The USS Midway Museum held the first of three town hall sessions on Nov. 29 at the Port of San Diego to vet public opinions about a vision to convert the Navy Pier into a dual-level facility with a parking lot on the lower level and five-acre Veterans Park on the upper level.

The $68 million project, as currently proposed, would include demolishing the existing four-story Navy building on Harbor Drive to create an enhanced view corridor of the bay, transforming the Navy Pier into a gently sloping park with a 500-car parking lot beneath, and putting aside 1 percent of the total construction cost for local artists to provide art for the park.

The park’s slope would gradually rise from the Embarcadero to a 20-foot viewing point, then slope gently back down to 14 feet at the end of the pier in order to accommodate trucks, buses and other large vehicles in the parking structure beneath.

Although the entire project was to be discussed at the meeting, the conversation typically returned to one component of the proposal — a dramatic architectural element dubbed the “Wings of Freedom” that would be located at the head of the pier.

As currently conceptualized, the defining structure would consist of a pair of steel and titanium sails — one 400 feet in height, the other 500 feet — that would tower above the bay at the end of the proposed Veterans Park. Beneath the structure would be a 4,000- to 5,000-seat amphitheater for concerts and special events.

Mac McLaughlin, USS Midway Museum president and CEO, said the board embraced the idea to “build an iconic symbol that comes to represent San Diego for future generations,” as proposed by real estate developer Malin Burnham, architect Hal Sadler and philanthropist Denny Sanford — the latter of whom has agreed to fund the structure, estimated at $15 million.

Greg Mueller, CEO of Tucker Sadler Architects, said the firm came up with the idea for the structure after studying iconic elements in other cities, including the Sydney Opera House, Seattle’s Space Needle and the St. Louis arch.

“We started looking at architectural structures that people easily recognize across the world,” he said. “We took some of those elements — looking at the...
Experience the radiance of this established high rise community. Stainless appliances, granite counters, and unprecedented amenities complement the spectacular westerly views. Don’t miss out on this beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath, home in the sky!

**PARK PLACE**

$825,000

This Marina District South facing, top floor corner unit is filled with light and views of Pantoja Park. Vaulted ceilings create an open feel to this 1 bedroom, 1 bath home with an optional room loft upstairs that overlooks the living room. Do not miss out on this great unit!

**PARK ROW**

$385,000

This Marina District South facing, top floor corner unit is filled with light and views of Pantoja Park. Vaulted ceilings create an open feel to this 1 bedroom, 1 bath home with an optional room loft upstairs that overlooks the living room. Do not miss out on this great unit!

**CITYFRONT TERRACE**

$415,000

Classic “Brownstone” offers charm and sophistication as a walk-up style townhome unique to San Diego. This 1 bedroom, 1 and a half bath boasts vaulted ceilings, expansive windows, and unprecedented amenities. A perfect metropolitan unit with a bungalow feel.

**SYMPHONY TERRACE**

$245,000

Completely remodeled unit not to be missed. With travertine flooring, new kitchen cabinetry and appliances, new HVAC, and new windows with motorized solar shading, this is just the beginning of all that you will enjoy in this amazing 1 bedroom 1 bath home.

**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS**

$560,000

A not to be missed vintage 1927 Spanish charmer set on a serene canyon. This 3 bedroom and 2 bath home comes with modern updates including granite countertops, hardwood floors, and French doors that open onto a redwood deck shaded by palm & pepper trees.

**HARBOR CLUB**

$4,295,000

This contemporary residence with captivating views accentuates its surroundings. With 3 bedrooms, 3 and a half baths, an additional optional bedroom, extensive storage built-ins and a private entry, you will have plenty of room to enjoy this dream home.

**CITYFRONT TERRACE**

$245,000

Completely remodeled unit not to be missed. With travertine flooring, new kitchen cabinetry and appliances, new HVAC, and new windows with motorized solar shading, this is just the beginning of all that you will enjoy in this amazing 1 bedroom 1 bath home.
Spithill leads U.S. to victory in America’s Cup World Series tour on SD Bay

By JOHNNY McDONALD | Downtown News

There’s something to be said for a “home port” advantage. Jimmy Spithill, who spent his younger years charting San Diego’s waters, skippered a U.S.A 45-foot Oracle catamaran to victory over the French team in the America’s Cup World Series tour this month on San Diego Bay.

It had figured to be a sail-off final with the internationally-experienced New Zealanders. Instead, the locals settled for third place after beating Sweden. Then, Spithill closed the final weekend by taking the full-force Fleet race. The Oracle team might be remembered, too, for snapping New Zealand’s string of three wins with a breakthrough triumph in the America’s Cup for 72-footers in 2010. It appears they’re still on a roll.

The World Cup was a spectacle, unlike other weekends when billowing white sails are prevalent in varied competitions on the waters of San Diego Bay.

For the average shoreline spectator witnessing this event for the first time, a rule book and assistance from a leaflet observer might have been necessary. Tactical turns, errors and penalties imposed along the course might have been beyond novice comprehension. The seamanship of those scrawling, acrobatic helmeted sailors keeping things in balance was entertaining theater.

The AC45 boat was designed by the Oracle racing design and engineering team. At task was designing a boat that would not only meet the racing criteria but could also fit inside a 50-foot container. It appears they’re still on a roll.

In fleet racing on Nov. 13, the USA’s Oracle Racing Spithill is neck and neck with Emirates Team New Zealand. Nov. 18 saw match racing, fighting two teams against each other, as opposed to fleet racing, which involves all teams at once with Emirates Team NZ in the lead rounding the mark against Oracle racing Spithill.

“Sailing in the best of times is not an easy sport to understand,” he said. “For us to succeed, we must present an understandable and exciting sport on TV. We’ve got to look at how we bring the race courses into the public arena.” The nine days of time trials, eliminations and fleet maneuvers were pleasing to the eye as a cupped introduction to what it will be like when the 72-foot boats compete on San Francisco’s bay for the major-league America’s Cup in 2013.

The curious came to Broadway pier to get a close-up view of all the activity, watching these skeleton-like boats drift close by.

Decisions will be made this month whether the World Series will return to San Diego next year, according to a racing spokesperson.

Organizers said there is a need for more international racing interest, possibly from Australia and Italy, Korea, China and Spain remain in a learning curve.

Even winning a preliminary race was a step in the right direction for a Chinese team that had no Chinese nationals aboard. They plan to compete in the America’s Cup in the future with “Chinese sailors on a Chinese-built boat.”

The hard-wing catamarans being sailed in the world series tour are high-tech, high-performance beasts to handle. By the time the actual America’s Cup comes around, the event will be sailed in even more demanding 72-foot catamarans.

And for that extra home port advantage, the Oracle team is based and train not far away from the San Diego Bay bridge.
WINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heights, what the structure and makeup is, what the materials are — and we started using them as ideas for how to create something iconic to San Diego. Not to try to represent those things out there, but do something different."

He emphasized the importance of the Navy Pier’s location as central to San Diego.

"Whatever we do on there, it’s going to be seen. It’s going to be seen by those who come in and take off by airplane. It’ll be seen by those who live in Point Loma, Coronado, downtown and those who come to the bay," he said. "It’s centered in a spot that really has an opportunity to capture the heart of San Diego."

He said the structure is a loose interpretation of sails to symbolize San Diego as a home for sailing, but that the structure would be the laughable structure "fantastic," a potential money-maker for the city and a structure that may not be appreciated now, but will be long into the future.

Another concern brought up at the meeting was that the structure would block the view of the bay and dwarf the already iconic Midway Museum and perhaps even San Diego itself.

McLaughlin said he and the board at Navy Pier’s location as central to San Diego. Not to try to represent those things out there, but do something different."

"They are parallel with the ship, so you can look between them," he said. "You can see the bay at an elevated level that is not currently available to anyone."

One resident at the meeting said the structure wouldn’t block the view. It would be the view — the focal point of the city that people will be proud of in years to come.

McLaughlin said he and the board at USS Midway Museum are taking all of the public’s concerns and suggestions seriously.

"We have a responsibility to do something that San Diego is proud of," he said. "This is a grand plan, and this is a great rollout of the architects and so as not to impede the view, but said he would consider a suggestion to change material to a reflective glass that is transparent on one side."

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This 18th floor residence at Electra enjoys water and city views, 2 balconies, Bamboo flooring and a comfortable floor plan with over 1,400 sf. for a variety of lifestyles! Enjoy luxury living in downtown San Diego’s tallest residential high rise. Offered between $699,000 to $775,000

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The Pinnacle is one of downtown’s most prestigious buildings and is renowned for high end finishes and amenities. This 1 BR view property is the perfect entre into luxury living in a building with recent sales up to $3.3 million. $352,000

Robert Whalen 619-985-2225 windermeresp.com

Live at the top of one of San Diego’s finest buildings, Electra! This 33rd floor 2BR offers spectacular bay and city views and a spacious floor plan. Luxurious amenities include pool, spa, fitness room, 6th floor roof top deck, concierge service and more! $789,900

Jorge Castellon 619-259-5558 isellthecity.com

This refurbished 2BR townhome on the 5th floor of Electra is situated just steps away from the pool, bbq and outdoor fireplace courtyard. At 1,334 sq. ft., this makes for a spacious residence in the city with a private rooftop deck for entertaining! $439,900

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This is a rare opportunity to own a unique Pinnacle unit (1 of only 2 in the building) with gorgeous wraparound views from the east to west, and full southern exposure, boasting 3 bedrooms plus den, 2.5 baths and 2,640 sf. Offered between $2,650,000 to $2,950,000

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This 1BR condo measures 656 sq. ft. and overlooks the pristine courtyard. With an incredible rooftop deck, a theater with raised seating and 24 hour concierge/security, you’ll understand why Icon is one of the most coveted buildings in East Village!

