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San Diego Uptown News



Local happenings in our calendar
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Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
addresses infrastructure goals

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Halloween party benefits Urban
Street Angels

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San Diego Repertory Theatre
addresses consent with "Actually"

COMMUNITY P. 18



The journey of Charles Lindberg



Adam Turk in front of his shop Left Hand Black, located at 1947 Fern St. #5 (Photo by Jess Winans)

Tattoo artist and South Park shop owner competes on "Ink Master"

By Jess Winans

Upon entering Left Hand Black in South Park, skulls, stomach-churning art, pumping metal sounds and hints of taxidermy

may make visitors think they're in a badass dissident's lair.

But shop owner, veteran tattooist and family-man Adam Turk doesn't want people to think that spooky stuff is all he does.

"I just love tattooing, but what I'm personally into, or the things that I collect, are weird, bizarre things," Turk said. "I think that people assume I'm gonna be some creepy guy with

a top hat and a cane pretending I'm from the 1800s [but] no, I'm just a normal dude. ... I'm fixated on all things tattooing."

see Inked, pg 8

New tower in North Park: More than meets the eye

By Jules Shane



The faux water tower in North Park
(Photo courtesy of AT&T)

Residents of North Park may have noticed the emergence of a new water tower, located at the intersection of Meade Avenue and Boundary Street.

However, the fixture is actually a cell phone tower. The project is joint venture between the North Park Planning Committee (NPPC) and AT&T. Modeled after the historic University Heights water tower — commonly called the North Park Water Tower — the new, 49-foot-tall faux water tower will house a cell transceiver. It is a move by the telecom company to broaden signal service throughout the area.

Spearheaded by the NPPC

in 2013, the project's recent completion was commemorated at a ribbon cutting event on Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. at the intersection, which is adjacent to Interstate-805. Assemblymember Todd Gloria and District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward were among those in attendance.

AT&T announced its plans to roll out its new 5G network to select cities across the country, with San Diego scheduled to receive upgrades in early 2019.

"We know how important it is for our customers to stay connected," said Ignacio De La Torre, Assistant Vice President of External Affairs at AT&T. "We want to provide the best possible mobile experience, and

we invest in our local network to accomplish that goal."

Public response to the project has varied, with some praising the design and others raising concerns over the amount of radiation the tower will output. Feedback from residents was an important consideration leading up to the tower's construction, with the NPPC holding public meetings and also asking students from nearby McKinley Elementary School for feedback prior to beginning the project.

—Jules Shane is the editorial intern at San Diego Community News Network, parent company of San Diego Uptown News. Reach him at jshaneap@gmail.com.

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Uptown News
BRIEFS



The California Tower (Courtesy photo)

MUSEUM TOWER
TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR
RETROFIT

The California Tower at the San Diego Museum of Man will temporarily close to the public when the city of San Diego commences a seismic retrofit of the historic structure.

Beginning in January 2019, the California Tower at the San Diego Museum of Man will shut its doors to the public due to the building modifications, which are funded by the city and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The project construction is expected to last seven to 10 months and aims to upgrade the Tower's seismic capabilities to the latest seismic building codes — a move which would fortify it against potential earthquake damage.

“As stewards of the California Tower, we are pleased to partner with the City of San Diego on this seismic retrofit project,” Micah Parzen, CEO of San Diego Museum of Man, said in a press release. “We look forward to welcoming many more visitors to the California Tower in the years to come as a result of this important project.”

Regular exhibits at the museum including “Cannibals: Myth & Reality” and “PostSecret” will remain open to the community during the

retrofit for regular hours of operation. Discounted tickets will be offered during construction. Visit CaliforniaTower.org for more information and updates.

OLD TOWN CPU APPROVED

On Monday, Oct. 29 the San Diego City Council approved the 11th Old Town Community Plan Update (CPU) to frame land use and urban design policies for the next 20–30 years of community development.

“As we rebuild our city for the future, we want to make sure that historic neighborhoods like Old Town retain their community character while also allowing for future growth that meets our housing needs and protects our environment,” Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer said in a press release. “This updated plan is a big step in the right direction and I want to thank the many community leaders and residents for working collaboratively to get this across the finish line.”

The plan totals approximately 180 pages divided into several areas such as historic preservation, land use, mobility, urban design, economic prosperity, public safety, recreation, conservation and noise.

Old Town stakeholders and city staff developed the plan to meet the goals of the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Some of the changes proposed include highlighting Old Town as a residential community, improving pedestrian and bicycle connections to community destinations, and looking for additional visitor parking.

“Old Town is unique to San Diego, serving as both a major historical destination and a residential community,” District 3 Councilmember Chris Ward said in a press release. “I’m pleased that the updates included in this community plan will add much needed density to our housing stock and strengthen walking and biking connections between this community, the adjacent Midway community, and San Diego River Park.”

To see the complete CPU, visit bit.ly/OTCommunityPlan.



Artist renderings of the Old Town Community Plan Update (Courtesy photos)

Three years, a thousand miles



Mayor Faulconer (center) speaks at a press conference, held on the street where the 1,000th mile was repaved (Photo by SDCNN)

By SDCNN Staff

On Monday, Oct. 29, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and city councilmembers Mark Kersey and Lorie Zapf announced that crews have fixed 1,000 miles of streets in a three-year period. Back in 2015, the mayor pledged to meet this goal within a five-year time span.

The mayor's infrastructure goal for the city was achieved two years ahead of schedule, which set a record pace for street repair. Currently, the city fixes approximately 25 miles of streets in an average

month. Ten years ago, the city only repaired this number of miles in an entire year.

“One thousand miles represents our commitment to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods, restoring pride in our communities, and building a better future for all San Diegans,” Faulconer said at a press conference. “This is really 1,000 miles and counting because we’re going to keep paying until every street in every neighborhood gets fixed. This is great start and we know there’s a lot more work to do.”

Many factors contributed to

this accomplishment, including tripling funding for road repair, rotating street crews to each council district to fill potholes, and expanding the city's infrastructure program.

“With the help of the City Council's first-ever Infrastructure Committee, we’ve cut bureaucratic red tape and prioritized funding to put neighborhood road repairs first,” added Councilmember Kersey, who is also the Chair of the Council's Infrastructure Committee.

For more information about the repaired streets, visit streets.sandiego.gov.

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SDCNN wins five San Diego Press Club awards

On Tuesday, Oct. 30 nearly 500 members of the press gathered at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center at Market Creek for the 45th Annual San Diego Press Club Excellence in Journalism Awards.

More than 400 awards were given out to local magazines, non-daily newspapers, online and daily newspapers, trade publications, podcasts, radio stations, television channels and their writers, reporters, editors, broadcasters, and photographers.

The San Diego Community News Network (SDCNN) earned five awards in total under Non-daily newspapers categories.

Sara Butler, editor of the San Diego Uptown News, was presented with two awards. She won second place in the Non-daily newspapers, Breaking news category for "Turning down the Music," in the Uptown News. The story broke the news that Lestat's West would be closing its doors; Butler was the only local journalist to meet with its co-owner about the rumors. To read the award-winning

breaking news story, visit bit.ly/TurningDowntheMusic.

Butler also placed second in the Non-daily newspapers, Public Service/Consumer Advocacy category for "Dockless bike craze." The Uptown News story featured a comprehensive explanation of the different types of dockless bikes in the Uptown area and highlighted how locals felt about their sudden appearance. Visit bit.ly/DocklessBike to read the article.

Albert Fulcher, editor of Gay San Diego and the San Diego Downtown News, earned two awards. The first was for "Beating the odds" — a feature story for Gay San Diego about Marine Corps veteran Liz Carmouche, the first openly gay lesbian Mixed-Martial Arts (MMA) fighter. "Beatings the odds" won second place in the Non-daily newspapers, Military category. To read the story, visit bit.ly/Caramouche.

Fulcher was also awarded first place in the Non-daily newspapers, Reviews: Live Performance category for "Empowerment through

music," published in Gay San Diego. "Empowerment through music" reviewed the San Diego Gay Men's Chorus' 'Movie Night' held this past April. To read the award-winning review, visit bit.ly/EmpowermentThroughMusic.

Jeff Clemetson, editor of the Mission Times Courier, earned first place in the Non-daily newspapers, Series category for "Remembering Pearl Harbor" and its partner "A Fortunate Encounter." The series began with a story about Allied Gardens resident Arthur Roemmich, a 100-year-old veteran who served on the USS Northampton — a ship that was saved from being bombed in Pearl Harbor. After reading the article, San Carlos resident Felicia Hamwey realized her father, Lloyd Smith, was also aboard the USS Northampton. Hamwey then organized a reunion for the two WWII shipmates which was featured in the second part of the series. To read the series and the letter to the editor from Hamwey, visit bit.ly/RememberingPearlHarbor.

Fletcher, Dumanis take on HTC



(l to r) San Diego County Supervisor candidates Bonnie Dumanis and Nathan Fletcher (Courtesy photos)

Sara Butler | Editor

Nathan Fletcher and Bonnie Dumanis, both candidates for County Supervisor District 4, took to the mic at the Hillcrest Town Council (HTC) meeting Oct. 9.

Rather than participate in a debate, the event was structured as a discussion. Each candidate was provided time to speak directly to HTC attendees and board members about their experience and

goals for the role. Each candidate was allocated 30 minutes. After their speech, the board opened it up for audience questions.

Both candidates spoke to their top priority issues, including housing, homelessness, and physical and mental health.

Nathan Fletcher shared his background of growing up in the South, serving in the military for 10 years, and working in the private sector for Qualcomm. Though he has had some political experience — serving as a state assembly member and running a campaign for mayor — Fletcher focused on how he wants to bring a new perspective to shake things up in office.

"It is going to take somebody new, someone who's got experience, someone who knows how to lead, someone who's not afraid to push, someone who's not afraid to stand up to drive the county in a new direction — and that's what my candidacy represents and that's the opportunity we have," Fletcher said.

Bonnie Dumanis focused on her previous political roles and experiences. She was the first openly gay San Diego judge, who served on the bench for 10 years. She spent five of those 10 years in the juvenile court, creating the Drug Court program in 1996.

Then in 2003, Dumanis became the first openly gay district attorney in the U.S., as well as the first female district attorney in San Diego. One of her proudest accomplishments was staffing the District Attorney's office with a diverse group of individuals.

"We made a point to hire people that reflected the community that we served so that people would have confidence in the people that they saw their own faces in," Dumanis said, listing women, people of color, and LGBT people as some of those staffers.

For additional coverage of the event, including the Q&A portion of the evening, visit our website.

The next County Supervisor will be determined in the mid-term election on Tuesday, Nov. 6 and the next Hillcrest Town Council meeting is slated for Tuesday Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

—Reach Sara Butler at sara@sdcnn.com.

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Let's honor our veterans with the benefits and care they deserve

District 53 Dispatch
Susan A. Davis



Veterans Day — which is just around the corner — is a day to show appreciation and say “thank you” to the men and women who put on the uniform to protect the American people.

