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San Diego Uptown News



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Contact Us

Editorial/Letters
619-961-1952
ken@sdcnn.com

Advertising
619-961-1958
mike@sdcnn.com

www.sdcnn.com
San Diego Community News Network



(above) Homeless people sleeping in North Park Community Park get complaints. (Photo by Ken Williams) (below l to r) Homeless forum panelists Rick Gentry, San Diego Housing Commission; Police Sgt. Rex Cole; JD MacDonald, Uptown Community Service Center; Councilmember Todd Gloria; Cecily Thornton-Stearns, County of San Diego; moderator Sean Karafin, North Park Community Association vice president (Photo by Preston Webb)

Don't feed the homeless!

How our compassion gets in the way of solutions

Ken Williams | Editor

San Diegans, by and large, are a generous people who are genuinely concerned about helping the homeless. But advocates for solving homelessness in America's Finest City have a seemingly shocking response to those of us who desire to feed and clothe the unfortunate people who are living on the streets.

"If they ask you for money, don't give them any," urges JD MacDonald, head of the Uptown Community Service Center, a mail and computer center for the homeless in North Park.

City Councilmember Todd Gloria — who represents the Uptown and Downtown areas where the homeless problem is very visible to residents and tourists alike — echoed that theme.

"Don't give away your money or your food to the homeless," Gloria said. "Instead, give your money to groups that are working with the homeless."

More than 100 people packed the Mississippi Room at the historical Lafayette Hotel in North Park on Oct. 28 for a "Forum on Homelessness: A

see Homeless, page 24

Let the 'minor magic' begin

By Lucia Viti

The magical, mystical "minor magic" digital photography art tour is a celebration of original craft, whimsical color, bold contrast and one's feral imagination.

The brainchild of illustrator Randy Crawford, "minor magic" allows the science of digital photography to distort and convert images into ingenious, thought-provoking artistry. Swapping pens, pencils and paintbrushes for a camera, a Mac computer and Adobe Photoshop, the Talmadge resident transforms the proverbial into tales of the surreal.

For Crawford, an expert in understanding the nuances of Photoshop, the idea by accident began while recreating digital transparencies. "I flip-flopped faces, over-laid elements and created fat and skinny cartoons for fun," he said. "I played with transparencies until they became dynamic images, recognizable yet unrecognizable. It took five years to nail a process that yielded an illustrative photograph to look like an abstract surrealist painting."

The digitally enhanced artwork gave birth to "minor magic,"



This art piece by Randy Crawford, a Talmadge resident, is titled "Velocipede." (Courtesy of Randy Crawford)

Crawford's "simple, no-big-deal idea that's awesome and magical." Photographs translated into abstract paintings include years of international and domestic travel shooting metropolitan cities such as Berlin, New York and San Francisco; people, cars, bicycle, architecture, wildflowers, and San Diego's Little Italy and Marina sunsets.

Touting a "good eye" for compo-

sition with a camera, Crawford said his passion for photography simply wasn't enough. "I love photography but successful photographers are few and far between," he said. "People see pictures every day. But I do what people can't see every day. I take an average looking photograph and increase its appeal."

see Art page 20



State Sen. Marty Block speaks to Uptown Democratic Club. (Photo by Ken Williams)

Dems in distress

Senate District 39 race splits Democrats

A news analysis

Ken Williams | Editor

Former House Speaker Tip O'Neill liked to say that "all politics is local." Nothing could be truer than what's happening in the Senate District 39 race between the incumbent, Marty Block, and fellow Democrat Toni G. Atkins, the Speaker of the Assembly who is termed out.

Both Democrats have their fair share of supporters, especially at the grassroots level where local political clubs endorse their favorite candidates.

Take, for example, the Uptown Democratic Club, which conducted its endorsement for the Senate District 39 race on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at Joyce Beers Community Center in Hillcrest.

Passions ran high and tempers flared during the meeting, with the membership split between Block supporters and those favoring Atkins. Each candidate was given five minutes to speak, followed by a moderated question-and-answer session with the audience.

Block argued that he should win the endorsement largely because he is the incumbent. He said he still had important work that needed to be done in the Senate, citing the desire to broaden his bill, which passed, that brought four-year degrees to some community colleges. Block said he wanted all of the state's community colleges to be able to offer four-year degrees at an affordable tuition, so California could fill job vacancies that require advanced education.

With a slap at his opponent, Block said the Speaker's entry into the District 39 race was "tearing the community apart."

see Dems, page 23

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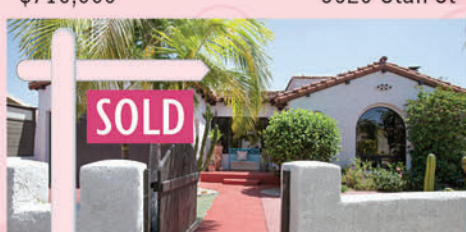
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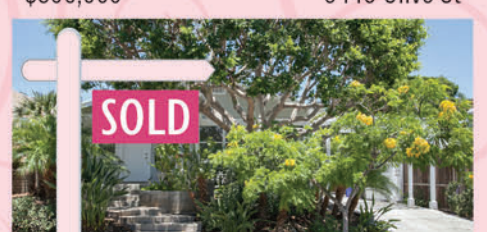
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In North Park, Homebrew Fest is school's new bake sale

Parenting
Andy Hinds



I bumped into a friend at a soon-to-be defunct grocery store in North Park, a guy who sometimes likes to bait me for my goody-goody populist idealism. He was coming in as I was going out.

"Hey, I saw that flier for your fundraiser for the PTA," he said, as we blocked the exit.

"The foundation," I corrected. Childless, this friend is unversed in the nuances of elementary school activism.

"Yeah, yeah, that. So, how can you guys get away with having a beer fest as a school fundraiser?"

He was speaking of the inaugural San Diego Homebrew Festival & Competition on Nov. 15, the biggest fundraising event ever thrown by Friends of Jefferson, the foundation that supports Jefferson Elementary, the North Park neighborhood's public elementary school.

"Well, that's the beauty of having a foundation," I said. "We can kind of do whatever we want. It's not like a PTA, which is a national organization where you have a bunch of rules and regulations. Anyway, the school is located right in the epicenter of the San Diego craft beer scene, so what could be a better way to get our community involved with the school than through celebrating beer?"

"Mmm, OK ..." He was not totally persuaded.

"Look. Homebrewing is all science-y, right?" I said. "There's, like, chemistry involved. Plus technology. And engineering. Also math, probably."

"OK."

"But it's an art, too."

"Sure, I guess."

"Jefferson is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Magnet school! Homebrewing is, like, the culmination of all those disciplines!"

"Yeah, but still ..."

"It's not like it's gonna be at school," I said, sensing his continued resistance to the idea. "It's in the lot behind Observatory North Park — the old North Park Theatre. Kids can't even go; it's only for 21 and older. You can get tickets online at sdhomebrewfest.com."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah. Spare me the sales pitch."

"You can get in for free if you volunteer," I said. "You want to volunteer?"

"Maybe," he said. "I'll think about it. Hey, answer me this though: How is it fair that you guys are raising money just for your kids' public school, while public schools in other neighborhoods where maybe they don't have parents with the time or ability to raise money don't have that luxury?"

"You're right, it's not fair," I said. "It's not fair at all. But it's the system that we've got." And then I launched into a detailed explanation of said system, the automatic

doors opening with every wave of my arms as I drew graphs and pie charts in the air, including a sidebar about the unintended consequences of the "school choice" movement, through which we ended up with a vicious cycle wherein families who have the skills, time, connections and money to make a difference at their local school choose instead to go to a school that seems "better," based on test scores, and, let's face it, demographic data (i.e. race).

The long and short of my pro-foundation argument was that school budgets have been cut to the bone, and every year school administrations scramble to pay the bills for providing their students with a quality education. We want our principal to be leading the faculty and students, not scratching around for change under the sofa cushions. Yes, it's true that since the majority of Jefferson students are classified as "socioeconomically disadvantaged," the school is entitled to extra federal funds under the Title I program. But that money has a lot of strings attached and can't be used for anything outside the fed's definition of "help[ing] ensure all children meet challenging state academic standards."

"But still," my friend continued, "if the basic educational needs are met, shouldn't that be enough to expect from a public school?"

"I guess you could say that," I said. "And don't get me wrong, Jefferson is a great school that offers way more enrichment-type-stuff than you would think, based on how people talk about the shameful state of public education. My kids have Spanish, dance and art classes in addition to the basics. But some of that is funded by a federal grant the school got that is going to dry

up soon, some of it was offered for free by very generous outside educational organizations, and all of it requires a lot of juggling and begging on the part of the principal.

"And frankly, if we lost all those enrichment opportunities, my kids would be fine. Their teachers have been excellent, and the whole school community is just a pleasure to be involved with. If my kids lack enrichment, they can go to art camp, music lessons, language programs, whatever, because our family has the resources to do that. But most of their classmates don't. We want the foundation to make enough money to fill at least some of those gaps so that all the kids can have those fun, inspiring experiences. We haven't made anywhere near that kind of money yet, but that's our long-term goal."

"Furthermore," I went on despite his raising a finger to indicate his desire to interject, "as you know, another goal of Friends of Jefferson is to make the school more attractive to local families. When parents can pick and choose between public schools in other neighborhoods or charter schools or private schools, the neighborhood school has to offer some 'extras' in order to compete."

"So it's like an arms race between parents at different

schools, trying to out-fundraise one another and steal students from each other?"

"Not exactly," I answered. "Take McKinley Elementary, for example, right down the road from Jefferson. They have an incredibly effective foundation, famous for throwing the SoNo Fest and Chili Cook-off, one of the biggest fundraising block-parties in the area. Their foundation makes enough money to fund Spanish, art, ceramics, dance, music and gardening programs. They don't want to 'steal' any of our potential students, because, thanks to their foundation, most of the families in their zone are more than comfortable sending their kids there. But a number of kids from the Jefferson zone 'choice' into McKinley because it has more goodies than we can afford. The McKinley folks have been a great help with our efforts to get families from the Jefferson zone to go to Jefferson, but the success of their foundation has made their school really attractive to the families all over the area."

"So why is McKinley's foundation so much better than yours?" my friend asked.

"Well," I continued, calling him a name not fit for a family publica-

see Parenting, page 24

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Uptown News



Salk Institute scientist Janelle Ayreshas, a Mission Hills resident, will use her award to further her research for treating infectious disease. (Courtesy of Salk Institute)

Mission Hills scientist wins \$500,000 award

Salk Institute scientist Janelle Ayreshas recently received an award of \$500,000 over two years from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to further her research on bolstering a person's microbiome to help their body overcome an infection.

The Mission Hills resident's award comes with the possibility of earning an additional \$500,000 for a third year.

Ayres, an assistant professor in Salk's Nomis Foundation Laboratory for Immunobiology and Microbial Pathogenesis, is one of 24 to receive DARPA's Young Faculty Award.

"There is a disconnect between our methods for treating infectious

disease and our understanding of the mechanisms that keep us healthy during infection," Ayres said in a statement released by the Salk Institute. "With DARPA's support, I hope to develop a better understanding of how the body's microbiome helps defend it against infections and how these mechanisms might be enhanced to improve disease tolerance."

Ayres' award comes as DARPA is proposing a new approach for medical countermeasure against biological threats with a shift away from eradicating pathogens and instead finding therapies for disease tolerance. The agency is part of the U.S. Department of Defense and responsible for the development of

emerging technologies for use by the military for national security.

"Support for basic biomedical research that is aimed at identifying new ways to combat infectious diseases rather than the traditional anti-microbial based strategies is important and timely," Ayres said. "Especially given the rate at which infectious diseases are evolving resistance to our anti-microbial strategies."

In pivotal studies, Ayres was one of the first to demonstrate that animals encode disease tolerance defense strategies and that these defense mechanisms are crucial for survival of lethal infections.

A main goal of Ayres' research program is to elucidate disease tolerance mechanisms by studying how the body controls and repairs the collateral damage generated during interactions with harmful microbes. She is taking an innovative approach grounded in mathematical and evolutionary predictions that uses the beneficial microbes that inhabit our digestive system for damage-control therapeutics.

Ayres' revelation of an entirely new set of defense mechanisms will likely lead to novel therapies that bacteria won't be able to evolve resistance to. And because pathologies that arise during infection are similar to those created by non-infectious diseases, therapies that manipulate damage-control mechanisms could also have broader applications than antibiotics.

