults, \$40 for children ages 4-12, \$45 for seniors and military

TUESDAY, May 10

• **Centre City Advisory Committee Pre-Design Subcommittee meeting**, 5:15 p.m., 401 B St., Suite 400, meeting to review preliminary design proposal for Fat City Lofts, a six-story residential mixed-use building to be located on block bounded by Pacific Highway, Ivy, California and Hawthorne streets, www.ccdc.com

WEDNESDAY, May 11

• **Centre City Development Corporation Board Real Estate Committee meeting**, 9 a.m., 401 B St., Suite 400, meeting to review preliminary design proposal for Fat City Lofts, a six-story residential mixed-use building to be located on block bounded by Pacific Highway, Ivy, California and Hawthorne streets, www.ccdc.com

THURSDAY, May 12

• **Wine 101: Exploring Sparkling and Fortified Wines**, 6 to 8 p.m., San Diego Wine and Culinary Center, 200 Harbor Drive, last class in an introductory wine series offering an understanding of the process of getting the grape to the glass, how to taste and a bit of history, (619) 231-6400, \$40

FRIDAY, May 13

• **Kettner Nights in Little Italy North**, 6 to 9 p.m., Kettner Boulevard and India Street from Grape to Laurel streets, discover art, design and antiques during this bi-monthly neighborhood walk.

• **"The Body" art show**, 5 to 8 p.m., Pilates Plus San Diego, 1950 Fifth Ave., Suite 301, join art students from High Tech High as they display their recent art project with all proceeds going back to the school and the students, champagne, chocolate, cheese and sparkling cider offered, www.pilatesplussandiego.com

SATURDAY, May 14

• **"Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins,"** San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, the museum's newest exhibit takes visitors to the ends of the earth to explore the polar regions and their inhabitants, \$17 adults, \$15 seniors, \$12 military and youth 13-17, \$11 children (children under 2 free), (619) 232-3821, www.sdnhm.org

• **George Bizet's "Carmen,"** 7 p.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., performance runs through May 22, www.sandiegotheatres.org, \$45-\$235

• **Mastercard and California Coast Credit Union Financial Forum**, 1 p.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., financial education seminar featuring Bill and Giuliana Rancic sharing insight into how they reached financial freedom, www.sandiegotheatres.org, free (RSVP required)

• **American Indian Art Market and Film Festival**, 10 a.m., San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, market and festival featuring American Indian artists selling their creations ranging from jewelry to sculpture, paintings to pottery and weavings to woodcarvings and more; while the weekend's activities will feature cultural activities, entertainment, and films for visitors, (619) 239-2001, free with admission to the museum

TUESDAY, May 17

• **East Village Board of Directors annual meeting, election and mixer**, 5:30 p.m., Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 1155 Island Ave., info@eastvillage.sandiego.com

• **Reverse mortgage workshop**, 6 p.m., The Forward House, 108 Ivy St., (619) 533-7904, Lee@amsecmortgage.net

SEE CALENDAR, Page 9

MustDo
May Day delights

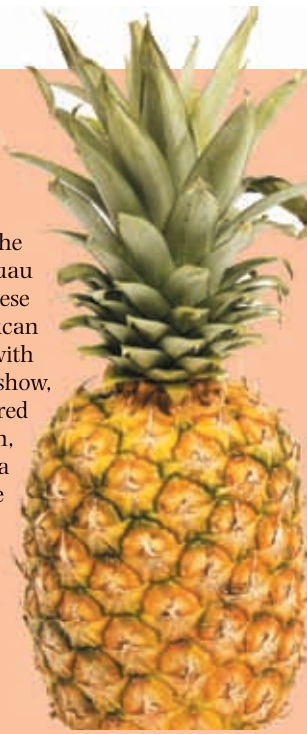
The Marston House in Balboa Park will hold its annual May Day garden party on May 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Revelers can participate in springtime activities, home and garden tours, a plein-air art show, benefit auction and live music spread across five acres of gardens at the northwest corner of the park, 3525 Seventh Ave.

Held each year on the first Saturday of the month, May Day celebrations at historic landmark offer a perfect treat for mothers on Mother's Day weekend. All proceeds from the garden party will benefit the restoration of the house's grounds, formal garden and a long neglected garden that descends into Cabrillo Canyon.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, and include refreshments, guided tours of the house and gardens, live music, fashion show and art show. For tickets, call (619) 297-9327 or (619) 297-7511 or visit www.sohosandiego.org

**MustTaste**
Luau
in the
park

On Sunday, May 14, get into the aloha spirit at the Sunset Luau from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road. Celebrate the arrival of spring with a luau dinner and royal Polynesian show, featuring Pacific Rim-style buffet catered by Yokoz Pacific Island Catering. Then, take a tour of Polynesian Islands with a show featuring hula, Tahitian and fire dances. For reservation, call (619) 232-2721. Tickets to the event are \$35 for Friendship Garden members and \$50 for non-members.



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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

FRIDAY, May 20

• **Third Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast**, 7:30 a.m., Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Blvd., tbi-ship@thecentersd.org, \$50

SATURDAY, May 21

• **Balboa Theatre's Behind the Scenes Tour**, 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., see the sights, hear the stories and experience the historic Balboa Theatre from a different perspective, no children under the age of 5 and no strollers, (619) 570-1100, \$7

WEDNESDAY, May 25

• **St. Paul's Senior Health and Resource Fair**, 9 a.m., St. Paul's Villa, 2340 Fourth Ave., a day dedicated to senior health, featuring free health screenings, informational seminars, fitness classes, Wii bowling and tennis and square dancing, (619) 239-6900, www.stpaulseniors.org

SUNDAY, May 29

• **Neisha's Dance and Music Academy Circus**, 2 p.m., Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., annual show by students of Neisha's Academy, (619) 570-1100, \$19.50-\$27.50

TUESDAY, May 31

• **"Mamma Mia!"**, 7 p.m., Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave., opening night for the musical that runs through June 5, (619) 570-1100, \$36-\$135

MustGo

A washbuckling San Diegans can come out in full force at the two-day "Pirate Days" event, held by the San Diego Maritime Museum on May 21 and 22. Starting at 9 a.m., the event will feature carnival games, costume contests, treasure hunts, theatrical performances, cannon firings, swordfight demonstrations aboard the Star of India and re-enactments aboard the HMS Surprise. A 45-minute historic bay cruise on San Diego Bay aboard the Pilot boat is available for \$3, plus the cost of admission, and performances aboard the Treasure Seeker will take place at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. for an additional fee. Participants who wear a pirate costume will receive \$2 off the admission fee, which is \$14 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. Maritime Museum, 1492 North Harbor Drive, www.sdmaritime.org

A pirate's life



A photo from "Wings of Gold: Coronado and Naval Aviation" shows the Hotel Del Coronado and aviation in its early days. In conjunction with the exhibit, the theme of the Historic Homes Tour this year is "Honoring Naval Aviation: Six Different Homes, Six Different Stories."

Photo courtesy of the Coronado Historical Association.

