The technique is called High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography.

You're probably thinking holiday scene at first glance — the picture, after all, is almost festive amid its bright colors on the darker background. It was actually taken in February and depicts the aftereffects of Highway 163 traffic between Balboa Park and Downtown (in the distance). The technique is called High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography.

The Port of San Diego likes to call the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights its yearly Christmas present from the boating community. This year’s installment is the 37th such gift, and some 80,000 are expected to attend on consecutive Sundays, Dec. 14 and 21. Fireworks displays are set for 6:30 p.m.; the 90-minute parade of more than 100 vessels then begins at Shelter Island and follows a southeasterly route, ending at the Coronado ferry landing. At left is a picture of a Samurai, winner of last year’s award for coolest boat. For more information on the parade, please visit www.sdparadeoflights.org. For more holiday stuff to do, see our calendar on page B-21.

Rain damages toys, books at Salvation Army; San Diegans take it from there

The downtown Salvation Army warehouse was awash in a quandary when about an inch of last week’s rains seeped inside and damaged books, toys and other unsanctioned gifts as children’s Christmas gifts — but the community wasn’t about to let a little rain dampen even one tiny holiday dream.

By last Thursday, patrons had left upwards of 120 replacement items at the warehouse, located at 825 Seventh Ave. Salvation Army officials were confident that more would be on the way, adding that the water, attributed to a clogged storm drain, damaged about 1,000 items. Even so, officials said, the bad economy is affecting donations. Stockpiles are down about 30 percent from this point last year.

For information on how to donate, call (619) 231-6000, extension 2401.

Surprises in store

Merchants off the beaten path faring well this season

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

This time around, Black Friday actually showed some traces of white. The busiest shopping day of the year, which occurs the day after Thanksgiving, yielded a haul of $10.6 billion nationally, which CBS News says is up about 3 percent from last year’s take. But there’s more to it than that — the lousy economy yielded deep discounts on items across the board, and that meant that more shoppers were spending less money per capita.

San Diego’s Black Friday saw its share of patronage at Westfield-Horton Plaza Shopping Centre, Downtown’s anchor mall. Prior to the big day, Horton marketing director Rebecca Han- dlelman noted that “customers are being a little more cautious with their spending, but the traffic’s still there.”

Handlelman declined to disclose the sales figures that Horton retailers have reported to that point. She cautioned, however, that Horton’s sales output is a poor reflection of the pace of holiday sales downtown.

“It’s interesting,” she explained. “We’re not a traditional center. Unlike other centers that might be able to see a discernible difference, we fluctuate much more based on tourism, conventions and what happens to be going on in Downtown as opposed to the economy.

“While I see some customers, be it businesspeople or conventioners or locals, spending a bit...

Budget crunch will not affect plans for library, at least at the moment

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN | DOWNTOWN NEWS

The issue has kept pretty much to itself in the last little while -- the plan for a new Central public library has quietly been garnering support in the form of private funding, with much of the required $50 million already in the bank. The project weighs in at a total cost of $185 million, which has stayed level for the three and a half years the plan’s been around. A state grant, support from the Centre City Development Corporation and a phase-two funding effort round out the remaining $135 million figure.

But in this lousy economic climate, which recently saw the near-closure of several area libraries and rec centers, the Central venue’s fate can’t be that far from the public mind. The city has projected a $43 million budget shortfall for 2009, which is sure to balloon in the wake of City Council’s recent vote to table the closures; and what happens to be going on in Downtown as opposed to the economy might be able to see a discernible difference, we fluctuate much more based on tourism, conventions and what happens to be going on in Downtown as opposed to the economy.

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For information on how to donate, call (619) 231-6000, extension 2401.
Downtown’s Finest Professionals

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Alan Hamrick  
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Ken Baer  
(619) 246-4230

Julie Adams  
(619) 481-0200

J Q Stearman  
(619) 701-4823

Leslie Kilpatrick  
(619) 522-9494
County Grand Jury is looking for a few good men and women

Applications are now being accepted to make up the 19-member San Diego County Grand Jury that will serve from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.


Jurors will work four days a week and roughly six hours a day weighing in on investigations of citizen complaints and on traditional watchdog functions over government agencies. Jurors will receive a small stipend per day, gas mileage and parking downtown.

Each candidate must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, have sufficient knowledge of the English language and have lived in the country for one year prior to selection. Candidates must pass a criminal background check. Application forms must be received by Jan. 16. Qualified candidates will be nominated for a random drawing scheduled for June 5, 2009.

Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

11th Street, will feature 250 parking spaces versus none at the current facility, at 620 E St. It will house 450 computers versus the current 84; a 35-seat auditorium versus today’s 185; a 450-seat multi-purpose room, a 13,000-square-foot area for children and teens versus the current 4,400; and a volume collection of 1.3 million compared with the current 780,000.

The prospective patrons may need every square inch of that new space. Of the more than 6 million visits to the city’s public libraries in 2004, nearly half were made to the central library. When the central library was opened in 1954, an Diego had a population of about 420,000. That total has almost quadrupled, yet no additions have been made to the current building.

Meanwhile, Katz concluded, the Library Foundation is “very close” to topping out on the $50 million in private money. “After so many decades of talking about a Downtown library,” he said, “we’re closer than ever to seeing that dream become a reality.”
CCDC freezes staff raise, bonus programs

In a move to decrease its annual expenses, the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) is placing a freeze on raises and bonuses to its employees and may terminate its business travel expense program.

CCDC, the city’s downtown development arm, will also look more closely at contracts with consultants as it seeks to cut costs.

Fred Maas, CCDC chairman, said the move is entirely agency-based — it’s no reflection, he said, on the construction climate in Downtown San Diego, which has seen a boom in development since 2002.

“It’s not an indication of our tax increment, either,” he added. “Our tax increment’s going up.”

“I think we need to respond to the times,” Maas said. “We need to be sensitive to the circumstances that our brethren over at the city are going through. And we need to be responsible stewards in the public mind.”

The city is in the midst of implementing wholesale cuts in its budget to stem a current $43 million shortfall.

CCDC’s annual budget is around $10 million.

Maas said the freeze, coupled with the $235,000 savings from former president Nancy Graham’s salary, represents a 5 percent decrease in annual expenses.

Maas added that he’s ordered officials to seek further cuts amounting to another 5 percent.

The Fabric of Our Community for over 115 Years...

Scripps Mercy Hospital

Established in 1890 by the Sisters of Mercy, Scripps Mercy Hospital is San Diego’s premier health care provider. With campuses in San Diego and Chula Vista, we provide medical expertise, leading-edge technology and a very special style of care.

As San Diego County’s largest and only Catholic hospital, we offer a minimally invasive robotic surgery program, emergency care and a level 1 trauma center, a nationally designated Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery and other acute medical/surgical services, as well as a certified STEMI receiving center (for heart attacks) and one of the county’s only chest pain centers. These are just a few reasons why Scripps Mercy has repeatedly been named among the top hospitals in the nation.

To find a family doctor or specialist at Scripps Mercy Hospital, call 1-800-SCRIPPS (1-800-727-4477), or visit www.scripps.org.

Scripps Mercy Hospital
Lester Machado, M.D. and Matt Levy, N.R. work together to provide state-of-the-art surgical expertise in Scripps Mercy Hospital’s 6th floor operating room.

Meetings set to examine future of Balboa Park

The Balboa Park Committee is hosting public meetings on Thursdays, Dec. 4 and Thursday, Dec. 15 to discuss the future of the park.

The committee will discuss the city’s ability to provide the necessary financial support for the park and the city’s plans, if any, to expand the park’s management and governance.

The park needs $240 million worth of repairs, which were deferred as the city wrestled with other funding problems. The entire 2009 budget for the city’s Park and Recreational Department, which would help oversee such maintenance, is about one-third that amount.

Both meetings will be held at 5 p.m. in the Municipal Building Auditorium, 3325 Zoo Drive in Balboa Park.

For further information, call (619) 584-1203 or visit www.balboapark.org.

TB case reported at San Diego City College

A San Diego City College student who attended classes from Aug. 25 to Nov. 8 has been diagnosed with tuberculosis, prompting the school and the county’s Health and Human Services Agency to work on notifying students and faculty of possible exposure.

By mid-November, the health agency’s TB control unit had identified about 190 individuals who may have been exposed. The school has sent notification letters to the individuals, advising them to see a doctor.

