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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

How green is your alley?



The Media Arts Center in North Park leads the way in San Diego's "Take Back the Alley" movement, providing outdoor space for classes. (Photo by Kathleen Hughart)

By Kathleen Hughart

You may have biked through an alley to avoid traffic, or taken a shortcut through an alley while walking. What did you see?

- Blighted passageways to be avoided at all costs?
- Renovated public thoroughways where people gather regularly to spruce up their common ground?

The story of a green alley is all about neighborhood coalitions working together to take back their alleys. In North Park and City Heights and along the El Cajon

Boulevard corridor, business people like Ethan van Thillot, executive director of the Media Arts Center located at 2921 El Cajon Blvd., bring together high school students, neighbors and homeowners to participate in "Take Back the Alley" events.

Since May 2012, volunteers have met to clean up alleys, haul away litter, sweep up cigarette butts and remove broken glass. After those initial work parties, volunteers remove graffiti on alley walls and prepare them for painting of colorful murals.

Neighborhood participation can transform ugly alleys into community spaces where small businesses can link the property between their shops and adjacent alleys. But why work so hard, without pay, just to clean alleys?

Neglected alleys threaten a community's sense of security, said Maritza Maksimow, safety program manager for the City Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC).

"Poorly lit alleys become dump-

see Alleys, pg 18

North Park advances Community Plan Update

Ken Williams | Editor

After eight years and more than 100 public meetings, the North Park Planning Committee has finally given approval to the Community Plan Update (CPU) — along with a long list of additional advisements to the city's Planning Department.

Community Plans are important policy documents that guide new development in San Diego's neighborhoods and are part of the city's General Plan. The new CPU will impact development in the greater North Park area for the next 20 years.

The committee voted 11-3 in favor of the final draft on Tuesday, Sept. 6, during a special meeting held at the Lafayette Hotel.

About 75 citizens and stakeholders attended the meeting, some signing up to make comments for the record. The crowd was split between those who didn't like the proposed update and those who favored it.

Committee chair Vicki Granowitz called the meeting to order, reminding everyone that this process was "the first stop on the train" and that "we worked on this for eight years,

see North Park, pg 15

Honoring our troops

GI Film Festival returns for a second year

Ken Williams | Editor

Compelling stories about the lives of American troops from World War II to modern times are brought to life in movies, documentaries and shorts showing this month at the GI Film Festival San Diego.

Now in its second year, the annual festival returns Sept. 14-18 with screenings in Balboa Park, Mission Valley and Coronado.

Opening the festival will be the West Coast premiere of "USS Indianapolis: The Legacy," local director Sara Vladic's compelling documentary that features historical footage and exclusive first-person accounts from some of the 107 survivors of the devastating torpedo attack on the heavy cruiser during WWII.

Vladic, co-producer Melanie Capacia Johnson and some of the survivors will attend the screening at 7 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park and participate in the Q&A session and reception that follows. An encore screening will be at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 18



A scene from a documentary showing at the GI Film Festival San Diego. (Courtesy of "American Umpire")

at UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley at Hazard Center.

Another noteworthy documentary, "American Umpire," directed by local filmmaker James Shelley, asks a crucial question: Should the U.S. military remain the world's policeman? The film will be shown

see Troops, pg 9

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BIG BLOCK REALTY



Christopher Konecki, coordinator of Sea Walls San Diego, at work on a mural project (Photo by Yoshitaro Yanagita)

Murals deliver a message

By Kit-Bacon Gressitt

Uptown’s rich collection of public artworks, displayed on everything from utility boxes to multi-story structures, is about to become even richer. Between Sept. 8 and 12, stroll through your neighborhood, and you’re likely to see one of 22 internationally renowned artists transforming city walls into murals — murals with a message.

The mission of the street art series, titled “Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans,” is to “galvanize the local community and raise awareness [of] the importance of San Diego’s precious marine natural resources.”

“We’re advertising for Mother Nature,” said Christopher Konecki, coordinator of Sea Walls San Diego and one of the artists who have volunteered their talents to the project.

Sea Walls is an international program of PangeaSeed Foundation, implemented in strategically located cities, with the goal of “giving oceans a voice.”

The San Diego project, a collaboration with Surfrider Foundation, Cohort Collective and Kaaboo Del Mar, echoes calls from around the globe to take better care of the world’s oceans.

“Sea Walls: Murals for Oceans”

Sept. 8-12 and ongoing
Five locations in Uptown area

Visit PangeaSeed.org for a map

Closing reception
Sept. 14, 6 - 11 p.m.
La Bodega Gallery
2196 Logan Ave.

President Barack Obama has even joined the chorus with his recent expansion of a marine national sanctuary in Hawaii, home base of PangeaSeed, and the message is not a new one. A previous rendition of the Sea Wall project was conducted in 2014, with a smaller focus on San Diego’s downtown neighborhoods.

This year’s effort has a plan for 22 murals throughout the city, five of them in the Uptown area, with one already completed.

Located at 4404 Park Blvd., the 25-by-25-foot brush and roller mural is titled “Love Your H2O.” It was painted by Gloria Muriel, a local artist originally from

Mexico. Like all the artists, Muriel was invited to participate and provided a list of subjects from which to select for her mural.

“I did a little bit of research,” Muriel explained. “I got inspired by water, our most precious resource, and, oh man, we’re so unconscious of how we use it. I need to step it up and take more care of the water, the oceans. A lot of people just want to look the other way, but they really don’t know how bad it is.”

In describing her mural, Muriel said, “my style is very organic. There’s a water nymph. She’s very aware, staring right at you. Her hair turns into water. There’s a lot of waves. Her third eye is a water molecule — I wanted to make it a little bit more obvious — and there’s a cascade coming from the top, water flowing and cleansing.”

Muriel said that the building’s owner was so enthused she didn’t even have to provide a sketch to proceed with her mural, and she hopes those who see it will be similarly motivated. “What can people do? Little things. Take less minutes for your shower. Water is precious. We just have to be educated.”

see Murals, pg 24

How to Sell Your Coastal North County Home Without An Agent And Save the Commission

North San Diego County - If you’ve tried to sell your home yourself, you know that the minute you put the “For Sale by Owner” sign up, the phone will start to ring off the hook. Unfortunately, most calls aren’t from prospective buyers, but rather from every real estate agent in town who will start to hound you for your listing.

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Going to market

Exquisite Native American wares featured in Old Town outdoor fair

By Joyell Nevins

Take in the sights, sounds and rich art of Native American culture at Bazaar del Mundo's 35th annual Santa Fe Marketplace.

The outdoor fair brings two dozen vendors of Native American arts, crafts, décor and jewelry every year to Old Town. Wares come from the Navajo, Cherokee, Hopi, Pima, Isleta Pueblo and Santo Domingo Pueblo tribes.

Some vendors are crowd favorites, some are talents spotted by the Bazaar coordinators throughout the year and some are found through the national Indian Arts and Crafts Association (IACA). This year, five of the Marketplace artists are previous "Artists of the Year" through the IACA.

"Every year, we try to bring exciting artists and new people in," explained Leslie Gregory, manager of The Gallery at Bazaar del Mundo and co-organizer of the Santa Fe Marketplace.

One of those new artists is Veronica Benally of Gallup, New Mexico. Benally makes intricate inlaid jewelry, primarily with turquoise and coral: stabilized turquoise mostly, as American turquoise became a rare and expensive item when the mines closed down (also see many American turquoise items at returning vendor Silver Sun's booth). Benally notes that in the Navajo, the color turquoise represents prosperity and wealth.

"It's how the holy people recognize someone in the spirit world," she explained. Turquoise

allows the holy people to offer that person protection and bring good things.

Benally works with her husband, Ernest, who makes larger, more extravagant pieces, in a studio behind their house. They have their own equipment to cut and refine stone to fit their imagined designs.

"It's like putting our own puzzle together," Veronica said.

Other jewelers will also be showing their talents. Frederico brings bold pieces of turquoise, red coral and pearl. Kim Yubeta uses vintage beads in a variety of gemstones, such as lapis, oyster, amber and jet, in her necklaces. Lester Abeyta's engraving and stonework includes beaded necklaces and lightweight earrings. And that's just to name a few.

Concho belts are another popular item at the marketplace. Some are made by the vendor displaying them, like Veronica's unique designs. Last year, a belt she made with spiny oyster shells and sleeping beauty turquoise won "Best of Show" at the Museum of Man's native market in Balboa Park.

Some have unknown stories behind them. Art Quintana of Art Quintana's Indian Trading Company brings his "dead pawn" for perusal. At his pawnshop in New Mexico, people use jewelry and other goods for collateral to borrow money. While most loans are paid off, less than 5 percent of these items do go unclaimed.

see Market, pg 5



(top) Painting by John Balloue; (bottom) Art Quintana creates "treasure boxes" from unclaimed pawnshop leftovers (Courtesy of Bazaar del Mundo)

Santa Fe Marketplace

Bazaar del Mundo
4133 Taylor St. (Old Town)

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and
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Sunday, Sept. 18

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FROM PAGE 4
MARKET

After 14 months and two official notices, the unclaimed collateral becomes available for sale. Quintana has been bringing boxes full of these items to the Santa Fe Marketplace for more than 30 years.

“People just like digging through the boxes,” he said. “It’s like a treasure hunt.”

Treasure shoppers find include handmade sterling silver trinkets, squash blossom necklaces, bolos and concho belts. He has many other goods on display as well for those who don’t want to forage for their wares.

Quintana will also be doing appraisals of fine jewelry and family heirlooms — up to two pieces per person. He noted



(top) Anomaly's woven bags; (bottom) Veronica Benally ring (Courtesy of Bazaar del Mundo)

that one time, a woman brought in two gold pieces by a renowned designer that had been in her family for years: They ended up being worth more than \$20,000.

Handmade art will also be in the marketplace. Harry and Isabelle Benally are award-winning wood carvers who work with red juniper, aspen, cottonwood and alabaster. Jesse Hummingbird brings his “intertribal fantasy” acrylic paintings, and John Balloue’s acrylic and mixed media paintings have been featured in museums across the country.

Even pottery, hand-woven rugs, blankets and runners will be for sale. Plus, aqua fresca, tostadas and street tacos to keep attendees and vendors satiated.

Although the Bazaar del Mundo organizers still scout for new artists and vendors, they now have vendors coming to them to take place in this evolving marketplace and collector’s haven.

“The word’s out,” Gregory said.

Quintana added, “They do a beautiful job of setting everything up. We look forward to it every year.”

—Joyell Nevins is a freelance writer who can be reached at joyelle@gmail.com. Find her blog Small World, Big God at swbg-blog.wordpress.com.❖



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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

Toni G. Atkins
Charlene Baldridge
Andy Cohen
Kit-Bacon Gressitt
Katherine Hon
Kathleen Hughart
Dr. Ink
Molly Kirkland
Joyell Nevins
Frank Sabatini Jr.
Jen Van Tieghem
Janet Worthey

ART DIRECTOR

Todd Kammer
(619) 961-1961
todd@sd cnn.com

SALES & MARKETING
DIRECTOR

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

ADVERTISING
CONSULTANTS

(619) 519-7775
Andrew Bagley, x106
Sloan Gomez, x104
Lisa Hamel, x107
Lionel Talaro, x113
Todd Zukowski, x105

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

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM: San Diego Uptown News won third place for general excellence at the 2016 ACP Annual Publication Awards. This category is the top award in the annual competition, which received more than 1,400 entries from free community newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. Parent company San Diego Community News Network won a total of six awards.

