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December 29, 2016



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CITYLIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

Water workers' ethics in the toilet

Honesty takes a beating at city hall

Have staff ethics at San Diego's city hall deteriorated under the rule of mayor **Kevin Faulconer?**

Critics there say so, citing an increasingly opaque veil of secrecy the Republican has cast over his staff's dealings with the Chargers, along with the unseemly influence wielded by members of the city's planning commission.



Unauthorized personal use of a car like this has more than one Public Utilities Department employee in trouble

As reported here last month, the mayor continues to stonewall disclosure of emails and other public records about a series of closed-door meetings regarding what the Chargers promised the politically ambitious Faulconer in exchange for his endorsement of the team's failed November stadium measure.

Then, on December 2, city auditor Eduardo Luna called out repeated abuses of the city's so-called sustainable building regulations, to the benefit of key Faulconer campaign backers.

Now comes word from Luna that public utilities managers have been caught using city vehicles for personal use.

"The Office of the City Auditor received two anonymous Fraud Hotline reports alleging that a Public Utilities Department employee was using a City vehicle for personal purposes," says a December 14 memo from Luna to Public Utilities Department director Halla Razak.

"Both reports positively identified both the City employee and the vehicle. One report described the vehicle use at the employee's home, and the other report stated that the personal use of the vehicle was related to a separate location."

Investigators verified that case and uncovered more. "A total of six PUD employees, including

two managers, used City vehicles for personal purposes for a combined total of 1,151 hours and 56 minutes between October 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016," says the report.

Confidentiality law, according to the report, "prohibits public disclosure of the identity of the subject employees. However, we provided a detailed confidential version of our report to [Public Utilities Department] management in order for the appointing authority to review, By Reader staff writers

investigate, and take the appropriate disciplinary action, as permitted under State law."

The memo notes that when it comes to monitoring potential misuses, officials have been looking the other way.

"While most City vehicles are equipped with GPS tracking devices, an agreement between the City and employee organizations restricts the use of GPS vehicle activity data. Specifically, the agreement states that GPS data may not be used on a routine basis to monitor employee activity for compliance with City policy...."

Notes the report, "All of the vehicles we reviewed were standard passenger-type vehicles.... No specialized utility repair trucks (commonly taken home to respond to utility-related emergencies) were included in our investigation."

In addition to improper vehicle use, one employee was found to have "conducted a substantial amount of personal activities on City time using a City vehicle." Per the findings, "...the City lost approximately \$6,000 in unearned wages paid to the employee for time spent on personal activities."

Officials will also "determine if action can be taken to recover substantiated costs related to improper payment of wages associated with personal use of City vehicles and take steps to recover substantiated costs if such action is deemed appropriate."

Matt Potter

Councilwoman Cole's cop committee picks panned

Lawyers warn of police surveillance

Civil rights lawyers and activists from the National Action Network gathered downtown on December 21 to blast new city-council president Myrtle Cole for her appointments to the council's Public Safety and Livable **Communities Committee.**

After teaming with council Republicans to defeat David Alvarez's

bid for the presidency.

Cole assigned three of

them, including com-

mittee head Chris Cate.

Lorie Zapf, and Barbara

Bry, to the committee along with Chris Ward.

membership, along with

The critics said the



Myrtle Cole's choices characterized as "paying lack of diversity in the back her Republican friends who voted her in as council president."

the fact that the members represent affluent areas mostly north of Interstate 8, mean that issues including those raised by a recent

report on racial profiling in traffic stops are unlikely to receive proper attention.

Trump economy boring in SD?

Political uproar, but economy may snooze

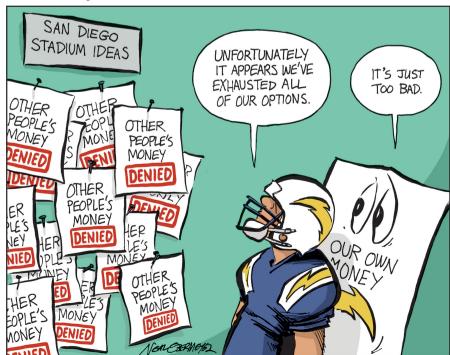
By Don Bauder

conomic forecasters are befuddled. Will President Trump ignite destructive trade wars? Or will a crackdown on companies shipping jobs overseas jack up employment and stimulate the economy? Will his planned massive tax cuts thrust the economy forward or inflate the deficit so severely that interest rates soar? Will slashing regulation liberate business or generate greed and stupid decision-making that lead to another crash?

Will the economy soar from the stimuli or plunge into recession because of high interest rates?

There is a boring possibility: the economy — in the nation and in San Diego County — will be sluggish and unexciting, just as it has been since 2007.

Neal Obermeyer



four years. Trump has talked about more military spending, but I don't know how fast it will ripple through the economy," says Cunningham. And it may be a while before any increased military spending is cranked up.

Real estate is about 20 percent of the economy, and the picture is mixed. San Diego housing is among the least affordable in the nation. The median price of a San Diego home is now \$500,000, a return to the level of 2006. Today, a San Diegan has to have an

INCOME; SILICON VALLEY SWAMPS SAN DIEGO* \$93,854 Santa Clara County San Diego County

\$63,996 *Median household income Sources: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010-2014, five-year estimates. Wikipedia

adjusted growth will slow to 1.4 percent and San Diego will only come up with 1.2 percent, trailing the state's 1.7 percent.

Kelly Cunningham,

economist for the National

University System, says that

San Diego County's total

output of goods and services

(the regional gross domes-

tic product) will lag next

year. The nation's inflation-

Defense spending, which is a bit below 20 percent of the local economy, "has been declining the last three or

income of \$108,654 to buy a median-priced home, according to HSH.com, which puts the median home value at a higher \$589,300. But median household income in the county was \$67,320 last year. And San

Diego's cost of living is 45.7

percent higher than the nation's. Locals call moderate incomes and high living costs "the sunshine tax," and it may worsen next year.

Inflation-adjusted household income "has been down for 20 years and will rise slowly," says Cunningham. "The year 2007 was the high point for [inflationadjusted] median household income, and we're still below that and still below the year 2000."

Technology is 10 percent of local jobs and 20 percent of payroll, because pay is twice as high as in other sectors. Tech should continue doing well, says Cunningham, but he does fear a recession, brought on by

higher interest rates. Next year will be the eighth since the end of the Great Recession and the tenth since the beginning of it. San Diego has "never gone beyond ten years" without a recession coming along, he says.

San Diego's median household income last year of \$67,320 tops the nation's \$55,775 but only squeaks past California's \$64,500. One reason is the state's money machine: Silicon Valley. Its median household income last year was \$101,980.

San Diegans boast that posh places like Rancho Santa Fe and Del Mar are proof of the county's ability to generate income. Those towns have, respectively, median household incomes of \$101,250 and \$103,457.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY FLAT IN 2017?*		
	2016	2015
San Diego	78.8%	78.6%
San Francisco	85.8%	85.9%
Anaheim	79.6%.	80.0%
Los Angeles	83.2%	81.3%
*First ten months Sources: Smith Travel Research, Jerry Morrisor		

SAN DIEGO'S TONY TOWNS ZAPPED BY SILICON VALLEY'S*

San Diego County	
Rancho Santa Fe	\$101,250
Del Mar	\$103,457
Solana Beach	\$90,579
Santa Clara County	
Cupertino	\$134,872
Palo Alto	\$126,771
Saratoga	\$167,917
Los Altos	\$157,500
Los Altos Hills	\$224,271
*Median household income Sources: Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010-2014. Wilkipedia	

Peter Brownell

Mike Stolper

But look at the median household incomes in towns within Santa Clara County, which embraces the bulk of Silicon Valley: Cupertino, \$134,872; Sara-



Kelly Cunningham



Jerry Morrison

toga, \$167,917; Los Altos, \$157,500; and (gulp) Los Altos Hills, \$224,271.

Conclusion: tech pays. San Diego needs more of it. According to Peter

Brownell, research director of the Center on Policy Initiatives, 15.6 percent of City of San Diego residents live below the poverty line. However, "we will be ahead of the state in minimum wage," he says. On January 1,

2017, the city will go to \$11.50 and the state (for larger businesses) will go to \$10.50.

" Throughout 2017, depending on the size of the business, San Diego will be \$1 to \$1.50 ahead of the state" in minimum wage, and at least 170,000 people in the city will enjoy that, adding more purchasing power and bolstering the local economy, Brownell says.

Opponents claim the raised minimum wage kills jobs. Brownell disputes that. "Since Iuly.

when the city's minimum wage went up 50 cents, the county added 18,500 jobs. The city accounts for over 60 percent of jobs in the county," he says. He realizes that there were other factors in the employment increase.

Tourism may be pretty flat in 2017. According to Smith Travel Research, local hotel occupancy has been 78.8 percent through October, up a hair from 78.6 percent for the same period last year. Hotel consultant Jerry Morrison predicts it *continued on page 28*

UNDER THE RADAR

GA's hot potato La Jolla–based military contractor General Atomics, maker of the Predator drone and other lucrative pieces of battle-ready hardware, also provides radiation monitoring systems for atomic reactors. The company's latest installation came in July of this year at Watts Bar Unit 2 in Tennessee, "the first new U.S. nuclear power plant scheduled to be put into operation since 1996," says a news release by the firm. "Since 1965, we've maintained a solid repu-

tation for designing and manufacturing the highest quality, most reliable safetyrelated products, and for continually supporting our products and our customers throughout a plant's lifecycle," executive **Scott Forney** was quoted

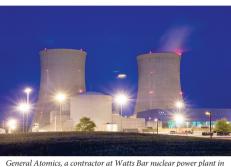
as saying. But the story is

different in a November 29 Notice of Nonconformance, sent to the company's Electromagnetic Systems Group here by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That document says the quality of the detection devices is questionable, leading to potentially mistaken radiation readings. Among other omissions listed in the 38-page document, General Atomics "did not perform periodic testing of the chemical composition of the [detectors'] coating material...nor did [General Atomics] verify the shelf life of the coating material." In addition, the company failed to "verify the adequacy of the calibration services...which could adversely

affect the accuracy of [radiation monitoring system's] detectors." On top of that, inspectors witnessed "staff adding and removing lead shields from the stack of lead bricks below the platform without documenting

the change in configuration." Per the report, "staff were unaware of the amount of scattered radiation in the area, and the effect of adding and removing lead from the cart on the amount of scattered radiation." Said the notice, "verification of the material-critical characteristics specified [for use] in safety-related applications was not performed and the connector was not adequately dedicated for operation in harsh environments." Concludes the document, "Please provide a written statement or explanation within 30 days from the date of this letter in accordance with the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice of Nonconformance. The NRC will consider extending the response time if you show good cause for the agency to do so."

Black's black marks Charles Black, a key figure in the drive by Rancho Santa Fe megamillionaire and ex-Padres owner **John Moores** to build the team's Petco Park has copped a plea



Tennessee, must respond to a non-conformance notice.

chas copped a plea with San Diego's ethics commission for failing to disclose lobbying activities on behalf of Bosa Development, a high-rise condo builder. After San Diego taxpayers coughed up the cash for the ballpark in 1998, Black, once Padres president,

found other clients, including, in 2011, the City of Escondido, then trying to build a tax-funded stadium for a Padres farm club that eventually wound up in El Paso. In 2015, Black pitched a proposal with **David Malmuth** and Sea World to install a massive Ferris wheel on the port of San Diego's G Street Mole. Then a year ago last month, Black signed on to work with the developers of Metropolitan Airpark, a venture to remake the city's Brown Field municipal airport near the Mexican border into an industrial and commercial center.

Bosa hired Black in late 2014 "to provide

consulting ser-

vices in connec-

tion with several

projects located in

the downtown San

Diego area," says a

stipulation agree-

ment reached with

the ethics commis-

sion last month by

Black's firm, C.B.

Urban Develop-

ment. Though



 $Sketch \ of \ proposed \ Ferris \ wheel \ off \ Harbor \ Drive$

Black "had his first lobbying contact with a City Official on behalf of Bosa on May 5, 2015," he didn't register as a lobbyist until more than a year later, on July 1, 2016. Black continued to lobby for Bosa through September of last year, also failing to file disclosure reports regarding the activity until this July. In part because Black "voluntarily provided information concerning the firm's lobbying activities that was not available *continued on page 28*



LETTERS

We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460: address them to Letters. 2323 Broadway #200, San Diego, CA 92102; or submit them through our website at SDReader.com/letters. Include your name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Not There :(

I really miss the Sudoku contest where you had a chance to win a t-shirt or a hat. I keep hoping it's going to come back, but every time I open the Reader I find it's not back vet.

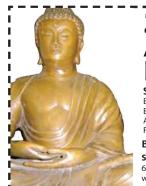
> Joe Selig via voicemail

O'side Readers Hard to Find

I live out of town and visit Oceanside every few weeks. In the past, I have been able to find the Reader all over town, at coffee shops, convenience stores, etc. The past few months I cannot find a single *Reader* anywhere in town. I'm typically there Tuesday through Friday.

Any hope of a response?





Steve via email

We currently service Oceanside every Thursday in the early morning. The following locations receive Readers weekly:

Vons, 2560 El Camino Real Stater Bros., 2170 Vista Way Stater Bros., 3770 Mission Ave. Frazier Farms 1820 Oceanside Walmart, 3405 Marron Road Walgreens, 3752 Mission Ave. Arco, 1920 Mission Avenue 7-Eleven 2985 Via Las Rosas 7-Eleven, 711 Oceanside Blvd 7-Eleven, 1749 S. Coast Hwy 7-Eleven, 4625 Frazee Rd. You may also call our office at 619-235-3000 for additional locations near vou

Comments from SDReader.com — not

edited for punctuation, spelling, or grammar.

"Seahorse Dreams" Cover story Posted December 21

Hi Neal! Sounds like she is vour seahorse angel...keeps you swimming back out to find her ;-) Great story, congrats!

- Lori Brookes

Gosh, this guy can write! Okay, I admit, I am biased. I have a love for Neal's writcontinued on page 54





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NEIGHBORHOOD

By Reader stringers

POINT LOMA

Fear of a drab bridge No desire for chain-link fencing over Nimitz Blvd.

Some in the Point Loma community see the Voltaire Street bridge as a gateway to their neighborhood. So, they want something a bit more attractive than a chain-link fence when a bridge rehabilitation project conceived in 1997 finally gets started.

Originally built in 1959, the bridge passes over Nimitz Boulevard on the 3900 block of Voltaire Street between Wabaska Drive and Sea Colony Court.

Don Sevrens, a former journalist who has lived nearly 50 years in Point Loma, has been working to get everyone in agreement.



Residents want something more artful than chain-link fencing on Voltaire Street bridge.

"With the city and community working together, we could have a striking entryway to the peninsula," said Sevrens. "A very attractive bridge that ties into the 'Welcome to Point Loma' sign and the wonderful landscaping that the Point Loma Association has put into place on Nimitz Boulevard. Changes to the bridge and a related adjacent mixed-use project can set the tone for a major revamping of the entire Voltaire Street corridor. The community has an imaginative design by a prominent architect [Joe Holasek]. The cost for all this? Possibly as low as \$20,000."

Sevrens added that the local planning board and the public (via a small nonscientific public poll) support Holasek's suspension bridge proposal.

According to Mónica Muñoz from the city's public works communications department, the approximate \$1.8 million needed for the project will be funded from TransNet. She said TransNet doesn't fund the kind of bridge beautification the community has asked for.

One option offered by the city was a design with four sheet-metal waves attached

to colored chain link on one side of the bridge; the other side would be a plain chain-link fence.

The bridge project, likely to be completed the summer of 2018, includes median removal, lane reduction (from four to two), resurfacing/replacing the barrier rail, signal modification, a buffered bike lane, street-light replacement, accessibility improvements, storm-drain improvements, chain-link fencing (bridge railing), and electrical conduit within the concrete barrier.

According to Sevrens, the community isn't thrilled about the proposed plain chainlink fence. "We've been told repeatedly by members of the public works staff under Daniel Nutter [project manager] that chain-link fencing is required by state law."

Muñoz said the design is nearing completion and a bid may be advertised early spring 2017.

Sevrens said he's concerned about the city's timeline and their hesitation in meeting before the design is a done deal. "A different style of metal railing with night lighting can make all the difference in the world. We have a prominent architect with a striking proposal. What can be the harm of having a one-hour meeting? It's time for the mayor's office to intercede and broker a meeting with the community — before the city locks in 75 years of drab."

Muñoz said on December 21 that the state law the city is hanging the requirement for chain-link fencing on is the same law that applies to freeway overpasses. "The City of San Diego does not have design standards specific to bridges, thus the city has adopted the state (Caltrans) standards. For city owned bridges that cross over roadways, the city requires a protective screening (railing) be installed. For this reason, the Voltaire Street Bridge rehabilitation project will include a Type 7 chain link railing on top of a Type 26 concrete barrier."

JULIE STALMER

LITTLE ITALY Beer and wine under the flight path Community group head vows

to oppose booze sales

While 2499 Pacific Highway in the Little Italy neighborhood is currently an empty lot with a former car-rental office building, it could become a Valero service station. Civic San Diego has started the approval process for applicant Orams Enterprises, Inc., of Lakeside, with initial hearings set for January.

The application for Laurel Pacific Valero proposes a one-story gas station (two threepump islands) with 3110 square feet of retail space and an attached 900-square-foot car wash, plus ten parking spots. A conditional use permit is required for the automobile service station and for off-site sale of alcoholic beverages (beer and wine).



Rendering of proposed Valero station (Pacific Highway in foreground, Laurel Street running perpendicular)

The site is on the southeast corner of Pacific Highway and Laurel Street. The San Diego County assessor previously appraised the property at \$1,425,000 (including \$125,000 for the existing building on the site).

Marco Li Mandri, administrator of the Little Italy Association, said that "if they are proposing to sell alcohol out of their convenience store, we will oppose it." Li Mandri added: "I am surprised that such land uses are allowable under the Downtown Specific Plan. We will be meeting as our community advisory board to make recommendations."

Gary Smith, president of the San Diego Downtown Residents Group, said a competing gas station on the other side of Laurel would be good and "should stop any possible price gouging." Plus, being "under airport approach, [it's] not good for a lot of uses," he said. But Smith sees "ground seepage always a future concern, even if the state thinks new regulations are effective."

DAVID BATTERSON

NATIONAL CITY McDini's challenges nuisance claims "It's like two octopuses fighting over a clam."

The fight between the bar owners of McDini's and National City continues unabated, according to Benjamin Adler, whose father's family trust owns the bar once known as a place to find SEALs and Special Warfare types between deployments.

"It's like two octopuses fighting over a clam," Adler says.

The fight is obstensibly over whether or not the place can have live entertainment, but, after eight years of conflict, it is just as fresh and infuriating for both sides.

"They keep bringing one lawsuit after the other and judges keep telling them they're wrong," says National City mayor Ron Morrison. "McDini's has always been a highlight of National City with a great reputation until the current owners came in."

The fight started in 2010, when the city brought a nuisance-abatement case against the bar, which had a conditional use permit for live entertainment limited to weekend nights. The city contended that the bar was violating the conditions. The court ruled in the city's favor but stayed the judgment to give McDini's a chance to get the proper permit — which McDini's applied for.

The city council approved the permit allowing limited live entertainment in 2012, according to court documents. In 2013, the city revoked McDini's permit for live entertainment after the planning commission decided McDini's was violating the 2012 permit — which had the same restrictions as the 2010 permit.

Then the city went back to the nuisanceabatement case and asked for a formal judgment against McDini's. They got it, and the judge awarded their legal costs as well. Within days, Adler, who is an attorney, filed a lawsuit seeking a writ of mandamus — a formal order to overturn the city-council action. The courts were being asked to reinstate McDini's permit, one judge noted. The bar lost at trial and appealed the judgment, which was upheld by the 4th District Court of Appeals earlier this year.

In the interim, Adler filed another suit against National City in December 2015, which is ongoing.

On December 20, the city council met in closed session to discuss the latest lawsuit — something the mayor can't talk about.

Adler said he knows they've been talking about it in closed session.

"They've been borrowing from city coffers to pay for their high-priced Solana Beach attorneys," he said.

Adler blames the city manager for the bar's troubles.

"She lives across the street," he said. "I guess she doesn't like people in the military."

Adler contends that city staff and their friends made the police calls that pushed the number of police visits to an unacceptable level.

"That guy just doesn't quit," Morrison said about Adler. "We had a meeting where he got up and said we don't have live entertainment anymore and then the police got up and showed posters for events at the club. The guy said it was his competitors that put those up, but the posters came off his own website."

MARTY GRAHAM

OCEAN BEACH Can't you smell that smell? "I thought it was an electrical fire!"

Residents in Ocean Beach and Loma Portal woke up on December 22 to a mysterious odor hanging in the damp air.

Over the course of an hour, dozens of people reported the smell via the O.B. Facebook page.

"Yes, burnt plastic or electrical smell," commented Stacey.

Nancy: "Yes I smelled something when I walked outside this morning. It smelled like an electrical fire. Went back inside to see if it was in my house. Glad it wasn't!"

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San Diego Reader December 29, 2016

BestBuys

-EVE KELLY

A few new years have dawned since we had a New Year's party in our own home. But 12 a.m., January 1, 2017, will be different. The bubbly will be bubbling, the streamers will be streaming, the noisemakers will be ... noising. That's not a real word, but we won't care, because we'll be having so much damn fun. It's been a long year, and the Kellys want to party.

"Count me in," smiled friend Bernice as we sat over dinner with her

hubby Frank. "I already have a party hat," she laughed, "a feather sparkly Happy New Year tiara. You have to seize any tiarawearing opportunities that come your way [Amazon, \$6.81 for the Sparkling New Year Feather Tiara]....

"And I have a party ac-

cessory for your terrier Oreo," she smiled. "We can't leave him out of the festivities. It's a black top hat with gold 'Happy New Year' written on it [Amazon, \$11.92 for the small-size hat]. And if you want to really bling him out, though it's a bit pricey, I also saw a black tutu dress with rhinestone 'Happy New Year' on the back," she added (Amazon, \$31.65 for the Dog Squad Tutu Dress).

"Excuse me," I replied, "Oreo is all man. He won't be wearing a tutu. But the top hat sounds great. He can greet our guests at the front door."

"You've got a couple of weeks to train him to take coats like a butler," Frank quipped.

"What would you recommend for some decent bubbly?" I asked Frank, who is a wine connoisseur.

"In general, Italian prosecco is less expensive and fairly more reliable than domestic sparkling or champagne," answered Frank. "That said, my go-to for proper bubbly is a domestic sparkling wine: Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Sparkling Wine [\$17.99 at San Diego Wine Company]."

The following week I devoted some time to party-supply hunting, and over coffee Saturday morning at Sheldon's in La Mesa, I filled hubby Patrick in on some ideas. "Every woman needs a fur hat and shawl outfit," I told him. "If not for herself, for her bottle of vino," I said, flashing him my iPhone across the table for him to see. "Cost Plus World Market is selling a white set. It would be a fun party decoration [Fur Hat and Shawl Bottle Outfit, \$6.99]."

"Sure," Patrick replied coyly, "it would be a cheap way to discharge my promise to buy

"We need our own Times

Square ball, nothing else

is necessary."

you a fur someday."

Smiling at my man, I continued on. "I found a curtain of icicle lights that we can hang at our archway as guests come in," I said. "It will make for a nice backdrop for selfies [Amazon, **\$22.99** for the BinTeng nine feet of curtain white string lights, 16 hanging strings total]."

"We can place a basket with selfie props in front of the backdrop. I ordered a ten-count of funny photo-booth props," I said. "I'm saving the sign 'Kiss Me Now, Midnight Is Past My Bedtime' for you," I winked (Amazon, **\$14.99** for the Funny New Year's Eve Photo Booth Prop Kit). "Party crackers? Can there be

a holiday bash without them?" asked my vouthful man.

"I didn't forget you, honey. I know how much you love a good cheesy knee-slapper," I offered. "I found Gem Party Crackers that have a joke, a party hat, and wine charms. We might be able to keep track of what glass belongs to what partier [Pier 1 Imports, \$15.96 for the package of eight]."

"Not likely," Patrick mused, "but who cares?"

R Champay

"Or we could go with the musical party crackers that are pitched differently and see how well our boozed-up whistle orchestra could perform?" I added (Amazon, Original That's Sooo Concerto Music Crackers

> with Whistles, \$30.33 for an eight-pack).

"That could be great... or really awful," said Patrick, clearly warming to the party-

planning task. "Look," he pushed his iPhone to me, "this what your drunken whistle orchestra needs — more cowbell [Amazon, Green Metal Cowbell, 12-pack for \$7.24]."

"Really, we just need our own Times Square ball, nothing else is necessary," said Patrick.

"Yep, got it," I said. "Our very own Kelly Lane New Year's Eve sparkling ball for the countdown [Amazon, eight-inch Mirror Ball, \$17.69]. But," I looked into my man's gorgeous green eyes, "what I'm really looking forward to is kissing in 2017 with you."

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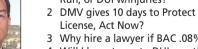
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Dear Hipster: What will you do differently in 2017?

Despite my general disdain for mainstream concerns, I've come to appreciate the New Year's Resolution, at least in a conceptual sense. Despite the fact that the calendar year is 100 per-

cent arbitrary from a cosmic perspective - as if the Earth's rotation gives a crap which day we designate as "first" there's something noble about facing the next 365 days with big ambitions to be a better person, or even change the world.

I, for one, have had great success with past resolutions, and, by way of proof, here is a very long answer to a very short question. Three years

ago, I resolved to make the world

a cooler, hipper place; and thus "Ask a Hipster" was born. Last year, they said I was crazy when I promised to bring back Crystal Pepsi and Ecto Cooler, but who's laughing now?

The secret to my success is that I like to think of the new year as a time to dream big. Try it with me: instead of the inevitable promise to lose 15 pounds by July, which turns into 11 months of autocharges for that

unused gym membership, double the weight of your recycling bin and cut your trash by half.

Don't go on a diet. Try foie gras, sour beer, oysters, kimchi, single-origin coffee, and vegan cookies for the first time; even if you don't end up liking any of it.

Don't "quit drinking." Buy six bottles of expensive wine and resolve only to open them at six dinner parties, each hosted by you, with guest lists that force your friends who aren't already friends with each other to become friends.

Don't promise you'll "live life to the fullest." Buy a tuxedo or evening gown and make damn sure you wear it. Create an opportunity if you must.

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— В.

Sure, you could plan to eventually get out from under your credit-card debt,

YEAR'S RESOLUTION **GYM-GOERS ARE** COMING.

but wouldn't it be better to straight up close all your credit accounts and then spend the entire year paying for everything (and I mean everything - no Amazon for you, friend!) in cash just to see if it's possible to live a normal life without digital currency?

Want to quit smoking? Well, actually, you probably should quit smoking. It's a filthy habit. But don't do it because you think it'll make you a better person in 2017, do it because the

tobacco industry comprises a slew of a incorporated concerns who almost certainly don't have your best interests at heart, and you could buy a lot of used vinyl with the \$6/day you won't be spending on cigarettes.

If there's a common thread here, it's that I don't advocate breaking long-standing habits.

The Reform of the Reformation?

SDON THE OT Almost factual news

San Diego's Bishop McElroy opens King Henry VIII's cause for canonization, citing need for "a patron of divorced and remarried Catholics."

ITTING IN THE BIG BOSS' CHAIR, SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL — "If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times," said a beaming Bishop McElroy during a recent convocation of San Diego's priests and administrators. "Even in the face of substantial contradictions between the Gospel and the existential life of a disciple, the inexorable logic of divine grace seeks ever more progressive reintegration into the full life of the Church." Here, the city's Roman Catholic bishop was referring to Pope Francis's comment on the possibility for divorced and remarried Catholics to receive Holy Communion despite their irregular circumstances. (The Church teaches that Christian marriage is indissoluble because it is a sign of Christ's union with His Church, and so it has traditionally refused to recognize the validity of second marriages. Participants in said marriages, having removed themselves from communion with the Church, were not expected to receive the sacrament that bore the name "communion.")

Walter

Mencken's

But the prospect of welcoming marginalized Catholics back into the fold wasn't the only thing that had the bishop feeling upbeat. It turned out that he had gathered his flock to announce that the inexorable logic of divine grace was about to produce an even more progressive reintegration: the canonization of England's King Henry VIII, who famously broke with the Catholic Church in 1534 when he declared himself "the Supreme Head on earth of the Church of England." And McElroy himself - a champion of Francis's emphasis on "the way of mercy and reinstatement" --would open the famously flirtatious king's cause.

"Naturally, there are those who will be confused and even upset by my decision to seek honor for a man who created a significant rupture in the Mystical Body of Christ that is the Church," granted McElroy. "After all, History has recorded his evil deeds. But the Lord is the Lord of History, and we should not imagine that simply because an act is in the past that it is outside of His power to restore and redeem. After all, he preserved the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of Original Sin through Christ's saving power, even though Christ's birth, death, and resurrection had not yet taken place. It is true that Henry was responsible for many bad things, things that include a number of unfortunate beheadings and not a 2 little torture. But we must not forget that Christ did not come for the righteous, but for sinners — that Saint Peter himself denied Our Lord three times, and that Saint Paul once persecuted the very Christians he later championed."

Concluded McElroy, "Divorced and remarried Catholics need a champion, someone to whom they can look for understanding. Someone who understands their suffering and who is willing to intercede on their behalf with Jesus Christ. King Henry under- $\frac{9}{9}$ stands. He should; he was married six times! And because he was both married and the Head of the Church, who knows, he may be able to plead their case more eloquently than even our own Pontiff, who is single."



"As you can see, Milady, Sir Thomas isn't a problem any More." To help drum up the necessary popular support for King Henry VII's cause for canonization, the Diocese of San Diego commissioned local painter Mort Alsin to create this image of Saint King Henry Presenting Anne Boleyn with the Head of the Traitor Thomas More. "It's a bold work," comments former convadium gallery curator Henry Wanker, "but that's very much in keeping with the tone of Francis's papacy, and Bishop McElroy is shaping up to be one of His Holiness' more significant appointments. Alsin refuses to shy away from what will undoubtedly be one of the biggest obstacles to Henry's cause: his execution of Saint Thomas More after More refused to swear that Henry was the head of the Church in England.

"The writer Robert Bolt lionized More as a hero of conscience in his play A Man for All Seasons, the movie version of which won Best Picture in 1966. But when you think about it, wasn't Henry the real hero of conscience? Though the Catholic Church threatened him with eternal damnation if he divorced Catherine of Aragon and married Anne Boleyn, he refused to deny his fundamental sense of himself, and found the strength to follow his heart. And when the Roman Church refused to welcome him after that, he found his own way to full communion — by creating his own community of believers.

"And was More really heroic in his fidelity to principle, or was he a rigid and legalistic scold in a situation that called for merciful under standing? Sure, he's the patron of lawyers, but Saint Paul warns that 'the letter [of the law] kills, but the Spirit gives life,' As the Bishop said during his Synod on the Family. 'Many Catholics tend to think of our moral life as being rule-oriented. Rules are important primarily as a check on rationalization. The real core of Catholic teaching is and always was a decision of conscience. Our rules are not universalized in that they are meant to be guides in a great majority of circumstances. But it's in major decisions in our lives that conscience can be helpful.

So while it might seem shocking for the squire to be presenting Ms. Boleyn with a severed head," concludes Wanker, "it's actually an image of love's radical triumph over even the most seemingly insurmountable obstacles. So moved is she by the gesture that she is able to drop her mask from her face, to reveal herself as she truly is, so that she may know and be known by her beloved, free from fear of judgment. Behind her, Bishop McElroy himself looks on in wonder and excitement - Alsin has hewed to the classical tradition of inserting his patron into the work, and it feels especially appropriate here. And on the painting's far left side, two young people engage in a thoughtful consideration of where their own consciences will lead them vis a vis the love relationship. 'Hey baby, what do you say we get busy on Saturday night and then prayerfully discern whether or not to receive communion on Sunday morning?' Thrilling. This is easily the most important work of devotional art to come out of San Diego in a century, maybe two."



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OUR WORLD MOST

FAMOUS

I succumbed to

14 San Diego *Reader* December 29, 2016

"Tengo que ir hacer laundry, then I have to study *en la biblioteca,"* I'm paraphrasing what the Latina students in my college sounded like. My first real encounter with Spanglish speakers was in Minnesota. Spanglish frustrated me. I kept telling them to speak one language or the other, not to skip between both.

I went to a small all-men private university that was mostly white; the women's campus was five miles away. I was the only Mexican in my class. The rest of the Latinos were international students from South or Central America. The Latina students, on the other campus, were mostly from Bellflower, California (south Los Angeles), with diverse mixed backgrounds (Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and more). Just like me, they were recruited into the college to diversify the student body. (Despite this, Latinos were less than 3 percent.)

"Este zinc es para el mappeador

only," read a sign in the back of a burrito shop I used to frequent in Venice Beach. After college I moved to Los Angeles. Despite encountering many Spanglish speakers, I still strictly spoke one language or the other.

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For Spanglish-speaking people (especially Californians) it is clear that the previous phrase means "this sink is for the mop only." Purely Spanish-speaking people might not understand what it means, and many would poke fun at the mix of the two languages.

Mappeador is not a Spanish word. The closest to a real Spanish word is *mapeador*, which means mapper or cartographer. The real word for a mop is *trapeador*, which derives from the word *trapo*, which means "rag." But *trapeador* in a Spanglish mind sounds like someone who sets up traps.

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Spanglish speakers frequently misspell the word sink to zinc (yes, like the element), because a *zee* in



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Aseguranzas is a pocho word for insurance.

Spanish sounds like an *ess* in English. Only it is not a Spanish word.

It wasn't until I moved to Tijuana and crossed the border daily that I started to understand the mind of a Spanglish speaker. The retail shop I worked at in San Diego had a Spanglish sign similar to the burrito shop: "Timer del sign afuera." But it wasn't only

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Bass Boy = Bus Boy?

at the retail shop.

"Stops Relocated / Paradas Relocadas," read a sign from MTS when they were renewing the trolley tracks back in April of 2015.

Relocadas is not a word. If anything, in proper Spanish, it would

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mean "the bus stops are extra crazy."