MustSee

History and the homes of naval aviators

On May 8, treat your mother to the Coronado Historic Homes Tour, presented by the Coronado Museum of History and Art. In conjunction with the Coronado Historical Association's newest exhibit, "Wings of Gold: Coronado and Naval Aviation," the tour will visit homes on the island that were lived in by naval aviators at one time between 1910 and 1940. The six homes to be featured reflect a variety of pre-war architectural styles, including California Craftsman, Spanish Moderne, Santa Fe Territorial and Modern.

The Old Town Trolley will shuttle visitors from selected parking locations around Coronado to the homes on the tour.

Tickets are \$30 for association members and \$35 for non-members. For tickets, call (619) 435-7242. The tour runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See What's Cooking at the Sè

With the debut of a brand new menu, and month-long specials on burgers and breakfast, the Sè San Diego's Suite & Tender restaurant should be a "can't miss" on your dining radar this month.

This week, Suite & Tender is launching a new menu that blends New American Cuisine with playful Asian influences. The restaurant's signature steak entrees have been paired with ingredients like fresh baby bok choy, wasabi potato spring-rolls and vegetable fried rice, while Macadamia Crusted Ono, Sesame Citrus Chicken and Bacon-Wrapped Shrimp with Thai sauce have been added to the menu. Setting the flavor tone are new house made sauces, including a House Steak Sauce made with molasses, orange zest, crushed garlic, local IPA and a Kogi BBQ Sauce that offers the perfect blend of sweet and spicy.

"Our new menu stays true to the original concept of Suite & Tender by keeping the familiar steak and seafood elements on the menu. We got very creative with the recipes by using seasonal ingredients that add bursts of

summer flavor," said Executive Chef Anthony Calamari.

For the burger lover, May is National Burger Month and in its honor, Suite & Tender is serving daily lunch specials all month long. For \$10.47 (a nod to the restaurant's address), diners can enjoy the featured Burger of the Day along with a complimentary beer or non-alcoholic beverage. Lunch is served daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A must have for busy downtown residents and business people alike, breakfast at Suite & Tender is offering local San Diegans an incredible 2 for 1 Breakfast Special. Diners who show their residency in San Diego County will receive two entrees for the price of one on the new breakfast menu and \$3 Bloody Mary's and Mimosas. The breakfast special is being offered daily (except May 8th) from 7 to 11 a.m.

From a delicious day-starting power breakfast, to no-fuss hearty lunch and savory dinner bursting with flavor, there is something for everyone at the Sè San Diego Hotel's Suite & Tender restaurant. For more information visit www.sesandiegohotel.com or call 619-515-3000.

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At Bread on Market, we think it is very important to provide our customers with a fresh and tasty soup that can complement any one of our sandwiches. Potato leek soup is simple, delicious and great for cooks of all levels. Omit the cream and milk and substitute for more broth for a healthy option and pair with a grilled cheese or favorite Panini for a delightful meal.

Potato Leek Soup

Ingredients:

- 4 Leeks – trimmed and sliced
- 1 Yellow onion – diced
- 5 Potatoes – peeled and thinly sliced
- ¼ Cup unsalted butter
- 1 T salt or to taste
- 3 Cups milk
- 2 Cups heavy cream
- 2-3 quarts chicken broth

Method:

Sauté onion and leeks in butter until browned. Add potatoes and broth, cook until tender – approx 35 min. Add salt and puree. After it has been pureed add the milk and cream.

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.

Manchester Grand Hyatt

Just a stone crab's throw from Seaport Village is Sally's Seafood on the Water, a charming and sophisticated waterfront eatery. Chef de Cuisine Sarah Linkenheil's obsession with fresh fish and bold flavors shines through in signature dishes like the decadent Lobster Pot Pie and Smoked Tomato Cioppino. Open daily for lunch, happy hour, and dinner. Late breakfast, served on weekends. Three hour validated self-parking at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.

Bread on Market

Downtown's Artisan Bakery, Breads On Market is open from 7:30 to 4:00 Sunday-Thursday and 7:30 to 5:00 Friday & Saturday. We are open late night for all Padre games. Voted Best Bakery 2008 from the San Diego Downtown News 2008 and received the Silver Fork Award from San Diego Home and Garden. Schedule your next business or organization board meeting in our quaint patio or let us cater your next event. We deliver Hot Lunch and Sandwich Special or come in and enjoy a wonder Cheese Plate with a glass of wine or beer to go with our famous Rueben. For Sweet and Treats we serve Cookies, Brownies, and Package Housemade Granola. Take a loaf of fresh Artisan bread home for dinner.

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Brian's 24

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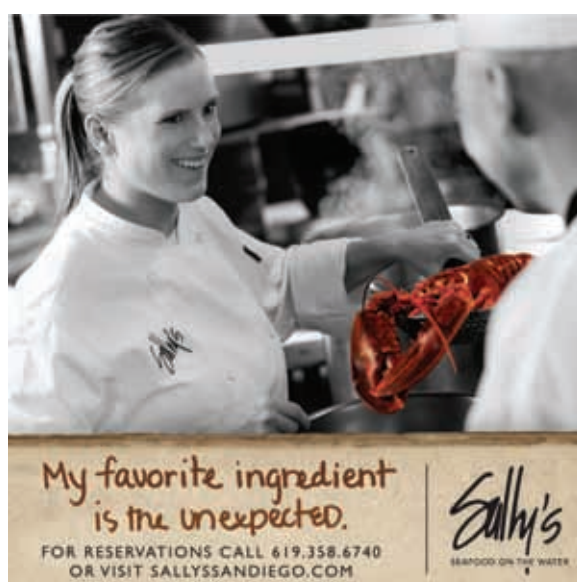
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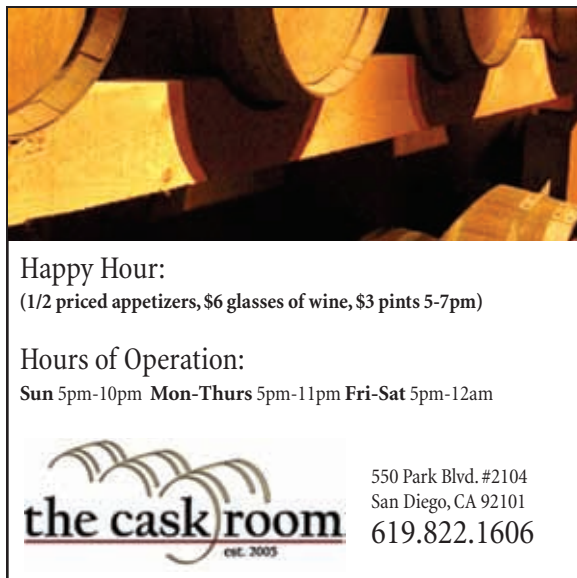


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News and notes from the park

By JOHNNY McDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Old Hollywood in Balboa Park

The incomparable Mickey Rooney, a perennial performer with 350 film credits spanning eight decades, will appear at the San Diego Air and Space Museum’s “Hollywood Studs and Starlets” fund-

raiser on May 7. Proceeds from the event will benefit the museum’s youth educational programs. Rooney’s career dates back to the silent-film era, but his most memorable roles were with Elizabeth Taylor and

Judy Garland and as the title character in the wildly successful Andy Hardy series. Rooney played a fighter pilot in the 1954 Korean War movie “The Bridges of Toko-Ri.” The evening will include special dance performances and live entertainment from the Jazz Project Big Band with guest local television weathercaster/personalists, Dave Scott as well as red carpet glamour and paparazzi, celebrity impersonators, and both silent and live auctions.