Caring for veterans, however, is a year-round endeavor — one in which I am proud to have an opportunity to play a role. I think many of us agree there is very little more important than supporting our veterans.

The San Diego region has one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the country.

My office has helped thousands of veterans cut through the red tape they can face in getting their benefits. In just the past year, my office helped get over \$1.2 million in earned benefits for veterans in my congressional district in Veterans Affairs (VA), Tricare, and others.

“Caring for veterans, however, is a year-round endeavor — one in which I am proud to have an opportunity to play a role.”

—Susan A. Davis

My office worked a case for a World War II veteran who saw his delayed appeal approved shortly after contacting me, generating a substantial new monthly payment and back pay of over \$32,000.

Additionally, an appeal on behalf of a veteran fighting cancer secured him more than \$90,000 and a new 100 percent disability rating for the rest of his life after my office pointed out to the VA the errors made in his case.

We’ve had similar success in other issue areas, such as taxes, Medicare and Social Security. Ask any staff member who works in a congressional district office and they will tell you that casework can be the most challenging yet rewarding part of their job.

For veterans, some of these cases stem from lack of awareness of the benefits available to them. We need to do a better job at educating our veterans about the benefits they have earned as a result of their service.

As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, there is an opportunity each year to work in a bipartisan fashion to address not only the needs of our military but also our veterans. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is one of the rare

moments of bipartisanship and proof that both parties can work together if we want to.

In this year’s NDAA, I added language directing the Department of Defense to fully inform active duty service members who are separating from the service on the GI Bill benefits they have earned. This will ensure veterans utilize their deserved benefits and help them avoid bureaucratic red tape.

But the one thing a case-worker handling veterans’ issues will learn is that veterans face a variety of challenges, which Congress is working to address.

Disabled veterans are losing access to Tricare — the military’s health care system — if they are deemed disabled by the Social Security Administration. These veterans are forced to instead enroll in Medicare Part B, where premiums are nearly five times higher.

My bill, the Fair Access to Insurance for Retired (FAIR) Heroes Act, will allow veterans who were medically discharged to choose their health care coverage through Medicare or Tricare. Allowing disabled veterans this choice could save them up to \$1,300 annually.

Support continues to build for the FAIR Heroes Act. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce recently endorsed the bill, stating that “veterans deserve the opportunity to choose which health system makes the most sense for them.”

In a critical first step in restoring benefits to these disabled veterans, I amended the NDAA to direct the Department of Defense — in coordination with the Department of Human Health Services and the Social Security Administration — to report on the total number of disabled veterans losing access to Tricare as a result of receiving Medicare benefits.

It’s always a privilege to work with veterans and local leaders on ways we can build on successes and solve the problems veterans are facing. We are doing so much for our veterans, but we can always do more.

As we honor and say thanks to veterans this Veterans Day, we cannot waver in our efforts to care for the men, women and their families who sacrificed so much for us.

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



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“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Guest Editorial

Get the lead out of San Diego schools

Measure YY funds will be used to replace old plumbing, install water filling stations with filters at schools, as well as addressing asbestos exposure and other health and safety needs.

By Lorena Gonzalez and Laura C. Deehan

[Editor's note: This editorial first appeared in the Voice of San Diego on Oct. 31. View the original article at bit.ly/lead-vosd.]

Last year, a cafeteria water fountain at Alice Birney Elementary school in San Diego tested positive for dangerously high lead levels. Repeat tests found levels at nearly a hundred times what doctors warn should be the maximum allowable level of lead exposure.

The school district safety office immediately started providing bottled water for the children while investigating the source of contamination. Soon after, school officials discovered an old pipe was leaching lead into the drinking water. After removing the old piping and installing filters, the water tested clear and lead free.

On Election Day, San Diego voters will have an opportunity to prevent similar threats to our children's health at school — by voting yes on Measure YY.

Birney Elementary is not an isolated case in San Diego County. The tragedy that unfolded in Flint, Mich., in 2015 put the threat of lead exposure from drinking water in the spotlight. The Legislature responded last year by requiring all schools to undergo lead testing. Since lead was permitted in pipes and plumbing parts in California until 2010, the risk of lead contamination is widespread. San Diego Unified School district testing has so far found that about 1 percent of schools with levels that exceed the federal standards of fifteen parts per billion and 13 percent of schools found lead at more than five parts per billion. Estimates from testing are that close to half the schools would detect some lead.

Lead is an incredibly potent neurotoxin that impairs how children

learn, grow and behave. Even very low levels of exposure have been linked to lower IQ, hyperactivity and damage to children's central and peripheral nervous systems. Kids are especially vulnerable to absorbing this toxin. The bottom line: There is no safe level of lead, especially for our children. Exposure is cumulative in the body, so the small exposures add up over time. And damage to the brain is irreversible.

In July 2017, the San Diego Unified's Board of Education adopted a stronger lead standard than the outdated federal and state standard of five part per billion action level. Now, the school district wants to go further and is considering a one part per billion action level. To do so requires community investment, since replacing old lead pipes is not fundable through the day-to-day school maintenance budget.

Measure YY will provide the critical investment needed to get the lead out of San Diego school drinking water. Funds will be used to replace old plumbing, install water filling stations with filters at schools, as well as addressing asbestos exposure and other health and safety needs. The school district has committed to having the cleanest drinking water in the country, and to use funds raised from the bond measure to meet the new target of one part per billion, the lowest rate in the nation. Safe, clean drinking water is something worth investing in for San Diego's future and for our children. Vote yes on Measure YY.

—Lorena Gonzalez represents the 80th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes parts of San Diego and the South Bay. Laura C. Deehan is a public health advocate at the Los Angeles-based consumer group CALPIRG.✧

Letter

Voting to save the planet

Let's forget about partisan political bickering for a moment and instead help save your health, my health, and indeed all life on earth by believing in the impact of human activities resulting in calamitous climate change. I suspect we have all personally noticed it ... contaminated food supplies, ever increasing numbers of displaced and desperate refugees worldwide, unusually hot summers along with record-breaking fires here in California and elsewhere, severe draughts, "record-breaking" storms with devastating flooding, along with disturbing reports of growing species extinctions worldwide! Clearly these consequences are related to man's contributions to worldwide climate change. Meanwhile this administration aggressively censors scientific evidence and climate research, allows toxins in our air and water, promotes "clean" coal and other environmental pollutants in our food supplies, the air we breathe, and water we drink. Most of these mindless governmental policies are driven by the needs for corporate "health" in favored industries not for the health of our citizens. Our government and our future should not be for sale for the benefit of corporate cronies! We all must recognize the consequences of ignoring climate changes throughout the world and act before it's too late.

This is not the time to be ignorant, silent or "too busy" to act when our very lives are in peril. We all need to fully understand the environmental convictions of every candidate running for election this November instead of assuming "the best." Speak loudly with your vote this November for the sake of our planet and your health too!

—Alan Larson✧

Voters should insist on an exceptional plan for Mission Valley — and Measures G and E don’t qualify

Neither proposal on the November ballot convincingly makes the case for creating a destination in Mission Valley that fully embraces the connection between global climate change and resilient design.

By Lawrence A. Herzog

[Editor’s note: This editorial first appeared in the Voice of San Diego on Oct. 29. View the original article at bit.ly/ge-vosd.j]

Despite the high emotions and heated debates between competing visions — Soccer City (Measure E) and SDSU West (Measure G) — for redevelopment of the Mission Valley Qualcomm site, no transcendent “big idea”



Artist rendering of SoccerCity

seems to have yet emerged. But there have been missed opportunities.

First, neither proposal convincingly makes the case for creating a destination in Mission Valley that fully embraces the connection between global climate change and resilient design. Turning the Qualcomm site into an “ecocity” could put San Diego on the cutting edge of environmental design in large metropolitan regions. Paolo Soleri’s Arcosanti project, 70 miles

north of Phoenix, is one such example, merging architecture and ecology as an alternative to urban sprawl.

Second, voters ought to be asking which proposal, if any, offers a truly inspiring “sense of place” for the Qualcomm site, in a valley that has had almost no identity for more than a half century.

Let’s be clear, Mission Valley has been a planning disaster for decades. Redevelopment on the site offers a rare second chance for the city to begin to retrofit Mission Valley, and finally overcome the legacy of bad planning decisions, that have led to what is today an auto-centric, placeless hodgepodge of disjointed and isolated fragments — Hazard Center, Fashion Valley, Fenton Marketplace, Mission Valley Center.

A Mission Valley “ecocity” on the Qualcomm site would be all about creating a self-sustaining place where every facet of its design embraces the natural environment: green building materials, rooftop urban gardens, solar grids, water recycling with the San Diego



SDSU West artist rendering (Courtesy photos)

River, canals or waterways, and bike-ped greenways.

While the proposals on the Nov. 6 ballot pay lip service to the river and more open space, in the end the renderings and site plan descriptions feel more like talking points and less like a commitment to a sustainable future.

As an urbanized district, Mission Valley urgently needs a sense of place. When we think of Balboa Park, the Gaslamp Quarter or the village of La Jolla, there is something about these destinations that makes people want to go back, a feeling of being somewhere special. This is what the Qualcomm site should aspire to — the power of something greater.

In fact, the Qualcomm site is tailor-made for such a path-breaking urban development project for two reasons: first, at around 300 acres, the

site is huge. And the location is unusually strategic. As the saying goes, “value is location, location, location,” and in this case, it’s smack in the middle of Mission Valley, half-way between the coastal and inland urban development clusters, on the cusp between central San Diego and North County, and well-connected to present and future forms of transit.

A green “city within a city” would not only be ideal for Mission Valley; it would fit the definitions of both the San Diego Association of Governments’ vision of a smart growth urban center and the city’s general plan.

Voters have a right to insist on something truly exceptional in Mission Valley — a sustainable, 21st century urban village.

see Stadium, pg 21

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ASK KATHY:
A COLUMN ABOUT REAL ESTATE ISSUES

Kathy McSherry

Prop 10 affecting single family homeowners?

Hi Kathy:

Every time it is election year I get so confused on these initiatives and props that go up for vote. I am currently renting downtown, but I would also like to be a homeowner eventually. Prop 10 is so confusing for me because it speaks of rent control; and both sides are disagreeing over whether single-family homeowners will be impacted. If I owned a home, I would not want rent control regulation on it. I realize the prop is geared towards rent control for landlords and apartment dwellers, but how does it affect single family homeowners?

- Samantha K.

Hi Samantha:

You are not alone with election confusion. It’s hard to get the real facts sometimes without putting each sides’ view through a spaghetti strainer.

After doing a little research on my own, I was able to find out that regarding single family homes, they are currently exempt from rent control in this state. Prop 10 would give cities ‘the option’ to impose rent regulations on them.

Some say that it would be politically foolish for cities to impose rent control on single family homes as many Californians rent out their single-family homes; and they feel rent control would devalue their property.

Basically, “Prop 10 would repeal the state’s Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which blocks rent control on units built after February 1995. The law also prevents cities from imposing rent caps on condominiums and single-family homes.” (Politifact.com)

If the law were to be repealed, cities would be able to create their own rent control rules including those on condominiums and single-family homes. Some think if empowered they could make these rules stronger and stricter for rent control.