Ultimately, by leveraging those damage-control mechanisms, Ayres aims to develop treatments for infectious and non-infectious diseases (such as pathologies associated with cancer and aging) without the need for antibiotics. ♦

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Local residents gather last year for “Hillcrest Movie Night in the Egyptian Quarter.” An outdoor screen is set up in the parking lot turned pop-up park between Heat Bar & Kitchen and the Numbers Nightclub. (Courtesy of Hillcrest Business Association)

Ken Williams | Editor

Bring the kids, your loved one, or even your dogs and enjoy a picnic and free outdoor movie in the Egyptian Quarter on the Hillcrest/North Park border.

“Hillcrest Movie Night in the Egyptian Quarter” will return from 6–10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 in a pop-up park that will spring up in the parking lot between the Heat Bar & Kitchen restaurant and the Numbers Nightclub, at 3811 Park Blvd. just south of University Avenue.

Disney’s 1961 animation classic, “101 Dalmatians,” will entertain young and old with its compelling story about a litter of cute puppies abducted by the mean minions of Cruella de Vil and the desperate search to rescue them from harm’s way.

Movie night, the brainchild of Heat principal Sam Khorish in cooperation with the Hillcrest Business Association, was created altruistically. “We wanted to do something to give back to the community,” Khorish said. “We also wanted to bring attention to the Egyptian Quarter.”

Longtime San Diego residents may recall when the Egyptian Quarter was the heart of Hillcrest and the entertainment capital of the Uptown area. Back in the 1920s, one of the architectural rages of the era was a faux Egyptian motif, inspired by the 1922 discovery of King Tut’s tomb and a growing appetite to learn about all things Egyptian. The Fox Theater and the Garden of Allah nightclub along Park Boulevard were designed in the Egyptian Revival style. Apartment buildings and some businesses in the area also embraced that style, which included pharaoh heads, engraved scarabs and Persian cats.

Both the movie theater and the nightclub are long gone, but examples of Egyptian Revival still exist along Park Boulevard and in other parts of the city. Local historians and folks like Khorish are determined to keep the homage alive.

Megan Gamwell, marketing and communications program manager for the HBA, has worked with Khorish on movie night from the beginning. The two of them have worked diligently to spread the word about the Egyptian Quarter and create a buzz about the area.

Almost five years ago, Khorish took over a rundown coffee shop and transformed it into a hip restaurant and bar. One of the keys to his success was to remind local residents that there is life east of Normal Street in Hillcrest.

“Park Boulevard was the red-headed stepchild of Hillcrest,” Khorish said, with a laugh. “But people forget that this area was the core of Hillcrest from the ’20s through the ’70s.”

Khorish met with the HBA, Councilmember Todd Gloria’s office and other community leaders to inspire a collaborative effort to transform and promote the area. It seems to be working: The Mr. Robinson loft building by architect Jonathan Segal will bring new

energy to the intersection of Park Boulevard and Robinson Street with a 2,600-square-foot TRUST Restaurant run by Executive Chef Brad Wise and a coffee shop. That’s across the street from The Whole Hog, an acclaimed barbecue pit that is relatively new to the local dining scene.

“When we started, I said we would turn this block around in five years,” Khorish said. “I was wrong. It’s going to take longer, but in 10 years, this is going to be the best area in Hillcrest.”

Gamwell and Khorish point to the sale of The Flame as another positive development for the block. James Nicholas of Clownfish Partners, who bought the vacant property at 3780 Park Blvd. from seller Donny Duenas for \$1.9 million, told San Diego Uptown

News in an exclusive interview [read it at bit.ly/1NbhWQ8] that he will be turning the single-story structure into a multi-use project by adding six apartments and a central courtyard. The bar area will be remodeled and reduced in size to about 2,000 square feet and will be leased out.

Both of them marveled that Nicholas also bought the liquor license, which Khorish called the

best because it has no restrictions.

So if you attend movie night, make sure to arrive early and walk around the block and notice the Egyptian motif. Look for the Mr. Robinson lofts, The Flame and the Egyptian building. Visit the retro boutiques and vintage stores, as some will be open late and offer special deals.

“We’re going for the ‘town square’ feeling,” Khorish said. “We want you to get to know your neighbors.”

Bring blankets or chairs to the pop-up park, where 1,400 square feet of AstroTurf will cover the asphalt. There will be music, artwork and sidewalk sales by Speakeasy Clothing and Gioia’s Room Boutique. If you don’t want to bring your own food and refreshments, Heat Bar & Kitchen as well as The Whole Hog will offer a \$10 to-go box. Then there is the \$5 movie box with popcorn, candy and a soda.

“This has been a fun event,” Gamwell said. “A lot of kids — and even their parents — have dressed up in costumes for the movie.”

Wonder how many people will dress as Cruella de Vil? Visit HBA’s web page at bit.ly/1OdFtDw for more details. Movie night is sponsored by Uptown News and Unleashed by Petco.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. ♦

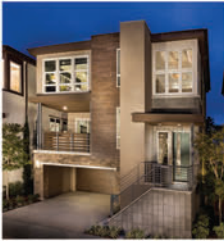


Movie Night is for the entire family and includes live music, arts and crafts, and a sidewalk sale. (Courtesy of Hillcrest Business Association)



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San Diego Uptown News

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



EDITOR

Ken Williams
(619) 961-1952
ken@sd cnn.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jeff Clemetson, x119
Morgan M. Hurley, x110

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

Jen Van Tieghem, x118
jen@sd cnn.com

COPY EDITOR

Dustin Lothspeich

CONTRIBUTORS

Blake Beckcom
Gwen Beckcom
Dr. Ink
Michael Good
Andy Hines
Kai Oliver-Kurtin
Margie M. Palmer
Frank Sabatini Jr.
Ron Stern
Jen Van Tieghem
Lucia Viti

ART DIRECTOR

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

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Todd Kammer, x115
Suzanne Dzialo

SALES & MARKETING

DIRECTOR

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

ADVERTISING

CONSULTANTS

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

Andrew Bagley, x106

Lisa Hamel, x107
True Flores, x108

ACCOUNTING

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

WEB DESIGNER

Kim Espinoza
kim@kespinoza.com

PUBLISHER

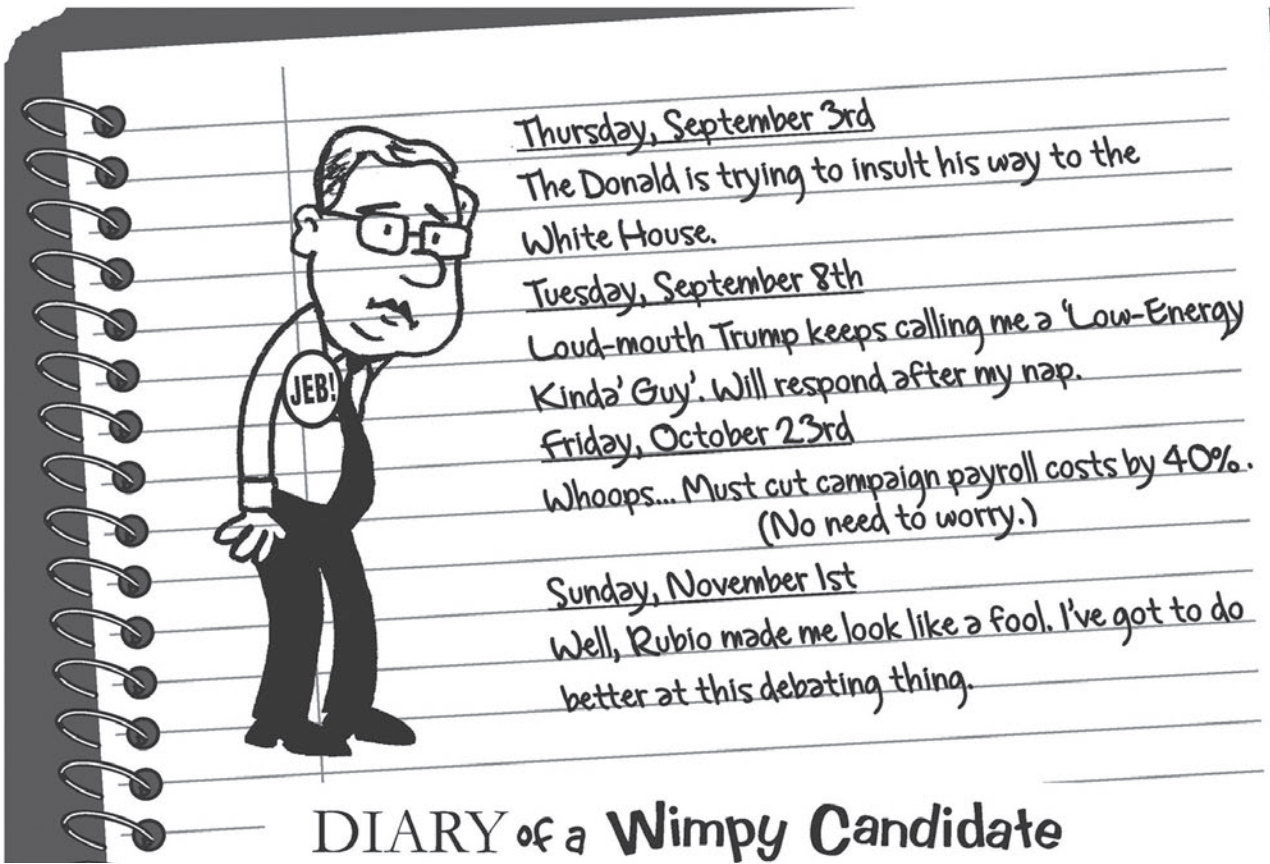
David Mannis
(619) 961-1951
david@sd cnn.com

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Editorial

Street feedings: bridge or barrier?

By Deacon Jim Vargas, Miles McPherson, Elaine Therrien and Kris Michell

When you see someone struggling with homelessness, the impulse to help is undeniable. In that moment, when you see a fellow human being sleeping on the street, you want to do something — anything — to alleviate his or her pain. It is from these impulses that many groups and individuals come Downtown to provide meals and other items, seeking to aid the homeless in our community.

While the intentions of these groups are no doubt good, they fail to address the complex nature of homelessness. Instead of helping the homeless, these efforts can serve as a barrier — not a bridge — to getting homeless individuals off the street and into stable housing.

Think of it this way: you see someone fall overboard on a ship; would you throw them a life preserver or would you throw them a sandwich? Homeless individuals in Downtown — many of who are struggling with addiction and mental illness — need services, not sandwiches, to truly turn their lives around.

Despite this, as many as 80 groups and individuals currently come Downtown to feed the homeless.

The fact is that street feedings deprive the homeless of having access to the services they need to rebuild their lives. These feedings can serve as a crutch and enable homeless individuals to stay on the streets and avoid the assistance of outreach workers who are trained to help break the cycle of homelessness. Street feedings also don't offer homeless individuals the opportunity to wash up or have access to a restroom, which is not only an issue of health but of dignity.

What many don't know is that these street feedings are also duplicative, as there are a number of service providers throughout Downtown that already offer meals at their facilities. More than 1,250 meals are offered in Downtown on any given day. These meals are professionally prepared — ensuring that the food is both fresh and healthy — something that is vitally important as many homeless individuals have weakened immune systems and are susceptible to illness.

In-house meals served by providers including Father Joe's Villages, Loving Spoonfuls, Rachel Women's Center (Catholic Charities), PATH, The Salvation Army and The Alpha Project are well-organized and ensure that those who attend have access to those who are best trained to help them address the issues that have led to their homelessness.

All of the organizations that provide meal services need help — which is how interested groups can make a difference without the current negative and unintended consequences. Whether it be financial assistance or serving food, working with established service providers in Downtown provides the best opportunity to help the homeless in concrete and constructive ways.

These service organizations also are in the best position to ensure that donations such as blankets, sleeping bags and clothing are distributed in the most efficient and thoughtful way. Too often, groups simply toss clothing, blankets, tarps and tents on the street — leaving homeless individuals to fight over the most in-demand items while other less desired items are left strewn about the street. This creates a mob-like atmosphere that is dangerous and disruptive.

To that end, we have created the San Diego Meal Service Program, a centralized community platform designed to connect public feeding groups with local service providers. The ultimate goal is to provide the most good for those in need. Located on the Downtown San Diego Partnership's Clean & Safe website, this easy-to-use networking tool allows churches, Rotaries, universities, scout troops and other eager volunteer groups to connect with local service providers looking for support.

