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# San Diego Uptown News



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San Diego Community News Network



(l to r) Sen. Joseph Cannon with John D. Spreckels in an electric vehicle, a small, electric vehicle, at the Balboa Park Expo in 1915; the official poster for the 1915 exposition (Courtesy San Diego History Center)



# 100 ... and counting!

## Organizations recognize Balboa Park's exposition centennial with new exhibits

By Dave Fidlin

It all began with the expansion of the Panama Canal — and a desire to capitalize on its entry into San Diego.

As the venerable Balboa Park celebrates the 100-year mark since the momentous occasion, several



While San Diego highlighted its past at the 1915 exposition, it also sought to promote itself as a land of opportunity. (Courtesy San Diego History Center)

local organizations are pausing and reflecting on the milestone for a landmark that initially did not have a long-term prognosis in the community.

Beginning this Saturday, Jan. 31, the San Diego History Center (SDHC) will kick off its latest exhibit, "San Diego Invites the World: The 1915 Expo." The 14-month display will run through the end of March 2016.

SDHC spokesperson Matthew Schiff said the organization this year is placing an emphasis on the Panama-California Exposition that served as the linchpin to Balboa Park's very existence. The new exhibit will feature rarely seen silent film footage of the expo, photos of the event and showcase unique memorabilia.

One of the most notable aspects of the 1915 exposition was a rivalry that took place between

see Centennial, page 4

## Lack of funds plagues UH library plan

By Chris Pocock

Several University Heights residents met with San Diego Public Library Director Misty Jones at the University Heights Branch Library last week to discuss efforts to transform the historic Normal School Teachers Training Annex into a community center and replacement library.

The focus on library relocation comes at a pivotal time for the University Heights library, which many residents feel is ailing from lack of space and funding.



The vacant Normal School Teachers Training Annex in University Heights (Photo by Hutton Marshall)

According to the University Heights Community Development Corporation, the 3,749-square-foot library serves over 60,000 residents, as well as four elementary schools and middle schools, giving it the highest circulation per square foot of any library in the city.

Although the annex has sat vacant since 2009, the University Heights library was

see Library, page 23

## Local chefs share their culinary hopes and predictions for 2015

By Frank Sabatini Jr

San Diego's restaurant scene is prolific and deliciously unstoppable. In the past year alone, more than 50 new kitchens have sprung onto the landscape within the metropolitan area. Sadly, several of them suddenly vanished into the jaws of competition.

Yet from darling, little neighborhood eateries to multi-million

dollar warehouse conversions, we've witnessed everyday meals reinvented into works of art and highfalutin cuisine punched down to good old-fashion comfort food. The coming year promises no less in terms of change and experimentation as dozens of fresh ventures are already cramming the pipeline.

In looking ahead, we quizzed

see Culinary, page 23



Abe Botello of West Coast Tavern (Courtesy Alternative Strategies)

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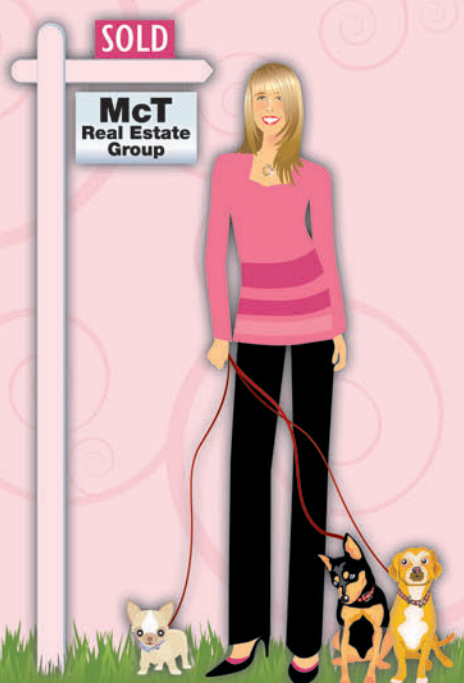
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# New KPBS documentary explores humanity’s role in wildlife

How are humans intertwined with the Earth’s environment? What role should we play in shaping the outdoors in the generations to come?

These are questions conservation scientist Dr. M. Sanjayan seeks to answer in his new documentary series screening on KPBS, “EARTH A New Wild.”

At a recent screening and Q&A held at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park, Sanjayan — adopting a singular name, a custom in Tamil culture — explained his thinking that inspired the film’s creation.

In his opinion, many wildlife documentaries, such as “Planet Earth,” only include half the narrative when filming the outdoors. The filmmakers even go through great pains to ensure all traces of humanity are expunged from the film. Sanjayan joked that if an alien species watched “Planet Earth” as a primer for a visit to the planet, they would arrive to a surprisingly different scene.

“They would get to earth and see these humans running around everywhere and say, ‘this isn’t what you sold us!’” he said.

In the five episodes of “EARTH A New Wild,” Sanjayan sets the scene at several unique environments — many centering around man-made problems to natural habitats — and looks at what humans are doing to solve or adapt to them. The series



Dr. Sanjayan with baby pandas (Courtesy PBS)

was filmed over the course of 45 shoots in 29 countries.

In one episode, “Plains,” Sanjayan speaks with Allan Savory, a Zimbabwean biologist whose early research led to the mass culling — state-sanctioned killing — of more than 40,000 elephants, as they were believed to be detrimentally trampling plant life across African plains. Today, barefoot and agrarian, Savory hums to a markedly different tune, claiming his original research was incorrect. He now believes that more elephants, not less, are the answer to regeneration of the plains. To prove this theory, he maintains a large herd of frequently migrating cattle on a small piece of land. The experiment has yielded exceptional plant life health. He said that in order to continue improving the environment, he will need to double his herd.

Today’s discussions of man-

made harm to the Earth often lead to the highly politicized climate change debate. While Sanjayan said he didn’t avoid the subject — touching on it tangentially in several episodes — he confirms that he sought after a different set of problems plaguing the planet.

“We weren’t going out there to make a climate change film,” he said. “Climate change, like population, like consumption, are all sort of background forces, but what we were trying to show were the proximate forces, things that were happening with some immediacy.”

Sanjayan added that he had recently finished working on an Emmy-winning climate change series “Years of Living Dangerously,” and was interested in doing something different.

Although this is Sanjayan’s first major series to be aired to a large audience, the Sri Lankan-born biologist has done segments and provided commentary for a wide range of media outlets, including the BBC, The Discovery Channel and CBS.

“EARTH A New Wild” will begin airing nationally Feb. 4 on PBS. For KPBS’s local schedule, visit [pbs.org/earth-a-new-wild](http://pbs.org/earth-a-new-wild).



The new car2go San Diego fleet (Courtesy car2go San Diego)

## car2go wheels out new fleet

Car-sharing company car2go announced Jan. 28 that it would begin upgrading its San Diego fleet of electric Smart Cars to the 2014 model from its currently used 2010 model.

While interior features will remain consistent with the 2010 model, the 2014 Smart Car is said to accelerate more smoothly, as well as reach a top speed of approximately 84 mph, while the 2010 model tops out at 65 mph.

Now branded as the largest car-sharing company in the world, car2go launched the nation’s largest all-electric fleet in San Diego in 2011. Today, the company serves more than 33,000 users in the city.

In addition to a \$35 registration fee, car2go users pay 41 cents per minute. The service works in conjunction with a smartphone app that serves as a car locator and reservation system. For more information, visit [car2go.com](http://car2go.com).

## Home Start thrift store opens on Adams

Nonprofit organization Home Start opened a boutique thrift store on Jan. 23 in Normal Heights, selling high-quality used clothing and home décor to fund the services the nonprofit provides to families in need.

In addition to funding Home Start services, the store will provide workforce experience for financially struggling women, many of whom battle with past abuse, trauma and neglect.

Located at 3611 Adams Ave., the store is a renovated house previously occupied by Curves, a women’s fitness studio. To contact the store, call 619-564-8027 or visit [home-start.org](http://home-start.org).



Home Start staff and elected officials at the store’s grand opening (Courtesy Home Start)

see Briefs, page 10

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### FROM PAGE 1 CENTENNIAL

exposition organizers in San Diego and San Francisco. During that pivotal year, the large-scale event took place in both cities.

As the history books show, the leaders of both cities had something to prove, albeit for very different reasons. The more established San Francisco — at the time, sporting a more robust population than its southernmost Californian neighbor — was re-emerging from a series of natural disasters.

But San Diego was evolving in its own right, clamoring for the prospect of an economic boost from ship traffic and a growing tourism base. The Panama-California Exposition was the perfect backdrop for these efforts.

Both expositions drew large crowds. As he and other SDHC organizers pored over historic documents, Schiff said the rivalry between the two cities was stark.

"There's actually some pretty funny ad material out there," Schiff said. "They clearly tried to show up one another."

While both cities' 1915 expositions drew packed crowds, what took place from 1916 onward was markedly different. Not long after San Francisco wrapped its expo, most of the buildings were razed, and building materials were used for scrap.

By contrast, San Diego's expo, of course, evolved into Balboa Park and stands as a monument to the city's rich cultural landscape.

"What most people don't know is the buildings [within Balboa Park] were intended to serve as temporary structures for the 1915 expo," Schiff said.

In addition to the upcoming exposition exhibit, SDHC has been screening a film, "Balboa Park: The Jewel of San Diego." Throughout 2015, the organization will hold thrice-daily screenings of the documentary and a glimpse into the park's past.

Another Balboa Park-based organization, the San Diego

Art Institute, has also unveiled a new exhibit that serves as a hat-tip to the centennial milestone.

On Jan. 23, SDAI took the wraps off its latest show, "San Diego Keeps Her Promise: Balboa Park at 100." It runs through Sunday, Feb. 22.

Ginger Shulick Porcella, SDAI executive director, organized the show with Francis French, director of education at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. Shulick Porcella described the show as a "multi-sensory approach" toward the park's history.

Local artists created a series of exhibits — some based on sight, others on sound or smell. Regardless of the specific exhibit, Shulick Porcella said the goal behind the nearly two-dozen stations is to give a glimpse into



One of the many postcards promoting the exposition (Courtesy San Diego History Center)

Balboa Park's past, present and envisioned future.

"There are going to be a lot of [centennial-related] shows this year, and we wanted to do something quite different," Shulick Porcella said. "There are some really meaty pieces in this show, and we are going to share some facts most people don't know."

For Shulick Porcella, who joined SDAI a year ago, planning "San Diego Keeps Her Promise" has been a crash course in learning about Balboa Park.

"The nice thing about this exhibit is there really is something for everyone," she said. "We're going to be featuring a wide range of different mediums. Everyone is going to have their own favorite piece."

For information on the different events taking place to commemorate Balboa Park's centennial celebration in 2015, visit [celebratebalboapark.org](http://celebratebalboapark.org).

—Contact Dave Fidlin at [dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net](mailto:dave.fidlin@thinkpost.net).

 [www.LunarNewYearFestival.org](http://www.LunarNewYearFestival.org)

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# Fun in North Park’s backyard

By Katherine Hon

In 1914, City Park Superintendent John G. Morley was very busy overseeing development of Balboa Park for the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition. But he still envisioned the east side of Balboa Park as the site for active sports venues, and he set aside the northeast corner of the city park for recreation grounds. Nearly 20 years later, as Morley was supervising development of the 1935-36 Exposition on the central mesa, he saw his vision for the long-neglected east mesa come true. On a bright New Year’s Day in 1933, a municipal swimming pool and clubhouse, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields and shuffle board courts were dedicated “to the people of San Diego for their use forever as an outstanding monument to their courage.”

Why did San Diegans need courage at that time? As in the rest of the country, the economic crisis of the Great Depression still deeply hindered construction and employment. To help provide unemployment relief, San Diego voters approved a \$300,000 bond issue at a special election in March 1932. This would be about \$4.3 million in today’s dollars. Recreation facilities for the east mesa consistent with the 1920s plan developed by John Nolen were to be constructed with some of those funds.

