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NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights
Text messages of love...and death; and News Ticker .......................... 2
Under the Radar ............................................................................. 3
Letters .............................................................................................. 4
Neighborhood News ................................................................. 6
SD on the QT
Almost factual news ...................................................................... 12
Ask a Hipster
Who is this Elvis Presley character you speak of? ......................... 13
Unreal Estate
Your personal link has a view of the Fairbanks Ranch links ............. 14
Blog Diego
No girl sets out to die .................................................................... 16
Sporting Box
The problem with the Chargers is Philip Rivers is cursed .............. 16
Taxi Driver
If this is how America works, man, there’s no hope for humanity.
By Dorian Hargrove and Thom Senzee ........................................ 18
Raging Bull on Christmas Day?
Our movie critics cross swords over Christmas.
By Scott Marks and Matthew Lickona ...................................... 27
Crossword .................................................................................... 68
Sudoku ............................................................................................ 70
News of the Weird ....................................................................... 77

CALENDAR

Events
Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance,
Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures,
Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness ........... 33
Travel & Getaways
Grownups at play in the mud in Corona’s Glen Ivy ......................... 34
Post-fire Garnet Peak hike boasts a flurry of wildflowers ............ 34
Poetry
“To Jesus on His Birthday,” by Edna St. Vincent Millay ............... 36
Religion
College footballer chooses the pulpit over the gridiron ............... 38
Water Front
First surf and first catch of the new season ................................ 40
Restaurants
Ed Bed elbows his way into “America’s best happy hour” .......... 43
Feasters’ delights (and disappointments) ................................. 44
Music
Blurt ......................................................................................... 47
Club Crawler .............................................................................. 50
Ed Ghost’s “long hair, don’t care” drummer lists his hits ............. 52
Everyone’s a Critic ..................................................................... 56
Happy Hour ................................................................................ 58
Theater ....................................................................................... 61
Movies ....................................................................................... 62
**NEWS TICKER**

By Reader staff writers

**Manchester borrows $295 million for Texas hotel**

Is this a “distressed situation”?

With construction of U-T San Diego publisher Douglass Manchester’s convention hotel in Austin, Texas finally underway, some details of its unusual non-bank financing have become public.

As previously reported by the Reader, the hotel project broke ground last month after troubled asset mogul Thomas Barrack, famous for bailing out the late pop star Michael Jackson and celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz, announced his Colony Financial, is listed as Barrack’s tony Colony Capital would finance the project.

“As a rule, Barrack is drawn to distressed situations,” according to a New York Magazine profile from October 2010.

Manchester had long struggled to find enough cash to get the project off the ground.

According to a document filed with the Travis County recorders office in late October, a Delaware corporation by the name of CoFlIn Fair Austin Funding has come up with a loan of $295 million for the hotel.

The address of CoFlIn, apparently short for Colony Financial, is listed as Barrack’s tony headquarters in Santa Monica.

U-T’s October story said Hunt Construction Group had received a $247 million contract to build the project.

The identities of any others who might have an interest have not been revealed.

The original developer, Manchester Texas Financial Group, LLC has handed its ownership over to a new Delaware corporation, Manchester Austin, LLC, according to Travis County records. The chief executive of both entities is listed as Richard Gibbons, second in command of Manchester’s Mission Valley-based operations.

**Man allegedly forced into oral sex, sues cop**

Christopher Hays, now in jail, sued by woman same day

On December 10, Trent Gene Veasey, Jr., charged in Superior Court that he was forced to perform oral copulation on former San Diego policeman Christopher Hays. The suit names Hays, former Police Chief William Lansdowne, the San Diego Police Department, and the City of San Diego. Also on December 10, an unnamed female filed suit against Hays, the police department, and the City for sexual harassment. According to local media, Hays pleaded guilty in August to false imprisonment and assault under color of authority.

In his complaint, Veasey charges that on December 19 of last year, a police officer, “believed to be Christopher Hays,” according to the complaint, gave Veasey a choice: he “was going to be charged with a crime or be allowed to leave without being arrested if he performed oral copulation on Officer Hays,” according to the suit. “Out of fear, duress, and coercion,” Veasey then performed the sex act, according to the suit.

Veasey is asking for less than $10,000 for services of hospitals, physicians, nurses and other professionals, loss of income, and attorney’s fees.

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CITY LIGHTS

because she didn’t care any-

more.” One time Salazar came home and found Juan sitting in the living room. “I just said, ‘You broke one of the rules.’” Garcia was not supposed to bring her date inside. Salazar denied it made him angry.

The couple vacated the apartment in May of 2013, and Salazar moved into a home on nearby Leeward Court. Garcia was gone only two weeks before she was back, knocking on Salazar’s door again. “She said, ‘If I pay the rent I end up with nothing.’” Salazar let her move in with him again. “I had two jobs. I paid all her household expenses. She didn’t have to worry about anything.” Salazar worked at a factory, plus he had his own cleaning business. “I was doing everything I could to make her comfortable.”

On Tuesday, June 11, 2014, Salazar went to work as usual, and then he joined Garcia at her mother’s home for dinner. Maria Garcia lived only three miles away. After dinner Garcia borrowed her mom’s truck and drove Salazar and herself home. That was about 10:30 p.m.

Soon after they arrived home, Garcia’s younger brother phoned to ask if he could use the family truck that night. Garcia said she would call him back and then she began a flurry of texting messages. Salazar confronted Garcia about messages he’d seen on her phone and drove Salazar and her—

continued on page 30

Photo: Bob Weatherspoon

CITY LIGHTS

Home at 399 Leeward Court in Oceanside

Garcia had a complicated relationship with Juan Melgoza.

Salazar confronted Garcia about messages he’d seen on her phone at the Pit Stop Diner. It was his 24th birthday.

Police lifted a mattress and found a body hidden underneath.

The knife was found between the stereo speaker and receiver in the cluttered room.

CITY LIGHTS

UNDER THE RADAR

Beer and bar mitzvah A Jerry Brown appointee to the board that runs the Del Mar fair has decided to throw in the towel after just one four-year term. “I am writing to inform you that I will not be seeking an additional term as a member of the Board of Directors of the 22nd District Agricultural Association following the expiration of my term on January 15, 2015,” says a November 14 letter from David Lizerbram to Brown appointments secretary Mona Pasquil.

“While my immediate professional and chari-
table commitments over the next year will prevent me from continuing to serve as a Director following the expiration of my term, it would be my pleasure to be of service to the State of California in the future.” Lizerbram, “co-founder of the Craft Beer Association of San Diego, a think tank focused on promoting San Diego County’s dynamic craft beer industry,” according to his website, recused himself and left the room during a fair board debate this fall about turning its pseudo Spanish Revival “Race Place” complex into a super-sized brewpub and wedding venue. Questions by Lizerbram about an earlier proposal that would have allowed booze behemoth MillerCoors to set up a microbrewery with fair food vendor Premier Food Services had raised nagging conflict of interest questions. “We want to do this in a way that passes every smell test,” board chairman Fred Schenk said regarding Lizerbram’s September recusal. Schenk is also a Brown donor and fair board appointee whose sister Lynn was a top Brown aide and now serves on the state’s high-speed rail commission. Reached by phone earlier this week, Lizerbram said his decision not to stand for reappointment to the fair board was unrelated to the beer vote. Lizerbram’s father, Sol, a longtime Brown campaign backer, was a business associate of Richard Silverman, Brown’s business and transportation secretary during the Democratic governor’s second term back in the 1970s. The fallen financier subsequently went to prison after being caught up in a federal money-laundering sting. In 1989, the then-former governor—who as of the end of 2013 has reported having between $100,000 and $1 million worth of stock in Sol Lizerbram’s Health Fusion, Inc. — attended David Lizerbram’s bar mitzvah.

Wheel-greasing Republican county supervisor Bill Horn has been getting some reflected financial love from one of the San Diego’s biggest landholders. Rancho Guajito, which is enmeshed in a struggle to develop its sprawling 22,000-acre holding in North County’s back country, gave $15,000 in cash on behalf of the supervisor to unspecified county “special events” on November 19, according to a so-called behesting report filed with the county clerk December 1. Herzog Contracting, which also has done plenty of business with the county, came up with $5000 on November 5, also for un-itemized “special events.” Herzog employees kicked in a total of $2800 for Horn’s successful re-election bid earlier this year. In addition, the company gave a total of $2000, to a political action committee run by the county’s Deputy Sheriffs’ Association that favored Horn.

DeMaio’s vows Word out of Washing-
ton earlier this month that defeated GOP congressional candidate Carl DeMaio is starting up a new super PAC has been followed by a quick rollout of the committee’s website, which suggests the former city councilman is in for a big makeover. “It’s time for new a new generation of leaders,” says the homepage. “Leaders who aren’t afraid to push new, bold ideas for our future.” The pitch continues: “They challenge the Republican Party to go beyond being the party of no’ to offer to positive and bold ideas to solve problems facing our country... These leaders want to reach out to every community to win support and build a true governing majority welcoming Latinos, Asians, Afri-
can Americans, Women, LGBT, and youth. Instead of focusing on divisive identity politics, these leaders focus on ideas that unite different communities together as Americans.” A dash of libertarianism is also part of DeMaio’s mix: “Instead of focusing on divisive social agendas, these leaders respect indi-

continued on page 31

Republican county supervisor Bill Horn getting financial love from some of San Diego’s biggest landholders.

Co-founder of the Craft Beer Association of San Diego, David Lizerbram, recuses, excuses himself from fair board debate over micro-brew-themed ventures at the race place.

David Lizerbram
**LETTERS**

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460; address them to Letters, Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186-5803; or submit them through our website at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

**Formulate a Plan**

Re: “I Make ... $9 an Hour Plus Tips” (December 18 cover story).

It took me nine years from the time I started college in 1974 to get my bachelor’s degree in math, and a teaching certificate in 1983, and I worked minimum-wage paying jobs to do it. I worked downtown, uptown, took the bus everywhere (90 minutes from Clairemont to SDSU), and got very little sleep; but I did it. I didn’t major in anything silly that wouldn’t get me a job, and I didn’t make any babies.

What I’m talking about is that I had a plan. Although my plan started over 40 years ago, I still recommend that everybody formulate a plan, talk it over with others to be sure it’s sensible, and start working on accomplishing that plan. Every day that goes by, you’ll be one step closer to your goal. You can do it! I did.

Just be persistent and persistent, and always have faith in yourself.

Allen Stanko
Alpine

**Not Society’s Fault**

If I had any emotional response to the plaintive offerings of the individuals quoted in this article about the need for a much higher minimum wage (“I Make 300 Cups of Coffee Every Day. I Get $9 an Hour Plus Tips,” December 18 cover story), it was one of incredulity at their lack of awareness about how their actions begat the consequences they now decry.

It is not society’s fault that you married an illegal alien, had four children, and now must work in a fast-food restaurant for low wages.

It is not society’s fault that you dropped out of high school to have a child out of wedlock.

It is not society’s fault that you live in poverty, and you are subject to the very low wages.

It is not society’s fault that you grew up in an abusive environment.

If you’re 62 years old, and have never worked, you are not society’s fault.

If you’re 26 years old, I’m calling about your article, “300 Cups” (December 18 cover story). It actually struck a nerve with me. I wrote this down because I wanted to choose my words wisely and to not offend some of these people.

I don’t know their backstory, or how difficult their life has been.

I’m 26 years old. I’m undocumented and have been living here for 24 years. I’ve never had much, but I never complain. I work a full-time 40 and a part-time 30 to provide for my wife, who is a full-time student. All I ever want is to become a citizen. I pay taxes, just like everybody else. I’m constantly on Craigslist looking for labor gigs.

I feel people have to be on their hustle and be relentless, not taking no for an answer. Many of these people are just expecting life to be a cakewalk. I feel that’s why they’re in the position they’re in, possibly putting payoff before work. My only advice to them, as an illegal, is to stay hungry,
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E. Patterson

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“Dr. Katzman and his staff are kind, courteous and professional. My visits were painless and enjoyable. I will return for future eye care needs and will recommend everyone who needs eye care to come and see them.”

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*See office for details. All offers not valid with certain plans or insurance. Cannot be combined with other offers. Must bring ad at time of visit. Offer expires 1-31-15.
Vice mayor Ruth Sterling asked Alessio if she polled the council before voting. Alessio said, “No,” leading to discussion between the two. Sterling said, “That was one of the chief complaints that was presented to the mayor [Madrid].” She later said, “Art was crucified over and over again for not bringing something forward” to the council before acting.

LIZ SWAIN

CARLSBAD

Pickleball pickle

Tennis players contend they can’t spare a square.

Dozens of Carlsbad tennis players who spoke against converting two Laguna Riviera tennis courts to pickleball courts were heard last week, as the city council voted unanimously to reconsider that part of the park’s master plan — while they approved the rest.

City staff and a private park planning consultant spent the last year drawing up the plan, which includes community gardens and reducing the number of tennis courts. But local tennis players — who were alerted to the vote on the plan only by a handwritten sign posted at the courts by resident Jerry Forsch, were able to persuade the council to take another look.

“It would be an absolute tragedy to take away these two courts for a game I’ve never heard of,” said Joanna Raworth. “This area has 40,000 tennis players and 35 pickleball players.”

In fact, Forsch said, the Pickleball Association says that works great — that adding dedicated to pickleball and restripe it. You can move temporary nets onto the court.”

Forsch and Robert Fila went to see pickleball being played and came back with the notion that tennis courts — even basketball courts — can be adapted to pickleball without eliminating them as tennis courts.

“You can put four pickleball courts on one tennis court,” said Robert Fila, who runs a private tennis club. “That’s how I would accommodate this. I’d set aside a few hours dedicated to pickleball and restripe it. You can move temporary nets onto the court.”

In fact, Forsch said, the Pickleball Association says that works great — that adding stripes and using nets that can be set up and taken down for dedicated use works fine.

But Forsch said the park planners told him that it caused problems by confusing pickleball players, and that the city has a surplus of tennis courts.

MARTY GRAHAM

TIJUANA

“I don’t think I understand my concept”

The naked lady house

Tijuana III Millennium or “La Mona” is an iconic giant sculpture of a naked woman that doubles as a house. The sculpture is five stories tall and weighs over 18 tons.

“One thing向前” to the council before acting.

LIZ SWAIN

LA MESA

Art was crucified

Amicable end to the mayor’s era

While 38th District state senator Joel Anderson showed up at the December 9 La Mesa City Council meeting to honor outgoing lawmakers Art Madrid and Ernie Ewin, former San Diego mayor Dick Murphy was there to administer the oath to a new councilman.

An overflow crowd attended the meeting where mayor Madrid and councilman Ewin received street signs, and there were installation ceremonies for new mayor Mark Arapostathis, his only speaker during public comment. “This was crucified by his being elected,” he said.

Outgoing mayor Art Madrid with sign, city manager David Witt in the background

LA MESA

Tijuana’s sculpture-meets-live/work space

“La Mona” gets a fresh coat of paint.

La Mona is located in Colonia Aeropuerto, near Tijuana’s airport, and overlooks the city with her right arm extending up into the air. Armando Muñoz started building the giant lady in 1987 and finished it in 1991. Armando does not live there anymore but still uses the space as his office and to host tourists that visit his work.

In the last week of November, La Mona got a new paint job from head to toe. “Ava Ordoñez approached me in person,” Muñoz tells me via Facebook about how his famed sculpture got redone. “Then the artists that she told me about came and did their work. Everything was done by the young artists who did a wondrous job. Work is incomplete, though, her right hand and arm are still missing.”

Alfredo “Libre” Gutiérrez, an artist from Tijuana, was in charge of leading the international art intervention on the sculpture. I asked Libre about the hand situation; “the work is finished, I purposely left a space with the texture of how she used to be, a conceptual thought on her classic look. But me and Armando don’t see eye to eye...I don’t think he understood my concept.”

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

ENCINITAS

Why, Y?

Baseball and soccer players squeezed out by city

The city of Encinitas took bold action to cancel a 10-year lease with the YMCA that provided the best and most useful park and playing fields in the city and replaced it with a 30-day tenancy agreement cancelable without cause by either party. Huh?

And, oh yeah, they kind of forgot to tell the thousands of people who run, jump, kick, shoot, tackle, and play on these fields, day and night.

In 1989, the then-nascent city of Encinitas entered into a 25-year lease with the YMCA.

The YMCA didn’t have the money to build the facilities, and the city didn’t have the money to buy the land, so a deal was struck. The city agreed to build three or four baseball fields that could also accommodate at least two soccer fields, plus a snack shack and equipment storage areas.

In return for constructing and maintaining those amenities, the city would have the right to program those fields to suit public demand including Encinitas Little League, Encinitas Soccer League, and what became up to seven other user groups.

The lease payments for the five acres of prime real estate less than a mile from the beach was a whopping $25 for 25 years. Do the math, the 25 years was up in 2014.

continued on page 8
Holiday Bowl
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But the lease also had a ten-year option that the city could exercise at its discretion at the end of the original 25-year lease. For some reason that no one will fess up to, they threw that away.

JEROME STOCKS

PACIFIC BEACH

How to win the gas station war
“I can be competitive... I’m an independent.”

The battle lines have been drawn in Pacific Beach. It may come as no surprise that oil is involved or that the conflict has an immediate impact on the local region. The difference here is that the effect is a positive one — consumers win in the ongoing P.B. gas wars.

The two stations involved face each other across Grand Avenue along Ingraham Street. As the main thoroughfare to and from the freeway, thousands of drivers witness the price changes as often as two or three times a day.

Gino, owner of Pacific Beach Gas, was the first in the beach area to break the $3 a gallon barrier. For several weeks now his first task upon opening each morning is to adjust his gas price based on what he sees across the street, usually about a penny lower. He reasons, “I have to so we’re competitive, and I can because I’m an independent. They are corporate but they have the better corner.”

Rachel, assistant store manager at the opposing station, Valero, said “the corporate office monitors the prices in the area. We change the rates whenever they tell us to or as often.”

At these prices there is speculation that this year even Santa may drive.

BARRY MEYER

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Sea World President Fed to Figurative, Then Literal Sharks

Ever since the release of the 2013 documentary Blackfish, SeaWorld has been struggling to stay afloat amid accusations that it has mistreated both its killer whales and the trainers assigned to care for them, with occasionally deadly consequences. Now, facing declining attendance and declining stock prices, the company has decided to terminate President and CEO Jim Atchison.

"Since the release of Blackfish," said Atchison in a recent press conference, "SeaWorld has been the victim of a media feeding frenzy that has eaten away at both our reputation and our bottom line. At times, it has seemed like you media types felt it was more important to throw scandalous chum to the unreasoning beast of prurient public interest than it was to find out the truth about our park's killer whale program. Throughout this ordeal, I have been held up as some kind of unfeeling monster who delights in the suffering of the helpless. Oddly, that's sort of how I feel about all of you. At any rate, you've all gotten your pound of flesh: SeaWorld's Board of Directors has asked for my resignation. They have also asked that I be eaten by sharks, in full view of the press, in an effort to restore public goodwill toward this wonderful vacation destination, one that does so much good and brings so much joy to the world. So I guess that's a few pounds of my flesh that you won't be getting.

"I only hope that my brutal, agonizing end, here at SeaWorld and also here on earth, will be sufficient to slake the bloodlust of the seemingly insatiable mob that has taken upon itself to make war on one of America's most beloved animal icons and the bastion of entertainment and research that it stands for. Finally, I must admit that it gives me no small amount of pleasure to note that I am being fed to sharks as opposed to orcas, because the trainers were unable to guarantee lethal results from the orcas unless I dressed up in a seal suit and rolled in bacon grease. And even in an age of wholesale waterboarding, the government considers that cruel and unusual. Who's a killer now, bitches?"

It's been called the "Pacino Principle," after the actor who spoke the lines, or the "Montana Maxim," after the character he portrayed. But no matter what it's name, its veracity has never been questioned — until now. What had been an ironclad law of Bootynomics, something akin to "Good girls always go for bad boys," may have to be re-evaluated, all thanks to an undergraduate right here at San Diego State.

Readers may recall that back in March, SDSU student Luke Dzierzanowski ran for a Student Government seat for the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. Mr. Dzierzanowski, concerned about the previous year's low voter turnout (under 20%), sought to raise awareness through a campaign ad featuring himself and four young women. He never spoke, but the women in the video assured viewers that he would be getting their votes on election day. Alas, those four votes were not enough to secure victory, and his campaign ended in defeat.

Worse, voter turnout was even lower than in the previous year's low voter turnout (under 20%), victory, and his campaign ended in defeat. SDSU student Luke Dzierzanowski ran for a Student Government seat for the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. Mr. Dzierzanowski, concerned about the previous year's low voter turnout (under 20%), sought to raise awareness through a campaign ad featuring himself and four young women. He never spoke, but the women in the video assured viewers that he would be getting their votes on election day. Alas, those four votes were not enough to secure victory, and his campaign ended in defeat.

Of course," notes Jackson, "this is only the beginning. It's a long way from mold to penicillin. The ad ran months ago, and yet, there he is, surrounded by lovely young women in skimpy bathing suits. Well, I can't. This is too important."
Dear Hipster:

Re: your November 27 column. The Hipster is clearly far too young to be able to pontificate on what is or is not "hip" or "hipster" (whatever that means). Punk rock and skinny jeans. My foot! Or, more like, "My winklepicker shoes!" (Ouch!) The "skinny jeans" or, more accurately, "drainpipe jeans," go back to the 1950s and 60s, even back as far as Roy Rogers, as I understand it. Has anybody of your "hipster" fraternity ever heard of Elvis Presley? Ask him about it when you next see him.

