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Horn's immortal radar

Horn's campaign

More and more these days, political committees are taking on a life of their own, outlasting the campaigns they were created for by years and raking in thousands of dollars in contributions on behalf of elected officials who raise the cash from those who have a special interest in one issue or another. Reformers have long tried to outlaw the practice, saying it is an open invitation to corruption, but thus far they have had no success.

A recent example is furnished by GOP San Diego County supervisor Bill Horn, reelected to office in November 2010, yet still collecting money for that campaign to pay off creditors. According to Horn's most recent financial disclosure, filed last month, the campaign fund was very busy last year, raising $78,432 and making total expenditures of $95,233, leaving it with cash in hand at the end of 2011 of $1145, along with outstanding debts of $15,450.

Five-hundred-dollar maximum donations to Horn included those from Urban Land Institute associate Molly Chace of Los Angeles; former San Diego mayor Dick Murphy aide and lobbyist John Kern, now at an address in Williamsburg, Virginia; Newport Pacific vice president Christine Cavanaugh; Christopher Garrett of Latham & Watkins; J & J Properties associate Amy Brochier; Sycuan tribal treasurer LaShumba Davidson; Sycuan tribal councilmember Henry Murphy; lobbyist and ex-GOP assemblyman George Plescia; Southwest Strategies accounting clerk Constance Zieguaus; mega-developer Scott Millin; and Phillip Schott of El Macero, near Sacramento, a government relations specialist at Schott & Lites Advocates, Inc.

The two Sycuan donations, as well as an additional $250 contribution from tribal project manager Cody J. Martinez, came on the same date, July 5, in the midst of intense lobbying of the board of supervisors for approval of the tribe's controversial move to annex the 1350-acre former Singing Hills Golf Course to the reservation. Last month the supervisors voted unanimously to drop their opposition to Sycuan's plan in exchange for various financial and environmental concessions made by the tribe, though critics say the deal will still result in a loss of tax revenue to other local agencies.

In the second half of 2011, according to its statement, the campaign fund paid Horn campaign consultant Tom Shepard & Associates $10,500. Shepard's firm was still owed $7500 at the end of the year. Another creditor, the campaign accounting firm of Scott & Cronin, received $3070 in debt repayment and was still owed $650. Horn also made a payment of $4500 on a $10,000 debt to campaign manager David Graham, a longtime supervisory aide, leaving a remaining balance due of $5500 and one more reason for Horn to continue soliciting funds for the 2010 campaign in 2012.

You Want This Again?

By Don Bauder

Having been hornswoggled by both the Padres and the Chargers, and knowing the City is wobbling financially, San Diego voters are unlikely to approve a fat subsidy for a new Chargers stadium. But downtown overlords want the City to get daddled again. So learn from the past: make sure the preelection voter information is honest, and pay no attention to propaganda from the City, the team, the establishment, and their lackeys in the mainstream media.

That's the advice of former councilmembers Bruce Henderson and Donna Frye, who fought to educate the public about the Chargers' 60,000-seat guarantee and the Padres' Petco Park con.

"San Diego likes getting snookered," says Henderson. "But it will be difficult to snooker the voters."

"If there were a way to shut the public out, yes, the powers-that-be could be snookered again," says Frye. "But it's hard to imagine a deal going through that would not require a public vote. I place a lot of faith in the public. The odds are not in favor of the sports folks."

But last week, Mayor Jerry Sanders made the preposterous statement that San Diego's budget woes are over, despite massive pension liabilities and infrastructure deficits. It's a sure sign that the stadium propaganda mill is picking up steam.

Take a look at the lies and corruption that went into past Padres and Chargers deals. As Steve Erie, University of California San Diego political scientist, explains in a paper he coauthored, the old Jack Murphy Stadium was renovated for the Chargers, and the City gave them a 60,000-per-game seat guarantee, promising to pay for the empty seats, even though past attendance records showed that level was absurd. It cost the City $36 million between 1997 and 2004 and enraged the public. So when the Padres angled for a new ballpark, "The City didn't want to be snookered again," says Henderson.

It hired two out-of-town consultants, both of whom were in favor of pro sports subsidies. They were charged with making a deal that was fair for both sides. But John Moores, then majority owner of the Padres, on June 18, 1998, wrote a letter to the council wailing that under the consultants' deal "the Padres would be burdened with one of the worst deals in Major League Baseball" and could not be competitive financially or on the field.

So the council hired the consultants, went into multiple closed sessions, and gave the Padres everything they wanted. Erie points out that the $303 million subsidy the Padres wangled was 25 percent more than the average ballpark taxpayer contribution across the country.

The pigeon drop was in place. There would be a vote in late 1998. Moores stacked the team that year and it won the National League pennant. The players begged the public to vote for the ballpark. The ballot argument claimed that the deal would be revenue neutral. (It later came out that city hall had instructed bureaucrats to rig the numbers to make it appear that hotel taxes would pay for bond servicing.) A consultant study touting the ballpark ignored the "substitution effect," the truism that subsidized stadiums don't stimulate spending but just rearrange it.

The grand jury warned that the public had not been given adequate information and the economic projections were extremely optimistc. Disingenuously, the City delayed release of the report until the day before the election, and then the Union-Tribune chopped up and buried the story. The voting public was ignorant. After the Padres won the vote by a 60–40 margin, Moores dumped the star players, including those who had parroted the line that the team could not compete without a new stadium.

In 1998, almost everybody believed that San

continued on page 49
A Tougher Law Than Arizona’s?

By Dave Rice

C alifornia spends $938 million annually to incarcerate prisoners who entered the country illegally, receiving less than $66 million in federal funds to offset the cost.

An “estimated 60% of gangs in Los Angeles County are illegal aliens.”

“Researchers report 420,000 illegal alien sexual predators with an average of four victims each.”

These are some of the statements that Ted Hilton and his campaign committee Taxpayer Revolution cite in justifying the need for the Protection from Transnational Gangs Act of 2012 initiative. The figures in the first statement were reported in a November 16, 2011, story by the Los Angeles Times. But when the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department was asked about the second statement, a spokesman replied, “There is no logical way we would know that.” The third statement can be tracked to the website of Deborah Schurman-Kauflin. Her “independently published, non-peer-reviewed study,” says factcheck.org, “employs some highly creative math and interesting assumptions…. The ‘study’ is actually a pretty good case study in bad research.”

The Protection from Transnational Gangs initiative, which Hilton hopes to put before voters next November, would require state and local officers to act as federal officers on immigration matters, make it more difficult for persons without legal residency to obtain a driver’s license, and allow police to question the citizenship or immigration status of anyone at anytime. Hilton has a long history in the field of immigration enforcement, which his website dates to 1991. In 2009, he proposed another measure, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2010, that never made it to the ballot. Unlike the law enforcement focus of the 2012 initiative, the prior proposal sought to deny public benefits to those without legal status and to require a new type of birth certificate for children born to parents unable to verify their citizenship.

In an interview in late November, Hilton said that his 2012 initiative aims to override “sanctuary” laws passed by some localities.

“Here’s what’s happened in Los Angeles,” he said. “They’ve said that a police officer can actually recognize someone on the street who’s not doing anything — they can recognize him as a previously deported felon and not be able to go up to that person because he hasn’t broken any law by standing there. But it’s his immigration status that’s in question.”

Section 4 of the Protection from Transnational Gangs Act reads, “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no official or agency of this state or political subdivision herein may prohibit or in any way restrict any peace officer from inquiring into the citizenship or immigration status of a person and from verifying that status, or exchanging information with any law enforcement agency, or for any lawful purpose authorized by Sections 1373 and 1644 of Title 8 of the United States Code.”

Michael Chen of 10News said in a May 2010 interview with Hilton, “His law would take Arizona’s one step further,” in reference to that state’s controversial SB 1070, which allows police to stop and question people about their immigration status at any time.

Hilton doesn’t deny the continued on page 50

Neal Obermeyer

So are we going to get the money we’ve worked for? Of course! I’ll make sure you get every penny you’re owed! You’re City employees hoping for a pension? OOPS! My mistake! I thought you were those stadium consultants I hired on a no-bid, unapproved, no-contract arrangement!

NEWS TICKER

Sorry She’s Caught

Disbarred Attorney to Serve One Year in Jail

Vista — Two former clients of disbarred attorney Patricia Gregory had the satisfaction of seeing the admitted thief put into handcuffs in the Vista courthouse on February 24.

The victims, Denise Doll and Luwain Ng, complained to the judge that Gregory “has been allowed to walk free” for years while her case progressed through the State Bar system and then the criminal courts.

In a plea deal last month, 62-year-old Gregory admitted “fraudulent appropriation” of money from her clients’ accounts. The thefts happened in 2007 and 2008.

“She’s very much sorry she’s caught,” said Denise Doll, who did not believe Gregory was repentant.

Both victims expressed outrage that Gregory took advantage of her clients when they were “most vulnerable” — when they were divorcing.

By Eva Knott

Saturday, February 25

Take Out Your Tablets

Sweetwater Union to Buy iPads for Students

Chula Vista — On the recommendation of Sweetwater Union High School District interim superintendent Ed Brand, the board voted February 21 to purchase iPads for all seventh-graders in the next school year.

Trustee Bertha Lopez cast the dissenting vote, saying that she supports technology for students but there are more important construction and repair priorities in the district.

Parent Maty Adato pointed to the Eastlake Observatory as a more appropriate place to spend bond construction money. Adato said the observatory has not been available for student use due to dry rot in the floor.

The cost of the tablets will be $4.3 million.

Some critics suggested Brand wanted to give the seventh-graders iPads to lure them away from charter schools; those critics suggested that improving the quality of education in the district would be a more effective strategy.

By Susan Luzzaro

Thursday, February 23

Conflagration Continues

Utilities Commission to Hear from Public

Kearny Mesa — The California Public Utilities Commission today said that there will be an open meeting April 5 from 4 to 9 p.m. for San Diegans to state their opinions to commission officials about San Diego Gas & Electric’s attempt to get customers to pay for the uninsured costs of the 2007 wildfires, as well as future fires.

The meeting will be at the Al Bahr Shrine Auditorium, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. The session could extend another day, according to public utilities commissioner Timothy Simon at an all-party meeting today (February 23) in San Francisco.

The current estimate of these costs for 2007 fires alone comes to more than $350 per SDG&E billpayer.

By Don Bauder

Thursday, February 23

Brighter Picture

Is City’s Economy on the Rebound?

Chula Vista — The recession has taken its toll on Chula Vista in more ways than a glut of foreclosures.

Last year, Otay Ranch lost the upscale Mexican restaurant Frida’s; in 2011, the city experienced a series of restaurant chain closures that included the Brigantine, El Torito, and Anthony’s Fish re- continued on page 51
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Thief Not Very “Civil”
You are probably unaware of how closely related three of your stories are in the February 23 issue. The cover story, “Tased and Subdued, Throttled and Killed”; the short story “Angry Pizza Man”; and the “News Ticker” story “Electronics Theft” are all about some level of authority — coroner, prosecutor, police — not doing the job without prejudice. Being the smallest of businessmen (taxi driver), I am very familiar with the system only contacting you to extract money and giving nothing back. I have on numerous occasions held runners — people who don’t pay their fare — for the police, and it’s gotten so bad now that they won’t even write the perpetra
tor a ticket. The police are now calling somebody robbing me a “civil matter.” I see nothing calling somebody robbing me for a ticket. The police are now giving nothing back. I have on the system only contact-
ing driver), I am very familiar about some level of author-

Jazz and CCs
Re the review of Chico & Rita by David Elliott (Movie Review, February 23).
David, you said they skipped a beat when they riffed on The Wild One, but I would disagree with you. I’ve seen The Wild One, first in June of 1954, and I still remember all the songs, the jazz songs, done by Shorty Rogers, from that film. One was called “Chino” — that was done for the Lee Marvin character. Another one is “Blues for Brando,” another one was “Windswept,” as he and Mary Murphy are riding on the motorcycle through the road covered by tree branches, and there was one called simply “The Wild One.”
To Thomas Larson, who wrote the February 23 cover story on the Watson murder (“Tased and Subdued, Throttled and Killed”). I’d like to ask him a brief question: on page 26 he writes, “Keigwin’s name had been dropped from the CC line.” I’m wondering if everyone in San Diego knows what a “CC line” is, because I sure don’t.
Bob Cruise
Chula Vista

“In e-mail, a carbon copy (abbreviated ‘cc,’ and sometimes ’f:cc’ for ‘first carbon copy’) is a copy of a note sent to an addressee other than the main addressee,” says SearchWinIT, an internet site. “The term is borrowed from the days of the mechanical and later the electronic typewriter (circa 1879–1979) when copies of typed sheets of paper were made by inserting a special sheet of inked paper called carbon paper into the typewriter. For two copies, you would insert carbon paper (sometimes just called a ‘carbon’) between the original being typed and each of the two sheets that would become the carbon copies.” — Editor

“Stringers” Needs Zingers
My heart soars to know that Sir Refried Gringo feels that my letter (February 16) regarding putting more of the neighborhood back into the “Neighborhood News from Stringers” section struck a chord with him (Letters, “Comments from Reader site,” February 23).
A few score and maybe seven years ago, I discovered the Reader. Father Holman brought forth on these pages a new weekly, conceived in a great war of whether the continuing on page 53
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San Diego Reader March 1, 2012
Junkyard Creatures

I twirled my head back and forth, but mostly down, and tried not to panic. I’d backed myself into a corner, and not in the figurative way. There were dozens of them, and they were all armed. I tried to stay out of their way without catching their attention. One, seeming to smell my fear, came right toward me. She was taller than the others. With a frightening grin, she raised the staff in her hands and taunted me with the poison dripping from its end.

“Emily!” It was a woman’s voice, sharp and clipped. “Stop it, and get over here.” The staff — a long rod slathered in pink paint — was lowered. The girl holding it flashed me a look that said, “This isn’t over,” and obeyed her mother.

The immediate threat was gone, but I was still against a wall with no path for escape. I cursed myself for getting into this mess. Then I cursed David. If I hadn’t tried to get a better angle for my video, I wouldn’t have made my way to the farthest corner of the “junkyard” at the New Children’s Museum. It was David’s fault that I had even considered getting a better angle — you spend enough years with a photographer, you can’t help but learn a thing or two.

The last time I was inside the museum, its name did not include the word “new,” and the after-hours event I was attending was for adults only. I vaguely remembered a DJ and a patio filled with smokers. Now, in the light of day, it looked a lot different, with all that natural light streaming through glass walls. And, of course, there were the children.

I was there for one reason: to capture footage of an event for my monthly segment on NBC News in the Morning. “Stepping Out with Barbarella.” I’d learned from past kid-centric events around town that parents don’t take too kindly to cameras directed at their children; to spare myself the inconvenience of going into an explanation for going into that deliberate touching (even to save myself, and by myself I mean my clothing) was unacceptable. Instead, I went, “Aah, help,” in a whimper much quieter than I’d intended. I realized it was the same instinct that had stopped me from touching the child that kept me from speaking directly to it, for that would be to cross an invisible-but-real line between the child and any person that wasn’t their preassigned guardian.

To get attention from other guardians, I raised my voice to address one of my own. “Bella! Hey, are those your initials you painted on the top of the car? That’s great!”

To get attention from other guardians, I raised my voice to address one of my own. “Bella! Hey, are those your initials you painted on the top of the car? That’s great!” There. I’d identified myself as one of the group — I wasn’t just some creepy, freaked-out lady standing against the wall with a video camera, I was with one of the kids. I looked around for any person who seemed to be paying attention to the small brunette at my feet. Once I spotted her, I caught the woman’s gaze with a big, “Isn’t this fun” sort of smile, and then, as if it was an afterthought, I pointedly looked down and said, “Ooh, ha ha ha, be careful there.” At this, the woman took over, using the child’s name — which didn’t work — and then grabbing its arm and pulling it out of my way.

I left my sister at the clay station with her girls and went inside to catch my breath and examine my black clothing for any pink residue. Looking around, I noticed I wasn’t the only one with a camera — it seemed every adult in the building had some kind of lens between themselves and their charges. I imagined the frantic Instagramming that had to be going on: child laughing at bubble, Sierna filter; close-up of clay creation drying in the sun, Kelvin filter; and so on.

My attention was drawn downstairs, to the base of a two-story, blue-and-purple aluminum sculpture, where a band was setting up. A grown-up standing at the top of the stairs asked if I’d heard them before. “Name’s Egg. They’re a kid’s band, but it’s good music, so they also appeal to parents,” he said.

Two blondes — Bella and Olivia — scurried by; Jane was close behind them. She slowed down as she passed and said, “We’re going to stand in line for the face painting...is that okay?”

“No worries,” I said. “I’ll wait downstairs. There’s a band gonna be playing.” Jane nodded and continued after her girls.

continued on page 33
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Hey Matt:

My new neighbor downstairs is a smoker. Even with all of our windows and doors shut, I can still smell their smoke. My wife and I are worried because along with our own health, we are concerned about our new daughter’s lungs (11 weeks old). I don’t know if it helps, but we are good renters, never had a late payment nor any complaints. Is there anything we can do?

— Worried new dad, North Park

Hey Matt:

Recently, Ron Artest changed his name to Metta World Peace. Didn’t some other NBA player change his name to World Peace, too? I seem to remember that happened back in the ’80s, but I can’t remember who it was. Do you?

— Jeff World Peace, San Diego

For that matter, how many people remember that the L.A. Clippers used to be the San Diego Clippers way back in the day? From ’75 to ’84 (preceded by the San Diego Rockets). The Clips were putting up 5000 butts in seats back then, so owner Don Sterling moved them to L.A. Other than Bill Walton, the Clippers’ most notable player was Lloyd B. Free, a flamboyant guard with a 44-inch jump, who played for five NBA teams from ’75 to ’88, 44th on the list of all-time high scorers in the game. He is now one of the most fan-favorite guys in Philly, where he works for the Sixers.

In 1981, Lloyd legally changed his first name to “World” and became World B. Free. But he didn’t pull “World” out of the air. Well, he did, kinda. He’d been called World since he played pick-up games in Brooklyn. It came from the trademark 360 spins he did around defenders to dunk the ball. One friend kept saying, “You’re all-world, man!” and from then on into his pro years his nickname was “World.” He made the name-change official, he says, because it was an upbeat statement at a time when he felt the world needed it. Just a little showboating. No big whoop.

Artest’s journey from Ron to Metta World Peace is a bit different. The talented, once-unpredictable, aggressive, not-too-popular, bad rapper and dancer Ron adopted (and presumably made up) “Metta World Peace,” inspired, he said, when Chad Ochocinco changed his name. It was a symbolic move by Artest to show he’d turned over some new leaf or other and “to inspire kids.” It was mostly for the kids, he says. That is now his legal name. Unlike Free’s change, Artest’s has been the butt of many a joke. Kobe could hardly keep his shorts on, he loved badgering Artest so much. “Metta” is a term from Buddhism meaning “loving kindness.” Uh, yeah, that’s Artest, all right. BTW, “Metta” is his first name, “World Peace” his last.

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@cts.com or fax to 619-231-0489 or mail to Matthew Alice, c/o the Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186.
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Opera physician: “I see in this bug outrageous strength, with an inscrutable malice sinewing it. That inscrutable thing is chiefly what I hate; and be the virus agent, or be the virus principal, I will wreak that hate upon him.”

BACKSTAGE AT THE OPERA, RAGING AT THE HEAVENS — First, the tiny beast claimed the conductor, Karen Keltner, just days before the premiere of San Diego Opera’s production of Moby-Dick. The blow was not mortal, but still crippling. “Losing a conductor is like losing a limb,” said opera managing director Iam Cromwell. “When Karen took sick, we were hobbled. But if anything, the blow only engendered in us a fierce, almost obsessive determination not to yield to this brute, elusive force of nature. Instead, we would attack it.” The opera brought in replacement conductor Joseph Mechavich and pressed on.

Mechavich’s mechanics were a little stiff at first — sort of like walking with a wooden leg — but we soon got used to each other,” recalls Cromwell. “And I liked his fighting spirit. On his first day, he pinned five $100 bills to his music stand and promised to spend it on champagne for the cast and crew if we could make it through the premiere in good health.”

But, alas — all too often, it is folly to challenge the monstrous force of nature as it lurks in the mysterious depths of the human body. During the opening performance, lead tenor Ben Heppner began showing the symptoms that would eventually cause him to withdraw from the remaining performances of the opera.

Now, Jay Hunter Morris has been called in to take up the cause, and despite the manifest danger of such a hubristic pursuit, he has vowed to hunt down and root out any germ that seeks to gain a foothold in his system: “Aye, aye! and I’ll chase him round my sinuses, and round my guts, and round the bronchial passage, and round digestion’s flames till he’s over all sides of tissue, till he’s wrapped in white corpuscle and rolls his proteins out.”

Newt Finds Black Support in San Diego

Presidental Candidate Tours San Diego Zoo, Meets Namesake and Friend

“Politics makes strange bedfellows, but this is unprecedented.”

SNICKERING BY THE REPTILE CAGES, SAN DIEGO ZOO — Given his rather curious name, it is perhaps no surprise that Newt Gingrich has an animal named after him at the San Diego Zoo. What is surprising is Gingrich the newt’s preferred company: not a (presumably Republican) elephant, but a black slug named Methuselah.

“We’re a little baffled,” said the Zoo’s Department of Slimy Critters head, Wade George. “Ordinarily, these two would share no common interests whatsoever. For a while, we suspected some sort of parasitic relationship. But after extensive observation, we cannot find a single benefit that the newt derives from its association with the slug. Given the newt’s general temperament and character, I would say that this alliance is so unusual as to be called unnatural.”

Upon meeting Gingrich and Methuselah during his recent tour of the zoo, the presidential candidate quipped, “I’m just glad his name isn’t Herman.”

Reactions Mixed Over School Taser Incident

POINT LOMA — A San Diego police officer’s use of a Taser against a six-year-old boy Wednesday has fueled a debate over whether such force is appropriate on school campuses. The incident at Coriolanus Elementary School in Point Loma Hollow has generated mixed reactions. kenneth Quill, a spokesman for the Society of Helpful Officers Correcting Kids (SHOCK), said Tasers are commonly carried by school officers. News headlines from around the country show stun guns have been used on students to enforce naptime and to restrain youths who insist on running with scissors.

“Almost no one enjoys the prospect of pouring 50,000 volts of electricity into some snoot-nosed brat who won’t sit still during someone else’s show-and-tell presentation,” said Quill. “But sometimes, officers have only a few dozen other choices. We have to trust them to use their best judgment and remember that we’re not the ones having to listen to ‘Ring around your booty/ Stick your head in doody’ repeated a thousand times in succession.”

In the San Diego incident, the 3’10”, 50-pound child was being questioned by four police officers and the vice principal in a room off the library about the theft of 20 school-owned iPods, worth about $5000. When officers found two of the stolen gadgets on the boy, they told him he was under arrest. The boy allegedly replied, “No, you’re not going to handcuff me. You’re a big, fat meanie. I want my mommy!” He then started struggling, pouring 50,000 volts of electricity into some poor child’s body.

В doctor said Quill. “But sometimes, they’ll say things like, ‘He’s only a child, for God’s sake,’ or ‘Don’t those plastic wrist ties seem a little tight?’ They don’t know how slick these little bastards...er. little rascals can be.”

Some parents of Coriolanus Elementary School students on Thursday called the police action excessive and questioned why a Taser was needed with four officers in the room. Other parents supported the officer, saying the boy’s behavior justified a harsher reaction. "Resisting arrest is resisting arrest, no matter how old you are,” said Andrew Justice, president of the school’s parent group. “I can’t speak for all parents, but most of us believe in raising our children to obey the law, respect authority, and deal with the consequences of one’s actions. I myself Tase my children regularly for taking extra cookies after dinner. The little shits have to learn.”
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<td>Is your doctor “iLASIK” certified?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will your exam, surgery and follow-up care be provided by the same doctor?</td>
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D id you know that Cataracts are the primary reason for age related vision impairment? Over time, your eyes lose the ability to see the sharp details and complete array of colors around you. This impacts your ability to enjoy some of the best moments in life like reading, driving, enjoying family time, and much more. West Coast Eye Care is pleased to offer one of the first blade-free cataract lasers in California. Early data shows this laser is up to 10x more accurate than manual blade cataract surgery, giving the most accurate and safest results for patients who are seeking the highest level of vision quality.

The new LenSx® Custom Cataract Laser is up to 10x more precise than traditional cataract surgery options

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<tr>
<th>LenSx® Incision</th>
<th>Manual Incision</th>
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<tr>
<td>LenSx® creates a perfectly circular opening to the lens cavity every time.</td>
<td>Manual incisions have imperfections, and will vary between patients and surgeons.</td>
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</table>

The illustrations above are a representation of the differences between a LenSx® incision and a manual incision.

What are Cataracts?
Cataracts develop gradually, and can appear in adults around the age of 40. By age 80, over 50% of adults have developed cataracts in at least one of their eyes. Cataracts form a cloud on the lens of the eye that impedes vision both near and far. In a normal eye, the retina focuses light images received through the lens. The retina sends the image to the brain via nerve signals. Once cataracts begin to develop, the lens becomes clouded and loses the ability to transfer crisp sharp images.

What Cataract treatments are available?
Until now, most cataract patients have undergone surgery to replace the lens of their eye with an artificial intraocular lens (IOL). This is generally referred to as standard cataract surgery, and is covered by Medicare and most insurance plans. After IOL surgery, a patient will enjoy restored vision and never develop a cataract in that eye. However, even though these IOLs are effective in creating sharp vision, some patients may still require contacts or glasses to deal with issues related to astigmatism and presbyopia.

There is a higher standard of IOLs and techniques that help people see near and far, that are used under Custom Cataract Surgery. These improved IOLs and techniques have a strong track record of reducing or eliminating a patient’s need for glasses by decreasing astigmatism and presbyopia.

Custom Cataract Laser
Previously, standard cataract procedures were conducted by a surgeon creating a manual incision with a blade. A manual surgery has a margin for error that can increase risks and negatively impact outcomes. With the introduction of the first FDA approved Custom Cataract Laser, Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care can now create incisions and potentially reduce astigmatism without blades.

These laser incisions are proven to be more precise and accurate, thereby avoiding some of the dangers of standard cataract surgery. For some parts of the cataract surgery, the laser has been shown to be up to 10x more precise than the manual techniques. Combining this more accurate and precise laser with the world-class surgeons at West Coast Eye Care, incisions are more precise and vision results are more predictable.

The Custom Cataract Laser is not just for cataract patients
Custom Cataract Laser Surgery is similar to the technology used for blade-free LASIK. Most people understand that blade-free LASIK is more safe and accurate, but don’t realize that LASIK is normally not the best option for people over 45. This is attributed to the fact that LASIK cannot prevent presbyopia. Patients over 45 that choose to undergo LASIK, may still require contacts and glasses for near vision because the natural lens inside the eye continues to change with age.

What if I have Presbyopia?
Presbyopia is a condition in which the lens loses its flexibility, which makes it difficult for you to focus on close objects. Lens flexibility is required to be able to focus on objects up close and at a distance. As people age, typically the lens loses its ability to change and focus up close. Individuals who are over 45 and require glasses for reading, are most likely affected by presbyopia. Presbyopia is a normal part of the aging process and impacts everyone. Patients with presbyopia now have a choice to have a procedure called refractive lens exchange (RLE) to replace the natural lens of the eye with multifocal intraocular lenses (multifocal IOLs). These multifocal IOLs differ from standard IOLs in that they help focus near, far, and in between. Most patients will never have to use contacts or glasses ever again. Being an elective surgery, this procedure is generally not covered by insurance.

Dr. Katzman at West Coast Eye Care can now utilize the blade-free cataract laser to perform RLE with greater safety and precision than ever before.

See near, far, and in between without glasses
“My vision had gotten to the point where I was really struggling to read and had also given up my hobby of crafting almost entirely. The day after my first procedure, everything I saw was so bright and shiny – it was wonderful. Wherever I look, everything is so clear and vivid. I used to have trouble reading text on the television and seeing street signs clearly. Now I can just sit in my chair and see everything on the television clearly, even without my glasses.”