TB, which has been on the rise worldwide in recent decades is a potentially fatal lung infection whose symptoms include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss.

Most people exposed to TB don’t develop the disease.

As of mid-November, 201 TB cases had been diagnosed in San Diego County.

Regional task force’s third ‘street fair for homeless’ slated at Golden Hall

The Regional Task Force on the Homeless, which estimates that San Diego County’s population includes 10,000 on any given day, is mounting its third annual Project Homeless Connect on Friday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Golden Hall Downtown.

In a statement, task force executive director Walt Sandford called the event “a street fair for the homeless. Golden Hill will be filled with booths offering direct...
New Children's Museum gets three grants

The New Children's Museum announced it has received more than $52,000 in corporate and foundation donations to support their ongoing efforts to serve as many children and families as possible. The donors include Qualcomm Inc., Ford Motor Co. Fund, and the CardMax Foundation.

The museum will use a portion of the funding to launch its Check Out The New Children's Museum this month. The program features the circulation of membership cards into library branches around the city. Families will be able to check them out like books and receive member benefits.

The museum also hopes to use the funds to pay for free museum visits by students enrolled in Title 1 Schools.

The museum features artworks that kids can touch, climb, or move (exhibitions), messy, hands-on art making opportunities (studios), and arts-based classes and camps (Arts Education Center).

The physical plant includes an organic cafe, unique retail shop, quiet space for parents and infants and an outdoor park. The museum, located at 200 West Island Ave., has also launched a Holiday Happenings program, designed for kids like the ones playing in the giant snow globe above (courtesy photo). For more information, call (619) 233-8792 or visit www.thinkplaycreate.org.
At Christmas, green is the new white

From CKR COMMUNICATIONS

When finalizing your holiday gift list, don’t forget to add Mother Nature. By making some easy adjustments to your normal holiday routine and giving eco-friendly gifts, you can do your part to help preserve precious natural resources all year round and put a little “green” back in your pocket.

If you’re one of the many consumers taking advantage of the deep discounts available on many electronics and appliances this season, keep in mind that it’s purchasing power. ”If you’re one of the many consumers taking advantage of the deep discounts available on many electronics and appliances this season, keep in mind that it’s purchasing power. “There is a great deal of savings at the checkout. When you purchase energy-efficient products, you not only save on energy costs, but also reduce your carbon footprint.”

Products that have earned the energy star designation help prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency criteria set by the government and help save you money each month. Everyone can go green. Here’s how:

- Buy LED holiday lights, which can save 90 percent or more in lighting costs when compared with traditional incandescent holiday lights. They pay for themselves almost immediately. Another bonus: decreased potential fire hazard.
- Make a holiday charger for your cell phone, iPod and other gadgets.
- Light up someone’s holiday by giving a compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulb — they cost one-fourth as much to operate and last up to 10 times longer. Look for CFLs with the SDG&E “Promotional Price” sticker at your favorite retailer.
- If you retrieve a new cell phone, be sure to recycle your old one. Each year, 130 million cell phones are thrown out, weighing approximately 65,000 tons. Also, make sure to take computers, TVs sets and other electronics to authorized e-cycling locations.
- Buy wrapping paper and holiday cards from recycled paper. Cut younger, get it progressive ways to make your own, old maps, the comics sections of a newspaper or children’s artwork are feasible and meaningful. If every family wrapped just three gifts this way, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.
- Make it a holiday tradition to plant a tree each year to offset your paper consumption.
- When finalizing your holiday gift list, use the tips to use throughout the year, please visit www.sdge.com/residential or call (800) 411-7343.

CKR Communications is a Chula Vista public relations firm.

State updates eco-friendly gift guide

The California Department of Conservation has launched an updated version of its online guide to help consumers find eco-friendly gifts and decorating tips.

The department created the Green Gift Guide (available exclusively at greengiftguide.com) to promote one of the simplest ways to incorporate sustainability into consumer lifestyles — bottle and can recycling -- and also to provide information and tips on environmentally-credible products for the home, office, children, pets and the outdoors. Many of the products are made from recycled bottles, cans and other materials; they otherwise incorporate sustainable practices for the manufacturing, thereby saving energy and natural resources.

Californians recycled 7.6 billion beverage containers during the first six months of 2008, 76 percent of the 10 billion sold in the state. That’s a 5 percent increase over the figure of 2007. By recycling billions of aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles during that time, Californians decreased greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to eliminating the energy consumption of 11,000 households for one year.

On Nov. 6, this paper printed an editorial I authored entitled “Barack Obama needs to shut his mouth.” The piece was meant as a cautionary look at the two-headed nature of this country’s economy and how I believe the president-elect (for whom I voted) sometimes tends to blur the distinction. While I think the article expressed the sentiment fairly well, the headline in my opinion did not do justice to the point.

Many of you took vehement exception to what you saw as its incendiary tone — and my hindsight persuades me that your feelings are entirely justified.

The piece was not reviewed by the publishers, David Mannis and Julie Mannis Hoxington, in fact, both parties have kindly spoken to me at some length on this matter, assuring me that they would have immediately scrapped the headline had they seen it. Neither of those gentlemen will address me.

The headline, however, was and is a gross overstatement of my caution about his own choice of words on the state of the economy. I eagerly offer my apologies to the president-elect, to the Mannis Communications staff and management and, of course, to the Community Newspaper Group readership for the ill-feeling that a little reflection could have easily avoided.

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Letter from the Editor: Pitiful choice of words

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Martin Jones Westlin

HILLARY CLINTON AS SECRETARY OF STATE

AND I THOUGHT REFORMING HEALTH CARE WOULD BE TOUGH.
You can tell it’s winter, ’cause our local ball club is hibernating

By MARTIN JONES WESTLIN
DOWNTOWN NEWS

Nineteen sixty-eight was called the year of the pitcher in Major League Baseball circles, and with excellent reason. At one point during the season, the St. Louis Cardinals’ Bob Gibson was giving up less than one run per game on average; the Detroit Tigers’ Denny McLain would finish the campaign with a 31-6 record (no hurler has won 30 games since). Detroit would take the World Series that year, with pitcher Mickey Lolich winning three of the contests and Gibson striking out 35 (including 17 in game one) in the Cards’ losing effort.

I remember that Series vividly. Not only is my hometown of Toledo, Ohio a mere 60 miles south of Detroit; my dad was a local sportswriter and covered the Tigers, having spearheaded my undying adoration for the franchise early on. I’d stoke the high as the 1984 Detroiters beat the Padres four games to one to repeat as world champs. I figured life was pretty much over during the ’90s, when Detroit won about three and a half games a year. The end came in 2003, when the Tigers — whose pitching staff averaged about three and a half years of age — managed a life-threatening 43 victories.

Miraculously, Detroit made it back to the Series only three years later, losing to — yep — the St. Louis Cards, four contests to one. Since then, the fireballing pitchers that got ‘em there have fallen on hard luck. Sad to say, in many respects, the franchise is back to square one in the public mind.

The point is that in all those years, the Tigers organization waxed thick when times were their thinnest. The win-loss ratio was never the issue to the guys in the suits and ties — when the last out signaled the end of another losing campaign, management was back at it in what seemed like the next 24 hours, working the phones, inking the paper and otherwise taking a long, hard look at a future whose paths were paved with the tears of immortals like Ty Cobb, Harry Heilmann and Hank Greenberg.

And brilliantly working the media in getting the word out about their dreams. Which brings us to the Dads and the buzz behind the scenes. The team sucked last year and in fact may rival Detroit as the biggest disappointment of 2008. Iconic closer Trevor Hoffman is gone, and you needed a computer to keep up with the lineup changes near the end of the year. And now, with the winter meetings scheduled to open in Las Vegas Monday, Dec. 8, San Diego is fielding calls on storied pitcher Jake Peavy and his $11 million contract for 2009.

Indeed, Peavy will probably emerge as the top trade story of the whole parley. And that’s too bad — not for Jake, who’s sure to make out in any event, but for a front office whose team finished last in the NL West (arguably baseball’s weakest division) and won 27 fewer games in 2008 than it did the previous year. The wheels on the franchise’s wagons have become mired in mud and the prospect of big bucks, while e-mails dribble in about some obscure option or field appointment. That’s all a far cry from what we were led to believe only several weeks ago about management’s newfound spirit in righting the ship. The silence — or at least the perception of it — is conceivably the top layer of a frustration that’s overwhelming common sense and a can-do attitude.

