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## Street Angels ask public for help in serving homeless

Volunteers with Urban Street Angels, a North Park-based nonprofit serving San Diego's homeless youth  
(Facebook.com/UrbanStreetAngels)

By Hoa Quach

The holidays have encouraged a North Park nonprofit to ramp up its efforts of serving the homeless.

Urban Street Angels (USA), an all-volunteer nonprofit that serves an estimated 3,000 homeless young people in San Diego each month, will host its third annual North Park Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 13.

The free event, which is sponsored by Thrivent Financial, will include music, food, drinks and raffle prizes with proceeds benefiting the charity. The nonprofit is also collecting sleeping bags to distribute to the homeless in San Diego.

USA began as a program out of Mission Gathering Christian Church in 2008 and was refashioned into its own nonprofit just this year. The agenda of the nonprofit is simple: bring hot meals and goods like shoes and blankets to homeless youth six to eight times a month. And, when the recipients are ready to receive additional help getting off the street,

USA will provide them with resources and a guide on how to do that.

USA helped eight homeless youths — or “angels” as they like to call them — off the streets in 2014 alone, according to executive director Eric Lovett. Lovett said USA was able to help those angels by visiting them each week and building those relationships.

“Our goal is that this number can grow much more,” Lovett said. “It’s important to have USA out there on a consistent basis in order to build that trust that has been broken in their lives. Then, one day when they are ready, we can help them make that step out of homelessness.”

Lovett said, from his experience, North Park, Downtown and Ocean Beach seem to have the most homeless young people.

Miriam Marquez, a North Park resident who has

see Angels, page 6

## Tomorrow's office

North Park coworking space expands

By Hutton Marshall | Editor

What do a bitcoin wallet, a commodities trader and an app-based delivery service have in common? Not much probably, except that they work side by side each day in Union Cowork, a coworking space in the heart of North Park.

These three operations, along with 22 others, work independently in a shared environment just north of the University Avenue and 30th Street intersection. The concept of multiple businesses and individuals sharing a com-



Urban 2, the second North Park location of Union Cowork  
(Photo by Hutton Marshall)

munal office space is known as “coworking.” Popular among freelancers, startups and microbusinesses, the concept is often alluring to those

who would otherwise work from home or in a secluded, private office. Each member of Union

see Office, page 10

## 'Cause he's the taxman

By B.J. Coleman

San Diego County's Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister is making the pre-holiday rounds. He's not visiting for parties and cheer — he's traveling the circuit of local agencies with reminder messages. And for a man who spends his time crunching numbers and issuing bills, he can deliver a surprisingly amusing account of the duties and responsibilities of his office.

McAllister stopped by the Normal Heights Community Planning Group's Dec. 2 meeting to discuss property taxes with the group, one of the organizations throughout the county receiving indirect funding from the taxes McAllister collects. For one thing, McAllister made oblique, humorous references to the holiday season. He noted wryly that property tax payments are due twice yearly — at the “two seasons of giving,” as McAllister called them, for roughly coinciding with the winter holidays and with April 15th's Income Tax Day. (To avoid payment penalties, San Diego County property taxes must be paid by Dec. 10 and April 10.) McAllister also made self-deprecating mention of the Bible's sorry outlook toward tax collectors as being among the “least favored people.”

McAllister is seeking to enlist the aid of organizations like the NHCPG to remind homeowners and business property owners that the December installments of their taxes are due, and if not paid, will be levied a 10 percent late fee in addition to the unpaid balance.

Not that McAllister is too concerned: With a collections rate of over 99 percent, his countywide jurisdiction is among the best performing around the nation. In contrast, he cited payment rates in hurricane-ravaged areas of Florida, where only about 60 percent of property owners pay up, and tax collectors are compelled to offer discounted early payments as incentives to boost compliance. Moreover, McAllister informed the community planning board members that countywide economic development is clearly picking up, with over 3,000 taxable parcels added to his rolls this past year. His office intake is \$5.1 billion annually.

McAllister further described his tenure. Improvements he's fostered have included staff training in greater cultural sensitivity

see Taxman, page 6

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Discount International Fashion Company, located on the northeast corner of the University Avenue and 30th Street intersection, will close in December. (Photo by Hoa Quach)

## Discount store closure is sign of North Park's changing demographics

By Hoa Quach

A local real estate expert said the closure of a long-time North Park discount store is a sign of the neighborhood's growing affluence.

Discount International Fashion Company, located at 3002 University Ave., announced it will close its doors in December after more than 25 years in North Park.

"The area has changed," said owner Rafee Zakir, who also previously owned two restaurants in the area. "Our customers have moved because they can no longer afford to live here and the new customers are not spending here."

Zakir said when he first purchased the business in the heart of North Park, he paid \$1,200 for rent. He now pays \$3,500 for the 2,344-square-foot space, which includes a 400-square-foot storage area and a 550-square-foot mezzanine.

Dana Kuhn, a real estate development lecturer at San Diego State, said the store's closure is a sign of the gentrification process the neighborhood is undergoing.

"It's a story that's repeated across the country," Kuhn said. "Inner cities are fallen into secondary preference, but as new communities are built, then people start to realize that they can be closer to things so they move back to those inner cities. This, of course, causes higher values and the demographics change. It happens all over the place."

Kuhn said those who have lived in North Park for a longer period may move to less costly areas such as City Heights, thus affecting the businesses serving residents.

"A dollar store can no longer survive in North Park," Kuhn said. "The businesses need to cater to the young, more affluent people coming to the area."

Despite the increasing costs to live and sell in North Park, Kuhn expects commercial rent to plateau in two years as residential

rent has now reached its limits.

"Apartment rents in North Park are unbelievably high," Kuhn said. "I can't see anyone paying more than \$2,000 for an apartment, so we're close to the end on the market rents. The revival starts with residential then goes to commercial."

Until that time comes, Zakir suspects that his current space at 30th Street and University Avenue can be rented out for as much as \$10,000.

"It's the best location in North Park," Zakir said.

Strom Commercial Real Estate's Nate Benedetto, who is overseeing the 30th and University space, declined to state the exact cost for rent but that it is "negotiable." He did say the company is reaching out to "strong" tenants.

"We are open to doing a restaurant deal here but would also love to see offers from strong retailers," Benedetto said. "We are reaching out to many of the top groups within San Diego and beyond and hope to find the right fit soon."

The type of business that moves in is a concern for surrounding business owners.

Lee and Becki Kaplan, who opened Kaleidoscope in May, said they are always "concerned" about who their neighbors will be.

On the other hand, Ken Gabbara, owner of Para News, said he appreciates the changes happening to North Park.

"The area is developing nicely and it's definitely helping my business," Gabbara said. "It is becoming like a second Downtown but the daytime business is picking up."

North Park Main Street's executive director Angela Landsberg said the overall changes are positive for the neighborhood.

"These are all good signs for North Park," Landsberg said. "We're seeing a drastic increase and improvement of the economy here."

Landsberg, who grew up in the area, said North Park is becoming what it once was in the 1970s: a destination for San Diego's visitors.

"I shopped here with my grandma when I was a little girl," Landsberg said. "The malls were still pretty new and people were still used to shopping in urban areas. It's nice to see it turning back into that."

As far as what's next for Zakir — the longtime business man said he may open another restaurant, and it may be in North Park.

—Contact Hoa Quach by visiting her website, [hoawrites.com](http://hoawrites.com).

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The interior of Simply Local, a recently opened co-op space in North Park  
(Photos by Hutton Marshall)

## North Park opens its doors to Small Business Saturday

By Karla Amador

With the passing of Thanksgiving, holiday shopping is now in full swing. On Nov. 29, the first Saturday of the holiday shopping season, a bevy of local businesses and shoppers took part in North Park's festivities, which encouraged local residents to shop small to cultivate a stronger community, rather than visit traditional retailers on Black Friday.

Brian Beevers, owner of Simply

Local, a co-op space filled with the work of local artists and merchants, launched its grand opening on Small Business Saturday, and among its many shoppers were Mayor Kevin Faulconer and City Council President Todd Gloria.

When asked what makes Small Business Saturday so different from Black Friday, Faulconer said it gives San Diegans an opportunity to help business owners thrive and give back to the economy.

"Small businesses are the back

bone for the local economy," Faulconer said.

Local artist Haydee Yanez, a merchant at Simply Local, said she was very honored to see some of her paintings being sold there.

"It's been a long time coming, and today is a tremendous breakthrough for me," Yanez said.

Her work consists of paintings by Mexican icons, such as Frida Kahlo and luchador actor El Santo, with colors inspired by Mexican cinema from the 1940s and '50s.

She also describes her work as using a minimalist style with a pop twist. One of her most popular items is her Frida Kahlo graphic icon painting.

Beevers said it's important to build a network of local artisans and crafters to help sustain the economy, and one of the ways to do so is to encourage residents to shop small.

"By supporting our local merchants, we are helping them to grow their businesses and give back to the community," he said.

When asked why shoppers should be motivated to shop small, Gloria — who represents North Park on the City

Council — said these are the folks who run their own businesses, and that kind of social and civic engagement goes a long way for our communities, and for the economy.

"Business owners help employ San Diegans and keep our neighborhoods vital," he said.

Also participating in Small Business Saturday was Ms. Vintage, a boutique clothing store focusing on the styles of the 1950s through the '80s. The many shoppers browsing through racks of vintage trends had owner Michele Gonzalez smiling.

"I love that the store is able to bring life back out to the customers when they can find something they like," she said.

As shopper Kari Ellis browsed through accessories, she said she's not quite sure what she's looking for, but that there's always something unique here that you wouldn't be able to find at a traditional retail store.

"I like the fact that I am able to help independent stores like Ms. Vintage contribute back to the community and to the economy," Ellis said. "Plus, there's always something unique and rare to find here."

Just down the street, Bottlecraft, a craft beer shop and tasting room, also rode the wave of small-business shoppers on Thanksgiving weekend. Owner Brian Jensen was inspired to open a boutique beer shop after the influx of micro-breweries and craft beer bars in North Park. Jensen also recently partnered with Venissimo Cheese, which opened within Bottlecraft earlier this year.

"Venissimo Cheese shop is a collaborative project, which we partnered with, was added to our store about six months ago," Jensen said.

Cheese monger Emily Norton works behind the Venissimo cheese stand, and allowed shoppers to sample cheeses throughout the day as they browsed the ale-filled aisles.

"The cheese samplings are another great way to help educate our customers in choosing the right cheese paired with the right craft beers in our store for the holiday season," Norton said.

Local shopper Dean Bostrom said he enjoys visiting Bottlecraft because of the diverse selection. He said it's always easy to find a new beer to try when shopping for himself and his friends.

"I'm happy to assist our beer aficionados in any way possible," Jensen said.

For more information about North Park businesses, visit [northparkmainstreet.com](http://northparkmainstreet.com).

—Contact Karla Amador at [karlaamador79@gmail.com](mailto:karlaamador79@gmail.com).

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(left) Urban Street Angels executive director Eric Lovett with a teen involved with the nonprofit; (right) Urban Street Angels at events throughout San Diego (Facebook.com/UrbanStreetAngels)



## FROM PAGE 1 ANGELS

volunteered with USA since its creation in 2009, knows firsthand how important the group's frequent visits are.

She recalls a story of meeting a 20-year-old named Nick. Nick ultimately confided in her after seeing Marquez and other volunteers each week.

"He was abused by his parents and was kicked out of his home when he was 16 because

he was gay," Marquez said. "He had diabetes and struggled to get his medication. He wanted to get off the streets but it was the only thing he knew for so long. He was scared."

Nick is now in a sober living facility.

But Nick's story is just one of many, Marquez said.

More than 8,500 homeless people live in San Diego County, according to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless. Of that number, about 5 percent are ages 18-24 and 12 percent are ages 25-34.

Marquez said she became a volunteer because she saw the need of an organization like USA.

"We give out without expecting anything in return," Marquez said. "We just give out help and if they are ready for more, then we give it. We don't just give and go too. We hang out and build relationships."

Marquez said homeless young people are often misjudged.

"I think society thinks it's so easy to get a job and get off the streets, especially because they are young," Marquez said. "But they are human too. We just don't

know how much they've suffered unless we listen to their stories."

Lovett said the nonprofit, which is headquartered at 3090 Polk Ave., is attempting to serve more meals during the holidays as well as distribute sleeping bags to the homeless. He also hopes to be able to hire formerly homeless staffers next year.

For more information about USA or the North Park Christmas event, visit [urbanstreetangels.org](http://urbanstreetangels.org).

—Contact Hoa Quach by visiting her website, [hoawrites.com](http://hoawrites.com).

## FROM PAGE 1 TAXMAN

and awareness. He noted that other cultures may shun taxation of property, so new homeowners may not know about this responsibility here. As another example, he described how the Chula Vista branch office had no bilingual speakers before but now has staffers who can communicate in English, Spanish and Tagalog.

McAllister also outlined his handling of money for local schools and agencies, recalling the disastrous performance not long ago of his Orange County counterpart, which resulted in the infamous Orange County bankruptcy. (According to McAllister, the OC treasurer dabbled too heavily in risky investments, which then failed.) McAllister stated that he invests funds on behalf of public agencies with capital preservation in mind, so as to guarantee the money is there when the community services need it.

Pay your property taxes and learn more about the San Diego Tax Collector's office at [sdtrestax.com](http://sdtrestax.com).

—Contact B.J. Coleman at [barshajo@aim.com](mailto:barshajo@aim.com).