— B. Walters, Alpine, California

Barry Katzman M.D.
Dr. Katzman has been practicing ophthalmology for over 20 years. He has been published in several research journals and has been involved in hundreds of FDA clinical trials to improve the quality of refractive eye surgery. He is the recipient of numerous awards such as being named America’s Top Ophthalmologist by The Consumer Research Council of America and was also selected for the Patient’s Choice Award. He was also named one of the top doctors in San Diego. Dr. Katzman performs cataract surgery and refractive surgeries including LASIK, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and presbyopic vision correction.

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DON PASQUALE – Photo by Ken Howard

POST TITLE: Scenes from a Marriage: Broken People
POST DATE: February 6, 2012
Putting up with his shit: the line going through my mind. The bright, cheerful light from our neighbors’ window feels exclusionary. I see the black profiles of an obviously happy couple as they carry cups of drink into the next room. The light goes out.

It is so easy to think dark things. It always has been. My little girl mind — full of loneliness, fear, and confusion — turned everything into a Freddy movie: every nightmare was real, and everything real a possible nightmare. And now, as an adult, there is something very bipolar about my experience of life: joy, often unbearably felt and celebrated, but then every fear magnified underneath the sick glare of my brain. I have fought very hard to be even. I have fought. Stable. Careful. Normal. Therapy, years. Prayer. Journals. Classes. Books. A good enough person to have four children, nurse them, sleep with them, hold them, protect them, feed them, shelter them, teach them, love them.

Good. Enough. Two words that possibly define my deepest goals in life: to know myself as good, as enough. But there are secrets and they are shameful...

My husband is in the January Kill zone, and when he will come back to me I cannot say. I know it will be OK, sooner than later, and I know he will come back, and I know he is doing everything he is responsible to do to ensure that. I am putting up with his shit.

The year after Lola’s birth was a hormonal bath of crazy. I was still too close to my childhood, still working for freedom, still therapizing: following instruction, diligently making entries into journals, and practicing emotional health. Still failing often. The addition of post-partum hormones did me in. I wept, I worried, I could not sleep. I only made myself eat correctly for a nursing baby. I felt furious, depressed, terrified; I banged a glass window with my fist in anger, and it gave way into long vicious cracks and one freed piece that flew in a white shard and cut my arm. I called my husband. He left work. He came home and held me. He could have said You aren’t who I thought. He could have said I hate you. He could have said Marrying you was a big mistake. He could have said I can’t live with you. He could have said You are f***ed up. And he would have been right.

What he did was hold me while I cried, stroke my hair, and tell me in the gentlest, kindest voice anyone has ever used toward me that I had to do something different, because this wasn’t OK. He kissed my face and my mouth and he told me he loved me, whispered the concrete steps that I would take to get better. And the next week, when I left him with the children to go drive around the block weeping, he was there upon my return, cradling Lola, asking me was I all right. He kissed my face and my mouth and he told me he loved me, whispered the concrete steps that I would take to get better. And the next week, when I left him with the children to go drive around the block weeping, he was there upon my return, cradling Lola, asking me was I all right. He was putting up with my shit.

My husband goes away sometimes. I cannot express to you the depth of respect I have for him for allowing me to speak of this here, or anywhere. This man is extremely private, and suffers intensely with difficult feelings over the fact that he has Bipolar II, over the medication, the lineage. It has gone against every natural instinct he has to allow me to speak about this. Why does he do it? Because he loves me.

He puts up with my shit.

[Edited from original form for length.]
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San Diego Reader March 1, 2012
San Diego Spartans

**Ultimate Tazer Ball**, though dangerous, promises "no risk of heart attack or someone's brain exploding."

The sporting world awaits, on edge, for March 2 and the first public exhibition of Ultimate Tazer Ball (UTB). The contest will be held in Thailand. Our hometown San Diego Spartans will be tasing the breath out of ancient and hated arch rivals, namely: Philadelphia Killawatts, L.A. Nightlight, and Toronto Terror. The UTB will be putting on exhibition games as a part of a Bangkok professional paintball tournament.

Why not?

The UTB consists of four franchises; one is based in Toronto, where it is illegal to own a taser or stun gun. Thus, the Toronto Terror cannot practice or play games in its host city, or country, for that matter. This may be a statement about global integration or a belief that a Toronto franchise sounds good on paper, or, perhaps, somebody’s mother lives in T-town. A Toronto franchise sounds good on paper, or, perhaps, somebody’s mother lives in T-town. A Toronto franchise sounds good on paper, or, perhaps, somebody’s mother lives in T-town.

So what? It’s about tasering people, people. Who cares where the taserees come from? Who cares whether the UTB has a business office? They have a website.

UTB is a ball sport with one exceptional exception: players carry stun guns (which sounds so much better than "players carry a 300,000 volt electroshock device."). Other than that, it’s four players on each team who run around on a 200′-by-85′ field and mess with a big ball (think beach ball painted like a soccer ball). The object of the game is to get the big beach ball into the opposing team’s (soccer) net.

It’s full contact. You can tackle, you can throw the ball and roll the ball. You can’t kick or punt the ball. You can’t move it with your lower body. There are three periods in a game. Each period lasts seven minutes. Only the player in possession of the ball may be tasered. The tase must be applied between the shoulders and the waist and must occur in a designated “shock zone,” located around each goal.

"It’s not technically a police-grade taser," said Eric Prum, 25, a Canadian and one of three UTB founders. "The reason it’s really cool in game play is because it causes your muscles to spasm; therefore, you’re going to drop the ball, you’re going to trip, you’re going to fall over. And it’s fun."

Great fun. Sit back and watch a stranger spaz out on the ground, legs kicking uncontrollably, perhaps foaming at the mouth, perhaps his bowels giving way. BOFFO BOX OFFICE, people! "There’s no risk of a heart attack or someone’s brain exploding," says Mr. Prum.

I hate that exploding brain stuff. And if you look deep inside, you’ll see that you don’t like it, either.

"The game guns are all configured to deliver five to eight milliamps of current — well below the lethal dose of one amp," writes Jesse Mirsky of Canada’s National Post. Ignorant contrarians, like the Ohio State Physics Department, say any dose over ten milliamps can cause serious shock.

What’s the problem? You’ve still got a two-milliamp safety buffer!

I don’t mean to say there aren’t real-deal athletes involved in this. UTB may not be a real-deal league, but the athletes are true athletes. San Diego Spartans front man, Scott Kemp, 25, is a professional paintballer with muscles big enough to be a fitness model. His website says, “I began traveling across the U.S. to compete in national tournaments. At age 17, I joined the Los Angeles Ironmen, the most storied and successful paintball team in history.

“Things skyrocketed for me. I began getting paid to travel and compete for the sport I love, just like those figures on the TV I saw years ago. I stamped out my passport by age 23. After bouncing around the globe with a few different paintball teams, I’m back home with the Ironmen.”

UTB may begin and end on the playing fields of Thailand, but what UTB has proved is that they are one king-hell of a fine public relations machine. For a league that hasn’t played a single game or announced a season schedule, a league that aspires to being successful enough to have a six-man team roster, they have succeeded in getting enough free publicity to float a dozen Kardashians, six dozen Paris Hiltons, and four presidential elections.

The league’s YouTube videos have had more than one million views. Running a query of “Ultimate Tazer Ball” on Google returns ten-million-plus hits. The league was featured on the Colbert Report, has been written about in The Telegraph (UK), Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Albany Times Record, NBCSports.com, Washington Times, Miami New Times, Huffingtonpost.com, buzzfeed.com, USA Today, and everywhere else.

Here’s their final certification of legitimacy: My two most trusted sources of information, Police News and Weekly World News, have written up the UTB.

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The greatest thing about an electric bike is that it operates just like a regular bike,” said Ike Fazzio, owner of San Diego Fly Rides (619-888-3878; sandiegoflyrides.com), located in the Gaslamp.

“If you’re feeling strong, you can pedal it; if you want help going up hills or you’re hitting a head wind or just wanting to relax, a lot of them are set up where you can pull back the throttle and go up to 20 mph. As long as they don’t go over 20 mph top speed and they’re under 1000 watts, they’re considered a bicycle.”

But a good bike doesn’t come cheap. “You can find cheap electric bikes, but I tell people you get what you pay for. Starting price for a good electric bike is around $900. A high-quality bike like the Stromer bike that we carry, which is a good commuting bike, is around $3000.”

Maintenance? “It’s like a regular bike. You have to replace the brake pads and occasionally the brake cables. Things like that.”

Who is riding electric bikes these days? “A good portion of our customers are baby boomers who like to ride on the weekend for fun. Some people like to commute on them, because you’re looking at about six to eight cents to charge it up overnight. We also have people who have lost their driver’s license due to eyesight or a DUI, so they want an electric bike.”

How do they operate? “A lot of the bikes have what’s called the pedal-assist option, which means the motor only kicks in when you are pedaling,” said Fazzio. “They also have a throttle-control option, where you can just throttle without pedaling. The majority of bikes these days have both options, and the more sophisticated bikes have better pedal-assist options.”

San Diego Fly Rides rents electric bikes for $10 an hour. “The day rate is $65, and we rent by the week — $25 or $35 a day, depending on the bike. We offer free test rides. If you rent or take a guided tour and you end up purchasing one of our bikes, we will credit that cost. We do a lot of guided tours. Balboa Park is probably our most popular, then Mt. Soledad.”

I asked Fazzio if he ever runs coupon deals. “No,” he answered. “But how about this: Anyone who mentions this Reader article will receive 15 percent off a tour or rental at San Diego Fly Rides.”
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Nothing says “in control” like a little leather. Make it professional with a leather pencil skirt and a jacket. ($179 at leatherfads.com)

Don’t fiddle with a bunch of little bands — one big statement ring says, “Decisive.”
(At Target: buckle ring, $15.99; jasper ring $36.99)

A dark silhouette pants suit should be your office staple. Look for clean lines, as with this Tahari suit ($500 jacket, $228 pants at elietahari.com)

No wiggle room allowed! Wear a shoe as sharp as your talking points.
(A selection of pointed pumps from Macy’s, averaging $50)

You can always look to the street for style muses. Here are a few interesting finds from Del Mar.
San Diego Reader | March 1, 2012

**NORTH PARK FARMERS’ MARKET**
Every Thursday, rain or shine
9 am-1:30 pm

- **Fresh Start Foods**
  $1 off any 2 items
  at Little Italy and North Park weekly
  - Hot and Chilled Soups
  - Fresh made crackers
  Be sure to sample our signature Gazpacho!
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **Organic and Sustainable Produce**
  “From our Family to Yours”
  Try our fresh picked Sweet Valencia Oranges
  Near the Corner of State & Date

- **Winter Squash**
  $2 per pound
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **Gilbert Quintos Farms**
  Buy 4 Avocados for $5.00
  at Little Italy, Pacific Beach and North Park weekly

**LITTLE ITALY FARMERS’ MARKET**
Date Street from Kettner to Union
Every Saturday, rain or shine
9 am-1:30 pm

- **Save $5 when you buy any 3 items at $5 each**
  at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Weekly
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **3 Vegetarian Samosas**
  $5
  at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Weekly
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **$2 off any 1lb. purchase of our flavored almonds**
  at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Weekly
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

**PACIFIC BEACH TUESDAY FARMERS’ MARKET**
Bayard Street from Garnet to Hornblend
Every Tuesday
Rain or Shine
2 pm to 6:30 pm

- **$1 OFF any 2 Paninis**
  at Little Italy
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **Buy one natural pulled pork sandwich, get one 1/2 off!**
  at Little Italy and North Park Weekly
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

- **Seb’s Paninis**
  at Little Italy
  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
  One coupon per customer per booth.

**NORTH PARK FARMERS’ MARKET**
Every Thursday, rain or shine
3 pm to 7 pm
at University and Herman St.

- **SonRise Ranch**
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  Located at Date and India.

- **Ranchwood Deli & Catering**
  Located at State & Date

- **Baba Foods**
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  Valid through March 8, 2012 only.
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- **Masala Cottage**
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- **$1 OFF any 2 Paninis**
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**BIKES**
San Diego Reader | March 1, 2012

**Take advantage of all these amazing deals at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Tuesday Farmers’ Markets this week!**

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Year round, rain or shine.
Who’s Wayne? That would be Wayne Branstetter, the winningest coach in the history of California prep wrestling, a man whose program is held in awe by the folk-style-wrestling cognoscenti. Poway High School is Wayne’s World.

When discussion turns to sports dynasties, certain sports and teams come to mind. Big-time team sports — baseball, basketball, football, sometimes hockey — predominate. Big-city pros and their de facto cousins at mega-universities make the headlines: the New York Yankees, UCLA basketball. No surprises there. But right here in San Diego County, there’s an athletic dynasty that can more than hold its own, even when measured against the usual suspects.

On a sunny, dry, slightly crisp late-December day, I drive up Espola Road, past a succession of upscale horse properties, to Poway High. It’s here, in a leafy, tony neighborhood next to the Poway Center for the Performing Arts, that high-school wrestling reaches its apex, not only in California, but, some would argue, in the nation.

The Perry L. Munday Wrestling Center, named for its physician benefactor, sits at the back of campus near the football field. A long building hewn from gray concrete blocks, it’s a shrine of sorts, walls festooned with plaques and awards. While waiting to interview Coach Branstetter after practice, I stand in the foyer, counting wrestlers on the Poway Titan Wall of Fame. I tally 107 guys, starting with Rick Fileman, a 1975 grad, and ending

“You play basketball, you play football — it doesn't work when you say you ‘play wrestling.’” So sayeth Wayne.
Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Masters, State, and Reno Tournament of Champions (TOC) titles and placings.

From the gym proper, a hoarse voice: “Stuff it! Heavy hands.” Clusters of wrestlers listen, then break away to square off in pairs. I peer inside; practice is running late. Surveying the kids grappling on the Munday mats, I’m struck by the diversity of the wrestlers. They range from short, baby-faced kids with nary a visible muscle to a couple of super-sized behemoths who wouldn’t look out of place on a college gridiron roster. When I gingerly step inside, I’m greeted with the smell of sweat, which all but drowns out the scent of perfume wafting from the wrestling moms who stand gabbing and beaming. On the mats, the intensity picks up: a whistle sounds, signaling the start of a one-minute conditioning drill: 60 seconds of frenzied mini-match, where the object is to pin your opponent more times than he can pin you. Just as time runs out, one battle catches my eye. It’s a shorter (but presumably no lighter) kid slamming his taller opponent onto the mat with a thud. Face-down, the tall kid pretends to be hurt, then rises to his feet and gives his partner a grudging high-five.

The first question I ask Wayne Branstetter is “What makes a great wrestler?”

His answer is emphatic: “The mental aspect of becoming a wrestler is far more important than the physical part.”

“The reason I say that is that there’s not a lot of ‘in-between.’ You can just ‘be’ on a football, baseball, or basketball team; but in wrestling, either you like it or you don’t. It’s too physical, too hard. Very physically demanding. You’re in there practicing at least two hours, Monday through Friday, although we’ll back off a little if it’s the day before a tournament. We also have them in class.”

“I’m going to put you on the mattress.”

“Incredibly important,” he says. “I don’t want to downplay any other sport; it’s obviously

Poway High wrestlers typically dominate their opponents.

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Head coach Wayne Branstetter reviews
holds with 106 lb. class wrestler Manny Lair.

I think that there are certainly some personality traits that make a kid lean towards wrestling—highly competitive, tough, stubbor— that can hurt you or help you.” During his tenure at Poway, Branstetter has broken up his share of fights. “It gets intense. If you have two high-spirited guys, it’s ego.” Off the mats, he says that his charges are the “closest of friends.”

One of Branstetter’s assistants, former Titan standout Justin Woodruff, says, “I don’t think I ‘high-fived’ every kid who beat me. I’d get fired.
up and want to fight him. I was on the losing end of many fights in high school. The guy would take me down, I’d get fired up and do something cheap and get beat up. But in a sport like wrestling, it’s pretty difficult to hold a grudge, because that guy’s your workout partner. So you gotta figure it out and work through it. Most of these kids are best friends. In practice, you try to instill the competitive fight…but scale it back.

Confessing that I’m a tyro, I ask the coach to outline the basics.

“Greco-Roman and freestyle are the two international styles. Folkstyle has a different scoring system, which is more centered on control. It’s real simple. There are only three positions in wrestling. If you and I were to go at it, we’d start facing each other in the ‘neutral’ position. If all of a sudden I get control of you — where’s ‘control’? It’s behind you — now you’re in a defensive position…and you’re being controlled. It’s all centered around control. Basically, the sport was born out of one man saying, ‘I think I can throw you down on the mat, put you on your back.’ It becomes a legal battle.”

I ask Branstetter: “What are you allowed to do? For example, can you trip your opponent?”

“Everything. There are some illegal holds; you can’t do a ‘full Nelson.’ It’s not MMA [mixed martial arts]. No biting. Safety first. You can’t go against joints the wrong way, where they won’t go.”

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If continued, long-term superiority counts — we’re talking 4 California titles, 4 runner-up marks, and another 13 top-five finishes — then Poway wrestling is a juggernaut, rivaled in California only by Clovis High School near Fresno. Among local prep programs, Poway’s dominance is even more extreme: during Branstetter’s 34-season tenure as the top Titan, his squads have won the San Diego Section Division I title 29 years in a row.

The high-school wrestling season begins in October and culminates in the California State Championships, which take place in March at the Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield. The event draws around 10,000 spectators, most of whom are friends and family of the competitors, along with alums and a few die-hard devotees. But it’s not the general public. As one former Titan star points out: “It’s not intuitive. In football, you score a touchdown and get points. In wrestling, the point system, the periods and so on, don’t mean much unless you know a little bit.”

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, wrestling — in terms of number of schools sponsoring teams — is the eighth most popular high-school team sport in the nation, with nearly 10,000 squads. In terms of participants, it ranks sixth, with around a quarter-million high school wrestlers. (The most recent survey reflects the 2006–2007 season.) In California alone, there are approximately 900 teams with a total of 35,000 to 40,000 wrestlers. Nonetheless, outside the mat — beyond the bounds of the

insular, almost incestuous world of high-school and collegiate wrestling — the sport hardly draws a mention.

To get additional perspective on Poway’s legacy on the mats, I spoke with some of Branstetter’s former charges. “Why,” I asked, “has Poway been so good for so long?”

Paul Baird, a 2003 graduate who won the California State Championship at 145 lbs. as a junior, and 152 lbs. during his senior year, minces no words: “I think it’s because of one man — because of Coach Branstetter. But if you ask him, he’ll tell you, ‘It’s the water.'”
HEMORRHOIDS
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...Pain ???

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HEMORRHOIDS
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To Possibly Participate in This Study:
1) Men or Women, 18-70 years of age
2) Onset of Diarrhea, Bloating, and Abdominal Pain for at least 6 months
3) Colonoscopy in the last 5 years or willing to undergo one at study expense, if required

Participants may receive all study-related:
1) Consultation and Exam By Board-Certified Physician
2) Labs, EKG, Colonoscopy (if necessary) and study medication at no cost
3) Compensation up to $325

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2) Onset of Diarrhea, Bloating, and Abdominal Pain for at least 6 months
3) Colonoscopy in the last 5 years or willing to undergo one at study expense, if required

Participants may receive all study-related:
1) Consultation and Exam By Board-Certified Physician
2) Labs, EKG, Colonoscopy (if necessary) and study medication at no cost
3) Compensation up to $325

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For Baird, wrestling was a family tradition. “My brothers wrestled for Coach Branstetter; I’d been around the program for years. Dave was nine years older than me, and I can remember him bringing the Poway wrestling singlet home and putting it on. I dreamed of one day being able to do that.”

When I served up the “nature vs. nurture” question, Baird said, “With Coach Branstetter, they’re made. Just like in anything else, your God-given ability helps. But when people wonder, ‘Why is Poway wrestling so unique?’ I tell them it’s because Coach Branstetter can take the average kid and he can make him very good. He can take the kid who’s actually talented — who has some athletic ability — and he can make him great. And that’s really where the difference is.” According to prep wrestling. “He has the ability to take the kid who has no idea about the sport of wrestling and make him not only

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• is 18 years of age or older and
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“Nature vs. Nurture”

Baird, Branstetter’s influence extends far beyond the cozy confines of prep wrestling. “He has the ability to take the kid who has no idea about the sport of wrestling and make him not only
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a champion on the mat, but a champion in life. Every single person you talk to will say that Coach Branstetter is more than just a wrestling coach.”

Despite the ongoing success of Titan wrestling, Branstetter says that it’s still a Herculean task getting guys to go out for wrestling. “Are you kidding? I’m begging — I have to be a top salesman. When you’re trying to fill a team with 14 weight classes, you might find a whole bunch of munchkins, but it’s hard to find the bigger guys. They can get satisfied playing football or other sports. It’s always hard.”

One might think that standouts in other sports could be enticed to give wrestling a try; after all, the high-school sports scene is rife with successful multi-sport athletes. But according to Branstetter, wrestling is a different bailiwick altogether. “From our varsity football team that just won the CIF [California Interscholastic Federation] title — I got only one. I’m mean, they’re studs out there. I haven’t been able to crack that one.”

I queried Brody Barrios: “Why aren’t more football players interested?”

Barrios, an all-time Titan great — now the wrestling coach for both Palomar College and San Marcos High School — exemplifies the close-knit (some would say clanish) nature of San Diego
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County prep wrestling. “It’s hard work. When push comes to shove, they’d rather not try it. You’re exposed. You’re very vulnerable out there by yourself with no one else to rely on, nothing to hide behind. In football, you miss your block, maybe you still get a five-yard gain, but in wrestling it’s all you.”

For Barrios, who graduated in 2000, it’s always been about the battle on the mat. “I started wrestling at five or six with the Escondido Crunchers at the Escondido Boys and Girls Club. When they stopped hosting wrestling, my dad started a new club and called it the San Marcos Slammers. When we moved to Poway (I was in seventh grade), he brought them there and renamed them the Poway Slammers. It’s the largest youth wrestling program in San Diego.”

Barrios says, “It’s something you’re born with. You have to have that fighting spirit that not everyone has. It’s one of those sports that’s in the blood; once you’ve wrestled, it’s a lifestyle, a mentality. The majority of our sport is mental — put in the work and push yourself. You might not have all the physical attributes of being quick or strong, but having the mental aptitude to push yourself, train yourself, that’s the most important. Poway has built a culture of success. Coach Branstetter has been hard at work for the past 30-whatever years. He set up a program with the fundamentals of hard work and dedication. He lives that, and he gets them to buy into that.”

Barrios wishes more kids would give wrestling a whirl. “It’s a chess match. It’s super-exciting out there.” But he admits that it’s not for everyone. “Some kids just don’t like getting smacked in the face.” He notes, “Wrestling is one of those fringe sports. Kids don’t typically watch it on TV, there’s no Pop Warner or Little League wrestling. The majority of the good athletes are in other sports. We get the misfits and rejects from other sports. We’d go out — all the wrestlers — in our PE class at Poway High School and play softball. Half the kids there are CIF champions or state placers, but they could hardly throw or catch a
“Being a wrestler is unlike being any other kind of athlete; it’s a combative sport. There’s so much more that goes into it. You’re taking abuse on a daily basis. To ask a high-school kid to manage his weight and eat a proper diet, that’s a thing that not a lot of kids are capable of doing. It takes a lot of discipline. You want to get at your fighting weight, just like a boxer. You want to be at 7 percent body fat [the lowest percentage permitted], you want to have a six-pack, be in tip-top shape — and they’ve never had to do that before. You have to eat right, train your body right. In football, you just put the weights on the bench [press], eat whatever you want, go to practice, run wind sprints. But in wrestling, everything you do is gonna affect your performance. Are you sleeping enough?”

“Fringe sport” or not, wrestling is front and center on the Titan campus. “At Poway High,” says Barrios, “with the culture of wrestling in the community, people understand what wrestling is about. Every Poway boy has wrestled at some point. Coach Branstetter has a wrestling unit in freshman PE — it’s one of the first things they do — so they’ve all been exposed. They’ve experienced it, so there’s a different level of respect. He teaches them the game of wrestling.” Barrios subscribes to a theory bordering on the inchoate. “There are good, supportive families there with an ingrained work ethic. There’s ‘community.’”

Quoting Poway Chamber of Commerce lingo, he says, “It’s a ‘city in the country’…its own little world out there. People have a lot of pride. Hard work is around — it’s the norm. It takes a lot to own a home and live in Poway. Success spills over into wrestling. But it’s not just wrestling. A lot of Poway High sports programs are always at the top.” He also admits that the burg’s affluence “definitely helps.”

Notwithstanding the near-freakish records racked up by Titan wrestlers over the decades, Coach Branstetter’s acolytes are quick to direct attention to his off-the-
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mat influence. Paul Baird says, “You quickly come to realize that, in the Poway wrestling program, there’s so much more taught than just wrestling...and I think it’s a unique situation, because you’ll find kids who’ve [spent] four years in the program who never wrestled on the varsity ‘A’ team. But they stick around. Why? Because of everything that’s taught on a daily basis in a wrestling room, specifically by Coach. He has a unique ability to relate to kids that are from a completely different generation: ‘You and [me] — let’s link arms and be great together in the sport of wrestling.’ And when you’re done wrestling, the things you’ve learned on a wrestling mat, those are things that are gonna stick with you the rest of your life.”

Former Titan grapplers like Brody Barrios haven’t experienced it, haven’t done it in a daily grind, you don’t know.

“Coach Branstetter has a unique ability to relate to kids that are from a completely different generation.”

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rip your arm out of its socket, twisting you... the mechanics of avoiding that — and then having the stamina to keep on fighting, surviving, getting him off you. Most people that I’ve talked to have had at some time in life a wrestling experience, and they’ve never forgotten it. I’ll never forget the time Coach had us wrestle, and I thought I could handle this kid, and I crawled out of that room puking. Once you’ve wrestled, everything else in life is easy.”

So wrestlers are tough guys — but are good wrestlers usually successful in other sports? “Some,” says Branstetter. However, he also says that the kid with a four-inch vertical leap, no foot speed, and an abject inability to hit a curveball or a golf ball can still be a good, even great, high-school wrestler. “They come in all shapes, forms, and sizes. That’s the beauty of the sport. You have 14 weight classes — 106 all the way to 285.”

Notwithstanding the genuine, heartfelt accolades from alums and boosters, a few rival coaches claim that Poway’s “Titanic” success isn’t solely the product of superior coaching. Steve Koch, head coach at Ramona, complains that, in contrast to the spacious digs of the Munday Center, his wrestling room consists of an “old gym where we have to move the mats out every day.” Noting Poway’s ability to attract transfers, he quips, “We do the best we can with what’s out there — and there isn’t much. Last year, we had our best season ever — and we still finished second behind Poway.” Nonetheless, Koch allows, “Wayne Branstetter is a good man.”

**Once you’ve wrestled, everything else in life is easy.”**
Perry Watson, who holds the reins at Westview, goes a bit further. “Half of their starting lineup isn’t from Poway — they draw the best athletes. If I had five or six transfers a year like they do…” The affable Watson seems awed by the Titan machine. “Their entire B team would be starters on my A team, and even 60 to 70 percent of their C [team] could start.”

But the most outspoken by far is Victor Richmond, head wrestling coach at Mount Miguel in Spring Valley. Richmond, who calls Poway High School a “bully,” charges that Poway power has been perpetuated partially by bending — or even breaking — the CIF rules that govern recruiting and transfers. He says that out of the 14 “A” varsity wrestlers on the 2011–2012 squad, six “should have” been pounding the mats at other schools. “If you transfer athletically — motivated athletically — and every one of those kids went into Poway off an athletic transfer — it’s not allowed. We’re not talkin’ about ‘any type’ of transfers. One took a second at the California State meet. One took a fourth and another took a fifth at the Master’s. We’re talkin’ about the best kids around.”

Among Richmond’s more incendiary allegations is that Poway wrestling boosters have furnished bogus local addresses for star wrestlers. “Let’s take [current Titan standout] Victor Lopez, for instance. Lives out in Calexico. Key words — still lives in Calexico. Let’s be real. You know the Poway district, you know the area. A lot of the people in Poway do a little rent-
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tions.”) However, after a lengthy investigation, the CIF concluded that there was no basis to impose sanctions against Poway. But Richmond levels charges of favoritism: “Ackerman’s son played baseball at Poway...he [Ackerman] turned a blind eye to a lot of what went on. Some of us are scrutinized by the CIF under those same rules they’re lettin’ these guys get away with. It’s just frustrating.”

