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DECEMBER 2014

## Remembering Larry Himmel

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and the promise of tomorrow PG.14

San Diego's  
Most Admired  
Companies 2014  
PG.16

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**-Ronald Judy, Co-founder Nintendo of America and Founder NES International (Nintendo in Europe)**

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## COVER STORY



### ON THE COVER:

## Remembering Larry Himmel

Jim Holtzman was the news director of KFMB-TV who hired Larry Himmel for the station 35 years ago. This is his tribute to the late journalist who meant so much to many people, whether they knew him only from television or from passing him on the street or were lucky enough to be his friend. Story on Page 14.



## 16 Most Admired Companies – 2014

We present the companies and organizations that have earned the trust and loyalty of their constituencies by adhering to high standards of professionalism, integrity and accountability.



## 18 Rebounding San Diego Office Market

Third quarter 2014 ends with continued, dramatic improvement in San Diego's commercial real estate market across all product types. In this past quarter, another 1.77 million square feet of lab, office and industrial space came off the market. This represents the best year-to-date results since the strong economy of 2006.



## 20 Frankie Webb Takes a Shine

More than half a century ago, at age 16, Frankie Webb started shining shoes at a barber shop at 50th and Imperial Avenue. On Nov. 30 he turned 61 and for the past 16 years he's been shining shoes at his stand in the Men's Shoe Department of Nordstrom in Fashion Valley. "I found my niche," says Webb, who grew up in Southeast San Diego and over the years has shined the shoes of countless judges and lawyers and politicians. Read Martin Kruming's column.



## 28 The Hidden Hotel Gem Celebrates 25 Years

In the heart of the charming village of Del Mar sits a seaside sanctuary buffeted by the rolling Pacific surf: L'Auberge Del Mar. The ultimate in coastal elegance, this historic hotel celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The 120-room resort is reminiscent of a Cape Cod estate and provides the perfect blend of sophistication and comfort.

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## Publisher's Notes

Like most I've sat through too many eulogies and as we age they come too fast and too frequent as we pay final respects to departing friends.

But few have equaled the elegance of Jim Holtzman's eulogy for Larry Himmel, which you'll find elsewhere in this issue. It is a wonderful expression of love and friendship between two men.

Larry was one this city's most admired and loved characters. Larry loved San Diego and San Diego loved him back.

No endless bucket of dollars or a larger television market could pull Larry away from San Diego. He may have been born in Chicago but he was a San Diegan to the core. He will be greatly missed.

We've a number of special issues planned for 2015, some old and some new. Here's a list for your perusal and the months in which they will appear.

### February

Our 25 Metro Movers to Watch in 2015

### March

Our 2nd Annual Women's Issue (in association with the North San Diego Business Chamber)

### April

Our Guide to San Diego's top attorneys

### May

20 Women Who Impact San Diego

### June

Prime Time "50 Over 50" Honorees

### July

20 Men Who Make a Difference in SD

### August

San Diego's Top Marketing Executives

### September

Our 15th Annual 40 Under 40 Honorees

### November

The Men's Issue

### December

San Diego's Most Admired Companies.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas,



Bob Page  
Chairman & CEO  
SD METRO

## Civic San Diego Seeks Proposals For Downtown Shuttle System

Civic San Diego, the city agency that replaced the Centre City Development Corp., wants to make it easier for residents, workers and visitors to get around Downtown San Diego. It is seeking proposals from companies interested in developing and launching a "circulator" shuttle system that would ferry people around the Downtown area.

"The new circulator system aims to be low-cost or free and offer a fleet of environmentally friendly vehicles that will provide on-demand rides throughout Downtown to workers, residents and visitors," the agency said in a release. "The system will also include a mobile app so that riders can locate vehicles and request pick-up service."

The agency wants to see the new system launched by the summer of 2015.

"This new circulator system will allow people to park once and move around

Downtown often, providing a convenient, cost-free way to get from Point A to Point B to Point C and beyond," said Reese Jarrett, Civic San Diego president.

The agency has worked with the Downtown San Diego Partnership to develop ideas for the new system to ensure it was economically feasible and able to provide much-needed mobility to people.

"This is addressing that last-mile transportation dilemma that faces so many of our Downtown workers, residents and visitors," said Kris Michell, president and CEO of the Downtown Partnership. "With this new system, you would be able to park in East Village and catch a free ride to the County Waterfront Park or to any of Downtown's neighborhoods. Think about it: with this new free service, you can go shopping in the Marina District and have dinner in the Gaslamp without having to get back into your car and look

for parking all over again. It makes the Downtown experience feel more connected and seamless."

Jarrett said a traditional circulator shuttle, one that would have used a bus and operated on a fixed route, was initially considered, but was deemed too costly and unable to adequately address the transportation needs of those in Downtown. "We needed a mobility option that was flexible, cost-effective and nimble," he said.

"This proposal is just one of the ways we are ensuring that Downtown is made to move," Michell said. "The circulator system is designed to effectively address parking concerns, ensuring that more people want to work, live and visit Downtown."

A funding source for the system has not been determined.



# SAN DIEGO SCENE

## Trendy Restaurant Sought for Top of the New Rental Car Center at Lindbergh Field



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Restaurateurs searching for a great new venue may soon be beating down the doors of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. That's because the operator of Lindbergh Field is looking for a restaurant to fill a space atop the four-story, \$316 million Rental Car Center that is being built at the airport.

Whoever gets the lease for that prime 7,900-square-foot space will be able to entice airline passengers and a lot more people with intimate views of the airport runway and panoramic view of the city's skyline, bay and marinas.

"We are looking for this to become 'San Diego's restaurant,'" says Michael Spilky, president of Location Matters Brokerage Services, the company that was hired by the Airport Authority to find a suitable restaurant for the Rental Car Center, which is scheduled to open in 2016.

"We're seeking to establish a unique brand that will resonate with the entire San Diego community

and what we are all about: casual, yet refined, craft beer and cocktail-centric, and an approachable and local artisanal food experience," said Spilky.

The space itself will contain 180 feet of floor-to-ceiling frontage and have a flexible layout with an outdoor patio seating opportunity. According to Location Matters, branding and signage opportunities exist on both sides of the building structure visible from Interstate 5. An exclusive elevator entry will take patrons swiftly to the restaurant entry.

Laying it on a little thickly, Spilky says: "This is a generational opportunity to be the restaurant we all talk about for the next 30 years; a sustainable place to woo your out-of-town guests, have a date night, or even a power lunch."

Location Matters is marketing the lease for the restaurant space on an exclusive basis. Leasing inquiries can be made to Spilky at (858) 764-4223.

## How Your Computer Can Help Scientists Outsmart Ebola Virus

The Scripps Research Institute Wednesday announced an initiative in which people can make their idle computers and mobile devices available to scientists looking for compounds to treat the deadly Ebola virus.

The “Outsmart Ebola Together” volunteer computing project is being run by the Ollmann Sapphire laboratory at TSRI, which has mapped the structures and vulnerabilities of the proteins comprising the Ebola virus.

More attention is going into Ebola research following a deadly outbreak of the virus in West Africa. The flare-up resulted in the first cases ever in this country.

In the program, anyone with access to a computer or Android-based mobile device can download a safe and free application that will put their devices to work when the machines would otherwise be idle. With their collective processing power, the computers will form a virtual supercomputer to help TSRI screen millions of chemical compounds to identify new drug leads for treating Ebola.

The devices will remain fully available for normal use by their owners, according to TSRI.

The La Jolla-based research organization will run the program in partnership with the IBM World Community Grid, which has been making similar data-driven health and sustainability initiatives possible for 10 years as a free service to the science community.

According to TSRI, the best candidate compounds that emerge from this crowdsourced effort will be physically tested in a lab to pinpoint their effectiveness against a real virus infection. The most promising compounds will be modified to perform even better, at lower concentrations, and with fewer side effects.

Subsequent drug trials could ultimately lead to an approved medicine, the scientists said.

“Our molecular images of the Ebola virus are like enemy reconnaissance,” said Dr. Erica Ollmann Sapphire of TSRI. “These images show us where the virus is vulnerable and the targets we need to hit. In the Outsmart Ebola Together project, we will be able to harness World Community Grid’s virtual supercomputing power to find the drugs we need to aim at these targets.”

The World Community Grid has provided nearly 3 million computers and mobile devices for use on research projects over the last decade.

TSRI said increasing computer power will dramatically accelerate the process of identifying a cure. The speed and scale of a drug search is essential, because the lethal disease continues to spread and mutate.

Ebola has also become more of an international threat because people are more mobile than ever.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 11,000 cases of Ebola have been confirmed this year in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, causing more than 6,000 deaths. The CDC believes there have been more than 17,000 cases overall, including those that have not been confirmed in a laboratory.

In the U.S, there have been four cases, with one fatality.

-- City News Service



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## Developers Hire Brownfields Expert To Clear Site for Giant Ballpark Village

A man who has been digging in Downtown's East Village for 16 years has been hired by the developers of the giant Ballpark Village project to perform environmental and construction services on the 3.9-acre site.

Chris Spengler, who formed C. Spengler Strategies to expedite the redevelopment of brownfields, was retained for the work by Ballpark Village LLC, a partnership between JMI Realty and Lennar Corp. His company will collaborate with Leighton & Associates on an environmental assessment and remediation aspects of the mixed-use Ballpark Village project.

The Ballpark Village site is located along the east side of Park Boulevard, north of Imperial Avenue. The developers plan to build 713 residential units and 50,000 square feet of commercial space on the site, along with 1,220 parking stalls in three underground levels and one partial at-grade level.

