Farm-to-table cocktails and mouth-watering tequila concoctions cool downtown’s sizzling watering holes

BY LORALEE OLEJNIK | DOWNTOWN NEWS

M ost have heard of the farm-to-table movement sweeping across America—a but farm to bar? The Grant Grill at the US Grant Hotel takes the concept of eating local a step further with a signature cocktail menu that incorporates fresh herbs and vegetables grown in their onsite garden.

“The philosophy of the Grant Grill has always been the farm-to-table concept,” said Jeff Josenhans, who oversees food and beverage at the historic San Diego landmark hotel.

“We wanted to create something that tied into the restaurant industry, even in a practical matter the MOU with the Plaza de Panama Committee—a nonprofit organization chartered by Jacobs that proposes to raise $2.5 million through private donations to be used toward the design and implementation of the project. “I’m pleased with the outcome,” Jacobs said. “We’re approaching the park’s centennial and the possibility of doing something very special for the people that would open up so many areas of the park and make it very exciting.”

More than 100 speakers signed up to voice their support and opposition to the MOU, which according to Mayor Jerry Sanders is not an approval of the project or binding commitment of any kind, but rather a public statement to Jacobs and his committee that the city council wants to continue down this path. The MOU can be terminated by either party at any time for any reason. As envisioned, the estimated $40 million project, which has been endorsed by Sanders, 26 of the park’s cultural institutions and the zoo, would add a total of 6.1 acres of pedestrian-friendly park space: The plan calls for construction of a 400-foot-long, 40-foot-wide two-way bypass road and bridge to divert traffic through the park.

The bypass road would abut the historic Cabrillo Bridge, wind around the Museum of Man and end at a proposed 1915 Panama-California Exposition site.
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 two bedroom, two bath, home in the sky!

$850,000

Come be a part of a prestigious community in the “Pinnacle” of Southern California living. With 2 bedrooms, 2 and one half baths, and additional den, this highly upgraded unit takes advantage of its location and incorporates chic contemporary living.

$1,259,000

Have it all with this oversized studio in a premier location! Stunning 7th story panoramic views arise in the desirable East Village—just 3 blocks from Petco Park. Along with extra storage and parking, the exceptional value makes for a great home or investment.

$199,000

Located blocks away from the Bay and the Gaslamp Quarter, this two bedroom, two bath offers all the comforts of San Diego living. Enjoy the serenity of both ocean and city views within the splendor of a large living space in an unobstructed location.

$679,000

Sizeable 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath enjoys Eastern exposure with an abundance of morning sunshine and dazzling night light views. Neutral decor, beautiful mirroring and urban ambiance will allow you to lounge, dine, or entertain in this ample space!

$415,000

Let the natural light flow in this beautifully detailed and highly upgraded home, including cherry wood floors and custom closets. Boasting 180 degree, unobstructed views up and down the coast and beyond this is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath surely not to be missed.

$2,295,000

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.

$459,000

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.

$849,000

This contemporary residence with captivating views accentuates its surroundings. With 2 bedrooms, 2 and one 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.
The San Diego Women’s Foundation has invested $50,000 in grant money to the San Diego Opera’s “Words and Music,” a unique youth program dedicated to bringing an appreciation for opera to younger generations. Nicolas Reveles helped design Words and Music nine years ago. The program involves close to 500 children, grades 5 through 10, at five different schools.

“The students will turn literature they’re working with into a libretto composition,” Reveles said. “Two teaching artists—a musician and stage director—will conduct the classes. Then, we obtain adult singers to perform the finished work.”

Students experience firsthand the process of creating a work of art, specifically their own original opera and its affect on a live audience. They learn the connection between words and music and how to use them in storytelling. In small groups, students read, write and compose music using portable keyboards. They learn to negotiate, compromise and strategize as they develop their musical score.

The San Diego Opera contracts opera practitioners with extensive experience in arts education who meet with students in small groups. Students keep journals and portfolios, observe and participate in classroom teaching six hours of arts education who meet with students in small groups. Students keep journals and portfolios, observe and participate in classroom teaching six hours of arts education who meet with students in small groups. Students keep journals and portfolios, observe and participate in classroom teaching six hours of training, which over time, can equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to fill the gap to musical cutbacks experienced in schools but we can give them the youthful masses

BY JOHNNY MCDONALD

Nickolas Reveles

The San Diego Opera’s “Words and Music” will conduct the classes. Then, we obtain adult singers to perform the finished work.

“Sometimes they’ll use a rap song as part of their project. We don’t tie them down to a particular style. It’s whatever they want to create.” Reveles said he believes there is a parallel between the music and the children’s personal lives, and that they learn about themselves while working with others.

“That’s what impressed the women’s foundation,” he said. “We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses. We can’t hope to bring an appreciation for opera to the youthful masses.

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On Oct. 10, 1911, male voters passed the California Women’s Vote Amend- ment by a slight majority, granting Cal- ifornia women the right to vote in state elections. Following the win, suffragists and supporters of both sexes erupted in celebratory parades, rallies, street speeches and press coverage events from San Diego to Sacramento.

The celebratory atmosphere follow- ing that vote 100 years ago will be re- created at the California Suffrage Cen- tennial Celebration parade hosted by the Women’s Museum on Aug. 25.

Modern-day suffragists and support- ers can dress in vintage garb, listen to rousing speeches and music and carry festive banners, signs and flags to cele- brate the 100th anniversary of Califor- nian women’s right to vote.

The parade will begin at 5 p.m. at the Kate Sessions statue on Laurel Street and 6th Avenue. Participants will march across the Cabrillo Bridge to the Organ Pavilion where they will be met by a San Diego Women’s Drum Society drum roll, an old-fashioned picnic and ice cream social on the Hall of Nations lawn and the sounds of the Marine Band San Diego in the final Twilight in the Park concert of the year.

In addition to the parade, the Women’s Museum will host a Califor- nia Suffrage Centennial Celebration ball at the Balboa Park Club on Oct. 29. The old-fashioned ball will begin at 6:30 p.m. and feature music, food and dances from the early 20th century to celebrate the passage of a great feat for women.

