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San Diego Uptown News

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San Diego Community News Network



in the hole 'Coolest Hardware Store on the Planet' is in Hillcrest

Ken Williams | Editor

Hillcrest Ace Hardware really is a unique place. While "unique" is one of those often misused and overused adjectives, franchise owner Bruce Reeves can make a good case that his store is one of a kind.

For the past 20 years, Hillcrest Ace has been serving customers from the Uptown and Mid-City communities with a distinctive blend of goods ranging from traditional hardware products to niche merchandise targeting the LGBT community.

About a month ago, Hillcrest Ace completed its move into a newly remodeled space next door to its original site. The new store at 1003 University Ave. is in a prime location on the corner of 10th Avenue, and can be easily accessed via state Route 163. It is also across the street

Bruce Reeves, owner of Hillcrest Ace Hardware, grasps the "Coolest Hardware Store on the Planet" award from Hardware Stores of America. Displayed behind him are local Nicky Awards. (Photo by Ken Williams)

from The Hub shopping center, a busy destination with two grocery stores as well as a number of restaurants and small businesses.

"We're one of the unique Ace Hardware stores because we have three floors," Reeves said.

In addition, the store is unique on two other fronts. One, Reeves said his store is distinguished as being the first gay-owned franchise in Ace's history. Two, the Hardware Stores of America (HSA) recently named his business the "Coolest Hardware Store on the Planet."

With pride, Reeves shows off his "trophy wall" in the hallway outside his office located on the mezzanine level, where he displays seven local Nicky Awards and his newest prize from HSA.

Reeves is happy the move is over.

"It took us six months to move, but we never closed for one day," Reeves said.

"I've been wanting this space for 20 years!"

The corner location was vacant for more than two years after Natvia Furniture closed in 2013. The distinctive building with its Mediterranean façade and Spanish

see Ace, pg 20

City Council to review Community Plan Updates

Ken Williams | Editor

The draft Community Plan Updates (CPUs) for Greater Golden Hill, North Park and Uptown have been forwarded to the San Diego City Council despite stakeholders' concerns that the documents don't adequately address potential historic districts or the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

In addition, the city's Planning Commission on Oct. 6 fiddled with the draft Uptown CPU, but the big news is that the panel unanimously recommended that the City Council initiate a Specific Plan for the Uptown Gateway project that would significantly redefine "downtown" Hillcrest. The Gateway project has been a lightning rod for controversy, adamantly opposed by residents who oppose density and tall building but praised by those who believe Hillcrest must grow vertically in order to provide adequate affordable housing that is so desperately needed.

The planners also announced the dates when the three CPUs would go before the City Council. The Greater Golden Hill and North Park CPUs will be reviewed on Tuesday, Oct. 25, and

see CPUs, pg 8

'A world-class opportunity'

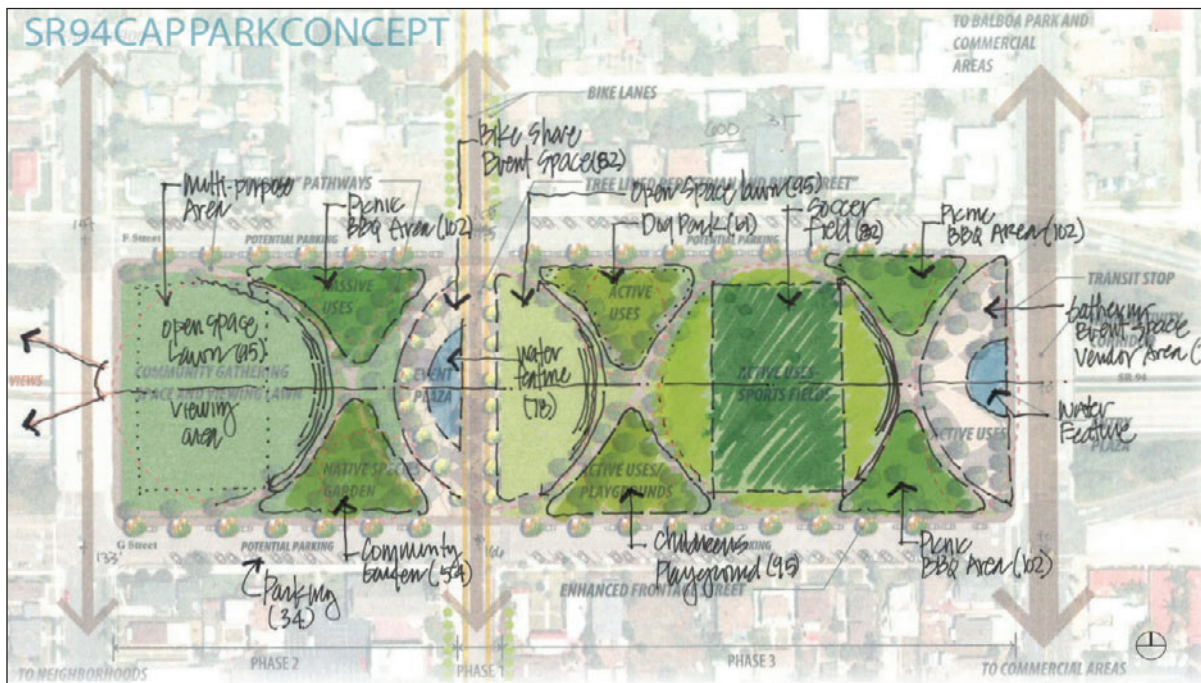
Park cap over SR 94
would reunite Golden
Hill, Sherman Heights

By Dave Schwab

An 8-acre park cap, proposed to be built over state Route 94 between 22nd and 25th streets, could reconnect the communities of Golden Hill and Sherman Heights long separated since the highway was constructed.

Golden Hill residents weighed in on the ambitious, long-term proposal that was discussed during a two-hour meeting on Sept. 27 at Golden Hill

see SR 94, pg 21



An artist's rendering of a proposed cap park over SR 94 east of Downtown. (Courtesy of Caltrans)

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Local businesses participating in Taste of North Park on Oct. 15 will offer samples and sips of local craft beer.
(Courtesy of North Park Main Street)

Taste the neighborhood

By Joyell Nevins

It's that time again — time to enjoy a "Taste of North Park." "You can literally dine and drink all day — call it brunch, lunch or an early dinner," said Lauren Forgione, spokesperson for the sponsor, North Park Main Street.

The number of eateries and participants has jumped to 54 restaurants and 16 brewery and boutique pairs. Local businesses will offer samples and sips of their best creations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Mediterranean, Mexican, Japanese, American and Italian cuisines will be among the various offerings. Participants can visit pizza places, food trucks, restaurants that are all about the meat, and restaurants that pride themselves in vegan cooking.

"I think [the Taste] highlights how truly diverse the food and beverage offerings are in North Park," said Matt Gordon, owner and chef of Urban Solace and president of North Park Main Street. "You can find pretty much anything you want in the neighborhood from great breakfast joints, to sushi, Mexican, pizza and, of course, a great bluegrass Sunday brunch on the weekends!" Urban Solace has been a part of the Taste since the restaurant opened nine years ago. The restaurant was founded with a vision of "the kind of place that restaurant people would eat at on our days off," Gordon said.

"We wanted a place with an approachable menu, that wasn't too expensive, yet still offered the quality of ingredients and creativity that you might encounter in a more upscale or expensive restaurant," he explained.

Gordon notes that it has been great to see how the Taste of North Park has continued to grow. In 2016, 13 new restaurants have come on board. There are bakeries, coffee shops, cafes, delis, sports bars, cheese connoisseurs and more formal dining choices. Try Gordon's signature Dungeness Crab Roll with pick-



(left) Matt Gordon, executive chef at Urban Solace, has participated in Taste of North Park for years. The foodie event also showcases local craft beer and participants get 15 sips along with 50 tastes. (Courtesy of North Park Main Street)



Taste of North Park
Saturday, Oct. 15
11 am. to 3 p.m.

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led fennel, butter lettuce and tarragon aioli on brioche at Urban Solace, or Pumpkin Arroz con Leche at West Coast Tavern.

"Taste of North Park definitely gives you a feel of what North Park eateries are bringing to the plate," said Abe Botello, executive chef at West Coast Tavern.

Botello is known for his menu of modern American bar fare (including BBQ pork and waffles). Like many of his colleagues, he takes pride in using local and seasonal ingredients, including

sourcing from the North Park Thursday Market.

"I think North Park in general puts a lot of heart and soul into what we do," Botello said. "Eateries here really strive to create a memorable experience for our guests. We are a tight-knit community and really do it for the love of food."

And the love of craft beer, too! Ciders, meads, IPAs, ales heavy and light on the hops — all will be included in the Taste. The palate of craft beers will be explored in 4-ounce samples in businesses throughout the district. Retail locations include gift shops, salons, a gym and a music store.

"One ticket allows guests to explore the best of the thriving North Park culinary and craft beer scene at venues where they can get a full sampling of what North Park has to offer," Forgione said.

For a complete list of participants, visit bit.ly/2dcIML7.

—Freelance writer Joyell Nevins can be reached at joyellc@gmail.com. You can also follow her blog "Small World, Big God" at swbgblog.wordpress.com. ❖

How to Sell Your San Diego Home Without An Agent And Save the Commission

San Diego - 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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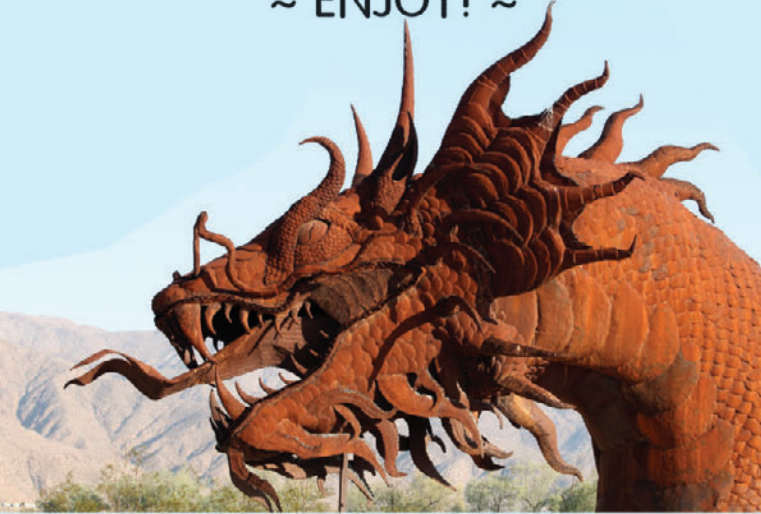
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Shaper Studios in North Park participated in the second annual San Diego Maker Faire in Balboa Park on Oct. 1-2. (Courtesy of Maker Faire)

North Park businesses had fun at Maker Faire

By Margie M. Palmer

North Park businesses Shaper Studios and The Homebrewer San Diego were among the more than 200 exhibitors that participated in the second annual San Diego Maker Faire.

The award-winning, family-friendly event — celebrating technology, education, science, arts, crafts, engineering, food, sustainability and more — returned to Balboa Park on Oct. 1 and 2.

Exhibits included everything from art and design, robotics, education and nature.

“This year we really wanted to showcase San Diego’s unique making culture including beer-making and the surfboard community,” said Stephania Villar, social media coordinator for the sponsoring Balboa Park Cultural Partnership.

“Surfing culture is huge in San Diego, which is why we wanted to find someone like Shaper Studios, which empowers people to make their own boards so they are able to leave their mark on something.”

“We were excited that the event reached out to us earlier this year,” Shaper Studios owner Christopher Clark said, “and we were excited to be able to bring the art of surfboard design to the San Diego community. We hope to bring the art of surfboard shaping out of the shadows and celebrate the art in a way that inspires attendees to experience surfing in a new way. We had live surfboard shaping and interactive surfboard design and education. It was a hands-on experience for attendees.”

