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La Mesa COURIER



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Gabriella Dimmick plays Cindy Lou-Who. (Photo by Jim Cox)

La Mesa youth star in 'Grinch' at Old Globe

Hutton **Marshall**

Contributing Editor

Returning for its 17th year, The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park is once again hosting its winter rendition of "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas." For La Mesa residents, this year's production offers a chance to see their own pint-sized thespians take the stage.

The play is unique for The Old Globe — and most major theaters

for that matter — in featuring children in most of its leading roles. Out of the production's 34 cast members, 20 are under the age of 15.

Returning to the stage are La Mesa's Sophia and Gabriella Dimmick, sisters who share five years of experience in Whoville between the two of them. Gabriella, 8, will star as Cindy Lou-Who for the second consecutive year.

Although her age is still in single digits, she's already appeared in productions by the

Actors' Conservatory Theatre — San Diego, San Diego Musical Theatre and the California Ballet Company. Appearing beside her sister in many of these performances, Gabriella said it's nice to have someone nearby to depend on.

"It's always nice to know that if I ever feel lonely, there's always someone I can go to," Gabriella said of working with Sophie.

Sophia, 10, will return for a third year in "Grinch," this time as

See **GRINCH** page 13 —————>

La Mesa pool provides innovative PTSD treatment

Elisse
Miller



In the past 10 years, nearly 18,000 veterans have received treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through the Veterans Affairs office in San Diego. While it's no surprise that the brave men and women who return from their heroic service can have a difficult time adjusting to normal, everyday life, the right treatment is not always as obvious. One local group, however, is trying to make PTSD solutions as clear as our crystal blue oceans.

Wave Academy is an organization that focuses on early-intervention rehabilitation for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Using local pools, they specialize in an emerging treatment known as aquatic bodywork therapy (ABT),



The Wave Academy uses water to generate trust and relaxation. (Courtesy Wave Academy)

which uses warm water to relax, massage, stretch and strengthen muscles. The pool-based therapies have helped veterans with a range of PTSD symptoms including sleeplessness, depression and suicidal thoughts, and Wave Academy practitioners believe ABT is effective in service members from all military branches.

It all began in 2010 when founder Dave Towe was performing ABT via private practice. He started treating a young man with PTSD who had just come home after serving overseas, and was moved by his success. After that, Towe developed a passion

See **TREATMENT** page 7 —————>

Arapostathis, Baber, McWhirter win

Jeremy **Ogul**

Editor

The results of the Nov. 4 election are in, and the dais at City Hall will look quite different when the winners are sworn in on Dec. 9.

Gone will be Mayor Art Madrid, who was first elected to the City Council in 1981 and was first elected mayor in 1990. And gone will be Ernie Ewin, who



Mayor-elect Mark Arapostathis (Photo by Jeremy Ogul)

has similarly been a fixture as a City Councilmember over two non-consecutive periods totaling 18 years.

Taking over as mayor will be outgoing City Councilmember Mark Arapostathis, who defeated Madrid with a vote split just shy of 60 to 40 percent, according to the latest unofficial count posted by the county Registrar of Voters on Nov. 25.

Candidates Bill Baber and Guy McWhirter took 27.65 percent and 22.9 percent, respectively, winning them the two vacant councilmember seats. Mary England, Patrick Dean and Pete Gregorovic took 19.96 percent, 17.12 percent and 12.36 percent of the vote, respectively.

Baber said that while he was pleased to come out on top, he recognizes that 28 percent is hardly a mandate.

"It means I'm the best looking dog in the ugly dog contest," he joked.

The especially competitive race broke local campaign fundraising records and generated a bit of unpleasant mudslinging among the candidates' supporters, especially in the final days before the election.

After it was over, however, Pete Gregorovic and Patrick Dean called Baber and McWhirter to concede the race and wish them the best.

"I thought that was very gracious of them and showed La

See **ELECTED** page 6 —————>

Lamplighters present new show at renovated theater

B.J.
Coleman

A theater company in the performing arts since 1937, even a volunteer troupe, will not go dark, silent or homeless for very long.

The Lamplighters Community Theatre group proved that with a grand re-opening at the company's newly remodeled theater space in the shopping center at Severin and Amaya drives. The company performed its last permanently housed show in August 2006 at the Ben Polack Art Center, before it was demolished.

The Lamplighters group's new performing home, still awaiting a few final touches, is comfortably spacious but intimate for the audience, staff and actors. Three former retail spaces in the strip mall were transformed into the theater area, adjacent offices and lobby. Construction work was completed the week before performances began. With a seating capacity of around 90, including cutout areas for wheelchair viewers, the proximity of the seats to the stage invites audience members into immediate involvement with the actors' interactions beyond the meager proscenium arch.

The current show is "Same Time, Next Year," by playwright Bernard Slade. This deceptively simple but engaging two-act romantic comedy tells the tale of



Michelle DeFrancesco and Daniel R. Sky star in the Lamplighters Community Theater production of "Same Time, Next Year," every weekend through Dec. 14. (Courtesy Lamplighters)

a 26-year adulterous love affair between a New Jersey man and a California woman, who meet at the same coastal inn in Northern California once a year for a weekend assignation. After a happenstance encounter at dinner, George, on business travel, and Doris, supposedly

on a religious retreat, awaken in bed together on a February morning in 1951. Confused but committed to their overwhelming mutual attraction, they agree to meet again in a year. The story of their lives sporadically touching each February, as their interpersonal connection endures

through the decades of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, also traces the charged, changing relationship roles between women and men over those volatile years.

Michelle DeFrancesco, as Doris, and Daniel R. Sky, as George, portray a winsome pair of lovers, aging gracefully through the play's end year of 1975. The background music, heard during stage blackouts, also conveys the development of evolving social attitudes during the mid-20th century. Despite a couple of muffed lines at the Nov. 22 performance, the actors recovered nicely, with nary a break in delivery tempo. And their performances for these difficult interactive roles were on point, ably enacting a comprehensible combination of edginess and poignancy in such an unusual love relationship. The actors depicted very well their characters' alternation between challenging each other and being tender with one another.

This show is a couple of hours of good, relaxing entertainment, fun but thought-provoking. The play will elicit nostalgia for people who remember those years, and even those who do not quite catch the references to contemporaneous cultural figures such as Barry Goldwater and Ernest Borgnine will appreciate the show for the skill of the acting and of the overall production.

Mark Loveless is serving in the dual roles of president of the theater organization and direc-

tor of the current show. He notes that the new performance venue — steps away from the Amaya Drive trolley station and just off the Fletcher Parkway exit from state Route 125 — was chosen for its accessible location. The ample on-site parking available for weekend theatergoers is another advantage of the new location, Loveless said.

Plans for the theater company will continue as before, with five productions per theater season annually, usually two comedies, one drama, one mystery and one musical. Other intervening offerings will include a children's theater program, dramatic readings for the blind, and training opportunities for people wanting to learn about the technical, artistic and administrative aspects of the craft of theater production.

The nonprofit group, which relies on unpaid volunteers, is still seeking contributors, members and performers to complete finishing touches and fill new roles. Upcoming auditions for discovering new talent will be held Dec. 3 and 4.

Lamplighters members say the current play and the new theater itself are dedicated "in loving memory" of Gerry Reeves, who served as the troupe's publicity manager and videographer from 2002 until his recent passing. Several members provided donations in his memory on behalf of

See **LAMPLIGHTERS** page 16 —>



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The view of the Roundhouse from state Route 125 (Photo by Jeremy Ogul)

Drew family sells Ford, Hyundai dealerships to Penske Citizens concerned about rotunda building

Jeremy Ogul
Editor

Less than seven months after the death of patriarch Joseph Drew, the Drew family has sold their Ford and Hyundai dealerships to SoCal Penske Dealer Group, a private company that owns 11 automotive sales and service businesses in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.

The new owners are in the process of rebranding the dealership as Penske Ford and Penske Hyundai. "We admire the Drew family's strong community ties and plan to strengthen community relations by making additional investments in the city of La Mesa and the surrounding area," said Roger S. Penske, Jr., president of SoCal Penske, in a press release.

The sale has raised concerns among local residents about the future of the dealership's Roundhouse of Values, the iconic modernist building that has stood next to Interstate 8 since 1967. Many describe it as a landmark

that La Mesa cannot afford to lose.

Penske has not specifically addressed their plans for the building.

"We are still in the planning stages of the renovation, which will involve a combination of new construction, cosmetic enhancements and general facil-

Some people supporting the petition recalled sentimental memories of walking out of the Roundhouse of Values with the keys to their first new car.

ity improvements to comply with manufacturer brand identity requirements and to provide employees and guests with a comfortable environment and modern conveniences," said Cynthia Thomas, general counsel for Penske.

Gregory May, a San Diego res-

ident who catalogues historical images from around the region, started a Facebook page and a Change.org petition demanding that the Roundhouse be preserved. The petition had 273 supporters at press time.

"This fits under the modernism category," May said. "The problem is that people don't think modern architecture is historic. Well, I think it's historic. It's a landmark. People love it."

May points out that the building is modeled after a rotunda that was part of Ford's wildly popular exhibit at the 1964 New York World's Fair. He cites an article on the Modern San Diego blog that describes how Elmer Drew — Joe Drew's father — returned from the 1964 World's Fair so inspired by the exhibit

that he hired an architect to design something similar for the La Mesa dealership.

The 1964 rotunda itself was modeled after another building, designed by Albert Kahn for the 1933/1934 World's Fair in

See **ROTUNDA** page 18 —————>

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How to Sell your Home when Winter Inventory is Increasing

La Mesa - When you decide to sell your home, setting your asking price is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Depending on how a buyer is made aware of your home, price is often the first thing he or she sees, and many homes are discarded by prospective buyers as not being in the appropriate price range before they're even given a chance of showing.

Your asking price is often your home's "first impression," and if you want to realize the most money you can for your home, it's imperative that you make a good first impression.

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Home for the holidays at Mission Trails Regional Park

Audrey F.
Baker



There's something special about visiting the park during the holidays. Replete with enchanting settings, holiday foliage, scenic wonders and the welcoming umbrella of nature, Mission Trails mirrors the true spirit of the season.

Come relax. Take in "the simple life," brushing aside the hectic aspects of the holidays. It's a place to meander, enjoy small details, reflect on majestic scenery and embrace your surroundings. Here the rhythm is comfortable, interspersed with the poetry of patterned leaves, the whistle of wind, the music of bird song and the beat of your own footsteps.

