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Find somewhere in our features (articles, listings, or classifieds)
three instances of the same phrase.
This week’s clue: “pop top” (2 words)

PHOTOGRAPH BY HOWIE ROSEN

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San Diego Reader, January 16, 2014
**Victim shoots armed robbers**

Connection with Oceanside’s Posole gang?

**Vista** — Two men who were allegedly shot when they tried to rob a Vista restaurant earlier this month were brought into court on January 8.

Louis Enrique Cruz, 18, and Sergio Rivera Ramos, 24, both pleaded not guilty to six felonies in San Diego’s North County Superior Court.

The robbery attempt reportedly happened at 9:38 p.m. on January 3. According to a deputy’s report, one of the victims contacted authorities at 9:42.

The man claimed “two males entered the restaurant with guns and he retrieved his own handgun and shot the suspects in self defense,” according to a statement by sheriff’s Sgt. Jay Pavlenko. The alleged victim “fired eight shots from his handgun at the suspects while in the business” and “believed he hit both suspects in the upper body area,” the sergeant stated.

“The suspects fled the restaurant on foot through the back door of the business,” according to the report.

More than two hours later, after midnight, two persons arrived at the emergency room of Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside. Their gunshot wounds were described as not life threatening by officials. Both of the wounded men reportedly claimed they were shot while walking near a park in Oceanside.

Each suspect was described as “armed with handgun” in a report by sheriff’s deputy Christopher Campbell. Cruz and Ramos were taken into custody after 3 a.m. Saturday morning, January 4.

Ramos was in the same San Diego County courthouse last November, when a judge ordered him to serve 240 days in custody; that sentence was for four criminal cases: carrying a pistol on his person, making a criminal threat on a deputy, hit-and-run, and driving under the influence of meth with a prior. At that hearing, the judge ordered Ramos not to associate with any known member of the Posole street gang, which claims parts of Oceanside.

**Kaiser hit with sexual harassment suit**

Woman complained four times and got no action

**San Diego** — Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, along with employee Emmanuel Iheke, have been hit with a superior-court sexual harassment and battery lawsuit by another employee, Adriana Arias.

The suit claims that Iheke, who sometimes supervised Arias, grabbed her inappropriately and asked her to have sex with him. She charges that she complained three times over five years to Kaiser management and nothing happened.

Last August, she complained again and there was an investigation, but Iheke was never disciplined, she says. Iheke remains at the Zion Avenue facility while Arias was sent to another, but now she says she will have to go back to work at the Zion facility and work on a team that he is on.

Kaiser refuses to discuss a matter that is in litigation but says, “The safety of our patients and our employees is Kaiser Permanente’s number one priority,” and Kaiser does not tolerate sexual harassment.

**Don Bauder**

---

**E-cigs face enormous obstacles**

By Dorian Hargove

Elected officials throughout San Diego County and the state are working to try and stem the tide of America’s newest puffing craze: electronic cigarettes and vaporizers.

In recent months, manufacturers of the devices have been opening retail shops where people can buy e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and “e-juice,” the liquid used to produce the vapor.

Dense plumes of ultrawhite vapor rise from the back room of Viper Vape Incorporated’s soon-to-be-opened retail store, located inside a mixed-use residential building off of Embarcadero Lane in Carlsbad. The men in the room put the final touches on the store. Some arrange the e-juice cartridges in the back while others fidget with stainless-steel devices that are barely larger than a cigarette.

In the wood-paneled showroom stand, built-in cabinets house the small metal devices known in the industry as “vapes.” The names of the devices include brands such as Kanger, Joyetech, and Viper Vape’s own Aspire CES brand.

Viper Vape is one of several companies in San Diego County looking to capital-
ize on the e-cigarette and tobacco vaporizer craze that is changing the tobacco industry for the first time since filtered cigarettes were introduced in the 1950s.

During the past year, an increasing number of smokers have turned to vaporizers and electronic cigarettes as a safer and less harmful alternative to burning tobacco. However, entrepreneurs in the e-cigarette and vaporizer industry can’t get away from the stigma associated with cigarettes. And, because the devices have gained popularity in such a short period of time, few health studies on the risks and potential benefits have been conducted, which has left the industry and lawmakers at cross purposes.

In December, the City of Carlsbad banned the use of e-cigarettes and vaporizers in restaurants, parks, the beach, and other public places. On January 1, San Diego State University announced it had banned smoking, both real and electronic cigarettes from campus. Vista enacted a less stringent ordinance that prohibited e-cigarettes and vaporizers in restaurants, parks, and city staff offices. On January 1, Vista enacted a less stringent ordinance that prohibited e-cigarettes and vaporizers from Cam-
Martin Haase
Bonita

Gentle Disruption
A practical solution to the La Jolla wildlife stench problem (News Ticker: “City Sued for Smelly Cove,” January 9) could be to, on a calm day, run one of the Port of San Diego’s new harbor police/fire-fighting vessels around to the waters off La Jolla. Using their powerful long-reach water cannons, they could wash down the rocks where this problem exists.

No chemicals. No private contractors. There is an unlimited supply of water. No disruption to visitors on shore from fire hoses. Happy businesses. No need for lawsuits. It could be done as often as needed, and would be only a gentle disruption to the wildlife if done properly.

Martin Haase
Bonita

Six Degrees of Deportation
Re. “Slog for a Green Card;” January 2 cover story. Listening to those who say deportation tears families apart, we say take an honest look at the facts. Many of those who choose to leave their homeland to come here or to go to other places leave their families. They tear apart their own families. Many of these people leave mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, extended family...even husbands leave wives, and wives leave husbands.

When they reach their destinations, many illegally start new families. Some young people start families, and grandparents do not get to see their grandchildren. Adults start other families, and when someone gets deported they cry that the system is tearing them apart when, actually, many are reunited by deportations. Face the facts, people, and stop blaming others for what you are doing of your own free will.

Also, we don’t hear anyone say that they want to take their family with them [when deported] so they can be together. They choose to leave their families. If you don’t want your family torn apart, why leave them behind?

It’s very plain to see that people do what they do and will continue doing so. However, stop blaming others for what you do. Take responsibility for your own actions.

Every time we hear that statement, “the system is tearing our families apart,” we shake our heads.

Name Withheld
via snail mail

More Holiday
I am writing to thank Patrick Daugherty for his fine series of articles on his vacation in South Africa (“Holiday in South Africa”), and the Reader for republishing the articles. It was as good as anything that ever appeared in the Reader. The only shortcoming was that there was not more.

Paul Slayton
Mira Mesa

A New Low
It is close to incomprehensible that the Reader would choose to run a 9/11 quote on the cover of the December 26 issue (“9/11 the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Baja Cuisine”).

Ed Bedford’s article on Baja-Mediterranean cuisine and the Culinary Arts School is marginally interesting. The statement in his article about the impact of 9/11 makes some sense in light of the border restrictions following 9/11 that led to the burgeoning Baja-Med culinary movement. However, it is hardly the point of the article.

What were the editors thinking?! No journalist works in a vacuum, and I can hardly imagine that no one along the way spoke up about the grossly insensitive continued on page 36
High School ASB

Sign up for the Martin Luther King, Jr. 5th Annual Food Drive Challenge

Jan. 20 - Feb. 2, 2014

This year the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank expects to distribute 20 million pounds of food. Almost half will go to children 18 years old or younger.

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To register visit sandiegofoodbank.org or call (858) 527-1419 ext. 19.

Awards presented at the annual Laurels For Leaders lunch on February 18, 2014.
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
By Reader stringers

BALBOA PARK
Well, that was confusing
Language barrier prompts bomb scare

A couple of guys attempting to deliver a package triggered a shutdown of the main gate access to Balboa Naval Hospital on Thursday, January 2.

For approximately two hours, San Diego police blocked access to Florida Drive between Pershing Drive and Zoo Place, assisted by several military police organizations and eventually the U.S. Border Patrol.

According to a local U.S. Navy representative, at around 5 p.m., two men in a car approached the Naval Medical Center’s Bob Wilson Drive guard post. When questioned by the sentries on duty, a language barrier prompted uncertainty about the men’s intentions, specifically regarding a barrier prompting uncertainty about the package in their possession. Notice went up through the chain of command, and orders came back to follow precautions used in case of a bomb threat.

The gate was put on lockdown, and bomb-sniffing dogs were called in.

Meanwhile, at the front gate, the two unidentified men were held while their package was opened and then inspected by canine units. Eventually, the package was cleared and a Border Patrol officer arrived to serve as translator. Initial reports did not specify which language the two men were speaking, but once the translator arrived they proved cooperative.

Apparently, they were in the area attempting to deliver a package and were a little bit lost when they happened to take the wrong turn that led them straight into the guard station.

IAN ANDERSON

TIJUANA
Drone patrols begin
Going places police don’t even want to go

Tijuana police began using drones to patrol crime-plagued areas of the city on January 6, according to the daily newspaper El Sol de Tijuana.

The drones are a cost-saving measure — helicopters are much more expensive and require a pilot.

The miniature aircraft will be used to observe parts of the city where it would be too dangerous or difficult for regular patrols.

BOB MCPHAIL

LA MESA
Who set fire to the porta potties?
Suspected arson visits Sunshine Park

A fire reported at 5:41 a.m. on January 4 destroyed two portable toilets and the wood-shake roof of nearby restrooms at Sunshine Park, according to La Mesa Police Department lieutenant Ray Sweeney.

In his capacity as watch commander, Sweeney said on January 4 that “not a lot was known” about the fire. Someone may have set the porta potties on fire and the flames spread to vegetation and from there to the roof of the restroom. Sweeney added that someone may have started the fire in a trashcan, an act committed at several other locations near the La Mesa–San Diego border the same night.

San Diego Fire Department spokesman Lee Swanson provided information about the other fires in a January 8 interview.

Although he could not comment on the arson investigation, Swanson said that a palm tree on the 7050 block of Amherst Street was set on fire at 2:20 a.m. on January 4; the fire caused “some damage” to the adjacent residence. At about the same time, there was another tree fire at 72nd Street and El Cajon Boulevard; at 3 a.m., a trashcan on the 7120 block of Amherst Street was set ablaze.

LIZ SWAIN

CHULA VISTA
Ousted from Sweetwater Valley
They’re coming...

In November, shortly before Thanksgiving, the city of Chula Vista sent heavy equipment and personnel to clean out homeless encampments in the Lower Sweetwater Valley. Tractors and trucks worked all day and then returned about a week later for another sweep. The area is an open-space area, partially owned by the city, which is used by bicyclists, joggers, and birders.

After the city was done, eviction signs were posted at the entrance to the valley: one forbade trespassing and the other notified people that they had 72 hours to pick up their belongings.

Throughout 2013, the number of people without homes increased along Chula Vista’s main drag, Third Avenue.

One man, Eddie, has become almost a permanent fixture on Third Avenue.

He said he originally from Los Angeles, but the Navy brought him to San Diego.

continued on page 82

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San Diego Reader January 16, 2014

San Diego Reader January 16, 2014
In With The New Out With The Old Sale!

**New Year - New Furniture**

**Huge Discounts on 2013 Styles!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Apricot Leather Sectional</td>
<td>$888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections White Leather Queen Bed Frame</td>
<td>$248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Styled Lacquer Chest</td>
<td>$188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Retro Chair</td>
<td>$98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastshore TV Console</td>
<td>$188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Wood Futon Frame</td>
<td>$288</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newport 5 Pc Pub Dining Set</td>
<td>$188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson 5 Pc Pub Dining Set</td>
<td>$188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Leather Love Seat</td>
<td>$288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Leather Sectional</td>
<td>$888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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I sifted through the messy pile of papers on my desk, growing more agitated by the moment. “I know I wrote down the confirmation number,” I said to David, who was standing beside me, waiting. “Why the fuck don’t we have, like, one place where we keep all of our important information?” I growled as I reached the bottom without finding what I was looking for.

“That payment should have covered both of us,” David said. “But they keep emailing me that I’m going to miss my due date, and I can’t even log on to the website because they don’t recognize me as a subscriber.”

“Yeah, I know,” I shoved the stack of papers in frustration and didn’t bother to pick up the pages that fell to the floor. “You know what? Forget this. I paid with my card, never my bank card. I use the cash flow for paying bills, not for buying stuff.”

“Wouldn’t they need my billing address to order something online?” I asked David. Before he had a chance to answer, I added, “And those three numbers I thought, “I said. “Also, looks like the purchase was made at Bestbuy.com. We’ve never ordered from that site.”

For a moment, I considered the possibility that I had forgotten buying something expensive in the past two days. But then I remembered whenever I spend more than $500, I always put it on a credit card, never my bank card. I use the cash flow for paying bills, not for buying stuff. That could mean only one thing. “I can’t believe this. I’m starting to freak out, Beh-Beh. My card is right here. Someone must have gotten the number and is now draining my freaking bank account.”

We set up our laptops and papers on the dining table. I went online to check my bank account because it was most likely that I’d used my debit card. “What the...” One of my pending transactions was for an astronomical transaction in the amount of $1848.73. “Did you just use my card for a major purchase?” I asked David.

“What? No, of course not,” he said.

“Right, that’s what I thought,” I said. “Also, I’ve never ordered from Blue Shield.”

Did they order Domino’s in Desert Hot Springs the day after Christmas? I reported to David. “And they ordered a lot — $66.54. Who does that? Aren’t they worried about getting caught? Won’t there be an address on record? Like, where they delivered the pizza, where they delivered whatever the hell they bought at Best Buy? Argh. Now I guess I have to deal with this before I call Blue Shield.”

I don’t trust people as it is. So, when stuff like this happens, it shakes to the core what little confidence I have in humanity. While I waited on hold to speak to a representative at my bank, I thought of all the possible suspects. Was it that shifty-eyed receptionist who processed my payment at the spa? Someone running the bill at one of the restaurants I’d dined at when I visited Palm Springs back in October? Why did they wait ten days between ordering pizza and going balls out with a huge purchase? Probably to test me, I thought. To see how closely I monitored my account. So if I didn’t catch a pizza order in another city over the holidays, then chances are I wouldn’t notice a few thousand dollars gone missing? It killed me that I couldn’t make sense of it all.

“Wouldn’t they need my billing address to order something online?” I asked David. Before he had a chance to answer, I added, “And those three numbers on the back of my card?” Suddenly, I was aware of how often and easily I share my card number in everyday life, never expecting that someone else might use it, even though that’s apparently a super easy thing to do. This was the second time this had happened to me.

A few years ago, two days after hiring movers to help us into our new apartment, a credit-card fraud-detection bot notified me of several small, out-of-character purchases, most of them at pet stores. Because the only other people to have access to that particular card number in months were the movers, I could only surmise that one of them was the culprit. And that he had a pet.

“Now that I think about it, it’s amazing that this doesn’t happen more often,” I said. “Can’t anybody just use any old card number to buy things online?”

I worked at a call center years ago, where we processed catalog sales for dozens of companies. I remembered how one guy had been fired after it was discovered he was copying card numbers that were given to him over the phone. It had gone on for a long time before they caught him, but once they knew to look, he made it easy enough — he’d been sending the things he bought with stolen card numbers to his home address.

I spoke with my bank, made a claim, got my card canceled, and was told another one would be sent to me. When I ended the call, I said, “How can we ever hand our card to someone in a restaurant again? Or...”
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Saving Uncle Sam

Latest Leaked Snowden Documents Reveal Collaboration Between Government, Disney, and Local Dronemaker

Disney exec to General Atomics COO: “If we could make people sympathize with an ecosystem’s top predator (LION KING), we can make them sympathize with a robot death plane.”

Disney. Pleasure Island, LLC — once Disney grated, BURBANK — Apparently, NSA data-collection methods weren’t the only thing that Edward Snowden felt obliged to share with the American public. Yesterday, the former government contractor contacted SD on the QT and shared “just a few” of the documents in his possession pertaining to Drones, a proposed feature film collaboration between the United States government, Walt Disney Studios, and General Atomics, maker of the Reaper and Predator drones.

“As our recent report to the British Defence Select Committee indicates,” reads one email between General Atomics and Disney executives, “the word ‘drone’ has taken on pejorative connotations. It seems unlikely that the more accurate ‘Remotely Piloted Aircraft’ will take hold in the public imagination. Therefore, a full rehabilitation of the ‘drone’ terminology must be implemented. Our research indicates that we will realize the most success in this effort with a ‘bottom-up’ approach: if young children believe strongly that drones are okay, their exhausted parents are likely to modify their own views, if only to keep peace in the home. And no one is better at telling kids what is and isn’t okay than Disney. Pleasure Island, LLC — once the mainstay of General Atomics’ unskilled labor force — shut down virtually overnight after the release of Pinocchio. It’s time we put Disney’s storytelling power to work for Project American Freedom.”

“Even our opponents admit that the situation is improving,” continues the email. “Drones-related deaths were down nearly 50% in 2013 compared to 2012. We’re bombing smarter, not harder. Lots of Disney characters make mistakes early on. Well, so have we. We need to turn our past failures into future victories, and making them into plot points in a $100 million dollar animated feature-film slate is a great way to do that.”

“Disney has worked with the United States government before,” noted CIA liaison Brian Wash in an early overture to educational films such as the classic anti-malaria short The Winged Scourge. Disney has always stood ready to support American interests overseas. Once again, we are calling on you to help us win the hearts and minds of the very people we are defending.”

In a reply, Disney spokesman Viola Teduth wrote, “The Walt Disney company has always understood the unique difficulties that come with having power and authority. It’s why we tell so many stories about royalty. So, yes, it will be a challenge to make Ronnie relatable, seeing as how he is the deadly emissary of American might in a war-torn, desperate part of the world. But, ‘uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,’ as someone once said. There’s the drama: Ronnie isn’t sure he wants to be what he’s supposed to be — and ultimately, what the world needs him to be. It’s Simba all over again. We can do this.”

As of press time, no official comment was forthcoming from any of the three organizations. No mention of Drones appears in any of Disney’s press materials regarding its 2014 feature-film slate.
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Gothic in the Gaslamp

You can’t go wrong with black. It’s slimming. It’s simple. It’s sleek. It’s the shade that Audrey Hepburn is remembered most for wearing in *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*. Her little black dress is a look that millions of women have copied for generations.

Black on black is almost always chic; however, there is a danger in looking like you are an Edgar Allan Poe fanatic or, worse, boring, when wearing this particular monochromatic look.

By adding bold accessories and textures to a black-on-black ensemble you can breathe some life into the otherwise somber tone. Take a quick look at how a couple of San Diego ladies pulled off head-to-toe black.

In the Gaslamp, 25-year-old Aishlin Reilly looked every bit chic in black pants, a billowy black top and bandeau, and a boho-style hat. The pattern on her peek-toe platforms paired with her platinum-blond hair took her monochromatic look from yawn-inducing to hip.

Alyssa Anduja paired her black look with a pair of knee-high lace-up boots and leather-accented leggings for a modern twist. She wore a Michael Kors watch and an H&M top.

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A bout a year ago at the La Jolla Cove, longtime marathon swimmer Claudia Rose was making her way toward La Jolla Shores with a friend when a group of sea lions charged at them. Startled into a fight-or-flight reaction, the swimmers veered to the south, toward the caves, to get away from the pinnipeds. Rose’s friend panicked, cramped up, and couldn’t swim very well, but his wetsuit kept him buoyant until he could recover.

Rose was shaken by the confrontation but was even more unnerved a couple of months later, when a sea lion attacked her injured, bandaged hand. “I had tape on my finger. He ripped off the tape and he broke or sprained my finger really badly,” said Rose, 49, a systems engineer who has been swimming at the Cove for nearly two decades. “We haven’t had that kind of touching behavior before.”

Reflecting a population explosion of sea lions along the California coast, the colony “hauling out” on the rocks and swimming around the waters of the Cove has grown logarithmically in the past decade.

The small number of sea lions that swimmers used to enjoy watching frolic some years ago has turned into a colony of as many as 300, ranging in size from 100-pound females to 900-pound bulls, which have been mount-
ing, biting, charging, and baring their teeth at swimmers and beachgoers.

"The baring the teeth thing — they're very aggressive, so again, people have to remember they are wild animals," said Monica DeAngelis, a marine mammal biologist with the National Marine Fishery Service's West Coast regional office, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "It's hard to predict or know what they might be thinking."

Lately, the increasingly territorial animals have started blocking swimmers from getting into the water, forcing people to walk back and forth on the beach until they can find a safe opening to enter the ocean. One even went so far as to bite a swimmer wearing a wetsuit at the water's edge.

"It could be that they have their area and they may be trying to stay within that area," DeAngelis said. "During August, it could be the tail end of breeding, that dominant behavior. The following [of swimmers]...could be a confused male; it could potentially be thinking it's another male. They are probably looking for food, too."

She said people are excreting big bubble clouds of brown waste and streams of urine into the water and onto the rocks, and keeping residents awake with loud barking.

"It's dirty, it stinks, and it's like swimming in a toilet that hasn't been flushed," said Anne Cleveland, 57, a yoga instructor and former La Jolla Town Council president.

Once thought to be caused by the avian guano on the rocks, the foul odor that has tourists covering their faces with their T-shirts or scarves, exclaim-
January 16, 2014

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In the next day, life-guards used the public address system three times to warn beachgoers: once at 9:50 a.m., about an “aggressive sea lion on beach”; at 6 p.m., when “a sea lion bull charged beach,” and again half an hour later, when lifeguards had to warn a crowd of 30 “citizens to keep back” and away from the animal.

On August 6 at 12:30 p.m., “sea lion comes onto beach and nips at waders.”

There’s room for more sea lions
The city hired Merkel & Associates to help the city resolve the odor problem. Keith Merkel, a biological consultant, said he wasn’t surprised to hear about such incidents because he’d anticipated them happening.

“The upshot of it is having that many people and the sea lions both thinking that the Cove is theirs is going to generate those territorial interactions,” Merkel said. “I think people are more curious. The thing about people is they’re willing to pet anything until they get bit.”

Although Merkel said the animals may just be playing and don’t intend any harm in some cases, even some of the most hardcore ocean swimmers are reporting that the animals are scaring them or making them so uncomfortable that they have started swimming elsewhere.

“Fear” has become part of a vocabulary that these athletes don’t like to admit and don’t want as part of their recreational lexicon, so they have chosen to avoid it, even some who have been training at the Cove for 30 years.

Rose, who used to come from Pacific Beach to the Cove to swim anywhere from one to ten miles in a day, is now swimming at La Jolla Shores. And so is Cleve-

land, who has made it across the English Channel four times with no wetsuit and without stop-

ping — including a two-

way trip, from England to France and back, nine years ago. Once a chan-

nel swimming coach, she used to swim six times a week at the Cove, for four or five hours at a time.

A year or so ago, Cleveland saw a sea lion at the Cove “literally lunge at this guy and actually tore through his wetsuit” while he was try-

ing to enter the water. He wasn’t taunting the ani-

mal, “he just wanted to get in and go for a swim.”

“Definitely the sea lion was the aggressor,” she said, and “after he was bitten he left.”

“I don’t like to live my life in fear,” said Cleveland, who stopped swimming at the Cove in 2012 because of the sea lions as well as persistent ear infections that she said subsided soon after she stopped going in the water there. Although she can’t prove it, she attri-

butes the ear infections to the sea lion poop.

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But for the city officials who are juggling competing human interests as well as legal restrictions and marine mammal protections, alleviating the situation is not as simple as finding somewhere else to swim.

Despite microbial solution having been sprayed on the cliffs of the Cove in June and September 2013, the same public health and welfare concerns that prompted former mayor Bob Filner to declare an emergency there this summer still exist.

“The same sort of declaration could be made today,” Merkel said.

“The concern becomes what would you do if you had it…because the approach we took before would not be the most reasonable, efficient, or prudent. Right now the key is formulating an approach that makes more sense. Making the findings doesn’t seem to be the biggest problem.”

Meanwhile, as the sea lion population continues to grow, the animals are becoming more comfortable and more established at the Cove, which means that the related problems may increase as well.

“That’s plenty of rock out there,” Merkel said. “It’s certainly not at capacity. There are certainly more animals that could show up there that haven’t.”

Merkel likened the colony of sea lions to a pack of dogs off their leash that feel as though the Cove has become their own yard in which to play.