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The San Diego Association of Governments is offering up to \$30,000 in grants for creative community projects and programs that encourage people to participate in Bike to Work Month in 2015. Community bike rides, safety education courses, "Bike to School Day" events and other contests or campaigns to promote bike riding are among the ideas SANDAG is looking to fund as part of a broader effort to encourage people to adopt bicycling as a mode of transportation.

The grants — up to \$3,000 each — are available on a first-come, first-served basis to community groups, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and local government agencies. Activities funded by the grants must take place between April 1 and June 30, 2015. For more details on eligibility, selection criteria and other requirements, visit [511sd.com/iCommute](http://511sd.com/iCommute) or call 5-1-1 and say "iCommute."

### CITY LOOKING FOR PERMANENT HOMELESS SHELTER

San Diego's Housing Commission is looking for a permanent indoor facility to house a minimum of 350 homeless individuals every night of the year. The city has long relied on temporary tents in Barrio Logan and the Midway area to provide shelter for some homeless individuals, at a cost of \$1.6 million a year.

The city estimates it will have \$2.2 million to spend on property management and supportive social services in the first year at the new shelter, beginning July 1, 2015. The Housing Commission will give priority to proposals in the Downtown area and to proposals from nonprofit organizations that have experience providing shelter and services to homeless individuals. At least 40 percent of the beds in the new shelter would be reserved for homeless veterans.

"The [request for proposals] is a welcome first step since no real effort has been made in the past to find a different site or to implement a permanent indoor homeless shelter to replace the temporary beds the tent provides," stated Councilmember David Alvarez in a press release.

### 23RD ANNUAL MAMA'S KITCHEN'S TREE OF LIFE EVENT LIGHTS UP HILLCREST

On Dec. 1, hundreds of candles were lit at Mama's Kitchen's annual Tree of Life event to commemorate World AIDS Day and remember those who lost their lives to the disease. Community leaders including Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Council President Todd Gloria attended the ceremony at Village Hillcrest. Members of the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego performed holiday tunes during the event. In addition to the candlelight vigil, the Tree of Life itself was decorated with personalized ornaments purchased at the event to honor those affected by AIDS. The tree will be on display throughout the month. Proceeds from the event went to Mama's Kitchen. To see more photos of the event visit [facebook.com/mamaskitchen](http://facebook.com/mamaskitchen).

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS IN EFFECT FOR SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARIES



All city libraries will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Several libraries in Uptown, including Mission Hills, University Heights and Kensington-Normal Heights libraries, will also be closed Dec. 26 – 31. The City Heights/Weingart Library will be open Dec. 26 – Dec. 31 during special hours listed below:

Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Dec. 27: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Dec. 28: 12:30 – 5 p.m.  
Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Dec. 30: 11:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Dec. 31: 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

All branches will be open from 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Dec. 24 (except Central which will be open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.). For more information visit [sandiegolibrary.org](http://sandiegolibrary.org).

### NEW LIGHTS IN BALBOA PARK KICKED OFF IN TIME FOR CENTENNIAL

In partnership with SDG&E and CleanTech San Diego, the city of San Diego has replaced



Members of the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus at the annual Tree of Life vigil  
(Photo by Geoffrey Cox)

all the outdoor light fixtures throughout Balboa Park and installed new colorful, programmable, energy-efficient lights.. Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Council President Todd Gloria were both on hand to unveil the new lighting Dec. 1, at the fountain in Plaza de Panama. "After 100 years of serving as the crown jewel of our world-class city, we're going to show off Balboa Park in a whole new light," stated Faulconer in a press release in advance of the event. The new red, green and blue LED lights are programmable in 2,700 different colors and will offer many options and color combinations to illuminate the side of the many historic buildings within the park. The lighting will be on display throughout December Nights, Balboa Park's annual holiday event, held Dec. 5 and 6, which will also officially kick off the Centennial celebration. For more information about December Nights, visit [BalboaPark.org](http://BalboaPark.org).

### RUMORS SUGGEST POSSIBLE CHANGE IN CITY COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

According to reports by NBC San Diego and KPBS, City Council Republicans are vying to remove Council President Todd Gloria from his role as the head of the city's legislative body.

Each December, the City Council elects a council president, who sets the council's agenda and appoints council-

members to head its various committees. Gloria has served in the position for two years, having first been elected in 2012.

Political newcomer Chris Cate will soon be sworn in as the fourth Republican on the nine-person City Council, leaving conservatives just one vote shy of the five-person majority needed to elect a council president. Insiders say the four hope to elect Councilmember Sherri Lightner to the top council seat, which would require she vote for herself over Gloria, a move denounced by local progressives as damaging to local Democratic

causes. Lightner has not responded to questions regarding how she plans to vote.

The City Council will elect next year's council president on Dec. 8.

### 'MAGIC' FUNDRAISER COMING TO MARTINIS ABOVE FOURTH

Children's Holiday Magic Project (CHMP), a local nonprofit, will host a special fundraiser "An Evening of Holiday Magic" on Dec. 14 at Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave.,

see Briefs, page 11

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## EDITORIAL

## Five tips for donating to holiday food drives

By Patti Wooten Swanson

[Editor's note: This article first ran on the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources website (ucanr.edu) on Oct. 29, 2014. Reprinted with permission.]

Thanksgiving kicks off the giving season for many people. If participating in a food drive or giving to a local food bank is on your to do list, get the most bang for your buck by following these suggestions.

**1. Ask what is needed before you give.** Sometimes what we want to give—holiday foods, homemade jam, or cake mixes—may or may not be what is needed for hungry families. Check the website of your local food bank or call to see what foods they currently need. Generally, the most needed items are:

- Peanut butter;
- Canned meats such as tuna or chicken;
- Cereal;
- Canned and dried fruit;
- Canned vegetables;
- Macaroni and cheese; and
- Canned soup.

**2. Choose a more nutritious form of the food you want to give. For example, select:**

- Fruit canned in its own juice rather than syrup;
- Vegetables canned without added salt;
- Cereals that are high in fiber and don't have much added sugar;
- Whole grains such as brown rice, whole wheat pasta, and quinoa;
- Low-sodium soups and low-sodium versions of other products such as pasta sauce; and,
- Lean protein, such as beans and canned tuna.

**3. Check the use-by or expiration date on foods you plan to give.** If donating food items from your own pantry, check the freshness date. Most food banks will not give out food that is past the use-by or expiration date printed on the container. (Use-by and expiration dates refer to the quality of the food, not the safety.)

**4. Avoid giving foods in glass containers or damaged packaging.** Some food banks don't accept food in glass containers—even baby food or infant formula—because they chip and

break easily. Inspect the packaging of an item. Avoid dented or bulging cans. Food banks won't accept damaged or open paper or plastic containers. Only donate commercially prepared foods. Food banks cannot take home preserved foods.

**5. Give with the food bank clientele in mind. Are the clientele homeless?** If so, they probably don't have access to storage or refrigeration. Dr. Lucia Kaiser, nutrition specialist at the University of California Cooperative Extension, suggests giving easy-to-prepare and ready-to-eat foods such as:

- Pop-top cans of stew, chili, and soup;
- Shelf-stable milk and cheese;
- 100-percent fruit juices in single-serving boxes; and,
- Convenience foods like granola bars, packaged crackers (low fat), beef jerky, and single-serving packages of nuts.

Programs for children may want single-serving sizes of foods, such as

- 100-percent fruit rolls
- Raisins
- Graham crackers
- Unsweetened applesauce
- Fruit cups
- Low-sugar cereal bowls
- Pretzels.

Ideas to help you plan a food drive:

Request donations by meal (breakfast, lunch, or dinner), food group (fruits and vegetables, dairy, protein, etc.), or recipe. Another option is a "superfood drive," where participants donate items on a list of nutrient-dense foods that you provide. Or, help potential donors identify a wide variety of healthy foods to consider by giving them Dorothy Smith's food bank gift list. Here's to healthy living and giving during the holiday season.

—Patti Wooten Swanson, Ph.D., is a nutrition, family, and consumer science advisor at the University of California Cooperative Extension, San Diego County. ♦

## EDITORIAL

## San Diego stands up for taxi drivers in recent move

By Jim Madaffer

Councilmember Marti Emerald deserves a standing ovation for standing up for taxi owners and drivers.

Emerald's proposal to lift the cap on taxi cars in San Diego, which was approved by the City Council earlier this month, allows for competition, growth and puts consumers first in the ever-changing transportation industry.

The City Council recently voted to eliminate the 993 cap on taxi permits. The elimination means permits will no longer be sold in an underground market at

ridiculous rates and gives entrepreneurs the opportunity to become holders for as little as \$3,000.

The elimination of the cap also means taxis are finally able to compete with popular ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft.

The benefits ultimately dwindle down to consumers who will be given more options when choosing their mode of transportation.

More importantly, the city and Emerald chose to stand up for taxi drivers.

A 2013 report by the Center on Policy Initiatives found that 90 percent of licensed taxi drivers in the city rented their cars

from the owners. The drivers, in turn, made only 30 cents for every \$1 collected. The average totaled to less than \$5 an hour.

The sad reality ultimately encouraged "taxi drivers to drive when tired or sick, and allows lax vehicle maintenance, putting public health and safety at risk," according to the report.

The newly adopted system may not be perfect, but it's a bold, first step in the right direction. I commend Councilmember Emerald for embracing competition while protecting taxi drivers. It's time other cities follow in her footsteps.

—Jim Madaffer is a former City Council member and a California Transportation Commissioner. ♦

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# Rip Current rides craft beer wave to North Park

## Suds in the city

Cody Thompson



30th Street in San Diego has been nationally recognized as one of the best stretches for craft beer in America, being named "The Nation's Best Beer Boulevard" by Men's Journal earlier this year. Running through the main drag of North Park, the beer corridor boasts numerous breweries and famous craft beer bars that have helped solidify this ever-growing reputation.

Coming in mid-December to an already breathtaking line up of craft beer and gourmet food locations is a brand new tasting room and eatery presented by one of North County's strongest breweries, Rip Current Brewing Company.

In the summer of 2011, Paul Sangster and Guy Shobe, two home brewers, founded Rip Current Brewing Company in San Marcos. The pair decided to share their passion and expertise with a greater audience than they were capable of reaching with their modest home brew operations. Since opening their San Marcos location, Rip Current Brewing has garnered a massive following in the craft beer world thanks to their solid lineup of beers including, of course, fan favorites Lupulin Lust IPA and In The Curl IPA.

"North Park has an awesome craft beer culture, [and] is close to downtown, but has more of a 'local' feel and is undergoing a bit of a renaissance that we really wanted to be a part of," Shobe said. "It gives us a better opportunity to reach our customers in the southern part of San Diego County, and, hopefully, gives us exposure to new potential customers. We also wanted a location that was in the heart of a thriving commercial district, that wasn't destination-specific."

The 4,000-square-foot location at 4101 30th Street will open with 20 taps — mostly Rip Current beers — with potential to eventually expand to 40 taps. The potential tap expansion will give Rip Current the ability to host guest beers from other great breweries, as well as a bottle list and limited wine selection.



4101 30th St., the future site of Rip Current Brewery's North Park tasting room (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

"Our guest beers will be styles that complement and round out our own offerings, and that's something we're really excited about," Shobe said.

The new location will feature a 45-foot-long bar as well as two additional seating areas, one for small groups and another for a more communal dining experience. To enhance the customer experience, the building's original windows have been removed, as well as part of the existing wall to make room for three large, roll-up doors so guests can enjoy craft beer in a true neighborhood environment.

When you visit Rip Current on 30th Street, you will find yourself in much more than your average tasting room. The Rip Current family decided to team up with James Limjoco, founder of Sublime Ale House in San Marcos and Sublime Tavern in Del Mar. This partnership goes back years, as Sublime was Rip Current's first wholesale account. The day Rip Current opened with only four beers on tap, Limjoco came in and purchased two kegs on the spot.

"Like most people, we've always been huge fans of the food at Sublime," Shobe said. "We wanted to be able to offer food in our North Park location, but really had no interest in getting into the restaurant business. Sublime wanted to be in North Park, which is a new market for them and a real 'foodie' community. So I think James saw it as not only an opportunity, but as a challenge to attract and win over a

sophisticated and diverse food community."

The kitchen will be completely run by the Sublime team and will offer up a diverse and eclectic menu. Items range from gourmet burgers, pizzas and beer mac 'n cheese to quinoa bowls, duck wings and kale chips. Much like the beer at Rip Current, the food menus will constantly change and evolve. Everything offered will be made fresh, as this new location will not contain a freezer.

As for Rip Current's brewing operations, all brewing will continue to take place in the San Marcos brewery. The plan currently is to offer most, if not all, of Rip Current's beers at both locations. Coming sometime in spring 2015 will be Rip Current's bourbon barrel-aged program. When released, these beers will only be offered in their two tasting room locations.

"Our goal is to create a comfortable enough environment that our customers can enjoy the culinary experience of what the beer and food is all about, and at a reasonable price," Shobe said.

So, North Park residents, when you sit on Santa's lap and he asks what you want for Christmas, you can tell him your holiday wish has already come true right here on 30th Street now that Rip Current Brewing Company will be opening shop this December. Holiday dreams really do come true.

—Contact Cody Thompson at [cody@threebzine.com](mailto:cody@threebzine.com).