Sometimes bad English gets translated into bad Spanish. A bilingual sign near the trolley tracks read: "No tresnonsensical and counter to its own aim. Translating it back to English it would render: "There is no construction personal — Break-ins only." San Diego butchers

"To assimilate, you have to renegade everything, and the first thing you renegade is Spanish."

passing — Construction Personal Only" (should have been "Personnel") which got translated to "No hay personal de constructión — Allanamiento solo." In Spanish, this sign is simultaneously counter the Spanish language frequently, but Tijuana destroys both English and Spanish. It's the city where I have seen the most spelling mistakes in both languages by restaurants (and their menus), bill-

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boards, and even official government information.

In Tijuana, a person doesn't go to a fiesta; he or she *"se va de par(t)y"* (The tee is silent, possibly because "party," spoken in American English, sounds like "pardy." Sped up it sounds like "pawree" to a Spanish speaker.)

In Tijuana, clothes are not a la moda (Spanish for fashionable), clothes are *fachon* (fashion with a hard *ch* sound). Never mind that fashion is a noun, not an adjective. Spanglish doesn't limit itself to rules.

In Tijuana, cottage cheese is known by its phonetic approximation carichis.

In Tijuana, if someone told me, "Voy p'al swami en San Ysidro," I'd know that we're going to cross the border for the swap meet (swami) in San



Ysidro. (P'al is a colloquial contraction of *para* el — for "the.")

You never ask for a *refresco* as you would in other parts of Mexico, you say, "Dame una soda" (give me a soda). There's no such thing as cinta adhesiva, there's only *el teip* (adhesive tape). There are no peluquerías (barber shops), only barberías. And many businesses have proper names followed by an apostrophe; e.g., Tito's Tacos, Mario's Yonke, etc. The apostrophe does not exist in proper Spanish. As hard as I resisted.

at some point my brain refused to compartmentalize the two languages and the fusion commenced. I succumbed to Spanglish. Now every time I learn a Spanglish word, I absorb it into my

RESEARCH STUDIES



would mean "the bus stops are extra crazy."

vocabulary and cherish the discovery. But the grammar geek in me still hates printed spelling mistakes.

"I believe things are changing," says Omar Pimienta, professor of Chicano Art Studies at San Diego City College. "The level of education of Chicano or Latino millennials is much greater than the previous generation, in numbers and in access to education. I believe more than 50 percent of high-school students in California are Latinos. Add the DREAMers, who are in the education system. But they also have to

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carry the heavy political load of fighting for their citizenship constantly... their identity is in limbo. And I mean that in a good way."

DREAMers, named for President Obama's Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, are undocumented students brought to the United States as children and eligible for two-year deferments from the threat of deportation.

According to the California Department of Education, there were 3,360,562 Hispanics or Latinos enrolled



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Synergy East 7922 Palm Street, West lower level Lemon Grove, CA 91945 in public schools, K–12, for the 2015–2016 year, accounting for 54 percent of students. Up 1.9 percent from the previous year, 78.5 percent of Latinos that started high school in 2010 finished it in 2014, accounting roughly for 42 percent priation with Spanglish in the Chicano identity. The people know that there's nothing wrong with [Spanglish], though they constantly get called '*pinches pochos*." *Pinches* is an exple-

tive used the way f--ing is used. *Pocho* is a

In Tijuana, cottage cheese is known by its phonetic approximation carichis.

of all graduates.

"They [Hispanics] are more conscious that they need to dominate English to articulate our problematics," continues Pimienta. "But there's a sense of pride, empowerment, and of approterm used by Mexicans to describe Chicanos or Mexican-Americans who lack fluency in Spanish. Though it began as a pejorative term, it has been embraced by tijuanenses to the extent that the city's profes-



"Mucho party" at Señor Maguey

sional baseball team the Toros uses the hashtag #TodosSomosPochos ("#WeAre AllPochos").

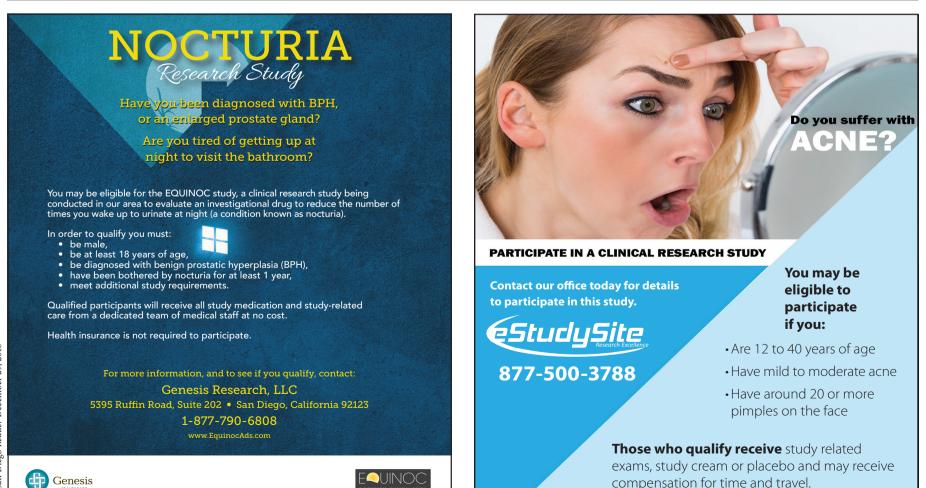
Pimienta, despite being Mexican-American, does not consider himself a full Chicano. Pimienta was born in Colonia Libertad, the neighborhood closest to the San Ysidro border crossing. "The institution forces you to reject your culture, it forces assimilation. And to assimilate, you have to renegade everything, and the first thing you renegade is Spanish. And it is problematic because when they turn back to learn about their own culture, they don't have the lan-



The possessive apostrophe in "Andy's" does not exist in proper Spanish.

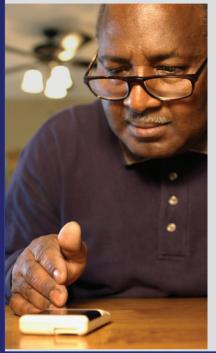
guage anymore. So when they visit, people make fun of them — 'Why doesn't he speak Spanish if he is a *moreno paísa* (brown countryman)?' What people ignore is that they went through an acculturation process." Asked about Spang-

RESEARCH STUDIES





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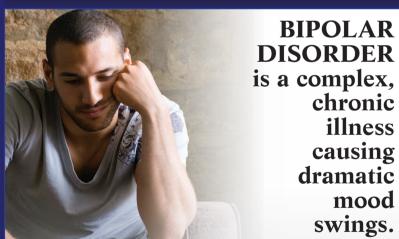
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SAN MARCOS: 365 S Rancho Santa Fe Road #202 SAN DIEGO: 770 Washington Street #300 lish in his own language, Pimienta answers, "There are words that I can never escape. For example, I'm never going to say 'estacionamiento' ['parking']; I'm going to say 'metete al parking.' Or 'la troca' ['the truck']: I'm never going to say 'camioneta'; I'll always say 'troca.""

in California. It can be English with Spanish peppered throughout or the other way around. Many dialects exist. California Spanglish is not the same as Florida (mostly Miami), New York, Puerto Rico, or Texas Spanglish. The term Spanglish

Like most border people, **Pimienta peppers his Spanish conversation** with English seemingly without noticing.

"What about '*lavabo*'?" I interjected. Lavabo is the Spanish word for "sink."

"What's that? Oh... sink! Yeah, I don't even question that one. There are many that I don't question at all."

Like most border people, Pimienta peppers his Spanish conversation with English seemingly without noticing. Something that I once despised, and now I do it regularly.

Spanglish is the main language of border crossers and to many others

is attributed to Puerto Rican journalist and poet Salvador Tió Montes de Oca. Tió first coined the word (originally espanglish or ingliñol) in 1948 in an essay titled "From the Bone Marrow: Theory of Spanglish." Salvador Tió viewed Spanglish in a negative light, as a pollutant of both languages, very much the way I saw it at first.

"The conversations with my cousins were in English, with some Spanish," Pimienta says. He has



This sign is simultaneously counter nonsensical and counter to its own aim. Translating it back to English it would render: "There is no construction personal — Break-ins only."

family in both countries.

"It was relatively easier to have family del otro lado [from the other side] back then. Operation Gatekeeper stopped the border dynamic of having families dispersed. Then the fall of the peso with [Mexican president Ernesto] Zedillo, though in reality it was Salinas [who] pushed a lot of people to the United States. Migratory

PARVIN MANI

LETS STAY YOUNG

politics became complex with Clinton."

Operation Gatekeeper started in 1994 with the mission to "restore integrity and safety to the nation's busiest border," halting illegal immigration. Zedillo was the president of Mexico at the time when the Mexican economy plummeted, though Pimienta believes it was the fault of the previous president, Car-

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"Timer" pronounced "time-air" in this case

los Salinas.

"But now, with Obama's massive deportations, we have a lot of children who came to live with their deported parents. It's like a second wave of people with double citizenship."

President Obama has deported more people than any other president - over 2.5 million. Many of them were deported to Tijuana.

"When I started writ-

ing at the beginning of the 2000s," Pimienta recalls, "there was a bilingual movement. It was being studied a lot, the supposed English 'contamination' in Northern Mexico's literature. My posture was to write poetry in a stylistic way, not necessarily focusing on a word, but on a theme. It has a bunch of *pochismos* [Spanglish terms], or a lot of code switching."

- Matthew Suarez

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San Diego Reader December 29, 2016 Ŋ

LIKE A Dodgeball Ninja

If you mention dodgeball to someone over 18 years of age the most likely response will be to either praise or denigrate the 2004 film of the same name starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn. Dig a little deeper and you are likely to unearth tales of gym-class heroics or nightmarish recollections of humiliation. The Eagle Rock Yacht Club's aim seems to be to target the latter group and provide them with a safe haven for stressfree bombardment.

Chris Alves and Craig Fowler founded the first chapter of the Eagle Rock Yacht Club (members call



His skills at ducking, squatting, sliding, and jumping over balls made him look like a live action video game.

it ERYC but don't pronounce it "eric" — it is strictly E-R-Y-C) in the Highland Park neighborhood of Los Angeles in 2008. The organization is a public charity whose mission statement declares it to be "an adult dodgeball league, a circle of friends, an army of do-gooders. We establish and run adult

dodgeball leagues while partnering with the local rec center to develop original programs for children in under-resourced communities in Los Angeles and Detroit."

In more concise terms, the Eagle Rock Yacht Club is basically a charitable fight club that has elected to switch out bareknuckle fists for squishy rubber balls.

Martine de Bijl moved to San Diego in July 2015. She had participated in the Eagle Rock Yacht Club (as well as other dodgeball leagues) while living in Los Angeles. When she arrived, she immediately sought out any sort of local dodgeball leagues similar to those. When her search came up empty, she had the idea of attempting to start a chapter down here. She contacted Alves and was given the green light.

The first step was finding a recreation center that would work for both the sport and the community. After a bit of a search, North Park Recre-



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action Center (4044 Idaho Street) was chosen. The inside was a bit cramped since the single basketball court would have to be split in half to host two simultaneous games. The community seemed to be a perfect fit, though.

"We want to be in an area where hopefully we can make an impact once we have enough people," De Bijl explained. "North Park is kind of cool because there are always kids' programs going on. That's what we try to focus on when we're doing our activities with the gym — working with the kids that are there."

She continued, "In L.A., there are some kids that started with Yacht Club

dodgeball when they were five or six. Now they're in junior high or high school, and it's, like, 'What happened?' You kind of keep an eye on them when they're around...because they're always around. They, in turn, listen to you a little more if you are around. There are three days a week where you see these kids, and you can say, 'Hey, how are you doing? How's school?' It's kind of like a check-in."

The next step was getting the word out. According to De Bijl, this has been the biggest hurdle: "Not a lot of people know that there are adults playing dodgeball in San Diego." In order to gain awareness, she utilized an old-school, punk-rock approach. "I went to Kinko's and spent a hundred bucks on flyers and I walked up and down El Cajon and University; anywhere I could put up a flyer I put up a flyer," she said.

She also developed a relationship with the neighborhood tavern Tiger! Tiger! (3025 El Cajon Boulevard.) The group would head to the bar for drinks after games and, in turn, the bar would tweet @Eagle Rock Yacht Club and post their flyers. One of these flyers caught the attention of 27-yearold Leo O' Driscoll, who moved to San Diego last year and was looking for new meetups.

"A year ago the thought



of playing dodgeball had not even crossed my mind," O'Driscoll wrote in a letter to the Reader. "I didn't know it was an option. I was new to sunny San Diego, unemployed, and looking for ways to meet people. I had joined countless meet-ups and had failed to attend a single one. I had considered various sports leagues but was deterred by high costs or fear ('athletic' is not a word anyone would use to describe me). Still, after spotting a poster for adult dodgeball, I decided this would be the sport I would check out. I had of course seen the movie and was interested to see how reality would match up to the silver screen."

O'Driscoll went on to detail how his initial trepidation quickly dissipated when the games began. Within a year he had become a dodgeball addict. He ended the letter with an open invitation to come and play with the group and enjoy the "magic." He would be "the devilishly handsome bald guy getting down to Drake."

It was an invitation that only a fool would accept, so I freed up a couple of Sundays to go play with the group. The first day of



Martine de Bijl started her own dodgeball league after her search for a San Diego chapter came up empty.

reckoning was a roasting late-August afternoon. I hopped on my bike and rode up to the rec center (luckily in my neighborhood) decked out in athletic shorts and sneakers. I also brought a backpack stocked with water, a Gatorade, a towel, and five bucks for admission. A local basketball practice was wrapping up when I entered the gym. None of the kids on this day would stick around to throw balls

tails).....

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I looked around for a devilishly handsome bald man but instead stumbled upon O'Driscoll. He introduced me to De Bijl, who in turn gave me a quick overview of the group and the game. I tried to recall the basic rules of dodgeball from my youth. I remembered that a ball hitting you knocks you out and a caught ball eliminates the opposing team mem-

ber who threw it at you.

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I should pause here to state that I didn't pause to stretch before we started. This was a mistake.

De Bijl divvied up the players and it was time to prove my worthiness. I wasn't scared to play this back in middle school, so why was I suddenly terrified? But I didn't have long to cower.

Seven balls were placed on opposite ends of the center of the court. Three on one side, four on the other. The typical dodgeball placement is all of the balls on the center line, and opponents from each side making a mad dash for any of them at the onset. Eagle Rock Yacht Club's San Diego chapter utilizes this alternative set-up due to a bloody mishap.

"Alex [Brummer, Leo's cousin] actually broke her nose!" De Bijl explained to me later. "Alex and her friend Stephanie, they were on different teams, and they did a stare-down at the beginning over who was going to get the balls first. They both went to get the same ball and when they bent down to get it, Stephanie slid into it and Alex bent down at the exact same moment that Stephanie was sliding in, and she just cracked her nose on the top of Stephanie's head. It was like a massacre of blood. I knew that she had gotten hit, but I didn't know how bad it was. She was laying face down on the court with both hands on her face, so everything was covered. All of a sudden, all this blood starts pooling out. I was,

like, 'Oh, my God!' She didn't even know she was bleeding. I told her, and she looks up, rolls over, and it's, like, drip, drip, drip."

I'm glad I was unaware of this tale before De Bijl velled, "DODGEBALL!" and we were underway. The throwers from each side began to pick targets as I stayed in the back trying to make sense of what was going on. Soon enough the vollevs began and certain tricks to successful gameplay became apparent. The first was that it's a better idea to try to dodge an incoming ball than attempt to catch it.

Brummer later explained to me that she tends to dodge all the balls. She claimed to have awful hand-eye coordination, which made catching difficult. During the 15-minute warm-up before play, she would try to have someone throw at her to get practice but that in the actual games she rarely went for catches.

O'Driscoll says that he despised catching so much that he hated being the final player alive on a team, solely because of the pressure to make catches and bring other teammates back into play.

Despite the general favoring of dodging over catching, I learned quickly if you throw a duck straight at somebody's chest, they're likely to catch it. I made the mistake of targeting De Bijl above the waistline a couple times and she easily caught my wussy throws. In my defense, she was one of the few participants that was aggressive with making catches.

"For me, my general rule is that if it's coming to me, I'm gonna try to catch it," De Bijl said. "If I have to reach for it, I try not to. If I'm the last one in, I'll generally scan the group and determine who out of the group I think I can catch. Then I will focus on



that one ball and hope it comes to me, or move to where that one is coming so I can catch that. Rather than focus on three balls or four balls, I'll focus on one. If the other ones hit me I'm out, but I've caught at least one."

On the other side of the coin, the best trick for avoiding getting your throws caught was to aim low.

"I try to aim for people's feet," De Bijl explained. "My favorite throw is the sniper throw, where the opponent is in their throwing motion. That's the time when the player is the most vulnerable. As they're winding up, they have lots of surface area to hit, including the back leg that is showing while they are at the crest of their throw. That's my favorite time to hit somebody. They're completely open, and you have lots of leg to aim for and they don't think it's coming."

The cat-and-mouse game that develops between opposing throwers aiming at one another is one of the most enjoyable aspects of dodgeball. There are all sorts of ways to try to tempt someone to throw at you, just so you, or



"I try to aim for people's feet," says De Bijl. "My favorite throw is the sniper throw, where the opponent is in their throwing motion."

opponent. I had to apolo-

gize for two direct hits to

adversaries' noggins when

I employed this method.

As I started to adapt to

the rhythms of the game, I

was surprised at the lack of

coordinated attacks when

one side had managed to

gain possession of all seven

balls. The Eagle Rock game

intensity, players told me,

is obviously more lax than

other dodgeball leagues. So

the kind of mapped-out

play I envisioned would

likely be considered taking

the competition a bit too

seriously. The unofficial

motto of Eagle Rock Yacht

Club is "Don't be a dick,"

and participants are much

Luckily, no noses bled.

someone else, can quickly take aim at them. One easy method is to creep up toward the center of the court, pretend you're going to try to retrieve a ball, lock eyes with a thrower on another team, and have one of your teammates peg them while they are concentrating on you. There are all sorts of methods of deception that seem to work well in this game. One that I attempted, with little success, was to keep

one arm behind my back so opponents would think that I was hiding a ball... or was I? It was something I came up with to throw the other team off. It didn't work. Nobody fell for my hidden-ball trick. As a matter of fact, I don't think anybody noticed that I was attempting to pull off this trick. A more worthy trick I employed was the no-look throw - eyeing an opponent and then launching the ball at a different

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

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more likely to get an earful for playing too aggressively than they would be for slacking off.

Since Eagle Rock is a social meeting group and the overly aggressive players more often tend to be men, De Bijl employs a method that would probably make Bar Rescue's Jon Taffer proud. "I will go up to them and say, 'Hey, she's kind of cute. You may want to get her number later — maybe you don't want to hit her in the head.' That generally works. If not, I just say 'We're all here for fun.""

Not coincidentally, it would seem. De Bijl met her boyfriend at dodgeball. His name is Urson Urbanik and he was one of two players who really stood out. A burly, bearded fellow, he looked as if he had been dropped off by a casting director from the Discovery Channel's Alaska: The Last Frontier. Not only was he an apt ball catcher, but he had a ripping sidearm throw that made him a menace on the court. While playing against him, I kept an eye on him constantly. The other standout was Jeremy LaPeer, who perfectly embodied the defensive side of the game. He was a master dodger. His skills at ducking, squatting, sliding, and jumping over balls made him look like a live- action video game. He was like a dodgeball ninja. I was starting to feel

pretty confident as the initial 90-minute session was wrapping up. Then one of my opponents scored a direct hit on what I will refer to as my family jewels. The balls (not my testicles) the league utilizes are smaller than a standard soccer ball but larger than a softball and composed of what feels like a thin, quite squishy rubber. I was surprised at how jarring a direct hit to this area could be. I tried to play off my pain as best I could, but I knew that there was no hope of making it to Tiger! Tiger! for post-competition drinks at that point.

The final game was referred to as "speed ball." It's a variation on dodgeball in which everyone can only hold on to a ball for five seconds. It made for a delightfully chaotic finish. When it was over, I hit the bench and mourned the fact that I had failed to bring more liquids. All my water and Gatorade had long since entered and exited my body. Overshare alert: I'm a year-round heavy sweater. And dodgeball, supposedly a silly, nostalgic throwback for adults, had exhausted me. I felt like I had just run a half-marathon and pitched nine innings. I hobbled to my ride and found that my front and rear lights had been removed from my bicvcle frame.

I knew I was in trouble when I got home and



noticed — overshare alert number two — that my urine resembled nuclear waste. I done dehydrated myself real good. I filled the bathtub with cold water, hopped in, and stayed put for about an hour. As I cooled off and healed, I pondered how sore I would be the next day — *very*, it turned out — and whether it was a good idea to actually do this again. (I decided it wasn't.)

But a couple weekends later, I found myself back at North Park Rec. Wiser from my first dodgeball experience, I left my new bike lights at home and stretched beforehand. I noticed some new faces, but De Bijl, Urbanik, O'Driscoll, and LaPeer were all in attendance. As the games began I felt much more relaxed - and surprisingly patient. This time out I would definitely pace myself a bit.

As a result of my calmed nerves, I found the second session to be truly enjoyable. I played like a complete moron at points (getting hit by a ball that had been softly tossed at me in one instance) but felt that my spirit was a closer embodiment of the Eagle Rock Yacht Club's pathos of just having fun. I even found myself to be the final competitor on my squad at a couple of points, which not only presented me with the opportunity to dodge a barrage of balls, but to also take advantage of one of Eagle Rock's most unique rules. Since gameplay at North Park Rec incorporates two courts (separated by a net) that run perpendicular to the full-size basketball court where they are located, each dodgeball court has one basketball hoop near the mid-court line. If you are the final player on your squad, you can get all the players on vour team back in by hitting a three-point shot with a dodgeball. I played basketball for years and could drill threes on occasion, but trying to shoot one of these small dodgeballs through the rim gave me a more sympathetic perspective on Shaquille O'Neal's abysmal foul-shooting.

Other rules unique to Eagle Rock Yacht Club include two ladies getting freed if a female catches a ball; "quiet dodgeball," in which players are not allowed to talk, clap, or make any sort of noise; and medic, a game variation in which a selected player on each team has the ability to "heal" participants who have been hit by balls.

"We have an extensive history of coming up with weird, wacky rules," Chris Alves told me. "We just try to give as many opportunities for it be as fun and lively as possible."

Dodgeball, like kickball, has transformed into a tongue-in-cheek adultleague activity driven by nostalgia. The Eagle Rocck version strives to make it a sort of healing variation of a sport that gave many of its players gym-class post traumatic stress syndrome. It takes you back to a certain time and place but allows you to rearrange those memories with a fresh and positive spin.

"I think when we try to get people to come play or try it out, I think there's that initial thought in everyone's head where they zoom back to fifth grade when it was the two team captains picking players one by one and no one wanted to be the last player," Alves said. "Everyone probably had nightmares about that situation. I think we're trying to find a way to rewrite that memory."

— Dryw Keltz

HEALTH AND BEAUTY







Getting closer Stumped for New Year's Eve?

CARLSBAD Kids' New Year's Eve Legoland California

Family Friendly New Year's Eve Bash Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa

NYE With Mystique Element Of Soul Covote Bar & Grill

CHULA VISTA NYE with the Merge Manhattan Cocktail Lounge

CITY HEIGHTS NYE With Bossa Lounge Project Nate's Garden Grill

La Escalera Records New Year's Tower Bar **CORONADO**

Hotel Del: Far East Fantasy New Year Hotel del Coronado

DEL MAR NYE With Shook & Striler Zel's Del Mar

DOWNTOWN New Year's Eve With Clinton Sparks House of Blues

NYE Midnight in Morocco Vin de Syrah Wine Parlo

Champagne New Year's Tin Roof San Diego

NYE Extravaganza Onvx/Thin

New Year's at Cafe Sevilla Café Sevilla Nightclub

Blue Blazer: New Year's Eve Bottle Service Grant Gril

NYE Blowout Side Bar

F6ix Night Club New Years Eve F6ix Niteclub

Black & White NYE Renaissance San Diego Downtown

NYE With DJ Karma Paro Restaurant

Gatsby's House NYE Gala Striders Club Lounge

New Year's Cruise Aboard the California Spirit California Spirit, 990 N. Harbor Drive, downtown

New Years Cruise Hornblower Dinner Cruises

Bottoms Up NYE Marina Kitche

New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise Flagship Cruises & Events

New Year's Eve Black and Gold San Diego Maritime Museum **Masquerade Night in Versailles**

Westgate Hote **Big Night San Diego** Hilton San Diego Bavfront

NYE 2017 Hard Rock Hotel

FAST VILLAGE NYE With the Matte Grav Band Moonshine Flats

EL CAJON NYE With Pakobsinh Band Crystal Ballroom banquet hall

NYE With Jon Campos & the Incurables Landing

UpFunk New Year's Masquerade Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill

New Year's Eve Burning Bowl Seaside Center for Spiritual Living

HILLCREST

KEARNY MESA New Year's Eve at Comedy Palace

NYE With DJ Kandu & DJ Dynce

LA JOLLA

LA MESA NYE With Three Chord Justice Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room

PACIFIC BEACH

Catamaran Resort

Catamaran Resort

Moonshine Beach

710 Beach Club

NYE With Fresh

Luis Rev Lounge

POINT LOMA

Wine Cave

POWAY

Infinity at Pala Casino

NYE 2017

PALA

New Year's Eve Beach Party

New Year's Speakeasy Party

New Year's Eve Reach Party

NYE With Honky Tonk Boombox

NYE With Grand Sonic Theory

NYE With Warren La Plante

Stone New Year's Eve Celebration

NYE With Aquile and DJ Brandon Noel

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows

NYE With Lady Dottie & the Diamonds

Lake San Marcos Conference Cen

Stone Brewing Liberty Station

NYE With Outta Sync

Poway's Irish Pub

SAN MARCOS

SOLANA BEACH

Belly Up

Park & Red

Brian Setzer Orchestra

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Psychedelic Masquerade

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa

LEMON GROVE NYE With FX5 Dirk's Niteclub

LIBERTY STATION Stone New Year's Eve Celebration Stone Brewing Liberty Station

LITTIFITALY NYE With Justin Martin Music Box

Cash'd Out and the Sleenwalkers Casbah

NYE With David Patrone Kettner Exchange

Galactic NYE Porto Vista Hotel & Suites

MIDWAY DISTRICT OMFG! Valley View Casino Center

MISSION BEACH NYE With Mike Myrdal Band Draft

MISSION HILLS New Years Spectacular National Comedy Theatre

MISSION VALLEY Infinity New Year's Eve Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center

NORTH PARK **NYE With CWitch** West Coast Taverr

NYE With Rebelution **Observatory North Park**

Uptown Get Down NYE Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center

OCEAN BEACH NYE With Brothers Gow Winstons Beach Club

NYE With No Kings Mother's Saloo **OCEANSIDE**

NYE With Gone Blonde Pour House

> Details on these and other NYE events: SDReader.com/nye

CITY LIGHTS

Boring economy continued from page 3

will creep up to only 79 percent in 2017. "This has not been a wonderful year, and unless there is a big turnaround, I don't see next year being a heck of a lot better," says Morrison.

Los Angeles has made some big hotel gains resulting from its spiffying up of the downtown area, and these gains may continue, says Morrison. San Francisco's average daily room rate through October was \$237.62, second only to New York's \$253.28. San Diego's room rates through the same period were a much lower \$157.62.

"Las Vegas is going to eat everybody's lunch," says Morrison. Its hotel tax "all goes to promote tourism. More and more people are coming. There is so much convention space. The conventioncenter rates are still lower than ours." And, of course, it has a very descriptive and seductive nickname: Sin City.

What about investing? Some analysts think stock and bond prices are very high, and with the economy possibly sagging, the stock market is running out of gas. But Mike Stolper of San Diego's Stolper & Company sees Donald Trump as a reason to buy stocks.

"Whether you love him or hate him, he is creating the most benevolent business environment since the Eisenhower years," says Stolper. "We are likely to see more favorable corporate tax rates, less regulation, fewer environmental obstacles - accelerated economic growth and a laissez faire environment." That will be good for stocks. Higher interest rates won't interfere with stocks but will hit bonds, thus steering some money to stocks. "We're not talking 30 or 40 percent gains, but a good year."■

Contact Don Bauder at 719-539-7831 dbauder@sandiegoreader.com

CITY LIGHTS

Under the radar

continued from page 3

from any other source," the ethics stipulation says, he was fined just \$1500. The delinquent filings show Black was paid \$11,000 by Bosa to gain approval of development at "880 West Broadway and 8th and B." City officials lobbied included Stephen Puetz, chief of staff for mayor Kevin Faulconer, along with mayoral development honcho Mike Hansen. The filings also reveal that Black worked for the city itself during the same period, pulling down a cool \$45,000 for "project management services" from the Public Works Department. Based on campaign finance reporting records, Black is a loyal friend of the city's current powers-that-be, coming up with \$950 for Faulconer's mayoral cause, as well as \$500 for the failed city attorney campaign of Robert Hickey (also backed by Moores); and \$250 for Ray Ellis's unsuccessful try for city council; as well as the same for incumbent GOP councilman Scott Sherman. Hickey once worked for Moores and JMI, defending the Padres project from lawsuits attacking its legal legitimacy.

> — 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 sandiegoreader. com/staff/matt-potter/contact/.

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

"I thought at one time that Myrtle Cole really cared about her community, but from what it appears to be right now, she doesn't," said Cornelius Bowser, whose work includes community outreach and gang-suppression efforts.

"Instead of acknowledging that racial profiling exists," Bowser continued, "they'll just say, 'Well, evervone has biases.' But research demonstrates that although everyone has bias it's overwhelmingly focused against black people, who are seen as criminals and

ENCINITAS

HARBOR ISLAND New Years Eve With Sabor on the Bay

New Year's Eve Speakeasy Celebration Abbey

Comedy Palace

Four Points by Sheraton

NYE With Slower Beaumont's

Reader



Jacqueline: "Yes! I walked around my entire perimeter of my house. I thought it was an electrical fire!"

Katie: "Yes, burnt plastic."

Larry: "Burning plastic or burning electrical wires."

Jim: "Kinda thought it smelled like burnt plastic or something first thing when I woke up today."

Heather: "Yes chemically smell, almost burns my nose."

Liz: "The same smell is downtown where I work around 16th & Imperial. I live in O.B. and was wondering what the smell was but when I got downtown I smell the same thing. It's a cross between a wet telephone pole and electrical fire smell. Strange that it would be the same in both places but the smell was identical to the one I smelled this morning at 5:30 a.m. when I left for work."

In fact, the smell may have started on Wednesday as another resident commented: "I smelled it yesterday afternoon in Linda Vista when I drove up my driveway. I ran in the house because it smelled like an electrical fire. The smell was only outside. Made me cough, it was so strong.'

A representative from SDG&E said they don't respond to smells other than gas and did not know if they received any calls regarding the issue.

A representative from the San Diego Fire Department confirmed that they have been responding to numerous calls - from Chula Vista and along the coast and found nothing. "It's probably that naturally occurring methane ocean-burp we get once in a while," he told me.

Um...no. Longtime residents are familiar with the distinct sulfurous smell that is common along the coast, but this new smell doesn't seem organic in nature.

According to an article in the Orange County Register this week, the problem was also reported in Huntington and Seal Beach, with dozens becoming ill.

Cameron from the County of San Diego's Air Pollution Control office said, "Yeah, we've had several complaints about this. Our investigator is going out to investigate to try to determine the source.... Sometimes this entails taking air quality samples, but I'm not sure what he will do in this situation."

Though the source of the strange odor remained unknown, the investigator said another complaint had been filed by a resident in Mira Mesa.

DELINDA LOMBARDO

SAN CARLOS

New chapter on library expansion Redesign includes columns and removal of cop storefront

While the architect and building size remain

the same, the updated plan for the new 25,000-square-foot San Carlos branch library is now one story instead of two.

The 8200-square-foot branch at 7265 Jackson Drive opened January 9, 1974. The new building will extend from that property to the former site of an Atlantic Richfield Company gas station on the corner of Jackson and Golfcrest drives. The station closed in 1994, according to a 2013 Reader story, and the

portion of the new library on the now-vacant 22,000-square-foot lot will sit atop columns.

City of San Diego spokeswoman Nicole Darling on December 14 wrote that the 2007 "schematic design was redesigned to allocate all 25,000 square feet to library use. Ancillary community program spaces, police storefront and community service center were removed "

The cost estimate will be updated after the schematic design is presented to Navajo Community Planners, Inc., on January 11. Darling said, "The previous cost estimate was \$20,598,237, and the city indicated this number would be subject to change based on updates to the design and other factors." Approximately \$2,293,800 from multiple





The design of the new branch at Jackson and Golfcrest shows split level and columns.

> sources has been identified for the project: \$84,483 in miscellaneous city funds; \$155,605 in the Library Improvement Trust Fund; \$1,053,715 Navajo development impact fees; and \$1 million in deferred capital.

Darling wrote, "At this point, we do not have an anticipated date for the start of construction on this project. This project is in the design phase and funding still needs to be identified "

LIZ SWAIN



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Music of the 1980s The Beat Farmers, Psychotic Waltz, and when rap and norteño entered the scene

In Search of the Genuine, Authentic, Sawdust and Spittoon Honky-Tonk

At the Barr-X Ranch House the only people dancing were the band members' girlfriends, and they were dancing with each other. They played "Oh, Lonesome Me," not the best choice for a deserted saloon on a Saturday night. A woman sitting at the horseshoe-shaped bar explained to anyone listening that the reason she didn't look so good tonight was that she fell asleep last night with her make-up on, and her eyelids had stuck together. BY STEVE SORENSEN, MARCH 1, 1984

Local Rap

"Rapping gives you a way out, Especially if you are good at it. It could kick you up from where you are, and put you on a different level, away from the street scene. Now little kids in the neighborhood, they come up to me, they say 'Ron, teach me to rap.' Kids they used to wanna be a doctor, a lawyer, a basketball player, and now they say, 'I wanna be a DJ, a rapper.'" BY JUDITH MOORE, JUNE 27, 1985

Birth of the Beat Farmers

"Somewhere along in there, Herrera became partners with Jim Pagni, who brought in a lot of concerts in those days, and the Palace changed its name to JJ's. Glory ended up being the house band at JJ's for a while, and we opened for a lot of people. We opened for Steely Dan on probably the only tour they ever had. We opened for ZZ Top when *Tres Hombres* first came out." BY ROGER ANDERSON, MARCH 16, 1989

Reader

Norteño!