Fixing history a frame at a time

Fifty years after Yuri Gagarin’s historic flight into space, the Air and Space Museum is playing a pivotal role in reuniting two pieces of unique footage of the Russian astronaut by using its new hi-definition film digitizer. The 16mm film footage shows Gagarin arriving at Ringway Airport in Manchester, England on July 12, 1961,

and being greeted by the president of the foundry workers’ union. Gagarin was himself a former foundry man. It was Gagarin’s first visit outside of the Soviet bloc.

The air we breath

Is climate change a public health issue for San Diego? That’s the topic being discussed May 24 in the Reuben H. Fleet’s Culture Center by Paula Murray of the county’s Division of Public Health Services. Discussions will center around Earth’s climate change over the next 40 years. The fear is that human mortality and morbidity likely will be impacted by temperature, air pollution, vector and waterborne diseases, wildfires and other ecological changes. Murray is also a faculty member at San Diego State University’s Graduate School of Public Health. She will examine where we are now, what may be ahead and how we can

best prepare for the future. Andrea Cook, Ph.D. program manager for the California Center for Sustainable Energy, will moderate the discussion, which will start at 5:30 p.m. There is no admission charge.



Balboa Park will be host to a number of events this month. From Hollywood glamour to historical archives to educational discussions, there’s something for everyone during May.

MUSEUMnews

The San Diego County Fair’s theme this year deals with the automobile and the Auto Museum is furnishing some of its collection for an expanded display. Pick up a Balboa Park guide at the visitors center (in the Prado area) for what’s new at the museums and plan your day. The center is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended summer hours.

— Johnny McDonald

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MONDAY LOBSTER NIGHT Available Monday nights. \$50 per person, \$70 with wine pairing. Savor a three-course menu featuring Maine Lobster Tail preparations, including Pistachio Butter Basted Lobster Tail.

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Meet the *Downtown News*' newest columnist!



Alexandra Rosa started her career as an analyst in New York, helped launch a spa franchise and following a short stint on Bravo TV, started ArtRocks!, an online

radio show chronicling San Diego arts, culture and fashion.

In the *Downtown News*' newest column, Rosa will explore San Diego's cultural landscape inside and out by featuring the individuals who are shaping our environment..

"I do tons of research," she said. "I like to tease my guests."

Her roster of past interviewees includes Bono, Jamie Lee Curtis and local designer Zandra Rhodes.

This month,

Rosa sat down

with downtown

art-scene guru

Alexander

Salazar for an

in-depth look

the gallery

owner's artistic

beginnings.



Alexander Salazar in his downtown gallery space, Alexander Salazar Fine Art, at 640 Broadway. Courtesy photo



Downtown uncovered: Alexander Salazar's world of art

By **ALEXANDRA ROSA** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

before returning to the states.

How well do I know this over-achiever? Well, Alex and I go way back, about 10 years in fact. I remember first meeting him at an art show in La Jolla where he managed a gallery. I used to hang out at his exhibitions where we would swap fashion stories, gossip and sip champagne while he managed the store and sold art. I had always hoped he would one day have his own gallery where he would be able to change art work in the windows weekly and mix it up often. Now he has three downtown art spaces.

With more than 13 years' experience as an art dealer around the country, Salazar continues to build museum-quality collections worldwide. I recently sat down with him at his office/gallery and uncovered a side to him rarely seen. It was like stepping into an abandoned warehouse and discovering a beautiful painting underneath a cloak of dust and cobwebs. A real gem and a true find.

Alexandra Rosa: If you had one tip for an artist what would it be?

Alexander Salazar: Get off Facebook and paint! You create it, let your art defend itself, just paint.

AR: What do you think is the most misunderstood about art?

AS: That you should buy it for an investment.

AR: If heaven exists, what would you

like to hear when you arrive at the pearly gates?

AS: What are ya doing here!

AR: [Big laugh] So I take it you're not expecting to go to heaven?

AS: I have a degree in theology from Harvard so I will definitely get into heaven. What would God say to me? Good job.

AR: What is your first memory of looking at a piece of art?

AS: When I was in eighth grade, my teacher, Miss Ryan, in middle school, brought in a bar of Ivory soap that was carved into a swan.

AR: Bottle blonde or natural?

AS: It's not natural.

AR: When did you know that art was your passion?

AS: It was in 1995 when I first sold my first piece of art at a Boston gallery for \$600 and I screwed up all the paperwork, but they were happy. I also used to sell my own art at coffee shops and have my own exhibits.

AR: Why did you choose downtown San Diego as the location for your gallery?

AS: Downtown San Diego felt closest to home for me. I grew up in a tough neighborhood in Houston, Texas, in the city, urban living, in a normal household with seven kids. I feel most at home in downtown and I live a block away from my gallery. I love that. It's my block and I wanted to invest in my neighborhood, change it, make it better and I'm gonna do it!

AR: P.S. Alex you already have.

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Faulconer, residents shielding libraries from cuts

By **PATRICIA WALSH** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Calling libraries the “heart and soul of the community,” District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer joined Friends of the Ocean Beach Library and the OB Rag to collect signatures to thwart proposed cuts to San Diego’s city libraries.

The recommended cuts would reduce each library’s operating hours from 36 to 18.5 hours a week, as part of Mayor Jerry Sanders’ proposed \$1.1 billion operating budget for the city’s 2012 fiscal year, which takes effect July 1. The signatures were to be presented to the City Council during the library department’s budget review today, May 5.

The City Council’s final vote on the budget is scheduled for June 30.

“I’m going to vote to keep libraries open at levels they’re open now. The city needs to make cuts in other areas,” Faulconer said in front of the historic Ocean Beach Branch Library, where a crowd of supporters wore “I Love My Library—SupportMyLibrary.org” stickers and carried signs. Among the sign messages was “America’s Dumbest City.”

Sanders’ proposed 2012 budget includes cutting \$14 million from recreation centers, beach fire pits and libraries, which would take a \$7.1 million hit by closing library doors all but two days during the week and every other Saturday.

“There is room in every department to make changes,” Faulconer said. “But our library department, they have done fantastic with less money. Our neighborhood volunteers have really picked up the slack.”

Since 2000, city library hours have been cut from an average of 51 hours a week to 36 hours a week, according to city records.



Sign-wielding residents joined District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer on Saturday to protest planned cutbacks in the city library system’s operating hours, launching a petition drive outside the Ocean Beach Branch Library. **JIM GRANT** | Downtown News

“Our libraries should be free and open to the public, just as our beaches remain that way,” Faulconer said. “As we saw with Proposition D, neighbors want City Hall to spend the money that it has wisely. Where we will be able to save literally hundreds of millions of dollars is pension reform, and that’s why I’m pushing for a measure on the June ballot.”

