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DECEMBER 20, 2012

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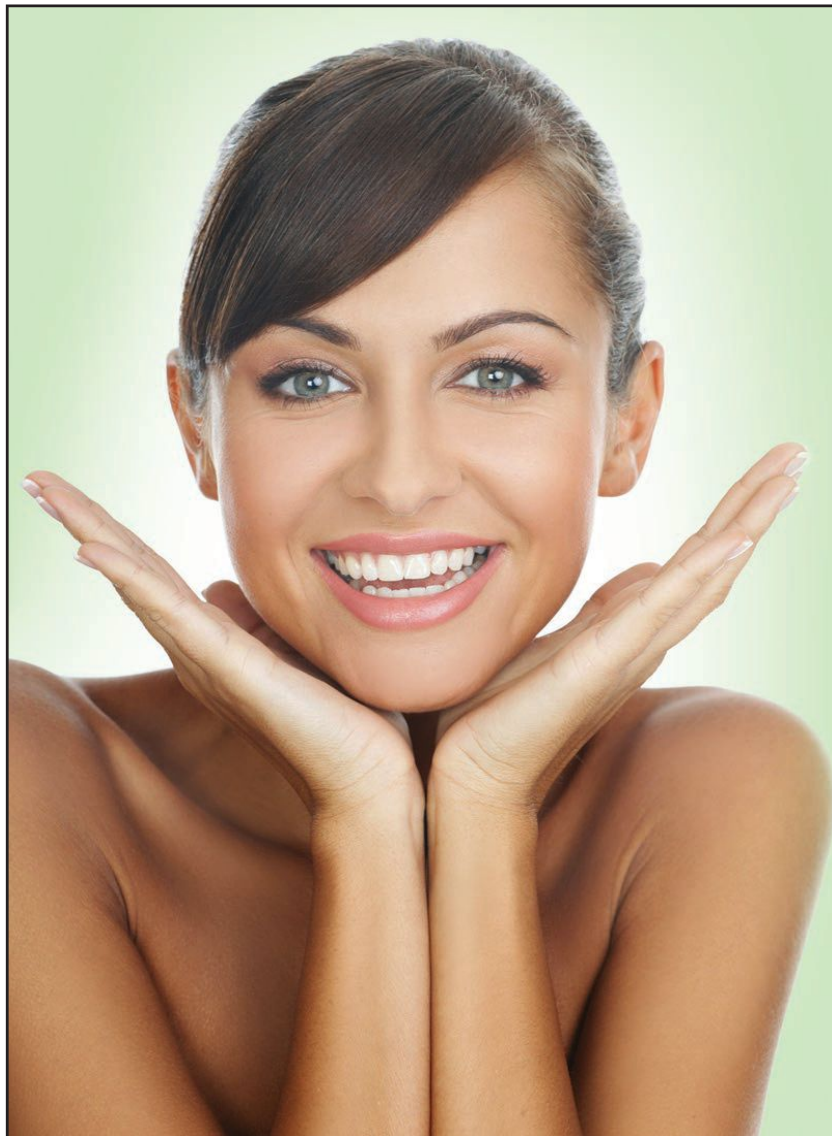
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Info on page 4



For the first time in either of our lives, homelessness was beginning to be a part of our daily conversation

**We went to Mexico to get ahead.
We smuggled cheese to get back.**

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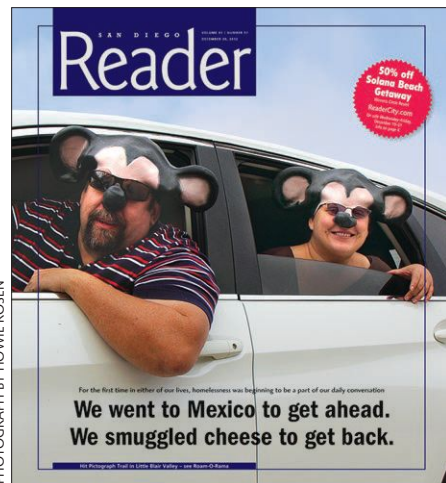
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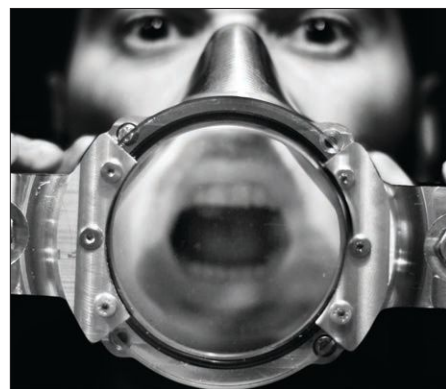
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December 20, 2012



PHOTOGRAPH BY HOWIE ROSEN

Let's move to Tijuana! — page 22



Metal mask music — page 68



Tarantino unchained — page 79

ADVERTISING

Classified Ads

Classified Index 103

Display Ads

Automotive99
Career Training86
Health and Beauty31
Help Wanted84
Legal Solutions9
Music62
Rentals93
Research Studies25
Services95
Travel & Getaways44

NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights

ResMed says "business friendly," Bauder says "jobs blackmail";
and News Ticker2
Why the Yukon will continue to kill divers;
and Under the Radar3

Letters

Neighborhood News6

Diary of a Diva

Barb turns in a counterfeiter8

SD on the QT

Almost factual news12

Straight From the Hip

Duck mates, San Diego and Mexican flags, near-beer bust14

Blog Diego

Glorious ornaments for sad trees16

Sporting Box

Christmas, island style18

Best Buys

For added fun, candy cane-flavored pop rocks19

Style Stalker

This winter will be recalled for its velvet and studs20

We Went to Mexico to Get Ahead

We smuggled cheese to get back.
By Steven Strasser22

Puzzle Wordsmiths play here94

Typo Patrol Results95

Sudoku Find fame in a numbers game96

Off the Cuff101

News of the Weird102

CALENDAR

Events

Outdoors, Special Events, Dance, Food & Drink, For Kids,
Galleries, Spoken Word, Comedy, Book Signings, Lectures,
Sports, Art Museums, Classical Music43

Travel & Getaways

Wandering West African kids create a memorable encounter44
Rock art in Blair Valley45

Poetry

"Reuben Bright," by Edgar Arlington Robinson48

Restaurants

Ghost stories and slurpy food in Old Town53
Feasters' delights (and disappointments)54
A Peruvian ceviche recipe that speaks for itself60

Music

Blurt62
Club Crawler66
Tristan Shone's album's diabolical temper68
Everyone's a Critic70
Happy Hour74

Theater77

Movies79

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

University of Controversy

UCSD logo “suspended,” cancer institute a bust, chancellor makes big outside bucks

La Jolla — Besieged on all sides, the University of California decided today to suspend its new logo, a weird, wormlike blue-and-gold graphic.

“The controversy has been fueled in



New UCSD chancellor Pradeep Khosla has been given more than \$500,000. The U.S. president earns \$400,000.

large part by an unfortunate and false narrative, which framed the matter as an either/or choice between a venerated UC seal and a newly designed monogram,” said Daniel M. Dooley, senior vice president for external relations at the UC Office of the President, in a statement issued this morning.

Closer to home, after months of investigative reporting by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, UCSD’s health system finally admitted that its \$18-million investment in the Nevada Cancer Institute was a bust.

Meanwhile, a recently filed disclosure statement provides a peek at the sizable outside income and nature of the personal assets of new UCSD chancellor Pradeep Khosla, who has been given a total of \$522,771, including a one-time relocation payment of \$102,771, in annual compensation, according to a document made public by the university after his appointment by UC Regents.

Among the investments revealed is a major holding in Baidu, the Chinese internet-search giant worth between \$100,000 and \$1 million. Baidu has been accused of aiding the Chinese government by blocking pro-democracy speech on its search engine, as reported last year by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Matt Potter, December 14

ImJustABill, December 14 @ 12:15 p.m.

Last time I checked, the U.S. President’s salary is \$400,000. I’m thinking that maybe \$400k should be a hard upper limit for any public employee’s annual compensation.

There goes the defense...

Attorney slashed with razor in front of judge and jury

San Diego — A criminal defense attorney was slashed across the face with a razor by his client this morning, at about 10:20 a.m., according to a statement by the San Diego County Superior Courts.

Attorney Bill Burgener was cut on the cheek by his client Eduardo Macias, said spokeswoman Karen Dalton.

Macias was booked into jail on February 28, 2011, according to the San Diego County sheriff’s website. Allegations are listed as attempted murder and conspiracy and assault with a deadly weapon by a prisoner.

Today’s assault occurred in San Diego’s downtown courthouse, during a trial before judge Peter C. Deddeh and a jury. There were also approximately 20 high school students in the room who were observing the court on a school field trip, according to spokeswoman Karen Dalton.

Eva Knott, December 13

Visduh, December 13 @ 8:08 p.m.

A wonderful civics lesson in how the real world can go awry for those high schoolers!

Murder, not homicide

Wife to stand trial for husband’s death, judge noticed he was shot from behind
Carlsbad — In San Diego’s North County Superior Courthouse today, judge Robert Kearney said the behavior of a Carlsbad housewife immediately after her husband was shot tended to show consciousness of guilt, rather than justifiable homicide.



John Cihak, father of the woman accused of murder, testified.

Kearney also noted that the deceased was shot from behind.

Defendant Julie Elizabeth Harper, 39, was ordered to stand trial for murder in the death of her husband, Jason Harper, 39. The deceased man was a math teacher and occasional volleyball coach at Carlsbad High School. Harper was found dead from a single gunshot wound on August 7, 2012.

Privately retained defense attorney Paul Pfingst suggested that Julie Harper

continued on page 38

ResMed: please refuse to play subsidy game

By Don Bauder

San Diego-based ResMed makes products for the treatment of sleep-disordered breathing. Trouble

is, it doesn’t make those products in San Diego. Its main manufacturing facility is in Australia, where the company was founded in 1989. It also has manufacturing plants in Singapore, Malaysia, Paris, and Freudstadt, Germany. It does make electric motors in Chatsworth, and it has an assembly/distribution plant in South Carolina.

It has 3700 employees worldwide, and only 404 of them are in San Diego.

But the community is atremble. ResMed’s chief executive, Peter Farrell, is unhappy about the elec-

“California just doesn’t have a business-friendly environment,” he complained to the *Business Journal*.

Unfortunately for taxpayers, “business friendly” is commonly a euphemism for “corporate socialist.” When business executives talk of a “business friendly” state or municipality, they mean “willing to give away taxpayer funds to



CEO Peter Farrell may move ResMed out of state.



U-T San Diego’s John Lynch urges Mayor Filner to consider tax and regulations reductions to keep ResMed.



tion results. He doesn’t want higher taxes, stronger unions, and tougher regulations. He deplores the Democratic Party’s huge majority in the state legislature.

So, he is thinking of moving ResMed’s headquarters elsewhere — to, say, Texas, South Carolina, or Singapore. A specially appointed ResMed subcommittee will study possible relocations and give a report in February. Both *U-T San Diego* and the *San Diego Business Journal* gave Farrell a forum to mouth his warnings.

corporations.” Usually that means taking those funds from schools, infrastructure, and essential government services.

As Farrell was denouncing California, the *New York Times* was running a series of articles on how American corporations pick the pockets of taxpayers by demanding all manner of enticements — cash grants, loans, tax breaks, property tax abatements, income tax credits and/or exemptions, and free services, including worker training. In return

for the payoffs, businesses put a plant in a metro area or promise not to move to friendlier climes.

The *Times* says that state and local governments shell out \$80 billion a year in this out-and-out bribery game, often called “jobs blackmail.” Of that sum, \$19 billion yearly has been coming from

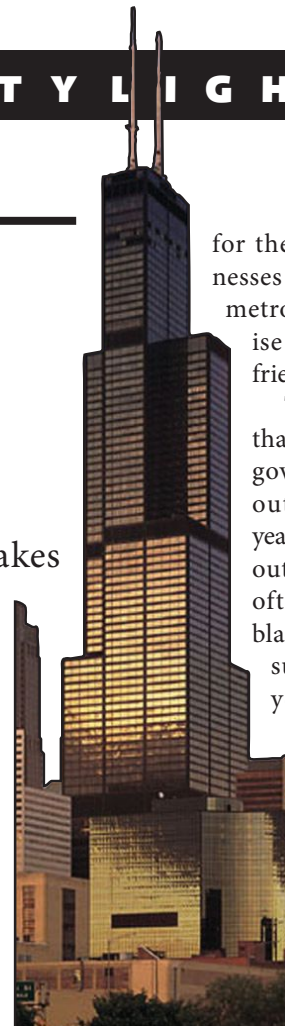
Texas, whose representatives have been visiting a number of cities, including San Diego, to induce businesses to move. The *Times* points out that Texas is 11th from

the bottom in education spending per pupil among American states. But to balance its budget last year, it cut education spending by \$5.4 billion. Asked if he had qualms about filching jobs from other states, Governor Rick Perry — yeah, that guy who wanted to be president — said, “Competition is what drives this country.”

Perry would not understand that it’s competition for corporate innovation and efficiency, not competition for jobs blackmail, that propels the national economy. Nor would Perry understand that this subsidy racket is basically a zero-sum game because one community’s gain is usually another’s loss. In the United States, it can be a losing game if the company decides to move offshore — say, if ResMed decides to move its headquarters to Singapore.

Here’s what relocation incentives usually mean: a community shells out so much money to get a company to build a plant in

continued on page 36



Illinois gave \$275 million to Sears to keep them in the Chicago area. Sears took the money...then laid off workers.



The Canadian destroyer escort Yukon steams along during her active-duty days.

The Last Time I Saw the Yukon

By Russell Goltz

The death count is now five. The latest, on December 1, was a 26-year-old woman. Her body was found aboard the *Yukon*. It's a story that is doomed to be repeated for as long as it takes steel to decompose in salt water. As long as the destroyer escort HMCS (Her Majesty's Canadian Ship) *Yukon*, sunk in July of 2000 off the coast of Mission Beach, remains as she is, each scuba-diving death — and there will be more — will require the retelling of the story

As a certified scuba diver, I know exploring a ship is one of the most dangerous adventures a diver can experience. But that's not the kind of dive site the *Yukon* was originally conceived to be. It was supposed to be an inviting dive site for beginning and intermediate divers. But it has become a death trap for those who thought they knew what



The ship now lies on her side a mile and a half off Mission Beach. Five divers have died in and around the wreck.

they were doing.

The last time I saw the *Yukon* was Thursday, July 13, 2000, around 8:00 p.m. My flight to Kansas City was the next day at 8:00 a.m., and the big festivities for the sinking of the *Yukon* were set for noon. The 366-foot-

long ship would be sunk during a ceremony punctuated by fireworks. I wished I could see it. Little did I realize that, in fact, I was one of the last people to see the *Yukon*...afloat, that is.

The Canadian naval ship was purchased for \$250,000 by the San Diego Oceans Foundation, then gutted and cleaned to become an environmentally-friendly artificial reef. The San Diego coastline has several well-known diving wrecks, and the *Yukon* was planned as the latest addition. Several holes were cut through the sides of the steel hull in order to allow scuba divers to easily swim through the ship. These holes were covered with plywood, which would be removed just prior to the sinking of the ship.

The ship would be towed out about 1½ miles out from Mission Beach on a Wednesday. On Friday, the ship, rigged with explosives (set by U.S. Navy SEALs) would be sunk in front of thousands of spectators and a flotilla of boats.

continued on page 36

UNDER THE RADAR

Tale of a stealthy super PAC

During the days leading up to last month's election, a mail piece was dispatched to voters in San Diego's third county supervisorial district, where Republican **Steve Danon** was facing off against Democrat **Dave Roberts**. The mailer, described by recipients as touting Roberts and dissing Danon, was sent by an outfit called USA PAC of Kal-

amazoo, Mystery money from the Pala Indian band helped Dave Roberts stomp Steve Danon for county supervisor.

vail against eight-term Texas Democratic congressman **Silvestre Reyes**, who lost his primary to conservative insurgent **Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke**. "They don't want to just 'level the playing field' as they claim. They want to buy seats in Congress for the super rich," Reyes spokesman **Jose Borbon** said after the May primary. O'Rourke went on to win the general election.

Meanwhile, back in San Diego, the GOP's

all voters knew. After the election, which Roberts narrowly won, the mystery only deepened. With the exception of the Danon-Roberts showdown, USA PAC spent its money on federal races, including a primary campaign battle earlier this year against Tennessee GOP congresswoman **Diane Black**.

Originally known as Congressional Elections PAC, USA PAC has been linked by *Mother Jones* to Texas construction mogul **Leo Linbeck, III**, who has described himself as a "conservative communitarian." In the Tennessee race, USA PAC favored Black's GOP primary rival, Tea Party activist **LouAnn Zelenik**, according

to an account in *USA Today*; money for USA PAC's campaign against Black came from **Andrew Miller**, a Zelenik ally, the paper said. Zelenik lost to Black, who was subsequently reelected this fall. But another Linbeck-backed PAC, the Campaign for Primary Accountability, did pre-

Danon was duking it out in a close race with Democrat Roberts. On November 1, USA PAC filed a disclosure statement with the county registrar of voters here revealing that the Michigan-based PAC spent \$30,000 on a direct-mail piece for Roberts. But the source of cash behind the mailer was not revealed until weeks after the election. On November 14, the Federal Election Commission wrote USA PAC treasurer **Jonathan Martin**, warning the committee about its failure to submit a legally required pre-

election funding disclosure. "It is important that you file this report immediately," the FEC said. "The failure to file a timely report can result in civil monetary penalties, an audit, or legal enforcement action."

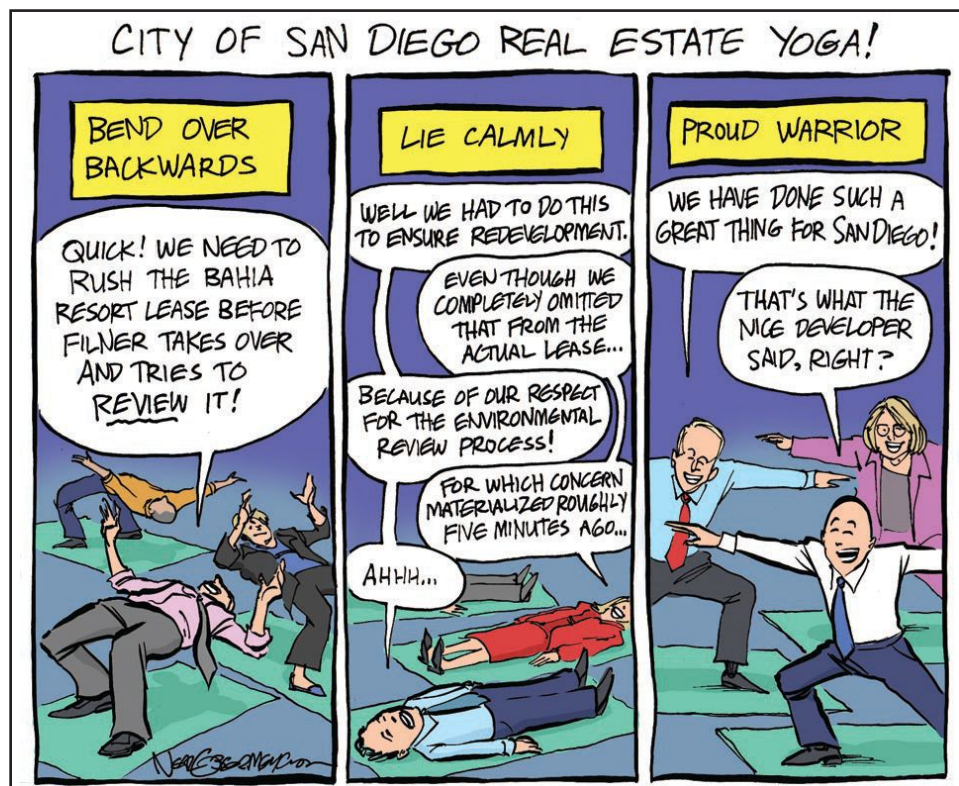
Finally, on November 20, USA PAC disclosed that the committee's last-minute \$30,000 direct-mail campaign on behalf of Democrat Roberts had been paid for not by

continued on page 38



Conservative Texas construction mogul Leo Linbeck III is linked to the PAC that spent the Pala money.

Neal Obermeyer



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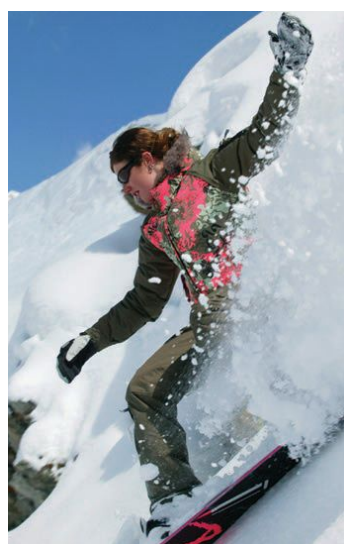
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Border Clarifications

The news titled “Border Patrol to the Rescue” (Neighborhood News, December 6) is almost certainly misleading. When crossing the border by car you will be inspected by a U.S. Customs Agent. Very rarely will you find a Border Patrol Agent working near the vehicle lanes. Most likely the woman seeking help was attended to by a Customs Agent. So, to clarify, Customs works the vehicle lanes, Immigration Inspectors work the pedestrian crossing, and Border Patrol works the areas where people try to enter without being inspected. Like the mountains, desert and sea. Border Patrol Agents wear green uniforms. Customs wear blue and Immigration wear white. I am writing this to inform that not every officer working the border is a Border Patrol Agent.

Blake Finlay
via email

All Wet

I read with interest your article “Bay Dreams” (November 29 cover story). Your last interviewee, Rob Quigley ... for all his big ideas, his head’s a little in the clouds. He says there’s no place you can actually stick your toe in the water, or literally touch it. Well, there are launch ramps, if you’ve ever launched a canoe or a kayak, where you can get your feet wet. Has he ever looked at Spanish [Landing]? There’s a beach there where children are cavorting in the water all the time. Same thing goes for Shelter Island. He should open his eyes.

Captain Broom
Harborside

Canal Dreams

My letter is pertaining to “Bay Dreams,” by Bill Manson (November 29).

I would like to say that I agree with Rob Quigley’s idea to “continue the city grid, 200-by-300-foot blocks and wipe out Seaport Village, which is an aberration,” and continue the grid like it used to be years ago — let the city touch the water. I agree totally with that. However, he mentions creating a bay within a bay by digging out landfill and letting the water back into the original shoreline. I agree with that, but I would continue it up to and including the airport, which is also on tidal land. It used to be Port Authority land and now it’s Airport Authority land.

Without copying another city, I think that Venice, California and the adjacent Marina del Rey would be a very good example for us to... not copy, but at least emulate in some way and make a San Diego version of it, having little canals cut into the land, kind of like where NTC has that Liberty Station housing. When you pass the airport on the right, there’s a canal that goes in and there are boats in there.

They could do dozens of canals on the airport property and tarmac, and have waterfront housing and office and retail, and increase the value of that property into the billions of dollars. Of course, that would entail moving the airport to Miramar, which I realize was voted down recently, about four or five years ago. I was on the panel for that — but it was very poorly done, kind of an online panel. And the whole promotion of the new airport was a disaster.

The airport has to be moved, canals have to be dug, and you could double the size of the waterfront — at least the San Diego portion of it — and have mixed use. No more noisy planes, and you could start going up in height. Because right now you cannot add height anywhere in the flight path. Also, the value of property in Point

EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITOR

Matt Potter

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Robert Mizrahi, Robert Nutting

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Hector Lam, Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Don Bauder, Ed Bedford, Jane Belanger, John Brizzolara, Patrick Daugherty, Joe Deegan, W.S. Di Piero, Barbara Fokos, Mary Grimm, Moss Gropen, Dorian Hargrove, Thomas Larson, Deirdre Lickona, Matthew Lickona, Bill Manson, Linda Nevin, Elizabeth Salaam, Jeff Smith

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continued on page 41



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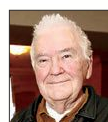
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

SAN YSIDRO

Not so feliz at the border Seasonal congestion and construction test border crossers' patience

Long lines and long waits appear to be the daily order at the San Ysidro border crossing this holiday season. Earlier this week, pedestrians stretched back a quarter of a mile; those waiting in cars went even farther back



The pedestrian line close to its end, under the auto bridge and adjacent to the park south of the Mexico border at San Ysidro.

into Tijuana, sometimes into downtown. Shopping crowds seemed passive enough, but weary looks and the occasional fuss and fidget revealed suppressed exasperation.

This reporter's crossings have revealed a trend that indicates long lines for the duration of the workday, with virtually no respite until after dark. Tijuana's daily *Frontera* has estimated lines at 3000-plus persons on foot and waits of up to three hours.

Adding to the problem, the U.S. border-station rebuilding effort has been working on about half of the crossing lanes for automobiles, making them ineligible for use, although efforts have been made to ameliorate the situation.

Crossers were advised to monitor the

California Border Patrol's website (cbp.gov) to stay informed of the most advantageous crossing times.

T.B. BEAUDEAU, DECEMBER 15

SPORTS ARENA

YUUUP! You're fired Former *Storage Wars* host Dave Hester now at Kobey's Swap Meet

One of my favorite TV shows is called *Storage Wars*, and I like to go down to Kobey's Swap Meet at the Valley View Casino Center (Sports Arena) to look for collectibles. The last three times I have been, I've seen now-former *Storage Wars* host Dave Hester set up in a booth, selling his "YUUUP!" logo on shirts and other stuff.

On December 11 and 12, details of a lawsuit filed by Hester against the A&E program producers came to light. Hester says he was recently fired because he complained about the alleged staging of props "to add dramatic effect" to the reality show.

According to the lawsuit, "...nearly every aspect of the Series is faked, even down to the plastic surgery that one of the female cast members underwent in order to create more 'sex appeal.'"

VINCE STEAD, DECEMBER 13

TIJUANA

River rescue Homeless couple rescued by helicopter after floodwaters rise quickly

The *Tijuana Press* website reported today that, following heavy rains in the border area overnight and throughout the morning, a homeless couple had to wait around four hours before being rescued from the Tijuana River canal, which flooded quickly and caught them off guard. The rescue operation included firefighters, policemen, and Red Cross paramedics, who waited almost half the day before the man and woman could be safely transferred to the canal's edge.

Eyewitnesses said a team of firefighters threw the man a rope, but the current's force prevented the rescuers from reaching the

couple's location while they waited in the rain covered with plastic bags.

The man and woman were stranded on a sort of island of silt and clump grass almost in the center of the canal, where other homeless people had stayed part of the night. The others apparently left the canal earlier, before the worst flooding occurred.

GARY CORNAGLIA, DECEMBER 13

JAVAJOE25, DECEMBER 13 @ 10:42 P.M.

I wonder if this couple will be billed for being rescued like we would on this side of the border. I seriously doubt it.

NORTH PARK

Jolly good time, indeed Tweed Ride includes penny farthings, costumes, and a grand piano

San Diego took a step back in time on Sunday, December 9, as over 125 people of all ages donned vintage clothing and rode old-school bikes in the fourth annual San Diego Tweed Ride.

The event began at Ward Canyon Park on Adams Avenue, where musician Greg Watson played ragtime music on a grand piano. There were plenty of Victorian costumes, 1920s flapper-girl dresses, carnival outfits, top hats, fedoras, and tweed as far as the eye could see.

When the group took to the streets,



Riders in tweed took to the streets of North Park for their fourth annual old-fashioned jaunt.

people stopped whatever they were doing and watched everyone roll by.

Most people rode English-style bikes, but there were also vintage cruisers and even a few penny farthings (bicycles with a large front wheel and much smaller rear wheel)!

There were some perturbed drivers who had to wait while the huge group passed,

but most drivers honked their horns and cheered the riders on.

JEB HAUGHT, DECEMBER 13

CHULA VISTA

Show us the money School board once again dodges campaign-donations talk, confronted three times in past year

After the fanfare was over at the Sweetwater Union High School District meeting on December 10, after San Diego mayor Bob Filner stood by recently reelected Pearl Quiñones's side as she was sworn in, the board returned to business as usual.

In December 2011, Nancy Stubbs brought before the Sweetwater trustees a campaign-reform resolution. Because of the exorbitant amount of money (\$150,000) given to boardmembers Jim Cartmill, Arlie Ricasa, and John McCann from vendors during their 2010 campaign, Stubbs said she felt it necessary to pass a resolution limiting campaign donations to \$500. The resolution died for lack of a motion.

Since then, several more attempts by community members to agendize campaign-donation limitations have been evaded by the district.

In June 2012, the board adopted a resolution that precluded the ability of the public to agendize or discuss an item that had been before the board during the previous year — thus preventing a return of the campaign-donation-limitation issue. But the issue came back in October 2012 in the form of a conflict-of-interest bylaw revision.

Trustee Bertha López and community members urged the board to include language about campaign contributions in their conflict-of-interest code. The board equivocated and revisited the policy in November and again on December 10.

At Monday's meeting, Alex Anguiano, president of the Sweetwater Education Association, pointed to the recent scandal in the San Ysidro School District, where the superintendent admitted to accepting an

continued on page 88

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by Barbarella

She's got the goods

I'm into delayed gratification. For example, if someone gives me a cookie, I'll rarely eat it right away; instead, I'll save it for a time when I'll get maximum enjoyment from eating it (such as when I'm super hungry and near my espresso machine). Similarly, I try to hold on to interesting news, waiting for the moment that promises the best return on my delectable reveal.

Lately, I've been having a lot of fun with one particular golden nugget of news. When gathering with friends, colleagues, or family, I'll wait until all of the usual "What's going on with you?" updates are exhausted and then, when everyone has resorted to picking away at a mundane topic with the enthusiasm of a kid working through a plateful of veggies, I'll bust out the sweetness.

I explained myself in the loudest whisper I could muster: "Your neighbor is making counterfeit money. Right now. He's cutting up 20-dollar bills with a paper cutter. I swear. Go look."

"I've been working with the Secret Service." At first, they think I'm joking. "No, seriously. I've met with them and everything." They examine my face long enough to realize I'm not kidding. Then the questions begin: *Why? When? How?* Then I have everyone's attention, and I like that.

As a freelancer, I can work wherever I want. Most of the time I'm at home because that's where I keep my stuff. But when David is working on his photos in his version of a man-cave (his studio in East Village, which I guess is more like an art vault),

it gets lonely in my one-person office. Sometimes I bring my laptop to coffee shops to get the sense of being around people, but other times I seek out a "coworker," like my friend Nick, who lives in South Park. It was at Nick's that I discovered my aptitude for uncovering nefarious activity. (Note: his name is not really Nick, and he doesn't really live in South Park — these details have been changed to protect the innocent.)

Nick and I were working in his kitchen. It was a lovely day, so the sliding glass door that leads to his small backyard was open. As I tapped on my laptop, I heard a distinct, metallic-ish swooshing noise coming from outside. I asked Nick what he thought it was, but he just shrugged and said he didn't know. "It's like someone's opening and closing a drawer, over and over," I complained. Again, Nick shrugged. He wasn't bothered, but the noise was driving me crazy, so I went to investigate.

I followed the repeti-

tive sound to the tall wooden fence on one side of Nick's yard and found a gap between the boards to peek through. There was a guy on his knees, hunched over a paper cutter — like the kind David has to trim small photos — slicing rhythmically. I was about to turn around and head back to the house when I realized what he was cutting.

I ran back to the kitchen and slid the glass door closed behind me. Nick lifted his head as I flailed my arms to get his attention (in case I didn't already have it) and puckered my lips for an exaggerated "Shhhh!"

When his confusion turned to irritation, I explained myself in the loudest whisper I could muster: "Your neighbor is making counterfeit money. Right now. He's cutting up 20-dollar bills with a paper cutter, I swear. Go look."

Nick gave me a skeptical glare, but then he stood and went outside. I could tell from how carefully and quietly he slid the door open that he believed me. When he came back, he said, "Yup, that's what it looks like."

"Shouldn't we call the police?"

"Who are we, Big Brother? He could be making an art project," Nick said, but I could tell from his face that he didn't believe that. The paper was white, but laid beside the stack of uncut pages, there had been a very-real-looking greenish bill. "I'm the one who lives here, I'm the one who'd have to deal with the repercussions," he said. "What if he finds out and he, like, attacks me or something?"

"Then we make sure he doesn't find out," I said. "Either way, I'm going back out there to get pictures."

Later at home, I zoomed in on the photos on my computer to get a better look. "See, David?" He's totally using that real bill to size the ones he's cutting. If this were an art project, why would it have to be so exact?" David shrugged. For the moment, I let it go.

Weeks later, I was over at Nick's again and we were taking a break from work to exchange gossip about mutual friends. Things had been quiet on the counterfeiting front. But on this day, I heard a different noise, one that I recognized right away. "Sounds like an aerosol spray can," I said. "I'm gonna go have a look." I knew to bring my camera. With the stealthy silence of my smartphone, I was able to capture both pictures and video.

This time, even Nick was curious. When I took breaks from holding my phone steady, he'd put his eye to the gap in the fence and watch as the guy sprayed sheets of uncut bills with whatever mist was coming from the can. But that was only part of it — all around the guy were stacks of cut, green 20-dollar bills.

A few days later, I found a fragment of a fake. By then, I'd already met with a pair of agents. My first inclination had been to call the local police department, but a quick online search revealed that the integrity of our money is the Secret Service's thing — it was the whole reason they were established in 1865. It's

continued on page 41



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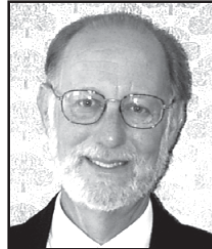
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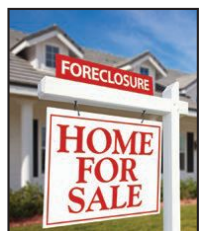
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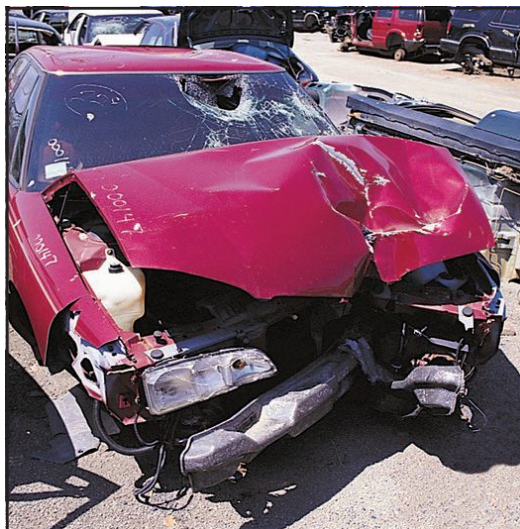
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Walter Mencken's

SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

Neighborhood News

In light of recently released census figures regarding marital status, the neighborhood of Lemon Grove (only 40.5 percent of females married) has invited the neighborhood of Imperial Beach (only 42.9 percent of males married) to a mixer at Bonita's Rohr Park on Saturday, December 8, beginning at 5 p.m. with a picnic supper. "It seemed like a nice middle ground," said Lemon

Grove. "We'll have dancing and some live music, and maybe even some adult refreshments. But we do want to stress that the mixer will be a semi-formal affair. Imperial Beach will have to shave and put on a shirt — and maybe lose the flip-flops. It might not hurt to start looking for a job, either."

As of press time, Imperial Beach was still considering

the invitation. "I dunno, man. It just sounds like a lot of effort, you know? And I'm thinking Lemon Grove has just one thing on its mind, and it isn't a quick roll in the sand."



Mural Furor, Continued!

94 MLK Mural Is Vandalized; Police Are Baffled

That first symbol has us confused," says officer Sam Keystone, head of the SDPD's Tagger Department. "I mean, 'C O King' — that much is clear, even if its meaning isn't. But that first thing? It looks sort of like a heart, but that vertical line coming out of the top makes it look almost like an apple. Then again, some clown named Mencken keeps calling our tip hotline and insisting it's a Sacred Heart, like the one you see at the House of Blues:



This is why we can't have nice things.

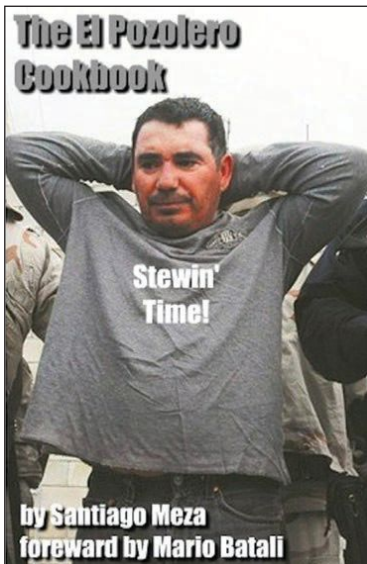
Anyway, this Mencken person goes on and on about how, since it's a famous Christian symbol, it points to the 'notorious outlaw gang' the Godless America Liberal Lobby (GALL). The 'C O King,' he says, stands for 'Christian Oppressor King.' He says they're the only people out there with the gall to deface an image of a great American just because he's also a Christian minister. I think it's nutty, but the fact remains, we don't have anything better to go on right now."



Walter Mencken's Almost Factual Christmas Gift Recommendations #1

First up, we have Stewin' Time! The El Pozolero Cookbook from world-famous stewmeister Santiago Meza!

Regional cuisine is as hot as ever this Christmastime, and here is a cookbook from a local Mexican chef with a reputation that stretches around the world. Santiago Meza has served as the personal stewmaker to some of Mexico's wealthiest families. In one of his most legendary exploits, he is said to have been told by his employers that he would need to take care of over 300 people! That's a lot of stew, but El Pozolero was up to the task. Some of his techniques have even been featured on the popular cooking show *Breaking Bad!*



if you really want to get best results from your stock bones, it helps to break them before you add them to the broth. But that means that afterwards, you have to be careful to strain them out, or you'll wind up with fragments that could mean big trouble after you're finished. There's a lot to consider."

El Pozolero's skill at stew-making is so great that many people have pursued him, eager to learn his secrets. But until now, he has been reluctant to share what he knows. "I used to think that if anyone found out all the little details

surrounding my stew, it would be the end of me. Now, I have changed my mind, and I'm singing from the rooftops like a canary." Order your copy today!

Walter Mencken's Almost Factual Christmas Gift Recommendations #2

Balboa Park Gingerbread Crumble-House!

Here's a wonderful, intentionally temporary structure your child can build out of flour and frosting — much like the buildings that lined the Prado at this year's Christmas Celebration, er, December Nights at Balboa Park!

After Christmas, children will look upon their creations and join with Balboa Park architect Bertram Goodhue in saying that "They are now crumbling, disintegrating, and altogether unlovely structures, structures that lack any of the venerability of age and present only its pathos." But, unlike Goodhue, they can eat their mistakes!

WARNING: Be sure to store your Crumble-House in a cool, dry place. If the recent floods at the Casa de Balboa build-



ing have taught us anything, it's that these edible edifices don't hold up well to water.



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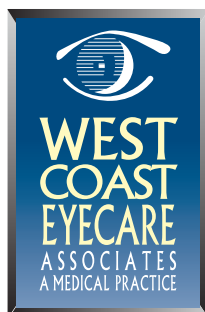
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STRAIGHT FROM THE HIP BY MATTHEW ALICE

Heymatt:

I live near two parks that have hundreds of ducks that pair up during mating. When they all scatter from kids or dogs chasing them or from someone feeding them, the ducks quickly rejoin each other. How do they know how to find each other?

— Steve Reynolds

A duck might call us out for species-ism, for saying, "They all look the same." To us, they're a bunch of little foie-gras factories, indistinguishably attired in identical feathered suits, but between ducks it's a different story. Ducks see other ducks like people see other people. They have ugly ducks and suave, stylish ducks. They probably even have hipster ducks who wear their feathers in puffy duck mullets with bangs like it's 1985 (or the duck fashion equivalent) and all the other ducks are, like, "Oh, you're soooooo ironic, whatevs." Birds have acute vision in general and, while ducks aren't sharp-eyed raptors, they can still see very well, so discerning the difference between each other is an easier task for them. Because they have abundant cone cells in their eyes, they can see colors that are invisible to humans, particularly ultraviolet. That just gives them more options to tell each other apart. Really, if you spent a bunch of time looking at ducks, you'd end up being able to tell some of them apart, too. That's just not the kind of thing that most people devote a lot of time to. If, on the other hand, you do have the desire to learn to distinguish individual waterfowl by sight, there may just be a career in natural history in your future.

Heymatt:

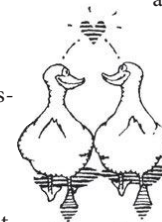
Why is a Mexican flag included at the courthouse at Third and H streets in Chula Vista? Does this mean some courtrooms there follow the "guilty until the level of extortion has been satisfied" policy?

— Curious Passerby

That's actually the flag of the County of San Diego. The colors are the same as the Mexican flag, and it has a sigil in the center that might look like the Mexican eagle and jaguar from afar, but the bars are oriented horizontally. I suppose you can rest assured that "good old American justice" prevails at that courthouse, with all of its inherent fairness and guarantee of human rights and....oh, I'll just stop right there.

There's no good reason to put a Mexican

flag at the courthouse, but there also isn't any particular reason *not* to as a diplomatic gesture toward our neighbor. Of course, there is etiquette for flags. The host country's flag should be flown on its own separate mast or, at the very least, in a position of honor respective to any other flags being flown. Diplomacy just isn't a judicial responsibility.



Hey Matt!

I'm an alcoholic and I've recently cut down my consumption to the point that I'm not hammered all day every day. Well, I've converted to non-alcoholic beer for the daytime — 'cause I love beer — but I noticed that they have a 0.5% ABV. That means it would roughly take ten N.A. to equal 1 regular beer. Well, my question is, can I just be driving around in my car drinking N.A. all day and if so would the cops bust me

at some point? Could I get a D.U.I.?
— Waitin' till dark to drink real beer

I'd say don't do it. Here's why: If a cop sees you cruising around, sipping from a brown bottle with a long neck, he might want to pull you over just to see what's going on. The explanation, "Oh, no, it's *non-alcoholic beer!*" might not explain you out of trouble, either, since many uncreative boozers have tried pouring out O'Doul's and replacing it with legit beer.

What a great way to drink on the sly...said nobody, ever!

Anyway, the cop is going to think that's what's up, and he'll probably want to give you a breathalyzer test. You'll pass it because it's basically impossible to drink enough 0.5% beer to get intoxicated. Your body can process alcohol faster than you can take it in at that concentration, not to mention the fact that ten N.A. beers is close to a gallon of fluid, which is hard to drink in the first place without rupturing like an overfilled water balloon. You couldn't be cited for violating an "open container" law, either, since California abides by federal regulations that define an "alcoholic beverage" as having "not less than one half of one percent alcohol by volume." Well, you *could* be cited since the cops can write you a ticket for anything, but you would be very likely to get out of it in court. When all is said and done, you're stuck sitting on the side of the road with an irritated cop who probably feels like you're flaunting the law in front of him. Cops don't like that. Doing stuff that cops don't like is generally a Bad Idea. And, you have to ask yourself, is near-beer worth all that hassle?

Find more Matthew Alice online at SDReader.com/hip

Got a question you need answered? Send an email to hey matt@sdreader.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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AUTHOR: **Marisa Siervo** | FROM: **Solana Beach** | BLOGGING SINCE: **The Dawn of the Internet**

POST TITLE: **Sale**

POST DATE: **June 11, 2012**

I had seen the signs: they read, "TODAY: SALE FROM 8 AM to 3 PM," and they were posted everywhere in the neighborhood. For the past week or so, I had tried to ignore them. We live in a 700-square-foot apartment, and we already pay an extra cost for storage every month. We don't need any more crap. But one is always curious.

So, today I took a walk up the hill. I came across an open gate with a sign that said, "FARMER'S BUREAU MEMBER," and beyond that, to my right, at least two acres of land, cultivated to grow the most beautiful flowers I have ever seen. There were gigantic, mutant-looking flowers that looked like a cross between an orchid and a sunflower. They were as tall and stalky as sunflowers and had the exotic purple and pink hues of the orchid.

A Mexican directed me to the greenhouse — an airy, shaded area with rows and rows of shelves that once held flowers and who knows what else. Now they were holding someone's once-treasured belongings. I walked around, and as I scanned the rows of stuff, I began to become acquainted with the owner of these things. She was a woman who had traveled to many places. She had bought souvenirs from everywhere, it seemed.

She had a particular fascination for bells. In the bell collection, I found three Norman Rockwells from 1979, made in West Germany. I got those for a song and a dance. I didn't even have to haggle with the Mexican gentleman, as he was just a helping hand, an employee who probably had no idea of what the items were truly worth. I found a bell that was made in 1972, of fine bone China, in England. It was a Hammersley Annual Bell, in fact. I bought that, too, for peanuts. I found a little bell from the "Rings and Things" collection, circa 1970s. I had a matching ring-holder for that. I got it when I was a child, and I don't know the history of it, except that the

person who gave it to me loved me. Maybe it was my Uncle Sidney, my happy-go-lucky Jewish uncle who married my Tia Tina.

When I first came into the greenhouse, my eyes had immediately zoned in on a wooden owl. I collect owls, as they are one of my favorite animals. Most of my collection is in storage, and I tried to remind myself of that, but then I turned the owl over and it was a Schmid-Linder wood carving made in Switzerland. I added it to my growing pile without even blinking. I spent \$5 total on all these collectible, limited-edition — and in some cases, antique — items. I felt good to have made such valuable purchases at such a bargain.

While rummaging through the stuff, I overheard the owner's employee talking in Spanish with a

Mexican lady. He was flirtatiously trying to convince her to make an offer on everything, because she was telling him that she had some kind of business that kept her returning to Tijuana, where she had most of her family. I looked at the piles and piles of Christmas ornaments: the angels — because the woman whose belongings were on display loved angels — her treasured collection of bells, the many trinkets hailing from places as diverse as the Taj Mahal in India and the Golden Nugget in Vegas. And I was suddenly overwhelmed with sadness at the thought that this lady's stuff might end up at a flea market in Tijuana. What sad trees would her glorious Christmas ornaments adorn?

As I paid for my stuff, I asked the Mexican farmhand if the lady of the estate had died. He said she had. He said she was a very beautiful person. She was 83. While I walked out of the greenhouse, I felt sad that I would never know her name. As I walked down the dirt road, I looked at those glorious flowers for the last time. I hope she had such a vision before she passed, and I like to think that a part of her will live on in all the scattered pieces of her life that lay before us in that greenhouse.



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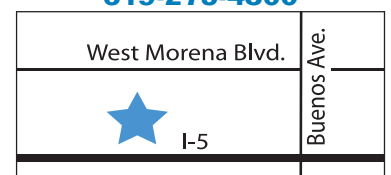
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SportingBox

BY PATRICK DAUGHERTY

Christmas edition



My best Christmas was on Isla Mujeres. You could walk the island, tip to toe, in an hour.

At my desktop computer, I have clicked over to YouTube and typed in "Christmas music." First up is, "Christmas Music Playlist Part Two For Your Christmas Party." I click again. The party begins with Elvis singing "Blue Christmas."

This playlist runs 1:02:54. I've told myself to cowboy up, sit here and take it. My teeth clench as I start work on a column. Christmas cheer is unrelenting as Elvis gives way to Andy Williams singing "Jingle Bells." Going for the positive, I decide to list all the things I like about Christmas.

Number 1: No traffic, you have city streets to yourself. Number 2: Beaches are empty, which, admittedly, is much like Number 1. Number 3...

My best Christmas was on Isla Mujeres, a small island just off the Yucatán Peninsula. In those days, it was close to untouched, blighted by only one tourist hotel. You could walk the island, tip to toe, in an hour. It's little more than four miles long, less than a half-mile wide.

The trip started in Fairbanks. It was December. Cold and dark. A pipeline friend told me he'd been there the previous winter, said it has one of the best snorkeling grounds in the world. I don't snorkel, so it made no sense to vacation there. Not making sense is the prerogative of youth.

A couple plane rides to Mexico City. A couple bus rides from Mexico City to Caribbean shores. Thence onto a rotting, belching, clanking deathtrap, otherwise known as a passenger ferry, henceforward sailing eight miles over the bounding main into downtown Isla Mujeres.

I liked Isla Mujeres right off. Loved the weather, 80 degrees, the balmy breeze, the bathtub-warm ocean, and especially its

astounding clarity. The first night is spent in a good hotel. A solid night's rest from the trip and a good breakfast. One moves into cheap lodging on the next tide.