Unlike Los Tucanes de Tijuana, who have never performed in the U.S. because two members lack passports, Los Regionales de San Diego work both sides of the border. They only play in Tijuana, however, when opening shows for Los Tigres and Los Bravos. There's too much red tape in crossing the border, Jorge says. Perhaps he fears that on his return trip, U.S. customs will tear apart his cherished Hohner No. 2 accordion in search of contraband. BY LEE HILDEBRAND, JUNE 1, 1989

Meet Psychotic Waltz

"The whole thing is — if we get signed, and we make albums, and we do really well — after we're gone, we're still on this earth. John Lennon's still here. That's what I want. It's more than becoming just an average person. After you're gone, that's history. But if you're signed, and you influence an era, and you made a lot of people feel good, and they came to see you — that's special. BY MANI MIR, AUG. 3, 1989

Everybody Just Be Cool Now (Altamont)

We shifted, the patrolman sped away, Lester [Bangs] put the car in gear, and we continued down the Grapevine veering wildly from one lane to the next. At the first exit Lester pulled over and got out. "One of you guys better take over, I don't think I'm up for this," he said blearily. He got into the back seat and took a pull from the bottle as Jim powered us back onto the freeway. "Say, where's that joint?" BY ROGER ANDERSON, DEC. 14, 1989

sdreader.com/news/from-archives

Finally — the 1,500 best stories from 44 years of the *Reader* — fully transcribed. An ongoing project through the end of 2016.

CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 28 as dangerous."

Local National Action Network president Shane Harris characterized Cole's appointments as an instance of "paying back her Republican friends who voted her in as council president."

"Cole says she'll serve as an advisor, but why didn't she put herself on that committee? Why didn't she put David Alvarez or Georgette Gomez on that committee?" Harris also said that Cate "has spoken very clearly about his bias for police," and that "we know Lorie Zapf is racially biased; that's another conversation, but that's why she hired a black guy in her office."

Also revealed at the press conference were allegations of widespread police surveillance surrounding the case of Robert Branch, who was choked into unconsciousness by an off-duty sheriff's deputy in 2015, yet found himself facing felony charges including assault on an officer.

According to Branch's lawyers Marc Kohnen and Dan Gilleon, law enforcement has quietly been attending rallies and community meetings in support of Branch, recording and photographing attendees.

"We're not a terrorist organization," said Kohnen. "This is surveillance of normal citizens. It feels like gestapo tactics to me.... This is why we need civilian oversight this is government run amok. I want our oversight committee to take action, and I ask them what they're going to do about this."

Added Gilleon: "This is how worried they are that we're going to expose what they're doing: they're literally going into churches where civil rights leaders are talking about issues and recording and monitoring everything that's being said."

The lawyers say they learned about the surveillance during the discovery period before Branch's trial, which is set to begin next month.

CITY LIGHTS

Pension liability zooms up by \$937 million

"They have...basically put the city in bankruptcy." The City of San Diego's pension liability as of June 30 had soared to \$2.65 billion, up by \$937 million since June of 2015, according to a report by Cheiron, the actuarial firm used by the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS).

Former city attorney Mike Aguirre said on December 21 at a press conference that the city is essentially bankrupt. I sought a response from SDCERS, but none had come prior to publication.

Major reasons for the increase are changes in economic and demographic assumptions, which raised the net pension liability by \$620 million in the year. These include interest rates, salary increases of 3.05 percent, and cost of living adjustments of 1.9 percent.

Net investment income plunged from \$935 million in 2014, to \$208 million in 2015, to merely \$64 million in 2016, according to the Cheiron report. Investment gains or losses are measured over a five-year period. Assumption changes knocked \$620 million off investment returns during the year. SDCERS will recognize \$207 million in the current year, and the same amount in each of the next two years, according to the report.

"Pension-fund managers are once again hiding the size of the pension debt," says Aguirre. "They have managed the pension for their own selfish purposes and basically put the city in bankruptcy."

The report came out November 30 but didn't cause a ripple. Aguirre came across it when working on a case. Don Bauder

City to pay for cops' mother-andson tussle

Excessive-force suit settled The City of San Diego has agreed to settle a long-running excessive-force lawsuit filed against four San Diego police officers who allegedly assaulted members of a family during an incident in 2014.

According to documents filed in federal court on December 9, the City of San Diego agreed to settle the lawsuit filed by Hedy Julca and her three sons for an undisclosed amount.

The incident, as reported by the *Voice of San Diego*, occurred on July 29, 2014, when four officers witnessed a man and a woman attempting to enter a City Heights cell-phone store after hours. The store, it was later found, was owned by the family and was serving as their primary residence.

Two officers followed the couple into the store. Moments later, four additional officers entered and a tussle ensued. Footage captured on the store's surveillance cameras showed officers repeatedly punching Luis Lobaton. Hedy Julca, Lobaton's mother, ran to try and stop the officers from punching her son. Officers then grabbed her by the neck and threw her to the ground a few feet from where her threeyear-old son stood watching.

Officers Nathan Parga, Kelvin Lujan, San Euler, and Ali Bakhshi arrested Julca and Luis Lobaton, charging the latter with obstructing a peace officer. No charges were filed against the mother. Lobaton spent several days in jail on an immigration hold until his family could locate his birth certificate.

As reported by the *Reader*, the family sued the city and the four police officers for using excessive force, failing to properly supervise and train police officers, as well as attempting to cover up the assault in private interviews later given by the officers.

On December 8, according to court documents obtained by the *Reader*, the two sides agreed to settle the case during a scheduled settlement conference sometime in January.

Calendar

December 29–January 4

Thursday | 29 Friday |

INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

Four hundred vehicles from 40 manufacturers will be on display, including

20 all-new debuts. This year's show has 15,000 square feet dedicated to an Exotics Vault with vehicles from the likes of Porsche, Maserati, and Ferrari. Sunday, January 1, is Family Day children 12 and under get in free with a paying adult, and there will be activities for kids, including superhero appearances. The show runs through Monday, January 2. \$8–\$12.

WHEN: Thursday, December 29, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE: San Diego Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive, downtown San Diego. *sdautoshow.com*

KWANZAA

This is the last night of a weeklong celebration at WorldBeat with traditional Afrikan libations, drum calls, karamu (a traditional feast), and Kwanzaa poetry. Kwanzaa is based on the agricultural celebrations of Africa called "the first-fruits," a time for gathering, reverence, and commemoration.

WHEN: Thursday, December 29, 6 p.m.

WHERE: WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard, Balboa Park. *events.worldbeatcenter.org*

Friday | 30

INFINITY NEW YEAR'S EVE

Four stages will feature over a dozen DJs. On Friday it's G-Eazy, who grabbed national attention with his 2014 debut *These Things Happen*. Saturday offers Dada Life (a Swedish electrohouse duo that transforms turntables into anarchic noise machines) and Dillon Francis ("Masta Blasta"). With Flux Pavilion, Boombox Cartel, Joyryde, and

Lumberjvck. \$50–\$180.

WHEN: Friday, December 30, 8 p.m. Also on Saturday.

WHERE: Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, Mission Valley. *infinitynye.com*

BEST MOVIES OF 2016. For the first time, both of the *Reader's* movie critics share their lists. A lot of reviewers are calling this the worst year for



MARTIN SCORSESE'S NEW MOBSTER MOVIE

movies in decades. You couldn't prove it by Marks. He found a lot to like. Movies, **page 55**.

Saturday | 31

BIG NIGHT SAN DIEGO NEW YEAR'S EVE

The all-inclusive evening — that means drinks are included all evening, plus buffets — has ten party areas and eight dance floors, including the 91X Rock



Stage & Ballroom, Retro DJ Ballroom (Best of '80s dance tunes), Club Dance Ballroom, the MASSIVE 93.3 Club Room, and an Urban Dance Zone. \$120-\$190.

WHEN: Saturday, December 31, 9 p.m.WHERE: Hilton San Diego Bayfront,1 Park Boulevard, downtown San Diego.*bignightsandiego.com*

WONDERLAND OCEAN PUB.

Candice and her daughter discuss "real" beach bars and try the Woco Moco, a hamburger with kale, garlic fried rice, two eggs over medium, and chicken gravy. It's popular in Hawaii and Ocean Beach. Read more in Feast, **page 39**.

PSYCHEDELIC MASQUERADE

This New Year's Eve party celebrates the psychedelic 1960s with three distinct sections. The Underground: "Home to the 1960s London counter-

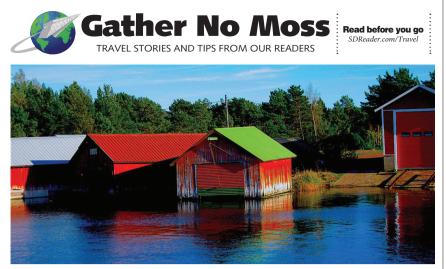


culture, celebrate avant-garde music and fashion in a crimson, recordadorned lounge." The Painted Desert: "Let the starry night sky beckon you to your own personal desert trip." The Dream: "Reminiscent of the surrealist visions of your subconscious, this whimsical area will play make-believe with your inner child while you twirl into the new year." Over a dozen bands will perform, including the Redwoods Group, the Schizophonics, the Verigolds, and Midnight Pine. Cocktail attire and masks are encouraged. \$80–\$150.

WHEN: Saturday, December 31, 8 p.m. WHERE: Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, University Heights. *bit.ly/2emLxcx*

FISHY NYE. Recreational groundfish season ends at midnight and doesn't start again for two months, on the first day of March. Until then, those anglers wishing to go out on a boat to catch

lingcod, whitefish, sheephead, cabezon, greenlings, and species of rockfish must go south of the border. But, don't despair: Sculpin (California scorpionfish) season opens at the same time. It's all in Waterfront, **page 37**.



Flashes: Helsinki and the Åland Islands By Kirby Wright

The Sky Wheel spins remembrances of childhood. A southeastern breeze carries emotions, the X-girl laughter camouflaging the dark in her eyes. I smell apples and lilac. Sweden's due west, Estonia to the south.

Anger flares in an American couple on Kappeli's patio. Skin hardens, then softens with music. Hear Santana? "Evil Ways" sexes September, the Helsinki women posing as statues in heels and denim. The deck along the harbor flexes tourist weight.

Swedes slug whiskey and cubed cocktails before their meals arrive. Cinderellathin girls in gray skirts and white aprons flit around raw oak tables with red lanterns. There is a view of a string of boathouses with bottoms submerged in weedy water.

This eatery is a red cottage with a bayfront deck. The leftover paint was used on Stig's boat. This is one of only two places to dine on the entire Eckerö coast. Blonde Yvonne, the owner, takes advantage. Yesterday's fish becomes today's chowder. Old hamburger gets shaped into meatballs. She even recycles chips. The tourists swarm in like bees all summer and think they're eating fresh. Yvonne smirks in the bar. She kills lantern flames when the last man standing stumbles off into the night.

Eckerö fishermen crouch on a stone ledge at the edge of Storby. They can still hear the voices of couples at the gastro pub. The sunset makes them silhouettes, shadows framed by the shore and evergreen branches. They sit between worlds, poles teasing the Baltic for mouths.

I devour dialogues of sunset dwell-

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Finnish village in the wild Åland Islands

ers, the romantics sprawled on canvas loungers overlooking South Harbor. A turquoise pool ripples between the Baltic and us. X-girls chorus, "Yo, yo," sipping wine and Estonian beer. White lights strung through the railing glow strong after my third drink. Helsinki tongues wave like flames.

I eye-contact a blonde leaning against the railing. Her eyes flash like marbles. Hips sway in tight white jeans. How does she view me? Perhaps as an old bandit bulging in his black jacket.

She departs. Her muscles flex in jeans as she saunters off to circle our pool. The water turns the dirt-blue of the sea. The hero statues in Esplanadi Park sneak to silhouette.

Other Adventures



restorechildrenspool: Los Arbolitos Beach in Cabo Pulmo, East Cape of Baja Mexico. The Best Wheelchair Ramp into the Best Snorkeling at the most abundant reef in the world according to National Geographic. The Cabo Pulmo Reef is right at the shore here and affords 'everyone' the opportunity to experience the amazing abundance that the local community protects and treasures. The safe international village is mostly flat hard sand, has boat dives, accessible dining, and this amazing reef beach. The attendants of Los Arbolitos have beach wheelchairs and will help a disabled person to make sure their water adventure is safe and perfect. Kayaks for loan too! And #18 Cabo Pulmo Casa Sirena beach home is wheelchair friendly with ramps, and other accommodations. Cabo Pulmo simply can not be 'trumped'.

ROAM-()-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

LIZARD CANYON

Hike in a desert canyon for a breathtaking geologic landscape

Distance from downtown San Diego: 79 miles. Allow 2 hours driving time (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park). Drive to Julian and follow SR-78 east 17.3 miles down Banner Canyon, past Scissors Crossing, and through Sentenac Canyon to the turnout on the right (south) for the signed Lizard Canyon, about 6 miles past Scissors Crossing. Park at the entrance. If you have a high clearance or 4WD vehicle, proceed up the wash 0.6 mile to a road fork and park just off the road. Hiking length: 3.5 miles out and back. Difficulty: Moderate hike with little elevation gain. Best time to visit is December through April. Dogs (on leashes) and mountain bikes allowed on designated roads only and not on any trails. No facilities.



Female Phainopepla

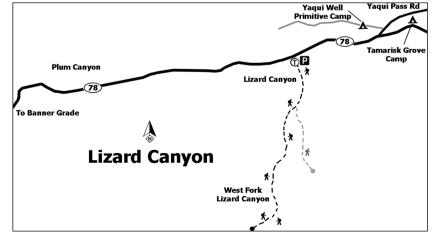
Rangers began exploring Anza-Borrego Desert State Park systematically during the 1950s. They kept detailed logs and recorded their findings. When a wash or canyon did not have a name, they assigned one. Ranger Frank Fairchild recorded that a lizard was sighted running across the wash, and so this canyon and wash were named Lizard Canyon.

The hike begins 0.6 mile from the entrance to the wash, assuming you have a high clearance or 4WD vehicle. If not, park your vehicle at the entrance. Your hike will be 1.2 miles longer or 4.7 miles out and back if you begin from the wash entrance. The fork in the road at 0.6 mile is your trailhead marker.

Begin the hike from the fork, taking the right (southwest) fork. The trail is a big open wash dotted with desert perennials that include ocotillo. chuparosa, teddy-bear cholla, creosote, and brittlebush. If hiking in spring after good winter rains, the surrounding hills may be covered with a mosaic of colorful annuals.

As you make your way up the wash, granitic inclusions become a prominent feature, telling a story of Lizard Canyon's geologic past. Muscovite and biotite mica reflect the desert sunlight all around the canyon with reflections as far as the eyes can see.

At about one mile into the hike, the wash changes, becoming more narrow. With this change comes a change in geology and plant life. The most dominant plants become desert lavender and juniper. The aromas fill the air in this narrow, rocky space. Green vegetation may blanket the steep canyon walls, making this a perfect rest spot. Relax under a juniper and listen for birds of the Anza-Borrego desert, such as Gambel's quail. You may also see the tubby gray quail darting in and out of some of the desert shrubs with some of his companions. The quail is gregarious and prefers walking or running to flying. Look for its comma-shaped top notch. Males have a rufous crest, a black face, and continued on page 34



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

HOW TO SEND US YOUR

LISTING: Have an event? We want it! Festivals, lectures, sporting events (including surfing, kayaking, and sailing), Meetups, conventions, book signings, art gallery openings, conferences, dance performances, expos, poetry readings, classes & workshops — all are welcome. You can submit an event at sdreader.com/events/submit. (Blue titles indicate sponsored events. To place a sponsored listing, call 619-235-8200.)

BEER

One Year Anniversary Party We will have a live DJ, drink specials, and a free gift bag for all customers. We decided to celebrate it on Friday the 30th so we can combine it with New Years Eve and New Years Day for a threeday long party. Friday, December 30, 8pm; Saturday, December 31, 8pm; Sunday, January 1, 8pm; IB Public House, 995 Palm Avenue. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Stone New Year's Eve Celebration Stone Brewing's cure for the common party: 2017 Stone New Year's Eve celebration. Forget those auld acquaintances and welcome new beginnings with a unique and fantastic selection of craft beer, wine, cider, and sodas pouring all night long. Luckily your New Year's resolution starts the following day. Stations of lavish buffet style food and dessert will be present through the event. Saturday, December 31, 8pm; Stone Brewing Liberty Station, 2816 Historic Decatur Road #116. (LIBERTY STATION)

CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY EVENTS

Jungle Bells A chance to see exotic animals at night makes an evening visit worth a trip, and through January 2 the zoo is also decked out with holiday lights and special performances. Expect music, animal-themed Christmas tales, and Santa holding court in an igloo while his elves bounce on a trampoline. Tying the wacky vibe together is the large, tropical toog tree in the zoo's Front Plaza, outfitted with a musical light display featuring over 1000 bulbs. It's free with paid admission, and the zoo stays open until 8pm during the holidays (no Jungle Bell festivities on December 24). Through Monday, January 2, San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive. (BALBOA PARK)

Legoland Snow Days Thousands of Legos come together to create a massive 30-ft. tall Christmas tree decorated with hundreds of Lego ornaments, and a fireworks show lights up the sky select nights during December. In addition, guests can enjoy the Let It Snow musical and life-size Lego displays of Santa and his reindeer. Through Sunday, January 1, Legoland California, One Legoland Drive. (CARLSBAD)

SeaWorld Christmas Celebration: Snow Hill New this year is Snow Hill, a wintry themed area packed with real snow and sled lanes geared for smaller children with 3200 square feet/50 tons of blown snow. Included in the price of admission. Through Sunday, January 1, SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Seas 'n' Greetings at Birch Through the month of December, Birch Aquarium features holiday ocean-science events including dive shows with Scuba Santa and themed octopus feedings. The schedule changes daily, so visit the website for the rundown. Most activities are included in Birch Aquarium admission, \$18.50 for adults and \$14 for children 3 to 17. Proceeds support exhibits and educational programming at Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Thursday, December 29, 9am; Friday, December 30, 9am; Saturday, December 31, 9am; \$14-\$18. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Skating by the Sea Skating by the Sea returns to Hotel del Coronado for the 12th year from Thanksgiving Day through January 2. This ice rink is located seaside on Windsor Lawn and features views of the Pacific and Coronado beach The Del's iconic Victorian Building, adorned with thousands of white lights, provides a visual backdrop and adds holiday music and hot chocolate and libations. Skating is \$25 per person, and ice skate rentals are free. Through Monday, January 2, \$25. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Ugly Sweater Contest Grab your ugliest sweater and your skates. Tipsy Elves will be doing giveaways throughout the day at Hilton San Diego Bayfront's Ice Rink. Afterwards join us in our Odysea Lounge for the Ugly Sweater Contest at 8pm. Prizes include a two-night stay at Hilton San Diego Bayfront, a treatment at Spa Aquazul, and more. Thursdays, 8pm; through Thursday, December 29, **free**. Hilton San Diego Bayfront, 1 Park Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

COMEDY

Chris D'Elia Variety named Chris D'Elia one of its "Top 10 Comics to Watch." He can be seen starring as Danny on NBC's hit comedy series Undateable, as well as in his Netflix special Incorrigible. Friday, December 30, 7pm; \$20-\$60. Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

FOOD & DRINK

Bubbles & Cheese Discover the best cheeses to pair with sparkling wine, champagne, and bubbly beverages. From cava to champagne, sample our favorite pairings in a fun holiday environment. Friday, December 30, 6pm; \$60. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

Tijuana Foodie Adventure Join Wild Foodie Tours for an all-inclusive, insightful food tour in Tijuana. We'll enjoy tastings at five food stops, one non-alcoholic beverage stop, and one dessert stop to taste the best flavors of Tijuana. We'll also visit the Mercado Hidalgo open-air market, a Mexican bakery, and Tijuana's largest seafood market. Along the way we'll point out a few of the eateries Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern showcased on their *Travel Channel*



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Ring in the New Year with this fun scavenger hunt adventure. Guided from any smart phone, teams see the sights while solving dues, completing challenges, and learning local history. Two quests to choose from: Old Town/Little Italy and the Waterfront or Balboa Park Quest. Save 20% with Promo: READERSD Sign-up at: UrbanAdventureQuest.com

TAI TAI CHI 12 Week Beginner (lass starts 1/14)

Free open House 1/7 @ 1:30pm at Kensington Community Church 4773 Marlborough Dr. or call **619-485-0939** or email **ttcscasd@gmail.com** or visit **www.taoist.org**



Argentine Lango Wink Colette Leam Lango now! Take a FREE FIRST CLASS on Saturday, January 74 Zpm as Colette starts a new 6week Session on Monday, January 2. You can also enjoy a FREE CLASS every Monday and Wednesday at 7pm. Come to Dance Place San Diego, 2650 Truxtun Rd (comer Dewey) Studio #106. No partner needed.

TangoWithColette.com Colette: 514-726-5567





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shows. Everything included: food, all transportation in Tijuana, shopping, sightseeing, and a tour guide. Saturdays, 12:30pm; Sundays, 4pm; through Sunday, February 26, \$69. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

FOR KIDS

Inspire Works Art Studio: Musical Instruments Celebrate the holidays by listening to and creating music from cultures around the world. Join us in our new art studio, where you will construct your own musical instruments, enjoy a hot chocolate bar, and listen to international holiday music. Free with general admission. Saturday, December 31, 1pm; \$13. San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Winter Art Camp Pachis Winter Art Camp is designed for your child to spend a fun and creative week in the studio, making winterthemed art pieces; drawings, painting, sewing, mixed media projects, and more. Many of these projects will make great gifts for family and friends. Outdoor time is also incorporated to enjoy the park and the surroundings of Liberty Station, Point Loma, For children aged 5-10 years old. Thursdays, 9am; through Thursday, December 29, Pachis, An Art Studio For Kids, 2820 Roosevelt Rd., Building 201, Ste 102. (LIBERTY STATION)

Winter Day Camp at the Fleet The Fleet offers full-day camps in winter for kids in grades 1-3. The camps take place at the science center and include fun, educational, hands-on activities while incorporating the Fleet's exhibit galleries. \$55 per day for members and \$60 per day for nonmembers. Register online or 619-238-1233 ext. 806. December 19: Inside Your Insides. Investigate bones, blood, digestion, and other amazing systems of the human body. December 20: Magic & Illusion. Make color-changing potions, observe the fascinating nature of dry ice, and learn illusion tricks that will impress your friends. December 21: To the

ROAM- -RAMA continued from page 32

a creamy belly with a black patch. The flanks are chestnut with white stripes. If you don't see the quail, you might hear its many different clucking and crowing sounds that include "ka-kAA."

Look up and you might see a glossy black bird with a crest and a distinct white wing patch that is visible when it flies. That would be a phainopepla, a flycatcher that is often seen where desert mistletoe is growing, as mistletoe berries are one of its favorite foods. The female is not as distinctlooking, as it is gray with a lighter gray wing patch.

Just a little farther, at about 1.75 miles, is a good stopping point as soft sand makes the trail just a little more difficult. Before returning, there are many channels to explore in this canyon for the spirited hiker. Make sure to take notice and enjoy

Extreme. Explore explosive earth events, crazy weather, and other thrilling science activities. \$55-\$60. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

NATURE

Nature Calling Benefit from the chorus of a distant song bird, contemplate the beauty of unique landscapes, and meander down the beckoning trail. Our trail guideled walk is your opportunity to feel one with nature and to experience seasonal beauty and wonder on a fun interpretive outing. Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday, December 31, 9:30am; free. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

NEW YEAR'S

Contra Dance Annual New Years Eve Dance, No partner needed, and no experience necessary. Guest band The Rosin Sniffers. Teaching at 7:30pm, dance at 8pm. Dance instruction by local callers to be announced. For refreshments, a punch bowl and warm Brie cheese will be provided, but please bring ready-to-serve "finger foods," preferably savories and sweets. Wear soft-soled shoes to protect the dance floor. Discount price for students and active duty military. Friday, December 30, 7:30pm; \$15. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Family Friendly New Year's **Eve Bash** The theme is futuristic; cocktail attire is permitted. There will be a DJ and a Best Dressed Couple and Family competition with prizes. The buffet will be open between 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm. A complimentary sparkling wine toast will take place at midnight for guests 21 and older. Non-alcoholic sparkling is provided for guests under 21 years of age. The NYE bash will take place in the Grand Pacific Ballroom while the Kids' Bash will be in the Carlsbad A & B Teen Room. Saturday, December 31, 6:30pm; \$39-\$125. Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa, 5480 Grand Pacific Drive. (CARLSBAD)

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Keith Ekiss

Hubert Humphrey

– Richard Avedon, March 12th, 1976

Whether or not he won, Humphrey looks like the candidate who lost: no sensual lip, cheeks drawn, eyes slanted wary of hawks. Vietnam has ended. In a gallery crowded with faces looking at faces my mother can't recall his name. Don't tell your father I never voted for Nixon. Didn't she watch us burning ourselves to hell? Over ghost paper, a presence -Humphrey's still here: I can almost shake the hand of one whose name sounds like he shrugs too much, whose face loses nothing in gray, born in a land of lace and hymnals, Sundays spent on church and Mondays worrying (don't tell the women) what to do about the Russians.

Calendar

Visit a beekeeper to learn about stings. Summer drips cream. Lesson yourself

in honey, contemplate sidewalk botany — penny flowers — talking away

the day to willing neighbors. Months lumber by like streetcars take them slow.

Only your father seems less than permanent, coming and going at hours, while teachers

sing for a face that's known to reveal joy. Flip switches, toggling between good

Kids' New Year's Eve "Mid-

night" comes early for families at Legoland, celebrating the New Year together without missing their bedtimes. Legoland recreates the Times Square ball drop with a giant Lego brick falling 22 feet in the air at San Diego's largest Kids' New Year's Eve Party. Join in the festivities with party hats and special glasses for viewing fireworks. The party concludes just in time for a countdown at 6pm with a fireworks display. Saturday, December 31, 6pm; Legoland California, One Legoland Drive. (CARLSBAD)

New Year at Bottega Americano Enjoy a selection of holiday specials, a complimentary champagne toast at midnight, and a live DJ this New Year's Eve. Seating times available at 5:30, 7, and 9:30pm Continue the festivities with New Year's Day brunch from 10am to 3pm, complete with Bottomless Mimosas and \$6 Bloody Marys. Saturday, December 31, 5:30pm, 7pm and 9:30pm; Sunday, January 1, 10am; \$20-\$40. Bottega Americano, 1195 Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

New Year's Eve Dinner at Asado Grill In celebration of the New Year, Asado Grill at Hotel Karlan has prepared a special three-course dinner menu for guests. Saturday, December 31, 5pm; \$40. Carmel Highland Golf Resort, 14455 Peñasquitos Drive. (CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

New Year's Eve at Cat Eye Club Three-course meal and two signature cocktails during dinner, magic by Ben Silver throughout the night, champagne toast at and evil. The world obeys your commands. In the evening, clocks and mothers

return shelter as you gesture toward the window and darkness she can't hear.

Night Sky Calling

I prick at window-cries peek through curtains spy faces

or listen to drunken voices singing off-key but at least

they're singing. The same voice I've heard it more than once

some woman moaning *no*. How do I keep what's mine

from hers? Squeaky-mouthed hooker who curses out her john

forgoes the rules of traffic. Midnight invaders want nothing

but a night-share on these streets which seem so placid by day.



Keith Ekiss is a Jones Lecturer in Creative Writing at Stanford University and a former Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry. He is the author of *Pima Road Notebook (New Issues Poetry & Prose*, 2010) and translator of *The Fire's Journey*, an epic poem by the Costa Rican writer Eunice Odio forthcoming from Tavern Books in four volumes. *Territory of Dawn: The Selected*

Poems of Eunice Odio was published in spring 2016 by the Bitter Oleander Press. He is a former Robert Frost Fellow in poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

midnight, in-and-out privileges back and forth from Cat Eye Club to The Blind Burro once the show is complete. Saturday, December 31, 8pm; \$20-\$40. Cat Eye Club, 370 Seventh Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Eve at Duck Dive The first course offers either a Wedge Salad or the Fresh Clam Chowder served with a Crostini. An appetizer course will follow with either Caprese Skewers topped with Balsamic Reduction or a b served with Duck Dive's house cocktail sauce. Guests can choose from either a Lobster Tail served alongside Rice Pilaf, Veggie Medley, Lemon and Garlic Butter or a Filet Mignon with Root Vegetables, Roasted Red Potatoes and Asparagus for their main course. To finish off the special dinner, a delectable Chocolate Lava Cake with Fresh Fruit will be served A La Mode with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream. Saturday, December 31, 7:45pm; \$35. Duck Dive, 4650 Mission Boulevard. (PACIFIC BEACH)

New Year's Eve at Jsix Chef Anthony Sinsay is cooking up a four-course prefixed menu which includes a caviar and foie gras supplement and complimentary champagne toast at midnight. The menu will feature a few of Sinsay's Filipino favorites such as the Roasted Carrot Ginataan and Roasted Chocolate Chestnut Pudding. Music by singer/songwriter Bob Peace. New Year's Day brunch from 8am to 2pm Saturday, December 31, 6pm; Sunday, January 1, 8am; \$85. Jsix, 616 J Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Eve at Monello

Special a la carte menu with limited edition recipes as well as handmade pasta and risotto served hot from the cheese wheel. Guests will enjoy their choice of meat platters, rolled bites, appetizers, seafood, and vegetarian pasta dishes at this exclusive cuisine-based celebration. Saturday, December 31, 5pm; Monello, 750 W. Fir Street #102-B. (LITLE ITALY)

New Year's Eve at Parc Bistro-Brasserie The newest French restaurant in Banker's Hill. Guests are invited to enjoy a four-course menu featuring entrée specials such as Butter Poached Lobster, Orange Glazed Half Duck and Filet Mignon Rossini. Saturday, December 31, 6pm; \$20-\$80. Parc Bistro Brasserie, 2760 Fifth Avenue. (BANKERS HILL)

i F C C I I S S S

San Diego Reader December 29, 2016

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the metamorphic rocks at mile 1.75. Banded schist take over, making a geologic paradise for any geoenthusiast. Layers of strata bend and twist among the surrounding walls, with an array of orange,

the surrounding walls, with an array of orange, black, gray, and white aggregate minerals. It may be tempting to gather the pocket-sized geologic wonders, but it is illegal to do so. Everything within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is protected. Take only memories and photographs on your way back to your vehicle.

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. Hike descriptions are also found in Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors.

SHEEP and **GOATS Star Spangled**

Banner

[first verse] O say can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare,

New Year's Eve at Pinzimini

Enjoy a four-course dinner includ-

ing your choice of soup or salad

along with an appetizer, entree,

and chef's special "2017" chocolate

mousse dessert. Menu highlights

include Roasted Butternut Squash

Soup, Asiago Rissoto Croquette,

and Asiago Rissoto Croquette.

Wine pairings will be offered at an

additional charge. Children 12 and

under \$23. Saturday, December 31.

6pm; \$23-\$45. Pinzimini, Westin

San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, 910

Broadway Circle. (DOWNTOWN SAN

the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there: O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

[fourth verse] O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand Between their loved homes and the war's des-

NYE Comedy + Cafe Coyote

Catered buffet and drinks provided

by Old Town's Cafe Coyote; an

interactive, live improv comedy

show similar to Who's Line Is It

Anyway?: a decadent dessert bar

from Extraordinary Desserts; and

a champagne toast at midnight fol-

lowed by a party with the cast. The

entire evening, including food and

champagne, is \$69/person. Satur-

day, December 31, 8:15pm; \$69.

Old Town Improv Co., 2415 San

NYE Comedy Start the New Year

Laughing. NCT guests gorge on

endar for changes

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MISSION SAN LUIS REY

Diego Avenue. (OLD TOWN)

olation. Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free

a catered buffet, laugh through

a improv comedy performance,

down a champagne toast at mid-

night, and then party with the cast

of the show. Guests receive party

favors, noisemakers, and balloons

to ring in the new year. Satur-

day, December 31, 8:30pm; \$79.

National Comedy Theatre, 3717

Sparkling Wine at Truly Fine

Join us at Truly Fine Wine as we

taste through a selection of spar-

kling wines from around the world.

Sekt, Franciacorta, Prosecco, Cre-

mant, and yes, champagne - try

India Street, (MISSION HILLS)

and the home of the brave! — by Francis Scott Key

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was an American author and poet who is most famous for penning "The Star-Spangled Banner," which he wrote during the War of 1812 as he watched the bombing of Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore, Sept. 13-14, 1814. Seeing at dawn

them all for \$5. Friday, December

30, 12pm; \$5. Truly Fine Wine,

4060 Morena Boulevard. (BAY HO)

SPECIAL

EVENTS

Cowles Mountain Chanukah

Celebration Join us for a giant-

sized menorah lighting at the land-

ing/base of Cowles Mountain at

Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive

in the San Diego community of San

Carlos. Sponsored by Chabad of

of the battle's second day that the fort had held its own, Key was inspired later to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry," which American music publisher Thomas Carr adapted to "To Anacreon in Heaven," a tune by British composer John Stafford Smith (1750-1836). The song was officially adopted as the national anthem in 1931.

East County. Thursday, December 29, 4:30pm; free. Cowles Mountain, Navajo Road and Golfcrest Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Kwanzaa A week-long celebration at WorldBeat with traditional Afrikan libations, drum calls, karamu (a traditional feast), and Kwanzaa poetry. Kwanzaa is based on the agricultural celebrations of Africa called "the first-fruits," a time for gathering, reverence, and commemoration. Thursday, December 29, 6pm; free. WorldBeat Cultural Center, 2100 Park Boulevard. (BAL-BOA PARK)

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SPOKEN WORD

VAMP: To Grandmother's House We Go The holidays mean we go home, or maybe we're the home everyone comes to. Or maybe there's no home, nobody to come. Sometimes there's joy. Sometimes there's loneliness. Sometimes there's drunk uncles. And sometimes we wonder if we were raised by wolves dressed in grandmother's clothing. Thursday, December 29, 8:30pm; \$5. Whistle Stop Bar, 2236 Fern Street. (SOUTH PARK)

Day service at 10:30am.

10:30am. All are welcome!

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our website http://ucuc.org

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Ekadasi

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Jan. 1.

