

EYE STREET

AT A GLANCE

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Find the best bash to crash

We have all you need to know about ways to ring in new year

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As 2016 draws to a close, it's time to decide how to ring in 2017. From black-tie affairs to a comedy show to rollerskating, there's something for everyone who would rather not celebrate at home.

For those who believe the bigger the bash the better, the Padre Hotel is once again going all out to celebrate the New Year, this time with a bit more mystery, thanks to a masquerade theme. But just because it's a place to dress to impress and wear a fancy mask doesn't mean the party is going to be stuffy.

"We have something for everyone, whether you enjoy fine dining, dancing, live music," said Adrianna Hook, assistant hotel manager. "Having so many venues allows us to appeal to different people."

Prospect Lounge is the place for those who prefer a nightclub-type vibe, with music by DJ Beats. On the rooftop Prairie Fire area, Soul People will perform live. Brimstone will also have a DJ, Hook said, and tends to have a more relaxed and mingling environment. In the Farmacy Cafe will be a photo booth.

When midnight finally comes, revelers will enjoy a champagne toast and a midnight buffet of finger foods like sliders and tacos, Hook said.

In the Belvedere Room, guests can enjoy a six-course dinner for \$75, which includes admission into the party. The menu includes a shrimp cocktail shooter, crispy oysters Rockefeller, Duroc pork belly, arugula beet salad and choice of slow-braised lamb shank, Meyer Ranch beef tenderloin or Alaskan halibut. Dessert is a choice of chocolate Kahlua cheesecake or berry champagne cake. For \$20 extra, diners can add a wine pairing.

The 8 p.m. dinner has already sold out, Hook said, but reservations can still be made for the 5 p.m. dinner.

The hotel is also offering room packages, though those are going fast. On New Year's Day from



CASEY CHRISTIE / TBC MEDIA

Motorists travel along H Street at 18th on a wet Saturday evening in downtown Bakersfield. The Padre discovered that to get more New Year's Eve revelers, you have to make the ticket reasonable — and it worked.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the hotel will hold a champagne brunch for \$39 a person.

Last year the Padre lowered prices for the New Year's Eve party, from \$50 pre-sale to \$20 pre-sale. Even those making last-minute plans to attend will get in for less, with \$30 day-of tickets. The decision to lower prices was about understanding the event's demographics and what revelers are looking to spend for a night out on New Year's Eve, Hook said. As a result, last year's attendance jumped to about 300 people from previous years' turnout of 150 to 200.

The Padre has held a New Year's Eve event since the hotel reopened in 2010, Hook said, and each year is better than the last.

"We've learned what to expect from the crowd," she said. "We're much better equipped to deal with the number of guests. It's

gotten to be very big and we've kind of fine-tuned it. It's going to be a really fun event."

Hook said she hopes the Padre is becoming known as the place to spend New Year's Eve.

"We put a lot of effort into letting our guests have a good time," Hook said. "We hope it's where they want to be when the clock strikes midnight."

Of course, Bakersfield has a lot of options for New Year's Eve. To make it easier to decide where to spend the holiday, we've compiled a list of events and broken them down into different categories: Bar and Restaurant Celebrations, Outside Bakersfield Celebrations and For the Kids.

BAR AND RESTAURANT CELEBRATIONS

If your ideal New Year's Eve involves dinner and drinks, dancing and dressing to impress, the

following events are your best bet. Many of these are your traditional fancy parties, but both Buck Owens' Crystal Palace and Temblor Brewing Company are doing NYE their own way.

PADRE HOTEL

What: Masquerade party, live music and DJ, champagne toast, midnight buffet; optional six-course dinner

When: Dinner at 5 and 8 p.m.; party at 9 p.m.

Where: 1702 18th St.

Admission: Dinner \$75 (includes party entry); party only \$20 pre-sale, \$30 at the door

Information: 427-4900 or padrehotel.com

BUCK OWENS' CRYSTAL PALACE

What: Music by Johnny Owens and the Buck Fever Band and Stampede, optional dinner

DO THE 'RIDE' THING

For the 20th straight year, Advance Beverage Company is sponsoring the Bud Light Designated Driver, a community-based initiative that helps prevent drunken driving on New Year's Eve by providing free cab rides home to adults who may have had too much to drink.

This program offers free rides home anywhere in Bakersfield between the hours of 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. New Year's Eve. Call 431-3854.

When: 7 to 9 p.m. for dinner, doors for show only open at 9 p.m.

Where: 2800 Buck Owens Blvd
Admission: \$60 with dinner,