OPINIONS/LETTERS: San Diego Uptown News encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Please email submissions to ken@sd cnn.com and include your phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and accuracy. Letters and guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or staff.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

The right way to get air conditioning in your rental

By Molly Kirkland

San Diego's mild climate makes air conditioning unnecessary for most of the year. Many homes don't even have an air conditioning system. But at the height of summer, particularly in August and September, the need for a cool room can become overwhelming, even for those who live near the coast.

Renters looking to outfit their homes with air conditioners have fewer options than homeowners do, but if they're determined and work with their landlord or property manager, renters can usually find a way.

The most convenient option is the portable air conditioning unit. These units sell for as little as \$250 and can cool a bedroom, a living room or even a small studio apartment. About the size of a large suitcase, they typically sit on wheels and blow hot air through a tube out a window. Portable air conditioners are ideal for renters because they do not require any permanent modifications to the building, and the air conditioner can easily be moved to another residence at the end of a lease term.

Another fairly convenient option is the window air conditioner. About the size of a microwave oven, these units sit directly in a window, blowing hot air outside and chilled air into the room. To install these units, the window screen generally needs to be removed, and some supports may need to be attached to the wall. Due to potential need for modifications to the window or wall, we highly recommend consulting with your landlord or property manager before attempting to install. Like portable air conditioners, window units can easily be moved to another residence when the lease term ends.

There are other options that are less ideal for renters because they require extensive modifications to the building. Through-the-wall units are similar to window units but require a section of the wall be cut out and a metal case bolted to the wall. Whole-house or central air conditioning units require even more extensive renovation

work to install ducts and vents. Never attempt to install a through-the-wall unit or central air without the express consent and collaboration of your landlord.

If your landlord has given you permission to install a through-the-wall air conditioner, be sure to spell out the terms of your agreement in writing. Be specific about who the AC unit belongs to, because this person will be responsible for maintaining the unit and subsequent damage resulting from improper installation.

Most tenants pay their own electrical bill, but in the rare case that your landlord pays for electricity, establish an agreement with your landlord before you start using your air conditioner. Your landlord may want to bill you back for the added energy cost.

Keep in mind that you may be held liable for damage to window screens, window sills, walls or other parts of the building. You should also consider that some older buildings do not have the modern electrical wiring needed to support the operation of an energy-intensive air conditioner. If you don't have permission from your landlord and your air conditioner damages the electrical system or another tenant's property, you could be held responsible to pay for any repairs. (This is one of many reasons you should always maintain renter's insurance, even if your landlord does not require it.)

Where there's a will to get AC in your rental, there's usually a way. Just be sure to consult with your landlord or property manager, and be prepared to cover any associated costs.

And if nothing else, keep curtains or blinds closed on windows facing the sun, and buy some inexpensive fans. If that's not enough, there are also more than 100 "Cool Zones" throughout the county. Look for the polar bear Cool Zone signs or visit coolzones.org.

Stay cool, San Diego!

—Molly Kirkland is director of public affairs for the San Diego County Apartment Association. ❖



Readers Poll



Poll results

How will you vote on Measure C, the Chargers' stadium plan?

81% Against It

13% For it

6% Still Undecided

New poll

Which team will have a better record this year?

☐ Chargers

☐ SDSU Aztecs

☐ USD Toreros

To cast your vote, visit sduptownnews.com.

Trumping Issa

Congressional Watch

Andy Cohen



Election Day 2016 is two months away, and for the first time since being elected to Congress in 2000, Darrell Issa (R-49) might face real difficulty in keeping his job. The millionaire Issa, the richest member of Congress for the third year running, is facing a challenge from Doug Applegate, an attorney and former Marine from San Clemente.

Issa has enjoyed solid support in the district since initially winning his seat in 2000 by 28 points. From 2002 through the 2010 general elections, Issa never failed to emerge victorious by less than 29 points; but his popularity seems to have waned since the Tea Party wave of 2010. Although he won his 2012 primary by 37 points, the general election was a much narrower 10-point victory. In 2014, he defeated his nearest primary challenger by 29 points, 15 points in the general.

This past June, however, was a different story.

Newcomer Doug Applegate, a Democrat, has presented an unusually strong challenge for the controversial Republican, where Issa squeaked out a primary win 48.45 percent to 47.85 percent, less than a full percentage point in the San Diego County portion of the district. Including the Orange County portion, Issa won by a mere

5.7 percentage points.

You might recall that beginning in 2012, California switched to a voter-approved open primary system, where the top two vote winners advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation. And Issa has never faced a serious electoral challenge from any party — until now.

So why is a safe seat suddenly not so safe anymore? It may have something to do with the top of the Republican ticket in the presidential election, Donald J. Trump.

After initially supporting Marco Rubio in the Republican presidential primary, Issa has enthusiastically jumped aboard the Trump train, going so far as to introduce Trump at a San Diego rally in May. He also attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio as a Trump delegate. Turns out that's not such a popular position, particularly in areas with a lot of moderate Republicans and independents, and nearly a quarter of the voters in the 49th District are registered as independents.

It could also be that Issa's challenger, Doug Applegate, holds a unique appeal in a district that surrounds Camp Pendleton. A Marine for 32 years, Applegate served at Pendleton and has deep ties to the district.

Or it could be an indication that Issa's years of controversial statements and fruitless investigations as chairman of the House Oversight Committee between 2011 and 2014, costing the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, may have caught up

to him.

Whatever the case, Applegate's performance in the primary and his subsequent fundraising prowess has caused the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to take notice of a district that until now had been viewed as a lost cause.

According to the Orange County Register, DCCC polling has indicated a tied race between the candidates, with Issa and Applegate each drawing 43 percent. And after spending a mere \$50,000 in the primary compared with Issa's \$740,000, Applegate managed to raise an additional \$128,000 since the end of the primary through June. Still, Issa has a massive money advantage, with \$3.7 million cash on hand in his campaign coffers compared with \$136,000 for Applegate as of the end of June. But in an election year such as this, money may not be all that much of an advantage.

And Issa isn't the only one who could be dragged down by Trump's candidacy. The New York Times (a publication that according to Trump is "failing" despite its status as the nation's publication of record, with apologies to the Washington Post) reports that Republican candidates across the country are running as fast as they can away from Trump in hopes of saving their jobs.

And Trump may have already cost one Republican San Diego City Council candidate his shot at election and ensured that the City Council will remain in Democratic majority hands for at least two more years. Ray Ellis, the District 1 candidate running against Democrat Barbara Bry, cited Trump's toxicity in his decision to concede the race

months before Election Day.

Issa appears to be taking this challenge seriously, unlike his former colleague Eric Cantor, the arch-conservative former House Majority Leader who lost a primary in 2014 to an even more hard right conservative Republican challenger. Issa has been making himself visible within his district, visiting local startup businesses and listening to concerns about how government has been a hindrance or a help for local small-business owners (here's a hint: Echoing Ronald Reagan, "government is the problem, not the solution."). Issa even manned a cash register at an Oceanside gas station in an effort to connect with the little people.

(It should also be noted that according to The San Diego Union Tribune, Scott Peters (D-52) also spent time at an affiliated gas station to discuss the same regulatory issues that Issa was exploring.)

With the Nov. 8 Election Day fast approaching, it remains to be seen whether Applegate is truly poised to do what was once considered impossible. After all, uprooting an incumbent is rare enough, but uprooting an incumbent who has been so entrenched as Issa is virtually unheard of.

But in a highly unusual and polarizing election, it is possible that Issa's vociferous support of all things Trump combined with a challenger whose background uniquely reflects the district he seeks to serve could bring to an end a long and often controversial congressional career.

—Andy Cohen is a local freelance writer. Reach him at ac76@sbcbglobal.net.



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Showing pride for our LGBT caucus

Notes from Toni

Toni G. Atkins



Every year in June, the state Assembly holds an LGBT Pride ceremony on the Assembly floor. This year, a visit from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama pushed our ceremony to Aug. 8, when we celebrated the formation of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus.

California's LGBT Caucus was the first of its kind in the nation, founded in June 2002 by legislators Sheila Kuehl, Carole Migden, Jackie Goldberg and Christine Kehoe. I am currently a proud member of the caucus, along with Assemblymembers Susan Eggman (the caucus chair), Rich Gordon and Evan Low, and Senators Mark Leno, Cathleen Galgiani and Ricardo Lara.

For this year's ceremony, I had the privilege of honoring Chris Kehoe, my political mentor. I worked on her staff when she was on the San Diego City Council. From there, she went on to serve in both the Assembly and the Senate. It was she who pushed me to run to replace her on the City Council in 2000. I owe my political career to her. I was filled with pride during the ceremony as I watched a video

chronicling the history of the LGBT Caucus. If it's possible to be prouder than I already was about having been the first lesbian Speaker of the Assembly, that video — and the whole ceremony — made me more so.

I stand on the shoulders of those openly LGBT legislators who came before me — they were such brave and effective leaders. They helped shape my approach to leadership and it's partly to honor them that I have fought as hard as I have for justice and equality for California's LGBT community.

Around the district: The National Day of Service and Remembrance on Sept. 11 is a day near and dear to all of us who watched as terrorists attacked us in 2001. All Americans are encouraged to pay tribute to the memories of the 2,977 victims and heroes lost that day by volunteering for service projects in their communities. If you would like to get involved, you can find local opportunities in San Diego by visiting 911day.org/volunteer and entering your ZIP code. Many local groups hold events in honor of the 9/11 victims, which included many San Diegans. For instance, the San Diego Hall of Champions in Balboa Park will again hold its Patriots Day Blood Drive, at 10 a.m. In another local tradition, on Sept. 10, firefighters will invite the public to help them honor the 403 emergency

responders who died in the attacks by taking part in the San Diego 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. As always, we will not forget the loss of these precious lives. As everyone knows, firefighting is a difficult, yet rewarding and often-heroic career, and we must remind women that it is a profession available to them. I am happy to report that there soon will be an opportunity to learn more about a career in firefighting. The California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee's Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service will hold one of its annual Firefighter Career Expos in San Diego from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 24, at the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center, 10440 Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. Attendees can talk to representatives from departments throughout California, try a physical-ability test, see firefighting equipment up close and enjoy free barbecue. The expo is open to everyone, but there's a special emphasis on recruiting women and other underrepresented candidates.

—Toni G. Atkins is the Speaker Emeritus of the California State Assembly. For more information, visit her website, asmdc.org/members/a78, sign up for her e-newsletter or follow her on Twitter, @toniatkins.



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The neon elf returns!

PastMatters Katherine Hon

If you are a fan of classic neon signs, you will be glad to know the shoe-hammering elf has returned to 2911 University Ave. in North Park.

On this animated neon sign, the industrious elf hammers on a shoe, with his arm and hammer moving into three positions. Originally, as the hammer struck the shoe, neon sparks would fly into the elf's eye, causing him to "wink." The elf's eye was a small light bulb that winked on and off.

The west half of the space now occupied by Holsem Coffee was most recently Chito's Shoe Repair, the last in a long line of shoe-related shops in the large building that houses multiple businesses at the southeast corner of University Avenue at 29th Street. Universal Boot Shop was the first, arriving at 2917 University Ave. in 1932.

