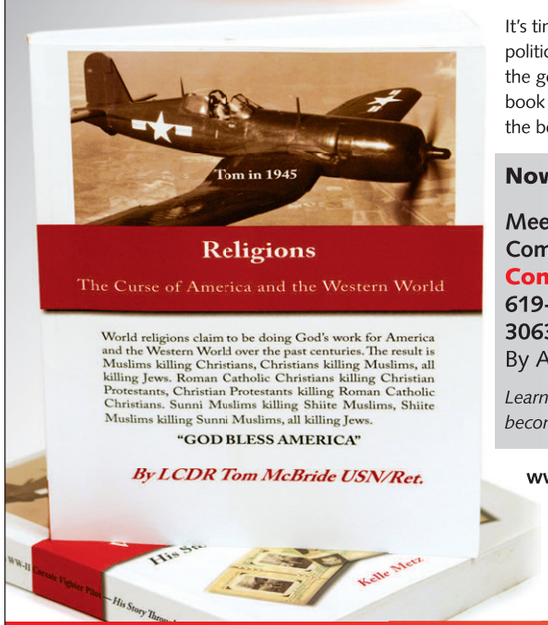
SAN DIEGO
Reader
VOLUME 44 / NUMBER 49
DECEMBER 3, 2015

Holiday Guide

50% off Rosarito getaway including breakfast & massages — see page 4

"Science flies you to the moon. Religions fly you into buildings."
— RICHARD DAWKINS



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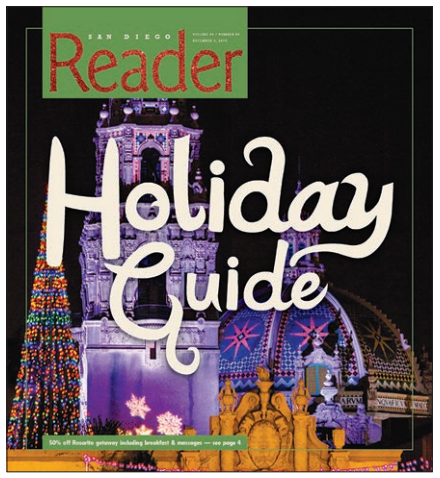

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY BOYD

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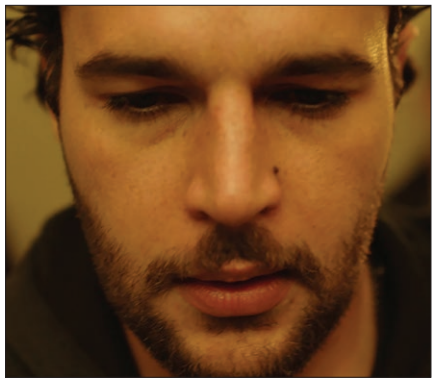

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Come on, Kennedy

Senator Feinstein at bat for Edison

New documents have surfaced that show senator Dianne Feinstein — as a favor to Southern California Edison — wrote the United States ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy, asking her to intervene with the government of Japan to put blame on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries for the flawed equipment that brought down the San Onofre nuclear plant.

Dianne Feinstein

Caroline Kennedy

The documents were obtained and provided by San Diego attorneys Mike Aguirre and Mia Severson.

Feinstein wrote to Kennedy on November 14, 2013. Five days later, Ted Craver, Edison's highest officer, sent a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission, attaching Feinstein's letter. The package was also sent to Secretary of State John Kerry and other important U.S. officials.

Craver wrote this letter to the utilities commission months after the notorious secret huddle in Warsaw, Poland, in which then-commission president Michael Peevey, a former president of Edison, essentially dictated the terms of a deal in which ratepayers would pay $3.3 billion in San Onofre decommissioning costs. Craver knew of the results of the clandestine Polish meeting.

Yet, on November 19, Craver wrote the commission and said this was not "a simple dispute between commercial parties," but it "affects millions of California ratepayers."

Feinstein's letter to Kennedy said, "I would appreciate it if you would engage the Government of Japan to urge Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to compensate California's electricity ratepayers for the costs associated with the premature" closing of San Onofre.

Feinstein even asked Kennedy to raise the point in then-ongoing negotiations over the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal. This occurred during a time when California's other senator, Barbara Boxer, was calling for a criminal investigation of the San Onofre shuttering.

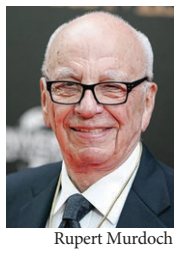
In the documents that have already come out, it is clear that Edison management pressured Mitsubishi to use materials that turned out to be defective — not the other way around. The blame lies with Edison, not Mitsubishi.

Don Bauder

U-T as red-headed stepchild

Murdoch says Tribune Publishing to be sold

Publishing magnate Rupert Murdoch on November 27 sent out a tweet saying that Tribune Publishing, now parent of the *Los Angeles Times* and *Union-Tribune,* will be sold to a Wall Street group. Then the *Los Angeles Times* will be sold to L.A. billionaire Eli Broad and a group of local investors.



Rupert Murdoch

If that scenario unfolds, this would almost certainly mean that the *Union-Tribune* would go with the *Times* to Broad and his L.A. colleagues. The *Los Angeles Times* contingent and Chicago's Tribune Publishing headquarters have been feuding publicly; *U-T* management has taken the side of the L.A. group.

Murdoch's tweet is believable because of the feuding, as well as Tribune Publishing's poor performance.

Murdoch's tweet said, "Strong word Tribune newspaper group to be bought by Wall Street firm. L.A. Times to go to philanthropist Eli Broad and local group."

Don Bauder

High-tech boondoggle

Billion-dollar BioWatch terrorism bust

While the latest bout of terrorist attacks has set off a search for government responses by panicked politicos, one costly federal program left over from post-9/11 days has turned into a big bust.

So says a new report by the Government Accountability Office concluding that the so-called BioWatch initiative, employing high-tech sensors located in San Diego and elsewhere around the country meant to detect toxic terrorist attacks, should not get further upgrades until it's determined that the program actually works.

That could be painful for some San Diego military contractors, who have so far profited handsomely from the multibillion-dollar program that critics call a boondoggle.

In June 2004, SAIC, then based in La Jolla, was one of 14 firms tapped by the Department of Homeland Security to work on BioWatch, according to a *Union-Tribune* report, which added that the companies "will have access to $48 million for the first phase of research and development, which is expected to last 18 months."

The San Diego branch of Northrop Grumman has also been a major player.

Announced by George W. Bush in his 2003

continued on page 28

Ian Campbell

David Bennett

Edward Barnes

San Diego Opera stands by its man

...even though David Bennett left Gotham in financial ruin

By Garrett Harris

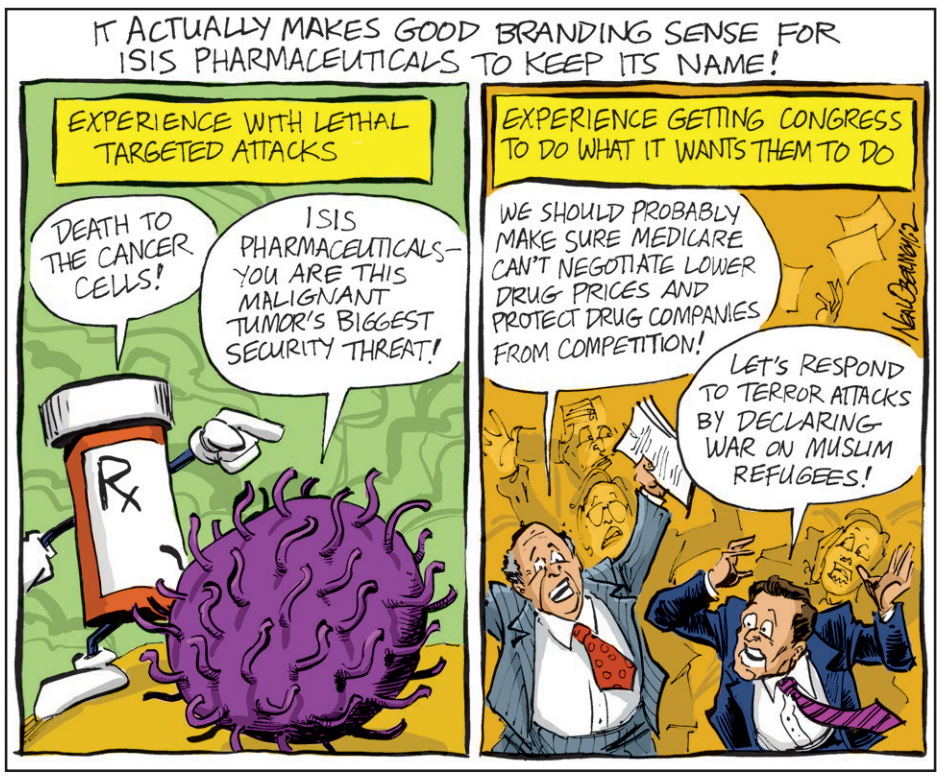
In March of 2014, Ian Campbell stepped onto the stage of the San Diego Civic Theater and addressed the orchestra, soloists, and chorus who were gathered for a dress rehearsal of Verdi's *Requiem.* The company's 31-year director explained that the company was not in debt but there was no more money to continue operating at its accustomed level. He said the board had voted to close the company down "with dignity." All outstanding contracts would be paid.

Campbell's actions created a firestorm of energy — T-shirts were made, websites were developed, crowds were sourced, and a deeper assessment of the company's financials showed San Diego Opera was healthier than Campbell had presented.

The firestorm culminated in the hiring of David Bennett to be San Diego Opera's new director, almost to the day a year after Campbell tried to raise the white flag. Bennett was the respected and admired executive of what people were calling "the little opera company that could." New York City's Gotham Chamber Opera produced great art on a budget, folks said.

But, while a deeper assessment of San Diego Opera's finances showed the company was better off than Campbell said they were, a review of Gotham Chamber Opera's financials by Bennett's successor Edward Barnes showed a company

Neal Obermeyer



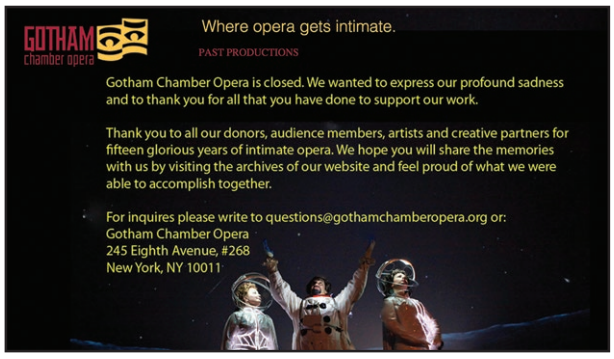
mired in debt. Barnes told the *New York Observer* that he'd unearthed over half a million dollars of unpaid bills — including payments to artists — that were kept off of Gotham's books during Bennett's time. The extent of Gotham's problems led the leadership to cease operations and it is out of business.

Had the situation at Gotham Chamber Opera been known, would the San Diego Opera have hired David Bennett? No one is willing to answer this question publicly. One executive from an unrelated opera company was willing to speak anonymously.

"I think that [Bennett] sold himself to everybody as someone who had created a sustainable model in Gotham and was then hired, based upon that, to do the same in San Diego. If [the financial situation at Gotham] was public, there's no way San Diego Opera would have hired him, or at least I don't think they would have. If the San Diego Opera board did know, then they were negligent in hiring someone who kept information off the books. The problem is, there's no way to get the truth."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO

"Save San Diego Opera!" in chalk, April 2014



Gotham Chamber Orchestra website

Bennett released a statement regarding the situation at Gotham, after the company announced it would. "In the course of transitioning to new leadership, the board of Gotham Chamber Opera engaged in a deeper analysis of the company's financial condition and finally grasped a reality that I and the dedicated shoestring staff of three employees faced every day; the company's financial condition was more perilous than they had fully understood.... Ultimately, art is about taking risks. We took them and we were incredibly successful in taking them. But in the business of making opera there is always another side to taking risks; it is something that looms in the back of our minds every day.... [S]adly, Gotham Chamber Opera has decided it is a risk that they no longer wish to take."

Perhaps it's not a matter of whether or not Gotham wished to take risks. It simply couldn't afford to take them, because there was more than $500,000 of debt and unpaid bills that weren't on the books. There was a deficit in the official budget Bennett signed off on, but Barnes says it was closer to $100,000.

By phone, Marc Scorca, president of Opera America, a national organization dedicated to promoting the art form, went into more detail regarding the situation:

"Gotham was one of the more dynamic opera companies in New York regarding what it was putting on stage, in terms of the venues and the production styles. The company was doing very, very interesting work. I knew all along that the company was always on a financial edge. There were many times when David Bennett and the staff had to delay receiving their payroll. There were times when the board had to make personal loans to the company. There was no secret about that. It was a company that was like the Little Engine That Could in terms of putting on several productions a year of very high quality with virtually no staff and always, *always* on a financial edge."

The Gotham Chamber board says they didn't know about the debt. Bennett says they did. Bennett has said he expressed concern to the board and recommended that one of the upcoming season's productions be replaced with a gala concert to raise funds. This is exactly the move that San Diego Opera took in 2014 by replacing the expensive Tannhauser production with a gala concert. The San Diego Opera gala concert was a success with the audience. San Diego Opera didn't respond to queries regarding how much money the canceled Tannhauser production saved and how much money the gala concert raised.

Why aren't opera companies more forthcoming about their operational situations?

continued on page 28

UNDER THE RADAR

Lodging with lobbyists A staffer to congressman **Juan Vargas** has accepted a free overnight in Manhattan courtesy of a Washington think tank. This time it's **Scott Hinkle**, legislative director for the border Democrat, who took off for New York on November 6, checking into the Hudson Hotel on West 58th Street near Columbus Circle. "The next generation of hotel, Hudson is stylish, democratic, young at heart and utterly cool," boasts the hostelry's website. "Born from the innovative vision of design impresario **Philippe Starck**, this luxury New York boutique hotel is exuberantly energetic, breathtakingly beautiful and architecturally unpredictable." Added features include the "Hudson Lodge (open seasonally), New York's first urban ski-resort themed bar filled with authentic taxidermy, faux-fur throws and sheep-skin pillows."

Scott Hinkle, an aide to congressman Juan Vargas, last month opted for a New York sojourn paid for by Bill Clinton's "idea mill."

Hinkle has hit the road before on other people's dimes, including a two-day junket in April of this year to Boston, thanks to $1153 from the security studies program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a big government contractor, and a one-day excursion in June to Philadelphia paid for with $142 from Third Way, a nonprofit backed by major corporate interests that have included Qualcomm. Before that it was a December 2013 two-day getaway in Manhattan to tour the stock market, the $379 cost picked up by Wall Street's Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation, run by big banks. Hinkle paid for the overnight. The $678 bill for the aide's latest trip to the Big Apple was footed by an outfit called the Progressive Policy Institute, most famously known as ex-president **Bill Clinton's** "idea mill." The agenda for the event, held at Columbia's business school and entitled "Reviving U.S. Economic Growth," included such topics as "reinventing public education," "how bottom up innovation creates mass prosperity," and "energy, a realistic path to clean growth." An evening reception was booked for the tony Columbia Club, whose mission, according its website, is "to provide a superior quality club experience by offering excellent facilities for the social, business, and certain recreational needs of members and their families." But Hinkle had to depart early from the tour on November 7, due to what his disclosure form calls a "family emergency." The big-money Progressive Policy Institute, backed by the likes of the Eli Lilly and AT&T, is a bipartisan trip-giver. This past April, it coughed up $2996 so **Ellen Dargie**, an aide to North County Republican congressman **Darrell Issa**, could head off to London, Brussels, and Berlin as part of an 11-member group of fellow congressional staffers for five days of free-trade discussions over drinks and dinners with European officials.

Tropical revolving door State senator **Marty Block**, locked in a rough-and-tumble primary race with fellow Democrat **Toni Atkins**, termed out of her Assembly seat, is going all out to attract donors to his financially challenged campaign war chest. His apparent sense of humor was displayed in an emailed invitation to a November 4 fundraiser at Sacramento's Chicory Coffee and Tea, just across the street from the state capitol. In an apparent allusion to the annual post-session special-interest Hawaiian blow-out for legislators run by ex-Democratic state senator **Steve Peace**, the invite pitches a "pre-Maui luncheon" offering a "$150 gift card to shop at the Sun Glass Hut!" Givers have a choice of being a $2500 sponsor or just a $1000 individual. According to a December 2013 write-up by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Chicory "is a popular hangout for legislators, lobbyists and other political insiders, who come for the chai tea lattes as much as the chance to make inroads on future leg-

Spend $1000 on a Marty Block fundraiser, get a "$150 gift card to shop at Sun Glass Hut!"

continued on page 28

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LETTERS

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Childish Mayor

I'm calling in response to Mayor Falcouner's letter, "El Niño, El Schmiño" (SD on the QT, November 26). I wonder if he wants some French fries to go with that *waah* burger.

We've got way more pressing issues than for you to be childish like that and say you hope the whole city gets wiped off the face of the planet.

John
Encanto

Mostly Garbage

The Thanksgiving edition of the *Reader* had a few decent features — the Jerry Schad story ("Jerry Was Like a Comet," Neighborhood News, November 26); Washington's proclamation (advertisement, page 13); a quotation from St. Paul and the Acts (advertisement, page 12) — but 98 percent of the issue bordered on garbage. Especially the pages advertising pot.

The *Reader* is an instrument of degradation. Soon enough you will disappear.

Name withheld
via voicemail

Shaping Tomorrow's Citizens

I loved Tom Hoang's piece, "I Teach War" (November 12 cover story). His keen insights into war, military culture, and human nature, written in a style highlighting his humanity and humility, made it impossible to put down. The piece was heartbreaking and heartwarming.

I think Hoang greatly underestimates his value as a teacher when he says, "Teaching isn't surgery; it isn't as challenging nor are the stakes always as high." I would argue the opposite; that the stakes are most certainly high: teachers influence and shape the citizens of tomorrow. Teachers must be social workers, psychologists, sociologists.

Hoang says it himself: "One of the first things.. learned as teachers is to understand the context of where you teach. What are the demographics? The people's hopes? Their challenges?" And, "It's a profession that not only requires content and pedagogical knowledge, but awareness and sensitivity to a child's home environment."

All of this teachers do within a culture that continually places less value on teachers and gives them fewer resources every year to work with. Kudos to Mr. Hoang for doing the job of teaching. His students (and we) are fortunate.

Suzy Perkins
La Mesa

Pot Profitability

I have enjoyed the Reader since the mid-'70s. Is the cost of running the *Reader* profitably 20-22 pages of medical marijuana collective ads?

Name withheld
Oceanside

Has the DEA Lain Off?

Could you set me straight, please? In 2006, I remember watching, on the news, underground tunnels that had been exposed by the DEA. Right down the line the DEA took the Arellano family.

The *Reader* magazine has pages of pot shops available for people in need of medicinal marijuana. Is this a win or loss for the DEA? Did Narcotics Anonymous lose its members? What is/are the peoples' drug of choice now? What is drug abuse considered now? Is everybody happy? Did the NA'ers and the DEA stop bothering those who chose to use marijuana?

This isn't a sarcasm call, but one of confusion.

Name Withheld
City Heights

continued on page 15

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

ENCINITAS

Detour from dump

Surf Cleaners sign saved

Encinitas firefighter Bob Voorhees, a downtown Encinitas resident for many decades, recently took it upon himself to track down and save a piece of old Highway 101 architecture.

Though the neon and arrow are gone, the sign was still worth saving

Last month, Voorhees and several other residents noticed the Surf Cleaners building at 760 South Coast Highway being updated. Hanging out for decades over the two-story, 1950s-era building was the business' large sign. At one time it was illuminated by neon lights.

Although several residents made inquiries to the cleaner's employees, no information was given on what would happen to the sign other than it would probably stay up. One day, as construction neared completion, the sign was down — gone.

A week later, Voorhees contacted one of the building's owners, Mike Shaw, grandson of the original owner of Surf Cleaners, Sid Shaw. Shaw referred him to the new façade's contractor.

The contractor said he had saved it at his Vista construction yard for a while, but it should have been taken to the dump. It was scheduled to go to the dump the next day. Voorhees immediately drove over and picked up the 600-pound sign, not knowing what he was going to do with it but wanting to save it for Encinitas.

Some have accused city planners of encouraging the removal of non-conforming signage when businesses apply for a remodel. City councilman Tony Kranz said he knows of no such efforts within the city.

"Under the current code, if an old sign is removed, it can't be put back up," said Kranz. "When the issue came up, I offered to help Surf Cleaners with the city's red tape, so the sign could be restored and saved. Evidently, the owners weighed their cost options and chose not to do that," said Kranz.

Voorhees said Shaw asked a friend of his what she thought of the new façade.

"She was frank. She told him she hated it because they took down the old sign," said Voorhees.

The sign now sits on its side at the San Dieguito Heritage Museum. Unfortunately, missing is the big white arrow that was on the side of the sign, which hung over the business' sidewalk, pointing downward, directly at the cleaner's front door. No one knows what happened to that piece.

Barbara Grice, executive director of the museum, said they are happy to have the piece saved and are now looking at options. "It may be cheaper to create an exact replica than repair the original," said Grice. On the museum's property, a project to create a replica of older Encinitas' main street is underway.

KEN HARRISON

ALLIED GARDENS

On the homeless camp beat

"They give us the issue, we respond to the issue."

Homelessness was the subject of the November 24 Allied Gardens–Grantville Community Council town hall hosted by the council and the San Diego Police Department. Residents' questions were answered by three members of the SDPD's Eastern Division: captain Bernie Colon, lieutenant Mike Swanson, and community relations officer Adam McElroy. (Swanson elaborated on some topics in a post-forum interview.)

Eastern Division police officers regularly visit homeless encampments.

According to the Regional Task Force on the Homeless 2015 WeALL Count campaign, there are 5538 homeless people in the city of San Diego and 2765 of them are unsheltered. Men represent 70 percent of the unsheltered; 28 percent are women and 2 percent are transgender.

Swanson spoke about Eastern Division's quality-of-life team, which he called "collateral duty." The beat started in May and is based on a format Swanson brought from Northern Division. When first watch begins at 6 a.m., two officers spend two to three hours at encampments. Their destinations are often based on residents' information. "They give us the issue, we respond to the issue," Swanson said.

Officers issue citations, check for warrants, and may make arrests. Police take action on activities including fires, trash accumulation, and illegal lodgings. Prohibited lodgings include protected land around the San Diego River and private property.

Swanson said other encampment locations include canyons, behind buildings like the Home Depot on Fairmount Avenue, and Allied Gardens Park.

Council president Anthony Wagner said "another hotbed" is the Friars Road bridge near Filippi's Pizza Grotto. Wagner spoke about people with shopping carts and liquor bottles and said breweries weren't to blame. "It would be nice to have a program to advise retailers not to sell to serial inebriates."

Swanson said police couldn't do that. Jim Akin, cofounder of Benchmark Brewing Co., said serial inebriates aren't going to pay $5 for a beer, and "we're not going to sell to them."

A woman said she walked in Del Cerro at 5 a.m. and asked what to do when she saw people in two cars take items from city-provided containers on "recycling day. Later, I saw them unloading [recyclables at the center in the] Windmill Farms" parking lot.

McElroy said removing items is theft, and "the city is the victim." He recommended sending an online report to the Environmental Services Department.

Swanson said clearing encampments is like "whack-a-mole. Police take care of one, and they migrate to another canyon, hillside, or behind a business."

LIZ SWAIN

IMPERIAL BEACH

Tin Fish...rusty?

Pier restaurant space up for bid

On November 19, about two dozen people came to the port of San Diego's meeting for businesses interested in bidding on the Imperial Beach Pier restaurant space now held by Tin Fish.

Tin Fish isn't likely to bid on a new lease

"Imperial Beach's motto is a classic Southern California beach town, and we're looking for someone to work around that idea," said port senior asset manager Adam Meyer.

The 1558-square-foot space opens up in

continued on page 14

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— DAVID FOKOS

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Room with a clue

by Barbarella

The unknown is a frightful beast. It feeds on fret; if it is to remain peaceful and sated, it must be constantly dwelled upon, ideally by a vigilant worrier such as myself. It's a bitch of a watch, but someone has to prepare for every improbable-but-possible worst-case scenario, lest the demon slip through the gate and kill us all while we're otherwise occupied. Despite my dedication to the mission, I admit the occasional respite is welcome. I imagine this is why I felt a strange sort of relief when David expressed his apprehension about our impending night out.

"Ugh," David said. "Why do we have to be locked in a room solving puzzles?"

"It'll be an adventure," I said, unable to contain my smile. "Don't you want to see everyone?"

"Yes, of course, but couldn't we just hang out and have cocktails?"

"We can still have cocktails," I said. "They'll just come with a side of adventure."

"I have a confession to make. The four of us tried the escape room downtown." I didn't understand why it was a big deal until she finished her confession: "We didn't make it out."

A few months ago, I had no idea that places such as Escapism Puzzle Room existed. It was our friend Grace who booked the room. But from the time I received the text invite to the day of our appointment, it seemed I couldn't avoid hearing about all the escape rooms that had popped up all over San Diego in the past year (there was even one directly across the street from the one we were going to). In these real-life versions of popular puzzle-based video games, a group is locked in a room and they must work together to follow clues that eventually lead to finding the key that will allow them to escape.

A few days before our escapade, Melissa (who would be a member of Grace's escape squad) and I met up for wine and nibbles at the Rose in South Park. When we were on our second glass, she turned to me and said, "I have a confession to make. A few weeks ago, the four of us tried the escape room downtown." I didn't understand why it was a big deal until she finished her confession: "We didn't make it out."

"Well, I live for puzzle games," I assured her. "With me and David in tow, there's no way we won't solve it."

"Then again, the one we did supposedly has, like, a 17 percent success rate, and the clues were really hard," Mel said. "We just lost track of time and next thing we knew, the hour was up."

I wasn't worried — I solved all ten levels of Monument Valley in a few hours and mastered most of the other puzzle games on my phone on the first try. If this room were anything like those games, it would be a cinch. David, whose phone contains only one game — Solitaire — did some research to learn what to expect. With consternation, he mentioned we might have to know Sudoku. I shrugged off his concerns. I'm not great with numbers, but I didn't need to be. Between the six of us, someone was bound to know how to do math.

I couldn't remember the last time I'd felt so positive about something I'd yet to experience. I could sense David's dread, but just before we headed out, he slapped a smile on his face and said, "Maybe it won't be that bad."

We arrived at Escapism Puzzle Room to find we were paired with another couple (something we knew was likely to happen, as the puzzle room accommodates eight). While hanging out in a waiting room festooned with locks, keys, gears, clocks, and other Sherlock-y, steampunky items, we amused ourselves by turning the young duo into our first mystery to decipher. A few pointed questions did the trick — they were down from L.A., celebrating their first anniversary. Of dating. Six heads nodded in unison as six smiling mouths refrained from saying, "Awwww."

A tall, pale-skinned, dark-haired dude I'll call our guide greeted us and gave us some basic instructions. To my extreme delight, he singled David out as the "Agent of Death," meaning that at some point David, and only David, would have a special role that would be crucial to our ability to exit the room. Our guide let us know that he'd be monitoring us the entire time, via a camera near the ceiling. This was part warning (don't destroy things) and part assistance (if there was an emergency or if we required one of our limited number of hints, he was just a glance away).

After leading us to the room, which had been fashioned as an art gallery to fit the "art heist" theme, our guide gave us a final opportunity to ask questions. Once we were all inside, he wished us luck and shut the door. Shortly after, a timer (accompanied by suspenseful music) began counting down from 60 minutes. Everyone dispersed, investigating each object in every corner of the room — paintings, sculptures, display pedestals with combination locks hanging from hasps. I remained standing in the middle of the room, suddenly aware of two things: none of the puzzle games on my phone had a time limit, and I had no idea what to do.

As I stood there feeling helpless, a third realization struck me: my humiliation was being observed. Without turning my head, my eyes slid in their sockets to the right and up until they locked eyes with the lens of the camera. Everyone else in the room may have been too busy looking for clues to notice, but at least one guy knew exactly how stupid I felt in that moment. Fortunately, the moment passed, and it wasn't long before I was caught up in the same fervor that had snared my friends.

I can only claim to have been instrumental in solving one puzzle, which, to my surprise, turned out to be a math problem. It was more like a puzzle assist — I merely offered the key to the solution — but it helped me feel like I'd actually accomplished something. My little assist, along with everyone else's keen sleuthing, helped us escape from the room with ten minutes to spare. Our guide told us we were among an elite 30 percent and informed us that new puzzle rooms were coming soon. "I'd be down for trying another room," David said. "I just hope it's cocktail-themed." ■ *(@barbarellaf)*

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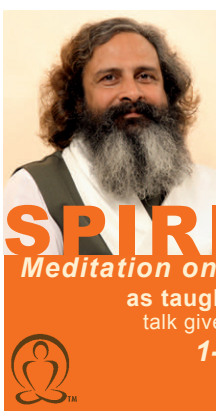

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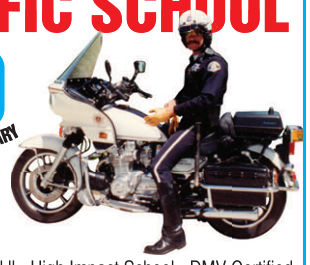
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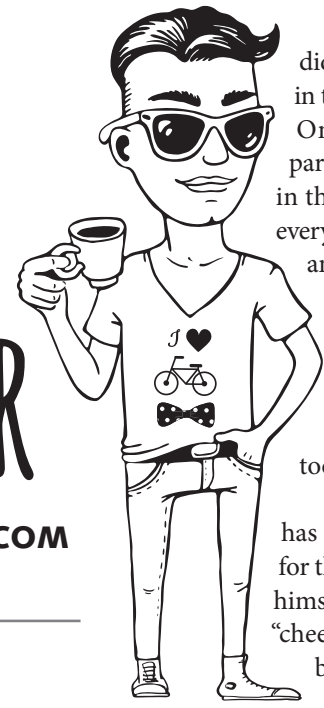


Dear Hipster:
Would you put Eliot Smith into the Historical Hipster Hall of Fame? I'm pretty sure I've never met a hipster who doesn't profess great admiration for Either/Or.

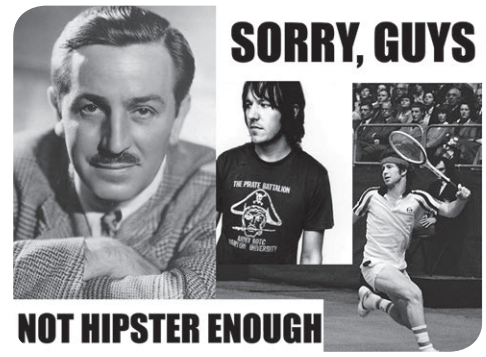
— BETH

Hey Hipster:
How about considering Walt Disney as a historical Hipster? He was way ahead of his time in the worlds of entertainment and animation, plus I am pretty sure he had a mustache.

— DENNIS

Dear Hipster:
I have the perfect person to nominate for your hipster hall o' fame. I'll tell you now, so the suspense isn't too much for you to handle. It's (drum roll please) none other than tennis legend John McEnroe. I know, It sounds crazy at first, but think about how he was into tennis when tennis wasn't cool! Plus, tennis fashion from the '70s and '80s reminds me of ironic hipster style from the early 2010s. What do you think?

— CHARLIE, A TENNIS FAN FROM NORTH PARK



Dear Hipster:
I would like to nominate myself for the hall of fame. You have probably never heard of me before, but that's cool. I'm pretty rad, and I used to brew my own beer back in the '90s.

— AARON, GOLDEN HILL

Much as I and the executive hipster committee appreciate these thoughtful suggestions, none of the above-mentioned candidates warrant inclusion in the hipster hall of fame. One of them isn't yet a part of history, at least not in the strictest sense. Plus, every name listed belongs to an insufficiently obscure person. If I don't have to at least Google the nominee in order to refresh my memory, he or she is way too mainstream.

Still, each nomination has merit. Except perhaps for the guy who nominated himself. That's what we call "cheek," of which I approve, but not enough to swing wide the doors of hipster fame.

Elliott (two L's and two T's there) Smith made a lot of music that a lot of people who grew up to be contemporary hipsters listened to, but the fact that he enjoyed a more or less favorable critical reception during his life is not very hipster. Stabbing oneself is also not hipster. It's something, for sure, but that something isn't hipster. I don't know what it is.

Disney... I just don't think that anyone can be a tycoon of anything and a hipster at the same time. Maybe, just maybe, if one were a tycoon of an industry that nobody has ever heard of before. Alternatively, if someone were able to have been a legitimate tycoon, yet also have maintained a degree of underground obscurity, that might warrant historical hipster preservation status. As for Disney's mustache, I'd call it "refined," perhaps I'd even go so far as to say "dapper"; it was neither the bristly whiskers of supreme manliness, nor the curly badge of ironic knowingness befitting a modern hipster.

The McEnroe suggestion intrigues me the most, and the committee on historical hipsterism only narrowly voted him down. Despite the fact that for a brief period in the early 2010s it seemed like hipster kids all over town dressed like 1970s tennis players in headbands and short shorts, nobody can say that John McEnroe would have been anything other than mainstream in his day, at least fashionwise.

— DJ Stevens

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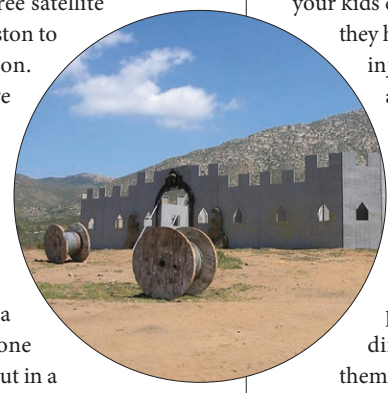
–EVE KELLY

"If water gets into the system, it can cause what we call a 'runaway gun.'"

Boys like to shoot guns. I like children to remain uninjured. Airsoft, which involves shooting one's friends but also involves plastic BBs and full facemasks, sounded like it might be a way to meet halfway.

Lawrence at Airsoft Extreme in Kearny Mesa (858-554-0564) explained that the Airsoft replicas he sells fire 10 to 18 BBs a second via a battery-operated electric motor. "When you pull the trigger, it creates a full circuit. The motor spins three satellite gears that circle a piston to the rearward position. When the final drive gear loses traction on the piston, it releases the piston forward. That creates air pressure, which shoots the BB."



1

Since the gun is a machine, I wanted one that wouldn't wear out in a week, the way, say, every remote-control car I've ever bought did. "I'd direct your son to our Sportline series. They're one level above the spring stuff that people can buy at [box stores]. For **$130** to **$150**, you get the Airsoft replica, a magazine, a basic battery that will get you about 800 shots on a charge, and a basic charger. For safety gear, we have masks ranging from **$40** to **$140**, depending on your needs. The more expensive ones have more flexibility, better field of vision, and better heat dispersion."

Above that price point, you can leave behind Sportline's plastic shell. "When you break the **$189** plane, you're getting an all-metal gun. Even the sights will be metal. The only plastic parts would be the butt stock and the pistol grip, which are plastic on a real gun as well." Below that price, "you go into manual cycle guns. Somebody with an electric Sportline series gun will have a better rate of fire, better range, better accuracy, and better velocity."

But, warned Lawrence, even quality Airsofts are "still, in fact, toys. If you use them outside of manufacturer specifications, there are numerous things that can fail. If you hold the trigger too long, you can strip the satellite gears. If it's a lower-quality gun, you can get trigger delay due to carbon buildup on the contact. I've also seen people use such high-voltage batteries that they burn out the motor. And if water gets into the system, it can cause what we call a 'runaway gun,' with the gun firing even when you're not pulling the trigger."

As for safety, Lawrence told me that the facemask was only the first consideration. "The first thing we tell people is to use your Airsoft gun at a designated legal field, a place where you actually have to pay to get in, and where there is insurance available. There are people who own property and say, 'Oh, yeah, your kids can come here and play,' but do they have liability insurance in case of injury? The answer is usually no, and it can get really ugly, legally."

Ruth Montoya, administrative assistant for Giant San Diego Paintball and Airsoft in Lakeside (877-442-6897), told me, "Walk-on play is Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The fields in Lakeside have different themes, like a Western theme or a castle theme. We recommend reservations if you have a group. We can offer discounted rates for two or more with a reservation and a deposit. Cost is **$20** for entry, **$30** to rent a gun, **$6** to rent a mask, and **$5** plus tax gets you 1000 rounds, up to **$13.95** for 4000.

"The mask is a full face mask," she explained. "There are goggles with a seal around your eyes. And then it's the full face from your forehead down to your chin, and there is solid ear protection. People wear clothes that leave no skin exposed. We go through a safety orientation video before people go out to play, and there are referees who watch to make sure everything is going smoothly."

2

Other fields around town:

Mr. Paintball USA in Escondido (760-737-8870). Walk-on play Friday–Sunday, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Cost is **$48** for all-day play, rifle, mask, red rag, and 1000 rounds, or **$25** if you bring your own equipment.

The Paintball Park at Camp Pendleton (866-985-4932). Walk-on play Friday–Sunday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., also 6–10 p.m. on Saturdays. Two close-combat houses, village marketplace, real military vehicles. Cost is **$50** for all-day play, gun, mask, camo jacket, and 500 rounds, or **$25** if you bring your own equipment.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 6

April 2016 and the lease is for five years — proposals are due December 15.

Tin Fish has been in the space for at least ten years, owner Jay Kim said. He said he wasn't sure if he was going to bid on the restaurant space again or not.

The port's deal with Tin Fish was based on a percentage of the revenues and the next lease will be negotiated similarly, according to port spokeswoman Tanya Castaneda. Tin Fish's deal had a minimum payment of $40,000 a year in rent, and the restaurant has settled up with between $34,000 and $36,300 for the past three years, she said.

The meeting, held at the Dempsey Holder Center, included a tour of the Tin Fish — including the food-preparation area, with its skinny doorways and a multitude of stainless steel sinks.

Prospective bidders climbed a steep staircase to a second-floor storage area and walked around the building. There's space for more outdoor tables and changing the building so there's more glass for customers to be able to enjoy the views without being whipped by the weather.

Who came for the meeting and tour? Besides Tin Fish, Coronado Brewing; a commercial real estate broker who plans to pitch the project to several clients; Steve Brown from Gardner Junction, a Hollywood restaurant owner; and several local residents.

That's not the entire line-up of interested parties, Castaneda noted. The application for the spot has been downloaded 22 times since it was posted a couple weeks ago. The Brigantine Inc., which recently won Anthony's spot on the Embarcadero, and Cohn Restaurant Group have also looked at the request for proposal on the port's website.

MARTY GRAHAM

LA MESA

Oktoberfest report

Less teenagers, less cost, less business

The La Mesa Village Merchants Association threw their first Oktoberfest 42 years ago. Their website states "over 100,000 attendees" now flock to the annual gathering. With the disruption from the La Mesa Streetscape Project and change in format, dates, and times, how did Oktoberfest 2015 unfold?

This year's event was in doubt up until July 28, when the city council approved the association's application over some objections, in part due to money owed the city for two prior events. The council also required the event to close at 10 p.m., rather than 11 p.m.

The association assumed responsibility for the event after a seven-year partnership with the chamber of commerce. Whereas Oktoberfest formerly took place on La Mesa Boulevard and on both the east and west sides of Spring Street, for 2015 it was limited to the east side. And while in previous years it took place over three days, this year it was reduced to two.

With the smaller footprint and reduced schedule, the cost recovery due the city for staff time went from $85,673 in 2014 to $63,504 this year, according to Greg Humora, director of public works/city engineer for the City of La Mesa. The roughly 26 percent reduction in cost recovery seems disproportionate to some, in view of the event being one-third shorter (two days instead of three) and over a 40 percent smaller area (three blocks instead of five blocks along La Mesa Boulevard).

Even with this cost reduction, Oktoberfest 2015 was not considered a success by everyone. Jessica Sinado at the Lather Hair Salon described sales during the event as pretty much "a dead weekend," in large part due to the lack of parking, she speculated.

Sinado described a change in the event's theme from its typical emphasis on arts and crafts; this was a complaint echoed by Sherri Buck, owner of Handful of Wildflowers. The movement away from arts and crafts is "killing it more and more each year," said Buck. Commercial vendors, she said, have taken the place of arts and crafts.

As Rayanna Young at the Regal Bar observed, it was the "wrong mix" of vendors; she said one was selling garage doors and another attempted to sell her a shower. She likened the collection of vendors to "those pesky kiosk" salespeople encountered in malls, where they follow you while making their sales pitch.

Even though the regulars still came in, Young indicated business was down during Oktoberfest. From her place behind the bar, she has a good view out the front window onto La Mesa Boulevard. By her estimate, the crowds were down quite a bit, compared to years past, particularly during the daytime. In the absence of more reliable estimates on this year's attendance, others echoed Young's guesstimate. She also commented that there were noticeably fewer high-school-aged people in the crowds.

Another merchant, Mike Moore of the Park Estate Company, provided a more positive view of Oktoberfest 2015: it was "the best in the last five years," with "the crowds a thousand times better," he said. Even as a smaller and shorter event, it was far better, in his view. In specific, he commented on the fewer number of teenagers.

JAY ANDERSON

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LETTERS

continued from page 4

Comments from SDReader.com

Comments are not edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Market confusion is created when two offerings serving a similar market have similar names.

Under the Radar
"The County of San Diego Leaps into Print"
Posted November 25

And why would they want to do this? Who will read this rag? Does the HHS Department have so much money that they have to advertise to the masses to get more customers? I guess I don't get it.

— *AlexClarke*

Tin Fork
"Au Revoir to Noir"
Posted November 25

Why did they kill the Whaling Bar at La Valencia? Because they had bought the place and "just thought it was time." They also removed the famous WB mural, destroyed the green ambience of the Prospect patio beyond the french doors of the dining room, added a cheap little sidewalk cafe outside what used to be the front wall of the WB at the valet parking stand, and they fired all the superb longtime Mexican bartenders and waiters in the dining room who knew never to serve children's drinks in paper cups with lids and straws.

La Valencia today is remodeled beyond recognition -- light, bright, tacky and unrecognizable.

— *monaghan*

Under the Radar
"Fabiani Splits with Lehane"
Posted November 25

Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but that shot of Lehane, prominently showing off his crooked teeth and five-o'clock shadow and insincere leer, doesn't appeal to me. Then the revelation that he's the attack dog for AirBnB makes him look even worse.

That he and Fabiani have split isn't real news, is it? They both sell their dismal services to the highest bidder. And so it is that Fabiani is doing it for the odious Spanos gang, and Lehane is doing it for AirBnB. Anything really revealing here about either one of them? I don' theenk zo.

— *Visduh*

Ask a Hipster
"What do you name your kid when hyphenation doesn't cut it anymore?"
Posted November 25

Do like African-Americans.... add apostrophes or, better yet, name the kids after prescription drugs; "Victoza" has

continued on page 32

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Urban agriculture is what we call it

PHOTOS BY ANDY BOYD

"Cats are a problem. We gotta enclose the areas where we're growing." Diane Moss breaks it down for a visitor. "You gotta be careful with your compost. It's composting," she explains, "and that brings the rats. And the rats bring the cats."

The Mt. Hope Community Garden in Southeast is a fecund reservation in the midst of tumbledown backyards overgrown with vetch and weeds yellow as dried flax. There's a short breeze coming off the bay today, but it does little to cool the hot sun beating down on the garden. A security fence cloaked in bright green and lavender passion flower vine dims the heavy commute on Market Street, but the 805 freeway overpass broadcasts a constant blare of car noise.

Moss, her coif kept in check with a headband, wears all black in spite of the heat, but she won't be here long. "I'm not a farmer. I'm a community organizer. And right now, I'm organizing space for neighborhood parks and community gardens. I'm doing the same thing up in Compton [her mother still lives there] as I do here."

Moss is 57. She says she was born in South Central in Los Angeles. "We moved to Compton when I was four. So I been there," she says in a way that implies she's experienced the worst of the worst of West Coast ghetto living. She remembers that her father kept a small backyard garden. "No, I didn't help out, except for watering. He always told us to water." Moss has lived here in Southeast for decades.

On this weekday morning, the Mt. Hope Community Garden gate, padlocked as a rule, stands open. Inside, a thin woman in straw gardening hat and blue denim shovels mulch into a wheelbarrow, which she will roll down one of the many paths that direct foot traffic around the raised garden beds to one of her own. Even this late into the growing season there is plenty:

"I'm not a farmer. I'm a community organizer."

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snap peas, peppers, and squash. Collard greens on stalks as tall as a person. The kale has gone brown in the heat.

Time doesn't exactly stand still here in the garden, but it doesn't have the same bearing to someone who waits for things to sprout and eventually bear fruit. "We're going to have produce for sale in here one day," Moss allows. "We're just not ready yet. People have been asking us, but we're not ready."

But somehow, the Mt. Hope Community Garden has become a destination, at least to some. "People stop here, and they take selfies with the garden. I'm not sure what that's about."

Moss's right-hand man here is a lithe, retired school teacher who says his name is Kadumu. "We're growing our dirt here." He smiles, and he puts down his shovel.

Swiss chard growing in the Mt. Hope Community Garden

"Growing dirt" is a concept I will come to hear about several times today.

Kadumu wears leather gloves, a clean white T-shirt, sleeveless work shirt, sweats, and dusty yard boots. A tan ball cap covers his head. "This garden is two years old. When we started, it looked like that." He points across Market Street to a hardscrabble vacant lot. "It's all clay, weeds, and stones," he explains. "That's what we started with. But now look." He walks over to a raised bed, roots around, and offers up a handful of soil. It's the dark-brown color of ground coffee, it smells loamy, and it's interspersed with those tiny little white spongy flakes.

"I did go to Home Depot," he admits.

Outside, on the other side of the fence, a passerby on the sidewalk in sport shirt and slacks gives Kadumu a shout-out: "Lookin' good!"

"How you doin', man?" The gardener and the man bump fists through the chain link.

"Lookin' real good."

Kadumu smiles.

Moss stands in the shade under a garden canopy and explains how the business works here. "The third Saturday of the month, everybody comes out and helps everybody else out."

"I come here every Tuesday and volunteer," Kadumu chimes in.

"We share our knowledge," Moss says.

A young man in a faded but otherwise spotless T-shirt bearing the Crawford High School logo approaches. "We'd like to see about getting three spaces." I tell him that I graduated from Crawford; he seems non-

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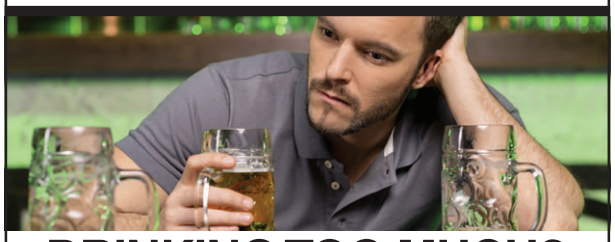

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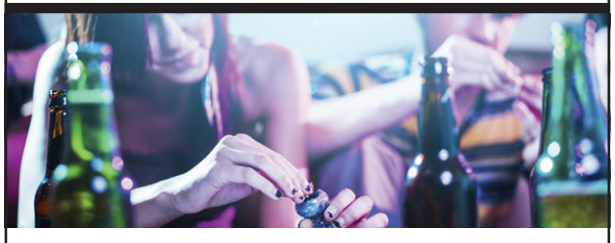

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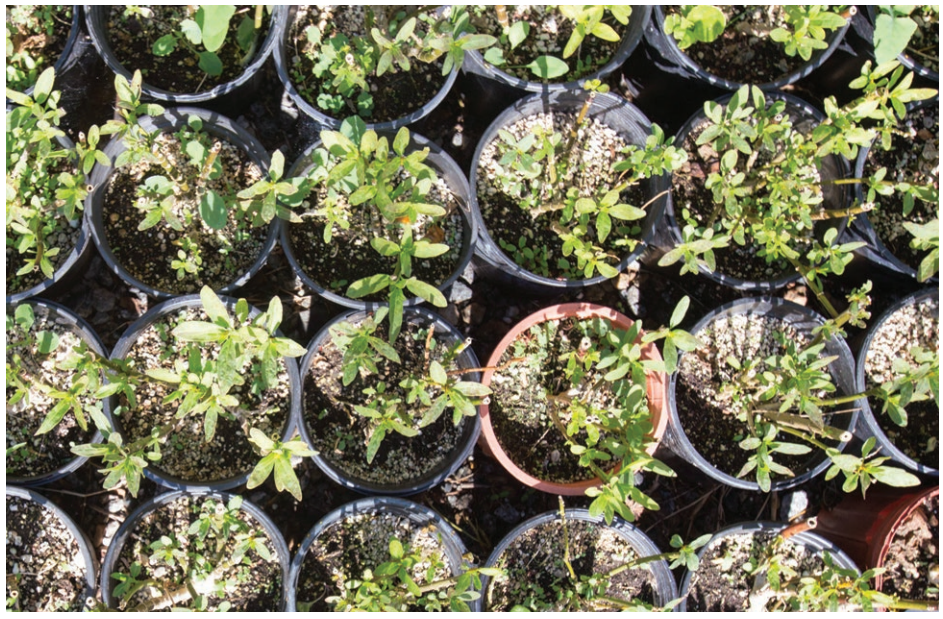
plussed. His companions, three women, are all older than he. They speak among each other in a rapid, almost musical Asian tongue. A jetliner on approach to Lindbergh Field makes them talk louder. Moss quotes garden-plot rental prices to them.

The rent on Kadumu's plot ($5 per month) is paid by the Black Storytellers of San Diego, of which he is both a member and a storyteller. He clears fibrous dead zucchini vines out of the small plot. The smell of the torn vegetation, rising in the heat, is almost minty. Kadumu explains that the Storytellers got the plot with some grant funding.

"It was in several pieces," the money. "Some of it had to do with music, some had to do with food. So we got a garden bed, and we grew some food." Which they timed to ripen in conjunction with a reading by poet Nikki Grimes. "We hooked up with the Monarch School — they have a little garden, too — and we took our food there, and a chef cooked it."



Mt. Hope sits in a mild coastal-influenced climate zone, which allows seedlings to sprout in winter.

Kadumu sits in the shade; a white cabbage moth flits around his zucchini leaves. "You must first tell your own story — your own truth," he offers. "It gives people a sense of who you are. Then, you can tell them fiction. You've heard the one about the scorpion and the frog?" He grins. "I've morphed that one all the way out to where it's now a squirrel and a UPS truck."

Moss introduces another Mt. Hope gardener. His name is Francisco. She says he is gearing up to help her produce food for a community event in October. Francisco wears aviator shades, jeans, a T-shirt, and a racing cap. He says he only uses organic fertilizers such as blood meal, fish meal, and coffee grounds to "grow" his dirt.

"For nitrogen," he says, "the coffee grounds." Fallen passion fruits, ripe and purple, lay ready for the taking in the loam below the garden's voluminous vines. He sends some of them home with me. "How did I learn about gardening?" By watching YouTube, he says.

Before it was collapsed...

...into the Centre City Development Corporation, Nancy Lytle served as assistant vice president at the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation. Prior to that, she'd worked in a similar capacity for the City of Chula Vista, where she was the assistant director for the planning and building department.

"I was with the SEDC when Diane Moss came in and asked if one of the properties that we managed could be used as a community garden," she says. "We managed two city-owned vacant lots on Market Street. They were both weedy, fenced-in lots, one across the street from the other. And from time to time we had to remove the weeds and mend the fences. They were both vandalized. We had homicides, and there was drug dealing reported to be taking place there. We had people doing property management at both, and that cost the taxpayers money. It gets expensive."

Lytle appreciated Moss's ambition to con-

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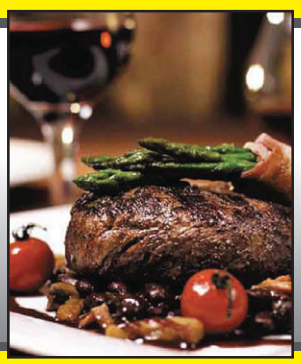

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vert weeds to food, even if only on a temporary basis. "This seemed like a legitimate thing to do. Our board liked it, and we moved forward." The year was 2010. They didn't get very far.

"That's when we ran into the ordinance police," Moss explains ruefully. In truth, there are no actual ordinance police.

"But, there was no provision for agricultural use in the city limits," Lytle explains.

"San Diego to me is a very backwards place," Moss says. "It was an easy win for people, just talking about people growing food. But it took an extra year of going around to meetings and planning committees and hearings. It cost $29,000 to pay for the first wave of change," she says of the money paid out by the SEDC. "The development office — that's who we paid the money to, to change the language of the ordinance."

"What she did," Lytle says, "is she put a group together and changed the laws." Later, Lytle would describe Moss as a "very soft-spoken but effective communicator, extremely friendly. And, she had a lot of good connections. There's not that many people who can work across all the connections. She partnered with county growers and politicians. She was able to bridge all their gaps and to speak everybody's language."

The County Department of Health and Human Services got involved in Moss's vision, too. "They were big on community gardening as a means of reducing obesity in Southeast," Lytle recalls. "Mayor [Jerry] Sanders thought it was a good idea. And the city-council vote was unanimous. It was 2011, I think, that the ordinance was changed."

Since that time, due to Moss's efforts, Lytle says more community gardens have sprouted within city limits, including the 20-acre University of San Diego study garden in Southeast on Olive View. "Urban agriculture is what we call it. That's what Moss did."

The next round of changes issued by the planning commission allowed for bee-keeping and chicken coops within city limits. Lytle talks about her neighbors in Mission Hills who now have laying chickens in their backyard. "And somehow goats got woven into that. I don't know how, but you can have a goat in the city now. This all came through the city planning department within the last five years."

"Two goats, I think that's what the law says. I don't know why," Moss explains. "I think they have some kind of social needs, goats do."

In the end, Lytle was impressed. Now retired from civic life, she works with Moss as a volunteer.