I came with very little money and quickly left the good hotel, the cheap hotel, and moved down the food chain to a fenced lot enclosing a forest of cement poles. The poles were used to anchor hammocks.

Soon, I'm counting pennies. One always wants to go local when traveling. It's far cheaper to eat, sleep, and drink in neighborhoods. And it's far more interesting. You meet people, hang out with them, spend a little time inside their lives. For me, a Hilton Hotel is a detention camp.

If I wanted to stay longer — and I did — I had to get out of the money economy and go for free. This led me to walking around working-class neighborhoods. Very quickly I spied the ubiquitous Mexican artifact, to wit: an unfinished cement-block house. This one had two rooms, no windows or doors, and no floor. No matter. It had the essentials, a roof and walls.

I moved in. Now, one of the good things about being among poor people is that they are used to the way poor people live. So, my homesteading a hovel was not taken as anything novel. Children were running in and out of the place within an hour. I was nodding to and saying good morning to adults within a day. Nobody ever bothered me.

I got a routine going. Get up early, go for a swim, breakfast out of a *mercado*, find coffee. I knew people in town and frequently stayed with them. The hovel was a place to take a night off from the party — a night away from all the new people, hang a flashlight from the ceiling, and spend the evening reading.

I'd been there three weeks when I came home to a man squatting in my living room. He was old, thin, frail, wearing profoundly worn blue pants and a red polka-dot shirt. The few teeth he had were the color of urine. In one hand was a bottle of tequila.

I take a can of peaches out of my backpack and offer half. "Gracias," he says. He offers the bottle. I take a swig. "Gracias," I say. We go through the, "¿Donde esta tu casa?" and the "Me Patricio," and the "Me Jesus," which causes a smile (today is Christmas).

I break out more food, start a small fire, and we move up close to it. It's dark now, a billion-zillion stars can be seen out the window holes.

The bottle was near empty when he began to hum. Don't know what he was humming, but it was nice, sitting there by the fire, listening to him. For no reason, which is also the prerogative of youth, I began to sing the first song that comes to mind.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way...

Find more Sporting Box columns online at
SDReader.com/box

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

My youngest daughter always feels ripped off at this time of year because her birthday comes just three days after Christmas. She gets a second dose of presents, but we're usually too wiped out to do much in the way of parties. This year will be different. Her favorite holiday treat is the basic peppermint candy cane, and we're going to try our hand at a themed party built around just that.

Jenna at San Diego Kids' Party Rentals in Pacific Beach (858-272-2700; sandiegokidspartyrentals.com) told me she could provide a Candy Cane Girl. "Her costume is candy cane-themed. The dress has diagonal red and white stripes on it, and her gloves and boots are red with white fir trim. She can do a variety of things for you: face-painting — candy canes are an option, of course — games, balloon sculptures."

Joe Struzzi, owner of Royal Candy Castle in La Mesa (619-464-1850; royalcandycastle.com), told me, "We have these wonderful King Leo candy sticks (\$.32 each) made by the Gilliam Candy Company. They've been around since 1927. We have a rack of 12 flavors; soon we'll have 24. And, of course, we have the traditional peppermint, but we also stock off-the-wall flavors like rum and butter, sassafras, root beer, cinnamon, and cotton candy. Oh, and I've been doing some research on the candy cane, and all the stories I'm finding seem to match up. They say a choirmaster at the cathedral in Cologne was trying to find a way to quiet the children in the church during the Living Crèche that they did every Christmas Eve. He asked a local candy-maker for some sweet sticks for the children, but because he was giving out candy at a worship service, he asked for a crook at the top of each stick, to remind the children of the shepherds visiting the infant Jesus in the manger. And he asked that they be white, to represent the sinless life of Jesus."

Dawn at Beach Sweets in Ocean Beach (619-222-3322; oceanbeachsweets.com) said she had "giant candy canes [\$1.50 each] that are about ten inches tall and an inch thick. We also have chocolate-dipped marshmallows [\$4.25 each] that are mounted on a candy cane instead of a stick."

At the other end of the size spectrum, I found mini candy canes in bulk at Four Seasons Candy Company in Grantville (619-528-

"He asked that [the candy canes] be white, to represent the sinless life of Jesus."

8811; fourseasonscandy.com). "They come in tubs of 280 [\$15.80]," said the clerk. I thought we might stick them to the walls and give the effect of candy-cane wallpaper. For color variations, I could find green, red, or blue candy canes, which cost \$.99 each at Candy Depot in Hillcrest (619-683-2334).

Glory at the Sweet Factory in La Jolla (858-658-0298; sweetfactory.com) was all set to provide in the candy-cane novelty department. "I've got candy cane-style round lollipops with a red bow, or a candy-cane lollipop that looks like a swirly slide [\$1.99 each]. I have a baby-bottle pop with powdered sugar on the bottom, and the nipple part looks like a candy cane [\$1.49 each]. For added fun, I have candy cane-flavored Pop Rocks [\$1.19 per package]."

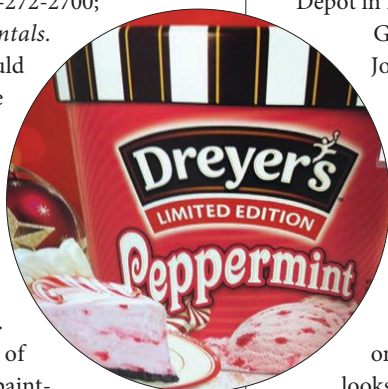
For the gift bags, I thought I'd spring for something a little higher-end. Craig at Godiva Chocolatier in the Fashion Valley Mall (619-293-7492) sold "peppermint truffles covered with white chocolate and also dark chocolate bars with a peppermint crème center [\$3.25 each]." Ghirardelli in the Gaslamp (619-234-2449) offers peppermint bark, which has a milk chocolate bottom and a white chocolate top that is flecked inside and out with candy-cane bits. Individually wrapped squares in 80-count bags are \$25.95; 50-count bags run \$19.95.

For the finish, I planned on serving Dreyer's Limited Edition Peppermint ice cream (\$3 for 1.5 quarts at Walmart) and candy cane-flavored Peeps dipped in chocolate (\$2 for three at Walmart). And our hot chocolate could be topped with pink-and-white Kraft peppermint marshmallows (\$2 for 10 oz. at Walmart).

Finally, I would pile the kids into the family van and take them for a cruise down Candy Cane Lane in Poway (facebook.com/pages/candy-cane-lane) for a Christmas light show. The residents have a tradition of decking out their homes in spectacular fashion.

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2: Joe Struzzi



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Style Stalker

BY KENDRA CLARK

Velvet & Studs = Sweet & Sexy

Velvet says, "Touch me," whereas studs say, "Watch out." Pick from these two winter trends to determine if you're feeling more soft or steely. You can even be a bit of both!



Rugby Ralph Lauren skinny velvet belt,
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Michael Kors sleeve
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(\$177.99 at zappos.com)



Sunburst pleated velvet dress
(\$370 at DavidMeister.com)

SAN DIEGO STYLE: Despite the casual dress code in this town, there are some who step it up; though, sometimes, crass can be confused for class.



Oppan Granny Style



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How to be a chic Sikh



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For the first time in either of our lives, homelessness was beginning to be a part of our daily conversation

We went to Mexico to get ahead. We smuggled cheese to get back.



**Maria and I were,
by most accounts,
your average
American couple.**

I was a small-business manager, and she was an executive assistant, and, financially, we always seemed to be just getting by. I was raised in a workaday Midwestern steel town, steeped in the idea that you were your job, which, of course, I resented. She was a San Diego native born to a cross-border Mexican family; by 30, she had experienced half

a lifetime of just getting by on menial jobs.

We were together for several years before we found ourselves struggling against a downturn in the economy, unemployment, rising debts, and a new baby. Facing pending financial ruin, and with an eviction notice pinned to our door, our world and relationship began to fall apart. To be honest, our financial lives had been in decline for a few years before the economy tanked, but now all our time became consumed with being new parents and trying to survive.

Maria's pregnancy hadn't

been easy, which made things more difficult for us both. By the time the baby arrived, she was deep into postpartum depression and I was trying, and failing, to keep it all together for our new family. For the first time in either of our lives, the possibility of homelessness was part of our daily conversation.

One night, over frozen pot-pie dinners, I suggested something I was sure she would reject out of hand. "Let's move to Tijuana." Maria replied without pause, "I was thinking the same thing."

Maybe the cheap rent

and cost of living south of the border would give us some room to breathe, along with a chance of putting money back in our pockets. Because our American reality was that we didn't have enough money to pay the rent, and moving to a different apartment was out of the question. I had about two-thirds of the current amount due in my pocket. In San Diego, all that would get us was evicted. In Tijuana, we reasoned, that money was equal to about six months' rent. As we were out of options, it was settled: we were moving to Mexico.

The next morning, we began to sell off possessions we hadn't already sold or pawned. Within a week, we were loading everything that remained into the car and heading down to Tijuana.

South of the border

Living in Mexico is a lot different than living in the States, in a lot more ways than you might think. First, the obvious: it's less worrisome, financially. In Mexico, most rental agreements are verbal, and deposits are usually very low, if required at all.

After four months of searching, we rented a large, American-style house for a fraction of what our one-bedroom apartment in San Diego had cost. There was a flip side, however. In Mexico, if you default on your rent, the landlord may well walk into the house and start grabbing your things, to sell or keep in lieu of funds owed. Still, with prices this low, and the border crossing less than five minutes away, I figured I'd find a job on the American



The author's two-story 3300-square-foot house in Tijuana rented for just \$500 per month, \$300 less than the one-bedroom San Diego apartment from which he'd been evicted.

side, after which things would surely pick up. In Tijuana, this is one of the most sought-after living scenarios: American job, Mexican cost of living.

It didn't take long to realize that moving

to TJ wouldn't improve our lives as much as we thought. Living in Mexico posed challenges, chief among them the fact that, even with the border so close, the wait to cross could be as much as

three hours. It turns out that having a job in the States — if you can find one — means crossing in the U.S. before 6:00 a.m. and crossing back into Mexico after 6:00 p.m., regardless of your work-

ing hours. And American employers are notoriously unsympathetic to cross-border dilemmas. You need to maintain an American address so that they don't know that you reside in Mexico; otherwise, with most of them, your application goes to the bottom of the list. It was soon clear that we'd need to make money south of the border. With biting poverty and an overabundance of poorly paid local labor available, that would be difficult — especially for gringos.

We did our best for a while. We tried a lot of different things, including selling homemade food — a common business in Mexico — and gathering up free or inexpensive things from Craigslist and yard sales around San Diego, even items abandoned in alleys. We crossed these things into

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Mexico to sell at neighborhood *sobre ruedas* (swap meets).

Within a few months, we were working longer, harder hours than if we'd had regular jobs, but for a fraction of the money. Most days, we did only a little better than break even. On one occasion, after being on the road with the baby the entire day, we were fleeced of the last of our gas money by Mexican border inspectors. We ran out on the side of a dark

Tijuana road, three miles from home, and wound up trading a pair of boots, a rocking chair, and some tools for a gallon of gas. That misadventure cost twice what we'd earned from the day's haul. Taking so many steps backward was frustrating, but we tried to remember that, because of this effort, we weren't homeless. We were taking care of our child.

In addition to the difficulty of obtaining items to sell, people who

buy at the *sobre ruedas* are *muy tocano* (as the locals complain while tapping their elbows) — meaning, really cheap. They're a frugal people, accustomed to doing without, so it's difficult to sell things unless you can get the items inexpensively. It's a tough life in Tijuana. Most of our neighbors wondered why "those Americans" would do it willingly.

Among people with options — especially an ability to cross the border — it's understood that you can live nicely in Tijuana if you have American income: a job in the States, unemployment benefits, Social Security, or welfare. But you can't make it on Mexican money alone.

After almost half a year of struggling to survive, our focus changed from trying to get ahead



Food orders from Mexico's interior are flown to Tijuana in wrapped cardboard boxes. Then they're sorted and transferred to black plastic bags for each customer, then smuggled across the border by drivers.

to just trying to get back home. It wasn't a matter of packing and heading north. The move required first month's rent, a deposit, and a job, and we had none of those things. We had trapped ourselves in Mexico. Our unemployment had run

out, and with it went money for gas and electricity. For a couple of weeks, we cooked meals over scrap wood in the BBQ grill, always leaving a small fire going to warm middle-of-the-night bottles for the baby. We went to sleep right

after the sun went down.

Looking for *chofers*

One day at the *sobre rueda*, Maria heard about a man who hires people who can cross legally into the States. They're called *chofers*, which is slang for delivery driver, and a *chofer* could earn 60 dollars per trip by delivering groceries. This sounded too good to be true. We were reluctant, at first, but desperate people lose their inhibitions, and so, in the end, we called the man. He explained that it was, in fact, only groceries that could be brought legally into the U.S., mostly in the form of homemade food sent up from families in the interior of Mexico to relatives in the States. It would never be drugs, people, or anything else illegal. Still skeptical, we asked point-blank why he was willing to pay someone to drive groceries across. Why not do it himself? "It's the volume!" he said. He had a lot of groceries.

After considering our options and realizing that we were running out of them fast, we decided there was no harm in checking it out. Plus, the people from our neighborhood spoke highly of Manuel and his wife, Linda, assuring us that they were "good people." In Mexico, this is a big deal.

We agreed to meet Manuel the next morning at his small warehouse near the airport. We arrived to find four other cars already waiting. There were two couples with small children, a young guy who looked like a college student, and a chubby girl in a sports car — not at all what we were expecting. We learned that Manuel was usually late because

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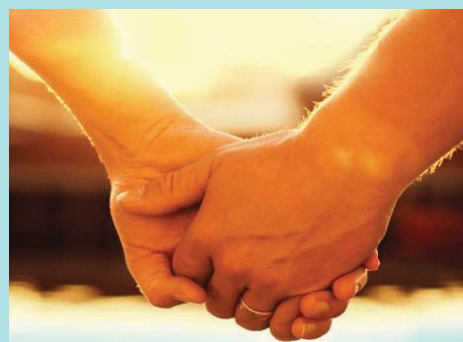
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- Be experiencing moderate to severe chronic low back pain for 3 months
- Be taking a prescription pain medication for at least 4 weeks

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Type 2 Diabetes

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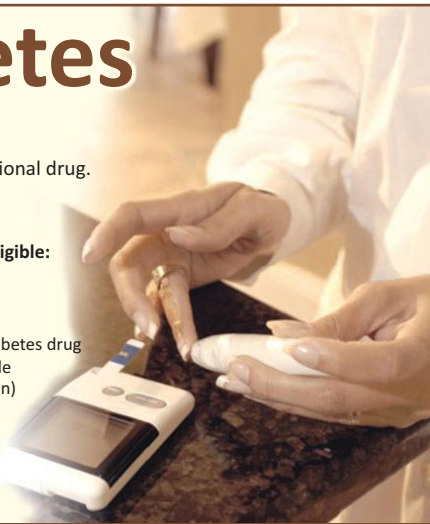
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he had to pick up “merchandise” at the airport. The plane was the unreliable part. *Only in Mexico*, I thought. While we waited, we all sat around talking. The kids ran up and down the sidewalk in front of the empty warehouse. It looked like any other day in that neighborhood, until an hour later, when a man — not Manuel — finally arrived. When he opened the rear doors of his van, I saw three cardboard boxes bursting at the seams. I watched closely as he and a helper carried the heavy boxes inside, cut them open, and began tossing out bags of tostadas, sweet breads, chilies, salted fish, chocolate, and cheese — lots and lots of cheese.

It took about half an hour for them to transfer the contents of the big boxes into tightly tied small black plastic bags. They passed these out to the people waiting outside. Once handed off, the *chofers* shuffled the bags to their cars. It was obvious they were all familiar with how things worked.

When the warehouse was nearly empty, except

for the ceiling-high pile of collapsed boxes from previous runs, the man introduced himself as Rolando. He asked if we intended to carry some merchandise across. He was a young guy, the son of the man on the phone, we assumed, calm and

illegals and drugs; they don’t care about food.” We were just desperate enough to hear that as unqualified permission.

Ratpacking

You never know what the load’s going to be, only that it’s homemade food

He began tossing out bags of tostadas, sweet breads, chilies, salted fish, chocolate, and cheese — lots and lots of cheese.

collected. He didn’t apply any pressure, just asked matter-of-factly whether we wanted to “work.” My wife and I looked at each other. Without needing to discuss it, we agreed. *Why the hell not?*

We’d been told that, even if you were caught, the only punishment was a fine, which Rolando said he would help pay. As one of the regular *chofers* put it: “The Border Patrol is looking for

from places like Michoacán or Oaxaca, and maybe some personal items and mail. Apparently, it’s cheaper and more trustworthy to send these things along the food network instead of the Mexican mail system: this import-export circuit is a direct pathway for all items traveling from family to family. One week, I noticed a cardboard cut-out of a child’s foot in one of the bags headed north;

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a week or so later, new shoes that would fit that child might be headed south. For a small fee, you could toss almost anything in with the sweet bread and cheese, and it would make its way through the network, into a family member's hands in Los Angeles, San Francisco, or wherever along the way.

When the merchandise arrives in Tijuana, it's divided between five, six, and sometimes as many as ten *chofers*, each earning around \$60 per trip. Sometimes, there's so much that each *chofer* transports two or even three loads in a day. That was plenty of incentive to my wife and I to take risks. Where else were we going to make that kind of money?

Before loading the

merchandise, you have an opportunity to inspect every item to make sure it's not drugs, cash, or contraband. You can refuse anything you don't like, but the size of the load determines its value. Everything sent north is legal, except for the amount of goods — it's the volume that's the problem. A van full of food and personal items must be pressed through to the other side, and the *chofers* are how they get it done. Refuse to carry things too many times, and you will find yourself off the phone list in a hurry.

Sometimes, we were concerned with the amount of goods we were transporting, but never concerned enough to stop doing it. We had moved to Mexico to try and get

ahead in America, and we weren't alone. This wasn't a smuggling operation of desperados hiding behind huge mustaches. It was mostly average Americans forced to choose between surviving and not. Moreover, it would be our ticket home. We felt we had to do it.

First trip

We transferred the food into grocery-store canvas bags, then spread the bags throughout the car, hiding most of it. We used spots that wouldn't be seen at first glance, but where it wouldn't be obvious that we were hiding something if the agent decided to poke around. It was right before noon, which we'd been told was the ideal time to cross. It's usually around an hour-and-a-half wait, not so

long that it's complete hell on the nerves, but not so short that it allows border agents extra time with each car. As it turned out,

Freshly cleaned, altered, or repaired surfaces were catnip for Border Patrol agents, indicating a possible hidden compartment for drugs.

it took 45 minutes in all, the longest three quarters of an hour of our lives.

We learned from other *chofers* that it was important to look like just another American family taking advantage of cheap prices in Tijuana, not desperate fools hiding 30 kilos of "bathtub cheese" stuffed everywhere in our

car. While we waited to cross, I read each sign two or three times, and Maria edited the same page on her laptop over

the slightest care to any of it.

When we finally arrived at the booth, the agent asked what we were

and over. We never spoke of the load or used words such as "illegal," "smuggling," or "secondary"; that would have felt like tempting fate. We were careful to sit properly, to pay attention to the Border Patrol agents' activities, and to pick the lane that was moving the fastest — all without appearing as if we were giving

bringing back from Mexico. "Oh," I said, acting surprised at the question. "We did some grocery shopping." The agent asked what sort of groceries. He glanced into the back of our car. "Well," I said, "there's some sweet bread, tortillas, cheese... uh...chocolate, and some formula for the baby. Oh, yeah, and we filled

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up with gas. It's all much cheaper down there." I didn't mention the 30 kilos of cheese hidden under the sweet bread.

"Okay, then, here's your paperwork," the agent curtly replied. "Have a good day." With that, we were beyond the only hurdle. Once past the gate, it was only a couple of miles to the meeting point, where we handed the food over and collected our money. We were thrilled that the process was clean and simple. All the people we'd dealt with were families with their own kids in tow. No one had gotten hurt, and we'd finally made some money. Things were looking up.

Into the flow of ratpacking

After making several trips, we came to understand that the first officer we'd dealt with was typical: most don't ask anything beyond that first question, "What are you bringing back from Mexico?" If they do ask anything else, I learned to answer in general terms and to take my

time doing it: agents aren't interested in long conversations. Rarely do they even let you finish your grocery list before handing you back your credentials and telling you to have a good day. Nabbing someone over groceries isn't a priority — it's the illegal alien stuffed in the dashboard or the trunk full of drugs that gives them bragging rights in the locker room. No one wants to pop off about five bags of groceries, not when a buddy has scooped up ten *bandidos* or a load of dope.

Occasionally, you get a hardass who does one of two things: sends you to "secondary" for further inspection or reads you the riot act about how you're going to get caught eventually and wind up with a \$5000 fine and five years in jail. Which is pretty much bullshit. You declared the items — that's required — and you weren't asked about amounts. At worst, they might fine you and confiscate the food.

Chofers came and went so often that, within a few weeks, we

were the senior *chofers*. We understood how the line moved and we had the right answers to keep the agents from paying too much attention. We understood how to duck and weave through the lanes, entering on the left side and working our way over to the right, because this was the fastest way to the front. We even got to know the vendors on the line. The wait became social. Maria and our daughter were regulars for the singing tostada salesman; I was partial to the tamale vendor who looked like a chunky Eva Mendes. It seemed that, for once, things were working out. We were paying our bills and putting money away to move back to the States.

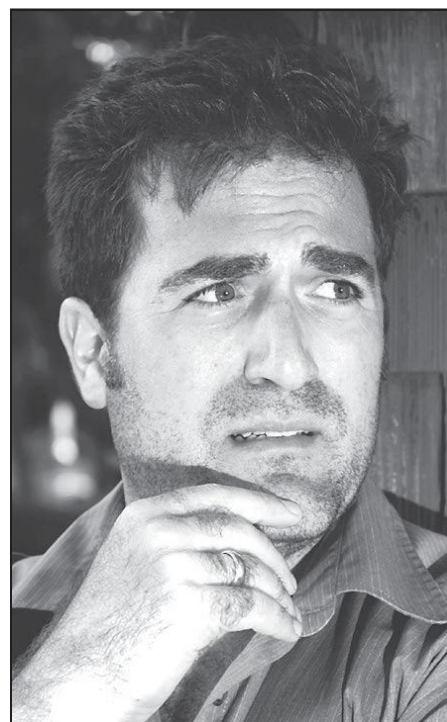
But it wasn't without its moments. We were

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SHARP Mesa Vista Hospital
Clinical Research Center



sent to secondary inspection on a few occasions. This was usually a nerve-racking hourlong wait before an agent would come over, poke around, then tell us we could go. Most seemed indifferent to the groceries, though the angry ones did want to yell. Going through secondary the first couple of times was scary, but by the third and fourth time, it was comforting to realize we weren't that important to them.

However, one morning, things went off-script before we even got close to the booth. We were driving a different car; our old one had died earlier in the week. The new car needed a fuel pump, which I'd replaced with a shiny new one. I didn't know that freshly cleaned, altered, or repaired sur-

faces were catnip for Border Patrol agents, indicating a possible hidden compartment for drugs.

The agents called for a drug-sniffing dog to check out the car. At first, we weren't particularly nervous, since we never carried drugs, though I wasn't thrilled with the 12 sets of agent eyeballs looking all around. But when the dog arrived, everything changed in a hurry. He alerted on the back end of the car, like a cartoon dog with a board-straight tail and bulging eyeballs, right at the spot where I'd installed the new fuel pump.

Within minutes, the Border Patrol surrounded our car with hands on pistols. First, I was removed and handcuffed, then Maria. Another agent took our daughter from

her car seat; no handcuffs for her. We were per-walked the rest of the way across the border and into a holding cell, where we sat stunned, wondering, *What the hell was in the cheese?*

We sat in holding for what seemed like forever, listening to the sounds of the agents dismantling our car piece by piece. No one said a word to us. We both knew the dog was mistaken, but maybe someone at some point had snorted some toot off the rear bumper. Surely nothing would come of the search; it was routine. The goods stuffed under the seats were a different matter entirely.

After an hour and a half in custody, an agent came in, handed me the car keys, and said we were free to go. On the way

out, I asked, "What was that all about?" The agent couldn't answer. We got in the car with our daughter and casually buckled ourselves in. We waved good-bye to the agent as we headed out of secondary. Later, we noticed that

warning. The agent was very young and excited. He told me he knew what I was up to, and it would be better if I were honest with him about it. *The hell it would*, I thought. If the agent really had me, he wouldn't be asking for an

realized something important: a lot of agents are so frustrated, they say things they know are bullshit.

Getting comfortable
After crossing the border enough times, you see the

"So, is she having another party, your aunt?"

every bag had been gone through. Evidently, they weren't interested in the groceries. After all the excitement, those agents must have thought us a profound letdown.

My first solo

Maria wasn't feeling well. So I decided to make a run by myself. That's when I got my first "official"

admission of guilt. So I stuck to my story. Finally, he relented. He gave me a stern warning that he was putting me into the computer as a potential smuggler of contraband. He said I would be going to secondary every time I crossed. And, the next time I brought groceries, I'd receive a fine and jail time. At that moment I

same guards. Luckily, for smugglers, the guards see so many people — thousands each week — that it takes them much longer to recognize you. You're an average couple, in an average car, with average groceries. Every so often, however, you run into the same agent more frequently. In our case, it was a grouchy older

RESEARCH STUDIES



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agent, a man who seemed to have an excellent memory and a low tolerance for me.

At our second encounter, I was nervous that he would remember me. Rightfully so. After asking if I had anything to declare and then hearing my grocery list, the agent asked, "Another party for your aunt?" Without hesitation, I said, "Excuse me, sir?" as if the agent were speaking Chinese. He said, "You were ratpacking food last week, telling me this same story. So, is she having another party, your aunt?" I said, "I'm not sure what you mean, sir. I think you have me mixed up with another guy." I could almost hear Maria's blood pressure rising, her anxiety breaking out of the top of her head like a steam-whistle. The officer chuckled under his breath, handed back our credentials. "You have a great party, sir."

Back at the warehouse, I told Ramón, another *chofer*, about the experience with the drug-sniffing dog and also the agent we kept running into. I was seriously considering giving up ratpacking, though I had no way to replace the income. Ramón said something that shook me because of its brutal honesty: "The great thing about America is that you're innocent until proven guilty. These guys might know you're ratpacking, but proving it is a different matter. Unless you flat-out admit what you're doing, they aren't going to bother with you."

His logic was undeniable. So I grabbed another bag of food.

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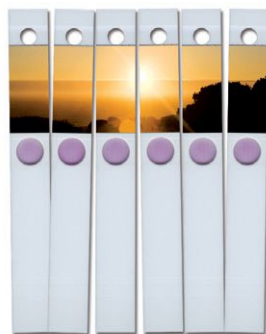


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managed to save enough money to put a deposit down on an apartment in San Diego, but we still didn't have jobs or other income to support ourselves in the States. We were caught up on bills — thanks to ratpacking, and also from continuing to sell items at the *sobre ruedas* — but this was only possible because we lived in Mexico for a fraction of the cost. We were at another crossroads. This time, we had some breathing room to think about the idea of moving back for longer than it takes to eat a pot pie. There was no eviction pending, and the baby was here now and doing well. Over the next couple of weeks, we talked about moving a lot, and we decided that we couldn't be desperados forever. We needed to get back to "the real world."

It's easy to move to Tijuana, with no credit check or income verification required. San Diego, on the other hand, requires that and more. With deposit and rent in hand, I searched for weeks, but since smugglers can't provide income verification, I hit a dead end. Being driven to the brink of destruction causes one to become creative, and I was determined that we weren't going to be stuck in Mexico. I picked a big, multi-department business in San Diego, typed up an "employment verification" letter that was supposed to be from them — signed by a generically named functionary — and, bingo, We were in. That letter was all we needed. Once again, we would be living in America.

Beginning of the end

We weren't done with ratpacking. We'd need to

continue until we found work in San Diego: there was no way to get by without that income. For about eight weeks, agents scarcely questioned us when we crossed the border. I began to think that, since we'd been

"Okay, sir. I need you to exit the vehicle."

crossing with such consistent ease, we were no longer of interest. We had indeed become that typical American family taking advantage of cheap prices in Mexico. Because of this lack of official interest, I came to view the ratpacking as a regular job, something I could rely on as steady income. And then came a warning.

We were going through secondary inspection again, but this time was different. The agent inspecting our cargo said outright that he believed we were ratpacking, and, again, he said it would be better for us if we were honest with him. Which, of course, we weren't going to do. He cajoled us for about 20 minutes — in between his trips back to the office — and then he was over trying to get us to 'fess up. He signed off on the orange paper border agents write on and stuck it under my windshield wiper, and then he said, "I've made remarks on your file. Sooner or later, you are going to get caught. It's not worth the \$20 those guys are paying you." I thanked him and headed out of secondary, thinking, *It's not 20 bucks, it's 60, and it is worth it. Because we need to survive.*

A few weeks later, on

what would be the night of our final trip, it was just me and my daughter doing the run. We arrived at the gate right after sunset. Everything seemed normal. The agent didn't pay much attention at first, but then

his interest was piqued by something. I wasn't sure what. The agent said I had more in the car than what I needed for personal use: secondary needed a look. In secondary, a cursory inspection was done by a young agent I hadn't seen before. He disagreed with the first agent's assessment. He told me he was going to let us pass. He headed to the office with our paperwork but returned with two other agents, one in plainclothes. They opened the back of the car again. This time, the plainclothes agent inspected the bags of groceries. He dumped one bag out onto the floor of the car, something they'd never done before. The agent picked up three or four smaller bags and pointed out something inside them to the newer agent. Then I heard the undercover agent say: "This guy's definitely smuggling. Don't let him go." The trunk lid slammed shut. All the agents walked away, back toward their office. I sat there, pretending to be oblivious to their activities, exactly like someone who wasn't lugging cheese. After a short wait, a different agent, much older and apparently the supervisor, appeared with the undercover agent in my window.

"Okay, sir," he said.

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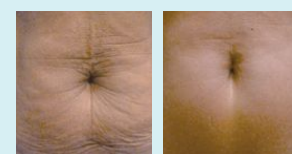


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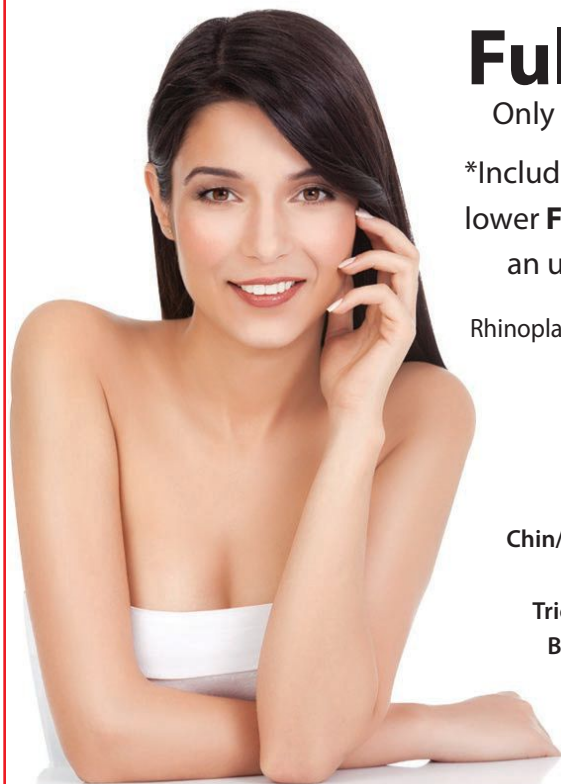
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"I need you to exit the vehicle."

He signaled for me to follow him to the back of the car. He opened the trunk. "This food isn't for personal use. You know it. We know it. Are you going to tell us about it, or are you sticking with your story?"

I thought I was done for. Now, it seemed, it was just a matter of degree. I shifted my child up onto my shoulder and measured out a response. "Sir," I said calmly, "I don't know what to tell you. You're telling me I'm lying. And when a federal officer tells you he thinks you're lying, there really isn't much else to say."

Both officers, along with a third who had joined them, looked dissatisfied with my response. The undercover agent picked up one of the bags he'd dumped out, flipped it over, and pointed to a tiny piece of paper inside. The name *Veracruz* was written on it. He pointed out another piece of paper in a different bag. That one said *V. Mendez*. A third

said *Roberto Costas*.

Shit, I thought. *I didn't know they'd put names in the bags.*

"If you bought this at the market, why are there people's names on them?" the plainclothes agent asked.

I didn't have a pre-made answer for this. "Maybe that's the guy who made it," I said.

The agent dropped the bag on the floor and walked away, saying, "Get back in your car, sir." The supervisor followed as the other agents went back to the office. For the first time during this whole cheese-smuggling business, I was genuinely worried, and I was thinking that I should have quit while I was ahead.

Finally, the supervisor returned to the car, this time with a paper in his hand. He said, "I have too much shit to deal with tonight, and I don't have time for you. I'm going to let you go because of your kid. I don't want to make you and her have to walk home. But the next time you cross this border with more than a couple

of tortillas, I'm taking the food, giving you a fine, and seizing your car. You and your baby will be walking home. Do you understand me?"

"Clearly," I said.

"You were warned in February, and I'm giving you your final warning tonight. This is it. You're done with all this. Do you understand me?"

"Clearly," I said again. I made sure to look him right in the eyes.

He pushed my ID through the window. "Get out of here before I change my mind."

And that was enough of a reality check. I drove out of secondary, reflecting on how lucky I'd been. What had once been a necessary risk had become an easy way to make money, and it was not worth the risk anymore.

I took the agent's advice and brought our ratpacking days to an end. Rolando still needs *chofers*, and every once in a while, we get a text from him saying, "*¿Quiéres trabajo?*" Want some work? ■

— Steven Strasser

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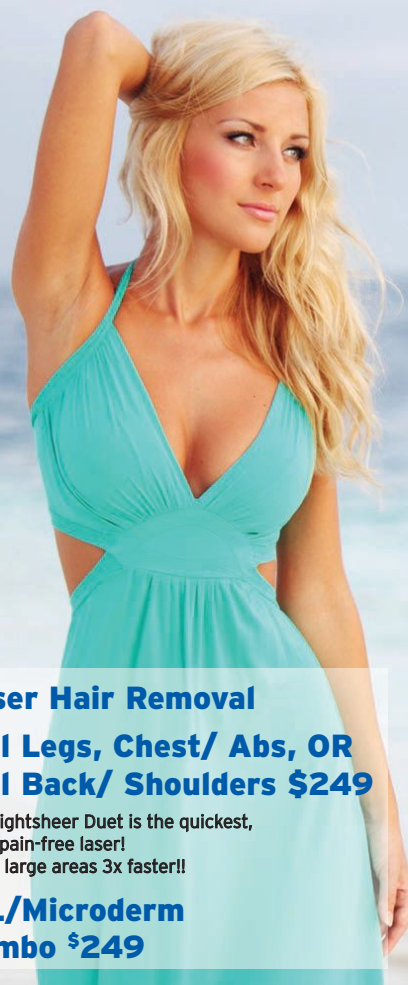
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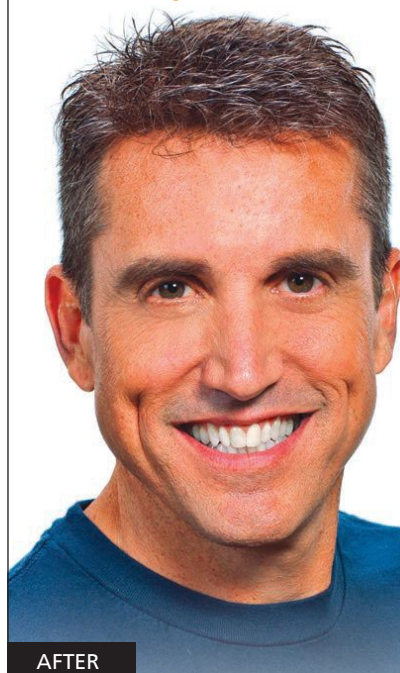
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CITY LIGHTS

Subsidy game

continued from page 2

town that tax revenues falter, infrastructure crumbles, and schools decline severely. In a few years, the company that begged for the subsidy can't get employees to transfer there. As soon as it legally can, it vamooses, leaving an empty plant.

"States should invest in public services and education, not subsidize big business," editorializes the *Times*. One encouraging statistic: California gives out \$112 in subsidies per capita, compared with \$759 in Texas and \$672 in Michigan.

This scam has been going on a long time. I wrote about it in the *Union-Tribune* in the 1990s, and I was hardly the first journalist to do so. In 1999, economists did an exhaustive study of \$176 million in loans, grants, and tax increment financing deals by various government bodies in Minnesota. The result of all those payments: "high costs, low wages, and an absence of standards to ensure that job subsidies produce an effective return on taxpayers' investment."

For the *Reader*, I have written columns about massive subsidies Florida is shelling out to get San Diego research institutions to set up operations in the Sunshine State. Last year, Florida was paying a staggering \$1 million per job — more than ten times the amount that is generally considered far too high.

One of the most egregious examples comes from one of the sickest states: Illinois. Once upon a time, mighty Sears Roebuck epitomized Chicago's muscle. It built the huge Sears Tower in downtown Chicago. Then it got into trouble. In 1989, Illinois shelled out a bundle to get the company to relocate to a Chicago suburb. But last year, the sinking Sears (now named Sears Holdings) threatened to move to Ohio or elsewhere. The state

CITY LIGHTS

coughed up \$275 million to get it to stay. Immediately it laid off workers. It turned out that under its contract with the state, Sears can lay off another 1750 without penalty. So much for job creation.

U-T San Diego published an editorial bemoaning ResMed's unhappiness and urging Mayor Filner to meet with Farrell and persuade him to stay. I emailed chief executive John Lynch, asking if the newspaper would favor such subsidies as cash grants and loans, tax breaks, free services, and the like to keep the company in town. Lynch replied that reducing taxes and regulation should be considered to retain local companies.

Constance Bienfait, ResMed's head of investor relations, says it is too early to say what would be acceptable. ResMed's tax team has already met with the mayor's office, although management feels that access to tech talent may be enough to keep the company in town. Bienfait said ResMed has "a fiduciary responsibility to look at the best place to operate."

That goes to the heart of the problem. Decades ago, companies had several constituencies: customers, employees, communities, vendors, shareholders. Beginning in the 1980s, shareholders became the only constituency. Clearly, greed is the reason that companies get subsidized, shareholders get massaged, and employees, taxpayers, and communities get screwed. I hope Farrell won't play this game. ■

The Yukon

continued from page 3

The plan was to sink the ship straight down, with the bottom of the ship flat on the bottom of the ocean. It was to be sunk in about 130 feet of water. The ship, from the bottom of the hull to the top of the antenna, is about 70 feet tall. Beginning scuba divers only go down about 60 feet, so even

CITY LIGHTS

an amateur diver would be able to see the ship if visibility were okay. Recreational divers descend to 100 feet, so they would be able to pass through the ship. The very bottom, at 130 feet, is considered a technical dive, and requires special scuba-diving training and gear.

The excitement level in San Diego, at least for scuba divers, increased during the week. The newspapers carried the story about the scheduled sinking of the *Yukon*, and the hotel rooms filled with scuba divers.

On Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the *Yukon* was towed out. Several times, I rode my bicycle to the end of Loring Street in Pacific Beach to look at it. Even though it was over a mile out it looked huge compared to any of the other boats usually found that close to shore. The plywood covering the large holes in the sides of the hull was plainly visible.

On Friday morning, very early, I rode my bike over to the end of Loring Street in Pacific Beach one last time, to see the *Yukon* before going to the airport. It was not there.

Sometime just before midnight, the waves had picked up by two to three feet. This was one to two feet more than expected — the ocean is usually flat around that time of the summer. The plywood failed. The ship took about an hour and a half to sink. And instead of sinking straight down, it listed to one side and came to rest flat on its port side.

The local morning news reported on the incident. There was only one very short, grainy video of the sinking. One of the two men onboard just before it sunk said, "It was the greatest thing I ever saw!"

Because the explosives on the ship were never set off, only the Navy SEALs were allowed on the wreck for several weeks. Out-of-town scuba divers went home without diving the *Yukon*.

continued on page 38

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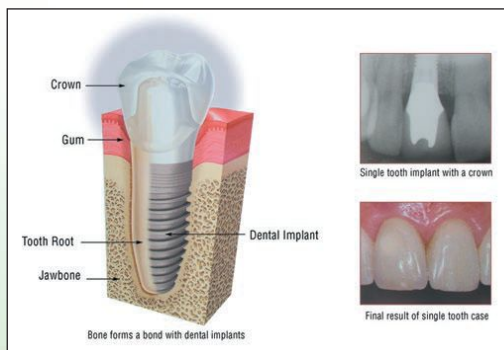
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CITY LIGHTS

The Yukon

continued from page 36

Instead of the ship being an easy diving site for beginning divers, it has become a deadly tourist site. Because of the position in which the ship is lying, a diver has to go down 70–80 feet before seeing the wreck. At 100 feet, a diver only has 17 minutes of air. And instead of having a clear pass way through the holes cut in the hull, a diver who enters the *Yukon* can easily become disoriented and not be able to find a way out.

This seems to be what happened on December 1 to Staci Johnson, a 26-year-old Marine from Camp Pendleton. Johnson was an experienced diver, as she was taking an advanced diving class with an instructor and a couple of other students when she died. ■

Under the radar

continued from page 3

a GOP corporate donor, but by a source with equally deep pockets: the Pala Band of Mission Indians. If there are any ties between conservative Texas Republican Linbeck and the California tribe, which runs a big hotel and casino resort off the I-15 freeway in North County, no one is saying. The tribe endorsed Roberts in April. “I am very proud to receive the endorsement of the Pala Band of Mission Indians,” Roberts said in a release at the time. “They are an extremely important part of our County’s history, and I look forward to having the honor of working with them.” Reached last week by phone, USA PAC’s treasurer **Jonathan Martin** said he was not authorized to speak for the committee; he said a spokesman for Linbeck would return the call, but none did. A phone message left at the Linbeck-associated American Strategic Analysis & Performance political consulting firm — listed as the contractor for the \$30,000 California mail piece on USA PAC’s federal disclosure filing — was not returned. Pala tribal chairman **John H. Smith**

CITY LIGHTS

also did not respond to a request for comment.

Solar-powered parking

Another piece of unfinished business for new San Diego mayor **Bob Filner**: deciding what kind of expensive new-fangled solar powered, radio-controlled parking meters to buy. “The City still has approximately 4,700 single space parking meters that accept coin and City of San Diego pre-paid parking cards only,” according to a request for proposal sent out by the old Sanders administration on November 7. “The City is interested in replacing these single space parking meters with a combination of single space and multi space meters that accept coin, credit/debit/smart cards, are solar powered and operate on a wireless network.”

Adds the request, “It is highly desirable that the meter also accept ‘contact-less’ (aka ‘tap’) technology card readers for integration with the San Diego Compass Card as well as pay-by-mobile phone capabilities.

“The meter must use solar power in combination with rechargeable/back-up battery to provide on-going power. The parking meters must all be wirelessly networked providing the City with real-time meter information including but not limited to operational status, revenue, use, battery life, and malfunctions. Contractor must provide web based back office that requires no additional customer software other than the Internet.” The dream system must also “be capable of recognizing the arrival and departure of parking vehicles and generating and transmitting a real-time status of the parking space availability and utilization.”

— *Matt Potter*

The *Reader* offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or fax your tip to 619-231-0489.

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

was fearful of her husband and said their children confirmed to investigators that the couple had loud arguments. Julie Harper had recently filed paperwork

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for a divorce.

Julie Harper’s father testified that Julie and her three children stayed with him at his home in Scripps Ranch the night of August 7. The father, John Cihak, said when police came to his door several times he did not answer because he “didn’t want to.” Cihak said he was awaiting instructions from the attorney “handling Julie’s problem.” Julie surrendered to police about 3 p.m. the day after the shooting, on August 8, at her father’s home.

Testimony suggested that Jason Harper and his extended family believed his wife Julie was addicted to pain medication and that she made unauthorized purchases that her husband was trying to prevent.

Julie Harper pleaded not guilty to murder and personal use of a handgun, for which she could get 50 years to life in prison.

Eva Knott, December 13

SD middle class vanishing

Economist’s study of local job market offers a grim forecast for middle-income workers

San Diego — “The rich get richer, the poor get poorer [or stay relatively the same], and the middle is disappearing,” is how economist **Kelly Cunningham** of the **National University System Institute for Policy Research** synthesizes his new study of the **San Diego occupational landscape**.

Looking at data from 2007–2011, the number of high-wage jobs requiring specific training and skills increased during the period, largely because of technology gains. Middle-income jobs declined, as did their total compensation; low-wage jobs also shrank while wages were about flat.

Middle-wage job and income losses were deeper in San Diego than in California and the nation. Between 2007 and 2011,

continued on page 40

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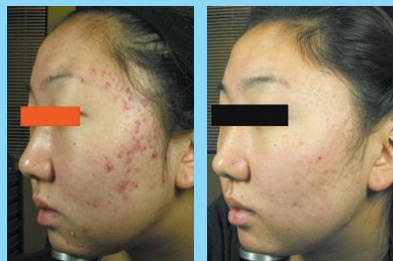
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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 38

middle-wage occupations in San Diego dropped by 15.2 percent, versus 13.2 percent in California and 8.3 percent in the nation. Inflation-adjusted middle-wage earnings dropped 16.8 percent in San Diego, 12.3 percent in California, and 7.7 percent in the nation. The conclusion is clear: the middle class is disappearing more rapidly in San Diego County than elsewhere.

Don Bauder, December 12

Ban nuclear in 2014?

California man again seeks to put nuclear-power ban on state ballot *San Onofre/Outside S.D.* — Santa Cruz resident Ben Davis Jr., who was behind a failed initiative that would have effectively shuttered California's two nuclear power plants after proponents were unable to collect enough signatures to place it on the 2012 ballot, is back with a new petition effort seeking a similar measure on the 2014 ballot.

At the heart of Davis's proposition is a requirement that the state's remaining reactors, including northern San Diego's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and the Diablo Canyon facility on the central coast, not be allowed to operate absent a long-term plan for storage of nuclear waste generated by the reactors.

Of course, following the demise of plans to move forward with the proposed (and long-delayed) storage facility at Nevada's Yucca Mountain in 2010, no such plans for long-term storage of nuclear waste exist anywhere in the United States. Effectively, passage of the measure would mean the end of nuclear power generation in the state.

The previous signa-

CITY LIGHTS

ture-gathering effort faltered after a fiscal analysis drafted by the secretary of state predicted a cost of "billions of dollars" to taxpayers as a result of passage. Davis called the claims made "unsubstantiated, false, and misleading."

Dave Rice, December 12

LA Times for sale

Manchester, *OC Register* owner interested, says Reuters *Outside S.D.* — Reuters is reporting tonight (December 11) that *U-T* owner "Papa Doug" Manchester and *Orange County Register* owner Aaron Kushner are interested in buying Tribune Company's papers — particularly the *Los Angeles Times*. Long-bankrupt Tribune Co., which owns the *Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and several other papers, will emerge from the tank December 31, sources told Reuters.

Kushner said he might be interested in some of the papers but talk is premature. Reuters was not able to reach Manchester or *U-T* chief executive John Lynch. However, Lynch previously said to a meeting of the Harvard Business School Club of San Diego that he and Manchester might be interested in buying Tribune Co. properties.

Don Bauder, December 11

Walk this way

Bayfront access improved with new walkway for pedestrians and cyclists *Shelter Island* — A promenade providing access for pedestrians and cyclists to Shelter Island in Point Loma was opened to the public yesterday.

Tom Driscoll of Driscoll, Inc., which owns Driscoll's Wharf and the Driscoll Boatyard on Shelter Island, was joined by Port of San Diego board of commissioners chair Lou Smith and other business owners on the island in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

CITY LIGHTS

The walkway provides a bayfront route from Shelter Island Drive to Harbor Drive to the south, providing a safer and more scenic alternative to traveling along nearby Rosecrans Street. It's part of a larger project to be called Intrepid Landing, named after an America's Cup yacht piloted by a member of the Driscoll family.

Dave Rice, December 13

Ready or not

DEA busts medical marijuana dispensary before they're officially open for business *Point Loma* — Yesterday afternoon, medical marijuana advocates took to Twitter and Instagram, alerting people to a raid on the Greenworks San Diego Medical Marijuana Dispensary in Point Loma.