Emotions calm. Each turn on the trail offers a fresh perspective, sparking passion and appreciation. It's a peerless opportunity to refresh amid the beauty that surrounds and inspires us. For San Diego visitors and residents alike, an outing at Mission Trails is "coming home for the holidays."

Our MTRP Trail Guide walks are an opportunity to learn more about natural Southern California, with its unique landscapes, habitats, local history and plant and animal life. The walks are free, interesting, fact-filled, and geared to all ages and interests. Grab sturdy shoes, that



Evening grasslands at the park (Photo by Tony Andrews)

comfortable hat, a water bottle and sunscreen and hit the trail!

Morning walks are offered every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. You'll start from the park's Visitor and Interpretive Center (1 Father Junipero Serra Trail in San Carlos). The walk beginning from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station (2 Father Junipero Serra Trail, at the San Carlos/Santee border) gives a different perspective of the park and its diverse habitats. These walks are offered from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month

and take in historic Old Mission Dam. We meet by the flag poles.

Wildlife tracking reveals the secret life of animals and brings insight into their survival techniques and habits. Tracking Team members assist in identifying and interpreting tracks, scat and habitats. Join us at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, in front of the Visitor Center (1 Father Junipero Serra Trail), for a two-hour tracking adventure.

Star Party Marvels is your invitation for solar exploration. MTRP resident star gazer George Varga tells us one night past full moon, we can expect

good views of the Andromeda galaxy, M31, and its companion, M32. He'll also target Pleiades (Seven Sisters), Double Cluster in Perseus and numerous open clusters across the sky. The event will be canceled in the case of rain or fog. We'll observe 7 – 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Meet us at the far end of the Kumeyaay Campground Day Use Parking Lot, Mission Trails Regional Park (2 Father Junipero Serra Trail in Santee).

Discovery Table: Animal Tracks presents the ancient art of animal tracking used by modern trackers to identify and read animal behavior signs. Stop by for hands-on science presented by MTRP Trail Guides and discover which track looks like a baby's handprint, which is the largest of local wildlife and other interesting facts about San Diego wildlife. Try our skill game, matching animal to tracks. See you inside the Visitor Center lobby on Saturday, Dec. 13, between 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

La Mesa Walk 'n Talk combines ambling along scenic shores with your MTRP Trail Guide with chatting up the topic, "Indigenous Holiday Plants and Rituals." You'll learn fun facts about plants with historic associations, a connection to Hollywood and Native American ceremonies. Join us 9 – 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Meet at the boat docks at Lake Murray (5540 Kiowa Dr.,

La Mesa).

Winter Solstice Hike is an unparalleled visit to a Kumeyaay spiritual site to observe the phenomenon of rising sun rays visually split in half by distant Lyon's Peak boulders. Bundle up and bring your flashlight for a memorable predawn walk up Cowles Mountain with your MTRP guide. Saturday, Dec. 20 or Monday, Dec. 22, 6 – 8 a.m. Meet at Cowles Mountain staging area (Golfcrest Drive and Navajo Road in San Carlos).

Bird Winter Waters along with MTRP Birding Guide Jean Raimond to seek resident and migratory water and landlubber sage and chaparral species. Keep an eye out for the tri-colored blackbird found year-round only in San Diego. Bring binoculars and bird books if you've got 'em. Join us Saturday, Dec. 20, 8 – 10 a.m. Meet at the parking lot off Kiowa Drive on the east side of Lake Murray.

Meanwhile, come on out and enjoy the park!

Visit mtrp.org for more information and our events calendar, or call 619-668-3281. Special walks can be arranged for any club, group, business or school by contacting Ranger Chris Axtmann at 619-668-2746 or at caxtmann@mtrp.org.

—Audrey F. Baker is a trail guide at Mission Trails Regional Park. ■

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Gen-X in La Mesa Bring on the Christmas music

Genevieve Suzuki



“Caroling, caroling through the snow, Christmas bells are ringing.”

This song is going through my head over and over again as I write this column. And while you’d think it might be irritating, I can assure you it is a reprieve from the three songs my 5-year-old currently has on loop at any given time of the day.

The first song that has been played at least 20 times a day is “I’m Blue” by Eiffel 65. It’s a techno-type song that my husband thought would really catch our daughter’s attention.

He was right.

And now I hear about how some guy is blue, oba-di-oba-da, and how he lives in a blue house with blue windows three times in the morning, twice in the middle of the day and maybe one more time at night.

I hate that song so much now that the color blue makes me nauseous.

The second song on steady rotation is a song from Disney’s latest, “Big Hero 6.” I loved the movie, but hate the song. To be fair, it’s not “Immortals” by Fall Out Boy that makes me grimace, but the song, “My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark.”

The title of the song is every bit as irritating as the actual song, which encourages the listener to “light ‘em up, up, up, light ‘em up, up, up.”

I don’t know what the singer wants ‘em to light up, but I feel like my 5-year-old wouldn’t be able to help this guy out. After all, she can’t go near a candle without immediately attempting to make a wish.

The third song is a K-pop song briefly featured in Andy Samberg’s TV series, “Brooklyn Nine-Nine.” Mysteriously entitled “Ice Cream (Milkshake)” by World Music Ensemble, the song contains several English words Quinn shouts out at any given time, followed by her made-up Korean words.

The worst part about this song is we really don’t know exactly what the lyrics are so Quinn came up with: “All I need is a milkshake and a man.” And while I completely empathize with that sentiment — my husband toting milkshakes home is one of my favorite treats — I’m not entirely comfortable with my daughter singing that lyric.

I finally sat Quinn down and asked her to please limit each song’s play on a daily basis. I tried to explain that even the United Nations and the European Court of Human Rights banned the use of loud music in interrogations, otherwise known as music

torture.

“Playing the same song over and over again makes mommy want to cry,” I said reasonably.

She watched me quietly before responding, “Because you love it?”

“Er, no, because I get irritated.” “Why?” she asked, deftly flipping this on me.

“Because it pains me to hear the same song over and over.”

“But I love these songs. Didn’t you play songs a lot that you liked?” she asked.

I realized then that I really didn’t. Back in my day, there were two ways you could hear your favorite song: You could pray to the radio gods that the local DJ would play your favorite song or you could buy the cassette tape and take the time to rewind the same song over and over again. By the third time you got to your song, it was almost impossible not to grow weary of the rewinding process.

Luckily for me, Christmas arrived just in time to save me from Quinn’s playlist. Give me Rudolph and Frosty any day over lighting ‘em up with a blue man and a milkshake.

—Genevieve Suzuki lives in La Mesa and is a past editor of this newspaper. She practices family law and can be reached through her website, sdlawyer-suzuki.com. ■



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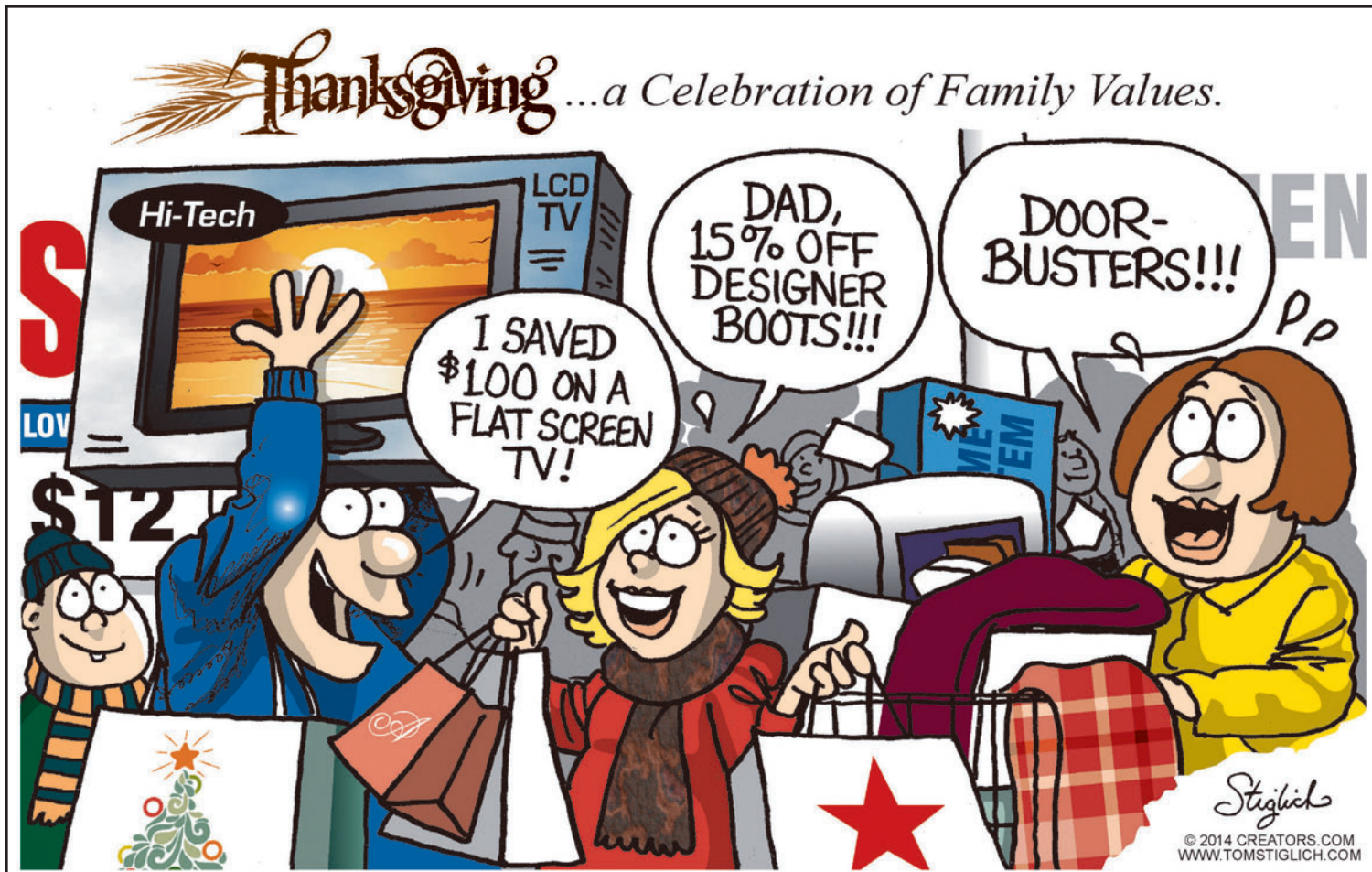
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EDITORIAL

Health reform's impact on senior Medicare options

Mike
McCarthy

Seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries should be aware that this year — perhaps more than any year in the past — is an important one to pay attention to their Medicare coverage options during the open enrollment period (Oct. 15 – Dec. 7).