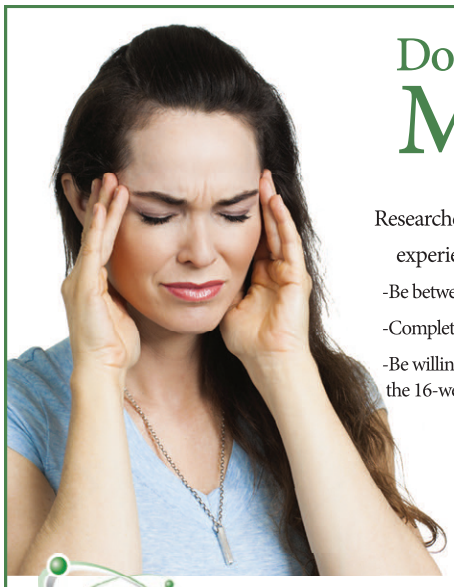
Black and brown people don't like farming

"We tried to teach a class at San Diego City College called 'Returning to Farming,'" Moss says. "It did not go over well. Black and brown people do not want to get back to farming." Does Moss have a vegetable garden of her own? "In my backyard? I have some raised beds," she says. "No time to plant yet, but, I'm growing my dirt." Moss, who says she makes no money from her agricultural pursuits, holds down a part-time day-job working with the local Be There San Diego coalition for cardiac health.

"How did I get into activism? People ask me that all the time. This is just what I know. I asked my folks, could I go to college? And when I got to UCSD, it was culture shock."

The year was 1976. "Up to then, everything I knew was African-American. Everything. My neighbors, all the shops in my neighborhood, family, holidays, everything. And UCSD is not black, not by a long shot."

RESEARCH STUDIES



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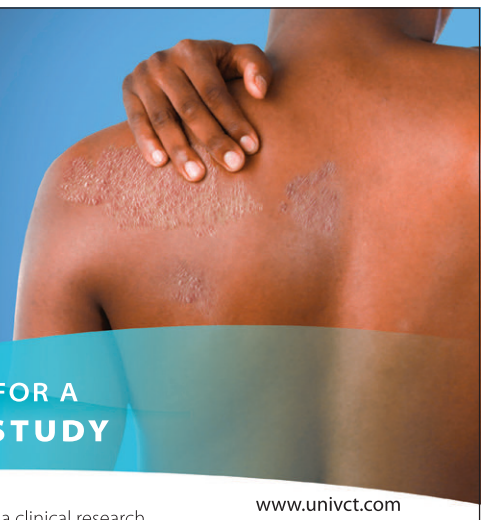

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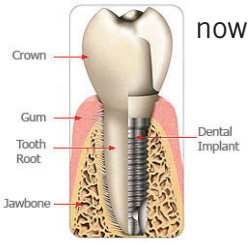

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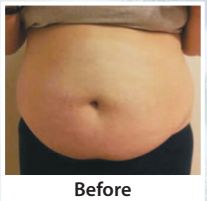
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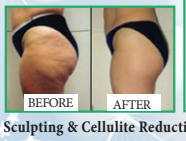

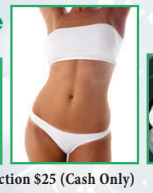

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Moss says campus mentors like Dr. Fostina Celise nurtured her through the culture shock. "What did she teach me? That because you're poor doesn't mean you are sick or should be treated differently."

Moss organized political rallies on campus. After college she worked for activist organizations such as Children Having Children, in Southeast.

"I came on as a health educator and became executive director. I was there for about 20 years." A leadership role followed, with Moss becoming executive director of Project New Village.

"Before that, we ran a neighborhood center on Logan Avenue. That's a community unto itself — 577 units. I know that because that was my universe for a long time. Weird things happened there." She helped run a center for kids. "A pool table and computers. It was a safe place for kids to be after school until their parents could get home from work."

In 2008, Moss decided to focus on what she calls food justice.

"We always just thought you get what you get in terms of food," within the boundaries of Southeast: rolled tacos, fried chicken, fast food, and marginal produce and meats in the area markets. "Do you know how hard it is to get a healthy bowl of soup down here?" She says it is next to impossible.

"And at the same time I was looking for the next thing to do. I decided on a farmers' market and on some kind of community garden." The farmers' market — People's Produce Night Market — meets every Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Big Lots parking lot at 1655 Euclid Avenue, just north of State Route 94.

"The old People's Produce was on 47th. You could see Lincoln High School from there. It wasn't a good spot. It was invisible. People drove by real fast. There's no parking and there's no community support. All of those problems will be fixed by the new location. We're gonna change to a night market so, that way, if you're too hip for a farmers' market, you'll come to a night market with the ambience." She describes partnerships with both the community activist Urban Collaborative and UCSD's retail program.

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be certified so that the Mt. Hope Community Garden can sell produce to any farmers' market or public event. Why a permit? You have to prove you grew it. The County Agriculture Department of Weights and Measures division, they come out to inspect. This is one of the more fair departments. They straight up tell you the rules. I got other departments to be angry with. Not this department. They give us directions, they even give us seeds."

But Moss thinks they'll be selling fresh Mt. Hope produce in her new and improved night farmers' market long before her produce ends up in restaurants, which is one of her prime goals — from (urban) farm to table, here in Southeast, which up to now has been so unheard of as to not even be an idea on anybody's radar. The scheme could work, but it is not without its challenges. "You gotta be consistent to be in restaurants," is the reason why, she says. Moss play-acts an imaginary phone call between her and a restaurant buyer: "I got your pepper, and I got 'em all year long. See, that's what a chef wants to hear. Consistency."

"It's all a matter of economics and convenience," Ron Troyano explains. "The chefs are busy, and they need reliable inputs at a good price for the quality. If [the Mt. Hope Community Garden] can service that need, it will work."

Troyano ran Alchemy before he sold the North Park restaurant a few years ago. Now, he sits on the board of San Diego Hunger Coalition, the Front Burner Fund, and is a founding member of the San Diego Food System Alliance. As such, he is part of Moss's advisory group.

"Unique produce options, things that are not available on the other markets and potentially an exclusive growing relationship," are needed for Moss to make the urban garden-to-table dream a reality, he says. And, some legislature.

"A big aid would be for the city and county to adopt AB551 [the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act]. This will allow more urban farming and the systemic drivers for a supply chain will follow."

When Troyano had Alchemy, he bought product from boutique growers — what Moss hopes to become. "And, we advised Seeds @ City Urban Farm, a one-acre student-run garden at City College to do just that. It was a minor success. The changes Diane [Moss] and I would like to make will ensure major success."

Moss says her master plan is in two stages — that produce sold at the new night market will generate enough money to pay a salary to keep a person employed at the Mt. Hope Community Garden to keep things consistent. But first things first. Along with the growing of dirt, the community garden needs to grow a lot of green.

"Right now? We got zucchini. Lettuce coming in three months, they tell me. And beans," Moss says. "The beans, for whatever reason, are doing good." ■

— Dave Good

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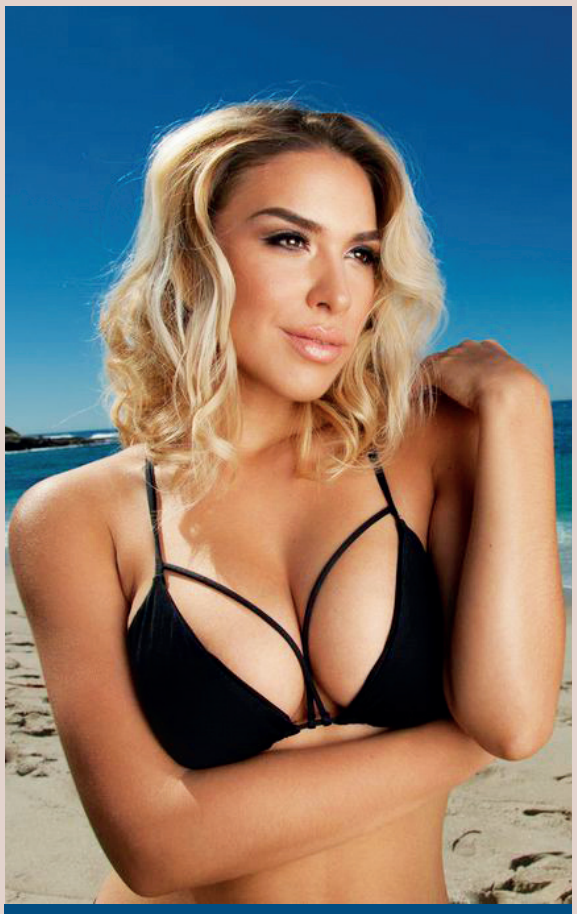

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CITY LIGHTS

Under the radar

continued from page 3

islation or overhear the latest Capitol gossip." Said **Jason Kinney** with **Bob White's** California Strategies lobbying shop: "It's a political crossroads — if you're anyone that's anyone in California's political ecosystem, you're going to end up there at some point with a cup in your hand." **…** Meanwhile, another big-money San Diego lobbying firm has lined up behind **Chris Ward**, Block's chief of staff currently running for the San Diego City Council seat being vacated by **Todd Gloria**, the Democrat who plans to move on to the Assembly seat Block's foe Atkins is leaving behind. Southwest Strategies, with clients including military contractor General Dynamics, Pardee Homes, and the controversial Palomar Card Club, set an 8 a.m. December 1 money-raising event at its downtown nerve center on B Street. "Please consider making a minimum contribution of $250," it says. "Pastries and coffee will be served."

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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

CITY LIGHTS

San Diego Opera

continued from page 3

Marc Scorca again:

"A lot of the workings of an opera company are known to the inner circle. After that there is the art form of how does one communicate to the general public, how does one communicate to donors, to institutional funders?... Communication is the necessary art form to complement the art form of opera. How do we engage our stakeholders? How do we engage those who care about opera in the most effective way? The San Diego Opera closing was a total shock. No one knew what was going on. Then there was communication and people rallied. David Bennett and the board of San Diego Opera all knew, to some degree or another, about the precarious financial situation at Gotham. How was it communicated? Communication is a subtext to this entire issue."

San Diego Opera may very well have known the extent of the problem at Gotham. They may agree with Bennett's contention that canceling a production in order to make up for a deficit in the budget could have saved Gotham. However, no one at San Diego Opera is communicating that.

One of the unique elements that came out of the San Diego Opera crisis was the forming of what is called the White Knight Committee. The group took its name based on Ian Campbell saying that no "white knight" was coming to save the opera. The committee includes representatives from every segment of the San Diego Opera community. Veteran chorister and union representative Chris Stephens is a founding member of the committee. Asked about Bennett, Gotham, and San Diego Opera, Stephens responded, "Due to what occurred in the past with San Diego Opera, we have a board and employees who are hyper vigilant to make sure that everything goes right. Unlike Gotham, we have a board finance committee, a chief financial officer, and a chief operations officer who all work together with the general director to ensure that all finances are in order. What happened at Gotham is a shame. But SDO has made several operational changes, because of our fresh wound from the past, to make sure we head in the right direction."

San Diego Opera board president Carol Lazier echoed this sentiment:

"After our own crucible of the last 18 months, San Diego Opera's board has worked hard to ensure that good governance and strong internal financial controls are in place, which enable us to benefit from and support David Bennett's strong, creative leadership. At San Diego Opera, David has considerable internal resources with which to monitor and report on financial operations down to the penny. The board's finance committee meets monthly with the [chief financial and operations officers] and general director and reviews all expenditures and financial obligations. San Diego Opera is confident that its financial house is in order. The board is very pleased with the work David has done for us and stands 100 percent with him." ■

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

state of the union speech, "The BioWatch program involves a system of aerosol collectors deployed in more than 30 cities, as well as laboratory facilities and personnel to analyze samples from these collectors," notes the accountability office's October 23 report.

The current incarnation of the system, known as Gen-2, installed in 2005, "operated on an annual budget of nearly $87 million in fiscal year 2015," the document says.

"Gen-2 is designed to detect the presence of biothreat agents in 12 to 36 hours," according to the audit, but the National Academies of Science "questioned Gen-2's technical capability in 2011, including its ability to detect attacks and the reliability of results that indicate a possible attack."

The ineffective program reportedly cost taxpayers a billion dollars by July 2012, according to news reports.

In response to the criticism came Gen-3, "potentially generating a result in

continued on page 30

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 28

under 6 hours" and eliminating "certain labor costs," but that program was cancelled in April 2014, "after testing difficulties."

Though the government "continues to rely on the Gen-2 system for early detection of an aerosolized biological attack," its equipment is wearing out, according to the GAO report, and officials will soon "need to make decisions about reinvesting in the program."

A July 2012 investigation by the *Los Angeles Times* found that Gen-2 was responsible for "dozens of false alarms in Los Angeles, Detroit, St. Louis, Phoenix, San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere."

Added the story, "In an attack by terrorists or a rogue state, disease organisms could well be widely dispersed, at concentrations too low to trigger BioWatch but high enough to infect thousands of people, according to scientists with knowledge of the test data who spoke on condition of anonymity."

Matt Potter

The ocean breeze may fool you

Toxic air "hot spots" revealed

The County of San Diego has released its annual Air Toxics "Hot Spots" report, highlighting pollution problems around the county.

"Motor vehicles, area sources, and natural sources are key contributors to the toxic air contaminants in San Diego County's air, as they annually emit more than 62.5 million pounds into the atmosphere," concludes the study, noting the vast majority of air pollution is attributed to vehicle emissions.

While pollution from monitored "fixed sources," including "approximately 3000 facilities including 1750 diesel engine facilities, 368 auto body shops, 683 gasoline stations, and 117 dry cleaners" have dropped by nearly 23 percent since 2009, they still account for nearly 1.5 million pounds of contaminants being released annually.

Six facilities throughout the county have been singled out for implementation of "risk reduction plans" and biannual notification to residents of the dangers they pose. These include Pacific Ship Repair and National Steel & Shipbuilding in Barrio Logan, a neighborhood that has long grappled with environmental issues. These businesses, along with Naval Air Station North Island and the city of San Diego's Pump Station 2, which pushes 180 million gallons of wastewater daily toward a treatment plant in Point Loma, have successfully implemented plans.

The city's Miramar Landfill and GKN Chemtronics, an aerospace firm in El Cajon, still need to develop and implement risk-reduction plans of their own.

Dave Rice

Sharkbitten photographer chomps back

Head of diving company accused of negligence

On June 13, Elke Specker was photographing sharks in navigable waters off San Diego. A suit she filed in federal court this month states that she hired Michael Kazma and Mako Shark Diving LLC to guide her.

She notes that Kazma says in advertising that his shark trips are safe. But, she claims, he was imbibing alcohol that day. When he chummed the sharks and later fed them from his hand, he was negligent because of his drinking, causing her to receive severe shark bites as well as emotional distress, she alleges.

I asked her attorney if she saw him drinking, and he would not comment.

Kazma says Specker's acccusations are false. Statements given by other guests and video footage show that Kazma was not intoxicated, he says. Specker did not follow instructions, according to Kazma. She positioned herself in a "no go zone," he says, and positioned herself directly in front of a shark. He tried to protect her, Kazma says.

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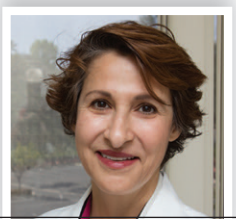

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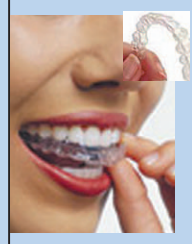

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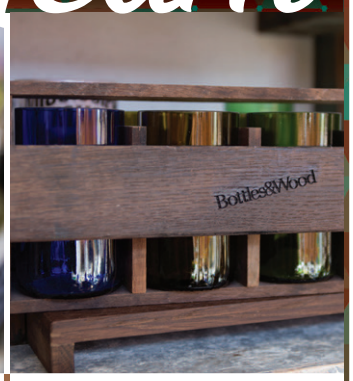

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LETTERS

continued from page 15

a nice ring to it....

— Ern Batavia

I'm in California, if I could I would name a child here, Dude.

— Joe Well

Last names are passé. Drop it altogether.

— Linda Pescatore

City Lights
"National Football League Warms to Gamblers"
Posted November 25

Dan Moldea's book, Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football, is the primer for the way the line goes in the NFL. In fact, the NFL put up quite a fuss when the book was released in their attempt to discredit his research. But it didn't work and the book is STILL the go-to book on Amazon.com if you want to know the score on sports gambling.

— Beach Pretzel

"When you "draft" a journeyman running back and one Sunday he somehow scores three touchdowns, you were lucky, not smart."

If I buy a pharmaceutical stock, and two weeks later they announce a cure for cancer, was I "lucky", or guilty of insider trading? Looks like stocks need to be banned as gambling, too.

Who freaking cares if it's luck? Why are some people so worked up... "Oh, that person over there is GAMBLING! They must be stopped! They might make a bad choice and ruin their lives, so we have to save them by arresting them and imprisoning them! Oh, wait, some court upheld a strange interpretation that it was 'skill' instead of 'chance', so now it's OK"

— jnojr

"Looks like stocks need to be banned as gambling, too."

It is indeed gambling. Shareholders in most companies did not invest a dime with the company and are not "investors." Instead they bought their stock from a third party with hopes that someday it would go up (or down for those who like to go short).

There is often a real disconnect between the performance of a company and the performance of its stock because the company performance is driven by, in most cases, consumer response to its goods, but the stock performance replies on the "point spread" of stocks - quarterly earnings projections. A company can be making money hand over fist but if the reported earnings are a few cents shy of those mystical analysts projections, the gamblers will devalue the stock.

If anything, "playing the market" supports the case for extending the realm of legal gambling, which society has been doing for quite some time what with state lotteries, Indian casinos, satellite betting at race tracks, etc.

Local and state governments who habitually overspend are always open for new gambling opportunities if you can show them how they can get their share of the action (I think the mob called that the "take"). At some point they will be softened up enough that the NFL will be able to start touting their own brand of wagering where they and government's big spenders get to split the action - "Why let some other crooks get all the money?" they might say.

— Bob_Hudson

its all an elaborate way to separate suckers from their money, be it bets, ticket prices, or snacks at the events. (or getting tax payers to pay for a new stadium)

— MURPHYJUNK

Sheep and Goats
"The Only Alternative for Having Eternal Life"
Posted November 25

Another typical preacher teaching what he believes and if you don't believe what he does you are going to hell.

Every religion no matter how radical preaches hate and intolerance and fear. Every religion preaches that their way is the one and only way. The purpose of religion is control. Control what you think, say, do and collect your money.

One can have faith without religion. Jesus never built a church and He preached to everyone and excluded no one. All religions are products of man not God.

— AlexClarke

Under the Radar
"Spanos Looks to Maximize the Chargers"
Posted November 25

Spanos will never ever spend the money needed to have a winning team, He is just too greedy to do that. He should sell the team to a real owner or move to LA and just keep on losing. You don't need a new stadium for his product. If you go to LA you will be the number two team there and never draw the fan base you think you will. You (Spanos) are like your team, losers.

— boemac

The Chargers are an embarrassment on and off the field. I look forward to voting down any proposal that would use taxpayer funds to fund a stadium.

— kahn_howard

San Diego Beer News
"Ballast Point sells for $1 billion"
Posted November 17

I'm torn... Part of me is excited. I no longer live in the San Diego area and as I sit here today in my Ballast Point "Big Eye" T-Shirt that I got years ago as a promo, I miss the days when they were brewing in Point Loma (hence where they got their name). It was a time when I could get a six-pack of the "new" Sculpin IPA for $7.50 at Pat's Liquor on Voltaire Ave in OB. Since leaving the area I've found it harder to get any Ballast Point brews. This also made it so much more special when I came home for a visit. I didn't mind paying twice as much as I used to because it was a taste of home.

— Dallas Martin

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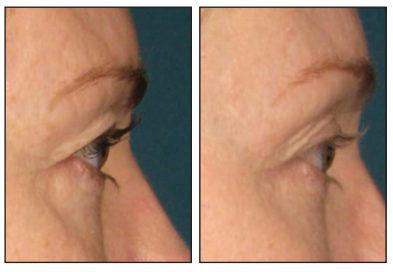
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Your Week

AND [illegible]LCOME[illegible] IT

Thursday | 3

TEN TENORS: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Australia's platinum-selling rock stars of opera will perform traditional and contemporary favorites, with soaring renditions of "Joy to the World," "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," and "Feliz Navidad." $35–$70.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: California Center for the Arts, Escondido. 760-839-4138; *artcenter.org/event/the-ten-tenors*

Friday | 4

BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS

Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5 to 9 p.m. both evenings, and more than 350,000 visitors are expected to attend San Diego's largest free community festival. Traditions include food from around the globe at the International Christmas Festival at the House of Pacific Relations Cottages, the Santa Lucia Procession at the Plaza de California, gift shopping at museum stores and Spanish Village, and musical and dance presentations from the San Diego Junior Theatre, San Diego Civic Youth Ballet, and Del Cerro Baptist's Christmas Story Tree. New this year is a children's area (adjacent to the Botanical Building) with crafts and games and a community mural where families can contribute to a giant-sized coloring book featuring Balboa Park.

WHEN: Noon to 11 p.m. Also on Saturday
WHERE: Throughout Balboa Park. 619-239-0512; *balboapark.org/decembernights*

LITTLE HURRICANE. The San Diego Music Award winners play two nights at the Casbah. Last year's *Gold Fever* upped the ante for CC (drummer/singer) and Tone (guitar etc./singer), with two of their catchiest songs yet in "Summer Air" and "Boiling Water." Club Crawler, page 74.

ENTERTAINMENT. Scott Marks sits down with the film's director, Rick Alverson, to talk about life on the road and the joys of working with standup comic Gregg Turkington, best known to his fans as the ill-natured Neil Hamburger. Movies, page 80.

Saturday | 5

FROSTY FARM

Kids can have a holiday-themed animal encounter with alpacas, chinchillas, doves, sheep, chickens, and Blitzen the miniature horse "reindeer" and take pictures with Santa and his polar dog. Each child receives a plush toy from Santa. With cookie decorating, face painting, faux snow, crafts, and live music. Runs three weekends through Christmas. $12 adult; $23 per child.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WHERE: Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road, Rancho Santa Fe. 858-756-4117 x318; *animalcenter.org*/education/*frostyfarm.aspx*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5: SANTA PAWS MEGA PET ADOPTION

SANTA PAWS MEGA PET

The San Diego Animal Support Foundation presents hundreds of animals from more than two dozen local animal-rescue organizations and shelters, billing it as "San Diego's largest holiday adoption event." See if anything strikes your fancy from this partial list of attendees: Maltese Rescue California, Ridgebacks & Friends Rescue, Greyhound Adoption Center, Great Pyrenees Association of Southern California, San Diego Turtle & Tortoise Society, San Diego Spaniel Rescue, Friends of Cats Shelter, Rottie Rescue San Diego, Passion for Pitties, Operation Greyhound Rescue, It's the Pits Rescue, Chihuahua Rescue of San Diego, Pit Bull Rescue San Diego, Holly's Garden Small Breed Rescue, Shelly's Shelter-Rabbits, and Labradors & Friends.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive, La Mesa. 619-847-8755; *sdshelters.org*

STEAM MAKER FESTIVAL

The Steam Maker Festival (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is an annual event — part creativity, part science, part education, part exploration — with 160 booths dedicated to students, crafters, makers, vendors, and small businesses celebrating a world of creativity. With robot-battle competitions, flying drones, 3D printers, exhibits, and Russell,

a 17-foot interactive electric giraffe. $4–$8.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar. 619-955-6484; *sansmf.org*

1940s RADIO HOUR. Radio Station WOV wants to record a broadcast for troops overseas, but the lead singer is drunk and the producer is losing his mind. At Carlsbad's New Village Arts, December 5 through 31. Theater, **page 77**.

MAKERS' ARCADE HOLIDAY FAIR

Here's a makers' event of another kind. Over 95 artists will show off handcrafted goods such as jewelry, ceramics, stationery, clothing, and home goods in a gigantic exhibition of gift opportunity at the Port Pavilion. With food trucks Miho Gastrotruck, Buona Forchetta, and Mastiff Sausage Co., craft beer by Lost Abbey, and cocktail lounges styled by local designers. $5.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 North Harbor Drive, downtown San Diego. 619-686-8027; *makersarcade.com*

Sunday | 6

MEXICAN WAR: BATTLE DAY

A commemoration of the Battle of San Pasqual, the bloodiest military clash of the Mexican-American War, fought near what is now Escondido on December 6, 1846. Walk through authentic military and mountain-man encampments and a 19th-century enlistment station to imagine life as a new recruit, see military equestrian drills and period demonstrations of roping, leather tooling, mule packing, and cooking, experience the cannon fire of the 12-pound Mountain Howitzer, and hear a dramatic reading of the Battle of San Pasqual as told by soldiers on both sides. Presented by the California State Parks and the San Pasqual Battlefield Volunteer Association.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 & 5: BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS

TACOCAT

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park, 16666 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido. 619-220-5422; *bit.ly/1R60jV2*

Monday | 7

TACOCAT. The four-piece boy-girl Seattle act describes itself as "post-post-punk-pop-pop…Go-Go's meets The Monkees. Kurt meets Courtney." Andrew Hamlin had a chat with them before their gig at the Casbah. Blurt, **page 70**.

Tuesday | 8

HANUKKAH SUPPER AND BOOK SIGNING

A meal with traditional favorites such as matzo ball soup, latkes, and hot brisket, a menorah lighting and prayer, and a Q&A with Janice Steinberg and Ona Russell. Steinberg is an arts journalist and author of five mystery novels. Ona Russell is a Next Generation Indie Book Awards finalist and author of a series of 1920s legal mysteries. $40.

WHEN: 4:30 to 7 p.m.
WHERE: Milton's Deli, 2660 Via de la Valle, Del Mar. 619-300-2532; *bit.ly/1PNnDHG*

Wednesday | 9

NICK LOWE. The English power-pop hit-maker has a Christmas record, 2013's *Quality Street*, and a Christmas show to go with it, which he performs at the Belly Up on Wednesday. Lowe took a call from the *Reader*'s Patrick Henderson. Blurt, **page 72**.

NICK LOWE

Gather No Moss

TRAVEL STORIES AND TIPS FROM OUR READERS

Read before you go
SDReader.com/Travel

Lunch options in the Dominican Republic's Boca de Yuma, about an hour away from Punta Cana

Off-track in Boca de Yuma, Dominican Republic

By Joe Tuborg

The easternmost point of the Dominican Republic is locked in a struggle between the lapping transparent waters of the Caribbean and the darker rough waters of the Atlantic. Throw in the mouth of a freshwater river, and you have Boca de Yuma.

By car, this small puebla is an hour away from the 24-hour parties of the all-inclusive resorts of Punta Cana and about the same in the opposite direction of the capital city of Santa Domingo. But its differences set it a world apart.

Coming to the end of the road, you realize that you've entered a town where fishing is still king. The small cove is overcrowded with fishing boats. As you scan the horizon, you see there may be as many boats at sea as there are ashore.

The streets in the small town are impossibly narrow, but we managed to pass. The main road runs parallel to the ocean and has a fair amount of abandoned businesses and housing in mid-construction phase. Tourism here has either not taken hold or has tried and failed. The buses of tourists we had passed on the motorway were nowhere to be found.

Three restaurants are perched on the cliff overlooking the bay and mouth of the river. We chose one and had lunch. The waiter brought over a large platter overflowing with the daily catch. Our choice was difficult.

With prices at just $5 per pound, we decided on a grilled red snapper and a couple of the country's Presidente beers. Total cost for a filling midday meal for two was under $20.

A national park has been established north of town. If you're willing to risk damage to your rental car, you will be treated to beautiful vistas and an abundance of bird life. Venture in the opposite direction and you can hire a boat to take you up the freshwater Yuma River.

The route to get to Boca is pretty straightforward. Take the modern and maintained Highway 3 and turn west at the well-marked Route 4. Most travel books and sites warn against driving in the Dominican Republic. We didn't find it difficult — but then again, we didn't venture into Santa Domingo. Overall, the highway system was easy to follow and kept to a high standard.

That being said, on our return trip I still managed to miss a turn. Fifteen minutes later, having skirted across a dirt road lined by sugarcane fields, we came across an unofficial but possible access to the main highway.

Most come to the Dominican Republic for the resorts. (Full disclosure: we stayed at one as well.) Most are luxurious and offer excellent food, drink, and entertainment. Tourism is one of the largest economic drivers of this island nation, and it's continuing to grow.

But if you go, I'd encourage you to venture outside the confines of these "tourist camps" and sample the sights, sounds, and tastes of the less-visited Dominican Republic as well.

Other Adventures

Roody2shoes: Stone Mountain, Georgia

Win $25 for your travel tips or a Reader T-Shirt or hat for the best travel photo of the week. Go to *SDReader.com/travel* for more information.

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: *Contributions must be received by 5pm Friday the week prior to publication for consideration. Do not phone. Submit information online at SDReader.com/events.*

Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.

ART

A San Diego Experience Recent works on canvas, paper, and prints by local artist Bill Mosley plus a book signing of *Verticals Over San Diego*. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; Frame Maker, 3102 Reynard Way. (HILLCREST)

Friday Night Liberty What began as a project for at-risk youth at Chaparral High School in El Cajon became an organization-wide exhibition showcasing teen work. Viewers will experience this subject through the eyes of young people in this presentation of student photography. Friday, December 4, 5pm; **free**. NTC at Liberty Station, Barracks 15, Studio 103, 2750 Historic Decatur Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

Holidays at Spanish Village Art Center Join the artists in Spanish Village for a holiday celebration. There will be lots of food, entertainment, and art in the 37 artists studios and the courtyard. A Teddy Bear scavenger hunt will take place during the event. Photos with Santa from 5-10pm, and a food court will fill the back area of the Village. Special studio/patio hours are 11am-11pm. Friday, December 4, 11am; **free**. Art Studios @ Spanish Village, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Sculpture Sale To celebrate the close of the Balboa Park Centennial Year, the San Diego Sculptors Guild is hosting a holiday sculpture sale with fine art from many of the county's leading sculptors throughout the month of December with additional discounts offered during Balboa Park's December Nights celebrations — Friday December 4 and Saturday December 5. Friday, December 4, 5pm; Saturday, December 5, 10am; **free**. Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

BEER

Brew School'd Improv Earn your honorary doctorate in beer with four questionable geniuses and one guy who really knows his brews. Five beer experts take the stage, but four have backstories that are almost too wild to believe. Can you guess which one is the real deal and who is all suds? Ticket includes four beer tastings. Friday, December 4, 7pm; $20. 21 and up. Cellar 3, 12260 Crosthwaite Circle. (POWAY)

Gift and Brew Participants will hunt their way through adventure stations to find local treasures they can give as gifts this holiday season. Ticket includes eight 4-oz. beer tastings from local breweries and nine food tastings featuring local eateries. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; $25. 21 and up. Goat Hill Park, Goat Hill Park, 2323 Goat Hill Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Hanukkah Supper and Booksigning A meal with traditional favorites such as matzo ball soup, latkes, and hot brisket, a menorah lighting and prayer, and a Q&A to meet Janice Steinberg and Ona Russell. Steinberg is an arts journalist and author of five mystery novels. Ona Russell is a Next Generation Indie Book Awards finalist and author of a series of 1920s legal mysteries. Tuesday, December 8, 4:30pm; $40. Milton's Deli, 2660 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

How to Draw Your Cat In conjunction with an art show that displays art from *How to Draw Soldiers & the Kitties Who Love Them*. All book proceeds go to animal charity www.nowzad.com, an organization that has reunited 700+ soldiers with the pets who helped them survive in a grueling war zone. The art show features original art from the new book plus a collection of *Moments that Became Masterpieces* by artist Nita Draut on display October 10 to December 19. Saturday, December 5, 11am; **free**. Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

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CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

Christmas Comes to IB Local school performances, Church choirs, ballet dancing, kids activities, carnival games, get your picture taken with Santa, and more than 50 home businesses at the Holiday Shopping Square Bazaar. Sponsored by the Unified Port of San Diego. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; **free**. Imperial Beach Pier Plaza, 10 Evergreen Avenue. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Christmas in Hawai'i Lu'au The first annual event features local entertainment including the band Cool Breeze, Te Rahiti Nui & Tipanie O Patitifa Dance Troupes, and a traditional fire knife performance. The event will also include several vendors and a silent auction, with food provided by Tip Top Meats. Tropical signature drinks and craft beers will also be available at our tropical bar. Saturday, December 5, 6pm; $40-$70. Cielo Village Rancho, 18021 Calle Ambiente. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Fallbrook Holiday Tree Lighting A 50-foot holiday tree will light up the night sky of North County. Join the Friends of the Fallbrook Community Center for live holiday music, crafts, and cheer. Dedicated as the Official Fallbrook Holiday Tree in 1981, what was once a small pine has grown into a beautiful giant that serves as the centerpiece of this festive event. Friday, December 4, 4:30pm; **free**. Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane. (FALLBROOK)

Frosty Farm Kids can have a holiday-themed animal encounter with alpacas, chinchillas, doves, sheep, chickens, and Blitzen the miniature horse "reindeer" and take pictures with Santa and his polar dog. Each child receives a plush toy from Santa. With cookie decorating, face painting, faux snow, crafts, and live music. Runs three weekends through Christmas. $12 adult; $23 per child. Saturday, December 5, 9am; Sunday, December 6, 9am; $12-$23. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest Kids' contest 3pm to 7pm, followed by a second competition for the kids-at-heart from 7pm to 10pm Queenstown Public House will provide a gingerbread house kit in exchange for an unwrapped gift donation for New Alternative's Little Italy Toy Drive. Lego Land tickets will be up for grabs for the kids contest, and the adults will battle for a Queenstown gift basket. For the first time, Queenstown Public House will transform the exterior of the restaurant into a real-life gingerbread house decorated with gumdrops, M&Ms, candy canes, and fluffy white icing around the windows. Wednesday, December 9, 3pm; **free**. Queenstown Public House, 1557 Columbia Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

History for the Holidays Jack Innis presents San Diego Legends, Holiday Edition. Jack is an expert on San Diego history, focusing on informative and often amusing

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK LOOP

Hike along one of the three rivers that discharge into San Diego Bay.

Distance from downtown San Diego: 13 miles. Allow 20 minutes driving time (Chula Vista). Situated between I-5 and I-805 in South Bay San Diego. From I-5, exit Main St. E and drive 1.5 miles to Beyer Blvd. Or, from I-805, drive 2.5 miles west to Beyer Blvd. Turn south on Beyer Blvd. and drive 1 mile to the ranger station on the right (west) and park. The trailhead is across the street on the east side of Beyer Blvd. **Hiking length**: 4.5 miles. **Difficulty**: Easy, less than 200 feet change in elevation. Hikers, bicycles, equestrians (east of Beyer Blvd) and fishing (with license). Dogs (on leashes) allowed. Facilities.

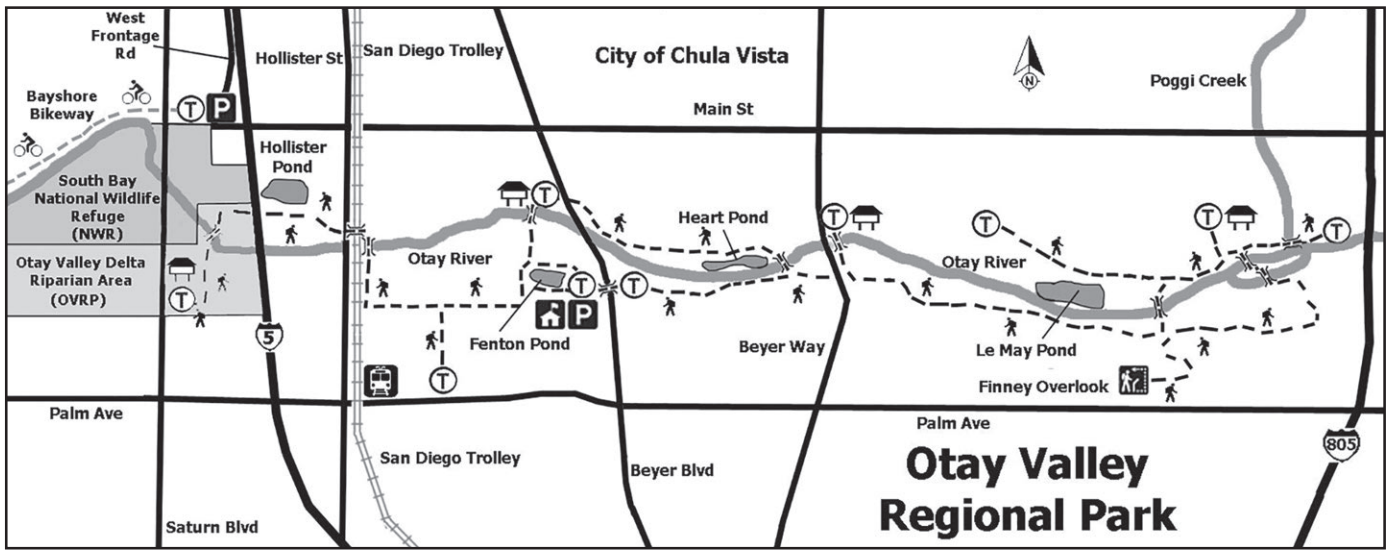
Heart pond, one of the many ponds encountered on the hike. Inset: Orcutt's bird's beak, one of the area's rare plants.

Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) is an open-space preserve with plans to link the San Diego Wildlife Refuge on San Diego Bay to the Otay River Valley and its headwaters in Otay Lakes and the San Miguel, Jamul, and Otay Mountains, a distance of 13 miles. The planning area encompasses 8869 acres. It is an area with a diversity of vegetation.

The trails in OVRP and its riparian woodlands, marshes, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral habitats make this a great opportunity for bird watching with many good spots to sit, listen, and observe nature. Here, one will find rare plants such as Orcutt's bird's beak and endangered birds such as least Bell's vireo, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the coastal gnatcatcher. Threatened insects such as Quino checkerspot and Hermes copper butterfly find sanctuary in this regional park.

The area has been continuously inhabited for 9000 years, beginning with the earliest bands of Native Americans that settled into the area. Lands today that include National City, Chula Vista, and Bonita were later included in Rancho del Rey during the Spanish period and then as Rancho de la Nación under the Mexican period. In 1868, the entire rancho was acquired by the Kimble brothers, who retained the name "National" with their purchase. Today, this area is under multi-jurisdictional planning control of San Diego County and the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista.

The early use of the area for cattle grazing probably led to the introduction of many invasive species, while others have invaded the area since that time. One of the most problematic species is tamarisk/salt cedars found in the riparian areas. These evergreen shrubs have scale-like leaves and are easy to recognize by the dense pink spikes at the branch ends when in bloom. Tamarisks are aggressive usurpers of water, outcompeting native plants and dispersing thousands of seeds when the wind blows. Other invasive plants include the extremely allergenic castor-bean plant, artichoke thistle, Canary Island date palms, crown daisies, and Peruvian pepper trees.

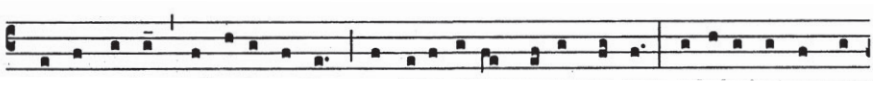


There are numerous official trailheads to this park, with about ten miles of trails that crisscross, but the best place to start a hike is at the ranger station at 2155 Beyer Boulevard. From here, you can do a 2-mile loop up one side of the river to Heart Pond and back (crossing the watercourse to Fenton Pond and the ranger station) or a longer 5-mile hike. A map is helpful because of the many intersecting trails. However, any choice is a delight for all hikers — novices will appreciate the wide, flat, meandering trails through the valley floor while all will enjoy the plant varieties encountered. Some of the more common plants include poison oak and broom baccharis along the trails; mule fat, cottonwoods, and sycamores in riparian areas; and flattop buckwheat, coast prickly pear cactus, coastal sage, black sage, chaparral pea, and jimson weed in the chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities.

continued on page 41

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

Gregorian Chant Mass



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stories that make up an important part of our social fabric. Sunday, December 6, 12pm; **free**. William Heath Davis House Museum, 410 Island Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Holiday Bonfire and Open House 18th annual giant bonfire in Civic Center Park and open house in the festively decorated Parsonage Museum and H. Lee House includes visits with Santa Claus, games, free snacks, live music, rides, Elves Gift Shoppe, and tours of the Parsonage Museum and the new Don Porcella art exhibit. Friday, December 4, 5pm; **free**. Civic Center Park, 3200 Main Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Holiday Carnival Carnival games, face painting, pictures with Santa, live christmas music, and 50 vendors. Info: 619-569-8175 or mike@jamvipenterprises.com. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; **free**. Woodglen Vista Park, 10250 Woodglen Vista Drive. (VISTA)

It's Fking Christmas** Finest City Improv says let's do it differently with its first holiday show. Every Saturday night until December 12, people can gather at their cabaret-style theater in North Park for the mockery of the typical traditional office party everyone dreads and all-around audience participation that makes each show unique. Saturdays, 7:30pm; through Saturday, December 12, $15. 18 and up. Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana Street. (NORTH PARK)

Lions, Tigers, & Bears: Christmas Festival With local vendors, food, entertainment, and an appearance by Santa Claus. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; $15. Lions Tigers & Bears Big Cat Rescue, 24402 Martin Way. (ALPINE)

Little Italy Tree Lighting & Christmas Village See Little Italy's new Christmas Tree — a 25-foot tower of over 1000 poinsettias — located in the center of Piazza Basilone. With decorations, live music and entertainment, and seasonal vendors. Saint Nick will be at the event taking pictures with all the kids. Saturday, December 5, 4pm; **free**. W. Fir between India Street and Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Indigo Dyeing Indigo dyeing has been used across the world for thousands of years. The indigo plant makes a variety of shades of blue, commonly associated with denim. Learn Shibori, the Japanese tradition of folding and manipulating fabrics to make patterns for dyeing and the history and process of indigo dyeing. Dye napkins, scarves, shirts, and yardage of natural fabrics like cotton, linen, and silk. Sunday, December 6, 10am; $67-$75. Bravo School of Art at Liberty Station, 2690 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 19, Studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

Painting Class: Holiday Forest This is a great landscape that is full of life and color and an easy one to complete. Info: 760-696-3380. Thursday, December 3, 6pm; $25. San Pasqual Wine Bar and Gallery, 8364 La Mesa Boulevard. (LA MESA)

Winemaking Demonstration We will go through all of the basic steps of making wine from kits, from start to bottle. This will be an interactive demonstration — you will have an opportunity to take part in winemaking steps hands-on. Saturday, December 5, 1pm; **free**. 21 and up. Curds and Wine, 7194 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (KEARNY MESA)

Writer's Block: Heather Fowler Writing workshop every first Saturday, where writers of all levels will enjoy experimenting with in-class writing prompts to create experiences with words. End results can be starts of longer stories, flash fiction, and prose poetry. Led by published author Heather Fowler. Info: ljlibraryfriends@gmail.com. Saturday, December 5, 12pm; **free**. 18 and up. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

COMEDY

Carly Aquilino Carly Aquilino is a stand-up comedian described by audience members as "funny" and by her father as "a huge mistake." A cast member of MTV's *Girl Code*, Carly, a New York native, first stepped on stage at Gotham Comedy Club and has since been quickly rising in the comedy scene, performing at clubs in New York. Thursday, December 3, 8pm; Friday, December 4, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, December 5, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; $18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Improvised Family Reunion Sidestage Improv presents improvised comedy by LA6's, Black Sheep, and Lead Candy. It will be just like your real family, only funnier and probably less offensive. Saturday, December 5, 8pm; $10. Across the Street at Mueller College, 4601 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

DANCE

Argentine Tango with Colette Learn tango now. If you have ever been curious about tango and want to try it, this is the time. Take a free first class Thursday, December 10 at 6pm (or any Thursday at 6pm thereafter). No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of tango. Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, corner Dewey, Studio #106. tangowithcolette.com or 514-726-5567. (POINT LOMA)

Contradancing No partners needed, and no experience necessary. Calling by Martha Wild, with live music by Tectonic Shakedown. Teaching from 7:30pm-8pm. Dance starts at 8pm, with a break for refreshments at 9:30pm. Wear soft-soled shoes to protect the dance floor, and bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated. Discount price for students, full-time college students, and active duty military with

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Little Italy Mercato
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One coupon per customer per booth.
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FREE Polito Farms market bag with $10 purchase
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Polito Family Farms
Little Italy at the SW corner of Cedar & Columbia

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PACIFIC TIME
FREE BAGUETTE with purchase of a loaf of bread
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Register now for Vendor 101,
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BEEF • PORK
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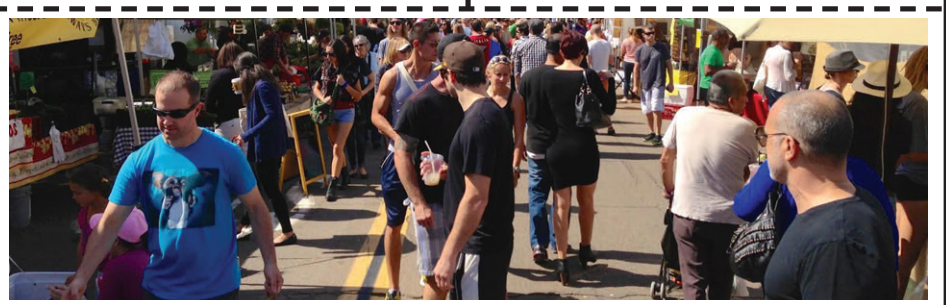
Available fresh each week.
Pasture raised start to finish.
Hormone free, free range, humanly raised, no gmo grains.

TWO HOURS FREE PARKING
At the Washington Elementary School at Date & Union or State & Fir

$1 OFF any 2 Paninis
At Little Italy
Valid through December 10, 2015 only.
One coupon per customer per booth.
Seb's Paninis



Saranya's Thai Café
$1 pancake for every $10 purchased with coupon

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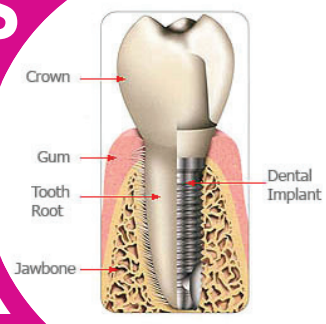

Are you or someone you know
missing a tooth?

Attend this No Fee, No obligation Seminar to learn everything you can to make an informed decision about your Dental Implants.

Thursday, December 10th, 5:30pm

Seminar Topics:

- Recent advancements in implant technology
- Benefits vs. Risks of implant surgery
- 5 things you must know before you choose an implant dentist

PLUS: Exclusive Q&A session with one of our implants specialists and an education program on the highest quality products

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

Free gift for the first 25 people to RSVP. Seating is limited.

Town Center DENTISTRY
RECONSTRUCTIVE COSMETIC & IMPLANT DENTISTRY

11968 Bernardo Plaza Dr., San Diego, 92128
858-433-4411 towncenterdentistry.com

Every Wednesday in December! 10am-2pm

PLUS Fridays, December 4, 11, & 18 2pm-10pm

We'll draw one lucky winner every 30 minutes to enter the Cash Cube to grab all they can!

Receive one drawing entry for every 100 points earned.

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SHEEP and GOATS

Salmon Portland Chase

No nation can be strong except in the strength of God or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.

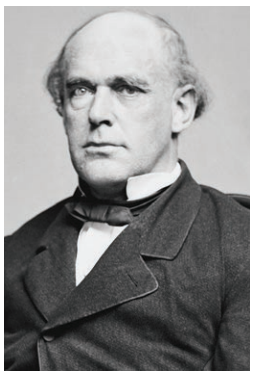
***

I approve your mottos, only suggesting that on that with the Washington obverse, the motto should begin with the word "Our," so as to read: "Our God and our Country." And on that with the shield, it should be changed so as to read: "In God We Trust."

— from a Nov. 20, 1861, letter and Dec. 9, 1863, letter, respectively, to the director of the Philadelphia Mint by Salmon Portland Chase

Salmon Portland Chase (1808–1873) was an American politician who served as a U.S. senator from Ohio, the 23rd governor of Ohio and U.S. treasury secretary under Abraham Lincoln; he also served as the sixth U.S. chief justice. He was known as being stridently anti-slavery, coining the Free Soil Party's slogan, "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men." He presided over the senate trial of Andrew Johnson and, as the above quote makes clear, coined (literally) the expression of the U.S.'s faith in God inscribed on all the country's legal tender.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship



current ID. Friday, December 4, 7:30pm; $10. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Knit a Bit and Crochet A biweekly gathering of creative, crafty yarn workers who are happy to admire your accomplishments (no matter how modest) and assist you with your knottiest problems. Wednesday, December 9, 12:30pm; Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

FOOD & DRINK

PlumpJack Tasting Long-time PlumJack rep Richelle Mardon will roll out some killer wines: PlumpJack Cabernet 2012 ($99) and PlumpJack 2014 Chardonnay ($49) along with their sister project Adaption Cabernet 2013 ($54) and Adaption Chardonnay 2013 ($32). PlumpJack Winery is a boutique winery in Oakville, California specializing in premium Cabernet Sauvignon wines. Fun fact: PlumpJack was the first winery in Napa Valley to use screwcaps as a wine closure on fine wines. Friday, December 4, 6pm; $29. La Costa Wine Company, 7750 El Camino Real. (CARLSBAD)

LECTURES

Life Aboard a 16th-Century Galleon Climbing out of his boat and onto shore in 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo stepped into history as the first European to set foot on what is now the West Coast of the United States. Have you ever wondered what life might have been like for sailors in the 1500s when the New World was new? Cabrillo Monument Living History takes a look at 16th-century shipboard life. In the Visitor Center. Saturdays, 1:30pm; through Saturday, December 19, $8. Cabrillo National Monument, 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Sustainable Transportation After 100+ years of little change, revolutionary changes are now underway in our transportation and energy segments. The Thermal Age is ending. The Renewable Age is well underway. Join Peder Norby, San Diego County Planning Commissioner, in an interactive breakfast workshop to examine the future of mobility and discuss current planning and projects in sustainable multi-modal transportation, including the Complete Streets project currently underway in San Diego County. Thursday, December 3, 8am; **free**. UCSD Extension University City, 6256 Greenwich Drive. (UNIVERSITY CITY)

OUTDOORS

Birding with All Your Senses Join ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binocular, and coverups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, one block west of Black Mtn. Road at the preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. Saturday, December 5, 8am; **free**. Canyonside Park & Recreation Center, 12350 Black Mountain Road. (RANCHO PE„ASQUITOS)

Black Mtn. Open-Space Restoration Volunteers needed. We'll be planting native plants in an area burned in the 2014 Bernardo Fire. Community service credits available for students. Meet in the northeast corner of Black Mtn. Community Park. Info: 858-342-8856 or mkelly1@san.rr.com. Sunday, December 6, 1pm; **free**. Black Mountain Ranch Community Park, 14700 Carmel Valley Road. (RANCHO PE„ASQUITOS)

Buena Vista Audubon Society: Whelan Lake Monthly walk and bird survey. The freshwater lake, adjacent riparian forest, and grassy upland hills provide an exciting array of bird species throughout the year, making it a favorite place to go birding. Directions to Whelan Lake: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, turn left at Douglas Dr., continue to the light at North River Rd., go left on North River Road. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake. Info: 760-941-7824. Saturday, December 5, 8am; **free**. Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary, 3650 North River Road. (OCEANSIDE)

Nature's Wealth Learn about the amazing variety of plant and animal life in San Diego's ecologically rich sage, chaparral, and riparian communities on an informative walk with a Mission Trail Regional Park trail guide. Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday, December 5, 9:30am; Sunday, December 6, 9:30am; Wednesday, December 9, 9:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Jun'pero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Trek with the Trackers Discover and identify tracks, scat, bedlays, and other evidence of critters living in local underbrush and trees. Join a Mission Trails Regional Park guide for two hours of dirt-time fun — wear long pants! Meet in front of Visitor Center. Saturday, December 5, 8:30am; **free**. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Jun'pero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Waterfall Hike A moderately paced hike over flat terrain to the preserve's waterfall with stops at the historic stagecoach, immigrant trail, and Kit Carson rescue ride spots along the way. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur. Saturday, December 5, 9am; **free**. Pe–asquitos Creek Park, 8021 Park Village Road. (RANCHO PE„ASQUITOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Drag: Beyond the Stage, Wigs, and Heels The Community Engagement Multimedia Project and The Top2Bottom Show present a never-before-seen type of docuseries on the art of drag and female impersonation. Join the studio audience for the taping — audience appears on camera and appropriate dressy attire is required. Saturday, December 5, 11am; **free**. 18 and up. Rich's Hillcrest, 1051 University Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Fair Trade Alternative Gift Fair Shop for Fair Trade foods and unique hand-crafted items made by marginalized artisans and farmers around the world. Sample fair trade foods, and learn how you can support local and global service organizations. Sunday, December 6, 10am; **free**. First Lutheran Church of San Diego, 1420 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Handmade in San Diego Craft Fair 100 artists and crafters, everything handcrafted or homemade. New this year, a pancake breakfast

$15

Special price for listings of this size on these Sheep & Goats pages. 50 words or less, 50 cents for each additional word. Call Lauren Bishop: (619) 235-3000 ext. 200 or email her: lbishop@SDReader.com Or - easiest of all - go to SDReader.com/SheepAds and place your ad automatically any time of day or night.