The swimming pool generated considerable excitement. It was the first public pool built by the city. Although the Mission Beach Plunge opened in 1925, it had been privately developed by John D. Spreckels. The new public pool measured 130 feet long by 65 feet wide. The pool and accompanying clubhouse were designed by architect H. Louis Bodmer, a Swiss immigrant who lived in North Park from 1928 until his death in 1982. He worked for William Templeton Johnson in 1926, and started his own firm in 1930. He was later involved with the design of buildings associated with the 1935-36 Exposition, including Spanish Village.

Opening day for the recre-



A January 1933 news article about the Morley Field pool opening (Courtesy North Park Historical Society)

ation center entertained thousands with drill teams, musical concerts, a beauty queen competition, diving exhibitions and lots of speeches. Of the 13 lovely ladies in the pageant, Alberta McKellop was chosen the most beautiful by the three judges.

That summer, the annual picnic sponsored by the North Park Business Men’s Club was held at the municipal pool, and more than 12,000 attended the daylong festival. Activities in North Park’s new backyard included a scramble for balloons carrying theatre tickets to the North Park Theatre, sack races, dances on the tennis courts, swimming races, diving exhibitions and another beauty queen competition, where the apparently quite popular Alberta McKellop was among the three winners.

John Morley served as park superintendent of all city parks from 1911 to 1938. In June 1934, the recreational area was appropriately named Morley Field in his honor. Years later, the pool itself was named for

William “Bud” Kearns, who was director of recreation for the city from 1928 to 1948.

Want more North Park history? Go to Paras Newsstand at 3911 30th St. for Donald Covington’s book, “North Park: A San Diego Urban Village, 1896-1946,” published by the North Park Historical Society. Also available at Paras Newsstand (among other North Park stores including Pigment, Kaleidoscope, and North Park Hardware) is the North Park Historical Society’s latest book, “Images of America: San Diego’s North Park,” published by Arcadia Publishing Company in 2014. This book has more than 200 vintage photographs and tells the whole story of North Park from 1900 to now. Visit the North Park Historical Society website at NorthParkHistory.org or email info@northparkhistory.org for more information.

—Katherine Hon is secretary of the North Park Historical Society. ♦

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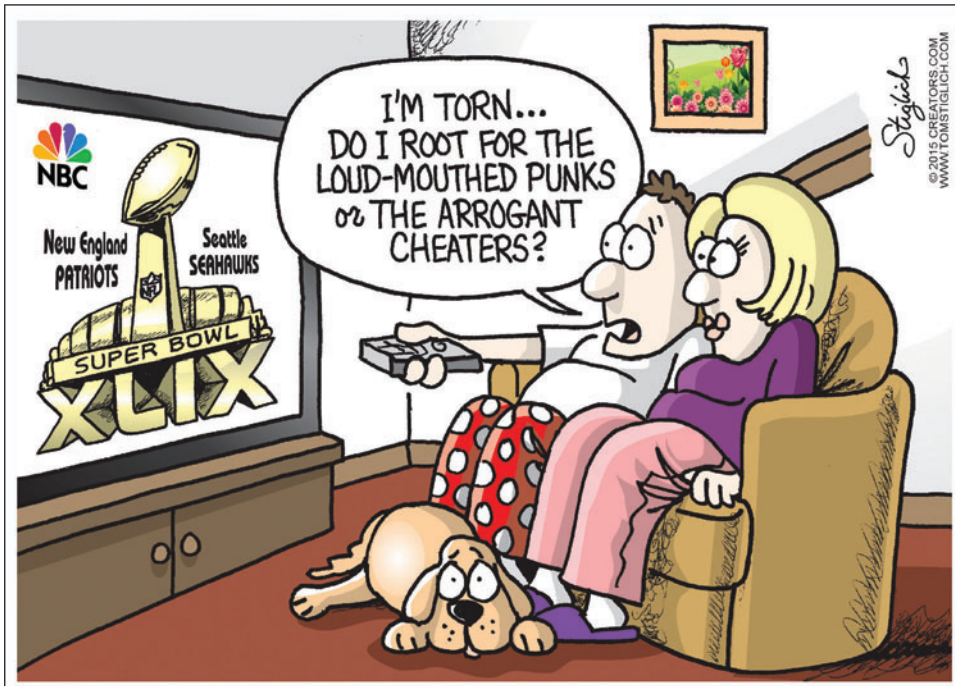
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## EDITORIAL

## Community excluded in Florence Elementary name change debate

By Andrew Towne

The proposal by the Gay and Lesbian Historic Task Force to change the name of Hillcrest's Florence Elementary School to the "Christine Kehoe School of Social Justice" appears to be on its way to acceptance by the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education regardless of the preferences of students, parents, alumni, neighbors and other community members in the immediate neighborhood of the school.

There was practically no notice to the community when the first "stakeholder" meeting was held last October. Presented at that meeting were 10 letters, mostly by Democratic politicians and gay activists. The remarkable thing about those letters is that so many of them appeared to have been copied from an underlying form letter that was given to the letter writers. The boilerplate statement "I am confident the San Diego Unified School District and GLBT Historic Task Force can work collaboratively to ensure that the proper process and vetting occurs with parents, staff, neighbors, and others so that stakeholders can participate as the renaming is considered" appears in six of the letters (with "we" substituted for "I" in some of the letters.) Two additional letters use virtually the same words, but not exactly. And only two letters are what I would consider original.

When people cannot even find their own words to acknowledge the importance of community opinion, it is clear to me that they couldn't care less about community opinion.

I attended the second

"stakeholder" meeting Jan. 15. Again, public notice of the meeting — if it existed at all — was scant, but that did not prevent an impressive outpouring of opposition to the proposed name change. Of the 12 people who were given two minutes to speak, 11 were opposed and one was undecided.

Again, I got the sense that the school district representatives were indifferent to the community. Entering the meeting room, there was what appeared to be a sign-in sheet that actually turned out to be a petition in support of the name change. I asked where the petition was for those who opposed the name change. The school district representative said that it was not the district's job to provide petitions of any kind. If that is true, then the petition in favor should not have been mixed in with informational flyers and speaker slips on the table by the entrance door.

Speakers at the meeting had to fill in yellow speaker slips and note on the slips whether they were in favor or opposed to the name change. As far as I know, not one of the speeches was recorded and no notes were taken of what the different speakers were saying.

At the same time, the members of the school board (who will make the final decision) were not present. So, instead of "hearing from the community" — which the meeting was supposed to be about — all the school board will see is a stack of yellow slips marked "opposed" or "for." I don't call that "hearing from the community."

All of the above smacks

to me of the "fix being in," with politicians and activists looking out for each other while not caring one bit about what the community wants.

I think this proposed name change is a travesty, showing outrageous disrespect for the history and unique characteristics both of Florence Elementary School and the surrounding Hillcrest community. Florence Elementary is about 100 years old, and there is no good reason to change the name. Christine Kehoe has never been closely tied to the school, so the name change is purely a political statement.

The last paragraph of the editorial needs to be replaced with:

The proponents of the name change want to honor a gay politician. As a gay man, I would certainly like to see Senator Kehoe honored as well — by renaming Florence's school library or auditorium, or perhaps by naming a brand new school. But not by erasing a significant part of the history of a neighborhood that welcomed gays to its midst when other neighborhoods would not do so.

—Andrew Towne lives in Hillcrest, served on the board of Uptown Planners, and was a founding member of the Hillcrest Town Council.

*Editor's note: The next public hearing for the proposed Florence Elementary name change will take place in the school's auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. The Hillcrest Town Council will also discuss the proposal at their Feb. 10 meeting, which takes place at the Joyce Beers Community Center. ♦*

## LETTERS

I do not support a TargetExpress in South Park [see "Fight against South Park TargetExpress continues" Vol. 6 Issue 2]. Reconsider leasing the property at 3030 Grape St. You have greatly overestimated the potential demand for your store in our neighborhood. Some deals are just bad ideas and this is one bad deal. Cut your losses now. TargetExpress may have worked in Dinkytown, but not here. The consequences of any safety issues which will occur will be on your conscience, not mine.

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to a TargetExpress in South Park, San Diego. South Park is a close-knit historic neighborhood with an identity largely based on its independent local businesses. A TargetExpress would threaten the very characteristics that make our neighborhood so unique and desirable. There are full-size Target stores in nearby Sports Arena and Mission Valley and a CVS and Walgreens pharmacy less than two miles away that are already meeting our needs. We do not need or want a TargetExpress in our neighborhood.

*Sincerely,  
Jeanette Voss, South Park Homeowner 18 years  
"There goes the neighborhood!"*

Arabo's closing statement that "whatever it may be will have the entirety of South Park for support" is more than a little overstated. Clearly he only has conversations with people who agree with him.

I am a small business owner and homeowner in South Park since 1997, and the great majority of my neighbors and customers are thrilled about Target moving into the neighborhood — especially those with children, and those who are elderly. Even quite a few members of our business group are looking forward to it! Those of us who are long-ish time South Park residents have long wished for a nicer grocery store at that location, preferably one with pockets deep enough to maintain the property, and getting a pharmacy as part of the deal is just a bonus.

I don't expect any store that goes into the location to meet all of my needs. I shop at Peoples Market, Albertsons, Costco, Sprouts, Ripe, and North Park Farmers Market. I've always bought certain things at Gala, which I now find at Millers or Food Bowl, our other two small independent markets. I don't expect Target to eliminate any of these stores from my shopping routine. I may go there to buy milk or other things I run out of mid-week, same as I did when it was Gala, but I mainly anticipate using it for things like pharmacy, socks, office supplies, or small hardware, that are not sold anywhere else in South Park.

I would love to know who these small grocers are who are interested in moving into the place, and why they didn't put any offers for it when the place was up for lease. It was no secret — there was a big giant "For Lease" sign on the lot. When this Save South Park movement started, some of their members approached Sprouts, Trader Joe's and Peoples Coop, all of which were either not interested in the space or said it was too large for their needs.

see Letters, page 22

## San Diego Uptown News

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# Neighborhood schools are the new charters

Parenting  
Andy Hinds



This is the time of year when many parents of soon-to-“graduate” preschoolers are quietly freaking out. Until now, the idea of your babies going to elementary school had been like some distant, futuristic fantasy/nightmare. Now it looms large, imminent, and fraught with ramifications that seem likely to cascade throughout your precious progeny’s lives.

It’s the real deal. The big leagues. Kindergarten.

Although September is still seven months away, deadlines for school applications are fast approaching. And where to send one’s children to kindergarten can seem like one of the most agonizing decisions a parent must make. There are so many choices, and each one has its potential pitfalls. If he goes to the progressive charter school with small class sizes and yoga breaks, will he be isolated from the “real world” experience of typical public education? If she attends your neighborhood school, will she be terrorized — or worse, recruited — by the wild ruffians you see re-enacting “Lord of the Flies” at the local playgrounds? If you send them to the prestigious private school, can you still afford groceries? If you homeschool, how long can you expect your sanity to hold out?

Let’s assume that you have

ruled out private or homeschooling. It’s still not going to be simple. San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) offers a large (and sometimes overwhelming) menu of options, including magnet schools that focus on specific areas of study, typical public schools in other neighborhoods, and charter schools, which are authorized by SDUSD, but are run autonomously and embrace a wide variety of educational philosophies not necessarily sanctioned by the District.

The deadline for applying to a SDUSD school outside of your default “zone school,” is Feb. 15. Unless the schools (you can apply to three) you apply to are magnets or “atypicals” (in which case other hoops may require your timely perambulation), you would then simply wait, perhaps gnawing your fingernails and developing an embarrassing facial tic, to hear back in the spring. Applicants are selected randomly, on a space-available basis, with weight given to considerations such as what the applicant’s neighborhood school is, where his or her siblings go to school, and so forth. Charter schools also use a lottery system to choose who may enroll, but they have a wide range of application windows, as well as policies regarding who is given priority.

But you already know all that, because you are an Engaged Parent who wants to make sure your child goes to the school that is the best fit for him or her. You have studied the

District’s “Neighborhood Schools & Enrollment Options” catalog, perused the website ([sandi.net/page/902](http://sandi.net/page/902)), peered deeply into the abyss of the charter school universe, talked with your friends and neighbors, argued with your spouse or co-parent, and toured so many schools that they have become a blur of social philosophies and pedagogical perspectives.