Women’s right to vote in the United States was a process more than 70 years in the making. The idea of women’s suf- frage was initially proposed at the first women’s rights convention in 1848. Not until 1920 was the right to vote granted across all states in the union.

California marked the sixth and largest state to grant women that right. Despite their achievement on the state level, California women knew their job was not over. San Diego suf-fragists toured around the country in automobiles spreading their message and garnering support for the national Woman’s Vote Amendment.

Women’s Museum organizes a march to commemorate women’s right to vote in California. Photo courtesy of Jan Phillips
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The traditionally-weak Padres soared to a record of 92-70 (during the 1984 World Series year). The city was delirious as Williams’ squad took the National League pennant in a miraculous comeback after losing the first two games — in blowouts — at Wrigley Field to the Chicago Cubs.

As a mini-season ticket holder, I relished in the team’s improvement under Williams, which brought long-overdue electricity to home games at Jack Murphy Stadium, or “The Murphy,” as it was affectionately known. His 1984 team included young pitchers Eric Show, Dave Dravecky and Andy Hawkins. Speedy Alan Wiggins batted first and was followed by the likes of Kevin McReynolds, Tony Gwynn, Steve Garvey and Graig Nettles. And crowds roared when Goose Gossage saved the game.

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Following an 8-1-79 season in 1985, friction developed between Williams, Padres president Bud Smith (Kroc’s son-in-law at the time) and General Manager Jack McKeen. Williams was let go shortly before spring training began in 1986. Williams also won pennants with Boston (1967) and Oakland (1972-73). Those Athletics teams won the World Series both years.

He is one of only seven managers to win pennants in both the National and American Leagues. Only one other manager in history has led three different franchises to the World Series. And Williams is one of only two to lead four different teams to seasons of 90 or more victories.

Although some players disliked Williams with a passion, former Oakland A’s pitcher Vida Blue perhaps spoke for most: “He got the best out of us.”

Knowing how he was perceived, Williams said, “If guys can’t stand the heat, they don’t belong in the major leagues. I don’t know anybody who refused the World Series checks I helped get them.”

Williams recalled his managerial antics in a 1990 book “No More Mr. Nice Guy,” that furthered his sharp-tongued reputation.

“Williams had great instincts on and off the field and you always knew where you stood,” said former player Ken Harrelson.

Speaking to a reporter at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony on July 27, 2004, about his techniques, Williams acknowledged “I wouldn’t last a week” with today’s players.

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A win-win for SOHO, architect and developer of Fat City Lofts

Dr MARRIOL LAMB | DOWNTOWN NEWS

After lengthy debate during last month’s Historical Resources Board (HRB) meeting, architect Jonathan Segal, developer Luke Daniels and representatives from the Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO) have worked out an alternative design agreement that would restore Fat City Top’s Nightclub to its original 1941 Top’s appearance.

During the HRB meeting in June, a record-breaking number of community advocates brought up the building’s history, art deco and streamline moderne architectural style, and its significance to a variety of groups, including fishermen, war veterans, Japanese-Americans and Italian immigrants.

After nearly two hours of testimony from both sides, the board granted a continuance on the decision to designate the building, in historic site until its next meeting in July.

Prior to the July 28 meeting, Fat City Lofts architect Jonathan Segal, developer GIJ Partners and SOHO’s executive director Bruce Coons worked to come up with a compromise to restore the historic frontage of the Top’s Coons said. “I hope we can move forward in this manner.”

SOHO’s vice president Dan Soderberg said that after last month’s meeting, numerous community members signed his “Save Fat City Top’s Nightclub” Facebook page showing their support for the building.

“If we choose not to designate this resource, it is no longer within the jurisdiction of this board, and it may never come back. That’s a deal between them, so what’s before us today is that property as it is today.”

“SOHO and the many people who spoke at the last meeting have changed their position in favor of non-designation. That’s procedurally the difference between last meeting and today’s,”

Representatives of SOHO indicated their satisfaction with the resolution.

“We have great confidence in GIJ Partners that this will happen, that the building will be restored and remove any doubt from your board of whether it’s historic or not when it comes back,”

Coons said. “I hope we can move forward in this manner.”

The revised project plans will be presented to the Centre City Development Corporation board in September. If approved, construction on the site could begin at the end of this year, and the parties will seek designation from the HRB upon completion of the project.

A rendering of the site of Fat City Top’s Nightclub at Pacific Highway and Hawthorn Street shows how developers plan to maintain the art deco architecture of the existing structure. Courtesy of Jonathan Segal Architects.

A win-win for SOHO, architect and developer of Fat City Lofts

All Aboard for Old Town – Next Stop Stagecoach Days

It’s been over a century since the last stage line operated in San Diego. Beginning in 1857, stage lines passed through rural San Diego moving passengers, freight, and mail space that incorporates original and reconstructed portions of the Top’s building.

“By moving forward with the design plans, the parties involved urged the board to not designate the building as historic,” Segal stated in a letter to chairman John Lemmo.

In the letter, Segal referred to a similar project, Paseo de Mission Hills, where the HRB staff and developer worked in conjunction to successfully save and restore existing buildings, thereby re-igniting the neighborhood and winning multiple preservation and development awards for their efforts. “Please recognize that both SOHO and the developer intend to save this building, and it is imperative that designation does not occur until after the complete restoration of the restaurant,” Segal wrote in the letter.

Although some board members were wary of the third-party agreement, the board voted to oppose designation of the site as requested by Coons, Segal and Daniels.

Prior to the vote, Lemmo made clear to the board that the city is not a party to the deal between them, so what’s before us today is that property as it is today.”

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August 13 – “California Day” – The unique “California” cultural elements will be presented again this Saturday.

August 20 – Twainfest – The festival marks 101 years of Mark Twain’s passing and celebrates the American author as well as some of his peers. Excerpts from famous works will be read aloud by costumed San Diego actors at a variety of park venues throughout the day.

Best Selling Books

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For more information, go to www.twainfeast.org.

August 27 – Cattle Drive – The California population exploded with the Gold Rush and hungry miners were paying top dollar for beef. Come learn about the hide and tallow trade, the hide industry that changed San Diego forever.