The elf neon sign was designed in 1949 for Wink's Shoe Repair Shop at 411 Broadway in Downtown. Wink's became part of the 30-store American Shoe Repair chain in 1952, although the store kept its original name. The new business owner, Irving Hertz, moved the sign to his American Shoe Repair store in North Park in 1960. In 1962, Michael DeTuri kept the neon shining when he bought the North Park store and named it DiTuri's Shoe Repair.

In 1989, Glen Leisch briefly owned the shop, calling it the Shoe Palace. He wanted historic designation for the sign, which was in poor repair by that time, to help him restore it to original working condition, including the moving arm, flashing spark and winking eye. Without designation, the city's sign ordinance would not allow the animated elements to be restored. Helen Halmay, who now helps run the historical organization Congress of History, prepared the nomination. The neon elf was designated as city of San Diego historic resource No. 239 on Sept. 27, 1989.

The historic designation report noted that the neon sign "is a unique, historical, animated neon sign, particularly beloved by the people of North Park for ... decades. There is none other like it in the city ..." The resolution approving the nomination stated that the sign "is significant for its association with the North Park business community and as a rare example of the technology and craftsmanship of neon sign making in the 1940s and 1950s."

Chris Martinez of Chito's Shoe Repair bought the business in 1991. When he and his wife Jenny moved Chito's to 2936 Lincoln Ave. in 2013, they were saddened to learn they could not take the neon sign with them without conducting a long and expensive process involving a site development permit. Location, or setting, is an important aspect of most historic resources. The staff

report for the sign's historic designation in 1989 noted, "Since the preservation of these signs is a means to maintain the historic fabric of a community, the signs should, whenever possible, remain in the community where they have established an historic association."

The couple loved the sign so much, they had a smaller version created for their window on Lincoln Avenue.

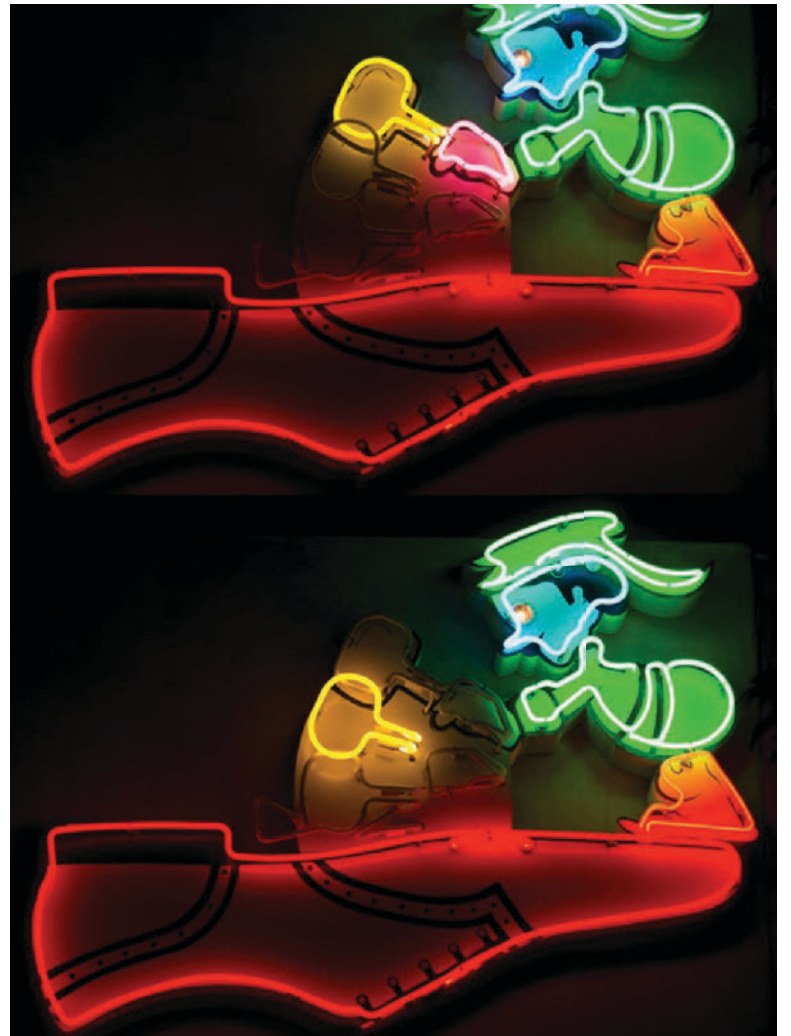
Meanwhile, back on University Avenue, the elf disappeared last summer during building facade changes. Distraught community members contacted the North Park Historical Society, which contacted City Historical Resources Board (HRB) staff. To make a long story a little shorter, the removal of the sign became a code enforcement issue. Kudos to HRB staff member Jodie Brown for working diligently with the current building owner and architect to get the neon sign restored and back in its approximate location on the storefront.

Dan Soderberg, a big fan of neon, was ecstatic to discover

the elf was back. He founded San Diego Historic Neon on Facebook as a place to view and share images of vintage/historic neon with emphasis on the greater San Diego region. Another feature of the page is called "Neon Road Trip" showing great neon from all locations, near and far. Scroll down to 2014 for a great photo of the elf when it was lit in all its glory. Soderberg took a current photo for this article and observed, "While all the neon has been re-lit, you have to be very patient to see the animated feature of the sign. What was once a lively motion of the hammer striking the shoe now takes several minutes. And the eye doesn't 'wink' at us anymore."

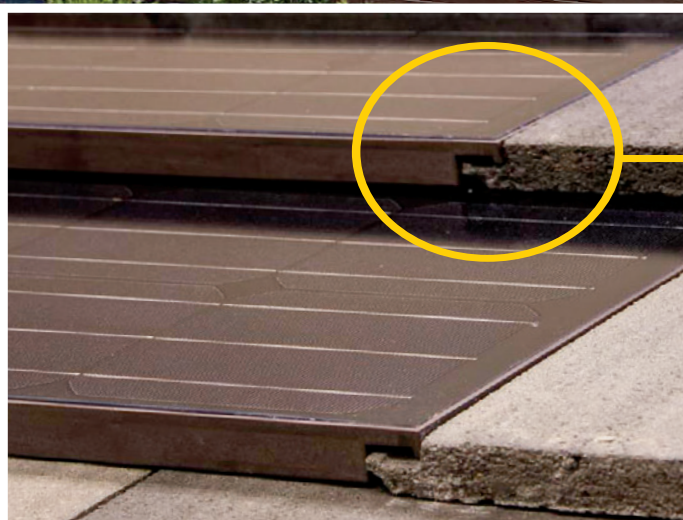
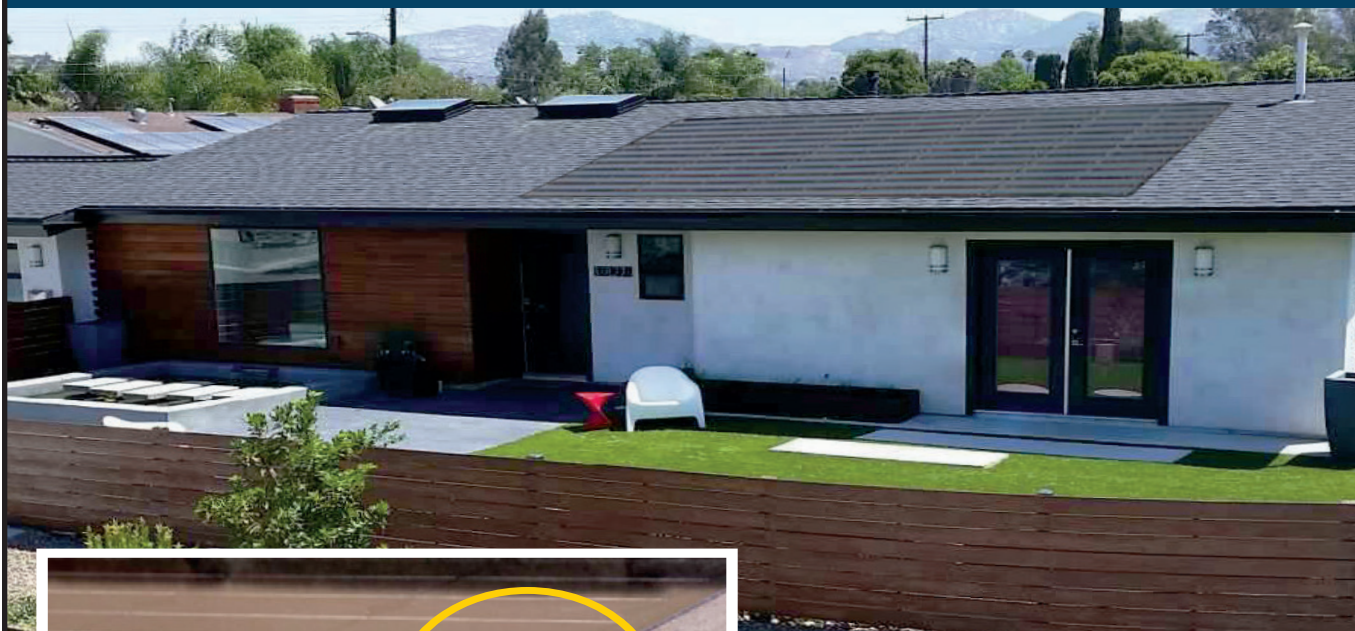
But those who appreciate what may be North Park's most amusing designated historic resource are very happy to see the industrious elf again.

—Katherine Hon is the secretary of the North Park Historical Society. Reach her at info@northparkhistory.org or 619-294-8990. ❖



The reinstalled elf neon sign puts the hammer down at 2911 University Ave. in North Park. (Photo by Dan Soderberg)

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FROM PAGE 1

TROOPS

at 4 p.m. Sept. 17 at UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley, as part of the “Facing Crisis” film block.

A third local filmmaker, Pat Clark, will show his documentary, “A Return to the End,” about a small group of U.S. Marines who return to Vietnam on the 40th anniversary of that country’s reunification to honor the last two Marines to die during the final evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The documentary is part of the “Local Film Showcase,” beginning at 1 p.m. Sept. 18 at the UltraStar.

Vladic and Shelly and Clark discussed their work with San Diego Uptown News and Mission Valley News.

‘USS Indianapolis: The Legacy’

The heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis was the flagship of the Fifth Fleet, carried a Navy admiral onboard and had a crew of more than 1,000. Late during WWII, the ship was sent on a top-secret mission from San Francisco to Guam, carrying, unknown to the crew, one of the atomic bombs that would soon be detonated over Japan. Not long after unloading the mystery cargo, the USS Indianapolis was sunk around midnight by six torpedoes fired from a Japanese submarine commanded by Capt. Mochitsura Hashimoto.

The attack killed 1,196 people, and 317 sailors and officers tried to survive in shark-infested waters for five days until they were miraculously rescued by a pass-

ing pilot who didn’t even know the ship had sunk.

The story of the USS Indianapolis is not widely known, and Vladic explains why.

“I believe the primary reason is that many of those involved didn’t talk about it for decades after the war, and some not even until recently,” she said. “That, along with the fact that the sinking was announced on the same day as the end of the war and overshadowed, really kept it out of the public eye.”

