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Masters of the meat

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Contact Us

Editorial/Letters

619-961-1952 hutton@sdcnn.com

Advertising 619-961-1958

mike@sdcnn.com

www.sdcnn.com San Diego Community News Network



Hillcrest's proposed parklet would occupy an unmetered space on Park Boulevard in front of Heat Bar & Kitchen. (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

Tactical urbanism for Hillcrest, anyone?

By B.J. Coleman

When strategic planning cannot provide new outdoor public space, what are city dwellers craving open-air gathering sites to do? One solution comes under the rubric of "tactical urbanism," in which individual residents and local businesses join forces to create their own small-bore outside areas, by bumping out sidewalks into existing street parking slots. These scaled-down takeovers of pavement for people's use are known as "parklets."

San Diego is a relative newcomer in placing parklets to increase free space for public use. Nationally, the first reported parklet was an unapproved

temporary demonstration project in San Francisco in 2005. Organizers fed coins into a couple of parking meters, and then rolled out sidewalk extensions and fake grass to repurpose the square footage of street as an outside-seating and passive activity area. San Francisco has now progressed to adopting formal guidelines for parklets, which provide such amenities as seating, planting, bicycle corrals, and art, and are funded and maintained by adjacent businesses, residents and community organizations but made publicly accessible and open to anyone.

The city of San Diego has an ongoing pilot proj-

see Parklet, page 19

Observatory San Diego: the new jewel of North Park

By Dustin Lothspeich

North Park, meet the Observatory.

The new year was ushered in for San Diego in a huge way on Jan. 6, when news broke that The North Park Theatre and its adjoining restaurant, West Coast Tavern, were being sold to the owners of the massively successful Observatory Orange County music venue in Santa Ana.

The 86-year-old theater and the restaurant were previously owned by David Cohen, Bobby Jones and The Verant Group, which also owns several other popular San Diego locales such as Uptown Tavern (Hillcrest), Sandbar Sports Grill (Mission Beach), Tavern at the Beach (Pacific Beach), True North Tavern (North Park), as well as Ginger and Barley Mash (both Downtown), among others.

The details of the sale, which were finalized on Thursday, Jan. 15, were not made public by press time, but according to a press release, the decision to sell the theater and its restaurant was a tough one to make.

"Both of these venues are near and dear to us," Cohen said in the release. "But I know that under this particular new ownership, both establishments will reach new levels of success, and that is not only good for the businesses themselves, it will greatly benefit the community of North Park as a whole."

Cohen and his fellow investors had actually purchased The North Park Theatre

see Observatory, page 17





A new flag will now fly at the iconic North Park Theatre. (Photo by Marissa Mortatti)

Fight against South Park **TargetExpress** continues

By Dave Schwab

A grass-roots community group and a nonprofit grocers association have joined forces to oppose a TargetExpress store proposed to go in the remodeled Gala Foods site on the corner of Grape and Fern streets.

Community activist group Care About South Park and Mark Arabo, CEO of the Neighborhood Market Association (NMA), are lobbying against Target's proposal, claiming the corporation's plans threaten area small businesses.

We don't want [Target] there," said South Park spokesperson Sabrina DiMinico, who added community opposition isn't anti-Target.

"I shop at Target," DiMinico said. "But we don't want a Target in South Park."

DiMinico said South Park is a community that has nurtured its local businesses from the ground up. She argued the addition of a corporate store like Target, which is publicly traded and primarily beholden to stockholders, poses a threat to the neighborhood.

When large-format retailers come in, they drastically change the community and have negative impacts, taking dollars out of our local economy," she said. "Our preference is to have an independent grocery store in there and we know that some are interested."

Arabo agreed.

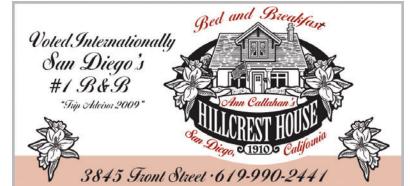
"The NMA represents smallbusiness owners throughout California, and many of our members sit directly in South Park," he said. "They will be adversely affected if a TargetExpress moves forward. This is something we need to stop, or at least limit, to protect familyowned businesses.

Arabo said Target has no interest in protecting small business in South Park.

"The small-business owners and neighbors have defined a unique image within the South Park," he said. "Target threatens to not only hurt business owners, but the very personality of this amazing community. There are also additional concerns with traffic in the area."

The property owners shut down the Gala Foods business in mid-Oc-

see Target, page 17







































































































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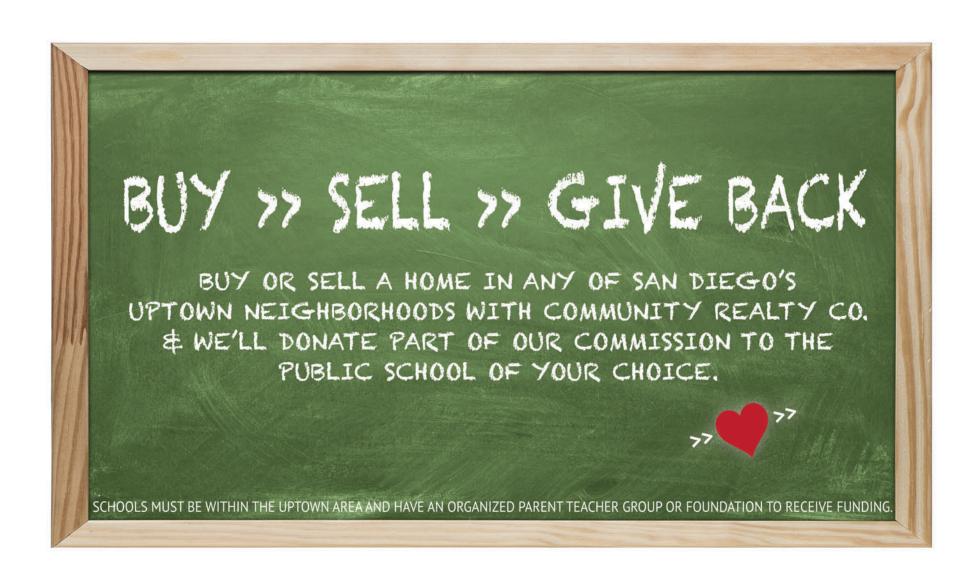
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SCRIPPS HOSPITALS PUT INTERIM VISITOR RESTRIC-TIONS IN PLACE TO PROTECT AGAINST FLU

On Jan. 12, Scripps Hospitals implemented several visitor restrictions at their five hospital sites in San Diego County aimed to protect against the spread of H1N1 influenza. The interim restrictions — issued in response to rising flu rates — went into effect at Scripps Mercy San Diego, Scripps Mercy Chula Vista, Scripps Memorial La Jolla, Scripps Memorial Encinitas and Scripps Green in La Jolla.

The restrictions include the following:

All visitors will be screened. Visitors displaying symptoms of flulike illness will be asked to leave.

Children age 14 and under will not be allowed in the hospital unless they are patients receiving treatment or have appointments. This includes lobbies, dining facilities and common areas.

Patients will be limited to a maximum of four visitors per day.

Exceptions may be allowed by infection control and department supervisors for special circumstances.

For more information, visit scripps.org.

CONGREGANTS FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS TO BEAUTIFY BALBOA PARK ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

On Monday, Jan. 19, leaders and members of local Christian,

Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian congregations will work together to clean and beautify Balboa Park in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. outside the Marston House (3525 Seventh Ave., Balboa Park). Following an opening ceremony at 9:15 a.m., the groups will clear and haul brush, clean flowerbeds and plant items. The groups have been gathering together for this event for several years; last year over 500 volunteers participated.

Live music will accompany a complimentary picnic of hot dogs and chips afterwards for participants starting at 11:30 a m

For more information and to register as a volunteer visit fumesd.org/MLKDAY.

HRC AND SAN DIEGO YOUTH SERVICES TEAM UP FOR MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE EVENT IN NORTH PARK

HRC members and volunteers will gather at The Lafayette Hotel (2223 El Cajon Blvd., North Park) on Sunday, Jan. 18 to collect donations and assemble care bags for LGBT homeless youth served by San Diego Youth Services. They will be collecting donations from noon – 2 p.m. and assembly of the bags will be from 2 – 4 p.m.

Items needed include:

New and unused thick socks and underwear, athletic clothing, and shoes

Unopened travel-sized toiletries including toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, chapstick, lotion and wet wipes

Disaster kits

NEWS

Drinks and nonperishable snacks

Diapers, baby clothing, strollers, car seats and booster seats Arts and crafts supplies

Blankets, pillows, sheets for twin/full beds, towels, pots, pans and cooking utensils

Hats and gloves

Bus passes, phone cards, electronics, gift cards and batteries

For more information visit hrc.org/sandiego and visit volunteersignup.org/XRMB8 to sign up for a shift.

GLORIA PROPOSES CHANGES TO REFERENDUM PROCESS

San Diego's voter referendum system is ripe for abuse and needs reform, according to City Councilmember Todd Gloria.

Citing the business community's successful drive to postpone the city's minimum wage increase and push it to a public vote in the 2016 primary election, Gloria wrote in a memo to City Council President Sherri Lightner that "corporate interests" are using their deep pockets to "buy results that could not be attained through the public legislative process."

Gloria said he would like the City Council to consider supporting reforms, including placing limits on the use of paid signature gatherers; raising the number of signatures needed for a referendum to qualify; requiring signature gatherers to tell the truth when soliciting signatures; requiring earlier disclosure of information on

see Briefs, page 9

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Grand prize winner Melisa Cebrero and Natasha Torki of Beauty by Dolly (Photo by Megan Gamwell)

Shop Hillcrest winners announced

HBA gives away more than \$2,000 worth of local goods

and radio promotions," said Megan

Gamwell, HBA marketing and com-

This campaign really helps

munications program manager.

to create a cohesive holiday

spirit in the neighborhood and

brings business owners closer to

Morgan M. Hurley | Contributing Editor

During this past holiday season, as is the case every December, the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) encouraged people to bring their dollars to Hillcrest to do their shopping.

Encouraging potential customers to "give to your neighborhood and give your neighborhood the opportunity to give back to you," they launched SHOP Hillcrest, an annual promotional contest that is always a win-win with shoppers and local businesses alike.

Starting on Nov. 24, each visit to a participating Hillcrest business gave shoppers an entry into the Shop Hillcrest raffle contest. The more they shopped, the more raffle tickets went into the drawing and the more opportunities they had to win. There was no limit on the number of shopping days or entries, as long as the visits occurred by Dec. 24.

"Participating businesses received advertising opportunities in a subsidized Shop Hillcrest co-op page in local publications, Facebook, Twitter and online promotions, marketing collateral





Second place winner Elena De La Rosa of Hillcrest (Photo by Megan Gamwell)

adding that businesses were also given unique shopping bags to share with their customers, decorative holiday stickers for their storefronts and "Shop Hill-crest for the Holidays" posters to mount in their windows.

The list of this year's participating HBA businesses included Pure Barre, The Smooth Bar, Empire House, Adam & Eve, Village Hat Shop, Green Fresh Floral's, Americana Clothing, Cody's Home + Gift, Obelisk Mercantile, Establish, Crest Café, Gioia's Room, Urban Optiks Optometry, Uptown Tavern, Detour Salon, Babette Schwartz, Luigi Vera, Urban Mo's, Baja Betty's, Gossip Grill, Hillcrest Brewing Company, Local Habit, Purity Apothecary, 100 Wines

Kitchen, Artist and Craftsman Supply, The Wine Lover, Pretty Please, Mankind, Blue Stocking Books and Beauty By Dolly.