That's because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The ACA brings with it notable changes to Medicare, from more preventive care benefits to changes in costs. Beneficiaries need to understand both the upside and downside of such changes to best evaluate their options during the open enrollment period.

Adding to the challenge of this year's Medicare changes is broader confusion around the ACA itself. UnitedHealthcare conducted a survey in 2013 called the Medicare Made Clear Index and found that 76 percent of people ages 60 and older say they have a "fair" or "poor" understanding of the ACA.

Thus, the open enrollment period becomes an even more critical time of year because, for most Medicare beneficiaries, it's their one annual opportunity to make changes to their Medicare coverage. After all, Medicare is not one-size-fits-all, and a lot can change in a year in terms of health status and budget as well as the plans that are available.

I encourage the nearly 452,500 Medicare beneficiaries in the San Diego area and their caregivers to take advantage of this annual opportunity to make sure they have a Medicare plan that will meet their needs for the year ahead. People can shop for and compare plans in their area at Medicare.gov.

—Mike McCarthy is the regional vice president of UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement in Southern California. Serving nearly one in five Medicare beneficiaries, including more than 943,000 in California, UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement is the largest business dedicated to the health and well-being of seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries. ■

► Elected, from page 1

Mesa is a good community, and it's not just raw politics," he said.

McWhirter, who has never before held elected public office, said he did not anticipate the campaign would be as challenging as it was.

"I worked my tail off," he said. "I've never worked this hard for anything in my life."

McWhirter said he expects the new council to work well together.

"We have similar goals," he said. "Not only do we respect each other, we like each other."

That's not to say there won't be conflict.

"We are going to disagree — I guarantee it."

McWhirter said he was not fazed by criticism by some that he was unfit for the job.

"I'm not new to politics," he said. "I've done all the political things; I just haven't been a politician."

A three-year stint on the Planning Commission in the 1980s gave him some insight into city issues, and leadership positions with the Red Cross, the San Diego Blood Bank, the Boy Scouts of America and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have all given him invaluable experience, he said.

Of course, McWhirter also has experience as the owner of an insurance agency, which he said really sets him apart from the rest of the council.

"I've had to work with budgets, worker's comp, insurance, taxation," he said.

With two City Council terms already under his belt, Arapostathis already knew the issues and the campaign trail well, but he spent even more time meeting with voters in his campaign for mayor, he said.

Most voters' concerns are universal, he said. Almost everyone

is worried about crime and traffic, but during the time he spent meeting with people in various neighborhoods, Arapostathis said he was also struck by how different the specific concerns are in particular neighborhoods.

"The wants and needs of people in north La Mesa are different from those down in the village," he said.

While residents near the downtown village were concerned about the streetscape project and the tree selection, for example, residents north of Interstate 8 were especially concerned about drivers speeding down neighborhood streets.

Arapostathis said he would like to encourage citizens to get to know all the councilmembers and not simply focus all of their attention on the mayor.

"The citizens need to know that, yes, the mayor has other responsibilities but no extra authority."

Arapostathis said he will continue to work his day job as director of the Theater Arts department at La Mesa Arts Academy, but he will meet daily with City Manager Dave Witt to take care of city business as it happens.

With the election behind them, Arapostathis, Baber and McWhirter now face an even bigger challenge along with sitting councilmembers Ruth Sterling and Kristine Alessio: keeping the city on the right track and financially healthy while also maintaining what people love about La Mesa.

—Reach Jeremy Ogul at jeremy@sdcnn.com. ■



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► **Treatment**, from page 1

for the new veteran community and decided to create an organization that catered to their needs.

Lowe focuses on younger veterans because they often have new families; if a parent is suffering from PTSD, it can have a negative impact on their children and possibly lead to divorce.

"If we can help them, they're going to be better and stronger leaders in our community," Lowe said. "They're not going to disappear, commit suicide or get addicted to drugs and alcohol."

Thankfully for Towe and his desire to help, San Diego is the perfect location for carrying out such a dream. Not only do we have a large military population, but we also have a high interest in aquatics given our beaches and groups like the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Wave Academy treats patients in four different pools in San Diego County, one of which is located on Grandview Drive in La Mesa. The pools are heated to 96 degrees. After a patient is in the water for 20 minutes, the nervous system is completely relaxed. They then float with assistance, which relieves both mental and physical tension, especially in the spine. The academy even suggests caregivers undergo the therapy because they suffer from large amounts of stress as well.

One of Wave Academy's clients is Samantha "Spike" Bywater, who was a prison

guard in Afghanistan. When she came back home on Christmas Day in 2011, she already knew that something was not right. She started receiving help from a psychologist and psychiatrist to treat her PTSD, but she said those treatments felt like "band-aids" that only helped in the moment. She heard about the Wave Academy and saw immediate results after beginning treatment. By her third session, she made an intentional decision to heal.

"I felt in the water that I couldn't hold on to any secrets or lies," Bywater said. "The water is not judgmental, and I like that—I like the feeling of being free and open and knowing that I don't have to hold secrets anymore."

Bywater said she began to feel alive again, and that ABT saved her life. Her therapy sessions were so effective that she decided this was her life calling. She finished training in October to become an ABT practitioner and will start treating clients in late November.

"I left my soul in Afghanistan and I found my soul in the water," Bywater said.

Not only do a slew of happy, mentally healthy clients boast the effectiveness of this program, but now there's research to back it up. Wave Academy partnered with the Center for Research and Reform in Education Institute at Johns Hopkins University and conducted a study of 15 retired

service members, all undergoing eight-week programs of ABT. After the eight weeks were up, researchers found that participants experienced a 28 percent decrease in their PTSD symptoms. Even after just two one-hour sessions, researchers observed better sleep, reduced anxiety and less pain. This research is some of the first to ever be done on the effects of ABT on veterans.

In 2013 alone, Wave Academy raised more than \$150,000 in donations, and is expected to have grown its sessions by 300 percent in just the last year. However, four pools is not enough to serve all the veterans Lowe wants to help. Wave Academy is seeking leads on any pools that would be able to host its therapy sessions.

If you or someone you know is interested in utilizing Wave Academy's services, there's an application on their website (waveacademy.org) to start receiving treatment. They ask that all applicants be diagnosed with PTSD and have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, but there is no waiting list at this time.

Towe says that when service members with PTSD learn to trust their ABT practitioner, they learn to trust people in everyday moments, leading to a life of less stress and a more positive outlook.

—*Elisse Miller is a freelance writer covering the San Diego region.*

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Lucy Prebble takes an abstract jab at the true tale of corporate crime in "Enron." (Photo by Daren Scott)

Surreal, satiric 'Enron' opens at Moxie

Charlene
Baldrige

"Do they always do things so well?" asked my flabbergasted companion during the intermission of Moxie Theatre's meticulous, fabulously acted production of Lucy Prebble's 2010 Broadway play, "Enron." The answer is yes, of course they do, but the plays are not always so fascinating as this one.

Producing "Enron" is a daring move on Moxie's part. But what is Moxie if not daring, especially when presenting plays written by women? New York Times critic Ben Brantley was not kind in his review, and the Broadway production closed in a week's time, despite a cast of Broadway's best. "Enron" had been such a hit in Prebble's native Great Britain, that the Guardian newspaper, which called Brantley's review "obtuse and hostile," in part attributed its New York failure to conservative audiences that refuse to embrace anything outside the tradition of reality.

With its raptors, mice and music, "Enron" is decidedly outside the realm of reality. It is delicious satire as well. The theater lover may feel as if he or she has fallen into the honeypot, what with the simultaneous opening of another satire, "Honky," at San Diego Rep. Moreover, as my friend attests, even the avid reader of the events that led to the collapse of Enron in 2001 did not have so clear a view of its causes. In other words, what "Enron" achieves is much more than a dry case study. It achieves clarity and entertains at the same time.

Enron owner Ken Lay (Mark C. Petrich) appoints a daring darling named Jeffrey Skilling (the amazing Max Macke) to the position of chief executive officer. In turn, Skilling appoints the clever, morally pliable Andy Fastow (Eddie Yaroeh) as chief financial officer. Fastow conceives an ingenious way to disguise Enron's losses by creating a fictitious corporation in which to hide them, even

persuading auditors from the Arthur Anderson accounting firm to participate in the ruse. The whistleblower may have been Claudia Roe (perfectly cast Lisel Gorell-Getz), who had expected to become CEO.

Macke, who's been seen in numerous roles at Carlsbad's New Village Arts, exceeds all previous performances on San

"Enron" by Lucy Prebble

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A scene from "Enron" at Moxie (Photo by Daren Scott)

Diego stages as Skilling, and he does it without breaking a sweat. He is one of the founding members of the late, lamented Poor Players, where he played numerous Shakespeare roles. This is fitting, because "Enron" has been compared to "King Lear."

Playing multiple roles are James P. Darvas, Don Evans, Jo Anne Glover, Alexander Guzman, Robert Kirk, Sandra Ruiz and Savvy Scoppeletti. Director Jennifer Eve Thorn, whose instincts are impeccable, cast her own daughter, Penelope, who is in first grade, to be Skillings' daughter in Tim Nottage's projections. This bit of nepotism is deeply appreciated because it is part and parcel of Moxie's raison d'être. Long may they wave.

In addition to Nottage's scenic and projection design, the creative team includes Javier Velasco,

choreographer; Jennifer Brawn Gittings, costumes; Matt Lescault-Wood, sound; Christopher Renda, lighting; Emily Smith, masks and crafts; and Angelica Ynfante, properties.

San Diegans may feel more involved than people from cities other than Houston, which is where the play is set and where Enron was headquartered: Enron had a highly visible presence here. For their criminal acts, the principals were sentenced to prison and the Arthur Anderson firm was forced out of business.

—Charlene Baldrige has been writing about the arts since 1979. Her book "San Diego, Jewel of the California Coast" (Northland Publishing) is currently available in bookstores. Write to her at charb81@gmail.com. ■

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The Sun Shines Sooner... La Mesa's surprising connection to the 1915 Panama-California Exposition

Pam
Crooks



My life lately seems to revolve around history. I'm writing this column in a suburb of London, England, where we're staying with our son's family for Thanksgiving. Near their house is a small, green park that in the 1600s was the site of a major battle between Oliver Cromwell's Roundheads and the proponents of Charles I, who tried unsuccessfully to retake the government.