Spengler is no stranger to the task. He managed the majority of the environmental remediation work for the Petco Park and East Village Redevelopment Project between 1998 and 2004, and continued managing remediation and grading projects in Downtown, including the Downtown Main Library, Mercado del Barrio and the new Sempra Headquarters.

Over the past two decades, he has assessed and remediated over 1.7 million square feet of real estate, turning brownfields into properties supporting their highest and best use, according to the developers.

"Spengler will apply his unique skill set derived from combining remediation and grading activities and his extensive knowledge of the site to guide the remediation efforts for Ballpark Village in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible," the developers said in a report.

The Ballpark Village site was previously owned by San Diego Gas & Electric as

part of the facilities associated with the historic manufactured gas plant located on the south side of Imperial Avenue, which was constructed in the late 1800s. After the closure of the plant, these properties continued to support SDG&E's operations through to the late 1990s.

The developers said the Ballpark Village project will be largest undertaking in Downtown since the construction of Petco Park. Preconstruction work is scheduled to start during the first quarter of 2015 with demolition and grading set to start in March. Project completion is estimated for late 2017.

"I've been studying and excavating the East Village since 1998," said Spengler. "Understanding the history is as important as understanding the environmental data. For proper planning, one must understand how and why the contamination came to be, and to not only rely on the data at face value."



Rendering of the Ballpark Village project.

## Cirque du Soleil's 'Varekai' Opens Feb. 25

Cirque du Soleil's latest arena touring production, "Varekai," opens Feb. 25 for seven performances in the Valley View Casino Center, formerly the Sports Arena, in Point Loma.

The word Varekai (pronounced ver-ay-'kie) means "wherever" in the Romany language of gypsies, the universal wanderers.

Directed by Dominic Champagne, this production pays tribute to the nomadic soul, to the spirit and art of the circus tradition, and to those who quest with infinite passion along the path that leads to Varekai.

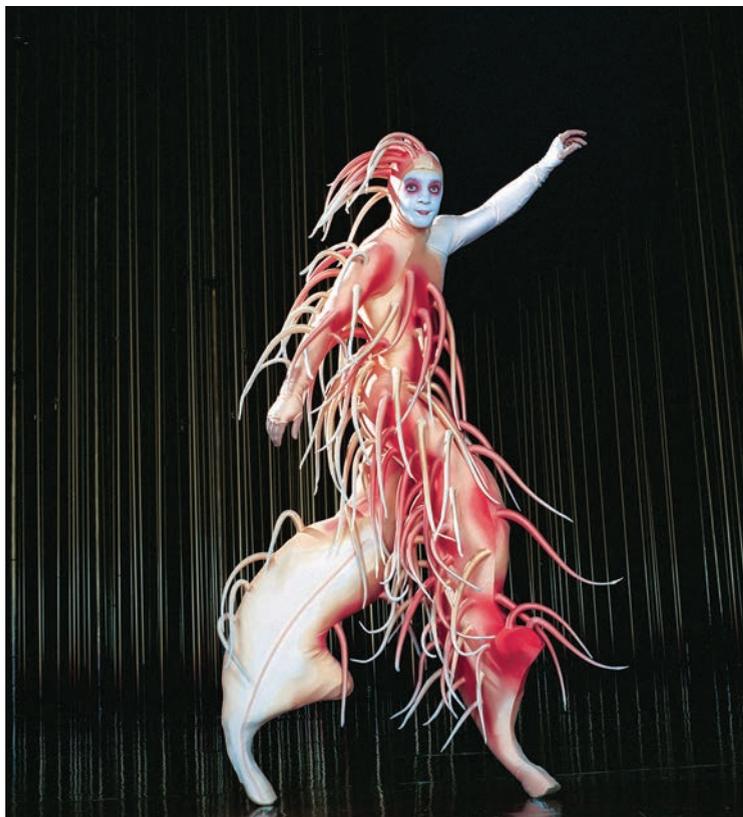
Tickets for the general public are available at [cirquedusoleil.com/varekai](http://cirquedusoleil.com/varekai) or by calling (888) 929-7849. Ticket prices range from \$35-\$115.

### Show Schedule:

- Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

For show and ticket information, visit [cirquedusoleil.com/varekai](http://cirquedusoleil.com/varekai).

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## Eight Companies That Launched Groundbreaking New Products Are Honored

Eight San Diego-based companies who launched groundbreaking new products in the last year were honored Dec. 5 as winners in the 27th annual Most Innovative New Product Awards sponsored by Connect, the business accelerator organization.

Held at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, the program was attended by more than 700 business leaders, entrepreneurs, researchers and investors.

The 2014 MIP Award winners and their products:

### Aerospace & Security Technologies

Cyber Flow Analytics for FlowScape

Flowscape provides anomaly analytics for the Internet of Things. It continuously analyzes billions of unstructured application and network traffic flows, and applies machine learning algorithms to provide real-time actionable intelligence for anomalous behavior. FlowScape detects anomalous high-risk threats as a cyber-security platform.

### Communications and IT

Cubic Transportation Systems for NextBus Fleet Management

The NextBus Fleet Management application is a modular, mobile gateway for connecting passengers and public transit managers to valuable real-time travel and operations information. This cost-effective, high-quality and reliable application makes public transportation a viable and attractive choice for commuters.

### Diagnostics & Research Tools

Organovo Inc. for exVive3D Liver Model

exVive3D Liver model is functional 3D human liver tissue constructs consisting of multiple primary human cell types which are found in native human liver. The exVive3D Livers are created using Organovo's proprietary 3D bioprinting technology that results in tissues containing precise and reproducible architecture. They are intended to improve preclinical drug discovery programs.

### Pharmaceutical Drugs and Medical Devices

Topera Inc. for Topera's 3D Mapping System

Topera's 3D Mapping identifies the mechanism that sustains atrial fibrillation in arrhythmia patients. By helping physicians visualize and localize these precise sources the Topera System provides the essential information for excellent patient outcomes.

### Mobile Apps

Rock My World Inc. for RockMyRun

RockMyRun takes biometric data from smartphones and fitness wearable devices, and then adjusts the music you're listening to so

that it matches your body, leading to increased enjoyment and improvement in performance by up to 20 percent while exercising.

### Software

CloudBeds for CloudBeds

CloudBeds is an operating system for hotels where properties can manage their operations easily through online tools; distribute real-time inventory (rooms) to consumers and travel agents worldwide through popular channels around the web via 2-way APIs; and increase a property's revenue while lowering its costs using learning algorithms that optimize a property's room prices, availability and back-office tasks.

### Sport & Active Lifestyle Technologies

Electrozyme LLC for ProFit SE Real-Time Sweat Electrolyte Sensor

The ProFit SE Real-Time Sweat is the world's first personal hydration monitor capable of assessing fluid and electrolyte loss in a non-invasive, real-time fashion. The wearable product provides answers to three key questions: When is it time to rehydrate? What to rehydrate with? How much to rehydrate?

### Sustainability

Solutube International for Solutube SkyVault Series

Solutube SkyVault Series employs advanced optics to deliver maximum daylight with minimal heat gain to large spaces with high, open ceilings. Modular components let designers spread light evenly, enhance light capture or control focus with one system.

Besides the companies honored, Connect awarded the Distinguished Contribution Award for Life Sciences Innovation to philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, and the Distinguished Contribution Award for Technology Innovation to Robert S. Sullivan, dean of the UC San Diego Rady School of Management.



Topera Inc. won a Most Innovative New Product Award for its 3D Mapping System, shown here at Texas Heart Institute. Dr. Abdi Rasekh, right, and Dr. Mehdi Razavi use the system to find the source of an abnormal heart rhythm in one of their patients.

## ecoATM Celebrates Grand Opening of New Corporate Headquarters

**By David Marino** One of the most rewarding aspects about working with commercial real estate tenants lies in the lasting relationships we form with our clients. The grand opening of ecoATM's new 53,000-square-foot facility on Barnes Canyon Road perfectly exemplifies this rewarding experience.

We were first introduced to ecoATM in 2009 while working with the EvoNexus incubator program in UTC, which provides free space and mentoring for qualified startups.

Hughes Marino provided pro-bono services to secure the EvoNexus facility in 2009 when office availability in UTC was 28 percent. The Irvine Company took a bet on sponsoring EvoNexus, hoping that the next generation of startups would go on to flourish.

Flourish ecoATM did, as the company raised capital and had a fully developed product in 2010, when Hughes Marino represented the growing company in its first 9,400-square-foot lease in Sorrento Mesa.

In 2012, ecoATM outgrew its space and needed to double in size, so we helped the company secure a second facility that met its expanded operational requirements. By early 2013, they had outgrown both locations and were ready to have all operations under one roof.

The management team wanted a new space that would reflect the compelling, imaginative, inspiring, and progressive products the company had become known for. Obviously it had to have great functionality as well, and be a good economic package. At the end of December 2013, ecoATM signed the lease for its newly remodeled headquarters, which the company moved into last month.

The vision of the management team included having an extremely secure facility, which was also modern looking, tech feeling, and environmentally friendly. Hughes Marino's Construction Management team, helmed by Dean Petersen, led the project through design and construction, and had to account for necessities including security on every door, cameras throughout, and closed spaces for the extraordinarily valuable I.T. equipment. While meeting all of the functional requirements, the end result is truly remarkable from an aesthetic standpoint as well.