How ironic if Jake Peavy were to be picked up by Detroit. He might just become a central figure in an outfit that, win or lose, relentlessly works for the betterment of the team and isn’t afraid to show it.

A banner event

The so-called Big Flag, which covers the entire field at Qualcomm Stadium, is an storied attraction at the upcoming Pacific Life Holiday Bowl itself. It weighs about 850 pounds and requires some 250 people to unfurl and present it, which is what they’d do on game day, Dec. 30.

This year’s matchup tentatively pits Nebraska against Oregon State. For more information on the game and the annual parade, call (619) 283-5808 or visit www.holidaybowl.com. Qualcomm will also host the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl on Dec. 23.

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PHOTO BY KEN JACQUES | DOWNTOWN NEWS

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‘Kimono as Art’ exhibit: Itchiku Kubota embraced fabric of his exquisite craft

By DIANA CAVAGNARO

Above, Itchiku Kubota made an art out of kimono design, as reflected in a curatorial delight! The exhibit is a true vision of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape. The kimonos from Kubota’s Mt. Fuji series, tall silk kimonos, are displayed as one exhibit centerpiece, “Symphony of Light.” A series of 20 kimonos were inspired by the paintings of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape. The kimonos were inspired by the paintings of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape.

Concurrently, Julerie held a trunk show in the museum gift shop from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. Pamela Pogue designed pieces of jewelry inspired by these works — takings of goldleaf to create his eight-foot-tall silk kimonos. The exhibit features three kimono series. Meanwhile, the San Diego Museum of Art will feature the exhibit centerpiece, “Symphony of Light,” a series of 20 kimonos designed by the late Miss Kubota.

Dr. Wang (right) takes some time from his busy schedule to talk to Register reporter Elyse A. She is one of many patients who is striving to get in shape. She has been seeing Dr. Wang for more than a year.


Kimono as Art: The Landscapes of Itchiku Kubota can currently be seen at the San Diego and Timken museums of art in Balboa Park. Itchiku Kubota was an International textile artist from Tokyo. A museum was built to showcase his kimono artistry in 1994. Coupling traditional and new dyeing techniques, Kubota combined stitch resist, ink paint, gold-thread embroidery and natural dye on his right-foot-silk kimono fabrics. The exhibit features three kimono series from Kubota’s Mt. Fuji series. Meanwhile, the San Diego Museum of Art will feature the exhibit centerpiece, “Symphony of Light,” a series of 20 kimonos designed by the late Miss Kubota. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape. The exhibit is a true vision of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape. The kimonos from Kubota’s Mt. Fuji series, tall silk kimonos, are displayed as one exhibit centerpiece, “Symphony of Light.” A series of 20 kimonos were inspired by the paintings of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape. The kimonos were inspired by the paintings of Monet. They are displayed as one continuous, spectacular landscape.

When you call, I will have my staff will do everything possible to get you in the same day even if they have to work you in during a busy time. We pride ourselves in being San Diego’s premiere “no waiting” office. Our office caters to everyone from busy professionals to my soccer mom. I can honestly say that I am pain free! I am no longer taking any pain medication. My bowling game is better and I am now able to go 3 miles on the treadmill back to enjoying life as I did before my back problems.

When I first came to Dr. Wang, I was in constant pain and could barely walk up the steps to his office. Now, after being under his care, exercise to strengthen my back has been a cure. I can honestly say that I am pain free! I am no longer taking any pain medication. My bowling game is better and I am now able to go 3 miles on the treadmill back to enjoying life as I did before my back problems.

In fact, here is what a few of my patients had to say about me...

Dear Friend,
Suffering from back or neck pain can be utterly frustrating to the person can go through. Believe me, I know.

Thirteen years ago, I suffered from extreme back pain. In fact, the pain was so severe that I would get muscle spasms for days at a time. I even remember one instance where I just couldn’t stand the pain any longer, and I broke down and cried.

It was at this point that one of my friends recommended that I go and see a chiropractor. To be honest with you, I had no idea how a chiropractor could help me. I always thought that the only solution was to take an over-the-counter medication, like aspirin, Motrin or Tylenol.

But since these medications weren’t helping and I was unable to take the over-the-counter medication, I decided to give chiropractic care a try. After the first adjustment, I didn’t know whether to thank you for recommending me to the chiropractor, or scolding him for not telling me sooner.

I was worried that the chiropractic adjustment would hurt, or that it wouldn’t work. Well, I was wrong on both counts. Not only did the adjustment work, it actually made me feel a lot better. And as for my fear that the chiropractic adjustment wouldn’t be effective, well it worked so well that I decided to become a chiropractic patient.

This was then, now I help people live life free from back and neck pain, just like I was helped. I also help people who suffer from headaches, carpel tunnel, numbness in the shoulders and legs, and people who have been involved in sports injuries and car accidents.

In fact, here is what a few of my patients had to say about me...

“If you suffer from neck or back pain, please contact me. I can help you!”

And just like I helped those people described, I also wanted to help you. So if you suffer from neck or back pain, you can contact me. If anyone has been involved in a sports injury or car accident, give our office a call at (619) 252-8885.

In fact, if you call our office by December 31, 2008, I will provide you with a full exam for only $45. Also, if you come in 3 months from now, I will reduce the fee for you by another $15. I am offering you for only $47.

And don’t worry, you won’t be obligated for any further care. The only thing that I will do is to sit down with you and talk about what you can do about it. If you decide that you want to continue seeing me, let me know about how long it will take to correct the problem, and how much it will end up costing.

Also, I accept most insurance places. But even if you don’t have insurance, that’s okay. I keep certain days in the month open for people who can’t afford insurance. I’m not just trying to help you in a $47 initial visit. I am interested in helping you with your health problems.

When you call, I will have my staff will do everything possible to get you in the same day even if they have to work you in during a busy time. We pride ourselves in being San Diego’s premiere “no waiting” office. Our office caters to everyone from busy professionals to my soccer mom. I can honestly say that I am pain free! I am no longer taking any pain medication. My bowling game is better and I am now able to go 3 miles on the treadmill back to enjoying life as I did before my back problems.

Your Friend,
Dr. Hong W. Wang, D.C.

P.P.S. When accompanied by the first, we’re also offering you a free consultation for $27 — the same examination for only $27 — What a great deal!

P.P.P.S. Don’t forget, this offer ends on or before December 31, 2008. So call right now!
Try to stay off of the naughty list this holiday season... but if you find yourself on there, call the King!

"KING" STAHLMAN

BAIL BONDS

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Exile is an unlikely success story

Like most other cities, San Diego has a plethora of options for those with the holiday spirit. Traditional happenings abound for the younger set, from visits to Santa to parades. Adults have options ranging from office parties to Balboa Park’s December Nights celebration. However, for rock & roll fans, only one event truly stands out for holiday fun — The Casbah’s annual (and free) Exile on Kettner Blvd. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

Started in 1993 by rockers The Dragons as an alternative to traditional Christmas eve offerings, the event focuses squarely on songs by the Rolling Stones. The Dragons split in 2004, but the tradition continues with former frontman Mario Escovedo at the helm and a rotating group of local all-star musicians backing him. This year’s line-up includes guitarists Rick Wilkins (The Nards, Sara Peltie), Jonny Viaz and Joe Camacho, singer Romy Kaye, bassist George Veddari (Uncle Joe’s Big Oil Driver) and drummer Brian “Nucci” Cantrell (Lady Dottie & The Diamonds).

“It just wouldn’t be the holidays without Exile taking place,” said FM94/9 DJ Tim Pyles, a regular attendee since the event began. “What really amazes me is how it’s grown over the years. It’s gone from a group of musicians and friends gathering on what was considered an off night to an event people look forward to. Like they do the Mother Goose Parade or December Nights.”

Escovedo is pleased but surprised at the longevity. “It’s one of those things that sounds like it would never work,” he laughed. “I mean, it’s Christmas eve, the band is doing only Rolling Stones covers and it’s a busy time of the year to get a band together.” He notes that only 30 people attended the first show 15 years ago. “The next year it doubled and then doubled, and then it’s been pretty much packed ever since.”

Escovedo pointed out that the set list has expanded over the years. “The idea started with us only doing their ‘Exile on Main Street’ album, and now it’s expanded into a 3-hour, 42-song working set.”