There is, however, one school to which you have perhaps not given serious consideration. The one down the street from you.

Last year, almost 45 percent of SDUSD students went to schools other than their neighborhood one. Although there is virtually no evidence that “school choice” has provided overall improvement of school performance in any district, there have been studies suggesting that students who “choice out” of their local school perform slightly better on standardized tests than their peers who stay in their neighborhood. Thus, Engaged Parents who care about their kids’ educations may assume that sending their kids anywhere but the neighborhood school is the responsible thing to do because, duh, Automatic Performance Enhancement. To me, though, there seems to be a chicken-and-egg aspect to this phenomenon. Did sending the kids to a school outside their neighborhood cause them to perform better; or does the fact that they are the type of parents (engaged, involved, organized) who would think to choice into a different school (and follow through with it)

make their children more likely to succeed regardless of where they go to school? When I ponder this, I can’t help but wonder if the positive effect these Engaged Parents could have had on their neighborhood schools had they enrolled their children there would have been more meaningful than the dubious benefits of “choicing out” (additionally diluted, certainly, when nearly half the District’s students are doing so).

When I set out to write this column, I wanted to encourage parents to do tours and classroom visits at their neighborhood schools, rather than dismissing them out of hand because of their middling test scores, “scary” demographics, or the allure of a boutique school that seemed perfect mostly due to its exclusivity. I called and emailed principals at several elementary schools in Uptown neighborhoods, hoping to get information I could share about arranging tours, and offering them space to pitch their schools to parents. But I don’t need to tell you how to get on the [sandi.net](http://sandi.net) website or make a phone call to your local school, Engaged Parent. And the principals who graciously responded to my requests offered pretty standard District Talking Points about their schools, the kind you can read in the “About” page of their websites.

When I cold-called McKinley Elementary in North Park though, I ended up having a 10 minute conversation with the woman who picked up the phone,

Elementary Assistant Terri Freese, about how McKinley has gone from a school at which many of the locals turned their noses up, to one that parents from other zones now clamor to get their children into; this due to a number of factors, including their adoption of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, but also to the now-legendary involvement of their parent and community supporters. And Ms. Freese didn’t simply have pride in her own school. She told me that she often gives McKinley tours to parents from the nearby Thomas Jefferson Elementary zone, and instead of trying to recruit them, she tells them to take a look at all the exciting developments happening at their own neighborhood school. This naturally warmed the cockles of my heart, since (full disclosure), my twin kindergarten girls go to Jefferson (I mean “Thomas Jefferson Elementary IB STEAM Magnet”), and I’m a founding member of Friends of Jefferson, our fledgling parent/community club and school foundation. McKinley’s success has shown that Uptown’s neighborhood schools can be excellent, and it serves as an inspiration to those of us who want to help provide that kind of environment for all the children in our area.

Ultimately the voices that really matter to those in the throes of school-shopping are parents who have made their decisions and seen them play out. I spoke to a number of parents who had

see Schools, page 9

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# White rum and eggs

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## Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

Chalk it up to an embracing, woodsy design in a quiet location where parking comes relatively easy as two of the reasons why Bankers Hill Bar & Restaurant is a desirable sanctuary for losing your day's gripes over happy hour libations.

The establishment, which netted an Orchid Award for its eye-popping use of reclaimed wood before everyone else began nailing it to their walls, greets with an artful bouquet of wine glasses suspended above the hostess desk. It's your first cue that the establishment extends the same open arms to boozers as it does to diners.

Customers arriving for happy hour bargains aren't relegated to a specific area.



(l to r) Deviled eggs, the strawberry-infused "sherry cobbler" and a "Fourth Avenue Swizzler" (Photos by Dr. Ink)



They can perch at the sizable bar and witness cocktails like Painkillers and Canadian Tuxedos in the making or seize a table in a dimly lit spot to drink and nibble inconspicuously.

Listed at the low end of the price scale are a daily draft and a house red or white wine for \$5.50. Knowing we'd order a plate of swooped-up deviled eggs (\$5), we skipped the vino and suds altogether. Pairing

either of them with the little devils seemed like a recipe for intestinal turbulence. So we turned instead to some seriously constructed cocktails discounted by \$2, plus the daily cocktail priced at \$8.

The latter was a Fourth Avenue Swizzler, named and concocted on a whim by bar manager Christian Siglin. A hint of warming spices in the drink matched brilliantly to white rum, absinthe and lime

juice. If there was simple syrup in the recipe, it was kept at a welcome minimum.

From the established cocktail lineup, we restrained further from outright slugging the Sherry Cobbler made with strawberry-infused Amontillado sherry, herbal Amaro liqueur, lemon and cinnamon bark syrup. All combined, the drink tasted more like dark cherries rather than something containing strawberries. Fruity drinks

## RATINGS

DRINKS: **★★★★★**

The Sherry Cobbler was fruity without tasting cloying and the Fourth Avenue Swizzler with white rum contained comforting warming spices contrasted cleverly to lime juice.

FOOD: **★★★★★**

The deviled eggs were fresh and decadent and we loved the juicy BBQ pork in a crispy taco. Also, if you're a fan of tiger shrimp, don't leave without trying the ceviche tostada.

VALUE: **★★★★**

You'll save about \$3 on average for drinks and small plates.

SERVICE: **★★★★★**

We were greeted and seated immediately upon arrival and waited less than a minute before a server arrived to our table.

ATMOSPHERE: **★★★★★**

The establishment is architecturally eye-popping with ample seating options at the bar or throughout two dining areas.

aren't normally my thing, but this was irresistible without the "tutti" factor ruining it.

Both cocktails were filled top to bottom with crushed ice, which added to their refreshing tone as a deliberate gesture rather than serving as a ploy to shortchange us. Though as a result, they went down in a lick.

Based on my dinner visits here, the food is consistently top-quality. So it came as no surprise that our trio of deviled eggs transcended common recipes with the additions of capers and shavings of zesty Parmesan cheese. We also ordered from the happy hour menu a crispy taco brimming with juicy barbecue pork taco and a ceviche tostada topped with a fair measure of chopped tiger shrimp — each priced at \$3.75.

If there is a challenge to Banker Hills' happy hour, it lies in wanting to partake in more drinks and food after the discounts end at 6 p.m. Provided you have additional time and cash to spend, you'll likely cave in. ♦

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FROM PAGE 7  
SCHOOLS

considered all their options and decided to send their kids to the neighborhood schools, and several themes emerged, including the importance of community building and the realization that test scores don't tell the whole story.

Explaining how she decided to send her daughter to Alice Birney Elementary, her neighborhood school in University Heights, elementary school teacher Sarah Mirgoli, told me, "Her dad and I chose our neighborhood school because it's an IB school with rigorous academic standards as well as 'special' classes in art, gardening, and P.E. in which the students participate once a week. [These classes are subsidized by extensive fundraising each year.]"

"We also chose this school because we both like the sense of community and belonging," she continued. "I wanted my daughter to have the same type of school experience that I had where children walked to school and felt like part of a community. It's also easy to volunteer and participate in activities when the school is just around the corner."

Amen.  
Amy DeVaudreuil, an attorney, Jefferson parent and vice-president of Friends of Jefferson, also described her decision-making process to me.

"I approached the decision to send my daughter to our local elementary school like I approach many other decisions in my life — with research, note taking, list making, creation of a binder ... and found that many of my preconceptions about what I thought I wanted in a school for her were not ultimately critical in the decision. It was necessary that her school have caring teachers, dedicated leadership, inquiry-based learning, internationally focused curriculum, physical education and art instruction. Factors I thought would be significant, but were not: API scores, school rankings and class size. The question that I kept coming back to was — what do we want to be her 'norm' — as in, what experiences do we want to occur that will inform how she views the world, and the answer led us to Thomas Jefferson Elementary. I am very happy with our decision."

Word.  
I'm not against school choice, and I know there are legitimate reasons to send your kids to schools other than the one around the corner, even if that reason is as nebulous as whether or not it's "the right fit." I just wish that every parent who is researching schools all over town would look at their zone school as well. Take that tour. Visit a class in session if possible. And most importantly, talk to parents of students there. Ask me about Thomas Jefferson IB STEAM Magnet, and I'll talk to you all day about the ways in which enrolling there has been rewarding for my whole family. Seriously. Ask me. You can find me at facebook.com/friendsofjeffersonnelementary or friendsofjeffersonnp@gmail.com.

—Contact Andy Hinds at andylhinds@gmail.com. ♦

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## UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



Monday meatballs at Circa Restaurant (Photo by Mike Almos)

Chef-owner Mike Almos of **Circa Restaurant** in University Heights recently introduced “meatball Mondays” from 5 p.m. to closing every week. He created the deal “to make something warm and comforting for industry folk on Monday nights”

while also opening it to the public. For \$15, you get three hearty meatballs made with Duroc pork and King Ranch beef, a dish of pasta with marinara and warm focaccia bread, all made in-house. *2121 Adams Ave., 619-269-9152.*

**Crazee Burger** in Old Town has closed. Coming into its place is El Charko, a family-owned restaurant specializing in Mexico City-style tacos. Born from a catering company, the menu will feature such fillings as traditional campechano steak, chorizo and pastor. Hearty soups, grilled hot peppers and pecan pudding are also in the offering. *2415 San Diego Ave., 619-795-0908.*

The Chinese “Year of the Sheep” will be celebrated with flair during a free public event at 6 p.m., Feb. 20, at **Wang’s North Park**. Guests will walk a red carpet into the restaurant to partake in sake samples and good-luck hors d’oeuvres such as fish, noodles and dumplings. At 9 p.m., traditional lion dancers will perform to drums and cymbals to further ring in the new year. *3029 University Ave., 619-291-7500.*

A neighborhood favorite in South Park will soon disappear after a six-year run. **Alchemy** plans on closing its doors Feb. 3, but will continue its efforts as an event management company for SILO in Makers Quarter, a cultural community space in the East Village.

“The role allows us to stay active in the future of a vibrant arts and culture district as it transforms into a hub of activity. Alchemy has coordinated over 40 events at SILO in the past 16 months and is working closely with the urban planning team from Makers Quarter to bring together a collaborative community and creative culture,” as stated in a press release issued in part by Alchemy co-owner Ron Troyano.

The release also states that Troyano will expand his participation in San Diego’s “food system development” and “collaborate on solutions to create business opportunities for local food entrepreneurs.” *1503 30th St., 619-255-0616.* ♦



The unique Cat Café in East Village (Courtesy Cat Café)

Felines, java and pastries appear under one roof at the new **Cat Café**, a first for San Diego where cat lovers can interact or adopt cats while washing down Danishes and muffins with coffee drinks from Café Virtuoso and West Coast Coffee Roasters.

“I got the inspiration of doing this after hearing about the

success of a cat café in Paris,” said owner Tony Wang, who formed a partnership with the San Diego Humane Society. “Some people are just dropping in for the coffee on their way to work,” he added. Located in the East Village, the café features a barista and cat playpen. It is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. *472 Third Ave., 619-786-2289.*

Create your own bento box at **Artisan Bento** in Bankers Hill, which held its grand opening Jan. 19. Customers get to pair multi-grain rice and miso soup to a choice of ginger pork, chicken, salmon and sashimi. A variety of create-your-own bowls are also available. The restaurant was launched by Shihomi Borillo, who also owns Azuki Sushi, and the chefs use “humanely raised livestock” and produce from local farmers. *2505 Fifth Ave., 619-231-0700.*

Tickets are reportedly selling fast for the upcoming **San Diego Winter Brew Fest**, scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m., Feb. 20 and 21, at the **Hall of Champions** in Balboa Park. The event features more than 40 craft brewers from throughout California and beyond as well as food and live music. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. *2131 Pan American Plaza, sandiegobrewfest.com.*

A taste of The Emerald Isle arrives to Hillcrest via **Oscar Wilde’s Irish Pub**, which soft opens by Jan. 25 and will be followed by a grand opening sometime next month. The establishment moves into the space of the original Gossip Grill and features traditional pub décor, a full bar and a menu of “all the good stuff,” according to co-owner and Irish native Kevin Gallagher. “But the food comes with a little bit of twist,” he adds, referring to items like Shepherd’s pie, fish ‘n chips and bread-and-butter pudding. Irish breakfasts, imported beer and house-made Guinness ice cream also comprise the menu. This is Gallagher’s second San Diego venture since opening The Harp in Ocean Beach nearly a decade ago. *1440 University Ave., 619-567-8249.*

—Frank Sabatini Jr. can be reached at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com). ♦

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Ian Lowe and Joe Kinosian. All photos by Joan Marcus.