"RAID IN PROGRESS AT GREENWORKS SD. 3990 Hickok Street, San Diego, CA 92110. This is in POINT LOMA. Stop by with cameras if you can," read a mass email sent from the Patient Care Association at 1:32 p.m. yesterday.

A few hours before, workers at Greenworks issued their own alert with pictures via Twitter.

"#raid #greenworkssd #gworks #gwfam #dea #feds #mmj #215 #wtf! http://instagram/p/TEQ1ZlghKL/"

According to Greenworks SD's website, the dispensary had not officially opened its doors for business but was making deliveries to patients.

A spokesperson for the Drug Enforcement Agency in San Diego said no arrests were made and approximately 8–10 pounds of marijuana were confiscated from the site.

"We conducted an inspection because they told us the business was closed and it wasn't. It looked as if there was a recent grow at the site," said the spokesperson.

Dorian Hargrove, December 11

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Enter by Wednesday, January 9 at 1PM

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Loma would skyrocket, not to mention Mission Hills, to not have noisy planes landing and taking off.

I've been thinking about this for quite some time. I've talked to all kinds of people about it, but this is the first time I've ever seen a pretty well-done article. I also agree the football stadium should never be built downtown and the convention center should never be added onto downtown. This wall of convention/touristy kind of uses are blocking off the whole waterfront and view from the people. These so-called signature buildings have actually been a disaster for San Diego, and the quicker their expansion is stopped, the better.

Lee Juskalian
Encinitas

Foolhardy Regardless

Regarding City Lights: "Will SD power structure accept climate change?" November 29.

One of the joys of having a job as a predictor and recommender is that one seldom, if ever, needs to make a decision, nor ever be held accountable for making lousy predictions and/or recommendations. Experts are just OK at understanding and explaining what's going on (across myriad fields), and just plain bad at predicting. Look at the just-completed presidential election. How many pundits and pollsters predicted Obama would win by 100 electoral college votes? If one believes, as I do, that predicting is terribly difficult and, thus, too often a terribly inaccurate cult, then to act on these predictions in a major way is foolhardy. It is a real dilemma! Foolhardy to act, and foolhardy not to act.

Paul Jester
via email

About Yoshimi

Jeff Smith's review of *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* ("In Sickness and in Health," November 29) is informative and checks all the boxes —

provenance of the creators, cursory plot summary, accolades to technical wizardry, and the accomplishments and merits of the various actors — before it degenerates into snarky speculation. Clearly he doesn't see the mosaic for the tiles.

Yoshimi isn't about anime, or music, or robots, or flash, or the lyrics of a song. It's a figurative story about the heroic efforts of a young Yoshimi afflicted with lymphoma who struggles mightily to survive. It's about her journey from onset, the confusion of diagnosis, through treatment to remission and then recurrence, and how she goes down fighting. It's about the people in her life and how they stand by her or not. It is a story, happy and sad, that many of us have either experienced firsthand or through someone we know.

Maybe Mr. Smith was busy making notes or maybe he is just emotionally obtuse, but most of the people next to me in the theater were moved to tears at the conclusion. The people I knew who saw the show spent the next day walking around lost in reflection of the loved ones they lost to cancer. This is theater that will affect your life.

Director Des McAnuff has produced plays at the La Jolla Playhouse since 1983 and is one of America's finest dramatists, in collaboration with Wayne Coyne of The Flaming Lips, *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* is likely his finest moment. Don't miss this chance to experience his empathetic vision of life and loss. You won't regret it.

Tim Barger
via email

Entertain Me

I almost passed on the Hitchcock movie after reading the Scott Marks review, "Half-(Hitch)cocked," November 29. What a mistake that would have been. It was a way- above-average movie, as are almost all of those starring Anthony Hopkins. It gave a nice history of Hollywood movie-making, '50s lore, and Alfred Hitchcock as a human being.

We all know his movies, but to see him deal with

everyday life, jealousy, and his own foibles, far outweighs any criticism of the star as "encased in a Martin Lawrence fat suit, outfitted with a bad latex nose, and suffering from an oscillating dialect." And who among us knows or cares that the movie was "shot in 'Scope, a ratio Hitch despised and never used"? What I want from a movie is entertainment and emotion, and what I want from a reviewer is how likely I am to get that from it. Scott Marks didn't deliver, but Hitchcock did.

Joe Abbinanti
via email

Just a Hint

In response to "Hispanic Vote Calls Shots in San Diego" by Don Bauder (City Lights, November 21).

The GOP signed their presidential loss, etc. when they sanctioned Alabama and Arizona. There was no way Obama would have won because, up to that point, Republicans had the money and the number of votes, I believe. Even the smallest hint of racism or sexism can have very negative consequences.

Cesar Lopez
Chula Vista

Overzealous Volunteers

We are homeowners in Talmadge since 1968. We would like to respond to your article on the Talmadge Neighborhood Patrol ("Neighborhood Watch," November 21).

Overzealous volunteers continue to patrol our neighborhood under the guise of protection. There have been several incidents where they have crossed the line between safety and intrusion into privacy. We agree with Mr. Simpson and apologize to him for the mistreatment he received from the Talmadge Patrol.

Nancy and Allan Rabin
Talmadge

Unfortunate Ensembles

I was disheartened reading your Style Stalker section (November 21). I am an employee of UCSDMC Hillcrest, and I happened to



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notice a photo of a young woman with the caption "1 in 3 suffer from pattern blindness". This young woman, Atale Amare, is actually an employee whom I know, and I feel that she should not have been chosen for this content. She was actually in her work uniform. Anyone who spends time in Hillcrest will notice lots of people wearing this unfortunate ensemble. She is a very pleasant person who works hard every day and I feel it was unfair to include her.

I understand the concept of this, but hardworking people in their uniforms (no matter how god-awful) should not be made fun of. Besides, how many of us have had to wear silly uniforms? I feel Atale deserves an apology and so do numerous other UCSD employees. If not an apology, at least an attempt to not include people like Atale should be made.

Elizabeth Chaney
via email

The More Things Change...

By virtue of a head of grey hair and a grumpy outlook, I, a nonagenarian, retain the privilege to impart my wisdom to the callow youth who subscribe to the *Reader*. I find a few things in it to

arouse me from my lethargy. In the November 21 issue a sentence caused the buzzing in my head to change frequency. It was something about the GOP not winning Hispanics because, in their countries of origin, they are accustomed to big government (City Lights: "Hispanic Vote Calls Shots in San Diego"). It seems to me they used their cabezas to get over, under, or around the fence to leave those countries and come here. Seems they forgot that part of the reason why they left those countries was because of the big, tyrannical governments, and that they wanted to be in America, a place with more freedom to live their lives. So, now they want to change this country to be like what they fled?

My folks escaped — literally — from the old country. They came here, worked hard, made a good living, and gave thanks every day for this citadel of freedom. They had their hopes fulfilled and didn't want to change things here to be like the place that they left. It didn't take a brain surgeon to figure that out.

Old White Guy
San Marcos

The Magic of TJ

Just finished reading your magnificent article, "We don't belong to Mexico and we don't belong to the U.S." (November 15 cover story). Wow! I loved it! I was born in L.A. and was raised in Tijuana. This story was magic, very interesting. I liked all the beautiful

references. Mostly I liked, "Tijuana should stay raw and eccentric."

I love that people are scared of TJ, because this is our little magic paradise. I would never change it. This article brought back all the magic and beauty and mysteries of my TJ. Thank you so much.

Chad Deal, great article! I'm going to check you out. It was too short! This article is so cool, it should have been longer. Great job.

Edna Lopez
Spring Valley

Do Something for Yourself

Thank you, *Reader*, for years of wonderful service. "Life's Not Easy" (November 8) was a wonderful cover story and I hope young people read it, and how the gentleman turned his life around.

That's what it's going to take, people being responsible for their own actions. I feel bad for anyone who has gotten into trouble and now finds himself on the streets. But you have to do something for yourself rather than continue in the same way. It's pure insanity. I certainly pray for those people. It's unfortunate that some of them are out of their minds. Life isn't easy, but we have to make choices and have determination to make change.

I thank God for you, *Reader*, that you put that out there. We're not all bad. It takes recovery, and recovering one's life, every day.

Merry
Gaslamp

DIARY OF A DIVA

continued from page 8

funny how everyone thinks the word "secret" means these guys are trying to hide. Far from it. *Secretservice.gov* is the first thing that comes up when you search the two words.

When I met with the agents in person, I handed over an "evidence folder," complete with

photos, video, license-plate numbers, and the fragment of the fake bill. After looking through the collected exhibits, the two men laughed. This was not the reaction I had expected. I was feeling a little humiliated when one of the agents said, "Sorry, it's just that we're not used to having this much evidence at the start of a case." ■

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 20

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

Based on the children's book by Dr. Seuss, the Old Globe Theatre presents its musical version of the holiday classic about a green meanie who tries to steal Christmas from the Whos of Whoville. Featuring songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day," and "Fah Who Doraz." \$42–\$95.

WHEN: 7 p.m. (through December 29)

WHERE: Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. 619-234-5623; oldglobe.org

Friday | 21

FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES

Who says the holidays are just for turkey and ham? This year, join executive chef Arlene Lloyd in the kitchen to explore Italian-American dishes traditionally served on La Vigilia (Christmas Eve). Bring an apron, a chef's knife, a big appetite, and containers to carry home your creations. \$65.

WHEN: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Drive, Suite L, San Marcos. 760-233-2433; alchemyofthehearth.com

Saturday | 22

PASTIES FOR PUPS

Join Ginger N. Whiskey, Bibi Bordeaux, Dottie Deville, and the rest of the Drop Dead Dames for an evening of burlesque and good cheer. All proceeds go to the FACE Foundation,



which provides financial grants to animal owners unable to cover the cost of critical care for their pets. Music by Behind the Wagon. \$7.

WHEN: 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

WHERE: Eleven, 3519 El Cajon Boulevard, City Heights, 92104. 619-450-4292; elevensandiego.com

Sunday | 23

AUTHOR CHAT WITH DOMINIC CARRILLO

Take a break from last-minute holiday shopping, and have a drink with Dominic Carrillo, local author of *To Be Frank Diego*.

Carrillo's debut novel follows the perambulating journey of protagonist Frank Diego through the San Diego landscape. The author will be signing and selling copies at this happy-hour event.

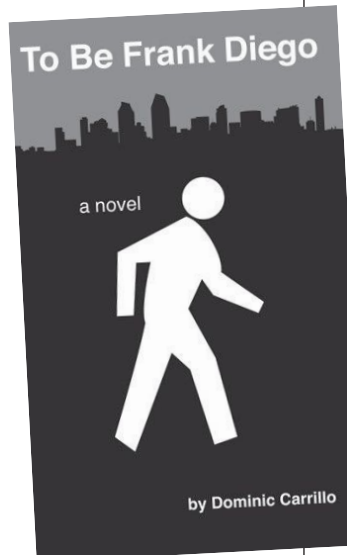
WHEN: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road, Mission Valley. 619-688-1120; tobefrank-diego.com

Monday | 24

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Leave your apron behind and enjoy a holiday



three-course tasting menu with your choice of four starters, four entrées, and three desserts created by executive chef Todd Allison. Local carolers will provide Christmas music from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. \$64.95 for adults; \$18.95 for children over five. No charge for children under five.

WHEN: 3:00, 5:30, or 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe, 5951 Linea del Cielo, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-1131; theinnatrsf.com

Tuesday | 25

SKATING BY THE SEA

Windsor Lawn has been transformed into an ice-skating rink overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Show off old tricks or try new ones during two- or three-hour sessions. Skate rentals are included in the price. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego. \$15–\$25.

WHEN: 11 a.m.–1 p.m., 2–5 p.m., or 6–9 p.m.

WHERE: Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado. 800-468-3533; hoteldel.com

Wednesday | 26

PAINTING AND VINO

Re-create "Birds on a Wire" while sipping wine or cocktails. Local professional artists instruct you step-by-step through the process of painting. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. \$20–\$45 (save \$20 with promo code 98BOT12).

WHEN: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-255-7885; 98bottlessd.com



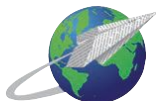
Travel & Getaways

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TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS



Begging in Benin does not carry the social stigma that it does in developed countries. Here, boys sent out on the road are aspiring students.

Benin, West Africa

By James Michael Dorsey

In the first century A.D., a Christian mystic named Augustine said, “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read but the first page.”

Those words have guided a great deal of my life, and I travel to learn. I travel to escape the mundane and familiar and to experience the new, whatever it may be.

It took several years for me to realize the journey was as important as the destination, and while I have written about epic expeditions and near-death close calls, I’ve come to believe the best stories have been the little ones, the personal ones — the ace of spades pulled from a larger house of cards that stands alone in the way it holds your attention with a

personal, one-on-one experience.

They’re even better when you collide with them unexpectedly.

My friend Noah and I were driving along a remote road in Benin, West Africa, when we passed a group of young boys. From a distance they appeared to be a rag-tag bunch, maybe a gang, and I gave them little thought until Noah pulled over and said, “You should talk to these boys.”

Up close I could see they were rather well dressed and groomed, ranging in age from about 6 to 13, and I could not imagine why he wanted me to speak with them, feeling especially vulnerable since I could see no one else around for miles.

They crowded around, as curious about me as I was of them. Through Noah, they told me that in this part of Africa, a child really is raised by the entire village, and if one did not have the means to support everybody, some of the children were designated to leave with the blessings of all adults. It became their job to wander from village to village, begging as a group.

Begging here carries no social stigmas and is as accepted as any other form of employment. Children are simply better at it than the elderly, and so it

becomes a full-time job. Such groups of children are actually a common sight throughout this part of the world.

I might add that none of these boys ever asked me for money.

Older children are put in charge of younger ones, just as at home, making sure they do all the necessary things such as brushing their teeth and washing their clothes. Most importantly, they have a code of honor. They do not lie or steal, and they all share whatever they take in with each other.

At this point, the youngest boy who was beaming with a mile-wide smile obviously had something he was proud of, and, reaching into his backpack, he pulled out a wooden tablet to show me.

In most of rural Africa there is little paper and fewer pens or pencils. Families will carve a small wooden tablet for



He writes his lessons on a wooden tablet, using a reed pen dipped in soot-and-water ink.

writing, the size of a notebook, which is passed down from one generation to the next. Ink is made from the ashes of a fire mixed with water, and a river reed serves

continued on page 46

Other Adventures



chey: It's a long climb to the top of the main pyramid at Chichen Itza, and the steps are steep and narrow.



JohnnyStanley: A frozen, snowy canal in Amsterdam



arianag3: Ancient orchestra, Athens, Greece



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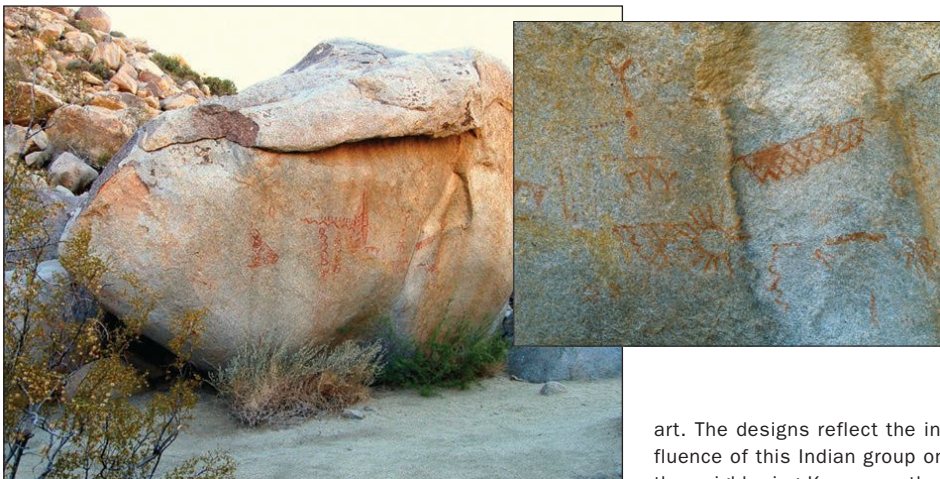
San Diego Outdoors with the Canyoneers

PICTOGRAPH TRAIL – LITTLE BLAIR VALLEY

Discover Indian rock art and grinding areas on this desert hike

Distance from downtown San Diego: About 85 miles (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). Allow 2 hours for driving. Drive to Julian via Ramona or Descanso and head east out of town on SR-78, driving about 12 miles down Banner Canyon to Scissors Crossing. At Scissors Crossing go south on SR-2 about 6 miles and turn left into the Blair Valley turnoff. Follow the dirt road into and around Blair Valley 2.7 miles to a signed junction with the Ghost Mountain turnoff. Go left or east 2.4 miles, following the sign to Morteros and Pictographs that leads to the Pictograph trailhead in Little Blair Valley. No facilities or water. A vault toilet is at the entrance to Blair Valley.

Hiking length: 1.6 miles out and back with the option of adding an additional mile. Difficulty: Easy with little gain/loss of elevation. Good for children.



Anthropologists aren't sure whether the Blair Valley pictographs have any meaning beyond an ancient artist's whimsy.

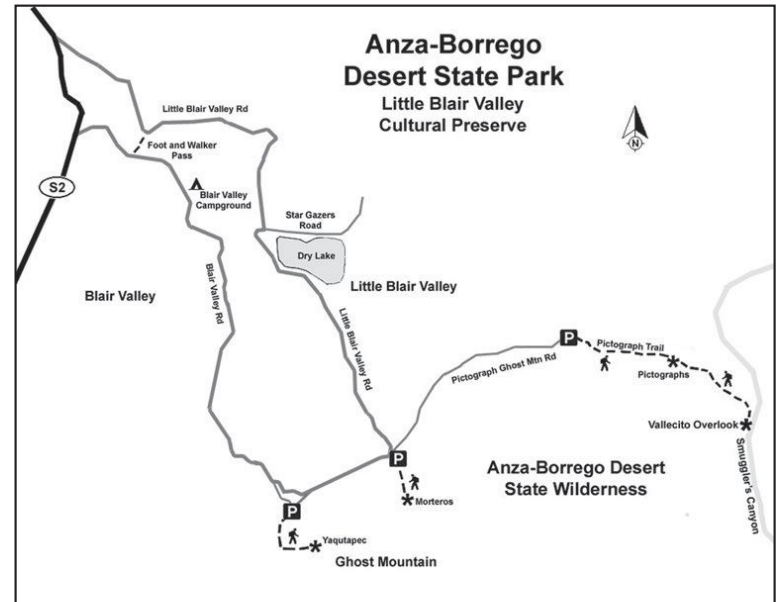
The native Kumeyaay of the area painted the Little Blair Valley pictographs hundreds of years ago. The pictographs are unusual for their well-executed yellow and red symbolic designs that include diamond chains and chevrons, typical of Luiseño rock

art. The designs reflect the influence of this Indian group on the neighboring Kumeyaay that chose to use this style of rock art within their territory. As to their meaning, anthropologists are still conjecturing whether or not they served a specific purpose, such as part of a puberty ceremony

or whether they simply reflect the inclinations of the artist. The pictographs are included in the 4757-acre Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve that was created in December 2010. This pictograph site is the only one in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park that is openly advertised to the public.

The hiking trail begins next to an interpretive sign. This is the steepest part of the trail, which goes over a low divide into Smuggler Canyon. Because of the higher elevation of the Blair Valley area, both juniper and Mojave yucca are encountered. The typical desert plants commonly seen en route include creosote, ocotillo, agave, lavender, acacia, and various species of cholla. Look for a prominent boulder on the west side of the streambed less than a mile from the trailhead. Grinding areas may be seen next to the rock art. The large boulder may have served as part of a shelter.

Most visitors turn around here



and head back to their vehicles, missing a bonus found by continuing another half-mile, where an ancient Kumeyaay seasonal camp was located. To the right are many flat boulder ledges where bedrock mortars are scattered. Where the canyon narrows there is a low point that may have pooled water that supplied the local Kumeyaay. Pass through the narrow, bouldery defile to a lip of a dry waterfall from which there is a stunning view into the Carrizo Valley. The Vallecito Stage Sta-

tion is also visible from this viewpoint. Do not attempt to climb down the dry waterfall, which has a sharp drop-off and is slippery. After taking in the view, follow the trail back to your vehicles.

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, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website.

Find more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam

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ART

"Behold, America!" "Art of the United States from Three San Diego Museums" is a collaboration between Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego Museum of Art, and Timken Museum of Art. "Frontiers" celebrates "the rich natural beauty of the United States, its vibrant urban spaces, its legendary westward settlement, and the breathtakingly beautiful California landscape." View works by Asher B. Durand, Albert Bierstadt, George Inness, Thomas Moran, John Sloan, Marsden Hartley, Jenny Holzer, Alfredo Jaar through Sunday, February 10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, 700 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

"Charles Reiffel: An American Post-Impressionist" San Diego Museum of Art and San Diego History Center present collaborative, two-museum retrospective of work of Charles Reiffel, celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth. "Charles Reiffel: An American Post-Impressionist." View more than 90 of Reiffel's works, primarily oils on canvas but also watercolors, gouaches, drawings in both pencil and crayon, through Sunday, March 10.

"Behold, America! Art of the United States from Three San Diego Museums" is a collaboration between Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego Museum of Art, and Timken Museum of Art. San Diego Museum of Art hosts the "Figures" component of the exhibition, showcasing portraits by John Singleton Copley, Cindy Sherman, and John Currin. Closes Sunday, February 10. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Getting to Know You" Opening reception Friday, December 21, 7pm, for group art exhibition featuring San Diego-based art-

ists. Closing reception: January 4. Show closes Sunday, January 6. **Free.** Brokers Building Gallery, 402 Market Street. (DOWNTOWN)

"Margaret Noble: 44th and Landis" As part of museum's ongoing "Cerca" series, which highlights the work of regional artists, Noble's mixed-media installation and performance charts a psychological path through the City Heights neighborhood, where the artist grew up. Piece "takes the form of an intricate sculptural environment made up of hundreds of cut paper dolls and other forms." The installation — on view through Sunday, January 20 — also incorporates an experiential soundtrack emanating from 14 handmade paper speakers.

"The Very Large Array: San Diego/Tijuana Artists in the MCA Collection" continues through Sunday, June 1, 2014. Featuring more than 80 artists and representing five decades of collecting, the group show of museum acquisitions "highlights many of the region's most beloved and accomplished artists." Many of the two-dimensional works will be displayed in a dense, salon-style hanging covering the walls. A separate white cube space designed for the exhibition occupies the center of the room, presenting focused selections of works inside the cube, which will change seasonally. Thematic installations will rotate inside the cube every three to four months. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN)

"Nature, Tradition, and Innovation" Explore "evolution of contemporary Japanese ceramics through the work of many artists and a variety of forms, from tea bowls and noodle cups to stunning vases and robust platters." These organic objects "and their clear connection to nature will be enhanced with large-scale photo-

graphs of Japanese landscapes and natural elements." Closes Sunday, January 6.

"True Blue: Indigo, Turquoise, Cobalt, and Lapis Lazuli" celebrates these four natural materials and their combination with human emotion, technical skill, and the spark of creativity. Exhibition of objects from Mingei's permanent collection, featuring a broad variety of media from many different cultures, continues through Sunday, February 17. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

"Strange Beauty" Explore the world of Ruud van Empel in the artist's first solo exhibition in an American museum. The artist "builds vibrant photomontages of fascinatingly fabricated realities." View more than 40 of van Empel's digitally enhanced pieces through Saturday, February 3. Van Empel constructs his works through staged photography, digital enhancement, and collage.

Explore the power of photography to communicate important ideas about the environment and sustainability in "Photo|Synthesis: 7th Annual Youth Exhibition," a juried selection of artwork showcasing creativity and artistic expression of SD's youth. Closes Sunday, January 27.

"Soapbox! The Audience Speaks" is the museum's "first crowd-sourced exhibition that uses engaging new technology and interactive processes to allow visitors the opportunity to rate images both online and in the gallery." Visitors selected pieces from a random selection of 120 images from museum's permanent collection. Through Sunday, September 22, 2013. Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Art-on-the-Green COAL Gallery member artists display their artwork at Art-on-the-Green every weekend (good weather permitting) in front of the Carls-

West Africa *continued from page 44*

as a pen. The children write their lessons on them each day and wash them clean in a river at night for use again the following day.

This is what children use in school, and it is what each of these young beggars carried in their backpack.

This young man told me they had all done their lessons early in the morning before the heat and the day's travels, and added that one day he hoped to become a teacher himself. Another boy showed me his tablet and said he was going to be a doctor, while another wanted to become a veterinarian. They all said this matter-of-factly, as though it were already a done deal for each of

them.

He told me they loved being outside rather than in the confines of a building, that they were learning about the environment firsthand this way, and felt that being out in the middle of everyday life was a better education than any they could receive in their respective villages.

I was overwhelmed by the upbeat nature of this young man and his companions, and everything he said made perfect sense to me. If itinerant beggars can hold such large dreams, then I think the future of Africa is in good hands.

I drove away thinking of this beautiful moment of human optimism and it remains one of my favorite African encounters.

Win \$25 for your travel tips or a pair of movie passes for the best travel photo of the week. Go to SDReader.com/travel for more information.

bad Inn Beach Resort. 760-434-8497. Saturdays, and Sundays, 9am; through Sunday, December 30, **free**. Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 3075 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

Deeply Rooted Featuring artists David Gane Feucht, Davis Reyes, Abbazzabaa Coltrane, Adam Kyron Murillo, more. Saturday, December 22, 9pm; \$5. 21 and up. Flame, 3780 Park Boulevard. (HILLCREST)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Cookbook Signing and Tasting Chef Brian Malarkey will present signature dishes and desserts from his new cookbook, *Come Early, Stay Late*. Dishes will include culotte steak with chimichurri bernaise, spam fried rice, and spicy tomato and cucumber salad. Friday, December 21, 11am; Great News!, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

To Be Frank Diego Have a drink and chat with Dominic Carrillo, local author of *To Be Frank Diego*. Carrillo's debut novel follows the perambulating journey of protagonist Frank Diego through the San Diego landscape. The author will be signing and selling copies at this happy hour event. Sunday, December 23, 4pm; **free**. Gordon Biersch Brewery, 5010 Mission Center Road. (MISSION VALLEY)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Computer Basics Instructor Sheila Shaw teaches computer classes for adults. Thursdays, 9:30am; through Friday, December 28, 18 and up. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)

Computer Class Computer whiz Jerry Goldstein shares "internet basics such as how to use a mouse, how to search the Internet, preview and print web pages, and how to get and use e-mail." Registration: 858-538-8163. Saturday, December 22, 10am; **free**. 18 and up. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Drawing in the Galleries: Positive and Negative Space A trained drawing instructor guides participants as they "focus on positive and negative space, taking inspiration from the modern and contemporary art collection" during informal drawing workshop. Fee includes all supplies. 619-232-7931. Friday, December 21, 2pm; \$10-\$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Intoxicated Writing "Experience the altered state of creativity with writing prompts that make writing easy and fun" with author Jill Badonsky. No critique, all levels, nonthreatening environment. Sliding scale. 760-434-3436. Thursday, December 20, 7pm;

\$12-\$25. Muse is IN Office, 3023 First Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

Knot Your Nanna Knit and crochet instructional group in the Green Room. Beginners to intermediates. All ages welcome. Saturdays, 3pm; through Saturday, January 5, \$7-\$10. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

COMEDY

Gift of the Monkey Unscripted and spontaneous, Stage Monkeys take one suggestion from the audience to jumpstart characters, scenes, games, songs, and more. Thursday, December 20, 8pm; **free**. 18 and up. Twiggs Bakery Coffeehouse, 4590 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Jay Pharoah from Saturday Night Live current season plays Obama, Katt Williams, etc. Shaq's All-Star Comedy Jam, and Late Show with David Letterman. Thursday, December 20, 8pm; Friday, December 21, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 22, 9:30pm; \$24. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Tres Equis Comedy Laugh with Carlos Mendez, Michael Avila Jr., Erik Cram, Benji GarciaReyes, and

"the best of San Diego." Cover: \$10, with two-drink minimum. Sunday, December 23, 8pm; 21 and up. Comedy Store, 916 Pearl Street. (LA JOLLA)

DANCE

Argentine Tango with Colette Learn tango now! Take a free first class this Monday, December 24, at 7pm, or Wednesday, Decem-

ber 26, at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm!) at Dance Place San Diego. No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango. Visit www.tangowithcolette.com and call today: 514-726-5567. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road Studio #106. (POINT LOMA)

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Calendar

LOCAL EVENTS

Maguire, Collette Dunne, Kevin Horton, and the Kerry Dance Troupe. 800-988-4253. Friday, December 21, 7:30pm; \$35-\$39. California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard. (ESCONDIDO)

"The Echo of Dracula" The Canyon Crest Academy Envision Dance Conservatory presents this original story exploring "perceptions of good and evil, our fears of the unknown, and the struggle to overcome these fears to behave in ways that align with our own true character and values." 858-350-0253. Thursday and Friday, December 20 & 21, 4pm and 7pm; \$8-\$17. Canyon Crest Academy, 5951 Village Center Loop Road. (CARMEL VALLEY)

The Nutcracker San Diego Civic Youth Ballet brings the festive story to life. 619-233-3060. Friday, December 21, 7pm; Saturday, December 22, 2pm and 7pm; \$10-\$15. Casa del Prado Theatre, 1650 El Prado, Suite 208. (BALBOA PARK)

Arctic Exotica Keyhole Cabaret presents a burlesque dinner theater

experience. VIP packages include reserved seating, some with three-course dinner. Saturday, December 22, 8pm; \$25-\$80. 21 and up. Stout Public House, 1125 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

California Ballet's The Nutcracker California Ballet Company presents *The Nutcracker* with the San Diego Symphony. Join Clara and her prince as they embark on a magical Christmas journey. Tickets: 858-560-6741. Thursday, December 20, 7pm; Friday, December 21, 7pm; Saturday, December 22, 2:30pm and 7pm; Sunday, December 23, 1pm and 5:30pm; \$25-\$90. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

Club Crescendo Complimentary dance class at 8:30pm — styles vary. No partner is ever necessary to participate, the students will be in a constant rotation. Club Crescendo opens at 9pm, featuring DJs, V.I.P. booths, bottle service, and party packages. Art installations, dance performances, video DJ, and theme nights. \$5 before 9pm. Fridays, 8:30pm; through Friday, February 22, \$5-\$10. 18 and up. Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

Rhyme & Verse

Reuben Bright

A poem by Edgar Arlington Robinson

Because he was a butcher and thereby
Did earn an honest living (and did right),
I would not have you think that Reuben Bright
Was any more a brute than you or I;
For when they told him that his wife must die,
He stared at them, and shook with grief and fright,
And cried like a great baby half that night,
And made the women cry to see him cry.
And after she was dead, and he had paid
The singers and the sexton and the rest,
He packed a lot of things that she had made
Most mournfully away in an old chest
Of hers, and put some chopped-up cedar boughs
In with them, and tore down the slaughter-house.



Edwin Arlington Robinson, who was born December 22, 1869, and died of cancer on April 6, 1935, is a major American 20th-century poet. He wrote in traditional forms but with a realism and authenticity about common people that makes him thoroughly modern. It is unlikely that any earlier American poet would have thought to write about a butcher who comes to realize, through his overwhelming personal grief, the full moral implications of slaughtering his fellow creatures, and it is even more unlikely that any of the high modernist poets of the following generation — poets whose reputations supplanted Robinson's — would have been capable of handling so complex a theme and subversive an insight with such narrative simplicity and power. During his lifetime, Robinson's work became greatly admired and he won the Pulitzer Prize three times. In 1926, Ben Ray Redman called him "a biographer of souls... bound to humanity by the dual bond of sympathy and humor." Robinson was an exceedingly kind and generous man greatly loved by all who knew him. He battled alcoholism throughout much of his life and remained unmarried. "Reuben Bright" was composed in 1897 and is one of the author's many short masterpieces.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

Contra Dance San Diego Folk Heritage hosts dance with calling by Martha Wild, live music by Tectonic Shakedown. Beginners' dance workshop 7:30pm; dances taught and called to live music 8-11pm. Wear soft-soled shoes. No partners or experience needed. 619-283-8550. Saturday,

December 22, 7:30pm; \$8. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Pasties for Pups First-ever show for new burlesque troupe Drop Dead Dames. All proceeds go to the FACE Foundation. Behind the Wagon will provide rock and roll entertainment. Saturday, December 22, 9pm; \$7. 21 and up. Eleven, 3519 El Cajon Boulevard. (CITY HEIGHTS)

Tango Dinner Show Tango dinner show with live dancers. Recommended reservations: pampas-grill@gmail.com or 858-278-5971. Fridays, 6:30pm and 8:30pm; **free**. Pampas Argentine Grill, 8690 Aero Drive. (KEARNY MESA)

The Nutcracker City Ballet's annual performance of *The Nutcracker*. Friday, December 21, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 22, 2pm and 7:30pm; Sunday, December 23, 1pm and 5pm; \$29-\$69. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway (DOWNTOWN)

Winter Solstice Bellydance Showcase Shey Nuwa, Maria, Durrdana, and Valentina perform belly dance with fire, hoops, and other implements. Live music by Middle-Earth Ensemble. Thursday, December 20, 8pm; \$8. Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Shen Yun Asian Ballet Troupes of nearly 100 dancers, musicians, and soloists. 5000 years of culture & history come alive on stage. A magic journey through ancient dynasties and faraway lands. 30-country world tour. Wednesday, December 26, 7:30pm, and Thursday, December 27, 7:30pm, at San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Avenue (DOWNTOWN). Also Friday, December 28, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 29, 2pm & 7:30pm; Sunday, December 30, 2pm; and Monday, December 31, 2pm at California Center for the Arts, Escondido, 340 North Escondido Boulevard (ESCONDIDO). Refer to page 13 for more info.

FOOD & DRINK

Christmas Dinner at Via Lago Trattoria Dinner by candlelight. A peppered filet carving station, holiday ham, pasta and risotto station, and Italian desserts, among others. Christmas carols and live music from Roman Palacios, Daniel Hendrick, Eugene Cole, and more. 619-216-8660. Sunday, December 23, 5:30pm; \$60. Via Lago Trattoria, 866 Eastlake Parkway #210. (EASTLAKE)

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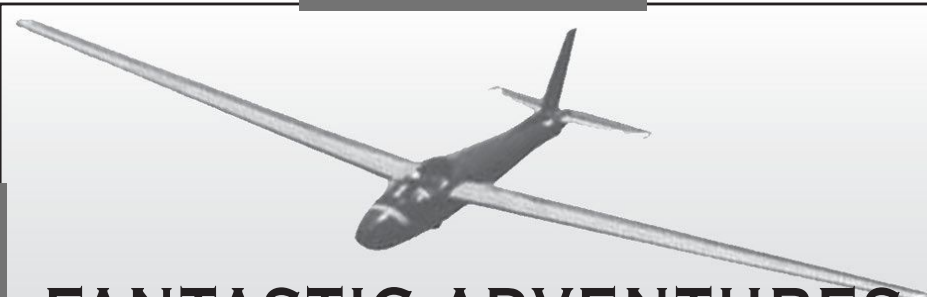
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wines. Apple wine served as a hot cider (\$4 per glass), which you may learn to make at home. Epic Eatz food truck on hand. RSVP: brian@californiafruitwine.com or 858-522-9463. Sunday, December 23, 4pm; 21 and up. California Fruit Wine, 1040 La Mirada Court. (VISTA)

Feast of the Seven Fishes Italian-American meal celebrated on La Vigilia (Christmas Eve) is course after course of seafood dishes, often as many as 7, 10, or even 13. Bring an apron, chef knife, a hearty appetite and containers to transport your creations home. Friday, December 21, 6am; \$65. Alchemy of the Hearth, 960 Rancheros Dr., Suite L. (SAN MARCOS)

Holiday-Inspired Cocktail Dinner If you love seriously good cocktails and awesome Italian cuisine, join a 4-course holiday-inspired cocktail tasting dinner hosted by Blind Tiger Cocktails and Solare Ristorante. The dining/tasting event is followed by a live jazz set featuring the Chris Lea Jazz Trio. \$39 with Toys for Tots donation; \$49 with no donation. Thursday, December 20 at 7pm. Solare Ristorante, 2820 Roosevelt Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Ina Garten's Foolproof Holiday Dinner Get ready for a holiday meal of enjoyable entertaining by learning time-saving and prepare-ahead tips through techniques and "foolproof" recipes. All students will receive an autographed copy of Ina Gar-

ten's latest book, *Barefoot Contessa Foolproof: Recipes You Can Trust*. Reservations: 800-243-0852. Thursday, December 20, 6:30pm; Sur la Table, 1905 Calle Barcelona. (CARLSBAD)

San Diego Rescue Mission Christmas Meal Over 1,500 of San Diego's homeless men, women and children to gather for congregate Christmas meal where nearly 200 volunteers will serve hot ham dinners and offer personal necessities like t-shirts, socks, towels, shampoo, soap and lotion. This is an opportunity for our homeless friends to come and enjoy some music and be served a sumptuous meal in a family-style environment, an opportunity to be treated with dignity and joy. Saturday, December 22, 2pm; San Diego Rescue Mission, 120 Elm Street. (BANKERS HILL)

FOR KIDS

Journey through the City Visitors of all ages can invent their own city and explore an imaginary urban environment with others during this guided workshop. Working with more than 1,000 pieces of materials in the space, visitors will be able to manipulate and transform their visionary models of urban landscapes. Workshop theme: Integrate: How would you design buildings and roads around a river? Saturday, December 22, 3:30pm; free. San

Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Poinsettia Decorations How did poinsettias come to be known as the Christmas flowers? Learn about Encinitas's own Ecke Ranch and how the Ecke family made the poinsettia a Christmas icon all over the world. Make a construction paper poinsettia, toilet paper roll stained "glass" poinsettia, tissue paper poinsettias or pipe cleaner poinsettias. All ages. 760-632-9711. Saturdays and Sundays, 12pm; through Sunday, December 30, free. San Dieguito Heritage Museum, 450 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Explore-It: Kelp "Dive deeper into the fascinating lives of ocean animals and other interesting natural phenomenon." Take in demonstrations, live animals, and fun activities for learners of all ages. Included with admission.

Friday, December 21, 10am; Saturday, December 22, 1pm. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Family Science Saturday: Zip Line Challenge Create a contraption to "slip and slide down our zip line course to complete increasingly difficult challenges." Included in admission (free-\$11.75). 619-238-1233. Saturday, December 22, 1pm; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Journey through the City Visitors of all ages can invent their own city and explore an imaginary urban environment with others during this guided workshop. Working with more than 1,000 pieces of materials in the space, visitors will be able to manipulate and transform their visionary models of urban landscapes. Workshop Theme: Integrate: How

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SHEEP and GOATS

A Meditation on the Lord's Prayer

O good Father in Heaven, albeit there is nothing that we greatly fear, having the merciful unto us [sic] and while mutual love and charity each with other maketh us thy children of more strength against every evil assault; yet when we consider how weak and frail the nature of man is,

and how ignorant also we be whom thy goodness will judge and think worthy the continuance in thy love to the end of this life in which as long as we are a thousand manner of ways we be steered to fall and ruin. Therefore we cannot be utterly seeker and careless: all this life is round about beset with the devil's snares; he never ceaseth

tempting us which was not afraid with crafty subtleties to set upon thy son Jesus. — from “A Meditation on the Lord's Prayer,” by Margaret Roper

Margaret Roper (1505–1544), the daughter of St. Thomas More, is almost as renowned for her learning and holiness as her father. So erudite was Roper (home-

schooled by More), that upon looking one day into an edition of the letters of St. Cyprian by the scholar Erasmus, she noticed that this leading light of the Renaissance (and family friend) had erroneously mis-attributed a letter to Cyprian that was actually written by his arch-enemy, the heretic Novatian. Pleased to have been found in error,

Erasmus praised the young girl (she was 19 at the time) with a dialogue about a wise young girl correcting the errors of a foolish old abbot. She in turn translated Erasmus's treatise on the Lord's Prayer — perhaps the only piece of writing by a teenager to be published in 16th-century England.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship



would you design buildings and roads around a river? Saturday, December 22, 1pm; **free**. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Music Together Interactive musical activities for babies and children (newborn-five years) and the adults who love them. 858-581-9934. Thursday, December 20, 10:30am; **free**. Pacific Beach Library, 4275 Cass Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Real Greatness Multimedia experience for Jewish teens. Greatness. Conflict. Potential. What do these words mean? What do they mean to today's Jewish teen? What does it mean to be truly great? Over 300 Jewish teens gather to explore these questions and potential answers. Friday, December 21, 2pm; **free**. Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, 10950 North Torrey Pines Road. (LA JOLLA)

LECTURES

“Hypnosis: An Overview”

Hypnotherapist Diane Edwards shares the origins and history of hypnosis and how to use the power of your subconscious to break habits and achieve goals when OASIS meets. 858-552-1655. Thursday, December 20, 2pm; **free**. University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

“The New World Discovers Italy” Museum library and archives manager James Grebl traces “the development of American fascination with Italy” through the works of such artists as John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, George Inness, John Singer Sargent, others. 619-232-7931. Friday, December 21, 10am; \$8-\$15. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

ArtStop: Marienela de la Hoz Art of the Americas assistant curator Amy Galpin discusses Marienela de la Hoz. Included in admission (\$12 general). 619-232-7931. Thursday, December 20, 12pm; San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

MUSIC

Holiday Pops: A Celtic Celebration Grammy® Award-winning and nine-time, all-Ireland fiddle champion, Eileen Ivers, joins the San Diego Symphony for an evening of festive Irish holiday favorites including “The Holly Tree,” “Don Oiche Ud im Beithil” (One Night in Bethlehem) and “Hark, The Herald Angels

\$15

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BABAJI TEMPLE Kriya Yoga

Classes in the yoga of the deathless Mahavatar, Kriya Babaji. His five-fold path begins with asanas, (postures of peace and relaxation arranged by Babaji Himself). The class proceeds through pranayam breathing, meditation and chanting satsang. Beginners and advanced students welcome. Every Thursday 7:00pm. ESCONDIDO 11152 Arco Drive

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Paul Willweber

Advent Services: Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 7pm. Christmas Eve service Dec. 24 at 6pm. Christmas Day service Dec. 25 at 10am. Please join us for this celebration! New Year's Eve service Dec. 31 at 7pm. (619) 583-1436 or www.princeofpeacesd.net. ALLIED GARDENS 6801 Easton Court (619) 583-1436

CELEBRATION CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING Spiritual But Not Religious

Join us Sunday mornings at 10am. Amazing music. Conscious people. Enlightened Message. Christmas Candlelight and Twenty Twelve Service, Friday, December 21 at 7pm. Release and Recreate Service, Sunday, December 30 at 10am. SORRENTO VALLEY 5744 Pacific Center Boulevard, Suite 306 (858) 320-0090

1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH Meditation/ Auric Healings



Sunday Service, Dec 23: Meditation/Auric Healings: 10:00am. Lecture Service/ Messages: 11:00am with communion service. Guest Speaker: Rev. Rosie Oberlies and New Year Healing Celebration 1:30–4:30pm. Thursday, Dec 27: Full Moon Meditation 7:00–9:00pm. CITY HEIGHTS 3777 42nd Street (619) 284-4646

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH Five Latin Masses

Every Sunday. 7:30 am low Mass; 9:00 am sung Mass; 11:05 chant Mass; 12:30 pm low Mass with sermon and some hymns in Spanish; 6:00 pm low Mass. LOGAN HEIGHTS 621 Sicard St. (619) 239-8253

TEMPLE EMANU-EL Pathways to Judaism



Are you an interfaith couple or family not affiliated with a synagogue? Want to learn more about Jewish life and traditions? Creative educational experiences in a welcoming friendly environment. Sundays, 2:00-4:00pm, beginning January 27. For info or to register: email pathways@judaism@aol.com or call 760.710.9057. GRANTVILLE 6299 Capri Drive (619) 286-2555

RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH A Night Of Miracles

Festivities include live animals, a Christmas play land, refreshments, and choir music. RANCHO BERNARDO 17010 Pomerado Road (858) 487-0811

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Our Stained Glass Tells His Story

& we celebrate His coming. Sunday, December 23, 9am - Worship. 7pm - German Christmas Carol Service. Monday, December 24 6 & 8pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Come celebrate with us. 619.463.6633, www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org. LA MESA 5150 Wilson Street (619) 463-6633

ROCK CHURCH A most wonderful Christmas

Free puppet shows. Beauty the Christmas angel encounters four kids who don't know the meaning of Christmas. Her mission: Tell every boy and girl the real story of the first Christmas. 3D stage set, puppets, live actors and dancers. Saturday, Dec. 22, 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. POINT LOMA 2277 Rosecrans Street (619) 226-7625

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH Living Nativity

Living Nativity to include the Holy Family and barnyard animals. Cookies and hot apple cider. Friday, December 21, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. SAN MARCOS 1020 Rose Ranch Road (760) 744-7667

UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH The Wonder of the First Christmas



Join us in celebrating the joy and wonder of the birth of Christ. There will be two Christmas Eve services on Monday, Dec. 24-6:00pm. Family Christmas Eve Service-g geared for families with young children. 7:30pm. Traditional Candlelight Vesper Service-featuring special music by the Chancel Choir Call (858) 453-3444 or visit our website at UCUC.ORG for details. UNIVERSITY CITY 2877 Governor Drive (858) 453-3444

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH Looking for a New Church?

House of Prayer Lutheran Church is a church with a friendly congregation, located in Escondido. House of Prayer is an Anglo-Hispanic integrated congregation. Please join us! Our Sunday services are at 9:00 am and 10:45 am every Sunday. hoplutheran.com. ESCONDIDO 795 N. Rose Street (760) 745-3738

THE CHURCH OF YESHUA HA MASHIACH “Hebrew for Jesus the Messiah” THE CHURCH OF YESHUA Ha Mashiach (Hebrew For Jesus The Messiah)

As a local church, we are teaching the gospel of the kingdom and training a new generation of believers how to live and walk in the authority that God has given each of us. Stay tuned to our website at www.coyhm.org and go to the Event Tab to view the upcoming events. KEARNY MESA 8334 Clairemont Mesa Blvdc (858) 384-2651

CHABAD OF EAST COUNTY New weekly Jewish Torah Studies class

Chabad of East County, is proud to present our Torah Studies catalog of classes for the first season of the 2013 academic year. Classes are Tuesday evenings from 8 -9 PM. Please call (619) 387-8770 or email info@JewishEC.com for more information, to sign-up or to host a class in your home. Or visit www.JewishEC.com/TorahStudies

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH Latin for Home-schoolers

Wednesdays 11:00-11:45am. Grades 2-12 (must be able to read English at least 2nd-grade level). We use the Phenomenon of Language for younger grades, Jenney's first-year book for older. Volunteer teachers welcome. First class is Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 11am. More information, (619) 235-3000, ext. 222 or email Materdomo@aol.com. No charge except for books. LITTLE ITALY 1629 Columbia Street (619) 234-4820

HILTON LA JOLLA TORREY PINES Project Chazon Jewish Teens!