$255,000

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**PRIVATE ROOPTOP DECK**

**GORGEOUS VIEWS DAY TO NIGHT**

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY AT ICON!**

Happy Holidays!

SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS | DECEMBER, 2011 | PAGE 5
The Santa Fe Depot was originally built to accommodate the influx of visitors to San Diego during the 1915 Panama California Exposition. It took nearly a year to build at a cost of $300,000. It opened on March 8, 1915.

The magnificent complex was designed by San Francisco architects Bakewell and Brown as a “monumental reminder” of California’s Spanish heritage. Intended to harmonize with the Spanish Colonial Revival-style buildings of the exposition, the size and grandeur far surpassed anything the Santa Fe had ever built in the West. So stylish, in fact, was the building that it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

So much revolved around the opening of the Panama California Exposition in 1915 that there became a definite need for a multiple train station to accommodate the influx of San Diego visitors.

To meet these urgent needs, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway built an ornate Spanish Colonial Revival-style structure. Construction began on a site just east of the old depot on Jan. 15, 1914 and was completed Dec. 31 at a total cost of $100,000. The new station opened on March 8, 1915.

The Santa Fe Depot was — and is — a hub of activity.
The large gray warships navigating through the thick marine layer at the city’s coastline are a constant reminder of San Diego’s longstanding association with the U.S. Navy. To spotlight the fleet—literally—Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) will hold a Navy holiday lights event on Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., opening the event to the general public for the first time.

Located off of Harbor Drive and 32nd Street downtown, the base will establish a driving route for motorists to navigate along the waterfront to view ships moored at the various piers, lighting up the night with their holiday embellishments. At the tour’s end, guests will have the option to park their car and take a walking tour of a ship.

“We are truly delighted to invite the public to see their Navy,” said Capt. Winton Smith, NBSD’s commanding officer. “The deployable units stationed here are the same units that keep our shipping lanes open by combating pirates off the coast of Africa, serve as ambassadors of goodwill in developing countries and provide humanitarian assistance to those impacted in Japan [by the recent earthquake and tsunami].”

San Diego is the principal home port of the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet, with more than 50 ships calling this city home—and pre-commissioned units (PCU) San Diego and Coronado among the next to join its ranks.

“We look forward to showing off our great ship and crew to the waterfront, as well as the local community,” said command Master Chief Sean Snyder, the senior enlisted person aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold. “Benfold’s crew is planning on a red, white and blue holiday lighting theme that captures how deeply proud we are to serve this great nation.”

Navy Band Southwest will provide entertainment and guests can enjoy hot cocoa and cookies during the event.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for us to give back just a little to our families, friends and the local community here in San Diego who support us throughout the year,” said Snyder.

Admission is free and guests can enter NBSD at gate two, located on Harbor Drive at Belt Street. All adults are required to show a valid form of ID to enter the base. To drive a vehicle onto base, a driver’s license, current registration and proof of insurance must be presented.

For more information, visit www.navy-regionsouthwest.com.
Santa Paws is coming to town for an event that pets and their owners will paw-sitively love at the pet-friendly Hotel Solamar on Dec. 10 and 11. The lobby of the hotel will be filled with holiday treats and décor, and one lucky hotel manager will don a Santa Claus suit to pose with neighborhood and out-of-town pets over the weekend from 2 to 4 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the San Diego Animal Support Foundation—a nonprofit group dedicated to improving the welfare of animals in shelters and rescue facilities in San Diego.

Whether you’re a guest staying in our hotel or a neighborhood friend popping into our restaurant, there’s always an element of fun and a sense of playfulness around,” said Hotel Solamar’s general manager Mark Ditella. “We think Santa Paws adds an unexpected element of holiday cheer to see so many beloved family pets all groomed and excited and ready for their picture with Santa.”

Although Santa Paws generally gets holiday visitors of the canine variety, the hotel invites pets of all sorts to take part in the holiday photo opportunity.

San Diego Self Storage (SDSS) facilities across San Diego are serving the community’s families in need this holiday season with a series of toy drive events to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

SDSS will collect new, unwrapped toys for the program until Dec. 19 at all of its locations, and the storage facility will also conduct raffles for a $100 credit toward a tenant’s new or existing storage rental.

The Marine kickoff event will take place aboard the USS Midway on Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with raffles, refreshments and prizes. Admission to the event is free with the donation of a new, unwrapped toy, which will be distributed as Christmas gifts to children in the community who may not otherwise receive gifts.

“We’re proud to sponsor this effort on behalf of the children within the communities we serve, and this drive marks our 1st consecutive year of participation,” said SDSS managing partner J. Terry Aston. “Our network of neighborhood self storage facilities makes it convenient for all San Diegans to get involved by dropping off toys at any of our locations located within close proximity to work or home.”

The Toys for Tots programs hopes to spread the message of giving to children at a young age to motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders.

To participate in the effort, simply stop by any of SDSS’s locations throughout the county, bring in a new, unwrapped toy to drop off, and leave knowing a child in need will receive a gift even greater than what was contained in the holiday wrapper.

The San Diego Floral Society will make Balboa Park sparkle with beautifully decorated trees contributed by garden clubs and societies throughout the county. All of the trees are decorated based on this year’s “Through the Eyes of the Children” theme and will later be donated to retirement and assisted-living facilities to spread holiday cheer for others’ enjoyment.

“The trees will be lit up and available for viewing on Dec. 2 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided in Room 101 in the Casa del Prado building, located at 1650 El Prado Ave., and floral designs, Protea stems and gingerbread cookies will be on sale to benefit the San Diego Floral Society’s projects.

The San Diego Floral Society will make Balboa Park sparkle with 20 beautifully decorated trees contributed by garden clubs and societies throughout the county. All of the trees are decorated based on this year’s “Through the Eyes of the Children” theme and will later be donated to retirement and assisted-living facilities to spread holiday cheer for others’ enjoyment. The trees will be lit up and available for viewing on Dec. 2 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided in Room 101 in the Casa del Prado building, located at 1650 El Prado Ave., and floral designs, Protea stems and gingerbread cookies will be on sale to benefit the San Diego Floral Society’s projects.

Coronado, just across the bridge!
Winter homeless shelter opens

The city’s emergency winter shelter for homeless adults, administered by the San Diego Housing Commission and opened on Nov. 21, at 16th Street and Newton Avenue.

“Alpha Project and the San Diego Housing Commission share the same mission, serving those who have no place to call home,” said Richard C. Gentry, president and CEO of the Housing Commission. “They have assembled a devoted team of nonprofit providers that will offer medical care, mental health screenings, drug and alcohol referrals and job counseling for shelter residents.”

The winter tent can provide shelter for up to 220 single, adult men and women each night. Priority will be given to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Last year, more than 700 homeless men and women were served during four months of operation.

The winter shelter program will offer 24-hour private security as well as increased San Diego police patrols in and around the facility for the duration of shelter operations through April 1.

The budget for this year is projected to be almost $40,000, with $44,000 coming from the Housing Commission and city funding sources and the rest from Alpha Project.

The Housing Commission administers a second winter shelter contract, which serves homeless veterans. It will open the first week in December in the Midway District. The pre-fabricated structure will be heated at the Navy’s SDWP property, 2001 ½ Sports Arena Blvd., a partnership that has continued for several years. Veterans Village of San Diego (VVS) operates the Midway facility, which will also have security.

Staff and contribution

Tax dollars should help grow jobs, not red tape

Kevin L. Faulconer

O ur tax dollars must be used to support our neighborhoods, businesses and local jobs, not block the way to progress with unnecessary red tape.

Here is an example. You may have noticed the restrooms on one of our local beaches [Brighton Street in Ocean Beach] have been closed for over two years, replaced with unsightly portable toilets on the sand. Why has it taken the city so long to fix a facility used by countless residents and tourists visiting Ocean Beach? It’s not due to budget cuts, environmental regulations or neighborhood controversy. It’s because the city’s contracting department stumbled through three construction bidding rounds — once rejecting a bid because it was not properly submitted in a three-ring binder.

I’ve been a leader in the campaign to bring “regulatory relief” to City Hall. The Ocean Beach [Brighton Street] restroom project illustrate what happens when red tape gets in the way: regulations overrule common sense; jobs are put on hold — and San Diegans’ time is wasted.

My goal for businesses is to spend less time navigating city bureaucracy so they can focus on running a successful business, strengthening our local economy and hiring more San Diegans.

I promoted a recent regulatory relief workshop sponsored by the City of San Diego. “How Can City Hall help a business create a job?” Dueters shared real-world horror stories and recommented to improve the city service, including:

• eliminating annual permits for home businesses; and
• expending online permitting.

The workshop is just the beginning. I will be releasing an action plan to reform the most burdensome city business regulations that are needlessly hurting San Diego’s economic recovery — and the jobs that come with it.

So what about the Ocean Beach restrooms? A local construction company was ultimately selected and the restrooms are scheduled to open in time for the summer. As for the city contracting department, I asked for a full performance audit of their operations and there is currently an opportunity for new management at the department.