1ST SPIRITUALIST CHURCH
First Spiritualist Church

*Every Thursday: Psychic Development/Mediumship 6:30-8:30pm Friday, December 4: Meditation and Message Circle 6:45-9pm (Be in sanctuary by 6:45, doors close at 7pm) Sunday Service, December 6: Meditation/Auric Healings: 10am Lecture Service/ Messages: 11am Guest Speaker: Kimberley Britton Mini Readings: 1:30-3pm Reiki Healings: 1:30-4pm Friday, December 11: Manifestation Meditation: $10 (To bring forth abundance, love, and health 7pm) Saturday, December 12: Magical Christmas Concert. Special Evening with Professional light opera singers 6:30pm For urgent prayer request call 619-246-5929 Readings, Healings and Counseling by appointment. www.1st-spiritualistchurch.org
CITY HEIGHTS
3777 42nd Street
619-284-4646

UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH
Annual Christmas Party and Potluck Dinner

Join us on December 5th, for our annual Christmas party and potluck dinner! Crafts, games, cookie decorating and out "California style" snow ball fight! Christmas sing-a-long and a very special guest! Plenty of fun for everyone! Call 858-453-3444 or visit our webist for details.
UNIVERSITY CITY
2877 Governor Drive
858-453-3444

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Pastor Paul Willweber Sunday Worship 9am Bible Class, Sunday School 10:30am Bible Study Tuesdays 10am Youth Night 2nd/4th Wed 6:30-8pm. Sonshine Kids Wed & Thurs 10–11am and 3:30–4:30pm Sep thru May. Contact info: 619-583-1436
ALLIED GARDENS
6801 Easton Court
619-583-1436

Dulzura Community Church: Not Just for Locals

Enjoy a Sunday drive to the scenic backcountry. Join us 10 am Sunday mornings for non-denominational worship service. Unhappy with your church? Try ours! We think you'll be glad you did. We're open to all, not just local residents. 94 East to Dulzura, go south on Community Building Road about two blocks. More information at https://www.facebook.com/dulzura-church. See you there?

ONE HEART ONE MIND CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING
One Heart One Mind

A life changing spiritual center which honors the divinity and the unique spiritual authority of the individual. Sundays: Meditation 10am Inspirational Service: 10:30am Sunday School and dynamic teen program. Phone: 858-450-6466 Web: www.onheart-onemind.org
SORRENTO VALLEY
11211 Sorrento Valley Rd., Suites F-G

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Gethsemane

Small in size, grounded in grace. Outdoor labyrinth 24/7. Creatively traditional liturgy. Good music. Spiritual depth. Prayerful. Preschool with daycare. Sunday: 8am Contemplative Communion; 9:30am Spirited traditional. www.gethsemanesd.org 858-277-6572
SERRA MESA
2696 Melbourne Drive
858-277-6572

KNOW THYSELF AS SOUL FOUNDATION
Spirituality & Meditation Introductory Talk

Spirituality: Meditation on the inner light and sound as taught by Sant Baljit Singh, talk given by authorized speaker. Free program and vegetarian lunch Sunday, December 6th at Noon. Free admission. RSVP: 619-405-1823.
NORTH PARK
2141 El Cajon Boulevard
619-260-0810

ST. JOHN BOSCO MISSION SSPX
Catholic Traditional Latin Mass

*St. John Bosco Mission SSPX. Fr. Thomas Hufford Sunday Mass: 4pm, Confessions: 3:30pm. 858-433-0353 (call for proper attire) stjohnboscomission@hotmail.com, www.sspx.org. Instaurare Omnia in Christo. To the greater glory of God!
POINT LOMA
2881 Roosevelt Road

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Scott T. Starbuck

The Art of Denial

If you ignore a thorn in your hand
it will go away

but first the hand gets infected, swells,
turns coal-purple,

and sometimes parts must be amputated
to save what remains.

Disease could have been prevented
by simply removing the thorn

but companies that owned it
said no.

Omen Poem

The hawk I saw
north of Santa Barbara
flew higher than oil rigs
offshore.

Listening to Fireworks Near the 2014 FOR Seabeck Conference

— for Gary Snyder

The real work
is daily practice
in order to be
of greater service.

Skies are filled
with vibrant explosions,
ooohs and ahhhs
while the truth

like a cedar raven
waits and speaks
at in-between
silence.

Scott T. Starbuck is a co-creative writing coordinator at San Diego's Mesa College and on the coordinating committee of the Road Through Paris action at San Diego *350.org*. He was a Friends of William Stafford Scholar at the "Speak Truth to Power" Fellowship of Reconciliation Seabeck Conference in 2014, a 2013 Artsmith Fellow on Orcas Island, and writer-in-residence at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. Later this month he will be a writer-in-residence at Playa in Oregon.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

with Santa. Live entertainment, a bake sale, and more. Saturday, December 5, 9am; **free**. Kate Sessions Elementary, 2150 Beryl Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Holiday Pop-Up Shop With Melissa Duncanson of Madmade Designs, Brookes Reeder's zine sculptures, Sarah Spinks's candles, Ashley Gallagher's prints, Johnny Nguyen postcards, Kathyrn Nova's painted tee, Monique Golueke's vintage hair accessories, David & Frankie's Silkscreen Print Lab, Tangled Tinsel's personalized ornaments, CME Create's customized Mickey Mouse ears, That One Brand's Disney-inspired prints and postcards, and more. Plus snacks and drinks, music, and holiday DIY mini-wreath projects. Sunday, December 6, 10am; $5. Captain's Helm, 1832 S Coast Highway. (OCEANSIDE)

Makers Arcade Holiday Fair Over 95 artists will show off handcrafted goods such as jewelry, ceramics, stationary, clothing, and home goods in a gigantic exhibition of gift opportunity at the Port Pavilion. With food trucks Miho Gastrotruck, Buona Forchetta, and Mastiff Sausage Co, craft beer by Lost Abbey, and craft cocktail lounges styled by local designers. Saturday, December 5, 11am; $5. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

SoNo Fest & Chili Cook-Off With 40 local restaurants competing in a chili smackdown, a craft beer and wine garden featuring 18 local breweries and wineries, 30 local handmade vendors, 11 local bands live on two stages, 9 food vendors, and a kids' fun fest area complete with bounce houses, crafts, games, prizes, and karaoke. $20 gets a handmade ceramic chili tasting bowl and chili created by the competing restaurants. Or BYOB (bring your own bowl) and get 5 restaurant chili tastings for $15. Proceeds benefit the McKinley Elementary School foundation. Sunday, December 6, 11am; **free**-$20. 32nd & Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Steam Maker Festival The Steam Maker Festival (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math) is an annual event — part creativity, part science, part education, part exploration — with 160 booths dedicated to students, crafters, makers, venders, and small businesses celebrating a world of creativity. With robot-battle competitions, flying drones, 3D printers, exhibits, and Russell, a 17-foot interactive electric giraffe. Saturday, December 5, 10am; $6-$8. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

SPOKEN WORD

Open Poetry Reading: Jon Wesick Carlsbad author Jon Wesick reads from his most recent poetry collection *Words of Power, Dances of Freedom*. An open mic reading for attendees follows Jon's feature. Sunday, December 6, 1pm; **free**. Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Voyagers Toastmasters Club The culture of Voyagers Toastmasters has proved to be conducive to helping members achieve their goals, whether it is just becoming more comfortable with speaking socially or professionally. Thursdays, 7am; through Thursday, December 17, **free**. Café Coyote, 2461 San Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

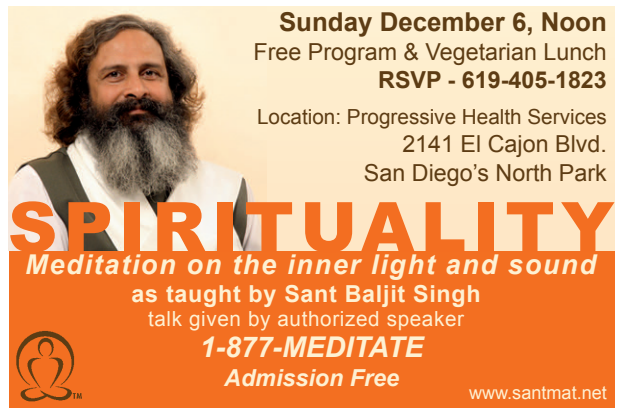
ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 37

Everyone is advised to use caution when wandering near the trail's edge due to the proliferation of poison oak throughout the area that will be encountered almost immediately upon leaving the ranger station on Beyer Boulevard. Staying on the trails will afford a rare glimpse of wetlands, ponds, and streams and will keep one safe from contact with poison oak.

The Otay River is one of three rivers that discharge into San Diego Bay. It empties at the southern end of the bay while Sweetwater and San Diego river watersheds discharge further north. Check OVRP's website, *ovrp.org,* for more information about the area.

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



WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, DEC 3	10:02	2.6’	9:41	1.3’	4:01	4.5’	3:12	3.9’
FRI, DEC 4	11:11	1.9’	10:31	1.3’	4:44	4.9’	4:33	3.6’
SAT, DEC 5	11:59	1.6’	11:13	1.6’	5:19	5.2’	5:38	3.6’
SUN, DEC 6	12:36	0.9’	11:51	1.6’	5:50	5.5’	6:29	3.9’

Waves (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Height	Direction	Interval
1’-2’	WSW	18 seconds
4’-7’	W	16 seconds
3’-5’	W	15 seconds
3’-5’	WNW	13 seconds

For daily updates to waves, water conditions, and fish reports, go to **SDReader.com/waterfront**

EVENTS

Bill of Rights Sunset Sail We’re acknowledging Bill of Rights Day a little early this year with a sunset sail on the Schooner Bill of Rights. Enjoy light appetizers, themed drinks including Preamble Wine, and a San Diego Bay sunset. Supports 501(c)3 not-for-profit organizations The Freedom Revolution and the Schooner Bill of Rights. Saturday, December 12, 2pm; $525-$52. 18 and up. Schooner Bill of Rights, 604 Marina Parkway. (CHULA VISTA)

Christmas Day Dinner Cruise Experience a lavish, traditional holiday buffet aboard a luxurious yacht while you enjoy the calm waters and beautiful scenery of the San Diego Bay. Santa will make an appearance during boarding time to pose for pictures. Friday, December 25, 3:30pm; $92. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Find All the Fish Snorkelers and SCUBA divers can become a “citizen scientist” by completing this free course and then conducting underwater surveys of local habitats. The goal? To find as many species as possible! Information gathered contributes to an international database used by scientists and government agencies and helps divers find great dive spots with lots of life. Wednesday, December 16, 6pm; **free**. Ocean Enterprises Scuba Diving, 7710 Balboa Avenue Suite 101. (KEARNY MESA)

San Diego Bay Parade of Lights Participants in the holiday boat parade will adorn their boats to fit this year’s theme, Christmas Around the World. The parade begins at Shelter Island and proceeds to Harbor Island at 6pm, the Embarcadero at 6:30pm, Seaport Village at 7pm, and ends at the Ferry Landing in Coronado at 7:30pm 619-224-2240 or questions@sdparadeoflights.org. Sunday, December 13, 5:30pm; Sunday, December 20, 5:30pm; San Diego Bay

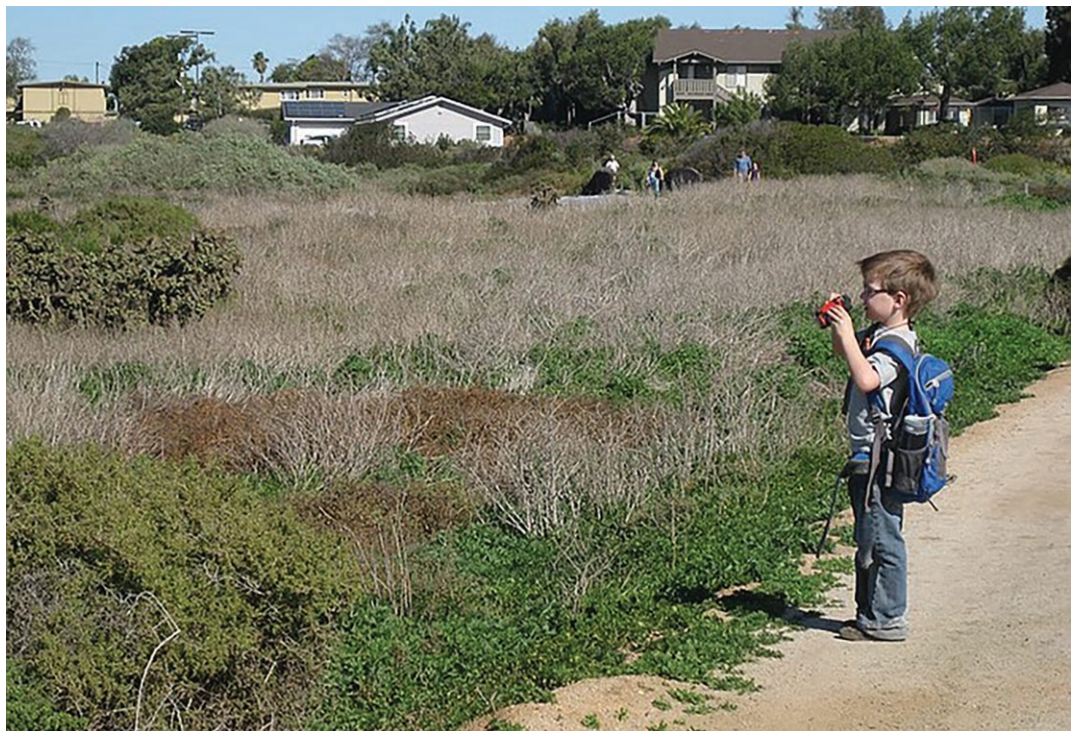
Tidepool Adventure The Point Loma Tide Pools are located at the tip of Point Loma, just south of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. The tide pools face west, and on a clear day you can see the Coronado Islands. In the litoral zone pools visitors can see limpets, hermit crabs, starfish, anemones, mussels, sally lightfoot crabs, and other species of intertidal sea life. Guided tour. $5 per car; $3 per person. Mondays, 1pm; through Monday, December 28, $3. Cabrillo National Monument, 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive. (POINT LOMA)

Tuna Harbor Dockside Market Focused on San Diego’s historic commercial fishing and aquaculture industries, local customers — both the public and professional chefs — can purchase fresh-caught seafood and aquafarmed seaweed direct from local fishermen. Saturdays, 8am; through Sunday, December 20, **free**. Tuna Harbor Dockside Market, 598 Harbor Lane.

Wednesday Morning Paddle For the early-bird kayakers out there, Aqua Adventures Kayak Canter is hosting weekly social-exercise paddles on Mission Bay on Wednesday mornings. Free if you provide your own kayak and gear; $15 for kayak rental. On the water 7am sharp. The paddle will be for for 1 to 1-1/2 hours and is not for beginners, though one or two lessons should get you there. Wear synthetic clothing such as nylon, fleece, or polypropylene and take a windbreaker. Wednesdays, 7am; through Wednesday, December 30, **free**-$15. Aqua Adventures, 1548 Quivira Way. (MISSION BEACH)

Buena Vista Audubon Society: Whelan Lake Monthly walk and bird survey. The freshwater lake, adjacent riparian forest, and grassy upland hills provide an exciting array of bird species throughout the year, making it a favorite place to go birding. Directions to Whelan Lake: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, turn left at Douglas Drive, continue to the light at North River Road, go left on North River Road. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake. Info: 760-941-7824. Saturday, December 5, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., **free**. Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary, 3650 North River Road, Oceanside. (OCEANSIDE)

Waterfall Hike A moderately paced hike over flat terrain to the preserve’s waterfall with stops at the historic stagecoach, immigrant trail, and Kit Carson rescue ride spots along the way. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur. Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., **free**. Peñasquitos Creek Park, 8021 Park Village Road, San Diego, 92129. (RANCHO PENASQUITOS)



Kendall-Frost Wildlife Preserve

More animals in Pacific Beach?

ReWild Mission Bay gave a presentation in the Midway District on November 18 at the Loma Riviera community room under the auspices of the Friends of Famosa Slough organization. Rebecca Schwartz, the conservation program manager of the San Diego Audubon Society, is in charge of outreach. She outlined ReWild’s plan to enhance and restore up to 170 acres of wetland habitat in the northeast corner of Mission Bay. Schwartz spoke of the group’s wish to expand the Kendall Frost Wildlife Preserve — once 4000 acres of wetlands that has been reduced to a fenced-in 40 acres. Kendall-Frost is starved for sediment and fresh water, and ReWild seeks to open up Rose Creek to accomplish that.

The group has its eyes on the closed De Anza Trailer Park and the soon-to-close Campland-by-the-Bay resort. Campland, whose lease expires soon, plans to move, and ReWild wants that land, if the city agrees. ReWild hopes the city will also allot the De Anza Trailer Park land to open space. The idea then is to incorporate Kendall-Frost, a reinvigorated Rose Creek, and the restorations of De Anza and Campland into a large parcel of restored natural habitat. Schwartz mentioned how many residents of the Crown Point area “do not even realize that there is a nature preserve in their own front yard of Mission Bay.”

If the group is successful in uniting the parcels of land into one swath of rehabilitated open space, more outreach is planned to “expand community access to Kendall-Frost.”

— Justin Powell

***Perfect wave? Fish tale? We’ll pay you $25 for your story. Send to* sdreader.com/waterfront**

BARE ON THE WRONG BEACH

From San Diego city lifeguards

-San Diego Lifeguards are a 24 hour rescue agency whose responsibilities include water rescue, boat rescue, marine fire suppression, coastal cliff rescue, underwater search and recovery, swift water and flood search, rescue and emergency medical response. San Diego Lifeguards also handle enforcement of city, state and federal laws and regulations. Lifeguards are classified as peace officers with the power of arrest.

11/16

- Vessel in Mariners Basin Dragging anchor 36 ft Vessel KILI was relocated in Mariners Basin by lifeguard rescue boat.

11/15

- Rescue boat responds to a citizen complaint of a speeding vessel at Bonita Cove. UTL

11/14

- Body recovery at 2450 Admiral Baker Rd. SDPD requests help in recovering a floating body in the SD River. River Rescue Team responds and recovers the body. Male 50s. Medical Examiner transports.

11/12

- Possible vessel in distress off of Campland in Fiesta Bay. 2 Persons on board a demasted 15-20’ white hulled sail boat. Lifeguard rescue boat on scene and no further assistance needed.

11/11

- Harbor Police responded to a San Diego North Bay marina to investigate a domestic violence report. A subject was arrested for an assault and was taken to jail.

11/10

- Vessel adrift from mooring #205. Lifeguard rescue vessel responds and secures vessel. Message left for owner to put more scope out on his anchor.

11/09

- Lifeguards request medics to the OB Tower for a 41 year old male with a skin allergy. Lifeguards cancel medics/clear.

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **64**°F **HIGH** **66**°F

VISIBILITY

0'–15'

By Friday, the primary swell will build to shoulder to head-high out of the West directly into the La Jolla cove. The big swell will start winding down Sunday, though the next expected bump will arrive out of the West Tuesday, making it a difficult time for those peering under the surface. Boaters should keep an extra eye out for divers near the reefs and channel edges and divers always mark yourselves and area appropriately.

Visibility based on existing conditions and NOAA predicted swell and weather conditions at press time. Check up-to-date daily visibility/ conditions at the San Diego County Lifeguard info line: 619-221-8824

Moon Calendar

	THUR	SAT	MON	WED
DECEMBER	3	5	7	9
SUNRISE	6:08	6:10	6:11	6:13
SUNSET	16:56	16:54	16:53	16:51
LENGTH OF DAY	10H 48M	10H 44M	10H 42M	10H 38M

Grimace Rock at low tide

California Surf Museum's *Going Big* exhibit opened this week

Hidden underwater, even at low tide

I asked the most knowledgeable surfer I know about the name Grimace Rock. Skip Frye told me it comes from a picture taken when a surfer realized he was about to hit the rock.

Grimace Rock is the largest rock in the cove at Tourmaline Surfing Park in Pacific Beach. Most of the time the rock is hidden underwater, even at low tide. But if the tide is unusually low, the rock becomes a dangerous obstacle if you do not know exactly where it is. It is located directly across from Six House on the cliff, and approximately along the line with P.B. Point. (Six House refers to it being the sixth house from the right side of the cliff. It was the house for *The Real World: San Diego,* filmed in 2011.) During an astronomical low tide, the rock is clearly visible and is almost completely out of the water.

Joe Roper, who has owned and operated his namesake surfboard repair shop for 40 years, says, "That rock kept me in business for the first five years. We must have repaired thousands of surfboards that hit that rock. Before fin boxes were available, hitting the rock caused much more damage."

Despite the danger, Grimace is a good place to catch waves on small surf days. Knowledgeable surfers can be found sitting inside of the rock. The waves are not big but they are surf-worthy. On bigger surf days, surfers can ride a wave all the way in from P.B. Point and then swing around Grimace and catch that wave all the way to the parking lot.

There is also Little Grimace, about 20 yards from Big Grimace. The two combine to make it a good idea to never dive headfirst off a surfboard at Tourmaline.

— Russell Goltz

Riding the faces of giants

Big-wave surfing was born in the minds of Southern California surfers in 1953, when a photo of George Downing and Buzzy Trent riding a 15-foot wave at Makaha, Hawaii, appeared in *Life* magazine and *National Geographic*. Downing had moved to Oahu to study the break on the reef after the Second World War.

In 1950, he designed a ten-foot board with a skeg that was stable and solid that allowed him to tackle the powerful waves at Makaha and pioneer what was to become an extreme sport. The longer board was needed to paddle into the larger wave successfully, but anything over 20 feet was nearly impossible to drop in on. In 1992, Laird Hamilton and Darrick Doerner first used a jet ski to tow each other into waves up to 30 feet tall. This technique allowed them to use a seven-foot board. By the turn of the century, big-wave surfers were riding faces over 50 feet high.

For an in-depth look at the history of big-wave riding and competition, Oceanside's California Surf Museum is hosting the exhibit *Going Big: A History Of Big Wave Surfing Around the World,* December 1st through the 31st.

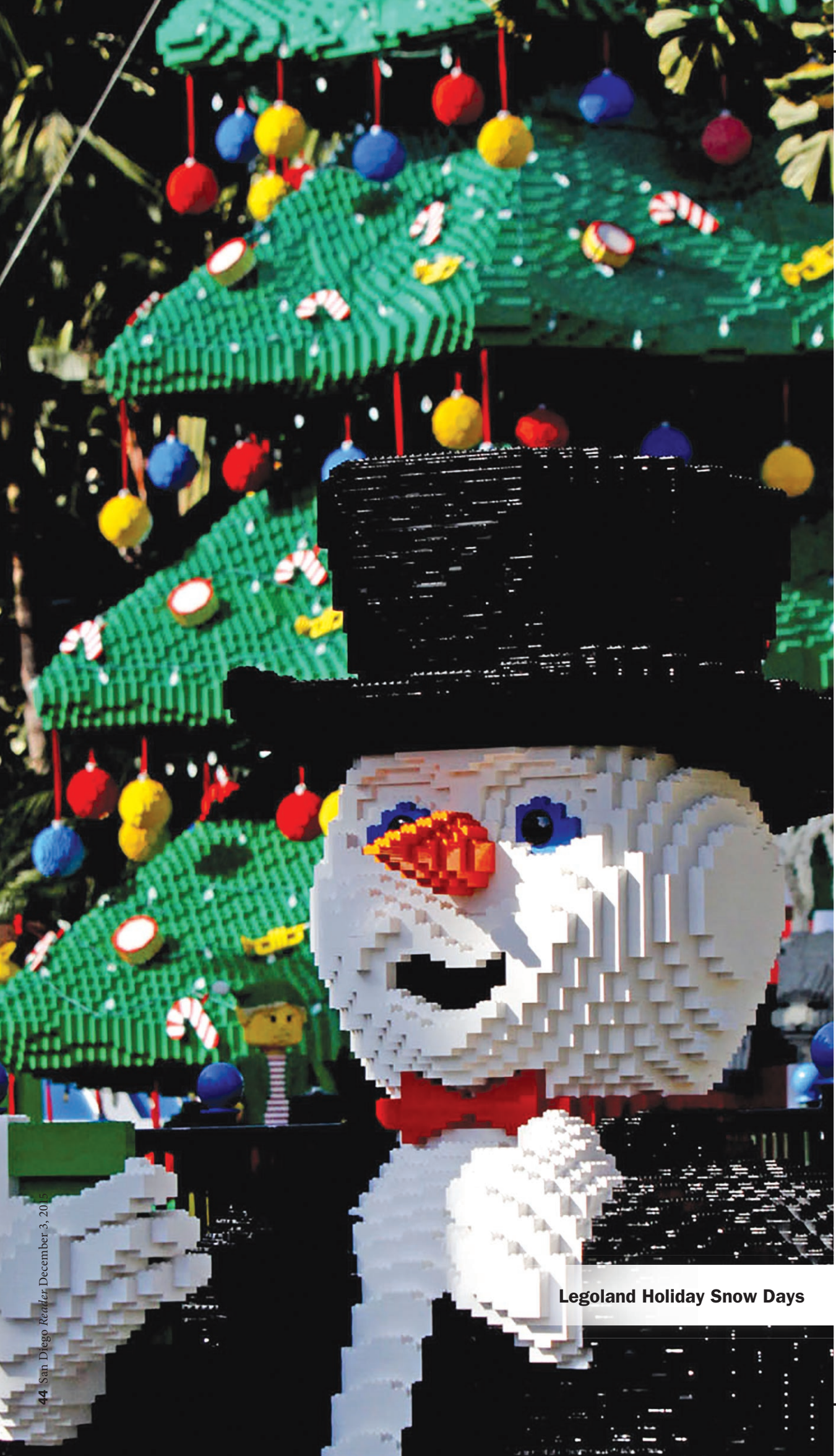
— Daniel Powell

PAYING TAXES AT GUADALUPE

Inshore: The ½ boats concentrated on rockfish, sand bass, calico bass and sheephead on the near-shore bumps and kelp edges. Most of the local ¾ day boats went back on the prowl for yellowfin tuna this past week due to some large schools showing well within range. The Dolphin switched from the up and down bottom fishing normal to this time in the season and ran tuna beginning on the 21st. Even though bad weather kept them off the water for three days, they managed 828 yellowfin, 70 skipjack tuna, 18 yellowtail and 1 dorado for 211 passengers in 5 trips.

Outside: With all the good fishing close to home and the reduced angler count, not many of the 1 to 4 day trips are getting out. The winter long-range season is just getting under way for the 8 to 16 day trips south to Bahia Magdalena and beyond. The Shogun is running trips to Guadalupe Island with good results on their first two of the 5 day runs to the fantastic yellowtail and yellowfin tuna fishery also known for the large resident great white sharks that like to hang out for an easy snack of a 50+ pound hooked fish. Though it's all a part of the game, losing a fish to a great white is something a little more thrilling and less annoying than when the more common sea lion takes a nearly-caught trophy. Out of respect, anglers call losing a fish to a shark "paying the taxman".

11/22 - 11/28 Dock Totals: 1,348 anglers aboard 67 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 2,233 yellowfin tuna, 116 yellowtail, 30 dorado, 474 skipjack tuna, 91 calico bass, 395 sand bass, 45 spotted sandbass 1,874 rockfish, 61 sheephead, 43 bonito, 30 whitefish, 1 lingcod, 1 white seabass and 6 barracuda.



Legoland Holiday Snow Days

Holiday Guide

OVER 60 WAYS TO CELEBRATE!

Holiday Snow Days at Legoland

1 Legoland Drive

CARLSBAD

A 30-foot Christmas tree made up of nearly 250,000 legos will light up each night leading up to Christmas. It's all part of the regular admission to Legoland during the holiday season, which also includes nightly entertainment, visits from Santa, and fireworks throughout the month of December. But the theme park's most thrilling feature throughout these dates must be the piles of snow set up to turn it into a white winter wonderland. That means the kids can make snowmen out of real snow, not plastic bricks. Though, realistically, they'll want to make both.

—IAN ANDERSON

Jungle Bells at San Diego Zoo

2920 Zoo Drive

BALBOA PARK

A chance to see some exotic animals at night makes this annual event worth a look, but from December 12th through January 3rd the zoo will be decked out with holiday lights and special performances, plus plenty of hot chocolate and cookies. Expect lots of music, animal-themed Christmas tales, and Santa holding court in an igloo while his elves bounce around on a trampoline. Tying the wacky vibe together will be the large, tropical toog tree in the zoo's Front Plaza, outfitted with a musical light display featuring over a thousand bulbs.

—IAN ANDERSON

Holiday in the Village & Starlight Parade

373 PARK WAY

CHULA VISTA

Third Avenue Village becomes a festive place Saturday, December 5th. From noon to 4 p.m., Memorial Park will be the site of a holiday festival featuring food, carolers, and the popular

COVER PHOTO BY ANDY BOYD

Frosty snow hill, where So Cal kids get a chance to toss snowballs and even go sledding. At 6 p.m., over a hundred groups will parade floats, vintage cars, marching bands, and more for the annual Starlight Parade along the west side of Third Avenue between H and E Streets.

—IAN ANDERSON

Gingerbread House Festival

2100 Costa Del Mar Road

CARLSBAD

The Omni La Costa resort celebrates the holidays by sponsoring a gingerbread house contest, with cash and prizes inspiring local bakers and holiday enthusiasts to come up with an inventive batch of decorative cookie and icing structures. Judges include local editors and reporters (not this one) plus an interior designer to show it's legit. Winners will be announced and there will be carolers and edible treats at the resort's Christmas tree lighting ceremony December 5th at 3 p.m., but all entries will be on display to the public from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the resort's Plaza from December 4th to January 4th.

—IAN ANDERSON

Oceanside Harbor Parade of Lights

1950 North Harbor Drive

OCEANSIDE

While the much larger San Diego Harbor event gets most of the attention, the Oceanside Yacht Club also organizes a parade of lights, wherein a couple dozen brightly decorated boats circle the harbor in a display of seagoing holiday festivity. The fun starts at 7 p.m., December 12th, and lasts roughly two hours. It may be viewed from any point around the harbor, whether you prefer to set down a couple of lawn chairs or watch comfortably from one of the waterfront restaurants.

—IAN ANDERSON

Cowles Mountain Winter Solstice Hike

Golfcrest Drive at Navajo Road

MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

At 6 a.m. the mornings of December 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, specially permitted guides will lead experienced hikers on a free night hike up Cowles Mountain. Rather than hit the peak, they'll go off-trail to visit a Kumeyaay solstice observatory. From this vantage point, the tribe would commemorate the shortest day of the year by watching the sun rise over an outcropping of rock that effectively splits the heavenly body in two. The three-mile hike is rated difficult, and it's requested flashlights have red lenses or covers, as bright lights will prevent other hikers' eyes from adjusting to the dark.

—IAN ANDERSON

Fantasy on Ice

2640 Historic Decatur Road

LIBERTY STATION

The old Horton Plaza ice-skating rink has been permanently relocated to a new Liberty Station location. While the place may not be the same, the fun will continue to benefit the Peckham Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Rady Children's Hospital. And parking is not just easier, but free. Skating commenced November 19th and will continue until January 3rd. Price of admission ranges from $10-14, operating from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, with the pace expected to pick up during night sessions, after the younger children have gone home.

—IAN ANDERSON

Rustic Holiday Gift Wrap

2690 Historical Decatur Road

LIBERTY STATION

Make your gifts extra personal by wrapping them in rustic paper of your own design. In this class ($40 with materials on Sunday, December 13) you'll learn to make patterns and designs before you produce your own wrapping paper. Cut any holiday image you like (such as snowmen, trees, and stars) into an eraser, sponge, or even potato to form stamps to dip in acrylic paint and ink. Use dried flowers and other found items to make each package so pretty, they won't care what's inside.

—BARBARELLA FOKOS

Family Christmas Trees

300 Pepper Drive

EL CAJON

Bring the family to this ten-acre farm for some fresh, native-California Monterey pine–scented air, and make a day of choosing your tree. Visit farm animals, take a hay wagon ride, and browse the handmade wreaths, cinnamon brooms, and potpourri for sale. Employees of this family-run farm will cut, shake, drill, net, and tie your tree for a small fee. But if you want the real do-it-yourself experience, you can cut down your chosen tree yourself with a saw that will be provided.

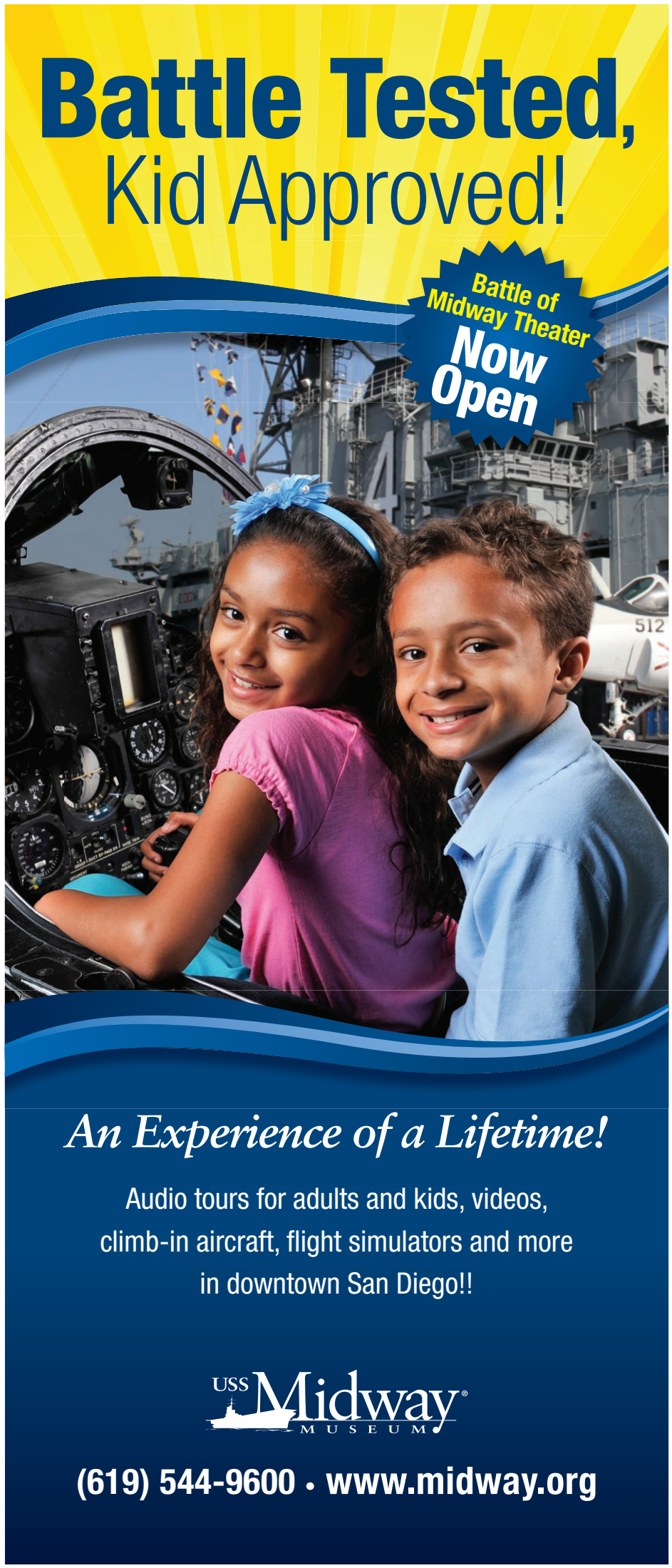
—BARBARELLA FOKOS

65th Anniversary Las Posadas

2754 Calhoun Street

OLD TOWN

Experience the Mexican tradition of reenacting the biblical story of Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay on the day of Jesus' birth. Join the candlelit procession that begins at 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, December 13,



and sing holiday songs in both Spanish and English while actors playing Mary and Joseph roam the town in search of lodging *(las posadas)*. When the procession ends, witness a live nativity scene with a choir performance in front of Casa de Estudillo.

—BARBARELLA FOKOS

Jungle Bells at the San Diego Zoo

Handmade Holidays: Arctic Animals

New Children's Museum,

200 West Island Avenue

DOWNTOWN

The New Children's Museum is like a giant indoor playground, with interactive exhibits that allow kids to explore and discover by touching, climbing, and playing among the installations. In this daily Handmade Holidays workshop, kids can create their favorite snowy creature using recycled materials, paint, and paper. Younger tots (4 and under) can take part in Toddler Time, where they can dance and sing along to festive music.

—BARBARELLA FOKOS

Lamplighters Community Theater

5915 Severin Drive

LA MESA

Take a trip to Christmas past with the Lamplighters Community Theater production of *Orson Welles Presents: A Christmas Carol Radio Show.* Set in 1939, the performance takes you behind the scenes of an old-time radio show, as the great Mr. Welles and his actors perform *A Christmas Carol* live on air, complete with sound effects and carol-singers. Family-friendly performances run Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. through December 20. Tickets are $20 per person; $17 for seniors and students.

—BARBARELLA FOKOS

Petco Park's Holiday Wonderland

100 Park Blvd

GASLAMP

This holiday season Petco Park will transform into a winter wonderland for 12 nights. Beginning December 4 through December 23rd the ballpark will deck its halls with live reindeers, a Santa's Workshop, a 40-foot Christmas tree, sledding, and a Polar Express that visitors will have the opportunity to ride. The Holiday Wonderland will open each evening from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30. Tickets are $15 per adult, $10 per child. Children under 3 are

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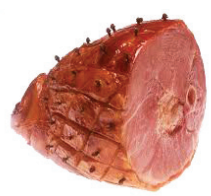

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—SIOBHAN BRAUN

Cedros Design District

Cedros Avenue

SOLANA BEACH

Solana Beach's Cedros Design district is a holiday shopper's dream come true. The district is home to dozens of small businesses capable of filling any Christmas list with one-of-a-kind gifts. Shop home decor, fine art, antiques, and jewelry. The design district features 2½ blocks of dining and shopping with over 85 businesses. Visit on a Sunday and stop by the Solana Beach Farmers' Market at the corner of Rosa Street and Cedros Avenue from noon to 4 p.m. for a wider selection of unique holiday gifts.

—SIOBHAN BRAUN

The New Children's Museum

Point Loma Nazarene presents Handel's "Messiah"

3900 Lomaland Drive

POINT LOMA

On Sunday, December 6th, at 3:00 p.m., Point Loma Nazarene will present their annual performance of Handel's "Messiah" at Brown Chapel. The PLNU Choral Union, comprised of both student and community singers, will be accompanied by chamber orchestra and student soloists. The concert has been a tradition and gift to the community for over 40 years. Admission is free. Donations are accepted. Arrive early to score the best seat and to beat the traffic.

—SIOBHAN BRAUN

North Park Toyland Parade & Holiday Fair

University Avenue

NORTH PARK

The 51st Annual North Park Toyland Parade & Holiday Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 6th. The tinseled procession will snake down University Avenue between Utah and Iowa streets. This festive pageant will include antique cars, appearances by local beauty queens, city officials, St. Nick and his reindeer, whimsical marching bands, and more. Afterward, shop at the holiday fair located throughout the shopping district of North Park. All-day parking is offered at North Park's multistory parking structure for $1.

—SIOBHAN BRAUN

Julian Cider Mill Living Nativity

2103 Main Street

JULIAN

A San Diego Christmas is not complete without a visit to the cozy town of Julian. A long-standing holiday tradition in Julian is their living nativity scene. Every Saturday until Christmas, beginning at 5:30 p.m., a living nativity is staged in front of the Cider Mill on Main Street. Locals appear as Joseph and Mary and the shepherds. Viewing is free to the public. Be sure to visit the Cider Mill to taste their famous raw cider and to stock up on an assortment of candy and fresh local honey.

—SIOBHAN BRAUN

Gaslamp Quarter Holiday Pet Parade

410 K Street

GASLAMP

On Sunday, December 13th, from 1 to 5 p.m., the Gaslamp District will host its annual Holiday Pet Parade. It begins at 3:00 p.m. from the Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade Park. The kitschy procession marches under the Gaslamp Quarter Archway and through the district. Furry, scaly, and feathered pets will compete for costume prizes. The event is free to the

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— Richard Connema, Broadway Critic

"Extraordinary! The power of the archetypes and the narratives was startling. Exquisitely beautiful."
— Cate Blanchett, Academy Award–winning actress

"It was a very spiritual experience. I kept thinking, this is the highest and the best of what humans can produce."
— Olevia Brown-Klahn, musician

"Go see it to believe it, because otherwise, you are going to miss the most important thing in your life."
— Joe Heard, former photographer for U.S. presidents

public. If you would like to enter your pet, the fee is $20 the day of, or $15 for advance registration. No livestock allowed. Your chickens will have to sit this one out.

—SIOBHAN BRAUN

Birch Aquarium

2300 Expedition Way

LA JOLLA SHORES

You could rent the wetsuit and scuba instructor to guide you through La Jolla's incredible underwater kelp forest, or you could see the whole thing without getting wet. Scripps' Birch Aquarium has brought it all inside with their 70,000-gallon kelp forest tank. Kelp can grow to 100 feet tall, 10 stories. The tank is only 2, but it's still home to some mighty kelp trees and 200 denizens of the deep they shelter. Best times: Tuesdays, Thursdays (12:30 p.m.), Saturday (2 p.m.), Sunday (10:30 a.m.), when aquanauts dive down to feed inhabitants like giant seabass, garibaldi, barracuda, eels, lobsters, and leopard sharks.

—BILL MANSON

Sky Combat Ace

2015 North Marshall Avenue

EL CAJON

Become a fighter pilot. You, dogfighting over San Diego. Really. Flying the plane, firing into enemy aircraft, watching their smoke flare when you score a laser hit. This is the promise of Sky Combat Ace, at Gillespie Field. No experience necessary. You fly with a pro in the backseat ready to take over when you screw up. You get up to five combat engagements with an enemy plane, including vertical fights where you're both climbing for height advantage in the great blue yonder. Most fun? When your best buddy's flying the other plane. Expensive? Fees, $1000 up. Cheaper: simulated bombing runs, aerobatic flights.

—BILL MANSON

Vallecito Stage Station County Park

37349 Great Southern Overland Route of 1849

JULIAN

Meet a ghost in the desert. Before the railroads, there were the stagecoaches. And Butterfield's coach ended one of their roughest desert stages at this still-standing sod stage post at Vallecito. One evening a century and a half ago, an exhausted bride-to-be climbed down from the Butterfield stage, made it into a dark adobe alcove off the kitchen, lay down on the dirt floor in her white wedding dress, and died. Visit, and you may hear what a lot of folks, including at least one parks employee have heard: the snorting of horses and the sighing of a lady.

—BILL MANSON

Rancho Bernardo Inn's giant gingerbread house

Lions, Tigers, and Bears

24402 Martin Way

ALPINE

There are lions, tigers and bears in the hills east of Alpine. Really. Bobbi Brink started this sanctuary for abused exotic animals in 2002. Now she has 55 rescues, 17 species, on a 94-acre ranch. Become a "member for a day" ($30), or "feed a wild one" ($130), hand a 585-pound lion a snack, and hear the stories behind these cats and bears. Or actually become "keeper for a day"($1000). Best experience: staying overnight in the cabin and listening to the lions roar and tigers grunt. After bears, slurp a beer at the excellent Alpine Brewery (2351 Alpine Boulevard).

—BILL MANSON

Oaxacan Christmas at El Tejate

205 West Mission Avenue, Suite R

ESCONDIDO

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Oaxacans stage festivals. They really splash out on the *moles* they're famous for. Come here for Oaxaca-style *tamales* wrapped in banana leaf, filled with pork in a black or green or yellow mole. Then order another Oaxacan favorite: deep-fried grasshoppers (*chapulines*) with a side of *gusanos*, (worms that live in the agave plant), about $12 a plate. Both surprisingly delicious. And why not swing by on December 23rd, Noche de los Rábanos, night of the radishes — a show of huge, carved radishes like they do in Oaxaca.

—BILL MANSON

Holiday Bowl Parade

Harbor Drive

EMBARCADERO

Head over early on December 30th to the corner of Harbor Drive and Ash Street to purchase your grandstand tickets. $20 cash. With 100,000 spectators expected, if you score a seat you will be a lucky one. The Holiday Bowl Parade marches off at 10:00 a.m. It's the largest balloon parade in America. Hang around until 11:45 and you can hear the Battle of the Bands on the Broadway Pier. For the creative tiny people in your life, there is the Southwest Airlines Float Contest for school children K–5. A drawing and a description of where they would fly in the United States. The winner receives a four-pack of tickets to the Poinsettia Bowl and four tickets to the Holiday Bowl. And best of all, a ride on the winning float during the Holiday Bowl Parade.

—EVE KELLY

Holiday Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland Festival

340 N. Escondido Boulevard

ESCONDIDO

In the mood for a little music, a little Santa, a little Winter Wonderland? The California Center for the Arts is hosting a free event on December 5th from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The tree-lighting and Winter Wonderland Festival will be held in the Lyric Court at the Center. Live reindeer, falling snow, and even the main man Santa will be partying. Included in the entertainment will be singing carolers, hula dancers, and stilt walkers. Visitors can channel their inner Martha Stewart and decorate cookies. The sparkling lights of the Winter Wonderland Forest will add to everyone's holiday spirits.

—EVE KELLY

Family Christmas Tree Farm

Oasis Camel Dairy

26757 Old Julian Highway

RAMONA

Release your inner Wise Man. Get a hint at what their travels to Bethlehem must have felt like. Head up to the 34-acre Oasis Camel Dairy in Ramona. Call to schedule a guided tour of the farm and make sure to grab a camel ride while you're there. Close-up visiting with the dromedary camels and their farm friends the turkeys and exotic birds is sure to delight all ages. The guided tour costs $100 for up to ten people. Camel rides are $5 for kids age 3–14, and $10 for adults ages 15 and up. Make sure to pop into the gift shop and snatch some camel milk products. Gold frankincense and myrhh soap run $5; Rare Milk 75% Camel Milk Serum is $16.

—EVE KELLY

San Diego Bay Parade of Lights

SAN DIEGO BAY

This will be the 44th year of San Diego Bay hosting boats bursting with holiday lights and festivity during the annual San Diego Bay Parade of Lights. This year's theme of Christmas Around the World takes place on Sunday, December 13, and Sunday, December 20, starting at 5:30 p.m. from Shelter Island and concluding at Coronado Ferry Landing. The free event attracts around 80,000 people each year to view the colorful parade. Boating participants are charged $50 entry fee, $60 after December 1. Prizes are awarded at a January 6th event at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. This year's prizes include a getaway to Cancún and a cruise package.

—EVE KELLY

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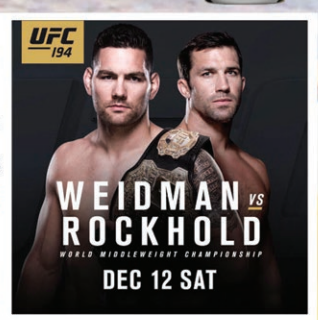

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Reader | FM 94/9 IT'S ABOUT THE MUSIC

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DEC. 4 | 6 + 9 PM

THIS WEEKEND:
LA JOLLA
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO
DEC. 5 | 6 + 9 PM

CARLSBAD
CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE
DEC. 6 | 4 + 7 PM

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How the Grinch Stole Christmas

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM COX

Jingle Bell Run/Walk

Sixth Avenue and Quince Street

BALBOA PARK

Need to energize and shed a few pounds put on from the feasting over Thanksgiving? Don your favorite Santa suit or Grinch outfit (costumes are encouraged) and head down to Balboa Park on December 12 for the Jingle Bell Run/Walk. Added bonus: donating to the cause of a cure for arthritis. The 5K run takes off at 8:00 a.m., with registration from 6:30 to 7:30. $35 for adults. For the young'uns, there is a 1K run with Santa's elves, which kicks off at 9:15. $20 for kids age 5–10.

—EVE KELLY

Modern Times Brewery and Jewish Family Service Hanukkah Party

3725 Greenwood Street

POINT LOMA

Named after a utopian town founded on Long Island in 1850 (now Brentwood) that experimented with the conventions of marriage, Modern Times Brewery experiments with hybrid brews and complex aromas. Warm your hands by the menorah and cozy up to a cask of Shvarts Hoyz (Pumpernickel Black House) or Shalomaland brewed especially for the festival of lights. Then soak up the suds with latkes, reubens, and knishes from food truck New York on Rye. Proceeds benefit Jewish Family Service. Tuesday, December 8th 5-9 p.m.

—LEORAH GAVIDOR

Write Out Loud Christmas Across the Pond

Old Town Theatre — 4040 Twiggs Street

OLD TOWN

Local actors, including Ron Choularton, take to the Old Town Theatre stage to bring alive six holiday readings from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. *Happy Christmas,* a World War II–era tale about an English family taking in refugees on Christmas Day, by *The Birds* author Daphne du Maurier, will feel timely today, as Syrian refugees make their way west. Musical interludes by Celtic Echoes. Monday, December 7th. Complimentary reception at 6:15 on the patio, music at 6:30 on stage, performance at 7. Tickets $20, seniors and military $17, students $5. Purchase online at *writeoutloudsd.com*. Call 619-297-8953, or box office opens at 6.

—LEORAH GAVIDOR

House of Israel December Nights

2156 Pan American Way

BALBOA PARK

Fried foods are a must for Hanukkah — the holiday is based on oil. Celebrate with the first public U.S. establishment to fly the new State of Israel flag, House of Israel in Balboa Park, offering *sufganiyot* (donuts) and latkes to entice visitors over to the Jewish side of December Nights. Inside the cottage, experience a piece of the Holy Land: a wall of Jerusalem stone transports visitors to the ancient city. Friday, December 4th, 5–10 p.m. and Saturday, December 5th, 12–10 p.m. Admission is free; fee for food and parking.

—LEORAH GAVIDOR

Escape from the Puzzalarium

841 14th Street

EAST VILLAGE

As much a fun gift to give as it is an experience to share, Puzzalarium puts you behind the locked door of an escape room, where you and your friends or family have one hour to use ency-

clopedias, wit, deductive reasoning, and problem-solving skills to crack the exit code. Rummage through furniture and discover secret lockboxes to reveal clues to your liberation. The experience works best with groups of three or four, whereas couples and singles are outright discouraged and will be charged for three. $25 per person.

—CHAD DEAL

Drink rompope at Dandy del Sur, Tijuana

Flores Magón 2030

TIJUANA CENTRO

Long before hip mezcal bars and late-night punk dives lined Tijuana's downtown Sexta block, there was Dandy del Sur. This time-honored cantina has been a meeting place for artists, musicians, and college kids since 1957. Falling smack in the middle of classy and divey, El Dandy is an idyllic destination to soak in the holiday vibe over a glass of traditional *rompope*, an eggnog-like concoction spiked with rum. Pop a dollar in the jukebox, which covers everything from classic Mexican love songs to modern metal and rock, and sip those winter chills away.

—CHAD DEAL

SoNo Fest and Chili Cook-off

32nd and Thorn Street

NORTH PARK

In its sixth year of celebration, this street fair and cook-off summons 40 local restaurants to compete for the best chili on the block. If you're not feeling beany, choose from five food trucks offering an international assortment of fare on wheels. The live music lineup is 11 acts long, including highlights such as Schitzophonics, G Burns Jug Band, the Creepy Creeps, and the Downs Family. In the spirit of holiday cheer, all proceeds benefit the nearby McKinley Elementary. $15 with your own bowl, $20 without. December 6, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

—CHAD DEAL

#SouthBayUprising dinner at Machete Beer House

2325 Highland Avenue

NATIONAL CITY

#SouthBayUprising is a hashtag popularized by Eddie Trejo and Joann Cornejo of Machete Beer House. The tag is associated with the culinary and craft-beer revolution taking place in South Bay communities, which the beer house showcases via curated dinners. On

December 6 (6:30 to 10 p.m.), invite a friend, family member, or loved one to sit around the table and feast on a holiday meal presented by chefs Alex Emery, Rose Peyron, Elliot Townsend, Ami Cisneros, Claudia Sandoval, and Philip Esteban. Council Brewing will be providing beer pairings for each course. $70 per person.

—CHAD DEAL

Home-brewing Class at Thorn Street Brewery

3176 Thorn Street

NORTH PARK

Give the gift of homebrewed beer this holiday season with an introductory course on draft systems. The two-hour class, which includes a question-and-answer session with Thorn Street brewer Dan Carrico, will cover tap assembly, hose lengths, corny kegs versus sanke kegs, jockey boxes, serving pressures, cleaning, and nitro taps. Classes are held on a different topic every few months. December 9, 10 a.m. to noon. $20 per person includes a flight of Thorn Street beer. RSVP at *info@thornstreetbrew.com*.

—CHAD DEAL

Drinkabout!

NORMAL HEIGHTS, NORTH PARK, SOUTH PARK

For over five years now the SD DrinkAbout has been hosting a monthly showcase of Uptown's best beer bars with a free shuttle running along 30th, El Cajon Boulevard, Park, and Adams, because the last thing you want to unwrap for the holiday is a DUI. On December 16, hop the bus every half hour (7 to 11:40 p.m.) from Blind Lady, Small Bar, Live Wire, Toronado, Station, Hamilton's, Ritual, or Tiger! Tiger! and get red-nosed on San Diego's bounty of fine craft brew.

—CHAD DEAL

Sky Combat Ace

Poinsettia Bowl Gaslamp March

Fifth Avenue and Market Street

DOWNTOWN

Poinsettia Bowl festivities kick off on Monday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m. when the marching bands, spirit squads, and mascots of the opposing teams face off in the middle of the Gaslamp Quarter. The teams will parade from each end of Fifth Avenue performing seasonal classics, then meet at Market Street for a spirited battle of the bands. Our own San Diego State Aztecs are eligible to receive the bowl invitation, so make a holiday wish for a hometown advantage. The event is free for spectators.

—VANESSA HORNE

Ice skating by the Sea

1500 Orange Avenue

CORONADO

When you head to the beach, the last thing you normally pack is a pair of ice skates. But when you visit Hotel del Coronado through January 7, a seaside winter wonderland awaits the entire family. From the ice rink on Windsor Lawn, you'll enjoy views of the hotel adorned with thousands of white lights, Coronado Beach, and the Pacific Ocean. Ice rink admission is $25 per person and includes ice skate rental. Hours vary. Call 619-522-8490 for details.

—VANESSA HORNE

Little Italy Tree Lighting & Christmas Village

West Fir Street between Columbia Street and Kettner Boulevard

LITTLE ITALY

Celebrate the holidays with the entire family — furry friends are welcome, too — at the 16th annual Little Italy Tree Lighting and Christmas Village on

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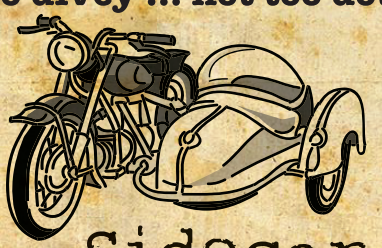

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Saturday December 19.