“When there’s a choice between libraries and an affordable pension, I know which side most voters are going to weigh in on,” he added.

Noting that the city also needs to get creative on financial solutions, Faulconer talked about his idea to install solar panels on streetlights.

“It not only generates electricity for light but potential revenue back to the city,” he said.

Currently, there are 37 library branches and programs throughout the city of San Diego, seven of which are in

District 2 in the communities of Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Mission Hills, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, and in downtown the Central Library and READ/San Diego program.

On a typical day, according to library department statistics, San Diego’s city libraries attract 26,000 visitors who check out 28,000 items; 6,701 people use a computer and 1,000 patrons attend library programs. Last year, 30,000 children were enrolled in the library’s summer reading program.

“One of the great things about libraries is it cuts across every age group and every demographic,” Faulconer said. “This is what I consider to be an essential city service.”

To learn more about the drive to save local libraries or to share your view with Faulconer, call (619) 236-6622, or e-mail kevinfaulconer@sandiego.gov.

NEWS**briefs**

• America on Travel + Leisure Magazine’s website made known to the country to what San Diegans already know by naming **Balboa Park “one of the coolest urban parks in America.”** The site noted the park’s open-air San Diego Zoo, the Tony Award-winning Old Globe Theater and the breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean from several spots in the park.

The magazine called the 1,200-acre park San Diego’s “single greatest tourist attraction,” where park-derived tourist spending came to \$114.3 million, according to the Trust for Public Land.

“In gaining this recognition, many Americans will come to understand what we in San Diego already know,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders in a recent statement. “Balboa Park is not only one of the largest and most beautiful city parks in the U.S., but also one of the coolest.”

• The San Diego Padres announced they have selected **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** as one of their select charities for the 2011 season. Through May 8, \$5 from each ticket sold with a special promotional code will be donated to the San Diego chapter of the breast cancer organization.

The team will also promote various special events during its May 2-8 homestand, such as “Friday Party at the Park: Beerfest” on May 6 and “Bud Black Bobbleheads” on May 7.

On May 8, an “honorary bat girl” will be recognized in their annual Mother’s Day celebration. Several players are expected to use pink bats stamped with the MLB breast cancer awareness logo on that day, demonstrating their support for the cause.

• The 12th annual **Lawnmower Trade-In Event** proved to once again be a success as hundreds of residents lined up at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, on April 23 to trade in their old, gasoline powered mowers for a new electric version.

Pat Patterson, of National City, was the first in line for the deal. He arrived at the site at 8 p.m. the night before, followed by Frank Alonzo of Chula Vista at 1:30 a.m. The bulk of mowing hopefuls arrived between 4 and 6 a.m.

Seven hundred and ten lucky San Diegans went home with a new Black and Decker CMM 1200, 24-volt cordless mulching mower. The model, which costs \$399, was sold to the participants at the bargain price of \$99.

“The average gasoline-powered lawnmower spews out 40 times more pollution than a late model car,” said County Supervisor Ron Roberts, who spearheaded the campaign 12 years ago. “Since the annual lawnmower trade-in event started in 2000, it has distributed 5,200 zero-emission lawnmowers and taken 22 tons per year of volatile organic compounds out of the air.”

• On April 15, Mayor Jerry Sanders joined County Supervisor Greg Cox, City Councilman Kevin Faulconer and representatives from the Kumeyaay Tribe at Spanish Landing to toast the first major **construction milestone of the San Salvador**, a historically-accurate replica of the European flagship that first explored the Pacific Coast in 1542. Hosted by the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the event kicked off construction of the ship with a keel-laying ceremony. The San Salvador will serve as the keystone in a living-history exhibit commemorating California heritage.

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Lael's

La Jolla designer says Royal Wedding an 'affair of the hat'

Rhodes reminisces about making 'classic' attire for Princess Di

By **CLAIRE HARLIN** | DOWNTOWN NEWS

Everyone is talking about the Royal Wedding. Everyone.

But what better person to opine on the glamour and fashion of the majestic marriage between Prince William and Kate Middleton than La Jolla Zandra Rhodes, an internationally known fashion designer who has experience designing dresses for none other than the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Not to mention, her star-studded client list also includes Jackie Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor and Freddie Mercury of the rock group 'Queen.'

"You are aware of the hats more than anything else, besides the beautiful bride and her dress."

ZANDRA RHODES

Local fashion designer

But this past week, Rhodes was in London, where she headed after appearing for "Brit-Week" at the Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills. She said she watched the Royal Wedding on TV at a party with friends, and her main take on the event is that it was "an affair of the hat."

"You are more aware of the hats than anything else, besides the beautiful bride and her dress, of course," she said in a May 3 telephone interview from Seattle, where she is working on costumes for the "Magic Flute" opera. Rhodes' designs were also featured last month in La Jolla John Malashock's acclaimed production of "The Floating World."

Rhodes designed about a dozen dresses for Princess Di in the 1980s, she said, her most notable being a pale pink off-shoulder dress that was worn with pearls when the princess was pregnant. She said it was a "beautiful, classic dress, something that could have belonged to Grace Kelly."

She said she was honored to have been commissioned make dresses for Diana, who she said "did the job well, and wore her clothes well."



This sketch illustrates Zandra Rhodes' design of a classic, pink dress worn by Princess Diana in the 1980s. Drawing by Zandra Rhodes

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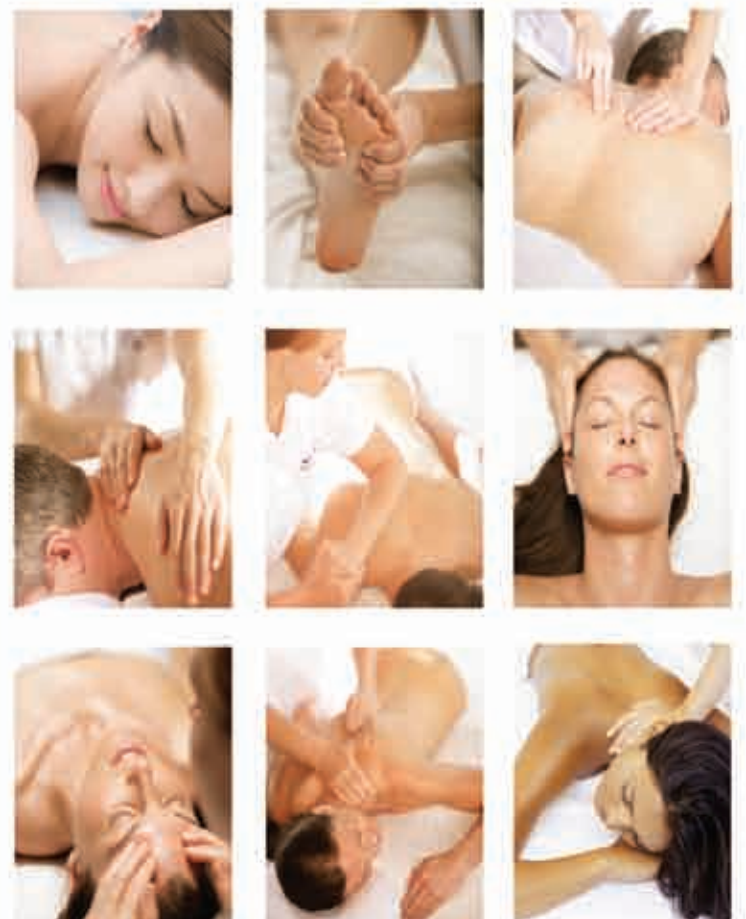
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MAY 2011 | VOL. 12, No. 5

Jump into Little Italy's May events

Pizza, Prosecco, wine, beer and coffee will also be offered along the way.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will benefit the

Sicilian Festival

Get ready to party, Sicilian style.