Vladic, a full-time filmmaker and writer who lives in San Marcos, said it took 10 years to make the documentary.

“Interviewing over 100 people takes time, but not only that, this film was entirely self-funded — so I’m sure you can imagine how much work and resources that takes to complete something of this magnitude,” she said.

“Both Melanie, my producing partner, and I worked really hard and called in a lot of favors from work friends to help bring this film to life. It’s also part of a bigger-picture multimedia project that we have in development surrounding the USS Indianapolis story, and attention has been divided among those projects in equal measure.”

Vladic describes the movie’s genesis.

“I have always been interested in history, and the story of the USS Indianapolis was one story in particular that drew me in from an early age,” she said. “From the first time I heard about it when I was about 13 years old, I thought that it would make an incredible movie. Years later,

after graduating college, I decided to find out if there were still any living survivors and I found Paul Murphy, the chairman of the [USS Indianapolis] Survivors Organization. He invited me to their reunion in 2001, and from there, I got to know these men personally, and they really became like family. They asked me to be the one to tell their story, and I was not going to let them down.”

Like other survivors of horrific military tragedies, the men of the USS Indianapolis largely kept silent for many years, not sharing the horrors of war and keeping their life-and-death struggles to themselves. Vladic said she is honored they trusted her to tell their stories.

“The events that transpired affected each of the survivors differently, but it is without doubt that most all of them carried — and still carry — the story with them throughout their lives,” she said. “Some were destroyed by the experience, while others found a way to better themselves because of what they lived through during those days in the water.”

“Without question, sharing their stories, and especially being able to get together at reunions and talk to their fellow crew members helped them heal throughout the years,” Vladic continued. “More than anything, I would say that just spending time with the men and building a friendship with them first, allowed me the opportunity to interview them beyond what others have done in the past. The men have always come first for

see Festival, pg 14

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Kathy McSherry

Hi Kathy:
My partner and I recently purchased a new home under construction. We will not close on the home for approximately 8 months as they are just beginning to build it. When we were signing the purchase agreement, the sales agent briefly went over taking title to the property and asked how would we be holding title? She spoke so fast that we didn't understand exactly what title was all about. It would help so much if you could explain what does holding title mean? The sales agent said I wouldn't have to decide until I signed my loan documentation at closing. Any clarification would be greatly appreciated.
Joe Willy M.

Hi Joe Willy:
Oh, I am so glad you asked me that question. If I could tell you how many people get confused over how to take title to a property, you would certainly not feel alone. It is always best to refer a homebuyer to a certified public accountant or attorney as there are tax issues and rights of survivorship involved in holding title to a property.
"In property law, a title is a bundle of rights in a piece of property in which a party may own either a legal interest or equitable interest. The rights in the bundle may be separated and held by different parties. It may also refer to a formal document, such as a deed, that serves as evidence of ownership."

The five most common ways to take title in the State of California are:
Sole ownership
Tenants in Common
Joint Tenancy with Rights of Survivorship
Community Property
Living Trust

It is fairly simple if one single person wants to purchase a property in their name and no one else is involved in the transaction. However, imagine having been married a couple times with children from different marriages and/or different relatives that you may want to bequeath your share of the property to. Or, maybe if something were to happen to your partner on title, the interest may go directly to you, being the partner on title, or based on how you hold title, the court can force you to sell the property and take the equity and disperse from there? Maybe one owns multiple properties and there is a tax advantage or disadvantage to taking title to strengthen one's financial portfolio. Can you see why a professional Realtor will defer you to a certified accountant or attorney?
Joe Willy, you have plenty of time to explore all of the options that are available to you before you close on your new home in 8 months. A fabulous outline on the various forms of title can be found on the First American Title website @ Firstam.com.
I hope this helps to clarify a few things for you Joe Willy. My best to you and your partner and good luck with your new home purchase!

Best,
Kathy

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker Residential. Email questions to her at kathy@kathymcsherry.com

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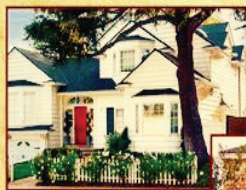
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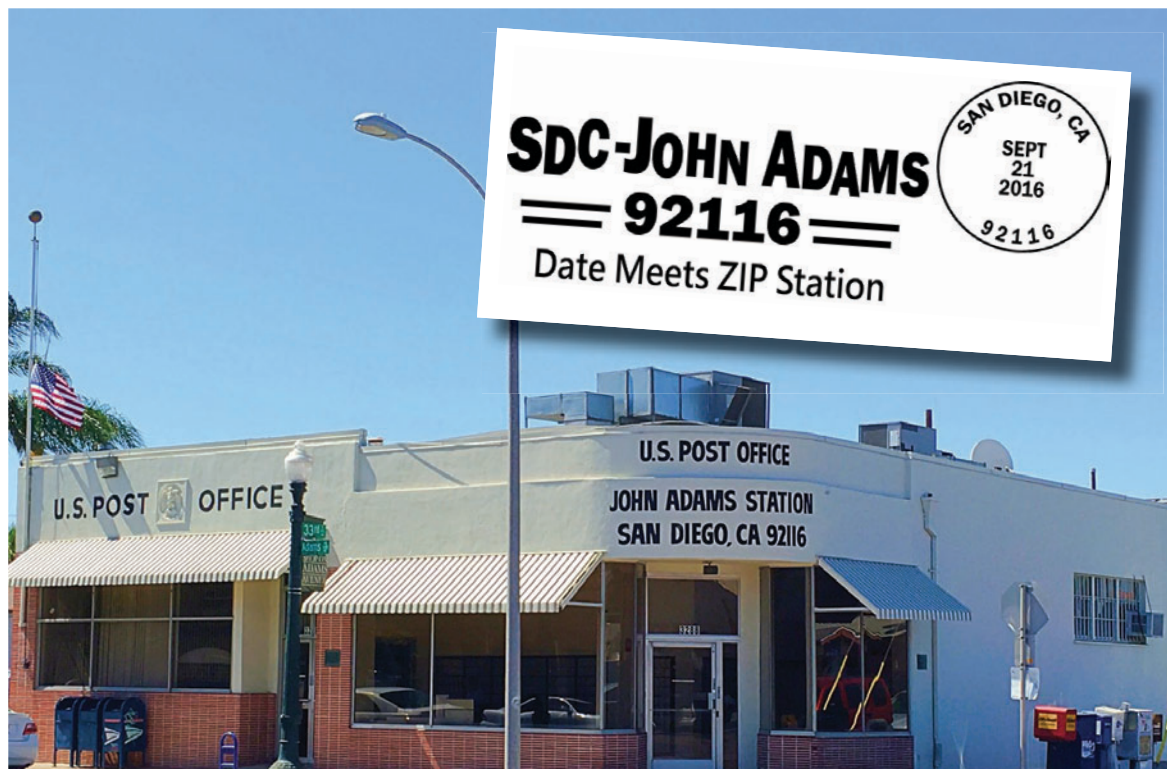
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When the date meets the ZIP code



The John Adams Post Office, located at 3288 Adams Ave. in Normal Heights, will celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime event on 9-21-16; (inset) the commemorative postmark (Courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service)

Ken Williams | Editor

Wednesday, Sept. 21, will be an ordinary day for most San Diegans. But if you live in Normal Heights, it will be a very special day and one that occurs only once a century.

That's the day — after it is shorthanded to 9-21-16 — when the date matches the 92116 ZIP code for the Normal Heights community.

It's an extremely rare coincidence the postal officials say happens every 100 years and only in certain ZIP codes.

"This event is a 'once in a lifetime' event that doesn't always happen in all ZIP codes, so we are fortunate to be able to recognize this day with the community," San Diego Postmaster Lisa Baldwin said.

The John Adams Post Office, located at 3288 Adams Ave. in Normal Heights, is planning to celebrate the event.

"I think it is a very fun occasion occurring once in a lifetime and I'm glad to be part of it," said Erica Hall, station manager for the John Adams Post Office.

"This is my first and probably only time that I will be at a postal facility that will celebrate this unique event," she



(l to r) San Diego Postmaster Lisa Baldwin and John Adams Station Manager Erica Hall. (Photo by John Hyatt)

continued. "It is a very memorable event and also very cool! I'm excited to share this with Normal Heights residents."

To mark the occasion, residents and businesses are invited to bring postcards and letters or purchase items from the John Adams Post Office and have them stamped with the commemorative postmark that reads: "SDC-John Adams 92116 Date Meets ZIP Station." The postmark will be available for 30 days after

Sept. 21, 2016.

On that special day, postal officials and community leaders will celebrate with the public with events occurring between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"I think it's pretty awesome that we can celebrate and share this extraordinary day with our customers and community," Postmaster Baldwin said.

Baldwin added that the special postmark would be a boon for collectors or folks who are into historical moments: "The special cancellation is a great way for enthusiasts and collectors to have a keepsake on this exciting and extraordinary day — Date meets ZIP Station!"

Hall, too, thinks the day will be a hit with the community.

"Residents of Normal Heights and stamp collectors will have a unique opportunity to have a 'Date meets ZIP Station' cancellation that coincides with their ZIP code (92116)," Hall said. "This is another of the things that makes Normal Heights the wonderful community that it is."

—Ken Williams is editor of Uptown 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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(clockwise from left) Soft shell crab lettuce wraps; roasted corn with tomatoes and shishito peppers (Photos courtesy of Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant); the house burger swathed in aged, white cheddar (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

Where consistency rules

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



A culinary interplay of nostalgia and innovation has presided over Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant from the time it opened 16 years ago. Then and now, patrons are afforded a steady hand in crafty libations and seasonal cuisine within an aesthetically solid atmosphere that remains the aspiration of new restaurateurs today.

Indeed, exposed wood and other repurposed materials flow throughout the three-room operation, but in a fashion that corresponds naturally to the bones of the building, which years ago was home to the long-running Liaison French restaurant.

Its cobblestone flooring and paned windows were kept intact, adding old-European charm to what can't fully be achieved inside glassy structures and drab strip plazas, no matter how much barnyard lumber goes into them. With little ornamentation and low lighting (perhaps too dim, depending on where you sit), the design speaks confidently for itself.

So does the food, which comes as no surprise in a restaurant spearheaded by industry veterans, Terryl Gavre of Café 222 and Bake Sale Bakery, and Carl Schroeder of Market Restaurant + Bar.

Both are culinary maestros in their own respect: Gavre's recipes for pumpkin waffles and other casual fare have been spotlighted over the years by national magazines and the Food Network; and Schroeder held gigs at distinguished restaurants across the country before nabbing the honor of "best hotel chef in the country" by the James Beard Foundation for his previous work at Arterra Restaurant in Del Mar.

Earlier this year, Chef de Cuisine Tyler Nollenberger came to Bankers Hill from Market, where he absorbed Schroeder's penchant for constructing contemporary meals derived from seasonal ingredients.

His dishes have entered the menu quietly amid signature items

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Prices: Soups, salads and appetizers, \$6.95 to \$16.95; entrees, \$17 to \$27

dating back to the restaurant's birth before they became trendy, such as deviled eggs festooned with arugula and Parmesan, and house-made potato chips dusted in lemon pepper and served with herbed ranch dressing.