Homelessness is and should be everyone's concern. We applaud those who do not avert their eyes from the suffering of the less fortunate and who are willing to work to improve the lives of those in need. But we must be mindful about how good intentions can have unintended consequences.

We urge all those who hear the call to help our homeless brothers and sisters to work through the San Diego Meal Service Program to redirect good intentions into more positive outcomes for the betterment of our entire community.

—Jim Vargas, president/CEO of Father Joe's Villages; Miles McPherson is pastor of The Rock Church; Elaine Therrien of Loving Spoonfuls; and Kris Michell, CEO of the Downtown San Diego Partnership; all are founders of the San Diego Meal Service program. To participate, visit tinyurl.com/pclbka6.

San Diego Uptown News



Readers Poll

Poll Results

Which stadium location would you support on a ballot?

17% Qualcomm site
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New Poll:

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Editorial

HBA: Yes to National Main Street Program, no to historic district

By Benjamin Nicholls

The comment period for the draft Uptown, North Park and Golden Hill Community Plans is drawing to a close. There's still a small window for the public to weigh in before these new plans head into the Planning Commission and City Council for ratification.

Community plans are city documents that guide new development in their respective neighborhoods for the next 20 to 30 years. These plans set the neighborhood intentions for new buildings, zoning, parks and many other things. There are many neighborhood plans that have stalled for years, so it's great that these are now moving forward.

As the executive director of the Hillcrest Business Association, my concern is for the business community of Hillcrest, which is a part of Uptown Community Plan. For the most part, the Uptown Community Plan provides an excellent framework that addresses the many issues in the Uptown community, including housing, parking, transportation, open spaces and design.

The city Planning Department has also included within the framework a proposal to create a historic district similar to the Gaslamp district, which encompasses the entire heart and business district of Hillcrest. This proposed district would put any new development in the heart of downtown Hillcrest in peril by creating a special review process outside of the typical development review process. This could greatly impact the cost of any new development. While there may be buildings in the core of the Hillcrest business district that might have historic value, to make a determination without any prior review that all buildings in this area have historic value is a bit of a stretch.

It has been demonstrated that creating protective districts in the core of Hillcrest stagnates growth. Hillcrest currently has a mandatory 65-foot height ordinance that was supposed to be temporary

but has now been in effect for almost 10 years. As a result, we've seen very few new developments in the neighborhood. Under this new historic district proposal, the former Pernicano's restaurant (which has been in the news lately for the seller's great ideas to develop a boutique hotel) would be locked up in the development review process for an indefinite period of time. This creates a financial risk to the developer that may have a devastating effect on the development of this blighted property.

As I speak with business community leaders, I am reminded that this would be the third time a developer has proposed a boutique hotel in Hillcrest and the third time these kind of restrictions contributed to halting it. Hillcrest can no longer afford to let these great and necessary improvements slip through our fingers. A historic district in the heart of Hillcrest will create negative unintended consequences.

With the assistance and input of many members of the Hillcrest business community, HBA examined the proposed Uptown Community Plan and made a suggestion that would support our small-business community while preserving the actual historic buildings in Hillcrest. We are calling for the creation of a National Main Street Program (NMSP) in Hillcrest.

The NMSP is a nationally recognized economic development and historic preservation tool that has been widely successful in other areas of the state and locally as well. The National Main Street Program views historic buildings as an asset to a business district and recruits businesses that benefit from being in characterful historic spaces. Coronado, North Park and Ocean Beach all have successful (and in some cases award-winning) Main Street programs.

The Planning Department and City Council know that we need a plan for Uptown that encourages new smart growth and supports the business community. Let's make sure that the new plan for Hillcrest includes the right tools for the job such as the creation of a Main Street Program in favor of a historic district.

—Benjamin Nicholls is the executive director of Hillcrest Business Association. ♦

Letters

North Park Forum to tackle homeless issue

Re: "North Park forum to tackle homeless issue" [Volume 7, Issue 22 or bit.ly/1S8h9RZ]

Glad to see these conversations happening in North Park. Homelessness is a tricky issue. We're talking about real people's lives — the homeless are human beings — and it's unconscionable that we allow so many people to be unhoused in the wealthiest nation on Earth.

The current situation is not good for anyone (the homeless or the neighborhood's residents) and hopefully with more community members coming together to discuss solutions (homeless folks included in the discussions) we can make some real change. I look forward to attending this and learning how we can replicate such efforts in Hillcrest, where the problem is also spiraling out of control.

—Benny Cartwright via Facebook

Yes we do have a homeless issue but more than half of the homeless want to be homeless so they can do drugs and drink. They pee and poo quite often out in the open, and then there are the meth heads that try to break into the security gate at our apartment complex and they also have stolen our bikes and done a lot of damage to our locks on our gates.

It's sad they need intervention and help. It would be nice to see the police stop and talk to people more; I think that would be a start.

The hill between 3995 Georgia St. and 4009 Georgia St. seems to be a hangout for homeless and drug addicts; also cross dressers selling sex for money. Yes it's really sad.

—Steven Foster via Facebook

Piggly Wiggly memories

Re: "Grocery stores and piggies" [Volume 7, Issue 22 or at bit.ly/1W18vQC]

Thank you for the article about the Piggly Wiggly stores by Katherine Hon.

When our family consisted of four children and one on the way, my father Charles Ruane was a produce buyer for Piggly Wiggly. A huge load of oranges fell on him and though he was rushed to the hospital, he died shortly after of pneumonia. There was no such thing as antibiotics at that time. I was 1 year old and my younger sister, Thecla, was born after his death in 1938. My older brother, Chuck, can remember riding with our Dad on a produce-buying ride one time. I did not have the wonderful gift of knowing this well-thought-of and dearly loved man.

The management of Piggly Wiggly made sure that deliveries of corn flakes, tuna, peanut butter and other items were sent to our home to help with our family needs. There was no such thing in those days as welfare, etc. but this management did all they could to help and it was greatly appreciated. They even had my older brother of maybe 7 years old help to bag potatoes for some spending money, and I got to come along and was given some spending money also for a "little assistance" with the potato bagging. This store was located on 3200 block of Thorn Street.

I have a picture of the entire Piggly Wiggly staff dated July 7, 1935 taken in Balboa Park and it includes my Dad. There are maybe 150 people in the picture.

—Fred Ruane of University Heights via email

Praise, and a news tip

I volunteer at Logan Elementary every Thursday. ...

The Oct. 23—Nov. 5 issue of San Diego Uptown News was read and thoroughly enjoyed by my husband and me. We liked learning more about Paras News and the Piggly Wiggly stores' history, too, but we particularly liked the editorial and the letters to the editor.

You do the community a real service in allowing ideas and opinions to be shared. [smiley face] So enough of all that. On to the real reason I'm writing to you — with a maybe/perhaps scoop!

For several years, McKinley Elementary has held a fundraiser like no other. It's called the Jogathon and students collect pledges, for each lap them commit to run, from family, friends and neighbors. Last year they raised nearly \$45,000 to support the enrichment programs they enjoy. This year's event, held Oct. 22, will probably top that. I think it's a story many in the community would like to hear more about.

—Pat Taylor via handwritten letter

Project is an award-winner

Re: "Project review: North Park Post Office" [Volume 7, Issue 22 or visit bit.ly/1knqzxb]

The North Park Post Office received a Merit Award for Architecture on Oct. 29, 2015 from the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The esteemed jury comprised of Anne Schopf, FAIA; Susan Jones, FAIA, LEED BD+C; Donald R. Horn, FAIA, LEED Fellow; and John Chau, AIA, LEED AP

see Letters, page 8

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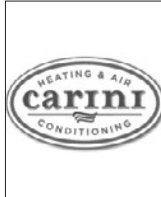
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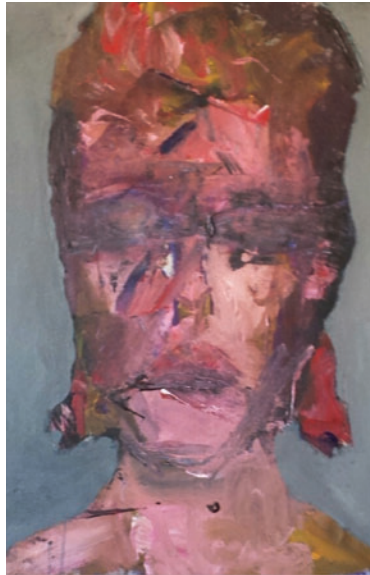


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Sacha's Supper Club, a tribute to the Big Band era, is a hit at the historic Lafayette Hotel in North Park. (Courtesy of Sacha's Supper Club)

Sacha's Supper Club

A step back in time at the Lafayette Hotel

By Margie M. Palmer

Any native East Coaster can tell you that the San Diego jazz scene has been lagging; these types of clubs are a staple for those who grew up in places like Philadelphia, New York or Boston.

But now, thanks to the launch of Sacha's Supper Club at the historic Lafayette Hotel in North Park, those who are wanting to satisfy their Big Band fix finally have a place to do so.

Sacha's Supper Club is a monthly dining, dancing, social and musical experience that takes place the second Thursday of each month. It revisits the elegance of a bygone era in an intimate historical setting; those who've attended agree it's an evening away and

a step back in time, to a sensual place where mystery and romance linger long after the music ends.

Its creator, Sacha Boutros, said her love affair with jazz began as a child, when her grandmother gave her a record player.

"I started collecting old records from thrift stores," Boutros said. "I was introduced to all the jazz greats and when I was a bit older I wound up hearing someone sing at this little jazz club — she sounded just like Billie Holiday and I thought to myself, 'Hey, I sing that in the shower. I can do that!' I became a singer overnight. I wanted to be the female Frank Sinatra."

Boutros has since gone from gigging at local clubs and U.S.

festivals to touring the world and back; she's also received Grammy nods for best jazz and Latin jazz album in 2008 and 2013. Yet despite her global success, she's always dreamed of having her own club.

"I'd proposed the idea of doing a supper club to the Grand Del Mar but they turned the idea down, saying that no one on the West Coast listens to jazz. They didn't think anyone would come," she said.

"A few months later I was sitting at the Lafayette



(left) Angelina Ceravolo, playing a cigarette girl, evokes memories. (above) The Hang 10 Hoppers specialize in dances from the 1920s to 1950s. (Courtesy of Sacha's Supper Club)

with a friend who told me that I needed to do this soon and how he felt that hotel would be the perfect place. He pointed out we were sitting in the middle of San Diego history. I decided to set up a meeting with the people from the Lafayette and boom, that's how it happened."

The historic hotel has been around since 1946, Boutros pointed out, noting that people like Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra had been through its doors. Movie stars

Lana Turner and Ava Gardner had parties there, she said.

"It was a destination spot, and I felt it was a great

place to not only start a supper club, but to promote the hotel's history and to bring back old San Diego," she said.

Each Sacha's Supper Club event has its staples; attendees can expect to see the room decorated with palm trees and guests are seated at small tables, which help facilitate conversation and allow people the chance to meet one another while they dine and socialize. Servers are dressed in bow ties and suspenders; a cigarette girl can be seen making her rounds throughout the night.

Another favorite staple is the dance show that's performed by award-winning dancer and dance instructor Joel Plys, Boutros said. Plys performs with the Hang 10 Hoppers, a locally-based touring group that specializes in dances from the 1920s to 1950s.

"The group does a specially choreographed show every time

see Sacha's, page 13



Sacha Boutros (Courtesy of Sacha's Supper Club)

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Beer lovers offer a salute during a previous San Diego Beer Week.
(Courtesy of Rascon Media)

See what's on tap during San Diego Beer Week

By Kai Oliver-Kurtin

The seventh annual San Diego Beer Week (SDBW) is set for Nov. 6 – 15 and is expected to be the biggest celebration yet.

Produced by the San Diego Brewers Guild, the weeklong beer extravaganza includes more than 500 events taking place in San Diego County within the span of 10 days.

The guild represents all 115 breweries in San Diego, with another 40 currently in development. It's the largest guild within any



A San Diego Beer Week volunteer stands by, ready to serve a brew.
(Courtesy of Rascon Media)

region of the U.S., and according to Kevin Hopkins, SDBG president, about two new breweries open every week in California (based on applications filed).

"We represent a large number of well-known, high-caliber breweries that are distributed not only throughout the U.S., but internationally as well," Hopkins said.

