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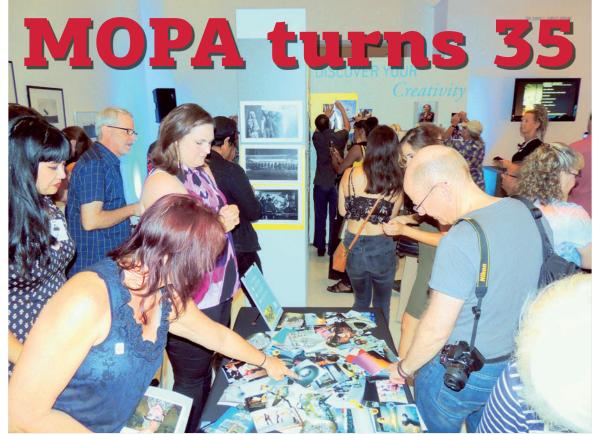
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San Diego Community News Network



Push Pin Party attendees look for their images on a table to put up on the exhibit walls (Photo by Cynthia Robertson)

#### Balboa Park museum celebrates with Push Pin Party

By Cynthia Robertson

Many photographers look forward to occasions where they can get together to talk about their craft and to find new inspiration.

The 35th anniversary of the Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) in Balboa Park provided that opportunity with its unique Push Pin Party on Thursday, Aug. 2. For its anniversary

celebration, the evening was a remake of the original event, initially premiering when MOPA opened back in 1983.

see MOPA, pg 7

## **An evening with Riff City**

Locals host monthly South Park comedy

By Ombretta Di Dio

At 8:30 p.m. on the evening of July 25, locals lined up along Fern Street outside The Whistle Stop Bar. Inside, regulars sipped on their drinks at the counter. Some were already sitting in the foldable chairs that the staff placed in rows across a small stage in the main room. The lights were dim, softening the atmosphere with shades of red, which complement the bright orange painting of a train coming straight at the audience from the wall behind the stage.

see Riff City, pg 4



Attendees enjoy stand-up comedy at The Whistle Stop Bar in Uptown (Photo by Javier Luna)

## Uptown News BRIEFS

## SDG&E PROPOSES TO EXPAND EV CHARGING STATIONS

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) proposed two new programs to the California Public Utilities Commission, which aim to build new electric vehicle chargers in public spaces around the city. One pilot aims to bring additional chargers to local parks and beaches; the other focuses on schools and educational institutions, including K-12 campuses, vocational schools, community colleges and universities.

The goal of this new project is to reduce local EV owners' sense of "range anxiety" — the concern that your car battery will run out of power before reaching your destination or an available charging station — and to make it easier for drivers to switch to electric transportation.

"Our goal is to remove barriers for our customers when choosing an electric vehicle and incorporate charging into everyday life," SDG&E Chief Operating Officer Caroline Winn said.

"Imagine the convenience of having your car recharged while you enjoy a hike in a park, take a walk on the beach, or watch your children's athletic event at their school," she continued.

The programs would prioritize placing chargers in communities that statistically suffer from high levels of air pollution. The American Lung Association rated San Diego's air quality as sixth worst in the nation and gave the region an F for number of high ozone days annually.

SDG&E's proposal builds on the growing momentum to accelerate electric vehicle adoption in California. Currently, SDG&E is implementing a half-dozen pilot

see News Briefs, pg 17

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## Clearing the region's air

#### San Diego Foundation holds forum on local air quality

Jeff Clemetson | Contributing Editor

Despite the region's clear, sunny skies, San Diego's air quality isn't very good — and it's getting worse. That was the message presented at "Clearing the Air," a San Diego Foundation Center for Civic Engagement forum held June 22.

"It is easy to not think about what we don't see," said

Kathlyn Mead, former president and CEO of The San Diego Foundation (SDF).

"You know the bacteria and viruses in the air actually affect us personally and our families," she continued. "And when we look around and see blue skies, we don't see smog like we sometimes see in Los Angeles on a hot day or in movies or programs on television. We look outside and say, "Wow, San

Diego is actually beautiful.' But it's those things in the air we don't see that make us sick."

The problem of San Diego's declining air quality brought out approximately 100 philanthropists, healthcare professionals, environmental advocates, community leaders and residents from across the county and even some groups from across the border to the forum. The forum featured panel consisting of Hanna

Grene, director of policy at the Center for Sustainable Energy; Atul Malhortra, MD, chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at UC San Diego Health; and Nicola Hedge, director of climate and environmental programs at SDF.

Grene shared data collected on San Diego's air quality by the Equinox Project, a 2008 initiative of UC San Diego designed to provide data and indicators to understand how the region's sustainability is performing using environmental and economic indicators.

"Air quality is one of the issues we are tracking and in recent years we have seen a decline in air quality throughout San Diego County," Grene said, pointing to a 48 percent increase in the county's number of unhealthy air days from 2016 to 2017.

"The number of unhealthy air days for sensitive groups — that is our community members with lung disease, the elderly and children — increased 16 days in 2017," she continued. "Overall, unhealthy air days for all of us increased by four days."

Equinox Project data showed that the region still has zero extreme unhealthy air days, but that some days have approached the threshold. There was some improvement in air quality from 2008 to 2010, but since then there have been significant declines in air quality and an uptick in unhealthy air days. The map of asthma hospitalization rates for children varied throughout the county, with the highest rates found in Downtown San Diego, Barrio

Logan, Logan Heights, El Cajon and surrounding areas.

'The American Lung Association's 2017 State of the Air report gave San Diego County an F for ozone pollution and a D for short-term particle pollution," Grene said. "San Diego is ranked the seventh dirties city in the country for ozone pollution. We have one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world. We can walk outside and see blue sky and clean air and beautiful palm trees and we don't always recognize what's in our air, so that one really stuck with me."

Grene explained the declining air quality adversely affects the 400,000 San Diegans who have lung diseases like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

"These residents — our neighbors, our colleagues, our family — are in heightened risk for air pollution," she continued. "This means we have more people in our hospitals, more people suffering."

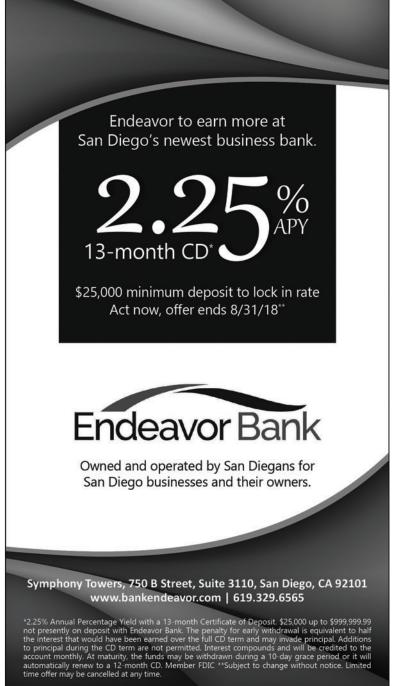
Grene pointed to vehicle emissions and increased heat from climate change as the main causes of the increasingly poor air quality, and noted adopting clean technology like electric cars and a clean energy grid are the best solutions.

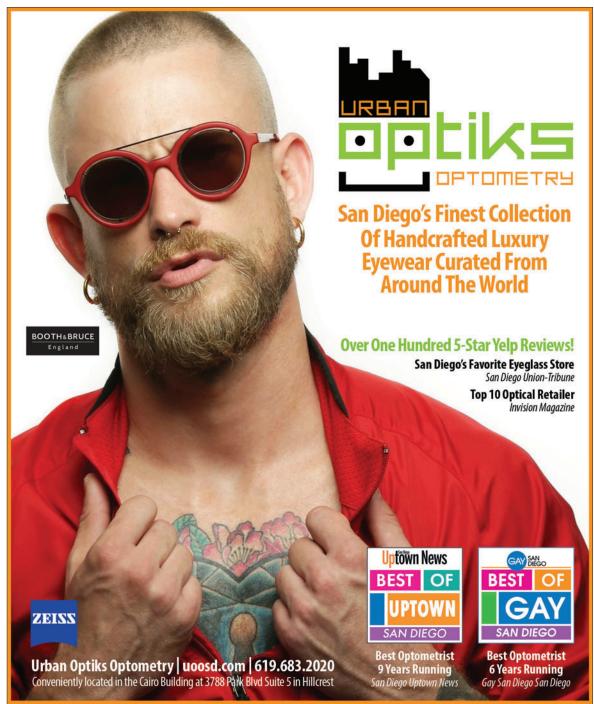
As a health professional, Malhotra said he is not qualified to speak on the politics of climate change or environmental policy, so his presentation strictly focused about the health issues related to poor air quality.

see Air quality,  $pg\ 5$ 



Participants in the Clearing the Air forum take part in the straw breathe challenge to feel what it is like to live with asthma. (Photo courtesy of San Diego Foundation)





## FROM PAGE 1 RIFF CITY

Meanwhile, stand-up comedians Myles Magallanes and Daniel Delgado, both raised in Mira Mesa, chatted with fellow comic Jordan Coburn outside the venue. Coburn, a Normal Heights resident, sat on a stool next to the door and welcomed attendees, collecting \$5 in exchange for a night of laughter.