“It’s just a matter of the comfort zone. Once they become accustomed to that being their rock and that area, they will become more protective and more territorial.”

That awful smell
So far, the city has paid Merkel & Associates $50,000 under an initial contract. In mid-November, Merkel said additional services would require newly authorized funds.

The city paid $50,000 to Blue Eagle to spray the cliffs for about a month, starting in late May, and again for about five days, starting in late September.

Although the microbial bacteria solution of bacillus was billed as all-natural, Rose said she threw up in the water while swimming along the cliffs on two separate occasions — not knowing that they had just been sprayed until afterward.

“I didn’t know they did a second treatment,” she said. “I was throwing up all day. The next day I saw the signs… That’s not supposed to be bothering us.”

Merkel agreed, saying the spray should not have caused anyone to get sick, particularly because there was no runoff from the cliffs into the water.

“We actually prevented all runoff,” he said, explaining that they weren’t allowed to spray the steep area on

a sea lion — you know they shoot right in front of you — [with] a big giant poo stream shooting out the back,” Cleveland said. “When that happened to me, it just really ruined it for me.”

Also fear-producing are the escalating recent sightings of Great White sharks, which feed on seals and sea lions, one of which washed up on La Jolla Shores in June with a shark bite. Rose and other swimmers say it’s just a matter of time before a shark mistakes a swimmer wearing a black wetsuit for a sea lion.

“It’s not if, but when,” said Richard Walker, 73, a La Jolla business owner who swims at the Cove most mornings with a group, including his wife, often to the Shores and sometimes making the three miles to the Scripps pier and back.
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Together we can make a difference
the cliff faces or during high winds.

“There is an awful lot of waste in the water — sea lion waste — so I wouldn’t be surprised” if someone could have gotten sick from that, Merkel said.

The intent was to spray the solution only on the waste and not where the slope breaks on the water. As planned, the bacteria went to work eating the bird guano, multiplied and died off, taking the waste and related odor with it.

Only a short time after the spraying treatment, however, an equally nauseating odor emerged, which likely had been there all along and only became more evident once the nose-burning ammonia from the bird poop had been eliminated.

Once Merkel, city officials, and the merchants realized that sea lion poop was then the primary cause of the odor problem, pleas for action from the business community started up again.

Although Merkel considers the first two phases of spraying to have been “very successful” and said the city could continue to treat the lingering and persistent smell with further sprays, he also said it wouldn’t be an efficient or permanent fix because the odor would be renewed every time the sea lions had a good feeding on greasy sardines and anchovies.

“It was not sustainable in the current condition because, again, like I said, it would take days, weeks, months to generate the kind of waste that a sea lion can do overnight,” he said. “As a result, that kind of treatment works well with an accumulated waste.”

So, it was back to the drawing board as Merkel and city officials tried to find a more comprehensive, long-term solution.

“I don’t think people are intentionally being obtuse about their responses,” he said. “I think it’s honestly a more complicated issue than the smell, [which] is really a symptom of a bigger problem.”

“It’s making people sick.” Water-quality issues make up one component of that larger problem. On October 17, swimmers and divers at the Cove saw the first cautionary posting by the county Department of Environmental Health since 2009. Including the one in 2009, there were seven previous postings since 2002.
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According to Mark McPherson, the department’s chief of land and water quality, the one-day posting near the Cove shoreline in October warned of a higher than acceptable level — measuring 164 points, or 60 above the state standard of 104 — of the bacteria enterococcus, found in human and animal feces. Enterococcus can cause ear, urinary tract, pelvic and other types of infections, and it’s an indicator of more dangerous but undetectable pathogens.

“It tends to last longer in the environment,” he explained. “It’s indicative of fecal matter from a warm-blooded animal that can make you sick and can cause a health issue.”

Bill Harris, the city’s Transportation and Stormwater Department spokesman, called the sea lion waste “a pervasive problem” at the Cove, noting that it was particularly potent in the first 20 feet of water, where the brown stuff floating there “is not kelp, it’s doody. It’s a slurry of digested anchovies.”

The water-quality postings, which are made within 24 hours of the water sampling, are simply “swim at your own risk” warnings, he said.

In fact, when one of the lifeguards on duty was asked about the October posting a couple of weeks later, he said he knew nothing of it.

McPherson downplayed the recent test result. “It’s above state standards, and we would post for that. But it could be much, much higher,” he said. “If it were sewage, it would be in the thousands.”

Even though swimmers swim at the Cove year-round, the county doesn’t test there during the winter months because of budget constraints, he said. And from April 1 through October 31, the tests are only conducted once a week in the middle of the beach in knee-deep water, where the swimmers get in and many children play.

Asked if the recent posting and burgeoning public-health concerns at the Cove might prompt further and more frequent year-round testing there, McPherson answered in an email that, “We will evaluate whether we will add the Cove to our winter monitoring [sites].”

“We haven’t seen an issue at La Jolla Cove based on the weekly sample we’ve been doing,” he said. “That’s not to say there’s never bacteria there. We have not seen a chronic issue there.”

This is in contrast to the Children’s Pool, he said, “where, if the seals are present and we sample, the bacterial results are very high and that’s why we’ve posted a chronic posting there.”

Based on Cleveland’s experience with the sea lions’ fecal clouds, she said the county’s results sounded fishy, and she wonders if testing closer to the rocks, where the sea lions haul out, would produce different results.

“I don’t care what the county says about the water quality. It’s making people sick,” she said, adding that her fellow swimmers are sharing stories of getting intestinal bugs and upper respiratory and ear infections, after swimming there.

“It’s the same thing surfers were getting before Donna Frye was a councilwoman. This was a long time ago. Now the same thing is happening at the Cove.”

That said, Cleveland acknowledges that some are not as concerned as she is. “Most of them have buried their head in the sand,” she said. “They like it. They’re going to swim there anyway.”

Richard Walker is one of them, even after a recent encounter with a large floating cloud of sea lion feces, about six feet wide and several feet deep. He said he rolled over onto his back until he got through it. He acknowledged being “slightly” concerned about the potential hazards, but “not so much that I’ll quit swimming there until it does have an impact on my health.”
“I’m probably still in a majority in that regard, but perhaps a decreasing majority. I know more and more people who aren’t swimming at the Cove anymore or who aren’t coming into La Jolla anymore because of that,” he said. “My thinking on this is, until it gets so bad that it starts making you sick, what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. It’s my flu shot, if you will. It’s an immune-response builder.”

Jim Poirier, a 67-year-old retired La Jolla High chemistry teacher, remains determined to continue his morning regimen of 30 years at the Cove or at the Children’s Pool.

A member of a swimming group dubbed the Dawn Patrol, Poirier said he doesn’t mind the sea lions. Although he agreed that they have become more aggressive, he just tries to ignore them.

“They would come up to you and kind of nose you. Some people are very afraid of that. I’m not afraid of it, no, no. We go down at 6:30 in the morning. There are four or five of them kind of making a barrier — it’s like they don’t want you to swim out in the water. We just swim through them.”

The next Children’s Pool

Though he won’t stop swimming the Cove, Poirier is concerned by the sea lions’ growing numbers. “They’re fine, but I should be able to walk on the beach and swim in it. I mean, excuse me, people are more important than sea lions.”

What worries him, Cleveland, and other swimmers is that public access to the Cove will ultimately be shut down by the same animal protesters who have spent years fighting to protect the harbor seals’ access to Casa Beach, an area known as the Children’s Pool just around the corner, where Poirier said elderly female protesters have harassed him and cursed at him as he tried to take a relaxing swim.

“The seal-huggers will come over and protect the sea lions, not that they need it,” Cleveland predicted. “It’s another nightmare, and the city with its non-attentiveness to the issue at hand will cause another avalanche of problems, just like at Children’s Pool.”

Dr. Jane Reldan, spokeswoman for La Jolla Friends of the Seals, said she is only involved with the harbor seals at Casa Beach. She didn’t know of anyone leading any activist efforts to protect sea lions at the Cove. Yet, anyway.

“There are only seals there, and there is no smell,” she said of the Children’s Pool. “I am not involved with the sea lions at La Jolla Cove.... The only pinnipeds at La Jolla Cove are sea lions.”

Some Cove swimmers disagree with this point. They say they’re still seeing seals swimming under them, noting that the smaller creatures may be too small to haul out on the rocks with the much larger sea lions.

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Dibella said Todd Gloria and La Jolla’s councilwoman, Sherri Lightner, were invited to tour the area, have lunch, and experience the odor, but they never came.

Asked to address the public health and safety concerns and criticisms about his alleged inattention, Gloria issued this written statement on November 20: "We’re working diligently to solve a problem that’s clearly impacting businesses in La Jolla as well as the overall quality of life. We’re seeking a solution that balances environmental concerns with the rights of La Jolla citizens to be able to walk outside without holding their noses."

During an interview on KUSI the night of the special mayoral election, Gloria mentioned "the smell in La Jolla" as one of the primary issues facing him as interim mayor.

Dibella said merchants are also annoyed that Lightner, who is the council president pro tem, hasn’t been more responsive to their concerns.

"Our biggest frustration with the players, the one constant of this administration, is Councilwoman Lightner," Dibella said. "I have yet to see her come out swinging, saying, ‘I am here to help La Jolla, I am work-
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respond to several requests for a phone interview for this story. Her spokeswoman, Jill Esterbrooks, said the councilwoman also did not want to respond to these specific constituent criticisms.

“As you know, Sherri is a long-time La Jolla resident who has been actively involved in the community for dozens of years,” she wrote in an email. “She understands the urgency of the current Cove situation and the impact the odor is having on the quality of life for residents as well as La Jolla’s reputation as a world-class tourist destination. She’s a strong supporter for the protection of public views and physical access to our beaches and coastline, and will continue to work with the Mayor and City Staff to address the odor problems and coastal access issues.”

Esterbrooks also contended that the recent media attention to which Fortune referred is actually being generated by the merchants themselves.

For the past couple of years, the merchants say they’ve been trying to work behind the scenes to resolve this issue — without going to the media. “It is a double-edged sword to even speak about this because part of our group’s effort is to work with the city directly,” Dibella said. “We didn’t want to publicize — because we’re in the hospitality business — that it stinks in La Jolla.”

But, he added, they have run out of patience. (This story was in no way generated by any business owner. Its genesis was the October 17 water-quality posting. As a Cove swimmer since junior high school at Muirlands in La Jolla, I have personally witnessed the recent proliferation of sea lions, have experienced some of the same fears as the swimmers quoted in this story, and have had at least two meals at George’s at the Cove ruined by the smell. Even though it’s one of my favorite restaurants, I’m sorry to say I won’t be going back until the smell is gone or at least mitigated.)

As awkward as their meeting was this past summer with Filner, Dibella said, at least he met with them personally and something positive came out of it — an executive order and declaration of a health emergency that deemed the avian guano “more than just a nuisance; it is a public health hazard” and finally got the cliffs sprayed this summer. Sea lion waste was not cited specifically because at the time, experts viewed bird guano as the primary culprit causing the odor.

After Filner was forced to resign in August over sexual harassment charges and the smell problem had still not dissipated, Dibella posted a plea on Gloria’s Facebook page September 11, complaining about the problem and Lightner in particular: “We are trying to pick up the pieces with Sherry (she is less than committed) and the contractor.”

Dibella was pleased to receive this immediate response: “Mark, City staff are working on this problem. We anticipate additional clean up measures to be performed as soon as nesting season is over, which I’m told should be very soon. I’m always happy to meet with constituents. Please call my office to schedule an appointment.”

A second round of spraying ensued in late September, and then came the sad realization that sea lion poop was really to blame.

After some scheduling delays, Dibella and a committee from the La Jolla Merchants Association were invited to the mayor’s office on October 30 to what they thought would be a meeting with the mayor and, perhaps, Lightner as well. They were disappointed to walk into a room with more than 20 people, mostly city staffers, but neither elected official was there. Just like congresswoman Scott Peters, Gloria and Lightner sent representatives.

“That just really told us again, ‘You’re not very important here,’” Fortune said.

Asked if Lightner is tired of dealing with emotional folks on either side of the pinniped issue after years of debate over the Children’s Pool, Esterbrooks said there’s really no way for an elected official to win at such meetings.

“Whenever you get all the parties in the room, there is no compromise,” she said.

Rather than coming to La Jolla himself, Gloria sent his aides Alex Roth and Lena Lewis, who “physically went there and explored the whole area and smelled the smells,” Roth said. He said he and Lewis attended the October 30 meeting as well as a La Jolla merchants’ meeting.

“The idea that we’re sitting on our hands doing nothing is just not accurate,” Roth said. “We’ve also made clear to them: We understand how serious this issue is and we’re aggressively trying to find an answer…. You have to search for these solutions one step at a time.”

The merchants’ suggested solution was for the city to allow people to walk around the cliff areas above the Cove — “sharing the bluffs” — as they did before a white wooden fence was erected along the sidewalk about a decade ago, when there was no smell. After the fence went up, huge numbers of birds began to roost there, allowing avian guano to accumulate, and sea lions began to haul out on the rocks.

After doing some research, the city came back with a memo stating that it was, in fact, legal for people to walk around those areas, despite the fence and the signs that
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read, “Unstable cliffs, danger, stay back.”

So, for now, Plan A consists of waiting to see whether this renewed public access to those cliffs — which is only possible by climbing over the fence — will ultimately help motivate the sea lions and birds to relocate. In mid-November, the city attorney was asked to investigate whether it was legal to put a hole or gate in the fence so people wouldn’t have to climb over it, and on December 31, the city installed that gate.

“If plan A doesn’t work, it’s on to plan B,” Roth said. “If plan B doesn’t work it’s on to plan C, and so forth.”

“Every possible solution is on the table,” Roth said. Asked to elaborate, he declined to discuss any other specifics the city is considering.

Although people are allowed to roam around on the bluffs, city officials warn that it is illegal to harass, harm, or “flush” the birds or sea lions, which means to purposely cause them to fly away or jump into the water.

“Flush” is a pretty active word,” said Harris, the stormwater spokesman who has been involved with the Children’s Pool issue for years. “There’s a big difference between ambling down to look at the view and running down the hill, arms akimbo.”

If lifeguards see behavior they believe violates the law, Wurts, the lifeguard chief, said they are trained to give verbal warnings first.

“If lifeguards in a situation like this, we’re going to almost always gain compliance through public education first, by trying to tell people ahead of time what they can do and what they shouldn’t do,” Wurts said. If lifeguards see “a specific act of violence,” he added, that could result in a citation or even an arrest by police.

Such citations would fall under the section of the municipal code titled “mistreatment of animals,” which states that it is “unlawful to take, kill, wound, disturb, or maltreat any bird or animal, either wild or domesticated, unless the same shall have been declared noxious by the City Manager and a permit issued for the killing of such noxious animals.” Such a violation would be a misdemeanor, although it could be reduced to an infraction at the discretion of the City Attorney’s Office, Wurts said.

Asked about the potential for conflict and confusion posed by the city’s new public-access position, Wurts said, “There’s no effort to send a mixed message. There are a variety of scenarios that present themselves. What would be unfair is to create [an impression that], there are always hundreds of seals there all the time…. There may be other times when there are no seals, and…and it may be by having people there, that maybe the seals would select a different place to haul out on.”

There does seem to be some confusion already, however, as evidenced by recent events. Case in point: After attending the October 30 meeting, George Hauer, the owner of George’s at the Cove, described by Dibella as “a bit of a maverick,” decided to test the city’s new position by jumping the fence on November 1.

Hauer promptly called Dibella on his cell phone and told him that after only five minutes, all the birds had flown away and the sea lions had jumped back into the water. Someone was watching and videotaping his jaunt, because it later ended up on the TV news.

Five days later, Hauer jumped the fence again, only this time, as he wrote in an email to Dibella to forward to city officials, “the reaction was significantly different. Within minutes the [lifeguard] on duty called me off the bluffs. He and three other lifeguards politely asked me not to do this again, as it turns out, for good reason. Within seconds of my going over into the bluffs the 911 calls began to deluge the station, creating an emergency atmosphere at the Cove. Then three police officers arrived to explain to me what happens when an incursion takes place.”

Hauer noted that all city staff he encountered “were enormously respectful and well informed,” but “as a logical person, it seems odd to me that I commanded the attention of seven of San Diego’s finest because I walked on the bluffs.”

Since then, other people have been seen walking within the fenced area without incident.

Esterbrooks, Lightner’s spokeswoman, said the councilwoman supports removing part of the fence or installing a gate to ease public access to the cliffs.

Esterbrooks tried to downplay the odorous situation and the business losses the merchants are claiming. She acknowledged that although she hasn’t eaten a meal recently along the Cove area, she has driven by Brockton Villa, a restaurant on Coast Boulevard, right above the area where the sea lions...
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haul out, which Dibella called “ground zero” for the smell. She said she saw people inside, and “no one was throwing up their meal.”

The restaurant owner, Megan Heine, did not respond to a request for comment, but a woman answering the phone there said it did not smell inside.

Tripadvisor.com reviews for La Valencia and George’s at the Cove, both of which sit on Prospect Street overlooking the Cove, reflect complaints about the stench, which back up the merchants’ claim.

A two-star (out of a possible five) review for George’s, posted on November 4, states, “I love it here, been here and have recommended it many times. Sadly, this was my last time here and in La Jolla restaurants near the cove until the smell from the cove is gone. It’s unimaginable that the restaurant association alone does not force the city for faster action with this problem. I’d burn piñon pots or mesquite on the patios to cover the smell, but you have to find a way to disguise this ugliness. Get creative and restore this great treasure.”

A recent three-star review for La Valencia states, “During our stay, there was a horrible, fishy smell from the ocean, not a clue came from the hotel, or perhaps a glass of wine to take away the smell. Great location, beautiful view. Second room was lovely, but too many negatives in order to enjoy the stay.”

In both cases, the establishments apparently told patrons that the smell was seasonal or that it was just rotting kelp.

To quantify the financial problem, Dibella said that on one particular day and from one particular guest, the smell cost La Valencia, an 87-year-old historic hotel that has recently spent millions on renovations, about $6000 in room revenue. On this particular day, he said, boxer Floyd Mayweather booked two villas and six rooms. Mayweather checked in and, 15 minutes later, checked out all his guests.

“We’ll have guests leave a day early,” Dibella said. “We’ll have guests get off the terrace and just not dine on our oceanfront deck because of the smell. We’ve had potential wedding bride and grooms tell us they aren’t going to book at the hotel because of the smell.”

Dibella said that this isn’t only an economic problem for La Valencia and its 220 employees, or even just the merchants in the village of La Jolla, but for the region as a whole.

“When you market San Diego, let’s face it, La Jolla is the Beverly Hills of San Diego in terms of its hospitality image,” he said.

Smelly... and loud

In addition to calls about the smell, the biggest complaint DeAngelis (the federal marine biologist) receives from La Jolla residents calling her Long Beach office is about the sea lions barking.

“The residents in the high-rises — the noise carries really far up,” she said. “It travels through the streets, basically, so when it gets going, it gets quite loud. There’s really nothing you can do. That’s sea lions being sea lions.”

Under the federal Marine Mammals Protection Act, adopted in 1972 after a period when the populations of seals and sea lions were decimated because of “sealing” (hunting), the pinnipeds are still protected animals.

Last year, DeAngelis said, they saw an unusually high mortality rate of sea lion pups dying off and showing up sick and malnourished in rehab facilities. Researchers are baffled and don’t know why.

Nonetheless, she said, the population of sea lions is increasing at a rate higher in California than anywhere else in the United States. Where there were only about 10,000 of them here in the 1970s, there are now...
DeAngelis said city officials do have some options available under the law, which she believes would be preferable to letting people roam around an unstable cliff area and which she would be happy to help walk the city through.

Under the “Protection of health and welfare of the public” section of the law, 109HB, she said, “They could non-lethally deter or have those animals removed from that area and that would be a safer alternative than, say, have a bunch of tourists or local folks running up and down those rocks.” She noted that the city wouldn’t need to get a permit for this alternative.

Although the presence of people on the bluffs and rocks could temporarily move some of the animals during the daytime, she said, they might still come back at night “and make a mess.”

You would have to “convince the animals it’s not a good place to haul out anymore. And you’re going to have some animals that will keep trying,” she said. “I’d imagine that some of those animals are well established.”

Rose, the marathon swimmer who also works as an architect, said she, too, would be willing to help. She volunteered to build a model to help the city figure out a more comprehensive approach to dealing with the sea lions than the less-than-successful attempts to keep the peace at the Children’s Pool, where she said “we had a whole lot of unintended consequences.”

“We do need to do something about it. We really need to look at the entire environment,” she said. “Before we mess with the sea lions we’d better understand [the systems].”

“Swimmers want to know what they can do to get the city to take some action,” she said.

Post script
On December 19, a group called Citizens for Odor Abatement, headed by Hauer, filed a lawsuit against the city, state and Gloria, deeming the odor a public nuisance and asking the court to force action to deal with it. The group wants the fence — which the group believes was erected illegally — to be removed entirely.

“Just telling people privately that they are allowed to climb the fence if they want to is just silly,” attorney Bryan Pease wrote in an email. “Nobody is going to do that. The city needs to tear down the illegal fence.”

The mayor’s office had no comment on the lawsuit other than to note that the decision to erect the gate was made independently, two days before the suit was filed. ■

— Caitlin Rother
E-cigs face obstacles
continued from page 3

dle-school and high-school students.”

“Overall, there’s just a lack of direction,” adds Knutson. “The [Food and Drug Administration] hasn’t been involved; however, we anticipate them to place the same marketing and packaging restrictions as given to cigarettes.”

Knutson admits that the use of e-cigarettes is “not nearly as dangerous as smoking or inhaling second-hand smoke.”

As for nicotine, Hutchinson says, “Not all e-juice has nicotine. It is up to the individual. That said, bans on e-juice with nicotine raises several questions. Are we banning nicotine patches or nicotine gum? Will asthma inhalers be banned in public? Potatoes? Icing for cakes? Gum? Asthma inhalers? All of those things, to some extent, have compounds found in e-juice....

Truth of the matter is, we need to encourage quitting smoking by alternatives and education, not by force and hatred.”

Hutchinson dismisses claims that manufacturers and those in the industry are targeting kids.

“Marketing for e-cigs is almost non-existent due to the existing regulations on tobacco products and e-cigs already being treated as tobacco. The flavors are being made to everyone’s taste.”

“Yes, kids will mimic their elders and try what they should not be trying. Kids smoke regular cigarettes that taste horrible and, quite frankly, it’s easier for kids to get cigarettes. To what extent are we going to keep giving money to Big Tobacco and closing any real way for people to make the break from tobacco products? No, instead we are using children to fight for Big Tobacco. Awesome.”

(@DorianHargrove)

Under the radar
continued from page 3

a major foe of marijuana and its legalization, penning an op-ed piece calling for testing of high-school students’ hair samples for cannabis traces. By a stroke of fate, the brothers’ home state of Colorado was one of the nation’s first to legalize weed. And the state’s senior U.S. senator, Democrat Mark Udall, is a big pot backer himself, having served a night in jail and anted up a $300 fine after being busted for smoking a joint in 1972. But that hasn’t kept the political action committee of the Blue brothers-owned drone-maker General Atomics from giving “Udall for Colorado” $2750 last year. Skeptics note that Udall has introduced a bill to limit U.S. domestic drones that is still working its way through Congress with many details remaining to be resolved.

Bankable Papa

A long legal battle between a disgruntled vendor and a proto-bank sponsored by real-estate guru and U-T publisher Douglas Manchester is about to have another round in court, this time in Houston, Texas. The extended tale began back in January 2008 when the La Jolla Republican and some friends set out to establish the Manchester Financial Bank. The plan was dropped after that year’s stock market crash, but not before the would-be financial operation contracted for work by 21st Century Financial Services. The unfurled bank claimed it didn’t have to pay the bill, but in 2010 an arbitrator sided with 21st Century, awarding it $477,070.39, plus interest until January 2014.

The plan was dropped after that year’s stock market crash, but not before the would-be financial operation contracted for work by 21st Century Financial Services. The unfurled bank claimed it didn’t have to pay the bill, but in 2010 an arbitrator sided with 21st Century, awarding it $477,070.39, plus interest until January 2014.