On May 22, the 18th annual San Diego Sicilian Festival rolls through Little Italy, and the festival will once again bring the delights of the Italian island to the heart of San Diego.

This year, due to its popularity, the festival has expanded, and will offer all the dancing, music, food and entertainment that can fit between Kettner Boulevard and Columbia Street from Beech to Grape streets.

"The purpose is to highlight the culture that Sicilian immigrants brought to San Diego when they started arriving around 1915," said Giovanna DiBona, who volunteers to help organize the fes-

tival every year. "They imparted the culture of Sicily, and it's such a rich history."

DiBona said that, in support of that rich history, organizers have enhanced the cultural pavilion, where arts, crafts and historical displays will provide a glimpse at Sicilian culture. Outside of that pavilion, however, is where the party really starts.

A parade will herald in the festival, complete with traditional Sicilian costumes, music and dancing, before which attendees can participate in various activities, such as a pasta-eating contest, traditional grape stomp and a simulated Italian bridal procession. Last year, the bridal procession didn't have to be simulated, as DiBona and organizers threw an impromptu wedding for a couple that was volunteering with

the festival.

"I found out they were going to get married in the county administration building with no one around because they had no money for a wedding and no family in the city," DiBona said. "We found an unclaimed wedding dress at a dry cleaner's, loaned them my husband's tuxedo, and had this wonderful event you could never forget. It was just magical."

Entertainment on the festival's four stages this year includes a cooking demonstration and book signing by the Food Network's Giada de Laurentiis, a performance by soprano Cristina Fontanelli and a show from the nationally-acclaimed Roman Holiday Ensemble. And one of the biggest draws, of course, will be the food.

"Whether you're Irish or German

SEE ITALY, Page 23

Taste of Little Italy

Much to the delight of gourmands and lovers of Italian fare, the Little Italy Association will present the fourth annual Taste of Little Italy on May 25 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Offering everything from traditional Italian pizza and pasta to sophisticated and eclectic culinary treats, the event gives participants the chance to tour the neighborhood on foot while supporting local eateries.

This year, organizers are putting the spotlight on the newest restaurants to the neighborhood, and visitors can enjoy live music as they sample appetizers, entrees, beverages and desserts from the area's well-known and yet-to-be-discovered establishments.

Some of the delectable treats to be sampled are fusilli with pink pancetta sauce from Bencotto Italian Restaurant, pipian-crusted brie with jalapeno jelly from Indigo Grill, mini meatballs and sausages from Petrini's and, of course, pizza by the slice from Filippi's Pizza Grotto and Landini's



Flags, costumes, music, dance and the Sicilian spirit all combine to make this one the nation's most colorful ethnic festivals.

One of the highlights of the Sicilian Festival is the procession through San Diego's Little Italy at noon, featuring costumed musicians and dancers. The goal of the Sicilian Festival is to preserve the culture brought to San Diego by Sicilian immigrants beginning in the early 20th century. The festival offers plenty of Italian food, including a spaghetti-eating contest.

Photos courtesy the Sicilian Festival.

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San Diego fashion goes philanthropic, finds passion



Fashion Files Diana Cavagnaro

EA Vintage at Jimmy Love's

EA Vintage held a trunk show at Jimmy Loves, 672 Fifth Ave., on April 11, and owner Erica Hecht was on hand to greet all the guests. Retro-inspired fashion is a huge trend, and there are many reasons customers shop vintage: It's a great way to save money, stay green and add some unique pieces to your wardrobe.

"Customers love to know that by wearing vintage, they stand out and will be the only one wearing that piece," Hecht said. "Originally vintage was a hobby and now it has become my passion and love. When my customers and clients purchase anything from me, I want to make sure that they all realize they are buying a piece of history — that was hand picked by yours truly and is of great quality."

She said she believes that style can be learned and she enjoys helping people learn how to pair vintage fashion with modern trends.

Proceeds from the evening went to San Diego Mesa College and a fund that provides scholarships to Mesa fashion students. The school's annual fashion show, which showcases students' work, is scheduled for May 13 at



Designer Clay Sadler created a Red Queen-inspired gown for Disney Studios. DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina.

There's No Place Like Home

Vista Hill presented its 20th annual Luncheon & Fashion Show with a "Wizard of Oz" theme at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. Mistress of ceremony Carol Le Beau touched the audience with her story about how mental illness has affected her life. Lynn Cihak was chair and Lynelle Lynch was honorary chair. All the tables were decorated with ruby slippers as centerpieces and attendees were treated to a dessert straight from Oz — a ruby slipper made from white chocolate.

Following the yellow brick road, the afternoon culminated with Fashion Oz.

Characters from Oz joined the models on the runway. Each segment was coordinated with the theme, finishing with "There's No place Like Home." The finale showcased the couture gowns of Goga, a Project Runway finalist and downtown San Diego storeowner.

Proceeds from the show go to Vista Hill, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life for families and people with mental health problems. For more information, visit www.vista.hill.org

Fashion With a Passion

"Fashion With a Passion," took place on April 16 at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) campus. Fashionistas shopped at the boutique before the Ultimate Accessories Swap, in which all the attendees were able to swap designer and vintage items such as jewelry, handbags and shoes.

Attendees were treated to demonstrations in skincare and draping by FIDM students. The afternoon culminated with a fashion show by FIDM alumni Paul Hernandez and Clay Sadler. Hernandez, who showed his architectural collection at Fashion Week in El Paseo last month, picked four of his designs to wow the audience at FIDM.

Sadler showed three designs, one of which was designed for Disney Studios, from whom he took Alice in Wonderland's Red Queen as inspiration. The



Models shows off a gown designed by San Diego downtown designer Goga at Vista Hill's 20th annual luncheon and fashion show. DIANA CAVAGNARO | Downtown News

train was made of 165 yards of material and was truly remarkable. The event benefits the San Diego Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and two of the Make-A-Wish kids were on hand to enjoy all the fashion events. For more information, visit www.WishSanDiego.org.

Upcoming Events

Friday May 6: Non-Fabric Fashions, 5 to 8 p.m., Visions Art Museum in Liberty Station, 2825 Dewey Road, Suite 100, www.quiltvisions.org.