"This is the best show in San Diego," a man told Coburn before stepping inside. "We come every month."

Riff City Comedy — a collective of comics and marketers that curate and host local performances — took over The Whistle Stop Bar in May 2017. Since then, the show brought together national headliners and local talent at the popular South Park hang-out on the last Wednesday of every month, drawing enthusiastic crowds to the bar each time.

Magallanes, Delgado and Beau Hufford are the minds behind the event. Magallanes and Delgado met in middle school and haven't parted ways since. During the years, the friends nourished their common passion of comedy, which flourished into the desire of stepping on stage.

Now, performing is something they never fail to do after dusk — around comedy clubs and bars in town, during open mics, or at shows — which eventually blossomed into an idea of producing their own show. But it wasn't until they met Beau



(I to r) Stand-up comedians Daniel Delgado and Myles Magallanes host the monthly show.

Hufford that the concept of setting up a regular comedy show in Uptown became a reality.

"Beau [Hufford] is the one who helped us translate what we had in mind into something," Magallanes said. "He's a very alpha person, and Daniel and I respond to that. He'll get us in line in a way that we cannot ourselves."

Hufford lives in Normal Heights, owns an art company and is a branding expert. He ran into the two young comedians while they were all working on local TV talk show "Tonight in San Diego," and their ambitions and aspirations were quickly shared.

When Hufford saw the duo tell jokes, he knew something bigger was going to happen, and decided to pitch The Whistle Stop as an idea for a show.

"I met with Sam Chammas, the owner of Whistle Stop, and he told me they had tried comedy before, but they didn't really like it," Hufford said. "He said, 'Don't expect people to show up,' but I knew we were gonna pack the house that first month."

And the first time The Whistle Stop took a chance on the creative trio, comedian and actor Erik Griffin (known for his work in "Workaholics" and "Blunt Talks") headlined, delivering an exhilarating performance to a captivated audience. By the end of the night, Delgado said everyone left with a smile.

Now the shows sell an average of 200 tickets every month. According to the creators of the show, local comics, and the bar staff, several elements play into Riff City's success.

"The venue is so nonconventional," said Coburn, who performed for Riff City last year. "It's so colorful, and in a local neighborhood. It has a different, unique vibe."

Coburn said Magallanes and Delgado know how to mix-andmatch local comics and out-oftown talent, with the ability to get names that "established comedy clubs in San Diego don't even get."

According to Coburn, that's how they earned respect in the comedy community, and why many local performers want to be part of the event.

"They just see talent,"
Hufford added, referencing the
two friends. "And they just are
brave enough to contact these
people [comedians] and get
them to come down. They are
relentless."

Previous performers include headliners Brody Stevens, Jon Dore, Debra DiGiovanni, Jay Larson and Byron Bowers. Local comedians Dustin Nickerson, Zoltan Kaszas, Cameron Frost, Stephen J. Gaines and Tatiana Cwiklinski.

Back to July's show — Craig

Oliver, main booker for the venue and bartender, stood at the sound booth 20 minutes after the crowds pour in. Oliver has been at The Whistle Stop for eight years. He noted consistency is key in assuring a stand-up show does well at the bar. In the past, comedians who ran stand-up comedy gigs often "found themselves too busy" to make sure the quality of the acts would always be top-notch. This hasn't happened with Riff City, confirmed by the high turnout.

Ten minutes later, Delgado is pacing around the room. Both he and Magallanes are about to warm up the antsy crowd with a sketch that, they wrote a few hours earlier. "We work well under pressure," Delgado said.

Delgado, who calls North Park home, confesses his nerves are always all over the place the night of the show.

"I think it's aged me prematurely," he jokes. "Every month, I feel like 'This is it. This is the month it's going to be awful."

So far, however, so good. Folks are cheering. Comedians are ready. And just like that, it's show time.

South Parkers can catch Riff City every last Wednesday of the month at The Whistle Stop Bar, located at 2236 Fern St. The next show is at 8 p.m. on Aug. 25; tickets are \$5 at the door. Visit bit.ly/Riff-City or whistlestopbar.com for details.

—Ombretta Di Dio is a story producer at NBC 7 and a stand-up comedian from Italy. Reach her at ombretta.didio@gmail.com.\*



sdcnn.com San Diego Uptown News | August 10-23, 2018

## FROM PAGE 3 AIR QUALITY

"I talk to a lot of people from different sides of the political spectrum who say that, 'I'm all for economic growth. We need to build if the economy is to grow.' And I agree with that. But what I'm going to argue is, I don't want the economy to grow at the expense of my kids' lungs or your kids' lungs, because that is really not the right approach," he said. "The political debate over global warming has obscured the major cardio-pulmonary toxicity of air pollution."

Malhotra listed some of the health issues associated with poor air quality. Air pollution affects sleep apnea and is linked to Alzheimer's disease. Exposure to air pollution as a baby affects the size of lungs as adult and also affects brain function, which Mahotra said was proved through studies carried out in Los Angeles after the air pollution problem there got better from the 1990s through the 2010s and researchers found lung capacity and brain performance in children improved.

Another study in the New England Journal of Medicine looked at 60 million Medicare beneficiaries across country and concluded that air pollution patterns had impact on mortality.

Additionally, a study on men and women from rural Uganda found evidence of air pollution's global impact — 15 percent of men and 17 percent of the women in that study had evidence of COPD, and 90 percent of the women with COPD had never smoked.

"Air pollution effects 100 percent of us in different ways, either directly or indirectly," Malhotra said. "Advocacy can be important, writing to your politicians can be important, and raising awareness can be important."

Advocacy and environmental action were the key points of Hedge's presentation.

"The really good news is that there is a lot that we can and are doing [about air pollution] by working together and investing today. Through the San Diego Foundation, one of the metrics that we've been working on is how many cities are making commitments to reduce climate change, and also to better prepare their communities for the likely impacts of climate change," she said, adding that when SDF started studying climate change in the region, only two communities in San Diego were working on climate action plans. "Today, all but one of our region's 19 local governments are working on, or have adopted, a climate action plan."

The San Diego Foundation began studying climate change and its causes a decade ago, following a brash of wildfires.



San Diego Foundation Director of Climate and Environment Programs Nicola Hedge (Photo courtesy of San Diego Foundation)

"There are important differences between the air pollution from fuels that are burned locally and how that exacerbates global risk from air quality, and also the greenhouse gas emissions that we burn that rise into the atmosphere and affect us globally and over the long term," Hedge said. "There are a lot of things we can do to address both and I think that's where the synergy needs to lie. That includes reducing how much we drive by investing in other alternatives."

Hedge listed increasing public transit, walking, biking, carpools and bike share; improving fuel efficiency of cars; promoting electric and hybrid vehicles; and cleaning up sources of local power as the most effective strategies for combating air pollution.

Following the presentation, the nearly 100 attendees participated in a "straw challenge" where they breathed through a thin straw to better understand the challenges of people suffering from asthma.

The group then workshopped its own ideas, strategies and actions that can be implemented to improve air quality. Mead encouraged the participants to share their ideas on social media using the hashtag #HealthyAirSD.

In addition to continuing the conversation about San Diego's air quality online, Mead also suggested volunteering for groups like Equinox Project, contributing donations to groups like SDF or other environmental groups, and staying informed on the topic of air pollution as ways of taking action to improve air quality in San Diego.

For more information on The San Diego Foundation Center for Civic Engagement, visit SDFoundation.org/CCE. To learn more about the Equinox Project, visit energycenter.org/equinox.

 $-Reach\ Jeff\ Clemetson\ at$   $jeff@sdcnn.com. \\ \\ *$ 

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copy. Mailed copies are mailed the day of publication by first-class mailed by USPS.

12 issues - \$18.60 or 26 issues - \$40.30

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#### **Guest Editorial**

## Historic water deal provides less expensive, more reliable supplies

By Mark Muir

A historic achievement for the San Diego region passed almost unnoticed when the San Diego County Water Authority's board of directors adopted new wholesale water rates in late June

The rate-setting process highlighted how the Water Authority's independent water supplies from the Colorado River are now both less expensive and more reliable than supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. It's an accomplishment that the region's water officials started working toward two decades ago, and one that will bear fruit for decades to come.