A few days ago we visited Temple Church in London, established by the Knights Templar during the Crusades in the 1100s, still offering regular services today. Apparently King John hid out there before the barons of England convinced him to sign the Magna Carta in the 1200s.

I work part-time for the Coronado Historical Association, helping promote events and programs about that historic community. And I volunteer in Balboa Park, which is poised to celebrate the Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. That event gave rise to the beautiful Spanish Colonial buildings and gardens



A 1915 postcard from the collection of La Mesa resident David Marshall, author of "San Diego's Balboa Park"

we know and love today, including the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, donated by Coronado's John D. Spreckels and his brother Adolph. (More about John Spreckels in a moment.)

But what does all this have to do with La Mesa? La Mesa's history is tied up with San Diego's. After all, when La Mesa was

incorporated in 1912, as the planning for the 1915 Exposition was in full swing, the region's population was quite small. So it's not a big surprise that familiar names pop up when we look back at that era.

Take Collier Park in La Mesa for example, named for David "Charles" Collier, a risk-taking

entrepreneur who spurred the development of La Mesa by owning property and establishing a business in 1907, bottling and selling the "healthful" spring water he discovered bubbling up there. The tiny community was known as "La Mesa Springs" in those days.

You may have heard some-

thing about the battle to save the "Spring House" in Collier Park. But did you know that D.C. Collier was the first "Director-General" of the 1915 Panama California Exposition in Balboa Park? He championed the cause, chose the Balboa Park site and architect Bertram Goodhue to design the buildings. Collier even donated \$500,000 of his own money to help fund the enterprise, nearly bankrupting him.

Next time you're in Balboa Park, stand in the front of the Museum of Man (the building with the California Tower), turn toward the Cabrillo Bridge and look up at the enclosed pedestrian bridge leading from one side of the museum to the other. There you will see a large plaque dedicated to D.C. Collier.

Another familiar La Mesa name, Col. Ed Fletcher (Fletcher Parkway, Fletcher Hills), was also very active during this time period. Just like Collier, Fletcher was an enterprising businessman who saw a great opportunity in La Mesa. In partnership with William Gross, he began the development of the Grossmont-Mt. Helix section in 1908.

See **EXPOSITION** page 23 ———>

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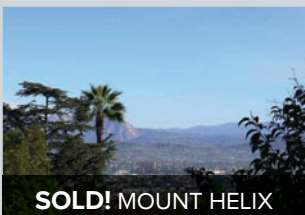
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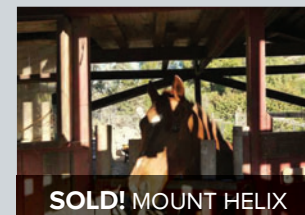
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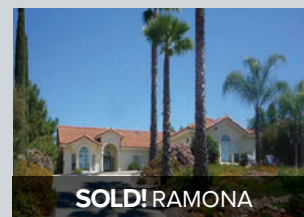
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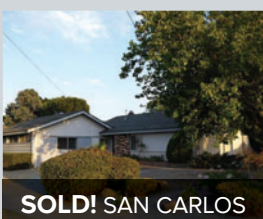
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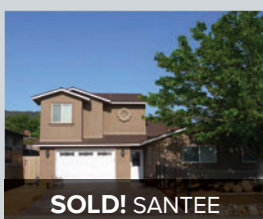
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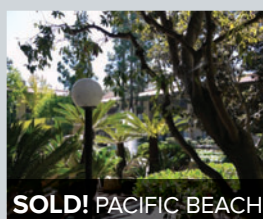
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Holiday Calendar

DEC 5 **DEC 6** **Winter Nights**
Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6

A holiday weekend hosted by Sonrise Community Church (8805 North Magnolia Ave., Santee), Winter Nights will be held from 6 – 9 p.m. each night. The free event will feature snow sledding, outdoor Christmas movies, a craft fair and Christmas carolers. There will also be a vehicle Christmas light competition, so make sure to decorate your ride! Visit sonrise.net for more information.

DEC 7 **Holiday Harmonies concert**
Sunday, Dec. 7

The California Note Catchers Chorus, a La Mesa-based group, will present this holiday concert along with their chapter of Harmony, Inc. — a women’s four-part a cappella chorus — and special guest, True Thomas the Storyteller. True Thomas (also known as Robert Seutter) has been telling stories for over 25 years and will bring tales from Celtic and Medieval Christmas traditions and more. The event will be held at 2 p.m. at Paradise Village (2700 East Fourth St., National City). Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 619-889-0299. Visit californianotecatchers.com for more information about the group.

DEC 7 **Annual holiday hayride**
Sunday, Dec. 7

United Church of Christ La Mesa (5940 Kelton Ave., La Mesa) will host this annual family holiday event, which takes attendees around the neighborhood on horse-drawn buggies while filling the air with Christmas music. The route taken through nearby streets is known for homes decorated with beautiful holiday displays. Four trips are planned at 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 p.m. (an additional ride at 8:30 p.m. will be added if needed). Back at the church, hot dogs, chili, cider, hot cocoa and gingerbread will await. Various craft projects, starting at 5:30 p.m., will be available for children. Visit ucclm.org for more information.

DEC 10 **State Sen. Joel Anderson’s holiday legislative open house**
Wednesday, Dec. 10

This holiday open house is free and open to the public. It gives individuals the chance to receive a 2014 legislative update and submit ideas for improving state government. The event runs from 6 – 8 p.m. at Toyota of El Cajon (965 Arnele Ave., El Cajon). There will be food and refreshments for attendees but an RSVP is required. To reserve your spot call Senator Anderson’s office at 619-565-3136, email senator.anderson@senate.ca.gov or RSVP online at district36.cssrc.us.

See **HOLIDAY CALENDAR** page 17 —————>

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Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 6 pm
Join us in celebrating the Christ Child! Communion is open to all. Children welcome.



Bob Olson takes a break from setting up his decorations before Thanksgiving. (Photo by Jeremy Ogul)

Local homeowners give holiday decorating everything they’ve got

Jeremy Ogul
Editor

For semi-retired handyman Bob Olson, the most exciting part of the holidays is seeing the smiles on the faces of children who come from all over town to see his elaborately decorated home at 6081 Veemac Ave. in northeast La Mesa.

Olson, 83, said he can’t sit still, so he takes advantage of his freedom to bring joy to the neighborhood. It takes between

30 and 40 hours to set up all 12,000 Christmas lights and assorted seasonal decorations — everything from a six-foot snowman to Snoopy on his doghouse and a manger with a camel and donkey — and Olson does it all by himself.

“It’s really quite spectacular,” he said.

He tries to create a theme, with the more traditional “away in the manger” story portrayed on the lawn and the more contemporary items such as Santa’s sleigh and an electric holiday train on the

roof. He has tinkered and perfected the display over the past decade.

With so many lights and other electronic elements, such as animatronic reindeer, the electrical demands create a complicated technical challenge. He sets up four separate circuits to manage the electric load.

It takes an enormous amount of electricity to power all of that Christmas cheer, four hours a night for several weeks straight.

See **DECORATING** page 18 —————>

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Leslee Evans had a vision in 1987 when she opened her store, Creative Futons, in North Park along University Avenue. She believed then that apartments would be getting smaller and people will need furniture that is versatile.

"Futons offer people great choices," Evans stated at the time.

Then in August of 1999, she said, "With today's fast-paced lifestyle, alternative choices to home décor are many and futons are perfect furniture."

This statement remains true today.

Now 27 years into her dream business, Evans' Creative Futons and its iconic location in North Park has served people all over San Diego County. Along with several frame sizes and styles to choose from, the store now carries new home interior items, such as new futon mattress covers, beautiful lamps, gorgeous pillows and a host of other accent pieces.

Her commitment to delivering a quality product, customer satisfaction and excellent service are living proof she walks like she talks.

Visit them on the web or walk into the store on University Avenue, with hours Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Rebecca Littlejohn, Pastor
4210 Massachusetts Ave.
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We would love to have you join us at Vista La Mesa Christian Church as we welcome the Christ Child into our midst once again!

We have a number of wonderful events open to the public, but we want to highlight a new service we're offering this year, "The Longest Night." This worship gathering is designed for those who struggle with the holidays, for whatever reason. Whether you are grieving a loved one, struggling with depression or loneliness, or just generally feeling burned out on all the "holiday cheer," we invite you to join us as we sit with all the complicated stuff the holidays can bring up and give it over into God's loving care.

This service will take place Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. and should last about an hour. Our congregation is joyfully inter-generational and open to all. We pray God's presence for you this holiday season!



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Mankind features designs from Diesel, Timoteo, Penguin, Andrew Christian, and many others. For you or that special man in your life, shop Mankind in Hillcrest for the holidays. They're open Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to midnight. Find them on Facebook: mankindSD.



(l to r) Sophia Dimmick, Brooke Henderson and Luke Babbitt
(Courtesy The Old Globe)

► **Grinch**, from page 1

a member of the Whoville ensemble. She, too, warmly welcomed the opportunity to work with her sister in another production.

"I think it's just really nice to share the stage with [Gabriella] —to know she's always there for you," Sophia said.

The fifth grade actress said the play's story, as well as the cast and crew, drove her to audition year after year.

"I think it's just a really nice story, and all the people back stage and on stage are so awesome, especially our stage manager Leila [Knox] and our director James [Vasquez]," Sophia said.

Another member of the Whoville Ensemble excited to return is 14-year-old Luke Babbitt, a veteran cast member of the play and a student at the La Mesa Arts Academy. Luke said the mixed cast of children and adults make the production alluring as a developing actor.

"This is one of the only shows I've been in with adults, and that's been really great because you can have a mentor, and you can learn from them and watch them during rehearsals, since they do so much," Luke said.

While Luke acknowledged

that the holidays are "the busiest time of the year" for him and his fellow actors because of the play, he still manages to stay on top of his school work with a little extra effort.

"I would miss maybe a couple classes every day for rehearsal, but I would just talk to my teachers before class everyday so I could do my work before that, so it's definitely manageable," Luke said.

Rehearsal for the production begins a mere three weeks before opening night, a much shorter timeline than your typical performance, regardless of whether youth are involved. This means that every actor big or small needs to have the chops prior to stepping into rehearsal.

The Old Globe makes up for the short timeline by packing six rehearsals into each week. For

many of the young actors, balancing a major performance with school and other activities is quite a challenge.

La Mesa resident Brooke Henderson, 12, who plays Cindy Lou-Who's mother, Betty Lou-Who, also spoke to the play's rigorous rehearsal schedule. It is Brooke's first year in one of the leading roles, and she said she didn't mind the work that came along with the great acting experience. The seventh grader said acting in front of a large audience at The Old Globe was a big change from the community theater per-

formances she's used to.