Considering they were the biggest proponents of a burgeoning format, hipsters are justly implicated in the rise to prominence of the blog as art form, medium unto itself, and border-line obligatory undertaking for anyone between the ages of 12 and 60 who wants a credible internet presence. Most bloggers fall into one of two camps. There are the fresh college grads who consider it a kind of living resume, and then there are the frustrated authors who think they'll be the next Julie Powell if they break the critical threshold of online celebrity.

Too many bloggers I've enjoyed reading over the years have shown their true colors, proving to be members of the latter group. As soon as their respective book deals come through, the blog I once loved becomes little more than a hollow front to sell a $29.99 coffee table book. Book tour announcements and links to the author's online marketplace replace the whimsical content that originally captivated me for untold minutes.

Maybe when they write the definitive biography on me, this will be the anecdote that explains where I draw the line between "things I enjoy for free" and "things for which I will spend my otherwise scrupulously hoarded finances." To me, keeping a personal blog solely in hopes of attracting attention to one's unpublished novel about plucky dwarves who live in the sewers beneath Ann Arbor, Michigan and solve crimes with the help of a socially awkward teenager (warning: hilarity and feels ensue!); well, that just reeks of early-2000's internet naïveté laced with a kind of get-rich-quickism.

I hate to sound bitter of others' successes, but it burns when they abandon their original audiences at the first whiff of success.

— BERNIE

Of course hipsters know of this “Elvis Presley” character! He’s the guy wearing Carl Perkins’s blue suede shoes, right? His jeans were skinny, but not that skinny. Besides, wasn’t he known more for the raging pelvis than for the jeans that could barely contain it? Rockabily wannabes sometimes dress kind of like him, but with more tattoos and Bananarama shoes. We don’t consider them hipsters because their look hasn’t been fashionable since the first time the Stray Cats broke up. The rockabilly crowd broke away from the greater hipster empire long ago, and they show no signs of ever rejoining us. The only thing the two factions share is a mutual fondness for Kim Jong Un’s haircut.

Dear Hipster:

How come you don’t have a personal blog? I thought all hipsters had to have personal blogs, or at least Tumbrs. I might read it, if that’s any consolation to you.

— DJ Stevens
Prospective buyers of the 11,400-square-foot estate located at 4790 Rancho Del Mar Trail are invited to enjoy “championship living” in a home that listing materials report has been described by a seasoned travel writer as “truly a multi-starred resort.”

The property, tucked between Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe in San Diego’s northern city limits, is “sited on a spectacular ridge overlooking Fairbanks Ranch Country Club” and the San Dieguito River Valley and provides “an elegant solution for those who enjoy entertaining formally or at a more casual pace — or both.”

Guests arrive at the estate, which “exudes sunny warmth via its Old World stone facades and tiered tile rooflines,” via a “captivating stone circular driveway, which surrounds a tranquil fountain” and leads to a six-car garage along the side of the main residence. Interior features include a wine room, “handsome two tiered wood gentlemen’s library with sitting room above,” a sound-proofed private theater with seating for eight, two-room gym with “nearly six figures” worth of professional exercise equipment, and a billiard room with tin and copper ceilings in addition to its own bath. A central atrium is surrounded by second-floor balconies, with a great room encompassing the kitchen, dining, and family areas below. Each of the home’s five bedrooms is equipped with private living areas, in addition to ensuite bathrooms. "Construction elements include “handsome walnut floors,” multiple fireplaces, exposed beam ceilings, wood-inlaid arches, a home automation system with digital lighting and shade controls, and exterior “Old World stone facades and tiered red tile roof lines.”

The home is being offered fully furnished with pieces selected by noted Rancho Santa Fe interior designer Maria Barry of Le Dimora, whose “magnificent furnishings harmonize with in-place stone work, alder wood cabinetry through-out and black walnut coffered ceilings, trims and paneling.”

Outside, a covered barbecue and patio area offers outdoor dining surrounded by “just right” mature landscaping and views from the Del Mar racetrack to the hills of Rancho Santa Fe. In addition to the lagoon-style pool and spa, the backyard boasts its own single 63-yard par-three hole of golf, plus a large sand trap and putting green.
Public records show the current owner of the Rancho Del Mar estate as James W. Clarke, though the property is not listed as a personal residence. The listed mailing address in Irvine is shared by Clarke Directory Publications, a producer and distributor of yellow pages-style phone directories.

The property was built in 2006, and last sold as new construction for $8.8 million in late 2007. It was listed for sale for the first time in mid-November with an asking price of $10 million, which remains unchanged to date.

The living area was appointed by noted Rancho Santa Fe designer Maria Barry of Le Dimora.

LETTERS continued from page 20

and go out there and get it. Personally, I feel this is the greatest country on Earth, the land of opportunity. Nothing's gonna get done just standing around complaining you've got to go out there and get it.

Name Withheld via voicemail

Typical of America
This is regarding the minimum wage article (“I Make 300 Cups of Coffee Every Day, I Get $9 an Hour Plus Tips”) in your December 18 edition. I was kind of sickened by the first story in the article.

Let’s see if I got this straight. A girl gets herself knocked up in high school by somebody here illegally, drops out of high school, then proceeds to have three more kids with the same guy by the age of 25. Now he can’t get a job, at least not a real one, because he’s not here legally. And she’s working 15 hours a week at a fast-food place, meanwhile getting government support that our taxes pay for. The best part is, when asked if she was looking for a better job, she replied, “Not right now, no.”

So, apparently, it’s ok to just keep living off the government and having children. Unfortunately, this is very typical of America today, and especially California. Things need to change. People need to get themselves a little better educated or at least develop a skill so they can at least support themselves.

Erik Brantly via voicemail

This Is Crazy
This concerns Ask a Hipster in the December 18 issue. Are you people kidding, or what? That illustration — I’m trying to look at it with a magnifying glass and all I can make out are six different kinds of wrapping paper with different prices. I can just barely make out the price; it’s $20 or $30 or something. But the text ... it’s illegible. I can make out wrapping paper, but that’s about all.

What the heck are you people trying to do there? I thought the Union-Tribune was bad, with the funny papers that aren’t funny anymore. It’s so tiny that you can barely read it. The old-time funny papers were about two or three times what the U-T has them shrinken down to.

But this wrapping paper illustration, this is crazy!

Name Withheld via voicemail
That old black magic

I

terms of fan interest, yes, the Chargers Saturday night comeback ranks right up there. The Bolts push on with their December heroics, every game in a must-win game, every game is a walking-to-the-edge thriller, every game everything is on the line. Will they or won’t they? THEY DO! San Diego makes the playoffs and loses in the second round!

The Niners continue playing beautifully in the first half and tanking in the second half, particularly the fourth quarter. This year San Francisco’s second-half scores stand at 76 points versus 150 points for their opponents. That’s lousy coaching and that’s why Harbaugh will be fired. Having a fingernails-on-blackboard personality greases the wheels and makes his firing more satisfying, but seeing a Harbaugh-led team, over and over, lay down in the fourth quarter is why he’s gone.

The problem with the Chargers is the quarterback. Philip Rivers is cursed. He’s always referred to as an elite quarterback, but he’s yet to play in a Super Bowl. Since Rivers became a starter in 2006, the Chargers have produced the following playoff record: 2006 lost Divisional Playoff, 2007 lost Conference Championship, 2008 lost Divisional Playoff, 2009 lost Divisional Playoff, 2010 did not make playoffs, 2011 did not make playoffs, 2012 did not make playoffs, 2013 lost Divisional Playoff.

You don’t think that kind of a record was made by chance do you? I thought not. It’s obvious Rivers is under a curse and a strong one at that. What he needs is magical self-defense. And he’s going to get it. Follows is from spellsandmagic.com, Philip, listen up.

“On the first night of the waxing moon, gather the following ingredients: a square of black cloth a little larger than your hand, one tablespoon of curry, one tablespoon of dill, one tablespoon of vervain, one tablespoon powdered ginger, one consecrated black candle, paper and black ink pen, one black string, knotted nine times.

“On paper, write the full name and birth date (if known), of the person who has cursed you. Place the paper in the center of the bag. One at a time, add the herbs, covering the slip of paper. Next, take the lit candle and drip 5–10 drops of wax over the paper and herbs. Visualize the person who has cursed you and say their name aloud three times while tying the bag shut with the knotted string.

“...bury the bag somewhere on the property of the person who cursed you. The bag must remain there undisturbed until the next waxing moon. At that time, dig up the bag and burn the contents.”

I’m sure alert readers see the problem. We don’t know who cursed Rivers, we only know he is cursed.

Talliesin McKnight speaks. “If you feel that someone has put a curse on you then this is a method to send it back to them. All you need is a black candle, a mirror, and some reversing oil.”

“Some folks like to use a double-action candle...it has two colors. White and black is a general double-action candle. Or, if it’s specific, if someone has cursed you in love you could use red and black. Cursed in finances you could use green and black.

Cut the candle’s top off, where the wick is, turn the candle upside down, take a knife and carve a new wick at the bottom. The symbolism is reversing, turning it around. Next, carve the enemy’s name, backwards, in the candle.”

Let me interject here. The problem, Mr. McKnight, is, we don’t know who the enemy is.

“If you don’t know your enemy’s name, you can just write My Enemy backwards. Then anoint the candle with a reversing oil. You can buy it online or make it yourself. Then burn the candle on top of a mirror, a cheap hand mirror will work. When you’re done, dispose the mirror and all of the remains away from your home.”

Okay, McKnight, you appear to have a workable spell, but your spell doesn’t have that old world, goblet-crypt feel I’m looking for. I want something that works but looks good at the same time.

Ah, here we are, “To remove a curse from yourself. Collect: one pink candle, one green candle, one black candle, bowl of water, three drops of green dye. Now, put three drops of green dye in the bowl of water. Slowly tip the bowl over each candle allowing them to be extinguished while at the same time chanting: Juina Shelt Fonsed. Do this very slowly.”

Philip, you’re playing Kansas City on Sunday. Win and in. Surely, attending to curse hygiene will be part of your game prep.

MERA DUSHMAN ZER HO ABHI!

By Patrick Daugherty

Title: Tania Przyputniewicz
Address: taniaprzyputniewicz.com
Author: Tania Przyputniewicz
From: Coronado
Blogging since: November 2007

Post Title: Marilyn, or No Girl Sets Out to Die: November Butterfly Poetry Prompt 1
Post Date: October 2, 2014

November Butterfly (my first poetry collection) comes out in 30 days! I’m anxious, nervous, and excited.

Inadvertently, over the past seven years, as I wrote the poems that would become November Butterfly, I left a trail of process posts regarding writing and the iconic women igniting my imagination on the path to understanding what it means to be female, creative, and curious. Here [is one of them, from a 2009 post to my blog Feral Mom, Feral Writer] to get you started thinking about Marilyn with me.

* * *

Marilyn, Arriving: Collage, Astrology and Poetry

I never met her, but there she stood, on the back of one of the bedroom doors in our house, gracing a poster taller than my parents. I remember falling asleep to that black and white image: city street, sturdy legs, skirt billowing up, one hand holding down the pleats but not really. It was either my brother’s poster or a poster we pitched in on for my father — I can’t remember. Maybe seventh grade.

Then she made her way into a collage I was making at a tiny round table in Joyce Renwick’s basement. (Joyce pulled me up by my bootstraps after graduate school and not only rented me her basement apartment but talked some sense into my poetry loving brain...”Yes, you can write, but you have to earn a living until your writing can earn your living...so let’s figure out where you can teach...”). Dutifully, I landed a few summer creative writing workshops and not only facilitated but got you started thinking about Marilyn with me. * * *

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Avtar Singh sat on a curb next to a small pool of his own vomit in front of the Bayfront Hilton at 2 a.m. on December 20, 2013. Blood trickled onto his chin from his lip. The knot on his forehead grew hard and pulsed. He looked at the shattered driver’s side window of his cab and worried how his boss would react. He never saw the punch coming. He only heard the glass crack and felt his head snap back. From the curb, Singh tried to make sense of not only the first punch but also the several thrown after.

He looked across the driveway where Harbor Police officers interviewed 24-year-old Navy SEAL, Kyle Blackwell. Singh had picked Blackwell and his fiancee up at the Shout House in the Gaslamp a few minutes before closing time.

The seven-minute ride to the hotel was quiet. Singh and Blackwell’s fiancee Jennifer Reynolds spoke only a few words. After arriving at the hotel, Singh told the couple they owed him $11.20 for the ride. Reynolds gave him a $20 and told him to keep the change. She exited the cab and walked toward the parking garage elevator. Singh looked down at his iPhone while he waited for Blackwell, who sat directly behind him, to exit. He heard Blackwell shifting around in the back seat. The car door finally closed. Moments later, he noticed Blackwell standing outside his window, which had been rolled down three inches. That’s when the first punch came, breaking the top of the window and stopping at his forehead.

Dressed in his Navy blues, Blackwell told officers that he had accidentally closed the cab door too hard, causing the rear window — not the driver’s window as was the case — to shatter. According to his statement to police, he said Singh started to yell and jumped from the cab. Blackwell feared Singh was from Iraq or Afghanistan, quite possibly “a Muslim extremist and
stood waiting.

where security guards
stairs on the fourth floor
and Reynolds exited the
well hit Singh again. He
parking garage. Black-
it, this time out of the
phone again and threw
failed to show up for
his arraignment. The fol-
lowing month, Superior
Court judge Howard
Shore issued a bench
warrant for Blackwell and
rescheduled the hearing
for August 2014.

Arnold spent much of
April and June contacting
the city attorney’s office
and Harbor Police for
updates.

He visited Michelle
Garland, the deputy city
attorney, responsible
for filing formal charges
against Blackwell. He
feared the city would
not prosecute Blackwell.
Arnold showed Gar-
land photos of a beaten
and bloodied Singh. She
made copies. Arnold says
the deputy city attorney
assured him the case was
moving forward.

“She said, ‘We’re going
to charge him with two
counts of misdemeanor
battery and property
damage,’” Arnold told the
Reader in October 2014.
“She told me that when
there are pictures of vic-
tims bleeding, they never
dismiss or accept a plea
deal, not unless there is at
least one count of battery
as no-contest.’”

But promises from the
city attorney’s office
weren’t enough to ease
his concerns. Arnold
called Harbor Police offi-
cer Jose Torres. Arnold
told Torres he wanted to
see the case go before a
judge. A few hours later
Arnold received a strange
phone call.

“I received an unsolic-
ited call from Blackwell
himself. I had not called
Blackwell nor had I ever
heard from him before.

[This] could not have
been just coincidence that
Blackwell reached out to
me unless Officer Torres
had called him after our
conversation.”

Fears About
Memory

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The suspicious phone call validated Arnold’s fears; the justice system was playing favorites; that a young, inebriated Navy SEAL could beat up an immigrant and authorities would do their best to forget it ever happened.

Arnold hounded the city attorney’s office. In June, Blackwell was formally charged with three misdemeanor counts — two of battery against a transportation worker and one of vandalism. He was glad to hear the case would go before a judge. But things changed as the trial approached.

The prosecutor, Deputy City Attorney Nicole Kukas, and Blackwell’s attorney, Mike Malowney, met before a judge on August 1 at a pretrial readiness conference to discuss the case. Days later, without consulting Singh or his attorney, Kukas dropped all charges against Blackwell. According to a disposition form issued after the readiness conference, Kukas cited “D133” as the reason for dropping the case.

D133, according to the city attorney’s office, is the code used when a defendant completes a rehab program. Frustrated, Arnold contacted Kukas. The deputy city attorney said there were too many holes in the case. The issues centered on Officer Torres’s statement in his report that the window appeared to be shattered from inside of the vehicle. On August 11, Singh learned of the city attorney’s office decision not to prosecute. The closest thing to an explanation arrived in the mail in the form of a letter. Inside was a note from the city attorney’s office and a check for $150 from Kyle Richard Blackwell.

"Enclosed you should find a restitution payment in full (Check No. 2011) made payable to Avtar Singh in the amount of $150.00 from Kyle Richard Blackwell. Please sign your name below acknowledging receipt of the money order and return this letter to our office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope."

Judge Keri Katz, the judge assigned to the case, never approved or signed off on any restitution order. The alleged backroom dealing doesn’t come as a surprise to one source close to the city attorney’s office. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source says there was an unspoken protocol for ensuring dismissals or favorable plea deals for SEALS and other military personnel. Prosecutors, says the source, typically notified Navy commanders and other high-ranking personnel of minor charges against members of the military. The commanders and others would then write letters on the accused’s behalf.

“[They’re] not supposed to be doing that.” The source could not say for sure whether the practice continues under City Attorney Goldsmith, but did confirm that many of the same prosecutors are still employed by the city attorney’s office.

So convinced is Arnold that the city attorney acted in bad faith he is now considering suing Jan Goldsmith.

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office.

The city attorney’s office declined to say whether anyone from the Navy contacted the prosecuting attorneys before dismissal.

“He represents the military. To me he’s a hero. He fights for the country. He’s a soldier, and I give him mad props, mad respect. If I have to give him a free ride I would, because he fights for the country. He’s supposed to protect and not hurt. The strangest part about it is that I’m not even Muslim. I’m from northern India, bro. People call me Muslim and I get offended by that, you know what I mean.”

Singh is still baffled by the incident.

“Harbor Police came up to me three times to negotiate. I said no. He said, ‘Look, let him just pay for the window.’ I said, ‘You tell me he’s going to pay for my window and we are done? What about my lip? What about my phone? No, I want to press charges.'”

Continues Singh, “I felt that Harbor Patrol didn’t want to get him in trouble with his Navy department. It wasn’t all about the money, though it is important. I had worked something like 16 hours with his Navy department. It wasn’t all about the money, though it is important. I had worked something like 16 hours.

Nearly one year after the assault, Singh sits inside Arnold’s Bankers Hill office. He wears khakis, sneakers, and a button-down shirt. A Padres hat rests in front of him on the large meeting room table. “The uniform means a whole lot to me,” he says of Blackwell.

RESEARCH STUDIES

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For lawyers, all of whom are officers of the court, legal boundaries are rarely blurry.”
that day. That means I worked that day to allow for him to break my window. So, yeah, I wanted him to go to jail. Police officers told me that the court would deal with it.

Singh stops himself mid-sentence.

“But what else could I do? I mean, the guy broke my window and then runs. What if he went to his hotel room? I would have never found him and I would’ve had to pay for the window on my own. Wouldn’t have made much difference, I guess.”

Singh’s attorney says there are still many unanswered questions.

“Why did they dismiss the case? What made them decide to grant restitution? Who negotiated the deal?”

So convinced is Arnold that the city attorney acted in bad faith he is now considering suing Jan Goldsmith for violating his client’s 14th Amendment rights.

“I’m not sure that they’ve broken the law,” Arnold said. “But they

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San Diego Reader, December 25, 2014
may have a pattern of exercising their discretion as far as it can go, because it’s a SEAL case.”

In an email statement, spokesman for the city attorney’s office, Gerry Braun, said the “case had a number of issues that are common in battery and vandalism cases. A successful case is supported by witness statements, admissions, and/or corroborating physical evidence capable of proving a case beyond a reasonable doubt. This case began with evidence that initially appeared to corroborate the alleged victim’s story. However, after a thorough review of the police report and witness statements, we found the evidence was conflicting, at best.”

Continued Braun: “[T]he officer at the scene believed the car window appeared to have been broken from inside the vehicle, contrary to the alleged victim’s statement. But the city attorney’s position has holes as well. First, is the matter of restitution: The city attorney’s office claims the $150 check from Blackwell’s lawyer via the city attorney’s office was “separate from the case.”

The Reader asked Braun how the city attorney reconciles accepting Blackwell’s offer to pay for the broken window despite conflicting evidence. Braun responded, “There was no court order for the defendant to pay restitution. Because of the evidentiary issues with the case, our office was prepared to dismiss the case. Separately, defense counsel offered to have his client reimburse the alleged victim for the damage to his window. That offer was accepted.”

Braun insists that the check from Blackwell was not restitution, despite the letter from his office saying otherwise. “The taxi driver sought $150 from Mr. Blackwell to cover the cost of the broken window. Mr. Blackwell chose to write him a check for $150. Your question as to his motives is best directed to him. His offer had no bearing on this office’s decision to drop the charges. Mr. Blackwell’s attorney gave the check to one of our deputies during a court hearing, and the deputy then saw that it was forwarded to the other party’s lawyer. It was not requested by our office nor was it restitution. This was not our normal process. Our deputy simply wanted to help the taxi driver.”

But Singh’s attorney, Arnold, says that neither he nor his client ever accepted such an offer. He believes the City Attorney’s office acted in bad faith, sweeping a violent crime under the rug because the alleged perpetrator is a “good-looking, all-American war hero” and the alleged victim is
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San Diego Reader December 25, 2014 25
“just a dark-skinned taxi driver and an immigrant to this country.”

Singh refuses to cash the $150 check. Doing so, he says, would make it look as if he had agreed to the offer.

Mike Malowney, Blackwell’s attorney, declined to provide specific details about the payment. He questioned Singh’s attorney’s motives for going to the press and the authenticity of the police report he provided.