Many, if not all, of these businesses also donated prizes to the winning shopping spree basket.

"We received more raffle tickets this year than ever before, which leads me to believe we saw more shoppers," Gamwell said. "A few of the businesses we have spoken to reported an increase in sales due to the campaign."

Raffle tickets were color coded so that the businesses where the winning ticket was sold could be notified, much like the California Lottery.

The drawing, which was done by lottery and conducted Jan. 7 at the HBA's offices at 3702 Fifth Ave., #202, bequeathed more than \$2,000 in gift certificates and other retail goods from local Hillcrest businesses to two lucky shoppers.

After pulling the winning names, Gamwell said she then alerted the two businesses where the tickets were purchased so they could contact their customers directly and congratulate them on their win.

"I believe that connecting the winners with the business own-

ers is a great way to build strong relationships in our community," Gamwell said.

Melisa Cebrero won the big grand prize: a shopping spree worth more than \$1,700. Her ticket came from Beauty by Dolly, a threading and waxing salon for men and women located at 3650 Fifth Ave., #101.

The Serra Mesa resident, who said she has never won a raffle before, only entered the drawing once, while purchasing salon services for herself. She frequents Hillcrest regularly because of its proximity to her home.

"We dine there often and Dolly's is my favorite salon," she said. "The employees in the businesses are always very friendly and fun. I'm definitely excited to try a business that participated that I haven't been to before."

Second place — \$500 worth of gift certificates and prizes — went to Elena De La Rosa, who made her purchase at Babette Schwartz, a gift emporium located right under the Hillcrest sign at 421 University Ave.

For more information about this annual holiday event, visit ShopHillcrestfortheHolidays.com.

—Reach Morgan M. Hurley at morgan@sdcnn.com.◆







EDITORIAL

2015: leading San Diego forward

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

I have been looking forward to 2015 since I began representing District Three on the City Council six years ago. This year will spotlight the centennial celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park with festivities, programs and legacy improvements like the reopening of the California Tower. It will also focus on a host of important city issues that I'm eager to make progress on with the continued participation of San Diegans.

The City's first priority will always be the safety of our citizens. We must do all within our power to ensure the dedicated men and women of the San Diego Police Department are compensated at a level

that reflects their hard work and retains their experience for the protection of our neighborhoods. This is the most significant short-term challenge facing us, and I believe we must tackle it early in 2015.

Whether I'm at the grocery store or dry cleaners or just checking Twitter, the biggest frustration you continue to share with me is the condition of our streets and sidewalks. In recent years, we have begun to chip away at this problem.

Road repairs have ramped up and the first ever assessment of San Diego's sidewalks is nearly complete, but we must do better. I have serious concerns with the lack of a comprehensive solution to this multibillion dollar infrastructure problem that is the biggest long-term challenge facing us. As the Chairman of the Council's Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, I will schedule hearings to draw attention to this matter throughout 2015.

Xxxxx

(Xxxxx)

Infrastructure investment, improvements to our purchasing and contracting processes, increasing our Equal Opportunity Contracting achievements, and ensuring fiscal discipline as our finances continue to improve top the list of my Committee's priorities.

Before we have the opportunity in June 2016 to approve the minimum wage increase I championed, I will pursue the application of California's new earned sick leave law to the hundreds of hourly City employees that do not currently have this benefit. Allowing seasonal lifeguards, library aides, recreation center staff and others that regularly interact with the

public the ability to take time off when they are ill is the right thing to do for our workers and for protecting public health.

Last year I led the City to make significant reforms to our homelessness programs. The changes we made focused on reallocating our limited resources to results-oriented programs proven to move people off the streets and into housing.

In 2015, I will monitor and report on the efficacy of these programs and continue to build relationships between service providers, government, businesses, philanthropists, and the public to leverage additional resources to achieve our goal of ending homelessness in San Diego. While we still have a long way to go, we will not give up on this effort until we meet our objective.

As a new member of the Environment Committee, I look forward to the approval and implementation of San Diego's Climate Action Plan that is based largely on the plan I authored when I served in the Mayor's office.

In the meantime, giving San Diegans more options than driving remains critical. Making our transit system a high quality transportation option with more efficient service like the Rapid and the addition of Wi-Fi to some Rapid buses,

and adding safer pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the City are changes I anticipate this year.

I also foresee the passage of a standardized parklet policy that will encourage development of creative public spaces in San Diego, a regulatory relief measure aimed at helping small and startup businesses, and updating the City's non-discrimination language to ensure San Diego's policies reflect tolerance and respect for all people.

Since joining the City Council in 2008 and through my service as Council President and Mayor, I've tried my best to move San Diego forward to leave the City I love better than I found it. I'm proud of the accomplishments we've achieved together and can't wait to celebrate more for you in 2015.

—Todd Gloria represents the San Diego City Council's third district. He has served as Council President and Interim Mayor and is serving in his last term as a councilmember, which will end in February of 2016. For more info, visit sandiego.gov/ citycouncil/cd3.



Constructive construction criticism in Normal Heights

I was pleased to see the Uptown News report on the proposed construction projects on the Adams Elementary school campus and adjoining joint-use park space [See Vol. 7, Issue 1, "Normal Heights weighs in on new school facility"]. I am writing this letter to the editor as a private resident of Normal Heights and not in any official capacity. What I am saying here does not have the endorse ment of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group, and the opinions expressed are solely my own. Because the truth is, I have a personal interest in this project. We all have personal interests in this project. The community members have an interest in shared-use park spaces, homeowners have an interest in the effect of local schools on property values, business owners have an interest in community development and usable assets, and most importantly, parents and teachers have an interest in developing a safe and welcoming learning environment for their children.

There have been at least eight public meetings concerning the proposed projects to overhaul the entire Adams Elementary campus, including those held by the school district, the Normal Heights Community Planning Group, and the Adams Avenue Business Association. I have attended these meetings wearing all my different hats, as a community member, as a property owner, as a planning group member, but most importantly, as a parent of a student on the school campus. I was personally disappointed at the level of attendance at these meetings, the whole community is affected by the local school facilities and everyone should be informed and involved in these decisions.

As noted in the article, the biggest community concerns voiced at the meetings have been with loss of already inadequate park space, be it official or de facto public space. One way to begin to remedy this deficient park situation would be for the city to complete the original plans for Ward Canyon Park, which include a 24,400-square-foot dog park [See Vol. 5, Issue 18, "Workshop" prioritizes Normal Heights improvements"], increasing the park space in Normal Heights and effectively freeing up the Adams joint-use space ("illegal dog park") for safe human use. The addition of an official dog park would also benefit our children and teachers who have to cope with off-leash dogs and their byproducts on school property during school recess time. Other concerns brought forth at the many public meetings were over the deteriorating bungalow classrooms which the school district is planning to replace, the proposed height of the fence and trying to balance student safety with a welcoming school and public environment, and lack of parking for teachers in an already parking-deficient area.

Nevertheless, I doubt anyone would argue that the Adams Elementary campus desperately needs facilities improvements. The students from both Adams Elementary and San Diego Global Vision Academy (SDGVA) are currently attending classes in deteriorating "temporary" portables, some that are over 50 years old, my own child included. The environment does not inspire learning and is not healthy for the students. The plan to replace the portables with new state-of-the-art classrooms is essential to the success of our students and, in turn, our community as a whole. There will be additional public meetings about these school construction project details, and Normal Heights residents need to come out to voice their support and concerns. While all the stakeholders involved seem to want different things from the project, in the end I really hope we all want a campus that will inspire our children, facilitate learning, and be appre-

see Letters, page 19

Uptown News

123 Camino de la Reina. Suite 202 East San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 519-7775 Twitter: @SD_UptownNews



PUBLISHER

David Mannis (619) 961-1951 david@sdcnn.com

EDITOR

Hutton Marshall (619) 961-1952 hutton@sdcnn.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Morgan M. Hurlev. x110

Jeremy Ogul, x119

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Jen Van Tieghem, x118 jen@sdcnn.com

COPY EDITOR Dustin Lothspeich

CONTRIBUTORS

B.J. Coleman Dave Schwab Frank Sabatini Jr. Lucia Viti Michael Good Carol Williams Joshua Bonnici

ART DIRECTOR

Vincent Meehan (619) 961-1961 vincent@sdcnn.com

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Todd Kammer, x115 Suzanne Dzialo

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Mike Rosensteel (619) 961-1958 mike@sdcnn.com

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Sloan Gomez (619) 961-1954 sloan@sdcnn.com

Frank Lechner (619) 961-1971 Frank@sdcnn.com

Andrew Bagley, x106 Karen Davis, x105 Lisa Hamel, x107 Kyle Renwick, x116 Yana Shayne, x113

ACCOUNTING

Priscilla Umel-Martinez (619) 961-1962 accounting@sdcnn.com

WEB DESIGNER

Kim Espinoza kim@kespinoza.com

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The bike share cometh

The Spoken Word
Hutton Marshall

Hark! San Diego's longawaited bike-share program has at last begun installation throughout the city.

Regardless of the fact that it's being installed over a year late, it's undeniably exciting that San Diego can now join the ranks of other environmentally friendly cities relying on — and profiting off of — the practical, semi-stylish beach cruisers of Decobike, the company overseeing, implementing and doling out \$8 million for the program.

As 2014 came to a close, more than 180 solar-powered stations began popping up around San Diego's most populated, tourist-friendly areas — neighborhoods with words like "park" and "beach" in the name — and soon 1,800 Decobikes will fill them.

For San Diegans, they'll provide quick, clean transportation around Downtown, Uptown and the beach neighborhoods. Tourists will get the same, but they'll probably ride their bikes to somewhere crummy like TGI Fridays. But really, while Decobike expects the majority of ridership will come from locals, a greater portion of revenue will come from tourist usage. The pricing system favors memberships over one-time usage fees.

The first 1,500 people to sign up for Decobike will get their annual

Standard Membership for \$99, which saves you \$26. That gets you unlimited 30-minute rides and divides out to about \$8 a month, for those who left their calculators at home. The Daddy Warbuckses among us can pay about \$200 and spring for the Deluxe Membership, which allows for unlimited 60-minute rides. You could also forego a membership and

forego a membership and just grab a Decobike and go, but that costs \$5 every 30 minutes.

City employees, in addition to the early birds, will also get a membership discount. This bends my spokes just a little bit, because it seems like if you're going to give discounts to a large group of people – such as the sizable workforce of the city of San Diego — you might instead give it to those who see even the \$99 membership as an unaffordable expense.

I asked Decobike representatives about this, and they deflected me back to the fact that Decobike is a privately owned company making the sole investment in installation and operation. Well, so is New York's Citi Bike, which manages to offer \$150 memberships to low-income users at almost one-third of the price.

So sure, a private company is never obligated give out discounts, but so long as it is

doing so (i.e. to generally wellpaid city employees), it could perhaps choose those recipients in a way that doesn't feel like a greasing of palms.

Now that we've got the math portion out of the way, let's get to the subject that really gets our bike bells ringing: Decobike station locations.