The value of our independent water supplies will grow in coming years given the rapid increases in MWD's rates, which have risen far faster than the cost of the Water Authority's Colorado River supplies secured in 2003 through a complex, multi-state pact known as the Quantification Settlement Agreement.

From the start, that landmark deal helped secure our economy and quality of life by giving us a major new source of water with a higher priority — or legal right — to Colorado River water than MWD. The agreement allowed the Water Authority to transfer increasingly large amounts of conserved water from the Imperial Valley to San Diego, so that by 2020 it will meet about half of our region's projected water demand.

That visionary agreement also minimized the impact of MWD's water delivery cutbacks during the past two droughts. In 2015, for example, MWD reduced water deliveries by 15 percent, but the Water Authority's independent supplies meant we had enough water to meet 99 percent of normal demand.

While the supply benefits of the conservation-and-transfer agreement have long been clear, the region is just now starting to feel the cost benefits as well.

Here's why: At the start, our independent Colorado River supplies were more expensive than MWD water. However, the cost of the Water Authority's independent Colorado River supplies is controlled by a contract linked to the rate of inflation, which means those costs are rising far more slowly than MWD's rates and charges.

In addition, the Water Authority has benefited from lawsuits that forced MWD to drop illegal charges for delivering our independent Colorado River supplies. A 2017 appellate court ruling netted the Water Authority about \$15 million in savings in 2019, with tens of millions of additional savings in years to come.

The combined effect is that the Water Authority's independent Colorado River supplies are less expensive than MWD supplies by \$44 per acre-foot this year. In 2019, the difference will grow to \$68 per acrefoot, and in 2020 our independent supplies are projected to be less expensive by \$121 per acre-foot.

That's worth celebrating because it means regional wholesale water rate increases in 2019 are among the lowest in 15 years — a testament to the all those who have worked for decades to secure a safe, reliable and cost-effective water supply for everyone who calls this place home.

—Mark Muir is the board chair of the San Diego County Water Authority.\*

#### Letters

#### A note from our publisher

We received some phone calls, emails and letters from our readers who were upset with an advertisement we ran in our San Diego LGBT Pride Guide, which was delivered with the July 13 issue of San Diego Uptown News.

It was in poor judgement that we ran this ad. The advertisement came in last minute and we requested new ad copy to no avail. We were under a tight deadline with our printer. With deadline pressure, sometimes newspapers make mistakes. We assure you this will not happen again next year, apologize for the situation and hope you will continue reading and engaging with San Diego Uptown News.

—David Mannis, publisher of SDCNN, parent company of San Diego Uptown News.

### Disappointment with Hankey's Toys

Dear publisher and editor of San Diego Uptown News,

I am a recently retired career K-12 educator. My husband and I are residents of San Diego in the North Park neighborhood and look forward to receiving your newspaper when it is delivered to our home. We find the articles and ads informative which keep us abreast of local happenings, restaurants, and people who live in our area. We love the diversity of our neighborhood, and support the rights of all people, including our friends and neighbors who are a part of the LGBTQ community.

This morning, while reading the San Diego LGBT Pride Guide, I was blindsided by the advertisement for Hankey's Toys found on page A23 of this supplement. I am not prudish nor naive, however I found your inclusion of this full-page ad to be offensive, disgusting and completely unnecessary.

My feelings aside, your periodical is on the doorstep of thousands of homes which include those of many families with children. This vulgar graphic ad could be potentially damaging if seen by young viewers and can lead to negative emotional, psychological and physical health outcomes.

I am really disappointed in your newspaper. In the future, I hope you will choose advertisements instead from the many businesses, including those that cater to adults, that have good taste and consider all of their potential readers.

—Claudia Gallant, via email.❖

#### FROM PAGE 1 **MOPA**

Carmela Prudencio, marketing and communications coordinator for MOPA, encouraged photographers — both amateur and professional — to submit up to three prints that they could pin on a special exhibit wall. When the museum opened at 6 p.m. on the evening of the Push Pin Party, there was already a crowd of people at the table sorting through the pictures.

"I'm surprised by the response. We received more than 300 submissions," Prudencio said during the event, as she carefully looked through the prints to help one of the attendees find their images.

Celebrating the art of photography has been a goal of MOPA since it first opened its doors more than three decades ago. Perhaps an even greater goal has been to establish a community among photographers.

"Doing photography can be rather solitary," MOPA member Ronnie Bautista said. "An event like this brings the photography community together.'

"I believe in the power of community and the Push Pin Party is a testament of what a group of passionate people can accomplish," Prudencio echoed.

In 1983, a grassroots group of photographers established MOPA for the community to gather and promote photography.

"Thirty-five years later, we honor the hard work of those luminaries with their own concept, the Push Pin Party," Prudencio said.

MOPA Executive Editor Deborah Klochko welcomed everyone to the event and noted its diversity.

"It is good to see people who are here to display their personal styles and others who just want to participate and show something from their lives," Klochko said.

Not all people at the Push Pin Party considered themselves accomplished photographers. Rather, many simply enjoyed the art of it — and the story that photographs tell.

Laura Street brought a photograph of her son when he was 9 years old.



An exhibit wall at MOPA's 35th Anniversary Push Pin Party (Photos by Cynthia Robertson)

Throughout the evening, she moved around the exhibit, taking in all the pictures up on the walls and the people who brought them.

"It's so exciting to see all this. Experiencing the way others see things is incredible," Street said. "I've talked to quite a few of the photographers and we showed each other our photos, gave some history of them." In particular, Street connected with Bautista's surreal image of a white horse on a beach.

"The photo was a double exposure on Polaroid film. I shot it on an SX-70 Land Camera," Bautista said. He previously studied at City College and also taught himself many photographic methods.

'I enjoy both the pre- and post-visualization process," he continued.

Sharing this visualization is partially why the photography museum formed in the first place.

In its early years — before MOPA was housed at Balboa Park — the organization was dubbed a "museum without walls." Bob Schneider, one of the initial members of MOPA who attended the original Push Pin Party in 1983, explained that it produced photographic exhibitions in a variety of locations.

"In other words, a museum without a home," Schneider said.

Prominent local photographer and professor Suda House explained that by the '80s, photographers expressed a strong desire to exhibit their

"Countless other events like the Push Pin Party were reaching out to showcase photography as something more than just a document," House said.

Mary Sloban, also an original MOPA member, remembers the Knights of Columbus building where photographers used to exhibit until MOPA organized and secured a space in Balboa Park.

"I was an original docent for many years. As a group we supported the museum by giving tours and financially," Sloban said.

Bob Walker, another member in the early years, explained that completing a basic photography class at Southwestern College started him on the photographer's

"Literally, it changed my life," Walker said.

Yet Walker did not do much work with photography until years later when local photographers began exhibiting at

Gallery Graphics.

"Because of my exposure to photographic technique and history of the medium, my photo path has journeyed from gallery director and museum founder to photographic author and working photographer," he continued. "We never know when a seed will be planted in us by some new experience."

Planting that seed of passion for photography is what all MOPA members aim to do. Street has high hopes for her own son, who received a new, instant, Polaroid-type camera for his birthday.

"He loves the camera, takes it with him everywhere. It has helped him to become focused on things around him," Street said.

Indeed, it is not so much the medium anymore that makes or breaks a photographer. Instead, it is the way in which the photographer sees the world. Schneider noted that virtually everyone carries a camera in their pockets capable of very fine imaging.

"Regardless of the technology used, serious practitioners continue to explore the possibilities and strive to achieve the exceptional," Schneider said.

For more information about MOPA, visit mopa.org.

-Cynthia Robertson is a local freelance writer.

#### **ASK KATHY:** A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

### Kathy **McSherry**





#### What is Capital Gains Tax?

#### Hi Kathy:

My partner and I own a rental unit that is a small 1 bedroom, 1 bath, with one parking space condominium, in Mission Valley. We bought it in 1998. We are thinking of selling it and pulling out the equity to use for a down payment on another property. All I keep hearing about is capital gains tax.

I am not exactly sure what that means and will I need to pay it? Can you help clarify for me?

Thank you.

Edward G.

#### Hi Edward:

Funny you should inquire about capital gains tax as there are new laws in effect as of this year.

First, let me help you to understand what exactly it is. Capital gains tax is referring to the profits from the sale of an asset held for one year or less. In real estate, people's homes are typically their largest asset. This gain or profit is considered 'taxable income'.

It also depends on how long you have owned it.

Short term capital gains are profits made from the sale of an asset held for one year or less. These profits would be equal to your normal income tax bracket, depending on where you fall.