“Mr. Singh claims my client broke a window on his taxi and then battered him. The cause of the damage to the window remains greatly in dispute, however, my client has always maintained a willingness to pay for the alleged damage to resolve a civil claim for damages. My client has always maintained his innocence to any criminal conduct. He pled ‘not guilty’ to the charges of battery and vandalism (intentional destruction of property) and was prepared to have a jury listen to the evidence and decide the case.

“I met with the City Attorney’s office and discussed the complete facts available to both parties. It became clear that Mr. Singh’s version of the events were not sufficiently supported by the evidence. I reminded the City Attorney’s office my client was willing to reimburse Mr. Singh for the broken window, but was unwilling and unable to plead guilty to any criminal charge. I asked the City Attorney to inquire of Mr. Singh as to any cost to repair or replace the window and was told the value was $150. I was directed to make payment payable directly to Mr. Singh.”

Singh’s attorney also questions the “D133” code used as the reason to dismiss the case.

According to the city attorney’s office, the code indicates completion of a program. Blackwell was never ordered to enter into any such program. Blackwell case carefully reviewed the evidence in the City Attorney’s office. The code used as the reason to dismiss the case.

Braun maintains that the city attorney considered the evidence in the Blackwell case carefully and took the allegations seriously.

“The City Attorney’s Office works hard to meet its legal responsibility only to prosecute cases where there is sufficient evidence to support a reasonable expectation of conviction at trial,” says Braun. “Given the conflicting evidence, we were unable to meet our legal and ethical obligations in this case and as such, moved to dismiss the charges.”

Singh’s attorney Arnold plans to file a lawsuit against Blackwell, the Navy, and possibly against the city. Arnold listed the damages at $100,720.24, of which $150 is for the window, $570.24 is for the lost iPhone, and the remaining $100,000 for pain and suffering.

Asked what this experience means to him, Singh buries his head in his hat before sliding it on top of his head. “If this is how America works, man, if it turns out people get special treatment based on their rank or where they are from, when they commit crimes, then there’s no hope for humanity.”

— Dorian Hargrove and Thom Senzee
Scott: The first inkling that Christmas was not a holiday for Hebrews came from a neighbor kid, the fine Aryan specimen Timothy Murphy: “My Uncle Roy says Jews celebrate Christmas by staying home and counting their money.” In truth, if I had Roy’s money — at least the chunk that wasn’t deposited at Foremost Liquors — I’d have thrown my own stash away.

Matthew: So much for peace on Earth — them’s fighting words, Mr. Marks. How can you call a Murphy an Aryan? Don’t you remember The Commitments? “The Irish are the blacks of Europe.” That’s pretty much the opposite of Aryan. But perhaps you were being facetious, in which case I’ll adopt a more conciliatory approach. You can’t really blame Kid Murphy: your encounter came years before Saturday Night Live gave us the lovely holiday jingle “Christmastime for the Jews,” which finally shed some light on what all you unbaptized folk did with your December 25: They can finally see King Kong without waiting in line! They can eat in Chinatown and drink their sweet-ass wine! Movies and Chinese food!

Of course, a reference like that sends the memory train roaring back to 1983’s A Christmas Story, wherein the (presumably but not evidently) Christian family is forced to abandon the traditional turkey dinner in favor of “Chinese turkey” (i.e., duck) at the Chop Suey Palace Company, complete with caroling waiters who sing “Deck the Halls With Boughs of Horry.” It’s an odd but lovely moment, and it gives the lie to your claim that Christmas is not a holiday for Hebrews. I say that Christmas is for everyone — a truly human holiday. And if you want to lay out a few of your favorite Christmas movies for inspection, I’ll make my case.

Scott: Fine. Though I will admit at the outset that my perspective here is not entirely that of an outsider. My family’s hands-off approach to Christmas was further hammered home when Mom was asked to erect a colorfully decorated dead tree in our living room, similar to the...
The appearance of those accursed flying monkeys on Pa’s ancient black-and-white Philco forced little Scooter (I’d like to hear what your grandparents nicknamed you) to take shelter either behind Grandma’s enormous wing-back chair, or amid the rows of sequential bubble lights — later found lethal when curious tots ingested their toxic content — strung round the welcoming tree. **Matthew:** Gonna make me work for this one, aren’t you? But I’m ready for you: The great magic of Oz is the promise of a brighter, more vivid reality than our everyday lives: the Tin Man, Scarecrow, etc. are all people in Dorothy’s drab Kansas life, but gussied up and made wonderful and significant. “A brighter, more vivid reality” is a pretty good description of Christmas morning — all the bright wrapping paper and gift-giving and good-will and time off and God himself taking flesh and dwelling among us. That last bit, the Incarnation — well, that’s what makes every drab person on Earth gussied up and more significant. Now that God has become Man, we can become adopted sons and daughters of God! While I’m at it, isn’t the Wizard a pretty good image of the Old Testament God — terrifying, all-powerful, full of bizarre commandments? And isn’t the Man Behind the Curtain a pretty good image of the New Testament Christ — loving, humbly scaled, full of encouragement and gift-giving? Speaking of gift-giving, isn’t that what Christmas is all about? Hey, how about the Wizard as Santa? Not quite what you believed him to be, but still a powerful force for gladness and joy.

**Scott:** The one film that religiously finds a home in my DVD tray come Christmas morn is 1980’s *Raging Bull*, directed by Martin Scorsese. I first saw it at the Willow Creek Theatre on December 24, 1980. It appeared like an angel, in black-and-white, alone, on a single screen. In the words of a certain taxi driver, “They cannot touch it.” The Willow Creek was one of those futuristic-looking ‘60s showplaces, a black box with an expansive curved CinemaScope screen and pitch-perfect acoustics; the flashbulbs popping in the rear-surround channels never sounded better. It appeared to have been designed by the same architectural team responsible for Mission Valley’s late, lamented Cinema 21. My fellow Scorsese-acyclic Rick and I had just finished our gorging ourselves on one 90-course festival meals. Every year, my adoptive mother, Audrey, saw to it that her “boys” ate like the commies were in the drive-way. Rick’s sports-addicted brother, Ron — the movie gene apparently skipped a generation — decided to favor us with a rare in-theater appearance, (as did six other paying customers.) Ron’s expectations of a sports epic were soon quashed; Marty was more concerned with what goes on outside the ring than in. True to his text, Rick and I emerged, and as if summoned by the Pharisees, with eyes wide open. A call to Rick in search of further memories provided this warm and fuzzy chestnut: “It was the last time my brother and I ever smoked pot together.”

Another Norman Rockwell painting to add crinkle to the Christmas pyre.

**Matthew:** Okay, you win on this one. All I got is the importance of tradition and ritual in life. Me, I like to start Christmas morning with homemade brioche. But to each his own. *Raging Bull* is a story of life gone sour, of gifts overlooked because of a cramped soul. Jake can’t see the good thing he has in his wife because he’s afraid she’s faithless — you know, like he was with his previous wife — and it poisons everything. It’s an attitude perhaps best summed up when he smashes the championship belt in order to get at the jewels. His vision is so narrowed that he can’t see the precious thing in front of him. If anything, he’s the sort of character ripe for a Christmas redemption.

**Scott:** You want a character ripe for Christmas redemption? Try the *Lemon Drop Kid*, a desperate hustler who dreams up a scheme to open a home for old ladies and then dump ‘em on the street come Christmas Day. Best of all, he’s played by Bob “For Christmas” Hope. For decades, America’s most enduring comedian spent his holidays overseas selflessly entertaining our troops, only to bring filmed evidence of his munificence back to NBC where it could be spun into ratings gold. As a child, I ran from *The Bob Hope Christmas Specials*. Now I run to them. Hope is an acquired taste. For every legitimately funny comedy he turned out in his artistic glory days on the Paramount backlot, there are mile-high stacks of idiot cards, testimony to his indolent, post-1960s television work. They sit gathering dust in Old Ski Nose’s joke vault, with nary an intentionally funny barb scrawled across one of them.

Hope’s greatest contributions to movie comedy.
were hatched under Frank Tashlin’s watch. A former Looney Tunes animator and future guru to Jerry Lewis, Tashlin seldom seemed to discriminate between characters made of flesh and blood and those drawn of pen and ink. The Bob Hope vehicle The Lemon Drop Kid was the director’s first stab at a live-action “cinematoon.”

Twentieth Century Fox was not pleased with contract director Sidney Lanfield’s dailies, so they brought duffer Tash on board to bat cleanup. Lanfield received sole screen credit, but it was Tashlin who directed a good one-third of the film. The Lemon Drop Kid introduced Jay Livingston and Ray Evans’s holiday classic, “Silver Bells.” With all the subsequent versions Xeroxed for Hope’s numerous televised extravaganzas, none compare to this thrillless rendition.

Oddly enough, the film was part of Paramount’s 1950 Christmas package. (It was released in March of 1951.) After Bing Crosby’s recording of “Silver Bells” set the charts on fire in December of 1950, Paramount reassembled those drawn of pen and ink. The kids are grinning, just as delighted as anyone to be part of the throng hearing those silver bells signaling Christmastime in the city. And why? Because the song itself is about shopping, the great joyous orgy of stuff — “This is Santa’s big scene.”

But wait — those silver bells are not strung overhead. They’re “on every streetcorner” — being rung by Santas who are begging, not Santas who are doing out goodies. Hope himself is such a Santa, as are all of his downmarket pals. Almost as delightful as the song itself was the montage that preceded it — one Santa cheating in a dice game as he tries to raise funds, another crying, “Let’s put some dough in the kitty!” Christmas, for all its rampant consumerism, is at its very best when it works to bring good news to the poor and downtrodden. And best of all, it turns out that even Santa can use a little Christmas miracle. I won’t say more for fear I will say that it is my absolute favorite use of the Shopping Days’ ‘Til Christmas countdown. I cannot thank you enough for turning me on to this.

—Scott Marks and Matthew Lickona

(Scott Marks is from Joy to the Screen, published December 21, 2011)
Texts and death
continued from page 3
of text messaging. Sala-
zar noticed this right away. “After she hung up with her
brother she started using her phone.” He was imme-
diately suspicious. “At that
time I noticed that she was
nervous and she would not
allow me to get close to her.
And so I tell her, ‘Who is it?’
Why are you getting mes-
sages and you don’t want
to answer them in front of
me?’”
Garcia said it was a girl-
friend and that her phone
needed to be charged, and
she plugged it into the
wall. Then she phoned her
brother and said she would
drive over right away. “It was
around 11:45 when she left
the house,” Salazar remem-
bered. “So to make sure, I
called her brother to make
sure she arrived with him.”
The brother said he would
bring his sister right back,
and soon Salazar heard them
pull into the driveway. “She
is arriving to the house,
and you can hear the truck
outside.”
Just then he noticed Gar-
cia’s cell phone begin to
download messages. “She
had the portable Wi-Fi
device with her, so her phone
was there charging, so the
phone picks up the Wi-Fi
and the messages start com-
ing in that hadn’t come in
before.”
Salazar looked. “They
were messages that she had
sent, and Juan had returned
them.”
“He tells her, ‘Baby, I
wasn’t able to answer you
right away, but what hap-
pened?’” Salazar said when
he saw this, he became sad.
“Because I thought she’s not
being honest with me.” Only
a week before, “she said that
this time she had ended it
for good with this Juan.”
Now Salazar knew they had
never ended their relation-
ship. “They had been com-
municating all along.”
Garcia’s brother drove
away after he dropped off his
sister. “So she comes back
into the house.”
A day and a half later,
Garcia’s family phoned
Oceanside police to report
her missing. Officers arrived
and spoke with Salazar, who
told them that Garcia had
walked away after an argu-
ment. He said he was wor-
ried too, and showed them
his cell phone so they could
see all his concerned text
messages to her girlfriends
and her mother. And Sala-
zar told police to go check
with her new boyfriend,
Juan, because she might be
with him.
Police got permission
to look into Salazar’s room,
which was actually part of
a three-car-garage that had
been converted into a bed-
room. When police found
bloody rags in a trash bin,
Salazar admitted, “Yes, I had
used them to clean the floor.”
Eventually, Salazar told
detectives that he had
grabbed Garcia that night
and he was only going to
scare her, but then she
started to scratch him. It was
late in the interview when
**Under the radar**

From page 3

According to its website, "the Fund actively researches potential candidates in a variety of key target races, encouraging these individuals to consider becoming candidates for elective office." Then, "the Fund will vet a variety of candidates to ensure they have a bona fide chance of winning their race — and confirm the candidate fits the New Generation Leadership model supported by our contributors." 2015's National Conference on Ending Family and Youth Homelessness, which is coming to town in February, has arranged a pretty good deal for its own double beds at the Harbor Island Sheraton at $199 a night. "Enjoy the beautiful views of the San Diego city skyline, bay and marina at our hotel near the San Diego airport," notes the invite. — Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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**Salazar admitted picking up the knife. “It was on the table to the side of where the stereo was.”**

Salazar claimed Garcia came toward him and reached for the knife. “And then I grabbed her from the back.”

He said when he put the knife to her throat she reached for it again. “She tried to stop me, she put her hand in, she grabbed my hand.”

Salazar admitted that he cut Garcia “two times, that’s what I remember well.” After the first slice, the knife slipped from his hand and fell to the ground and he had to bend over to retrieve it. To finish, “I let go of her and she dropped to the ground.” He remembered she fell onto her side, on the rug. “So I see her lying on the ground.”

The couple’s son and daughter, two and four, were there in the room. “At that moment they were just sleeping in the bed.” He was sure they were asleep. “Because the TV was still on, and so they are used to it, and they never get up when the TV is on.”

Salazar put Garcia underneath their bed, in the space between the mattress and the floor. “It was the only space I thought to put her in. I didn’t want the children to see her.”

“The body was located inside a bed frame,” Oceanside police detective Joshua Morris confirmed. Garcia was found crossways, along the foot of the bed, with her purse resting on her legs. Inside were her ID cards and cell phone. She was 21.

A year after Garcia’s body was found, Salazar told a jury that he never planned to kill her. “I still loved her. So I couldn’t wish anything bad for her, because she was the mother of my children.” He was 25 when they declared him guilty of first-degree murder.

In September of 2014, Salazar began serving a sentence of 26-years-to-life in Chino state prison.  

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)
Oops! But not really
Aguirre unhappy over
CityBeat’s mea culpa
On December 5, as noted in the Reader, former city attorney Mike Aguirre sued the publication CityBeat for libel. It had stated in a November 12 column that Aguirre claimed that Representative Scott Peters, while he was a councilmember, was the most culpable local official in the pension debacle “because he attended Duke University.”
This was a case of ridiculous telescoping. While he was city attorney, Aguirre had said Peters and then-mayor Dick Murphy were most culpable in the pension mess because of their prestigious degrees and legal experience. And Murphy was considered most culpable—not Peters.

An official of CityBeat’s parent company admitted to Aguirre that the statement was inaccurate and promised to correct it. On December 16, CityBeat ran a “clarification.” The statement was buried at the bottom of the November 12 column, now in the archives. The same day, Aguirre emailed the company official that under state law, any such correction has to run in “substantially as conspicuous a manner” as the offensive assertion.

So the lawsuit is still hanging fire.

Don Bauder
Copley’s deadly Cuba ties
Tales of JFK assassination and CIA link haunt Union-Tribune’s past
The day after Barack Obama announced his recognition of Fidel Castro’s Cuba this week, readers of U-T San Diego were greeted with another first: the paper’s own rapprochement with the Communist dictator.

“President Barack Obama’s surprise announcement Wednesday that the U.S. and Cuba would seek to normalize relations after a 55-year chill [...] is a gamble worth taking,” the paper opined in an editorial. Calling the nation’s nearly six-decade covert battle against Castro a “chill” might be considered more than a bit of an understatement, conveniently obscuring the key roles that the newspaper’s antecedents under previous ownership — the San Diego Union, Evening Tribune, and the Copley News Service — all played in a deadly intelligence war waged by the Central Intelligence Agency on behalf of a succession of U.S. presidents, beginning with Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy.

As Carl Bernstein noted in October 20, 1977’s Rolling Stone, “Copley personally volunteered his news service to then-president Eisenhower to act as ‘the eyes and ears’ against ‘the Communist threat in Latin and Central America’ for ‘our intelligence services.’”

“James Copley was also the guiding hand behind the Inter-American Press Association, a CIA-funded organization with heavy membership among right-wing Latin American newspaper editors.”

Kennedy’s assassination has been variously attributed to either pro- or anti-Castro forces. Five days after Kennedy was shot, on November 27, 1963, the FBI took a call from a San Diego man who posited a related theory.

“Russell Ross Farrell, Commander, United States Naval Reserve [Retired], said that he had been in an anti-communist movement sponsored by the Copley Press in San Diego.”

“He advised that he had become convinced during this latter association that the persons of ‘far right’ persuasion who were associated in this endeavor were so strongly anti-Kennedy and anti-administration in their views, that he now actually believes it possible that they had had a hand in the assassination of Kennedy and the murder of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.”

But the retired Navy man later had a change of heart. He called back, saying, “he had come to realize that he had been irrational; that he actually had no evidence or concrete reason for the view he had expressed; and that he did not wish to carry it any further.”

Matt Potter
Appeals court sides with CPUC, denies intervenor fees
Aguirre thwarted SDG&E plot to nail ratepayers, gets punished
On December 16, the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, denied an appeal by law firm Aguirre & Severson to get intervenor fees from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the firm’s work in thwarting San Diego Gas & Electric’s scheme to collect $463 million from ratepayers as a result of the 2007 fires. A division of the CPUC had said SDG&E caused the fire through its negligence, but the utility wanted ratepayers to pick up uninsured costs of the disaster.

The two local lawyers argued aggressively for ratepayers. And, says Aguirre, “we won.” SDG&E’s scheme was voted down by the commission. But it found numerous reasons for denying any funds whatsoever to Aguirre & Severson, which worked three years on the case. Generally, the CPUC rewards intervenor fees to groups that play footsie with the commission. The appeals court turned down Aguirre & Severson’s appeal in fewer than 24 hours, says Aguirre. “California courts are abdicating any supervision of the CPUC,” which cares for utility shareholders, not ratepayers, says Aguirre.

Don Bauder
PACs supporting capital cronies?
Representatives Issa, Peters got paid to support moral hazard
Public Action Committees [PACs] of America’s big banks shelled out lucre to Congress members to be able to gamble on derivatives trading and have taxpayers pick up their losses. At mid-month, the House and Senate passed a trillion dollar federal budget. Secretly tucked into the bill was a provision written by lobbyists from Citigroup. It essentially repealed a provision of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that banned the big banks — Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and JPMorgan Chase — from gambling on derivatives through subsidiaries backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Many Congress members wanted to kill the entire bill to get this odious provision removed. In my opinion, if the big banks can do derivatives gambling knowing that if they lose, the government will bail them out [that’s what’s called “moral hazard”], another 2008/2009 financial crash is almost guaranteed.

According to MapLight, which traces gifts to politicians, San Diego County Representative Darrell Issa got $15,000 from the PACs of those big banks, and Representative Scott Peters got $11,500. Both voted to back the banks’ gambling. Representative Juan Vargas of Chula Vista got $9500 but voted against the bill.

Don Bauder

All Things La Jolla
$2.99
For decades, La Jolla was largely unknown. It became a hideaway/layground for the rich and famous. Strollers down Shores Beach included U.S. presidents, J. Edgar Hoover, movie stars, and artists. Now read about La Jollans 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 Caporegimes of the Los Angeles crime family.

Diary of a Diva: Behind the Lipstick
$9.99
Barbaraerial scavaged through 500+ stories to select 50, each paired with behind-the-scenes commentary where she shares the stories behind the stories, new revelations and old secrets. Does she have a favorite subject? David. Often the subject or cohort in Barb’s stories, David has never before shared his point of view from inside the proverbial glass house in which he and Barbarella have lived for the past ten years.

The Answer Man
$2.99
For over 25 years, Matthew Alice answered readers’ questions in his column, Straight from the Hip. No subject was too obscure for Alice, and the notorious answer man settled bets on everything from astrophysics to the word origins. This is a collection of all the best Q’s and A’s dispatched from the Alice Research Institute over the years.

Ebooks available on: 
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Thursday | 25
CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH
Executive chef Pascal Vignau offers breakfast items such as cinnamon French toast and thick-cut applewood smoked bacon, plus a chilled seafood display with Alaskan snow crab claws, tuna sashimi, and smoked salmon. $25–$65.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Carlsbad Beach, 1 Ponto Road, Carlsbad. 855-602-0800; oceanfrontcarlsbad.com

Friday | 26
BIG BAY BALLOON PARADE
This event brings over 100,000 street-side spectators to see marching bands, floats, drill teams, and more balloons than any other parade. Grandstand seating offered for $20.

WHEN: 3 to 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Embarcadero, along Harbor Drive. bit.ly/1wE04qn

Saturday | 27
MYQ KAPLAN
Myq Kaplan (pronounced “Mike”) is a 2010 Last Comic Standing finalist and has appeared on the Tonight Show, the Late Show with David Letterman, Comedy Central Presents, and Conan. $18.

WHEN: 7:30 to 9 p.m. Also Friday and Sunday.
WHERE: The American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue, downtown San Diego. 619-795-3858; americancomedyco.com

Sunday | 28
BUBBLES & CHEESE
Discover the best cheeses to pair with sparkling wine, champagne, and bubbly beverages. From cava to champagne, sample favorite pairings in a festive holiday environment. $60.