Decobike's logo will soon be a familiar sight around town. (Photo by Mark Morgan/flickr)

Decobike's website features an interactive map of all currently approved Decobike station locations. The majority of the stations will be located in Downtown and Uptown, the denser commercial neighborhoods where usage can be counted on.

Many — myself included — have wondered aloud if it might

be preferable to put those sleek Decobike stations in places like El Cajon or southeastern San Diego, where the program might offer respite for the carless and public transportation-dependent. Those probably wiser than I answered that building in the developed, tourist-friendly neighborhoods first is necessary to prove the program's economic viability, allowing it to expand into the surrounding area.

While Decobike appears to be proactive about updating the

station map to reflect current stations approved and installed, representatives have been surprisingly tight-lipped about the process of approving proposed stations, and where such proposed stations might be.

Through research, observation and sending pestering emails, I've gleaned a few things about the process. (1) Decobike is installing stations in small sections at a time, in either community planning zones or popular thoroughfares. (2) This allows Decobike the ability to present proposed stations to individual community planning groups one at a time. (3)

Stations seem to be placed in commercial districts with high pedestrian traffic, bike-able streets and close proximity to other stations and, thankfully, to public transportation.

What was unclear in my communications with Decobike was the impact community planning groups have on station

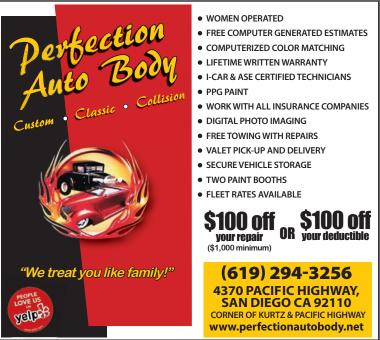
locations — if any. For instance, the North Park Planning Group voted to move or add stations to put more stations north of El Cajon Boulevard than Decobike was recommending, in order to connect North Park stations to those along Adams Avenue (right now I've only heard of two proposed on Adams Avenue). Decobike wouldn't say whether or not they would follow the North Park planners' recommendation, instead saying that they would worry about El Cajon Boulevard before looking at Adams Avenue.

I'll admit it's understandable that Decobike would be bogged down during this hefty installation process, but bros: Please put a station at Adams Avenue and 30th Street. While I'm making wild demands into my megaphone, Kensington, whose planning group has yet to hear from Decobike, should get a station too.

While I have my gripes about the lesser details about the program, Decobike is an almost wholly positive addition to our city. With it, bicycling becomes a little closer to the heart of our city's operations. Public transportation becomes a viable option for many. Biking to a favorite dive on Friday night no longer means locking your dearly beloved out on a dark street corner. For some, it even means finally learning to ride a bike without having to purchase one. This is a step closer to making San Diego the green city it should be, and you better believe I'll be one of those first 1,500 signed up.

—Contact Hutton Marshall at hutton@sdcnn.com.◆







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Late-night howls





(I to r) The "late-night burger" and Lazy Dog's house blonde ale (Photos by Dr. Ink)

Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

Rarely does this drink "doctor" gravitate to chain restaurants to imbibe. The crowds, the rug rats and the cramped bar lounges filled oftentimes with standing consumers waiting to dine are a buzzkill.

But I take exception to Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar, located in the hectic Westfield Mission Valley shopping plaza.

The Orange County-based chain has only one location in San Diego, which offers a bar area that is spacious and comfortably separated from the main dining room. Granted, the place attracts hordes of fans for lunch and dinner. Although if you get there for its second happy hour of the day (9 p.m. to midnight), Lazy Dog's ski-lodge atmosphere feels highly conducive for throwing down a few libations. The shoppers have all gone home

Restaurant & Bar

1202 Camino Del Rio North
(Mission Valley)
619-481-6192
Happy hour: 3 to 6 p.m.,
Monday through Friday; and
9 p.m. to midnight, Sunday
through Thursday

by then. And the kiddie birthday parties have come to a halt.

The food and drink deals are neatly organized and available when sitting on any of the redleather stools or chairs throughout the bar area. In both categories, a number of options are available for \$3, \$4, \$5 and \$6.

Drinks at the top rung cater to the cocktail set. They include decent concoctions like cucumber-mint martinis, strawberry margaritas and Stoli Vodka on the rocks. In a past visit, I tried the pomegranate martini, which to my liking tasted tart and

RATINGS

DRINKS: TITIT

Lazy Dog's house beers, crafted in Los Angeles, are as flavorful as any made by our local, leading brewers. Their blonde ale offers a fuller flavor than most. A variety of discounted cocktails are also available, including an above-board pomegranate martini.

FOOD: TTTT

The portions aren't huge, but nor are they miniscule. Quarter-pound burgers are char-grilled and the Buffalo chicken nuggets served over blue cheese slaw didn't taste like they came from a box.

VALUE:

You'll save about \$1 on most drinks, and a few dollars more on certain food items such as ahi poke, chicken lettuce wraps and the "late-night burger.

SERVICE: TYYY

The staff is young and perky, if not a bit ingratiating, but hardworking and efficient nonetheless..

DURATION: YYYYY

Two happy hours are offered on most days of the week, allowing you to dodge the daytime crowds when visiting between 9 p.m. and midnight

boozy rather than candy-sweet.

At the low end are 16-ounce commercial drafts featuring your usual Coors and Bud lights. Yet for only a buck more, the \$4 house beers served in the same quantity, such as blonde ale, stout, Hefeweizen and IPA, are inarguably the way to go.

Lazy Dog's craft beer recipes are executed by Golden Road Brewing, an eco-conscious company considered one of the largest craft breweries in Los Angeles. The blonde ale I tried recently offered a judicial hint of fruitiness with a tinge of dryness and fresh malt extracts. It's an engaging choice even if you're partial to darker beers.

Imported drafts, lemon drops and rum and Cokes occupy the \$5 category.

From the happy-hour food menu, I combined my blonde ale with the \$5 "late night burger" — and without any up-charge for melted jack cheese on it. I've also tried the Buffalo chicken nuggets (\$4) served over a bed of blue cheese coleslaw. Both dishes were commendable, and I came away each time shortly before the clock struck midnight with a bellyful of booze and sustenance for under \$10.





FROM PAGE 4 BRIEFS

the financing of signature gathering campaigns; allowing proponents and opponents to observe the signature verification process at the county Registrar of Voters office; and updating and clarifying language in the city's municipal code regarding referenda.

In response to Gloria's announcement, Ryan Clumpner, executive director of the conservative Lincoln Club of San Diego County, wrote a commentary for Voice of San Diego that described the proposal as a nebulous plan to "make the process so difficult and cumbersome that no one will ever have the means to challenge the Council majority again."

Lightner has not yet announced whether she will add a discussion of Gloria's proposal to the agenda of the City Council's Charter Review Committee.

UPTOWN RELAY FOR LIFE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Relay For Life of San Diego Uptown recently released a call for volunteers to assist with varying tasks in advance of the June 27 5K promoting cancer prevention and treatment. The nonprofit also seeks several motivated individuals to serve on its Event Leadership Team, a planning committee for the event. Other volunteers are needed to make phone calls, searching for sponsors, managing social media pages, or maintaining the event's website. Volunteers of all ages, schedules and capabilities are accepted.

Relay For Life is a worldwide fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. Created in Tacoma, Washington, in 1985, more than 5,000 Relay For Life events now take place across 20 countries. American Cancer Society estimated it has raised nearly \$5 billion from the event to date.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Katie Foster at 619-682-7423 or Katie.Foster@cancer.org.

SDHS TAKING NOMINATIONS FOR 3RD ANNUAL 'ANIMAL COMPASSION AWARDS'

This summer, the San Diego Humane Society (SDHS) will once again honor people and businesses for extraordinary acts supporting animals in San Diego County. The nonprofit organization is asking for nominees that have "demonstrated an exceptional level of compassion towards animals."

Nominations are open through Feb. 13 in twelve categories. From those categories three awards will be given: the Animal Impact award will honor how an animal has impacted a human life or vice versa; the Humane Hero award will be given to an individual, group or business that creates positive awareness of animals; and the Pet-Friendly Business award will recognize a local business that promotes and supports a petfriendly environment in one of 10 business types.

Winners will be featured in the July issue of "San Diego Pets Magazine." Nominations can be made at sandiegopetsmagazine. com/animal-compassion-awardsnomination. Visit sdhumane. org for more information on the awards and the organization.

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DINING

UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.

The 11th annual San Diego Restaurant Week takes place Jan. 18 – 24, and will feature nearly 200 participating restaurants spanning the county. Consumers can opt for three-course meals priced at \$20, \$30, \$40 or \$50 per person, depending on the restaurant, or partake in two-course lunches priced at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person. No tickets are required; simply show up at the

restaurants or call ahead for reservations. The event is presented by The California Restaurant Association, San Diego County chapter. For more a complete list of restaurants, visit sandiegorestaurantweek.com or call 619-846-2164.





Get your fried chicken fix in North Park. (Courtesy Streetcar Merchants)

(to a law office) and on Yelp (to

a dog service), the new sports bar, **Home & Away** in Old Town

is nonetheless up and running.

Launched by Dennis O'Connor,

who also owns Thorn St. Brewery, the establishment replaces

Kelly's Pub with a promising

remodel featuring wood shutters

and succulents, an inviting patio

craft beer and cocktails. A limited

food menu of burgers, wings and

grilled cheese sandwiches is also

in place, with the official grand

that's dog and smoke-friendly

and a brightened bar serving

Lines have been snaking out the door at the new Streetcar Merchants in North Park. The draws are

various preparations of fried chicken cooked in good, old-fashion beef tallow and square-shaped donuts of various flavors. Coffee drinks made with Intelligentsia blends are also in the offing.

Owner Ron Suel, a Louisiana native, said his intention was to launch "a simple donut shop" until his younger brother moved here and pointed out the lack of places serving excellent fried chicken.

"I told him that it really doesn't exist in San Diego, so I made him some using my great-grandmother's recipe and we decided to add chicken to the menu," said Suel. "It's been a crazy couple of weeks since we opened." 4002 30th St., 619-546-9010.

New Year's Eve marked the last meal served at Fish Public in Kensington, which owner Tracy Borkum of Urban Kitchen Group said in a prepared statement, "wasn't the right fit" for the neighborhood. The restaurant operated for less than two years after a successful 18year run of Kensington Grill, which Borkum closed rather unexpectedly at the time as well. She hasn't yet decided on what's next for the Adams Avenue space, but added: "We are proactively exploring various local opportunities ... and also looking at new locations to expand our Cucina collection of restaurants both in and outside of California." That collection refers to Cucina Urbana in Bankers Hill and Cucina Eno-





Courtesy Mike Hess Brewing

Midweek patrons of **Hess Brewing Company North** Park can pair their suds with pot stickers, drunken noodles and other Asian-American fare from Wang's North Park without leaving their bar stools. The food orders are delivered to Hess between 5 and 9 p.m., every Wednesday. The selection is limited, although a Wang's staffer assures that "if there are certain dishes that you know and love from us, we can do it." Hess is located at 3812 Grim Ave., 619-255-7136.