What regulatory relief do you need to succeed? Tell me on the Regulatory Relief San Diego Facebook page, @RegReliefSD on Twitter or at kevin-faulconer@sandiego.gov.

— Kevin Faulconer represents District 2 of the San Diego City Council, which includes Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma, downtown San Diego and part of La Jolla.

Building the economy, one sporting event at a time

Sports Commission and Hall of Champions join to promote San Diego tourism through sports

Dr. JOHNNY MCDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

With a multifaceted sports and business development program, the San Diego Sports Commission and Hall of Champions have merged their efforts to enhance the quality of life through sports.

“We have received extremely good support from the mayor’s office, county supervisors, port commissioners and the tourism and marketing district,” Kidd said. “We’re at a high point of relevancy and as a contributor. We’re touching so many aspects in our part with tourism.”

Kidd said the efforts are a continuation of what the old sports council was able to accomplish.

An internship program has been established as a method of building a foundation in marketing. Offering some 70 to 80 interns practical work experience, the program will group the interns in pairs, promoting individual presentations. The sessions will be conducted each year, coinciding with each calendar season, with the next class set for March 1.

The duration of internships — which are offered in five departments: business development, marketing and communications, youth sports/education, events and sports development — is 12 to 16 weeks.

“We feel the Hall of Champions offers the recognition factor with its Stars of the Month and Hall of Famers,” Kidd said. “It’s a preservation of sports history. But we were devoid in the educational area.”

The hall has been conducting free youth clinics for many years, and some professional athletes will even take part in the activities.

“We cover the stars for that kind’s soul,” Kidd said. “And it’s always great to have these st-downtown chats, particularly dealing with sportsmanship. We also teach them to become bakers.”

For as amassing income, Kidd said 30 people are involved in production efforts to build foundations for major sporting events for the city.

“What’s different is that there were only three people in the council to do an event,” he said. “Today, I have a marketing department, graphic artists and photographers, marketing and Facebook, project administrators, bookkeepers and logistics department to sell permits. Our project managers will go to national conventions. They become very active in our event recruitment program.”

For more information, visit www.sdpsportscommission.com.
**News**

**Port looks to improvements in 2012**

**By JOHNNY MCDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS**

In search of ordinance regulation solutions for tenants, vendors and entertainers along the waterfront, another public meeting will be conducted Dec. 1 at the San Diego Unified Port District office.

This is the third meeting in which the public can voice opinions on how to handle permits.

In early 2012, the ordinances will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for its review. The ordinances would take effect 30 days after approval by the Board.

Some members of the public want the port to limit the number of permits. Others want to know the specific areas where entertainers and vendors will be allowed. Many just want to know what the rules are.

Jim Hutslar, manager of community services in the port’s Business Development and Marketing department, said a number of changes have occurred along the waterfront and adjacent land, and the regulations need to be updated to reflect the activities that take place.

Adjustments are needed because of the opening of the USS Midway Museum and the Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier. In addition, San Diego’s downtown has seen an increase in new residents.

Hutslar said one of the key goals of the update is to clarify the ordinances so they specify the types of activities that are allowed and the locations where these activities can occur. He said the goal of the ordinances is to support an active, vibrant and safe waterfront in a fair and equitable manner. Drafts of the ordinances have been readied for review.

The port will post the draft ordinances on its website, www.portofsandiego.org, and copies will be available for review in the Port District clerk’s office at 1165 Pacific Highway.

Meanwhile, a little-used concrete plaza and a shuttered restaurant will soon be a place for quiet waterside contemplation. The port — with the help of a number of officials from local cities, county and federal governments — officially broke ground on for the port’s 18th public park, called Ruocco Park, for Lloyd and Ilse Ruocco, the late San Diego couple who provided funding to help build the bayfront greenspace.

“This is another great addition to our waterfront and the downtown,” said Congressman Bob Filner, who was among those offering congratulations to the port for the project and thanking the Ruoccos for the donation.

Hutslar said the port, with the addition of Ruocco Park, is helping to make the city “a more sustainable, livable and beautiful city.”

Lloyd Ruocco was an architect and his wife was a designer and art professor at San Diego State. More than 25 years ago, the couple wanted to present a gift to the community — a downtown park that would be a quiet place for reflection. They established a trust fund that is helping fund the 3.3-acre park located on the southwest corner of Harbor Drive and Pacific Highway.

Ruocco Park was designed by Dennis Oursi of ONA and Associates, Inc., a San Diego firm.

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**Little Italy becomes a winter wonderland for the holidays**

**By MARSHAL LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS**

The Little Italy Association is transforming two of its city blocks into a Christmas village on Dec. 5 for a warm-hearted community celebration complete with a classic tree-lighting ceremony involving local elected officials, complimentary cider and cookies for guests, and a festive array of Little Italy Mercato merchants selling their handmade wares and artisan crafts.

“The streets are decorated with holiday cheer, and it really looks like a Christmas village has come to life, complete with a main street, families bundled up to visit with Santa, shopping from merchants, [and] music,” said Little Italy resident Marianne Brunetto. “We look forward to it every year.”

The free holiday festival will take place at Date and India streets adjacent to the Piazza Naatale from 4 to 8 p.m. for Little Italy families and neighbors to come out and enjoy each other companies during the intimate evening event.

Jolly ole Saint Nick will, of course, visit the village from the North Pole for a photo opportunity atop Little Italy Fire Engine 3. Adding to the holiday cheer will be the community coming together to enjoy the musical talents of the Pizarro Brothers, the Washington Elementary School’s choir and ballroom dancing troupe, and Modern Glee club of San Diego with performances throughout the evening event.

“The event is a terrific example of the Little Italy community — a downtown park that is helping to make the city,” said Filner. “This is another great addition to our winter season and Christmas celebration.”

More information can be found at www.littleitaly.sd.com/events/little-italy-tree-lighting.

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**Traditions bring holiday cheer to sailors**

**By MARIKO LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS**

Holidays are a particularly trying time for deployed U.S. Navy sailors and their families at home. Social media sites like Facebook and Skype have increased communication and helped ease the transition for these families, but it’s the familiar holiday rituals on board that give sailors a sense of normalcy around the holidays.

The USS Makin Island left San Diego on its maiden deployment just 10 days before Thanksgiving, but had ordered all the ingredients for a traditional holiday feast two months ahead of time for the more than 2,000 service members on board. While at sea in the Pacific, several of their family members came together to enjoy the traditional evening event.

Carrying on another Thanksgiving tradition, the USS Essex hosted a turkey trot 5K run around the ship’s flight deck, similar to the races taking place in cities across the U.S. Deployed from its homeport of Sasebo, Japan, the Essex was in the Indian Ocean during Turkey day.

In homeport at Naval Base San Diego, the USS Boxer served Thanksgiving meals to about 175 sailors who were on duty that day, in addition to several of their family members.

Community programs like Adopt-A-Sailor also provide opportunities for local families to host sailors for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. All because of the nature of their jobs, active duty military families are very familiar with the concept of away from home.

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**Students get into the spirit of giving**

Students kicked off the holiday season with the spirit of building and giving, as approximately 195 students from downtown’s Monarch School, Binno Logan’s Petco Elementary School and Southeast San Diego’s K行ってる Elementary volunteered at the Manchester Grand Hyatt to create the fourth annual “Toys for Tots Gingerbread Village.” The village includes dozens of gingerbread houses surrounding a 3D gingerbread replica of the Hyatt, an official Toys for Tots drop-off location. Parents can take the kids and an unwrapped gift to the festive village and vote for your favorite house. Hyatt will make a cash donation to the local Make-A-Wish Foundation in the names of the winning students. Dec. 1-26, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Grand Lobby, 1 Market Plaza, (619) 292-1234.
When you step into AT HOM, you’ll see that it’s not just a furniture store, it’s a furniture store with expert interior designers that can help you turn your house into an extraordinary home! AT HOM has vintage and contemporary furniture featuring unique designer furniture collections, some of which are exclusive to their stores in San Diego and Palm Springs. The furniture accents and accessories are spectacular and enhance any space from living room to bedroom.

Shopping for new and vintage can be a challenge because there are mostly new furniture stores or vintage stores and very rarely both. Searching for just the right items can be a challenge however AT HOM has a perfect blend of vintage and new that make achieving that special look easy.

AT HOM combines fine art, sculpture, unique accents, fine leathers and woods that are all hand picked with careful attention to quality. With over 20 years of experience, the team has the credentials to help you with interior design, staging techniques, and creating dynamic spaces. AT HOM’s goal is to create a truly pleasant, unique environment in which you live every day so that you feel like you are at home.
OB Christmas Tree Parade
Saturday December 3rd @ 5PM

Fun Zone in Pier Lot 12/03 9AM-9PM • Music, Food Fun & more! • Donate a Toy
Santa Comes to O.B. Dec 3,10,17,24 11AM-1PM • Newport & Abbot
OB Craft Fair Dec 3, 10, 17, 24 • 9AM-3PM • Farmer’s Market Every Wednesday, 4-7PM

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Large menu selection, including such favorites as Roasted Duck, Wiener Schnitzel, Sauerbraten and Rouladen of Beef, Pfeffer Schnitzel and Gefüllte Heringe. Extensive selection of German beer on tap.

We invite you to join us during the holidays. Open for lunch & dinner Christmas Eve & New Year’s Eve.
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619-523-1700
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HOURS: 7am to 9pm, 7 days a week
Open Christmas: 8 am to 1 pm
Please help with the Dog Beach Holiday Clean Up, Dec. 10, 9am - 11am

Dinner served Tues-Sun.