I think the confusion is that voting yes or no will automatically impose rent control on single-family homes. “There has never been a rent control law in the country to that effect”, says Peter Dreier, a professor of politics at Occidental College. So, voting yes would not enforce cities to impose rent control on single-family homes, rather give the cities the option do that; but in effect would be politically senseless and ludicrous for homeowners.

I hope this helps you Samantha in your decision making this upcoming election.

With all the political slaying these past couple years, since the new administration took over, it’s very easy to be confused and trusting on what you are voting for. I love that you are taking the time to exercise your right to vote and contributing to making our state as best that it can be. Thank you and good luck.

Best,
Kathy McSherry

Kathy McSherry is a veteran Realtor
in Mission Valley with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Email questions to her at kathymcsherry@outlook.com
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FROM PAGE 1 INKED

As a contestant on the Paramount Network TV series “Ink Master,” Turk uses his 20-plus years of experience as a tattoo artist to compete on “Team Clean” for a \$100,000 cash prize, a feature in Ink Magazine, and the title of Ink Master.

“I’ve done conventions every year since 1998, so it’s like, you have people over your shoulder making noise, bands playing, [and] flashes going off, but nothing bothers me,” he said. “I’ve been training for ‘Ink Master’ for 20 years — I just didn’t know it.”

The competition-based reality show is centered around tattooing and each episode features a new challenge. The judges (Chris Nuñez and Oliver Peck) and host (Dave Navarro) decide which contestant to send home based on how well (or poorly) they tattoo the desired concept.

“I’ve got a mind like a steel trap that’s filled with minds that have steel traps, man,” Turk said in an “Ink Master” teaser trailer for season 11. “I’m going to pick up every detail I can and I’m going to carry it with me across the finish line.”

Back home in South Park, Turk can usually be found in his studio on Fern Street or spending time with his wife Crystal — who curates an art gallery in Left Hand Black’s lobby — and their toddler.

San Diego Uptown News sat down with Turk to talk about his art, style, cred and years in the tattoo business.

Jess Winans, San Diego Uptown News (JW): Where are you from originally?

Adam Turk (AT): Originally, I’m from San Bernardino, California ... It’s not a great area. It’s a pretty violent, gang-ridden area and luckily, I got out alive.

JW: How did you end up in San Diego?

AT: I moved to San Diego in 2003. I had already been tattooing a few years before and I had been traveling ... I was in bands and stuff and one of the guys, who was an A&R [artists and repertoire] rep for a clothing company, was on this big Warped Tour thing we were on and this other tour. He had tattoos from a guy that owns a shop here in San Diego. I was talking about how I wanted to move out of the Inland Empire and he was like, “Oh, well my guy is about to open a shop you should go talk to him.” ... I started working at Guru Tattoo when it very first opened up. I was one of the original crew members there from the first day it opened, but I moved here specifically for that and then I’ve been here ever since.

JW: How did you get into tattooing?

AT: Tattooing for me — getting into it was kind of weird because I have a lot of uncles that have tattoos [and] a lot of military people in my family, so I’ve always liked seeing tattoos



Turk with his son at the shop’s gallery, which is curated by his wife (Photo by Jess Winans)

... Because that’s always just kind of been around. My uncle had a hot-stuff devil on his arm because that was a thing you got in the ’70s when you were in the military. So I always would draw little pictures on my arms and stuff like that.

I did a tattoo on one of my friends when I was 15. A friend of ours and his brother ... had the “electric motor, cassette player, prison-style” tattoo machine. We had found it when we were at a friend’s house and my buddy was like, “Well you’re a good tattoo artist, you do a tattoo on me!” So I did one. It was a logo for the band Screeching Weasel and it’s a weasel with a leather jacket. It was literally the first tattoo I had ever done.

I had no aspirations of even being a tattoo artist, I just have always been an artist. I’ve always drawn my whole life ... Fast-forward to after high school, I ended up meeting a tattoo artist in the Bay Area and befriended her and I would just kind of hang out at the tattoo shop. I didn’t really have a lot of friends up there when I moved and after a while of seeing my little sketchbooks and little things, it just turned into...

JW: Into a “why not tattoo it” sort of thing?

AT: It’s way more complicated than that, but that’s the boiled-down version of it.

JW: What was your first tattoo?

AT: A set of Black Flag bars on the back of my neck — because I’m super cool, I guess.

I got a job at Peet’s Coffee and started working in the morning then I’d go help out at the tattoo shop in the afternoon. Then, it just became a full-on apprenticeship and it was seven days a week, from noon to midnight, every day.

JW: During that time you were answering the phones and making copies, correct? You weren’t actually tattooing?

AT: You shouldn’t tattoo when you’re an apprentice. You shouldn’t. You can, but it depends on how much time your teacher has to dedicate to you for that. For me, the answer was no, not at all. You’re not

ready. Then [I learned] all of the aspects of it, how to make needles, how to clean everything properly, how to set up things, tear down things, how machines work ... but it was a year of putting in that time first.

Then after that, you’re tattooing, you just kind of go off. But those first couple of months that I’m talking about, that’s when I was just answering phones and helping out and stuff like that. Kicking bums out or drunk people or whatever. But that’s not what an apprentice does. That’s the [regular stuff] that you do to show that you are worthy of them taking you on as an apprentice. Then, when you can show and prove your worth that way, if you have decent art and put in your time showing that, you may start tattooing.

You gotta fight club, you know? You gotta get hit with the broom a bunch of times on the porch before they’re finally like, “Alright, come on in.” It should still be like that in this industry, it’s changed a little bit now.

JW: How have you seen it change?

AT: Well, I think as far as apprenticeships go, now you’ll see guys who have only been tattooing a couple of years taking on an apprentice. ... You don’t have anything figured out. How are you going to impart your wisdom that you’ve accumulated in your two years? I’ve been tattooing 20 years and I’m only just now taking on an apprentice.

JW: What was the first “real tattoo” you did? Where you nervous?

AT: The one I did on my friend shouldn’t count. It was cool and I wish I had a picture of it somewhere because it would be the front page of every portfolio ever.

The first tattoo I did on an actual client was a piece of flash, a cherry creek flash, from a wall. It was a Japanese tiger coming down the rocks and it was terrifying and exhilarating at the same time, but more terrifying.

see Inked, pg 9

FROM PAGE 8
INKED

I'm way more confident now but that fear still exists. Every time you sit down to do a tattoo, anything can go wrong. How the customer feels or moves or anything — like all [those factors] can change. I'm way more confident now in how skilled I am with my machines, it's almost like muscle memory now, and I can hear my machine and know if something's wrong with it.

In the beginning, you don't have anything like that. On top of that, for your first tattoo, you have your teacher and everyone else in the shop yelling and throwing things ... They do that crap because you're not going to have a perfect environment to tattoo in all of the time. Very few tattoo artists have that perfect environment all the time, so you better get used to something happening. You can't be jumpy or whatever.

It was terrifying, too, because [a tattoo] is a permanent thing. Especially back in the late '90s when I was getting started, laser was not really a thing. Tattoo removal was skin-grafts and things like that, so it was like if you [mess] somebody up, it's going to really affect their life.

JW: When was your individual breakthrough?

AT: I think it was 2005 when I started doing more international conventions and started really kind of just pushing my



Turk began tattooing when he was just 20 years old and has been drawing since long before then. (Photos by Jess Winans)

thing. I wasn't really taking on design works that were stuff that people were giving me. It was like, no I'm going to just do my art and that's it. And it was, there was a little lull in the beginning but then it turned into people really taking notice that it was something different. And once you start, I started getting printed in a couple of magazines and then I would go to these big conventions and I'd come home with rewards.

For the longest time in those first couple of years ... you're kind of like, what's the point, right? So rather than give up, I just kind of put my head down and focused more on my technical stuff. I was still drawing all of my weird crap on the side but it was just doing flash over and over. I'm just going to keep doing stuff on the walls until I can do it perfect.

I know tons of tattooists that their drawings are amazing but

they don't understand the body or the anatomy or how the body works. [A tattoo] has to look like it's part of you. If you just draw something on a piece of paper and stick it on somebody's arm, it will still look cool but even if somebody just wants something on their forearm, I still make them come and I still trace their forearm and mark where their muscles are and things like that because it's more like I'm tailoring it to you.

JW: Would you say that sets you apart from other artists?

AT: I'd say that's one of them. I'm not the only one doing it, I don't want to make that claim either. I'm not the only one who pays attention to it, but really what kind of sets apart tattooers is you can tell that some people are just tattooers, and that means that they are good technical application tattooers, but they're not really artists. Like, if



Turk's work station at Left Hand Black

you brought a design to them, they would replicate it no problem. But if you were like, "Can you design something for me?" They're like, "ehh..."

Then there's tattoo artists that are guys like myself that want to conceptualize the whole thing and want you to tell me the story and conceptualize the art.

JW: Have you had a certain moment that stood out to you as an "aha moment"? That made you realize that this is what you wanted to do for the rest of your life?

AT: I think that the biggest [moment] ... is when people tell me, "I was at the grocery store buying bread and somebody walked by and said did Turk do that?" Like, the fact that people can just see a certain signature in the way that I do my tattoos that they recognize it — there's people who struggle as artists their entire lives to have something that can be recognized like that.

The fact that people can identify it and know that it's mine, that's huge. There's a million tattooers. And I didn't invent skulls. Skulls have been part of our art. In art, they are probably one of the first things that people started drawing or definitely one of the first most recognizable symbols because before we even knew what language was, even before there was a full language, that was a symbol for death. It's been around for eons, but I just have my own weird way of doing it and I love how people recognize it.

Left Hand Black is located at 1947 Fern St., Suite 5. For more information, visit lhblk.com or follow them on social media: @lefthandblackstudio (Instagram) and @lefthandblacktattoo (Facebook).

—Reach Jess Winans at jess@sdcdn.com.

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An app that connects homeowners needing lawn care with local professionals has launched in Uptown.

GreenPal, based in Nashville, is already being used in **23 states** by more than **300,000 homeowners**, according to company officials.

Homeowners can list their lawns with their service date and lawn care needs. Lawn care companies then bid on the properties based on the Google street and aerial images and any other lawn details the homeowner provides.

Homeowners can then select who they want to work with based on vendor's ratings, reviews and price. Once the law care company has completed the service, it sends a time-stamped photo of the completed work.

Homeowners pay using the app and can set up more appointments.

Co-founder Gene Caballero said the app has already launched in about 40 major markets around the U.S., including Tampa, St. Petersburg, Atlanta, Charlotte, Orlando, among others.

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HAUNTED MUSEUM

Sinners & Saints Halloween Extravaganza benefits Urban Street Angels

Albert H. Fulcher
Contributing Editor

A stunning transfiguration of the Museum of Man in Balboa Park turned a benefit for Urban Street Angels into a spectacular haunted museum on Oct. 26. With two floors open, the backdrop of the exhibits brought an astonishing blend of history and Halloween mania, with frightening moments waiting around every corner. And all for a great cause.