With a stunning glass façade giving a sophisticated makeover to the previously dated building, ecoATM's space is open, and has an urban-feeling with exposed ducts and high ceilings. Pops of bright green pepper the interior and the large outdoor patio. In addition, much of the furniture and décor is made from recycled materials, all of the lighting is energy efficient, and the space was built to LEED standards, as the company applied for LEED Gold.

David Marino is executive vice president of Hughes Marino, a San Diego commercial real estate company specializing in San Diego tenant representation and building purchases.



ecoATM has built its business helping consumers recycle used technology products like these old cell phones, which have been upcycled into a coffee table in the company's hip new headquarters.



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### COMING IN 2015:

- Versa at Civita in Mission Valley
- Alpha Square at 14th & Market in Downtown San Diego
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- Westminster Manor on Third Avenue in Downtown San Diego
- Mill Creek Courtyard in Bakersfield
  - Villa Primavera in Calexico
- Las Palmeras in the City of Imperial



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**Zephyr Building 10 New Custom Homes In 'Most Desirable' Locations in San Diego**

San Diego-based real estate development and investment company Zephyr is building 10 new custom spec homes in locations throughout the region as part of its "Signature Series." "We've identified San Diego's most desirable residential locations by examining their geographical footprint, which encompasses views, walkability, available square footage, proximity to neighborhood amenities and the local community," said Brad Termini, Zephyr's co-CEO.

The custom homes include:

- Zephyr Signature Del Mar -- two ocean-view homes located in Old Del Mar near the downtown village and The Del Mar Plaza. Starting at 2,600 square feet, the three-bedroom homes have 3.5 baths and amenities that include views, rooftop decks, a large media room, private en-suite baths for both secondary bedrooms and disappearing doors that bring the outdoors into the main level great room. Homes are set for early 2015 completion.

- Zephyr Signature Carlsbad -- four homes with 3,278 to 4,281 square feet, four and five bedrooms, 3.5 baths, cul de sac living and oversized two- to three-car garages. The homes are inspired and designed by award-winning architect Mark Gross and will be completed in early 2015.

- Zephyr Signature Coronado -- two homes near the beach starting at 3,300 square feet with four bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms and detached casitas. The expansive floor plans will feature gourmet kitchens, creative designs and the latest in finishes. Homes will be completed in late 2015.

- Zephyr Signature Neptune -- two homes in Leucadia with contemporary and Balinese architecture. The four-bedroom homes offer 3,800 square feet, 4.5 baths, two-car garages, large gourmet kitchens, spacious master suites, numerous indoor/outdoor living spaces and a large game room with a balcony and disappearing doors. Homes are slated for spring 2015 completion.

Zephyr is also building The Block Downtown -- planned for a mixed-use retail and residential community, and The Park in Bankers Hill -- 60 high-end luxury condominiums and townhomes, opening in early 2015.



Zephyr Signature Del Mar

# SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## 2014-15 PERFORMANCES

### JACOBS MASTERWORKS

#### QUINT PLAYS KHACHATURIAN

December 5 & 6, 8pm  
December 7, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Philippe Quint, violin  
San Diego Master Chorale  
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV:  
Overture to *May Night*  
KHACHATURIAN: Violin Concerto  
HAYDN: Mass in C Major: *Paukenmesse*



Philippe Quint

#### BACH AND RACHMANINOFF

December 12 & 13  
8pm December 14, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Gil Shaham, violin  
J.S. BACH: Three Chorale Preludes  
BRUCE: Violin Concerto  
"Fragile Light" (world premiere)  
Concerto Commission:  
Mr. Sam B. Ernan and  
Mr. Gordon Brodtuehrer  
Premiere performance  
made possible by: Raffaella and  
John Belanich and the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation  
RACHMANINOFF: Symphony No. 2



Gil Shaham

#### SIR NEVILLE MARRINER CONDUCTS ELGAR

January 9 & 10, 8pm  
January 11, 2pm  
Sir Neville Marriner, conductor  
Alina Pogostkina, violin  
GLINKA: Overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla*  
KORNGOLD: Violin Concerto  
ELGAR: *Enigma Variations*



Sir Neville Marriner

#### MOZART AND STRAUSS

February 6 & 7, 8pm  
February 8, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Nicole Cabell, soprano  
Sheryl Renk, clarinet  
W.A. MOZART: Overture to *Idomeneo*  
W.A. MOZART: Clarinet Concerto  
R. STRAUSS: *Death and Transfiguration*  
R. STRAUSS: *Four Last Songs*



Nicole Cabell

#### GOODE PLAYS MOZART

February 27 & 28, 8pm  
March 1, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Richard Goode, piano  
ZWILICH: *Upbeat*  
W.A. MOZART: Piano Concerto No. 25  
SCHUBERT: Symphony, D.944:  
*The Great C Major*



Richard Goode

#### ZUKERMAN PLAYS AND CONDUCTS

March 27 & 28, 8pm, March 29, 2pm  
Pinchas Zukerman, violin and conductor  
R. STRAUSS: *Serenade for Wind Instruments*  
J.S. BACH: Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor  
SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 10  
(Part of a two-week Zukerman Residency)



Pinchas Zukerman

\*San Diego Symphony Orchestra does not appear on these programs.

#### CARMINA BURANA

May 1 & 2, 8pm; May 3, 2pm  
Ken-David Masur, conductor  
Conrad Tao, piano  
San Diego Master Chorale  
SHOSTAKOVICH: Piano Concerto No. 1  
ORFF: *Carmina burana*



Conrad Tao

#### A SPANISH RHAPSODY

May 15 & 16, 8pm  
May 17, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Ray Chen, violin  
CHABRIER: *España*  
LALO: *Symphonie espagnole*  
RAVEL: *Alborada del gracioso*  
FALLA: *The Three-Cornered Hat*:  
Excerpts from Suites 1 and 2



Ray Chen

#### STEPHEN HOUGH PLAYS BEETHOVEN

May 22 & 23, 8pm  
May 24, 2pm  
Jahja Ling, conductor  
Stephen Hough, piano  
KERNIS: *Musica celestis*  
BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 3  
BRAHMS: Symphony No. 2



Stephen Hough

### SPECIAL CONCERTS

#### A JOHN WILLIAMS CELEBRATION

January 30 & 31, 8pm  
John Williams, conductor  
Johannes Moser, cello  
The Maestro of Music conducts selections from several of his beloved film hits.



John Williams

#### VIENNA BOYS CHOIR\*

February 20, 8pm

#### ORQUESTA SINFÓNICA DEL ESTADO DE MÉXICO\*

March 13, 8pm  
GRANADOS: Tres danzas españolas  
PONCE: Violin Concerto  
BRAHMS: Symphony No. 4



Dalia Kuznecovaite

#### ZUKERMAN PLAYS BEETHOVEN

March 21, 8pm  
Pinchas Zukerman, violin and conductor  
Angela Chang, piano  
BEETHOVEN: Violin Sonatas Nos. 1 and 5  
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 3  
(Part of a two-week Zukerman Residency)

### CITY LIGHTS

#### Holiday Pops with EILEEN IVERS

A Celtic Celebration  
December 19 & 20, 8pm  
Non-Subscription concerts:  
December 20, 2pm  
December 21, 7:30pm



Eileen Ivers

#### NATHAN PACHECO: BE MY VALENTINE\*

February 14, 8pm



Nathan Pacheco

#### THE MIDTOWN MEN - FOUR STARS FROM THE ORIGINAL BROADWAY CAST OF JERSEY BOYS

March 6 & 7, 8pm



Deana Martin

#### TRIBUTE TO DEAN MARTIN featuring DEANA MARTIN

April 10 & 11, 8pm

#### LE OMBRÉ

May 8 & 9, 8pm

### FOX THEATRE FILM SERIES

#### 100 YEARS OF THE LITTLE TRAMP: A CHARLIE CHAPLIN CELEBRATION\*

January 3, 8pm  
Charlie Chaplin's immortal "Little Tramp" is now 100 years old, an indelible character in film history who influences movie comedies to this day.



Charlie Chaplin

#### THE THREE MUSKETEERS Starring Douglas Fairbanks (1921)\*

April 4, 8pm  
Douglas Fairbanks appears as the young, impulsive d'Artagnan in Alexander Dumas' classical tale of swashbuckling exploits.



Douglas Fairbanks

#### THE GODFATHER (1972) LIVE

April 24, 7:30pm  
The *Godfather* remains one of the greatest films in the history of cinema.