FROM PAGE 3  
BRIEFSJewelry store  
grand opening

Cecelia’s Fine Jewelry, located at 4669 Park Blvd. in University Heights, is having their grand opening celebration on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 12 – 5 p.m. A custom piece of jewelry made by owner Cecelia Vasquez herself will be given away at 4 p.m. Vasquez, who worked at Francis Family Jewelers for over 20 years, will be offering custom work, jewelry repair, watch repair and appraisals. She will also have gold and diamond jewelry, colored stones, pearls, silver, antique and estate jewelry, all for sale and she will specialize in wedding bands for the gay and lesbian community. For more information call 619-297-7300. ♦

Talmadge saxophonist  
composes jazz ballet

Talmadge resident Charles McPherson, a renowned jazz saxophonist, will premiere his jazz ballet, titled “Sweet Synergy Suite,” at the Lyceum Theatre in early February.

The performance is a collaboration between McPherson, choreographer Javier Velasco and the San Diego Ballet Dance Company as part of the Creative Catalyst Fund, which awarded McPherson a \$20,000 grant for the project. McPherson’s daughter, Camille, a dancer in the San Diego Ballet, will perform in the piece.

Composing the ballet was a swift departure for McPherson, a Detroit-raised musician who spent years touring the world with jazz legends such as Charles Mingus and Barry Harris. He said the Creative Catalyst Fund encourages artists to venture out of their comfort zones when applying for the program, so he partnered with Velasco and the San Diego Ballet to craft their grant application with a jazz ballet

in mind.

To McPherson, composing the piece required a balancing act of opposing forces, since jazz and ballet require starkly different mindsets.

“I had to really structure the compositions, while still being able to improvise, which is an integral part of what jazz is,” McPherson said. “But I also had to straddle the fence and make sure there were plenty of organized, written elements going on that allowed the dancers to recognize the cues.

“So there’s a little bit of a tightrope you have to walk,” he added.

The result was a nine-piece jazz set mixed with elements of Afro, Latin and Cuban music.

Lyceum Theatre will show “Sweet Synergy Suite” Feb. 6 – 8 at various showtimes. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$50 for premium seating, and can be purchased through the Lyceum Theatre box office at [lyceumevents.org](http://lyceumevents.org) or 619-544-1000. ♦





Hummus and olive tapenade (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

## Locavore cuisine with an Italian slant

### Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



Eating restaurant meals constructed with locally sourced ingredients is hardly new. And the wheel of invention for Italian cuisine has long been accomplished. But as Chef Alberto Morreale proves with his new Farmer's Bottega in Mission Hills, ample room remains for meshing the two while sneaking into the menu a few American-based dishes.

The Sicilian native recently took over the space formerly occupied by Olivetto Ristorante, a double storefront he redecorated with old food crates, some of them containing living herbs, plus chandeliers made from water pipes and a host station utilizing an antique Singer sewing machine.

A smallish bar puts you

the form of croutons instead. But tangy capers, sweet onions and light, herbal dressing in the construct made it a winner, especially when washed down with Hermit Crab Viognier Marsanne from Australia — one of those sprightly white wines that deserve a farm-fresh salad.

Lean, curly slices of prosciutto di Parma accompanied a starter of buffalo mozzarella, which exceeds the cow's milk version in flavor and texture. You pay more for it because it's manufactured through-

out Italy under strict regulations. The result is a slight, sour graininess that marries irresistibly to cured meats, such as various salumi Morreale offers from The Meatmen in San Diego as an alternative pairing. My companion opted for the soup of the day, a super-

bright tasting tomato broth stocked with clams and mussels. It was similar to cioppino, an American-Italian seafood stew, but less busy and sans the common kick from red chili flakes.

Other preludes we tried were house-made beef meatballs, baked to perfection with garlic and herbs and served in a well-balanced tomato sauce that tasted straight from my late grandmother's stovetop.

From the "jars" section, the Fresno chili hummus grew delightfully peppery as we went along, although the Tunisian olive tapenade was too briny for our liking.

A dish of fried green tomatoes is an unexpected starter and expertly prepared. The tangy tomatoes were both firm and juicy, sporting a comforting egg and panko crust that brought to mind good, fried chicken. The disks were served with horseradish crème fraîche, although I had hoped for a much higher radish factor.

An over-sized oval plate was the vehicle for my companion's main entrée of oxtail ravioli fes-

tooned with herbed goat cheese, caramelized onions and expertly roasted cherry tomatoes. The house-made pasta pillows captured plump measures of the shredded, softly braised oxtail bound by eggs and Parmesan.

Morreale supports the delicate, distinguished flavor of the tail meat with an exterior sauce of veal stock and white wine. Everything jived. And despite the remarkable size of the meal, my companion noted it was pleasantly lighter than expected.

I chose flat iron pork, a well-marbled cut originating from between the neck and shoulder that is growing in popularity.

In many respects, it's better than a pork chop given its softer texture. Add to the equation a grilled herb finish, some caramelized apples, a puddle of rich jus and a bedding of mashed butternut squash underneath, and you end up with a pork dinner tasting both novel and familiar.

Other menu options include squid ink risotto, stuffed quail, duck ragout gnocchi and a few flat breads using house-made dough.

Skipping over pecan pie and Julian apple pie for dessert, we instead moved in on kicky, creamy Amaretto tiramisu. Even better was the chocolate "griddle cakes" Napoleon. The dish involves a trio of pancakes layered with fresh cream and berries. The high point is tempered dark chocolate baked into the cakes with more of it drizzled on top. It was love at first bite and a crafty finale that I haven't seen elsewhere.

The restaurant, open also for breakfast and lunch, lives up to its name by using farm-fresh organics in nearly everything and by the suggestion of operating as a "bottega," which defines a studio for an artist executing projects with other artists. Here, that studio is a kitchen run by a seasoned chef and his team of pasta makers, bakers and sauciers.

—Contact Frank Sabatini Jr. at [fsabatini@san.rr.com](mailto:fsabatini@san.rr.com). ♦



Fried green tomatoes (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

in eyeshot of a semi-open kitchen and a lighted case stocked with artisan cheeses from nearby Venissimo as well as prized buffalo mozzarella imported from Italy. He also spruced up the back patio, where black-and-white movies will be projected on a brick wall starting next month.

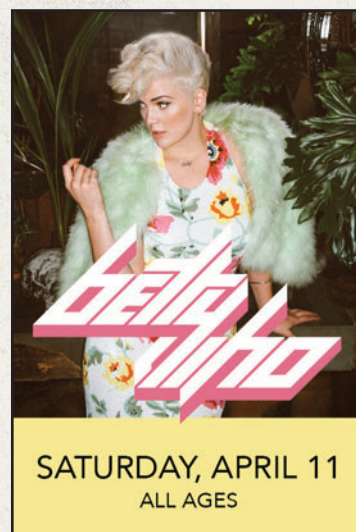
This is Morreale's second restaurant venture since co-partnering with Fig Tree Café in Hillcrest and Point Loma.

Most of the produce at Farmer's Bottega originates from Suzie's Farm, such as the wild arugula and luscious heirloom tomatoes appearing in his panzanella salad. The medley lacked the classic incorporation of crusty bread, appearing in

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# San Diego Uptown News **HEALTH &**

## The 411 on today's popular fitness gadgets

### Fitness

Blake Beckcom



As every aspect of our lives becomes more automated, it's no surprise that the variety of fitness gadgets on the market is growing at an exponential rate. Whether you're interested in tracking heart rate, calories, miles, steps or blood pressure, there's a fitness gadget out there to meet your needs. If you're in the market to digitally and automatically track your fitness journey, here are some guidelines to help you decipher what's what in today's fitness gadget world.

Identify your favorite activity, fitness goals to find the best device

### The most popular fitness gadgets that people are using today include:

**Nike Fuel Band:** Keeps your calories in check, tracks your steps throughout the day and allows you to compete with other people by uploading your daily data via a docking system or the cloud. \$99.

**JawBone UP:** Tracks food and drink consumption, steps and activity levels and sleep patterns. It also helps you commit to personalized goals, as well as share them with your friends. \$50 – \$180.

**Strava:** This running and cycling online GPS tracking and performance program allows you to track your runs, rides and cross-training activities from your Garmin, Android or iPhone. You can view distance maps of your activities, see your time splits from one mile to the next, monitor personal bests and compete with your friends. Try the free version or upgrade to "premium" for \$6 per month.

### Fitness video games

Individuals and families alike can increase their fitness levels with various fitness-oriented video games for the Xbox, Wii or



(ThinkStock)

PS3. These devices can provide personalized workouts in the privacy of your own home and can be great ways for parents and kids to work out together.

### Smart Scales

These wireless scales not only track weight, body fat percentage and BMI, but they also automatically sync your statistics to online graphs and tools that can help you see the bigger picture as you progress toward your weight loss goals.



(ThinkStock)

### Devices collect data, not solve problems

Fitness gadgets can be great tools for helping guide you through your fitness journey and motivate you to maintain a consistent level of activity, but you still have to put in the work to meet your health and fitness goals. Buying a fitness gadget won't solve your internal struggles to live a healthy and fit lifestyle, but it can help you be accountable to yourself and

any people you choose to share your fitness information with.

In order to use these tools to meet your goals, it's important to understand the numbers and information they track. If you don't know what the appropriate range is for your specific heart rate or if you get caught up in comparing numbers with other people who may have different goals and body types, then you may not be using your fitness gadget in the most effective manner.

You need to understand what maximum heart rate is and what all of the numbers you're monitoring mean specifically to you. Our Fitness Together trainers help our clients understand what their heart rate and other levels should be during different activities so they can effectively use their fitness gadgets while training and throughout their everyday life.

### It's all about the cloud

As fitness gadgets continue to provide ease of use for people to track, store and share their health and fitness levels, the wearable fitness band market will continue increasing in popularity. As technology continues to evolve, such as the ability to automatically upload and store data in the cloud, the possibilities for advancing the functionality of fitness gadgets will evolve as well.

Looking forward, Apple will soon be releasing their much anticipated health and fitness gadget, the iWatch, which may be a game changer in the industry, as it will track more than just activity levels and basic heart rate information. This comprehensive health tracker is anticipated to detect more in-depth body and health functionality, such as blood pressure and glucose levels, as well as detailed fitness activity levels.

It's definitely an exciting time for the fitness gadget market and time will only tell what's in store for the future of tracking, monitoring, storing and sharing your health and fitness information.

—Blake Beckcom runs Fitness Together Mission Hills with his wife Gwen. Contact them at [fitnessstogether.com/missionhills](http://fitnessstogether.com/missionhills).

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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 Health &amp; Fitness, page 14

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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## FROM PAGE 13 HEALTH & FITNESS

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# Barbarians at the gate

By Dustin Lothspeich

“Muses are all around us. My job is to abuse the muse.”

Andrew Mills, frontman and chief songwriter behind the San Diego alt-rock quintet Barbarian, isn’t at a loss for words when it comes to inspiration. Writing anything can be a chore — you should see how long I anxiously struggled with the dizzying blank space of this article before eventually getting started — and, as most wordsmiths know, sometimes they don’t exactly come easy. Mills, however, has been blessed with an uncanny ability to find that creative spark pretty much anywhere.