Friday May 13: San Diego Mesa College Golden Scissors Fashion Show at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, (619) 388-2206, slazear@sdccd.edu.

Thursday May 19: "Hats Off to San Diego — All Things Bright and Beautiful" presented by Gold Diggers at the Prado in Balboa Park, (619) 246-2073.

Thursday May 19: Fashion Group International Trend Event, 6 to 8 p.m., San Diego History Center in Balboa Park, features a DVD on trends and a panel on marketing, (619) 952-4558.

Thursday May 26: "Summer Style Soiree," 6 to 10 p.m., Fluxx, 500 Fourth Ave., second annual charity runway event presented by the Junior League of San Diego, www.jlsd.org.

Friday, May 27: The Art Institute of California's "IT" Fashion Show featuring the theme "Alterna," 6 to 9 p.m., Loews Coronado Bay Resort, 400 Loews Coronado Bay Road, (858) 598-1200

— Diana Cavagnaro is a nationally recognized hat designer and milliner and has been operating a fashion business for 30 years, located in downtown San Diego's Historic Gaslamp Quarter for the last 20 years. She is an active member of the Gaslamp Quarter Association, The American Sewing Guild, the San Diego Costume Council and the Fashion Group International.



THE LIVELY ARTS Charlene Baldrige

"It's May! It's May! The merry month of May!" and San Diego's arts scene is lively, lusty and alive.

• Through May 15 at the **Lyceum Theatre**, 79 Horton Plaza, award-winning playwright Anna Deavere Smith ("Fires in the Mirror," "Twilight: Los Angeles") presents her latest one-woman show, "Let Me Down Easy," for which she interviewed more than 300 people, including cyclist Lance Armstrong. The concern is the vulnerability of the human body, the resilience of the human spirit and the cost of healthcare.

Nothing could be timelier or more important. Visit www.sdrep.org (619) 544-1000 for tickets.

• May 14-22 at the **Civic Theatre**, San Diego Opera presents that sultry siren of grand opera, a gypsy named Carmen, who is loved excessively by two men, a toreador and an AWOL soldier. Sung by an international company of outstanding singers, Georges Bizet's "Carmen" is a visual and aural spectacle, lusty and full of familiar melodies not to be missed, accompanied by San Diego Symphony under the baton of resident conductor Karen Keltner. Visit www.sdopera.com to hear excerpts and order tickets.

• May 7 through June 12, **The Old Globe** presents Tracy Letts' Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning "August: Osage County," directed by Sam Gold and featuring a stunningly talented

ensemble. When dear old dad goes missing, the huge and hugely dysfunctional Weston family reunites and it's no-holds-barred, skeletons-out-of-the-closet togetherness that the New York Times called "the most exciting play Broadway has seen in years." Warning: contains strong language. www.theoldglobe.org or (619) 23-GLOBE.

• May 27-29 at **Copley Symphony Hall** (Seventh Avenue and B Street) San Diego Symphony presents all-Beethoven concerts with guest artist Gil Shaham playing the Violin Concerto in D Major with the orchestra under the baton of artistic director Jahja Ling. Also programmed are Beethoven's Overture to "Coriolan" and the famous Symphony No. 5 in C minor, with its unforgettable "fate" motif. Go to the website for tickets and an audio preview from Nuvi Mehta, the voice of San Diego Symphony, www.sandiegosymphony.org or call (619) 235-0804.



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9:00 Performance Group

Thursday
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New gallery adds storm of color to Little Italy

By WILL BOWEN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

A new gallery, called McNabb Martin Contemporary Art, has opened in a very classy and elegant building at 1990 Columbia St. in Little Italy. The gallery is the brainchild of abstract artist-turned-gallery owner Patricia McNabb Martin, and it looks to be a star in the art scene of downtown San Diego.

The current show at the gallery, which opened on April 1, features the work of 12 regional and international artists, including Donna McGinnis, Paul Ecker and Luis Marzoratti, all of which were supplied by William Merrill Gallery of Laguna Beach, which handles McNabb Martin's work, also found on display.

On an instinctive impulse in February, McNabb Martin decided to open her own art gallery.

"I had been rejected by all the art galleries in San Diego so I decided I would open my own to show my art work," she said with a smile. "This gallery has been my most creative challenge to date."

McNabb Martin rented her new space on February 18 and just six weeks later, after much refurbishing of the interior of

the building, opened on April 1. Her vision is to have a gallery where the artwork is accessible to the beginning collector.

"I would rather sell a lot for less than a few for more," she said. The gallery, she continued, is a collaboration of both friends and family. "I am one of the artists showing, my husband is the financial advisor, my son made the website, my dear friend works in the gallery and a client is the gallery attorney."

Jerry Michaud, the friend who works in the gallery, is very pleased to be a part of the process. "I like to be involved with projects from the ground up, from the inception, learning as we go," he said.

The official grand opening of the gallery was on the weekend of April 30-May 1, in conjunction with the Mission Federal ArtWalk in Little Italy. On May 13, the gallery will be open late for Kettner Nights. A new show will to open every six weeks.

McNabb Martin earned her bachelor of fine arts from the University of Illinois at Champaign and her master of fine arts from the Art Institute of Chicago.

After what she describes as three



Patricia McNabb Martin, owner of McNabb Martin Contemporary Art, which opened in April, stands in front of one of her paintings.

unbearably cold Chicago winters, McNabb Martin and her husband sold everything they owned, bought a truck and headed to California. They thought about Santa Barbara but eventually decided on San Diego because they felt they would have a better chance of making a living.

For 30 years, McNabb Martin put her art career on hold, working as a designer and builder of homes. Eight years ago, however, she took art back up and ever since has been at it full-time.

At first glance, McNabb Martin's work resembles Jackson Pollack's abstract drip paintings. But, she said, "I am not like

Jackson Pollack. I throw the paint on the canvas with a sideways flick of my hand, brush or palette knife. That's different than the dripping that Pollack did. Also, my lines continue off the canvas into space, whereas Pollack's were narrowly confined.

"I like to let the paint do stuff and see what happens. I collaborate with my medium rather than strictly control it. I let chance come into play. Paint does some wonderful things when you give it freedom. My work is really about landscapes and I stretch color as far as it will go. I like to create a storm of color."

As for naming her abstract pieces, McNabb Martin said, "I really have to force myself to give my paintings names. I do it because it seems to be important for the archival aspect. I ask myself, 'What would this be called if it had a name?' Then I just let a name come to me."

The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.patmcnabbmartin.com, call (619) 546-5888 or email info@mcbabbmartincontemporaryart.com.