San Diego Restaurant Week

= january 18th-24th —

\$20 Lunch

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mini dessert

S40 Dinner

choose one

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Bertrand at Mister A's is celebrating its 50th anniversary (Courtesy Chemistry PR)

The landmark Bertrand at Mister A's has rolled into the New Year celebrating its 50th anniversary. Over the next several months, the penthouse restaurant will present special dishes and cocktails reflecting the past five decades, beginning with the 1960s. The kitchen is still hammering out the food details, although the mixologists have rolled out for the month of January a bottled cocktail poured tableside called the Sazerac. It's an old-time New Orleans concoction made with Bulliet Rye, Hennessy VS Cognac, bitters and an absinthe rinse. 2550 Fifth Ave., 619-239-1377.

A fifth San Diego location of **Tender Greens** is slated to open by late summer in the Westfield Mission Valley Mall, in the space formerly occupied by Loehmann's department store. Publicist Megan Boles says the menu will be the same as the other restaurants in Point Loma, UTC and Downtown, the latter of which recently debuted a first-ever breakfast menu. The eco-friendly chain also operates a smaller eatery in the San Diego Airport's commuter terminal. tendergreens.com.

Get to know the creative minds of award-winning designer Paul Basile and restaurateur Arsalun Tafazoli over cocktails as they discuss their inspirations behind some of the latest and greatest remodels they've overseen in several local restaurants. The openforum series, titled "Basile & Consortium: Absolute Adaption," kicks off at 3 p.m., Jan. 22, at Polite Provisions in Normal Heights. It continues at the same time on Feb. 26, at Ironside Fish & Oyster in Little Italy. The cost is \$30 and includes one cocktail. 4696 30th St., 619-677-3784 and 1654 India St., 619-269-3033, respectively.

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at fsabatini@san.rr.com.◆



Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.

Chalk it up to our unquenchable taste for pigs as the reason why The Whole Hog has taken such fast root since opening in November. Add to the equation our age-old love affair with smoked meats, and you end up with an operation that potentially kills fad diets adopted by anyone living too close to the place.

The small eatery sits on a can't-miss-it plot at the triangular intersection of Park Boulevard at Robinson and Indiana streets. Its modest, shed-like exterior leads into a bright dining space accented by lustrous marine wood and a smattering of tables accented with fresh flowers in Mason jars.

A chalkboard menu hangs above the order counter, where the aromas of smoked pork and fresh jalapeno cornbread renders you defenseless when deciding between Carolina and Kansasstyle pulled pork sandwiches, Cubanos and pork belly sliders or braised collard greens and blackeyed peas, both flavored with pork, of course.

Chef Graham Fleming nails the recipes (and others) with careful smoking techniques and zesty house-made sauces. His business partner, Chris McAfee, runs the front of the house while dispensing fresh-squeezed lemonade and house-brewed ice tea from glass kegs.

Fleming is currently sourcing his pork in individual cuts from a

the road he plans on bringing in a whole, butchered pig every week, at which point he'll start cranking out sausages and headcheese.

A friend and I tapped into our inner gluttons with three sandwiches and a few sides. The Carolina pork sandwich was our hands-down favorite, mainly because of the zesty mustard sauce and snappy coleslaw crowning the tender meat. Fleming says it's been the biggest seller so far. The "KC" pork sandwich was

subtler in comparison, probably because we ate it second. The tomato-based barbecue sauce carried a dash of spice and brown sugar, allowing the medium-level smoke flavor of the pork to stand on its own. A few crunchy pickle slices tucked inside bestowed tang and texture.

My companion loved the Cubano, a nicely pressed construct layered with roasted pork, ham, Swiss cheese, pickles and Dijon aioli. My only complaint was that the prosciuttostyle ham, which serves as a salty accent, was sliced too thick for my taste. Fleming said afterwards that it was a mishap and normally sliced thinner.

Other sandwich options include smoked turkey with arugula, bacon, cream cheese, pickled red onions and cranberry sauce (oh yes!). There is also a smokedsalmon BLT with tarragon mayo and a trio of pork belly sliders with Napa cabbage and Sriracha slaw. Also, ribs are available on Fridays and sometimes extend into Saturdays if they don't sell out immediately.

In the meantime, I await with bated breath the promise of a Rueben coming onto the menu in the near future. A good one is hard to find these days, although I'm betting three pigs that Fleming will turn them out with flying colors.

Side dishes are served in convenient cardboard boxes. The cheesy grits were stunningly creamy, thanks to the combined forces of Gouda and Velveeta at work. The same cheese mixture is used for the mac 'n cheese, although the sauce in that case was stiffer in comparison.

The black-eyed peas were tender and terrific. They're cooked in pork belly fat, onions and garlic, tasting true to the versions I've had in my limited visits to the South, at least to this Yankee palate originally from New York state.

Lucky for us, a batch of jalapeno bread was exiting the oven shortly after we arrived. So we got it hot enough to instantly melt the butter when applying it.

As The Whole Hog grows, Fleming also plans on creating a retail space within the eatery to sell sauces, rubs and pickled vegetables. But he's taking it one step at a time while procuring so far a well-deserved fanfare.

—Contact Frank Sabatini Jr. at fsabatini@san.rr.com.



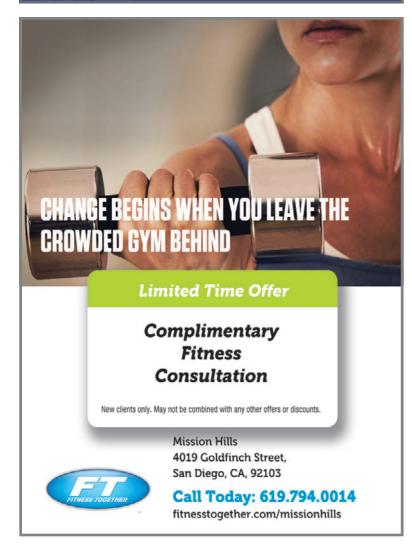




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HEALTH.

Hillcrest yoga studio aims to serve all skill levels around the clock



CorePower Yoga Hillcrest hopes to appeal to all. (Photo by Lucia Viti)

By Lucia Viti

CorePower Yoga Hillcrest thrives on its tag line, "Sweat. Savasana. Repeat. Live An Extraordinary Life."

Located in the Uptown District Shopping Center above Starbucks, the Hillcrest studio's spacious yoga room offers a wide variety — and availability — of yoga classes. Beginners, seasoned veterans and the rare guru can fit the appropriate class into even the busiest of schedules. Nicknamed Studio 19 (opened in 2007) on CorePower Yoga's nationwide brand expansion, this Hillcrest studio touts its amenities to include a brand-new heating system, new floors, spotless showers and pristine locker rooms with private lockers. CorePower also features a boutique showcasing the latest trends in male and female activewear and yoga accessories. All CorePower studios offer the first week of unlimited yoga free of charge as well as a free app to download class schedules. Classes — offered every hour on the hour from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. — cover the gamut of fitness levels and areas of expertise.

"Our teachers emphasize the importance of meeting you where you are," said Christina Heliker, managing director of CorePower Yoga Hillcrest. "Every student, regardless of one's ability, is welcomed. Success can be found at every level as teachers meet their students at their degree of expertise to not only embrace the challenge but to enjoy the process."

Heliker said CorePower teachers bring an athletic and philosophical blend of instruction to each student.

"We have a distinct blend of instructors — the experienced and the novice — who shine within our large variety of classes. Our instructors know how to tailor instructions to the needs of a beginner while spicing it up for the seasoned yogi. And each and every teacher loves teaching at our Hillcrest studio because of its local network of students. The community outside, friendly and enthusiastic, translates into the community inside making Hillcrest special."

"CorePower Yoga Hillcrest is unique because of its sense of community," said James Sullivan, a devoted Hillcrest practitioner, as well as the studio's marketing coordinator. "Students are neighborhood locals who walk or ride their bikes to class. Relationships are

see Yoga, page 14



Eunis Christensen Zumba Gold Dance Fitness 619-299-0778 TrueToMyBody.com

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Love of exercise was the greatest gift ever given to me. My first day in a group fitness class shaped the rest of my life. After that class I became a runner, natural champion body builder in the 1980s and yoga enthusiast throughout the 1990s. Along the way sharing health and fitness became so important that I earned a Fitness Instructor Certificate from the University of California, National Exercise Trainers (NETA) Group Instructor Certification, and in 2011, the American Council on Exercise (ACE) Lifestyle and Weight Management Counselor/Coach certification.

During my fifties, though, work-stress and caregiving duties interfered with fitness and I gained 50 pounds over a seven-year period. Now I am happy to say that with a return to exercise, particularly Zumba classes, and careful attention to diet, I have lost those 50 pounds and maintain a healthy weight.

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see Fitness, page 13

HEALTH & FITNESS

FROM PAGE 12 **FITNESS**

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Dr. Jeffrey Keeny, D.D.S. 1807 Robinson Ave. San Diego, CA 92103 619-295-1512 | drkeeny.com

Dr. Keeny practices general dentistry with a heavy emphasis on cosmetic treatments. His practice also offers implants, crowns, white fillings, prevention, sports dentistry and children's dental services.

According to Dr. Keeny, "our patients are our friends." He is surrounded by various specialists, including a team of four hygienists, and has a customer support staff that offer exceptional service.

When he is not offering exceptional dental services, Dr. Keeny is an avid athlete who has completed 10 ironman triathlons. He has done fundraising for varying HIV/AIDS prevention programs as well as the Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF), where he has bike-trekked from San Francisco to San Diego to raise over \$30,000 for the foundation in the past two years.

Dr. Keeny has also been a member of the Greater San Diego Business Association (GSDBA) and has many other involvements that continue to help make a progressive difference in the comThe Laser Café **1205 University Ave** San Diego, CA 92103 619-795-8303 info@thelasercafe.com

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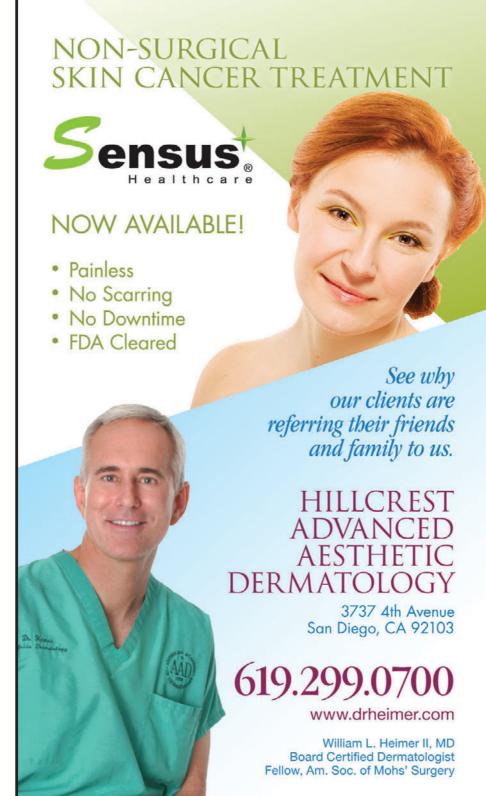
B12 plays a critical role in proper energy metabolism, immune and nerve function. It helps with asthma, iron deficiency, depression and impaired mental health among many others.