Long term capital gains are the tax on profits from the sale of an asset, your home, held for more than one. (typically, the longer you hold on to your asset the better the tax benefits)

But, there are rules and exceptions:

As of 2018, the deduction for state and local taxes, also known as the SALT deduction in the past has been lucrative for taxpayers, particularly in high-tax status states like California, NY, and NJ. This deduction includes not only property taxes, but state and local income tax or sales tax. This was a very contentious part of the tax reform process. Now, even though Republicans wanted to do away with the tax entirely, they put an annual cap on the deduc-

The cap is now \$10,000. For instance, if you live in NY, let's say the average SALT deduction was \$21,000; now your deduction just got cut in half. However, they nearly doubled the standard deduction. (deductions that do not have to be itemized) Property taxes either must be under income tax and be itemized, which the new laws have made it more difficult to itemize, or you have to just take the new standard deduction, which these amounts have increased.

Remember the higher your income, the more taxes you pay and therefore the more deductions you want to offset a higher tax rate.

Edward, it's always best to consult your CPA or tax attorney. Your home is typically your most valuable asset and a tax professional will guide you to get the most benefits and tax breaks possible. Hope this helps.

Sincerely, Kathy

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



The photos on the exhibit wall at the Push Pin Party engaged people in conversation about them.



Rebecca Noelle paints Normal Heights landmarks (Photo courtesy of the artist)



Taina Berardi, who also participated in the North Park electrical box painting event back in March, draws inspiration from nature. (Photo courtesy of the artist)



Karin Foster of Mikajo Designs brings the ocean to Normal Heights (Photo courtesy of the artist)



Janine Wareham's "awessssome" snake box offers a colorful contrast to the neighborhood (Photo courtesy of Normal Heights Urban Arts)



Barbara Cerf-Allen poses with her finished box featuring fish and flowers (Photo courtesy of the artist)

## ADAMS' MURALS

#### Local artists spruce up the avenue

By SDCNN Staff

Adams Avenue received a colorful makeover last month.

Sixteen artists were chosen to decorate electrical boxes scattered along the popular Normal Heights street on Saturday, July 14. The project was hosted by Normal Heights Urban Arts and sponsored by Adams Ave Business Association and Normal Heights Community Development Corporation.

The artists included:

- ♦ Taina Berardi
- ♦ Janine Wareham
- ♦ Bryndan Bedel
- ♦ Ashley Rang
- ♦ Chris Berger
- James ArmentaHeather Rust
- ♦ Roderick Reboton
- Rebecca NoelleSkye Amber Sweet
- ♦ Barbara Cerf
- ♦ Isabel Jackson
- ♦ Karin Foster
- Ely MayoralLydia Phillips
- ♦ Maw Cazares

Little Italy resident Rebecca Noelle's painted her utility box — located between Starbucks and the Masonic Lodge on Adams Avenue and Felton Street — with Normal Heights landmarks. She chose to depict scenes in acrylics of nearby landmark buildings and houses, including The Ould Sod Irish pub across the avenue and the Methodist Church farther east.

Noelle noted that people stopped by her work site daily, including children who enjoyed watching progress on the utility box artwork, especially the small animals she included among the scenes.

"I have never felt so appreciated as an artist," she said.
"This is a gift, my gift to the community."

To view more photos of the artists and their painted electrical boxes, visit Normal Heights Urban Arts Facbeook page at bit.ly/nh-urbanarts.\*



Ashley Rang's box depicts a woman surrounded by succulents (Photo courtesy of Normal Heights Urban Arts)



Maw Cazares' intricate designs can be found at his box on Mansfield Street (Photo courtesy of the artist)

# Walking barefoot

#### **Theater** Review



once spent a year in Rome living on what I called the fourth floor of a three-story building. The elevator went to three and I had to walk up to my place. I always suspected that fourth floor was illegal.

The bathroom door opened onto the kitchen stove, the living room was the size of a postage stamp, and the bedroom was across the hall.

But I had a wrap-around balcony, and since the place was not far from the Vatican, I could "see" it if I looked in that direction and knew the landmark was there.

Ah, those were the days. So I can identify a bit with the excitement of Corie Bratter (Kerry Bishe) as she steps into her first New York apartment as a married woman in playwright Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park."

This is a real fifth-floor walkup on the East Side that shows signs of wear, but no sign of furniture yet. It has a microscopic kitchen, an even smaller bathroom with no tub, and a bedroom closet that you can only get to if you crawl over the bed (I've had hotel rooms like that). Oh, and a skylight with a broken pane so you can have your own falling snow in the winter.

But hey, Corie is young, pretty, inexhaustibly upbeat, and crazy in love with up-andcoming lawyer Paul (Chris Lowell) so what else matters? The new apartment is romantic and will be "beautiful" when the furniture arrives.

As Corie basks in the afterglow of the honeymoon week at the Plaza Hotel and ponders future furniture placement, the telephone man (Jake Millgard) staggers up the stairs, gasping for breath and nearly passing out from the exertion. This will become one of the show's running jokes.

Corie's plans start to go awry with the next arrival — not the furniture delivery man, but

her new husband Paul. He will not only arrive exhausted but be expected to "love" the apartment — which he hasn't seen yet — in all its unfurnished nakedness.

Paul is a buttoned-down, newly minted attorney, not the freewheeling and go-withthe-flow type who would walk barefoot in the park (and even the snow) like Corie. He intends to be rich and important but isn't yet.

Still, he's a bit disappointed at what this apartment lacks. And he's in court tomorrow with his first case and has prep work to do. These are elements that will inevitably lead to newlywed arguments and lots of clever one-liners.

But there are other characters as well. Corie's mother, Mrs. Ethel Banks (Mia Dillon), for example, "drops in" - gasping for air like everyone else who climbs up the stairs bearing gifts for her daughter. Mrs. Banks is a widow living alone in the outer reaches of New Jersey; Corie later decides to find a love interest for her single mother.

Then there's Victor Velasco (Jere Burns) — a flamboyant, old (well, 58) suave man who lives in the attic. Velasco is full of Old World charm and manipulation, also known as "the Bluebeard of 48th Street."

Remember that this production is the work of early Neil Simon — his second Broadway hit — written in the early '60s. The play is also a product of its time, so don't be shocked that the adorable Corie is apparently planning on a life of "Being Married." Period. Unlike most wives today, she doesn't have to work, giving her time to worry about things like the beauty of the not-yet-delivered furniture and whether or not Paul wants to walk barefoot in the park.

Lowell is convincing as Corie's stodgy but solid groom Paul, who keeps finding things about this apartment that he doesn't like much until he finally explodes in the couple's first real fight in the third act.

"Barefoot in the Park" is well cast and well directed by Jessica Stone, who has a good

#### **'Barefoot** in the Park'

Extended through Sept. 16 The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre 1363 Old Globe Way Balboa Park Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.

Tickets: 619-234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

feel for Simon-esque pacing of quick dialogue interspersed with one-liners.

Bishé and Lowell are fine foils for each other, playing the clichéd pair — a cute bride and a rather dull groom — who can both produce a funny one-liner at will.

Dillon's Mrs. Banks is amusing as Corie's dithery mom, trying to find Corie's new place as charming as her daughter keeps insisting it is. She and Burns' outlandish Hungarian Victor Velasco also make quite a pair as well.

Jake Millgard's phone repairman and John Garcia's furniture delivery guy are equally funny.

Kudos also to the design crew, who crafted a play originally written for a proscenium stage — that works in the round. Tobin Ost's set is strange and amusing, fitting the plot just fine.

David Israel Reynoso created classic costumes that smartly fit but don't limit the time frame. Lighting and sound are nicely handled by Amanda Zieve and Lindsay Jones, respectively.

"Barefoot in the Park" isn't Simon's best play, but the Globe gives us a fine production.

—Jean Lowerison is a long-standing member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle and can be reached at infodame@cox.net. \*

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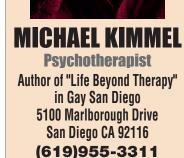
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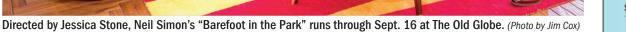
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## Hillcrest art and music festival slated for Aug. 12

By HBA Staff

The 35th annual celebration of community spirit features live bands, electric dance music DJs, arts and crafts, and

(Photos courtesy of Hillcrest Business Association)

food that attracts more than 150,000 attendees. Stretching nearly half a mile in size over seven city blocks, CityFest is San Diego's largest art and music festival.