George Thornton, who owns The Homebrewer San Diego, said he first learned of the event when it debuted in 2015. This year, he said, event organizers contacted them because they wanted to include more homebrew-related exhibits.

“We were happy to play a role in spreading the craft beer DIY joy,” he said. “We hope to increase the exposure to home-brewing and show how fun and easy it is to make amazing beers at home. We had a display of the necessary equipment and ingredients to



Christopher Clark, owner of Shaper Studios in North Park, explains to youngsters how they can make their own surfboards. (Courtesy of Maker Faire)

make beer. We were able to talk about the process and evangelize as well.”

Attendees immersed themselves in a festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness. This year’s event had an even bigger footprint than it did last year, Villar said.

The 2016 Maker Faire boasted a dozen participating venues, including places such The Old Globe and San Diego Museum of Man, along with two outdoor areas.

“Makers are people who see something and decide they want to do something about it, whether that’s solving a problem discovering a product that needs to be improved,” she said. “They have an incredible passion about

doing something that’s fun and creative that translates into something practical. Sometimes it’s just for the fun of it, which is why people can expect to see such a huge range of makers at this year’s fair.”

Villar said the event truly had something for everyone.

“There were so many exhibitors and there was such a passion in the air. There were so many activities where you were encouraged to be hands-on and where you were encouraged to touch and create. It was a very unique experience,” she said.

—Margie M. Palmer can be reached at margiep@alumni.pitt.edu. ❖



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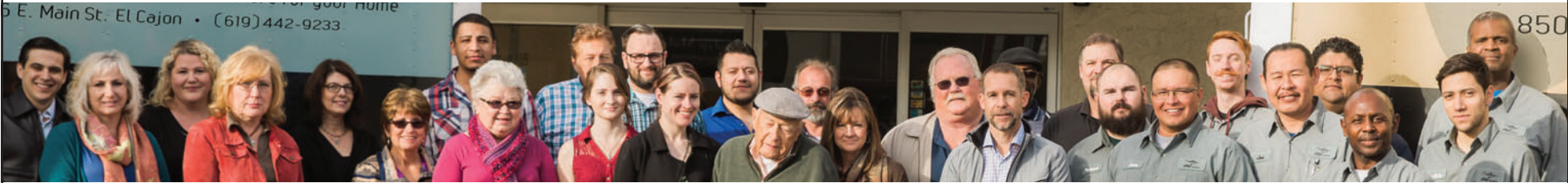
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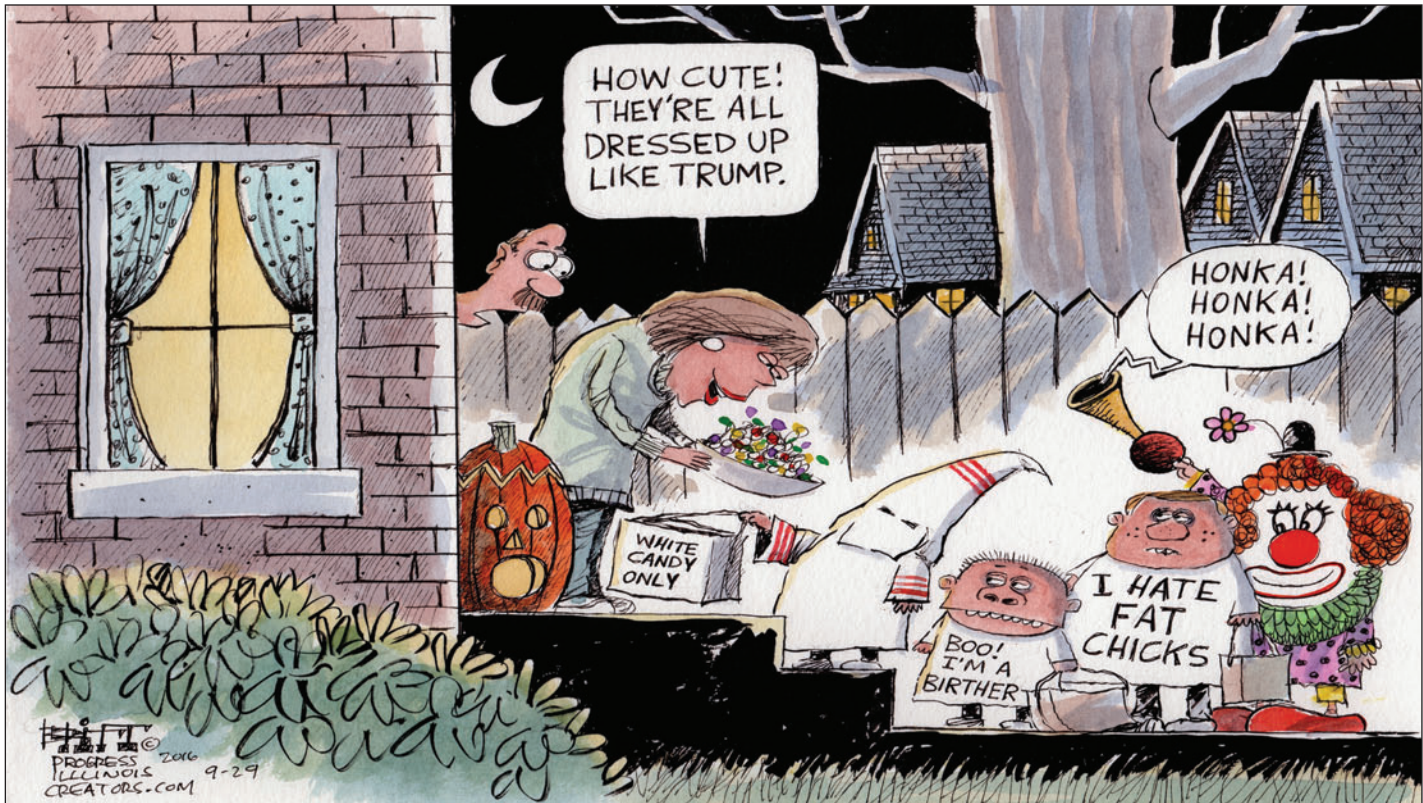
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For breaking news and investigative story ideas contact the editor by phone or email.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Searching for a Medicare Advantage Plan?

By Paul Downey

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period is fast approaching. From Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, current Medicare users can adjust or change plans to ensure access to the services the best fit their needs.

With hundreds of private insurance companies trying to convince you of what you really need, here are some questions to help with your search.

1. What is the different between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

Original Medicare is two parts: Part A covers hospitalization, skilled nursing care facilities after a qualifying hospital stay, hospice, and medically necessary nursing home care and home health services, and Part B covers medical expenses and preventative services.

Instead of Original Medicare, you can purchase a Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C). These alternative plans, offered by private insurance companies, often include prescription drug coverage and cover more services than Original Medicare, such as vision and health and wellness programs.

A prescription drug plan (Part D) is available to everyone with Medicare. Part D plans vary in cost and the types of prescriptions that are covered. If you choose not to enroll in Part D when you are first eligible, and do not have a creditable drug prescription coverage, you may have to pay a late enrollment fee if you join later. Creditable prescription drug coverage is expected to pay, on average, at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage. Examples include current or former employer or union coverage, TRICARE, the Indian Health Service, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

2. What is the price difference between plans?

Original Medicare Parts A and B have the same premiums and coverage across the nation. If you choose a Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, there are many options to consider. The least expensive policy may not be the best value based on your situation. The State Health Insurance

Assistance Program (SHIP) can help you navigate through all of your options.

3. Can I still see my current physician if I switch plans?

With Original Medicare, you can see any doctor who participates in the Medicare program and receive care at any hospital nationwide. With a Medicare Advantage Plan, you may or may not be able to choose your doctor or hospital, depending on the type of plan. Talk to your doctor about potential issues before you make the switch.

4. Is there help to pay for Medicare if you have a limited income?

People with limited incomes and resources may be eligible for help paying their Medicare premiums and deductibles. If your income is less than \$17,820 if single and \$24,030 if married, you may also qualify for Medicare Rx Extra Help to cover prescription drugs. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) Benefits CheckUp is a resource to find benefit programs that could help you pay for healthcare and medications.

5. How do I know if I'm making the best choice?

No one can tell you which Medicare plan is right for you. However, the federal government provides an online plan finder that helps narrow down plans available in your area, and includes information such as a list of approved prescription drugs. Visit medicare.gov/find-a-plan to learn more about this service. HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) also provides free and objective Medicare counseling and education. Call 1-800-434-0222 for more information.

If you need help locating a resource, contact Serving Seniors' Carlos Ochoa-Mendez at 619-487-0719.

—For more than two decades, Paul Downey has been the president and CEO of Serving Seniors, a nonprofit agency dedicated for more than 45 years to increasing the quality of life for San Diego seniors living in poverty. Learn more at servingseiors.org.



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Poll



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LETTERS

Bicyclists and courtesy

I'm a daily walker and I don't mind having to share the sidewalk with bicycles when they don't have a designated bike lane on the street, but pedestrians have the right of way as far as I know. So please just give me fair warning when you are coming up behind a pedestrian! It can scare the crap out of the pedestrian and most dogs are very uncomfortable with bicycles and especially skateboards.

—Brent Butler via our website, [sduptownnews.com](#)

Opening studio doors

Re: "Artists open their studio doors to the public," Vol. 8, Issue 20 or at [bit.ly/2cOCyAa](#).

Thank you for talking with a few of the artists and reporting on the second annual Open Studios San Diego [Oct. 15-16]. The number of participating artists has grown to more than 30. From Jamul to Fallbrook and Downtown to North Park, they have been telling me how much they are looking forward to opening their studios. Cheers!

—Patric Stillman, owner of The Studio Door in North Park, via our website

No to UAMP

Re: "A median, landscaped or paved? University Avenue re-do plan is at a crossroads," Vol. 8, Issue 20 or at [bit.ly/2drHmOL](#).

The outdated, backwards University Avenue Mobility Plan (UAMP) would be a huge disaster for University Avenue and North Park — for much more significant reasons than discussed in this article. This is literally the worst "mobility" plan the city has come up with in decades. See [northpark.us/uamp](#) on why this is, and what can be done to fix it.

—David Gleason, via our website, [sduptownnews.com](#)

(Editor's note: The UAMP was approved more than a year ago by the San Diego City Council, so it is basically a done deal.)

Be prepared for more of these arguments. For their bike plans, SANDAG is also requiring that third parties such as maintenance assessment districts or parking districts be in place and agree to pay for taking care of any landscaping before they'll install it. (Exceptions are federally funded projects, like the few blocks of Rapid Transit lanes on Park Boulevard, that are lushly landscaped.)

Problem is, these schemes require a subgroup, such as the adjacent property owners or those paying for parking, being forced to fund something everyone gets to enjoy. And California courts have not looked kindly on funding mechanisms that do not have a 1-to-1, pay-to-benefit relationship.

By refusing to figure in all the costs of the projects they present to the public, local governments and agencies are cutting corners on the cheap that end up costing more in future litigation than would being honest from the start.

—Mat Wahlstrom, via our website.

Street fair posers

I love street fairs, mainly because I love all the handmade crafts. I am kind of a chatty person. I enjoy talking to artists who are selling their stuff.

There is a common thread between a huge portion of vendors and unfortunately it is lying about their "custom handmade items." At a few of the recent fairs I have attended, about six out of 10 vendors have claimed that the stuff they sell is their original, unique, one-of-a-kind handmade item. Some went as far as to describe the process in detail how the create their "one-of-a-kind" pieces.