“I constantly write and vomit thoughts,” he explained. “And I feel we all have such a vast peripheral view that we constantly absorb like sponges. A song is like a puzzle for me and only after it’s completely done will I sit back and try to define it myself, if I do at all.”

It’s a good thing too because Barbarian’s debut full-length album, “Night Blooms,” ain’t exactly easy to define. Recorded and co-produced with Jon Greene (also the band’s bassist) at Rancho De La Luna in Joshua Tree (where artists such as Queens of the Stone Age, Kyuss, Vic Chestnutt and Mark Lanegan have worked) over the last year or so, the record is a nine-song, 36-minute opus of eclectic post-rock/pop. While it has a similar feel to the band’s 2013 debut EP, “City of Women,” Mills and co. have definitely upped the ante the new release.

For a quintet (also comprised of guitarist Seton Edgerton, keyboardist Dan Nichols, and drummer John Heger) that was tapped to join Bat For Lashes on a North American tour two years ago, and were handpicked to open the sold-out Arctic Monkeys show at San Diego State’s Open Air Theatre last August, this record may very well be exactly what they need to propel them from “premier San Diego band” to an in-demand national act.

And that’s no small feat. For every track crammed with hip shaking disco beats and frenetic energy, there are just as many awash in solemn gothic beauty. “Night Blooms” swerves from the singalong, after-party pop sway of “Last Call Withdrawal” and the horns-fueled drug den vibe of “Pheromoans” to the croaky, fuzz rock pulse of “Into Thin” and the Mobius loop build of “Lonely Mountains.” Unsurprisingly, Mills admits to listening to a wide range of music — some of which made its way onto the new album.

“[I listen to] everything from Scott Walker to Swans to Sharon Van Etten to minimal electronica and techno, so it’s definitely across the board,” Mills said. “I feel, as humans, we borrow from those things that inspire



The Barbarians (Photo by Bil Zelman)

us, whether it’s to dance or write or cook or design spacecrafts. If you soak enough up, some’s going to drip out ... I think I was listening to more and more of

the dancier side of the ‘80s post-punk stuff: Roxy Music, Talking Heads, Jesus and Mary Chain, and the stuff I was demoing just felt energetic but not biting ... still original, so it felt right.”

With each track seemingly inhabiting its own universe, it’s a wonder that “Night Blooms” works as an album at all. But

by using such a broad spectrum of head-turning melodies, dance floor-ready grooves and liberal combinations of campy and darkly confessional lyrical content, the schizophrenic mood swings and myriad sonic textures unfold in an expansive cinematic scope — one that the band deliberately set out to capture on tape.

“I was a film major for awhile and have always loved cinema so I tend to start with mood and ambiance when it comes to the music,” the singer explained. “I also have a love of pop and I am a hopeless romantic — but also have some strange odds and ends so I guess that’s where the

see Barbarians, page 23

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# South Park's favorite neighborhood bar gets a new neighbor

South Park Brewing Company to open next door to Hamilton's

## Suds in the city

Cody Thompson



Growing up in North County, I always dreamt of moving to Downtown so I could be close to the energy and nightlife that was San Diego. I guess I always expected life in Downtown would resemble living a never-ending episode of "Friends." Find a coffee shop and spend your days carefree, laughing it up with people that make you feel at home.

I soon realized Downtown San Diego isn't all lattes and laugh tracks. Instead, I was lucky enough to be welcomed into the South Park community, which is close enough to Downtown but without all the headaches. I never found that coffee shop; instead, I was introduced to something even better, a place that welcomed me and became my carefree home away from home. While I thought I was searching for my "Central Perk," I soon realized that I was really searching for my "Cheers." That place where everyone knew my name turned out to be Hamilton's Tavern.

Founded by San Diego craft beer pioneer Mr. Scot Blair, (also founder of Small Bar and Monkey Paw Pub and Brewery) Hamilton's has served as a neighborhood bar and craft beer academy for drinkers far and wide. They continue to serve up world-class ales to novice and expert craft fans from all over the world. I have been lucky enough to take in the sights and suds as a Hamilton's regular.

Blair is at it yet again with the opening of the brand new restaurant and brewery, South Park Brewing Company, located right next door to the beloved Hamilton's Tavern.

If you are at all aware of the current locations owned and operated by Mr. Blair, you will understand the expertise and meticulous care given to each and every detail, down to the beer itself. Expect nothing less when it comes to South Park Brewing Company.

"Innovate don't imitate' has been the motto since I began in these great beer-forward endeavors," Blair said. "We aren't a restaurant group, real estate moguls, carpet bagger or looking to cash in on a trend. We are industry leaders and innovators and we feel the community will be rewarded with a family brewpub deserving of our little town."

South Park Brewing Company, which is set to open its doors in mid-February, will be a family-friendly location serving a menu of honest fish and, for those of age, thoughtfully crafted beers to accompany the seafood dishes.

South Park Brewing Company will offer 15 taps featuring in house beers, selections from



The logo for the forthcoming South Park Brewing Company (Courtesy Scot Blair)

Monkey Paw Brewing, and select guest beers that pair with their menu. The new location is equipped with the 5 BBL brew system, which was once housed at Monkey Paw, who as a result, underwent an upgrade to a new 10 BBL system.

Regarding brew processes, Blair told us "We make all kind of beers at Monkey Paw because all styles of beers should be made in a brewery, and by paying homage to the classics and history you invite more people to trying new things."

South Park will have more of a focus on small batch beers

ton's to work closely with Blair as they prepped for the upcoming opening.

Blair said he and Harner have worked tirelessly to create the perfect casual fish menu.

"We don't want this to be bigger or more over the top than it should be, so we kept focused on that goal," Blair said. "We really looked at the things we wanted to showcase with Southern California casual fish and then added elements we enjoyed from our friends in Baja. We have put a new twist on a couple staples and have a couple of fun things that meld East and West Coast, Baja and maybe a little Asian theme, but without being confusing."

With a touch of familiarity and a couple of twists, it would appear that South Park is about to be given quite a gift.

"Let's remember this is a brewery and brewpub and our menu is 'casual' fish. This is not a newfangled hot spot or nightclub," Blair assured me. "South Park Brewing Company will



(ThinkStock)

brewed in-house specifically for the brewpub.

"Hopefully I'll be able to brew a little as well, time pending," Blair said.

Some of the beers we can expect to see released include a malt-forward pale ale, San Diego staples such as an IPA and a double IPA, a refreshing beer (possibly a saison), and as Blair told us, it will definitely include some sort of stout.

"This isn't going to be your quintessential open up a brewery and make a coffee stout. It's a fitting homage to an Old World style," he said

Cosimo Sorrentino serves as head of brewery operations for both Monkey Paw and South Park Brewing, splitting time between both brew houses. Those familiar with Cosimo and his world-class craft beers (including the Great American Beer Fest Gold Medal-winning Bonobos San Diego pale ale) can look forward with sheer excitement on what is set to come from South Park Brewing.

While the craft beer selection at Blair's bars is a large draw, food is by no means left by the wayside. South Park Brewing will be no exception, with head chef Dustin Harner, who started his journey at Small Bar and soon moved over to Hamil-

open and it will grow organically with our community. We will open with that same 'Blair Bar' attitude of under-hype and over-deliver. We'll focus on the things we can control and that's friendly neighborhood service coupled with a never-ending commitment to quality and consistency."

If there is one thing that 'Blair Bar' regulars know, it's that we can always expect nothing short of greatness when visiting one of his locations. It is the reason why beer lovers travel from all over the world to enjoy a craft beer at these bars, and it is the same excellence that helped me find the spot where everyone knew my name.

"We have a big challenge ahead of us. We know it and we're willing to get up if we fall and come back stronger. Obviously it's our desire to get it right out of the gate and to kick-ass for our community. But, we know we have to make sure we earn the respect from those great patrons who believe in what we do," Blair continued, "That's the only way I will do a project. If it's something I believe in."

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



Tas and Ben Pappas (Courtesy Digital Gym)

# Dropping into dissolution

By Erik Dobko

From the makers of "Exit Through the Gift Shop," Vice Media's "All This Mayhem" is the tragic documentary of two brothers' rise and fall from international skateboarding fame and notoriety to addiction, exile and murder.

With their relentlessly competitive edge, Tas and Ben Pappas were injected into the professional skating scene at an early age. Australian underdogs with an unstoppable drive to crush Tony Hawk's monopoly on the sport, the Pappas brothers brought an edge with their no-holds-barred technique of "bonzing it" — a reckless blitzkrieg approach to vert skating. A skate video featuring the groundbreaking, surrealistic style of an LSD-fueled skate session first put the brothers on the map, and it wasn't long until they had made their way from Melbourne to San Diego, the skateboarding mecca of the world.

While suffering a broken rib at the end of the 1996 X Games finals, Tas bonzed it to take the title of skateboarding world champion, pushing Hawk into third place behind his brother Ben. When a sniveling Hawk began to pout about his disagreement with the judges' decision, the Pappas brothers famously responded with the mutual sentiment of "Fuck off Hawk, ya' old wanker!"

Like most reckless libertines with an abundance of success, Tas and Ben quickly buried themselves in a Scarface-sized mountain of cocaine, binging for weeks in an ego-fueled tornado of self-destructive chaos. When Tas was diagnosed with spondylolisthesis, a condition in which a vertebra in the spine slips out from atop the bone below it, his rehabilitative hiatus from skating only shifted his flurry of excess into full gear. Shortly thereafter, the bank accounts for the brands they had started, XYZ and Platinum, were bankrupt. Ben was then arrested, caught smuggling considerable cocaine back into Melbourne, and resultantly banned from ever returning to the U.S. to skate. Unable to ever compete again professionally, his dream suddenly turned into a nightmare of apathy and heroin addiction.

The years go by, and Tas is subtly and unjustifiably black-

listed from the colossal money-making machine that the X Games has become, seemingly to secure certain other American skaters in their place at the top. Having spent innumerable hours toward landing the first 900 ever, Tas is dismayed to find not only that he is not allowed to compete, but that Tony Hawk is going to be attempting a trick that no one else has ever completed — the 900. Despite perseverance or skill, Tas, like his brother, finds himself barred from the livelihood he'd spent his entire life preparing for. A crack bender, a murder and a suicide follow, demonstrating the nihilistic desperation that occurs when passions are stolen and aspirations are crushed.

I found myself restless as the film first picked up, wondering what exactly was so pivotal about the home videos of some Australian skater kids. But like a punk rock version of William Blake's "Songs of Innocence and Experience," I was glued to the screen with devastation as their knee-pad-clad ambitions decayed into insanity and despair. The film's descent into reality is effectively depicted in a way that any brooding, angst-fueled adult should appreciate.

Tas's manic aggression depicts the in-your-face behavior that, after conquering everyone else in the pursuit of success, eventually turns on itself. His story tells the often-echoed warning that once you've been at the top, everything else in life is only a disappointing fraction of the immense satisfaction you once had. But despite the countless tragedies, his rehabilitation from out of a shattered life is ultimately a message of redemption that overcomes the themes of meaninglessness bombarding the viewer in the latter half of the film.

A documentary featuring kamikaze personalities living out the utmost success and disaster, "All This Mayhem" tells a deeply affecting story told with harrowing intimacy. The films airs at North Park's nonprofit theater-lounge, Digital Gym, with show times running on Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. and February 2–4 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$11 for general admission, \$8.50 for students and seniors, and \$7.50 for Digital Gym members.

—Contact Erik Dobko at [edobko@gmail.com](mailto:edobko@gmail.com). ♦



# A comedy about tragedy in Old Town

## Theater Review

Charlene Baldrige



Joseph Douaihy, who works in a Nazareth, Pennsylvania, book-packaging house, has an undiagnosed illness that manifests itself in several troublesome ways. Formerly a runner in training for the Olympic tryouts, he is able to walk only through the use of knee braces. His father is recently deceased, perhaps as the result of a freak accident and high school prank. The homosexual Joseph also contends with a challenging, ailing uncle; a flaming 18-year-old brother; and a boss, crazed by her own grief, who wants to capitalize on the Douaihy's blood relationship with Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran.