In short, the happy face management formerly flashed when it claimed it was profitable seems no longer in evidence.

Don Bauder

Gift cards beget saucy MILFs

Naughty America will trade you for your stocking stuffer San Diego — Those holiday gift cards gathering dust in your drawer are now good for something other than a day at the movies, an elaborate latte, dad’s head, and a few plates of lackluster potato skins.

Adult website Naughty America, based out of downtown San Diego, recently announced that they are accepting cards from nearly 90 popular brands in exchange for over 5000 videos.

“Nothing says America like the freedom of choice,” said Naughty America founder Andreas Hronopoulos. “From a down payment, with alleged rental proceeds covering the mortgage payments. Those buyers, including Justin Mensen, who helped recruit others and launder funds, received a payout of $10,000 at the close of escrow from the group.

All six scammers entered guilty pleas, admitting to acquiring more than $100 million worth of fraudulent loans, skimming millions in fake construction costs as well as real estate and loan commissions on each deal. The loss to lenders and their institutional backers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is estimated at between $7 million and $20 million.

Dave Rice

Smile, it’s the 5-0

Pistol-whipping cousins don’t forget their Newports Escandon — Police found evidence connecting two men with at least four armed robberies that occurred recently in Escondido.

On October 22, a 7-Eleven on Midway Drive was robbed. The man brandished a black, semi-automatic handgun and said, “Give me all your money,” before he reached into the register and grabbed a handful of cash, the clerk reported.

“The clerk described the suspect as a black male,” according to detective John O’Donnell, “about 18 to 25 years old, six feet tall, and weighing about 145 or 150 pounds.”

The following month, two other 7-Elevens, one on West Valley Parkway and one on South Escondido Boulevard, were also robbed by a person.
of the same description.

On November 19, a black male adult entered the Chevron gasoline station on East Via Rancho Parkway after 10 p.m. He reportedly demanded, “Give me all the money” before pistol-whipping the clerk in the head with a black handgun. Police said the robber took an undisclosed amount of cash and three packs of Newport cigarettes. The getaway car was described as white with black wheels.

Two days later, on November 21, a clerk at the same Chevron station contacted police about a suspicious man loitering there after 7 p.m. She said the man ran away as soon as Escondido police arrived.

Officer Havens stated that he noticed a white car with black wheels parked behind the gas station with its lights off. When he approached, the car’s engine started and it began to leave, with the lights still off. The officer shined his flashlight into the car and “the black male driver turned and smiled at officer Havens as he drove by.” Police found the car a short distance away “collided with a light pole next to the roadway.”

The white Buick Lacrosse was registered to Samantha Magante of Escondido; police were told that she is the girlfriend of a man named Jamel Garner. Officers looked in the abandoned car and found a black baseball cap with a white “C” on the front and “Deep Valley Crip” embroidered on the back. Probation paperwork for London Williams was found in the trunk, according to police. Jamel Garner, 25, and London Williams, 21, said to be cousins, are currently in custody.

Eva Knott

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**Eva Knott**

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**Eva Knott**
spiking his sentences with “like.” “Like” and “you know” in one’s speech suggests an inferior education (California public schooling?).

On the other hand, there is that dude who was a high school teacher in North County and couldn’t read. Although, I don’t think he made me confession until after he retired. So, maybe, like, you, know, Rall has a chance.

Sheila Daniels
Imperial Beach

San Diego, Meet Diversity
There has never been a person of color as mayor of San Diego. For the first time that I can remember, that could change.

Diversity has slowly introduced itself to San Diego County — the City of San Diego being the most prominent, next to Chula Vista. Diversity in politics, however, requires discipline and maturity.

This election should not be about race or color, unless we include the color green, and what it represents: Kryptonite. Kryptonite, the substance that makes Superman sick and weak, is showing up as diversity in the mayor’s runoff election.

I know we all didn’t come over on the same ship, but we are all on the same boat.

Cesar Lopez
Chula Vista

Not Some Treehugger
I was looking at the Reader, and it’s really nice that the Chargers are back in the playoffs and are going to lose anyway, or that there are Mexican chefs down in Tijuana. That’s awesome. But how about an article about Fukushima?

How about some real news? You guys come out every week, but I’m not reading any real news — news that affects all of us, millions and millions of people. This is a mess. The radiation is through the roof. Wildlife is dying. It’s all over the internet.

I’m not some tree hugger, I’m just telling you that this needs to be covered and no one is really doing it. You reach hundreds of thousands of people every week, and we need someone to do something. It’s just a blackout in the press.

I’m trying desperately to get somebody to pay attention. Just go to YouTube or something and plug in Fukushima. The radiation is running hundreds of times what it ought to be, and wildlife is dying everywhere.

Mark Bradshaw via voicemail

Comments from Reader website
Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Cover story
“Produce Is A Vehicle for Our Souls”
Published January 9
To S.D. Reader, Candice Reed:
Your cover story, January 9, 2014, is important and very appreciated. It is really helpful to learn the difference between “natural” and Organic. I especially liked the reference to Blue Heron Farms strawberries, which my family loves and which we purchase at Seaside Market, in Cardiff. We also love and purchase Blue Heron Farms lettuce and whatever of their products are available at Seaside Market. You can taste the difference of their produce from any other. I am really pleased to know that they sell their products to Farmer’s Markets and I shall look for them there, also.

We all need to understand the importance of eating foods without chemical pesticides for our health! If it is possible to grow healthy produce we must support all efforts to do so. Thank you.

By Readerreg, January 9 @ 7:26am

Under the Radar
“Failed Pension Prosecutor Turns Obama Judge wannabe”
Published January 9
I’m starting to notice a trend — San Diego legal eagles get demoted up! Case in point: Paige Hazard, made famous for trampling 1st amendment rights while fighting the sidewalk chalk skurge, was cut loose for embarrassing Jan Goldsmith but landed up a tier in the office of Kamala Harris. What does it take to leave a legal career in tatters around here?

By Jeff, January 11 @ 8:14am

Find more stories by Barbarella at SDReader.com/barbarella

DIARY OF A DIVA continued from page 8
at the spa? Or give it over the phone?”

David looked up from his laptop. “The vast majority of people are decent, honest, hard-working folks,” he said. “Honest to the point that they are more likely to return your wallet if they were to find it on the ground than joy ride with your money. So, you either place your bet on the inherent goodness of your fellow citizens or you start hoarding guns and building your survival shelter. The choice is yours.”

I stared at him blankly for a moment and then, with a smirk on my face, said, “How much are guns these days?”

By Barbarella (@barbarella)

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**San Diego Reader**

**January 16, 2014**

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San Diego Reader January 16, 2014

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Thursday | 16

**BEEROLOGY: ANCIENT ALES**
Ancient cultures from around the world brewed many types of beer, and modern breweries have re-created those classics. Dogfish Head will be pouring tastings of brews from their Ancient Ales series. $20–$30.

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, Balboa Park. 619-239-2001; museumofman.org

Friday | 17

**DEL MAR GEM FAIRE**
Fine jewelry, precious and semi-precious gemstones, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, and millions of beads — over 70 exhibitors from around the world. Jewelry repair and cleaning while you shop. $7.

**WHEN:** Noon to 6 p.m. Also on Saturday and Sunday

**WHERE:** Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 858-755-1161; gemfaire.com

Saturday | 18

**2014 INTERNATIONAL MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL**
Featuring the Greater San Diego Chamber Orchestra, opera singer Scott Gregory, harpist Tasha Smith Godinez, and the crowd-pleasing Super Galactic Beat Manipulators. $20–$25.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road, Poway. 858-748-0505; powayarts.org

Sunday | 19

**TRI-CITY MEDICAL CENTER CARLSBAD MARATHON**
The course will wind through Carlsbad Village, along Pacific Coast Highway, and past sandy beaches and picturesque lagoons. Support stations and live bands every mile. 760-692-2900. $135.

**WHEN:** 7:45 a.m.

**WHERE:** Westfield Plaza Camino Real, 2525 El Camino Real, Carlsbad. 760-692-2900; carlsbadmarathon.com

Monday | 20

**INTERFAITH SERVICE: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**
Help beautify a local treasure, Balboa Park, during a morning of hands-on community service. The group will work outdoors, clearing and hauling brush, plus mulching and planting.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to noon

**WHERE:** Morley Field (at Texas and Upas), Balboa Park. 619-297-4366; fumcsd.org/mlkday

Tuesday | 21

**PLANET VONNEGUT**
Write Out Loud presents the writings of Kurt Vonnegut, in concert with the North Coast Repertory Theatre’s production of *Who Am I This Time*, also based on Vonnegut’s work. $17–$20.

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** North Coast Repertory Theatre, 987-D Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Solana Beach. 858-481-1055; writeouloudsd.com

Wednesday | 22

**DOUG STANHOPE**
“Doug Stanhope is vulgar, opinionated...and shockingly uninhibited.” Cringe comedy at its finest. $25.

**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** The American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue, Downtown. 619-795-3858; americancomedyco.com
San Diego
January 16, 2014

Tasty meals. Our drive to Arecibo on the north coast ended with a BBQ lunch, then we headed south to Utuado.

Casa Grande is a collection of about 20 cabins/cottages sporting balconies, porches, and hammocks. Situated between two lakes winding through mountain valleys, it is surrounded by lush, bright green forest — a hodgepodge of trees, vines, flowers, ground cover, and ferns. Large fruit trees, laden with tropical fruit, are all over the property. There’s also a yoga center, an indoor/outdoor comedor for meals, and massage rooms.

Heavy showers struck in the afternoon, and afterward rainbows spanned the horizon. Layers of mist floated along the mountainsides, settling into indentations to cloak the scene in more mystery. At night, some houselights along the roads come on to give an indication of where the roads are. It’s not as hot here, but the humidity caused sweat to ooze from my forehead. If you want to get even wetter, jump into the beautiful pool surrounded by flowers.

The birds, coquis, and roosters serenaded us. And the food — chef Pedro Rivera Rosa serves organic, fusion buffets. Examples: local greens with ginger and sesame seeds, Japanese salad, poke salmon, maspostiao black beans with plantains, chicken banana curry, churrasco steak with tamarind, mahi with passion fruit.

In Ponce we stayed at a stylish, comfortable Holiday Inn and enjoyed delicious seafood dinners by the ocean’s edge. We explored the mountainous panorama north of Ponce, complete with forests, lakes, waterfalls, and spectacular views of the coast and Cordillera Central.

After lunch at Lola’s, we left Ponce with our temporary pet and headed toward the Yunque — a cool, mountainous, subtropical rainforest with an extensive network of hiking trails, picnic facilities, paved trails, and tour-bus parking.

About 85 miles and two heavy rainfalls later, we found the Rio Sabana area, near the top of a mountain, and Nelson’s Country Home. For $65, we had a two-bedroom house to ourselves, and the view from the wraparound balcony is 20–30 miles of rainforest.

On our way to Fajardo, in Naguabo, a seaport with brightly colored houses climbing up the hillsides, we found El Makito Restaurante. Inside seating is air-conditioned.

Better than Hawaii?

By Bill Brophy

Puerto Rico offers a better travel experience than Hawaii — it is more accessible to visitors, more wildly beautiful, friendlier, less expensive, and has a rhythmic undercurrent that is infectious, lively, and delicious.

San Juan’s airport looks like a World War II airbase, but inside, the facility is sleek, modernized, well appointed. The Atlantic Beach Hotel is not fancy, but it’s clean. It’s on the beach with an ocean view, including a beach restaurant/bar. We wandered along Avenida Ashford, sitting at large windows on the beach as we ate our tasty meals. Our drive to Arecibo on the north coast ended with a BBQ lunch, then we headed south to Utuado.

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continued on page 42

Other Adventures

wadelupo: Sunrise at Squaw Lake.
Lower Colorado River, California

zedagive: at rest in Antigua, Guatemala

MicheleSantee: Red Rock Canyon Las Vegas Nevada

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Vista from El Yunque National Forest, the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Forest System
In 1907, General Land Office (GLO) survey records note “Mid Peak” as the peak between North and Cuyamaca peaks. It was not until 1970 that “Middle” Peak appeared on forest maps. Middle Peak used to feature Cuyamaca’s “big trees” until the Cedar Fire. It is slowly recovering. The attraction now is the open view.

To begin the hike, cross SR-79N onto Milk Ranch Road, passing the return to SR-79N, then keep to the right, taking the walk through at the gate. The left road goes to the burned remainder of camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, Kumeyaay wording for “tough (or strong) but flexible.” Built by the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and then used by the Boy Scouts from 1940 to 1998 as a camp, the area burned in 2003 Cedar Fire. The fire burned 90 percent of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park with some areas so hot that tree roots burned. The Cedar Fire covered over 273,000 acres, burning desert and mountain areas and extending west of SR-163 with spot burns as far as 1805.

Once past the gate and approximately 0.3 mile from the parking area, turn right onto Middle Peak Loop Fire Road, which gains elevation via multiple switchbacks. Catch your breath by looking back with clear views of Paso Picacho Campground, Lake Cuyamaca, plus Stonewall and Cuyamaca peaks. Turn left onto the east section of Black Oak Trail after 2.2 miles, descending through burned trunks of pines and oaks to return to Milk Ranch Road.

Turn right for a short distance of 0.1 mile to the log-blocked crossroads of Azalea Spring Fire Road/Milk Ranch Road/Black Oak Trail (west). A rest against the raised log makes for a good break. Ascend back to the Middle Peak Loop Fire Road by crossing Milk Ranch Road onto the west section of the Black Oak Trail. On a clear day, the view to the west includes Mount Woodson, with its multiple antennas, and Viejas and El Cajon mountains. A section of the trail is bordered by a ten-year growth of ceanothus and a tree trunk at waist height. Your choice whether to pass under or over the trunk. Among the Jeffrey pine skeletons are a couple of examples of the tall, wide trunks with a crown snaggle of branches of what was a remnant population of mature sugar pines.

The trail ends at the Middle Peak Loop Fire Road. Turn right, then pass the Sugar Pine Trail on the left, then the east Black Oak Trail on the right to return to Trout Pond off-road parking.

An alternative shorter hiking route is to stay on Milk Ranch Road and then ascend the west Black Oak Trail before returning to Trout Pond either by Middle Peak Loop Fire Road; or descend on east Black Oak Trail, turning left on Milk Ranch Road.

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.

MIDDLE PEAK
Hikers have wide open views of the peak in the aftermath of the Cedar Fire.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 53 miles. Allow 60 minutes driving time (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park). From SR-163N, exit onto H E. Take SR-79N/Japatul Valley Rd. (Des- canse), turning left, toward Julian, at the end of the ramp. After just under 3 miles, turn left to follow SR-79N for approximately 10.5 miles. Park off road at Trout Pond across from Milk Ranch Road, just before SR-79N turns right. No facilities.

Hiking length: Approximately 8 miles with an option of 6 miles. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous with 1100 foot elevation loss/gain. The trail is mostly narrow and rocky once leaving the fire road(s). Bikes allowed on Milk Ranch Road and Middle Peak Loop Fire Road. Snow is a possibility during the winter months.

Until the Cedar Fire, some of the biggest trees in the Cuyamacas grew around Middle Peak.
San Diego Reader

January 18, 10am; Del Mar Library, 1300 Del Mar Boulevard. Also 2pm; Bonita-Sunnyland Library, 4375 Bonita Road. Free. (BONITA, DEL MAR)

Culinary Historians of San Diego Culinary Historians of San Diego presents “A Taste of the Kasbah,” featuring noted Moroccan chef, teacher, and author Kitty Morse. Born in Casablanca, Morse emigrated to the U.S. at 17 and began catering (banquets) and lecturing on Moroccan culture and cuisine. She is the author of a memoir and nine cookbooks, most recently Mint Tea and Minarets.

Hatmaking Class Jill Courtmanche has made hats for celebrities, including Yoko Ono, Donatella Versace, and Princess Mary of Denmark, and now she is sharing the tips and tricks of her trade in a hands-on workshop. Make your own fabulous fascinator or charming cocktail hat, learning basic millinery techniques and the art of hand-stitching to craft a hat using felt, feathers, netting, ribbon, and more. No sewing experience is necessary. The class is offered in conjunction with Bravo School of Art. Reservations required. Saturday, January 18, 1pm; $85. Jill Courtmanche Millinery, 410 S. Cedros Avenue. (SOLANA BEACH)

The Nuts and Bolts of Acting Learn theatre terminology, how to analyze scripts, build a character, and work effectively with a professional stage director. Students will rehearse and perform staged readings. This introduction to practical theatre is designed for adults 55 and older, however, anyone 18 and older is encouraged to attend. 619-388-1873. Thursdays, 2pm; free. 18 and up. San Diego Continuing Education West City Campus, 3249 Fordham Street. (MISSION DISTRICT)

Painting & Vino: Japanese Maple Recreate Japanese Maple while sipping wine or cocktails. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. Registration required. Sunday, January 19, 1pm; $45. 21 and up. 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

San Pasqual Winery: Paired with Paint Artist Sara Weaver instructs a painting class geared toward the beginner artist. A glass of wine or cider, cheese and crackers, all materials, and step-by-step instruction included. Sunday, January 19, 1pm; $25-$35. San Pasqual Winery, 5151 Santa Fe St., Suite H. (BAY PARK)

Three Stages of Excellence Workshop Join human performance and self-hypnosis coach Juan Acosta for an experiential workshop that will teach you how to take action when you feel stuck and build your awareness of your motivations. Saturday, January 18, 10am; free. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

You Are Your Story: Writing Workshop The El Cajon Library and So Say We All are providing an hour-long memoir and non-fiction writing workshop. The class will involve topical discussion on what makes a good memoir. Thursdays, 6:30pm; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

PCOMEDY

Intimate Illusions Set in a luxurious European Venetian theater (limited to 200 guests), “you will find yourself immediately enraptured in the world of an elite illusionist.” With magic, storytelling, audience participation, and live music, you will be amazed. Friday, January 17, 8pm and 9:30pm; $75-$100. Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

John Caparulo Comedian John Caparulo’s sharp wit, unique delivery, and brilliant affinity for cuss words made him a crowd favorite right off the bat. Now, after support from comedy greats such as Jay Leno, Chelsea Handler, and Vince Vaughn, John’s getting a shot at becoming a true household name. Thursday, January 16, 8pm. Friday, January 17, 7:30pm & 9:30pm. Saturday, January 18, 7:30pm & 9:30pm. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Tuscany Comedy Series: Bobby Tessel One of the few comedians to appear on both The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Late Show with David Letterman. Also appearing: Mark Christopher Lawrence (NBC’s Chuck) and Marc Takemiyai. Hosted by James Uloth. Thursday, January 16, 8pm; $25-$30. 18 and up. Tuscany, 6981 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

FOOD & DRINK

Winter Staycation Destination

Puerto Rico continued from page 40 conditioned, but outside balcony seating faces the ocean, with a refreshing breeze. The garlic criollo seafood platter includes a grouper fillet, large pieces of lobster, conch, octopus — it was enough to fill both of us.

The El Conquistador Resort, a Waldorf Astoria Resort, is huge, including a golf course, restaurants, shops, over 1000 rooms, a water park, boat docks, and its own island. Speedy motorboats take guests to/from the island every 30 minutes.

Conquistador’s Palomino Island has light-almond sandy beaches, shade provided by numerous coconut palms. But beware of falling coconuts — a coconut fell and narrowly missed Halima’s head. The water is clear, warm, and salty. Kimodo dragons wander around the beach.

We left El Conquistador at noon and traveled to the Hacienda Siesta Alegre in Rio Grande, a husband-and-wife-owned bed-and-breakfast. The pictures bring to mind a Disney-like creation of old Spanish architecture, fake-y but near perfect. When we arrived, Marta showed us our room. The air-conditioning unit, lights, bidet, and Jacuzzi tub contrasted with the antique mosquito-netted bed, desk, armoire, and other furnishings.

Marta showed the main house where we had breakfast. Imagine a building with palm trees growing through the roof, supported by massive square wooden columns. The wall-less building includes a fireplace, kitchen, bar, and pool table. Surrounding patios with overhead trellises are covered with bougainvillea. The owners are building a large fish pool to raise fish that will feed their guests.

The breakfast included Puerto Rican coffee, passion-fruit juice, fresh strawberries, blueberries, starfruit, raspberries, grapes, scrambled eggs (from their chickens), a pile of bacon, savory ground beef with plantains, and French rolls. After breakfast, we headed to the airport with a ton of delicious memories.
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Tickets start at $45. English translations displayed above the stage. All performances at the San Diego Civic Theatre. Free lecture for ticket holders, one hour prior to each performance, sponsored by UT San Diego.
Rhyme & Verse
A Toast
A poem by Ilya Kaminsky

To your voice, a mysterious virtue,
to the 53 bones of one foot, the four dimensions of breathing
to pine, redwood, sworn-fern, peppermint,
to hyacinth and bluebell lily.
to the train conductor’s donkey on a rope,
to smells of lemons, a boy pissing splendidly against the trees.

Bless each thing on earth until it sickens,
until each un governable heart admits: “I confused myself
and yet I loved — and what I loved
I forgot, what I forgot brought glory to my travels,
and I climbed close as I dared, Lord.

sea lions, dolphins, and migrating
birds. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays,
9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays,
9am: $18-$42. Birch Aquarium
at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way.
(LA JOLLA)

Birch Aquarium at Scripps:
SE A Days Underwater Parks
day. Meet animals that live at the
La Jolla Ecological Reserve, learn
about the importance of underwa-
ter treasures, and explore the best
ways to enjoy the underwater parks.
Included with admission. Saturday,
January 18, 11am; free $17. Birch
Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedi-
tion Way. (LA JOLLA)

Cooking Up Stories: For Pre-
schoolers Preschoolers will read
some food-themed stories and learn
how to cook recipes inspired on the
whimsical storybook world. All
recipes will focus on fresh, seasonal
produce and healthy ingredients and
cooking methods. Taught by
Fernanda Larson, director of the
Cook for Thought Project. Con-
tact: fernanda@cookinbowtiedeat-
.com. Thursdays, 10:30am; $15-$96.
Center for a Healthy Lifestyle, 533
Lomas Santa Fe Drive (behind Boys
& Girls Club). (SOLANA BEACH)

DIY Food Trucks Design and
build your own food truck like
Feast artist Jason Torchinsky. Use
wood, tape, and markers to
construct a miniature vehicle, and
then drive it around to move or
sell food in our mini country and
city theme park. Thursdays, 10am;
Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am;
Sundays, 12pm; New Children’s
Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue.
(EAST VILLAGE)

DIY Valentines Use repurposed
paper and fabric scraps to create
a one-of-a-kind note. Thursdays,
10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays,
10am; Sundays, 10am; New Chi-
ldren’s Museum, 200 W. Island
Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Kids Marathon Mile The one-
mile, age-staged races will start at
8am and loop through the family
theme park. Although Legoland is
gear ed for children ages 12 and
younger, the non- competitive
Event is open to people of all ages.
Every registered child ages 3 to 12
will receive a shiny finisher’s medal,
colorful t-shirt, and a one-day Sea
with museum admission. Satur-

“Women, War, and Industry.” Free
Latin America and the exhibition
cuss their commissioned work in
Bubley and Ruth Robertson, Amy
on American photographers Esther

2300 Expedition Way.

$14. Birch Aquarium at Scripps,
Saturday, January 18, 11am;
Parks. Included with admission.
best ways to enjoy our Underwater
about the importance of our under-
La Jolla Ecological Reserve, learn
Meet animals that live in our local
annual Underwater Parks Day.

