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FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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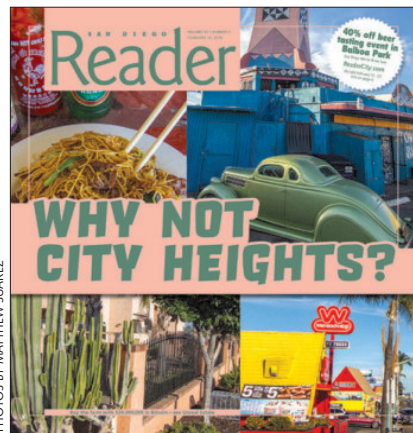
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February 15, 2018



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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Super Bowl shakedown

Host cities cough up freebies

Economists identify Super Bowl Sunday as one of the major global scams. Last year, 106.7 million watched the game, down from the record 114.4 million in 2015. The Sunday-night, Monday-night, and Thursday-night TV audiences for NFL games were down 9 percent this season.

The league uses the big TV audience to get governments to subsidize stadiums for



U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis

billionaire team owners. Over the 30-year payment plan, Minnesota taxpayers will pay \$678 million toward the billion-dollar stadium where the game will be played.

One trick the league plays to get governments to subsidize stadiums is to promise the host city a Super Bowl. The league and local promoters will claim that the game brings in \$300 million to \$600 million and more to the local community, along with a worldwide TV audience of more than 100 million. Economists recommend people move the decimal point one digit to the right: if the claim is \$400 million to the city, \$40 million is more like it. Some economists say a host city actually loses money on the game.

The *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* on February 3rd revealed the wish list that the National Football League demands of the host city. There are nearly 200 services that must be provided to the league at no cost to the NFL, says the paper. Based on what the league requested, the newspaper said Minneapolis will likely provide 35,000 free parking spaces, free advertising in local media, polite escorts for those billionaire team owners, hundreds of hotel rooms, 14,000 feet of barricades, the NFL Network on local hotel TVs, ten premier-quality buses for eight days, plus safety and catering expenses.

Much of these costs will be covered by a \$53 million fundraising campaign by local citizens. The league retains ticket revenue from the game, which could be \$100 million. And these tickets aren't subject to any taxes as a result of a move by the state legislature earlier. "It's not right. It's extor-

tion. These are big shakedown artists," said one legislator.

Don Bauder

Councilman Kalasho's complaint

Why would an elected official commit perjury?

El Cajon City Council member Ben Kalasho is accusing the city's mayor and another colleague of discrimination and of refusing to let him put items on the agenda or talk during public events.

In a complaint, Kalasho says mayor Bill Wells and councilmember Gary Kendrick called Kalasho derogatory names such as "camel" and "foreigner" and questioned whether Kalasho knew the words to the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition, Kalasho said Wells and Kendrick conspired against him, both refusing to post items he introduced to the council docket.

The complaint was filed two days after Wells and Kendrick had threatened Kalasho with censure for using his cell phone during council meetings, a violation of city-council policy.

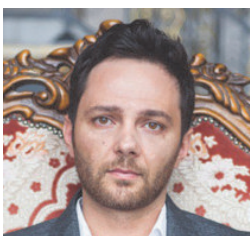
The state's Department of Fair Employment and Housing rejected Kalasho's claim, but only after the city was forced to hire outside counsel to address the allegations. According to the city's response obtained in a public records request, there were several instances when Kalasho did in fact put items on the council agenda. In addition, the city found no previous mention of mistreatment by Wells and Kendrick against their colleague.

As far as claims that Kalasho was silenced during public events, Wells stated that he introduced Kalasho on numerous occasions, including the opening of El Cajon's Ronald Reagan Community Center.

Mayor Wells says Kalasho is playing politics and wasting city resources.

"These complaints are pure fantasy and are consistent with the way this man uses the legal system like a club to manipulate and harass others," Wells said in a February 3 email.

"I did not call him these childish names. I would not engage in this kind of base behav-



Kalasho said he was called "camel."



One of Rene's finds: Silver Surfer #1



Rene finds some Mego dolls

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE MADRIAGA

Poway picker's epic score

"It's hard for me to get excited, but I got excited with this comic deal."

By Mike Madriaga

Recently, a Poway thrift-store owner made what's being called the biggest score in local comics trading history when he bought the collection of a deceased L.A.-area hoarder.

"The house is an extreme case [of a] hoarder's scenario," Rene Nezhoda said. "Whatever you think of as much a house can be packed, that's what it is. I saw, like, 5000 DVDs right up in the front and all of the thick Marvel [hardbound] books and showcases full of collectibles."

Nezhoda showed me video clips of the contents of the hoarder house that he recently purchased. One was of a room filled with stuff stacked so high that a full-size video-arcade machine was buried almost to its glass

marquee up top. "That's an original Tron machine," Nezhoda pointed out. "[The owner] slept in a small seven-by-three-foot area and the rest of the house was full like this."

Nezhoda, 40, and his wife Casey, 43, are used to sifting through hoarder houses and storage lockers. The Poway

couple are star buyers on the *Storage Wars* television show on the A&E network. They also own Bargain Hunters Thrift Store located at 12845 Poway Road in Poway.

On February 7th at about 8:30 p.m., Rene had just finished unloading a fraction of what he called "the biggest comic and toy collection" landed by a local dealer.

"Hey, Mike and PJ, come inside," he said to me and another comic dealer. "I have something to show you."

His store closes daily at 6 p.m., but he opened it up to give us a sneak-peek of the score. He has a box of about 25 comic books that were encased in mylar sleeves.

"Check this out," he said



Rene Nezhoda and his wife Casey



Bargain Hunters Thrift Store

continued on page 28

as he pulled out a *Strange Worlds* comic book from the 1950s.

"It's got a couple of flaws and bindery defects," PJ said. "It's [graded] at a 6 or a 7 from the outside; it's [valued at] about \$200 to \$300."

"How long have you been doing [the San Diego] Comic-Con?" Nezhoda asked PJ.

"Since 1976...since I was this high," PJ responded as he put out his hand.

PJ remembers the days when Comic-Con was in the El Cortez. Throughout the years, he's missed only two of the biggest annual comic-book show. He has bought, sold, traded, and graded hundreds of collections. "This [collection] is the biggest that I've seen found by a San Diegan," he said.

"Let me show you an amazing comic book," Nezhoda said.

"Yep, that's an *Amazing Fantasy 15* [the first appearance of Spider-Man]," PJ said. "It's got the look of a 2.5 to 3...and it's about \$10,000 and slabbed [professionally graded and sealed]."

Nezhoda discovered the comics in a storage facility and house in the city of El Monte (about 17 miles east of downtown Los Angeles). Many of the first comics that Nezhoda brought to San Diego were being blown out on his showroom floor.

Marvin Ellorin, a U.S. Postal Service employee



Marvin with some of his haul comic-book store

who's been collecting comics since 1971, said, "I was kinda surprised at the 'bronze-age' comics that are being sold for \$1.99. They are pretty nice: they are colorful and have a good luster."

Many of the vintage 1970s-1980s comic books



PJ selling at his booth at the 1997 San Diego Comic-Con

out for sale (some valued at \$50 each) did not have any backing boards and plastics, which means that they were stashed a long time ago. In the mid-1980s, collectors started using boards and plastic bags to protect their comics from becoming creased and weathered.

Ellorin picked up some near-mint versions of the 1970s comic book called *Demon*, by Jack Kirby, sans bag and board, and deemed that "they withstood the test of time."

The collection was initially owned by two brothers.

"They had a which had comic

books, action figures, movie posters, and different type of collectibles," Nezhoda said. "They have been collecting since the early 1950s, and their store was in business from 1979 to 2012. The first brother passed away in 2012 from diabetes."

(Nezhoda requested that we keep the deceased brother anonymous until Nezhoda clears the contents of his old house. He doesn't want collectors to get snoopy and locate the house. Nezhoda has until March 1st to clean out the property.)

"Don, the brother, called me in July 2017," Nezhoda said. "[He told me], 'I watched you on *Storage Wars*, and I got these two storage units' [but because] he also had diabetes problems, he said, 'I just can't handle these lockers, and if I can't find someone to sell them to I'm just going to donate them or something, because every month I'm paying \$800 in storage [and]

continued on page 27



Nezhoda backed up the truck to his Poway store to offload some of the huge collection

UNDER THE RADAR

Bersin's big anti-Trump bump

Clinton administration border czar **Alan Bersin**, who subsequently ran San Diego city schools before becoming **Barack Obama's** Customs commissioner until failing to get

Senate confirmation, could soon be cleaning up as the new anti-Trump of the Mexican border. Bersin and two other Obama administration Homeland Security Department veterans have set up the BorderWorks Group, which bills itself as "a

specialized firm led by Alan Bersin that brings together leading policy experts on 21st Century border management and the next generation of homeland security. With a unique strategic perspective on how borders have evolved and best practices in border management, we help clients improve security and facilitate the movement of people and goods across international borders." The other two principals are **Ben Rohrbaugh**, an ex-Obama presidential campaign staffer, and lawyer **Nate Bruggeman**, another Obama partisan. Both were at the center of a 2015 federal investigation of charges that Customs and Border Protection under then-acting Customs commissioner Bersin engaged in improper hiring procedures.

Now in his 70s, Bersin made a splash in San Diego after he married **Lisa Foster**, the daughter of clothing and real estate tycoon **Stan Foster**, and moved with her from Los Angeles in 1992 to San Diego to run his college chum Bill Clinton's local presidential campaign. Clinton subsequently named Bersin U.S. Attorney, and he later moved on to become superintendent of schools, mounting an ultimately failed restructuring effort. Per Bersin's new website, "A new air cargo terminal facility in Mexico hired BorderWorks to evaluate opportunities to expedite the movement of cargo into the United States, including potentially through a collaborative relationship with U.S. Customs and Border Protection."

Bersin is also touting his influential con-

nections from his government days. "We have partnerships with former senior officials from

both the Mexican and Canadian governments, as well as additional former U.S. government officials, that allow us to bring the right expertise to the table for you. Whether it is strategic advice on the threat environment, or technical expertise on border processing and information technology systems, we will put

together the right team to solve your problem."

High-dollar pot With marijuana sales finally legalized in California, local pot merchants have been pouring cash into a political action committee known as Citizens for Public Safety and Safe Access, sponsored by the Association of Cannabis Professionals. The fund collected \$234,999 in 2017, according to its January 31 disclosure statement, ending the year with \$12,275 in the bank. Big donors included WellsGreensCa of El Cajon, with \$40,000 and Menuu Mazza LLC of La Mesa, with \$30,000. Individual donors **Ramzi Murad** of El Cajon and Jilet **Jousef Yousef** of Spring Valley each came up with \$10,000. Murad is on the board of the troubled Neighborhood Market Association, the

liquor store trade group whose executive director **Mark Arabo** was ordered last year to return \$248,000 a judge said was wrongly awarded him by the association. But the fields of pot

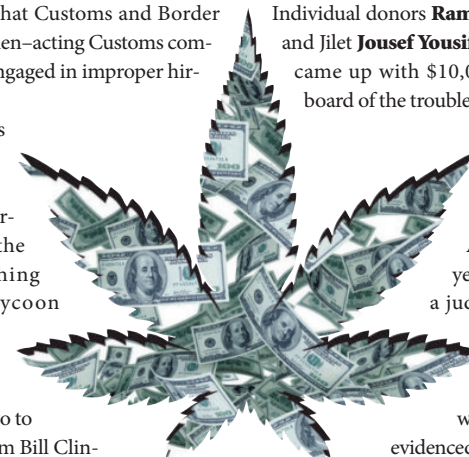
weren't always green, as evidenced by a \$30,000 bounced check on November 1 from the Cannabis Education Project listed in the disclosure. ... San

Diego City Council Democrat **David Alvarez**, termed out this year, collected a total of \$119,152 during 2017 for his putative campaign for county supervisor in 2020 and had \$102,062 of cash in the bank, per his latest financial disclosure filed January 31. Maximum \$800 donors included onetime Republican council candidate and port director **Marshall Merrifield**; **Virginia Merrifield**, **James Schmid** of Encini-

continued on page 28



Bill Clinton chum Alan Bersin, leading a firm that facilitates border-related transactions, touts connections to former U.S. government officials.



What will Citizens for Public Safety and Safe Access do with \$213,000?

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We welcome letters pertaining to the contents of the Reader. Submit them at sreader.com/letters or phone them in at 619-235-3000, x460. Include your name and neighborhood. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

She had to contain her disgust

Re: The casino's been built — Jamul is still fighting it, cover story, February 1

As I was reading the article about the Jamul Indian Village, I had to contain my disgust at the statement that Erica Pinto has an “overwhelming attention to the needs of others.”

I would imagine her uncle, an Elder of the tribe, whom she “unseated as tribal chair,” might disagree. And certainly Walter Rosales, a Jamul Kumeyaay, raised by his grandmother on the property, would disagree.

The tribe disenrolled Walter, a Purple Heart decorated Marine wounded while serving two tours of duty in Vietnam, when he disagreed with the vision of a casino on the tribal

land. In addition, when he refused to vacate his home there, the tribe had it bulldozed.

Is it any wonder, as Erica states, “the tribal council, seven of us, we are all young”? A study by VOA [Voice of America News] concludes, “Native American Tribal disenrollment is at epidemic levels” and is caused by greed. So when Erica states, “We have always taken the high road,” I don't think that she is even close to the truth.

Vicki Jones-Pittman
Jamul/North Park

Comments from SDReader.com — *not edited for punctuation, spelling, or grammar.*

“Tronc planning to sell L.A. Times and Union-Tribune,” News Ticker, February 6

Thanks Don, for your coverage. I find it a sad day for San Diego. SDUT/UT-SD is not the same since the Copleys sold it. This represents more M&A activity for the sake of investment and yield, not about enhancing journalistic quality.

I also was against the 1990s consolidation of

continued on page 62

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

BARRIO LOGAN

Policeman punched at Patriot Picnic Cops make three arrests

Bordertown Patriots, self-described as a group of American patriots, militia, and political activists, were among demonstrators at Chicano Park on February 3rd.

The “Patriot Picnic,” as organizers called the event, was to protest the lack of an American flag flying in the park under the Coronado bridge.



Bordertown Patriots got to Chicano Park at 10:30 a.m.

Through a press release, the organizers stated that Chicano Park should be made more accessible to other races; this in response to a September 2017 incident where members of a similar group, Patriot Fire, were driven out of Chicano Park.

Reportedly, 700 counter-protesters gathered at the park on February 3rd prior to the arrival of the Bordertown Patriots group; the latter, composed of about 50 protesters, gathered near the San Diego Convention Center, made its way through Barrio Logan, arrived at Chicano Park at around 10:30 a.m., and were guided by police to the northern section of the park across Logan Avenue. There was a strong police presence along this avenue and the intersection of Cesar Chavez Parkway. The counter-protesters remained on the main section of Chicano Park south of Logan Avenue.

“People are here today united around the fact that white supremacists and so-called patriots are coming to this park because they think Chicano Park is anti-American,” explained Luna, a young activist handing out literature in support of an

anti-fascist organization.

Three arrests were reported, according to the San Diego Police Department’s Twitter account. Police handcuffed a man inside the Bordertown Patriots section of the park and put him in a police car. When asked, a police officer stated that the individual had resisted arrest.

Later that morning, another individual was wrestled to the ground by multiple police officers and taken away in a police car. A subsequent report stated that a policeman had been punched in the face.

ARTURO RUBIO

ALPINE

High school still doesn’t exist

Enrollment dip derailed plan

Alpine resident Gary Lane’s niece and nephew talk of having their own high school in Alpine. All the kids do, said Lane. Keeping teen spirit local is the dream while the nightmare is that commute to high schools

in the Grossmont Union High School District. Lane’s niece and nephew commute to Granite Hills High.

For decades, Alpine residents have been expecting a high school to come to their town at the foothills of the Cuyamaca Mountains. Alpine has a K-8 school district that directs high school students to the Grossmont high-school district;

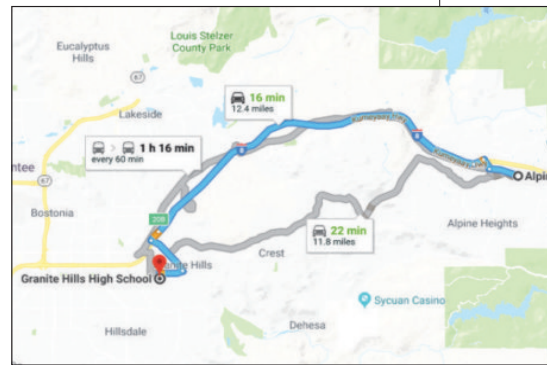
the latter has 11 schools spread out between El Cajon, La Mesa, Spring Valley, Santee, and Lakeside.

“Over the years, there have been accidents and several fatalities of both parents and students,” said Alpine resident Sal Casamassima. “Most recently, an Alpine student coming from Steele [Canyon High] was involved in a head-on collision with, coincidentally, one of the [Alpine School District] employees.”

In January 2018, the state board of education denied Alpine’s most recent attempt at unification and an appeals court upheld that Grossmont wasn’t obligated to build the high school.

Scott Patterson, business services deputy superintendent, oversees the school bonds program at the Grossmont Union High School District. He said Alpine students enrolling into Grossmont schools have decreased slightly over the past five years. Patterson said 300 Alpine students attend Granite Hills and an estimate of 400 attend Steele Canyon in Spring Valley.

According to Patterson, when Proposition U passed in 2008, student enrollment was



Steele Canyon student hit Alpine school district employee head-on.

at 23,245. When numbers dipped to 22,200, work had to be halted. The bond measure dictated enrollment numbers of at least 23,245 to build the school. Numbers have declined to 21,000, per Patterson.

Casamassima said the decline in enrollment is due to schools like Cajon Valley, where nearly 1000 students, mainly Chaldean immigrants, left the school to attend local charter schools.

JULIE STALMER

SCRIPPS RANCH

Good intentions behind Scripps Trail

“We’ll have chunks of asphalt that come loose.”

More than a decade deep in a battle with San Diego city government to get their deteriorating road repaved, residents along the northern stretch of Scripps Trail seem no closer to getting answers than when they began.

Claudia Walker’s family bought a home on the 10400 block of the street, a quiet, neatly manicured tract in Scripps Ranch near the border with Poway, in 2004. Upon meeting longtime residents, she says street repairs were one of the first things to come up.

“Literally, the day we moved in they said, ‘Hi, we’re your neighbors — we’ve been trying to get the street repaved.’ So that’s what’s been going on for 14 years.” The road is rougher than surrounding streets — many of which, according to the city’s Streets Division website, have been repaired in recent years.

“When it rains, we’ll have chunks of asphalt that come loose and wash out down the road,” Walker continues.

After receiving an invitation to suggest neighborhood improvements from city councilmember Mark Kersey in late 2016, Walker sent the first in a series of emails complaining about the condition of Scripps Trail.

Says Walker, “We’re about a mile away from the school, a park, the swim-and-racquet club — during the summertime and around school hours this street is heavily trafficked by kids on bikes, skateboards. There have been times they’ve hit a crack, crevice, what have you, and have gone flying, ended up with injuries.”

Finally, after a third email she admits “def-

initely was by no means nice,” Walker got in touch with Quinton Grounds, a Kersey staffer whom she says has been helpful in trying to translate her years-long complaint into action, including convincing San Diego Gas & Electric to re-route their heavy construction trucks away from the street. In response to an interview request, Grounds deferred to Anthony Santacroce, a senior public information officer with the city.

“It’s on our radar and we are set to evaluate it for what kind of work needs to be done,” Santacroce says. “Maybe the section in question maybe needs a new clay base, needs to be dug out, needs a reconstruction. That kind of work includes a longer design time; there are a lot of other factors that go into more serious work like this than a basic slurry seal or asphalt overlay.”

DAVE RICE

EAST VILLAGE

Hard-caught MTS bus New schedule finds riders unaware

Changes took effect on the bus lines of the Metropolitan Transit System on January 28th. Several routes were eliminated, with MTS noting in a monthly bulletin that you could still get there from here, only differently. Eight routes were said to be streamlined in what the *La Prensa* newspaper reported as improvements to something called the “high-frequency bus network.”

Some people — notably riders of a major trunk route, the 929, which leaves the East Village as late as 2:01 a.m. and heads south to the Iris Avenue station for a connection to San Ysidro — did not get the memo.



There wouldn’t be another bus till 2:01 a.m.

On February 6th at 1:05 a.m., passengers waited at the 12th and Imperial Transit Center at the usual perch for the southbound 929. And why not? Just above their heads, the electronic sign looked the same as usual: now posting the 1:01 a.m. bus to Iris Avenue via Highland Avenue through National City and Third Avenue through Chula Vista was “due.”

It just didn’t say where. And nowhere could one find a sign that said anything to contradict the notion that the 929 would stop at 12th and Imperial, as usual, where it’s

continued on page 8

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been stopping for ages. But when the 929 did glide to a stop, it was a far piece from where they sat. A few hardy souls sprinted in that direction and a couple of them managed to climb aboard before the conveyance huffed off. Others in the mad dash, myself included, stopped and watched the bus depart, knowing there wouldn't be another for a whole hour: the 2:01 a.m. 929 to Iris.