The Godfather (1972)

### International Passport Series

#### NEW YEAR'S CONCERT 2015 Salute to Vienna\*

January 1, 2:30pm



Russian National Ballet Theatre

#### TANGO BUENOS AIRES\*

January 16, 8pm

#### RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET THEATRE\*

February 10, 7:30pm - *Sleeping Beauty*  
February 11, 7:30pm - *Don Quixote*  
February 12, 7:30pm - *Swan Lake*



Lila Downs

#### TRINITY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE\*

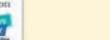
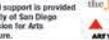
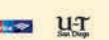
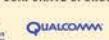
March 15, 2pm

#### LILA DOWNS\*

April 17, 8pm

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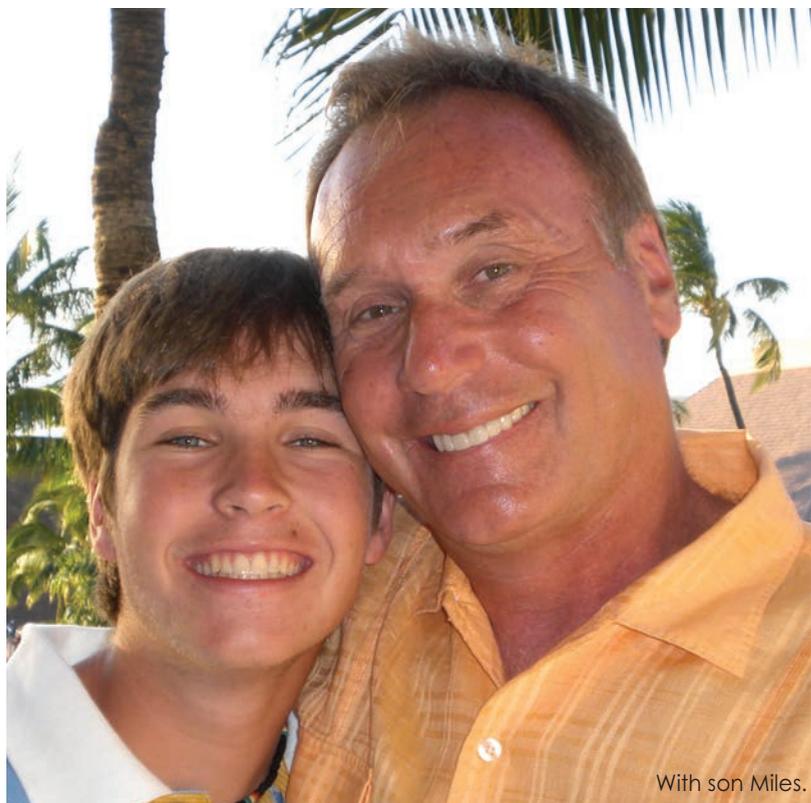
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With son Miles.

# REMEMBERING LARRY HIMMEL

JUNE 13, 1946 - NOVEMBER 5, 2014

The man who loved the fun of today  
and the promise of tomorrow

By Jim Holtzman



Classic photo of Loren Nancarrow and Larry Himmel circa 1986.



Sharing a laugh at the Del Mar Racetrack.

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Holtzman was the news director of KFMB-TV who hired Larry Himmel for the station 35 years ago. This is his tribute to the journalist at his memorial service on Nov. 20, 2014, at San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo.)*

I loved Larry ... and I'm certainly not alone in that sentiment here today. It helps to know that ... and it helps to know that the word "himmel" in German means heaven. How beautiful. How perfect.

I want to set aside all false modesty and humility. I am here this morning to proudly tell you that I'm the guy who put Larry Himmel on television. You have no idea how good that makes me feel ... how good it's made me feel for the last 35 years.

35 years!

My youngest son told me that for 35 years, Larry's smile has been the face of San Diego ... and his humor its pulse.

35 years.

In a business where the new usually eases or elbows aside the old, Larry was always new. He was always fresh, always relevant.

35 years.

Back then, I thought he was a nice guy with an amusing point of view. Really had him measured, didn't I?

How to explain all that Larry was, all that he became? How to explain someone who meant so much to so many people, whether they knew him only from television or from passing him on the street or were lucky enough to be his friend? The outpouring of genuine love and appreciation that has been expressed in the past week has been extraordinary. And yet..to think about it — it's not at all surprising.

There are a lot of theories or explanations about what made Larry so special. There are those who will tell you it was his creativity. And they're right. Here was someone in whom ideas were constantly bubbling. At times he got to talking so fast he was like a little boy telling you about the most exciting day of his life. He had to get those ideas out and get them rolling. He saw things, felt things, understood things, better and differently than we did. Who knew a day at the DMV could be so funny we'd laugh about it more than 30 years later? Somehow, Larry did.

Then there are those who will tell you, "No, with Larry it was really all about his deep talent and versatility." They, too, are right of course. Need a feature story that could bring a smile or laugh or tear? He was the best. Want to hold up a good-natured mirror to San Diego to expose its blemishes? Well, Larry invented that.

Do the weather? No problem. Live reports from

the Chargers' locker room? No sweat, not from Larry anyway. And in 2007, no one — no one — could have rallied San Diego the way Larry did, standing there reporting live as his home burned to the ground behind him. Talent. Versatility. Professionalism. Courage. Larry.

Still others insist Larry was all about work ethic, being a team player, and having an ego that never got in the way. Right on the mark again. As the host, head writer, main ideas person and absolute cornerstone of the "San Diego at Large" program, Larry had a backbreaking job description. But he didn't work at it like some coal miner wearily trudging in the gloom each morning. Not close.

He may have recognized the burden and responsibility, but saw it much more as a great opportunity. It was, "Follow me boys and girls, let's get it done and have the time of our lives doing it."

1985 to 1988, a half hour five nights a week, 52 weeks a year, and not one program repeated! And it worked. It was good. It was memorable. And with anyone other than Larry, it was impossible.

And finally, people have tried to explain the miracle that was Larry by talking about his great decency. They too understand. He treated everyone with such respect and patience you simply couldn't help but love him. People who met him once remembered it because he made them feel special. They were the important ones, not him. I would tell you today about the harsh words we had over money, or opportunities, or personality conflicts he had with co-workers. Really, I would. But there weren't any — not once — how can you not love an employee like that? None of us ever met a more decent person.

So, there's your explanation for what Larry was and did and why we're here.

Creativity. Versatility. Work Ethic. Decency.

Nice neat little package. Who among us wouldn't want the same said about us? But it's too neat and too little. Larry didn't do neat. And Larry certainly didn't do little. You have to add in one more major element of the man. Love.

Larry loved.

He loved the Cubs and baseball. And the ponies at Del Mar and Saratoga. And he loved great steaks and barbecue and Chicago pizza and ice cream. He loved music, all kinds of music. Gospel choirs, the Beat Farmers, Miles Davis.

And he loved suspenders and bowling shirts and zinc oxide. Good ratings, great camera people, big ideas, small ideas, the little guy, and the big guys. Larry loved dogs, especially Cosmo. And bears and lions that had been rescued. And camels, whether it was hump day or not.

He loved the fun of today, the promise of tomorrow. And loyalty and enthusiasm, radio, and Ray Wilson, and San Diego. He loved great words and if they rhymed from time to time, so much the better. He loved seeing the world and whatever he could discover just down the block. Deep down someplace he may have



At KGB back in the '70s.

even loved his hair.

He loved his friends and fans and, my goodness, he had a lot of both. Larry loved his mother. And Larry loved us, he really did. He thought we all had a story worth telling. He loved making us laugh. God gave him a gift. Even better, he loved laughing with us. That was Larry's gift to us.

And he loved Joanie and Miles. Oh, how Larry loved Joanie and Miles! He worshipped his wife. Rightfully so. And he was tremendously proud of his son. With good reason. They were..in the best definition of the word, a family.

Larry Himmel loved life. More specifically, Larry Himmel loved his life! In a bed at Mercy Hospital maybe six weeks ago, he talked about how lucky he'd been, that he'd done so many things, gone so many places..and met so many wonderful people that he'd lived more than any

three people. But before he went on, the smile slipped from his face and his eyes filled. Then he added, "There's so much I'm going to miss."

Today — with Larry gone — we know we're the ones who were lucky. We're the ones missing so much.



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# SAN DIEGO'S MOST ADMIRABLE COMPANIES 2014

## Baker Electric Solar



Baker designs, builds and installs photovoltaic solar power systems for new and existing homes, commercial facilities and utility-scale projects across Southern California. With the soaring demand for solar, it is absolutely imperative that a company be trustworthy, honest and guarantee its products and services. Baker is committed to integrity and excellence. The company's vision is to be best in its class, be a forward-acting solar provider and to be recognized as a preferred partner which delivers great results. In the July, 2014 Solar Power World Magazine, Baker was ranked No. 9 on the 2014 Top 400 Solar Contractors in North America. It has been ranked as a top California contractor as well. Baker has been ranked as one of the best medium-sized companies in San Diego County and is the first SunPower Elite Dealer in San Diego County. Baker sponsors senior experience projects at Cal State San Marcos and installed a high efficiency solar system for Father Joe's Village Place.

## CaseyGerry



Knowledge, experience and a commitment to justice for their clients have helped the personal injury attorneys at CaseyGerry consistently achieve outstanding results and well deserved recognition — most recently a multi-million dollar award for victims of the Reno Airshow tragedy, as well as a key role on the steering committee of the NFL brain injury litigation. Five CaseyGerry partners — Gayle M. Blatt, David S. Casey Jr., Robert J. Francavilla, Thomas Penfield and Frederick Schenk — are all honored in the 2015 edition of the Best Lawyers in America and featured on the cover of the publication's San Diego edition. CaseyGerry is one of San Diego's oldest plaintiffs' law firms and over the years has played a vital role in a diverse number of landmark matters, from California's tobacco litigation, in which the state recovered \$25.2 billion, to a historic case against Exxon Valdez over a massive oil spill.

## Chelsea Investment Corp.



Chelsea's mission is to provide solutions for affordable housing. Since 1992, Chelsea has developed 7,681 unit of affordable housing at a cost of \$1.4 billion. The firm's development portfolio includes urban infill, mixed-use, suburban inclusionary, acquisition rehab and rural developments. Approximately 20 percent of the units developed by Chelsea serve specialized populations, including seniors, farm workers, homeless households, and individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. A notable example of Chelsea's commitment to families at low-income communities is a soccer and arts program, implemented by soccer great Juli Vee, who played much of his career with the San Diego Sockers. Chelsea is now developing Independence Point in Lincoln Park, a first-of-its-kind rental community specifically for families with a member who has a development disability.