Several were copy cats in the same fair. They were selling the exact same thing as the booth around the corner. I bought a scarf from one vender who told me she knits in a certain way to achieve the ruffles. The items were not knitted; they were crocheted. Big difference — for those who don't know — knitting is done on two needles, crochet is done on one hook.

Being a big crafter myself, Michael's is one of my favorite stores. I found so many jewelry pendants and charms that come prefabricated that the vendors were pawning off as their own. I bought a dozen metal-covered leaf pendants, for gifts. I paid quite a bit of money for them. As I walked through the aisles, I saw the leaf pendants, the exact same ones for sale for \$5 a piece or less. Boy oh boy, am I a sucker or what.

Another vender carefully described the place she goes to personally mine the gems in her jewelry. LIE! I saw them at Michael's. The last thing I found was really disappointing. This particular vender I found very interesting. Her stuff was beautiful and unique, not to mention super expensive. She took her time explaining the high-tech process she uses to create her pieces. I didn't buy anything because it was too expensive. I saw the same pendants at Michael's priced from \$3 to \$8, depending on size.

I don't get it. Do you? Please explain it to me if you do know.
—Tina S. from North Park via email

—Letters to the editor can be sent to ken@sdcdn.com and comments can be made on our website or Facebook page. ❖

GUEST EDITORIAL

Congress tackled 2 health crises but it didn't have to be this hard

By U.S. Rep. Susan A. Davis

It only took seven months but Republicans in Congress finally fulfilled President Barack Obama's request for emergency funding to fight the Zika virus. The president asked Congress for \$1.8 billion back in February.

On Sept. 28, Congress sent the president a spending bill, which included \$1.1 billion for Zika.

Why did it take so long? Because of the same political game playing that we've seen in past attempts to fund the government.

In May, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill on an overwhelming vote of 89 to 8. Then the House majority got a hold of it.

They simply could have brought it before the House for a vote. It probably would have received bipartisan support similar to the Senate. The president would have put his signature on it and that funding would have been on its way to finding a cure and vaccine.

But not in today's Congress. The House majority, under pressure from the fringe elements of the Republican party, added two provisions to the bill they knew full well Democrats would never support.

The first weakened the Clean Water Act to allow for unrestricted use of pesticides on or near waterways. There is no question that mosquito eradication will be part of any effort to curtail the spread of the Zika virus. However, we need to be sure it is done in ways that don't hurt the environment or threaten public health.

The second provision added to the bill takes absurdity to new levels. This provision would have prohibited Profamilias — Puerto Rico's Planned Parenthood affiliate — from receiving federal funding to provide health services related to the Zika virus, including preventive services like contraception.

Of the more than 16,000 cases of Zika in the United States and its territories, over 15,000 are in Puerto Rico. One of the ways the Zika virus is spread is through sexual transmission.

Contraception is a simple and inexpensive way people can protect themselves from being infected. It defies all logic why anyone would want to take that away from people.

When this version came before the House, I voted against it, as did almost all House Democrats. Unfortunately, the bill passed.

Since the House had altered the legislation it needed to go back to the Senate. It was not surprising that Senate Democrats rejected it.

That was months ago. In that time, the existing funding used on research to find a cure and vaccine continued to dwindle down.

Over those months, House Democrats made numerous attempts to get the emergency funding into the hands of researchers. There were nine votes in the House. All of them failed along party lines.

San Diego has not been immune to the Zika crisis. We have been lucky that to date none of the over 20 cases here have been mosquito-borne in our region, unlike in Florida and Puerto Rico. Of the 22 San Diego cases, 21 people contracted Zika in other countries and one was sexually transmitted.

However, the over 16,000 cases in the U.S. show this crisis is real and needs immediate attention.

At the end of the day, the provisions the House majority had insisted upon were quietly removed. The funding that passed in September was the clean version of the bill Democrats wanted.

On another note but still health-related, Congress finally provided relief to Flint, Michigan. This was another crisis where many people were urging action. I traveled to Flint in March to meet with its residents and hear firsthand about their experiences during this manmade disaster where 9,000 children were exposed to lead.

The assistance Congress approved will allow for the replacement of pipes and other water infrastructure improvements in Flint.

Both the action on Zika and Flint are long overdue but certainly welcome developments. However, did it really need to take months for it to get done?

Going forward, I hope that we can get past partisan politics with future crises. We should not be playing games when it comes to the health and safety of the American people.

—Rep. Susan A. Davis represents Congressional District 53, which includes including the San Diego communities of Old Town, Kensington, Mission Hills, University Heights, Hillcrest Bankers Hill, North Park, South Park, Talmadge and Normal Heights, as well as La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley and parts of El Cajon and Chula Vista. ❖

GUEST EDITORIAL

The civic importance of Measures K and L

By Charles G. Abdelnour

For 28 years I was privileged to serve as the clerk and chief elections officer for the city of San Diego.

During that time, I oversaw a number of important election events. These included the city's switch from district-only primaries, which were then followed by a citywide general election, to district-only elections — both in the primary and if necessary, a general election runoff.

My staff and I helped bring San Diego into the digital age, advancing my commitment to transparency by putting city documents online for public access.

And, I'm proud to be called the "father of the all-mail ballot," helping to draft and champion the precursor to today's absentee ballot and the model for what is now commonly used in other jurisdictions.

So, as I look at the November general election ballot, what strikes me as the most important opportunity for city of San Diego voters, are measures K and L. They represent a very simple — yet very significant — change in the way we make some of our most important decisions.

Measure K reforms the process for candidate races, ensuring that our city's leaders are elected in November, when the most people vote — the same system we use to elect state and federal officials.

Currently in the city of San Diego, these officials can be elected in June, when as few as 20 percent of voters participate, and some candidates have been elected with support from as few as 11 percent of their constituents. The current system gives disproportionate influence to political partisans and special interests with their money and endorsements.

Measure L reforms the process for deciding city ballot measures, and as we do for state ballot initiatives, requires that they be placed on the November ballot when the most voters are participating.

I think we can all agree that democracy is best served when the most people participate, and clearly that happens in November.

In fact, statistics show that turnout among the general population doubles for the November general election.

For voters, the choice is clear.

Measures K and L bring the city in line with how California voters decide on state and federal elected officials and ballot measures. Measures K and L will eliminate confusion and empower the majority of voters.

I am passionate about democracy and our voting process. I've fought for voters' rights issues since 1977. Measures K and L are the most important opportunities to come before city of San Diego voters in decades. Please join me in voting "yes" on K and L.

—Charles G. Abdelnour is a former San Diego city clerk and chief elections officer. ❖

Mark your calendars: community meetings

San Diego Uptown News encourages readers to make a difference in the community where they live. Here is a list of community organizations that meet in your area:

- Adams Avenue Business Association Board of Directors: 8 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Normal Heights Community Center, 4649 Hawley Blvd.
- Bankers Hill Community Group: 6:30–8 p.m. on the third Monday. San Diego Indoor Sports Club, 3030 Front St.
- Bankers Hill Parking Committee: 5:00–6:30 p.m. on the first Monday. Merrill Gardens, 2567 Second Ave.
- Burlingame Neighborhood Association: 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday. Mazara Trattoria, 2302 30th St.
- Greater Golden Hill Community Planning Group: 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday. Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, 2600 Golf Course Drive
- Hillcrest Business Association Beautification Committee: 3 p.m. on the fourth Monday. 3737 Fifth Ave., Suite 202

ASK KATHY: A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

**Kathy
McSherry**



Don't be HAUNTED by your home's value. Trying to establish this number may seem SPOOKLY or SCARY!

Hi Kathy:
My bank has a property value assessment feature that is updated every month. Last month the bank stated the home market value as 3666,400 and the tax value as 3604,586. How are these values determined and how reliable is the market value estimator?
Timothy S.

Hi Timothy:

I have often asked myself that same question. First, let me differentiate between assessed value and market value. Assessed value typically refers to a percentage of the appraised value of your home which will determine your property taxes. The market value refers to what your home might sell for and is typically the number used if you were to list your home. Assessed values tend to be lower than market values.

Many of the tools that banks or online sites use, take advantage of publicly provided data and run it through computer models and possibly an algorithm to derive at their estimated value.

This is typically proprietary information and comes from many sources like the MLS and public records. According to Stan Humphries, Chief Analytics Officer at Zillow, the margin of error is 7.9%, but varies by location.

To us, the homeowner, we may receive tax information about our properties from the County Assessor's office or website information and are shocked to see the assessed value less than the market value. One wonders if the "assessor" is blindfolded and slinging darts at a board to establish these values. Such is not the case. Property taxes get assessed based on the price that was paid for the home. (Remember my article on Prop 13 a few months ago?) When a property transfers ownership a new assessment is triggered. The County Assessor is not driving by your home and evaluating on a regular basis, rather he gets "triggered" to reassess based on a new ownership.

One of the true ways to establish the value of your home is to hire a licensed appraiser. This would provide you with an appraised value. Appraisers have been professionally trained to compare, discriminate and adjust the value of your home based on square footage, surrounding comps, and any upgrades or features that would add or subtract to the properties value. However, it is still an opinion. You could call three different appraisers and obtain three different outcomes. Appraisers may also factor in replacement cost which would include the land and the cost to replace the structure as well as price per square foot. Lenders use appraisals to protect their mortgages and therefore should be fairly close to market value.

All in all fair market value is what a qualified, knowledgeable, and able buyer is ready to pay an otherwise knowledgeable and able seller. Hope this helps Timothy!

Best, Kathy

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

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FROM PAGE 1 CPUS

the Uptown CPU will be evaluated on Monday, Nov. 14.

These meetings also mark the final times for the public to make comments on three important policy documents that will guide growth in those planning districts for the next 20 years.

The draft CPUs have been an exhaustive work in progress for the past eight years or so. The volunteer planning groups in each of the three planning districts have worked with city planners and local stakeholders to craft documents that embrace the needs and wants of the local neighborhoods, which include Bankers Hill/Park West, Golden Hill, Hillcrest, Medical Complex, Middletown, Mission Hills, North Park, South Park and University Heights.

This fall, the three volunteer planning groups approved the draft CPUs and sent them for further review to the city's Historic Resources Board, the Infrastructure Committee, the Committee on Smart Growth and Land Use, and the Planning Commission. The City Council, which has the final say, will decide on whether to approve the CPUs.

The road toward a final vote has been pocked with some unexpected potholes. Last December, for example, the City Council approved a groundbreaking Climate Action Plan (CAP) that legally binds San Diego to slash its carbon footprint in half by 2035 by committing to 100 percent clean electricity and zero waste. It also requires at least 30 percent of the population to bike, walk or take public transit to work. And to achieve this ambitious goal, city officials are urging higher density housing projects to be built along major bus and trolley lines.

But the CAP, coming at virtually the last minute, threw a wrench into the draft CPUs. Despite years of work, the volunteer planning groups had no way of anticipating such a challenging plan would be initiated, so their documents do not reflect the demands of the CAP. Earlier this year, city planners tried to adapt the draft CPUs to meet the CAP requirements, but they were often operating without clear guidance or set policy. As a result, members of the planning committees — and many residents — felt frustrated that city planners were rushing the CPUs toward a final vote by the City Council without adequately addressing the CAP issue.

Angering environmentalists

This did not go unnoticed by prominent CAP supporters, including Nicole Capretz, executive director of Climate Action Campaign, and George Courser, conservation chair of Sierra Club San Diego. They recently wrote an opinion piece in Voice of San Diego, expressing their frustrations:

"With all eyes on our city, the first big test of our commitment to implementing the plan comes in the form of community plan updates — the long-term roadmaps for growth, development and mobility in

individual neighborhoods. We cannot reach the 2035 climate targets without creating compact, mixed-use and transit-rich neighborhoods close to where families work," they wrote.