Now in its third year, "Sinners & Saints: a Halloween Extravaganza," raised much needed funds for Urban Street

Angels, an organization dedicated to helping a nearly forgotten demographic of homeless young adults.

Urban Street Angels Founder and Executive Director Eric Lovett said he was very excited about this year's annual fundraiser and extremely happy with the large turnout of the supporters donned in everything Halloween, from horror to fantasy.

"Urban Street Angels works with the homeless population in San Diego," Lovett said. "We cater to 18 to 25-year-olds, an unrepresented demographic. There are about 1,000 to 1,500

of these youth on the streets of San Diego on any given day."

Urban Street Angels started in 2012 as a way to provide emergency supplies for homeless youth in the streets and has grown into a vibrant organization determined to end youth homelessness.

"We provide three things," Lovett said. "Emergency shelter for those needing a place for the night or a place to take a shower. We provide transitional housing, which gets them off the streets, gives them jobs and jobs training. We try to be full-service in trying to get these young people off the streets. It's all about giving

them hope for a better future."

To address the immediate needs of the transitional-age homeless youth, the organization offers an emergency overnight shelter program every Tuesday evening at the Missiongathering Christian Church in North Park. Visitors receive a good meal, access to showers and laundry facilities, medical care, and a safe place for a full night's sleep.

Lovett said providing hope and opportunity is Urban Street Angels' primary mission. One innovative program—8 West—is a training program where homeless youth work to handcraft and market a premium line of shower, bath and spa products. Its purpose is to help them develop useful skills, and to give them a sense of responsibility, accountability and a strong work ethic. The end goal—giving them the tools to be employable and restoring them as viable citizens of the community.

Its independent-living facilities provides visitors not only with a home to stay in, with people in common to learn with, but also gives them guidance from experienced individuals in the organization and community to help them succeed. By getting them off the streets and providing them with a hands up experience, Urban Street Angels utilizes all of its programs and assets in giving this special demographic of homeless a chance to leave the streets behind and a new beginning.

To find out more information about Urban Street Angels, or how to donate, volunteer and support its mission, visit urbanstreetangels.org.

[Editor's Note: All photos taken by Albert H. Fulcher.]

—Albert can be reached at albert@sdcnn.com.



Art of landscaping

Local landscape architect seeks creative solutions to change the look of development

By Delle Willett

Growing up in Colorado, Marcie Harris — who now lives in North Park — loved art, drawing, gardening, hiking, biking and just being outdoors. And when searching for a career, she asked her aunt, “If you could do anything, what would it be?” Her aunt replied, “a landscape architect.”

“I happened to be at the right school, Colorado State University (CSU), where they had a great program, and the more I learned about it, the more I realized it was a perfect match for what I wanted to dedicate myself to,” Harris said.

Though arguably not widely recognized in our society, landscape architecture is a very rewarding career. Depending on a person’s interests, there are many different directions to take such as urban design, city planning, small or large development, and more.



Marcie Harris Landscape Architecture renovated the Baca residence landscaping including a pool, spa, dining/lounge space with a firepit and water features. (Photos courtesy of Marcie Harris Landscape Architecture)

“I think landscape architecture is going to become more important as we respond to climate change. Hopefully our profession can lead teams towards creative solutions to preserve our planet and change the way we develop,” Harris said.

After graduating from CSU in 1998, Harris moved to Laguna Beach to work at SWA Group, an international landscape architecture planning and urban design firm, as a project designer. During those two years, she fell in love with the ocean and Southern California. From there, she moved to San Diego to work at Spurlock Poirier Landscape Architects for four years.

Next, she took some time off to travel and live in Mexico City, studying the language and culture. On her return, friends started asking if she wanted to work on projects, so she decided to start her own firm, Marcie Harris Landscape Architecture in 2004.

“It happened organically,” she said.

What Harris likes most about being a landscape architect is seeing things get built, working on teams and coming up with creative solutions.

She has had the pleasure of working with Yuko Sugiyama since 2007 and the two are a great team.

“Yuko is smart, detailed, the most positive person I know and has endless energy,” Harris said. “I like designing with her, our energy and the efficiency of our office.”

Harris enjoys designing projects in a variety of scales and collaborating with architects and builders.

“I think I’m a good listener and try and make each project meaningful. I love planting design and enjoy when a client or project pushes us to do something new,” Harris said.

Harris’ vision is that people have a heightened experience and spend more time living outdoors on their projects.

“The biggest compliment you can get is people really using and enjoying the space you designed,” she continued. To achieve that, they design spaces



Marcie Harris, Marcie Harris Landscape Architecture founder (Photo by Tuananh Nguyen)

site.

Another favorite is the Quad, a state-of-the-art student housing complex adjacent to California State University San Marcos.

Harris worked with Safdie Rabines Architects, a frequent collaborator, on the project. The courtyard is graphic and visually interesting to look down on and invites students to spend time outside. Colorful succulents, native plants and shade trees soften the site and create respite. Shared common spaces include a central lawn, pool terrace, outdoor BBQ area, long seat walls and numerous cafe tables for gathering and studying.

Life is busy with business, her husband (Edd, a marketing professional), and her two young boys (ages 2 and 5) but she tries to make time for herself each day. The early morning is a precious time for her, walking in her Uptown neighborhood or practicing yoga.

“This is a contemplative time and an important part of my design process; having some down time allows good ideas to flow,” Harris said. “I’m also always looking closely at the landscape on my walks. Seeing how plants grow in a garden setting definitely influences how I approach planting design.”

Harris is not sure where she will be in 10 years; for the moment she is focused on the present.

“But I’m sure I will be practicing, I love what I do,” Harris concluded.

To see Marcie’s portfolio, visit marcieharris.com.

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment. She can be reached at dellewillett@gmail.com.



The Quad, a state-of-the-art student housing complex adjacent to California State University San Marcos

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Father Joe’s Villages

Nearly 5,000 men, women and children in San Diego lay down to sleep each night on sidewalks or in doorways, canyons and alleys. They live without regular access to food or water and no place to use the bathroom, wash their hands, bathe or do laundry.

For people living on the streets of San Diego, hunger is more than just an ache in their stomachs. It’s a reminder that they have nowhere to go.

To combat hunger among our homeless neighbors, Father Joe’s Villages Food Services Program serves hot, nourishing meals 365 day a year. Altogether, staff and volunteers prepare and serve more than 1 million meals each year in their dining rooms and the Franklin Antonio Public Lunch Line. With these meals, neighbors can focus less on hunger and more on building a brighter future.

Julian, a regular at the lunch line who later entered Father Joe’s Villages housing program, shared that “[Father Joe’s Villages] has everything to help a person as long as they help themselves. I’m living proof that the meal program has an impact far beyond filling a stomach — it really saves lives.”

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Edward Watts and Dan DeLuca. Photo by Jim Cox.
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Uptown Community Parking District

collaborates to accomplish neighborhood goals

Uptown parking conversions add 186 new parking spaces

The Uptown Community Parking District (UCPD) is proud to announce more than 90 new parking spaces in Bankers Hill, 76 new spaces in Hillcrest, new motorcycle parking in International Restaurant Row (IRR) and 10 spaces in Mission Hills — totaling 186 for Uptown neighborhoods in fiscal year 2018.

These spaces are the direct result of a collaborative

Elizabeth Studebaker, Senior Traffic Engineer Tanner French, and Junior Civil Engineer Genoveva Romero-Marquez.

The 186 new spaces represent the first phases of a neighborhood-wide review to maximize on-street parking inventory throughout the Uptown community.

These parking conversions would not have been available without the help of Councilmember Chris Ward and his diligent community representative, Brittany Bailey. A big step



effort between UCPD staff and the city of San Diego's Economic Development Department (EDD). UCPD would like to specifically recognize the efforts of several EDD staff members, including Neighborhood Investment Manager

in the process involved changing Municipal Code 86.0104. Those changes expedited the process by removing the need for City Council to approve parking conversions.

UCPD staff is currently preparing notices for the



Selina Stockley, owner of Shakespeare's Corner Shoppe literally jumping for joy on the day the new stop sign was installed on India Street at Chalmers Street. (Photo by Susan McNeil Schreyer)

next phase of parking conversions in the Bankers Hill neighborhood. This second phase represents a partnership between the city, UCPD and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

These spaces were identified by SANDAG staff at the request of the UCPD board of directors to offset parking losses in Uptown due to the upcoming SANDAG "GO by BIKE" bicycle lanes along Fourth and Fifth avenues. The conversions will add a net gain of 41 new parking spaces to Uptown.

Additional UCPD projects include the expansion of the Access Hillcrest Shuttle program, which provides free service seven days a week throughout the downtown core and east Hillcrest.

Beginning in August, the newly named Access Hillcrest Shuttle began weekend service in east Hillcrest. The new weekend Access Hillcrest shuttle operates from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, offering additional transportation options for visitors looking to shop, brunch or visit the Hillcrest Farmers Market.

Three hundred free parking spaces are now also available in the San Diego Unified School District parking lot at 4207 Campus Ave. Visitors can park and pick up the Access Hillcrest's weekend shuttle from the school district lot every 15 minutes. This complimentary shuttle

runs in a loop along Park Boulevard and University Avenue before turning at The Hub on Vermont Street and returning along Cleveland Avenue. Riders can hop on or off at any point along the route!

The shuttle will continue offering its Monday–Friday shuttle service from Arbor Drive through Robinson Avenue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., promoting transportation for weekday lunches and errands throughout downtown Hillcrest. Both shuttle services promote Hillcrest businesses and offer additional shopping, eating, and errand opportunities to visitors and residents alike.

For more information on Access Hillcrest Shuttle routes, please visit AccessHillcrest.com. As always, Hillcrest visitors and residents can also park for free at the DMV during most evening and weekend hours. The DMV parking lot includes 153 parking spots for visitors and residents looking to shop or visit a neighboring business.

UCPD's focus is not just parking

As a result of community collaboration, all of the neighborhoods in the UCPD have received — or



UCPD rolled back over 500 feet of red curbs and identified a dozen abandoned driveways.

are slated to receive — pedestrian safety crosswalks and safety upgrades.

A much-needed crosswalk in Mission Hills was installed across the busy West Washington and Front streets. With additional community input, safety lights were added to provide drivers with greater visibility when the crosswalk is in use.





Currently, two crosswalks are also slated — one in Bankers Hill at Sixth Avenue and Nutmeg Street, and the other in Hillcrest on University Avenue and Front Street.

IRR received a long-requested and sorely-needed traffic calming stop sign at India and Chalmers streets. Business owners and residents joined forces with city staff to make this happen. In addition to their hard work, the approval of Uptown Planners and a



city advisory body joined in the call to secure the stop sign. IRR will soon engage in a complete intersection safety redesign including crosswalks at India and Winder streets and pedestrian safety lighting upgrades.

Hillcrest and IRR will both incorporate wayfinding signage into their communities highlighting neighborhood landmarks, and add features such as valet or free parking. Bankers Hill is also installing “Walk the Walk” — unique-to-the-area pedestrian signage.