"This is fucked up, man," said one short-distance runner who missed the bus. "I'm calling this in to them first thing tomorrow."

He was debating how much he should spend on a cab (three of them were parked nearby), and he strolled back to the trolley station at 12th and Imperial to report to the assembled would-be 929 riders not only that the last run of the night was an hour away, they were still waiting in the wrong place.

Asked their reaction, he shrugged and said, "They didn't believe me."

BRUCE KAUFFMAN

CARLSBAD

Gas-tax repeal supporters line up for cheap gas

Cars back up on freeway exit for Shell station's \$1.99/gallon fuel

News Radio 600 KOGO held a petition-signing event on February 5 as part of afternoon talk-show host Carl DeMaio's Reform California campaign — an attempt to roll back the new 12-cent-per-gallon gas tax.

To bring people to the petition drive, for the three hours DeMaio was on the air, the Shell station at the corner of Palomar Airport Road and El Camino Real sold regular gas for \$1.99 a gallon.



Gas station lost \$6000 in three hours.

Even before the 16 low-priced pumps opened at 3:00 p.m., cars backed up for over a mile at each entrance to the Lowe's shopping center. Halfway through the event, Carlsbad police told DeMaio that the event was backing up traffic at the Palomar Airport Road exit at I-5, four miles away.

"Thirty Reform California volunteers are working the waiting lines with petitions," said campaign director Robbie Riley. All the motorists I talked with said they were first there to sign the petition. "The two-hour wait for cheap gas was worth it," said Marie from Vista.

Station owner Les Koure said he'd lose about \$6000 in the three hours. "This is important. Twelve cents extra means a lot to people," he said.

With oil companies controlling their dealers' gas prices, Koure said he received no blowback from Shell Oil. "They fully support us today," he said. Fifteen of his station's employees were on duty to help direct traffic into the station and move cars to available pumps.

DeMaio announced on the air that his campaign was 84,000 valid voter signatures away from qualifying for the state's November general election ballot. "Of course, we'll collect much more than that, just to be sure," he said.

KEN HARRISON

SCRIPPS RANCH

Apartments to replace school?

Residents seek answers for environmental impacts

The draft environmental review for a four-story apartment project that will be built on San Diego Unified School District land in Scripps Ranch has been released, and residents are not happy with it.

"We gave them a list of questions and concerns and they never responded," said Summer Spencer on February 5. "We looked at the draft [environmental impact report] and it is identical to the plan they presented when this started."

The Monarch Group plan for the 264-unit project that includes a five-level parking garage and 2000 square feet of retail space has been controversial from the get-go. The 6.7 acres of land at Scripps Poway Parkway and Spring Canyon is currently home to the Innovations Academy, a highly regarded but apparently underperforming charter school, according to the state. The school district voted in January 2016 to close the school and lease the land to a La Jolla-based private development company calling itself the Monarch Group.

Because the planned development's environmental report is the responsibility of the school district, the city has no jurisdiction over it and no ability to challenge it, according to Miramar Ranch North chairperson Michelle Abella Shon.

A quick look at the 1105-page draft report indicates that the building is two miles from the nearest mass-transit center at the I-15. Of the 264 units, 22 will be rented at below-market prices, making them "affordable."

According to the draft EIR, two-story multi-family residential units are located north of Scripps Poway Parkway, screened from view behind naturally vegetated slopes. Two-story single-family houses are also located south of the project site, on top of a naturally vegetated slope overlooking the project site. These two-story homes are the tallest existing structures in the immediate vicinity.

"I don't believe the majority of the neighborhood understands the impact, the full impact that this project will have on the community," Spencer said. "You're adding in 264 units of families that will add their children to Scripps Ranch schools that are already overcrowded — and they're closing one!"

MARTY GRAHAM

UNIVERSITY CITY

Cyanide in my pasalubong Cigars from Philippines have dire warnings

"Trip out on this, bro," Ed said as he pulled out a Coronas Sumatra cigar box that was labeled with "stroke" on the front and "cyanide" on the side. On February 4, we were at a pre-Super Bowl party in University City sipping on some brews and cooking up some *pulotan* (Filipino for munchies that complement beer and liquor).



In the bathroom, I got on Facebook and found Renato.

"I ain't smokin' that, *pare* [dude]," I said.

We both quit smoking *yosis* (cigarettes) a while ago. Although for cigars, I make an exception — most of the time.

About 99 percent of the time I trust my cousin Ed's judgment because we go way back. Before he took over his boss's business in the late 1990s, a pack of cigarettes cost us \$4 and some change; we quit when they hit \$5. He introduced me to the world of cigar-smoking a couple of years ago at our aunt's karaoke party in Paradise Hills.

A Cohiba or a Don Julio cigar is what I'm used to seeing when he busts out his portable humididor. This box with a photo of a sickly looking Filipino man and a tube running into him and tagalog text that translates to "smoking causes strokes" and an equally large sticker on the side of the box that translates to "smoke from cigarettes has cyanide (an ingredient in chemical weapons)" scared the crap out of me.

"Take a drag, bro," he persisted. I then grabbed the eight-inch cigar with a red label affixed to it and blew into it to light up the cherry. I pretended to blow smoke rings away from us and nothing came out. We both had a good buzz from the San Miguel beer — so he couldn't tell I was faking.

"*Ang sarap* [It's tasty], bro," I mumbled.

"I bought this box from a guy named Renato in the SM Mall of Asia in Manila," Ed said. "I paid about 2100 pesos [\$40] for 25 cigars."

I knew he was going to peer-pressure me

again. "*Pare*, I gotta hit the bathroom," I said. I then put my hands in a prayer position, bowed my head, and excused myself.

Earlier, I crept on Facebook, found Renato's profile (the cigar vendor), and added him. We then instant-messaged each other in tagalog as I hid in the bathroom.

"If there is a warning on the box, are you sure it's okay to smoke?" I asked.

He responded, "It's not as bad as cigarettes because you don't inhale cigars."

Renato customized cigar boxes at his spot, which is next to the Barong Tagalog shirt section. "Here in the Philippines, all of the cigarettes [and cigar] packages have warnings on them," he said. "The government made [the tobacco companies] do this."

The next day I visited some of the cigar shops in North Park and City Heights to see if any of the store employees would smoke my Filipino cigars. Every cigar aficionado that I approached declined to smoke the cigars with the warnings on the box, except for Web, one of the managers in the SD Smoke Shop at 3146 El Cajon Boulevard.

"Sometimes stuff like that is a reverse-psychology thing," he said. "I'll smoke that."

MIKE MADRIAGA

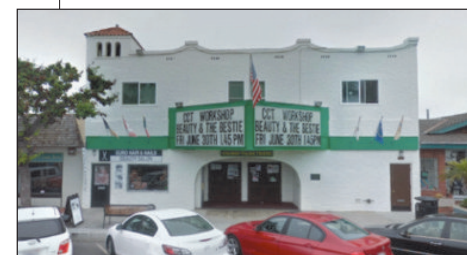
CARLSBAD

Plans for 91-year-old theater unclear

"This is just what we need. Another brewery."

"Where is the historical society?"

That comment appeared February 7th on the Carlsbad Locals Facebook page shortly after the news broke of the sale of the Carlsbad Village Theater.



"They could have made it like the La Paloma."

The 91-year-old downtown theater was Carlsbad's only theater until the early '60s. Over the past two decades the theater was often used for youth beauty pageants, athletic awards ceremonies, comedy shows, youth-theater productions, and concerts.

But the Carlsbad Village Theater is destined for a major change of use.

Neighboring businesses say a brewery/restaurant is in the works once the 338 seats are torn out and a major renovation happens. Records show the building was sold for \$2.4 million in November to Encinitas-based RPG 2822 State Street LLC.

Other visitors to the Carlsbad Locals

continued on page 56

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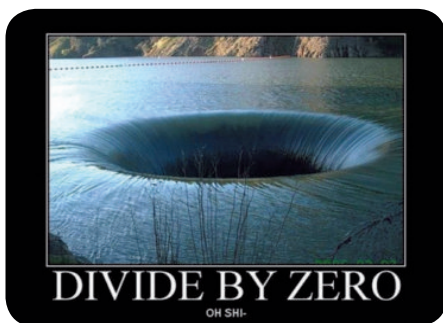


Dear Hipster:

Why can I not divide by zero? I feel like there's some Illuminati conspiracy to cover up the truth.

— Z.

Math has nothing to do with it. As anyone with an ounce of sense will tell you, dividing by zero splits the universe in two, creating a parallel universe exactly like ours, except in the parallel universe it's always 1997 and everyone has to have one of those bowl haircuts and every single TV channel only shows *Full House* reruns on a 24-hour cycle. Be my guest if you want to live in that world, but don't say I didn't warn you.



Dear Hipster:

Why is there never any parking near hipster coffee shops (especially ones that contain guava pastries)?

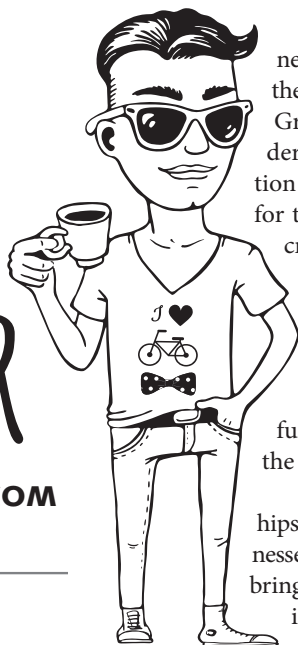
— JANELLE KHALEESI ☒

There's a simple answer and a hard answer. I'll give you the easy one first.

I'm not going to name names, but some hipster cafés have elected to locate themselves in Ocean Beach.

(You know who you are)

In terms of looking for parking in O.B., on any given day I'd rather listen to Demi Lovato's greatest hit on repeat while I shotgun Natty Ice and talk about how bummed I am that the Chargers fled the coop. Out of fairness, I'll add that there's no fault on the part of hipster coffee shops for the endless waves of irritable tourists lining up to snap a selfie with a mediocre Hodad's burger so they can show off their



newfound #SoCality to all the jealous homies back in Green Bay, and thus rendering the parking situation thoroughly inoperable for those of us who might crave the occasional delicious guava pastry.

And yet there's a subtler, more universal explanation, one that relies on the fifth fundamental interaction: the hipster force.

Everyone knows that hipsters create hipster businesses and hipster businesses bring in more hipsters who in turn generate more hipster businesses.

The irresistible urge to partake of the hot new thing possesses an attractant force many orders of magnitude stronger than mere gravitation. The mathematical model that describes this exponentially increasing hipster presence can predict the rise and fall of a hipster neighborhood with startling precision. At peak hipster, the density of hipster activity reaches a level where no more hipsters

can enter the neighborhood, often on account of diminished parking. At that point, the hipsters actually begin to repel each other with a force equal to the force that drew them together in the first place.

Interestingly, the zenith and nadir points on the hipster curve actually track a long plateau, rather than quick peak followed by a sharp decline and vice versa. This explains the extended, sometimes multi-generational waxing and waning of various trends and locales.

Some rogue hipster theorists propose an ironic heat death of the hipsterverse caused by a gradual loss of potential coolness. This controversial model describes a wack future indeed, where the coolness status quo becomes completely static and eternal, no longer able to accommodate rising social trends or reject mainstream lameness. Fortunately, the earliest projection has this event occurring no sooner than 10,103 years in the future, about the same time Paramount Studios finally wrings the last breath of life out of the *Transformers* franchise.

— DJ Stevens

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

“Welcome to Rancho Escondido Groves, your very own private 290.95-acre luxury mountain top estate.” So begins the sales pitch for the property at 1830 Rincon Avenue, in equal parts a development opportunity and potential paradise for those compelled to live off the grid.

The main house is rather pedestrian by “Unreal Estate” standards: a six-bedroom, four-bath ranch style built in 1977 with just under 2700 square feet



Olympic-size pool beyond the carpeted patio

of living space. There are some luxury appointments such as a free-standing tub and newer stone counters in the kitchen, along with a

wraparound upper-level view deck partially surrounding the Olympic-size pool.

The value, as agents promoting fixers from

low-end to luxury markets are fond of saying, is in the land here. To a degree, it's also in improvements away from the owners' quarters.

For starters, the 290 acres are divided into 24 separately deeded lots, all of which are included in the sale but which could potentially be sold off individually, either before or after building new estate-caliber homes.

The grounds also include eight “multi-bedroom homes with amenities,” five self-contained electrified greenhouses fed with well water, five “large water storage facilities with transfer pumps and distribution infrastructure” that includes “massive infrastructure for agriculture,” plus all the “trucks, trailers, tractors, storage containers, and equipment to maintain and farm” the property, which contains a working farm “with crop yields and excellent tax shelter.”

Security-wise, “mul-

iple private eight-foot high electronic security gates” provide private access, the fact that there's “only one way in and one way out” is pitched as an amenity. The listing also states that the owner has spent more than \$2 million on concrete access roads throughout the property, which also includes a helipad, a web-linked infrared video security and surveillance system, 24-hour solar-powered LED lighting systems, and on-site security and farm staff who live in the aforementioned eight other homes on the ranch.

Public records indicate ownership of Rancho Escondido Groves currently lies with Richard Saylor, a property manager and investor

continued on page 27

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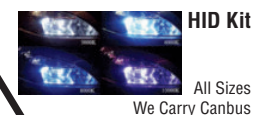
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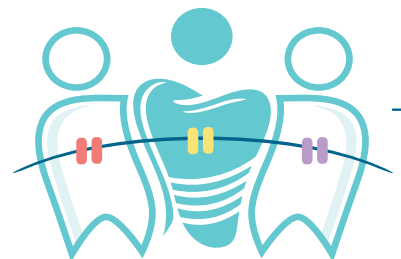
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Wintry Sisyphus

It doesn't much matter how I came to be in my recent predicament — stranded in the Evanston, Wyoming, Comfort Inn, just over the Utah border, staring out of the second-story window at the parking lot that separates the inn from both the Romantix adult warehouse and the combination restaurant/bar/liquor store/betting parlor that offer to service its residents, watching the snow pile up on the hood of my woefully unequipped Prius, and marveling at the way 25 years in Southern California can make a body forget to check the weather before setting out on a journey. What matters is what I



The scene of the author's epic struggle against both snow and self, already being obscured by the elements just minutes after its conclusion.

saw once I was there: someone whose situation was even more predicamental than my own.

His black Audi sedan had lost its hold on the thoroughly encrusted lot surface and drifted down an exceedingly gentle slope into a snowbank. Now he was knee-deep in the soft stuff, bracing himself and heaving at the car's front bumper while his unseen companion gunned it in reverse. Up and back, up and back, like a wintry Sisyphus. I watched him and cursed my luck. It was night. I was into my second drink. I had the original *Thomas Crown Affair* on the laptop. But I had seen him, needy

and near at hand, and now I had to go down and try to help. "Need a hand?" "Sure."

Well, okay then. What followed was a paradigm of problem-solving as I have experienced it. Starting then, with brute force — if some was good, surely more would be better. We heaved together, slipping and sliding as soon as we pushed the car any distance from our footholds in the bank, watching in shared but mute despair as the car surrendered once again to the laws of physics.

Eventually, a sensible woman — in this case, the one behind the wheel — offered some advice that drew upon humanity's long experience with tool usage and ran inside to get a shovel. *Fine*. It was tedious and tiring work trying to dig a track in the slick, frozen snow — there was just the one shovel, and guess who got the first turn? — but we did inch the car a couple of feet up the incline.

I was scolding myself for wanting to offer a word of "you're on your way" encouragement and head back inside when a local arrived on the scene. Or if not a local, someone with some experience and expertise. "Your best bet now is to try

and run it that way," he explained, pointing to the expanse of white immediately adjacent to the bank. In other words: *Make gravity your friend. You've backed it up enough to drive downhill and steer past the obstacle.* Then he shouldered in alongside us for one final push...and it worked. I thanked him profusely; because of him, I was free.

I trudged over to the liquor store for a restorative reward. The clerk had been watching our adventure. "I was just gathering some cardboard to put under the tires," she assured me.



Hot book-on-book action on a glass tabletop in Arhaus at UTC.

A place to put your books

Books do furnish a room, but not at Pottery Barn in University Town Center. Even the writing desk is piled high with leather travel cases instead of readables. The only exception — the

continued on page 56

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WHY NOT CITY HEIGHTS?

The large picture windows at Lotus Garden Seafood and Noodles restaurant in City Heights overlook the corner of Euclid and University. Over a heaping plate of chicken chow fun, one can observe the comings and goings of Hispanic, East African, Asian, African-American,

and Caucasian pedestrians, as well as teenagers of indeterminate race risking their lives crossing the street against the light on skateboards. Cars, buses, and fire trucks fly past the tower that gives a name to the Tower Bar across the street. The whole atmosphere is urban, eclectic, and alive in a way

unlike any other neighborhood in San Diego.

City Heights has a population density of 17,900 people per square mile, says *citydata.com*; 40.7 percent are foreign-born residents and 18.8 percent of City Heights residents speak English not well or not at all. For perspective,

greater San Diego has a population density of 4301 people per square mile, 26.8 percent foreign-born residents, and 8.1 percent of residents who speak English not well or not at all.

Eric Hoeun, a 20-year-old waiter at Lotus Garden, has lived in the neighborhood all his life and says the



The Lotus Garden restaurant (yellow-and-white building on the left) and the Tower Bar are oft mentioned neighborhood attractions.

diversity is the best thing about City Heights. “There are so many ethnicities around here, and just seeing everybody live their life here, to me, is a beautiful sight,” he says.

This seems to be a popular opinion in the neighborhood, but so far the number of languages spoken and

the variety of food available hasn’t been enough of a draw to make City Heights the North Park–like destination for which some homeowners have been hoping. To get an idea of why that might be, I spend a coolish Friday afternoon in early November wandering up and down University

and El Cajon asking residents and visitors what they love about City Heights, what they’d like to improve, and what they think might be different in ten years.

Elidia (no last name provided) is one of the first people I meet. I catch her waiting for the number 10 bus at

a stop on the south side of University, across the street and a few steps west of Lotus Garden. The 33-year-old security guard has lived in City Heights for 20 years and is on her way to work at the SDSU basketball game against San Diego Christian College. Elidia wears a red shirt and smells of fresh hair

pomade. The first thing she says when I ask what she likes about her neighborhood is, “The variety of cultures around here.” And then she adds, “And basically the food.” She gestures across to a squat building housing a row of storefronts including Chinatown Plaza Chinese fast food, 5 Star Pizza, and 777 Noodle House.

As for what she would like to see improve in City Heights, Elidia says, “The violence. The shooting that happens between two and three in the morning.” She acknowledges that things have changed in the past decade or so, saying, “There’s more patrolling of officers, and gangs have minimized a lot.” But it’s not quite enough, as far as she’s concerned.

“A week ago, there was a shooting, and there



Chow Mein at Lotus Garden is a City Heights experience not to be missed.

were more officers outside because of that,” she says. “But they should always be outside, no matter what.”

Elidia’s bus arrives and brings our conversation to an end, but later, a quick internet search for

“shooting City Heights San Diego” yields news stories from shootings on October 5, November 8, November 26, and April 3, all on the first page.

A San Diego Association of Governments crime report for January

2017 through September 2017, on the other hand, shows both Teralta/City Heights East and Teralta/City Heights West as significantly lower in both violent crime and property crime than Pacific Beach, North Park,

Hillcrest, Gaslamp, and East Village.

The postal worker

After Elidia’s bus leaves, I make my way west on University past Pronto Laundry (whose signage promises, “Cooler inside! New AC),” past Cricket wireless, Uni Tire, and University Smog. Just as I’m approaching the door to the Windmill Thrift Store, a postal worker steps out. Her name is Cathy Nelson. She’s 31 and happy to chat. Nelson’s bright smile won’t waver for the full ten minutes that we stand talking in front of the thrift store.

“I like it. Minus how dirty it is,” she says of City Heights. “It’s always an upbeat neighborhood. You do see a lot of mental health here, though. Like, a lot of homeless people.


People who aren’t... all there.”

Nelson moved to San Diego from Arizona eight years ago and since then has worked routes in Normal Heights, La Mesa, and National City. Currently, she’s a resident of North Park and has been delivering mail to this part of City Heights since January 2017.

“You just meet so many different kinds of people. Everybody is from different cultures,” she says. “I love all the small businesses, too.”

As far as food goes, Nelson is partial to the tacos at Mucha Fruta, a few blocks east on University, in a building shared by Tu Thanh, a Vietnamese restaurant. Otherwise, she can’t recommend much in the neighborhood as far as what to do or see because she

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Many list the variety of cuisine as a reason to reside in, or at least visit, the area.

doesn't spend time here outside of work. When I ask what she would like to see here, or what might draw her to spend some of her time off in City Heights, she pauses

for a moment, laughs to herself, and then says, "A brewery. I'm just waiting for the gentrification," she says. "You can see it coming from North Park. You see how much some of the

houses sell for, and how much they're investing."