Richmond also claims that the Titans have violated CIF rules by attempting to lure younger wrestlers to the Munday mats. “I got two emails from a guy who says that Poway’s havin’ a luncheon for 20 junior wrestlers — recruiting — which is illegal. They’re currently in junior high.

You know, when you got a tournament, you see a kid wrestle real good, you get one of those Poway boosters to talk to the kid: ‘We could make you a state champ over at Poway.’ In Minneapolis [summer wrestling camp], I was standing there when one of the assistant coaches at Poway was recruiting Sammy Cervantes for the heavyweight class the incoming year. He was a senior, transferring out of Imperial High School.”

When I told Richmond that Branstetter and his alums say that most of their wrestlers are “home-grown,” Richmond shot back, “They all lie.”

Richmond disputes the notion that Branstetter’s work ethic is key. “Hard work. Yeah, whatever. Really? They’ve been doin’ the same thing we do. There’s nothin’ special about what they’re teaching them. It’s just wrestling. I can tell you he don’t work no harder than I do. Since 1987, since I’ve been coaching, nobody can say I recruited a kid out of his room. ‘We don’t have the best athletes — we make ordinary kids great?’ It’s such a lie. They just got Connor King from Colorado. He’s ranked #2 in the state. I get raw athletes — most of them in ninth grade — and teach them to wrestle. I don’t critique a kid that somebody else taught how to wrestle.”

Sour grapes? “That’s bullshit. Sorry.”

Richmond and his compatriots complain of
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**San Diego Reader March 1, 2012 41**
“stacking” and say that Poway’s roster is so deep that it deprives San Diego County of greater representation at the California championships. “Those kids are being stockpiled in that room, because you can only get one kid per weight class. They have possibly two state medalists in that room at [a certain] weight; one should’ve been somewhere else.”

Branstetter steadfastly disputes Richmond’s accusations of cheating. “Six transfers? That’s a blatant lie. There are three. One moved in from Colorado. One kid, Cervantes — his brother wrestled for us a couple of years ago — the family moved from Eastlake and came to Poway. Another kid, Jara, came from Imperial; his dad was a wrestling coach who didn’t want to coach anymore and wanted his boy to be at a better school.” Lopez’s parents still live in Calexico?

I asked him about the much-ballyhooed import, Connor King. “The first day of class, the athletic director calls me and says we have this kid from Colorado in. The family had come to California so his sister could audition in Hollywood. The mother was a principal and wanted to come to a good school district. They have a CIF rule that says you can’t move for ‘athletic reasons.’ But families can move as long as coaches don’t have pre-enrollment contact with them. Which we don’t. Someone comes into the district for education. Does he consider wrestling? Probably he does. What can I do about that? Connor King showed up at my doorstep. What was I supposed to do, tell him
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to go away? We’re not out there recruiting. We’re coaching our team the best we can, and I can’t help it if a family shows up and wants to come to Poway.

“Victor Richmond has been to six different high schools, and he just likes to stir this up. Jesse Taylor? That’s amazing. If you want to come over and meet Mr. and Mrs. Taylor at their house, I’d gladly take you over there. How come our ‘B’ team won the El Cajon tournament? How come they won the Orange Glen tournament today? If they think we’re winning because of transfers, they’re hallucinating. Anyone who’s wrestled in my program knows that it’s not true. These are ‘sour grapes’ coaches. They hate us and they’re bitter.”

According to Branstetter, the “recruiting” with a heavy-equipment company in Rancho Bernardo. He had the

“We’re not out there recruiting. We’re coaching our team the best we can, and I can’t help it if a family shows up and wants to come to Poway.”

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one of these kids had to go through the scrutiny of the CIF.

“I called those 15 coaches and asked if they’d signed that letter. There were 4 or 5, 6 of them at most; those others got an email, and their email [address] was put at the bottom of that letter. The whole thing went on for a couple of months in 2009, and it was very upsetting for me. The 2009 California title team? They were all Poway kids.”

I asked Branstetter, “Are you guys bullies?”

“Absolutely not. We’re the star on the hill. This is the kind of character [Richmond] you’re dealing with. He should spend more time building his own program. He’s been at six different high schools. He’s not a credible guy at all. This guy has never built a program in his life. Talk to my wrestlers, talk to my principal, talk to my parents. It really upsets me because I’m a strong, moral Christian — I’m a ‘character’ guy. When someone comes down on you like that…it’s wrong, absolutely wrong. We’ve built something that’s wonderful, and it took me 40 years to build.”

Branstetter stresses Titan wrestling’s humble beginnings. “It never used to be this way. For 30 years, we didn’t have a Doc Munday Center. I worked out in the cafeteria. And then, what’s happened in the last five, six years — along comes a Doc Munday.”

Branstetter points to a framed photo of a small man in old-fashioned clothes. “He befriended me in 1978 when I was 27 years old. He liked our program, so at his death at 92, he willed a million dollars to our foundation. Where were the other coaches? A couple of them were probably still in diapers when we won our first state title in ’86 and our first CIF championship in ’82. In 1991, we were 157-0…We set a record of success; but we’re not out there recruiting anybody. Richmond is so out there — he’s talking out of his ass. This is a guy who doesn’t know me. He’s never seen me coach. I’ve coached thousands of kids with just a handful of transfers. There’s a handful of coaches out there who absolutely, vehemently hate us and would like to see us come down. It’s simply because our sin is you don’t want to let him down. Very rarely will you find the Poway wrestlers out partying, being caught up in the social scene of high school. Because they know if Coach were to find out, it would just mean disappointment more than anything else. It’s not so much that they’re going to get in trouble, but because Coach is gonna be disappointed.”

Baird, like everyone else connected with Titan wrestling, maintains that Poway has, at best, the same raw material as other county prep wrestling programs. “The majority of those who wrestle at the highest levels at Poway High School are just wrestlers — and that’s a very unique thing to Coach Branstetter — because he has developed his program not based on the best athletes, but built it on the average 14- to 18-year-old.”

Baird, like all the other Titans with whom I spoke, praises Branstetter’s emphasis on the work ethic. “Take today, as an example. The kids wrestled from 9:30 to 12:00 this morning, went home and rested, then came back at 3:00 and had another practice until 4:00, 4:30. It’s very much a college-type program. Their practices are just as tough. When your friends are at the beach on a Saturday summer afternoon, and you, at three o’clock, say, ‘Hey guys, I gotta go to practice,’ they recognize that you’re different than they are. If you want to see a testament to Poway wrestling, go into the wrestling room during Christmas vacation, and you’ll have anywhere from 5 to 15 kids that are coming back just to see Coach Branstetter. That’s very unique. It shows the influence he’s had.”

One recent factor in the Titan phenomenon has been the promulgation of junior wrestling, programs offered by Twin Peaks Middle School and by the Poway Wrestling Foundation, which sponsors the Slammers and the Elites. However, Branstetter notes that, until the last few years, only 5 to 10 percent of his wrestlers had even tried the sport before their freshman year.
year. Does an early start give a wrestler an advantage? “It’s a gamble. Start a kid too young and he may burn out before he gets to high school.”

Justin Woodruff is the sort of Titan grad that Branstetter revels in spotlighting.

“I was not a wrestler coming into high school,” Woodruff says. “I’d never wrestled before my freshman year. I took six weeks of wrestling in freshman PE and thought I’d try out for the team in November and see how things went. I was lousy, but I liked Coach Branstetter and what he had to say and the way he inspired kids to try the sport and see how they do. In my case, the wrestler was made by the program.”

Woodruff adds, “It’s Wayne Branstetter. He is the reason the program became what it is. He has a passion for the sport that’s reflected in the amount of time he puts into it. But time’s not enough. He spends an enormous amount of time with each kid, but he also has the background in the sport and the technical ability to teach them what they need to know to be successful. If you’re blessed with natural ability, genetics, it’ll help you out in the long run. But fundamentally sound technique — coupled with mental toughness, the desire to win — are the two top things. You can be very successful and not be a ‘specimen.’ Football, rugby, where kids are tough-nosed, used to that type of physical competition, [they] might lend themselves to wrestling.
but that doesn’t mean if you’re good at football, you’ll be good at wrestling. I’ve seen it translate in some cases with the bigger guys.”

Woodruff, who spent nine years as a helicopter pilot in the Marines, sounds a note of empathy for prep wrestlers. “I don’t try to make practices as tough as possible. It’s just the nature of the sport. You just can’t wing it. It’s a grind. You can’t hide in a wrestling practice.”

But he says it’s worth the effort. “I had friends who never made the varsity ‘A’ lineup, but they stuck it out all four years and got their letter. They look back at their wrestling careers as fondly as they look back at their football, and got their letter credits the combatants of the UFC [Ultimate Fighting Championship] with validating prep wrestling. Despite the prevailing attitude among coaches and athletes alike — that the freakshow antics of professional wrestling (and related spectacles) are an embarrassment to serious sportsmen — he argues that the recent popularity of such “trailer-trash sports” has pumped up the cachet of high-school grappling. “All those guys are ex-wrestlers, and they’re the toughest guys in the world,” he says.

Justin Woodruff comments: “Because of the legacy that Wayne’s built here on campus, most kids know that if you wrestle at Poway, that’s a good thing. It’s probably a challenge on other campuses where it’s not as well known, but here, you’re looked highly upon by your peers.”

Whatever cachet wrestling may have within the penumbra of the Munday building, even Wayne Branstetter admits that prep wrestling doesn’t exactly light up the marquee. “Obviously, it’s not as popular as other sports. It’s not ‘the thing to do.’ Everybody plays soccer, everybody plays baseball, everybody knows what football is — you’re on the team.” But wrestling is a harder sell. “For some kids, when they wrestle somebody, it’s, like, ‘This is cool.’ When you’re grappling, trying to control someone… But for some people, when you start to do that, it’s, like, ‘Eww — hey, get off me.’ Somethin’, I don’t know what you call it, chemistry.”

Do you cut many? “No, we don’t cut. They cut themselves.”

Brody Barrios confirms the self-winning process at Poway. “When I was a freshman, about 70 came out for the 14 weight classes. That trickles down. By the end of the year, almost 30 quit. Forty made it through the freshman year. By the time I graduated in 2000, we had only 7 seniors remaining. There’s always tons of freshmen.”

According to Justin Woodruff, Poway’s success on the mats is all about dedication. “Coach always says, ‘The season started back in 1974 when I started coaching, and it’ll finish when I retire.’ In most programs, the season starts in November and finishes in February or early March. At Poway, there is no off-season. We keep going year-round. I think that’s how we outdistance ourselves from the competition. That guy works incredibly hard, and he’s just a good man. You put the two together, and it makes for what you see at Poway.”

Finally, I ask Branstetter: How has Poway’s wrestling program maintained its dominance over decades? He just smiles. “It’s a mystery.” — Moss Gropen
Under the radar
continued from page 2

Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton. Anne coordinated a prestigious salon series in New York City and Washington, DC for some of our nation’s greatest leaders. She is an East Coast native and began her career as a political intern for Congressman Vito Fossella, 13th Congressional district of New York.”

Cox’s concrete contributions
San Diego county supervisor Greg Cox, who so far has not attracted any opponents in his First District reelection bid this year, is piling up campaign money at a prodigious pace, reportedly in order to disuade potential challengers. After a fight over district boundaries waged by local Hispanics, political observers were counting on at least one major Cox challenger to emerge, though no one had yet to file as of early this week.

According to his latest campaign report, filed the first of February, the Cox campaign had $343,939 in the bank, with debts of only $1000. Donors included the usual roster of special interests having occasional or frequent business at the county, including the maximum $500 each from Cox Communications vice president Sam Attisha; Jacob Brouwer, owner of Superior Ready Mix; Katayoun Y. de la Fuente, wife of border-property baron and car dealer Roque de la Fuente; Damon Hininger, of Brentwood, Tennessee, president and chief executive of private jail operator Corrections Corporation of America; Hininger’s wife Carrie; Anthony L. Grande, another Corrections Corporation vice president; Steven Groom, another Corrections executive; John Beasley, yet another Corrections executive; developer Sushil Israni of Pacifica Companies; Reena Israni, real estate investor Roberto Jinich, Peter MacLaggan of Poseidon Resources; junkyard owner Charles Siroonian, president of Ecology Auto Parts; and Siroonian’s wife Deborah.

Perry Dealy, a former employee of U-T San Diego owner and real estate developer Douglas Manchester, and now a consultant for the hotel mogul, kicked in $250. On the expense side of the ledger, the Cox campaign paid locally ubiquitous GOP political consultant Tom Shepard & Associates $6000 for its services during the last six months of 2011.

— Matt Potter

The Reader offers $25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-0489, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.

This again?
continued from page 2

San Diego was financially healthy. The Securities and Exchange Commission later revealed that high-ranking City officials knew of the financial difficulties in 1997, said Mark Hitchcock, who wrote a report on the fiasco while a student at the University of California Berkeley School of Law. Similarly, a study commissioned by the council concluded that City officials hid negative information to avoid interfering with the 2002 ballpark bond offering, which was sold at a staggeringly high 7.66 percent interest rate.

Scandal after scandal hit. Moores showered lavish gifts on then-councilmember Valerie Stallings, including an insider stock tip on a Moores-controlled company that brought her a nifty 267 percent profit in less than a month. San Diego law enforcement became the laughingstock of the nation’s legal community when Stallings got a wrist slap and Moores got off completely, as the then U.S. attorney said there was nothing wrong with giving money to politicians (even when that politician is providing favors in return). The records were sealed. The ballpark was delayed. The Securities and Exchange
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The Padres did not deliver on promises they had made — such as for an office park and retail establishments near the ballpark. Moores did not arrange to build the number of hotels he had said he would. Under the original memorandum of understanding, such significant changes in plans should have sent the ballpark question back to the voters. But the Padres prevailed in court, as they did in almost every lawsuit heard by friendly and sometimes corrupt judges.

The Moores high card was to say that if he didn’t get his way, the team would be moved. That’s a standard ploy in maneuverings to get taxpayers to subsidize billionaire pro sports team owners.

As part of the ballpark project, Moores got land at very low prices and sold it to developers. They built condos and hotels that have still not attracted people. Moores is selling the Padres in stages; the team is playing poorly and has one of the lowest payrolls in baseball. Attendance is worse than it was in the last several years at the stadium now named Qualcomm, where Moores said it could not survive financially. The ballpark is an annual $14 million to $22 million drain on the City. Moores raked in $700 million to $1 billion on the real estate deals, according to reliable estimates, and rode off to Houston, chuckling.

“In the history of baseball, nobody has given away as much,” says Henderson. Now the potenates want a rerun.

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**Tougher law continued from page 3**

similarities but points to Muehler v. Mena, a unanimous Supreme Court decision made in 2005 which found that, in the absence of a prolonged detention, officers do not need reasonable suspicion to question immigration status.

“You can say we’re copying 1070, but you’ve got to clarify that we’re copying the part that’s been upheld,” he said. “The judge in Arizona saw the language as a mandate, and that’s why she didn’t uphold it.” Before the Arizona law could take effect, Judge Susan Bolton issued a preliminary injunction to block key sections of it. The court of appeals upheld the injunction, and the case has made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which will hear arguments on April 25 as to “whether the federal immigration laws preclude Arizona’s efforts at cooperative law enforcement.”

Hilton says that his proposal is different than SB 1070 because questioning is at the officer’s discretion.

A lack of funding to pay signature gatherers may be the initiative’s downfall, as was the case with his initiative in 2010.

“We’re talking to the major donors now,” Hilton told Chen last May about fund-raising efforts that would help get the campaign off the ground.

“I would say we’re further along than we’ve ever been, but we still have to firm that up,” he said in November.

The secretary of state’s website shows that Taxpayer Revolution raised $102,028.54 in monetary contributions in 2011. The campaign made payments.
CITY LIGHTS

of $97,551.94, according to its campaign-disclosure statement. It paid $8700 to Ted Hilton, describing the expenditure as "agent bill payment"; $17,404.89 to the Monaco Group for campaign literature; and $10,865.43 for "credit card bill payment." About half of the total payments, $53,720, were made to Hisako Yoshida for "professional services."

"She prepares the mailings to raise the money," Hilton said of Yoshida. "Mostly to individuals who have donated to other campaigns related to this issue."

Yoshida is named on campaign-disclosure statements as the committee's treasurer. County assessor records reveal that Ted Hilton and Hisako Yoshida-Hilton own a condo in the beach area.

Hilton said that "agent bill payment" means reimbursement for various office costs.

To put the measure on the November 6 ballot, the campaign needs 504,720 valid signatures. Hilton said he hopes to get at least 675,000 people to sign petitions anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of signatures can turn out to be invalid. California allows only 150 days to collect the signatures, beginning November 22. Petitions must be submitted by April 20.

In an interview last week, Hilton said that supporters of the bill began gathering signatures on February 1. "The American Legion has distributed these to all of their commanders," Hilton said, "and they should be going out to over 490 American Legion posts. NumbersUSA is sending it out — they have 108,000 on their email list. NumbersUSA is involved with population and immigration issues."

In addition to volunteers in Orange County and San Bernardino, volunteers are gathering signatures locally, Hilton said, "mostly Tea Party or the immigration-control advocates who are doing that there at the swap meets."

Asked how many signatures had been collected, he said, "It's in the thousands, but I don't know where [the signature count] is exactly. A lot of people, you give them the date [to turn in signatures], and they just keep going, and then they turn these huge packages in."

Asked his deadline for collecting signatures, he replied, "For the November ballot, it's May 10, and for the June...er, November 14 ballot, it's June 28 that we have until, so we're trying to get done by early May."

The group boasts the support of the California Republican Party, Assemblyman Brian Jones of Sanee, Congressman Duncan D. Hunter, the American Legion, and other prominent conservative individuals and groups throughout the state.

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Closer to Banning Plastic Bags

Solana Beach — Soon, shoppers here won't have the choice between paper and plastic — that is, if the Solana Beach City Council approves the Plastic Bag Reduction Use Ordinance. On February 21, the city released the environmental documents necessary to proceed with a ban on plastic bags at all retail establishments citywide.

NEWS TICKER
continued from page 3

Grotto.

Between May 2006 and November 2011, according to a public record request, the city laid off 233 employees, and 73 employees retired and were not replaced. However, recent signs of economic revitalization are noticeable on the west side. The Village Cremation Service and AutoZone have opened and a Fresh & Easy is under construction.

A statement from city manager Jim Sandoval adds to the brighter picture: “We are seeing signs of the economy improving in Chula Vista. “Our building permits are up, houses are selling, we’re seeing a slight increase in sales tax revenues, we have new businesses, and we have some important projects on the horizon that will transform our city.”

By Susan Lazzaro

Wednesday, February 22

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Residents of California reportedly use 14 billion bags every year, and only 11.8 percent of those bags are recycled, says a recent study from the Environmental Protection Agency. Those that aren’t recycled can take up to 1000 years to degrade.

If approved, Solana Beach would become the first city in San Diego County to ban plastic. Other California cities to implement similar bans include Malibu, Calabasas, Long Beach, Palo Alto, Santa Monica, San Francisco — city and county — and Los Angeles County.

By Dorian Hargrove
Wednesday, February 22

Scary Increase
High Price of OxyContin
Causing More Heroin Use
San Diego County — The number of people shooting up heroin is skyrocketing in San Diego County, according to data from the county’s Health and Human Services Agency. The reason for the higher numbers: the rising cost of OxyContin, which is said to have climbed to as much as $80 for an 80mg tablet.

As a result, workers at county-funded treatment facilities say they have seen a 57 percent increase in heroin addicts checking in to county programs.

“While we’ve seen decreases in other drugs, there’s been a scary increase in heroin abuse,” Susan Bower, director of alcohol and drug services for the Health and Human Services Agency, said in a prepared statement.

“These are kids with no other health problems,” says deputy chief medical examiner Dr. Jonathan Lucas. “For every kid who dies, how many others are using?”

By Dorian Hargrove
Tuesday, February 21

Biker Vote
Fletcher Pledges Transit, Cyclist Access Priorities
San Diego — San Diego mayoral candidate Nathan Fletcher met with cycling advocates on Saturday, February 18, to discuss ways the city could become more hospitable to bicycle commuters. Fletcher told BikeSD.org that he envisions changing San Diego’s motto from “America’s Finest City” to the “World’s Most Innovative City” and that moving away from a car-centric culture to one that embraces multiple modes of transportation, including cycling, plays a part in that evolution.

BikeSD.org writer Sam Ollinger notes that Fletcher’s Republican Party has not been particularly sensitive to the needs of the cycling community, citing a transit bill currently stalled in the House of Representatives that would gut dedicated funding for transit, bicycling, and pedestrian modes of transportation.

Fletcher’s response was to remind cyclists that the mayoral race is officially nonpartisan and stated that “in a partisan climate he had to pick one of the two [parties].” He noted that as a member of the California Assembly he’d shown a willingness to break party lines.

By Dave Rice
Tuesday, February 21

Watchdog on It
UCAN Joins Fight Against SDG&E
San Diego — Utility Consumers’ Action Network, a local utility watchdog, has filed a complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission against San Diego Gas & Electric’s attempt to pass uninsured costs of the 2007 wildfires and future fires to ratepayers, instead of to shareholders.

Attorney Mike Aguirre and Ramona’s Mussey Grade Alliance have been battling SDG&E’s planned customer-fleecing, which Aguirre has shown was almost certainly the result of a secret meeting between commissioners and the company.

“Aguirre has made strong points on the possibility of collusion,” says David Peffer, the consumers’ network attorney. “We’re trying to stop this from happening.”

Already, “San Diego ratepayers pay the highest rates in the country,” says Peffer.

SDG&E claims that “…[picking up the costs] would damage their financial health.” SDG&E was found negligent in the 2007 fires.

Yet, shareholders get to escape, although the stock of Sempra, SDG&E’s parent, soared 208 percent from 2000 to 2010, while the average utility stock edged up 8 percent over the period.

By Don Bauder
Monday, February 20

Become a Stringer. Earn up to $100 for your neighborhood news story, $25 for photo. See guidelines at SDRreader.com/news/neighborhood-news/
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**Thursday | 1**

**EXPLORE THE GODDESS**

Join the Xcerpts discussion group to delve deeper into selections from this 1934 silent film, "one of the best known films of China’s cinematic golden age, which also inspired one of the stories in Isaac Julien’s exhibition, Ten Thousand Waves.”

**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 1100 Kettner Boulevard, Downtown. 858-454-3541; mcasd.org/programs

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**Friday | 2**

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIBERTY**

Enjoy open artist studios, galleries, and performances. March highlights include a Make Your Mark community painting project, the Terpsichore: Icons of Dance exhibit, and dance performances by Jean Isaacs’s San Diego Dance Theater.

**WHEN:** 5 to 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** NTC Promenade, 2640 Historic Decatur Road, Liberty Station. 619-573-9260; ntcpromenade.org

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**Saturday | 3**

**FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

Sixty Southern California high schools will showcase more than 1500 students and 58 life-sized robots during FIRST’s (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) sixth-annual regional competition. This year, the Rebound Rumble robotics game challenges teams to play basketball while traversing a field of obstacles.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (also Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

**WHERE:** Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Midway District. 619-224-4171; sandiegoregional.com

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**Sunday | 4**

**FAMILY ART DAY: SHIP BUILDING**

Inspired by John Taylor’s exhibit of mixed-media nautical sculptures, kids will use a variety of materials to create, decorate, name, and float their boats during this Free Family Art Day workshop. Also, "kid-centric docent tours” will be provided.

**WHEN:** 1 to 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way, Oceanside. 760-435-3720; oma-online.org

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**Monday | 5**

**1987 FREE BURGERS!**

In celebration of 25 years, the diner will be doling out 1987 free burgers and entertaining guests with a live DJ, magician, balloon artist, and “authentic” Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe impersonators. The offer continues till the burgers are gone.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Corvette Diner, 2965 Historic Decatur Road, Liberty Station. 619-542-1476; facebook.com/corvettediner

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**Wednesday | 7**

**KINDER KONCERT**

San Diego Symphony members and conductor Ken-David Masur will lead kids on a musical journey around the globe with a sampling of music by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Victor Herbert, Bela Bartók, and others. This concert is geared toward kids in preschool through second grade. And it’s free!

**WHEN:** 10 to 10:45 a.m.

**WHERE:** Birch North Park Theatre, 2891 University Avenue, North Park. 619-615-3911; sandiegosymphony.org
Gather No Moss
TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Check out your standard street traffic in Laos.

Biking in Laos
By Robert Isenberg

When I arrived in Laos, I was delighted to find that bicycles are cheap, easy to rent, and you can ride them anywhere. Finding a bike was as simple as saying "Bike?" The man nodded, went into the corridor, and pulled out a rusty model with a basket and chain lock. He took the equivalent of one dollar and smiled, as if wishing me luck.

Traffic in Vientiane is madcap and exhilarating, but compared with larger Asian cities, it’s also easy to navigate. Just keep pedaling, keep to the right, and don’t make any sudden moves. Laotians recognized me as a farang and they fluidly coasted their scooters and motorcycles around me.

Expats kept telling me how much the city has changed. “Ten years ago,” one said, “you couldn’t even find a car in Vientiane. Today, cars are all over the place.”

While I’m miffed about the exploding car culture, I still love the mishmash of Laotian transport, from the rickety tuk-tuks to the overpacked mopeds and odd-looking trucks. Flatbeds were often filled with monks or soldiers. Riders wore bandannas and surgical masks to keep dust out of their faces. Meanwhile, I huffed along on my tiny bike, happy to join the diesel-spewing deluge.

Cape Town, South Africa
By Quinne Huffman

We were happy to arrive in Cape Town, the mother city of South Africa, after a long flight — 24 hours across two continents on South African Airways.

We spend a couple of nights in the mother city of South Africa, after a long flight — 24 hours across two continents on South African Airways.

We drive around Cape Point, run up Table Mountain in a cable car, and visit the mother city of South Africa, after a long flight — 24 hours across two continents on South African Airways.
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ROAM-O-RAMA
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

CALCITE MINE AND SLOT CANYON
Hike an amazing slot canyon, visit an abandoned calcite mine, and enjoy panoramic desert views.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 104 miles. Allow almost 3 hours' driving time (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). From Ramona, drive east on Hwy 78, turn left on Hwy 79, right on San Felipe Road (S22), and left on Montezuma Road (S22). Turn right on Palm Canyon Drive following the Borrego-Salton Seaway (S22). 19 miles past Christmas Circle in Borrego Springs to mile marker 34. Park on the north side of the highway.

Hiking length: 4 miles round trip. Difficulty: Easy to moderate, with about 800 feet of elevation gain/loss. There are no facilities or water on this trip.

Driving to the site will miss the slot canyon. The four-wheel-drive-only road is treacherous and not recommended. Panoramic views of the Salton Sea to the east and the Borrego Badlands to the south are visible during this hike.

Begin from the parking area on the north side of S22 at mile marker 34 where a truck trail descends sharply into the South Fork of Palm Wash. Cross the wash and proceed northwest up the hill. Approximately .75 mile from S22 will be a signed junction. The road to the left continues up the hill to the mine while the one on the right goes down to the Palm Wash truck trail and provides another way to get to the mine site while hiking through an amazing slot canyon that reveals the sedimentary history of these mountains. When you reach the sandy wash, go left up the wash. After about a quarter of a mile, the truck trail ends at a point where the main wash is choked with some huge boulders. The slot canyon leads off to the left at this point. The hike through this canyon leads back to the Calcite Mine truck trail at a point about 1.5 miles from the start of the hike. The slot canyon continues north on the other side of the road, should you have time and want to explore some more. For those with limited time, once you reach the road turn right and take the road uphill for another half-mile to the mine site.