"Four Community Plan Updates are coming to a vote this fall. They include North Park, Uptown and Greater Golden Hill — all communities surrounding Downtown and jobs — in other words, the most likely and appropriate places to begin building these more compact neighborhoods where folks would have real options to go to work and access services without a car," they continued.

"After months of calling for an analysis of how well these three draft community plan updates implement the Climate Action Plan and achieve its goals, the city finally conducted one.

Unfortunately, none of these three draft Community Plan Updates conform to the plan nor meet the minimum thresholds set for shifting commuters to biking, walking and transit."

Golden Hill and North Park

On Oct. 5, the city's Committee on Smart Growth and Land Use reviewed the CPUs from Greater Golden Hill and North Park, and heard public comments. Capretz was among those who pointed out to committee members that the CPUs did not show how the two documents met the demands of the CAP.

Vicki Granowitz, chair of the North Park Planning Committee, criticized city staff for springing a last-minute memo of considerable length titled "Role of the Supplemental Development Regulations in the North Park and Golden Hill Community Plan Updates Final Program Environmental Report." She said her committee nor the public got a chance to read the document in advance.

Granowitz said planners wanted to rely on the existing 45-year review process, which she termed "inadequate," instead of embracing the tougher regulations recommended in the CPU.

District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria, who is a member of the land-use committee, acknowledged that more work needed to be done to resolve those issues, but was reluctant to hold up the process. Still, he urged members to "get it right."

Gloria, who is in his final weeks in office due to term limits, said he was happy to hear that concerns about density were not part of the discussion and hoped that the North Park CPU would be a blueprint for other communities who will be working on CPUs.

"By and large, the [North Park] plan is good," he said.

Jack Straw, from the mayor's office, told Gloria that Mayor Kevin Faulconer wants the CPUs to go forward, even if tweaks are still necessary.

Later, the committee debated the Greater Golden Hill CPU. Similar issues came up, and the members arrived at the same conclusions as with the North Park CPU.

In the end, the committee sent both CPUs to the City Council without giving a recommendation. Concerns raised about historic districts and the

CAP prompted Planning Director Jeff Murphy to confirm that his staff would remove those items from the CPUs before the council reviews them in coming weeks. Murphy said his staff would work further with Greater Golden Hill and North Park to fine-tune those issues.

Uptown Planners

At the Oct. 4 meeting of the Uptown Planners, where they discussed the draft Uptown Community Plan Update's Impact Fee Study and final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), members such as Bill Ellig criticized city planners for "dismissing customer feedback" and for overriding a lot of the public comments. Ellig said the process was being rushed through, a comment echoed by a number of other members.

Leo Wilson, the chair, said that overall the draft update "is a good plan," but he criticized its Mobility Element as being "badly outdated." Wilson peered into the near future, noting that self-driving cars would dramatically change the way San Diegans will commute and that electric cars and hydrogen-fueled vehicles will swiftly usher in an era of zero emissions.

"The future has to be faced," Wilson said. "This [Mobility Element] is a horse and buggy plan."

Planning Commission

Meeting on Oct. 6, the Planning Commission reviewed the Uptown CPU. A number of people spoke for and against the document, mostly over historical districts and issues involving height limits and density.

Several parties representing the Uptown Gateway project showed PowerPoint presentations and even a short video outlining how the proposed redevelopment — 11 acres roughly bounded by Washington Street to the north, Pennsylvania Avenue to the south, Fourth Avenue to the west and Seventh Avenue to the east — would reshape the future of Hillcrest. Visit hillcrest-gateway.com to learn more about the project.

Marcela Escobar-Eck, representing the property owners, said the Gateway district is served by six bus lines and is perfectly located for density. She also advocated for no height limit, so the buildings could go vertical, not horizontal, leaving space for parks and outdoor gathering places.

"If not Uptown, where will we put density?," she asked.

Architect Ricardo Rabines, who is involved in the project, said the Gateway district could use Portland, Oregon's Pearl District as inspiration. That 60-block area was redeveloped into one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Portland.

"The Hillcrest community is slowing dying at its core," he said.

Sherm Harmer, representing Urban Housing Partners and also the Pernicano family, said the CAP mandates the city has more density and that Hillcrest is the perfect place for developments where you can "live/work/shop/play/learn." He, too, cites the numerous bus lines in the community.

But a number of Uptown Planners members, including Tom

FROM PAGE 8
CPUS

Mullaney and Bill Ellig, spoke against density in the Hillcrest core and instead sought to push taller buildings to Park Boulevard. A trolley line is scheduled for that area by 2035.

But Maya Rosas, also of Uptown Planners, shared her view that millennials like herself wanted to live in denser communities where they can live, work, shop and play without ever needing to own a car. Several other millennials echoed that theme, prompting two commissioners to agree with them that the CPU should address their needs and concerns.

Leo Wilson, chair of Uptown Planners, acknowledged that Hillcrest is the heart of the LGBT community. "This is our Castro," he said, referring to the famous San Francisco neighborhood. Wilson worried about redevelopment triggering a "cultural desecration."

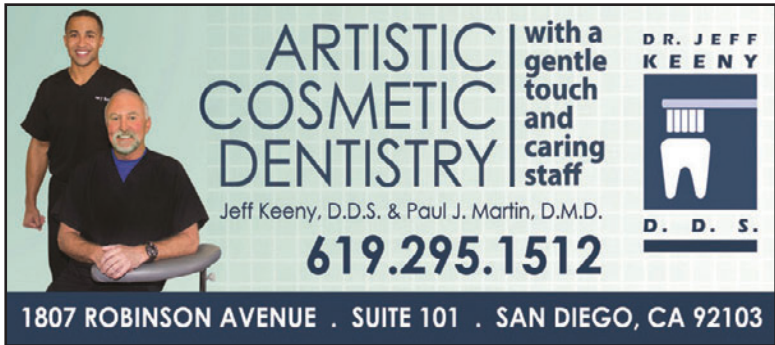
After a long debate, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the motion to adopt actions in the staff report with

the following modifications:

- Include Commissioner Hoffman's two mobility policies.
- Keep the adopted community plan land-use map without the Interim Height Ordinance.
- Include the CPU policies.
- Eliminate the Planned District Ordinances and go to citywide zoning.
- CAP recommendation.
- Initiate a Specific Plan for the Gateway project.
- Plan changes in the errata (Attachment 14 of the staff report).

Furthermore, the commissioners tackled the height issue. They voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council to use the current Community Plan Implementation Overlay Zone, which automatically triggers a site discretionary review for projects that exceed 65 feet.

—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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SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY NEWS NETWORK

11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your North Park/Mission Hills Home for Sale

North Park/Mission Hills.

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 866-220-9502 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Uptown Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Uptown San Diego.

Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible. To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money. Order your free report today.

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Knead to know

Ten different desserts, from tarts to cookies to cakes, fill a display case at Blackmarket Bakery, located at 4686 30th St., just south of Adams Avenue. (Photos by Ken Williams)

Blackmarket Bakery, an Orange County establishment, has opened at 4686 30th St., just south of Adams Avenue. The bakery debuted in Costa Mesa in 2012 and added another location in Santa Ana this year. At a soft opening on the last week of September, founder Rachel Klemek, a pastry chef, and

managing partner Alison Horn greeted invited guests with samples of sweet and savory delicacies that are offered on the menu. The 3,000-square-foot San Diego location is still a work in progress, as the 1,500-square-foot patio was still being prepped and indoor seating was incomplete.

In addition to breads, cookies and cakes, Blackmarket will offer “Eggywiches” for breakfast, Dark Horse coffee options, and grilled sandwiches for lunch. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 619-641-0081 or visit blackmarketbakery.com.❖



(above) The No. 7 bus conveniently stops outside Blackmarket Bakery on the north end of 30th Street. (left) Savory items include “Eggywiches” sandwiches for breakfast, including this one called the Farmhouse with scrambled eggs, cheddar cheese, bacon and ham on a brioche bun. (right) The Butter Nutter cookie will delight fans of luscious homemade peanut butter. (Photos by Ken Williams)

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Warm pretzel bites (Photo by Dr. Ink)

An encounter with ‘honey hips’

Come On Get Happy!
Dr. Ink

I’ve been saying for a year now that San Diego’s next up-and-coming neighborhood for drinking and dining will be Bankers Hill. With its surge of luxury-housing projects going up — a few of them designating spaces for restaurants — we could soon see an upscale version of North Park materialize.

The Corner Drafthouse, which opened midsummer at the advantageous intersection of Laurel Street and Fifth Avenue, breathes new energy into the area. It sits in the shadow of what everyone calls “The Mr. A’s Building,” a 12-story office structure famous for its penthouse restaurant (Mister A’s) that might also take in one or two restaurant vendors on its remodeled ground floor.

I first took a seat at Draft-house’s roomy, curved bar. The bartender greeted me with a warm handshake, a rare gesture these days. Behind him was an impressive row of 70 beer taps, although only a dozen or so are \$2 off their regular prices during happy hour. They’re earmarked by black dots on the paper menu.

The same price break applies to wine and “libations,” which

include everything from blood orange margaritas and apple cider mules to prickly pear martinis and strawberry-basil mojitos. Tempting, but even with the discount, not cheap, considering they normally average \$11 a drink.

A strong blonde ale by Escondido’s Latitude 33 caught my eye instead. Known as “honey hips,” it sports a formidable kick at 8.3 percent alcohol. Just as I had hoped, a whisper of honey lingered on the finish after hitting the palate with the flavors of orange peel and apple. Indeed, the booze factor is dangerously camouflaged as you drink it.

I eventually moved to a ledge seat at an open window looking out to the street while delving into an order of hot, buttery “pretzel bites” served with beer cheese and whole grain mustard.

The pretzels were round, the size of golf balls, and with just the right amount of rock salt clinging to them. With nine to an order, I easily polished them off given how well they paired to my new blonde friend with the sweet, sassy hips.

Appetizers are also \$2 off during happy hour, except for the ceviche tacos and ahi tuna poke. And because this is Bankers Hill, it isn’t the cheapest happy hour in town, but the crafty design of the place and its corner-lot setting make it easy to forget about the extra money you’re spending.❖



(above) A place for suds in Bankers Hill; (right) Latitude 33’s strong blonde ale (Photos by Dr. Ink)

The Corner Drafthouse

495 Laurel St. (Bankers Hill)
619-255-2631
thecornerdrafthouse.com

Happy Hour:
4 to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesday

RATINGS

Drinks: The beer list covers all bases in terms of styles and strength. Most are crafts from local and national breweries, although a couple of domestics appear for those hell-bent on Bud Light. Wines and several tempting cocktails are also for the choosing.

Food: The kitchen is helmed by seasoned chef Dan Sobek, who earned his chops at top-name restaurants in London and New York. Discounted noshes include grilled artichokes, short rib nachos and warm, excellent pretzel bites with beer cheese sauce and mustard.

Value: Prices for drinks and appetizers start out high and only come down \$2 during happy hour. Thus, a pint of beer and a nosh can set you back at least \$15.

Service: The bartender was primo. He introduced himself with a handshake; acknowledged me and other customers by name; and used both eyes for detecting when customers needed drink refills.

Atmosphere: Patios and open windows looking out to the street complement the natural textures on the inside, which features multiple seating areas and a large bar.



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North Park Beer Co. now offers house-made Scotch eggs and other savory fare by Mastiff Sausage Company (Facebook)

The kitchen is up and running at **North Park Beer Co.**, which formed a recent partnership with **Mastiff Sausage Company** to oversee food operations. Mastiff's beer-friendly menu includes oxtail French onion soup, Scotch eggs, sausage tacos, and lamb stew made with the beer company's signature stout. 3038 University Ave., 619-255-2946.