This year's Hillcrest CityFest Art and Music Festival will be held on Aug. 12 from noon-11 p.m. along Fifth Avenue, between Brookes and University avenues, and the

side streets between Fourth and Sixth avenues. Nearly 20 performers and more than 250 vendors will participate.

see CityFest, pg 11

ST OF



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#### FROM PAGE 10 CITYFEST

#### Highlights include:

- The Artist Village and Artist Alley
- Live music on Viejas Grand Stage and Techniche Stage
- International food court with more than 50 vendors
- Miller-Coors Beer and Stoli Vodka Cocktail Garden, featuring Hop Valley Brewing Co.'s Reveal Pale Ale, Coor's Light, Blue Moon, and Stoli Vodka cocktails
- Youth friendly activities in The Pavilion, including the Rad Hatter, carnival rides, games, a balloon artist, and a face painter

Free parking will be available at the Hillcrest DMV and San Diego Unified School District parking lot, located on the corner of Campus and Normal street, along with a complimentary shuttle from the School District parking lot to the festival.

CityFest is a free event hosted by Hillcrest Business Association (HBA). Donations are encouraged to help pay for the privately funded installation of Rainbow Crosswalks in Hillcrest.

VIP tickets are also available for \$35; a portion of the ticket price will be allocated for the crosswalks. Ticket holders are invited to the Miller-Coors Party Bus/RV, as well as provided private restrooms, two complimentary cocktails, and access to the rooftop deck of the RV with views of the festival.

For more information, visit HillcrestCityFest.com.



Live painting at the Artist Village and Artist Alley



Arts and crafts, including an activity with the Rad Hatter, will be offered in The Pavilion. (Photos courtesy of Hillcrest Business Association)





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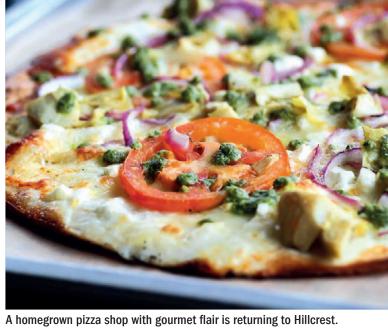




Everbowl made its metro San Diego debut in Mission Valley recently with an array of "superfoods" used in smoothies and build-your-own bowls. The Carlsbad-based eatery, which promotes healthy eating, offers a choice of acai, acerola, graviola and pitaya as foundations for the customized bowls. Patrons then choose a liquid such as almond milk, coconut water, apple juice and others before selecting from a long list of unlimited toppings. The final step allows customers to choose from a list of "superstuff" that includes bee pollen, vitamin C, agave, flax and more. 5624 Mission Center Road (in the Ralph's shopping plaza), 619-487-0443, everbowl.com.



A new Mission Valley eatery offers a treasure chest of "superfoods." (Photo courtesy of



(Photo courtesy of Project Pie)

Get your ceviche fix at an international competition scheduled at 57 Degrees. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

The fifth annual No Borders Ceviche Showdown on Aug. 12 at 57 Degrees brings together restaurants from San Diego and areas south of the border as they compete for the people's choice award as well as top honors from a panel of judges.

Participants from San Diego include the Old Town Tequila Factory, Old Town Mexican Cafe, Tidal Restaurant and Indigo Grill. They'll be joined by Villa Saverios and El Baj Americano, both of Tijuana, and 240 Grill and Koipai Cocina, each from Ensenada.

The event, to be held from 1 to 4 p.m. is an opportunity for competitors to dole out samples of their latest and greatest ceviche. Tickets are \$29 in advance and \$39 at the door. They include the ceviche tastings and a voting ballot. 1735 Hancock St., 619-234-5760, fiftysevendegrees.com.

The second coming of **Project** Pie in Hillcrest is due to arrive in early September. Returning to the strip plaza at Fourth and University avenues, the space has left many consumers confused over its relationship to Pieology, which it briefly operated under before suddenly closing a couple years ago.

Brian Mills was a past franchisee of Project Pie when Pieology took over the shop.

"Something happened and they ended up walking away from it,"

he recalls. He eventually purchased Project Pie's name and concept, and now runs three other locations throughout San Diego County in Chula Vista, Carlsbad and La

The fast-casual menu, which specializes in fire-baked artisan pizzas, will remain the same except for an expanded salad line and the addition of empanadas sourced from Empanada Kitchen Downtown. 3888 Fourth Ave., projectpie.com.

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- Jan Delair, age 63, retired

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What started out on Park Boulevard five years ago as Heat Bar & Kitchen, and then morphed into Pardon My French by a new set of owners, suddenly closed. The announcement came via Facebook on July 16, just hours after husband-and-wife proprietors Eric and Lindsey Fillion posted a promotion about their daily early bird specials. The inviting establishment, known for its French-inspired food and crafty cocktails, was sold off to the Fillions in 2016 by Sam Khorish and Pasqual Courtin. In earlier days, the space was home to Urban Grind.

"Our time in Hillcrest has been beautiful and inspiring," the statement read in part. "While we wish this story ended differently, we will cherish the time we did have. To the next chapter."

The post didn't address the reason for closing, and as of press time, our calls to the owners haven't been returned. 3797 Park Blvd.

The Israeli fast-food chain, Burgerim, will soon open its third San Diego location in the west Mission Valley area, iust off Friars Road. Famous for its mini burgers made with three-ounce patties, the options range from beef and wagyu to merguez, lamb and vegetarian.

Founded several years ago in Tel Aviv, the name "Burgerim" translates in Hebrew to "many burgers." The company currentlv has locations in La Jolla and the Gaslamp Quarter. The upcoming outlet replaces Z Pizza at 5175 Linda Vista Road. burgerim.com.

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

## Rolling in simplicity

#### Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.

It has the smallest menu of any taco shop in San Diego, with about as many food choices as what you'll find at In-N-Out Burger. Actually, until El Tianguis added rice and

beans to its lineup last month,

it was even less.

Welcome to San Diego's one and only house of rolled tacos, a colorful and pristine eatery where burritos, quesadillas and traditional folded tacos have no place.

Instead of the dizzying menu boards inherent to most neighborhood taco joints, at El Tianguis you're faced with three easy decisions.

First: Choose the desired number of rolled tacos that suits your appetite. They're sold in quantities of three to eight, or a full dozen. Second: Decide on the fillings — beef, chicken, potato or lentil-quinoa — and feel free to mix and match. Third: Indicate if you want them naked or dressed in Mexican sour cream, lettuce and "chihuahua cheese," as owner Oscar Ancira calls it.

My dining companion and I had never heard the term

before. Common in south-ofthe-border households, Ancira compared the off-white curds to mozzarella, adding that it doesn't become quite as melty as jack cheese, but offer the same buttery flavor. A little cotija cheese is dusted over it for extra zing.

Ancira is a native of Monterrey, Mexico. Prior to opening El Tianguis, he carried the torch of his father's South Bay-based business, Delimex, which became a wholesaler of rolled tacos to major retailers across the U.S. The company was apparently making 2 million rolled tacos — known otherwise as taquitos — per day when he decided to sell the business.

Hence the idea of opening an eatery specializing in the flute-shaped tacos he knows best.

Vibrant wall colors and a hodgepodge of tasteful art capture the vibe of Mexico's bazaars, which are known as tianguis throughout Latin America. Missing is a salsa bar.

"I think they're disgusting," he quipped.

The salsas instead come straight from the kitchen with your order. There are three different types, including tomatillo. The spiciest is a tame, red version that won't send



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sensitive palates screaming for

A friend and I ordered the entire menu, including side orders of the rice (made with chicken broth) and beans (made with a little canola and corn oils). Both dishes were as clean-tasting as the rolled tacos. And everything washed down superbly with a bottle of apple soda (sidral mundet), which is popular throughout Mexico City.

For the shredded beef tacos, the meat is trimmed of excess fat and marinated overnight in tomato paste and spices. It offered a little more zip than rolled beef tacos served everywhere else.

The chicken tacos contain a 50-50 mix of finely shredded dark and white meat that is subtly flavored with a pinch of salt and pepper in the boiling process. In all of the taquitos, Ancira prefers gently seasoned fillings so they don't dominate the delicate, natural essence of the corn tortilla casings.

The tortillas are made onsite a few days a week with drier-than-average dough using corn flour. The result is a crispier, thinner finish that we enjoyed across the board, and which proved to be the ultimate beauty of these taquitos.

Imagine some of the tubeshaped tacos packed with creamy, buttery mashed potatoes common to holiday dinners. They were fluffier and tastier than any potato taco I've had in recent memory.