"I've really wanted to get this far in my career," Brooke said. "And I think the Old Globe is a very big step from doing community theater, so I think it really puts you out there in the world."

Brooke, who plans to pursue acting as a profession when she's older, said she enjoys the friendships forged each year at The Old Globe. She said it's one of the reasons she thinks "Grinch" gets better each year.

"[The Old Globe's 'Grinch'] has actually changed for the better, because there are a lot of new

kids coming in," Brooke said. "My first year, I met so many new kids and they didn't come back the next year. But I still talk to them and their families."

The show runs at the Old Globe until Dec. 27. There is a sensory-friendly performance for children and adults on the autism spectrum and their families on Dec. 13. For tickets, show times and a full list of the cast, visit theoldglobe.org.

—Hutton Marshall is a contributing editor. Write to him at hutton@sdcnn.com. ■

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What's Cooking with Julie

Chocolate crinkle cookies



(Photo courtesy Ruth Hartnup / Flickr via Creative Commons)

Julie Ann White

I hope your holidays are filled with happy times, friends, family and good food. We all think of cookies at Christmas time. This recipe will please most everyone.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar, set aside
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 2/3 cup all-purpose flour or gluten-free flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) of room temperature unsalted butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare two baking sheets by either greasing or lining with parchment paper. In a large bowl, mix flour, cocoa, salt and baking powder. In another bowl, cream the butter and sugar until well mixed. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Slowly combine the flour mixture and butter mixture. Mix well. Scoop rounded tablespoons and roll them into balls. Roll the balls in the powdered sugar until well covered. Place on sheets with room for expansion. Bake until puffy and cracked for 10 to 12 minutes. Cool and enjoy.■

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- Apple Bourbon Glazed Ham
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- Pan Roasted Local Fish pistachio-vodka cream

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Prop. 47's flaws will have a local impact, police say

Marty
Graham

Police Chief Ed Aceves has a grim message for La Mesa: the Nov. 4 passage of Proposition 47 — which will cause thousands of people convicted of property crimes and drug possession to be released from jails and prisons without supervision or support — means there may be an increase in property crimes.

"These are the potential impacts that can happen for law enforcement and the community," Aceves explains. "I felt it was appropriate to educate people on what may be coming."

La Mesa had recently begun winning its war on property crimes such as burglaries, petty thefts and the auto break-ins that particularly plague the neighborhoods where apartment buildings are prominent. But Prop. 47 takes away some of the legal tools police had relied on.

In May, Aceves delivered the results of a team enforcement effort with the sheriff's department that targeted pro-

lific offenders. The enforcement theory was that if you look for clusters of burglaries on a map, you'll find a prolific offender. The law enforcement team found that the prolific offender was usually visiting a friend in the neighborhood where the binge of petty crime occurred. They also found that prolific offenders were often connected to each other in what Aceves described as "the Kevin Bacon effect."

The effort resulted in a 40 to 50 percent decrease in residential and auto burglaries, he said.

The strategy was enhanced by what parole and probation cops call a "fourth waiver," where convicted thieves agree to waive their Fourth Amendment right to refuse a search. Using the fourth waiver, officers were often able to find evidence such as stolen property and burglary tools on suspects who had been convicted of felonies.

But if the suspect isn't on probation or parole, cops cannot use the fourth waiver, and as a result

of Prop. 47, far fewer low-level offenders will be on probation or parole for their crimes.

With the changes to the law under Prop. 47, there is little stick and lots of carrot for petty criminals, even when they are caught red-handed, Aceves said.

will probably go up. It also means that many suspects will be given citations and released when they're caught, he says.

"Before Prop. 47, a guy with a robbery conviction who went into Walmart and got caught stealing \$200 worth of stuff would be arrested and charged with a felony," Greenberg says. "Now, law enforcement arrives, they see he has stolen nothing that makes it a felony, so they issue a citation to appear in court in 45 to 60 days. Who knows if the guy will show up, and the maximum penalty now is 180 days instead of 32 months."

The District Attorney's office often would use the threat of a longer sentence as leverage to push the suspect into drug treatment and supervise him for more than a year.

"Now the suspect can say 180 days equals 90 days of real incarceration; that's a lot easier than going into treatment," Greenberg says. "Treatment is tough. Ninety days [in jail] — that's easy."

The other problem, both Aceves and Greenberg say, is there's no plan for drug treatment or community support for the people being released now — and no program funding for at least 20 months.

For people who were caught before Prop. 47 and are in treatment now, the District Attorney is making it possible for them to stay in treatment programs even though the reduction of charges means they can leave — or pay to stay in treatment, Greenberg said.

Aceves says treatment is important, but it often takes leverage to convince minor offenders to accept treatment.

"A lot of property crime has a drug component. Some of the charges are usually dropped with a plea bargain, but the sentence reflects that the person has a drug problem," he says. "Now that there's no real hammer for drug possession, that person is going to think, 'Why not go ahead and steal more stuff?'"

Aceves agrees that prison for people who commit petty crime to support a drug habit is not much of a solution. But he wants to see the programs promised by Prop. 47 in place so the people being released from jails and prisons have some supervision and support when they land back in the communities where they've done wrong before.

The text of Prop. 47 stipulates that the money saved by keeping offenders out of prison will be divvied up so that 60 percent goes for mental health and drug treatment, 25 percent for education and 10 percent for victims' services.

"The proposition says that the savings in prison costs for the first year will be calculated in July 2016 and put towards programs," he says. "That means there's no money available for at least 20 months, and we don't know how much money will become available then."

In San Diego County jails, more than 1,800 inmates have filed petitions for resentencing, according to the San Diego Sheriff's Department. So far, there have been just eight inmates released.

Two were in jail for meth possession; one for meth and heroin; one for heroin; one for theft and meth possession; one for burglary; one for theft; and one for theft, burglary and possessing stolen property, a department spokesperson said.

But Greenberg says the number of inmates with similar charges and convictions will grow.

"Right now, it's people with court dates for preliminary hearings, trials and sentencing that are being released," Greenberg says. "We've got more than 1,800 files to review and we're meeting every day with the Public Defender to review them. There will be many more, and there will certainly be an impact in our community."

—Marty Graham is a freelance writer covering the San Diego region. ■

1,800
The number of inmates in San Diego County jails who have filed petitions for resentencing. So far, just eight inmates have been released.

"It's frustrating because we've done such a good job with reducing our crime rate," Aceves says.

Deputy District Attorney David Greenberg agrees with Aceves' assessment that property crimes

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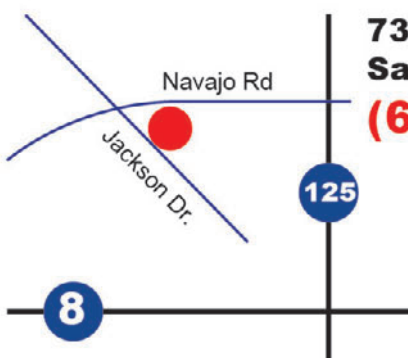
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The renovated theater features sloped seating for an audience of approximately 90 people. (Photo by Richard Nelesen)

► Lamplighters, from page 2

the building efforts.

The goals of Lamplighters Community Theatre are to serve La Mesa and the surrounding areas with community-oriented theater experiences, offering quality live entertainment for both audience members and for the theater company volunteers who freely give their time and talents for the shows. The group also intends to provide a training facility for those interested in learning the theater trade, to assist all participants with opportunities to pursue their personal theatrical goals, to create a financially stable business environment for the theater, to increase the numbers in the audience and among volunteers, to boost the overall theater environment in San Diego County, and "to have fun and enjoy the experience."

The group was originally founded in June 1937 as The La Mesa Little Theatre. Other names billed on the marquee included La Mesa Community Theatre, Town and Country Players,

Foothill Players, La Mesa On The Aisle, and La Mesa Players. Lamplighters became part of the theater company's name in 1972. The major historical milestone was the company's incorporation as The Lamplighters Community Theatre on Nov. 1, 1976.

Lamplighters Community Theatre can be contacted by calling Barbara Eisele at 619-448-1926 or the box office at 619-286-3685. The current show runs through Dec. 14, with weekend performances on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. A short-run production of a Readers Theatre original play by David Wiener, entitled "Louis and Irving, Movie Moguls," is slated for the middle of January. The theater is located at 5915 Severin Dr. More information is also available at lamplighterslamemesa.com.

—B.J. Coleman is a freelance writer who covers the San Diego region. Reach her by email at barshajo@aim.com.■



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Noted law professor to headline December meeting

Local Dems to celebrate season with annual holiday feast

Linda
Armacost



The La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club — with members from Allied Gardens, San Carlos, the College Area, Del Cerro, as well as the East County communities of La Mesa, Santee and Mt. Helix — will hear noted law professor and author Marjorie Cohn at their annual holiday meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3. We meet at the La Mesa Community Center at 4975 Memorial Dr., just off of University Avenue in La Mesa. Guests are welcomed at all meetings.

As is our custom, we will have our annual club holiday party featuring freshly baked turkeys and ham, all the trimmings, and a multitude of sides and desserts. We start the meeting at 6 p.m. to have plenty of time to enjoy the food, the music and the camaraderie. We are pleased to welcome back wonderful flamenco guitarist Anthony Garcia, who will play for the group during our social hour.

Our meeting will be highlighted by Cohn, who recently released her fifth book, "Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral and Geo-political Issues." Cohn is a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where she teaches criminal law and procedure, evidence, and international human rights law. A former president of the National Lawyers Guild, she is a representative to the executive council of the American Association of Jurists. Cohn is also the author of "Cowboy Republic," "Rules of Disengagement," "Cameras in the Courtroom" and "United States and Torture: Interrogation, Incarceration and Abuse." She lectures throughout the world on human rights and U.S. foreign policy and the contradiction between the two. Cohn will have books available for signing and sale at the meeting.



Law professor and author Marjorie Cohn (Courtesy Marjorie Cohn)

Our members make a pledge every year to help others less fortunate in our community. This year, we are teaming up with the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Santa Sophia Catholic Church in Casa de Oro. Their outreach program serves the needs of more than 400 local families with an ongoing food pantry and other essential services. Members are encouraged to bring a collection of non-perishable foods and dry goods to our meeting.

The best items to donate are: pasta, rice, beans, canned vegetables, canned fruits, pasta sauce, peanut butter, boxed cereal, meal helpers, tuna, cake mix, and macaroni and cheese. Also valuable would be paper goods, tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, cleaning products and laundry detergent. So open up your pantry — and your heart — and help feed and nourish the needy this holiday season.

