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ON THE COVER:
Military River Parade- Here’s to our Heroes.
Photo courtesy of AFISRA Public Affairs at Lackland AFB.
NO FEDERAL ENDORSEMENT INTENDED.

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the spirits that once inhabited a village nestled on the south bend of the San Antonio River.
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Jocelyn Taylor
Lead Faculty and
Special Education Instructor

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phoenix.edu/sanantonio

San Antonio Campus
Windsor Park Learning Center
May Memories on the River

by Nancy Hunt – Executive Director Paseo del Rio Association
nhunt@paseodelrio.com

Welcome to Rio, the official magazine of the San Antonio River Walk. Thank you for visiting, and for using this helpful publication for information that will make your visit even more memorable!

May is one of the best months of the entire year to enjoy the River Walk! We are delighted to be producing a new event this month, which will become an annual event. On May 19, Armed Forces Day, we will host a Military River Parade, “Here’s to our Heroes” to recognize and honor our service men and women, both active and retired. I hope you will join us for this memorable event, and show your support of our troops! San Antonio is called “Military City” for good reason. We remember, applaud, honor and recognize our many citizens who are veterans, as well as active duty at one of the several military installations in our community.

May also brings flowers, the end of school, Mother’s Day and Memorial Day – which all provide great opportunities on the River Walk! The landscaping on the River Walk is tended to by a crew of 16 City of San Antonio gardeners, who work year round ensuring that the lush greenery and seasonal flowers are beautiful from all vantage points on the river, which is no small feat! Our restaurants, clubs and of course, private boat dinners from one of our many fine eating establishments make graduations and end-of-school celebrations truly special. What better way to honor a graduate than a special party on the River Walk? Then of course, there is Mother’s Day. Bring that very special woman for a leisurely stroll, a champagne brunch, or an elegant dinner. She deserves to be pampered and we can offer lots of ways to do that, for every budget!

Lastly, but certainly not least, is Memorial Day, when we remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in ensuring our way of life. You will see many young men and women in uniform on the River Walk. Please tell them how much you appreciate their service and dedication. Even better, if you are so inclined, buy them their lunch as a way to show your appreciation! They won’t forget the warm hospitality of the wonderful people on the River Walk!

We welcome your comments on your visit, and ideas for improvements, if you have some. Please email me – we want to hear about your experience so that we can continue to further our mission of promoting, protecting and preserving the world famous San Antonio River Walk.

See you on the River! – Nancy D. Hunt
Nix Health, a hospital and healthcare system that has served San Antonio and South Texas since 1930, delivers a higher level of personal healthcare by bringing together the finest physicians, latest technology and unrivaled staff.

Located in the heart of downtown San Antonio, the 24-story Nix Medical Center, houses a hospital and numerous physician offices. A full range of inpatient and outpatient medical and surgical services, excellent primary care physicians and medical specialists, imaging, including MRI, x-ray, mammography, bone DEXA, and CT and even a cafeteria that has received rave reviews from food critics, can all be found in the one building. Having all these services under one roof allows patients not only accessibility to a variety of healthcare services but also ease of use and convenience.

Additionally, Nix Health offers the community a premier behavioral health hospital, a complete physical rehabilitation facility, and home care, among many other healthcare services in facilities throughout the city. With dedicated and skilled staff, Nix Health is focused on treating patients with dignity, respect and compassion, while at the same time, providing superior service.

To find a physician at Nix Health call 1-877-938-7070 or visit nixhealth.com.
While some may know San Antonio for its River Walk, the city is also known as Military City U.S.A. due to its unbroken military presence for nearly 300 years. The Paseo del Rio Association put two and two together and will be holding the first annual Military River Parade presented by Budweiser on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19th.

This year’s parade theme will be “Here’s to Our Heroes” in honor of the men and women who have returned home safely from the war in Iraq. Starting at 3:00 PM, a procession of 25 decorated river barges with veterans, men and women from the different branches of service, and military support groups will circle the San Antonio River.