The restaurant's original house burger my companion ordered is another untouchable. Garnished with pickled red onions and tomatoes, the patty is cloaked in aged white cheddar, completely shrouding the meat like frosting does on a layer cake, right down to the plate. Given the sharpness of the cheese, it's exceedingly tangier than your everyday burger.

Nollenberger recently devised a chilled cucumber-avocado soup that might stick around a couple more weeks if he isn't swayed already by some early-autumn ingredient steering him into serving warm pottage.

"I like spontaneous change," he said, despite the raves he's undoubtedly receiving for the soup's graceful meshing of the main ingredients with cilantro-marinated shrimp, Serrano chilies, cherry tomatoes and spiced croutons. All combined, the flavors were downright relaxing.

Quarter cuts of a soft-shell crab were the centerpieces of four lettuce wraps, brightened astutely by green papaya and bok choy slaw, plus lemongrass vinaigrette and chili glaze. Our only caveat was that the crabs were slightly inundated by a salty seasoning.

As far back as I can remember, the menu has featured some commendable version of a chile relleño. Nollenberger's plunges

deeper into Mexico by bridging the pasilla pepper to a filling of Oaxaca cheese, polenta, clove, cinnamon and star anise. Plated with a sauce of tomatillos, onions, garlic and other chili peppers, and sold as a side dish, it's simultaneously comforting and complex — tempting enough to order twice in lieu of a main course.

An entrée of chipotle-peach baby back ribs compensated for the lackluster few I had elsewhere over the summer. These were tender while maintaining a smidgen of precious texture. Better yet, the sauce struck a perfect spicy-fruity balance, which can be tricky when working with the cloying flavor of ripe peaches.

Fresh corn served alongside was deliciously distracting. The sweet kernels were tossed simply with charred shishito peppers and cherry tomatoes, and hiding perhaps a little cotija cheese. Aptly rounding out the plate was watermelon-cucumber salad accented with cilantro. Think backyard barbecue with a gourmet touch applied to everything.

Other entrees include local sea bass bouillabaisse with saffron; braised pork tacos; and a roasted half chicken with summer squash and chili butter.

For dessert — not counting the "Kongkiller" cocktail made in part with Malahat Spiced Rum and crème de banana we had early in the meal, and which tasted exactly like banana bread — the butterscotch pudding is a winner. It's served with lightweight shortbread that disintegrated in our mouths as the unusually rich pudding decadently coated them.

Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant has capably kept up with times without dabbling in overly trendy reinventions. At sweet 16, which in restaurant years is a very long time, it doesn't need to.

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

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Civico 1845 in Little Italy is donating all proceeds from the sale of a particular pasta dish to the Protezione Civile disaster relief agency to help victims recover from the devastating earthquake that recently struck Amatrice, Italy. The dish, pasta alla Amatriciana, is a simple construct of spaghetti, tomato sauce, guanciale (cured pork) and Pecorino Romano cheese. Available for lunch and dinner, it sells for \$16 and will be available until Sept. 12. *1845 India St., 619-880-3761, civico1845.com.*



Casting call: Katie Hance of Levity Entertainment Group in Los Angeles is looking for chefs in Southern California who specialize in dishes involving burgers, bacon, cheese, or carnival-style foods to compete in the Food Network series, **“Guy’s Grocery’s Games.”** She is also reaching out to dads who would like to compete with their sons or daughters (18 years or older) for a special Father’s Day episode. For more information, send an email to khance@leg-corp.com.



The ramen craze perseveres with a seventh location of **Tajima**, which is due to open by early October in North Park. Acclaimed local designer Paul Basile is giving the 1,500-square-foot space a “Japanese-Deco” look to match its exterior. The menu will mirror those at Tajima’s Hillcrest and East Village locations, offering the coveted ramen noodles made with several types of flour as well as fresh pork dumplings, Napa cabbage kimchi, assorted rice bowls and more. *3015 Adams Ave., tajimasandiego.com.*



In celebration of its six-month anniversary, **Royal Stone Bistro** in Bankers Hill is kicking off a series of “pop-up” specials and commemorative entrees, beginning Sept. 15 when dinner guests 21 years and older will receive a complimentary glass of wine. Other promotions, yet to be announced, continue daily until culminating with a six-course dinner paired with Central Coast wines, from 5–7 p.m. Sept. 18. The cost is \$85 per person. *3401 First Ave., 619-738-8550, royal-stonebistro.com.*



Chef Daniel Barron has been hired to helm the kitchen at **Bull & Grain**, a cocktail-centric restaurant scheduled to open Sept. 19 in the Hillcrest space previously occupied by Tabletop Commons. In addition to gaining kitchen experience at notable restaurants in New York, Beverly Hills and Nashville, he has worked locally at **Blue Point Coastal Cuisine**, **La Valencia Hotel** and **Blush Ice Bar + East-West Kitchen**. Owner Simon Wolujewicz remains tight-lipped about the upcoming menu, except to say in a news release that Barron will “continue to push the palette of progressive-American cuisine.” 1263 University Ave., bullandgrain.com.



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



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Under the moose

**Come On
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Dr. Ink

The whimsical theme of a hunter's lodge flowing throughout Barn Brewery parallels that of the former Tractor Room in Hillcrest, which a decade ago set a local trend of drinking in the company of prairie animals stuffed and mounted by taxidermists.

Yet unlike the Tractor Room, the Barn complements its food menu with beer only. About eight of them are signature varieties brewed onsite. Also, the exterior and interior rely on ubiquitous reclaimed wood to achieve a rural feel, although a bright-red ban-

quette in the back of the room and an eye-catching moss wall toward the front lend individuality to the design.

A moose head angled downward from the ceiling hovers over bar patrons as flat screens broadcast sports games. Recently, one of them relayed footage of a rodeo, which gaggles of young, bearded hipsters (and me) found easy to ignore.

The house beers are \$1 off during happy hour, although noshes such as French fries, salads, burgers and hearty sandwiches remain at regular cost, with most items priced below \$10.

Of the two home brews I've tried, each discounted to \$5 a pint, the Red Owl was my favorite because of its malt-forward flavor and crisp, fruity finish. At 6.6 percent alcohol, it was also the strongest. The leader in Barn's portfolio, however, is Daniel Boone Imperial Oatmeal Stout, ringing in at 9 percent alcohol. Lauded for its sweet licorice finish, I'll eagerly give it a whirl in the company of a designated driver.

On another day I chose the safest in the lineup, the Lil Saison listed at 4.1 percent alcohol, which is actually a few notches below most mass-produced domestics, but a whole lot tastier. This straw-colored quencher featured a creamy head, subtle hops, and a soft, peppery tang. Though compared to other farmhouse saisons I've had elsewhere, it wasn't as yeasty and complex.

Sharing the tap system are nearly a dozen guest beers available at regular price. They included titillating options such as Poor House Sterling, Ninkasi Hop Cooler, Delirium Tremens and Epic Tart N' Juicy Sour IPA. In all, it's easy to find a beer of your liking here.

From the food menu, the beer cheese fries (\$6) caught my eye, but not so much my palate. They were too salty and I couldn't really detect beer in the cheese sauce, which appears also on a fried pretzel priced at a dollar less. The modestly sized "barn burger" I ordered on a previous visit was much better. Topped with melted cheddar and grilled onions, it's priced at \$9 and struck a natural pairing to the kicky red ale in my glass.

Surprisingly, Barn Brewery offers a limited selection of wines by the glass, which includes a happy hour chardonnay by La Playa for \$5. But even as an avid wine drinker, I've yet to think about grapes when surrounded by fine, local suds. ♦



Beer cheese fries and a pint of Lil Saison at Barn Brewery in North Park. (Photo by Dr. Ink)

Barn Brewery

2850 El Cajon Blvd.
(North Park)
619-955-8228
thebarnbrew.com

Happy Hour: 3 to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday

RATINGS

Drinks: ★★★★★

From a concise selection of house-brewed beers, the Red Owl offered a pleasing balance of malts and citrus, and the quenching Lil Saison

Food: ★★★

Where's the beer in the "beer-cheese fries?" Though generously portioned, the thin-cut spuds were over-salted while the cheeseburger on a different visit was juicy and flavorful.

Value: ★★★

House beers, served mostly by the pint, are \$1 off. There are no discounts on food.

Service: ★★★★★

Orders are placed at the bar. Those tending it were attentive and didn't keep customers waiting, but they lacked enthusiasm in describing the various house beers beyond their basic classifications.

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

A smoking-friendly front patio leads into a mid-sized room featuring high, wood ceilings, an intimate bar, several tables and a cozy banquette upholstered in red fabric. The overall vibe is easygoing.

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(above) Some of the survivors of the WWII sinking of the USS Indianapolis, who participated in the documentary, "USS Indianapolis: The Legacy," showing at the GI Film Festival San Diego; (below) the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (Courtesy of the filmmakers)

FROM PAGE 9 FESTIVAL

me, when telling this story, and I think they really understood that and trusted me when we sat down in front of the camera."

Vladic hopes audience members come away with a deeper appreciation of those men and women who have served our country.

"USS Indianapolis: The Legacy" is not just a story about shark attacks and survival in the open sea. It's the story of President Roosevelt's Ship of State and Admiral Raymond Spruance's Flagship — the ship that led the largest and most powerful fleet in history, even to this day," she said.

"Beyond that, it's important to educate current and future generations about the sacrifices that have been made for our freedom. The best way to comprehend the events of war is to hear first-hand accounts from those who lived through them. And last, but certainly not least, I hope people understand the importance of never giving up, no matter what the situation."

'American Umpire'

The film's director, James Shelley, who is pursuing his master of fine arts at San Diego State University, said he has always been interested in U.S. foreign policy.

"After reading Elizabeth Cobb's book, 'American Umpire,' I realized that there was an important story to tell about how and why the U.S. became the world's policeman," Shelley said. "It occurred to me that the U.S. often gets into more trouble when it tries to impose some type of order to a military conflict overseas."

"For example, Bin Laden's No. 1 reason for launching an attack on 9/11 was to get U.S. bases out of Saudi Arabia. Those bases were there at the request of the Saudis. If we hadn't had those bases, there might have never been an attack on the U.S. Foreign military intervention is a very complicated and dangerous strategy for the U.S."

Shelley's documentary makes an excellent historical point that the so-called "Washington's rule" — named after our first president — called for the U.S. to be neutral in conflicts that did not involve our country. The Washington doctrine held forth until President Harry Truman changed U.S. policy after WWII, embracing the idea that the American military would become the "world's policeman." But as Americans grow weary of seeing U.S. troops dying or being gravely wounded in foreign conflicts, public opinion appears to be changing



and the issue has even surfaced in the 2016 presidential race. Shelley sees a generational divide on the issue, with millennials in particular opposed to the Truman Doctrine. And a recent Pew Poll showed that 57 percent of all Americans believe that the U.S. should stay out of other country's problems.

"As for the 2016 election, use of foreign military power has not been a big issue — other than the proposed use of tactics by Donald Trump that are generally regarded as war crimes: carpet bombing, killing civilian relatives of terrorists, increased use of torture, etc.," he said.

"According to a recent Pew Poll, about 75 percent of Americans believe that the U.S. is the leading military power. Bernie Sanders was in favor of pulling back U.S. overseas presence but mostly campaigned on domestic policy issues. That said, the next President will define U.S. foreign policy going forward. Congress has completely shirked any responsibility for foreign policy and delegated basically all decision making to the executive branch."