## Latitude 33 Planning & Engineering



Located in Scripps Ranch, Latitude 33 provides land use planning and entitlement services, civil engineering design, construction engineering and staking services to the public sector, developers and property owners. Latitude is one of the few companies in the country that handles both planning and engineering. Latitude's projects include medical facilities for Scripps, Palomar Pomerado Health and Kaiser Permanente, military projects throughout California, San Diego State University (Tony Gwynn Stadium), UCSD (Latitude serves as campus executive engineer), USD (Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, the Jenny Craig Pavilion and a refurbished Fowler Park). Nearly any major project that has been constructed in San Diego County over the past 21 years has involved Latitude 33. It is also involved with a high school mentoring program. It came about after Keith Keeler, original Latitude partner, was murdered seven years ago in Tijuana. A crowning achievement for Latitude 33 is the Pacific Highlands Ranch subarea in Carmel Valley.

## Organics Unlimited



At Organics Unlimited, the healthiest and most sustainable tropical fruits are grown organically. With a primary focus on bananas, the company imports top quality fruit from its farms and other farms it supervises. Founded in 2000, it is a young company with roots deep in the soil of Mexico. Organics Unlimited brings the freshest and healthiest tropical fruits from Mexico, South America and the Caribbean to the United States, Canada and Asia. Its produce is closely controlled through the entire growing, harvesting and distribution process to ensure the fruit provided meets stringent exacting standards and organic certification requirements at all stages. When founders Mayra and Manuel Velazquez de Leon started Organics Unlimited it was with a mission to provide the best quality organic tropical fruits to consumers. Organics Unlimited has a program called GROW, which was founded on the principle of providing a better lifestyle for not only the workers who grow our produce but also others in the community who are living in poverty. The GROW program provides educational, medical, dental and vision support programs to those need it the most.

## Intelicare Direct



Intelicare Direct is a leading customer service solutions company with offices in San Diego and Las Vegas, offering businesses effective ways to improve customer satisfaction, sales and quality assurance. Intelicare Direct increases companies' bottom lines by catering to their number one asset — customers. The call center isn't just leading in its industry, it is also one of the most admired places to work in San Diego. Call centers are widely known to have unstable work environments with high employee turnover rates. But Gabriel Bristol, the company president, has created a flexible corporate culture in order to keep employees satisfied.



**RJS Law**

RJS Law is the most trusted tax law firm in San Diego. It is committed first and foremost to its clients. The hallmark of the firm is its devotion to excellent customer service. RJS has never filed a lien to collect a client's unpaid bills, and have never had a confrontation regarding its billing practices. Ronson J. Shamoun, who founded the firm, is involved in all cases at RJS Law. The firm sponsors an annual \$5,000 scholarship at the USD School of Law, and each year RJS Law partners with various charities and organizations by donating time and money to help them have a positive impact on the San Diego community. RJS Law has donated 3,500 hours of pro bono hours this year and on track to exceed that number before the year ends. Every member of the firm is involved in charity work and community organizations. RJS Law is an ardent supporter of the USO, the Rwandan Orphans Project, the Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services Clinic, The I Love A Clean San Diego and a local Kiwanis club. The firm has an excellent and enviable record of winning difficult and tricky tax cases with both the Internal Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board.



**V Group**

Founded in 2007 by Ron Morabito, V Group provides signage, trade show displays, printing and promotional products. President Ron Morabito brings over 20 years of experience in the signage and printing industry. Combined with a knowledgeable, friendly and quality-driven staff, V Group has grown to one of the largest signage and printing companies in Southern California. It services many prominent local and national clients, including the U.S. Army, the San Diego Padres, San Diego State University, University of San Diego, Donovan's Steak and Chop House, Barona Resort and Casino, MTS, the NCAA and Marriott, among others. Morabito is an active philanthropist who supports various youth programs for underprivileged and at-risk children. He is an active member of the Century Club where he serves as the chair of the volunteer committee. As a singer/songwriter in his spare time, Morabito also coordinates a number of charity events each year where he performs to help raise money for causes. V Group also donates signage to Huntington's Disease, ALS, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the Boys & Girls Club.



**Law Office of George R. Kindley**

The Kindley firm has helped to resolve numerous personal injury matters including, without limitation, automobile accidents, construction accidents, elder abuse and motorcycle accidents. The firm's goal is to help injured persons and their families through the litigation process. The firm is known in the community for paying attention to the needs of its individual clients. The firm view itself as advocates for people who have been injured.



**California Bank & Trust**

California Bank & Trust has been voted "San Diego's Best Bank" for four years in a row and has always been proud to call San Diego home. It has a rich history of serving San Diego for over 60 years. It is the largest financial institution in San Diego with over 475 employees in the region and assets that exceed \$11 billion. The bank specializes in business banking and offers services through 30 branch locations located throughout the area. CB&T employees donate thousands of hours of time each year volunteering for local organizations to assist disadvantaged families, and helping underprivileged people start new businesses..



**UC San Diego Health System**

The UC San Diego Health System is the only academic health system in San Diego and is dedicated to delivering outstanding patient care through commitment to the community, groundbreaking research and inspired teaching. In operation since 1966, it is composed of UC San Diego Medical Center, Thornton Hospital, Moores Cancer Center, Shiley Eye Center, Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center and the Jacobs Medical Center (opening in 2016) as well as several outpatient sites located throughout San Diego County. This year it received a "Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinic Excellence," an honor only bestowed upon the top five per cent of hospitals in the U.S. It is ranked No. 1 in the San Diego metropolitan area and No. 5 in California, according to U.S. News & World Report.



**University of San Diego**

As a nationally ranked Catholic university, University of San Diego is dedicated to preparing ethical and compassionate leaders inspired to create lasting social change in our global society. USD offers 40 undergraduate degrees and several degrees in law, nursing and other doctorate programs. Its endowment is nearing \$400 million. Undergraduate enrollment is 5,500 and there are 1,700 in postgraduate studies. The university was founded in 1949 as the San Diego College for Women. In September 1954, the San Diego College for Men and the School of Law opened. The two schools were merged into the University of San Diego in 1972.



**Schubach Aviation**

Since 1992 Schubach Aviation has been leading the private aviation industry in San Diego with its knowledge, technology and aircraft. Schubach operates San Diego's largest fleet of corporate jets, which are meticulously maintained at Palomar Airport and Lindberg Field. Its safety record is without peer. There are no overly complicated contracts with Schubach, just straightforward, personalized service. Schubach's goal is to help people get to their destination faster. Henry Schubach's love of aviation is boundless. His passion for flying and his dedication to business integrity are matched only for his love of dogs. He is the driving force behind the company's commitment to supporting local animal welfare organizations.

# Market Report

## Rebounding San Diego office market reaches heights not seen since 2006

By David Marino

Third quarter 2014 ends with continued, dramatic improvement in the commercial real estate market across all product types. In this past quarter, another 1.77 million square feet of lab, office and industrial space came off the market.

This is consistent with the real estate recovery in the second quarter when 1.73 million square feet came off the market. 2014 year-to-date net absorption is almost record setting, with just under 4.4 million square feet of net space having come off the market. This represents the best year-to-date results since the strong economy of 2006.

Meanwhile, office availability by sub-market is shifting radically. Most notably is in Del Mar Heights, where it was anticipated that AMN Healthcare was going to potentially relocate, and their

space was put on the market as available. But AMN ultimately renewed, eliminating the artificial spike in availability rates and driving Del Mar Heights down to a three-year availability low. At the same time, Sorrento Mesa office availability has clipped up due to Active Network putting their entire 125,000 square foot corporate headquarters on the market for sublease.

Downtown San Diego has also experienced a steady increase in rates and decrease in vacancy. Between the 22 high rises Downtown, 110,000 square feet have come off the market so far in 2014 (soon to be 120,000), making this the first time Downtown has exceeded 100,000 square feet of absorption since 2005.

A more significant change has occurred in the Downtown Class A market, which is hovering near the 5 percent vacancy mark. With the Department of Justice



Between the 22 high rises Downtown, 110,000 square feet have come off the market so far in 2014 (soon to be 120,000), making this the first time Downtown has exceeded 100,000 square feet of absorption since 2005.

Attorney General committing to One America Plaza (moving from 110 West A Street, a Class B building) and taking 120,000 square feet of available Class A office off the market, combined with a land grab by companies vying to secure the last view spaces in town, there are more Class A buildings over 95 percent



AMN Healthcare was going to potentially relocate, and their space was put on the market as available. But AMN ultimately renewed, eliminating the artificial spike in availability rates and driving Del Mar Heights down to a three-year availability low.



Cox Communications is potentially looking for 40,000 square feet to expand.

leased than under 95 percent leased.

The Downtown Class B market, on the other hand, is a mixed bag. 625 Broadway, also known as the Torbatti Building, kicks off construction in March to convert the 230,000-square-foot Class B office tower to residential apartments. 600 B Street has a package out on the lower portion of the building for sale as a hotel. 101 Ash, formerly known as the Sempra building, may be coming back on the market for multi-tenant use next spring as Sempra moves to their new build-to-suit at the ballpark.

All other office markets continue to

show incremental improvement. The most significant improvement has been in UTC where Class A vacancy rates are now under 7 percent. The overall UTC vacancy rate is somewhat higher, however, when you mix in Class B availabilities and also Campus Point availabilities caused by SAIC moving its headquarters back to the East Coast a few years ago.