Surprisingly, the lentil-quinoa taquitos floated our boats as well. Who would have thought a mulch of legumes



Owner Oscar Ancira at the machine that cranks out fresh corn tortillas







14 San Diego Uptown News | August 10-23, 2018 FOOD AND DRINK sdcnn.com

# Where every sandwich deserves a beer

# Come On Get Happy!

Dr. Ink

In the handful of years
Rubicon Deli has operated
a branch on north India
Street, it never dawned on me
the Nevada-based sandwich
shop offers happy hour. Thanks
to a friend who clued me, I got to
experience one of the best beerand-sandwich deals in town.

The company is known for layering fresh ingredients into whole loaves of house-baked bread, which includes everything under the sun, including Dutch crunch, garlic-cheese, jalapeno-jack, wheat, pesto and more. During past visits, I've sunk my choppers into a variety of different creations. Nearly every one of them had the kind of mom-and-pop soul I've encountered at other Uptown delis such as Big Front Door and the Deli Llama.

During happy hour, however, the sandwich choices are limited to five "snappy sliders." Just like beer by the glass, they are \$4 each. Although if you're ravenous, you can buy three sliders for \$10.

But "sliders" is a misnomer. These are more like junior sandwiches that offer multiple bites and occupy a fair chunk of real estate in your stomach after you wolf one down.

Your bread choices during this time are either Dutch

crunch or garlic-cheese. I chose the latter for a Buffalo-style chicken sandwich brimming with shredded lettuce, fat-sliced pickles and cilantro-jalapeno ranch dressing. The chicken came in small, fried pieces, much like popcorn shrimp. They were generously layered into the bread and lightly coated in tangy Buffalo sauce.

The delicious combo of flavors called for an icy glass of Chronic Ale by Pizza Port Brewing Company. Other tap choices included Stone Delicious IPA (been there, done that), White Rascal Witbier by Avery Brewing (too yeasty for my mood), and Honcho Hefeweizen by Mother Earth (best enjoyed in cooler weather).

The light, dry finish and faint toffee notes of the Chronic Ale was a perfect come-on to the spiciness of the sandwich. Served with a moderately foamy head, it sported just the right amount of creaminess as to not compete with the sandie, which included a little bag of waffle-cut potato chips and a petite chocolate chip cookie.

My total bill with tax was just over \$8.

Rubicon's interior features a unique, elongated space that begins at the order counter and then runs along a food-prep area, hiding a small elevator to an upstairs kitchen. Beyond that is a dining area replete with large red-vinyl booths, a heavy-wood communal table and some window-ledge seating. On this hot afternoon, the air conditioning was running full throttle — and it felt oh-so good.

Other sandwich choices — should you attempt the \$10 trio — include a po'boy with grilled chipotle chicken; the mini "Ma'am" featuring beef brisket, pineapple, coleslaw and blue cheese; and "The Cheesy Bit" with colby-jack, bacon, lettuce, tomato and chipotle mayo. Based on my pairing, I'm guessing beer of any type is a best friend to all of them.\*

#### **Rubicon Deli**

3715 India St. (Mission Hills)

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Happy hour where you least expect it (Photos by Dr. Ink)



## 6 SMART HOME ESSENTIALS

With so many devices and home automation available these days, turning your house into a smart home is easier than you might think. But, there are some things to keep in mind when deciding which devices are essential - and what kind of internet service you'll need to maximize your smart home experience.



- A home speaker that doubles as a virtual assistant. Current models can answer questions, turn on lights, play video, access virtual assistants like Siri or Alexa, share weather and news updates, act as a timer, and play music on demand. Some models even help you shop online.
- Home cameras. The latest in home monitoring such as Cox Homelife allows for remote live video viewing from your smartphone, video recording and customizable notifications.
- Smart lights. Replace existing light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs that can be controlled remotely with a few taps on your smartphone or tablet. Cox Homelife has an automation feature to control indoor and outdoor lights, bringing you (and your pet) peace of mind while you're away from home, as well as saving energy and money.
- Smart locks. Remotely control doors in your home. Features can include voice commands, customized chimes, activity logs, integration with other smart devices, and special codes for friends, dog walkers, and deliveries.
- Smart thermostats. Programmable thermostats allow you to remotely turn the air and heat in your home up and down, and on and off. Save money and energy, and arrive to a warm or cool home.

• Smart Search entertainment. There are many options to watch TV and stream content online, and Cox's Contour TV service brings smart search options, Netflix integration, a voice-controlled remote, and cool apps together into one service that is easy to navigate. Speak into the remote to find the programming you want to watch – use a famous movie quote, the title of a show, a genre, or the name of an actor. You can even say "free movies," and available titles in the On Demand library will pop up.

Just as important as the devices you select is the internet service you choose.

In San Diego, Cox Communications recently doubled internet download speeds automatically for the majority of its customers at no additional charge. Preferred, the company's most popular tier of service, is now up to 100 Mbps, while Essential and Starter, which are ideal for lighter users with one to five devices connected to the home network, doubled to 30 Mbps and 10 Mbps, respectively.

For households with multiple family members who want to connect dozens of devices simultaneously, are heavy gamers or have the need for the fastest speeds around, Cox's Gigablast service offers download speeds of 1 gigabit (1,000 Mbps).

Take a short quiz on the speed advisor at **www.cox.com** to determine which speed is right for your household.

Cox is also improving the in-home internet experience with Panoramic WiFi, which provides "wall-to-wall" WiFi coverage so you have a connection wherever you may roam in your smart home.



#### **RATINGS**

#### Drinks: I I I I

Who needs 10 million beer choices anymore? This streamlined list featuring seven craft brews covers the basics with lager, witbier, IPA, pale ale and hefeweizen.

#### Food: IIIII

There are five "snappy sliders" to choose from — all of them are decent-size sandwiches with various proteins and sauces on either Dutch crunch or garlic-cheese bread.

#### Value: TTTT

Everything's \$4, a straightforward deal that's all about beer and sandwiches.

#### Service: I I I I I

A staffer at the order counter was quick to point out the happy hour menu, then offered me a couple of beer samples as I stood initially undecided. The sandwich I ordered was delivered to my table within five minutes.

#### Atmosphere: TTTT

An elongated layout starts at the order counter, passes by a food-prep area and ends in an air-conditioned dining room with big, red booths, a communal table and cold soft-drink dispensers.





# Uptown brews





## Local coffee roaster heads east

Sara Butler | Editor

ew things are brewing over at Dark Horse Coffee Roasters.

The coffee shop — originally founded in Normal Heights in 2013 — opened a La Mesa location on Friday, Aug. 10. The new storefront, located at 4350 Palm Ave., previously housed Blue Lagoon Coffee.

Expansion is nothing new for Dark Horse, co-owned by brothers and South Park locals Daniel and Bryan Charlson. A year after the duo started the business they grew three times the size, adding North Park and Golden Hill to its Uptown residency roster, as well as an off-site location in Truckee, California.

Yet the owners aren't hungry for expansion. Ultimately, their decisions to open more Dark Horse locations derive from the initiative of co-workers. When employees express an interest to take on more responsibility, Daniel and Bryan take note and adapt accordingly.

"We'll give them the proper

training and resources to succeed, but without our co-workers wanting to grow with us then we wouldn't — we would just be at one store," Daniel said.

"We grow with our people," Bryan added. "If we don't have people who want to grow with us, then we're fine where we're at. We have people showing initiative who want to run that store [in La Mesa], so we keep going step by step."

Most of Daniel and Bryan's team members have been with them for more than three years, which Bryan noted is uncommon in a coffee shop setting because of the industry's high turnover. This employee dedication to Dark Horse — both the art of coffee and the community spirit — is arguably a major aspect of its success.

Case in point — when Dark Horse's first employee Drew Taylor decided to move away but wanted to continue with the San Diego-based business, they collaborated and opened a Truckee location. Drew and his wife Cassidy, who both run the store, introduced the idea of adding an espresso bar, which is now also a major staple of the Uptown shops.

Back home, due to the high costs and increasing density of Uptown neighborhoods, many Dark Horse local employees moved out to the eastern regions of the county, such as La Mesa. This eastern migration of their team helped them decide where to expand to next.

La Mesa's location will be different from the others, but they "aren't sure how yet." However, this uncertainty common in all the shops, as they are always morphing based on the people behind the bar at each location.

"All of our shops are pretty different character-wise," Bryan said.

"It just depends on who is working there," Daniel added.
"They change — we've always changed to who is with us. We've always adapted to our customers and to our co-workers. Dark Horse is not me, and it's not Bryan. It's an evolving thing."

One confirmed new element in the La Mesa location will be a food program. The kitchen will be led by former employee Jacob Russell, who recently rejoined the team. The new La Mesa location is smaller than the others and will be utilizing a shared kitchen with Mutual Friend, an ice cream shop in Golden Hill that the brothers are also launching soon.