A five-alarm snack chip for the toughest of hot heads (Courtesy Amplified Snack Brands)

In a lead-up to Halloween, Austin-based **Amplified Snack Brands** is introducing a chip to its line of **Paqui Tortilla Chips** — a chip so hot, it's sold only singly in a small coffin-shaped box. Available online, the limited edition "Carolina Reaper" is flavored with the namesake pepper (considered the hottest in the world) plus scorching ghost peppers and chipotle seasoning. It retails for \$4.99 per chip and will stick around until supplies last. Paqui's established chip flavors, which include roasted habanero, jalapeno, and nacho cheese, are carried locally at **Ralph's** and **Whole Foods**. paqui.com.



After a 10-plus-year run, **Wine Steals** in Hillcrest ceased operations on Sept. 20 due to rent and leasing issues that resulted in an eviction. The 4,000-square-foot space functioned as a wine-beer bar, retail outlet and event venue, and it eventually spawned three other locations of the same concept. The Liberty Station and East Village outlets shuttered over the past several years, although **Wine Steals** in Cardiff-by-the-Sea remains in business.

Wine Steals owner Ken Mills says he might look for an alternative location within Uptown for reopening "on smaller scale." 1243 University Ave., winestealseventv-enuesd.com.

Shawn's on Congress, a wine and beer bar that opened less than a year ago in Old Town, closed on Sept. 24. Its owner, Shawn Magurno cited "lack of business" as the reason, adding that he will now focus on opening an urban winery in the coming years, perhaps in East County. He currently produces wine at his San Carlos residence, including a strawberry Riesling that is available at **The Alamo Mexican Café** in Old Town, 2543 Congress St., 619-296-1112, alamomexicancafe.com.

In celebration of its 12th anniversary, **Eclipse Chocolate** in South Park will hold two separate workshops that allow guests to create customized chocolate bars with a choice of 20-plus gourmet ingredients such as strawberry malted milk crunch and coconut dulce de leche. The workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 22 and 23, at Eclipse. The cost is \$10. 2145 Fern St., 619-578-2984, eclipsechocolate.com.



Gustaf Anders Rooth rolls out his oak barrel smoker for a series of culturally inspired dinners (Photo by Tyler Beach)

Gustaf Rooth of **Planet Rooth Design Haus** in Bankers Hill is rolling out his inventive "iQ barrel smoker" for a series of dinners that begins with "Japan vs. Denmark," at 6 p.m., Oct. 20. It will be followed a month later, at the same time, by "Jamaica vs. Hawaii" on Nov. 17. The cost for either event is \$40, or \$70 per couple. They will be held at Rooth's gallery. 3334 Fifth Ave., 619-297-9663, gustafrooth.com.



Changes are coming to Saffron in Mission Hills (Courtesy Saffron)

Saffron in Mission Hills is slated for a remodel as owner Su-Mei Yu enters into partnership with **Karina's Group**, which operates several Mexican seafood restaurants throughout San Diego County. After work is completed early next year, the restaurant's small adjoining space that is famous for its rotisserie chickens will become **Karina's Ceviche & More**. The chickens, also available in the sit-down restaurant, will remain in the offering after the remodel, along with the same full menu of noodles, stir-fries and other Thai entrees. 3731-B India St., 619-574-7737, saffronsandiego.com.

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

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Fifth Avenue’s big, bold izakaya

Restaurant Review
Frank Sabatini Jr.

The Octopus Restaurant Group based in Los Angeles has nudged a tentacle into Uptown’s ubiquitous sushi scene with the hope of perhaps giving us something we haven’t experienced before.

For some, the flashy design elements and modern presentations of Japanese cuisine at H2O Sushi and Izakaya in Hillcrest provide a novel and exciting safe haven from the staid sushi haunts of the past two decades. With a full cocktail bar in place, it arrived in July to one the neighborhood’s nicest modern structures, in a spacious storefront left vacant by D Bar.

Others, however, may be dissuaded by H2O’s corporate soul, which lacks a chef-driven kitchen compared to Asian kitchens specializing individually in yakitori, noodle pots, tempura and sushi. Here, in the presence of attractive LED lighting, a large screen devoted to music videos, and beaded curtains dangling from the towering ceiling, you can have it all.

The menu is big and pictorial — nearly identical to those

H2O Sushi and Izakaya
3930 Fifth Ave. (Hillcrest)
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h2osushiizakaya.com

Prices: Yakitori, \$1.50 to \$3 per skewer; salads, \$4 to \$10; small plates, \$3 to \$10; specialty rolls, \$8 to \$15; entrees, \$10 to \$24

at H2O’s other two locations in Orange and Los Angeles counties. Visiting as a trio, we approached it one page at a time, starting with the carpaccio category.

We chose the garlic tuna and yellowtail, both of which better qualified as sashimi since neither fish was sliced paper-thin. The tuna was pleasantly accented with chive oil, roe and coarse black pepper clinging to the seared edges. If the citrusy yuzu listed in its description made it onto the plate, we didn’t notice, although I did detect bright traces of it with the yellowtail, which unanimously appealed to us mainly because of the fresh jalapeno slices on top. They imparted a desirable crunch against the somewhat mealy texture of the fish.

In keeping with the tradition of an

authentic izakaya (sans the low tables and floor mats), there are numerous yakitori and small-plate options.

The yakitori is sold in single skewers. Each holds about four morsels of various foods, such as chicken gizzards, fried squid, steak, okra and more. Our favorite was the shiitake mushroom sporting a meaty, charred flavor rivaling that of the glistening pork belly on another skewer. As for the bacon-wrapped asparagus we also tried, the salty cure of the meat obliterated the earthy essence of the diminutive, green spears underneath.

A “small plate” of Scottish salmon collar was easily shared. Cut from the fatty section right below the head, we received two pieces because the kitchen had run out of the standard size filets. They were moist, tender and non-fishy — not any different from your everyday cut of salmon, should you balk at the thought of eating a “collar.”

That plate was followed by a row of sweet, fried shrimp, with each crustacean mounted in soup spoons containing zesty jalapeno-avocado sauce. Equally lively were the stuffed jalapeno poppers that exceeded our expectations.

Stuffed with cream cheese, they featured little pockets of spicy tuna and Sriracha aioli,

and sat on a few squiggles of eel sauce. We liked that the peppers were firm and snappy, although as one of my tablemates suggested, they would have tasted extra superb if charred briefly on the grill.

When perusing the specialty rolls, which are crafted at H2O’s elongated sushi bar, we noticed many of them incorporate imitation “krab.” Our knowledgeable waiter later informed us that real crab can be substituted in any of the rolls for a \$3 up-charge, an option that isn’t stated anywhere on the menu.

We also learned when biting into the “angrytail” roll that the finely minced spicy tuna inside is a pre-made “mix” with spices blended in, though supposedly originating from fresh albacore. Whatever the spices, they contributed the majority of flavor to the roll in the absence of any kind of sauce.

Conversely, the “dynamite California” roll with krab meat, avocado, cucumber, bell peppers and mushrooms came with a gooey crowning of baked scallops. We couldn’t tell whether it was mayo or cream cheese, but generally agreed it could have withstood a longer stay under the broiler to achieve an au gratin effect.

From a short list of entrees that include hibachi chicken and assorted sashimi, we opted for

nabeyaki udon served in a big pot of vegetarian broth stocked with overly thick wheat noodles and occasional pieces of chicken. Served alongside was a plate of scallions, fish cakes and shrimp tempura that we dumped in.

Unlike the fiercely salty miso soup we had all pushed away earlier, my companions gave this steamy hot broth immediate approval. I warmed up to it slowly. For some reason the flavor initially registered on my palate as soup spiked with onion powder or commercial seasoning. I realized when spooning along it was probably the soju and mirin in the recipe tricking my taste buds.

Libations at H2O include sake — hot and cold, clear and unfiltered — plus Japanese whiskeys, trendy cocktails, and to a much lesser extent, wines hailing mostly from California.

A trio of ice cream-filled macaroons we chose for dessert (pistachio, strawberry, and cappuccino) arrived to our table frozen-solid and required thawing before their flavors unlocked. Not bad once they did, which basically correlates to how we summed up the meal upon exiting these attractive, comfortable confines; nearly everything tasted fine, but nothing sent us skipping over the moon.

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



(top) H2O’s Hillcrest exterior (Courtesy of Octopus Restaurant Group); (l to r) yellowtail carpaccio; assorted yakitori skewers; salmon collar (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

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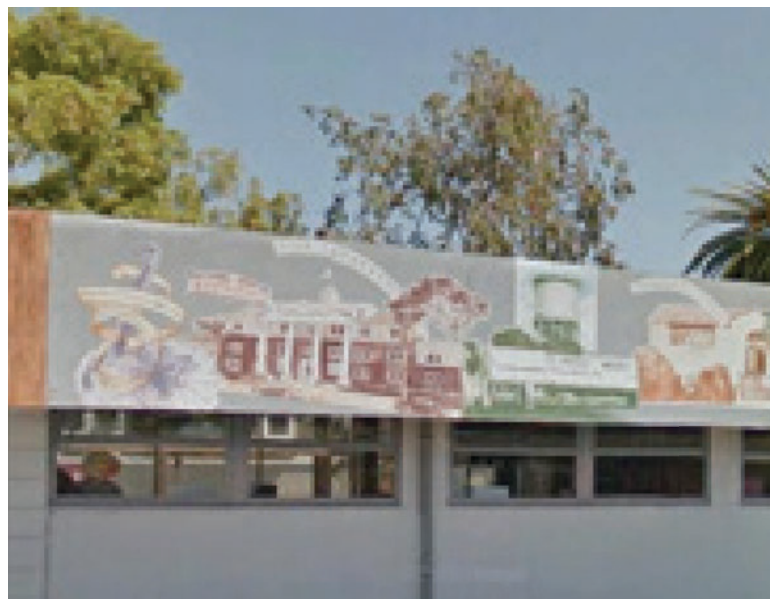
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The mural at University Heights Library has been removed and stored, awaiting a new home. (Photo by Google Earth)

University Heights mural needs a new home

PastMatters Katherine Hon

If you shop at Sprouts or use the University Heights Library, located at 4193 Park Blvd., you may have noticed the engaging mural that stretches across the south wall of the library building.

The mural was installed Sept. 29, 2009. It is 4 feet high by 80 feet long, and is made up of 10 panels painted on Alumalite, a lightweight corrugated aluminum panel typically used for building construction.

The artist who created the mural is Linda Churchill, who also painted the Ace Hardware scene at 10th and University avenues in Hillcrest. She has created permanent work in Long Beach, Houston, Las Vegas, Atlanta, Dallas and Omaha, as well as other locations in San Diego.

Churchill looked at hundreds of photographs and drawings before proposing the images for the library mural, which is meant to convey neighborhood history and prompt questions about the scenes and people depicted. The mural project was primarily commissioned by the University Heights Community Development Corporation (UHCDC) in collaboration with the University Heights Historical Society (UHHS) and Friends of the University Heights Library.

From left to right, the 20 images on the mural are:

- 1) Lafayette Hotel on El Cajon Boulevard.
- 2) Piggly Wiggly Market in the shopping complex at the corner of Park and El Cajon boulevards, from 1936 to the 1950s.
- 3) Water Tower built in 1924 and now on the National Regis-

ter of Historic Places.

4) University Heights Library, 1926 to 1966, built in the Spanish/Mission Revival style.

5) Georgia Street Bridge built of redwood in 1907, which was replaced in 1914 by the concrete arch bridge currently being restored.

6) State Normal School (teachers college) building, which opened in 1899 and was demolished in the 1950s, and the still-standing Teachers Training Annex Building.

7) Buster the dog, a University Heights mascot.

8) Vermont Street Bridge that spanned Washington Street from 1916 to 1979.

9) John Gierhart, who was a local resident, history buff and participant in Civil War reenactments.