The UCPD is



incorporating over 150 upgraded meter sleeve bike racks throughout Uptown neighborhoods.

The upgraded versions were ordered in response to community outcries

that the basic model did not keep parked bikes safe. There will be 100 silver racks for Bankers Hill, 40 multi-colored racks for Hillcrest, 10 racks in IRR, and six in Mission Hills.

Mission Hills embraced new meter technology last year by installing four smart meters on the 700 block of West Washington and three smart meters on Fort Stockton Drive with another three smart meters installed on Hawk Street.

A parking and alternative transportation study was executed on Reynard Way south of Sutter Street and north of Arroyo Drive. Four Reynard Way stakeholder meetings were held over and above the usual twice-monthly Mission Hills Parking Advisory Committee meetings. Participation from members of all Mission Hills community-based organizations was achieved.

The UCPD is currently working with Chris Ward’s office, SANDAG and Economic Development and Public Works to combine efforts on building a multi-use park/transportation project described as the Normal Street Promenade.

The UCPD has allocated up to \$1.8 million in funds for the proposed promenade. These funds have been held in reserve for a long-awaited, community-desired, open-space project that embraces and encourages pedestrian, scooter and bicycle access — while also incorporating additional automobile parking within a community gathering place located on Normal Street in Hillcrest.

The site currently hosts the successful Hillcrest Farmers Market and would be available for future community activities.

This road conversion and public space project are also included in the Community Plan Update. Public review will be facilitated by the Uptown Planners and various Hillcrest-based organizations including the Hillcrest Town Council and Hillcrest Business Association.

UCPD is comprised of an elected volunteer

board of 14 members representing residents and businesses in the four geographical areas: Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, International Restaurant Row (IRR) and Mission Hills. Board members are Curtis Allen, Stefan Chilcote, Roy Dahl, Miah Earn, Tom Fox, John Knoll, Cecelia Moreno, Ben Nicholls, Peter Raymond, Linda Saltzman, Susan McNeil Schreyer, Doug Scott, Selina Stockley and Natalie Villegas. The combination of resident and business seats correspond with the meter revenue collected from each of the areas in the parking district.

UCPD staff includes Executive Director, Gerrie Trussell; Bankers Hill Program Manager Chris DeMerville; and Hillcrest Communications Specialist Carolyn Osorio.

The UCPD manages 45 percent of the meter revenue generated in each of the four districts, and acts as an advisory body to the city of San Diego on parking conversions and community requests. It also encourages alternative modes of transportation as well as improvements for pedestrian safety.

“It is incredible to see the effects when neighborhoods communicate in a clear voice and combine efforts with city resources to bring positive changes to the community,” UCPD Executive Director Gerrie Trussell said, citing her 29 years in community development as the basis for her conclusion.

About UCPD:

Uptown Community Parking District is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization contracted by the city of San Diego to manage parking availability in Uptown using the parking meter revenue generated in each specific community. The four communities managed by UCPD are Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, International Restaurant Row (IRR) and Mission Hills. The UCPD board of directors meet the second Monday of every month at the Joyce Beers Community Center in Hillcrest at 3 p.m. Visit parkuptownsd.org or email Executive Director Gerrie Trussell at gerrie@parkuptownsd.org for information.



“As the President of the Uptown Community Parking District, I am encouraged to not only see subcommittee projects taking shape within the district but to also witness how energized our Uptown communities are about these new projects and changes. It is an exciting time to work on the use and availability of innovative transportation options and pedestrian upgrades.”

—Ben Nicholls

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Cocktail in a lamp at Sycamore Den (Photo courtesy of Bay Bird Inc.)

The most unique cocktail vessel we've seen in a while are the functioning lamps used for a new Jagermeister and vodka drink at **Sycamore Den** in Normal Heights. Named "den after dark," the concoction is served in the bellies of kitschy lamps that jive to the bar's "dad-inspired" theme. Priced at \$40, other ingredients that go into it include orange curacao, tangerine juice and clove syrup. 3391 Adams Ave., 619-563-9019, sycamoreden.com.



A vintage trailer serves as the bar for a new mid-century style lounge that opened to the public inside Mission Valley's Town & Country resort. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

The sprawling **Town & Country** resort in Mission Valley recently underwent a few changes to its food and beverage outlets in the wake of a major makeover that began this month. Inside the property's vintage **Tiki Pavilion** is a newly installed bar contained within a 1964 Shasta trailer named "Trixie." Open to the public from 4 to 11 p.m., daily, it offers a range of specialty drinks such as Riki Tiki Punch made with two rums. Midcentury lounge furniture was also brought into the pavilion, which will serve as the "lobby bar" during the resort's renovation. Just across the courtyard is

the full-service **Terrace Cafe**, which reopened after a kitchen remodel. It serves lunch and dinner and offers a market-place section for beverages and snacks. It, too, is open to the public. In the meantime, the long-established restaurant and bar named **Charlie's** has closed. It was located at the east end of the property, where demolition is now underway. The remodel to the 25-acre property is due for completion by the second quarter of 2020. It is owned by Lowe Enterprises and the locally based Brown family. 500 Hotel Circle North, 619-291-7131, towncountry.com.



A Hillcrest restaurateur opens a hip restaurant in Bay Park. (Photo courtesy of Alternative Strategies)

Restaurateur Albert Morreale of **Farmer's Bottega** in Mission Hills has opened **Farmer's Table** in Bay Park, which marks the restaurant's second location since launching one by the same name last year in La Mesa. The concept brings to Bay Park's growing culinary scene a 3,500-square-foot space, richly designed with re-purposed wood, indoor greenery and whimsical brick-a-brac.

Open daily for breakfast, brunch and dinner, the menu includes everything from fritattas, omelets and sandwiches to pizzas, charcuterie and hearty entrees such as duck confit gnocchi and braised lamb shank. Morreale's cousin, Vincenzo LoVerso, is the executive chef and adheres to a "farm-to-fork" philosophy. 3055 Clairemont Drive, 619-359-4485, myfarmersstable.com.

The new **Deja Brew Lounge** in North Park has opened to the tune of soft-serve ice cream contained in churro cones, plus specialty desserts, gourmet lemonades and crafty coffee drinks. The latter

includes flavors like strawberries and cream, cookie butter and "slutty chai." Matcha drinks and loose-leaf teas are also available. 2528 University Ave., 858-230-5224, dejabrewlounge.com.

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Stella Jean's Ice Cream has opened in University Heights, alongside **Pop Pie Co.** Both businesses are run by Gan Suebsarakham and his husband, Steven Torres, who will also open a restaurant with a cocktail bar early next year in Ocean Beach, where **Nati's Mexican Restaurant** operated (1852 Bacon St.). The quaint ice-cream shop specializes in small-batch production and sources ingredients from the Hillcrest Farmers Market, Specialty Produce, and local dairy farms. With the exception of a few vegan options, the ice creams contain a desirable 16 percent butterfat (the same as Haagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's). Flavors include matcha-pistachio, honey-rosemary with orange zest, double chocolate, Madagascar vanilla and more. Customers can purchase the ice creams in bowls,



An ice cream shop has churned into University Heights. (Photo by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

house-made waffle cones or brioche buns. 4404 Park Blvd., 619-501-8252, stellajeans.com.



Samuel Adams beer has found its way into autumn dishes at a popular restaurant chain (Photo courtesy of SPM Communications Inc.)

The quasi French-bistro chain known as **Mimi's** has introduced several seasonal dishes laced with Samuel Adams Oktoberfest Beer. Available through Nov. 11 at all 82 locations nationwide, including the Mission Valley branch, the beer is used in glazes and sauces complementing dishes such as a 10-ounce bone-in pork chop, brisket mac n' cheese, and a chicken ciabatta sandwich. 5180 Mission Center Road, 619-491-0284, mimiscafe.com.

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

No modifications, please

A visit to The Friendly ends with lip-smacking revelations

Restaurant Review

Frank Sabatini Jr.



I was probably the last food writer in town to get my butt into The Friendly, a North Park pizzeria with a penchant for burgers, which opened in January. From the get-go, it has attracted nearly every neighborhood resident and food-industry illuminati in San Diego for reasons I didn't quite get.

Pizza and burgers are the two most common foods on the American landscape. Yet raves about The Friendly's New York-style pies and "dirty flat top" cheeseburgers flooded social media, as though some culinary wheel had been reinvented.

Well, it actually was in a way — at least when it comes to the burgers.

Nowhere else in San Diego will the persnickety preferences of consumers be less celebrated than when placing a burger order here. Strangely, I find it refreshing and it's what finally roped me in.

Don't like aoli? Tough luck. You're getting it with a hint of garlic. Have something against butter-braised onions on your burger? Then go elsewhere or maybe see a doctor to figure out why you're so adverse to such a sweet, innocent garnish. And if you're fussing over calories and fat grams, give it a rest because the compulsory double-patty construct is shamelessly covered with two slices of American cheese. Always.

Owner Brandon Zanavich is the mellow dude behind the stubborn burger policy. A native of Detroit, he grew up eating cheeseburgers much like these and makes no apologies for the modification denials.

"It's for the sake of efficiency," Zanavich said, pointing out that when his cooks sling up to 200 burgers on busy nights, they

shouldn't be saddled with substitutions and omissions on the order tickets.

"We keep the operation fast and simple," he added.

Moments before taking my maiden chomp into the neatly contained handful of cholesterol, a customer seated next to me at the wide lunch counter expressed his steadfast love for the burger. The man essentially gave me the words to describe it with remarkable accuracy.

"It's crispy and gooey at the same time, and as soon as you take a bite, your head kind of tingles," he said.

Served on buttered, grilled buns, the patties weigh 2 ounces each. They're pressed on the grill while cooking to render out some of the fat — though certainly not all of it.

I would have liked a smear of ketchup inside the bun. But I didn't see any around and was happy enough with the goo and grease to not bother asking. Though if you must, there are a few sauces available for 50 cents apiece to cure your condiment cravings: ranch, chipotle-ranch and blue cheese.

The pizzas reminded me of those from nearby Pizzeria Luigi, where Zanavich happened to work before launching The Friendly. (He also helped operate Beerfish and Carnitas Snack Shack.)

His pies offer thin yet sturdy crusts boasting desirable elasticity. Better yet, the toppings crawl evenly to the edges, sparing you those over-sized chunks of plain ends that usually end up in the trash.

From a multi-tiered display case stocked with various pizzas sold by the slice for \$3.50 apiece, I tried the pepperoni, plus another topped with crumbled sausage, and one featuring ricotta and artichokes that was strewn with red sauce.

All three sported judicious layers of mozzarella and varying degrees of the house-made sauce, which I wouldn't mind

The Friendly

4592 30th St.
(North Park)

619-892-7840

Prices: Pizza by the slice, \$3.50

Whole pizzas, \$18 to \$26

Cheese bread, \$12

House burger, \$5

seeing used in greater measure on the non "white" pizzas — a standard I derived from eating thousands of them in my native Buffalo, New York.