To submit story ideas are welcomed. We solicit content be sent at least one week prior to publication date. Include valid contact information.

All Aboard for Old Town – Next Stop Stagecoach Days

Enjoy an afternoon filled with activities that reflect life in early San Diego and celebrate the West on the move. Through vignettes, demonstrations, living history activities, stories, and songs, visitors will gain an appreciation for early modes of transportation and daily life.

Stagecoach Days: Celebrating The West On The Move

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HOT DEALS

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Cruise industry: ever changing tides

Dr. JOHNNY MCDONALD | DOWNTOWN NEWS

“There’s a noticeable ebb and flow in the cruise ship business these days, buffeted by crime fears, fuel costs and global and state economy woes. On a higher note, though, Port of San Diego official Rita Vandergaw points out that “what gets lost is that there are still a good number of cruise ships that come to San Diego. That’s not being reported. That’s the message the community needs to hear.”

She singled out Holland America as an example. The line has continued to grow since it first made San Diego its port in 1997. The cruise line has a variety of eight- to 11-day Mexican voyages and a few to South America.

Next year, several more ships are scheduled to sail for Hawaii. The Port of San Diego approximates that each ship beginning and ending a cruise here contributes an estimated $2 million to the local economy. Two vessels might make 26 trips to the Mexican Rivers between October and April. A slump can’t be denied: since the peak 255 port calls of 2008, the number is expected to drop to 103 next year and to 76 by 2013.

“We’re not going to hide the fact that there has been a drop in overall number of sailings,” Vandergaw said. “We were sorry that Carnival is pulling a ship out, but they were only with us for three years.”

Recently, Princess Cruise Line announced that its Long Beach-based ship was bypassing Puerto Vallarta because of a crime-warning letter issued by the state of Jalisco.

“People in the industry think Princess’ pullout of Puerto Vallarta is an overreaction,” she said. “It was based on a State Department ‘red warning’ about certain individual areas. [Princess] was the only cruise line that did that.”

Port officials and the travel industry have made an effort to emphasize the minimal danger to tourists in Mexico, pointing out that most of the violence in Mexico takes place far from cruise destinations.

“We’re working extremely close with Mexican officials,” Vandergaw said. “We’ve gone to Ensenada three times, meeting with the mayor and governor. They have really taken forward steps in demonstrating the safety and are adding more tours. Everybody has to realize there is crime everywhere in the world.

“And, there’s no longer a mandatory tugboat fee in Ensenada,” she added. “We never really needed tugboats anyway.”

Current cruise lines sailing out of San Diego are Carnival, Celebrity, Crystal, Holland America, Norwegian, Radisson Seven Seas, Princess and Royal Caribbean.

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The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, a collaborative of 26 arts, science and cultural institutions, announced the appointment of Paige Simpson as interim executive director. Following 10 years of service, current executive director David Lang will assume a new leadership role at The ManKind Project USA.

Simpson joined the partnership in 2004 and is the founding director of the Balboa Park Learning Institute, one of the partnerships flagship programs. Simpson’s career span more than 15 years working with local, state and national museums on the east coast and in England.

The Pontiac remembered

TheAutomotive Museum’s “Pontiac...the Rise and Fall of an American Icon” exhibit runs until Sept. 25. It features Pontiacs that defined the maker in terms of styling and performance.

The exhibit addresses the decline of the brand over time as Pontiac lost its place as an industry leader. Pontiac closed its doors in 2009.

“The Pontiac story is not unlike that of any other manufacturer in the industrialized America of the 20th century. Beauty and performance faded and were replaced with conservative design and adequate performance.”

Efforts were then made to bring back the excitement by reintroducing popular models, but these efforts fell short.


Winter season complete

Executive producer Lou Spito announced the world premiere of the musical “A Room with a View,” adopted from the E.M. Forster novel by Marek Kudranski. The music by Judd Goldstein, director by John Kander and Fred Ebb’s “Scottish Boys,” recently nominated for 12 Tony Awards.

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New cocktail mixer won’t leave drinkers high and dry

VLING, a new category of electrolyte-infused drink mixers, is breaking ground in the cocktail industry by providing a healthy alternative to re-hydrating without changing consumers’ drinking habits.

Mixers including tonic and soda water, cranberry-pomegranate and citrus flavors contain no caffeine and are low in calories, sugar and carbohydrates. The mixers are high in electrolytes — double the amount contained in a leading sports drink — which re-hydrate cells typically depleted of hydration by alcohol and counter the effects of dehydration and that dreaded hangover.

Consumers can hydrate at any of San Diego’s participating locations including the Se Hotel, Hard Rock Hotel, Andaz Hotel and Side Bar. Ask for a ‘hydrated’ cocktail and for a healthier alternative to drinking without changing your choice of cocktail.

For more information about VLING and upcoming events, visit www.hydrateyournight.com.

— Mariko Lamb

Celebrity chef re-creates House of Blues menu

Along with every other House of Blues location throughout the nation, House of Blues San Diego is turning its dining enclave into, quite literally, a “Crossroads.” The restaurant and music venue is rebranding its dining side to become one of celebrity chef Aarón Sanchez’s latest acquisitions.

For the past six months, the Food Network star has re-created the chain’s nationwide menu from southern style cuisine to “Tex-Mex.” The new menu will feature some signature dishes, while the local HOB will include a few original creations inspired by San Diego’s unique gastronomy. Look for the soft launch of the new menu in August, with a grand opening party in September.

— Meaghan Clark

The Cohn Restaurant Group served as the first official “Mission Partner” in San Diego to participate in “Round It Up America,” a nationwide philanthropy program designed for consumers to donate pocket change for local charitable organizations.

The Prado Restaurant in Balboa Park was the first to launch the program on July 19. Prado patrons now have the option to round up their dining bill to the nearest dollar to benefit The Prado Park Trust and other “Round It Up America” charities such as the National Disaster Relief Foundation, California Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

For more information about the “Round It Up America” programs or Cohn Restaurant Group, visit www.dinecrg.com or call (619) 216-1299.