Produced by Cygnet Theatre and directed by newly appointed associate artistic director Rob Lutfy, Stephen Karam's 2011 off-Broadway play, "Sons of the Prophet," is as inscrutable as Joseph's illness. Both Lutfy and the playwright are of Lebanese descent. The show runs through Feb. 14.

When all is said and done — and a lot is said and done — "Sons of the Prophet" is a raging, outrageous comedy about the tragedies that befall the Douaihy family — a litany worthy of the Bible's Book of Job. On top of being intelligent and witty and indicative of an immigrant culture that manned the Pennsylvania steel mills, Lutfy's 1,000 mph production is well cast and directed, especially in the case of the exceptional newcomer Alex Hoeffler in the role of the principal sufferer. Because Joseph is the only competent one left standing, he considers himself responsible for taking care of the others when he can't even care for himself. Certain times in life are overwhelming, and this is one of them.

The other outstanding comedy performance is that of Dylan James Mulvaney (remembered as Ernst in Cygnet's recent "Spring Awakening") as the younger brother, Charles, who is highly intelligent and effeminate as can be.

Karam's mid-play scene of chaotic convergence, titled "On



(clockwise from left) Maggie Carney and Navarre T. Perry; Alex Hoeffler and Austin Vaccaro; and the cast of "Sons of the Prophet" (Photos by Daren Scott)



## "Sons of the Prophet"

by Stephen Karam

Cygnet Theatre, 4040 Twigg St. (Old Town)

Through Feb. 15

7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays | Tickets start at \$32  
More info at [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com) or 619-337-1525

Home," is the play's best and funniest, bringing the brothers together with the crazy boss (Maggie Carney), the incontinent Uncle Bill (Navarre T. Perry) and the repentant high school prankster, Vin (Xavier Scott, an SDSU theater major in his professional debut). The awful, vociferous situation sends Joseph straight into the arms of Timothy (Austin Vaccaro), a journalist who wants to exploit the other story, whether or not Vin will be allowed to play in the upcoming champi-

onship football game. Faeren Adams and Li-Abbe Rowswell play additional community members. The fact that the family line comes to an end due

to the brothers' homosexuality may be a further tragedy; so is Joseph's illness, which remains undiagnosed at curtain's fall.

The excellent calibration of scenes and performances must be laid at the feet of Lutfy, who like Gibran and Karam, is of Lebanese descent. I asked my companion, also of Lebanese descent, if the playwright's portrait of the culture rings true.

"Yes," he said, "especially when everyone is talking and yelling at once."

Cygnet designers — the entire stage is used — are

scenic designer Sean Fanning, costume designer Veronica Murphy, lighting designer Chris Rynne and sound designer Matt Lescault-Woods.

A Pulitzer Prize finalist, "Sons of the Prophet" was inspired by a news article about high school football players who put a deer decoy in the middle of the road. Each section of the play is named for a lesson in Gibran's 1923 book, "The Prophet."

—Contact Charlene Baldrige at [Charb81@cox.net](mailto:Charb81@cox.net). ♦



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Thursday, March 12th @ 8pm

**BRAD BRADLEY IN "B SQUARED"**  
Monday, March 23rd @ 8pm

**HAROLD SANDITEN IN "FLYIN' HIGH"**  
Thursday, April 9th @ 8pm

**LESLIE JORDAN IN "SAY CHEESE: MY LIFE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA"**  
Wednesday, February 11th @ 8pm  
Thursday, February 12th @ 8pm

**COCO PERU IN "HAVE YOU HEARD"**  
Wednesday, February 25th @ 8pm  
Thursday, February 26th @ 8pm

**SIMPLY BARBRA IN "BACK TO BARBRA"**  
Thursday, March 26th @ 8pm

**BONNIE KILROE IN "DIVAS - VEGAS MEETS VAUDEVILLE"**  
Thursday, April 16th @ 8pm

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9/6

### 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

### Top Brass

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
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By Charles Preston

- ACROSS**

1 Untamed land  
6 Surround  
10 A bad way to run  
14 \_\_\_ savant  
15 Needle case  
16 Roman garment  
17 UN decision maker  
20 Irish follower  
21 Mean partner  
22 Perceive  
23 Better \_\_\_  
25 Kind of shoe  
27 Feet-second connector  
30 Brick stick  
33 Formerly  
37 Coeur d'\_\_\_  
39 Heraldic band  
40 *Symphonie Espagnole* composer  
41 Final race, for office contenders  
44 Pilaster  
45 Bowler's target  
46 Test  
47 Boss Tweed's lam-pooper  
48 Musical groups  
50 Consonants  
51 Possesses
- 53 Little people  
55 Exclamation of discovery  
58 News piece  
61 Andes dwellers  
65 A postal service  
68 Goddess of discord  
69 Pickens  
70 Protuberances  
71 Bridge position  
72 Fido's reaction  
73 Lakes and Plains

**DOWN**

1 Parton's props  
2 Tours lightbulb?  
3 Washer souvenir  
4 Perform, biblical style  
5 Pennant  
6 Get set?  
7 Type of type, shortly  
8 Stratagem  
9 Vote no  
10 Bkg. convenience  
11 Greets overenthusiastically  
12 Leer  
13 Ballard or Danny  
18 Woody's scion  
19 Opposite of WSW  
24 Prank

26 Develops compassion  
27 Heathen  
28 Italy's last queen  
29 Lets  
31 Council of \_\_\_  
32 Ready to go  
34 Go beyond seeing  
35 *McSorley's Bar* painter  
36 Broadway awards  
38 Below, in poesy  
42 Renunciation of faith  
43 Chess maneuver  
49 Kind of call  
52 \_\_\_ pocket  
54 Enjoy immensely  
55 *A Death in the Family* author  
56 Queen of the gods  
57 Cuckoos  
59 That girl, in Amiens  
60 MDC minus LI  
62 Ancient Persian  
63 Rug or way  
64 Part of DOS  
66 NYC zone  
67 Haile Selassie, shortly

Answer key, page 20

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

Uptown News

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ABC Veterinary Hospital	4054 Normal St.	2804 Adams Ave.
About Face	514 Pennsylvania Ave.	
Adam and Eve	415 University Ave.	
Albertson's	422 W. Washington St.	
Ascent Realty	902 Fort Stockton Dr.	
Au Revoir	3800 Fourth Ave.	
Babycake's	3766 Fifth Ave.	
Baggels	1010 University Ave.	
Baja Betty's	1421 University Ave.	
Being Alive	4070 Centre St.	
Big City Deli	1010 University Ave.	
Bread & Cie Cafe	350 University Ave.	
Cafe on the Park	3831 Park Blvd.	
Chevron	4180 Park Blvd.	
Coffee Bean	120 W. Washington St.	
Comerica Bank	412 Washington St.	
Community Prescription	640 University Ave.	
Deli Llama	3702 Fifth Ave.	
DMV	3960 Normal St.	
El Cueno	110 W. Washington St.	
Falcon Liquor	805 W. Washington St.	
Feder/Kinkos	734 University Ave.	
Fitness Together	4019 Goldfinch St.	
Flicks	1017 University Ave.	
Hash House	3628 Fifth Ave.	
Hairspray Salon	141 University Ave.	
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Hillcrest Smoke Shop	141 University Ave.	
Hillcrest Vape Shoppe	451 University Ave.	
Inner Spring For Health	3361 Fourth Ave.	
Ibis Market	1112 Fort Stockton Dr.	
Jack in the Box (220)	220 Washington St.	
Jack in the Box (804)	804 University Ave.	
Jimmy Carters Cafe	3172 Fifth Ave.	
J. Stuart Showalter, JD, MFS	4021 Falcon St.	
Konna Cafe	3995 Fifth Ave.	
Martins Above Fourth	3940 Fourth Ave.	
McDonald's	1414 University Ave.	
Meshuggah Shack	4048 Goldfinch St.	
Midtown Church of Science	3858 Front St.	
Mission Hills Liquor & Deli	1630 W. Lewis St.	
Mission Hills Library	925 W. Washington St.	
NuNu's	3537 Fifth Ave.	
Park Boulevard Pharmacy	3904 Park Blvd.	
Peets Cafe	350 University Ave.	
Post Office	3911 Cleveland St.	
Postal Annex (inside)	1286 University Ave.	
Postal Place	1010 University Ave.	
Pride Pharmacy	1270 University Ave.	
Rich's	1051 University Ave.	
San Diego Uptown News	3737 Fifth Ave.	
Scripps Mercy Hospital	4077 Fifth Ave.	
Shell Station	302 Washington St.	
Snooze	3940 Fifth Ave.	
Special Delivery Food Pantry	4021 Goldfinch St.	
Starbucks	784 W. Washington St.	
Starbucks	3801 Fifth Ave.	
Starbucks	1240 University Ave.	
Starbucks (Uptown Ctr.)	1080 University Ave.	
The Center LGBT	3909 Centre St.	
The Loft	3610 Fifth Ave.	
The Merrow	1271 University Ave.	
Trader Joes	1010 University Ave.	
Toma Sol Cafe	301 W. Washington St.	
UCSD Medical Center (Gift Shop)	200 W. Arbor Dr.	
UC Medical Ctr. Hosp. Bldg. East	4168 Front St.	
Union Bank	3900 Fifth Ave.	
Uptown Car Wash	4157 Normal St.	
Urban Mo's	308 University Ave.	
US Bank	610 Washington St.	
V-Outlet	1483 University Ave.	
Wells Fargo	1200 Cleveland St.	
Windemere	265 W. Washington St.	
Wine Steals	1245 University Ave.	
Whole Foods Market	711 University Ave.	

NORMAL HEIGHTS/UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

A Brothers Market	4602 Cherokee Ave.
Adams Ave. Business Assoc.	4649 Hawley Blvd.
Adams Ave. Bookstore	3502 Adams Ave.
Adams Ave. Post Office	3288 Adams Ave.
Alano Club	1730 Monroe Ave.
Antiques Row Cafe	3002 Adams Ave.
Bourbon Street Bar & Grill	4612 Park Blvd.
Century 21 Horizon	4134 Adams Ave.
Chase Bank	4078 Adams Ave.
Coin Laundry	1815 Madison Ave.
Coin Laundry	2930 Monroe Ave.
LeStat's Coffee House	4496 Park Blvd.
LeStat's Coffee House	3343 Adams Ave.
Mueller College	4607 Park Blvd.
Mystic Mocha	2105 Mission Ave.
My Backyard	4017 Swift Ave.
Park Boulevard Foods	4504 Park Blvd.
Public Library - University	4193 Park Blvd.
Park Blvd. Laundry	4209 Park Blvd.
Starbucks	4134 Adams Ave.
Summer Liquor & Deli	4602 Park Blvd.

NORTH PARK

7-Eleven	1995 El Cajon Blvd.
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North Park Fitness	3049 University Ave.
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North Park Main St.	3076 University Ave.
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Santos Coffee	3191 Thom St.
Starbucks	2899 University Ave.
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The Laundry Room	1955 El Cajon Blvd.
The Old Mill Cafe	3949 Ohio St.
Victoria House/North House	4715 30th St.
Western Dental	30th & University
Williams San Diego Memorial	2441 University Ave.
Young Hickory	4096 30th St.

SOUTH PARK

Brabant	2310 30th St
Cardamon Cafe and Bakery	2977 Upas St.
Hamilton's Tavern & Cafe	1521 30th St.
Make Good	2207 Fern St.
Rancho Buena Vista Real Estate	2334 30th St.
Rebecca's Coffee House	3023 Juniper St.
The Big Kitchen	3003 Grape St.
The Grove	3010 Juniper St.
The Whistle Stop Bar	2236 Fern St.

GOLDEN HILL

Krakatoa Coffee	1128 25th St.
Lefly's Chicago Pizza	3448 30th St.
Pizzaria Luigi	1137 25th St.
Turf Supper Club	1116 25th St.

KENSINGTON/TALMADGE

Ken Theatre	4061 Adams Ave.
Kensington Cafe	4141 Adams Ave.
Kensington Vet Hospital	3817 Adams Ave.
Kensington Grill	4055 Adams Ave.
Kensington Club	4079 Adams Ave.
Public Library - Kensington	4130 Adams Ave.
Salon Bordeaux	3393 Adams Ave.