Join 350 Jewish teens for an inspiring afternoon exploring the meaning of “greatness” and how it applies to our lives. Chazon is a Hebrew word which means vision; Project Chazon, powered by the Jewish Federation, uses mixed-media to create amazing visual performances which enhances conversations about Jewish issues. This Free event will take place on Friday, December 21 at 2:00pm. Facebook Event: [is.gd/chazon](https://www.facebook.com/is.gd/chazon), Email: SimonA@NCSY.org. LA JOLLA 10950 North Torrey Pines Road (858) 558-1500

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH Living Nativity

Living Nativity to include the Holy Family and barnyard animals. Cookies and hot apple cider. Friday, December 21, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. SAN MARCOS 1020 Rose Ranch Road (760) 744-7667

Sing" (in traditional jig time) with many traditional favorites. Friday, December 21, 8pm; Saturday, December 22, 2pm and 8pm; Sunday, December 23, 7:30pm; \$20-\$85. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

OUTDOORS

Audubon Society Bird Walk Outings may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions. 858-581-9944. Saturday, December 22, 8am; **free**. Tecolote Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road. (CLAIREMONT)

Holiday Trail Tales Coyotes feasting on holly berries, birds planting mistletoe and other facts of the strange and exotic lives of San Diego wildlife are revealed by trail guides on scenic walk from Kumeyaay Lake area to Historic Old Mission Dam. Meet at Entry Station. Saturday, December 22, 8:30am; **free**. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

Nature's Winter Decor Experience the beauty of decorative holiday plants growing wild in nature on a trail guide-led walk through sage, chaparral and riparian habitats. Red berry-laden toyon, holly-leaved cherry, and mistletoe are among MTRP's winter delights! Saturday, December 22, 9:30am; Sunday, December 23, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Winter Solstice Hike Bundle up for a guided predawn walk up Cowles Mountain. Visit a Kumeyaay spiritual site to observe the phenomenon of rays of the rising sun visually split in half by the distant Lyon's Peak boulders. Thursday, December 20, 6am; Saturday, December 22, 6am; **free**. Cowles Mountain, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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"Blue Christmas: An Evening of Jazz and Art" Jazz and artistry collide! Music by Blue Chunks jazz ensemble. View original artwork by North County artists. Emcee Connor Gressitt provides comedy and magic. Saturday, December 22, 7pm to 10pm. Sunshine Brooks Theatre, 217 North Coast Highway (OCEANSIDE)

"Cavalía: A Magical Encounter Between Human and Horse" Enjoy the "lavish production involving 49 magnificent horses," 39 riders, aerialists, acrobats, dancers, musicians from all over the world. "Horses cavort with the many artists in front of a constantly changing digital background projected onto a 200-foot-wide screen." 866-999-8111. Saturday, December 22, 3pm and 8pm; Sunday, December 23, 2pm; \$39-\$154. Cavalía big top, 1081 Imperial Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Birth 2012 — Building the Vortex of Change Birth 2012 is a global effort to unify the world around the goal of conscious evolution. Full day of activities planned "that support us to open ourselves to this new consciousness and come together with others around the globe to celebrate our oneness" Through music, movement, talks and drama, participants will help "birth" a new era of consciousness that will uplift, expand and inspire people to be leaders and co-create a better world for all. Saturday, December 22, 10am; **free**. Celebration Center for Spiritual Living, 5744 Pacific Center Bl., Suite 306. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

Fabric Design Showcase Museum educator and local fabric designer Lucy Eron shares her designs inspired by California plein-air artists such as Charles Reiffel. 619-232-7931. Saturday, December 22, 10am; **free**. San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Garden of Lights After the sun goes down, the San Diego Botanic Garden is transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland with over 100,000 sparkling lights. Live music nightly from 6-8pm, campfire for roasting marshmal-

lows, additional food, wagon rides, crafts, and snow (weather permitting) — bring your own disc or sled (no metal runners please). Saturdays, 5pm; through Sunday, December 30, **free**-\$12. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Holiday of Lights More than 400 lighted, holiday-themed displays for viewing from visitors' cars. Admission: \$15 per vehicle (up to five people), \$20 per vehicle with six or more people, \$50 per bus. 858-793-5555. Thursdays, through Sundays, 5:30pm; through January 1, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

Holly Jolly Holiday Trolley Tours Get into the holiday spirit, with candy canes and holiday music playing. Required reservations: 619-298-8687 or San Diego Tour. Thursday through Sunday, December 23, 7pm; \$10-\$18. Old Town Market, 4010 Twigg's St., San Diego

Orange-n-Blue Post-Apocalyptic Benefit Show "The Mayan calendar is slated to end on December 21, 2012, which means you've got no plans on December 22!" Comedy by Steven Briggs, Michele Sada, Ben Garcia-Reyes, Cristian Xavier, Jeremy Bassett, Stella Bay, Jose Chavez, Andy Dugan. Music provided Red Matter, the Traumatists, Corrosive. Art by Jon Brown, Desiree Anderson, Leslie K. Monroy. Benefit for Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Saturday, December 22, 5pm; \$10. 21 and up. Riley's Music Lounge, 2901 Nimitz Boulevard. (POINT LOMA)

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6:30 PM reception **7:00 PM service**

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you shop. Free parking. Friday, December 21, 12pm; \$7. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Skating by the Sea Enjoy outdoor ice-skating on rink overlooking Pacific Ocean. Three-hour sessions (at 2pm and 6pm daily) cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for kids ages 10 and under. Two-hour matinee sessions (11am) are \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids ages 10 and under (skate rentals are included in the price). Thursday through Sunday, 11am, 2pm and 6pm; through Saturday, January 5, \$15-\$25. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Singles New Year's Eve Soiree, Ages 40-60ish Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles looking for relationships, marriage and more, offers this dance/mixer with DJ Keith, special performance by Elvis, complimentary appetizers, Champagne

toast, coffee/dessert and party favors. Discounted NYE rooms plus breakfast buffet. Price \$55 per person, \$65 door, valet \$12, dressy dress (formal optional). Sign up at www.SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Monday, December 31, 8pm to midnight. Hilton Garden Inn Carlsbad Beach, 6450 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

NYE 2013 Concert Join over 2000 people as they ring in the new year in style at the Broadway Pier ("The Pavilion"), the finest venue in San Diego. Purchase your tickets early — the price goes up as we sell more tickets. This party will sell out! Three ballrooms of entertainment. DJs spinning retro/disco music during and in between live event to keep the party going nonstop. Live bands Cameo, Angela, Winbush, Jay Lamont benefit concert to support Lulu's Hands of Hope. Price: \$100 general admission; \$150 premier seating. *Lulushand-*

sofhope.org. Monday, December 31, 8pm, Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Family Yoga Gentle exercises to aid flexibility and improve concentration. Bring a yoga mat or towel. 858-552-1655. Saturday, December 22, 2pm; **free**. University Community Library, 4155 Governor Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

Gentle Yoga Instructor is Sheila Shaw. For adults. 619-527-3405. Friday, December 21, 11am; 18 and up. Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market Street. (VALENCIA PARK)



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Pacific Beach TUESDAY Farmers' Market
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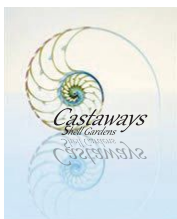
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\$2 off any 1lb. purchase of our flavored almonds

at Little Italy, North Park and Pacific Beach Weekly



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\$1 off when you buy 3 bunches of broccoli

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"I'm sure it was Don Juan Bandini who moved my husband's chair," she says.

The ghost comes and sits in Chanel's husband's chair.

"I heard the chair creak. Then I looked, from ten feet away, right here by the curtain, and I saw it, the empty chair, bounce back a foot or so. On its own. In daylight."

This is Chanel. She works at the Cosmopolitan Hotel's restaurant in Old Town's plaza.

Me, I happened in on my way to the trolley, and found out they have a happy hour. Except — erk! — only five minutes to go. Ends at 6:00 p.m.

It's dark already, of course. The whole courtyard is lit up and music is playing. Then I see this sign pointing to "Cosmo Bar." Guess I'll just zip up these steps, see what's happening back where the music's coming from.

"Happy hour?" says this guy in black when I ask. "Well, you'd better come over to the bar here, pretty quick." His name's David. Says he tends that open-air bar I can see in the far corner of the courtyard. It has about ten stools around it and a bunch of tables under trees.

I always felt that Casa de Bandini had the life sucked out of it when it decided to go accurate to what it was in 1869 — the Cosmopolitan Hotel. They narrowed those stucco columns to thin iron ones and changed the colors from warm golds to a chilly blue. Historically authentic, they say.

It's like meeting up with a wild old girlfriend who's decided to join the Amish and wear sensible clothes. You just hope it's still her inside.

I followed David through the courtyard, over to the open bar, and found me a stool next to this couple and their big ol' German Shepherd dog. The dog's munching on chips the gent passes him.

"Watch it, matey, don't chew my hand off," he says. "That'd make a proper mess."

English accent. Turns out to be an English bobby on vacation. Name's David, too.

But, first things first: got to get that order

through before happy hour's gone.

D'agh...speed-reading the special menu...

"A steer and a beer — an Angus burger and any draft beer for \$9.95."

"The 'Drunken Pescador' — a fish taco and the house margarita for \$6.95."

Can't beat that.

Except, I see you can have the Angus burger alone for \$5.95, the fish taco alone for \$3.50...

A shrimp taco's \$3.95. A cheese quesadilla is \$4.50, or \$6.95 with chicken. With a selection of three cheeses, \$7.95. Calamari with dipping sauces is \$5.95. Sweet-potato fries are \$3.95, and — aha! paydirt! Steamed mussels and clams go for \$5.95. Now we're talking.

"Dave! Quick!" I say to Dave #1, the bartender. He's waiting across the bar. "Steamed mussels and clams, a shrimp taco, and a glass of house red. In time?"

He punches the items into the computer-register.

"Just," he says.

'Course, I realize too late I shoulda got the house white wine to go with the shellfish and shrimp. Hey, don't they say red wine with shellfish can kill you? (Okay, maybe they just cause an allergic reaction? Or is this all another urban legend?) Well, wine's only \$4, so no big loss if it doesn't work out.

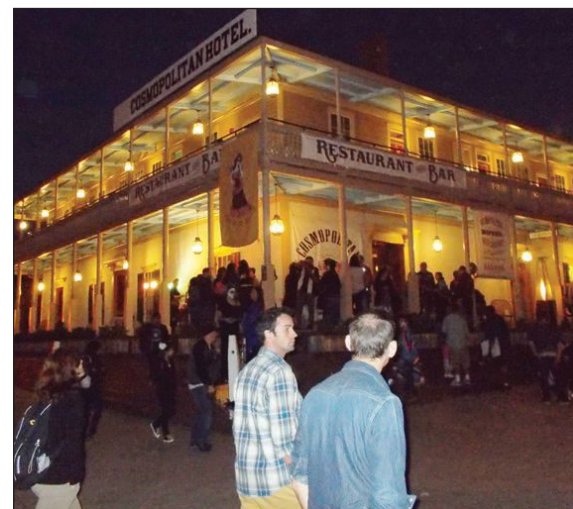
Besides, it's worth it just to get in on the conversation flying back and forth. David, the rapid-fire-funny English bobby is telling his lady friend, Nancy, how he was based in London's Bow Street police station. It's the site of the first professional police station in the country, which dates back to 1749. "They called the cops the Bow Street Runners," he says.

Now the other David, the barman, gets my attention. He's arrived with my shrimp taco and plate of mussels.

I start off with the taco. It has a rich sauce, a salad layer underneath, plenty of blushing shrimp, then layers of differ-



It's less warm than in its Casa De Bandini days, but Cosmo Bar at Old Town's Cosmopolitan Hotel is a good place for happy hour wine, shrimp tacos, and conversation.



In an old greenhouse, "I found a bell that was made in 1972, of fine bone china, in England."

ent shredded cheeses. A wedge of lemon to squeeze over it, and, boy, does that finish it off. The flour tortilla's nice and thin. We're talking a tangy, squelchy mess. Not the dried-up doughy little taste-desert that some shrimp tacos can be.

But even this pales before the steamed mussels and clams. They're in one of those deceptive plates that look shallow but have a deep middle section, where all the clams and sauce hide out. David says it's a devil's mix of linguica (Portuguese sausage bits), roasted garlic, stewed tomatoes, mussels, clams, white wine, butter, and broth. And a few sticks of toasted focaccia bread.

I swear, there's something about that combo that's magic. The golden broth in the bottom is almost better than the wine.

And here's the thing — the other combo: the courtyard, the old building, the new moon overhead, this friendly clump of strangers, and this slurpy food and wine...it transports you. You feel like you're in a 1940s movie or on vacation.

Now David the bobby's telling tales of patrolling Jack-the-Ripper streets in East London. And Chanel, who's arrived in 19th-century dress, talks about the ghosts she's seen around here, working as the hotel's hostess.

"I'm sure it was Don Juan Bandini who moved my husband's chair as soon as my husband left the dining room," she says. "You feel Don Juan likes the ladies. He's flirtatious."

Don Juan built this house, when? 1827? And for the next 40 years had famous parties, with dances like the fandango and the wicked waltz. You can believe he's still whirling around here.

Think I'm gonna grab Carla, haul her down, load her up with food, like that Drunken Pescador — the fish taco and house margarita deal for \$6.95 — get back into the \$6 steamed mussels and clams and a glass or two of, uh, white vino, and then my girl as bait for the Dancing Don. Maybe he'll ask her to take a turn on the floor.

"Someone who can actually dance?" Carla will say. "That'd be refreshing." ■

The Place: The Cosmopolitan Restaurant & Hotel, 2660 Calhoun Street (in Old Town Plaza), Old Town, 619-297-1874

Happy Hour Prices: "Steer and a beer" (Angus burger, draft beer), \$9.95; Angus burger alone, \$5.95; Drunken Pescador (fish taco and margarita), \$6.95; fish taco alone, \$3.50; shrimp taco for \$3.95, calamari, dipping sauces, \$5.95; sweet-potato fries, \$3.95; steamed mussels and clams, \$5.95

Hours: 11:00 a.m.–9:30 p.m., daily (till 10:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday); Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.; happy hour 3:00–6:00 p.m., daily

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Warm Gullet

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Skating, snacking magic

There's no getting around it: Night-skating on the oceanfront in Coronado is magic. The rink, the screams, the laughs, the holiday music, the shushing of the skates, and your hands around a mug of hot chocolate at the edge, surrounded by worried parents and giggling girlfriends.

So, okay, it's a \$4.50 hot chocolate. Coffee is the same price. But, hey, this is the Coffee by the Sea shack at the Hotel Del (1500 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-6611).

Add a Hamilton and you're in really tempting territory: A "Winter Warmer" like the "Nuttie Irishman" (Bailey's Irish Cream, Frangelico, and coffee topped with whipped cream and a sprinkling of nutmeg) goes for \$13.

Or, you could warm your gullet with a cup of mulled wine. The Sugar and Spice is the Del's mulled-wine recipe with brandy and Stirrings ginger liqueur, also \$13.

So, no. No such thing as a cheap option, really. Even domestic beer runs \$7.75.

But this night? Prices, schmices! Ariel and Jessica, the two gals manning (womaning?) the little bar, are flying.

"Most people want the hot chocolate," says Jessica, "or the Nutty Irishman."

Look at it this way: Yes, renting skates alone will cost you \$25 (\$20 for kids), but turning up and just watching costs *nada*. The show is free. Feels like you're at someone's wedding. Someone's Victorian wedding. The merriment makes you

forget that wicked world outside. It makes you think Charles Dickens. You come away feeling uplifted, like Scrooge after his three ghosts have given him his attitude adjustment.

Easiest option: get a hot cocoa (\$4.50), a hot cider (\$4.50), and a couple of cookies (\$3.75 for two), and the two of you head for the free theater: spills and thrills under the December moon!

It goes on till January 9.

by Ed Bedford

FEAST!

Like a phoenix!

Everyone was shocked, and many were disappointed, when Brian's American Eatery closed its doors. The closure came out of the blue — the word on the street being that one of the business partners was ripping off the other — and the restaurant remains closed for the time being. It's been reincarnated, however, and given something

of a facelift as Lil B's on El Cajon Boulevard at the site of the erstwhile Johnny's R Family Restaurant in North Park. I've long maintained that there was a time and a place for visiting Brian's, so I had to check out Lil B's to see if the transition had kept the dream alive, so to speak.

The new look dispatches with the diner aesthetic and embraces

a melding of vintage cool and modern flair. The early-Space Age look of polka-dot textiles and polished metal ceilings is a little bit *Austin Powers*, but the designers tempered what could have been a garish look just enough that it's charming and cozy inside. I think this is largely because of the bright white lighting, which would make a more austere dining area look aseptic but makes Lil B's come across as cheerful. It's still got the whole "Gay Denny's" thing going on, and it's still cool to



Ice-skating at the Del is magical...but expensive.



Lil B's macaroni-and-cheese-filled egg rolls are a wonderful idea for a dish.

have that niche so perfectly filled. Count on lots of pop tunes, which I not-so-secretly love, and hungry bears to keep things familiar.

As far as I know, some staff was taken from the old Brian's. I wouldn't be surprised, as the menu is virtually identical and the experience remains much the same. I found the entire service to be a touch disorganized but still friendly and ultimately efficient. A cursory examination of the menu indicated that prices had *fallen* somewhat in comparison with the OG Brian's, which was good to see, as the cost of entry always seemed high at the Washington Street location. For example, sandwich plates that formerly cost \$13+ have fallen toward the \$10 range. I think that the portion sizes, especially the inclusion of huge side dishes, has been restricted to some degree. This is acceptable, since the old Brian's served food in perverse quantities.

I tried an order of macaroni-and-cheese-filled egg rolls (\$8.99) that came with about half a cup of honey-mustard-flavored dipping sauce. I'll say that this is a wonderful idea for a dish, with the caveat that it's a complete and total "fattie snack" (as a friend of mine would say) perhaps more suited to hangover avoidance than actual nutrition. Nine dollars for three egg rolls felt expensive, even when they do contain a few bits of bacon, but there's something to be said for deep fried mac 'n' cheese.

"Churrasco chicken *osso bucco*" has to be one of the strangest things I've eaten in a while. Enormous chicken legs had been trimmed to resemble miniature veal shanks and then covered in a spicy cheese sauce. They were, for all intents and purposes, the Hulked-out version of buffalo wings and a piece of lateral thinking on behalf of the chef. They were pretty good to eat, too, although the huge amounts of sauce made the whole experience

something of a chore by the end.

The rest of the menu was similarly comfort food-y, with things like fried chicken and a couple of steaks for under \$20. Flat iron steak for \$15.99 with a couple side dishes? Sure! I also have to give it up for the "crazy burger" (\$10.99) that's covered in peanut butter, bacon, and cheddar cheese. I've been trying for years to convince everyone that grilled cheese sandwiches with peanut butter are the most badass thing ever. Glad to see somebody paying attention to the principle.

So, yeah, Lil B's is basically Brian's, in case anybody was concerned that Brian #1 might have diverged from the path in opening up a new restaurant without Brian #2. I think I actually like it a little better, especially since they kept that 24-hour policy for weekends.

Lil B's, 2611 El Cajon Boulevard.

by Ian Pike

Small beer big in TJ

On Agua Caliente Boulevard, 9:00 p.m. Rubbing my eyes. Whu?

Because in front of me, here beside where the old bullring used to be, is a tiny red-and-black triangle with a big sign.

"Cerveza Artesanal."

I'm standing outside El Big (TJ's famous Big Boy restaurant, where rancho owners, power politi-

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Calendar RESTAURANT

cians and — back in the day — bullfight fans, have always come to chat and eat).

I look across the traffic river of Agua Caliente Boulevard. Artisanal beers? Gotta check this out.

Takes me a long time to make it to the other side (it's always worth humping it to the nearest set of lights here). I take a few steps up Miguel Alemán, the side street that angles off Caliente, turn left into a door, and, wow, this tiny triangular space with one wall packed floor to ceiling with bottles. Beer bottles. None that I recognize.

There are two coolers, and right beside them, a beautiful woman.

"¡Hola!" she says. Gabriela. "The left cooler has international artisan beers, the right one has Tijuana artisan beers," she says. "We have about 20 artisanal breweries in Tijuana now."

Three men sit on stools against a small window counter, sipping from bottles. A fourth drinks from a glass mug. That about fills the place.

"It's 'Bipolar,'" says the guy with the mug, when I ask. "The

house beer. Made in Tijuana. Suitable name for a border beer, don't you think? There are really excellent beers being brewed here now. It's quite the *revolución*."

He can't use his name because he works for the U.S. consulate here. But you can see he knows his *cervezas*. He paid about \$5 for this. Most expensive is a New Zealand stout called Moa (after their giant, extinct bird). That runs 160 pesos, about \$14.

This place is "La Tasquita," ("The Little Pub"). It's at Calle Miguel Alemán (which, if you pronounce it wrong, seems just the right name...) #2612, next to Agua Caliente Boulevard.

"This is a little spin-off from our main place on Calle Sexta, near Avenida Revolución, La Tasca," says Gabriela. "We champion artisanal beers. It can be hard here because the big breweries make it difficult for bars and cafés to stock any beers that aren't their brands."

But these guys did a deal with Grupo Modelo, which is Mexico's biggest brewer. (It has brands like Corona and Pacifico. This year Anheuser-Busch InBev paid about \$20 billion to completely own Grupo Modelo). The deal these guys did? If they agree to sell, say, Negra

Modelo here, they can stock any small brewery beers they want.

"We provide an outlet for new brewers. It's very exciting," says Gabriela. "A new micro-brewer pops up every day. It's really happening all along the border."

All I've gotta do is choose...
by Ed Bedford

The ritual of cleaning my plate

North Park's Ritual Tavern is both a neighborhood and Feast! favorite for their dedication to local beer and high quality food. Brandon Hernandez has kept us abreast of changes in the kitchen and, of course, Beer Week events. Ian Pike had a lovely brunch there while they were between executive chefs, and Elizabeth Salaam enjoyed the Gypsy jazz-inspired Trio Gadjo, which plays there frequently. Now that new guy Kyle Bergman has been in charge for a while, I thought it was high time for a visit. Bergman's last job was as executive chef of the Grill, the casual eatery at the Lodge at Torrey Pines, so my expectations were high.

The dining room is warm and comfy-looking, but we sat at the bar where we could chat with the friendly, knowledgeable staff

and other patrons. Each time I've been there, I've felt like I'm having dinner with companions.

I was happy to see Lost Abbey's Red Barn Ale on the beer menu. It's a farmhouse ale (6.7% ABV) that's sunny amber gold, with a head as fine and dense as meringue, a crisp, bright citrus flavor, and just a hint of barnyard funk. It's a natural pairing with rich holiday foods and savory winter braises.

John's fish and chips (\$15) were made with the fish du jour, pink grouper. Dressed in a light cloak of crispy batter, the big, butter-soft flakes of mild fish were meltingly tender. Fries were decent, but oddly, nearly all of them were only about an inch long. Also odd — the brownish lemon wedges, how did someone not notice that? Still, I only managed to snag a tiny taste before it quickly disappeared.

My choice was one of the nightly specials, a lovely Peking duck breast (\$21). The skin, crosshatched and seared crackling crisp over high heat, contrasted beautifully with the well-seasoned, rosy pink meat. A silky, rich persimmon beurre blanc was both fruity and completely savory, a welcome change from the sweet sauces that usually accompany duck. On the

side, a generous pile of roasty romanesco cauliflower, all nutty and brown, topped with shards of crunchy, salty bacon. It was a perfect companion to the duck: the slight bitterness cut through the unctuous duck fat.

I enjoyed the dish so much that I finished it all, leaving no room for dessert. I've heard good things about the beignets, so a return trip is inevitable.

Ritual Tavern, 4095 30th Street.

by Mary Beth Abate

More than just pizza

My latest go-to place in Little Italy for solid food and reasonably priced, good Italian wine is Isola Pizza Bar. For a little background on the place, check out what Mr. Tin Fork himself wrote back in May.

Though it's the promise of delectable dough baked in a brick oven that draws me in the door (my favorite is the salami pizza), there's always something else on the menu that I'm eager to share. David, my constant dining companion, always orders the *gamberetti alla diavolo*, which is "wood-fired shrimp, white wine, garlic, capers, kalamata, chile, and tomato served on a bed of

polenta."

On a recent visit, we tried something different (when the pizza's that good, it's so easy to forget that pizza makes up only a fraction of the menu). We went with a group, so we ordered a few apps for the table. I enjoyed the oven-roasted beets with sweet red onions and fresh ricotta on a *crostino*, but that was a lot of beets on one plate. They could probably get away with serving half as many beets, a handful of greens, and it would be just as delicious and not as overwhelming.

A group favorite is the bruschetta with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, and prosciutto di parma.

Regardless of all the other goodies, though, it's just not right to leave without a bite of that pizza. Crispy on the outside, chewy on the inside, and all of the toppings taste of freshness.

by Barbarella

Two hour limit

Walking into Tio Leo's in Bay Park (5302 Napa Street) was like stepping onto a set from *Golden Girls*. Maybe it was the Holiday Inn color scheme or the the frosted-glass partition embossed with toucans and jungle leaves

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that faced my table, or perhaps it was that I felt like the youngest person in the dining room by 40 years. Yes, champagne brunch (Sundays from 10-2) is a hangout for the retiree crew. It's quiet and dark inside while muted, jazzy music plays and soft-spoken servers pad around the dining room refilling coffee and champagne glasses.

The bottomless mimosas are about as cheap as they come at \$2.99. They may be Andre and concentrate, but filled deftly and regularly to the brim, they fit the ambiance perfectly. I was tempted request that my server just leave the pitcher, but somehow I didn't think that would go over well for either of us. As it is, I ended up well tipsy on half a dozen petite glasses.

The brunch menu is short and every plate is \$10.99. Breakfast burritos, tacos, omelets; everything comes with rice and beans and the portions would delight Rabelais. I worked on a plate of chilaquiles that must have had two pounds of food on it. The chewy tortillas had been stewed in red enchilada sauce, which I prefer over green, and, you know what? It wasn't half bad! Salty, cheesy, satisfying. I could have done a lot worse. Foolishly, I ordered some albondigas soup in case I needed a little extra. Even the \$2.99 cup was a woefully excessive addition to the monstrous plate of chilaquiles.

Frankly, I'm amazed Tio Leo's isn't more of a hipster hangout. If I was waking up late on a Sunday morning, hung over and needing a little hair of the dog, the cave-like serenity of the hotel-hued dining room and groups of retirees noshing in respectful silence would be exactly the thing to ease me back into the world. Creeping back out into the harsh light of day felt almost vampiric, I wanted to return to the darkness and the safety of the dining room and the bottomless mimosas. Sadly, there's a two-hour limit on hanging out there. It says so right on the menu.

by Ian Pike

Vegan pit-stop: Soy contento!
Passing Whole Foods around one in the afternoon (Whole Foods, 687 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, 760-274-1580).

See a bunch of people in a courtyard, eating out of boxes, looking healthy.

Hey, who doesn't want to be

TIP TOP MEATS

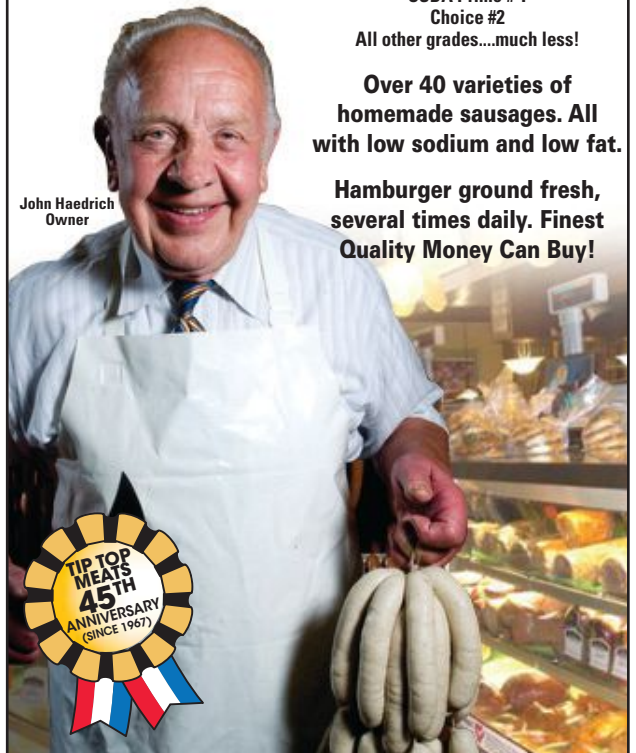
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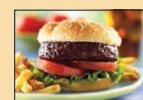
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healthy?

So I stop in the store and head for the “meals” section.

Paula, who also looks like she does a marathon every Sunday, recommends the soy deal. Six bucks for a rack of roasted soy bars and two sides.

“How about the brussels sprouts and their butternut squash?” she says. I look at her. She sees my face.

“No!” she says. “Take a look first.”

So I do. And, have to say, the sprouts and other stuff I see in the display look nothing like my grandma’s. They’re sautéed, all brown and green and nutty. And the squash looks all kinda sugary, reddish brown.

Six bucks later, and I’m in the piazza with all the other well-to-do folks who can afford Whole Foods.

The secret? The lunches can be cheap. I fill up totally with the soy and the sides.

Secret to successful soy? Go for the more cooked ones. The lightly burned thing takes away from the slightly gunky blandness of soy.

I pass Paula on the way out. You can see her face. It’s saying: *See? That wasn’t so bad, was it?*

by Ed Bedford

Cocktail, Cotija and Corn

The few times I’ve sought out Barrio Star, I always end up in downtown or Hillcrest because I can never remember the side street off of Fifth (it’s Nutmeg),

and I’m too stubborn to map it, always assuming I’ll “just know” when I get in the car, because this whole five-mile radius is my stomping ground, after all. Nevertheless, with a craving for tacos and one particular dish — grilled sweet corn with salty cotija cheese and spicy jalapeño butter — I found my way there for lunch, and I only had to circle the area once.

On this fine, sunny San Diego afternoon with no impending meetings, I decided to order a cocktail. I got the “roasted jalapeño blackberry margarita,” which was so spicy-boozy-awesome that I knew a few sips in that I’d be ordering another.

I say “few times” (Remember? I know, it was way back there in the first sentence, but it’s important now) because my first meal at this restaurant came with a

side of extreme irritation. I was with a group of friends, and we were catching up and smiling and talking, and we ordered food and drinks with our aloof server and went back to catching up. At one point, after menus had been taken away and appetizers were being placed on the table, one of us asked for chips. The irritation was not caused merely by the fact that the chips themselves were so stale the entire basket was still full when we left — it came from realizing that we had been charged around \$5 for them. Sure, when I checked, the price was listed on the menu, but in a town where every other Mexican-themed restaurant plies guests with crunchy, tasty chips for free, I was surprised the server hadn’t thought to at least mention there was a price before putting in the order and adding it to our bill.

Fortunately, I was wiser on this second, more recent visit, and the server was friendlier. And, despite my annoyance with the whole chip fiasco, I had been remembering and craving that luscious corn on the cob. I couldn’t taste any of the jalapeño butter that was advertised, but that didn’t matter, as the combination of cotija and grilled corn makes me hear angels singing in Spanish.

David ordered (and loved) the chicken pozole (a hominy-based stew).

I was bummed to find that the Plaintain Carnitas (crisp plantains topped with carnitas, avocado, and chipotle cream)

were not on the lunch menu, because I could eat those all day.

No matter, I’d gone there for corn and tacos, and I did not leave disappointed. I don’t have a picture, because in my excitement to taste them, the tacos were gone (along with a second drink) before it occurred to me I should probably grab a shot. Though chicken, steak, fish, salmon, soy chorizo, and tofu are all offered, my favorite is the oven-baked carnitas, which comes with its own pinch of cotija, cool avocado, and chili sauce with the right amount of kick.

by Barbarella

The Case of the Naughty Constable

What do a Naughty Constable, Juicy Scandal, Flagrant Seeds, and Tasty Treason have in common?

They’re all crazy-interesting sausages you can have on the sausage board (\$9) at the Village 631 coffee-and-wine bar (it used to be Java Jones) at 631 Ninth Avenue, downtown, 619-255-9405.

Actually, the sausage board is supposed to be strictly during the wine-bar hours (from 4:00 p.m. onward).

But if you can wheedle Sarah-Dawn, who kinda runs the place during the day, you might be able to get her to sweet-talk the chef into making one early. She sends Judy over with my board.

And it’s worth it. I mean, mostly what you see in the

afternoons down here in the heart of East Village is students attacking laptops, slurping a cuppa joe, and grunting as they oil the wheels of their imagination, designing buildings (the students of the nearby New School of Architecture), or making an argument for the defense of a drunk driver on his 35th DUI charge (students at the Jefferson Law School, also nearby).

It’s a quirky, arty place.

But, come the setting of the sun, the cocktails-and-snacks crowd turns up, and the sausage-slicing starts in earnest.

These *saucissons* are at their best with a chunk of baguette and a glass of vino, but even as I’m having them (with coffee) this oddly-named collection is über-interesting.

Like, Juicy Scandal’s a dry spicy-hot salami from southern Italy. Flagrant Seeds is a *finocchiona* salami with an fennel-seedy flavor. Tasty Treason is a salty French sausage that “has a sweet punch of cardamom and orange.”

And, Naughty Constable? Something about “Thuriger Cervelat style sausage spiced with caraway and juniper.”

But you’ll have to ask Sarah-Dawn.

And while you’re about it, ask her where the heck they got these names from.

More in upcoming Tin Fork.
by Ed Bedford

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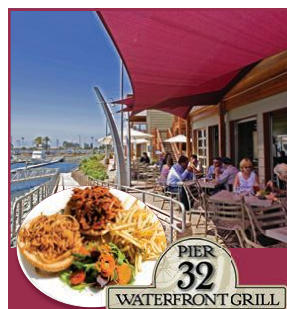


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Breakfast? Honey-Do!

Up here in the land of nuts and twigs and Swami surf breaks, you kind of expect to combine good-for-you and good-to-taste in every menu item.

So I hived into Honey’s Bistro (632 South Coast highway 101, Encinitas, 760-942-5433).

It’s a comfy kinda place you find a lot of up north. Part greasy spoon, part açai central.

Also, full of life. People have energetic conversations with the waitress, Madison. She’s energetic right back.

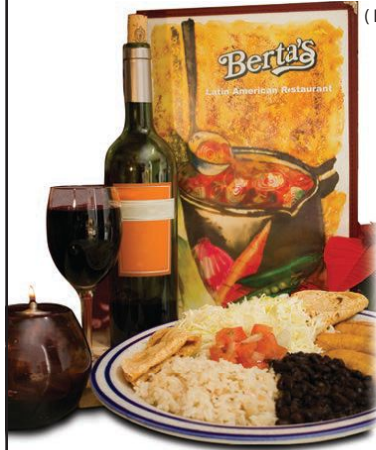
Which is good, ‘cause I’m feeling pooped. Early train ride. Lots of hoofing it up hill and down dale. Now, midday, time for breakfast.

“The baddest breakfast that’s still healthy?” says Madison. And she points to a waffle loaded with blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, plus powdered sugar, syrup, and, to put on top, two poached eggs and two strips of bacon.

I go for it.

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Nice mixture of good and bad. Sweet and savory. And, yes, the waffle is whole grain. Plus, as much syrup as my conscience will allow. Plus, a \$1.35 coffee (deal!). Whole bill comes to \$9.64 after tax.

It's just what the doctor ordered. Veritably holistic.

This is the first time I've been in here, but Madison says it's been going 15 years. Actually, it's near the end of their working day. "We start at 5:30 a.m.," she says. The thought gets her stifling a yawn.

But me, I come out energized. There's something about this town that does it to you.

Feel like grabbing a paddleboard, hauling out, and doing a bit of surfing at Swami's.

Or, okay, maybe a bit of yoga at the Self-Realization Fellowship Center would be easier.

by Ed Bedford

Japanese treasure in Mission Hills

Friends and foodies have been telling me forever to check out Izakaya Masa — the little Japanese restaurant with no sign that is tucked into the corner of a strip mall on Fort Stockton Drive — but it wasn't until last week that I finally heeded their recommendations, and I'm so happy I did. But not for the reasons I thought I would be.

For some reason, I had it in my head that this was a strictly yakitori (grilled skewered meats and veggies) and ramen joint. But the menu was extensive, with a cross-section of all of my traditional Japanese dining favorites, from agedashi tofu to chicken katsudon.

I was happy to be there with a group, which meant I could see and taste more than if I'd gone

with just David. We ordered a handful of small dishes off of the appetizer list. Agedashi tofu, of course, and a tofu steak with "Masa's blackpepper sauce." Both tofu dishes were extraordinary in their own way — the agedashi was, as with Sushi Tadokoro's, served sans bonito flakes and therefore had none of that overwhelming fishy taste I don't care for. Atop the tofu was a mound of grated mountain yam.

The black pepper sauce on the tofu steak had a rich umami flavor and a nice bite from the black pepper.

My friend Kimberly and I couldn't go near the tongue, for reasons of uncomfortable mental associations, but David and Shawn said it was as tender as it was tasty.

There was barely enough gyoza to go around, what with that satisfyingly crunchy side from where they have sat on the skillet.

I felt terrible for demanding that David order the ramen so we could see how it compared, because his entrée was the one disappointment of the evening. The broth was bland and watery, the noodles were thinner than the standard, and the pork was fatty (some people like that; we prefer leaner meat). After he tasted it, David looked as drawn and sad as the bowl in front of him.

On the opposite end of the flavor spectrum, I was experiencing a foodgasm with my nabeyaki, or hot pot udon (in a "cray" pot, according to the menu), which came with shrimp tempura, a perfectly poached egg, chunks of tofu, and spinach that managed to maintain its own flavor and avoid getting slimy in the simmering broth. Oh, the broth! Savory, spicy, just the right amount of salt — it was the kind of bowl you're sure to tip to your mouth at the end to get every drop. So, my recommendation

What the Chef Eats by Pamela Hunt-Cloyd

PACIFICA'S PERUVIAN CEVICHE

RECIPE BY STEPHANIE O'MARY-BERWALD

Executive Chef, Pacifica Del Mar

I've never been the person to bring in the molecular cooking. When I cook at home, I keep it easy — chicken and green beans and shallots. Pasta. I don't like to make a big to-do.

Before I started to cook, I was an English major at Columbia University. Then I got to know Todd English at Olives, in New York. I had no experience whatsoever, but I loved what they did and I saw that they loved what they did, too. I called Olives every day repeatedly, until they let me in. I worked in Todd's kitchen on the lunch shift without pay for a year to learn about the business while I took morning classes at Columbia.

I don't really have a specialty in the kitchen. I

grew up in Dubai and was lucky enough to travel when I was young and to be exposed to different cuisines. I was in the Mideast during the first Gulf War, and my mom is from Peru. I was classically trained at the French Culinary Institute, and I helped my friend out with his upscale sandwich shop in Los Angeles. I've opened up fine-dining establishments, and I've worked in pizzerias.

I have a grasp on every part of the kitchen, and I've worked in a lot of kitchens, but I just love Mediterranean food: Spanish, French, Italian. I love introducing people to new foods done classically. To me, it's more about doing things simply and letting the ingredients speak for themselves.

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 6

2 pounds local halibut fillet (skin trimmed off so only white fish is being used)
10 limes (juiced)
2 aji peppers, veins and seeds removed (substitute with frozen or habanero)
10–12 leaves of cilantro (roughly chopped up)
Kosher salt to taste
1 pound cooked Peruvian white corn kernels (if you cannot find, regular white corn can be used as a substitute)
1 small red onion (sliced into very thin rings)

HOW TO DO IT

Cut the halibut into 1-inch cubes and cover with the lime juice. Purée the aji peppers with a little bit of water in a food processor



For a year, Stephanie O'Mary-Berwald worked in a New York City restaurant kitchen for free.

or blender. Mix the purée into the fish-and-lime mixture. Next, mix the cilantro in and season to taste with kosher salt. Allow the mixture to marinate 30 minutes in your refrigerator. To serve, use a martini glass or other deep glass and fill each with a little corn, then the ceviche mixture, and finally top with some red onion rings. Serve cold.

Find What the Chef Eats online at SDReader.com/chef/

is, if you're craving something noodley and soupy when you hit up Masa (the nickname locals have given the place), skip the ramen and order the udon.

Though the chicken katsudon (fried chicken tenders, egg, and onions on rice) that Shawn ordered looked amazing, I was too busy luxuriating in my udon dish to give it a try.

by Barbarella

Southern comfort in Poway

Southern-style comfort food is not what you would expect to find in a nondescript strip mall in Poway. In fact, when I stopped at Luc's Bistro for dinner after a beer-tasting foray in North County, I was under the impression that it was a French restaurant.

Luc's Bistro was created in

2009 by brother-and-sister team Monica Bui Verpiand and Lam Bui, who grew up in Alabama and Mississippi, and Phillipe Verpiand of the now-defunct Cavaillon in Santa Luz. New owner Sergio Ferrer took over this year when Verpiand moved to Houston to open Étoile Cuisine et Bar.

It's standard strip-mall bistro basic inside, complete with a large flat-screen television

over the bar, which, although muted, seems annoying and unnecessary.

Our hostess/server enthusiastically answered our questions about the menu. It's nice when waitstaff get to know what they are serving. I know...that should be obvious, but in reality, I've been to far too many places where every inquiry is met with, "Let me go ask the kitchen."

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fashioned foods, so when I spied chicken and dumplings on the menu, I was delighted. I started out, though, with a cup of chilled beet soup and a jalapeño corn muffin.

Beautifully rosy and earthy, the sweet beets were tempered with a splash of balsamic vinegar and the julienned Granny Smith/feta cheese garnish added a crunchy, salty counterpoint. Delicious. The muffin, not so much. Dry, with no discernible flavor, despite flecks of green jalapeño, it needed the accompanying butter and honey.

Alas, the chicken and dumplings gets zero points for presentation. Even the little chunks of carrots and peas couldn't rescue it from beige blandness. It tasted pretty good, though, and had plenty of meaty pieces of dark and white meat in a savory, mildly spicy gravy that was *this-close* to being too salty. I like my food that way, but others may find it to be too much.

The dumplings were another story. Nearly raw, they resembled cut-up pieces of Pillsbury biscuits more than anything else. I pushed them to the side and concentrated on the chicken part.

John started with a cup of French onion soup. It was decent, a not-too-sweet oniony

flavor. He wasn't bothered by the lack of melted cheese topping and liked the little aioli-smeared cracker more than the standard crouton.

John's short rib shepherd's pie, one of the daily specials, suffered in the presentation department as well. The thin cover of mashed potatoes had an overload of panko crumbs poured onto it. That wouldn't have been so bad, had they been properly toasted. Instead, they sank into the pie and created a gummy mass. The short ribs themselves were quite delicious, fork tender and full of

red-winey, beefy flavor. Since wine-braised short ribs are on the regular menu, I'd suggest that over the shepherd's pie.

We split a red velvet cupcake for dessert. Perhaps baked goods are not their strong suit: it, like the muffin, was dry and lacking flavor.

Luc's Bistro offers several good deals during the week: Tuesdays feature a \$10 burger-and-beer combo; on Wednesdays, kids eat free with a paid adult dinner (one kid per adult).

Luc's Bistro, 12642 Poway Road.

by Mary Beth Abate



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"I realized that booking and promoting shows was a risky business to be in, and it wasn't a sufficient way to make a living," says Sulo King, whose career in concert promotion included a trouble-plagued run in

talent buyer and booking agent for Brick by Brick, where I worked for eight years," says King. "I ended up getting laid off in 2010, unfortunately."

After taking a job at Unique Pawn Brokers, "I decided to either open up a

recording arts at MiraCosta College in Oceanside) and Torres (with a B.A. in audio production) made a deal to acquire the 2900-square-foot facility, renamed Iacon Sound as of October 1. "The location was great, and we loved the fact that his recording studio was the ideal size we were looking for. Black Box also had six rehearsal studios that were rented out by bands on a monthly basis, which was also a huge incentive."

Since taking over operations, Iacon has remodeled and hosted recording sessions with the Roman Watchdogs and Colorado transplant (and *America's Got Talent* contestant) Gabriel DeCrocket.

The building has also been home to concerts featuring bands such as Goblin Cock, the Advantage, Ilya, Transfer, Japanese Sunday, Vitro, Jezebel, Danny and the Tramp, and Quintero's group Hialeah. The interactivity with bands, King feels, may enable him to revisit his previous occupation as a show promoter. "I would like to return to it again under our studio's name," he says.

Meanwhile, King's finding plenty of minutiae to keep him busy at Iacon. "We buy a lot of light bulbs. There are no windows in the studio, so we always need proper lighting."

— Jay Allen Sanford

That's a wrap. "They wanted Eric Clapton from the '70s, and they wanted the Who, and they wanted Led Zeppelin," says photographer Rick Gould. In recent months, Valley View Casino Center management has been sprucing up the interior walls with a series of floor-to-ceiling vinyl wall-wraps made by enlarging vintage concert and sporting-event photos. Gould was one of the local music photographers they tapped for images.

"The irony of the whole thing is that, back then," he laughs, "they didn't even want to let me in." The Vista photographer has been shooting rock concerts since his teens. He remembers being told to wait outside the Sports Arena's rear stage door, not unlike the child reporter in the film *Almost Famous*. Quite often, he says, entry was denied. "Now that they want those images, they probably wish they'd given me better access."

Gould says that the now life-size Clapton/Santana shot on the wall was taken by a fellow photographer named Ralph Hulett and was actually shot from the general admission seats. "Back then, security would let you come in [the front door] with a 35mm camera, but no telephoto lenses were allowed. You'd sneak them in your pants and hope not to get patted down." In the '70s, he says, the photo pass had

not yet been conceived. "If you had a sticker that said you were with the band, you could shoot anything."

Ernie Hahn has been the

Reader by Jay Allen Sanford. Hahn also spent a lot of time in the archives of the San Diego History Center. "The deeper I dug, the more ex-



Valley View spruced up its walls with arena history — in vinyl.

arena's general manager for 17 of his 22-year involvement with the facility. He says he conceived the project and that, from start to finish, it has taken almost a year and a half to complete.

"There's nothing cooler than vintage concert shots, especially when they are from your own building," Hahn calls the venture a means of "putting a flip on the Sports Arena being called 'old.'" He says he wants visitors to understand the significance of the 46-year-old building. "Most San Diegans saw their first concert here. And they can tell you who it was and when it was."

Hahn curated the images from a wish list of concerts that he compiled in part with the aid of a hometown concert history published in the

cited I got." But he wasn't able to get everything he wanted.

"The images I would love to find," Hahn says, "are Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin from 1969 or 1971."

Gould explains that concert photos from that era are surprisingly rare. Why? The expense: today's digital photography is essentially free, he says, "but back then, you had to be willing to spend as much as \$300 per show on film and developing."

The high-definition vinyl wraps cost more than \$50,000 to produce, but Hahn considers it money well spent. "It almost seems like you're making it up when you talk about it, but you're not. All those concerts?" he says. "They really happened here."

— Dave Good

(continued on page 64)

the inside track blurt

San Marcos that began in early 2005. The Jumping Turtle incurred several well-publicized legal snafus, some involving Sulo's attempts to stage all-ages events where

recording studio or buy an existing one. I realized this while hanging out with my friend and now business partner Frank Torres." Last summer, the duo responded



Sulo King's Iacon Sound found a perfect fit at the old Black Box digs in Golden Hill.

alcohol was also served to adults.

"I started off by working at Canes Bar & Grill as a security guard and working my way up to being the head

to a Craigslist ad placed by Mario Quintero at Black Box Studio, opened in November 2005 just off 25th Street in Golden Hill.

King (who studied

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Saturday, December 22
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Saturday, December 29
ON DESCENT • RAMMOTH

SINNER'S RAGE
HER BED OF THORNS

Saturday, January 5
THE CURED
REALLY IDOL • THE S'CARS

Friday, January 11
"FREAKS DONT SLEEP"
THE UPBEATS • LOXY

Friday, January 25
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2/15 T. Irie Dread • The Amalgamated 2/16 Madman 2/17 Cockney Rejects • Youth Brigade
2/19 Klub Therapy present Velvet Acid Christ 2/23 Ruck 'N' Roll 3/1 Dada 3/2 Vasoline
3/8 Veiled Butterfly 3/9 Queen Nation 3/23 LongFellow Benefit 4/7 AGHORI • P.D.P. 4/11 Bang Tango

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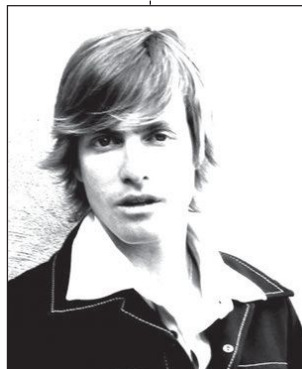


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CASINO

Real housewives, fake band.

Tim Foley is best known in San Diego as a multi-instrumentalist performer with the Celtic-folk group Skelpin and for his solo work, but for his appearance in the upcoming season eight of Bravo television's reality show *Real Housewives of Orange County*, he has gone outside his comfort zone, forming a salsa group, Toca Toca, especially for the shoot. "The name of my solo band



Tim got to dance with all the real houswives.

is the Tim Foley Band, which includes Todd Davidson (Price of Dope, Square Circle) and Steve Haney (Greyboy Allstars, Jungle Fever), but when I was called to do the show, they wanted a salsa

group for the episode," Foley said. "I knew I would have no cred if this salsa band had an Irish name like 'Foley,' so we quickly came up with 'Toca Toca,' which is Spanish for

'Play Play.'"