The floats will boast live entertainment from military groups and local artists, while the Tops In Blue, an all-active duty U.S. Air Force special unit of performers, will provide entertainment on the Arneson Theatre Stage. The Paseo del Rio Association is honored to host Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV (pictured above right) as Grand Marshal of the parade. General Caldwell is the Senior Commander of the Army’s home in San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston and the Commander of U.S. Army North, which protects our homeland and responds to disasters. He will be leading the parade along with his wife and children.

The parade is free to view from the River Walk restaurants and the banks of the river, but spectators can opt for an unobstructed view and a guaranteed spot by purchasing reserved seats in three locations. Open to ticketholders only, the reserved seating areas include the Arneson River Theatre for $15 a seat and along the extension of the River Walk and the Rivercenter Mall lagoon for $10 a seat. Ticket information and a map of the parade route are available on the Paseo del Rio Association website at www.TheSanAntonioRiverWalk.com.

Following the parade, Operation Homefront will be hosting the “Salute to our Heroes” FREE concert at UTSA’s Institute of Texan Cultures in HemisFair Park with the opening ceremony taking place at 4:15 PM. The concert will feature the country music star Tracy Lawrence and special guests Steve Holy, Glen Templeton, The Voice contestant Angie Johnson, and country music singer and contestant from The Biggest Loser Dan Evans.

This is also the first year of the Yellow Ribbon Project, where yellow ribbons will be placed on trees around the River Walk from May 5th-19th in honor or in memory of someone special who has served or is currently serving our country. Ribbons can be sponsored for $5 each and honorees will be acknowledged on the River Walk website and in the Official Parade Program.

“The Military River Parade is our way of saying thank you for your service to our country, and for protecting our freedom and way of life,” says Nancy Hunt, Executive Director of the Paseo del Rio Association.

For more information on the parade, concert and yellow ribbon project, visit www.TheSanAntonioRiverWalk.com or call 210-227-4262.
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When you visit San Antonio, there’s no telling which part of your trip will be the most unforgettable. From memories of the River Walk to finely painted souvenirs, you’ll take home plenty of things worth cherishing.
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May 6th – Gypsy Kings – Illusions Theatre @ the Alamodome  - Bringing the joyful sounds of progressive pop-oriented flamenco to the world, the Gypsy Kings are returning to San Antonio for their beloved fans. The eight member band began in Arles, a village in southern France, and became popular in 1988 with their self-titled album which included ‘Djibi Djiba’ and ‘Bamboléo’. After the album’s release in the United States, it spent 40 weeks on the charts. Since then, the Gypsy Kings released nearly 20 albums, received fifteen Gold and Platinum records and traveled the world, bringing their Rumba Catalana to worldwide audiences. 800.745.3000 www.alamodome.com


May 18th – 19th - Star Wars and other Space Odysseys - Laurie Auditorium, Trinity University - Michael Krajewski and the Symphony Pops will boldly go where no orchestral pops concert has gone before! Space has inspired some of the greatest symphonic film music and Star Wars, Star Trek, and E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial are just a few of the thrilling scores that will transport you to a special place filled with fun and fantastic music. Michael Krajewski, conductor. 210.554.1010 www.sasyphony.org

May 22nd – k.d. lang – Majestic Theatre  - Over more than two decades, k.d. lang has released 15 studio albums and received four Grammy Awards. lang’s latest release, Sing it Loud, is the award-winning singer-songwriter’s first record made entirely with a band of her own since the pair of albums with the Redines that launched her groundbreaking career over 20 years ago. “The big, beautiful voice of k.d. lang swoops, purrs and soars” on the album, says the Los Angeles Times. USA Today says it “nods to lang’s all-country roots while reinforcing her reputation as a singer of genre-defying dexterity and beauty”. 800.745.3000 www.majesticempire.com

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

May 5th – Luminaria: Arts Come to Light – Hemisfair Park  - Luminaria is San Antonio’s annual celebration of art and artists. Overseen by San Antonio’s creative leaders, it is free of charge and showcases all art forms in an outdoor setting and inside various venues downtown. Luminaria spotlights San Antonio’s cultural assets for local citizens and visitors alike and is made possible through the generosity of artists, arts organizations, volunteers, and public and private donations. 210.212.4999 www.luminariasa.org