WHEN: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Venissimo at the Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive, downtown San Diego. 619-358-9081; venissimo.com

Monday | 29
FILM FORUM: THE ACT OF KILLING
Filmmakers expose the horrifying mass executions of accused communists in Indonesia and those who are celebrated in their country for perpetrating the crime. Discussion follows.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard, East Village. 619-236-5800; sandiego.gov/public-library

Tuesday | 30
DR. WHO’S CHRISTMAS TARDIS
Re-create “Dr. Who’s Christmas Tardis” while sipping wine or cocktails. Supplies (canvas, paints, brushes, apron) included. No experience necessary. $45.

WHEN: 6 p.m.
WHERE: The Westgate Hotel, 1055 Second Avenue, downtown San Diego. 619-238-1818; bit.ly/1GrAJD2

Wednesday | 31
MAD MEN NEW YEAR’S EVE
A swanky celebration with vintage cocktails and a mid-century inspired five-course dinner by executive chef Fabrice Hardel. Swing with Lorraine Castellanos quartet’s favorite songs of the Mad Men era. $180.

WHERE: 98 Bottles, 2400 Kettner Boulevard, Little Italy. 619-255-7885; 98bottlesd.com
The mud bath (Club Mud) at Glen Ivy Hot Springs

**Head for the hot springs: Corona’s Glen Ivy**

By Bill Brophy

Lacking the time or energy for a road trip, but in need of a quick getaway? We found ours last Thursday, getting on the road at 8 a.m. and heading north on I-15 for 70 minutes, arriving at Glen Ivy Hot Springs on the southern edge of Corona, CA.

Beneath the Santa Ana Mountains, with majestic views of the Temescal Valley, we found 19 unique pools, baths, and spas located throughout the grounds, each offering its own benefits.

The large Lap Pool, close to the entrance, features water jets in the pool walls that provide a nice massage. A favorite with guests was the shallow Lounge Pool, a perfect place to wade or float on a raft while enjoying a beverage from the Paradise Bar. The Terrace Pools offer an invigorating form of hydrotherapy: a few minutes of immersion in the Hot Pool, followed immediately with the Cold Plunge for 30 seconds or more.

Glen Ivy’s geothermal mineral baths are located throughout the grounds. Valley, we found 19 unique pools, baths, and spas located throughout the grounds, each offering its own benefits.

The mud bath (Club Mud) at Glen Ivy Hot Springs

Our enjoyable Glen Ivy experience was capped off with a visit to Tom’s Farms, about a mile and a half away. This small wannabe theme park includes a farmer’s market, furniture store, wine and cheese shop, sweets shop, two restaurants, and some children’s rides complete with background murals.

After buying some large luscious peaches, we ordered a tasty dinner from the Wine and Cheese Deli counter (Nicole and Kelsea womanned the counter and provided great insider tips on the options available), and ate our meal in the outside picnic area along with a nice bottle of red wine (free corkage).

Our day ended with a little more shopping and a drive home at 7 p.m. with light traffic, fond memories with light traffic, and a hint of magic.

**GARNET PEAK**

Hike this peak for dramatic views of the desert, mountains, and ocean all from one spot.

**Distance from downtown San Diego:** 58 miles. Allow 70 minutes driving time. From I-8 take Sunrise Highway (SR 1) north. Beginning at mile marker 13.5, drive 14.3 miles to mile marker 27.8. 0.5 mile north of Penny Pines to a small turnout and park. An adventure pass is required to park in most areas of the Cleveland National Forest. **Hiking length:** 2.4 miles out and back. **Difficulty:** Moderate with 500 feet elevation loss/gain over a well-marked, easy to follow trail. No facilities or drinking water and little shade on this hike as the recovering trees are still small.

A wildfire swept over Garnet Peak not long ago, but it did not destroy some of the grandest views of any peak in San Diego County. From the top, views extend east to the Salton Sea, south into Mexico, west to the Pacific Ocean, and north to mountains San Jacinto and San Gorgonio.

Furthermore, the fire actually promoted the subsequent growth of wildflowers. The Laguna Mountain aster, Orcutt’s linanthus, prickly poppy, and Wallace’s woolly daisy are just some of the unusual or rare plants growing here. The trail proceeds north from the Sunrise Highway, crossing the fire-scarred rolling hills. The scene immediately seems bleak, with charred downed tree trunks and blackened shrub branches everywhere. A closer look reveals abundant signs of renewed life. Many of the blackened shrub branches show numerous vigorous green shoots sprouting from their base. These stump-sprouters include Eastwood manzanita, mountain mahogany, chamise, and cup leaf ceanothus. Additionally, some chaparral species produce abundant seeds that remain dormant in the soil until after a fire. Chemicals released by fire stimulate these seeds to sprout and begin growth. Frequently, the greatest profusion of wildflowers can be found the first few years after a fire. Even in this drought year, at least 50 different wildflowers either have already bloomed here or are now in bloom. In addition to the rarely found species mentioned above, a July visitor would have found Indian tobacco, goldencro, bush lupine, white yarrow, monardella, slender sunflower, and prickly poppy, as well as many others.

Cross the Pacific Crest Trail at 0.65 miles and follow the Garnet Peak Trail as it continues its northern direction up the slope of Garnet Peak. Note the bright red swellings on the leaves of many of the Eastwood manzanita plants lining the trail. A close inspection shows these to be wasp galls, present in an unusual abundance. In another 0.65 miles, you will be on the top of the Peak. Swallowtail butterflies and other insects may be seen hilltopping, thought to be a mate-location behavior, once the temperature warms up during the spring. After contemplating the views in all directions, return the way you came.

Note: Parking at the turnout is limited with alternative starting points to Garnet Peak at Penny Pines or just south of Penny Pines at a turnout. Bring a map of the Pacific Crest Trail in relationship to SR 1 and Garnet Peak. One option is a 5.8 mile walk to the peak from Pioneer Mail Picnic area and back.

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website.

**Find maps for the hikes and more Roam-O-Rama columns online at SDReader.com/roam**
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**Rhyme & Verse**

A poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay

For this your mother sweated in the cold,
For this you bled upon the bitter tree:
A yard of tinsel ribbon bought and sold,
And the merry bells ring out, the people kneel;
With voice of honey and with eyes of steel
The man of God before the crowd;
No, all flatbread and salad items. Saturday, December 27, 4pm; $25.

**Art on the Green**

Every weekend the Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort features end COAL Gallery member artists free of charge. Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; through Sunday, February 22, free. Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort, 3075 Carlsbad Boulevard. (CARLSBAD)

**BEER**

Bolt Up Breakfast All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet, bottomless mimosas, and beer. Go Chargers! Sunday, December 28, 10am; $17. Canyon Sports Pub & Grill, 421 Telegraph Canyon Road. (CHULA VISTA)

Firkin Friday with Coronado Brewing Company The day after Xmas and you can drink Stupid Stout RIS from the cask at Hamilton’s, a big boy Russian Imperial Stout from one of San Diego’s best breweries. Friday, December 26, 3pm; Hamilton’s Tavern, 1521 30th Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Local Ales & Acoustics: Belching Beaver Brewery Featuring Belching Beaver Brewery and live musical performances from Aquile and Rob Bondurant. Thursday, December 25, 7pm-9pm, 3pm; Mia Francesca, 12955 El Camino Real, Suite G-4. (DEL MAR)

Wine and Canvas: Cheers For no experience necessary. Our local artist will guide you step-by-step as you create a custom painting. Entry includes a 16”x20” canvas, easel, paint, brushes, and apron. Information: info: 619-207-9431. Sunday, December 28, 1pm; $25. and up. Mia Francesca, 12955 El Camino Real, Suite G-4. (DEL MAR)

**CLASSES & WORKSHOPS**

Commedia Dell’arte Are you aching to be Arlecchino, panting to be Pantalone, craving to be Colombina? Express your inner commedia dell’arte characters and learn traditional performance techniques in Chronos Theatre Group’s workshop in commedia dell’arte taught by Ivan Rupnik. This ancient form of traveling theater is still hilarious today, and commedia skills are a useful addition to a modern actor’s toolkit. Classes include group work as well as individualized help with creating characters and performing lazzi. Soft clothes, such as ballet slippers or jazz shoes, are advised, as well as comfortable, stretchy clothes to move in. The workshop, suitable for students of all ages and levels of experience, consists of four sessions: Saturday and Sunday afternoons on December 27 and 28 and January 3 and 4. Info: info@chronostheatre.com or 619-356-1492. Saturday, December 27, 4pm; $115-$125. Tenth Avenue Arts Theatre, 930 Tenth Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

Painting & Vino: Le Chat Noir Recreate “Le Chat Noir” while sipping wine or cocktails. No experience necessary; all supplies included. $20 off with promo code SDREADER45. Sunday, December 28, 1pm; $25. and up. Mia Francesca, 12955 El Camino Real, Suite G-4. (DEL MAR)

**Comedy**

Doug Loves Movies Podcast Comedian Doug Benson (Super High Me and Comedy Central’s Last Comic Standing) hosts a podcast where he talks to guests about his first love, movies. Saturday, December 27, 4:20pm; $18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Myq Kaplan A 2010 Last Comic Standing finalist who has appeared on The Tonight Show, the Late Show with David Letterman, Comedy Central Presents, Conan, and many other places that you might not care about. You can listen to Myq’s podcast, Hang Out With Me, on the Keith and The Girl network. Friday, December 26, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 27, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, December 28, 8pm; $18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Open Mic Open mic night features music, poetry, comedy, etc. Friday, December 26, 7pm; free. Broke Girls Coffee Bar, 3562 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

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**Tom Clark**

Tom Clark has appeared on Comedy Central and Last Comic Standing. Also appearing are Bo DelleGrazie and Charlie Ayers. Hosted by Lamont Ferguson. Monday, December 26, 8pm; $20-$25. 18 and up. Tuscany, 6981 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

**Dance**

**Dance**

Argentine Tango with Colette Learn Tango now! Take a first free class Monday, December 29 at 7pm (or any Monday or Wednesday at 7pm thereafter) in preparation for the next full six-week session starting soon. No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango. Visit tangowithcolette.com and call today: 514-726-5567. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, Studio #106. (POINT LOMA)

Contradancing No partners needed, and no experience necessary. Calling by JoAnn Koppman. Live music by The More the Merrier Community Band. Join us tonight for our monthly potluck at 6:30pm, and bring a dish to share. Teaching from 7:30-8pm, and the dance starts at 8pm with a break for refreshments at 9:30pm. Please wear soft-soled shoes to protect the dance floor and comfortable clothing as dancing is quite aerobic. Discount price for students, full-time college students, and active duty military with current ID. Saturday, December 27, 7:30pm; 510 Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

San Diego Ballet: The Nutcracker CBS Los Angeles named San Diego Ballet one of Southern California’s Five Best Nutcracker Ballets, the only Company in San Diego to be given this honor. Enjoy San Diego’s namesake professional ballet company as they bring to life the timeless tale of Clara and her beloved nutcracker doll. Saturday, December 27, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 28, 2:30pm; $25-$100. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)
**FOOD & DRINK**

**Bubbles & Cheese** Discover the best cheeses to pair with sparkling wine, champagne, and bubbly beverages. From cava to champagne, sample our favorite pairings in a fun holiday environment. Sunday, December 28, 6pm; $60. 21 and up. Venissimo at The Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Christmas Day Dinner** For the first course, an oven-roasted butternut squash soup with pistachio oil and toasted peppita, followed by a surf and turf entrée of beef tenderloin and lobster tail with potato gratin, seasonal vegetables, and green pepper corn sauce. Limited to a la carte menu also available. Thursday, December 25, 4:30pm; $55-$75. Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Carlsbad Beach, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

**Christmas Day Brunch** Executive Chef Pascal Vignau offers breakfast classics such as cinnamon French toast, thick-cut apple wood smoked bacon, and a chilled potato gratin, seasonal vegetables, and green pepper corn sauce. Limited to a la carte menu also available. Thursday, December 25, 2pm; $25-$65. Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Carlsbad Beach, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

**Christmas Dinner at Aragon Ballroom** Aragon Ballroom offers a family celebration with a brunch buffet accompanied by live music, a petting zoo, and pony rides. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**Christmas Dinner at Marina Kitchen** Holiday menu highlights include Brandt beef prime rib with horseradish and au jus, roasted Idaho chicken, and a selection of daily market fish. Dessert: eggnog New York style cheesecake and a peppermint angel food cake. Thursday, December 25, 5pm; $48. Marina Kitchen, 333 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Christmas Dinner at Avant** The chefs at Avant have prepared a three-course holiday feast with course options such as hot smoked salmon and beet salad, aged Irish Cheddar cheese souffle, braised lamb shank, and a vegetarian potobello pappardelle. Live music accompanies holiday dining both nights. Thursday, December 25, 2pm; $42. Avant, 1905 Calle Barcelona. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Christmas Dinner at Bice Dinner** Special includes a four-course menu with options such as home-made gnocchi, seafood spaghetti, and fresh Mediterranean sea bass. Thursday, December 25, 4:30pm; $84. Bice, 425 Island Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Christmas Day Brunch** Executive Chef Pascal Vignau offers breakfast classics such as cinnamon French toast, thick-cut apple wood smoked bacon, and a chilled potato gratin, seasonal vegetables, and green pepper corn sauce. Limited to a la carte menu also available. Thursday, December 25, 2pm; $25-$65. Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Carlsbad Beach, 1 Ponto Road. (CARLSBAD)

**Christmas at Aragon Ballroom** Aragon Ballroom offers a family celebration with a brunch buffet accompanied by live music, a petting zoo, and pony rides. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

**Dinner and a Movie: Ratatouille** Enjoy the Pixar classic Ratatouille as Chef Katherine prepares French delights inspired by Remy. Recipes: Cream of wild mushroom-leek soup, butter lettuce salad with tarragon creme fraiche dressing, ratatouille, coq au vin braised chicken and vegetables in wine sauce, seared apple galette with vanilla ice cream. Sunday, December 28, 2pm; $54. Great Neck, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Fry Day** On Fridays we have pan and deep-fried delights as a nibble or a nosh during lunch and dinner. Friday, December 26, 11:30am; Jox, 616 F Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Holiday Brunch** Christmas Brunch. Sunday, December 28, 2pm; $54. Great Neck, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Holiday Dinner Cruise** Enjoy an evening on the water aboard this sunset dinner cruise that includes a free glass of champagne, a DJ for dancing, and a traditional Christmas buffet dinner and dessert. Santa will be there during boarding for photo ops. Thursday, December 25, 3:30pm; $90. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Hornblower Christmas Day Dinner Cruise** Enjoy an evening on the water aboard this sunset dinner cruise that includes a free glass of champagne, a DJ for dancing, and a traditional Christmas buffet dinner and dessert. Santa will be there during boarding for photo ops. Thursday, December 25, 3:30pm; $90. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Seafood Park** Family-style Christmas dinner in a picturesque setting. Thursday, December 25, 5pm; $48. Fish Harbor Pier, 598 Harbor Lane. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Sunset Dinner Cruise** Enjoy the Pixar classic Ratatouille as Chef Katherine prepares French delights inspired by Remy. Recipes: Cream of wild mushroom-leek soup, butter lettuce salad with tarragon creme fraiche dressing, ratatouille, coq au vin braised chicken and vegetables in wine sauce, seared apple galette with vanilla ice cream. Sunday, December 28, 2pm; $54. Great Neck, 1788 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

**Tuna Harbor Dockside Market** Every Saturday near Seaport Village at the Fish Harbor Pier there is a fresh-off-the-boat fish market offering local-caught seafood directly from the commercial boats. The customer can get closer to their food sources and gain an understanding and appreciation of the local fishery and aqua farm industry. The fishermen and aqua farmers can discuss their product and methods used for catch and harvest. Saturdays, 8am-5pm; free. Fish Harbor Pier, 598 Harbor Lane. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**FOR KIDS**

**Garden of Lights** After the sun goes down in December, the San Diego Botanic Garden is transformed into a winter wonderland. Over 100,000 sparkling lights light up the Garden for a magical holiday experience. The fun includes horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday crafts,
marshmallow roasting, visits with Santa, live music, refreshments, and hot mulled wine (on select evenings). Snow also “falls” on select nights. The Garden of Lights is presented by the County of San Diego, Friday, December 26, 25pm; Saturday, December 27, 25pm; Sunday, December 28, 25pm; 58-514. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Qualls Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Model Train Exhibit The San Diego S-Guagers will be displaying their model train layout at Grossmont Shopping Center (near the food court) each Friday, Saturday, and their model train layout at Grossmont Center Drive. (EAST VILLAGE)

San Diego Reader: What’s your favorite subject on which to preach?
Pastor Terry W. Brooks: Grace. Without grace nothing else matters. Ephesians (2:8-9) says that it is by grace that we are saved, not through ourselves and not through works.

SDR: What’s your main concern as a member of the clergy?
PB: There used to be the time that the church was the first stop for everything and everyone. But now it seems as if people look past the church, undervalue or overlook the church.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?
PB: My father was a pastor and my brothers were pastors; but it wasn’t something I desired to do. I remember when I was called to preach — I was eight years old when I preached my first sermon — and I told my father I thought I was being called into the ministry. He tried to talk me out of it several times but he couldn’t. I felt this was something I had to do. Later, he told me that if he could talk me out of it he knew it wasn’t God calling me — but me calling me….So I sat and listened and learned for years and years — and then I was in college at Texas Southern playing football when my father had a stroke. So, I left Texas Southern in the spring and came back to help him after church. It was by preaching and teaching every Sunday in his place that I realized what direction my life was getting ready to take. So I went to school my junior year for one more season, played again, and then left and started preaching in Indianapolis.

SDR: Where is the strangest place you ever found God?
PB: We brought a group of young adults downtown one Christmas — it was about 4 a.m. and we were just out sharing with the homeless. We took them blankets, hot food, soup, socks, jackets, and I even gave a young man the coat off my back. A guy came up and thanked us with tears in his eyes. He told our children who were with us to learn the lesson that their parents were trying to show them now. We asked him if there was any way we could pray for him. He said he was on his way at that moment to commit suicide, but because of the children reaching out to serve him at that time, he saw something different, a hope…and that humanity is not all written off. While we were trying to pray for him — he took the time to pray for each one of us. I didn’t expect that to happen. It’s funny — when you go to minister to people and you wind up being the one ministered to.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?
PB: Those who have a relationship with Christ, a personal relationship, will live forever in heaven. Those who don’t have that relationship will live forever in hell. According to Romans (10:9), “If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that Jesus was raised from the dead, you will be saved.” We believe that the way to salvation is by being accepting of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life.
— Joseph O’Brien
**San Diego Reader**

December 25, 2014

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Adopt-a-Plot in Balboa Park**

We are tending the flower garden in front of the Lily Pond. We do a little volunteer work in the scenic spot every Saturday at 9am. All welcome. We like to have fun while learning about plants. Meet at the flower garden in front of the Lily Pond. Info: 619-223-5229.

Saturdays, 9am; free. Balboa Park Visitors’ Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

**Big Bay Balloon Parade**

On national television and in conjunction with the National University Holiday Bowl, this family event brings over 100,000 street-side spectators to see marching bands, floats, drill teams, and more balloons than any other parade. Parade festivities begin in the television area with the finals of the 17th annual Wienerschnitzel Wiener Nationals and the Bumble Bee Seafoods 5K. Free for spectators along route. Grandstand seating also offered for $20. The parade can be seen on Channel 4 San Diego. Friday, December 26, 3pm; free-$20. Embarcadero, Along Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

**Christmas Day Potluck**

Annual community potluck Christmas dinner at 1pm. Couples, families, singles, seniors, young people, the housing challenged, and anyone with no place to go welcome. This year, bring a camera for pictures with the professional Santa who will arrive at 2pm. Please bring a dish to share with a little extra so that those not able to bring a dish will also be able to enjoy a Christmas feast. Volunteers needed: rmspiegler@gmail.com or 951-553-9843. Info, Rev. Dr. Christina Tilloston, 760-944-9224 or ctilloston@seaside-center.org. Thursday, December 25, 1pm; free. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

**Countdown to Murder NYE**

The night is New Year’s Eve, the time is midnight, the surprise is murder. You will dine on delicious food, drink champagne, dance the night away, and toast the stroke of midnight. But before the clock strikes 12, a murder will happen, and you are invited to gather clues, investigate the crime scene, interrogate unscrupulous suspects, and come up with a solution. Tickets from $100. Info: bit.ly/137xcLn; 619-435-3121.Wednesday, December 31, 8:30pm-2am. Coronado Golf Course, 2000 Visalia Row. (CORONADO)

**Singles New Year’s Rockin’ Eve**

Simply The Best Singles, an upscale organization for singles age 40-60ish with DJ and live band, light appetizers, champagne toast, dessert, coffee, two-minute speed dating for early arrivals, icebreaker game, prizes, party favors, psychic, photographer, and more. Dressy attire (cocktail dresses or evening gowns and suits or black tie), $3 self parking, $15 valet, dance price $55 prepay/$65 door. Prepay at simplythebestsingles.com or 818-577-6877. Wednesday, December 31, 8pm-12:30am. Hilton Del Mar, 15575 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

**SPORTS & FITNESS**

**Zumba Gold**

Zumba Gold is a lower impact version of our Zumba Basic class on Mondays, but just as fun! The moves have been carefully designed to be easy to follow by participants of any size or age. Fridays, 1:30pm; free. 18 and up. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

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The Foundation for Wellness Professionals, a Non-Profit Organization Wellness Consultant: Dr. Richard A. Engel, DC

**Christmas Lessons and Carols**

4:30PM A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, sung by the St. Cecilia Girls’ Choir in its original version for 3-part trebles with harp as the prelude to the service of Lessons and Carols.
5:00PM A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, sung by the Cathedral Choristers of Boys and Men – festive settings of familiar carols for the congregation, and beautiful carols and motets offered by the choir.

