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Tom York >> SDBJ INSIDER

Fred Maas Departs Black Mountain Role



High-profile politico **Fred Maas**, chairman of the **Centre City Development Corp.**, the city's redevelopment arm, is no longer president and CEO at **Black**

Mountain Ranch, developer of the luxurious, but environmentally sensitive Del Sur housing project north of Highway 56 and west of Interstate 15. Maas says he's pursuing a new venture in the sustainable development field. Stay tuned for details ... Meanwhile, **Alan Bersin**, another high-profile San Diegan making national news, is featured in a front-page story in the L.A. Times on Nov. 6, as he awaits Senate confirmation to run the federal agency that protects our borders ... Just in time for Veterans Day! The **National University System Institute for Policy Research** updates a report on the impact of military spending in the region, and no surprises are contained in the study. We're No. 1 in several areas, including overall military expenditures, payrolls, retirement and disability payments, and fourth for procurement contracts. Here's an eyepopper, too. More than \$1 billion in military retirement and disability payments helps pump up the region's economy each year ... Starbucks launches its green revolution in San Diego with LEED-certified stores. In an effort to reduce its carbon footprint, Starbucks is building or renovating 10 pilot stores in six different "bio-regions" worldwide, the first of which is located next to **Mesa College** on Linda Vista Road. Officials planned to hold a media tour Nov. 12 to show off the new green store, which features locally sourced materials, as well as reused and recycled elements ...

After two successful years in North Park, **Urban Solace** chef **Matt Gordon** and business partner **Scott Watkins** are opening their second, as yet unnamed, restaurant along Encinitas' resurging main drag. The opening takes place in the spring ... The **University of San Diego's** Evening Master of Business Administration program ranks 26th in the nation, according to **BusinessWeek's** latest list. The program is the only ranked school in San Diego ... Nonprofit organization **Kids' Turn San Diego** holds its eighth annual Wine Event aboard the old Berkeley ferry Nov. 21. It's all for a good cause. The group is dedicated to helping families navigate through the harsh realities of divorce, separation and custody disputes. Ducats and details available at kidsturnsd.org ... Finally, a couple of holiday-related items! **San Diego Self Storage** launches its annual holiday toy drive benefiting **Toys for Tots** by collecting toys at 18 locations at a kick-off event Nov. 21 aboard the USS Midway. Free admission to the 2 p.m. event, but bring a new, unwrapped toy! Visit sandiegoselfstorage.com for details ... **Kinderhouse Montessori School** in Rancho Bernardo launches a holiday drive for the **San Diego Food Bank** with a special event Nov. 18 featuring psychologist **Suzanne Simpson** speaking on "Raising Confident Children." Contact Montessori School owner **Yogi Patel** at 858-550-0097 for details.

Contributing Editor Tom York writes the SDBJ Insider column.