May 15th – 20th – The 31st Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival - The Historic Guadalupe Theatre & Rosedale Park  - The Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center presents the 31st Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio. The festival includes star-studded performances by Conjunto Music Hall of Fame legends as well as special presentations by national and international conjunto musicians. Other highlights of the 31st Tejano Conjunto Festival include a free Seniors Conjunto Dance, “New Directions” concert, and the Conjunto Music Hall of Fame Dinner & Baile. The festival features over 35 of the very best bands in conjunto music at Rosedale Park that includes conjunto jam sessions; plus food and beverage booths, accordion raffle, student recital and more. Tickets 210.271.3151 www.guadalupeculturalarts.org/tejano-conjunto-festival-en-san-antonio

May 16th - 20th – Culinaria – A Wine and Culinary Arts Festival  - Various Locations - Wine aficionados worldwide appreciate the uniqueness
of wines produced in the Texas Hill Country. Here, Mediterranean-style wines, big-fruited Barberas and heady Sangiovese can be enjoyed along with the refined tang of Tempranillo. Don’t worry if you don’t recognize the names of these wines — Culinaria is the right place to learn. For a complete schedule of events, call 210.822.9555 or visit www.culinariasa.org/wine-festival/home

THEATRE & DANCE

May 8th – 13th – La Cage aux Folles – Majestic Theatre – Winner of three Tony Awards® including the award for Best Musical Revival, this hilarious new production of La Cage Aux Folles was the biggest hit of the 2010 Broadway season, leaving audiences in stitches night after night! La Cage tells the story of Georges, the owner of a glitzy nightclub in lovely Saint-Tropez, and his partner Albin, who moonlights as the glamorous chanteuse Zaza. When Georges’ son brings his fiancée’s conservative parents home to meet the flashy pair, the bonds of family are put to the test as the feather boas fly! La Cage is a tuneful and touching tale of one family’s struggle to stay together...stay fabulous...and above all else, stay true to themselves! La Cage is an indisputable musical comedy classic...and this extraordinary new version shows you why! 800.745.3000 www.majesticempire.com

May 11th – June 16th – Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical – Magik Theatre – This Caldecott medal-winning book by Emmy Award-winning writer Mo Willems (who proves he is just as funny writing books as he was as the head writer for Sesame Street), tells the tale of a father-daughter trip to the laundromat. Dad throws everything into the washing machine and the dryer, including his toddler Trixie’s favorite stuffed animal, Knuffle Bunny. Dad distractedly leaves the bunny in the dryer and takes Trixie home. Unfortunately, Trixie’s desperate cries (“Aggle flaggle klabbage!”) come across as meaningless baby talk. How will Trixie get her favorite Knuffle Bunny back? You’ll find out in this wonderful play originally commissioned by The Kennedy Center. 210.227.2751 www.magiktheatre.org

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS

February 1st – May 20th – Andy Warhol: Fame and Misfortune – McNay Art Museum – Drawn from the rich collections of the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Andy Warhol: Fame and Misfortune looks at Warhol’s lifelong obsession with both fame and disaster. The 150 objects included in this broad survey juxtapose icons of popular culture, legendary entertainers, art world luminaries, and world leaders, with images of suicides, automobile accidents, skulls, and an electric chair. 210.824.3568 www.mcnamart.org
**ATTRACTIONS**

**The Alamo**
The Alamo was established in 1718 as Mission San Antonio de Valero. Hours: Mon-Sat: 9am-5:30pm Sun: 10am-5:30pm | (210) 225-1391 | Alamo Plaza, between Houston and Commerce.