Kicking off SDBW is the VIP Brewer Takeover on Nov. 6 from 6 – 9 p.m., featuring rare specialty beers, barrel-aged brews and unlimited food samples — with many of the major players in the craft beer indus-

try expected to be in attendance.

The following day from 2 – 5 p.m., SDBW continues on Broadway Pier with even more breweries during the Guild Festival. Selling out for the first time last year, the Guild Festival draws more than 3,000 people to enjoy craft beer, live music, food for purchase, and a ceremonial tapping of the cask.

"The craft beer industry is really burgeoning across the U.S.," Hopkins said. "As we continue to grow toward 20 percent of the market share, I think it's just amazing where we've come in 25 years."

The other major event is The Beer Garden, the official SDBW closing ceremony held on Nov. 15 from noon – 3 p.m. at The Lodge at Torrey Pines. The Beer Garden will feature food and beer pairings from 12 chefs and 24 breweries. Since interest is high but space is limited, breweries had to enter a lottery system to participate in the event.

"We're extremely proud to represent \$600 million worth of impact to the local area, bringing business to the hotels and restaurants in and around the Downtown San Diego area," Hopkins said.

The SDBG establishes the dates and framework for SDBW, but brewers and retailers schedule their own events throughout the week. All events are listed on the SDBW website at sdbw.org/ schedule.

For more information, tickets or to check out other events not listed, visit sdbw.org.

—Kai Oliver-Kurtin is a local freelance writer. She enjoys covering events, restaurant news, culture and entertainment. Contact her at kai.sdnnews@gmail.com. ♦

Although there are hundreds of events going on throughout the week all across the county, below are 12 noteworthy events to look forward to during SDBW 2015.

- **Nov. 6** — Rare Beer Breakfast at Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens in Escondido — enjoy a breakfast buffet with 15 beer tastings and live jazz music.
- **Nov. 6** — Mission Bay Brew-Cation at The Dana in Mission Bay — taste food and beer pairings from 11 local restaurants and breweries.
- **Nov. 7** — Meet the Homebrewers at The Homebrewer in North Park — learn about home brewing, with brewing demonstrations and refreshments.
- **Nov. 7** — The Wedge Artisan Cheese Festival & Craft Beer and Wine Pairing — an artisan cheese pairing with craft beer or wine served in more than 20 participating shops along Grand Avenue, in addition to music, art and exhibits.
- **Nov. 7** — Bikes, Brews and Brats beginning at Cal Coast Cycles in Normal Heights — presented by Green Flash Brewing Company, take an urban mountain bike ride through Balboa Park and Mission Hills, ending at Regal Beagle for Green Flash beer and a bratwurst.
- **Nov. 8** — Karl Strauss Beer Dinner at BO-beau Kitchen & Garden in La Mesa — the brewmaster at Karl Strauss will discuss the company's evolution during a four-course beer-pairing dinner with beer-centric menu items.
- **Nov. 10** — Sculpin IPA 4-Ways at Barrel Republic in Oceanside — celebrate IPA by tasting and talking about four variations from Ballast Point.
- **Nov. 11** — Societe Beer-Pairing Dinner in Del Mar — brewers from Societe Brewing Company will be on hand to discuss their beers, with food pairings from Cucina Enoteca.
- **Nov. 12** — Craft Beer + Bites at Silo in Makers Quarter in the East Village — check out 15 breweries, food trucks, lawn games and live music.
- **Nov. 13** — Baja Beer Craft at Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park — sample beer from some of the most popular craft breweries in Baja, paired with food, live entertainment and curated art.
- **Nov. 13** — Cask in Glory in Barrio Logan — Border X Brewing Company in Barrio Logan will unveil its cask program with two ales, accompanied by lengua nachos.
- **Nov. 13** — Battle of the Guilds at Toronado in North Park — drink beers from San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco to see which regional brewers guild deserves to inherit the prized Golden Keg.

(Courtesy of San Diego Brewers Guild)



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The perfect project

The San Diego Union once called it 'The Perfect Home,' and the new owners wanted a restoration process to match

HouseCalls Michael Good

Experts say you should live in a house for at least a year before remodeling. DeLayne and Devin Harmon did just that — in a manner of speaking.

The big white house with the red tile roof on the double lot at the end of Marlborough Drive was DeLayne's grandparents'. Dr. Anthony Mogavero and his wife Ella bought the house in 1949. It was DeLayne's mother's childhood home, and DeLayne grew up just a few blocks away, on Terrace Drive. When her parents were remodeling their house, she lived with her grandparents on Marlborough. As for Devin, he first set foot in the house when he and DeLayne were attending Hoover High, back in the '80s when they were "just friends." Through marriage and kids, the passing of DeLayne's grandparents and her Aunt Patricia (the last family member to live in the house), Devin, DeLayne and the house on Marlborough just kept getting to know each other better and better.

"Architects, contractors, historians — they all gave us that advice," Devin said. "Live in it first, before you start changing anything."

"We would say, 'No, you don't understand, we have lived in it,'" DeLayne said with a laugh.

In 2013, the house passed into DeLayne and Devin's hands and they began to assemble a dream team of experienced professionals to fix what was broken, restore what had been lost, and take care of all the deferred maintenance that had accumulated over the years.

"That's what's so hard," DeLayne said, "figuring out who to trust initially. Someone could come in and say, 'This isn't an original architectural feature. Get rid of it.'"

"We started off with Ron and Bruce, and they gave us a good basis to begin," Devin said. Bruce is Bruce Coons, president of Save Our Heritage Organisation and a historic house detective. Ron is Ron May, principal investigator for Legacy 106, a company that does historic reports and Mills Act applications. Ron and Bruce gave Devin and DeLayne a list of contractors and craftsman. (Full disclosure: that list included me.)

The couple threw themselves into researching the era, including architectural styles, construction techniques, lighting fixtures, tile, hardware, plaster textures and other details that spell the difference between an authentic restoration and a crime against history.

"We investigated all that, then we consulted what I call our 'conscience police,'" Devin said. These voices of caution, defenders of authenticity, champions of all things original included John Eisenhart and Eva Thorn (architects), Drew Johnson (general contractor), Michael Good (wood refinisher), William Van Dusen (finish carpenter) and Celia Conover (designer). "Plus a few



The remodeled kitchen features modern cabinets based on originals. (Courtesy of Michael Good)

neighbors and friends."

Those friends included Devin's buddy Howard, a high school auto shop teacher, who played the role of everyman in this production.

"Howard would laugh at us," Devin said. "At first he'd say, 'Why aren't you just making a decision?' But then, later on, he realized how the project was so special and each element needed an associated expert to fulfill it."

Though not big by modern standards — it's about the size of your average Carmel Valley tract house — the place has a lot of detail. More than 60 window sashes, an equal number of wooden window screens, and more than 30 doors, all needing replacing, restoring or refinishing. The roof tile was not original. The stucco texture was not original. The kitchen cabinets were not original



(above) The shower tile mural has peacocks, swans and naked ladies. (right) The restored hand-carved Mahogany breakfast room door (Courtesy of Michael Good)

hallway, the fireplace tile design, (patterned after the Temple of the Cross at Palenque, Mexico).

While the public rooms are subtle, the bathrooms are bold and intense. They reflect an individual perspective, a particular taste. Maybe the tile was selected by a homeowner, maybe the builder or architect felt a need to express himself. But because it's original, the house documents the diversity of design that existed in early-20th century San Diego. It demonstrates the many different interpretations of what we today simply refer to as Spanish.

But not everyone can deal with it.

"People react pretty strongly to the tiles in the original master bathroom," Devin said. "Not everyone likes them. A lot of people say, 'I would have bashed that out a long time ago.' Someone came through this weekend and said, 'Well, there's some really ugly tile.' But the beauty of it is its uniqueness."

When asked if there was a



— but the original cabinets were in the garage.

A lot of period details had gone missing over the years. There was missing shoe molding, missing picture rail, missing sections of wide-plank, pegged flooring. Lighting fixtures were missing, shelves in the library and living room had disappeared, tile was broken, damaged and destroyed. The design esthetic of the day was for rusticated finishes and detail. So everything — doorknobs, lighting fixtures, sconces, doors, plaster and flooring — had to look old. But not actually old (which they now were). Not worn out or broken. Just old in a really cool, circa 1929, way.

These aged effects are meant to be subtle. The lighting in the living room, for example, looks handmade by a craftsman who didn't have access to modern tools. The doors and floors are intentionally unrefined. The plaster is rough and executed with bold strokes. Other parts of the house are more sophisticated: the sweep of the staircase, the curvaceous upstairs

defining moment for the project, Devin brought up the entry hall. In historic pictures he could see that the scored plaster was originally intended to resemble irregular blocks of stone. But it had been painted over, many times, over the years. I stripped the paint in a test area to see if there was something worth saving, and Devin and DeLayne took it from there. They found a paint removal product, developed a process that would strip the paint but not the plaster, and went at it. For two weeks. While work went on around them.

"It definitely changed the intensity of the project," Devin said.

"That's when Drew realized how serious we were," DeLayne added.

"It went from a remodel to a really serious restoration," says Devin. "It was a turning point."

The beams in the living room presented a similar challenge. I refinished a section to show what the wood was supposed to look

FROM PAGE 12
GOOD

like, without the layers of stain, dirt and cigarette smoke. The Harmons were intrigued. But it was Drew who came up with a practical alternative to stripping the nearly 40-foot-long ceiling, which I won't reveal here because you, dear reader, will try it at home and ruin your woodwork. But in this case, it worked out. As Devin often said about Drew, "He's still batting one thousand ..."

In a project of this nature, the homeowner can really set the tone. Devin and DeLayne made an extraordinary effort to educate themselves about the restoration process. And they listened, and sometimes even heeded the advice they were given. Devin threw himself into historical research, and the photographs he found made it possible to recreate lighting and metalwork that had been missing for years. The contractors and craftsmen respected that effort, and took particular care in their restoration work.

Devin also uncovered a wealth of information about the first two homeowners, Enrique Aldrete and John A. Greenman. Original owner Aldrete was a mayor of Tijuana, a storeowner both in the U.S. and Mexico (his Cinco de Mayo department store in Tijuana was the Mexican Target of the day, selling everything from groceries to clothing, perfume to hats, lumber to hardware). He was chairman of the Tijuana Chamber of Commerce from 1927 to 1940, and was friend to presidents and brother to the governor of Baja.

The Greenmans were the quintessential Southern California family of the '30s and '40s, working hard (they ran a produce business), playing harder (summers at the tent city in Coronado, spring at their cabin in the High Sierras). They were sportsmen: surfing, water skiing, scuba diving, sailing, fishing, traveling and camping throughout California and Mexico. They made for colorful copy in the newspaper — "Greenmans lost at sea!" "Greenmans speedboat explodes and sinks!" "Greenmans keep menagerie at their big white house on Marlborough Drive: Includes chipmunks and alligators!"

The big white house on the double lot on Marlborough has garnered a lot of attention itself over the years—one San Diego Union article from the 1940s called it "The Perfect Home." During the last two years, it's certainly inspired many a passerby to ask for a tour, which Devin and DeLayne readily obliged. Many Kensington and Talmadge homeowners have returned the favor. Devin thinks he's toured at least 80 houses in Kensington. Not surprisingly, he likes his the best. Asked what stands out about the place, he says, "It isn't one thing. It's all the separate details working together."

Said DeLayne: "When you stand in that entry hall and look around, the floor is original, the texture, the banister, the wrought iron. ... You stand there, you see the living room through the archway, the original tile, the beams — that's a unique vantage point."

Later, after some reflection, Devin added, "It's the multiple layers of original beauty, the great craftsmanship. It's everything working together."



(above) The fireplace tiles were inspired by the Mayan city of Palenque. (left) Mica lighting fixture, restored by Gibson & Gibson. (Courtesy of Michael Good)



We were so focused on the details, we didn't think about the big picture. I never thought it would turn out like this. Never." He's sitting down in what will eventually be the media room. The freshly varnished doors to the media cabinet are leaning against the wall, waiting to be installed. "It hit me a few weeks ago, when I was standing in the entry hall. I almost started to cry." He smiled, disconcerted but not really embarrassed. "I don't

know what I'm going to do with myself when this is done." He laughed. He's only sort of kidding.

Any day now the Harmons are going to move in, the construction project will become a private residence again and the impromptu tours will stop. SOHO members, however, will have a chance to see the completed project when the preservation group has its annual Holiday party there on Dec. 13. To become a member, go to sohosandiego.org.