Taped in mid November, the group will be featured in a party scene. "We got together the day before and wrote five salsa tunes in a couple of

daily blogs

Forceful and Denk

By Garrett Harris — Dec. 17, 9:59 a.m.

The Apocalypse

By Chad Deal — Dec. 16, 5:12 p.m.

Japandi reunites to usher in apocalypse

By Chad Deal — Dec. 15, 2:35 p.m.

27 years ago this week: The Dead Kennedys at the California Theater

By Jay Allen Sanford — Dec. 14, 10:46 a.m.

SRO @ 7 Grand

By Robert Bush — Dec. 13, 4:51 p.m.

Jamming in the blue room

By Dave Good — Dec. 13, 12:34 p.m.

Ice cream across America

By Chad Deal — Dec. 12, 2:32 p.m.

Read these and other daily breaking music stories at SDReader.com/jam-session

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: TOWER BAR

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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WWW.MYSPACE.COM/JAYALLENSANFORD

hours and we made it work really well."

Foley won the part after a longtime friend, Lydia Sterling McLaughlin, was cast as one of the housewives for season eight. "I've known her since junior high, and we worked together on air at a TV station in Canada in college [NTV]," Foley said. "In this episode of *RHOC*, she is supposed to throw a party for the other housewives, and they needed a band. When they asked what band would play, she didn't hesitate in recommending me. She has come to see Skelpin and the Tim Foley Band many times."

He notes that, as most suspect, reality shows are not what they seem. "It's funny that it's called 'reality TV.' There is little that is real about it. The dialogue is not scripted, but the situations are sort of created and manipulated. So, there's a sense of it being

staged," he said. "Frankly, how real can you be when you are hooked up to a mic and you have a camera in your face? You always feel like you're 'on.' The cameras don't run the whole time. But the main

band playing. But we weren't allowed to play when the dialogue was going on for audio and continuity purposes. So, they would have us play a little here and there and then we'd stop.... They will go back and

Album" and a songwriting prize in that year's John Lennon Songwriting Contest, will continue.

In the meantime, the episode of *Real Housewives*, featuring the one-off appearance of Toca Toca, is set to air in March. "At one point I was pulled off to join in a dancing round where we started with one partner and switched," Foley laughed. "My friends were happy to know that I danced with each housewife. I think Gretchen and Tamara had the best moves. But, of course, my friend Lydia was the sweetest. Funny, I didn't know any of these people's names before this shoot.... I never watch the show or shows like it."

— Bart Mendoza

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

Chad Deal, Dave Good, Dorian Hargrove, Mary Leary, Ken Leighton, Bart Mendoza, Jay Allen Sanford, David Stampone



Tim Foley's real band is the Celtic-folk SDMA winners Skelpin.

characters are mic-ed and always being recorded, even if they aren't on camera. So, they really have to watch what they say."

He describes filming the scene as surreal. "They are supposed to be at this happening party with this live

dub in our music so it will seem like we were playing the whole time."

Though Foley hopes for some positive feedback from his appearance on the show, he confirms Skelpin, which won the 2010 San Diego Music Award for "Best World Music

<p>THURSDAY • DEC 20 DUBLIN MOB XXXMAS PARTY ROYAL CROWN REVUE STEPHEN REY AND THE SEX TRASH MISS ERIKA DAVIES HANDS DOWN SOUTH - FREE FOOD</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 21 END OF THE WORLD/CD RELEASE PARTY LOW VOLTS GRAND TARANTULA TWO WOLVES DIRTY SIRENS</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 22 MERRY MEXMAS EL VEZ • SCHITZOPHONICS ZOZO FIASCO</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 23 SOUL JAZZ X SOUL JAZZ</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 24 EXILE ON KETTNER BLVD.</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • DEC 26 TURQUOISE JEEP THA MAAD TRAY</p> <p>THURSDAY • DEC 27 LOUIS XIV • THE HOWLS BOY KING</p> <p>casbahtickets.com</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. • 232-4355</p> <p>FRIDAY • DEC 28 THE DONKEYS CUCKOO CHAOS TEENAGE BURRITOS</p> <p>SATURDAY • DEC 29 SWEET AND TENDER HOOLIGANS REALLY IDOL</p> <p>SUNDAY • DEC 30 SUITE BRIGITTE PRESENTS THE AMALGAMATED KARLOS PAEZ OF B-SIDE PLAYERS THE SOULFIRES STEVE HARRIS</p> <p>MONDAY • DEC 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH STEVE POLTZ AND FRIENDS</p> <p>Charge by phone: 888-512-7469</p>	<p>FRIDAY • JAN 4 UNCLE JOE'S BIG OL' DRIVER • FLUF BLACK HONDO GHETTO BLASTER</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • JAN 16 THE LONDON SOULS</p> <p>THURSDAY • JAN 17 HE'S MY BROTHER SHE'S MY SISTER KERA AND THE LESBIANS</p> <p>SATURDAY • JAN 19 CADILLAC TRAMPS THE CREEPY CREEPS • WIDOWS</p> <p>SATURDAY • JAN 26 OPERATION MINDBLOW PRESENTS WINTER'S WOMB WITH DEAD MEADOW</p> <p>SUNDAY • JAN 27 CODY CHESNUTT</p> <p>TUESDAY • JAN 29 NIKE AND THE DOVE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • JAN 30 GEOGRAPHER</p> <p>THURSDAY • JAN 31 NASHVILLE PUSSY</p> <p>SATURDAY • FEB 2 SMILE</p> <p>thecasbah.com</p>
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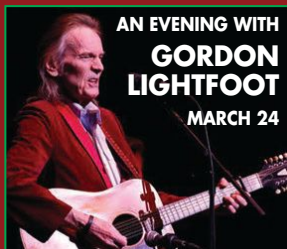
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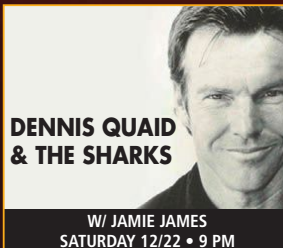
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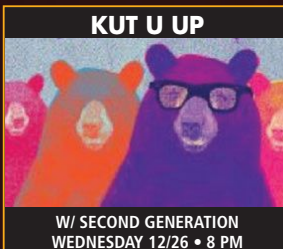
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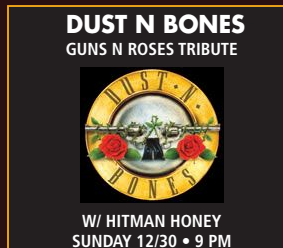
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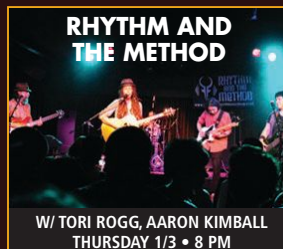
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- | | | |
|---|--|--|
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| 1/6 The Pettybreakers - Hurricane Sandy Benefit | 1/25 & 26 Ozomatli | 2/22 An Evening with Leftover Salmon |
| 1/9 Lucinda Williams - SOLD OUT! | 1/27 An Evening w/ Jorma Kaukonen of Hot Tuna - seated show | 2/26 The Residents |
| 1/11 & 12 The English Beat | 1/31 The Wood Brothers | 2/27 Galactic |
| 1/12 Sara Petite Album Release Show w/ Eve Selis and Lisa Sanders - Matinee | 2/1 & 2 Tristan Prettyman | 3/2 Super Diamond |
| 1/13 Steve Earle | 2/6 North Mississippi Allstars | 3/3 David Lindley w/ Carrie Rodriguez |
| 1/15 Tycho | 2/8 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers and Paul Thorn | 3/6 Mickey Hart Band |
| 1/16 Simpkin Project | 2/9 The Wailers | 3/12 Frightened Rabbit |
| 1/17 Femi Kuti and The Positive Force | 2/10 Tony Saruci as The Highwayman - tribute to Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, more | 3/18 Josh Ritter |
| 1/18 Dead Man's Party | 2/11 Dirty Dozen Brass Band | 3/21 Kenny Rogers |
| 1/19 Tower of Power | 2/15 Ra Ra Riot | 3/22 Bob Schneider |
| 1/23 Beer Fest w/ The Tilt - craft beer tasting | 2/16 Steve Poltz's Annual 50th Birthday Party w/ the Rugburns and Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket | 3/24 An Evening with Gordon Lightfoot |
| | | 4/5 An Evening with Big Head Todd & the Monsters |
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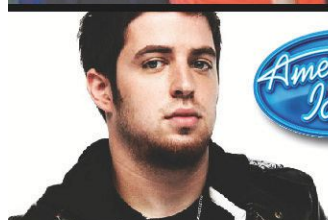
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“You can be really smart about the way you’re heavy or really cliché when you’re heavy.”

It’s hard to find people with the same idea of what heavy is,” says Tristan Shone, the industrial drone-doom one-man band Author & Punisher.

Drawing on his background in mechanical engineering and day job designing precision optical equipment at his alma mater — University of California, San Diego — Shone fabricates one-of-a-kind kinetic MIDI controllers that rely on force and momentum to create crushing Ableton-based noisescapes.

“There are a lot of ideas to what heavy is,” Shone says at his machine shop in Little Italy.

A stream of commercial jets skirt close overhead before touching down at Lindbergh Field. Amtrak locomotives churn south toward downtown.

The deafening, complex roar of urban movement finds kindred company in Shone’s homespun sound machines, which he prototypes on an automated wood router at the warehouse before taking his designs to metal.

“You can be really smart about the way you’re heavy or really cliché when you’re heavy. It’s not a one-liner.”

For Shone, that means climbing inside a futuristic apparatus made up of DIY “drone ma-

chines” with names such as “Throttles” (a dual-pitch controller with force feedback and autopilot capabilities) and “Rotary Encoder” (a 300-pound metal disc that controls pitch based on the speed at

which it is manually rotated) along with his more recently actualized “dub machines,” including “Rails” (a manual rhythm controller that

looks like a robotic arm) and “Headgear” (a faceplate containing eight isolated microphones).

A surreal mash-up of man and machine, Author & Punisher becomes more of a performance piece in endurance than your run-of-the-mill guy-punches-buttons routine.

“The drone machines are digital but analog in nature, like a hand tool or old machine-shop tools. They make more droning, slow, heavy movements. The dub machines were kind of a reaction to that and were made when I was learning to use automated fabrication machines. I wanted to have more dynamics. I like some elements of dub — not the commercial, over-the-top dubstep — but I wanted more dynamic, fast-paced bass with more articulation.”

The result can be heard on his recent full-length, *Ursus Americanus*, released in April via Portland-based Seventh Rule Recordings. The al-

MUSIC

CHAD DEAL



Author & Punisher Tristan Shone “playing” Mute, one of his musical masks. “Most of my machines are like 1930s technology — bearings, rods, and gears.”

bum, along with the video for single “Terrorbird” (which climaxes with Pinback guitarist Rob Crow spewing blood), have attracted a lot of attention n international blogs lately.

Despite the album’s diabolical temper, Shone says his music comes from a “very positive place.”

“I’m not a troubled human being. I don’t have any desire for pain and suffering. Doom metal is combining a feeling of devastation with a moment of emotional inspiration. It’s very positive. Either way, you give yourself to this overwhelming sound.”

Finding that sound has been a long process for Shone, who grew up playing piano and later performed as a solo metal act on guitar and loop pedals.

“With [the drone/dub] machines, using my whole body makes more sense. There’s music happening when I’m moving. That’s why I don’t use loops. Something may be spinning and there’s still sound, but when you just let go, everything stops. For me, it feels more organic, even though the music sounds inorganic. There’s a little bit of a paradox there.”

Despite his penchant for electronics, Shone

claims he isn’t your typical “tech guy.”

“Most of my machines are like 1930s technology — bearings, rods, gears. It’s just taken so long for people to consider the physicality of music. The thing about button-pushing is you can only see it from the user’s perspective. So, the question is: how can electronics companies make the performance aspect more visible?”

In the meantime, Shone continues to refine his craft while inventing new machines.

His most recent innovations — a series of five acoustic facemasks with names such as “Human Cud Bug,” “Blank Form,” and “Bass and Hiss” — made their debut at the La Jolla Athenaeum in March.

Looking like something out of a mechafetish bondage film, the masks were played by a roll call of San Diego noise artists, including Bobby Bray (the Locust, Innerds), Braden Diottie (Pinback, Tarantula Hawk), and Sam Lopez (Zsa Zsa Gabor).

Shone is currently recording his next EP (*Women & Children*), filming a video that showcases his masks, and planning for a three-week UK/Euro tour next March. ■



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	9pm	DETROIT UNDERGROUND (MOTOWN & DANCE)	
Saturday, Dec. 22	5pm	NEW BLUES REVOLUTION (BLUES)	
	9pm	THE PLEASURE BAND (DANCE)	
Sunday, Dec. 23	8pm	JASON BROWN (SMOOTH JAZZ)	
Monday, Dec. 24	7pm	DJ JOHN PHILLIPS (MC & DJ)	
Tuesday, Dec. 25	10am	AUBREY FAY JAZZ CHRISTMAS BRUNCH	
Wednesday, Dec. 26	7pm	RAY ANTHONY & QUARTER NOTE (JAZZ, R&B)	

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San Diego Reader

December 20, 2012

69

You can submit a listing, download mp3s, watch videos, subscribe to event alerts, get directions, and find more information about these shows online at SDReader.com/music.

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

710 Beach Club:

Friday, 9pm — Boomsnap's End of the World Party.
Saturday, 9pm — Arden Park Roots, Natural Heights, the Originalites.
Sunday, 8pm — Slower (acoustic Mower).

98 Bottles:

Thursday, 8pm — Ian Tordella. \$10-\$12.
Friday, 7pm — End of the World Acoustic Show. Free.

Anthology:

Thursday, 7pm, Friday, 7pm, Saturday, 7pm — Deck the Halls. \$5-\$10.
Sunday, 7pm, Sunday, 9pm — Hiroshima. \$16-\$39.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Beatles vs. Stones — A Musical Shoot Out. \$10-\$20.

ArtLab:

Saturday, 8pm — W.E.T. and Comfort in Chaos. \$5.
Wednesday, 8pm — Robin Henkel Band, Whitney Shay, Billy Watson. Free.

Bailey Wood Pit Barbecue:

Saturday, 8pm — Cadillac Wreckers. \$5.

Balboa Theatre:

Saturday, 8pm — A Peter White Christmas. \$45-\$75.

Bar Pink:

Thursday, 9pm — DJ Claire.
Friday, 9pm — The Styletones.
Saturday, 9pm — The Loons, Sidewalk Scene, Operation: Mindblow.
Sunday, 9pm — Happy Endings.
Wednesday, 9pm — H.A.M.

Beaumont's:

Thursday, 8pm — Allegra. Free.
Saturday, 9pm — Scott Carter & the New Breed. Free.
Sunday, 11:30am — Allegra. Free.

Belly Up:

Thursday, 8pm — The Venice Christmas Show. \$17-\$19.
Friday, 9pm — Dead Feather Moon. \$12-\$14.
Saturday, 9pm — Dennis Quaid and the Sharks. \$27-\$29.
Sunday, 3pm — The Mar Dels. \$9.
Sunday, 9pm — A Cash'd Out Christmas. \$16-\$18.
Wednesday, 8pm — Kut U Up. \$10-\$12.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 8pm — Joe Troutman & Midnight Starr's EDM. \$10.
Friday, 8pm — "End of the World Party 2012." Free.

Casbah:

Thursday — Dublin Mob Holiday Party.
Saturday, 8:30pm — El Vez. \$15.
Sunday, 8:30pm — X. \$35.
Monday, 9pm — Exile on Kettner Boulevard. Free.
Wednesday, 8:30pm — Turquoise Jeep. \$12-\$14.

Ché Café:

Thursday, 8pm — Everything Is Terrible! Holiday Special. \$7.
Friday, 3:30pm — Japandi. \$7.

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

They were new last year: the San Pedro el Cortez band, home-based in Tijuana, where there is currently a resurgence of rock bands that follow different camps: shoegaze, psych, British mod, American garage. SPeC fit into none of the above and all of the above. Their approach to music mirrors my approach to cooking. I throw stuff together. No recipe. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. But, the ride is always interesting. Likewise, San Pedro el Cortez steps outside the rock-and-roll cookbook. The elements are not unusual, but the combinations are unexpected. "Ratas," for example, is driving acoustic guitar not unlike Neil Diamond, but minus his voice. You could almost lay the vocal track to "Cherry, Cherry" (Diamond's 1967 hit)

over "Ratas," but instead, SPeC gives us weird Iggy Pop.

On Freemusicarchive.org, it is suggested by the band members that the source of such musical bedlam may well be their neighborhood: "Coming from the absurd, chaotic, and dirty things of the daily life creates a state of mental sickness that influences the sound we transmit."

KCRW radio once catalogued San Pedro el Cortez as "psychedelic regional Mexican rock." I think the word psychedelic is loosely used here to describe what is: in essence, a bizzaro mix of song styles that sound as if informed by Black Flag, blink-182, Dwight Yoakam, Roots Covenant, Deadbolt, and sources unknown. In the band's own words from Myspace: "Taking a month to develop this concept and with very little budget we tried to give all the possible way, so [it] can be digested by the people who listen to it, considering that we do not have much with the band but yes to the idea of contributing something to a audi-



SAN PEDRO EL CORTEZ

ence." Sure, their English isn't so good — they often sing in Spanish — but you don't have to speak the language to enjoy SPeC. The message of rock is universal.

Sixties Guns and **Legs** also perform.

SAN PEDRO EL CORTEZ: Soda Bar, Wednesday, December 26, 8 p.m. 619-255-7224. Free.

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

Copley Symphony Hall:

Friday, 8pm, Saturday, 8pm, Saturday, 2pm — Holiday Pops: A Celtic Celebration. \$20-\$85.
Sunday, 2pm — Holiday Pops. \$10-\$15.
Sunday, 7:30pm — Holiday Pops: A Celtic Celebration. \$20-\$85.

Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Saturday Night Jazz with the Full House Band. \$5.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Clay Colton Band.
Friday, 6pm — Smokestaxx. Free.
Saturday, 6pm — B.I.G.
Sunday, 5pm — Smoketet.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 9pm — Nemesis.
Saturday — Zone 4.

Dizzy's:

Saturday, 8pm — Besos de Coco. \$10-\$15.

Eleven:

Thursday, 9pm — White Night, the Dirty Legs, Hugh Noble. \$5.
Friday, 9pm — Privet, St. Cloud Sleepers, Buddy Banter. \$5.
Saturday, 9pm — Behind the Wagon. \$7.
Monday, 9pm — Toothless George. \$3.

Flame:

Saturday, 9pm — Deeply Rooted. \$5.

Flying Elephant:

Friday, 8pm — Shake Before Us.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill:

Thursday, 8pm — JAM Kwest.
Friday, 8pm — End of the World Party.
Saturday, 9pm — The Drinking Cowboy Band. Free.
Wednesdays, 9pm — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.

Griffin:

Thursday, 8pm — Red Matter.
Friday, 8pm — Knights of Neon.

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\$10.
Saturday, 9pm — Oceanside Sound System. \$8-\$10.
Sunday, 7pm — Days to Change and Black Water Soul. \$7.
Wednesday — Cherub.

House of Blues:
Friday, 8pm — Kinky. \$20-\$32.
Saturday, 8:30pm — British Invasion Christmas Tributes to: The Beatles, Elton John, Billy Idol, and Elvis Costello.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:
Thursday, 8:30pm — West of 5. \$5-\$10.
Friday, 8pm — Detroit Underground. \$12.
Saturday — New Blues Revolution and Rockola.
Sunday, 8pm — Jason Brown. \$12.
Wednesday, 7pm — Ray Anthony Brown & Quarter Note. \$5.

Lestat's Coffee House:
Friday, 5:30pm — World Go Boom Show. \$5.

Molly Malone's:
Friday, 9pm — Outta Line.

Pala Casino:
Friday, 9pm — Siren's Crush.
Saturday, 7pm — Steven Ma and Peggy Liu Chinese Christmas Show. \$58-\$75.
Saturday, 8pm — Moving Pictures: A Tribute to Rush. **Free.**

Patrick's Gaslamp Pub:
Thursday, 9pm — Bill Magee Blues Band.
Saturday, 9pm — 145th Street.
Sunday, 9pm — Mystique Element of Soul.
Wednesday, 9pm — Bill Magee Blues Band.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Friday, 7pm — Malaki. \$10.

Rebecca's Coffee House:
Saturday, 7pm — Jim Earp's Acoustic Friends. **Free.**

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:
Friday, 8pm — Robert Edwards & Cottonmouth.
Saturday, 8pm — Fire Eaters.
Tuesday, 8pm — Supertasty.
Wednesday, 8pm — Kice Simko and Friends.

Ruby Room:
Thursday, 8pm — The Brothers Gow, Superunloader, Chill Clinton.
Friday — End of the World Party.
Saturday, 9:45pm — Christmas Chaos XI.
Sunday, 8pm — Ed Ghost Tucker, LeAnna May & the Matadors.

Shakedown Bar:
Thursday — Mondo Generator.
Friday — Low Life Sound System.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — Gloomday, Wha?, Black Hondo, Ana. \$3-\$5.
Friday, 9pm — The Burning of Rome. \$7.
Saturday, 8pm — Japandi, Cuckoo Chaos, Gothic Tropic. \$10.
Sunday, 9pm — Mini Death, Dream Buddies, Shiva Trash. **Free.**
Wednesday, 8pm — San Pedro El Cortez. **Free.**
Soma:
Thursday, 6pm — Winds of Plague, As Blood Runs Black,

XIBALBA. \$13.
Friday, 5:30pm — Carnifex, Adestria, Oh, Guardian. \$10.

Stage Rock Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Van Roth. **Free.**
Friday, 10:30pm — The Disco Pimps.
Saturday — Fingerbang.
Monday, 10pm — Reggae Party.
Tuesday, 9pm — Seismas 2012. **Free.**
Tuesday, 10pm — DJ Von Kiss.
Wednesday, 7pm — Mark Fisher & Gaslamp Guitars and Bl3ndr.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
Saturday, 7pm — "Blue Christmas: An Evening of Jazz and Art." \$25.

Temple Adat Shalom:
Sunday, 2pm — "An Afternoon of Jewish Music." \$18.

Tin Can Ale House:
Thursday, 9pm — Gift Curse, Elektric Monk, Pleasure Fix. \$5.
Friday, 9pm — Sleep Lady, Spirit Vine, Dignitary Loss. \$5.
Saturday, 9pm — Grampadrew. \$5.
Wednesday, 9pm — Jarrett Killen and Atlas House.

Tio Leo's:
Thursday, 8pm — Roni Lee.
Friday, 9pm — The Ballad Mongers.
Saturday, 9pm — The Silver Spurs.
Wednesday, 7pm — Zydeco Patrol.

Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House:
Saturday, 7pm — Sounds of Brasil at Upstart Crow. **Free.**

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Valley View Casino Center:
Saturday, 7am — Dr. Pheelgood
at Kobey's Swapmeet. **Free.**

Winstons:
Thursday, 9pm — Destructo
Bunny, Neo Pangea, the Jefferson
Jay Band. **Free.**
Friday, 9pm — Natural
Vibrations and Ezzrah. \$12-\$15.
Saturday, 9pm — Cubensis. \$10.
Sunday, 10pm — Jose Sinatra
presents OB-o-ke. \$1.
Monday, 9pm — The Electric
Waste Band. \$5.
Wednesday, 9pm — Raggabond
and Roots High Power Sound
System. **Free.**

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Friday, 6pm — Winter Solstice
2012 Celebration: New
Beginnings! **Free.**

**UPCOMING
SHOWS**

710 Beach Club: 710 Garnet
Ave., Pacific Beach, 858-483-
7844.
December 28 — Buck-O-Nine
and Bucket of Fish.
December 29 — Zig Zag Jones.

98 Bottles: 2400 Kettner Bl.,
Little Italy, 619-255-7885.
December 31 — Steph Johnson.

AMSDeconcerts: 4650
Mansfield St., Normal Heights,
619-303-8176.
December 29 — Peter Rowan.

Andaz San Diego: 600 F St.,
Downtown San Diego, 619-849-
1234.
December 31 — DJs Drop the
Lime and Grum.

Anthology: 1337 India St., Little
Italy, 877-828-0891.
December 27 — Lee DeWyze.
December 28 — Wizards of the
Harp.
December 28 — The Manny
Cepeda Orchestra.
December 29 — Dazz Band.
December 30 — Anthology
House Band.

Balboa Theatre: 868 Fourth
Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-
570-1100.
December 27 — An Evening with
Primus 3D. .

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

**The Only Place
Best Coast**

By Ryu Miyauchi

Bethany Cosentino
of Best Coast dubbed
herself "Bratty B"
for her rowdy-yet-
sweet debut, *Crazy
for You*. She wrote
catchy teen love
songs that included
her cat, Snacks, and
a bunch of weed.
But she got over all
of that and grew
up on Best Coast's
sophomore record.

The band's
previous California-
dreaming guitar-
fuzz tunes are now
arranged cleaner
into '70s pop rock.

Although Cosentino still
sings her problems in
simple rhyme, the song-
writing on *The Only Place*
is stronger. She doesn't
rely on one-liners as she
shares subjects such as
regret ("My Life"), deal-
ing with distance ("Up All
Night"), and even criti-
cism ("How They Want Me to Be").

Without the fuzz covering her voice, Cosen-
tino displays her vocals with more confidence.
She tries out ballads as much as fun pop, and
the singer's knack for hooks is still present,
providing catchy, melodic lines with each song.

It's as inviting to sing along with as the
previous record, but *The Only Place* is shot
through with stress and gloom. Through thick
and thin, Best Coast progresses from bedroom-
writing to stage-ready presence.



Catchy pop shot through
with stress and gloom

Music Reviews from Our Readers

**Yell like hell to
the heavens**

By Michael Caldwell

Japandroids guitarist/
vocalist Brian King
cast electrified chords
to the night sky over
Porter's Pub. As the
last blast drifted on
the wind, the ample
crowd applauded.
King beamed, "Based
on your reaction to
my noodling, I know
you guys are going to
be great."

The duo of King
and drummer/vocalist
David Prowse opened
with "Adrenaline
Nightshift," a cut
from their latest

release, *Celebration
Rock*. It was energetic but
ragged. King confessed to
some kinks and promised
improved proceedings.

The duo's garage-rock
anthems struck a chord
with the crowd. Their
energy transcended to the
portion of fans outside in the beer garden. Lyrics
like "We yell like hell to the heavens!" from "The
Nights of Wine and Roses" were particularly well
received.

Nothing could dampen the duo's apparent
affection for one another and their upbeat stage
presence. Fans displayed their appreciation with
stage-diving and some stylish crowd-surfing.



Celebration rock

Concert: Japandroids

Venue: Porter's Pub

Date: November 10

Seats: General

Up to \$100 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic

Bar Pink: 3829 30th St., North
Park, 619-564-7194.
December 27 — Fam Royal.
December 28 — Bonkers!
December 30 — Happy Endings.
December 31 — New Year's Eve
Neon Beat.

Beaumont's: 5662 La Jolla Bl.,
La Jolla, 858-459-0474.
December 28 — Cougar Canyon
Band.
December 31 — New Year's Eve
Party with Cash'd Out.

Belly Up: 143 South Cedros
Ave., Solana Beach, 858-481-
8140.
December 27 — Cracker and
Camper Van Beethoven.
December 28 — The Aggrolites.
December 29 — Vokab
Kompany.
December 30 — Dust N' Bones
(Gn'R tribute), Hitman Honey.
December 31 — Reverend
Horton Heat.
January 3 — Rhythm and the
Method, Tori Rogg, Aaron

Kimball.
January 4 — Pato Banton.
January 5 — Beat Farmers
Hootenany.
January 6 — A Benefit for
Victims of Superstorm Sandy
with the PettyBreakers.
January 9 — Lucinda Williams.
January 11, January 12 — The
English Beat.
January 13 — Steve Earle.

Belo: 919 Fourth Ave.,
Downtown San Diego, 619-231-
9200.
December 31 — Masquerade Ball
with Z90.3.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:
5627 La Jolla Bl., La Jolla, 858-
551-1707.
January 12 — Robin Henkel.

Block 16 Union & Spirits: 334
7th Ave., Downtown San Diego,
619-501-4600.
December 31 — Finest City New
Year.

Boar Cross'n: 390 Grand Ave.,
Carlsbad, 760-729-2989.
December 27 — Cordova.
December 29 — Soul Maladay
and Todo Mundo.
January 3 — Inberst (final show).
January 5 — New Shoes Old
Socks.

Brick by Brick: 1130 Buenos
Ave., Linda Vista, 619-275-5483.
December 29 — Mandy Lion,
Rammoth, Sinner's Rage.
January 5 — The Cured.

Brick+Mortar: 820 Fifth Ave.,
in the Keating Hotel, Downtown
San Diego.
December 31 — Brick+Mortar
NYE.

**California Center for the
Arts, Escondido:** 340 North
Escondido Bl., Escondido, 760-
839-4138.
January 6 — Pablo Sáinz Villegas.

The Casbah: 2501 Kettner Bl.,
Little Italy, 619-232-4355.
December 27 — Louis XIV.
December 28 — The Donkeys,
Cuckoo Chaos, Teenage Burritos.
December 29 — Sweet & Tender
Hooligans.
December 31 — New Year's
Party.
January 5 — Gone Baby Gone
and Schitzophonics.

Catamaran Resort: 3999
Mission Bl., Pacific Beach, 858-
539-8635.
December 31 — New Year's Eve
Beach Party.

Ché Café: 9500 Gilman Dr.,
UCSD, 858-534-2311.
December 27 — Kids, Tough
Stuff, Twin Cabins.
January 5 — Tan Sister Radio.
January 12 — Wild Wild Wets.

College Rocks: 6195 University
Ave., College Area, 619-544-
1177.
December 31 — 18+ New Year's
2013.

**Conrad Prebys Music Center
at UCSD:** Russell Lane at
Gilman Dr., La Jolla.
January 15 — Camera Lucida #4.

Copley Symphony Hall: 750
B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-
235-0804.
January 1 — New Year's Concert.
January 11, January 12, January
13 — Mendelssohn's Violin
Concerto.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: 300
Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad,
760-729-4695.
December 27 — Clay Colton
Band.
December 28 — Slower.
December 29 — Zydeco Blues

Patrol.
December 30 — Bill Magee.

Crowne Plaza Hotel: 2270
Hotel Circle North, Mission
Valley, 619-297-1101.
December 31 — Black & White
Bash Party.

Dirk's Niteclub: 7662
Broadway, Lemon Grove, 619-
469-6344.
December 28 — Rhythm Red.
December 29 — Hitman Honey.

Dizzy's: 4275 Mission Bay Drive
(in the showroom at San Diego
Jet Ski Rentals), Pacific Beach,
858-270-7467.
December 28 — David Negrete
Quartet.
December 29 — Gilbert
Castellanos.
December 30 — The All Stars
Quartet featuring Mundell Lowe.

El Cajon Brewing Company:
110 N. Magnolia, El Cajon, 619-
873-0221.
January 16 — Robin Henkel
Blues Trio.

Eleven: 3519 El Cajon Bl., City
Heights, 619-450-4292.
December 27 — D. Pel and Little
Fowl.
December 28 — Age of Collapse,
Among the Enemy, Sculptins.

Gallagher's
WATCH YOUR
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TRC**
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DJ REEFAH
DEC LINEUP
6th
TRIBAL
THEORY
POP/REGGAE/SCA
13th
KAHILOFA
ISLAND/ROOTS
20th
JAM KWEST
REGGAE/SAMBA/SOUL
27th
HAZMATT
ROOTS/ROCK/DUB/PUNK
\$3 UNION JACK
ALL NITE LONG

**CALIFORNIA
CELTS**
CELTIC/PUNK/ROCK
DJ CHELU

**CHI
CLUB**
FUNK/JAM/ROCK
DJ R2

**END
OF
THE
WORLD
PARTY**
21

**MELLY
FRANCES**
BLUES/FOLK/ROOTS
DJ LYA

STYLETONES
FUNK/R&B/SOUL
DJ R2

DAN CURCIO
(OF STILL TIME)
1ST SHOW AS
MOONSHINER
DJ CHELU

COUNTRY XMAS
22
DRINKING
COWBOY
BAND
DJ CHELU

UFC 155
29
ALMOST
ISLANDERS
DJ CHELU

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December 29 — Joy, Slipping Into Darkness, Tar Halos.

Encinitas Library: 540 Cornish Dr., Encinitas, 760-753-7376.
January 6 — Peter Sprague and Camarada.

Escondido Public Library: ..
January 12 — The Orvieto Piano Trio (2nd Saturday Concert Series).

First Christian Church of Oceanside: 204 South Freeman St., Oceanside, 760-722-8522.
January 13 — Jazz Tribute to Joe Pass with Frank Potenza, Mundell Lowe, Rob Thorsen.

Flame: 3780 Park Bl., Hillcrest, 619-546-4642.
January 5 — Elektrofie.
January 19 — MayStar's Diamond Dust.

Fluxx: 500 Fourth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-232-8100.
December 31 — New Year's Eve Champagne Ball.

Flying Elephant: 850 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, 760-434-2660.
December 28 — Pass the Axe.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: 5046 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach, 619-222-5300.
December 27 — Hazmatt.
December 28 — Melly Frances.
December 29 — Almost Islanders.
December 31 — Champagne Showers.

The Griffin: 1310 Morena Bl., Linda Vista, 619-684-1816.
December 28 — Spawnbreezie.
December 29 — King Legend and Euphoria Brass Band.
December 30 — Caxton.

December 31 — Dirty Sweet.
January 5 — Jamar Rogers.

Hard Rock Hotel: 207 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 866-751-7625.
December 31 — Eventvibe.com Presents NYE 2013.

House of Blues: 1055 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-299-2583.
December 27 — Zeds Dead.
December 28, December 29 — Reblution.
January 3, January 4, January 5 — Social Distortion.
January 8 — Sum 41.
January 8 — ListenLocalSD.com Showcase with Wookie Garcia.
January 13 — Keane.
January 15 — Social Distortion.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: 2241 Shelter Island Dr., Shelter Island, 619-224-3577.
December 27 — Ruby & the Red Hots.
December 28 — The Steely Damned.
December 29 — The Mighty Untouchables.
December 30 — Fattburger.
December 31 — Betamaxx.

Ivy Nightclub: 600 F St., in the Andaz hotel, Downtown San Diego, 619-814-2055.
December 31 — Ivy NYE.

The Jumping Turtle: 1660 Capalina Rd., San Marcos, 760-471-7778.
January 12 — The Toven.

The Kava Lounge: 2812 Kettner Bl., Little Italy, 619-543-0933.
January 18 — Cannibal Ox, Double A.B., Kenyatta Black, Conspiracy Theorists.

Kon Tiki Ballroom, Catamaran Hotel, 3999 Mission Blvd: ..
January 3 — Songs of the Soul.

LOUNGESix: 616 J St., Fourth floor, Downtown San Diego, 619-531-8744.
December 31 — New Year's Eve Celebration.

La Costa Coffee Roasting: 6965 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, 760-438-8160.
December 29 — Mike Gardner.
January 4 — Tony Taravella.

Lafayette Hotel & Suites: 2223 El Cajon Bl., University Heights, 619-296-2101.
December 31 — Little Hurricane, Get Back Loretta, Blackout Party, the Creepy Creeps.


Lestat's Coffee House: 3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.
December 30 — Ramekega, the Flowerthief, Christine Parker.
January 27 — Robin Henkel Band with Whitney Shay.

Manhattan Cocktail Lounge: 400 Broadway, Chula Vista, 619-422-6641.
January 11, January 12 — Windy City.

Molly Malone's: 1270 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-9050.
December 28 — Safety Orange.

Museum of Making Music: 5790 Armada Dr., Carlsbad, 760-438-5996.
January 12 — David Borgo Quartet.

The Musicians Union Hall: 1717 Morena Bl., Bay Park, 619-229-1610.
December 31 — New Year's Eve at Rick's Cafe Americain.




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THU DEC 20	WHITE NIGHT (SAN PEDRO) THE DIRTY LEGS • HUGH NOBLE MANDARIN DYNASTY • 9PM
FRI DEC 21	BUDDY BANTER • WITNESS 9 • PRIVET ST. CLOUD SLEEPERS • 9PM END OF THE WORLD SHOW!!!
SAT DEC 22	DROP DEAD DAMES BURLESQUE REVUE BEHIND THE WAGON • 9PM • \$7 HOLIDAY BENEFIT FOR FACE FOUNDATION. HTTP://FACE4PETS.ORG/
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MON DEC 24	THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE WITH TOOTHLESS GEORGE • +TBA • 9PM
TUE DEC 25	CHRISTMAS!

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SUNDAY, 12.23 NSD PRESENTS DAYS TO CHANGE BLACK WATER SOUL, LITTLE RED LUNG	WEDNESDAY, 12.26 BLN OWL CHERUB PAL&DROME, ADAM SALTER, CAMRON	SATURDAY, 12.29 EUPHORIA BRASS BAND KING LEGEND
MONDAY, 12.31 NEW YEARS EVE DIRTY SWEET GRAND TARANTULA, DEADLY BIRDS	WEDNESDAY, 1.2 THE SHORT EYES THE DULL DRUM, TREEMOTEL	FRIDAY, 1.4 SANDOLLAR, KNG MKR
SATURDAY, 1.5 JAMAR ROGERS WESTERN SCENE, THE YOUNG ROMANS	THURSDAY, 1.10 RED WANTING BLUE THE DARROWS	SATURDAY, 1.19 TUMBLEWEED WANDERERS MAD TRAFFIC
SUNDAY, 1.20 GEMINI CLUB SOCIAL CLUB	TUESDAY, 1.22 EARPHUNK BROTHERS GOW	THURSDAY, 1.24 PASSAFIRE SEEDLESS, REEFORM
THURSDAY, 1.31 9IX'S NEXT BIG THING THE PARLOTONES THE NEW KINETICS, IRONTOM	FRIDAY, 2.1 SHWAYZE	SUNDAY, 2.3 AUGUSTANA (ACOUSTIC) LAUREN SHERA
FRIDAY, 2.8 MICAH BROWN KATASTRO, MERGENCE	EST. 2011 THE GRIFFIN	SATURDAY, 2.16 THE SALVADOR SANTANA BAND

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thecomedystore.com
Must be 21 - All shows 2-drink minimum

Onyx/Thin: 852 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-235-6699.
December 31 — New Year’s Extravaganza.

Pala Casino: 35008 Pala Temecula Rd., Pala, 877-946-7252.
December 29 — Help!
December 31 — Pop Vinyl.

Patrick’s Gaslamp Pub: 428 F St., Downtown San Diego, 619-233-3077.
December 27 — Missy Andersen.
December 28 — Myron & the Kyniptionz.
December 29 — Johnny Vernazza.
December 31 — Mystique Element of Soul.

Pechanga Resort & Casino: 45000 Pechanga Parkway, Temecula, 951-693-1819.
December 29 — Air Supply.
January 5 — Creedence Clearwater Revisited.

Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier: 1000 North Harbor Dr., Downtown San Diego.
December 31 — NYE 2013 Concert.

Prospect Bar & Lounge: 1025 Prospect St., Suite 210, La Jolla, 858-454-8092.
December 31 — NYE 2013.

Queen Bee’s Art & Cultural Center: 3925 Ohio St., North Park, 619-255-5147.
December 31 — Uptown Get Down.

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

January 12 — Jack Russell’s Great White.

Rancho Bernardo Library : 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo, 858-538-8163.
January 9 — Gilbert Castellanos.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: 7777 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-713-6777.

December 27 — Adams & Eves.
December 28 — Devil’s Due.
December 29 — Secret Samurai.
December 31 — New Year’s Eve Party.

Ruby Room: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
December 27 — Pyrate Punx.
December 31 — Geezer, Slaves Against the Machine, Red Not Chili Peppers.

San Diego Civic Theatre: 1100 Third Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-570-1100.
January 4, January 5, January 6, January 6 — Rain — A Tribute To The Beatles.

The Shakedown Bar: 3048 Midway Dr., Midway District, 619-487-0373.
December 28 — Duane Peters & the Hunns, Dime Runner, PSO & the Code 7’s.
December 29 — Prima Donna, the Darlings, Oddball.
December 31 — New Years Eve Bash with D.P.I., the Hang Zeros, Six Cents, Spreading Evictions.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Bl., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
December 27 — Kera & the Lesbians.
December 28 — The Loons and Sidewalk Scene.
December 29 — Zongo Junction.

December 30 — DJ Mustard, DJ Beatnick, Cali Cam, DJ Dead Serious.
December 31 — New Year’s Eve with New Mexico, Wild Wild Wets, Bruin.

Soma: 3350 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-226-7662.
December 29 — Gates, Overboard Farewell, Lightning Starts Fire.

Space 4 Art: 325 15th St., East Village, 619-269-7230.
January 10 — Duo ICP (Han Bennink & Mary Oliver) with Mark Dresser.

Spin Nightclub: 2028 Hancock St., Midway District, 619-294-9590.
December 31 — Wobble NYE Ball.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-696-9436.
December 27 — Van Roth.
December 28 — The Disco Pimps.
December 29 — Fingerbang.
January 1 — DJ Von Kiss.
January 2 — Mark Fisher & Gaslamp Guitars and Bl3ndr.

Tango Del Rey: 3567 Del Rey St., Pacific Beach, 858-794-9044.
December 28 — Áfrojazziacs, Dornob, Los Bandaritos.
December 31 — Loco Disco.

Tin Can Ale House: 1863 Fifth Ave., Bankers Hill, 619-955-8525.
December 27 — Lozen and Tacos!
December 28 — Down Big, Just Like Jenna, Someday Assassin.
December 29 — Black Cassette and Duping the Public.
December 31 — Gary Hankins, Mike Pope, Jimmy Ruelas.

Tio Leo’s: 5302 Napa St., Linda Vista, 619-542-1462.
December 27 — Nathan James & the Rhythm Scratchers.
December 28 — Pleazure.

Upstart Crow Bookshop and Coffee House: 835 West Harbor Dr., Downtown San Diego, 619-232-4855.

December 29 — The Pizarro Brothers.

VFW Post #3788: 7785 Othello Ave., Kearny Mesa, 858-277-5510.
December 28 — Cowboy Angels.
December 29 — Calico Ridge.

Valley View Casino Center: 3500 Sports Arena Bl., Midway District, 619-224-4171.
December 30 — OMFG! NYE 2013 with Audrey Napoleon, Calvin Harris, and more.

Voyeur: 755 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-756-7678.
December 31 — TJR and Brazzabelle.

W San Diego: 421 West B St., Downtown San Diego, 619-398-3100.
December 31 — Black & White Ball.

The Westgate Hotel: 1055 Second Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-238-1818.
December 31 — New Year’s Eve Great Gatsby Night.

Whiskey Girl: 702 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-236-1616.
December 31 — New Year’s Eve Buffet, Champagne Dinner & Afterparty.

Winstons: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
December 27 — Turkuaz.
December 28 — Jet West, Project Out of Bounds, the Room Downstairs.
December 29 — C-Money & the Players Inc. and Agent 22 (members of Slightly Stoopid).
December 30 — Jose Sinatra presents OB-o-ke.
December 31 — The Electric Waste Band.

Zel’s Del Mar: 1247 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, 858-755-0076.
December 29 — Robin Henkel.
January 12, January 26 — Robin Henkel.

HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/drinks

ALLIED GARDENS

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

ALPINE

Donato’s Italian Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$3 glass Bud Light, \$6 pitcher; \$3.50 house wine.

BALBOA PARK

The Prado: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: \$4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, mixed drinks.

BANKERS HILL

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Cafe: *Tuesday-Friday*, 5-7pm: \$5 glass of wine or sangria, \$20 carafe of sangria. \$3 bottles of craft beer. \$6 salads and starters.

BAY PARK

The High Dive: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday*, 3-6pm: \$2 off Local San Diego Craft Beers. \$1 off House Wine by the Glass. *Thursday*, 3-6pm: \$2 off Local San Diego Craft Beers. \$1 off House Wine by the Glass..

BONITA

Villa Capri: *Wednesday*, 4-7pm: Half-off bottles of wine.

CARDIFF

Chart House: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6:30pm: \$4 wells, drafts. \$5 cocktails, wine. \$6 martinis. \$4 spinach & artichoke dip, \$5 firecracker shrimp, \$6 wood-fired pizzas.

CARLSBAD

The Alley: *Daily*, 11am-7pm: \$2.75 wells, domestics.

On the Tracks Brewery and Tasting Room: *Thursday*, 5-7pm: Ladies, \$3 pints.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Conway’s Irish Pub: *Daily*, 10am-8pm: \$2.75 domestic drafts and bottles; \$2.75 and \$3.75 wells.

OGGI’s Pizza & Brewing Co.: *Monday-Friday*, 11am-2pm: \$3 house microbrews.

CARMEL VALLEY

Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar: *Daily*, 4-6pm: \$2 off drinks. 1/2-off seasonal spreads and pizzas. Excludes special events and promotional nights.

CHULA VISTA

Achiote Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$1 beer, \$3.99 margaritas.

CITY HEIGHTS

Eleven: *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

The Tower Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$3 wells and import drafts.

CLAIREMONT

Blarney Stone Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$.50 off all drinks.

Bullpen Bar and Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 2-6pm: \$2 wells, domestics. \$5 double cheeseburger, chili-cheese dog, hot wings. (Monday & Tuesday, 10pm-close: \$3 you-call-its, \$5 Patrón, cognac, specialty drinks.)

COLLEGE AREA

Pal Joey’s: *Monday*, 4:30 to 6:30pm: Karaoke 9m. *Tuesday*, 4:30 to 6:30pm: \$2 Tuesdays. *Wednesday*, 4:30 to 6:30pm: \$3.50 personal pitchers. Karaoke 9m. *Thursday-Friday*, 4:30 to 6:30pm: \$3.50 personal pitchers. *Saturday*, Karaoke 9m. *Sunday*, \$7 domestic pitchers.

CORONADO

Brigantine: *Monday-Friday, Sunday*, 3-6pm: \$4 Brig brew, Dos Equis. \$4.75 margarita, \$5.50 chardonnay, \$6 merlots, \$1 off featured wine. Discounted tacos, shrimp, oysters.

Village Pizzeria: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm, 9pm-close: \$3.50 drafts, \$5 wine by the glass. \$2 off artichoke hearts and mozzarella sticks.

Yummy Sushi: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3 pints, \$4 large hot sake. 20-50% off appetizers.

DEL MAR

Pacifica del Mar: *Wednesday*, 4-6:30pm: \$6 vodkas and gins. Oyster night: oysters on the 1/2 shell and oyster shooters. *Thursday*, 4-6:30pm: 1/2-price on all bottles of wine.

Zel’s Del Mar: *Daily*, 4-6:30pm: \$1 off drafts & premium drinks, \$2 off wines by glass, \$3.50 wells. \$4 fried calamari, \$5 fish tacos, \$10 burger & beer.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

Bice: *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$5 house wine, wells. \$5 lobster pizza, tuna tartare.

Dublin Square: *Daily*, 2-5pm: \$2 off drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off sliders, fish tacos, meat pies.

La Gran Tapa: *Daily*, 5-6:30pm: \$3 artisan drafts, \$4 wines. \$3 marinated mushrooms, bread/dipping sauces; \$4 salad, frittata.

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

Patrick’s Gaslamp Pub: *Daily*, 10am-8pm; 11pm-close: domestics from \$2.50, wells from \$3.25.

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

Yard House: *Monday-Wednesday*, 3-6pm & 10pm-close: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis. 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. *Thursday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis. 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more. *Sunday*, 10pm-close: \$3.50 domestic pints; \$6.25 martinis. 1/2-off select pizza, appetizers, and more.

EAST VILLAGE

Basic Urban Kitchen and Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: \$4 keg beers; \$5 liquor, house wine. Free pizza samples.

El Dorado Cocktail Lounge: *Monday-Thursday, Saturday-Sunday*, 7-9pm: \$5 menu cocktails. *Friday*, 5-9pm: \$5 menu cocktails.

Hotel Indigo: *Monday*, all night: \$5 margaritas. *Tuesday, Friday*, 4-7pm: \$5 domestic & bottled beer, wells, select wines. *Wednesday*, 4-7pm: 1/2-off specialty cocktails. *Thursday*, 4-7pm: 1/2-off bottles of wine, champagne. *Saturday-Sunday*, all day: \$5 mimosas, bloody marys.