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and Happy Holidays From Nati’s
Planning a Party?

Ask about our luncheon banquet room or party take-out for large or small groups
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Voted #1 Restaurant 2009 • 2010 • 2011

Serving the Peninsula for over 51 years!

Nati’s Mexican Restaurant
1852 Bacon Street • 619-224-3369
Ocean Beach
**Downtown in December**


2. **Something’s Afoot,** 8 p.m., Industry Showcase, 345 Sixth Ave., art exhibition, www.hilchurst.com, free.


5. **Foundation for Women’s Housing and Support, 6 p.m.,** Co-Merge, 330 A St, (619) 408-0400, cory@foundationsforsan.org, free, $10 for lunch, (RSVP required).


8. **Newman Holiday Party, 6 p.m.,** Meyers International Museum, 1449 El Prado, (619) 409-1727, keiko@japan-society.org, $30 Japan Society members, $40 general.


12. **Santa Paws,** 2 p.m., Hotel Solamar, 343 Fifth Ave, pet photo opportunity, (619) 819-9500, free.

13. **Native American Women Artists, noon to 4 p.m., Women’s Museum of California, 2222 Broadway, Suite 107, (619) 233-2247, info@womenusmuseum-euca.org, $3-$5.

14. **Black Cherry X-mas Party, 8 p.m.,** B, 8 B St, www.greatdoes.com, $49-

15. **San Diego Bay Parade of Lights,** 5:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, (619) 231-1815, www.sandiegozoo.org, price included with admission.


19. **Newport Beach Holiday Pet Parade, 3 p.m.,** Galapog Hill Park, Fourth Avenue and K Street, galapog.org, (619) 233-5227, $10 entry fee to be considered for costume contest.


22. **Cassio Cocktails, 6:30 p.m., Hotel Indigo Level 9, 509 Ninth Ave, happy hour with pets, www.hotelindigo.com, (619) 727-4000, free.


Holiday cocktails bring family and friends together

If the words “holiday season” conjure up stressful thoughts that revolve around fighting the crowds on Black Friday to save an extra buck or going into massive amounts of debt in an attempt to buy the love of those you care for, there’s good news: this year, you can relax. Believe it or not, people all over the country are beginning to remember the true essence of the holidays is about sharing love and joy, and here at the Blind Tiger Cocktail Company, we believe the best way to share love and joy is over delicious food and drink. So before you go out and buy the newest animal-print Snuggie or another Shake Weight, think about planning that perfect holiday gathering for those you care for.

Here is the Blind Tiger Cocktail Company guide to holiday punch. As always, please drink responsibly.

**Essentials for amazing holiday punch**
- Punchbowl large enough to accommodate your party (matching holiday cups is a huge bonus)
- Large ice mold (using large mixing bowl slightly smaller than your punchbowl for minimal dilution)
- Simple syrup (a simple mixture of one part hot water and one part sugar, allowing sugar to dissolve entirely)
- Fresh citrus juice (buy a citrus press and use fresh juice whenever possible)
- Artisanal-quality base spirits (go to a specialty liquor store that sells boutique spirits)
- Autumn spiced cider
  - 10 oz Buffalo Trace bourbon
  - 10 oz Snap liqueur
  - 10 oz apple cider
  - 7 oz lemon juice
  - 5 oz apple gastrique
  - Autumn spiced cider: caramelize 2 cups of sugar in the bottom of a saucepan with 1/2 cup of water. Once mixture begins to caramelize, add 1 cup of apple cider vinegar and 1 whole diced apple. Simmer on low heat for 5 minutes, cool and strain
- Black strap eggnog
  - 20 oz Cruzan spiced organic rum
  - 15 oz eggnog
  - 5 oz cinnamon infused simple syrup
  - 2 oz Angostura bitters
  - Cinnamon simple syrup: allow 2 broken cinnamon sticks to simmer in 5 ounces of simple syrup for 5 minutes on low heat. Cool and strain
- Cherries and Chocolate
  - 15 oz clove-infused vodka
  - 5 oz Godiva chocolate liqueur
  - 14 oz cherry reduction
  - 8 oz lemon juice
  - Clover vodka: allow 12 clove pods to infuse in 750 ml of vodka for 5 days
  - Cherry reduction: allow 1 large can of dark pitted cherries, 4 cups of water, 1 cup of sugar, 1 tablespoon of nutmeg and 1 tablespoon of cinnamon to simmer on low heat for 20 minutes. Cool and strain. Save cherries for garnish.

— Adam Stemmler is a sommelier and mixologist at Vin de Syrah downtown. He is the winner of numerous awards, including the U.S. Bartenders Guild regional competition.
Wine & Food Fest makes San Diego a foodie haven for a few days in November


Donations will be accepted from November 30 through December 27 at Windermere Signature Properties to help fill the "Holiday House" with items to be donated to local charities. An abbreviated list of items to donate includes: clothing for children and adults, baby supplies and diapers, car seats, toys and games, school and art supplies, books, DVDs, non-perishable packaged and canned food, gift cards from major retailers and grocery stores, gas cards from major gas companies, amusement park passes, movie and sports passes, sports equipment, appliances, furniture, computers, kitchen utensils, personal hygiene products, tools, linens, bedding, and towels. Visit www.sdar.com for more information.

Windermere is Drop-off Center for "Holiday House" charities

The San Diego Association of REALTORS®, the real estate community and Windermere Signature Properties are pleased to inaugurate a holiday effort to help San Diego's children, military, homeless, and senior citizens. Charities benefiting from the Holiday House include: Adopt-A-Classroom, Becky's House, Homefront San Diego. It's all about the kids, Marine Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army, San Diego Armed Services YMCA, San Diego Center for Children, San Diego Food Bank, Second Chance, and West Senior Wellness Center.

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Spend it in the most wonderful place.

Holiday dining at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.

December 25, 2011, 11:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Put Hyatt on the menu this holiday season. Enjoy creamy soup, fresh salads and a complete seafood and sushi bar. At the center of the table, you'll find carving stations with slow roasted prime rib and brown sugar ham. To finish the feast, indulge in homemade seasonal pies, pastries and made to order banana foster. Call 619-358-6735 for reservations.

$64.95++
Adults

$45.00++
Senior Citizens 60+

$25.00+
Children 6-12 and under are free

Terms and Conditions:

Discount is valid for Maui Sunday, December 11 through December 25. Prices include tax and gratuity. Reservations are recommended by calling 619-358-6735. Available from 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. One per person, per meal, for children 12 and under for children's menu. Price is per person, per meal, for adults. Alcohol served at room temperature. This certificate is non-transferable and may not be combined with other offers or used for cash or credit. Not valid during any other events. Not valid for holidays. Not valid for gift certificates or with this program of any other certificate. Hyatt, Grand Hyatt and Grand Hyatt & Russia names, logos and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Hotels Corporation. ©2011 Hyatt Hotels Corporation. All rights reserved.

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Little Italy shop offers eclectic mix
Mixture celebrates eighth year selling everything under the sun

As long winter nights begin to take hold in San Diego, Balboa Park will light up the city with its 38th annual December Nights holiday celebration, complete with endless amounts of fun, food and entertainment that are sure to pick up anybody’s spirits this winter.

The free, two-day festival will take place Dec. 2 from 5 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 3 from noon to 10 p.m. with free admission to participating museums from 5 to 9 p.m. on both evenings.

Balboa Park will come alive with the sound of carol singers, San Diego Junior Theatre musical numbers and a variety of hourly jazz, hip-hop, tap and modern dance performances that will spread holiday cheer to every corner of the park.

Holiday-themed theater performances will curb any cultural appetite with glowing performances of Christmas classics, like “The Nutcracker Ballet” by the San Diego Youth Ballet.

“The Seuss How the Grinch Stole Christmas” at the Old Globe Theater and a puppet version of “A Christmas Carol” at Marie Hitchcock’s Puppet Theater.

A sampling of some of the kid-friendly fun this year includes a carousel ride at the San Diego Zoo, a Santa’s Express signature railroad and Skyfari experience, a display of the Southern California LEGO Train Club’s latest creations at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum and many more exhibits and holiday activities at participating museums. And what would December Nights be without its wide variety of delectable food and drink specials to indulge in?

The Cascades Holiday Marketplace, Paladium Midway and House of Pacific Relations International Cottages will host a variety of food fare and spirits from around the world and the Plaza de Panama will host pub fare, wine, beer and specialty cocktails at Prado Pub in the Square.

For those who can’t miss out on a minute of the holiday activities around the park, pick up some unique cuisine on the go at one of Chef Deborah Scott’s two gourmet food trucks — Chopp Souq, which will be serving up her famous Asian-fusion barbeque cuisine, and her new Ms. Patty Melt & Wilbur the Weiner Dog truck dehling out every variety of patty melt and hot dog imaginable.

To get to the park during the event, visitors can take advantage of free shuttle service from PETCO Park’s Tailgate Park, the County Administration Building’s north lot or the City College lots between 16th and 8 streets. Parking in the zoo lot is free, but is extremely limited and likely to fill up early. Parking in all other lots along Park Boulevard require a permit. $20 preferred parking or handicap designated parking only with the exception of the Inspiration Point parking lot, where $10 preferred parking is available until the lot fills up.

To ensure a bright future for the annual event, Balboa Park has launched a Support December Nights website — www.supportdecembernights.com — to secure funding so the free, magical event can carry on for generations to come.