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architects and historians on the romantic Spanish architecture styles, decorative arts, and ironwork popular in homes built in the 1920s and 1930s. Questions and answers to follow. With table-top displays. Saturday, January 18, 1pm; $10-$15. Francis Parker Lower School, 4201 Randolph Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Toddler Programming: Healthy Food
Hear about healhtful food choices and a幼儿 from the Nutritionist Dietitians with Child Development Associates. Friday, January 17, 10:30am; New Children’s Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

When Time Does Not Heal
Vincent Felitti, MD, is the co-principal investigator of the major research study that links current adult health status to childhood experiences decades earlier. Dr. Felitti will describe the effects of early traumatic events on adolescent and adult medical and psychiatric disease, sexual behavior, healthcare costs, and life expectancy. The lecture is sponsored by the San Diego Independent Scholars. Room 111A, Chancellor’s Complex on the UCSD campus. Saturday, January 18, 1:30pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

OUTDOORS

Batiquitos Lagoon Trail Maintenance Event
Batiquitos Lagoon is an all-volunteer organization that welcomes the public every first and third Saturday to maintain the North-shore trail, removing non-native plants and trimming plants that overhang the trail. All ages are welcome, but young children need to be accompanied. Tools provided and instruction and supervision provided by Batiquitos Lagoon board members. Meet at the Nature Center at 9 am and work until noon, weather permitting. Saturday, January 18, 9 am; free. Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. (CARLSBAD)

Easy New Year Resolution: Trail Walk
Keep your exercise pledge and recreate with a trail guide-led nature walk. Appreciate scenic wonder as you learn facts about indigenous animal and plant life. Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday, January 18, 9-10am; Sunday, January 19, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Gaslamp Ghosts Tour
Take a scary stroll through the Gaslamp with historianSandee Wilhoit, who will recount ghostly happenings of the past and present. Visit hotels, saloons, brothels, a long-ago funeral parlor, and end your tour inside the Gaslamp’s most-haunted edifice: the William Heath Davis House. Info: 619-233-4692. Fridays, 5:30pm, $15. Gaslamp Museum at the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Gaslamp Historical Walking Tour
Includes architecturally sig-nificant structures from Old City Hall (1874) to the Romanesque-style Keating Building (1900) to the Baroque Revival Louis Bank of Commerce (1888), along with stories of the people and charac ters that shaped the destiny of San Diego. 90 minute tour, includes the Davis House Museum. Children under 12 free. Saturdays, 11am; $12-$15. Gaslamp Museum at the William Heath Davis House, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Visitor Tours
Public tours of UC San Diego highlight campus history, art, and architecture. Tours offered weekly on Sundays and are free to the public. Please note: these are not tours for prospective students. Advance registration is required. 858-534-4414; visitorsprogram@ucsd.edu. Sundays, 2pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Who Dunnit? Gaslamp Quar-ter Murder Mystery Adventure
During this two-hour murder-mystery adventure tour, participants will visit several Gaslamp Quarter destinations to solve a murder mystery. The journey begins with receipt of a mission. Participants will then pursue a killer throughout the Gaslamp, collecting clues and evidence, cracking codes, deciphering riddles, and participat ing in challenges to complete the mission. Info: 619-781-8013. Fridays, 7:30pm; Saturdays, 7:30pm; Sundays, 4:30pm; $25-$35. Dick’s Last Resort, 345 Fourth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

$5 Per Bag Book Sale
Fill a paper grocery bag from a large selection of books for $5 or purchase individual books for 25 cents each. Sunday, January 18, 10am. $0-$3. Cardify-by-the-SEA, 2081 Newcastle Avenue. (CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA)

Arvel Bird
An international award-winning Celtic Fusion Artist will visit San Diego to bless us with his music at the 9am and 11am services. Then he will present a concert at 1:00pm for a suggested donation of $20. Arvel has been a presenter at the annual Unity People’s Convention and visited many Unity Churches. Think of Braveheart meets Last of the Mohicans… at Woodstock. He performs with his flutes and violin. For more information contact Meredith Tabor at 619-260-2501 ext 109. Sunday, January 26,
“New Year Romance” Dance Mixer

Ages 40-60ish. Simply The Best Singles, an organization for upscale singles looking for relationships, marriage, and more, offers a dance/mixer with DJ Party Pam playing old and new music, icebreakers, a photographer, a psychic, prizes, and more. Dress is upscale classy (no jeans/no shorts) and parking is $3. Dance price is $15 prepay; $20 door. Sign up at SimplyTheBestSingles.com or call 818-577-6877. Saturday, January 18, 7:30pm; $15-$20. Handlery Hotel and Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North. (MISSION VALLEY)

Not Just Trivia

Test your brains and your luck with an alternative to boring quiz nights. Featuring comedy and mini-games such as “Let’s Make A Deal” and “Show and Tell,” along with a final showdown in the Categories round. 619-230-1968. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Panel on Home Healthcare

The Hemlock Society of San Diego will present a panel of speakers on home healthcare ranging from small to large home healthcare providers and service agencies to help you better understand what is available, how to evaluate and choose, and about a new law that governs them. Info: 619-233-4418. Sunday, January 19, 1:30pm; free. Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South. (MISSION VALLEY)

Robert Burns Supper: Scottish Party

“The best Scottish party of the year!” Sword dancing, Burns’s poetry, piping in the baggie, single malt whisky, Scottish country dancing, and swirling kilts. This year’s theme: A Battle of the Sexes. Ticket includes full-course dinner (baggies optional, but it’s tasty). Funds support St. Marks Episcopal Church, Ministry in Action. Reservations: 619-283-6242; stmarksoffice@prodigy.net. Saturday, January 18, 6pm; $30. St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 4227 Fairmount Avenue. (CITY HEIGHTS)

San Diego Record Show

Saturday, January 18, 9am; $5. San Diego LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre Street. (HILLCREST)

Sunday Assembly San Diego

Following the success of Sunday Assembly in London, a group of San Diego freethinkers is organizing a godless community in San Diego. Taking part in an international launch, this event will feature writer and journalist Dan Arel. Info: jeffolson503@gmail.com. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Carlsbad Marathon

The Tri-City Medical Center Carlsbad Marathon features a tour through Carlsbad Village, along Pacific Coast Hwy., and past sandy beaches and picturesque lagoons. Half-marathon sold out. Support stations and live bands every mile. Info: 786-692-2900. Sunday, January 18, 6:15am; $135. 18 and up. Westfield Plaza Camino Real, 2525 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

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fiat 500e (electric) in front of the lot

Not a bad amount of space

Sporty, cheap, and ready for the family!

Look at the shifter placement!

See these photos and many more:

The San Diego International Auto Show is one of our favorite events of the year! Reader Andy has a bit of a keenness for cars, so seeing all the new models is especially exciting. Better still, Kearny Mesa Fiat sponsored our trip! The S00 Abarth is the coolest small hatch you can buy. The exhaust pops and spits on the overrun and the dash mounted shifter makes you feel like you’re in a touring car! The base S00 starts under $17k and they have a couple new 2013s in the $13k range! Seriously, give them a ring @858-492-9200 or just visit kmfiat.com. Next week we’re at Science on the Rocks! We’ve done these before—it’s Booze + RHFleet after hours. The theme is Science of Rock and they currently have a sweet guitar exhibit and they’re throwing in some geology. Get it? Science of Rock? Rocks? Never mind.
Art and science combine to regenerate coral

“I know that when you combine statistics and art, you have a way of reaching people that’s much deeper, because you’re reaching them through the heart,” says Kira Corser, director of “Sea Changes: Act.” The project is part of DNA of Creativity, which seeks to unite San Diego’s arts and sciences communities and promote cross-disciplinary projects to effect positive social change.

“Our project addresses three issues that critically endanger the ocean. One is plastic pollution. One is climate change, especially acidification of the ocean and its effect on coral reefs and hard-shelled creatures like crabs. The third is overfishing. In our lifetime, we may end up seeing the end of [commercial] fishing as we know it.

“By pairing scientists and artists together through DNA of Creativity, our goal was to create possible solutions. [Local artist] Michelle Kurtis Cole, working with [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries official] Dale Sweetnam, designed the experiment at the Birch Aquarium.”

The project in question is only part of “Sea Changes,” but it’s finally coming to fruition after more than a year. The project at the aquarium involves creating artificial substrates that provide a base from which coral reefs can regrow. The substrates, which are works of art in their own right, are made by Cole in her Cardiff studio.

Cole describes the process, saying, “I make a model, in this case a coral-like sculpture, and then I make a mold for it that will withstand great heat. Instead of pouring molten glass in, I place solid pieces of glass into the mold, and then I fire it. I have a six-by-nine-foot kiln and I fire the glass at about 1600 degrees fahrenheit. It’s pretty exciting, because I go inside the kiln a few times to check the process. I’m wearing an aluminum suit and a face shield, so I look like a spaceperson. When it’s finished, the sculpture takes days to cool down in an annealing process that I want. It’s a lot of fun and a lot of work.”

The project’s scientists monitor the experiment, recording which forms and textures of glass are most conducive to coral growth. After five months in the aquarium’s coral-regeneration tank, polyps have begun to attach themselves to the artificial substrates with no interference from the team.

“We didn’t seed our glass corals [by attaching already living coral to the substrate in order to promote new growth]. We just created the base and gave it time,” says Cole, who refers to coral reefs as “the rainforests of the sea.”

Clay models for glass substrate

Michelle Kurtis Cole with one of her non-coral sculptures

Hemingway started this way

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of the ocean,” citing their vital importance in marine ecology.

Cole was partly drawn to the project because of her long history as a diver.

“I’ve been diving for over 30 years,” she says. “I’ve had opportunities to dive all over the world, fall in love with the ocean, and fall in love with coral. About 20 years after I started diving, I went back to a reef — the very first reef I ever dove — and found it dead. The coral was dead and bleached, everything was dead. It really just broke my heart.”

Find more Art Seen at SDReader.com/art

ART

Art & Poetry Exhibit The poetry of 3 San Diego students will be among that of 47 California students on exhibit. The students are the winners of the 2013 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for kindergarten through 12th grade students, sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. This exhibit at Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the final stop for the 2013 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest and is included in the price of admission. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; free $17. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (La Jolla)

Art on the Green Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League gallery-member artists display their artwork at Art-on-the-Green every Sunday. Sunday, January 19, 9am; free. Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 3075 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

Free Third Thursday On the third Thursday of every month, visitors receive free admission to the museum, plus free themed Gallery Guide-led tours beginning at 5 and 6pm Thursday, January 16, 5pm; free. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Mike Berg: Recent Textiles American artist Mike Berg works with master artisans in Istanbul, Turkey — where he now lives — to create large textiles graced by abstract forms, infused with the spirit of both abstract expressionist oil paintings and traditional central Asian textile art. Thursdays, 11am; Fridays, 11am; Saturdays, 11am; Sundays, 11am; free $10. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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Trust me. I'm a chef.

“Hi there!” “Hello. Care to see...” I notice they target the man every time. Good strategy.

Hey-hey! Gaslamp in the early afternoon. It feels fresh and dowy at the same time. You kinda feel that every second person is suffering some kind of hangover from the night before.

Ain’t feeling hung over so much as still waking up. Worked till the wee hours last night. Got up late. Carla got vertical before I did.

“Don’t worry, I’ll find something downtown,” I mumbled. “Gotta go to the Gaslamp anyway.”

“Breakfast? Gaslamp? Good luck on that one,” she said.

So, I got off the Green Line trolley in the Gaslamp and started up the Golden Mile. Fifth Avenue. Lord. People had food, but nobody had breakfast. By the time I’m up at G street I’m getting a little desperate.

It’s early, but the hostesses are starting to take their posts. Some even lock eyes and go, “Hello. We have early specials...”

Just coming up to my two favorite veranda patios, Osteria Panevino and Asti. Both Italian, each with kinda cozy patios. This osteria happens to be in the same 1887 building as a real hostel, the USA Hostel.

But what really stops me at Panevino (“bread and wine”) is — at last! — the B word. “Now open for Breakfast!” says the green banner. Of course, the main menu...forget it. We’re talking anywhere from $15 to $40 for a dish. Happy hour is any time from $15 to $40 for a dish. Happy hour is any time.

And the coffee turns out to be the best bargain of all. For two bucks I get a silver pot of coffee to pour myself. And coffee’s a dream. It’s $11.95. And I see that regular antipasti like Bruschetta con Pomodoro (diced tomato, grated parmesan cheese, olive oil on baked bread) at only $4.95.

But what the heck. I can take lots home.

Jessica leads me to a patio table. I don’t even think of going inside, although they’ve got a really classy mural in there, what looks like medieval Florence. Huh. That old church with the dome looks just like our new Central Library.

Pretty classy out here, too. Wicker and polished wood chairs, fancy folded brown linen napkins. Tall watter comes up. Steve. Do I want anything to drink? Dang right I do. Coffee. Just to push along the waking process after that late night.

And the coffee turns out to be the best bargain of all. For two bucks I get a silver pot of coffee to pour myself. And coffee’s a dream. Smooth but with body.

“How would you like your pizza with sausage or chorizo?” says Steve.

No contest. “As long as the chorizo has plenty of flavor,” I say.

“Trust me,” Steve says. “I’m a chef. I know good flavor. And the eggs over medium?”

“That means the eggs will be oozy but not runny?”

He nods. “Trust me,” he says. “This is the oldest Italian restaurant in the Gaslamp. Twenty-two years. These cooks know how to cook eggs.”

After he’s gone, I look down the gallery of street-side patios. You can see through from one patio to the next. Upturned wine glasses glint all along. The hostesses at their lecterns glance and the crispy pie do go great together. Especially with some Cholula hot sauce splotted on top and a big glug of coffee with every chomp. And it’s a pleasure cutting off chunks with my knife on that soft but firm wood base. No ugly clacking.

By the time I leave, totally stuffed, the street is in full happy-hour flood. Jessica and the girls next door at Asti, and further up at Pizza Lounge, are out there trying to turn passersby into customers in ten words or less.

“Hi guys! Three-dollar beers, seven dollar plates...” Sure, I paid more, but I think I got the better deal.

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Poway pollo spot proves local beats Loco

13338 Poway Road — In theory, any of the thousands of strip malls paving their way across Southern California could house delicious locally owned restaurants worthy of repeat business. In reality, they don’t. Most strip malls offer a scrounge of franchised stationery shops, auto-parts dealers, and fast-food joints. And while just about every one features a small mom-and-pop restaurant, most of these turn out to be forgettable, serving a few immediate neighbors and employees of adjacent businesses — if they’re lucky.

Don Pollo would appear to be one of these. Though centrally located by Poway standards, it’s tucked away at the back of a strip mall so unremarkable that a couple of family dentists have moved in. Less than a block away, chains including Chipotle, Rubio’s, and Five Guys can hardly keep up with the lines of Poway residents and nearby business-park lunch-breakers. Meanwhile, Don Pollo’s cleverly distinctive fork-and-spoon chicken sign can’t even be seen by cars driving past on Poway Road. If it weren’t for Yelp or the word-of-mouth of local teenagers, the place might already be just another dead listing on the web, never even having earned a proper label on Google Maps.

Or, maybe it’d be forced to move closer to my corner of town, which would be just fine. Though a Mexican restaurant in most ways (I don’t know whether offering a side of mashed potatoes and gravy disqualifies it as such), Don Pollo doesn’t offer a typical Cali-Mex menu. It’s really a grilled-chicken spot that offers a small list of tacos, enchiladas, and tortas for variety’s sake, and the cheesy, fajita-like dish Alambres for those willing to dig deep into culinary traditions. A sign in the window even claims the place offers the best chicken soup in town, though while the hearty rice-and-chunky-vegetable potage may be the best in Poway, I’ve tried a few pozoles uptown that might have it beat.

It’s the grilled chicken I really want to talk about. For five dollars you get a two-piece plate with a side of rice and refried beans, plus grilled onion, jalapeño, and warm tortillas. It’s a tremendous deal, but when you factor in the crispy skin and moist, flavorful meat, there’s little choice but to pass it over… in favor of a three- or four-piece plate.

It’s the rare strip-mall find that’s doing something right. For many of us, Don Pollo’s offerings may most closely resemble those of a certain “locos” nationwide chicken chain. Now, I’m not here to bash on that or any other fast-food joint, but I will say this: at Don Pollo, you will be served by people with an interest in seeing you enjoy your meal, a hope you’ll tell your friends about it, and pride in knowing they’re serving something tasty to people who appreciate it.

by Ian Anderson

All Things BBQ: Barnes BBQ

7820 Broadway, Lemon Grove — Lots of people (including the Reader’s late restaurant critic, Naomi Wise) have asked, is barbecue solely the province of black America? From the standpoint of pure heredity, barbecue’s roots lie in the black communities of the rural South, and some people still say that African-American pit-masters retain true mastery of smoke, dry rub and sauce. That question is fully unanswerable, since it relies on matters of taste, but there’s no doubt that barbecue has black roots.

Barnes BBQ (7820 Broadway, Lemon Grove) is a great jumping-off point to look at that undeniable relationship. Posters of famous figures from black history line the walls on one side of the dining room, interspersed with historic photographs of early black families from San Diego’s past. The restaurant claims Texarkana, Arkansas, origins, which puts it outside the traditional brackets of barbecue styles. Geographically, we’re talking a hop, skip, and a jump to Texas, which shows in the food.

Barnes’ sauce, in which the restaurant takes great pride, is sweet and sticky, though not overly thick. It doesn’t have a distinct style, though “excessive” is a kind of a style, and the cooks at Barnes like to slather it all over the pork ribs. If anything, “sweetness” is the dominant flavor at Barnes, often to its detriment. Even the peach cobbler suffers from too much sugar, despite the excellent pie crust.

Of note: Barnes gets it right in that cobbler should be topped with pie crust, whereas crumble uses a crumb topping.

Though the restaurant’s humble look, Barnes smokes up a decent rib. They’re not Wrangler-good, but the ribs have a smoky taste, tender meat, and sufficient cooking that the little cartilaginous bones in the ends can be crunched up and eaten rather than spit out. Asking for the super-sweet sauce on the side might be a good idea.

More promising, at least on the surface, is Barnes’ chopped pork shoulder. To read the menu, it’s as if the lucky diner were about to step straight into the Carolinas and sample ‘cue at its most archaic.

Meager portions of insufficiently smoky meat, coarsely chopped and doused in sauce (which is really just “OK”), won’t do it. Promises broken.

Even more than the barbecue, Barnes’ claim to fame is the “99-cent soul food” menu of fried chicken, black-eyed peas, braised greens, cornbread, and smoked pork (chopped pork shoulder and gravy over rice), among other staple dishes of soul-food cooking.

If barbecue’s heritage is in question, soul food’s certainly isn’t. The African-American community owns soul food, part and parcel. While barbecue has spread beyond the metaphorical boundaries of black America, soul food has not been co-opted by white people to nearly the same extent. The two styles are intertwined to the point that many barbecue restaurants put soul-food side dishes on the menu. Barbecue remains smoked pork and beef, despite the variety of styles. Fried chicken and collard greens may be delicious; but ‘cue, they are not.

Still, the earliest pit-masters would have been black men and women in the deep South, without whom there would be no ‘cue at all! by Ian Pike

Fancy feast

5200 Grand Del Mar Way, Del Mar — Though my man and I dine out frequently, we tend to save the super-high-end foodie adventures for special occasions, such as David’s birthday. Last year, we splurged for what ultimately turned out to
be a rather homely experience at A.R. Valentien. This year, I was willing to go the extra mile to ensure an incredible, memorable gourmand adventure. So, I booked us a table at Addison Del Mar. I’m embarrassed to admit that I had not only never been to, but had also never heard of the Grand Del Mar, which, if its long, extravagant, tree-lined drive-way entrance is any indication, is a tad pricier than a room you might find in Mission Valley. But I had, of course, heard of Addison. I knew of chef William Bradley and had seen photos of his artistic, Japanese- and French-inspired creations, food intended to be as beautiful to look at as to taste, and I was just as excited as the birthday boy to experience it firsthand.

As with last year, our good friends Mia and Kerry joined us for David’s fancy birthday feast. Two days before the big meal, someone at Addison called to inform us of the dress code, which she described as “smart/casual.” Basically, men don’t wear jeans or open-toed shoes — jackets and ties are preferred, but not required. Fortunately for the ladies, the code is not as specific. Between the audible lines, I heard, “use your best judgment, but don’t raise any brows.” Fair enough.

We were seated at a round table that could have comfortably sat eight. Our server greeted us and explained our options: the regular menu, chef’s tasting menus of six or eight courses, or “Le Menu Gourmand,” a ten-course chef’s selection for “culinary enthusiasts.” When he walked away to let us discuss our options, we didn’t take long to reach a unanimous decision. You don’t drive all the way to Disneyland just to go on one ride.

“Le Menu Gourmand,” I proclaimed upon our server’s return to the table. “With wine pairings.” Then, after he left, with an excited smile on his friendly face, I added, “Ball to the wall, people. We’re in this for the long haul.” It felt particularly wrong and exhilarating to speak crassly in such fancy surroundings. The first item to arrive was the amuse-bouche: “It felt particularly wrong and exhilarating to speak crassly in such fancy surroundings. The first item to arrive was the amuse-bouche: a horseradish mousselet, fine black caviar, lemon, and, as if to punctuate its opulence, gold. Next came the caramelized codfish with charred scallions and toasted kale. This was placed before us in an elegant, clear glass bowl, into which delicious dashi was then poured at the table. Dashi is a classic, Japanese, bonito-based fish stock, and this one was among the most delectable I’ve tasted — warm, well-rounded umami flavor. We each made good use of the spoons provided. Because it’s an oilier fish,
often with a distinct fishy flavor, salmon and I haven't been close friends. The only one I've ever liked was labeled Copper River. But this one, a wild Alaskan King salmon, served with beets, a slice of green apple, and salmon roe, was clean and lightly sweet, minus the low-tide twinges that usually makes me turn away from this particular fish. After the delight of this lovely bite, should I again come across wild Alaskan salmon on a menu, I now feel emboldened to give it a try.

The next course was earthy and rich. As with oysters and salmon, truffle is something I usually try to sidestep. Comically, it seemed that our entire meal was destined to be crafted from the few foods to which I have an aversion. Thinly shaved black truffles topped a tower comprising a parmesan cake, codfired egg, and pressed pork. It seems that in recent years truffles have become the industry standard for “fancy,” making it the ubiquitous, unwanted addition to all my classic favorites. But here, used intentionally to complement its earthy companion flavors, I finally got what all the truffle fuss has been about. And like the salmon before, this dish elicited moans from around the table.

Continuing with the earth theme that followed the wave of ocean flavors, the fifth course was veal with broccoli, caramelized garlic and parmesan, topped with a slice of cabbage. This is when I hit a wall. No more sipping, no more biting, I was done. But my culinary comrades soldiered on to enjoy the opera gateau with caramelized white chocolate (deceptively light, as David described it).

And though that was ten, there was still one more bite to come — the final gift to the table was a macaron each. As with the opera cake, I had mine wrapped. To our poodle bags (this place was too upscale for me to call them doggy), the restaurant added a handful of individually wrapped shortbread cookies (really, really good shortbread, David would later remark).

The only disappointment of the meal was at the very end, when David asked if they could pull a solid espresso, and the $8 cup turned out to be just as regrettable as most. More a small cup of strong coffee than a true espresso, and all this after David had stressed, “Really, if you guys don’t do it classic Italian style, very short, viscous like motor oil, with a thick crema, then it’s cool, I’ll pass.” They insisted they could, and they failed. David didn’t want to make a fuss, but when pressed to offer feedback, he couldn’t lie. And though David had tried to be as diplomatic as possible, our server insisted on making a new cup. Unfortunately, their second attempt was not much different than the first.

We’d expected this meal to be pricey — the courses, the deluxe ingredients, the wine pairings and the fact that at no point did the waiter offer any numbers along with our options. But no matter how much we’d thought we’d prepared ourselves for an exorbitant bill, when we saw the final tab (which was exactly double our guarantee), the air was sucked from our lungs. “Can you cover the rent this month?” I asked my love.

“Should we look at the itemized receipt?” Kerry queried. We didn’t mind paying top dollar for a rare experience, but we wanted to make sure we weren’t being swindled. The website quoted the ten-course menu at $10 less per person than what we’d been charged, but I insisted we forgive the discrepancy because when we’d entered into what had turned out to be a four-hour food ride, I’d said, “Give us all you got,” and never asked for the cost.