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December 5 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The festivities start when Santa ditches his sleigh and arrives by fire engine at 4:00 p.m. After capturing memories with Santa, head to the Piazza Basilone at 5:30 for the 25-foot poinsettia tree lighting. The event also features live entertainment, crafts for the kiddos, and holiday shopping with Little Italy Mercato vendors.

—VANESSA HORNE

Bottlecraft

3007 University Avenue

NORTH PARK

2252 India Street

LITTLE ITALY

When it comes to gifts for holiday hosts, skip that widely distributed bottle of wine and turn to the libation San Diego knows best. Bottlecraft is a boutique shop that curates the best local, domestic, and international craft beer. There's something for every palate, including year-round staples, seasonal releases, and limited collaborations. Plus, the North Park location partners with Venissimo Cheese, which offers hundreds of cheeses as well as charcuterie, paninis, and chocolates that pair perfectly with the lightest lager or the stormiest stout.

—VANESSA HORNE

West Grove Collective

3010-B Juniper Street

SOUTH PARK

West Grove Collective is a marketplace filled with goods provided by local merchants and artists. The collective plays host to long-term vendors, pop-up shops, and trunk shows, which promises holiday shoppers a rotating collection of unique items. Choose from books, artwork, and music to clothing, jewelry, home goods, and furniture — there's a something for everyone on your gift list. And if you're looking to give back this season, peruse the philanthropy booth, where a portion of your fair trade purchase is donated to the International Rescue Committee.

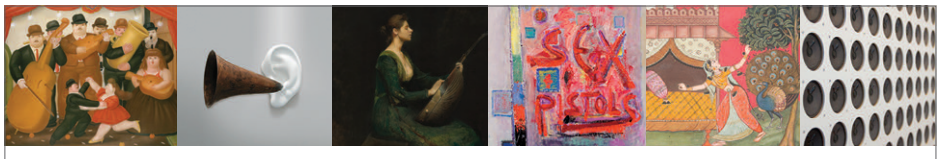
—VANESSA HORNE

Bella Vado

14134 Midland Road

POWAY FARMERS' MARKET

Bella Vado offers edible and consumable gift alternatives for your upcoming holiday gift exchange. To sample their locally grown avocado oil products, visit the Poway Farmers' Market on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Old Poway Park. Choose from culinary oils infused with garlic, jalapeño, lemon, or



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Fernando Botero, *Dancing in Colombia*, 1980. Oil on canvas. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Anonymous Gift, 1983. John Baldessari, *Beethoven's Trumpet (with Ear) Opus #127*, 2007. Foam, resin, aluminum, cold bronze, and electronics. Courtesy of John Baldessari and Beyer Projects. © Christie's Images/Bridgeman Images. Thomas Wilmer Dewing, *Lady with Lute* (detail), 1886. Oil on wood. National Gallery of Art, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Timme. Hans Burkhardt, *Sex Pistols* (detail), 1981. Oil on canvas. Courtesy Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles, and Hans G. and Thordis W. Burkhardt Foundation. *Madhumadhavi Ragini* (detail), India, Jodhpur, ca. 1610. Ink and opaque watercolor on paper. The San Diego Museum of Art, Edwin Binney 3rd Collection. Tristan Perich, *Microtonal Wall* (detail), 2011. 1,500 divisions of four octaves from C3 to C7. Electronic circuit, 1,500 speakers, aluminum. Courtesy Bitforms Gallery, New York.

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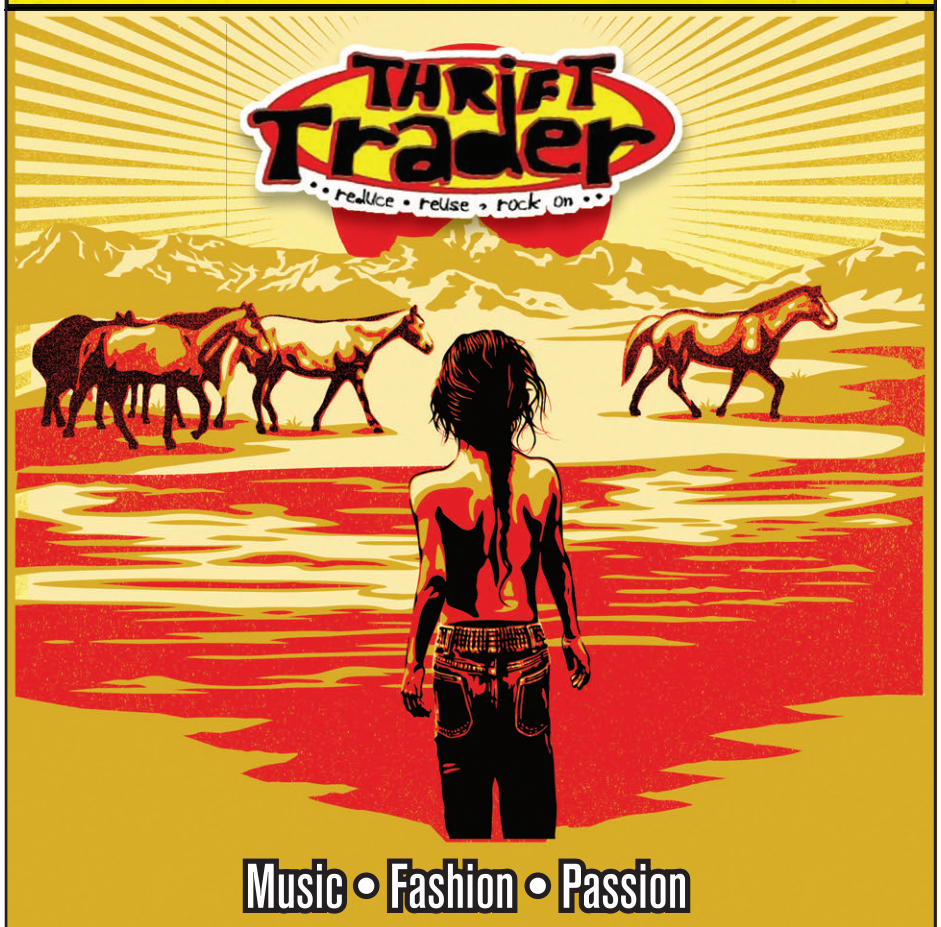

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—VANESSA HORNE

Cafe Moto

2619 National Avenue

BARRIO LOGAN

Nothing warms you up like a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate when it's chilly outside. The folks at Cafe Moto are serving up brown sugar lattes, peppermint tea, and Mexican hot cocoa at their family-owned café in Barrio Logan. After you indulge in a toasty treat (or two), don't forget to head behind the barista station to the retail shop brimming with small-batch roasts, loose-leaf teas, flavored syrups, brewing supplies, ceramics… A shop where you're sure to cross off caffeine-fueled friends and family from your list.

—VANESSA HORNE

Las Posadas in Old Town

The Art Stash

7859 El Cajon Boulevard

LA MESA

Paint the holidays red (and every other color of the rainbow) with the selection of art supplies at this family-owned shop off I-8 in La Mesa. From watercolors to acrylics to colored pencils, you'll find no shortage of stocking stuffers — and not just for the artists on your gift list. Coloring books for adults are in high demand this year and go beautifully with Prismacolor pencils or Tombow Dual Brush Pens. If you'd rather buy art than make it, the Art Stash offers a gallery of affordable, original works by local artists.

—MELISSA WILEY

Do It with Icing

7240 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard

CLAIREMONT

Take your holiday treats to the next level with classes at Do It with Icing, a cake and candy supply shop offering Christmastime workshops. Try your hand at gingerbread cookies, hand-dipped chocolates, or cupcakes shaped like Christmas ornaments. Classes are offered evenings and weekends throughout December, including a free holiday demo on December 4 (registration required). Maybe this will be the year you give homemade fudge or truffles to the neighbors! Workshop prices range from $50–$100.

—MELISSA WILEY

Christmas in the Village

La Mesa Boulevard from Spring Street to Allison Avenue

LA MESA

La Mesa's Christmas in the Village is perfect for people craving the holiday spirit but don't like the crowds at Balboa Park's December Nights Celebration. Taking place December 12–13, 5–10 p.m. each night, the celebration starts off each night with a holiday parade as well as a tribute to Vietnam veterans. Strolling minstrels, carolers from area churches and schools, talented street entertainers mix with booths selling crafts by artisans and a variety of street-food offerings.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

Holiday Dinner at December Nights

1549 El Prado, Balboa Park

BALBOA PARK

San Diego's most popular holiday gathering is back for its 39th year on December 4–5 (3–11 p.m. Friday, noon–11 p.m. Saturday.) The museums are free, there is a fun zone full of carnival rides, but the longest lines are for food at

the various Houses Of Hospitality. The House of Germany's bratwurst attracts the biggest crowd, but the House of Ukraine has shorter lines. The House of Spain's paella is worth the wait. Vegetarians should try House of India or the noodles at Japanese Garden.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

1363 Old Globe Way

BALBOA PARK

The Old Globe's adaptation of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* has been bringing in green to the theater for 18 years. Running through December 26, the show runs 7 p.m. weeknights and performances at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. on weekends. The simplicity of the plot, colorful costumes and sets, and catchy tunes make this a good bet for the whole family, especially little ones who've never seen a play. Tickets $29–$59.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

Lowe Down Christmas Music at Belly Up Tavern

143 South Cedros Avenue

SOLANA BEACH

New Wave music legend Nick Lowe ("Cruel to Be Kind") will be at the Belly Up Tavern December 9 with a Christmas show that features a mix of his best-known songs and new and old holiday favorites. The backing band is Los Straitjackets, a surf-style instrumental group whose members wear lucha libre masks rather than ugly Christmas sweaters. $25–$27.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

Tonight in San Diego — Horton Grand Theatre

444 Fourth Avenue

GASLAMP

Even during the busy holiday season, Mondays are a slow time for seasonal events. *Tonight in San Diego,* a locally based talk show in the spirit of Jimmys Kimmel and Fallon, tapes every Monday at the Horton Grand Theatre, featuring a mix of local music, comedy, and conversation for only $7. The December 7 and 14 shows will include all of those with an emphasis on Christmas themes. $7.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

Carols by Candlelight

340 North Escondido Boulevard

ESCONDIDO

Now in its 26th year, Carols by Candlelight brings nationally known musical acts to the California Center for the Arts in Escondido to sing their biggest hits and raise money for Rady's Chil-

Lions, Tigers, and Bears

dren Hospital. This year's lineup includes Lonestar, best known for their 1999 No. 1 "Amazed," Jamie O'Neal, and Andy Griggs, as well as Poway mayor Steve Vaus, a Grammy-winning children's music artist under the name Buck Howdy. The highlight of the show comes after it ends when the audience and performers go outside to sing "Silent Night" a capella by candlelight. $19-87.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

Rancho Bernardo Inn's giant gingerbread house

17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive

RANCHO BERNARDO

You don't have to be a guest at the Rancho Bernardo Inn to appreciate their Christmas spirit. The hotel is going full tilt, including decorating eight full-size Christmas trees, lots of hot chocolate, cider, cookies, and popcorn on the premises, along with adult beverages. Besides caroling performances and photo ops with Santa, families can enjoy the life-size gingerbread house constructed in the lobby with only edible ingredients.

—PATRICK HENDERSON

SOST Experience

4705 Ruffin Road

KEARNY MESA

For the man or woman who has everything, this daylong Strategic Operations Skills Training (SOST) will check off one adventure item from their bucket list. Former and retired Navy SEALs will help advance your action lover's firearms skills through weapons training and realistic scenarios that may include a tactical patrol through a terrorist village, or everyday life scenarios such as facing bad guys during a home invasion or a carjacking situation. Merry Christmas!

—ELIZABETH SALAAM

New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge

Kellogg Park

LA JOLLA SHORES

Join the La Jolla Cove Swim Club at their annual Polar Bear Plunge and chili potluck. You don't have to swim or even get wet, but if you do, you get to say you did. Wear warm clothes and bring chili, soup, or another warm food to share. Cider and coffee will be provided. Look for the LJCSC banner. Start time: 10:00 a.m. on January 1, 2016. Don't forget your camera!

—ELIZABETH SALAAM

Christmas in Alpine Home Tour

2156 Alpine Boulevard

ALPINE

Stroll through five stunning country estates during the Alpine Woman's Club's 11th annual holiday home tour. Touring begins at 10:00 a.m. and goes until 3:00 p.m. on December 12. The Historic Town Hall will open at 1:00 p.m. for ticket-holders to enjoy light refreshments and pick up a surprise gift. Opportunity drawings will take place at the Club House at 4:00 p.m. Tickets: $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Alpine Woman's Club Scholarship Fund.

—ELIZABETH SALAAM

Holiday Winery Train Tour — San Diego Beer and Wine Tours

Locations between San Diego and Carlsbad

Jump on the Coaster in Old Town, Seaport Village, or Carlsbad and start celebrating the holidays with lots of wine. Tours include VIP wine tastings at urban boutique wineries, light lunch with wine pairings, cheese, and chocolate with wine pairings. Also, exploration of San Diego history on guided historic walks between the Coaster and the wineries and games with prizes. Tours available Monday through Friday. Call for more information: 858-551-5115.

—ELIZABETH SALAAM

Indie Side: Urban Bazaar

Plaza Cívica de La Patria

ENSENADA

This year, get out of town to do your holiday shopping. Indie vendors will sell their crafts, clothing, jewelry, and artisanal culinary products. Get in the spirit of the holidays with local entertainment. Prepared foods will keep you fed while you shop. December 19 and 20, 10:00 a.m. Guided whale-watching tours also begin in Ensenada that weekend.

—ELIZABETH SALAAM

Bethlehem Walk

341 South Kalmia Street

ESCONDIDO

Over 100 volunteers from the First United Methodist Church perform as shopkeepers, soldiers, scribes, prophets, and residents of a crowded Bethlehem in an effort to give a glimpse of life at the time of Christ's birth. They'll tell you about their work, about a strange rumor they've heard , and about life in occupied territory (watch out for grumpy, shouty Romans). Stick with your guide and you'll be okay. The Walk takes place December 11–12. It's free, but reservations are required through the church's website.

—DEIRDRE LICKONA

Dexter's Deli

1229 Camino Del Mar

DEL MAR

Your dog does not want a sweater for Christmas; your dog wants fresh baked goodies and fun toys, just like you. Dexter's bakes cakes and cupcakes for dogs: 4″ or 6″, round or bone-shaped.

Made from human-grade carrot cake and molasses, so you can share. (A clerk notes that a 6″ beef cake is available, but just for Fido.) As for toys, try the popular plush hedgehog in sizes from 6″ to 15″. Cats go crazy for freeze-dried salmon cubes from Wildside and Rosey the Rat (made with real rabbit fur).

—DEIRDRE LICKONA

Mostly Mission

8360 La Mesa Boulevard

LA MESA

A tiny sign in the window reads, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." Mostly Mission's merchandise is mostly both. It's half handsome, solid, squared-off Mission-style furniture, and half era-appropriate home decor: lamps with stained-glass shades (dragonflies, trees, flowers, and the like), throw pillows, table runners, and Art Deco fabric purses. I've taken home wall tiles of crows and roses, some unframed, some housed in quartersawn oak. And the hammered copper-ceramic clock keeps time in my kitchen.

—DEIRDRE LICKONA

Dandy del Sur

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY BOYD

Snow Mountain

1201 First Street

CORONADO

The City of Coronado is sponsoring a snow mountain at the city's ferry landing on Friday, December 4th, starting at 2 p.m. They'll bring in several tons of snow for playtime, so dig out your hats and gloves. Additional holiday fare will include jumpies, face-painting, and seasonal crafts, plus strolling entertainment, hot chocolate, and cookies. Santa will be setting out from San Diego on the 3 p.m. ferry to greet the kiddies on Coronado at 3:20. So maybe consider buying especially good children the $4.75 (one-way) ticket to ride with Saint Nick and his elves.

—DEIRDRE LICKONA

Hillside Artisans Children's Boutique

827 Washington Street

MISSION HILLS

"We buy locally sourced items," says owner Karen Dole, "as well as items from all over the world. We look for quality within a reasonable price range." The shop features a huge selection of "green" toys: vehicles made in the USA from recycled plastic. Everything from ferry-boats to dump trucks. The store also gives ample space to art supplies, craft kits, and stylish coloring books. Stocking stuffers abound, and Dole says that "people love our free gift wrapping, a signature white bag with green tissue paper flowers and pipe cleaner caterpillars, or with the Christmas or Hanukkah themes."

—DEIRDRE LICKONA

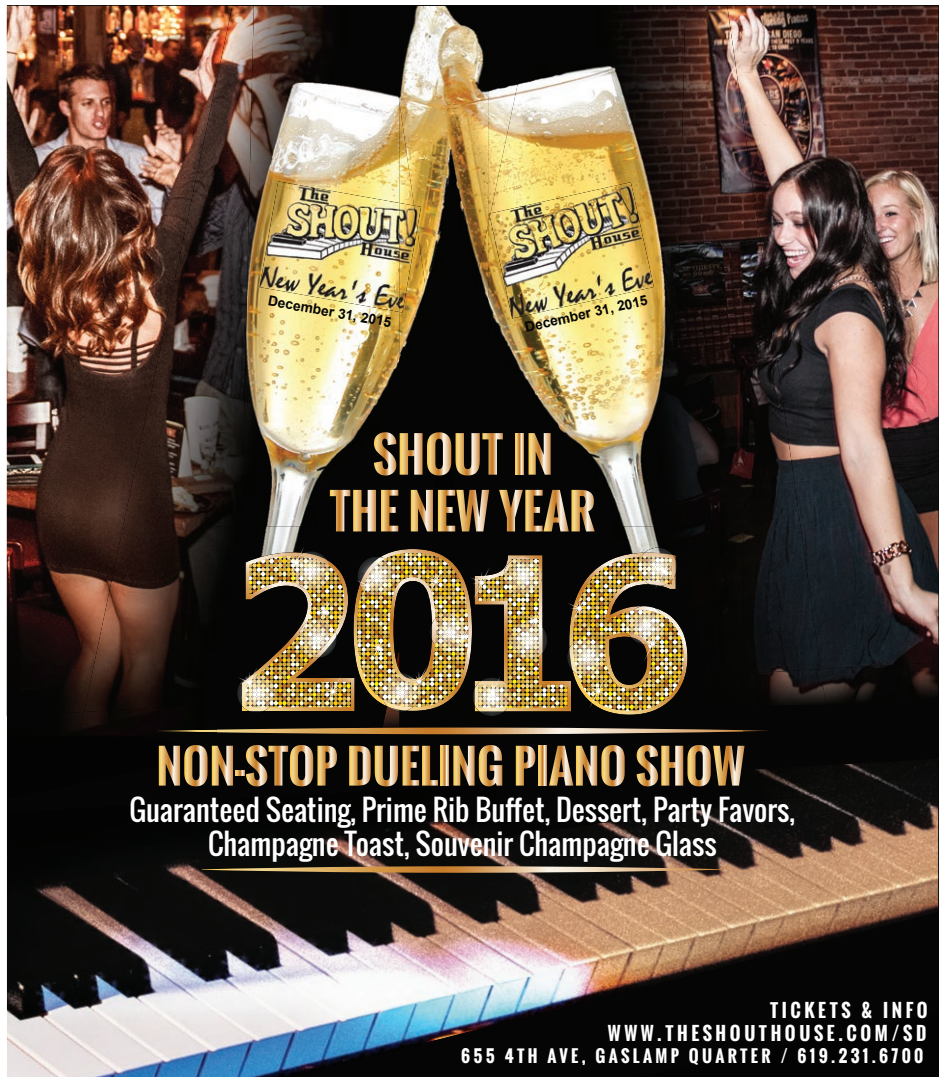
French Garden Shoppe

2307 India Street

LITTLE ITALY

Owner Eugene Marley says that "right now, we have a huge selection of restaurant porcelain, all 50 percent off. All kinds of plates, casseroles, and unique serving dishes. It's great for people who need extra pieces for holiday feasts. People also like to decorate tables with our dried materials: flowers, grasses, herbs. They last longer than fresh flowers, and we have lots of vases to put them in." And if you need extra seating that you will use after the holidays, "we have an outside bistro set with a tile-top table and powder-coated folding iron chairs." ■

—DEIRDRE LICKONA



Where's Reagan?

"It's the border," Rodrigo says. "So crazy. It stops good things happening all the time."

TIN FORK

ED BEDFORD

Two fifteen-foot-tall skull-headed women loom over me. Remnants from Day of the Dead. But still kinda scary. It's that time of day. Getting dark already. In front of the ghostly TJ wax museum.

This is when I notice the juggler. He's throwing four tenpins around, just inside a dimly-lit café opposite.

Now I'm curious. Head up steps under a short tile overhang and past a newly painted sign: "Entremundos" ("between worlds").

Inside, the juggler flails away next to a mini stage crowded with bongos, amps, wires. Oh, yeah! Now I'm remembering. Wasn't this La Faraona, an arty place with a theater upstairs that specialized in, like, five-minute plays? Cool.

But this is new. I head in. A couple of guys are at the bar, talking away in Spanish about music.

I take a stool, look around at the lanterns and art on the walls. In front of me, a guy in a long black coat is putting chopped chicken into a frying pan on a regular kitchen stove, then adding peppers and spices. Then he stirs an *olla* with beans steaming in it, on the next burner.

The tall guy talking comes around behind the bar. "Would you like something?" he asks.

This is Rodrigo. "We opened three weeks ago," he says. "I'm still getting organized. But we have beer, wine, soft drinks."

"And food?" I ask. Because that chicken cooking over there is starting to set my nostrils a-quiver.

"We'll be making pizzas later," he says. "Pepperoni, vegetarian, for 15 pesos a slice. But that's tonight. Uh, the chicken?"

He talks to the guy cooking. The guy nods.

"Yes, you can have this one. It's like pollo asado, with beans and cheese."

"How much would that be?"

"Oh, around 60 pesos."

That's maybe $3.50.

"And anything to drink?"

That savory smell from the chicken gets me thinking, *vino*. "What do you have?" I ask. "Anything from the Valley of Guadalupe?"

I'm interested in Mexican wines. Last I had, at El Taller, the Baja-Med place on Agua Caliente, was from Guadalupe Valley down south. Bold and beautiful.

"Whatever's in the fridge," Rodrigo says. He opens it. Uh-oh. Just an inch of *vino tinto* in a carafe. "One moment," he says. Actually, he's gone five minutes or more, but he comes back with a bottle. "Seeing you were talking about the Valle de Guadalupe," he says, "I went and bought this." He puts this bottle of Cabernet-Malbec red down. "Puerto Nuevo, Vino tinto, 2011, Valle de Guadalupe." Its price label is still on, 92 pesos; about $5.50.

He pops it open, pours for both of us. Mmm. I like it. Robust. And at that price, an incredible deal.

The cook lays a flowery plate in front of me. It's got a steaming slurry of sliced chicken in a kind of orange sauce, with lots of onions, tomatoes, and other mystery flavorings. Pile of beans fills up the rest of the plate. Rodrigo gets his pocket knife out and starts flaking bits from a brown-skinned ball of cheese. *Añejo*? Parmesan? The cheese falls onto the beans. At the same time, the cook brings a plate of corn tortillas.

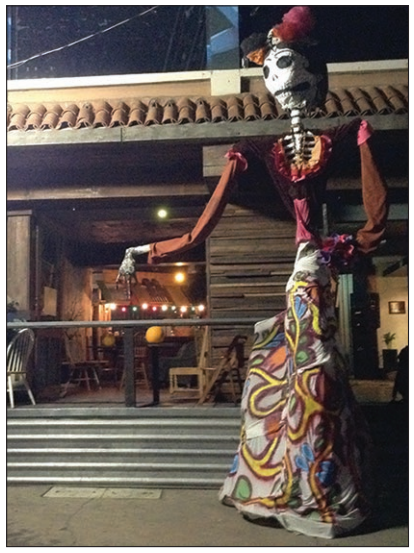
"These we use to wipe our mouths with, or you can roll up some beans in them and eat them."

He laughs. This guy's okay. Actually, it all makes a delicious mess. I gouge through it. Cheese is nice and tangy. By now we've grown into quite a group. Gal named Milagros — Miracles! — has come in with a tall guy, Giovanni. "People call me Gio," he says. He's a percussionist. Plays those bongos over there. Is in the band Cañamo. "It means 'hemp,'" he says. "We play reggae." Usually when he comes, he eats slices of Rodrigo's vegetarian pizza. "Rodrigo grows his own organic vegetables," he says, "so it's good."

Rodrigo, turns out, used to be a theater and movie-set designer in Michoacán and Mexico City. "But there was no money in it," he says. He studied in San Francisco, then got the chance to bring an underused *rancho* near Rosarito back to life. He created an organic farm he calls La Elegancia Organica.

My plate of chicken and beans

Rodrigo, Milagros, Gustavo



Fifteen-foot-tall Day of the Dead figure guards the entrance to Entremundos

"We sell weekly baskets of vegetables. Fifty-peso, 100-peso, 150-peso bundles," he says. "Butter lettuce, leeks, green onions, Swiss chard, cilantro, celery, golden beets. I sell to regular subscribers, restaurants, and via social networking. I charge half the normal price of organic vegetables."

Rodrigo thought about selling his veggies in San Diego, but the whole border thing is too much hassle.

Actually, everybody here's interesting. Gustavo's a musician who plays *charango* (Bolivian harp) and the *sampoña*, the pan flute. Milagros — "Millie" — works across the road at the Agencia Familiar Binacional. "We take care of people with many issues, including AIDS. The biggest problem? Like Charlie Sheen: people don't tell partners."

It turns out Rodrigo has the whole building. He's making the upstairs a hostel. "Entremundos, Embassy of the Arts and Hostel" is the full name. Not only that, but you can camp down in his Elegancia *rancho*, too, and even help with the work there.

"Between the garden in Rosarito and getting this going, there's a lot of running," he says.

"We're here all the time," says Gio. "We come to talk, eat, and perform, and because Rodrigo lets us rehearse here."

"Anybody can come and do a gig," Rodrigo says. "Saturday nights it gets pretty interesting."

Now I'm glugging this delicious wine, which works out to about 40 pesos, $2–$3, per glass. For the meal, he charges 60 pesos, about $3.60. Really tasty, lightly spicy, probably toned down for me. But the good thing is knowing it was all grown organically, at his place. No middleman.

When I finally get out, I'm less than ten bucks lighter in the pocket.

Man, I'm thinking, *should come down here more often.*

"It's the border," Rodrigo says. "So crazy. It stops good things happening all the time."

We joke about President Reagan: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" Berlin, 1987.

"Where's Reagan when you need him?" I say. ■

(@SDReader_EdBed)

The Place: *Entremundos Embajada de las Artes y Hostal, 8250 First Street (Calle Primera), Tijuana, 011-52-664-379-1818*
Prices: *Slices of organic vegetarian pizza, $1; sautéed chicken with beans and corn tortillas, $4.50; glass of wine, $3*
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Cheese tang

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FEAST!

Croissant stuffers

Cardamom, 2977 Upas Street, North Park. Living in North Park a few years back, I got into the habit of picking up a turkey croissant from a local restaurant on my way to go surfing. At the time, the newly opened Cardamom would run out of their croissants early in the day, so my morning visits to the beach were my best shot at enjoying them. But even at 9 a.m. I sometimes left empty-handed.

Cardamom serves a lengthy menu of breakfast and lunch dishes for those looking for a sit-down experience, and its sidewalk patio proves a terrific spot to run into neighbors and catch up with friends. But I love passing through for the stuffed croissants, when I can get them.

Crispy, flaky, and coated with sesame seeds: the goat cheese with scallions and basil croissant

They make more of them these days — and not just of the turkey asiago I originally craved — but they do still run out on busy mornings. So I've tried a few alternatives: goat cheese with basil and scallion, spinach and blue cheese, and the turkey/cream cheese/jalapeño.

Asiago's a pungent cheese, adding a beautiful umami to the turkey filling of the flaky pastry surrounding it, so branching out seemed a little deflating at first. To wit, the blue cheese is even more pungent, therefore used sparingly, so with the wilted spinach it winds up leaving a hollow space in the croissant's center. It's delicious, and a decent source of iron, just a tad less substantial.

Heavier is the turkey jalapeño and cream cheese, a slightly spicy sandwich with the ingredients playing well together.

My new favorite is the goat cheese, scallions, and basil. Despite its gorgeous sesame-seed crust, I was leery at first to bail on the satisfying presence of turkey or the healthful allure of spinach. But this croissant has what makes the idea of a pastry so appealing: lightness, playful textures, and distinct yet morning-friendly flavors. The basil and goat cheese tang deviates a bit from most traditional breakfast items, in a good way, and the sesame wraps it up nicely.

More than anything, the flaky dough makes this, and all the sweet or savory croissants, a great grab-and-go option.

Cardamom doesn't have the slick new digs of neighbors Underbelly, Influx, and Modern Times and lacks the hip factor of newer breakfast spots that have opened nearby in North Park. But we don't live in a fresh-out-of-the-oven culture anymore, so any neighborhood with an active bakery turning out daily bread and croissants like this should count itself lucky.

by Ian Anderson

New lobstah roll

Pete's Seafood and Sandwich, 3382 30th Street, North Park. My Boston-bred man loves a good New England–style lobster roll. So much so that during our biannual visit to Martha's Vineyard for the past few years we've combed the island to find what David deems to be the top lobster rolls in each of three categories from among the dozens he's tried.

Here in the Southwest, the closest he's come to finding a roll to suit his tastes was in Encinitas, at Lobster West. So after he heard a new place opened in a neighboring 'hood run by a guy who refers to himself as Boston Pete, David couldn't wait to try it out.

Lobster roll, almost gone

David donned his Boston Bruins Cam Neely shirt — it's important to have the right mindset when setting out to critically evaluate "lobstah" rolls. As we walked inside he immediately noted the mural painted on the wall. "That's Motif Number 1, the most often painted building in America," he said of the iconic red fishing shack. "It's in Rockport. I've been there." An auspicious beginning.

We stepped up to the counter. The lobster roll had good-sized pieces of knuckle and claw meat from a Maine lobster, served chilled on a griddled New England–style, split-top hot dog bun that Pete has shipped in because he can't find the right ones locally. It was listed as market-priced on the menu. On this day, that price was $17, a reasonable sum, considering most of the rolls on the East Coast run $15 to $25.

David was happy with the quantity and quality of the lobster meat in his properly griddled bun. "See this?" he said, holding it up to me. "The minimal mayo allows the sweetness of the meat to shine through." When asked by Pete himself, who came around to ask everyone how they were enjoying their meal, David said the only thing he would add was a touch of celery salt. Pete (who appreciated another Bostonian in his joint) said he'd have celery salt on the tables the next day to add it to the existing condiments on each table, including vinegar, ketchup, mustard, salt, and pepper.

We laughed when the chicken parmesan sandwich ($9) was set on the table. The thing was gigantic. The filets were thin, breaded, and fried, with mozzarella and marinara. I liked the grated parmesan sprinkled on it. My preference would have been for more of both the melted mozzarella cheese and sauce. I did ask for a side of marinara, which I promptly emptied onto the chicken, under the bun.

Upon first lifting the sandwich, I worried that the bun was stale because of the firmness of the crust. But when I took the first bite, it was clear that it was soft and fresh and that the firmness was intended, probably to stand up to sauce. I saw this as more reason to pile it on.

I took the other half of the sandwich home for lunch the next day (it held up deliciously), but David killed his roll in a handful of bites. As we left, he turned back to Pete, who was in the kitchen, and called out, "You'll be seeing us again."

by Barbarella Fokos

A grape mission

He won't say how he got it, but Steve "Kim" Moreno says he has a cutting from one of the original Mission vines that Father Junípero Serra brought up with him from Mexico in 1769. "I'm expecting our first vintage in 2017," says Moreno.

He lives in Coronado, but that hasn't stopped him from growing his own grapes and turning them into wine over the past few years. He knows a little about the subject: he had a full-fledged vineyard in Virginia, where he produced a respected claret. Since moving to Coronado, he has espaliered King's Ruby grapevines success-

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fully along his fences.

"King's Ruby is a sweet table grape, but I burn off some of the sweetness so the wine tastes more like the claret I used to make in Virginia," he says. "Last year I harvested enough wine to fill two cases. About 27 bottles."

Now his passion is to bring back the original Mission grape and turn it into wine, especially in time for the 250th anniversary of Father Junípero's arrival here, which will be in 2019. "People don't think of San Diego as a serious wine-growing district anymore," he says. "But Napa Valley, Sonoma County — they're all Johnny-come-lately compared with San Diego."

He's right. Most of the Northern California wine industry happened with the influx of gold-rush immigrants in the mid-1850s. Almost a century earlier, Serra and his "leatherjackets," the Spanish soldiers sent to protect him and the missions he started, came with cuttings of the "vitis vinifera," the "common black grape" that Hernán Cortés brought with him to the New World in 1520.

Because Serra and his fellow Franciscans planted this grape at all of the missions of Alta California, it came to be known as the Mission variety and was the dominant California grape until the 20th Century.

Mission wines had been initially grown to provide wine for use in religious sacraments. But the dismantling of the mission system after 1834, the gold rush and the importation of new vines that followed, and most of all Prohibition in 1919 with its subsequent destruction of so many vineyards proved too much for the humble Mission grape. When the California wine industry got back on its feet, the Mission variety had been bypassed. And so had San Diego as a respected viticulture region.

Moreno wants to change that. "We are the birthplace of the California wine industry! he says. "I want us to get a little respect. Or at least I want to make a little wine that will make a great conversation piece."

by Ed Bedford

Midwest meets Middle East

Cafe 21, 802 Fifth Avenue, Downtown San Diego. If I were visiting from out of town for a week and staying in the Gaslamp, I might pass by Cafe 21 a few times before I gave it a chance because it doesn't look splashy-flashy or have young, attractive hostesses pretending to flirt with me to get business. But after I tried it, I'd eat there every day.

Cafe 21 serves American food that is influenced by the owners' background in Azerbaijan — a mix of Midwest and Middle East. A good example of this is the Curry Seared Scallops ($29), which come with mashed Yukon Gold potatoes, a yellow curry yogurt sauce, fried leeks, and is served in a hot cast-iron skillet. The curry has both spice and sweetness and blends well with the potatoes and the leeks while showing off the tenderness of the scallops.

The menu is seasonal, so the Yellow Watermelon Salad ($12) I had on a previous visit is no longer available. The melon was served in slices with arugula, feta cheese, and a light vinaigrette.

My daughter tried the Spaghetti Squash and Shrimp ($26), which came with sautéed mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, baby spinach, and a creamy fontina cheese sauce. She wasn't as impressed with it as I was with the curried scallops. She felt something was missing. She likes sharp cheese, so I think she was hoping for something with more bite. I happily took her leftovers and enjoyed them the next day.

Cafe 21 is a decent spot for dinner, but where it really shines is at happy hour (3 to 6 p.m.), when it's possible to buy up to 22 tapas at $6 apiece. The tapas are available in larger portions for appetizers or entrées.

The cabbage rolls are worth the entrée portion, whether with meat ($17) or vegan style ($15). I liked the *idea* of the mixed fries — basically deep-fried avocado, portobello

POUR OVER

BY IAN ANDERSON

Swell swells a thousand percent

Mission Beach coffee roaster **Swell Café** *(3833 Mission Boulevard)* has experienced massive growth in the past four months. For one thing, it might no longer be right to call it a Mission Beach roaster. While its original café and roasting location continues to thrive a block from the beach, Swell has set up a production facility in Point Loma, where its 3kg roasting equipment will soon be supplemented by a 35-kilogram Loring roaster.

"It's over a thousand percent increase in capacity," says Swell owner John Vallas, who adds, "We have opportunities we've had to push back because we need the increase of capacity to be able to fulfill them."

That said, the company has definitely embraced a number of opportunities, beginning with a second coffee shop and restaurant at the **Flower Hill Promenade** shopping center in Del Mar *(2720 Via De La Valle)*. For three decades, the location was a branch of Leucadia roaster Pannakin Coffee. After that closed in spring 2014, the site was briefly known as **Café Cantata** before Swell took over in August.

Vallas says retail expansion wasn't slated to be a priority for Swell. "Our primary focus was actually on roasting and developing our coffee program," he explains, "This as an opportunity was just too good to pass up."

Swell's coffee program hasn't suffered during the expansion. Since head roaster Nel Newbom took over last year, she's worked to improve the quality of the coffee across the board. As a result, Swell's Beach Goth espresso blend earned silver at the **Compak Golden Bean North America** competition, held in Portland, Oregon, in September. Its single-origin Mexico Zaramitla espresso took bronze.

Swell Café sourced Rusty's Hawaiian beans for a collaboration with AleSmith on its Hawaiian Speedway stout.

Meanwhile, Newbom's helped establish several direct-trade partnerships, starting with farms in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru. Some are contacts she's carried over from her ten years as cofounder of Bay Area roaster **Barefoot Coffee**, but she and Vallas are also traveling to secure new relationships, including recent trips to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Colombia. Newbom estimates 40 percent of Swell's coffee is now the result of direct-trade agreements, with more to come.

Swell has also seen a surge in coffee-beer collaborations. As sales manager Mondo Rodriguez points out, "Just for beer week alone we had nine beers that had our coffee in them." These include beers with **Mike Hess, Bay City Brewing, Ballast Point**, and special releases of **AleSmith's** always in-demand Speedway Stout.

For recent special bottle release Hawaiian Speedway, Rodriguez and Newbom worked with AleSmith's sensory team to identify the right Hawaiian bean for the coconut-infused stout, settling on a Kenya-processed Typica bean from the award-winning Rusty's Hawaiian farm on the big island. Newbom calls it "A pretty darn good coffee with some really sweet rich chocolate notes, a little bit of coconut, a little tropical fruit."

With the help of a partnership with the local Patio Group hospitality company, more opportunities for growth lie ahead for Swell. Immediate plans include bottling its cold brew and Hopped Toddy beverage, and selling beans through local grocery chain Krisp. ■

mushroom, and eggplant — better than the execution. These are soft veggies that have a hard time getting as crisp as I'd like.

There are four types of Blood Marys available, ranging from $9 to $15. The Prawn Star, which comes with a ton of veggies and a huge prawn, gets the Facebook shares because it's so photogenic (and nice and juicy). But the California Greenin', which uses a tomatillo mix and comes with a grilled cheese sandwich, is the most satisfying. The sandwich makes it a meal in itself.

Cafe 21 is high-quality food with enough variety that almost anyone will be able to find something they like. It is also unusual for the Gaslamp in that it's usually frequented more by locals than tourists. The natives must know something.

by Patrick Henderson

Fancy eats leave punks behind

El Tigre, 10001 Paseo de los Heroes, Plaza Fiesta, Zona Rio, Baja. One year ago, El Tigre had punk shows on a regular basis. They served cheap beer on tap, *caguamas* (big bottled beers), and mixed drinks intended to get you drunk for the least amount of money.

In the beginning of 2015 the owners decided to revamp the place and make it about craft beer and great food. Sinful Eats moved into the kitchen, Lúdica Artesanal moved to the bar, and the ambiance changed from a punk bar to a modern tap room.

The change to craft beer and fancy eats alienated most of the crusty punks — El Tigre caters to a different crowd now. A few of the punks are still loyal and visit often, but those crazy shows with people hanging from the ceiling are gone forever.

The new kitchen offers a pub-like menu with mac 'n' cheese, burgers, fries, etc. A lot of the menu has sriracha sauce or bacon. I have tried several things on the menu: a creamy mac 'n' cheese sandwich, the cheese platter (good but small and expensive), and the cheesy fries, which come topped with mac and bacon.

For this review, several of my friends and I went in for Tap Tuesday, which means all the brews on tap are $1 off. Out of a group of eight people, I was the only one to order food. I got what seemed to be the largest plate on the menu, the Medieval Burger for $10, a ground beef patty weighing half a pound with a double ration of Havarti cheese, bacon, pastrami, caramelized onions, mayo, and mustard. Or you can get the mini Medieval, half the price and half the meat.

I asked the cook for a beer-pairing recommendation, but he had no idea. The beer menu had only four beers on tap, plus a cider. I ordered a California Common (brewed with a strain of lager yeast that works better at warmer temperatures) called Descomunal, a pint for $3.25. It was a bit under carbonated but easy to drink. Not the best pairing — the beer menu is lacking a good pale ale or IPA.

In the first bite, all I could taste was the huge portion of pastrami. On the second bite I tasted the beef patty, and on the third bite I finally tasted the saltiness of the bacon. It wasn't until I was into the second half that I tasted the caramelized onions. The Havarti cheese barely made its presence known. The fries were fine — they leave the skin on the potato, which I prefer, giving it a natural taste.

With not that many options on tap , the group had only one round before moving to the many other tap rooms in Plaza Fiesta.

by Matthew Suárez

Linner repertoire

Stella Public House, 1429 Island Avenue, East Village. "Linner," a relaxed, late-afternoon feast that covers both lunch and dinner, is one of my favorite meals. Since David and I both work from home, our days have little structure. Sometimes we'll wake early and have our usual yogurt with fruit and nuts breakfast and then work through lunchtime, only to poke our heads up at around 2 or 3 p.m. to realize we're hungry.

That's when we seek out those restaurant gems such as Cantina Mayahuel that remain open in the dead hours between 2 and 6 p.m. We are glad to add Stella Public House to our linner repertoire.

It was just after 3 p.m. when we arrived. The ambience was lovely, open to the outside, with a warm breeze wafting through the space. We chose a seat in the shade overlooking the fairly new Fault Line Park, recognizable by the two giant metal spheres, a public art piece called *Fault Whisper* by Po Shu Wang.

Once we were seated, our server informed us that we still had time to take advantage of the lunch special (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays) — the house salad and a pizza for $15. That's a good deal, considering the salad is usually $8 and pizzas are up to $17 each. When I heard "house salad," I expected plain lettuce with a few chunks of tomato and some kind of vinaigrette. But this salad, with walnuts, pears, cranberries, gorgonzola, and a creamy honey mustard vinaigrette all over fresh mixed greens, could have been a meal in itself.

We opted for the wild-mushroom pizza with local mushrooms, roasted onions, and a blend of asiago, parmesan, mozzarella, and provolone cheese. The dough was crispy on the outside but chewy within. The richness of the mushrooms and cheese was cut and complemented by the sweet savoriness of the onions. All of the flavors were made better with the addition of a few pinches of salt, which we asked to be brought to the table.

We debated on getting the meatball pizza instead and ended up compromising by adding the lamb meatballs as a side ($10). I'm a mixer and matcher, so it brought me great pleasure to spread the herbaceous meatballs and tomato sauce (with a hint of nutmeg — a great combo for lamb) atop a slice of the mushroom pizza. It was the best of both worlds.

We ended the meal on an indulgent note with the Budino ($9), the Italian version of the pot de crème, a smooth, rich chocolate pudding, this one with sea-salt caramel swimming within and fresh whipped cream on top.

by Barbarella Fokos

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HAPPY HOUR

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

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Toolbottle

With 30-plus breweries hard at work north of highway 56, there's no shortage of tasty beer to drink in North County. However, for those of us who live south of Insterstate 8, getting up there to drink it all the time isn't tenable.

Selfishly, I'd like to see more brands follow the lead of **Iron Fist, Rip Current, Belching Beaver**, and **Stone** — in other words, open tasting rooms closer to downtown. Realistically, I keep an eye out for North County beers on tap wherever I happen to be drinking. Better yet, I look for bottles and cans.

I dropped everything recently to make a run to **Bottlecraft** *(3007 University Avenue, North Park)* in North Park. The shop's Instagram said it was carrying bottles of **Toolbox Brewing's** Citrus Gose. Toolbox *(1495 Poinsettia Avenue, Vista)* beers aren't the easiest to find on tap, and their bottles rarely make it out of their tasting room. But, Bottlecraft has an in, so sure enough, I found a dozen or so on the shelves. I picked up two for about eight bucks apiece.

I should point out that I'm sensitive to citrus, so I knew this beer's inclusion of key lime and meyer lemon was likely to make my tongue swell up — and it did. In light of that, I probably can't express my fondness for the beer any better than to say I drank both bottles anyway.

This style of wheat beer originated in Goslar, Germany, where the water has a bit of salinity to it. Speaking to head Toolbox brewer Ehren Schmidt about making goses, he mentioned filtering and treating San Diego tap water to mimic some of the qualities found in Goslar. However, when it came to the salinity in this gose, it may be attributed to sea salt.

Another nod to the traditional gose is its inclusion of coriander. But the thing about Toolbox is that it specializes in funky and sour beers, fermenting them with *Brettanomyces* yeast and both *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus* bacteria, rather than the usual roster of brewers' yeasts. While a gose typically does use the lacto portion of this trio, the others help make this beer more distinct to its brewery.

The label depicts downtown SD, but to drink this beer you usually need to go to Vista.

What makes it a particularly fun beer to drink is it has many easily identifiable layers. In addition to the citrus, salt, and coriander, there's a pilsner-like crispness to the body of this gose, along with a wit-bier tartness. But running through the middle there's a detectable funk, almost like a skunky beer, except not so pronounced, and in this context quite pleasing in combination with the rest.

These notes stack up on top of each other for a partly sour, partly bready style beer. Close your eyes and with each sip you may focus on one or another. It easily stands out from most of the beers in my fridge, but more importantly it tastes good.

Almost good enough to drive 40 miles for, if I must. ■

For more breaking craft beer news, follow San Diego Beer News on Twitter (@ReaderBeer) or keep up on Facebook.

ALLIED GARDENS

Emiliano's Mexican Restaurant: *Monday*, 2-6pm: $1 off all bottled and draft beer, $2 off flavored margaritas, $2 off appetizers. ($3.50 Margaritas all day). *Tuesday-Friday*, 2-6pm: $1 off all bottled and draft beer, $2 off flavored margaritas, $2 off appetizers.

McGregor's Grill and Ale House: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: $1 off all pints, $5 off all pitchers, Ballast Point spirits $6.75. Half off all bar bites.

San Diego Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $3.25 draft beer, house wine, well drinks.

BALBOA PARK

The Prado Restaurant: *Tuesday*, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $4 Coronas; $5 wells, lounge wine, Prado mule, house/strawberry margaritas; $4-$8 select appetizers. Lounge only. *Wednesday-Thursday*, 4-6pm, 8-10pm: $4 Coronas; $5.5 wells, lounge wine, Prado mule, house/strawberry margaritas; $4-$8 select appetizers. Lounge only. *Friday-Saturday*, 8-11pm: $4 Coronas; $5.5 wells, lounge wine, Prado mule, house/strawberry margaritas; $4-$8 select appetizers.ells, wine, draft ale, margaritas, selected appetizers. Lounge only.

BANKERS HILL

Artisan Bento: *Monday-Saturday*, 3-6pm: $3 Asahi, $4 nigori/flavored sake, $5 white/red wine. Half off temaki sushi, $2 off bento box, salad bowl, sushi rolls.

Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 4:30-6pm: $5.50 house white/red wine by the glass or daily draft; $2 off specialty cocktails. $3.75 buttermilk-fried-chicken oysters, cheeseburger sliders, BBQ braised pork tacos. $4.50 artisan cheeses.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Cafe: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 5-7pm: $5 select glass of wine or sangria, $20 carafes/select bottles of wine. $6 select starters. *Sunday*, 4-9pm: $5 select glass of wine or sangria, $20 carafes/select bottles of wine. $6 select starters.

BAY PARK

Bay Park Fish Company: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $1 off draft beer, $5 house wine. $2 oyster shooter, $3 fish taco, $6 basic sushi rolls, $8 ceviche, $9 steamed clams or mussels, $11 crab cakes. Bar and patio only.

The High Dive: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $2 off local drafts, $4 house drinks.

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $3 domestic pints, $4 import pints, $5 house margaritas and well drinks. $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

Chart House: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6:30pm: $4 import & specialty draft beers, well spirits. $5 wine by the glass, $6 cocktails, $7 martinis. $4 fried artichokes, hummus trio, truffle skinny fries. $5 kim chee calamari, lettuce wraps, spinach & artichoke dip. $6 ahi nachos, firecracker shrimp, mediterranean chicken pita. $7 fish tacos, prime rib sliders, shrimp tacos.

Cicciotti's Trattoria: *Monday-Thursday*, 4:30-6:30pm: $4 house wines, $5 mixed drinks, discounted beers and specialty drinks. Happy hour plates $5 and $6. Fresh Blue Point oysters $1. *Friday-Saturday*, 3-6pm: $4 house wines, $5 mixed drinks, discounted beers and specialty drinks. Happy hour plates $5 and $6. Fresh Blue Point oysters $1.

Rimel's Rotisserie: *Monday-Friday*, 5-6:30pm: Small hot sake $3, large hot sake $5, select cocktails and wine by glass $6, draft pitcher $12.

CARLSBAD

Barrio Eat Mexican: *Monday-Friday*, 2-6pm: $4 draft beer, $5 house margaritas and house wine. $2 off appetizers.

Chandler's: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $2 off shared bites, wines by the glass, draft beers, and signature cocktails at the Sunset Terrace and Bar.

The Coyote Bar & Grill: *Monday, Friday*, 4-6pm: $4 bottle, draft beers, house wine, house margaritas, well drinks. $2 off all appetizers (except Grilled Corn and Chips and Salsa). *Tuesday-Thursday*, 4-6pm: $4 bottle, draft beers, house wine, house margaritas, well drinks. $2 off all appetizers (except Grilled Corn and Chips and Salsa). Late night Happy Hour 10-11pm: Sun-Thur. Discount on cocktails only. *Sunday*, Late night Happy Hour 10-11pm: Discount on cocktails only.

CHULA VISTA

Center Cut Steakhouse: *Wednesday*, 3-9pm: All you can eat pasta bar $10, includes glass of wine, sangria, or soda. *Friday-Saturday*, 3-10pm: 10-oz. prime rib $19.

Galley at the Marina: *Monday-Saturday*, 3–6pm: $4 beer, wine, and well drinks. $6 potato skins or two fish tacos with black beans and salsa.

CITY HEIGHTS

Black Cat Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: $1 off drafts, bottles, shelf calls (excluding Miller High Life).

The Hideout: *Daily*, 5-7pm: $3 wells, $3-$5 drafts

Nate's Garden Grill: *Tuesday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $1 off cocktails and wine.

Til-Two: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $1 off wells and drafts.

CLAIREMONT

Fat Tony's Pizza: *Monday-Thursday*, 4-8pm: $2 domestic beer. $3-5 food specials.

COLLEGE AREA

Bangkok Poco: *Daily*, 11am-3pm: $5 fried curry and noodles with choice of meat (excluding chicken).

Bridges Bar & Grill: *Saturday-Sunday*, 11am- 2pm: Brunch and bottomless mimosas: $10 with entree, $15 without.

CORONADO

Bistro d'Asia: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $3 Kirin Ichiban draft, $3.50 Gekkeikan sake (served warm), $4 La Terre chardonnay, $5 sake-tini. $4.50 California roll, $5.50 spicy tuna roll, $5.75 crispy calamari.

Leroy's Kitchen + Lounge: *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday*, 4-6pm: $5 craft drafts and select glasses of wine. $2 off craft cocktails, $2 off wells. *Wednesday*, 4-6pm & 10pm-midnight: $4 craft drafts, $2 off craft cocktails, $5 wells & glasses of select wine. *Friday-Saturday*, 10pm-midnight: $5 craft drafts and select glasses of wine. $2 off craft cocktails, $2 off wells.

DEL MAR

Shimbashi Izakaya: *Monday-Friday, Sunday*, 4-6pm: $4 small bottle Asahi, $4.25 4oz. hot sake, $4.75 draft, $6/$6.50 cocktails, $6.50/$6.75 wines. Discounted rolls and appetizers. *Saturday*, 12-6pm: $4 small bottle Asahi, $4.25 4oz. hot sake, $4.75 draft, $6/$6.50 cocktails, $6.50/$6.75 wines. Discounted rolls and appetizers.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

207 Nightclub: *Monday-Friday*, 3pm-7pm: $5 beers, $7 well drinks, $7 house wine, $8 Belvedere martinis, $8 specialty cocktails. 30%-off all food menu items.

Altitude Sky Lounge: *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: $5 drafts, $6 premium wells. Half-off artisan flatbreads.

The American Comedy Company: *Wednesday*, 7-9:30pm: 50% off entire drink and food menu. No item-minimum or cover.

Analog: *Thursday*, 5-8pm: $5 drafts, wells, house red & white wine. All night: $5 tall cans. *Friday*, 5-8pm: $5 drafts, wells, house red & white wine. All night: $5 pinnacle flavor shots. *Sunday*, All Day: $10 bottomless champagne.

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $4 drafts (excluding local brews); $4 house wine, mai tais, Long Islands, and margaritas (excluding blended and flavored). $4 food menu. Bar/patio area only.

Café Sevilla: *Daily*, 5-7pm: $3 off any food or drink $11 and under; $5 off items $12 and over. Wine bottles $5 off.

Chianti: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $5 martinis, house wine. $6 salami plate, crispy calamari, meatball satay. At the bar only.

Dublin Square: *Monday*, 4-7pm:$2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off all appetizers. *Tuesday-Wednesday, Friday*, 4-7pm: $2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off all appetizers. *Thursday*, 4-7pm: $2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off all appetizers.. *Saturday*, 2-5pm: $2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off all appetizers. *Sunday*, 11am-7pm: $2 off all drafts, bottled beer, house wine, wells, Irish whiskey. 1/2-off all appetizers.

The Field Irish Pub and Restaurant: *Monday-Friday*, 11am-7pm: $2.75 domestics, $3.25 imports, $3.50 wells, $4 house wine, $5-$6 20-oz drafts. Appetizer specials.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar: *Daily*, 5–7pm, 8–10pm: Early: Five cocktails, five wines, and five appetizers, $6 each. Late: Eight drinks, eight wines, eight apps, $9 each.

Funky Garcia's Mexican Restaurant: *Daily*, 3pm-12am: $2.50 Tecate/Tecate Light; $4.50 all bottles & draft beer (except Sculpin); $8 Don Garcia Cadillac margarita/white sangria/Skinny Margarita; $9 Coronarita; $3.99 tostada (carne asada or chicken); $3.99 Esquite; $5.99 nachos; $6.99 chips & guacamole.