Shelley rounded up a number of high-profile experts to discuss the issue, including former secretaries of state Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright and George Schultz. Former PBS news anchor Jim Lehrer narrates the documentary.

"We interviewed a total of 18 foreign policy experts in San Francisco, New York, Boston, Washington, D.C. and Milan. To avoid any partisan slant, we stayed away from politicians or individuals who represented a political point of view," Shelley said. "We targeted foreign policy experts in the government, military and academia with a strong knowledge of the issues. That resulted in over 25 hours of interview footage, which had to be cut down to under 30 minutes. That was the biggest challenge. Another big challenge was getting compelling archival footage. I wanted really powerful clips and images that had not been widely used and would help move the story forward. Finding the right archival footage is very difficult and time consuming. But I'm very

pleased with what we got."

By far, the U.S. has the largest military budget and the biggest fighting force in the world. But Schultz suggested during his interview that the world would fall apart if Congress downsized the military and stopped policing the planet, as other experts suggested in the documentary.

"As a filmmaker, I see my responsibility at making a fair presentation of both sides of the argument," Shelley said. "If I had to draw any conclusion, it would be that the world is a very different place than it was in 1947. Security risks have changed. The major risks today come from failed states and terrorism. So I think we need to think about the world differently. What is the best strategy to protect our citizens from these risks? The British have been fighting terrorism since the 1950s — IRA, etc. But they didn't use battleships and tanks."

That said, Shelley hopes his documentary has an impact on its viewers.

"I hope that 'American Umpire' will begin a national conversation about our foreign policy," he said. "Too often that conversation breaks down into a false dichotomy: You are painted as either an All-American, red-blooded interventionist or a yellow-bellied isolationist. Those are not our only choices. Let's come together as a nation and figure out what is the best path of the U.S. and the world going forward."

—To read a longer version of this article, featuring an interview with director Pat Clark about his documentary "A Return to the End," visit sduptownnews.com/honoring-our-troops.

—For a complete schedule of events and synopsis of films, visit sduptownnews.com/gi-film.

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

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Patrick Rooney, Austyn Myers, Kyle Selig, and Connor Russell. Actor photo by Jim Cox.

Two local educators nominated for Teacher of the Year honors

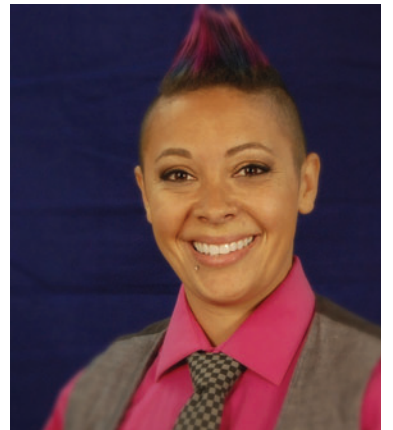
By SDCNN Staff

Two educators of students who attend Mid-City schools have been nominated for 2016-17 Teacher of the Year honors.

• **Julie Szweda** teaches fourth- and fifth-grade orchestra and visits multiple schools in the district, including Normal Heights, Balboa, Burbank and Rosa Park elementary schools. She believes "students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds have the most to gain from the study of music," according to her nomination.

• **Ebonee Weathers** is a sixth-grade teacher at Horace Mann Middle School. This past year she "initiated a 'Water as a Human Right' unit in her class which students fundraised to bring clean water to students in Africa," according to her nomination.

Now in its 26th year, the annual "Cox Presents: A Salute to Teachers" program will recognize 43 nominees throughout San Diego County. Teachers who were nominated were selected by their respective school districts. Five educators will be named County Teacher of the Year during the Academy Awards-style event at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 at Balboa Theatre in Downtown. CNN journalist Kyra Phillips and broadcast veteran Dennis Morgigno will



(l to r) Julie Szweda and Ebonee Weathers (Courtesy of Cox Communications)

co-host the ceremony.

A full list of nominees can be found online at bit.ly/2coWFue.

The top five teachers are selected based on student achievement, professional development and community involvement, teaching philosophy and personal style, knowledge of educational issues and trends, promotion and development of the teaching profession, accountability, and their ability to serve as ambassadors of education.

The County Teacher of the Year winners will go on to represent the region at the California Teacher of the Year program later this year.

The gala event is presented by San Diego County Credit Union and produced by Cox Commu-

nications in cooperation with the San Diego County Office of Education. The show also will air live on Channel 4 San Diego.

"Cox Presents: A Salute to Teachers" has received national recognition, and has earned numerous awards, including more than 20 Emmy Awards and most recently, two Beacon Awards, for Channel 4 San Diego for excellence in programming.

Additional show sponsors include Nothing Bundt Cakes, The Super Dentists, Procopio, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Entravision, iHeartMedia and KUSI.

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A scene featuring cast members of "Oklahoma!" at New Village Arts (Courtesy of NVA)

'Oklahoma!' is a winner

Theater Review
Charlene Baldridge



If opening night was any indication, New Village Arts has another musical hit on its hands, with Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1943 Broadway musical, "Oklahoma!"

Not only that, there are new theater seats, still ample legroom, and a new soundboard (balance was still being worked out Saturday evening by sound designer Chad Goss). All other elements are there, the casting (director is debuting Teddy Eck), costumes (Mary Larson) and choreography (Julio Catano) are well nigh perfect, and any rough spots are likely to be smoothed during the run, which lasts until Sept. 25.

The action — based on the Lynn Riggs play, "Green Grow the Lilacs," is set in Oklahoma territory in 1903, just prior to statehood — involves a cowboy named Curley (Jack French, who opens the show with "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'") and his love ("People Will Say We're in Love") for a farm girl named Laurie (Charlene Koepf).

A parallel romance concerns ("I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No") Ado Annie (Alexandra Slade, who takes the role's prize for subtlety and depth of understanding) and ("Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City") Will Parker (Zackary Scot Wolfe) and his competition, a peddler named Ali Hakim (scene-stealing, wonderful Jonathan Sangster).

The pivotal role of Jud Fry — the reclusive farmhand who threatens Laurie and Curley — is played by the vocally splendid actor Christopher Lesson, one of the best we've ever seen. With customary warmth and reliability, Susan E.V. Boland ("The Farmer and the Cowman") portrays Laurie's Aunt Eller. The singing/dancing ensemble comprising Chris Bona, Devin Collins, Kelly Derouin, Anton Maroun, Jillian Porter and Jacob Reiss, create



Ensemble actors perform dance scene from "Oklahoma!" (Courtesy of NVA)

"Oklahoma!"

By Rodgers and Hammerstein
Directed by Teddy Eck
Thursdays-Sundays through Sept. 25
New Village Arts
2787 State St.
Carlsbad Village
newvillagearts.org
760-433-3245

characterful, titled roles.

It would have shortened the length of the (nearly three-hour) evening to cut part of Agnes de Mille's original Dream Sequence, which makes explicit Laurie's dilemma, caught as she is between two types of fear.

A word about Jack French, who plays Curley: He is tall, handsome and very young, having just graduated with a B.A. from Point Loma Nazarene College and is aimed towards a master's in opera performance. He has upcoming opera and operetta assignments with Point Loma Opera Theatre and San Diego Opera's Opera on the Track program.

When he first enters as Curley, it's a surprise to hear such a well-trained, operatic, and carefully produced sound emanating from such a regular looking

guy. Further stage experience under a variety of directors will help integrate the multiple facets of his talent, both vocally and dramatically. Right now he's a wow singer with an underdeveloped sense of Curley's place in the musical theater pantheon. He needs to put on a bit of non-innate swagger and shed the idea of perfectly rounded tones in order to find easeful matinee idol employment. Meanwhile, enjoy what you hear.

Not much can be done about the meager orchestral forces — Music Director Tony Houck on piano, a particularly over-amped Nobuko Kemmatsu on percussion, and the wandering, onstage presence of singer/dancer/player Morgan Carberry, attractive as she is, on violin. One supposes that space and cost are factors, but two pianos sans percussion might have been better — it is impossible for one piano to play all the intended/expected notes.

For one with original orchestrations still lingering in her ears and memory, it was unsettling to say the least. And when is someone going to tell Charlene Koepf (Laurie) that she needn't sing so loudly and with such "point" to be understood?

— Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. You can follow her blog at charlenebaldridge.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com. ❖

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

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.

9/6

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Puzzle answers on page 18

Uptown Crossword

Tough Spots

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		

CREATOR'S NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Informal discussion

5 Our: Fr.

10 Sack

13 Time of day

14 A narcotic

15 Novelist Victor ____

16 The A in A.D.

17 Free-for-all

18 Seed covering

19 Peevishly ill-humored

21 Object used to clean a pistol

23 Offers

24 Serene

25 Black furs

28 Schools of higher learning

32 Kind of wrench

33 Attired

34 Wander

35 Untruths

36 The fourth estate

37 Jason's ship

38 Airy fabric

39 Makeshift boat

40 Carroll's nonsense creature

41 Grossly disrespectful

43 Group of songs played together

44 French river

45 Money factory

46 Nebraska river

49 Twists out of shape

53 Country road

54 Swiss river

56 Catch, as a thief

57 Affirm

58 Bravery

59 Arizona

60 Steer wildly

61 Corundum

62 Twist about

DOWN

1 Guy

2 Sharpen

3 A relative

4 Emergency repair-man

5 Desert wanderers

6 Takes the cover away

7 Cant

8 Bitter herb

9 Green jewels

10 Irish brogue

11 Exchange premium

12 Precious metal

15 With great force and violence

20 Legal claim

22 Everybody

24 Land along the sea

25 Ragout of game

26 A foreigner

27 Consecrate

28 Divided, split

29 Goat antelope

30 Tidal bore

31 Great ____ Mountains

33 Lifting device

36 Keep from destruction

40 Dispatched

42 Kindled

43 Wretchedness

45 Juvenile

46 Drama

47 Molten rock

48 Afresh

49 Distribute

50 Train track

51 Slate

52 Type of salad

55 Amateur radio operator

Puzzle answers on page 18

Classifieds

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An example of one of the many Colonial Revival homes that were built in Mission Hills (Photo by Stephanie Stewart)



The 1915 historic Mission Hills United Methodist Church will be on the tour. (Courtesy of missionhillsumc.org)

Colonial Revival featured at Historic Home Tour in Mission Hills

By Janet Worthey

The Mission Hills neighborhood of San Diego features a rich variety of early-20th-century architectural styles built during the neighborhood's rapid growth. This year, Mission Hills Heritage will be showcasing the Colonial Revival style during its 12th annual Historic Home Tour.

Merely hearing the term "Colonial Revival" evokes visions of East Coast Colonial homes of white wooden structures or grand redbrick homes with well-kept green lawns and graceful trees. In wintertime, smoke swirls and billows from chimneys atop snow-covered roofs as the distinctive scent of wood-burning

fireplaces fills the air.

Since San Diego rarely encounters true winter weather, duplicating the feel of an East Coast winter during Colonial times would be a challenge! However, Mission Hills was fortunate to have had talented local architects and builders as well as those who migrated to San Diego, designing and building almost 75 Colonial Revival homes.

Between 1922 and 1925, a need for veteran housing provided incentive for building most of the smaller Colonial examples. Soon after, the passing of the War Preparedness Act of 1935 allocated millions of dollars to restore and expand San Diego's military facilities, creating

thousands of jobs and spawning a patriotic fervor. Many larger, more impressive examples of Colonial Revival were built during this second boom, which lasted through the 1940s.