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see Fitness, page 14









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THEALTH OF FITNESS

FROM PAGE 12 YOGA



Although it caters to Western crowds, CorePower retains the Eastern roots of yoga. (Photo by Lucia Viti)

manifested, cultivated, and sustained from the consistency of sharing their practice. And because the retention rate at Hillcrest is so high, instructors and students share an intimacy with their growing practice. Specific, individual feedback — as compared to general instruction — allows students to stay consistent and competitive in order to deepen their practice."

According to Sullivan, the practice of CorePower is based on acceptance. "Instructors don't expect everyone to be on the same wavelength," he continued. "There are no obligatory rules or repercussions to perform each posture. There is no intimidation. Students are encouraged to give themselves grace,

latitude, and flexibility."

"I'm passionate about creating an open, encouraging, and fun environment for my students," said teacher Alyx Walkinshaw. "I creatively sequence my classes to guide students to explore the depth of their practice. By keeping things ever changing, I allow my students to explore a new intensity. If students leave empowered by their inner wisdom, strength and voice, I'm successful."

CorePower offers its classes based on the needs of its students. While several classes follow a consistent template, others allow instructors to remain flexible with their design. All instructors choose their own music. CorePower also offers one of the largest and most well attended teacher trainings in the country. Trainings are geared to potential teachers and students wishing to deepen their practice.

"I fell in love with CorePower Yoga Hillcrest the minute I walked into the studio," concluded Heliker. "My inspiration comes from the amazing people of Hillcrest."

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—Contact Lucia Viti at luciaviti@roadrunner.com.◆

Christina Heliker of CorePower Yoga (Photo by Vince Meehan)

FROM PAGE 13 FITNESS

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(left) A Nathan Rigdon Prairie House in Mission Hills; (right) a pillar of the community: a Nathan Rigdon signature (Photos by Michael Go

Sometimes the Wright way is sideways

Are there Prairie Style houses in San Diego? You betcha

House Calls

Michael Good

If you were intending to be a groundbreaking architect at the turn of the 20th century, there were basically only two ways you could go. You could go up, or you could go sideways.

Those were the choices available to Frank Lloyd Wright at the end of the 19th century as he pondered how to make his mark in the world. Wright's mother had groomed him to be a great architect pretty much from conception. From his father, a musician and minister, Wright had received the soul of an artist and the desire of a preacher to convert the unenlightened to his point of view - if not in matters of morals, at least in matters of style.

In short, he was a young man with big plans. He just had to choose a direction.

As often happens, the decision was made for him. "Up" had already been taken—by the Victorians, who had pretty much ruined it with their towers and spires and aspirational Queen Annes. And by Louis Sullivan, Wright's mentor, who was already making his mark on the world by designing ultramodern skyscrapers in the city of

the future, Chicago. So Wright zigged where others had zagged. He went sideways where others had gone up. He eschewed the straight and narrow in favor of the wide and open. He combined the ground-hugging tendencies of the little house on the prairie with the austerity and discipline of Japanese vernacular architecture and created something entirely new and modern. For six years he let Sullivan focus on the commercial side of the practice while he took the residential side, until Sullivan fired him

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for designing "bootleg" houses behind the master's back. This freed him to develop his "new idea in architecture," the "organic" house. And Wright did it with such assurance and élan that he captivated the popular mind and inspired a generation of like-minded men and women of vision and daring. Together they put the final nail in the coffin of the Victorian and transformed the landscape of America. They created the Prairie Style. And it made Frank Lloyd Wright famous.

Living here in the Far West as we do, it's natural to ask: What exactly is Prairie Style? First and foremost, it is horizontal. The Prairie is built low to the ground, like its namesake. That groundhugging impression is enhanced with artistic effects: hipped roofs, bands of wood or glass, earthy materials and colors that draw the eye not up but sideways.

Historians tend to approach house identification as if they were in a duck blind cataloguing the various bits and pieces of a rare specimen. So the official definition of Prairie is a list of details. Put them all together and you'd have a Frankenhouse, but we'll list a few of them anyway. Among the hallmarks of the style: unpretentious low-pitched roofs with deep sheltering eaves; secluded entrance; simple and hospitable front door; exteriors of stucco or brick; walls in earthen hues, sometimes

LAURIE SHAW

619.459.3115

LaurieShawSanDiego@gmail.com

relieved by wooden banding or stick work; interior walls that act like "screens," transmitting light and air; casement windows placed in bands; art glass; and an open, flowing floor plan.

Are there Prairie Style houses in San Diego? You betcha. But the men and women who built them here were not exactly checking off a list of attributes as they sat at their drafting tables. They were drawing (literarily and figuratively) from the philosophy, design ideas and stylistic elements of the Prairie in creating their own version of the modern, practical, unpretentious Southern California house. Historians may call these regional builders "imitators" - or even worse, "poor imitators" but they were creating useful, practical, realistic modern houses for the San Diego lifestyle. Wright often had to twist his clients' arms (or deceive them) to build what he wanted, and those experiments were often beautiful failures that didn't suit the clients' needs or lifestyles and didn't hold up over time.

San Diego's Prairie Style houses have endured, however, and remain popular and practical as ever today.

There are four built by Nathan Rigdon in a cluster on Arguello Street in Mission Hills that will be the subject both of a lecture on Jan. 17 and a walking tour this spring. Of the many San Diegans who built Prairie School influenced houses, Nathan Rigdon is



particularly celebrated because he did it so well. Rigdon used bands of double-hung windows, hipped roofs, deep eaves, large roof brackets, porch walls with heavy caps and, inside, either a band of wood casing that circles the room at window height or a heavy, coved, built-up crown molding to emphasize the horizontal. Unlike Wright, he embraced classical design with his molding arrangements and porch pillars (which are sometimes Greek in style and proportion). Rigdon also favored octagonal columns, which he incorporated into the breakfronts and fireplaces and as room dividers in the flowing floor plan.

In the 1920s, Rigdon and other San Diego builders moved on to other styles. Some historians call Prairie Style short-lived. But 20 years is a pretty good run for a fashion style, particularly one that had no precedent and sprung whole from the collective minds of a couple dozen 20th-century trendsetters. For Wright, the houses we call Prairie were just part of a

continuum of "organic " houses that included the Textile Block houses he built in Los Angeles, Falling Water in Pennsylvania and his many "Usonian" houses.

After World War II, architects and builders regrouped, embracing low-cost housing, mass-produced materials, and productionline building techniques. And they again turned to Wright for inspiration. The low-slung horizontal house with the flowing floor plan reemerged in the form of the California Ranch House, which swept the nation and became the most popular house style in American history. San Diegan Cliff May is often called the father of the ranch, and is sometimes credited for being one of the most prolific California architects of the 20th century. But Frank Lloyd Wright remains the world's bestknown architect, and the Prairie Style House is his most appealing and practical creation.

The Prairie Style: From the Midwest to Mission Hills" takes place on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 12 – 4 p.m. at the Francis Parker Lower School, 4201 Randolph St., 92103. Tickets are \$10 each or \$15 for two. I'll be discussing Prairie Style interiors, the "enclosed space within" that Wright called "the reality of the building." Kiley Wallace will cover the history of the style, and Ron May will talk about Prairie Homes located in Mission Hills. If you find yourself looking at your home in a new light and wonder if it might be a Prairie, send me a photograph at housecallssdun@gmail.com. If you're quick about it, I may include your house in my illustrated

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Celebrating the 'King of Instruments'

Civic Organist News Dr. Carol Williams

Editor's Note: This is an introductory piece from Dr. Williams who, based on her advocacy as our Civic Organist, will be contributing a column to San Diego Uptown News throughout the year.

As my dad drove me home one rainy night from one of my hundreds of organ performances in the U.K., I looked out the car window at Stonehenge and wondered where I'd be in 20 years with my chosen career path. At the time, I was a teenage organ scholar who first began performing concerts at eight years old.

Many years later, I was again gazing out through a rainy window thinking of that night. I was on an aircraft preparing to land in San Diego. I could see the Spreckels Organ Pavilion all lit up. I was an international concert organist with a doctorate in music wondering how my audition for the San Diego's Civic Organist job would go.

It went well. The plaque in the pavilion now reads, Carol Williams, Civic Organist, 2001 – present.

San Diego has had a Civic Organist perform organ concerts once a week for the past 100 years. A city organist is a comparatively rare breed in the world today, probably even an endangered species.

I am often busily engaged composing, transcribing and arranging music to play on the organ. Very little repertoire that can be tolerated by the masses is composed for the "King of Instruments." These tasks, along with programming and planning, can be challenging on a weekly basis, but I've got it down to an art. The repertoire needs to be varied, yet enticing, sophisticated and popular. Otherwise you may end up with only 10 people left in the audience and they'll all be texting.

I love to collaborate with other musicians of all genres and ages to provide our audience with a well-rounded musical experience. The pipe organ has had a kind of stigma attached to it and part of my passion is to educate and broaden people's awareness. I love and play all kinds of music and even though I was classically trained, as a youngster I would be scolded for playing jazz on the church organ.

This job is, of course, far more than just programming and playing. It is essential to establish a fun relationship and connect with the audience. This is a major part of a successful performer and something I really enjoy. I want the audience to have a new respect for the pipe organ and be glad they attended the open-air concert in Balboa Park.

I am also artistic director of the Spreckels Organ Society, and in that role, I work hard with volunteers from the Spreckels Organ Society, musicians, composers, park institutions and others in producing all the ongoing efforts to bring a special festive atmosphere to our organ and Balboa Park, including the Centennial Celebration Concert this past Dec. 31.

My ambassadorship also extends internationally, as I always introduce or remind my audiences of San Diego's great Spreckels Organ. I was recently selected as one of eight artists to perform at the 10th anniversary concert for the Walt Disney Concert Hall organ, and as is usually done at my "away concerts," I was introduced as San Diego's Civic Organist.

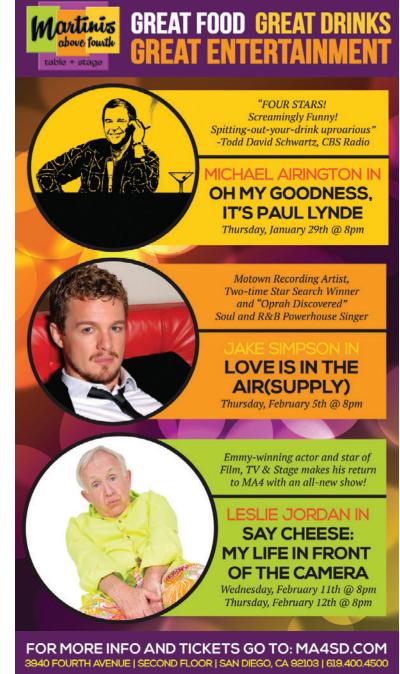
BALBOA PARK

Our great instrument was talked about to that audience; Russian, European and the Far East audiences all have been informed of our majestic beast. This very large box of whistles is a part of me now and I am honored and blessed to be a part of San Diego's history — both its past and future. Those of us privileged to serve in this civic position today, around the world, are the heirs of a rich inheritance.