Grant Grill: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 4–7pm: $6 red, white, or sparkling wine, a selection of local brews, and cocktails made with New Amsterdam vodka. $3 Budweiser. $2 off lounge offerings such as soft pretzel ($5), parmesan fries ($7), and grilled skirt steak ($18).

Las Hadas Bar & Grill: *Monday-Saturday*, Open-7pm, 10pm-12am: $2 import beers, $5 cocktails, $4 draft beers, $4 wines. $7 appetizers, $8 entrees. *Sunday*, All day: $2 import beers, $5 cocktails, $4 draft beers, $4 wines. $7 appetizers, $8 entrees.

Hard Rock Café: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $5 craft beer, 1/2 off domestics, house wine, and well drinks. 1/2 off select appetizers: Tupelo chicken tenders, classic nachos, potato skins.

The Hopping Pig: *Monday-Saturday*, 11:30-7pm: $4.50 select pints, $1 off all other drafts. $4.50 wells, house wines, and bloody marys. $3 mimosas. $2.75 tacos (fish/carnitas) and BBQ pork sliders. *Sunday*, 11:30-7pm: $4.50 select pints, $1 off other drafts. $4.50 wells, house wines, and bloody marys. $3 mimosas. $2.75 tacos (fish/carnitas) and BBQ pork sliders.

House of Blues: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $2 Bud Light drafts, $2/3/4 select draft beer, $5 well drinks, well martinis and house wine and margaritas.

HAPPY HOUR

Jolt'n Joe's: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $4 pints, wines, and wells. 20% off appetizers.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $4 pints, flights, house wine, and well drinks. $5 beer pretzels, boneless wings, cauliflower romesco, chili lime sweet potato fries, spicy hummus and flat bread.

The Lion's Share: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $2 off draft beers, $6 house wines, $6 classic and signature cocktails. $4 bruschetta and house-cut fries with parmesan and mustard aioli, $6 deviled eggs, rabbit sausage, and Moroccan chicken liver.

Lou and Mickey's: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $4 local beer. $4 grilled artichoke or steamed Mediterranean mussels, $6 fish and chips or Lou & Mickey's bar burger.

Magnolia Tap & Kitchen: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $4 local drafts, $4 wells, $6 wine and specialty cocktails. Buck-a-Bone Wings.

Marina Kitchen: *Saturday-Sunday*, 11am-4pm: $6 specialty cocktails, Tablas Creek White Rhone Blend wine, and St. Archer Blond/Stone Cali Belgique IPA. $6 sausage and pretzel or crispy jidori chicken, $7 pork belly tempura, $8 mini smoked New York sandwiches.

Mint Downtown Thai: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $3 beers, $2.50 sake, $5 featured wines, $5 small beer and small sake, $7 large beer and small sake. Half-price select starters.

Ocean Pacific Grille: *Daily*, 3-6pm: Half off draft beer and wine by the glass. $6 appetizer specials.

Ocean Room and Lounge: *Daily*, 4-6pm (till 7 at the bar): $3 drafts, $4 house wines, $6 martinis. Half off sushi, discounted appetizers.

Patricks Gaslamp Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 10am-8pm; 11pm-close: $3.50 domestic drafts, $3 domestic bottles, $3.75 well drinks. *Saturday-Sunday*, 10am-8pm: $3.50 domestic drafts, $3 domestic bottles, $3.75 well drinks.

Pinzinimini: *Daily*, 5-7pm: $5 all house wine, draft beer, wells.

RA Sushi: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm 10-close: $3.75-$8 drink specials. $3.49-$8.99 food specials. *Saturday*, 10pm-close: $3.75-$8 drink specials. $3.49-$8.99 food specials. *Sunday*, 8pm-Close:$3.75-$8 drink specials. $3.49-$8.99 food specials.

Searsucker Gaslamp: *Monday-Friday*, 5-7pm: Peter Rabbit cocktail $8, house infusions $7, house wines $7, draft beer $5. Select appetizers.

Urban Bar & Grill: *Daily*, All day, bar only: $3 drafts, $4 wells, $5 house wine & Moscow mules. $2 short rib sliders, pickled vegetables, Cajun tots.

Whiskey Girl: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $3 well drinks, drafts, house wine. $5 select appetizers.

The Whiskey House: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $1 add a shot of house whiskey to any beer, $4 house wine, $5 Moscow mule or whiskey sour; $.50 spicy Vietnamese wings, $4 house-made brat, $5 chorizo mac 'n' cheese.

EAST VILLAGE

Bottega Americano: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $5 wine and drafts, $6 wells, $20 carafes. Variety of appetizers $4, Chef's bruschetta $5, all pizzas $10.

Café Chloe: *Monday-Friday*, 3:30-5:30pm: $4-6 select wines and beers. $4 cup of soup du jour or warm marinated olives, $5 mixed farm greens salad with house vinaigrette, $6 pommes frites with trio of dips.

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: Half-off all specialty cocktails, house wine, draft beer, premium well spirits, and select bar bites.

Quartyard Bar: *Monday-Friday*, 3:30-6pm: $2 off beer. Food half-price.

Rare Form Delicatessen: *Monday-Friday*, 4–7pm: $5 basil gin and tonic or whiskey cocktail, half-off local beers.

Stella Public House: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $2 off draft beers, $5 house wine and well liquor beverages. 1/2 off small plates.

Toast Enoteca & Cucina: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $3 draft beers, $5 wines by the glass. $5 select appetizers, $5 select mini pizzas.

EASTLAKE

Chili's: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 3pm-close: $1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos and fried cheese. *Friday*, 3-7pm: $1 off drafts, discounted margaritas. Discounted nachos and fried cheese.

EL CAJON

Blarney Stone Pub: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $.50-1 off liquor. Everyday special all day.

Main Tap Tavern: *Tuesday*, 3-6pm: Beer and shot specials. $2.50 fish tacos, $4.50 appetizers. *Wednesday*, 3-6pm: Sliding scale cask beer; $3 at 3pm, $4 at 4pm, etc. $4.50 appetizers. *Thursday*, 3-6pm: Beer and shot specials. $4.50 appetizers. *Friday*, 3-6pm: $4 shots all day. Beer specials. $4.50 appetizers.

ENCINITAS

3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: *Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday*, 3-6pm, 11pm-close: $5 house wine, $10 wine flights, $5 draft beers, $6 beer flight, $4 sangria, $7 Moscow mule, $6 spicy watermelon martini, $6 maple bourbon smash. Food specials. *Wednesday*, 3-6pm, 11pm-close: $5 house wine, $6 wine flight, $1 off all draft beers, $6 beer flight, $4 sangria, $7 moscow mule, $6 mandarin cosmo, $6 blueberry lemondrop, no corkage on select bottles, food specials.

Firenze: *Daily*, 4-6:30pm: $2 off all wines by the glass, $2 off all cocktails, $1 off all beer.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill: *Daily*, 7am-11am: $1 mimosas. $1 breakfast tacos. 3-6pm: $2.75 house wine, well cocktails, domestic drafts. $1 fish and carne asada tacos, 75¢ wings & ribs.

Union Kitchen & Tap: *Monday*, All Night: $4/$5 drafts, $6 select wines, $9 craft cocktails. Discounted flatbreads and select appetizers. *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $4/$5 drafts, $6 select wines, $9 craft cocktails. Discounted flatbreads and select appetizers.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 3:30-6:30pm: Drink specials. Discounted appetizers. *Friday-Saturday*, 9-10:30pm: Drink specials. Discounted appetizers.

Vintana Wine + Dine: *Daily*, 2:30-6:30pm: Seven different appetizers for $7 each.

Vinz Wine Bar & Tasting Room: *Monday-Thursday*, 3pm-close: $3 select draft beers, $4-$6 wines. $4-$7 salads, oyster shooters, appetizers. *Saturday*, noon-3pm: $3 select draft beers, $4-$6 wines. $4-$7 salads, oyster shooters, appetizers.

FALLBROOK

Aqua Terra: *Wednesday, Friday-Sunday*, 4-6pm: 1/2 off select sushi rolls. *Thursday*, 4-6pm: 1/2 off select sushi rolls, $11 burger and beer

GOLDEN HILL

Counterpoint: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 5-6pm, 10pm-midnight: $1 off beer & select wine. Small plate specials.

Kafe Sobaka: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $5 beer. $3 any appetizer.

Turf Supper Club: *Friday-Sunday*, noon-5pm: $1 off beer, wine, cocktails. $5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links + chips.

GRANTVILLE

Benchmark Brewing Co.: *Wednesday*, 3-8pm: $2 beer of the day for locals in zip codes 92120, 92123, 92108, 92115, and 92116. *Sunday*, 10am-8pm: 16-oz. pint of Benchmark's core beers $5.

Camel's Breath Inn: *Wednesday*, 4-8pm: $1 off Jack, Jim Beam, Jameson, and Fireball.

Longhorn Cafe and Saloon: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: $3.25 Bud and Bud Light pints and well drinks.

Tio Leo's: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $3 domestic pints, $4 import pints, $5 house margaritas and well drinks. $5 street tacos, TJ hot dogs, carne asada fries.

HILLCREST

Akinori Sushi: *Tuesday-Sunday*, 5:30–7pm: $3 pint of Sapporo, $4 large sake. $8 poki salad, $10 yellowtail sashimi.

Babycakes: *Monday-Friday*, 5-8pm: $3 wells, select wine, and beer. $5 appetizers.

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio: *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday*, 4-6:30pm: $3 select beers, $4 select wines. Half off appetizers. *Wednesday*, 4-6:30pm: $3 beers, $4 select wines, half off martinis. Half off appetizers. *Sunday*, All day: $3 select beers, $4 select wines. Half off appetizers.

CJ's Club: *Daily*, 11am-1pm, 5pm-7pm, midnight-2am: $3 wells.

Empirehouse: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $8 mules, $2 off all small plates (excluding soup), $1 off regular pastels, beer, wine.

Ortega's Bistro: *Daily*, 3-6pm and 10pm-midnight: $3 beer and tequila, $4 wines, well drinks, and margaritas. Discounted food.

Oscar Wilde's Irish Gastropub: *Daily*, 3-7pm: $4 house wine and well cocktails, $5 drafts and Tullamore Dew.

Parma: *Tuesday-Sunday*, 4-7pm: $5-7 red, white wines, $4 beers, $7 2 for 1 mimosa. $5 cheese platter.

Sally and Henry's Doghouse Bar & Grill: *Daily*, 3-7 pm: $4 shots, beer, and food specials.

The Tractor Room: *Monday-Friday*, 5-6:30pm: $4 draft beers and select $5 cocktails. Chicken Liver & Apple Jack Whiskey Porcini Mushroom Pâté $4, Chipotle Charred Tomato Pork Ribs $5.

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: *Daily*, 2:30–5pm: Local beers, house wines, and cocktails $5. Brussels sprouts with chunks of ham $5, mac 'n' cheese with brie, fontina, and parmesan plus black truffle $7, Kobe T.J. hot dog with bacon and kimchee $7.

The Salty Frog: *Monday-Saturday*, 2-7pm: Craft drafts and well cocktails $3, domestic drafts $5. *Sunday*, 10am-5pm: $4 build-your-own bloody mary bar.

JAMUL

Brody's Burgers & Beer: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm, $2.00 off select drafts.

KEARNY MESA

Carriage House Cocktails & Karaoke: *Monday-Friday*, 4-7pm: $3 domestic bottles, $3.50 draft pints and wells.

Hinotez: *Monday-Thursday*, 5:30-7pm: 16-oz. Sapporo or Kirin $3, hot sake $4, bottle of sake 20% off.

Long Island Mike's Pizza: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $3 beer.

Pampas Argentine Grill: *Tuesday-Friday*, 4:30-7pm: $4 wells, $5 select wine, $15 sangria/mojito pitcher. $6-$14 appetizers.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $4 select drafts, $4 bourbon slushies, $5 premium wells. $5 appetizers.

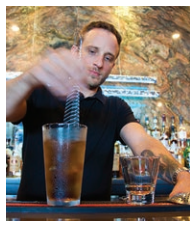
Sushi Deli 3: *Monday-Thursday*, 5-6:30pm: $1 off all draft beer and $2 off regular sake drink special and Crazy Drink special.

KENSINGTON

Bleu Bohème: *Daily*, 5-6pm: 1/2 price au pichet (quarter- or half-liter) wines, martinis, bottled beer (decent selection); appetizers $10.95.

Set 'Em Up, Joe!

BY JOSEPH O'BRIEN



AUSTIN MCADAMS
Humphreys Restaurant
2241 Shelter Island Dr.
humphreysrestaurant.com
619-224-3577

For a cocktail on Humphreys' newly revised drink menu, bar manager Austin McAdams uses as a base liquor a perfect 15-year-old scotch.

But before serious scotch drinkers storm Humphreys with broadsword and targe, McAdams asks that you give him a hearing — and his drink, the SOS (Save Our Scotch), a tasting.

Acknowledging the potential for scandal, McAdams admits that his preference is to mix his scotch "with only a small splash of water, but it's nice to change up the routine every once in a while."

The SOS's other ingredients, McAdams insists, help the cocktail live up to its name — after all, the drink is not exactly full of peach schnapps and little umbrellas.

"The Chartreuse and Carpano play well together with the Glenfiddich," McAdams says. "They all deserve to share the same glass."

Keeping the whole sophisticated whizzbang working, McAdams says, the Carpano vermouth humbles these proud parts into an effective alliance.

"The sweet vermouth helps fuse the scotch and Chartreuse," he says. "Without it, you'd be able to pinpoint the two ingredients; but the vermouth melds everything together to give the cocktail its own identity."

And by adding loudmouthed Chartreuse to the mix, McAdams makes the SOS a triple-dare worth considering.

"Chartreuse takes a delicate balance when mixing because it can be very overpowering," he says. "The yellow Chartreuse is more forgiving than the green and works well with the Glenfiddich. Both have notes of honey; they harmonize beautifully."

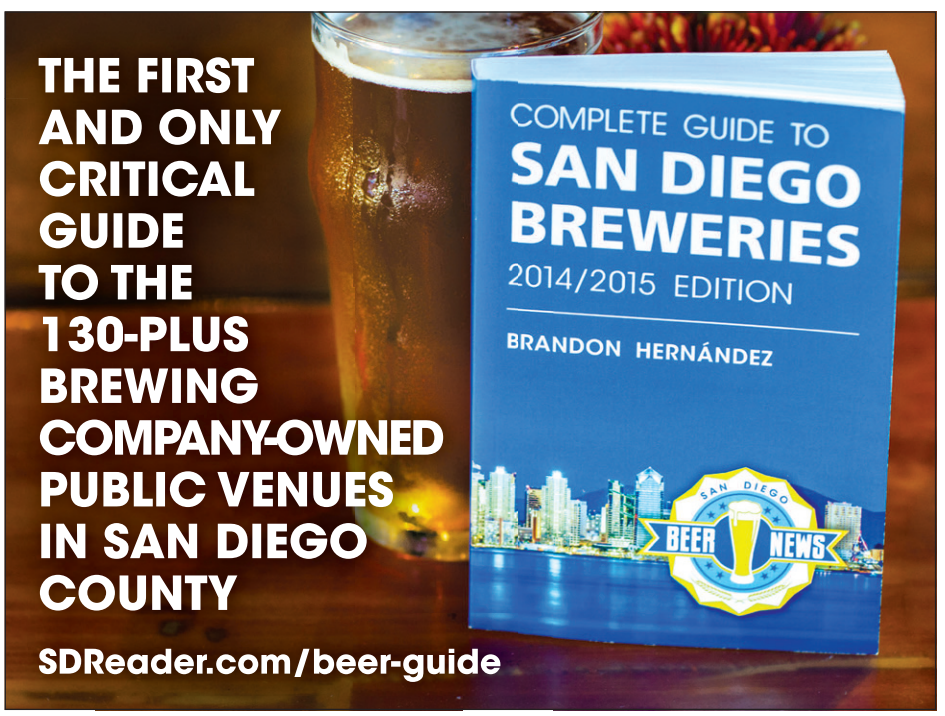
While honey offers redemption, McAdams says, other flavors also provide their own sort of atonement to the sip.

"You'll catch a subtle whiff of anise from the cherries and lemon oil from the garnish," he says, noting that another flavor left him wide-eyed when he first tried the SOS. "When it hits your lips, you will taste the dark fruits and spice from the scotch and vermouth, almost coffee-like in taste. Then the taste shifts to a sweet and sour honey flavor, punctuated with a subtle orange zing from the bitters."

HUMPHREYS' SOS

- 1½ oz. Glenfiddich 15-year-old scotch
- ½ oz. Carpano Antica Formula sweet vermouth
- ½ oz. yellow Chartreuse
- 1 dash of orange bitters

Combine ingredients in cocktail tin with ice. Stir until chilled but not too watered down (20–30 seconds). Strain into rocks glass. Sink absinthe-soaked cherry. Wipe glass rim with lemon-peel garnish.



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

Kensington Café: *Monday*, 4-6pm: Half off bottles of wine. *Tuesday*, 4-6pm: $3 tacos. *Thursday*, 4-6pm: $10 flatbread and a beer.

Kensington Vine: *Monday*, All night: $5 glasses of wine. $5 appetizers. *Tuesday*, 3-6pm: Buy glass of wine and get the second for $2. *Thursday*, 3-6pm: $3 for a sample of small bites.

LA MESA

Carnitas Uruapan: *Friday-Sunday*, 5pm-close: 99-cent tacos al pastor.

Casa de Pico: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $2 off margaritas, beer, cocktails. Complimentary appetizer buffet.

Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant: *Monday, Wednesday-Thursday*, 3-7pm: $3 wells and beers. $1 off appetizers. *Tuesday, Friday*, 3-7pm: $3 wells and beers, $2 Mexican beer. $1 off appetizers.

Narumi Sushi: *Daily*, 5-7pm: Select 99-cent appetizers with purchase of large beer.

LEUCADIA

Solterra Winery & Kitchen: *Monday*, 3–10pm: $4-$7 select wine by the glass. Reduced price select tapas. *Tuesday-Sunday*, 3–5:30pm: $4-$7 select wine by the glass. Reduced price select tapas.

LINDA VISTA

Bull's Smokin' BBQ: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $3 pints; $9 Bud & Coors Light pitchers; $2.50 bottled beer, $2 PBR, $12 select pitchers. $2 pulled pork or beef brisket sliders, $4.95 1/2-sandwich & side, $3.95 pulled pork fries.

Sidecar: *Monday*, 3-7pm: $2 off everything. *Tuesday*, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks. *Wednesday*, 3-7pm: $1 off drinks. All day: $5 off well mules. *Saturday*, All day: $6 off pitchers.

LITTLE ITALY

Cookbook Tavola Calda: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $4 Peroni beer or glass of wine.

The Glass Door Restaurant & Lounge: *Friday*, 5-10pm: $5 Svedka cocktails.

Ironside Fish and Oyster: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: 25% off glass of sparkling wine. Buck-a-shuck oysters.

M Winehouse: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: House wines $6. Olives $7, guac and chips $9, cheese plate $16.

Pizza e Birra: *Daily*, 2:30-6pm: $5 margherita pizza; linguine marinara; arancini with marinara sauce; marinated olives, fresh ricotta with sea salt, cracked pepper and flat bread; and selection of $5 craft beers.

Puerto la Boca: *Monday-Saturday*, 4:30-7:30pm: $3 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.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Desi's Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 2-7pm: $2 domestic drafts, $2 off well drinks and speciality cocktails.

Devine Pastabilities: *Monday-Saturday*, 4-6pm: $2.75 select drafts. $3.25 microbrews, imports. $2.50 domestic beer. 3 free bread holes with each beer or wine purchased during happy hour. $1 off appetizer specials.

Wine Steals: *Tuesday-Friday*, 4-7pm: $5 for any cask wine, $4 draft beers. $2 off all 30 wines by the glass. Discounted food items. *Saturday-Sunday*, 11am-4pm: $5 mimosa pints.

MIRAMAR

Abbey's Real Texas Bar-B-Q: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $1 off all beer and starters, excluding IPA.

Brewski's Bar: *Monday*, 4-10pm: 1/2 price appetizers. *Tuesday*, 4-10pm: $1 tacos, $3 Corona & Dos Equis, $5 Patron shots. *Wednesday*, 4-10pm: $4 Vodka Rockstars. *Thursday*, 4-10pm: $4 Jack & Coke. *Friday*, 4-10pm: $4 Fireball. *Saturday*, 4-10pm: $4 Jager Bombs. *Sunday*, 4-10pm: $1 off all beers.

The Filling Station: *Monday-Friday*, 11:30am-7pm: $3.25 domestic beers, $3.25 wells, $8 domestic pitchers.

MISSION BEACH

Cannonball: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $4 well, Sapporo, sake, $5 wine, $6 spritzer.

Draft: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6pm, 9-11pm: $4 Stone, Green Flash, Modern Times, and Coronado Brewing drafts, $5 wells.

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

MISSION HILLS

The Aero Club: *Daily*, 2-7pm: $3 bottle beer, $.50 off draft beers, $4 wells, $5 calls.

Cafe Bleu: *Daily*, 3-6pm: $5 wine by the glass.

The Patio on Goldfinch: *Daily*, 3-6pm: Half off select wine, beer, and cocktails.

The Regal Beagle: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $1 off everything.

Toma Sol Tavern: *Monday-Thursday*, 3-6 pm: $4 drafts, $5 appetizers. *Friday*, 3-7 pm: $4 drafts, $5 appetizers.

MISSION VALLEY

Blue Smoke Sushi: *Monday-Thursday*, 4-6pm: $3 Sapporo drafts and sake. $4 crispy brussels sprouts and eggplant caramelized with hazelnut and sesame. $5 Big Popper.

Bully's East: *Monday-Friday*, 4-6:30pm: $2.50 domestic draft, $3.50 wells, $5 wine. Fried artichoke hearts $4, crab-stuffed mushrooms $5, baked brie $7, volcano shrimp $9.

Dave & Buster's: *Monday-Friday*, 4:30-7pm: Half price cocktails, $1 off pints. Half off selected appetizers.

In Cahoots: *Wednesday*, All night: $2.75 u-call-its. *Thursday*, 5-9pm: $6.50 grilled sirloin, baked potato, and draft beer. *Sunday*, All night: $3 for any beer or whiskey.

NATIONAL CITY

Grill House at Big Ben: *Daily*, 3-6pm: 99-cent street tacos.

Pier 32 Waterfront Grill: *Friday*, 3pm-sunset: Import and local brews from $3, domestic beer $2, house wine $5.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Proprietor's Reserve Wine Pub: *Sunday*, Enjoy complimentary bites and 1/2 off all open wines all night.

The Rabbit Hole: *Monday-Friday*, 5–7pm: $5 local drafts, glass of wine, specialty cocktails. $5 nachos, hot wings, cheese curds, blistered peppers, salad.

Rosie O'Grady's: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $3 wells and "macro" brews.

Triple Crown Pub: *Monday-Wednesday, Friday*, 3-7pm: $1 off all pints, $2 off pitchers. *Thursday*, 3-7pm: $1 off all pints, $2 off pitchers.. *Saturday*, Noon-7pm: $1 off all pints, $2 off pitchers.

NORTH PARK

Bar Pink: *Monday-Friday*, 4-8pm: $2 Pabst and Tecate, $3 wells, $1 off drafts and calls.

Endzone Pub & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $2 Endzone shot (Petrov, cranberry, lime juice), $3 domestic drafts, $4 select pints. $5 select appetizers.

HOPE 46: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday*, 4-6pm: $4 wells, $4 drafts, $2 off wine. *Friday-Saturday*, 4-6pm, 10pm-midnight: $4 wells, $4 drafts, $2 off wine.

Sabuku Sushi: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $3 all shots and hot sake (8 oz. glass), $6 Rock Sake glass (filtered or unfiltered) or Caribbean Coke. $3 edamame (regular size) or notso miso soup.

The Smoking Goat: *Monday-Friday*, 5-6:pm: $4 draft, $5 select red and white wine. $6 bites. Patio and bar only.

Thorn Street Brewery: *Monday*, 4-10pm: Industry Night: $3 pints for those in the bar/restaurant industry. Sushi Uno food 5-9pm.

U-31: *Monday-Thursday*, 5-7:30pm: $3.50 beers, wells, wine. $4.50 calls. $6.50 premiums. *Friday*, 4-7:30pm: $3.50 beers, wells, wine. $4.50 calls. $6.50 premiums. *Saturday*, 12-6pm: $3.50 beers, wells, wine. $4.50 calls. $6.50 premiums.

West Coast Tavern: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $4 wells, drafts, house wine, $6 specialty cocktails, $20 giant mule pitchers. $6 food selections.

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Bar: *Daily*, 4:30-6:30pm: Half off pitchers, $3 domestic draft, $3 micro draft, $3 wells, $3 house wine. $3 appetizer sampler, $3 sliders, $3 turkey tacos.

Gallagher's Pub & Grill: *Daily*, $3 beer of the month, $4 wells, craft import weekly pint specials, half-price select pitcher specials. Join the mug club for full-time happy hour.

Mother's Saloon: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: $1 off craft drafts, $2 domestic drafts, $2.75 well drinks. 1/2-off appetizers. *Sunday*, 4-8pm: $1 chicken tenders, $2 pork sliders, $5 tater tots.

Sessions Public: *Monday-Saturday*, Noon-6pm: $3 select draft, $3 off select wine and cocktails. *Sunday*, 10am-6pm: $3 select draft, $3 off select wine and cocktails.

OCEANSIDE

Davina's Cabo Grill: *Daily*, 3-6pm: Half off well drinks, house margaritas, ponchoritas, mai tais, Sex on the Beach, and select drafts.

Firewater Saloon: *Monday-Friday*, 5pm-8pm: $3 draft beers, $3 wells.

Tremont Street Bar & Grill: *Monday*, Military Mondays: 10% off food with military ID. *Tuesday*, 5-9pm: Taco Tuesdays: $1.99 fish, chicken, or beef tacos. *Wednesday*, 5-9 pm: $.50 chicken wings.

OLD TOWN

Alamo Mexican Cafe: *Monday, Friday*, 2:30-6:30pm: Half-off drinks. *Tuesday*, 2:30-6:30pm: Half-off drinks. $2 tacos all day. *Wednesday*, 2:30-6:30pm: Half-off drinks.Half-off drinks. *Thursday*, 2:30-6:30pm: Half-off drinks. $2.50 tacos (except shrimp).

Fred's Mexican Cafe Old Town: *Monday, Wednesday-Sunday*, 3-6pm: 14-oz. Green Flash or Coors Light $5, 20-oz. house or strawberry margarita $6. Chingaderas, nachos, chicken rolled tacos, quesadilla, cheesy fries $3.

Old Town Mexican Café: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm, 10pm-close: 1/2-off well drinks & selected appetizers.

PACIFIC BEACH

Barrel Republic: *Monday, Wednesday-Friday*, 4-6pm: All beers 20 percent off. *Tuesday*, 9:30-11pm: All beers 20 percent off.

Cass Street Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm $3.25 select microbrews, $8.50 select microbrew pitchers, drink and food specials.

The Local Pacific Beach: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $1 off drafts, $5 specialty cocktails. Small plate specials.

SD Taproom: *Monday*, 3-6pm: $2 off draft beers, cocktails, wines. $2 off appetizers. $3 off 1/2-pound Angus beef burger. 15% off specialty bottles. *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $2 off draft beers, cocktails, wines. $2 off appetizers.

Sinbad Café: *Daily*, 11am-8pm: $1.50 domestic drafts, $2.50 craft drafts. $4.50 appetizers, $12 hookahs/$10 hookah refills.

Turquoise Cellars: *Tuesday-Saturday*, 5–6:30pm: $3 pints, $5 glass of wine.

POINT LOMA

Old Venice: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $5 drafts, house wine, and wells. Half off all starters and salads.

The Pearl: *Monday*, 4pm-close: $4 well drinks, $5 house wine, half off specialty drinks. $1 oysters, $2.50 mahi mahi fish taco, $6 deviled eggs. *Tuesday-Friday*, 4-6pm: $4 well drinks, $5 house wine, half off specialty drinks. $1 oysters, $2.50 mahi mahi fish taco, $6 deviled eggs.

POWAY

Grenadine Lebanese and Mediterranean Cuisine: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $3 domestic beer, $4 imported. Half off appetizers and select wine.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Bernard'O Restaurant: *Monday-Saturday*, 4:30-7pm: $6 wells, $3.50 domestic beer, $4.25 imported/specialty beer, $6 house margarita, $6 house wine.

Capri Blu: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $3.50 wells and drafts, $5 house wine, $6 martini.

The Cork and Craft: *Sunday*, 10am-2pm: Brunch with $15 bottomless mimosas.

The Bistro: *Daily*, 5-7pm: $1 off select beer, cosmos, margaritas, select wine.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS

Deli Stop Sports Pub: *Daily*, 4-7pm: $1 off all beer.

Pitchers Sports Bar: *Monday*, 11 a.m. to midnight: Wells $3.75. Wings ten for $6. *Tuesday-Wednesday, Sunday*, 11 a.m. to midnight: Wells $3.75. *Thursday, Saturday*, 11 a.m. to 2am: Wells $3.75. *Friday*, 11 a.m. to 2am: Wells $3.75. Wings ten for $6.

SAN CARLOS

Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant: *Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Sunday*, 3-5:30pm: House wine $5 glass, domestic draft $8 glass, Ravenswood merlot $11 carafe. $5 plates: buffalo wings, bruschetta, mozzarella sticks. *Wednesday*, 3-5:30pm: House wine $5 glass, domestic draft $8 glass, Ravenswood merlot $11 carafe. $5 plates: buffalo wings, bruschetta, mozzarella sticks.s.

SAN MARCOS

Back Alley Grill: *Tuesday*, All Day: $1 tacos. *Wednesday*, All Day: $.50 wings *Thursday*, All Day: $1 off pitchers.

The Bellows: *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $6 whiskey sours and mules. $10 flatbreads topped with prosciutto, gorgonzola, plum and saba; king trumpets; shiitakes.

SCRIPPS RANCH

La Bastide: *Daily*, 4-6pm: $3 draft Kronenburg 1664, $4 draft Ballast Point Yellowtail, $5 Sculpin IPA, well drinks. $6 wines, $7 cocktails. $7 appetizers.

SHELTER ISLAND

Bali Hai: *Monday-Friday*, 3–6pm: $5 "progressive" mai tais — add $1 every hour (only two per person). $4 wasabi fries, $5 crispy vegetable spring rolls, edamame hummus, edamame, $6 crispy calamari.

Fiddler's Green Restaurant: *Daily*, 5-7pm: $1 off beer, wine, spirits. Appetizer specials.

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

SOLANA BEACH

Chief's Burgers and Brew: *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $1 off bottles, $2 off drafts and cocktails, $2.50 off house wine.

Pillbox Tavern: *Daily*, 3-7pm: $1 off beer and wine.

SORRENTO VALLEY

AJ's Cave: *Monday-Friday*, 3-7pm: All drinks and beer on special.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Thursday*, 3-6pm: $4 pints, flights, and house wine. $5 beer pretzels, boneless wings, cauliflower romesco, chili lime sweet potato fries, spicy hummus and flat bread.

SPRING VALLEY

The Bancroft: *Daily*, 3-7pm: $2.75 domestics and wells.

Cali Comfort BBQ: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $1 off drinks & half-price appetizers.

De Oro Mine Co: *Daily*, Noon-2pm: $3 domestic beers and well cocktails, $3.50 imports.

Shooters Cocktails: *Monday*, 3-6pm $2.25 domestic beer and wells. *Tuesday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $2.25 domestic beer and wells.

TALMADGE

Romeo and Julieta's Wine Cafe: *Tuesday-Wednesday*, 5-7pm: $5 beer and wine. Discounted appetizers. *Thursday-Saturday*, 4-6pm: $5 beer and wine. Discounted appetizers.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Cueva Bar: *Tuesday-Friday*, 5-6:30pm: $4 craft beer on tap, $5 sangrias, hisbiscus sparklers, tapas. $5 olive tapenade quesadillas, choripapas con queso, brusselas bravas, \x{feff}$9 flatbread norteño.

Great Maple: *Daily*, 5-6pm: Drink specials.

The Lancers Cocktails: *Daily*, 10am-2am: $3 well drinks and domestic beers.

S&M Sausage and Meat: *Monday-Friday*, 3-6pm: $2 off drinks. Free bacon with cocktail.

Small Bar: *Daily*, 5-8pm: $1 off local drafts and drinks.

blurt

the inside track

Imperfect storm. The movie based on Marco Collins focuses on his role in the grunge explosion in the 1990s, his support of Washington state's gay-marriage referendum, and his sidelining addictions.

"I don't feel completely comfortable about that part," Collins admits. The 80-minute rockumentary, *The Glamour & the Squalor*, makes its San Diego debut on Saturday.

"The title was also the name of my show on [SDSU radio station] KCR and of a music column I used to write. I can't remember the name of the magazine, but I interviewed Jane's Addiction for it. I ended up booking their first show ever in San Diego at [SDSU's] Backdoor in 1987."

A former sailing instructor, Collins broke into music by answering request lines at 91X while still attending SDSU. He created 91X's all-local *Loudspeaker* show.

"We used to take a portable cassette recorder and record the bands where they wanted. We got Diamanda Galas at the Chicken Pie Shop, Night Soil Man underneath an I-5 overpass, and Drive Like Jehu at Sea World. Wormdrive wanted to be interviewed at a pool party. I show up with [current *Loudspeaker* co-host] Lou Niles and everybody is naked. We end up interviewing them fully naked in the hot tub surrounded by tiki torches while girls are feeding us grapes. The funny part is that one of the women feeding us grapes became one of the producers in the film."

Marco Collins, whose life is documented in the film *The Glamour & the Squalor*, got his start answering request lines at 91X.

Collins's *Loudspeaker* notoriety led to a gig with Relativity Records. In 1991 his 91X buddies helped him get hired as the music director and nighttime DJ at Seattle's first alternative station, "The End."

"It was a perfect storm," says Collins about his arrival as the hometown radio anchor of Seattle's exploding music scene. *Glamour* includes 20-year-old footage of his on-air interviews with Kurt Cobain and Eddie Vedder just as they were breaking nationally. Collins's role in breaking artists, such as Beck, Garbage, and Weezer, and his subsequent gold-record appreciation is also featured in *Glamour*.

Collins left The End to work for Rage Against the Machine's management and record label and in '99 became VH1's director of music programming.

His "horrible" audition to be an on-air VH1 vee-jay was covered in the movie.

"I killed the first two auditions. But on the third one I show up having been up for four days straight. They looked at me in makeup and said, 'Uh, no, we can't do this.' We went to New York City to revisit the scene of the crime for the movie."

Collins's rehab stints and backslides are told in part by his friend of three decades, 91X program director Michael Halloran, who once bailed Collins out of jail.

"I was in the room when they interviewed him for the movie. He broke down when he told the story. It was so awkward. They just let him cry."

The Glamour & The Squalor's local premiere is Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Irenic, followed by a Q&A with Collins and San Diego–based director Marq Evans, with live sets by Octagrape and Big Bad Buffalo.

— Ken Leighton

The Serious Chicken. Seattle's Tacocat — singer Emily Nokes, guitarist Eric Randall, bassist Bree McKenna, and drummer Lelah Maupin — brings their surf/pop/throb/costume riot to the Casbah on December 7. Ms. Nokes answered some email questions.

Which are the band's most vivid experiences of San Diego?

"Our shows at Scolari's Office always stand out! I don't think that is a venue anymore, but our first time ever in San Diego landed us there. We played with another Seattle band called the Cops. We didn't know each other before then but had an excellent night that ended in the invention of a dance called 'the Serious Chicken' down the street at the Pink Elephant.

"We also took mushrooms on Coronado Island once, but that's another story..."

Tacocat singer Emily Nokes: "Everyone in Tacocat has a '90s country music soft spot."

What are the band's strangest experiences of playing live? Death threats, marriage proposals?

"We've had a lot of crazy experiences over the years, but no death threats or proposals. I love inviting folks to jump up on the stage to dance for 'Crimson Wave' at the end of our sets, along with whichever friends we convinced to dance while dressed as a crab or apple or whatever costumes we have on hand. Even though it usually ends in guitars getting unplugged and such, it's worth it!"

Which musical and non-musical favorites of the band would surprise the average Tacocat fan?

"Eric's favorite thing is MMA. Lelah is really good at de-wobbling any table that wobbles. Emily can recite all the prepositions in alphabetical order. Bree is a huge *Game of Thrones* fan. Everyone in Tacocat has a '90s country music soft spot."

Plans after this tour?

"We're putting out our new album in the spring, which means we have a lot of videos to make, photos to take, and 2016 tour plans to hatch..."

— Andrew Hamlin

The Fallbrook Kid. Sheriff's deputies have not solved the mystery of who killed Larry Robinson, the guitarist remembered for his decades of local shows and legions of guitar students. He was murdered in a Temecula music store two years ago.

About 150 people showed up this summer at a public square in Fallbrook for a free concert to celebrate his memory. One of the performers at the musical salute was a former student of Robinson,

(continued on page 72)

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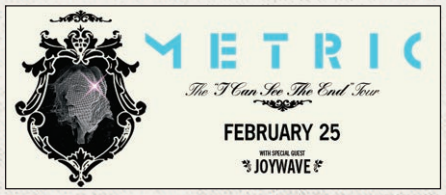

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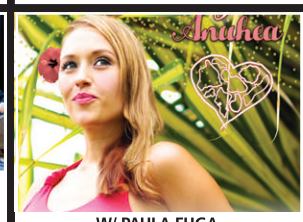

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12/26 A Cash'd Out Christmas
12/27 Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven
12/28 Ozomatli
12/29 & 30 Donavon Frankenreiter
12/31 Candye Kane NYE Happy Hour
12/31 Los Lobos
1/1 & 2 Nahko & Medicine for the People
1/8 The California Honeydrops
1/9 Tommy Castro & the Painkillers
1/12 Langhorne Slim & the Law
1/13 Ty Segall & the Muggers
1/14 Paula Cole
1/15 Pine Mountain Logs
1/16 Tower of Power
1/17 DeVotchKa
1/18 Josh Ritter @ Observatory North Park
1/19 Ladysmith Black Mambazo
1/20 The Wood Brothers
1/21 & 22 Big Head Todd & The Monsters w/ Mike Doughty
1/23 JD McPherson w/ Honeyhoney
1/26 Killing Joke/Soft Moon
1/28 The Motet
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2/5 & 6 The English Beat
2/10 Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra
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2/13 ALO
2/13 Lettuce @ Observatory North Park
2/14 Dead Man's Party V-Day Ball
2/14 Beats Antique @Observatory North Park
2/23 Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors
2/24 Lake Street Dive @ Observatory North Park
2/25 Ani DiFranco
2/26 The Infamous Stringdusters
2/27 Nick Carter
3/2 Black Tiger Sex Machine
3/3 Galactic
3/13 Anderson East
3/18 & 19 Super Diamond
3/20 Madeleine Peyroux Trio
3/24 Daughter
3/27 They Might Be Giants
3/29 Rita Wilson
3/30 Anders Osborne
4/22 Johnny Clegg
4/28 Thao & the Get Down Stay Down

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blurt

continued from page 70

fellow Fallbrook axe-man Anthony Cullins.

"I was with him for two years. When I was ten he said he couldn't teach me any more, that I was ahead of the level I should have been at."

Fourteen-year-old Anthony Cullins leans to British blues and studying at Berklee.

While playing shows at House of Blues, Pala Mesa Resort, Valley Fort Steak House, Temecula Music Festival, and Fallbrook Brewery, the 14-year-old Cullins has acquired the nickname "The Fallbrook Kid" — "Even though I never called myself that."

While his dad Kenny is there to drive him and give him support, Cullins books his own shows and negotiates his pay, including his show on Friday. "They told us they would only pay $200. We settled on $300. You really need to try and get $100 per man every time you play."

Cullins has recorded an album whose tracks move from Latin rock to blues to more intricate Joe Satriani–style leads.

Cullins, a freshman at the arts-based Mission Vista High School in Oceanside, aspires to study at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

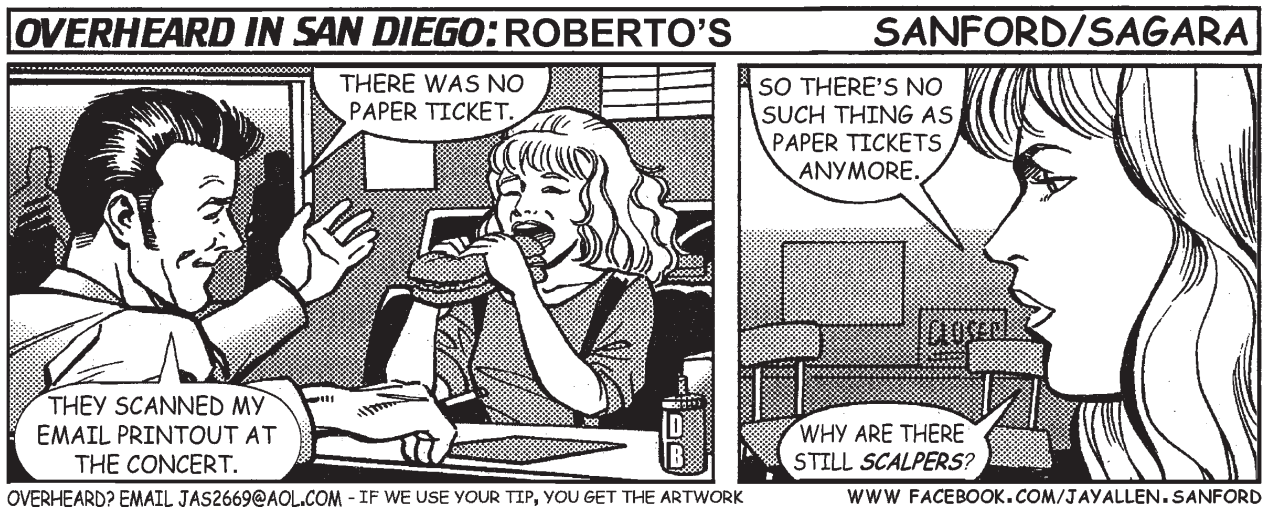
As you might expect, there are not many longhairs or rockers at his school.

"There's a lot of hip-hop. I'm kind of like the throwback at school. There's a lot of pretty boys who pluck their eyebrows. I'm different, I guess."

Regarding his trademark mane, Cullins says he is unsure if he's going to cut it again. "I've cut it off five times in the past three years. I donate it to Locks of Love, which goes to make wigs for kids with cancer. I'm 50/50 as to whether I'm going to do it again."

The Anthony Cullins Band plays blues and funk at 8 p.m. on Friday in the Gopher Hole Lounge at Castle Creek Golf Course in Escondido. The show is free and open to all ages.

— *Ken Leighton*



Yule to be kind. Nick Lowe is of two minds about Christmas.

"In Britain, Christmas is different," he tells me by phone from his home in England. "In the States, you embrace the corniness. Here [in Britain], it's more tiresome. Recording a Christmas album is considered rather vulgar, and for the most part they're right."

In a cruel but kind bit of irony, the new-wave icon is starting to become a holiday perennial despite his mistletoe misgivings.

In 2013, he released *Quality Street*, a Christmas album that included seasonal contributions by Ron Sexsmith and Ry Cooder.

Last year, he was convinced to do a special holiday-season tour with Los Straitjackets, an instrumental rock group that plays wearing *lucha libre* masks.

"We tried it last year in the Northeast, from New England to Chicago, and it really worked," Lowe says, sounding guardedly optimistic. "People were really up for it, and there were so many types of people, including a few that wouldn't ordinarily come to my shows.

When Lowe was first pitched a Christmas album he said no. "Then a lightbulb went on and I thought, *This could be really good fun*."

"That's the only reason to do it — it's so much fun."

Lowe and Los Straitjackets turned the shows into a new live album, *The Quality Holiday Revue Live*, and another tour, one that includes a stop at the Belly Up Tavern on December 9.

Lowe is best known for his 1979 top-40 hit "Cruel to Be Kind" and the classic albums he produced for Elvis Costello early in his career.

Although Lowe is the man who titled the British version of his debut CD *Jesus of Cool*, he still has a hard time admitting Christmas music can be cool.

"When the idea was suggested to me to do a Christmas album, I thought, *But I'm a serious songwriter.* I had these high snooty thoughts," he laughs. "That lasted about 45 seconds. Then a lightbulb went on and I thought, *This could be really good fun.*"

One of the songs Lowe wrote for the record, "Christmas at the Airport," has started to get him some seasonal notoriety.

"I don't take myself seriously. I like to entertain people, not ram things down their throats," he says. "The show is predominantly Christmas, but also rock 'n' roll. Nothing too earnest. It's like a sock hop for adults."

— *Patrick Henderson*

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

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FRIDAY • DEC 4
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SATURDAY • DEC 5
LITTLE HURRICANE SOFT LIONS • RIN TIN TIGER DANI BELL & THE TARANTIST
MONDAY • DEC 7
SALLIE FORD • TACOCAT
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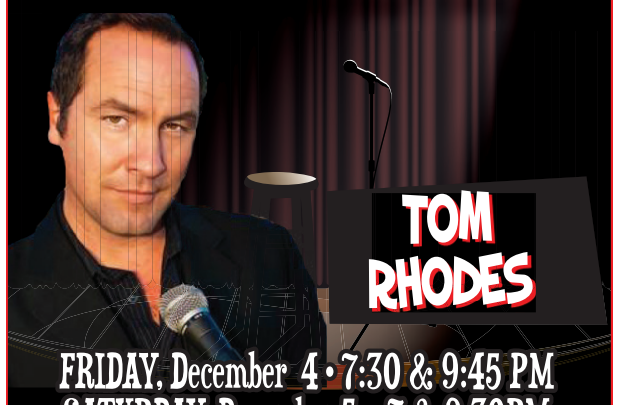

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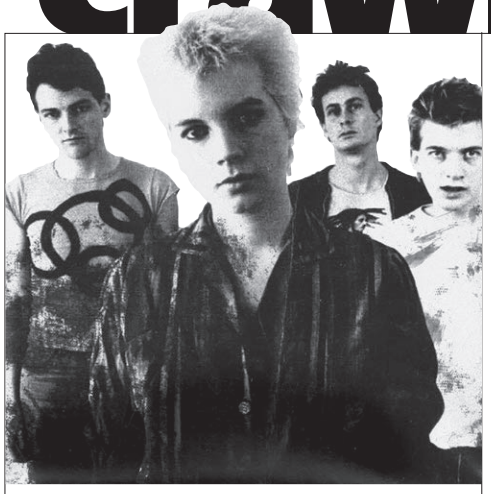


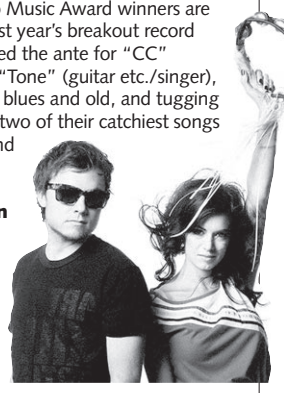
THE AVENGERS AT CASBAH

Thursday 3

It's the American in me that never wonders why/ Kennedy was murdered by the F-B-I! Update a few of the lyrics to the **Avengers**' indictment of blind patriotism, "The American in Me," and Penelope Houston's anthemic punk-rock rant still holds water. Of course, that water's polluted with 40 more years' worth of industrial waste, but you get the pic. Formed in 1977, the SanFran band was at the forefront of the Left Coast punk scene, opening for the Sex Pistols on their final American shows. For those of you who need a primer or a reminder, Avengers best-of set *American in Me* was recently reissued. Known these days as the "queen of neo-folk," Penelope Houston and original guitarist Greg Ingraham will front this year's Avengers at Casbah Thursday night after local throwbacks **I Wish I**, **Social Spit**, and the **Widows**.... Else: the post-bop seven-string guitar slinger Charlie Hunter plays the Loft at UCSD behind this year's *Let the Bells Ring On* — "Gritty, greasy, and downright celebratory...designed for the **Charlie Hunter Trio**'s singular, deep-pocket sound" — after soul-jazz trio **Bomb Squad** secures the room with their "organ grooves with a fat ass"...while **Jennie Vee**, a multi-instrumentalist who has accompanied Courtney Love, headlines sets at Soda Bar behind her "melancholic dream-pop" debut, *Spying*. **Vowws**, **Lowlands**, and **Blood Candy** open the show.

Friday 4

The scariest band in the land **Deadbolt** headlines sets by San Diego's favorite psych-n-blues trio **Schizophonics** and sepia-toned folkies **Creature & the Woods** up at Pappy & Harriet's in Pioneertown. If you need a night away, I can't think of a funner place to stay Friday night.... Not up for the drive, blues-pop duo **Little Hurricane** blows into town for two shows Friday and Saturday nights at Casbah. The San Diego Music Award winners are touring in support of last year's breakout record *Gold Fever*, which upped the ante for "CC" (drummer/singer) and "Tone" (guitar etc./singer), chugging through new blues and old, and tugging boots to the floor with two of their catchiest songs yet in "Summer Air" and "Boiling Water." On Friday, **Birdy Bardot**, **Dani Bell**, and **Rin Tin Tiger** will set it up. On Saturday, you get **Soft Lions**, **Dani Bell**, and **Rin Tin Tiger**.... Best of the rest Friday night: the **Amandas** will celebrate the season with their holiday soul revue at Whistle Stop in South Park...psych merchants **Operation: Mindblow** curate Winter's Womb 666 at Til-Two, featuring SanFran punk-n-roll band **Hot Lunch** with local heavies **Harsh Toke**, **Sacri Monti**, and **Loom**...while **Tanlines** and **IO Echo** split an indietronica bill at the Irenic.



LITTLE HURRICANE AT CASBAH

Saturday 5

At the Irenic on Saturday night there will be a screening of the **Marco Collins** rockumentary *The Glamour & the Squalor*, which you can read all about in this week's "Imperfect storm" Blurt. After the flick and Q&A with Collins (a former San Diego and Seattle radio personality known for breaking several gold-record-selling alt-rock acts), the all-ages venue stages local favorites **Octagrape** and **Big Bad Buffalo**.... Blues-rock great **Warren Haynes** (Allman Brothers, Gov't Mule) and his **Ashes & Dust Band** take the stage at the Observatory North Park — wait, nope, no they don't. According to Mr. Haynes's website, "Due to a family emergency, Warren Haynes and the Ashes & Dust Band have had to cancel their upcoming West Coast tour dates. Refunds will be available at point of purchase, and we hope to reschedule the shows soon".... Still looking to get your Southern rock on? Hoof it up to Ramona Mainstage, where the the rural rock outpost welcomes outlaw country's "longhaired redneck" **David Allan Coe** ("Take This Job and Shove It").... Else: from the Bay Area, black-metal band **Pale Chalice** spills its full-length debut, *Negate the Infinite & Miraculous*, at the Tower Bar after **Morphesia** and **Those Darn Gnomes**...while 'Zonie groove-metal band **Soulfly** hits Brick by Brick with this year's *Archangel*. **Contortion**, **Nukem**, **Daemos**, and **Hunt the Elite** open that show.

WHITE REAPER AT THE HIDEOUT

Sunday 6

ZIG ZAGS AT SODA BAR

L.A.'s purveyors of sci-fi garage-punk the **Zig Zags** light up at Soda Bar Sunday night. Take last year's self-titled In the Red record for a spin on the web, esp. head shredders "Brainded Warrior," "The Fog," and "Voices of the Paranoid." Yowza! Best part: the scuzz-rock power trio's drummer is the singer, just like Triumph! **Grids**, **Wild Honey**, and **Clean Room** set it up.... Otherwises: from Hollywood, 30-years-along glam-metal band **Faster Pussycat** hits Brick by Brick with **Gunner Gunner** and **Chamber Sixx**... while the two-time Grammy-winning *conguero* **Poncho Sanchez** will be slapping the skins in the Backstage Lounge at Humphreys.

Monday 7

Louisville quartet **White Reaper**'s *White Reaper Does It Again* was my surprise find this week. As far as power-pop records go, it was the most immediate and catchiest collection I'd heard all year, and here we are pressed up against 2016. It's nasal-sung fun-punk wrung from the records of the Sweet, the Beat, the Ramones, Cheap Trick, and the Who — like Green Day did/does, but with over-the-top organ runs that'll plaster a smile on your bobbing head. White Reaper hits the Hideout Monday night. *Psst, start coughing really loud around 2 or 3 today to set up that Tuesday morning call-in*.... The four-piece boy-girl Seattle act **Tacocat** describes themselves as "post-post-punk-pop-pop... Go-Go's meets the Monkees. Kurt meets Courtney." The witty indie kids broke out with last year's Hardly Art record *NVM* (Nevermind, heshers) and are still touring in support. The *Reader*'s Andrew Hamlin had a chat with the Cats in advance of Monday's gig at Casbah, where they open for **Sallie Ford**.... ZZ Top frontman **Billy Gibbons** will play from his first solo record, *Perfectamundo*, at Belly Up. Apparently the Rock Hall of Famer had an Afro-Cuban itch to scratch: "My dad sent me up to New York to study Latin percussion with Tito Puente. I learned maracas, timbales, clavas, bongos...you name it," Gibbons says. "And having lived in Mexico a couple years, I know just enough Spanish to get me in trouble." I couldn't get through the collection, but it's BFG, and he's got a guitar in his hands.

Tuesday 8

Avant-garde jazz trio the **Bad Plus** and saxophonist **Joshua Redman** take the stage at the Music Box in support of their 2015 collaboration *The Bad Plus Joshua Redman*, which tends away from the BP's hard-swing thing. It's tight, if a bit light, following Redman's jam-band leads. Stillandall, top-shelf jazz at the supper club...while just up Kettner, "one of our finest rock and roll fools — heart open wide and fangs bared," **Ezra Furman** and his **Boyfriends** hook up with a solo-rolling **Guy Blakeslee** (the Entrance Band) at Casbah.