Though the menu is still in development, it will start with items such as toast using bread from Wayfair bread in Bird Rock. Eventually, the food program will roll out to the Uptown locations.

La Mesa's drink menu will remain the same. Patrons can still enjoy items from the espresso bar, such as wellknown honey and cinnamon



The newest Dark Horse spot, located at 4350 Palm Ave. in La Mesa (Photo courtesy of Bryan Charlson)

latte The Champ, as well as Dark Horse's original three drinks: pour overs, French Press coffees, and Cold Brew. The latter has been Dark Horse's most popular item since day one.

"Cold Brew — just a straight, black, Cold Brew iced off coffee — has always been our number one [seller] since we opened. Even in the wintertime," Daniel said. "I feel like that's just what we're known for, accidentally. I mean, we didn't try to go out trying to be the 'Cold Brew Guys.' ... We just had it because we liked it and it took off."

"That's kind of the ethos of Dark Horse — we do stuff because we like it, and if other people like it too then that's really cool to see," Bryan added. This ethos expands to the drinks they serve, merchandise they sell, and decisions to expand throughout San Diego.

For previous San Diego Uptown News article about Dark Horse Coffee Roasters written in 2014, when the coffee shop opened its other three locations — visit bit.ly/dark-horse-2014.

[Editor's note: Tune in next month for additional coverage on Dark Horse, focusing on its involvement in Uptown's coffee culture and community.]

—Reach Sara Butler at sdcnn.com.❖



Co-founders Daniel (far left) and Bryan (far right) visiting the farmers they buy their coffee beans from in Uraga, Guji region of Ethiopia (Photo by Mike Charlson)

## 'A Rollercoaster of Emotions' for ChuckAlek

By Jess Winans

orth Park's ChuckAlek Biergarten is closing its tab.

Grant Fraley and Marta Jankowska co-founded Ramonabased brewery ChuckAlek — in honor of their grandfathers Chuck and Alek — six years ago. In April 2016, they decided to expand and opened the Uptown biergarten, located on 3139 University Ave.

Before ChuckAlek, Fraley traveled Europe and fell in love with its brews. After returning home, he developed a passion for recreating the flavors he tasted abroad and began home brewing. The couple decided to turn Fraley's passion into a business after realizing the demand for IPA and craft brew markets in San Diego.

Each beer has a historical significance specific to the couple.

For example, the 1850 Runner was named after Fraley's ancestor Stephan Fraley, who was ambushed and attacked by men during the Civil War. He escaped the men by running home and hiding under his wife's large hoop dress.

"The very nature of brewing beer is a meditative labor that we thoroughly enjoy from the milling of malted grain, to the smell of the mash and the rolling boil, to drinking and sharing the final project post fermentation," the couple shares on their website. "Our customers join our family each day as we share stories through and over our craft beer."

The decision to close their Ramona brewery and North Park biergarten coincided with their decision to move out of state. While the Ramona brewery was officially closed with a goodbye hurrah on July 29, the biergarten remains open until Sept. 2 and is going out with quite the musical bang — hosting local groups like Coral Bells on Aug. 10 and Koda Sounds on Aug 17.

"Well gang, it's been a roller coaster of emotions, but the ChuckAlek team has had to make the difficult decision to close down the brewery over the next two months," Fraley, Jankowska, and Head of Operations Sam Olson wrote in an email newsletter. "We have loved being part of the San Diego craft beer community and will cherish the friends and memories we have made over the past 6 years."

For more information about ChuckAlek or its closure, visit facebook.com/chuckalek or chuckalek.com.

—Reach Jess Winans at jess@sdcnn.com.\*



(Photo courtesy of ChuckAlek's website)

## In other brews...

Bay City Brewing Co., located in Uptown's nearby Point Loma neighborhood, anniversary on Saturday, Aug. 11. The brewery will pour its Anniversary IIPA and limited-edition beers on tap, including coconut and vanilla bean Baltic porters and radlers. Beertenders will unveil brand-new Bay City Pale Ale and Peninsula Lager 12-ounce cans. Patrons can enjoy beer, live music, food trucks, a kid-friendly art station, and a photo booth from noon-10 p.m. at its tasting room, 3760 Hancock St.

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## Sudoku Puzzle

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

© 2009 CNS/websudoku.com

Puzzle answers on page 17

## **Uptown Crossword**

#### Classics

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sions 29 Former USSR

30 Masterson

31 Succinct

33 Horrify 35 So-so 38 Haggard or Oberon

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41 Fourth estate hangout

43 Kind of grid kick 44 Suppressed

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49 Washer cycle 51 Persian of old

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dweller 57 Harry Guardino 62 Knockout number

63 What 22 Down provide 64 Tally

65 NY time zone, in April 66 Former TV series 67 Domesticated

#### **DOWN**

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4 Change 5 Sammy, of song 6 Unmitigated

7 Among 8 "\_\_\_ the . .": G & S the very model .

9 Featured

10 First name in tennis

18 Paragon 22 Cap parts 23 lmp 24 Pay the 25 Truman 27 Hot times in Montmarte 30 Fortunate 32 Smiling 34 -Lorraine

12 Dress fabric

13 "I love

By Charles Presion

O'Keefe

35 See 59 Down 36 Made over

37 Etudiant 39 Author Morrison 42 Beet soup

43 Bounding main 45 Regard 47 Tub 48 Trusted

50 "Nothing can lie": Herbert 51 A nice place to visit?

53 Bones 55 History 58 Charlotte or Norma

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60 Mine yield 61 Buttons

Puzzle answers on page 17

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## FROM PAGE 1 NEWS BRIEFS

programs to expand the regional charging network for a variety of vehicles, ranging from passenger vehicles to trucks and forklifts. For more information, visit SDGEnews.com.

#### COUNTY LOOKS TO RE-FUND OWNED MONEY

On July 12, the office San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector (TTC) Dan McAllister announced that the county has \$441,000 in refunds to return to residents who overpaid taxes or have other unclaimed money.

"In the past, sadly, most of these refunds were never claimed. We are asking the public's help to spread the word so we can get this money back to San Diegans," McAllister said in a press release. "If you've done business with any county department, you may have money in your name."

Refunds are broken into two lists: countywide unclaimed money and unclaimed property tax refunds. To see if your name is on the list of people owed money, visit sdttc.com.

Residents who are owed money need to file a refund claim by Sept. 7, before the money is rolled into the county general fund. Email claims to refunds@sdcounty. ca.gov; for help, call toll free at 877-829-4732.

"Even if you're not on the list this year, sign up for our 'new unclaimed money' e-notifications so you will get an email when we publish new refund lists," McAllister said.

In the past five years, the TTC has refunded \$480,000.

Current state law says countywide monies that are unclaimed for three years and property tax refunds that are unclaimed for four years must be turned over to the county's general fund.

This year, the TTC has unclaimed refunds totaling \$441,000. Unclaimed property tax refunds make up \$161,000 of that amount, and \$280,000 is from other county departments.

The smallest refund amount available is \$10, and the largest refund amount is \$22,720, owed to IME Holdings by the county's Planning and Development Services.\*

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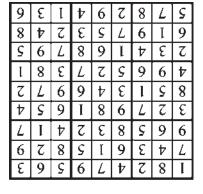
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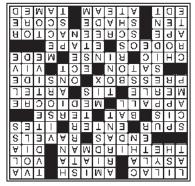
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#### **PUZZLE ANSWERS**

## Sudoku Puzzle from page 16



## Classics Crossword from page 16







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## UPTOWN CALENDAR

#### FEATURED EVENTS



#### **Concert in the Park:** The Ira B Liss Big **Band Jazz Machine**

The Ira B. Liss Big Band Jazz Machine will perform in the annual Concerts in the Park summer series. Bring picnic baskets. catch up with neighbors, and sing and dance to the music. Free. 6-8 p.m. at Pioneer Park, 1521 Washington Place. Visit bit.ly/MHconcerts.

#### Afton at The Merrow

Afton presents an extensive music lineup starts off with rock/indie musicians Thread the Lariat and Buddie Roots, followed by hip-hop/R&B artists Y-Dresta, Jru Cobian, Adrian Waltuo, han zullo, Kendallpg47 & Twin Dracos, OS-YM (Old Souls Young Minds), King Netta, ibei, Pretty Kronic, YT West, Don Elway and The Product. \$12-\$15. 21 and up. 6:30 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave.

Visit bit.ly/AftonMerrow.



#### Tenshun at Soda Bar

Beatmaker Tenshun performs with Azuresands, W0RK, and Giveaway (Lora Mathis). Presented by Stay Strange. \$8. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/TenshunSoda.