**Alamo Helicopter Tours**
With Alamo Helicopter Tours, you can take in an exciting and breathtaking view of San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country like you’ve never seen before. Enjoy a sky high tour of sites like the San Antonio River, Downtown, The San Antonio Zoo, Sea World, The Botanical Gardens and Mission Espada, or if nature is more your thing, immerse yourself in the beautiful landscape as you fly high over the Texas Hill Country. Hours: 10:00am until 5:00pm, 7 days a week, (Reservations required) | (210) 287-5797 | 8535 Mission Road

**Amazing Mazes**
San Antonio’s newest attractions are located across from The Alamo!

**Ultimate Mirror Maze Challenge** is a unique, eye-popping experience that is fun for any age. Explore endless hallways and thousands of mirrors as you try to find the end and go back again — it’s never the same experience twice. Can you find your way out of a maze composed entirely out of mirrors?

**The Vault Laser Challenge** is San Antonio’s newest attraction. It is a Mission Impossible themed game. A state to the art laser alarm system, your challenge is to make it thru without setting off any of the lasers. Will you make it on our top 10 list?

Hours of Operation: (Memorial weekend - Labor Day)
Season Hours: 10:00 am to 11:00 pm Sunday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 12:00 am Friday and Saturday
Off Season Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Sunday through Thursday, 10:00 am to 11:00 pm Friday and Saturday

**Dinosaur-Quest**
An extraordinary exhibition of Dinosaurs like you have never seen before - all are life-size skeletons, all under captivating lights, sound effects and high-end animation. Located in Downtown San Antonio at the Rivercenter Mall, DINOSAUR-QUEST is 21,000 square feet of scientific entertainment! **NEW Hours:** Mon - Sat 10am - 9pm, Sun Noon - 6pm. Contact us at 210-229-8888 or visit us at www.dinosaurquest.com and learn more about this exciting attraction.

**La Villita**
A Historic Arts Village since 1939. More galleries & shops in one square block than anywhere else in San Antonio. Unique art by local & regional artists featuring oil paintings, sculpture, watercolors, metal art, rock art, textiles, copper work, pottery, jewelry, stained glass & regional folk art. La Villita is a cluster of small buildings in downtown San Antonio. Once a residential district beginning in the late 1700’s, the area now houses specialty shops filled with unique gifts, restaurants, and beautiful plazas. In 1939 Mayor Maury Maverick spearheaded a project to establish La Villita as an area for arts and crafts with the help of Works Progress Association funding in the early 1940’s. La Villita is also famous for the many festivals that take place here year-round including the world famous A Night in Old San Antonio. For more information, visit us at www.lavillita.com or call us at (210) 207-8610

**Louis Tussaud’s Wax Works**

**Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!**

**Ripley’s Moving Theatre 4D**

**VISIT 3 OF SAN ANTONIO’S PREMIERE ATTRACTIONS IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO!!** Located at 301 Alamo Plaza (Corner of Alamo Plaza and Crockett Street).

**Louis Tussaud’s Wax Works** Features over 200 life-like wax figures in themed settings of Hollywood, History, Children’s Land of Make Believe, Heroes of the Lone Star, Horror, Heroes of Mexico, Passion of Christ and much more!

**RIPLEY’S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!** Odditorium is one of the newest, largest and most interactive in the United States featuring over 500 unique one-of-a-kind exhibits on three floors.

**RIPLEY’S MOVING THEATER 4D**—Cutting edge technology and incredible six channel digital surround sound. Ride the movie and experience every bump, dip and turn! State-of-the-art motion simulator! Get your hand cast in wax at our wax hand booth! Take a photo of yourself in a themed setting! Shop in our cargo hold gift shop for unique, unusual gifts. Snack bar and arcade on premises. Ripley’s outdoor patio can accommodate up to 250 people.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**
(Memorial Weekend-Labor Day)
* 10 am to 10 pm Sunday through Thursday
* 10 am to 11 pm Friday through Saturday

**OFF SEASON HOURS**
* 10 am to 8 pm Sunday through Thursday
* 10 am to 10 pm Friday through Saturday
Guinness World Records Museum is a state of the art, interactive experience that brings the world famous book to life. Enjoy a combination of world record artifacts, exhibits, videos, touch screen computers, games, and interactive trivia spread out through 16 themed galleries and 10,000 square feet. Human Achievement, Sports, Science and Technology, The Environment, and Entertainment are just some of the galleries you will visit. It’s fun for all ages. Tours are self-paced. You may go as fast or as slow as you wish.