Nelson hopes the neighborhood doesn't change too much and lose its flavor, though. She fears that could happen if rents go up too much and drive out the diverse community that resides here now. "There's a lot of owners who live in these apartments and are, like, 'We've owned this building for 50 years,' so hopefully they'll stay strong."

Would she live here?

"Yes," she says. "Depends on which street, though."

Destination Thrift Store

Aside from a small rack by the door and a beaded dress draped over a mannequin in what appears to be the dish section, Windmill Thrift Store offers very few items of clothing. Instead of clothes, the

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place is stuffed with items such as a four-foot statue of a seated doberman painted a bright, garish yellow; a duffle bag jam-packed with raggedy Barbie dolls and VHS movies; dishes, vases, dressers, and a heavy metal rhino head wall-hanging. One could spend hours picking and poking and marveling at all the stuff available for purchase here. At the moment, there is a handful of shoppers, but they're quiet, discreet, and hard to spot among all the shelves and things piled at various angles throughout the store.

I find Chris Anderson browsing the merchandise. His youthful bearded face and khaki shorts set him apart from the working-class vibe of the neighborhood, and I make the quick assumption that he is among the

newest wave of gentrifiers who are beginning to purchase homes and settle into the neighborhood. Turns out I'm wrong.

Anderson, 30, has just gotten off a bus from Hillcrest, where he had lunch, and has come to City Heights for some thrift shopping. He's starting here at Windmill and then will head over to the UCP thrift store on El Cajon.

"This is an awesome thrift store," he says. "There are just so many odd things, and almost no clothes. Look at the dresser and the antiques and stuff."

A resident of "near Kensington," Anderson found this thrift shop during his days as an employee of an ambulance company in La Mesa when they would drive up and down Uni-



versity Avenue. The two neighborhood thrift shops he frequents are his only connection to City Heights. When I ask what else he knows about the area, he pauses and says,

"I'm trying to think of a way to say this that's not rude."

After a moment, he says, "The only thing I know about City Heights is that it's a cheaper neighborhood to live. We purchased our place recently so I've seen the real estate costs out here. What I understand is that it has to do with the crime rates. I don't know if that's true or not, but..."

He trails off, examining a straw hat that looks about five sizes too

small for him. After placing it on top of his head briefly and then putting it back down, he goes on to explain that although he and his wife did look at real estate values in City Heights, they never actually considered purchasing in this area. To the question of why not, he says, "We were used to living in Hillcrest, so living out here would be weird. Where we are, we're close to Adams, near Kensington, which is kind of a trendy neighborhood."

Still, he does admit that he sees some of that trendiness heading this way and he believes that it will positively impact home prices. He speculates that if someone had purchased a home in this area two years ago ("Now isn't a great time to buy") it would probably be worth double what they paid for it in 10 or 15 years.

But he and his wife chose not to do that. "You'd have to commit 10 or 15 years of living in an area you don't want to be in," he says. And then, as if finally deciding to say it plain, he adds, "Kensington is just a nicer neighborhood."

Two months from now, the storefront will be empty, with bars covering the windows and a sign on the glass door that reads, "The Windmill Thrift Store is moving. We will be closing the store on Wednesday 1/17/2018. For information on new location, please call (619-952-1593)."

Nice place, cool people
Many Starbucks I've happened into have had a sort of community-

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center vibe. The Starbucks on Fairmount in City Heights takes that whole community-gathering-place thing to a new level. The diversity of the patrons at this particular Starbucks may be due to its proximity to the public library, the rec center, the farmers' market, and the Mid-City campus of the San Diego Continuing Education building. Of course, the exact makeup of the crowd at Starbucks changes hourly, but one thing that is pretty much guaranteed is that there is always a group of African men shooting the breeze beneath the green canopies on the patio. It's here that I meet Ambrose Ulau, a 42-year-old South Sudanese father of five.

On this Friday afternoon as I approach the parking lot, a handful of men stand up from

a loose grouping of about ten chairs around two square tables. They shout back and forth to each other as the group disbands, each heading out in a different direction. Only two men are still seated by the time I arrive. Ulau is one of them. The other stands up and walks away when I sit down.

Ulau, a custodian at UCSD, has been coming to this Starbucks since 2006 to have coffee with cream and sugar and to hang out and chat with the other men who gather here daily. He tells me there's no big secret to their meetings, no structure, no formal group. It's an informal gathering that's been happening here at the City Heights Starbucks for as long as he's been around. And he's not exactly sure

when it started.

"It changes all the time," he says. "They're all people from different countries. Somalian, Sudanese, South Sudanese, Ethiopian. I've met them all here. People come here just to talk. I come here sometimes, but not every day."

Besides coming to hang out at Starbucks, Ulau doesn't do much else in City Heights. He lives here with his wife and five children, but they don't go out to restaurants or anything. They cook and eat at home. On Sundays and during special-occasion events, they also spend time at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in North Park.

Though he did hear that City Heights used to be "a bad area," Ulau has only good things to say about the neighborhood now.

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“It’s a nice place. There’s cool people. Nothing bad here,” he says.

Not turning into North Park

Richard Matuska, 54, pretty much agrees with Ulau. “It’s just real peaceful here,” he says, scooting out from beneath the old blue Camaro in his garage. His hands are smeared with grease from the work of installing a new engine and transmission, so he offers me an elbow and a forearm instead of a handshake. “I can’t really find anything bad to say about the place.”

Matuska leads me to the side of the house, where we sit in two blue chairs on a concrete porch that looks out over a quiet residential enclave off of Euclid. For 20 minutes or so, we talk and watch the

comings and goings of the neighborhood, which pretty much consist of a mail truck and single car heading up the hill from where the street dead-ends about a block down. It’s hard to believe this sleepy junction sits less than half a mile from the crazy-busy intersection at Euclid and University.

Matuska bought this three-bed, two-bath house in 2002 for \$156,000. Now, 16 years later, after he added a two-car garage and redid the windows, roof, electrical, plumbing, cabinets, counters, and floors, he estimates his house value is close to the \$500,000 his neighbor is asking for a three-bed, three-bath house.

Even with all the changes he’s made to his home, the current estimated value (just south



Windmill Thrift Store

of \$450,000, according to both Trulia and Zillow) points to a general increase in home values in the neighborhood. Zillow currently lists the area’s median sale price for a three-bedroom, single-family home around \$430,000, up from \$230,000 at the end of 2011.

Matuska loves the neighborhood for its “proximity to everything” as well as the peaceful nature of his little corner of it, but he’s also hoping to see more significant changes in the neighborhood at large.

“It’s not turning into North Park as fast as we would like,” he says. “I’d

like to see it continue to improve as far as the businesses along University. Whenever you see an area start to boom, you get a lot of restaurants and shopping in those areas. It’s a destination, and people want to go there.”

He mentions the \$1.4 million renovation of the Silverado Ballroom at the corner of Euclid and University as evidence that change is coming this way, and he counts Lotus Garden as one of the few City Heights businesses that he patronizes. But besides a couple of neighborhood establishments owned by a neighbor friend, Matuska does most of his shopping, dining out, and socializing in other parts of San Diego. When I ask where in the neighborhood he might take a visitor from out of town, he says, “Typically, when

people come here, they want to see the beach, so you don’t spend a lot of time in City Heights.”

But he hopes this will change. “They changed the area on El Cajon to Little Saigon and they keep saying it will be like Little Italy,” he says. “Little Italy is incredible, but I don’t see that happening quite yet.”

We want more

If Su Nguyen has his way, City Heights will be the next Little Italy within ten years. On a balmy November evening a week or so later, I meet Nguyen at that time of day when palm trees stand black against the fire-colored sunset and traffic on El Cajon streams steadily in both directions. Nguyen, chairman of the board and cofounder of the Little Saigon Foundation,

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leads me to a conference room on the second floor of 4444 El Cajon and shows me the ten-year-plan for the more that's coming to City Heights. On the east wall hang 20 glossy pages, complete with pictures, maps, and written text outlining the proposed details of the Little Saigon San Diego Open Air Museum.

The proposed museum consists of 20 "stops" along the El Cajon corridor between Euclid and Highland. The first stop, the Vietnamese Heritage Flag, will stand a block or so west of Highland, officially outside the boundaries of Little Saigon, as it's the only location that meets the safety requirements of the city's Department of Safety. The 65-foot-tall flag will be visible as far as two miles away. This part of the project is underway, and completion is expected in April 2018.

Other project details include 12 light poles bearing the mythical Chim Lac (a guardian-angel-type creature) at major intersections, a golden dragon in the median between 45th



City Heights' median sale price for a three-bedroom, single family home is around \$430K, up from \$230K at the end of 2011.

and Chamoune Streets, a night market at Hoover High School, parklets, bamboo-hut bus stops, and urban street murals. Many of the details are meant to celebrate the area's Vietnamese residents and their culture, but Nguyen emphasizes that some of them are also meant to acknowledge the broader immigrant population of City Heights.

"City Heights is the home of refugees in San Diego County," he says, pointing to *Stop 14 - Yearning for Freedom*, a piece of sculptural art proposed for an area in front of the A-Chau Restaurant between 46th

and Menlo. "Yearning for freedom. We're all here in City Heights for that, the community. Somalian, Cambodian, Lao — we are all refugees. Not only Vietnamese."

In addition to revitalizing the area officially designated (in 2013) as Little Saigon Cultural and Commercial District and bringing more visitors to City Heights, Nguyen hopes that the Little Saigon project will help inspire community involvement and increase the voting power of area residents.

"Most of the time when so many different groups are together,

we tend to be closed off and stay within our own group, our own community. We don't see civic engagement as a whole. That's not good," he says. "We don't want somebody else deciding for City Heights. We want City Heights people to decide."

Some of the major improvements that he'd like to see have to do with infrastructure and safety, such as better lighting and more walkable sidewalks. But many of the project details, such as the parklets and art installations, will also address what he sees as the need for public open spaces and create a destination atmosphere

that the El Cajon corridor east of the 15 currently does not have.

"Besides Little Italy, we don't have any other Little. But now we have Little Saigon," Nguyen says. "Fortunately, we live next to well-off communities: Kensington, Talmadge, and recently Hillcrest, and North Park. We're the neighbor, so why not City Heights, too?"

Aside from a two-year stint living in Encanto, Nguyen has lived in City Heights since he arrived in San Diego in 1993, and he loves the neighborhood for its diversity and proximity to downtown, Balboa Park, and San Diego State University. In his 24 years here, he says he has seen a lot of changes in the area but that there's always room for improvement.

"Price Charities is doing a very good job," he says. "There's new affordable housing, and I see less crime than before in the last ten years." Here he pauses and smiles, letting out a little laugh before continuing, "But we want more."

Misconceptions about our community

Up on the wall, the proposed changes look shiny and enticing, but at street level, they're a little harder to imagine. At 3:00 on a sunny afternoon in early December, I stand at the corner of Highland and El Cajon, squinting at the stream of students pouring out of Hoover High and across the street toward me. I try to envision them streaming across a median where a golden dragon lives in a bed of flowers to get to the KFC, but it's difficult.

When I spy Carlos Ramirez and Vincent Viola standing still within the throng of moving students, I decide to ask what they think of the project. Actually, only Ramirez is standing. Viola sits in a golf cart. They both have the relaxed manner of men whose hardest part of the day is over. I mistake them both for security, and I won't know until the end of our conversation that while Viola is security, Ramirez is finishing up his last day as a vice principal before he moves on to a district job.

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At that point, Ramirez will make it clear that he speaks as a member of the larger community, not as a vice principal.

The funny thing is that although we could all reach out and touch the building where Nguyen's glossy pages hang on the wall, and although both men work right here in the middle of Little Saigon, neither of them know anything about the night market, the golden dragon, the parklets, or any of the rest of the ten-year-plan. But they're intrigued and think it will be great for the neighborhood.

"I think anytime there are improvements to the physical environment, it helps to get a different perception of where we are. Look at the sidewalks," Ramirez says. "Look at our streets. One

street I drive through near Euclid Avenue, the pavement has been ignored for years. Unfortunately, this is an area that has been forgotten."

Viola nods his head and chimes in the moment Ramirez takes a breath. "A lot of problems in the area are due to voting," he says. "There are 346,000 voters in this area, and less than 20 percent vote on all of the local issues."

A kid rides by on a skateboard and slows down long enough to shake both men's hands. He shakes mine, too, and then rides off. Another handful of kids wave and say good-bye as they head across El Cajon, trying to catch the light.

"One of the misconceptions about our community is that bad people live here," Ramirez says.



If Su Nguyen has his way, the Little Saigon section of City Heights will be the next Little Italy within 10 years.

"Some of the most successful individuals that I know grew up here in City Heights."

Ramirez grew up in the community, attended Hoover High, and wants the same for his children. Although he currently lives east of Euclid, which is outside the official boundaries of City Heights, he still



Little Saigon project details include 12 light poles bearing the mythical Chim Lac (a guardian angel type creature) at major intersections.

feels an allegiance to the neighborhood.

Viola, not so much. He used to live in the area, but he moved to Normal Heights because, "[City

Heights] sucks," he says. "I wouldn't want my wife or my daughter walking around here at night." Nevertheless, Viola does like the neighborhood's

food offerings quite a bit. He had his whole Thanksgiving dinner catered by Saigon, the restaurant directly across the street.

Ramirez likes Vietnamese food okay, but he's partial to Mexican. He likes to get lunch at El Panson, on the other side of Highland. Other options within a block of Hoover High include more Mexican, Italian, Vietnamese, Wiener-schnitzel, and KFC. And within a few blocks, one can find Ethiopian, Somali, Laotian, Thai, and Chinese.

The diversity of restaurant options has still not landed City Heights on any list of hottest neighborhoods in San Diego that this writer has seen. But maybe that depends on who's being asked. ■

— Elizabeth Salaam

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UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 12

and onetime owner of a used-car dealership in National City. The tax parcel associated with the listing last sold in 2014 for a reported \$950,000, though it includes only 33 of the reported 291 acres spread across the other 23 parcels and none of the nine residences. Saylor's name appears as the owner of a total of 28 properties in San Diego, including several oceanfront lots in Encinitas.

The Rincon properties were first listed for sale in bulk in late 2016 with an asking



A curious room with bath and couch

price of \$37,750,000. After a year they were pulled from the market and the main house alone was listed for \$4,350,000. After a few months with no takers, that listing was taken down and in early February the property went back up

as a bulk lot, with the asking price reduced to a range, with the seller seeking offers between \$29,900,000 and \$34,900,000 — the agent specifies several times throughout promotional materials that the seller is willing to accept Bitcoin. ■

CITY LIGHTS

Picker's epic score

continued from page 3

it's killing me."

Nezhoda purchased the 12'x10' and 20'x8' storage lockers full of collectibles and "Don was super-happy" he said.

Nezhoda also took over the locker payments until he removed the last of the contents early last month.

"[Don told] me he thought there were 7000 comics in there," Nezhoda said. "I'm estimating about 60,000 comics, and I'm estimating about 7500 are 10-centers and 12-centers ['golden-age' and 'silver-age' comics] because they're everywhere."

When Nezhoda loaded up his truck, he says, the storage-facility "employee said that Don died in November." The employee also reminded him of the hoarder-house that Don spoke about when he was alive.

"I ended up going to [Don's] dad's house, and I introduced myself," Nezhoda said. "I explained that Don was telling me, in July 2017, that he didn't want to sell the whole house because he wanted to go through it, because there's so much rare stuff in it, supposedly."

Nezhoda said that the 91-year-old father was going to have someone throw away the contents inside the house and then clean

CITY LIGHTS

the whole property.

"The house was in probate, and they are waiting to finish [clearing] the house," he said, "so they can sell the house, because it's worth a half a million; it's free and clear, and the dad wants the money for retirement"

The 2000-square-foot house close to the El Monte storage unit also has a two-car garage that has a print shop inside and an additional 175-square-foot shed in the back that's packed from top to bottom full of toys.

"I made [the father] an offer of tens of thousands of dollars and we made a deal," Nezhoda said. "He can't believe it, because he was going to throw the stuff away."

Nezhoda said that with the labor of a team of four, transit of the product, and three 12'x10' storage lockers, he's probably going to be into the total investment for \$80,000, maybe more.

"PJ, you work for comics, right?" he joked as they inspected more of the rare finds. There was an *X-Men* #1, *Daredevil* #1, *Justice League of America* #28, *Silver Surfer* #1, *Spider-Man* #2, and #14, other key silver-age books and golden-age books — including the *Flash* #1. "Someone wants to buy this from me right now," Nezhoda said.

On Nezhoda's video clip of the hoarder house, he and his wife Casey are wearing

CITY LIGHTS

surgical masks as they sift through the rooms stacked with comics and toys. "It wasn't that bad; it was a little dusty," Casey said, "and nobody has, like, really been in there for, like, six years."

"There were also rats and rat poop," Rene said. "I've bought a lot of collections and houses in my life and I have never been overwhelmed, but this house makes me overwhelmed."

Rene Nezhoda started the buy-and-sell business at eight years old, when his parents gave him and his brother some of their leftover antique pickings from the barnyards in Vienna, Austria. "Once a month you could set up on the side of the river and sell whatever you wanted to," he said. "I made [an equivalent to a] few hundred dollars and had no clue what I sold and everything sold fast. I'm sure the pickers were very happy. I came home with the money and [my parents] would say, 'You earned it and you keep it.'"

Shortly after, he and his family moved to the U.S. to "pursue the American dream." Nezhoda helped his parents run their publishing business in Las Vegas. He then partnered on a casino-collectible store in the Tropicana Hotel. Early this century he became a power-seller on eBay. He met Casey, a native San Diegan, they got married, and had a daughter

continued on page 28

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Picker's epic score

continued from page 27

12 years ago. They opened their thrift store in 2011.

The couple got picked up toward the end of the fourth season of *Storage Wars*. "Rene didn't think [during the first season] that America was going to embrace the show," Casey said.

"You know when you do a first season of any show the money is nothing and I had an extremely successful business already," Rene said. "And I didn't think anybody was going to watch it, to be honest, because to me it's so normal to hunt for treasures, and it's hard for me to get excited — but I got excited with this comic deal."

Rene pulled out for us to view 25 or so books that PJ estimated as being worth \$200,000. But Rene emphasized that the price can be lower, after he gets some of them graded by the CGC Comics company; or possibly higher, if two of the right bidders go after his comic books at the Heritage Auctions.

Rene Nezhoda has over 60,000 more comic books and hundreds of vintage toys, posters, and collector cards to sort through. ■

Under the radar

continued from page 3

tas, CEO of Chelsea Investment, which specializes in controversial urban infill residential developments; and **Elvia Verdugo**, office manager of Verdugo Concrete of Chula Vista. Alvarez has announced he will run for a seat on the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees next year and would vacate that position mid-term if elected supervisor in 2020.

Killer content harvesting

The new face of reporting at tronc belongs to a computer, based on the latest online help-wanted ad posted for a "content specialist" by the Chicago-based newspaper chain with a strange name that just agreed to sell the struggling *Union-Tribune* to Los Angeles billionaire **Patrick Soon-Shiong**. "Day-to-day responsibilities include designing and deploying specialized content harvesting algorithms, creating and enhancing tools to facilitate data collection, and expanding and refining our industry-leading news ontology." Among other requirements, applicants must be able to "monitor delivery channels and content ingestion processes and troubleshoot content gathering and delivery problems. Send cor-

rections and kills as required."

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

ior with anyone or in any way. I never have, and my life bears that out.... It's hard to understand why an elected official would commit obvious perjury, but I assume it is to get the attention off of his sexual harassment and fraud scandals that have dominated the media for the past six months."

Wells was referring to a lawsuit filed by a former beauty-pageant queen of Kalasho's Miss Middle East Pageant. Zhala Tawfiq says the oversized check she received at the 2016 pageant wasn't worth the cardboard it was written on.

And when Tawfiq questioned Kalasho about the payment as well as about him tapping into her private social media accounts, she soon discovered a fake Instagram profile had been created; on it were doctored photos suggesting she had posed in the nude. She

believes Kalasho is to blame.

Dorian Hargrove

Rabobank banked millions in untraceable cash

Institution admitted deficiencies

Rabobank National Association, a subsidiary of a Netherlands bank, pleaded guilty in federal court February 7 to unlawfully impeding a U.S. examination of its California operations, including Calexico and Tecate branches.

Rabobank admitted that its deficient anti-money-laundering program permitted hundreds of millions of dollars in untraceable cash to be deposited in its rural bank branches in Imperial County. The loot was transferred without Rabobank notifying United States banking authorities.

In 2013, the bank actively sought to deceive regulators about its operations. Rabobank admitted it knew that suspicious transactions made by customers involved international narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and organized crime.

The bank will have to pay a fine of \$368.7 million, the largest financial penalty in the Southern District of California court area.

Don Bauder

The rise of Papa Soon-Shiong?

Friend of Doug

Corks have been popping at the *Union-Tribune*, judging from the effusive coverage that the paper — newly liberated from its bondage to Chicago's tronc — has lavished on the announcement that Los Angeles mega-billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong has acquired the *L.A. Times* and its little San Diego sister.

But one endorser of the transaction reported by the *U-T* may give local Republicans reason to be especially merry.