For additional information about December Nights or to download a map of festival areas, visit www.balboapark.org/decembernights.

Mixture will be celebrating its eighth anniversary on Friday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Co-owner Brumby Broussard, a certified chef, will be cooking up Cajun and Creole food like jambalaya, red beans and rice, and pulled pork for the occasion, which will include libations, music, a giveaway and special discounts.

“Mixture has gained notoriety for being a unique, highly interesting and often surprising store, that mixes hard-to-find contemporary furniture from award-winning European companies like(e.g. De La Espada), Cor and Moooi with high quality art from local San Diego artists like Stephanie Paige, Monique Hoover and Ronald Allen Wickerham. Mixture also carries personal items, things to wear, novelty gifts, jewelry, books, candles and greeting cards. A relief from the uniformity of shopping malls, it’s a place where one might find a gift for the hard-to-please or the person who already has everything.

Housed in a red brick industrial building built in 1946 — last used as a woodshop and sawdust factory for snowboard and skateboard manufacture — the shop has retained many of the original features of the building like the pipes, ducts and stacking pallets.

See Mixture, Page 22
Musical legends of every genre grace venues in December

Jazz, reggae and rock make appearances throughout the month

**MUSIC CALENDAR**

**Jazz icon to play Croce’s**

Local jazz icon Daniel Jackson appears at Croce’s on Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. Jackson’s saxophone and piano have been part of San Diego’s musical landscape since the 1990s, with several generations of locals being mentored by him, including the likes of trumpeter Gilbert Cantaleon and A.J. Croce. Jackson has worked with a multitude of big names, including a touring stint with Ray Charles, but largely performs in solo mode today. If you haven’t experienced Jackson’s musical magic yet, this mix of Croce’s great food and Jackson’s great music is the perfect opportunity to do so.

**Daniel Jackson:** Sunday, Dec. 18 at Croce’s Jazz Bar, 802 Fith Ave. 11:30 a.m. 21 and up. www.croces.com

**Local jazz great**

Daniel Jackson plays at Croce’s on Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. Getting jazz.

**Van Roth rocks weekly at The Stage**

Classic rock aficionados will want to check out Van Roth, a Van Halen tribute band performing at The Stage every Thursday, 8:30 p.m., in December. Specializing in the quartet’s early years, when music singer David Lee Roth fronted the band, Van Roth gets the music right with a set full of favorites such as “ Ain’t Talkin’ Bout Love” and “Runnin’ with the Devil.” However, what really sells the show should still be a real crowd pleaser.

**Van Roth:** Thursday at The Stage, 762 Fifth Avenue. 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. www.stage-saloon.com

**Rocking out at Anthology**

One of the lynchpins of the 1960s and 1970s British rock scene, guitarist Dave Mason, who appears at Anthology on Dec. 28 and 29, may not be quite a household name, but he’s worked with just about everyone of note. A founding member of Traffic, Mason penned the bands mega hit “ Feelin’ Alright.” since covered by everyone from Tom Jones to Paul Weller. His own biggest recording was 1977’s “We Just Dug You,” but he’s also on tracks by Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac and many more. He’s only released one album in the last 24 years. With a set list full of radio staples, however, Mason’s show should still be a real crowd pleaser.

**Dave Mason:** Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 28 and 29 at Anthology, 1137 Ind St., 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. $19-$79. www.anthologysd.com

**Holiday favorites at Dizzy’s**

Dizzy’s continues to be one of the area’s best places to catch jazz, specializing in performances you won’t see elsewhere. Such is the case with Jingle Bell Jazz, a holiday presentation taking place at Dizzy’s on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. Music will be provided by the Mesa College Big Band under the direction of James Romeo, professor and musical director at the school, as well as San Diego symphony member. While there will be few musical surprises in the set list of season- al favorites, you can expect intricate arrangements and rhythms from this mix of Mesa College’s top music students and seasoned veterans. This show is the perfect way to kick off the week before Christmas in festive style.

**Jingle Bell Jazz:** Sunday, Dec. 11 at Dizzy’s, 300 Harbor Drive. 6 p.m. All ages. $15. www.dizzyjazz.com

**Up 4th & B**

Reggae legend hits up 4th & B

One of the most influential reggae artists of all time, Lee “Scratch” Perry, performs at 4th & B on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. Perry was a mainstay of reggae music for more than five decades, producing not only dozens of albums of his own work, but also significant recordings for the likes of Bob Marley, Junior Murvin and the Heptones. Now in his 70s, Perry hasn’t slowed down a bit, releasing 12 albums in the last four years, in addition to collaborations with the likes of Bob Marley, Jimmy Cliff, The Rolling Stones, Fleetwood Mac and many more. He’s only released one album in the last 24 years. With a set list full of radio staples, however, Mason’s show should still be a real crowd pleaser.

**Lee Scratch Perry:** Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 28 and 29 at Anthology, 1137 Ind St., 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. $15-$79. www.anthologysd.com

**MUST HEAR**

There are many great Christmas traditions in San Diego, but for music fans, nothing is quite as fun as the annual rock ‘n roll blast of Exile on Kettner Blvd. Held each year at the Casbah on Christmas Eve, the free event revolves around the music of the Rolling Stones, with former Dragon front man Mario Escovedo and musical friends performing a mix of classic tracks. This is no tribute band, but rather a gathering of San Diego’s best musicians, having a good time playing the songs of one of their favorite groups. Part of the excitement of this show is never knowing who might join in. In the past, one from Steve Poltz to El Vez pop up for a tune or two. The focus is on the 1970s, with tunes such as “ Thunder from Down Under” and “Happy” but with more than two hours of material to run through, there will be plenty on offer to please any Stones or rock fan.

— Bart Mendezza

**Hotel Indigo**

509 9th Ave | Gaslamp Quarter | 92101 619.727.4000

Slighly bells ring, do you listening? At the Indigo, talls are larger, a beautiful sight, we’re happy tonight. Enjoying Canine Cocktails all night! Thursday, The 22nd Come and enjoy our brand new Canine Cocktails! You can enjoy every raffle fare! Come and get your best pictures with the dogs. Don’t my your raffle! Holiday light and a brown tea. Please you! Soggy Hope for lots of tea. Please you! See you! Check facebook for details & center for updates.

**Shores**

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**The Shores**

Dine on the Beach

**ON THE MENU: NEW DELIGHTS WITH AN OCEAN ON THE SIDE.**

**WARP IT UP**

Available daily through December, 24 Visit the Shores after holiday shopping and let us “Wrap It Up.” Enjoy two complimentary gift wraps with your meal in the dining room, Relax with crown front views and delicious appetizers like Financial Beef Burger and Crispy Salmon Skin.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Sunday, December 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. $44 for adults with special pricing for children. Savor a holiday buffet featuring seasonal appetizers like Chili Braised Pork Coke, Smoked Salmon, Caprese, Oyster on a Half Shell, Maui Ham and Blue Cheese Tart, Angus New York and Short Rib, plus a tempting trio of desserts, including Brown Chocolate, Carrot Cake, and much more. Continue the celebration with a New Year’s Eve Room Package with the La Jolla Shores Hotel.

**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

Saturday, December 31, from 5 to 10 p.m. $65 per person. Enjoy a decadent five-course meal of Buffalo Milk Ricotta, Grilled Octopus on a Half Shell, Miso Ham Blue Cheese Tart, Angus New York and Short Rib, plus a tempting trio of desserts, including Dark Chocolate, Carrot Cake, and much more. Continue the celebration with a New Year’s Eve Room Package with the La Jolla Shores Hotel.
Dining & Entertainment
DECEMBER 2011
SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

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Downtown holiday shopping with a personal touch

Industry Showroom offers boutique shopping in one place for the bohemian in all of us

By BART MENDOZA | DOWNTOWN NEWS

With the economy moving along in less-than-spectacular fashion, it has become harder than ever for small merchants and designers to set up shop — which is where Rex Ehdlund comes in. An entrepreneur by definition, Ehld- unlund is actually harder to pin down than that. A graphic artist, designer, publisher and mainstay of the local arts community, Ehdlund is nothing short of a blur of activity.

A former publisher of such collectible pop culture publications as Hygme and the owner of the Popular Naughty clothing line, his latest endeavor is the Industry Showroom, a unique small business incubator space that focuses on art, fashion and design. Operated and managed by Ehdlund, it’s possible for small businesses to launch, grow and flourish in a vibrant community environment for a fraction of the normal startup costs.

“I got the idea from the farmers mar- ket in town,” Ehdlund said. “I realized that there are people with large unrent- ed spaces, as well as people who might not have enough merchandise to fill an entire space, or the budget to do so. This is a solution to both of those prob- lems.”

Featuring a common area retail floor that constantly changes as it plays host to local designers and creative entrepreneurs, the Industry Show- room has something for just about everybody. The space includes an art gallery that presents First Friday open- ing nights to meet-and-mix with the artists. Urban Voygo yoga studio, an event facility a photo studio, DCom- press Downtown Massage and So Diego Tours. It’s a testament to the location’s success that many clothing lines, including Consoul Clothing, Stac- cy May, BritBoy Fashions, Jojo Electro, Touch of Shine, Melt Boutique and Flex Watches consider this location their base.

On Dec. 10, the Industry Showcase hosts Bohemian Market, a one-day shopping event, complete with a DJ, bringing together more than 20 local designers in one place for holiday shop- ping ease. Among those on hand will be Nate Smith of MTV’s “Real World San Diego.”