Escovedo said the band doesn’t dig too deep into the Rolling Stones catalog, preferring to stay with the classics. “It’s all about fun, but there are a few serious Stones fans who show up and expect us to honor Mick and Keith and the boys.”

For Escovedo, the best part of the night comes during the midway point. “That’s when the room is appropriately feeling the Christmas spirits,” he laughed. “They just let go and by that point are singing and dancing along to everything. It feels like the Casbah is one big house party.”

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Earlier this year, a friend forwarded a newly released video, Yes We Can, posted on YouTube. I hadn’t heard of Will.i.am or the Black Eyed Peas. I had become what I vowed I never would – a member of the older generation.

Regardless, the melodic refrain “Yes we can” carried me back to my youth. It was a time not so different than today. A time of cynicism wrapped up with worries about the present and our future. One filled with war, an unstable economy, consternation about filling our cars with expensive gas and voices calling for change.

Like tens of millions of others, I greedily drank in the video’s message. Captivated, I played it over and over. It’s a message that stirs the imagination and offers hope for a better day and a better future.

I awoke early on Election Day to drizzle and a gray sky. The polls had not yet opened at my polling place. Parting my curtains, I was gripped with excitement as I witnessed neighbors already lining up to take part in this most historic election.

Later, as a mist persisted, I stood on my balcony sipping a latte, watching the crowds swell along with my pride. I ventured across the street and became one of more than 126 million Americans to cast a vote. As I watched the returns, two announcements brought such joy to my being. The first was the man-date for change, the election of Barack Obama. The second was seeing that, as we Americans celebrated, so did the world.

Can you sense the shift? Can you feel the hope? Do you no longer have doubts that anything is possible? I wonder... Do you feel the power of the message: “Yes we can”?

“We hope Americans realized that repairing the damage of the last eight years will take some time, but the regaining of respect throughout the world is immediate,” said Gene and Marilyn Marx (Park Place) as they exited the polls.

Don’t let the “I Voted!” sticker fool you. One-month-old Park Row resident Donovan Olson slept through what some call the most important modern-day election. Dad Gregory had Donovan’s back, voting for Barack Obama.

Can you sense the shift? Can you feel the hope? Do you no longer have doubts that anything is possible? I wonder... Do you feel the power of the message: “Yes we can”?

“We know the battle ahead will be long, but always remember that no matter what obstacles stand in our way, nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change.”

—from a speech delivered by Barack Obama and poetic lyrics from Yes We Can by Will.i.am

By Sandra Simmons

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Downtown. The Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway
City Ballet of San Diego holiday pro-
“The Nutcracker,” a perennial favorite
prints by Julie Warren, you’ll see
an opening of paintings and
If you go to “The Art of Tango,”
'em out on — uh – the accordion.
pianist and the self-styled Queen
Palmer, legendary local jazz
metric; much the same is said of
Palmer’s musicianship. “The Art
Mounts Dec. 8 at Little
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You’ve heard her. You know
her. You love her. Yet you may
have seen her in her trance ele-
ment alone — which goes to
show you know nothing about NC Flow, who snagged two
hip-hop artist kudos at the 2008
San Diego Music Awards (one
was for her “Incredible” CD).
Come check her out, along with a
serious list of other heavyweights
in the genre, at the SDMA Hip-
pop Awards (one end of show).
“Writing with Light” is a case in
point — students from more than
100 San Diego County schools
interpreted literary works from
fiction and nonfiction, using
photography as their means
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Feb. 1 at MoPA, 1649 El Prado
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Here’s your big chance to see
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You’ve heard her. You know
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Truth be told, I hadn’t even heard of “Twilight,” the Stephenie Meyer novel about teenage angst as seen by a vampire coven, before the movie hit the theaters on Nov. 21. Now I find that Meyer’s indeed written three other related books; “New Moon,” the second entry, is headed for the screen as well under the auspices of Summit Entertainment, a Santa Monica studio that suddenly finds itself the center of the film production universe. The movie, after all, took in a socko $70.6 million in its opening weekend, the biggest on record for a female director (Catherine Hardwicke), and it averaged a gross of more than $20,000 per theater.

I had to go see what the fuss was all about, of course — teenage girls, I’ve learned, have a fascination with all things vampiric, and if all things vampiric have a box office involved, that’s where you’ll find them (even Downtown), hours before opening.

Katie O’Nell is neither a teenager (she’s an 11-year-old sixth-grader at Lewis Middle School) nor inclined to hang out at box offices at all hours (she’d rather read or go to a play) — she saw the movie in due course, but not before she’d scarfed down the novel.

“The movie was different from the book in several ways,” she said, “but the production people did a good job. I liked the book better, though. It got into more detail about how the vampires lived and what happened before they came.”

If that’s the case, I probably would have preferred the book myself. The romance angle is handled sweetly in the movie, although it gets too much screen time; I wanted to know more about the warring factions among the vampires and the history behind them. In any event, lovestruck mortal Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and teen vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattison) are quite intriguing on the screen — Hardwicke takes pains not to pander to her core demographic, and for O’Nell, that translated into an equally adult conversation with her dad about the whole affair.

“He said people like to be scared,” O’Nell explained, “but that these mundane, serious fears, like with the bad economy right now, are too much for them. They want to be scared safely, like they can just walk about of the movie going, ‘Now I get to go back to my normal life.’ I think that could definitely be a factor. I think it definitely is.”

O’Nell and her dad are probably right. We love challenging our fears of the unknown, especially with a bag of popcorn and a drink in our laps. With “Twilight,” that unknown lives in two very attractive young performers and the otherworldly adult battle they wage. This movie is honest, good-hearted and full-throated (pardon the play on words), eminently suited to 11-year-old sixth-graders and those ever so far beyond.
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Another significant change over that time period has been an attitudinal shift toward the environment. Whereas cell phones and the Internet were merely a novelty in the mid-1990s, nowadays you’d be hard pressed to find someone, even a child, who doesn’t have their own cell phone and isn’t going online at least once per day.

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Whether you are looking for a beautiful necklace, ring or earrings or even a special piece of furniture, our Lady’s Gift Shop has it for you.
Unique New Year’s Resolutions

With the end of each calendar year comes the resolve to make changes for the coming 12 months. How many of these resolutions are ones we’ve all heard before? Quit smoking, lose weight, eat healthier – those are the common goals that surface again and again. Perhaps this year we should resolve to come up with more unique resolutions that put the emphasis on helping others in addition to helping ourselves.

Donation of Time or Money

The good thing about helping others is that we usually end up helping ourselves in the process. So the resolution to give back to an individual or the community often proves mutually beneficial. Continue the feelings of generosity that may have sprung up during the holiday season throughout the rest of the year. Volunteer at a senior center, or become a mentor for disadvantaged children. Find a charity to which you can regularly donate money to their cause.

Repair Broken Relationships

We have all said and done things we regret later. Sometimes these involve bridging gaps between the people we love. This year, resolve to fix relationships that need a little work, or reconnect with a long-lost friend or relative.

Spread Some Joy

Why not do something just for the sake of bringing a smile to someone’s face? Mail a greeting card to one of your neighbors who may seem lonely. Find out if there is an elderly resident who could use some help grocery shopping, or just needs someone to sit with him or her for a few hours during the week. Think like a child and absorb all of the little joys you experience every day and often do not give any thought. Send a note to your child’s teacher saying how much you appreciate his or her dedication. Ask to see a supervisor at a store and compliment the job done by an employee, rather than complaining about something that’s wrong.

Resolve to Have No More Resolutions

If you look at it one way, resolutions may seem like we’re given free reign to act poorly the rest of the year and then clean up our acts each January. Instead of coming up with ideas you only stick with for a month or two, make resolutions a part of your daily life and make any successful resolutions a part of that routine.
The De Portola Wine Trail is located at the picturesque southern part of beautiful Temecula Wine Country. It consists of 7 unique and charming wineries nestled among rolling vineyards and spacious horse ranches. De Portola Wine Trail is becoming well known for its outstanding wines and exceptionally friendly service. Guests are often greeted by the owners and winemakers and get first hand information on the histories of the wineries and their individual winemaking styles.
It’s beginning to look like a ‘white wine’ Christmas

John Alonge, wine expert and owner of Downtown’s San Diego Wine & Culinary Center. He taught a class entitled “Find the Opus,” which examined some of the qualities of wine relative to their prices.