# Hillcrest Town Council update

By Kath Rogers, vice chair

Join the Hillcrest History Guild and Hillcrest Town Council at the 7th Annual Community Potluck at the Joyce Beers Community Center on Tuesday, Dec. 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Come meet your neighbors and enjoy a community celebration. Turkey will be provided by our neighborhood partners UCSD Health and the fixin's are compliments of Scripps Health. Several community restaurateurs are pitching in: Bread and Cie, MO's Universe, Snooze and more. Bring a dish to share, a neighbor and your holiday spirit. Everyone is welcome!

A speaker from San Diego's Save Our Heritage Organisation will give a presentation about one of San Diego's greatest philanthropists, George Marston, and the history of the Marston House. A L.I.O.N. (Let's Improve Our Neighborhood) Award will be presented to The Beach Builders for the historical remodels they did on two houses at the corner of Third and Brookes avenues.

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, along with many other friends of Hillcrest, will be joining us.

—Interested in writing about your community organization's activities for Uptown News? Email editor Hutton Marshall at [hutton@sdenn.com](mailto:hutton@sdenn.com).

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Peoples Home Equity San Diego (Corp NMLS #63371), a true direct lender in San Diego, would like to introduce Bill Jones (NMLS #118803) as their senior mortgage consultant serving San Diego. Bill joins PHE SD with over 15 years of experience within the mortgage lending industry and truly understands the meaning of excellent customer service from his previous background at Nordstrom.

Although the mortgage business is mostly about the numbers, it's really about the people that Bill helps to obtain the American dream of homeownership.

At the end of the day, Bill Jones is a valued team member because he cares about how the customer feels about his service. It's all about the basics, which are top-notch service, results and practicing the golden rule of treating others as we would like to be treated.

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FROM PAGE 1  
OFFICE

Cowork pays a monthly fee to use the space. Some say they're simply more productive working in the company of others, and some "coworkers" say the connections fostered in these spaces are crucial to their business operations.

Occupants of the space are diverse, and each seems to have their own relationship with their environment, although none seem to view it as a banal office space.

Darci Daneshvari launched her Internet marketing business in early 2014, and moved into Union Cowork this summer when the space opened. At the time, she worked remotely with a partner up in Los Angeles. In her brief period at Union, her operations have expanded to include two additional employees. She said the coworking environment has facilitated much of her growth.

"Sometimes I'm more productive at home, but I really just like being around people too," Daneshvari said. "There's a guy out there now who also works with Wordpress, so sometimes I'll get stuck on maybe Google Analytics or webmaster tools, and I'll ask for his help. And sometimes he'll ask me questions or we'll bounce ideas off each other."

"In some ways it kind of reminds me of adult college," she added.

On the other hand, Kip Thompson, who primarily trades in futures commodities, simply enjoys his environs without look-

ing to benefit from any kind of professional network. With an office ironically situated in what used to serve as a bank vault before Union took over, the middle-aged financial trader socializes frequently with fellow coworkers, but looks for little beyond that.

"Nobody here is going to help me," said Thompson, who generally works with East Coast and European businesses. "For a lot of the people here, they see this place as an opportunity for networking and learning and connecting. None of these people are going to help me there."

"Most don't have any idea what I do, since it's kind of an esoteric niche of the market," he continued. "So no, I don't get anything there, what I get is a nice office space, and that's exactly what I want."

In another corner office, Trisha Williams and Joe Unger operate Fun Smugglers, LLC, an entertainment production studio. Recent transplants from Los Angeles, their business is based around finding promising intellectual properties and turning them into marketable products, like digital streaming videos, books and video games. They moved to San Diego this summer specifically to tap into the creative commu-

nity blossoming in North Park.

"Being here, being in North Park, really helps us out, since we're surrounded by all these makers and creators everywhere," Unger said.

Jamie Miller, a soft-spoken architect and self-described Canadian socialist, founded Union Cowork in 2012. Just a few years back, he was working independently out of a coffee shop.

"It was difficult as an architect because you have trade paper and it's hard to contain yourself," he said of his coffee shop days. "But I like the vibe of being around other people, so that was the difficult part about working from home."



The interior of Union 1, the original location of Union Cowork in North Park (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

After briefly renting a desk in an architectural firm, his eyes fell on the "for rent" sign in front of a University Avenue office space. Without any other tenants to join him, he leased the space and became a lone business in the new coworking space big enough for more than 30 people. The space became Union 1, and his solitude was short lived.

It wasn't long before the space began filling up, and after just over a year, it was time to expand. Union 2 opened this summer just a few blocks over, and it already has a waiting list for office space.

"It was a lot of fun and we were able to pay the rent, so to me that was enough for it to make sense to do something a little bit bigger," Miller said of Union's quick expansion.

The smaller of the two, Union 1 is comprised mostly of cubicles filling an open, lofted space. Conversely, about half of Union 2 is made up of individual office spaces of varying sizes. The rest is divided between a large communal area for individual coworkers, a kitchen and a meeting room, which is also rented out by outside businesses.

Miller calls Union a neighborhood-based coworking space. A disciple of green urban planning, Miller sees walking and biking to work and ingraining oneself in the community as the core princi-

pals of Union.

And while Miller's origins lie in North Park, his ambitions for Union Cowork reach far beyond the mid-city neighborhood. Three locations are planned for next year, counting an expansion to the second floor of Union 2's building. Downtown and Encinitas are also on Miller's radar for 2015. His eventual goal is 30 locations throughout California. Considering the bum rush of coworking applicants for Union 2, his audacious goals don't seem so crazy.

Opening a range of locations tie into Miller's greater vision for Union Cowork, which he hopes will do more than provide people with a place to work. He wants to provide an infrastructure of coworking spaces throughout the state. He also hopes to build the rich connections to the community wherever Union opens up.

"The missing link for me was not just an office space, but a network of people," Miller said. "So [with] the monthly subscription-based membership, you not only have a place to work, but you have this network of people that can help bring you more business."

While today, a Union membership only gets you access to two locations practically on top of one another, Miller soon hopes Union members will eventually be able to access a variety of locations depending on where in the state they happen to find themselves.

"It's community based, it's based in this person-to-person interaction," he said.

He's beginning to foster some of this connectivity at Union 2 on a smaller scale. Soon, he'll bring together three businesses, bit coin wallet AirBit, delivery app Postmates and Buddytruck, a truck-sharing app, to hold a roundtable discussion, a public brainstorming session. While it will center around the three businesses, he said anyone is invited to attend and learn or weigh in. "I want it to be as all encompassing as possible," Miller said. "I want to have architects there, I want to have urban planners, graphic designers, economics professors. I want people who can really engage in the conversation, because it's all part of the same world, and even if it just introduces the concept to someone and provokes some kind of discussion, I think it's important."

—Contact Hutton Marshall at [hutton@sdcnn.com](mailto:hutton@sdcnn.com).

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Barbara Eldridge  
Founder



FROM PAGE 7

BRIEFS

Hillcrest). The event will support the production and distribution of CHMP's annual compilation album. Each year they create a disc with songs and stories to be given to children who are hospitalized during the holiday season. Their goal for 2014 is to produce and distribute 10,000 CDs worldwide. Doors will open for the fundraiser at 5 p.m., a three-course dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and entertainment is scheduled through 9 p.m. Featured performers for the night include: Ashley Fox Linton, Jennifer Knight, Lele Rose, Jordan Lamoureux and Jeff Davis. President and founder of CHMP Jeff Gelder will act as emcee for the event. Tickets start at \$65 and are available at [martinisabovefourth.com](http://martinisabovefourth.com). For more information on CHMP and this year's compilation CD, visit [holidaymagiccd.org](http://holidaymagiccd.org).

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Mexican bar and eatery Baja Betty's — part of the MO's Universe group of Hillcrest dining and drinking establishments — celebrated its 10th anniversary on Nov. 17 with the local LGBT community and other Hillcrest residents who all came out to help celebrate and walk the red carpet. Hundreds of people, most dressed in some sort of red as requested by the invitation, packed the restaurant, which offered dozens of free, tray-passed appetizers along with Avion and Partida tequila shots, plenty of '80s music and even mariachis. Chris Shaw, owner and president of MO's Universe, made an appearance and Betty's General Manager Stefan Chicote was seen dancing to Missy Elliot in the tequila bar. Employees from across MO's Universe were seen enjoying the festivities, wearing stickers that identified the number of years they'd worked for Shaw, and management from Betty's three sister restaurants — Matt Ramon from Urban MO's, Moe Gorton from Gossip Grill, and Joey Aruda from Hillcrest Brewing Company — were also all on hand to offer their support. Baja Betty's, the second "planet" to emerge in MO's Universe, was actually its first. Urban MO's, which had operated as a Hamburger Mary's since 1992, didn't rebrand with its current name until 2006, two years after Shaw opened his second restaurant in 2004. Originally named Margarita Mary's, Shaw was forced to make changes due to a conflict with the name. Shaw reached out to the entire community to re-name the venue and Baja Betty's was the winning submission. The Mexican-themed restaurant has since thrived, becoming a staple within the Hillcrest community and made popular for its extensive tequila list and its Saturday (and Sunday) all-you-can-eat brunches. For more information visit [mosuniverse.com](http://mosuniverse.com). ♦

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## 'Tru': the life, the art and the execution

Todd Bakesley as Truman Capote in "Tru"  
(Photo by Daren Scott)

### Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



In order to approach and describe the experience of Jay Presson Allen's 1989 play, "Tru" (playing at Diversionary Theatre through Dec. 21), it seems expedient to divide one's comments into three parts: the life, the art, and the execution.

The man, the play and especially the production glitter with allure that is well supported by Matt Scott's scenic design, Peter Herman's costumes and Angelica Ynfante's props. The setting — Truman Capote's apartment at New York's United Nations Plaza in 1975 — takes place at Christmas, with an undecorated tree dominating the stage, along with a cart filled with every alcoholic beverage imaginable. Despite the décor

and the accouterments, the play, based on Capote's life and writings, is hardly festive, which brings us to the man, perhaps best described as an extremely talented writer who became famous and was not prepared to deal with his own celebrity.

Known to his friends as Tru, Capote (1924 – 1984), born in New Orleans, knew he was a writer even before he began grade school. Due to her unsettled life and divorce, his mother left him with a gaggle of female relatives. When she remarried and moved to New York City, Tru, 11, joined her and her new husband. He published his first novel, "Other Voices, Other Rooms," when he was 23. When he was 24, he received the O. Henry Award for his short stories published in such periodicals as Atlantic Monthly, Harper's Bazaar, and The New Yorker.

Capote wrote the tender story, "A Christmas Memory," based on his

### "Tru"

by Jay Presson Allen  
from the words

and works of Truman Capote

Through Dec. 21 | 7 p.m. Thursdays,  
8 p.m. Fridays — Saturdays, 2 p.m.

Sundays | Diversionary Theatre,  
4545 Park Blvd. (University Heights)

\$15-\$51 | [diversionary.org](http://diversionary.org) or  
619-220-0097

relationship with Sook, his mother's aged, distant relative; "Breakfast at Tiffany's," which became a film; and his painstakingly researched nonfiction novel, "In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences," which also became a film. Capote was an open homosexual, partnered for most of his life by Jack Dunphy, another writer, who in 1987 wrote "Dear Genius...: A Memoir of My Life with Truman Capote."

Jack is in Switzerland when "Tru" begins. The play is set at a time in Capote's life when his long unfinished book titled "Answered Prayers" had been published in part in Esquire. According to Capote's obituary, this event "was catastrophic to the grand social life he had cultivated" because it told "apparently true and mostly scandalous stories about his famous friends..."

During the course of "Tru," Capote is observed in the aftermath of the catastrophe, drinking way too much — as is his wont — and trying to make amends with some of his former friends. People to whom the play makes reference are outlined in the program. In the second half of the play, we see Tru as he struggles to keep his promise not to take another drink. It ends with the self-described alcoholic, drug addict and genius's jaunty departure to see his few remaining friends and take them gifts.

Tru is portrayed by San Diego actor and Diversionary Theatre debutante Todd Blakesley, perhaps best known for his administrative work with the San Diego International Fringe Festival, Actors Alliance Festival, and Twainfest, a free literary festival co-created with Write Out Loud. Also a playwright, Blakesley the actor is remembered as the father in Moxie Theatre's "Eurydice" in 2010.

Under the direction of Derek Charles Livingston, Blakesley understatedly and effectively delivers a Capote that reflects the writer at this juncture, alone and lonely, which seems part and parcel of the life he created. How much is fiction, how much is self-pity, and how much is reality is for onlookers to decide. No matter, the production is a coup de theatre not to be missed, totally apropos the season and the community, and a real feather in Diversionary's cap.

—Contact Charlene Baldrige at [charb81@gmail.com](mailto:charb81@gmail.com) ♦

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## Holiday Gift Guide

### Whos love Christmas



The Who Ensemble in The Old Globe's production of "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" (Photo by Jim Cox)

#### Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



Nothing brings a community together so well as tradition. The same is true of family. This is especially true in the case of the Old Globe's annual tradition, a musical titled "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

Seen opening night Nov. 20, the 17th annual production has become tradition — a perpetual gift to San Diego and San Diegans — just as envisioned by Dr. Seuss' widow, Audrey Geisel, and then-Globe Artistic Director Jack

O'Brien, who conceived and directed the first production here.

Those who attended O'Brien's presentation of the concept will never forget his enthusiasm as he described the Whos, Whoville and John Lee Beatty and Robert Morgan's original scenic and costume designs. Other than slight tweaks to music and choreography, nothing much has changed. James Vásquez, who has staged it since 2003, currently directs the work. Generations of young San Diegans have seen the show, pointed at the stage, and said, "I want to do that," and they have, giving rise to legions of singing, dancing youth who enrich the local scene, then spread out, along with their younger brothers and sisters.