**Christmas Eve Services**

CAROLS FOR THE CITY, 5:00PM Christmas Eve service for designed for families with younger children and those who prefer an earlier celebration. The St. Cecilia Choir of girls and men joins the Cathedral Choristers of boys and men to provide festive music for the season. Approximately 50 minutes.

MIDNIGHT MASS, 10:30PM Join the Cathedral Choir and instrumentalists for this beautiful and festive Christmas Mass. Preceded at 10:00pm by carol singing in the cathedral. Approximately 90 minutes.

**Walking Together into a New Year**

6:30PM The Cathedral labyrinth opens for individual meditation.
7:00PM The Cathedral participates in the Grand March opening the centennial celebration in Balboa Park.
8:00PM An informal candlelight Eucharist at the Labyrinth in our Great Hall.

**The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**

10:30AM Choral worship service to welcome the New Year

**SUN | DECEMBER 21**

**Wednesday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Services**

CAROLS FOR THE CITY, 5:00PM Christmas Eve service for designed for families with younger children and those who prefer an earlier celebration. The St. Cecilia Choir of girls and men joins the Cathedral Choristers of boys and men to provide festive music for the season. Approximately 50 minutes.

MIDNIGHT MASS, 10:30PM Join the Cathedral Choir and instrumentalists for this beautiful and festive Christmas Mass. Preceded at 10:00pm by carol singing in the cathedral. Approximately 90 minutes.

**WED | DECEMBER 31**

**Walking Together into a New Year**

6:30PM The Cathedral labyrinth opens for individual meditation.
7:00PM The Cathedral participates in the Grand March opening the centennial celebration in Balboa Park.
8:00PM An informal candlelight Eucharist at the Labyrinth in our Great Hall.

**THURS | JANUARY 1**

**The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**

10:30AM Choral worship service to welcome the New Year
The nervous worried look

We have visitors from Norway in our condo complex in Pacific Beach. The first thing they asked was where they could find a beginner’s beach for surfing. They picked the right place to live, as across the street was considered the best beach in San Diego for learning.

There are ways to spot beginners. In the water, they are always too far back on their surfboards. Or they are sitting in the middle of the impact zone, right in the path of other surfers. My favorite thing is when they have on a full suit, booties, and gloves. This is when the water temperature is 70 degrees.

Outside of the water, you can tell a beginner by the way he carries his board. Most common is when a guy surfer is holding a surfboard like a girl might hold it, on his hip like a baby. The soft top is a giveaway. But it is the nervous worried look in the eye that I check for first. Surfers know that the way to ride a wave is at an angle, going in the direction the wave is breaking. Beginners go straight down the wave, directly toward the shore. One beginner can ruin the wave for everyone. Locals know that there are a lot of beginners and don’t yell. Someone will paddle over and explain. This is one reason Tourno is known as a friendly beach.

Grommets (or “grons”) are young, not to be confused with adult beginner surfers. Kids around 8, 9, or 10 can learn to surf in a couple of days.

Beginners should practice in the shallow white water just south of the Pump House at Tourmaline. There is sand on the beach year round. As you move north, the sand is replaced by rocks. The prevalent current drags the newbies northward.

Just because they are beginners does not mean they do not have heart. I took one of my protégés to Windansea Surf Shop for a perfect wave? Fish tale? We’ll pay you $25 for your story. Send to sdreader.com/waterfront
which had to be difficult and painful.

I ask some locals this question, “How do you feel about your home surfing break (Tourmaline Surfing Park) being known as a beginner’s surfing beach?”

Sunny: “It doesn’t really bother me, but when people ask me where I surf, I usually say Pacific Beach. If I say Tourmaline, then they always tell me that it is a beginner’s beach, and think I’m a beginner, too.”

Adrian: “All levels can surf here, but depending on the swell, it can be variable. A big northwest swell makes this an advanced break, way too big for beginners.”

Craig Ross: “I like the bubble-buts. That is when the water is warm enough for surfer girls to surf around in their bikinis.”

Cliff: “It is what it is. Slow-motion waves for old people, beginners, and crippled people. People who are good surfers wouldn’t surf here.”

—Russell Goltz

Guano poachers

Between 1878 and 1883, citrus orchards sprang up in San Diego, requiring large amounts of fertilizer. Guano — droppings from seabirds, seals, and bats — has such high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen it’s perfect for soil deficient in organic matter. It became a valued commodity. The Union Fertilizer Company at the foot of Ivy Street, writes one historian, was a “prominent bayside landmark,” known for its long red warehouse and “recognizable fragrance.”

The islands south of San Diego, from the Coronados down to Cedros, were home to thousands of seabirds. Since the islands were in Mexican territory, harvesting guano by foreigners was illegal. One had to secure permission from Mexican officials, “but this rule was seldom if ever complied with.”

—Unforgettable, August 9, 2007

6000 pounds of Nebraska tailwalkers

On Friday, December 12, Ben Holden of Escondido caught the first trout of Lake Wohlford’s 2014-15 season. The two-plus pounder Nebraska Tailwalker rainbow was snagged on a nightcrawler and garlic Power Bait, around 6:50 a.m., off the “Senior shoreline.” Holden caught another one of equal size shortly after that.

While the official trout season starts on Saturday, December 13, outdoor media, local fishing club leaders, and select employees of the city of Escondido had the opportunity to try their luck earlier, on Media Day.

Windy conditions at the 6:00 a.m. start did not deter the invited anglers. Neither did the four hours of heavy rain that followed.

Lake rangers said they are expecting the best opener in years, with 6000 pounds of Nebraska Tailwalkers planted on December 10.

—Ken Harrison
**Fish Report**

½ Day: The boats that were able to fish around the edges of the storm found good Rockfish, Sheepead, and a few Lingcod on the local kelp beds off Point Loma and La Jolla with a few Yellowtail in the mix.

¾ Day: Anglers making it to the Coronado Islands or to the county line area up north are still getting limits of Yellowtail along with a mixed sack-full of Rockfish, Bocaccio, Sand and Calico Bass, Lingcod, and Sheepead.

**1 Day to 2.5 Day:** Not much to report due to rough conditions, but there were a few trips planned for the outer banks. We’ll have to wait and see if the Tuna are still around to play.

**Long-range:** The boats working off of Mag Bay and Aljios Rocks and finding lots of school-sized Yellowfin Tuna to 40 pounds and plenty of Wahoo.

**Freshwater:** “Catch as catch can” is the motto for trout, with some days and lakes turning on and others not quite so. The water temp is starting to drop and those who find the cooler spots are finding the trout. The Bass seem to be holding deep and responding well to plastics on the drop-shot. With trout plants going on, I expect to continue to see big Cats and Bass showing occasionally in the reports.

**Photo Contest Winner**

“Elijah caught his first fish at five years old in Flagstaff, Arizona, with help from Grandpa Bill and Uncle Lou to bait the worm on the hook. April 2014” — JennyCOTA

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**More Chances to Win!**

- Enter to win a pair of tickets to Mrs. Magician’s NYE show at Soda Bar. Enter by Monday, December 29th at 1PM.

- Enter to win a Baja Weekend Getaway. Enter by Tuesday, December 30th at 1PM.

- Enter to win a Night at American Comedy Co. Enter by Monday, January 12th at 1PM.

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**Design a Reader cover. Win $100**

We are accepting cover art submissions for our 2015 Guide to the Arts in San Diego. The art must be 10.875” x 11.75” and include room for our nameplate (logo) and headline.

Deliver or mail your creation to the Reader’s Golden Hill office: 2323 Broadway, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102

Or download the cover template and submit online at: sdreader.com/artcover

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 9, 2015, NOON**

Please include your name, phone number, and email address with your submission.
Squeaky cheese?
America’s Finest City’s finest happy hour is, by default, America’s finest happy hour — ask USA Today.

She looks like Renée Zellweger. Wait. Maybe she is Renée Zellweger. Maybe the real Renée got sick of the movie life and paid another chica to come out to the cameras after the “facelift,” pretending that she was Renée, thus freeing the real Renée to pursue her dream of becoming a barkeep right here at the Gaslamp’s McCormick and Schmick.

Whatever, you can bet this gal has endless customers coming in and saying, “Say, anyone tell you that you look like Renée Zellweger?”

Confession: I did too. She handled it well. But I’m here because of, well, USA Today. The banner outside advertises “#1 Happy Hour in America – USA Today.” I googled, and it’s true. USA Today decided these guys do the best happy hour in the nation, at least among the upscale chains.

So, hey, have to see why.

And now that I think about it, I do vaguely remember coming in and having a cheeseburger and fries that cost, well, nothing like Gaslamp prices, and filled a feller pretty good.

Tonight, Friday, I sneak in around 6:15. 15 minutes before the end of happy hour, dive into the laugh-loud crowd. You can tell: we’re talking business people who’ve just been let out of another hell week in the cubicles.

I find a spare seat at the black marble U-shaped bar. And can’t help picking up the talk all around.

“Moscow Mule, man! The drink that brought vodka to America! Everybody’s drinking it. I mean it’s just vodka and ginger beer and lime, but hey, we’re all having it. Should ing it. I mean it’s just vodka and ginger beer that Greek taste.

Decisive time: D’agh, lessee. With all those cheese-curdy French-Canadian fries coming, I decide to forget the burger, even though that looks like the big filler deal of the happy hour. And the lamb meatballs sound filling, so I go for that with one HH minute to spare. Oh, and have to order the Green Flash Double IPA to go with them, even though it’s eight buckeroos.

Actually, the poutine is pretty dang filling and messy. Word means “mess” in Quebec French patois. And tasty. The gravy has chips of what taste like bacon, but I guess it’s sausage. There’s plenty of it to soak down those French (Canadian) fries.

But the lamb meatballs are great. Five of them on a long plate, good and refreshing with the tzaziki sauce. A deal for $7. And goes well with the Green Flash.

And the good thing is they don’t stint on their presentation at happy hour: you still get the heavy silver flatware, the big black linen napkins, the bar staff treating you like you’re somebody who counts.

Even if you do come out and ask the Renée Zellweger question.

So a deal? At HH in a swank eatery like this, it’s swings’n roundabouts: you save on the food and they get you on the drink. I end up spending $24.82, for two beers and two dishes.

I leave as a second wave of business people drifts in. These look more suave, soigné, talk in lower voices. They don’t need to worry about making no happy hour. “We’re moving into construction in Vietnam,” says this gent to his buddy. “They’ve just put $150 million into construction in Vietnam,” says this gent to his buddy. “They’ve just put $150 million into construction in Vietnam,” says this gent to his buddy.

Outside, a homeless guy comes up to the deck seats. He sits down, lights a cigarette, takes a long drag, looks at us like animals in the zoo.

He smiles.

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Two parts hog

For the latest reviews from Reader writers and a complete searchable list of 2000 restaurants, please visit SDReader.com/feast

Soft launching with a slider
3749 Park Boulevard, Hillcrest. Being a fan of pork, passing by a restaurant called the Whole Hog was bound to stir up some cravings. The place practically sits in the middle of the intersection of Robinson Avenue and Park Boulevard, jutting out on the small strip of land created where Park abandons straight lines and swerves east-west for no clear reason. I’ve noticed it for months, and every trip past I’ve wondered: Which part of the hog would I go after first?

It finally opened last week. A soft opening at least, with only two parts of the hog yet available: shoulder and belly. This, at least, made ordering easier than I’d expected. Choosing the pork belly sliders was a no-brainer. Deciding on a pulled pork sandwich was less so. The options were Kansas City or Carolina style. The KC sandwich comes with a sweet, tomato-based sauce, with pickles. The Carolina entry skews South Carolina, with a yellow-mustard-and-vinegar-based sauce, topped by cole slaw.

Each served on a locally baked telera roll with shoulder and belly. This, at least, made ordering easier than I’d expected. Choosing the pork belly sliders was a no-brainer. Deciding on a pulled pork sandwich was less so. The options were Kansas City or Carolina style. The KC sandwich comes with a sweet, tomato-based sauce, with pickles. The Carolina entry skews South Carolina, with a yellow-mustard-and-vinegar-based sauce, topped by cole slaw. Each served on a locally baked telera roll with two sides for ten bucks. I went Carolina.

These guys seem to know their meat. The pulled pork shoulder was tender and flavorful, and just moist enough on its own that it didn’t need a whole lot of sauce. Which is good because there wasn’t a lot of sauce to be had. Actually, the pulled pork shoulder was tender and flavorful, which is a good thing. The mac-and-cheese disappointed me. As simple a dish as it is, I can’t help experiencing a moment of childlike joy when I know it’ll soon be on my plate. The Whole Hog mac came out dry, and like the rest of the food, not very saucy (which in this case is a bad thing). It tasted okay, but probably tasted a lot better when it was freshly made.

My favorite of the meal were definitely the $6 pork belly sliders. More evidence the Whole Hog guys know what they’re doing when they cook pork, the slices of pork belly are served on sweet Hawaiian rolls with sriracha-infused slaw. The belly was as succulent as I could have hoped — a melt in your mouth center to contrast the sweet bread and tart slaw. As easy as these went down, I probably could have handled a few of them, like hot-dog-eating-contest quick.

Overall, not a bad soft launch, with room to improve. While I take exception to its website’s assertion that barbecue is the “only original art form” created in the U.S., I did sneak a look at the full menu they eventually plan to serve and made a date with myself to return for some smoked brisket. After all, I pass by this place often, there’s little doubt it’ll lure me back.

— Ian Anderson

Whole Hog is easy to see on Park Boulevard.

Rethinking the Buffalo
406 University Avenue, Unit B, Hillcrest. Brazilian cuisine receives little exposure in the U.S. Churrascaria restaurants, like Rei do Gado and Fogo de Chao, contribute to the popular image of South American carnivorism, where diners disappear beneath mountains of roast meat.

In reality, Brazilian cooking reflects the subsistence crops favored by indigenous Americans and the people of West African heritage who make up a significant part of the country’s population. Elements of Portuguese and Italian culinary traditions pop up here and there, alongside the random Japanese influence, courtesy of Brazil’s sizable Japanese population.

The owners of Hillcrest newcomer, Buffalo Public House, no doubt hope their take on Brazilian cooking will find favor with local palates. They face a few difficulties.

First, Brazilian food is typically very bland, at least in comparison to the heavily nuanced flavors to which local San Diegans are accustomed, and standing in strict contrast to other South American cuisines. By way of example, feijoada, the Brazilian national dish, amounts to beans and meat cooked to oblivion and sprinkled with toasted yucca flour (farofa). Asking local palates to embrace such straightforward cooking won’t be easy.

However, if the price is right, we will try anything once, and if we like it, we’ll come back. BPH’s asking price falls on the near side of too high. Their signature dish — a skillet featuring linguica with onions, grilled buffalo, and beef flank — tips the scales at $27, but fails to impress with either quantity or quality. Thankfully, the meat can be cooked to order, as opposed to the “everything always well done” style that’s the default for most Brazilians, and which would jibe with American sentiments on the way beef should be cooked. Nevertheless, almost thirty dollars for a smallish skillet of just-okay meats won’t win the hearts of Hillcrest’s fickle, spoiled diners.

Even cheaper dishes, like the $4 pão de queijo expose the problematic twist that buns of gummy casava flour, however beloved they are in Brazil, aren’t going to win anybody over.

For Buffalo Public House to have potential in Hillcrest, the concept needs a re-think. Either more cleverly adapt the Brazilian influences to give a sharper edge to the menu, or bring the pricing down and shoot for a more casual atmosphere. The former would work better, the latter would be easier.

— Ian Pike

¡Ay chapulines!
2123 Adams Avenue, University Heights. Would you look at that. Insects are popping up just everywhere!

The Reader’s other Ian lagged on some crickets at Tacos Perla over the summer. Recently, little fried bugs crawled onto the specials board at Cueva Bar. There, they come in quesadilla form, and for a less-ludicrous price: $5 for two grasshopper quesadillas.

Andersen learned the hard way that chewing on bugs becomes nigh impossible if all you
New Year’s Eve Special

Wednesday, December 31st
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Dinner Packages For Two
Includes

- Neptunes Platter
  - Includes
  - Australian Lobster Tail
  - Alaskan King Crab Legs
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- Filet Extravaganza
  - Select Two Entrees
  - Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon
  - Topmedios of Beef
  - King Filet
  - Broiled Salmon Oscar

One Selection from Saskia’s Special Wine list!

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20% Off “Hot Pot”
A traditional Chinese meal dating back 1000 years.
Choose from meats (Beef, Chicken, Pork, Lamb Fish), sea foods, vegetables, mushrooms, dumplings and more. Cooked at your table with over 15 delicious dipping sauces.

All-you-can-eat lobster buffet!

Happy Holidays
Lobster served Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday dinner.
Oyster, shrimp, clam, crab, baked salmon, baked squid, roasted chicken, steak, made-to-order noodle soup station, and more!
10% discount for Military, Veterans and Seniors over 60. Now Serving Beer & Wine

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Banquet Room and Patio Available for Birthday, Baptism, Business Meeting, etc. Call for group discounts.

Open Christmas & New Year’s Day!!
11:00am - 9:30pm Holiday Buffet All Day $15.98
Including Lobster & Crab Legs. Bring the Family and leave the cooking to us!

10% Off Lunch Buffet
Cannot be combined with any other offers or bill splitting. Valid for up to 4 adults. Limit 1 transaction per party, per table. Applies to dine-in buffet only. Expires 1/7/2015. Not Valid on Holidays.

$2 Off Dinner Buffet
Cannot be combined with any other offers or bill splitting. Valid for up to 4 adults. Limit 1 transaction per party, per table. Applies to dine-in buffet only. Expires 1/7/2015. Not Valid on Holidays.
can think about is crunching up their little abdomens, and the way the legs wedge themselves between your teeth like the devil’s own parsley leaves. The insects do have a funky taste, perhaps “fungal,” as per Andersen’s description, though “grassy” also springs to mind. Since they’re thoroughly cleaned before cooking, there are no nasty bug guts or anything, just a crunchy, husky, toasty-ness. Eaten with a clear mind, free of paranoia (and maybe with something to prove about the eater’s “wanting to seem worldly”), they’re good, and not so different from the crusty bits that linger at the bottom of a carnitas pan. Maybe they’ll stick around if people start asking for them regularly at Cueva Bar. Hint hint.

— Ian Pike

Hearty garden at Great Maple

1451 Washington Street, University Heights. When I hit up Great Maple, on the easier-to-park side of Hillcrest, it’s usually mid-morning and I have two items on the brain: salad and doughnuts. I don’t even look at the menu anymore. Rather than risking anything potentially meh on a typically busy weekday, I prefer to go with the known. If I’m in a curious mood, I’ll take a bite of whatever my lunch date is having (which usually ends with me feeling reassured for having chosen wisely).

Earlier this year, I was all about the Market Spinach Salad ($13), which was light and lovely, with its strawberries, rainbow radish, candied pecans, red onion, and goat cheese. But at some point, I found the apple cider vinaigrette a little too tart, and vowed to branch out on my next visit.

So it was that my wandering eyes alighted upon the seasonal green, shaved asparagus and fennel, pine nut covered concoction appropriately titled the Wonderful Green Salad ($14, or $19 after I added the grilled chicken). But it’s not just the mix of vegetables, nuts, and herby Green Goddess Dressing that made my mouth water when the dish was first set before me — it was that goat-cheese-stuffed, and perfectly fried, squash blossom. When my fork breaks through the light and crispy coating, all that warm, soft, tangy goat cheese becomes a smooth and savory spreadable for me to mix in with each bite.

My only disappointment comes when my greens are more wilted than fresh, as though they spent a day too long in the fridge. This happened on my last visit, and I ended up picking out a few of the sad shrieved bits. And though the description on the menu promises fresh arugula first, on my last visit it was more mixed green, and only a small spattering of the peppery plant. Regardless, the dish overall is usually more satisfying than sorry.

David, the kind of adventurous eater who believes in ordering something different every time, found himself ordering the Quiche of the Day ($11.95) more than once. On our most recent mid-morning weekday brunch visit, I noticed an egg white and fruit dish was served with mashed avocado toast, and asked our server if we could order a side of just the avocado toast. It was a glorious rendition of one of my favorite snacks, with freshly cut strips of basil and pinches of sea salt over giant hunks of creamy avocado, all on grilled ciabatta. But David and I couldn’t keep from giggling over how this spontaneous side was delivered — in a too-small oval bowl. I would have expected it on a plate, so we could slice it or something. Doesn’t matter, 10/10 would eat again, even if they brought it to me in a glass.

It’s nearly impossible for me to leave the building without a bite of the very naughty and sinfully delicious Maple Bacon Doughnuts ($8.95). Hot, fresh, dripping with that mouth-watering sweet maple and salty bacon glaze, it’s the kind of thing that elicits Homer Simpson moans from most anyone to catch a whiff. If it’s just the two of us, David and I will each have one (the order comes with three) and save the third to share at home.