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on New Year's Day at

\$15

DIEGO)

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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF POWAY La Jolla Renaissance Singers

The Joyful Noise 2017 Concert Series presents the La Jolla Renaissance Singers, performing a concert featuring early choral music. The La Jolla based group performs vocal music written from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance, with occasional forays into the Romantic and Modern periods. The twenty-member group performs in period costume. Also featured in this concert will be the San **Bafael Bell Ringers from** the San Rafael Catholic Church 2nm Saturday Jan. 7. POWAY 13501 Community Road 858-748-3304

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San Dieu

Sunday Service, Jan 1st : Speaker: Rev. Lorina Pyle, Pastor Meditation/Auric Healings: 10am Lecture

Spend a weekend with Service/Messages: 11am women and men in recov-Spaghetti Fundraiser at erv from alcoholism and 12:30pm/ \$5 1st Sunday addiction. Retreat is open Mini Readings: 1:30 - 3pm to all 12-step folks. The \$20/\$17 fee Reiki Healing retreat will focus on the 1:30 - 4pm \$15 fee 12-Steps of Alcoholics Amethyst Biomat Anonymous with time for ThetaHealing 1:30-3:30pm prayer and meditation. \$20/\$17 fee 1st Wednesday Alcoholics, addicts, friends Beiki Practice Group 4:30and family members are 6pm w/ Rev Rosie \$5 3rd welcome. Led by Fr. Tom Wednesday Reiki Practice Weston, S.J. who has Group 7-9pm w/ Rev. Rosie been involved in 12-step \$5 Fridays in Jan: programs since 1976 and UNIVERSAL ENERGY is former director of the HEALING CLASS. Formerly Jesuit Volunteers Corps known as Spiritual Healing and a teacher at Lovola Law. 7-8:30pm Learn Auric High School in Los Ange-Healing with Rev. Sharon les. 4pm Friday, Jan. 20, Terry. \$20/\$17 Last class 9am Saturday, Jan. 21 & 1/20 Sunday Jan 8th : Sunday, Jan. 22. Speaker: Phineas Leevy OCEANSIDE Sunday Jan 15th : Speaker: 4070 Mission Avenue Mara Peters, LM Sunday 760-757-3520 Jan 22 nd : Speaker: Rev.

Javier Garav Message

MISSION SAN LUIS REY Circle 1:30-3:30pm \$20/\$17, Sunday Jan 29th: **Prophets of** Speaker: Rev. Patrick the Old Tes-Frazer *schedule subject to tament change, check website cal-

With Father Michael Guinan, OFM, We will ask the five basic questions about the biblical prophets: Who? What? Where? When? Why? What did they have to say to their contemporaries and how might they challenge us today? 9am Wednesday, Feb. 22, Wednesday, Mar. 1, Wednesday, Mar. 8, Wednesday, Mar. 15, Wednesday, Mar. 22, & Wednesday, Mar. 29. OCEANSIDE 4070 Mission Avenue 760-757-3520

ST. JAMES BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH **Cantus: No Greater** Love Than This

The men of Cantus explore the bonds that have defined those willing to lay down their lives for others Included will be works by Irving Berlin, George M. Cohen, Going Home by Antonin Dvorak, Danny Boy, In Flanders Fields, and Lee Hoiby's poignant Last Letter Home, 4pm Sunday Feb. 12. LA JOLLA 743 Prospect Street 858-459-3421

CHURCH Catholic **Approach to** Scripture Introduction to the entire

ST. BRIGID CATHOLIC

collection of books we recognize as God's Word in light of recent Church documents. Taught by Bernadeane Carr, STL, director of the Diocesan Institute. 7pm Thursdays. PACIFIC BEACH 4735 Cass Street 858-483-3030

ST. JAMES BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH **The Lincoln** Trio

The Lincoln Trio features Desirée Ruhstrat (violin). David Cunliffe (cello), and Marta Aznavoorian (piano). 4pm Sunday, Mar. 19. A 1011A 743 Prospect Street

ROCK CHURCH Tim

858-459-3421

Hawkins Since giving up his job as a grocery truck driver in 2002, Tim Hawkins has been forging the blend between two ideals: a funny comedy show that caters to the entire family. 7pm Friday, Feb. 17. POINT LOMA 2277 Rosecrans Street 619-226-7625



Instaurare Omnia in Christo. To the greater glory of

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gethsemane Small in size, grounded

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

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas! We have a LOGAN HEIGHTS Christmas Eve service at 621 Sicard Street 7pm and our Christmas

Aaabhishekam at 9am 6am Sunday, Jan. 8. MIRAMAR 7930 Arjons Dr., Suite B 858-594-3940 ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Gregorian Chant Participants will learn a complete Chant Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) and 3-4 chant hymns. Taught by Mary Ann Carr Wilson. music director. Register

Wednesday, Mar. 22.

San Diego Reader December 29,

2016

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SDReader.com/worship

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) stiohnboscomission@hotmail.com, www.sspx.org.

God! 4pm Sundays POINT LOMA 2881 Roosevelt Road

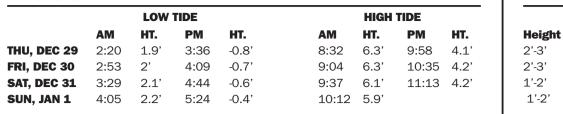
Band Guvs come handout, have some tacos, and experience Grace, Special quest and musical artist Mike Clark will be leading worship and sharing his testimony. The

ics come out of a place of gratitude and reverence for all that God has done. 5pm Saturday, Jan. 7.GRACE CHURCH NORTH PARK. 2716 MADISON AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92116 UNIVERSITY CITY UNITED CHURCH UCUC **Christmas Services**

at st.anne.choirs@gmail. com. 7pm Wednesday. Feb 8 Wednesday Feb 15, Wednesday, Feb. 22. Wednesday, Mar. 8. Wednesday, Mar. 15, &



Tides



Waves (OCEAN BEACH)

Interval

15 seconds

14 seconds

12 seconds

13 seconds

Direction

WNW

	2120	1.0	0.00	0.0	0.02	0.0	0.00			
RI, DEC 30	2:53	2'	4:09	-0.7'	9:04	6.3'	10:35	4.2'	2'-3'	WNW
AT, DEC 31	3:29	2.1'	4:44	-0.6'	9:37	6.1'	11:13	4.2'	1'-2'	WNW
UN, JAN 1	4:05	2.2'	5:24	-0.4'	10:12	5.9'			1'-2'	WNW

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

EVENTS

Beach Boot Camp and Yoga Group meets 9am at Tower 4 for a beach bootcamp. At 10:30am the group will join John Beck and Brittany Nicole for a donation-based yoga session. Join group and RSVP at Meetup site: bit. ly/29ajScI. Saturday, December 31, 9am; free. Ocean Beach Lifeguard Tower 4, 2100 Spray St., Ocean Beach

Bottom Bunch Dive Meetup The group promotes fun and safe diving at local beaches, kelp forests, and wrecks. Bring your certification card with you. Join and RSVP at: http://bit. ly/2gVpjEb. Park in the main lot by the main lifeguard tower. Group is usually in the second row to gear up. Saturdays, 7:30am; through Saturday, March 25, free. La Jolla Shores, 8200 Camino del Oro. (LA JOLLA)

California Scorpionfish Season Opens California Scorpionfish, or sculpin, season begins. Divers and shore-based anglers may still keep and possess 5 sculpin 10" or greater overall length. Sunday, January 1; free. San Diego waters

Coronado Beach Bonfire and Music Meetup Bonfire and jammin' on the beach in Coronado. Sing or play an instrument? Take it along. If you don't play an instrument or sing you can always bring firewood, drinks, or snacks. Join group and RSVP at: http://bit. ly/2g7rXlX. Saturday, December 31, 7pm; free. Coronado City Beach, Ocean Boulevard and Marina Avenue. (CORONADO)

Gatsby New Year's Eve Cruise This highend dinner party will be complete with themed music, live entertainment from Sue Palmer & the Bee's Knees, and classic cocktails. Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm; \$209. 21 and up. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Kiteboarder Night Meet other kiteboarders and discuss techniques, gear, safety, favorite locations, and more. Join and RSVP at Meetup site: bit.ly/29b8iit. Thursday, December 29, 7pm; free. Off Shore Tavern, 2253 Morena Boulevard, (BAY PARK)

New Year's Cruise Aboard the California Spirit Cruise features two DIs on two floors with two dance areas playing the hits of today with House & Top 40 Hip-Hop, an open bar the entire cruise from boarding to docking. Saturday, December 31, 9pm; \$149. 21 and up. California Spirit, 990 N. Harbor Dr., downtown

New Year's Day Brunch Sip mimosas and enjoy a buffet and live musical entertainment as you take in the harbor views. Sunday, January 1, 9:30am and 1:30pm; \$42-\$70. Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Eve Beach Party This New Year's Eve Beach Party 2017 at the Catamaran Resort includes tray passed and displayed hors d 'oeuvres, DJs, and an all-inclusive open bar. Saturday, December 31, 8pm; \$129-\$159. 21 and up. Catamaran Resort, 3999 Mission Boulevard. (MISSION BEACH)

New Year's Eve Black and Gold We're transforming the upper event center located on the historic 1898 steam ferry Berkelev into a classy lounge, featuring music from the '60s, '70s and '80s, and appetizers. Saturday, December 31, 9pm; \$50-\$60. 21 and up. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Eve Dinner Cruise Food, fun, and views of the San Diego skyline. Enjoy a refined meal followed by live music that will have you dancing all night long. Saturday, December 31, 8:30pm; \$66-\$175. Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

New Year's Day Brunch Cruise Spend the first day of 2017 with a gourmet buffet brunch, free-flowing champagne, and world class views of America's Finest City. Sunday, January 1, 12pm; \$67. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Polar Bear Plunge 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 LICSC banner. Sunday, January 1, 10am; free. La Jolla Shores, 8200 Camino del Oro. (LA JOLLA)

Recreational Groundfish Season Ends Rockfish, or recreational groundfish, season will close to all but shore-based anglers and divers. This includes all species of rockfishes, cabezon, greenlings, lingcod, sheephead and whitefish. Sunday, January 1; free. Pacific Ocean off San Diego

Rowing and Kayaking Learn to row and kayak at National City's Aquatic Center, 3300 Goseno Place. Instructors will take you through the basics, and you will be able to learn in the protected waters of San Diego Bay. Info: 619-495-0701 or learntorow@communityrowingsd. org. Thursday, December 29, 8am; Friday, December 30, 8am: Saturday, December 31, 8am; Tuesday, January 3, 8am; free. Pepper Park, 3299 Tidelands Avenue. (NATIONAL CITY)

> evaluate patient after rescue for possible transport.

12/22

 Swimmer in distress off of Tower 4 in Ocean Beach; 27 yr old female. Victim left all clothing on beach. PWC, Lifeguard, Rescue Vessel, Fire, Medic and SDPD respond. PWC effects rescue and SDPD transports Female to CMH. 12/12

- Call box call of 3 surfers trapped

inside the point at Pappy's Pt. at Sunset Cliffs. 2 more surfers of the group were missing. Pappy's IC is established and a southern area response is requested along with Copter. Rescue boat, Jet unit and copter search for the missing 2 surfers. Lifeguards and fire set up a rescue system to perform a cliff rescue on the 3 trapped on the cliff. Medic determines one of the surfers has a head injury and needs c-spine precautions. 2 missing surfers found climbing up

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

the cliff into the parking lot, safe and in o injuries. A 3 person cliff rescue is performed. The injured surfer is transported to UCSD. All surfers safe with no further injuries, all units clear. 12/09

- OB guards make a water rescue on a surfer who was wrapped up on a pier piling. Patient evaluated by medics on shore and AMA's.



Daniel Fernandez caught the largest trout at the Lake Wohlford opener.

Lake Wohlford trout opener hits snags

Early this month the City of Escondido stocked 6000 pounds of Nebraska Tailwalker rainbow trout for the annual fishingseason opener at Lake Wohlford. The lake had been closed since December 4, and the day of the plant was kept a secret. For the December 10 opener, cars were backed up a half a mile at 6:00 a.m., waiting to get into the entrance, according to ranger Andy Anderson.

Daniel Fernandez, of Downey, recorded the largest trout, at 14.5 pounds, caught at the buoy line. Anderson said there were reports of a 16-pounder weighed in, but apparently the angler didn't wait around long enough to get a picture or record the fish.

Because the city no longer offers fishing permits across the street at Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café, confusion reigned for the first few hours.

A new "Iron Ranger" machine at the ranger station was

supposed to be up and running to sell fishing permits. It wasn't. So, permits were being sold at the ranger station...but their credit card machine lost service into the morning hours.

Opening-day anglers also found the quickly growing reeds have almost choked out popular shoreline areas, include Boat Cove and the Senior Shoreline. With the drought, lake levels have become static, allowing the reeds to flourish.

— Ken Harrison

Stung on her first day

NAME: DARIAN ALEXANDRA

AGE: 23 LOCATION: PACIFIC BEACH OCCUPATION: SERVER AT KONO'S CAFE Darian Alexandra moved to Pacific Beach from

9

1/2

vessel shortly after midnight and was Diego able to start the vessel and remove it from the dock. The vessel was later discovered missing by employees and San shortly after observed by them in the area of buoy #19. HPD was then notified

Subject broke into a 85' Hornblower

From San Diego city lifeguards

and responded to the vessel. Upon reaching the vessel the suspect jumped into the water in an attempt to escape. Suspect picked up by the HP vessel and subsequently arrested for numerous violations. 12/25

THE BEST OF LAST YEAR'S LIFEGUARD AND HARBOR PATROL REPORT - 'THE HOLIDAYS'

- Lifeguards respond to a 32 yr old surfer tangled in the pier. Medics

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE: LOW HIGH 60°F 62°F VISIBILITY 5'-20'

After the blow Christmas eve through early Christmas morning, conditions should lay down a bit and clear up through the week. Although there won't be much of a swell over 2', light offshore winds in the AM hours late in the week should make for some clean surf on the WNW breaks. Boaters should especially 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



DEC/JAN	THUR 29	SAT 31	MON 2	WED 4
SUNRISE	6:50	6:51	6:51	6:52
SUNSET	16:52	16:53	16:55	16:56
LENGTH OF DAY	10H 2M	10H 2M	10H 4M	10H 4M





Darian Alexandra moved from Indiana to learn how to surf.

Vermillion rockfish

northern Indiana on Christmas day 2014 with the sole purpose of learning to surf. She was stung by a stingray her first day in the water. But she didn't see it as an omen.

"I surf every day at least once, sometimes twice, a day."

When she first moved to town, she lived in a few Airbnb's near the water in Pacific Beach.

"I was on a run one day and I found the studio that I live in now. Before that, I used to ride a couple of miles from northern PB and grab a friend's board to surf. He had two foam boards over by Tower 17 that I used every day."

She usually sticks to north PB. Right now she is practicing surfing reefs.

"I surfed Trestles once and the rocks were intimidating. So I have been surfing the reefs [in PB] trying to get used to having stuff underneath me besides the sand. I have gotten my foot sliced by my board but not by the reef yet."

The best advice she received while she was learning to surf was, "When you are paddling, it is not about how fast you are going but how deep. I think that speaks a lot about how you surf — how deep you go into it."

A New Year without El Niño

On New Year's Eve, local groundfish might have a reason to celebrate. In the angling community over the past couple winters, our lucky New Year's baby has been the El Niño conditions that kept yellowtail and tuna close to home in the winter. This winter, as the pelagic species have moved south and water temps are around 60 degrees, boats have returned to target rockcod, sheephead, and whitefish. Why the deep-water celebration? Recreational groundfish season ends at midnight and begins again in two months on the first day of March. Until then, those anglers wishing to catch lingcod, whitefish, sheephead, all species of rockfishes, cabezon, or greenlings from a boat must go south of the border or do so from shore. In our area, about the only fish on that list a shore-based angler has a shot at catching is a cabezon or maybe a greenling.

In the San Diego area our best bottomfishing is around the La Jolla/ Scripps Canyon complex or out off the Nine Mile Bank, and it's really not that great. Of the favorites targeted on the bottom (whitefish, lingcod, vermillion rockfish, and sheephead), the average size has dropped over the decades since the mid-20th century. The stretches of banks and canyons off the Baja Peninsula still hold some of the larger groundfish equal to the ones my grandfather might've caught locally on his trusty little 14-foot skiff in the 1960s.

Boats leaving San Diego landings fish those fertile bottom-fishing grounds from the Coronado Islands on down to the cold-water zone that runs from Ensenada to Vizcaino Bay, which begins a few hundred miles south of the border.

For those fishing close to home, sculpin, or California scorpionfish, season opens the first of the year. The local nearshore waters still hold other endemic species this time of year, including sand bass, calico bass, halibut, the occasional barracuda, bonito, white seabass, and "homeguard" yellowtail; those few larger models don't migrate with schools but rather lurk at the kelp edges on the deeper side awaiting to ambush a hapless mackerel.

— Daniel Powell

BACK TO THE NORMAL (WINTERTIME) METHOD OF OPERATION

Inshore: Looks like it's back to the normal M.O. for San Diego inshore fishing; Bottom fish until the bell at New Year's and then scratching for what is there, and it looks like picking your spot between fronts. Sculpin will be back on the menu when the groundfish season takes a break for a couple months, leaving whitefish, sheephead and lingcod off the angling target until March first. Until then, if you have a passport in hand, several boats will still be running to the Coronado islands and points

south. Outside of the local half day trips, lobster hooping is also an option. Right now, it's more about getting a break in the weather.

Outside: The story outside in US waters is mainly unruly conditions. The further south one goes, the better for the long-range trips. From the Hurricane bank across and down toward the mainland of Mexico continues to produce big cow yellowfin tuna while the fishery from Loreto down to the East Cape off the Baja peninsula is providing the great inshore fishing it is known for, when one can get out between the wintertime winds. Cabrilla,

sierra and yellowtail are biting in the north and still some jacks, dorado and school-size yellowfin nearshore down south. Up north, offshore trips will taper off at New Year's in U.S waters until rockfish opens again in March or if something pops before the spring white seabass bite off San Clemente and Catalina Islands.

Dock Totals: 558 anglers aboard 30 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 6 yellowtail, 8 calico bass, 7 sand bass, 3 bonito, 1 finscale triggerfish, 2,099 rockfish, 76 sheephead, 170 sanddab, 4 bocaccio, 1 rubberlip seaperch, 204 whitefish, 12 lingcod and 23 spiny lobster

As tilapia goes by

"Oh, wow!" says Mary Beth. "Ed, you've gotta try this shrimp soup. It's the best."

h, boy. Fish looks up at me from the plate. His open mouth seems to be saying something. "Help!"

"See that?" I ask Marv Beth. "Your imagination," she says, "is running rampant. It's a tilapia. A grilled, dead, fish."

Guess she's right. It's a fish dish going past our table. Bottom line: wish I'd ordered it. You get a whole fish, salad, rice, \$12.

Mary Beth and I'd come here for two reasons. One, to wait for Carla. Meeting her in an hour, when she's through yakking with her cousin Maddy. And, two, to buy a thank-you lunch for Mary Beth. MB's Carla's buddy. Heck, she's been driving us around for two hours today, basically helping us get things done that'd take hours by bus. So, we found this place in a shopping center, "The Plaza at Sunbow."

"You eat fish?" I ask.

"Does the sun set in the west?"

Two minutes later we walk in under the sign, "TI Ovster Bar. The Seafood Place."

"The World Is Your Oyster," says neon on the left wall. It shines out over a mural of a giant octopus. Place has sit-up counters so you can watch the cooking action.

We join a line. Big wall menu splits between three, four-buck plates like tostadas and tacos, and main dishes like fish fillets for \$12. Entrées come with house salad, rice and corn or flour tortillas.

They also have "9 Huge Shrimp" for \$16. Come breaded, garlic, diabla, or chipotle. Hmm... Or Cucaracha Shrimp (also \$16, and not cockroach-connected: they're shrimp cooked in their shells). Looks like \$19's the top price on the menu, for a shrimp or octopus appetizer plate. You can get a half-plate for \$13.

"What's '*empapelado*'?" I ask Mariana, gal taking the orders. It's on the menu. Costs \$17. "It's a fish fillet with seafood on top," Mariana says, "with bell pepper, onion, tomato, olives



FD REDEORD

and melted cheese, cooked in its own juices. All wrapped in paper." But what she recommends is "our *chipotle*

fries, or tuna fries.' Hmm... I see chipotle fries go

> of \$14, or \$12 for a half serving. Not cheap for a fancy basket of fries. Tuna fries are \$12/\$9.

But they do have my kinda stuff, too. Like, fish taco, \$1.50 (in happy hour, 99 cents!); oyster

taco, \$3; octopus taco, \$3.50; shrimp taco, \$2.50. Now we're talking.

Mary Beth is head-down in the soup section. Yes, broth's only \$3. But other soups are mostly Hamilton-sized. Shrimp's \$9; fish, \$7.50; Seven Seas, \$8.50.

"I'll have the shrimp soup and a garlic shrimp taco," she says. I go for the \$1.50 fish taco and the grilled fish taco (\$2.50). But then I lose discipline and match her soup with a 1/2 tuna fries (\$9) and raise her one with a bottle of Sangría Señorial, the Mexican grape juice that tastes like a sweetish red wine (\$2).

A good thing happens when my two tacos turn up. Laura, one of the servers, brings two plastic bottles. One has an orange *chipotle* mayo, which is delish, but the other is a green serrano hot sauce. And, man, it's so-oo nice and hot. Goes with the grilled fish taco especially well. "We make it all here," says Laura.

Turns out this uber-cool biz started life as a seafood stand in Colonia Cacho in TJ, back in the 1980s, selling fish tacos and seafood tostadas.

"Alicia, the owner, moved up here," says Laura. "She opened our first San Diego place on Bonita Road 17 years ago. Three tables. It's still there. Always crowded. But now she has another, bigger oyster bar in Bonita, and opened this place here two years ago."

"Oh, wow!" says Mary Beth. "Ed, you've gotta try this shrimp soup. It's the best."

I do. And, have to say, that steaming baby is swimming with shrimp, is hot-hot, and tastes of tomato, cilantro, onion, and hot chilies. Delish.



Talking tilapia: Too real?

My tuna fries? Fine. I mean, delicious in its way, with white sauce/mayo, cilantro, a lake of melted Monterey jack cheese, and plenty of slim french fries. But I regret investing in this dish, because it's fries in disguise and there's so much other more real stuff I could have spent it on. Like that whole tilapia (\$12) I saw going by.

The nicest surprise? Mary Beth and I get a stingray machaca tostada (\$3.50)

"Better shuffle your feet before you eat this,"

We wonder aloud which kind of ray this

and then get up to pay the bill. Erk! It has climbed to \$36.72.

Except - oh, no: pockets are empty. In my



Advice from the Kraken

Laura

rush this morning, I left my wallet back at the ranch. I don't have a penny.

"Uh, Mary Beth...'

It's not pretty. She pays for her free lunch and mine. When we meet up with Carla, I have to confess. I beg her to pay Mary Beth back.

us? Is that it? Forty bucks? And all I get is this lousy ceviche?"

have felt. I stand there, mouthing a reply. But

"What? What are you saying, dude?"

Then I have another thought.

The Place: TI Ovster Bar, 601 E. Palomar Street, Chula Vista, 619-421-4787

Prices: Fish taco, \$1.50 (in happy hour, 99 cents); oyster taco, \$3; stingray taco, \$3; octopus taco, \$3.50; shrimp taco, \$2.50; fish broth, \$3; shrimp soup, \$9; fish soup, \$7.50; 7 Seas, \$8.50, fish fillet (with salad, rice, tortillas), \$12; "9 Huge Shrimp," \$16; cucaracha shrimp, \$16; octopus appetizer, \$19 (half-plate, \$13); tuna fries, \$12 (half serv-ing, \$9); garlic shrimp taco, \$3; diabla ceviche tostada, \$4; octopus burrito, \$9.50 Buses: 703, 704, 712

Nearest bus stops: At East Palomar Street and Medical Center Drive or Brandywine Avenue







El Cajon Bistro

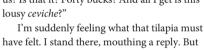
109 Jamacha Rd El Cajon 619-373-1725

to split. Yes, stingray. says Mary Beth.

might be. Praying it ain't the giant manta rays that sometimes let people ride their wings around Socorro Island off Cabo. I'd hate to be eating one of them. On the other hand, oh my. The nutty, tuna-like flavor of the stingray machaca's shredded meat goes so well with the cream-mayo and the crackling tostada and squirted lime juice, I can't stop eating it.

I ask for a fish ceviche to go, for Carla (\$3.50)

"Bedford, I swear. You enjoy humiliating



nothing comes out.

"Help!"

"And a happy new year."

Nailed it

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

It's not easy to do good bacon

Blackmarket Bakery, 4686 30th Street, University Heights. A large, retro sign saying "Bakery" recently went up in North Park, the work of

Blackmarket Bakery. The new restaurant represents the third installment and first San Diego

FEAST!

entry of a small Orange County bakery chain, one that offers breakfast and sandwich options in addition to fresh-baked breads, cakes, cookies, and pastries.

It's part of the recent restaurant boom at the corner 30th and Adams, which now boasts a French bistro and a ramen bar/specialty coffee shop to go with its gastropubs, craft cocktail den, and tequilleria. Spotting the sign as I

approached, I braced myself to walk into what could turn out to be a hipster bakery.

It's a bit more homey than that. There are subway tiles and economic design, sure. There are also games to play and gourmet snack items on display throughout the shop. There's a kid- and

dog-friendly patio. Most importantly, there's the bakery counter, featuring all manner of sweet-looking treats, including an impressive cookie topped with chunks of toffee.

I showed up in the early afternoon to check out the spot's sandwich game. They stop serving their bevy of "eggywiches" after 11 a.m., otherwise I'd probably be writing about how much I enjoyed the breakfast sandwiches, even as I made fun of the name.



Just-right bacon on a toasted croissant with tomato and avocado. They call it a BLAT.

bread was toasted crisp on the outside yet remained soft, flaky, and buttery inside. I was impressed.

Despite coming from out of town, Blackmarket is clearly striving to be a good fit for this neighborhood, and all signs point to them succeeding. They've even embraced a couple of neighboring businesses, featuring a custom blend by Dark Horse Coffee and ice cream cookies made with Mariposa Ice Cream. by Ian Anderson

There was still plenty of bacon left for the

lunch menu, though. Aside from an elabo-

rate take on PB, all of the sandwiches draw

from a common pool of ingredients: bacon,

turkey, brie, provolone, pepper jack, shallots,

mushrooms, avocados, and roma tomatoes.

It's an efficient way to operate for a bakery

shop, where the focus should rightfully be on

sourdough were some of the baked breads

holding these sandwiches together. My choice

was the toasted croissant housing a BLAT, also

It's a simple sandwich, conceptually, but as

anyone who ever added bacon at Subway can

tell you, sandwich shops generally don't do

it well. I didn't expect anything so rubbery

as that, but neither did I think Blackmarket

Lemon rosemary, Dutch

would totally nail

it. But the BLT was

loaded with perfectly

crisp bacon - not

greasy, not burnt, not

crumbling, just flavor-

The veggie top-

pings tasted fresh and

wholesome, serving

mostly as a cooling

foil to the rich com-

bination of bacon and

croissant. The puffy

ful and crisp.

crunch, brioche, and seeded

the bread.

known as a BLT with avocado.



Not your regular cup of hot cocoa

Coffee shop discovered

The Brown Cup, 401 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside. There are no fedora-wearing hipsters at the Brown Cup. Which is why I go there. Not because I have anything against hipsters, but because this coffee joint is still undiscovered and I can find a table to write at and sip Mexican hot chocolate.

While Oceanside is no North Park or Hillcrest, its culinary reputation is growing. The Brown Cup is a nice addition to the breweries and BBQ joints that are popping up downtown. I tried the Brown Cup roast beef sandwich with creamy horseradish sauce one afternoon and was glad I did. It came with sliced tomatoes, onion, and cheddar on sourdough. I was only going to eat half, but it was so good and it was so cozy in the lounge that I didn't want to leave.

But it's the Mexican hot chocolate that keeps me coming back. I discovered the Brown Cup one rainy day in November. I was looking for a place to write and the library was full, but as I drove past the Brown Cup I only saw one person through the large glass window. When I went in and saw that they made Mexican hot chocolate. I knew this was my new spot. Mexican hot chocolate has a different texture than regular hot cocoa with milk. The Brown Cup makes theirs not too sweet, with just the perfect hint of cayenne and fresh cinnamon

Formally the Coffee Coastal Connection (it

changed hands in October of 2016), this bright open space with leather couches, easy chairs, and plenty of tables near electrical outlets is located on Coast Highway, south of the pier and across the street from an actual hipster coffee shop — these days Oceanside has options. by Candice Reed

Hawaiian style in O.B.

5083 Santa Monica Avenue, Ocean Beach.

"If you want to go to a real beach bar, you go to the Pennant or the Beachcomber. If you want to go to a real beach bar that serves good food, you hit up Wonderland Ocean Pub in Ocean Beach." So says my daughter, who doesn't drink. So that's where we went for lunch one afternoon and where I ordered one glass of wine. Only one, because the daughter counts my alcohol intake when we are dining out.

I'm not a big fan of O.B. I was born there, so I'm allowed to say that. But this beautiful bar with a panoramic view of the pier and waves crashing on the shore is pretty great, as far as aesthetics go.

We checked out the diverse menu, and I noticed that Wonderland incorporates Hawaiian-style cuisine into many of their dishes. The daughter decided to start with an appetizer and ordered the Pescadero Sampler, which includes three seafood cocktails: Mac Daddy Ahi Poke, Baja Ceviche, and Mango Shrimp Cocktail.

I don't like ceviche, but the mango shrimp cocktail with large shrimp buried in chunks of mango was fresh and had a bit of a bite that got your attention. My daughter pronounced the ceviche too fishy for her taste.

We decided to share the Woco Moco, which is a grilled hamburger patty covered with garlic fried rice, two eggs over medium, and house chicken gravy. We were feeling brave. The dish was pretty, with rice spilling out of the pile of



Raising of the Keg

When San Diego city employee Marcus Arenas pulled down his pants and mooned Harold Pearce, Pearce knew something was up. Pearce had been photographing Arenas and other

Reader

city workers as they hoisted a named the water department's beer keg up a flagpole during "employee of the quarter." a raucous party at a Scripps Ranch water-treatment plant. The festivities were in honor of public payroll.

But for many at the affair, it was their last good time on the a co-worker who had just been BY COLIN FLAHERTY, MARCH 28, 1991

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food. We ordered extra gravy because we had run a few miles that morning.

I'm not a big proponent of this rice-egg-burger combo, even though the burger patty was meaty and cooked medium, just as we ordered it. It was flavorful, the rice was soft and garlicky, and the eggs had just enough yolk oozing out. But when I cut into it and poured on a little extra gravy, it tasted like a breakfast my babysitter from Arkansas used to make.

In other words, it was all about the gravy, which was peppery and thick with a mild chicken flavor. I could have just ordered a bowl of gravy. The plate was a huge mess by the time we called it quits.

We decided to watch the sun set from the pier, for one reason — every evening as the sun falls behind the ocean, the staff passes out shots to everyone (free for bar patrons and \$3 for restaurant patrons).

by Candice Reed

Mediterranean-Latin fusion in Leucadia

Le Papagayo, 1002 N. Coast Highway 101, Leucadia. I was invited to a going-away party at Le Papagayo recently, and the organizer was insistent that we confirm that we would be attending. "It's not easy to get reservations on a Saturday night," she texted, more than once. I was all in at the first mention, since I had never been to the Mediterranean-Latin fusion restaurant, even though I've passed the place for more than a decade.

The interior of the dining room is decorated in a funky, artsy atmosphere, and Le Papagayo is also one of the few restaurants with outdoor seating and a private parking area in Leucadia. Even though it was over 80 degrees out, we decided to sit outside on one of the patios where we could still enjoy the live music — one of the reasons for reservations.

I got down to business when we were seated and ordered a blackberry mojito instead of my customary chardonnay. It was a citrusy, lightly sweet, herbinfused cocktail and perfect for the hot evening. My friend had wine and beer.

We ordered the Papagayo

Dynamite tapas to start, which consists of shrimp, crab, scallops, and mushrooms, ovenroasted with Papagayo sauce. The tapas were fine, but the sauce was too sweet.

I ordered the Seafood Bouillabaisse, a take on the typical French dish that I've sampled in the South of France (I'm bragging). This dish has an Asian twist, and the server said it was made with creamy coconut and red curry broth. I also tasted a hint of ginger, which added to the spiciness. What got my attention at the first bite were the mashed potatoes buried in the bottom of the bowl. They were creamy and firm and meshed well.

My friend the organizer ordered the slow-roasted Hawaiian Kahlua Pork with coconut rice, plantains, and Maui pineapple. The pork wasn't overly dry, which can be a problem with the dish, and the rice was sweet and sticky. We all took turns trying it until she swatted our forks away.

The friend who was moving to Texas ordered the Luxury California burrito with filet mignon, avocado, truffle fries, salsa fresca, and crème fraîche. I had two bites and stopped. The steak was overcooked and the fries were soggy. My pal said she might have to hit up Alberto's on her way out of town.

by Candice Reed

FOOD & DRINK

Bubbles & Cheese Discover the best cheeses to pair with sparkling wine, champagne, and bubbly beverages. From cava to champagne, sample our favorite pairings in a fun holiday environment. Friday, December 30, 6pm; \$60. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

Tijuana Foodie Adventure Join Wild Foodie Tours for an all-inclusive, insightful food tour in Tijuana. We'll enjoy tastings at five food stops, one non-alcoholic beverage stop, and one dessert stop to taste the best flavors of Tijuana. We'll also visit the Mercado Hidalgo open-air market, a Mexican bakery, and Tijuana's largest seafood market. Along the way we'll point out a few of the eateries Anthony Bourdain and Andrew Zimmern showcased on their Travel Channel shows. Everything included: food, all transportation in Tijuana, shopping, sightseeing, and a tour guide. Saturdays, 12:30pm; Sundays, 4pm; through Sunday, February 26, \$69. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard (SAN YSIDRO)





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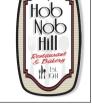
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HAPPY HOUR

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

San Diego Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$4 selected house beer, house wine.

ALPINE

Mediterraneo: Monday-Saturday. 4-6:30pm: \$3 domestic draft beer, \$5 house wine. Sunday, 2-9:30pm: \$3 domestic draft beer, \$5 house wine.

BALBOA PARK

The Prado Restaurant: Tuesday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 8-10pm; \$5.50 local draft beer, Prado wells, house margarita, lounge chardonnay, cabernet, strawberry margarita, sauvignon blanc, Spanish blend wine, Prado mule. Friday, 4-6pm: \$5.50 local draft beer. Prado wells, house margarita, lounge chardonnay, cabernet, strawberry margarita, sauvignon blanc, Spanish blend wine, Prado mule.