"Grinch" utilizes two teams of youngsters (Pink and Red), who alternate performances as Little Whos, Teen Whos, and name-role Whos. On opening night, 8-year-old Taylor Coleman portrayed Cindy-Lou Who for the second year, alternating with Gabriella Dimmick, also a repeat Cindy-Lou.

Burke Moses, a Broadway star with impressive and numerous hunky credits, makes his debut as the Grinch, providing a musically fine, intentionally gauche green guy, whose conversion from heartless Christmas hater to who-man-being is exceptionally touching.

This season's adult company is chock full of familiar and favorite Southern California singer/actors, some debuting in the show and others returning. For instance, Robert J. Townsend (seen most recently as the father in San Diego Musical Theatre's "Next to Normal") makes his debut as Papa Who opposite Bets Malone (her second year as Mama Who). Jill Townsend, Robert's wife and a formidable presence in any company, is among the six Grown Up Whos. Geno Carr and his wife Nancy Snow Carr portray Grandpa and Grandma Who, and extreme veteran Steve Gunderson returns to the show for his 12th year, this time as

Old Max, the Grinch's dog. Old Max returns to Mt. Crummit to say farewell before he leaves. He relates the story of Young Max (Jeffrey Schecter) and how he abetted the Grinch in his attempt to steal Christmas.

Elan McMahan, resident music director at Vista's Moonlight Stage Productions, conducts the 8-member Who-Chestra, all represented by the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, the show features "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," the vaudeville number "One of a Kind," and Cindy Lou's heart-stopping "Santa for a Day," sung by the little girl who catches the Grinch stealing her family's Christmas everything and innocently believes him to be St. Nick.

By the time the snow falls and the Grinch learns that Christmas cannot be stolen, all the children and adults in the audience are captivated. As a young boy on his way to the parking lot was heard to say, "Mommy, when can we come back?"

—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. She can be reached at charb81@gmail.com ♦



### "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

Through Dec. 27  
(no performances Dec. 25)  
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L to R, Christine Tawfik, Rachel LaForce, Nick Rees, Adam Schreck, Paul Jurewicz, Lisa Barber; photo by Kristen Miccoll.



## Holiday Gift Guide

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see Holidays page 15



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# Holiday Gift Guide

FROM PAGE 14  
**HOLIDAYS**



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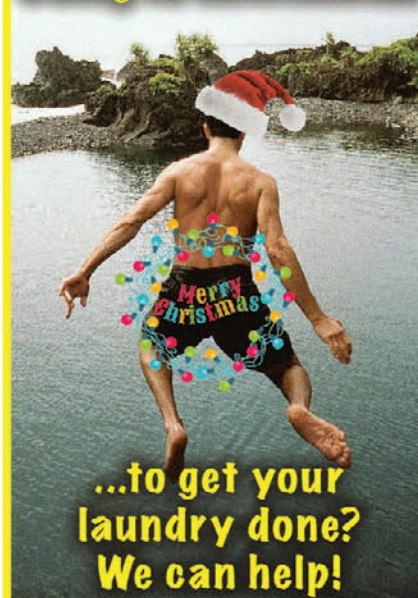
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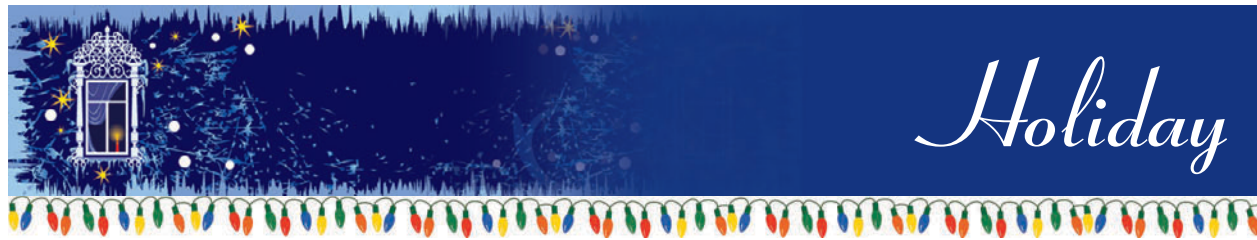
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## FROM PAGE 15 HOLIDAYS

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Starbucks, but Karma Boutique is anything but a chain store.

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"Our lives get so busy and hectic that I wanted to create a space where people could come to a tranquil environment and just breathe while browsing," said owner and founder Michelle Klein, who is often kept company at the store by her friendly rescued bulldog, Lottie-Lu.

Karma Boutique is a unique shopping experience, and Klein's goal is to use her business to inspire creativity and encourage the community to shop local. Besides specialty items, cards and gifts, Karma supports local artists and carries one-of-a-kind art and jewelry. They also host tarot and psychic readings, along with do-TERRA essential oil classes.

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see Holidays page 18

## Gift, Joy, and

**A**s the holiday season nears, many of us look for ways to give to our community, as well as our loved ones. Toy drives, food drives and special events give myriad opportunities for San Diegans to contribute to those in need. We've assembled a list of these charitable events and ongoing drives. Help make everyone's holidays happy with our gift-giving guide below!

### Gift and Toy Drives

**"Giving Tree" at The Headquarters:** For the second year, the USO San Diego is joining with The Headquarters at Seaport District for a three-week drive. The effort will launch Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. with a lighting of the 25-foot "Giving Tree" in the retail center's courtyard (789 W. Harbor Drive, Marina District).

**Donate:** The USO is looking for gifts, toys for all ages, gift cards and monetary donations.

**Benefitting:** Military families  
**Visit:** theheadquarters.com

**International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Holiday Gift Drive:** Through Friday, Dec. 12, the IRC will be collecting donations at their office (5348 University Ave., Suite 205, City Heights/Rolando) from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday or by mail.

**Donate:** Unwrapped gifts for children and parents. Gift ideas are listed online by age group.

**Benefitting:** Refugee children who have arrived in San Diego over the past year

**Visit:** rescue.org/us-program/us-san-diego-ca

**San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive:** Now in its 24th year this drive's drop-off locations include eight San Diego SmileCare locations, any Sheriff's station or substation and the county courthouse through Dec. 5.

**Donate:** New teddy bears and other stuffed animals with tags attached

**Benefitting:** Children undergoing treatment at Rady Children's Hospital

**Visit:** facebook.com/smilecaredentistry

**Spark's 4th annual Santa's Helpers Happy Hour and Toy Drive:** The drive on Dec. 4 from 6 - 9:30 p.m. at Analog (801 Fifth Ave., Gaslamp) will include extended happy hour, live music by The Yes Team, and more.

**Donate:** A new unwrapped toy or gift card for children ages 5-17. Your donation or \$15 at the door will be your admission.

**Benefitting:** The Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego

**Visit:** sparktoydrive2014.eventbrite.com (to RSVP)

**Toys for Tots Program:** The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve annual program collects toys and distributes them as Christmas Gifts. Drop-off locations are all over San Diego including their headquarters at the Marine Corps Reserve Center (9955 Pomerado Rd., Miramar).

**Donate:** New, unwrapped toys or make a monetary donation online

**Benefitting:** children of low-income families in San Diego

**Visit:** san-diego-ca.toysfortots.org

### Food Drives

**Feeding America San Diego Holiday Campaign:** The organization is asking for support during the holiday season noting that 1 in 6 people, including 1 in 4 children, struggle with hunger in San Diego County.

**Donate:** One-time and monthly monetary gifts, volunteer at distribution centers, or organize a food drive

**Benefitting:** Children, families and seniors facing hunger throughout the holidays

**Visit:** feedingamericasd.org

**The Jacobs and C Food Bank Holiday Drive:** For this drive comes in and events.

**Donate:** A \$10 pre- at San Diego Vons local donations can be made a loved one or yourself, virtual or actual food drive

**Benefitting:** Individuals  
**Visit:** sandiegofoodbank.org

**San Diego Chargers Drive:** Our local NFL team's annual food drive on Sunday they take on the St. Louis Rams.

**Donate:** Nonperishable food items. The fan with the most authentic signed football player.

**Benefitting:** Jacobs and C Food Bank  
**Visit:** chargers.com

**San Diego Holiday Food Drive:** The Joan's Army will be collecting bib pick up for the drive.

**Donate:** Nonperishable food items  
**Benefitting:** Local food banks  
**Visit:** sandiegholidayfooddrive.org

**San Diego Run for Thanksgiving Day race:** Westfield Horton Plaza. Participants can choose the 5K starting at 8:15 a.m. and the 10K starting at 7:10 a.m. Pets are not allowed.

**Donate:** Proceeds from the race will benefit food banks. Nonperishable food items on the morning of the race.

**Benefitting:** Jacobs and C Food Bank and the San Diego Food Bank

**Visit:** sdrunfortheholidays.org





# Gift Guide

## White Chocolate Peppermint Fudge

Start to finish: One hour  
Servings: 24 squares

- 1/2 cup butter (1 stick), melted
- 2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 5 ounces evaporated milk
- 7 ounces marshmallow creme
- 1 1/3 cups white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peppermint candy, chopped or crushed (a hammer and plastic bag helps here!)



Line a 9-by-12-inch pan with aluminum foil folded over the sides. Grease foil with small amount of butter. In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt the butter. Add evaporated milk and sugar and bring to boil. Cook for five minutes, stirring constantly. Remove mixture from heat; add marshmallow creme and white chocolate chips and stir until smooth. Fold in peppermint candy. Spread mixture into lined pan and refrigerate until solid. Turn pan upside down release fudge onto a flat surface, peel foil from fudge and cut into squares.

# Food Drives

**Cushman San Diego Food Drive:** Support a number of ways

filled bag of food donations, monetary online on behalf of, or you can host a drive. and families in need bank.org

**ers Holiday Food** team will host their Sunday, Nov. 23 when Rams.

able food items. items will receive an all from a Chargers

s and Cushman San

**y Half Marathon** Kroc Center/Salva- half donations dur- half marathon.

able food items homeless shelters layhalf.com/food-drive

**for the Hungry:** This e starts and ends at a on Broadway Circle. e to run or walk in a.m. or the 10K start- n join for \$10. from race registration and food mobiles. ms will be collected race also.

s and Cushman San Jewish Family Ser-

hungry.org

**Stuff the Bus Food Drive:** For the sev- enth year, the Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Albertsons/ Lucky and local Girl Scouts are teaming up for drive from Dec. 1 – 6.

**Donate:** Nonperishable food items at 39 Albertsons locations throughout the county Dec. 1 -5; on Dec. 6, 17 select locations (including La Mesa and San Carlos loca- tions) will have “Stuff the Bus” events from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Benefitting:** Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank

**Visit:** sdmts.com and gonctd.com

### Special Events

**“Make Change Count” Holiday Fun- draising Drive:** For the second year this fundraising effort asks individuals to make donations of coins (or by credit card) at stations throughout Downtown and online through Classy.org

**Donate:** Monetary donations of coins or through credit card payments.

**Benefitting:** Downtown Partnership’s Clean and Safe homeless outreach efforts.

**Visit:** downtownsandiego.org/clean-safe

**Shoes with Heart:** The Benchley Wein- berger Foundation is collecting shoes, which the organization, Shoes with Heart, will pay for by the pound. Donated shoes will be col- lected at Benchley Weinberger (6269 Twin Lake, San Carlos) through Jan. 20.

**Donate:** Pairs of used shoes tied or rub- ber banded together (no tape); skates, golf shoes and single shoes not accepted.

**Benefitting:** Shoes are sent to develop- ing nations; unusable shoes are recycled. Money raised will support the school

**Visit:** bwpta.org

**Taylor Factory Tours for toy and food drive:** Through Dec. 17, tour visitors at Taylor Guitars Visitor Center (1980 Gil- lespie Way, El Cajon) are asked to bring do- nation items in exchange for a raffle tickets (one per item); prizes in the raffle include TaylorWare and a GS Mini guitar (the grand prize). Tours are Monday – Friday at 1 p.m. (excluding holidays).

**Donate:** Non-perishable food items and/or unwrapped toys

**Benefitting:** The 39th Annual East County Toy and Food Drive

**Visit:** taylorguitars.com and salvationar- myelcajon.com

**World AIDS Day and Tree of Life:** On Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. this free event at Village Hillcrest (3965 Fifth Ave.) will be open to the public with guest speakers, a candlelight vigil and holiday music by the San Diego Gay Men’s Chorus.

**Donate:** Create a personalized orna- ment to be placed on the Tree of Life for the month of December. Donations requested: \$15 for each ornament or two for \$25.

**Benefitting:** Mama’s Kitchen

**Visit:** mamaskitchen.org

**YWCA of San Diego Special Dona- tion Drive:** One of several annual YWCA drives, this year’s recommended drop off date is Thursday, Dec. 11 at their main building (1012 C Street, Downtown).

**Donate:** Gift cards, new toys and gifts for children of all ages, new gifts for women and men, holiday decorations and holiday stockings

**Benefitting:** YWCA clients and families through Becky’s House, Passages and the Cortez Hill Family Center programs

**Visit:** ywcasandiego.org

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Burke Moses and Jeffrey Schechter. Photo by Jim Cox.