“I’ve always been intrigued by wines that have a higher-cost bottle. We like to think of the intrinsic value of wine, said Alonge, debating whether the higher-cost bottles are really worth it.

“What are some things that take a wine from here to the stratosphere?” he asked.

Alonge then held a blind tasting with wines of various costs to see if the audience could determine by taste alone which was the most pricey.

Last year’s chef of the Fest win, Gary Thompson, from Viejas, hosted a “Shrimply Delicious” class, including a cooking demonstration of his winning recipe from last year, Sweet Tequila Marinated Grilled Shrimp and Spicy Garpacho.

Thompson was followed by Chef Scott Wagner, who taught a class on feng-shui cuisine. Wagner, a chef with a conscience, focuses on food items and cooking and serving products that are sustainable and more ecological-friendly.

He is the executive chef of Cilie Co., and he emphasizes the importance of “love, imagination, passion and flavor” in cooking.

Though the event drew a lot of newcomers this year, several were veterans.

“It was just as lively and delici- ous as ever, despite the hot weather,” said Regina Rega.

Rega is a La Jolla resident who visited the Grand Tasting event for the second year in a row.

800 entries, 8,000 patrons mark wine & food fest

Truly Fine Wine is a wholesaler of exquisite, limited production German wines. We have some fantastic holiday wine specials and our focus is on dry to sweet Riesling, Pinot Noir and Sparkling Wines.

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CHEF PAUL NILES' TRADITIONAL 3 COURSE MENU

49.95 USD, 14.95 USD & UNDER

December 17th

The fifth annual San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival was held Nov. 12-16 at various venues Downtown, featuring cooking classes, tastings, fine dining and wine enjoyed by more than 8,000 locals and visitors from all over the country.

The event culminated in a Grand Tasting held Saturday, Nov. 15 at Embarcadero Park North, with more than 800 wines and 70 of San Diego's top chefs.

December 13th

Doug and Ryan Hill, proprietors of Hill Family Estate with Proprietors Doug Hill has been a presence in the industry for years, casting a shadow in some of the most extraordinary wines produced there. In 2001, at the urging of his son, The Hill Family Estate wines were launched. Today, Doug Hill has been a presence in the industry for years, casting a shadow in some of the most extraordinary wines produced there. In 2001, at the urging of his son, The Hill Family Estate wines were launched. Today, Doug Hill has been a presence in the industry for years, casting a shadow in some of the most extraordinary wines produced there.

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December 13th

Hill Family Estate with Proprietors

Doug and Ryan Hill

Doug Hill has been a presence in the vineyards in Napa Valley for over 35 years, casting a shadow in some of the most extraordinary wines produced there. In 2001, at the urging of his son, The Hill Family Estate wines were launched. Today, Doug Hill has been a presence in the industry for years, casting a shadow in some of the most extraordinary wines produced there.

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Seasonal Beers Paired With Holiday Cheer!

By Tony Clarke

Airdale Brewing Company's Homecoming Spiced Holiday Porter is a perennial favorite in my house. The company's Homecoming is a classic beer for the fall season. This full-bodied beer is "wet hopped" or hopped using hops that are not dried out, but still a living plant. This technique, as noted by some brewers, imparts a very fresh hop flavor to beer. Harvest Ale is a great beer for those of us who enjoy a mouthful of hop flavor, but still finds its place at the holiday dinner table. Paired well with grilled chicken, salmon, curries, or artisan cheeses, Harvest Ale is a perennial favorite in my house.

Lastly, Eel River Brewing Company's Climax Noel finishes out the bunch. An Imperial Red Ale, Climax Noel finishes out the bunch. An Imperial Red Ale, Climax Noel is a strong ale (about 8% alcohol), with a reddish amber color, and provides a welcome warming feeling in a cold holiday setting. Hopped with New Zealand hops, this beer has a large hop aroma, and flavor to match. Climax Noel is a perfect combination with glazed ham and sweet potatoes, or a gourmet pizza.

So who not spice up your holidays with a creative and unique beer made just for the season. I have mentioned just a tiny sampling of the hundreds of seasonal beers available. The great part about seasonal beers is you know your getting a fresh beer, made to compliment the flavors of the time, and you are experiencing true artisan brewing right in your pint!

You can read all about seasonal beers at: "Seasonal Beer Throughout the Year" seasonalbeerandfood.org

Airdale Brewing Company: airdalebrewing.com
Wolaver’s Organic Ales: wolavers.com
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co: sierranevada.com
Eel River Brewing Co.: eelriverbrewing.com

Wolaver’s Organic Will Steven’s Pumpkin Ale is a fine beer for the holidays. Many may be skeptical of pumpkin ale’s appeal, as most tend to be over spiced and dominate the palate. Not in this case, as Wolaver’s uses locally grown organic pumpkins and just a hint of spicing to give this beer a great malty flavor, medium bodied, and a smooth and subtle pumpkin flavor. Great with pot roast, roasted vegetables, and Brie, this one is a winner every time. Sierra Nevada’s Harvest Ale is a classic beer for the fall season. This full-bodied beer is "wet hopped" or hopped using hops that are not dried out, but still a living plant. This technique, as noted by some brewers, imparts a very fresh hop flavor to beer. Harvest Ale is a great beer for those of us who enjoy a mouthful of hop flavor, but still finds its place at the holiday dinner table. Paired well with grilled chicken, salmon, curries, or artisan cheeses, Harvest Ale is a perennial favorite in my house.

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Cheese it!

The interior of downtown San Diego’s Fifth Avenue Financial Centre is so antiseptic that it’s probably a front for a top-secret hospital zone or an experimental lunar colony. Glare from pristine floors and walls blinds you into submission, making it tougher to navigate your way to Alex’s Brown Bag, an archetypal little eatery on the first floor. Alex’s even sports the same signage that the business offices do; if it weren’t for the tables and chairs in the adjacent foyer, you might even walk by it. But you’d be making a mistake if you did. Alex’s brands itself the local home of the Philly cheese steak, a fabled, fantastic sandwich invented in Philadelphia around 1930 as a Great Depression comfort food. The name says it all—this is a tangy collection of thinly sliced steak topped with mozzarella and served on crusty bread; you can pretty much get it with any condiment you want (fried onions are the way to go), and it comes with a pickle slice roughly the size of an Olympic javelin.

Somebody we know was robbed in Philly once— but as long as the world has a good Philly cheese steak, it hardly matters what happens to its namesake city. You can get one by showing up at Alex’s, 2250 Fifth Ave., Suite 171, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and you’re welcome to call ahead at (619) 231-2912 or look up the menu at www.alexsbrownbag.com. Best assured that in that building, the sanitation is beyond reproach.

Tony Clarke & his wife Liz own Airdale Brewing Company, located in San Diego airdalebrewing.com


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CHARGERS Q&A

# 80 MALCOLM FLOYD

By Caleb Barber

Your brother played in the NFL for the Oilers for a few years. Did you learn anything from watching him play?

“I would see just the way he used to attack the ball, his route running. He was shorter than me. He was only about six feet tall, so he had that quick receiver mentality that kind of helped me out and carried over.”

What sport do you like to watch most outside of football?

“Basketball. My favorite team is Phoenix. I like Shaq.”

Do you have any interesting hobbies?

“I’m into online gaming. I like to relax and watch TV a little bit. My favorite shows are Scare Tactics and First 48.”

What do you think you will be doing after your football career is over?

“I have a health science degree so I’ll probably end up being a nurse or something like that.”

In the media guide it says that you are into the newest video games. What game have you been playing the most lately?

“I’ve been playing a lot of SOCOM and NBA Live.”

It also says that you like to boogie board. Have you ever tried surfing?

“No, but I like to go to the beach and barbeque and just chill out.”

What is your favorite thing about playing in San Diego?

“I’d say being around my teammates everyday and being able to interact with them on and off the field.”

If I picked up your Ipod, what would I hear playing?

“You would probably hear some Ice Cube.”

Where is your favorite place to eat in San Diego?

“Probably Rei Do Gado. It’s a Brazilian restaurant on 4th Avenue downtown.”

Who has been the biggest influence on your football career?