"Former *Union-Tribune* owner Doug 'Papa Doug' Manchester said he talked by phone to the prospective owner early Wednesday. He

said Soon-Shiong is currently in Nassau in the Bahamas working on a cancer center project," wrote Diane Bell in a February 8 column headlined, "San Diegans give high praise for billionaire, deal to buy papers."

"He'll be a fantastic owner and a responsible publisher of both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Union-Tribune*," enthused Manchester, who turned tidy real estate profits buying and shuttering the *North County Times* and selling the *U-T* to a tronc predecessor during his three-year tenure as newspaper baron here.

"Manchester described Soon-Shiong, with whom he has had business dealings, as 'a man of incredible intellect,'" Bell continued.

"I offered to do anything to assist him, and we're meeting in the next week or two," added Manchester, who bought the *Union-Tribune* from Platinum Equity in 2012, prior to its purchase by the Tribune Publishing Co., now called Tronc.

"When asked if he thought the physician would be involved personally in operating the newspaper, Manchester said, 'I think he'll make it the best it can be.' He added that Soon-Shiong 'has a wonderful and talented daughter who will take an active interest.'"

Like Manchester, Soon-Shiong has reportedly been in to see Trump, apparently to lobby last year for a czar-like position in the administration regarding the nation's troubled health-care subsidies.

A piece carried by *Politico* last April questioning Soon-Shiong's financial dealings with the University of Utah drew a Trump-like Twitter response from the billionaire: "Politico/STAT attacks anyone who meets @POTUS to serve USA. Important to give back. That's why I am doing what I do."

Besides the *L.A. Times* and the *U-T*, Soon-Shiong

is about to gain control of Tribune Washington Bureau LLC, which currently supplies the tronc chain with dispatches from the nation's capital. Per tronc's federal securities filing regarding the sale, that asset, along with the *Times* and *U-T*, is being transferred by tronc to a new entity to be owned by Soon-Shiong and called NantMedia Holdings, LLC.

Matt Potter

Kratom crackdown

"Not just a plant — it's an opioid."

Scientists at the Food and Drug Administration say compounds in the popular herbal drug kratom act like prescription-strength opioids. Kratom has been tied to 44 deaths, up from 36 reported in November. Kratom is "not just a plant — it's an opioid," says FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD.

Last October, the *Reader* did a story about young men claiming to sell a product called Kratomystic Premium Ethnobotanicals from a mail-drop on Mission Gorge Road. The company claimed to be the "leading provider" of drugs with kratom, but it is doubtful the firm was successful. Earlier, it had claimed to be a leading supplier and researcher of nootropics (smart pills), but the company never got off the ground.

Kratom has a passionate following. In 2016, the FDA announced federal marshals had seized 90,000 bottles of kratom. The agency says it was a threat to public health. Fully 142,000 kratom lovers signed a petition denouncing the federal drug agency; they rallied in front of the White House. The American Kratom Association said the drug could be used to manage pain and promote a sense of well-being.

So the FDA put kratom on hold until it did more studies. Last week, it lowered the boom on the drug.

Don Bauder

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



EXPERIENCE THE BLACK PANTHER

Thursday | 15

BLACK PANTHER EXPERIENCE

A private screening of Marvel's new superhero film, *Black Panther*. This is a Black Carpet experience, so make sure you are picture-perfect in your African-inspired attire. Happy-hour gathering at the theater's reserved lounge at 6 p.m.; seating at 7 p.m. Sponsored by San Diego Melanin, "Connecting the community of young professionals of color in the greater San Diego area." \$15.50.

WHEN: Thursday, February 15, 6 p.m.

WHERE: UltraStar Mission Valley at Hazard Center, 7510 Hazard Center Drive. bit.ly/2Eq99h1

LANA DEL REY. Your first introduction to Lana Del Rey may have been six years ago, when *Saturday Night Live* took a chance on the mostly unknown singer with only a couple of singles and self-produced videos to her name. Her aloof, 1940s starlet demeanor and attire didn't go over well with many viewers, but there was no denying that those two hypnotic, dreamy tracks, "Blue Jeans" and "Video Games," were like nothing else on the airwaves. Her fifth full-length, *Lust for Life*, featured collaborators the Weeknd and Stevie Nicks. The tour hits Valley View Casino Center on Thursday. Colombian-American R&B singer Kali Uchis opens. Music, [page 48](#).



TET FESTIVAL: LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Friday | 16

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

2018 marks the debut of the Flying Globies, an acrobatic trampoline dunk team. The tour also marks the return of the Globetrotters' longtime

nemesis, the Washington Generals. After a longstanding series in which the Generals lost approximately 14,000 times, the team is back from a two-year hiatus to focus on one goal, to beat the Globetrotters. \$15 nosebleed; \$125 courtside.

WHEN: Friday, February 16, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard, Midway District. valleyviewcasinocenter.com

TET FESTIVAL: LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The San Diego Tét Festival is one of the largest free community festivals in San Diego, and the 13th-annual event should attract 20,000 people this year. With Vietnamese singers and performers, lion-dancing, authentic Vietnamese food (including a *phở*-eating contest), firecrackers, martial arts, the Miss Vietnam of San Diego pageant, a Step-Up Dance competition, and Golden Voice Karaoke. Hosted by nonprofits Vietnamese-American Youth Alliance and the



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16: HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Vietnamese Federation of San Diego.

WHEN: Friday, February 16, 5 to 10 p.m. Also Saturday and Sunday.

WHERE: Mira Mesa Community Park, 8575 New Salem Street. sdtet.com

Saturday | 17

PAW WALK IN THE GARDEN

Follow a 5K walk through the 37-acre garden with your dog(s) in tow, the one time of the year you can take your pooch into the Botanic Garden. The route winds through the garden areas including California Native Plants, Australia, the Canary Islands, Hawaii, Bamboo, Tropical Fruit, and Palm Canyon. There will be pet products, food for people, treats for dogs, lots of information for dog owners, and many dogs and puppies. The promoters say, "It's not a race — walkers can cover the full 5K/3.1-mile course, but that's optional. And you don't need a dog to participate. There are plenty of dogs there to pet. But there's a limit of two dogs per person. Really. We mean it. No more than two." \$21–\$32.



PAW WALK IN THE GARDEN

UNCLE VANYA. Imagine you and your sister slaved your entire lives, before sunup to past sundown, to keep a famous scholar's estate going. And then suddenly you realize you've been duped. All those years, all the toil — for what? Through March 11 at the Old Globe in Balboa Park. Theater, [page 54](#).

EARLY MAN. *Wallace and Gromit*, Nick Park's stop-motion iteration of man and man's best friend, debuted nearly 30 years ago. Now we have the same-but-different team of Dug and Hognob in Park's latest, and Matthew Lickona has a review. Movies, [page 50](#).

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

CULP VALLEY

Three short trails in the higher elevations of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Driving Directions: From the junction of highways S-2 and S-22 — the Montezuma highway/grade, drive east 9.3 miles past the small community of Ranchita to a dirt road going left. The dirt road forks within a few hundred yards of the highway, with the road to the right leading to the Culp Valley Primitive Campground. Take the branch to the left, which ends in 0.5 mile at the Pena Springs Trailhead. Directions for the other two trails are in the text below. **Hiking length:** 2.5 miles out and back, following three short trails. Allow 2 hours. **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate. **Elevation gain/loss:** 500 feet. Leashed dogs and bicycles only allowed on vehicle roads — not on hiking trails. One of the three trails is designated an All-Access Trail with handicapped parking at the Culp Valley Primitive Campground.



Culp Valley can be very green in spring.

At an elevation of 3400 feet, Culp Valley not only provides relief from scorching desert temperatures in the months when it is too hot to hike at lower elevations in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, but it also provides outstanding views of Borrego Valley and the Santa Rosa Mountains beyond. What you initially see may appear to be wilderness, only sporadically visited by tourists. However, it is an area with a rich history of human habitation. This includes the pioneers who settled and lived here, most recently roughly for 150 years, as well as Native Americans who made homes here during the preceding 9000 years. This hike leads to areas where artifacts left by these previous residents can still be found. Culp Valley is a designated Cultural Heritage Preserve from which nothing is to be taken. Observe and photograph the historical artifacts found here, but do not remove anything.

One of the features that made Culp Valley attractive to cattle ranchers is its many water sources. Cattle need both water and forage grass. Pioneers settled here because they found both. In addition to Pena Spring, which you will reach on this hike, there

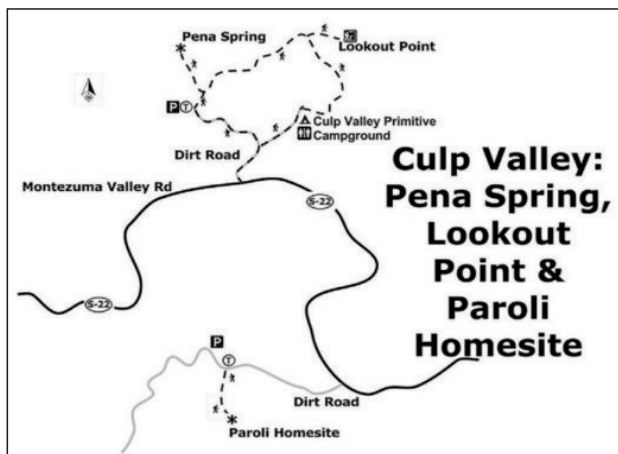
are seven other springs within a half-mile radius and another four within a mile. Some of these are intermittent, but Pena Spring is a perennial source of water. Pena Spring, Bubbling Spring, and Cottonwood Spring are three perennial springs that ranchers developed to provide water for their cattle.

Culp Valley is in the transition zone between desert and montane chaparral. Early visitors reported it had lush pastures of perennial grasses, such as deer-grass and desert needlegrass. Cattlemen realized its potential for grazing. By the late 19th Century large cattle ranches had been established in Culp Valley, Ranchita, and neighboring Warner Springs. Cattlemen grazed their animals here during the spring and summer, then used an old Kumeyaay trail to move their cattle down to the Borrego Valley for the winter.

Parts of that trail still exist and became an official California Riding and Hiking Trail in the 1940s. As the state no longer maintains the riding trail, some sections have been obscured. However, the segment of this trail from Pena Spring to the Lookout is intact and easy.

Start your exploration from the Pena Spring trailhead by hiking one of the use trails that heads down a sandy tributary of the South Fork of Hellhole Canyon. In 0.4 mile, you will find a lush thicket of shrubs and trees surrounding the spring. These include western cottonwoods, several species of willow, Parish's goldeneye, desert baccharis, mule-fat, Gander's cholla, and many others. Narrow use paths extend into the thicket. Exploring these paths will lead

continued on page 33



Culp Valley: Pena Spring, Lookout Point & Paroli Homesite

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.

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Camp for Kids We have a camp where kids can meet animals, make crafts, and learn new games to play. Sign up for each day or come to just one. Info: education@animalcenter.org. Friday, February 16, 9am; \$58-\$73. Helen Woodward Animal Center, 6461 El Apajo Road. (RANCHO SANTA FE)

No More Barking Veteran East County dog behaviorist Nan Arthur will address the reasons dogs bark and how owners can help their dogs bark less and live more serenely in their homes. Arthur, who penned, *Chill Out Fido! How to Calm your Dog*, will include numerous ways to help your dog reduce stress (a major cause of barking) and how to manage the environment that often leads to barking. Arthur is also the owner of Beacon of Hope Dog Behavior and Training Services. Saturday, February 17, 2pm; free. Alpine Library, 1752 Alpine Boulevard. (ALPINE)

ART

Barrio Bureaus Pop-Up Show A one-night-only furniture art showcase featuring custom one-of-a-kind vintage wood furniture

art pieces by Barrio Logan artist, Carolyn Osorio. From classic art history pieces inspired by artists such as Matisse and Warhol to original Lotería and Día de los Muertos works. Saturday, February 17, 4pm; free. Esquina, 2222 Logan Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

By(e) Default Through the works of five contemporary artists and three poets this exhibit challenges racial codings and engages in both the revision and celebration of Black History. Featuring artists Elizabeth Axtman, Suzanne Broughel, Cortney Charleston, Lissa Corona, JC Lenochan, Jason Patterson, Claudia Rankine, Nicole Sealey. Curated by Andrea Chung. Thursday, February 15, 3pm; free. Mesa College Art Gallery, 7250 Mesa College Drive. (MESA COLLEGE)

Exhibits at the Athenaeum: Opening Reception An exhibit of Antonio Adriano Puleo's current body of work will be exhibited in the Joseph Claves III Gallery. Puleo will present a series of collages, paintings, and sculpture that show how its subject matter correlates from one surface to another. In the Rotunda Gallery the *Aesthetic Engineering* exhibit of Kraig Cavanaugh will be displayed. This is a thoughtful assortment of his most recent sculptures and wall works, as well as a few artworks by well known artists that inspire him. Claire Van Vliet and Janus Press, from the Athenaeum's Artists' Books collection, will be exhibited in the North Reading Room. The exhibition will also feature a book by Dieter Roth, *Book NR*, a gift received from Van Vliet in December 2017. Friday, February 16, 6:30pm; free. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street. (LA JOLLA)

First Anniversary After operating in Los Angeles for five years, the

gallery relocated to San Diego, and we have been enjoying San Diego's alluring and diverse environment ever since. Erin Hanson's impressionistic landscapes have been received by our new city with open arms, and we are proud to celebrate a very successful first year in San Diego. We hope you will join us for the anniversary event to experience Erin's most recent works, live music, and refreshments. Saturday, February 17, 5pm; free. Erin Hanson Gallery, 9705 Carroll Centre Road. (MIRAMAR)

Impressive Visions The Southwestern Artists' Association presents this art exhibit featuring San Diego artists Rodger Mitchell and Mary Pake. The exhibit runs from February 16 to 28 in the SWAA gallery located in Gallery 23, Spanish Village Art Center. Friday, February 16, 10am; free. Gallery 23 in Spanish Village, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Transforming Existence: Reception Comprised of artwork created by faculty and students from the School of Art + Design, the exhibition explores surrealism with works ranging from those inspired by the movement's icons to contemporary approaches, transporting us into the mind's eye of each artist. Mix and mingle with the artists. Thursday, February 15, 5pm; free. SDSU Downtown Gallery, 725 W. Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BEER

Local Brews Local Grooves Local Brews Local Grooves features 14 bands and 14 breweries. Featured Bands include All Beat Up, Almost Monday, Evan Diamond & the Library, Funk Manifesto, Jessica Lerner Band, Justin Linn and the Rotation, Locked Out of Eden, Never Come Down, Ready Set Survive, Rogue Pilots, Stone Horse, The Night Howls, The Montell Jordans, and The Thieves About. Featured brews include Belching Beaver, Boochcraft, Division 23, Eppig, Firestone Walker, Green Flash Brewery, Karl Strauss, Modern Times, Mother Earth, Pizza Port, Saint Archer, Stone, Thorn St., and Twisted Horn. Sunday, February 18, 3pm; \$10-\$60. House of Blues, 1055 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Metal Yoga These classes are taught by a legit certified yoga instructor who happens to like Sabbath, Pelican, Howl US, and Black Breath. Class is appropriate for all levels. \$15 gets you yoga and a Modern Times beer beverage afterward. Saturday, February 17, 10:30am; \$15. Modern Times Lomaland Fermentarium, 3725 Greenwood Street. (MIDWAY DISTRICT)

Tiffany Jane & the Kicks Valentine's weekend features a limited release, Full Body Brewery collaboration, Strawberry Blond Ale, as well as the cool, jazzy sounds of Tiffany Jane & the Kicks. Take part in group games, and pick up a limited edition Ebullition Brewery stein available for purchase (includes

ART SHOW: FEBRUARY IN THE RAILROAD EARTH

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one pour). Saturday, February 17, 12pm; Ebullition Brew Works, 2449 Cades Way, Suite D. (VISTA)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Leah Scott & Robin Sassi: Charmed Divorce Divorce doesn't haven't to be devastating. It can be a positive, life-changing experience that will allow you to grow and develop in ways you never thought possible. Join the authors Leah Scott and Robin Sassi at this weekends-with-locals event as the authors discuss and sign their book. Sunday, February 18, 12pm; free. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Cheese Feast with Barrel Harbor Brewing Join us for this all-you-can-eat happy hour extravaganza on the third Thursday of every month! This month we are partnering with friends at Barrel Harbor brewery who will share some of their signature brews with you. We have paired a selection of Barrel Harbor's bodacious beers with our sensational fromage to create a cheese feast experience. Partake in all the featured selected cheeses and charcuterie you can eat, plus one Barrel Harbor beer flight!

Don't like beer? You can choose a glass of wine instead. Thursday, February 15, 3pm; \$30. Venissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

Cook with Your Kid: Street Tacos In today's class, we will be playing with the vibrant flavors of our neighbor's across the borders' famous flavors. We will have a variety of protein options for you and your kiddo to pick from. We'll chop, dice, and slice a variety of taco fillings so that each mini taco will be custom-designed by you. You find that there's no wrong way to build your plate of tacos. For dessert, we will be creating Mexican Bunuelos. How do we make those, exactly? Well, we take pate-choux dough and mold it into little bite-sized shapes. Then, we fry it to a golden perfection. Saturday, February 17, 11am; \$7-\$30. Lazy Acres Market, 150 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

Shibori Dye Workshop Shibori is a Japanese method of resist dyeing. Dye six different napkins that reflect your trending love for indigo. Saturday, February 17, 1pm; \$65. Flower Hill Promenade, 2670 Via de la Valle. (DEL MAR)

Torn Paper Collage Join Artist Stacie Birky Greene in this art class. Imagine a dirt road along a river bank. Or mountains with valleys and snow. Learn the techniques of paper tearing combined with color and value play to transform old magazines into a lovely collaged landscape. Each month, a different theme will be given to awaken stu-

dent's creativity. All skill levels are welcome. Age 10 - adult. Saturday, February 17, 1pm; \$52-\$58. Bravo School of Art at Liberty Station, 2690 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 19, Studio 206. (POINT LOMA)

Valentine Date Night Amore You and your sweetheart will the master fresh pasta dough from scratch, get comfortable with a pasta maker, and enjoy an Italian meal made from the pasta, sauce, salad, and dessert prepared in class. Friday, February 16, 6:30pm; \$50. Freshly Prepped, 4070 Bonita Road. (BONITA)

COMEDY

Hannibal Bures Hannibal Bures is a comedian, actor, writer, musician, magician, and poker dealer from Chicago. He's the cohost of *The Eric Andre Show* on Adult Swim and a cast member on Broad City on Comedy Central. Thursday, February 15, 8pm; Friday, February 16, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, February 17, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$30. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Improv Festival Top talent from all over the nation performs in San Diego. Thursday, February 15, 10am; Friday, February 16, 10am; Saturday, February 17, 10am; Sunday, February 18, 10am; Finest City Improv, 4250 Louisiana Street. (NORTH PARK)



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Tortilla N' Taco Factory • Emily's Tacos and Birria • TakoBar SD
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BEERS

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DANCE

Lunar New Year Celebration Performance by the Southern-Sea Dragon and Lion Dance Association in center court. Thursday, February 15, 12pm; Friday, February 16, 12pm; Saturday, February 17, 12pm; Sunday, February 18, 12pm; **free**. Carlsbad Premium Outlets, 5620 Paseo Del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

Marvin Garcia “Nicky Award winner cures that post Valentine hangover with a high-energy dance spectacular. This versatile entertainer will turn up the heat along with his Diamond Dogs and surprise guests.” Thursday, February 15, 7pm; \$5. Brass Rail, 3796 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

My Funny Valentine: Crooners, Cocktails, and Choreography The PGK Dance Project presents an original performance experience. Singers will perform live renditions of love songs, ranging from the classic standards to contemporary pop hits. The PGK Dancers and Flamenco Sur accompany the singing with exciting choreography. The Franco-Moragrega Gallery offers a unique venue — guests enjoy cutting edge artwork while the performance happens around them. Saturday, February 17, 6:30pm; \$15-\$25. Franco Moragrega, 102 S. 21st Street. (SHERMAN HEIGHTS)

Pause MCASD is proud to present Pause, a dance trio choreographed by Deborah Hay and co-choreographed and performed by dancers Eric Geiger, Leslie Seiters, and Jess Humphrey. Space is limited to 50 seats. Saturday, February 17, 10am and 6pm; Sunday, February 18, 1pm; \$15. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Downtown, 1100 and 1001 Kettner Boulevard. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Black Panther Experience A private screening of Marvel’s new superhero film, *Black Panther*. This is a Black Carpet experience, so make sure you are picture-perfect in your African-inspired attire. Happy hour gathering at the theater’s reserved lounge at 6pm; seating at 7pm \$15.50. Sponsored by San Diego Melanin. “Connecting the community of young professionals of color in the greater San Diego area.” Thursday, February 15, 6pm; \$15. UltraStar Mission Valley at Hazard Center, 7510 Hazard Center Drive. (MISSION VALLEY)

Hemlock Society: Right-to-Die Film Series The Hemlock Society of San Diego presents two movies in its Right-to-Die Film Series: *Mary Kills People* (Season 1, Episode 1). This is a serious and highly rated TV program about two doctors who, in their extra time, help suffering people end their lives. This does not romanticize or minimize the dangers and risks of doing this. (40 minutes, followed by a discussion.) *Eyewitness*. A

documentary by Dutch psychiatrist Boudewijn Chabot in which we hear from loved ones of people who have chosen various methods of self-deliverance. Sunday, February 18, 1:30pm; **free**. Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Read Like a Girl Read Like a Girl: WMC Book Club is a book club created by the Women’s Museum of California. The club reads one feminist book each month. Discussion meetings take place every third Friday. The book for February is *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* by Gloria E. Anzaldúa. Anzaldúa, a Chicana native of Texas, explores in prose and poetry the murky, precarious existence of those living on the frontier between cultures and languages. Writing in a lyrical mixture of Spanish and English that is her unique heritage, she meditates on the condition of Chicanos in Anglo culture, women in Hispanic culture, and lesbians in the straight world. Friday, February 16, 5:30pm; **free**. Women’s Museum of California, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16, #103. (LIBERTY STATION)

FOOD & DRINK

Battle Royal: The Baking Powder Wars Culinary Historians presents Linda Civitello, who will describe how baking powder, an American invention, revolutionized baking and created uniquely American foods like baking powder biscuits, cakes, cookies and quick breads. It also spawned a serious of vicious trade wars that continued for nearly a century and involved the USDA’s Poison Squad, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the legislature of almost every state and territory. And baking powder fortunes left legacies in some most unusual places. A tasting of historic 18th-century gingerbread made with heirloom flour will follow the presentation. Linda Civitello, Ph.D. is the author of *Baking Powder Wars: The Cutthroat Food Fight That Revolutionized Cooking*, which the *Smithsonian* magazine named “One of the 10 Best Food Books of 2017” and *Eater* included on its list of “10 Food Books to Know About.” Info: chsandiegoca@gmail.com. Saturday, February 17, 10:30am; **free**. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Fondue Valentines Five courses fondue including premium cheeses, entrées, and chocolate. Menu is five courses of fondue, as well as a snow crab starter and a salad, maybe spinach with strawberries and pecans in a lemon-poppysed dressing. Entrées include surf ‘n’ turf or pasta options, and we finish with three types of chocolate fondue, melty goodness like milk chocolate swirled with Frangelico or dark chocolate laced with passionfruit. Thursday, February 15, 4pm; \$80-\$87. Melting Pot, 8980 University Center Lane. (LA JOLLA)

Gala Wine-Release Party There is no better way to celebrate the release of these two beautiful reds

Rhyme & Verse

Four poems by Anthony Seidman

Border Town Graduates

Although we’re closer to feeling the grass pulled over our lips forever, we still bare our dirty teeth and laugh.