MIDDLETOWN

Aero Club	3365 India St.
El Indio Mexican	3695 India St.
Gelato Vero Cafe	3753 India St.
Safron Chicken	3737 India St.
Shell Station	3535 India St.

BANKERS HILL

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Sudoku

Puzzle from page 18

Top Brass

Crossword from page 18

9 8 2 3 6 5 7 1 4

5 4 7 1 2 9 3 6 8

1 6 3 8 4 7 5 9 2

7 2 5 4 9 6 1 8 3

4 9 1 2 3 8 6 7 5

6 3 8 7 5 1 4 2 9

3 7 4 6 8 2 9 5 1

2 1 9 5 7 4 8 3 6

8 5 6 9 1 3 2 4 7

WILDS

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Sabuku Sushi Bar's Passion Roll (Courtesy Sabuku Sushi)

## Doin' it Uptown and around for Valentine's Day

By Jen Van Tieghem

You knew it was coming when you saw pink teddy bears and heart-shaped boxes of crappy chocolates in the grocery store two days after Christmas. You saw the impending date on that calendar as your significant other inquired about "plans." Yet, here we are two weeks from Valentine's Day and you haven't purchased a card, made a reservation or ordered red roses. But before you fling conversation hearts at your lover whilst begging for forgiveness, give these options a peep. And skip the roses, bud, so cliché.

Did your sweetheart set some fitness goals for 2015? Here's a good way to support them whether you walk/run along or wait at the finish line with a hunk of chocolate cake: the **Fourth Annual 2015 Jump Start Your Heart 5k Walk/Run** on Valentine's Day starting at 9 a.m. Registration is \$35 on or before Jan. 31 and \$40 from Feb. 1 through race day. It's open to all ages with proceeds donated to The Children's Heart Foundation, which works to bring health, hope and happiness to children with congenital heart defects. The race starts at Mission Bay Park (2688 East Mission Bay Drive). Get more information at [jumpstartyourheartsd.com](http://jumpstartyourheartsd.com).

If your cuddle bug is into the culinary arts, **Hipcooks San Diego** (4048 30th St., North Park) has classes for couples that will warm the heart and tummy. "A Romantic Dinner for Two" parts I, II and III will be offered Feb. 12 (6:30 – 9 p.m.), 13 (6 – 9 p.m.) and 14 (5 – 8 p.m.) for \$60 each. Participants will create menus that include appetizers, entrees and, of course, desserts. Plus each menu includes a wine pairing. I'm partial to part II's menu on Valentine's Day eve with Caldeirada — seafood stew — followed by chocolate soufflé with raspberry cream, among other items. Note: The menu on Feb. 12 is vegetarian if your love doesn't love meat. Visit [sandiego.hipcooks.com](http://sandiego.hipcooks.com) for more info or to book a spot.

Musically minded folks have

lots of V-Day options. **Folkey Monkey** is hosting "All You Need is Love III" at Vision: A Center for Spiritual Living (6154 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 100, Grantville). The pre-Valentine's show will feature love songs by The Beatles on Feb. 12 performed in three song sets by Michael Tiernan, Peter Bolland, Patty Hall, Joe Rathburn and more. Tickets are \$20 and available at [folkeymonkey.com](http://folkeymonkey.com).

**98 Bottles** (2400 Kettner Blvd., #110, Little Italy) has The Benedetti Trio on Feb. 14 performing a collection of love songs dubbed "Love Through the Ages." Tickets are \$12 online and can be purchased at [98bottlessd.com](http://98bottlessd.com).

My two loves will collide at **The Wine Lover** (3968 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest) on V-day starting at 7 p.m.: music and cheese. They'll be serving flights of bubbly for \$20, a full cheese bar for \$10 and love song and breakup song covers by Rosewood and Rye and Gabriela Aparicio for free. Visit [thewineloversd.com](http://thewineloversd.com) for more info.

If you're thinking outside of the heart-shaped box this year, Pink Boobox Production's **Post Apocalipstick Romance** at 10 p.m. at The Merrow (1271 Merrow Ave., Hillcrest) will celebrate the holiday with "flesh-eating zombies, tea parties gone wrong, fire and ghoulish babes." If a "Burlesque Circus Show" piques your curiosity, general admission is \$10, and \$50 will get you and a date a table for two and a bottle of champagne. Get tickets at [postapocalipstick.bpt.me](http://postapocalipstick.bpt.me).

Have you always wanted to send a singing telegram? I didn't know this existed outside of sitcoms, but **Sun Harbor Barber-shop Quartet** will be delivering singing valentines anywhere in San Diego County on Feb. 13 and 14. For \$45 you'll get a four-hour window for delivery (9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 1 – 5 p.m. and 5 – 9 p.m. are available) with a song, an "everlasting rose" and a personalized card going to your honeybear. Pick the delivery location — your sweetie's home or office — and leave the rest to the singing professionals. Visit [brownpapertickets.com/](http://brownpapertickets.com/)

event/1158697 to arrange this unique V-Day surprise.

Choose wisely, lover boys and girls. Or you'll have to hear about it for the next 365 days.

—Contact Jen Van Tieghem at [jen@sdenn.com](mailto:jen@sdenn.com).

**Want to leave the Valentine's Day feast to someone else? A slew of restaurants in and around Uptown have special menus planned for the romantics with an appetite:**

**Bertrand at Mister A's** (2550 Fifth Ave. #406, Bankers Hill): Valentine's Day itself is sold out at the popular restaurant but they'll have a Valentine's three-course tasting menu from Feb. 9 – 13 for \$75. [bertrandtmisteras.com](http://bertrandtmisteras.com).

**Eclipse Chocolate** (2145 Fern St., South Park): Four-course dinner for \$50 with optional starters for \$15 (sized for two to share) and additional wine pairing options for \$20. RSVP required, available Feb. 13 and Feb. 14. [eclipsechocolate.com](http://eclipsechocolate.com).

**Hope 46 at the Lafayette Hotel** (2223 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park): Prix fixe on Valentine's Day only, price TBD. Room packages available. [lafayettehotelsd.com](http://lafayettehotelsd.com).

**Sabuku Sushi Bar's** (3027 Adams Ave., North Park): Valentine's Day dinner to be served Feb. 13 – 15 will include an appetizer, three different rolls, two drinks and dessert for \$69. Or you can opt for specialty V-day-themed rolls on their own (priced \$15-16). [sabukusushi.com](http://sabukusushi.com).

**The Smoking Goat** (3408 30th St., North Park): Three-course dinner menu with options for each course for \$60 on Feb. 13 and 14. I've got my eye on you lobster bisque, goat cheese tortellini and chocolate cremeux (whatever a cremeux is). Reservations recommended. [thesmoking-goatrestaurant.com](http://thesmoking-goatrestaurant.com).

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# Calendar of Events

## FEATURED EVENTS

### “All This Mayhem”

Saturday, Jan. 31 – Wednesday, Feb. 4

From the makers of “Exit Through The Gift Shop” and “Senna” comes a documentary on legendary skateboarding brothers Tas and Ben Pappas. Archival footage and interviews with other skateboarders tell the story of the brothers’ rise to and fall from stardom. The film explores the dark side of professional skateboarding, highlighting the Pappas’ drug use and self-destruction. Showtimes for the film at Digital Gym (2921 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park) are Jan. 31 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 2, 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. Visit digitalgym.org to purchase tickets, and see page 16 for Erik Dobko’s review of the film.

### Jukebox the Ghost, Twin Forks, Secret Someones

Monday, Feb. 2

Pop-influence is the name of the game at this show at Soda Bar (3615 El Cajon Blvd., Normal Heights). Headliner Jukebox the Ghost, fresh off an appearance on “Conan,” are driven by catchy singalong choruses. The band’s fourth album was released last year spawning the addictive piano-heavy single “The Great Unknown.” Also on the bill is Chris Carrabba’s (Dashboard Confessional) latest

project Twin Forks. Their style of pop-tinged folk and Americana are a winning combo along with Carrabba’s onstage charm. Check out “Back to You” for a taste and keep your fingers crossed for some Dashboard covers. Openers Secret Someones have a fun pop-rock appeal with three female vocalists drawing attention with their exceptional harmonies. Doors at 8:30 p.m. Visit sodabar-music.com for tickets.

### Empirehouse Urban Palate’s fourth anniversary

Wednesday, Feb. 4

The Hillcrest eatery is turning 4 on the fourth and celebrating their “golden birthday” with new menu items available to taste for free and several drink and food specials from 4 – 10 p.m. Empire Urban Palate’s (127 University Ave.) small plates and their entire beer list will be \$4, and mule cocktails will be available at two-for-one pricing. There will also be opportunities to win gift cards, wine baskets and more. Reservations are recommended. For more information visit empire-housesd.com.

### Free clarinet concert

Wednesday, Feb. 4

For “The Influence of Benny Goodman,” show clarinetist Philip Lipton will perform an original composition in addition to the music of Benny Goodman, Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, Claude Debussy and others. The concert shows at 6:30 p.m. at Mission Hills Library

(925 West Washington St.) Visit facebook.com/mhlibrary for more information.

### Mission Hills Book Group

Thursday, Feb. 5

This month’s selection is “Gulliver’s Travels” by Jonathan Swift. The club always welcomes new members and asks that attendees read the book before the meeting. Books can be checked out at Mission Hills Library while supplies last. This month’s meeting is at Mission Hills Books and Collectibles (4054 Goldfinch St.) from 10 – 11 a.m.

### Mid-City Unleashed

Sunday, Feb. 15

Normal Heights Community Association presents this rally to show support for a 24,000-square-foot off-leash dog park off Adams Avenue that is awaiting funding. The park is part of the redevelopment plan for Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park and has already been approved by the city of San Diego. Organizers of the event hope to encourage city officials to put the project in next fiscal budget. There will be a pet adoption area sponsored by the San Diego Human Society, giveaways and more. Dogs are welcome (on a leash). Festivities are from noon – 2 p.m. at Ward Canyon Neighborhood Park (on Adams Avenue between 39th and 40th streets, Normal Heights) Visit normal-heights.ca for more information.

## 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 Les-tat’s Coffee House, 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free. Les-tats.com.

### Tuesdays:

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

**“Grab a Mic”:** 6 p.m., an open mic night hosted by singer/actor Sasha Weiss. Sign ups at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m., Martinis Above Fourth, 3940 Fourth Ave., Hillcrest. Martinisabove-fourth.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. Rebeccas-coffeehouse.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. Universalspiritcenter.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. Northpark-farmersmarket.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.

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

requested. Pilgrimageyoga.com.

### Fridays:

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

**Fridays on Fifth:** 4 – 9 p.m., various restaurants and bars offer discounts and specials for a social hour on Fifth Avenue between Washington Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Hillcrest. 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 Market:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

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

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

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

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

—Email calendar items to Hutton@sdcnn.com. ♦

## FROM PAGE 6 LETTERS

This is not a store designed for a “small independent grocer” where people just buy a few items to fill-in between weekly shoppings at a more comprehensive supermarket. A building this large needs to have a large, busy store in it, to turn enough volume to make profits worthy of keeping the space up and well maintained.