“I would say my parents and my brother.”
BONDI
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Relaxed by day and bustling at night, Bondi Australian beer and food brings the contemporary flavors, sights and sounds of Australia to the historic Gaslamp Quarter. Bondi is all about top-quality Australian products and people. It’s also about the relaxed and casual Aussie attitude to life. Named after Sydney’s famed Bondi Beach, Bondi brings you ice-cold Aussie beer on tap, along with a large range of Australian and international bottled beer and the longest and strongest Australian wine list in the US. The food menu is fresh and contemporary, relaxed enough to make on or bar substantial enough for a long dining experience, and served with the friendly casualness that makes the Australian lifestyle famous the world over. Live DJ’s every Friday and Saturday night.

Richard Walker’s Pancake House
Richard Walker’s Pancake House, an upscale fusion of traditional and gourmet breakfast favorites, is now open in the Marina District in downtown San Diego. Serving classic-style griddlecakes, crepes, omelets and other specialties, this pancake house is certain to become the “premier” breakfast destination for San Diego’s residents, employees and the tourist crowds. Open 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 7 days a week, and if you are unable to stay and enjoy the atmosphere, take Richard Walker’s with you as we prepare orders to go.

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Toscana Café and Wine Bar
Formerly Pj’s Café, Toscana Café & Wine Bar has been recently remodelled and is beautiful and cozy. Outside there is a shaded patio great for enjoying a glass of wine and fine wine when you visit Valentines. Call ahead to pick up your orders “to go”!

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Beach city Market is your locally owned and operated neighborhood market. We offer weekend table service for breakfast 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We are located in Horton Plaza across from 24 hour fitness. We feature a New York style deli, gourmet salads, a salad bar, sushi, smoothies, coffee, and dessert. All of our sandwiches are made with Boars Head deli meats and cheeses. We also offer a large selection of prepared meals for dining in or take out. If you are looking for an effortless holiday season please see our catering menu and holiday menu online at beachcitymarket.com or call us at 619-232-2491. Thank you the readers of the Downtown News for voting us one of the Best Deli’s in San Diego.

Valentine’s Mexican Restaurant
Valentine’s Mexican Restaurant is family owned and operated and conveniently located at 844 Market Street in the East Village. Valentine’s offers downtown San Diegans quality traditional Mexican breakfast, lunch and dinner (also OPEN LATE for the bar crowds). In addition to the excellent burritos, tortas, tacos, and homemade salsa at the salsa bar, you can also choose from a selection of Mexican beers and fine wine when you visit Valentines. Call ahead to pick up your orders “to go”!
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Everything you want for Christmas... right here in Ocean Beach.

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good cheer
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We hope your holiday is decorated with love, laughter, and friendship. May the blessings of the season surround you and bring you much happiness and good fortune throughout the year.

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Paint personalized gifts.

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8 Days Only! Dec. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, & 31 & Jan. 1 & 2
Holiday Gift & Tour Guide

Julian is an historic gold mining town located approximately an hour east of San Diego. It is the premier mountain retreat in the county and is unique in that it has four seasons.

Eaglenest Bed & Breakfast

Perfectly nestled just a block above Main Street in the Historic District of Julian, California sits Eaglenest Bed & Breakfast. Your Victorian Bed & Breakfast Inn, Eaglenest B&B offers all the amenities of a four star resort in the privacy and comfort of your own home in this mountain hamlet in San Diego County, a one block walk to local shopping, fine dining, attractions and entertainment in historic Julian.

Eaglenest B&B boasts privacy, great amenities and a high level of personalized service and care. Each guestroom offers great style and comfort, and feature a wide range of amenities that may include In-Room Fireplaces, Private Hot Tubs, Patios with views, and Private Entrances.

Country Carriages

The Holiday Season is here. Country Carriages is now accepting reservations for this busy time. Located in the historic Town of Julian, we proudly serve All of San Diego County. We not only offer street rides but provide horse drawn carriages for your Holiday Parties, Christmas Caroling, Engagements, Weddings and much more.

Candied Apple Pastry Company

“Impeccable to the Core”

European Bakery & Bistro

Serving all of your Delicious Dinner table Fantasies

Downtown’s Sun Cafe: Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About San Diego

The chili bean and cheese omelet at the Sun Cafe is really, really big and really, really good, especially considering you have to invest only $5.50 in one. This Gaslamp Quarter eatery slings terrific $4 Screwdrivers, too. It serves them in a generously tapered glass with an intriguing blue tint and uses a very interesting vodka called K. The only item that might stretch your pauper’s budget is the T-bone steak dinner, at $10.75. Every other main course runs from about $4 to $6.50, with some side items (like a single egg) going for a stinkily of $1.25. Lots of small restaurants have comparable or superior deals, of course; one City Heights venue asks a stinkily of $5 for a chicken pot pie the size of a flying saucer. But that place, and most others in San Diego, can’t touch tiny businesses like the Sun in an area that, to some, is the most compelling of all—the history the feeds it.

The building, at 421 Market St., was constructed in 1883 and was a shooting gallery and confectionery factory before becoming a restaurant about a century ago; the walls nod benignly to that past through a number of ancient downtown-area photos. And any number of production companies take to the funky signage and glass-and-mortar façade: The Sun was featured in the movie “Almost Famous” and has been the backdrop for a cluster of commercials and TV series, including “Veronica Mars,” the recently defunct show that featured San Diego actor Duane Daniels.

Whether you live in one of our manufactured homes, or are just visiting with your RV, you’ll feel the great sense of community that surrounds Butterfield Ranch. RV sites are just $35 a night. If you decide to settle down, you can purchase a mobile home or relocate your existing mobile home and pay only $300 per month.

The chili bean and cheese omelet at the Sun Cafe is really, really big and really, really good, especially considering you have to invest only $5.50 in one. This Gaslamp Quarter eatery slings terrific $4 Screwdrivers, too. It serves them in a generously tapered glass with an intriguing blue tint and uses a very interesting vodka called K. The only item that might stretch your pauper’s budget is the T-bone steak dinner, at $10.75. Every other main course runs from about $4 to $6.50, with some side items (like a single egg) going for a stinkily of $1.25. Lots of small restaurants have comparable or superior deals, of course; one City Heights venue asks a stinkily of $5 for a chicken pot pie the size of a flying saucer. But that place, and most others in San Diego, can’t touch tiny businesses like the Sun in an area that, to some, is the most compelling of all—the history the feeds it.

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You’re welcome to happen by between 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. every day but Tuesday. And leave your debit card at home; the Sun takes cash only.

Either way, you’re setting your self up for a brush with local history and a darn good cheap meal to celebrate it.
Red Bicyclette Makes A Great Holiday Merlot — But Oh, That Label...

Somebody who shall remain nameless — mainly because he doesn’t actually have a name — thought he’d try Red Bicyclette’s 2004 Merlot this time, for two reasons: 1. Merlot is an extremely versatile wine, which makes it perfect for the holidays, and 2. he took pity, because the label’s a perfect for the holidays, and 2. he took pity, because the label’s a perfect

man. It looks like a colored pencil schematic of a character straight out of The Beatles’ ‘Yellow Submarine’ — he’s riding a bike, moth-eaten dog in tow, with an ominously oversized bag in his bas-
ket. The bag could be full of either wine or water, for all we know; such is the noncommittal nature of the whole miserable drawing.

Wow. But Red Bicyclette is French, after all, and France is the top per-capita wine producer in the world (until 2010, when we’re expected to overtake it). Accordingly, this little number isn’t half bad.

It’s a Merlot, for sure, all deep red and wet and fruity and crazy with that acidic aftertaste, the kind that pairs with select cheeses and meats.

The bonus is that that aftertaste stays with you a while, coloring your memory of holiday dinner and the Detroit Lions’ usual loss in their annual Thanksgiving game. You sort of get to drown your sor-
rows by default amid the instant replay in your head, a pheno-
menon that defines the Lions most every year (and in 2008, they’re totally winless to boot).

Red Bicyclette’s 2004 Merlot is a pretty good deal at $7.99 wherever wine is sold. It’s also a con-
versation piece because of the label alone.

Let us then propose a toast to the guy on the bike and to his would-be animators, who’d do well to place a sinkhole just ahead in the next frame.

C

hreasts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nipping at your nose, yuletide cards being sung by the fire and folks dressed up like Eskimos. At over 4500 feet elevation, Julian is one of the few places in San Diego County where “it’s beginning to feel a lot like Christmas” and the local weather forecast predicts snow next week in the mountains.