We managed to look twice our age, and now our wrinkles won’t be scraped from our mugs when we’re given our final shave.

Such is the residue near motels and train tracks; such is the cost, lacking coolants in this desert.

Our moon was a pile of bones, and our sun a blazing spider;

when thirsty, we savored the taste of her venom drunk hot.

Making the Pact Outside Chihuahua

It was a bus stop, and past midnight at a 24 hour diner with smoke basted on tile walls, and vats of pork boiled in *chile rojo* sauce. I stepped outside; light sped towards me from stars and supernovas. A rust-flavored wind stirred cobalt clouds, and lightning cracked the night, struck where sky meets earth, where black touches black, and becomes neither.

than to pair them with a steaming bowl of beef bourguignon. Guests will receive a glass of each of the featured wines. Limited to the first 60 guests. Friday, February 16, 6:30pm; \$40. Gianni Buonomo Vintners Winery and Tasting Room, 4836 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Icons & Masters Anniversary Gala Step back in time into a sepia-tone lit Crown Room as The Del celebrates 130 years of indelible memories. The evening includes a dinner collaboration from five of the nation’s French Master Chefs, an gallery showing of some of the world’s most iconic stars seen through the lens of legendary celebrity photographer John Russo, and entertainment from NRG Orchestra. Tickets are limited for this black-tie gala. All proceeds benefit the charities highlighted in the book *100 Making a Difference*. Saturday, February 17, 5:30pm; \$250-\$450. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Poke Sicilian Style In this community pop-up dinner we will introduce you to the Poke Love Bowl, Sicilian style. 100% fresh and locally sourced ingredients including the seafood from Catalina Offshore. We will offer a taste of wines (with a small donation), and guests are welcome to bring their favorite adult beverage. Menu: DIY Poke-Bowl Sicilian-Style Octopus Bruschetta with handmade gluten-

Two

1 Mosquito, the hours you live suffice. Moon without wings.

2 Blue blue of the sky, radiantly coquettish — when I stretch up I feel you just within reach.

In 2300 BC, Emperor Yao

Beheaded his royal minister who drunk with courtesans behind rice-paper screens forgot to warn his Lord of an eclipse. Thus in the thinning summer, I write between steel-blue sky and sand where tarantulas breed, and search for an omen that will fix the moon with the roaming, black dog of my heart.



Anthony Seidman is the author of *On Carbon-Dating Hunger* (The Bitter Oleander, New York) and *A Sleepless Man Sits Up in Bed* (Eyewear Publishing, London),

in addition to poetry translations *Luna Park*, by Luis Cardoza y Aragón, published by Cardboard House Press; and *Smooth-Talking Dog*, translations from the “Godfather of Tijuana’s Counterculture,” Roberto Castillo Udiarte, and published in 2016 by Phoneme Media. Seidman has published articles, poems, short fiction, translations, and reviews in such journals as *Poets & Writers*, *Newsweek en español*, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, *Poetry International*, *Huizache*, *Los Angeles Book Review*, among others. After having spent years living in Ciudad Juárez, he returned to Southern California, where he lives with his wife and two children, dividing time between the San Fernando Valley and Mexicali, Mexico.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/ poetry

free bread brioche with homemade gelato roasted by you around the fire pit. Designed for 20 guests. Friday, February 16, 6pm; \$25-\$59. Cucina Migrante, 2567 Broadway. (GOLDEN HILL)

Wine Taste in the Gilded Age Power! Glamor! Lavish Excess! Valentine with wine! Fun taste of American society, the Gilded Age, when America became a cultural force as great industries were created, vast fortunes gained, and first celebrities were patrons of the arts. Savor the Gilded Age, feature memorable wines or champagne from great regions. Thursday, February 15, 6:30pm; \$30-\$35. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard. (LA JOLLA)

FOR KIDS

Fern Street Circus Cesar Chavez Park will be transformed into a carnival for the senses where attendees will enjoy circus performances, carnival games, and free refreshments as part of this family-friendly waterfront art event. Lawn chairs and blankets encouraged. Saturday, February 17, 11am; **free**. Cesar Chavez Park, 1449 Cesar E. Chavez Parkway, downtown

Foxtales: Theatre for Young Audiences Follow the adventures of Sonny, an inquisitive little fox who sets out to explore the world.

Along the way, he meets other animals who teach him valuable lessons about the importance of friendship and working together. Each encounter has a moral and each moral is presented in song drawn from Aesop’s Fables. By Charles Pascoe. Friday, February 16, 7:30pm; Saturday, February 17, 2pm; Sunday, February 18, 2pm; \$10-\$20. Don Powell Theatre at SDSU, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

Lunar New Year at SeaWorld Join in a family-fun event celebrating the Lunar New Year with Pan-Asian entertainment and food. “The sights, sounds, and aromas of Asia will come alive at this premier cultural celebration.” Enjoy a Chinese acrobat show along with local performers, artisans, and culinary offerings. As 2018 is the Year of the Dog, the park will feature a new Puppy Garden where you can cuddle and take photos with puppies while learning about adopting animals from local shelters. Through Sunday, February 25, SeaWorld, 500 Sea World Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

North Park Daddy Daughter Dance Girls Pre-K through 12th Grade are invited to a magical night with their special someone. Guests will be enjoy a red carpet entry, live DJ, photo booth, and refreshments. Tickets online with code #47882 or in person at the North Park Recreation Center. Info: 619-235-

1152. Friday, February 16, 6pm; \$5. North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. (NORTH PARK)

Stuffed Stuff Kids: we will be playing with puff pastry and see just how versatile it can be. We will be creating two different types of savory puff-pastry pockets — ham and cheese and spinach and feta cheese! We will chop and mix all ingredients together, and artfully stuff each pocket by hand. We will learn the finesse of folding, stuffing, and pinching these little pockets to keep all the ingredients inside before we send them off to bake. Thursday, February 15, 3:30pm; \$20-\$25. Lazy Acres Market, 150 Encinitas Boulevard. (ENCINITAS)

LECTURES

Fronterizos: A History of the Spanish-Speaking People of South Bay Did you know that the history of the Spanish-speaking people in Imperial Beach begins with an expulsion? The Bourbon King Carlo III demanded that the Jesuits be kicked out of his realm. Captain Gaspar de Portola took on the task of kicking the Jesuits out of Baja California, and thereafter, he led expeditions into Alta California, including through Goat Canyon. Many frontiersmen of mixed ethnicities came with him and their descendants still live in the South

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Ascension Lutheran Church

Contact: 5106 Zion Avenue, Allied Gardens; 619-582-2636; ascension-church.com

Membership: 70

Pastor: Rick Fry

Age: 43

Born: Springfield, OH

Formation: Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH; Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Hyde Park, IL

Years Ordained: 6

San Diego Reader: What's your favorite subject on which to preach?

Pastor Rick Fry: God's love is for everyone and especially those people at the margins who are often invisible to us, such as immigrants, refugees, and the homeless. These people have a special place in God's heart, and our job as

Christians is to share that love in a powerful way and see with new vision how God's love is at work in our lives and the world.

SDR: What's your main concern as a member of the clergy?

PF: My hope for the church would be that it takes more chances and more risks in order to be out on the street and be God's loving and healing presence to those in need. **SDR:** Why did you become a minister?

PF: I had a falling away from the church in my early 20s and a couple of friends invited me to their church, a Lutheran church (I didn't grow up Lutheran) and I went and enjoyed the liturgy and

theology, both of which had a deeper resonance with me. I developed a great relationship with the pastor and he saw gifts of ministry in me and encouraged me to explore the possibility of seminary.

SDR: Why Lutheran?

PF: When my friends invited me to their Lutheran church, the liturgy was powerful and enriching and life-giving. The experience of having communion, celebrating the Lord's Supper, receiving the presence of Christ himself in the Eucharist, was a powerful experience for me. Theologically, Lutherans also emphasize the importance of grace — Martin Luther had a liberating experience of God through the scriptures and understood that we are justified

by God's grace alone.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PF: We're focused in our mission on outreach to refugee and immigrant communities. We have a welcome banner that says "Welcome Refugees and Immigrants" in front of our church, but it was slashed and vandalized. But we put the sign back together and put it up again. It was a galvanizing moment for our congregation to be inspired to reach out to refugees and immigrants. We also have an outdoor food pantry where anyone can come 24-7 and drop off or receive can donations. We also have a food-distribution program the first Friday of each month, and we're plan-



Rick Fry

ning a community garden in partnership with the local library right next door to us so we can offer fresh produce to people in need.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PF: I don't think of heaven as a place we go to, an ethereal cloud with pearly gates. Rather, Revelation says there will be a new heaven and a new earth. When I think of

heaven and the resurrection, I think of God's love embodied in our earth and creation, this world transformed and transfigured in God's love. That's for all people. The people who are first in line for heaven are the marginalized and overlooked. As for hell, God is ultimately the judge of where we go in the afterlife, but no one is hopeless or outside God's redemptive work in Christ. When Jesus went to the cross he died for the love of all humanity and all creation. That love is bigger and more mind-boggling than I can wrap my mind around.

— Joseph O'Brien

Find more Sheep and Goats columns at SDReader.com/worship/

Bay today. Join us for a talk about South Bay history from the perspective of the Spanish-residents in the region. Saturday, February 17, 10am; **free.** Tijuana River Estuary, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Science, Exploration, & Adventure: Ocean Love Discover Science, Exploration, & Adventure at SEA Days. Love is in the air — and the ocean — this month. It's the time of year when whales are calving, birds are nesting, and fish are spawning. Join us as we learn about ocean "love" from experts at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Saturday, February 17, 11am; \$14-\$18. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

NATURE

Birding at Mission Trails Join Mission Trails Regional Park birders Jeanne Raimond and Millie Basden for avian adventure from Gate 9 causeway and beyond. Winter provides best birding with many migratory species to be found. Resident roadrunner may be spotted. Binoculars and bird book recommended. Meet at dirt parking lot across from campground entry station at corner of Bushy Hill Drive and Father Junípero Serra Trail. Saturday, February 17, 8am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTÉE)

Nature's Spectacle Mission Trails Regional Park's dramatic and inspiring scenery and its plant and animal diversity offer treasured moments in nature. This fun and informative trail guide walk is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of sage and chaparral. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, February 17, 9:30am; Sunday, February 18, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails

Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chinese New Year Celebration Prayer service, offering of the annual incense, light offerings, wishing bells, and auspicious souvenirs. February 15: Chinese New Year's Eve Celebration. February 16 and 17: open to public. February 18 Chinese New Year Festival. Thursday, February 15, 8:30pm; Friday, February 16, 10am; Saturday, February 17, 10am; Sunday, February 18, 10am and 12:30pm; **free.** San Diego Buddhist Association, 4536 Park Boulevard. (UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS)

Fungus Fair: San Diego Mycological Society Mushroom experts, cultivation demonstrations, food-gourmet mushrooms, lichens, live specimens, and expert identification. In room 101. Sunday, February 18, 10:30am; **free.** Casa del Prado, 1800 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Villa Montezuma Museum Free Tour Guided tours by the Friends of the Villa Montezuma, Inc. on the half hour from 9 am to noon. No inside photography allowed. Info: [fovм@villamon-tezumamuseum.org](mailto:fovm@villamon-tezumamuseum.org). Saturday, February 17, 9am; **free.** Villa Montezuma Museum, 1925 K Street. (SHERMAN HEIGHTS)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Hot Chocolate 15K & 5K Road Race The best goodie bags in running, free instantaneous race photos, and post-race treats are just

three reasons you'll want to sign up for RAM Racing's 6th annual Hot Chocolate 15K/5K Race in San Diego. USATF-certified event. Whether you're a serious or recreational runner, you'll score Hot Chocolate's race swag (this time it's a quarter-zip long sleeve technical jacket). Then, after crossing the finish line where a city specific medal and key chain await you, racers are rewarded with a mug loaded with fondue and hot chocolate, pretzels, Rice Krispie Treats, cookie straws, and bananas. More than 4000 pounds of melted chocolate is prepared for each race. There are "sweet stations" on the course that provide mid-race snacks. The Hot Chocolate Race benefits Make-A-Wish, a national charity that creates wishes for children with critical illnesses. Sunday, February 18, 6:45am; \$49-\$74. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Randy Jones Run/Walk for Independence 5K Home of Guiding Hands (HGH) and Randy Jones, former San Diego Padre and National League CY Young Award winner, will once again join forces to support over 2500 infants, adolescents, and adults living with a developmental disability. All entries receive a T-shirt, goody bag, and participation medal. Saturday, February 17, 8am; \$25-\$35. Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Super Awesome Showdown Wrestling Only true love can save the universe! A live-action space opera. Our intergalactic fighters must battle an evil dark threat. A nerdy, action packed, pro wrestling adventure for all ages. Also we have prizes, bar, and food. Saturday, February 17, 8pm; \$5-\$35. Tango Del Rey, 3567 Del Rey Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

WORSHIP

Darshan with Her Holiness Sai Maa: A Divine Blessing Experience an intimate, enlightened moment with Sai Maa, a spiritual master whose powerful presence embodies pure divinity. Maa's divine presence brings you into communion with your own spiritual essence and gifts

you with a healing grace that will always be with you. All are welcome to Darshan. Darshan is not associated with a religion, rather it is a blessing of Divine Light given by an Enlightened Master. Saturday, February 17, 2pm; **free.** Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Laws of the Sun: Study Group Chapter 1 Find out the true meaning of your existence,

ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 30

you to small surface pools, where you can find a tiny floating aquatic fern, the Pacific mosquito fern (*Azolla filiculoides*). When present in large numbers, it turns the surface of the pool green. The good herb, yerba mansa, often surrounds these small pools.

You also should look for a pipe that Charlie Paroli drove into the spring to direct a flow of water into a wooden trough for his cattle. The Parolis named the spring for their daughter, Pena. Also look at the boulders surrounding the spring where you will find round depressions ground into the stone. These are morteros, grinding holes used by the Kumeyaay to prepare acorns, grass, and mesquite seeds for their meals.

Although you can explore the spring, don't drink the water without treating it.

When you are ready to move on, hike back up the way you came until you reach a trail crossing the path to the spring, marked with a yellow CRHT sign marking the California Riding and Hiking Trail. Go left (east) on the trail. It leads uphill for about a quarter of a mile before leveling off on top of a ridge covered with California juniper, desert apricot, sugar bush, Gander's cholla, and other chaparral species. In about another half mile you come to a signed junction with a trail going down to the Culp Valley Campground while another short trail leads northeast a few hundred yards to Lookout Point. The views from the point are spectacular, looking down nearly 3000 feet to Borrego Springs and across the Borrego Valley to the Santa Rosa Mountains.

When ready, head down the trail to the Culp Valley Primitive Campground. As its name informs

you, it is a primitive camp. There are no designated campsites, no facilities other than vault toilets, and no water. However, if you come prepared, it is easy to find a quiet, relatively private spot tucked into the scattered large boulders for your tent or small RV.

The campground trail is a flat gravel path suitable for wheelchair use. Follow it down to the campground and then meet the road leading to the highway. Follow it back to your vehicle.

While you are in Culp Valley, you will want to visit the Paroli Homesite. Upon reaching your vehicle, drive back to the highway and continue toward Borrego Springs for 1.1 miles where you will find the Old Culp Valley Road branching off to the right. Drive west on this relatively smooth dirt road for 0.5 mile to the designated Paroli Homesite parking area on your right. Previously, camping was permitted at the homesite. Although several websites still refer to this area as the Paroli Homesite Campground, camping is no longer allowed. Also, you can no longer drive to the actual site, so park and begin the short (0.2 mile) hike south on a dirt road to the old homestead. Many artifacts were taken from the site before it was designated a cultural preserve, but a few remain, including a spring and cement troughs used for watering cattle. In the 1980s, a Boy Scout Troup added a picnic table and an interpretative sign to the site.

Canyonners 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 Canyon Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors.

WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, FEB 15	2:26	1.4'	3:21	-0.8'	8:33	6.1'	9:36	4.5'
FRI, FEB 16	2:59	1.3'	3:48	-0.7'	9:05	6'	10:04	4.6'
SAT, FEB 17	3:33	1.2'	4:16	-0.5'	9:37	5.8'	10:33	4.7'
SUN, FEB 18	4:10	1.2'	4:44	-0.1'	10:11	5.4'	11:04	4.7'

Waves (DEL MAR)

Height	Direction	Interval
1'-2'	W	14 seconds
.5'-1'	W	12 seconds
.5'-1'	SW	15 seconds
1'-2'	SW	13 seconds

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

EVENTS

Bay Bass Seminar Fastlane Kayak and Sailing Center and Dana Landing Bait and Tackle will host a Bay Bass Seminar featuring four gurus in the sport. Matt Moyer of Ballast Point Fishing Team, Benny Florentino of Fish Local Charters, Corey Sanden of M.C. Swimbait, and Warbaits' Afran Abutin will be on hand to share their experience and advice. If unable to attend the free event, Let's Talk Hookup (AM 1090) will be live on air with Benny Florentino from 7 am to 9 am before the seminar. Sunday, February 18, 7am; **free**. Fastlane Sailing and Kayak Center, 2590 Ingraham, Pacific Beach

Harbor Seal Talk and Walk It's Pupping Season for La Jolla Harbor Seals. The Seal Society of Sierra Club San Diego Chapter docents presents an educational talk followed by a short walk to Casa Beach (aka Children's Pool) to view the newborn pups and nursing mothers in their nearshore habitat every other Saturday during pupping season. Free but donations accepted. Info: 858-551-9553. Saturday, February 17, 2pm; **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Josh Montoya Beach Memorial This is a free community event hosted by Transforming Youth Recovery to remember Josh Montoya all of our loved ones lost to the opioid epidemic and substance use disorders. Join us in creating a beautiful design on the sand with artist Andres Amador. We'll be on the south side of the bridge at Dog Beach Del Mar. Thursday, February 15, 1pm; **free**. Dog Beach Del Mar, 3200 Camino del Mar. (DEL MAR)

La Jolla Kayak Cave Tour Kayak La Jolla and the 7 Caves during this guided tour. Explore sea cliffs and caves as you glide through the La Jolla Ecological Reserve filled with marine life. Paddle to Sunny Jim's Cave, the Arch Cave, the Clams' Cave and other sea caves for close-ups of sandstone formations. Witness sea lions, garibaldi, leopard sharks, shovelnose guitarfish, and the occasional dolphin. Thursdays, 9am; Fridays, 9am; Saturdays, 9am; Sundays, 9am; Mondays, 9am; Tuesdays, 9am; Wednesdays, 9am; through Monday, December 31, \$39-\$99. Bike and Kayak Tours La Jolla, 2158 Avenida de la Playa. (LA JOLLA)

Outrigger Paddling San Diego Outrigger Canoe Club is looking for a few good men and women! Come out to Campland on the Bay for the next couple of weeks on Saturday morning at 8:30 am. It's a water sport so

dress accordingly. We'll have a paddle for you. Drive into Campland and go straight down to the water on the right — you can't miss us. Saturdays, 8:30am; through Saturday, March 31, **free**. Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Shelter Island Walk and Talk Join Sandra, Sally, and friends for a casual walk from the Bali Hai Restaurant to the Friendship Bell and back on flat sidewalks (about 2.5 miles round trip; 60-70 minutes including pit stop). Breathe ocean air and enjoy bay and city views from ships to sea lions. Meet new friends at east end of the island to the right of the Bali Hai by the lamp post and hand rails, where we will stretch for a few minutes. Ample free parking. If you're late, drive down the island and join us along the way. Take the #28 bus and walk approximately three blocks to the Bali Hai. Optional eats afterward. Info: 619-222-3800. Thursdays, 10am; **free**. Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Surfrider Cleanup Meet-Up The Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter and San Diego Coastkeeper coordinate cleanups on the third Saturday of the month at Moonlight State Beach in Encinitas. Group meets on the sand by the beach stand and showers/restrooms. To help out at an already coordinated cleanup, all you have to do is show up. For all beach cleanups, please wear comfortable clothes, closed-toed shoes, and sunscreen. All volunteers are welcome to participate and must sign a liability waiver. Volunteers under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the waiver before the minor can participate. Saturday, February 17, 9am; **free**. Moonlight Beach, 200 B Street. (ENCINITAS)

Tall Ship Adventure Join the crew in sailing a traditionally rigged tall ship. Passengers will be invited to haul a line, man the helm, and end their day with a cannon salute. Watch the crew as they scamper up and down the rigging to set and furl the sails. Listen as the *Californian's* crew relates the history of sailing and exploration in San Diego, tales of whaling and sea otter trade, local sea battles, the art of ship's gunnery, life at sea, and more. Sundays, 11:30am; through Sunday, March 25, \$44-\$62. San Diego Maritime Museum, 1492 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Youth Fishing Clinic at Chollas Lake This kids-only fishing clinic is open to children 15 years and under, Saturday and Sunday year-round. No experience or equipment necessary. Fishing lessons, bait, and fun provided. Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Monday, December 31, **free**. Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive. (OAK PARK)



Matt Moyer, the Destroyer, with calico bass

The skinny on catching fat fish

Eleven out of the world's top 25 largemouth bass have been caught in San Diego County lakes; Dixon, Murray, Miramar, Hodges, and Wohlford have put out fish over 19 pounds. Only the famous Castaic has more top 25 fish than Miramar with 6 to Miramar's 5.