10) Ernestine Bonn, a long-time community advocate and UHHS member depicted riding an ostrich, which she surely would have done if she had been born early enough.

11) Mystic Lake, a never implemented feature on the 1888 subdivision map for University Heights.

12) Ray Price, who was a history-loving University Heights resident.

13) University Heights trolley car.

14) John D. Spreckels, who owned the San Diego Electric Railway trolley system and the Mission Cliff Gardens, a prime attraction conveniently accessible by his trolley.

15) Mission Cliff Gardens, known for its beautiful walkways lined by cobblestone walls and lush flowers and trees.

see Mural, pg 15

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FROM PAGE 14

MURAL

16) John Davidson, who designed and supervised the installation of the Mission Cliff Gardens.

17) Harvey Bentley, who owned the ostrich farm next to Mission Cliff Gardens.

18) Bentley Ostrich Farm, where visitors could ride the big birds and buy feather plumes and ostrich eggs.

19) Sally Rand, the famous exotic dancer who was said to have purchased ostrich plumes for her feather fans at the Bentley Ostrich Farm.

20) Trolley Barn, a large red brick building constructed in 1913 to house trolleys, demolished in 1979, and now the site of Trolley Barn Park at Adams Avenue and Florida Street.

The \$10,000 cost of the mural was funded by private donations from University Heights residents and neighborhood groups through the fundraising efforts of the UHCDC. The mural received a Community History Award from the City Historical Resources Board in 2009 presented to the UHCDC, Friends of the University Heights Library, and muralist Linda Churchill.

The mural was designed to be portable so it could be moved when the planned joint-use library finally is developed in the Teachers Training Annex building on Normal Street. But moving day happened sooner than expected. The planned home of a joint-use library on the San Diego Unified School District Education



The artist's rendering of the mural (Courtesy of Linda Churchill)

Center campus at 4100 Normal St. is still just a dream, although the school district has recognized the Teachers Training Annex in its master plan as a community resource. The library building on Park Boulevard has been painted in advance of its 50th anniversary, causing the mural to be

removed and replaced by a new library sign.

The city's Commission on Arts and Culture did not support keeping the mural as public art, so the UHCDC is storing it and seeking donations for its restoration and placement on private property. The UHCDC is a 501(c)

(3) nonprofit organization located at 4452 Park Blvd. If enough money is raised, the mural eventually may be located on the north side of this three-story office building.

If you are interested in this project to preserve a charming piece of art that speaks to and of

the University Heights community, contact Ernestine Bonn at uhcdc@netzero.net or 619-297-3166.

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

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October Sky

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Book by **Brian Hill** and **Aaron Thielen**
Music and Lyrics by **Michael Mahler**
Directed and Choreographed by **Rachel Rockwell**
Inspired by the Universal Pictures film and *Rocket Boys* by **Homer H. Hickam, Jr.**



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The cast of October Sky. Photo by Jim Cox.



(l to r) Austyn Myers as O'Dell, Kyle Selig as Homer Hickam, and Patrick Rooney as Roy Lee in the West Coast premiere of "October Sky" at Old Globe Theatre. (Photos by Jim Cox)

Globe opens 'October Sky' musical

Theater Review

Charlene Baldridge



The Old Globe presents another musical for our delectation — this one a West Coast premiere titled "October Sky" with book by Brian Hill and Aaron Thielen and music and lyrics by Michael Mahler. It continues in the Old Globe Theatre through Oct. 23.

Opening night was packed to capacity with patrons, staff and "suits," that will no doubt determine the next move for the piece, which premiered in August 2015 at the Marriott Theatre. It is inspired by the Universal Pictures film and the original book, "Rocket Boys," by Homer Hickam Jr.

With country- and bluegrass-inflected music, accompanied by a hidden nine-piece orchestra, the production features a company of 24 directed and choreographed by Rachel Rockwell, and exemplifies the Globe's fine artistic standards, with a stunning set by Kevin Depinet that captures the grime of the coal mine and the unsettled weather of West Virginia with roiling clouds and mist in the background. One can just feel the wind, and the discontent as well.

If you recall the film or the book, Homer Hickam (Kyle Selig), whose father is a coalminer, is inspired by the October 1957 launch of Sputnik, the Russian spaceship that was earth's first manmade orbiter. Young Homer, who "looks to the stars," determines to devote himself to rocketry and enlists some high school friends to help. They are the nerd outcast Quentin (Connor Russell), the abused Roy Lee (Patrick Rooney) and the affable klutz, O'Dell (Austyn Myers). Their enterprise is called "The Big Creek Missile Agency." The boys are supported by the mine's metal-shop foreman, Ira Bykovski (Joel Blum), who at first manufactures rockets for them, and then teaches them the fundamentals, and Miss Riley (Sandra DeNise) their schoolteacher, who gives them a rocketry guidebook and then urges them to enter the science fair.

John Hickam (powerful baritone Ron Bohmer), Homer's hardworking father, thinks Homer's ideas are mere dreams. His plan, since Homer's older



(clockwise from top left) Kyle Selig as Homer Hickam, Connor Russell as Quentin, Austyn Myers as O'Dell, and Patrick Rooney as Roy Lee

"October Sky"

By Brian Hill, Aaron Thielen and Michael Mahler

Directed by Rachel Rockwell

Tuesdays through Sundays
Through Oct. 23

Old Globe Theatre
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brother is going to college on a football scholarship, is to have Homer follow him into the mines immediately upon high school graduation. Homer knows that if that happens he will be like the legions of other men, "Never Getting Out Alive," and he vows "We're Gonna Build a Rocket" as a means of escape.

Elsie Hickam (Kerry O'Malley), Homer's mother, is also the boys' supporter as is high school age Dorothy (Eliza Palasz) who never doubts Homer or the success of the "Missile Agency."

Many circumstances get in the

way of Homer's success, not the least of which is paternal disapproval and disdain, a common theme. But the boys eventually triumph (in real life, Homer winds up with NASA).

So far as the musical goes, the book works even though it is vastly sentimental and over-fraught with dilemmas and death. The three important women share the same vocal and body type, which is more than annoying since the music is so much the same, undistinguished all around. However, they sing Act 2's opening trio, "The Last Kiss Goodbye," one of Mahler's best numbers.

I admit that the twang that accompanies country and bluegrass prevents the genre from endearing itself to me. There are many "anthems" in this show, and country/bluegrass is a poor vehicle for them. However, I loved the boys and their sweet, sustained courage and camaraderie, and enjoyed the big choruses of miners and townspeople.

—Charlene Baldridge has been writing about the arts since 1979. Follow her blog at charlene-criticism.blogspot.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.

More than what's on stage

A visit with San Diego Opera's general director

Opera Review

Charlene Baldridge



October ushers in the first full production in San Diego Opera's 2016-17 season. For an opera company that nearly closed in 2014, creative endeavors are booming, with an expansion of what makes a season plus several new programs and activities that are more than enough to discombobulate the usual general director.

Although he claimed to be crazed, exclaiming "It's like back to school week here!" when interviewed at the Downtown office of San Diego Opera (SDO) on Sept. 9, General Director David Bennett (who came aboard in June 2015) was loquacious, enthusiastic and positive when assessing where the company is, what and how it's doing, and where it's going.

In just eight days, Polish tenor Piotr Beczala would deliver the 2016-17 season's first official event – a ravishingly beautiful recital of operatic arias at the Balboa Theatre. Just days before, a new program titled Opera on Track (funded by Opera America) had launched successfully at the Santee trolley station; the Opera's scenic studio was constructing the first building in a 1950s village for Glenner Center's Alzheimer's Day Care patients; and SDO's new Detour series had recently secured lead sponsorship from arts patron Darlene Shiley.

Gleefully, Bennett described the scene when the Opera on Track ensemble presented an outdoor touring version Rossini's "Cinderella" at the Santee trolley station days before. Nearly 200 people turned up, among them preschoolers. Each child received either a tiara or a handlebar mustache and the adults received vouchers for discounted tickets to "Cinderella" (kids get in at half-price) and trolley rides to the Civic Theatre.

These activities are emblematic of Bennett's intention to make SDO a meaningful part of the San Diego community; nonetheless, the season is the thing, and here it is:

- Gioacchino Rossini's "La Cenerentola (Cinderella)," Oct. 22-30 at San Diego Civic Theatre.

- West Coast premiere of David T. Little's "Soldier Songs" conducted by UC San Diego professor Steven Schick, Nov. 11-13 at Balboa Theatre.

- Verdi's "Falstaff" Feb. 18-26 at Civic Theatre.

- Peter Brook's "La tragédie de Carmen (The Tragedy of Carmen)," a distillation of Georges Bizet's opera, March 10-12 at Balboa Theatre.

- Verdi's "La traviata," April 22-30 at Civic Theatre.

Full season subscriptions, on sale now, can be had for as little as \$171.



Verdi's "La Traviata" opens April 22, 2017 for four performances. (Photo by Craig T. Mathew/Mathew Imaging)

Bennett waxed ecstatic about numerous young American singers cast in all the above. Clearly, he could not be more enthusiastic or supportive. "It should be a great year of good, young American singers at the cusp of their careers," he said, "which is very exciting to see."

October: "Our beautiful Cinderella, Lauren McNeese, is a graduate of the Ryan Opera Center at Chicago Lyric Opera." Playing Alidoro is SDO veteran Ashraf Sewailam. A native of Egypt, he recently moved to San

Diego to become director of opera at San Diego State University.

November: KPBS will do a live telecast of the "Soldier Songs" performance Saturday, Nov. 12, providing everyone an opportunity to see this important opera by composer David T. Little based on interviews with and letters written by veterans of five wars. In these interviews, the most common statement was, "I don't talk about this with anybody," and indeed that is how Little starts

see Opera, pg 23



(clockwise from bottom left) Mezzo-soprano Lauren McNeese is Cenerentola (Cinderella) in San Diego Opera's "La Cenerentola (Cinderella)," opening Oct. 22. (Courtesy of the artist); scene from "La Cenerentola" (Courtesy of Opera Queensland); tenor David Portillo as Don Ramiro in "La Cenerentola" (Courtesy of the artist)

WiFi Hotspots 101:

A recent Cox Business survey found that 59% of respondents said WiFi is the best perk that small businesses can offer their patrons – not a surprising statistic considering that people use the Internet to stay connected with their world, whether at home or on the road.

As more and more people use WiFi hotspots to stay connected, it's important to know the basics of how to safely connect to a hotspot.

What is a WiFi hotspot?

A WiFi hotspot is an Internet access point that allows you to connect to the Internet wirelessly through your mobile device.

How does a WiFi hotspot work?

A wireless access point communicates with computers or mobile devices using radio signals. The access point is connected to the Internet and usually connected to a router or server. Most current mobile devices will recognize wireless networks that you can connect to.

Should I be concerned about my online security when connected to a WiFi hotspot?

There are many advantages to connecting to WiFi hotspots, including saving money on your mobile data plan, and accessing the Internet on the go. However, some activities could put your security at risk since not all hotspots offer a secure connection.

How do I know if a WiFi hotspot has a secure connection?

Examples of secure connections include hotspots that require a password before you can connect. Other security settings may be seen by hovering your mouse over each WiFi connection in your WiFi settings.



Cox tech installs Cox WiFi hotspot at Liberty Station in San Diego.

The name, signal strength and security type will display. WPA2, WPA and WEP are three types of secured connections. Others will say 'unsecured.' Once connected, be sure to select 'Public network' when prompted to select a network location. This will block some common routes for potential hackers. But, remember that even password-protected WiFi hotspots are not as secure as your home network.

What can I do to protect my information?

- Avoid tasks such as paying bills, accessing your bank information, and using your credit card online when using a public hotspot.
- Opt not to save passwords, especially when it comes to your financial accounts such as credit cards and bank accounts.