Julian’s Country Christmas festivities began at 4:00pm on Saturday, November 28th with a Tree Lighting Celebration at 6:00pm of the town’s huge living Christmas tree. This popular annual event draws hundreds of visitors who gather at Pioneer Park to watch the tree lighting, drink hot cider, and visit with Santa. There will be warming stations throughout the town offering hot cider or cocoa, pastries, candies, and other holiday treats. The entire town has been dec-
orated with Christmas wreaths and garlands and most businesses will be open until 9:00pm. Entertainment includes the Julian Wandering Carolers, a Living Nativity scene, Santa’s arrival in a fire engine, and more.

“Julian offers holiday visitors the perfect Norman Rockwell Christmas experience,” according to Tracy Turner, President of the Julian Merchants Association, “with its nos-
talgic, small town atmosphere and cold tem-
peratures.”

Visitors to this historic mountain com-

munity during the holiday season can indulge in a Victorian Christmas tea, sip hot cider or hot chocolate, shop for one-of-a-kind gifts in the small boutiques, or sing Christmas car-
ols with costumed holiday carolers. They can watch the annual Living Nativity tableau, cuddle under a blanket while riding down Main Street in a horse drawn carriage, take in a performance in historic Town Hall of “A Christmas Carol”, stay in a cozy bed and breakfast that’s all decked out in holiday fin-
ery or bundle up and take a stroll down a quiet country lane.

Other holiday activities include a holiday home tour, a gingerbread house contest, hol-
iday crafts, breakfast with Santa, an open house at Santa’s Village, sugar cookie deco-
rating, musical performances, and much more. For a complete list of holiday events, visit www.julianevents.org.

Julian Merchants Association, “with its nos-
talgic, small town atmosphere and cold tem-
peratures.”

Tree Lighting Ceremony Kicks off Julian Country Christmas

Rong Branch Restaurant

Located in the heart of Julian California, our restaurant offers BBQ, steaks, seafood, burgers and home cooked country favorites, in a charming atmosphere. Enjoy dining al fresco during the lazy summer months, or rent out our function room for special occasions. Hope to see you soon!

Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant

Where Good Friends Gather for the Holidays

Lake Cuyamaca Restaurant

(760) 765-0700 · 15027 Highway 79

HOLIDAY GIFT & TOUR GUIDE
JULIAN IS AN HISTORIC GOLD MINING TOWN LOCATED APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR EAST OF SAN DIEGO. IT IS THE PREMIER MOUNTAIN RETREAT IN THE COUNTY AND IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT HAS FOUR SEASONS.

SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS | DECEMBER 2008 | PAGE B19
If paintings are plays, then frames are their scene designs. At their best, they make a serious statement about the work of art (and, by extension, about its purchaser) – at their worst, they muddle your wall décor and devalue the enjoyment of your piece. That’s where J Dewers Custom Framing comes in. The staff is in business to pick up where your knowledge and taste leave off, from the shape and color of the frame to suggestions on the best type of glass, mat and even picture hangers. They also frame mirrors, tapestries, diplomas and the like – and house conservator Sarah Murray can repair scratches, burns and holes in just about anything. Your precious artwork is in the very best of hands at J Dewers, located at 715 Eighth Ave. in the East Village. The number is (619) 233-5888, or visit www.jdewers.com.

The harder your giftee is to shop for, the better Vintage Religion seems to like it. This North Park venue is worth a long, long look as a place just to browse through – but if you’re planning on snagging a present, you and the one you’re buying for had best be in the mood for authenticity and reflection. Rosaries, religious statuary, items from a killer Frida Kahlo collection, Day of the Dead memorabilia, locally designed jewelry, organic art: All things religious and cultural are under one roof here, and the shop is well-represented Saturdays from 6 to 9 p.m. at North Park’s uber-popular Ray at Night artfest. You can find the articles indoors at 3821 32nd St. – and there’s so much to choose from that you’re smart to call ahead for advice at (619) 280-8408. By the by: The website, www.vintagereligion.com, is a work of art in itself. Simply too cool.

The Latin word “tabule” is pronounced “tab-yul,” with the accent on the first syllable. Nothing profound about it; it simply means “tablet” or “list” – as in “menu,” maybe, since Tabule is also the name for a great Gaslamp Quarter eatery/bar. And since the word is from the Latin, it only figures that Tabule would sport an international menu. Sashimi, Mandarin Cornish hen, Arrachera and mesquite duck tacos, Chilean white sea bass, martinis flavored with an array of exotic fruit: The tastes of nations and cultures clash under a hip orange dining room and black glass bar. And it’s hard to believe Tabule opened only a few short months ago – if there are any service or logistical kinks left to work out, you couldn’t prove it by us. Tabule Restaurant and Bar has set up shop at 315 Fourth Ave., learn more by calling (619) 238-0048 or visiting www.tabulerestaurantbar.com.

Apparently, nobody at JUNC Boutique got the memo about the company spelling class, which must have been less than a success – but that’s OK. Junc is in funky little South Park, where you might expect a funky little fun with the alphabet, and that’s all that matters. In fact, junc – er – junk is what this venue does best when it comes to its vintage stock of clothing. Comfortable secondhand shirts, jeans and vintage-cut dresses pepper the walls and aisles – and pay attention to the gallery of art as well, which features the work of several local women and serves as the bridge between the boutique and the neighborhood. Junc is located at 2205 Fern St.; the number is (619) 283-2611. There’s more at www.myspace.com/-juncboutique.

**San Diego Bike Shop correction!**

While you’re hard at your holiday shopping, you should know that San Diego Bike Shop’s correct web address is www.sdbikeshop.com. We didn’t do so well in our attempt to relay that info last month – but rest assured that this venue, with or without the right address, is simply the greatest of its kind in the history of the universe.
This holiday season will feature a plethora of memorable events downtown and, in some cases, beyond. Mark your calendar with some of these activities, which are sure to add fun to your holiday season. There should be something for everyone!

Through Dec. 24
• The world’s largest LEGO Christmas tree lights up LEGOLAND California, featuring nightly tree lightings. Call (760) 918-LEGO or visit www.legoland.com.

Through Dec. 27

Through Dec. 28
• Cygnet Theatre Company presents “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play,” based on the Frank Capra film and adapted for the stage by Joe Landry. Cygnet also presents the opening of the renovated Old Town Theatre with its production of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” adapted and directed by artistic director Sean Murray. Tickets for both shows, Cygnet’s Web site, www.cygnettheatre.com or (619) 337-1525.

Dec. 6
• The San Diego Women’s Chorus’ 21st annual holiday concert, “Wolfsong,” will feature classical and contemporary songs written by women composers from various time periods, sung in English, German and Latin. Information and tickets, (619) 291-FEMM or www.sandiegowomenschoir.org.

Dec. 7 and 14-12

Dec. 11
• Mingel International Museum and JAZZ 88.3 present “Caravan! – A Holiday Jazz Party,” 5-8 p.m. Music by the Jazz 88 All-Stars, no-host wine and beer, hors d’oeuvres and the exhibition “Nomadic Legacy – Tent & Textiles from Central Asia & Iran.” Information, (760) 235-3555 or www.minglei.org.

Dec. 13

Dec. 14
• Irish Christmas at the Balboa Theatre with Irish music, song, dance and storytelling. Tickets, (619) 570-1100; information www.sandiegowithevents.org.

Dec. 15
• Cygnet Theatre Company presents “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play,” based on the Frank Capra film and adapted for the stage by Joe Landry. Cygnet also presents the opening of the renovated Old Town Theatre with its production of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” adapted and directed by artistic director Sean Murray. Tickets for both shows, Cygnet’s Web site, www.cygnettheatre.com or (619) 337-1525.

Dec. 16 and 17
• Anthology jazz holiday concert featuring nine-time Grammy nominee Spyro Gyra performing from new CD “A Night Before Christmas.” Call (619) 595-0300 or visit www.anthologysd.com.

Dec. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
• Holiday Pops concert with San Diego Master Chorale, San Diego Children’s Choir, California Ballet Co., various times. Tickets and information, (619) 235-0804.

Dec. 19
• Mercy Hospital Foundation presents a special evening with “The Nutcracker” to benefit Scripps Cancer Center. Exclusive VIP reception at the Westgate Hotel followed by the performance at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Tickets, (858) 678-6393.

Jan. 1 and 21
• The San Diego Bay Parade of Lights begins at 5:30 p.m. both Sundays and starts out at the south end of Shelter Island. More information, www.sdparadeoflights.org.