During the Historic Home Tour, you can view both the exterior and interior beauty of this historic American style. A few notable characteristics of classic Colonial style include paired chimneys, bay windows and Greek columns framing a centralized entry door.

Participants will be greeted by Mission Hills Heritage docents who will accompany tour guests through each home, sharing intriguing information. As an additional feature this year, there

will be a tour of the 1915 historic Mission Hills United Methodist Church, a significant landmark in Mission Hills. The tour is self-paced and the homes can be visited in any order. Please note that the distances between the houses will likely require driving.

The Historical Home Tour takes place on Saturday, Sept. 24. The ticket office will be at the Mission Hills United Methodist Church, located at 4044 Lark St. (corner of Fort Stockton and Lark Street). Ticket sales begin at 10 a.m. The tour begins at 11 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. The will call and ticket sale tables will be at the church and refreshments will be served in the Social Hall of the church from

2-4:30 p.m.

Advance tickets cost \$20 for Mission Hills Heritage members, \$25 for non-members. Purchased online at bit.ly/2aUO8sy.

Day of tour tickets cost \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members (cash or checks only).

For will call, advance ticket sales, times and additional information, visit MissionHillsHeritage.org. Email to info@MissionHillsHeritage.org or call 619-497-1193.

—Janet Worthey is a member of Mission Hills Heritage and is the 2016 Home Tour event chair. She can be contacted at info@MissionHillsHeritage.org or 619-497-1193. ❖

Gig Life Illustrated in Cox Home of the Future

Do you know how much internet speed your home needs? Today, the average household is connecting six devices in the home to the internet, from laptops and tablets to gaming and multiple smartphones, and that number is expected to increase in the near future. Cox Communications recently hosted an event in San Diego to demonstrate how gigabit speed is quickly turning the home of the future into the home of today for busy families, work-from-home professionals, gamers, budding musicians and future chefs.

What does "gigabit speed" really mean? Gigabit speed is internet that's 100 times faster than the average speed. With gig speed, you can download 100 songs in three seconds, a full-length HD movie in less than 60 seconds or upload 1,000 photos in about a minute.

Cox Communications has been delivering gigabit internet speed to business customers for more than a decade, and now it's focusing on providing ultra-fast gig speed to all of its residential customers. The Cox event at The Pinnacle on the Park apartment community showcased how Cox Gigablast speed provides reliable, quality service of 1,000 megabits per second.

Demonstrations at the event ranged from competitive gamer Tyler Burnette playing Rocket League to Madonna's violinist Jason Yang streaming music lessons. Local food blogger Whitney Bond, now a television and internet star with more than 150,000 monthly views on her website, demonstrated how

Gigablast service allows her to quickly load photos and stream videos to her blog and social media pages.

"Without it, my business would be impossible!" she says.

Schools of the future may well look like the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) Maker Workshop's demonstration. STEAM Maker uses virtual reality and other emerging technologies to teach students new ways to learn, with gig speed powering the workshop's projects and experiments.

The event also showcased Reflexion Health Inc.'s use of virtual reality to guide patients on proper techniques for at-home physical therapy. Dr. Edward Greene from Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group conducted in-home patient consultations via web conferencing. Other demonstrations included architects from BNIM highlighting how they use high speed internet to power their business and provide employees with improved work-life balance. The stations - along with WiFi enabled gadgets, computers and tablets all running simultaneously - were possible only because of super-fast Gigablast speed.

Cox Homelife home security and automation products were also on display. Homelife cameras can stream live video so you can monitor for intrusions, fire and other emergencies. It also lets you raise or lower the temperature in your home remotely, control indoor and outdoor lighting and access other programs using a smartphone, tablet or computer.


The New Contour from Cox has ushered in a new age of television viewing, offering entertainment like never before. The New Contour offers voice-controlled remote controls as well as sports, traffic, news and weather apps viewed simultaneously. You get smart search that predicts what you want to watch, parental controls customized to your children's ages and interests, and the option to start a program in one room and finish it in another.

With Gigablast internet speed, families can run all their devices at the same time without impacting each other's internet experience. Just as the home of the future is already here, Gigablast is now available to homeowners throughout San Diego County. Start living the Gig Life today.

For more information visit www.cox.com/gig.



Dr. Edward Greene from Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group conducts an in-home patient consultation via web conferencing.



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FROM PAGE 18
ALLEYS

in a San Diego Union Tribune article published Aug. 24, 2014, described the condition of the back parking lot when he bought the property. It was, he said, “a dilapidated, vacant place, people living inside: It wasn’t a pretty area.” Van Thillo applied for funds from local foundations and invited people to volunteer to renovate the lot.

These days, if you walk the alley behind the Media Arts Center, which is parallel to El Cajon Boulevard and on the west side of 30th Street, you’ll see an outdoor classroom and an open yard full of potted plants, colorful pictures of cranes, hearts and doves on pieces of wood, and a raised garden off to one side. You’ll see students pointing their cameras in various directions as they learn about angle shots and point of view. By “taking back the alley,” using plants, artwork and a colorfully designed mural, volunteers young and old “helped transform this neighborhood,” van Thillo said.

Through the El Cajon Boulevard BIA, Forman has continued to work with building owners, homeowners and community outreach organizers from North Park, in a widespread effort to encourage start-up business owners to transform unimproved alleys and create attractive spaces where people can gather.

On the other side of 30th Street from the Media Arts Center alley, transformation continues outside Shaper Studios SD, now in its third year of business in what it describes as “the world’s first DIY surfboard and retail surf shop.” Shaper Studio’s alley is a continuation of the alley behind the Digital Gym.

General manager Kory Nutter is supervising the work of a member/client who just finished shaping the first stage of what will eventually become his surfboard. Nutter and studio instructors work together with men and women in their 20s and 30s who want to make their own surfboards.

“We don’t sell surfboards, we teach people to make them,” Nutter said. The deck outside their shop interfaces with an alley directly across from another parking lot, which serves businesses on El Cajon Boulevard east of



Planters beautify a deck facing the alley outside Shaper Studio. (Photo by Kathleen Hughart)

30th Street.

On Friday nights, Shaper Studio surfboard makers come back with their friends to hear local musicians jam at the studio. A deck facing the alley outside the studio provides additional room for patrons to have a drink, converse and listen to music.

At KOR strength training center next door to Shaper Studio, Michelle Giusti consults with men and women about food choices. Giusti is the on-site nu-

tritionist who works with KOR’s founders Kristen Karhio and Dan Bettcher, who were unavailable for comment.

With so much talk about GMO-modified food, gluten-free choices and lactose intolerance, Giusti said it’s important for people to know their personal dietary requirements.

“I teach more about how you can figure out your personal preferences for yourself, what’s good for you as an individual,” she said. She’s a morning person, and said the ambience around KOR, where spinner exercise bikes stand ready for use next to the alley, suits her disposition.

Inside, personal trainers work out with a diverse group of men and women devoted to physical fitness. Weight lifting, stretching and even throwing a ball help develop balance, muscle tone and the ability to use your core.

Value of murals

Always looking for a way to reach out to the community, Forman encourages talented muralists to paint blank walls. She lucked out when a couple of muralists touring the United States came to the North Park al-



Greetings Inc. is run by a couple of guys who travel across the United States scoping out landmarks of big cities and incorporating them into Post Card murals. (Photo by Kathleen Hughart)

ley and painted a “Greetings from San Diego” mural.

Forman also meets with city workers who want to help design plans for public events in alleys. Not too long ago, city planners believed that “under existing city codes, actually nothing can be done in alleys, because they’re places where dumpsters are ... and garbage ... and traffic,” she said.

But changes have recently occurred in city policy, based on efforts to rewrite outdated permits. Creative negotiation has to a point opened up civic partnerships, bringing flexibility to the process of issuing permits, Forman said.

Elizabeth Studebaker, the city’s Economic Development liaison, works with nonprofits like the El Cajon Boulevard BIA to develop permits for space-making opportunities in the Uptown and Mid-City communities.

“What we’re leaning towards is having different levels of permitting, based on the complexity of the project,” she said. “I’m definitely noticing an increase in interest in communities all over the city, in place-making activities.”

A few weeks ago at a City Hall stakeholder meeting, representatives from the city’s Commission for Arts and Culture, Streets Division, Development Services, Planning Department and Economic Development met to go over space-making in general, and alley renovation in particular.

Though Mayor Kevin Faulconer’s staff members weren’t immediately available for comment, Studebaker noted, “We’re kind of

see Alleys, pg 24

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

‘North Park Historical Society Car Show’

Saturday, Sept. 10

This year’s car show will be held from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the parking lot in front of the Balboa Tennis Club at Morley Field (2221 Morley Field Drive). Visit bit.ly/2bVoAcE to register a vehicle for the event and to get more information.

‘Take Back the Alley!’ neighborhood alliance meeting

Saturday, Sept. 10

The Hillcrest Business/Homeowner Coalition will meet from 2–4 p.m. between Richmond and Vermont streets south of University Avenue and north of Essex Street near The Merrow (1271 University Ave., Hillcrest). The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served. Visit bit.ly/2bVqa6X for more information.

Dan Navarro

Saturday, Sept. 10

With many musical years under his belt, singer-songwriter Dan Navarro is preparing to release his first solo studio album, “Shed My Skin.” The folk-rock artist — once half of Lowen & Navarro — will make a tour stop at Grassroots Oasis (3130 Moore St., Midway) to showcase old and new tunes. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Visit grassrootsoasis.com for more information.

Art show: Lauren Grant

Saturday, Sept. 10

Local artist Lauren Grant will be showing her work at the Learn Academy Gallery (3803 Ray St., North Park) from 7–10 p.m. Grant is a mixed media artist “inspired by memories, subconscious thoughts, realized truths and the spectrum of human emotion.” She cites Frida Kahlo as an inspiration. She creates art on canvas with paint and salvaged objects. Grant’s art show will take place during Ray at Night - San Diego’s longest-running monthly art walk. Visit lscarlettgrant.crevado.com to view Grant’s work.

Deep Sea Diver; Imagery Machine; and Oh, Spirit at Soda Bar

Monday, Sept. 12

Seattle’s Deep Sea Diver is fronted by Jessica Dobson, who has an impressive resumé as a touring member of The Shins, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and Beck’s band. The indie-rock band’s show at Soda Bar (3615 El Cajon Blvd., Normal Heights) will start at 8:30 p.m. They’ll be joined by two talented local bands: Imagery Machine and Oh, Spirit. Tickets are \$10. Visit sodabarmusic.com for more information.

Celebrating 100 years of Roald Dahl

Friday, Sept. 16

Write Out Loud will present this celebration at Mission Hills Branch Library (925 West Washington St.) at 10:30 a.m. As part of the organization’s StoryBox Theatre Program, they commissioned local artists to create storybox designs for the re-telling of two Dahl stories: “The Enormous Crocodile” and “The Magic Finger.” Both stories will be presented at this event. Visit writeoutloudsd.com.