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## Holiday Gift Guide

FROM PAGE 16  
**HOLIDAYS**

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**La Jolla Playhouse**  
2910 La Jolla Village Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
858-550-1010  
lajollaplayhouse.org

La Jolla Playhouse, a Tony Award-winning professional nonprofit theater, is located in a beautiful San Diego coastal suburb. Founded in 1947 by Gregory

Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is now led by Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg.

Its mission is to advance theater as an art form, and as a vital social, moral and political platform by providing unfettered creative opportunities for the leading artists of today and tomorrow. With a youthful spirit and an eclectic, artist-driven approach, the Playhouse cultivates a local and national following with an insatiable appetite for audacious and diverse work.

The Playhouse has received more than 300 awards for theater excellence, including the 1993 Tony Award as America's Outstanding Regional Theater. La Jolla Playhouse is also nationally acclaimed for its innovative productions, including classics, new plays and musicals, scores of which have moved to Broadway, garnering a total of 35 Tony Awards, including, "The Who's Tommy," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," "A Walk in the Woods," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Dracula" and the recent Tony winners "Jersey Boys" and "Memphis."

The Playhouse also presents a wide range of educational programs that enrich the community and serve the maximum number of children, students and adults. For more information, visit their website.

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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.

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# Holiday Gift Guide

## Home for the holidays with pet companions

By B.J. Coleman

Home for the holidays — can any phrase warm the heart as much? But what about those families who are in such financial distress at year's end that they contemplate surrendering their pets into animal shelters? PAWS San Diego was created to overcome such hardships and keep companion animals in the families they belong with.

The nonprofit provides assistance to needy San Diego pet families throughout the year, focusing on homes headed by seniors or chronically ill and disabled persons. The organization, with five paid staffers, relies on a larger team of over 200 volunteers. The PAWS tagline is "helping people keep their pets."

The organization had its start in 1994 at founder Nancy Lubin's dining room table in North County. It intended to serve San Diegans diagnosed with AIDS by providing at-home assistance in order to keep pets together with their patient-owners for the health and companionship benefits that animals convey to the humans in their company. Re-organizations, mergers and personnel changes during the intervening 21 years brought PAWS to its home suite of offices in central San Diego, and into new collaborations with allied organizations.

PAWS currently serves over 500 clients in accordance with its original mission, supporting families in their homes with more than 650 pets on 34 delivery routes in the monthly Wellness service, which assists with pet care and veterinary care. Each route serves seven to 10 clients, and during the first half of each month, pet owners enrolled in the service phone in details of their needs for food, treats, litter, and flea medications. The ordered items are assembled into paw-printed delivery bags, with any further special instructions for the delivery drivers on each route. Additional assistance is offered as needed with dog walking and transportation to veterinary offices. The cost per client averages about a dollar a day.

The pets supported are split

about half-and-half between dogs and cats, explains Geraldine D'Silva, executive director at PAWS San Diego. Animals in the service also include birds, rabbits, guinea pigs and other small pets. A bearded dragon that had been in the Wellness program recently passed away.

On Sept. 1, PAWS merged with the San Diego Humane Society. Integration of the two organizations' activities and missions are ongoing, with fully seamless coordination expected by early 2015. PAWS is now considered a program within the local humane society, and its program expansions, facilitated by the merger, are slated to include more outreach and assistance to military veterans, to homeless San Diegans, and to victims of domestic violence who have fled abusive situations with their pet animals.

"This allows us to become bigger and better and stronger," D'Silva said of the merger.

D'Silva credited the humane society's added resources for enabling such far-reaching objectives as identifying "problem" zip codes in low-income areas, out of which more animals than average are surrendered into shelters. D'Silva envisions offering PAWS services to more people in these areas to help them keep their pets. Kelli Schry, public relations manager for the newly enlarged group, agrees that the collaboration furthers the Humane Society's goal of "getting to zero" in numbers of animals that are lost to euthanasia for lack of homes. The progressive vision involves efforts to keep pets in their current family homes and to reduce the numbers housed in shelters.

The PAWS Pantry service, launched in November 2012, distributes free pet food to more than 1,500 low-income San Diego pet families, focusing on cooperation with human services organizations and certified animal welfare groups. Individuals in need can also pick up supplemental pet food at multiple sites around San Diego County. Pantry supplies are provided at the PAWS office in Grantville and through the Food Bank, the LGBT Center, Feeding America, and Jewish Family Services. Other

pickup sites include an Oceanside campus location and the humane society's newly merger-acquired Escondido site and its central facilities on Gaines Street.

Although the PAWS emphasis is on qualified low-income pet families, the pantry is flexible toward walk-in clients in crisis or such sudden financial hardship as unexpected unemployment.

"We will give out a bag of food," D'Silva said. "We don't turn anyone away."

Major corporate-linked sponsors have recently included the Petco Foundation and the Rescue Bank. Food and cat litter have been donated by Petco, Walmart and Target. PAWS also receives support from generous individual donors. Schools and individual children have put on food drives and fund-raising campaigns to benefit the organization.

PAWS San Diego is located at 6160 Fairmount Ave., Suite I in Grantville, and can be reached at 619-297-7297. More information on the organization's available services can be found at pawssandiego.org.

—Contact B.J. Coleman at barshajo@aim.com. ♦



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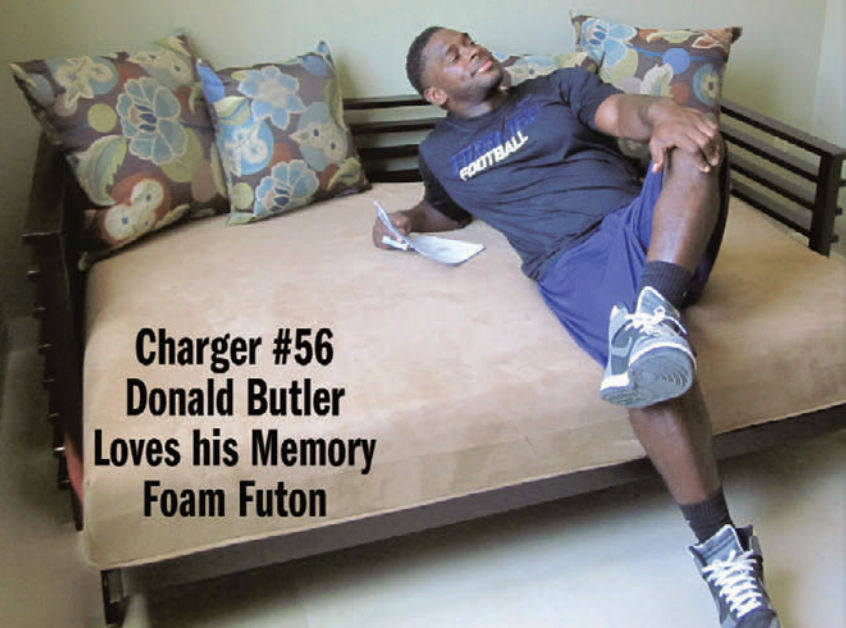
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## Holiday Gift Guide

### FROM PAGE 18 HOLIDAYS

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FROM PAGE 20  
**HOLIDAYS**

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## A black leather cigar box with a gold-embossed lid is held open, revealing several cigars inside. The box is set against a background of wooden shelves filled with more cigars in a shop setting.

The happy hour 'grab box'  
(Photo by Dr. Ink)

**Come On  
Get Happy!**  
Dr. Ink

In an age when tobacco users are relegated to sidewalks, alleys and patio bullpens, there remain few places where smokers can light up with impunity, just like they do in the old movies. Churchill Cigar Lounge is one of them.

Located in a quaint courtyard plaza on Old Town's main drag, the establishment doubles as a wine and beer bar too. Most of the seating happens to be on a covered, heated patio, which leads into a smallish bar lounge boasting wine shelves and a 60-foot humidor.

On any given day, you'll find a mostly male patronage gathered around silver ashtrays resembling large nut bowls. As expected from a joint that allows for

such vices, the vibe is relaxed, non-fussy and welcoming.

Happy hour is relatively new. The current deal provides for a glass of Six Grapes Port and a cigar of choice from an attractive grab box for a total of \$10.95. The "sticks," as cigar aficionados call them, range in length, girth and strength.

With the help of a friend who never leaves home without a



Port with a Nicaraguan cigar  
(Photo by Dr. Ink)

The blackcurrant overtones of the port struck a seductive match to the toasted flavor of the cigar residing on my lips after each

## A photograph of three people standing indoors. On the left, a blonde woman in a black top holds a clear bottle of 'The Naked Grape' juice. In the center, a man wearing a white shirt and a Santa hat holds a red bottle of 'The Naked Grape' juice. On the right, a woman with dark hair in a patterned top holds another clear bottle of 'The Naked Grape' juice. They are all smiling at the camera.

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Food isn't sold

A friend at our table purchased a cigar with a glass of cabernet off the happy hour menu. His total came to \$18 while the price for my vino/cigar combo dropped to \$10.95.

The owner, Danny, and his tight knit of employees offer friendly, knowledgeable information about the booze and cigar inventory.

**DURATION:** Though happy hour is available only four days a week, it runs generously from mid-afternoon into the early evening.

**Happy hour: 2 to 7 p.m.,  
Monday through Thursday**

draw. This is exactly what it's all about: the bedfellow relationship of pure, burning tobacco teaming up with a rich, grapey wine or a good Scotch whisky if it's on hand.

Needless to say, after several awkward puffs that didn't produce half the cloud coming from my mouth as others around me, I handed over the slow-burning stick for my friends to finish, one of whom rated it as "a woodsy, decent smoke." The young, semi-sweet port, however, stayed with me until the very last drop.

According to the bartender, the wine component in the happy hour program might change to a full-bodied zinfandel or perhaps another type of port in the coming months. The prior deal involved only a glass of vino for \$7. As for food, it isn't sold — although the owner occasionally puts out nibbles, which I didn't check out on this visit.

Churchill's has a second, larger location at 7094 Miramar Road. ♦

**Lisa Hamel**  
**(619) 961-1957**  
**[lisahamel@sdcnn.com](mailto:lisahamel@sdcnn.com)**

sd**cnn**



# The Spanish problem

We know one when we see it, but beyond that, nothing is certain



Is it Mission Revival? Is it Spanish Colonial? One thing we know for sure, whatever it is, it's Eclectic. (Photo by Michael Good)

## House Calls

Michael Good

Lately I've noticed a sort of odd frustration coming from the direction of my clients when they find out their house has been labeled "Spanish Eclectic." It is as if they have been dragged to a play, only to be told, in the end, "You know what, we're not sure who did it."

This is the age of uncertainty. I know because I read it on the Internet. The economy, the Middle East, any number of wars that we are in the middle of, the absolute uncertainty of Congress, the border, immigration, health care, Miley Cyrus's love life — are there any more eligible Kennedy males out there? We just don't know. We've got lots of information, but no resolution. No definition. No certainty. So of course when it comes to what kind of house we have, what kind of dog we have, the exact dimensions of our carbon footprint, our exact level of gluten intolerance — we've gotta nail that sucker down. Sign it. Stamp it. Download it and put it on the thumb drive.

So, anyway, I'm here to help. I think. If not with your anxiety, at least with identifying the DNA of your house. But first, you need to take a breath, get some perspective: The 1920s may have also been an age of

Mills Act applications. "Builders in the 1920s simply wrote Spanish. Richard Requa [the principle architect for Kensington Heights and the 1935 World's Fair in Balboa Park] simply wrote 'the authentic Southern California Style.'"

Requa's term never caught on. Now Virginia McAlester has published a revised version of her style guide, and as May points out, she's reverted to "Spanish

uncertainty, but hey, no one cared. They were alright with it. They were OK with not knowing if their house was Spanish Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Mexican Territorial Revival, or just plain Spanish-Spanish. It was their house, it was modern, it was fun, it was stylish and convenient, they were making gin in the bathtub, they were rolling up the rug and dancing to jazz on the Victrola. Everything was OK.

Not that they were ignorant, however. There were plenty of resources on the subject of Spanish Revival architecture. The local daily newspapers had a good grasp of the origins of the style, and covered it in the real estate pages. And every week, 100 million Americans went to the movies, where they received a romantic revival design tutorial, delivered by Zorro.

If you could get the definition of Plateresque in the home section of the San Diego Union in 1929, you should be able to get the definition of Spanish Eclectic in Uptown News in 2014. So I asked Ron May, one of the historians who has popularized the term, to explain why he uses it, rather than "Spanish Revival."

"Virginia and Lee McAlester, in 'A Field Guide to American Houses,' use the term Spanish Eclectic, and I adapted it for my reports to the City of San Diego," said May, whose company prepares historical reports and



Alta Canada: an Andalusian-style apartment complex by architect Allen Hilton (Photo by Michael Good)

Revival" (although she does so in a section called "Eclectic Houses"). May is unfazed.

"These are just terms used by the profession to explain the varied sources that builders referred to in selecting roof, wall, window, door, and staircase designs from old buildings in Spain, North Africa, France, and the Mediterranean," he said. "Almost none of the buildings we see today from the 1920s resemble anything in Spain or Old Mexico, as they are vernacular or eclectic designs from the minds of the builders."

In other words, who knows? So maybe it's up to us to decide what makes a house "Spanish" or not Spanish. Either way, let's nail this thing down, shall we?

We'll start with the details. First, the obvious: red tile roof and the white stucco walls. Then, the less obvious: red tile actually comes in a variety of shapes, colors and configurations, both barrel and S-curve, tapered and straight. And the white walls were seldom that white, and were even pink or tan.