— Mariko Lamb
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AN AMAZING ART FAIR CELEBRATING LOCAL ARTISTS. THIS EVENT WILL SHOWCASE SAN DIEGO AND GUEST ARTISTS.
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ARTISTS PARTICIPATING:

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Tia Ballentine, (La Mesa : California)
Megan Bedford, (San Diego : California)
Ally Benbrook, (El Cajon : California)
Kaye Benton, (San Diego : California)
Justin Bower, (Los Angeles, California)
Sean Brannon, (San Diego : California)
Manuelita Brown, (Encinitas : California)
Jordan Cantwell, (San Diego : California)
Sebastian Castillo, (San Diego : California)
Randy Conner, (La Jolla : California)
Monica Cuyo, (Palm Springs : California)
Nathalie Davis, (San Marcos : California)
Raphael Delgado, (Sacramento : California)
Joseph Demaree, (Encinitas : California)
Leticia Demeweuse, (Carlsbad : California)
Sven De Haar, (Stockholm : Sweden)
John De Jesus, (New Mexico)
Marisol De Las Casas, (San Diego : California)
Ariel Diaz, (Carlsbad : California)
David Diaz, (Carlsbad : California)
Linda Drake, (El Cajon : California)
Joanne Drakmo, (San Diego : California)
Jocelyn Duke, (Los Angeles : California)
Alicia Dunn, (Del Mar : California)
Titjana Edelweissparra, (Carlsbad : California)
Jason Farai, (San Diego : California)
J. Feather, (San Diego : California)
Nica Ferguson, (La Jolla : California)
Giedre Ferraz, (San Diego : California)
Natalya Fiore, (Coronado : California)
Matt Foderer, (San Diego : California)
Patti Fox, (San Diego : California)

Estela Gama, (San Diego : California)
Nicholas Gecan, (San Diego : California)
Miguel Angel Godoy, (San Diego : California)
Barbara Gothard, (San Diego : California)
Victoria Granados, (Encinitas : California)
Julia C. R. Gray, (San Diego : California)
Novelo Dominic Grecko, (Chula Vista : California)
 Roxanne Grooms, (San Diego : California)
Abel Guzman, (San Diego : California)
Paulina Hammeken, (Miami : Florida)
Renetta Happ, (San Diego : California)
Georgia Hoopers, (San Diego : California)
Jason Humphrey, (El Cajon : California)
Adam Jahnik, (San Diego : California)
JUSTINE, (San Diego : California)
Steven Kosnoff, (San Diego : California)
Guy Ilan Laks, (Los Angeles : California)
Patricia Lamborn, (San Diego : California)
Aaron Landman, (Los Angeles : California)
Vanessa Landry, (Chula Vista : California)
Leslie Lemberg, (San Diego : California)
Gail Liebog, (Solana : California)
Jen Lonack, (San Diego : California)
Mackenzie Longwell, (San Diego : California)
Raynaldo Lubas, (National City : California)
ManRabbit, (San Diego : California)
Mary Maclaren, (San Diego : California)
Stephanie Bell May, (San Diego : California)
Janet McCarty, (San Diego : California)
Monica Marinuzzi, (San Diego : California)
Mastin Molina, (Oceanside : California)
Jill Mollenhauer, (San Diego : California)
Monty Montgomery, (San Diego : California)
Maxx Moses, (San Diego : California)
Lindsey Nobell, (Los Angeles : California)
W.E. Pugh, (San Diego : California)
Malolfe and Rae, (San Diego : California)
Greg Holden Regan, (San Diego : California)
Denise Rich, (San Diego : California)
Alison Rash, (Los Angeles : California)
Brian Rediker, (San Diego : California)
Danielle Rittenhouse, (Albuquerque : New Mexico)
Jessica Rose, (San Diego : California)
Michael Rosenfeld, (Los Angeles : California)
Lori Sandstrom, (San Diego : California)
Carl Schmidt, (San Diego : California)
Laura Seeley, (San Diego : California)
Erik Skoldberg, (San Diego : California)
Alme Spennmeier, (San Diego : California)
Sarah Stiebe, (La Jolla : California)
Cherry Sweig, (Poway : California)
Vanilla Elletra Tam, Italy
Heidi Thompson, (Canada)
Alicia Tirado, (Chula Vista : California)
Mario Torero, (San Diego : California)
Chris Trueman, (San Francisco : California)
Palo Uber, (United Kingdom)
David Becker, (Cardiff : California)
Gary Walker, (Escondido : California)
Rich Walker, (San Diego : California)
Jeff Williams, (Amerucif : Georgia)
Duke Windsor, (San Diego : California)
Eric Wixon, (San Diego : California)
Cynthia Yosel, (Solana Beach : California)
Anita Yufe, (Bonita : California)
Charles Zupardi, (San Diego : California)
Cecilia Zieba, (Carlsbad : California)
Natasha Zupan, (Mallorca, Spain)
Vanilla Elletra Tam
San Diego’s historical blight for some 40 years was an oppressed community known as Chinatown.

It comprised a roughly eight-block area that is now known as the Asian Historic District between Market and J streets to the north and south, and Second and Sixth avenues to the west and east.

Established in the 1880s, the Chinese were compelled to live in inadequate housing controlled by slumlords. Unable to acquire citizenship, they were forced to live as subordinate workers for poor wages.

Now, the historic Chinatown is gaining a place in San Diego’s institutional memory, thanks to the work of Murray K. Lee, curator of the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. At 84 years old, Lee leads walking tours of the former Chinatown neighborhood, guiding tourists and locals through the past and present.

The 22 contributing structures date from 1883-1930. A Chinese Benevolent Association building on J Street still stands, two doors away from the museum.

“The buildings, lacking plumbing, were built from redwood that had been floated down by rafts from Northern California,” he said.


The Chinese, unable to live elsewhere in San Diego, made do with wash houses (laundries), small stores and fishing. They became cheap labor for construction of the National City-San Bernardino railroad, farming or the east county Flume. Often, they lived in tents.

“Health inspectors, fearing the plague, had many of the substandard houses torn down,” Lee said. “The inhabitants took up residence in abandoned bordellos in the Stingaree section. Many of the old boarding houses were torn down during the 1915 Exposition.”