Tomb Rider 3D — Our newest attraction is a multimillion dollar, special effect 3D shooting, adventure ride! Journey down into the ancient tomb of the Egyptian God, Anubis. Shoot for the high score and try to defeat the curse… if you can. Hours: (Memorial weekend - Labor Day) | Season Hours: 10:00 am to 11:00 pm Sun. through Thurs. | 10:00 am to 12:00 am Fri. and Sat. | Off Season Hours: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Sun. through Thurs. | 10:00 am to 10:00 pm Fri. and Sat.

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www.splashtownsas.com

Tower of the Americas
The Tower of the Americas offers the most breathtaking view of the Alamo City — from 750 feet high! Visitors can enjoy fine dining at the Chart! House revolving restaurant or enjoy the scenery from the Flags Over Texas observation deck while learning about the history of Texas. The Tower of the Americas’ newest addition is the Skies Over Texas 4-D theater ride that will stimulate all your senses as you see, hear, and feel all Texas has to offer. 600 Hemisfair Park (210) 223-3101
www.TowerOfTheAmericas.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

San Antonio Museum of Art
Traveling and permanent exhibits on display in a converted historic 1904 brewery complex. Restaurant available. Admission: Adults: $8; Seniors: (65+) $7; Students with ID: $5; Kids ages 4-11: $3; Kids under 3: Free; Tues. 4-8 pm: Free; 1 Hours. Mon. Closed. Tues. 10 am to 8pm, Wed.-Sat. 10 am to 5 pm, Sun. 12 noon to 6 pm | (210) 978-8100 | 200 W. Jones Ave. www.samuseum.org

Witte Museum
Located on the banks of the beautiful San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park, the Witte Museum is San Antonio’s premier museum focusing on South Texas history, science and water resources. Founded in 1926, the Witte is home to an extensive permanent collection featuring historic artifacts and photographs, Texas art, textiles, the world-renowned Hertzberg Circus Collection, dinosaur bones, cave drawings, Texas wildlife dioramas and the four-story H-E-B Science Treehouse; in addition to nationally acclaimed traveling exhibits. Admission: Adults: (ages 12 – 64) $8; Seniors: (65 and up) $7; Children (ages 4 – 11) $6; ages 3 and younger, free. Hours: Mon.-Wed-Sat: 10 am - 5 pm; Tues. 10 am - 8 pm; Sun: noon - 5 pm. 3801 Broadway | San Antonio, TX 78209 | (210) 357-1900 | Fax: (210) 357-1882 | www.witteuseum.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Coyote Ugly Saloon
The most famous bar on the planet with a spectacular view of the river from an outside patio. We offer food until 7pm and happy hour drinks from 4pm - 8pm. Available for all party needs. Hours: Mon - Sun 11am - 2am | (210) 465-8459 | 409 E Commerce

Hooters
Join us at Hooters for hot wings, cold beer or a mixed beverage from our full bar! Hooters has great Happy Hour Specials Monday through Friday, 4-7pm: $1.99 domestic pints, $2.99 import pints and $2.50 well drinks! “More than a mouthful” Burgers and fries for $5.99 all day Mondays! Military and other discounts available. See store for details. Hooters makes you Happy! 849 E Commerce | 210-229-9464 | www.hootersstates.com

Howl at the Moon
Live nightly entertainment with dueling baby grand pianos, today’s popular songs, parodies and audience participations. Come early to enjoy the evening festivities and imbibe your favorite libations. Always guaranteed to have a very amusing time. Reservation packages are available. Please call (210) 212 - 4770 to book yours. Hours: Sun-Thurs: 7pm-2am | Fri: 5pm-2am | Sat: 6pm-2am | (210) 212-4695 | 111 Crockett St. West, Ste. 201
Mad Dogs British Pub
Indulge in servings of cool refreshments, delicious fare and energetic entertainment all wrapped in lavish surroundings. During the day, breathe in spectacular views from our tropical terrace, while sipping on award winning cocktails and watching the river flow by. Later, party on with non-stop entertainment from ‘the pub that thinks it’s a club’, with nightly action featuring live bands, DJ’s and a daringly different karaoke crew. (210) 222-0220 | 123 Losoya Street