“It’s one of those events where if you show up with 20 bucks, you’ll leave happily carrying something you can’t find anywhere else,” Ehdlund said.

“Located downtown, we get a mix of locals and tourists, so we weren’t sure what to expect last year, but I think people were excited to be able to find exclusive clothing and gift items.”

He said small items seemed to move the best.

“We do get a lot of tourists, so things like a flower for your hair or a purse seem to be particularly popular,” he said.

“Either way, last December’s showcase was probably the biggest event we’ve had.”

While Ehdlund said he is happy with the current state of affairs, he would like to find the backing to expand.

“Because it is entrepreneurship, small business and creative stuff, I’d love to get more sponsors for it,” he said, “whether it be schools or banks or whatever makes sense, in a ‘pay it for- ward’ way.”

Ehdlund said he hopes the showroom can grow, but he’ll clear he never change his favorite thing about the Industry Showroom: the human touch missing from online transactions.

“I like the exposure that people get for cool items they designed them- selves,” he said. “But also when people sell things online, they don’t get that face-to-face interaction with the public. They don’t see people’s eyes light up when they find something they didn’t even know they were looking for.

For this reason, he said he’s sur- prised more artists and designers haven’t joined forces similarly.

“It’s like the cheapest testing market you can do,” he said. “Finding out what people gupp at, finding out what they love.”

Bohemian Market: Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Industry Showroom, 145 6th Avenue, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m www.industryshowroom.com.

Restaurant review: Fleming’s offers festive holiday deals

By DAVID ROTTENBERG | SPECIAL TO THE DOWNTOWN NEWS

The holiday season is here, together with the melodic sounds of Christmas music and the blaze of twinkling lights outlining homes. The cultural directive is to shop, shop, shop. Our economy needs it! And, it seems to be working. “Black Friday” sales at Fleming’s were up by many stores, which opened actually on Thursday — no doubt after their staffs feasted on turkey.

It takes strength to shop, to compete for the best deals and bargains. One recent evening dinner at Fleming’s was well worth the trek, perhaps to the best kick back and savor good food.

The restaurant — Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar — has two locations in downtown San Diego. The first is in the Aventine Center, close to UTC. The sec- ond is in the heart of the Gaslamp, close to Horton Plaza.

The Aventine location in La Jolla is surrounded on both sides by other top-quality eateries. On my last visit, the circu- lar driveway to the restaurants was bustling, as car after car emptied hun- gry passengers. There was real excitement in the air, as people anticipated the fine dining and well-crafted wine pair- ings.

Fleming’s is named after Paul Flem- ing, the legendary restaurateur who is also the “PF” of PF Chang’s, another outstanding restaurant located just a few blocks away. Paul Fleming focused his entrepreneurship on operating first-rate, high-quality dining in the community to develop the concept behind this operation — and apparently, it works. Fleming’s are Fleming’s restaurants in 28 states.

The name says it all: “Prime Steak- house with a PF twist.” Fleming’s sup- ernaordinarily serves the top 2 percent of all meat, making the cut more tender and taster, and the meat is aged for an additional 21 days and butchered on the premises, giving the chef greater flexibility to create dishes that have more flavor. By way of exam- ple, some steaks at Fleming’s come with the bone attached. This draws more fla-

tor to the meat in the cooking process, so that each morsel is more stimulating to the taste buds. The steaks are prepared in super hot, 1,600-degree ovens that sear in the juices. Then, when the steaks emerge, butter is melted on top. Plates are so hot that the arms of the waiters must be padded with piles of thick napkins to carry them.

The interior décor combines a contem- porary feeling with the dark, wooden, slightly feeling that is so popular in upscale steakhouses, with spacious and comfortable seating areas. The menu is concise, with dishes described in clear, short sentences. Choic- es of appetizers, salads and sides are available to accompany the red and white meat (chicken) and the good selec- tion of seafood listed. Everything comes with a little bit of rice, or is patio.

My favorite dish is the “bone in rib eye” — a large, beautifully marbled slab of meat that is prepared perfectly to order. It is the “stale” that sells this steak — the wonderful smells that start my salivary juices flowing propelled me to pick up my knife and fork to dig in.

Smaller appetizers can enjoy tender and juicy filet mignon in a range of sizes or can feast on double breast of chicken or a veal chop. Alaskan sole and Scottish salmon are among the seafood offerings. Desserts include chocolate lava cake, a rich chocolate cake with a molten choco- late center, served with vanilla ice cream and chopped pistachios; and crème brulee, creamy tahitian vanilla bean cuss- taud served with fresh seasonal berries.

Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse is offering holiday specials at both San Diego locations, in La Jolla and the Gaslamp Quarter.

Fleming’s offers a special deal for the holidays. A dine as many times as you wish at Fleming’s by Dec. 30 and, on each occasion that you spend more than $50 (easy to do), receive a $2.50 dining credit to spend on anything in the main dining room. And there’s more. Use the $2.50 dining credit by Dec. 30 and receive up to $25 in bonus cards to use in the new year — a sweet deal! Reservations must be made through the company website, www.flemingssteakhouse.com.

The La Jolla location is at 8970 Uni- versity Center Drive (La Jolla), (858) 535-0078. The Gaslamp location is at 380 K St, (619) 237-1155.

“Fleming’s is a great place to go,” said a travel writer and restaurant reviewer who travels the world in search of exciting stories and new flavors. He is the former vice president of North Amer- ica Travel Journalists Association and a member of Southern California Restaurant Writers Association.

Dining Briefs

The American Culinary Federation and the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Fest- ival announced the winners of this year’s Chef of the Fest competition, an annual competition that brings chefs from all over the world to San Diego. The winner was judged by the San Diego Chapter for the American Culinary Federation. Top honors went to the title “Chef of the Fest” was won by Daniel Barren, executive chef of Blue Point Coastal Cuisine for his crispy laughing trout that included this wide pork belly, cauliflower espuma, roasted garlic and kaffir lime air. Win- ners were announced during the Wine Spectator Celebrity Chef Luncheon & Big Bottle Auction, the offici- al culmination of the weeklong food and wine festival.

The Chef of the Fest competition is judged by the same culinary panel as the annual ACF’s American Culinary Federation (ACF), professional organization of chefs and culinarians. Judges consisted of mem- bers of the ACF, celebrity chefs judges and members of the wine and food media.

WINNERS:

First place: Daniel Barren, Blue Point Coastal Cuisine

Second place: Chris Kariith, Grunt Fish Restaurant

Third place: Andy Huysh, Nobu

Fourth place: Javier Placentia, La Cina Mundial

Fifth place: Rich Sweeney, R-Gang

Sixth place: Patrick Dahms, Vela Restaurant

Seventh place: Jeff Rosen, Terra American Cuisine & Bistro

Eighth place: Jason Rivers, South Coast Winery & Resort Restaurant

Ninth place: Jon Squain, Rory’s

10th place: Chad White, Sea Rock
to Bistro

Vegetarian/raw: Jag Kambo, Royal India

Sausage: Javier Placentia, Romesco Baja Med Bistro

Poutry: Sam Komol, Royal India

Bread: Jean Phillips, Remosco Baja Med Bistro

Seafood: Daniel Barren, Blue Point Coastal Cuisine

Dessert: Sweet Cheeks Bakery

Dining Briefs

The traditional favorite served with mixed greens

CHICKEN POT PIE
A savory casserole of veggies & roasted chicken in a cream sauce, topped with a flaky puff pastry

PAH SEARED TILAPIA
Served with garlic mashed potatoes & mixed greens

GRILLED TRI TIP STEAK
Served with a burgundy peppercorn sauce, garlic mashed potatoes & mixed greens

$10.95 EACH
AVAILABLE ALL DAY EVERY DAY!
Holidays offer something for everyone to San Diego’s theaters

SD Repertory Theatre


Copley Symphony Hall

- San Diego Symphony presents Ludwig van Beethoven’s fabulous Ninth (Choral) Symphony with its magnificent “Ode to Joy.” Julia Ling conducts orchestra and chorus 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.
- Conducted by Matthew Garbutt with special guests Mariachi Champana Nevin, San Diego Master Chorale, and San Diego Children’s Choir, San Diego Symphony plays “Holiday Pops” at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.
- Copley Symphony Hall, 1245 Seventh Ave., $20-$85, www.sandiegosymphony.org or (619) 239-0804

Old Globe


Riverdance, Civic Theatre

- For five performances only, Broadway San Diego presents “Riverdance,” the amazing Irish dance show, Dec. 2-4, San Diego Civic Theatre, 202 C.St., ticket prices vary, www.ticketmaster.com

Gaslamp Pet Parade gets fido and fluffy in the holiday spirit

Chopper the Biker Dog and Spike Taylor won “Best of Show” at last year’s Gaslamp Pet Parade, earning them the honor of returning this year as grand marshals. Photo courtesy of Michael Taylor

In KENDRA HANFORD | Downtown News

Just like in the world of humans, dogs have friends and acquaintances. And just like us, they gravitate toward those with similar interests and hobbies. That’s how Spike and Chopper came to be: a shared interest in doing good and helping others.

Spike and Chopper, however, are not the most likely of friends. Spike, a tiny papillon whose idea of a good time is riding high on his owner, Jocelyn Taylor, on the chance his remote-controlled Harley Davidson. Yet Spike and Chopper have one very important thing in common: they are members of an elite group of San Diego canines that use their talent and good looks for charity — a club that seems to thrive here in Southern California.