BANKERS HILL

Bertrand at Mister A's: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2:30-6pm: \$4 Coors Light, Amstel Light, Stone IPA or Pale Ale, Ballast Point Amber, \$5 Stella Artois Corona Blue Moon Sculpin IP, \$7 wells and wine by the glass, \$11 house cocktails

Royal Stone Bistro: Wednesday-Sunday, 4-6pm: \$1 off local drafts, \$6 red and white wine. \$5-and-up tacos and appetizers.

BARRIO LOGAN

MishMash: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 craft beer, \$5 wine. Sunday, 9-1pm: Open for brunch with \$4 mimosas.

BAY HO

Red Card Café: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6pm: \$5 draft beer and red and white wine. \$4-and-up small plates including wings, flatbread, hummus, corn-dog bites, sliders, and tacos.

Spice & Soul: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 elsa bianchi wine by the glass, fried ravioli served w/ marina dipping sauce, \$6 house-made potato chips w/ blue cheese crumbles & jalapeno jelly, \$7 spinach & artichoke dip served w/ toasted pita bread.

BAY PARK

Bay Park Fish Company: Monday-Saturday, 3-6pm: \$1-off house wine, \$2-off draft beer.

The High Dive: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2-off select drafts.

BONITA

2016

La Luz Ultra Lounge: Tuesday-Friday, 5-7pm: Half off all drinks.

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA

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



Local beer, local produce

When Machete Beer House (2325 Highland Ave, National City) opened two years ago, there weren't many places to get craft beer in National City. There weren't many opportunities to buy organic produce either. On Monday nights, Machete offers both. The bar hosts Market Mondays where, from 7 to 9 p.m., a little farm stand sets up in the corner of the bar for what's likely the smallest farmers' market in the country.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the greens, herbs, gourds, and root vegetables sold at Machete is that they were grown within a couple thousand feet of the bar, just down the street at Dickinson Farm

Cicciotti's Trattoria: Monday-Thursday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$4 house beers, \$5 mixed drinks, \$8 martinis.

Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 house beers, \$5 mixed drinks, \$8 martinis. CARLSBAD

Argyle Steakhouse/Golf Clubhouse: Daily, 3-6pm: \$6 drafts, \$8 house wine, well drinks, \$12 Arnold Palmer, \$15 rhone blend.

Twenty/20 Grill & Wine Bar: Daily, 3-6pm: \$2 off specialty cocktails, \$4 well drinks draft beers \$6 house wines. Half-off select starters.

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co.: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off pints, wells and house wines \$4-off bottles of wine, \$12 house pitchers. Sunday, 11am-9pm: \$1 off pints, wells, and house wines, \$4-off bottles of wine, \$12 house pitchers.

CARMEL VALLEY

Arterra: Daily, 3-7pm: \$6 house wines, wells, Pivo Pils, \$7 perfect margarita, \$8 Three Olives vodka. \$4 shoestring fries, \$6 shishito peppers, \$8 roasted olives, Korean grilled chicken wings, crudite, empanada, \$9 ribs, \$2-off all sushi rolls (after 5pm).

CHULA VISTA

Black Angus Steakhouse: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 bud light, \$4 shock top, \$5 drafts except for Coors light, \$6 beer and a shot. \$5 off wagon wheel sampler platter. Tuesday, 11am-10pm: \$3 bud light, \$4 shock top, \$5 drafts except for Coors light, \$6 beer and a shot. \$5 off wagon wheel sampler platter. Sunday, 11am-9pm: \$3 bud light, \$4 shock top, \$5 drafts except for Coors light, \$6 beer and a shot. \$5 off wagon wheel sampler platter.

CITY HEIGHTS

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

Nate's Garden Grill: Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 beers, \$20 bottles of wine, \$1-off all wine glasses and wine cocktails.

(1430 E. 24th Street, National City.)

That's the quarter-acre urban farm started by Stepheni Norton and Mike Lesley, who married after meeting while both served in the Coast Guard. When Norton and Leslie approached Machete owners Eddie Trejo and Joann Cornejo about selling produce, the bar owners happily agreed. "It's something we think is really cool, giving the community a much better option than fast food," says Trejo. "There are grocery stores, but it's nothing like having something grown in your own neighborhood. There's a certain beauty to that."

And Machete's not the farm's only connection to local beer. When Dickinson hosted a multi-course farm dinner with local chefs in November, Home Brewing Co. owner George Thornton curated beer pairings, including a beer he brewed with hops harvested from the farm. In addition to Market Mondays, the farm will continue to host dinners quarterly, with the next scheduled for February 19, 2017.

Look, we're Latinos

On December 1st, Barrio Logan brewery Border X (2181 Logan Avenue) was named the \$5000 winner of the Startup Brewery Challenge. The biannual competition is staged by national craftbeer website Brewbound.com and Craft Brew

Til-Two: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off wells,

Fat Tony's Pizza: Monday-Thurs-

Junk House Gastro-Pub: Mon-

day, 2-6pm: \$9 select flatbreads, \$4

Smirnoff cocktails, Tuesday, 2-6pm:

\$4 Jose Cuervo margaritas, \$3 specialty

tacos. Thursday, 2-6pm: \$3 specialty

tacos, \$9 flatbreads, all 36 draft beers

Bistro d'Asia: Daily, 3-6pm: \$3.75

domestic bottled beer, \$3.95 Kirin

Ichiban draft, \$3.50 Gekkeikan sake

(served warm), \$4.95 wells, \$5.50 La

Terre chardonnav, La Terre caber-

net, \$5.75 sake-tini. \$5.50 California

roll, \$6.50 spicy tuna roll, \$6.95 crispy

Yummy Sushi: Monday-Friday,

2:30-5pm: \$3 select draft beers, wine,

small sake. All food menu items 25%

3-6pm: \$2.50 bottled beer, \$4 drafts,

\$5 house wine, prosecco, \$7 wells.

Saturday-Sunday, 12-6pm: \$2.50

bottled beer, \$4 drafts, \$5 house wine,

Pacifica Del Mar: Monday, Sun-

day, 11:30-3pm, 5-9pm: \$1-off beers.

\$2-off martinis. Half-off appetiz-

ers. Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6:30pm:

\$1-off beers, \$2-off martinis. Half-off

Poseidon: Monday-Friday,

4-6:30pm: \$8 all drinks. \$8 all

Searsucker Del Mar: Daily, 4:30-

6:30pm: \$5 beer, \$6 wine, \$7 house

\$4 draft beer, \$5 house wine.

drafts, and specialty drinks.

CLAIREMONT

COLLEGE AREA

of beer.

\$6.

calamari.

DEL CERRO

DEL MAR

prosecco, \$7 wells.

appetizers.

appetizers.

off.

CORONADO

Alliance, the "fifth largest craft brewing company in the U.S.," that was formed in 2008 by a merger between Portland brewery Widmer Brothers



The red-hued Blood Saison that helped Border X win the Startup Brewery Challenge

and Seattle brewery Red Hook.

The competition took place at Mission Bay's Paradise Point resort during a Brewbound Session, a conference the news site sponsors twice a year to bring together brewery owners and executives. Six brewery applicants from around the country were selected to attend the conference and deliver a four-minute pitch to a panel of judges made up of industry professionals, who assessed each brewerv's business plan, mission

> \$4 wells. \$7 hot dog with fries and a beer, \$8 burger with fries and a beer. Werewolf American Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$4 tap specials.

> Whiskey Girl: Monday, 3-7pm: \$4 well drinks, drafts, house wine. \$5 select appetizers. Tuesday-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 beers, \$5 house wine, cocktails. \$.50 spicy Vietnamese wings, \$1 cup of soup, \$2 hand-cut fries, \$3 scotch eggs \$4 house-made brat, \$5 chorizo mac 'n' cheese, kale salad, \$6 TWH burger, shrimp cocktail.

EAST VILLAGE

Bottega Americano: Daily, 3-6pm: \$5 wine and drafts, \$6 wells, \$20 carafes.

Café Chloe: Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: \$6 beers, \$8 house wines. \$6-7 cup of soup du jour or warm marinated olives, little gems salad with brioche and house vinaigrette, pommes and frites with trio of dips.

Cowboy Star Restaurant and Butcher Shop: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half-off all specialty cocktails, house wine, draft beer.

Dog Haus Biergarten: Monday-Thursday, 3-7pm: All sliders \$1.25 (burger, hot dog, or corn dog); 2-for-1 drinks (beer and wine); \$1.25 sides (fries and tots). Friday, 3-7pm & 10pm-midnight: All sliders \$1.25 (burger, hot dog, or corn dog); 2-for-1 drinks (beer and wine); \$1.25 sides (fries and tots). Sunday, 3-10pm: All sliders \$1.25 (burger, hot dog, or corn dog); 2-for-1 drinks (beer and wine); \$1.25 sides (fries and tots).

East Village Tavern and Bowl: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$3 domestic pints, \$4 wells, \$5 premium pints, margaritas.

Half Door Brewing Company: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$5 house beer, well wine, well cocktails, \$6 draft beer, specialty cocktails. \$5 fried goat cheese, truffle fries, mac & cheese, \$6 pretzel bites, \$7 ahi tuna taco, \$9 sausage

flatbread.

statement, and a single beer offering to determine a winner.

"It's really what sets you apart from the crowd," savs Border X cofounder David Favela, who made the presentation that impressed the judges. "Is it aligned with the trends in the industry? Is it addressing issues in the industry? What is the likelihood of success?"

> Part of Border X's success has been due to its representation of Latino culture in craft beer. This was made clear to the judges through Border X's beer submission: Blood Saison, a red-hued, slightly tart, Belgianstyle ale made with hibiscus and agave.

When Favela and his brother Marcelino started Border X behind the brewing talent of his nephews Martin and Ivan, they initially stuck to the usual beers. Then, Favela recalls, "I said, 'Look, we're Latinos. We're not Irish. We're not English. We're not German.... So, let's add in the Latino palate and ingredients, and let's make beer our way."

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

> Quartyard Bar: Monday, 7am-10pm: \$2 off all food and drinks. Tuesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2-off drinks. Half-off all food

Rare Form Delicatessen: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 local beers, \$5 cocktails.

Stella Public House: Monday, 4-7pm: \$2 off small plates. 7-close: \$5 Margherita pizza. Tuesday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$2 off small plates.

EASTLAKE

Chili's: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 3-7pm: \$1 off drafts, \$5.99 margaritas.

EL CAJON

Blarney Stone Pub: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$.50 off all liquor.

El Cajon Grand: Monday-Thursday, 4-7pm: \$2.50 PBR, \$3 house liquor, domestic drafts.

The Landing: Daily, 6-10am, 4-7pm: \$.50-off all drinks.

Main Tap Tavern: Monday, 3-7pm: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 domestic beer bottles, \$4.50 select beers, shots, \$5 cocktails, margaritas. \$4.50 all appetizers. Tuesday-Friday, Sunday, 12pm-2am: \$3 house wine, \$3.50 domestic beer bottles. \$4 50 select beers, shots, \$5 cocktails, margaritas. \$4.50 all appetizers.

ENCINITAS

3rd Corner Wine Shop & Bistro: Tuesday-Saturday, 3-6pm, 10pm-1:30am: \$5-7 mixed drinks, \$11-13 wine flights.

Blue Fin Sushi Bar: Tuesday-Thursday, 5-6pm: 40 percent-off beer, sake(hot and cold) excluding Kubota Hekiju, Kabota Hekiju, and XL bottles, \$2-off glasses of wine, \$5-off bottles of wine. 40 percent-off all appetizers and sushi rolls.

D Street Bar and Grill: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$4 beer of the month, wells, \$5 house wines.

Encinitas Ale House: Monday, 4-6pm: \$2 off draft beer, glasses of wine. Half off starter appetizers. Tuesday, 4-8pm: Buy one get one free burger night. Wednesday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2 off draft beer, glasses of

day, 4-8pm: \$3 beer, \$10 pitcher. \$5 Bice: Monday-Saturday, 5-7pm: 12" pizza and 8 pc chicken wings. \$12-15 specialty cocktails. \$5 select appetizers. Sunday, 5-10pm: \$12-15 specialty cocktails. \$5 select appetizers. 4.0 Deli: Daily, 2-6pm: \$6 "cheap" Blue Point: Daily, 5-6:30pm: \$5 pitchers of beer, \$10 "good" pitchers

drafts, wine by the glass, \$10 specialty cocktails. \$1 oysters, \$2 jumbo shrimp, \$10 select bluepoint appetizers. (In bar, lounge, and patio.)

infusions, \$8 cocktails, \$4 house fries,

\$5 soft pretzel, hummus, mini choco-

late s'mores bar, \$8 beef meatballs.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

The Hopping Pig: *Daily*, 11am-7pm: \$4.50 select pints, select wells, \$1 off craft drafts. \$3 tacos, sliders.

7pm-close: \$4 Shock Top drafts, \$4 Jameson, \$4 Fireball. Cover: \$5 after 8pm. *Tuesday*, 7pm-close: \$3 Karl Strauss bottles, \$5 Smirnoff drinks, \$3 fish tacos. Cover: \$5 after 8pm. Wednesday, 7pm-close: \$3 domestic bottles. \$5 wings. Cover: \$5 after 8pm. Thursday, 7pm-close: \$3 Miller Lite drafts, \$5 Red Bull bomb shots, \$12 Miller High Life buckets. Cover: \$5 after 8pm. Friday, 6-7pm: 1/2 OFF ALL DRINKS & Cover: \$5 after 8pm Saturday, 6pm-close: \$15 keep-theglass Hurricanes with \$12 refills, \$8 keep-the-glass Big Ass Beer with \$6 refills. Cover: \$5 after 8pm. Sunday 7pm-close: \$3 Budweiser drafts. \$4 wells, \$3 shot special, \$1 off appetizers (except fries). No cover for industry, Cover: \$5 after 8pm.

Spike Africa's Fresh Fish Grill & Bar: Daily, 3:30-6:30pm: \$2.75 Fireball shots, \$4.75 sangria, \$5 16oz craft beer, house margaritas, \$5.50 dirty martini, \$6 160z premium craft beer, select wine, \$7 Manhattan. 1/2 off appetizers, \$1.50 oysters, \$6 1/2 lb of peel and eat shrimp.

Tin Roof San Diego: Monday-Friday, 3-7pm: Half-off all drinks and appetizers.

Tivoli Bar & Grill: Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 3-7pm, 10pm-2am: \$1 off all alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, \$4 wells. \$7 hot dog with fries and a beer, \$8 burger with fries and a beer. Friday-Saturday, 3-7pm: \$1 off all alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks,

The Shout House: Monday,

KNB Wine Cellars: Daily, 12-6pm: Mia Francesca: Monday-Friday.

wine. Half off starter appetizers. Saturday-Sunday, 11am-3pm: \$15 endless mimosa with purchase of brunch.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine: Monday, 3:30-9:30pm: \$1-off drafts, featured wine, wells, \$5.75 house margarita, brig margarita, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine, \$6.50 brig chardonnay, \$8 brig pinot noir. Tuesday-Sunday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$1-off drafts, featured wine, wells, \$5.75 house margarita, brig margarita, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine, \$6.50 brig chardonnay, \$8 brig pinot noir.

Smokey's Lake Wohlford Café: Monday-Thursday, 4-8pm: Domestic beer \$2.50, premium beer \$3.50, 22-oz. beer \$6.

FALLBROOK

Aqua Terra: Daily, 4-6pm: \$3 drafts. half-off select sush rolls

GOLDEN HILL

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

Krakatoa: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off specialty sandwiches, beer, and cocktails. Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, noon-5pm: \$1 off beer, wine, cocktails. \$5 burger, chicken sandwich, hot links

+ chips GRANTVILLE

Benchmark Brewing Co.: Wednesday, 3-9pm: \$2 beer of the day. Sunday, 10am-8pm: \$5 16-oz. pint of Benchmark's core beers

JT's Clubhouse Pub & Grill: Daily, 11am-7pm: \$1 off beer and wells

Kawaii Sushi: Daily, 3-7pm: \$1 small sake, \$2 beers.

Longhorn Bar and Grll: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3.50 budweiser and bud light drafts, well drinks.

HARBOR ISLAND

The Boathouse: Daily, 2:30-5pm: \$3 boathouse margarita, cinnamor sunset, \$4 sangria, cuervo gold margarita, karl strauss beer, \$5 cuban mojito, \$3 chips and salsa, \$5 quesadilla, jalepeno poppers, \$6 ceviche with chips, nachos, bay shrimp cocktail, spicy chicken wings, \$7 carnitas, fish tacos, chicken strips and fries, pulled pork sliders.

Coasterra: Monday-Friday, 3:30-5:30pm: \$5 drafts, \$7 wine, signature cocktails. \$7 appetizers.

HILLCREST

7th Ave Pub: Daily, 5-8pm: \$2 off beers (\$6 or more), \$1 off wines.

Baja Betty's: Daily, 2-6pm, 10pm-1am: \$4.25 draft beer, house wine, wells, margaritas, sangria.

Busalacchi's A Modo Mio: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$4 house wines. Half off appetizers.

CJ's Club: Daily, 5-7pm: \$3.25-5.25 beers, \$4.50-6 top shelf liquor.

Empirehouse: Daily, 3-6pm: \$8 mules, \$1-off beer, wine, cocktails. \$2-off all small plates except soup.

Ortega's Bistro: Daily, 3-6pm and 10pm-midnight: \$3 beers, \$4 margaritas, wells, house wine, \$5 sangria, craft mexican beers, \$6 specialty margaritas.

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

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: Daily, 2:30-5pm: \$6 tap beers, sangria, wines by the glass, \$8 infusions, \$6-10 select starters.

The Salty Frog: Monday-Saturday, 2-7pm: \$2 domestics, \$3.50 wells. Sunday, 1pm-2am: \$5 build-your-own Bloody Mary bar.

JAMUL

Brody's Burgers & Beer: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm, \$2-off select drafts.

KEARNY MESA

94th Aero Squadron: Monday-Friday, 3:30-7pm: \$4-6 wells, beers, house wine.

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

KENSINGTON

Bleu Bohème: Daily, 5-6pm: Halfoff au pichet (quarter- or half-liter) wines, martinis, bottled beer, well liquors. \$10.95 all appetizers.

Clem's Tap House: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$2-off beer, house wine,

Cucina Sorella: Daily, 4-6pm: In the bar: \$4 draft beer, \$6 sangria, \$7 red or white wine, tequila mule. Select appetizers for \$5-\$7.

LA JOLLA

Beaumont's: Daily, 11:30am-6:30pm: \$1-off micro craft drafts, \$4 bottled beer, \$5.25 wells, \$6 house wine, margaritas, mojitos, mules, \$8 specialty cocktails.

Whisknladle: Daily, 3-6pm: \$5.95 cocktails, red and white wine, beer, glasses of sangria, \$25 sangría pitchers. \$5.95 Mediterranean inspired tapas.

LA MESA

Bolt Brewing: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm \$1 off drafts.

Brigantine: Monday, 3:30-9:30pm: \$1-off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine. Tuesday-Sunday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$1-off well drinks, drafts, featured wines, \$5.75 margaritas, \$6 happy hour red wine, happy hour white wine.

West Coast Barbecue and Brew: Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30am-3pm, 8-10pm: \$1 off all pints. Friday, 11:30am-3pm, 8-11pm: \$1 off all pints. Saturday, 8-11pm: \$1 off all pints.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: Daily, 4-7pm: \$.50-off domestic beers, well drinks, mid-shelf liquor.

ROFFERS

LEUCADIA

Cannonball: Monday-Friday,

Solterra Winerv & Kitchen: Daily, 3-5:30pm: \$5 select glasses of Sonoma country wines.

LIBERTY STATION

Fireside by the Patio: Monday, 11:30am-9pm: \$4 pabst blue ribbon 14oz can. \$5 oskar blues mamma's little vella pils, wells, select wines, \$6 mules, make your own margarita. Tuesday-Sunday, 3-6pm: \$4 pabst blue ribbon 14oz can, \$5 oskar blues mamma's little yella pils, wells, select wines, \$6 mules, make your own

Solare Ristorante Lounge:

Tuesday-Saturday, 3-6:30pm: \$2-off cocktails, beers, \$5 well drinks, wine. Sunday, 4:30-6:30pm: \$2-off cocktails, beers, \$5 well drinks, wine,

LINDA VISTA

margarita.

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

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

Crack Shack: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$2-off beer and wine, \$3-off specialty cocktails.

Queenstown Public House: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$8 beer, wine, and sangria flights. \$3 sliders.

LOGAN HEIGHTS

Chiquibaby's Bar: Tuesday-Wednesday, 4:30-6pm: \$4 two domestic beers, \$6 two imported beers.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Desi's Bar & Grill: Monday-Friday. 2-7pm: \$1-off domestic draft beers, well drinks.

MIRA MESA

Callahan's Pub & Brewerv: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3.75 select drafts, well drinks, house wine. \$1-off appetizers.

MIRAMAR

Brewski's Bar: Monday, 4-8pm: One-pound wing basket with choice of sauce \$6.75. Tuesday, 4-8pm: \$3 Corona and Dos Equis, \$5 Patron shots. Three tacos for \$3. Wednesday. 4-10pm: \$2 off appetizers. Thursday, 4-8pm: \$4 Jack & Coke. Friday, 4-8pm: \$4 Fireball. Saturday, 4-8pm: \$4 Jager Bomb. Sunday, 4-8pm: \$1 off all beer.

MISSION BEACH

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 11AM-7PM

4-6pm: \$6 Sapporo, sake, wells, house

24 CRAFT BEERS ON TAP

OUTDOOR SMOKING PATIO

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CIGAR ACCESSORIES

FOOD AVAILABLE

wine. \$5 edamame, \$10 steamed mussels.

MISSION HILLS

The Patio on Goldfinch: Daily, 3-6pm, 10pm-12am: \$4-off tequila, \$5 draft beers, house spirits, \$6 house wine, sangria, cocktails.

The Regal Beagle: Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$1 off everything. Friday, 12-6pm: \$1 off everything.

MISSION VALLEY

Bully's East: Monday-Friday, 4-6:30pm: \$3.50 bottled beer, \$4 draft beer, \$5 wine, \$6 cocktails, martinis, margaritas, mules.

Joe's Crab Shack: Monday-Friday. 9pm-12am: \$3 draft beers, house margaritas, hurricanes, \$5 patron margaritas.

Grill House at Big Ben: Daily,

NATIONAL CITY

2-9pm: \$1 budweiser. \$1 street tacos (adobada, carnitas, chicken).

NORMAL HEIGHTS

DiMille's: Daily, 4-7pm: \$1 off drafts, cocktails, and house wines, \$2 off all appetizers. The Ould Sod: Monday-Friday

2-7pm: \$3.50 Fireball shots, \$4.50 all 16-oz drafts.

NORTH PARK

The Air Conditioned Lounge: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 wells, call cocktails, draft beers, 7-9pm; \$2-off all draft beer, mules. Saturday-Sunday, 7-8pm: \$5 wells, call cocktails, draft beers

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Cafe: Daily, 4:30-6:30pm: \$3 pints and 20oz beers (excluding Guinness), wells, house wine. \$3 bar bites.

Winstons Beach Club: Monday-Saturday, 1-5pm: \$3 wells.

Wonderland Ocean Pub: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off drafts, \$2 off wine, \$3 off mules. \$1 off tacos.

OCEANSIDE

Friday, 5-8pm: \$3 wells, \$4 domestics, \$5 imported beer, \$5.50 house wine. **Tremont Street Bar & Grill:** Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$1-off all

PROUD

MARY'S

BAR & GRILL

Aryana at Holiday Inn: Monday-

drinks. Friday, 3-6pm, 10:30pm-12am: \$1-off all drinks. Saturday, 10:30pm-12am: \$1-off all drinks.

coors pitcher, \$6 draft beer pint, \$14

Cowshed Bar and Grill: Daily,

Inland Tavern: Monday-Friday,

4-6pm: \$3.50 wells, \$4 craft beer, \$2-off

Humphreys Backstage Music

Club: Daily, 5-7pm: 1/2-off select

drinks & discounted menu items

San Diego BeerWorks: Tuesday.

6-8pm: \$10 all-you-can-eat TJ street

tacos (asada and pollo) - quesadillas,

tostadas, mulitas, and quesotacos, too.

\$5 for your first pint of craft beer w/

Karl Strauss Brewing Company:

Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm: \$5 all beers.

Hamilton's Tavern: Monday-

Friday, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts,

South Park Abbey: Monday,

3-12am: \$6 beef patty burger, \$7 single

order wings. Tuesday-Friday, 3-7pm:

\$1-off drafts, \$3 wells, \$4 rotating draft

The Bancroft: Daily, 10am-7pm:

Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily,

3:30-6:30pm: \$3-3.50 bottled beer, \$4-5

Beerfish: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:

\$2 off select beer and wine. \$1 ovsters.

Cafe 21: Daily, 3-6pm: Half off beer,

sangria, mimosas, 21% off all other

Great Maple: Monday-Friday.

The Lancers Cocktails: Daily,

10am-2am: \$3.50 well drinks and

San Diego Reader December 29,

, 2016

43

1

5-6pm: \$4 draft beers, \$5 cocktails.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

beer of the day, \$5 house wine.

SPRING VALLEY

\$3 domestics and wells.

UNIVERSITY CITY

wine by the glass.

drinks

Jazz 88.3 Blues Jam 88.3

Every Wednesday

domestic beers.

SORRENTO VALLEY

(excludes holiday/concert nights).

draft beer pitchers.

SAN MARCOS

3-7pm: \$.50-off drinks.

SHELTER ISLAND

SOLANA BEACH

taco purchase.

\$5 all appetizers.

\$.50-off imports.

SOUTH PARK

house wine

OLD TOWN

Barra Barra: Monday-Friday. 4-6pm: \$4 drafts, house wine, \$5 house margaritas, \$6 premium liquors. \$3 flatbread tacos, kids eat free with adult entree.

Café Coyote: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6pm: \$4 select draft beers, \$6 margarita, select shots, \$7 fruit margarita.

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, 5-7pm \$2.50 domestics, \$3.25 imports. Tavern at the Beach: Monday-

Friday, 3-8pm: Half off all drinks.

Old Venice: Daily, 4-6pm: \$4.50

select drafts, \$5 house wine, and wells,

The Wine Pub: Daily, 4-6pm: \$4

Grenadine Lebanese and

Mediterranean Cuisine: Daily

11am-4pm: \$8 Any chicken sandwich

comes with a side of soup, salad, french

fries, or rice (pick one) and a soft drink.

The Cork and Craft: Daily 2-6pm

\$1-off house made beer, house wine.

RANCHO PENASQUITOS

Pitchers Sports Bar: Daily, 5-8pm:

\$2 chips and salsa, \$4 cheesy bread,

pizza bread, \$5 small pizza, \$6 pitchers

Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant:

Daily, 3-5:30pm: \$5 house wine glass,

\$11 house wine carafe, \$6 Ravenswood

merlot, \$8 estancia, \$4 coors pint, \$8

Hastings Blues Band

Friday, December 30th - 7pm to 10pm

Celebrate New Years Eve

Tomcat Courtney

5550 Kearny Mesa Rd 163 & Clairemont Mesa Blvd. at the

Historical Ramada (858) 278-0800 - Proudmaryssd.com

with Blues Legend

6pm to 9pm

RANCHO BERNARDO

\$2-off select appetizers.

burger, nachos.

SAN CARLOS

Half off select starters and salads.

select wines. \$4 select appetizers.

POINT LOMA

POWAY

Throw me the rock.

When South Bay rap/rockers P.O.D. played to thousands at a 2008 Chargers rally/ concert before a post-season game outside Qualcomm, lead singer Sonny Sandoval proudly belted out the lyrics to "San Diego Chargers

been played before each live Chargers broadcast on Rock 105.3. It was once added to the station's regular rotation. The Chargers connec-

tion surely helps Rock 105 as it consistently trounces competitors 91X and FM-94/9 in the ratings. If the Chargers



Anthem" with homer pride: "Stay true to your hood, don't betray your roots/ You can have your Raiders 'cause we're



Jefferson Jay: "I was inspired by Howard Stern who always had a lot of fresh song parodies on Scott & BR Show his show...Stern and Weird Al Yankovic."

ready for war/ It's the San Diego Chargers taking over the world."

That now ironic song has

bolt San Diego, though, it is doubtful the hard-rock station would keep the L.A. Chargers on its airwaves. (For the

> isn't talking.) There is another singer/ songwriter who hopes the Padres' migration from AM to FM in March mav trickle down to a sports/music connection for him.

record, Rock 105

For five years Jefferson Jay has dropped in to the on Mighty 1090

AM to sing a sports-song parody he created for their afternoon sports-talk show

"I was inspired by Howard

Stern who always had a lot of fresh song parodies on his show," Jay says. "Stern and Weird Al Yankovic made me want to do parodies."

Sports-oriented parodies is a niche. "Fill Rivers' is about how when the Chargers lose a game, Philip Rivers pouts enough to fill rivers with his tears."

One of Jav's on-air songs suggested that Rivers's proclivity to procreate has distracted him and kept him from winning games.

"A couple years ago when the Chargers were five and one, I sang a song that said I would convert to Catholicism and follow the great leader Phil Rivers if he could lead us to a Super Bowl. Right after that the Chargers went in the tank."

Jay is starting his fifth year hosting the 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday open mic at Winstons in Ocean Beach.

"I just finished my second Operation 365 project last week. Every day for 365 days straight I recorded a new song for my website [*jef*fersonjayband.com]. Huffingtion Post said it was the largest daily internet project ever. Some people have 365 projects but no one's hosted three new videos a day for an entire year."

The Jefferson Jay Band appears January 7 at Rosie O'Grady's and January 12 at Winstons.

— Ken Leighton

Little drummer girl. "I

got the recommendation from [hand-drum pro] Monette Marino," confides 14-year-old percussionist Carmen Murray. "The symphony asked her for a young player and I got the call one day before the audition. I just played through the piece and then they offered me the part! So now I'm plaving 'Little Drummer Boy' with the symphony. I mean, that's kind of a big deal, you know? I've never really done anything like that with a professional orchestra."

Murray just completed a run of performances playing the djembe, a small West African drum, at Symphony Hall with the Tony-award-winning Broadway veteran Brian Stokes Mitchell. She also plays symphonic percussion with the New Youth Orchestra and trap drums with the International Academy of Jazz. Drums, it seems, are an inherent component of the Murray homestead.

"I'm pretty familiar with [diembe]," she related. "I've taken hand-drum lessons before and my mom played them for a while. We've always had African drums around the house."

Carmen's been playing for five years and didn't seem fazed by the prospect of facing such a large audience. "I've been performing since I was too young to be nervous about it, so I don't think it will hit me until I'm about to get onstage - especially

because I'll be soloing doing that on an African drum is a little different than what I've been doing. But I think I'll be okay."

definitely playing it by ear. I don't know what I'm going to be doing in the future — I'm working toward getting good grades so I can do whatever I



Murray: "I don't think music has impaired me, it might even help with the social thing. My parents make sure I still have time to be 14."

Keeping up with studies in classical music, jazz, and regular schoolwork seems daunting to an outsider. Is there any time left to be a kid?

"I try," she says with an easy laugh. "There's always going to be things I can't do because I have to practice, but there's also a social aspect to playing music with other kids, too. I don't think music has impaired me...it might even help with the social thing. My parents make sure I still have time to be 14."

What does she do for fun outside of music? "I love learning languages. I've been speaking German since I was in kindergarten, and I'm learning Mandarin in school and Korean with my best friend, plus I take a hip-hop dance class once a week."

Murray believes in keeping her options open. "I'm

want. If I want to be an engineer I can do that, or if I want to pursue the drums I can do that, too."

Carmen Murray will be the drummer in the Gilbert Castellanos Quartet for the jam session at Panama 66 in Balboa Park on Wednesday, January 4.

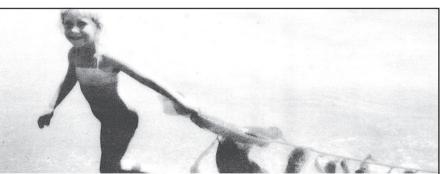
— Robert Bush

Lost to 2016. The grim reaper has taken a major toll on the world's music community this year and San Diego has been not been exempt. Here's a look back at those we lost in 2016:

January 2, Mark Hammond (64), trumpeter, head of the Navy Music Program until his retirement in 2002, Marty Conley's Big Band Express. January 31, Nicki Carano

(continued on page 46)

	WEDNESDAY • DEC. 28 OFF! • FOREIGN BODIES RECORDS WITH ROGER THURSDAY • DEC. 29 MELVINS • REDD KROSS	(*asbah	SATURDAY • JAN. 14 MIDGE URE BAND (VISAGE, ULTRAVOX) WARSAW	
	FRIDAY • DEC. 30 BIG SANDY AND HIS FLYRITE BOYS THE BEDBREAKERS	COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 888-512-7469 • casbahmusic.com	SUNDAY • JAN. 15 THE NTH POWER THE SEXTONES WEDNESDAY • JAN. 18 THANK YOU SCIENTIST	
	FANNY AND THE ATTA BOYS SATURDAY • DEC. 31	SATURDAY • JAN. 7 FU MANCHU • 16	CONSIDER THE SOURCE	
	CASH'D OUT THE SLEEPWALKERS WEDNESDAY • JAN. 4 BEHIND THE WAGON	SUNDAY • JAN. 8 DAVID BOWIE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION BOWIEPHONICS	THURSDAY • JAN. 19 TROPICAL POPSICLE BLOOD PONIES HOURS • EXASPERATION	
0107	THE SCREAMIN' YEEHAWS YPSITUCKY	ARIEL LEVINE • DJS CLAIRE MRMAZEE • LITTLE ROBERT	FRIDAY • JAN. 20 SOUNDDIEGO LIVE	M
(/# IAAII	THURSDAY • JAN. 5 THE DEVIL'S THREE WAY BUCK-O-NINE	TUESDAY • JAN. 10 BROWNOUT PRESENTS BROWN SABBATH	SCHIZOPHONICS DANI BELL AND THE TARANTIST SATURDAY • JAN. 21	Faye was my best friend during those early days in Mission
	VOODOO GLOW SKULLS THE PORKERS FRIDAY • JAN. 6	WEDNESDAY • JAN. 11 DOROTHY	MATTSON 2 SUNDAY • JAN 22 THE TOASTERS	Beach. We were in the same grade at school, even though she was about a year older
111111111	SOUL SEARCH COUNCIL DJ CLAIRE • MIKE TURI	THURSDAY • JAN. 12 LUKE WADE	MONDAY • JAN. 23 JESSE MALIN	than I. You see, Faye's mother was often away and Faye had
~Q~~~ 1000	MS. ANGIE • MARK GARCIA PAT & LETY BEERS MRMAZEE + LADY DOTTIE AND THE DIAMONDS	FRIDAY • JAN. 13 The Little Richards Alice Bag Band The Widows	TUESDAY • JAN. 24 PROF WEDNESDAY • JAN. 25 SERATONES	Reader
•	casbahmusic.com facebo	ook.com/CasbahMusic insta	igram.com/casbahsandiego	



Mission Beach was my best friend during now, sometimes worked as a

used the opportunities to get into trouble; she'd been in juvenile hall more than once. Faye's older sister, a teenager, wasn't around much either; she was developing a talent for hot-wiring cars, and, I think

small-time hooker. Faye got into trouble because she loved to run free on the beach and because she'd steal any large dog or any bicycle she could. BY MIMI CORNELL, AUG. 12, 1982

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of the Reader - fully transcribed. An ongoing project through the end of 2016.