“You know what? I looked around the table, at my husband, at the faces of two of our dearest friends. “Even if I’d known this number going in, I’d happily pay it again to spend four hours with you guys, who we rarely see, and to experience all the crazy, expertly executed dishes we just tasted. This wasn’t just a meal. It was one of those peak experiences we’ll remember all our lives.”

by Barbarella Fokos

Rebranding a sunset view, yet again

5083 Santa Monica Avenue — You’d think it was hard to muck up a restaurant holding down one of the best spaces on the West Coast — an oceanfront location so prime, surfers can see it into from the line-up. Yet, here we have Wonderland, taking over the Ocean Beach real estate formerly known as Quig’s, and before that Nick’s. Both now closed, and I’m sure they have their reasons.

Wonderland gets its name from O.B.‘s almost-mythical seaside amusement park that washed away in high surf a century ago, and its walls share memorable images and bits of trivia about its namesake. But who’s going to notice something like that when the entirety of current-day Ocean Beach basks, pier to jetty, before the dining room’s panoramic second-floor windows?

Drinkers, diners, and, yes, even waitstaff, can get lost in that view, especially when the waves are breaking and you can practically make eye contact with those surfers out front. This is a take-it-easy kind of place, wasted on anyone unprepared to get cozy with the local brews on tap and linger.

Most of the prime seating faces the same direction — toward the beach. You’ll have to sacrifice some view if you want a looking-across-the-table kind of conversation. It’s not a place you need to eat, but when you’re hungry, a pretty intriguing menu won’t stop you.
from trying. There's not any real thrust one direction or the other — Wonderland seems just as comfortable serving Asian-styled dishes as it does Hawaiian and Southwestern, and of course it serves fish tacos.

So, apparently O.B. has developed its own style of fish taco. It's basically a take on the South Beach recipe that melts cheddar cheese on flour tortilla. Wonderland does it just as well, with fancy flourishes like cilantro cream sauce and diced jalapeno mixed into the pico de gallo. You can, and probably should, opt for a corn tortilla with any taco you order. I can't seem to say this enough.

The slow-cooked pork in the Chile Verde Stew delivers some savory tomato stew with a nice dash of kick, though it doesn't quite feel like a balanced meal, despite the side of quesadilla. A sesame-crusted ahi wrap tastes pretty well, with fancy flourishes like cilantro cream sauce and diced jalapeno mixed into the pico de gallo. You can, and probably should, opt for a corn tortilla with any taco you order. I can't seem to say this enough.

Ed Bedford's totally vegan salad — eek!

**Eek! — salad**  
807 T Street, East Village — So much gunk. This whole holiday season I went ape on burgers, spuds, chocolate cakes, Cool Whip, donuts, burritos, donuts, grog, beers, vino...

Time to pull back. Take the higher road. Eat better. Eat less. Because Carla and I each stood on the scale this morning.

She weighed...uh-oh. She just mumbled that if I mention that, death would be a sweet release after she's done slamming me against the wall. Okay, but me? I'll come right out: 208 pounds. That's like walking around with a ten-pound cat in your fanny-pack.

And, here at F and Ninth, my destiny stares me in the mug: Salad Style, it says. Oh, yeah. That's the salad place that's been hiding out here downtown for the past eight years. But it still looks fresh and has lots of people inside. Guess we're all thinking the same post-holiday thoughts.

So, I take a deep breath and head in. The manager guy Juan is flying around, handling about four orders at once.

Looks like every worker from all the law offices and jewelry wholesalers around, plus some condoistas from East Village, are here.

“...The salmon is awesome,” says this gal on one of the log stools at the counter. She's drinking a $5 beer while she waits for her order. Huh. So, wine-and-beer license. That makes it a bit more tempting.

Fact is, most of the salads have some kind of protein mixed in with them. Like the grilled salmon ($9, or $12 for the large plate), the chicken meatball, or the chicken Caesar ($8/$11), or the ahi tuna and tomato ($9/$12).

But I’m into pure sacrifice here. Nuts and twigs. No más. Rabbit food. Still, most have some flavor to help a new vegan out. The house salad ($6/$8) has organic greens, Cotija cheese, tomatoes, carrots, cucumber, yellow corn, red onion, and a vinaigrette. Ooh, and Morning Glory ($6) is basically low-fat yogurt, strawberry, blueberry, pineapple, pear, granola honey, and mint. Could go for that, no prob.

Also the Moroccan couscous salad, ($7/$10) which has feta, asparagus, black currants, toasted almonds, and other stuff added to make it interesting. Ditto the spinach and pear salad with goat cheese ($7/$10).

But, no. Purify is everything. I grit my teeth and ask for the Totally Vegan ($7/10 — I get the $7). It’s organic greens, paprika-spiced quinoa (that seed from the Andes), tofu, tomatoes, carrots, chickpeas, organic sprouts, plus a miso vinaigrette. No sign of animal flesh nowhere. But one of the customers waiting tells me that I don’t need animal protein if I’ve got quinoa. “2013 was the UN’s International Year of Quinoa,” she says. “Because quinoa is the perfect food. True! It's like a grain, but it isn't. It's more like beetroot or spinach. It deserves more respect.”

Wow. Quite a sermon. Whatever, makes me happier about going Totally Vegan.

Except I hesitate when a soba-noodle salad passes by. It has the green-tea soba noodles, plus grilled chicken, peanuts, scalions, ginger-sesame dressing. Looks totally delish. Juan says it and the spinach and pear and the salmon might be the three most popular salads.

But, what the heck. Stay pure! I stick with the Totally Vegan. Until the gal on the stool says I should combine it with the spicy chicken Picadillo soup they have going today. “They’re just such a

by Ian Anderson
Barnes says his band, the Taz Taylor Band, landed local opening slots for Dokken, Skid Row, Great White, UFO, Molly Hatchet, Pat Travers and two former Scorpions guitarists, Uli Jon Roth and Michael Schenker. Schenker is undoubtedly my guitar hero...it would be fair to say that our sound is based on that of the Michael Schenker Group. The fact that we've recorded and toured with two ex-MSG vocalists [Bonnet and Slack] and one ex-MSG keyboardist [Airey] is something I'm very proud of."

Taylor notes, “It's certainly true that we've had some [Airey] is something I'm very proud of."

Taylor notes, “It's certainly true that we've had some...
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SOLD OUT!
Donuts only. Four years ago, Andrew Savage made the leap from Denton, Texas, to New York City. Landing in Brooklyn, he went from a city of 113,000 to a borough of 2.5 million. He didn’t plan the move around forming a band, but he figured he would probably throw one together at some point. Parquet Courts came together quicker than expected.

“The band started in New York in 2010,” says Savage. “It was me, obviously. Austin Brown [vocals/guitar], who I met in college, my brother [drummer Max Savage], who I actually met the day he was born, and my friend Sean [Yeaton on bass], who I met when his band played my house in Texas. He’s from Massachusetts. I met him while his band was on tour.”

The band held a meeting early on, and their low expectations included playing a show in New York, releasing some sort of hard-copy “thing,” and going on tour. Parquet Courts’ debut album, Light Up Gold, was originally released on Savage’s Dull Tools label in 2012, but, soon after, What’s Your Rupture? reissued the album to critical acclaim. All the meager goals had been accomplished, and the show schedule was about to go into overdrive.

“There’s no way I could have predicted it,” Savage said. “It happened so quickly that I just kind of got used to it from the onset. Opportunities just started coming in. ‘Oh, we got offered to play a show here... and a show here...’ If you had asked me a year ago if I thought I would have been doing that, I’m sure I would have said no.”

It’s tough to pin down why a band that sounds like an early ‘90s lo-fi act on a donut binge would sound so fresh in 2014. The group has a playful edge that seems lacking in much of the serious world of punk and indie-rock these days, initially evident in their song titles — “Yr No Stoner” and “Donuts Only.” Savage feels the band’s sense of humor is only part of their overall persona, though.

“It’s good to not take yourself too seriously. I don’t think that Parquet Courts is a silly band. I mean, we’re funny guys, but the band isn’t a joke to us or anything. There. But it’s a good balance. I don’t think it overwhelms you. I think the next record will be slightly more serious.”

Parquet Courts’ slightly higher expectations for 2014 include touring Australia. “Lots of shows this summer” and a new full-length album. “Light Up Gold was recorded in February 2012, and so, by that point, a lot of those songs were even old,” Savage explained. “As soon as we get a new song that we think is good enough to play, and we practice it enough, we start playing it. We’ve been playing songs that are gonna be on our next record since the summer of 2012. Since right around the time Light Up Gold actually came out. I’m excited about giving people that liked Light Up Gold something new. I’m looking forward to defining the band a bit more. As you keep making new songs, your world starts to shape.”

The new material before the record drops when Parquet Courts play Ché Café on Saturday, January 18, or meet them up at Pappy & Harriet’s in Pioneertown, where they’ll play this Sunday.

— Dryw Keltz

Contributors

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Club Crawler This Week In Music

Thursday 16

“Parl art project, part band,” according to Crooks on Tape’s (ex-Enon, Brainiac) one sheet. The L.A.-based improv-pop trio will take the stage at Soda Bar behind their Mora debut Fingertips—a psych-punk set that was boilled down from hundreds of hours of material into “tiny snapshots of an altered crime scene.” Fans of Enon and, I’m thinking, Carey Mercer’s Frog Eyes should dig right in. And as to snippets of note, yuh, key word: “lynnuchian.” Just says “guests” to me, but no matter, Crooks’ request the price of admission.... Casbah’s monthlong 25th anniversary dealo welcomes punk-rock stalwarts X and Gary Heffern’s Blood on Fire. Ex-Penetrator Heff says this is likely to be his last stateside stint, so go say your hellos and goodbyes Thursday night, or on Friday, when the Penetrators headline sets by the Loons and Sidewalk Scene. Friday’s is a sold-out show, btw... All-racing throwbacks Privatized Air will hit the Shakedown after Deadend Paradox and Hocus. For notes on PA’s latest, Refill, out now via Rainchula Records, hit up Dave Good’s “Go Ahead. I’m Listening” blog.

Friday 17

Concrete Blonde singer/bassist-cum-Joshua Tree gallery curator and horse whisperer Johnette Napolitano will visit the Griffin Friday night. Never seen her solo show, but Ms. Napolitano has a handful of non-Blonde records that are quite non-Blonde. Like 2007’s Scarred, an electro-folk brooder that pairs Napolitano’s capital-N Natural singing voice with surrealistic ballads equally curious and catching. The songsmithing’s okay, but the voice is the thing, and she does some deep-cut covers, I understand—Velvets, Coldplay (?). I just read in a Dustin Lohspeich report via NBC7.com that the Griffin is for sale for $215,000. (Mork, stroking chin, thinks, “I’ll take it.”)

Saturday 18

“Stoned and starving” Brooklyn band (via, clap-clap-clap, deep in the heart of Texas?) Parquet Courts play Ché Cafe Saturday night and Pappy & Harriet’s up in Pioneertown on Sunday. Drew Keltz had a chat with the indie-punk band’s Andrew Savage for this week’s Bluff, so flip or click there for the low-down on them. Drew says Descendants; my gf says Pavement; I say Descendents. Huh? See what I did there? Destruction Unit, Grand Tarantula, and Shiva Trash open the Ché show, making it the hands-down gig to get to Saturday night.... Miss the door in La Jolla. Blood Dancer, Boy King, and Bella Novella fill an eclectic alt-rock bill in Bankers Hill at Tin Can Ale House...the School of Rock pupes explore the Best of San Diego at the Irenic, playing songs by “local heroes” like Beehive, Creeps, Night Marchers, and the Locust. Ambitious kids... Back 2 Black, Smack This, and Rattles, fill a tribute bill at the Griffin... and Drum Wars invade Ramona Mainstage as brothers Carmine (Vanilla Fudge) and Vinnie Appice ( Dio, Sabbath) beat it out once and for all.

Monday 20

From Wilmington, North Carolina (the port city made famous by Cape Fear), smoke-doom trio Weedeater mows down Soda Bar Monday night after Bay Area doom duo and Southern Lord labelmates Black Cobra. Lead-singer local Archons and Eukaryot also in on this cavalcade ries... On the other side of the Heights, Ti-Two revives Flatliners. The 11-year Ontario band is touring in support of their latest, Dead Language, a Fat Wreck set that finds the hardcore electro-punk band mining more melodic terrain. Norja worry, though, these guys still light up the burners at a Cavalcade onstage. Like-minded locals Sic Waiting set it up.... San Diego’s favorite lo-fi-It-Zone (though I hear now he’s in Olympia?) Stephen Steinbrink’s at the Ché Cafe on Monday. Dude’s last two discs, Drew A Picture and Arranged Waves, describe a guy submerged in monos and working in stereo. Though not very challenging, Steinbrink’s throwback pop is infectious, e-z bake listening.

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MARCH 24 | ON SALE FRIDAY! | ALL AGES

BEING AS AN OCEAN
MARCH 28 | 5TH AVE SIDE STAGE | ON SALE NOW! | ALL AGES

FAN HALEN
FEBRUARY 15 | ON SALE FRIDAY! | 21+

TAINTED LOVE
MARCH 15 | ON SALE FRIDAY! | 21+

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JANUARY 17 | ALL AGES

LED ZEPAGAIN
BONFIRE
JANUARY 18 | 21+

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THE CLOAK OX
JANUARY 19 | ALL AGES

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JOSH DAMIGO
JANUARY 21 | 21+

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Sunday Jan 26 - early show - 6PM
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Also featuring sets by:
Michael Angelo Batio
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1/25 :: SKINNY PUPPY
1/26 :: KIRK FRANKLIN PRESENTS GOSPEL BRUNCH
1/30 :: NAYER HAWTHORNE
1/31 :: PARKWAY DRIVE WITH UPON A BURNING BODY AND BETRAYAL
2/5 :: CHIPPENDALES--35TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

2/7 & 8 :: RAMON AYALA
2/8 :: NORBILANE (5TH AVE SIDE STAGE)
2/9 :: DWEZIL ZAPPA GUITAR MASTERCLASS - DWEZILLA ON THE ROAD
2/9 :: ZAPPA PLAYS ZAPPA ROXY & ELSEWHERE 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
2/11 :: BRANDON BOYD & SONS OF THE SEA
2/12 :: EVENTVIBE & AMPLIFIED ACCESS PRESENTS EXCISION
2/15 :: THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
2/16 :: AMON AMARTH WITH SKELETONWITCH
2/17 :: NEW POLITICS WITH MAGIC MAN & SLEEPER AGENT
2/22 :: LIVE NATION & CHANNEL 93.3 PRESENTS KARMIN
2/23 :: JOHN BUTLER TRIO
3/5 :: ONES TO WATCH & KPRI 102.1 PRESENTS WALK OFF THE EARTH
3/6 :: RAILROAD EARTH
3/7 :: THE ATARS WITH AUTHORITY ZERO, DRAG THE RIVER AND VERSUS THE WORLD

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What happened to this place?

“Jimmy Page had two guitars stolen after the first show and the FBI ended up getting his guitars back.”

Ratt’s frontman Stephen Pearcy, lately of Los Angeles but sometimes of San Diego, published his memoir Sex, Drugs, Ratt & Roll, in 2013. Gearing up to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ratt’s multiplatinum Out of the Cellar, he took some questions over the telephone.

WHAT YEARS DID YOU LIVE IN SAN DIEGO?

“1971 to 1980.”

AND YOU RETURNED?

“I actually did. I’d see my Mom, my stepdad. I bought this huge castle house in La Costa and I decided, This is gonna be great, it’ll be cacophonic and quiet. I was never there! I was always on the road. I ended up buying another place in L.A. and I ping-ponged back and forth. But I lived there in 1998. It’s ironic because the lead guitar player in my solo band, Erik Ferentinos, lived across the street from the La Costa house. So there’s a reason for everything.”

IMPRESSIONS OF SAN DIEGO AS A KID?

“I came from Los Angeles and I really didn’t have anything to do with music. I was actually working with a race-car team and we were on the road. We went to Indianapolis and my mom had remarried. She said, ‘When you get back, we’re gonna be living in San Diego, here’s the address.’ And after I came back, I was just plopped down in this place called Bay Park. It was an amazing place at that time...it’s changed so much, but back then it was all peace and love, peace and love, you know...”

SEE ANY SHOWS AT THE SPORTS ARENA?

“You could literally see the Sports Arena from our house. We lived on this big ol’ hill... Alice Cooper, [when] he was using the snakes and the guillotine and the hanging, it was just amazing, that kind of act. And then another night there would be Aerosmith, with Foghat or Bad Company or whoever opening up. And Aerosmith was very powerful. Black Sabbath, another amazing show.

“And then the most memorable was Led Zeppelin, I saw them twice. I kinda knew these girls, and I didn’t know that they were groupies, per se, but I knew they’d always wait in the back area. I had that Almost Famous experience. A girl says, ‘Well, I’ll get you in.’ I didn’t get in, but they did!

“Led Zeppelin was just mind-altering. Three and a half hours of in-your-face. It was a Monday night and a Thursday night. Jimmy Page had two guitars stolen after the first show and the FBI ended up getting his guitars back. The first night was so loud, people were walking out of there spinning around, so they turned it down. It was general admission, so you’d just plant yourself somewhere, and without even knowing it your body would be pushed around the arena, several times. You’d end up in the back, in the front, in the back again. And [tickets] were $3.50, you know?

“When I started getting into music, I would be at the house, point at the Sports Arena, and say, ‘I’m gonna play there one day.’ And, lo and behold, our first time playing there was opening up for Ozzy, and the second time we headlined, Lita Ford opening. New Year’s Eve.

“[At the Sports Arena] you’re out in front of all these people, where you’re used to being in front of 1000, or 800. And here we were in front of 15,000. And it never stopped after that.”

HOW DID SAN DIEGO CHANGE FOR YOU, OVER THE YEARS?

“It was [more] crowded, number one. Everything seemed smaller, since we were traveling the world. And I just wanted peace of mind. I’d have people following me, so I’d have to do the James Bond thing. Fly into the garage and shut the door. It just got crowded, you know? The whole sense, smell, taste. It was opening up, becoming a bigger and bigger city. The canyons were being closed down and they were building Sports Chalets and workout places, cutting the trees down. We used to have keg parties in the canyons...there was none of that. Houses were just ping-ponging all over. And if you go there now, it’s even more complicated and crowded. I look out of my parents’ window now and it’s just, ‘What happened to this place?’

“But it’s a beautiful town, a beautiful city. I visit Robbin’s [Crosby] parents in La Jolla. And I go to my parents’ place, stop by there. They’ve recently both passed. My stepdad finally went down. It’s the end of an era. When I first started playing music, we used to rehearse in every room in that house. The living room, the bedroom, the den, and we’d have these parties in the back. Anything, just to play. It’s like closing another chapter.”

As a budding musician growing up in Bay Park, Ratt’s Stephen Pearcy pointed at the Sports Arena and said, “I’m gonna play there one day.” And he did.
FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 7 | BLUES
KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD BAND
DAYTONA & THE BLUESIDE ROCKERS
STEVEN YBARRA

SATURDAY | JANUARY 18 | ROCK
DRUM WARS - Vinnie Appice and Carmine Appice
GUITAR LINE - Bill Bay Project

FRIDAY | JANUARY 24 | BLUES
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
TRIPLE DEEZ

SATURDAY | JANUARY 25 | BLUES
KIM SIMMONDS AND SAVOY BROWN

SUNDAY | JANUARY 26 | ROCK
GARY HOEY • ULI JON ROTH & KOFI BAKER PLAY EXTREME CREAM
MICHAELE ANGELO BATIO • TRIBUTE TO ROY GUITAR
CRAIG GOLDSMITH • VINNIE APPICE
DOUG ALDRICH & BURNING RAIN • TEMPORAL RIFF

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SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 8 | ROCK
ERIC SARINAS

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 16 | ROCK/FLAMENCO
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**MOURNING, BACK FROM ASHES.**

**BRICK BY BRICK: ROGERS BAND.**

**SUNDAY**

Sons and Way Cool Jr. $13-$23.

**Guerilla Dub Squad.**

Friday, 8pm — Giant Panda

**FRIDAY**

Shepard.

**THURSDAY**

Henkel.

**SATURDAY**

Band.

**THURSDAY**

ArtLab:

Dieckmann Blues Band.

**FRIDAY**

Shepard.

**MORNING**

Tafarella.

**FRIDAY**

Buck-O-Nine, Heavyweight Champions.

**WEDNESDAY**

Ballroom with a Twist. $20-$85.

**THURSDAY**

Ballroom with a Twist. $47-$100.

**SATURDAY**

Café Ipé:

Copley Symphony Hall: $20-$85.

**FRIDAY**

San Diego Library:

March 1 — Meet & Greet with The Silent Oceans.

**SUNDAY**

San Diego County Fair Grounds:

6:30 p.m. 619-226-7662. $20.

**TUESDAY**

Loon: $20.

**TUESDAY**

Mountain
drive: $20-$85.

**FRIDAY**

Mint Condition:

$25-$35.

**THURSDAY**

Encinitas Library:

Saturday, 7pm — Daniel Jackson, MinderBinder & Boaz Roberts. $10-$13.

**EUREKA! GOURMET BURGERS AND CRAFT BEER.**

**THURSDAY**

Fourth Points by Sheraton:

$12-$20.

**FRIDAY**

Giraffe album release.

**SATURDAY**

Infinity at Pala Casino:

$25-$35.

**MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK:**

Sunday, 3pm — Zene Strings.

**MONDAY**

Molly Malone’s:

$15-$20.

**MOTHER’S SALON:**

Friday, 9pm — Chill Clinton.

**NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE:**

Friday, 6pm — Berkey Hart, Eve Selis, Twang.

**PADRE GOLD:**

Saturday, 9pm — Sculpins, Bat Lords, Nuclear Tomorrow.

**KONA KA I RESORT & MARINA:**

Wednesday, 6pm — Lane Dieckmann Blues Band. Free.

**ESCAPE THE FATE**

**ESCAPE THE FATE: SOMA, Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. 619-226-7662. $20.**

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**Note:**

BY DAVE GOOD

Less screamed, more hardcore — at least since 2008. That was the year Las Vegas quintet Escape the Fate made a course correction and swapped singers with the announcement that Craig Mabbitt would replace founding vocalist Ronnie Radke as frontman. Too bad, in my opinion. While Mabbitt is Escape to the Fate who Anel Pineda is to Journey, Radke was far more original and only a neck tattoo away from a string of truly flippant rock-and-roll singers such as Sebastian Bach or durable old Bret Michaels or even Alice Cooper back when he was new. Radke’s problem was jail time, a fate he could not escape, given his sweet tooth for drugs and a tendency toward chaos in his personal affairs. After Mabbitt joined, Escape the Fate grew up. Surely Geffen’s label expectations and Linkin Park producer Don Gilmore enforced adulthood on a metalcore-ish pop group with murder, suicide, and battery in their past.

This is not a band that anyone would ever accuse of being stable. How they got here: the original Escape the Fate lineup won a contest in 2005. The prize was they got to open a My Chemical Romance show, and that was good enough for Epitaph Records. The label signed the bad boys and released No Sympathy for the Dead a year later. But who cares about history? The lineup has changed so many times that each release sounds less like a chronology than a new band. The glue that binds the ETF experience is the live show and the songwriting, which is generally without fault. At least that part of the Escape the Fate train runs on time. But if the lesson of the rise and fall of GUNS N’ ROSES’ Axl Rose has taught us anything, it is that there is almost nothing more interesting in hard rock than power chords, drama, and a narcissistic front man. Falling in Reverse, Chelsea Grin, and Suicide This also perform.

**ESCAPE THE FATE**

**ESCAPE THE FATE: SOMA, Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. 619-226-7662. $20.**

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**Find more Of Note columns online at SDRreader.com/notc es**
MUSIC LISTINGS 1-16

**Saturday**
- Disco Pimps.

**Friday**
- Soma:
  - Solterra Winery & Kitchen: Soda Pants, Nena Anderson.

**Thursday**
- Tuesday, 8:30pm — Weedeater
- Monday, Jenckes and Cody Beebe.
- Friday, 8pm — Maria Taylor.

**Wednesday**
- Friday, Arts, Ashen Earth, Ruines ov Sqaures and Desolators. $5.
- Monday, 7pm — Hocus, Raja
- Friday, Acoustic Nights.
- Sunday, 7pm — Michael “Leroy” Hermsen will perform as part of Bubalé. Rock and euro-jazz.
- Friday, Traditional Visions Jazz Trio.
- Thursday, 7pm — The Jade Visions Jazz Trio. Traditional jazz standards.
- Friday, 5pm — Tomcat Courtney. Down-home blues.
- Friday, 9pm — Fish Out of Water. Original acoustic, funk, and reggae.
- Saturday, 5pm — Tony LaVoz & Cold Duck Trio. R&B, jazz, and Latin.