FOOD & DRINK

Achiote River Café at The Grand Hyatt San Antonio
Authentic Mexican Flavor, Historic Sunset Station Flair! Blanca Aldaco opened the restaurant in 1989 at the original Commerce Street location. The restaurant quickly grew to be a local favorite, and in 1999, Aldaco’s moved to the much larger location at Historic Sunset Station. Aldaco’s is a favorite destination for San Antonians eager to savor the unique Avocado Margaritas, Traditional Chicken Enchiladas and the Original Pastel Tres Leches. 100 E. Hoefgen | San Antonio, Texas 78205 | 210-222-0561

Bella... On the River
Bella On the River is an independent and locally-owned restaurant on the River Walk featuring Southern European, mostly Mediterranean food. Bella’s small and intimate wine bar and dining room is one of the most unique and special on the River Walk. It’s literally like walking up and off the river and into a small Spanish bistro or Tuscan groto, with its natural limestone rock walls, candle-lit tables, and its cozy and comfortable atmosphere. Enjoy really good food with a menu featuring favorites like Butternut Squash Soup, Toasted Bruschetta, Calamari Frito, Eggplant Josephine, Spinach and Caesar Salads, Paella, Pizza, and Pasta, Grilled Lamb Chops, Shrimp and Chicken Piccata, Pan Seared Red Fish, Veal T-Bone, Virginia’s Pistachio Cake and Bella’s Flaming Glace au Four! The Wine Bar features a gently priced and well-paired wine list, wines-by-the-glass, Ice Cold Sangria and Beer. Bella’s service staff is friendly, accommodating, and knowledgeable with a “we’re really glad you’re here” attitude. Bella’s Piano Bar features Live Piano Jazz nightly. Hours: Monday – Saturday 5 – 10pm | Sunday: Closed

Boudro’s on the River Walk
Paris has the romantic Left Bank. The River Walk has Boudro’s. Enjoy guacamole prepared tabletop, house smoked shrimp and gulf crab enchiladas and more. Finish with a trio of summer sorbets and a fine cognac. River barge dining available by reservation. Sun.-Thurs. 11am-11pm, Fri.-Sat. 11am-midnight | (210) 210-224-8484 | 421 East Commerce | www.boudros.com

Café Ole
The ultimate: beef, chicken or shrimp fajitas served on a sizzling skillet with all the traditional condiments. Flavorful quesadillas, enchiladas, chicken Acapulco, fried ice cream, and award-winning margaritas. Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11am-10:30pm, Fri-Sat: 11am-12am | (210) 223-2939 | 527 River Walk

Casa Rio
San Antonio-style Mexican food. Serving on the banks of the River Walk since 1946. Dinner boat parties and banquet facilities available. Hours: Daily 11am-11pm | (210) 225-6718 | 430 E. Commerce

Chart House at the Tower of the Americas
With its carefully crafted menus, impeccable service, and a 360-degree revolving vista offering guests the most magnificent views of the Alamo City, the Chart House restaurant at Tower of the Americas is in a class by itself. Enjoy our award-winning menu featuring top of the catch seafood, succulent steaks and decadent desserts. (210) 223-3101 | 600 Hemisfair Park

County Line Barbecue
Serving up the biggest, leanest, most consistently delicious barbecue in San Antonio for over 30 years. On the scenic Riverwalk in the South Bank Complex (next to The Hard Rock), The County Line is a great place to enjoy an ice cold beer or a frosty margarita at the open-air bar. Inside the funky Texas roadhouse atmosphere and friendly service will make you feel like you’ve wandered out into the Texas Hill Country. Private Party Barges are also available. At the County Line they’ll tell you its barbecue so good you’ll want to “Get it all over ya’!” Hours: Open Daily 11am (210) 229-1941 | 111 West Crockett.