Finally, a big thank you is in

order for state Sen. Marty Block, who enlightened and delighted our November gathering and told us the election results in California were something we could all be proud of. All statewide Democratic office holders were re-elected, as was our local assemblymember, Dr. Shirley Weber, and our local member of Congress, Susan Davis. Rep. Scott Peters was winning (and now has won) the hotly contested 52nd Congressional District race over Carl DeMaio. Marty also informed us about some of the significant and successful bills he had signed by Gov. Jerry Brown this year, including one making certain four-year degrees available at 16 community colleges in California. And lastly, he reminded us all that 2016 is two short years away!

—Linda Armacost is president of the La Mesa Foothills Democratic Club.■

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New officers to be installed at holiday party

Judy
McCarty



December's general meeting will come in the form of our holiday Christmas party at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in the home of member Ginny Wisley. There will be a short

installation of officers and a lot of mingling and meeting other Navajo Canyon Republican Women, including the 25 new members who joined this year. The party is a fantastic way to get to know each other and talk about the election results.

We will also be collecting gifts for San Diego MOM (Military Outreach Ministries). This charity takes care of all junior enlisted families in gratitude for their service. Please RSVP to NCRWF99@gmail.com or call Glenda at 619-284-9958. Please bring a dish to share, as well as a gift for the military children.

Marjie Siekerka will return as president for the new year. Others elected to serve during 2015 are Cathie Johns as first vice president of programs; Gloria Harpenau, second vice president of membership; Sally Steele, third vice president of ways and means; Glenda Boerner, recording secretary; Kathy Riesgo, treasurer; Pat Boerner, corresponding secretary; Nancy Amador, parliamentarian; and Waskah Whelan, past president (and current president of San Diego County RWF).

We'll be back at La Mesa's

Brigantine restaurant on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015, with guest speaker John Coleman, meteorologist and co-founder of the Weather Channel. He's familiar to San Diegans as the former weather forecaster for KUSI-TV. We are looking forward to another year of intriguing and informative speakers.

We will also be collecting gifts for San Diego MOM (Military Outreach Ministries). This charity takes care of all junior enlisted families in gratitude for their service.

Downtown Republican Women, our satellite club, will celebrate the holidays with a party at Diane Randolph's condo Downtown, and will begin the new year with San Diego Councilmembers Scott Sherman and Chris Cate — who are planning to join us Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at The Athens Market, located on the corner of First and F streets Downtown. Cost is \$15 for the amazing hors d'oeuvres buffet and no-host bar.

Downtown Republican Women meet every third Thursday of the month in an after-work setting, and all Republicans are welcome to come and join in discussions with the guests of honor. RSVP to dmcrsd@gmail.com.

For more information, check out our website at navajocanyonrwf.org.

—Judy McCarty is the publicity chair of the Navajo Canyon Republican Women Federated.■

Holiday Calendar, from page 11

DEC
12

DEC
13

Annual Christmas in the Village

Friday, Dec. 12 and
Saturday, Dec. 13

Each year the La Mesa Village Merchants Association transforms La Mesa Village into a holiday wonderland for two nights. This year's street fair will include a holiday parade held each night at 5 p.m. with a pre-parade "Salute to America" at 4:30 p.m. marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and honoring Vietnam veterans.

Village festivities will include food and commercial vendors, live music on multiple stages and strolling minstrels, carolers and street entertainers. For children there will be carnival rides, pony rides, puppet shows and a chance to meet Santa Claus at the Goodwill Plaza (8250 La Mesa Blvd.). Santa will be in the plaza following the parade until the end of the night and there is no charge to see him. Shops and restaurants along La Mesa Boulevard will stay open late during the event, which runs till 10 p.m. each night, for extra holiday shopping time.

Christmas in the Village also supports several local charities with its Toy and Joy food and gift drive throughout both evenings. Bring a new, unwrapped toy, gift card or nonperishable food donation to Cosmos Coffee House (8278 La Mesa Blvd.), Sotheby's International Realty (8310 La Mesa Blvd.) or First Republic Bank (8347 La Mesa Blvd.).

The event is free with free (but limited) parking in the area. For more information or to become a sponsor or vendor, visit lmvma.com.

DEC
12

DEC
14

Christmas in the City

Friday, Dec. 12 – Sunday,
Dec. 14

Sonrise Community Church (8805 North Magnolia Ave., Santee) will present their yearly Christmas program at various times during the weekend. The event includes contemporary and traditional Christmas songs with a live band.

Christmas in the City is free and open to everyone. Friday's event is at 7 p.m., Saturday's starts at 5 p.m. and Sunday's performances are at 9 and 11 a.m. For more information visit sunrise.net.

DEC
13

Voices for Children volunteer information session

Saturday, Dec. 13

The holidays are a great time to think about giving back to our community. Voices for Children is a local nonprofit that recruits, trains and supervises Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). The CASAs play an integral part in the lives of foster children providing a consistent adult presence for kids who have been removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. CASAs also act as the eyes and ears of the court and advocate on their assigned child's behalf. The information session is the first step in becoming a CASA; this one will be held at Spring Valley Public Library (835 Kempton St.). For additional information or to find another information session visit speakupnow.org.

DEC
14

Sing-along Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 14

Gina Seashore, known locally as "That Music Lady," will lead the caroling at this free, family event at the Mt. Helix Park Amphitheatre (4905 Mt. Helix Drive, La Mesa). Musicians will accompany carolers, so be ready to flex your pipes. Nonperishable food items will be collected for distribution by Journey Church's food pantry. Free coffee and hot cocoa will be provided and baked goods will be provided by local mother-daughter philanthropy group SPRITES. The event will be complete with a visit from Santa Claus to hear the holiday wishes of young attendees. All event parking and shuttles will be available at the San Miguel Fire Station (10105 Vivera Drive, La Mesa) beginning at 6:15 p.m. with the event concluding at 8 p.m. Visit mthelixpark.org for more information.■

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► Rotunda, from page 3

Chicago. That rotunda was dismantled and reconstructed near Ford's headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, after the fair and remained a popular futuristic tourist attraction until it was destroyed in a fire in 1962.

Susan Myrland said she has a

This unique building would distinguish Penske from every other forgettable dealership and send the message that you want to be part of the community. Keep it!"

Others supporting the petition commented about sentimental memories they have of walking

is not technically old enough to qualify as a historic resource under city guidelines, which set a threshold of 50 years or older. If the property owner wanted to register it as a historical resource, however, it would probably qualify for other reasons, he said.

If the property owner proposes changes that trigger a discretionary review by the city, an environmental impact report would probably have to include an evaluation of the building's historical merit and possible alternatives, Newland said.

But that is all hypothetical at this point because no specific plans are yet on the table, he said.

As for the dealership's employees, Penske's attorney said most of them will remain on staff.

"The Drew family legacy is built in large part on the dedication and loyalty of its talented employees, and we are pleased to have been able to extend employment opportunities to a majority of Drew employees," Thomas said. "Former Drew guests can expect to see many of the same great people behind the Penske name."

Thomas also said Penske will continue to honor the terms of valid Drew Value Limited Warranties, Drew Limited Lifetime Parts Warranties, manufacturer warranties and service contracts.

—Reach Jeremy Ogul by email at jeremy@sdccnn.com.■



The Ford exhibition at the 1964 New York World's Fair featured a building strikingly similar to one in La Mesa (Courtesy David Eppen)

view of the Roundhouse of Values building from the backyard of her home on Alpine Avenue.

"It is graceful and eye-catching as well as being a piece of local history," Myrland wrote in a comment on the petition. "Without it, Grossmont Boulevard would be a bland stretch of square boxes.

out of the rotunda with the keys to their first new car. One commenter described the building as a monument to the Drew family and their contributions to La Mesa's identity.

Jim Newland, a La Mesa historian and member of the Planning Commission, said the building



Bob Olson's house lights up the neighborhood at night. (Photo by Jeremy Ogul)

► Decorating, from page 11

Olson said his electric bill for December is usually at least \$250 more than his typical bill. That's on top of the several thousands of dollars he has invested in decorations.

But it's all worth it for the throngs of families who come by to get in the holiday spirit, Olson said. Sometimes they dance to the music on the lawn. Others take pictures.

"I had one family come out here one year with a little girl who saw all the lights and said, 'Mommy, mommy — Disneyland!'"

Though Olson has already begun setting up his display, he says it won't be fully complete until about Dec. 3. The lights will be on every night until Jan. 1, and he encourages everyone to stop by and enjoy the spectacle.

One of the most recognizable holiday sights in La Mesa is the giant "tree" formed out of long strands of thousands of lights on the hill near the intersection of University Avenue and La Mesa Boulevard.

The 70-foot tree, similar to what SeaWorld does with its SkyTower every year, features 1,260 bulbs and can be seen for miles across town. Dexter Levy has been rigging it up outside his house every year since 1997.

"We just do it for the fun of it," said Levy, a third generation La Mesan.

Most people don't realize that the tree is fashioned almost entirely out of old and repurposed materials. The 25 strands of lights — red, white and blue — were left over after the 1996 Republican National Convention in San Diego, and Levy got a hold of them for practically nothing.

"My wife spent two days sitting on the living room floor unscrewing all the light bulbs so we could put them back together the way we wanted them," he said.

That was about the same time General Dynamics was dismantling its Kearny Mesa campus, where Levy had been the administrator for Convair's recreation group. From a building slated for demolition, Levy managed to salvage a 50-amp electrical sub-panel that he now uses to handle the electrical load of all the lights. He also extracted a contactor (a magnetic power switch) that had been used to turn on tennis court lights at Convair's Missile Park.

"That's just all stuff that

would have been thrown away," Levy said.

He carefully strings up the lights on a crank-up, tilt-over CB antenna tower his parents installed on the property decades ago. Each strand of lights is on its own circuit breaker. It's a minor feat of engineering that takes at least two days to set up every year.

Last year, the Levys found the money to replace every 7.5-watt bulb with LED bulbs. That brought the cost of powering the whole thing down from \$600 to about \$200, Levy said.

"We really enjoy doing it," he said. "It's something that I think my parents would have absolutely loved."

Though she has only lived in La Mesa for a few months, Gina Dobbins is excited to welcome families to her lavishly decorated home for candy canes and a visit with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Dobbins has been inviting Santa to hang out with kids in front of her former home in Allied Gardens for more than a decade. She decorates with numerous inflatable snowmen, a polar bear, reindeer, a sleigh, strands of lights and much more that she has collected over the years.