— Barbarella Fokos

The reality of poor mariscos

5732 La Jolla Boulevard, La Jolla. Bird Rock Oyster and Sushi Bar took over the old Station Sushi, opening at the end of the summer. On paper, it seems like a great idea. Who doesn’t love mariscos and sushi under one roof? They even have proof of concept in Baja Oyster and Sushi Bar, down in I.B., which must have been successful enough to spur the opening of a duplicate locale in La Jolla.

But good ideas don’t always make for good realities, and the reality of poor mariscos is a killer for BROS B. Unappealing aguachiles, funky octopus tacos, and overzealously fried oysters don’t make much of a meal.

Even the fish consmomme doled out beforehand has a too-fishy funk to it, rather than the zesty freshness of the styrofoam cups o’ soup handed down from the average mariscos truck.

The moderately chic decor and fully commendable service can’t justify $12 burritos and quesadillas, $15 seven sea soups, or $17 plates of tilapia. Nobody should pay that much for frozen, farm-raised fish when a $0.99 fish taco or three gets the job done better. Anyone who wants to overpay for underwhelming food should hurry on up to Bird Rock. Everyone else should steer clear.

— Ian Pike
Denton says in better days the shop grossed $2.6 million per year. He thinks the first big downturn in Guitar Trader’s trajectory came after he sold off the store’s domain name. Per terms of the deal, Guitar Trader could still be used at the retail store but online, Denton had to switch to MusicPower.com. The rest of the problems he chalks up to what he calls irreconcilable differences between himself and his business partner Jeff Baumgart. In 1982 Eric Denton played keyboards in the Monroes, a local band with a hit song. After “What Do All the People Know” peaked, he bought a guitar shop near the Tower Bar called Music Power, and not with band royalties but with a loan from his grandfather. “People don’t believe how little money I made from the Monroes.” In 1987, he bought Guitar Trader, a modest business that had outgrown founder Ed Chewukun’s garage. In time, Guitar Trader’s success would spawn its own competition: Beebe left to start Guitar and Bass Land and Skin City Drums in El Cajon in 2008, and ex-Trader employees Andy Greenberg and Mark Augustin likewise opened popular guitar shops.

“One of the things that Denton was proud of was that he wouldn’t have to turn on the fan and light a toilet. Not only use the toilet but turn on the fan and light a little kitty match...and I’d like to never have to watch something called “Charlie XCX” perform ever again. Other than that, I think I have everything I could possibly need. Merry Christmas, suckas!” — Dryw Keltz

Matthew Steven Bearrones from KIDS wants “Santa to tell UCSD to keep the Ché Café open, and then give the UCSD administrators coal.” He is also hoping for QUALi’s new album and a neverending mug of coffee. Keeping with the beverage theme, local rapper Brendan B, a self-proclaimed “simple man who likes simple things,” simply wants a Green Flash 30th St. Pale Ale. And since we’re talking craft beer, Ben Johnson from the Long and Short of It is hoping for “double chocolate mango chutney IPA shampoo to make my beard more sessionable.”

Al Howard of Midnight Pine and Rebecca Jade and the Cold Fact wants “a new cell phone because my screen is shattered as the mirror in a cliché movie scene where the protagonist meets his breaking point. I misread the majority of my texts and wind up responding with inappropriate laughter.”

Ypsilucky’s Ian Trumbull has got a tidy little list for St. Nick.

He has three requests for St. Nick: a SoCal Replacements show; a Redd Fox Chia Pet; an endless supply of Monkey Paw cheesesteaks.

Lastly, acoustic troubadour John Meeks has this to say: “All I want for Christmas is for my cats to learn how to use the toilet. Not only use the toilet but turn on the fan and light a little kitty match...and I’d like to never have to watch something called “Charlie XCX” perform ever again.”

Our plan Everything

Touring bands and booking agents will tell you local opportunities are few compared to the thriving hard rock scenes (continued on page 48)
lineup has been the same for six years.

“There are bigger scenes in other cities but a lot of our favorite bands — As I Lay Dying, blink-182, Pierce the Veil — came out of San Diego”

ANCA spent its first year in O.B. writing new songs and practicing. “We all got jobs and bought new, professional gear. We waited a year for our first show to do it right.”

That first gig, at Soma in December, 2012, was some 160 miles away from their longtime Yuma fans.

“We would go out and hustle, go to the malls, and find kids wherever we could. If they were wearing band shirts, we’d give them a flyer. We’d go to other shows. You hear that the Internet is 50 percent of the [promotion] game, but I think face-to-face is always the most effective. Some venues use pay-to-play. No one wants to be at those shows. All you get is bands playing and recording around town.

Two of the groups steeped in soul are Stevie & the Hi-Staxx and the Styletones, both fronted by 1990 Hoover High grad Steve Harris. The Hi-Staxx have recorded with Grammy-winning engineer and producer Alan Sanderson (Rolling Stones). The Styletones, featuring producer-keyboard player Ben Moore, has a lineup that includes Mark Lang (drums), Chris Lea (sax and flute), and anywhere from five to eight more players, the band will perform its final night of its December residency at the Hideout on December 30.

Formed in 2013, Soul ORGaNization bases its funky sound around the Hammond B3 organ. The band is fronted by Doc Holladay (organ), accompanied by local players Tommy Black (guitar), Joseph Luna (sax), and Marly Waak (drums). They’ll appear at Seven Grand on December 26.

— Ken Leighton

Despite the rumors, San Diego has soul.

Although it may not be the first genre one associates with San Diego, soul music is experiencing a resurgence here, with over a dozen soul bands playing and recording around town.

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**This Week In Music**

**Sunday, 28**
From Los Angeles, “dirty reggae” act the Aggrolites (“1960s soul music, funk, and skinhead reggae”) sunk into Belly Up Sunday night. The Aggrolites’ 2006 self-titled Helcal Records release is an essential set to get for fans of the brand, and honestly, as avverse as I am to the “r” word, these cats crush it onstage. Always a good time. Otherwise, Casbah cooks up an eclectic bill of barnstorm rockers and pop-punks, with Cobra-Las, Save Amos, Future Crooks, and Aim for the Engine.

**Monday, 29**
Soda Bar stages San Jose post-rock five-piece Belle Noire after Articles, Moderates, and Hearts Like Lions...while right down the street at the Hideout, from Brookline, Mass., Jonathan Matranga (Far, oneinedrawing) splits a singer/songwriter bill with L.A. staple Blake Boglieter (Moving Units) and local Daniel Godfrey...while San Diego’s Americana singer-songer Josh Damigo is having his birthday bash at Casbah on Monday, fronting the Freeloaders, after Lyrical Groove, Talk Like June, and Grizfolk’s B. Willing.

**Tuesday, 30**
Tuesday’s two-day at Belly Up, as alt-rock icon David Lowery pulls his punk’d alt-country act The Wild Honey Buzzards...while SDMA-nominated rock-and-soul five-piece the Routine does its thing at 710 Beach Club in P.B. (free till 10 p.m., then $10). Designate a driver, then get up and get out, there are midnight tips to kiss!

**Wednesday, 31**
New Year’s Eve 2014 finds a bunch of affordable funyuns around town. Check it: spooky surf garage band Mrs. Magician will headline sets at Soda Bar after Lo-Fi locals Heavy Hawai and Teenage Burritos ($15)....Nicki Bluhm & the Gramblers and Mother Hips are splitting a Casbah-curated bill at the North Park Theatre ($40)...Like it loud? Heavy-blues acid-jam bands Joy, Wild Honey, and Plant Tribe will play till 2 at Tr-Two ($8)...mathy alt-rock duos Plastik Deer celebrate an EP-release for debut Black Notice...in the Tin Can after Slashes and Kooties ($8)...while SDMA-nominated rock-and-soul five-piece the Routine does its thing at 710 Beach Club in P.B. (free till 10 p.m., then $10). Designate a driver, then get up and get out, there are midnight tips to kiss!

--- Barnaby Monk

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**Adolescents at Casbah**

Adolescents latest for Concrete Jungle, 16 smokers called La Vendetta, which was due in July, seems to have been pushed to February of next year. I’m sure you’ll hear your fair share of it and all the other Adolescent hits Friday night. And don’t hesitate to hit up the merch guy, as he may be holding...
SATURDAY ■ DECEMBER 27
5PM BLUES THE CADILLAC WRECKERS
9PM DANCE BAND THE DEROIT UNDERGROUND

SUNDAY ■ DECEMBER 28
SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ

MONDAY ■ DECEMBER 29
7PM ROCK THE FABULOUS ULTRATONES

TUESDAY ■ DECEMBER 30
7PM BLUES BLUES LARGO

WEDNESDAY ■ DECEMBER 31
7PM LATIN ROCK VIVA SANTANA

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

DJ R2 & SAMMI B

GALLAGHER’S IRISH PUB
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NYE — DECEMBER 31

CHAMPAGNE TOAST AND BALLOON DROP
DRINK SPECIALS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

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DJ R2 & SAMMI B
DANCE TWERK THROWBACKS

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11/16 ANTHONY GREEN
11/18 GLOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
11/21 GUSTER WITH KISHI BASHI (SOLO)
11/23 LOCAL BREWS LOCAL GROOVES ALL ACCESS
11/27 THE GREEN, THROUGH THE ROOTS
12/28 & 29 THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
WITH JOE PUG
1/30 BADFISH A TRIBUTE TO SUBLIME WITH SHRUB
1/31 SILVERSTEIN WITH BEARTOOTH, HANDS LIKE HOUSES AND MY IRON LUNG
2/5 RUPAUL’S DRAG RACE: BATTLE OF THE SEASONS

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SATURDAY ■ DECEMBER 27
THE DEROIT UNDERGROUND

HAPPY HOUR
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FOOD AND DRINKS SPECIALS
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SAN DIESO'S #1 ROCK N ROLL MUSIC HALL!
Blame it on college

“I’m pretty dang happy right now...a steady paycheck would be groovy, though.”

The hardest thing about being a drummer in San Diego is staying cooped up inside to practice when it’s 70 degrees and sunny in January,” says drummer Ryan Miller, who’s currently banging the kit for indie/folk/jazz/rock group Ed Ghost Tucker. “I usually tell people we’re an alternative pop band featuring three-part harmonies and eclectic rhythms.”

It’s a fairly radical departure from the sound of his previous band, the punk group Numskull. “The hardest thing about coming from a punk background is learning to control dynamics behind the kit. Ed Ghost Tucker’s music has many small intricacies and vocal harmonies that will get lost if I don’t control my volume correctly.” Two of Miller’s former Numskull bandmates joined him in EGT: Rutger Rosenberg (guitar) and Cameron Wilson (vocals, bass), supplemented now by Cameron’s sister Michaela Wilson (keys, vocals).

“This project spawned in 2012, after Cameron, Rutger, and I finished college, and Michaela moved back from Europe. All four of us, except for it. Ed Ghost Tucker’s music has many small intricacies and vocal harmonies that will get lost if I don’t control my volume correctly.” Two of Miller’s former Numskull bandmates joined him in EGT: Rutger Rosenberg (guitar) and Cameron Wilson (vocals, bass), supplemented now by Cameron’s sister Michaela Wilson (keys, vocals).

“This project spawned in 2012, after Cameron, Rutger, and I finished college, and Michaela moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe. All four of us, apart from Michaela, moved back from Europe.

At the end of November, Ed Ghost Tucker released their debut six-track EP Channels, featuring a cover design by Austin, Texas–based artist Brian Gossett. “We’re working on recording another set of songs to put together on a full-length in 2015,” says Miller.

WHAT’S IN YOUR MUSIC PLAYER?
1. Grizzly Bear, Shields. “The drum sounds on this record are phenomenal.”
2. Jungle, self-titled. “I love this album, because it does a great job of blending ambient electronica with classic funk grooves and melodic hooks.”
3. Radiohead, The King of Limbs. “I find new things I like about this record each time I listen to it.”

ANYTHING YOU WERE EMBARRASSED TO MENTION?
“I have Shwayze’s self-titled album from 2008 in my iTunes library. Why? I’ll blame it on college.”

IN WHAT FICTIONAL UNIVERSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?
“Welcome back to Neverland, Pan the man.”

USELESS (BUT FASCINATING) TRIVIA?
“Walt Disney was afraid of mice.”

BEST CONCERT YOU EVER SAW?
“Blink 182, Green Day, and Jimmy Eat World at Sleep Train Amphitheatre. Okay, not the best, but memorable.”

ANYTHING MISSING IN YOUR WORLD?
“That answer is NSFW.”

SONG THAT DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE?
“We played with this band called Radical Something once, don’t ask me why, and I heard the line ‘Long hair, don’t care.’ I’m pretty sure that’s also the title of the song.”

FEARS OR PHOBIAS?
“I’m not huge on the life-size characters you’d find at a theme park.”

WHO HURT YOU?
“The beach and Filippi’s Pizza, because I’m selfish and I love the beach and I love Filippi’s Pizza.”

BIGGEST REGRET?
“Not joining the high school choir.”

FAVORITE MOVIE BASED ON A BOOK?
“Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.”

THREE THINGS WE DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU?
“I’ve lived in Spain.”

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WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE WE ARE
The Reader Mobile Edition
SDReader.com
Belly Up: Friday: 8pm — A Cash’d Out Christmas. $18-$20. Saturday: 8pm — Gypsy Swing Band. Sunday, 8pm — Safety Orange.


By Dave Good

A double-header with Cash’d Out and Rosie Flores for your holiday pleasure. Cash’d Out is a Johnny Cash tribute act. They’ve been around San Diego now for close to a decade. For what it’s worth, Cash’d Out has taken home the award for Best Cover or Tribute Band twice times from the San Diego Music Awards. They represent the years Cash recorded for the Sun and the Columbia record labels, which is to say virtually every song that made him famous: “Ring of Fire,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” and so on. Cash never actually did time, but he flew the outlaw flag, and prisoners loved him. As Bob Hope was to the Armed Forces, so was Johnny Cash to the nation’s penitentiaries where he digged endlessly. Simple, but deep. You don’t think so? Read the liner notes he wrote for Bob Dylan’s Nashville Skyline. For this and more, I guess the Man in Black is a tough act to master, but Cash’d Out has him down cold.

Rosie Flores put the alt in alt-country. And at 64, she still has more punk in her little finger than a dozen Johnny Rottens. Born in San Antonio, Flores spent her teen years growing up in San Diego. People first saw her in Rosie and the Screamers during the 1970s, followed by an all-out punk group she called the Screaming Sirens. But Flores is way better on guitar and vocals than her past in those two bands would indicate. Still, career-wise, she’s got a gifted artist in search of that most holy of industry grails, the hit single. Never happened. But the lack of radio support hasn’t hurt her ticket sales, and Flores has earned a solid fan base over the years and road miles. Any alt-country artist today earning money in that genre has her to thank. Together with Cash’d Out? Like gasoline on a fire. Dead Rock West also performs.

Rooftop Bar & Grill: Friday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Saturday, 8pm — Carter Brown. Sunday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Monday, 8pm — Grandpa Jazz. Tuesday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Thursday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Friday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Saturday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Sunday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Monday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Tuesday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Thursday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Friday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Saturday, 8pm — DJ Johnny. Sunday, 8pm — DJ Johnny.

CASH’D OUT CHRISTMAS WITH ROSIE FLORES

Wednesday, December 23, 8:30 p.m. $18 in advance/$20 at the door

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/notes
NYE 2015 Extravaganza. $165-$1000.

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery:
Friday, 8pm — Fridays with Frank & Friends.
Saturday, 7pm — San Diego Jazz Trio. Free.

Seven Grand:
Friday, 9pm — Soul Organization.
Saturday, 8pm — Jimmy Ruelas.
Wednesday, 8pm — The Liquorsmiths. Free.

Side Bar:
Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Slowhand.

Soda Bar:
Friday, 8pm — Snuffaluffagus, Astral Touch, Keith Sweaty.
Saturday, 8pm — Hideout and Wild Wild Wets.
Monday, 8pm — Belle Noire, Articles, Moderates.
Tuesday, 8pm — Lowlands, Keepers, Angels Dust.
Wednesday, 8pm — Mrs. Magician, Heavy Hawaii, Teenage Burritos.

Solterra Winery & Kitchen:
Sunday, 6pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Soma:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Domino Theory, 2% Milk, Bleskiez.

Somewhere Loud Event Center:
Friday, 8pm — Last Friday of 2014. $10-$20.
Saturday, 9pm — Von Kiss. $10-$20.
Wednesday, 8pm — NYE 2015. $10-$25.

Spin Nightclub:
Saturday, 9pm — Twista. $25-$35.

Sprechers Organ Pavilion:
Sunday, 5pm — Carol Williams.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — New Year’s Eve Centennial Concert. Free.

Stage Rock Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8pm — Bass Tribe.
Friday, 8pm — DJ Shynkee and Disco Pimps.
Saturday, 8pm — Hot Mess and DJ Miss Dust.
Monday, 8pm — Almost Famous Karaoke.
Wednesday, 8pm — ‘90s Hip-Hop.

Sycamore Den:
Sunday, 8pm — Second Cousins and Rosewood & Rye.

Tango Del Rey:
Friday, 8:30pm — Dornob, Afrojazzics, Jazzmahalix. $15.

The California Spirit Yacht:
Wednesday, 9pm — Moonlight Cruise SD NYE.

Til Two:
Wednesday, 8pm — Joy and Wild Honey.

Tin Roof:
Saturday, 8pm, Wednesday, 8pm — Random Radio.

Tio Leo’s:
Friday, 9pm — Joey Harris & the Mentals.
Saturday, 9pm — Rising Star.
Tuesday, 8pm — Michelle Lundeen.
Wednesday, 8pm — New Year’s Eve with Leon.

Tipsy Crow:
Friday, 8pm — John Hull. $10.
Saturday, 3pm — Clint

Westwood.
Tuesday, 8pm — Astra Kelly.
Wednesday, 7pm — NYE Champagne Exchange. $30-$50.

Tower 13:
Saturday, 1pm — Joe Cardillo.
Free.
Wednesday, 8pm — Too Rude For Sunday.

Tower Bar:
Friday, 8pm — Clean Room and Magellanic Clouds.
Tuesday, 8pm — Ghost Police.
Tuesday, 8pm — Ghost Police.

True North Tavern:
Thursday, 9pm — DJ Demon.
Friday, 8:30pm — DJ Mike Czech.

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:
Thursday, 7pm — The Jade Visions Jazz Trio.
Thursday, 9pm — Afrojazzics.
Saturday, 9pm — Son Pa Ti.
Sunday, 8pm — Big Boss Bubalé.
Monday, 5pm — Euro House.
Tuesday, 7pm — Grupo Global.

U-31:
Friday, 8pm — Lee Churchill.
Saturday, 8pm — Junior the DiscoPunk.
Monday, 8pm — DJ Kid Wonder.
Tuesday, 8pm — Bad Karaoke.
Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Bacon Bits. Free.

Uptown Tavern:
Friday, 8pm — DJ Mike Czech.

Vista Grande Community Church:
Sunday, 10:30am — Steven Ybarra.

Westfield University Towne Centre:
Friday, noon — Steven Ybarra. Free.

Westgate Hotel:
Wednesday, 7pm — Mad Men New Year’s Eve. $180.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Friday, 7pm — Dance Party.
Saturday, 8pm, Wednesday, 9pm — Booty Bassment.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, 8pm — The Devastators and Smokey Hoof.
Saturday, 8pm — Psydecar.
Sunday, 8pm — DJ Mike Czech.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Saturday, 9pm — Jacky Gosee. $40.

San Diego Reader December 25, 2014 55
Johnny Marr’s Playyard
By Robert Duffy

Since the demise of the Smiths, guitarist Johnny Marr has worked on collaborations with various artists, including The Cribs, The Queen is Dead, and others. Saturdays, 2pm; Puccini, Verdi, Beethoven, and others. Thursdays, 8pm; enjoy presentations of Mozart, Wagner, and others.

The Air Conditioned Lounge:

January 2
— Junior the Analog:

— DJ Mike Czech.

January 9
— Junior the Analog:

— Darkwave Garden.

January 10
— Video DJ.

January 5
— Ass Pocket

— Metal Mondays.

January 6
— Blown Fuse.

January 12
— California X and Bleeskiez.

January 31
— WOW

— World of Pain and Impalement.

January 2
— Karaoke with Rodeo Night.

January 8
— Open Mic hosted by Enrique.

January 10
— Tig Notaro and Boyish Girl Interrupted.

January 13
— Chase Morrin Quartet.

January 6
— Open Mic Cory Show up, go up!

Monday, January 29
— Whitney Shay and Robin Henkel.

Kona Kai Resort & Marina:

1551 Shelter Island, 619-221-8000.

January 10 — Cardboard Truckers.

Lest’s Coffee House:

3343 Adams Ave., Normal Heights, 619-282-0437.

January 2 — Sophia Bacino, Kennady Tracy, Tim Connolly.

The Loft: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-534-8497.

January 7 — Julian Lage.

January 15 — The Nomads, HJ3, Joshua White.

January 31 — Charlie Arbelaez Quartet.

Manchester Grand Hyatt:


January 7, 8, 9, 10 — Jazz Educators Network Conference.
January 8 — Marujah (album release).

The Merrow: 1271 University Ave., Hillcrest, 619-299-7372.
January 2 — Karma Police and U2 Experience.

Nate’s Garden Grill: 3120 Euclid Ave., City Heights, 619-546-7700.
January 24 — Robin Henkel.