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(48), drummer with Tir Na Nog, Christopher Dale, Glassy, Camel Tones, In My Humble Opinion, Nectarine, Haute Flash, 3DVA, Radio Rage, etc.



Blues belter Candye Kane died May 6, 2016. She was 54 years old.

February 9, Joshua Whitney (42), pianist and singer with Grow.

February 10, Patricia Sheehan (80), composer of "It's About Time," children's playwright.

February 12/, Pete Webster (60), guitarist/mandolin with the Sidewinders, owner of Guitar-O-Rama shop.

March 4, Gary Ferrito (62), frontman of Belair Boys, Kanickie's Tribute to Elvis, bit-part actor in Bring It On as father of one of the cheerleaders.

March 15, Robby Ray Ivy

CLUB KINGSTON

PSYDECAR

DJ CARLOS CULTURE

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SUNDAY 1ST

WITH JOSE SINATRA

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10AM REDSKINS

VS GIANTS

(NO COVER REGGAE) (CHICAGO HIP HOP& SD FUNK)

OB-OKE (EVERY MONDAY FOR 25 YEARS) (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)

THE PALMER SQUARES

BOOSTIVE

MONDAY 2ND

ELECTRIC

WASTE BAND

Thursday - LIQUID COURAGE KARAOKE

FUNDAŸ KARAOKE

BEACH CLUB & GRILL VIEW FULL CALENDAR - WWW.710BC.COM, 858 483-7844

Sr. (93), guitarist with the Mission Hillbillies Band. March 26, Joe Marillo (83), jazz saxophonist, jazz promoter/teacher, appeared with Jimmy Cavallo & the Houserockers in the 1956 film Rock, Rock, Rock, recorded with Mike Wofford, etc. April 10, George War-

> ner (89), bigband drummer.

May 6, Candye Kane (54) blues singer, recorded for Sire, Antones, Ruf, etc. June 14, Kiko Cornejo Sr. (63), percussionist, Viva Santana, Jaime Valle & Equinox, Storm,

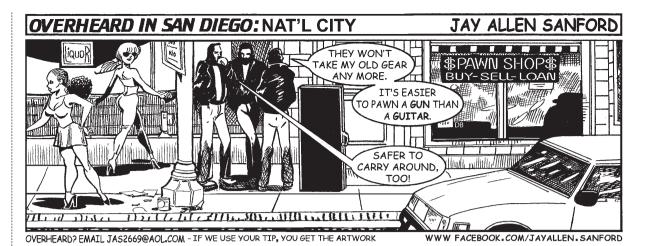
Pocket. June 24, Ernie Morgan (71) latter-day member of Strawberry Alarm Clock, Melting Pot, Island Society.

July 24, Dave Chamberlain (53), trombonist with Jenn Renee Cruz, the Del Bybee Big Band, Marty Conley's Big Band Express, Gary Burton, Gary Puckett, Frankie Laine.

August 12, Audrey Moesch (54), drummer with the SGI SD Jazz Band, guitarist with Kitten with a Whip, Stone Idols, Luna.

August 9, Elizabeth Borg (47), lead singer of Chica Diabla.

August 26, Kirk Hoffman (62), music teacher, drummer with Roman Palacios, Tuxedo, Jazz 88.3 blues jam etc.



August 28, Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez (64), folk icon, Los Alacranes.

November 7, Jon Greene (34), guitarist with Barbarian, sound engineer at the Casbah and Soda Bar.

November 11, Greg Willis (67), bassist with Iron Butterfly, Glory, Palace Pages, the Rhumboogie's, Shelle Blue Band, etc.

- Bart Mendoza

Record-release roundup.

When Grizzly Business plays a release party for Spanish Old-Fashion on January 7 at Soda Bar, "Attendees can definitely expect a ghost of Christmas past to join us on the stage," according to cofounder Walter Ayllon. "Our new CD has a lot of pianos and backup vocals in it, which means we'll be mixing up our usual plug-andplay style. There's a Spanish song on the new CD, which we'll be playing for the first

time in front of other humans. Plus, we're going on tour through New York and Europe right after this show. So, unless you want to see pictures on our Instagram of how cold and hungry we are on the streets

on January 13. "The theme for the night is feminism, which we bring out in our femmepunk style," says guitarist Aleisha Burton. "As feminists, we want to encourage women everywhere to be strong, con-



Fresh Brunettes will be at Blonde to release Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition, and "the theme for the night is feminism."

of Brussels, it would be nice to see people in the crowd." The all-local bill includes Inspired & the Sleep and Spero.

The Fresh Brunettes will debut their full-length Fouled Up Beyond All Recognition at Blonde Bar in Mission Hills

fident, and love themselves. We want to celebrate with anyone who is passionate about equality between gender, sex, and race."

Soda Bar is hosting a CD-release party for Mexican noise-pop shoegazers Mint

Field on January 12, as well as the debut of a CD edition of Prior Knowledge by pop punkers Just In Case on January 14.

Blues rockers the Brian Jones Rock 'N' Roll Revival will play a free record-release party at the Kraken in Cardiff on January 22. The debut full-length from Oceanside roots rockers Wish & the Well, Darling Darling, premieres January 27 at Booze Brothers Brewing Company in Vista. "We're gonna have our good friend Nathan James open the show with a stripped down Delta blues set," says Corey Leal. "Then Melissa Barrison, who sang on the title track, will join us for our set."

- Jay Allen Sanford

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

1921 BACON ST., OCEAN BEACH 92107 Everyone's a Critic... SATURDAY 31st WEDNESDAY 28TH THURSDAY 29TH FRIDAY 30TH (HIP HOP SOCIAL) (NEW YEARS EVE) LIT ONE SECRET HEADLINE GUEST BROTHERS GOW SEANCY (6-9) OPEN JAM (6-9) COMEDY COMPETITION TICKETS ON SALE NOW Reader TUESDAY 3RD UPCOMING (LOCAL ROCK SHOWCASE) GANJAWITCH 13TH TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS FISTFIGHTS WITH WOLVES 17th- RA THE RUGGED MAN CITRUS MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL (6-9)THINK N DRINK TRIVIA (619) 222-6822 1 f Friday December 30 Saturday December 3 Funk Shui Planet **Slic Entertainment** Do Right Louie NYE 2017: Synrgy, Exit 6 I-Abide, TRC Sounds



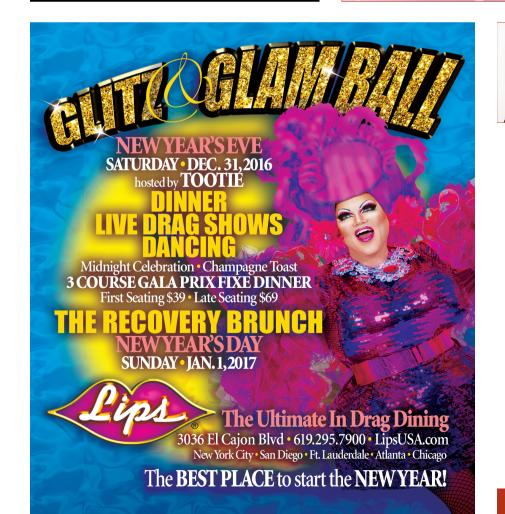


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TALIB KWELI FRI JAN 13 - 8pm

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The San Diego Symphony Orchestra does not appear on these programs.



ROSANNE CASH THU JAN 12 - 7:30pm

Singer and songwriter **Rosanne Cash**'s show celebrates her three time Grammy®-winning album, *The River & the Thread*, a collection of original songs that connect and reconnect Rosanne to the American South.



BIRTH OF THE COOL: A WEST COAST JAZZ SALUTE SAT JAN 14 - 8pm

Series curator Gilbert Castellanos celebrates the music that made the "west coast sound," paying homage to some of the greatest West Coast artists: Dave Brubeck, Chet Baker, Gerry Mulligan, Paul Desmond and Miles Davis.

Tickets and Information | SANDIEGOSYMPHONY.ORG

Boss juggler

"I did recently play Assassin's Creed and loved running around Paris and causing trouble."

MUSIC

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

ere's why open mics are important to me," says Sam Bybee. "Fifteen years ago, there wasn't much in the way of outlets for artists of any kind who were welcome to

come and hone their craft. Only a handful of places would offer stage time at all. These places became my everything. It was on these stages

that I learned how to and how not to be a musician. I would spend all week practicing for hours on end for this precious stage time that you would be lucky to get, on account of there being 60 other hungry artists hoping for the same. These open mics shaped me as a person and an artist and helped launch my career as a professional musician."

The 36-year-old grew up in San Diego, beginning his musical persona as an Americana-inclined solo singer-songwriter by night while running an upscale bakery during the daytime. He was still baking cakes when his solo album I Hate Pretty Girls was released, around the same time that he teamed up with singer Sandi King for an acoustic duo called 22 Kings. The pair released a debut album in 2014 and mounted several successful tours over the next two years, including performances at NAMM and SXSW. They also recorded with Alex Wong, producer of Delta Rae's "Carry the Fire," before parting musical company earlier this year, with Bybee returning to his solo roots while King plays frequently around town in the King Taylor Project with Joshua Taylor.

> "Here's how I'd describe my music," explains Bybee. "I like to say it's like Mumford and Sons meets Foy Vance. So, if a gospel

> > VIDEO GAME JAM?

ROOM?

Paris and causing trouble."

FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD?

WHAT MAKES YOU INSECURE?

always given me issues my whole life."

EVER GET THE URGE TO KILL?

"That slippery ice cream cone."

CRAZIEST WAY TO MAKE MONEY?

MOST VISITED WEBSITE?

was murdered."

me to do this."

WE I

"Well, I'm not much of a gamer, but I did recently

play Assassin's Creed and loved running around

MAGAZINE YOU GRAB IN THE WAITING

"Always National Geographic. I love that stuff."

"I live in University Heights, but I like to be all

"Something I'd like to change about myself is my teeth. Thanks to my English roots, my teeth have

"It's got to be Facebook. As a musician, we kind

of have to live on there. It's an invaluable tool."

"The closest time I've ever come to killing any-

one was when I was stuck in a tiny car for three months on a national tour. It's amazing no one

BEST THING YOU EVER HAD TO LET GO OF?

"Music. I still can't believe people actually pay

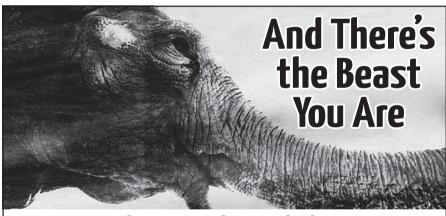
over the map, from Alpine to Ocean Beach."

singer joined an Americana band, that would be me." Among his cited influences are the Lumineers, Paul Simon, Jim Croce, James Taylor, Harry Chapin, and local coffeehouse crooner Jason Mraz.

Sam Bybee will perform a solo set on January 16 at De Oro Mine Company in Spring Valley. You can also catch him hosting the Monday-night Open Mic Grab at 98 Bottles, where he frequently primes the crowd with a few numbers of his own. "All you need is an instrument, 20 minutes of material, and guts to let it shine."

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

"My favorite CD right now is Foy Vance's Wild Swan. His songwriting is a combination of Irish folk and modern pop. His mix of uplifting songs and heart-wrenching lyrics makes for an amazing experience."



Animal stories by Judith Moore

The Tale of an Elephant

The worst of Jouett's problems were yet to come. Media representatives wanted to be present when Cindy arrived in mid-December. The elephant trainer and keepers wanted no one there. They were concerned because Cindy had not seen another elephant for seventeen years. Furthermore, she would have been jostled in a truck all the way down Interstate 5 from Tacoma for more than twenty-four hours. And she was going to be chained. SEPT. 6, 1984

Mananimalmananimal

The Big Storm of the day before (30 November) marked the first time in its sixty-six-year history bad weather closed the San Diego Zoo. Fifteen large trees blew down. Several animals panicked, crashed into concrete walls and wire fences. The Arabian oryx "yesterday had a shade tree, and today, a log," the tour bus driver told passengers. "The oryx are delighted. They've been chewing eucalyptus leaves all day." Giraffes were locked in the giraffe barn. "If a tree goes down when the giraffes are out front, they'll go bananas and bolt.' JAN, 27, 1983

sdreader.com/news/from-archives

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Sam Bybee could be a better boyfriend

WHAT REMAINS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST? "Travel the world."

YOUR BEST PICKUP LINE? "Hey."

SONG THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE?

"Don't Worry, Be Happy,' by Bobby McFerrin. I believe that just trying to be happy can actually make you happy."

BRUSH WITH FAME?

"I used to house-sit for Kathy Griffin when I lived in L.A.'

SOMETHING USELESS STUCK IN YOUR BRAIN?

"The lyrics to 'I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles),' by the Proclaimers. 'I Would Walk 500 Miles ... "

WHAT'S YOUR POISON? "Whiskey."

WHO'S THAT YELLING AT YOU IN THE BACKGROUND?

"My girlfriend. I started answering these questions after telling her we'd go get some food soon."

OKAY THEN. TELL US SOMETHING THAT FEW WOULD KNOW OR GUESS ABOUT YOU?

"I can juggle like a boss."∎

(@jayallensanford)

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	1/14 JUST IN CASE ALIVE & WELL HARD TO HIT • HARDLY HUMAN
BANDS PLAY	ASH WILLIAMS • CASTOFF • QUE OSO
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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

710 Beach Club: *Friday*, 8pm — Funk Shui Planet and Do Right Louie Saturday, 8pm — NYE 2017

98 Bottles: Saturday, 8pm - Ring In the New Year

AD Nightclub: Saturday, 9pm — NYE With DJ Dynamia Abbev:

Saturday, 9pm — New Year's Eve Speakeasy Celebration

Air Conditioned Lounge: Tuesday, 8pm — Simon Pure Wednesday, 8pm — Breezy Bliss: DJ Joshthebear

Alfonso's of La Jolla in Solana Beach: Friday, 6:30pm — Cantua

Analog: Saturday, 9pm — Platinum NYE

Andaz San Diego: Saturday, 9pm — New Year's Eve on the Rooftop

BNS Brewing & Distilling: *Friday*, 8pm — Jon Campos & the Incurables

Backyard Kitchen & Tap: Monday, 8pm — DJ Cheyenne

Balboa Theatre: Friday, 7:30pm — Jim Brickman

Bancroft: Saturday, 8pm — I&A's New Year's Bash

Bang Bang: Friday, 8pm — Drezo Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Mija & Friends

Bar Pink: Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Junior the Discopunk

Bassmnt: Friday, 9pm — Rusko Saturday, 8pm — Ghastly NYE

Bear Roots Brewing Co.: Friday, 8pm — Ashley Hollander

Beaumont's: Thursday, 7:30pm - Simeon Flick Duo Friday, 9pm — Modern Day

Moonshine Saturday, 10pm - NYE With Slower

Belly Up:

Thursday, 8pm - Donavon Frankenreiter Friday, 8pm — Brian Setzer Rockabilly Riot Saturday, 8pm — Brian Setzer Orchestra Sunday, 8pm — The White Buffalo Sunday, 8pm, Monday, 8pm -Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings. CANCELED

Wednesday, 8pm — Kathryn Cloward and Lee Coulter Bernardo Winery:

Sunday, 2pm — Whitney Shay

Blonde Bar: Thursday, 9pm — Wheal & the Acharis Friday, noon - Concert for Standing Rock Saturday, 9pm — NYE With Moving Units and the Lulls

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge: Sunday, 7pm — VJ Bang Tuesday, 8pm - Saul Q Wednesday, 8pm - Records with Roger

Boar Cross'n: Thursday, 8pm — Hazmatt **Bootlegger:**

Friday, 7pm — DJ Eddie Cutlass & DJ Common Dream Saturday, 9pm - NYE With DJ Rico

Brass Rail: Friday, 9pm — Hip-Hop Fridayz End of the Year Turn Up Saturday, 8pm — Sabado en Fuego NYE

Brick 15: Thursday, 7:30pm - Lisa Sanders & Brown Sugar

Carnitas Snack Shack: Saturday, 1pm — Allegra Duchaine

Carvers Steak & Chops: Friday, 8pm — Josie Day Saturday, 8pm — SideJobz

Casbah: Thursday, 8pm — The Melvins and Redd Kross Friday, 8pm — Big Sandy & His Flvrite Bovs Saturday, 8pm — Cash'd Out and the Sleepwalkers Wednesday, 8pm — Behind the Wagon and Screamin' Yeehaws

Coyote Bar & Grill: *Thursday*, 6pm — Mirage *Friday*, 6pm — Soul Fire Saturday, 6pm — NYE With Mystique Element Of Soul



BY DAVE GOOD

Rock radio in the years leading up to Van Halen was overwhelmed with the sounds of a format called new wave, otherwise known as synth pop. A lot of that music was exported from Britain. A Flock of Seagulls, Duran Duran, the Eurythmics, Pet Shop Boys, the Thompson Twins, Ultravox, and more like them filled radio playlists, for better or worse, and influenced pop culture with their odd wardrobe and complicated hair styles. Not that members of Van Halen were styled any less than big-hair-arenaham, but they allowed us to like electric guitar again. And new-wave synth-pop shriveled and became a footnote in music history.

But this is precisely the mound of old radio gold that a new band called Slow Hol-

Crystal Ballroom banquet hall:

Saturday, 8pm - NYE With Pakobsinh Band

Cusp: Thursday, 6pm — Jazz Supper Club With Gilbert Castellanos

Dana Hotel on Mission Bay: Friday, 7pm — Marcela Mendez Saturday, 10am — Whitney Shay

David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre: Wednesday, 7pm - Magevet

De Oro Mine Co: Thursday, 8pm — Kathryn Cloward Band

Friday, 8pm — Buddha Trixie

Dirk's Niteclub: Friday, 8pm — Cheap Date Saturday, 8pm — NYE With FX5

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall: Friday, 8pm — Chase Morrin

Downtown Café: Friday, 6:30pm - Stand Up Guys

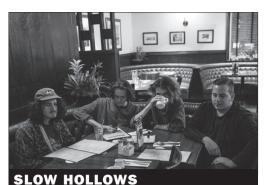
Draft: Saturday, 8pm - NYE With Mike Myrdal Band

F6ix Niteclub: Saturday, 8:30pm — F6ix Night Club New Years Eve

lows mines. And they do it well, blending it with other eras from American pop music like surf rock and indie rock. Slow Hollows is hased in Los Angeles, a oncedominant industry town that is re-growing its music scene. Slow Hollows songs are about shades of human gray: loneliness, rejection, self-doubt, and melancholy. All this, even though the title of their latest full-length is Romantic. The band's grown some

across-the-age-spectrum

appeal in just a few years. I suspect new-wave fans who were around during the '80s dig Slow Hollows, along with a younger crowd for whom it's a brand new day. And we're talking about a band that is just past high-school age themselves: Austin Feinstein was a minor when he started Hollows in 2014. The "Slow" in Slow Hollows came later, after the lineup solidified around guitarist Dylan Thinnes, drummer Jackson Katz, and Aaron Jassenoff on bass. No, they don't look like the synth-pop '80s.



and their sound is thinner, sharper, and sometimes includes horns. Will this be the spark that revives new wave? Maybe, For now, the record industry (such as it is) likes these guys. Cherry Glazerr also performs.

SLOW HOLLOWS: Irenic, Friday, December 30, 7 p.m. 619-624-9335. \$15

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

Saturday, 9pm — New Year's Eve With Dave Scott Quartet

> Hilton San Diego Bayfront: Saturday, 9pm — Big Night San





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49

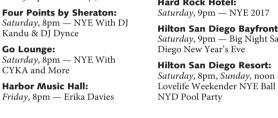
Four Points by Sheraton: Saturday, 8pm - NYE With DJ

Go Lounge: Saturday, 8pm — NYE With CYKA and More

Harbor Music Hall Friday, 8pm - Erika Davies

Farmer & the Seahorse: *Thursday*, 5pm — Mike Myrdal *Friday*, 5pm — Tiffany Jane Hard Rock Hotel:

> Saturday, 8pm, Sunday, noon -Lovelife Weekender NYE Ball &



Hornblower Dinner Cruises: Saturday, 8:30pm - Gatsby New Year's Eve Cruise

Hostelling International: Sunday, 6pm — Cypher at the Hostel

House of Blues: Thursday, 7pm, Friday, 7pm -Tribal Theory Saturday, 8pm — New Year's Eve With Clinton Sparks

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

Friday, 9pm — Tradewinds Saturday, 9pm — Wildside Monday, 7pm — Mercedes Moore Band

Infinity at Pala Casino: Saturday, 8pm — Grand Sonic Theory Saturday, 9pm — NYE With Grand Sonic Theory Tuesday, 1pm - Rob Ely's 1950s Elvis Show

Irenic:

San Diego Reader December 29, 2016

20

Friday, 8pm — Cherry Glazerr and Slow Hollows

Kava Lounge: Wednesday, 9pm - Perfect

Strangers Kettner Exchange:

Saturday, 8pm — NYE With David Patrone

Kraken: Wednesday, 8pm - Flipside Burners

L'Auberge Del Mar: Friday, 7pm — Ryan Hiller

FRYONF'S A CRI

Collecting Belinda Carlisle **By Robert Duffy**

Belinda Carlisle will forever be associated with the '80s, but that's not her fault. After hitting the ground running with the Go-Go's, some thought Carlisle'd be barefoot minus her band. Tis true that some of her records have the terrible trademarks of the era: a snare drum sounding like a plate being broken with a knife, guitars that sound like the hero is more likely to crush a grape than throw a TV out of the window. But ultimately, in her high heels, Belinda was back on track and could walk the

walk and strut the strut to the songs that count. And Belinda was ample.

"Live Your Life Be Free" rocks like a bastard. "Circle in the Sand" draws the line between love and hate "I Get Weak" shows strength of character.

Her appearance in Playboy displayed her

great hits, but this collection reveals more of her.

A staple diet of the radio world is "Heaven Is a Place on Earth." And why not, it's everything a pop record should be.

Sadly, Carlisle chose to ignore her "French" album. Even when she shape-shifted to another continent and became the sexy, seductive, Parisian of rue de le alter ego for "Voila," elle et formidable.

"Leave a Light On" is a flame that won't flicker, her records a torch that will glow in any era.

Belinda has a voice like a pair of black, silk, seamed stockings — timeless, elegant, alluring, and sheer class



Belinda was back on track and could walk the walk and strut the strut to the songs that count.

Music Reviews from Our Readers

speakers, it

was loud

Rocket From the Crypt up from the crypt and into a clamshell Bv Drvw Keltz

Rocket From the Crypt played their "final concert ever" at the Casbah's thenannual Halloween party at the Westin Horton Plaza in 2005...so it was only fitting that the beast be brought back to life to play this Casbah-curated Halloween event 11 years later.

Rocket blasted off at 11 p.m. on the clamshell stage within the hotel's Mississippi Ballroom. The room was packed with sweaty, costumed humans. The sound was not

Martinis Above Fourth:

Rayvon Owen

Band

Boombox

Kings

Moonshine Beach:

Honky Tonk Boombox

Moonshine Flats:

Matte Gray Band

Mother's Saloon:

Great Electric Quest

Music Box:

Damned

Justin Martin

New Year's Masquerade

Saturday, 9pm — NYE With

Friday, 8pm — The Matte Grav

Saturday, 8pm — NYE With

Friday, 8pm — Honky Tonk

Saturday, 8pm — NYE With the

Saturday, 8pm — NYE With No

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Barbwire *Friday*, 8:30pm — Cage and

Saturday, 8:30pm - UpFunk

Thursday, 8pm — Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven

Friday, 7:30pm — The Steely

Saturday, 10pm - NYE With

the best, but if you maneuvered vourself into the direct line of fire of the in-house



Throughout Rocket's set, a fan near the front hoisted an axe above the crowd.

The band ran through a set of fan favorites that whipped the hometown crowd into frenzy. Classics such as "Don't Darlene," "On a Rope," "Middle," and "Born in '69" all went over great, but it was "Young Livers," the fourth track from 1995's Scream, Dracula, Scream! that really tore the roof off the place.

Throughout Rocket from the Crypt's set, a fan near the front hoisted an axe above the crowd. Silhouetted against singer/guitarist John Reis, it seemed to be the perfect mission statement for a Rocket show. A band back from the dead, on the night of the dead, with a collection of diehards intent on joining them.

Artist: Rocket From the Crypt Venue: Lafayette Hotel Date: October 31 Seats: Floor

Up to \$50 for your concert review, \$25 for your CD review. Submit at SDReader.com/critic

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows: Saturday, 8pm — Psychedelic Masquerade

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STITCHED UP HEART LETTERS FROM THE FIRE, SIGHT UNSCENE TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 7PM | \$12 ADV & \$15 DOS | 21+

ENTOMBED A.D. FULL OF HELL, TURBID NORTH, POISON HEADACHE MONDAY JANUARY 16, 7PM | \$15 ADV & \$20 DOS | 21+

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Lake San Marcos **Conference Center:** Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Aquile and DJ Brandon Noel

> Landing: Friday, 8pm — Sickstring Outlaws Saturday, 9pm - NYE With Jon Campos & the Incurables

Lestat's Coffee House: Friday, 8pm — Josh Damigo

Loews Coronado Bay Resort: *Thursday*, 8pm — Whitney Shay *Saturday*, 5pm — David Shyde

Lorimar Vineyards and Winery:

Friday, 6pm — Stephen Vaughan Luis Rey Lounge: Friday, 7pm — Fresh Saturday, 7pm - NYE With

Fresh Manhattan Cocktail Lounge:

Friday, 8pm — KL Noise Makerz Saturday, 8pm — NYE with the Merge Marina Kitchen:

Saturday, 8pm — Bottoms Up NYE



Nate's Garden Grill: Saturday, 8pm - NYE With Bossa Lounge Project

Navaio Live: Friday, 9pm — Rattz Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Relax Max Sunday, 7pm - Do Right Louie

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint: Friday, 6pm — Ramshackle

Observatory North Park: *Thursday*, 7pm — Kaytranada *Friday*, 6pm — Chris D'Elia Saturday, 7pm — NYE With Rebelution Wednesday, 7pm - The Devil Makes Three

Omnia San Diego: Friday, 9pm — Dash Berlin

Sunday, 8pm — Porter Robinson Onyx/Thin: Saturday, 8pm — NYE Extravaganza

Ould Sod: *Tuesday*, 7pm — Irish Music Jam

Park & Rec: Friday, 9pm — Rock of Ages Saturday, 9pm — NYE With Lady Dottie & the Diamonds

Parg Restaurant: Friday, 8pm — DJ Scene Saturday, 9pm - NYE With DJ Karma

Pechanga Resort & Casino: Friday, 9pm — Evidence Band Saturday, 8pm - NYE With the Evidence Band Sunday, 9pm — Evidence Band

Ponte Winery: Friday, 7pm — Steven Ybarra

Porto Vista Hotel & Suites: Saturday, 8pm — Galactic NYE

Pour House: Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Gone Blonde

Poway's Irish Pub: Friday, 8pm — Still Around Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Outta Sync

Prohibition: Saturday, 9:30pm — NYE With Mercedes Moore Band

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: Friday, 8pm — Hastings Band Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Tomcat Courtney

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center: Saturday, 8pm — Uptown Get Down NYE

Rancho Bernardo Inn: Saturday, 6pm — Steven Ybarra

Rancho San Diego Library: Tuesday, 6:30pm - Joe Rathburn

Renaissance San Diego Downtown: Saturday, 9pm — Black & White NYE

Riviera Supper Club &

Turquoise Room: Thursday, 8pm — Israel Maldonado Friday, 9pm - Flower Child Saturday, 8pm - NYE With Three Chord Justice

San Diego Maritime

Museum: Saturday, 9pm — New Year's Eve Black and Gold

Side Bar: Saturday, 9pm — NYE Blowout

Sleep Bedder: Saturday, 9pm — NYE With Barefoot Hockey Goalie, more

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Downs Family Friday, 8pm – Mrs. Magician and the Creepy Creeps Saturday, 8pm — The Donkeys Wednesday, 8pm — Caught A Ghost

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:

Sunday, 2pm — New Year's Day Concert

Striders Clublounge: Saturday, 9pm — Gatsby's House NYE Gala

Tin Roof San Diego: *Thursday*, 8pm — Allegra Duchaine *Saturday*, 8pm — Champagne New Year's

Tio Leo's:

Thursday, 8pm — Charles Burton Blues Band Friday, 8pm — Tumblin' Dice Saturday, 9pm — The Reflectors

Tipsy Crow:

Thursday, 7pm — Fiore Friday, 7pm — John Hull Saturday, 7pm, Wednesday, 7pm — BI Jezbera

Tower 13:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Back to the Garden

Tower Bar: Thursday, 8pm — Toweroke with Goldilox Saturday, 8pm — La Escalera Records New Year's

Tower23: Saturday, 10pm — New Year's Beach Bash

Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center: *Friday*, 8pm, *Saturday*, 8pm — Infinity New Year's Eve

Trifecta Tavern: Saturday, 6pm — Kinnie Dye

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa: Saturday, 8pm — New Year's Speakeasy Party U-31:

Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Schoeny

Thursday, 8pm — Missy Andersen Friday, 8pm — Whitney Shay

Union Kitchen & Tap Gaslamp:

Friday, 6pm — Allegra Duchaine Valley View Casino Center: Thursday, 9pm, Friday, 9pm, Saturday, 9pm — OMFG!

Veranda at Rancho Bernardo Inn:

Thursday, 5pm — Kevin James O'Brien Friday, 5:30pm — Joe Cardillo Tuesday, 5pm — Jimmy Patton

Vin de Syrah Wine Parlor: *Friday*, 8pm — Vaudeville Radio Band *Saturday*, 8pm — NYE Midnight

in Morocco West Coast Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — DJ Slowhand *Friday*, 8pm — Mr. Deejay *Saturday*, 8pm — NYE With CWitch

Westfield University Towne Centre:

Friday, noon — Jody Mulgrew Saturday, noon — Sam & Stacy

Westgate Hotel: Saturday, 7pm — Masquerade

Night in Versailles Whiskey Girl:

Saturday, 8pm — NYE Masquerade Whistle Stop Bar:

Saturday, 9pm — Booty Bassment

Wine Cave: *Friday*, 7pm — David Reynolds *Saturday*, 8pm — NYE With Warren La Plante

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 8pm — The Palmer Squares and Boostive Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Brothers Gow Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band

Witch Creek Winery: Friday, 6:30pm — Adrienne Nims

Zel's Del Mar:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Paul Beard Friday, 7:30pm — Greg Goldman Saturday, 8pm — NYE With Shook & Striler

UPCOMING SHOWS

AMSDconcerts: *January 14* — It's A Beautiful

Day January 27 — Dave Alvin January 28 — Dave Stamey

Belly Up:

January 5 – Gene Loves Jezebel January 6 – Pato Banton and Layne Tadesse January 7 – 7th Annual Beat Farmers Hootenanny January 10 – Dawes January 11 – Dar Williams January 12 – Schizophonics and Taken by Canadians January 13 – DSB January 14 – Tommy Castro

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:

January 5 — Art in the Park January 6 — Cuffin' January 7 — Saturday Rewind January 8 — Jeffrey Noll January 10 — Strangeworld with DJ Dead Air

Brick 15:

January 7 — Alice Wallace January 8 — Bryan Sutton Band January 12 — Michaela Anne January 13 — Ed Gerhard January 14 — Grant-Lee Phillips

Brick by Brick:

January 5 — Resurrection Kings and Symbolic January 16 — Entombed A.D. and Full of Hell January 19 — Zakk Sabbath January 20 — Paul Gilbert January 27 — Stick Men, Pet Shark, Agent 22

The Casbah:

January 5 — Buck-O-Nine and Voodoo Glow Skulls January 7 — Fu Manchu January 8 — David Bowie Birthday Celebration January 10 — Brown Sabbath January 11 — Dorothy January 13 — The Little Richards and Alice Bag Band January 14 — Midge Ure

Ché Café: *January 20* — Homesafe, Life Lessons, Chase Huglin

Clairemont Lutheran Church: January 21 — San Diego County Recorder Society

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

January 9 — Mose Allison Tribute January 13 — Matt Hall Quintet January 27 — Holly Bowling January 29 — Allison Adams Tucker Vocal Summit

The Go Lounge:

January 6 — The Lefties and the Neanderthals

The Hideout:

January 19 — Aesthetic Perfection January 20 — Marching Church and Bernardino Femminielli January 21 — Ugly Things Presents January 26 — Lemuria and Mikey Erg

House of Blues:

January 6 — Damage Inc. and Memory Layne January 7 — 6ONE9 and CopyCat Killers January 11 — Kane Brown January 13, January 14 — Sublime With Rome

Humphreys Backstage Music Club:

January 17 — Mercedes Moore Band January 23 — Mercedes Moore Band

January 29 — Mercedes Moore & Taryn Donath

The Kava Lounge:

January 7 — Club Ascension January 15 — Superstitious January 19 — Acid Varsity

Music Box:

January 6 — Warren G January 7 — Frankie J and The Big Pink January 12 — Protoje January 13 — Ozomatli January 14 — Snow Tha Product

Observatory North Park:

January 5 — Devil Makes Three January 12 — J Boog January 13 — MxPx, Five Iron Frenzy, Dogwood

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:

January 6 — Chris Fast Band January 7 — Len Rainey's Midnight Players January 13 — Casey Hensley Band January 14 — Cadillac Wreckers

Soda Bar:

January 5 — The Number 12 Looks Like You January 6 — TV Girl and Poppet January 7 — Grizzly Business January 8 — Hannah Yeun and TV Icon January 11 — Country Lips January 12 — Mint Field

January 13 — Le Chateau January 14 — Just In Case and Alive & Well

Soma: January 13 — Shawshank Redeemed and Colossal January 27 — August Burns Red

and Protest the Hero **Til-Two:** January 21 — Imbalanced and the Noctambulant January 26 — Stories From Shamehill and Alvino & the

Dwells Tin Roof San Diego:

January 11, January 25 — Lenny Morris

Tio Leo's: *January 5, 12, 19* — Swingin' Bluesin' Thursdays

January 19 — Mercedes Moore Band January 26, February 2 — Swingin' Bluesin' Thursdays

The Tipsy Crow:

January 6 — John Hull January 7 — Kenny Eng & Rob Deez

January 8 — Patrick Dowling January 10 — Ian Thomas January 13 — John Hull January 14 — Clint Westwood

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Year in review part two: Performance

I wished that critics could skip opening nights, which can be so hit and miss.