"I do not have kids myself, but I'm a kid at heart," Dobbins said. "I love the excitement. Everybody's so nice at Christmas."

For Dobbins, creating a special experience for kids is a small way to give back and spread the holiday cheer, especially for children whose families don't have the time or money to create a winter wonderland of their own. She recalls one year in particular that a young military family with small children told her the line to see Santa at Fashion Valley mall was hours long, and photos were prohibitively expensive. The family thanked her for providing a friendly and free neighborhood alternative to the hectic mall scene.

Santa will stop by Dobbins' house at 7817 Quince St. (near the Riviera Supper Club) on Saturday, Dec. 20 beginning at 5 p.m.

Guests are also welcome to walk or drive by any time between sunset and 10 p.m. during the month of December to check out the decorations.

—Reach Jeremy Ogul at jeremy@sdccnn.com.■

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PUZZLES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

CROSSWORD

Cuisine Art

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15				16			
17						18				19			
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62						63				64			
65						66				67			
68						69				70			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

DOWN

53 Asterisk

55 Noted restaurateur

56 Crisp snack

62 Type of skirt

63 State positively

64 Ramshackle

65 Nebraskan Sioux

66 Come apart

67 Misplay

68 Seed

69 Hector's land

70 Enameled metalware

25 Fever

26 Droop-nosed fliers

27 Budget, in Berlin

28 Top of Mount Pisgah

29 Blushing crow, e.g.

30 Deliberate lie

33 Old wives' tale

34 Exist

36 Steady, easy gait

37 Like ____ of bricks

38 ____ *It Romantic?*

40 Scent

45 Emptied of air

48 Go away

50 Moved upward

51 Type of wine

52 Probity

53 Shorthand

54 Late

55 Polluted air

57 From beginning to end

58 Pt. of CPA

59 Many-splendored sandwich

60 False god

61 Combustible heap

1 Repeated musical phrase

2 Sonja Henie's birth-place

3 Winglike

4 Orchestra music stand

5 Lens setting

6 Teeming

7 Rooster on the roof

8 Loath

9 Muckamuck

10 Not *sotto voce*

11 Lariat loop

12 Omar's product

14 Student's chore

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process elimination to solve the puzzle.

9					4			
6	4			5			3	
		2	3		9	5		4
		9		1		3		8
	8		4		6		1	
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3		1	6		5	7		
	5			2			4	3
			8					1

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La Mesa Reads

Creative new children's books fill the library



Jake
Sexton

As libraries rebound from the budget cuts of the Great Recession, the San Diego County Library system is focusing its resources on replenishing and expanding our collection of children's books. The shelves will soon be overflowing with brand new favorites as well as long-beloved classics. This is great news for parents and grandparents, of course, but there are quite a few "children's books" out there for adults to love as well.

"The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend," by Dan Santat, is a newly published picture book about an island that is home to imaginary friends who haven't yet been imagined by a real child. The small, white, blobby Beekle becomes tired of waiting and sets off on a voyage to find his friend. The premise is creative, and the book's artwork is sharp and colorful and has a fun, cartoony style. The imaginary creatures come in all varieties, from origami bears to tattooed octopi to ornate, multi-colored dragons.

Some of the picture books adults might enjoy most are the ones that turn the clichés of these stories on their heads. The clever picture book "Chloe and



(Courtesy Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

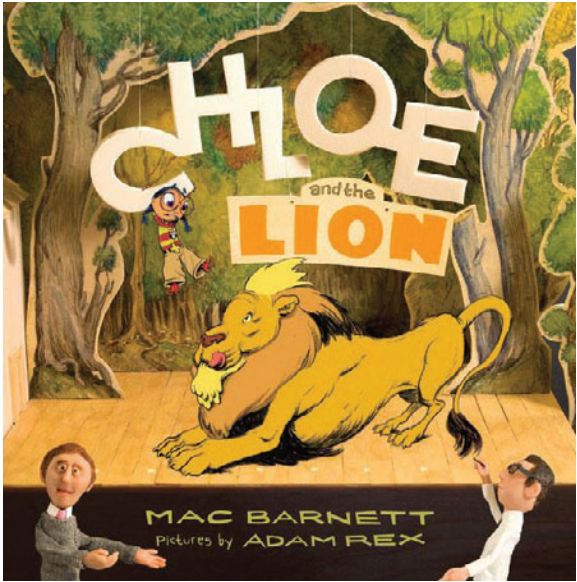
the Lion," by Mac Barnett and Adam Rex, begins with the two creators introducing themselves to the reader, but within the first few pages the two begin to fight; the artist is fired and eaten by

the cartoon lion. The rest of the book becomes a chaotic new tale about the writer, a replacement artist, a lumberjack, the lion, another lion, and Chloe herself, working together to get Chloe's

story told in the book's pages.

One more subversive picture book is "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers. A young boy named Duncan opens his box of crayons to find it filled with letters from each crayon explaining that they are on strike. Each crayon angrily explains how they are used too much (or too little), that they are frustrated with his drawing style, or that Orange and Yellow are having a fight about which is "really" the color of the sun.

And concluding with children's novels rather than picture books, the "Pals in Peril" series by M.T. Anderson is fun and hilarious, aimed at kids and adults simultaneously. Anderson has dabbled in many genres, from prophetic teen dystopias to dense historical fiction, but this series is a combination of absurdist humor and a parody of kids' detective stories. The series' opener is "Whales on Stilts," about a shy, overlooked



(Courtesy Hyperion Books for Children)

girl named Lily whose best friends are caricatures of childhood heroes Nancy Drew and Tom Swift. The three are drawn

into adventure when Lily's oblivious father reveals that his boss at the office has a supervillainous plot for world domination, involving the aforementioned whales and stilts.

Of course, these are only a handful of examples of this creative art. Take a look for yourself, or enjoy them together with a young friend.

On the other side of the age spectrum, I'd like to invite everyone to join us for a holiday concert at the library featuring the Rhinestone Grannies. These vivacious seniors will bring their singing, dancing, fancy costumes and vaudeville-style comedy into their show "Put a Little Holiday in Your Heart." This will take place Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

—Jake Sexton is a librarian at the La Mesa branch of the San Diego County library. Call the library at 619-469-2151 or visit 8074 Allison Ave.■

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Spring Valley, CA 91978
619.462.9622

Sudoku & Crossword
puzzle answers from
page 19

9	3	5	1	7	4	8	2	6
6	4	7	2	5	8	1	3	9
8	1	2	3	6	9	5	7	4
4	7	9	5	1	2	3	6	8
5	8	3	4	9	6	2	1	7
1	2	6	7	8	3	4	9	5
3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8	2
7	5	8	9	2	1	6	4	3
2	6	4	8	3	7	9	5	1

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ISLET	SLAV	ALOE
FLASH	TINE	NOON
FORKED	DOVER	JUST
	MOPE	SHADE
SENSED		TEEN
STEP	OLLA	ADLAI
TABOO	OIL	TROTS
STOOD	REEF	UPON
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Jen
Van Tieghem



Long the genre of choice at whiskey bars and hotel lounges, jazz music lately has found a number of new nooks around the San Diego region. For several months now, an unassuming neighborhood haunt right in La Mesa has been one such host to some of the best local players of the genre.

The Rook Bar (7745 University Ave.) may look like a run-of-the-mill watering hole, but each week saxophonist Charlie Arbelaez and his cohorts transform it into a swanky jazz club with their Friday Midnight Jam. The end of the week entertainment lingers into the early hours of Saturday morning with an abundance of “jammers” showing up to participate.

The idea for the jam sessions sprung when Arbelaez frequented the Rook over the summer to watch World Cup soccer matches. Chatting with owner Chris Haney and other staff members, Arbelaez mentioned that he was a professional musician. Haney’s interest was piqued, and in late August, he gave Arbelaez the Friday slot and the freedom to do with it what he wanted.

Arbelaez appreciates that freedom.

“I get to play whatever I want,” Arbelaez said. “That’s such a blessing.”

As a hired musician, he explained, he’s often called upon to play genres other than jazz. From gospel to rock to blues, the style and song choices come from various bandleaders and venues Arbelaez works for.

“That’s part of the process... to go in and manipulate different styles and inflection and be able to bring to the table more than just what’s written on the



Charlie Arbelaez (Photo by Hiroyuki Izeki)

“I get to talk about the music a little bit — I get to grab their attention and take them on a journey.”

—Charlie Arbelaez

mer and bass player who vary from week to week. Sometimes they’ll expand with keys or other instruments for this more structured portion.

“For me, it’s an opportunity to teach an audience,” Arbelaez

work of instrument-toting pals. Drummers rotate through, bass players trade out to complete the rhythm section and any number of other musicians will make an appearance, from piano players to guitarists to talents on various woodwind and brass instruments. As bandleader Arbelaez guides the jam session, he calls upon his friends in attendance to come play. The collaborative music fills the air.

“I swing by as often as I can,” pianist Ed Kornhauser said. “Even if I have a gig that ends late — it’s always a good way to end the day!”

The sessions come as a surprise to many patrons who wander into the Rook for a drink to usher in the weekend. Arbelaez says some aren’t looking for music and opt not to stay while others show up religiously, never missing a session.

The faithful Friday night fans are treated to something different each week, Arbelaez explained. With different musicians stopping by and different song choices and themes explored, there’s always something fresh popping up. With the holidays approaching, the saxophonist even expects to work in some festive tunes at upcoming performances.

The dynamic jazz jam sessions are a worthwhile spectacle — even if you don’t live close by. Seeing quality music in an intimate setting can often cost a pretty penny, but Fridays at the Rook are free; plus, the bar has a surprisingly wide selection of craft beer and small production wines, the latter chosen by a professional sommelier.

Good drinks and great music — what more could you want to kick off your weekend?

—Write to Jen Van Tieghem at jen@sdcnn.com. ■



Arbelaez invites a rotating cast of musicians on stage every Friday night (Photo by Jen Van Tieghem)

page,” Arbelaez said. “But, in particular, what I love about the Friday Midnight Jam is that it’s all bebop — it’s all jazz, it’s all hard-swinging, up-tempo, really fun, beautiful jazz music.”

To kick off that beautiful jazz music each Friday, the Charlie Arbelaez Trio performs as the “house band” starting around 9:30 p.m. The trio is comprised of Arbelaez, of course, with a drum-

described of the first set. “I get to talk about the music a little bit — I get to grab their attention and take them on a journey.”