Nicki Rottens: 100 Orange Ave., Coronado, 619-537-0280.
January 23 — West of 5.

January 17 — Little Hurricane.

The Office: 3936 30th St., North Park, 619-450-6632.
January 4 — Uptown Top Ranking.

Pacific Beach Shore Club: 4343 Ocean Blvd, Pacific Beach, 858-272-7873.
January 7 — DJ Mike Czech.

January 9, January 10 — Fab Four.

Porter’s Pub at UCSD: 9500 Gilman Dr., UCSD, 858-213-3890.
January 8 — Too Short.
January 9 — Planet Asia.

Proud Mary’s Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: 5550 Kearny Mesa Rd., Kearny Mesa, 858-278-0800.
January 4 — Weekly Jazz Jam.
January 5 — Weekly Blues Jam.
January 6 — Robin Henkel, Billy Watson, Marty Dodson.

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub: 626 Main St., Ramona, 760-789-7008.
January 10 — Frank Hannon and Taz Taylor.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room: 7777 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-713-6777.
January 2 — Jackie Venson.
January 3 — Little Kings.

The Rook Bar: 7745 University Ave., La Mesa, 619-469-1840.
January 2 — Charlie Arbelaez Jazz Jam.

Salk Institute for Biological Studies: 10010 North Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, 858-453-4100.

The Salty Frog: 992 Palm Ave., Oceanside, 760-913-3343.
January 1 — Thursday Night Karaoke.

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery: 8364 La Mesa Blvd., La Mesa, 619-462-1979.
January 2 — Fridays with Frank & Friends.
January 3 — The Waits.

January 11 — Robin Henkel.

Seven Grand: 3054 University Ave., North Park, 619-269-3819.
January 7 — Gilbert Castellanos Weekly Jazz Jam.

Soda Bar: 3615 El Cajon Blvd., City Heights, 619-255-7224.
January 2 — OSS, Whiskey Avenger, Skunkadelics.
January 3 — Future Crooks and Buddy Banter.
January 4 — Bondurant and Wicked Tongues.
January 5 — Swim Team and Other Bodies.
January 6 — Men of Many Crowns and Ben Grimm.

January 2 — Sacred Cow, John’s Last Ghost, Mudbone.
January 3 — Cut Your Losses and Scarlett Avenue.

Spin Nightclub: 2028 Hancock St., Midway District, 619-294-9590.
January 2 — Trina.

January 1 — New Years Day Concert.

The Stage Rock Bar & Grill: 762 Fifth Ave., Downtown San Diego, 619-651-0707.
January 1 — Bass Tribe.
January 2 — DJ Slynkee and Disco Pimps.
January 3 — Hott Mess and DJ Miss Dust.
January 5 — Almost Famous Karaoke.
January 7 — ’90s Hip-Hop.

Til-Two: 4746 El Cajon Blvd, City Heights, 619-516-4746.
January 6 — Rivver.
January 8 — Atom Age.

The Salty Frog: 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-291-3815.
January 7, January 14 — Rock Out Karaoke.

Tio Leo’s: 5302 Napa St., Bay Park, 619-542-1462.
January 11 — Missy and Heine Andersen.

The Tower Bar: 4757 University Ave., City Heights, 619-284-0158.
January 3 — Revolut-Chix, Royal Shits, Fictitious Dishes.

True North Tavern: 3815 30th St., North Park, 619-291-3815.
January 1 — DJ Demon.

U-31: 3312 University Ave., North Park, 619-584-4188.
January 4 — Piracy.
January 6, January 13 — Rad Karaoke.

Winstons Beach Club: 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822.
January 4 — Jose Sinai hosts O.B.-o-ke.
January 5 — Electric Waste Band.
January 6 — ill-esha and Amp Live.

December Nights was fun, there was, like, 30 billion people there.
Merry Christmas and all that.

Every year we go to December Nights and every year it’s the highest performing gallery on Facebook. Seriously, people LOVE this ish. We like it too, there’s a bunch of people, nobody’s all grumpy, everybody’s just filled with the holiday spirit.

@sandiegoreader 57
HAPPY HOUR

You can submit a listing or find more information about these establishments online at SDReader.com/dinks

ALFRED GARDENS

Pal Joey’s: Monday, 9am-6:30pm: $3 wells, $3 domestic bottles, $4 wine by the glass, $4 select beer mini-pitchers. Tuesday-Friday, 6-30pm: $3 wells, $3 domestic bottles, $4 wine by the glass, $4 select beer mini-pitchers.

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; $35 house wine. Appetizer specials, Bar Only.

BALBOA PARK

The Prado Restaurant: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6pm: $3 Coro- nos, $2 wells, lounge wine, Prado mule, house, $4 select appetizers. $5 wells, lounge wine, Prado mule, house, $4 select appetizers, ells, wine, draft ale, nitate specials. Bar Only.

BANKERS HILL

Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: $3.75 buttermilk fried chicken, cheeseburger, $5 Bud Light drafts, $3 domestic bottle pints, $4.25 chicken tacos, $5.25 CAKE, $4 Miller Lite drafts, $3.75 Martinis Above Fourth, $4.75 specialty cocktails.

BAY PARK

Bay Fish Company: Monday, 3-6pm: $4 draft, $5 house wine by the glass, $2 oyster shooter, $3 fish taco, $6 basic sushi rolls, $8 ceviche, $8 crispy calamari. Bar/Outside only. Tuesday-Sunday, 3-6pm: $4 draft, $5 house wine by the glass, $2 oyster shooter, $3 fish taco, $6 basic sushi rolls, $8 ceviche, $8 crispy calamari. Bar/Outside only.

Tio Leo’s: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: $3 domestic & $4 import pints; $4 house margaritas, wells, $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries, buffalo chicken tacos & more.

Mag Nap Kitchen & Bar: Daily, 5-7pm: $3 local drafts, $6 well cocktails. Tuesday-Saturday, 9pm-close: $4 domestics, $5 domestic bottles, $3.75 well drinks $5 drinks, $3.75 tall boys. Sunday-Tuesday, 4-8pm: $4 domestics, $5 domestic bottles, $3.75 well drinks $5 drinks, $3.75 tall boys. Tuesday-Saturday, 9pm-close: $4 domestics, $5 domestic bottles, $3.75 well drinks $5 drinks, $3.75 tall boys.

Hacienda Casa Blanca: Daily, 4-8pm: $1-$1.50 off drinks.

Main Tap Tavern: Tuesday, 6-9pm, $2.50 Fish Tacos. Wednesday, 3-6pm: Sliding scale - $3 at 3pm, $4 at 4pm, etc., Friday: 4-6pm: $4 shots all day.

ENCINAS

Encinatas Ale House: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $2 off all appetizers, Bar and front house only.

Firenze: Daily, 3-8-6pm: $2 off all wines by the glass, $2 all off cocktails, $1 all off beer.

Union Kitchen & Tap: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $2 off all beer and craft cocktails, $6 select wine glasses. Discounted flatbreads and select appetizers.

ESCONDIDO

Sand Crab Tavern: Monday-Thursdays, 3-6pm, 10am-close. Appetizers.

Vintana Wine + Dive: Daily, 2:30-7:30pm: $7 martini. Seven different apps for $7 each.

Vino Wine + Bar: Wednesday-Saturday, 5-8pm: $5 for any cask wine. Discounted food and select appetizers.

Taveria: Daily, 4-10pm: $5 for any cask wine.

HARBOR ISLAND

The Boathouse: Daily, 2:30-5pm: $1.99 margaritas, $3 Cuervo margaritas and Karl Strauss, $4 mojitos and sangria. $6 ceviche, fish tacos, spicy chicken, snapper, spicy chicken, shrimp cocktail, chicken strips/fries, $4 jalapeno poppers.

C-Level: Monday-Friday, 3-5pm: $4 brews, $5 specialty drinks, $5 appetizers.

HILLCREST

Busalacchi’s A Modo Mio: Monday-Friday, 2-5pm: $3 beers, $4 select house red and white. Happy Hour: Thursday, Sunday. All day $3 beers, $4 select house red and white. Half-off appetizers.

CJ’s Club: Daily, 10am-noon, 5pm-7pm, 2-3:30am. $2 Well drinks.

Empirehouse: Daily, 3-6pm: Daily drink specials.

Martins Above Fourth: Monday, 4pm-close: $3 bottled beer, $4 house wine & wells, $5 Stella drafts, $6 Svedka martini, classic vodka and dry martinis, drops, cosmos. 4-10pm: $3 fax, $5 main candy, $5 sweet pa tasquitos, $6-three cheese mac, $6 cupo tape meatball sliders, $7 crab cakes. Tuesday-Sunday, 4-7pm: $3 bottled beer, $4 house wine & wells, $5 Stella drafts, $6 Svedka martini, classic vodka and dry martinis, drops, cosmos. 4-10pm: $3 fax, $5 main candy, $5 sweet pastas, $6-three cheese mac, $6 cuppo tape meatball sliders, $7 crab cakes.

The Merrow: Monday-Sunday, 3-7pm: $2-3 well drinks, $3 domestic bottles, $3 well drinks.

Parma: Daily, 4-7pm: $5-$7 select wine, $5 cheese plate.

Sally and Henry’s Doghouse Grill: Daily, 4-7pm: $1 off well drinks, $2 off domestic beers.

Wine Steals: Monday, 4pm-close: $5 for any cask wine. Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: $5 for any cask wine. $2 off 30 wines by the glass. Discounted food

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items. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-4pm $5 mimosa drinks.

**IMPERIAL BEACH**

**The Salty Frog:** Monday-Friday, 2-7pm $3 wells, 2 domestic drafts, $4 select premium drafts.

**JAMUL**

Brody's Burgers & Beer: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm $1.50 all beers.

**KEARNY MESA**

94th Aerobon Squadron: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm $2.75 glass house wine, $2.75 draft beer; $9 draft beer pitcher. 3:30-7pm: 2-for-1 well drinks. Select pitchers. 3:30-7pm: $2.75 glass house wine. 9 draft beer pitcher.

Kensington: Monday, All night: $5 glasses of wine. $5 appetizers. Tuesday, 3-6pm: Buy glass of wine and get the second for $1. Thursday, 3-6pm: $5 for a sample of small bites.

**LA JOLLA**

Beaumont’s: Daily, 3-6:30pm $5 micro-craft drafts. $3 Pacifico, $5 mules, mojitos, margaritas; $3 off specialty cocktails, $5 house wine, $4 food specials. 

Café Japengo: Monday-Friday, 4:30-7pm Drink and food specials. Saturday, 4:30pm-close: Drink and food specials.

Catcher: Daily, 3-9pm: $4 margaritas, domestic beer, $4 premium wine by the glass, champagne. Food specials.

Eddie V's: Monday-Friday, 5-7pm: All libations $2 off. Saturday-Sunday, 4-7pm: All libations $2 off.

Eso Sushi: Monday-Friday, 5-10pm: 15%-25% off select rolls and sushi.

The Hake Kitchen & Bar: Daily, 4-7pm and 9pm-close (at the bar): $10 select wines; $5 house wine, drafts, well, 20% off bar snack.

Iberico Spanish Bistro: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm $4 domestic draft, $5 tapas.

Joe's Courtyard: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 4-7pm: $4 house wines, $5 domestic margaritas and well drinks, $3 select draft beers. $5 appetizer specials. Thursday, 4-7pm: $4 house wines, house margaritas and well drinks, $3 select draft beers. $5 appetizer specials. Friday-Saturday, 4-7pm: Taco Tues for $1.99 8x9 taco specials.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: $4 pints, flights, house wine, and well drinks. $5 wings, hummus, calamari, chile lime sweet potato fries and spinach dip.

Lupi Italian Restaurant: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm $5 wine, $5 appetizers.

The Melting Pot: Daily, 4-6pm: $5 wines, $7 bartender's special cocktail. $5 draft beer, $7 select red and white wines.

Nine-Ten: Monday-Friday, 3-30-6:30pm $5 wine, $2 beer. Hall-off select appetizers.

Rock Bottom Brewery, La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: Discounted appetizers, $2 beer, $2 off select drinks.

The Shack Bar & Grill: Monday, 7-10pm $2.50 domestic drafts. Tuesday, 7-10pm: $2.50 domestic drafts.

The Buckingham Delorian: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm $3 house wine, 2-for-1 well drinks, $3 Fireball, $1 off domestic bottles. Tuesday, 3-7pm: $2.50 domestic drafts. 

The Lazy Cow: Club: Monday-Friday, 2-8pm $3.50 wells, $3 domestic bottles. Saturday-Sunday, 12-8pm: $3.50 wells, $3 domestic bottles.

**KENSINGTON**

Clem's Tap House: Wednesday-Friday, 4-6pm $5 select drafts, $2 sample flights of beer and wine.

The Haven Pizzeria: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm $2 off beer and wine. 

The Kensington Club: Monday-Friday, 2-8pm $3.50 wells, $3 domestic bottles. Saturday-Sunday, 12-8pm: $3.50 wells, $3 domestic bottles.

**LAKESIDE**

Hearth House: Daily, 4-7pm: $4 pints, $6 domestic drafts, $8 pitchers, $2.50 sandwhiches. $5.00 Kamikazes.

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: Monday-Saturday, Open-7pm: $1 off select beers.

Mr. G's Tavern: Monday-Wednesday, Friday-2pm: 2 PBR Pints, $2 pints; $3.50 wells; $3.25 domestic pints. Thursday, All Day: Draft specials. 2-3pm: 2 PBR Pints, $2 pints. 3pm-7pm: $3.50 wells, $3.25 domestic pints; $4.25 premium pints.

Pete's Place: Daily, 10am-6pm: $3 wells, $6 domestic drafts, bottles.

San Pasqual Winery Tasting Room and Gallery: Friday, all day: $5 glass of sparkling wine.

**LITTLIE ITALY**

98 Bottles: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7pm $5 all bottles of wine, $1 off all drafts, fish house wine by the glass, $1 off wine and sake by the glass. $1 off flatbread and rice bowls.

El Camino: Daily, 5-7pm $3 Mexican beers, $3 sangria, $3 margaritas, $3 Mexican male. $5 select appetizers.

The Glass Door Restaurant & Lounge: Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 5-7pm: $1 off draft beer, drink specials. Food specials. Wednesday-Friday, 3-7pm: $1 off select appetizers. Saturday-Friday, 10pm-midnight: $1 off select appetizers.

**MISSION BEACH**

Barefoot Bar and Grill: Monday, 3-6pm: $5 wells; $4 craft beer. All drafts are beer and wine available.

Drafthouse: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: $4 Stone, Sante, Saint Archer, Modern Times Baja Oyster & Sushi Bar: 3-6pm: $4 domestic craft beer.

Guava Beach Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm, 4pm-7pm: Half-off drinks. 25% off all appetizers.

**MISSION HILLS**

The Aero Club: Daily, 2-7pm $3.75 house wine, $3.50 wells, $3.50 drafts, $6 house martini. $30% off appetizers. Bar only. Sunday, All day: $3 house wine, $3.50 wells, $3.50 drafts, $6 house martini. $30% off appetizers. Bar only.

The Patriot on Goldfinch: Daily, 3-6pm: $5 select wine and drafts. $5 appetizer specials.

Cafe Bleu: Daily, 3-6pm $5 select wine and drafts. $5 appetizer specials.

**MISSION VALLEY**

Casa de Pico: Monday-Friday, $3.50 730pm-10pm house wine, $3.50 wells, $3.50 drafts, $6 house martini. $30% off appetizers. Bar only. Sunday, All day: $3 house wine, $3.50 wells, $3.50 drafts, $6 house martini. $30% off appetizers. Bar only.

**NATIONAL CITY**

Mclain's: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm, $2.50 domestic bottles, $3 domestic drafts.

Pier 2 Waterfront Grill: Friday, 11am-sunset: 3 appetizers, $3 burgers, $3 baskets. $5.50 shrimp and avocado cocktails, Angus beef sliders, calamari, buffalo wings.

**NESTOR**

Baja Oyster & Sushi Bar: Monday-Thursday, All-day: $1.50 fish tacos 3-6pm: two-for-one domestic bottle, discounted special roll.

**NORMAL HEIGHTS**

The Ould Sod: Monday, 2-7pm: $3.50 Fireball shots, $2 20-oz. drafts, $13: Third drink for $25. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 3-7pm $3.50 Fireball shots, $2 off 20-oz. drafts. Sunday: $2 off 20-oz. Guinness, Smithwicks, and Harp.

Rosie O'Grady's: Monday-Tuesday, 11am-2am: $2.50 domestic beers. $3 domestic drafts.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille: Monday, 3-7pm: $1 off select beers, $3 house wines. $4.95 20oz Imperial pints, $3.75 wells.

**TRIPPLE CROWN PUB:** Monday-Friday, 3-7pm $1 off all pints, $2 off pitchers. Saturday, noon-7pm $1 off all pints, $1 off pitchers.

10am - 2am • Daily Specials

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**San Diego**

- **10% off all bottles to go.**
- **The Smoking Goat:**
  - **Specials:**
    - 5-7pm: $5 house cocktails, $4 beer
    - 7pm-9pm: $5 well drinks & $3 select appetizers.
- **Seven Grand:**
  - **Appetizers from $5 to $8, drink specials.**
- **HOPE 46:**
  - **10pm-midnight:** $4 wells, $4 drafts, $1 off drafts and drinks. $1 off Heineken.
- **True North Tavern:**
  - **$1 off drafts.**
- **Night, $3 calls.**

**Karina Frost Burlesque**

- **Daily until 8pm**
- **Dead Satellites**
- **Sunday**
- **New Years Eve!**
- **RIPS Presents:**
  - **Fri, Dec 26:**
  - **Sat, Jan 3:**

**San Diego**

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- **Dead Satellites**
- **Sunday**
- **New Years Eve!**
- **RIPS Presents:**
  - **Fri, Dec 26:**
  - **Sat, Jan 3:**
Christmas show in the ballroom of the Hotel del Coronado, 100 year ago. The Marshall family hosts an evening of music, songs, stories, dancing, and a five-course meal — all taking place in 1914 Coronado. Robert and Deborah Gilnour Smyth co-directed. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-435-6611. 6:30PM THURSDAY & SATURDAY.

Holiday show, written by Kerry Meads, takes place in Minnesota in 1962. “Three generations adjust their traditional plans after the pipes burst and surprise guests arrive.” Deborah Gilnour Smyth directs. LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0660. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 28. Teaser image of a Christmas show with a character holding a candle.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

The Old Globe Theatre presents its 17th annual Christmas show, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin, starring the Green Meanie who, like Scrooge, learns the true meaning of the Yuletide season when he tries to erase it from Whoville, James Vasquez directs. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 11AM, 2PM, & 5PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

Lamb’s Festival of Christmas: Northern Lights Lamb’s Players Theatre’s popular holiday show. Worth a try. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWOGS ST., OLD TOWN, 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

An American Christmas Lamb’s Players stages its popular Christmas show in the ballroom of the Hotel del Coronado, 100 year ago. The Marshall family hosts an evening of music, songs, stories, dancing, and a five-course meal — all taking place in 1914 Coronado. Robert and Deborah Gilnour Smyth co-directed. HOTEL DEL CORONADO, 1500 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-435-6611. 6:30PM THURSDAY & SATURDAY.

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HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

The Old Globe Theatre presents its 17th annual Christmas show, book and lyrics by Timothy Mason, music by Mel Marvin, starring the Green Meanie who, like Scrooge, learns the true meaning of the Yuletide season when he tries to erase it from Whoville, James Vasquez directs. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 11AM, 2PM, & 5PM SATURDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

Lamb’s Festival of Christmas: Northern Lights Lamb’s Players Theatre’s popular holiday show, written by Kerry Meads, takes place in Minnesota in 1962. “Three generations adjust their traditional plans after the pipes burst and surprise guests arrive.” Deborah Gilnour Smyth directs. LAMB’S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0660. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 28.
Keane eyes

What could Tim Burton have possibly seen in "Big Eyes," the story of a monotonous, marginally talented, yet enormously successful "artist?" Something of himself, perhaps?

For years, even Burton's staunchest detractors (I'm one of them) have conceded him two masterworks: Pee-Wee's Big Adventure, which owed much of its goofy appeal to Paul Reubens's manic creation, and Ed Wood, hands down the director's most mature, fully realized creation due in large part to the lead performances and a compassionately caustic screenplay by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski.

Imagine the delight when news arrived that the duo — they tend to vacillate between Oscar bait (Ed Wood, The People vs. Larry Flynt) and risible kidpics (Problem Child 1–3, Agent Cody Banks) — would once again be around to try and help make Burton look good.

Lightning failed to strike twice. The finished product is another one of the director's triumphs of production design over storytelling, as structurally spiritless as the ocular-enhanced, Children of the Damned urchins generally associated with the paintings Walter Keane (Christoph Waltz) appropriated from his wife, Margaret (Amy Adams), and passed off as his own creation.

Johnny Depp portrayed Ed Wood as a blithe nimrod hoping to hitch his star to a more talented, albeit on-the-skids Bela Lugosi. Waltz, badly miscast, adopts a similar approach adding an exasperating tinge of Broadway Danny Rose cloying condescension to every comment, inquiry, request, command, and exclamation he speaks. Adams, who spends most of the time looking shell-shocked, fares slightly better as the subjugated, trounced-upon lady of the house.