One particular area of note in the recent recovery is the I-15 corridor, where a number of companies have been looking to relocate out of the more congested Sorrento Mesa area. Availabilities of large blocks of space over 20,000 square feet have been cut in half in the last year as companies like Intel, which recently expanded by 42,000 square feet, continue to absorb space. Additionally, with MedImpact staying strong and growing, Turtle Beach rumored to be relocating from UTC for 30,000 square feet, and Cox Communications potentially looking for 40,000 square feet, I-15 will likely continue to show improvement be-

tween now and the end of the year.

The most unusual trend we're seeing in the market is in Sorrento Mesa, where there is literally almost as much sublease space on the market as there is direct space from landlords. This is due to the overhang of space available by large companies including American Specialty Healthcare, which moved its headquarters out of San Diego to the Midwest, and has placed all of its space on the market as a result.



David Marino is executive vice president of Hughes Marino, a San Diego commercial real estate company specializing in San Diego tenant representation and building purchases. Contact Marino direct at (619) 238-2111 or david@hughesmarino.com to learn more.

## San Diego's 2015 METRO MOVERS

"We're seeking nominees for our 8th annual Metro Movers awards. Please submit your nominations by January 20th to Rebeca Page at [rebecapage@sandiegometro.com](mailto:rebecapage@sandiegometro.com) or fax to her at (858) 759-5755 or mail to SD METRO at P.O. Box 3679, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067.

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# Connections By Martin Kruming

## Frankie Webb takes a shine to countless judges and lawyers

More than half a century ago, at age 16, Frankie Webb started shining shoes in a barber shop at 50th and Imperial Avenue. On Nov. 30 he turned 61 and for the past 16 years he's been shining shoes at his stand in the Men's Shoe Department of Nordstrom in Fashion Valley.



"I found my niche," says Webb, who grew up in Southeast San Diego and over the years has shined the shoes of countless judges and lawyers as well as Herb Klein, former communications director in the Nixon White House, former San Diego City Councilman George Stevens and businessmen John Mabee and Robert McNeely.

'I found my niche,' says Webb, who grew up in Southeast San Diego and over the years has shined the shoes of countless judges and lawyers.

As for Stevens, "he showed me how to shine shoes" because that's what he did to put himself through college. "He shined my shoes."

But it's the lawyers and judges who have been a big part of Frankie's customer base. Some, such as retired U.S. Magistrate Judge Bill McCurine, came to know Frankie as a friend through other connections.

When Frankie set up different stands Downtown in the basement of the Westgate Hotel and the Marston Building, he had "lots of lawyers." He later took over the shoeshine booth at Eighth Avenue and C Street for a veteran shoeshiner named Amos, who was known by "most of the legal community."

Frankie even opened up a stand at Ace Uniform and Accessories, where he shined shoes for many of the police officers attending funerals and other formal ceremonies. "They would get their shoes shined because that was protocol," he noted.

But it was the lawyers and judges with whom Frankie connected the most. "They supported my efforts in shining shoes."

"I'm an average home boy who has gone through the ranks," said Frankie, who didn't let a speech impediment stop him from communicating with customers. "I keep it simple. I rejoice. I look forward to coming to work." His son is a Marine at 29 Palms, having served in Afghanistan; his daughter is in college.

### Presidential Library Close to Home

Presidential libraries are located around the country but the closest one for San Diegans is the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, less than a two-hour drive away.

Nixon's connections to San Diego were significant.

After the Dita Beard/ITT scandal broke, Republicans moved their National Convention in 1972 out of San Diego to Miami Beach which provided the opportunity for then-Mayor Pete Wilson to come up with American's Finest City Week, a week-long series of civic activities. The unofficial tag, "America's Finest City," stuck.

Wilson, after service in the Marine Corps, went on to become a California Assemblyman, San Diego mayor, U.S. senator and California governor, and it was during his term as mayor that Horton Plaza and Downtown redevelopment began.

"It's hard to imagine a world without Richard Nixon," said Wilson on the passing of the former president in 1994. He was also one of several eulogists for Nixon's wife, Pat, during a service for her in 1993.

An exhibit called "Play Ball: Presidents and Baseball" was featured recently at the Nixon Library and included at least two references to San Diego ballplayers — Hall of Famer Ted Williams and Steve Garvey, pictured playing first base in a photo with Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds, who has yet to



make it into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

A visit to the Nixon Library and Museum is well worth the drive. Then continue north to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

### How to Motivate People

At the University of San Diego last month, Professor Susan Fowler addressed a packed auditorium on "Why Motivating People Doesn't Work ... and What Does." She believes they're already motivated; leaders only need to discover what motivates them and turn that into a positive. It's all about taking the time to connect with people.

Once you learn what motivates people, you then link that knowledge with their values and principles. She cited this example:

While addressing a crowd of about 300 persons in Malaysia, she had everyone stand up and answer a series of questions. The one who answered all the questions won an iPod. It turned out to be a gentleman who was so overwhelmed that he accepted the prize and broke into karaoke singing. He was the center of attention.

During lunch, Fowler discovered that the fellow wanted to return the iPod because he had cheated. His motivation was money and 15 seconds of fame. However, his principles and values condoned cheating. When a woman came forward to receive her prize, the audience gave our friend a standing ovation for honesty.

Discover what motivates people, connect their values and productive outcomes will follow.

**Diplomacy Council Builds Global Connections**

On Oct. 25, the San Diego Diplomacy Council celebrated its 35th anniversary with a gala event at the Horton Grand Hotel for more than 200 persons with all sorts of connections from around the world. The SDDC’s mission is “to build global relationships by arranging professional, educational and cultural exchanges.” Among the featured guests were U.S. Representatives Susan Davis and Juan Vargas, and U.S. Consul General in Tijuana, Andrew Erickson, who has served in Afghanistan, North Africa, Bolivia, Haiti, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the Seychelles Islands, among others.



Congressman Juan Vargas shares a laugh with Diplomacy Council guests.

Erickson noted that there are 328 POEs (Points of Entry) into the United States with the San Diego-Tijuana megalopolis being the largest. Yet, he observed, the vast majority of San Diegans have never set foot in Mexico.

The Diplomacy Council has been connecting San Diegans with people from around the globe for more than three decades yet remains one of our city’s best kept secrets. If it hadn’t been for the SDDC, we would never have met visitors from Azerbaijan, France, Kenya, Moldova, Turkey, Georgia, Latvia, Botswana, Mongolia; the list goes on and on, as do the connections.



Congresswoman Susan Davis listens to a talk at the Diplomacy Council gala.

During the gala, the SDCD honored J.W. August, senior investigative producer at KGTV’s Channel 10, and San Diego LGBT Pride as its Citizen Diplomats of the Year. It also paid special tribute to former Ambassador Charles Hostler, an extraordinary American who passed away on Sept. 28 after a lifetime as a diplomat, scholar, war hero, businessman and philanthropist who had visited 175 countries.



## NEW CAR REVIEW: The 2015 BMW M235i By Eric Peters

The best fights are not one-round knock-outs. They're the savage slugfests.

Rocky vs. Apollo Creed.

The new M2 vs. the new M4.

It's not what BMW intended. But the match-up is inevitable.

Both of these super coupes are powered by the same basic superlative straight six (the V-8 is gone in lower-tier M BMWs thanks to Uncle and his fuel-efficiency mandates) and while the M4's version of the 3.0 six is stronger, the M4 is also heavier, and so it accelerates only a bit more quickly. In fact, it's close enough that a quicker M2 driver could absolutely get the drop on an M4 in a head-up drag race.

And in the curves, both Ms are equally deadly weapons.

But, you do get a bigger car if you buy the M4, right? Certainly. On the outside. About seven inches more car, end to end. But inside, these two offer about the same space.

Especially in the one category that's probably the most relevant for buyers of two-door/four-seaters: backseat legroom. The M2 has 33 inches — the M4 33.7. That's about three-quarters-of-an-inch of difference. And the M2 actually has more headroom back there.

Meanwhile, check the MSRP's. You can own the new M2 coupe for \$43,100. The M4 coupe starts at \$64,200.

That's the one big difference between these two magnificent cars - and the one that may result in a TKO. In favor of the M2.

### What It Is

The M235i is the amped-up version of BMW's entry-level 2 Series coupe/convertible. It's still technically a compact, but the 2 is significantly larger inside and out than the 1 Series coupe/convertible it replaces. And it's

awfully close, inside-wise, to the much more expensive (and nominally mid-sized) M4 coupe/convertible.

"M" in BMW lingo denotes a package of high-performance enhancements, including a larger and much stronger engine, an upgraded (and adaptive) sport-tuned suspension, faster steering, a more aggressive wheel/tire package, high-capacity brakes, a tuned exhaust system and exterior/interior trim enhancements.

Base price is \$43,100 for a rear-wheel-drive M235i coupe with six-speed manual transmission. Opting for BMW's xDrive AWD system, and the mandatory eight-speed automatic that's paired with it, bumps the MSRP to \$44,900.

The M convertible is automatic-only and is also sold in rear-wheel-drive form only. Prices for the soft-top M2 haven't been released yet (as of mid-November 2014) but will likely be in the range of \$49k.

Official pricing and the car itself should be available by early spring 2015.

### What's New

2015 is the first year for the M version of BMW's 2 Series. Some of the M's high-performance chassis enhancements (but not the M-specific engine) and cosmetic details are now available as a la carte as options in the regular 228i coupe/convertible.