THEATER

JEFF SMITH

or San Diego Theater in 2016, I wish everyone could have seen the following: *1918* at the Fringe Festival. La Moana, a dance troupe from New Zealand, arrived with no

fanfare and blew audiences to bits. 1918 recalled the flu pandemic that hit the Samoan Islands with no warning.

Dancers began the show, moving with featherlight joy as they lived daily routines on the islands. Suddenly fevers and strange chills sprouted, and the dead began to pile up. Along with watching an unthinkable tragedy, members of the audience sensed another palpable loss: would the dancers' vitality cease as well? Not so. In the end, they returned all in blue and doubled their intensity with ferocious elation.

I wish everyone could have seen Melissa Fernandes in Ion's *Sunday in the Park with George.* She played Dot, Georges Seurat's mistress and model in Act One, and Marie, Dot's now ancient daughter in 1984. Throughout, Fernandes had the kind of aura you see when a performer's in a dream role.

She also understudied for Cygnet's Gypsy and

filled in as Mama Rose. I saw her late in the run. She was wonderful again. I also saw two other things. One: how shows can grow. Cygnet's opening night was fine but now had exceptional polish.

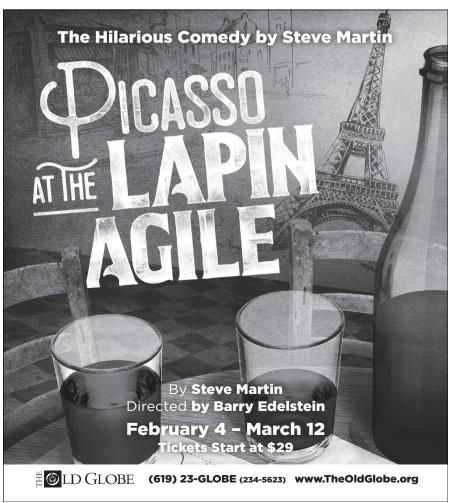
Once again I wished that critics could skip opening nights, which can be so hit-and-miss. They'd go, say, two weeks into the run, when the show has settled in, for good or ill. They'd

have a clearer sense of its quality. I know, I know, box office trumps quality.

(Zounds! I swore I'd never use the invidious T-word again!)

Second, I got to re-see Allison Spratt Pearce turn young Rose, the bland ugly duckling, into brash, stylish Gypsy Rose Lee, headliner on the Burlesque circuit. An extraordinary transformation!

Cashae Monya led a terrific ensemble (directed by Jennifer Eve Thorn) as Alphonsine in Moxie's *Our Lady of Kibeho*. Amid civil strife in Rwanda, the young novice has a miraculous vision of "the Mother of the Word" and pays for it with continual torment. Monya snapped into instant ecstasies and played Alphonsine with



La Moana's 1918 arrived at Fringe Festival with no fanfare and blew audiences to bits.

undeniable belief.

Way Downriver turned William Faulkner's novella, "Old Man," inside out. In the original, women terrify the convict so much he prefers the meanest penitentiary in America. Richard Baird was outstanding as a semi-skilled man trapped on a raft during the great Mississippi flood of 1927. With voice, gesture, and profound commitment, Baird re-created the deluge on the North Coast Rep stage.

I wish you could have seen Francis Gercke's

spare, deeply moving John Merrick in Backyard Renaissance's *The Elephant Man*. Unlike other versions of the role, Gercke never once played for sympathy. Instead he went way inside the deformed Victorian and invited us in.

Also Ro Boddie's efforts for Cygnet's *Stupid F**king Bird*, *Seven Guitars*, and *King Hedley II*. He carried *Bird* on his back and showed versatility as the tragic Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton in Guitars and Mister in *Hedley*.

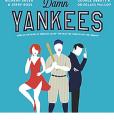
And I wish you could have seen Intrepid's



Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

AUDITIONS

Damn Yankees SAN DIEGO MUSICAL THEATRE 4652 Mercury St., Clairemont



Seeking Union and Non-Union singers and actors who move well for SDMT's production of Damn Yankees, Will consider AFA actors (along with non-union actors) for the roles of Joe Boyd, Meg Boyd, Applegate, Joe Hardy, and Lola, First Equity rehearsal Tuesday, May 9. First performance: Friday, June 2. Info: jill@sdmt.org.

Auditions: JAN, 6 6PM, JAN, 7 1PM

Next Fall

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista No appointment necessary, Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Perusal scripts may be requested from strattonsusan@yahoo com. Synopsis: Luke believes in God. Adam believes in everything else. Next Fall portrays the ups and downs of this unlikely couple's five-year relationship with humor and honesty Auditions: JAN, 8 & 9 6PM

Nuts and Bolts of Theatre Auditioning

SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION MESA COLLEGE CAMPUS 7350 Armstrong PL, Clairemont A free ongoing class brought to you by San Diego Continuing Education Older Adult division and taught by a former New York professional. Learn to cold read scripts, memorize monologues, and prepare for acting auditions. Spring performance planned for class members. Registration in class; just

splendid Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Robert and Deborah Gilmour Smyth, real-life husband and wife, reversed the standard emphasis on Edward Albee's George and Martha. Most productions give Martha a star turn with free reign to slosh and blabber. But a closer reading of the text shows that George, like a standoffish master of ceremonies, is in charge. And through his patient, tough-love efforts he crafts a sense of order from Walpurgis Night chaos.

Another tandem: Jorge Rodriguez and Jennifer Paredes caught in a maelstrom of civil war and miracles in InnerMissions' Seven Spots on the Sun. With a kind of broken strength, Rodriguez played a village doctor who suffered so much he swore off medibring your school id or a photo id. For additional info go to "Emeritus" at Sdce.edu or email hritter@sdccd.edu. Auditions: JAN, 3 & 10 1PM

On Golden Pond BROADWAY THEATRE 340 F. Broadway Vista



Runs February 2 through 19. Callbacks the same night. The roles of Ethel and Norman Thayer have been pre-cast Auditions: JAN, 2 6PM

Over the Tavern

POWPAC 13250 Poway Rd Poway Auditions consist of cold readings from the script. For additional information (e.g. roles available) contact director Annette Alliano at 858-748-2124 or annetteinsm@gmail.com Auditions: JAN. 30 & 31 7PM

The Third Wave

PATIO PLAYHOUSE THEATRE 116 S. Kalmia Street Prepare a one-minute monologue. You may be asked to read from the script at callbacks. Please note: While this is a Patio Plavhouse Youth Theater production — the three adult roles will be played by adults. Anyone between ages 10 and 21 who can look 15 or 16 is invited to audition for the youth roles. Individuals over age 21 will be considered for the adult roles but not the youth roles Auditions: JAN. 8 4PM, JAN. 9 6PM

To add your audition to our listings, go to sdreader.com/ events/submit and select Auditions as the category.

cine. Paredes - tops in Ion's Lydia and the Rep's hilarious Manifest Destinitus - played the mother of a cursed child whose only hope was the former M.D. and would not take no for an answer.

I hope people got to see Ion's The Normal Heart. Led by Claudio Raygoza's excellent Ned Weeks, part crusader, part obnoxious jerk, and strong support from Kim Strassberger, Daren Scott, and Alexander Guzman, Heart was the daring, urgent, up-to-the-second theater San Diego sees too little of. As was the San Diego Rep's Disgraced, with a scalpel-like dissection of our times.

The ensemble work for Disgraced was excellent. But don't forget the Rep's Manifest Destinitus, Cygnet's repertory company for two August Wilson plays, Moxie's Our Lady of Kibeho (especially the teenaged girls' remarkable portrayals), and La Jolla Playhouse's Junk: The Golden Age of Debt, where a huge cast performed Ayad Akhtar's world premiere with such precision you'd think they were reviving a familiar classic.

I wish you could have seen them all.

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith unless otherwise noted. 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.

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings

Welk Resorts Theatre presents a yuletide sequel to the popular musical revue. The legendary singing quartet comes back to earth to perform the show they never got to, since a bus killed them on the way to their first semiprofessional gig. But why have they returned? And from where? David Humphrey directs and choreographs., WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR ESCONDIDO

888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS.

Gold, Frankincense, & Myrrh

Teatro Mascara Magica presents Kent Brisby's "playful and respectful" world premiere about the "mayhem behind the traditions and real history of the Three Kings who visited the child Jesus and helped carry news of His arrival to the world." Admission is free for performances at two venues: 6:30pm at Steeley Stable in Old Town, and 7:30pm at Casa de Los Reyes Stage, Old Town. William Virchis directed. STEFLEY STABLE, CASA DE LOS REYES. OLD TOWN. 6PM THURSDAY, 6PM, 7PM, & 7PM FRIDAY, DEC. 30.

The 1940s Radio Hour at New Village

Under the nurturing care of director Dana Case, aboard for the second time with this play at New Village Arts, the actors are also part of this immersion because they give so much to the audience. Eric M. Casalaini again gives us a highly energized, but finely modulated portrayal of crooner Johnny Cantone, and Kelly Derouin 's Ann Colliere, a band singer of the era, is a heartfelt portrait. Returning from last year's production: Marlene Montes as Ginger Brooks, who gives powerful versions of "Daddy' and "Blues in the Night." Worth a try.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD, 760-433-3245. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS.

ANTI-REVIEW IAN PIKE

Back to the 1940s

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE know this, but I wasn't actually around in the 1940s. It's true! I was still waiting for my parents to get born so that I could get born; but I've heard

good things. I would have guessed I'd glean some historical fact or three from New Village Arts' production of 1979's 1940s Radio Hour (just in time for the end of 2016), but my big takeaway from the show was a little more indirect In the name of verisimilitude, the play incorporates a series of "advertisements" for the the variety show's "sponsors," and what should have seemed like

an anachronistic practice felt all too familiar to me; which got me thinking.

Has anyone else noticed the uptick in live read advertising on the radio these past few years? It's like every DJ on the air wants me to try Ovation Cell Therapy, buy a

UPCOMING SHOWS

2.5 Minute Ride

Diversionary Theatre offers Lisa Kron's solo show through her "family album, focusing on her relationship with her Father, a Holocaust survivor," and painting a portrait of "an honorable man." Rosina Reynolds directs. 2.5 Minute Ride runs in repertory with Kron's Well. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK Altar Boyz

Coronado Playhouse stages the and choreographs.

ARY 20 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19.

Different Stages presents Bess Wohl's "supersized dark comedy" about three up-and-coming "sandwich artists" at a toasted subs franchise in the local mall: a teenager, a single mom, and a downsized refugee from corporate banking. 'When a series of strange events interrupt their shot at the American Dream, they become unlikely allies in a post-recession world." Kristen

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-222-0836, JANUARY 6 THROUGH JANUARY 21.

Cygnet Theatre offers Joshua Harmon's "savage comedy" about "fammattress, or some freaky combination of the two.

How about the way Saturday Night Live is ditching conventional ads in favor of sponsored



Kelly Derouin in *The 1940s Radio Hou*r

content? The SNL season finale this year incorporated a twominute Dunkin Donuts commercial, featuring the cast and Casey Affleck, and more than a million people have already sought it out on YouTube. In a way, that's totally crazy, because

ily, faith, and legacy." Three cousins engage in a verbal battle royal over a family heirloom. Rob Lutfy directs. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST. OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. JANUARY 21 THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.

Beau Jest

Lamb's Players Theatre presents James Sherman's comedy. "Sarah's parents are delighted she's engaged to a charming doctor. Only thing is, she's not." So she hires an actor to "keep the fiction alive." LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 OR-ANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. JANUARY 6 THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.

Breadcrumbs

THROUGH MARCH 12.

Fruitlessmoon Theatreworks stages Jennifer Haley's two-person drama. Beth, a drifter, becomes caregiver to Alida, a reclusive fiction writer with dementia. Beth convinces Alida to write her memoirs before her memory disappears. "What if you couldn't find your way home?" Aimee Greenberg directs. LA JOLLA COMMONS THEATRE, 1216 CAVE ST., LA JOLLAFEBRUARY 24

California Young Playwrights Contest: Plays by Young Writers

The Playwrights Project presents its 32nd annual festival of plays by writers 18 and under. Contest winners came from 385 plays submitted by students from across the state. The plays come in two programs. Program A: Supermarket of Lost by Cassandra Hsiao; Hackathon, by Eliana Dunn; Turtle on a Rock, by Absinthe McDonald. Program B: The Dumping Ground, by Matthew Maceda; Pros and Cons, by Katie Taylor; A Play on Words, by Samantha Rafter. For specific days and times, consult the Playwright's Project website, write@playwrightsproject.org.

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623, JANUARY 21 THROUGH JANUARY 29.

this is an ad we're talking about; but it also makes sense, since the sketch is hilarious. It's as if selling coffee is an incidental bonus to comedy.

> It's no surprise that advertisers got hip, and realized that everybody was changing the channel when the commercials came on. The trip is how they turned back the clocks to the 1940s, focusing on sponsored content and live reads. For decades, advertisers have been struggling to break away from the in-your-face techniques of early radio, but all of

a sudden history is repeating itself in this really weird and unexpected way. I guarantee somebody will write a 400-page doctoral dissertation on the subject in the next couple of years. For now, the 1940s Radio Hour plays through December 31.

Freaky Friday

The La Jolla Playhouse presents a new musical comedy based on the novel by Mary Rodgers and two Walt Disney films. A mother and daughter magically swap bodies for 24 chaotic hours. Christopher Ashley directs. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD, 858-550-1010. JANUARY 31 THROUGH MARCH 12.

The Geeze & Me

Rag Lady Productions presents a humorous, irreverent musical production about "the wild side of life's later years, addressing the good, the bad, and the ugly of aging." Songs range from pop to blues to corner street doo-wop. "Think Hair after it's gone."

TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. MARCH 31 THROUGH APRIL 2.

Good People

Scripps Ranch Theatre stages David Lindsay-Abaire's comedy-drama about Margie Walsh. She's just been let go from another job and faces eviction from her apartment in Boston's "Southie" district. Maybe stirring the embers of an old flame (who now earns deep into six figures) might be the trick. Eric Poppick directs. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. JANUARY 28 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26.

The Illusion

North Coast Repertory Theatre presents Tony Kushner's free adaptation of Pierre Corneille's l'Illusion Comique, "a tale of passion, regret, Diego love, and magic." David Ellenstein directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, Reader

987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH MARCH 19.

Into the Woods

For its spring musical, Clairemont 29 High School Theatre presents Stephen Sondheim's Tony award winner 80 about what happens in fairy tales 5 after the end, and everyone's sup-

BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH MARCH 19.

musical — book, Kevin Del Aguila, music and lyrics, Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walker - about a "heavenly" boy band's last night of their Raise the Praise tour. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Juan "attempt to save the world, one screaming fan at a time." Michael Mizerany directs

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. JANU-

American Hero

Fogle directs.

Bad Jews

THEATER

posed to live happily ever after. CLAIREMONT HIGH SCHOOL, 4150 LITE DR CLAIREMONT 858-273-0201 MARCH 10 THROUGH MARCH 18.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

New Fortune Theatre stages Christopher Hampton's adaptation of the Laclos novel (1782) about ex-lovers the Marquise de Merteuil and the Vicomte de Valmont, who compete in games of seduction and revenge. "This isn't a battle between the sexes. It's war." Richard Baird and Kaitlin O'Neal co-direct.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA. DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO, 619-544-1000. JANUARY 14 THROUGH JANUARY 28.

Little Shop of Horrors

San Diego Junior Theatre presents the Howard Ashman/Alan Menkin musical based on the Roger Corman/Charles Griffith sci-fi movie about a carniverous plant, named Audrey II, that's such a finiky eater, it will only consume human beings in vast quantities. But when it comes to people, A2 is an equal-opportunity chomper at that! Little Shop runs in repertory with Lyle the Crocodile. CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1650 EL PRADO, SUITE 208, BALBOA PARK, JANU-ARY 6 THROUGH JANUARY 21.

Lyle the Crocodile

San Diego Junior Theatre stages a musical version of Bernard Weber's popular children's tale about the Primm family. When they move to NYC's Upper East Side they find a friendly crocodile in the upstairs bathroom tub. But "what's not to love about a crocodile that tap dances and spreads happiness wherever he goes?

CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1650 EL PRADO, SUITE 208, BALBOA PARK. JANU-ARY 7 THROUGH JANUARY 22.

Maple and Vine

Trinity Theatre Company presents Jordan Harrison's new play. "Katha and Rvu have become allergic to their 21st-century lives. After they meet a charismatic man from a community of 1950s re-enactors, they forsake cell phones and sushi for cigarettes and Tupperware parties... Katha and Ryu are surprised by what their new neighbors - and they themselves - are willing to sacrifice for happiness." Sean Boyd directs. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE, 619-920 8503. JANUARY 6 THROUGH JANU-ARY 29.

Marjorie Prime

North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Jordan Harrison's "play about memory." It's the near future. Artificial Intelligence has reached such heights that lifelike robots provide companionship for the lonely. Matthew Wiener directs NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE

987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH, 858-481-1055, JANUARY 11 THROUGH FEBRUARY 5.

My Fair Lady

The Welk Theatre greets the new year with Lerner and Loewe's classic musical, based on George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion. Songs include "Wouldn't It Be Loverly?" "With a Little Bit of Luck," "The Rain in Spain," and "I Could Have Danced All Night." Kathy Brombacher directs with choreography by Orlando Alexander. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO, 888-802-7469, JANUARY 7 THROUGH APRIL 1.

On the 20th Century

Cygnet Theatre presents the San Diego premiere of the musical book and lyrics, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, music by Cy Coleman about a luxury train (the Twentieth Century) traveling from Chicago to New York City. Mischief ensues when a bankrupt theater producer attempts to cajole a glamorous Hollywood starlet. Sean Murray directs. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST. OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. MARCH 18 THROUGH APRIL 5.

Our Great Tchaikovsky

The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Hershey Felder's "time bending" tribute to Russia's most famous composer, "from presentday Putin's Russia, where Tchaikovsky is a hero, back in time to Czarist Russia, where that was not entirely the case." Trevor Hay directs. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE. 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. JANUARY 18 THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.

Perfect Arrangement

Intrepid Theatre Company stages Topher Pavne's comedy about Bob and Norma. It's the 1950s, and they have been tasked with identifying sexual deviants within their ranks. 'There's just one problem: Bob and Norma are gay, and have married each other's partners in a carefully constructed cover." Can they sustain "heteronormativity"?

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO, 619-234-9583. FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH MARCH 5

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

The Old Globe Theatre presents Steve Martin's comedy. In Paris, 1904, the Lapin Agile was a favorite watering hole for struggling artists and wannabe geniuses. Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso, with "egos as big as their intellects," compare notes. Barry Edelstein directs. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK, 619-234-5623 FEBRUARY 9 THROUGH MARCH 12.

Sex with Strangers

The San Diego Repertory Theatre presents Laura Eason's "sensuous and provocative comedy about fame, cyber identity, and the desire for intimacy and respect." Two writers, one mid-career and under-appreciated, the other a young blogger famous for writing about his "sexcapades," join up. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directs. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE

79 HORTON PLAZA DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO, 619-544-1000, FEBRUARY 23 THROUGH MARCH 19

Shakespeare &I Tea

San Diego Central Library hosts family-friendly, monthly informal Shakespeare readings, with discussion, and starring you. No experience necessary. Parts are assigned before each scene so everyone who wants to can read. Tea and scones, clotted cream and jam provided by Shakespeare's Corner Shoppe & Afternoon Tea. CENTRAL LIBRARY, 330 PARK BL., EAST

VILLAGE. 619-236-5800. JANUARY 15 THROUGH APRIL 2

Twelfth Night, or What You Will

Theatre Arts West, which incorporates the visual arts and music with theater, presents Shakespeare's festive, gender-bending comedy of capricious love on the shores of Illyria, "a timeless place that celebrates music, poetry, and art." Backdrops and set pieces painted by local artists.

MURAMID MUSEUM AND ART CENTER, 212 F ARTIST ALLEY, OCEANSIDEJANU ARY 6 THROUGH JANUARY 22.

Well

Diversionary Theatre presents Lisa Kron's "reverent study of the playwright's chronically ill Mom and her extraordinary ability to heal a racially divided community despite her inability to make herself well." The piece runs in repertory with Kron's 2.5 Minute Ride, Kym Pappas directs. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-220-0097. FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH MARCH 19

LETTERS

continued from page 4

ing, and always have. It's great to read this piece/peace and be transported to the calm, meditative nature of the water's he transcends. Keep it coming. I might just go out there with you one day, Neal, and help with the search! Thanks. Namaste.

- Steve Alexander

One of the most inspiring stories I've read in a long time, like the seahorses, a "cherry bomb of joy," in Neal's phrase. I'm a long admirer of his work, and this story in particular. The detail about the mothers, warmed and relieved to realize how rich their home waters remain" -- that line underscores the uniqueness and biological wealth of our bioregion, about which most San Diegans know little. I hope the Reader and the other news organizations follow Neal's lead.

Richard Louv

"Few Local Politicians Realize the Importance of Trees"

City Lights Posted December 21

CORRUPT POLITICIAN/ DEVELOPER/GRAFT-HOG BULLDOZER BILL HORN WANTS TO BULLDOZE EVERY TREE IN THE COUNTY AND BUILD LILAC HORN RANCH HOMES OVER THE STUMPS!

– Bill Wisniewski

Yet another unfunded mandate for an inadequate proposal to simply make up the deficit for where we should be in relation to the rest of the country.

Doesn't seem to matter if it's trees, parks land, water and sewer and road infrastructure, affordable housing, social services, economic opportunities, or accountability by public officials. There are always studies and plans; but if one is impolite enough to ask later about actions and results, politicos offer the arrogance of either

hypocrisy or silence.

Of those inadequate numbers of trees in SD, too many are eucalyptus. If you want shade, the "euc" isn't your tree. They are tall, and tend to have branches shear off unexpectedly. Arborists in the area generally don't like the imports from Australia. Their advantage is that they will grow almost anywhere they are planted, and once established, usually don't need any special watering.

The natives, oaks and sycamores, are native only to canyon bottoms, close to stream beds. They can be grown elsewhere, but the oaks especially need irrigation to survive. If we go back a couple centuries, we would find no heavily forested areas outside the mountains. The area had for its forests the chaparral, aka sage scrub, the varied considerably from coast to foothills and up to higher elevations. Unlike so much of the US, the area just didn't have anything like vast boreal forests, or rain forests either.

This is a complicated subject, and if the developers keep planting fast-growing eucalyptus and pines in all the new developments, and planting them in fill, the trees will disappoint. Such trees end up too large in about thirty years, are prone to tearing loose and falling down in wind storms, and have to be removed. When removed the process starts all over again. Of course, SD could do

much better. Its neighborhood parks often have few trees; you can see that more were planned and planted, and later removed and not replaced. Oh, Kev-boy, those missing trees are also part of the "infrastructure" that you promised to restore and repair.

- Visduh

Hopefully nobody is planting more eucalyptus here. It's hard to believe how protective HOA's and "arborists" are of other peoples' eucalyptus. Nobody who looks out their window at a 30 year old, 80--90 ft. eucalyptus swaying and listing about four or five feet from your home, in

a small piece of earth cares about keeping eucalyptus trees, I promise. Both trees have even less "earth" now as STUPID decision makers, (board members) manager and moneymaking landscapers dug up lots of roots to widen some sidewalks and then more to save a few dollars lawn watering pipe. Didn't matter that a highly qualified expert cerfified arborist, in his independent report, advised manager to reduce heavy and unsupported limbs from that tree and one across from it right away in fall 2014. The highly specialized report couldn't be more clear about those being two of the most hazardouis of about 200, therefore '14, with less hazardous trees for '15 and '16.

Nope, because our "tree service" guy instead "had no issue with" those eucalyptus trees he gave us his schedule for '14, '15 & '16 that ignored those and about five other giant, eucalyptus, taking his \$32 to \$36,000 a year trimming, thinning, and pruning pepper trees, magnolias and liquid ambers. Of course greedy decision makers (board members) don't live right next to the old overgrown eucalyptus' so they'll let the trees fall or "whatever" even if they crush and destroy two buildings that house a total of 56 units rather then spend their/our money earmarked again for excessive, wasteful landscaping, \$13,000 flower beds and always more grass. I attended the San Diego Urban Canopy session to learn about our urban tree needs, and I love trees. But while this dumb bunch won't get rid of the "shadeless", failing eucalyptus trees that will fall, they will get rid of nice small trees, the kind we need, so landscapers can rplant labor intensive flower beds to get more money from us doing the picky garden work. I am so ashamed to live at Point Loma Tennis Club where conspicuous consumption rules. Watch these fools to call the falling trees "an act of God" when it happens; they'll blame God.





pretty much given up opposing the NTC redevelopment plan. Or maybe the paper's editors only realized what is now obvious _ that McMillin Companies' plan for the property, which will

be called Liberty Station, is a fait accompli. Grading and construction on the property have already begun. Corky McMillin faced obstacles and varying degrees of opposition, but this is McMillin's game, and he played it with savvy. - Justin Wolff, July 3, 2002

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Top-ten twofer

MOV

/IES

ne of the painful things about looking back over the year in reviews is you get an eyeful of your unfortunate overuses. I'm going to try to excise "riveting," "gripping," and "fascinating" from next year's efforts. Not sure what happened there. Maybe it's just that This Modern Internet Life has rendered me more distractable than I used to be, and so when a film hooks me hard and drags me under,

I'm both impressed and grateful — and out come those adjec-

tives. But you know what isn't riveting? A critic musing over his own stylistic choices when he should be trumpeting his approval for other people's. So! Herewith, Matthew "The Middlebrow Monk" Lickona's Top Ten Movies for 2016. (Honorable mention/Number 11: Tobias Lindholm's A War.)

10. Queen of Katwe. When I failed to fall in love with Moana, a commenter suggested that I "could just be someone that hates brown people." I think maybe it was more that I'd already seen a feelgood, formulaic Disney flick featuring a young, female person of color who overcomes great odds with the help of an older male and so brings joy to her people in 2016, and it was just flat-out done better. Director Mira Nair managed a family-friendly presentation of a story with plenty of dark and difficult aspects, and did it without bowdlerizing. And there is great pleasure in watching really fine actors (David Oyelowo, Lupito Nyong'o) elevate their supporting characters from stock to special. Plus, chess metaphors for kids! 9. Elvis & Nixon. An

admittedly minor film

about a minor American moment, even if it did produce the most requested photo in the history of the National Archives. But it's rendered with such care and compassion (Kevin Spacey's Nixon is a marvel in this regard), and powered with such verve and heart, that director Liza Johnson's look back on a weird time feels like a miniature masterwork. I left grinning, a painfully rare occurrence. Plus, Michael Shannon as Elvis!

8. Embrace of the Serpent. The author David Foster Wallace once noted that "in the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism...everybody worships.



Remember Remember? Marx (left) shows Lickona (right) his Top 10 list for 2016, and there it is, right at the top!

The only choice we get is what to worship." In other words, even a secular person has a religious bone, and this was a good year for seeing that explored on film. Knight of Cups, The Vessel, The Innocents, The Free World, The Witch - even the horror show that was The Eves of My Mother. (And I haven't even

seen Silence yet!) Ciro Guerra's Embrace of the Serpent was my second favorite of these — the first shows up later in the list — a tale of desperate faith, broken faith, and clashing faiths set in the Amazon. The shaman Karamakate may be my favorite character of the year. Plus, gorgeous black and white photography!

7. The Neon Demon. Yup. I was utterly seduced by the beautiful surface of a film about the profound awfulness and danger of being seduced by beautiful surfaces (including your own). But not just the surface: this gorgeous and delicious cautionary tale from master of nastiness Nicholas Winding Refn



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IN THEATERS JANUARY 6



goes for the gutso [sic] with a third act just batshit and trashy enough to keep it from being an afterschool special. Plus, almost as much L.A.-drenched color as *La Land*!

6. Weiner. This year's documentary winner for right time, right place (rather like last year's Cartel Land). Directors Josh Kriegman and Elyse Steinberg already have a compelling story on their hands: passionate Democrat Anthony Weiner's attempt, in the wake of a sexual scandal, to mount a political comeback and in the process, remove his taint from his politically ambitious (but also hugely supportive) wife Huma Abedin. And then, in the middle of filming, the scandal re-emerges. Amazingly, Weiner lets the filmmakers stay on, and as a result, Weiner veritably throbs with energy and insight. Plus, bad puns in tabloid headlines!

5. Hail, Caesar! Scott already picked Sully for his list, which I greatly admired for being a well-made movie that also perfectly expressed its director's vision. I thought Hail, Caesar! did the same for the Coen Brothers, and it's also my favorite religious picture of the year. My take on its message: God doesn't exist any more than the fantasy world of the movies exists. But without those fantasies, it's a rotten old world, so take comfort in whatever faith you can muster and try to live accordingly. It gets even better when you consider the story behind the real-life versions of the film's pregnant actress and Hollywood fixer. Plus, homages to Old Hollywood!

4. Indignation. Lotta good comingof-age movies this year. The Edge of Seventeen was the highest profile, and possibly most winning, but also the slightest. The Hunt for the Wilderpeople was the most charming and offbeat. Songs My Brothers Taught Me



Hell or High Water: Lickona's pick for number one: Trump may disappoint, but this film still captures the feeling that got him elected.

was the most hopeful in the midst of heartbreak. Coming Through the Rye was the loveliest. But James Schamus's adaptation of Philip Roth's novel was the darkest, deepest, and best: the awakened awareness of sex linked fatefully to the awakened awareness of death. and death lending new significance to everything. Smart East Coast Jew heads off to a Midwestern Christian college, falls in love and finds himself. For him, that means finding himself in opposition to...just about everything. And every war brings casualties. Plus, one of the year's finest dramatic scenes in the confrontation between our hero and the wily Dean!

3. Manchester by the Sea. "Oh, hell," I thought as the camera held on Casey Affleck's dead-eyed visage in the early going, "an entire movie's worth of emotionally constipated Northeast Irish? And there's a funeral in the offing? Where's my whiskey and rusty razor blade?" And then Mr. Affleck and writer-director Kenneth Lonergan

an investigation that threatens to destroy his career and reputation. 2016. 96 minutes.

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house talent agent uncle (Steve Carell). 2016.

the Chula Vista Library. Wednesday, January

proved me wrong. A study in grief and learning to live with the wounds that never heal. Plus, Michelle Williams!

2. American Honey. Probably my favorite movie of the year: a film about youth that feels young, a film about fringe living that feels fringey (but also absolutely assured), and most importantly, a film about the persistence of life, love, and hope that gives full voice and vision to their opposites. It's long, it's punishing, it's beautiful, it's enthralling. Writer-director Andrea Arnold and breakout star Sasha Lane proved revelatory right through the fantastic final scene. Plus, a revivified Shia LaBoeuf!

1. Hell or High Water. The film of This American Moment: a couple of angry American men set out to reclaim what's been taken from them by an inhuman, corporatized system by turning outlaw. The plan is to throw a little monkey wrench into the machine that's grinding them underfoot, and so gain the power to take care of their own. But their personal revolt has consequences beyond their own troubled world. Sound familiar? Allegories aside, David Mackenzie's modern Western is tight, taut, tense, and just really good all 'round. Plus, secret favorite Chris Pine in another small-budget marvel! * * *

That'll do it for me. Scott and I are hoping to get together for a compare-andcontrast session in the very near future. Hopefully, we'll have something to show for it. And speaking of Scott, here is my co-critic's Top Ten for 2016. Maybe now I'll sit down and watch some of them!

10. Hirokazu Koreeda's *Our Little Sister*. At their estranged father's funeral, the oldest of three sisters takes it upon herself to ask her little-known teenage half-sister — the product of an adulterous relationship that "crushed their family" — to join her siblings and make it a quartet. Koreeda's gentle, upbeat approach turns this examination of what holds a family together long after the sands of time have filled in the emotional crater left by a messy divorce into something wonderful.

9. Andrea Arnold's American Honey. A teenager free of life's commitments takes up with a band of fellow hard-partying outcasts to travel the Midwest selling magazine subscriptions. 163 minutes is a lot to ask of an audience, but Arnold's unpretentious approach never caused me to regret the fact that I don't own a watch. And here's a sentence I never thought I'd write: Shia Labeouf gives a terrific performance.

8. Karyn Kusama's *The Invitation*. Nothing in 2016 creeped me out quite like this. It takes about 15 minutes to figure out the "why," but hats off to director Kusama and screenwriting/ marriage partner Phil Hay (he shares credit with Matt Manfredi) for encouraging audiences to want to stick around and see just how they were going to pull it off.

7. Pablo Larrain's *Jackie*. Like watching a bug trapped in a specimen-jar, Jackie posits a documentary portrait of a passive character set during the four most intensely intolerable days of her life. One can't recall the last time two films by the same director cracked the top ten. It's Pablo Larrain's year.

6. Ira Sachs's *Little Men*. Shoring together small moments from the lives of believable characters, in a manner free of special effects and fluky plotting, and with the same dramatic and visual gusto one would apply to an epic, is what independent filmmaking should be all about but seldom is.