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Monkey Paw: *Daily, 5-8pm:* \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

EASTLAKE

Chili's: *Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3pm-close:* \$1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese.

EL CAJON

Main Tap Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$1 off 16-oz. pints, \$2 off pitchers, \$3.50 wells.

ENCINITAS

Union Kitchen & Tap: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$2 off craft cocktails; \$4 drafts, \$6 select wine glasses. \$9 flatbreads.

ESCONDIDO

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: *Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm:* \$6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; \$4.50 wells. *Saturday, noon-5pm:* \$6 wine, tapas, premium and eclectic beer; \$4.50 wells.

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 beer/wine/spirits. \$5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links + chips.

GRANTVILLE

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

HARBOR ISLAND

C-Level: *Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm:* \$4 brews, \$5 specialty drinks.

HILLCREST

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio: *Monday, 4pm-6:30pm.* 1/2 off Wine Bottles. *Tuesday, 4pm-6:30pm.* *Wednesday, 4pm-6:30pm.* All martinis 1/2 off. Live Music. *Thursday-Friday, 4pm-6:30pm.* Live Music. *Saturday, Brunch 9am-2pm;\$2 Mimosas.* Live Music. *4pm-6:30pm.* *Sunday, Brunch 9am-2pm;\$2 Mimosas.* *4pm-6:30pm.*

IMPERIAL BEACH

The Salty Frog: *Tuesday, 6-10pm:* "Toss it Tuesday" — each drink has 50/50 chance of costing a quarter.

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THURSDAY
Bass Tribe
Future bass/dubstep/trap

FRIDAY
Disco Pimps @11pm

SATURDAY
FingerBang @9pm
Hair Rock Cover Band
DJ Miss Dust @10:30pm

SUNDAY
Trance DJs

MONDAY
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Thursday-Saturday, 9pm-close: \$5 Jäger bombs and Fireball shots. *Sunday, 1-9pm:* \$4 bloody mary bar; \$3 Smirnoff flavors.

KEARNY MESA

Pampas Argentine Grill: *Tuesday-Saturday, 4:30-7pm:* \$3 wells, \$4 wine special, \$15 sangria/mojito pitcher.

KENSINGTON

Til-Two: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$3 wells and imported drafts.

LA JOLLA

Bull and Bear Bar and Grill: *Daily, 10pm-2am:* \$1 off all beer, \$2 off all wine; \$5 wells.

La Jolla Brew House: *Friday-Saturday, 10pm-1am:* \$2 Off Pints; \$3 Wells & Wines; Buy Any Pizza Get One Free.

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

LA MESA

Anthony's Fish Grotto: *Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm:* \$3 draft, Anthony's white; \$4 wells, \$5 calls. \$2.75 fish tacos, \$3 lettuce wraps, \$4.50 tostado.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6pm & 9pm-close:* \$1 off cocktails, drafts. 1/2-off onion/cheese garlic bread, tater tots, onion rings. *Friday-Saturday, 4-6pm:* \$1 off cocktails, drafts. 1/2-off onion/cheese garlic bread, tater tots, onion rings.

LAKESIDE

Coach Stop: *Monday-Friday, 9am-noon, 4-7pm:* \$2.50 large drafts, domestic bottles. 7-11pm: \$1.50 12-oz. drafts, \$6.50 60-oz. pitchers.

Coo Coo Club: *Monday-Friday, 6-8pm:* \$2.75 wells, domestic bottles, drafts.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: *Monday-Saturday, 4-7pm:* \$.50 off all drinks \$4.50 or less. *Sunday, 6am-2pm:* \$1 off bloody marys.



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LEUCADIA

Bar Leucadian: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 4:30-6:30pm:* \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month. *Thursday, 4:30-6:30pm:* \$2.75 wells, \$2.50 beer of the month, Ladies U-Call-it \$2.75.

LINCOLN PARK

L & L Hawaiian BBQ at Market Creek Plaza: *Monday-Friday, 4-8pm:* \$2 domestic drafts. \$1 off appetizers. *Sunday, all day:* \$1 drafts. \$1 tacos & wings.

LINDA VISTA

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$3 domestic & Mexican pints; \$4 house margaritas, wells; \$5 quesadillas, hot dogs, tacos.

LITTLE ITALY

Puerto la Boca: *Daily, 4:30-7:30pm:* \$3 house wine, \$3.50 drafts, wells, \$6 house martini. 30% off appetizers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Brazil by the Bay Restaurant and Sports Bar: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$2.50 drafts, \$8 pitchers, \$2.50 French fries, \$4.50 chicken wings.

MIRA MESA

Callahan's Pub & Brewery: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$3 select house beer, select domestic drafts, well drinks, house wine. \$1 off Irish nachos, pub chips, herb/garlic/cheese bread.

MIRAMAR

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.

MISSION BEACH

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4pm-close:* 1/2-off beer, shots, cocktails. 25% off pot stickers, jumbo coco shrimp, nachos.

Sandbar Sports Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$3 wells, domestic

bottles/drafts; \$4 premium & import bottles/drafts. \$3.50 mahi taco, discounted nachos, calamari.

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: *Daily, 2pm-2am:* \$.50 off beer and wells.

Starlite: *Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm:* \$3 drafts, wells, \$1 off other. *Sunday, all night:* \$5 mules. \$15 off wine bottles.

MISSION VALLEY

Randy Jones All American Sports Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$3.75 selected craft beers, \$5 specialty drinks, \$2 off wine by the glass and grazing menu.

NATIONAL CITY

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: *Friday, 3pm-sunset:* \$2 domestic beer, \$3 import and local beer, \$5 house wine, mimosas, bloody marys.

NESTOR

Baja Oyster Bar: *Monday-Thursday, All day:* \$.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

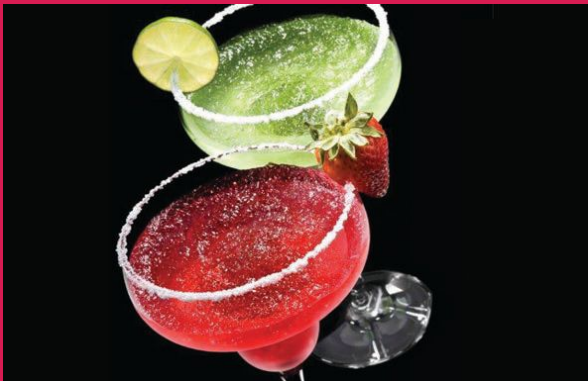
The Air Conditioned Lounge: *Monday-Friday, 4-8pm:* \$3 draft, bloody marys; \$5 you-call-it; \$6 Jayne's Gastropub fare.

NORTH PARK

Bar Pink: *Monday-Friday, 4-8pm:* \$1 off drafts and calls.

Imig's Kitchen and Bar: *Monday, 4:30-6:30pm:* \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. 5-9pm: \$5 burger and a draft beer. *Tuesday, 4:30-6:30pm:* \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. 5-9pm: 1/2 off bottles of wine.

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12/22 - The Loons
Sidewalk Scene
Operation: MINDBLOW
12/23 - Happy Endings
feat. Djs JoeMama & TramLife

12/24 - XMAS Eve
Open at 8pm
12/25 - CLOSED
12/26 - H.A.M. hosted by DJ L

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1/2 price appetizers | \$1 off drafts | \$2⁷⁵ wells

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\$1 off drafts | \$2⁷⁵ wells | 11 pm - close (Sunday - Wednesday)



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HAPPY HOUR

Wednesday-Thursday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2 off wines by the glass; \$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. **Friday, 5-10pm:** \$2 off wines by the glass; m\$3 beers; \$4 well cocktails. 6pm: Live music. **Sunday, 7am-3pm:** \$15 bottomless mimosa; \$22 bottomless mimosa with brunch item; \$5 bloody marys.

Lips Restaurant: *Sunday*, all night: Industry Night, \$3.50 wells, \$5.50 calls, 25% off entrées & appetizers. Must show employee ID or pay stub.

West Coast Tavern: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$3 wells, drafts, house wine.

OCEAN BEACH

Mother's Saloon: *Monday*, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: \$3 Jägermeister shots. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. *Tuesday*, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers. 7pm-close: \$3 Fireball shots; \$1.50 tacos. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. *Wednesday*, 7pm-close: \$5 Rolling Rock and shot; \$1.50 TJ dogs. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. *Thursday*, 9pm-close: \$3 you-call-its; \$1.50 sliders. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. *Friday*, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts; 1/2-off appetizers; \$2.75 well. 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts. *Saturday-Sunday*, 11pm-close: \$2.75 well; \$1 off drafts.

Winstons: *Monday-Saturday*, 1-8pm: \$3.50 wells. \$1 off all beer/wine.

OCEANSIDE

Aryana at Holiday Inn: *Daily*, 5-7pm: \$2 domestics, wells; \$3 premiums, glass of wine. Appetizer specials.

OLD TOWN

25Forty Bistro and Bakehouse: *Tuesday*, 5:30-8pm: Free buffet of pasta, cheese, meat, and salads with purchase of a beverage. Wines starting at \$4.

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UPCOMING EVENT
12/31-New Years Eve party No Cover

9522 Miramar Rd. 858-578-0757
Northeast corner of Miramar Road & Black Mountain Rd.

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: 1/2-price appetizers, \$1 soft taco, \$3 draft beer, \$3.50 well, house wine, \$3.95 house margarita.

Old Town Mexican Café: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm, 11pm-close: Drink & beer specials. \$2 Taco Tuesday (chicken, beef, fish, carnitas); \$2.50 margaritas, Tecate, tequila.

PACIFIC BEACH

710 Beach Club: *Daily*, 4-7:10pm: 1/2-off food & booze.

Sinbad Café: *Daily*, 4-8pm: \$1.50 drafts, \$2 wells, shots, \$2.50 imports. 11am-8pm: \$12-\$15 hookahs.

Tony Roma's: *Daily*, 1-4pm: \$3 wells, drafts. \$3 off appetizers.

POINT LOMA

Jimmy's Famous American Tavern: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: 1/2-off all appetizers, drafts, wells, and select house wine.

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: *Daily*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

POWAY

The Beach Grass Poway: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$3.50 microbrews, \$4 select wines. \$5 appetizers: panko-crusted calamari, tempura avocado, veggies and hummus, more.

RAMONA

Cheers: *Monday*, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$10 steak. *Tuesday*, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$1 tacos. *Wednesday*, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks. \$50 wings. *Thursday*, 2-5pm: \$1 off drinks.

SAN MARCOS

Back Alley Grill: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 11am-9pm: \$2.50 drafts, \$4.50 imports and house wines. \$1 Taco Tuesday, 50¢-a-Wing Wednesday, \$1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday.

SANTA YSABEL

Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino: *Monday*, Mojito Monday: \$4 Irish Mojito. *Tuesday*, Tropical Tuesday: \$4 Tropical Dream. *Wednesday*, Wicked Wednesday: \$5.50 Speedy Gonzalez. *Thursday*, Thirsty Thursday: \$2 bottled domestics. *Friday*, Fiesta Friday: \$4 classic margarita. *Saturday*, Sweet Saturday: \$5 pineapple-Midori martini. *Sunday*, Sunset Sunday: \$4 Amaretto Sunset.

SANTEE

Landre's Sports Bar & Grill: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$1 off all drinks. \$5 appetizers: potato skins, garlic/bacon fries, shrimp cocktail, more.

SCRIPPS RANCH

Stone Flats: *Daily*, 3-5pm, 7-9pm: \$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

Humphreys Backstage Music Club: *Daily*, 5-7pm: 1/2-off all drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

SOLANA BEACH

Chief's Burgers and Brew: *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$2.50 domestic, \$3.50 microbrew. 1/2-off appetizers.

SORRENTO VALLEY

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6:30pm: \$4 beers, wells, wines, flights. \$5 boneless wings, fries, spicy hummus.

SOUTH PARK

Hamilton's Tavern: *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

SPRING VALLEY

California Comfort: *Daily*, 4-7pm: \$2.50 domestic pints, wells, house wine.

TIERRASANTA

JP's Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2.50 wells, domestic drafts, \$3.25 house wine.

UCSD

Porter's Pub at UCSD: *Daily*, 11am-7pm \$3 Menu; 4pm-7pm \$1 off all beer.

UNIVERSITY CITY

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

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Small Bar: *Daily*, 5-8pm: \$1 off local draughts and drinks.

VALLEY CENTER

Casa Reveles Mexican & Seafood Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 2-6pm: \$2 domestic. \$3 imports, wells. Discounted appetizers.

VISTA

Chili Coast Burgers: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$.50-.75 off tap beer.

Jumping Bean Cafe & Mexicali Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: \$2 domestic, imports, \$2.75 margaritas, \$3 wells, microbrews, \$4 Leaping Horse wine. 3-5pm: \$1.50 chicken or carnitas street tacos.

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

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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.

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An American Christmas

Lamb's Players presents its annual, epic celebration of Christmas 100 years ago. Set in the Hotel del Coronado Ballroom, the Marshall family has a reunion — in 1912 — including songs, dancing, and a five-course meal. Robert Smyth directed. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-435-6611. 6:30PM DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 26.

Chicago: A Speakeasy Cabaret

Ion Theatre presents the music from the Kander and Ebb Prohibition-era musical in an intimate, cabaret setting. Linda Libby directed. ION THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILL-CREST. 619-600-5020. 8PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 6PM & 9PM SATURDAY.

A Christmas Cactus

PowPAC stages Eliot Byerrum's film noir-style comedy, in which private investigator Cactus O'Riley ("a white-hot redhead with the holiday blues") solves mysteries and takes a second chance on love. Missy Hendrick directed. POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

A Christmas Carol

Sean Murray's new adaptation of Dickens's classic boasts no smokey effects, no Bigfoot-sized Ghost of Christmas Future, or splashy choreography. It's set in a radio station, in Manhattan, 1944, where media celebrities perform the story before a live studio audience, including numerous audio effects. The production has traded sights for sounds. One obvious benefit: the emphasis is on the words (you can even close your eyes). For those who saw Cygnet's *It's a Wonderful Life*, the staging has the been-there feel of a sequel. Performances, however, are high caliber, especially Tom Stephenson's Scrooge, who dresses like a financier and makes a sweeping transformation. *Worth a try.* CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS,



Cygnet Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, which runs through December 30, is set in a radio station in 1940s Manhattan.

7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show

Community Actors Theatre presents a new version of Dickens's story. When the actors at a small radio station can't make it to the

studio in time, the sound effects man performs *A Christmas Carol* all by himself.

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., COLLEGE AREA. 619-264-3391. 2PM SATURDAY.

Christmas on My Mind

Manny has a great log cabin up in the mountains. Now the Sequoia tree that fell nearby, on December 23, could have simply happened, right? Or...did Manny work some magic that stranded 11 emotionally stranded people for the holiday? Could Manny be the "O Come,

Emanuel" of the 12th-century lyric? After all, the group bonds and sings spirited music (either written or beatifully arranged by the cast members at Lamb's Players) as if they've rehearsed it for years. Kerry Meads's subtle script and Leonard Patton's knowing smile as Manny hint at, if not the possibility, at least an intriguing similarity. The ensemble has no slouches. And, because they play so many instruments, constitute quite a back-up band. *Worth a try.*

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 6PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas

The Old Globe Theatre stages its traditional holiday show, in which a green meanie threatens festivities in Whoville. Originally conceived and directed by Jack O'Brien.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS; 11AM, 2PM & 5PM SATURDAYS, 11AM, 2PM & 5PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 29.

Drinkin', Singin', Swingin'

Welk Resort Theatre presents "a Rat Pack style Christmas show: the weather outside is frightful... but Frank, Sammy, & Dino make it more delightful."

WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 8PM THURSDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS, 6:30PM SUNDAYS, 1PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER

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produced & directed by Bud Godown

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Irving Berlin's
WHITE CHRISTMAS
THE MUSICAL

Musical Director **Don Lemaster**
Choreographer **Lisa Hopkins**
Director **Todd Nielsen**

Music & Lyrics by **Irving Berlin**
Book by **David Ives & Paul Blake**
Based on The Paramount Pictures Film



BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE
DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 23
For tickets visit SDMT.ORG or call 858.560.5740
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Calendar THEATER

31.

Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*

San Diego Musical Theatre presents "a holiday card come to life," based on the movie and including such favorites as "Blue Skies," "I Love A Piano," and the title song. Todd Nielsen directed.

BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE, 2891 UNIVERSITY AVE., NORTH PARK. 619-239-8836. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

The Messiah

Community Actors Theatre presents its annual Christmas show, "a story that can't be told too many times," adapted and directed by Jennie Hamilton, choreographed by Patty Fay.

COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., COLLEGE AREA. 619-264-3391. 7PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

Mr. Scrooge & Mr. Dickens

Park Avenue Community Center hosts an adaptation of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, including "dancers, singers, music, and, for little ones, a surprise visit by Santa." Proceeds benefit the Escondido Community Services Department. PARK AVENUE COMMUNITY CENTER, 210 PARK AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-839-4688. 7PM FRIDAY.

National Comedy Theatre

The National Comedy Theatre presents a 100-minute improv comedy show based completely on audience



The Reduced Shakespeare Company's *The Ultimate Christmas Show* (abridged), now at the Lyceum Theatre downtown.

suggestions. The show is "appropriate for all audiences."

NATIONAL COMEDY THEATRE, 3717 INDIA ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-295-4999. 7:30PM & 9:45PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 8PM SUNDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

Night Stage to Big Shaft

Peggy Sue Productions presents a dinner-theater show set in 1853. "When a new mine and a dead lawyer are discovered, everyone becomes a suspect."

MIKKI'S CAFE, 1639 EAST VALLEY PARKWAY, ESCONDIDO. 7:30PM FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, OPEN-ENDED RUN.

La Pastorela de Creencia

For its 22nd annual pastorela, Teatro Mascara Magica presents Max Branscomb's San Diego-specific twist on the story of shepherds following a bright star to Bethlehem, and Lucifer's evil (often hilarious) attempts to thwart them. William Virchis directed.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 7:30PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 2PM AND 7:30PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Persuasion

Jon Jory's new adaptation of the Jane Austen novel feels more like an early draft than a world premiere. He covers the ground but at blinding speed, with at least 25 scenelets in Act One and few places where he offers the kind of loaded, dramatic nuances that Austen thrives on (was that the hint of a blush?). OnStage Playhouse's production offers appealing, early 19th-century costumes by Carol Whaley, a useful, stone-walled set by Mark Robertson, and a subtle, moving performance by Kym Pappas as Anne Elliot, whom friends persuaded away from a dashing young (albeit poor) man, and who

returns seven years later. Uneven performances favor the overbroad, mostly, though the script leaves little room for much else.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY.

Plaid Tidings

Bad news on the heaven front: for many, acceptance doesn't guarantee tenure. That's why the four singers of *Forever Plaid* fame return to earth for a "cosmic recertification test." Stuart Ross's frame tale is a mite much, as is some of his cloying shtick. The good news, once this yuletide sequel settles in, the four performers at New Village Arts take it from there, and these guys are good! They sing Ross's impressively orchestrated medleys and do tight harmonizing with aplomb. Credit to director Jason Heil, and special mention to Nathan Riley, who sings in three different vocal ranges and makes each sound like his natural one. [Note: due to popular demand, New Village Arts has extended the run of this show.] *Worth a try.* NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 8PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Scrooge in Rouge

Diversions Theatre reprises its popular holiday show, in which four performers quick-change, and cross-dress, and tell the Dickens tale with 23 characters. Tony Houck directed.

DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

Sister's Christmas Catechism

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Sister Marypat Donovan: back in the classroom, ruler in hand, explaining the mysteries of the yuletide season.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7:30PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 30.

The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)

The Reduced Shakespeare Company's yuletide comedy show takes on the holiday season. Forced to perform the entire Universalist Church Multicultural Interfaith Variety Show and Christmas Pageant, since the performers got snowed out. Michael Faulkner, Mick Orfe, and Dustin Sullivan do skits ranging from the pagan roots of Christmas to phoning an "out-sourced Santa" named Sanjay Claus. Some bits are surefire (a poem about air travel during the holidays, based on "Twas the Night Before Christmas"; a hilarious ballet). But the evening needs abridgement. Unlike previous works, this opening night had too much filler, too much between-bit palaver, as if it began as a 90-minute piece they stretched like taffy to two full acts. And they must push the comedy harder than need be. LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAYS, AND SATURDAY.



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Leo's Candyland

Quentin Tarantino fails to do for slave owners what he did for Nazis in this, his long-awaited western (southern?) follow-up to the epic war comedy *Inglourious Basterds*. Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz returns to the Tarantino fold as Dr. King, a German dentist-cum-bounty-hunter hot on the trail of a pair of nefarious outlaws. Once again, the

MOVIES

connivingly charismatic Waltz is well mannered to the point of achieving a near-Oliver Hardy sense of nirvana. He also offers a crash course in mentorship to uppity slave Jamie Foxx, eager to save his wife from ruthless plantation lord Leonardo DiCaprio.

For its first third, *Django Unchained* plays like an agreeable cross between *Blazing Saddles* and *Mandingo*. (There is a hilarious bit about proper eyehole placement in KKK cowl.) Once they reach Leo's Candyland, however, the film becomes talky and set-bound, and the third act is little more than an excuse for bloodletting. The background is populated with enough familiar faces to cast three genre pictures, most notably Bruce Dern, who delivers a brief but stern lecture on the perils of breaking character. And, politically speaking, there's more truth told here about money and its ability to buy miscegenation than anything on display in *Lincoln*.

Much has already been written about Tarantino's use of the word "nigger" — a term that didn't have quite the same pejorative impact at the time this film is set — but here is some more: it's clear that Tarantino had two things in mind when he decided to pepper the film with such derisive dialogue. First, to pay homage to '70s blaxploitation, and, second, to piss off Spike Lee to no end. On that second score, the film should be a resounding success. But what QT has to say about black action films and '70s exploitation has already been summed up quite eloquently in *Jackie Brown* and *Death Proof*, respectively. *Django* is worth seeing but not a good enough romp to justify its 165-minute running time. With Kerry Washington, Don Johnson, Franco Nero, and Samuel L. Jackson as the spitting image of cotton-haired Woody Strode in Ford's *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*.

— Scott Marks

DEPARTMENT OF NO, NOT REALLY: PETER JACKSON TO SPLIT *TINTIN* SEQUEL INTO THREE FILMS

Peter Jackson, the celebrated director of such films as *Bad Taste*, *The Frighteners*, and *The Lovely Bones*, has announced his intention to

take over the directing reins on the *Tintin* movie sequel from Steven Spielberg. He also announced his intention to split that sequel into a trilogy. "Spielberg's film was based on the *Tintin* comic-book adventure *The Secret of the Unicorn*, a story which was completed in *Red Rackham's Treasure*. But there are over 20 other *Tintin* adventures out there, and this trilogy format will allow us to incorporate material from those additional volumes in a way that will give viewers a more complete understanding of Captain Haddock's alcoholism, the whereabouts of Tintin's parents, and the newspaper industry as it existed in the 1940s. Plus, we'll be animating it at 96 frames per second, which will give viewers the impression that the characters on screen have actually crawled inside their eyeballs."

— Matthew Lickona

DIGIPLEX TO PURCHASE FIVE LOCAL ULTRASTAR CINEMAS

UltraStar Mission Valley at Hazard Center. Has there ever been a less appealing name for a theater? Wasn't this digital transformation supposed to make it easier on all of us? And yet, the birthplace of "Pure Digital Cinema" housed more focus and illumination problems than all of the other multiplexes in the area combined.

Let the joyous news be spread: as far as Mission Valley and several other



There's more truth in *Django Unchained* about money and its ability to buy miscegenation than anything on display in *Lincoln*.

locations are concerned, UltraStar Cinemas in San Diego is dead!

Let's hope that Digital Cinema Destinations Corp. (Digiplex) is poised to make life a little easier on San Diego filmgoers. Digiplex is partnering with Start Media, LLC, on the proposed acquisition of seven UltraStar theaters in the Southern California area.

Of the 74 screens to be acquired in the deal, 46 of them are close to home. Along with the Hazard Center 7, there's the Temecula 10, Poway Cinema 10, River Village 6 in Bonsall, and Oceanside's Mission Marketplace 13. That leaves only one UltraStar location in the San Diego area, their 10-screen, third-run house in Chula Vista.

I was initially told the UltraStar Mission Valley theater had two years to live. That was four years ago. When last I heard, the number of years left before demolition had jumped to five or six. Digiplex obvi-

ously knows something we don't. Why else would they consider a deal that involved a house on its last legs?

To my new friends at Digiplex, I extend a big welcome. Surely a company with the word "Digi" in its name will do their best to ensure their product is beamed in focus and in the proper aspect ratio.

If you are going to keep one 35mm house in town (and you should, just in case), make it Hazard Center, with one slight modification. Your predecessor couldn't figure out how to take a screwdriver to the seizure-inducing intermittent shutter problem. Either that, or put in a line of Dramamine at the concession stand.

Please do your best to keep the Mission Valley outlet film-festival-friendly by not pricing them out of the game.

Finally, only a d'bag would pay for the privilege of D-Box. Lose the unnecessary technology.

Thanks to Danny Baldwin for his help on this article. I don't call him the Young Master for nothing.

— Scott Marks

GOBS OF GLOBES

They nominated *Django Unchained* for Best Drama? Isn't it a comedy?

Thanks to the knuckleheads at the Hollywood Foreign Press, the recruitment film *Act of Valor* will forever be referred to as an "award-nominated film."

Those are just two of the head-scratching curiosities you'll find on this year's list of films up for an award at the 2013 Golden Globes.

Man, oh, Manischewitz, is this a lackluster cluster. Helen Mirren as Alma Hitchcock?! Bill Murray as F.D.R.? *Driving Monsieur Daisy* for Best Foreign Language Film?! Meryl Streep for showing up?

Are these the Globes or the AARP Awards? Will someone please tell the voters their Depends are showing. *Best*

FILM FESTIVALS

CATAMARAN RESORT

3999 Mission Bl., Pacific Beach
858-539-8635

Two Short Films *Challenging Impossibility* is a 2011 documentary that chronicles the weightlifting odyssey of the spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy, who in 1985 at the age of 54 took up weightlifting and performing feats of strength using the power of meditation. *Ocean Monk* chronicles the inner and outer search of a group of New York City monks. Q&A following the films. 619-281-8945. **Friday, January 4, 7:30pm**

PEARL HOTEL

1410 Rosecrans St., Point Loma
877-732-7573

A Christmas Story Ralphie tries to convince

his parents, teachers, and Santa that a Red Ryder BB gun is the perfect gift in this 1983 movie screening for Dive-In Theatre series at poolside lounge. 619-226-6100. **Wednesday, December 26, 8:00pm**

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SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

1450 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-7931

Do the Right Thing In conjunction with *Behold, America!*, this film takes a look at American identity the role of race in our country with



Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*, a fictional story about one afternoon in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The 1989 film won multiple Academy Award nominations. Pre-film lecture at 7 p.m., film at 8pm **Friday, January 4, 7:00pm**

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

820 E St., East Village
619-236-5800

Amador Marcela, a young immigrant with financial troubles, finds a summer job looking after Amador, a bed-ridden elderly man whose family is away. She thinks her problems are solved, but Amador dies shortly thereafter, putting Marcela in a predicament. **Saturday, December 22, 12:00pm**

SEA ROCKET BISTRO

3382 30th St., North Park
619-255-7049

Home Alone Double Feature Family comedies without the family screens in the front room for Wine & Cheesy Movie Night. **Wednesday, December 26, 7:00pm**

Calendar

MOVIES

Exotic Marigold Hotel, *Quartet*, and *Hyde Park on Hudson* function best as pro-euthanasia infomercials, not achievements worthy of merit.

The group did manage to get one right: Rachel Weisz’s performance as the guilt-ridden romantic in Terrence Davies’s breathtaking *The Deep Blue Sea*.

— Scott Marks

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TRAILER FOR *PACIFIC RIM*

Well BRAAAAAHM my BRAAAAAHM, it’s another movie about punching robots. [Pours out motor oil for *Transformers*.] I kind of hope it opens with a 2001-style bit that traces the development of human warfare, from cavemen punching each other, to a caveman picking up a bone and using it as a club, to a caveman standing at a distance and hurling a rock, and on from there to the sword, the bow, the catapult, the gun, the cannon, the fighter plane, and, finally, the intercontinental ballistic missile, a weapon that allows you to wreak astonishing destruction on your enemies from thousands of miles away at the press of a button. Then — *record scratch sound effect* — suddenly, we’re back to punching. Only this time, we’re doing it with giant robots.

— Matthew Lickona

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.

Anna Karenina — Admittedly, yours truly is not the most informed critical voice to heed when it comes to assessing stodgy British costume dramas. (I tend to side with Francois Truffaut, who once referred to “British cinema” as an oxymoron.) Still, soon after the bits of choreographed slapstick at the film’s opening, it became clear that when it comes to literary adaptations, Joe Wright should have stopped with *Pride and Prejudice*. Wright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard attempt to set the drama entirely on stage (though the conceit is all but dropped halfway through), and their use of theatrical gimmickry dwarfs the story’s epic sweep, reducing it to an even bigger soap opera than the one Tolstoy imagined. The decorative bridging sequences are infinitely more engaging than the standard close-up, reverse angle coverage Wright employs in the stunted dialogue scenes. With Keira Knightly, Jude Law, Kelly Macdonald, and the insufferable Aaron Taylor-Johnson, whose posturing and vacant beauty perfectly suits this arid

SEEN ON DVD



Super Troopers

BRIAN SCOTT

Karl Strauss Brewing Company and V.P. of San Diego Brewers Guild

I picked *Alien* because it’s a perfect example of what a horror movie should be: tight, dark corridors, the crushing black of space, and a creature you never quite see until the end. This one gave me nightmares the first time I saw it.

My other pick is *Super Troopers* because there is no better movie to come home to after a long day at work. Throw it in, pop open a few beers, and laugh your face off. This one has everything from wacky car chases to a powdered-sugar delousing. Plus, who hasn’t been a little distracted by the repeater... by the repeater.

ALIEN (USA) 1979, Twentieth Century Fox
List price: \$24.99
SUPER TROOPERS (USA) 2001, Twentieth Century Fox
List price: \$14.98



Holiday Inn

SHAWN DEWITT

Director of brewing operations, Coronado Brewing Co. and president of San Diego Brewers Guild

My first movie is a holiday classic, *Holiday Inn*. It was made in 1942 and features Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. For my family and me, it’s a tradition to watch this movie when the weather turns colder and the holidays are upon us.

The second movie is quite different from my first selection but does also involve music. The movie is *The Song Remains the Same*. It’s a concert documentary shot in the ’70s about Led Zeppelin. It’s two hours of great original footage of Led Zeppelin playing live at Madison Square Garden. If you love old rock ’n’ roll, this movie is for you. The drum solo by John Bonham may be the best one ever.

HOLIDAY INN (USA) 1942, Universal
List price: \$14.98
THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME (England/USA) 1976, Warner Brothers
List price: \$20.97 (two discs)



Jurassic Park

JIM CRUTE

Head brewer and owner, Lightning Brewery

Harold and Maude is a good movie to screen for friends once you get to know them better. After all, love it or hate it, you should be able to say something nice about *Harold and Maude* or its stars Ruth Gordon and Bud Cort. The reaction they give is kind of like a litmus test to see if the glass is half full or not.

Jurassic Park is strictly geek fantasy. I had obtained a pre-release copy of the original novel by the late Michael Crichton. The book’s premise had just been made possible by the introduction of polymerase chain reaction methods for DNA amplification, the human genome project taking off, and all things molecular biology-related suddenly seeming possible — including the cloning of extinct animals like dinosaurs.

HAROLD AND MAUDE (USA) 1971, Paramount
List price: \$8.99
JURASSIC PARK (USA) 1993, Universal
List price: \$14.98

Find more Seen on DVD reviews at SDReader.com/dvd

adaptation. 2012. — S.M.
★

California Solo — A fine performance — and a good character — in search of a story. Silken-maned Robert Carlyle plays an aging former rocker, haunted by the death of his brother (his old band’s frontman) and living in self-imposed exile on a farm in California. It’s a tolerable, static, hidden sort of life, the kind that just begs for some small misstep to start the machinery that will bring everything to light and force a reckoning. The trouble is, the machinery takes over; our man is moved rather than moving, and the reckoning feels more like a shift in circumstance than any kind of victory. Still, despite a couple of flat attempts at pathos, the feeling is right: the crushing weight of the mundane on a man who flirted with greatness in the past and who must now

make peace with the present. If you don’t burn out, you fade away. 2012. — M.L.
★

Cloud Atlas — The Wachowski Manifesto, or maybe just their apologia. Together with co-director Tom Tykwer, the W siblings have taken David Mitchell’s multi-story, mutli-genre novel and made it into one (very) long and earnest plea for individual freedom and dignity in the face of oppression, whether it’s gays oppressed by polite society, fabricated people oppressed by their fabricators, slaves oppressed by masters, sons oppressed by fathers, brothers oppressed by brothers, crusading journalists oppressed by corporate conspirators, or a backwoods tribesman oppressed by cannibals and personal devils. (You know, for starters.) There’s a point to all the cutting from one time and place to another: the idea that boundaries

of any kind are ultimately meaningless (an idea that, like most of the ideas at work here, is made perfectly explicit). Also, the notion that everything is connected and even recurring, which is why we get the same stable of actors (most prominently, Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugo Weaving, and Jim Broadbent) playing different roles (and races, and sexes). Some of the segments work better than others — the true-true is that nobody really needs to hear Tom and Halle slip in and out of pidgin English, some of the racebending makeup is deeply distracting, and Hugo Weaving as Nurse Ratched never plays as anything more than a joke. But seeing as how a critic suffers a violent death onscreen, it’s probably best to accentuate the positive: the grand-scale visuals are a pleasure to behold, the various threads are woven as artfully as can be expected, and even at its goofiest, the film manages to feel like an

old-fashioned epic. (And at its most serious, it can be read as a formal rejection of the Wachowskis’ childhood Catholicism.) 2012. — M.L.

★★

Deadfall (Kin) — A brother and sister (Eric Bana and Olivia Wilde) are forced to adopt a strict “shoot now, ask questions later” policy after a casino robbery they masterminded goes terribly wrong. That same day, a boxer (Charlie Hunnam) freshly sprung from the clink accidentally kills his former associate. I suppose there are less lofty goals in life than setting up a group of unlikable characters so that we can watch them die, but couldn’t screenwriter Zach Dean at least have found a way to smooth out a few of the film’s numerous plot contrivances? There’s nothing here that you haven’t already seen before, and even less that you need see again. Stefan Ruzowitzky (*The Counterfeters*) directs. With Kate Mara, Sissy Spacek, and Kris Kristofferson. 2012. — S.M.

●

Django Unchained — Reviewed this issue. — S.M.

★★

Flight — What is *Flight*? Is it a tough-minded look into the dangers of making heroes out of men who do amazing things? (Denzel Washington, an airline pilot who pulls off a miracle landing in a malfunctioning plane, but oh dear, it turns out he was drunk and high while he did it.) Or is it a searing attack on the inhuman world of corporate legal maneuvering, where certain lives count less than others and the main thing is to pass the buck? (Don Cheadle almost steals the show from the paunchy Washington as the oily Chicago lawyer hired to defend him during the ensuing investigation.) Or is it a raised-stakes addiction movie? (Washington has a shattered family, drinks like a fish, and hooks up with a recovery-minded heroin addict.) Surprise, it’s none of the above! This here is a religious picture; you get your first tip when Washington’s co-pilot cries out to God in a moment of panic, and Denzel coolly replies, “He can’t help you here.” God is a little like Chekhov’s gun that way — you can’t introduce Him at the outset, and then have Him not show up by the end. Director Robert Zemeckis does his best to hide the providential machinery, though — making sure that Cheadle’s attempt to get “act of God” added to the list of accident causes is a thoroughly cynical move, that a prophet who proclaims God’s hand in everything is a cancer patient suffering from “chemo-head,” and that a husband who does the same is backed by a wife bleating out “Bless Jesus!” like a madwoman. Alas, Zemeckis can’t keep himself from playing the Rolling Stones’ “Sympathy for the Devil” when vice-peddler John Goodman comes on the scene. And that sort of indulgence plagues the picture, or rather, bloats it. 2012. — M.L.

★

The Guilt Trip — Babs dearest. Barbra Streisand could write her own first-class ticket on any project in Tinseltown, but instead chooses to ride shotgun for Seth Rogen in this terminally cute justification for matricide. Rogen — an uptight organic chemist shopping around a new environmentally safe cleaning product — decides to play Cupid by dragging Yentl the yente along on a cross-country business trip. (Mom’s lost love now resides in San Francisco.) Streisand and Rogen have what it takes to pull it off, but the material and execution quickly reduce what little potential this joyride had to a humiliation derby. Their car just happens to break down in front of a PG-13 gentlemen’s club

where mommy is exposed to strippers who wear more clothes than their patrons. At least Jane Fonda knew that *Monster-In-Law* was crap; Streisand looks to be trying for another Oscar. The posters and print ads proudly boast, “From the director of *The Proposal*,” and if you check the fine print, you’ll find Lorne Michaels’s name attached as producer. Don’t say they didn’t give you advance warning. With Kathy Najimy, Miriam Margolyes, and 30 seconds of Ari Graynor as Streisand’s vindication. 2012. — S.M.

★

Hitchcock — Instead of following author Stephen Rebello’s fine *Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho* by turning out a procedural on the art of making a masterpiece, Sacha Gervasi (*Anvil: The Story of Anvil*) gives us a watered-down romcom directed in the style of an episode of *Hitchcock Presents*. (It’s ostensibly about the production of the most influential horror film ever made, yet Anthony Perkins only appears in two scenes!?) Anthony Hopkins — encased in a Martin Lawrence fat suit, outfitted with a bad latex nose, and suffering from an oscillating dialect — is simply not convincing as Hitchcock, and Helen Mirren would never be confused, on her best day, with the mousy Mrs. H. Hitchcock purportedly wants to do nothing more than counter all the years that loudmouth ‘Tippi’ Hedren spent publicly branding Hitch a pervert by playing fast and loose with the facts. Beyond that, screenwriter John J. McLaughlin attempts to give Alma her due by dredging up a zipless romantic fling she allegedly had with a screenwriter during the making of *The Paradine Case* (1947). A fantasy sequence wherein Hitchcock employs the services of Ed Gein, the monster upon whom Norman Bates was based, as a psychiatrist is downright unclean, as is the assertion that Cocky had a Bates-style peephole drilled in his office wall in order to spy on his leading ladies. Perverse as it sounds, the film was shot in ‘Scope, a ratio Hitch despised and never used. Gervasi’s talent did wonders when it came to revitalizing the careers of a pair of bird-brained heavy metal singers. Leave the Hitchcock legacy for the big boys, or not at all. Better yet, re-release all of Hitch’s 54 films and let his artistry speak for itself. With Scarlett Johansson, Toni Colette, Michael Stuhlberg, and the beautifully blank Jessica Biel perfectly cast in the Vera Miles role. 2012. — S.M.

●

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — More of the same from director Peter Jackson, here pulling a proper Lucas and giving us the first installment of a prequel

trilogy to his earlier three-parter, *The Lord of the Rings*. (Then, he was adapting three books; now, he’s stretching just one, packing a straightforward quest with all manner of history and political intrigue.) And like Lucas, he has fallen in love with technology; in this case, High Frame Rate visuals that highlight every pore and strip-mine the magic from a movie that should be laden with it. (Do yourself a favor and stick to plain old 2D here.) The story involves 13 dwarfs (plus a helpful wizard) who hire a diminutive burglar to help them take back their mountain kingdom and its treasures from an invading dragon. Again, Jackson manages the creation of a believable fantasy world through well-pitched performances (Martin Freeman makes a fine homebody hobbit, and Andy Serkis’s Gollum gets to mix comedy with his menacing pathos), resonant themes (the dwarfs are seeking to regain their homeland after a diaspora), and really fine costumes. And again, he indulges his taste for overlong action set pieces, special effects that lean heavily on cartoon physics, and weepy-eyed alpha males. With Ian McKellan, Hugo Weaving. 2012. — M.L.

★

Hyde Park on Hudson — Bill Murray goes fishing for Oscar in shallow water. In the Spring of 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt (Murray) was the first-ever president to host to British royalty on American soil. The weekend shindig was thrown at the title locale, F.D.R.’s home in upstate New York. Chin jutting, cigarette holder pointing northward, and voice lolling in a jaw-stretching drawl than can only be described as Thurston Howell, III-ish, Murray’s Roosevelt is more of a graphite rubbing than it is a completed portrait. What baubles of wisdom are to be gleaned from this shuddersome biopic? That the 32nd

president loved his mother and behind-the-wheel hand jobs, though never at the same time. Laura Linney’s somnambulist performance as Frankie D’s lover/distant cousin makes this feel more like *Dawn of the Dead* than *Sunrise at Campobello*. In 1995, director Roger Michell came out of the gate swinging with *Persuasion* and hasn’t given us much worth looking at since. Hide or park yourself in another theater, anything but this. With Olivia Williams, Elizabeth Marvel, and Elizabeth Wilson. 2012. — S.M.

●

In the Family — A big hit at last year’s San Diego Asian Film Festival finally gets a well-deserved theatrical release. After losing one of his two dads in a car accident, a young boy quickly becomes the focal point of a fierce custody battle after the will grants his aunt sole custody. You’re not likely to find a more compassionate piece of storytelling this year, thanks in large part to a markedly restrained tour-de-force performance by the film’s writer-director, Patrick Wang. At any moment, this could have taken a wrong turn and hit a sentimental embankment. Wang’s unblinking camera bores through any potential clichés to reveal a tough heart beneath the film’s seemingly gentle outer surface. One tell-tale sign that this is a first film: Wang fell in love with his cast’s largely improvised dialog, and because of it *In the Family* runs an unwieldy 169 minutes. You’ll have to pay the babysitter overtime, but it’s worth it. — S.M.

★★★

Killing Them Softly — In order to hammer home its point about American morality with regard to money as manifested on the macro level by the 2008 financial crisis and on the micro level by

the machinations of some truly unpleasant urban lowlifes, *Killing Them Softly* asks the audience to believe that the patrons of an illegal high-stakes card game would ever select, by way of background ambiance, a televised speech from President Bush. Also, that a couple of thugs sent to beat a man half to death would warm up for the occasion by listening to a speech on Federal intervention in the marketplace. Also, also, also. The audience — if it is hasn’t been lulled to sleep by the endless, gentle lapping of dialogue and a storyline so flat it requires jolts of electric, effects-heavy violence to keep it moving — will very likely call bullshit. A similar charge may be made against the film’s efforts to obtain our sympathies for these scumbags — like us, they have money troubles, relationship troubles, work troubles, and all the rest of it — while at the same time insisting that they operate just like the one-percenters who did to this country what Mickey from New York (James Gandolfini) did to his hundred-dollar whore. In other news, Brad Pitt makes the most of his handsome, seedy authority, right up until the point where he decides to start speechifying about Thomas Jefferson. 2012. — M.L.

●

Life of Pi 3D — [Nota Bene: the 3D is probably worth it on this one.] If Ang Lee’s adaptation of Yann Martel’s novel

had been nothing more than the story of a teenaged boy who survives a shipwreck only to find he must share his lifeboat with a Bengal tiger, it might have been a very fine — and often visually astonishing — adventure movie. But for better or for worse, *Life of Pi* aspires to be much more than that. For better: the adventure is strong enough to bear the weight of some larger meaning. For worse: that meaning is spelled out and hammered home in a pair of talky bookends. This isn’t a film about a boy lost at sea; this is a film about humanity adrift, about the importance and significance of storytelling, about religion and God him/her/itself. That doesn’t have to be a bad thing; it doesn’t take much to see the tiger as death itself, an immutable and inescapable fact that nature imposes on every person. The boy struggles against it. He tries to trick it. Eventually, he realizes he must make peace with it. And somewhere along the line, he realizes that the certainty of death is what has helped him cling to life. Storytelling! Significance! Ditto the boy’s struggle with faith: he prays, and things happen. Are those things answer to prayer or just things that happen? Don’t worry about answering; the film is happy to do that for you. The viewer does get to make a choice at the end, but it’s not a choice about anything as exalted as the existence of God. It’s more about where we find consolation during our own adventure in the lifeboat.

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Calendar

MOVIES

With Irrfan Khan, Suraj Sharma. 2012. — M.L.
★★

Lincoln — Four score and 150 minutes ago, Steven Spielberg shifted into his John Ford mode with this giant, myth-bolstering Golden Book of a movie. As the Civil War rages on, we open with a moment lifted from *Saving Private Ryan*: a shorter, but equally anonymous massacre. Inasmuch as it fails to properly set the mood and tone of this other-wise setbound gabfest, the scene is as spectacularly executed as it is worthless. (As my friend Jim Hemphill said once the initial bloodbath was over, “The closest thing to an action sequence is Tommy Lee Jones taking off his hairpiece.”) Moving on, we find Lincoln’s ear being bent by a returning black soldier while The Great Emancipator is seated at a railway station. The soldier, after spelling out the future of African-American relations for both the audience and Honest Abe, is conveniently bounced from the proceedings. In his place, comic relief appears in the form of James Spader, Tim Blake Nelson, and John Hawkes. Their schtick feels like a reprise of Sneak, Snoop, and Snitch from Fleischer’s animated version of *Gulliver’s Travels*. And what of the rest of the cast, you ask? For the first time in his career,

Picture Show



Well of course Ricky Gervais is in talks to star in the next Muppets movie. He’s been a Muppet for years!

Daniel Day-Lewis lets the costume and the adenoidal voice do much of the acting for him; he needed a little more Bill the Butcher here, and a little less *Left Foot*. Sally Field performs as if she *really* wants

the Academy to like her again. The good news is that scenarist Tony Kushner’s authentic-sounding period dialog flows in abundance, helping to make this the closest I’ve come to not wanting to walk

out on an Amblin production since *Catch Me if You Can*. You’ll want to cheer when, as Number 16 is getting set to spit out yet another platitude, Bruce McGill turns on him with, “No! Not another speech.” If the

real Lincoln was this dull, can you really blame the South for seceding from the Union? Ultimately, it’s Spielberg, with his lumbering pace and “Hall of Presidents” anamorphic tableaux, who assassinates this *Lincoln*. 2012. — S.M.
★

Rise of the Guardians — Review forthcoming. In the meantime, you can begin musing on what *other* superhero team-ups the movie people will come up with in the wake of *The Avengers*. Our money is on the sugary cereal mascots. Big Tony: “My guys aren’t just good; they’re great!” 2012.

Silver Linings Playbook — David O. Russell needs to leave Philadelphia almost as much as John Woo needs to stay in Hong Kong. For his follow-up to *The Fighter*, Russell once again takes the low road in search of truth and beauty amidst a group of boorish louts with personalities akin to the cast of *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*. A former schoolteacher (Bradley Cooper) — undiagnosed bipolar, borderline delusional, violent, and fresh out of the state mental institution — decides to move back home with his parents (Jacki Weaver and Robert DeNiro, both phoning it in). Not since *Do the Right Thing* have so many characters in one movie spoken with the same identical voice. Close your eyes during one of the film’s numerous screaming matches and you won’t be able to distinguish between Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. To add injury to the

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Bargain showtimes are in parentheses.

CENTRAL

Museum of Photographic Arts

Combat Girls (Kriegerin) (Not Rated) Sat 6:30p.m.; **Cracks In The Shell (Die Unsichtbare)** (Not Rated) Sun 7:00p.m.; **German Film Festival:** (Not Rated) Sun 1:30p.m.; **Home for the Weekend (Was bleibt)** (Not Rated) Sun 4:00p.m.