### What's Good

A gunfighter with the finesse of a knife fighter. Nearly as much room inside as in the M4. About \$21,000 left in your bank account vs. the M4. Electronic nannies can be easily (and completely) turned off.

### What's Not So Good

No satellite radio (or GPS) included ... for \$43k to start? Spill-inducing cupholders.

Locking rear differential is extra cost.

### Under The Hood

BMW has been moving away from V-8s in its M cars, and horrible as this is in principle (government bureaucrats dictating what's under the hood of the car you're paying for), BMW end-runs Uncle on your behalf by slipping a six with the power of a V-8 under the hood of the M2.

Instead of the 228i's turbo 2.0 four, you'll find a turbo 3.0 straight six - BMW's signature engine, as distinctive in layout as well as characteristics as Porsche's flat six. In the M2, it makes 320 hp (80 hp more than the 228i's turbo four) and almost-V-8 torque (330 ft.-lbs.).

The default standard transmission is BMW's eight-speed automatic with launch control and multiple automatic modes (Sport, Sport +, Eco and Comfort) as well as driver-selectable manual gearchange mode. A conventional six-speed manual transmission is a no-cost option... if you stick with rear-wheel-drive. The optional xDrive all-wheel-drive system requires the automatic. If you want the drop-top, you can have the six-speed manual of the automatic, but not all-wheel-drive.

It's offered only with the coupe, probably because the added weight of both AWD and the extra bracing necessary in a convertible would crimp the car's performance beyond acceptable parameters.

### On The Road

This car has dual personalities, both of them appealing. It can be fierce and friendly. This is perhaps the greatest virtue of modern high-performance cars. They are not temperamental. They can be driven comfortably in the worst stop-and-go gridlock. But when the gridlock clears, it's like like Clark Kent ripping

away his tie and shirt, losing the glasses.

Even in gridlock, where the instant-on thrust of that lethally effective sweet six lets the M's driver exploit brief windows of opportunity that are closed to other drivers in lesser cars. Stab the gas and it's as though you've already passed.

Though turbo'd, BMW has gone to some lengths to downplay the fact. There's no whistle, no snapping sound of wastegates opening and closing. Not even a boost gauge. Instead, a seemingly bottomless wellspring of torque, the straight six's 330 ft.-lbs. equivalent to the output of a non-turbo'd V-8 in the 4-5 liter range. The twist is accessible immediately, peaking under 2,000 RPM and holding steady as the revs climb. This abundant torque on the low end (and mid-range) is key to the M's friendly demeanor in the bump and grind of gridlocked traffic. It can laze along, hardly working to keep up.

But high horsepower awaits whenever the need, whenever the urge, arises. Ask and ye shall receive. Ever light a firecracker with a really short fuse? Be ready. Especially if you've turned the traction/stability control off. This car will leave rubber all over the road. And this is an engine that always sounds good, too, unlike the regular 2's turbo four. Which is a fine engine, just not a melodic one. This one is a Stradivarius of internal combustion.

**At The Curb**

It's a bigger car, for openers. About 2.5 inches longer overall than the now-retired 1 Series coupe, and exactly 1 inch wider. There is a great deal more interior space as a result, especially headroom for the driver and front seat passenger (40.1 inches now vs. 37.9 in the 1) though the back seat is still tight (33 inches, up from 32 in the 1), which ought to surprise no one familiar with the second row accom-

modations in compact sport coupes. It goes with the territory.

What is surprising is just how close the M2's interior specs are to those of its bigger (on the outside) brother, the M4, especially backseat-wise.

The M4's got 33.7 inches of backseat legroom (a meagre seven tenths of an inch more than the M2's got) and less backseat headroom (36.1 inches vs. 36.5 for the M2). There's slightly more up-front legroom in the M4 (42.2 inches) but the M2's 41.5 inches is very close, and very generous. A 6-foot, 3-inch man (me) still has several inches of air between his knees and the dashpad's lower section without sliding the seat back as far as it will go. The M4's additional .7 inches of legroom is thus superfluous unless you're really tall - as in NBA tall, and then you might have an issue with the lesser headroom in the M4 (39.8 inches vs. 40.1 in the M2).

The take-home point is the M4's larger overall size isn't functionally meaningful unless you just prefer the looks of a longer/bigger-on-the-outside car.

**The Rest**

All 2s — Ms and otherwise — are fitted with an automatic engine stop (and re-start) system, which is there to help squeeze out a fraction of an MPG here, a fraction of an MPG there, by cutting the engine when the car is stopped at red lights and so on. The system can be manually turned off, which will keep the engine turned on. But the driver must remember to do this each time he gets in the car. It's a small annoyance for which you can (once again) thank Uncle. The entire car industry (not just BMW) is scraping the bottom of the proverbial barrel to comply with the fuel economy fatwas emanating out of

Washington.

You will probably not notice a difference. But if it improves BMW's "fleet average" MPG numbers, however slightly, it will help BMW to continue building cars like this. And so, it's a small annoyance worth putting up with.

The M package includes a body kit (subtle, unlike some M cars of the past), brushed aluminum trim plates, a thicker "M" steering wheel, specially bolstered sport buckets, LED accent lighting and a discreet rear spoiler, in addition to the mechanical/functional enhancements already described.

The thing that's "entry level" about the M2 is that the car does not come standard with either satellite radio or GPS. Both are extra-cost options, bundled with the Technology Package. This upgrades you from the standard 6.5 inch dashtop mounted LCD display to a larger 8.8 inch display, along with an enhanced version of BMW's mouse-input iDrive controller and a secondary touchpad for text entry. Though BMW gives you a lot of performance for the money, the fact that you have to pay extra for such accessories in a car with a base price of \$43k is fairly cheeky given that satellite radio and GPS are very common features (and often standard equipment) in cars priced under \$30k.

**The Bottom Line**

How close is too close? Is less than half a second worth another \$21,000 (the cost of the jump to the M4 from the M2)? I think either the M4 should be a lot quicker. Or cost a lot less. Because the M2 really is that good.

Eric Peters is the author of "Automotive Atrocities" and "Road Hogs" and a former editorial writer/columnist for The Washington Times

**2015 BMW 235i Specifications:**

- Base price:** \$43,100. As tested \$46,575 (w/Cold Weather package)
- Engine:** 3.0 liter in-line six, 320 hp and 330 lbs.-ft. of torque
- Transmission:** 8-speed automatic or 6-speed manual
- Length:** 174.7 inches
- Width:** 69.8 inches
- Wheelbase:** 105.9 inches
- Curb weight:** 3,345 lbs.
- Luggage capacity:** 13.8 cubic feet
- EPA fuel economy:** 21 city/32 highway (automatic)
- Where assembled:** Leipzig, Germany



# NEW EYE IN THE SKY

A new telescope will let San Diego State University astronomers see farther into the universe than ever before



You couldn't ask for a much better spot for gazing into the heavens than the Laguna Mountains in eastern San Diego County. At 6,100 feet above sea level, you're above a good chunk of the ground-level atmosphere that occludes a telescope's view.

The weather is clear most days of the year, and the calm westerly winds keep the air smooth, like the surface of an undisturbed pond. It's far enough away from civilization that light pollution is minimal, yet San Diego State University's Mount Laguna Observatory is only about an hour's drive from the main campus.

"I would argue that in the continental United States, we have the best astronomical site," said Allen Shafter, professor and chair of the SDSU astronomy department.

What has always been an outstanding site for astronomical research just got even better, thanks to the addition of the brand new 1.25-meter (about 50-inch) Phillips Claud Telescope. The \$1.5 million state-of-the-art instrument was made possible by a gift from the late amateur astronomer and philanthropist Phillips L. Claud Jr., who funded more than half of the telescope's cost.

The Claud Telescope is a reflecting telescope, meaning it uses precisely polished curved mirrors to reflect light and form an image. There is no magnifying lens.

While it can't compete with the world's largest reflecting telescopes, which measure around 10 meters in diameters, the Claud Telescope is about 10 inches larger in diameter than the 40-inch instrument that was formerly the observatory's largest. Because a telescope's light-gathering power grows exponentially with the surface area of its primary mirror, the new telescope is approximately 50 percent more powerful than the older 40-inch telescope.

In other words, it's a dramatic upgrade for the Mount Laguna Observatory, one that will allow SDSU's astronomers to see farther and more clearly into the night sky than before, as well as encourage students to hone their stargazing skills.



Robert Quimby, associate professor of astronomy and director of the Mount Laguna Observatory.

## High on the Mountain

SDSU's astronomy department is one of only a handful of universities around the world that operates its own mountaintop observatory. Including the Claud, the observatory has four operable telescopes, two of which are considered to be "research-grade."

A couple of rustic, cabin-like apartments are available to guests, but most researchers and graduate students stay overnight in a windowless fireproof bunker, complete with a science fiction library, a spartan collection of VHS tapes (including, naturally, the original "Star Wars" trilogy), and a Nintendo Entertainment System.

The dome for the Claud Telescope was originally built to house an experimental "ULTRA" (Ultra Lightweight Technology for Research in Astronomy) telescope using a polished carbon-fiber mirror. Around 2005, it became apparent that this speculative technology just wasn't going to work.

Wanting to advance SDSU's astronomical research capabilities — and not wanting to waste a perfectly good building and dome — Shafter

and others in the department, including former department chair Paul Etzel, sought funding for a new telescope, which led to the Claud.

One of the biggest strengths of the new telescope is that it is designed to be robotic and remotely operable. That means astronomers won't have to physically be up at Mount Laguna to point the telescope and collect data.

