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OUT & ABOUT



Paul Relis

Relis named board member

Paul Relis has been named a board member of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Mr. Relis is an adviser to the CEO of CR&R, a large, privately held waste management firm. He has many years of experience with environmental issues such as recycling, green building and hazardous waste management.

—Charlotte Boechler

OUR TOWN

'Owls in Wonderland'

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of "Alice in Wonderland," Laguna Blanca School will present a whimsical day of interactive learning and fun for young children at the sixth annual "Owls in Wonderland Carnival" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Lower School campus, 260 San Ysidro Road in Montecito. Highlights will include a Mad Hatter's Workshop, royal croquet, tea parties, live white rabbits and owls, and, of course, Alice. Volunteers will be dressed as characters from the story, and guests are encouraged to dress up as well. Admission and activities are free and geared for children ages 3 to 10. Complimentary valet parking will be available, and food can be purchased. For more information, contact Tara Broucqsault at 687-2461, ext. 209, or tbrouc@lagunablancaschool.org.

—Marilyn McMahon

ON STAGE

Theater transported to 'The Twilight Zone'

Picture if you will: Actors on stage without a script, wandering into the dimension of the imagination. Submitted for your approval, Impro Theatre will perform "Twilight Zone UnScripted" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Center Stage Theater, upstairs at Paseo Nuevo. Each show will feature six actors completely improvising four episodes in the style of "The Twilight Zone" (1959-1964 on CBS), the sci-fi series known for its ironic twists and creator Rod Serling's narration. Tickets cost \$25 for general admission and \$22 for students with ID. To purchase, call the theater at 963-0408 or go to www.centerstagetheater.org.

—Dave Mason

Music by Schulz



HELENA DAY BREESE / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Monte Schulz, the Santa Barbara son of "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles M. Schulz, listens to instrumentalists and singers rehearsing his songs at Santa Barbara Sound Design.

Santa Barbara son of 'Peanuts' cartoonist embraces various genres for upcoming concert

By **DAVE MASON**
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Schroeder wasn't at the piano; he had the day off. Instead, Brian Mann played the keyboard in the Santa Barbara Sound Design recording studio and led a large group of vocalists, guitarists, a drummer, a harmonica player and another keyboardist down Monte Schulz's "Cold Road to Heaven."

"Ain't no sunlight on that cold road to heaven. Only clouds along the way," sang Tina Schlieske during the dramatic country song.

Mr. Schulz, 63, stood in the center of the room, grinning as the band around him brought his latest passion — music — to life.

"'Cold Road to Heaven' is a pretty good song," he told the News-Press earlier. "It could be on the radio."

The Santa Barbara son of "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles M. Schulz is known for the books he has authored and as the owner of the Santa Barbara Writers Conference. There was this other life, though, in which he wrote music and lyrics in his college days 40 years ago, and he's

returned to that, embracing everything from folk to rock, pop, classical and world music in nearly two dozen songs. He wrote the lyrics and, except for one song, the music.

More than 70 local musicians, who have played with everyone from Santa Barbara celeb Kenny Loggins to Madonna and in area bands, recorded 16 of the songs in various ensembles known collectively as Seraphonium for Mr. Schulz's first album, "After Many A Summer." It was released in August on iTunes.

About half of the musicians will perform Mr. Schulz's songs at 7:30 p.m. Friday at The Marjorie Luke Theatre at Santa Barbara Junior High School, 721 E. Cota St. Proceeds benefit AHA!, a Santa Barbara nonprofit helping teenagers to feel empowered and excel. CDs of "After Many A Summer" will be sold there.

Mr. Schulz, whose "Crossing Eden" (Fantagraphics Books), a 1,000-page-plus novel about an American family in 1929, will be released Dec. 21, made up the word "Seraphonium." The Colorado Springs, Colo., native said the word roughly translates to "songs of heaven."

"I was chasing melodies across the

Please see **SCHULZ** on A9



From left, singers Tina Schlieske, Lois Mahalia, Eje Lynn-Jacobs, Kimberly Ford and Michael Andrews, with harmonica player Tom Ball, perform during a rehearsal featuring Mr. Schulz's songs "Tales of Darkness" and "Cold Road to Heaven."

Starbucks touts Christmas coffee after flap over red cups

By **JILL COLVIN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Starbucks is pushing back against suggestions stoked by Republican presidential contender Donald Trump that this year's minimalist design for its holiday cups is a slap at Christmas.

Responding to questions about the cups, the Seattle-based coffee purveyor on Tuesday touted its "exclusive Christmas Blend Vintage 2015" — one of several Christmas-themed products available in its stores.

On its website, Starbucks pointedly said it was introducing the blend on behalf of its 300,000 employees "from diverse ethnic backgrounds who proudly wear our green apron."

Some religious conservatives have expressed anger over the coffee company's holiday season

cups, which this year are a minimalist all-red design with no images aside from the company's green and white logo.

Previous years' cups have featured snowflakes and winter scenes as well as occasional Christmas ornaments. A small number of critics have objected to the design choice, seeing it as part of a larger movement away from exclusively Christmas-themed holiday decorations.

Mr. Trump piled on Monday when he suggested boycotting the company at a rally in Springfield, Ill.

"Did you read about Starbucks? No more Merry Christmas on Starbucks," Mr. Trump told a capacity crowd of thousands gathered to hear him speak at a rally ahead of Tuesday night's GOP debate.

"Maybe we should boycott Starbucks. I don't know," he said.

"Seriously, I don't care."

Mr. Trump, who has been trying to court evangelical and other conservative Christian voters, has often bemoaned the use of the phrase "Happy Holidays" in place of "Merry Christmas" to cater to non-Christians who don't celebrate the holiday.

He said on Monday that: "If I become president, we're all going to be saying, 'Merry Christmas' again. That I can tell you."

In response to questions about Mr. Trump's criticism, Starbucks spokeswoman Sanja Gould noted that the company's Christmas blend was available in 23,000 stores in 70 countries starting Tuesday.

She also directed reporters to several pages on the company's website listing various Christmas-branded coffee blends, as well as "Ugly Sweater" and frosted snowman cookies.



It's as red as Santa's suit, a poinsettia blossom or a loud Christmas sweater. Yet Starbucks' minimalist new holiday coffee cup has set off complaints that the chain is making war on Christmas.

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