Inaugural Red Balloon Awards

Saturday, Sept. 17

This dinner and awards gala will honor literacy heroes while raising funds for Traveling Stories’ literacy programs in San Diego. The event will celebrate individuals and companies that champion literacy in innovative ways. The event will feature dinner, drinks, entertainment, an auction and the award show. The festivities will be held at the San Diego Woman’s Club (2557 Third Ave., Bankers Hill) from 6–9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for individuals and \$850 for a table of eight. Visit redballoonawards.org.

‘Music Cures’ fundraising concert

Monday, Sept. 19

Members of San Diego’s performing arts community will come together for an outdoor concert to raise money for Maria Letitia Gimpaya. Gimpaya has been on a 14-year journey battling cancer and is in need of immunotherapy and further radiation to restore her health. The concert was put together by local actor/singer Paul Kruse who recruited performer friends to participate. The concert will be held at the San Diego Automotive Museum (2080 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park) with the event starting at 6 p.m. with refreshments at 7 p.m. and the musical revue on the museum terrace at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for kids and \$30 for adults and include access to the “Star Cars” exhibit in the museum. Visit bit.ly/2c8L7Zi.



Local band Le Chateau will perform for free at The Merrow (Photo by Darren Bradley)

Luneaux, Le Chateau and Grim Slippers at The Merrow

Tuesday, Sept. 20

Every Tuesday, The Merrow (1271 University Ave., Hillcrest) hosts a free show (with RSVP) featuring three bands and hosted by 91X’s Michael Halloran. This edition has a killer lineup of local bands that all fall into a cross section of genres including rock, electro and pop. Le Chateau performs richly layered and haunting songs that defy logic when you see only three members on stage. Grim Slippers are another trio that incorporates blues and funk elements. And last, but not least, Luneaux delivers spacey tunes featuring the intoxicating sounds of electronic violin. The show starts at 9 p.m. Visit themerrow.com to RSVP.

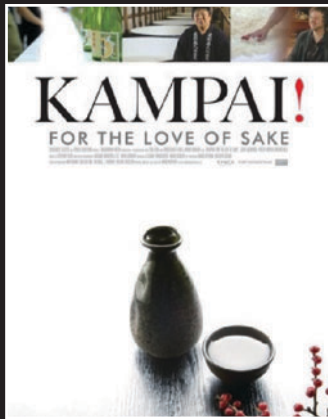
DIGITAL GYM GEMS



Friday, Sept. 9–Thursday, Sept. 15: The critically acclaimed “Captain Fantastic” stars Viggo Mortensen as a devoted father raising his children in isolation in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. After tragedy strikes the family, they are forced to leave their self-created paradise. Rated R. 118 minutes



Friday, Sept. 9–Thursday, Sept. 15: Gael Garcia Bernal and Alison Pill star in the surrealist comedy “Zoom” where a comic book artist, a novelist and a film director from separate realities write stories about one another. Unrated. 97 minutes.



Friday, Sept. 16–Thursday, Sept. 22: “Kampai! For the Love of Sake” is an exploration of the “traditional, complex and secretive world of sake.” Sake is an age-old staple of Japanese culture and cuisine, which has captured the devotion of drinkers worldwide. Unrated. 95 minutes.

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

RECURRING EVENTS

Select dates:

Cinema Under the Stars: Films presented at an outdoor viewing space on various nights of the week. Upcoming films:

“Raiders of the Lost Ark” Friday, Sept. 9–Saturday, Sept. 10

“When Harry Met Sally” Thursday, Sept. 15–Saturday, Sept. 17

“To Catch A Thief” Thursday, Sept. 22–Saturday, Sept. 24

Films start at 8 p.m. \$15. 4040 Goldfinch St., Mission Hills. For more info, visit topspresents.com or call 619-295-4221.

Mondays:

North Park Toastmasters meeting: 6:30–8 p.m., weekly meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 3725 30th St., North Park. 8469. toastmastersclubs.org.

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

Unsung Genius: 6:30 p.m., bi-weekly trivia hosted by Rafael Gaitan starting at 7 p.m.; \$2 to play; cash, bar tab and other prizes. Karaoke to follow at 9 p.m. on the big stage at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest. Themerrow.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 (except November and December). 3900 Vermont Ave., Hillcrest. Uptowndemocrats.org.

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. Universalspiritcenter.org

Thursdays:

Uptown Sunrise Rotary Club meetings: 7 a.m., weekly meeting at Panera Bread, 1270 Cleveland Ave., Hillcrest. Sdurotary.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 Thursday Market: 3–7 p.m., at 3000 North Park Way, between 30th Street

and Granada Avenue, North Park, free. Northparkfarmersmarket.com.

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

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

Courage to Change – Al-Anon meetings: 7:15–8:15 p.m., a weekly meeting for friends and relatives of alcoholics at Christ United Presbyterian Church (in the chapel), 3025 Fir St., South Park.

2016 San Diego Film Series: 7:30 p.m., every third Thursday view a film representative of Italian cinema at the Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. Sandieguitoitalianfilmfestival.com.

Kirtan Musical Meditation: 8:30 p.m., chant and sing ancient and contemporary mantras celebrating love and life at Pilgrimage of the Heart Yoga, 3301 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, free – donations welcome. Pilgrimageyoga.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 Firstuusanidiego.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. Oldtownsaturdaymarket.com.

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

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

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. Themerrow.com.

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

—Email calendar items to ken@sdenn.com.

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Dr. John Martin is a retired medical physician and surgeon who discovered The Change Fitness 3 months ago. *"Since my retirement, I have started working at The Change Fitness to improve my strength and flexibility. This weight training system is efficient and safe, and has produced rapid increase in muscle mass and flexibility, which are very important in maintaining a good quality of life. It has also improved control of my diabetes and lowered my cholesterol to a normal level without the need of statin medication. I strongly recommend The Change Fitness to anyone interested in living strong!"*

RN Mary Dixon is a Clinical Study Manager and Registered Nurse. *"Before I started working with my trainer at The Change Fitness, I was over-weight and out of shape. My strength and muscle formation were at an all-time low. Now, my results speak for themselves. I have more strength than even before. I've lost weight and have a was it line for the time in many years. My trainer focuses on both exercise and nutrition to help me achieve the goals we've set. I'm frequently asked how I manage to look younger than my years, and my response is that I come from a good gene pool and I work out at The Change Fitness!"*

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FROM PAGE 3
MURAL

To that end, the street artist known as Persue is slated to paint a mural at Nomad Donuts' future location at 3102 University Ave., pending approval from the building's owner. The theme is borrowed from the Surfrider Foundation's Hold Onto Your Butt program, a campaign to rid beaches of cigarette butts. Persue, who has been creating street art for 30 years, is a surfer, which makes him particularly sensitive to the need to encourage active engagement in protecting the ocean from polluted runoff.

Persue described Sea Walls as "a group of ocean lovers that are building awareness for a broader audience. They bring their voices out to urban areas of the world. They use artists to help communicate these issues. The project is a way for us to contribute to building awareness, to play a part."

"I guess I've been living that lifestyle for decades now," Persue continued, "because of where I come from as an artist; my roots of being a graffiti artist and turning into a street artist, always trying to raise awareness about things I find important for our community and for me. Our hope is that people would look into and discover what we're trying to say and, in doing so, be educated and make better decisions about how they conduct their lives, make small changes that together have a bigger effect."

Other Uptown mural locations and artists, pending approval, include:

Artist and Craftsman Supply,



Gloria Muriel works on her mural (Photo by Alexander Banach)

3804 Fourth Ave. in Hillcrest: artist Jet Martinez; The Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave.: artist Askew; Cardamom Café, 2977 Upas St. in North Park: artist Lauren YS.

A map and list of final locations will be posted at PangeaSeed.org, and daily project updates are available on the Cohort Collective Instagram account at [instagram.com/cohortcollective](https://www.instagram.com/cohortcollective).

Completion of the murals will be celebrated at a closing reception on Sept. 14, from 6 to 11 p.m. The public is invited to join the artists at La Bodega Gallery for live music, painting and prizes.

—Kit-Bacon Gressitt writes commentary and essays on her blog, *Excuse Me, I'm Writing*, and has been published by Ms. Magazine blog and Trivia: Voice of Feminism, among others. She formerly wrote for the North County Times. She also hosts Fallbrook's monthly Writers Read authors series and open mic, and can be reached at kbgressitt@gmail.com. ❖

FROM PAGE 21
ALLEYS

at the investigation and problem-solving phase right now" and the city is "supportive."

Forman and Studebaker also meet with nonprofit community organizations that have been researching processes adopted in other cities in Southern California and the nation, and they said the mayor's staff is involved.

Aaron Paley, president and co-founder of Community Arts Resources in Los Angeles, sees a successful public space as "a lowering of boundaries between people" and mentions a potential for reviving Pershing Square in downtown LA as a place where community gatherings could happen morning, noon and night. Read more at kcrw.co/2bBN6YT.

In Seattle, Canton Alley in the International District and Nord Alley and Pioneer Passage in Pioneer Square will be the first three spaces to receive updates. Read more at bit.ly/1L3lh4V.

When questioned about San Diego's code permitting process, Adriana Martinez, a staff member for District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria, explained that city code for permit decisions must be based on whether a project takes place on public or private property.

"I believe this [an alleyway] is considered an unimproved public right of way," Martinez said. "There are two Council Policies (CPs) that provide direction. These CPs call for a cost sharing if the abutting property owners are interested in improving the right way."

These two internet links open up City Council code rules on improvements to existing alleys: bit.ly/2b77f4T and bit.ly/2bqsaSN.

"City departments are trying to figure out a way, that works for all involved, to simplify permitting in order to serve community organizations that want to do something to enhance their neighborhoods," Studebaker said.

Is there anything city planners can do to decrease the length of time it takes to get a permit, the cost of a permit, or the technical information that's required?

"We do have to take it case by case," Studebaker said, "... but if a permit fits the situation, it could be applied. If a neighborhood development project has broad community support, [we could] develop a 'bucket' category for that type of project so that the same permit can be applied to similar requests."

Forman notes that North Park, City Heights and El Cajon Boulevard BIAs want to move beyond the notion that nothing can be done about alleys.

"An alley is actually a public space where you don't get much traffic volume, so it makes for a great outlet to enhance an area," Forman said.

Hillcrest BIA president Ben Nicholls said via an email that his group hadn't yet joined the movement.

"While we are engaging in place-making, we don't have any plans to renovate our alleyways," Nicholls said.

Forman said some city planners are ready to help design plans for public events in alleys, based on community feedback

and requests from neighborhood organizers.

Chris Ward, incoming councilmember for District 3, expressed support for the movement.

"Public spaces and place-making is integral to a rich urban, walkable community," he said. "My background in urban planning means I understand how to create public spaces that are activated with community members and support. I look forward to working with our business associations and city officials to ensure any permits for alleys strike the right balance of continued use with neighborhood activation."

Public right of way, public vs. private property, city/property owner improvement of abutting pavement — all of these issues present challenges faced by private citizens and city employees who plan, develop and design ways to bring San Diego up to speed with Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco, among other places. These metropolises are moving forward to develop space-making potential, and are in the business of bringing city dwellers together in urban villages.

Go for a walk, ride a bike or drive through San Diego's crowded streets, and you'll notice lots of road construction. The reality of population density brings with it the realization that adding more automobiles to an already congested urban grid is no longer an option. Will green alleys be part of the solution? Maybe so.

—Kathleen Hughart is a freelance writer and can be reached at hughart.kathleen@gmail.com. ❖



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