**Tuesday**
- Friday, 8pm — Paul Wolfe, featuring Gary Hankins.
- Thursday, 8pm — The Tommy Mitchell Show. Free.
- Friday, 5:30pm — Coda. Free.
- Friday, 9pm — The Tommy Mitchell Show. Free.
- Sunday, 8pm — DEA, Idols Plague, Nerve Control.
- Sunday, 8pm — DEA, Idols Plague, Nerve Control.
- Thursday, 7pm — Michael “Leroy” Bram and Raining Jane. $40.
- Thursday, 7:30pm — Songwriters Acoustic Nights.
- Friday, 9pm — Cameo.
- Tuesday, 9pm — Bayou Brothers.
- Friday, 6:30pm — Four Sounds Like Four. Smooth jazz.
- Monday, 7pm — Kevin and Eduards. Latin guitar and vocals.

**Monday**
- Friday, 9pm — Camero.
- Monday, 8pm — Roger!
- Friday, 8pm — Roger!
- Sunday, 8:30pm — Austin Jenkies and Cody Beebe.
- Monday, 8:30pm — Weedeater and Black Cobra.
- Tuesday, 8pm — Lonely Wild, Soda Pants, Nena Anderson.
- Wednesday, 9pm — Dent May.

**Soma:**
- Thursday, 8pm — Blood Dancer, Bella Novella, Boy King. $5.
- Thursday, 8pm — Blood Dancer, Bella Novella, Boy King. $5.
- Monday, 8pm — Country Club featuring Gary Hankins.
- Tuesday, 8pm — Sinfulood and Sensory Station. $5.
- Wednesday, 8pm — Paul Wolfe, Hieronymous Bogs, Laura Gravelle. $5.

**Tio Leo’s:**
- Thursday, 8:30pm — The Fremonts.
- Saturday, 8pm — The Hollywood Stones.
- Tuesday, 9pm — Bayou Brothers.

**Tower 13:**
- Friday, 9pm — The Tommy Mitchell Show. Free.
- Friday, 8pm — The Fremonts.

**Tower Bar:**
- Friday, 8pm — Grape Apes, Void Boys, Western Setting.
- Saturday, 9pm — DanceDance! with DJ Geno. Free.

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**San Diego Comedy Fest**

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**San Diego Reader January 16, 2014**
Snow Glove Erasure
By Andrew Hamlin

“Loving Man,” with its ecstatic gender-blurring one minute (“I’m a boy! I’m a girl! Who has everything”), bipolar furor at rejection the next, and frustrating refusal to climax musically, sounds dragged in from another project, matching the yuletide sentiment only insofar as it nods to love and devotion. Other tunes suggest prickliness on those subjects, the leadoff track frank on “I don’t believe in your religion” and a whole lot of other bad stuff — but hitched to hope, hitched to the bells. Blocking out an agenda and an argument. A conversation many folks have to have with their families this time of year.

Everyone’s a Critic

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Thursday, January 16

DANNY LANGDON BAND

Saturday, January 18

BLUE HEAT

Sundays NO COVER

THE BLUES BROKERS

Boston, MA

Thursday, January 16

THIRD DEGREE

Friday, January 17

BC’s BBQ: Sat. & Sun. Noon til Midnight

San Diego Symphony

San Diego Symphony

Saturday, 6pm — Robin Henkel.

Friday, Saturday, Sexuals.

Wong's Dragon Room: $15-$18.

Tuesday, 8pm — Sprung Monkey and the Gods of Science. January 24 — Credule, Fluf, Chume. January 25 — Smile and Uncle Joe's Big Ol' Driver.


EORR Reviews from Our Readers

University of San Diego Department of Music  Reviews from Our Readers

Music Festival Benefit: Wu Man.


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San Diego Reader January 16, 2014

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THURSDAY • JANUARY 16 • 7PM R&B
RUBY AND THE RED HOTS

FRIDAY • JANUARY 17 • 5PM BLUES
MICHELE LUNDEEN
9PM ROCK
ROCKOLA

SATURDAY • JANUARY 18 • 5PM ROCK
TEMPLE OF THE DAD
9PM STEVIE RAY TRIBUTE
ALAN IGLESIAS

SUNDAY • JANUARY 19 • 8PM R&B/JAZZ
"FUZZY" RANKIN

MONDAY • JANUARY 20 • 7PM BLUES
CHET CANNON

TUESDAY • JANUARY 21 • 7PM JAZZ
JESSE DAVIS

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 22 • 7PM ROCK
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Gabriel Iglesias
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this Friday at 10 am!
Include a caption describing why you got the tat and what it means to you, plus your age, and job. Winning tattoo pics will be printed in the Reader!
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 Restaurant: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 6-10pm: $4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, selected appetizers. Friday-Saturday, 4-6pm, 8-11pm: $4.50 wells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, selected appetizers.

BANKERS HILL
Avenue 5: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 select beers, $2 off select wines by the glass, specialty cocktails, $2 off “bar stuff” menu.
Tin Can Ale House: Monday-Friday, 4-8pm: $1 off drinks.

BAY PARK
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, wells, $3.50 street tacos, $1 hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

BONITA
Casa Bella: Monday-Wednesday, 4-10pm: Half off bottles of wine with purchase of two entrees.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA
Beach House: Daily, 4-7pm: $2.95 draft domestic beer, $3.45 wells, $3.95 bloody mary & house wine, $4.95 well drink, $5.95 cosmopolitan, mojito, margarita, bloody mary mix.

CARLSBAD
The Alley: Daily, 11am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestics.
Board & Brew: Daily, 4-7pm: Two-for-one beers, $1 street tacos.
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 & bottles; $2.75 and $3.75 wells.

CARMEL VALLEY
Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & Mexican pints; $4 house margaritas, wells, $3.50 street tacos, $1 hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.
Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar: Daily, 4pm-7pm: 1/2-off specialty cocktails, $4 well drinks, draft beers, $6 sangria, 1/2 off tapas.

CHULA VISTA
Achiote Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 beer, $3.99 margaritas.
Los Arcos: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, $5 margaritas and martinis, beers, fish tacos, clam chowder, $2.50 ceviche tostada. Saturday, Saturday, All Day, All Day, $2.50 Margaritas on the rocks.

CITY HEIGHTS
The Hideout: Monday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $1 off pints. Sunday, All Night: $3 drafts.
Nate’s Garden Grill: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm, $1 off all beer & wine.
Till-Two: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 wells and imported drafts.
The Tower Bar: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 wells and import drafts.

CLAREMONTE
Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.50 off all drinks.
Fat Tony’s Pizza: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $2 glass/8 oz pitcher of beer, $5 cheese pizza, cheese calzone, wings, salad.

COLLEGE AREA
Bridges Bar & Grill: Monday-Saturday, 7-11pm: $3 Bud Light, domestic pints, well cocktails, house wines, $4 craft pints, arrestors, $5 premium craft pints, $2 off specialty cocktails. Sunday, Open-close: $3 Bud Light, domestic pints, well cocktails, house wines; $4 craft pints, arrestors, $5 premium craft pints; $2 off specialty cocktails.

CORONADO
Brigantine: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3-6pm: $4 Big Horns, Dos Equis, $4.75 margarita, $5.50 cheddar, $6. mer-lots, $1 off featured wine. Discounted tacos, shrimp, oysters.
Leroy’s Kitchen + Lounge: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, $5 craft drafts, $2 off craft cocktails, $5 wells & glasses of select wine. Wednesday-Saturday, 4-6pm & 10pm-midnight: $4 craft drafts, $2.85 off craft cocktails, $5 wells & glasses of select wine.

DEL MAR
Del Mar Rendezvous: Monday-Saturday, 4-5:30pm: 88 cents for your second round of purchase of regularly priced beer, glass of wine or sake. All wines, beers, and sake 1/2 price for take-home with your meal or take-out order.
Zel’s Del Mar: Daily, 4-6:30pm: $1 off all drinks, $2 off premium drinks, $2 off all wines by the glass, $4 wells. $5 ceviche, $8 ahi poke, crispy mahi tacos.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO
Altitude Sky Lounge: Monday, 5-7pm: $5 domestic drafts, $6 premium wells. 1/2 off artisan flat breads. Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, $5 premium wells. 1/2-off artisan flat breads. Sunday, All Day: $5 domestic drafts, $6 premium wells. 1/2-off artisan flat breads.
Block 16 Union & Spirits: Friday: All night $3 glasses of Champagne until 11pm, $5 the rest of the night.
Dobson’s: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3 drafts, $4 margaritas, $5 well drinks and house wine.
Downtown Johnny Brown’s: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $1 off wine; 40% off bar menu.
Dussini Loft Bar: Monday-Friday, 4:30-6:30pm: 1/2-off draft wines, house wines and food. Special foods.
La Fiesta: Daily, 11am-6pm: $3 draft & domestic bottles, margaritas; $4 mojito.
The Hopping Pig: Daily, Open-7pm: $4 domestic drafts, $5 beers & select cocktails. $3 nibbles.

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

MAGNOLIA TAPE & KITCHEN: Daily: 3-7pm: $4 Local Drafts, $4 Wells, $6 Wine + Specialty Cocktails.

PACO’S WAY: Daily, 4-7pm: $3 craft beers, $4 cask wines & sangrias. $3 & $4 tapas, free tapitas at the bar.

PATRICKS GASPUMP PUB: Monday-Friday, 10am-8pm, 11pm-close: $3.25 domestic drafts, $2.75 domestic bottles, $3.50 well drinks. Saturday-Sunday: 10am-8pm, 11pm-close: $3.25 domestic drafts, $2.75 domestic bottles, $3.50 well drinks.

SEVILLA: Daily, Open-7pm: $4 well drinks, domestic and draft beer, house red and white wine. Tapas, flatbread and platter specials.

SHOT HOUSE: Tuesday, 7pm-close: $3 Karl Strauss bottle, $5 Smirnoff drinks, $3 fish tacos. No cover. Thursday, 7pm-close: $3 Miller Lite draft, $5 Red Bull bomb shot, $12 Miller High Life bucket. No cover with college ID or current military ID. Friday, 7-9pm: 1/2 off all Appetizers, 1/2 off all Drinks. Saturday, 6pm-close: $15 Hurricanes/12 refills. $8 big ass beer/$6 refills. Sunday, 7pm-close: $3 Bud Light, $3 shot special, $4 wells. $1 off appetizers (except fries).

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

STOUT PUBLIC HOUSE: Monday-Friday, 4-9pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 premium draft pints, wells, $5 margaritas, $1 on wine. 1/2-price select appetizers, $2 sliders. Saturday-Sunday, 10am-11pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 bloody marys, screwdrivers, premium draft

TACO TUESDAY
$1 Tacos (Chicken, Beef, or Fish) $6 Classic Margarita

THIRSTY THURSDAY
$3 Well Drinks & Domestic Drafts (For Anyone In A Group Or Drink)
Ballast Point's new spirit bar

The times, they are a-changin’... for the better, if you’re a fan of spirits. With the new year comes a change in state policy allowing local distilleries to offer samples of their products to customers, and none of San Diego’s spirit conjurers are more excited to show off their wares than the award-winning artisans of Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits (10051 Old Grove Road, Scripps Ranch), who will officially open their new spirits tasting room tomorrow, January 7.

Much in the way that its distillery and brewery cannot overlap, Ballast Point’s spirits-tasting square footage must be separate from its brewery and within its distilled-spirits plant. So, visitors looking for a taste of the company’s rotating assortment of clear and dark spirits may sign up for a tour at the merchandise area east of the beer-tasting bar, then wait to be escorted down a hardwood hallway, past a window with a view of a grand copper still (imported from Kentucky), to an intimate, dimly lit, speakasy-style tasting room.

To make room for the facility, Ballast Point’s chief financial officer and brewers gave up their offices, but the company made sure that sacrifice wasn’t in vain. Down to the many minor details, the place is stunning and thematically complete. A heavy wood, marble-topped bar and stamped-tin ceiling tiles combine with vintage wallpaper, dimly lit, speakeasy-style tasting room.

Head distiller Yusef Cherney scoured many antique store for items, such as an old-school register, ancient books, a scale, and a mortar and pestle. Even the iPod-affixed radio and the fire extinguisher are faxed up to look as though they’ve been pulled from the Prohibition era. The only overly out-of-place piece of modern technology spliced into the space is a flat-screen TV, made forgivable by its content — a visual walk-through of the distilling process. Given the newness of the spirit-tasting experience in San Diego, explaining how that firewater comes into being is crucial.

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Ballast Point VP Earl Kight serves one up at the company’s new spirits tasting room at its Scripps Ranch facility.

## Beer News

**by Brandon Hernandez**

### HAPPY HOUR

**San Diego**

Chili’s: Monday-Thursday, 3pm-close: $1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos, fried cheese, $1 off all drinks, $3 off wells.

### EASTLAKE

Flinn Springs Inn: $2 domestic drafts, $2.25 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

### EAST VILLAGE

Monkey Paw: Daily, 5:45pm: $1 off local draughts and drinks.

### EL CAJON


### Double D’s on Broadway

Daily: 10am-noon, 4pm: $2.50 domestics, $3 off mixed drinks, $1 off shots.

### El Cajon Grand:

Monday-Friday: 10am-noon, 4pm: $2.50 domestic beer, $3 wells.

### FLINNS SPRINGS INN

Daily: 4:45pm: $2 off domestic drafts, $2.25 domestic bottles, $3 wells.

### Main Tap Tavern:

Tuesday, 3:6pm: Taco Tuesday, $2.50 Fish Tacos.

### FALFURRIAS

Aqua Terra: Monday-Tuesday, 4:45pm: happy hour specials. Wednesday-Sunday, 4:45pm: happy hour specials; sushi happy hour: 1/2 off select rolls.

### GOLDEN HILL

Menlop’s: Monday-Friday, 3pm-10pm: $1 off all drinks.

### ENCINITAS

Blue Fin Sushi Bar: Tuesday-Thursday, 5:45pm: 1/2 off select drinks, appetizers, sushi rolls.

### Pulpen Pub & Grill:

Monday-Friday, 5:45pm: $1 off draft beer. $3 off pitcher, $2 off wine.

### ESCONDIDO

Escondido Sports Pub: Monday-Saturday, 6:30am-8pm: $2.50 domestic bottles/drafts, wells, $3 well pints; $4.50 tall wells.

### MAIN TAP TAVEN

Tuesday, 3:6pm: 30% off appetizers.

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### GOLDEN HILL

Menlop’s: Monday-Friday, 3pm-10pm: $1 off all drinks.

### VOTED SAN DIEGO’S #1 MARTINI BAR & RESTAURANT

**MARTINIS & MARTINI COCKTAILS**

20% OFF MARTINIS |
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**HAPPY HOUR MON-SAT FROM 4PM-6PM**

All food and drinks discounted! Featuring 56 Svedka Martinis!!

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**24 CRAFT BEERS ON TAP**

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**CIGAR ACCESSORIES**

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### NOW YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE NOT TO COME TO K E A R N Y M E S A

Happy Hour Daily 4 Pm To 7 Pm

Reservations Recommended

**COME FOR THE FRIED CHICKEN STAY FOR THE BLUES**

Southern food you dreamed about here in beautiful Kearny Mesa

**TOMCAT COURTNEY**

**THURSDAYS 6-9 PM**

**BEER NEWS**

**by Brandon Hernandez**

Ballast Point’s new spirit bar

The times, they are a-changin’... for the better, if you’re a fan of spirits. With the new year comes a change in state policy allowing local distilleries to offer samples of their products to customers, and none of San Diego’s spirit conjurers are more excited to show off their wares than the award-winning artisans of Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits (10051 Old Grove Road, Scripps Ranch), who will officially open their new spirits tasting room tomorrow, January 7.

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To make room for the facility, Ballast Point’s chief financial officer and brewers gave up their offices, but the company made sure that sacrifice wasn’t in vain. Down to the many minor details, the place is stunning and thematically complete. A heavy wood, marble-topped bar and stamped-tin ceiling tiles combine with vintage wallpaper, matching marble rail, and belly bars to form the basis of an interior motif the company describes as “apothecary-slash-old-timey drugstore” — think North Park’s mixology darling Polite Provisions (4696 30th Street, North Park) but a little more mood-lit and a lot less hipster.

Head distiller Yusef Cherney scoured many antique store for items, such as an old-school register, ancient books, a scale, and a mortar and pestle. Even the iPod-affixed radio and the fire extinguisher are faxed up to look as though they’ve been pulled from the Prohibition era. The only overly out-of-place piece of modern technology spliced into the space is a flat-screen TV, made forgivable by its content — a visual walk-through of the distilling process. Given the newness of the spirit-tasting experience in San Diego, explaining how that firewater comes into being is crucial.

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$3 import pints, $10 pitchers. $2.50 wells. $3.50 chicken strips, chicken wings.

**MISSION VALLEY**

**Brewski’s Bar:** Monday, 4-10pm: Buy One Get One 1/2 Off Drinks Tuesday, 4-10pm: $3 Tacos, $4 Corona & Doo XX, $5 Patron Shots Wednesday, 4-10pm: $4 Vodka Rockstars Thursday, 4-10pm: $4 Jack & Coke Friday, 4-10pm: $4 Fireball Saturday, 4-10pm: $4 Jager Bombs Sunday, 4-10pm: $1 Off All Beers Draft, Bottles & Tall Cans Starts at 10am During Football Season

**THE FILLING STATION:** Monday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 margaritas, $4 Mexican beers. Tuesday, 11:30am-7pm: $3 kamikazes, $3 domestic drafts. Wednesday, 11:30am-7pm: $5 stilettos, $4 pink lemon drops, $3 cosmos. Thursday, 11:30am-7pm: $2.75 wells, domestic beers. Friday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 bartender shots. Saturday, 11:30am-7pm: $4 white Russians. Sunday, 11:30am-7pm: $3 bloody marys.

**MISSION BEACH**

**Barefoot Bar and Grill:** Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: $5 cocktails, $4 beers on tap for SD locals only. All draft beers are San Diego and California craft brews.

**MISSION HILLS**

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**THE AERO CLUB:** Daily, 2-7pm: 50¢ off beer, wells, and calls.

**STARLITE:** Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $4 drafts, well off drinks. Snack specials.

**Ocean Beach**

**MOTHER’S SALOON:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off craft drafts, $2 domestic drafts, $2.75 well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers. Sunday, 4-9pm/during live music: $1 chicken tenders, $2 pork sliders, $5 tater tots.

**Ocean Beach Kabob:** Daily, 2pm-6pm: 50% off all beers. $2 Dos Equis all day!

**Baja Oyster Bar:** Monday-Thursday, All Day: 5.99 fish tacos. 3-6pm: Two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

**NATIONAL CITY**

**Pier 32 Waterfront Grill:** Friday, 7pm-sunset: $2 domestic beer, $3 import and local beer, $3 house wine, mimosas, bloody marys.

**NESTOR**

**Alamo Mexican Cafe:** Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: $3 margaritas, $2.25 domestic draft, $3 XX, Amber, Lager, Tecate, Pacifico, Sam Adams; $4 Victoria, Fat Tire.

**Old Town Mexican Cafe:** Monday-Wednesday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off well drinks & selected appetizers. Tuesday, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off appetizers. Taco Tuesday all day!

**POWAY**

**The Beach Grass Poway:** Monday-Friday, 4:15-10:30pm: $2.50 drafts, $3.50 microbrews, $4 select wines. $5 house margaritas & Long Island ice teas. 1/2-off all appetizers. (Happy hour at bar only) Saturday-Sunday, 4-6pm: $3 Bud Light & Shock Top pints, $4 premium draft beer pints, $3 well drinks & well wines, $3 house margaritas & Long Island ice teas. 1/2-off all appetizers. (Happy hour at bar only) The Turquoise Cafe-Bar Europa: Daily, 4-7pm & after 10pm: $3 artisan draft beers, $4 wines & sausages, $3.50 tapas.

**POINT LOMA**

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off select drinks & menu items (excludes holiday/concert nights).

**ROLANDO**

**Effin’s Pub & Grill:** Monday, Noon-7pm: 2-for-1 cheeses, $2.50 well drinks, $3.25 shots. $3 Bud Light & Shocktop pints. Industry night 40% off for hospitality industry. Tuesday, Noon-7pm: Taco specials daily day & night, 10% margarita personal pitchers, $3 Mexican drafts, $5 margaritas. Wednesday, Noon-7pm: 50% off boneless or regular wings with over 20 sauces, $3 select drafts. Thursday, Noon-7pm: $1 sliders, $5 personal pitchers on select drafts, AMF’s & Long Islands. $1 Bud & Bud Light, $2 Shocktop pints from 5-9pm. Friday, Noon-7pm: $4 beer & beer combos, $5 crafty cocktails, $5 jamoess all day.

**SAN MARCOS**

**Back Alley Grill:** Tuesday: All Day, $1 Taco Tuesday. Wednesday, All Day: 50¢ Wings Wednesday. Thursday, All Day: $1 off pitchers Thirsty Thursday. 

**Cowshed Bar and Grill:** Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: $3 domestic, $3.50-$4 wells. Tuesday, 4pm-2am: $3 domestic. $3.50-$4 wells.

**SANTA YSABEL**

**Santa Ysabel Resort & Casino:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, bottle beers. $1.50 food specials (bar only). Saturday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $1 off drafts, bottles beer.

**SCRIPPS RANCH**

**La Bastide:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $6 drink specials, $7 appetizer specials.

**SERRA MESA**

**Channel 1 Sports Bar and Grill:** Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $2.75 domestic beers, $3.25 well drinks. Thai Iced Tea or Thai iced-coffee with every purchase.

**SHELTER ISLAND**

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

**SAN DIEGO**

**Press Box Sports Lounge:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: 10pm-close: $1 off appetizers, draft beers, house wine, and wells.

**SANTA FE**

**Delicatessen:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 draft beers and well drinks. $5 red and white house wine. $8 margaritas. Food specials.

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**SOUTH PARK**

**Hamilton’s Tavern:** Daily, 5-8pm: $5 all appetizers.

**South Park Abbey:** Monday, All Day: $3 wells and $1.500 oz. Tuesday-Thursday, 3-7pm: $3 wells and $1.50 line. Friday & Saturday, 8-10pm: Whistle Stop Bar: Daily, 4-8pm: $1 off all cocktails, drafts.

**SPRING VALLEY**

**California Comfort:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm & 10pm-close: $1 off drinks & holiday prices. Saturday-Sunday, 10pm-close: $1 off drinks & $1.50 line prices.

**TIERASSANTA**

**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**

**University City Neighborhood:** Daily, 5-8pm: $1 off local drafts.

**VISTA**

**Chili Coast Burgers:** Monday-Friday, 4-6pm, $3.50 $1 off tap beer.

**Vista Entertainment Center:** Monday-Wednesday, 11am-6pm: $2 pints, house shots, $2.50 domestic bottles, $3.50 wells, $9 pitchers. Thursday, 11am-6pm, 9pm-close: $2 pints, house shots, $2.50 domestic bottles, $3.50 wells, $9 pitchers.

**WELDERS BAR & GRILL:** Daily, 4-6pm $1 off drinks. $1/2 off appetizers.

**Fiddler’s Green Restaurant:** Daily, 5-7pm: $4 house wine and house beer. $3.50 well drinks and margaritas.

**Humphreys Backstage Music Club:** Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off select 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.

**The Saddler Bar:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks and drafts.

**SORRENTO VALLEY**

**AJ’s Cave:** Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $4 pints, $3.50 bottled beer, $5.25 barley, $4 house beer, $5 house cocktails.

**Karl Strauss Brewing Company:** Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $4 pints, flights, house wine and wells, $5 shrimp, hummus, calamari, chili lime sweet potato fries and spinach dip.