Wednesday 9

The English power-pop hit-maker **Nick Lowe** has got a Christmas record to his credit, 2013's *Quality Street*, and a holiday show to go with it, which he will perform at Belly Up on Wednesday. Lowe took a call and some questions from the *Reader*'s Patrick Henderson for this week's "Yule to be kind" Blurt.... Around town Wednesday night: English flutist, saxophonist, singer, and space-rock pioneer **Nik Turner** and his **Hawkwind** blow into Til-Two after **Hedersleben**, **Tar Halos**, and **Die Mißbildungen Des Menschen**...NYC dance-rock band **Papa** ("satsfying both the soul and the sole of the shoe") and San Diego's narcotic surf-pop trio the **Gloomies** split a bill at Casbah...Alaskan alt-metal band **36 Crazyfists** hit Brick by Brick with **All Hail the Yeti**... while House of Blues plugs in **Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox**, a cabaret act that turns modern pop hits into ragtime-period pieces.

NIK TURNER'S HAWKWIND AT TIL-TWO

— *Barnaby Monk*

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 9PM
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ZACK W/ PACIFIC STAR • FREEKWENCY • DJ PWC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9PM, FREE!
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9PM
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GIRL TEARS • KEEPERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 9PM
DAM FUNK

OF NOTE

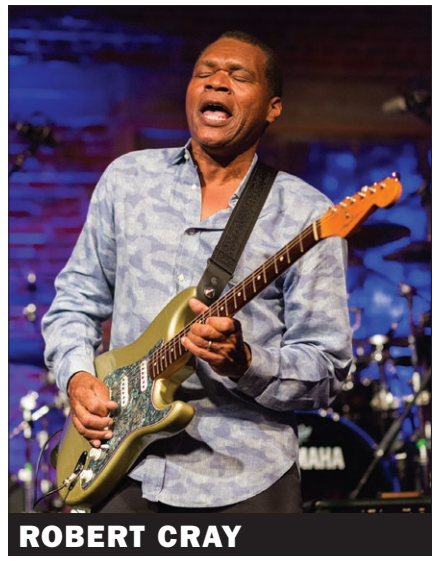
BY DAVE GOOD

Forty years of Robert Cray: all the while, some among us are waiting for that guitar of his to quicken into flames, rather than smolder like last night's fire. Not a very heroic guitar hero, his playing lays chained to simple melody and is never given over to crowd-pleasing rips up and down the fretboard. Perhaps the greater appeal of Robert Cray is his voice, which has cured over the years into something approaching honey-glazed. That's the stronger of his two instruments, in my opinion. Cray's singing is a righteous proclamation that surely took stimulus (if not grit) from soul crooners such as O.V. Wright or Bobby Bland. Today, Robert Cray is an R&B vocalist ensnared in the body of a grandee blues guitarist.

But he's not one to write off — Cray put the blues back into pop music radio playlists during the 1980s, and for a time, he was a fixture on the rock-concert circuit.

Born in Virginia, Cray hooked up with Curtis Salgado in the late 1970s; the band became a club favorite in Oregon and landed on the radar of the actors who would later become the Blues Brothers, John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd. They gave Cray a cameo in *Animal House* (playing bass), but he wouldn't break out big time until the early '80s, when his *Strong Persuader* earned the first of Cray's five Grammy awards.

A performance I'll not forget is the quiet guitarist paired with Shemeka Copeland, a fire-and-brimstone blues shouter if ever there was one. A heavyweight facing off against a flyweight (in terms of volume) is what I believed was going to happen, but no, Cray stood his ground and came away unscorched. Simple and dignified, he got the job done, and by the end of the gig I realize that Robert Cray's greater skill was that he had somehow sidestepped his way around the multitude of blues clichés present that night.



ROBERT CRAY

Shawn Jones also performs.
ROBERT CRAY: Belly Up, Friday, December 4, 9 p.m. 858-481-8140. $42–$74

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

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

3rd Space:
Thursday, 8pm — Latin Night

710 Beach Club:
Friday, 8pm — Lose Control
Saturday, 8pm — The Great Pumpkin

950 Lounge at the Handlery Hotel:
Friday, 5:30pm — Allan Phillips, Antar Martin, Richard Sellers

98 Bottles:
Sunday, 6pm — Daneen Wilburn: The Soul of Christmas

AMSDconcerts:
Friday, 7:30pm — The Leftover Cuties

Across the Street at Mueller College:
Friday, 8pm — Fast Heart Mart and Friends

Balboa Bar & Grill:
Friday, 9pm — Nexus 4000 and Juice Box

Balboa Park Activity Center:
Friday, 5pm — December Nights: Nein, more

Balboa Theatre:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Julian Lage and Milk Carton Kids

Bancroft:
Thursday, 9pm — Darkwave Garden
Tuesday, 8pm — Eskimo Brothers

Bang Bang:
Friday, 8pm — Bixel Boys and Hotfire
Saturday, 8pm — AC Slater and Hotfire

Barleymash:
Thursday, 8pm — DJ Chris Cutz

Belly Up:
Thursday, 8pm — The Venice Christmas Show
Friday, 8pm — Robert Cray Band
Saturday, 8pm — Slightly Stoopid
Sunday, 8pm — Six String Society: Christmas in Paris
Monday, 8pm — Billy Gibbons
Wednesday, 8pm — Nick Lowe's Quality Holiday Revue

Bethlehem Lutheran Church:
Sunday, 4pm — Choral Christmas Concert

Black Cat Bar:
Saturday, 8pm — G Burns Jug Band

Bourre Southern Bistro:
Thursday, 6pm — Gary Rich Jazz Jam

Brick by Brick:
Sunday, 8pm — Faster Pussycat and Chamber Sixx
Monday, 6pm — Metal Mondays
Wednesday, 8pm — 36 Crazyfists and Media Lab

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Ten Tenors: Home for the Holidays

Caribe Nightclub:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Devin the Dude and Pot Luck

Carlsbad Community Church:
Sunday, 2pm — Coastal Communities Concert Band Holiday Concert

Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center:
Thursday, 7pm, *Friday*, 7pm, *Saturday*, 7pm — Holly Jolly Holiday Show

Carmel Valley Library:
Wednesday, 7pm — In aChord

Casbah:
Thursday, 8pm — The Avengers
Friday, 8pm — Little Hurricane and Birdy Bardot
Saturday, 8pm — Little Hurricane and Soft Lions
Monday, 8pm — Sallie Ford and Tacocat
Tuesday, 8pm — Ezra Furman
Wednesday, 8pm — Papa

Central Library:
Saturday, 7pm — Throwback '90s Party

Monday, 6:30pm — Swing Dance Under the Dome

Che Cafe:
Saturday, 7:30pm — Cold World

City of Carlsbad Dove Library:
Thursday, 6:30pm — Dean Ratzman
Saturday, 2pm — Yale Strom & Hot P'Stromi

Company Pub and Kitchen:
Friday, 8pm — The Lucky Stiffs

Creative Performing & Media Arts Theater:
Sunday, 4pm — San Diego Women's Chorus: Love Is
Wednesday, 6:30pm — Once Upon a Winter Holiday Concert

Croce's Park West:
Friday, 7pm — Rob Thorsen Quartet

Cuyamaca College:
Friday, 7pm — Winter Wonder Jam

De Oro Mine Co:
Friday, 7pm — 22 Kings
Saturday, 7pm — Rosy Dawn

Dirk's Niteclub:
Friday, 7pm — TNT
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Hurricane

Dizzy's:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Mesa College: Jingle Bell Jazz
Saturday, 8pm — Irving Flores Quintet & Charlie Arbelaez
Sunday, 7pm — Evil Genius

Downtown Cafe:
Friday, 6pm — Brown Sugar

Fluxx:
Thursday, 8pm — Valentino Khan

Friday, 8pm — BRKLYN
Saturday, 8pm — Karma

Gossip Grill:
Thursday, 8pm — DJ Joey Jimenez
Friday, 8pm — DJ Dank
Saturday, 8pm — DJ Dida
Sunday, 8pm — DJ Kinky Loops

Hard Rock Cafe:
Thursday, 5pm — Kathryn Cloward

Hideout:
Monday, 8pm — White Reaper

House of Blues:
Friday, 8pm — Damage Inc., Noise Pollution, BMUSE
Sunday, 1pm — Kidz Bop Holiday Tour
Tuesday, 8pm — Robin Henkel
Wednesday, 8pm — Scott Bradlee & Postmodern Jukebox

Irenic:
Friday, 7pm — Tanlines
Saturday, 8pm — The Glamour & the Squalor

Java Joe's:
Thursday, 8pm — The Gregory Page Show

Joan B. Kroc Theatre:
Sunday, 5pm — Christmas with the Salvation Army

Kava Lounge:
Sunday, 6pm — Phonic and Jon Kanis

La Jolla United Methodist Church:
Sunday, 4pm — Christmas Concert: Somebody Build a Manger

Larry's Beach Club:
Saturday, 5pm — Bull Twist

WED 12/2 @ THE IRENIC — PHUTUREPRIMITIVE — BASS PHYSICS
THU 12/3 JENNIE VEE — VOWWS — LOWLANDS • BLOOD CANDY
FRI 12/4 BROTHERTIGER — BAKKUDA • NITE LAPSE
SAT 12/5 OKILLY DOKILLY — SKAPECHE MODE • NAME THE BAND
SUN 12/6 ZIG ZAGS — GRIDS — WILD HONEY • CLEAN ROOM
MON 12/7 MCCLAIN SULLIVAN — NOBLE WAR • BLACK OAK HYMNAL
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WED 12/9 BLUETECH — LUSINE • BEAT PANTHER
WED 12/9 @ TIL-TWO CLUB — NICK TURNER'S HAWKWIND — HEDERSLEBEN • TAR HALOS — DIE MISSBILDUNGEN DES MENSCHEN
THU 12/10 KIM AND THE CREATED — KERA AND THE LESBIANS • SHADY FRANCOS
FRI 12/11 MIKE KROL — RUPERT ANGELEYES • SCHIZOPHONICS
FRI 12/11 @ THE IRENIC — FINCH — SOUVENIRS • CASEY BOLLES
SAT 12/12 DAVID WAX MUSEUM — MARTIN O'REILLY • JOHN MEEKS
SAT 12/12 @ TIL-TWO CLUB — AGNOSTIC FRONT — FURY • DEATH MARCH • REVOLT-CHIX
SAT 12/12 @ THE IRENIC — THE MAINE • THE TECHNICOLORS
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FRIDAY | DECEMBER 11 | AMERICANA
CALICO
SAVANNAH PHILYAW

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 27 | POP
SOPHIE B. HAWKINS

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 18 | METAL
AN EVENING WITH MACHINE HEAD
(EARLY SHOW)

FRIDAY | JANUARY 8 | ROCK
AUTOGRAPH
BIG TOE • LOS LIZZY

FRI JAN 15 — JOHN ANDERSON
SAT JAN 30 — COMEDIAN BRET ERNST
FRI FEB 5 — GEOFF TATE'S OPERATION: MINDCRIME (ORIGINAL LEAD SINGER OF QUEENSRYCHE)
SAT FEB 13 — MIKE ZITO AND THE WHEEL
FRI FEB 26 — YOUNG DUBLINERS
SAT FEB 27 — COMEDIAN JOHN CAPONERA
SAT MAR 5 — MASTERS OF PUPPETS
FRI MAR 11 — ULI JON ROTH, JENNIFER BATTEN, AND ANDY TIMMONS • TAZ TAYLOR
FRI MAR 18 — UFO • POINTS NORTH • SYMBOLIC

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Loft:
Thursday, 8pm — Charlie Hunter Trio
Friday, 8pm — Kendrick Scott Oracle
Saturday, 2pm — Guitar Clinics

Martinis Above Fourth:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Jake Simpson

Mediterranean Cafe:
Friday, 7pm — Adrienne NIms

MiraCosta College:
Thursday, 7:30pm, *Friday*, 7:30pm — Frequency Winter Concerts

Molly Malone's:
Friday, 9pm — Myron & the Kyniptionz
Saturday, 9pm — Del Rio Country

Moonshine Flats:
Friday, 8pm — Old Dominion

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8pm — That Captain
Friday, 9pm — Custard Pie
Saturday, 4pm — Blues Skies and Martin Kent
Saturday, 8:30pm — Santanaways

Music Box:
Thursday, 6pm — Listen Local All Access Fest
Friday, 8:45pm — The PettyBreakers
Saturday, 8pm — Johnny Clarke, Tetrack, Norris Reid
Tuesday, 7:30pm — The Bad Plus Joshua Redman

Nate's Garden Grill:
Thursday, 6pm — Missy & Heine Andersen
Friday, 6pm — Gregory Martin Campbell
Saturday, 6pm — Robin Henkel
Sunday, 6pm — Don Howell

Navajo Live:
Friday, 8pm — YYZed and Madman
Saturday, 8pm — Bloodlines

Norman Park Senior Center:
Thursday, 1pm — The Sophisticats Senior Dance

North Coast Repertory Theatre:
Monday, 7:30pm — Merideth Kaye Clark

Northern Spirits Jazz Club & Restaurant:
Friday, 7:30pm — Dave Scott & the New Jazz Groove

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Music Reviews from Our Readers

Zipper Down
Eagles of Death Metal

By Andrew Perez

Entertaining, if brief, foray into rock music insanity

The Eagles of Death Metal has never been a band that cares much about being labeled irreverent. With tongues firmly wedged into their cheeks, Jesse Hughes (on vocals and guitar) and Queens of the Stone Age frontman Josh Homme (on drums) have made a career out of creating unpretentious rock and roll with a sense of humor. *Zipper Down*, their first record in seven years, continues the band's quest to dominate the airwaves, and they sound like they are having one hell of a time doing it.

The catchy "Silverlake (K.S.O.F.M.)" tells the story of a hipster trying to gain entrance into a club. The song is a sharp satirical take on the boho culture of Silver Lake, Los Angeles, and features lyrics such as, "Make sure you tell him, girl, just how important that I am/ I am from Silverlake, and I am in a cool band/ Don't you know who I am?"

Other choice cuts include the thrasher "Got a Woman," the funky strip-club anthem "Skin Tight Boogie," and the sing-along ballads "Oh Girl" and "I Love You All the Time," the last of which wouldn't sound out of place at a karaoke bar for greasers.

At 11 songs and a lean length of 34 minutes, *Zipper Down* is an entertaining, if brief, foray into rock music insanity, with enough hooks and grooves to fill ten albums. If there's a lesson to be learned from this record, it's that these two really know how to have a ball. Let's hope it doesn't take another seven years to get invited back to the party.

Lucy's last show

By Mark Carpowich

Lucy's Fur Coat onstage for the last time...until the next time.

The last time Lucy's Fur Coat played at the Casbah, I left in an ambulance. At the time, band members were promising it would be their last-ever show, and an enthusiastic crowd was going to make sure they went out with a bang. But, rowdy fans + someone's broken pint glass = trip to the ER.

Thankfully, I survived to see the band play another pair of shows…and, thankfully, so did guitarist Tony Sanfilippo, whose major heart attack in July nearly brought an end to more than just the group's return to the stage after a nearly seven-year break.

Time may be catching up with him, as he sang in "Myself," but in 2015 Charlie Ware is still possibly the best singer to ever front a San Diego band. A ball of ceaseless energy, Ware alternated between menacing and happy at the Casbah, at one point even giving Sanfilippo a kiss on the head, mid-solo. Tight in some spots and a little less so in others, the band's return to the stage was every bit as chaotic and unpredictable as ever.

Ware announced that Lucy's Fur Coat's upcoming appearance at October's 91X Homecoming show would be the band's final show…prompting guitarist Mike Santos to add, "Until the next one, anyway."

Concert: Lucy's Fur Coat
Date: September 19 and 20
Venue: Casbah
Seats: In the back

Up to $50 for your concert review, $25 for your CD review. Submit at *SDReader.com/critic*

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Anthony Smith Quartet

Observatory North Park:
Friday, 6pm — Slightly Stoopid and Yellowman
Saturday, 7:30pm — Warren Haynes
Sunday, 7:30pm — Snoop Dogg

Ocean Beach Library:
Saturday, 1:30pm — Leah Panos

Ocean Beach Pier:
Wednesday, 4pm — O.B. Holiday Concert

Office:
Thursday, 8pm — Murray Christmas Party

Pala Mesa Resort:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind

Pit:
Friday, 8pm — Soft Lions

Pour House:
Saturday, 8pm — Taryn Donath Duo

Poway Center for the Performing Arts:
Saturday, 8pm — The Temptations Christmas Concert

Ramona Mainstage Nightclub:
Friday, 7:30pm — Glisten Studio Student Showcase
Saturday, 7pm — David Allan Coe

Rosie O'Grady's:
Friday, 8pm — Rip Carson

San Diego Civic Theatre:
Friday, 7:30pm — Andy Grammer

San Diego Museum of Art:
Friday, 5pm — December Nights: La Jolla Renaissance Singers

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:
Sunday, 2:30pm — Scripps Ranch A Capella Singers

Smith Recital Hall at SDSU:
Monday, 7pm — SDSU Javanese Gamelan

Soda Bar:
Friday, 8pm — Brothertiger
Saturday, 8pm — Okilly Dokilly and Skapeche Mode
Sunday, 8pm — Zig Zags
Monday, 8pm — McClain Sullivan
Wednesday, 8pm — Bluetech

Soma:
Friday, 6pm — A Hero Within and Sight Unscene
Saturday, 6:30pm — Seconds Ago
Wednesday, 6pm — Ghost Town and Dangerkids

Spacebar Cafe:
Saturday, 7pm — Kathryn Cloward

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
Friday, 4pm, *Saturday*, 4pm, *Sunday*, 4pm — December Nights: Carol Williams

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:
Monday, 6:30pm — Acoustic Blues Jam

Til-Two:
Friday, 8pm — Hot Lunch, Harsh Toke, Carousel
Saturday, 8pm — The Israelites
Wednesday, 8pm — Nik Turner's Hawkwind

Tin Roof San Diego:
Wednesday, 7pm — Carter Winter and Dannie Marie

Tio Leo's:
Saturday, noon — Doug Davis Benefit: Bayou Brothers, more

Tower 13:
Saturday, 8:30pm — Novocaine

Tower Bar:
Saturday, 8pm — Pale Chalice

U-31:
Sunday, 8pm — Reggae SD Presents

University of San Diego:
Friday, 7:30pm — *Messiah* Sing/Play Along
Saturday, 3pm — Christmas in Italy
Sunday, 2pm — *Messiah* Sing/Play Along

Uptown Tavern:
Friday, 9pm — DJ Joey Jimenez

Villa Musica:
Friday, 8pm — Nathan Hubbard Trio

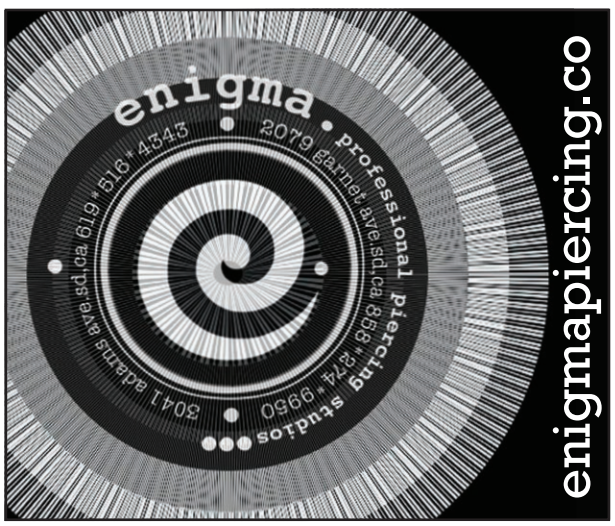
Vision Center for Spiritual Living:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Folkey Monkey: Peter Bolland

Vista Library:
Sunday, 1:30pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind

West Coast Tavern:
Thursday, 9pm — DJ Slowhand

Whistle Stop Bar:
Friday, 7pm — The Amandas

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, 8pm — Poor Man's Whiskey
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band



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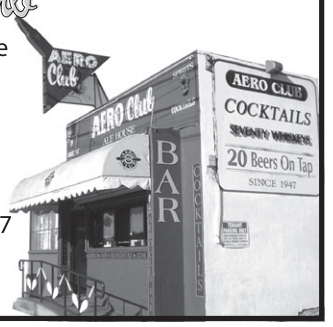

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Amahl and the Night Visitors Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a fully staged Christmas opera production, featuring a live symphony orchestra. Based on Italian folk tales of the Nativity and Epiphany, it is a retelling of the story of the Magi from the point of view of a young disabled boy named Amahl. He lives in poverty with his widowed mother near Bethlehem. One night, he sees a bright star in the sky and tells his mother to go look. She brushes him off, buried in concern over their bleak future and lack of means with which to support themselves. That night, three kings come across their meager hut and seek shelter, for they have traveled long and far following the star of which Amahl had spoken. Friday, December 4, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 6, 5pm; $15-$30. Village Presbyterian Church, 6225 Paseo Delicias.

Messiah Sing/Play Along Sing or play in Handel's *Messiah* with the Greater San Diego Music Coterie Chamber Orchestra and Chorus. This year you will also have a chance to sing along with some of the Part I arias sung by select chorus members. Bring your own score or rent one ($5) at the door. The Greater San Diego Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Angela Yeung, will accompany with the expanded orchestra version arranged by W.A. Mozart. Friday, December 4, 7:30pm; Sunday, December 6, 2pm; $5-$10. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalˆ Park.

Bach Collegium San Diego: Messiah Performances will feature a complete London version from the early 1750s, highlighting the oratorio's historical connections with London's Foundling Hospital. Saturday, December 5, 8pm; $25-$50. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue. Sunday, December 6, 5pm; $25-$50. First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street.

THEATER LISTINGS

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

The 1940s Radio Hour
New Village Arts stages Walt Jones's holiday musical. It's December 22, 1941. The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade performs its final holiday radio broadcast (including a five-minute version of *A Christmas Carol*). Dana Case directs, with musical direction by Tony Houck.
NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.

A Charlie Brown Christmas
The Pickwick Players stage a theatrical adaptation of the animated television special, "where Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the other Peanuts grapple with the real meaning of Christmas." Jennie Hamilton directs.
OFF-BROADWAY, 9490 CUYAMACA ST., SANTEE. 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 19.

A Christmas Carol
Cygnet Theatre reprises its holiday celebration of "a Victorian Christmas with original music and puppetry," adapted by Sean Murray with an original score by Billy Thompson. Murray directs.
CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

The Aliens
Annie Baker's comedy-drama is technically interesting. She wants at least one third of the stage-time to be pauses or long silences. These give the audience time, as the pace of things speeds up everywhere, to reflect. Or, as with 30-ish K.J. and Jasper, to see the world through a slacker/stoner's eye as they slowly influence teenaged Dean. Ion Theatre's production gets the place right, the backyard of a coffee shop, but not the characters or the pauses.
ION THEATRE COMPANY BLKBOX THEATRE, 3704 SIXTH AVE., HILLCREST. 619-600-5020. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 12.

Big Apple Christmas
Community Actors Theatre presents the late Stephen C. Yednock Jr.'s "inspirational play about the true meaning of Christmas and the marvel in celebrating this special day." Jennie Hamilton directs.
COMMUNITY ACTORS THEATRE, 2957 54TH ST., OAK PARK. 619-264-3391. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 3PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

Black Kat Theatre: 2015 in Review, A Living Newspaper
Black Kat Theatre presents its annual sketch comedy revue looking back at "the best and the worst events of the year," including "the interruption speech throw-down between Kanye West, ODB and Donald Trump," And "Josh Duggar as he attends an Ashley Madison seminar on "How to Save your Marriage and Still Get Away with Cheating." Songs include "Let's Hear It for the Pope," and "Putin Is the Shit." Tisha Tumagan directs and choreographs.
DESI'S BAR & GRILL, 2734 LYTTON ST., MIDWAY DISTRICT. 619-224-6409. 7PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY.

The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence
Playwright Madeline George wants her script to be a tour de force, along with a tour of four eras, each a semi-clone of the others. So she time-jumps from Sherlock Holme's Watson to the supercomputer (named Watson) that beat two past champions on *Jeopardy.* Along the way the play wonders what an ideal companion would be like, and the effects of the Technological Singularity looming in our future. The play has some rich ideas and clashes of ideas, but was not written for actors. Moxie's cast (Jo Anne Glover, Eddie Yaroch, Justin Lang), directed by guru Delicia Turner Sonnenberg, makes for a game, often funny show, albeit one that do go on. *Worth a try.*
MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 6.

Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights
The SDSU School of Theatre, Television, and Film, presents Gertrude Stein's 1938, avant-garde take on the classic Faust myth asking the question, "Would you sell your soulâ€¦?" Peter Cinno directs.
DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 7:30PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas
The Old Globe Theatre presents its popular Christmas show. Once again the Green Meanie will try to ruin the holiday season for the citizens of Whoville. This is the Globe's 18th staging. This time, will he succeed? James Vasquez directs.
OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 7PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 26.

Greetings!
Carlsbad Playreaders present Tom Dudzick's comedy about when Andy brings his Jewish athiest fiance home to meet his parents on Christmas Eve. "His worst fears about family blow-ups are realized." Ted Leib directs.
SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY, 1775 DOVE LANE, CARLSBAD. 760-602-2049. 7:30PM MONDAY.

The Heir Apparent
Adapted by David Ives from the French original by Jean-Francois Regnard, *The Heir Apparent* is a clever farce currently entertaining audiences with its comic shtick at Scripps Ranch. Robert May directs shrewdly for maxi-

SCHOOL PLAYS

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS AND SCROOGE MAKES UP
DEC. 3 7PM, DEC. 4 7PM, DEC. 5 7PM, DEC. 10 7PM, DEC. 11 7PM, DEC. 12 7PM
EL CAJON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
DEC. 11 7PM, DEC. 12 2PM, DEC. 12 7PM, DEC. 13 2PM, DEC. 13 7PM, DEC. 17 7PM, DEC. 18 7PM, DEC. 19 2PM, DEC. 19 7PM, DEC. 20 2PM
LYCEUM THEATRE

A PIECE OF MY HEART
FEB. 19 7PM, FEB. 21 2PM, FEB. 26 7PM, FEB. 27 7PM, FEB. 28 2PM
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE

ANNIE JR.
DEC. 11 7:30PM, DEC. 12 2PM, DEC. 12 7:30PM, DEC. 13 2PM, DEC. 18 7:30PM, DEC. 19 2PM, DEC. 19 7:30PM
STAR THEATRE

A VERY BRONCO HOLIDAY SHOW
DEC. 3, DEC. 4, DEC. 5
RANCHO BERNARDO HIGH SCHOOL

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD KIDS
DEC. 10 7PM, DEC. 11 7PM, DEC. 12 7PM, DEC. 12 2PM
VISTA ACADEMY OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.
DEC. 11 7PM, DEC. 12 7PM, DEC. 13 2PM
JOAN B. KROC THEATRE

CAMP ROLLING HILLS
FEB. 25, FEB. 26, FEB. 27

MUSICAL THEATRE REVUE
DEC. 3 7PM
CORONADO SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SPRING MUSICAL TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS
DEC. 18 7PM, DEC. 19 11AM, DEC. 19 3PM, DEC. 19 7PM, DEC. 20 2PM, DEC. 20 7PM, DEC. 21 2PM, DEC. 21 7PM, DEC. 22 2PM, DEC. 22 7PM, DEC. 23 2PM
DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU

To list a school play, go to sdreader.com/events/submit *and select School Plays as the category.*

Calendar
THEATER

mum comic effect, showing a rare understanding of French farce. Eric Poppick, as the miser Geronte, has created a marvelous, raunchy, saucy character and his handling of the verse is truly sublime. As the quick-witted servants, Lisettte and Crispon, Kristin Woodburn and Joshua Jones romp through their parts with obvious joy and energy. *Worth a try. Review by Larry Steckling*
SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 13.

Indecent
Paula Vogel's new "play with music" covers almost 50 years in the life of a controversial play — Sholem Asch's *The God of Vengeance* — in about 100 minutes without an intermission. The co-production, by the La Jolla Playhouse and Yale Rep, is a master class in ensemble work. Ten performers sing, dance, and act in different styles, all interwoven by director Rebecca Taichman and choreographer David Dorfman. The play is both entertaining and important. But it has at least five different stories which, at breakneck speed, sometimes hit and sometimes miss. *Worth a try.*
LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 10.

Irving Berlin's White Christmas
San Diego Musical Theatre stages a musical adaptation of the popular film and includes 17 songs by Irving Berlin. Veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis have a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters en route to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil's former Army Commander.
SPRECKELS THEATRE, 121 BROADWAY, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-9500. 7:30PM THURSDAY, 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

LGBTQ+ On Campus
Circle Circle dot dot presents a "site specific examination of queer student life at SDSU. This two-hour "rotating installation" (maps available at circle@circle2dot2.com) is inspired by true stories of current LGBTQ students living and working at SDSU, including "dating, roommate, drama, coming out experiences, gender and sexual exploration, and general campus tolerance and intolerance."
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 619-594-5200. 2PM TUESDAY.

Lamb's Players Festival of Christmas: All I Want for Christmas
Lamb's Players presents Kerry Meads's "holiday play." It's 1949 in San Diego's Little Italy, where the "sleepy little town is going through big changes." Meads directs.
LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 27.

Laugh Stories
In this 90-minute collection of one-act comedies from San Diego playwright Michael Shames, "Glori navigates through her teens into adulthood, meeting a variety of unusual and memorable characters along the way." John Tessmer directs.
TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 8PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, 7:30PM SUNDAY.

Meet Me in St. Louis
The Welk Resorts Theatre presents a musical adaptation from the Judy Garland movie. Financial trouble faces the Smith family. Songs include "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "The Boy Next Door." Larry Raben directs.
WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH JANUARY 31.

Miracle on 34th Street
Lake San Marcos Players presents this family Christmas classic performed as an onstage radio theater production. When Kris Kringle claims that he really is really Santa Claus, a court case must determine his mental health and, more importantly, his authenticity. Larry Steckling directs.
LAKE PAVILION AT LAKE SAN MARCOS, 1105 LA BONITA DR., SAN MARCOS. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3PM SUNDAY.

The Oldest Boy
In Sarah Ruhl's comedy-drama, Mother has lived an in-between life, committed in the morning, lax by sunset. When two Tibetan monks inform her that her son Tenzin is the reincarnation of a high lama, Mother ("a kind of a Buddhist") must face the unthinkable: send her son to India. Unlike Ruhl's other inventive plays, *Oldest Boy* is almost one-note predictable: not will, but how will Mother resolve the question? A stellar Rep production and a special performance by Amanda Sitton as Mother bring life and urgency to the script's semi-formal debate between the individual and society. **Critic's Pick.**
SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 6.

Orson Welles Presents: A Christmas Carol Radio Show
For many years, Orson Welles presented a "wireless" production of the popular Dickens's story on Christmas Eve. Lamplighters Community Theatre stages a recreation of the 1939 broadcast.
LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

Southern Hospitality
The Futrelle Sisters — Frankie, Twink, Honey Raye and Rhonda Lynn — are in trouble again. This time, their beloved hometown, Fayro, Texas, is in danger of disappearing, and the sisters must save it from extinction. 619-940-6813.
TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

This Wonderful Life
North Coast Repertory Theatre reprises James Leaming's one person show based on the perennial favorite, *It's a Wonderful Life,* in which he plays all 32 characters.
NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7PM TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY.

Tinseltown Christmas
Patio Playhouse Community and Youth Theater stage the holiday musical (book and lyrics, Chana Wise, music, Carl Johnson). Neighbors Monica and Steve have only one thing in common: at Christmas people seem happy, but "everyone's faking." Ghosts of Golden Age Christmas movies'll show them otherwise.
PATIO PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 116 S. KALMIA STREET. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, THROUGH DECEMBER 20.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike
Coronado Playhouse presents Christopher Durang's Tony Award-winning comedy (2013) about a dysfunctional family of siblings named after some of Anton Chekhov's most complicated characters.
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, THROUGH NOVEMBER 20.

Write Out Loud: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Write Out Loud, the popular company that reads works of drama and literature, out loud, presents its annual holiday program. This years' presents stories from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales and includes works by Robert Louis Stevenson, John B. Keane, Patrick Kavanagh, Evelyn Waugh, and Dylan Thomas. The pieces were chosen to "encourage people to think about what 'good will' is really about." Music is by The Celtic Echoes. *Worth a try.*
CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM MONDAY.

AUDITIONS

A Little Night Music
CORONADO PLAYHOUSE
1835 Strand Way, Coronado
Prepare a one-minute song that best showcases your range and vocal ability. Songs from Stephen Sondheim are requested, and selections from the show are welcomed. Bring sheet music in correct key or CD/MP3 file. An accompanist will be provided. No a cappella. All characters have a soft, non-descript British or standard neutral American accent. Be prepared to read in this accent. Non-Equity production. E-mail audition@coronadoplayhouse.com with your name and telephone number and picture/resume attached with NIGHT MUSIC in subject line. Or call the director, Jennie Connard, 858-205-9168. Appointments will be scheduled in five-minute increments. Callbacks Thursday, December 10, 6pm-10pm by invitation at St. Marks Episcopal Church, 4227 Fairmount Avenue. Runs April 1 to May 8, Thursday through Saturday at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Book by Hugh Wheeler, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Directed by Jennie Gray.
Auditions: DEC. 6 & 7 6PM

Annie Warbucks
DAVID AND DOROTHEA GARFIELD THEATRE
4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla
Calling all young artists, ages 7-18. Audition for *Annie Warbucks*, the sequel to *Annie*. Info: 858-362-1155 or laurenl@lfjcc.org.
Auditions: DEC. 14 & 15 6PM

Billy Elliot
CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONSERVATORY THEATRE
11722 Sorrento Valley Rd., Sorrento Valley

Prepare a one-minute song in the musical theatre genre. Auditioners 12 and under may use a CD. Those over 13 must have sheet music, marked and in the correct key. If you are auditioning for a principal role, also prepare a monologue. Rehearsals in Clairemont, Tierrasanta, and Santee on weekends. Show dates May 21 to June 5. Rehearsals begin early February.
Auditions: JAN. 29 & 30

Bedside Manners
POWPAC
13250 Poway Rd., Poway
Cast requirements: 2 females, 3 males. Runs May 6 to June 5, 2016. Plot synopsis: When Ferris reluctantly agrees to look after his sister's seedy country hotel, he could not foresee the wild comings-and-goings that were about to happen when two young couples arrive for the weekend.
Auditions: FEB. 22 & 23

The Odd Couple and The Female Odd Couple
STAR THEATRE
402 N. Coast Hwy., Oceanside

Casting for both shows and all roles. For the female version, the character of Oscar has been changed to Olive Madison; Felix is Florence Unger. Actors ages 21 and up. Prepare a two-minute comedic monologue from American Theater. Callbacks Thursday, December 17 at 6pm. Rehearsals begin January 11. Runs February 12-14 and 19-21.
Auditions: DEC. 14 6PM

Private Eyes
Seeking two females and three males. A "comedy of suspicion" by Steven Dietz. Directed by Jay Mower. Runs March 18 to April 10. This is a play predicated on surprise and misdirection in which nothing is ever what it seems.
Auditions: DEC. 21 & 22

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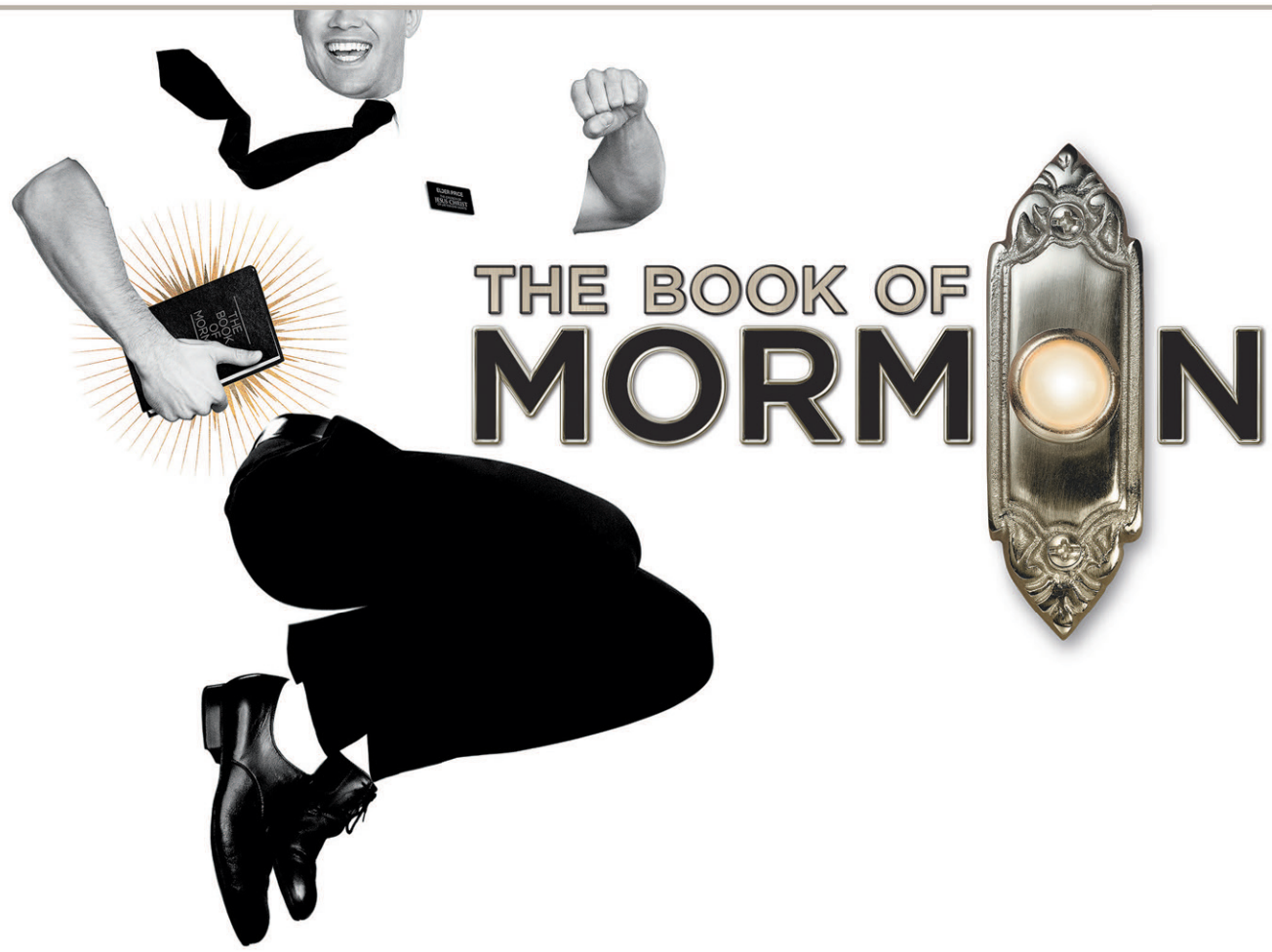

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Only a mother

While taking a vacation from taking a vacation, the titular and incognizant party boy of *James White* gets a call that his co-dependent mother's stage-four cancer has spread. The only things separating this from the typical disease-of-the-week tripe beamed directly to one's satellite dish is first-time director Josh Mond's weathered adherence to indie totems — jump cuts, tailing characters with a camera, constricting closeups, jiggering compositions — and Cynthia Nixon's world-beating performance, one that rivals any of its kind that we've seen. Balancing her subtleties are the pay-attention-to-me pyrotechnics of Christopher Abbott as the brooding, thoroughly detestable son that only a mother can love. If watching a character slowly drop dead before your eyes — no matter how exactingly individualized the performance may be — is your idea of a good night at the movies, this comes highly recommended.

— *Scott Marks*

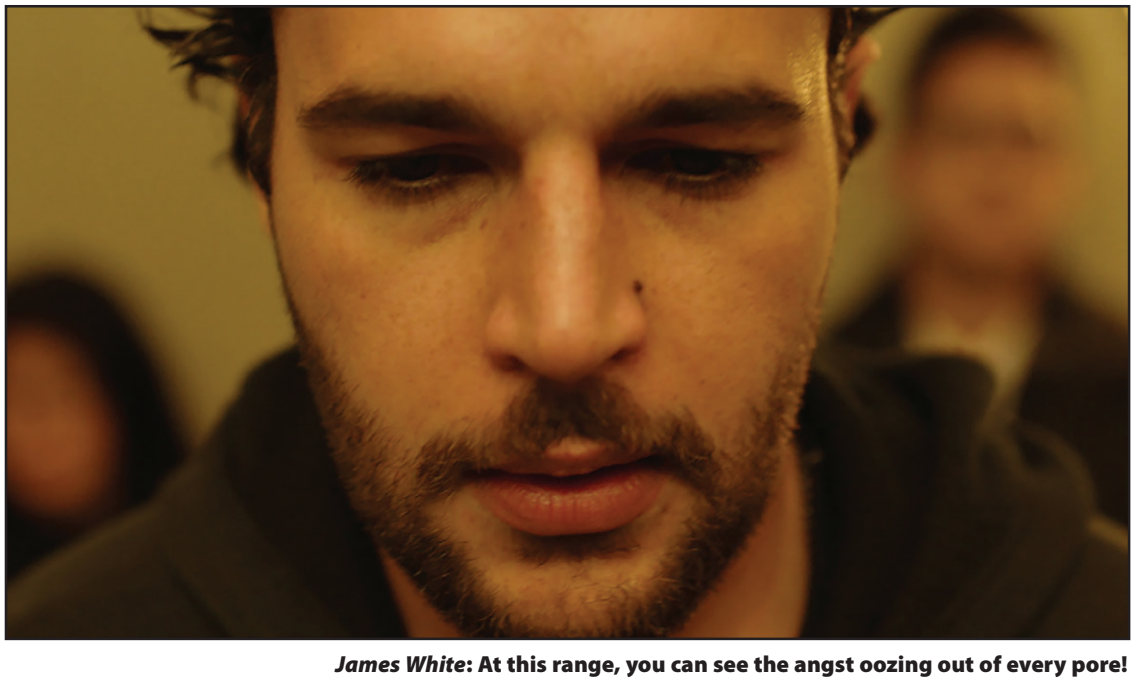
MOVIES

DIRECTOR RICK ALVERSON: THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

Rick Alverson's *Entertainment* not only elicits the same kind of uncomfortable laughter fans of comedian Gregg Turkington's alter ego Neil Hamburger have long grown accustomed to, it does so in understated and sublimely subversive cinematic terms. Starting Friday, you have a week to see it at the Digital Gym.

Scott Marks: The film is being sold as a drama. How do you account for my frequent bursts of laughter throughout?

Rick Alverson (laughing): It's built as a drama, but I understand if individuals have access to reading it comedically at times. For a larger audience — which there may or may not be — it's also designed to be read as a desperate tale of frayed identity. We tested it, and I became interested in the way that audiences were digesting it, if it was accomplishing the right balance of attraction and repulsion. The majority of the people hadn't heard of Neil Hamburger, which is fine and great because it's not a promotional vehicle for that persona. It's its own thing. They read things as tragic that people who have access to a particular brand of humor find cathartic.



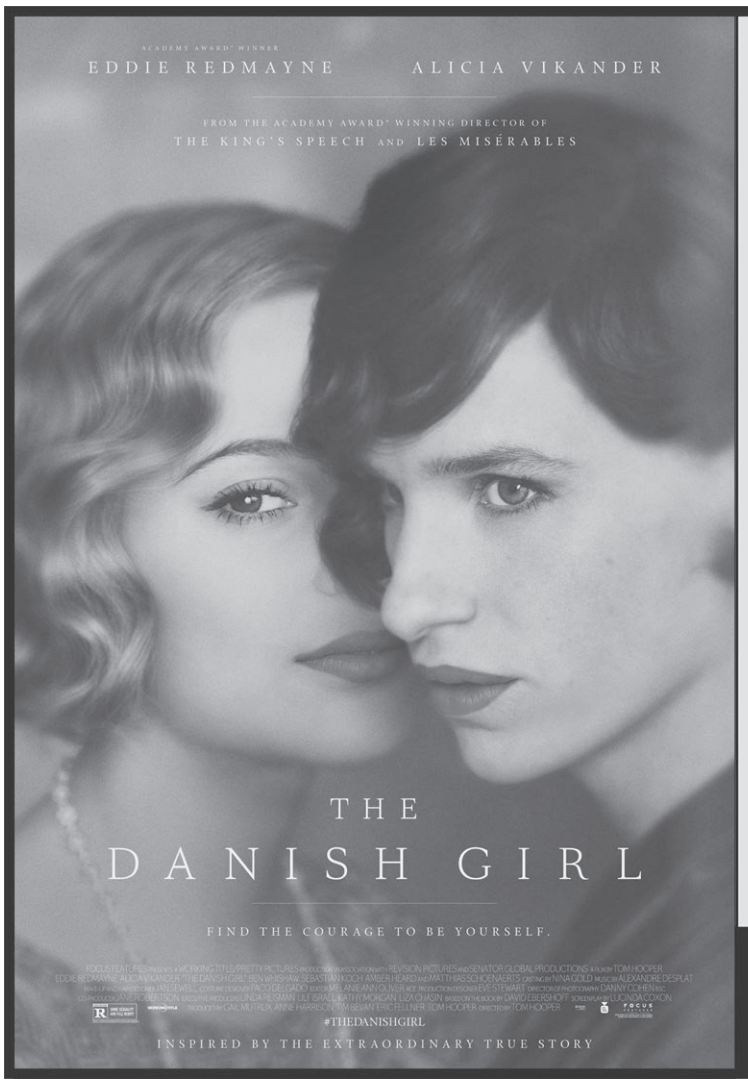
***James White*: At this range, you can see the angst oozing out of every pore!**

SM: How difficult was it to get this script funded?

RA: Fairly difficult. That having been said, we did finance it, so it's certainly not impossible (laughing). It works against the grain for the economic formula for commercial fare in American cinema, insofar as it's flirting with and subverting a lot of conventions. That's the form of the thing — and also its real value, if it has any. When you subvert the formulas that are tried and true by flipping over the table people sit at waiting for their meal, you have to find the few brave souls willing to throw their money in the pot, which we did.

SM: There have been a lot of bad movies made about standup comics. For every *King of Comedy* and *Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World*, there are dozens of wretched wannabes like *Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling*, *Punchline*, *Mr. Saturday Night*, and *Funny People*. What was it about Gregg Turkington's Neil Hamburger character that moved you to fashion a film around him?

RA: The Hamburger character is grafted intact onto the stage persona



FOCUS FEATURES

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IN THEATERS DECEMBER 11

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you see in the film. The offstage persona, which occupies 95 percent of the movie, is a collaboration between Gregg and I, a creation in the context of the film. We share a lot of the same proclivities, and interests, and restlessness, and discomfort — whether it's the comedic ends for him or dramatic ends for me.

The character is something he's built for 20 years, and at this point has become an increasingly antiquated formal construction. There's this sort of interest in the slightly autobiographical, totally "honest" comedy. When I saw him perform, besides all the formal traits — the cadences, the repetition, the construction of that character — aside from being funny, the stage performances are fascinating for me. There is this "man out of time" quality to it, because there's an increasing disinterest in form. Everything is content-driven and disposable. I saw that in his character. The bitterness of the character is maybe a concern and lament of Gregg Turkington as the author of that stand-up character. It certainly is in the movie, too. The movie is a pretty formal construction that over the course of its 100 minutes becomes more preoccupied with form than content.

SM: From the moment the light hits the screen, you lock us into this man's universe with a rock steady point-of-view. As much as I detest mainstream cinema's unerringly sentimental depiction of the mentally challenged, I'm always up for a slow descent into madness.

RA (laughing): Okay! Good!

SM: There were certain moments where you lost me, but to your credit as a filmmaker, I never lost interest. When asked the best way to understand the meaning of *Un Chien Andalou*, Luis Bunuel said something to the effect of, "The only method of investigation would be, perhaps, psychoanalysis." Can the same be said of *Entertainment*?

RA (laughing): I'm not into psychoanalysis. There is too much of the intellect at play in everything we do. The suggestion that the thing lost you at certain times intellectually but you didn't lose interest — to me, that's a huge compliment. The thing is engineered to bring the arbiter of the intellect that very conveniently unpacks and orders experience, particularly in narrative cinema, to a point where people walk out feeling that they've digested something. Or at least believe that they have. That we haven't been altered physiologically, psychologically, and that we haven't been touched physically.

It's a very convenient, efficient, functional way of providing an entirely disposable experience. The interests of this movie are to disrupt that. I do believe that we can be engaged and that our curiosity can be handled tactily and more immediately and experientially than just that simple unpacking of intellectual information. My objective is to disrupt that, but provide a real, formal meaning that isn't just a Freudian unpacking of symbolism. That's what the whole experiment was about. Much more than comedy, certainly.