San Diego Natural History Museum

Flying Monsters 3D (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 11:00, 2:00; **Ocean Oasis** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 12:00p.m.; **Such is the Real Nature of Horses** (Not Rated) Fri 4:00p.m.; **The Last Reef 3D: Cities Beneath the Sea** (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 1:00, 3:00

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Reading Carmel Mountain

11620 Carmel Mountain Road (800-326-3264 #2704)
Call theater for program information.

CLAIREMONT

Reading Town Square

4665 Clairemont Drive (800-326-3264 #2722)
Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) Fri-Sun (12:00) 7:00; **Flight** (R) Fri-Sun (2:15) 9:35; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:35, 1:00, 3:25) 5:45, 8:15, 10:35; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:45, 1:35) 4:35, 7:25, 10:15; **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:30, 1:20) 4:20; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:30, 2:40) 6:10, 9:30; **Monsters, Inc. (G)** Fri-Sun (12:40, 3:15); **Monsters, Inc. 3D (G)** Fri-Sun (10:20) 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:25, 2:05) 4:40, 7:20, 9:40; **Silver Linings Playbook** (R) Fri-Sun (10:55, 1:55) 4:50, 7:40, 10:30; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:40, 1:05, 3:30) 5:40, 8:05, 10:15; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 11:15, 11:45, 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45) 5:15, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 8:45, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 7:50, 11:15 Sun 7:50p.m.; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sun (10:50, 1:45) 4:45,

7:35, 10:30

CORONADO

Vintage La Costa

820 Orange Avenue (619-437-6161)
Call theater for program information.

DOWNTOWN

Reading Gaslamp

701 Fifth Avenue (800-326-3264 #2709)
Call theater for program information.

Regal Horton Plaza

Horton Plaza (619-444-FILM)

Argo (R) Fri (11:00, 2:15, 5:00) 7:45, 10:35 Sat-Sun (11:00, 2:15) 5:00, 7:45, 10:35; **Flight** (R) Fri-Sun 7:10, 10:10; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri (10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30) 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:30 Sat-Sun (10:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30) 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:50, 10:30; **Red Dawn** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:10a.m.); **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:30, 3:45) 7:15, 10:20 Sun (12:35, 3:40) 7:15, 10:20; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:45, 2:30) 6:30, 10:15; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 2:00) 6:00, 9:45 Fri-Sun 11:15, (3:00) 7:00, 10:45; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri (11:05, 1:45, 4:15) Sat-Sun (11:05, 1:45) 4:15

Full Moon Drive-In

1500 Felspar Street (888-211-0404)

Stand By Me (R) Fri 1/4/13 (7:30); **Terminator** (double feature) (R) Sat 1/5/13 (7:30)

KENSINGTON

Landmark Ken

4061 Adams Avenue (619-819-0236)

California Solo (NR) Fri: (1:30), (3:30), (5:30), 7:30, 9:30, Sat & Sun: (1:30), 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, Mon: (3:30), (5:30), 7:30, Tue: (1:30), 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, Wed & Thu: (3:30), (5:30), 7:30, 9:30, Discount Shows at Landmark’s Ken Cinema Indicated in Brackets “()”; **North Sea Texas** (NR) Opens Friday, December 28

LA JOLLA

AMC La Jolla

8657 Villa La Jolla Drive (888-262-4386)

Call theater for program information.

Landmark La Jolla Village

8879 Villa La Jolla Drive (619-819-0236)

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) Fri: (2:30), 6:00, 9:30, Sat & Sun: (11:00), 2:30, 6:00, 9:30, Mon: (2:30), 6:00; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri & Wed & Thu: (1:00), (4:30), 8:15, Sat, Sun & Tue: (1:00), 4:30, 8:15, Mon: (1:00), (4:30); **The Other Son** (PG-13) Fri: (1:40), (4:10), 6:45, 9:10, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:10), 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10, Mon: (1:40), (4:10), 6:45, Wed & Thu: (11:10), (1:40), (4:10), 6:45, 9:10; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri: (4:20), 9:15, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:20), 4:20, 9:15, Mon: (4:20), Wed & Thu: (11:20), (4:20), 9:15; **The Sessions** (R) Fri-Thur: (1:50), 7:00; **Les Misérables** (PG-13) Tue: (10:00), 1:20, 4:40, 8:00, Wed & Thu: (10:00), (1:20), (4:30), 8:00, Discount Shows at Landmark’s La Jolla Cinemas Indicated in Brackets “()”

MIRA MESA

Regal Mira Mesa

10733 Westview Parkway (800-326-3264)

Argo (R) Fri (3:15) 9:30 Sat 3:15, 9:30; **Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (12:00) 7:00; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri (10:05, 11:50, 1:25, 3:05, 4:40) 6:25, 7:55, 9:40, 11:15 Sat (10:05, 11:50, 1:25) 3:05, 4:40, 6:25, 7:55, 9:40, 11:15; **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri (3:50p.m.) Sat 3:50p.m.; **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sat (9:45, 12:45) 6:55, 9:55; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri (11:40, 3:25) 7:05, 10:35 Sat (11:40) 3:25, 7:05, 10:35; **Monsters, Inc. (G)** Fri (2:30p.m.) Sat 2:30p.m.; **Monsters, Inc. 3D (G)** Fri (9:30, 11:55, 5:10) 7:45, 10:25 Sat (9:30, 11:55) 5:10, 7:45, 10:25; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri (9:40, 11:10, 1:30, 4:00) 6:40, 9:20 Sat (9:40, 11:10, 1:30) 4:00, 6:40, 9:20; **Silver Linings Playbook** (R) Fri (10:35, 1:35, 4:35) 7:35, 10:30 Sat (10:35, 1:35) 4:35, 7:35, 10:30; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri (9:35, 12:50, 4:05) 7:20, 10:35 Sat (9:35, 12:50) 4:05, 7:20, 10:35; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri (11:30, 2:10, 4:50) 7:40, 10:20 Sat (11:30) 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri (11:00, 12:25, 2:50) 6:50, 8:00, 10:40, 11:35 Sat (11:00, 12:25) 2:50, 6:50, 8:00, 10:40, 11:35; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey An IMAX 3D Experience in HFR** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 10:15, 2:15, 6:15, 10:15; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri (9:30, 1:20, 5:15) 9:05 Fri (11:45, 3:35) 7:25,

11:05 Fri (4:15p.m.) Sat (11:45) 3:35, 7:25, 11:05 Sat (9:30, 1:20) 5:15, 9:05 Sat 4:15p.m.; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2** (PG-13) Fri (10:20, 1:10, 4:10) 7:10, 10:05 Sat (10:20, 1:10) 4:10, 7:10, 10:05; **This Is 40** (R) Fri (9:50, 1:05, 4:20, 5:00) 7:30, 8:30, 10:45, 11:30 Sat (9:50, 1:05) 4:20, 5:00, 7:30, 8:30, 10:45, 11:30; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri (11:25, 2:20) Sat (11:25) 2:20

MISSION VALLEY

AMC Fashion Valley

7037 Friars Road (888-262-4386)

Call theater for program information.

AMC Mission Valley

1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)

Call theater for program information.

Ultrastar Mission Valley Hazard Center

7510 Hazard Center Drive (619-685-2841)

Jack Reacher (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:30, 1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30; **Kidtoons: Barbie: The Princess & The Popstar** (Not Rated) Sat-Sun (10:30a.m.); **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:15) 4:15; **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (1:15) 7:15, 10:15; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 1:30) 4:45, 8:00; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri (10:00, 1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00 Sat-Sun (1:00, 4:00) 7:00, 10:00; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:00, 2:00) 6:00, 9:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:00, 3:00) 7:00, 10:45; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sun (10:45, 1:45) 4:45, 7:45, 10:45

UPTOWN

Landmark Hillcrest

3965 Fifth Avenue (619-819-0236)

Rust And Bone (R) Fri: (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, 9:45, Sat, Sun & Tue: (10:45), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, Mon: (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, Wed & Thu: (10:45), (1:30), (4:15), 7:00, 9:45; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri: (2:10), (5:00), 7:30, 9:50, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:40), 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50, Mon: (2:10), (5:00), 7:30, Wed & Thu: (11:40), (2:10), (5:00), 7:30, 9:50; **Hyde Park On Hudson** (R) Fri: (1:45), (4:30), 7:10, 9:30, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:15), 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30, Mon: (1:45), (4:30), 7:10, Wed & Thu: (11:15), 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30; **Anna Karenina** (R) Fri & Mon: (2:00), (4:50), 7:40, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:00), 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, Wed & Thu: (11:00), (2:00),

(4:50), 7:40; **Any Day Now** (R) Fri: (2:10), (4:40), 7:20, 9:40, Sat, Sun & Tue: (11:30), 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40, Mon: (2:10), (4:40), 7:20, Wed & Thu: (11:30), (2:10), (4:40), 7:20, 9:40, Discount Shows at Landmark’s Hillcrest Cinemas Indicated in Brackets “()”

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

Flight of the Butterflies (Not Rated) Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:00, 4:00; **Let It Snow** (Not Rated) Fri 5:00p.m. Sat-Sun 11:00, 5:00; **Tales of the Maya Skies (El Universo Maya)** (Not Rated) Fri-Sat 3:00, 6:00, 7:00 Sun 3:00p.m.; **To The Arctic IMAX** (G) Fri-Sun 1:00p.m.

EAST COUNTY

EL CAJON

Regal Parkway Plaza

405 Parkway Plaza (619-401-3456)

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) Fri-Sun (12:00) 7:00; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri (2:20, 4:40) 9:20 Sat-Sun (2:20) 4:40, 9:20; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri (12:30, 1:00, 3:40, 4:20) 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:35 Sat-Sun (12:30, 1:00, 3:40) 6:50, 7:20, 9:55, 10:35; **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sun (12:10p.m.); **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (3:40) 7:10, 10:10; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:40, 3:00) 6:45, 10:00; **Monsters, Inc. (G)** Fri-Sun (1:20p.m.); **Monsters, Inc. 3D (G)** Fri (10:50, 4:10) Sat-Sun (10:50) 4:10; **Playing for Keeps** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:45a.m.); **Red Dawn** (PG-13) Fri (11:25, 2:30, 5:10) 7:45, 10:05 Sat-Sun (11:25, 2:30) 5:10, 7:45, 10:05; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri (11:15, 2:00, 4:30) 7:15, 9:50 Sat-Sun (11:15, 2:00) 4:30, 7:15, 9:50; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri (12:30, 4:05) 7:20, 10:30 Sat-Sun (12:30) 4:05, 7:20, 10:30; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri (11:00, 1:30, 4:15) 7:05, 9:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri (10:30, 2:10, 3:10, 5:50) 9:30 Sat-Sun (10:30, 2:10, 3:10) 5:50, 9:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) Fri-Sat 11:30, 3:10, 6:55, 10:30 Sun 11:30, 2:40, 6:55, 10:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri (10:30, 2:10, 5:50) 9:30 Fri-Sun (11:30) 6:55, 10:30 Sat-Sun (10:30, 2:10) 5:50, 9:30; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2** (PG-13) Fri (10:30,

insults, Russell’s camera covers the action either in constipated close-up, as a “walk and talk” (traveling shots of characters delivering dialog as they stroll), or both. Even a musical number is photographed from the waist up. The third-act combination of *Dancing with the Stars* and repugnant behavior on the part of violent football fans should make this a bit hit with Monday night TV viewers. Apart from Ms. Lawrence’s electrifying turn as the tough-talking dame who plans on mending Cooper’s heart by putting him back in touch with his ex, this couldn’t have ended soon enough for me. With incessant jabbering from Chris Tucker, a welcome, albeit brief appearance by Julia Stiles, and brilliant background work by Paul Herman. 2012. — S.M.

★

This Is 40 — This is 134 minutes! Paul Rudd and Leslie Mann star as the now-married couple Judd Apatow first introduced us to in *Knocked Up*. (Katherine Heigl, who told *Vanity Fair* that the

original “paints the women as shrews, as humorless and uptight, and it paints the men as lovable, goofy, fun-loving guys” was not invited back for the sequel.) Rudd has a dream of introducing a new generation to Graham Parker, while Mann is desperately clinging to 39. The largely improvised marital skit-com marks Apatow’s fourth jaunt in the director’s chair; at least this time, he has the good sense to feature Albert Brooks in a meaty supporting role as Rudd’s dependent father. There are the usual amount of gross-out jokes one associates with the Apatow factory, along with the usual featherweight observational material — he sneaks cupcakes, she hides cigarettes — sprinkled with topical references. And what would a Viagra opener be without a subsequent stream of penis jokes? As much as I enjoy watching Albert on screen, in this case, his comedic timing would have been put to better use if he’d been hired as an editorial consultant to whittle away a half-hour. With Jason Segal, Robert Smigel, and Megan Fox. 2012. — S.M.

★

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2 — Oh, alas. The fevered emotion of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1* — the one where teen bride Bella (Kristen Stewart) and her ageless vampire suitor Edward (Robert Pattinson) get married, get down, and get into trouble when the hybrid fetus that results from their love begins to threaten her life *and* attract the attention of Jacob-the-werewolf-who-used-to-love-Bella — has cooled here, and the ensuing chill stiffens the joints of an already creaky affair. Bella is a full-on vampire now — red eyes, blood-thirst, insatiable sex drive, funky superpowers, the works. The awful-great love story is over; all that remains is to defend the family against an outside threat: power-hungry imperialist vampires willing to use the danger posed by The Unknown Other as pretext for a preemptive strike. (We even hear the term “weapons of mass destruction.”) The Other in question is the hybrid offspring Renesmee, who grows very quickly but never manages to become a character in the process. Most of the film

is spent in preparation for a showdown, complete with backstory flashbacks and training scenes. Then there’s a showdown. Then there’s a huge emotional cheat. Then there are some endings. With Taylor Lautner, Dakota Fanning, and a great many other people. 2012. — M.L.

●

Wreck-It Ralph — What a concept: children’s playthings with human neuroses. Oh, wait, this isn’t *Toy Story*? Nope, just a Disney rehash of same, substituting video game characters for action figures. You know — it’s what the kids are into these days, even if there *is* a hefty dose of Gen-X nostalgia to rope in the grownups. (Our heroes populate an arcade where kids go to dump quarters into the sort of 8-bit retro jobs you can play online for free.) And like an arcade game, it’s laced with cheat codes. Professional bad guy Wreck-It Ralph knows that being a bad guy is just his job, the sort of thing he can leave behind at the end of the day. But the corresponding good guys aren’t in on

the secret, and treat him like he’s *actually bad* — making him live in the dump, not inviting him to parties, etc. Alas, he can’t point out this bit of flawed storytelling, so instead, he sets off to get a medal from some *other* game, just to prove his worth. Out in the wider gaming world, the arbitrary discrepancies persist: one heroine can’t help being hard-hearted; she was programmed with a tragic backstory. Another...well, suffice it to say that Disney seems eager to take a break from princess culture, and remains comfortable with breaking the rules of its own universe. But quibbles aside, the whole thing is bright and slick and full of clever nods to the video game universe, and there are jokes and thrills aplenty to keep the kiddies entertained while their parents get misty-eyed over Q*bert. With the voices of John C. Reilly, Jack McBrayer, Sarah Silverman, and Jane Lynch, among others. 2012. — M.L.

★

MOVIE SHOWTIMES

1:50, 4:40) 7:25, 10:20 Sat-Sun (10:30, 1:50) 4:40, 7:25, 10:20; **This Is 40** (R) Fri (12:50, 1:25, 4:05, 4:35) 7:15, 7:50, 10:25, 10:55 Sat-Sun (12:50, 1:25) 4:05, 4:35, 7:15, 7:50, 10:25, 10:55; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri (10:45, 1:45, 4:25) 7:00, 9:35 Sat-Sun (10:45, 1:45) 4:25, 7:00, 9:35

LA MESA

Reading Grossmont

5500 Grossmont Center Drive (800-326-3264 #2710)

Call theater for program information.

RANCHO SAN DIEGO

Regal Rancho San Diego

2951 Jamacha Road (800-326-3264)

Jack Reacher (PG-13) Fri (11:15, 1:20, 2:45, 4:30) 7:10, 7:40, 10:20, 10:45 Sat-Sun (11:15, 1:20, 2:45) 4:30, 7:10, 7:40, 10:20, 10:45; **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:45a.m.); **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (3:20) 6:35, 9:40; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:10, 2:35) 6:45, 10:10; **Monsters, Inc.** (G) Fri-Sun (1:40p.m.); **Monsters, Inc. 3D** (G) Fri (11:05, 4:20) 7:05, 9:35 Sat-Sun (11:05) 4:20, 7:05, 9:35; **Playing for Keeps** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:35a.m.); **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri (10:40, 1:25, 4:05) 6:50, 9:30 Sat-Sun (10:40, 1:25) 4:05, 6:50, 9:30; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:40, 3:10) 7:50, 11:05; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:35, 2:05) 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri (12:00, 4:00) 7:00, 8:00, 10:50 Sat-Sun (12:00) 4:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:50; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30) 6:30, 7:30, 10:30, 11:30; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2** (PG-13) Fri (10:55) 1:50, (4:45) 7:35, 10:40 Sat-Sun (10:55) 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:40; **This Is 40** (R) Fri (10:50, 2:15, 4:10) 6:40, 8:10, 10:00, 11:20 Sat-Sun (10:50, 2:15) 4:10, 6:40, 8:10, 10:00, 11:20; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:45, 1:30)

SANTEE

Santee Drive In

10990 Woodside Avenue (619-448-7447)

Call theater for program information.

SOUTH BAY

CHULA VISTA

AMC Palm Promenade

770 Dennery Road (888-262-4386)

Call theater for program information.

Regal Rancho Del Rey

1025 Tierra del Rey (off East H Street) (619-216-4707)

Call theater for program information.

UltraStar Chula Vista

Broadway between H and I (619-338-4214)

Kidtoons: Barbie: The Princess & The Popstar (NR) Sat & Sun: (10:30 AM); **The Man with the Iron Fists** (R) Fri-Thu: (1:45), 7:00; **Chasing Mavericks** (PG) Fri-Thu: 5:45, 8:45; **Cloud Atlas** (R) Fri-Thu: (12:30), 7:15; **Fun Size** (PG-13) Fri-Thu: (10:45 AM), (1:15), (3:45), 6:15, 8:45; **Here Comes the Boom** (PG) Fri-Thu: (10:45 AM), (1:30), 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **Sinister** (R) Fri: (10:30 AM), (1:15), (4:00), 6:45, 9:30, Sat & Sun: (1:15), (4:00), 6:45, 9:30, Mon-Thur: (10:30 AM), (1:15), (4:00), 6:45, 9:30; **Frankenweenie** (PG) Fri: (2:30), 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, Sat-Thu: (12:00), (2:30), 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; **Taken 2** (PG-13) Fri-Thu: (10:30 AM), (1:00), (3:30), 6:00, 8:30, 10:45; **Hotel Transylvania** (PG) Fri-Thu: (10:00 AM), (12:30), (3:00), 5:30, 8:00, 10:30; **Looper** (R) Fri-Thu: (11:00 AM), (1:45), 4:30, 7:15, 10:00; End of Watch (R) Fri-Thu: (11:00 AM), 4:15, 9:30; **Ice Age: Continental Drift** (PG) Fri-Thu: (10:00 AM), 4:30, 10:45; **Brave** (PG) Fri-Thu: (10:15 AM), (12:45), (3:15)

EASTLAKE

AMC Otay Ranch

Eastlake Parkway (at Olympic) (888-262-4386)

Call theater for program information.

IMPERIAL BEACH

South Bay Drive In

2170 Coronado Avenue (619-423-2727)

Call theater for program information.

NATIONAL CITY

AMC Plaza Bonita

3030 Plaza Bonita Road (888-262-4386)

Jack Reacher (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:05, 11:05, 2:15, 4:00, 5:30, 7:15, 8:45, 10:45; **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 3:15, 10:20; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:10, 1:40, 5:05, 8:25; **Monsters, Inc. 3D** (G) Fri 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45 Sat-Sun 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri-Sun 10:30, 3:45, 6:20; **Rise of the Guardians 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10p.m.; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:45, 6:50; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:15, 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 7:25, 10:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 10:00, 2:00, 6:00, 9:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:30, 3:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in HFR 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 1:15, 8:45; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2** (PG-13) Fri-Sun 11:00, 1:50, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sun 10:00, 1:15, 4:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15, 11:00; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15, 2:05, 4:55, 7:40, 10:35

NORTH INLAND

ESCONDIDO

Regal Escondido

350 West Valley Parkway (760-291-0119)

Call theater for program information.

FALLBROOK

UltraStar River Village

5256 S. Mission Road (760-945-8784)

Jack Reacher (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:15, 1:15) 4:15, 7:45, 10:45 Sun (10:15, 1:15) 4:15, 7:45; **Kidtoons: Barbie: The Princess & The Popstar** (Not Rated) Sat-Sun (10:30a.m.); **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sat (12:30, 3:30) 7:15, 10:15 Sun (12:30, 3:30) 7:15; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri-Sun (11:00) 4:45; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (1:30) 7:30, 11:00 Sun (1:30) 7:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:00, 11:30, 1:45, 3:15) 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:45 Sun (10:00, 11:30, 1:45, 3:15) 5:30, 7:00; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sat (10:45, 2:00) 5:00, 8:00, 11:15 Sun (10:45, 2:00) 5:00, 8:00

POWAY

UltraStar Poway

13475 Poway Road (858-646-9423)

Call theater for program information.

SAN MARCOS

Regal San Marcos

1180 W. San Marcos Boulevard (at Old California Walk) (800-326-3264)

Anna Karenina (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:20, 1:25) 6:55; **Argo** (R) Fri-Sun (11:45a.m.); **Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (12:00) 7:00; **Flight** (R) Fri-Sun 9:05p.m.; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri (4:25) 10:00 Sat-Sun 4:25, 10:00; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri (10:05, 11:40, 1:10, 3:10, 4:15) 6:45, 7:25, 9:55, 10:35 Sat-Sun (10:05, 11:40, 1:10, 3:10) 4:15, 6:45, 7:25, 9:55, 10:35; **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:25a.m.); **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri (1:30, 4:25) 7:40, 10:35 Sat-Sun (1:30) 4:25, 7:40, 10:35; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:05, 2:30) 6:50, 10:15; **Monsters, Inc.** (G) Fri-Sun (12:50p.m.); **Monsters, Inc. 3D** (G) Fri-Sun (10:10, 3:35) 6:30, 9:10; **Playing for Keeps** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:00a.m.); **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri (10:30, 1:20, 4:00) 6:35 Sat-Sun (10:30, 1:20) 4:00, 6:35; **Silver Linings Playbook** (R) Fri (10:40, 1:40, 4:50) 7:50, 10:45 Sat-Sun (10:40, 1:40) 4:50, 7:50, 10:45; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri (10:05, 1:10, 4:20) 7:30, 10:40 Sat-Sun (10:05, 1:10) 4:20, 7:30, 10:40; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri (11:25, 2:05, 4:45) 7:55, 10:25 Sat-Sun (11:25, 2:05) 4:45, 7:55, 10:25; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:30, 3:00, 3:30) 7:15, 7:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri (12:30, 4:30) 8:30 Fri-Sun (10:15, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55) 6:00, 8:15, 10:00 Sat-Sun (12:30) 4:30, 8:30; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking**

ing Dawn-Part 2 (PG-13) Fri (10:35, 1:35, 4:40) 7:40, 10:30 Sat-Sun (10:35, 1:35) 4:40, 7:40, 10:30; **This Is 40** (R) Fri (10:00, 1:05, 4:20) 7:35, 10:45 Sat-Sun (10:00, 1:05) 4:20, 7:35, 10:45; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri-Sun (3:15) 9:40

TEMECULA

Ultrastar Temecula Tower Cinemas

27531 Ynez Road (951-699-2205)

Call theater for program information.

VISTA

Krikorian Vista Village

Highway 78 at Vista Village Drive

(760-945-7469)

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) Fri-Sun (12:00) 7:00; **Hitchcock** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:00, 12:20, 2:40, 5:10) 7:35, 10:00; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:10, 10:50, 1:10, 1:50, 4:10, 4:50) 7:10, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40 Sun (10:10, 10:50, 1:10, 1:50, 4:10, 4:50) 7:10, 7:50, 10:10; **Life of Pi** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:55a.m.); **Life of Pi 3D** (PG) Fri-Sun (1:45, 4:40) 7:45, 10:30; **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (1:10, 4:25) 7:40; **Monsters, Inc.** (G) Fri-Sun (10:40, 2:15, 4:30); **Monsters, Inc. 3D** (G) Fri-Sun (11:15, 1:30, 3:50) 7:05, 9:25; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:05, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00) 7:20; **Skyfall** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (1:40) 9:50; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (12:10, 2:35, 5:00) 7:25, 9:45; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sat (10:00, 10:40, 11:30, 12:00, 2:30, 3:30, 4:00, 5:30) 6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 Sun (10:00, 10:40, 11:30, 12:00, 2:30, 3:30, 4:00, 5:30) 6:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:00, 3:00) 7:00, 10:30; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sat (10:35, 1:35, 4:30) 7:30, 9:20, 10:25, 11:00 Sun (10:35, 1:35, 4:30) 7:30, 9:20, 10:25

NORTH COASTAL

CARLSBAD

Moviemax Plaza Camino Real

2385 Marron Road (760-729-7469)

Call theater for program information.

DEL MAR

Cinépolis Del Mar

12905 El Camino Real (858-794-4045)

Call theater for program information.

ENCINITAS

La Paloma

471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)

Chasing Mavericks (PG) Sat-Sun

(1:00p.m.); **Searching for Sugar Man** (PG-13) Fri 6:00, 8:35 Sat-Sun (3:25) 6:00, 8:35; **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (R) Fri 12:00a.m.

UltraStar Oceanside Mission

Marketplace

College Boulevard and Mission Avenue

(760-806-1790)

Hitchcock (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:10, 12:40, 3:00) 5:20, 7:40, 10:10; **Jack Reacher** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 11:15, 1:15, 2:15) 4:15, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15; **Kidtoons: Barbie: The Princess & The Popstar** (Not Rated) Sat-Sun (10:30a.m.); **Lincoln** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:15, 1:40) 5:00, 8:15; **Monsters, Inc. 3D** (G) Fri-Sun (10:00, 12:30, 2:40) 5:00, 7:20, 9:45; **Rise of the Guardians** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:25, 12:50, 3:10) 5:30, 7:50, 10:15; **The Guilt Trip** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (12:30, 3:00) 5:15, 7:45, 10:20; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (10:00, 1:30, 3:30) 5:00, 8:30, 10:30 Fri-Sun (10:00, 1:30) 5:00, 8:30; **The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (11:00, 12:00, 2:30) 6:00, 7:00, 9:30; **The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 2** (PG-13) Fri-Sun (1:10) 9:15; **This Is 40** (R) Fri-Sun (10:20, 11:20, 1:20, 2:20) 4:20, 5:20, 7:30, 8:40, 10:40; **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) Fri-Sun (10:50, 3:50) 6:30

CLASSIFIED ADS

Check out ads at **SDReader.com**
Each print ad comes with an online ad.

TO PLACE AN AD: Call 619-235-8200 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday.
WALK-IN: 1703 India Street (at Date), Little Italy, 92101

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTING / FINANCE

ACCOUNTANT for Sanyo Manufacturing Corp., San Diego. Requires AA/AS accounting plus 1 year experience with preparation of financial statements and fiscal reports, US GAAP, Japanese accounting practices, budgeting and forecasting, tax filings. Resume to hr@sanyotv.com

DOMESTIC SERVICE

MAID WANTED. Alternate Thursdays. Clairemont, Balboa at Genesee. 5 hours at \$12 = \$60, long term. Speak english and bring references. Bob, 858-337-8694.

DRIVERS / DELIVERY

DRIVER/ LEGAL MESSENGER. Great opportunity in busy, growing litigation support service. We'll train an enthusiastic team player. Good driving record. \$10.25 to start, company car. Full time. 619-298-2385.

HEALTH CARE

BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONIST. AIM, Inc., is offering a North County San Diego Behavioral Interventionist position. Provide one-on-one behavioral therapy to children with autism, in their homes. Must have experience with young children; preferably in ABA. Email resumes:

aimincsd@gmail.com. Evening availability is preferred. Must have reliable transportation.

CAREGIVERS AND CNAS. CNAs, HHAs, Companions and Homemakers. Hourly, 12-hour and Live-in positions available. Weekly pay, flexible hours. Apply online at www.rahencinitasappone.com. Be sure to answer all questions, provide at least two references and sign the application.

CAREGIVERS WANTED. FT and PT Caregiver positions available. Must enjoy working with the elderly. Benefits available. Will train. Apply online at www.sunriseseniorliving.com or in person at Sunrise Senior Living At La Costa (license #374601134), 7020 Manzanita Street, Carlsbad, CA 92011. 760-930-0060.

CAREGIVERS: Live-in, nights, weekends, hourly. 5 days per week minimum plus live-in shifts. Must be flexible to work weekends, hourly and live-in. Top pay. 401(k). Rewards for good work. Requires valid driver's license, vehicle/insurance/registration, one year of paid elder caregiving experience a must, eligibility to work in the United States. We have shifts available for people with a heart. Comfort Keepers, 619-795-6036. <http://www.comfortkeepers.com/office-195>. No recruiters, please.

CAREGIVERS. Needed from all areas. 1 year experience. Hourly and live in. Assertive Care at Home Inc., 3774 Grove Street, #L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.



CAREGIVERS/ COMPANIONS. Home care agency has immediate openings for compassionate and experienced Caregivers in the El Cajon, Lakeside,

Granite Hills, Bostonia, Rancho San Diego, Alpine and Julian areas. Must have 2+ years healthcare experience, valid CA driver's license and reliable transportation. Background check required. Visiting Angels, 619-987-4910.

CAREGIVERS/CNAS/HHAS. Immediate openings. Hourly, Live-in, Nights. Cheerful Caregivers needed to assist seniors in-home. Minimum 1 year's experience. Premium pay/bonuses/benefits, 24-hour office support. Age Advantage, 760-720-7272.

Caregivers Needed

Great weekly pay, flexible hours. Live-in and hourly caregivers needed for high-profile clients throughout San Diego County. We speak Tagalog! Home Care Assistance 7521 Fay Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037. 760-635-3758.

HAVE A SPARE BEDROOM? Earn a stipend starting at \$1,100/ month and up! Make a difference in the life of a person with a developmental disability, by caring for one in your home. www.MentorsWanted.com. 619-293-0214.

HEALTHCARE COMPLIANCE Instructor. National Provider Compliance Corporation is a healthcare reimbursement company which does nationwide seminars for healthcare providers. We have expanded our customer base and, as a result, we are currently seeking a new Healthcare Compliance Instructor. Qualifications: Ability to travel weekly/ bi-monthly, sales and public speaking experience, healthcare (billing/administration) experience, basic computer skills. Compensation: Paid training, all travel expenses paid, medical and dental benefits. Top instructors average \$2500-\$4500 per week! Send resume to: info@providercompliance.com or fax 619-668-4793.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACTIVISM: CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT Poverty! End poverty! Fight injustice! Save lives! Now hiring FT/PT. Earn \$1400-\$2200/month. Call Alec at 619-523-0412.

DONATE QUALIFIED PLASMA, earn money every week. Requirements: 18-64 years old, good health, proof of Social Security number, proof of current residence—postmarked within the last 30 days, current photo ID. Bring in this ad and receive a \$5 bonus after your first donation! Octapharma Plasma, 3232 Duke Street, San Diego (off Midway), 619-758-9278. www.octapharmaplasma.com.

EARN MONEY EVERY WEEK for qualified plasma donations. Requirements: 18-64 years old, good health, proof of Social Security number, proof of current residence—postmarked within the last 30 days, current photo ID. Bring in this ad and receive a \$5 bonus after your first donation! Octapharma Plasma, 3232 Duke Street, San Diego (off Midway), 619-758-9278. www.octapharmaplasma.com.

HELP WANTED. Earn extra income assembling CD cases from home! No experience necessary! Call our live operators now! 1-800-405-7619 x2450. www.easywork-greatpay.com. (AAN CAN)

INSTRUCTORS/COACHES. Work with adults with developmental disabilities in Oceanside, Lakeside, or Chula Vista. Full time. Excellent benefits. \$10-\$10.50/ hour. Call Oceanside 760-643-9394, Lakeside 619-562-6330 or Chula Vista, 619-691-6346.

MODELS. Female amateur models needed for photo, video. Ages 18-60. All types. No experience necessary. Cash paid. Professional setting. Call Char, 619-379-4964.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT! Campaign jobs working for the political arm of CA's environmental movement. Now hiring, FT/PT positions. Earn \$1400-\$2200/month. Call Alec at 619-523-0412.

OFFICE / ADMINISTRATIVE

WORK FROM HOME. Part-time Secretarial work, dictation, typing, etc. 760-270-3348.

RESEARCH STUDIES

ENDOMETRIOSIS If you have been surgically diagnosed with endometriosis in the last **five years**. We are doing a **NON MEDICATION STUDY** about your **PAIN**. Earn up to \$300 dollars. Call MCCR 619-521-2841.

RESTAURANT / HOTEL / CLUB

HOTEL FRONT DESK. Full time, experience required. Must be able to work weekends & flexible schedule. Competitive pay! Fax resume 619-296-0524 or email hotelmanager@oldtown-inn.com.



Casa de Manana

RESORT/RETIREMENT Community. Casa De Manana, an upscale retirement community in La Jolla offering independent and assisted living for seniors, is currently offering per diem positions for LVNs and CNAs. Also hiring Servers. We offer competitive wages, benefits and a friendly work environment. Please apply in person at: 849 Coast Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037. EOE.

RETAIL

MANAGERS/ASSISTANT MANAGERS. 10DollarMall.com is a fast growing discount family clothing stores throughout San Diego county. Seeking experienced Managers & Assistant Managers. Forward resumes to mmittrowke@aol.com.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Campaign Jobs Working for the political arm of CA's environmental movement

Now Hiring FT/PT Positions
Earn \$1400 - \$2200 / month

Call Alec at **(619) 523-0412**

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- Current photo ID

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plasma

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California
MENTOR

Do You Have a Spare Room?

Earn a stipend starting at \$1100/month caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home.

Minimum requirements: Spare bedroom, proficiency in English, driver's license and high school diploma/GED.

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SECURITY

SECURITY GUARDS. Full-time and part-time opportunities at construction sites, hotels, etc. Mostly evening shifts between 6pm and 5am. Guard Card and minimum 6 months experience required. Call for an appointment: East-Tech Private Security, San Diego, 619-459-0991; Oceanside, 760-433-9477.



SECURITY PROFESSIONALS. Secure a new career in the growing field of Security and Asset Protection. Full/ part time and flexible schedules. Excellent compensation. Professional certification. Benefits include: 401(k) with company match, medical, dental, vision, life, disability, accident, much more! Free classes and training! Requires valid CA driver's license, current CA Guard Card, phone, transportation. Must be able to read/ write/understand English. Apply online at <http://www.gmiweb.com>.

TRADES / LABOR

DELIVERY DRIVERS. Earn extra money delivering new telephone directories in the San Diego area. Full time/part time. Work your own hours. Must be 18+

years, have driver's license and insured vehicle. Call today! 1-866-871-0315.

PLUMBER SERVICE, REPAIR and drain cleaning. Must be good with sales. 4 years minimum experience. Good commission and benefits. Drug test and verifiable reference required. 619-702-6067.

COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

CLINICAL LAB SCIENTIST (Req# IIC1033). Perform all aspects of genetic testing. Maintain lab records and contribute to general lab maintenance and validation. Assist fellow scientists and students. Bachelors +2 yrs rtd exp. Mail resumes to Alice DeGroff, Illumina, Inc., 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Must ref title & req#.

JOBS WANTED

NOTICE TO READERS: This category is for individuals seeking employment, so employers can contact them with available job openings.

JOB WANTED AS CAREGIVER. Independent/ certified, live- in, hourly, 15 years' experience, good references, bilingual (English/Spanish), cooking, cleaning, drives. Check/ cash okay. 619-646-9291.

CAREER TRAINING



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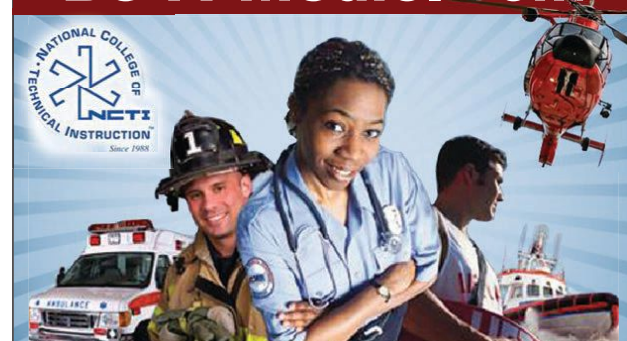
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

envelope of campaign cash from contractor Loreto Romero.

Community activist Kathleen Cheers told the board, "We have the right to know these [trustee] seats were not purchased."

SUSAN LUZZARO, DECEMBER 12

MISSION BAY

This one's a dud

Without fireworks, holiday boat parade doesn't live up to billing

The annual nighttime holiday boat procession known as the Mission Bay Parade of Lights, held December 8, was not exactly what it was advertised to be. Some websites stated approximately 100 boats would participate, over 60,000 spectators would attend, and the parade would conclude with a fireworks display from SeaWorld along with the lighting of their "SkyTower" Christmas tree.

But the parade only involved about 20 boats participating in a disorganized fashion — sometimes no boats passing in front of us for ten minutes at a time. There was no fireworks display at the end, and the SeaWorld tree was already lit when we arrived.

When I contacted the Mission Bay Yacht

Club, which organizes the event every year, their office manager informed me that this was the first year the parade did not have participation from SeaWorld. She stated that websites advertising the fireworks must have copied the information from previous years without finding out the real info. However, even Mission Bay Yacht Club's site had the erroneous information.

MERCY BARON, DECEMBER 12

QPODAD, DECEMBER 12 @ 1:48 P.M.

I am shocked, SHOCKED, to find out that there was erroneous information on the interwebs! But seriously, the San Diego Bay boat parade is the one to go to.

ALPINE | FALLBROOK | RANCHO SANTA FE

Fired up

Backcountry folks double-taxed for wildfire protection?

As San Diego County's due date for paying the first installment of property taxes loomed on December 10, an additional \$150 tax bill began arriving in property owners' mailboxes.

The new per-parcel tax, sent to most property owners in unincorporated areas, is on behalf of CalFire, the state's firefighting agency. CalFire usually becomes the lead firefighting agency in a wildfire crisis, such as those San Diego County experienced in

2003 and 2007.

In 2011, after losing \$80 million in funding due to the lingering budget crisis, bureaucrats at CalFire found an ally in assemblyman Robert Blumenfield (D-Van Nuys). Blumenfield introduced his bill ABX1 29, quickly got it passed by his fellow democratic legislators, and Governor Brown signed it.

But CalFire has some big problems ahead in its first year of trying to collect the tax. For one, a lawsuit filed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association claims it's illegal. Under Proposition 13, California law requires any new tax to be approved by a vote of the people, although Assemblyman Blumenfield carefully worded his bill to label it a "benefit fee."

The main issue for property owners in semi-rural communities such as Alpine, Bonsall, Fallbrook, Rancho Santa Fe, and Valley Center is that they already pay taxes to support their fully staffed and equipped fire departments.

Perhaps the biggest travesty, as pointed out by opponents, is that — of the millions of dollars to be collected — not one penny will be used for firefighting. CalFire will use the funds to talk with property owners about brush-clearing setbacks, mail brochures, and grant money for special fire-prevention programs around the state.

Rancho Santa Fe's fire chief Tony Michel

stated, "We already have fancy brochures, and we work in our community to help them be fire-safe."

KEN HARRISON, DECEMBER 11

KENSINGTON

Jerry Sanders watch: Starbucks edition

Catching up with the newly former mayor

Tuesday morning, December 11, about 8:40 at the Kensington Starbucks: "What? No more big black Escalade with the entourage following you around?" Laughter at the counter. I look up and see former mayor Jerry Sanders respond to the gentleman, "No, I keep waiting for them to show up and they don't. It's nice!"

Sanders left with an unknown drink in hand...looked like a grande size. He looked good, relaxed.

JAMES V. CARRETTA, DECEMBER 11

ESCONDIDO

Fresh face in a close race

Seven-term city treasurer nearly defeated by political newbie

Yes, the general election was over more than a month ago. And although Carl DeMaio, Brian Bilbray, and several other candidates had to wait a few days to know their fate, 23-year-

continued on page 90

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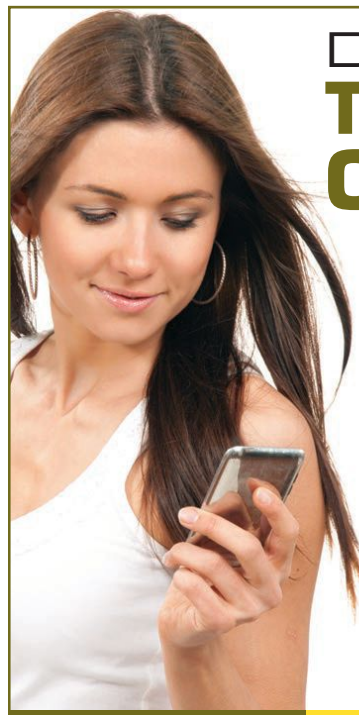
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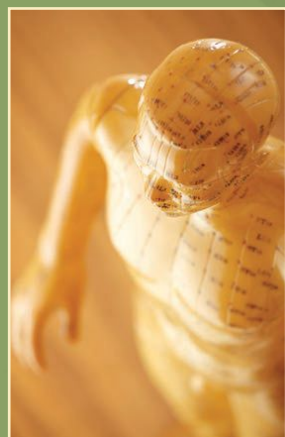
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 88

old Michelle Fawcett had to wait weeks — for every last ballot to be counted and certified.

Fawcett ran for Escondido city treasurer against seven-term incumbent Kenneth Hugins. On election night, she checked the county registrar's website every ten minutes. The candidate appeared to be matching her opponent vote for vote. Days later, the vote was still too close to call.

As the thousands of provisional ballots were being counted, she got within five votes of beating Hugins, who has often run unopposed in his position of 28 years. It wasn't until the evening of December 4 that Fawcett knew she was officially 27 votes short.

Fawcett said it was a last-minute decision to enter the political storm in a not-so-interesting race. Listing herself on the ballot as an "Accountant/Entrepreneur/Businesswoman," she didn't even file a candidate statement for the sample ballot. No debates were held, and the candidate spent less than \$1000 on her campaign.

"I just thought it was time for a fresh face," she said.

Of her success as a political novice, Fawcett says she knows a lot of people in town,

having grown up in Escondido. She also used old-fashioned knock-on-doors campaigning and social media.

"I've been asked about a possible run for city council but have no interest in that," she said. "I like reading financial statements."

KEN HARRISON, DECEMBER 11

IMPERIAL BEACH

Solidarity

Posada celebration at Friendship Park draws a crowd

Border Field State Park was the scene of cross-border Christmas prayers and songs on Saturday, December 8, as more than 200 people gathered for the 19th annual Posada, formally the celebration of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging in Jerusalem before the birth of Jesus. The event was also billed as a call to "stand with those who suffer."

The parking lot of Friendship Park atop Monument Mesa overflowed with cars as the U.S. Border Patrol opened the outer gate to let hundreds of people stand with dozens more on the Mexico side of the fence.

Although the state parks road has been passable for at least two weeks, it has been closed on weekends. Posada organizers obtained a permit and paid a fee to allow people to drive the 1.5 miles from the always-locked outer gates to the park.

For some, the gathering was a chance to visit with family through the fence; for others, a rare chance to see the remarkable beauty — the ocean in the background, with dolphins — at the outside corner of the U.S.

Christmas carols rang across the mesa, and people on both sides recounted the pains of separation and called for compassion to inform immigration policy.

LUCY D. BARKER, DECEMBER 10

PANCHO, DECEMBER 11 @ 6:12 P.M.

So you can get a permit and pay a fee to have people drive to the parking lot, but the state will not open the park on the weekends, as it is supposed to, because the roads are "impassable?" The fact is the state has kept those gates closed since mid-October. The park has only been open about 32 days this year, which is a joke.

CARDIFF

Tragedy on the tracks Train collides with tow truck, kills driver

A tow-truck driver was killed in Cardiff on Saturday afternoon, December 8, when a southbound Amtrak plowed into his rig.

At around 2:30 p.m., the tow-truck driver had just turned off of Coast Hwy. 101 to the eastbound track crossing on Chesterfield Drive. He had pulled over to assist a customer in a white SUV. Witnesses say the SUV

had stalled about five feet short of the tracks.

The tow-truck driver parked on the tracks and tried to quickly hook up the vehicle to be towed; then the crossing's warning bells sounded. He jumped into his truck to move it but was unsuccessful. He was killed instantly.

The SUV's driver and her passenger were inside their vehicle but were able to get out in time. Their vehicle was severely damaged in the collision.

Antonia from Cardiff said she had just crossed the tracks and saw the tow truck and the SUV sitting there. Two minutes later, while walking down to the beach along Coast Highway, she heard "the loudest boom" and turned around to see pieces of the truck scattering in flames. An official from the North County Transit District (owners of the tracks) said the train was probably traveling at the approved speed of 90 mph through Encinitas until the conductor saw the truck on the tracks ahead of him and put on the brakes. It took the train several hundred yards to come to a complete stop just before the San Elijo Lagoon bridge.

"This isn't the first time this has happened, and it won't be the last," said a distraught Don Eisenhower, assistant manager for Towex towing, headquartered in Mira Mesa. "It's the nature of our business. We can replace trucks, but we can never replace him."

KEN HARRISON, DECEMBER 9



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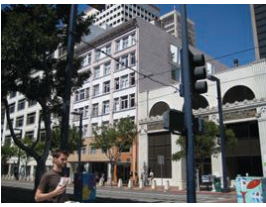
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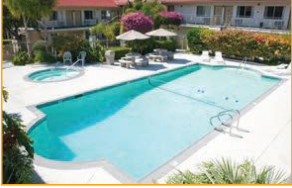
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East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights
South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
Rancho San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

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Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

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Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula
Valley Center • Vista



SOUTH BAY

Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

SOUTHEAST SD

Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope
Mountain View • Shelltown • Southcrest • Valencia Park

Hat trick – No limericks!

Luck of the draw – 10 T-shirt or hat winners a week!

THE READER PUZZLE :

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle 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 each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
- 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
- 3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
- 4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489**; 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 puzzles@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.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 2) Late entries will not be considered.
- 3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.
- 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
- 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

Across

1. Federal agcy. that has trained approximately 800 explosives detection canine teams
4. Give for free
8. "Midnight Run" actor Charles
14. Line of Canon cameras
15. Wishes otherwise
16. Definitely a day for air conditioning
17. Winter hrs. in St. Louis
18. Commando weapons
19. Overseas
20. Put-down said while lying down?
23. Entre _____
24. Pizzeria purchase
25. Pam's husband on "The Office"
27. Obvious spot to look for wool?