Dick’s Last Resort
This is the joint your mama warned you about. Dick’s serves up buckets of barbecue ribs, chicken, catfish, shrimp and crab legs. Platters include steaks, crabby cakes, salmon and even salads for the wimpy eater. Lunch includes sandwiches, salads and buckets of good food. The wait staff is irreverent by design, and the decor is local garage-sale stuff. Seventy-four kinds of beer. Live music, no cover, no dress code and definitely no class. Billed as “The Rowdy of the River.” Admission: None | Hours: Daily, 11am-2am | (210) 224-0026 | 406 Navarro St.

Durty Nelly’s Irish Pub
Sing along to your favorite songs with one of our crowd pleasing piano players. Established in 1974, Durty Nelly’s features imported and domestic pints as well as a full bar. Fish & Chips, Grilled Reuben’s & Capt. Robbie’s Fried Shrimp Basket served until 7:00pm with an appetizer menu served until 11:00pm nightly. You haven’t been to San Antonio until you visit World Famous Durty Nelly’s Irish Pub. Durty Nelly’s is located on the River Walk at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel.

El Tropicano/Mango’s Restaurant
When you enter El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, you’ll think you walked into an Acapulco Beach resort. Everywhere you look there are splashes of brilliant color, tropical plants, Mexican artifacts along with Salsa music playing in the background. There is even an Aviary complete with live Toucans, Iguanas and a Giant Tortoise. Located on the beautiful new Museum Reach section of the Riverwalk, El Tropicano features:
**Michelino’s**  
Enjoy authentic tastes of Italy’s country kitchen. Italian specialties, pasta and pizza made from the freshest poultry, beef and seafood are complemented by flavorful sauces, tantalizing desserts and superb, yet affordable wine selections. Hours: Sun-Thu: 11am-11pm Fri-Sat: 11am-12am | (210) 223-2939 | Fax: (210) 224-8209 | 521 River Walk

**Omni La Mansion del Rio/Las Canarias**  
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“SPRING INTO DOWNTOWN”
by Jim Mery, Interim Director, Downtown Operations

Sunny skies, long days and lively nights equal big fun downtown! Locals know the River Walk is the perfect place for authentic food, entertainment and shopping. The shady canopy provided by hundreds of trees offers urban explorers comfortable surroundings. Landscaped walkways feature native and exotic plants, and historic buildings and bridges enhance the picture-perfect settings that can rival any postcard.

The month of May presents a special salute to our troops with a river parade and free concert in HemisFair Park. Downtown features many facilities that offer food, shopping and entertainment, including our historic artisan village known as La Villita and the largest Mexican market this side of the border, known as Market Square. Plus don’t miss the Spanish Governor’s Palace next to City Hall for distinctive architecture, inviting history, and lush courtyards. We also have a variety of downtown public parks & plazas that can be enjoyed by the entire family.

In just one visit you will discover how downtown San Antonio is the ultimate place for your vacation experience. Featuring family friendly establishments plus romantic hideaways, quiet walkways and happening hot spots, the River Walk is sure to please. **We invite you to explore all downtown has to offer and come back soon!**

**Here’s to Our Heroes 2012**

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RESIDENTS CORNER: MILITARY SALUTE
by Rita Zenzen Heck

Armed Forces Day will be 100 years old May 19th and San Antonio, known as Military City USA, will celebrate with a month long celebration of special activities, a Military River Parade and tons of special discounts for military members and their families.

The first annual Military River Parade- Here’s to our Heroes will take place at 3pm on Saturday, May 19th. Twenty-five decorated river barges will travel down the River Walk, themed according to their participants- all branches of service, veterans of recent conflicts, military support groups, etc. The floats will feature live entertainment from military groups, as well as local artists who wish to dedicate their talents to honor the troops. Reserved seats are available by calling 210-227-4262 or by visiting www.TheSanAntonioRiverWalk.com.