— 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. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

The 33 — In 2010, a Chilean copper and gold mine collapsed, trapping 33 men over 2,000 feet below ground. This is a dramatization of that, with the emphasis on "drama" — ginned up, ladled on, and overbaked. The film is largely content to depict the rescue effort on the surface — vigiliant loved ones (including a weirdly cast Juliette Binoche), heartfelt political speeches, mechanical breakdowns, etc. — rather than drilling down to the sustained, monotonous suffering of the men below. And when it does make the descent, it generally keeps things histrionic and/or physical. There are a couple of happy exceptions, in particular, an act of repentant generosity that gives rise to a flight of happy fantasy amid the grim and grimy reality. But mostly, *The 33* aims for easily mined deposits of nerves and heartstrings, rather than the more stubborn, more rewarding veins of character and soul. Directed by Paricia Riggen., and starring Antonio Banderas. 2015. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Bridge of Spies — Call it *Mr. Donovan goes to East Berlin*. Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks team up for a handsome piece of very pointed nostalgia (with help from the Coen Brothers and Matt Charman, who handled the script, and cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, lens set to "stately."). Hanks is private citizen and shrewd attorney James Donovan, a doughy guy with a spine of grade-A Bethlehem steel and a mind that cherishes pragmatism without yielding principle. He is America's best self, ready to be deployed against her enemies — both within and without. Sure, the Russians are bad: it's 1957, and kids are getting traumatized in school by cartoons about what to do in case of nuclear attack. Plus, they've riddled the country with spies, one of whom needs defending in a court of law if America's gonna look like the good guy. (Hello, Mr. Donovan!) But there are other sorts of baddies as well: CIA spooks with no regard for privacy, judges with little use for due process, yahoos who prefer violence to justice. (That's the pointy part.) Donovan handles them all with aplomb, and is rewarded with a trip behind the Iron Curtain to negotiate an extremely delicate prisoner exchange. (It seems we're not above a little spying ourselves.) Feel-good heroism at its finest, with plenty of gentle yuks to ease the tension. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Brooklyn — Into a time when audiences are being bombarded with thinkfree technology or jiggled to death by indie indifference comes *Brooklyn*, a three Kleenex (boxes), straight-forwardly emotional little period melodrama about a timid (though not for long) young Irish immigrant (Saoirse Ronan) finding her way through 1950s New York. There are brief moments scattered all through Ronan's magnetizing performance where director John Crowley wisely lets the camera run to capture the young actresses' stunning array of sensitiveness. The relatively CG-free production design – Montreal proved a convincing alternative to shooting in the cost-prohibitive titular borough – and exquisitely ersatz Technicolor hues heave audiences back to a time when storytelling was built into the price of a ticket. If there's fault to be found, it rests in the last-ditch revival of a throwaway character, ostensibly salvaged to uncover and make known our heroine's one dark secret. 2015. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Chi-Raq — Spike Lee does *Lysistrata* in Chicago. 2015. (AMC FASHION VALLEY; AMC MISSION VALLEY; AMC PLAZA BONITA)

Creed — The director (Ryan Coogler) and star (Michael B. Jordan, cut like an Abercrombie & Fitch model) of 2013's *Fruitvale Station* re-team for a *Rocky* remake retooled for Generation Affirmation. Their first collaboration had a real-life tragedy to ground it. This one, unfortunately, has an increasingly fantastical franchise to give it wings. It seems that retired boxing champ Rocky Balboa's old friend Apollo Creed (RIP) had an affair and a son. His widow graciously rescues the boy from juvie and gives him a good life, but he chucks it to climb into the ring where Daddy died. *Why o why?* The answer, long in coming, makes little sense but sounds cool, so just go with it. There's a lot of that sort of thing. Sylvester Stallone low-keys it and still overshadows his protégé, mostly because he's playing a person and not the living embodiment of Doing It My Way and Believing I Can Do It. But not even Rocky can deliver a line like, "It's you against you; he's just in the way" without sounding ridiculous. Coogler and cinematographer Maryse Alberti do manage some nice close camerawork during the Big Fight, so there's that. 2015. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Entertainment — Refuse to aim your snoot skyward when style and subject intertwine, and this nastily surreal descent into standup madness will deliver on its title. With his stringy, Dippity-Do-ed Zero Mostel combover and predilection for mucous-huffing mid-set, Neil Hamburger — a character comedian Gregg Turkington has spent the past 20 years perfecting — far exceeds your typical angry, emotional void of an Everyman. No wonder his agent sentenced the schmuck to eternal damnation in the Mojave, where he tenders his unique brand of mirth to prisons and senior facilities. There are scattered scenes where a quick cut would have come as welcome relief. Credit writer-director Rick Alverson with a visionary, razor-sharp point-of-view that kept my eyes locked on the screen at all times. Alverson's self-professed "increasing disinterest in form" will no doubt turn many viewers off. For those who find fascination in a disproportionate imbalance of form over content, prepare to have your world rocked. 2015 — S.M. ★★★★ [DIGITAL GYM]

Everest — The opening text lets you know that prior to 1996, no one had died during a commercial expedition to the world's highest peak. So now you know what's coming. The first part of Baltasar Kormakur's version of the events recounted in John Krakauer's bestseller *Into Thin Air* serves to introduce the players: in general, there is a direct proportion between how much you learn about someone and how much they are destined to suffer. (It's easier to care about a guy who needlessly risks his life when you know what he's chasing and what he stands to leave behind.) Also, to lay out the various Things That Can Go Bad: failed bodily systems, frayed ropes, depleted oxygen supplies, bad weather, etc. Also, to introduce some interpersonal complications — though none of them matter much in the end. As a Russian guide notes, it's the mountain that always has the last word. The second part covers the frustratingly slow ascent. The third is where the wind picks up and the bad stuff starts. Through it all, the women wait by the phone. With Jason Clarke, John Hawkes, Josh Brolin, Jake Gyllenhaal, Robin Wright, Keira Knightley, Elizabeth Debicki, and Emily Watson. 2015. — M.L. ★ (LA PALOMA)

Flowers — As seen through directors' Jon Garaño and Jose Mari Goenaga 'Scope frames, Ane (Nagore Aranburu) is but an insignificant sparrow of a construction-site manager observed in overhead shots (her back to the camera) or surfacing, if only for a moment, through the crook in a subway-rider's arm. Why Ane is mysteriously earmarked as the recipient of a steady flow of bouquets — always delivered at the same time and with an unsigned card — provides the structural vase from which the filmmakers' narrative buds sprout. She begins to anticipate their arrival and to play novice floral arranger, much to the ire of a disenchanted husband. Strong from the start — all of the major players (sheep included) are introduced before the credits roll — it isn't until after a game-changing accident occurs that the film begins waiting patiently (and predictably) for all of its plot points to gently fall into place. 2014 — S.M. ★★ [READING GASLAMP]

The Good Dinosaur — Three years after *Brave*, Pixar gets around to making a film that's actually about bravery, *aka* the right response to fear. The setup: dinosaurs never went extinct; instead, they turned into people. That is, they became farmers who keep chickens and store up crops, and also cowboys who guard their herds from rustlers. Into this world comes knobby-kneed runt Arlo, a scrawny soul who spooks easy. Dad's well-meaning attempt to get him past his pusillanimity goes disastrously awry, and Arlo ends up far from home with winter coming on and only a feral, largely canine boy for company. As he makes his way back toward his family, Arlo bonds with his human pet, and meets various dinos with various responses to the terrors of the world. Wisdom comes, naturally, from sonorous Sam Elliott (as a battle-scarred T-Rex), and Arlo learns what really conquers cowardice. If the story sounds simple, that's because it is. The complexity here is tonal — zig-zagging from silly to scary — and visual: a super-realistic depiction of nature red in tooth and claw contrasted with the foam-rubber, glass-eyed vulnerability of our hero. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Goosebumps — Call it the *Alien*/*Aliens* effect. One alien on a single spaceship is a horror story, but a thousand aliens in a colony is almost necessarily an action pic. So while any single monster from R. L. Stine's series of young adult horror novels may have been enough to make kids leave the hall light on, the release of all those monsters at once is much more spectacle than scare. (Hey, a giant praying mantis! Hey, a werewolf! Hey, a malevolent talking dummy! Etc.) Maybe it's for the best; maybe a truly scary story would have alienated the target demographic, or their parents. But weirdly, the heart-stopping moments are replaced with the heart-throbbing variety, as a newly arrived teen (Dylan Minnette) falls for a girl (Odeya Rush) who's like something out of a storybook. Rob Letterman (*Monsters vs. Aliens*) directs, and Jack Black goofs his way through as the famous author. 2015. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Hotel Transylvania 2 — The lively undead. Yes, that's the legendary Mel Brooks you hear lending his voice to Great-Grandpa Vlad in director Genndy Tartakovsky's sequel to his human boy-meets-monster girl romantic comedy for kids, *Hotel Transylvania*. Maybe that explains the relentless, unending, benumbing avalanche of gags (visual and otherwise), puns, and one-liners — it's an homage, silly! The onslaught isn't

painful, but neither does it do much to distract from the ho-hum story: young vampire mother Mavis doesn't like her father's constant attempts to bring out the monster in her half-human son ("He's a late fanger!" insists ol' Grandpa Drac), so she considers moving with him to her husband's native California. Nor does it obscure the central problem: for the sake of drama, the film claims there is some legit tension between humans and monsters — as in, monsters live to scare and/or kill people. But actually, once you get past the fangs and stuff, monsters are people, too. (The *real* monster, don't you know, is prejudice.) This is known as having it both ways, and it's boring. With the voices of Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez, Kevin James, David Spade, Steve Buscemi, *et alia*. 2015. — M.L. ★ (REGAL PARKWAY PLAZA)

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 — After the forced histrionics of *Part 1*, it's nice to see star Jennifer Lawrence being allowed to quiet down and act again. But the story still feels stretched, a countdown that slows as it approaches zero hour. The various Districts, long divided and conquered by the Capitol, have united behind Lawrence's Katniss Everdeen and declared war on their oppressors. But this isn't a war movie; it's a movie *about* war: a consideration of its tactics, its strategems, its presentation, its resolution, and its aftermath. As a result, you're not here to watch Katniss kick ass. You're here to watch Katniss agonize about ass-kicking, then set out on a long journey to kick one very particular ass, that of President Snow (Donald Sutherland, splendid as ever). The scattered action set-pieces feel very much like sops to the stimulus-starved — in particular, an underground set-to with a bunch of anonymous, humanoid mutts. And the various traps set for our heroes, so potent in *The Hunger Games'* arena, now seem faintly silly. Why not just use bombs and soldiers? (Oh, right — because they can't shoot straight.) With Julianne Moore. Directed by Francis Lawrence. 2015. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

James White — Reviewed this issue. 2015 — S.M. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Krampus — Home for the Hellidays! Michael Dougherty (*Trick 'r Treat*) directs a killer cast in this take on the European version of Bad Santa. Pity about the PG-13 rating. 2015. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

***Entertainment*: That's entertainment?**

The Last Witch Hunter — Surprising Vin Diesel vehicle: first, for the initial switcheroo from supernatural action-adventure to supernatural whodunit; second, for a sturdily built storyline; third, for a somewhat lively and lighthearted turn from its often somnolent star. (Those widened, puppy-dog eyes!) Sadly, the more expected elements do much to dull the pleasure of our immortal hero's quest to unravel his past in an effort to save our future. To wit: thudding dialogue ("Just hold on kid; I promise I'll find who did this and break the curse."); tiresome, even pointless special effects; and a villainess who talks without saying much of anything. (Couldn't they have just made her wicked and left it at that?) It's a B-movie, but it's not a *bad* B-movie. Michael Caine classes up the joint as the Witch-hunter's overseer, and Rose Leslie does her best with the role of helpful sidekick. Directed by Breck Eisner (*The Crazies*). 2015. — M.L. ★★ (REGAL OCEANSIDE; SANTEE DRIVE IN)

Legend — How do you make a boring film about gangster twins in '60s London, one of whom is a violent, paranoid schizophrenic homosexual, and both of whom are played by Tom Hardy? Easy: neglect the violent, paranoid schizophrenic homosexual and play up the other one's girlfriend. While you're at it, give her grandiose voiceover bits like "It was time for the Krays to enter into the secret history of the 1960s" and how we eventually become "the ghosts of the people we once thought we were." Writer-director Brian Helgeland gives us violence without felt menace, doomed romance without felt desperation, and decadence without felt pleasure. The result is weirdly tasteful for a film that includes secret gay orgies involving members of the House of Lords, and weirdly pedestrian for a story about a London criminal who dreams of building a Utopian city in Nigeria. There is, however, one wincingly nasty fight involving brass knuckles and hammers. 2015. — M.L. ★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Love the Coopers — No you won't. From Jessie Nelson, the man who brought us *Stepmom, I Am Sam*, and *Fred Claus*...need I go on? Staler than year-old rum cake and louder than June Squbb's holiday sweater, Hollywood yet again ushers in the Christmas season with a dysfunctional family racing to get it together in time for the festival meal. So little thought or effort went into this – there are scenes where actors are clearly reading off cue cards. Picking up checks are Diane Keaton (she also produced!) and John Goodman as the battling parents, a more flustered than usual Ed Helms, Marisa Tomei offering backseat therapy to arresting officer Anthony Mackie, and grandpa Alan Arkin entertaining a May-December crush on waitress Amanda Seyfried. There's only one Cooper to love: Olivia Wilde as the magistral wild child who brings her airport romance, soldier Jake Lacy, home for dinner. She alone earned the one star. 2015. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Martian — Kids: stay in school, especially if you plan on becoming an astronaut. When a freak accident (wind-loosed antenna piercing bio-monitor) leads to his being stranded on the red planet, astro-botanist Matt Damon decides he ain't got time to muse on fate, the fragility of existence, or man's place in the universe. Not when there's rations to number, schedules to draw up, and basic questions of survival to be answered (in an audio diary that works nicely to provide explanatory voiceover). As he puts it, "I'm going to have to science the shit out of this." Ridley Scott's (*Exodus: Gods and Kings*) nuts-and-bolts answer to the existential drama of Alfonso Cuaron's *Gravity* works best when it keeps its camera on Damon — whose usually impervious puss actually manages to show signs of strain and stress — as he takes care of business and deals with various disasters. (Not pictured: what he does with the empty hours in between.) The film flattens out a bit when dealing with the thoroughly (and dully) decent crew who left him behind, and gets downright goofy when it touches down on earth to show NASA and Jet Propulsion Labs' scramble to save their man. (Donald Glover's visual reveal of his rescue plan is hilarious, but not in the way it intends to be.) With Jeff Daniels, Jessica Chastain, Chiwetel Ejiofor, *et alia*. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Night Before (2015/II) — A smartly built, chemically-enhanced Christmas story about growing up that you can't watch with the grown-ups — at least, not the ones who will get bothered by dick pics. *The Night Before*, which follows three friends (Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen, and Anthony Mackie) as they wind down a tradition of Christmas Eve guy's-night-outing, is of those movies where the most random scene turns out to be the whole point of things. In this case, it's a showdown between the elfin Gordon-Levitt and a couple of pissed (and pissing) Santas out on a Christmas Eve pub crawl. He's outraged at what he thinks is a broffensive desecration of a childhood icon, but the two are actually proper adults with a firm grasp on reality, fantasy, and the virtues of each. Our guys have a long journey ahead of them, full of callbacks to their beloved Christmas stories: the Grinch, *Home Alone*, and most importantly, Scrooge. (Michael Shannon very nearly steals the show.) Directed by Jonathan Levine (*Warm Bodies*). 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Peanuts Movie — Director Steve Martino and the makers at Blue Sky, aware of the potential for aesthetic barbarism in transferring a beloved comic strip (and hand-drawn animated television property) to CGI, have exercised great care and sensitivity in bringing Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the gang to the big screen. Many of the old exchanges and punchlines have been preserved completely intact. Creator Charles Schulz's scribbled facial expressions endure on the newly rounded heads, and the essential sweetness and humanity are still in place, despite the slings and arrows of outrageous childhood fortune. (Hello, kite-eating tree.) But those slings and arrows? Blunted, just like the suffering they so famously cause our hero. And without suffering, *Peanuts* becomes little more than wholesome distraction for kiddies. Which is pretty clearly the goal here — viz. the primary-color obviousness of lines like, "Charlie Brown is not a quitter," "That was a very brave thing you did, Charlie Brown," and "It must feel pretty great being Charlie Brown right about now." Viz. also the thin story, the Looney Tunes–style visual gags, and the heavy reliance on Snoopy the dog's heroic flights of fancy. Sigh. 2015. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict — Dad died on the *Titanic* (though his mistress survived). Mom hailed from a family of daft birds. And sis dropped her kids off a hotel roof to keep from losing custody. What's a poor(ish) heiress to do? In this case: head to Europe, delve deep into the amoral avant-garde that arose following civilization's collapse (aka World War I), and dedicate yourself to collecting 20th-century art (and artists). Lisa Immordino Vreeland's admiring but definitely not adoring historical documentary sometimes seems more interested in personality (Guggenheim slept with a lot of people and wrote about it) than production (Guggenheim amassed and displayed a remarkable collection), a perspective wholly in keeping

FILM FESTIVALS

CARLSBAD VILLAGE THEATRE
2822 State St., Carlsbad
760-720-2460

Chasing Shadows Follow the world's biggest names in skiing and snowboarding on a breathtaking cinematic journey. Watch JT Holmes, Seth Wescott, Caroline Gleich, Steven Nyman, Marcus Caston, Ingrid Backstrom, and more as others pursue turns on the mountains of their dreams. **Sunday, December 6, 4:00pm, Sunday, December 6, 7:00pm**

JOAN B. KROC THEATRE
6611 University Ave., Rolando
619-269-1552

A Thousand Voices Jamul Indian Village Chairwoman Erica Pinto and Council Members invite you to the complimentary premiere viewing of *A Thousand Voices*, a documentary of Native American women. This is a documentary that builds from thousands of voices to present one universal story of New Mexico's Native American women. In spite of Western invasions, Native American women remain strong and grounded in traditional values by enduring courage and wisdom. The voices and advisers are from the Navajo Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Pueblo de Cochiti, Ohkay Owingeh, and Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Jemez, Santo Domingo, Pojoaque, Santa Clara, Taos, Nambe, and San Ildefonso. RSVP: lcumper@jamulindianvillage.com. **Monday, December 14, 11:00am**

NTC AT LIBERTY STATION
2640 Historic Decatur Rd., Point Loma

Home Alone Spend a night underneath the stars during Liberty Station's holiday-themed family movie night. Grab a blanket and head to the North Promenade Pump House, where the holiday classic will play on the outdoor big screen. Surfin' Santa band serenades holiday moviegoers before the screening. Freshly popped complimentary bags of popcorn available. **Sunday, December 13, 5:00pm**

SAN DIEGO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-696-0199

Polar Express Join us in your pajamas and enter a world full of holiday treats and trains. With games, winter scene dioramas, and a holiday keepsake to make. A doubting young boy takes an extraordinary train ride to the North Pole. He embarks on an epic journey of self-discovery in which he finds that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. **Saturday, December 12, 11:00am**

SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
760-602-2049

Carlsbad Film Series: Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope Luke Skywalker joins forces with Jedi Knight Obi Wan Kenobi, smuggler Han Solo, Chewbacca the Wookiee, and droids R2-D2 and C-3PO to rescue Princess Leia from the evil Darth Vader, while also saving the galaxy from the Empire's world-destroying battle station. **Wednesday, December 9, 7:00pm**

Carlsbad Film Series: Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back Rebel forces have been overpowered by the Empire at their new base on the icy planet Hoth. Luke Skywalker receives Jedi training with Master Yoda, while his friends are pursued by Darth Vader as part of his plan to capture Luke. **Wednesday, December 16, 7:00pm**

with Guggenheim discovery Jackson Pollock's claim that modern art was about expressing an inner world. She gave her life to the art, but she kept her love for herself. And as the title implies, neither may have been a choice. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

The Polar Express — Neither an "instant classic" nor the polar opposite, but a middling addition to the holiday repertoire: computerized illustrations of the Chris Van Allsburg children's book about a little boy already too old to believe in Santa ("This is your crucial year"), snatched out of his bed on Christmas Eve for a faith-restoring train trip to the North Pole. Is seeing believing? — or vice versa? (The answer to the explicit question, "Could this be nothing but a dream?," is a firm "No!") The fundamental animation technique of drawing on top of live-action figures — as in Ralph Bakshi's version of *The Lord of the Rings*, for example — is nothing new, but it has never looked quite like this: a mobile billboard or magazine ad airbrushed to the thickness of cake frosting, giving the image a velvety, mossy, furry, peach-fuzzy feel. Filmmaker Robert Zemeckis, who really did foment a revolution in animation in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, does not now appear likely to repeat the feat. But only time will tell. (Maybe when computer-generated touch-ups have become as commonplace in Hollywood as cosmetic surgery, we'll look back on *The Polar Express* as the breakthrough.) There are some marvelous sights on parade — the ghostly first appearance of the choo-choo out of a clearing cloud of steam and swirling snow; the wind-borne ticket that returns to its holder via a relay network of a pack of wolves, an eagle, a rolling snowball, etc.; the perilous slog over the top of the railcars against a relentless salvo of blinding snowflakes; the train snaking across an ice-covered track; the red-brick Victorian architecture of the Pole — but these, without exception, are significantly liberated from the live actors. They are free-hand animation. The recognizable face of Tom Hanks, behind a walrus mustache and half-moon glasses, in the part of the train conductor and chief proselytizer for childlike credulity, is something of a distraction — a disruption in the cartoon universe — in the same way that an overly recognizable voice can be a distraction (Robin Williams in *Aladdin*, Eddie Murphy in *Shrek*, Albert Brooks and Ellen DeGeneres in *Finding Nemo* — name your own). But Hanks's voice, in a handful of other roles besides that of the conductor, almost as though he alone were reading the Van Allsburg text for audiotape, has been sufficiently disguised or electronically altered to be no more than a minimal distraction. 2004. — D.S. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Room — A cowardly movie about brave people. Part one is heartrendingly human, bordering on wise: a considered portrait of motherly love under extreme duress. To wit: Ma (Brie Larson) is both captive and sexual slave to a dim Midwestern monster, trapped in a soundproofed shed with a son (Jacob Tremblay) who has never seen the world outside. (Well, except on TV.) Wonderfully and believably, she gives the boy a life, an education, a cosmology, and a family; what is more, she manages to shield him from the horror of her own situation. It's only when the boy's innocence is threatened that she resolves to set him free. (Spoilers, of a sort, to follow.) Free him she does, and that's when the film loses its nerve, transforming from an unflinching look at love amid suffering into an embarrassing bout of wishful thinking. It makes sense for Ma to fall apart once the ordeal is over. But it does not make sense — psychologically, developmentally, but above all, narratively — for an anger-prone child whose entire, largely happy world has been ripped asunder to magically become both moppet and angel of salvation. #DiscoverYourFantasy. Directed by Lenny Abrahamson (*Frank*). 2015. — M.L. ★ (AMC LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Sicario — Usually, director Denis Villeneuve (*Prisoners*) knows how to stick the landing. Any nagging dissatisfactions are dispatched with elegance and aplomb by his directorial *denouement*. Not so, *Sicario*, his exploration of the brutal violence and moral complication surrounding the war on drugs. Critics looking to get a pull-quote on the poster would likely call it "a stunning visual ride, full of suspense and intensity," and they would not be wrong. But oh, that slip on the landing. This time, it's the opening that really astonishes: an FBI raid on a suburban Arizona home, led by star that's been converted into a cartel outpost and storage facility. Here and throughout, Villeneuve excels at approaching the carnage to come from a great, safe distance, and the message seems clear: here is a problem of vast scope and scale, being engaged by huge and complicated forces, and here are its intimate, bloody effects. And further, while you dare not look away, the looking may serve to render the horrific as commonplace. What can one person hope to do in the midst of such a struggle, especially when she finds herself reduced from elite squad leader to confused observer? Well, she can stick to her guns, literal and otherwise. Villeneuve knows this, but gets distracted by his eagerness to acknowledge the moral muck that stains us when we wrestle with monsters. Starring Emily Blunt, with Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (REGAL HORTON PLAZA; REGAL OCEANSIDE; REGAL RANCHO DEL REY)

Spectre — In his fourth outing, Daniel Craig's iteration of superspy James Bond takes his undersized suits, hangdog expression, and psychological damage on an epic, eye-popping, worldwide hunt for...closure? (The personal and political are pretty much identical here, and a spectre is, of course, a ghost — the sort of things that refuses to die and instead haunts the living.) It's very much a continuation of 2012's *Skyfall*: director Sam Mendes still knows his way around a grand-scale establishing shot, info-terrorism is still the threat, Mi6's allegedly outdated 00 program is still the issue, and family of one sort or another is still at the heart of everything. There are signs of Bond bloat within many of the action sequences — it must be hard to trim such extravagant footage — but they are at least partly overcome by an increase in levity. Some funny bits are obvious: landing on a couch after sliding off a building. Some are less so: a woman falls asleep in her dress after threatening to kill Bond if he comes near her; when she awakens, she's wearing a satin nightgown and her attitude is similarly changed. Most are welcome. Shockingly, it's the villain, played by Christoph Waltz, who disappoints. He lacks previous baddie Javier Bardem's wicked relish, and his aim is pretty lousy. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Spotlight — Takes its name from a team of investigative journalists at *The Boston Globe*, and provides a touching ode to the old-fashioned notion that some things simply need reporting; never mind the effort, the expense, or the effect on circulation. Here, the thing in question is the awful failure of the Catholic Church in Boston (and beyond) to protect its youth from its sexually abusive priests. But while director and co-writer

Steve Jobs — Having treated the man who put life online — Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg — screenwriter Aaron Sorkin now turns his attention to the man who put it into the machine. (Not for nothing is the Apple co-founder so desperate to have the Mac say "Hello" at its unveiling.) Once again, the result is not a biopic, but an opportunity for Sorkin to use a famous person as fodder for a fiction about a man who uses technology to make up for his inability to deal with life in general and people in particular. *The Social Network's* Zuckerberg longed for social status and an understanding girlfriend; *Steve Jobs'* Jobs wants "end-to-end control," something he

MOVIES@HOME

Double Indemnity

CHRIS STURHANN
Technical writer,
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I first saw *Double Indemnity* in a college film class. I had grown up with Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray as the perfect TV mom and dad on *The Big Valley* and *My Three Sons*. Seeing them younger, plotting murder for the insurance money, just blew my mind. Add in Edward G. Robinson not playing a gangster, but a gruff, funny, and smart insurance investigator. This is both film noir and director Billy Wilder at their best.

In *Sneakers*, Robert Redford is the head of a security-consulting firm that breaks into places to expose weaknesses in their security systems. He also has a secret past and is approached by the NSA, who blackmails him into doing a slightly illegal job for them. That's when things go horribly bad. It's a fun film with an insanely good cast, including Sidney Poitier, Ben Kingsley, Dan Aykroyd, and River Phoenix.

DOUBLE INDEMNITY (USA) 1944, Paramount
Available on iTunes and YouTube

SNEAKERS (USA) 1992, Universal
Available on iTunes and Amazon Video

The Color of Pomegranates

STEPHEN RUSSELL
Architect and urbanist

I saw *The Color of Pomegranates* (by Sergei Parajanov, a Soviet filmmaker of Armenian heritage) during the Soviet Arts Festival in the company of a visiting cadre of Georgian culturistes who watched in hushed admiration. The film's an ascetic pleasure, depicting static scenes from the life of a storied Armenian poet. Parajanov's work is almost the opposite of a motion picture, with only hints of sound and the slightest of motion to convey an entire rich tapestry of a world now lost.

At the opposite end of the spectrum is *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, a joyful romp that's all color, motion, and sound. Robert Morse is perfect as a happy-go-lucky but ambitious corporatchik who provides the perfect origin story for his role in *Mad Men*. Hollywood's efforts to capture Bob Fosse's movements for the big screen are nothing short of amazing. I can't watch this without laughing out loud.

THE COLOR OF POMEGRANATES (Russia) 1969, International Film Exchange
Available on YouTube and Archive.org

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING (USA) 1967, United Artists
Available on Amazon Video and iTunes

Steven Universe

JASMINE STURHANN
Sophomore, Madison High School

The Shawshank Redemption is debatably my favorite movie. It shouldn't be because it deals with a lot of serious issues, and I'm only 15. Tim Robbins is so smart, and Morgan Freeman's great. You get in-depth with all of the people's past lives, and the characters are, like, "What are you in for?" "My lawyer f-cked me." The feeling I get at the end is what I wish I could get when I'm sleeping.

Steven Universe is my favorite show about rocks. It also goes over a lot of interesting issues about sexuality, oppression, and how family doesn't have to be blood-related to you. Plus way more serious things than any kid show ever. It's all from the perspective of a kid who's just trying to learn and do the best for his family, and he hasn't been corrupted by society. And it's super pink. I love it.

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (USA) 1994, Columbia
Available on Netflix and Amazon Video

STEVEN UNIVERSE (USA) 2013, Cartoon Network
Available on Amazon Video and Hulu

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was denied from the very beginning, plus the freedom to never look back. Sorkin and his word-winging are the point here: the walk-and-talks and occasional flashbacks aside, director Danny Boyle has a highly structured backstage play on his hands, and it doesn't give him much room to move. And while Michael Fassbender gives Jobs an air of icy assurance in his peer-to-peer dealings, he can't quite sell the constant shifts in his relationship with daughter Lisa. Or rather, Sorkin can't. With Kate Winslet, Seth Rogen, and Bill Pullman. 2015. — M.L. ★ (LA PALOMA)

Suffragette — Director Sarah Gavron and writer Abi Morgan can't find a story amidst the forest of directives so instead mount a stern, monochrome, relentlessly depressing video lecture to supplant the historical fundamentals our parents and public school teachers failed to instill within us. Sufferin' *Suffragette*! Were it not for this picture, the little woman and I – staunch supporters of the E.R.A. though we may be – might never have realized how tough you dames had it back in the day. Normally I'd bemoan the lack of even one decent male character, but no one comes off looking good in this oratorical iceberg. Carey Mulligan's laundress, a period dress answer to Norma Rae, suffers hard, real hard, for a nomination while Meryl Streep's performance – accent literally on Glinda, Good Witch of the North – clocks in at under five minutes. Ushers should hand out badges to patrons who survive the 106 minute incarceration. 2015. — S.M. ● (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LOT; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Theeb — What if you told the story of Lawrence of Arabia's desert crossing from the perspective of one of his youthful guides? Then you might end up with something like this. 2014. (LANDMARK KEN)

Tiny Giants 3D — The smaller you are, the bigger the adventure! 2014. (SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM)

Trumbo — Was blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo (Bryan Cranston, enjoying himself) a self-serving, self-righteous Type A who confused the cause of social justice with his own desire to live well? Or was he a brilliant, pro-worker Good American who figured out how to keep the S.S. *Good Conscience* afloat during the Red storm? Or was he an overworked, underpaid employee trying to force management to ditch its poisonous policies so that he could keep food on the table? Or was he...*all three*? If director Jay Roach's (*Dinner for Schmucks*) take on Hollywood's anti-commie excesses is a bit murky about its star, it's plenty clear about its supporting personalities: gossip columnist Hedda Hopper (Helen Mirren) is the devil, actor Edward G. Robinson (Michael Stuhlbarg) is the jellied spine, and fellow scribbler Arlen Hird (Louis C.K.) is the idealist. (Meanwhile, John Goodman's schlock producer Frank King is the thought-free hedonist, and so has the most fun.) The movie's main idea seems to be that, in the end, people prefer movies to ideas. Or at least ideologies. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Truth — Truth is, Oscar season is upon us and Robert Redford's banking that his portrayal of journalist Dan Rather in *Truth* will set him free to take home a best supporting Oscar award. Cate Blanchett is always worth watching, even when her character as Rather's producer never rises above that of a mudslinging Mary Richards. *Truth* marks screenwriter James Vanderbilt's first time behind the camera. Prior to this, his best known work includes *Zodiac* and the two most recent *Spider-Man* reboots. The stolid manner in which the events play out leaves *Truth* feeling like a transcript of a Wikipedia page, with more expository dialogue than a Woody Allen box set. It's been almost a decade since Dan Rather was forced by the cowardly shits at Viacom to step down as CBS Nightly News . Do younger audiences even remember who Rather is? Will the old guard fork over the price of a senior ticket to think back on the occasion? A word to producers: courage. 2015. — S.M. ★ (READING GASLAMP)

Victor Frankenstein — Screenwriter Max Landis transfigures the backstory of Mary Shelley's almighty monster-maker into a set-bound action/adventure/horror/buddy comedy told from the POV of the cutest lil' hunchback this side of Disney's bell-ringer. Daniel Radcliffe plays the abscess-backed circus clown (possessed with a surgeon's steady hand) plucked from under the big top by an admiring James McAvoy. The latter's "You're not a clown! You're a physician!" and Radcliffe's subsequent de-humping provide the biggest laughs, both of which land early in the proceedings. McAvoy gives it his best Vincent Price, but the high concept genre pileup needed a stronger hand to hold and stitch this monster together. Landis' framework never allows director Paul McGuigan (*Wicker Park, Push*) a center ring to which he can direct an audience's' attention. If nothing else, you're bound to enjoy it more than *I, Frankenstein*. With Jessica Brown Findlay as the girl in the picture (and a well-played nod to Mel Brooks). 2015. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The World of Kanako — Is Akikazu Fujishima (Kôji Yakusho, contributing many a fine George C. Scott–worthy eruption) a dilapidated blackguard guilty of the triple homicide police are questioning him about? Or is he an on-the-ropes former cop about to embark on an ultraviolent journey through hell to save an estranged teenage daughter (and maybe even reheat his flat soufflé of a marriage)? Yakusho makes Harvey Keitel's *Bad Lieutenant* look like Barney Fife as his vagabondage leads him to the ultimate realization that his rotten kid may be better off dead. Wildly edited and stylish to a fault, the only thing director Tetsuya Nakashima (*Confessions*) shows any respect for is '70s exploitation movies, which, after positioning the youth of today as prime symbols of moral decay, is what his film rapidly assumes the form of. The jumbled chronology can get confusing (redundant intertitles and bearding time stamps are there to mock convention), but if you're in the mood for a little upscale savagery, hop aboard! 2014 — S.M. ★★★ [DIGITAL GYM]

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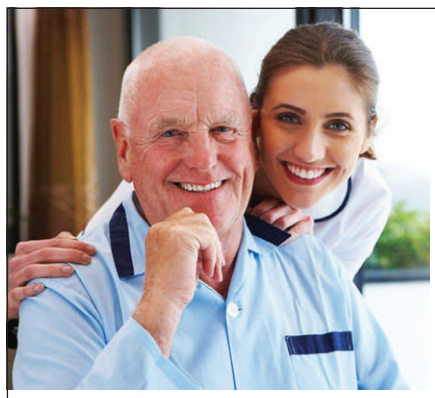

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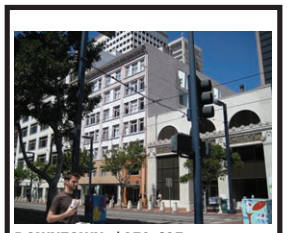

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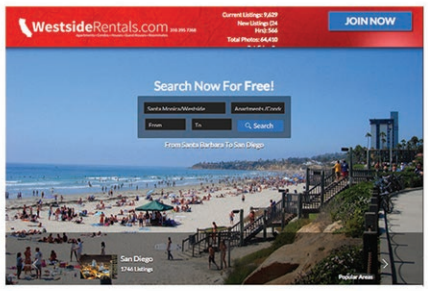

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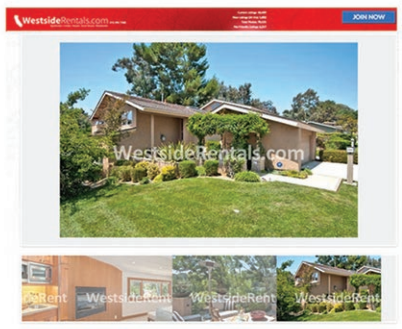

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RENTALS REGION MAP

BEACHES
La Jolla • Mission Beach • Ocean Beach
Pacific Beach • Point Loma

DOWNTOWN
Balboa Park • Banker's Hill • Downtown
East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights
South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY
Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
Rancho San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO
Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont
College Area • Del Cerro • Grantville
Kearny Mesa • Linda Vista • Mira Mesa
Miramar • Mission Valley • San Carlos
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

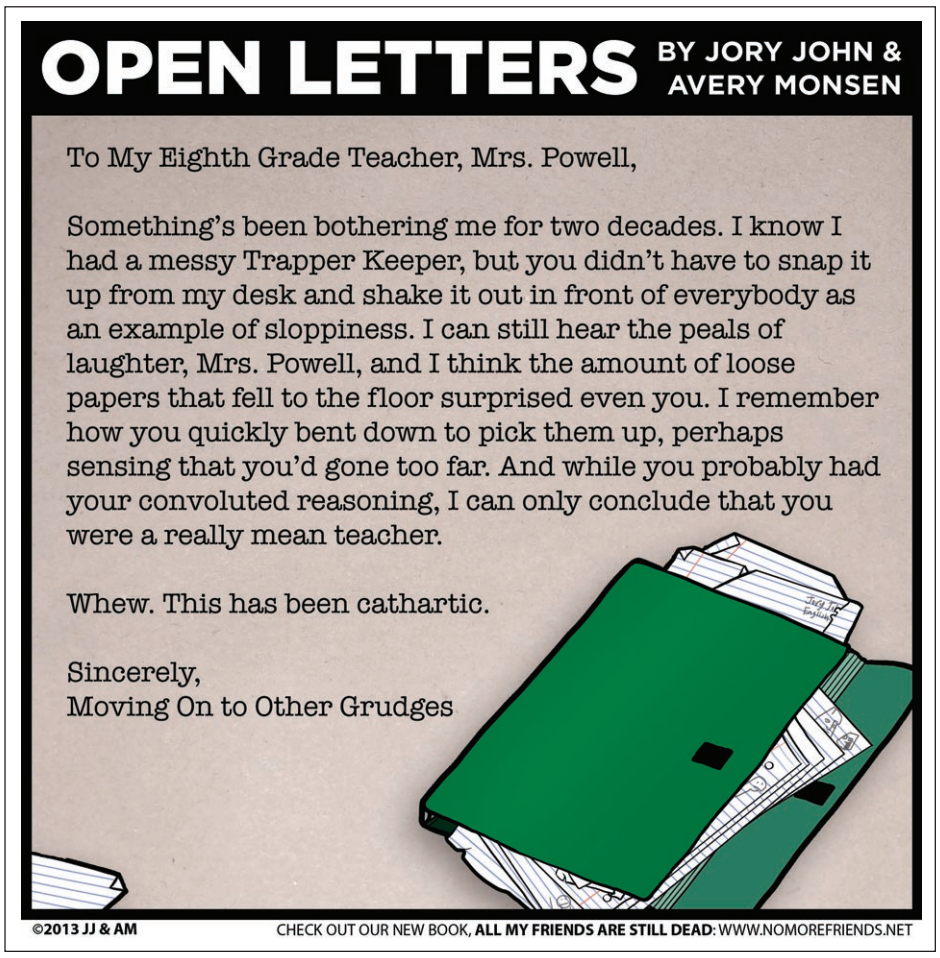
NC COASTAL
Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

OLD TOWN & UPTOWN
City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights

NC INLAND
Bonsall • Carmel Mountain • Escondido
Fallbrook • Poway • Rancho Bernardo
Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula
Valley Center • Vista

SOUTH BAY
Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

SOUTHEAST SD
Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope
Mountain View • Shelltown • Southcrest • Valencia Park



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Central San Diego

BAY PARK, $1450.
1BD+1BA with large floor plan, laundry in unit, 1 assigned parking spot, balcony, near the bay. Water and trash included. No pets. 2510 Clairemont Drive. 619-298-7724.

CLAIREMONT, $1245
Studio+1BA. 3-month lease. Basic rates: $1245*/ month for queen bed, $1275* for 2 double beds. Expanded rates: $1295*/ month for queen bed or $1325* for 2 double beds that also includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858)799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

CLAIREMONT, $2050
3BD/2BA, 2 car garage, fireplace, large backyard. Washer/dryer hookups. Newly remolded bathrooms and new carpet. Two blocks Cadman Park and Elementary school. Available now, 619-459-0165 or 858-731-1064

COLLEGE AREA, $895.
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MISSION VALLEY, $1800.
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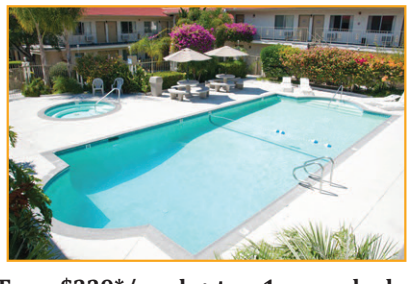

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North County Coastal

DEL MAR, $2045-3195.
1BD $2295, ocean views, available mid-December. 2BD+2BA $2045-3195. Some ocean views! Washer/dryer. Heated pool, spa. Nonsmoking community. 201 Fourth Street. Los Arboles, 858-481-9585; mikeatla@aol.com. www.summerpacific.com.

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HILLCREST, $1545.
2BD+1BA; upstairs remodeled unit; stove, refrigerator. dishwasher; coin laundry; cat OK with extra deposit; near restaurants and many excellent medical facilities; available now; 3730 First Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

KENSINGTON-TALMADGE, $950.
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STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS $95 — Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.
FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT 96 and up.
We'll beat any price!
B.T. Auto Wrench
Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C
1-858-565-4634

SMOG CHECK $19.95 Most cars
Free retest when we do repair. Plus $8.25 certificate. 1995 & older, $15 for evap test. Vans, trucks & SUVs extra. Cash only. Must present DMV renewal notice. *All prices plus tax. With this ad. Exp. 1-7-16
OIL CHANGE $25.95* — Most cars. Includes up to 5 qts. and new filter. Cash only.
BASIC TUNE-UP — 4-cyl. $25/6-cyl. $35/8-cyl. $45*. Includes spark plugs. Additional parts extra. Most cars.
TIMING BELT SPECIAL — Includes parts & labor. Most 4-cyl. cars. 1995 and older. Dual overhead cam extra.
BRAKES... $10 OFF — Front & rear. Turn rotors, drums, new pads, lining. Most cars, 4WD extra.
STEVE AUTO REPAIR
1370 Garnet Ave. • Pacific Beach
858-274-1195

CASH FOR CARS!
Running or Not! (Truck & Vans Too!)

Call Now (619)777-8000
SellMax.com

EVENT LISTINGS

ARGENTINE TANGO WITH COLETTE Learn Tango Now! If you have ever been curious about Tango and want to try it, this is the time! Take a FREE first class Thursday, December 10 at 6pm (or any Thursday at 6pm thereafter!) as Colette starts a new 3-week Session starting on Monday, December 7 at 7pm at Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Road, corner Dewey, Studio #106 (Point Loma). No need for a partner. We will introduce you to the passion and magic of Tango. Visit www.tangowithcolette.com or call today: 514-726-5567

CARLY AQUILINO Described by audience members as "funny" and by her father as "a huge mistake". A cast member of MTV's Girl Code, Carly, a New York native, first stepped on stage at Gotham Comedy Club and has since been quickly rising in the comedy scene Thursday, December 3, 8pm, Friday, December 4 7:30pm and 9:30pm, Saturday, December 5 7:30pm and 9:30pm, $18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. 619-795-3858.

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET Lake San Marcos Players presents this family Christmas classic performed as an onstage radio theater production. When Kris Kringle claims that he really is really Santa Claus,a court case must determine his mental health and, more importantly, his authenticity. Larry Steckling directs. Admission: $8-14. December 4th, 5th &12th 7:30-9:30pm and December 6th &13th 3-5pm. Lake Pavillion at Lake San Marcos, 1105 La Bonita Dr. San Marcos 92069 (SAN MARCOS)

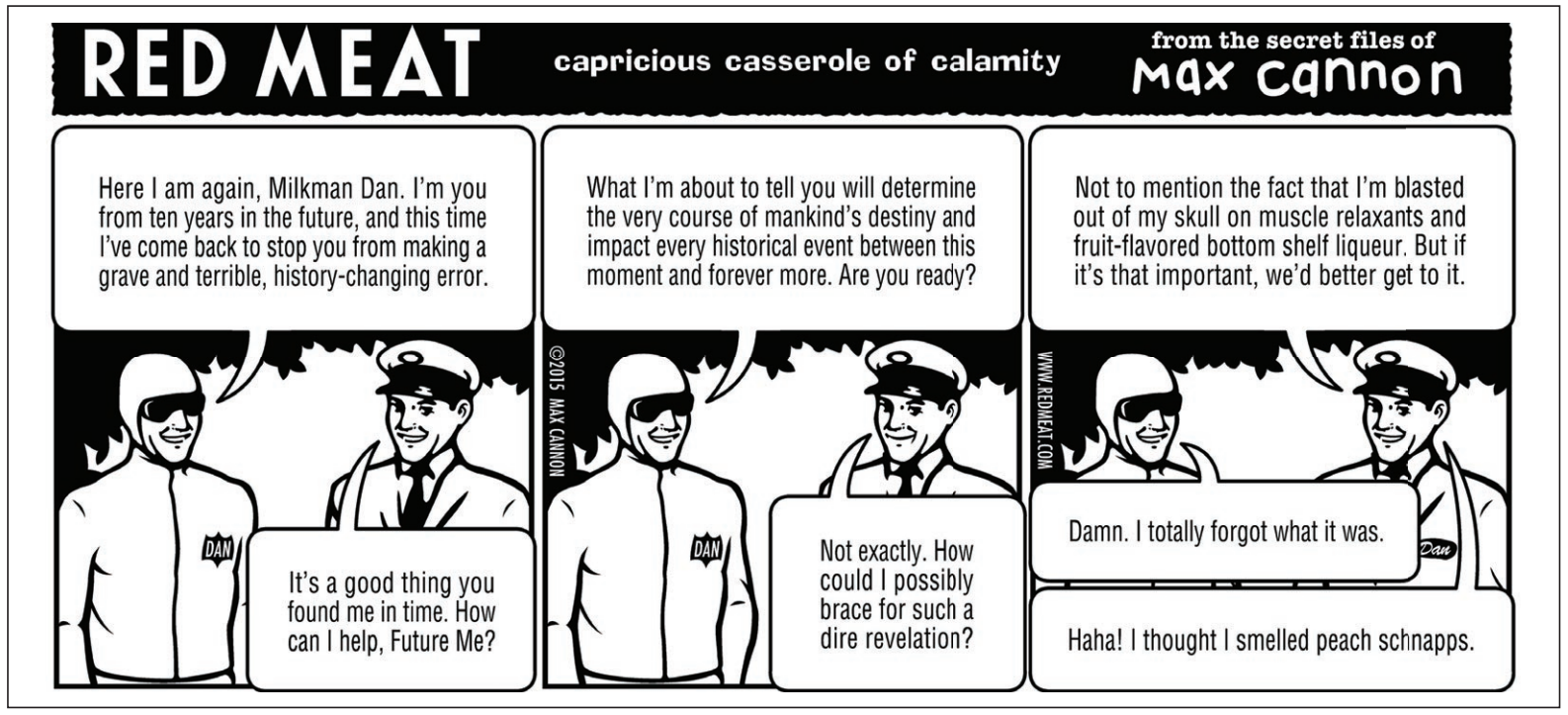
PETS

FREE PET ADS:
Selling a pet for under $200? Email your wording & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

ALL OTHER ADS:
Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.

"FRED" (A1679923) is a 7 years young neutered male German shepherd who acts much younger than his age! This playful and goofy boy loves to play fetch with people, enjoys the company of people is afraid of thunderstorms and fireworks. could you be the haven that Fred is looking for?! Fred is currently available for adoption at the County Animal Shelter in Bonita. His adoption fee is $69, and includes his neuter surgery, current vaccinations, deworming and microchip. 619.498-2311. www.sddac.com



BUY/SELL/TRADE reptiles, amphibians, turtles, tortoises, snakes, lizards. Largest reptile selection in Southern California. Voted #1 in San Diego. Pet Kingdom, 619-224-2841. www.petkingdom.com.

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.

LOST DOG Shih tzu, lhasa apso mix. White and brown stripes, 12-14 years old. Neutered male. Poor sight and hearing. Will offer reward. Lost near College Grove. (619)674-9556

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

GREYHOUND ADOPTION CENTER
Looking for a 45 mile per hour couch potato? Adopt a retired greyhound. Call 1-877-HOUNDSAVERS, email info@houndsavers.org, or visit www.houndsavers.org.

AUTOMOTIVE

BEST TIRE BUY
ALIGNMENT $35 starting at
3536 Olive Ave., Lemon Grove
619-466-5568

Want to run a FREE classified ad?
Just e-mail us at freeads@sandiegoreader.com with your ad of 25 words or less.
Roommate, rental, and other business related ads are not free. Free ads placed in the order received and are not guaranteed to run in the paper. Free ads must be received at the Reader office by 5PM Monday.
San Diego Reader

Oil, Lube & Filter Change (Including 30 Point Check) Tire Rotation & Top Off Fluids Most Regular Vehicles $13
FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic Most Regular Vehicles
Front Brakes $55 Rear Brakes $65 (Includes Parts & Labor) Most Regular Vehicles
Alternator or Starter (Includes Parts & Labor) Most Regular Vehicles $80
Experts on Electrical Diagnostics.
AAA Japanese Car Specialists
9555 Black Mountain Rd., Suite D (1 block north of Miramar Rd.)
858-549-9020

Receive up to $500 Off
On Qualified Smog failures Repairs.
*partners with the Consumer Assistance Program and Bureau of Automotive Repair. Visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov for eligibility requirements or stop by for application information.
Check Engine Light Diagnostic Service $25 Off
*Perform scan test and retrieve codes *Provide the cause of a system(s) failure and a corrective action plan. *Repairs, monitor drive cycles and additional test at additional cost.
STAR Certified
Smog Check $24.95
* Any car, Light truck and Diesel (Plus $8.25 for certificate)
* Motorhome & full size Van @additional cost. 1995 & older - $20 for Evap testing.
Oil Change Service from $15.95
*Recommended every 3 months/ 3000 – 7500 miles. Service includes up to 5 quarts multi grade 10w30 motor oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.
*Vehicles requiring 5w20 or 5w30 are $19.95,
* canister filters and synthetic oil @ additional cost.
A/C system Recharge $39.95
*includes system evaluation, evacuation, 15 minute vacuum hold test and recharge to specification
*134a Freon additional *additional repairs maybe required for proper system operation, leak detection and diagnostic service available at additional cost
Brake Service $30 Off per axle.
*Life time Brakes Available
*We do not advertise brake coupon prices because every vehicles requirements are vehicle specific.
2 Wheel Alignment $49.95
*includes toe adjustment of the front axle *4 wheel alignment $20.00 additional cost, includes toe adjustment of front and rear axles. *camber, caster adjustment at additional cost See consultant for details
FREE Second Opinion
Bring in your written repair estimate and we will gladly give you a second opinion for Free
Precision Tune Auto Care
12 MONTHS / 12,000 MILES WARRANTY
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1191 East Main St.
619-308-6164
Mon–Fri 8am–6pm • Sat 8am–5pm • Sun 8am–4pm
Discounts off regular price, At participating location, Not valid with other offers, Other restrictions may apply, see manager for details. Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. All coupons expire 12/17/15.

HOLIDAY SMOG CHECK SPECIAL

AC TOP UP SPECIAL $49
Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks.

$21.75* + $8.25 cert

Smog Test or STAR Certified All Cars 2000 and Up **Same Price. Good through December 31, 2015.**

STAR Certified **SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY $41.75**

+ $8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER from $24.95
Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

COOLING SYSTEM SPECIAL from $39.95
Includes flush radiator and up to one gallon of coolant. Special coolant extra. Most vehicles to 1995. With ad. Limited time offer.

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN $69.95
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL from $179.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up Oil and filter change • Lube chassis Radiator coolant change Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning Check brakes, suspension

NEW CV AXLE from $159.95
Parts & Labor

TIMING BELT SPECIAL
$50 off quoted price
Recommended at 60K miles. Most vehicles. Limited time offer.

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www.cliffbrownautomotive.com
Free brake inspection Cliff Brown location

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SMOG CHECK $19.95

Plus $8.25 certificate. $31.75
2000 & older. Vans and trucks extra.
Free retest when we do the repair.

TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE $39.95 4-cyl. Most cars
- Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
- Install oil filter
- Install spark plugs
- Check belts & hoses
- Check air, fuel filters
- V-6, V-8 extra

+ $2 hazardous materials fee

OIL CHANGE Most cars, Trucks extra $14.95 +tax
Replace up to 4 quarts & oil filter
+ $2 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES $129 Free Inspection
- Front or Rear Axle
- Parts & Labor
- Turn Rotors Drums
- Premium Pads
- Light Trucks extra
- Most Cars + tax

WHEEL BALANCE & TIRE ROTATION $25 Most cars

AC SERVICE Most cars, freon extra $32

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT Most cars $34.95

ALIGNMENT 4 wheel most cars $39

30K, 60K, 90K, SERVICE From Most 4-cyl. cars $139.95

Free shuttle service
12 K nationwide warranty

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Just off the I-5 near Petco Park!
Must present ad prior to service. Expires 1-4-16

ASE CERTIFIED

SMOG CHECK $16.95
With coupon only. Plus $8.25 for certificate. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

STAR Certified $24.95
State of California LICENSED SMOG CHECK INSPECTION & REPAIR STATION
with coupon. Plus $8.25 for certificate. Retest Free when repair done on site. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

MAJOR SERVICE 30K/60K/90K Most 4-cyl. cars. As low as $139.95
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- Replace air filter
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- Top off all fluids
- 4 tires rotation
- 38-point inspection

ALIGNMENT $39.95 Most 4-cyl.cars

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION Most 4-cyl.cars

FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic with repair on site.

OIL CHANGE $16.95
With free brake and 32-point inspection. Most 4-cyl. cars. Plus $2.50 disposal fee.

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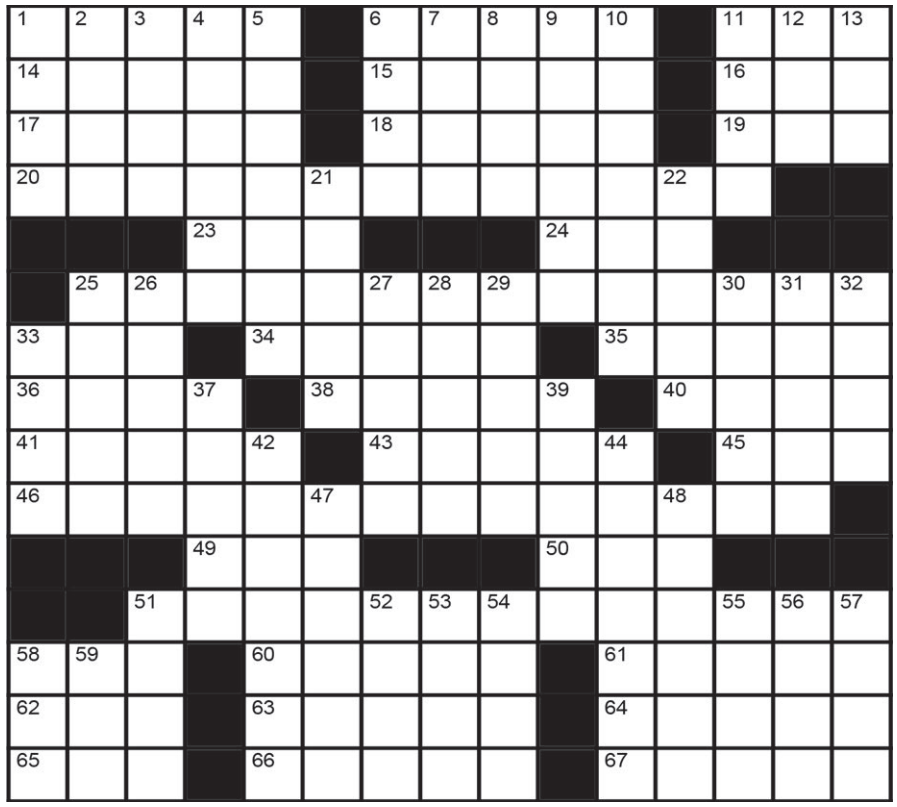
10 winners a week!



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RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
3) The puzzle-contest ranking, shown online and in the paper, will begin anew every three months. Complete the journey four times a year!
4) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489;** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and e-mailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

And now for the really small print:
1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
2) Late entries will not be considered.
3) We will draw 10 names from weekly puzzle winners; no clever words or limericks required.
4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

P	A	I	N	T	■	C	A	B	A	L	■	N	U	T
I	K	N	O	W	■	O	M	A	R	S	■	U	N	E
P	A	N	T	I	N	G	S	H	E	D	■	C	P	A
■	■	■	O	N	E	I	O	T	A	■	C	L	A	M
P	I	C	K	S	A	T	■	■	■	E	I	E	I	O
T	S	A	■	■	P	O	T	T	Y	R	A	I	D	■
A	L	I	A	S	■	■	■	R	E	I	N	S	■	■
■	A	T	T	E	N	T	I	O	N	S	P	O	T	■
■	■	■	B	A	R	A	K	■	■	T	Y	P	O	S
■	S	P	A	N	C	H	E	C	K	■	■	R	P	M
T	U	F	T	S	■	■	■	Y	E	A	H	Y	O	U
I	R	I	S	■	S	C	A	R	E	D	Y	■	■	■
S	E	Z	■	P	O	T	S	A	N	D	P	A	N	S
H	O	E	■	O	R	R	I	N	■	T	E	B	O	W
A	F	R	■	P	E	S	T	O	■	O	R	A	T	E

Across

1. "Anaconda" rapper Nicki
6. Verboten
11. Casino area
14. Dickens title opener
15. NCAA women's basketball powerhouse
16. "What ____ the odds?"
17. "Don't mince words!"
18. Put back to zero, say
19. Ski shop supply
20. Make Bozo top secret?
23. "How I Met Your Mother" narrator
24. Org. with an Office of Water
25. Defend the presence of a male escort?
33. Yoga class rental
34. Sunny?
35. Like volcanoes
36. Iowa State city
38. Mall cop weapon
40. Approaching
41. Money in la banque or la banca
43. Toys with tails
45. Corp. leader
46. Like someone unsubscribing from a popular music streaming service?
49. Org. conducting lots of X-rays
50. 2014 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film
51. Inform someone with 100% accuracy?
58. Piece in the Middle East?
60. ____ the side of caution
61. City of Light, in a Cole Porter song
62. "Sheesh!"
63. Check the total
64. Boy band with the 2000 hit "Liquid Dreams"
65. Gorilla, e.g.
66. Some Spanish dates: Abbr.
67. Awaits judgment

Down

1. Opposite of fem.
2. Right-leaning type: Abbr.
3. Evian competitor
4. Preferred groups
5. Travels around the world in style
6. What a gang protects
7. ____-deucy
8. Pear variety
9. What flamingos often stand on
10. Not digressing
11. One of 16 in a chess set
12. Lyricist Gershwin
13. ____-Mex
21. Fool
22. It may be covered or circled
25. Clog
26. "In ____" (1993 Nirvana album)
27. Unreliable
28. Oslo Accords partner of Yitzhak and Bill
29. Rocky ridge
30. Chilling, as Champagne
31. Hybrid big cat
32. Spanish skating figure
33. West and others
37. ____ voce
39. Many a song at a dance club
42. Venus and Serena, e.g.
44. Crush, e.g.
47. More impartial
48. Get out
51. Alaska ZIP code starter
52. "Animal House" house
53. "The boy you trained, gone he is" speaker
54. Puts a stop to
55. 1982 sci-fi film with a 2010 sequel
56. NC-17, maybe
57. Cravings
58. Quentin directed her in "Pulp Fiction"
59. Give a big shock to

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- **Fred Odom, San Diego, 4.**
- **Robert Ott, San Diego, 4.**
- **Arie Passchier, Orange, 4.**
- **Jim Piburn, Point Loma, 4.**
- **Russ Williams, La Mesa, 2.**

We cannot accept your entry without the following:
Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code: _____

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

10 winners a week!