In San Diego there is so much good fishing in the ocean along the coast, that anglers don't have to target a not-so-tasty lake bass. More people prefer tuna than trout, yellowtail over yellow perch, wahoo over walleye.

In Mission and San Diego bays, spotted bay bass are usually found in 4 to 12 feet of water, while sand bass are targeted more during November through March when they move into the bays to spawn. San Diego Bay is best in the winter months for barred sand bass, as they seek the deeper channels in 40-60 feet of water.

San Diego Bay from the Coronado bridge south is my favorite area to target them. There are wide areas of flats and holes and clam beds they prefer as the main channel

winds down to Chula Vista Marina at its end.

On higher tides, fishing right over the top of the eelgrass with a swimbait or crank bait can be productive, though I have better luck on edges and structure. The largest fish have mostly been on dock pilings while allowing a lure to freefall right next to the piling.

Sunday morning, February 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Fastlane Kayak and Sailing Center and Dana Landing Bait and Tackle will host the Bay Bass Seminar.

— Daniel Powell

So much for Bull Taco

One of North County's most unique restaurant chains has closed its last and original location, inside Cardiff by the Sea's San Elijo State

Perfect wave? Fish tale? We'll pay up to \$150 for your story. Send to sdreader.com/waterfront

HARBOR POLICE REPORT

From San Diego city lifeguards

Jan 12
- Harbor Patrol were dispatched to a public dock within the Americas Cup Harbor to investigate a report of a vessel that had been there all night and whose owner refused to leave. After reviewing video surveillance of the dock, Harbor Patrol issued him a citation.

Jan 11
- Harbor Patrol found an adrift dinghy near Harbor Island. The dinghy was taken to the HPD Impound dock.

Jan 10
- Harbor Patrol found a vessel attached to the Harbor Island fuel dock after it was closed. An investigation found

that the subject aboard the boat was intoxicated. He was taken to county jail.

Jan 4
- Harbor Patrol received a call to respond to the Marriott Marina on a report of an occupied stolen vessel. Witnesses on scene reported that a subject jumped over a security fence, untied a large 76' motor yacht and then broke a window to get into the vessel. As the vessel was drifting towards

the rocks in the marina, the suspect was in the pilot house and engine room attempting to start it. Harbor Patrol arrived, boarded the vessel, and arrested the suspect as he came up from the engine compartment. The estimated damages throughout the vessel exceed \$50,000.00 dollars.

Jan 2
- Harbor Patrol responded to the A-3 Anchorage to investigate a dinghy

being stolen.

Dec 31
- Harbor Patrol responded to Marina Cortez to investigate a vessel being broken into. It was found that an unknown subject/s broke into a vessel and were living aboard it while the owner was away on vacation. Harbor Patrol recovered evidence and are continuing the investigation.

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **59**°F HIGH **63**°F

VISIBILITY
10'-20'

Though there is not much surf other than a little 2' bump early in the week, the rain and wind accompanying it won't make for great dive conditions inshore. As the week progresses into the weekend that should change and visibility should be great by Sunday for those snorkeling inside as well as the divers out in the kelp canopy. For the surfers there is little, except that Friday and Saturday morning, and all day Sunday might be good times to break out the SUP and do a little whale watching off La Jolla. Lobster season is open now, so 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

Moon Calendar

	THUR 15	SAT 17	MON 19	WED 21
FEBRUARY				
SUNRISE	6:32	6:30	6:28	6:26
SUNSET	17:34	17:36	17:38	17:39
LENGTH OF DAY	11H 2M	11H 6M	11H 10M	11H 13M



FROM BULL TACO YELP PAGE

Bull Taco's Yelp listing states the Encinitas location will reopen in 2019. "Good luck with that," said the Encinitas leasing agent.

Beach campground.

"People drive up here every day. They're disappointed and heartbroken it's gone," said a park volunteer recently.

In 2009, when the Bull Taco restaurant took over the hamburger stand at the campground, it quickly attracted diners from throughout the area, not just campers.

Bull Taco became known for its "non-authentic Mexican food" with a menu of duck, lobster, and up to ten kinds of fish tacos and burritos. They even served foie gras tacos, until the enlarged goose livers were outlawed in California in 2012.

At the campground's picnic-table dining deck, next to Bull Taco and the campground store, one couldn't beat the unobstructed ocean view, from La Jolla to Dana Point. The state park welcomed diners to walk in or park in their short-term parking lot in front of the camp store. By early 2011,

owner Greg Lukasiewicz, along with his wife and executive chef, Laurel Mananelli, opened their second location on Coast Highway 101 in Oceanside. Soon a location opened on Coast Highway in Encinitas and in San Clemente on El Camino Real.

The sit-down restaurant locations expanded the unique meat choices, occasionally serving beaver, rabbit, kangaroo, and even offered bull-penis tacos. Plans were announced to open future locations in Del Mar and La Jolla, with up to 20 restaurants coming within the next few years.

Things probably began to unravel when the Oceanside location sold to another restaurant in 2014. The last Yelp post for San Clemente was in February of 2015, which at the time had a five-star rating. The Encinitas location closed before the holidays.

"The owners of Bull Taco wanted to change their focus and name. . . [without for-



Noah Roistacher: Cape Hatteras was "a really cool experience."

mal approval], which is a breach of contract," said Lisa Urbach, North Coast Sector superintendent for California State Parks. "Once State Parks was aware of this unapproved change, we gave a deadline to repair the breach, as outlined in the contract agreement. When this wasn't completed in the amount of time required, State Parks asked the camp store concession (which sub-leased to Bull Taco) to terminate the sub-contract agreement they had in place."

— Ken Harrison

Guys with holes in wetsuits nar-doggin' it

NAME: NOAH ROISTACHER

AGE: 22

FROM: SDSU/COLLEGE AREA

LOCATION: OCEAN BEACH

Noah Roistacher frequents O.B. a couple times a week. On an early evening in December, he

said he didn't mind the colder water.

"As long as you've got a wetsuit, you'll be fine. You'll see guys out there with holes in their wetsuits just nar-doggin' it and they're fine."

Perks of surfing in the winter include better and bigger waves and fewer people. "In the winter a lot more swell hits frequently," he said. "There's less crowds, a lot more powerful wave, definitely more size to the wave, and a more consistent swell."

Roistacher's favorite surf memory: "I would say a couple of my friends from home just driving really early in the morning and getting to Cape Hatteras, in North Carolina. We'd roll up on the spot, have food in the back, and we'd surf all day. Out in the sun with friends, and nobody else is really out and we'd find secret spots and stuff, it's a really cool experience."

— Evelyn Grimm

WHEN A "NORMAL" WEEK SEEMS SLOW, YOU'VE BEEN SPOILED BY EL NIÑO FISHING

Dock Totals Feb 4 – Feb 10: 847 anglers aboard 44 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 27 bluefin tuna, 20 yellowtail, 91 calico bass, 645 sand bass, 493 rockfish, 3 whitefish, 11 lingcod, 21 bonito, 7 halibut, 1,020 sculpin, 185 sanddab, 43 lizardfish, 3 fineskin triggerfish, 6 sheephead, 2 gray smoothhound shark, 25 white croaker, 5 rubberlip seaperch, and 3 spiny lobster.

Saltwater: In our local waters, it's all about that bass this

past week. Though a scratch of bluefin tuna are still around outside toward San Clemente Island and in Mexican waters to the south as well, and some medium-sized yellowtail are being caught just off the Coronado Islands, most of the boats are targeting the good inshore fishing off the kelp and flats for sculpin, sand bass, halibut, and calico bass. Until rockfish reopens north of the border on the first of March, the only option for reds, lings, whitefish, sheephead and lingcod is

to go south of the border. Fortunately, there are trips from ½ to 2.5 days doing just that, and though an angler's odds of catching a big lingcod go up with distance and time, some of the ½ and ¾ day runs are reporting limits of rockfish with a few decent lingcod in the mix.

The sand bass bite is always welcome this time of year when much of the fishery usually slows down — even though there hasn't been a lot of 'normal' for the fishery just off of our coast.

All-you-can-top

“We warn customers that too much will make it soggy, and the oven won’t be able to correct it.”

Jó étvágyat!” says Zorka. It means “Bon appetit,” in Hungarian, she says. She’s from Budapest.

We’re sitting in this brand-new, two-week-old pizza-and-salad joint, in East Village.

Man, I’ve been waiting for this place to open for months. It brightens up the kinda scuzzy stretch of Park Boulevard between Market and Broadway.

Opposite, on Park, is a giant hole where Quartyard was. Think it’s going to be a 30-story condo tower. But Zorka’s husband Terry looks pleased about that.

“Well, the crane went up last week, and now they’re bringing 300 workers in, to start construction,” says Terry (co-owner with Zorka). “We’re hoping some of them are going to like pizza at lunchtime.”

I’m here because, well, the idea of pizza plus salad sounds so healthy. And, too, it’s so easy. It’s right next to the Blue and Orange line trolley.

Plus, this chilly afternoon, I see they have a sidewalk patio with heating. And inside, I see they’ve kept the pizza formula simple. One size: ten-inch; one price, \$10. From Margherita to veggie to buffalo chix to Supreme. Or, you can choose your own. And still ten bucks, no matter how much you load up your pizza.

Katie, one of the servers, is standing behind the glass that protects all the ingredients. I realize I’m getting the chance to create the greatest pizza ever made. Even the crust is a choice. Traditional, wheat, or gluten-free? Taste-wise, says Katie, wheat’s got the most flavor. I go along. The dough dude grabs a ball of brown dough, squishes it under a hot disc, then hands it to Katie.

Now the questions start. “The sauce?” Pesto, BBQ, olive oil, red, or white? I go red. Next, choose from baby mozzarella, cheddar, feta, goat, gorgonzola, and vegan, among others. Decision: mozzarella and gorgonzola.

Veggies? Oh, Lord. Eighteen to choose from. I see red. Go for baby tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes, red onions, red peppers. This is gonna be one red pizza. But, be still my heart: I see they have, alongside the chopped olives, Kalamata olives, the ones you can actually taste. The ones you don’t usually get offered in an all-you-can-eat scenario, because Kalamata olives ain’t cheap. But

here, Katie keeps plopping those suckers on till I say stop. No hesitation on any of my meandering impulses. At the end we put chicken sausage and pepperoni for the protein (I almost go for Italian sausage...or meatball or chorizo or prosciutto or salami). And then she drops — oh, yeah — fresh chopped garlic all over it.

You can’t go on and look these folks in the eye. Besides, this choosing business has been hard work, mixing this, rejecting that. I’m exhausted. I give Katie the nod. She slides the Bedford Pizza onto a paddle and into the yellow brick oven (“500 degrees,” she says).

Result: man-oh-man, if I do say so myself, we have ourselves a red-and-white masterpiece, under a swirl of red and white onion curls.

Course, visuals are one thing, taste is another. I know I haven’t balanced out the flavors. Next time I’d definitely go for Italian sausage or salami, but really, I’m impressed. Especially that combo of the gorgonzola and red pepper and baby tomatoes.

I know other places do this customer choice thing, but it’s pretty much a first for me, and knowing the price is fixed to ten Washingtons no matter what or how much you pick, makes it really easy.

Have to ask Zorka (her name means “sunrise” in Hungarian) what happens if a customer gets really, really, greedy, and keeps on adding and adding.

“Well there’s only so much a ten-inch pizza crust can support,” she says, “and we warn customers that too much will make it soggy,



Best thing’s the look, but you have to think taste combo, too



Katie loads up the Kalamatas

and the oven won’t be able to correct it. But this hardly ever happens.”

She arrived from Budapest with a business degree in hospitality, became a manager in a smoothie place, then owned a place up in Valencia, north of L.A.

She and Terry decided to come down to San Diego and launch this pizza idea. “I’m a big-city girl,” she says. “San Diego has that feel, and it’s growing. That’s why we chose East Village.”

But why only one size pizza? Why no other Italian dishes? “I like things simple. And especially at lunchtime, I think working people want to be in and out in ten minutes or so.”

Actually, they do have a whole salad system going, too. The regular “classic” salads like the Caesar or spinach-and-gorgonzola (which comes with bacon, eggs, cranberries, and walnuts) cost \$11. Or you can build your own unlimited salad for \$9 (added protein goes for \$2 each). And they have a short list of “bites.” Burrata cheese goes for \$8, skewers loaded with melon and prosciutto, or an antipasto mix of



Carla’s melon-and-prosciutto skewers

salami, cheese, Kalamata olives and greens, are \$6. And they have desserts such as tiramisu for \$5. That’s about it.

I decide to get one of those melon-and-prosciutto skewers to take back to Carla. Nice little treats and pretty filling.

Now. Can’t leave without saying “Thank you. I am full,” in Hungarian.

Hmm. Look it up... Uh, “Köszönöm. Tele vagyok?” Hey, when in Little Budapest... ■

The Place: Make Pizza + Salad, 699 Park Boulevard, East Village, 619-546-8511

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–9 p.m. daily

Prices: Pizza comes in one size (ten-inch), one price (\$10). Includes “classics,” such as Margherita, veggie, buffalo chix, Supreme. Choose your own pizza (crust, sauce, cheese, veggies, proteins, finishes), \$10; “classic” salads (e.g., Caesar or spinach-and-gorgonzola with bacon, eggs, cranberries, walnuts) cost \$11; make your own salad, \$9, added protein, \$2 each; appetizers (e.g., burrata cheese “bite”) \$8; meatballs, \$6; pepperoni crisps, ranch dip, \$5; melon-and-prosciutto skewer, \$6; tiramisu, \$5

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Lazy, lazy joy

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Mezcla comes in from the cold

Tacos la Mezcla, 1517 30th Street, South Park. I'm always glad to see a good food truck make the move into a regular restaurant. I'm doubly glad when it's one of my favorite taco trucks, triply happy when it moves into a fixed location within walking distance of my home, and four times as thrilled when there's delicious beer being served.

So, imagine my lazy, lazy joy when I found out Tacos La Mezcla had made a deal to take over the restaurant half of my neighborhood brewery, South Park Brewing Company.

South Park Brewing has served food from the very beginning, initially operating as a fish-market counter. But that concept never really took off, and over the past couple years its menu has shifted and its service area remodeled as it tried in vain to complement a block already in possession of great Italian food, vegan fare, and burgers.

Enter La Mezcla. Back in August, owner Francisco Moreno celebrated the fourth anniversary of his truck with a day of pop-up service at the South Park brewery. Following that successful collaboration, brewery owner Scot Blair and fellow South Park resident Moreno decided to make a symbiotic relationship out of it, and in January La Mezcla started serving its food at the brewery full time.

Tacos La Mezcla the truck is still out there, turning up at other breweries and spots like the Cross Border Xpress bridge at the Tijuana Airport. But here in South Park, I have only a short stroll to stock up on Mezcla's tacos, nachos, or one of my new favorites: a hearty barbacoa beef bowl served with rice, pinto beans, guacamole, crema, and pico de gallo for \$8.75.

But what's got me writing about this whole new arrangement is the addition of a Sunday special: *pozole*.

I can't imagine the logistical headaches of trying to serve soup out of a tiny truck kitchen, and it's the surest indication that moving into the South Park kitchen has allowed Moreno to expand Mezcla's menu.

FEAST!

A chili-pepper-infused broth has long made *pozole* my favorite non-noodle soup, and the chicken

stock here runs a rich red, teeming with warm (not hot) smoky pepper profile. Along with the namesake *pozole* (hominy), this soup is packed with chunks of pork belly and baby-back ribs falling off the bone.

I never imagined such porky, soupy decadence would be available so close to home, and any remotely chilly, rainy Sunday, this hefty \$8.75 portion of soup will now be the first option to warm my gullet. The rest of the week, I'll settle for tacos.

by Ian Anderson



The meat has fallen off this baby back rib bone, into the pozole soup.

Second-chance BBQ

Da Chicken Coop, 2605 Lemon Grove Avenue,

Lemon Grove. I would spot Da Chicken Coop across the narrow parking lot as I approached Coop's West Texas BBQ. Both Lemon Grove restaurants are the work of namesake owner Bradrick "Coop" Cooper, which made me hesitate a moment. Chicken to the right, BBQ to the left.

I'd wonder: *should I ignore my BBQ craving to try Coop's fried chicken?* The guy's smoked meats make all the local foodies gush — myself included — so I definitely wanted to find what he can accomplish with batter and a deep fryer.

I'd wonder again: *do I have the appetite to do both?* A half pound of pulled pork, coleslaw, red beans & rice, and corn bread; then an order of chicken and waffles? How could I squeeze in a few ribs?

Life's filled with hard choices sometimes, and in the case of Coop's I found myself choosing BBQ every time. Until at last, I set out from my house



A "small" order of chicken strips and fries at Da Chicken Coop.

with a hankerin' to finally try that fried chicken; only to find Da Chicken Coop had closed. I'd waited too long and missed out.

That was last winter, and I kicked myself over an order of hot links and collard greens at Coop's. Those spicy sausages made terrific consolation.

But, last month, I heard Da Chicken Coop had reopened and so I set out to dig in to a plate of the well-recommended fried chicken and waffles.

The place is basically a kitchen with a patio. You order at a window, where the friendly folks behind the counter tell me the reopened Coop has simplified its menu. Options include chicken strips or dark meat, served with fries or waffles. Small and large portions of each range from \$7 to \$16. You may also do pollock or catfish. Eating with a friend, I split a large dark meat on waffles and small chicken strips with fries.

The chicken strips are boneless white meat.

enjoy myself.

Without the sauce it's great chicken — especially the dark meat — but milder than its competition: not quite as juicy as the Southern-fried style over at Crispy Chicken; not quite as flavorful as the pickle-brined gourmet take at the Crack Shack. And I've got a real soft spot for the lip-smacking paprika crunch of the boneless pieces served at Tender Greens' downtown location.