—Contact Michael Good at housecallssdun@gmail.com. ♦

FROM PAGE 10
SACHA'S

we have a supper club," she said.

Attendees agree that Sacha's Supper Club is a step back in time. North County resident George Riebau, who went to events at the Lafayette Hotel with his sister back in the late 1940s, said the supper club reminds him of days long passed.

"I used to go there after I married my wife. She was a woman who loved to dance," Riebau said. "I enjoy the supper club and I've taken both of my daughters, my son and daughter-in-law there."

Hillcrest resident Jessica Drew attended the October event and said she liked being able to step back in time for a few hours. The dancers were her favorite part of the night because they really got people up and onto the dance floor. "And Sacha, that girl can sing," Drew said.

The next Sacha's Supper Club will take place on Thursday, Nov. 19. This month's theme will be the Orange Party, 100 years of Sinatra featuring Barry Allen Cohen's Big Daddy Orchestra. Tickets start at \$20 and can be purchased online at sachasupperclub.com. Attendees are



Lisa Schaeffer and singer Jonathan Karrant (Courtesy of Sacha's Supper Club)

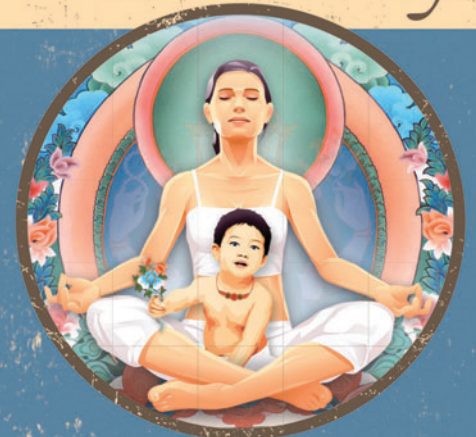
encouraged to dress to impress.

Boutros said that anyone who has been thinking about coming out but who may be on the fence should jump. "You never know what fun is waiting for you until you're there."

—Margie M. Palmer is a San Diego-based freelance writer who has been racking up bylines in a myriad of news publications for the past 10 years. You can reach her at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu. ♦

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A toast to old times

The entrance from the Lafayette Hotel's conservatory to Hope 46, named after legendary comedian Bob Hope (Photo by Dr. Ink)

Come On Get Happy! Dr. Ink

Nestled within the landmark Lafayette Hotel, just beyond the posh lobby, is Hope 46, a vintage restaurant and bar named after the hotel's first registered guest and the year he checked in. The visitor was comedian Bob Hope. The year was 1946.

Since its renovation a few years ago, the property has been largely restored to reflect the glory days of

when Hollywood actors and producers made pit stops at the Lafayette on their way to shoot films in Mexico.

Hope 46, situated just off the hotel's sunny conservatory, captures the era with a central marble-top bar and memorabilia featuring old photographs and vintage vinyl records displayed on the walls.

The restaurant used to be called Imig's, named after the property's original developer, Larry Imig. An outdoor patio overlooks the hotel's central swimming pool, which our bartender said was designed by Johnny Weissmuller, the Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer

HOPE 46

Lafayette Hotel

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619-780-0358,

Happy Hour: 4 to 6 p.m. daily

turned actor who played Tarzan in the old movies.

Hanging out in this vintage setting during happy hour offers a refreshing change of vibe from the dive-bar and modern cocktail-lounge scenes. The patronage is diverse, often a mix of under-40 hotel guests and locals who have descended on the property for swimming pool parties, fashion shows, holiday bashes and LGBT events.

Happy hour, however, is a mellower affair, when well drinks and local craft beers are \$4, and specialty cocktails dip down to \$8.

The drafts of the day are listed on a few chalk boards throughout the restaurant. From about eight choices, my drinking companion found exactly what he wanted; a dark oatmeal stout with robust coffee notes in the form of Black House Nitro by Modern Times.

I ordered a classic Tom Collins, served with a history lesson about the hotel by the knowledgeable bartender. But something was amiss when she began pouring the New Amsterdam Gin into the tall glass. A mysterious fleck in the ice

perhaps? Or a crack in the glass? We weren't sure, but she ended up dumping it and starting over with a new glass that embodied the classic, lemon-infused cocktail dating back in mixology records to the late-1800s.

Our discounted nibble of choice was bruschetta (\$6) made with very sweet tomatoes and served warm with crostini. Other noshes include Caesar salad, calamari, olives and nuts, and a trio of veal, turkey and sausage meatballs, which would have prompted us to stay longer and drink more had we not planned beforehand on leaving this charming time capsule for dinner elsewhere. ♦



Bruschetta and crostini, with Black House Nitro by Modern Times and a cherry-topped Tom Collins (Photos by Dr. Ink)

RATINGS

DRINKS: **★★★★**

The local beer selection changes often and my beer-loving companion was happy to find Black House Nitro by Modern Times as well as Belching Beaver's Peanut Butter Stout. The cocktail list captures many of the classics, from brandy Alexanders and traditional daiquiris to Moscow mules and Tom Collinses.

FOOD: **★★★**

From a menu featuring discounted Caesar salad, calamari and trios of meatballs made with differing meats, we only tried the bruschetta, which was served warm and lacked the classic, garlicky punch.

VALUE: **★★★★**

The \$4 drafts and \$8 specialty cocktails during happy hour are easy on the wallet, considering the beers are local crafts and the cocktails receive liquor pours that appear to tip the shot line by a splash or two.

SERVICE: **★★★★**

Our bartender was quick to provide us with drink and food menus before giving us an informed rundown of the property's illustrious history, although she fumbled a bit when making my Tom Collins.

ATMOSPHERE: **★★★★★**

The restaurant and sections of the hotel capture a bygone era dating back to the late 1940s with solid architecture features and memorabilia such as old records and photographs adorning some of the walls.



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UPTOWN FOOD BRIEFS

BY FRANK SABATINI JR.



The chicken bowl and other Latin flavors can now be ordered at the new fast-casual counter at Barrio Star in Bankers Hill. (Courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

A four-day remodel at **Barrio Star** in Bankers Hill has resulted in a conversion to counter service, plus windowed garage doors in front and several other light cosmetic changes. Famous for its Latin cuisine with Asian touches, not to mention its blood orange and jalapeno-blackberry margaritas, the kitchen has combined its lunch and dinner menus while adding more options. 2706 Fifth Ave., 619-501-7827.

The former **Lei Lounge** in University Heights will soon become **Madison**, an upscale bar and restaurant venture spearheaded by Jeffrey Fink of **FLUXX** and Matt Sieve, formerly of **Isabel's Cantina**. With mid-century and modern design implements nearly in place, such as intricate wood joinery and vaulted ceilings with sky views, Madison is due to open in late December with a menu combining Mediterranean and Southern California influences. Chefs Mario Cassineri of **BiCE** has designed the menu, and Tony Gutierrez, who previously worked at **La Strada**, **Opera Café** and **BiCE**, will oversee the kitchen. The redesigned space features a full bar and state-of-the-art sound system. 4622 Park Blvd., madisononpark.com.

Negociant Winery in North Park is up and running since holding its grand opening throughout the final week of October. It coincides with the release of a limited production of 2012 Syrah, available only on tap in the tasting room. The chicly designed space encompasses an outdoor patio, a winemaking area and a bar that serves craft beer as well. Sandwiches and charcuterie boards are also available. 2419 El Cajon Blvd., 619-535-1747

Tracy Borkum of Urban Kitchen Group is reinventing the 3,500-square-foot space in which she previously operated **Kensington Grill** and **Fish Public**. Conceptual details so far point only to a casual take on her successful Cucina Urbana and its spinoffs in Del Mar, Irvine and Newport Beach. The yet-to-be-named restaurant is slated to open in February. 4055 Adams Ave.

After sitting empty for nearly a year, the space left behind by **Social Experiment** in Hillcrest has sprung back to life with a new tenant named **Rakitori**. The word is a play off the concept that both ramen and yakitori skewers are served under one roof. "There's nowhere in this area that does a combination of the two," General Manager Matthew Lowe said. The restaurant was launched on Oct. 24 by chef-owner John Kook, who worked at several locations for **Nobu** and in restaurants throughout South Korea. Lowe said that imported and local craft beers, plus assorted sakes, will be available "any day now" once the restaurant receives its beer and wine license. 530 University Ave., 619-501-4091.

Ramen loaded with fresh ingredients (Courtesy of Rakitori)



Chef Jimmy Tessier attributes the sudden closure of **Local Habit** to "a combination of the owners running out of money and being pigeonholed into a cuisine," referring to the Creole slant the Hillcrest restaurant adopted this year after completing a renovation. He also cited the sporadic closure of Fifth Avenue for sewer work as another reason, saying that the restaurant lost significant business because of it. Tessier and about 15 other employees received word on Oct. 6 that the doors would be shut for good, which coincided with a Facebook posting from the ownership thanking patrons for their support. "I kind of had a feeling something was up because business had been slow," added Tessier, who was recently filmed discussing organic food by an independent producer from Los Angeles for a pilot culinary series yet to be picked up by a television network. 3827 Fifth Ave.

The daily brunch service held upstairs at **Gelato Vero Caffè** in Mission Hills was recently discontinued due to lagging weekday sales as well as customer overflows on Sundays, which the small kitchen couldn't handle, sco-owner Aaron Rabinowitz aUS. The space will remain available as a seating area and might be used for pop-up dinners coordinated by the café's former brunch chef, Kirstin Green. Rabinowitz adds that the second-floor kitchen has begun cranking out more baked goods available for purchase on the ground level. 3753 India St., 619-295-9269.



Chef Fred Keller of Counterpoint (Courtesy of Bay Bird)

A new chef is in the house at **Counterpoint** in Golden Hill, which has entered into its sixth year of business. Fred Keller arrives from Chicago's highly acclaimed **Roka Akor** after working as a private chef on a yacht in the Caribbean. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, his other gigs have included stints at **Bistro d'Asia** in Coronado, a restaurant in New Zealand, and the former **Martini House** in Napa Valley. Keller has revised the menu at Counterpoint with dishes spotlighting freshly sourced seafood and house-made pastas. 830 25th St., 619-564-6722.

S&M: Sausage and Meat celebrated its one-year anniversary on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Since launching last year on Park Boulevard with an array of gourmet sausages, flavored bacon and a stylish cocktail bar, the restaurant has opened an offshoot location at **Quartyard** in the East Village. 4130 Park Blvd., 619-344-2177.

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

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The fried hen sandwich served at Burnside in Normal Heights (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Flavors gone *wild*

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



There are three spots within 15 yards where you can indulge in the fiercely eclectic food from Burnside if you don't take it home or to wherever you're headed.

The smartly designed eatery offers a mix of indoor-outdoor seating on rustic wooden tables looking out to the commercial pulse of Normal Heights. Although if you conjure up an appetite while imbibing at Sycamore Den a couple addresses east, or the Ould Sod one door west, a Burnside employee will walk over your food on a metal cookie sheet.

Sycamore Den owner Nick Zanoni opened Burnside earlier this year to fill the culinary void of his retro cocktail lounge, which he launched previously as a tribute to his father. Food orders placed at the bar go directly into the eatery's computer system. Ould Sod customers, however, must trot over to Burnside to make their selections. In either case, the chow is delivered directly to your bar stool.

The menu was conceived in part by Ronnie Sees, a Filipino chef experienced in Vietnamese cooking as well. We were dying to try his lumpia, a recipe of his grandmother's that is filled with shrimp, ground beef and

veggies. But they had sold out.

We instead delved into an array of globally inspired dishes that mingle familiar ingredients in titillating, unexpected ways.

Nowhere else, for example, will you encounter white cheddar hiding inside falafel. Available as an appetizer, the cheese shows up within the fried chickpea balls as tiny warm spots, adding a modicum of richness where you don't usually find it. Served four to an order, and with a cup of tomato-y hummus to boot, the tzatziki sauce underneath the falafel was delightfully cool and creamy.

French fries take on a whole different personality when they're topped with the primary ingredients of a banh mi sandwich. But it worked for us as we forked through pork belly, cabbage, green peppers, cilantro and hoisin sauce to get to the thin, crispy spuds.

When Burnside first opened, I recall seeing about 10 sandwiches listed on its menu. The selection has since been pared down to about five, which includes a tempting burger with Fontina and American cheeses, fresh greens and Thousand Island dressing.