Sicilian Festival Sunday May 22, bring the family to the 18th Annual Sicilian Festival – a free event in Little Italy from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with music, food, grape stomp, pasta eating contest, and more! This year Emmy award winning Chef Giada De Laurentiis of the Food Network will offer culinary demonstrations and sign her latest book, *Giada at Home*, courtesy of Bella Sera Wines. Park at San Diego County Administration Building's north lot and take the free shuttle to event. Eat, drink, and be Sicilian with two beer gardens, four entertainment stages, and fun for the whole family! www.SicilianFestival.org

The Italian Bed & Breakfast is a small Victorian home built in the early 1900's in Little Italy. Used as a residence until mid 1900's and then left vacant until 2005. The house was renovated and opened September 2010 as a bed and breakfast. The bed and breakfast features four guests rooms which include a suite with king bed, private sitting area and private bath, two rooms with queen beds and private baths and one room with a queen bed and a private detached bathroom. All baths are tub shower combinations. A delicious hot breakfast is served every day at 9 am which can include a fresh or cooked fruit entrée, pancakes or french toasts, baked egg dishes, juices and muffins or toaster items. Coffee is available at 8am on the kitchen sidebar. Hot water for teas and instant drinks are available all day and in the afternoon look for our sweet treats Located at: 2054 Columbia Street, San Diego, Ca. 92101, Tel: (619) 238-1755, Fax: (619) 756-7957, www.theitalianbb.com

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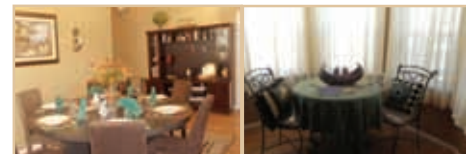
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Canines will have a field day during the 11th annual "Pet Day on the Bay" on May 14.

Courtesy photo

Pooches on the bay and salsa by night



**It's all
Happening!**
Marc & Darlyne Menkin

The next time you stroll the streets of downtown, take a look around. There are a lot of cool things to do in the 92101 ZIP code, and this spring, it's about to get even better. From unique pet boat cruises to free salsa dance lessons, you won't be bored. Here's a preview of some of the fun happenings this month.

Pet Day on the Bay: Calling all happy hounds! Imagine if you could cruise the bay with your favorite four-

legged friend by your side. That's what Hornblower's 11th annual "Pet Day on the Bay" is all about. The event will be held Saturday, May 14 and will feature three one-hour narrated boat tours at 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.

"It's a once-a-year opportunity to bring your dog on the bay, meet and mingle with other dog-lovers and support a good cause," said Hornblower's marketing and sales assistant Allison Patrick.

A portion of the proceeds benefit the homeless animals of Helen Woodward Animal Center. In addition to the boat ride, canine guests will nibble on complimentary treats and even get their pictures taken if they choose, by profession-

al pet photographers who will be on board to document the day's revelry.

Guests are also encouraged to donate a blanket and towel.

"If it wasn't for Hornblower, we'd have to go and buy all those towels and blankets. The event brings in enough to last us almost all year," said Helen Woodward Animal Center's John Van Zante.

The event is limited to one dog per adult. Dogs must be at least six months old. Adult tickets are \$20, children ages four through twelve are \$10 and children under four are free (www.hornblower.com).

It's time to salsa: If you're into the salsa scene, here's your chance to strut

your stuff on the dance floor. At the Keating Hotel's Sway Lounge, free salsa dance lessons are held every Tuesday night from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. After the class, the nightclub officially opens and guests are encouraged to stay to try out their new dance moves. "Latin Nights" kicked off this year and so far, response has been good.

"We have lots of regulars who come every week. The dance floor fills up fast," said the Keating Hotel's director of sales and marketing Cathy Cuizon.

On Thursday nights, the Latin theme continues with more salsa dancing starting at 9:30 p.m. Guests who arrive before 10:30 p.m. pay only \$5 at the door, after which the cover charge is \$10 (www.swaysd.com).

Across town, the W Hotel is another hot spot for salsa dancers. Every Friday night from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., guests can dance the night away at Access Lounge. There's no cover charge and it's a cool

scene for people who appreciate salsa, tango and meringue.

"It's a wonderful alternative for people looking for something different. We have a great following and the space really lends itself. It has a beautiful ambience. It's perfect for Latin music," said the W Hotel's marketing manager Andrea Ebbing (www.thewsandiegohotel.com).

We want to hear from you

On Sunday, May 15, our company is kicking off a fundraising Downtown Scavenger Hunt with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure and Star 94.1 Hula's Homies team. If you've taken part in the 3-Day for the Cure Walk, send us a creative photo from the walk & what you enjoyed the most about this event. The most creative picture will win a voucher for two for a Coronado Rent-a-Local Biking Tour. wheretours.com

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Join the Fiesta!

Fiesta de Reyes in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is offering live musical entertainment and beer garden to celebrate

Cinco de Mayo, sponsored by Correlejo Tequila.

"This year there will be a beer garden in the center of the state park with live music from 5 p.m.

until 10 p.m. on the actual holiday, Thursday, May 5," said Chuck Ross, owner and operator of Fiesta de Reyes. "The party will continue inside the Fiesta de Reyes courtyard until midnight."

Dubbed Cinco in the Park, there will be a three-band extravaganza with the Sound Doctors performing a mixture of Latin music, oldies and soul on the main stage in the plaza. Luis Max and Blue Moon will be playing hot Latin jazz on the Fiesta de Reyes stage and Los Rios mariachi fusion band will be roving throughout the park.

For more information about Fiesta de Reyes, visit: www.fiestadereyes.com



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Spring is here: start spinning your wheels

FIT SAVVY

By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist

Ahhh, it's finally May. Spring is in the air. The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming and your love handles are showing. Old Man Winter is on his way out (for as much as he actually shows his face here in sunny San Diego) and so should be those unwanted pounds that have so effortlessly attached themselves to you over these past few "hibernating" months. It's time to get your body moving and blast those bulges back into obscurity!

One of the most stimulating and invigorating ways do that is to take an energizing ride in an indoor group cycling class. You can burn an unbelievable amount of calories in one class, but that's only if you realize you are not there just to sit and spin. Remember, you get what you train for, so train like you mean it!

Almost every fitness club in town offers group cycling classes. Whether you are a novice or experienced rider, group cycling is an activity that anyone can enjoy.

Here are some important things to know before you get your ride on:

- **Comfortable workout attire** is a must. You can't enjoy yourself and learn how to ride if you are spending all your time tugging at your shorts and readjusting yourself every few minutes. Short shorts are a no-no, but regular shorts or workout pants are just fine. You're going to work up a great sweat, so if you have moisture wicking clothing, wear it. If not, wear something that will withstand some heavy-duty perspiration, remain comfortable and, of course, be somewhat fashionable.

- **Proper riding shoes** make the ride better. Indoor cycling bikes have straps, or "cages," for your feet that hold them in place during the ride. However, once you decide cycling is the workout for you then you should invest in a good pair of cycling shoes.

Cycling shoes are breathable and have a very stiff sole that gives you more stability and enables a more powerful and efficient push/pull stroke. They clip or lock in to the pedal and allow you to perform at a higher level than regular workout shoes. Check with your club to confirm the pedals used before you make a purchase.

- **"Booty cushions"** protect your tush. If you have a delicate derriere, then you may want to consider wearing padded riding shorts. Or, if you have enough "junk in the trunk" and prefer to avoid the illusion that there may be more back there than there really is, a comfortable gel seat cover may be a better option for you. However, after the first few classes,



most bottoms adjust to the ride and participants probably won't need either.