“There were some Tong-type organizations (an organization often found in Chinese communities in the U.S. and Canada),” said Lee. “One, called Dingo Tong, was in a building torn down for the relocation of the Horton Grand Hotel. Another was an opium den.”

A fishing village existed at the foot of Third Avenue with shacks on stilts over the water and mud flats with boats anchored nearby. Although drawn to the California coast because of an abundance of fish, Portuguese and Italian monopolies forced the Chinese to search for shrimp and abalone. There were also government restrictions because they weren’t naturalized citizens.

“Merchants were smart enough to create partnerships,” said Lee. “Some, though, with near-barren shelves were accused of running Chinese lotteries, comparable to Keno.”

Chinatown overlapped with the Stingaree, which was notorious for all sorts of crime and vice.

“It was a pretty wide-open place, just like the Barbary Coast in San Francisco,” Lee said.

Chinatown didn’t actually vanish: it remained vibrant for a few more decades, but withered after World War II when the Chinese were able to become citizens and own property.
**Drinks**

Spa Pedicure
No Nicks  No Smudges  No Chips
$17.00

**Tequila: summer’s drink of choice**

Seasonality is every bit as important in cocktails as it is in food and drinking. Although the “slow movement” was originally pioneered by chefs who understood the importance of local, sustainable and organic produce, bartenders are increasingly showing culinary flair in innovative cocktails. The division between kitchen and bar has never been smaller. The world’s best chefs and bartenders alike find a way to tell a story of flavor through the respective ingredients to their different crafts. Whether you are looking for fancy prosecco in a seasonal item that is tasting its absolute best, or simply remembering flavors that invoke nostalgia and warm memories, every great meal — and cocktail, for that matter — should be as memorable as they are delicious.

Although nearly every base spirit can lend its flavor to today’s recipes are all about the famed heritage spirit of the neighbors to our south: tequila. The three seasonality of warm summer days and cool summer nights, should be as memorable as they are delicious. Every great meal — and cocktail, for that matter —

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Although nearly every base spirit can lend its flavor to the famed heritage spirit of the neighbors to our south: tequila. The three most widely-produced classifications of this amazing noble spirit are well suited for cocktails that encompass the way nature of summertime. The following list of original recipes was compiled by The Blind Tiger Cocktail Co.

### Manzanita’s Revenge

**Ingredients:**
- 2 oz blanco tequila
- 1/4 cup crisp green apple
- 2 slices of fresh jalapeño

**Preparation:**
In a mixing glass, muddle the apple and jalapeño. Add all other ingredients, shake and strain over ice in a Collins glass. Garnish with apple slices and a whole jalapeño.

### Mexican Standoff (’jacketed ave’)

**Ingredients:**
- 2 oz. hibiscus-infused reposado tequila
- 1 oz tamarak agave reduction
- 3/4 oz fresh lime juice

**Preparation:**
Add all ingredients into a mixing glass full of ice, shake and strain into a Collins glass. Garnish with a lime wheel and a huarache cherry.

- [Jeff Josenhans](#!)
- [Adam Stemmler](#!)

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### Summer Entertainment

Enjoy a variety of musicians, performers and artists every Thursday, Friday and select Saturdays the entire summer.

**Thursdays**
Music & Dance
12pm, Broadway Circle

**Fridays**
High Note Concert Series
5:30pm, The Mezzanine

**Saturdays**
Art Programming by The San Diego Museum of Art
Varied times and locations

Visit Westfield.com/HortonPlaza for event details.

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With the purchase of a Soup or Large Salad

**Ingredients:**
- 2 oz blanco tequila
- 1/4 cup crisp green apple
- 2 slices of fresh jalapeño

**Preparation:**
In a mixing glass, muddle the apple and jalapeño. Add all other ingredients, shake and strain over ice in a Collins glass. Garnish with apple slices and a whole jalapeño.

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### DRINKS

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**Summer cocktails in full swing at various downtown bars, restaurants**

With the races now in full swing at Del Mar, all San Diegans know summer is officially here. And along with summer comes the arrival of warm-weather drinking — Corvina, rose wine and, of course, summer cocktails. Here at The US Grant we have found our year’s inspiration in the harvest of our rooftop garden, where we planted all of our cocktail produce from seed back in early spring. Now in full bloom, we find inspiration in a classic-roofook drink, the mint julep, but with a garden-inspired twist. Cinnamon basil French julep: muddled rooftop cinnamon basil, VSOP cognac, orange blossom-scented sugar, champagne float.

At The US Grant you will find an abundance of seasonally-inspired cocktails, but summer cocktails are capable of taking many forms that will suit your fancy on a hot day. Those who put thought and effort into keeping the summer in mind when creating their drinks this year may be more plentiful than you think. I encourage you to take the time to explore the bar scene a little this year. You might be surprised not only by how much drinks have changed over the last few years, but also how much talent San Diego has to offer in this ever-changing social ritual!

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### NIGHTLIFE

**Commentary**

**Tequila: summer’s drink of choice**

For hibiscus tequila: Infuse one cup of dehydrated hibiscus in 750 ml of reposado tequila for five days.

For tequila agave reduction: Reduce 10 ounces of agave with five ounces of water and five ounces of fresh tamarind for 20 minutes on low heat. Let stand for thirty minutes before straining.

**Remember Me Mang!**
**Ingredients:**
- 2 oz anejo tequila
- 3/4 oz carapau Antica vermouth
- 1/2 oz Cherry Heering

2 dashes of The Bitter Truth’s Miel’ Bitters mezcal rinse

**Preparation:**
Add all ingredients into mixing glass and fill with ice. Stir until chilled and strain into mescal-rinsed coupe glass. Flamed orange zest for garnish.

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The US Grant Hotel itself is no stranger to reinvention. The hotel, which is now owned by Sycuan, has lived a rich history throughout the past century as a jewel in the Gaslamp.

On Oct. 16, the hotel will celebrate its 101st anniversary with a celebration in the Celestial Ballroom, which housed a speakeasy during the prohibition years. It will feature cocktails from the era and a moonshine station.

The Grant Grill is located at 326 Broadway. Always a site for the power business lunch, the Grant Grill also features live music and happy hour specials daily from 4 to 7 p.m. For more information on the menu and upcoming events, visit www.usgrant.com.