32. Chapman of "Dog the Bounty Hunter"
34. Noxious
35. LI x L
36. Discovery on an archaeological site where a voyeuristic civilization once lived?
41. Info on modern business cards
43. Cries of surprise
44. Ruler's domain
46. Botched pronunciation of "oink"?
51. " _____ open!"
52. Apt. feature, in ads
54. Forearm bone
55. "What a great time!" (or, read differently, an apt comment related to 20-, 27-, 36- or 46-Across)
61. Hold 'em declaration
62. Grab bag
63. "I'm not so into it"
64. Heave
65. Sharer's pronoun
66. Ice climber's tool
67. Imposes, as a tax
68. 1987 Costner role
69. Barrett of Pink Floyd

Down

1. Synth-heavy music
2. "Already?"
3. Walking like a peacock
4. "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" Oscar winner
5. Liqueur in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
6. Words after count or let
7. "Hey ... over here!"
8. '90s UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros- _____
9. Stuck up, say
10. Other, in Oaxaca
11. It's perpendicular to a threshold
12. Stuck
13. "Game of Thrones" protagonist _____ Stark
21. -like relative

22. LAPD alert
26. Blanc who voiced Porky Pig
28. Threshold
29. Blistex target
30. "It's hard to be humble when you're as great as I am" speaker
31. "Can you hear _____?"
33. "Er-r ..."
36. It's often hung on the wall at a sports bar
37. Foreigner's subj.
38. 4 on a phone
39. Truck scale unit
40. Sugar suffix
41. Ocean State sch.
42. Pension recipient
45. It may be spotted in kindergarten
46. Deal with moguls?
47. Suffix with ear or arm
48. Alpaca relatives
49. Hardly alluring
50. Got clean
53. Actresses Judith and Dana
56. LP player
57. Palindromic time
58. Arts and crafts purchase
59. Snobs put them on
60. One with fire power?
61. Fighting something, say

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16					
17				18					19					
20			21					22						
23								24				25		26
27				28	29	30	31			32	33			
			34								35			
		36	37					38	39	40				
41	42						43							
44				45		46					47	48	49	50
51				52	53						54			
	55		56				57	58	59	60				
61							62					63		
64							65					66		
67							68					69		

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

I	N	A		N	A	B	O	B		A	G	N	E	S
D	O	G	C	O	L	L	A	R		D	R	O	V	E
I	N	E	B	R	I	A	T	E		V	O	T	E	R
G	O	N	E	W	I	T	H	T	H	E	W	I	N	
I	N	C	R						T	A	R			
T	O	Y		I	N	V	I	S	I	B	L	E	M	A
			A	T	E	A	M				O	L	I	N
T	H	E	M	A	L	T	E	S	E	F	A	L	C	O
W	E	D	O				A	I	L	E	D			
O	F	M	I	C	E	A	N	D	M	E		S	T	A
				A	F	S						W	H	O
	L	O	N	G	S	T	O	R	Y	S	H	O	R	T
H	I	T	O	N			O	H	I	O	R	I	V	E
O	Z	O	N	E			R	O	C	K	O	P	E	R
F	A	H	E	Y			S	H	O	O	S		S	O

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS: (All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.) Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

☛ **L. Barling, El Cajon, 6.**
*If e'er one right makes too many wrongs
Twenty kids who will sing no more songs
When the right to bear arms
results in so much harm
Time to solve it with hammer and tongs!*

☛ **Betsy Cory, Chula Vista, 6.**
*We're approaching the darn fiscal cliff
Re: a tax increase,
even if Mr. Buffet is willing
Not me, not one shilling
Pry it from my hands, cold and stiff.*

☛ **George Jackson, Oceanside, 6.**
*I've earned Reader prizes several times before,
Each time the postman brought them to my door.
When last I won, to my dismay,
My prize is held for me so far away
That Readers' caps and shirts I'll have no more.*

☛ **Larry Johnsgard, Escondido, 6.**
*So much verbiage about the fiscal cliff,
some are saying, "what's the diff?"
The two sides need to decide
Who crosses the "Great Divide?"
Lest it causes a major riff!*

☛ **Burr Passenheim, Linda Vista, 6.**
*I think writing limericks is hard
Even for a Shakespearian "bard"
Every syllable counts
And the rhyme must have bounce
It's no job for the brain of a retard.*

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1485.
2BD+2BA upstairs unit in triplex behind 1228. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, fireplace, parking, balcony. Cat OK with extra deposit. New carpet. Available now. 1230 Thomas Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1495.
2BD+1BA. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, parking, laundry room, patio. No pets. 1735 Reed Avenue #1. Agent, 619-232-6811.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1565.
2BD+1BA, large downstairs front unit in quiet area of North Pacific Beach. Remodeled kitchen with stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Coin laundry. Parking. Only 2-1/2 blocks to ocean! Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 2/10/13. 959 Chalcedony. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1575.
2BD+1.5BA. **\$500-off 1st Month's Rent!** Unique townhouse style apartment in very nice property with pool. One block to Sail Bay and beach. Parking and laundry. **Open house Sunday, 12/23, 9:30-11:30.** 3773 Haines Street. TPPM, 858-333-1318. casariviera3777@gmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1575.
2BD+2BA. **\$500-off 1st Month's Rent!** Queen Victoria Apts. One applicant must be (55+). Spacious unit in controlled access building. New carpet, paint. All appliances + washer/dryer, fireplace, garage. 1-year lease. 1625 Chalcedony Street. TPPM, 619-806-5760. queenvictoriagerry@gmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1595.
2BD+2BA, upstairs condo. Wood floors and carpet. Vaulted ceiling with skylight. Tile and granite. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher. Washer/ dryer. Two private balconies. Large tandem garage with opener. Will consider dog with extra

deposit. Easy freeway access. Available 12/22/12. 4615 Pico Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1600.
2BD+2BA upper level apartment. Hardwood floors and carpet. Shared roof deck/ patio. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. No pets. 1455 Garnet St. 858-270-4492.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1750 & UP.
2BD+2BA, 1000 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 off 1st month's rent (OAC, select units.) Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/ dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2650.
3BD+2.5BA townhouse. Clean, airy. 3-car garage. Fireplace. Washer/ dryer, patio, deck. No pets. 1535 Hornblend. Available.. 858-270-4492x203 or CDunphyPacwest@san.rr.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$700.
Small studio, terrace/ garden area, kitchenette, mellow neighborhood, four blocks to beach, low utilities, washer/ dryer. Off-street parking always available. Deposit \$750. No pets/ smoking. Turquoise/ Dawes Street. Call 619-261-7433.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$825.
Studio apartment with FREE utilities! Walk to bay! Off- street parking. Upstairs unit. No pets. 1608 Pacific Beach Drive. 858-270-4674.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$895-1250.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA. Quiet, gated entrance. Ceiling fans, laundry, off-street parking, pool. Building well maintained. No pets. Available now. 619-279-0031, akamazes@yahoo.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$895.
STUDIO with full kitchen and all utilities paid! Large downstairs unit in North Pacific Beach. Stove, refrigerator, coin laundry. Three blocks to ocean. Cat OK with extra deposit. Available 12/26/12. 5049 Cass Street. Del Sol Property Management, broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$950-\$1350.
Studios, 1 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms at the beach. Pets under 35 lbs. OK. Office open 7 days. 4217 Oliver Court. 858-483-7670.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$995 & UP.
Studio+1BA, 700 sqft apartment. Up to 1/2 off 1st month's rent (OAC, select units.) Heated pool, 2 Jacuzzis, 2 basketball courts, 5 lighted tennis courts, clubhouse, barbecue area, business center, on-site laundry facilities, heat, A/C. Cats/ dogs welcome. Close to freeways and more! Bay Pointe Apartments, 3866 Ingraham. 888-451-8713. baypointe@progressmanagement.net; www.baypointeapartmenthomes.com.

POINT LOMA, \$1250.
Beautiful apartment homes starting at \$1250! **\$0 deposit, OAC.** City/bay views, stainless steel gourmet appliances, custom cabinetry, bamboo laminate floors. Barbecue, fire pit/lounge, resort-style pool, oversized hot tub, brand-new fitness center. Pet friendly. Gables Point Loma, 3811 Marquette Place #2N. 619-223-6577. Gables.com.

POINT LOMA, \$1575.
2BD+1BA upstairs apartment. Close to Ocean Beach. Brand-new building. Washer/ dryer in unit, tiled and carpeted floors. New stainless steel appliances. All new amenities. 2731 Camulos. 858-270-4674; 619-224-0306.

Downtown

BANKER'S HILL, \$1250.
1BD+1BA \$800 deposit OAC, VIEW, balcony, laundry, hardwood floors, no pets, at 111 Nutmeg Street (at First Avenue). 619-299-8515. www.mpmcorp.net.

BANKER'S HILL, \$1400.
2BD+1BA Tree Top Penthouse 800 sqft. Skylights, newly updated, laundry on-site. Dog friendly. 2642 5th Ave. Maplehouse. 858-568-5081.

BANKERS HILL, \$1095.
1BD+1BA, 700 sqft (estimated) townhouse. Bordering Downtown. Very private. Spacious. Hardwood floors. Laundry. Patio. Free parking. Pets OK. Available now. Steve, 619-696-7500.

BANKERS HILL, \$925.
Studio apartment. \$800 deposit, year lease. Laminate floors. Utilities paid. Locked building. Parking. On-site laundry. 1820 4th Avenue. No pets. 619-300-1365.

DOWNTOWN, \$1595.
777 LOFTS. Incredible top floor 1BD+1BA loft. Gaslamps best rental loft/condominiums one block to Downtowns popular 5th Avenue. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, granite countertops, air conditioning. Parking. Small pet considered with additional deposit. A must see! 777 Sixth Avenue #435. TPPM, 619-296-8802. www.torreypinespm.com.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$400 & UP.
Rooms \$400/ up. Clean and quiet. Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Centre City Manor, 1450 4th Avenue and Beech Street. 619-255-5631. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$450-595.
Attractive rooms in Victorian- style building. Utilities included. Some parking available. Common kitchen, bathrooms, laundry. Near City College grocery stores and more. Villa Victoria, 719 14th Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$450.
Best deal in town, period. 55+ quality senior living. Beautiful furnished rooms with private bathrooms. Includes utilities, cable TV, maid service. On-site laundry and storage. Edge of Bankers Hill at 1814 Fifth Avenue, New Palace Hotel. 619-235-2323. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$475-550.
Affordable rooms near Petco Park. Utilities included. Common kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, vending machines. Star Hotel, 522 7th Avenue & Island. 619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$486-625.
Cozy rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. 619-239-3808. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$500 & UP.
Studio+1BA, Rooms \$500/ up. Studios \$650/ up. Clean and quiet. Includes utilities and free cable, on-site laundry, elevator. Excellent location, convenient to all. No pets. Arlington Apartments, 701 7th Ave. and G St. 619-231-2385. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$500-600.
Large, furnished rooms with high ceilings, tall windows. Includes utilities and cable. On-site laundry and kitchen. No pets. Excellent location across from Horton Plaza. Windsor Hotel, 843 4th Avenue. 619-231-2385. www.HughesMangement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$550-800.
Price meets function. Spacious studios and rooms with private bathroom. Utilities included, on-site laundry. Some parking available. Near City College and trolley. Mitchell Apts., 901 10th Avenue at E Street. 619-235-6068. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$650 & UP.
Best deal in East Village! Spacious units in small complex with gated courtyard. Utilities included. No lease. No pets. Tenth Avenue Apts. 743 10th Avenue. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.



**HUGHES
MANAGEMENT**

DOWNTOWN, \$700-900.
The best of Downtown at your doorstep! Updated studios and one bedrooms by Petco Park, Gaslamp and Horton Plaza. Air conditioned units include utilities and free cable. On-site laundry. Arthur Hotel at 728 Market Street. 619-239-1639 x2. www.HughesManagement.net.

DOWNTOWN, \$775.
Studio+1BA. Downstairs, all utilities included! Laundry, street parking. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 1758 6th Avenue. Available now! Agent, 619-298-7724.

DOWNTOWN, \$800 & UP.
Little Italy efficiency apartments with laundry. Private bath, cable TV, microwave, refrigerator. Utilities included. Secure, quiet, charming. Near trolley/ bus lines, blocks from harbor. On-site manager. Villa Caterina, 1654 Columbia Street. 619-232-3400.

DOWNTOWN, \$800.
Studio in Cortez Hill. Quiet, residential neighborhood. Utilities paid, keyed access, on-site laundry. No pets. 619-299-8746.

DOWNTOWN, \$850.
Studio+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! All utilities paid! Beautiful, extra large studio located in gated building, gorgeous wood floors, walk-in closet, built-in dresser in powder room, large eat-in kitchen with built-in table and bench, tons of cupboards, on-site laundry. 1747 5th Avenue #2. Deborah, 619-702-4887.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$125 weekly. Las Flores Hotel. Small, quiet. Four- week minimum. Color TV with basic cable. Refrigerator in most rooms. Secure. 619-235-6820.

Typo Patrol Results

Issue of December 13, 2012

Tin Fork

p.57 Tigers,? should be Tigers?

Breanne Petre (City Heights) \$10

You've reached the \$300 annual maximum.

City Lights

p.2 has has should be has

Letters

p.46 duplicated letter

Ryan McKinzie (San Diego) \$20

Table of contents

p.1 8 should be 6

p.1 6 should be 8

Robin Johnson (Vista) \$20

Best Buys

p.20 queezy should be queasy

Events listings

p.56 Gallarie should be Gallerie

Theater

p.82 Cliff's should be Cliffs

Ramie Tateishi (University City) \$30

Music listings

p.78 26s should be 26

Neighborhood News

p.97 8 should be 6

p.99 X should be 97

Lucinda Goodwin (San Diego) \$30

You must send in a copy of the printed error — either the actual page or a copy (including page number).

Exceptions: direct quotations, slang, colloquialisms, house/writer style idiosyncrasies. Exempt: ads, blogs, user reviews, movie showtimes, puzzle results, and letters to the editor. Submissions accepted until Monday at 7 a.m. after the issue in question. First identification of error wins \$10 or a Reader baseball cap (indicate preference). Winnings limited to \$300/year per household. Mail to: Typo Patrol, SD Reader, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186; or fax to 619-231-0489; or deliver to 1703 India Street in Little Italy (we have an after-hours mail slot).

DOWNTOWN.
From \$199 weekly. Studio. Premier location. Furnished, full baths. Award-winning buildings. 24- hour staff, gyms, laundry rooms, sundecks. Free wireless Internet. Island Inn: 202 Island Avenue (Second/ Island), 619-232-4138. J Street Inn: 222 J Street, 619-696-6922. www.affordablehousingds.com.

DOWNTOWN.
Studio. Fully furnished studios with utilities included. Rates start at \$165/week. Free wireless Internet and exercise room. Baltic Inn: 521 6th Avenue. 619-237-0687. www.affordablehousingds.com.

DOWNTOWN.
From \$140/ week. Brand- new rooms near City College. Singles with kitchenettes. Deposit (long-term). Includes utilities/ cable. Quiet, secure. Shared bath/ laundry. Hotel Mediterranean. 619-231-8656. www.hotelmediterraneansandiego.com.

DOWNTOWN.
Starting at \$175 weekly. Furnished rooms. Beautiful building, new. Refrigerator, microwave, TV, cable. 920 Beech Street. Call 619-234-1952.

GOLDEN HILL, \$1495.
2BD+1BA. Great location! Wood floors. Just remodeled with new appliances, granite countertops. On-site parking and laundry. 2424 A Street. Call Jeff, 619-713-1044 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

GOLDEN HILL, \$850.
1BD+1BA charming casita. Hardwood floors. Great neighborhood, on-site laundry. No dogs. Available Now! 2426 E Street. 619-857-3706.

GOLDEN HILL, \$950.
1BD+1BA. Private patio. New floor, assigned parking. On-site laundry, close to Balboa Park and Downtown. (Pets up to 15 lbs) welcome. (619)501-0582

LITTLE ITALY, \$1595
2BD+1BA. Unique large 100 year old Spanish style building, 1400 sqft, with dining room, laundry, parking. 2344 Curlew #7. 619-228-4184.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$670.
Studio+1BA. Deposit \$469. Street parking. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/4. 322 sqft. 532 21st Street, #6. Unit is vacant. 619-220-4840.

SHERMAN HEIGHTS, \$895.
Newer studio/office cottage, 460sqft. Utilities included. \$500 deposit. By Market/42nd- 805. Must have steady work/references, pay lease on time. Parking. 619-299-1969.

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San Diego Reader December 20, 2012 95

Hat trick – No limericks!

Luck of the draw – 10 T-shirt or hat winners a week!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit 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 SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. 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.

3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

4) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

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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.

EASY:

		4		3			6	
	7		5				3	
	2	9			7	4		
4			6	7	2		9	3
	6						7	
7	3		4	9	8			6
		1	2			7	8	
	4				5		1	
	5			1		3		

MEDIUM:

		1			2		7	
			8	9	3	5		1
						2		8
4	8					1	5	
5			1		6			9
	7	6					2	3
9		7						
6		8	2	3	5			
	4		6			8		

HARD:

			1				2	
		8		2			9	1
7			4					5
	3				6			
8	5			1			6	9
			8				4	
3					9			4
1	4			7		8		
	8				1			

EVIL:

3			8			2	6	
					1		4	
				7		8		
5			7	1	4			
7								2
			2	3	9			4
		6		4				
	3		9					
	1	2			8			7

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

4	2	7	9	1	6	8	3	5
6	3	5	2	7	8	9	1	4
8	9	1	3	4	5	7	6	2
7	8	2	1	6	4	5	9	3
9	4	6	5	8	3	1	2	7
5	1	3	7	9	2	4	8	6
2	5	4	8	3	9	6	7	1
1	6	9	4	2	7	3	5	8
3	7	8	6	5	1	2	4	9

MEDIUM:

3	6	4	9	5	7	2	1	8
7	8	1	3	4	2	9	5	6
5	2	9	1	6	8	4	3	7
6	9	7	4	2	5	1	8	3
8	1	3	7	9	6	5	4	2
2	4	5	8	1	3	6	7	9
9	5	8	2	7	1	3	6	4
4	3	6	5	8	9	7	2	1
1	7	2	6	3	4	8	9	5

HARD:

4	5	2	9	8	7	3	1	6
8	1	9	6	2	3	5	7	4
6	3	7	1	4	5	2	8	9
5	6	8	7	3	2	4	9	1
3	9	4	5	1	8	7	6	2
2	7	1	4	6	9	8	3	5
7	2	6	3	9	4	1	5	8
1	8	3	2	5	6	9	4	7
9	4	5	8	7	1	6	2	3

EVIL:

6	2	8	5	1	4	9	7	3
1	7	4	2	9	3	5	6	8
3	9	5	7	6	8	2	1	4
2	6	7	9	8	1	4	3	5
4	8	1	3	5	2	7	9	6
9	5	3	6	4	7	8	2	1
8	4	9	1	7	6	3	5	2
5	3	6	4	2	9	1	8	7
7	1	2	8	3	5	6	4	9

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS: (All winning entries will be screened for plagiarism.) Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

Roy Stone, Santa Monica, 4.

*If it's over the cliff we go
too bad for the regular Joe
we pay congress enough
to handle this stuff
best give 'em the old heave ho!*

Willie McGee, San Diego, 2.

*If ever I saw a good puzzle
the likes of this week's set me back.
It forced me to think and to guzzle
some Coors, till I gave it a crack.*

Joseph Ciprian, Little Italy, 6.

*Tis the time to help the forlorn,
And celebrate that we were born,
I can take a Yule song,
But one thing is so wrong,
It's when Santa Claus stars in porn.*

Jerry Noser, Bankers Hill, 5.

*Just as in the past
I left the "evil" one for last
by doing all four
I'll improve my mind even more
but not my limerick, alas.*

Peter Bartkiewicz, Chula Vista, 1.

*SDG&E claims with glee
we sent the help for Sandy
you'd think it was from their till
of course, the FEDs paid the bill
just typical SDG&E bandy.*



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SLOW WAVE

by Mark Armstrong and Jesse Reklaw

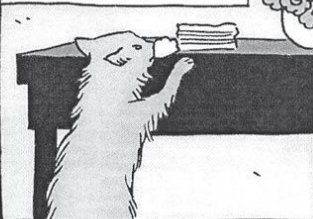
I WAS A CAT. I FOUND A FAMILY AND RUBBED MY LITTLE BODY AGAINST THEIR LEGS TO LET THEM KNOW. I WAS ADOPTING THEM.



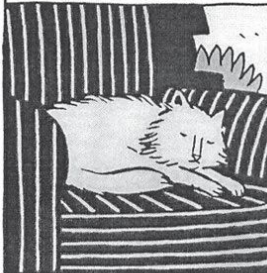
THEY WERE GOING TO NEED CAT FOOD, SO I WENT IN THE LIVING ROOM AND PAWED THROUGH MAGAZINES.



I TORE OUT THE ADS THAT PROMISED TO PROVIDE MY COMPLETE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS, THEN PUT THEM WITH THE FAMILY'S COUPONS AND SHOPPING LIST.



I WISHED I COULD GO TO THE STORE MYSELF, BUT I KNEW PETS WEREN'T ALLOWED.



Ask Jesse to draw your dream! • PO Box 40701 Portland OR 97240 • reklaw@slowwave.com • ©2010

SOUTH PARK, \$1145.
2BD+1BA spacious and immaculate apartment. Extra storage locker. Very quiet area. Coin laundry. Indoor cat upon approval. Excellent location. 3131 Hawthorn Street. TPPM, 619-296-8802. www.torreyepinespm.com.

Downtown, \$150. Furnished Studios!

Studio+1BA, clean and furnished with Free Utilities! Pay by the week or month (from \$150/ \$560 at Trolley or from \$175/ \$660 Peachtree). Phone, microwave/ fridge, television/ HBO, housekeeping, parking, laundry, patio, WiFi lobby, gated entry. Move in from \$300/ \$375 (subject to credit approval). Trolley at 940 Park: **888-506-9053**. Peachtree at 901 F Street: **888-506-9052**.

East County

EL CAJON, \$1005.
2BD+1BA, large 900 sqft apartment with new carpet. Swimming pool, assigned parking, on-site laundry. Close to shopping and freeway. 619-444-1876.

EL CAJON, \$1395.
3BD+2BA condos. 1/2 off 1st month! Upper unit, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, crown molding, laminate flooring in kitchen, recessed track lighting, central A/C and heater, washer and dryer, ceiling fans, covered parking. No pets. Section 8 OK! 1028 Leslie Road #8. 619-804-3325.

EL CAJON, \$480-850.
Trailers. Gated community park. Each unit has a little yard. Conveniently located, close to trolley, bus, shopping. No pets. 619-933-5189.

EL CAJON, \$775.
1BD+1BA apartment. New carpet, vinyl, air conditioning, dishwasher, patio with storage. Pool, Jacuzzi. Gated community. Water, sewer, trash included. Call 619-444-5799. www.sdapbtbrokers.com.

EL CAJON, \$795.
1BD+1BA. First month free on approved credit! Spacious apartments. \$500 deposit. Large kitchen. Pool, Jacuzzi, barbecue, on-site laundry. Off-street parking. Credit check. Section 8 OK. 619-440-5258.

EL CAJON, \$800 & UP.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA apartments. Appliances, A/C, on-site laundry, off-street parking, pool, lush landscaping. No pets. 294 Ballantyne. On-site manager: 619-715-8243, 858-703-4932.

EL CAJON, \$825-845.
1BD+1BA apartments in fabulous pool/ courtyard complex. Super clean. No pets. 314 Wisconsin Street. TPPM, 619-742-7600, www.palmestates.info.

EL CAJON, \$845-975.
Spacious 1BD and 2BD+1BA in beautiful property with sparkling pool. Walk to courthouse and Main Street shopping. No pets. 163 Ballantyne Street. TPPM, 619-990-5900, www.tradewindsapts.info.

EL CAJON, \$845.
1BD+1BA. Beautifully maintained apartments with sparkling pool. No pets. 234 W. Park Avenue. TPPM, 619-850-9722. www.palmtowers.com.

EL CAJON, \$850.
1BD+1BD. Spacious, huge. Air conditioning, new vinyl. Pool and spa. Off-street parking. On-site laundry. Water, sewer, trash paid. Call 619-447-7386. www.sdapbtbrokers.com.

EL CAJON, \$900.
2BD+1BA, 830 sqft large upstairs apartment. New carpet, tile floors. On-site parking and laundry. Patio. No pets. Oakdale Avenue. 619-993-1386, 619-440-5700.

EL CAJON, \$950.
2BD+1BA spacious apartment with private patios. Great location with on-site parking and laundry. 441 Dominguez Way. TPPM, 619-405-4500, www.torreyepinespm.com.

LA MESA, \$1399.
3BD+2BA apartment. Welcome to Mt. Helix! Spacious. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1399.
3BD+2BA apartment. Espaciosos. Aire acondicionado. Lavanderia. Garage. Balcones. Picina. Mascotas OK. Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$875.
1BD+1BA. 1/2 off 1st month! Extra large apartment, includes appliances, stove, refrigerator, A/C, BBQ area and picnic tables, on-site laundry, off-street parking. Cats and Section 8 OK. 4325 Lowell Street #2. Nancy, 619-460-1074.

LA MESA, \$995 & UP.
1BD+1BA, \$995; 2BD+2BA, \$1250 & up. Apartments/ townhouses. Remodels available. Yards/ decks. Deposit \$500, OAC. Move-In Specials. No pets. Gym. Quiet garden community. 5810 Amaya Drive, vistaamaya@gmail.com. 619-697-3285.

LA MESA.
2BD+2BA. Very spacious 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Central heating/ air, park-like setting, pool, views. Near 94, 125, 8 Freeways. Pets welcome. 619-204-0610. palmspringapartments.com

LAKEVIEW, \$1375.
2BD+2BA condo in gated community. Upper unit with balcony and all kitchen appliances. 9728 Manila Dr #811. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

LAKEVIEW, \$897-1097.
1BD+1BA and 2BD+1BA Newly remodeled cottage-style 1- and 2-bedroom mobile homes for rent in beautiful 55+ community. Sparkling heated pool and clubhouse. Friendly neighbors and pet welcome! Ask about our move-in special. Ridgcrest Community, 619-443-3600.

LEMON GROVE, \$760.
Best deal in town! Unfurnished studio. 2-person occupancy. Pool/ laundry. Rent includes free dish TV, WiFi. Close to Highway 94, buses/ trolley and shopping. 619-461-0909 or 760-522-5312.

SANTEE, \$1525.
3BD+2BA upstairs condo. Riderwood complex. Large deck. Remodeled kitchen. Newer appliances, carpet, windows. 1-car garage. Washer/ dryer. AC/ Fireplace. Water/ trash included. Pool/ playground. Available January. 619-917-3973.

SPRING VALLEY, \$995.
2BD+2BA. \$300-off 1st Month's Rent! Large upper unit with new flooring, blinds, appliances, and fresh custom paint. Air conditioning, parking. 3639 S. Bonita Street. 858-344-5329. www.torreyepinespm.com.

Central San Diego

BAY PARK, \$1650.
2BD+2BA, lovely, large condo, approximate 1200 sqft. Washer/ dryer, pool and jacuzzi. Near Mission Valley, USD, Downtown. No pets. Nonsmoking. 858-695-6797.

BAY PARK, \$950.
1BD+1BA, 550 sqft. apartment. \$150 off 1st month's rent for \$965/ month and a one year lease, or pay \$950 a month without the \$150 off. Pet friendly. Available Dec 1st. Good Storage. Clean, roomy. Close to water, park, freeway, shopping, restaurants. Friendly. 619-276-0606.

CLAIREMONT, \$1240.
2BD+1BA. Pets welcome. Water/ trash/parking space included, pool, barbecue, on-site laundry, assigned parking spot. Garages for \$75. Bay Ridge Apartments, 3010 Cowley Way, 619-276-3222.

CLAIREMONT, \$1950.
3BD+2BA upgraded house. New laminate wood flooring, new carpet, fresh paint, fenced backyard, attached 2-car garage. Landscaper included. No pets. 4772 Chateau Drive. Office: 858-560-1178.

CLAIREMONT, \$950.
Studio+1BA. 1- year/ 6- month lease. Basic rates: \$950/ month for queen bed, \$1050* for 2 double beds. Expanded rates: \$1195/ month for queen bed or \$1295* for 2 double beds that also includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. 1-888-264-4729. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1000.
1BD+1BA cottage in Rolando. Cleaning deposit. Street parking, back house with private yard. 4734-34 68th St. 92115. Must see! Call Willow, 619-465-4362.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1200.
2BD+2BA upstairs apartment. Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Balcony. Gated. On-site laundry. No pets. 4828 Art Street. Agent: 619-298-7724.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1550.
3BD+2.5BA nice condo in the College Park Community. 3962 60th Street Unit 66. People Helping Others Property Management, 619-282-5400.

COLLEGE AREA, \$695.
1BD+1BA senior condo. New carpet/ paint, on-site parking, laundry. Clean, quiet, secure. If you can find one better... rent it! 4260 44th St. Call Jeff, 619-713-1044 or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

COLLEGE AREA, \$825.
1BD+1BA apartment. Near bus, shops, SDSU. Laundry room. No pets. \$150 security deposit. 6769 El Cajon Boulevard. Apartments in rear courtyard. 619-464-0901.

COLLEGE AREA, \$975.
3BD+2BA Large open floor plan. Great location. Close to all. On-site laundry. No pets. If you can find one better... rent it! 7240 El Cajon Boulevard. Call Lynette, 619-602-0959, or Rachael, 619-804-1044.

LINDA VISTA, \$1200.
2BD+2BA condo near Mesa College and freeway. Tiled, new refrigerator, new stove. Pool, tennis court, garage. 619-804-1657.

LINDA VISTA, \$1295.
3BD+1BA townhome. Deposit \$906. 1 space assigned. Upgraded. Available to move in 12/21. No pets. 918 sqft. 6542 Kelly Street. 619-220-4840.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1200 & UP.
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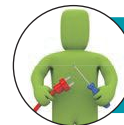
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2BD+1.5BA townhouses. 1290sqft. Gas stove, dishwasher, garage, large patio, pools, laundry facilities. \$1000 deposit. Lakewood Villa Townhomes, 8492 San Carlos Drive. 619-469-3585.

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TIERRASANTA, \$2150.
4BD+1-1/2BA townhome in Portofino, 1556sqft, access to park, swimming, play area. Beautiful deck, new carpet, appliances. Call John or Jan, 858-505-8841 or 858-722-9877.

North County Coastal

DEL MAR, \$1595-2395.

1BD+1BA, \$1595. 1BD+1BA with den, \$1845. 2BD+2BA with ocean view, \$2395. Some with washer/dryer. Community pool, spa. 201 Fourth Street. Los Arboles, 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com. www.summerpacific.com.

OCEANSIDE, \$1150 & UP.

2BD+1BA \$500 off 1st month! Large upper unit, large kitchen with tons of cabinets, gas stove and refrigerator, huge bedrooms with mirrored closet doors, on-site laundry. Small pets negotiable! Garage available at an additional cost! 520 N. Nevada Street #E. 619-804-3325.

North County Inland

VISTA, \$1450

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Old Town & Uptown

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CITY HEIGHTS, \$875.
2BD+1BA. Family Complex. Parking. Secure building. Newly updated. Section 8 accepted. 3655 42nd St. Mizraim, 619-347-8736.

HILLCREST, \$1025.
1BD+1BA plus office. Secluded location. Spacious canyon view, private patio. Hardwood floors. 3515 Indiana Street. Xilarent.com. 619-683-7638.

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HILLCREST, \$1200.
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HILLCREST, \$1295.
2BD+2BA. Immaculate apartment in quiet, professionally managed complex. New carpet, floor tiles, blinds, and stove. Barbecue patio. Coin laundry. Near Sprouts Marketplace. No pets. **Open house Saturday, 12/22, 12:00-2:00.** 4219 Georgia Street #5. TPPM, 619-299-1004. www.torreypinespm.com.

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2BD+2BA condo, Uptown/ Hillcrest. Top-floor corner unit with private balcony. New stainless steel appliances. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, new washer/ dryer, A/C, underground parking. No pets. Few blocks to the Zoo, Balboa Park. 3633 Indiana Street #27. Agent, 619-232-6811.

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\$19⁹⁵ + tax
Most cars, Trucks extra
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\$39⁹⁵ 4-cyl.
Most cars
• Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil • Install oil filter • Install spark plugs • Check belts & hoses
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Window Tint \$98

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Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes spark plugs & labor.

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ANDY BOYD

What do you recognize as your own biggest hypocrisy?



Koa Bradbury
Fallbrook
Marketing Manager

I actually am a huge advocate for local coffee shops and cafés but I'm completely addicted to Starbucks. I'm actually very ashamed of it, but I haven't found good local coffee close enough.



Haley Fortier
Encinitas
Retail and Student

I hate it when people get all self-absorbed and keep talking about themselves, 'cause I do the exact same thing when I get on a tangent. When I'm trying to talk about myself and someone else wants the same.



Lynda Flores
Imperial Beach
Manager

I'm a little bit of a germaphobe, but I am so messy. Like, you should see my car. I guess I don't like laziness in other people but am lazy myself.



Caitlyn Farlow
La Costa
Assistant Manager

When people ramble and repeat themselves all the time, but I do that all the time. Like, when people just keep talking and say the same thing over and over again.

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FREE PSYCHIC HEALING lecture clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program students. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108, 858-509-7582.

LEADERS NEEDED. Create new programs, help struggling people put enough healthy food on family tables and fundraise for charity to maintain these programs. 4more@dinneronadollar.org. 858-693-3939.

MOVIE BUFFS. Interested in watching movies and then discussing them afterwards (like book clubs)? Ages 25 to mature welcome. Please call 619-850-6075 or 858-231-0647.

NEUROTICOS ANONIMOS. Si usted sufre de ira, ansiedad, preocupación, depresión, te esperamos en Neuroticos Anonimos, 3632B University Avenue, San Diego, Lunes a Domingo, 6pm-8pm. 619-246-4694; 619-889-2999.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. Living expenses paid. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois. (AAN CAN)

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PERSONALS

THANK YOU, ST. JUDE for my prayer request. S.C.

SPORTS

ADULT SOFTBALL REG. Spring Registrations: www.softballsd.com. Leagues start in March. Sign up today! Men/ Coed Slow-Pitch and Coed 3-Pitch programs. Various competitive levels. Questions: johng@softballsd.com.

GOLF BALLS. Like new. Titleist ProV1 Pro V1X, \$25 dozen. Taylor made Penta, Callaway Srixon, Bridgesstone Tour, \$20 dozen. Miscellaneous name brands \$5 dozen. Kenny, 619-398-7017; 619-582-1408.

SOFTBALL PLAYERS WANTED for my Tuesday night Imperial Beach team and my Sunday Clairemont team. Mens slow pitch. 619-517-5791.

TENNIS LEAGUE. Join the fun at the #1 league in San Diego. Intermediate to advanced skill levels. Leagues starting now. 858-794-1800; www.tennisleague.com.

PHOTO

CAMERA. NIKON N90s 35mm film camera, body only, great condition, \$175. 619-630-8020.

COMPUTERS

COMPUTER DESKTOP Wireless with flatscreen monitor, XP Professional, Office 2007, good condition. Hablo Espanol. \$185 negotiable. Leave message if no answer, 619-287-3430.

DESKTOP. ASUS complete desktop: fast Intel Core-Duo CPU, keyboard, mouse, DVD, Windows XP Pro reinstalled, internet, no viruses or problems, 17" flatscreen LCD, \$225. 619-630-8020.

LAPTOP PENTIUM XP PRO Office 2007, Nero Power DVD, wireless, works great, \$165/ offer/ trade? Se habla Espanol. Must sell. San Diego. 702-773-9618.

LCD FLAT SCREEN, 17", \$50. Amplified speakers \$15. Keyboard \$10. Hard drive 250GB, \$40. HP Scanner \$25. HP printer with ink \$40. 619-630-8020.

WANTED / TRADE

DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. \$\$\$ Cash for your diabetic test strips. Up to \$30 per box. Call Tanya for pick up. 619-219-1361.

STEREO GEAR/ LP RECORDS. Cash paid! Vintage/ newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables. McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Prerecorded reel tapes, jazz/ rock records. John, 619-889-5237.

TRADE. Secretary needed, housing is available for exchange. He or she must know good English and computer. 619-479-4212.

WANTED: Speakers, amps and most old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 619-295-5101; email JBL@cox.net.

WANTED: Fishing tackle, collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels and miscellaneous by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488.

WANTED. Cash for Wal Disney autographs, original animation art (no reproductions), vintage Disney paper, books, items, Disneyland before 1960, original Peanuts and Dr. Seuss art. No records or videos. 619-465-3090.

WANTED/TRADE Clothes, DVDs, CDs, LPs, books, instruments, electronics. Buy- sell- trade. Thrift Trader. 3939 Iowa St., North Park. 619-444-2274. 1416 Garnet Ave. 858-272-7283. 4879 Newport Ave. 619-222-5011

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WATERFORD CRYSTAL MUSIC trinket box, "Memories," cats, stored, new, \$199. Vintage owl cookie jar/ baby on top, 50s Japan, 9.5" tall, perfect. Cardiff. 760-692-7741.

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DRYER/DISHWASHER. Multiple settings, stackable, or portable, \$100 both. 619-670-8356.

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+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles.
Trucks, vans & European cars extra.
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*All 1995 and older vehicles \$10 extra.

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Includes: boot, parts, labor, grease. 1/2 price for the 2nd boot on same axle. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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Includes flush radiator and up to one gallon of coolant.
Special coolant extra. Most vehicles to 1995. With ad.
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Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up
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HEAD GASKET \$299 4-cyl. & most car & machine extra.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE FREE A/C INSPECTION 96 & up. Most cars.

COMPLETE PAINT JOB \$499 4-cyl., most cars. From single stage

REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER \$150 each. Most cars.

30K/60K/90K \$75 4-cyl., most cars.

TIMING BELT \$75 4-cyl., most cars.

AXLE SHAFT \$99 each 4-cyl., most cars.

Save Auto 9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126 (By I-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn) 858-586-6666 Call Vinny. Repair, Smog & Body Work, ASE

San Diego Reader December 20, 2012 101

LEAD STORY

— For some reason, South Korea (with about one-sixth the men that America has) is the world’s largest consumer of male cosmetics, with its leading company approaching \$1 billion a year in sales. According to a September *Bloomberg Business Week* dispatch, South Korean males became fascinated with the country’s 2002 World Cup soccer team’s “flower men,” who had smooth, flawless skin, and the craze took off from there. Said a male college student, “Having a clean, neat face makes you look sophisticated and creates an image that you can handle yourself well.” Makeup routines include drawing “thicker, bolder” eyebrows and, of course, expert application of lipstick. Said one admiring woman, “I feel like I have more to talk about with guys who use makeup.”

Courtroom Follies

— Carl Funk, 58, told Broward County, Fla., judge John Hurley (on a video feed from jail to a courtroom) that he is innocent of the seven-year-old charges (trespassing and open-alcoholic-container counts) and that, besides, he is now wheelchair-bound in pathetic medical condition and should be allowed to go home. The judge was skeptical, but finally, according to a *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* report, he offered to fine Funk only

\$50 on the charges, and Funk agreed to plead guilty. “Good luck, Funk,” said Judge Hurley. At that point, Funk rose from his wheelchair and quickly walked away. Wrote the *Sun-Sentinel*: “Raising both hands, Judge Hurley declared, ‘He’s been cured.’” — Missouri associate circuit judge Barbara Peebles was suspended in September and recommended for removal by the state judicial commission for various offenses, including being late for work and destroying a court document in order to avoid embarrassment. The most serious charge, according to a *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* report, was that she allowed her “clerk,” Whitney Tyler, who was Peebles’s personal friend and hairdresser (and apparently without formal legal training), to dispose of as many as 350 cases as Tyler saw fit. Said one lawyer, “Until the judge [showed up], [Tyler] was the judge.”

Perspective

— A sign at the entrance of the USS *Arizona Memorial* at Pearl Harbor asks that visitors “conduct yourself with dignity and respect at all times. Remember, this is hallowed ground.” However, as the *New York Post* reported in September, visitors to the National September 11th Memorial in New York City show no such restraint, with

some treating that hallowed ground more like a “Disney attraction.” They sit (or worse, lie down) on the bronze-plaque names of the dead, and lay (and spill!) their drink cups on them, creating an “almost cheerful” atmosphere, the *Post* said. The head of New York City’s retired association of emergency medical service firefighters said the elegant memorial more resembled a visitor’s “kitchen table.”

The Aristocrats!

— “Number 1” Complaints: (1) Albert Sultan filed a lawsuit in August in New York City against his hard-charging former boss, real estate broker Jack Terzi, accusing Terzi of various workplace abuses, including (to make a point in front of co-workers) deliberately urinating on an item of Sultan’s clothing. (2) Timothy Paez, 22, was arrested in Boulder, Colo., in July based on an incident at Shooters Grill and Bar, in which, after being rejected by a woman, he later approached her and allegedly urinated on her leg. (3) Australia’s Illawarra District Rugby Union reported in July that it was investigating an unnamed Avondale player who had allegedly urinated all over his uniform pants during play so as to discourage his Vikings opponents from trying to tackle him. — July was especially active for bestiality arrests.

Among them: Shane Walker, 38, and his wife, Sarah, 33, at a motel in Mesa, Ariz., where Sarah had supposedly planned to consummate her dream of sex with a German shepherd. Cody Slaughter, 22, in Yuma, Ariz., after an investigation revealed sexual assaults against a dog, a horse, and a pig. And Dana Kintz, 28, pleaded guilty in St. Louis to performing sex acts on the dog belonging to her and her boyfriend, Shawn Ingram, 37.

Government in Action!

— Cliche Come to Life: In an August report, the inspector general of the Department of Veterans Affairs warned that the regional office building in Winston-Salem, N.C., was in danger of collapsing because there were too many claims files stacked on the sixth floor. “We noticed floors bowing under the excess weight to the extent that the tops of file cabinets were noticeably unlevel throughout the storage area.” The report also warned of the potential of files falling on, and injuring, employees. For the short term, the agency relocated all the folders (estimated: 37,000) on the sixth floor to offices on the fifth, seventh, and eighth floors.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego Reader, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

FURNITURE

BED \$139, ABSOLUTE BARGAIN! Mattress Orthopedic Deluxe. New in plastic with warranty. Queen, \$139. All other sizes available. Credit cards accepted. Free delivery. Call 800-464-6420 or 800-464-6490. www.mattresscodirect.com.

BOOKCASES. Oak, walnut, mahogany, cherry, or teak. Choice of 2'x2', 2'x6', 3'x3', 3'x4', 3'x6', 4'x6', 4'x7'. Remodeling office, \$25-\$150. 619-670-8356.

DAYBED, FUTON. Bunk bed, captain's bed, loft bed, diversified item, excellent condition. \$80. 619-670-8356.

DRESSER. Dresser, 3 drawers both side, middle cabinet, oak wood, \$140. Color TV, older model, good working condition, \$80. 619-794-6490.

GARAGE SALES

SANTEE. Great commercial contractor tool sale. All must go! Very usable, some near new, power and hand tools. Saws, drills, lathe, shop vac, cabinets, bench. 200+ board feet of nice mixed wood. Too much to list! Saturday, 8am-3pm, 10220 Molino Road, Santee, 92871.

MISCELLANEOUS

ARCADE VIDEO GAME collection. Defender, Joust, Defender II, Robotron, Splat, Sinistar, Wizard of War, Timber, Bubbles, Rampage, Wizard of War and Satans Hollow. \$450. 619-670-8356.

BABY STRILLER, Eddie Bauer, beige/black, good condition, double wheels on front, single on back, \$20. 619-490-5143.

BOOTS, never worn. Mens/womens, sizes 9D's and 10D's. 9- pair work, hiking, hunting. Wolverine, etc. Cabela's knee high, snake proof. Manufacturer's boxes. Sell 1/2 price. 619-448-1434.

BOOTS, black leather, ladies size 9, wide calf, very good condition, \$10. 619-490-5143.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, lights, ornaments, trumpet, trombone, violine, cello, high chair. 619-426-4360.

COFFEEMAKER, Coffeemaker, new with 8 cup thermos carafe, white \$30. 619-630-8020.

FRENCH PLANT STAND, wood, 3, legs 32" high, must see, \$65. 619-296-7185.

LABELING SYSTEM/LCD display. Many type sizes, styles. 2- tape widths. Prints 2 lines. Text underlining/framing. Cuts tape cleanly off. Sealed box, \$65, sell \$35. 619-448-1434.

MANICURIST TABLE, hardwood with glass top, 3 drawers, \$150. 619-665-4437.

MESSAGE CHAIR, Panasonic, rolling massage, \$1991. Call or leave message, Maria, 858-274-1301.

MIRROR, high quality, beveled, framed in pine, iron scroll detail at top, perfect condition, large 4' square, 44" at Apex of scroll detail. Only \$25/ best. All available at 619-490-5143.

PAINTINGS. 2 oil paintings/ Navajo Pueblo dwellings, ladders, etc. Each 21"x33", mounted. pastel blues, beiges, tans. Artist signed. Purchased Gallup, NM., new \$380, sell \$99. 619-448-1434.

ROOM HEATER/ DRYER, very efficient 1500- watt area room heater, converts easy to shoe, boot, glove, etc. dryer. New in box, \$72. Sell \$35. 619-448-1434.

SEAT COVER, waterproof, heavy material- wipe clean. Fits all bench/ buckets. Seat belt slits. Protection: pets, groceries, plants, everything. Sealed box, \$48, sell \$25. 619-448-1434.

TRUCK TAIL GATE, bookcase, vinyl records, collectables on Elvis, Marilyn, posters, photos, books, magazines on celebrities. Ask for your favorites. 619-420-1028.

WORMS. Red worms, nature's fertilizer, 1 bucket, \$40. Guaranteed 4000+ worms. Lisa, 619-449-7875.

MOTORCYCLES

WANTED: Cash for good condition under 10K miles. Example: Suzuki Katana 600, DR 350/400. Yamaha Radian, FZ600, FZR600, RZ350, RD 350/400, FZR400. Scooter 250cc, sidecars, turbo-charged, antiques, etc. 619-792-2270.

AUTOMOTIVE CARS

RENT-TO-OWN! Rent-To-Own a car for \$49-\$99 per week. Text READER to 30364 or call 888-244-5863 for details and terms.

AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKS / VANS / SUVS

FORD F-150 XL, 2007, regular cab, long bed, V6, automatic, air conditioning, dark red, tan vinyl interior, bed liner, 64,000 miles, original owner, excellent condition, \$12,750. 760-746-7209.

WANTED: 1980-1999 Toyota pickup from the 1st to the 2nd owner only. Please no car dealers. 619-306-1910.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

FORD MUSTANG 2005- 11 new Original Steering Inner Tie Rod Ends, pair - \$45. Car speakers Audiovox, 60W, 6 inch diameter, pair for \$20. 619-630-8020.

TRAVEL TRAILER, an oldie but goodie, 1976, 23', very good interior, nice, clean, fully self-contained with bathtub and working A/C, new exterior paint but needs some work, \$300. Inquire, 619-490-5143; 619-569-0081.

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20% Military & Senior Discount

BRAKES \$125
Pads and Rotors and Labor. Call for quote. Expires 1/7/13.

CLUTCH SPECIAL \$249
FWD extra. Parts and labor. With 2 yr or 24K warranty. Expires 1/7/13.

STRUTS 25% OFF
all cars

TIMING BELT \$149
from

TUNE UPS \$49⁹⁵
most 4 cyl. cars. Platinum plugs extra. Expires 1/7/13.

LOW MILEAGE USED TRANSMISSION \$200 OFF
Up to
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JAPANESE UP TO ENGINE \$300 OFF
Includes Free Major Tune up. Tested & Inspected, no comebacks. Expires 1/7/13.

CATALYTIC CONVERTERS from \$225
Installed w/coupon, not valid with other offers. Expires 1/17/13

Pacific Beach 92109

Oil Change Special \$14⁹⁵
Most 4-cyl. cars. Includes new oil filter, EPA, up to 5 qts. oil.
6-cyl. & 8-cyl. extra, some oil filters extra.

Smog Check \$27⁷⁵
+\$8.25 Certificate of Compliance (most cars). Bring DMV Notice.
Model years 1976 - 1995 S10 extra for Evap Test. RV's: call for details.

A/C Service \$25
Includes performance test on compressor, visual inspection for leaks and damaged components and recharge (freon EXTRA.)

Basic Tune-Up with oil change
4-cyl. **\$45** 6-cyl. **\$99⁹⁵** 8-cyl. **\$149⁹⁵**
Most cars. Includes new plugs and oil filter. Inspect cap, rotor wire, air filter. Some oil filters extra. Some cars labor extra. Platinum plugs extra.

60K/90K/120K Services
4-cyl. from **\$149⁹⁵**
6-cyl. and 8-cyl. extra. Platinum plugs extra.
Call for details.

Check Engine light and Smog Failure Diagnostics \$60.00*
(FREE if repairs are performed on site).

Fuel Injection Service
3-Step - **\$109⁹⁵***

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*Must present coupon at time of service. Not to be combined with any other offer. Expires 01/03/13.

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Most cars.

Free retest when we do repair.
Plus \$8.25 certificate.
1995 & older, \$15 for evap test. Vans, trucks & European cars extra. Cash only.
Must present DMV renewal notice.
*All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 1-21-13.

OIL CHANGE \$25⁹⁵*
Most cars. Includes up to 5 qts. and new filter. Cash only.

BASIC TUNE-UP
4-cyl. \$25/6-cyl. \$35/8-cyl. \$45*
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Ad Index**

Antiques & Collectibles . 101	Music 99
Appliances 101	Natural Health & Fitness..... 100
Automotive 102	Notices..... 100
Business Opportunities.... 92	Personals 101
Career Training..... 85	Pets 103
Classes/Lessons 99	Photo..... 101
Counseling/Support..... 100	Real Estate 92
Electronics 101	Rentals 93
Furniture..... 102	Roommates 92
Garage Sales 102	Services Directory..... 98
Help Wanted 84	Sports..... 101
Jobs Wanted 85	Stage Notes..... 100
Massage..... 100	Wanted/Trade..... 101
Miscellaneous For Sale... 102	Wedding & Party 100
Motorcycles 102	

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