#### Doggiepaloza!

The Dojo Café and PowerPet Treats present a day of fun with residents' four legged friends. Event activities include a trainer talk from K9 Training by Tim, adoptable dogs onsite, donation-based competitions benefitting the San Diego Humane Society. Attendees receive complementary goodie bags with dog treats. Free. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fair@44, 4350 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/doggiepalooza.



#### **Bay City Brewing Anniversary Celebration**

To commemorate three years in the U.S. craft beer capital, Bay City Brewing Co. invites the community to its Point Loma tasting room for limited-edition beers, food trucks, live music and a kid-friendly art station. The brewery will pour its Anniversary IIPA, limited-edition beers on tap, and other surprises. Noon-10 p.m. at Bay City Brewing Co., 3760 Hancock St.

Visit baycitybrewingco.com.

#### 'An afternoon of Language and Laughter'

Richard Lederer, San Diego Union-Tribune language columnist and best-selling writer, visits the library to share a humorous presentation on the English language. 3 p.m. at Mission Hills Library, 925 West Washington St. Visit bit.ly/LibraryMH.

#### Raena Jade at Lestat's

Raena Jade performs at her farewell show, where she will release her album. All ages. 8-11 p.m. at Lestat's, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/LestatsWest.



#### Jessica Hernandez at Soda Bar

Jessica Hernandez & the Deltas perform with Kera. \$13-\$15. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/JessicaSoda.

#### **Robin Roth and Vaughn Avakian at The Merrow**

Join Club Sabbat, a local gothic industrial club, for its monthly music event. Featuring DJs Robin Roth and Vaughn Avakian. \$5. 21 and up. 9 p.m. at The Merrow, 1271 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/SabbatMerrow.





#### **Giraffes? Giraffes!** at Soda Bar

Rock/pop duo Giraffes? Giraffes! performs with Mylets, and Fistfights with Wolves. \$10. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/GiraffesSoda.

#### Hillcrest CityFest

Stretching nearly half a mile in size over five city blocks, San Diego's ultimate summer art and music festival takes over Fabulous Hillcrest during Hillcrest CityFest. The 35th annual celebration of community spirit features live bands, electric dance music DJs, arts, crafts, and food. Free. Pre-sale VIP tickets, which include complimentary drinks, private restaurant and more, are \$35. Donations encouraged. Noon-11 p.m. in Hillcrest, 3737 Fifth Ave. Visit bit.ly/CityFest18





**Jess Williamson** at Soda Bar

Folk musician and songwriter Jess Williamson performs. \$10. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/JessSoda.





**Imagery Machine** at Soda Bar

Imagery Machine performs with The Mondegreens, and The Lazulis. \$7. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/ImagerySoda.





#### **Knox Hamilton** at Soda Bar

Knox Hamilton performs with Brother Sundance, and Alex Di Leo. \$12-\$14. 21 and up. 9:15 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/KnoxSoda.



#### 'Living in Colour' at The Merrow

Join The Merrow in dedicating an evening to the late Scott Hutchison, frontman of the Scottish band Frightened Rabbit, and help raise money for the AFSP-American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Featuring music from Frightened Rabbit, Owl John, and Mastersystem. There will also be karaoke, live performances, drink specials and a raffle to win prizes. Donations \$5-\$20, collected at the door. 21 and up. 7–10 p.m. at

The Merrow, 1271 University Ave.

Visit bit.ly/ColourMerrow.

#### **Mission Hills Library Crafts for Grown-Ups**

Adults are encouraged to access their artistic side and create an art project. Free; sign up required. 6:30 p.m. at North Park Library, 3795 31st St. Call 533-3972 or visit bit.ly/LibraryNP.





**Sneaks at Soda Bar** Sneaks performs with Blac Rabbit. \$8-\$10. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/SneaksSoda.

#### Poetry at Lestat's

New Alchemy Poetry Series presents poets, followed by an open mic. All ages. 7-9 p.m. at Lestat's West, 3343 Adams Ave.

Visit bit.ly/LestatsWest.





American rock band Set It Off performs with Chapel, De'Wayne Jackson, and His Dream of Lions. Presented by Soda Bar. \$16-\$18. 21 and up. 7 p.m. at The Irenic, 3090 Polk Ave.

Visit bit.ly/SetSoda.

#### **Concert in the Park: The Highwayman Show**

Tony Surai — The Highwayman — will perform in the annual Concerts in the Park summer series. Bring picnic baskets, catch up with neighbors, and sing and dance to the music. Free. 6-8 p.m. at Pioneer Park, 1521 Washington Place, Visit bit.ly/MHconcerts.





'Fairy Tales in the Park'

Celebrate San Diego Civic Youth Ballet (SDCYB)'s 70-year anniversary as the resident classical ballet school in Balboa Park. Enjoy performances of the classic stories of "Hansel & Gretel," "The Sleeping Beauty" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Before or after the show, visit the "Fairy Tale Village" outside on the Casa del Prado patio — sustainability-themed this year — for fun activities such as face painting, crafts, play and more. Visit sdcyb.org.



#### **Blank Cassette** at Soda Bar

Blank Cassette performs with Ashe. \$15. 21 and up. 8:30 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/CassetteSoda.

#### **The Gregory Page Show**

Singer-songwriter and guitarist Gregory Page performs. All ages. 8–11 p.m. at Lestat's West, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/LestatsWest.

#### **Bird Park Concert: Dani Bell & the Tarantist**

Dani Bell & the Tarantist performs with The Bassics at North Park Community Association's third show of the annual series, "Bird Park Summer Concerts." This week's concert is presented by The Observatory North Park. Free. 5 p.m. at Bird Park, at the intersection of Upas Street and Pershing Drive. Visit bit.ly/bird-park-concert.

#### **Mission Hills Library Book Sale**

The Friends of the Mission Hills Library will hold a book sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Mission Hills Library, 925 West Washington St.

Visit bit.ly/LibraryMH.



#### **Coffee with the Catapult**

In the spirit of discoverability, The Book Catapult hosts an informal discussion about what's new in the world of literature. Led by the Catapult's book buyer and co-owner, Seth. Complimentary coffee from Communal Coffee, plus a 20 percent discount off all books discussed. Free. 11:30 a.m. at The Book Catapult, 3010-B Juniper St.

Visit bit.ly/CatapultCoffeeAug.



**Paul Cherry** at Soda Bar

Paul Cherry performs. \$8-\$10. 21 and up. 8 p.m. at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit bit.ly/PaulSoda.

#### RECURRING EVENTS

#### **Mondays**

#### **Lestat's West Open Mic**

Weekly open mic event hosted by Robby Robertson every Monday. 6:30-11 p.m. at Lestat's, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/LestatsWest.

#### Tuesdays

#### **Trivia Night at Brew Project**

Here's Johnny! Answer five to seven rounds of questions and participate in team challenges for raffles and prizes. Weekly event hosted by Johnny Grant. 7 p.m. The Brew Project, 3683 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest.

Visit bit.ly/BrewTrivia.

#### **Lestat's West Comedy Night**

Weekly comedy night event hosted by Dustin Nickerson every Tuesday. 9–11 p.m. at Lestat's, 3343 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/LestatsWest.

#### **Thursdays**

#### **North Park Thursday Market** Shop more than 90 tents of

locally grown produce, artisan grocery items, prepared foods and hand-crafted goods. 3-7:30 p.m. at 3000 North Park Way, stretching from 31st Street to Utah Street, North Park.

Visit bit.ly/ThursMarket

#### Thursdays at The Ken

San Diego's late-night jazz jam convenes every Thursday night. Hosted by musicians Ian Buss, Robert Dove and Hugo Suarez. \$5. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at The Kensington Club, 4079 Adams Ave. Visit bit.ly/ThursKen.

#### Saturdays

#### **Golden Hill Farmers Market**

Stop by the open community space to pick up California Certified Organic Produce from local farmers. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at B Street between 27th and 28th streets, Golden Hill.

#### **Old Town Saturday Market**

Visit bit.ly/GHMarket.

The street market features work from local artists including paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Every Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Harney Street and San Diego Avenue, Old Town. Visit bit.ly/OTMarket.

#### Sundays

#### **Hillcrest Farmers Market**

About 175 vendors offer a variety of locally grown fruit, produce, gifts, arts and crafts, flowers, and more. 9 a.m.–2 p.m. on Normal Street between University and Lincoln avenues.

-Compiled by Sara  $Butler.\ Email\ calendar\ items$  $to \ sara@sdcnn.com. \ . \$ 

Visit bit.lv/HillcrestMarket.

## Uptown News

To view a comprehensive calendar of events happening throughout San Diego, visit our online calendar at bit.ly/UTNCal.

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