Spanish Eclectic is eclectic in

part because it draws from 500 years of architectural history in Spain, North Africa, the Mediterranean, Mexico and California. That's a pretty wide window. The details "may be of Moorish, Byzantine, Gothic, or Renaissance inspiration," according to Virginia McAlester. There can be a large focal window, a carved or paneled front door, iron sconces, three-light casement windows, window grilles of various configuration, arched windows (parabolic or otherwise), little balconies ("balconers") of metal with tile floors, and Plateresque or Chirigueroesque bas-relief decoration

(divided by a hall) on the other. The porch was replaced with a patio, the Chicago-style living room window replaced with an arched window; the shingle roof replaced with red tile.

Inside, the wood trim was Classical, with some concessions to Spanish. There could be art deco details, arches between rooms, the china cabinet tucked into a niche. Walls were often of rough texture, with rag-rolled, variegated, intensely colored paint treatments. But it was still a bungalow in form. And Spanish in style.

Andalusian Farmhouse: The original Andalusian farmhouse, like the California Rancho, expanded over time in an informal way, with rooms and buildings added organically. It was a cubist creation imbedded in a hillside, hugging the ground. The modern version, without the distraction of applied ornament, requires careful composition and balanced massing.

The Andalusian farmhouse style is less detailed, more modest, insular, with smaller windows and none of the Plateresque, byzantine detailing that marks many Spanish Colonial Revival houses. There was often a shed roof, windows incased by thick walls, a living room that looks like a sanctuary, and the whole assemblage enclosed by a roughly executed wall, reminiscent of the Ranchos of the Spanish Dons in early California.

Spanish Colonial Revival: This is what people think of when they think of Spanish. The basic provincial styles, with a lot of stuff stuck on, based on four continents and five centuries of architectural detail (and a half-dozen photo books of the period, such as "Provincial Houses in Spain," by Mildred and Arthur Byne, 1927). This highly detailed version of the Spanish house is more boisterous and replete with Moorish and baroque detail, balconies, metal railings, towers, arches, carved low-relief ornament and arcades with decorative columns. It's Hollywood Spanish. Sometimes the effect is stately, but it also can be a bit overwhelming, like a house that's trying too hard.

—Michael Good is a fourth generation San Diegan who lives and works in North Park. He can be reached at [housecallssdun@gmail.com](mailto:housecallssdun@gmail.com)

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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FBS wins four awards at SDCAA's 2014 Mark of Excellence

The San Diego County Apartment Association's (SDCAA) mark of excellence awards is one of Southern California's biggest events to recognize excellence and leadership in the rental housing industry.

The main event recognizes individuals and properties that stand out in the areas of leasing, management, resident retention, and maintenance. Bree Castro of FBS, won first place for leasing professional of the year and Jay Scheinok placed third for property manager of the year. Two properties managed by FBS were awarded second and third place for rental community of the year.

In addition, Vice President Lucinda Lilley won the certified property manager of the year award from the Institute of Real Estate management.

"Being a CPM is important to me for the benefits my IREM education affords the clients with whom I work," —Lucinda Lilley, CPM.

Congrats to all the winners!

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

## Uptown's Sudoku Puzzle

Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Answer key, page 26

## Uptown Crossword

### On the Town

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18								
19						20		21						
22						23	24			25		26	27	
28				29				30		31				32
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			52			53			54	55				
56	57	58						59		60				
61										62				
63						64				65				

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

### ACROSS

- 1 Understanding
- 6 Bema's neighbor
- 10 Meter reading
- 14 After
- 15 Snap the seal
- 17 Moonstruck love
- 18 Hatchbacks' work-places
- 19 Sticky snack
- 21 Home follower
- 22 Heaven on earth
- 23 Literary monogram
- 25 Up
- 28 Like McCullers' Cafe
- 29 Evelina composer
- 31 Dump
- 33 Back-of-the-book readings
- 35 Typee sequel
- 36 Where do I find Cleopatra's Needle?
- 40 Dixie senator, once
- 41 Sounds of salutes
- 42 Bewildered
- 44 Bar food
- 45 Yuck!
- 48 Winner's walk
- 50 Tear into
- 51 Commedia dell' \_\_\_\_

### DOWN

- 52 Wise remark?
- 54 \_\_\_\_ Madigan
- 56 Mix at the Met
- 60 Hired help
- 61 One of New York's finest, e.g.
- 62 Toot
- 63 Grand \_\_\_\_ Plaza
- 64 Gershwin tune
- 65 Turns cod into bacalao
- 1 Open spaces in a forest
- 2 Marriott rival
- 3 Conciliated: arch.
- 4 Canary's cousin
- 5 Lester Young sobriquet
- 6 Kindergarten-song opening
- 7 Where do I find Brooklyn's best bars?
- 8 "A" Train accommodation
- 9 Street-vendor patron
- 10 Zabar's and Balducci's
- 11 Ike's former address

- 12 Sleep letters
- 13 Staten Island has two
- 16 Venomous serpent
- 20 Sheep meadow employee?
- 24 Dresses of the '60s
- 26 Ms. Bombeck
- 27 Hussein's queen
- 29 Old: abbr.
- 30 Orange oil
- 32 Pell Street pan
- 33 Midtown
- 34 Pancho's poncho: var.
- 36 Mirthful Merkel
- 37 Wall Street bids
- 38 Part of FIT
- 39 Soho co.
- 43 Distinctive qualities
- 45 Path to bliss?
- 46 Quiescent
- 47 Card game
- 49 Pool-parlor powders
- 51 Madrid neighbor
- 53 Soon, to Sophia
- 55 Rockefeller U. units
- 56 Health club
- 57 Norris Trophy winner, 1968-75
- 58 Fort front
- 59 City Island flier

# Cat care: when nine lives aren't enough

## Pets

Ann Eliopulos



With all the dog-oriented venues and products abound, it would be a seemingly easy bet that they are the number one pet in American households — but they are not. That status belongs to that often misrepresented and misunderstood four-legged creature: the cat. While the dog is viewed as loving, loyal, fun, patient and giving, the cat is often portrayed as independent, not loyal, finicky, demanding and not very bright.

As someone who loves and lives with cats and dogs, I know that depiction of cats could not be further from the truth, but many people define themselves as either dog lovers or cat lovers, with little gray area in between, and dogs seem to rule. Unfortunately, that paradigm seems to be true with veterinary and health care as well.

An estimated 78 million dogs and 86 million cats live in American households. Of those animals, anywhere from half to less than half of cats, compared to dogs, have veterinary visits. Many cats never make it to the veterinarian other than for their first series of vaccines and then afterward, only when they become ill. Why does our number one kept pet not receive the care that dogs do?

The reasons appear to be many, with the primary reason being the stress (on the person as well as the pet) of putting the cat in the carrier and actually getting it to the vet. Other reasons are that the cat is indoor-only cat and doesn't need vaccines; the cat appears healthy, and the cat hates the vet. Unlike dogs, older cats go to the vet far less often than young cats, indicating they are not getting the senior care that their canine counterparts are.

If I could singlehandedly change one thing in the world of cat ownership, the overall lack of veterinary care would be it, and not for reasons of financial gain. Cats are masters at hiding illness and disease. Often times when they become sick enough to require veterinary care, they have been sick for a while. Cats are sedentary creatures that spend a lot of time lying around. When they become ill, they tend to become more sedentary, though



Keeping a cat happy and healthy isn't as easy as some owners think. (Wiki Commons)

will still engage when awake.

If your cat normally sleeps 18 out of 24 hours, you may very well not notice that they have started sleeping 20 hours because of an illness. Since we do not walk our cats or engage them in play the way we do our dogs, their symptoms are often harder to identify until they become quite severe.

Older cats are prone to a few very serious diseases, all of which can be life threatening: diabetes, kidney failure, hyperthyroidism (over-production of thyroid), heart disease, and various cancers. Early detection and treatment of these conditions can make all the difference in quality and longevity of life.

I have had more than a few cat owners tell me that their older cats are perfectly healthy and don't need to see a veterinarian because they are still eating

and drinking well. However, at least two of the very concerning diseases of the older cat have increased appetite (eating well) as one of their symptoms — diabetes and hyperthyroidism. Kidney failure is hallmarked by increased drinking (drinking well) and increased urination, which is the opposite of how most people think kidney failure works. Even I can't tell the difference in the causes of these symptoms without diagnostics, so am fairly sure that most pet owners cannot either.

As a profession, many veterinarians are now recognizing that cats require a completely different approach to their care, to the point where we are changing our environments and handling to accommodate America's number one pet. They are not small dogs. They do not appreciate being cooed to, stroked and fussed over when they are off of their turf. They do appreciate being given freedom in the exam room, less handling and quick, efficient care. They can't be distracted with food treats, but they can be calmed to some degree with pheromone (a natural cat hormone) diffusers in the room.

If you know that your cat gets stressed beyond belief by going to the vet, consider having one of the home care vets come to you. Or, if fear of the vet is preventing you from going, look for a certified cat-friendly practice, one which has committed to the welfare and comfort of our feline friends. Whatever it takes, do your best to have your cat examined yearly, whether they live indoors or especially if they spend time outside and are potentially exposed to other cats with contagious and deadly feline viruses.

Whether we love them or revile them, as a culture we give our cats too much credit for being able to fend for themselves. The myth of nine lives is just that. A yearly exam, proper nutrition, and early disease detection can allow our most popular pet to live one long, healthy life, with no need for those other mythical eight.

—Ann Eliopulos is a veterinarian at Bodhi Animal Hospital in North Park. ♦

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1270 University Ave.  
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4077 Fifth Ave.  
302 Washington St.  
3940 Fifth Ave.  
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784 W. Washington St.  
3801 Fifth Ave.  
1240 University Ave.  
1080 University Ave.  
3909 Centre St.  
3610 Fifth Ave.  
1271 University Ave.  
1010 University Ave.  
301 W. Washington St.  
200 W. Arbor Dr.  
4168 Front St.  
3900 Fifth Ave.  
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Puzzle from page 24

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

**On the town**  
Crossword from page 24

G	R	A	S	P	A	P	S	E	F	A	R	E
L	A	T	E	R	B	R	E	A	K	O	P	E
A	M	O	R	E	C	O	A	T	R	O	O	M
D	A	N	I	S	H	S	T	E	A	D		
E	D	E	N	E	A	P	R	I	S	E	N	
S	A	D	A	R	L	E	N	T	H	R	O	W
			I	N	D	I	C	E	S	O	M	O
U	P	I	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	L	P	A
N	U	N	N	R	E	P	O	R	T	S		
A	T	S	E	A	S	A	L	A	D	B	A	H
	S	T	R	U	T	R	I	P	A	R	T	E
			C	R	A	C	K	E	L	V	I	R
S	O	C	I	A	L	I	Z	E	A	I	D	E
P	R	O	T	E	C	T	O	R	B	L	A	S
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Adams Ave. Post Office  
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Chase Bank  
Coin Laundry  
Coin Laundry  
LeStat's Coffee House  
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Mueller College  
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Park Blvd. Laundry  
Starbucks  
Summer Liquor & Deli

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3502 Adams Ave.  
3288 Adams Ave.  
1730 Monroe Ave.  
3002 Adams Ave.  
4612 Park Blvd.  
4134 Adams Ave.  
4078 Adams Ave.  
1815 Madison Ave.  
2930 Monroe Ave.  
4496 Park Blvd.  
3343 Adams Ave.  
4607 Park Blvd.  
2105 Mission Ave.  
4017 Swift Ave.  
4504 Park Blvd.  
4193 Park Blvd.  
4209 Park Blvd.  
4134 Adams Ave.  
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Steak and eggs with potatoes O'Brien  
(Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

## Green with history

### Dining Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



In terms of age, Tobey's 19th Hole Restaurant is basically on par with The Waterfront Bar & Grill, having opened only a year later in 1934 a few miles away within the Balboa Park Municipal Golf Course, which was formerly known as The Rock Pile. Aside from being one of San Diego's oldest kitchens, it has also ranked among the most hidden from some of us who don't know the difference between a putter and a 9-iron.

"Until around the year 2000, about 75 percent of our customers were golfers. Now it's the other way around," says Steve Tobey, adding that his late grandparents, Chester and Lois, grossed \$9,000 from meal sales in their first year of operation.

Tobey's father, Earl, took over the restaurant in 1969. He had previously cooked for a general in the South Pacific during World War II while serving as a staff sergeant.

"He was a good cook. Everyone used to come in for his short ribs, lamb shank and the Monday specials of meatloaf and roast beef, which still remain."

Tobey jumped into the business at an early age to assist his father, who passed away in 2010. As chief proprietor, he recently began grooming his son, Chris, to eventually take over the restaurant, which is leased from the City of San Diego.

Tobey's marketing efforts over the past several years have prompted an increased number of non-golfers and retro-foodie types to take the winding ride down Golf Course Drive for meal service that runs from 6 a.m. to sunset — and 365 days a year.

"We only missed one day ever because of the 2003 Cedar Fires," he added.

Visitors are greeted first by a central lobby filled with old photographs capturing how the land looked more than 60 years ago. There are enough of them to warrant a museum exhibit, so do a little browsing.

Inside the restaurant is a lunch counter seemingly frozen in time. To the right of it is the main dining room and balcony, which face out to sweeping green lawns and the San Diego skyline. The big-window views duly compensate for the stark (and refreshing) absence of modern design elements.

Breakfast is served all day, and lunch runs from 11 a.m. until closing. Since a friend and I arrived in the hang, we ordered a little of each.