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Josenhans, a sommelier and board member of the San Diego Bar Guild, working at the US Grant provides. This constant change: There’s never a start and finish to my job,” he said. “It’s always unexpected and evolving. I’m always figuring out the next steps.”
Downtown in August

Night at the Museum Sleepover, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., San Diego Air and Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, children ages 7-12, (619) 234-9291, www.sandiego-andspace.org, $39 members, $46 nonmembers

Blogger Convention, 5:30 p.m., Stargate Nightclub, 454 Sixth Ave, female blogger conference running through Aug. 7, www.blogger.com/conferences, starting at $99

All Star Comedy event to support community building, 9 p.m. and B, 945 B St., (619) 231-4433, www.4thandbevents.com, $15

2011 Vans Warped Tour: Battle of the Bands concert, 6:30 p.m. and B, 345 B St., (619) 231-4433, www.4thandbevents.com, $12

Marine Band San Diego summer concert, 6 p.m., between India and Columbia streets, (619) 254-1754, www.officialusnavy.com, free

Downtown bus tour, 10 a.m., 193 Horton Plaza, (619) 395-2222, www.ccdcm.com, free

Summer Bingo Bash, 7 p.m., San Diego Woman’s Club, 2557 Third Ave, (619) 443-1923, $20 to benefit Rachel’s House of San Diego

Burt Bacharach, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego Symphony and Bridgepoint Education Summer Concert, “That’s What Friends Are For” benefit concert, (619) 234-5600, www.sandiegosymphony.org, $17.50


Josh Miller and the Old 57s with David Wax Museum, 8 p.m., House of Blues, 1055 5th Ave., (619) 239-2583, www.houseofblues.com, $29-$45

Gaslamp Local Lifestyle and Design Tour, 5 to 8 p.m., Gaslamp Quarter, 4th to 6th avenues between D and L streets, (619) 233-0222, www.gaslamp.org/localslifestyle-design-tour, $15


Nothing, 8 p.m., The Old Globe, 1450 W. Washington St., show runs until Aug. 13, (619) 232-5630, www.theoldglobe.org, $29-$77

Arrangements class led by Marriot, 530 Broadway St., 10 a.m., start/end Embarcadero Marine Park, 6:15 p.m., Rooftop at Andaz Hotel, 600 F St., (619) 299-2583, www.houseofblues.com, $50-$86

Ride the Bridge: Bike the Bay 2011, 6:15 a.m., start/end Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, non-competitive 25-mile walk or bike race, registration required, (619) 269-6873, www.bikethebay.net, $50 members, $55 nonmembers

Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair Opening Night, 7 p.m., Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Blvd., wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres followed by a pool party, www.artsandiegofair.com, $75

Summer Music Festival, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego Symphony and Bridgepoint Education Summer Concert, “That’s What Friends Are For” benefit concert, (619) 234-5600, www.sandiegosymphony.org, $17.50


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Seaport Village Food Court, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Seaport Village, 839 W. Harbor Drive, (619) 235-4014, www.seaportvillage.com, free


Burt Bacharach, 7:30 p.m., Embarcadero Marina Park South, 111 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego Symphony and Bridgepoint Education Summer Concert, “That’s What Friends Are For” benefit concert, (619) 234-5600, www.sandiegosymphony.org, $17.50
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In anticipation of its new Panda Trek exhibit beginning in August, the San Diego Zoo has selected a “Chinese Celebration” theme for its annual nighttime zoo, offering extended summer hours through Sept. 5.

“It’s hard to say what will be the most popular,” said Jenny Mehlow, senior public relations representative, “but for years, the front plaza has stayed crowded with our HuLA Hoop contest. The Surfari Safari Bush Band will be playing a medley of songs for ‘Dancin’ through the Decades’ that will have participants and spectators dancing to a montage of 50 songs from different eras.”

Along with the nighttime zoo comes a wealth of entertainment, including several acrobat performances. For a traditional Chinese acrobat experience, the Golden Lion Chinese Acrobat are a group who catapult through rings and balance on tippy-toe, and perform balancing tricks with yo-yo like apparatuses. Hailing from the Hebei Province of China, these young contortionists wear the lucky Chinese colors of red and gold, and perform daily during “Tales of the Mandarin Forest” at 2 and 5 p.m.

A North Chinese leopard, listed as an endangered species, made its zoo debut in time for the summer celebration. The Panda Trek exhibit will incorporate the zoo’s three giant pandas, as well as Schuan Takin, a half-goat, half-antelope species considered a Chinese national treasure, that will be surrounded by six varieties of bamboo and other indigenous Chinese plants. A venomous Mangshan pitviper (snake) will also be on display.

By extenuating operating hours, the zoo is able to take advantage of all the summer sunlight hours,” said Mehlow. “It also places guests the chance to see animals later in the evening when they are a medley of music for forest behaviors — the lions roar and the cuts bounce more acrobatically.”

Special signage marks the nighttime zoo entertainment, including the jasmine and jade Jungle, acrobats (jumping on a large transparent and cascading off of wall) to emulate “The Princess and the Frog,” Power and Air acrobats who balance, extend and hang from a suspended hoop; Monkey King SILHOUETTE, a trio of stilts walkers parading through the Zoo for ideal photo opportunities; Dr. Zoobilee Asian Ape, a bedtime teaching audience about the giant panda; and Steam Powered Giraffe Robot Band, musical robot performing panthomime sketches and improvised comedy.

Every evening between 8 and 10 p.m., the Front Street Finale concludes the nighttime zoo by putting together every acrobat, stilts walker, musician, trampoline jumper and greater for a final performance. This carnivale procession gives each group a final bow in the spotlight and every guest a festive sendoff.

To kick off Panda Trek, the Zoo will celebrate the second birthday of their panda Yun Zi on Aug. 5 with an ice cream filled with frozen treats for Yun Zi to deice.

For more information, visit www.sandiegozoo.org/nighttime-zoo.
both look and sound. The band is so accurate in its recreation of the Boingo concert experience that they have been officially endorsed by Elfman, with other former members of the band making live guest appearances. If you’re an Oingo Boingo fan, this is the next best thing to getting a time machine and heading back to 1984.