But Coop's biggest competition is himself. You have to really want fried chicken to ignore the fact you're only 70 feet from Coop's famous BBQ, a feat that gets tougher when you spy the smoker in the parking lot and its aromas waft your way. But even if that pulled pork is objectively better, heed my cautionary example and make the effort to try this fried chicken. Because it's still here.

by Ian Anderson

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Calendar

RESTAURANT

FOOD & DRINK

Chinese New Year Celebration Ring in Chinese New Year with the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. They will be hosting their Annual Chinese New Year Celebration at Jasmine Seafood Restaurant. Welcome the Year of the Dog with a dinner banquet and surprise performances. Come in your best festive attire. Sunday, February 18, 5:30pm; **free**. Jasmine Seafood Restaurant, 4609 Convoy St., Suite A. (KEARNY MESA)

Fondue Valentines Five courses fondue including premium cheeses, entrées, and

chocolate. Menu is five courses of fondue, as well as a snow crab starter and a salad, maybe spinach with strawberries and pecans in a lemon-poppysseed dressing. Entrées include surf 'n' turf or pasta options, and we finish with three types of chocolate fondue, melty goodness like milk chocolate swirled with Frangelico or dark chocolate laced with passionfruit. Thursday, February 15, 4pm; \$80-\$87. Melting Pot, 8980 University Center Lane. (LA JOLLA)

Gala Wine-Release Party There is no better way to celebrate the release of these two beautiful reds than to pair them with a steaming bowl of beef bourguignon. Guests will receive a glass of each of the featured wines. Limited to the first 60 guests. Friday, February 16, 6:30pm; \$40. Gianni Buonomo Vintners Winery and Tasting

Room, 4836 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Icons & Masters Anniversary Gala Step back in time into a sepia-tone lit Crown Room as The Del celebrates 130 years of indelible memories. The evening includes a dinner collaboration from five of the nation's French Master Chefs, an gallery showing of some of the world's most iconic stars seen through the lens of legendary celebrity photographer John Russo, and entertainment from NRG Orchestra. Tickets are limited for this black-tie gala. All proceeds benefit the charities highlighted in the book *100 Making a Difference*. Saturday, February 17, 5:30pm; \$250-\$450. Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Avenue. (CORONADO)

Poke Sicilian Style In this community pop-up dinner we will introduce you to the Poke Love Bowl, Sicilian style. 100% fresh and locally sourced ingredients including the seafood from Catalina Offshore. We will offer a taste of wines (with a small donation), and guests are welcome to bring their favorite adult beverage. Menu: DIY Poke-Bowl Sicilian-Style Octopus Bruschetta with handmade gluten-free bread brioche with homemade gelato roasted by you around the fire pit. Designed for 20 guests. Friday, February 16, 6pm; \$25-\$59. Cucina Migrante, 2567 Broadway. (GOLDEN HILL)

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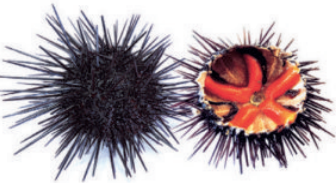
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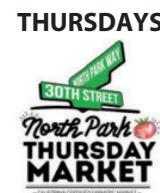


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ALLIED GARDENS

McGregor's Grill and Ale House: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$1 off all pints, wells, house wines. \$1 off burgers, Baja fish, carnitas, and fish tacos.

San Diego Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$4 selected house beer, house wine, well drinks, \$6 happy hour food specials.

ALPINE

Mediterraneo: *Daily, 11am-7pm:* \$1 off wells and craft beer, \$3.50 Coors Light draft, \$5.50 house wine.

BALBOA PARK

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

BANKERS HILL

Azuki Sushi Lounge: *Monday-Friday, 5-6:30pm:* \$4 Sapporo draft, \$6 house wine, large sake, azuki drop, simple life. \$4 garlic edamame, shishito, seaweed salad, \$6 root vegetable fries, \$7 spicy albacore tataki, \$8 crispy rice + spicy tuna.

Balboa Bar & Grill: *Daily, 4-6pm:* \$1 off all drinks. \$5 Balboa Burger.

Bankers Hill Bar + Restaurant: *Daily, 4:30-6pm:* \$7 cocktails, \$6 sangrias. \$4.50 pulled pork sandwiches and cheeseburger sliders, \$5.50 deviled eggs.

Bertrand at Mister A's: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2:30-6pm:* \$5.50 craft beers, \$6 sangrias, \$5 draft beers. \$4 tacos, \$6 Caesar salad.

Pizzicato: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$2 off wine, \$5 drafts. 1/2 off appetizers.

Wet Stone Wine Bar and Cafe: *Tuesday-Friday, 5-6pm:* \$6 select wine and sangrias. \$7 seasonal small plates. *Sunday, 4-9pm:* \$6 select wine and sangrias. \$7 small plates.

BARRIO LOGAN

MishMash: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 craft beer.

¡Salud! *Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2-5pm:* \$4 beers and free chips. *Tuesday, 2-5pm:* \$4 beers and free chips. Three tacos for \$6. *Thursday, 2-5pm:* \$4 beers and free chips. \$2.50 empanadas.

BAY HO

Spice & Soul: *Monday, 11am-9pm:* \$5 beers, wines, appetizers. *Tuesday-Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$5 beers, wines, appetizers.

BAY PARK

Bay Park Fish Company: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 house wine, \$2 off draft beer, 20% off all appetizers, \$2 oysters.

The High Dive: *Monday, 3-6pm:* \$2 off select drafts. All day: \$6 margaritas. 5-10 pm: \$2 street tacos. *Tuesday, 3-6pm:* \$2 off select drafts. \$2 off all things tiki. 5-10pm: \$2 lid-

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Look elsewhere for hazy IPAs

The Bell Marker brewpub (602 Broadway, downtown) opened in January, after having polished up the brewhouse and restaurant space of the defunct downtown brewery known as the **Beer Company**. The Bell Marker is part of **Artisanal Brewers Collective**, a Los Angeles-based company with more than a dozen bars and breweries planned or pending throughout Southern California. Heading up Artisanal Brewers is Tony Yanow, the cofounder of **Golden Road Brewing**, which quickly became L.A.'s largest craft brew-

ery prior to its acquisition by the world's largest beer company, **AB InBev**, in 2015.

Though owned by out-of-town interests, unlike nearby brewpub **10 Barrel** — which opened to the chagrin of local brewers last year in East Village — the Bell Marker is not owned by AB InBev. And its 15-barrel brewhouse is being operated by a couple of local brewers, now returning to San Diego from stints elsewhere.

Years ago, Noah Regnery and Brandon Edwards each spent time making beer for **Pizza Port** under the tutelage of acclaimed local brewer Jeff Bagby. They became head brewers of Pizza Port's San Clemente and Solana Beach brewpub locations, respectively, before moving on to top positions. Regnery brewed at **Hollister Brewing Company** in Santa Barbara, while Edwards spent the last three-plus years at **Columbus Brewing Company** in Ohio.

Head brewer Regnery, who also has a partnership stake in the business, says that, although Artisanal Brewers operates a number of brewery locations, each operates independently, and he and Edwards have carte blanche to produce the beers they see fit.

"That's the really cool thing about our concepts, is that unless there's a specific direction that we're going with a location, we can do what



The Bell Marker brewpub won't be married to any particular styles.

we want with it," Regnery says. "Of course we'll have favorites that we'll repeat...but we're not going to be married to any specific styles."

The brewpub opened with a lineup of hoppy West Coast ales and English beer styles, including a cream ale and brown ale. However, both a Belgian blonde and Czech pilsner are forthcoming,

and Regnery anticipates rotating through new styles and fine tuning recipes rather than fixing on a core lineup. "We want variety," he says, "we don't want it to be a machine. We want it to be a living, breathing thing."

He adds that customer feedback will likely influence the direction of the beers, as both brewers are prone to sitting at the bar between steps in the brewing process, talking beer with guests. As an example, he says, "We're happy with our cream ale. But, we're not a production brewery, so we get to play with it and make tweaks at least, if not make completely new beers every time."

Beer fans should not, however, expect to find any trendy hazy IPAs on tap at Bell Marker anytime soon. "It's not going to be one of our things," Regnery says. "That's not the way we're programmed to make beer." ■

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

CARMEL MOUNTAIN

Fish District: *Daily, 2-5pm:* \$1 off beer and wine. \$3.50-\$4.50 appetizers.

Oggi's Pizza & Brewing Co.: *Daily, 3-6pm, 9pm-close:* \$1 off pints, wells, and house wines, \$4 off wine bottles, \$4.95-\$8.95 appetizers.

CARMEL VALLEY

Arterra: *Daily, 3-7pm:* \$6 house wines, wells, all drafts, \$7 perfect margarita, \$8 Svedka vodka.

Bistro 39: *Daily, 3pm-6pm:* \$2 off drinks. \$5 appetizer plates.

Davanti Enoteca: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$6 Davanti Spritz, \$5 house wines, \$6 wells. \$5 ricotta vasi, \$6 calamari.

CHULA VISTA

El Comal: *Daily, 2-6pm:* \$4 drafts.

Galley at the Marina: *Monday-Saturday, 3-6pm:* \$4 well drinks; house chardonnay, cabernet, and merlot; Budweiser, Bud Light, or Shock Top 16-oz. pints.

CITY HEIGHTS

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

CORONADO

Bistro d'Asia: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$3.75 domestic bottled beer, \$5.50 Gekkeikan sake (served warm), \$5.75 sake-tini. \$5.50 California roll, \$6.50 spicy tuna roll, \$7 crispy calamari.

Coronado Bayside Grill: *Daily, 3-6pm:* \$3 domestic drafts, \$4 cocktails and house wine.

Costa Azul: *Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-6:30pm:* \$4 drafts and house wine, \$4.50 sangria, \$8.50 signature drinks, \$23 beer buckets (six bottles).

Nicky Rottens: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 drafts, wells, house wines, half off select appetizers.

DEL MAR

The Clubhouse Grill: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-6pm:* \$7 beers, \$5 wines, \$6 appetizers.

Jake's Del Mar Waterfront Grill: *Monday, All night:* \$2 off starters, sea drinks, drafts. \$6 wines. *Tuesday, 3-6pm:* \$4 Baja fish tacos. \$2 off draft beer. *Wednesday-Friday,*

3-6pm: \$2 off starters, sea drinks, drafts. \$6 wines.

Ocean View Bar & Grill: *Monday-Friday, 4:30-6pm:* Bud Light, Budweiser, Coors Light \$4; draft Stella Artois \$5; house wine and wells \$6; specialty cocktails \$7.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

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

Asti Ristorante: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$3.50 domestic beers, \$5 imported beers, \$6 house wine, martinis, cocktails.

The Blind Burro: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 Buena Cerveza, \$5 wine and wells, \$6 house margarita. \$3.50 fish taco, \$5 bacon-wrapped jalapenos, \$6 taquitos (3) or Queso Crisp.

Blue Point: *Daily, 5-6:30pm:* \$5 drafts, wine by the glass, \$10 specialty

cocktails. \$1 oysters, \$2 jumbo shrimp, \$10 select bluepoint appetizers.

Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 2-5pm:* \$1 off drafts, wine, well drinks, \$6 margaritas, mai tai, Long Island iced tea, \$5 and \$6 appetizers.

Cafe 21: *Daily, 3-6pm:* Half off mimosas and sangria pitchers. 21% off organic cocktails. \$6 tapas.

Cafe Sevilla Tapas Bar: *Daily, 3pm-6pm:* \$3 off everything on food and beverage menu.

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 draft beers, \$6 wines, \$10 specialty cocktails, \$5 tacos (carnitas, fish, steak) with chips and salsa.

Crab Hut: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$4 beer on tap, \$15 pitcher, \$6 house wine, sangria, 75 cents/wing, %1.50 oyster, \$4 crab poppers, \$5 sausage sliders.

Dobson's: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$5 drafts, well drinks, house wine.

Don Chido: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* Half off all drinks and appetizers.

Double Standard: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$3 off glass of wine, cocktails, drafts. \$3-off small plates.

Florent: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$5 beer, wine, cocktails, discounted apps.

Gaslamp Tavern: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$4 wells and select drafts. \$2 off wine and specialty cocktails.

Grant Grill: *Monday-Thursday, Sunday, 4-7pm:* \$7 red, white, or sparkling wine, cocktails made with New Amsterdam vodka, \$10 martinis. \$2 off lounge cuisine.

Henry's Pub: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$4 drafts, wines, and wells.

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

House of Blues: *Tuesday-Sunday, 4-6pm:* \$4 well cocktails, Fireball or Sauza Blue tequila shots, select beers, \$5 call cocktails, sangria, house wine, \$6 Moscow mule, house margarita, select 23 oz. draft beers, \$4-\$6 appetizers

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 all beers, flights, house wine.



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blurt the inside track

Wasteland Weekend, with real blood and explosions. When Authentic Sellout guitarist Christian Borja pens songs, he tends to envision images that correlate with the lyrics. While he was writing “Radiate,” many of these images were post-apocalyptic. Vocalist Sulo King landing the band a gig at Wasteland Weekend was likely a lucky coincidence.

“I got wind of [Wasteland Weekend], like, seven years ago in its first conception,” King said. “It was called ‘Road Warrior Weekend’ back then. I found out about it through some people at Comic-Con a few months before it happened because it’s always in September. Someone said, ‘Hey, you’re a huge *Mad Max* fan. This should be a perfect gig for you.’”

The website for Wasteland

Weekend describes it as “a five-day post-apocalyptic festival” that is held in the Mojave Desert. 2017’s location was about 30 miles outside of California City and attracted an estimated 3850 attendees. Realizing they



Some people play golf on weekends. Not Authentic Sellout.

had the perfect setting for shooting a video for “Radiate,” the band hired a video crew to accompany them to the desert. Unfortunately, the plan was nearly derailed due to a packing accident on the eve of their trip.

“Christian was trying to

cut a zip-tie off a lantern we had bought at Walmart, and I handed him a knife. The lantern was plastic and the zip-tie was on the handle. So, instead of cutting it off, it slid, and so did the knife. He gashed his hand right in between his thumb and index finger. We had to spend, like, four hours at the ER,” King said.

At the ER, the doctor informed Borja that no tendons had been damaged and that he would be fine. He was given

eight stitches, a splint was applied, and the band headed to the desert.

“So, I’m trying to figure out how I’m going to do all these solos without using my thumb,” Borja said. “It was the hardest gig I’ve ever had to do thus far.

I’ve had full-blown food poisoning, the flu, an almost-broken foot, but this was by far the hardest to pull off. If you look at the video, I’m basically wearing a full splint on my hand. Everyone thought it was part of my outfit at first.”

When the band arrived at the festival on the second day, they noticed the burned-out carcass of an RV in a spot across from where they were camping. King figured that it was either just a “pretty cool prop” or that people “were just burning cars for fun.” Neither was correct.

“Someone set up an RV and they put their generator too close to the tank on the RV and it exploded. No one was injured, but their whole, brand-new RV, their truck...everything exploded. I can’t help laughing — I heard some lady was in the shower when this was all going on and had to run out of the trailer butt-ass naked while it’s burning to the ground,” King explained.

— Dryw Keltz



Elise Trouw isn’t looking for a major-label deal right now.

Not thrown for a loop.

San Diego’s Elise Trouw got bumped from *Jimmy Kimmel Live* January 30. Was the local 18-year-old multi-instrumentalist bummed because porno actress Stormy Daniels hogged all her time?

“I wasn’t worried about it,” says Trouw. “These things happen.” The segment she taped that night aired nine days later, February 8.

Trouw drew the attention of Kimmel’s producers, who noticed two of her videos garnered over a million views each. The videos show Trouw using a looping device to play drums, bass, guitar, and keyboards, providing a music track as she sings

a mashup of Police and Radiohead tunes and another that shows her grafting songs by Foo Fighters and Bobby Caldwell.

Trouw is currently managed by her parents Anne (“I have an art background”) and software engineer Arie. Even though she was postponed, Trouw’s appearance

was teased at the beginning of Kimmel’s January 30 show. She says those seconds of ABC-TV exposure led to her being contacted by a number of artist managers and major labels asking if she might need some professional help. While she won’t rule out an eventual major-label hookup, “With the internet being what it is, you don’t really need a major label to get your music out there.”

Trouw was signed in 2016 to San Diego’s Pacific Records. A number of insiders say Trouw bought out her Pacific Records contract and took control of the masters. Anne Trouw had no comment. Pacific Records CEO

(continued on page 42)

MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN TICKETS

Win a pair of tickets to see Gaby Moreno at Music Box.

Deadline to Enter: Thursday, March 1 at 1pm.

WIN TICKETS

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Deadline to Enter: Monday, March 5 at 1pm.

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San Diego Reader February 15, 2018 41

Brian Witkin would not go into details either, but he said, “We amicably resolved everything and we wish her the best going forward. She’s a great artist.”

While she has an agent, Trouw has so far only played a handful of venues in L.A. and locally (Soda Bar, Winstons, Lestat’s) where she hauls all her instruments and her Ableton looping gizmo. She is officially known as a live looping artist.

“I only started as a professional singer two years ago.” She credits the high school jazz band at the Bishop’s School and the School of Rock for helping her get her chops down.

“I started playing keyboards at six, drums at ten, and guitar at 12. I have been doing the multi-instrumental thing out of necessity: early on I couldn’t afford to hire all these musicians to back me up so I just did it myself.”

— Ken Leighton

Punks share. Patrick Erhard is the lead singer/bassist of Ash Williams, the punk band that one reviewer said “wishes it was a black metal band.”

The SDSU grad started booking his own punk shows two years ago. “I’ve booked a ton of punk shows at Til Two and Tower Bar,” says Erhard. He didn’t do it for the money.

“In a perfect world, everyone

would get paid,” he says about the commonly accepted one-for-all punk ethic. “It’s unfortunate, but a lot of the local bands play for free or for beer. All my shows are six dollars unless the headlining band demands more. The punk community accepts that the headlining band gets the door. When it’s just local bands, everyone shares.”

Erhard moved here from NorCal to get his SDSU econ degree. That’s when he met Scout Seshimo, a graphic design grad who is Ash Williams’ lead guitarist and officially “a transgender neutral.” Singer Laura Grace of Against Me is the much more famous trans rocker from Against Me. Erhard says



Ash Williams made the Canadian kids insane

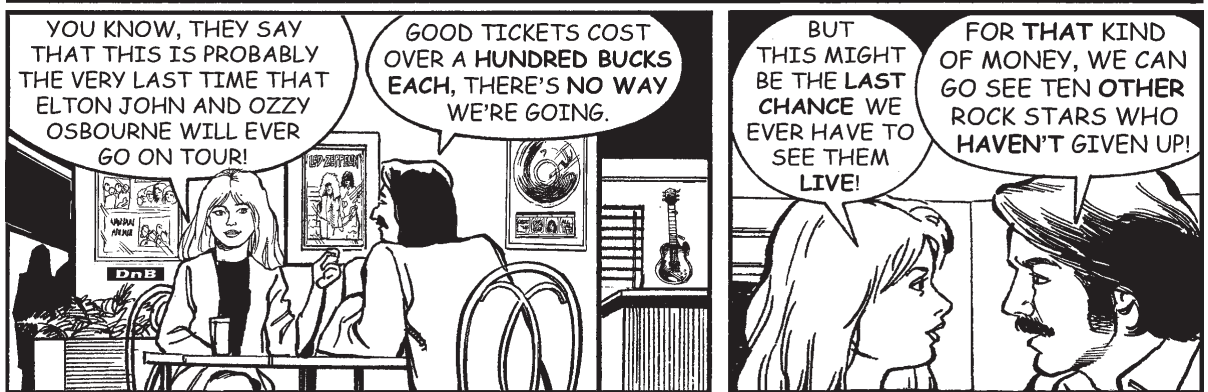
that Ash Williams doesn’t have trans-directed lyrics as Against Me does.

“Scout never even knew about [Against Me] when he decided to declare he was trans. Scout shreds on guitar and it speaks for itself.”

Ash Williams promo boasts that they’ve played three countries.

“We just played the Moustache Bar [in Tijuana] a few weeks ago. It’s always super

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fun to play there. The pay isn’t always amazing but you get free drinks and the tacos are the best

you will ever have in your life. It’s worth it. The last time we played Canada we played in an auto shop in Vancouver. The kids went insane.”

Ash Williams appears at

Space February 18th at 8 p.m. as part of Awesome Fest 11.

— Ken Leighton

Praises of yoga sung. “I think there’s a benefit to not being with a label and self-financing, because I have a lot more freedom,” says musician Sharon DuBois, who just completed her latest album (*Into Light*) after almost three years of work and a personal investment of approximately

\$14,000.

“When you pay for it yourself, you can be more creative. If I had to stick with a budget, I wouldn’t have been able to use Christian McBride when he became available. Nobody’s telling me what box I need to fit into. I also had the luxury of time on this project — without people pushing me or exerting outside pressure. On my previous albums, I stressed out a lot because of that.”

DuBois works as a yoga instructor and a holistic health practitioner to pay the bills; she also teaches music as an independent contractor for the San Diego Unified School District. She’s been involved with yoga all of her life.

“I started practicing yoga when I was three years old back in Canada. My gym teachers were from India and I learned it from them.”

A serious accident led to her current occupation.

“In the 1990s, I was working on a cruise line and I fell 75 feet. They wanted to do surgery but I decided to heal myself through yoga, massage, and acupuncture. It was a lifesaver for me. It seemed like a natural progres-



“Nobody’s telling me what box I fit into.” (Sharon DuBois)

sion, so I became certified in 1996 and started teaching at the YMCA. I help people facilitate their own healing; it’s kind of preventative medicine and I know that it works.”

DuBois estimates it took 175 hours of yoga instruction to pay

for *Into Light*, which was produced by John Staten, who also plays drums on the record. Now that it’s done, she can relax.

“It’s a load off of my shoulders, for sure. I’m excited to pay off my credit card and start saving for the future. That’s huge.”