For whole pies, you can customize the toppings or choose from a variety of signature creations such as "this little piggy" with pepperoni, sausage, bacon and ham; the "Becky" with mushrooms and ricotta; and the "Dr. Green Thumb," which brings together spinach, garlic, red bell peppers, mushrooms, red onions and artichokes. The specialty pizzas are often available by the slice as well.

In playful contrast to the eatery's everyday grub are one or two specials offered most days. They're listed on a chalkboard and can include random preparations of foie gras, morita-chili sloppy Joes, or bacon fat-confit chicken salad served in sandwiches — dishes that allow Zanavich



Owner Brandon Zanavich (Photos by Frank Sabatini Jr.)

to unleash his inner chef.

The resident of North Park revealed that The Friendly's steady growth has prompted him to pursue a second venture "hopefully in 2019 and definitely in San Diego." He envisions a place that focuses primarily on burgers, which he said will carry more options.

Until then, his flock seems perfectly content washing down

the deliciously unwavering dirty burgers with decent pizza and assorted canned beers, which are naturally available as well.

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



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Dr. Ink

Attention shoppers: a chic restaurant and bar touting modern Mexican cuisine and decent tequilas has sprung onto Fashion Valley Mall's second-level. If you need to throw down your bags and rest your bones on comfy rattan seating over designer tacos and margaritas, you've come to the right place.

Just in time for the upcoming holiday season, Blanco Tacos + Tequila is an inviting refuge situated a few steps from of the food court's frazzle. It is owned by Fox Restaurant Concepts, a Phoenix-based outfit that's about to open North Italia restaurant near Bloomingdale's on the ground floor.

With an impressive tequila and mezcal selection, plus craft beer and a food menu showing off trendy proteins and ingredient combinations, you can bet that every taco-loving hipster in town would flood Blanco if located outside a mall.

Which raises the question: Will mass consumers shell out \$18 for a pair of wagyu beef tacos and nearly \$20 on flights of premium tequilas

Blanco Tacos + Tequila

7007 Friars Road, Suite 901
(Fashion Valley Mall)
619-810-2931
blancotacostequila.com
Happy hour: 3 to 6 p.m.
Monday through Friday

after blowing their budgets on the mall's pricey retailers?

While the jury decides, this infrequent mall patron happily embraced the price breaks available during happy hour. A margarita kissed with citrus-y Patron Citronge liqueur, for example, was half off the regular price of \$10. The house-made sour mix containing coconut water, fresh lime and pineapple juices was appealing. But I struggled to taste the non-exclusive Jose Cuervo Especial tequila used in it.

Five dollars also scores you a beer (bottled or draft), a glass of sangria (red, white or pink), or an icy rosé made with rosé wine and pureed fruits.

Additionally, an abbreviated appetizer menu includes things like double-cheese nachos for \$7; Mexican pizza with roasted poblano chilis and tomatoes for \$8; and a few different tacos for \$4 apiece.

RATINGS

Drinks: ★★★

Despite the restaurant's tequila focus, there are more beers discounted during happy hour than tequilas. The house margarita with Jose Cuervo Especial tequila and Patron Citronge uses excellent house-made sour mix. But the booze factor seemed weak.

Food: ★★★★★

The crispy ground beef taco was well-packed with meat and cheese and qualified as a substantial appetizer before heading home for dinner.

Value: ★★★★★

My top rating goes to places where you can score a drink and food item for under \$10. Such is the case at Blanco.

Service: ★★★★★

The operation is well-staffed with young, attentive servers who were knowledgeable about the drinks and food.

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

An airy, organic design that feels a little West Elm pervades throughout the dining room and indoor-outdoor bar.

As a longtime fan of ground-beef tacos, which are difficult to find beyond Taco Bell, I couldn't resist. The crispy shell held a dense packing of the mildly spiced meat along with shredded cheddar, diced tomatoes and a few ribbons of lettuce. It reminded me of the gringo tacos my mother made back East when I was a kid, long before Mexican food entered into our local dining scene.

Had it not been for my gluttonous dive into the complimentary chips and flavorful red salsa, I would've ordered a couple more. And if the margarita was a little stronger, I might have let down my spending guard and hit the stores afterwards for some foolhardy purchases. ❖



Blanco's indoor-outdoor bar (Photos by Dr. Ink)



The house margarita is half-price during happy hour

The ground beef taco in a crispy shell



The exterior of Blanco + Tequila



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Definition of truth

'Actually' delves into the discussion of consent

Theater Review
Jean Lowerison

Princeton freshmen Amber (Emily Shain) and Tom (DeLeon Dallas) try to navigate the sometimes-treacherous unknown waters of becoming a college student in Anna Ziegler's riveting two-actor play "Actually," playing through Nov. 4 at San Diego Repertory Theatre.

Amber is white, Jewish, talkative and unused to being the center of anyone's attention. Tom is African-American, a budding musician and a bit of a loner, anxious to succeed.

What they both discover is that — at least in this first week — students drink. A lot. Wanting to fit in, they go along. And on one of those drunken nights, they end up in bed together.

What did or didn't happen there is the crux of the play, as a Title IX violation is filed, followed by the obligatory and embarrassing "investigation" to determine consent, guilt and what really constitutes "preponderance of evidence" (the standard used in Title IX).

'Actually'

Through Nov. 4
San Diego Repertory Theatre
79 Horton Plaza
Downtown

Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Thursday–Saturday at 8 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets: 619-544-1000
or sdrep.org

The nature (and definition) of truth are also under discussion here. What really happened? Was it deliberate assault, misunderstanding, or a natural outgrowth of Tom and Amber's newly (if drunkenly) discovered attraction for each other? If their recollections don't jibe, how do we determine which is right?

This is heavy and very timely stuff, deftly handled by Ziegler, who structures the piece as a series of conversations. The difference here is that the actors often directly talk to us, the



(l to r) Amber (Emily Shain) and Tom (DeLeon Dallas), find themselves embroiled in a situation that pits them against each other in a contest in which everybody loses. (Photo courtesy of Jim Carmody)

audience, as if we were friends.

This almost seems like a hometown production, with the director and both actors graduates of UCSD's graduate theater program.

The play is well served by Director Jesca Prudencio, who is now Head of Directing at SDSU. Prudencio — also a choreographer — has the actors move almost like dancers. It's a brilliant stroke.

Shain and Dallas are perfectly cast as students who find themselves embroiled in a situation that pits them against each other in a contest in which everybody loses. Both come across as utterly honest, confused and, in the end, possibly damaged.

Lighting and sound direction (Chris Rynne and Melanie Chen Cole, respectively) not only add to the atmosphere, but seem almost like characters themselves.

Don't miss this funny, sad and utterly engaging play.

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



(l to r) Amber (Emily Shain) and Tom (DeLeon Dallas) at rehearsal together (Photo courtesy of Peggy Ryan)



(l to r) Amber (Emily Shain) and Tom (DeLeon Dallas) (Photo courtesy of Jim Carmody)

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From Bankers Hill to Paris

By Leo Wilson

On May 10, 1927, a young man left his Bankers Hill apartment and traveled to the nearby dirt airfield at Dutch Flats.

He then stepped into a newly built, fabric-covered, single-engine and single-seat airplane before taking off on a flight to St. Louis and New York City — then across the Atlantic Ocean in a harrowing 34-hour flight to Paris, France.

Initially, Lindbergh was not considered as a major contender to make the flight. He was only 25 years old and was employed as an airmail pilot. Lindbergh had, however, attended Army flight school, graduating near the top of his class. Although he was made a second lieutenant, he never became an active military pilot, taking the reserve corps route instead. Despite any perceived limitations, Lindbergh decided he would attempt the flight, and was

Lindbergh. They worked around the clock to complete the plane as quickly as possible and the Spirit of St. Louis was completed in just 60 days.

Lindbergh made some unusual design requests, such as having the cockpit placed behind the gas tank. When questions arose about how this would impair his front vision, a Ryan employee, who had been a submariner, suggested a periscope. Lindbergh readily agreed. The close working partnership between Lindbergh and the Ryan Aeronautical Company likely contributed to the success of the flight.

While living in San Diego, Lindbergh initially stayed at the U.S. Grant Hotel. However, he subsequently ended up at the Palomar Apartments, located at Sixth Avenue and Maple Street — only a few blocks east of where aviator Waldo Waterman made his famous glider flight in 1909. The Palomar Apartments were built in 1913, designed by prominent San Diego architects Frank Mead and Richard Requa. The building is considered one of those architects' premier works, and reflects Requa's early use of Moorish-style architecture.

On May 7, 1927, three days prior to beginning his flight, Lindbergh wrote a letter on Palomar Apartments stationery stating he was delayed in taking off because of bad weather. Once the weather



Charles Lindbergh in Bankers Hill (Courtesy photo)

cleared, Lindbergh left Dutch Flats on May 10. Ten days later, Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field in New York City for Paris. Another experienced pilot, Richard Byrd, commented that he thought Lindbergh had a 1-in-3 chance of making it to Paris. Others thought his flight was foolhardy and even suicidal.

The press was infatuated with Lindbergh and published a massive amount of information about him. As a result, millions of people worldwide were riveted in suspense for the duration of the 34-hour flight.

Today it may be difficult to realize how transfixed much of the world was on Lindbergh's fate during his flight. During a boxing match at Yankee Stadium where 40,000 fans were present, the announcer reported — with no basis — Lindbergh was at sea and was well; the fans went wild, "refusing to be

silenced."

As Lindbergh's biographer A. Scott Berg noted, "Everyone had a stake in Lindbergh. On May 20, 1927 — as night fell — modern man realized nobody had ever subjected himself to so extreme a test of human courage and capability as Lindbergh ... Practically everybody who lived in America through Lindbergh's flight would remember his or her precise feelings that first night."

Finally, reports of sightings of the Spirit of St. Louis began coming in from ships offshore near Europe. Then — almost 34 hours after leaving New York City — Lindbergh landed the plane at Le Bourget airport in Paris.

To his shock, once on the ground he looked out his window and saw a jubilant crowd estimated at 150,000 people. They pulled him from his airplane and carried him on their shoulders; soldiers and police eventually were able to intervene and get him safely into an airport building.

Once inside, Lindbergh naively asked about passing through customs and immigration; French officials responded with laughter. Lindbergh was now a hero and would receive worldwide praise and accolades.

A few weeks later, he received a letter and photographs from his former neighbors in the Palomar Apartments in Bankers Hill, dated June 1, 1927.

"The Palomar family has felt a great deal of pride in all the wonderful things you have accomplished in the year since these pictures were taken and they join me in all good wishes for the future," the letter stated.

Today a miniature replica of the Spirit of St. Louis, and a plaque commemorating Lindbergh, hang in the atrium of the Palomar Apartments. Full-size replicas of the Spirit of St. Louis exist in both the San Diego Air & Space Museum and at San Diego International Airport, also known as Lindbergh Field. The Medal of Honor awarded by President Calvin Coolidge to Lindbergh on March 21, 1927, also is on display at the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

—Leo Wilson is administrator for Metro San Diego CDC and is a Bankers Hill resident.✧



A replica of the Spirit of St. Louis hangs in Palomar Apartments. (Photo by Leo Wilson)

The pilot's name was Charles Lindbergh, and much of the world was transfixed on whether he would survive and complete the flight. When Lindbergh prevailed, he became the first person to fly nonstop from New York City to Paris.