Skipping over the pork belly banh mi as well as a deluxe grilled cheese on buttered white bread that includes a cup of soup du jour, we chose the Cubano and the "fried hen" sandwich.

The surprise accompaniment with the Cubano was mojo sauce, a rare find in a city that sorely lacks Cuban

kitchens. The bitter-spicy sauce is made traditionally from orange juice, limes, garlic, herbs and black pepper. Without the mojo, we realized, this popular pressed sandwich layered with pork, pickles and Swiss cheese isn't really complete.

The chicken sandwich featured a battered, fried breast that started out Southern-style until meshing with carrot slaw, leafy greens, house ranch and a pretzel bun. Then it became trendy, but satisfying nonetheless.

Beef brisket tacos (sold in pairs) are also on the menu with their busy constructs of tender meat that tasted like Sunday roast beef, plus manchego cheese, tomatoes, onions, cilantro and roasted jalapeno cream sauce. My companion loved them. I was indifferent to the barrage of flavors.

Burnside offers a few daily specials that tap into its draft and nitro beer lineup. On Tuesdays, for example, you can land a burger, Tater Tots and a glass of beer for \$10, or a grilled cheese instead of the burger on Wednesdays. The suds listed on the board when we visited included Monkey Paw 24 Carrot Ale, Blood Orange Wit, and Mother Earth Bookoo IPA.

Whatever you eat and drink, the offerings are designed to steer your palate off the beaten track while breaking some hackneyed culinary rules along the way.

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



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Guests were seated at tables of 10 for the Orange & Black Ball on Oct. 30 that celebrated Timken Museum of Art's 50th anniversary. (Photos by Doug Gates)

Timken celebrates its 50th anniversary

Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park held a masquerade gala on Oct. 30 featuring two parties: the Orange & Black Ball and the Timken After Dark Cocktail Party.

Led by Gala co-chairs Joye D. Blount and Jessie J. Knight Jr., honorary co-chairs Joy A. and Ward J. Timken and Sue and WR Timken Jr. and Art co-chairs David Bull and Teresa Longyear, the masquerade-optional black tie event commemorated the museum's 50th anniversary. Event proceeds will provide essential financial support and awareness for Timken's arts education and outreach programs that include art experiences for the military and their families, seniors in nursing homes, and children in juvenile hall.

"The Timken has played a vital role in the arts and culture of San Diego for 50 years. Not only has the museum welcomed over five million visitors to its priceless collection, but the team has taken art out into the community through its outreach programs, clearly demonstrating art is a bridge that transcends generations and enriches lives," Blount said.

Megan Pogue, the museum's general manager, said: "The Orange & Black Ball is the museum's most significant fundraising event; it generates vital support towards our mission of presenting free, world-class art to an ever-broadening public."



(top, l to r) Barbara Takashima, Holly Martin and Erin Bollard; (middle, l to r) Councilmember Todd Gloria, and board chairs Ellen and Tim Zinn; (bottom) Art co-chair David Bull.



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

9/6

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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.

Puzzle answers on page 19

Uptown Crossword

Puritanical

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
		23		24				25	26					
27	28						29					30	31	32
33						34					35			
36						37					38			
39						40					41			
42					43						44			
			45						46					
47	48	49					50				51		52	53
54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Frosh, next year
5 Dancer's sidekick
10 Blue-green pigment
14 Hodgepodge
15 Fanon
16 Nose twitcher
17 Pellicle
18 April rain brings these
20 Seraph, to RenÉ
21 Swimsuit part
22 English novelist of yore
23 World bridge champion George
25 Cheerful
27 Writer Norman
29 Show delight
30 Somewhat: suffix
33 Gawain's topcoat
34 Kind of history
35 Former US theater org.
36 Time of first harvest meal
39 Fashion flip-out?
40 Native peacemaker
41 Athletic
42 Adherent: suffix

DOWN

1 Couch
2 Actress Lena
3 Holy trek
4 Modern Xmas film classic
5 Surfer's big one
6 "___ Ben Jonson!"
7 Yucatec
8 Impish one
9 Prefix meaning distant
10 Did obeisance

43 Protected inlet
44 Diego Rivera creations
45 Meat pie
46 ___ America
47 Sew a hem
50 Proscription
51 Modified plant species
54 Drill command
57 Mouse's cousin
58 Music's Clapton
59 Asian weasel
60 A Gardner
61 Edna of TV
62 Watchful
63 Go berserk

11 What's the big ___?
12 Classic car
13 Gaelic
19 Algerian port
24 Exec's extra
25 Weighty
26 ___ Marleen
27 Mother: prefix
28 Enlightened Buddhist
29 Complain
30 Plymouth Colony crop
31 Dobbin's digs
32 Our 19th president
34 Pointed arch
35 Distresses
37 Primer pooch
38 Argo suffix
43 Program
44 Slugger Mickey
45 Silence
46 Type of beam
47 Mimic
48 Zhivago's love
49 Svelte
50 Key letter
52 Actress Nazimova
53 Word with six or sea
55 Clemens' stat
56 Unpurified

Puzzle answers on page 19

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OBITUARY

Neil Ferrier died in early September. His family and friends are holding a service on December 19, 2015 at 3 pm at the LGBT Center.

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Don't miss Gertrude Stein's Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights on the Don Powell Stage, Dec. 2 – 6. In Stein's poetic retelling of the classic Faust myth, an Edison-like Doctor Faustus has made a deal with the devil: he's sold his soul for electric light. A collaboration with the Schools of Music and Dance, and Art and Design, this production brings together elements of dance, music, film, art, and theatre to create the multi-layered universe. For more info, visit tff.sdsu.edu.

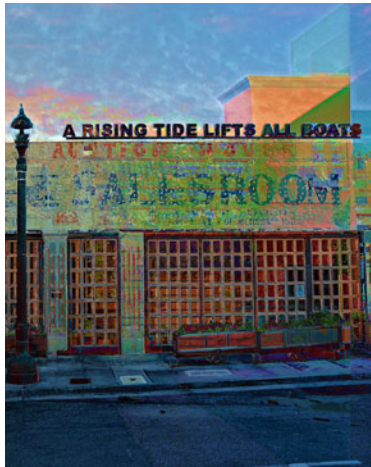
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sudoku
Puzzle from page 18

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

Puritanical
Crossword from page 18

S	O	P	H		C	O	M	E	T		B	I	C	E
O	L	I	O		O	R	A	L	E		O	D	O	R
F	I	L	M		M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
A	N	G	E		B	R	A		R	E	A	D	E	
		R	A	P	E	E		G	L	A	D			
M	A	I	L	E	R		G	R	I	N		I	S	H
A	R	M	O	R		O	R	A	L		A	N	T	A
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	D	A	Y
R	A	G	E		P	I	P	E		A	G	I	L	E
I	T	E		C	O	V	E		M	U	R	A	L	S
		P	A	T	E		L	A	T	I	N			
A	L	T	E	R		B	A	N		E	C	A	D	
P	A	R	A	D	E	R	E	S	T		V	O	L	E
E	R	I	C		R	A	T	E	L		E	R	L	E
D	A	M	E		A	W	A	R	E		S	N	A	P



Talmadge resident Randy Crawford has designed a calendar as a fundraiser for Little Italy's Piazza Famiglia project. (clockwise from upper left) Calendar images: "Santa Fe Depot Tracks," "Our Lady of the Rosary," "Sunrise Outside Ironside, India Street," and "India Street Sidewalk" (Courtesy of Randy Crawford)

FROM PAGE 1 ART

Crawford noted that not every photograph works within his translation library. Snapshots require natural rotation or intersecting points to assemble as double exposures. "Images must be worthy of conversion," he explained. "Because I use flopped, transparent layers to create multiple exposures on a single image, the photograph must have a pivot or a flip-flop point. I must frame a photograph — prior to shooting — to include an access point for lining two images together, so the image naturally fits the process of distorted manipulation."

Crawford's snapshots are

altered according to his muse. "I'm inspired by the artist that resides in my heart and soul," said Crawford, who spent 25 years as a graphic designer for Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical, now known as the Northrop Grumman Corp. "The artistic bone is the strongest bone in my body."

Positive reactions and "major wow-factors" led Crawford to debut his work in Art Lab Studios, once stationed in Normal Heights. Instant success drove him to pursue his artistic venture full time. When approached by the Little Italy Association to host his own show to raise money for Piazza Famiglia, Crawford agreed without hesitation.

"I'm honored to support the Little Italy Association," he said. "Little Italy is one of San Diego's

great urban neighborhoods and a perfect place to shoot photographs. The association has implemented wonderful changes to Little Italy and I've worked diligently to capture its unique essence."

Marco Li Mandri, Little Italy Association's chief executive administrator, said he was excited to host Crawford's artwork as a fundraiser for Piazza Famiglia, the group's most enterprising project to date. The 10,000-square-foot public space slated for a 2017 spring opening will become the new heart of Little Italy. "Projects like Piazza Famiglia keep Little Italy one of the most coveted cultural communities in the nation, in a desirable, iconic location," Li Mandri said.

"The Little Italy Association and its community are huge pro-

ponents of public art," said Chris Gomez, district manager for the association. "The 'minor magic' show invites a climate of professionals and collectors, as well as dedicated festival attendees, to visit Little Italy and enjoy an activity other than shopping and eating. Crawford's unique, edgy artistic designs offer a great opportunity to raise money for Little Italy's beautification."

Gomez described "minor magic" as thought-provoking, conversational artwork that is no easy feat. "Anyone can be a point-and-click photographer but it takes a talented eye to raise the bar and recognize composition and the use of color and contrast. Crawford's work leads us to step back and question 'what is my eye seeing, what is

my mind seeing and where can I see this in my home?"

Crawford's show will exhibit original canvasses, prints and 2016 calendars that will list Little Italy's 2016 special events. Custom orders of prints will also be available. Fifty percent of "minor magic" sales will be donated to the Piazza Famiglia fund.

A private reception will be held on opening night on Saturday Nov. 21, from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Little Italy Association office. The show will remain open to the public from Monday, Nov. 23, through Friday, Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment at 619-233-3898. For more information, visit littleitalysd.com.

—Contact Lucia Viti at lucia-viti@roadrunner.com. ♦

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(above) Tourists “jump” at the falls on the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. (below) Wine lovers should visit Strawbale Winery. (bottom) Sioux Falls has more than 650 restaurants, including Oh My Cupcakes! (Photos by Ron Stern)

Sioux Falls: symphony of sights and sounds in the heart of America

Global Gumshoe
Ron Stern



South Dakota’s two largest cities are on opposite sides of the state, connected by Interstate 90 that runs east/west between them. Many people will know of Rapid City, since that’s the gateway to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore. Follow I-90 east to the southeast corner of the state and you’ll find Sioux Falls.

A city of 160,000 people (about 100,000 more than Rapid City), Sioux Falls has plenty of scenic beauty of its own, as well as a thriving economy, abundant arts and culture venues, and more than 650 restaurants offering cuisine from all over the world.

Falls Park

The Big Sioux River runs through the city, and visitors can take in the beauty of the waterfalls in Falls Park, which is only a few blocks from downtown, with an entrance on Phillips Avenue. Nature lovers will enjoy not only the dramatic scenery but also the sound of the rushing water as it pours 100 feet down the cascade of the Upper and Main Falls.

This is an ideal first stop for visitors, as there is a Visitor Information Center, as well as a viewing tower that is five stories high and delivers panoramic sights of the city, and the Falls Overlook Café, situated beside the Lower Falls. There are also several permanent sculptures placed at specific spots in the park, including a magnificent reclining buffalo titled Monarch of the Plains.

River Greenway

Falls Park also provides access to the River Greenway — a multipurpose path for walkers and bikers that follows the river in a loop through the city.

The River Greenway is part of the Big Sioux River Recreational Trail, a 26-mile, paved off-street walking and biking path. Sioux Falls has over 70 parks and greenways, many of which provide access to the Recreational Trail.

SculptureWalk

Sioux Falls is justifiably proud of its SculptureWalk, an annual show of over 50 outdoor sculptures located throughout downtown. Sculptors can place their work in the show for one year, and each piece is available for purchase. As a result, there are many new sculptures every year for people to enjoy.

Washington Pavilion

When it comes to cultural events, the Washington Pavilion is the artistic hub of the city.

Within this building – sections of which are over 100 years old, is the Visual Arts Center. This consists of a sculpture garden, seven multimedia galleries, studios for painters and sculptors in clay, with one of these reserved for children to indulge in artistic activities.