- Update your device when prompted. Often, these contain security updates to keep your device protected.
- Verify that you are connecting to a legitimate connection. For example, Cox enabled WiFi hotspots are named 'Cox WiFi' or 'CableWiFi.' In other instances, ask an employee the name of the business or store hotspot before connecting.

How do I connect to a WiFi hotspot?

Depending on your mobile device settings, your phone may prompt you when wireless networks are available. WiFi connections can be found in the network settings on your mobile device. Often times, coffee shops, restaurants, parks and other public places will provide WiFi hotspots for customers, and may require a password and accepting a terms of use agreement before you connect.

To help its Internet customers stay connected with their world wherever they are, Cox Communications has been building WiFi hotspots in the communities it serves. In San Diego, Cox Internet customers have free access to more than 1,000 hotspots countywide, including in Balboa Park and downtown San Diego.

Cox Internet customers also have free access to more than half a million hotspots nationwide through CableWiFi. Just find 'Cox WiFi' or 'CableWiFi' in your WiFi settings. Non Cox customers can access the hotspots through a free one-hour trial.

To find a Cox WiFi hotspot, visit www.cox.com/hotspots.

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

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

Compound It!

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			
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41			42				43					44		
45						46				47	48			
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51	52	53						54				55	56	57
58						59	60					61		
62							63					64		
65							66						67	

CREATOR'S NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 Gaelic language

6 Nimble

10 Lasso

14 Farewell; Fr.

15 Petulant grimace

16 Unemployed

17 Icy white crystals

19 Run out rapidly

20 Kitchen utensil

21 Rage

22 Tempestuous

24 Denomination

25 Tells an untruth

26 Building front

29 Emergency treatment

33 Mighty particle

34 No; Ger.

36 Land; L.

37 Quarrel

38 Always reliable one

40 School of whales

41 Glisten

43 Scorch

44 Memo

45 Longtime resident

47 Decreases

49 Seed covering

50 Sinewy

DOWN

1 Punishes a child

54 Actor Andrews

55 Arrest

58 Animated

59 In all places

62 Stubborn beasts

63 Rampant

64 Work of fiction

65 Ex-senator from VA

66 Gives voice to

67 Baker's need

26 ND city

27 Coral isle

28 Browbeaten

29 Less coarse

30 Jargon

31 Angry

32 Ladies

35 Artist's frame

38 Affected smile

39 Having a high IQ, sometimes

42 Completed

44 No

46 Tight-fisted ones

48 Husky

50 Merchandise

51 Slovenly person

52 Mischievous sprite

53 State firmly

54 Challenge

55 Russian river

56 Greek god of war

57 Girdle

60 By way of

61 Garden tool

1 Acronym for a social class

2 Author Ferber

3 Shaggy beast

4 Stitch

5 Blew and puffed

6 Intelligent

7 Slow

8 Regret

9 Polite affirmative

10 Quick retort

11 Aroma

12 Cherry-like fruit

13 Weird

18 Bright

23 Irascible

24 Uncle

25 ___ Evans

Puzzle answers on page 18

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 CRUISE PLANNERS

FROM PAGE 1

ACE

tile roof formerly housed Metropolis, and a carpet company before that.

The new space is much larger than the old location. "Fifteen thousand square feet is considered a large store," Reeves said, noting that the old location was 10,000 square feet.

Reeves gives credit to Zane Feldman, of the Feldman Family Trust, for working closely with him to make upgrades to the building that has been at that intersection for more than a century. Original wood floors and chandeliers on the main floor were restored. Electrical wiring and plumbing were modernized. New lighting fixtures, coupled with natural lighting from huge windows along University and 10th avenues, make the main floor and the mezzanine look bright and airy.

"We were true to the original design," Reeves said of the remodeling job.

He also thanks Joe Jeter, his former co-founder, who he bought out 15 years ago, for coming back to help with the remodeling project.

Customers entering the new store are greeted by an employee, who can immediately direct them to the products they may be shopping for. The main floor is spacious and open for two stories, featuring a mezzanine forming a U-shape that can be accessed via two grand staircases at the back of the store.

The expansive basement, however, remains a work in progress. Reeves said that project would take a couple of months to finish before lighter colors are painted



(clockwise from far left) Hillcrest Ace Hardware has relocated one door west of its old location to 2003 University Ave.; the view from the mezzanine shows the restored chandeliers and refinished hardwood floors; new merchandise includes items that would typically be found at a boutique store. (Photos by Ken Williams)

and brighter lighting fixtures are installed. The basement — which encompasses all the area below the new store as well as the old one — is where customers can find the nuts and bolts, bathroom and kitchen supplies, and the more traditional hardware items.

Reeves said Ace allows its franchises to cater to their local markets. That flexibility allows

Reeves and his staff to reach out to the LGBT community by offering products for that niche market. Although he doesn't have specific demographic information about his customers, Reeves estimated that 30 percent to 50 percent of his customers would identify as LGBT.

"Ace allows us to design our stores as we see fit," he added. "They encourage us to have our unique niches."

For Hillcrest Ace, those niches include same-sex greeting cards and stationery, gourmet cookware, health and beauty products, home décor, LGBT-specific items, and even "gay pride" socks.

In recent years, the closure of Hillcrest boutique stores such as Babette Schwartz, Cathedral, Column One, Obelisk and Establish has left holes to fill for shoppers, and Reeves said Hillcrest Ace has added products in an attempt to fill those needs.

"We have expanded our line of gifts and quirky things and home decor," he said.

Moving into the larger space

also meant the need to expand the staff.

Brocks Edwards, the assistant manager, said they added five or six new employees. He said with the Christmas merchandise going up in two weeks, the store would be hiring again and encouraged anyone "who is good at retail" to apply for a job.

Reeves noted that this was the third time he has expanded the store's space in 20 years. He has watched Hillcrest grow over the past two decades, and has reshaped his store to reflect those changes.

Edwards, who has been with Hillcrest Ace for five years, said the biggest change during his watch has been the growth of the "B2B" (Business to Business) program.

"Since I've been here, we've been working more with local businesses like Whole Foods, Rich's and Flicks," Edwards said. The nearby businesses work with Hillcrest Ace to purchase cleaning and maintenance supplies or building materials needed for in-house construction projects, he added.

Ahead of the annual San Diego Pride festivities in July, Rich's and Flicks and other local organizations call on Ace Hillcrest to round up supplies to build floats and decorate them.

Reeves promises customers that Hillcrest Ace will always be there for them.

To emphasize that point, Reeves said he has signed a long-term lease with the building's owner, the Feldman Family Trust. "We hope," he said, "to be here in Hillcrest another 20 years!"

—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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FROM PAGE 1
SR 94

Recreation Center.

After the meeting, Golden Hill attendee Judd Curran was enthusiastic about the design concept for the proposed community improvement project.

“A park cap is a world-class opportunity to transform the negative aspects of freeway noise and pollution by creating a new space that doesn’t currently exist in some of the most beautiful and historic neighborhoods in San Diego, poised on the hill overlooking the Downtown skyline, the Bay, Coronado Bridge and Pacific Ocean,” Curran said.

“SR 94 disconnected the communities of Golden Hill and Sherman Heights when it was built. Since that time, we’ve seen exponential growth in real estate per-square-foot value in this area,” he said. “By building a cap park over SR 94, we create new space that has been re-imagined by the community to provide much-needed park and open space to promote a healthier lifestyle while reuniting our communities together.”

The meeting at the rec center was hosted by Caltrans, the state transportation planning agency, and WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, a global engineering and professional services consultant. It reflected feedback from the Freeway Cap Best Practices & SR 94 Cap Park Study Group comprised of local stakeholders.

The park cap project is currently in the conceptual stage, and does not yet have a specific design.

District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria, through his work on the City Council’s Transportation Committee, secured funding to initiate a feasibility study of building a park over the top of SR 94 between 22nd and 25th streets to bridge the gap between the Sherman Heights-Golden Hill neighborhoods. The outcome of that study determined such a project would be feasible.

The Cap Park Study Group shared its visionary design concept with the public, discussing potential next steps.

Seth Torma, senior planning manager with Parsons Brinckerhoff, gave a slideshow depicting similar park cap projects done or contemplated elsewhere in Texas, Glendale in LA, and San Francisco near the Golden Gate Bridge. He also gave cost estimates comparing those projects with the one being contemplated for SR 94.

In a brochure handed out at the open house, the cost was estimated

from \$300 million to \$500 million for design, permitting and construction of the cap project’s first phase.

“We did outreach on the concept’s development and we put the feedback received into this digestible format, which we hope will empower you with information and data that you can share with other people in the community and get them engaged and excited about pushing that vision forward,” Torma said. “That’s the intent.”

During his presentation, Torma reviewed the transportation planning process for the ambitious park cap proposal, covering everything from project cost estimates to discussion of possible park amenities, as well as funding options to pay for improvements.

“Stakeholders are passionate about this (project),” Torma said, adding the goal is to “look at opportunities along this corridor to address our shortage of open space and traffic circulation around and over (SR 94).”

A survey of park amenity preferences by local stakeholders in the SR 94 Cap Park Study revealed a desire, in descending order for:

- Open-space/play/gathering areas.
- Active sports facilities, such as a soccer field.
- Transportation facilities, such as a bus or other transit stop, and other possible structures.
- Food and vending services.
- A dog park.

Those surveyed said they’d like to see lawn space, benches, picnic areas, shade trees and community event space, along with security and free Wi-Fi.

Curran said a park at this location would be “not only an amenity serving our communities, but a world-class destination with the appeal rivaling a Central Park, or Golden Gate Park, for San Diego. Where else in San Diego can one sit and watch a concert or soccer game or walk a dog while taking in a view of the Downtown skyline, San Diego Bay, Coronado Bridge and Island, the Pacific Ocean and Mexico, all in view from this one site?” he asked.

Should the SR 94 cap park concept eventually move forward, Torma noted it would undoubtedly involve acquiring potential funding from a variety of sources, including local, state and federal grants as well as possible public-private partnerships.

The new cap park brochure and other materials can be downloaded from the study website at bit.ly/sdfreewaycapstudy.

— Dave Schwab can be reached at dschwabie@journalist.com. ❖



Seth Torma, with the WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff consultant team, explains the concept for the proposed park cap over SR 94 at a two-hour meeting at Golden Hill Recreation Center. (Photo by Dave Schwab)



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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

San Diego Contra Dances

Ongoing dances on Friday and Saturday dates

San Diego Contra dance is an offshoot of San Diego Folk Heritage – a nonprofit made up of volunteers dedicated to preserving and promoting the folk arts. Their dances are held each week and feature live music, a dance caller and more. These dances require no partner. The next dances will be held on Friday, Oct. 7; Saturday, Oct. 15; Friday, Oct. 21 and Friday, Oct. 28. Admission is \$10-\$15. Visit sandiegocontra.org.

South Park Fall Walkabout

Saturday, Oct. 8

This free quarterly festival by the South Park Business Group invites guests to visit the unique businesses of the area. Various locations will offer specials, live entertainment, raffles and more. The event takes place throughout South Park from Kalmia to Beech streets along 30th and Fern streets from 6–10 p.m. Mark your calendars for the South Park Holiday Walkabout on Saturday, Dec. 3. southparksd.com.

‘Fall Classics’

Saturday, Oct. 8

This concert by the Hillcrest Wind Ensemble will feature light classical pieces interspersed with premiere performances of three winning contemporary pieces from this year’s national composition contest. The concert will be held at First Unitarian Universalist Church (4190 Front St., Hillcrest) at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. sdartstix.com and hillcrestwindensemble.com.