Calcite was an essential component of the Norden bombsight. It was mined by digging trenches along calcite-containing seams. The trenches can be recognized by their unnatural regularity. Look around and note small calcite crystals everywhere glinting in the sunlight. However, remember that it is illegal to remove any plant, animal or mineral you might find in the park. Look, experiment with the crystals, but leave them here when you are ready to leave. If you find a transparent crystal, look at some printed matter through it to observe the birefringence or double refraction of the crystal. The Norden bombsight was one of America’s most closely guarded secrets during World War II. It was the state of the art in the 1940s, used to calculate the trajectory of a bomb dropped from high altitudes. It enabled American airplanes to hit ground targets in daylight raids from an altitude of six miles.

Calcite is a common mineral, a form of calcium carbonate, similar in basic chemical composition to chalk and gypsum and the basic material for cement. There are at least 800 different forms of crystalline calcite. These differ in color and in light transmission from completely opaque to translucent. The calcite crystals needed for bombsights had to be colorless and transparent, which is the type of calcite found and mined in this area.

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes: http://www.sdnhm.org/education/naturalists-of-all-ages/canyoneer-hikes/

Calcite extracted from these trenches during WWII was used in the manufacturing of Norden bombsights.

Leave your car at the parking area at the top of the canyon to not miss the slot canyon that leads to an abandoned site where calcite crystals were mined during WWII. Vehicles driving to the site will miss the slot canyon. The four-wheel-drive-only road is treacherous and not recommended. Panoramic views of the Salton Sea to the east and the Borrego Badlands to the south are visible during this hike.

BOOK 2 NIGHTS OR MORE, GET $50 OFF. BOOK 3 NIGHTS OR MORE, GET $100 OFF!*  
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outdoors

Birds, Bugs, Beasts! Trail guide introduces walkers to habitats, habitats, and role of large and small

Cape Town continued from page 56.

from baboons, and enjoy fantastic views of two oceans meeting violently at the tip of Africa. In Hout Bay, we eat delicious fish ‘n’ chips wrapped in newspaper. We finally head out to the oasis that awaits us in the quaint little French colonial town of Franschhoek, Gooding’s Groves Olive Farm and Guest House. Arriving pretty beat up from the late nights on Long Street, we welcome the calm of this little farm, complete with olive groves and chickens cock-a-doodling. They greet us with a glass of red wine and homegrown olives. The room and its views take our breath away, but my only thought is, I want to stay here forever.

We enjoy fantastic farm-style omelets at breakfast and wash them down with freshly brewed coffee. After breakfast, a spectacular hike through the vineyards and up the mountain gets our heart rate going.

In town, dining out is its own experience: each restaurant in this culinary haven of a village offers an award-winning chef and its own style and ambiance. We had a blast visiting galleries, wine-tasting, taking in awe-inspiring mountain views, and enjoying the warm hospitality of everyone we encountered.
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Rhyme & Verse
Faust's House
A poem by Nazim Hikmet

Below the towers, under the arcades,
I wander through Prague late at night.
The sky is an alembic distilling gold in the dark —
an alchemist's still over a deep-blue flame.
I walk down the hill toward Charles Square:
on the corner, next to the clinic there,
is Doctor Faust's house set back in a garden.

I knock on the door.
The doctor isn't home.
As we all know,
on a night like this
about two hundred years ago,
the Devil took him through a hole in the ceiling.

I knock on the door.
In this house I, too, will hand Satan a deed —
I, too, signed the deed with my blood.
I don't want gold from him
or knowledge or youth.
I've had it with exile,
give up!
If I could have just one hour in Istanbul.

---

Grief Coach Academy

Work-at-Home Business Expo
Learn of "wide selection of business opportunities: 619-686-8715 or hornblower.com/whales. Sundays, 9:30am; through Sunday, April 15, free-$40. Hornblower Cruises, 1066 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

Work-at-Home Business Expo
Learn of "wide selection of business models and programs...focused on the growing 'work at home business' movement." Business industry leaders, entrepreneurs share "their best business practices and tips." Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 10am; free-$10. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Museum on hand to help spot tails offshore. Reserova-

Work-in-Hand Business Expo
Learn of "wide selection of business models and programs...focused on the growing 'work at home business' movement." Business industry leaders, entrepreneurs share "their best business practices and tips." Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 10am; free-$10. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

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"Walk from the Sun: Photography Projects" of art, juxtaposing dispersed sculptural fragments with a set of media projects.

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BOOK SIGNINGS

A Universe from Nothing

Nimpointoad
San Diego elementary school students Josh and Harrison Herz read from, sign their recently published children's fantasy, "the story of a courageous and resourceful little Nibling." Thursday, March 1, 5pm; free. Barnes and Noble Bookstore Mira Mesa, 10775 Westview Parkway. (M I R A M E S A)

CLASSICAL MUSIC


Beethoven’s “Immortal Beloved” San Diego Symphony’s “Symphony Exposé” series continues with the piece Beethoven considered “one of his best works.” 619-235-0804. Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm; $20. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Quatuor Ebène France’s “sought-after quartet” performs Mozart’s ”String Quartet No. 15 in D Minor,” ”String Quartet No. 2 in D Major” by Berodin, Mendelssohn’s ”String Quartet No. 6 in F Minor.” 858-534-8497. Friday, March 2, 8pm; $10-$15. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (L A J O L L A)

Real Quiet New Music Week continues when percussionist David Cossin, cellist Felix Fan, pianist Andrew Russo perform selections by Lou Harrison, Richard Baker, Joseph Waters, Paul Lansky. 619-594-1017. Friday, March 2, 8pm; $10-$15. Smith Recital Hall at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (C O L L E G E A R E A)

Renaissance Music Concert Courtly Noyse presents vocal and instrumental ensemble music in Performing Arts Theatre. Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm; $5-$8. Cuyamaca College, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway. (C U Y A M A C A C O L L E G E)
**COMEDY**

A Comedic One-Year Anniversary! LEC Production presents comedy by “duo headliners” Zoltan Kaszas and Danny Villalpando. Reservations suggested: 858-613-3649. Saturday, March 3, 8pm; free.

**DANCE**

“A Night at the Dance Museum” Fred Astaire Dance Studio of San Diego and Oceanside presents showcase of a “collection of dances performed by professionals and highly talented amateurs,” with choreography by Jim Carter. 858-489-0180 or 760-757-1700. Saturday, March 2, 7pm; $15-$20. Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center, 3557 Lancer Way. (CARLSBAD)

**FOOD & DRINK**

Vegan Sundays Chef Matthew Purnell shares “simple-to-follow recipes that are easy on the budget and full of nutrition,” with consideration of gluten-free options, raw foods, juicing, Fee: $30 per class or $120 for five classes (when paid in advance). 760-696-2964. Sundays, March 3, 6pm; through Sunday, March 4, $10-$30. Center for a Healthy Lifestyle, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Drive. (LA JOLLA)

**GALLERIES**

“California Style” Opening reception for juried exhibition of original watermedia paintings, which may be viewed through March. 619-876-4550. Friday, March 2, 5pm; free. San Diego Watercolor Society at NTC Promenade, 2825 Dewey Road #105. (POINT LOMA)


“Feed My Ego” Reception for exhibit of six-inch-square paintings by Dan Adams. Show closes Sunday, March 25. Friday, March 2, 6pm; free. San Diego Art Institute: Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado. (LA JOLLA)

“Gleam” Opening reception for exhibit of new paintings by Los Angeles artist Michael Reafsnyder. Through Saturday, April 7. 858-459-3197. Saturday, March 3, 7pm; free. R.B. Stevenson Gallery, 7661 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

“Poetry/ E-Motion” Celebrate International Women’s Day and work by Nayyirah artist Aileen Reyes, displaying “more than 200 pieces in this collection of collections.” View “more than 300

**SOLO FLUTE MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS** Enjoy French and American music to celebrate Women’s History Month with Ann Erwin (flute) during Winter/Spring Concert Series. Program provides selections by Brachque-mond, Cecile Chaminade, Jennifer Higdon, Katherine Hoover, Betsy Jolas. 619-236-5800. Sunday, March 4, 2:30pm; free. San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

The Partch Ensemble Enjoy “music and instruments of iconoclastic American composer Harry Partch” when ensemble performs for New Music Week. 619-594-1017. Saturday, March 3, 8pm; $15-$20. Smith Recital Hall at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

The Powerful “Symphony No. 7” The 40-member New City Sin-fonia presents Beethoven’s work during concert including selections by de Falla, Richard Meyer, Vivaldi, with guest soloist Oscar Ramos. 619-527-4457. Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; free. First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street. (HILLCREST)

West Coast Harp Duo Tasha Smith and Sarah Davis perform harp duets by Granados, Andres, Damase, Ravel, Tournier. Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; free-$10. Neurosciences Institute, 10460 John Jay Hopkins Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Yale Glee Club in Concert “For 150 years the Yale Glee Club has represented the best in collegiate choral music,” with repertoire embracing spectrum of choral music from 16th century to present. 619-232-7513. Saturday, March 3, 7pm; free. 18 and up. First Prebysbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN)

**Argentine Tango with Colette** Will give you a first free class any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm and will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango at Dance Place San Diego in Point Loma. No need for a partner. More information: www.TangoWithColette.com or call 514-726-5667. Monday, March 5, 7pm, and Wednesday, March 7, 7pm. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio 106. (POINT LOMA)

**FOR KIDS**

“FIRST Robotics Competition” Close to 60 Southern California high schools showcase more than 500 teams to play basketball while traversing a field of obstacles. Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 9am; free. Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

“Seussian Science” Meet “alien and scientist extraordinaires, Krypton Yvonne, from the planet Betelgeuse,” in honor of Read Across America Day. Expect “wild and wacky entertainment and science education for children of all ages.” Saturday, March 3, 11am; free. Serra Mesa-Keeney Mesa Library, 9005 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Califórnia Conservatory (CYC) presents musical based on Mark Twain’s classic novel, with cast of professional actors and “rising young stars,” through March 11. Tickets: 858-227-9427. Saturday, March 3, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, March 4, 2pm; $22-$32. Salvation Army Kroc Community Center Performing Arts Theatre, 6611 University Avenue. (COLLEGE AREA)

**Food and Drink**

Vegan Sundays Chef Matthew Purnell shares “simple-to-follow recipes that are easy on the budget and full of nutrition,” with consideration of gluten-free options, raw foods, juicing, Fee: $30 per class or $120 for five classes (when paid in advance). 760-696-2964. Sundays, March 3, 6pm; through Sunday, March 4, $30-$120. Center for a Healthy Lifestyle, 533 Lomas Santa Fe Drive (behind Boys & Girls Club). (SOLANA BEACH)

**Pacific Coast Skydiving**

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* Scenic flights over the ocean and downtown San Diego
* Jump from altitudes over 2 miles above the ground
* Ask about RVT video technology

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*Must purchase $70 video ($195 total cost). Weekdays only. Add $20 for weekend jumps.
collectable, playful line drawings/ paintings on four-by-six-inch cards; sculptures made of twisted paper and recycled glass bottles and jars, more. Food to sample and purchase by Paula Mendenhall; music by Victor Tapia and friends, DJ Artform; (limited) open mike.

The Darkroomers Photograpy Exhibit" Opening reception slated for eight participating artists. 619-957-1111. Friday, March 2, 6pm; free. Main Street 5 Gallery, 124 East Main Street. (EL CAJON)

Featured Artists Elena Lomakin and Dan Adams take part in reception for exhibition of their work, along with juried and awarded artwork from region’s “Outstanding Visual Artists.” Closes Friday, March 23. Friday, March 2, 6pm; free. Sophie’s Gallery NTC, 2825 Dewey Rd., Gallery 101. (POINT LOMA)

Lectures

“Currency Wars’ by Other Means?” University of Wisconsin-Madison public affairs and political science assistant professor Mark Copeland with considers “Exchange Rates and WTO Dispute Initiation” in Social Sciences Building room 107. Thursday, March 1, 12:30pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

“The Surfing Madonna and the Creative Process” Surfing Madonna artist Mark Patterson shares “his steps of understanding and creating art as a process of revelation” during Learning is for Everyone (LIFE) program in room 201. 760-944-4449 x7782. Friday, March 2, 1pm; free. 18 and up. Mira Costa College-San Elijo Campus, 3333 Manchester Avenue. (CARDFP)

“Inkwell to Internet” Consider “The History of Learning in the San Diego Region” during Congress of History Conference in Warren Auditorium, Mother Rosalie Hill Hall. Speakers present illustrated programs on topics including San Pasqual Valley’s adobe schoolhouse, nation’s first Women’s Studies Department (at SDSU), learning challenges of the first Chinese in San Diego. Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, 8:30am; $15-$25. 18 and up.

View through March. 619-578-2207. Friday, March 2, 5pm; free. Jackie Greene Art on display. (LA JOLLA)

The Wild Note Cafe (next to Belly Up) presents Jackie Greene Art in display. With reception and live music by the artist, 4:30-5:30pm. 858-481-8140. Saturday, March 3. Wild Note Cafe, 143 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

Transforming Woodworking Tools Reception for exhibit of a series of charcoal drawings on gypsum cement tiles elevating “common woodworking tools into objets d’art” by furniture designer Todd Partridge. Donations accepted.


“Political Civility and Scientific Objectivity” How should democratic societies use, and how have they used, scientific and technical expertise to guide their affairs? Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies presents look at “Science, Technology, and Public Policy in Democratic Societies” in Deutscher Conference Room. Thursday, March 1, 5:30pm; Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, 8:30am; free. Institute of the Americas, UCSD, 10111 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

“The Language of Lyrics” Interested in the creative process in general, songwriting in particular? Word maven and “A Way with Words” co-host Martha Barnette leads “intimate conversation” with Rene Harcourt and Monica Pasqual of the San Francisco band Blame Sally. Saturday, March 3, 1pm; $12. Art Lab, 3336 Adams Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

End Time Mondays Is the world coming to an end? What is the Mark of the Beast? Will there be a Rapture? Discover what the Bible says about Last Day Events at our ongoing Bible Prophecy Seminar every Monday! Questions? Call 760-723-7733. Monday, March 5 at 7pm to 8:30pm. Fallbrook Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1200 Rainbow Valley Road. (FALLBROOK)

Forsing a Sustainable Future Environmental law professor Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is keynote speaker for UnitedGREEN’s second symposium. Speakers include local experts and Congressmen John Garamendi and Bob Filner. A professor from Curitiba, Brazil, speaks “remotely to explain how that city has become a model for sustainability on a large scale.” Sustainability consultant Morgan Pitts shares “the 30,000 foot view,” more. 619-631-4333. Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 9am; $35-895. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Stars in the Salon Singers, conductor, director of Don Pasquale on hand for discussion in Beverly Hills. (ENCINITAS)

“Political Civility and Scientific Objectivity” How should democratic societies use, and how have they used, scientific and technical expertise to guide their affairs? Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies presents look at “Science, Technology, and Public Policy in Democratic Societies” in Deutscher Conference Room. Thursday, March 1, 5:30pm; Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, 8:30am; free. Institute of the Americas, UCSD, 10111 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

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“The World Needs a Few More Ghandis” Inspirational speaker, Hay House author Barry Dennis leads workshop as part of 15th annual “Season for Peace and Nonviolence,” inspired by 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. 760-753-5786 x851. Sunday, March 4, 1:15pm; $25-$30. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

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Stars in the Salon Singers, conductor, director of Don Pasquale on hand for discussion in Beverly Hills. (ENCINITAS)
The Bhagavad Gita
“Krishna Manifests Himself in His Glory”

Of many mouths and eyes,
Of many wondrous aspects,
Of many marvelous ornaments,
Of marvelous and many uplifted weapons;
Wearing marvelous garlands and garments,
With marvelous perfumes and ointments,
Made up of all wonders, the god,
 Infinite, with faces in all directions.
 Of a thousand suns in the sky
 If suddenly should burst forth
 The light, it would be like unto the light of that exalted one.

Arjuna said:
 I see the gods in Thy body,
 O God,
 All of them, and the hosts of various kinds of beings too,
 Lord Brahma sitting on the lotus-seat,
 And the seers all, and the divine serpents.
 With many arms, bellies, mouths, and eyes,
 I see Thee, infinite in form

on all sides;
 No end nor middle nor yet beginning of Thee
 Do I see, O All-God, All-formed!

The Bhagavad Gita is a 700-line part of the anonymous Hindu epic the Mahabharata and one of the most important works in the history of literature. In the poem, Lord Krishna, who is seen by Hindus as a manifestation of the Divine Being itself, reveals himself to Arjuna, an earthly prince who is about to commence a great war. Because Krishna’s statements have both theoretical and practical value, the Gita serves as both a theological text and a guide to right living by Hindus.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship

SHELLs and GOATS

The Art of Running
Malcolm Balk — Alexander Technique teacher, Master of the Art of Running co-author — leads workshop suitable for all ages, experience, levels of fitness. Participants receive video analysis of their running, learn to develop a more efficient style. Registration: atandalrunning@gmail.com. www.hoplutheran.com.


Church is a church with a friendly congregation, located in Escondido. It is a Lutheran Church and a community of faith where all are welcome. The church is located at 1140 Oak Crest Park Drive, Escondido, CA 92027. The phone number is (760) 745-3738. The church is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The church has a website at hoplutheran.com. The church is active in the community and participates in various events and activities.

The church holds Sunday services at 8:15 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am. The church also has a children’s program and a nursery. The church has a youth group and a young adults group. The church is affiliated with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The church is located in Escondido, California. The church is active in the community and participates in various events and activities.

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Three-Alarm Umami

“I started out leasing my own food truck. I was 20.”

Sunny, breezy day. Walking through the barrio, heading down César Chávez toward the trolley. Pass ye olde brick building that used to be Chuey’s bar-eatery. ‘Course, for years it’s been Ryan Bros. coffee-roasting and sipping place. And what great roasts I’ve sucked down on my way to the trolley.

Plus, you feel good about it, because the three brothers — Tom, Harry, and Carmine — are into fair-trade coffee.

I have 15 minutes till the next Blue Line, so I hop up the Ryan Bros. steps and pass under a sign that says “Life Is Too Short to Be Bitter.” Inside, I walk over a wild-colored, stained-cement floor, an abstract in golds, blues, and greens, past that famous old rickshaw of theirs and into a naked-brick space. They’ve plopped a famous old rickshaw from the 1960s in the middle of the place. Outlaw Jesse James sat here, 1870.

But then the recession hit, and construction jobs dried up. Christina worked as a line chef at Bertrand’s at Mr. A’s, then she got this offer. “We make it all here,” Christina says. “I bake my own focaccia bread, too.”

Sounds serious. I go for the Carmine TAB and soup ($6.95), plus a coffee ($1.75) called Coronado Moonlight, a combo of Indonesian and African Arabicas. Mmm…smoky.

And now I remember: the Ryan brothers grew up in Indonesia. That rickshaw is an Indonesian becauk. I’m just heading for a table when I spot another sign. This one says: “Historic bar. Outlaw Jesse James sat here, 1870.”

Harry Ryan comes out of the roasting section. “Jesse’s distant cousin Tobin James had a winery up in Paso Robles,” he explains. “Jesse stayed with him after the Civil War. This was the [wooden] bar they drank at.” It ended up in San Diego, in the Brick Tavern — the W Hotel is at that location now. When the hotel was about to be built, Jesse James’s bar was abandoned for destruction. But the Ryan brothers got hold of it and put it into storage till they could think what to do with it. The bacon-turkey combo panini is fine. A little pleasantly pungent, even. “I put some coffee into the meat, too,” says Christina, “just to punch up the flavor.”

Aha. So that’s what it is. “Coffee is like wine,” she says. “It provides another note. We were taught at culinary school that your taste buds need sweetness and acidity, delivered in fat to bring the flavors out. What we’re always aiming for is umami, depth.”

Christina says she’s been here six months. She’s 25, a graduate of the San Diego Culinary Institute.

“I started out leasing my own food truck. I was 20. We were always chasing construction sites. I’d cook everything from biscuits and gravy to short ribs. It was fun. The chase!”

But then the recession hit, and construction sites dried up. Christina worked as a line chef at Bertrand’s at Mr. A’s, then she got this offer.

What a b!tch! The “Carmine” sandwich

“I took the job because I could bring in my own food program,” she says. “Make up my own menu.”

Have to ask if she feels awkward, cooking Anglo in maybe the most Latino neighborhood in the county. “I would never make tacos here,” she says. “But, basically, my cooking’s artisan. It’s not Anglo, not Hispanic, it’s artisan.”

What truly gets to me is her focaccia. So tender and crisp, with a tang of fresh rosemary scattered on top.

Uh, strike that — I mean, the focaccia was great, but what I actually take away with me is the taste of the soup. Incredibly excellent. Wine! Hot! Like, muy picante. It’s the sausage Florentine, chunks of sausage along with veggies and I don’t know what-all swimming around. I would walk a mile for this. You might say it’s three-alarm umami.

“The Ryan brothers have been working for months to get a beer-and-wine license,” says Christina. “So now we’re looking at a happy hour, live music, movies, even. And expanding our food. It’s exciting.”

Sigh. To be 25 again, one of the Che Guevaras of this food/artisan/cultural thing.

I’ll just have to enjoy the fruits of their labor from the sidelines.
Two New Shrimp Tacos at Rubio’s

Yesterday I attended a tasting event at Rubio’s in Torrey Highlands, where two new menu items were introduced to food bloggers, writers from the San Diego area. Founder Ralph Rubio was on hand to demo and answer questions.

The first was the smoky red-chili shrimp taco. It has three beer-battered shrimp in a corn tortilla, topped with a smoky red-chili sauce, Rubio’s white sauce, shredded cabbage, a chopped cilantro/onion mix, and lime garnish. Price: $3.79 for one, $7.69 for a two-taco platter with beans and chips.

I’m a fan of just about anything beer-battered, and this didn’t disappoint. The red-chili sauce was a bit sweet on its own, but with the crispy shrimp and a shot of lime, it was good — smoky, with a bit of warmth from the red jalapeños and richness from the ancho and guajillo. It was messy to eat, which I didn’t mind.

Our second taste was the salsa verde pan-seared shrimp taco. Served in a flour tortilla (which was grilled golden on one side), it contained four shrimp, cilantro/onions, cabbage, a three-cheese blend, avocado slices, and lime garnish. The salsa verde is made with tomatillo, poblanos, cilantro, basil, and tarragon. Price: $3.99 for one, $7.99 for the two-taco platter.

This one was good, too. The shrimp were pan-seared, and the herbaceous salsa complemented them. so I did something I’ve never done before. I went into the corner Chinese at Fifth and Broadway, the one with the funny sign, “Great Wall Express/Louisiana Fried Chicken.” It’s the place you walk past a zillion times, noticing it’s always at least half full of single people with heads down, shoveling it in, thinking their thoughts — going for volume, not style.

Then I see the hours. So I haul in through the corner door and to the counter, where Sim is closing the top on a big plate of food. “Closed?” I ask. “Closed,” Sim says. “But I have this for $4. Special.”

He points to a Coca-Cola whiteboard. “Two items combo w/rice or lo mein and medium drink, $5.49 plus tax.”

I’ll give it to you for $4,” says Sim. It’s 9 o’clock on the dot. I suddenly realized I had nothing to fill the belly for Carla and me, and our thoughts — going to the corner door and to the counter, where Sim is closing the top on a big plate of food. “Closed,” I say. Turns out Sim’s from Cambodia: Phnom Penh, the capital. So’s his girlfriend, who’s waiting for him to close up. Nice people.

“This is great!” coos Carla, an hour later. We’re leaning over the box like hungry wolves. “Those noodles, rare to have them so tasty. And with the beef and the mushrooms? Great taste combo. And the orange chicken, you know me on that, but it zips up the whole meal. You did good.”

Usually she hates orange chicken. But her sentiments are my sentiments exactly.

And, hey, they talk about two-buck chuck? Divide the price of this meal between Carla and me and you’ve got...two-buck chow.

Jessica’s got patience for common Cheese Heads as well.

The top special is “Four pieces chicken, $5.49.” I guess that’s the Louisiana side of the biz. “This has orange chicken and mushroom and broccoli beef with lo mein,” he says. I see a bit of cabbage in there, too.

“Deal,” I say.

Jessica packs it all in a little paper bag with handles and sends me on my way.

Although the lunch begs to be eaten under a tree in the park, I eat it while driving. I do love a good fig spread, but today it makes the already sweet cheese doubly sweet, and my sandwich tastes a tad dessert-y for my liking. I’ll stick with the cheese alone next time. And there will be a next time. I’m thinking tomorrow.

Venissimo has four locations: three in San Diego County and one in Long Beach. The East Village location on G Street has a panini press and a meat slicer, expanding your lunch choices a bit.

$7 Lunch: Venissimo Cheese

I’m what you might call a Cheese Head, for no other reason than that I love cheese. I am not, however, a fancy Cheese Head. I mean, I do love fancy cheese, but I couldn’t tell you the difference between a goat cheese and a sheep cheese or a raw cheese and a pasteurized cheese. One day, perhaps. But not today.

When I wander into Venissimo Cheese in Mission Hills, I’m a bit overwhelmed by all the choices.

Luckily, no one else is in the shop and I can ask all the questions I want of Jessica, the oh-so-patient woman behind the counter.

In the end, I ask her to give me the most popular cheese on a French white baguette. (The other bread options are seedy sourdough or ciabatta square, all from Bread & Cie.)

The top seller, Jessica tells me, is fromager d’affinois, a French double-cream soft cheese made from cow’s milk ($9.25 per pound).

“Do you want spread?” she asks. “It costs a little bit more.”

By “spread,” she means Dalmatia fig spread, and by “a little bit more,” she means it’ll take my lunch from $6.50 to $7.

“Bring it on,” I say. “Apple, grapes, or pear to go with it?” Jessica asks.

I go with the grapes. Jessica packs it all in a little paper bag with handles and sends me on my way.

Eastlake Sushi: Bento & Noodles

As a new resident of Chula Vista, I’m on the lookout for a go-to sushi joint in my neighborhood. I’d like the option of popping in for a quick lunch, relaxing over an inexpensive dinner, or calling up for take-out. And the fish has to be fresh.

Recently, a coworker of my husband’s recom-
mended Bento & Noodles, so last weekend we checked it out. The place is a middle-of-the-road restaurant with fresh fish and relaxed lighting.

During that first visit, I ordered the Assorted Sushi Dinner ($12.99), and M ordered the Bento Box two-item combo ($8.99). The bento comes with a green salad, steamed rice, two pieces of California roll, and then a choice of two (out of a list of 26) items, from tempura to sashimi to pork cutlets. M went with the teriyaki chicken and spicy crab sushi. When the food came, I was disappointed to see that his wasabi was the smooth watery-looking stuff that comes from a tube. But before I could come to any conclusions about that, my food arrived, and the wasabi was as it should be: scooped, not squeezed.

My sushi was so yummy and M raved over his teriyaki chicken so much that I decided to return for lunch with the little one yesterday. She's a fiend for teriyaki chicken and steamed rice. For her, I ordered the Kids Meal ($4.29) and for myself, the Bento Box two-item lunch combo ($7.99) with salmon sushi and tuna sushi. My bento came with the tube wasabi, and the rice wasn't super fresh (which the little one didn't mind at all), but again the fish and chicken were both fresh and delicious.

The bento boxes seem to be pre-prepared with the rice, wasabi, and salad, which can lead to a not-so-freshness, so I'll probably steer clear of them next time. But all else is worth a return.

Posted Feb. 16
by Elizabeth Salaam

Fresh Soup for Sale: Decker Brothers

Earlier this week, my old man and I had a conversation about the phenomenon of hearing something (a word, a name, whatever) for the first time, and then suddenly that word appears to be everywhere. It happened to him recently. A coworker brought up a college he'd never heard of. The next day, he ran into someone whose kid goes there. A day or two after that, he heard it mentioned on NPR. This week, something similar happened to me.

There I was, enjoying a bowl of soup at my favorite coffee shop. I decided to write about said soup and inquired as to who makes it. "Decker Brothers," the owner informed me. I'd never heard of them. And then...

Two days ago, I arranged to sample some cupcakes from a baker here in San Diego. I was supposed to meet her yesterday...
blue-cheese bisque.

Chris and Karl provide wholesale soup (or should I say soup wholesale?) to 30 restaurants, coffee shops, delis, and lunch counters around San Diego. The company started about six years ago, after Chris pulled a soup cookbook that had been a gift to him off his bookshelf and began to make one recipe at a time, as was his habit with cookbooks.