The Kirby Science Discovery Center is a hands-on science center filling three floors on the south side of the Pavilion building. The interactive exhibits include everything from aerodynamics to dinosaurs to space exploration.

Both children and adults love to visit Stan, a 65-million-year-old skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex that was discovered in the Hell Creek Formation in South Dakota in 1987. It is the



largest and most complete T-Rex skeleton ever found.

The keystone of the Washington Pavilion is the Husby Performing Arts Center, which features the Mary W. Sommervold Hall with 1,900 seats and the Belbas Theater with 300 seats. Touring Broadway plays come to the Sommervold Hall, and it is the performance space for the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

Another popular attraction is the Wells Fargo CineDome, which shows the latest movies and documentaries on a screen that’s 60 feet wide and four stories high.

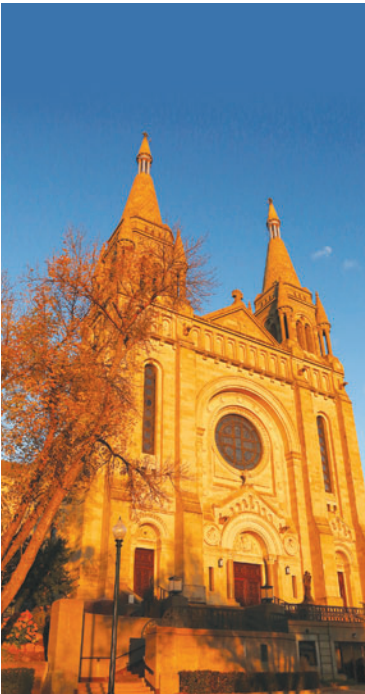
Sertoma Butterfly House and Marine Cove

The Sertona Butterfly House and Marine Cove are located at 4320 Oxbow Ave., and is open year-round except for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This beautiful location is especially popular during the wintertime, as it maintains a constant temperature of 80 to 85 degrees to keep the butterflies happy. Over 800 butterflies from around the world hover and fly inside the indoor 3,600-square-foot tropical garden.

The Marine Cove features aquariums with over 10,000 square feet of water to provide a home for salt-water creatures such as sea horses, clownfish, tangs, sharks and sting rays, which swim and dart around a variety of corals. There’s also a touch pool for kids and adults who’d like to experience the sandpaper feel of shark skin and the smooth sliminess that covers the fins of stingrays. Within the Pacific Tide Pool are sea cucumbers, anemones, sea stars and lots more.

Eclectic cuisine

Cuisines from around the world can be found in the over 650 restaurants that dot the city. There’s everything



(above left) Catholic Cathedral of Sioux Falls, (above right) art sculpture found downtown, (bottom) morning traffic across the river (Photos by Ron Stern)

from American fare to Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese and Mediterranean.

Dessert lovers will want to visit CH Patisserie on South Phillips Avenue. Pastry Chef Chris Hanmer has won a host of awards (such as one of the Top 10 Pastry Chefs in America, and Top Chef of “Top Chef: Just Desserts” (season two). He’s famed for his

neon-colored French macaroons.

A sweet tooth can also be satisfied at Oh My Cupcakes! on South Western Avenue. Their motto is “To shine God’s love and make people smile ... with cupcakes.”

—Contact Ron Stern at travelwriter01@comcast.net or visit his blog at originalglobalgumshoe.blogspot.com. ♦

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

A tribute to Kate Sessions, “The Mother of Balboa Park”

Sunday, Nov. 8

The Spreckels Organ Society will present a concert tribute to Kate Sessions, “The Mother of Balboa Park,” at Spreckels Organ Pavillion (1549 El Prado, #10, Balboa Park) at 2 p.m. The concert, conceived and performed by organist Robert Plimpton, will take place on what would have been Sessions’ 158th birthday. Plimpton will be joined by special guests David Lundin from the Balboa Park Heritage Association, and Patricia McAfee, mezzo soprano. The concert will also include a nod to Mme. Shumann-Heink. Admission is free. Visit on.fb.me/1RKQHgu for more information.

Opening reception for “VOICES: Honoring Veterans”

Tuesday, Nov. 10

The Luxe Gallery (1080 16th St., Fifth Floor, Downtown) at San Diego City College (SDCC) will host this special exhibition telling the stories of 24 veterans. A collaborative effort by SDCC’s graphic design and photography programs, “VOICES” will feature large-scale portraits of veterans (taken by David King) and their stories of service ranging from World War II to present-day Afghanistan and Iraq. The exhibition will also include original drawings, paintings and more from World War II correspondent and illustrator Carol Johnson. The opening reception is from 6 – 8 p.m. and the exhibit will be open through Dec. 10. Visit sdcity.edu for more information.

Upcoming events at Mission Hills Library

Thursday, Nov. 12 and Saturday, Nov. 21

On Nov. 12, the 18th and 19th Century Book Club will meet to discuss “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley. New members are welcome. Please read the book beforehand; note: they are available at the library’s circulation desk while supplies last. The meeting is from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. The following week on Nov. 21, the library will hold a book sale – a great way to stock up and support the library. The Mission Hills Library is located at 925 West Washington St. Visit them online at facebook.com/mhlibrary.

‘Trainwreck’

Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14

Cinema Under the Stars presents (4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills) this 2015 romantic comedy starring Amy Schumer, who wrote the film with director Judd Apatow. “Trainwreck” follows Schumer’s character — a party girl who fears commitment even when she meets a good guy (Bill Hader). Tickets are \$15. For more info, visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

San Diego Conscious Music Fest

Saturday, Nov. 14

The San Diego Conscious Music Fest has expanded its original concert format into an all-day celebration at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego (4190 Front St., Hillcrest). This year’s event will include an outdoor vendor fair with live music, a performance by the Conscious Community Choir and more. Awards will be presented to the winners of Young Voices songwriting

REP Your Pride with PFLAG San Diego
Friday, Nov. 13

Prior to the San Diego REP’s showing of “The Oldest Boy” (8 p.m.) their REP Your Pride event will be held (7 p.m.) with a panel from PFLAG San Diego. The group offers support, education and advocacy to parents and family of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the community. The panel will feature staff and members sharing stories of challenges and acceptance from the community. REP Your Pride is sponsored by San Diego Uptown News’ sister publication Gay San Diego.

ing contest who will also perform. Closing the event will be the evening concert with some of the most popular singer-songwriters in the conscious music movement: Karl Anthony, Nathan Aswell, Ray Davis, Gary Lynn Floyd, John Foltz, Peggy Lebo, Faith Rivera, Teri Wilder and The Yes Team. The afternoon festival from 1 – 5 p.m. is free. The Young Voices performances from 5 – 6 p.m. are \$10 (\$5 for children under 12). And the Conscious Music Fest Concert from 7 – 10:30 p.m. is \$40 (includes The Young Voices performances). Visit consciousmusicsd.com for tickets and more details.

RECURRING EVENTS

Select dates:

Canyoneers guided nature walks: These free walks are part of a countywide program by the San Diego Natural History Museum through June 26, 2016. A map and schedule of walks can be found online at sdnhm.org.

Daily:

Don’t Try This at Home!: Six varying times per day

until Nov. 29, a live science show is presented with demonstrations that are too messy, loud or shocking to try at home. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park, free with admission. Rhffleet.org.

Mondays:

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

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

Karaoke: 8 p.m., your chance to shine on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

Tuesdays:

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

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

Uptown Democratic Club: 6:30 p.m., Joyce Beers Community Center hosts these meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. New members wanted. 1220 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.

Open Mic Charlie’s: 7 – 9:30 p.m. (except the third Tuesday), open mic night at Rebecca’s Coffee



“The Oldest Boy” focuses on the challenges a mother faces when her toddler’s destiny turns out to be unlike what she had envisioned. The play and REP Your Pride will take place on The Lyceum Stage (79 Horton Plaza, Downtown). Visit lyceumevents.org for tickets and more information.

House, 3015 Juniper St., South Park, free. Rebeccascoffeehouse.com.

North Park Brewer’s Club: 8:30 p.m., monthly meeting of the club every second Tuesday of the month on the back patio at Thorn Street Brewery, 3176 Thorn St., North Park. Thornstreetbrew.com.

Wednesdays:

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

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, Suggested \$5 donation. Ages 12 and up. Storytellersofsandiego.org.

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdrotary.org.

Gentle yoga for seniors: 2:30 – 4 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 Street and University Avenue, North Park, free. Northparkfarmers-market.com.

Kornflower’s Open Mic: Signups at 7 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.

Liberty Toastmasters Club: 7 p.m., at Saint Paul’s Community Care Center, 328 Maple St., Bankers Hill. Libertytoastmasters.org.

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.

Cinema Under the Stars: 8:30 p.m., classic movie screenings at 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. Additional showings Friday – Sunday. Tickets start at \$15. Topsresents.com.

Fridays:

Memory Café: 10 – 11 a.m., second and fourth Fridays. Gathering place for those with memory loss, caretakers and those worried about memory problems in the Common Room at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. At-will donation. Memoryguides.org and Firstuusandiego.org.

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

Square Dancing Classes: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., every Friday. No previous dance experience needed. Recital Hall, 2130 Pan American Plaza. \$50 for 13 classes. 858-277-7499 or circulators.sdsda.org.

Saturdays

Old Town Saturday Market: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town, free. Also held on Sundays. Oldtownsat-urdaymarket.com.

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

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

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



A scene from “Deathgasm,” coming to Digital Gym in North Park
(Courtesy of Digital Gym)

Digital Gym’s gems
Nov. 6 – 12:

“Time Out of Mind” stars Richard Gere as a homeless man who bonds with a new friend (Ben Vereen) at Bellevue Hospital while trying to repair his relationship with his estranged daughter (Jena Malone.) Unrated. 120 minutes.

Nov. 6 – 12: The Sundance Film Festival prize-winning documentary “The Russian Woodpecker” follows Fedor Alexandrovich’s investigation into the Chernobyl disaster and the secrets he uncovers. Unrated. 80 minutes.

Nov. 6, 7 and 11: Two heavy metal-loving teens accidentally



Dreya Weber and Traci Dinwiddie share an intimate moment in “Raven’s Touch.” (Courtesy of Soul Kiss Films)

FilmOut San Diego screening: ‘Raven’s Touch’
Wednesday, Nov. 18

FilmOut will present a new film by “Soul Kiss Films” at Landmark Theatres – Hillcrest Cinemas (3965 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest) at 7 p.m. “Raven’s Touch” focuses on Raven Michaels (Dreya Weber), a woman who blames herself for a tragic accident and secludes herself on the verge of a breakdown. Raven’s world collides with that of Kate Royce (Traci Dinwiddie). Royce is camping with her two teenagers in an effort to repair her family away from the distractions of technology and young romance. Tickets are \$10 — visit filmoutsandiego.com for tickets and more information. Gay San Diego — San Diego Uptown News’ sister publication — is a co-presenter of this event.

Visit bit.ly/1P6BJDQ by Wednesday, Nov. 11 for a chance to win two tickets to this screening from San Diego Community News Network

– 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.

Karaoke: 8 p.m., your chance to shine on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themorrow.com.

To view local community organization meeting information online, visit: sduptownnews.com/community-organization-meetings.

—Email calendar items to ken@sdenn.com. ♦

summon an evil entity when they explore black magic in “Deathgasm.” Unrated. 90 minutes.

Nov. 10: Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Mackie star in “Shelter” — a romantic drama about two homeless people who fall in love while living on the street. Unrated. 105 minutes.

Nov. 11: Anna Kendrick, Orlando Bloom, Rosemarie DeWitt and Jake Johnson star in “Digging for Fire,” Joe Swanberg’s latest comedy about a house sitter who becomes an amateur sleuth after finding a bone and a gun. Rated R. 85 minutes.

Nov. 13-19: Tensions between two brothers and their wives arise when their children are suspected in a gruesome attack in “The Dinner.” Unrated. 92 minutes.

Visit DigitalGym.org for show times and tickets and information on additional films.

FROM PAGE 1
DEMS

Later on, he went on the attack again, noting that the Los Angeles Times gave Atkins only a "C" grade as Speaker of the Assembly.

"I'm still waiting for a good reason [from Atkins] on why I should be replaced as your senator," Block said.

Atkins had her game face on as she sat next to Block, looking sternly at the audience and rarely smiling. She opened with a human-interest story about growing up poor in rural Virginia and sharing how that struggle fueled her desire to help other people through her service to the community.

