

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP PREMIUM MAGAZINE

festivity

Fabulous fairs and festivals around California

CALIFORNIA



For more information \$4.95
1 800 448 0000

San Diego: Kapow!



SAN DIEGO

KAPOW!

Back in 1970, a ragtag group of hoodie-clad geeks banded together to celebrate the comic book and science fiction sagas they had long worshiped.

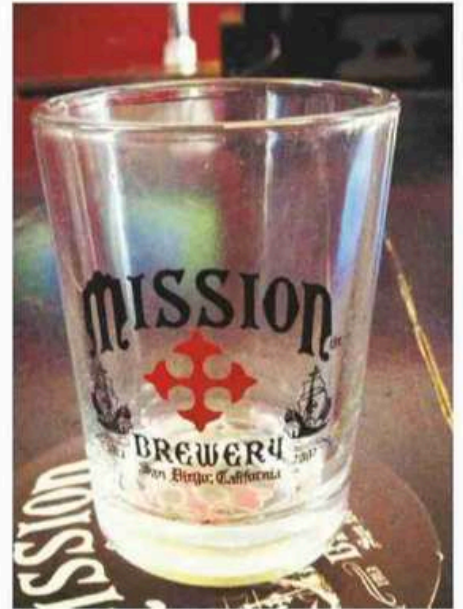
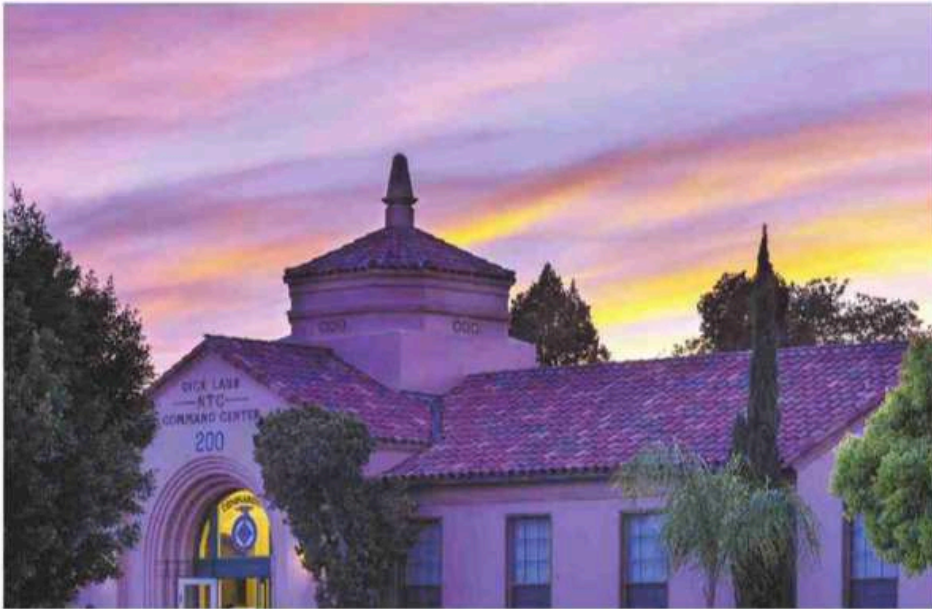
STORY BY KAREN D'SOUZA

Comic Con takes the cosplay concept to new heights — or scuffles in the case of Andy Holt and his Hulkman alter ego

THE WEEKEND OF *San Diego* 37



PHOTO BY NIKKI GALLAGHER FOR THE WEEKEND



3

There's only so much time you can spend dressed up as the Incredible Hulk or an imperial stormtrooper in midsummer. You may have come to San Diego for Comic-Con, but here are three cool things to do that don't involve crowds and cosplay.

Explore Liberty Station

San Diego's former naval base has been transformed into a foodie mecca with shops, galleries and 30 eateries, hawking craft cocktails, breakfast beer, stellar brunch fare and even new-wave eclairs. Stone Brewing began the transformation when it opened its World Bistro & Gardens here five years ago. Now you can nosh Jurassic Pork bacon at Breakfast Republic, meatball sandwiches at Soda & Swine and grab a latte or a brew from Moniker General, an espresso-beer bar and home decor store; libertystation.com

Right to left: The Spanish-style buildings of San Diego's former naval training station. Mission Brewery is steps away from Petco Park and has a large tasting room. Fans in costumes at the 24th annual Anime Expo held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Sean Vanderbilt as Dr. Strange and Cheryl Vanderbilt as The Scarlet Witch at the Silicon Valley Comic Con.

Take a brewery tour

With more than 120 breweries in San Diego, there's a blond, porter or pale ale for everyone. You can go brewery hopping on your own, of course, or hop aboard a beer tour, such as Scavengers Brewery Tours, whose vintage Swiss safari vehicles tote a dozen beer lovers along the coast to explore three downtown breweries or a brewery-barbecue combo in North County.

Kayak the cove

La Jolla Cove is gorgeous from the cliffs above. It's even better from sea level. Book a sea caves kayak tour of the Seven Caves and La Jolla Underwater Park, and you'll glimpse sea lions, leopard sharks and garibaldi fish along the way.