One float participant, USO San Antonio, invites military visitors and their families to join in the fun all month long at their downtown location, 203 W. Market St. On May 5th enjoy Kids Crafts Day from 9 to 10am. Every second Saturday of the Month, Enjoy Spaghetti Saturday. On May 12th, nationally known Spaghetti Warehouse will provide spaghetti and chicken Alfredo dinners from noon to 4pm. President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested the USO to be formed in 1941 and it has been dedicated to assisting and entertaining military families ever since. Staff and volunteers will be cheering from their parade float on May 19th, so be sure to wave hello! For more information on yearlong events and services, call 210-227-9373.

Most San Antonio hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions have military discounts, but Anheuser-Busch’s Sea World offers one of the best: free admission for military and up to three family members every day of the season! This discount applies to all Busch gardens and theme parks. You can’t beat that! Budweiser is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the Military River Parade. While strolling down Houston street, Armed Forces families can pick up a bagel at Big Apple Bagels, 300 E. Houston, with a 10% discount (available all year).

Many Downtown Resident Association members are retired military and will be on hand to meet and greet visiting military families. For additional military discount information and special events, contact Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MRW) at Ft. Sam Houston, 210-808-0484. Armed Forces members...WE SALUTE YOU!
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PARTNERSHIPS CRAFTED IN “THE LA VILLITA SPIRIT”

by Philip M. Arevalo

Behind the rock walls that form the historical Shops at La Villita, artisans commune among the spirits that once inhabited a village nestled on the south bend of the San Antonio River.

During the time when Cabeza de Vaca is recorded to have explored this region in the 1500s, indigenous Coahuiltecan cultures lived in encampments along this south bend that is now La Villita. They welcomed the morning sun, bringing each day to life as they wove the sustenance of the day into a village of people that shared the same breath of life. Spanish and Mexican soldiers later dwelled in this village in the 1720s as they stood guard on the rock walls of the Alamo. German, French and then Swiss settlers inhabited the village in the 1800s and transformed the area into residential and commercial structures, lending an architectural influence that remains today.

While these structures of past communal spirits were preserved by Mayor Maury Maverick with restorations as early as 1939, the only indigenous life that remains are the plants and trees, and perhaps the small creatures that commune with the La Villita artisans and shopkeepers who now inhabit the space. Together they embody a forgotten breath of life that welcomes visitors from all over the world.

As the artisans and shopkeepers of La Villita go about their day’s journey, like many small communities, they all greet one another in passing, including birds like the Appaloosa dappled pigeon named Alice who waddles across the old stones that pave the narrow village streets. Miss Boots, the cat, stealthily perch atop a pedestal in front of the Bonsai Arbor in the San Martin House. Among other artisans housed in La Villita is a portrait artist at the Nueva Street Gallery, who paints portraits in the same light as artists generations before her. Near by a metal artisan is tucked away in his studio at the back of his contemporary jewelry gallery, Equinox. Behind a room of glass cases that showcase partnerships of crafted metal and stone, he melts metal into shapes that venture into an unknown future attached to the precious rock. His finished adornments echo the voice of the village spirits who once wove a life perfected by the unpredictable rule of nature. These are just a few of the artisans in La Villita who offer unique, handcrafted wares in their shops and studios. Modern day La Villita offers an experience unlike any other in the city with over 20 artisan galleries and shops, offering fine art, painting, sculptures, pottery, jewelry, copperwares, weavings and wearable art clothing and much more.

Located on the corner of S. Alamo and Nueva Streets just south of the Hilton Palacio Hotel. La Villita can be reached by VIA Blue or Red Route Streetcars. We invite you to come enjoy the history and, architecture, stroll our specialty shops, enjoy our many galleries and dine in our fine restaurants…. No matter when you visit, you can always find celebrations and festivals underway at La Villita or the adjacent Arneson River Theatre. La Villita has something for everyone and is a must visit during your stay.

Continuing the history of San Antonio…..LA VILLITA. Shops open daily 10 am – 6 pm. For events listing and plaza rental information call 210.207.8614 or visit www.lavillita.com.
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