Deadman’s Party: Aug. 20 at 4th & B, 345 B St. 8 p.m. 21 and up. $15-$20. www.4thandbevents.com

Best known as one of the area’s top blues vocalists, Michele Lundeen also branches out into Latin and soul sounds as well as rhythm and blues, with her band, Paradise. Lundeen is a terrific singer in the early Tina Turner tradition, backed here by a world class group of musicians. However, band MVP is timbale player Patrick Cruz, who adds real spice to the proceedings with his percussion. Appearing at Patrick’s II on August 21, 9 p.m. Paradise perform dance classics such as “Oye Como Va” and “River Deep, Mountain High,” with a passion the songs originators would applaud.

Michele Lundeen & Paradise: Aug. 21 at Patrick’s II, 428 F St. 9 p.m. 21 and up. www.patricksii.com

The Mattson 2 host a CD release show, for their new album, Feeling Hands, at Dizzy’s on August 28. One of a number of local duo’s now consisting solely of drums and guitarists, ala The White Stripes or Black Keys, where most play some sort of blues, this pair of brothers has created a new genre to explore, instrumental surf jazz. Fans of guitarist running from Dick Dale to Wes Montgomery will find much to their liking in the Mattson 2’s music, as will admirers of fifties soundtrack king Henry Mancini.

Mattson 2: Aug. 28 at Dizzy’s, 200 Harbor Drive. 8 p.m. All ages. $10. www.dizzysjazz.com

Blessed with a huge voice and personality to match, Steph Johnson, who performs at Croce’s on August 30, 7:30 p.m., is one of the area’s most promising singer-songwriters. Mixing jazz and R&B, Johnson has released two albums, Genesee Avenue (2006) and Mysterious Feminine (2010), with excellent songs such as the funky dance number, “Hiya Hiya.” However, her music is best experienced live, where she and her band (seasoned vets who have backed the likes of Ike Turner) are in full command of the stage. Anyone who likes their music with a bit of groove and a lot of soul, will enjoy this performance.

Steph Johnson: Tuesday August 30 at Croce’s Jazz Bar, 802 Fifth Avenue. 7:30 p.m. 21 and up. www.stephjohnsonband.com

Local musician and promoter Cathryn Beeks is known for promoting excellent show case concerts, but she has outdone herself with her Local Brews, Local Grooves event at the House of Blues on Aug. 19. The “brews” refers to the drinks on tap, the “grooves” to a 14-artist line up of San Diego’s top artists alternating 20 minute sets on two stages. The night features an eclectic mix of up-and-coming talent like For The Faint and Lenny Morris, as well as long time favorites like blues rockers The Farmers, folk soul combo the Heavy Guilt and songstress Gayle Skidmore. A mini music festival in all but name, Local Brews, Local Grooves is great opportunity to check out a healthy slice of the San Diego music scene in one evening of fun.

Local Brews Local Grooves: Friday, August 19 at The House of Blues, 555 Fifth Avenue. 7 p.m. 21 and up. $5. www.listenlocalsd.com/LBLG-All-Access.html — Bart Mendoza

GAYLE SKIDMORE

MATTSON 2

MUSIC CONTINUED FROM Page 15

Alexander Salazar Fine Art offers 7,000 square feet of art exhibition space in Downtown San Diego featuring the works of international and emerging artists. The gallery also exhibits the works of over 25 San Diego Artists. He encourages the appreciation and understanding of art and its vital role in our society through many exhibitions, artist lectures, community event sponsorship and charity events. A must visit when touring San Diego.

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MUST HEAR

Music

August 19 at The House of Blues, 555 Fifth Avenue, 7 p.m. 21 and up. $5.

www.listenlocalsd.com/LBLG-All-Access.html

— Bart Mendoza

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KOREAN-AMERICAN ART IN LITTLE ITALY

**De WILL BOVEN | Downtown News**

“To probe the subtexts of the ordinary—We must describe the indescribable.”

Wm Tanamanz (13th century, China)

Not everything in Little Italy is Italian. Mee Shim, a young Korean-American artist, has opened a small gallery filled with exotic and colorful Asian-themed art called Mee Shim Fine Art at 1941 India St., right next to a pizzeria. Shim’s most recent work—featured in her gallery—focuses on “lace paintings,” large egg-shaped mandala-like facial portraits of young Asians, both male and female, upon which scenes of nature—including fish, fowl, and waterfalls—are superimposed. There are, however, also some choice elder works of hers on display. These older pieces include forest landscapes and whole body portraits.

Perhaps the most intriguing painting in the gallery is Shim’s version of Botticelli’s “Primavera” (1477), which features Asian women in traditional garb. Shim expanded the series of this painting, taking the familiar image of the four seasons and the four visions of nature— including fish, fowl, and waterfalls—are superimposed. There are, however, also some choice elder works of hers on display. These older pieces include forest landscapes and whole body portraits.

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The shoe that fits like a glove

By Connie Cook | Guest Columnist

Being naked can be liberating, especially for feet that have been crammed up in shoes that are too tight or pointed. Doesn’t it feel great to take your shoes off at the end of the day and just wiggle your toes and feel the freedom of naked feet? Many runners claim to have found just that freedom by wearing the new Vibram FiveFingers footwear instead of traditional running shoes.

Vibram’s innovative design makes it easier to care for your feet. In addition to the unique FiveFingers’ toe design, the shoes are made from a natural rubber called Nok toll, a cooling and natural shock absorber and may be safer to land on for injuries.

Vibram’s heel-less shoe design encourages foot rotation and can help prevent injury. “The heel strike is responsible for 40% of your impact,” said Modal representative Nicole Lazare. “A foot that lands on its toes is much more efficient than landing on the heel.”

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Many of you have come into ELITE Health for care and are surprised to learn that the phrase “Come out of your shell” often has actually been lingering below the surface due to bad posture, daily habits, and lack of flexibility just by naming a few reasons. I often hear, “This could have happened to me too!” Why, you ask? Usually the answer is because the patient has a deadline, a trip planned, or some other event or stressful matters to tend to soon.