"Soup recipes don't make just one or two servings," Chris told me. "So I'd bring soup to friends and coworkers."

The responses he heard made him aware of a lack of freshly made soup options, and he and Karl decided to do something about it. Now we have the Decker Brothers. Today, they make 100 to 120 gallons of soup per week, and the flavors change every month.

Chris says his favorites are the truffle, potato, and mushroom and the pumpkin Thai. You can find a list of eateries that sell their soups if you click on the "find us" tab on the Decker Brothers website.

Yesterday, Thrash made the decision as to who will be his right-hand man, hiring Colin Murray as his sous chef. Murray most recently worked as the sous at Cowboy Star in the East Village, where he put out some innovative dishes and tasting menus, as well as some seriously delicious fried chicken. That crispy, juicy delicacy and its maker cameos at North Park beer bar Toronado over the weekend.

Murray's previous posts include stints at Croce's, the Hard Rock Hotel, Jack's La Jolla, and Parallel 33. A lot has changed since he worked there. Parallel 33 is gone, but a slew of spots, including the Red Door, the Wellington, Lefty's Chicago Pizzeria, and Cafe Bleu have made the higher-altitude area of Mission Hills tastier than ever. Posted Feb. 22 by Brandon Hernández

Mission Hills' New (Brooklyn) Girl Gets New Guy

Brooklyn Girl, an eatery inspired by the edible artisanal renaissance occurring in the community from which it takes its name, is set to open in mid-March at the corner of Goldfinch and Fort Stockton in Mission Hills.

While constructors work on the nuts and bolts, executive chef Tyler Thrash (formerly of downtown's Oceanaire Seafood Room) is building up the restaurant's menu and assembling the kitchen team.

"Two things," says Humberto, when he sees me squirming. "You could have gumbo in the starters size for $6.75, or just ask for a half-order of the entrees. It's okay. So, you could get red beans and rice or jambalaya with sausage for around $6, $7. Or crawfish étouffée for $10."

Now we're talking. I go for the starter gumbo bowl, and then for a moment of "go figure?" I order a Louisiana étouffée for $10. "You could have gumbo if you click on the "find us" tab on the Decker Brothers website.

But, actually, this was accidental. I didn't even remember it was Mardi Gras till I noticed people in the café's cute brick courtyard were wearing strings of yellow, red, blue, and green beads. I can't resist. I sit down, and Humberto, one of the partners, appears with a menu. And necklaces.


"Two things," says Humberto, when he sees me squirming. "You could have gumbo in the starters size for $6.75, or just ask for a half-order of the entrees. It's okay. So, you could get red beans and rice or jambalaya with sausage for around $6, $7. Or crawfish étouffée for $10."

Now we're talking. I go for the starter gumbo bowl, and then for a moment of "go figure?" I order a Louisiana étouffée for $10. "You could have gumbo if you..."
and that Andygator with its slightly sweet, fruity taste, I’m in heaven. And already planning a come-back with Carla.

Man, with these little old 1850 shacks rescued from the waterfront turned into kitchen and dining room — I’ll bet The Big Easy don’t have a nicer place. Oh, and Humberto brought my bottle of Andygator and a glass chillin’ in an ice-filled bucket. Classy.

“Careful of it,” says Humberto. “It’s 8 percent.”

“No problem,” I say. “I have a driver down at the trolley depot.”

“Why’s he parked down there?”

“He drives a trolley.”

Aladdin Mediterranean Restaurant

Tucked in back of the Hillcrest Uptown District shopping center, Aladdin is a better-than-average Lebanese/Mediterranean restaurant that is worth checking out for a full-service dinner, and the place serves a good lunch.

The great patio gets plenty of afternoon sun and can be a perfect place to nosh on one of Aladdin’s sandwiches. Priced at $8, the sandwiches feature Lebanese-style meat and protein dishes such as koufta (a kebab of spiced and herbed ground beef), falafel, and chicken or lamb kebabs.

Wrapped in good pita bread and dressed with appropriate condiments (according to the different meats), the sandwiches include a simple but delightful salad of romaine lettuce and tomatoes. The salad is tossed with a tart, minty house dressing that accentuates the bold flavors of the kebab sandwiches.

Aladdin’s interior is posh compared to the local alternatives for Mediterranean fare. Nights, the little dining room can fill up with couples and small families eating from the entree menu.

A bit pricey at upward of $19, the entrees feature the same kebabs and grilled meats as the sandwiches, just in larger servings and with more side dishes such as hummus, tabouleh, and plenty of the garlic sauce that accompanies much of the food at Aladdin.

Posted Feb. 21 by Ian Pike

Ribs or, Uh, Artichoke?

Still at Pacific Star. Problem is, I get to watching the danged soccer match on TV and talking with Walter and Wasan,
At lunchtime.

or fries plus soda is $6.99.

artichoke hot veggie sandwich, thing? I ask Walter.

choke. "Is this a Chaldean the idea of marinated arti-
tomato, and feta cheese."

remembered it. I love the taste.

friend who had a restaurant it

ony, and the feta cheese gives

happens. Talking of tasty...Jasper,

several sushi restaurants have it,

teriyaki sauce. Lucky for me, most sushi restaurants have it, and it’s usually inexpensive: between $5 and $6.

Over the past couple of years, I’ve had the opportu-
ty to explore rice bowls all over San Diego. I find a new one every few weeks. A comment on a recent post — I wrote about an unfortunate teriyaki rice bowl — inspired me to report on the many places I’ve found around town that are inexpensive and delicious.

Sushi House in Chula Vista has a wonderful teriyaki rice bowl. I ordered the beef and was surprised to find it was made with short ribs. They were delicious, and the texture and flavor of the teriyaki sauce were spot-on, especially in combination with the juicy meat.

Granted, it’s not a gigan-
tic bowl, but for me it’s the perfect size for lunch. And at $4.50 ($3.50 for chicken), it’s one of the least expensive I’ve found.

"Jason says the atmosphere isn’t much, but the food is good," M says. "He said something about a 40-piece sushi platter for $15." Upon entering the restaur-
tant, I was shocked to see how packed the place was. The only seats available were at the sushi bar. We chose to wait ten min-
utes for a table.

The place sounded and felt

like a cafeteria, in that little effort had been put toward atmosphere. A lot of the tables were crowded into a small space, and the din was loud but bearable. A television over the sushi bar was showing the 2011 Reebok CrossFit Games on mute. It’s not the kind of place in which you’d linger... but to drop in for a quick bite of sushi might not be so bad.

The extensive menu included three options for sushi combinations. You can choose 24 pieces of nigiri sushi (fish on top of rice) for $22.95, 40 pieces of basic sushi rolls for $16.95, or 5 special rolls for $31.95. We went for the 40 pieces. Although we asked to try each of the seven rolls, we were allowed only four. We picked spicy tuna, salmon, salmon skin, and tempura.

The fish was fresh and tasty, but the rolls came out two at a time, 15 minutes apart. The spicy tuna and tempura came out together, and both were good. The salmon and salmon skin rolls came out after we’d finished the first two — bad, they all come out together, or even in the opposite order, we might not have felt the two salmon rolls were quite so blah. As it is, that’s our only complaint.

While it’s true that the lack of music and the loud cafeteria acoustics didn’t make for the most relaxing experience, the food was good, just like M’s friend said it would be. And as far as entertainment goes, you can’t beat bulky Reebok CrossFit women.

The grand opening is over, and the New Zealand–themed bar and restaurant in Ocean Beach is up and running at full steam.

It’s a bit unsavory on the outside. With its plain, wood façade and understated sign, it’s easy to walk past Raglan as twilight falls on O.B. Being off the main drag of Newport Avenue is cool, though, and the atmosphere on the patio is more peaceful than if the place were just a block away.

As far as patios are con-
cerned, Raglan’s is a good one. Even on a chilly night, sitting up against the wall makes good use of the new heaters that throw plenty of warmth to keep away the clammy ocean breezes.
San Diego Reader

on the menu, none of which list is notable for containing the For a beer bar, bottles and cans list and that’s not a bad thing. The bottled beer and wine list is everyone. Drafts are $3 to $7. beer, so the selection is always beer engine for pouring cask elties in with a host of Califor-
in the paper cone so that there’s cheese are thoughtfully layered nice detail is that the fries and cheese crumbled on the top. A delightfully oily and come with plenty of blue

Raglan has three different kinds of fries: skinny, fat, and sweet potato. The sweet potato fries ($4.99 for a small; $6.50 for “Kiwisize”) are excellent and come with plenty of blue cheese crumbled on the top. A nice detail is that the fries and cheese are thoughtfully layered in the paper cone so that there’s cheese for every fry. As classic a pub dish as ever there was, fish ’n’ chips ($12.99) is chunks of cod coated in beer batter served with thick-cut fries, malt vinegar, and tartar sauce. Delightfully oily and raging hot, the fish is a killer accompaniment to an ESB, lager, or a pale ale. It’s also the only item that comes with its own fries. 

Burgers ($9 to $14) are a huge part of the menu. Raglan uses organic beef and bakes their bread in-house, which explains the relative costliness of the sandwiches, none of which come with sides. They are also quite hefty, enough that the “Gnarly Big Burgers” designation on the menu is justified. All the beef burgers can be switched out for a veggie burger. A popular specialty of the house, the lamb burger ($12.99) gets blue cheese, mint sauce, beetroot, lettuce, tomato, onion, chutney, and aioli. Eating it is hot, messy affair. It’s worth the trouble, though, especially since the kitchen isn’t scared to serve the burger rare. And by rare, we’re talking cool to the touch and bright red on the inside. Lamb is said to be safe to eat raw, but it doesn’t really taste like much without the benefit of the “Maillard reaction” to generate some flavor components. Raglan Public House, 1851 Bacon Street. Posted Feb. 26 by Ian Pike

The One and Only Chicken Pie Shop

It’s a legend, a landmark, a lifestyle. It lurks in its nondescript building along the Boulevard like a fortress, dark and forbidding, potentially filled with hidden treasure. Established in 1938, it is the San Diego Chicken Pie Shop.

Serving up meals straight from the set of Mad Men, the shop is a haven for the AARP crowd that likes to dine early and cheaply. It’s the perfect place to take Grandma for an early-bird dinner, but where is it written that Grandma gets to have all the fun?

The Chicken Pie Shop has retro cool. It’s unpretentious, targeting a demographic that’s as far removed from the hip North Park restaurant scene as possible, which is precisely the reason to get deep into some old-school grub.

Is the food good? Well, that depends. It is what it is, and it’s got that vintage feel. Witness the famous Chicken Pie Dinner: For $7.50, it contains everything. It’s an individual pot pie stuffed with chicken, turkey, and gravy that’s fantastically unadorned. The crust is very short and rich, and the filling is chock-full of dark meat. Smothered in gravy, it’s completely satisfying. The whipped potatoes are a bit on the gluey side, and the slaw is nothing to jump for joy over. The vegetable choice varies — in this case it was peas — but the simple butter-and-salt preparation is just right to accompany the pie. A pie à la carte, with only the gravy, is under $3.

In case this massive plate of gravy-laden radness leaves you wanting more, every chicken-pie dinner comes with a free dessert. Pie selections are good, and the sweet filling and golden brown crust of a peach pie finish the meal with aplomb.

The shop offers sandwiches such as hot turkey or hot roast beef smothered in gravy, served with mashed potatoes for $6.50. Dinner specials include sautéed chicken livers and roast ham with fruit sauce. Any dinner plate gets soup, veggies, potatoes, cole-slaw, and dessert. The price? $8.45. The place closes early, so get in there while the sun’s up.

Chicken Pie Shop, 2633 El Cajon Boulevard. Posted Feb. 24 by Ian Pike

What the Chef Eats by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

PASTA ALLA CARBONARA
RECIPE BY CHAD WHITE
Chef and Partner, Gabardine

I got into cooking by accident. I was fresh out of high school when 9/11 happened. I wanted to do something for my country so I went down to my local recruiting station. I found out there was a program in the Navy that specialized in cooking and barracks management. I thought I would join the Navy and learn about hotel management, but needless to say, that didn’t happen. What happened was that a few months later I was on a big destroyer peeling 30 cases of potatoes. I wasn’t happy. I kept calling home and telling my mom I didn’t want to do this. But my mom told me to find the art in the food.

I took my mom’s advice and started thinking about the plate as a canvas. I was still cooking from ridiculous recipes that have been in the Navy for 100 years, where everything is from a can or frozen, but I started to read books and watch Bobby Flay on the Food Network. Pretty soon I was promoted to cooking for the [officers’] wardroom.

Toward the end of my tour I did an externship at the Hotel del Coronado. I wasn’t used to working only eight hours a day, so one day after work, I went downstairs to the Prince of Wales kitchen and jumped in the line to help out. At the end of my externship, I was offered a job there as soon as I was out of the Navy. Since then I worked at quite a few San Diego restaurants and that’s been a fun ride.

I cook at home, too, because I have two daughters under the age of seven. We get our kids in the kitchen. First we go to the grocery store; they’re at the age of oohs and aahs at all the colors and shapes of the produce. I do it as a field trip for art and then we go home and create. Not knowing what I am going to cook for the day gets me excited. It could be pasta or it could be fish liver pâté.

INGREDIENTS

6-8 servings
1 pound spaghetti
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
4 ounces pancetta or slab bacon, cubed or sliced into

HOW TO DO IT

Cook the pasta a couple of minutes shy of the package directions so that the pasta is tender but firm or al dente. If using homemade pasta, cook for 30 seconds. Prepare the sauce while

PASTA ALLA CARBONARA

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New Bakery in Downtown Chula Vista

Errands day often includes a stop for treats. Last week I spied a new bakery in downtown Chula Vista, which I used as a carrot throughout the morning to entice the little one to behave. It worked, and after lunch we stopped in at Sweet Sisters Bakery and Café to see what treats we could find.

50% Off
Buy 1 combo get the 2nd half off!

The Best Teriyaki in San Diego!

Natural Style Chicken

3944 W Point Loma Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92118
619.223.9887

Chad White

small strips
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 large eggs at room temperature
1 cup freshly grated Parmigiana-Reggiano, plus more for serving
Freshly ground black pepper
1 handful fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

Valid at North Park Location Only.

Buy one entrée & two boba drinks at regular price and get 2nd entrée on 10% off.

$3 Beer or Wine
Friday and Sat 8-11pm!

Valid at North Park Location Only.

*Some restrictions may apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 3/11/12. Limit one coupon per table.
the pasta is cooking to ensure that the spaghetti will be hot and ready when the sauce is finished; it is very important that the pasta is hot when adding the egg mixture, so that the heat of the pasta cooks the raw eggs in the sauce. Drain the pasta well, reserving a half-cup of the starchy cooking water to use in the sauce if it is too thick.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a deep skillet over medium flame. Add the pancetta and sauté for about three minutes, until the bacon is crisp and the fat is rendered. Toss the garlic into the fat and sauté for less than 1 minute to soften.

Add the hot, drained spaghetti to the pan and toss for 2 minutes to coat the strands in the bacon fat. Beat the eggs and Parmigiano-Reggiano together in a mixing bowl, stirring well to prevent lumps. Remove the pan from the heat and pour the egg/cheese mixture into the pasta, whisking quickly until the eggs thicken, but do not scramble (this is done off the heat to ensure this does not happen.)

Thinz the sauce with a bit of the reserved pasta water, until it reaches desired consistency. Season the carbonara with several turns of freshly ground black pepper and taste for salt.

Mound the spaghetti carbonara into warm serving bowls and garnish with chopped parsley. Pass more cheese around the table.

Okay. That makes sense. The woman’s name is Karina. She owns the place with her sister. When the bakery opens for real on March 9, they’ll have croissants, salads, sandwiches, crepes — and menus. Plus, for three hours that day, they’ll offer free bite-size tastings of their goodies. Karina said the information is on their website, but as of this writing it’s not.

If you plan to attend the grand opening, I suggest calling a day or two beforehand to find out what time it begins: 619-207-0222.

Posted Feb. 24 by Elizabeth Salaam

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$15 for $30 at Station Sushi

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costazaizulcoronado.com

Free Crepe
Buy a gourmet short rib grilled cheese combo and get a free Bakersfield crepe.
Limit 1 free crepe per coupon. Not valid with any other offer.
With this ad. Expires 3/31/12
In addition to our delicious crepes, we’re now serving mouth watering gourmet grilled cheese! Authentic French crepes with a California twist

San Diego Reader March 1, 2012 73
Gabardine in March
Two months with no restaurant debut? It’s almost eerie not to see restaurateur partners Brian Malarkey and James Brennan throwing open doors and popping champagne, but soon they’ll be back to christening a new venture.

March 5 will mark the official opening of Gabardine, which will call Point Loma home. The opening of Gabardine, which will be visible to guests, who’ll see restaurateur partners Brian Malarkey and James Brennan.

Gabardine will be located at 1005 Rosecrans Street.

$10 Lunch: Jimmy’s by the Park
The search for a grilled-cheese sandwich on errands day landed the little one and me at Jimmy’s by the Park in downtown Chula Vista. A waitress with the name “Tammy” printed on the back of her black polo shirt seated us at a large booth.

The red-and-white checkered cloths on the tables in the middle of the room read “Mexican Eater.” The humongous plastic menu containing millions of choices had the “diner” all over it. Add the leftover Christmas decor on the wall over the register and the gospel music playing on the faulty stereo system, and I was officially confused.

Initial assessment? Bizarre and incongruous. Yet after a few minutes I began to feel somewhat comforted by the anything-goes-ness of the place.

Tasty dishes include:
- Swordfish bone marrow sauce) and Himalayan sea salt;
- Swordfish bone marrow served with piri piri (Portuguese hot sauce);
- Swordfish bone marrow served with Port wine and cherries.

The restaurant features an abundance of options for $10 lunches (including a drink). Though Jimmy’s prices are a tad higher than most old-school diners, it is still possible to eat a decent lunch for around $10.

With the current happy hour, frugality is the name of the game. From 4 to 7 p.m. every day, the first glass of house wine is just $1 and subsequent glasses are $3.50. Currently, the pretty good Malbec that’s serving as a house red wine is way better than a lot of house offerings.

$1 Wine at Tre Porcellini
This little Italian restaurant on University Avenue has received the full treatment from the Reader in the past. Consider this another voice in support of the restaurant’s culinary cause. The place consistently provides an abundance of options for $10 lunches (including a drink). Though Jimmy’s prices are a tad higher than most old-school diners, it is still possible to eat a decent lunch for around $10. They have plenty of breakfast items in the $6.50 range, but most of their sandwiches cost around $8.50 and the salads are $10 without a drink.

For the little one, I ordered a grilled cheese, which she finished, crust and all, but that’s not included in this $10 lunch.

I considered a French beef dip but opted for a BLT. When Tammy asked me what kind of bread I wanted, I hesitated. She said, “We have really good wheat bread,” and I took her advice. Usually, with a BLT, I go for white bread because, what the hell, I’m having bacon anyway. If I ever order wheat it’s because I should, not because it tastes better. But Tammy was right, the wheat bread was delicious.

I might go back for that particular BLT one day, especially since the parking in downtown Chula Vista is 30 minutes per hour. BLT, $6.89; coffee, $1.89.

$1 OFF East Buffet
Every Monday through Thursday, East Buffet is offering $1 OFF East Buffet starting at 10:30 a.m. The deal applies to any purchase with a minimum order of $10 and cannot be combined with any other offers. East Buffet is located at 3298 Twiggs St., 619-295-2343.

50% off Latin American Cuisine
Buy one entrée, get a 2nd entrée at equal or lesser value half-off. One per table, not valid with other offers. Expires March 8th, 2012.

50% off Sushi
Order any 2 items of $8 or more. Limit 4 persons per coupon. Must present coupon at time of order. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Dine-in only through 3/15/12

The Big 3 $6.49
3 pancakes, 3 eggs, 3 bacon or sausage

Great Food! Great Prices!
Low cholesterol, low fat, no MSG

2 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 bacon or sausage

Twin Double $5.79

Any one meal entrée of $8 or more. Limit 4 persons per coupon. Must present coupon at time of order. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Dine-in only through 3/15/12

$2.00 OFF
Any one menu entrée of $8 or more. Limit 4 persons per coupon. Must present coupon at time of order. Not valid on weekends or holidays. Dine-in only through 4/2/12

Posted Feb. 23 by Ian Pike

Best Coffee (and Loaded Bagels) in Town?
It’s called Van Houtte, and it’s a dark Fair Trade, organic-certified coffee from Mexico. It’s as it says, “Slightly bitter, with a rich lingering flavor.”

I’m slurping a cup on a wooden deck facing Congress Street where it crosses Mason. I saw the banner outside when I was coming up Congress from the trolley: “Best Coffee in Old Town.”

I thought, Yeah, right. But I’m glad I stopped.

“Van Houtte is like the Starbucks of Canada,” says the owner, Andrés Ortiz. “But their taste is so much better. They’re based in Orange County, but they service a little café like mine. I know a little about coffee. I’m from Colombia.”

I’d go up their path, kinda also attracted by the way their sign showed they intended to be here a long time: “Old Town Eatery” is written into the walkway with broken pottery tile. Then you come inside past a big colorful mural of a Parisian street scene.

I waited while a lady ahead of me gave her order. “The usual, please, Andrés.”

It’s not long before bringing her out. It’s an open-faced bagel sandwich. Looks delicious. She says $7.34 with tax.

“This is my own recipe to top a spinach bagel,” she says. Her name’s Kellie. “They are kind enough to make it. Tomato, bacon, with lots of extra cream cheese. I come here for this five days a week.”

Wow. Great coffee and this personalized bagel. She says Andrés has an incredible story, too...except I have to go. Guess I’ll have to come back later to eat, drink, and talk more.

Old Town Eatery Cafe, 3941 Mason Street.

Posted Feb. 23 by Ed Bedford

For more information on the best coffee in Old Town, visit bertasinoldtown.com

Malarkey and Brennan see restaurateur partners Brian Malarkey and James Brennan throwing open doors and popping champagne, but soon they’ll be back to christening a new venture.

March 5 will mark the official opening of Gabardine, which will call Point Loma home. The restaurant will focus on seafood under the oversight of executive chef Chad White.

As reported last month, White made a name for himself last year at North Park’s Sea Rocket Bistro (where he’s still a partner and oversees kitchen operations at an executive level). He’s the county’s foremost utilizer of uni (sea urchin roe) and an avid craftsman of seafood dishes ranging from classic to, at times, downright odd.

Gabardine, a place to “GAB at the BAR and DINE” (kinda clever), should provide this young, whimsical, and experimental chef a nice playground with a variety of tools and plenty of liberty to spread his fins.

The restaurant will serve “Portuguese-esque seafood bar cuisine” from a trio of bars: cold, hot, and aged. The cold bar will be visible to guests, who’ll be able to watch as chefs shuck oysters, dispatch live uni, and prepare whole fish from behind a screened-in porch. A sampling of menu offerings includes live spot prawns with escabeche, scallion-celery salad, and ghost salt; swordfish bone marrow with piri piri (Portuguese hot sauce) and Himalayan sea salt; and black cod “foie gras” (liver) with Port wine and cherries. Aperitif-based cocktails will be conceptualized by the Snake Oil Cocktail Company, which will also craft Gabardine a line of boutique sodas.

A design concept developed by Thomas Schoos, who was also responsible for the interiors at Malarkey and Brennan’s Searssucker (downtown) and Burlap (Del Mar Highlands), will feature raw woods, a stone-topped bar, peppermint-striped seat cushions, and an old barn ceiling. There will also be round communal tables with holes cut in the middle to catch discarded shellfish debris and lobster tanks serving as the base for benches.
**Seaside Sellout:** Will the March 16 show headlined by local reggae band Stranger be the last show ever at Sound Wave (formerly Canes)? No shows are being booked at the 700-capacity beachfront venue after that date. The seven-acre Belmont Park property, is looking to sell the complex.

Ken Krasne is the Los Angeles–based court-appointed trustee hired to oversea the operation of Belmont Park during this transition. He says he does not speak to the press about the properties he oversees. Tim Winslow, one of the agents involved in the sale of the property through Cassidy Turley BRE in La Jolla, says he can only divulge details to individuals after they have been vetted with a nondisclosure agreement.

Leitstein says Krasne invited him to consider operating Canes on a short-term basis. He has declined comment about whether he will return.

**Bedtime Stories:** Dixie De La Tour wants to hear San Diego’s dirty stories. The inspiration at a Burning Man storytelling night.

“I had expected something called storytelling to be stiff and boring. But those stories from city dwellers in their 20s and 30s made me realize personal-narrative storytelling is a different animal and that I had so many stories of my own worth telling. I walked outside the café the event had been in, and stopped passersby on the sidewalk to tell them dirty stories,” says the former sex-party producer who may be unaccustomed to Bawdy’s brazen honesty and voyeuristic flair.

“Help people craft that anecdote they tell at cocktail parties into a stage-worthy performance,” she says. Her expertise as a sexuality-based raconteur draws true anecdotes told in ten minutes without the aid of cue cards.

“What we want is a real connection between the

---

**The Inside Track:**

Park complex, including Sound Wave and the Wave House (but not including the roller coaster), is up for sale for $12 million. And there is no indication that the room that once hosted such artists as Prince, Snoop Dogg, Linkin Park, and the Black Crowes will be brought back as a music venue once it is sold.

Underscoring that is the fact that Canes founder Eric Leitstein was recently asked to come back and tour the venue he operated for 13 years. He was squeezed out in 2010 when Tom Lochtefeld (who held the master lease for the Belmont Park complex) took over Canes and renamed it Sound Wave. Lochtefeld also owned the pay-to-surf Wave House hangout/bar next door but had not operated a music venue before.

Leitstein was hoping that he could work out an arrangement with Lochtefeld to stay but ended up being kicked out of his own bar.

Lochtefeld has filed for bankruptcy, and now the City of San Diego, which owns the Belmont Park property, is looking to sell the complex.

A different insider says that without Leitstein, it would be hard to bring back Canes as a major-name showcase.

“Leitstein was the only one who got the formula right,” says the insider. “There are too many moving parts for someone who doesn’t know that room.” He says a chain like Dave & Buster’s or Bubble Gum’s may be interested, but without a major operator such as Live Nation or AEG, “It would be difficult for an independent person to make that place work as a music venue. AEG already has a small venue with Humphy’s, and Live Nation has House of Blues. Neither of those companies feel the need for another small room. Live Nation used to have 4th&8 and House of Blues, but they gave up 4th&8 because they just didn’t need a second room. And when the Casbah needs a larger room, they tend to use the Belly Up. Besides, it is my understanding that there are so many hits on that liquor license, that if someone were to buy that room, they can be in jeopardy right off the bat... And, I think this will be the last summer you see the Wave House in Mission Beach.” — Ken Leighton

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**THE KARBS**

**THE KARBS**

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**GEORGIA CHAIN GANG OF 1974**

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THE HEAVY CQUIT THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW BLACK HONDO • I WISH I

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CROCODILES • BLEEDING NEARLY HAVANA • DJ MARIO ORDUÑO

**THE CASBAH**

**FRI MAR 2**

**SEPTER**

**GRAMMATICAL B**

**THE KARBS**

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**SUNDAY • MARCH 18**

CROCODILES • BLEEDING NEARLY HAVANA • DJ MARIO ORDUÑO
on her PhD in sex-positive culture, writing for the zine SanFranSexy and blogs like SexLoveSex.com, and a former full-time gig creating content and serving as community manager for an adult dating site.

On Saturday, February 25, Bawdy curated their first San Diego showcase at Space 4 Art in the East Village, with several local storytellers, a handful of Bay Area bards, and dirty ukulele songstress Alicyn Packard.

“Listening to stories makes people want to tell their own stories. They make you feel like there are others who feel the same way you do. I’m convinced that storytelling is the antidote to loneliness and social anxiety.”

Record-Release Roundup. Manganista will debut their new single “Old Grey” on Friday, March 2, at the Ruby Room. “Manga has been on hiatus for the past three years due to our bass player moving to the Middle East, my fourth and final baby being born, and exploration of other projects,” says bandleader Matt Rhea, who promises more new music from the band. “We’re not sure how long this run will last, but we’ll keep on going as long as it remains fun and fresh.”