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**INTERNATIONALY ACCLAIMED FROM SEVILLA TO SAN DIEGO**

**Live Flamenco Performance Jan 26th @ 2pm**

**72 San Diego Reader January 16, 2016**
In person, if you didn’t know her, Deborah Gilmour Smyth wouldn’t strike you as a performer. Soft-spoken and humble, she calls little attention to herself. But onstage, Smyth blooms into someone else, literally and figuratively, and the offstage person disappears.

She doesn’t like to talk about her acting. She’s done it for four decades and has learned that, like Toto pulling back the Wizard’s curtain, “talking can diminish the experience.” She’d much rather “you come and we partake in the story together.”

That’s why I was glad she agreed to talk about her outstanding performance as Vivian Bearing in Lamb’s Players’ *Wit*.

In 1999, Deborah and husband Robert Smyth, artistic director of Lamb’s, went to New York to see some shows. The day they arrived, Margaret Edson’s *Wit* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. They had planned to see it but didn’t have tickets. So, Deborah said, “Why not?” She called the off-Broadway theater, somehow managed two seats for the hottest show in town, and they went that night.

In 90 compressed minutes, *Wit* gives a frank portrayal of a woman dying of ovarian cancer. Vivian Bearing, renowned scholar of John Donne’s poetry, has lived the life of an intellectual. “I am, in short, a force,” she tells us. As her time slips away, she faces the life and death questions Donne raises in his poems and sermons.

“The play kind of washed over us. Vivian’s so smart, almost pragmatically so, and always speaks her mind. In the end she discovers kindness. She didn’t know she needed it. All the things she thought she should hold onto no longer mattered.

“People told me, ‘You will love playing a post-menopausal, bald-headed woman’ — and they were right!”

“Deborah Gilmour Smyth: “I knew I wanted to do that role someday. It was one of those ‘someday’ things.”

“I love imagining what the character is going through, and I love the work of the learning.”

“The text is the key to understanding the core of her person. Vivian, as the play says, is no cupcake. She’s a brilliant, uncompromising scholar at the top of her field. She’s fearlessly direct. *Wit* flows freely from her tongue, and...
Walking onstage without hair or makeup, and only interlocking hospital gowns for a costume, brought a surprise. “Such a lack of pretension. There’s this great freedom. It’s just, here she is. And that was my aim: let her be herself, and stay out of the way....”

“I didn’t have to think about myself at all,” in part because Vivian’s so busy. “She shows up, loses it several times, gets angry — what a very male play to do!”

Also, she fights an impossible opponent, despairs, and is met with kindness. It’s a complete human journey, beginning to end — to beginning. Every performance, I reveled in meeting this brilliant, broken woman.

During the run, Lamb’s matinees and evening shows on Saturday. They fed the actors during the break. The talk was never mundane: “Serious things: what one wants to do in one’s life; what matters, what doesn’t. Dying and death came up often.” The play inspired the questions one asks from a sleeping bag on a summer night, gazing at the heavens.

Actors warm up differently. Each night after she shaved her head, she ran through lines vocally. At ten minutes to curtain she speed-read some scenes for five minutes.

“I needed to make sure that my body, lips, tongue, and mind felt sharp and ready for her words, her thoughts, her surprises.”

She used the last five minutes to “go empty: clean out, pace and move — no brain.” At every performance, Smyth stopped just before she went on. She looked up and said, “Thank you. Thank you that I get to do this.” Then she “walked into the ride.”

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.

Anything Goes
Welk Resort Theatre presents the music of Cole Porter in a tale about life — and death came up often. The Balcony
Chronos Theatre Group presents a staged reading of Jean Genet’s hall

Don’t Dress for Dinner
PowPAC stages Marc Camoletti’s farce about Bernard’s rendezvous with his mistress that goes woefully astray when his alibi shows up that day. Sherrie Colbourn directs.

Fiddler on the Roof
Lamb’s Players is reprising one of the best shows they’ve ever done. Ever! Robert Smyth and Deborah Gilmour Smyth have co-directed this feast for the eyes and ears, including non-traditional elements (Mike Buckley’s set could be a painting by Marc Chagall); the back-up band plays klezmer instruments, and the fiddler’s live: Ernest Saucedo weaves in a motif of mirrors drama about life — and death came up often. The Balcony
Chronos Theatre Group presents a staged reading of Jean Genet’s hall

The Dinner Detective
In this murder mystery comedy, a drug-addled woman laying low in a motel. Her husband just got released from prison. What might he think of her new relationship with a younger man? Claudio Raygoro directs.

THE ASH GIRL
Jan. 16, 17, 18 PM
San Diego County Academy Clayton E. Liggett Theater

LITTLE WOMEN
Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14 PM
Westview High School

MACBETH
Feb. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14
Bishop’s School

SCHOOL PLAYS

ACTING AND MUSICAL THEATER SHOWCASE
Jan. 30, 3:30PM, Jan. 31, 7PM
School of Creative and Performing Arts

THE ASH GIRL
Jan. 16, 17, 18 PM
San Diego County Academy Clayton E. Liggett Theater

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
Jan. 16, 17, 18 PM
San Diego County Academy Clayton E. Liggett Theater

ONE ACT FESTIVAL
Jan. 22, 7PM
San Diego County Academy Clayton E. Liggett Theater

STEEL MAGNOLIAS
Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14
Westview High School

La Jolla Neighborhood Guide
$6.99 COMING SOON!
For decades, La Jolla was largely unknown. It became a hideaway/looking place for the rich and famous. Strollers down Shore Beach included U.S. presidents, J. Edgar Hoover, movie stars, and artists. Now read about La Jolla from Mitt Romney to Raymond Chandler, most important annual events, and institutions that make La Jolla what it is. Plus 30 original nonfiction stories, the best hikes or walks, outrageous real estate offerings, and cartoons of its famous residents.

A BAD, BAD, boy
$4.99
The little known Southern California underworld of the mid-Twentieth Century comes to life in this unique, never before told story of San Diego Mafia hit man Frank Bompensiero. Born in Milwaukee to Sicilian parents, the Bomp, as he came to be known, was one of the most fearsome Cagaregimes of the Los Angeles crime family.

Complete Guide to San Diego Breweries
$6.99
There is no place like San Diego when it comes to craft beer — nearly 80 operating brewhouses and roughly 40 in the planning stages. Whether you’re looking for a brewery restaurant, lush beer garden, brewpub, or tasting room, all of San Diego’s options are here.

The Film Reviews of Duncan Shepherd
$2.99
For 38 years, Duncan Shepherd served as the film critic for The San Diego Reader. The Five-Star Reviews collects those relatively few films that merited his highest indicator of priority, from 1924’s The Last Laugh to 2009’s A Serious Man,
Scripps Ranch Theatre continues its 35th season with the chamber musical, by Greg Coffin, that’s a “sample platter of styles” presented in a “date-night” format of five short plays. Joey Landwehr directs.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 10455 POMEROAD RD., SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-577-7728. 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 23.

In the Time of the Butterflies
The San Diego Rep stages Caridad Svich’s drama based on the Mirabal sisters (aka “the butterflies”) who led resistance against Generalissimo Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Todd Salovey and Herbert Siguenza direct.

SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 26.

Nunsense
Moonlight Stage Productions opens its winter season with the “habit-forming musical comedy” about the five remaining Sisters of Hoboken who must stage a variety show to bury the other 45, who died of food poisoning. Carlos Mendoza directs and choreographs.

AVO PLAYHOUSE, 303 MAIN ST., VISTA. 760-742-2110. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 9.

Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash
The Laguna Playhouse presents a tribute of over 30 songs by the legendary “Man in Black,” including “I’ve Been Everywhere,” “I Walk the Line,” and the title song. Steve Steiner directs.

LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE, 605 LAGUNA CANYON RD., LAGUNA BEACH. 949-261-8071. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 2.

The 39 Steps
Due to popular demand, Lamb’s Players Theatre has moved its production to the Horton Grand. In the classic Hitchcock movie, Richard Hannay’s caught in a web of international intrigue and becomes wanted on three continents. In Patrick Barlow’s parody, Hannay goes through a warped looking glass and enters the Actor’s Nightmare: He has a clue about a vital secret but nobody has a clue what to do next. The Lamb’s Players show, brisk and beautifully timed, is goofy fun. David S. Humphrey, Kelsey Venter, Jesse Aebel, and Robert Smyth sprint through blink-of-an-eye scenes and costume changes. Some of the funniest parts come when a bit doesn’t work, by design. These supposed mishaps skewer the campy stuff the way the script skewers the movie. They also underline the dexterity of the cast and Deborah Cilmour-Smyth’s spot-on direction. Worth a try.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-5853. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 23.

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**AUDITIONS**

**Becky’s New Car**
PowPAC
13250 Poway Rd., Poway
Open auditions at PowPAC, Poway’s Community Theatre, upstairs in the Lively Center. Call backs (if necessary): 7pm, Wednesday, January 22. Performance dates: Fridays and Saturdays at 2pm and Sundays at 2pm, March 14 through April 13, at PowPAC. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Copies of the script are available to email from the director, Jay Mowrel. At jaymowrel44@gmail.com.

Auditions: JAN. 20, 21 7PM

**Cabaret**
HOWARD BRUBECK THEATRE AT PALOMAR COLLEGE
1140 W. Mission Rd., Palomar College January 15: Vocal. Bring sheet music; an accompanist will be provided (no a cappella); prepare a verse and a chorus. January 16: Dance. Dress for movement. January 17: Callbacks. Cold readings from script. Performances: March 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16. Pat Lamer, director; Sue Gilson, choreography; Ken Bell, music director. Info: plarmer@gmail.com.

Auditions: JAN. 15, 16, 17 7PM

**Cabaret Night**
SAN DIEGITO ACADEMY CLAYTON E. LUGGETT THEATER
800 Santa Fe Dr., Encinitas Performed by students in musical theatre production.

Auditions: FEB. 22 6:30PM

**Dancers for SeaWorld’s Splash Dance**
3520 CURTIS ST, SAN DIEGO, CA 92110
Apply at seaworldsandiegoauditions.com.

Auditions: JAN. 18 10AM

**Faded Glory**
NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE
5870 Lomas Santa Fe Dr., Solana Beach

Auditions: FEB. 23, 24

**Legally Blonde**
CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL
650 1st Street
A ditzy and naive sorority girl uses her beauty and brains at Harvard Law School. Auditions for the Spring musical cast. Meet in the music studio. Performances April 25, 26, 27, May 2, 3. 2PM & 8PM.

Auditions: FEB. 3 2:30PM

**Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation**
HUBBS SEAWORLD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
5255 Ingram St., Mission Beach

Auditions: JAN. 20 1PM

**Performers and Show Hosts at SeaWorld**
HUBBS SEAWORLD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
2595 Ingram St., Pacific Beach
Seeking outgoing hosts and character actors with strong improvisation and communication skills. Apply at seaworldsandiegoauditions.com.

Auditions: JAN. 19 10AM

**Peter Pan**
SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY CENTER
3 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos
Auditions: January 25. Bring a one-minute excerpt from a song of your choice; bring an instrumental CD if desired. Also bring a school photo and a short list of past experiences you have had speaking, singing, or dancing in front of a group. Beginners welcome. Performances at the San Marcos Community Center on February 21, 22, 23. 7:30-11:45PM.

Auditions: FEB. 20 7PM

**San Diego Follies**
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THEATER
1545 Pioneer Way, El Cajon
Christian Community Theater’s 7th-annual San Diego Follies Goes Hollywood, a musical/dance review of Hollywood blockbusters. Features seniors ages 55+ performing dance numbers, solos, duets, instrumentals, and comedy routines. Friday, February 7, 6:30 to 8:30PM; Vocalists, solos, and groups. Saturday, February 8, 10 to 11am: Dance, kick-line, and showgirls; 11am to 1pm: Specialty acts, solos, and ensembles. Auditions limited to one minute. Bring a CD or sheet music. Must be 55 or older. Appointment: 619-588-0206.

Auditions: FEB. 7 6:30PM, FEB. 8 10AM

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**What would you risk to get your life back?**

Tickets start at $29 Starts January 25

By Laura Marks Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch

Contains strong language and a brief scene of staged violence that may not be suitable for all audiences.

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Any small incident Any small incident or change in your neighborhood could be enough to make an interesting story. If unsure, email stories@sdrreader.com and ask.

We also accept submissions for concert reviews, cd reviews, and travel stories.

How to start: Go to SDRreader.com, scroll down on right-hand side to Write a Story for us. Follow the easy steps.
Eat your roots

Not unlike the Japanese tourist who kicks off Paolo Sorrentino’s latest cinematic feast by collapsing under the scenic force of his search for the great beauty of Rome, I find myself more than a bit overwhelmed.

_The Great Beauty_ is just that; an imposing tribute paid to a city, an age, a mindset, and a certain tendency in Italian cinema. It’s also the greatest echo of Fellini since _Mean Streets._

Disillusionment kicks into high gear in the days following the 65th-birthday blowout for celebrated journalist Jep Gambardella. Played with a mournful comic pail by Tony Servillo, Jep Gambardella is Sorrentino’s answer to La Dolce Vita’s Marcello Rubini, and damn if Servillo’s idler doesn’t rival that of Mastroianni. A self-described “transparent person, without a doubt,” Jep, who has been living a life of moral decline for decades, made up with just the right touch of Westmore latex, her third-act appearance opens the floodgates for a nibalistic roysterers have been doing for decades. Made up with just the right cinematic camerawork and boomerang editing patterns to power three features. Still, Beauty occasionally falls victim to its own excess. The fact that these insatiable partygoers won’t vamoose until after it’s all gone is made clear from the outset. The numerous scenes of pogo-dancing revelers that follow the initial bash are redundant.

Sorrentino’s nostalgic arrow to the past never finds its bull’s eye: the title conceit of the great, lost beauty is rather flimsy for such a sophisticated main figure. I’m not certain that beauty was the film’s only target. As one of the film’s more sympathetic sycophants points out, nostalgia is “the only distraction left for those who have no faith in the future.” I’ve seen only three of Sorrentino’s narrative features and _This Must be the Place_, his bid for Hollywood recognition, doesn’t count. Based on _The Great Beauty_ and _Il Divo_, I have every bit of faith in Sorrentino’s future as a major cinematic artist.

— Scott Marks

**ROBERT DONWNY, JR.: A CONSIDERATION**

Deeper and deeper we go into the cinematic void that is January. The stygian emptiness is so encompassing by now that we must ask ourselves pointless, unanswerable questions just to keep going. So: will 2014 be the year that movieland’s love affair with Robert Downey, Jr. sputters out like Jarvis after Tony Stark spills his mimosas all over the hard drive? Signs point to yes!

Sign number one: his presentation speech for Best Actress at the 2014 Golden Globes on Sunday. It started well enough: “No matter whose name is called when I open this envelope,” he began, “tonight, I’m leaving here a winner.” Ha ha! What a wisecracking egotist — just like his renditions of Stark and Sherlock Holmes! His first two gags got that chuckles, but then: “Should it be Miss [Julie] Delphy [for Before Midnight], it reaffirms the artistic integrity of sequels.” Silence.

And then the desperation sets in: “If it goes Greta Gerwig’s way [for Frances Ha], I shall finally stop associating her surname with a film about an angry inch.” Wow — a tortured reference to a minor film that came out 13 years ago, just because “Hedwig” sounds a little like “Gerwig.” The laughs are getting nervous now. Can this be happening? And to finish: a gag about how Meryl Streep has won a lot of awards — enough to fill a shipping container()!. His Streep joke got topped by Tina Fey’s line about strong roles for Meryl Streeps over 60! It’s as if even Robert Downey, Jr. is getting tired of Robert Downey, Jr’s schtick.

Sign number two: look, we all know it’s about the money, and by that measure, RDJ really is king for a day, thanks to his $50 million payday for _The Avengers_. He called himself a “strategic cost” — the studio knows it has to have him, much more than it has to have, say, Christian Bale to play Batman. But there are other measures of power as well. Back in November, Downey’s _Iron Man_ co-star Terrence Howard claimed that he was pushed out of the franchise because Downey demanded so much money that the studio decided to cut Howard’s salary from $8 million to $1 million. Getting your co-star replaced so you can get paid? That’s some serious influence.

But according to _Radar Online_, he was unable to get even a minor role — as the president — for his friend Mel Gibson in _Iron Man 3_. I mean, what does it say about you when you can’t get a Hollywood studio head to cast your pal, himself a former A-lister? I mean, it’s not like Gibson...oh, wait, he did! Oh.

Mel Gibson fascinates me a little — I even wrote a book about him — and so here we get to the real point of this January meandering: my deep curiosity about whether the most beloved man in Hollywood will be able to rehabilitate the
The Soloist

For now unreviewed. Thousands of past comments are indicated by one to five stars and antipathy — or love. Priorities are for Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities to our collective art without shame. He did get a gig in The Soloist, a terrible film that never found my faith. Didn’t have to be his or mine. And he kept a roof over his head and kept food on the table. And most importantly, he said that if I accepted responsibility for my wrongdoings and if I embraced that part of my soul that was ugly — hugging the cactus, he called it — he said that if I hugged the cactus long enough, I’d become a man of some humility, and that my life would take on a new meaning.

…So who knows? Maybe Downey got what he was after. I was never as sure as he was. But Robert Downey, Jr. wants you to ask whether they’re tropes at all. The challenge: Carell’s weatherman, once panicked, unmedicated ‘80s). Suddenly, he’s the heroic partner in love and hustling. But even a bum gatsby may run afoul of a bully because it’s focused on the psychological suspense and taking a controversial topic and turning it on its head. You will never look at the psychological suspense and taking a controversial topic and turning it on its head. You will never look at a mirror or toilet the same way again.

The 25th-anniversary DVD DVD of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s The Phantom of the Opera at the Royal Albert Hall is an amazing performance with all the pomp and circumstance of an Andrew Lloyd Webber production. The best moment occurs after the moment occurs after the performance is over and Sarah Brightman sings alongside five past and present phantoms.

The Soloist

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for new unreaders. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDR reader.com/movies.

47 Ronin — Because sometimes, seven samurai just aren’t enough. KeAnu Reeves and Keanu Reeves stars as the mysterious outcast the titular Ronin pick up on their way to avenge their murdered master. 2013. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

American Hustle — A heaping helping of period pleasure from director David O. Russell. Irving Rosenfeld (a gutsy Christian Bale, resplendent in combover and ascot) is a ’70s Jay Gatsby without the class anxiety, a man comfortable with the notion that everybody is, like him, working the con — getting along by lying about themselves (and often, to themselves). And of course, he’s got a Daisy Buchanan in Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams, acting her heart out), his partner in love and hustling. But even a happy Gatsby may run afoul of a bully afflicted with overheating ambition and delusions of superiority — in this case, Bradley Cooper’s FBI agent, who ropes the pair into helping him go after bigger game. And then there’s the Other Woman (Jennifer Lawrence), the sexy blonde who’s only half as dumb as she looks. There’s a suitably twisty plot, but the point here is the people. It’s a bit overlong and overmuch, but it’s still a helluva party. 2013. — M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues — Having ramped around the harmlessly inane world of local television news in the original, well-coiffed anchorman Ron Burgundy & Co. (Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, David Koehler, and Paul Rudd) enter a world that is much more serious and in much more need of lampooning: the nightmare of inattention, pandering, and propaganda that is cable television news. It’s the sort of embiggening that a sequel demands, but the film isn’t much interested in the challenge. (If anything, it makes fun of the challenge: Carell’s weatherman, once merely simple, goes full nutjob in this one.) This isn’t satire, or even spoof — it’s farce. If you expect more than that, “sorta’ noise.” The great majority of the proceedings are devoted to Ron’s ridiculous personal life, ’80s callbacks, and an endless barrage of gags. It’s the sort of acting that you’ll only see some of them. Possibly in spite of yourself. With Christina Applegate. 2013. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

Dallas Buyers Club — Matthew McConaughey plays a bag-of-bones, good of heart, hair-thin addled trader who has the misfortune to bang the wrong (female) intravenous drug-user (Heather Graham) in the wrong way (sends condom) in the wrong place (darkest Texas) at the wrong time (the panicked, unmedicated ’80s). Suddenly, he’s cast out among those he hates, and overdosing on the only medicine out there (AZT), which nearly kills him. (The bastards at Big Pharma and the FDA, eager to cash in on the AIDS panic, are running human trials.) Eventually, he heads south of the border to visit a discreet doctor who knows what’s good for him. And what’s good for Ron is good for his fellow sufferers, including Rayon, a jumpy trans woman played with mesmerizing commitment by Jared Leto. So our hero starts peddling meds and making bank, and learns to love along the way. Naturally, the authorities object. With Jennifer Garner. 2013. — M.L. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Devil’s Due — Pregnancy can be hell — hey! You know what would have made Rosemary’s Baby so much more awesome? Found footage and more special effects. Yeah. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

Girl, Boy, Bakla, Tomboy — Vice Ganda plays quads — a straight boy, a straight girl, a gay boy, and a gay girl — who get separated at birth: the straight ones with the rich dad, the gays with the poor mom. Eventually, they find each other at the mall. Hijinx ensue. (DIGIPLEX MISSION MARKETPLACE; DIGIPLEX TEMECULA TOWER CINEMAS; REGAL HORTON PLAZA)

Gravity 3D — An illustrated existential crisis. Or, a survival story in which nearly every exterior event carries interior significance. Either way, it’s gripping. The story is simple: an astronaut (a smooth-faced Sandra Bullock), cut loose from her spiritual moorings by a freak accident, is cut loose from her physical moorings by another freak accident. Now, just a hair’s breadth from the cold embrace of the Big Nothing, she must struggle to find her way back to life. Also, earth. Director Alfonso Cuaron’s story about death and Christian tropes — her journey back to life begins only after fellow astronaut George Clooney lays down his life for her and tells her how to be saved — to the point where it’s fair to ask whether they’re tropes at all. The camera does an enormous amount of the work here — now watching Bullock as she
spins helplessly through space, now holding the (based-on-true) story of a four-man mission gone very bad in Afghanistan. The desired response to the action onscreen seems to be awe rather than gratitude—from the outset, it's made clear that these men are a breed apart, warriors by nature. They suffer and fight because they want to suffer and fight, not because of cause or country. And when the bad guys start to close in, it's not the soldiers' sacrifice that plays as heroic, it's their endurance in the face of horrific injuries and insane odds. Berg's hand is sure enough to guide the operation's buildup and detail with low-key aplomb, and makes the case for war as hell, an inhuman darkness that serves to highlight brief moments of calm. — M.L. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — Katniss Everdeen won her murder tournament in The Hunger Games. Now she has to deal with the aftermath. Once again, the best reason for seeing a Hunger Games movie is star Jennifer Lawrence, whose professional, Old Hollywood vsage brings to mind the best of Audrey Hepburn. And once again, the second best reason is the just-committed-enough supporting cast. Stanley Tucci as the game show host from The Hunger Games: Catching Fire is a domesticated Lawrence's style—life handler, Donald Sutherland as the quietly wicked President Snow, and now, Philip Seymour Hoffman as the strategy-minded and gamemaker. (Wall Street is fun to watch, but not nearly dissipates enough as the alcohol-soaked mentor.) That's the bait! The sequence of entanglements, followed closely by the CGI-ridden Games themselves. Director Francis Lawrence (Water for Elephants) brings a steadier hand to the proceedings than his predecessor, and there's some fun political playmaking, but the series still stumbles over its brutal, bloody centerline. 2013. — M.L. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

Inside Llewyn Davis — The Coen brothers, as a producer, direct a lot better as your vicarious suffering to Theodore, a lonely boy (played by an opaquely vulnerable Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with his new smart operating system.

“If you love your tech so much, why don’t you marry it?” is no longer a (bad) joke especially when your tech has the voice of Scarlett Johansson. Surprise, surprise, it turns out that matters in a relationship, and not just because it gives a guy a place to input his dongle. As usual, the sci-fi fireworks are there to illuminate the shadowy landscape of present-day humanity: the absurdity of the marriage of connectivity, the uncertainty about what qualifies as being In Real Life, and oh yes, the little boy self-absorption that makes dealing with other people so very hard. With Amy Adams.