The impetus for Lindbergh's historic flight was hotel magnet Raymond Orteig's offer to pay \$25,000 to the first aviator to successfully undertake the uninterrupted intercontinental flight. This was a very large sum of money at the time. However, when Orteig originally made the offer in 1919, it did not attract any takers, as the trans-Atlantic flight was considered too dangerous. When Orteig renewed his offer in 1924, several experienced aviators decided to attempt the flight. Unfortunately, many died or were injured in preparing for the flight; two French aviators who attempted the mission disappeared and were never heard from again.

able to obtain financial backers in the city of St. Louis; in return he named his airplane the "Spirit of St. Louis."

Lindbergh turned to a small San Diego airline manufacturer, Ryan Aeronautical Company, to build the Spirit of St. Louis. The cost to build the airplane, including its engine, was about \$10,550. Lindbergh played a major role in designing the airplane.

When Lindbergh arrived in San Diego, he found that Ryan Aeronautical Company was located in a dilapidated building with "no flying field, no hangar, no sound of engines warming up; and the unmistakable smell of dead fish from a near-by cannery [mixed] with the banana odor of dope from drying wings." However, Lindbergh immediately developed an excellent working relationship with the Ryan Aeronautical Company owner and his workers. Lindbergh enjoyed helping design the airplane from scratch, and the Ryan workers greatly respected



A look at Bankers Hill in 1918 (Courtesy photo)

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UPTOWN CALENDAR

FEATURED EVENTS

FRIDAY

Nov. 2



‘Beyond Frida’
Alessandra Motezuma, professor of fine arts and gallery director at San Diego Mesa College, will explore the work of female contemporaries of beloved Mexican artist Frida Kahlo at San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA). The evening highlights Latino American female artists breaking the mold. Featured artists include Remedios Varo, Leonora Carrington, Tina Modotti, and Maria Izquierdo, who all helped shape the idea of Mexicanidad. \$15 general admission; \$10 members; \$5 for military and students. Sponsored by the Latin American Arts Council. 6–8 p.m. at SDMA’s boardroom, 1450 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/beyond-frida.

Día de los Muertos
Old Town State Historic Park will hold a weekend long celebration of Día de los Muertos from through Sunday, Nov. 4. Festivities will include an altar on which visitors can place remembrances, craft stations, a prize wheel, live entertainment, vendors, a beer garden and more. Free. Activities in the state park will be held from noon–9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and until 4 p.m. on Sunday. A parade will be held on Saturday at 5 p.m. 4002 Wallace St. Visit dayofthedeadsd.com.

SATURDAY

Nov. 3



Make-It Workshop: Spin Art Machine
The Make-It weekly workshop is a creative and interactive workshop for innovators and other curious minds. Participants can sign up for Make-It Workshop at the ticket counter or in Studio X. Workshop capacity is limited to 25 participants. All ages; ages 12 and under need adult collaborator. \$5, includes all materials. 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at The Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/make-weekly.

The Internet at Observatory
Grammy nominated hip-hop and soul group The Internet performs. Doors open at 7 p.m. 18 and up. Sold out; resale tickets available at bit.ly/internet-sd. 8 p.m. at The Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/internet-npo.

SUNDAY

Nov. 4



Race for the Cure
The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure returns with a 5K run and 1-mile walk to help end breast cancer. Every day six women in San Diego are diagnosed with breast cancer — be a part of the force for change. Register as an individual or a team. Funds raised will go towards helping the Komen Center to offer free mammograms, biopsies, ultrasounds, care coordination, education and financial assistance for breast cancer patients’ most critical needs during treatment. Race starts at 8 a.m. in Balboa Park. Visit bit.ly/KomenCureSD.

THURSDAY

Nov. 8



Pure Project Brewmaster Dinner
Join Waypoint Public gastropub for an evening of food and beer pairings at its 2018 Brewmaster Dinner with Pure Project Brewing. Dinner will feature a specially curated, multi-course dinner presented by head chef Justin Cullimore and paired with Pure Project brews. The event will be held in their private dining space, the Bear Den. Limited to 28 guests. \$65. 6–10 p.m. 3794 30th St. Visit bit.ly/waypoint-pure.

TUESDAY

Nov. 9



Greensky Bluegrass
Bluegrass band Greensky Bluegrass will perform on their tour for new album “Shouted, Written Down & Quoted.” Tickets start at \$50. 7 p.m. at The Observatory North Park, 2891 University Ave. Visit bit.ly/greensky-npo.

SATURDAY

Nov. 10



Paint Your Pet
Pet owners are invited to Balboa Park to create a one-of-a-kind portrait of their pet with help from local artist Paul Naylor. Supplies will be provided, just bring a photo of your pet you would like to paint. Free with museum admission. 1:30–3:30 p.m. at The Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/paint-pet.



Mid-City Music Community Concert
Mid-City Community Music will host a free community concert with live performances from local music teachers, workshop performers and guest artists. Free. Show starts at 2 p.m. and will be followed by a taco barbeque and jam session at 3:30 p.m. at Mid-City Community Music, 4011 Ohio St, located on the campus of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (not affiliated). Visit bit.ly/midcitymusic.

SUNDAY

Nov. 11

Taste of University Heights
Stroll through the neighborhood and sample bites from local restaurants. This year, more than 13 restaurants are participating, including Park & Rec, Plumeria Vegetarian, Twigg’s Coffeehouse, Park Blvd Deli, Mystic Mocha, Red House Pizza, Big Front Door and more. The event runs tandem with UH Arts Open, where visitors can take a free self-guided tour of open art studios and artist venues. Free shuttle offered. Grab your taste ticket at the information booth and enter to win gift certificates and prizes from local businesses and eateries in the raffle. \$20 in advance; \$25 day of. Taste of UH, noon–3 p.m.; UH Arts Open 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Information both and ticket will call at Buddha’s Light Bookstore, 4538 Park Blvd. Visit uharts.org or call 619-297-3166.

MONDAY

Nov. 12

Blood Pressure Screening
Do you know your blood pressure? The Caregiver Coalition of San Diego invites residents to stop by and have a registered nurse check it. Free. No appointment necessary. 11:30

a.m.–1 p.m. at the Sharp Memorial Senior Resource Center’s War Memorial building. Call 858-939-4790.

THURSDAY

Nov. 13



World Eats
San Diego Magazine presents the return of its World Eats event, which celebrates the thriving diversity of the local dining scene. Join them at the Headquarters at Seaport Village for an outdoor gathering featuring an array of food offerings. Meet the chefs whose recipes and traditions have come from all over the world and hear the stories behind their dishes. Cocktails provided by 1888 Rum. 21 and up. \$55; tickets include unlimited bites and beverages. 6–8 p.m. at 789 W. Harbor Drive. Visit bit.ly/sdmag-eats.

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 14

Mutual Benefit at Soda Bar
Singer-songwriter Jordan Lee’s fluid musical project, Mutual Benefit, performs with GABI. 21 and up. \$13–\$15. Doors 7:30; show 8:30 at Soda Bar, 3615 El Cajon Blvd. Visit sodabarmusic.com.

Panama 66 Jazz Sessions
Every Wednesday, Panama 66 comes to life with the sounds of jazz. Local jazz hero Gilbert Castellanos showcases young music prodigies with The Young Lions Series from 6–7:50 p.m. in the May S. Marcy Sculpture Court. Then from 8:30–11:30 p.m., the Wednesday Jazz Jam transforms the James S. Copley Auditorium into a swinging speak-easy. Free. 6 p.m. at Panama 66, The San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. Visit bit.ly/66-jazz.

FRIDAY

Nov. 16

Science in Comics
Comic book artists, writers and local scientists will join forces to give short talks at The Fleet Science Center’s monthly event ‘Crossover: Where Comics and Science Meet.’ An open discussion addressing the creative and scientific sides of comics will follow. Enjoy local brews and stimulating discussion with comic book creators and fans. This month’s event will cover “Transformers” comics and the science of robotics. \$7–\$25. 15 and up. 6:30–8:30 p.m. at San Diego Comic Art Gallery, 2765 Truxtun Road, Barracks 3 in Liberty Station. Visit bit.ly/comics-science.

ONGOING EVENTS

‘Wicked’ Through Nov. 25
The Broadway musical sensation is coming to town. From the first electrifying note to the final breathtaking moment, “Wicked” — the untold story of the witches of Oz — transfixes audiences with its wildly inventive story that USA Today cheers as “a complete triumph! An original musical that will make you laugh, cry, and think.” Tickets start at \$39. Times vary at Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave. Visit bit.ly/SDWicked.

‘Rococo Rivals and Revivals’ Through Dec. 30
The Timken Museum of Art has announced its upcoming exhibition, “Rococo Rivals and Revivals,” which explores the distinctive style that flourished in the 18th century. The exhibition includes loans from the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, University of San Diego’s Print Collection, and several private individuals, as well as objects from the Timken’s own permanent collection. Free. 1500, El Prado, The Timken Museum. Visit timkenmuseum.org.

‘Dr. Otic’s Miraculous Old Town Showdown’ Through February 2019
Dr. Otic’s Miraculous & Audience-Powered Old Town Showdown — Similar to “Who’s Line is it Anyway?” — is a fun and interactive show based entirely on audience suggestions. Showdown performances are every Friday and Saturday night, but each show is a unique experience created on the spot by our talented ensemble of improvisors. Reservations recommended. \$14–\$17. All ages; family-friendly. 7–9 p.m. at Old Town Improv Co., 2415 San Diego Ave. #103. Visit bit.ly/dr-otic.

‘Stories of Struggles Triumphs’ Through January 2020
The San Diego History Center, in partnership with the Lambda Archives of San Diego, brings the first-ever exhibition in Balboa Park focused on the history of San Diego’s LGBTQ+ community. Visitors will experience and learn about the community’s struggles to overcome persecution, the battle with AIDS, bullying and intolerance, the power of the community, and the tremendous strides taken in the fight for equal rights. The exhibit curator is noted author and historian Lillian Faderman. Times vary. 1649 El Prado, Suite #3. Visit bit.ly/struggles-triumphs.

Looking to get involved in your neighborhood? A full list of community planning meetings, town councils and the like can be found on our website at bit.ly/uptown-meetings.

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/LestatWest.

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.

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.

Fridays
Free Friend Fridays
Looking for a co-working space with value-aligned social entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofit professionals and local start-ups? Collective Impact Center offers a complimentary day pass to use shared desks and office space. Bring your laptop and check in on social media with hashtag #cicfreefriend-friday for free Wi-Fi. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. at Collective Impact Center, 3295 Meade Ave. Visit bit.ly/free-Fridays.

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. Visit bit.ly/GHMarket.

Old Town Saturday Market
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. Visit bit.ly/HillcrestMarket.