I bring this up because daily I see the effects of stress and how it can affect one’s body and health. Clearly, increased stress leads to increased illnesses. For my patients and those of our downtown readers, I ask you to think of stress in the context of its changes. "Reduce stress affected their ability to function emotionally, mentally and physically. Reduced stress can lead to improved health in the long term. However, things like job stress and life events can make it hard to achieve balance and harmony in daily life."

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A Line at the Se Hotel

The Se Hotel was the scene for a smashing lineup of fashion, art, and music on July 1 during A Line, an event sponsored by Honeypot SD. The venue was under the stars on the rooftop for a perfect night of fun.

The evening kicked off with a lineup of local DJs entertaining the crowd. Dope Show Art Collective and Arsic Project were on-site, showcasing local artists while the guests sipped on cocktails and enjoyed the music and art. At midnight, the fashion show began. The models looked like they were floating on water as they made their way down a runway that wound around and across the pool. Cutting-edge fashions were on hand from Carolina Cecena, Unsteady Boutique, Coco Monet and Leoluca Handbags.

The event was part of a new series of art shows the Se Hotel will be hosting on the first Friday of each month, including fashion show with San Diego designers and tunes spun by local DJs. The next show will be Aug. 5.

Celebrating Couture 2011

The Globe Guilders welcomed Celebrating Couture 2011 on July 14, presented by Neiman Marcus and the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. The festivities began with a social hour highlighted Naeem Khan’s Resort 2012 Collection, consisting of a combination of cocktail dresses, separates and opulent gowns. One elegant creation after another came down the runway, the color red dominating the show. Peasant-inspired looks were interpreted into high fashion. Laser-cut, patent leather, hand-stitched ostrich feathers and paisley thread work were some of the intricate details on the blouses.

Indian-born Naeem Khan, who came to the United States as a teenager and launched his first collection in 2003, has designed for celebrities, including first lady Michelle Obama, Beyonce and Eva Longoria. The audience especially loved the silk organza dresses that seemed to glide down the catwalk. The time-less designs showed Khan’s love for textiles and left the audience wanting more. Ranjana Khan designed the terrific jewelry complementing the show.

There was a fantastic live auction, which included a Naeem Khan dress and four invitations to Khan’s spring/summer 2012 Fashion Week exhibit in New York. After the show, the audience was able to join Khan in the Sapphire Room.

This is the 21st year of the Globe Guilders and event benefited the Old Globe’s artistic, education and community programs of the theatre. For more information, call Jill Holmes at (858) 454-0014.

Upcoming Events

August 12: Jewelry by Mary Austin Bame, trunk show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, www.maryaustinbame.com, www.mingei.org

August 14: Fortune’s Elevation Pool Party, noon, Ivy Rooftop at the Andaz Hotel, 600 F St., www.ivyentertainmentsandiego.com

August 20: Haute with a Heart to benefit St Madeleine Sophie’s Center, fashion show and brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive, (619) 445-9129, ext. 115

Fashionable San Diego

FASHIONABLE SAN DIEGO

Diana Cavagnaro

A model wears a Carolina Cecena Design at A Line, a show featuring live art, music and fashion at the Se Hotel on July 1. Diana Cavagnaro | Downtown News

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The next time you catch yourself daydreaming about that much-needed vacation you can’t afford, here’s a thought: stay in town. With so many cool attractions and hidden treasures right here in our backyard, why spend a bundle when San Diego has it all!

- The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina is not just for traveling guests. Its Summer Play Program is a great fit for locals who want a fun weekend getaway but don’t want to stray too far from home. From now until Labor Day, the hotel is offering a bevy of free poolside activities and discounted water adventures for guests.

  “When guests stay with us, we want to exceed their expectations,” said Patrick Connors, director of marketing. “We want them to think of us as a unique one-stop shop, a place where you can have it all.”

  Everything from fast-moving Navy SEAL-style boat rides, relaxing sailing adventures, kayaking and paddleboard lessons are offered. There’s even a new 83-foot pirate ship boat ride that takes guests into a swashbuckling world of piracy, sword fights and cannon blasts.

  If you prefer to stay on land, there are free kids activities like Kids Putt Challenge, a place where guests can get a good meal at an affordable price. A lot of comedy clubs either don’t offer food — or a limited menu at best — but here, we’ll have great food and a comedy show every night. It’s turned into so much more than we bargained for but we’re happy,” Lariviere said.

  The comedy club will feature local comedians and national headliners.

  • The Summer Pops have affordable options that many locals don’t know exist. For $17, guests can bring in food, a small cooler with non-alcoholic drinks and low-cost lawn chairs. This month’s show every month and have a creative photo taken with you, a friend, post your photo. The most creative picture will win two tickets to an Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt with WYWTB Tours.

  • The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina now offers guests a ride on an 83-foot pirate ship, complete with sword fights and cannon blasts. www.sheratonsandiegohotel.com.

  • The Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina is get-
A good time was had by all at the 42nd annual Comic-Con International. Downtown San Diego saw a variety of characters roaming its streets from the 21-24 of July as comic enthusiasts took over the Gaslamp Quarter.

**ZOO FORECAST: SNOW**

The San Diego Zoo’s three polar bears were greeted by 18 tons of snow and lots of smiling donors when they walked into their exhibit July 13. More than 90 donors contributed a total of $5,100 to the zoo’s online Animal Care Wish List to provide the special enrichment activity for the bears.

**COMIC-CON**

**DOG DAYS**

The San Diego Padres set a Guinness World Record for the most dogs in a pet costume parade. Guinness World Record officials were at Petco Park’s annual “Dog Days of Summer” event, along with 337 history-making dogs, to assure that the world record was set. The annual in-field costume parade was lead by Tillman, the world famous skateboarding dog, as dogs paraded around showing off their Padres spirit.

**“AMERICAN IDOL”**

Hordes of fame-hungry San Diegans crowded the streets around Petco Park on July 8 to try their hand at being an idol. “American Idol” held auditions, and it’s clear San Diego wants its 15 minutes of fame.

Watch Walter Rusk’s video at the auditions at www.sdnews.com!

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