Art Glass Guild’s 2016 Spring Patio Show and Sale

Saturday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct 9

This event is the largest art glass show in Southern California and showcases art created by San Diego glass artists. Thirty juried artists will exhibit their work on the patio of Spanish Village (1770 Village Place, Balboa Park) with pieces done in techniques ranging from stained to etched to mosaic and more. There will also be live music, demonstrations of torch work and glass cutting, and an area for children and adults to create their own mosaic piece to take home. This event is free and open to the public. The show and sale will be open from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. both days. bit.ly/2doLq3T.

‘Opera on Track’

Saturday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 9

San Diego Opera will present free, abbreviated performances of “La Cenerentola” (Cinderella) using singers from the company’s Opera Exposed program. This unique program is designed as an outreach effort to attract new and returning audience members to the Opera. Discounted tickets and other incentives will be offered at these performances to encourage ticket sales for “La Cenerentola” which opens Oct. 22. The performance on Saturday will be at Convention Center Station (200 W. Island, Downtown) at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday’s will be at the Old Town Trolley Station (4009 Taylor St.). sdopera.org/oot.

Fifth annual Taste of Mission Hills

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Over 20 local establishments will participate in this year’s Taste of Mission Hills. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of. Ticket holders can ride a free Old Town Trolley between venues throughout Mission Hills. Participating venues include: Café Bleu, Harley Gray Kitchen & Bar, The Patio on Goldfinch, Rubicon Deli, Starlite, Venissimo Cheese and more. Visit bit.ly/2cSXMhj for tickets and participating venues.

Live music – Lenguas Largas, The Resonars, Octagrape and Red Pony Clock

Friday, Oct. 14

This eclectic night of music at the Kensington Club (4079 Adams Ave.) will feature two rock bands from Tucson, Arizona: Lenguas Largas and The Resonars. Lenguas Largas craft a psychedelic sound laced with punk influences. The Resonars also have a psychedelic leaning combined with classic ‘60s mod/pop elements. Local bands Octagrape (experimental rock) and Red Pony Clock (indie pop) will also perform. Tickets are \$8 and the show starts at 9 p.m. bit.ly/2d9itpk.



(Photo by Sara Mellencamp, AV Club)

4th annual San Diego Modern Architecture + Design Society Home Tour

Saturday, Oct. 15

This tour gives attendees the chance to explore a selection of examples of modern architecture. The tour is self-guided with a map to guide you to each destination. It can be completed at your own pace and in any order from 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 the day of and can be purchased at any of the tour stops starting at 11 a.m. Visit mads.media/mads-sandiego2016 for tickets and the tour map.

Compulsion Dance & Theatre presents “Bedrooms and Boyfriends”

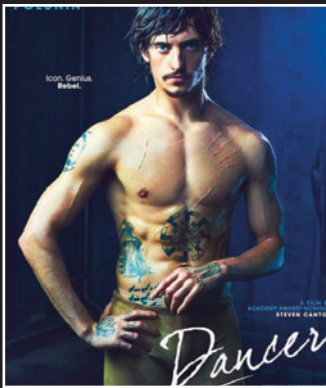
Thursday Oct. 20–Sunday, Oct. 23

This production was a hit at the 2016 Fringe Festival winning the San Diego Fringe Award for “Outstanding Writing.” It is back for a limited run at Ion’s BLK-BOX Theater (3704 Sixth Ave., Hillcrest). “Bedrooms and Boyfriends” features three short plays staged on the same bedroom set exploring themes of love, lust, sex and romance. Tickets are \$20. bit.ly/2cZPIAF. ❖

DIGITAL GYM GEMS



Friday, Oct. 7–Thursday, Oct. 13: The comedy “**My Blind Brother**” stars Nick Kroll as a slacker living in the shadow of his overachieving blind brother, played by Adam Scott. Complications arise when the brothers unwittingly fall for the same girl, played by Jenny Slate. Rated R. 90 minutes.



Friday, Oct. 7–Thursday, Oct. 13: “**Dancer**” is a ballet documentary about Sergei’s Polunin, the Royal Ballet’s youngest principal at age 19. At the height of his success, Polunin walked away from it all, resolving to give up dance entirely. Unrated. 85 minutes.



Friday, Oct. 14–Thursday, Oct. 20: The film “**Closet Monster**” tells the story of a closeted teen named Oscar (Connor Jes-sup) who dreams of becoming a special-effects makeup artist but is terrified of his father finding out the truth about his sexuality. Oscar is forced to confront his fears when he falls for a handsome and worldly co-worker. Unrated. 90 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:

“**Spellbound**” Friday, Oct. 7–Saturday, Oct. 8

“**Breakfast at Tiffany’s**” Thursday, Oct. 13–Saturday, Oct. 15

“**Young Frankenstein**” Thursday, Oct. 20–Saturday, Oct. 22

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. Themorrow.com.

Tuesdays:

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

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

Wednesdays:

Ikebana International meeting: 10 a.m. in the Casa Del Prado, Room #101. The San Diego chapter of this Japanese floral arrangement organization meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Email Yuko Burkett with questions at yukosan@san.rr.com.

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

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. Rebeccascoffeehouse.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. Sandiegoitalianfilmfestival.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 Firstuusandiego.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. Themorrow.com.

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

—Email calendar items to ken@sdcdn.com. ❖

FROM PAGE 17

OPERA

his opera, scored for Everyman Soldier (baritone David Adam Moore, who recently sang Silvio in SDO's "Pagliacci"), two actors, and an instrumental group of 10 conducted by Schick, who calls the work "a mirror rather than a message."

February: "Falstaff," based on Shakespeare's colorful character, is a Chicago Lyric production, which Bennett describes as looking like a wooden architectural model of the Globe Theatre. "It has riots of color in terms of costumes and projections, modern touches in a very traditional work." Verdi fans love the opera for its humor, melodic vocalism and magnificent orchestrations. The title role is sung by a SDO debutant, acclaimed Italian baritone Roberto de Candia. Daniele Callegari ("Aida," "Don Giovanni") returns to conduct.

March: Part of the Shiley Detour series, Peter Brook's "La tragédie de Carmen" (sung in French with projected English translations) features the excellent Southern California mezzo-soprano Peabody Southwell, seen frequently at LA Opera and Long Beach Opera.

April: Directed by Marta Domingo (Placido's wife) Verdi's well known and popular "La traviata" tells the story of an aging Courtesan named Violetta (Corinne Winters) who is beloved of a much younger aristocrat named Alfredo Germont (American tenor Joshua Guerrero). Bennett says that though it's an LA Opera production, it was built in SDO's scenic studios. The action is updated to the flapper era. Southwell reprises her LA Opera role as Flora, Violetta's friend.

"What we're putting on stage this season is going to be traditional, but look fresh," says Bennett. "Each production has yet to be seen in San Diego. In future years, you're going to see the beautiful production of 'Aida' that we own but haven't done much. We're building a new 'Turandot' designed by Zandra Rhodes to premiere in our 2017-18 season with Lise Lindstrom in the title role. I've hired Angel Blue, a young soprano originally from Temecula, to sing the role of Liu, and a wonderful tenor, Carl Tanner, to sing Calaf.

"Voice is the centerpiece of what we do. Voice is at the heart of opera. That's the overriding nature of our thinking, plus trying to find work that really speaks to our community's several experiences and to their issues, and gives voice to those experiences in ways that you don't expect opera to do."

That having been said, the 2017-18 season opens with "Hansel and Gretel." Just so you know, there will be accompanying discussions of childhood homelessness. "It makes me feel like we are doing more than just what's on stage," Bennett said, "and that I love."

—Charlene Baldrige has been writing about the arts since 1979. Follow her blog at charlene-criticism.blogspot.com or reach her at charb81@gmail.com.



Verdi's "Falstaff" will open Feb. 18, 2017 for four performances Downtown. (Photo by Robert Kusel/Lyric Opera of Chicago)

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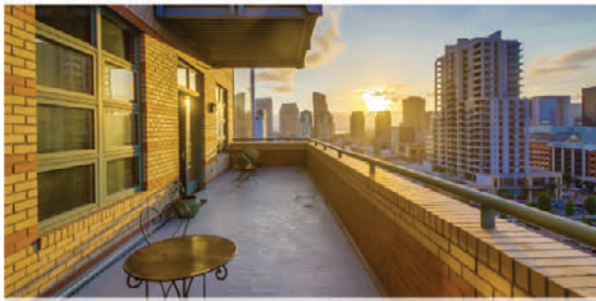
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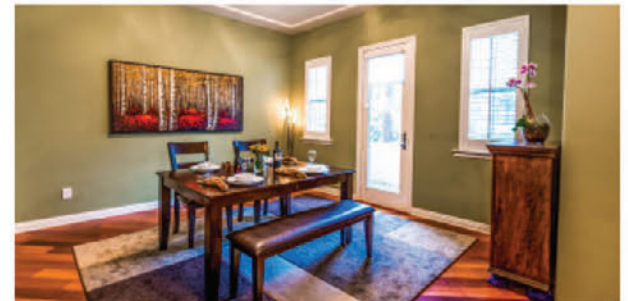
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**CHULA VISTA - 267 East Oxford Street**

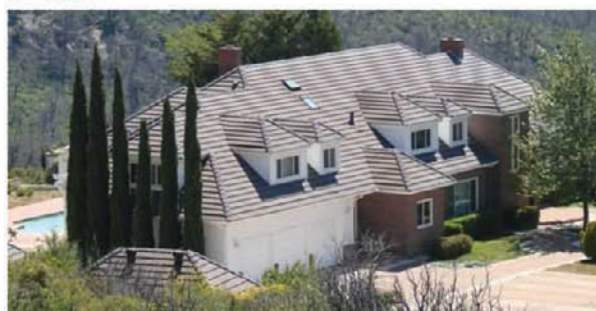
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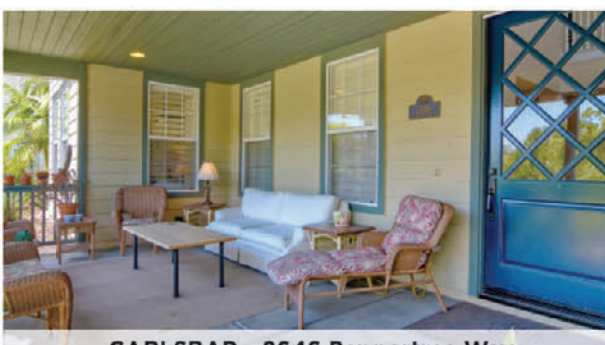
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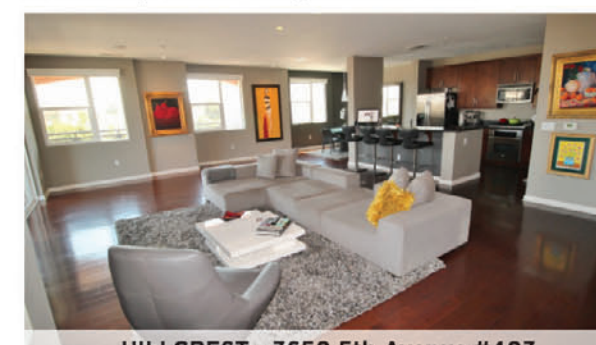
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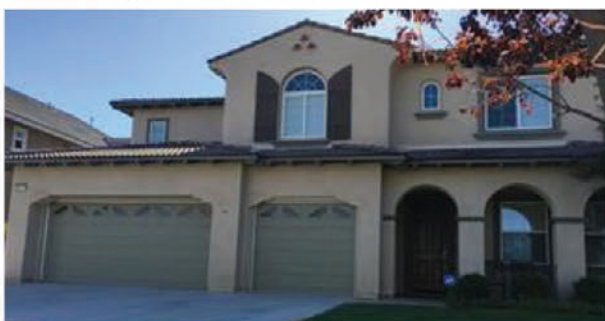
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