Tobey's is one of the few restaurants in San Diego that makes traditional corned beef hash from scratch. The meat

is roasted in-house, then finely ground and mixed with shredded potatoes that are boiled daily. Plenty of wilted onions are also tossed in, resulting in a fluffy hole-in-one hash sporting appealing, crusty edges.

Top sirloin is used for the steak and eggs. The cutlet was trimmed of fat, yet tender and well-marbled. We chose house-made potatoes O'Brien for the dish, which tasted crazy-good when dribbling them with the spicy green salsa created by one of Tobey's cooks. So zesty and complex, we actually doused nearly everything else with it: our eggs, a serving of hearty meat-and-bean chili and an accompanying cheese roll.

The chicken fried steak, however, stood fine on its own. Served with green and yellow beans as well as real mashed potatoes, the obligatory white gravy on top is commendable. It escapes the vapid, pasty ilk common in other places, thanks to proper seasoning and chunks of sage-y breakfast sausage strewn throughout.

Tobey's is a green-enveloped shrine to food that is nostalgic and unpretentious. It has withstood the test of time while cranking out such other dishes as Denver omelets, grilled ham steaks, biscuits and gravy, liver and onions and cod fillets.

Beer, wine and low-alcohol cocktails are also in the offering, qualifying it as a true "19th hole"

### Tobey's 19th Hole Restaurant

2600 Golf Course Drive (Balboa Park)

619-234-5921

Prices: All breakfast and lunch items are under \$10, with the exception of top sirloin steak priced at \$10.50

destination for those avid golfers who have long advanced off the putting green.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. is the author of "Secret San Diego" (ECW Press), and began his local writing career more than two decades ago as a staffer for the former San Diego Tribune. You can reach him at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com).

(top to bottom) Chicken-fried steak and house-made corned beef hash  
(Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)



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## Calendar of Events

## FEATURED EVENTS

Arts and Crafts Sale  
Saturday, Dec. 6

Presented by the Artists of Kensington group, the sale will feature a range of unique, handmade items. Mediums for sale and show will include photography, handmade soaps, ceramics and porcelain, bead and sterling silver jewelry, and more. The event is from 12 – 4 p.m. at 5004 Marlborough Drive in the heart of Kensington. Visit facebook.com/artistsofkensington for more information.

Veteran Mural Unveiling  
Sunday, Dec. 7

The Mission Hills Town Council and Combat Arts San Diego will unveil the first mural from Combat Art's "Veteran Mural Project" program at 4 p.m. The mural is located at 4010 Goldfinch St. in Mission Hills (behind Harley Gray restaurant). Seven combat veterans who created the mural will be in attendance for this unveiling, which will include civilian and military speakers. The event is slated to end at 5:30 p.m. with a spoken word performance by a veteran writer. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Visit missionhillstowncouncil.org for more information.

Fifth Annual SoNo Fest and Chili Cook-Off  
Sunday, Dec. 7

Part street fair, part fundraiser — this event gives attendees the chance to shop, eat and drink local. One highlight will be 40 restaurants competing in the chili cook-off. It is free to enjoy samples and vote, or opt for the \$20 option, which buys five two-ounce restaurant chili tastings in a handmade ceramic bowl (to keep). Council President Todd Gloria, Rep. Susan Davis and other local celebrities will crown the winners. There will also be an assortment of food trucks on hand. SoNo Fest's beer and wine garden will feature beer from 16 local craft brewers and wine from Fallbrook Winery. Two stages sponsored by Casbah and Bar Pink will showcase local bands including The Creepy Creeps, The Bedbreakers and more. Plus there will be a selection of 30 craft vendors to shop with. Proceeds from the event benefit McKinley Elementary School Foundation. The event is from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 32nd and Thorn streets (T32). For more information visit sonofestchilicookoff.com.

Hillcrest Taste n' Tinis  
Thursday, Dec. 11

This self-guided walking tour through Hillcrest will lead to tasty martinis, small bites, desserts and shopping. Each retail location on the tour will serve a holiday-inspired martini for sipping while shopping. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of. Will call locations are Rite Aid (535 Robinson Ave.) and Heat Bar and Kitchen (3797 Park Blvd.) The festivities run from 5 – 10 p.m. For tickets and a full list of participating locations visit fabuloushillcrest.com.

MOMologues  
Opens Friday, Dec. 12

Different Stages presents this play about the ups and downs of motherhood. The performances promise to be edgy, funny and true. The show runs through Dec. 20 and again for two nights on Jan. 9 and 10. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays, and at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturdays at The Hall at Swedenborg (1531 Tyler Ave., University Heights). Tickets start at \$10. For more information visit differentstages.biz.

Coastal-themed art reception  
Wednesday, Dec. 17

This artist reception will feature the work of Laura Cunningham, which is on exhibition at Woods Real Estate Services (930 West Washington St. #1, Mission Hills) through Jan. 15. Cunningham has 25 canvases on display featuring sepia tone photos of local shorelines as well as yardstick frames, hand stitching and other items. Pieces are priced from \$100 - \$500. The reception is from 6 – 8 p.m. For more information on the artist visit lrcunningham.com.

Third Thursday in North Park  
Thursday, Dec. 18

Each month restaurants, bars and shops in North Park run specials for Third Thursday. The website, 30thstreet.org, will list specials prior to the event and you can also keep up on social media via facebook.com/thirdthursdaynorthpark. It's a great chance to walk through the neighborhood and check out spots along the way, while saving a little money.

## RECURRING EVENTS

## Mondays:

**Singing Storytime:** 1:30 p.m., learn what's going on inside your baby's mind, strengthen your bond and sing songs together at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

**Open Mic Night:** 7:30 p.m., the mic is open to you at Lestat's Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Lestat.com.

## Tuesdays:

**Curbside Bites:** 5 – 8:30 p.m., gathering of gourmet food trucks at 3030 Grape St., South Park. Curbsidebites.com.

**"Grab a Mic":** 6 p.m., an open mic night hosted by singer/actor Sasha Weiss. Sign ups at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m., Martinis Above Fourth, 3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest. Martinisabovefourth.com.

**Tasty Truck Tuesdays:** 6 – 9 p.m., Smitty's Service Station hosts several food trucks under their well-lit shade structure, 3442 Adams Ave., Normal Heights. Sdfoodtrucks.com.

**Open Mic Charlie's:** 7 – 10 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccacoffeehouse.com.

## Wednesdays:

**Trivia:** 7 p.m., free trivia competition for prizes, tournament for \$1,000. Drink specials during trivia range \$3 – \$6. Wang's North Park, 3029 University Ave., North Park. Wangsnorthpark.com.

**Wednesday Night Experience:** 7 – 8 p.m., uplifting and spiritually inspiring experiences for all, weekly at Universal Spirit Center, 3858 Front St., Hillcrest, love offering requested. Universal-spiritcenter.org.

**Young Lions Music Series:** 7 p.m., each week features a new "young rising star" chosen by Gilbert Castellanos. Castellanos will also join in during the first set, the Expatriate Room, Croce's Park West, 2760 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, \$5 cover. Crocesparkwest.com.

**Wednesday Jazz Jam Session:** 7:30 p.m., Gilbert Castellanos hosts the Jazz Jam Session with special guest musicians at Seven Grand, 3054 University Ave., North Park, free. Sevengrandbars.com.

## Thursdays:

**Gentle Yoga for seniors:** 2:45 – 3:45 p.m., presented by The Center and Silver Age Yoga Community Outreach (SAYCO) at The San Diego LGBT Center, 3909 Centre St., Hillcrest, free. Thecentersd.org.

**North Park Farmers Market:** 3 – 7 p.m., in the parking lot behind CVS at 32nd St. and University Ave., North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

**Kornflower's Open Mic:** Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., open mic (no poetry or comedy) 7 – 10 p.m. Family friendly event at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccacoffeehouse.com.

**Kirtan Musical Meditation:** 8:15 p.m., chant and sing contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3287 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, donation requested. Pilgrimageyoga.com.

## Fridays:

**Preschool Storytime:** 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

**Fridays on Fifth:** 4 – 9 p.m., various restaurants and bars offer discounts and specials for a social hour on Fifth Avenue between Washington Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Hillcrest. Fridayson-fifth.com.

**Cinema Under the Stars:** 8:30 p.m., Classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Tickets start at \$15. Topspresents.com.

## Saturdays:

**Old Town Saturday Market:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

**Golden Hill Farmers Market:** 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill, free. Sdmarketmanager.com.

**Children's Craft Time:** 10:30 a.m., at Mission Hills Library, 925 Washington St., Mission Hills, free. Library92103.org.

**Melodies in Balboa Park:** 1 – 5 p.m., the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory ensembles fill Casa del Prado with classical music, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sdys.org.

**Comedy Heights:** 8 – 10 p.m., local comedians take the stage next to Twigg's Coffeehouse at 4590 Park Blvd., University Heights, free. Comedyheights.com.

## Sundays:

**Hillcrest Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., under the Hillcrest Pride Flag, Harvey Milk and Normal streets, free. Hillcrestfarmersmarket.com.

## HOLIDAY EVENTS

December Nights  
Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6

The largest free community festival in San Diego will take place for the 37th year in Balboa Park. Select museums will be open for free from 5 – 9 p.m. each night. Other highlights of the event include tasty multicultural cuisine, live entertainment on multiple stages and unique shopping opportunities. Adult beverages will be available in limited areas, including a beer garden at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. There promises to be many activities and attractions for kids — including the chance to meet Santa and his elves. Friday night's festivities are from 3 – 11 p.m. and 12 – 11 p.m. on Saturday. Visit balboapark.org/december-nights for a full schedule and list of participating museums.

San Diego Women's Chorus  
presents: 'Home Is Where the Heart Is'  
Saturday Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7

The SDWC's annual winter concert will be lead by new Artistic Director Kathleen Hansen, and will feature a diverse, globe-spanning program including traditional choral pieces, festive holiday carols and contemporary selections. Tickets range from \$15 – \$20. Showtimes are 2 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 6, and 4 p.m. on Dec. 7 at St. Andrew's By the Sea Episcopal Church (1050 Thomas Ave., Pacific Beach). Visit sdwc.org.

Holiday Walkabout  
Saturday, Dec. 6

The quarterly walkabouts in South Park invite attendees to visit local bars and eateries, enjoy live entertainment and shop at local businesses. The Holiday Walkabout, from 6 – 10 p.m., will also feature roaming carolers, holiday-themed treats and festive holiday lights. The Luminaria season kicked off recently with South Park businesses decorating and lighting their establishments along with the installation of a unique, eco-friendly holiday tree sculpture in Grape Street Square. Businesses participating in the walkabout (from Kalmia to Beech streets along 30th and Fern streets) will feature specials, extended hours and more. For more information

visit southparksd.com.

We Care at Rich's in Hillcrest  
Sunday, Dec. 7

The sixth annual "We Care" holiday mixer will be held Dec. 7 at Rich's San Diego (1051 University Ave., Hillcrest). Several local LGBT sports leagues come together each year to hold the event, including San Diego American Flag Football League, SD Hoops Basketball, San Diego Tennis Federation, SAGA Ski/Snowboarders, Armada Rugby, SD High Rollers bowling league and America's Finest City Softball League. Representatives will raffle off prizes from their respective leagues, with 100 percent of raffle ticket sales going to The San Diego LGBT Center and Memorial Prep Middle School in Barrio Logan. The event is free, but guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for the Imperial Court's Toys for Kids drive. Between raffles there will be live entertainment. The event kicks off at 6 p.m. Visit the "We Care at Rich's" Facebook page for more information.

Sacha Boutros and Jonathan Karrant in 'A Holly Jolly Holiday'  
Tuesday, Dec. 9

Two local favorites perform holiday classics at this annual show at Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest). The singers will perform seasonal favorites along with a few surprises. Tickets start at \$25 (plus \$15 food/drink minimum) Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. For tickets visit martinisabove-fourth.com.

Christmas at Our House: A Taste of the Holidays  
Thursday, Dec. 11

The Academy of Our Lady Peace presents this tasty reception and candlelight procession at their school campus (4860 Oregon St., North Park) from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Refreshments and appetizers will be hosted by local restaurants including The French Gourmet, Sabuku Sushi, Flour Power Bakery and more. Tickets are \$20 for the culinary portion of the event. Following the reception, the 7 p.m. candlelight procession will include a walk around campus to see vignettes telling the story of Advent and Christmas. The procession is free and open to the public. Visit aolp.org for tickets to the reception or to RSVP for the procession.

Sharon McNight in 'Twisted Xmas: A Druid's View of the Holidays'  
Thursday, Dec. 11

Tony-nominated performer Sharon McNight offers an alternative to traditional holiday shows at Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest). She'll perform "wacky musical commentaries" on the familiar sights of the season. Don't expect warm, fuzzy caroling. Tickets start at \$20 (plus \$15 food/drink minimum) Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. For tickets visit martinisabovefourth.com.

Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis  
Saturday, Dec. 13

The 21st annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk will kick off at 8 p.m. at Sixth Avenue and Quince Street in Balboa Park. The holiday-themed race includes a 5K-timed run and a 1K Children's Dash with the Elves run/walk activity. Participants (including pets) are encouraged to dress up in holiday attire. The Arthritis Foundation expects over 2,000 participants

see Xxxxxxx, page 29

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EVENTS

will race this year to raise funds to help find a cure for arthritis. Visit [sdjbr.org](http://sdjbr.org) for more information and to register for the race.