Also on March 2, jazz quartet Third Story (double bassist Danny Weller, guitarist Jeff Miles, pianist Joshua White, and L.A. drummer Jens Kuross) play a release party for their debut full-length at 98 Bottles in Little Italy. Weller produced and recorded the self-titled project at his family’s local studio.

Delta Spirit’s third full-length debuts March 13 via Rounder/Concord Records, after which a North American tour begins at Webster Hall in NYC (March 19), wrapping up 30 dates later at the Fillmore in San Francisco. The self-titled affair was produced by Chris Coady (Grizzly Bear, TV on the Radio).

Anya Marina’s third full-length, Felony Flats, is due March 13, featuring guest players Cody Votolato (Blood Brothers), Joe Plummer (Modest Mouse), and Eric Earley (Blitzen Trapper). “At shows, I’ll have a limited edition hand-stamped copy of the album for sale,” says Marina, “with ten prize certificates hidden among the albums, which will be your golden ticket to a sweet prize pack of T-shirts, concert tickets, and other goodies.”

A five-song EP from Incomplete Neighbor, Flowers and Dinosaurs, drops March 15, featuring their current lineup as a trio. A northwest tour starts in early April.

On March 24, fiddle rockers Lexington Field play a release party for their EP Poor Troubled Life at the Ruby Room. Minnesota-based label New Folk Records (Paddy O’Brien, Hounds of Finn) is also doing a national rerelease of their full-length Old Dirt Road.

Coffeehouse troubadour Lee Coulter’s full-length Mr. Positivity debuts March 27 at the Belly Up. According to Coulter, “The album is about the physical manifestation of my ongoing battle between the creative and the rational.”

— Jay Allen Sanford

CONTRIBUTORS
Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone
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FEBRUARY 28TH
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RESPECT HIS LEGACY, DRINK SAILOR JERRY RESPONSIBLY.

Thursday 1

A couple of country outlaws will ride through town this week, as that “Okie from Muskogee,” Merle Haggard, takes the stage at the Balboa Theatre downtown Thursday night, and Willie Nelson takes that very same stage next Wednesday. Haggard, a multiple Grammy and Country Music Awards winner — the man has 38(!) number-one hits — last year released his second on the Vanguard label, Working in Tennessee, which was a tender ode to the blues. Country magazine, said, “As nice on his Bakersfield groove with the greatest of ease, despite the album’s title.” Yeah, Haggard’s from Cali — he’d be all the way on Broadway and the squalling. Need a comedy comeback from them proceedings, a short trip up Fifth you’ll find. Thomas and the People at the Tin Can Ale House. The “Thomas,” one Thomas Johnson, hails from Baton Rouge and strums and hums from somewhere between Iron and Wine. His debut full-length, Bennath the Trees, is available on the interweb right now. Git on.... From Ames, Iowa, electropop ‘n’ hip-hop comedienne Leslie & the Li’s will be down at Casbah behind last year’s fabulously abulous Destination Friendship... Andthensomes: L.A. “gatting-gun fast” rapper Busdriver pulls into Soda Bar behind his new t’do, BeauS’Frosi, with his hip-hop supendous pair Nocando...alt-rocking Los Angelino Sergio Bedolla’s Fantazzmo’s at Brick By Brick...and the Squidling Bros., caryn-freaky thing hits Shake down with the Coffin Bangers Gorelesque and Zombie Surf Camp.

Friday 2

Bay Area retro-pop hit Girls will play the Birch North Park Theatre Friday night. With the release of last years Father, Son, Holy Ghost, Christopher Owens proved he could pen and produce something that’d stick to the wall. Don’t get me wrong, the debut was rad, but fleeting. I’m still unpulling the layers on this one, from the Bunny Holly-style revivalist ditties to the unadulterated rock ’n’ roll music with what can I say, I like Girls. I caught their set last year’s Fuck Yeah Fest, and band and backing singers brought pop clarity to that slumber dance dust storm. Cannot wait to see them at the Birch, haven’t been there in forever. Meaning ever. I hear it’s nice. Unknown Mortal Orchestra opens the show.... Best of the rest, “San Diego, emerging voice in modern jazz,” Third Story, plays 98 Bottles. This debut-CD release features Danny Weller on bass, pianist Joshua White, Jeff Miles on guitar, drummer Jens Kurosz, with special guest Gilbert Castellanos on trumpet... Soda Bar serves up some electropop by Jamuel Saxon before the boys depart for Austin and SXSW. Blacks and Clockart up first... British prog guitarist Guthrie Govan (Asia) and the Aristocrats play Brick by Brick with Science Fiction... nibblers Ultimate Stones and Classic Cream rise at Belly Up... while country chanteuse Sophie B. Hawkins hits Ramona’s Mainstage.

Saturday 3

Russian-American goth-rocker Nika Rova Danilova, a Zola Jesus, appears at Casbah Saturday night. She is out to tout last year’s Conatus collection. Operatic at turns, Pitchfork called the ambient pieces “new wave mounted on a geological scale.” They’re the experts. With Brooklyn no-wave duo Talk Normal setting the stage, this’d be the headshoest to see.... Moving south (in all kinda ways) emo punk three-piece Alkaline Trio’s down at House of Blues behind last year’s acoustic reconfiguration of their “hits,” Darminda. Riverboat Gamblers ante up first... River City, the Western Set, Summer Brothers, and Joanie Mendenhall fill a country-fried rock bill at Tin Can Ale House. This one’s a CD-release thing for the Western Set... Zonie garage-rock act the Love Me Nots will be out at Tower Bar with Brainspoon and Sister City... Oh! Shakedown stages South London’s working-class skinhead heroes the Business with Chi-town melodic punks Downtown Struts and our own Rat City Riot. NonCal no-metal quartet Adema will stack ‘em up at Brick by Brick behind brand-spanking new EP Topple the Giants.... According to Keef Richards, “Dumbstapunk is the best funk band from New Orleans right now.” If you trust Keef — and why wouldn’t you? — Ivan Neville’s crew’ll be punkin’ up Winstons in O.B.... And that roots-rocking traveling troubadour Jackie Greene will be at Belly Up Till the Light Comes.

Sunday 4

“O’ Brother” is an indie-rock band from Atlanta, GA, with a mesmerizing and powerful sound, taking influence from different bands such as Radiohead, Applesseed Cali, Mogwai, and Sigur Ros.” Never heard of O’ Brother, but that don’t mean squat if this message they approved rings true. All these great bands wrapped into one play Soda Bar with Junius. Never heard of them either, but both these bands are racking up five- and six-digit web hits.... Heard of (and heard) Ty Segall, and can confidently recommend his SanFranc garage-rock band to fans of the brand. Ty and co. will be down at Casbah in support of last year’s Drug City keeper, Goodbye Bread. Like-minded locals the Kabb’s split the bill... Else: indie-folkie Gayle Skidmore will be up the big hill at Tin Can Ale House with Seattlete Tito Ramsey and our own Boyish Charms... and there’s a Gram Parsons tribute at Belly Up featuring a whole bunch of local talent. Click this for the list. bellyup.com/show/detail/59988.

Monday 5

From Klysh in Scotland, indie-rock act the Twilight Sad sets on Casbah’s Anti-Monday stage in support of this year’s Fat Cap offering, No One Can Ever Know. Americana singer and guitarist from Abilene, Texas, Micah P. Hinson, up first. Found this on Wiki: “Hinson describes himself as ‘a firm supporter of the American Dream,’ which he considers Barack Obama to be ‘the murderer of.’” Discuss.

Tuesday 6

Get a trio of Tuesday t’dos: SoCal Celt punk Flogging Molly are touring behind Speed of Darkness. The seven-piece pulls up at House of Blues.... From Brooklyn via Phoenix, indie-pop four-piece Miniature Tigers plays Casbah behind this year’s Mia Pharaoh (love it), with Geographer, Chain Gang of 1974, and Pretty and Nice filling in first... And Che Cafe stages Waxhatchee, “the solo project of Katie Crutchfield of P.S. Eliot and Bad Banana.” I’ve no idea, either, but the little lady’s got 51,590 plays on last.fm and that doesn’t suck. Sledding with Tigers and Midnight Parade fill the bill at the campus collective.

Wednesday 7

As mentioned at the outset, Willie Nelson & Family visit our rehabbed Balboa Theatre Wednesday night. Shotgun Willie’s been mining the Billboard charts for country hits from the past 70 years for his latest studio set. Remember Me, Vol. 1. Volume 2 is due later this year. From Bordeaux, garage-rock duo The Magnetix, featuring “Queen of the Bad Beat,” beat it to Bar Pink.... While one pissed-off hillbilly, that country skunk guitarist from TH Legendary Shack Shakers and Hank III, Joe Buck Yourself, sets up at the Shakedown after Nick Bone and the Hooten Hollers. Hee fin’lin’ hav’.

— Barnaby Monk
Find Club Crawler online at SDRreader.com/club-crawler
TICKETS & INFO
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MONDAY, MARCH 19TH

THE ULTIMATE STONES
A TRIBUTE TO THE ROLLING STONES WITH CLASSIC CREAM FEATURING KEN BAKER
W/DJ MAN CAT
FRIDAY 3/2 • 9 PM

JACKIE GREENE
JACKIE’S LIVIN ART IN WILD NOTE CAFE FWRD 2:30-5:30
W/ABBE BEYER SATURDAY 3/3 • 9 PM

SD COASTKEEPERS OCEAN COMMOTION
FEAT THE BARNWELL SHIFT, BIG PENNY AND GUESTS
WEDNESDAY 3/7 • 8 PM

WHO’S BAD
(MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE)
W/THE TIGHTEN UPS AND DJ MAN CAT
SATURDAY 3/10 • 9 PM

THE SILENT COMEDY
DEAD FEATHER MOON THE HOWLS
W/DJ MANCAT
THURSDAY 3/8 • 9 PM

POLYNESIAN UNDERGROUND PRESS THE GREEN
W/ASSAFIRE AND DJ CARLOS CULTURE FRIDAY 3/9 • 9 PM

THE PARAGRAPHS
WHEAVY GLOW AND TROUBLE IN THE WIND TUESDAY 3/13 • 8 PM

THE ENGLISH BEAT
TWO NIGHTS!
Fri, March 16th w/ SKANIC Sat, March 17th w/ THE LIFTERS

Just Added: 4/22 An Evening with the Steely Damned • 5/12 Delta Spirit

Upcoming Shows:
2/29 An Evening with Boz Scaggs • SOLD OUT!
3/1 Drive By Truckers w/Robert Ellis
3/5 Jungle Pres Wideskies w/Jungle Residents
MATT MARABILIA, PEONY AND THE LION, RYAN OREY
3/18 Saga Franchise w/inspired Flight
3/19 Lucero
3/21 Colts
3/21 Consipirator w/Marc and Aron from Disco Biscuits
3/23 & 24 Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe Performs a Tribute to the Beach Boys, feat members of Nighttime Capoid
3/25 Dazed and Confused

Strings Attached
2/26 Kathleen Edwards
3/2 Lee Coulter Album Release
3/8 Galactic feat Carey Cleaver of Living Colour and Carey Henry w/The Soul Rebels
3/9 Todd Snider
3/10 Michael Rose
3/1 Super Diamond
4/1 Laugh for Recovery
4/2 Martines w/Kenny Lane Elite Elvs Tribute
4/3 Heartless Bastards
4/4 Poster Moondog
4/5 Seedless
4/6 Vokab Kompany
4/7 The Urbanites
4/12 Dark Star Orchestra
4/13 Steel Pulse
4/14 Pine Mountain Logs
4/15 Taj Mahal

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My Way
“I only buy full albums, so I have to like it as a whole before I’ll buy.”

Originally from Belgium, Sorrento Valley-based singer/guitarist Carl Durant relocated to San Diego in 2002 to take a job with a newly founded electronics firm.

“When I discovered the open mic nights, I started turning up more and more with my guitar. It became more of a focus, especially my songwriting, which Cathryn Beeks encouraged when I started writing songs for ‘The Game.’”

Held approximately monthly, the Game is a songwriter showcase where Beeks provides a song title and several locals write and perform an original tune based on that title. Originated by Jeff Berkley, Steve Poltz, and Gregory Page, other Game participants have included Josh Damigo, Astra Kelly, Berkley Hart, Ken Lehnig, and Christy Bruneau.

“Damigo, Astra Kelly, Berkley Hart, Ken Lehnig, and Christy Bruneau. When I started writing songs for ‘The Game.’”

Carl Durant knows a thing or two about integrated circuit design and hangover cures.

Carl Durant performs at the Acoustic Alliance showcase at Brick by Brick on March 11.

Describe Your Music to Potential Collaborators
“I’ve been pitching my live band sound as Brian Molko of Placebo joins the Decemberists to play an electrified James Blunt cover, remixed by Moby.”

What’s in Your CD

Player?
1. Anton Walgrave, Every Night You Pray. “My favorite Belgian artist.”
2. Nick Cave, Dig!! Lazarus Dig!! “A perfect mix of the mellow, the brooding, the more punk Nick Cave. From his Birthday Party band days to ‘The Ship Song’ era to now he has had an interesting, varied repertoire. And always good songs.”
3. Gregory Page, All Make Believe. “One of those gems I can always listen to from start to finish.”

Anything on Your Playlist that’d Surprise Us?
“Maybe the Robbie Williams greatest-hits record, Escapology.”

Favorite Concert?
“One of my first ever, must have been in 1990 or 1991, was the Dutch band Trockener Kecks at the Lido in Leuven, Belgium. Great, energetic show, but they also got the sold-out club so quiet that the only thing you could hear were the humming amplifiers and ventilation fans. And then everyone started singing along on the choruses, no instruments playing. Goosebumps!”

First Time Drunk?
“When I was 14, on a weekend trip during the Christmas holidays with my scout troop in Belgium, I got a little crazy on shots of Bailey’s Irish Cream, and I was bathroom-bound for a good part of the night. Apparently my coordination was a bit off, too, and I didn’t make good friends with the guys that had to clean it up. I think I drank a little bit of beer the next morning, to try the ‘hair of the dog’ approach. There was no aspirin, and my head hurt so much.”

What Song Best Describes Your Life?
“My Way,” made famous by Frank Sinatra, but the Sex Pistols version: “Yes, there were times, I’m sure you knew? When I bit off more than I could chew.”

Something Better in America than Belgium?
“You can return stuff to the store here!”

Local Eatery Where You Take Out-of-Town Guests?
“Del Mar Pizza. And South Beach Bar & Grille in O.B., with the best non-fried fish tacos in town.”

Any Confessions?
“My, I lied about the CDs. Those have been in town.”

What Don’t We Know About You?
“I published my PhD about integrated circuit design as a book in 2003. It made me a whopping $100 in royalties.”

Find more musician interviews online at SDReader.com/interviews

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**THIS WEEK’S SHOWS**

**4th&B:** 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343. Thursday, 7pm — Thrice. Friday, 9pm — Nickelback.
**AMSDcert: 4560** Manzfeld St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176. Saturday, 7:30pm — Blame Sally. Folk/country rock.

**Anthology:** 1337 India St., Little Italy, 877-828-8891. Saturday, 7pm — Al Stewart. Scottish singer-songwriter.

**Bar Dynamite:** 2003 30th St., Ocean Beach, 858-481-8140. Saturday — Jackie Greene. Americana/roots rock.

**Beaumont’s:** 5652 La Jolla Bl, La Jolla, 858-459-0474. Thursday, 8pm — Simeon Flick. Pop/rock cover band. Free. Friday, 9pm — Slower Jazz lounge. Free.

**Birch North Park Theatre:** 2891 University Ave., North Park, 619-239-8836. Friday — Girls and Unknown Mortal Orchestra.

**Bob Burton Center for the Performing Arts:** 2400 Southstagecoach Dr., Fallbrook, 760-731-2728. Sunday, 3pm — La Jolla Symphony Chorus. Benefit for youth music outreach program. Fallbrookmusicociety.org

**Brass Rail:** 3796 Fifth Ave., Hillcrest, 619-298-2233. Saturday, 6pm — In-famous San Diego. $10.

**Brick by Brick:** 1130 Buenos Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5833. Thursday, 8pm — Fantazzmo. $5. Friday, 8pm — The Aristocrats and Science Fiction. $20. Saturday, 7pm — Adema. $13-$15.

**Ché Café:** 5050 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-2311. Friday, 7:30pm — Ezra Buchla. Experimental/ambient. Tuesday — Washabuck, Sledding with Tigers. Midwest Parade.

**Comedy Store:** 1200 Pacific Hwy., La Jolla, 858-454-9176. March 2 & 3 • 8 & 10:30 pm. Comedy Store Favorite.

**Green Beer:** 2801 7th Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-481-8140. Wednesday, 8pm — 2 Bit Radio.

**Hillcrest:** 1435 4th Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100. Thursday, 7:30pm — Merle Haggard, Country.

**La Jolla:** 1435 4th Ave., Downtown, 619-570-1100. Thursday, 7:30pm — Merle Haggard, Country.

**March 2 & 3 • 8 & 10:30 pm. Comedy Store Favorite.**

**Musical Comedy:** 7944 Goldfinch St., La Jolla, 858-459-0474. Thursday, 8pm — Simeon Flick. Pop/rock cover band. Free. Friday, 9pm — Slower Jazz lounge. Free.

**Mikal Cronin, The Feeling of Oblivion and Micah P. Hinson.** $10.


**The Casbah:** 2501 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-232-4355. Thursday, 8:30pm — Leslie & the Lys. $10-$12. Friday, 8:30pm — Roddy Radiation and the UK Subs. $10-$12. Saturday, 8:30pm — Zola Jesus and Talk Normal. $13-$15. Sunday, 8:30pm — Ty Segall, Mikal Cronin. The Feeling of Love. $12-$14. Monday, 8:30pm — Twilight Sad and Micah P. Hinson. $10.


**Tigers.** $10-$12. Wednesday, 8:30pm — Republic of Letters, Henry Clay People, Weatherbox. $8.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CALL (858) 454-9176**

By DAVE GOOD

“My brother Josh and I started the Silent Comedy as sort of a side project,” says Jeremiah Zimmerman. “Sort of a lark. They were both members of an aggressive punk band at the time. ‘But growing up, our parents listened to old folk music.’ We thought folk would be a fun thing to do on the side. We wrote some songs and thought we’d have a never-ending cast of side men.” But the punk band never took off, and in its absence they decided to go full time with Silent Comedy, which was at first completely acoustic. “Then it snowballed, and we got more energy and started plugging stuff in.” He describes the band now as a blues and rock-and-roll and folk hybrid with acoustic instruments plugged into amps. “It’s a weird tweak on that sound.”

For years the Casbah was a home-base for them. “But we also looked for non-traditional places,” says Jeremiah, which included booking a sold-out New Year’s Eve concert with Transfer at the Lafayette Hotel in North Park. “A lot of local bands don’t think along the lines of producing bigger events.”

Insight into the band’s love of the larger stage may be found in the Zimmerman brothers’ upbringing. “Our dad was a Pentecostal preacher.” They lived for a while in Huntington Beach, and then the family sold everything and moved to India, then Spain, then back to San Diego. “Our parents are hippie Pentecostals, the weirdest combination you could be.” Jeremiah says they grew up loving the drama of the church. “It was fun! People jumping up and down, going crazy, people singing together.” They thought they’d like to get that aspect of religious performance art going in their own bar gigs. “We try to do some of that call-and-response thing with the crowd.” He calls their show a whiskey-fueled tent revival but with this caveat: “We’re not religious.”

Dead Father Moon and the Howls also perform.

**SILENT COMEDY: Belly Up Tavern, Thursday March 8, 9 pm.**

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/note
**TY SEGALL**

The exhaustingly prolific Ty Segall has been earning a name for himself in San Francisco's crowded lo-fi/psychedelic punk scene over the past few years with a string of noisy, mostly scatter-hed releases with an occasional glimpse of greatness. But that's changing for the better. Like Wavves or the late Jay Reatard, to whom he's often compared, most of Segall's catalog is delivered in bratty, rapid-fire vocals with fuzzy guitars and clangorous drums, all leavened by hooks and bits of melody. Until recently, Segall's recordings have been as much about experimental noise and psychedelic weirdness as they have been about punk energy. It hasn't always been easy to find

BY WILLIAM CRAIN

the songcraft in his records, but it has been there. Goodbye Bread, one of two long-players Segall released last year, made things more clear. First, the sound quality is better than before. Second, the songwriting has taken a big leap forward. The title track is a stoner ballad, complete with a seductive vocal sweep up to high notes in the refrain. If you poke around online, you can find several videos of Segall playing the song solo. He tries it in slightly different styles, but he keeps the tempo slow to better show off the build-up to those high notes. He knows he's got a winner. Even the rockers on Goodbye Bread, such as the wonderfully titled "You Make the Sun Fry," are slower and more melodic than anything he's done. That's not to say that Segall has taken a turn toward mainstream rock...whatever that means.

Mikal Cronin and The Feeling of Love also

found more Of Note columns online at

SDReader.com/note

obscure, suddenly Segall sounds like someone who could command huge audiences.

---

**Eleven**: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-450-4292.

**Friday**, 9pm — Melly Frances and Heavy Guilt. $6.

**Saturday**, 9pm — The Yiffs. $4.

**Gallagher’s Pub & Grill**: 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.

**Saturday**, 9pm — Lexington Nightclub. $25.

**The Loft**: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-587-4828.

**Saturday**, 8pm — Three by a Million, Yoga, Pop/hip-hop. $18.

**San Diego Reader**

March 1, 2012

**Saturday**: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.


**Saturday**: 8pm — Jenny Owen. U2 tribute band in the Starlight Theater. Free.

**Pat’s Ills**: 428 F St., Downtown, 619-233-3077.


**Saturday**: 8pm — Michelle Jude and Blues Steaks. Funk/ funk.

**Porter’s Pub at UCSD**: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-587-4828.

**Saturday**, 8pm — Fly Ly and School Boy Q. Rap/hip-hop. $18.

**Ramona Mainstage Nightclub**: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.

**Friday**, 8pm — Sophie B. Hawkins. Rock/pop.

**Ruby Room**: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.

**Friday**, 8pm — Manganista, Unsteady, The Burning of Rome. Wednesday, 8pm — Brown Shoe, Little Dead Girl, Finding Francis, Not Machines.

**Shakedown Bar**: 3038 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.

**Thursday**, 9pm — Squidling Brothers, Coffin Bangers, Gorelesque, Zombie Surf Camp. Friday, 10pm — Pharmacy, Finding Francis, The Touches, Kitty Plague. Saturday, 10pm — The Business, the Downtown Struts, Rat City Rats.

**Soda Bar**: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.

**Thursday**, 8pm — Squidling Brothers, Coffin Bangers, Gorelesque, Zombie Surf Camp. Friday, 10pm — Pharmacy, Finding Francis, The Touches, Kitty Plague. Saturday, 10pm — The Business, the Downtown Struts, Rat City Rats.

**Sunset Temple Theater**: 3911 Kansas St., North Park.

**Saturday**, 7pm — The Farewell Drifters, The Scarlet Furies, Folding Mr. Lincoln, Americana/ bluegrass. $16.

**Sycuan Casino Showcase Theatre**: 5469 Casino Way, El Cajon, 619-445-6002.

**Saturday**, 8pm, Sunday, 6pm — Lorrie Morgan and Pam Tillis. Country. $35-$45.

**Thumbprint Gallery**: 920 Kline St., La Jolla, 858-354-6294.

**Saturday**, 8pm — Sam Yew, $18.

**Tuesday**: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662. Saturday, 6:30pm — Oh, Guardian. $10.

**Wednesday**: 6:30pm — Everyday Avenue. $13.

**Goodbye Bread**, one of the most successful bands in modern punk, is returning to Ramona Mainstage this Saturday night. The band has built a following throughout the country and has shared stages with bands like The Used and New Found Glory. The band is known for its high-energy performances and catchy tunes that are sure to keep the audience on their feet. This show is not to be missed, as Goodbye Bread is sure to deliver an unforgettable experience.

**Ty Segall**: The Casbah, Sunday, March 4, 8:30 p.m. 619-232-4355. $12 advance; $14 day of show.

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**Upcoming Shows**

**May 4** PAUL BANTON • MAY 17 TAB BENNET

**May 11** EXTREME MIDGET WRESTLING

**May 18** JOEY MEDINA

**June 15** JOHN BONHAM'S LED ZEPPELIN • JULY 13 THE JOURNEY

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9th March (CD RELEASE PARTY) THE DEVASTATORS

17th March O’WINSTONS HOSTES YOUR ST. PATTY’S DAY PARTY ALL DAY LONG

6-9PM

1st March EVERY WEDNESDAY OPEN MIC WITH JEFFERSON JAY (ROCK) THE STIRCRAZIES KENTA HAYASHI AND PAT LANTZETTA

2nd March 6:00PM Jury DuCinha and JOSH NELSON (Dance Party) Todo Mundo and Social Vibes

3rd March 7:00PM OBOKE WITH ROSE FRANZA

4th March 8:00PM LISTEN LOCAL WITH CATHERINE REEFS (OVER 1,000 MONDAY NIGHTS) THE ELECTRIC WASTE BAND

5th March 9:00PM THINK N DRINK TRIVIA WITH YOUR HOST JESSE EGAN (ROCK) REVENGE DEATH BALL CASKETS ON PARADE AND THE WASTRELS

6th March 9:00PM OBC COMEDY COMPETITION CLUB KINGSTON WITH REVIVAL AND DOM CARLOS CULTURE

9th March (CD RELEASE PARTY) THE DEVASTATORS

10th March OBC-STEVEN GARZA AND JOSH NELSON (DANCE PARTY) TODO MUNDO AND SOCAL VIBES

11th March 9:30PM JASON BROWN AND THE BLUES HUNGRY

12th March 9:30PM O’WINSTONS HOSTES YOUR ST. PATTY’S DAY PARTY ALL DAY LONG

15th March 9:30PM OBC COMEDY COMPETITION CLUB KINGSTON WITH REVIVAL AND DOM CARLOS CULTURE

16th March 9:30PM OBC COMEDY COMPETITION CLUB KINGSTON WITH REVIVAL AND DOM CARLOS CULTURE

17th March 9:30PM O’WINSTONS HOSTES YOUR ST. PATTY’S DAY PARTY ALL DAY LONG

Sat/Day night at 11pm

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UPCOMING SHOWS
4th&8: 345 B St., Downtown, 619-231-4343.
March 15 — Local Hip-Hop Showcase.
March 16 — Bostich+Fussible.
March 22 — Soulfly.
March 24 — Kid Frost.
March 30 — Bone Thugs-n-Harmony.
April 7 — E.40.
April 14 — The Monsters of Southern Rock.
April 22 — Y&T.
April 27 — Ramon Ayala.
710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-7844.
March 9 — Twin Atlantic.
March 10 — Dive Bomber.
98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl., Downtown, 619-239-8836.
March 10 — SheBele Blue.
AMSDConcerts: 4650 Mansted St., Normal Heights, 619-303-8176.
March 15 — Cheryl Wheeler.
March 21 — Ian Tyson.
March 25 — Lori McKenna.
March 29 — David Wilcox.
April 1 — Tom Paxton.
May 5 — It’s a Beautiful Day.
Across the Street: 4601 Park Bl., University Heights.
March 9 — Psychosally.

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EVERYONE’S A CRITIC
Music Reviews from Our Readers

foxes!
by foxes!
By Jake Gilgen
Show of hands: who thinks there should be more songs about panda bears? Especially as sung by pixie-cute British girls and — damn! — their husbands, apparently...

foxes!, from Bright- ton, England, are the band for you, if you are looking for jangly, upbeat indie tunes. With tongue firmly in cheek for several tracks, there’s a lot to like on this one. I am especially impressed — and touched with nostalgia — when foxes! bust out the Casio keyboard, like the one I had when I was eight years old.

I am not a fan of breathy, girly vocals (I prefer a Janis or Gracie), but I have to admit that lead vocalist Kayla Bell’s delivery and sweetness of tone charmed the mean out of me, especially on “The Panda Bear Song” and the insta-classic “Who Killed Rob?” which is apparently about a hipster on a fixie who is killed in an accident. The delivery is so sincere that it might make one feel bad for the now-deceased Rob.