THE READER SUDOKU PUZZLES:

RULES OF THE GAME

1) Submit completed puzzle of any difficulty level (Easy, Medium, Hard or Evil) to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest! We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results and ranking are posted online at SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name. Clearly mark the puzzle that you want to enter this week by crossing off the other completed puzzles. All puzzles that are cut into pieces will be disqualified..

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

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

5) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489;** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego CA, 92102; or scanned and e-mailed to Sudoku@sdreader.com. Submissions by e-mail must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed.

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

7) Late entries will not be considered.

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

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

EASY:

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

MEDIUM:

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

HARD:

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

EVIL:

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

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EASY:

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

MEDIUM:

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

HARD:

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

EVIL:

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

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THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- **Carole Ball, San Diego, 2.**
- **Robert Crumrine, San Diego, 2.**
- **Jeff Ball, San Diego, 2.**
- **Isabella Busch-Sorensen, San Diego, 2.**
- **Paul Griffith, Fallbrook, 2.**

We cannot accept your entry without the following:

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code: _____

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- Alternator Service
- Fan Belt Service
- Mufflers
- Struts & Shocks
- A/C Service

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619-359-8609

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DISC or DRUM BRAKES
Install Pads/shoes-2 Wheels
GOOD $78.99
·Add Fluid
·Most Cars/Lt. Trucks
·Check Rotors/Drums
·Inspect Hardware
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·Check Master Cyl
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Most Cars & Lt. Trucks
·Up to 5qts. 5w30
·Oil filter
Special Oil filters slightly higher
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·free lube on request
With Coupon.

GOOD 30K/60K/90K MILE SERVICE
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·INSPECT RUNNING LIGHTS
·ADJUST IDLE SPEED
·4 TIRE ROTATION
·INSPECT BRAKE SYSTEM
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·DRAIN & FILL COOLANT
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·TOP OFF FLUIDS
·4 CYL.
·PLATINUM PLUGS EXTRA
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· REPLACE AIR FILERS
· RE[LACE PCV FILTER
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CV FWD AXLES
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Replace clicking axles before they break
Includes Installation.
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news of the WeiRD

by Chuck Shepherd

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LEAD STORY

— In October, a Harvard University debate team (three-time recent champions of the American Parliamentary Debate Association) lost a match to a team of prisoners from the maximum-security Eastern New York Correctional Facility. Prison debaters "are held to the exact same standards" as college debate teams, according to the director of Bard College's Prison Initiative, which coaches the inmates. Prisoners took the "pro" side of public schools having the right to turn away students whose parents had entered the U.S. illegally (though team members personally disagreed). The Bard trainers pointed out that the inmates perfected their presentation despite (or perhaps because of) the prison prohibition on internet access.

Compelling Explanations

— A black alleged gang member, Taurus Brown, 19, under arrest in Clearwater, Florida, in September for having a marijuana cigarette casually tucked behind his ear as he talked politely to a white police officer, tried to flee on foot but was quickly taken down. Asked why he ran, Brown replied (according to the police report): "I don't like white people touching me. White people do weird stuff."

Unclear on the Concept

— The Merit Systems Protection Board is (wrote the *Washington Post*) "a personnel court of last resort" for federal employees unfairly punished by demotion or firing — which is just what employee Timothy Korb needed when his federal agency suspended him in 2013, allegedly for revealing at a staff meeting that the agency's actual case backlog was much worse than it was letting on. Korb's employer, ironically, is the Merit Systems Protection Board, and in September 2015, an administrative law judge upheld his claim of unfairness.

— Philosophy professor Anna Stubblefield (Rutgers-Newark University) was convicted of aggravated sexual assault against a severely disabled man she was discovered having sex with on the floor in a locked office, but at trial in September, she testified that the man had "consent(ed)" and that the two were "in love." The victim, 34, has cerebral palsy and other ailments, wears diapers, requires assistance for nearly all activities, is intellectually disabled, and does not speak, "except for making noises," according to a brother. Stubblefield had been working with him on the controversial practice of "facilitated communication," in which a facilitator reads a patient's mind via subtleties such as eye movement and articulates the words for him. However, a jury failed to appreciate that facilitated "consent" and quickly convicted her.

Shameless

— In rare bipartisan action, the U.S. Senate is preparing a bill to ban taxpayer funds for those military salutes at sporting events. Teams (the legislators believe) already benefit from the fan-friendly staging of heartwarming patriotic displays. (The Pentagon had paid $5.4 million just to the National Football League over the last four years.) An NFL spokesman, finally playing catch-up, said in September, "[N]o one should be paid to honor our troops."

Legislators in Action

— In a recent resolution, Blount County (Tennessee) commissioner Karen Miller called for her fellow commissioners and state officials all the way up to the governor to prepare for "God's wrath" for recent national policies (same-sex marriage, etc.) she disagrees with. Though other states might be in for a smiting, Miller's resolution calls on God to spare Blount County (by the "safety of the Passover lamb"). In October, the commission tabled the resolution, 10-5, but she promised to reintroduce it.

— By September, Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser were finally out of the Michigan Legislature — Gamrat by guard-escorted removal after her formal expulsion and Courser by pre-emptive resignation — following the pair's months-long "secret" sexual affair and clumsy handling of its revelation. Courser's original defense strategy was to plant a bogus story of a gay-sex scandal, hoping to discredit as hysteria any news about his actual affair, but when that failed, he issued a 1900-word plea, liberally quoting the Bible, acknowledging his hypocrisy and hoping for salvation from his colleagues (who failed to come through).

The Weirdo-American Community

— "Officially" declaring oneself not subject to the laws of any jurisdiction (i.e., a "sovereign") opens a wide range of career choices. The FBI and Las Vegas police say that in Rick Van Thiel's case, once his porn-industry career ended (because someone stole his video equipment), he "decided to go into the medical field," becoming "Dr. Rick" with expertise performing dozens of abortions, circumcisions, and castrations (plus cancer treatments and root canals). Proudly avoiding actual licensing, Van Thiel promoted "alternative" remedies, with an office in a Nevada compound of trailers that one hesitant "patient" described as something out of a horror movie. Van Thiel, arrested in October, nonetheless staunchly defended his ability (acquired, he said, by watching YouTube medical videos). (Bonus entertainment: In court, he will be acting as his own lawyer.)

Perspective

— In June, Tennessee's much-publicized program to kick drug users off of welfare rolls (and only from welfare rolls, among all people receiving any type of state subsidy) wound up its first year cutting off fewer than 40 people out of 28,559 people on public assistance ("temporary assistance to needy families"). Nonetheless, the sponsoring legislators said they were pleased with the program and planned no changes. The state paid a contractor $11,000 to conduct 468 drug tests but did not disclose staff costs of processing applications, deciding who to test and managing cases.

Send your Weird News to Chuck Shepherd, San Diego *Reader*, P.O. Box 85803, San Diego, CA 92186 or to WeirdNewsTips@Yahoo.com

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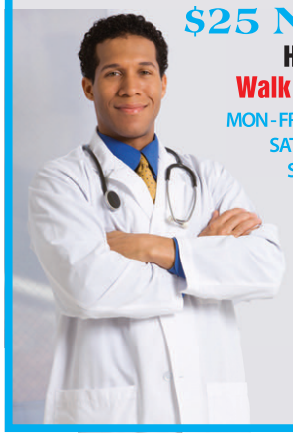

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Blue dream popcorn nugs
Topshelf oz $99

Smiley Sundays
Cavi Cones
2 for $30

Mellow Mid Mondays
7g for $45

Twisted Tuesdays
10% off your order
(with $60 donation)

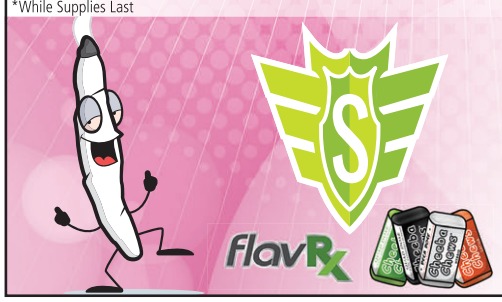
Wax Wednesdays
$5 off wax

Hash Thursdays
3.5g Bubble hash $50

Finally Fridays
20% off edibles

Free Gram Saturdays
1 gram free with purchase

*While Supplies Last



Super Buds

619-919-9666

Must Have Valid Doctors Rec and ID
No Delivery Fee! • $45 minimum delivery
Pre-Orders Welcome • Menu Updated Daily on Weed Maps

EXOTIC On Imperial

P: 619.552.6091

WM Leave a GOOD REVIEW ON WEEDMAPS And Receive a FREE PRE-ROLL as our Gratitude

OFFERING: Accessories | Ointments | Concentrates | Edibles

TOP SHELF OUNCE $250 Limited Time.

3 PLATINUM VAPE $75 1000mg. Each!

TWO FOR $25 Top Shelf Grams

7 Gram $50 Mid Shelf Grams

1st TIME PATIENTS FREE 1/8th w/min. $55 Donation

PRE ROLL FREE With Every $10 Donation

ONE OUNCE $99 Skunk Pack

MOON ROCK $25 Grams

MON-SAT 9AM - 11PM | SUN 10AM-10PM

$20 1/8th House Strain | $5 Pre-Roll | $50 15 Pre-Rolls

FREE coffee everyday!

Kushtown Sodas: Donate for 2, get 1 free!

El Cajon's *LARGEST* Collective!

Over 100 Strains!

TruMeds Collective

1275 N. 2nd St.
El Cajon, CA 92021

619.731.9921

Mon-Sun:
8am-11pm

5 FREE Pre-Rolls
No donation necessary! FTP only.

Or

2 FREE Top-Shelf G's
w/$40 min. donation. FTP only.

Fire Bubba Kush:
$300 for 4 OZs!

All Top-Shelf $10/G
All day to all patients!

FREE Glass Pipe
FREE Grinder
FREE Lighter
FREE Pre-Roll
For ALL patients with min. $20 donation.

To All Patients!

$99 OZ Special
Up to 15 strains!
All day, everyday!

$60 1/2-OZs also available.

1/8th House Wax $55	Extraordinaire Extractions $55/G Solvent free, lab tested.
Platinum Vapes $18	MoonRocks $20/G
FlavRX Cartridges $20	All Clones $12!
Edipure: Donate for 2, Get 1 FREE!	420 Bars: Donate for 2, Get 1 FREE!

YOUR FAVORITE STRAINS BACK IN NORTH PARK

2814 ADAMS AVE • SAN DIEGO, CA 92116

(619) 855-4052

OVER 200+ MEDICATED ITEMS

JOIN THE RAFFLE!
EVERY PURCHASE OVER $50!
1ST PRIZE - FREE HOVER BOARD
2ND PRIZE - FREE SEEDLESS SHIRT & KEYCHAIN
3RD PRIZE - FREE 1/8TH TOP SHELF

FTP: FREE GRAM OF FLOWER OR WAX W/MIN. $30 DONATION
PLUS FREE BUBBLE HASH FOR EVERY NEW PATIENT WITH ANY PURCHASE!

$5 OFF ANY DONATION OF $50, $10 OFF OR A FREE GRAM OF TOP SHELF FOR ANY DONATION OVER $100

RASKAL
GENETICS
WHITE FIRE
OG

MORNING SPECIAL - 5G 1/8THS 8AM-11:00AM, NIGHTTIME SPECIAL - $50 1/8THS 10PM - 2AM

FREE WAX PIECE W/ $50 WAX DONATION

2 FOR $25 CAVI CONES" AND "$10 CHEEBA CHEWS

HEROJUANA
FURIOUS 7
CANDY JACK
GORILLA FIRE COOKIES
BABYLON COOKIES

VENDORS WELCOMED

VOTED SAN DIEGO'S BEST COLLECTIVE BY THE PATIENTS

MARY'S MEDICINALS · KOROVA · EdiPure · kure · Bhang · KANEH CO · ATM

Green Life

SEARCH FOR GREENLIFE MEDS ON WEEDMAPS

OPEN DAILY
8AM - 11PM

$10 Top Shelf Grams
All Day. Everday!

KOROVA UNRIVALED POTENCY · Bhang

WE ARE A WALK IN COLLECTIVE SERVING ALL OF SAN DIEGO!

EdiPure

6 G'S FOR $50 TOP SHELF! FTP ONLY.

HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY. EVERDAY.

2 VAPE CARTRIDGES FOR $60

4 GRAMS TOP SHELF WAX $100

$99 OUNCE HOUSE FIRE

FREE 1/8TH W/ $40 MINIMUM DONATION FTP ONLY.

Located Between
EL CAJON & LAKESIDE

619-796-9501

1645 N SECOND ST. EL CAJON, CA 92021
*LOT B ON TOP OF THE HILL

20% OFF FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS & DISABLED

MUST BE 18+ WITH VALID CALIFORNIA ID +VALID DOCTOS RECOMMENDATION

BEST MEDS IN TOWN!

LA MESAS FINEST — best meds in town!

KOROVA · KANEH CO · Bhang · KUSHIPTS MOONROCK · EdiPure

Fire Sale

2 OZs of Fire Shake $25!
FTPs only. Returning patients pay $50.
4 OZs Fire Shake $75
Any patient!

3 Grams of Nug Run Crumble $100

Happy Hour! Tues & Thurs, 4:20-8:20pm
5G 1/8ths any shelf!

Free 1-Gram Platinum Vape
when you donate for 2 or $35 each

KUSHIPTS MOONROCK
2 G's for $50 or 4 G's for $95
Original or Strawberry flavors.

$25 1/8ths of Double Dream
Top-Shelf Strain!

We have $90-$100 OZ Specials!

Top-Shelf Shatter $60 G or 3 G's for $125
See store for details.

$10 off wax, crumble, or shatter
FTP only. With $50 min donation

$10 G's of Top-Shelf up to 10 G's or 5-Gram 1/8th Private Reserve $60
FTP only.

GORILLA GLUE: 2 G'S FOR $25 Private Reserve!

10 Pre-Rolls $25 House strain.

OG Shatter ~~$50~~ $25 G

$55 DOGO 1/8ths
Multiple strains to choose from. Mix & match!

4G 1/8ths & 8G 1/4s
All day! Excludes DOGO deals.

7140 University Ave. Suite B — Look for green light

619-813-8167

Mon–Thurs: 9am–midnight
Fri–Sat: 9am–1am
Sun 9am–midnight

24-HOUR ARMED GUARD

Offers/specials may not be combined.

DIAMOND COLLECTIVE

Death Star $89 OZ
Any patient!

3 Grams of Shatter/Crumble $75
Mix & match! FTP only

FREE 1G Platinum Vapes Cartridge
With $40 donation for another 1G Platinum Vape cartridge.

Godzilla or Jack the Ripper: Donate $60 for 1/8th, get 2 FREE 1/8ths!
Any patient!

FTP SPECIALS:

FREE Top-Shelf Gram & FREE Gift FTP only, with min. $20 donation.

$10 Top-Shelf Grams
FTP only. Min. donation for 3 grams. No limit beyond that!

2 FREE OZs! Donate $80 for an OZ of shake, get 2 OZs **FREE**! FTP only.

4-Gram 1/8ths & 8-Gram 1/4s
All Day, Everyday!

5G 1/8ths ALL DAY Tues & Sun!
Patient Appreciation Days!

Offers cannot be combined.

10% Off for Military, Seniors, and Disabilities

Bhang · EdiPure · Jetty · KOROVA · KUSHIPTS MOONROCK · Seven Nine Extracts · Free ATM!

Search "Diamond Collective" on Weedmaps to see our menu!

Mon-Thur 9am-11pm
Fri-Sat 9am-12am
Sunday 10am-10pm

24-HOUR ARMED GUARD

5555 Jackson Dr, Ste. 125
La Mesa, CA 91941
619.597.3009

CHULA VISTA GENERAL HOLISTIC

210 BROADWAY CHULA VISTA, CA 91910

Check out our BOGO shelf! Over 20 strains!

SHATTER BLOWOUT

5 GRAMS SIR-DAB-A-LOT $100 DONATION

DONATE FOR 1G OF CRUMBLE AT $40, GET 1 FREE! (Or 1G for $30. Mix & match!)

MUNCHIE MONDAYS
DONATE ANY 2 EDIBLES AND RECEIVE ONE EDIBLE FREE
at equal or lesser value

FTP SPECIALS:

$9 HIGH-QUALITY TOP-SHEF GRAMS
Up to 8 at this price. FTP only.

or

FREE 1/2-OZ HOUSE SHAKE
with $25 min. donation. FTP only.

or

$10 OFF ANY GRAM OF WAX
FTP only.

4 GRAM 1/8S & 8 GRAM 1/4
ALL DAY EVERYDAY

SUNDAY SPECIALS:

$45 CAP ON ALL 1/8THS & 10% OFF ALL EDIBLES & CONCENTRATES!

5-GRAM 1/8THS
EVERY TUES & WED!
10-gram limit per patient. Expires 12/10/15.

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS, 8AM-11AM
$10 TOP-SHELF GRAMS
Good for up to 8G's every day 8am-11am.

Offers/specials may NOT be combined.

Best Patient Service in Town!

Search "Chula Vista Gen" on Weedmaps for our updated menu!

24-HOUR ARMED GUARD

619-701-2924

7 days, 8am–2am

KUSHIPTS MOONROCK · Bhang · KOROVA · Kushy Punch · EdiPure · HGH · Free ATM!

THE Cure

Featured in El Cajon

$45 Cap on all Top Shelf 1/8th's

FREE GRAM of MoonRock

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS W/ $30 DONATION

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS

BOGO WAX/CRUMBLE (Select Strains)

FREE TOP SHELF GRAM

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS W/ $50 DONATION

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS W/ $100 DONATION

FREE TOP SHELF 2 GRAMS

FREE 1/8TH HOUSE STRAIN

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS W/ $35 DONATION

FOR 1ST TIME PATIENTS W/ $70 DONATION

FREE 1/4 HOUSE STRAIN

TOP SHELF INDICA PRESIDENTIAL OG

FOR ANY PATIENT $35 FOR 1/8TH

FOR ANY PATIENT $35 FOR 1/8TH

TOP SHELF SATIVA SOUR DIESEL

WAX/SHATTER 3 GRAMS EVERYDAY SPECIAL

FOR ANY PATIENT $100 MIX & MATCH

FOR ANY PATIENT $75 SELECT STRAINS

WAX/CRUMBLE 3 GRAMS EVERDAY SPECIAL

WAX/CRUMBLE **4 GRAMS $100** LARGE SELECTION

10am - 10pm EVERY DAY

619-376-6686

560 El Cajon Blvd., El Cajon

follow us on

wm THE CURE_SD

Rosin Press Has Arrived!

Come ask how we can Squish Your Nugs!

* Some Restriction Apply, One Coupon Per Patient. Cannot Combine Offers.

All Seniors Citizens (65 & up), Disabled & Veterans come in for a 10% Discount.

AZTEC HEALERS

No ATM fees!
Minutes away from SDSU!

9 AM–2PM DAILY: $10/GRAM ANY STRAIN!

HOME OF THE $45 TOP-SHELF 1/8THS!

$35 ANY TOP-SHELF 1/8TH

FTP ONLY. Valid for any strain in the store!

KURUPTS MOONROCK

2 GRAMS FOR $50

(FTP ONLY)

2 PRE-ROLLS FOR $30

(Any patient)

FREE GRAM

Any OG strain w/min. $20 gram donation. FTP ONLY.

$120 OZ SPECIAL
Any mid-shelf strain, any patient!

50% OFF ANY EDIBLE
Donate for one, get the second for 50% off. FTP ONLY.

PLATINUM VAPES: 2 1G CARTRIDGES $50
Indica, Sativa, or Hybrid. Any patient.

6 GRAMS FOR $40
Mid-shelf. Any patient, all day everyday!

3 GRAMS OF SHATTER/ CRUMBLE $100
FTP ONLY.

REWARDS POINTS!

We are the only collective that offers its patients rewards points for their donations.
Every dollar donated is a point earned.
50 points for all referrals!
One-time 50 point bonus for weed maps reviews!

wm Find us on Weedmaps! @AztecHealers420 ATM FREE ATM! Armed Security

619-371-0118

15% discount for all FTP SDSU past or present students
10% off for future discounts or with other student ID
10% discounts for military, veterans, disabled & senior citizens (65 & up)
Offers and discounts cannot be combined for FTPs or returning patients.

Open 7 days, 9 am–9 pm
3125 54th St.
(corner of 54th and Redwood), **92105**
Safe access and parking available

The BLVD

5G 1/8 ONLY AT EARLY BIRD FROM 9AM-12PM

10 FREE PRE ROLLS FTP ONLY WITH $20 MINIMUM DONATION
OFFER CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY BELOW OFFER

HIGH QUALITY TOP SHELF 1/8THS $40 CAPS

$10 G OF YOUR CHOICE EXCLUDING EXOTICS
FTP. MUST BRING AD

$100 OZ OF MID SHELF
2 CAVI CONES $25

ATTENTION ALL SAN DIEGO DAB HEADS
• 2GS OF WAX FOR $40 • 4GS OF WAX FOR $60
• WE HAVE BOGOS

SHATTER STIX VAPE PEN CO2 EXTRACTED. PURE. NO ADDITIVES.
$40 FOR 1 • $70 FOR 2 • $100 FOR 3

NIGHT OWL SPECIAL
11PM-CLOSE

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 5G 1/8
ON ALL STRAINS
MUST SHOW READER AD

2G EXOTICS $30, 2G PRIVATE RESERVE $25, 2G TOP SHELF $20, 2G MIDS $15

SUNDAY FOOTBALL SPECIAL: $10 TOP SHELF G FROM 10AM-4:20PM.
MUST SHOW READER AD

FTP GIFTS • 10% OFF FOR ALL • COLLEGE, MILITARY, SENIORS, AND DISABLED
MON-WED 9-1AM THUR-SAT 9-2AM SUN 10AM-12AM OPEN LATE
LOCATED ON EL CAJON BLVD IN THE COLLEGE/CITY HEIGHTS AREA
WE HAVE OVER 500 MEDICATED ITEMS
ATM INSIDE

OFFERS CANNOT BE COMBINED
24 HOUR ARMED SECURITY FOR YOUR SAFETY

5255 EL CAJON BLVD
SAN DIEGO, CA 92115
619 806-4974

Specializing in exotic strains. Best OG in town, more than 200 items

MIRAMAR PRIVATE CLUB

727 OG
Fire organic buds

KOSHER OG
Cannabis Cup winner

SHATTER STIX 3 for $100

600ml 100% pure organic CO2 extracted
HAPPY HOURS - 9:00am -11:00am/9:00pm-Midnight
Happy Hour 1/8ths = 4Gs / 1/4ths 8Gs and $5 off

Free 1/8th
Fire House Strain with donation any 1/8 FTP

Buy 3, get 1 free all edibles
Equal or lesser value FTP

3 x 1/2 Gs Golden CO2 DABS $100 Special

$5 Off any 1/2 Gram
Any wax or concentrate, no limit FTP

$5 off any 1/8ths
$10 off any 1/4 FTP

Search on weedmaps 24Hrs Security ATM and Plenty of parking

OPEN DAILY 9:00am - MIDNIGHT SEVEN DAYS A WEEK - COME SEE US!

9350 TRADE PLACE, SUITE E (858)229-6859

ALL 1/8TH 4 GRAMS ALL DAY EVERY DAY

GreenRoom on Market

Specializing in exotic strains. Best OG in town, more than 200 items
Happy hour - 9pm - 12am All 1/8ths are 4G and $5 off

$10 Off ANY 1G WAX/CONCENTRATE
With minimum donation $40 FTP

Free Gram
No donation necessary FTP only

Free 1/8th
House strain with donation of any 1/8th FTP

$60 1/2oz House
Fire house strain, any patient

Buy one edible get one 50% off
All edibles of equal or lesser value FTP

3 x 600ml shatter pens or 2 grams of co2 wax $100
Any patients

Search on weedmaps type GreenRoom to see our menu
OPEN 9:00am - Midnight 619 306-5678 Security ATM

Veterans, senior and disabled special discounts, come see us for a Free Gram

4218 MARKET ST - SUITE A / SAN DIEGO

IMP30

50% OFF Edible

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR ALL NIGHT

HAPPY HOUR - 9am - 12am All 1/8ths are 4G and $5 OFF

FREE GRAM
No donations necessary FTP

FREE 1/8TH
House strain with donation of any 1/8TH FTP

BUY ONE EDIBLE GET ONE 50% OFF
All edible of equal or less value FTP

$10 OFF ANY 1G WAX/CONCENTRATE
With minimun $40 donation

3 X 600ML VAPRX SHATTER PENS OR 2GRAMS OF CO2 WAX $100
Over 200 medicated itens, BEST OG IN TOWN come to check it out

Search IMP30 weedmaps $60 1/2oz 619-316-7069 Guard & ATM
House strain any patient 7 days 8:00am/Midinight

Veterans, senior and disable special discounts, come see us Park Back

3030 IMPERIAL AVE / SAN DIEGO

#1 RANKED COLLECTIVE
BEST WAX SELECTION IN SAN DIEGO

EMPIRE

NAMELESS GENETICS MEGA-WELLNESS OG

THIN MINT COOKIES

CALI KUSH FARMS VENOM OG LAB TESTED at 27.9% THC!

CALI KUSH FARMS KOSHER KUSH

45 CAP ON ALL TOP SHELF 1/8ths • OVER 50 to choose from!

FREE 1/8 Shake FTP

- 3 500MG OIL CARTS FOR $80 MIX AND MATCH (REG PRICE 120)
- $90 1/2 OZ SELECT STRAINS
- 1 OZ SHAKE - $70.00
- $120 OZ HOUSE SPECIAL ON SELECT STRAINS
- 5G 1/8 OR 10G 1/4 ANY STRAIN (FTP ONLY)
- CAVI CONES,TARANTULAS OR PRX CONES 2 FOR $25.00 MIX AND MAX
- KURUPTS MOONROCK REAL DEAL KURUPTS MOONROCKS $25/GRAM
- 2G OF TOP SHELF FOR $25.00 (ALL DAY, EVERY DAY)
- PRESIDENTIAL PRE-ROLL SPECIAL 2 FOR $25.00
- LALLIPOP EXTRACTS NUGRUN SHATTER ONLY $40

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 11:00PM-12:00AM ALL TOP SHELF FLOWER $10 A GRAM ALL EMPIRE SHELF FLOWER ONLY 45 "FOR 1/8" • We carry RSO OIL, and a large selection of CBD products • WE CARRY ICESTONE GOODS GOURMET MEDICATED ICE CREAM. COME IN ON SUNDAYS WEARING YOUR CHARGER GEAR RECEIVE FREE PREROLL

All Meds are SC LABS tested sclabs

10% Off For All Veterans, Seniors, Disabled One coupon per visit • All coupons expire 12/2/15

5 STAR RATED

619-704-4475

VENDORS WELCOME

8622 TROY ST SPRING VALLEY | 91977 | 8AM-12AM DAILY

MUST HAVE A VALID CA I.D. & ORIGINAL DOCTOR'S RECOMMENDATION, SAFE ACCESS SAFE PARKING

EUREKA Green Wave

"CALI KUSH FARMS" VENOM OG - LAB TESTED at 27.9% THC!

King's Reserve

"CALI KUSH FARMS" KOSHER KUSH

$45 CAP—ALL 1/8THS, ALL STRAINS!

LA MESA'S NEWEST AND FINEST COLLECTIVE PROVIDING CANNABIS CUP WINNING FLOWERS & CONCENTRATES

- $90oz (28g) HIGH QUALITY GREEN-HOUSE SPECIAL!
- BUY TWO EDIBLES GET ONE FREE! of equal or lesser value
- ONE OZ SHAKE $70
- $10 OFF ANY 1g of WAX/ CONCENTRATE
- 3 500mg VAPE PENS $80 mix & match!
- FREE 1/8TH of HOUSE SPECIAL w/ $40 Donation FTP only

5g 1/8th any strain FTP • 10g 1/4 any strain FTP

OPEN DAILY 9AM-MIDNIGHT!

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFF OF COLLEGE AVE in LA MESA!

CALL NOW FOR VERIFICATION AND DIRECTIONS:

619-327-6723

MUST BE 18+ with VALID CA ID & ORIGINAL DOCTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

HOUSE of OG'S

- DONATE A TOP SHELF 1/8 AND RECEIVE A FREE GRAM OF TOP SHELF - YOUR CHOICE!
- DONATE ONE G OF FIRE OG WAX FOR $55 RECEIVE SECOND G OF FIRE OG WAX FOR FREE
- DONATE A TOP SHELF 1/4 AND RECEIVE 2 FREE GRAMS OF TOP SHELF - YOUR CHOICE! (FTP ONLY)
- REAL DEAL KURUPTS MOONROCK $25G
- CAVI CONES OR PRX CONES 2 FOR $25
- $100 OZ "ORGANIC SUNGROWN FLOWER"
- MIX N MAX VAPE TANKS 3 VAPE TANKS FOR $90
- 5 GRAM 1/8 FTP ANY STRAIN
- 10 GRAM 1/4 FTP ANY STRAIN
- 1 OZ SHAKE $80.00

619-431-9255 8AM-12AM 7 DAYS A WEEK Call for verification

4406 40th Street San Diego, CA

EdiPure Exhale Kushy Punch KOROVA

PRESIDENTIAL KUSH

Pure meds

San Diego's Finest Collective

THIN MINT COOKIES

WALK-IN

- 25% OFF EDIBLES (F.T.P. ONLY)
- HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 8PM - 12AM! FREE 1/8TH OF HOUSE MIX AND FREE GRAM OF BUBBLE HASH W/ EVERY DONATION
- $100 oz (ON SELECT HOUSE STRAINS. FULL NUGS.)
- FREE SMALL PIPE FREE GRINDER (WITH ANY PURCHASE)
- 2G / $25 ON ALL TOP SHELF STRAINS (FTP ONLY)
- DONATE OVER $20 RECEIVE A FREE EIGHTH (HOUSE SPECIAL, FTP ONLY)
- $25 a gram Clear Gold Shatter
- 50% OFF ALL $10 GRAMS!

CALL NOW FOR VERIFICATION!

619-382-4373

OPEN DAILY 8AM-12AM

Walk In Showroom Located Just Minutes from Interstates 805, 94 &15 and Downtown San Diego!

KOROVA MOXIE EdiPure

MUST BE 18 YEARS + with Valid C.A. ID & ORIGINAL DOCTORS RECOMMENDATION

24-HOUR ARMED SECURITY

MISSION GREENS COLLECTIVE

8011 MISSION GORGE RD, STE G, SANTEE, 92071

619-341-4013

MON-SAT 8AM-12AM, SUN 9AM-12AM

FREE TOP-SHELF GRAM
FTP only, with min. $30 donation.

20 GRAMS MID-SHELF $100
FTP only.

$10 TOP-SHELF GRAMS
Any patient, no limit!
Over 5 strains to choose from, varies weekly.

8G 1/4 $50 — OVER 15 STRAINS!
Any patient.

$50 CARTRIDGE + FREE STARTER KIT!

FREE SPLIFFIN STARTER KIT
w/ Donation for 1G Cartridge

RxHALE VAPES: DONATE FOR 2, GET 1 FREE!
Valid for 500mg or 1000mg!

$100, ~~$200~~ $150, AND $300 OZS AVAILABLE!

KURUPTS MOONROCK $20/GRAM

PLATINUM VAPES $30 OR 2 FOR $50
House strain. Any patient!

TARANTULAS $20 OR 2 FOR $30
Private reserve joints coated with THC oil and rolled in top-shelf kief.

1/4 TOP-SHELF + 1 GRAM KIEF $100
with this coupon.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HASH 2 GS FOR $30

3 GRAMS OF WAX $90
Mix & match!

GORILLA GLUE #4: 4 G'S $50
Any patient, anytime!

HGH EXTRACTS $30 0.5G
Mix & Match! No limit.

10% OFF FOR VETERANS, SENIORS, AND DISABILITIES!

EdiPure RXhale wm @MissionGreensSantee

6 WAY GREENS

Best strains in Old Town!

4004 Taylor St, San Diego, CA, 92110
(at the corner of Pacific Coast Hwy and Taylor St.)
619-548-3219 · Mon-Th, 8am–12am;
Fri-Sat, 8am-1am ; Sun, 9am–12am

Biggest Dispensary in San Diego!
Over 100 Strains and 200 Edibles! | Vapes · Ice Cream · Pizza · Drinks · Concentrates · Cookies · Candy

8G 1/4 $40 Over 15 strains! Any patient!

20 Grams Mid-Shelf $100 FTPs only.

$100, ~~$200~~ $150, and $300 OZs!

$10 Top-Shelf Grams Over 10 strains varying weekly!

FTPs: Free Top-Shelf Gram with any Donation or $10 Top-Shelf Grams
No limit if you choose $10 top-shelf grams!

Tarantulas $20 or 2 for $30
Private reserve joints coated with THC oil and rolled in top-shelf kief.

Wax & Shatter: 3 Grams for $90
Any patient.

10 Grams Top-Shelf + 1 Gram of Kief $100 Any patient with this coupon.

Spliffin Vapes $40 (0.5g) or $70 (1g)
Super Lemon Haze, Dante's Fire, Jack Herer, Spliffin O.G., & Tangie flavors

Early Bird /Late Bird Happy Hour:
5-Gram 1/8ths
Valid 8am-11am daily,
11pm-12am Sun-Thurs,
and 12am-1am Fri & Sat Night

Cavi Cones $15

Free 1/8th House Strain
w/$30 donation. FTPs only.

Gorilla Glue #4, 4 G s for $50
Any patient, anytime!

Offers cannot be combined.

EdiPure RXhale KOROVA

PACIFIC BEACH'S LARGEST COLLECTIVE AND DELIVERY SERVICE

OVER 70 STRAINS · CLINICALLY TESTED AND CERTIFIED MEDS · 2-STAMP SATURDAYS

TOP-SHELF OZ $175 OR 5 GRAMS FOR $25!
Multiple strains at this price! FTP only.

PRIVATE RESERVE: DONATE FOR 3 GRAMS, GET 1 FREE!
Any patient. 4 grams total!

MORNING SPECIALS: 8AM-12PM • FREE HOUSE J WITH ANY DONATION!
5PM-2AM: 3 OG J'S $15 OR FREE TOP-SHELF GRAM WITH PURCHASE OF 1/8TH
Select strains.

FREE 3 GRAMS
House strain with $20 min. donation. FTP only.

FREE GRAM
Private reserve with $20 min. donation. FTP only.

FREE ANY 1/8TH
Summer Special during happy hour (8am-noon daily). FTP only. Includes private reserve!

FREE TOP-SHELF 1/8TH
Donate for 2 1/8ths, get 1 free! Any patient.

2 GRAMS PRIVATE RESERVE $20
FTP only.

$120 OZ.
Any patient. House strain.

2 MAGIC J'S $30

1/8 PRIVATE RESERVE $50

4 HOUSE FIRE J'S $10

TOP-SHELF: 3 GS FOR $25 OR $200 OZ
4 fire strains including Cookies & Sweet Dream. No cap! Any patient

5 GRAMS TOP-SHELF $50

10% DISCOUNT FOR DISABLED & VETERANS

7 GRAMS TOP-SHELF $70
FTP only.

REFER A FRIEND, GET A FREE TOP-SHELF GRAM!

KOROVA UNRIVALED POTENCY · Bhang · EdiPure · Spliffin

Offers cannot be combined.

Check us out on Weedmaps!

KushyPunch · MIGHTYMEDS · wm

WE DELIVER!

619-301-8903

LIMITLESS CARE
COLLECTIVE

Multiple shelves of flowers & great selection of edibles, concentrates, and accessories!

1737 Garnet Ave.
Enter through the back alley!
7 days, 8am-2am

We offer the cheapest pipes & glass in San Diego County!
SAN DIEGO'S FIRST
WE HAVE DOUBLED OUR SIZE
FREE COFFEE & DONUTS 5–9AM DAILY!
FREE 1/8TH FOR FTP's
House strain, with min. $20 donation.
Happy Hour All Day Every Day
Any patient.
OG Fire Wax $25/0.5G
Free Mini Rig
Any patient, with purchase of two grams of wax.
Magic J's: 1 for $20 or 2 for $35
House Shake $70 OZ
3 Pre-Rolls $10
All top shelf $10/gram
Any patient.
$2 off Kushy Punch
Any patient.
Private reserve $15/gram
Any patient.
Edibles from $5
$10 Weezza Pizza
Any patient.
$90 OZ House Fire
Open 24/7!
$5 off MoonRock
After $50 donation.
$2 off Edipure
Any patient.
Our buds are clinically tested and certified!
Join our loyalty program! • Mexican candy edibles available!
Friendly, knowledgeable, beautiful staff
We cover your ATM fee here! See store for details.
FEEL FREE TO COMBINE OUR OFFERS!
WEST MAIN WELLNESS CENTER
619-306-9538.
905 W. Main St, El Cajon 92020

24-HOUR COLLECTIVE!

AND DOUBLED OUR SELECTION!

We are on Barkback!

Top-Shelf: $160 OZ or 5 G's for $25
Huge selection of strains! Any patient.

Free Gram of Private Reserve
Donate for 3 grams, get one free! FTP only.

Early Bird Special: 10% Off!
Valid for any patient from 5am–9am daily.

Free Gram of Wax
Donate for 2, get 1 free!
Equal or lesser value. FTP only.

CHECK OUT OUR REVIEWS ON WEEDMAPS! wm @W MAIN WC

★★★★★ "Dope spot! Definitely worth checking out. Top shelf is great and they have good prices."
- JayStoned619

★★★★★ "Very understanding and great service!"
- Camaro6958

★★★★★ "Great place! They had me since day one. Great owner and awesome staff."
- Ant13bigV

★★★★★ "Hands down dopest dope I've ever smoked! Such a chill vibe when you walk in, yet staff maintains professionalism. There's lots of good parking!"
- MissTee1102

ATM On-Site • 10% Discount for Veterans! All day, every day!
Parking on the side of the building • Armed security for your safety

ATM · EdiPure · Cheeba Chews · KOROVA · Bhang Medicinal Chocolate · Eureka · Kushy Punch · PV Platinum Väpe · Kurupts MoonRoc

HILLCREST'S 24-HOUR DISPENSARY!

herbal lust

- Non-Profit Dispensary
- Free Meds for Those in Need
- Visit for More Info

$150 TOP-SHELF OZ
Choose from 7 strains!
Limit 1 per patient.

WAX ON, WAX OFF!
$19.99 0.5G! (REG. $40)
While supplies last!

$250 OZ OF GORILLA GLUE #4
THIS IS THE REAL GORILLA GLUE - 2014 CANNABIS CUP WINNER!
Valid 4pm-12am Thurs-Sun.
While supplies last!

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR: $3 DABS

FREE SMOKE PROGRAM
Only at Herbal Lust!

FREE VAPE KIT!
With donation for any 1G cartridge

FREE 5 PRE-ROLLS
w/$25 min. donation.

FREE GIFT BAG
w/min. $25 donation.
While supplies last!

KURUPTS MOONROCK **$20/GRAM**

MUST PRESENT COUPON FOR SPECIAL OFFERS.
1 COUPON PER PATIENT PER DAY.

OUR FLOWERS ARE CLINICALLY TESTED AND CERTIFIED!

Offers cannot be combined. Must present ad for special pricing.

Open 24/7!

Patient satisfaction is our main priority!
Multiple strains of flowers - exclusive, top shelf, and beyond!
Edibles, drinks, accessories, and concentrates available!
Armed security for your safety! ♥ Vendors welcome!

1255 University Ave, Suite B
San Diego, 92103

619-919-5369

EdiPure · Eureka · Made With Pure CBD 300 MG Charlotte's Web Cannabis · RXhale · Cheeba Chews · 4.20 Bar · KOROVA Unrivaled Potency · wm · FlavRx · Kushy Punch

Presidentials **1 for $15** **2 for $25**	**Honey Oil-DEALS** **Oil Cartridges $10** **Cartridges & battery $20**	**$10 1/8ths** **All Day**
MoonRocks **1g for $25** **2g for $45** **5g for $100**	**1/2 oz + 9 FREE** **Gifts $40**	
We will Match **Or Beat** **Any Coupon**	**2 grams Top Shelf $20** **2g Private Reserve $25**	**50% Off** **Select Items**

WE WILL MATCH OR BEAT ANY COUPON

150+ MEDICATED ITEMS

Bhang Oil
Bhang Bars
Tetra Labs
Edipure
Cheeba Chews

5 DIAMOND MEDS

Korova Bars
Candy Jack
Abusive OG
And much more!

4274 El Cajon Blvd, #D, San Diego • 9am–12 midnight

619-484-2470

SUN - SAT 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Chula Vista GREENS

1037 BROADWAY SUITE G
CHULA VISTA, CA 91911

FTP DEALS
5 GRAM 1/8TH
$10/g UP TO 5 GRAMS
$10 OFF A GRAM OF WAX
PLUS FREE GIFT WITH NO MIN PURCHASE

ALL DAY LONG
2G TOPSHELF $30
2G MIDSHELF $25

EARLY BIRD
FREE GIFT W/ DONATION OVER $7
10% OFF TOPSHELF 1/8THS

HAPPY HOUR 4PM-8PM
4G 1/8TH

LATE NITE 11PM-12AM
10 % OFF TOPSHELF 1/8THS

WAX WEDNESDAY 10% OFF
SHATTER SATURDAY 10% OFF

619-213-3577 We Deliver

4/8ths +
9 FREE Gifts $40 FTP

VIP

3/8ths flower, 1/8th shake, keif, hash, 2 eidibles & much more!

Holiday Deals -

2g Top Shelf $20
2g Private Reserve $25
Oil Cartridge $10
Cartridge & Battery $20
$10 1/8ths

Vip Meds
9612 Dale Ave. - Suite 3
Spring Valley, CA 91977
619-419-9698 (8am - 12am)

DISCOUNT HUNTER

SUN - SAT 9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

FIRST-TIME PATIENT SPECIAL!
No Min. Donation Required

FTP FREE GIFT
5 G EIGHT
$10 GRAMS OR
$10 OFF 1ST GRAM OF WAX
OR
10% OFF EDIBLES

EVERY DAY SPECIALS
TOP SHELF 2G'S FOR $30
MID SHELF 2G'S FOR $25

FREE Gift W/ FLYER

PRE-ROLLS
PRESIDENTIAL 2 FOR $25
TOP SHELF 2 FOR $18
PREMIUM 2 FOR $12
GENERIC 2 FOR $6

We Deliver

HAPPY HOUR
1-4:20 PM
10% OFF ALL 1/4'S
ALL DAY SATURDAY & SUNDAY

WAX WED 10% OFF WAX
SHATTER SAT 10% OFF SHATTERS

1042 S Santa Fe Ave, Vista, CA, 92084

PHONE: 442-232-7371

Get Your 420 Evaluations

$25 New Patients, $15 Renewals

REAL Doctor Medical Marijuana Cards
24 hour online verification
Phone verification 7 days a week

House calls OK!

Walk In's Welcome!

MON - FRIDAY 11am - 6:30pm
SATURDAY 11am - 5pm
SUNDAY 11am - 3pm

Location's hours / days may vary.

Call us for ID CARDS & Growers License

Bring this ad!

Escondido: 1-855-665-3825
202 4th Avenue, Escondido

La Mesa: 1-855-MMJ-EVAL (665-3825)
7400 El Cajon Blvd., #103, La Mesa

Market Street: 1-855-665-3825
4101 Market St., Ste. B, San Diego

Vista: 1-855-MMJ-EVAL (665-3825)
510 Civic Center Dr., #D, Vista

South Bay: 619-651-5041
45 Third Avenue #105-C, Chula Vista

MORE OFFICE LOCATIONS. CALL US!

#1 Rated By Weedmaps

Spring Valley

4/8ths + 9 FREE gifts!

Choose Any Quality! As low as $40!

3/8ths flower, 1/8th shake
keif, hash, 2 eidibles & much more!

Presidentials
1 for $15
2 for $25

Honey Oil - DEALS
Oil Cartridges $10
Cartridge & battery $20

$10 1/8ths
All Day

MoonRocks
1g for $25
2g for $45
5g for $100

1/2oz + 9 FREE
Gifts $40

Voted BEST
Dispensary by wm
2000+ Reviews
Spring Valley

We will Match
Or Beat
Any Coupon

2 grams Top Shelf $20
2g Private Reserve $25

50% Off
Select items

VIP

9612 Dale Ave. - Suite 3
Spring Valley, CA 91977
619-419-9698
VIP MEDS (8am - 12am)

Bhang Medicinal Chocolate
EdiPure
KOROVA

WE HAVE CBD PRODUCTS

Meds 4 Less

VOTED SAN DIEGO'S MOST COMPLETE COLLECTIVE

WALK-IN COLLECTIVE

Servicing All of San Diego County

VENDORS WELCOMED

OVER 200+ MEDICATED ITEMS

WAX WEDNESDAYS! Free wax with every donation over $30!

4 GRAM 1/8th's

All Day, Every Day,
Any Strain, Any Shelf

Early Bird Special
5 Gram 1/8
All Strains!
Come in before 11am.

$100 3g
WAX SPECIAL
mix and match
every day

Free
Gram
FTP. With any
purchase!

$20
Gram
MOON
ROCKS

FTP
Donate $50 — free 1/8
Donate $70 — free 1/4
Plus FTP gifts!

$5 off
when donating over $60
$10 off
when donating over $100

Cavi Cones
$15 or
2 for $25

Vape Cartridge
Combo!
Cartridge + Pen
$50

Cheeba
Chews
$10!

Free Wax
Piece with
$50 wax
donation

Cannot combine coupons

OPEN LATE 8AM–2AM EVERYDAY!

1155 Morena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92110 Right off the 8 & 5

619-806-5256

POINT LOMA

PATIENT CONSUMER CO-OP

WINNER CityBeat BEST OF SAN DIEGO 2015

#1 RATED, CITY APPROVED

FREE 1/8TH FIRST TIME PATIENTS
Over 330 Clinical Grade Strains

**with Minimum Donation

8ths starting at $20

Ozs starting at $150

Tokyo Qtr $85

$45 Reserve 1/8ths

High CBD product

Veterans and Disabled Receive 10% Off • Walk-in Now Open!!!

3452 Hancock St., San Diego Ca 92110 • M-Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 9am-8pm

619.574.0415 • Delivery Hrs: M-Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 9am-8pm

www.PLPCC.ORG

Lakeside Trees

GRAND OPENING!

$10 GRAMS OF YOUR CHOICE! NO LIMIT!

INCLUDES PRIVATE RESERVE, EXCLUSIVE, AND TOP-SHELF. FTP ONLY. EXPIRES 12/15/15.

$49 OZ. FULL NUGS!

1/2 OZ FREE
w/ $10 donation or
2 GRAMS FREE
No donation necessary.
FTP only. Full nugs.

OZS:
$49/$100
$150/$200
$250

$10
TOP-SHELF
GRAMS
All day,
every day!

3 RICE KRISPIES EDIBLES $10

KUSHY PUNCH OR CHEEBA CHEWS $10

KURUPT'S MOONROCKS
5 GS FOR $100
2 GS FOR $45

$10 CLONES

10 GS TOP-SHELF $50
Select strains.

2 1-GRAM PLATINUM VAPES $50

CAVI CONES OR PRESIDENTIALS
1 FOR $15 • 2 FOR $25

7-GRAM 1/4 $30
All day, every day!

$15 1/8THS
All day, every day!

5 PREROLLS
FOR $10

CANNABIS QUENCHERS $10

SHATTER
starting at $20

HGH WAX
starting at $25

TOPICAL CREAM
starting at $25

KOROVA
UNRIVALED POTENCY
BLACK BAR $35

10% OFF FOR VETERANS
VENDORS WELCOME!

12233 WOODSIDE AVE. • LAKESIDE, 92040 • 619-346-1255
SUN–WED 10AM–10PM • THURS–SAT 10AM–12AM

The Chula Vista Clinic
UNCIRCULATED O.G.
MONSTER COOKIES
GRAND OPENING!
GRAND OPENING!
The Best Selection of O.G.'s & Exotic
Exclusive Strains Chula Vista Has Ever Seen!
FIRST TIME PATIENT SPECIALS!
FREE GRAM ANY STRAIN!
(After 1/8th Donation of Equal Shelf)
$10 OFF
All 1G Concentrate
(Shatter, Wax, Crumble, Bubble Hash)
2G/$25 ANY STRAIN
(F.T.P. Only)
FREE 1/8th
(House Strain, with Top Shelf 1/8th Donation)
Donate 1 Edible, Receive 1 Edible
Half OFF!
(Equal or Lesser Value, FTP only)
$90 Ounce Special!
(Select House Strain, FTP only)
DAILY SPECIALS!
2G/$30 ANY STRAIN
All Strains, All Day!
(Best Strains in Chula Vista)
2G/$100
Prime Extractions Shatter
Select Strains
HGH / MISS NUG RUN
Half Gram /$30
(Mix & Match, NO Limit!)
$60 / 1/2 OZ. SPECIAL
Select House Strains!
$80 / OZ. TOP SHELF
Shake Special
(Select Strains of Shake)
Shatter/Crumble
Starting at $20/G!
(619) 577-7234
Hours: OPEN DAILY
8am – Midnight
1141 3rd Ave · Chula Vista, CA 91911

CHULA VISTA'S GREEN LADY
286 Emerson St.
CHULA VISTA CA 91911
near THIRD and OXFORD
OVER 100 STRAINS TO CHOOSE FROM!
CBD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE!
FTP DEALS
Free Top-Shelf Gram +1 Gram of Kief + Pre-Roll!
FTPs get all THREE with $30 min. donation!
Cannot be combined with other offers
1G Platinum Vape Cartridge $20
$10 TOP-SHELF GRAMS! NO LIMIT!
FTP only. Must mention ad.
2 Grams Private Reserve $25
Voted best private reserve in Chula Vista! Over 40 strains! FTP only.
Donate for 2 Edibles, Get 1 Free!
FTP only. For edible of equal or lesser value.
EVERYDAY DEALS
HGH / MISS NUG RUN / Half Gram / $20 - Mix & Match! NO limit!
Happy Hour: 5-Gram 1/8ths
Mon-Sat 8am-11am, Sun 9am-11am, & 9pm-12am daily
$10 Top-Shelf Grams
10 strains to choose from!
Autodabber $30 (0.5G)
KURUPTS MOONROCK $20/GRAM MUST SHOW AD
MIGHTY MEDS/SPLIFFIN starter kits FREE with 600mg/1G cartridges
3 Grams of Top-Shelf Shatter $90 Mix & Match!
Kushtown Sodas $8
Offers cannot be combined.
4G 1/8THS ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
VOTED BEST VARIETY IN CHULA VISTA!
10% OFF FOR VETERANS, SENIORS, & DISABLED
FREE ATM USE 24-HR SECURITY
619-855-0753
MON–SAT: 8AM–12AM
SUN: 9AM–12AM
Exhale
KOROVA
Spliffin

BIGGEST BOGO MENU IN SD
GC PETALS
beauty serving wellness
$45 CAP ON TOP SHELF STRAINS
Delivery Only
GCPetals.org
FTP Gold Pack
$50
4g Top Shelf
1.5 Mid Shelf
3 pre rolls
1 Edible
Top Shelf
7g for $65
(select strain)
FTP Platinum Pack
$100
8g Top Shelf
3.5 Mid Shelf
5 pre rolls
2 Edibles
1 gift
Ask about our VIP list for extra specials
DAILY DEALS
7g for $50 (select strains)
1/2 Oz for $100 (select strains)
2 for $22 on Cannabis Quenchers
2g TOP SHELF for $25
Quad Dose Cheeba Chews 2 for $20
CALL FOR DELIVERY
619-735-0872
Vendors Hotline
(we COD)
619-788-7666

HOLIDAY SPECIALS IN SPRING VALLEY!
FREE 1/2 OZ
with $10 donation. FTPs only.
2 Free Grams
No donation necessary! FTPs only.
$10 Any Gram
Includes Exclusives! FTP only.
KURUPTS MOONROCK
$20/Gram
Any patient!
$30 OZ House
$10 Clones
$55 OZ Fire Nugs
Two 1-Gram Platinum Vapes $45
HGH Wax $25
Cavi Cones 1 for $15 or 2 for $25
Cannabis Quencher Lemonade $10
3 Rice Krispies Treats $10
5 Pre-Rolls $10
KOROVA Black Bar $35
Shatter & Crumble from $20
7 Grams Top-Shelf $50
Topical Cream $25
10% discount for veterans & disabilities!
THE WAX ROOM
Vendors welcome!
619-375-6264
9925 Campo Road
Spring Valley, CA 91977
10am–11pm, 7 days

BIG NIGHT® SAN DIEGO

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

HILTON BAYFRONT

9pm – 2am 12.31.15

Special DJ Performance by

BRODY JENNER

X

devin lucien

4 TICKET TYPES

Main Event, VIP • Velvet Rope and After 11pm

All-Inclusive of Drinks and Food

OVER 7 PARTY AREAS

DISCOUNTED HOTEL • ROOMS • PARTY FAVORS

FIRST CLASS CUISINE • MIDNIGHT CELEBRATION

Entertainment:

DJ Happee, BakSpin, Mike Czech, Craig Smoov, Hollywood Nicky and many more to be announced

Velvet Rope Performance by Lady Dottie & The Diamonds

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Hilton SAN DIEGO BAYFRONT

San Diego CityBeat

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