**Holiday on Adams Avenue**  
**Sunday, Dec. 14**

This annual community event will take place at Kensington Park next to the Kensington-Normal Heights Library (4121 Adams Ave.). The holiday celebration will include live entertainment from carolers and dancers, plus snow! Children will enjoy the chance to play in the winter wonderland along with doing crafts in the designated area and await a visit from Santa. This event is free and open to all ages. For more information visit [adamsavenuebusiness.com](http://adamsavenuebusiness.com).

**Christmas on the Prado**  
**Sunday, Dec. 14**

The San Diego Children's Coalition will hold its first Christmas on the Prado event from 6 – 9 p.m. The charity event will be held on Patios A and B at Casa del Prado (1800 El Prado, Balboa Park) and attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. The family-friendly festivities will include Christmas music and entertainment, photos with Santa Claus, artwork, and Christmas cookies with hot chocolate and cider. Visit [christmasontheprado.com](http://christmasontheprado.com) for more details.

**'An Evening of Holiday Magic':**  
**CD release fundraiser**

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

Children's Holiday Magic Project (CHMP), a local nonprofit, will host this special at Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest). The event will support the production and distribution of CHMP's annual compilation album. Each year, they create a disc with songs and stories to be given to hospitalized children during the holiday season. Their goal for 2014 is to produce and distribute 10,000 CDs worldwide. Doors will open for the fundraiser at 5 p.m., a three-course dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and entertainment is scheduled through 9 p.m. Featured performers for the night include Ashley Fox Linton, Jennifer Knight, Lele Rose, Jordan Lamoureux and Jeff Davis. President and founder of CHMP, Jeff Gelder, will act as emcee for the event. Tickets start at \$65 and are available at [martinisabovefourth.com](http://martinisabovefourth.com). For more information on CHMP and this year's compilation CD, visit [holiday-magiccd.org](http://holiday-magiccd.org).

**Chondra Profit in 'A Jazzed Up Christmas'**  
**Monday, Dec. 15**

Currently performing in The Lion King on Broadway, Profit returns to her hometown for this special show at Martinis Above Fourth (3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest). She'll perform "jazzed up" renditions of holiday favorites along with classic Christmas songs. Tickets start at \$20 (plus \$15 food/drink minimum) Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. For tickets visit [martinisabovefourth.com](http://martinisabovefourth.com).

—Email calendar items to [hutton@sdenn.com](mailto:hutton@sdenn.com).



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(left to right) Lou Niles, Tim Pyles, Andrew Rowley and Al Guerra  
(Photo by The Joelsons)

By Dustin Lothspeich

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? If my plates over the Thanksgiving weekend are any indication, the answer is “no.” And in the case of San Diego radio — more specifically, for 91.1 XETRA-FM (otherwise known as 91X) — “too much” just ain’t enough.

In early November, Michael Halloran, longtime radio disc jockey and 91X’s newly minted program director, staged a regional radio coup d’etat that took everyone

by surprise: Tim Pyles, FM94.9 radio personality and beloved host of The Local 94.9, announced he was ending his nearly 10-year tenure at the station to join Halloran and return to 91X (where he began his radio career from 1998-2004) as the new Loudspeaker host.

Loudspeaker, a weekly show (which airs on Sunday nights from 7 – 10 p.m.) features solely local music, on-air interviews and in-studio performances from San Diego artists. Now in its 26th year, it’s the longest-running one of its

kind in the region.

“I had to go,” Pyles said about his decision to switch ranks. “I was getting frustrated with a couple things, and maybe I could’ve ridden it out a little longer — but the bottom line is: [91X] is a station, and [Halloran is] a man that believes in San Diego.”

Pyles — a loveable, shiny-headed, goat-tinged character — is an instantly recognizable pillar of the local music scene with a near-constant presence at shows, a regular host of live showcases, and an on-

screen music reporter for NBC’s weekly TV show, SoundDiego. The guy is everywhere.

Admittedly, it was a shock: FM94.9’s most visible tie to the local music scene was jumping ship — and had inexplicably teamed up with his biggest adversary. Or so it would seem.

“Even though we were supposedly competing with each other, I have mad respect for [Pyles],” Halloran said. “I’ve always felt like I’ve been working with him: We share the same interests, we go to every show we possibly can go to, we’ve always been supporting the local scene — whether that’s supporting [bands] by trying to get them regular airplay or making sure local music hosts know about them ... And he needed to come home ... what he does for the community is paramount.”

Not only had Halloran teamed up with the most unlikely of comrades, he had also reached out to three other staples of San Diego music (all previous Loudspeaker hosts as well) to expand the station’s local music coverage: Al Guerra, Andrew Rowley and Lou Niles. Together, Halloran explained, they plan to expand Loudspeaker by hosting frequent live showcases throughout the county; getting out to more local shows for interviews, photos and video footage; and even visiting bands in their rehearsal/recording studios.

“Loudspeaker, to me, is what

91X is all about ... the goal is that we need, on a weekly basis — through all of these guys — an honest reflection of what’s going on the scene,” Halloran said. “I do believe there’s enough great bands in San Diego now, that it’s a much cooler place than people give it credit for.”

Indeed, the music scene — along with Loudspeaker itself — has changed quite a bit over the years. The current hording of local music gurus is just the most recent change in a long evolution for the show, and the station. What began as a recurring one-song feature called Listen To This eventually became its own two-hour show in 1988 with original host Marco Collins — who had brought the show format, and ideology, over from his stint at San Diego State’s KCR radio.

Over the next 26 years, its time slot would change, the length of the show would vary, and hosts would come and go — but through it all, one thing remained: San Diego music.

While airplay is crucial and invaluable for our city’s musicians, the station is updating its model and putting some hefty multimedia weight behind the tunes. Enter Rowley, creator, producer and editor of “A Trolley Show” — a web series that captures local and national acts performing while riding the trolley. As a former Loudspeaker host from 2008-11, he’s in a unique position of understanding the significance of not only clueing listeners in to the best music in town — but with giving artists professionally produced visual exposure as well.

“Three weeks in, and we’ve already done two video sessions here,” Rowley said. “It’s simple: Bands are here, they bring in a guitar, we throw it online on 91x.com and you’ve got content, you know? It makes [Loudspeaker] three-dimensional.”

With our city’s musical output seemingly at an all-time high, this incarnation of Loudspeaker couldn’t have come at a more fitting time. A lot has changed for San Diego music since the show took flight, and the hosts seem genuinely excited to see how far it’s come.

“I think the scene is doing really good,” said Niles, Loudspeaker host from 1990-96. “I like how the [San Diego Music Awards] have developed. I like the amount of good studios in town. NBC’s SoundDiego TV show really helps give local music an extra push, and I like that the [San Diego Music Thing] has seminars to help bands with the business end of things; more of that would be good. Expanding Loudspeaker should just bring more opportunities for local music.”

When asked about new, local standout acts, all of them started rattling off names: The Donkeys, Weatherbox, Octagrape, The Young Wild, The Burning of Rome, Schitzophonics, Blackout Party, The Gods of Science, Bak-kuda, Ed Ghost Tucker, Taurus Authority, Gayle Skidmore, Glass Spells — the list went on and on. And ultimately, that’s exactly what the San Diego music scene needs: a group of spirited individuals working together in a supportive environment with the passion, the history, and the ability to truly champion hometown musical talent.

Only time will tell, but Halloran believes they’ve accomplished just that: “The bottom line is that [Loudspeaker] has to be the best show in San Diego — and now it is.”

—Contact Dustin Lothspeich at [dustinlothspeich@gmail.com](mailto:dustinlothspeich@gmail.com) ♦

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## 5over2

Five local shows over the next two weeks



### Jen Van Tieghem

**Jessica Hernandez and The Deltas, Kera and The Lesbians, Social Club at Soda Bar**

**Thursday, Dec. 11 | 8:30 p.m. | \$10**

The headlining act for this one seem to be on the cusp of huge things. Their recent debut album, "Secret Evil," garnered a plethora



Hear Jessica Hernandez flex her pipes at Soda Bar on Dec. 11 (Courtesy Big Hassle Media)

of rave reviews, thus it is time to see Jessica Hernandez and The Deltas in a small club — while you still can. Give their tune, "Caught Up," a listen for a heavy helping of sultry vocals and retro rock style. Hernandez is equally spellbinding on softer songs like "Cry Cry Cry." Her powerful range is sure to shine in the intimacy of Soda Bar.

**Will Rice, 22 Kings, Triumph of the Wild, Radios Silent, Dave Gleason Trio at Seven Grand**

**Thursday, Dec. 11 | 8 p.m. | Free**

This is the debut of a music showcase series call "Love Thy Neighbor Presents," curated by local singer-songwriter Jessica Hull. She's



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whipped up a solid lineup right out of the gate with bands from throughout Southern California and even Baja. One mid-lineup standout is Triumph of the Wild, who were honored at this year's San Diego Music Awards for Best Local Recording. The sweet folk duo creates multifaceted numbers using their vocal harmonies, simple rhythms and everything from harmonica to tambourine. Check out their song, "Let It Go," for a taste of all the elements.

**Dead Feather Moon, The Whiskey Circle, Taken By Canadians at The Merrow**

**Saturday, Dec. 13 | 9 p.m. | \$8**

A weekend night with these three rock 'n' roll bands should be quite a party. Each band has a bit of alt-country thrown in to their style, and each know how to command a

ally, I'll be waiting for "Movers and Shakers," if they're taking requests. The Whiskey Circle, who knocked out a couple of EPs this year, also put on a great live show driven by front woman Leanna May Patterson using her pipes for tender tones and belting out big notes. Taken By Canadians will start things off with their smoldering bluesy rock numbers.

**For the Sender Holiday Show at Belly Up (Solana Beach)**

**Sunday, Dec. 14 | 8 p.m. | \$18+**

'Tis the season for holiday shows and, though this one is a little out of my neck of the woods, it certainly looks worth the trek. For the Sender is a project by Alex Woodard that has resulted in books, albums and numerous concert events. The songs are based on letters Woodard received



Dead Feather Moon headlines a rock-country extravaganza on Dec. 13.

(Photo by Garcia Borgo Photography)

room's attention. As Dead Feather Moon prepares to release their long-awaited second full-length album, I'm sure we'll get some new tunes mixed with old favorites. Person-

and the true stories of these pieces come to life in the music he has created with many talented collaborators. For this special seated show at Belly Up, he'll be joined



Alex Woodard and friends present a special For the Sender holiday show on Dec. 14. (Photo by Lee Sammartino)

by Jordan Pundik (New Found Glory), Sara and Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek), Jack Tempchin, Nena Anderson and others. The event will also raise money for the Switchfoot Bro-Am Foundation; a feel-good evening all around!

**College, Nicky Venus at The Casbah**

**Sunday, Dec. 14 | 9 p.m. | \$12**

Dance party! Local electro-pop artist Nicky Venus' music instantly conjures up fuzzy memories of '80s synthpop and British new wave music. The title track from Venus' latest album "Little Runner" should win favor with fans of Pet Shop Boys, OMD, Erasure and anyone along those lines. The style is well matched with headliner College (aka French electronica artist David Grellier) who also makes music in the synth-heavy nostalgic vein. Don't expect to sit down for this one.

—Got a band worth talking about? Email [Jen@sd cnn.com](mailto:Jen@sd cnn.com). ♦

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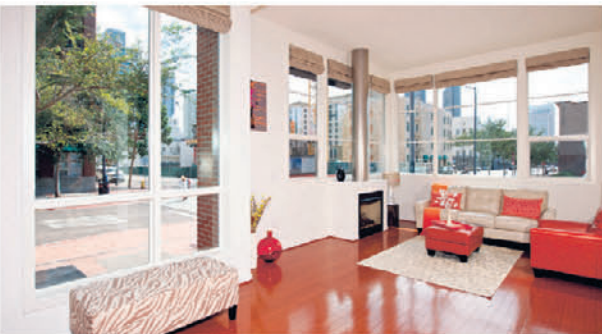
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**SAN DIEGO - 501 8th Avenue #111**  
The Mark townhome easy access off street through secure gated entry. Approx 1,700 SF, 2BD/BA with Entertainer's kitchen. \$949,000  
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**MISSION HILLS - 3109 Hawk**  
Fantastic investment opportunity with canyon view in South Mission Hills. Single family home, currently used as duplex. \$725,000  
Windermere | Little Italy 619-501-5300



**POINT LOMA - 3633 Nimitz**  
Completely renovated 3BD/2BA. New stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops, travertine & hardwood flooring. \$649,000  
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**LITTLE ITALY/DOWNTOWN - 1501 India Street, Unit 301**  
2BD/2BA, home in the heart of Little Italy. Newer wood floors, arched doorways, custom paint & lighting. Represented buyer. \$565,000  
Manny Rosas 619-248-2516



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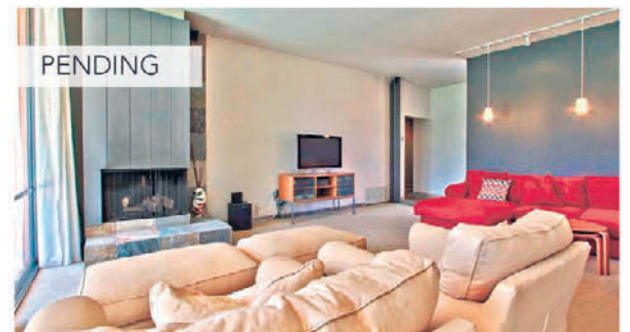
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