After an hour or so of the core band playing, the jam session opens up and things get cranked up a notch in energy, if not volume. You see, Arbelaez has been playing in San Diego for a number of years, and like most great musicians he has a net-

MUSIC NOTES

Jazz

Fridays: Charlie Arbelaez Trio at The Rook. Free. 9 p.m. TheRookBar.com. 7745 University Ave., La Mesa.

Saturdays: Jazz with George and Alan at Bistro Sixty. Free. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. BistroSixtySD.com. 5987 El Cajon Blvd., College Area.

Sundays: samdi-ego Jazz Trio at San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room. Free. 2 – 5 p.m. SanPasqualWinery.com. 8364 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa.

Pop

Wednesdays: Westside Inflection at Riviera Supper Club. Free. 8 p.m. RivieraSupperClub.com. 7777 University Ave., La Mesa.

Dec. 4: Peter Bolland playing John Denver at Vision Center for Spiritual Living. \$10. 7 p.m. FolkeyMonkey.com. 6154 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 100, Grantville.

Dec. 6: Holiday Tunes by Dawn and Friends at San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room. Free. 7 - 10 p.m. SanPasqualWinery.com. 8364 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa.

Classical

Dec. 3: Grossmont College Concert Band at the Performing Arts Theatre, Building B at Cuyamaca College. \$5-\$8. 7:30 p.m. Cuyamaca.edu/PerformingArts. 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon.

Dec. 5: Cuyamaca College Choir at the Performing Arts Theatre, Building B at Cuyamaca College. \$5-\$8. 7:30 p.m. Cuyamaca.edu/PerformingArts. 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon.

Dec. 14: Many Strings at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor’s Center Auditorium. Free. 3 – 4 p.m. MTRP.org. 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Carlos.

Alternative/Rock

Nov. 28: Black Market III at Riviera Supper Club. Free. 9 p.m. RivieraSupperClub.com. 7777 University Ave., La Mesa.

Dec. 12: 2014 Winter Wonder Jam featuring Barrie Dempsey, Mockingbird, Little Heroine and Feelgood at the Performing Arts Theatre, Building B at Cuyamaca College. \$5 (or three-can donation to San Diego Food Bank). 7 p.m. Cuyamaca.edu/PerformingArts. 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon.

Dec. 13: Vinyl Pirates at Chico Club. Free. 8:30 p.m. ChicoClub1940.com. 7366 El Cajon Blvd., La Mesa.

Other

Nov. 29: Chris Bianco at San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room. Free. 7 - 10 p.m. SanPasqualWinery.com. 8364 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa.

Nov. 29: Little Kings at Hooley’s. Free. 9 p.m. Hooleys.com. 5500 Grossmont Center Drive #277, La Mesa.

Dec. 9: Valhalla High School Vocal Winter Concert at Skyline Church. 7 p.m. 11330 Campo Road, La Mesa.

Dec. 10: Helix Charter High School Instrumental Music Concert at the Helix Performing Arts Center. 7 p.m. 4200 Lowell St., La Mesa.

Dec. 15: Grossmont High School Red Robe Choir at Fletcher Hills Presbyterian Church. 7 p.m. 455 Church Way, El Cajon.

Dec. 17: Helix Charter High School Winter Choir Concert at the Helix Performing Arts Center. 7 p.m. 4200 Lowell St., La Mesa.

Dec. 21: “Panamerican Shanties II” featuring Jeff Pekarek and Fred Benedetti at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor’s Center Auditorium. Free. 3 – 4 p.m. MTRP.org. 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Carlos.

Bands, venues, and music-lovers: please submit listings for this calendar by emailing Jen@sdcnn.com. ■

NEIGHBORHOOD

2014

BEST



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OR VOTE ONLINE AT: lamesacourier.com. Please complete at least 50 percent of the ballot. One ballot per person. Ballots must be postmarked, submitted online, or hand-delivered by 5 p.m. Dec. 31.

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Dining & Entertainment	Greek Cuisine	Sushi	Florist
American Cuisine	Happy Hour	Thai Cuisine	Furniture Store
Bakery	Health Food Store	Vegetarian/Vegan	Gym/Health Club
Barbeque	Hot Wings	Wine Bar	Hair Salon
Beer	Indian Cuisine	Business & Retail	Hospital
Billiards	Irish Pub	Accountant	Hotel
Breakfast	Italian Cuisine	Acupuncture	Insurance Broker
Brunch	Japanese Cuisine	Antiques	Jeweler
Burger	Jazz Bar	Art Gallery	Massage
Burrito	Late Night Dining	Auto Dealer	Men's Apparel
Business Lunch	Live Music Venue	Auto Repair Shop	New Business
Casino	Lunch	Bank	Optometrist
Casino Buffet	Margarita	Barber	Pawn Shop
Casual Dining	Martini	Bicycle Shop	Personal Trainer
Chinese Cuisine	Mexican Cuisine	Bookstore	Pet Boarding
Cocktail	Micro Brewery	Boutique	Pet Grooming
Coffee Shop	Museum	Bridal Shop	Plumber
Comedy Club	New Restaurant	Car Wash	Property Management Company
Comfort Food	Nightclub	Chiropractor	Real Estate Agent
Dance Club	Outdoor Dining	College/University	Real Estate Office
Deli	Pet Friendly Dining	Consignment/Resale	Retirement Living
Dessert	Pizza	Cosmetic Surgeon	Tanning Salon
Dinner	Romantic Dining	Credit Union	Tattoo/Piercing
Donut Shop	Rooftop Lounge	Day Spa	Tuxedo Shop
Family Restaurant	Salad	Dentist	Veterinarian
Farmers Market	Sandwich	Discount Store	Wedding Venue
Fast Food	SD County Winery	Doctor	Women's Apparel
Fine Dining	Seafood	Dry Cleaners	Yoga Studio
French Cuisine	Sports Bar	Financial Planner	
	Steakhouse		

► **Exposition**, from page 9

A few years later, Fletcher would serve as a director for the 1915 Exposition, and he raised funds to save many of the Expo buildings from demolition after the fair closed. He also owned the Cuyamaca Water Company and with James A. Murray built a dam creating Lake Murray. He would later do "battle" with John D. Spreckels over water rights (along with the city of San Diego) to the San Diego River.

In early November, I purchased tickets and went on the La Mesa Historical Society's (LMHS) 2014 Historic Home Tour, viewing five homes in the original Grossmont Colony area, including one I especially wanted to see—the Fletcher/Pykles House built in 1961 for the Fletcher family. The site includes a large rock outcropping with steps leading to a small platform that Ed Fletcher himself had installed to take in the stunning 360-degree vista from the Grossmont summit—an area one early resident, noted author Carrie Jacobs Bond, called "God's Garden."

Our town's unique history will again be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Historical Society's annual Christmas Open House at the McKinney House Museum, decorated in early-1900s-era holiday style. Admission is free. Bring the whole family for a glimpse of life here a century ago, when people like Collier, Fletcher and Spreckels were shaping what our region would be like for generations to come.

While you're there, why not join the society for a modest fee and support their efforts to preserve and share our town's history? You'll receive advance notice of their programs throughout the year. LMHS President Jim Newland is currently writing a book about the rich history of the Grossmont-Mt. Helix neighborhood. No doubt there will be special programs offered when his book is released in 2015.

Find more information on the Christmas Open House and other upcoming programs at LaMesaHistory.com.

—Pam Crooks is the founding editor of La Mesa Courier and lives in Mt. Helix. You can reach her by email at SunShinesSooner@gmail.com. ■

Helix Highlights



Jennifer Osborn

Give 2 Scotties!

Under the leadership of teacher Eric Ginsberg, Helix has launched a "Give 2 Scotties" (G2S) website. The purpose of G2S is to support continued academic, athletic, and extracurricular excellence at the school. It provides a centralized location to let the public know about upcoming fundraisers for clubs and organizations, see teacher wish lists and volunteer opportunities, as well as many other features to connect with the community. Follow us on Twitter @give2scotties, and like our Facebook page at facebook.com/give2scotties.

Seat belts save

Helix's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club is participating in the Seat Belts Save Challenge put on by the National Organization for Youth Safety. As part of the challenge, the club conducted mock seat belt checks in the student lot twice — once in October and once in November. On the first day, only 93 percent of students were wearing seat belts when checked. Students were given a fake ticket telling them what the fine would have been had the checkpoint been real, or, if they were wearing their seat belt, they were given a reward ticket for a free slice of pizza. For two weeks following, club members shared facts, showed videos and organized activities. At the second check, the percentage of students wearing seat belts increased to 98 percent. A big "thank you" goes out to the La Mesa Police Department for providing officers to help with the checkpoints on both days.

Helix Youth Service Day

The Aspire Student Empowerment group hosted a Youth Service Day at Helix in November. The student-led group

identified projects on campus to complete, such as cleaning up trash, gardening, cutting down and pulling out palm trees, and more. Approximately 65 students participated, and their efforts are apparent in the appearance of the school. This was the second service day hosted by the group.

Helix football in the CIF Playoffs

The Helix football team has made it to the CIF playoffs once again. Seeded third in the county, they beat Ramona High School in the first round to advance and will play Cathedral Catholic High School in the next round.



Gift wrapping

As the holidays approach, Helix clubs and teams are here to help. Beginning Nov. 30, different clubs and teams will provide gift wrapping at Grossmont Center, near the Information Booth. The service will be provided Monday – Friday from 4 – 9 p.m.; 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Saturdays; and 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sundays. There is no charge, but, of course, donations are greatly appreciated and will be used toward expenses associated with each club or team.



2015-16 enrollment

Enrollment meetings are coming up soon for the 2015-16 school year. There are different processes for families living in the Helix attendance area, and families living outside the attendance area. Do not miss the opportunity to submit your child's name for enrollment. Please visit the Helix website at helixcharter.net and click on "Entrance/Boundaries Info" to find out details. ■

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Celebrate Christmas

Advent

Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, 14th, 21st
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve

December 24th
4:30 p.m.
Family Service with Pageant & Candlelight Communion

Christmas Day

December 25th
10 a.m.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. —Isaiah 60:1

Kids are welcome at all services. Nursery for ages 0 – 3 is available at all Advent services, and on 12/24 at 4:30 p.m.

Join us for worship

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La Mesa COURIER

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Have an article or announcement you want to share with the community?

Weddings • Births • Sports
 Anniversaries • Church Events • Business
 School News • Obituaries • Politics
 Crime

We welcome your input on the community! Submissions can be sent by e-mail to jeremy@sdCNN.com. Thank you for your interest in the La Mesa Courier.



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SOLD! SAN DIEGO



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