She proudly touted her achievement as the first person in history from San Diego to attain the powerful position of Speaker of the Assembly. She also listed her leadership on environmental issues, support for the military and LGBT rights, and help in passing the state's water bond and the earned income credit for California's poorest residents.

Atkins took her first potshot at Block over the middle class scholarship legislation, saying, "which my opponent tried to kill." They argued back and forth on that issue, with Atkins trying to shoot down Block's explanation that he had gotten a letter opposing the proposed legislation from the California State University system chancellor. Atkins said that she is a CSU trustee and would have known about any such letter. "Toni is creating a wedge issue that isn't there," Block retorted.

Many in the room were angry over "patio-gate," which was explained in an op-ed written by Howard G. Singer, president of the Uptown Democratic Club, that was published

by San Diego Uptown News [Volume 7, Issue 22 or at bit.ly/1M2bOut].

On Sept. 29, Atkins campaign aide Laura Fink left a \$500 check on a table in the patio of the club's treasurer. The check noted "25 new members," meaning it was to pay the \$20 dues for 25 people to join the club. A note accompanying the check listed the names of the 25 people who were seeking membership.

To put this into context, adding 25 Atkins supporters to a small club like the Uptown Democratic Club would certainly influence any future vote, as you will see later. But Singer returned the check to Fink, in effect rejecting membership to the 25 people listed in the note.

Fink is the same Atkins aide who had challenged a "friendly endorsement" of Block at the Sept. 22 meeting of the Uptown Democratic Club. Sensing that Block was trying to win an endorsement without any input from his Democratic opponent and worrying that some club members might not even be aware that Atkins was newly entered in the race, Fink urged club members to postpone the voting until Atkins could arrive later that night to speak to them. Atkins then successfully persuaded members to wait until the October meeting so she and Block could make their cases to the club members. Read more about "In-fighting: inside the political endorsement process" [Volume 7, Issue 20 or at bit.ly/1KFUzjD].

In his op-ed published Oct. 23, Singer ripped into Fink: "This blatant attempt to stack the deck in the matter of the Uptown Democratic Club's friendly endorsement in the 39th Senatorial District race by the Toni Atkins campaign is unconscionable and insulting, especially considering the fact that the club bent over backwards to be fair to the assemblywoman. Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, your



Two members of the Uptown Democratic Club count ballots, observed by representatives of Toni G. Atkins (far left) and Marty Block (far right). (Photo by Ken Williams)

campaign is not going to bully the Uptown Democratic Club."

At the Oct. 27 meeting, Atkins told club members that she "takes full responsibility" for what happened. "I know some people are upset," Atkins said, apologizing.

Later, Block blasted Atkins over "patio-gate," saying that "I don't buy seats on clubs just to win endorsements."

On the other big issue, Atkins defended her run against a Democratic incumbent, stressing that Block told her years ago that he would not run for re-election. Jess Durfee, a Democratic National Committee member from San Diego who is supporting Atkins in this race, told fellow club members that Block also told him that he would be a one-term senator.

"I stepped aside four years ago so that Marty could run," Atkins said.

Block did not deny that he said that he wouldn't run for a second term, and one of his supporters told club members that people change their minds all the time.

One club member, who was so upset that she had tears in her eyes, expressed her concern that the race

was dividing Democrats. She said that the costly contest would take money away from other Democrats who are fighting to get elected against Republicans. She expressed her fears that the drain on money in the Senate race could cost Democrats a majority on the City Council, for example.

Both candidates indicated that they each might have to spend more than a million dollars to wage a successful campaign.

"This race is going to November [2016]," Block warned. "The Republicans are thrilled about this. They love it when we take money away from other races."

Just prior to the endorsement vote, Singer allowed several prominent club members to speak on behalf of their chosen candidate. Termed-out City Councilmember Todd Gloria, who hopes to replace Atkins in the Assembly, endorsed Atkins. Nancy Casady of the La Jolla Democratic Club said Block wields influence in the Senate and that Atkins would be just a new face there. Durfee called Casady's comments naïve, saying that Atkins as Speaker of the Assembly has worked with Senate leaders to craft many bills. "They will know her

on day one," Durfee retorted.

Then it came time to vote. Members could vote for Atkins, Block or "no endorsement."

Two club members counted votes with two witnesses representing the candidates. Fink witnessed for Atkins. An endorsement required 60 percent of the votes.

A hush came over the room as the votes were counted out loud. Block got 25 votes, and Atkins got 17 votes. Nobody voted for "no endorsement." But Block only got 59.5 percent, just shy of the requirement.

By club rules, the lowest vote-getter is dropped off the ballot. Atkins was out.

The second round of voting was between Block and "no endorsement." Again, the room was quiet as the votes were counted. Block got 26 votes and "no endorsement" got 15 votes. One ballot for Atkins was thrown out, since Atkins was no longer a choice. Block won the endorsement with 63.4 percent of the votes.

So go back to those 25 people who Fink had submitted for membership, by dropping off a check on that patio table. Had the Uptown Democratic Club accepted those 25 Atkins supporters, Atkins likely would have won the endorsement on the first ballot. Assuming that all 25 people would have showed up at the endorsement, Atkins would have had 42 votes to Block's 25 — or 62.7 percent of the vote.

Speaker O'Neill was so right. Politics is local.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. ♦

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More than 100 people attended a forum on homelessness in North Park, including Toni G. Atkins (bottom left), Speaker of the Assembly. (Photo by Ken Williams)

FROM PAGE 1 HOMELESS

Collective Impact,” presented by the North Park Community Association and moderated by its vice president, Sean Karafin.

Forum speakers stressed that our compassion towards the homeless is often misdirected and can make the problem worse.

“When you enable panhandling,” Gloria said, “the money is unlikely to go to the right thing.” He said homeless people who are afflicted with alcohol or drug problems will more than likely use the money to feed their addiction, and therefore the compassionate donor becomes an enabler.

“Same goes for the food,” Gloria added. “There is a lot of food out there.” He said that feeding the homeless doesn’t solve the problem, it only enables it by making free meals widely available.

Gloria pointed out well-meaning groups that try to help the homeless, particularly churches, often

collect food, clothes and toiletries for the homeless. He illustrated how their vans pull up where the homeless congregate Downtown, handing out their donations to the homeless and then departing, and how the homeless then leave a mess behind as trash and unwanted items are discarded on the street.

“Care, not cash,” Gloria emphasized. He and other forum speakers stressed support for the Alpha Project and Father Joe’s. Gloria also recommended donating money to the “red parking meters” [see bit.ly/1N9OgJT] Downtown that help fund the Housing First, San Diego program. He suggested North Park might also want to install some “red meters” to aid the cause.

The Housing First program [visit bit.ly/1JyGa2g], operated by the San Diego Housing Commission, was widely praised during the forum. Rick Gentry, head of the Housing Commission, explained that this homelessness action plan has been very effective by creating additional affordable housing with supportive services. Gentry said the goal is to get homeless people off the streets and connected to services that will help them reclaim their lives.

Sgt. Rex Cole, of the San Diego Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team, said the four officers assigned to HOT serve citywide, from the Otay Mesa neighborhood on the border with Mexico to Rancho Bernardo in North County.

“We offer the homeless help,” Sgt. Cole said. “But being homeless is not a crime. We will work with them, but they have to want our help.”

Sgt. Cole urged residents to call in any crimes committed by the homeless (911 for emergencies or 619-531-2000 for non-emergencies). He said residents who know of any homeless person who is seeking help should advise them to flag down any patrol car or call the non-emergency number.

Forum speakers lamented

that there has been an uptick of 2.8 percent in homelessness this year, after a decline of 4 percent the previous year. The official 2015 count conducted by the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless indicates there are 8,742 homeless people scattered across sprawling San Diego County. Of that total, 4,156 homeless people are unsheltered.

San Diego’s homeless situation is not as dire as other cities across California. Gloria said the homeless population has spiked 12 percent in Los Angeles County and 5 percent in Orange County.

Gloria and Sgt. Cole said that North Park’s homeless problem is not as severe as in other areas of the city. Gloria identified three problem pockets: Downtown, the San Diego River basin, and the beach and bay communities that include Ocean Beach and Pacific Beach. He said those three areas each had about 1,000 homeless people living without shelter.

Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins, who spoke to the audience before the forum began, said there are 135,000 homeless people in California. “We’re the state with the largest homeless population,” she said. “San Diego has the fifth largest homeless population in the U.S.”

Gloria noted that San Diego doesn’t get its fair share of federal money to fight homelessness, because of an antiquated formula. But he said after meeting with San Diego officials, federal authorities have agreed to recalculate the formula, and thus San Diego should get more money in future years.

To read the Police Department’s prevention tips regarding the homeless, visit bit.ly/1DrM9os.

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown News and Mission Valley News and can be reached at ken@sdenn.com or at 619-961-1952. Follow him on Twitter at @KenSanDiego, Instagram at @KenSD or Facebook at KenWilliamsSanDiego. ♦

FROM PAGE 3 PARENTING

tion, “they’ve just been at it longer. They were in a similar situation to Jefferson when they started their foundation many years ago. Jefferson has only had a foundation for a couple years. As McKinley’s foundation grew, the affluent, educated families in their zone started sending their kids there, parent involvement increased, donations increased, more opportunities became available to the students; then more local families enrolled, and so on. A virtuous cycle.”

“So you’re trying to start your own SoNo Fest, raise a bunch of money, and lure the rich kids to your school,” he observed.

“Kind of,” I responded.

“So then,” he went on, with the gleam of an impending gotcha in his eye, “what happens when all the affluent, hipster, white parents send their kids to Jefferson and displace the low-income families that go there now? What then, Mr. Bleeding Heart?”

“Well, first off, Mr. Black-hearted Cynic,” I said, “we are quite a ways off from that scenario. If we follow McKinley’s trajectory, by the time my kids graduate from Jefferson, we will have achieved something

approaching ethnic and socioeconomic diversity (as opposed to the vast majority of students being in the same ethnic and socioeconomic brackets, as has been the case in Jefferson’s recent history). And diversity is the ideal circumstance for learning, according to research and also my bleeding heart values. Now, if North Park keeps getting whiter and more prosperous, and the diversity equation becomes totally reversed, I can only hope what I have always hoped: that as a country, we will build the political will to support the world-class education system our kids deserve. One where teachers are highly trained, highly paid, and highly respected, all kids are held to the same high expectations, and funding is truly sufficient and equitable throughout the country, so we don’t have to sell beer to pay for our kids’ art classes.”

“Yeah, that’s gonna happen,” he responded, rolling his eyes.

“Jerk,” I said.

“You playing cards tonight?”

“Yeah. You gonna volunteer at the Homebrew Fest?”

“Sure.”

—Contact Andy Hinds at facebook.com/friendsofjeffersonneph@gmail.com or friendsofjeffersonneph@gmail.com. ♦

Setting Luxury Home Sales Records in Mission Hills



By Todd Armstrong

Real Estate Agent with Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty Cal BRE #01256537

It’s with pleasure to announce another record breaking fall season for Todd Armstrong and Associates with Pacific Sotheby’s International Realty. His team continues to set the pace for luxury real estate in Mission Hills San Diego. Check out the latest 2 listings that SOLD within days with multiple offers. 3433 Jackdaw St SOLD for \$1,585,000 before it hit the market. Additionally, 2929 Union St SOLD for \$1,700,000 within days.

Todd’s seller’s have been blown away at the prices his listings are demanding and it can all be attributed to his video marketing campaign. The age of posting photos online and the MLS and hoping for the best are OVER. Todd says, “It was time to step up my game and really get my listings out to a global audience via my YouTube channel and www.SDLuxuryListings.com. Our clients are ecstatic at the success they are seeing and the offers we have received on their homes.” My client data base includes some of the biggest names in professional sports and the music industry so I network with the top agents in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, San Francisco and Chicago in order to get the word out about the affordability of San Diego luxury real estate as compared to other hot markets around the country.” Talk about an amazing property, you should check out, 3530 7th Ave located right on Balboa Park. Multiple cash offers and closed at \$2,200,000.

We have a new TV show coming up soon along with some amazing projects here in San Diego as well as Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and Bel Air. Todd continues, “I’m completely excited about our future and the growth of our team and more importantly, the ability to market my seller’s homes to an immense National and Global market.” Learn more about Todd and this team at www.ArmstrongEstates.com.



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