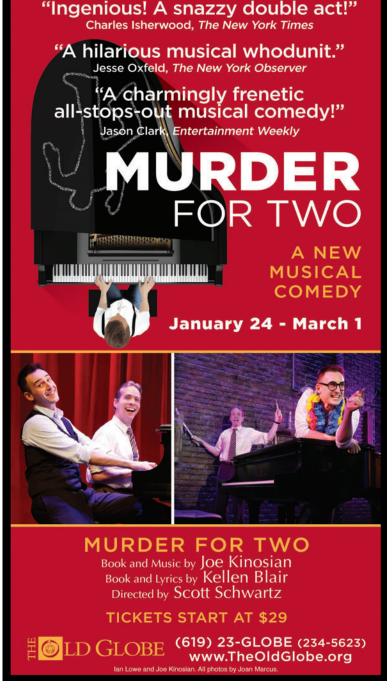
I am always open to cultural and musical explorations that involve the pipe organ and look forward to opportunities to bring it to new audiences. I hope to see some new faces at our Sunday concerts at 2 p.m.

Please stop by the Organ Pavilion and say hello to me after a concert if you have a chance.

—Civic Organist Carol Williams is proud to serve as an ambassador of San Diego's arts and culture arena. Through her concert performances at home and abroad, Carol offers a fresh take on the classical organ concert. She is committed to illuminating San Diego's colorful romance with the "King of Instruments," always seeking to bring the organ to new audiences. For more information visit sosorgan.com.







FROM PAGE 1 TARGET

tober and leased the existing building at 3030 Grape St. to Target Corp., which plans to reopen it in July 2015 as a TargetExpress, a condensed version of a typical Target store.

On his Facebook page, Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents South Park on the City Council, said he's met with Gala property's owners to discuss their lease with Target and their future vision for the parcel.

"After operating Gala Foods since 1988, they decided, for financial and personal reasons, that they no longer could continue and put the building for lease," Gloria said. "While they understood the desire of the community for specific retailers, the two interested companies that were prepared to enter into a lease were Rite Aid and CVS."

During lease negotiations, Gloria said he was told by property owners that Target arrived with an unsolicited proposal to lease the land and building for a new concept that was going to fit into the current building and provide grocery and pharmacy services.

"Based on the interested applicants, property owners believed this was the best opportunity for the community and better met the needs of current customers," Gloria said, noting Target signed a lease with the property owner.

Gloria added that the property owners are responsible for maintaining the lease agreements with the other current tenants on the site: Captain Kirk's, Marisco's Seafood and the recycling center. The three locations and the Gala Foods property itself were cited late last year for 14 city code violations. Outstanding violations must be resolved prior to a new business operating on the Gala Foods site.

Gloria also said the lease with Target does allow for the property owner to control the northern portion of the site. Property owners have also expressed interest in constructing an additional commercial building on the northern portion of the site, but such plans are still preliminary, according to the architectural company hired by the property owners.

Target is committed to partnering with local community, business and political leaders, as well as neighborhood groups, and keeping them informed as we move forward with our South Park TargetExpress store," said Target spokesperson Kristen Emmons. "The TargetExpress store format is designed to fit into the communities that surround the stores, and part of ensuring that happens is listening to our local guests. While we are still in the early stages, what we've heard from the South Park community has already influenced our plans for the store.'

Emmons said some of the new Target store's features will include:

· A wider assortment of basic hardware supplies, an unmet community need

· Locally commissioned artwork inside the store

· A Starbucks inside the store, acknowledging that a local coffee cart is a popular neighborhood fixture and a gathering place for residents

· Organic produce sourced from California whenever possible

· Maintaining the building currently on the property

"Based on feedback from the community, we will not make architectural or structural changes to the exterior of the building, and will make updates to the interior," Emmons said. "We will play up the building's natural light by removing the existing window blinds. Additionally, once the store opens, we will continue to apply things we've learned from the

community, such as adding baking supplies, belts and sunglasses based on guest feedback."

"There's nothing we can do to hold them to any of the promises they've made," said DiMinico, adding Target has not been forthcoming enough with their research data on how the new development will impact traffic in the neighborhood.

"We were blindsided by this whole thing happening," DiMinico continued, noting the project is coming in under the radar and hasn't been properly publicly vetted. This is a business that's going to come in and drastically impact this community, bringing increased traffic and really changing a lot of things about the neighborhood.

"Granted, it's private property, but the community has the most at stake here. We should have a say in what happens in our neighborhood."

Arabo of NMA said it's not too late to change Target's plans.

"Measures can always be put in place to stop a corporation from entering a small neighborhood," he said. "But, a community must unify and stand behind the principle of preservation to do this. I-ve partnered with Care About South Park to do just that. To unify the community, and work to create a South Park free from corporate influence and interest."

Arabo said numerous smallbusiness grocers have attempted to purchase the Gala Foods location.

«What I want is for South Park to maintain its uniqueness, its image,» he said. «Any small independent grocers would fit right into the natural landscape of the neighborhood."

Discussing Target opposition's next move, Arabo said, "Whatever it may be will have the entirety of South Park for support. Our work has only just begun."

—Contact Dave Schwab at dschwabie@iournalist.com.◆

FROM PAGE 1 OBSERVATORY

in September 2013 and, by June of last year, had unveiled a remodeled interior with an expanded 1,100-person standing-room floor — and a calendar that included big name artists such as The New Pornographers, Rodriguez, Lykke Li, and Ronnie Spector among others. Last year, they claimed they were planning on booking over 100 shows in 2015.

Somewhere along the line, the people behind Santa Ana's Observatory decided they wanted a slice of the North Park pie. William Lopez, principal at PR firm Alternative Strategies (which represents The Verant Group), said the new owners plan to make the transition as seamless as possible, with the previously scheduled shows booked by The North Park Theatre still going forward, and the West Coast Tavern (and its employees) expected to stay on. Nearly all of the theater's staff was rehired by Observatory, said Lopez.

"[The West Coast Tavern] will remain as it currently operates — same name, same staff and same concept," he said.

The surrounding commercial district began reaping the benefits of The North Park Theatre's relaunch as soon as it started hosting live music last year. North Park Main Street Executive Director Angela Landsberg said the venue's been a boon to the area.

"There's been an incredible revitalization in that node of the community, and you can attribute that to the theater," Landsberg said. "There's been an increase in retail sales, and there's also been more interest by tenants wanting to come into this area."

The North Park Theatre's revitalization came at a time of rapid business growth in the North Park area, centered nearby around the intersection of University Avenue and 30th Street. Landsberg explained that the theater clearly wasn't sold because of disappointing ticket sales or due to investors' withdrawal from a sagging economy.

"This wasn't a fire sale," she said. "Somebody saw an opportunity and wanted to put down this kind of money in our area. And let's be real: This is not chump change."

Admittedly, it seems like strange timing — the theater recently hosted sold out shows by Ms. Lauryn Hill, Flying Lotus, and Yellowcard and has already sold out future shows for TV On The Radio (April 1) and Neutral Milk Hotel (May 28). But the new owners possibly saw a venue — and community — that had proved to be profitable and popular during its six-month run.

When the theater re-opened its doors last year, it did so with the help of talent buyer extraordinaire Tim Mays — who

owns The Casbah— and aside from booking his own club, also presents shows all over San Diego at venues such as the Belly Up Tavern, Soda Bar, The Hideout and The Irenic.

His involvement was crucial, but it looks like now he'll play a rather less pivotal role in booking from here on out. According to Lopez, the Observatory North Park won't need a whole lot of help on that front.

"The new company will be doing their own booking. [Mays] does have the option to book shows there though — so, in essence, if he has a show he wants to book at Observatory North Park, and they don't have something booked on that date, they will work with him to book the show. But, they wanted to buy the building because they have the ability to book it themselves."

Observatory Orange County has established itself as the go-to venue of national touring acts between Los Angeles and San Diego. The venue hosts nightly shows on its main stage and in its smaller adjoining Constellation Room, so it's no stretch to say San Diegans will have a lot of shows to choose from with an Observatory location in town.

"If you were to look at the calendar from last year, the majority of the shows at The North Park Theatre were also booked at the Observatory Orange County. It's a natural extension, and it's a natural progression of artist's tours to come here now. There were only 80 shows at The North Park Theatre, but under Observatory North Park, there will be over 200 shows in 2015. That's double the shows, and they'll be covering a lot more genres."

The Observatory in Santa Ana routinely plays home to several multiple-day festivals a year such as Burgerama (this year's lineup includes Weezer, Ty Segall, Black Lips and Bone Thugs-N-Harmony), Psycho California Fest (which includes Earthless, Russian Circles and Pallbearer), the Indigo Music Festival (including The Melvins, Rocket From the Crypt, and Deafheaven) and the huge, annual Beach Goth festival curated by The Growlers. What are the odds that those festivals or others make their way down to the North Park location now? Better than they were before, that's for sure.

Like many music fans around the county, Lopez was upbeat about the sale, and added that the new ownership isn't looking to re-haul the venue and its strategy: "They're trying to keep as much as they can in place because they obviously saw how well it was doing. They're not trying to fix something that, ultimately, wasn't broken."

—Contact Dustin Lothspeich at dustinlothspeich@gmail.com.◆



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Uptown's Sudoku **Puzzle**

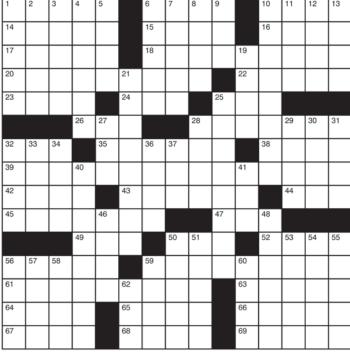
Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

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Answer key, page 20

Uptown Crossword

Self-Interest



CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

ACROSS

- 1 Cremona violin-mak-
- 6 House: Sp. 10 Religious obser-
- vance 14 Electrical unit
- 15 Heraldic bearing
- 16 Pelvic bones **17** Air
- 18 Preceding
- 20 Began again
- 22 Pries 23 Danish weight
- 24 Superlative suffix
- 25 Nasser's bailiwick 26 Irish exclamation
- 28 Snares
- 32 West, of Hollywood
- 35 To some extent 38 Sleep: prefix
- 39 Self-told tales 42 White: prefix
- 43 Black Sea port
- 44 New: prefix 45 Shells
- 47 Explosive letters
- 49 Ovid's art
- 50 Contend
- 52 Biblical verb

- 56 Theater
- 59 Smoothing agent
- 61 Noels
- 63 Winged
- 64 Ladd
- 65 Rake
- 66 Of course: L.
- 67 Revolters, for short
- 68 Incite 69 Fall flower

DOWN

- 1 Ahead 2 Puzzles
- 3 Got up
- 4 Hindu books
- 5 Thought
- 6 Egyptian Christians
- 7 Arrest: Fr.
- 8 Vehicle 9 US Army in Europe
- 10 Candy stick: var.
- 11 Region in south Greece
- 12 Ennead
- 13 Labels
- 19 Of the body: abbr.
- 21 Get-togethers
- 25 Not savored
- **27** Adam's
- 28 Goes wrong

- 29 Money unit
- 30 Sword 31 Fair-to-middling
- **32** Ale
- 33 Musician Leopold
- 34 Small case
- 36 Whale groups **37** Era
- 40 Eight-sided figures
- 41 Spider, e.g.
- 46 Russian city
- 48 Greek philosopher
- 50 Uncertain
- **51** Put in 53 Separated
- 54 Seven: It.
- 55 Cornerer
- 56 Mark
- 57 Story
- 58 Bedouin
- 59 Elitist
- 60 South American
- rodent
- 62 Gershwin

Answer key, page 20

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FROM PAGE 1 **PARKLET**

ect studying the installation of parklets. Councilmember Todd Gloria, whose District 3 includes Hillcrest, has parklets on his mind for 2015. Gloria states, in his predictions for the new year, "I also foresee the passage of a standardized parklet policy that will encourage development of creative public spaces in San Diego.'

