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Hats off to Del Mar's 75th



Participants celebrate at the Philadelphia Color Me Rad's finish line in June. (Photos courtesy Color Me Rad / Fo Foto)

Race to bring a 'blitzkrieg of color' to runners and Downtown

This 5K taking country by storm will raise funds for Deaf Community Services

Karl Olwe-Kurtin
Downtown News
Morgan M. Hurley
Downtown Editor

For those who don't mind getting a little messy during their workout, the Color Me Rad 5K race event will paint a rainbow of color through the streets of Downtown on Aug. 11.

About 5,000 pounds of colored cornstarch will fly through the air,

turning runners into works of art as they make their way through the last half of the course. This unfired event has less emphasis on competition and much more focus on fun.

"Every Color Me Rad race has a fun, party atmosphere, with music throughout the entire course," said Gretchen Willard, director of public relations. "This is the race you'll remember with fondness instead of soreness."

Runners of all ages are told to

wear "white, all white, but off-white would be ok," and encouraged to run in groups, but walkers are also welcome.

In most host cities, a "color bomb squad" is positioned at four different color stations throughout the race, one at each kilometer. "Rad" volunteers then spew both liquid and powdered cornstarch in hues of blue, green, pink, purple

see Rad, page 26

Jim Croce: Ingrid takes on a hero's journey

Singer's widow throws caution to the wind and churns out a biography that is honest and revealing, but brinded with warmth and love

Morgan M. Hurley
Downtown Editor



Ingrid Croce (right) and husband Jimmy Rock hold Jim Croce's biography in front of their Downtown restaurant.

(Photo by Corneia Kurtse/kurtsephotography.com)

Jim and Ingrid Croce moved to San Diego with their young son A.J. just a few weeks before Jim's untimely death in a plane crash in September 1973, the same day his hit single, "I Got A Name" was released.

After almost a decade of singing and songwriting, Croce was finally gaining notoriety through radio airplay of his singles, "You Don't Mess Around With Jim," "Operator," and "Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown," and was making up a short string of previously canceled concerts at the time of the crash.

Since that fateful day, Ingrid and A.J. have both forged ahead and made names for themselves, too. A.J. is a successful musician in his own right and runs his own label, Scendling Records, while Ingrid is a

successful restaurant owner, artist and author.

Croce's Restaurant has been a Downtown staple since first opening in 1985. Through the years, fans have come from far and wide to see the singer's memorabilia that adorns its walls and to experience Ingrid's cooking, first hand. These days, Ingrid's passion for art — which she initially put on hold for her late husband's chance at fame — can also be seen on display throughout the restaurant.

In early July, "I Got A Name: The Jim Croce Story" — a book Ingrid and current husband Jimmy Rock initially drafted over 20 years ago — was released on Da Capo Press. With next year set to mark the 40th anniversary of Jim Croce's death, the book was a long time coming for many fans — but according to Ingrid

see Croce, page 17

Phil's BIG BBQ knocks it out of the park for military kids

Mentored kids get food, fun and baseball

Morgan M. Hurley
Downtown Editor

Local restaurateur and philanthropist Phil Pace is once again teaming his popular eatery, Phil's BBQ, with the San Diego Padres and the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of San Diego County, to bring a day of joy to the children of deployed local military service members and their supporters.

In its fourth year, "Phil's BIG BBQ" will take over the large, open parking lot located at Imperial and Fourth avenues Downtown — just adjacent to Petco Park and the main Trolley station — and throw what BBBS calls, "one of the largest tailgates on the West Coast."

Held Monday, Aug. 6 this year, the doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and the BIG BBQ will end just in time for the Padres to take on the Chicago Cubs at 7:05 p.m. at nearby Petco Park.

Attendees will get a full plate of Phil's popular BBQ, including chicken, ribs, two sides, and more. Also joining the fun will be Ben and Jerry's of Seaport Village, a beer garden hosted by Karl Strauss, a 7-11 Sharpie Truck, face painting and an obstacle course from Kid Ventures, and music provided by Magic 92.5, who will be streaming their late-afternoon show live from the parking lot.

Tickets to the tailgate party are \$25 and include a seat for the game. Those with season tickets or anyone who already has a ticket for the night's game but wants to participate and donate to a worthy cause can also attend the tailgate for \$20. Phil's donates 100 percent of proceeds to BBBS of San Diego County.

"It gets bigger and bigger every year," said Chad Glidewell, director of

see BIGS, page 4



Little Brother Chris and Big Brother Andrew Uber at the 2011 BIG BBQ.

(Photo by San Diego Padres)

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Contact Us

Editorial/Letters
619-961-1980
morgan@sdccnn.com

Advertising
619-961-1958
mka@sdccnn.com

www.sdccnn.com

San Diego Community News Network



Ethel Merriman
BROKER

Merriman
Real Estate Services

619 392-6980
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