Krysten Ritter pops up briefly, no doubt cast for her resemblance to Burton's ex, Lisa Marie. Everything in the film — from the overlit endeavors to reproduce the look of '50s Technicolor to a Beach Boys cover version — looks and feels artificial. Burton had a chance to make a powerful statement on the struggle for a woman to achieve artistic recognition and instead settled for another childlike fairy tale.

— Scott Marks

SCOTT MARKS’S TEN WORST FILMS OF 2014

Much of what follows was regurgitated from capsule reviews with the occasional extra added dash of bonus bile. (You don't really expect me to give any of these a second look, do you?) Haters gonna download. For the rest of you, here are this year's ten musts to avoid.

10. The German Doctor

It's 1960, and Dr. Josef Mengele is alive and well and living in a scenic Argentine bed-and-breakfast run by a family whose individual shortcomings and/or physical frailties transform the retired war criminal into a walking...
Paul Haggis's unwittingly sidesplitting multicharacter experiment in reheating his Oscar soufflé, Paul Haggis's voluble, slickly designed history—sidesplitting in the guise of important entertainment. In an attempt to help remove every Jew from Budapest, a couple of young Hungarians get their hands on SS uniforms and go all Batman and Robin on the Third Reich. Based on a true story (so it must be good), Enemy amounts to little more than two hours of killing Jews to awaken audiences to the heretofore unheard of notion that Nazis committed atrocious acts. Freshman director Mark Schmidt leads a uniformly unconvincing cast through a sty of sentimental hogwash that makes Spielberg’s amusement park ride look like documentary realism.

3. The Grand Budapest Hotel

 Wes Anderson lost me halfway through The Royal Tenenbaums, never to return. His five subsequent live-action features play as precious pop-up books, electronic wallpaper for Tim Burton—dismissing hipsters, where more thought goes into giggly, prettified production design than does storyline. Time and again Anderson’s pretentiously schematized approach to mind mapping a scene — center frame and teeter-totter compositions alternate — puts me to sleep.

2. Frank

Frank (Michael Fassbender), the visionary lead singer in an unsung alt-rock band, spends his entire life hiding beneath piñata headgear that brings to mind a Jack-in-the-Box drive-thru. His parents later confess their adult son suffers from mental illness. Really? Huggable, Sundance-sanctioned babble that joins the ever-stretching dishonor roll of well-intentioned multiplex rot that shamelessly exploits and trivializes intellectually challenged minds. For a film about determined musicians, Stephen Remnick’s abrasive score boasts more Mickey Mousing than a Silly Symphony. The band eventually makes its debut at SXSW, and with it comes the film’s only honest discernment: there is no better place for self-indulgent mediocrity to flex its commercial muscle than at a trendy film festival.

1. Visitors

Godfrey Reggio, purveyor of fine coffee-table movies (Powaqqatsi, Koyaanisqatsi), is an acquired taste I have yet to acquire. Reggio uses precisely 74 shots to document his story. With only four behind me and 70 left to go, the film’s thesis already stated and its conclusion long foregone, I wanted to bolt. Visitors intercuts black-and-white, dialog-free, unbroken, close-up ‘Scope long-takes of faces — with allegorical inserts of abandoned amusement parks, disjointed hands moving a computer mouse (or is it close-up magic?)! According to this highfalutin’ technical exercise, since humanity spends so much of its time staring into a computer screen, why not turn things around and situate an audience inside a laptop and force...
them to look out. There is enough accelerated cloud movement to make one time-lapse into a coma, and, of course, children as credulous symbols of hope. It’s Paranormal Activity for eggheads, a staring contest during which my eyes practically bled from focusing on so many fixed images for such long periods.

— Scott Marks

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 now unreviewed.

CALENDAR MOVIES

CENTRAL LIBRARY
300 Park Boulevard, East Village 619-236-5800

Film Forum: The Act of Killing Joshua Oppenheimer’s documentary in which a team of ex-paramilitaries and ex-paratroopers told an experiment that puts a human face on incomprehensible evil confronting the viewer with the often macabre accounts of the gangsters involved in the 1965-66 purge of “communists” in Indonesia. A P.O.V. documentary. Indonesian with English subtitles. Directed and produced by Oppenheimer. World premiere screening. Discussion to follow. Monday, December 29, 6:30 p.m.

C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America In 1864 if the South had won the war, Kevin Wilmott’s political commentary is presented as a wacky, faux documentary that imagines an escape from the 1980-85 purgatory of “communists” in Indonesia. A P.O.V. documentary. Indonesian with English subtitles. Directed and produced by Oppenheimer. World premiere screening. Discussion to follow. Monday, December 29, 6:30 p.m.

Film Festival

FILM FESTIVALS

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies — Look, if you were as blase as The Hobbit trilogy, you probably would be showing signs of exhaustion instead of the option of a nearly nine-hour runtime, too. And if your films were as stupidly profitable as director Peter Jackson’s, you probably just be as half-mad as Hal. He’s already seen his movies once. So let’s avoid repeating the charges hurled at the previous two installments, and concentrate on the wrap-up of this fantasy epic. The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies marks the end of a three-film journey and to be fair, it doesn’t really quite know what to do. It doesn’t want to say goodbye but don’t worry, he’s just there to destroy the town and so provide motivation for Bard the relatable action hero, or, Guard. We hear them talking when they’re dancing and he is tempted to let Thorin the exiled dwarf kid find the Arkenstone, so that it might drive him mad with its bargaining power? Totally unnecessary: he goes mad because he can’t find it! At least it stops his moping. Thorin twisted by greed is way more interesting than any other Thorin. (The titular hobbit is mostly reduced to the role of Jiminy Cricket.) There is, as the title implies, a battle of five armies, and in the context it makes for an interesting bit of large-scale filmed warfare. (Fun touch: the orcs’ use of a mountaintop as a kind of strategicema.) Another win for the Hobbits. There’s no way we’re back to mania (dwarves are a croc) or combat, because that’s what you care about. But for all our Hobbits, we’re still nodding back toward his weirdo-horror past in a battle between an elf queen and a necromancer, and Thorin’s trippy goldfest could easily be the material near the end. None. — M.L. (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

The Imitation Game — Or, If It Hadn’t Been for Schoolboy Bullying, We Might Have Lost the Second World War. Alan Turing famously invented something like the world’s first computer as part of the British effort to crack the code employed by Germany’s Enigma machine. And this is the story of that, told with goggle, twee Englishness by director Morten Tyldum and starring the effortlessly superior Benedict Cumberbatch. (At least, he makes superiority less visible.) Seeing young Turing (Armie Hammer) take the never-good-enough-son (Chris Pine) provides a lot of fun this time around, sending up his James. Y. Kirk smarm-and-embarrassing effect. (At least it keeps what worked in the original [Jamie Fox’s [Expletive Deleted] Jones, Jennifer Aniston’s horny dentist], and tamp down on what gets tiresome (Sudeikis’s slits, chasing, Kevin Spacey’s bullying). The result is a modest comedy, content to entertain and leave it at that. It’s a gaga’s parallel universe and alternate history — the Confederacy wins the Civil War, Lincoln is exiled to Canada, and slavery is alive and well. 2014. 89 minutes. Not Rated. Discussion to follow with Amani Brown of SDSU’s African Studies Department. In conjunction with the Central Library’s current exhibit “Linc- coln: The Constitution and the Civil War.” Two hours free parking with validation. Monday, January 6, 5:30 p.m.

Pride It’s the summer of 1984. Margaret Thatcher is in power and the miners are on strike against the miner’s union. The film celebrates the impassioned attempts of a rag-tag band of gays and lesbians to raise money to aid the cause with the striking miners. Bill Nighy, Paddy Considine, and Imelda Staunton headline. Directed by Andrew Haigh. 2014. 117 minutes. Two hours free parking with validation. Monday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

POINTE LOMA LIBRARY
3922 Calle Estrella, Point Loma 619-539-1539

Film Forum: Blow Out Brian DePalma’s revelation on movie making is in his new film, a nightmarish, Travolta as a sound-effects man who believes he has accidently recorded a political assassination. With its striking stylistic flourishes and intricate plot, DePalma has fashioned an exhilarating paranoiac thriller. Co-starring John Lithgow and Nancy Allen. 1981. 107 minutes. Rated R. Free parking, free popcorn. Tuesday, January 6, 6:00 p.m.

Film Forum: Capital Oscar-winning Costa- Gavras’s (Z and Missing) masterpiece about “cowboy capitalism” whirs up a whirlwind of power struggles, greed, deixis, and erotic distractions. The Machiavellian young CEO of a powerful French bank sells it out with a ruthless hedge fund manager (Gabriel Byrne) for focus of Venmore and the global financial markets. 2014. 114 minutes. Rated R. Free Admission. Free parking, free popcorn. Sunday, January 12, 1:00 p.m.

Film Forum: Calvary This impassioned moral inquiry blends passage play, black humor, and a touch with detective story. Brendan Gleeson plays a defiant man of the cloth continually saddened by the spiritual inhabitants of his small country town. After being threatened during confession, he must battle the dark forces closing in on him. Directed by John Crowley. 2014. 105 minutes. Rated R. Free Admission, free parking, free popcorn. Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 p.m.

READING TOWN SQUARE
4665 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont 800-326-3264 Sunday, January 4, 12:00pm

The Last Unicorn Screenings with Peter S. Beagle The animated classic The Last Unicorn is screening across the country with a reading of his novel by the man who created it all. Audience Q&A, free raffle prizes, signing session, and tour-exclusive merchandise. We also encourage and reward cosplay. Saturday, January 3, 12:00 p.m.
ordinary morality is a sham, anyway. But as the film buries the man beneath the mess-
age, you might wonder: did we really need to be told in such blunt, artless fashion?
2014. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE) — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)

Unbroken — Angelina Jolie strikes a pose behind the camera for a vanity produc-
tion that delights in torturing audiences as much as it does the film’s characters. On
land, sea, and air, the charmed celeb stops at nothing when it comes to cataloging
human suffering in this fact-based, CGI-encumbered account of Italian-American
soldier Louis Zamperini (redheaded Irishman Jack O’Connell, ethnically altered by a
bit of Kiwi black), who was held captive during WWII in a Japanese POW camp.
Ethan and Joel Coen receive top writing credit for their work as script doctors. Pen
the word “gift” in the memo line of their paychecks for this comic-book approach to
heroes. And break the fingers of the imbecile who thought it wise, under the
conditions presented, to add a flagrant nod to Jews. Like the movie star who signed it,
the film is aloof, emotionless, and (thanks to cinematographer Roger Deakins) beauti-
ful to look at. 2014. S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Wild — The story of Cheryl Strayed (an unadorned Reese Witherspoon) and her
attempt to, in her words, “walk myself back to the way I was.” The path to the past runs
1,100 miles or so along the Pacific Crest Trail. Walking is slow business. To break
the monotony, director Jean-Marc Vallee (Dallas Buyer’s Club) tosses in encounters
with other hikers, rednecks, bikers, Deadheads, and even an amazed journalist from
the Hobo Times. He also doles out an artful array of flashbacks to help you understand
just what Strayed is running from. (Mostly, it has to do with her dead husband,
hiking from. (Mostly, it has to do with Mom, played with great, vulnerable appeal by
Laura Dern.) Alas, this is a journey that ends, not because it reaches some actual
dramatic resolution, but because the author (the real-life Strayed wrote the memoir
that serves as source material) tells you she’s done. We know she’s different, not because
of anything in particular that’s happened, but because she says so. Strayed comes
across as a real person, Witherspoon is a real actor, and the film is a real showcase.
But you may wind up wishing for more to change than the scenery. 2014. — M.L. ★★★
(IN WIDE RELEASE — SEE SHOWTIMES)
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1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDRreader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 am Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will not be counted or verified.

3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.

4) The puzzle-contest ranking shown online and in the paper will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!

5) Entries must be faxed to 619-231-0489, or mailed to Reader, P.O. Box 90610, San Diego, CA 92116-9061; or delivered to our office, 1521 Broadway, in Golden Hill, or scanned and e-mailed to Sudokulreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in .pdf format—maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don’t fit the format will not be counted or verified.

6) All answers must be legal and be entered in the spaces provided.

7) Late entries will be not considered.

8) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.

9) Employees of the Reader and their immediate families are not eligible.

**SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

**EASY:**

```
 5 7 3 6 2 4 8 1 9
 2 6 1 5 4 9 7 8 3
...
 9 1 6 4 8 3 7 2 5
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**MEDIUM:**

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 8 9 7 5 1 3 2 4 6
 1 2 4 5 3 6 8 9 7
...
 1 8 9 5 6 4 2 3 7
```

**HARD:**

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 6 7 5 1 9 4 3 8 2
 8 3 1 9 7 5 2 6 4
...
 3 6 8 2 7 1 5 4 9
```

**EVIL:**

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 8 2 3 1 5 4 9 6 7
 9 1 2 6 8 7 4 5 3
...
 6 8 3 5 1 4 2 7 9
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**REAL ESTATE**

**SOLVED BY TO-LAST WEEK’S SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

**EASY:**

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 5 7 3 6 2 4 8 1 9
 2 6 1 5 4 9 7 8 3
...
 9 1 6 4 8 3 7 2 5
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**MEDIUM:**

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 8 9 7 5 1 3 2 4 6
 1 2 4 5 3 6 8 9 7
...
 1 8 9 5 6 4 2 3 7
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**HARD:**

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 6 7 5 1 9 4 3 8 2
 8 3 1 9 7 5 2 6 4
...
 3 6 8 2 7 1 5 4 9
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**EVIL:**

```
 8 2 3 1 5 4 9 6 7
 9 1 2 6 8 7 4 5 3
...
 6 8 3 5 1 4 2 7 9
```

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**THIS WEEK’S WINNERS:**

**Easy:**

- Willie McGee, San Diego, 2.
- Paula Davis, Spring Valley, 3.
- Larry Johnsgard, Escondido, 3.
- Scott William J North Park, 3.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont, 3.

**Medium:**

- Willie McGee, San Diego, 3.
- Paula Davis, Spring Valley, 3.
- Larry Johnsgard, Escondido, 3.
- Scott William J North Park, 3.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont, 3.

**Hard:**

- Willie McGee, San Diego, 3.
- Paula Davis, Spring Valley, 3.
- Larry Johnsgard, Escondido, 3.
- Scott William J North Park, 3.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont, 3.

**Evil:**

- Willie McGee, San Diego, 3.
- Paula Davis, Spring Valley, 3.
- Larry Johnsgard, Escondido, 3.
- Scott William J North Park, 3.
- Ric Witt, Clairemont, 3.

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HILL CREST, $225.

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Home Remodelers

Anessa1: I’m 19 years old and live in Chula Vista. I work as a professional dancer (contemporary/polynesian based) and also a dance instructor. This is the start to my sleeve; a black and gray white tiger with focuses of color to highlight the most intense features of his face. I am in love with animals and this portrait represents a little amount of my appreciation for them. Best work I’ve had done so far! This one was done by Wylde Sydes Tattoo Shop by Jesus Sanchez. His work is amazing and he is continuing the rest of my art.

californiaspeedboater: This tattoo of a Phoenix was done by the amazing artist Greg at Lucky 7. It represents my determination to always rise from serious adversity.

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hsld20: Crystal Pier...all dressed up for Christmas.

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CERTIFIED PET THERAPY DOGS wanted to visit patients and their families at Scripps Mercy and Mercy Chula Vista Hospitals. If interested, call Ben at 858-279-9472.

CAT "Mele Haggar" (A1067367) is a 2 year old neutered male red tabby domestic shorthair cat who gets along well with and is very tolerant of other cats, may do well with cat-savvy dogs and is currently awaiting his adoptive home! He enjoys attention from people and will come running to pets when you walk in the room. Mele Haggar is currently available for adoption at the Chula Vista Animal Shelter in Chula Vista, His adoption fee is only $58 and includes deworming, testing for feline diseases (FIV and FELV), and microchip.

DOG “Estonia” Dachshund / Rat Terrier. Female, Baby, Tiny. Looking to fall in love? Estonia is your pup. Her sweet, shy eyes and silly puppy kisses will melt your heart. She gets along great with others, people and kids. She is current on all her shots, she is spayed and is micro-chipped. $200+ donation. Barking Lot Dog Rescue at www.thebarkinglot.net.

DOG “Glossy” Beagle & Chihuahua Mix. Adult, Female, Small. Glossy is a shy girl that likes to burrow under blankets and lay on your lap. Good with other dogs, current on all shots, spayed and micro-chipped. $200+ donation. Barking Lot Dog Rescue at www.thebarkinglot.net.

DOG “Staccato”. Neutered, current on all shots and microchipped. Silly, energetic boy who loves to play. Loves other dogs & kids who can keep up with his playful energy. Barking Lot Dog Rescue. Rescue will fill out an application of interest. $200+ donation. Barking Lot Dog Rescue at www.thebarkinglot.net.

DOG “Uno” is a 6 month old neutered male, Small. "Uno" is a very active, good with other dogs, people and kids. He is current on all his shots, he is neutered and is micro-chipped. $200+ donation. Barking Lot Dog Rescue at www.thebarkinglot.net.

DOG "Estonia" Dachshund / Rat Terrier. Female, Baby, Tiny. Looking to fall in love? Estonia is your pup. Her sweet, shy eyes and silly puppy kisses will melt your heart. She gets along great with others, people and kids. She is current on all her shots, she is spayed and is micro-chipped. $200+ donation. Barking Lot Dog Rescue at www.thebarkinglot.net.

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LEGACY STORY
— Plastic surgeons, first in University of Missouri research in 2000 and recently in a study by Singapore doctors in the journal of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, have postulated that the “ideal” navel is basically vertically shaped with slight hooding — and, of course, an “innie.” The earlier study “analyzed” photos of 147 females aged 18 to 62, while the Singapore surgeons gazed at shots of 37 Playboy playmates and used a computerized tool to measure “vertical ratio” “midline horizontal position,” length “from the xiphoid process...to the lower limit of the vulvar cleft,” and how nearly oval-shaped the belly buttons were.

The Aristocrats!
— Inmate Corey McQueary, 33, passed away in Jessamine County, Kentucky, lockup in August of a methadone overdose. According to state police, another inmate had soaked a pair of underwear in methadone when he was out on release, then another inmate had soaked a pair of underwear in a methadone overdose. According to state police, an inmate had soaked a pair of underwear in a methadone overdose. According to state police, an inmate had soaked a pair of underwear in a methadone overdose.

— Ten years ago, New York City skyscraper heir Robert Durst beat a murder charge by claiming self-defense, and now lives more quietly in Houston. However, police in that city accused Durst in July of, “without provocation,” urinating on a cash register in a CVS store, “drenching” a candy rack.

Wait...What?
— Guests at the May wedding of Shona Carter-Brooks in Ripley, Tennessee, reported that the bride’s idea for integrating her month-old daughter into the ceremony consisted of tying her (“well-secured,” she said later) to the long train of her wedding dress, dragging the child as the bride walked the aisle. Carter-Brooks was forced to take to her Facebook page in defense: People always “have something negative to say,” she wrote, but her wedding was “exclusive and epic.”

— On Aug. 21 and 22, in front of Linwood Howe Elementary School in Culver City, California, traffic officials posted a towering parking regulation sign pole (reportedly, 15 feet high) with at least eight large white signs, one on top of the other — in familiar red or green lettering, restricting access to the school’s curb lane. Each sign contains orders either to not park or to park only under certain conditions, each with its specific hours or other fine-print limitations. The mayor ordered the signs replaced on Aug. 22.

Least Competent Criminals
— Clearwater, Florida, police pulled over a “suspicious” car on July 24 and ultimately arrested the driver and his passenger. The back seat was loaded with potted plants — in fact, potted pot plants, so crowded that the leaves and branches of some plants were sticking out of the car’s windows.

— Daniel Warn, 28, was arrested in July in Costa Mesa, California, and charged with the burglary of an El Pollo Loco restaurant — a caper that was captured on surveillance video. Police were notified later that day when Warn — wearing the same distinctive hat and bright green shirt worn by the burglar — came to the restaurant to order a meal.

— A 20-year-old woman was arrested in Seattle in August after calling police to complain that she was being harassed by a man who was following her. Police arrived to find that the “stalker” was simply trying to get his phone back after the woman stole it from him while he was napping on a bus.

Of Course!
— Jonathan Thomas, 50, was charged with DUI and disorderly conduct in Washington Township, Indiana, in August after driving through two backyards one Friday evening and getting his vehicle stuck in the second. Police reported that Thomas “show[ed] his teeth to officers” and later “growled” at hospital security staff. Thomas’s day job is director of the Porter County Animal Shelter.

— In August, a Bradenton, Florida, deputy sheriff was forced to duplicate a classic scene from Raiders of the Lost Ark when he was advanced upon by a menacing-looking, samurai-sword-swinging, 31-year-old man. The deputy, perhaps as nonplussed as Indiana Jones was, shot him dead.

— The 15-year-old granddaughter of Cliven Bundy (the Nevada rancher whose dispute with the federal government caused a notorious standoff in March) told Las Vegas’ KSNV-TV that her dad (Bundy’s son) was withdrawing her from her high school because officials would not allow her to carry a knife on campus.

Death without Dignity
— Annual Bunyola “fiestas” on the Spanish island of Mallorca were canceled in September out of respect for an 18-year-old man who fatally hit his head after receiving an electric shock on a lamp post he was leaning against as he urinated at a street corner.

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