Spike and Chopper first met almost exactly one year ago, when Mark Shaffer, Chopper’s human father and fellow Harley rider, noticed a post on Spike’s Facebook page that mentioned a tiny wagon in possession of a small wagon himself, he decided to get in touch with Spike and his owner, Jocelyn Taylor, on the chance they’d go for a joint Harley/wagon-towing adventure.

Taylor, it turned out, was more than game, and the group met up at the 2010 Gaslamp Pet Parade for a trial run. Chopper, as usual, helmed the bike while Spike rode in the wagon, both resplendent in their signature sunglasses. Taylor and Shaffer figured they’d give the arrangement a try, and if Spike jumped out or otherwise rejected the wagon, they’d just walk alongside each other in the parade.

Neither dog so much as hinted at resistance to the arrangement — Spike, in fact, loved his wagon so much that after the parade was over and Taylor and Shaffer were packing things up, Taylor looked around for Spike only to find him sitting in the back, waiting for another round. The pair were a smash hit — so much so, they’ve been invited back this year as grand marshals.

The Gaslamp Holiday Pet Parade takes place on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 1 to 5 p.m., starting from the Gaslamp Hilton Park, corner of Fourth Avenue and K Street. Viewing the parade is free, and entry to participate in the parade is $10 per pet/handler duo. Register at www.gaslamp.org/pet-parade.

This story originally appeared in the December issue of San Diego Pets Magazine

Gaslamp Pet Parade gets fido and fluffy in the holiday spirit

FESTIVAL

CONTACTED PEPSI Page 15

Winery in addition to his wine consultant work, Spellman also discussed the history of how glassmaking technology in England significantly impacted the early Champagnes almost as much as the vineyards and agriculture did.

Graves discussed how marketing has influenced Champagne, citing, as an example, how hip-hop culture promoted Champagne almost as an accessory, and how vineyard labels adopted this new status. She also stressed that Champagne is not just for special occasions.

“You just save them,” she said. “Champagne can truly be an everyday enjoyment.”

The culminating event of the festival was the Grand Tasting, this year held Nov. 19 at the Embarcadero Park North behind Seaport Village. Though last year’s Grand Tasting went on despite pouring rain, guests this year were treated to picture perfect weather and wine — hundreds of wines, to be more precise.

The live chef showdown competition, an annual highlight of the Grand Tasting event, featured culinary talent competing for cash and prizes. This year’s winner was chef Daniel Barron of Rialto Point Coastal Cuisine, who won for his crispy laughing bird shrimp and curry-glazed soy and herb pork belly.

The San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival is one of the largest festivals of its type in the country. It draws attendees from across the United States and abroad and highlights San Diego as a culinary destination.
Quick tips to stay fit during the holidays

**FIT SAVVY**
By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist

I get it. You’re short on time and your to-do list is longer than Santa’s. You have gifts to buy, people to see and parties to attend. As you dash about town spreading your good tidings and good will while stopping cider and addling sparkle to everyone’s day, just remember the over-dose of holiday cheer can lead to extra pounds if you fill your belly like a bowl full of jelly.

“Tis the season of giving. So give thanks. Give presents. Give your body a break from the stress of the go-go-go by being creative when it comes to sneak-inning in a holiday workout and watching your diet.

Avoid overindulging in libations. When it’s time for that cup of holiday cheer or two, go easy. You may not remember how much you consumed, but your derriere will get bigger anyway. Remember how much you consumed, so you can go easy. You may not be able to go cycling class? You can burn up to 800 calories in an hour and have fun while doing it. Take it to the ice. Change it up a little. Instead of egg nog and caroling why not try something new like an ice skating party? Even here in San Diego (thanks to modern technology) you can strap on your skates and give it a whirl and burn about 400-500 calories per hour, even as a novice.

Head down to Horton Square, Hotel Del Coronado or the Vargas Outlet Center. Release your inner Michelle Kwan and free skate your way into a calorie burning holiday frenzy. This year, why not make a commitment to really enjoy your holidays and all the activities they bring? Keep your workouts in check so you can keep your stress levels under control. Yes, there are things to do, people to see and places to go; but if you keep it all in perspective, manage your stress load with planned workouts and occasionally refer to tip number three, it should be a very happy “Kwan-Hanu-mas” for all.

We all know how much fun it is to shop and really enjoy your holidays and all the activities they bring. Keep your workouts in check so you can keep your stress levels under control. Yes, there are things to do, people to see and places to go; but if you keep it all in perspective, manage your stress load with planned workouts and occasionally refer to tip number three, it should be a very happy “Kwan-Hanu-mas” for all.

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**NEWBREA**

**Newbreak Cafe Opens Downtown**

Established in 1993, Newbreak has remained a well-known brand in Ocean Beach. With thriving locations in the heart of Ocean Beach, Newbreak serves a delicious full flavor fare paired with amicable customer service and enthusiasm. For breakfast, enjoy hearty menu items such as the well-known favorite, the Sunrise Sandwich, which is a filled roll stuffed with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese on a bagel. The breakfast burrito is another delectable item, which includes eggs, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese on a bagel.

For breakfast, enjoy hearty menu items such as the well-known favorite, the Sunrise Sandwich, which is a filled roll stuffed with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese on a bagel. The breakfast burrito is another delectable item, which includes eggs, bacon, sausage and cheddar cheese on a bagel.

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MIXTURE

CONTINUED FROM Page 17

The couple’s diverse backgrounds echo the eclectic nature of their store. Misti, originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, has a degree in media and communications and came to Los Angeles after college to seek her fortune. Brumby, meanwhile, hails from Cajun-country — New Iberia, La., home of Tabasco hot sauce. His ancestry traces back to Nova Scotia and France, and he is trained as a culinary chef.

The Broussards eventually decided to leave the hustle and bustle of Hollywood and move to San Diego, their favorite getaway. They knew they wanted to open a business or a store because each had grown up in small-business atmosphere. They wanted a business that was “fun, friendly, and creative,” Misti said. “We didn’t want anything to do with the stuffiness and elitism you find in some stores. Brumby and I believe in small business. We think everyone should shop and support small businesses.”

Brumby’s business philosophy echoes that throwback to times gone by. “We wanted to have a small business with old-school customer service, based on the model of the 1957 gas station, where you could buy a gallon of gas for 32 cents, and the attendant would pump it for you, check your oil, put air in your tires, and wash your windshield — all with a smile on his face,” he said.

For more information, visit www.Mixturehome.com, call (619) 239-4788 or email Misti@mixture-home.com.

Downtown News fashion columnist earns lifetime achievement award

Diana Cavagnaro was presented with the Armond Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 17th annual Lamplighters Awards at the Omni San Diego Hotel by the Gaslamp Quarter Association (GQA) on Nov. 7. This award was presented to Cavagnaro by District 2 City Councilman Kevin Faulconer. The award is given to Cavagnaro for her countless hours of dedication to improving the downtown area, including owning and operating her business, Designer Millinery, for 20 years in the Gaslamp Quarter, as well as for photographing and reporting fashion stories, for her 13 years administering the Easter Parade & Hat Contest for children with cancer at UCSD, and for her work as regional director of the Fashion Group International. Cavagnaro is also a teacher in the fashion department at San Diego Mesa College and has devoted many hours of her time to committee projects for the GQA.

“I was totally surprised and it was such an honor,” Cavagnaro said. The award is named for Armond Viora, who began working in the Gaslamp Quarter at his father’s locksmith shop in 1927. Viora continued to thrive in the neighborhood, and operated the shop for 68 years. He was recognized for his commitment to the neighborhood in 1995 with the GQA’s first lifetime achievement award. The GQA periodically honors individuals with the Armond Award for their work to make the Gaslamp Quarter a special place.

Diana Cavagnaro
LOSE THE HOLIDAY WEIGHT NOW
SO YOU DON’T HAVE TO MAKE IT A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION LATER.

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HAPPY HOLIDAY ~ FROM HISTORIC OLD TOWN

Just minutes from downtown and an easy trip to the busy malls, stores in the State Historic Park and surrounding community offer high quality unique gifts at reasonable prices in a very quaint Historic setting. Shoppers are offered a glimpse into yesterday, where shoppers in the past slowly moved from store to store in this part of town, and where the holiday hustle and bustle is matched with history and fiestas. There are a variety of family activities that offer visitors the opportunity to experience the early holidays of San Diego. Throughout the month, the State Historic Park is adorned with holiday decorations that include a life-tree in the Seeds Stable, Lanterns museums, living history activities, carolers, horse-drawn wagon rides and gatherings around a bonfire with free S’mores and live entertainment. Many handcrafted original gingerbread houses are also on display. Tours are offered daily in the State Park at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm from the Robin Hood’s Rest, located in the Old Park from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm including the 1830’s La Casa de Estudillo, La Casa de Machado y Silvas, Wells Fargo History Museum, San Diego’s earliest newspaper office, the McCoy House Interpretive Center, a blacksmith shop and one of the finest wagon and carriage collections in the Seeds Stables. What a great opportunity to include entertainment, shopping and family fun together!