5. Jim Jarmusch's Paterson. Seven

days in the life of an unwearied Jersey bus driver and his capricious bride. Those looking for a story to latch onto would be better off consulting reruns of *The Honeymooners*. This baby's all about style as subject, with Jarmusch's doubling gaze never failing to fascinate. I didn't want it to end.

4. Clint Eastwood's *Sully*. Whereas *American Sniper* was a negative appraisal of the American military, *Sully* connects like a sock on the nose to big government that insists on sticking it where it doesn't belong. Let's pray the Trump-hating Academy voters don't use Clint's political views as an excuse to rob him of a nomination.

3. Pablo Larrain's *Neruda*. Egos clash between a Nobel Prize–winning Chilean poet with nothing to lose and a fictionalized gumshoe with everything to gain. Told in the manner of a '40s film noir, *Neruda* is the dark comedic capper to the director's so-called "Pinochet-era" trilogy. Mixing fact and fiction, writer Guillermo Calderón mines the fugitive poet's voice and political identity to produce this year's most faultless script.

2. Apichatpong Weerasethakul's *Cemetery of Splendor*. A small elementary school is temporarily transformed into a military hospital to house a group of vets felled by a bafflingly incurable sleeping sickness. The deliberate pace, unostentatious camera placement, and refusal to cut in for a closeup add a surreal serenity; the less we're told, the more were sucked in by the film's hypnotic, ever-expanding aura of mystery.

1. Atom Egoyan's *Remember*. Egoyan's exceptionally resourceful contemporary Holocaust drama finds part of its brilliance in the director's blessed refusal to scuff his narrative with maudlinness or guilt-inducing flashback memorials to the camps. Add to this a crackerjack suspense yarn and Christopher Plummer's unforgettable performance, easily the best acting job this year. What should have been everything I loathe turns out to be a masterpiece with which I fell in love.

— Matthew Lickona and 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.

Allied — Say this for director Robert Zemeckis: it takes guts to open a World War II story in Casablanca and then tell a story that turns the World War II classic *Casablanca* inside out. (Apparently, the problems of three little people *do* amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world.) But

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Film Forum: Sully Director Clint Eastwood masterfully retells the true story of the "Miracle on the Hudson." Capt. "Sully" Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) makes an emergency landing on the Hudson River after his plane is disabled by a bird strike. Miraculously, all 155 passengers and crew on board survived the harrowing ordeal, and "Sully" becomes a national hero. Despite all the accolades, the famed pilot faces

that may be all that can be said for him here. And guts, alas, are not the same as energy, or scenebuilding, or even a sense of felt life. (When your wife asks to spend a day forgetting about the war, maybe don't take her to picnic within sight of a downed bomber?) Even when stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard — Allied spies who start to enjoy their assumed roles as husband and wife during an assassination operation - are in the midst of a party or a war zone. the music and talk and bombs and gunfire fade into the background, so that they hardly seem real. (Often, they aren't.) And when they're alone? They might as well be the last souls on earth (Pitt in particular looks miserable enough to have witnessed Armageddon). That makes Cotillard the sole bright spot, and even she risks being upstaged by her fantastic wardrobe. 2016. — M.L. \star (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Arrival — Denis Villeneuve's latest is an artier - certainly moodier and less entertaining, thanks to Amy Adams's deeply inward protagonist and a blue-gray palette designed to contrast the barren present with the fruitful past - version of M. Night Shyamalan's Signs. That is, it's an alien-landing movie in which the alien landing is revealed to be not the point, but rather, the thing that helps to reveal the point. There, the revelation was that faith is possible because things really do happen for a reason. Here...well, there's no sense in spoiling things, but there's a reason why Adams's opening voiceover states that she's not sure she believes in beginnings and endings. It might have helped if the story had spent more time considering the ostensible issue: how to communicate with aliens who write with (admittedly captivating) coffee-cup stains? (Did nobody think to draw a pictograph? How do both sides make the leap from concrete to abstract? Etc.) Also maybe the actual issue. Because ... everyone dies eventually? And spouses shouldn't keep life-or-death secrets from each other? 2016. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Assassin's Creed — The latest video game to make it to the big screen stars twotime Oscar-nominee Michael Fassbender and Academy Award-winners, Marion Cotillard and Jeremy Irons. Sounds like a lot of prestige to be left in the hands of director Justin Kurzel (*MacBeth*). 2016. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Brand New Testament (Le tout nouveau testament) - A lighthearted/ darkhearted romp through modern misery. frontloaded with imagination and light on the finish. Theodicy - the contrasting of a supposedly all-good, all-powerful God with the manifest evil in the world - is a matter for theologians (or at least Lex Luthor in Batman vs. Superman), Jaco Van Dormael's cuddly-caustic fable is content to tell its story from the ground up, and so imagines a God who is neither all good nor all powerful; he's just a grumpy Dad in a ratty bathrobe sitting at a particularly powerful computer. It's bad enough that he utterly oppresses his poor wife, but when he takes the belt to his precocious 10-yearold daughter Ea, the tyke decides to follow her big brother JC's lead and head to Earth to round up some disciples. The twist: her Gospel will be all about them - or rather, their sorrows and sufferings and serpentine searches for salvific love. Her contribution involves listening to the (mostly classical) music in their hearts and playing matchmaker. The more exciting part: before she sets off, she screws up God's game by telling everyone their date of death. (Even so, no one seems to consider repenting, because this is modern Europe: even when He exists, God is dead, or at least irrelevant.) He follows her to earth. only to find himself oddly powerless and utterly disrespected. And while He may

be a petty bastard, he makes a compelling character. (And from a storyteller's perspective, a more compelling world.) 2015. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Collateral Beauty — The passage of two years after his 6-year-old daughter's death finds grieving advertising exec Will Smith addressing letters to Love, Time, and Death. Reasoning that two years is adequate time to suffer, his callous co-workers and purported BFFs (Kate Winslet, Edward Norton, and Michael Pena) employ a private investigator to prove that Smith is mentally unsound. Borrowing a page from Gaslight, the trio of well-intentioned backstabbers goes about hiring the services of unemployed actors (Helen Mirren, Keira Knightley, and Jacob Latimore) to personate the three abstractions. Screenwriter Allan Loeb (The Switch, Here Comes the Boom) wrings gallons of ancillary anguish without finding so much as one iota of the genuine emotion needed to pull off something like this. Scrooge Smith's suffering is palpable, but the pathos-paved road to redemption is littered with a few Tiny Tims too many. This leaves ample room for the A-list stars to suffer in colossal closeup. Audiences will mourn the passing of 97 minutes. David Frankel directs. 2016. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Dangal — Sports biopic from India starring Aamir Khan as former wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat. Distributed worldwide by Walt Disney Pictures. 2016. (AMC FASHION VALLEY; DIGIPLEX MISSION MARKETPLACE; DIGIPLEX POWAY)

Die Hard — Twelve superbly drilled, highly financed, and heavily armed international terrorists find themselves overmatched against a vacationing New York cop in bare feet. The action, set almost entirely inside an L.A. skyscraper, is a pyrotechnical marvel. But the overriding marvel is how action so marvelous has come to seem, in the Eighties, so routine. Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia; directed by John McTiernan. 1988. — D.S. ● (PALOMA)

Doctor Strange — As a Christian allegory, director Scott Derrickson's entry into the Marvel Cinematic Universe is impressively thorough. Proud and worldly neurosurgeon Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch, cockily joking even as he fumbles with his accent) is cast down from his throne, seeks healing from a keeper of ancient spiritual wisdom and power, comes to believe in a world beyond his senses, learns that strength comes from humility, and finally finds that he's been subtly recruited into a titanic struggle between good and evil. (The bad guy promises nothing less than eternal life.) There's even tension between natural law and personal conscience! As a movie, it's silly (jump scares for laffs, etc.), sloppy (lots of talking about mystical realities that turn out to be largely arbitrary) and spectacular (as in spectacle, as in trippy, kaleidoscopic, reality-bending special effects). The silliness and sloppiness don't detract from the ultimate goal, however, because the ultimate goal is a certain sort of dazzling, feel-good entertainment - and the addition of one more chapter to the continuing saga. 2016. — M.L. $\star \star$ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Elle — *Death Wish* for the art house set as the generally dependable Paul Verhoeven (*Turkish Fruit, Starship Troopers*) returns after a four-year absence with a redundant rape fulfillment fantasy. The immutable CEO (and daughter of a celebrated mass murderer) responsible for a successful string of violent, sexually oriented video games becomes the victim of a brutal predator. The goon continues to pile on the harassment long after the assault ends, the kicker being that star Isabelle Huppert doesn't want the cat-and-mouse game to end. We open with the attack and then proceed to relive it several times over, including a version that has our heroine treating her assailant to a violent reversal. Ultimately the identity of the masked attacker is moot: in Verhoeven's eyes every man is capable of rape. Perhaps a second viewing will yield more. For now, I'd rather revist Showgirls. 2016. — S.M. ★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them — Poor Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne, sensitive bordering on priggish): all this English wizard wants to do is protect the world's magical animals from "the most vicious creature on earth: humans." But doing so means traveling to America, where even the wizards are against him — right off the boat, he's picked up for possession of contraband critters. Further, the Yanks have "backwards relations with no-majs" ("no-maj" being the local term for the non-magical): for one thing, no intermarriage. To make matters worse, a bunch of anti-magic crusaders are at work, righteously rousing the rabble. They've got some reason to be afraid, what with the strange and violent goings on of late, and as we're reminded, "when no-mai's are afraid, they attack." (It's the reason the wizards have gone underground.)

But what the pious monsters don't realize is that Freud was right: the greatest evil arises from denying your magic identity in early childhood. And finally, there's a dark wizard about, one who would like nothing more than to have it out with the portion of the population that *can't* control minds and manipulate matter at will. Set against all these thunderous themes are the antics of a bunch of uninspired imaginary animals — sorry, fantastic beasts — and an astonishingly winning supporting cast that very nearly atones for everything else. 2016. — M.L. \bigstar (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Fences — Denzel Washington stars in and directs this big screen adaptation of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. 2016. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Hacksaw Ridge - Director Mel Gibson's first film since 2006's Apocalypto is visceral proof that the years haven't done much to change him, at least as a filmmaker. He still loves outliers isolated by their beliefs, in this case a real-life Seventh-Day Adventist named Desmond Doss who wants to serve his country but won't carry a gun. (The conviction turns out to be as much promise as principle, a fact Gibson would have done well to make clear sooner in the story.) He still knows how to deliver uplift after breaking the viewer down with sorrow and horror. (In this capacity, Hugo Weaving very nearly steals the film as a ruined veteran of the Great War.) And to paraphrase A Christmas Story, he still

works in blood and guts the way other artists might work in oils or clay. When your protagonist is a World War II medic during the campaign to take Okinawa, you can make a poetry of corpses (and near-corpses) without swerving from the cause of realism. (The controlled chaos of battle, however, is another matter.) Star Andew Garfield's slight frame holds up remarkably well under the weight of scorn, abuse, misunderstanding, judgment, and oh yes, bodies. 2016. — M.L.★★ (AMC FASHION VALLEY; AMC MISSION VALLEY; REGAL OCEANSIDE)

Home Alone — Underimagined fairy tale about the runt of the household who gets accidentally left behind when the family takes off for France, fends for himself, fends off burglars (à la Dustin Hoffman in *Straw Dogs*), grows, in short, into a little man. It might just have worked if the filmmakers had spent as much thought on what a kid could actually get into and get out of as they did on what would get kids into a movie theater (e.g., "Don't you know how to knock, phlegm-wad!?"). Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern, Catherine O'Hara; directed by Chris Columbus. 1990. — D.S. • (LA PALOMA)

It's a Wonderful Life — Frank Capra's (*It Happened One Night*) story of a man's search for meaning in the face of suffering. Somehow, it became a Christmas TV staple. Also perhaps Jimmy Stewart's most famous role. 1946. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Your critic or ours? Citizen Kane is one of the Top Ten Movies of All Time

on Rotten Tomatoes.com



Here's what the *Reader's* movie critic said:

CITIZEN KANE (1941): The perennial winner, at a trot, of all Best Movie Ever polls; it was hardly that awesome when it first appeared, but Time has been a favorable ally to this movie, which is, for one thing, a most convenient and crammed storehouse of cinematic tricks already executed or only dreamed... $\star \star \star \star - DUNCAN$ SHEPHERD



Read the full capsule review of the Reader's movie critic at:

sdreader.com/movies/archives

Jackie — Were it not for the giant blood stain on the lower-half of her fabled pink dress - a moment director Pablo Larraín takes his sweet time revealing in a startling pullback - and constant juxtaposition next to her husband's casket, Jackie Kennedy could have just as easily been mistaken for a stewardess aboard Air Force One Imagine a documentary portrait of a passive character set during the four most intensely intolerable days of her life and you'll get an idea of the kind of emotional (and cinematic) wallop Jackie packs. Larraín places his subject center frame - she's present in just about every shot in the film - while his star, Natalie Portman, takes us through a cauterized grieving process that at times borders on the surreal. Together they trap the character on film, like a rose frozen in a block of ice. Quite unlike any biopic that's come before, but that's no big shock given the director's proven track record of originality. 2016. — S.M. ★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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marriage and subsequent incarceration

of an interracial couple in 1958 that

led to the Supreme Court's decision to

overturn state laws prohibiting mixed

marriage. With the fact-based outcome

predetermined, it's up to the storyteller

to make the journey through the details

as narratively compelling as possible.

Directors make movies, not issues, and

while Jeff Nichols (Take Shelter, Mud)

my watch said two hours and my butt

has a proven track record of summoning

screamed Gone With the Wind. A pair of

solemn, unostentatious performances by

Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton help to raise

the bar just slightly higher than the one set

southern atmospherics, when it was over.

San Diego Natural History Museum

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La La Land — Billed as a movie lover's dream for a reason: the eye hasn't seen this much color on screen since Vincente Minnelli passed. The songs and musical numbers are lively, the cast attractive, all attempts to transform city streets into expressionistically lit studio backlots successful, and the ending decidedly downbeat. And there's this five-and-ahalf-minute long take that starts in search of a parked car and ends with a slow and deliberate pan over to the Hollywood Hills at twilight time that found me struggling to pick my jaw up from off the floor. Ditto a lovely romantic walking tour of the Warner Bros. lot. But, and it's a big but, any number of the movie musicals that director Damien Chazelle references (The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, The Band Wagon, It's Always Fair Weather, etc.) have more depth of characterization than either Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone's comparative stick figures are assigned. But enough grouching. This is one crowd-pleaser worth getting behind. 2016. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Lion — The life of a five-year-old Indian boy is set on its ear when the lad awakes on a train, a hundred miles from home and unable to locate his older brother. Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman, Rooney Mara, and newcomer Sunny Pawar star. 2016. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Loving — This week's dollop of Oscarbait is a well intentioned account of the

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you watch to escape from the frequently painful and/or difficult reality of life. Pacific Rim, perhaps, Some films you watch to impose a satisfactory narrative onto the seemingly random chaos of life. Casablanca, maybe, And some films you watch to enter more deeply into life - the difficulty, the chaos, all of it. Writer**Digiplex Temecula Tower Cinemas** 27531 Ynez Rd (951-699-2205)

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Manchester by the Sea, which tells the story of a penitent exile who is asked to give up both his penance and his exile, falls into the third category. And it does so without a hint of bravado or flourish, except perhaps for a single devastating scene between the exile (Casey Affleck) and his ex-wife (Michelle Williams). But even there, everything is earned and nothing is wasted in service to anything beyond the characters themselves. Williams' is only one of the outstanding performances surrounding Affleck; Lucas Hedges also merits mention for his portraval of a teenager who remains recognizably human - and what's more, recognizably himself - in the midst of adolescent grief. But

it's Affleck's movie to quietly own as layer upon layer of Irish impassivity is stripped away from his visage until the unspeakable can be spoken. (It's tempting to add, "Until the marble angel standing atop a tombstone is once more a man," but that's precisely the sort of high-flown hooey that Lonergan avoids.) 2016. — M.L. $\star \star \star \star$ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Moana — Midway through, disgraced demigod Maui calls spunky quest-taker Moana a princess. She objects by noting that she's actually a chief's daughter, but he'll have none of it: "You're wearing a skirt, and you've got an animal sidekick - you're a princess." At another point, he warns her that if she breaks into song, he'll throw up. This is Disney's way of having its formulaic cake and eating it, too: "We know what we're doing here, and we know that you know it, too. So please stop fretting and enjoy while the pieces fall into place." Many of those pieces are deeply familiar for Disney fans, if not necessarily for Disney princesses : the musical introduction to the sheltered world of home, set against the sung longing for adventure (Beauty and the Beast), the rigid dad and campily evil undersea bad guy (The Little Mermaid), the unwelcome responsibility of rule (The Lion King), the jocular, magical assistant with dreams of his own (Aladdin)...heck. even the glorious finish is borrowed from Fantasia 2000. But more will be made, no doubt, of the familiar piece that never appears — the love interest — and the fact that no one at home bats an eve over the prospect of their first woman chief. Because in the absence of memorable songs, a great villain (demon coconuts?), story variation, happily-ever-after romance, or a character arc that extends beyond fully accepting your status as the chosen one, such things become what's left for the heart to hold on to.

Sing — Garth Jennings directs this animated version of American Idol, with a soupcon of let's-put-on-a-show-to-savethe-theater thrown in for good measure. 2016. – D.S. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Why Him? — It's real-life pothead (Jame Franco) meets celebrity meth chef (Bryan Cranston) in this comedy about an overprotective dad who doesn't take kindly to his daughter's choice of beaus. Co-written by Jonah Hill, hopefully audience won't flee the theatre screaming, "Why us?" 2016. (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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by a benignly routine Lifetime movie. And in case you don't know how to react, there's an overbearing score by David Wingo to telegraph every smile and tear. With Nick Kroll and Will Dalton 2016. — S.M. ★ (LA PALOMA)

Manchester by the Sea — Some films director Kenneth Lonergan's masterful

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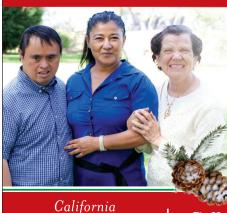
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HEALTH & FITNESS

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NOTICES

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING Lecture FREE PSYCHIC HEALING Lecture clinic. Free readings for new visitors. Mondays, 7:30pm 10/3, 11/7, 12/5, 1/02/17 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Program graduates. 4455 Morena Boulevard, #108, 858-509-7582. www.MyIntuition.

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OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

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MEN & COED SOFTBALL LEAGUES. Games start March 1. Accepting teams now. All teams go to playoffs. johng@ softballsd.com. www.softballsd.com.

WANTED / TRADE

FISHING TACKLE Collector wants for his personal collection wooden lures, reels, & Misc. by Heddon, Pflueger, Creek Chub, South Bend, Shakespeare, to name a few. 619-972-3488. STEREO GEAR/ LP RECORDS. Cash paid! Vintage/ newer. Old amps, tuners, speakers, turntables. McIntosh, JBL, Marantz, etc. Prerecorded reel tapes, jazz/ rock records. John, 619-889-5237. WANTED: Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 619-295-5101; e-mail JBL@cox.net.

WANTED: Indian arrowheads/ artifacts wanted for my private collection. Must be authentic and legally collected. No interest in modern reproductions. Call Steve, 619-985-8562

Steve, 619-985-8562. WANTED. Cash for Walt Disney autographs and animation art (original), Disney items, books, paper, Disneyland (superhero) comics all before 1970. No videos, records, prints. 619-465-3090.

MISCELLANEOUS

TRIPOD: Deluxe heavy duty video photo tripod with 3-way fluid panhead. Velbon CX4. Barely used! \$45 or best offer. Call 619-588-2467.

"In case you were wondering, I don't wear the hat because I like it! Okav! I wear it because I HAVE TO WEAR IT!"

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EVENT LISTINGS

FESTIVAL SMARTER. Experience five FESTIVAL SMARTER. Experience five days of stellar live music, indie films, craft beer, local eats, late night laughs, storytelling, voga, hardware hacks and much more in Downtown Boise, Idahol With all of this and more for under \$200, it's no wonder Treefort is the smart festival decision for 2017. Join us this March, Visit treefortmusicfest com/ ownerioner acrall (JTME 989-2017 experience or call (TMF) 888-2017 READER TACOTOPIA 2017 Join the READER TACOTOPIA 2017 Join the San Diego Reader in our continued search to find the best taco at the 3rd Annual Reader Tacotopia in Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 13th, 2017. Try signature tacos from more than 50 of the best restaurants in San Diego, TJ and LA as they compete to win the "Best Taco" award. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best taco vendors, Åi and you decide who will ultimately win. I ReaderTacotopia.com ReaderTacotopia.com

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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. GREYHOUND ADOPTION CENTER Greyhounds available for adoption at Greyhound Adoption Center. Fill out an on-line adoption application at www houndsavers.org.



WALLACE (A1752246) is a 2 year old, neutered male Cattle dog blend. Wallace is a happy, friendly dog with limited vision in one eye. This does not slow him down! Adoption is at the San Diego County Animal Shelter in Bonita, Diego County Animal Sheiter in Bonita, S&21 Sweetwater Rd. Bonita, CA 91902. His adoption fee is \$35, and includes neuter or spay surgery, flea treatment, current vaccinations, deworming and microchip. 619.498-2311. www.sddac. com

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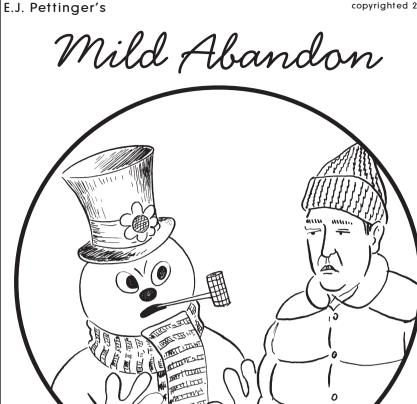
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San Diego Reader December 29, , 2016 ല്ല

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IN MEMORIAM

 The *Reader* accepts obituary submissions at *sandiegoreader.com/obituaries*
 \$50 for unlimited words and photo published on our website
 An additional \$30 for the obituary and photo published in print; printed obituaries will be shortened to 150 words.
 Complete obituaries can be found on the *Reader* website.



HOWARD E. RICHMOND

Unknown – November 3, 2016 Howard E. Richmond, MD began a tough battle with pancreatilis over a year ago. He had constant medical care in addition to loving, healing hands and prayerful thoughts from all over the world. In spite of his resilience and strength, force of will and zets for life, the disease overwhelmed his body and he passed on Thursday, November 3, 2016. "EMA shows you the keys to unlock hidden emotions and limiting beliefs to increase your capacity for joy, creativity, empowerment, and, ultimately, inner pacee," Dr. H said. Over the course of his illness, Howard continued to lead twice monthly EMA events. He also maintained his patient load of dozens of patients every week and spoke to groups about joy and empowerment. "My husband was the embodiment of living life using the Emotional Martial ArtsTM tools," said Elana Cohen Richmond. "He had the strongest mind-body-spirit connection of anyone I have ever known and he was fearless." Elana went on to say that Howard was getting his...



MARIA CRUZ

December 28, 1965 – December 2, 2016 A devoted and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister & follower of Christ has gone into eternity with our heavenly Father. She is survived by her husband Richard of 29 years, her children Jonathan, James and his wife Paige, Marisa, Ricky, granddaughter Mia, her father Rafael Martinez, her father Josefina Martinez, her siblings Rafael Jr., Norma, Rosa and her husband Pepe, nephews Danny, David and Rafael.



DAVID MICHAEL HONADLE

August 31, 1999 – November 30, 2016 David Michael Honadle, age 17, of Ramona, CA, passed away with peace in his heart on Wednesday, November 30, 2016. David was born on August 31, 1999, to his parents, David J. and Christina E. (Adams) Honadle. David was a junior at Mountain Valley Academy in Ramona. He also attended Palomar College taking woodworking classes. He led the school drama crew and cherished his time with his "drama" family. David lowed to fish with his dad anywhere there was water. He was fascinated with how things worked and he could fix anything. His infectious smile brightened every room. When he go his drivers permit he was adamant about being a donor. After David passed, he was honored with a medal for being a hero and saving a number of lives in his selfless act of donating his organs and tissue to those in need. Some would say he was "the ...



ELEANOR CARRAWAY NOEL TORRES

May 19, 1986 – December 17, 2016 Eleanor Carraway Noell Torres, 30, passed into eternal peace on Saturday, December 17, 2016, surrounded by family in Chapel Hill, NC Eleanor was born on May 19, 1986, in Baltimore, MD as the third child of Paula Davisi Noell and Charles Edwards Noell III. Eleanor grew up in Baltimore and San Diego, CA. Much of her childhood was spent riding horses, playing sports and being lovingly tormented by her older brother, Robert Davis Noell and sister, Helen Noell Byrd. She spent four wonderful years at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA, from which she graduated cum laude in 2004. She cherished her time at Episcopal and remarked with fondness on the memories and friends she made there. Eleanor graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration from the Kenan Flagler School at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill ...



JD DUDEK

Unknown – December 7, 2016 J.D. Dudek, longtime resident of Coronado, age 59, passed away on Dec. 7, 2016 after a long courageous battle with leukemia. His beautiful life will forever be cherished by his loving wife Anne Kebisek Dudek. He is furthered survived by his mother Margaret Hardy, older brother David (Sidney), younger sister Sharon (Jon) Van de grift, nieces and nephews Jacob, Jenna, Sean, Shelby and Tyler. He is also survived by numerous relatives including cousins, sister-inlaws and other extended family members in Wisconsin. He was preceded in death by his father, Chet Dudek. He will also be remembered by his may friends in California, Hawaii, Wisconsin and around the world, J.D. was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wi. J.D.'s beloved father passed away at age 37 when J.D. was only 10 years old and left him with the special message to "Do the things I could never do in my life" and "Never...



LUCY MARY RENKO December 26, 1948 – December 2, 2016

2,2016 Lucy Mary (Waczek) Renko passed peacefully at home on December 2, 2016 with her beloved husband and family at her bedside. Lucy was diagnosed with GBM brain cancer on December 6, 2013, and fought the disease with dignity and grace for three years. Born December 26, 1948 in Dusseldorf Germany, her family immigrated to San Diego in 1950. Lucy was raised in a devout Hungarian Catholic home and attended twelve years of parochial school before graduating from Sacred Heart Academy in 1966. Known for her outgoing personality and love of life Lucy was loved by all who knew her.Lucy had a rewarding career in construction administration/accounting for over forty years with the last 24 years at Bradshaw Engineering Corp. Not only was she a loyal and committed employee, but she made lasting friendships and connections with her "work ...



JAMES SELTZER

April 27, 1951 – December 8, 2016 James M. Seitzer, MD, passed away suddenly at his home in Encinitas, CA on December 8, 2016. James Mark Seitzer, the son of Charlotte and William Seitzer was born on April 27, 1951, in Chicago, IL. He attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1973, and earned his MD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1977. He completed his internship and residency at Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles in 1980 and entered private practice in San Diego. Jim was a Fellow of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology and the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Board of Allergy & Immunology and the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He was affiliated with numerous hospitals in San Diego and Orange ...

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Bad Boy Ink Essays of Richard Meltzer

I. Santa

Est.1991

When I rented my Claus suit the haggard folks I rented from were, they said, "just getting over the Halloween rush." Obviously, from certain obvious p.o.v.'s, Christmas in America has become in recent years something of a secondary Halloween, no, not secondary, second: a second take on trick or treat in less than two months. Maybe it's Halloween itself whose relative stakes have been upped, but whatever... Actual Santa (idealized. Himself) is the promise of an upped trick-or-treat ante. DEC. 14, 1989

Reader

Housepets I've Killed or Maimed

19 ants — an ant farm — one of those \$9.98 plastic jobs. I was their farmer. I'd sit and watch them dig, move sand around, tho it wasn't sand, some kind of white talc-y sand substitute. There is no sub for interest, however, and, burrowing done, these mini workaholics soon got bored & boring. Meaningful farm work a thing of the past, they paced like 6-legged seniors on a geezer farm. - Where's the checkers, Jethro? -I'm tired of checkers, Zeke. MARCH 15, 1990

sdreader.com/news/from-archives

Finally — the 1,500 best stories from 44 years of the Reader - fully transcribed. An ongoing project through the end of 2016.

LEAD STORY

— Australian aviator David Mayman has promised investors that his personal jet packs will hit the market by mid-2017, though early adopters will pay about \$250,000 for one, to fly a person at up to 60 mph for 10 minutes. The JB-10 (developed by Mayman and designer Nelson Tyler) has made about 400 test runs in Monaco and over downtown London and New York City, but the partners realize that ultimate success will require that the fuel tanks be downsized so that the craft can be powered electrically — and thus seek crowdfunding both for that model and a larger one to accommodate the Pentagon's (Special Operations Command) tactical needs.

The Continuing Crisis

- The state agency Colorado Parks and Wildlife filed 21 criminal charges in October against the Squirrel Creek Wildlife Rescue center in Littleton, alleging that some of the orphaned and rehabbing animals Kendall Seifert houses are not being kept according to the state's strict standards - and that Seifert's 15-year-old center is also home to his popular swingers' club (Scarlet Ranch) featuring weekend sex parties. One of the criminal charges suggests that rescue animals could be stressed by gazing at activity in the ranch's bar area. Seifert said he will challenge the charges out of fear that many of the raccoons, foxes, song birds, coyotes, skunks, rabbits, and squirrels he would have to relinquish would not find suitable facilities elsewhere.

- In St. Paul, Minnesota, a 25-year-old wom-

an told police on Nov. 3 that she was involuntarily roughed up several hours after being voluntarily roughed up at Arnellia's Bar's weekly "Smack Fest" — in which female patrons competitively slap each other's faces for three "rounds" under strict house rules. The woman said she spoke amicably with her opponent, but by closing time, the opponent and several friends, including men, punched and kicked her outside the bar.

— In other slapping news, a 71-year-old woman died in Lewes, England, in November while participating in a Chinese healing seminar that emphasizes being slapped repeatedly to rid the body of poisoned blood and toxins. The "healer," Hongshi Xiao, charges clients around \$900 to beat what he calls the "sha" out of them.

— In November, in a remote area of Oregon's Maury Mountains, a 69-year-old man killed an elk and dragged the carcass behind his off-road vehicle up a hill. According to the Crook County Sheriff's office, the vehicle suddenly flipped over backward, and the man landed on, and was impaled by, the elk's antlers. Fellow hunters summoned a helicopter, and the man has apparently survived.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit

— In a retail market long dominated by priests, "nonsectarian" funeral eulogizers now offer to give individually tailored remembrances of the deceased for a fee, according to an October report by a *New York Post* reporter who interviewed two local "celebrants," who cited the declining appeal of "prayers."

- The British retailer ASOS announced in

August that three-foot-long clip-on dinosaur tails had sold out in one of its two models (although *New York* magazine, which reported it in the U.S., was, for obvious reasons, baffled about why).

The Way the World Works

— Brittany Maynard, then 29, became "the face of the Right to Die movement" in 2014, according to a *New York Post* column, when she chose a legal physician-assisted suicide rather than awaiting the growth of her terminal brain tumor. In October, terminally ill California mother Stephanie Packer hoped to be "the face of the Right to Live movement" after revealing that her insurance company denied coverage for a drug that could extend her life — but at the same time disclosed that her suicide drugs are covered, and even disclosed her co-pay (\$1.20).

Medical Marvels

— Margaret Boemer's baby LynLee was "born" twice. In an October Texas Children's Hospital interview, doctors described how the need to rid Boemer's fetus of a rapidly growing tumor required them, at Boemer's 23rd week of pregnancy, to remove the fetus completely from the uterus until it was "hanging out in the air" so that they could cut away the tumor and then reposition the fetus into the uterus. LynLee was "born" again by C-section 13 weeks later.

Suspicions Confirmed

 San Francisco State University researchers revealed in April that no fungi or fecal bacteria were found on the seats of the city's bus line or rapid transit trains (unlike their findings in 2011 before officials adopted easier-to-clean seats), but that a "rare" and "unusual" strain, called Pigmentiphaga was found — previously associated only with South Korean wastewater and the South China Sea. The city's Department of Health said not to worry.

Perspective

— A high-level policy document released by the Chinese government in September detailed plans to use technology to monitor citizen behavior to such a degree that each person would receive a "social credit" score (similar to a FICO score in the U.S. but covering a range of conduct beyond financial) that would be the basis for allotting perks such as government support in starting businesses and whether parents' children are eligible for the best schools. "(K) eeping trust is glorious," according to the document, and "good" behavior promotes a "harmonious socialist society."

Arkansas Chic

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Reader

Mobile Edition

YOU GO,

- Kristi Goss, 43, an assistant to a Garland County (Arkansas) judge, was arrested in October and charged with stealing nearly \$200,000 in public funds, which she used to buy such things as a tuxedo for her dog, sequined throw pillows, a "diamond bracelet" (retailing for \$128) and Arkansas Razorback football tickets.

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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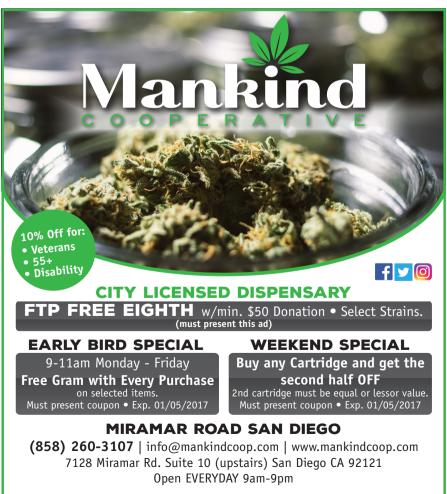


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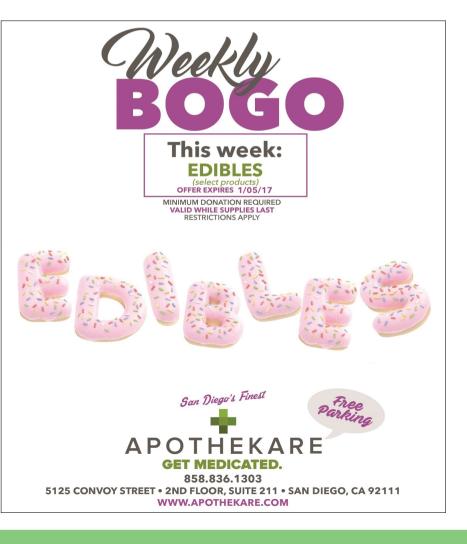
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