Katie Keach, deputy chief of staff for Gloria's office, expands further, "Councilmember Todd Gloria is committed to the implementation of a formal parklet policy this year. I understand staff expects to have it complete this spring. That will be helpful for parklet proponents like those in Hillcrest."

She noted that the city considers these projects "temporary pedestrian plazas," and that they must be readily removable at city request.

"Councilmember Gloria sees parklets as opportunities for community-led creation of public gathering spaces," Keach said. "The policy will provide neighborhoods with clear guidelines and a clear process to follow so more great projects can result.'

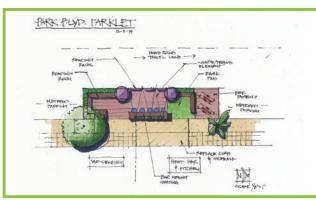
San Diego's small set of existing parklets are confined to Downtown,

Little Italy and North Park. The Beautification Committee of the Hillcrest Business Association (HBA) has taken notice of how this handful of small spaces has re-energized nearby neighborhoods. Eager to rebrand what the HBA considers its business district's "dying" image, the organization is considering plans for the community's first parklet, likely to be installed on Park Boulevard outside Heat Bar & Kitchen.

Sam Khorish opened Heat in early 2013, and he sees real need for a parklet there. At the HBA Beautification meeting, he spoke softly and shook his head when describing the area's elderly residents walking past his restaurant, traversing to and from Hillcrest high-rise senior housing complexes to shop at the Sprouts market. The seniors on foot tire easily, he explained, and he is happy to welcome them to sit on his outside patio for a brief rest. He said he often provides them free bottles of water.

But he worries about some who do not stop because they are reluctant to intrude on his business when not paying to dine. A parklet for the public, where residents could linger at their leisure, would increase safety, convenience and community engagement for these seniors and other nearby residents as well.

About a month ago, Khorish contacted landscape architect Michael Douglas Brennan to enlist his assistance with a design plan for the site. Brennan was delighted to have "the right opportunity" for creating the first parklet in Hillcrest. The en-



Proposed design for the first Hillcrest parklet, adjacent to Heat Bar & Kitchen on Park Boulevard (Courtesy Michael Douglas Brennan, Carson Douglas Landscape Architecture.)

visioned area covers two unmetered parking spaces — which translates into no objections over lost city revenue from not collecting parking meter fees.

Brennan put thought into the healthy cultural habits favored by locals, and local seniors, in particular.

"We should remember we're all going to get older, if we're lucky, and we should create spaces that work for us that way," he said.

His design sketch provides for a parklet with seating to give seniors respite, as well as a bike parking area, a pet feeding and watering station, and a reading room complete with a lending library for book-sharing throughout the neighborhood.

Brennan further explained the intent behind the design. The interesting, pleasing appearance of the parklet should serve as a traffic-calming device, encouraging motorists to drive slowly and carefully to enjoy the scene, rather than zipping along the street corridor. The speed limit along that stretch of Park Boulevard is currently 35 mph.

Good design also assists people with maintaining healthy practices, by fostering relaxation, physical activity and mental exercise, said Brennan.

This increases neighborhood involvement too," he said.

How much will this cost, and how is this to be paid for? Khorish said he will commit funds and fundraising efforts. He said he has been in discussions over possibilities with the HBA.

At the Beautification meeting, Benjamin Nicholls, executive director

of the HBA, said he foresaw no difficulties with obtaining waivers and permission from the city of San Diego, but he asked not altogether rhetorically, "Where will the money come from?" HBA members have concluded that "a reasonable budget" for the parklet will be upwards of \$20,000, and could run as high as \$30,000 to cover all construction costs. Permitting fees for the project will be \$1,200. Khorish is willing to host movie nights, with a 6-foot screen, to bring in money for the project. The area parking district might be agreeable to

adding in as much as \$5,000, because sidewalk and curb repairs are already needed at the site.

"This won't make the cash register ring," Khorish admitted. His restaurant will not be able to serve customers there, under current pilot project guidelines for parklets. Moreover, his business will be responsible for maintaining the parklet's conditions. "Sam is really about investing in the neighborhood and giving back," Brennan said of Khorish. And a parklet is about taking back a little piece of the public right of way for everyone to enjoy.

-Contact B.J. Coleman at Barshajo@aim.com.

FROM PAGE 6 **LETTERS**

ciated by the entire community. Can we please all work together with the school district to make this campus a community asset for our children?

-Caroline McKeown Normal Heights Resident Homeowner and SDGVA Parent

Editor's note: Caroline McKeown is currently serving as the chair of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group board. Though as she elucidates above, the opinions expressed in her letter are not endorsed by the board. The following two letters are also NHCPG board members writing of their own volition.

Editor:

Thank you for your coverage of our school and parks dilemma here in Normal Heights. We constantly hear about the inadequate infrastructure in our older neighborhoods. Now, given an opportunity to address the situation at John Adams Elementary, both the school district and the city seem to have no interest. The district proposes to pile buildings onto a small and inadequate site, and the city doesn't even choose to get involved in the discussion.

Neither seems to even be willing to brainstorm solutions, although many thoughtful ideas have emerged from the community. In the meantime, the site remains deficient for educational purposes, the little league can't find a way to fit their games in, parking is insufficient, and government entities watch and do nothing.

We hope that we elect people to serve the community interest, but sadly, they seem to care more about their political careers than they do serving the public. The school district has cared in the past, I wonder why they aren't listening anymore. Neither pay much attention to their own policy documents, which spell out the inadequacy of our neighborhood, facility-wise, and offer remedies. Curious.

—Gary Weber, via email

Full disclosure: I am on the board of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group, but am writing the Uptown News as a resident, home owner, and taxpayer. I enjoyed your recent article on the NHCPG's Ad Hoc Schools Subcommittee and would like to add my voice to the discussion. You are probably aware by now that Normal Heights is severely challenged by a lack of park space for recreation. What we do have is minuscule, and we don't want to lose more to the construction of these two new schools. I hope every effort will be made to save not only park space but also some old, magnificent trees while still building the new school facilities.

—Suzanne Ledeboer, via emailw◆

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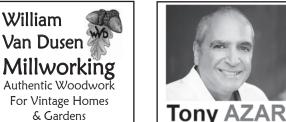
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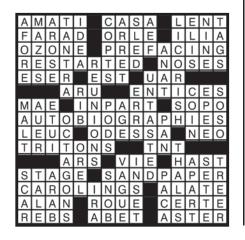


PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku Puzzle from page 18

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8	9	6	4	5	7	2	3	1
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7	5	1	8	9	2	6	4	3
3	8	9	6	7	4	1	2	5
6	2	4	5	1	3	9	8	7
2	1	5	7	4	9	3	6	8
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Self-Interest Crossword from page 18



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Do pedestrians always have the right of way?

Ask the Attorney

Joshua Bonnici

"My boyfriend and I were crossing the street one night, and a driver yelled at us. After that, I tried to research it and was confused. Do pedestrians really have the right of way all the time?"

Thank you for your question, Tina. My office gets flooded with potential cases where people are stuck by cars and injured. These are some of the most contested cases by insurance companies, and often require decisions by juries.

To start, while my tone is casual and jokes may be corny, none of my suggestions should be taken as legal advice, nor does it create any attorney-client relationship. However, I will point out some local codes and ordinances for you to weigh your options in order to peacefully remedy your situation.

I am here to give you the answer attorneys love to give to open-ended questions: It depends. In fact, the saying that "the pedestrian always has the right of way" is just that: only a saying and not law. Unfortunately, the law on the topic is a bit confusing and not as straightforward as one would think.

Everyone is familiar with the pedestrian crosswalk at a traffic light or stop sign. The law requires cars to come to a complete stop (at a stop sign or red traffic light), and because of the stopping requirement, any pedestrians wishing to cross the street may do so.

But, what if there's a marked crosswalk, but no stop sign or traffic signal "controlling" the area? What about when no designated crosswalk is visible? Should the motorist be responsible? In California, the law describes both the responsibilities of the pedestrian, and the motorist. However, they are not as cut-and-dry as people think.

Let's start with some law: "The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. The driver of a vehicle approaching a pedestrian within any marked or unmarked crosswalk shall exercise all due care and shall reduce the speed of the vehicle or take any other action relating to the operation of the vehicle as necessary to safeguard the safety of the pedestrian" California Vehicle Code 21950(a & c). Sounds reasonable enough, and you probably knew that. But, as we know, there are crosswalks that are not at intersections, where there is no need for a motorist to stop other than for a pedestrian.

But what responsibilities does a motorist have if a pedestrian is crossing? Ultimately, a motorist must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk (marked or otherwise).

Now, the law that comes into play often in late-night street crossings: "No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard" CVC 21950(b). But what does "so close as to constitute an immediate hazard" mean in the real world? 10 feet? 10 yards? 100 yards? Again, it depends. What is the speed limit for the area? Is it a controlled crosswalk? What are the weather conditions? There are many factors that come into play when assessing whether a pedestrian may share fault with a motorist.

On the other hand, if a pedestrian is crossing a roadway where there is no intersection or crosswalk, the responsibility is on the pedestrian. CVC 21954(a) reads, "Every pedestrian upon a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles upon the roadway so near as to consti-

tute an immediate hazard." But, the law doesn't let drivers off the hook completely. Section (b) of the same section states that "the provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of a vehicle from the duty to exercise due care for the safety of any pedestrian upon a roadway.'

Because of the ambiguity of the laws, cases where pedestrians are injured after being struck by a vehicle are difficult, and the parties often share liability. Specific facts such as how many times a pedestrian looked for oncoming traffic, the visibility on the day of the accident and the speed of the motorist and a host of others all come into play for an investigation into the responsible party.

Moral of the story? Whether you are a pedestrian enjoying your latte on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in La Jolla, or a motorist driving to a business meeting Downtown, make sure to be aware of your surroundings. Only enter the street or cross a crosswalk when it is safe to do so. There are many distractions in our beautiful city of San Diego, so stay focused and get where you are going safely!

What more information California pedestrian laws? Take a quick read through CVC 21949-21971 for more laws governing several more scenarios.

-Joshua Bonnici is the managing attorney at Bonnici Law Group, APC, a Downtown civil litigation firm specializing in representing injury and disability victims. He spends his time representing local families and individuals, as well as riding his bike and walking his dog around his Hillcrest home. Feel free to reach out with specific questions: 619-259-5199 or josh@bonnicilawgroup.com.