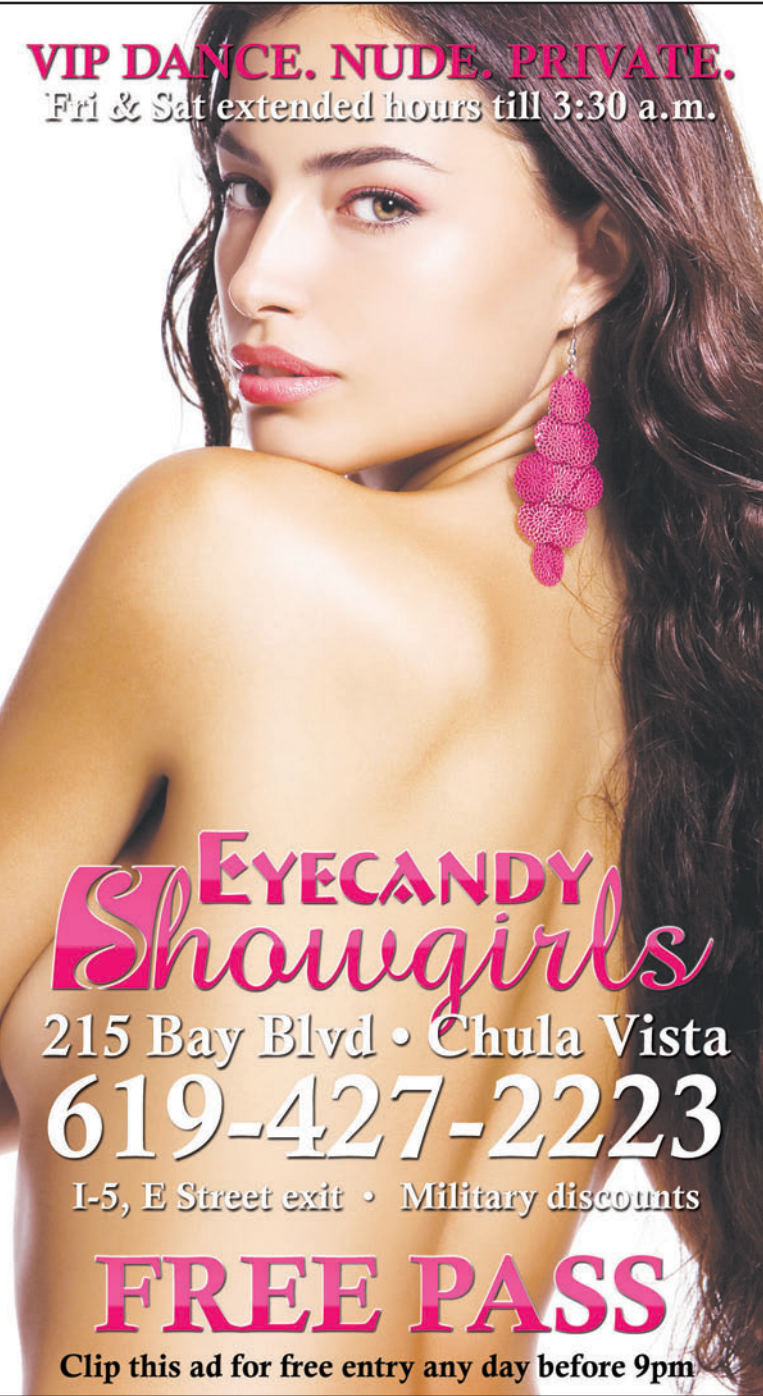
—Monta Z. Briant  
Owner, Baby Garten Studio

Having read your article in San Diego Uptown News, I find it’s time to voice my opinion. I’m a longtime resident of South Park and North Park, and am not so happy with the influx of bars and overpriced restaurants and shops that claim to represent the neighborhood. Let’s face it, South Park, North Park and Golden Hill are still primarily working class neighborhoods, with only pockets of affluence. Most of us have to get into our cars and travel elsewhere for affordable shopping. I’m all for a little

competition that might bring some of our local businesses back to reality, to truly represent “the neighborhood.” If our local businesses actually catered to local demographics, they wouldn’t need to create events such as the Walkabouts that advertise to a much larger area, bringing the kind of traffic and parking problems we now experience. Let’s not make Target the scapegoat for what has already happened. If anything, TargetExpress will be an asset to the neighborhood.

—Anonymous, via email ♦

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FROM PAGE 1  
CULINARY

several Uptown chefs on the dining trends they foresee coming — or those they at least wish would either emerge or disappear.

**Abe Botello**  
Executive chef,  
West Coast Tavern  
2895 University Ave.,  
North Park,  
619-295-1688

“We’ll see a heavier influx of Baja cuisine. We touched on it late last year, with Chad White opening Comun in the East Village and Mexican chefs like Javier Plascencia, who will be opening Bracero in Little Italy. Here at West Coast, I’ve started introducing pepita seeds, Oaxaca cheese and different chilies to the menu.”

**Karrie Hills**  
Executive chef, The Red Door and Wellington Steak & Martini Lounge  
741 W. Washington St.,  
Mission Hills,  
619-295-600

“I’m really passionate about farm-to-table and I’d like to see it become a truthful trend that follows to every restaurant owner. People talk about ‘nose-to-tail’ cooking and I talk about ‘root-to-fruit,’ meaning that you use the whole plant — roots, stems, leaves, flowers, etc. We need to start eating more bumper crops and I’d like to see that become a trendsetter.”

**Oz Blackaller**  
Chef/owner, Cueva Bar  
2123 Adams Ave., University Heights, 619-269-6612

“I would really like to see San Diegans enjoying more of what we already have rather than waiting for the next big thing to come along. There is a lot of local talent here and a lot of casual restaurants where passion is the focus, such as Don Chido and Comun. And there’s a new fish and beer spot coming to Normal Heights that I think will be a hit.”

**Fred Piehl**  
Chef/owner, The Smoking Goat  
3408 30th St., North Park,  
619-955-5295

“More enlightened vegetarian cuisine is coming. I know that in New York, good restaurants are doing more vegetarian menus. I also think that family-style dining is going to become more popular and that white table cloths are going out because great food isn’t done only by fine-dining restaurants anymore.”

**John Bracamonte**  
Co-owner/pit master, Brazen BBQ Smokehouse & Bar



Alberto Morreale (Courtesy Alternative Strategies)



Karrie Hills (Courtesy PlainClarity Communications)

441 Washington St., Hillcrest,  
619-816-1990

“I think we’re seeing more of the Southern influence lately. And based on our customers, we’re getting a lot of requests for more Southern-style foods, which we’ll start rolling out in April, such as crawfish, catfish, grits, pork steaks and a return of spareribs. We’re considering Southern desserts, too, like pecan and sweet potato pies and beignets.”

**Alberto Morreal**  
Chef/partner, Fig Tree Café and Farmer’s Bottega Restaurant  
416 University Ave., 619-298-2010 and 860 W. Washington St., 619-458-9929

“We’ll see more restaurants reinvent themselves into bistro-style restaurants that get straight to the point with good food, good service and good ambiance. The farm-to-table trend of the past four or five years will continue growing. And people will continue searching for craft beers originating from all over, not just from San Diego.”

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

FROM PAGE 1  
LIBRARY

not among those elected to be upgraded in 2015 by the city of San Diego.

Plans to move the existing University Heights library to the annex have been in the works since 2004, when then-Councilmember Toni Atkins allocated \$250,000 for a feasibility study performed by engineering firm Fields Devereaux to test the building’s integrity and structure. According to Ronald Johnston, the president of the University Heights Community Association and chair of the University Heights Library Task Force for the library relocation, the study determined the annex could withstand earthquakes and the ravages of time better than other adjacent buildings.

The plan has strong support among the UHDC and the UHCA, as well as many local residents, whom at the meeting discussed their admiration of the annex’s beautiful facade and architecture. Also supportive of the project is Councilmember Todd Gloria, who said the branch is loved and utilized far more than its cramped space

may suggest, and is nearing the top of the list of priority projects in Council District 3.

Gloria has worked closely with community members and the school district to present the option of the annex as a joint-use facility, but has remained aware of the hurdles facing the plan, including the lack of ADA access, parking insufficiency, lack of funding and differences in vision between the school district and the city.

Jones weighed her love for libraries against the obstacles facing the project.

“If it were up to me, I’d have a library on every block,” Jones said. “But the library world today is very different than it was in 2005; it would need computers ... adequate electricity, conduits run throughout ... I know that it’s a historical building, not a tear-down-and-build-anew building, but sometimes it can be more expensive to [renovate].”

Cost is by far the largest obstacle for the renovation.

The 2004 Fields Devereaux study found that upgrades to the facility would cost approximately \$7.75 million for the improvements needed to make the annex library-ready. Given the rise in inflation and

the increased cost of building materials, Jones roughly estimated the cost as \$10 to \$12 million in today’s dollars. Additionally, another costly reassessment must be performed before any repair work can be completed.

Playing devil’s advocate, Jones asked Johnston to justify the library relocation given the \$14 million, 15,000-square-foot library being built in Mission Hills nearly a mile away. Johnston defended the plan, noting the size of the community and surrounding schools the relocated library would serve, the recent scrapping of a plan to build a library in North Park, and the lack of a community center in University Heights.

Despite the obstacles, Johnston remains hopeful.

“The range of optimism has been lower, such as during the decade we spent talking to the school district and three previous superintendents, with no positive outcomes,” Johnston said. “That was down in the 20 percent range. As to likelihood of success [now], I definitely feel that the odds are over 60 percent in favor.”

—Contact Chris Pocock at crrpocock@gmail.com. ♦

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Community Realty Co.  
Jean Rivaldi, Realtor

Hi, I’m Jean. I’m honest, straight forward and a great listener. I think those are probably the most important skills to have in real estate. My husband says I have I.H.S. (impossibly high standards) and I put those high standards to work for my clients.

Whether you are buying or selling, it’s my goal to really understand your wants and needs from the beginning to set the foundation for a seamless transaction process and a great end result every time.

Before becoming a realtor, I had an extensive background in marketing, including corporate marketing communications, branding, online marketing, social media and public relations. With that experience, I am perfectly positioned to tailor a marketing plan to each home I list for a seller and to listen and address specific wants and needs of buyers as well.

I have a great appreciation for and knowledge of historic and older homes and the renovation process — one of the many reasons I was attracted to and live in South Park and love our urban Uptown neighborhoods.

Please feel free to call or email me with questions about the home buying or selling process. I’d love to sit down and chat.

619-916-7247 | jeanrivaldi@gmail.com  
communityrealtycosd.com | bestoftheblock.org  
facebook.com/sdrealtorJeanRivaldi | Twitter @jrivaldi



FROM PAGE 15  
BARBARIANS

pop sensible hooks come into play with the sick-and-twisted love song lyrics. It’s honest.”

A true headphone delight, it’s easy to get lost in the plethora of styles. How many albums exist that feature both a midnight hour slow jam sex romp with a burly, “Careless Whisper”-style saxophone solo (“Mourning Sickness”) and a shimmering, acoustic duet (“Hot Climates”) that takes more than one starry-eyed cue from The Church’s “Under the Milky Way”? Not many, that’s for sure — although amusingly enough, Mills is quick to admit that he would’ve plagiarized that entire ‘80s hit if he had the chance.

“Immediately after laying down the demo in my room I was like, ‘This is great but it’s a rip off

of The Church, Echo & the Bunnymen, Jesus and Mary Chain, the ‘Donnie Darko’ soundtrack’ ... and the first lyric of the melody is ‘Sometimes’ just like ‘Under the Milky Way,’” Mills explained. “But ... it turned out to be more of an homage to that era rather than a rip off. I don’t know anyone who plays bagpipes [laughs] or I would have completely ripped it.”

“Night Blooms” is not only tied together by the band’s wistful, youthful urgency, but by Mills’ fearlessness. Throughout, he defiantly trades lost love (“I’m doing all those things you promised that we’d do / Not doing them with you”), disillusionment (“I’m shattered like a shot glass filled with no hope / Shattered like the American Dream we bought and sold”) for the unburdened physical connection of sex (“I can’t complain / The way you take all night and keep me up all morning”). Whatever works, right?

Regardless of the narrative, it’s safe to say that as Mills evolves, so does Barbarian. When he sings, “Waste your time / You’ll never notice where you’re going’s not the focus,” in “Last Call Withdrawal,” it’s one of the few universal truths: The journey is, in fact, all that really matters. For now, the frontman seems satisfied with the band’s future and the brand new record — which was released on Jan. 27 and comes to life at the band’s big record release party at The Casbah on Feb. 12.

“We had an amazing time making this record and took a lot of risk and experimentation but it paid off,” Mills said. “I think [the album] invokes different things in different people and grows over listens. I can’t ask for more than that.”

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



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