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

—Compiled by Sara Butler and Jules Shane. Email calendar item requests to sara@sdccn.com.

Best of Boise

Travel Tales
Nancy Stern

Nestled near the foothills in the High Desert, the city of Boise, Idaho has a lively culture of arts, outdoors activities and family-friendly festivals — plenty to keep tourists happy and busy. From as stroll down Freak Alley to a step back in time at the Basque Block, here is a glimpse at some of the best Boise has to offer.

Freak Alley
Walking down one well-known block, Freak Alley, will inspire you to take out the

camera for what is recognized as the largest mural gallery in the Northwest. This alley is located between business buildings and is popular in the artist community. They can pay a fee to create their brightly painted murals on the back walls; over time, some illustrations are painted out and new ones are applied by other artists. The alley was established in 2002; an annual mural event is held every August to view the recently added artworks.

Boise River Greenbelt
The Boise River Greenbelt is consistently rated as the top attraction on TripAdvisor. Paved pathways meander along the Boise River, traversing 25



Freak Alley is the largest mural gallery in the Northwest.



Biking is common along the Boise Greenbelt. (Photos by Ron Stern)

miles of lushly landscaped park foliage, that are best experienced by bike. Tourists of all ages can rent bikes from McU Sports, located at 820 W. Jefferson. Helmets, locks and repairs are included in the rental fee, which is \$15 for a half day or \$25 for eight hours. Boise Green Bike is another mobility option. Download the app ahead of time to find the nearest bike kiosk located throughout the downtown corridor. Along the route, you will

pass through the “Ribbon of Jewels Parks,” which includes Esther Simplot Park and Julia Davis Park. The latter is where visitors can spend some time exploring the Boise Art Museum or Zoo Boise. **Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial** Located at an entrance to the Boise River Greenbelt, this is the only memorial dedicated to Anne Frank in the U.S. The visual display began as a traveling exhibit honoring Frank,

but the community and state worked together to permanently keep it in Boise. The memorial honors the courage and strength of the human spirit, traits Anne embodied during her short life. The 180-foot quote wall is engraved with heartfelt sentiments, accompanied by a life-size bronze sculpture of the brave girl and nearby reflecting ponds. **State Capitol building** The beautiful Idaho State Capitol building is visible from many points in town. Constructed from sandstone, the building has the distinction of being the only state Capitol building heated by geothermal water, which is pumped from a source 3,000 feet under street level. Additionally, the public has free access to attend session proceedings.

Hyde Park Historic District For a fun afternoon, head to the neighborhood in Boise’s North End, known as the Hyde Park. This historic district was a 1982 addition to the National Register of Historic Places. It is popular for its boutiques, restaurants, and eateries; an old-fashioned soda fountain and candy store are among the locally owned specialty shops. September visitors can attend the Hyde Park Street Fair, an annual event that includes live music, food and craft vendors, as well as a children’s play area.

JUMP JUMP — an acronym for Jack’s Urban Meeting Place — is a place where everyone can discover their personal creativity and potential. It was inspired by Jack Simplot, a fearless entrepreneur. Events are offered in the Share Studio, a kitchen area to experiment with culinary skills, and the Move Studio, which features yoga, dance, and fitness classes. Additionally, Inspire and Play Studios both encourage artistic expression; the latter invites musicians, designers, and filmmakers to hone their talents.

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.



FROM PAGE 20
TRAVEL

The Basque Block

Boise is home to the most concentrated Basque population anywhere outside of Basque Country in Spain. In the heart of downtown is an area known to locals as the Basque Block. The block features a Basque museum, The Basque Boarding House, Basque restaurants, and The Basque Market.

The Basque Museum and Cultural Center provides visitors with an interactive learning experience introducing them to Basque culture and history, both nationally and in Europe.



Children play in the outdoor fountain at Alive After 5.

FROM PAGE 7
STADIUM

Will it be SDSU West? Proponents argue that the “valley annex” campus will bring jobs and make the university an even bigger player in the region. But they fail to acknowledge that, with only a few exceptions, satellite campuses around the nation are notoriously underwhelming.

There is much to like about SDSU West: a medium-density and mixed-use “site plan that includes a 75-acre park and embraces the ecology of the river and plans to use it as a laboratory for the study of pollution.

Yet where is the “big idea?” Somehow the whole is not greater than the sum of the parts. Design drawings give the impression of a corporate office park.

SoccerCity suffers a similar fate. Its mixed-use site plan cleverly envisions an identity crafted mainly around the sports facility (soccer stadium, perhaps combined with football). But this also feels provisional, in part because it seems to rely on a single infrastructure project.

Voters may legitimately decide we are rushing too quickly to choose between two interesting but incomplete proposals. It’s time to challenge the 20th century surfer adage that there’s “no life east of I-5.” The reinvention of the Qualcomm site must be a more robust 21st century response to climate change. We need to get this right. The Mission Valley site is too big to fail.

—Lawrence A. Herzog, an author and the 2017 San Diego State University Faculty Monty Award winner, has taught urban planning for more than three decades. He’s currently the co-coordinator of the graduate program in city planning at SDSU’s School of Public Affairs.❖

Next door to the museum is the Cyrus Jacobs House. Built in 1864 — and restored in 2005 — it is the oldest brick house in Boise and features historical artifacts. From 1910 to 1969, it served as a boarding house, where immigrants from the old country could feel at home with Basque food and fellowship while speaking in their native Basque language of Euskara.

Alive After 5

Summer in Boise is the best time to experience the local music scene. Local and visiting bands perform a variety of music to entertain everyone at a popular outdoor concert, Alive After 5. In its 32nd year, the music and food event is held every

Wednesday evening at Grove Plaza in the summer months. In addition to the tunes, a water fountain keeps the kids cool and entertained while the adults contemplate the delicious fare.

Idaho Botanical Gardens

Visitors will gain a renewed love of nature from a trip to the Idaho Botanical Gardens. Fifteen acres of flora and fauna with themed gardens — such as the English Garden, a Winter Garden of Glow (on display from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day), and a meditation garden with native and exotic plants — will inspire green thumbs to grow their own gardens. To further one’s botanical knowledge, educational programs are also available.

On Thursday evenings, music is performed on the grounds, which once belonged to the now defunct Idaho Penitentiary, where the inmates previously tended a dairy farm, crops, and fruit trees.

Nothing is more exciting than when one comes across a new adventure, food, or people, and all of these can be found in the hidden gem that is Boise.

—Nancy Stern is a travel writer with her husband Ron Stern. This was a sponsored trip; however, all opinions herein are the author’s.❖



The State Capitol building (Photos by Ron Stern)

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— Joyce Bruun, age 78, Home-maker / artist

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— Jan Delair, age 63, retired

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

9/6

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 23

Uptown Crossword

Classics

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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51	52	53					54	55					56	
57						58				59				60
61						62				63				
64						65				66				

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 " . . . now, ___ later!"
6 Church tribunal
10 Lobster's feature
14 Iron: prefix
15 Aroma
16 Pelting onslaught
17 All the vowels
18 ___ Hari
19 Blues singer James
20 1984 winner for *Amadeus*
23 Celestial body part
24 Property document
25 Stk. type
26 Small quantity?
29 Home, in Taos
32 Aviation org.: 1938
33 Dealt with angrily
35 Musical tone
37 1977 winner for *The Goodbye Girl*
40 A Heep of villainy
41 Brisk and spry
42 Hot time, in Soissons
43 Assail
45 Center or cure lead-in
46 Belly muscles, for short
47 Lord of the fries

49 Famed race loser
51 1987 winner for *Wall Street*
57 He rivaled Laver
58 Campus digs
59 Composer Anderson
61 Twin Towers' construction beam
62 CO(NH2)2
63 Put on
64 Creche figure
65 Piece for Spassky
66 Alternating-current discoverer

DOWN

1 One ___ kind
2 Milieu for Lloyd Bridges
3 Self-evident
4 In the neighborhood
5 Part of a letter sign-off
6 Citta on the Tiber
7 Singer Anita
8 Bottom line
9 Lawrence's hangout
10 Do a waiter's job
11 Wood strip
12 Nick and Nora's pet
13 Strike forcibly
21 Burghoff's M*A*S*H role
22 CA to NY nighttime flight
25 Skating competition
27 And ___ pinch of salt
28 Merit symbol
30 Ornamental autumn flowers
31 Bridge positions
32 Vineyard, in Champagne
33 Music to Carson's ears
34 Vacationer's excursion
36 *The Waste Land* author's monogram
38 Fish-producing locale
39 Root grown in Clinton, NY
44 Ready to drive
46 Bennett's long-time copanelist
48 Girl in *The Turn of the Screw*
50 Clothing pin
51 Batter
52 Log hut, in Siberia
53 Partly burn
54 Madison, NJ university
55 Arabian sultanate
56 Hutch of *Starsky and Hutch*
60 Biblical affirmative

Puzzle answers on page 23

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FROM PAGE 22

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku

Puzzle from page 22

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

Classics

Crossword from page 22

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

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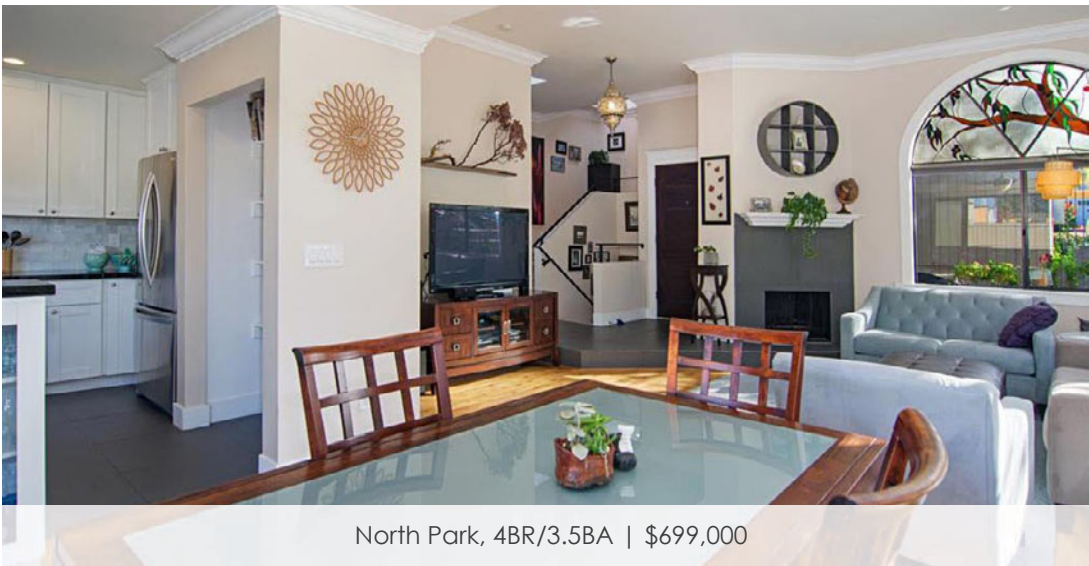
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