~ CHECK OUT THESE SHOPS FOR UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS ~

All The Kings Flags San Diego’s Flag Specialist for over 35 years!
Amore Leather Custom leather jackets, vests, bags, wallets, belts and luggage
Bazar de Mundo San Diego’s favorite place for great gifts from around the world!
Beacon Artworks Gallery Artist Randy Riccoboni captures San Diego’s most beautiful sites
Birkenstock of Old Town Money-creating, people & animal handwriting specialist, in stylish comfort California Indian Market Basket, books, pottery & unusual handcrafts
Captain Fitch’s Mercantile One of the largest collections of historical books & paper dolls Dante’s Leather Custom guayabotes, rifle bags, watch band, shoes & clothing Del Cobre Unbelievable collection of hand-crafted & painted copperware El Centro Artesano Mexican pottery, weather vanes, folk art, viral chimes & silverware Fiesta Cocina Handmade festive gifts from Mexico for everyone’s kitchen Four Winds Trading Native American textiles, fine art, pottery, weaving & artifacts Hot Licks Salsa, dips, salsas, hot sauces & many related gift ideas Old Town Gift Co. Books, cards, novelties & very unique gifts for family & friends Old Town Gift Emporium Charming Victorian shop of dolls, lace, lace, lace, tea sets & more Old Town Market Over 40 shops of local artisans & crafters from across the world Ortogoa’s Handcrafts Cultural arts & crafts monkeys with hand to fine Mexican goods Silver Lily Hand-on, on-site custom silver-smith & her beautiful collection South American Imports Extraordinary, rare & unusual crystals, jewelry, crafts & rocks Tafuya & Son Contemporary Sterling Silver jewelry plus opals & gemstones The Johnson House Vintage goods, collectible hats, clothing, art & jewelry The Tile Shop San Diego’s largest selection of house numbers, cresets & murals The Urban Seed Incredibly healthy baskets and plants from Mother Earth’s best Tienda de Reyes Souvenirs, clothing, jewelry, crafts & More Of The Devil’s art Toby’s Candle & Soap Shop Candle dipping, herbal soaps & related candle accessories Toledi’s Boot & Shoe Store All styles of men’s and women’s shoes by John Deere Booties, sandals & boots Toledi’s Leather Depot Purses, hats, wallets, belts, vests, buckles, saddles & jacket galore

CALENDAR OF EVENTS


Dec. 10th & Dec. 26th, 26th to 30th Bonfire Nights Enjoy an old-fashioned gathering around the fire pit with live music, carolers and free S’mores for all. Every night from Dec. 26th to the 30th, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the Old Town State Historic Park plaza. Call 619-220-5252 for information (Free)

Dec. 18th Holiday In The Park Historically interpreted merchants in the Old Town State Park offer up music, arts, and beautifully decorated shops starting at 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. Live music will be featured on a number of wandering rides, festive music and live history activities. Call 619-220-5422 for information (Free)

DEC. 10th & 17th Breakfast With Santa Kids enjoy a delicious breakfast with Santa along with face painting, photo op and a free gift at The Cafe Coyote. Every table even gets a plate of Reindeer Cookies for kids and $12.05 for adults. From 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Make your reservations by calling 619-291-4605

DECEMBER 9-11 & 16-23 Christmas Spirit Tour Hop on the Old Town Trolley at 7:00 pm for a unique local look at the holidays. Experience the lights, lights and stands of Christmas along with storytelling, sharing traditions and hearing fun facts of the season. Call 619-296-6067 for reservations

Dec. 11th 61st Annual Las Posadas Reenactment of Mary & Joseph’s search for Christ’s birthplace. Activities begin at 10:00 pm. Join the candlelight procession at 4:30 pm, singing songs as actors move from “town to inn, asking for lodging.” Concludes with a gala party. In the State Historic Park Call 619-297-3100 (Free)

THROUGH DECEMBER • Cygnet Theater Presents It’s A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play In this staged version of the movie, see the inside workings of a 1940’s radio studio: announcers, actors reading lines, flashing appliance signs and even a commercial for Lux soap. The story’s still a grabber: “What would life be like without George, whose selfless generosity abandoned his dreams for others?” Call 619-337-1525 for dates, times and tickets.

~ WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR ~
Las Posadas Holiday Event Celebrates its 61st Year

Dec. 11 will mark the 61st annual Las Posadas event in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The Las Posadas procession is a walking reenactment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a birthplace for the Christ child. Everyone is invited to join the candle-lit procession and sing the traditional holiday songs in both Spanish and English as the players go from inn to inn, asking for symbolic lodging. The procession culminates with a live nativity scene in front of Casa de Estudillo as well as a reenactment of the biblical story of Jesus' birth.

Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-3100.

Las Posadas is a long-standing tradition in many Latin cultures and we hope to recreate the same kind of celebratory day that everyone can enjoy.

This Las Posadas procession will be lead by professional actors in period costume, including Willie, the acting donkey. Before the procession that takes place at 5 p.m., this event will also feature a day-time celebration and pashow with live music, performances and activities for children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of local music and performing arts groups will perform from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For children’s entertainment, there will be free craft activities that include making pioneer-style cloth dolls, as well as corn husk dolls and paper holiday flowers. Hot cider, pastries, Mexican baked goods, tamales, hot soup and more will be available for purchase in the park.

At end of the festival, a bonfire will be lit in the middle of the state park and there will be a piñata-breaking party following the Las Posadas procession at 6 p.m. Stores and museums within the state park will have extended hours until 8 p.m. that evening.

This is the second year that the Las Posadas procession is produced by the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park concessionaires. They expanded the procession to feature an entire festival that includes family-friendly seasonal activities.

Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-3100.

We want to hear from you

Have you noticed those cute little white electric cars buzzing all over downtown? The cut-upping company “Curi2go” recently launched the pedal “smart barrow” electric car in San Diego. Find one of the electric vehicles and take a creative photo with two to five people doing a scene from classic or modern movies or taking a photo of the car’s license plate. The most creative picture-takers will win two tickets to the San Diego Zoo, plus two tickets to a Saturday public Scavenger Hunt and two tickets to a Discover Coronado Biking Adventure. Email your photos at tours@wheretous.com.

To find out more information on the vehicles and how you can get 10 minutes of free drive time, log onto http://sandiego.curi2go.com/

— Marc & Darlynne Menkin are the co-owners of Where You Want To Be Tours. Many of their tours and teambuilding scavenger hunts feature secret Downtown areas, www.where-tours.com

Downtown holiday offerings

New haunts and old favorites spruce up the neighborhood for the season

Las Posadas Holiday Event Celebrates its 61st Year

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This is the second year that the Las Posadas procession is produced by the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park concessionaires. They expanded the procession to feature an entire festival that includes family-friendly seasonal activities.

Admission to Las Posadas is free. For more information, phone (619) 297-3100.
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Color and couture descend on San Diego

Melero Fashion Show and Cocktails

The Westgate Hotel presented the Melero Fashion Show and Cocktails, an exclusive event that showcased designs from Melero Boutique & Gallery in the hotel’s Grand Lobby on Nov. 18, featuring Ruth Melero as Mistress of Ceremonies for the two-segment fashion show.

The show began with models cascading down a gorgeous spiral staircase, their trendy styles narrated by Melero as they descended onto the Grand Lobby floor before they went from table to table showing off the garments. Guests sipped on cocktails and nibbled hors d’oeuvres while listening to Richard A. James on the piano.

A爆炸 of color is the upcoming trend for resort-wear and will segue into spring," Patel said. Color blocking, the term used to describe this new trend, incorporates this blast of color with fashions that mix, for example, neon colors with the fabulous designs of Hanish.

Melero opened her boutique and gallery two years ago in Little Italy. 1918 India St. The store focuses on apparel and accessories by European and American designers plus contemporary art, carrying only one piece of each and just three sizes in each style and is located in the historically designated "Pray House" built in 1888. A personal shopping service is a specialty and Melero will make house calls for a wardrobe assessment. She recently announced she will be opening at a new location in La Jolla in March 2012. For more information, visit www.melero.bg.com.

An explosion of color

Rooiral Patel, senior fashion accessories editor for Neiman Marcus, was on hand for a personal appearance with The Fashion Group International of San Diego on Nov. 17, hosted by Neiman Marcus, Patel, in New York, reported on accessories, shoes and jewelry with a fashion show demonstrating the season’s must-have items.

"An explosion of color is the upcoming trend for resort-wear and will segue into spring," Patel said. Color blocking, the term used to describe this new trend, incorporates this blast of color with fashions that mix, for example, neon colors with the fabulous designs of Hanish.

As you celebrate this holiday season, anchor your trees so they don’t tip and fall. Also keep in mind that tree water may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset if ingested. Cover the stand with a tree skirt or use other means to prevent access to the water.

Electrocution is a serious risk when pets are exposed to holiday light strings and electric cords. Make sure to supervise all candles since many pets are attracted to the bright “lights” in a darkened room. When you leave the room, put the candles out!

One of the more common holiday-related emergencies is the consumption of human medications. Make sure all your medications are securely locked away. Crows of people and holiday festivities can frighten animals. If you plan to entertain, you must plan ahead on your pets’ behalf. Make sure they have a “safe haven” where they can retreat.

Christmas trees and their decorations are full of hazards for pets and holiday decorations such as breakable ornaments, tinsel, string and ribbons should be kept out of paws’ reach! These traditional decorations can cause choking or severe intestinal problems if swallowed. Decorate with animal-safe items such as dried flowers, pine cones or fabric and wood ornaments. Cats often see trees as fabulously climbing posts. Be sure to secure-

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Dressed & Fashion Show

Ramin Porteymours Estate, La Jolla, by Diana Cavagnaro

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