Dec. 15
• Winter Pops Special Concert with Chris Botti, 7:30 p.m., San Diego Symphony Hall. Tickets and information, (619) 235-0804.

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Dec. 29
• Big Bay Balloon Parade takes over Harbor Drive at 9 a.m. with more than 200 units, 16 marching bands and 22 specialty units. Information, http://www.thebigbay.com/index.html.

Jan. 1

The Gaslamp Quarter gets into the act this season with its first Gaslamp for the Holidays series of yule-specific events. One of them is Blue Christmas in the Gaslamp Quarter, which features music at no cover charge at various venues around the district, set for Thursday, Dec. 11, from 5 to 10 p.m. For more information on this and other programs, visit www.gaslamp.org or call (619) 233-5227.

The Christmas tree at the left is made from LEGO blocks. And since the picture was taken at Legoland in Carlsbad, that’s only appropriate. Call (760) 918-LEGO for more information on the venue’s holiday display.

Voted “Best Facial” by 10 News A-List
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* Ask about the glitter gel toe special
* Spend $100 or more in any service and you will receive $10 off (facials, nails, waxing)
* All retail skin care 15% off

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www.v2nailsbalsalon.com
Introducing Second Chance Dog Rescue!

Second Chance Dog Rescue is one of San Diego’s finest specialized dog rescue groups. A local group of dedicated dog lovers with many years of rescue experience has been formed to fulfill a desperate need in the community to “Rescue, Relocate & Re-home” homeless dogs from families who can no longer take care of their animals due to financial distress, and from over-crowded local shelters.

Our program is based on foster care, and all rescued dogs spend their first days at a loving foster home where they receive personal care. As part of our program, we ensure that all dogs and their families, volunteers for events or transport or donations, and short term weekend fosters. Please visit our website to learn how you can help dogs needing a Second Chance!

www.SecondChanceDogRescue.org

Pet Owners To Celebrate Holiday Season With Their Pets In The Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade

GASLAMP QUARTER – The first-annual Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade is a new event that will take place as a part of Gaslamp For The Holidays.

Scheduled for Sunday, December 14th, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade was designed to provide San Diego pet owners with a holiday event they can include their pets in. Participants will be invited to dress up with their pet in their favorite costumes for a special promenade throughout the Gaslamp Quarter to celebrate the season. To encourage participation, an awards ceremony will be held after the parade which will include awards for “Best Pet Costume,” “Best Owner Costume,” “Best of Show” for best pet and owner costumes.

The Parade will originate and conclude at the park next to the Hilton Hotel in the Gaslamp Quarter. Owners, accompanied by their dressed-up pets, will march up the decorated Fifth Avenue and under the famous Gaslamp Quarter Arch. The parade will then cross E Street, cruise back down Fourth Avenue, and conclude at the park next to the Hilton Hotel where it started.

At the finish line in Hilton Park, there will be a small community Pet Expo featuring local celebrities and pet-related products and services, a photographer taking pictures of owners with their pets, and the Gaslamp Pet Calendar.

In the Gaslamp Quarter, the celebrations never end, and this event is no exception with “after parties” at pet-friendly venues throughout the Gaslamp Quarter. Parade participants and onlookers will be invited to spend some time with family, friends, and their pets at pet-friendly Gaslamp Quarter establishments that are happy to accommodate them after the Pet Parade and throughout the year.

Registration for the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade is now available at www.gaslamp.org on the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade event page. The registration fee will be $10 per owner/pet duo, which will include participation in the parade, matching owner and pet-collectors Gaslamp Holiday Pet Dog Tags, and a Pet-Goodie Bag featuring animal treats, discounts, coupons, and other pet friendly gifts and offers.

On the day of the parade, enjoy part of each of the Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade and other Gaslamp For The Holidays highlights will be released as they are coordinated through the fall of 2008. The Gaslamp Quarter Association staff will also be available for interviews or to answer any further questions.

December 6th
Santa’s Coming To City Dog
10:00 A.M. Tom Wegley Photography will once again be taking great shots of your dog(s) with Santa. You and the whole family can join in too. Prints will be available while you wait starting at only $10.00! Additional packages including holiday cards will also be available.

December 7th
Ocean Beach Town Council Dog Beach Holiday Beach Party
10am-1pm Ocean Beach Town Council presents Sandy Claus, a Holiday event for the whole family, back by Popular Demand. Bring your dog, your family, and your holiday spirit. Professional photographers will be on site to take your holiday photo with Santa on the beach. Enter your dog in the Costume Contest. Show off your dog’s best tricks and win a cool prize.

December 12th
Holiday Doggie Cafe
4-6 p.m
Cost: $10 suggested donation
Bring your friendly, on-leash dog to socialize with other dogs while you learn how to keep your pooch calm in a distracting, cafe setting. Winter holiday pictures will also be available for a $5 donation.

December 13th
Pet Fair
10am-3pm
Pet owners may bring their pets to Pet Fair to display animal-related merchandise, services, and information.

December 20th
50 House Rabbit Society Holiday Party
1-4pm Cost: $5.00 Donation;
Children under 10 free.
Please bring a vegetarian hors d’oeuvre or snack to share. Rabbits are welcome to attend, but please keep them under the control of a harness or leash. Audtorium - San Diego Humane Society 5500 Genes St. ; SD 92110 MORE INFO: www.sdharabbit.org or email hrs@sandiegorabbits.org

December 21st
“WONDERLAND” WALK-IN THE-PARK
1pm
People rendezvous with their Dachshunds near the main fountain on the Prado up the Science Center. Around 1:45 or so they will start to make their way down the Prado to the “Spreekin’ Organ” Perfomance. Participation in Carol Williams’ “Christmas Organ Concert and Sing Along” scheduled for 2:00. The San Diego Dachshund Club also hosts a Dachshund “Summer Picnic”, “The HalleluWien Picnic” in the Fall, and “The Vernal EquiDox” walk-in-the-park in the spring. It has almost become a tradition to see the Dachshunds Dressed in their Holiday Attire parading across the stage for their fifteen seconds of fame.

December 29th
Wiener Schnitzel WIENER NATIONALS FINALS RACE AT THE BIG RAY BALLON PARADE AT HARBOR DRIVE
10am - FREE to watch - Dachshunds from all across the western U.S. will compete as one of the activities at the Big Ray Balloon Parade for the Holiday Bowl.

MORE INFO: www.holidaybowl.com

PETS and the CITY of SAN DIEGO: WE CELEBRATE HOLIDAY BOWL!!

MORE INFO:
www.CitydogSD.com
619-269-0201

WE CELEBRATE HOLIDAY BOWL!!

MORE INFO:
www.HolidayBowl.com

Submit your pet event and photos to Jason@sdnews.com

Dr. Raffy Dorian
San Diego, CA 92101
619-230-1220
www.MarketStreetVet.com

PAGE 32 | DECEMBER 2008 | SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS
San Diego's Own "Pet"icures by Tess Gets 4 Paws up!

"Pet"icures by Tess offers a relaxing and pain-free way to trim your pet’s nails. NO clipping is used, instead Tess starts with a lavender T-Touch massage to help relax your pet. Then she uses a shaping tool (instead of clippers) to file the nails back, followed by hand filing and buffing to give a smooth polished finish. You can actually have your dogs’ nails “Pawlished” if you like. Tess provides a variety of “Pawlish” colors to choose from. Tess’s technique leaves nails shorter than your dog could ever with clippers or with just using a dremel. Nails are rounded smooth, and there are NO rough edges that would normally scratch you or catch on fabrics or carpeting.

You can find Tess at several San Diego locations, including City Dog, South Bark, Noah’s Natural Pet and Original Pawpleasers. Additionally, Tess volunteers her Peticure service for many local rescue groups and in-home services that are available for dogs with special needs. No one is more passionate about paws. Love your dog! Take your pet to have a Peticure by Tess. MORE INFO: www.peticuresbytess.com

Pet Peeve: Having to sleep on the floor instead of the bed
Favorite Food: Chicken of any kind
Favorite Pastime: Going to the Beach
Favorite Toy: Teddy bear she lays on top of it and carries it around
Obsessions: Retrieving the Ball
Naughtiest Deed: Licking everyone

Sasha
Photo submitted by Anna Marie Barnard
(mama to Holly)

Holly
Photo submitted by Tammy Stevens
( mama to Holly)

Photo submitted by Anna Marie Barnard
(mama to Holly)

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