"Having a remote facility enables us to have a modern observing campaign," said Robert Quimby, associate professor of astronomy and the observatory's newly hired director.



Professor Allen Shafter, chair of the SDSU astronomy department.

The young astronomer is notable for having discovered several of the brightest supernovae ever observed, as well as for his ongoing research into why some of these supernovae are up to 100 times brighter than average.

## Observing Time

Remote, robotic capabilities make it easier for Quimby and his colleagues to do longitudinal astronomical studies, which are important for many cutting-edge lines of research. For example, with Quimby's supernova research, he doesn't need to watch the same point in the sky for hours at a time.

He would rather observe a single point for a couple minutes per day over the course of a few months, freeing up the telescope for other astronomers who want to observe their own co-



The Phillips Claud Telescope.

ordinates. The Claud Telescope makes this possible, although it will be some time before the instrument becomes fully robotic.

"Limited observing time simply is not an issue here, unlike at some other facilities," Shafter said.

Shafter and Quimby said that although the Claud Telescope probably isn't large enough to beat bigger telescopes in detecting any new secrets of the galaxy, it can pay closer attention to discoveries that the world's enormous telescopes just don't have the time to follow up on.

"To do quality research, you don't have to look deeper and further than the other guys," Quimby said. "You just have to be there at the right place and the right time."

(This story is featured in the fall 2014 issue of 360: The Magazine of San Diego State University.)

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# GENOME: UNLOCKING LIFE'S CODE

## Capturing the revolutionary nature of genomic science

Do you have your mother's dimples? Or your father's hairline? What is it about us that makes us us?

And how much of it actually sets us apart from not only other human beings but from every other living thing on Earth?

"Genome: Unlocking Life's Code," an exhibition making its West Coast premiere at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, begins to unravel the mystery behind the complete set of instructions needed for every living thing on Earth to

grow and function: the genome.

The exhibition, which closes on Jan. 4, 2015, immerses you in a high-tech environment that captures the revolutionary nature of genomic science.

Genomics is the study of the entire genome of an organism; the genome is the entire set of genetic instructions found in a cell.

In "Genome: Unlocking Life's Code," you can explore what the genome is, its scale and structure and find out how genomics plays a role in modern life.

Discover the fascinating diversity of living things, how their genomes differ — and their surprising similarities.

Learn how genomics has added to archaeological and fossil evidence, increasing knowledge of human origins and helping to answer questions about recent ancestry.

Investigate how genomics may point to ways to stop deadly epidemics in their tracks.

See yourself in a new way: as an individual, as a member of a family, and as



part of the diversity of life on Earth.

It took nearly a decade, three billion dollars, and thousands of scientists to sequence the human genome in 2003. And thanks to the pioneering work of the Human Genome Project, we are starting to know so much more about ourselves, and our world.

Your genome is a roadmap that can help you trace your ancestral past, and take charge of your future health. Discover how our newfound ability to identify thousands of genes that contribute to disease has helped open the way to more personalized health care. Weigh in on the legal and ethical issues surrounding cutting-edge genomic research and its implications on society.

The exhibition was developed through a partnership between the National Museum of Natural History and the National Human Genome Research Institute. It was made possible in part by financial support from Life Technologies and other sponsors.

Take a virtual tour of the exhibition:

[unlockinglifescode.org/explore/virtual-tour](http://unlockinglifescode.org/explore/virtual-tour)

Meet a family changed by sequencing technology:

[unlockinglifescode.org/explore/genomic-medicine/feature-story-the-beerys7](http://unlockinglifescode.org/explore/genomic-medicine/feature-story-the-beerys7)



The Genome Zone is an interactive education space in which young people, and the young at heart, can enjoy hands-on activities. A rotating schedule of activities provides visitors with opportunities to examine their own traits, listen to talks by genomic scientists, discuss issues raised in the exhibit, or respond to opinion polls on topics related to genetics and genomics.



This interactive program available at the exhibition invites you to consider different opinions about some of the issues surrounding genomic technologies and how they relate to your life.



Explore the advances in genomic medicine and how genomic information can contribute to your health. Discover how genomic variants affect disease risk, may point to lifestyle changes, choices of medications, or ways to stop deadly epidemics in their tracks.



In 'Genome: Unlocking Life's Code,' you can explore what the genome is, its scale and structure and find out how genomics plays a role in modern life.



What do a fruit fly, a platypus, and a chickpea have in common? These are just a few of the organisms that have had their genomes sequenced and studied. However, when it comes to sizing up those genomes you may be surprised to discover who (or what) comes out on top

# L'Auberge Del Mar

## Hidden hotel gem celebrates 25th anniversary

By Katelyn O'Riordan

**I**n the heart of the charming village of Del Mar sits a seaside sanctuary buffeted by the rolling Pacific surf: L'Auberge Del Mar. The ultimate in coastal elegance, this historic hotel celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The 120-room resort, located at 1540 Camino Del Mar, is reminiscent of a Cape Cod estate and provides the perfect blend of sophistication and comfort. As you enter the open-air lobby, smiling staff immediately welcome you and ease you into your stay. Dramatic ocean views await you outside on the terrace and in the distance surfers carve the glassy waters with the fins of their boards, and dolphins frolic past the crashing white wash. The beach is L'Auberge's backyard, and the salty air carries scents of jasmine and Torrey pine trees.

The resort rests on a historic local site that originally housed the Stratford Inn, which opened in 1910 and played host to a bevy of Hollywood stars. In 1927, the hotel changed its name to Hotel Del

Mar and became a hot spot for celebrities seeking sun, fun and pretty ponies at Bing Crosby's newly-opened Del Mar Racetrack. The hotel closed during WWII and then re-opened, but without success. The property was torn down in 1969 and the land remained vacant until 1989 when the Inn L'Auberge was born.

In 2008, then-General Manager Mike Slosser —who was recently named vice president and area managing director overseeing Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, L'Auberge Del Mar, and Paradise Point Resort & Spa — spearheaded an extensive \$26 million renovation to transform the property from a dark, French-inspired hotel into a bright and intimate coastal resort.

"We envisioned a high-end hotel that catered to the upscale customer for both leisure and group travel," said Slosser. He describes his vision for the remodel as "beach sophisticated" with the intent of providing a warm, casual and timeless environment that offered a series of intimate spaces to appeal to a cross-section of

Courtyard at night.



guests depending on their mood.

Renovations included a complete overhaul of the hotel's guestrooms, meeting rooms, lobby, arrival and pool areas, and a new restaurant and spa. "The most memorable part of my work at L'Auberge has been taking a relatively quiet and dark building with superior architecture and turning it into a vibrant hotel with a soul which caters to locals and upscale travelers," said Slosser.

The resort's ambience celebrates Slosser's vision, and the property exudes a luxurious and chic vibe without being pretentious.

Shaun Beucler, who has been at his post as general manager of the property for about two months, believes that there are three secrets to L'Auberge's preeminent success: the phenomenal location, the "home away from home" feel, and the team of people on staff. "It's important for travelers these days to feel comfortable and a sense of well-being," said Beucler. "Our team is a group of people who are extremely proud of this property, who put their heart and soul into everything they do each day to make sure our guests' needs and wants are taken care of."

Beucler will carry L'Auberge into its next chapter, which he calls 'L'Auberge 2.0' and will place a large focus on service and a guest-centric culture. "We want to create an environment where people can come whether it's for business, pleasure, or entertaining family and friends and feel like it's their second home," said Beucler. Other future plans include upgraded guest rooms, a new pool area, enhanced live entertainment and a creative culinary and food and beverage program that highlights the hotel's prime seaside location.

No doubt that executive chef Brandon Fortune of KITCHEN 1540, the hotel's restaurant and one of the top-rated dining establishments in San Diego, will be the mastermind behind the exciting new culinary offerings.

Fortune draws inspiration from his Southern upbringing and childhood memories. "The current menu is very reflective of me as a person. New American with some worldly influences with obvious signs of the South shining through," said Fortune.

The 'Memphis-Style' Pork Ribs, which take 72 hours to prepare and represent the fall backyard barbecues of Fortune's youth, are his menu favorite.

Visitors to the restaurant rave about the famous Shrimp 'n' Grits, Chicken 'n' Dumplings and Slow-Cooked Bread Pudding. Beucler and Slosser both confirmed that the shrimp and chicken dishes are not to be missed. Beucler also highly praised the Still Smoking Scallops.

Though specifics of the future culinary program aren't yet



L'Auberge Del Mar history makers: Shaun Beucler, James Watkins and Mike Slosser.



Outdoor setting.



The main lobby.

## HOSPITALITY

available, Fortune admitted a current ingredient obsession to be curries. Could we be seeing a Thai-inspired dish on the menu soon?

The late Eddie Read, the Del Mar Racetrack's longtime publicist, once described Del Mar as a place where "nobody's in a hurry except the horses." Spending the day in one of the resort's many spaces or dining in a cabana on the Kitchen 1540 patio can transport anyone to this mind-set.

When it comes to relaxation, what more could you ask for? L'Auberge Del Mar is an idyllic clandestine retreat not to be missed.



Shrimp and Grits with Popcorn.



Chicken and Dumplings.



Executive Chef Brandon Fortune

The ultimate in coastal elegance, L'Auberge Del Mar celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.



In early 2015 Donovan's will offer you an oceanfront view



## *Donovan's*

Steak & Chop House of La Jolla will be moving in early 2015 from its original location in UTC to 1250 Prospect Street in the Village of La Jolla.

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