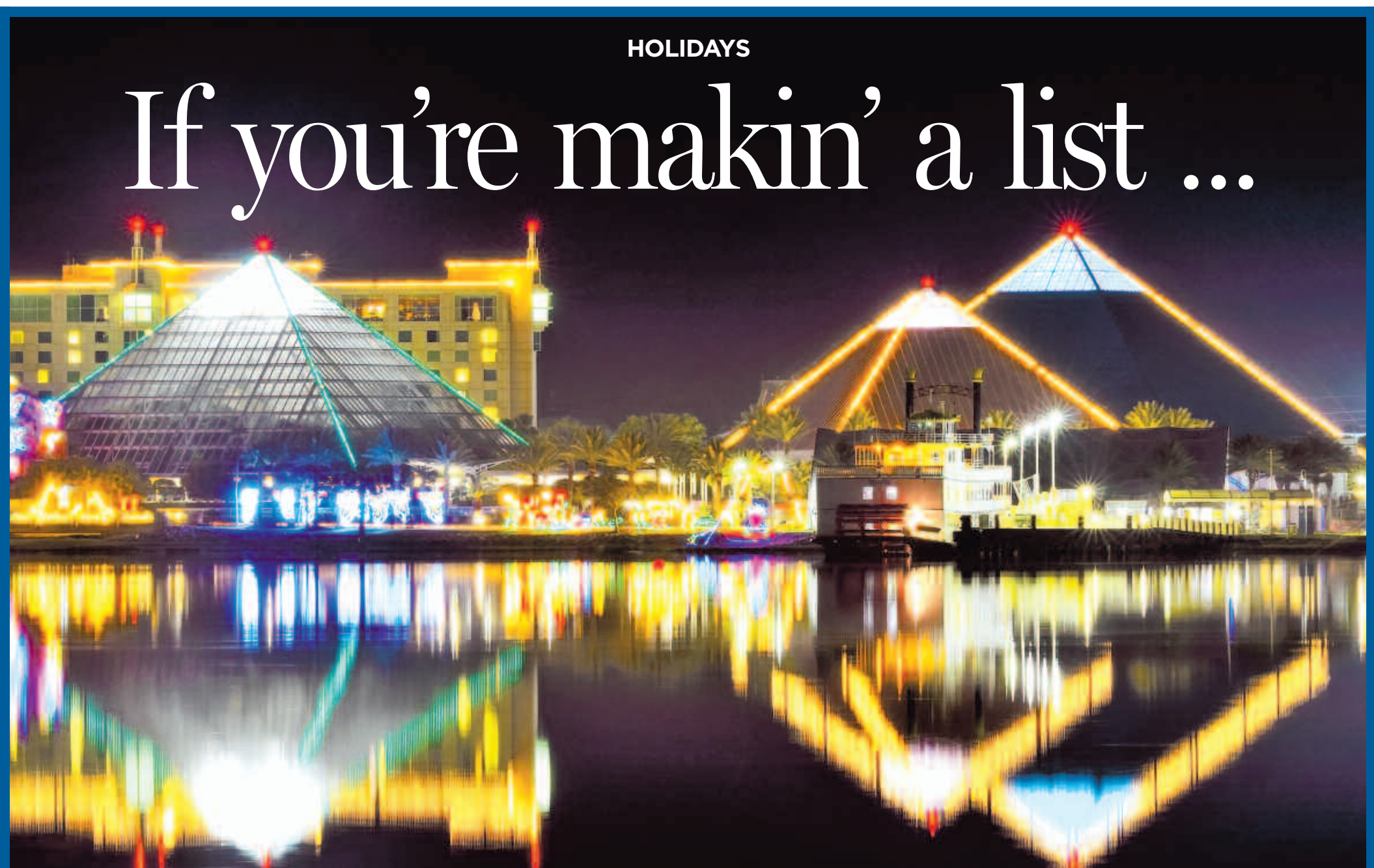




INSIDE

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HOLIDAYS

If you're makin' a list ...

Moody Gardens

Galveston's Moody Gardens casts a festive reflection in the water of Offatts Bayou during the Festival of Lights.

The sidewalks of San Antonio's River Walk will be lined with traditional Mexican luminarias on weekends starting Dec. 6 during the Fiesta de las Luminarias.



San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau

Festive activities abound in the region. Just pick any direction and go

By **MARY G. RAMOS**
Special Contributor

Deck the halls! Light the lights! It's time for giving, feasting, reveling in sparkling lights and colorful decorations, and listening to holiday music.

Here are some special celebrations across Texas and around the region. So put on your elf hat, grab some jingle bells and this list, and hit the road.

Mary G. Ramos is a Dallas freelance writer.

Event listings, **5K-6K**

CALIFORNIA

Midcentury style endures at retro hotel in Palm Springs

By **SUZANNE MORPHET**
Special Contributor

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Ol' Blue Eyes is looking over his shoulder at us when we arrive, suitcases in tow. For one disoriented moment, I'm back in my childhood home, not in a hotel that celebrates its mid-20th century roots with furnishings, music and art from that bygone era.

There in the lobby of Palm Springs' Del Marcos Hotel is an orange and green sofa that I swear was in my parents' home when I was growing up in the '50s and '60s. A pair of chairs in that same nubby fabric, with the same slim legs, is here too. It's furniture that was functional and — now that I see it with fresh eyes — beautiful at the same time.

I had come to Palm Springs, about 100 miles east of Los Angeles, to hike and revel in the desert landscape. I wasn't expecting a nostalgia trip, but unexpected discoveries are part of the pleasure of travel.

"I love it when people walk in the lobby and they smile when they see the furniture," Laura Ramstead, manager of the Del Marcos, says later.

It's not just the lobby. Each of the hotel's 16 light-filled rooms is vintage midcentury, uniquely furnished and named. We're staying in the poolside Esquivel Deluxe Room, with a hip midcentury dinette suite with brilliant orange chairs, under a poster titled "Esquivel! King of Space

See **RETRO'S** Page 3K



Suzanne Morphet/Special Contributor

The San Jacinto Mountains form a backdrop to the pool area at the Del Marcos Hotel in Palm Springs.

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