- **Heart rate monitors** keep your workout intensity in check. To get the most out of your workout you need to keep an eye on your heart rate to avoid over-training. Raising your heart level too high can be counterproductive if you exert yourself beyond an aerobic workout. A heart rate monitor assists you in staying in your preferred aerobic zone and helps keep you working at a consistent pace.

- **Proper bike set up** is crucial. There is nothing more uncomfortable than trying to ride an indoor bike that is not adjusted to fit your body, except maybe riding a wild horse bareback and naked. Both will leave you sore in places you don't want to be sore and more importantly, possibly injured. So unless you want to risk exploring uncharted riding territory on your own, show up to class a few minutes early and let the instructor help you

find the perfect fit for the perfect ride.

Indoor cycling provides an excellent cardio workout with benefits similar to jogging and running but without the jarring impact to your joints. It's fun. It's hip. It's cool. But most importantly, you can do it!

The first class might seem intimidating for a "newbie," but the good news is you can always work at your own pace and kick butt in your own special way. Work up to the more advanced levels when you are ready and don't try to do it all in the first ride. When in doubt about anything, ask your instructor. Now, gear up, get ready and go for it!



Connie Cook "C2"
Fitness Director
Fit Athletic Club

ITALY

CONTINUED FROM Page 19

or whatever, you can enjoy the cultural impact of Sicily on San Diego," DiBona said. "We have a very thriving Sicilian community here, and it comes out in full force for the festival."

The festival is free to attend, and offers free activities for children throughout the day. Free parking is available at the north end of the county administration building, 1600 Pacific Highway. For more information, visit sicilianfesta.com.

Preserving the history of Italian San Diego

The Little Italy Association and San Diego State University's Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Youth and Space (SDSU ISYS) have teamed up in an effort to document the history of San Diego's Little Italy community. The two organizations announced that the LIA was awarded a grant from Preserve America, a national initiative, to gather documents, photos and other memorabilia to preserve the neighborhood's history.

The LIA will hold an event on May 7 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Washington Elementary School, 1789 State St., inviting residents from across the county to get their personal histories as part of the Little Italy community documented in the project. Attendees are encouraged to bring with them personal anecdotes, photos, videos and other artifacts that will be included in the historical preservation.

Students from SDSU ISYS will be on-site to conduct interviews, scan

family photos, save videos and take photos of artifacts. All time periods are of interest for the project, from the first days of settlement in the area to recent events.

The Preserve America program provides funding to designated Preserve America Communities, like Little Italy, to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education and historic preservation planning.

Refreshments will be served and there will be free two-hour parking at the Union and Date streets lot and the State and Elm streets lot. The event is free. For more information, visit www.littleitalysd.com/preserve-little-italy/ or call (619) 233-3898.



The Sicilian Festival has drawn thousands to the neighborhood for the past 18 years.
Photo courtesy the Sicilian Festival

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Wait until you see the views to Petco Park and the urban sights from this prime, Northwest corner, 2-Bedroom residence located at East Village's hippest residential community! You'll love the gleaming hardwood floors, sunny windows, a private view terrace, & dual parking, for starters!
For full details in a recorded message,
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Downtown · “Park Terrace”
You'll be amazed at the Southwest-facing corner views of the Coronado Bridge and the ballpark from this 2-bedroom/ 2-bath residence, SHORT-SALE priced to sell! A large terrace and dual parking, too!
For full details in a recorded message,
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Downtown · “Watermark”
This well-priced residence in recently renovated community enjoys a west-facing orientation, a private terrace looking toward the Old Police Quarters, and dual parking spaces!
For full details in a recorded message,
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Downtown · “The Mills”
Take advantage of this super clean 1-bedroom starter with granite kitchen, short-sale priced to sell at just \$195,000!
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Downtown · “Atria”
Ideally located in the vibrant Marina District, this cool, hip one-bedroom is within walking distance to everything and is VA/FHA approved. Great for first time buyers!
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The ideal starter property, this cute 1-bedroom overlooking the quiet courtyard enjoys granite flooring and countertops and a private terrace! Located in a VA-approved community and short-sale priced to sell!
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Downtown · “The Mark”
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Downtown · “The Mark”
New on the market, you'll want to see this super 1-bedroom in the Northeast corner of one of Downtown's most sought-after East Village communities! Sweeping urban views and quality common area amenities, all for a price under \$400,000!
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Downtown · “Gaslamp City Square”
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Sale Pending
Downtown · “Park Blvd East”
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Downtown · “The Metropolitan”
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Downtown · “The Mark”
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Downtown · “Union Square”
Don't delay on this pristine 2-bedroom in East Village's flagship residential community! VA/FHA buyers are welcome! You'll enjoy a sunny Southeast orientation, over 1100 square feet, and dual parking spaces! Traditional sale!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5619



Sale Pending
Downtown · “The Mark”
This upgraded 1-bedroom features the preferred view orientation in the community facing South toward the Bay Bridge overlooking the lush center courtyard & pool! With a large private terrace and elaborate custom closet organizers, this short-sale cutie is super sweet!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5669



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Alta”
This super SHORT-SALE is a rare opportunity to enjoy a prime, 14th-floor, Northwest corner beauty in one of Downtown's most exciting, newer communities, complete with stunning views, and an oversized terrace!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5059



Sold
Downtown · “Porta d'Italia”
Sold for \$215,000. The ideal 2nd-home opportunity, this top-floor pied-a-terre boasts lovely bay & Pt. Loma views, a granite & stainless kitchen. This small, intimate community is just steps to the Village of Little Italy with its multitude of shops & restaurants
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5369



Sold
Downtown · “The Metropolitan”
Sold for \$1,099,000. This elegant, BANK-OWNED foreclosure in one of Downtown's most desirable luxury high-rises is well priced. One of few residences atop the Omni Hotel at the entrance to Petco Park, the views are spectacular!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5329



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Meridian”
Enjoy a lifestyle found nowhere else at this high-amenity, luxury community! The residence boasts upgrades galore and 1800 square feet, short-sale priced to sell!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5609



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Atria”
Take advantage of the ultimate urban experience at this hip community in the heart of the Marina District! FHA/VA approved complex and this upgraded unit may be sold furnished at the right price!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5449



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Horizons”
In pristine condition, this Northwest corner two-bedroom residence enjoys a private view terrace, a granite and stainless kitchen, and rich stone surfaces in the bathrooms!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5159



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Gaslamp City Square”
The ideal starter property, this studio residence overlooking the pool deck and courtyard offers the first-time buyer an awesome opportunity to own a property at a bargain, short-sale price!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5599



Sale Pending
Downtown · “Alta”
Come see why so many are making Alta their choice! Intelligently located on the edge of the bustling Gaslamp Quarter, this fabulous SHORT-SALE boasts a prime southwest corner locale with walls of windows, a spacious terrace, & gleaming hardwood floors!
For full details in a recorded message,
call 1-800-709-1995, Ext. 5569

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