This is fun, springy music, so if you are ready to get out of your winter doldrums, pick this up on CD (or RDIQ, like I did).

To Daniel Knighton
By Daniel Knighton
I was waiting, as I’ve been since last November when Joe Walsh rescheduled his sold-out show at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach, the wait was well worth it. Simply put, life’s been good to Joe Walsh. And it shows in his performance. Looking better than he has in years, he had the crowd singing along with almost every tune. I say “almost” because a few new tunes were mixed in and fans haven’t had time to learn the words yet.

The title track from his new CD Analog Man, along with “Wrecking Ball,” mixed well with Walsh staples such as “Turn to Stone,” “Life’s Been Good,” and “Rocky Mountain Way.” Also on the setlist were a couple songs from his James Gang days (“Funk 49” and “Walk Away”) and Eagles hits (“In the City” and “Life in the Fast Lane”)

Concert: Joe Walsh
Date: February 2
Venue: Belly Up
Seats: General

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AdenA TRAILERPARK ROCKSTARS BURDENS ARISE ORFEUS SEKS
OPEN 2PM DAILY. HAPPY HOUR 4-7PM
Friday, March 2
THE ARISTOCRATS
with
GUTHRIE GOVAN & MIKE KENEALLY
SCIENCE FICTION
Saturday, March 3
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Friday, March 16

The San Diego Ski & Rock Steady Extravaganza Featuring Ska legend
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QUEEN P • THE DELIRIANS
SHOCKS OF MIGHTY
THE AMALGAMATED
THE NIGHT DOCTORS
SKAVOLATORY ORCHESTRA
DJ SKARINA • MC JR. FRANCIS

Saturday, March 17
Rasta Nation Posse presents
TRISTAN PALMA
Backed by San Diego’s very own
REVIVAL
Guest DJ D. Roots
HAPPY HOUR
EVERY DAY 5-7 PM
1/2 OFF SELECTED FOOD & BEVERAGE
Excludes holidays and concert nights.

HUMPHREYS BACKSTAGE LIVE
Thursday, March 1
7pm • Blues
Mercedes Moore

Sunday, March 4
8pm • Smooth Jazz
Will Donato

Friday, March 2
9pm • Folk, Rock
Allegra Barley

Monday, March 5
7pm • Blues
Chet Cannon
Monday Blues Party

Tuesday, March 6
7pm • Scorchin Blues
Michele Lundeen

Wednesday, March 7
7pm • Blues
Lady Star
Bustin Loose Blues Band

Saturday, March 3
7:30pm & 9:45pm • Classic Rock
Rockola
(george harrison’s birthday bash)

Sunday, March 4
8pm • Smooth Jazz
Will Donato

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March 9 — Atomic Groove.
March 10 — Blues Fest.

Humphreys by the Bay: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
April 16 — Elvis Costello & the Imposters.
April 17 — Madness.
May 13 — Rufus Wainwright.
The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.
March 10 — TapWater.

Molly Malone’s: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.
March 9 — Natural Selection.
March 10 — Skynyr’d’s Innyrds.

March 23 — A Night of Chapman Stick.
March 31 — Women in Jazz.
Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
March 10 — DSB: A Tribute to Journey.
March 24 — Wayward Sons.
March 31 — Bonfire.
August 10 — Diana Krall.

March 9 — Peter Frampton.
March 16 — Pepe Aguilar.

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March 16 — Pepe Aguilar.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
March 10 — Jack Russell’s Great White.
May 4 — Pato Banton.
May 17 — Tab Benoit.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
March 9 — Geezer and Jane’s Diction.

Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
March 8 — Electric Frankenstein and Deadbeat Vultures.
March 9 — Gal Holiday & the Honky Tonk Revue.
March 10 — Griever.

March 8 — Chelsea Grin.
March 9 — The Material and Silver Snakes.
March 10 — Asking Alexandria.
March 16 — Rehab.
March 21 — We Came As Romans.
March 22 — Set Your Goals.
March 23 — Sleeping with Sirens.

March 10 — Puddle of Mudd.
March 24 — Lonestar.
March 31 — 38 Special.
April 1 — Tesla.
April 15 — Kansas.

Tin Can Alley: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.
March 8 — Appetite and Normandie Wilson.
March 9 — Landis and Said the Whale.
March 10 — Maus Haus.

March 8 — Oldest Boy and Girl.

The Tower Bar: 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.
March 8 — Chris Webby.
March 9 — Saul Williams.
March 10 — The Velvet Teen.

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March 21 — We Came As Romans.
March 22 — Set Your Goals.
March 23 — Sleeping with Sirens.
1st Ever Reader Appreciation Party @AnthologySD!

Ever wonder what Bobby Bray looks like? He's on the left....

Some locals enjoying PELIGROSO's delicious drink specials.

Kent Georgi, Chad Deal and Reader Andy

Some @AllThingsSD crowd.

Some people might have gotten slightly out of hand...

huge thanks to peligroso tequila, sd centric, anthology, all things san diego, and all of our advertisers for making things like this possible!

We'd also like to thank everybody who likes us on Facebook. We hit 10,000 fans this week!

pssst... nothing official yet, but id keep a/ao open on my schedule if i was you.

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**ALLIED GARDENS**

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $3 select house & domestic beers, house wine, well drinks. 2-1/2-off appetizers.

**ALPINE**

Alpine Inn: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $2 off wines by the glass, $3 domestic & local beers. Thursday, 3-7pm: $1.50 canned domestic & Mexican pints, $2.50 house wine. $3 off pitcher.

**BALBOA PARK**

The Prado: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-8pm: $3.50 well pitchers, $3.50 well & domestic champagne. Thursday, 5-8pm: $2.50 domestic & Mexican pints, $3.50 house wine. $3 off pitcher.

**BANKERS HILL**

Avenue 5: Thursday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $1 off wines by the glass, $3 drafts, wells. $2 off bar food.

Azuki Sushi Lounge: Daily, 5-7pm: $5 large sake, $5 large Sapporo.

**CARLSBAD**

The Alley: Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics. Bellefeur: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, happy hour wine, half-bottles. Bistro West: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: Discounted wine, draft, well, specialty martinis, bar appetizers. La Costa Grill: Daily, 4-7pm, 9-11pm: $4 wells, house wines, $1 off cups & premiums. Appetizers reduced. Greek Village: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7:30pm: 1/2-off beer, wine by the glass, wells.

**CENTRAL SAN DIEGO**

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beer. Mr. Peabody’s: Monday-Saturday, 11am-6pm: $2.50 domestic beer, wine, spooth shots, wells + juice. $3.50 margaritas. Free taco bar from 3pm to 6pm with drink purchase.

**CLIFFORD**

Besta-Wan Pizza House: Daily, 11am-6pm: $1 off pint, glass of house wine. $3 off pitcher.

**COLLEGE AREA**

Casa Machado: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm, 2.50 margaritas. $2.50 domestic drafts, $3.50 domestic imports. Cucina Fresca and Sons: Monday-Friday, 11am-7pm: $1.75 domestic beer. Effin’s Pub & Grill: Daily, all day: 2 Bud Bottles Night-7pm $1 off wells & drafts, 1-2-off appetizers. Marie Callender’s: Monday-Friday, 7-11pm: $1.95 draft, $2.50 well, $3.50 house margarita. 1/2-price appetizers (in bar only). Pal Joey’s: Daily, all day: $3 personal pitchers. Satin Lounge: Thursday, 9pm-close: $1 Bud drafts.

**CORONADO**

Bistro d’Asia: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic beer, $3.75 draft beer. $4.50 house wine. $1 off hand rolls. Costa Azul: Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm: $3 Bud Light pints, domestic bottles. $3.50 imported bottles, wells, house wine, sangria. $3.75 drafts. $6 margaritas. Mojitos. $2.95 tacos, $3.50 shrimp, $5.95 nachos.

**CITY HEIGHTS**

Black Cat Bar: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3.50 import drafts, $2 PBR cans, $5 martini. The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

**CLAREMONT**

Boomerangs Gourmet Burger Joint: Daily, 4-7pm: Discounted draft beer. $3.50 house wine.

Fat Tony’s Pizza: Monday-Thursday, 5-8pm: $2 off any tap or bottled beer, glass of wine. Joe’s Pizza: Thursday, 6-9pm: $2 any tap or bottled beer, glass of wine. Viva Vino: Monday-Saturday, all day: $8.99 domestic beer.

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Danny’s Palm Bar: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3 domestic drafts, $4 wells.

Grunny Dan’s Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2.50 domestic drafts. $3 domestic bottles, wells, house wine. Yummy Sushi: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $3.50 large sake, $20-50% off specialty cocktails.

**DEL MAR**

Crépes and Corks Restaurant and Wine Bar: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-6pm: $2 off select wines by the glass. $1 off drafts. 15% off appetizers.

**DOWNTOWN**

Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 domestic drafts. $5 premium wells. 1/2-off artisan flat bread.

Bandar Fine Persian Cuisine: Friday, 6 pomegranate martinis. Saturday, $6 cosmos.

La Fiesta: Daily, 11am-6pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 domestic bottles, $3 house margaritas, $4 frozen mojitos. The Fleetwood: Monday-Friday, 5-6pm: $4 call.

Funky Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant: Daily, 7-11pm: 1/2-off all drinks; $1.50 carne asada and pollo asado tacos.

Glaspad Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 drafts, house wines, well. Appetizer specials.

La Gran Tapas: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $2.50 dress, $3.50 beer, sangria. $4 wells.

The Hopping Pig: Monday-Saturday, 2-6pm: $4 craft beer; $3.50 well & wine.

House of Blues: Daily, 7-9pm: $2 domestic drafts, $3 wines, $3 wells, $4 martini. Killer happy hour menu.

Siren at Hotel Palomar San Diego: Daily, 4-8pm: 1/2-price specialty cocktails/beer/wine (excluding special events and pool parties).

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: Daily, 5-8pm: 1/2-off all well beers, wine.

Tivoli Bar & Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off pitchers. $3.50 off liquor.
Tango Restaurant & Lounge: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks; 1/2-off bar menu.

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Daily, 5-7pm: $6 wine, tapas; $4.50 wells; $3 doggie bites.

FALLbrook

Aqua Terra: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3 domestic, $9 pitcher; $4 imported, $12 pitcher; 1/2-off sushi rolls (no sushi on Monday).

GOLDEN HILL

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-4pm: $1 off all beer/wine/spirits. $5 lunch: 1/2-lb burger, chicken sandwich, or two Louisiana hot links + chips.

GRANTVILLE

JT’s Clubhouse Pub & Grill: Monday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints 11am-4pm; 2/5 beer. Tuesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints 11am-4pm; $1 tacos. Wednesday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints 11am-4pm; $1 all food. Thursday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. $2.50 1/2-lb burger with fries. Saturday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints. 4-9pm: 1/2-off all food. Sunday, 11am-7pm: $3 domestic pints.

Tio Leos: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints, $4 house margaritas & well.

HARBOR ISLAND

The Boathouse: Daily, 2:30-5pm: $1.99 margaritas, $3 Caeser margaritas. $3 Karl Strauss, $4 mojitos.

HILLCREST

The Caliph: Daily, noon-7pm: $4 wells, $3 domestic bottles.

Tre Porcellini: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 domestic bottles. $3.50 drafts and house wine.

Wine Steals: Tuesday, 5:30-7pm: $5 wine tasting, Saturday, 4-6:30pm: $10 wine tasting.

IMPERIAL BEACH

Club Bananas at Lydia’s Cafe: Daily, open-10pm: $3 wells & domestic.

KEARNy MESA

Bud’s Louisiana Cafe: Wednesday-Thursday, 3-9pm: 1/2-price beer and wine by the glass.

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

Tajima Sushi & Japanese Tapas: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-7pm: 1/2-off house sake/drafts.

Kensington

Kensington Café: Daily, 3-7pm: $3 all beers, $4-$5 all glasses of wine, all tapas under $5.50.

The Kensington Club: Daily, 10am-6pm: $2.50 wells, drafts, domestic bottles.

Kensington Vine: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $5 fine wine.

Tijuana: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.

LA JOLLA

Beaumont’s: Daily, 4-6pm: $3 draft, well, $5 Cabernet, Chardonnay. Special prices on margarita, sangria, wine cooler.

Extreme Pizza: Daily, 3-6pm: $3 premium beer.

Jose’s La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 margaritas. $2 off appetizers.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beer.

La Jolla Brew House: Tuesday-Thursday, noon-7pm: $2 off craft beer; $3 wells and house wines, $3 off appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 10pm-close: $2 off craft beer; $3 wells and house wines.

Lupi Italian Restaurant: Tuesday-Sunday, 5-7pm: $3.50 martinis, beer, wine. Free doggie treats.

The Melting Pot: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off cheese fondue, salads, chocolate fondue.

Roppongi: Daily, 3-6pm: 1/2-off Asian tapas & sushi rolls.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Daily, 3-7pm: $1 off wells, domestic taps.

Su Casa: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: 1/2-off wells and appetizers (excludes seafood & guacamole).

LA MESA

Centifonti’s Restaurant: Daily, 3-7pm: $3 drafts, wells; $5 off beer boots. $1 off appetizers.

Charcoal House: Daily, 11-7pm: $7.50 1/2-off all drinks, $1 all appetizers.

Chico Club: Daily, all day: $3 big-ass beer (23 oz).

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $1 off wine by the glass.

LAKESIDE

Coo Coo Club: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk’s Niteclub: Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm: $5 off all drinks $4.50 or less. Sunday, 6am-2pm: $1 off bloody marys.

LUCECIA

Bar Lecian: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.75 wells, $2.50 beer of the month, shot special.

The Calypso Cafe: Daily, 5-30- $4 wells, margaritas. $4 house wine. $3.50 beer.

LINCOLN PARK

L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 domestic drafts. $1 off appetizers. Sunday, all day: $1 drafts. $1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA

Brick by Brick: Daily, 3-6pm: $2.50 house wine. 1/2-off beer.

Tango Restaurant & Lounge: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off all drinks; 1/2-off bar menu.

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: Daily, 5-7pm: $6 wine, tapas; $4.50 wells; $3 doggie bites.

Bud’s Louisiana Café: Monday-Thursday, 3-9pm: 1/2-price beer and wine by the glass.

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.50 domestic bottled beer, $3 wells, domestic pints. Free munchies.

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Thursday March 1

TED N Amy Video Debut • 5pm-Free

Run Hit Run

Chasing Claymores

Plus More • 9pm-55

Friday March 2

Melly Frances and the Distilled Spirits

The Heavy Guilt Duo

The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank

9pm-55

Saturday March 3

The Vips

International Dipshit

The Bertos • Picklefight

Jane Jane Pollock • 9PM-$4

Saturday March 3- Noon

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San Diego Reader March 1, 2012

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**The Filling Station**: Monday: 7pm-close: $4 margaritas. Tuesday: 7pm-close: $2 kamikazes. Wednesday: 7pm-close: $3.50 premium drafts. Thursday: 7pm-close: $2.50 wells, domestic beers, $7.50 domestic pitchers. Saturday: noon-7pm: $3 mimosas. Sunday: noon-7pm: $3 bloody marys.

**Guava Beach Bar & Grill**: Monday-Friday: 4-7pm: Two-for-one cocktails, beer, shots.

**The Aero Club**: Daily: 2pm-2am: $5 off beer and wine.

**Bing Crosby's Restaurant and Piano Lounge**: Daily: 3-7pm: $3 energy drinks, glass of wine; Appetizer specials.

**Red Wing Bar & Grill**: Daily: 1-8pm: $3.50 wells. $1 off all beer/wine.

**Winston's**: Monday-Saturday: 11am-6pm: $2.75 wells, domestic bottles. Monday, Thursdays: 4-6:30pm: $3.50 beer.

**Apertivo Italian Tapas & Wine Bar**: Daily: 11am-6pm: $2 beer, $5 well drinks and margaritas. Thursday: 5pm-8pm: $1 off local drafts.

**The Beautiful View**: Monday-Monday: 4-7pm: $2.50 wells, $3.50 microbrew, $150 domestic drafts. Saturday-Sunday: noon-7pm: $3 mimosas, $5 you-call-it, $6 Jayne's Gaslamp.

**The Flying Bridge**: Monday-Friday: 9-11pm: $1 off all wells, drafts, bottles, pitchers.

**Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar**: Monday-Friday: 3-5pm: $3.25 wells, $2.75 domestic bottles, $150 domestic drafts. Saturday-Sunday: noon-7pm: $3 bloody marys; $5 you-call-it; $6 Jayne's Gaslamp.

**Bellagio Ristorante & Bakery**: Daily: 7:30am-10pm: $5 oozu apéritif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

**The Flying Bridge**: Tuesday-Saturday: 9-11pm: $1 off all wells, drafts, bottles, pitchers.

**Fiddler's Green Restaurant**: Daily: 5-7pm: $2.50 house wine, $5 well drinks and margaritas.

**The Turquoise Café-Bar**

**Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar**: Daily: noon to 6 pm: $3 beer, $5 well drinks and margaritas.

**Point Loma**: Daily: 5-7pm: $4 drafts and beer specials. Sunday: All day: $3 Pacifico drafts. Sunday: All day: $3 microbrews, $5 wines, $4 wells.

**POWAY**: Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar: Monday: Tuesday-Friday, 9-11pm: $1 off all drinks, bottles, wine.

**SAN MARCOS**: Stone Flats: Daily, 3pm-7pm: $1 Bud/Bud Light. 1/2 off all other beer/wine.

**Serra Mesa**: Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill: Sunday: $2.50 mind erasers, kamikazes. $3.50 mimosas, bloody marys.

**Shelter Island**: Fiddler's Green Restaurant: Daily: 5-7pm: $2.50 house wine and house beer, $5 domestic drafts, $2.50 well drinks and margaritas.

**Sorrento Valley**: All Baba's Cave: Daily: 3-7pm: $3.50 domestic, $3.50 microbrew, $1/2 off appetizers.

**Sumbid**: Daily: 3pm-7pm daily Drink Specials and 1/2 off Appetizers $3 Beer of the Month all day.

**Kelly's Public House**: Monday-Friday: 7pm-9pm: $2 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $3.50 wells, house wine.

**San Diego Pénasquitos**: Deli Stop Sports Pub: Daily: 4-7pm: $1 off all beer, $3 Corona or glass of wine. $1 off all appetizers.

**San Diego San Diego**: Cottonwood Golf Club Bar & Restaurant: Daily: 4-6pm: $2 drafts; 1/2 off appetizers including pizza, quesadillas, wings, calamari.

**San Marcos**: Brandi's: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 drafts, house wines, wells.

**Tierraanta**: Bellagio Ristorante & Bakery: Monday-Friday: 7pm-10pm for military, $2 drafts. Wednesday: 4-7pm: $1/2 off select wine bottles. Friday: 4-7pm: $10 wine flights.

**P.J.'s Pub**: Monday-Friday: 3-5pm: $2.50 Domestic, Domestic, $2.50 Domestic.

**University City**: Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily: 3-6-3:00pm: $3 oozu apéritif, $2 bottled beers, $3 wine by the glass.

**Tobacco Roadhouse**: Donovan's Steak and Chop House: Monday-Friday: 4-7pm: $8 martini (complimentary steak sandwich and burritos 4-6pm).

**Michael's Lounge in the Hyatt Regency**: Daily: 5pm-7pm $4 drafts and well cocktails.

**University Heights**: Aperito Italian Tapas & Wine Bar: Daily: noon to 6 pm: $3 beer, wine, and sangria.

**South Park**: Small Bar: Monday-Friday: 5-8pm: $1 off drinks and cocktails.

**Valley Center**: Casita Revez Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: $2 domestic, $3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

**Vista**: Vista Entertainment Center: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: $2 domestic and $3 premium drafts, $3 wells.
An Intimate Stage

Furious calls on a cell phone reveal that the car is her son’s. Was her son’s.

This is backward. When you attend a play you go from the parking lot to the box office to the show. At the La Jolla Playhouse, you go from the box office back to a car, as if time did a Bermuda Triangle forward hiccup. And you eavesdrop on life: sudden tragedy, goofy comedy, outside-the-box strangeness.

Site-specific theater turns unexpected places into stages. The La Jolla Playhouse began its Without Walls (WoW) program last year with Susurrus. The set was the beautiful San Diego Botanic Garden. The story unfolded on headphones as you walked from scene to scene. This year’s WoW event, Paul Stein’s Car Plays, is as confined as Susurrus was al fresco.

Next to the Mandell Weiss Theatre, 15 cars are parked on a U-shaped side street. Some of the doors are open. “Car hops” in red coats escort a two-person audience to each one. They usually sit in the backseat. An actor, or two, is already inside. Then the doors close and — almost like a gun going off — a 10-minute scene unfolds.

In Dead Battery, the car doesn’t fit the driver. It’s packed with “forgive this mess” clutter: crushed fast-food paper bags, CDs on the dash, and — are those panties? A woman in a bathrobe sits in the driver’s seat. The engine won’t turn over. While waiting for Triple A, she inspects the car for information. Something’s gravely wrong. Furious calls on a cell phone reveal that the car is her son’s. She breaks down before our eyes.

In the car just up ahead, two men, mid-30s, sit in the front seat, each with a 40-ounce bottle of Ye Olde English 800 (aka “Death Juice”). It’s a 20-year reunion, of sorts. The man riding shotgun’s an obviously successful African-American. The driver — white male, shaved head, volatile switches — tumbled down a much different path and demands to know why.

Car Plays has three different tracks: “Boulevard,” “Lane,” and “Route.” Each ticket, which looks like a traffic ticket, is good for one track and five 10-minute plays. I saw “Boulevard” last week and am going back for the others. I’ve never experienced anything like it, short of life itself.

When the doors close, you are sealed in. The actors don’t acknowledge you. In some cases they build pressure-cooker intensities. In others you laugh, maybe a foot from their faces. To the credit of the writers, each scene grabs and keeps your full attention (my only gripe: you move so quickly from car to car, there’s no time to process the previous ones — just what would that widow do at the children’s pool?). And the actors shook up my notions of performance. When someone says “an intimate stage,” the Old Globe’s White Theatre comes to mind, or Ion’s even more cozy space. No matter how near,
the actors are still over there, on the other side. An invisible line separates the stage from the house seats.

Car Plays takes place in a completely familiar environment — in a car, after all — and completely foreign. My first impression was “this is too close to be watching actors.” Don’t we both need room to breathe? No. There’s no room, or even time, since each story pulls you in and shoots you forward. You aren’t just watching a play from a safe distance; you’re in it.

It’s clear where Jeff Baron’s Visiting Mr. Green is headed the second Ross Gardiner comes through the door. Outgoing Ross is 29. Mr. Green’s an 86-year-old, crotchety shut-in who utters quizzical, three-word sentences. Can you spell b-o-n-d? It’s clear where Jeff Baron’s Visiting Mr. Green is headed the second Ross Gardiner comes through the door. Outgoing Ross is 29. Mr. Green’s an 86-year-old, crotchety shut-in who utters quizzical, three-word sentences. Can you spell b-o-n-d? who utters quizzical, three-word sentences. Can you spell b-o-n-d? who utters quizzical, three-word sentences. Can you spell b-o-n-d?

At the North Coast Rep, Marty Burnett’s set tips the playwright’s hand before the first knock on the door. Mr. Green’s upper West Side apartment’s a few crumpled newspapers short of qualifying for Hoarders design, makes a growl that typifies him. Above all, Grossman creates the sense that Mr. Green clings to his demons for comfort. When he finally lets them go, Grossman makes the breakthrough feel much more earned than merely an inevitable resolution.

Craig De Lorenzo may have twice as many lines as Grossman, and twice the activity. De Lorenzo unpeels Ross, from an upwardly mobile Harvard grad to a young man as troubled, in his own way, as the Mr. Green.

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

42nd Street
Coronado Playhouse presents the musical celebration of Broadway (hard work, being in the right place at the right time). Songs include “You’re Getting to Be a Habit with Me,” “We’re in the Money,” and “Lullaby of Broadway.”

CROWN POINT PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4866. 8PM THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH MARCH 4.

A Raisin in the Sun
Lorraine Hansberry’s breakthrough drama (1959) is in loving, unflinching bands at Moxie Theatre. Directed by Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, the ensemble and design work are first rate. And outstanding performances by Mark Christopher Lawrence, as conflicted Walker Younger, and Sylvia Maffe Thompson, as her mother Lena, make the production one of Moxie’s finest ever. The Youngers have lived in their cramped, Southside Chicago apartment for decades. A $10,000 life insurance check inspires competing dreams. But before they can move out, to an uncertain future, the family must climb out of personal valleys. By play’s end, the old, “rat trap” of an apartment cannot contain their pride. Critic’s Pick.

MOXIE AT ROLANDO THEATRE, 6663 THIRD AVE., BANKERS HILL. (619) 286-3979. 7PM SUNDAY.

Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
At California Youth Conservatory Theatre presents the musical popular classic, based on Mark Twain’s novel, which world premiered at the La Jolla Playhouse.

JOAN B. KROC THEATRE, 6611 UNIVERSITY AVE., LA MESA. 619-269-5502. 2PM AND 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 11.

Fathers and Sons
The Old Globe/USD Graduate Theatre Program presents Brian Friel’s adaptation of Ivan Turgenev’s novel about a disturbed medical student. Ray Chambers directed.

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5298 ALCALÁ PARK. USD. 619-260-4600. 7:30PM THURSDAY.

God’s Trombones
This must be the Ira Aldridge Repertory Players most ambitious production: full choir, male quintet, two dance troupes, and a six-piece band perform James Weldon Johnson’s “Seven Negro Sermons in Verse.” Some opening-night performances were uneven, and mixing was a persistent problem. These troubles stuck out because when it’s on, and it often is (as when we visit Babylon, a brightly hued den of iniquity), this show shivers the timbers at the Educational Cultural Complex. Hassan El-Amin (as a preacher and his exact opposite, Babylo’s evil-drenched mayor) does outstanding work. And Johnson’s vibrant, commanding voice makes familiar stories from the bible sound brand new. Worth a try.

EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL COMPLEX, 4343 OCEAN VIEW BL., MOUNTAIN VIEW. 619-527-2526. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 11.

The Last American Pope
Lamb’s Players Theatre presents John Patrick Shanley’s dark comedy (1998) about the rise of Prince Hal and the uncertain future, the family must climb out of personal valleys. By play’s end, the old, “rat trap” of an apartment cannot contain their pride. Critic’s Pick.

LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 1.

Henry IV, Part I
MiraCosta College and North Coast Repertory Theatre present Shakespeare’s popular history play about the rise of Prince Hal and the expanding girth of Sir John Falstaff. David Ellenstein directed.

MIRA COSTA COLLEGE THEATRE, ONE BARNARD DR., OCÉANIDE, 760-755-6815. 7:30PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 18.

How I Got That Story
Large-scale Performance Arts Company stages Amlin Gray’s “two-man nightmare comedy,” about a newspaper reporter from Dubuque who goes to “Ambo-land” (i.e., Vietnam). Seema Sueko directed.

TENTH AVENUE THEATRE, 10TH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-237-4510. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 18.

In the Wake
If Ellen never had to choose, she’d have it all and demand more. Lisa Kron’s epic “state of the nation address” opens like a scene from Friends. But as Ellen tells us from a later point in time, it was not. She had a blind spot. The play systematically unravels the scene and Ellen’s self-serving world views. In the Wake is longish and tatty. But director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg and an outstanding cast (Aubrey Saverino, Fran Gercke, Jo Anne Glover, DeAnna Driscoll, Alexis Louise Young, Stephanie Dunnam, and Karson St. John) fill the evening with vivid life.

CRITIC’S PICK.

SAN DIEGO REP PERFORMANCE THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 14.

Late Night Catechism
Welk Resort Theatre reprises its popular production of Maripat Donovan’s very funny (and serious) comedy. Sister, of the Old, spare not the rod School, is substitute teaching tonight.

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 8PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH MAY 13.

Little Women, the Musical
Lightfoot @ The Avo continues its winter season with the musical version of Louisa May Alcott’s popular novel. Kathy Brombacher — SD Critics Circle Lifetime Achievement recipient — makes this the last show she directs before retiring.

AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA. 760-724-2110. 7:30PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 11.
Next Fall
Young Luke is Christian and gay. His partner, Adam, says that's a contradiction. Their relationship grows on every level except core beliefs. A horrific accident prompts Adam, Luke's family, and others to reexamine themselves. Next Fall is funny and moving, in the end, though it takes its time (Geoffrey Nauffts, an actor, wrote lengthy scenes for actors to perform, often at the expense of pacing). At Diversionary, director James Vasquez treats the play as if written by a more experienced playwright. He also made smart casting choices: Jacque Wilke, Tony Houck, and Shana Wride in particular, Stewart Calhoun (a cherubic Luke) and Matt McGrath (Adam, a neurotic hypochondriac) make up in chemistry for what are thinly drawn beings. Worth a try.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0007. 8PM THURSDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS, 7PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 25.

Night Stage to Big Shaft
Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. “When a new mine and a dead miner are discovered, everyone will benefit. “You’ll want to say you saw it.” — SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Village Dr., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 5:30PM, 7PM, AND 8:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY; 3PM, 4:30PM, 7PM, AND 8:30PM SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THROUGH MARCH 4.

The Comedy of Errors
Three performances stand out in New Village Arts staging of the Bard’s early comedy. Amanda Siston, Max Macke, and Dana Case speak clearly and develop lively characters. But compared to them, everyone else either rushes their lines or pushes the comedy past the point where it’s funny. Or both. The result, too often, is a heavy-handed approach to a play that begs for lightness of touch. New Village reset the play in a ’50s TV studio before a live audience. The choice is intriguing, at first. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 8PM THURSDAY, 3PM AND 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAY, THROUGH MARCH 4.

The Doll House
Mesa College Theatre Company stages Henrik Ibsen’s drama in which Nora must decide between having a false facade or seeking independence. MESA COLLEGE THEATRE COMPANY, 2750 MESA COLLEGE DR., MESA COLLEGE. 858-627-2621. 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 11.

The Real Inspector Hound
Palomar Performing Arts stages Tom Stoppard’s spoof of ‘30s and ‘40s mystery movies. Pat Lawler directed.
PALOMAR COLLEGE PERFORMANCE LAB (ROOM D-10), 1140 WEST MISSION RD., SAN MARCOS. 760-744-1150. 4PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 8:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY, THROUGH MARCH 4.

The Sunset Limited

The Vagina Monologues at UCSD!
Charity performances of the Vagina Monologues, written by award-winning playwright Eve Ensler, will benefit the San Diego Center for Community Solutions and the V-Day Safe House in Haiti. UCSD PRICE CENTER, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-6467. 8PM WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY, THROUGH MARCH 3.

Visiting Mr. Green
North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Jeff Baron’s comedy-drama about a retired dry cleaner and a 29-year-old corporate exec. and the unlikely bond they create. Christopher M. Williams directed.
NORTH COAST REPETEROIRE THEATRE, 9872-LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 11.

miXtape
Jon Lorenz and Colleen Kollar Smith, creators of this revue of 1980s music, say that favorite songs “mark your memories.” miXtape is performed with rampant energy and polish by an eight-person cast. Memory-triggers zip past: Pet Rocks, Pac-Man, Nelson Mandela, AIDS. Most of the songs are actually song-bites. But backed by Andy Ingersoll’s versatile band and under Kerry Meads’s feisty direction, miXtape is always entertaining — and memory-provoking. (Note: Lamb’s Players has extended the run several times.) Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND HOTEL, 311 ISLAND AVE., DOWNTOWN. 619-437-0600. 8PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 24.

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MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by David Elliott, Matthew Lickona, John Rubio, Scott Marks, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews sorted alphabetically, by year of release, and by rating are available online at SanDiegoReader.com.

Act of Valor — The Navy granted “filmmakers” Mike McCoy and Scott Waugh permission to play with their toys, and the result is a gung-ho recruitment film that’s as incompetently acted and slapped together as it is propaganda. If the two former stuntmen could direct as well as they fight, the film would kill. Instead we are asked to cheer on a fear-inducing video game made by and for war lovers. 2012. — S.M.

The Artist — A comedy of unreserved movie love, shot in Hollywood by French director Michel Hazanavicius. Big silent star George (like a merger of Douglas Fairbanks, John Gilbert, and Warren William) falls when sound arrives. The casting of brash, funny, hugely likeable Jean Dujardin as George gives heart to the charm. Bérénice Bejo (the director’s partner) as Peppy, an emerging star of talkies, is iffier (female stars of the era had more flesh), but she sure is “swell.” Beautiful design, period touches, and black-and-white tonalities sustain the simple story’s odd, witty dreaminess. Words are only heard at the end, and the lift of some Vertigo music is impudent but effective. This Chaplin-esque nostalgia bubble has a tender, endearing fondness for its sources. 2011. — D.E.

Chico & Rita — Horns blazing, congas calling, the sultry Havana sounds waft to hipster New York in the bop era. With singer Rita and pianist Chico at passionate center, the story is simple, but so are many great songs and most good cartoons. The three directors serve up a pleasurable, animated salute to Afro-Cuban jazz and many masters (Pozo, Puente, Valdés, Parker, Cole, Gillespie, Monk, Herman, Ellington), stylized for a hot retro vibe that feels timeless. You might dance in your seat. 2012. — D.E.

Chronicle — Spider-Man meets X-Men in the story of an outcast high-school kid who gains incredible powers and ultimately decides that he’s now better than all those regular people who used to put him down. But the best part of the story is what comes in between those events: a growing friendship between three young guys who find they have something very special in common. The film gets both teenage joy and teenage misery. It’s a pity they decided to toss in the distracting gimmick of making the camera part of the story. Directed by Josh Trank; with Michael B. Jordan, Michael Kelly, Alex Russell. 2012. — M.L.

Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax — A forest creature fights ecological destruction in blinding pastel...
The Descendants — Alexander Payne’s film is on Hawaiian time and floats well below his Sideways. George Clooney is the rich Honolulu lawyer whose faithless wife has crashed into a coma. He is also trustee for a huge patch of Kauai that excites his greedy relatives and his wife’s lover. His trip with his daughters has some wry humor, leading to live-and-learn pathos. It’s like The Little Foxes adrift in a Hawaiian travelogue. Clooney tries hard, but his hair does best. Acting laurels go to subtle Shailene Woodley as the older daughter and Robert Forster as her grumpy gramps. With Judy Greer, Nick Krause, Matthew Lillard, Beau Bridges, Laird Hamilton. 2011. — D.E. ★★

Dr. Seuss’s The Lorax — Color Dr. Seuss’s “earth-friendly” children’s book gloomy green and Illumination Entertainment’s animated counterpart a blinding shade of pestled pastel. (Consider sporting two pair of 3-D specs.) The ecological message holds firm, only this time our young hero does it all to impress a chick. Throwaway gags (Nemo can be found congealed in JELL-O) help to ease parents’ pain, but not even shooting-range earplugs can deaden the fearfully upbeat songs. Danny DeVito, Zac Efron, and Taylor Swift lend their voices. 2012. — S.M. ★

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance — What’s harder to find than a pack of wild unicorns? The script Nicolas Cage turned down. Cage returns as the flame-retardant figment that’s as indestructible as Daffy Duck’s beak. One good joke concerning the shelf life of a Twinkie does not a movie make, and even the least discerning Comic-Con attendee will find reason to thumb their nose at this wretched sequel. Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor directed; with Violante Placido and Ciarán Hinds. 2012. — S.M. ●

Thin Ice — A wasted opportunity for an interesting variation on the “everyone thinks the hero is crazy” theme. Part of the blame lies with the screenplay, which does too much to reassure us as to the heroine’s sanity — someone really did kidnap her and throw her down a hole — and not enough to explore the effects of her meds on her memory. Part of it also lies with the actress behind the heroine (Amanda Seyfried), who never manages to communicate the panic and distress she says she’s feeling. Heitor Dhalia directed. 2012. — M.L.
LUNAFEST
CSU San Marcos
333 South Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos
760-750-4988

Festival promises "short films by, for, and about women." Roster includes Life Model, Worst Enemy, Lady Razorbacks, I Am a Girl! and more. Thursday, March 1, 5:30 p.m.

LATINO FILM SERIES
MiraCosta College - San Elijo
3333 Manchester Avenue, room 204, Cardiff
760-944-4478

Luminarias 2000. Four professional women meet every week at an East Los Angeles restaurant to share secrets about their careers, love, family, and sex in José Luis Valenzuela's film. Actress and playwright Evelina Fernández will be on hand. Friday, March 2, 6 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS
San Diego Museum of Art
1450 El Prado, Balboa Park • 619-232-7931

Dead Man 1995. "On the run after murdering a man, accountant William Blake encounters a strange Indian named Nobody who prepares him for his journey into the spiritual world" in Jim Jarmusch's black and white postmodern Western. Artist Scott B. Davis discusses his exhibition "Walk from the Sun: Photographs of Southern California." Friday, March 2, 7 p.m.

DIVE-IN THEATRE
Pearl Hotel
1410 Rosecrans Street, Point Loma
619-226-6100

Avatar 2009. James Cameron's epic science fiction-motion capture film is "set in the mid-22nd century, when humans are mining a precious mineral called unobtanium on Pandora, a lush habitable moon." Wednesday, March 7, 8 p.m.

The Wild Bunch 1969. Sam Peckinpah's Western tells the tale of "an aging group of outlaws looking for one last big score as the 'traditional' American West disappears around them." The stellar cast includes William Holden, Robert Ryan, Ernest Borgnine, Ben Johnson, and Warren Oates. Friday, March 2, 2:30 p.m.

The Ballad of Cable Hogue 1970. In this Peckinpah flick, a failed prospector (Jason Robards) stumbles upon a spring and creates a profitable way station in the middle of the desert. Friday, March 9, 2:30 p.m.

COMING OF AGE FILM FESTIVAL
Museum of Photographic Arts
Balboa Park • 619-238-7559

Poetry 2010. "A sixty-something woman, faced with the discovery of a heinous family crime and in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, finds strength and purpose when she enrolls in a poetry class." Thursday, March 8, 6 p.m.

ARTPOWER! FILM
UCSD Loft
9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla • 858-534-8497

Granito: How to Nail a Dictator 2011. How did the 1982 documentary When the Mountains Tremble become "forensic evidence to help prove a genocide case against a military dictator?" Thursday, March 8, 8 p.m.

SILENT FILM NIGHT
Copley Symphony Hall
750 B Street, Downtown • 619-235-0804

The Mark of Zorro 1920. Douglas Fairbanks and Noah Beery star in this swashbuckling adventure. Organist Russ Peck mans the mighty Fox Theater pipe organ. Saturday, March 10, 8 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL FILM SERIES
MiraCosta College
One Barnard Drive, room 3601, Oceanside
760-757-2121 x7737

The Harmonists 1997. Joseph Vilsmaier's fact-based film, set in Nazi Germany during the 1930s, chronicles the "popular German vocal group Comedian Harmonists." In German with English subtitles. Friday, March 9, 7 p.m.
If you want to watch a great Spanish film, *El Bola* is one that really pull at your heartstrings. It’s about Pablo, a 12-year-old boy living in an abusive home who befriends his new classmate, Alfredo. Pablo is able to find some solace as Alfredo and his caring family reach out to him. The acting is great, and you really want to give Pablo a big hug and tell him, “Everything’s going to be all right.”

As if you need another reason to watch *Even the Rain* other than it stars the incredible Gael García Bernal! Featured on our 2011 Que Viva Cine Latino Series, *Even the Rain* is a film-within-a-film about a director and producer who set out to Bolivia to make a movie in the midst of political unrest. The scenes are gripping, the emotions high, and the film blurs the line between reality and fiction.

**EL BOLA** (Spain) 2000, Film Movement
List Price: $14.95
**EVEN THE RAIN/TAMBIEN LA LLUVIA** (Spain/Mexico) 2010, Lionsgate
List Price: $14.99

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**The Woman in Black** — remember those? — the film is less about the incredible Gail García Bernal, but the story of the old man who was caught between men and women. 2012. — D.E.

If we can have His and Hers movies? (Okay, mostly His.) A pair of charming super agents — sensitive Brit Tom Hardy and swaggering golden boy Chris Pine — compete for the heart of a consumer products tester (a game Reese Witherspoon). The concept is high (sprint on the competition!), the humor is low but often effective, and the plot mechanisms clank into place with surprising ease for a genre mashup. No surprises — except for some incoherent action sequences from director McG — but plenty of sweet bro chemistry. 2012. — M.L.

**Even the Rain** — D.E.

**The Vow** — Channing Tatum tries to squeeze his hulking, chiseled physique into the role of a sensitive guy whose wife woke up from a coma with no memory of him and no real desire to resume married life. It’s not a great fit. Rachel McAdams, on the other hand, is impossible not to like as an urban sculptor (sigh) who reverts to the privileged suburban princess she once was. It’s slick marketing — how many wives wish their husbands would woo them all over again? — but it loses steam by forgoing the meaning of a vow in favor of the feelings it may (or may not) inspire. 2012. — M.L.

**Shaun of the Dead** — D.E.

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**The Secret World of Arrietty** — Hayao Miyazaki’s Studio Ghibli cartoons

**SILENT LIGHT** (Mexico) 2007, Vivendi Entertainment
List Price: $22.99

**ALBAMARISTA!** (USA) 1977, Criterion Collection
List Price: $39.95

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**The Woman in Black** — M.L.

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**Tim and Eric’s Billion Dollar Movie** — The Weby Award Winning comedy team of Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim cap off a career filled with cows in a film that can only be called *vile* on every count. As intentionally shock- and potty offensive as the material may be, nothing prepared me for the gruesome cinematography and lighting. Major mitigating circumstance: they could have killed Spielberg and didn’t. I am ashamed to admit how many times I laughed out loud, particularly at John C. Reilly’s superb slumming. 2012. — S.M.

**Even the Rain** — D.E.

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**The Woman in Black** — M.L.

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**The Vow** — M.L.

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**Shaun of the Dead** — D.E.

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**The Vow** — M.L.
 século XXI, a vida global está cada vez mais integrada, e a diversidade cultural se tornou um elemento importante do nosso cotidiano. Além disso, a tecnologia moderna tem permitido a difusão instantânea de informações e novas formas de comunicação, incluindo a internet, que têm sido utilizadas pelas escritoras para se comunicar entre si e com os leitores em todo o mundo.

Apesar das dificuldades de comunicação, que podem ser superadas através da tecnologia, a escrita continua sendo um campo que requer prática e dedicação. Para que as escritoras de hoje consigam ter sucesso, é preciso que elas estejam constantemente aprendendo e se atualizando com os novos desafios da vida contemporânea. E o leitor, por sua vez, precisa estar aberto a novos horizontes e prontos para se envolver nas obras de escritoras que se atrevem a desafiar as normas estabelecidas.

Portanto, é importante que os leitores se interessem pelas escritoras de hoje, e que elas continuem se esforçando para oferecer a seus leitores uma diversidade de perspectivas e estilos. É uma jornada que exigirá tanto de elas quanto dos leitores, mas que certamente será recompensadora para todos.

E é nesse espírito que invito todos os leitores a explorar a vida das escritoras contemporâneas. Que a leitura seja uma jornada de descobertas e que cada uma das obras apresentadas acima possa se tornar um livro favorito. Que as escritoras continuem a contar histórias e a nos fazer pensarmos.

Finalmente, para os leitores que estiverem interessados em saber mais sobre as escritoras contemporâneas, eu recomendo que consultem publicações especializadas, revistas de literatura e blogs sobre o assunto. Além disso, as redes sociais são um ótimo recurso para se manter atualizado sobre as novidades e lançamentos das escritoras de hoje.

Portanto, o que espero que saia disso é que o leitor esteja disposto a se envolver e a aprender com as histórias das escritoras de hoje. E que, juntos, possamos criar um ambiente de respeito e valorização para a literatura feminina contemporânea.

Ouviremos mais tarde mais uma vez o som das vozes femininas, e as histórias que elas contam, que são as nossas histórias.

E a jornada continua...
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EDUCATION: Rancho San Diego Learning Center is looking for an El Capitan veaks Teacher-On-Site Supervisor with Mid/ Middle School social education experience and strong management or administrative skills. Resume and cover letter to 909-783-2622.

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Misellaneous


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  - **Call for details:** Family Health Services 619-955-1007

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING**

- **Financial Aid Available for Qualified Students**
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- **Employment Assistance for Graduates**
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PACIFIC BEACH, $1275. 2BD+2BA apartment with attached garage. Mirrors from beach. Small pet OK. Near shopping and schools. 4550 Ingram Street. Agent. 858-505-1388.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1350. 3BD+2BA ground floor, duplex. Two parking spots. Close to the bay and ocean. No pets. Call Coldwell Banker Property Management, 858-488-5228.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1395. 2BD+2BA upper townhome. Garage, balcony, large living area. Dishwasher, laundry hookups, gas appliances. No pets. 1209 Faisal St. Shore Management. 858-274-3500.


PACIFIC BEACH, $1495. 2BD+1.5BA. Large, upstairs apartment with attached garage. Fireplace, reserved parking. Building well-maintained. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031, akarnazes@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1595. 2BD+1BA, 1060 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, club house, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713, baypointe@progressivemanagement.net. www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1595. 2BD+1BA, 100 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, club house, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713, baypointe@progressivemanagement.net. www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1600. 2BD+1BA, 100 sqft apartment. Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, club house, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713, baypointe@progressivemanagement.net. www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1700. 2BD+1.5BA apartment with attached garage. Mirrors from beach. Small pet OK. Near shopping and schools. 4550 Ingram Street. Agent. 858-505-1388.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1795. 2BD+1.5BA apartment with attached garage. Mirrors from beach. Small pet OK. Near shopping and schools. 4550 Ingram Street. Agent. 858-505-1388.

PACIFIC BEACH, $1895. 3BD+3BA 2522sqft. house, Mission Bay area. Large studio. No pets. 4393 Imperial Avenue, Suite 100. 858-465-2192. www.NewbridgeCollege.edu

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at www.NewbridgeCollege.edu.
**Beech Street.** Call 619-234-1952.

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**Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street.** Near trolley/bus lines, blocks from

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**Gold Hill, $825.** 1BD+1BA apartment in fabulous pool/hot tub courtyard and sparkling pool. You will be proud to call Four Winds your home. Maintained property with beautiful courtyards and patios. A great neighborhood. Contact Iram at 619-255-8172.

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**East County**

**El Cajon, $995**

2BD+1BA. Newly renovated, close to all. Clean, quiet complex. Pool, laundry, gated. Off-street parking. We pay water and trash. No pets. 619-312-6859.

**EL CAJON, $895 & UP.** 2BD+1BA very large apartment from $895. $899 Moves You In! Private patio - Great cul-de-sac location with controlled access, on-site parking and laundry. Easy freeway access. 401 Dominguez Way. TTPM, 619-405-4500, www.tppm.com/afmc.

**EL CAJON, $1225.** 2BD+1BA, 1038 sqft. Private yard, deck, garage, fridge, washer and trash. On-site laundry. Contact Iram 619-368-0307 or Iram at 619-203-4695.

**EL CAJON, $1350.** 3BD+2BA condo. Upstairs unit with 1-car garage. Central heat and air. 332 Compton Street #A. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-280-5460.


**EL CAJON, $2050.** 4BD+2BA house 2154 sqft. In Fletcher Hills. Great location, 2-car garage. Large, open floor plan. Will not last if you can find one better... rent it now 2251 Dwayne Drive, Contact Rachael at 619-854-1044 or Joel at 619-713-1044.

**EL CAJON, $4500.** Tragara, Optima community park. Each unit has a little yard. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-756-8780.

**EL CAJON, $725-740.** 1BD apartment. El Cajon’s best maintained property with beautiful courtyard and sparkling pool. You will be proud to call Four Winds your home. Maintained property with beautiful patios. A great neighborhood. Contact Iram at 619-255-8172.

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San Diego Reader March 1, 2012 113

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A puzzler and a writer?

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME
1) Submit one completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 am Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to one of the puzzles along with your name and a brief message (20 words or less, no URLs or phone numbers). Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified. Entries must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
3) We will award writers of the best messages, among those who correctly solve the puzzle, one of the famous Reader baseball caps or T-shirts. And we will print the winning messages in the paper and online.
4) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will be anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-223-7907 or mailed to Reader Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy; or scanned and e-mailed to: Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, 800 by 800 pixels, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or viewed.
6) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

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SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the “comments” feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:

Martha Klages, Encanto, 2. The only problem with aging is you have to act mature.
Felix Charfauros, San Diego, 4. What is black and white and red all over? A wounded nun!!
Debra Dunbar, Fallbrook, 1. “Wannebe?” “If all you can be” except when “To be or not to be is the question.”
Jospeh Ciprian, Little Italy, 12. (politely) back away from fluent speakers. I don’t want a face full of spit.

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Central San Diego ALLIED GARDENS, $1150. 2BD+1BA apartment, AC, laundry, parking on site. No pets. Move-in Special! 8501 Glenhaven St. • San Diego 888-424-4741

LA MESA, $975 & UP. 1BD+1BA, $975, 2BD+1BA, $1275. Guest parking. Sleek, modern furniture. SS kitchen appliances. Walk to fabulous shopping. 1890 Pacific Heights Blvd. • San Diego 888-990-9900


EL CAJON. $625. 1 bedroom first floor. No application fee. A/C, new carpet, walk-in closet, shared BBQ picnic area, on-site laundry, parking. Section 8 OK. 9558 Hobson St #12, 619-715-3665.


Central San Diego ALLIED GARDENS, $1150. 2BD+1BA apartment, AC, laundry, parking on site. No pets. Move-in Special! 8501 Glenhaven St. • San Diego 888-424-4741


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**Brainstorms**
by Don Rubin

**Ship shapes**
Each of these signal flags represents a letter of the alphabet. And each group of flags spells a type of vessel. (Since this is a cryptogram, the flags don’t represent the same letters used in the International Code of Signals.)

1) ___________ 8) ___________
2) ___________ 9) ___________
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S PUZZLE:
Nothing doing

79 + 66 = 145
738 = 41 x 18
81 x 12 = 972
744 = 24 x 31
26 + 98 = 124
129 = 96 + 33
24 x 37 = 888
645 / 43 = 15
97 + 51 = 148

**BRAINSTORM PUZZLES:**
**RULES OF THE GAME**
1) Submit one completed puzzle to the Reader each week for entry into another contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. And we will print the winning messages in the paper and online.
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4) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
5) Entries must be faxed to 619-233-7907; or mailed to Puzzles, Reader, Puzzle, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or delivered through our mail slot at 1703 India Street in Little Italy or scanned and e-mailed to: Puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions must include a message. This is a great way to express yourself. You may submit a new message weekly. We reserve the right to edit or reject inappropriate text.
6) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
7) Late entries will not be considered.
8) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.
9) All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.

**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

- Ed Barno, San Diego, 8. The doc said to come back in two months. Does that mean I have at least that long to live?
- Josette Wedel, El Cajon, 1. My first haiku: Lonely black widow / Hanging listless–cruel fate / Mourning mate, mate!
- Don, Bowman, Santee, 1. I give all my money to rabbits, would that be splitting hairs?

NEW in Escondido

**GOLDEN SPA**

1-hour Oriental Massage
Includes your choice of hot tub, Jacuzzi or table shower. Featuring Deep Tissue, Swedish and Thai massage.

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### North County Coastal

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**CARLSBAD**, $995. 1BD+1BA apartments starting at $1550.


**LINDA VISTA**, $1250. 2BD+2BA, 1/2 month free rent! Heated pool, spa. 4BD+2BA house with attached garage, walking distance to all. For rent at $1500.


**MISSION VALLEY**, $1220-1270. 2BD+1BA beautiful townhouse, $1100. Copy bungalow, $1150. $1270. Off-street parking, laundry, lots of open space, central location, some backyards. No pets, please. 619-246-2956.

**MISSION VALLEY**, $1150. 2BD+1BA and 1BD apt. 1000 sqft. No pets, please. 619-246-7414.

**MISSION VALLEY**, $1000. 1BD+1BA first-floor apartment in 55+ gated community. Units with fireplace have complete living room, bedroom and remodeled laundry room on site. Centrally located within minutes to the 15, 163 and 805 freeways. Close to park and shopping. Rent. 888-205-1388.

**MISSION VALLEY**, $1000 & UP. 1BD+1BA on 7th Ave. 619-291-6686.


**HILLCREST**, $1350. 2BD+1.5BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 2BD+1.5BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 1BD+2BA, 1/2 month free rent! $800 discount. 2BD+2BA, huge townhouses. Move-in Specials! All amenities. Ultimate setting/ view. Parking and utilities.


**HILLCREST**, $1800 & UP. 1BD+1BA first floor apartment in 55+/ disabled community. Laundry on site. Gated with on-site manager. 3622 University Ave. incohomeleasing@gmail.com. 858-688-5081.

**HILLCREST**, $1800. 2BD+1BA in gated building. Newly remodeled. Parking and laundry on site. First floor unit. 4508 91st St. incohomeleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.

**MISSION VALLEY**, $1800. 1BD+1BA unit in gated building. Newly remodeled. Parking and laundry on site. First floor unit. 4508 91st St. incohomeleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.


### RENTALS

**Sasha Spa**

**CITY HEIGHTS**, $775. 1BD+1BA apartment in gated community. 619-281-3013.

**Sasha Spa**

**LINDA VISTA**, $705-1500. 1BD+1BA apartments starting at $1550.

**LINDA VISTA**, $775-900. 2BD+1.5BA apartments starting at $1550.


**MISSION VALLEY**, $795. 1BD+1BA in gated building. Newly remodeled. Parking and laundry on site. First floor unit. 4508 91st St. incohomeleasing@gmail.com. 858-568-5081.


**HILLCREST**, $300 OFF. 1BD+1BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 2BD+1.5BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 1BD+2BA, 1/2 month free rent! $800 discount. 2BD+2BA, huge townhouses. Move-in Specials! All amenities. Ultimate setting/ view. Parking and utilities.

**HILLCREST**, $350 OFF. 1BD+1BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 2BD+1.5BA apartment. 3843 Park Blvd. 1BD+2BA, 1/2 month free rent! $800 discount. 2BD+2BA, huge townhouses. Move-in Specials! All amenities. Ultimate setting/ view. Parking and utilities.

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**South Bay**

**CHULA VISTA, $1200**
2808 Ponce de Leon. 1BD+1BA. Parking. Pet OK. 619-574-3682.

**Chula Vista, $1350**
2808 Ponce de Leon. 1BD+1BA. Parking. Pet OK. 619-574-3682.

**National City, $1850**
2800 Casa de Mayo. 3BD+2BA. Washer/dryer. 619-420-0372.

**Southeast San Diego**

**ENCANTO, $850**
2808 30th St. 1BD+1BA. Parking. Pet OK. 619-297-0800.

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**VACATION RENTALS**

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**ACCORDION WANTED.** 619-270-0565.

**GUITAR.** Gibson Les Paul Junior, cherry finish with Gibson gig bag. $450. 619-283-2489.


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**RECORD AT CV STUDIOS.**

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**LEAD STORY**

— A 2007 federal energy-independence law required companies that supply motor fuel in the U.S. to blend in a certain cellulose-based ingredient into their gasoline. One environmental activist has been in prison ever since (as the Environmental Protection Agency knows) the ingredient doesn’t now exist. A mental Protection Agency knows) the ingredient

**Cultural Diversity**

— Two dozen religious leaders in India’s Karnataka state are demanding the annual centuries-old Hindu ritual in which lower-caste people roll around in food leftovers of upper-caste people. “Hundreds” performed the exercise at temples (according to a reader, 2014-2-26. and another reader remembered that someone who performed the exercise at temples (according to a reader, 2014-2-26.)

— On Nov 5, the 220 inhabitants of Coll, an island off the coast of Scotland, endured the first “crime” that any of the residents could remember. Some: one publicized the appalling lavatories at a visitors facility, doing the equivalent of about $300 damage. A constable was summoned from a nearby facility, doing the equivalent of about $300 damage.

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— **AIR COMPRESSOR FOR SALE.** Ingersoll Rand Air Compressor, 3.3hp $100 takes all. 619-223-2297.

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