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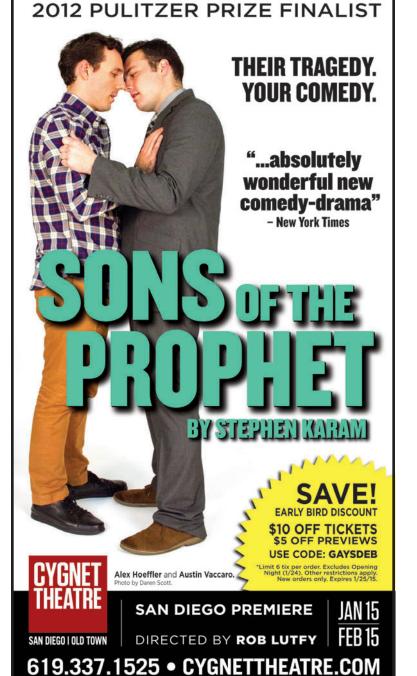
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CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

RoosaPalooza Concert: "Time Travel through Classical Music" Friday, Jan. 16

This is the first in a series of concerts at Roosevelt Middle School (3366 Park Blvd., Hillcrest). AmateurPianists.org has partnered with the school for this recital/lecture, which includes four members of the group performing selections of classical music genres: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Impressionistic. There will also be a narrative portion and Q&A before each piece. The show is free, but donations to benefit the school are welcome. Pre-concert activities (campus tours, student string quartet, coffee and snacks, student slideshow and more) begin at 6 p.m. with the show at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Register for a spot at friendsofroosevelt.org/roosapalooza.html.

'Prairie Style from Midwest to Mission Hills' Saturday, Jan. 17

Mission Hills Heritage is hosting this lecture as part of their 10th annual series on architecture. A panel of local architectural historians will discuss the migration of the Prairie Style, created by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, from the Midwest to the West Coast from 1908 to 1916. Speakers include Uptown News "HouseCalls" columnist Michael

Good. The discussion will take place at Francis Parker Lower School (4201 Randolph St., Mission Hills) from noon – 4 p.m. and will include a slideshow presentation, outdoor table displays and more. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 for two and will be for sale at the door (cash/check only). Refreshments will be served. For more information visit mission-hillsheritage.org.

Mission Hills StandAbout Saturday, Jan. 17

Drinking, eating, listening to good tunes and checking out art for a great cause? We're in. The Mission Hills StandAbout will feature craft beer, wine and appetizers, plus live music by Gayle Skidmore, Justin Burkett, Frances Bloom Band and more. There will also be live art created by several local talents. All net proceeds benefit Monarch School, the only school in San Diego for homeless children from kindergarten through high school. The school provides healthcare, clothing and food among many other services for families and students. Suggested donation to attend, imbibe, nibble and listen is \$30 and can be paid via PayPal to email address StandAbout.SanDiego@gmail. com. Donate ahead of time to guarantee your spot (limited to 75). The StandAbout is from 2-7p.m. at 4261 Aloha Place. Find the event on Facebook for more info.

Designing Minds: "Basile and Consortium: Absolute Adaption" Thursday, Jan. 22

This conversation series kicks off with designer Paul Basile and restaurateur Arsalun Tafazoli discussing their design process in intimate settings. Tonight's event will be held at Polite Provisions (4696 30th St., Normal Heights), which won a 2014 Interior Design Orchid Award. The in-depth, interactive discussion will cover the evolution of the design process from concept to completion. A second installment of the series will be held Feb. 26 at Ironside Fish and Oyster (1654 India St., Little Italy) Both events will be from 3 – 5 p.m. and includes one craft cocktail. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at designingmindssd.com.

"The Grift" Tuesday, Jan. 27 – Sunday,

Feb. 22
La Jolla Playhouse presents
"The Grift" at the Lafayette Hotel
(2223 El Cajon Blvd., North Park)
as part of their Without Walls
series. The interactive show
takes audiences through various rooms and spaces within the
1940s landmark hotel. The unique
piece written and directed by Tom
Salamon is part performance, part
game, much like his acclaimed
piece "Accomplice." Tickets are
\$35 – 45 and include a beverage
and light appetizers. Performanc-

es take place Tuesday – Sunday. Each show time accommodates 50 audience members and includes walking with a few stairs. The Feb. 17 performance at 7 p.m. will feature a modified route for patrons with mobility concerns. Visit lajollaplayhouse.org for more information and tickets.



San Diego Chorus Global Open House Wednesday, Jan. 28

The San Diego Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International (SAI), is hosting this open house for prospective singers who may wish to join the chorus or learn more about it. SAI has nearly 25,000 members worldwide who sing four-part a cappella harmony, barbershop style. The open house will be held at the Chorus' rehearsal space at Casa del Prado, Room 207 in Balboa Park from 6:45 – 9:30 p.m. The open house will give aspiring singers the chance to rehearse with current members and learn a song together. Plus, there will be food and refreshments served. To learn more visit sdchorus. com or contact Jennifer French at chrisandjen333@gmail.com.

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. Lestats.com.



Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

Wang's 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.

Storytelling: 7 – 8:45 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month featuring members of Storytellers of San Diego at Rebecca's Coffee House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, donations welcome. Ages 12 and up. Storytellersofsandiego.org.

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: Signups 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. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.



FROM PAGE 22 **CALENDAR**

Kirtan Musical Medita-

tion: 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. Fridaysonfifth.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 Mar**ket:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

Golden Hill Farmers Mar**ket:** 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. Li-

brary92103.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.

Celebrity Book Readings: 2 p.m., local celebrities will visit the "Ingenious! The World of Dr. Seuss" at the San Diego History Center on the second Saturday of each month to read their favorite Seuss stories to those in attendance, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park, free. Sandiegohistory.org.

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

Sundays

Free Pancake Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:45 a.m., every second Sunday this neighborhood breakfast precedes worship service and Sunday school at Normal Heights United Methodist Church, 4650 Mansfield St., Normal Heights. Email nancy@ nhunited.org.



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

-Email calendar items to Hutton@sdcnn.com.

Pet of the month

Name: Dibbs

Age: 9 months old

Gender: Neutered male **Breed: Domestic Short**

Hair

ID #: 144033

Adoption Fee: \$65



Dibbs, a 9-month-old Domestic Shorthair, is a shy little guy looking for a patient family to call his own! This sweet, young kitty has been working very hard to learn to be more comfortable in his environment and would love to find a new family who can continue his training.

Dibbs has done well with other cats and would love another cat friend in his new home to help show him the ropes. His caretakers have noted that he can take a bit of time to warm up in a new environment, but blossoms well when he feels more comfortable. He would do best in a calm home with a patient family. Dibbs loves to play and responds very well to new people when he is rewarded with tuna, chicken-based baby food and wet food. He also enjoys petting but is sometimes a bit hesitant. As long as you take your time, Dibbs would love to be your new best friend!

His adoption fee includes his neuter, current vaccinations, permanent microchip identification, 30 days of complimentary medical insurance from Trupanion Insurance, and a cer-

tificate for a free veterinary exam! Dibbs is available for adoption at the San Diego Humane Society's San Diego Campus at 5500 Gaines St. To learn more about making him part of your family, please call 619-299-7012.

Adoption hours:

Weekdays: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Weekends: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Face and Body Therapy 404 Camino Del Rio South Suite #100, Studio #33 San Diego, CA 92108 619-847-8828 conniecampbellskincare.com

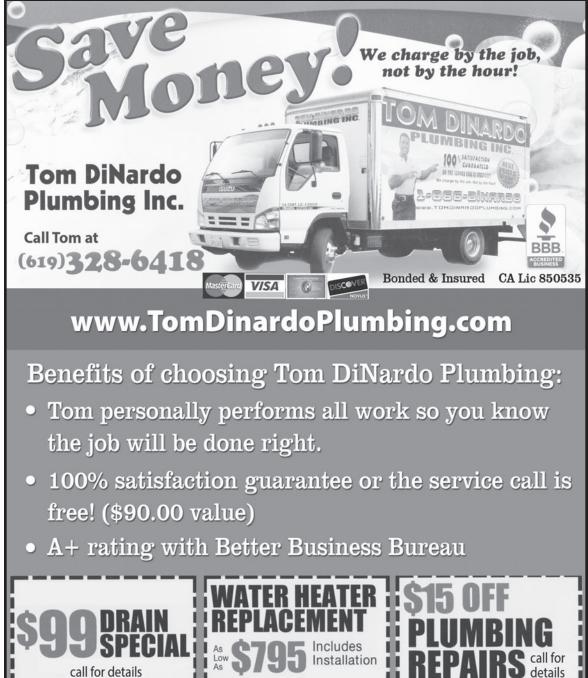
Connie, a licensed aesthetician and massage therapist, fully enjoys the opportunity that her profession offers — meeting many wonderful women. Being a breast cancer survivor of 11 years has also allowed her to meet amazing fellow survivors and she feels blessed to be able to offer her talents to help women look and feel their best!

With her mission statement "Constant, Never Ending Improvement" in mind, she is always on the lookout for the newest and best products

From Faux Mink eyelash extensions to Diamond Skin microdermabrasion, Connie's services are sure to help with all your skin care and beauty goals. After the hot summer we had, nourishing your skin will help you to be the "Bell of the Ball" this holiday season!

Centrally located in Mission Valley, Connie's studio offers a warm, inviting place to relax. Call today for holiday specials and visit Connie for a free skin consultation.







(888) 894-1181 www.WindermereSoCal.com









EASTVILLAGE - 800 The Mark Lane #2505 2BD/2BA, beautiful views of the mountains, Coronado, PetCo Park and more. Over 400 SF wrap terrace & additional balcony. \$1,200,000 Windermere | Little Italy 619-501-5300



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. \$940,000 Windermere | Little Italy 619-501-5300



OCEANSIDE - 1870 Downs Street

Modern Mediterranean style custom home. 4BD/3BA with gourmet kitchen & extra large family room. \$925,000-\$975,000 Windermere | Carlsbad 760-893-8040



POINT LOMA - 3633 Nimitz Completely renovated 3BD/2BA. New stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops, travertine & hardwood flooring. \$649,000 Windermere | Hillcrest/Mission Hills 619-241-2122



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



ALLIED GARDENS - 7164 Romford Court

Turn-key home offers a remodeled kitchen, upgraded bathrooms, custom flooring, central A/C, formal dining & living room. \$534,900 Mike Gassaway 619-436-9446



Spacious 2BD/2BA corner end unit. Wonderful east & southeast facing views from the huge living/dinning area. \$494,000-\$525,000 Windermere | Hillcrest/Mission Hills 619-241-2122



KENSINGTON - 4406 Caminito Pintoresco Upgraded residence in Kensington Park Villas. One of three patio areas. Two-car attached garage. Great location. \$479,000

Windermere | Hillcrest/Mission Hills 619-241-2122



SAN DIEGO - 7075 Mohawk Gorgeous, remodeled home. 3BD/2BA, open floor plan, Chef's kitchen, stainless steel appliances, wood flooring. \$429,000 Windermere | Little Italy 619-501-5300



SAN DIEGO - 1262 Kettner #603 Urban chic! Contemporary studio Sapphire Tower. Rooftop pool, spa & entertainment area. Highly upgraded. \$349,000 Windermere | Little Italy 619-501-5300



PALM DESERT - 47047 Kasbah Drive Stunning, updated & contemporary condo with a fabulous So. mtn & golf course view. Corner lot, pool in courtyard. \$219,000 Manny Rosas 619-248-2516



INDIAN WELLS - 76447 Via Chianti Gorgeous home in Toscana CC. Open floor plan with FP. Luxurious master suite. Chef's kitchen. Solar panels. 3BD/3.5BA. \$1,450,000 Susan Early 760-534-2632



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