In Real Life, and oh yes, the little-boy self-absorption that makes dealing with other people so very hard. With Amy Adams.

In Real Life, and oh yes, the little-boy self-absorption that makes dealing with other people so very hard. With Amy Adams.

In Real Life, and oh yes, the little-boy self-absorption that makes dealing with other people so very hard. With Amy Adams.
MOVIE SHOWTIMES

CARMEL MOUNTAIN
Reading Carmel Mountain
Jill Sprecher (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
Sun (11:30, 1:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
12 Years a Slave
Steve McQueen (R) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
CUBANITA
Two Idiots In Cuba
Agnieszka Holland (R) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Steve Carell (PG) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15, 5:30) 7:00, 10:05
12 Years a Slave
Steve McQueen (R) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
The Book Thief
John Boyega (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
Steve Carell (PG) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15
CUBANITA
Two Idiots In Cuba
Agnieszka Holland (R) Fri-Sat (11:30, 2:15) 5:00, 7:30, 10:15

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AMC Palm Promenade
2707 Pomerado Road (888-262-2368)
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Regal Rancho Del Rey
1025 Tierra del Rey (818-219-4706)
Call theater for program information.

NEWPORT BEACH
BONSAI
Digiplex River Village
2526 Mission Road (760-945-8784)
12 Years a Slave (Fr) Fri-Sat (7:00, 10:15 Sun 7:00, 10:15
Devil's Due (Fr) Fri-Sat (7:00) 2:30, 5:30, 8:15, Sun (12:00) 2:30, 5:30, 8:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (Fr) Fri (1:45) 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Survivor (Fr) Fri (1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
The Nut Job (Fr) Fri (1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

IMPERIAL BEACH
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NATIONAL CITY
AMC Plaza Bonita
3050 West Washington Boulevard (888-262-2368)
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NORTH INLAND
BONSAI
Digiplex River Village
2526 Mission Road (760-945-8784)
12 Years a Slave (Fr) Fri-Sat (7:00, 10:15 Sun 7:00, 10:15
Devil's Due (Fr) Fri-Sat (7:00) 2:30, 5:30, 8:15, Sun (12:00) 2:30, 5:30, 8:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (Fr) Fri (1:45) 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Survivor (Fr) Fri (1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
The Nut Job (Fr) Fri (1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
The Nut Job Country (PG) Fri-Sat (1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

POWAY
Digiplex Poway
13475 Poway Rd (858-679-3887)
1. Nemukondane (NR) Sat (3:00) Sun (3:00)
2. The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
Debut Ishqaya (NR) Fri (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
7. Nontobeni in 3D (PG) Fri-Sat (1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) The Nut Job (PG) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) 5:15, 8:15, 11:00
12. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
13. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
15. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)

WAYNE
Digiplex Playhouse
14375 Poway Rd (858-679-3887)
1. Nemukondane (NR) Sat (3:00) Sun (3:00)
2. The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
Debut Ishqaya (NR) Fri (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
7. Nontobeni in 3D (PG) Fri-Sat (1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) The Nut Job (PG) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) 5:15, 8:15, 11:00
12. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
13. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
15. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)

NOVA MONTANA
Digiplex Poway
13475 Poway Rd (858-679-3887)
1. Nemukondane (NR) Sat (3:00) Sun (3:00)
2. The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
Debut Ishqaya (NR) Fri (11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15)
7. Nontobeni in 3D (PG) Fri-Sat (1:30) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
The Desolation of Smug (PG-13) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) The Nut Job (PG) Fri-Sat (11:45, 2:15) 5:15, 8:15, 11:00
12. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
13. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
15. Students Night Out (NR) Sat (9:00)
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Institute are conducting a new study testing meditation and cognitive behavioral treatments for PTSD. We are looking for Volunteers (men & women), age 18 & older with a Diagnosis of PTSD. For more information, please call 877-286-9246 x9570.

RESEARCH

BIOMINFORMATICS SCIENTIST (Resume 10458) Reap for contributing to technical comparative analysis of genomics data sets & R to see review. Peak Masters 2 yr Med School or PhD. Mol biologists to Alcion Diagnostics, Inc., 2000 Runway Ave., San Diego, CA 92126. Call for interview times: 858- 635-3758.

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LINE COOKS Needed for fast growing, gourmet food truck. Tending, Special events and parties throughout San Diego County. PT/ FT flexible hours. $10.00 to start + TIPS! Advancement opportunities! Free meals. One-year experience preferred. Must have Handler’s Card. Can start day 1. Must be reliable and be a hard worker.

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SALES: Big Game Promotions is now hiring for full-time inside sales. No experience required. Fun working environment. Base + high commissions + daily gratuities + Paid training. Medical benefits. Must be available to work weekends and holidays. E-mail resume to jobs@biggamepromotions.com or call 619-517-2580 to schedule interview.

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TRADING: 619-372-1933

TRADERS: Good people, great hours, good money, 7am-3pm. Unlimited commission.  6 months experience. No Telecommuting. Relocation benefits available. East-Tech Private Security. E-mail resumes to easttech2171@aol.com or call Oceanview: 760-433-9477. San Diego: 619-282-1933.

SECURITY GUARDS.

SECURITY GUARDS. Full-time and part-time guards at construction sites, hotels, etc. Mostly evening shifts between 3pm-11pm. Must have valid CA Licenses. Minimum 2 years experience required. Full time shift. Rates up to $15/hour. E-mail resumes to easttech2171@aol.com or call Oceanview: 760-433-9477. San Diego: 619-282-1933.

TRADES / LABOR

Painters

$18-225/ hour. Requirements: English speaking, own tools and equipment and have own equipment and vehicle. Must have valid CA Licenses, current auto registration and insurance. 2+ years experience required. Fill out applications Monday - Friday, 10:00am to 5:00 pm at 317 Dorothy Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911.

COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER, Design, develop, test and implement software/ integrate software using enterprise software, Oracle, JSP, JMS, J2EE, PL/SQL, PL/Oracle, SQL, Java, JavaScript, EJB, JDBC, AJAX, Ant, Web Services, Weblogic Server, Agile, Unix and Windows. Requirements BS/ MS in computer science, information systems or engineering +5 year experience. OS 3 years as MS-JOB in San Diego, CA and unanticipated locations throughout US. Drug testing required. No Telecommuting. Relocation benefits offered. Email resumes to: Systemics, Inc. at penny@sysintelli.com.


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San Diego Reader | January 16, 2014
SAN YSIDRO
No uptick in border-business sales...yet
Tax increase could be a good thing
Though it is just after the buying season, San Diego border businesses are expecting an increase in traffic from the Mexican sales tax hike of 2014.

“As of right now, it’s pretty slow. We’re not seeing a lot of traffic,” said Luis Romero, a supervisor at the Ralph Lauren Factory Store in San Ysidro. Contacted during the first week after the holiday season, Romero said that the store is bringing in about $300 an hour lately, when last year it could take in as much as $3000 per hour.

“There’s not a big increase,” Romero said. “Right now we have Mexican shoppers, but not as much money as expected.”

The Mexican tax increase that took effect January 1 raised the sales tax from 11 to 16 percent and is expected to boost the number of shoppers who cross into the United States to do their shopping. Passed by the Mexican congress last October, it was contentious legislation that drew criticism in Mexico from those who support the international border area.

Mexican congressman Jaime Bonilla is worried about the impact of the tax on Mexico.

“I was against it because I know it will hurt businesses along the border,” Bonilla said in press accounts. “People aren’t going to pay the 16 percent. They’re just going to buy their items elsewhere.”

Bonilla considered the tax increase to be a bad idea while the economy is recovering from the conflicts between drug gangs and the police.

Romero, of course, is looking forward to changes. “It is going to impact the store. The majority of our customers are Mexican.”

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
Who cares about community boundaries?
They do!
While it may not matter to those who don’t live there, one group is fighting another over the boundaries of University Heights. The University Heights Community Development Corporation is battling with the University Heights Community Association over this touchy issue.

According to the Community Development Corporation’s petition-signing website, if the Community Association “wins their battle to exclude everyone on the east side of Texas Street,” those residents/businesses will be “kicked out” of University Heights.

UHCD’s petition posits that exclusion from University Heights would result in “reduced property values for resale and for refinancing (appraisals).” It also explained the area would have “no access to neighborhood grants and funds offered by the City or County for community improvements” and “less of a voice when other policy issues arise.”

LA MESA
Furries descend on Lake Murray
Just here to “have fun”
On January 4, LMFAO (“Lake Murray Furry Anthro Outing”) arrived at Lake Murray to have their monthly meeting, which they hold on the first Saturday of every month.

The several members greeted each other and onlookers with over-the-top friendliness and glee.

Everyone was hugging, laughing, riding motorcycles, and playing tag. The atmosphere was joyful and playful. Some bystanders were wondering how they could become a member. They were told that anyone who shows up on the first Saturday of every month could become part of the group.

“What is the real purpose?” was the question on most people’s minds. When asked, one member responded that LMFAO’s sole mission was to have fun.

SUSAN LUZZARO
Eddie said he’s had a string of hard luck. He’s been on the streets since June, when he and his girlfriend lost their apartment. He said, as far as services go, he gets food stamps and that two churches in Chula Vista (St. Rose of Lima and another one on Fifth and E) give food to the homeless several days a week.

“But New Year’s Eve was cold, down around 35 [degrees]. I crawled in my mummy bag and usually I get warmed up, but not that night…. I was afraid I was going to get hypothermia…. There’s some buildings here,” Eddie said, gesturing to Third Avenue, “that don’t have any occupants. Chula Vista could open one of them up for the homeless to stay in....

“There’s definitely been an increase of homeless in Chula Vista,” Eddie said. His observance corresponds with the annual count done by the San Diego Homeless Project. The count is done only one night a year.

In 2012, the number of homeless counted in Chula Vista was 426; in 2013, the number rose to 495.

DAVID BATTERSON

SAN DIEGO READER
Continued from page 6

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LEAD STORY
— The notorious white separatist Craig Cobb is currently soliciting like-skinned people to move to his tiny town of Leith, N.D. (pop. 16), to create a deluxe Caucasian enclave, but at the urging of a black TV host submitted to a DNA test in November to “prove” his lineage — and turned up 14 percent black (“Sub-Saharan African”). He has vowed to try other DNA tests before confirming those results. Bobby Harper, previously Leith’s only black resident, was gleeful: “I knew there was one other black person in town.” (In mid-November, Cobb was charged, along with an associate, with seven counts of terrorism for walking menacingly through Leith wielding a long gun.)

Government in Action
— The Environmental Protection Agency, already revealed in June to have allowed a contractor to maintain taxpayer-funded “man caves” (TVs, appliances, couches, videos, etc.) hidden away in a Washington, D.C.-area warehouse, made the news again during the government shutdown in October when soup with a 1997 expiration date was found during the shutdown in an EPA employees’ refrigerator. Furthermore, in September, former high-level EPA executive John Beale pleaded guilty to defrauding the agency of $900,000 in salary, expenses, and bonuses dating back to the 1990s by claiming work orders (including secret projects for the CIA) that no one at the EPA appears to have tried to verify.

— In October, Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro created a “Vice Ministry of Supreme Social Happiness” to coordinate the welfare programs begun by the late president Hugo Chavez. Critics charged, however, that there is much to be unhappy about, given the country’s annual rate of inflation (near 50 percent), and an Associated Press dispatch quoted a critic who said she would be happy enough if only stores were not constantly out of milk and toilet paper. (Another skeptic said he looked forward to maybe a Vice Ministry of Beer).

— Though many people might agree with blind musician Stevie Wonder that it is “crazy” to let people like him carry guns, federal and state laws seem ambiguous, according to a lengthy analysis of laws supplied by the Des Moines Register in September. Some Iowa sheriffs believe that federal anti-discrimination law limits their discretion (though they can deny permits for lack of physical or mental ability to handle the gun). The National Federation of the Blind generally trusts its members never to use guns recklessly, a spokesman said, and blind Iowa activist Michael Barber emphasized his right. “[Y]ou take it out and point and shoot,” he said, “and I don’t necessarily think eyesight is necessary.... For me, the inspiration is just to see if I run into any difficulties.”

Great Art!
— Leandro Granato, 27, said that he discovered, as a kid in Argentina, that liquids sucked up through his nose could then be squirited out of his eye — and an art career was born. News sites reported in October that Granato’s “eye paintings” of ink colors, splattered out as tears on canvas in various motifs (from up to 1 1/2 pints of ink each), are offered for sale for about $2400 each. (Huffington Post’s story also reminded readers that Chilean artist Carina Ubeda is another who uses her body functions as a medium — specifically, her menstrual blood, which she employed in the form of 90 used sanitary napkins arranged in a hoop featuring an apple, symbolizing ovulation. Her June show ran in Quito, Chile.)

Police Report
— Rachel Gossett blew a .216 alcohol reading in Loganville, Ga., in November, but that was probably a formality after an officer witnessed her attempt to put a cheeseburger from a Waffle Shop onto her foot as if it were a shoe. And Rashad Williams, 38, was charged with DUI in Atlanta in October after he crashed through the front of a Walgreens drugstore and then, according to a witness, calmly exited his vehicle (which was sticking halfway into the building) and resumed drinking next door at the Anchor Bar.

— Sheriff’s deputy Darrell Mathis of Newton County, Ga. (30 miles east of Atlanta), a five-year veteran, was arrested in September and charged with selling marijuana locally — from his squad car, in uniform, and apparently without inhibition. A confidential informant, unnerved by Mathis’s alleged brazenness, convinced FBI agents in April 2013 to do a by-the-book sting (with which Mathis, of course, naively cooperated, according to bureau affidavits). (In their final meeting before the arrest, for example, Mathis took pains to assure the agents: “Don’t worry. I’m on your side.” He was reportedly enthusiastic about the sting’s plan to run marijuana and cocaine from Alabama to North Carolina.)
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Across
1. They might be inflated
2. Afternoon movie
3. More sluggish
4. Schnoz
5. Hard Italian cheese
6. All-female group’s policy
7. “Star Wars” creature whose name is “Wookiee” in “Star Wars” creature whose name is “Wookiee”
8. “The Chosen ____” (slogan of the “South Park” boy
9. “South Park” boy
10. Berkeley campus nickname
11. Whitman
12. Boy band with the hit “Liquid ___”
13. Win a Reader hat or t-shirt
14. Arrive
15. Hernandez’s hand
16. Myrna of film
17. Boy who sang like Sinatra
18. Nobelist Bohr
19. “Gimme those!”
20. Highlighted, as text
21. Steinbeck
22. RMN served under him
23. Deliciously hot ___
24. Whitman
25. A. S. in Respiratory Therapy, A.S. in Physical Therapist Assistant, Dental Hygiene, A.S. in Dental Hygiene, A.S. in Dental Hygiene
26. Medical kit. Train with San Diego’s best trainers
27. Classico competitor
28. Backward flow
29. “The velvet fog”
30. Soulful Baker
31. “Hernando’s hand”
32. Classico competitor
33. “Whites of mine”
34. “Whites of mine”
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’s PUZZLE:

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The plainly printed puzzle (2009 Kesha hit “Tik ____”)

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The plainly printed puzzle (2009 Kesha hit “Tik ____”)

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San Diego Reader / January 16, 2014
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North County


South Bay

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**January 16, 2014**


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fireplace, dishwasher, hardwood floors,
laundry, coin laundry. 8530 El Cajon Blvd.
619-713-1044.

LA MESA, 11925
3BD+2BA and 2BD+1BA $1900.
Near bus, shops, SDSU. Laundry room.
2BD+1BA apartment. Stove, refrigerator,
w/d hookups. Private patio. 619-265-
8500.

MIRA MESA, 11608
1BD+1BA $1450. 1BD+1BA, 1 and 2
bedroom apartments. Pool, short distance
from freeway, schools, shops. Hourly
rental, coin laundry. Come mtd Ocls for
our move-in special 858-271-0191.

North County Coastal
GILROY, 61295-2795,
1BD+1BA $1295+, 2BD+2BA $1500-
3BD+2BA $1795. New! Newly remodeled
dishwasher, washer/dryer in unit. New paint
and carpet. If you can find one better... rent @ 7506 Frieras Rd. Call Rachel at 819-
804-1044 or Jeff at 619-713-1044.

LAINE CHERRY, 61295
1BD+1BA $1245+. In-unit washer/dryer,
off-street parking. 619-574-9256.

LA MESA, 11528
1BD+1BA $1245+. In-unit washer/dryer,
off-street parking. 619-574-9256.

LA MESA, 11547
3BD+2BA and 2BD+1BA $1999
apartments.Bienvenido a la privada
located, close to trolley, bus, shopping.
619-933-5189.

LA MESA, 11528
356-358 S. University Ave., San Diego, CA 92105
San Diego Reader | January 16, 2016 | 91
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New Energy Massage
3817 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92105
Open 9AM - 7PM
619-264-0610.

Navajo Spa • (619) 462-1912
8736 Lake Murray Blvd. #107 - San Diego, CA 92119

Completely Relaxing! Pretty Asian Girl Massages
OSAKA MASSAGE
1845 Adams Ave.,
(1 blk east of Park Blvd.)
University Heights
Open Daily 9am - 11pm
Major Credit Cards Accepted
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2BD+2BA, quiet, gated apartment near
the University of San Diego and Fashion
Valley shopping! Updated with a balcony,
fireplace, dishwasher, hardwood floors,
laundry, coin laundry. 8530 El Cajon Blvd.
619-713-1044.

MIRA MESA, 11600
1BD+1BA $1450. 1BD+1BA, 1 and 2
bedroom apartments. Pool, short distance
from freeway, schools, shops. Hourly
rental, coin laundry. Come mtd Ocls for
our move-in special 858-271-0191.

SMASHED ORIENTAL MASSAGE
2BD+1BA and 2BD+2BA $1900.
Near bus, shops, SDSU. Laundry room.
2BD+1BA apartment. Stove, refrigerator,
w/d hookups. Private patio. 619-265-
8500.

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our move-in special 858-271-0191.
**San Diego**

Deposit. Fully furnished studios, and shops. No pets. 4546 52nd Street.

Walk-in closet, huge bathroom, 2BD+2BA large, remodeled apartment.

KENSINGTON-TALMADGE, $1150. Kensington Drive, #1. 619-280-1800; village. Available February 1st!

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Studio. Lovely garden courtyard with pond. No smoking. Gated. Block to some wonderful memories.

Elisa Urmston

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50’s - 60’s, 356 Coupes, Roadsters, Jaguar

Generous prices paid.

**OFF THE CUFF**

BY ANDY BOYD

What was your favorite new song of 2013?

**ASA MUSICIAN WANTED**

As a musician, I deeply appreciate the art of crafting music that resonates with others. It’s like sharing a secret language that transcends the barriers of time and culture.

Ziva Gottesman

"Sexy Socialite." Chrono. So badass retro '80s, it’s the most fun song of the year.

Marty Joyce

Everyone should check out the Winery Dogs. Best band of 2013 w/ Richie Kotzen, Billy Sheehan, & Mike Portnoy. Unbelievable talent.

Shelley Bosinski-Steele

Kind’ve embarrassed as admit that it is “Wrecking Ball.” By Miley Cyrus. It’s kind’ve catchy.

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Hillcrest. In/out calls. MT#12116. Light shiatsu, Thai, lomi-lomi massage.

Buy 2, get 2 Free

Free Shocks
Alternator
Starter or CV Axle (Installed, most cars)

$39 for 60-min Body Massage
Karma Relaxation Spa has been consistently reviewed, the Best Massage Spa in Central San Diego! Mention the “Reader” for a $30 60-minute massage. Or ask about the The President Package: 2-hour indulgence that includes a 60-minute body massage and a 60-minute foot massage, for only $79. Hot towel service, showers, a dry sauna and our new steam room are also available! No expensive memberships or fees, just great massages at great prices. Cash is required for these discounted prices. See our complete ad on the inside-front cover of this week’s “Reader”, or call: 888-509-1470.

Allured by a Goddess...

HEALTH & FITNESS


World Class Massage!
Professional.
Pamela’s.
Sunset Beach.
Serious coastal setting.
Scented.
unincorporated.
Shower.
Hotel calls
welcome! Seven days, 9am- midnight.

MASSAGE BY BODYBUILDER, for your health and pleasure. Consistently told, “The best massage I’ve ever had!” Friendly. Professional IPFB graduate. massage@pacoap.com or call Robert, 619-222-2142.

PUERTO RICAN MASSEUR.

 shorthand, Thai, lomi-lomi massage.

In/out calls. MT#12116. Light shiatsu, Thai, lomi-lomi massage.

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window tint new cars and trucks lowest prices guaranteed

Window Tint $98
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Japanese Auto Plus
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FREE TOWING (within 10 miles) with major repair (over $100)

To the Guy Who Insisted On Shaking My Hand Right Before Telling Me How Sick He Was,
Wow. You were up all last night, huh? Feverishly throwing up? Chills, too? Yikes. And YOU COULDN’T HAVE TOLD ME THIS BEFORE YOU ABSOLUTELY TRANSMITTED YOUR SICKNESS TO ME VIA DIRECT SKIN-CONTACT? Next time, FYI, a friendly wave will suffice. Maybe a tip of the hat, if you’re feeling saucy. Or better still, just stay home! Why are you out meeting new people anyway? Your apartment has warm soup and soft blankets and, most importantly, not me. Let me know when you’re better. It’ll be about the time I’m coming down with the flu.

Sincerely,
Looking For Hand Soap
**Pacific Beach 92109**

**Smog Check 369**
- $35 Certificate of Compliance (most cars), Bring OMYN Malco.
- Visit sdreader.com/tattooyou for details.

**Oil Change Special 149**
- Most 4-cyl. cars. includes new oil filter, EPA. up to 5 qts. oil. 
- Most 4-cyl. & 8-cyl. cars. Some visits extra.

**A/C Service 25**
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**Smog Check** $10 Off
- Expires 1/31/14

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**LeeSmith53:** Got this in honor of the classic TV show, and because I own a 1969 replica General Lee Charger!

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**Window Tinting Available**

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**NEW TAI CHI AND QI GONG Classes.**

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**STAR Certified**

**SMOG CHECK**

**$10 OFF**
- Expires 1/31/14

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- with a S55 body wrap! Regularly $70. 1st time clients only. Not water loss. FANIE Botanical Products. Watch the video on our website and check out our Yelp reviews! Karie Hayden & Associates. 970 Homeland Rd. Pacific Beach, 858-581-3321.

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**ALIGNMENT $29**
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**PREGNANT THINKING OF ADOPTION?** Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Family Nationwide. **LIVIND. EXPENSES PAID.** Call 619-267 Abby’s One True Gift Adoption. 866-413-6293. **ADMISSIONS PAID.** Void in Illinois/New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

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**53,000 WEEKLY Mailing Brochures From Home.** Helping home workers since 2001. Genuine Opportunity. No Experience required. Start Immediately with the following agencies & More! Visit www.easywork-fromhome.com (AAN CAN) **409-7582.**

**BREATHE & STAY WELL**
- **BREATHE RIGHT, INC.** 7:30PM, 12/2, 1/6/14, 2/3/14 & 3/3/14 by Howard. Thursdays $20 per food share. 9am-12:00pm. Sunday food share $3, same location (enter off alley) 1310 Market 12:30-2:00pm, 619-283-3066.

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**Free Psychic Healing** Healer, free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30PM. 1194 SW 50th St., 858-378-14, & 74 by Vessia’s Clairvoyant Program students. 4415 Mission Boulevard, 858- 509-7582.


**PRAISE CHORUS** Drumming and singing with the sacred plus. All are welcome. Call 619-766-3316.

**FREE PSYCHIC HEALING** Healer, free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30PM. 1194 SW 50th St., 858-378-14, & 74 by Vessia’s Clairvoyant Program students. 4415 Mission Boulevard, 858- 509-7582.


**PRAISE CHORUS** Drumming and singing with the sacred plus. All are welcome. Call 619-766-3316.
**San Diego Reader**

January 16, 2014

**PHONE:** 619.913.9673

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BUY 1/8TH FOR $60, GET ANOTHER 1/8TH FREE!
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REAL Doctor Medical Marijuana Cards
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North Park: 1-858-200-5100
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