“This is an album about loss,” she said. “I had been working on a lot of these tunes with Nicki Carano, who passed away suddenly on January 31 in 2016. Two years earlier, my teacher and mentor Daniel Jackson died. The album is dedicated to them. There is a lot of sadness in the music, but also joy, because when people die they also become the light.”

— Robert Bush

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS
Robert Bush, Chad Deal, Dave Good, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Ken Leighton, Jay Allen Sanford

<p>WEDNESDAY • FEB 14 CHUCK RAGAN JESSE LAMONACA BRETT NEWSKI</p> <p>THURSDAY • FEB 15 MARY TIMONY PLAYS HELIUM ALLISON CRUTCHFIELD</p> <p>FRIDAY • FEB 16 GAMEFACE ERRORTYPE: ELEVEN WEIGHT OF THE SUN</p> <p>SATURDAY • FEB 17 HA HA TONKA THE HEAVY GUILT</p> <p>SUNDAY • FEB 18 THE DELTA BOMBERS THE SLEEPWALKERS HARD FALL HEARTS 2PM - GRAMPADREW'S FLIM FLAM REVUE</p> <p>MONDAY • FEB 19 BULLY • MELKBELLY</p> <p>TUESDAY • FEB 20 CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH! STEADY HOLIDAY</p> <p>casbahmusic.com facebook.com/CasbahMusic instagram.com/casbahsandiego</p>	<p>THE Casbah</p> <p>COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC • 21 w/ID 2501 KETTNER BLVD. 619-232-HELL • casbahmusic.com</p> <p>THURSDAY • FEB 22 WILLIE WATSON THE MIDNIGHT PINE ACOUSTIC DUO</p> <p>SUNDAY • FEB 25 BUSTY AND THE BASS STS X KHARI MATEEN</p> <p>MONDAY • FEB 26 JANIVA MAGNESS</p> <p>TUESDAY • FEB 27 EMO NITE SAN DIEGO</p> <p>WEDNESDAY • FEB 28 THURSTON MOORE GROUP ROGUE SQUARES</p> <p>THURSDAY • MAR 1 THE DEARS • DREW THAMS (LIQUORSMITHS)</p>	<p>FRIDAY • MAR 2 SATURDAY • MAR 3 EARTHLESS KIKAGAKU MOYO JJUJJUU</p> <p>SUNDAY • MAR 4 MATT COSTA</p> <p>TUESDAY • MAR 6 THE PIMPS OF JOYTIME</p> <p>THURSDAY • MAR 8 KYLE CRAFT</p> <p>FRIDAY • MAR 9 THUNDERPUSSY ANDREW MCKEAG BAND</p> <p>SATURDAY • MAR 10 SAN DIEGO FREAKOUT - FRANKIE AND THE WITCHFINGERS WILD WILD WETS THE MAD WALLS CREEPSEED</p> <p>SUNDAY • MAR 11 KATE BUSH DANCE PARTY</p>
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<p>THU, FEB 15 BLACK PUSSY Amigo, Space Wax, Well Well Well</p> <p>THU, FEB 22 EYEHATEGOD Final Conflict, Deep Sea Thunder Beast, Fantasy Arcade</p> <p>FRI, FEB 23 SEPTICFLESH Dark Funeral, Thy Antichrist, Helsott, Sergulath</p> <p>SUN, FEB 25 EXHUMED Incantation, Phobia, Festering Grave</p> <p>MON, FEB 26 YEAR OF THE COBRA Desert Suns, Nebula Drag</p>	<p>BRICK X BRICK</p> <p>THU, MAR 1 ACT OF DEFIANCE Shattered Sun, Shawshank Redeemed, Blackcast</p> <p>SAT, MAR 3 MURKOCET Motive, The No Name Gang, The Killing Word, Defy The Tyrants</p> <p>FRI, MAR 9 AMERICAN NIGHTMARE Torso, Fireburn, Spiritual Cramp</p>	<p>SAT, MAR 10 DOYLE Society 1, Chemical Warfare, Steeltoe, The Heathens</p> <p>SUN, MAR 11 WOLVES IN THE THRONE ROOM Chrch, Abyssal</p> <p>FRI, MAR 16 EYE OF SOLITUDE Marche Funèbre, Dhatūra, October Flame</p> <p>SAT, MAR 17 UP THE IRONS Hardwired, Priest Unleashed</p> <p>SUN, MAR 18 MICHAEL GRAVES Fishing For Chips, Dusty Mitchell</p>
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FEB 23



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FEB 24

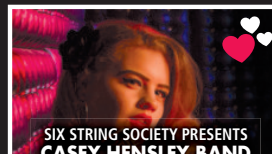
JUST ADDED

Rob Stone 3/3 - Early Show • CRSSD after Dark - Tiga, Mark Knight - Late Show 3/3
CRSSD after Dark - This Ain't Bristol 3/4 • Craig David Pres. TS5 3/21 • El Haragan y Cia 3/28
Joshua Radin w/ William Fitzsimmons 4/7 - pre-sale 2/15
The Deep End Pres. DJ Sneak 4/21 • La Santa Cecilia 4/22 • Watsky 5/1

COMING SOON

2/27 Real Estate	3/11 KPBS pres. Ethan Bortnick "Generations of Music" w/ special guest Assia Ahhatt	3/31 The Oh Hellos
2/28 Burger Records pres. Dengue Fever	3/14 Gaby Moreno w/ Sean Watkins	4/6 Autograf
3/1 SuicideGirls: Blackheart Burlesque	3/15 Emancipator Ensemble: 'Baralku' Tour	4/11 Bilal
3/2 Langhorne Slim w/ special guest Twain	3/16 Band of Gringos and The Delta Saints w/ Electric Mud	4/12 Angel Olsen
3/7 K.Michelle: The People I Used to Know	3/17 DSB (Journey Tribute)	4/13 Steely Damned 2 (Steely Dan Tribute)
3/8 Spawnbreeze	3/22 Moon Hooch	4/18 Always
3/9 Talib Kweli: The Radio Silence Tour	3/23 RJD2	4/20 Big K.R.I.T.: Heavy is the Crown
3/10 Billie Eilish: Wheres My Mind Tour - Sold Out!	3/24 Sir Mix-A-Lot	5/9 The Weepies: Hideaway 10 Year Anniversary
	3/25 Tom Gun Live! A Maverick's Homage	5/10 Ekolu
	3/29 Declan McKenna	5/11 Echosmith: Inside a Dream
	3/30 Whiskey Myers	5/26 The Winehouse Experience (Amy Winehouse Tribute)
		6/1 Mark Farina

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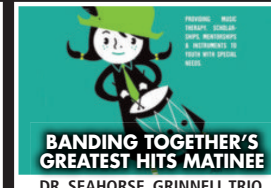
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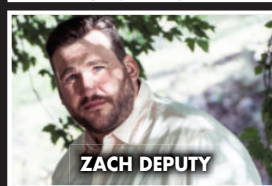
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THE COATHANGERS

DEATH VALLEY GIRLS, THE FLYTRAPS, & FEELS
TUESDAY 2/27



SPAFFORD

THE HIGGS
WEDNESDAY 2/28



ZACH DEPUTY

STEPH JOHNSON BAND
SUNDAY 3/4



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THURSDAY 3/8



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MANGANISTA, DJ RICHIE
FRIDAY 3/9



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OH SEES

PRETTIEST EYES
WEDNESDAY 3/14

JUST ADDED!

Let the Good Times Roll: A Night of Laughing and Dancing 3/12

The California Honeydrops 4/11 • Pine Mountain Logs 4/14

Jessie Ware 4/19 • The PettyBreakers 4/27

Greg Laswell 6/1 • Dave Alvin and Jimmy Dale Gilmore 7/25

Upcoming Shows:

2/14 Lettuce & The Motet @ Observatory	3/17 Beatles vs. Stones ft. Abbey Road & Jumping Jack Flash	4/29 The Weight Band ft. members of The Band, Levon Helm Band, Rick Danko Group
2/16 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	3/18 Walter Trout	5/3 Baths
2/20 Shovels and Rope - Sold Out!	3/20 DTO and Kiyoshi	5/4 Khruangbin w/ The Mattson 2
2/22 The Wood Brothers - Sold Out!	3/22 & 23 Phillip Phillips - Sold Out!	5/6 Keb' Mo' - Sold Out!
2/23 Bahamas - Sold Out!	3/23 The Main Squeeze @ Casbah	5/7 Keb' Mo' - Seated Show
2/25 Herb Alpert and Lani Hall - Sold Out!	3/24 Brett Dennen - Sold Out!	5/8 Rogue Wave: Asleep at Heaven's Gate Tour
2/26 Snarky Puppy - Sold Out!	3/25 Brett Dennen	5/12 & 13 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!
3/1 They Might Be Giants - Sold Out!	3/29 Galactic	5/14 Nada Surf: 15th Anniversary of 'Let Go'
3/2 Margo Price - Sold Out!	3/30 Yonder Mountain String Band	5/15 & 16 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!
3/3 Anderson East - Sold Out!	3/31 The Mother Hips	5/17 Pedro The Lion
3/4 Stone Temple Pilots @ Observatory - Sold Out!	4/3 Arlo Guthrie: The Re:Generation Tour	5/24 Rufus Wainwright
3/6 The Psychedelic Furs - Sold Out!	4/4 Brian Fallon & The Howling Weather	5/25 Cash'd Out (Johnny Cash Tribute)
3/7 Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band - Sold Out!	4/7 Jefferson Starship - Sold Out!	5/26 Kimbra and Son Lux
3/15 Rachael Yamagata - Seated Show	4/16 Ibeyi	5/28 Madeleine Peyroux
3/16 & 17 The English Beat - Sold Out!	4/20 & 21 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond Tribute)	6/3 Calexico
3/16 Morgan Leigh Band and Wish & the Well	4/22 Los Lonely Boys	6/6 The Yardsbirds
	4/26 The Robert Cray Band	7/7 Tainted Love
	4/27 Date Night for a Cause ft. Atomic Groove	7/13 Jefferson Starship
		7/15 Paul Thorn

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JUST ANNOUNCED

Plenty of contemporary acts fuse reggae with hip-hop, '70s funk, and Latin pop, or at least attempt to do so, but rarely does one

find someone who does it all as a one-man-band. Savannah, Georgia-based multi-instrumentalist **Zach Deputy** has spent around a decade calculating the precise sonic alchemy required to bring his music to life on stage by looping and layering the parts as he plays, building up chord progressions, beat boxing,

and harmonies, either starting with or adding guitar parts as he rides the groove, depending on how he feels. The unpredictable nature of his presentation breeds improvisation, as seen in YouTube clips where different performances of the same song bear little similarity, other than the title and an occasionally recognizable refrain or chorus. With Deputy claiming several ethnicities, thanks to a geographically diverse family tree, there are bits of many different styles and genres on the four full-lengths he's released so far. His newest from 2016, *Wash It in the Water*, is by far the most steeped in his Puerto Rican and Cruzan heritage and influences. He plays all the instruments on the record as well, with most of the tracks eventually sliding into that same slippery island groove that he'll bring to the always reggae-friendly Belly Up on March 4.

Fans of experimental new music with old-world influences should consider checking out **Xylouris White**, whose March 10 appearance at the Loft was just announced. Drummer Jim White spent over two decades with Australian cinematic art rock trio Dirty Three, known for epic instrumental tracks of

King Crimsonian grandeur and, occasionally, pompousness. Having collaborated in the past with Nick Cave, PJ

Harvey, and Cat Power, among others, his newest team-up finds him touring with Cretan lute player and singer Giorgos Xylouris, already a superstar in Greece when he met White back in the late 1990s, while both were still living in Australia. Their

first two albums together as Xylouris White, *Goats* (2014) and *Black Pearl* (2016), are surprisingly conventional, at least for two musicians known for ignoring contemporary song construction in favor of traditional, even ancient, cadence and rhythm. However, their newest dropped in January, *Mother*, and spinning through the tracks indicates the duo has finally embraced their virtuosity and created a complicated, almost mathematical soundscape more suited for their world-ranging chemistry. Produced by Guy Picciotto (Fugazi), the first single, "Only Love," kicks right in with "Flight of the Bumblebee" ferocity, soon joined by a low vocal vibrato that evokes Captain Beefheart fronting a Greek wedding band. Online concert clips indicate that their shows also incorporate group chanting and dancing, so don't be surprised if the Hare Krishna catering crew that frequents UCSD shows up to shed their sandals and join you on the dance floor.

Here's how mellow onetime Southern-rock hellraisers **38 Special** have become — despite being named after a handgun, their band logo now features a galloping horse instead of the 38-shaped gun barrel seen on early album covers *Wild-Eyed Southern Boys* and *Special Forces*. For nearly 40 years, you could count on their energetic founding frontman Donnie Van Zant (whose two brothers were/are known for fronting Lynyrd Skynyrd)



ZACH DEPUTY AT BELLY UP ON MARCH 4



XYLOURIS WHITE AT THE LOFT ON MARCH 10



38 SPECIAL AT CASINO PAUMA ON MARCH 22

to keep their live shows rolling like a steam train. However, Van Zant split in 2013 and soon after retired from performing (reportedly due to inner-ear nerve damage), and they lost longtime bassist (1977–2014) Larry Junstrom the following year, leaving singer-guitarist Don Barnes the only founding member (though he, too, quit from 1987 through 1992). Barnes will be manning the mic at Casino Pauma on March 22, backed by two players who've been with the band since the late '80s, a drummer who joined in 1997, and a bassist who didn't play with the group until the 2000-teens.

Kyle Thomas says he took on the persona of **King Tuff** as a way to make believe he was living the lifestyle that Vincent Furnier made people think Alice Cooper was living. Unfortunately, like Alice Cooper, publicly splitting your personality in two can wreak havoc on one's psyche, not to mention one's life. Rather than go the Cooper route and check himself into a mental institution



KING TUFF AS CASBAH ON MAY 3

(and then write an album about the experience), Tuff instead decided to try being a hired hand, taking part in sessions and tours with other artists whose own light shined bright enough to draw most of the attention, and all of the responsibility, away from himself. He most recently toured with Ty Segall as a member of his band the Muggers, formed specifically to tour behind Segall's 2016 release *Emotional*

Mugger. It apparently took a lot of musical meandering and soul-searching before Thomas decided to hole up in his home-built studio and self-create something new with his King Tuff persona, no longer dependent on the fiction he'd created of a drugged-

up, hard-drinking, rock-and-roll burnout. You can see the results of his conversion at the Casbah on May 3, as he tours in support of his first King Tuff album in four years, *The Other*, an honest ten-track journey that chronicles Tuff's evolution from pretender to confessor, featuring guests such as Jenny Lewis and his former band boss Ty Segall. The bill includes Cut Worms, aka Max Clarke, a pop-folk troubadour whose debut album drops shortly.

Tickets go on sale Saturday, February 17, for



OZZY OSBOURNE AT MATTRESS FIRM AMPHITHEATRE ON OCTOBER 9

Ozzy Osbourne at Mattress Firm Amphitheatre on October 9. The occasional Black Sabbath frontman says he's quitting the road after his upcoming solo trek around the world, a trip he named No More Tours 2, referring to both his sixth studio album *No More Tears* and the 1992 "retirement" road trip that he also called No More Tours. It seems likely that this latest "farewell" won't be the last, but the good news is that

his longtime guitarist Zakk Wylde has returned to replace his replacement, apparently for the length of the tour, which so far is booking well into 2020. That's more job security than most musicians can claim right now, but the crazy train has to eventually stop sometime, doesn't it?

— Jay Allen Sanford

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Material witnesses

“Can’t believe he survived the swan dive from the balcony.”

The Reader recently reported that Discount Fabrics on Adams Avenue will be shutting down due to the sale of their building. The story mentioned that the establishment (located at 3325 Adams Avenue) was once a punk club in the 1980s and that a lot of customers happened to bring this up while they were shopping.

Casbah owner/local promoter Tim Mays booked shows at the venue between 1982 and 1986. Via email, I asked him if he remembered REM opening for Gang of Four there. He recalled that REM was paid \$250 for playing the gig. He also mentioned that Bow Wow Wow, the Stray Cats, GBH, Circle Jerks, the Stranglers, and Iggy Pop all performed there as well.

The venue was basically a hall that promoters would rent out for shows. As a result, the bookers had to provide their own PA system. No alcohol was sold in the venue, and performers usually had pretty basic riders. Just a “deli tray, beer, water, etc.,” according to Mays.

Some documentation of the theater can be found on YouTube — such as a board recording from a Slayer concert on February 1, 1986. Judging by the comments and post description, this was

quite the legendary evening of live music. Besides fellow performers DRI having to execute their set with audience members filling in for a missing lead singer, a stage mic that was continuously shocking vocalists, and another opening act (Bloodcum) spending most of their set lecturing the crowd about “how to have a proper circle slam pit,”

the crown jewel appears to be a balcony diver who blasted through the stage upon impact.

One commenter recounted, “I was running spotlight at this show. I lit that stage-diver crashing through the stage all the way. Can’t believe he survived the swan dive from the balcony.”

Mays guessed the balcony height at about ten feet; he didn’t recall too many jumpers at shows.

Tell Tale Hearts guitarist Eric Bacher thought the balcony may have been a tad higher — “pretty high if I remember correctly, 20 feet or so?” His band played one gig at the theater, but it was a doozy: they shared a bill with the Cramps and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

“As far as I know there was no stage-diving that night. Probably due to the fact that [Cramps vocalist] Lux Interior made it clear that *no one* was to get onstage while they played. I guess [Cramps guitarist Poison] Ivy had been assaulted recently

MUSIC
DRYW KELTZ



Black Flag at Adams Avenue Theater, 4/29/83

and he was very clear on this point. Before mentioning this, someone *had* jumped on the stage, Lux threw him off and jumped on top of him with his fists flailing. When he jumped back onstage he had the guy’s blood all over him,” Bacher stated via email.

Black Flag played the venue on April 29, 1983. It would be the last official show they did as a five-piece, and one that featured Descendents singer Milo Aukerman (at the time an undergrad at UCSD) sharing vocal duties on “Police Story.” Perhaps the best visual documentation is a Battalion of Saints gig from March 4, 1984. At one point, guitarist Chris Smith (RIP) compliments the hometown crowd for their good behavior.

“I hope everybody, for once, is having a good time. I haven’t seen any fights or nothing, and it looks like everybody’s enjoying themselves *for once*,” he said.

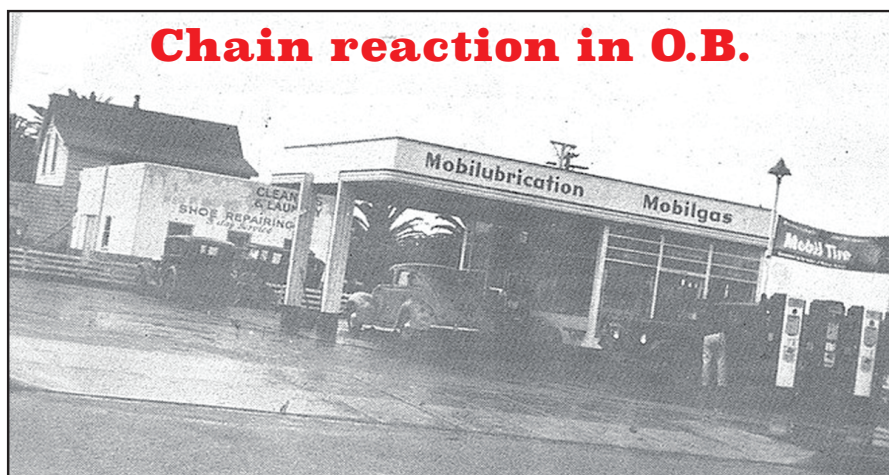
Mays also recalled people trashing the venue after a Motörhead concert was canceled at the last minute in 1984 and Dead Kennedys lead singer Jello Biafra performing a show with a broken leg

“with a cast on a stool most of the show, except when he wasn’t on the stool, which was a lot of the show.”

And Mike Ness (lead singer of Social Distortion) got arrested there: “SDPD were waiting for him to get offstage, and we tried to get him to go out a certain exit to avoid them, but he stumbled offstage and went out the wrong door and right into their waiting arms,” Mays said.

As for the neighborhood?

“It wasn’t as gentrified as it is now,” Mays explained. “No Starbucks, no Lestat’s. Older shops that had been there for a long time. Spiritual center across the street. Carwash and post office were there at the time. There were and probably still are apartments directly behind the theater just across the back alley and the proximity of the residences resulted in a lot of complaints over noise, vandalism, rowdiness, urinating, and drinking in the area. People used to hang in the carwash bays and drink before coming into the shows. Cops also used to park in the carwash bays and wait for shows to get over.” ■



Chain reaction in O.B.

It was a week before Pearl Harbor was bombed in November of 1941. If Bob Myers and Maurice Stuart had known that the U.S. would soon be at war, they might not have plunked down \$300 for a lease on a new gas station at the corner of Newport Avenue and Cable Street in Ocean Beach. Although they both had good jobs at a popular service station in Mission Hills where Bob was the manager, the money was hard to scrape together. The tail end of the Great Depression was still whipping.

Like a kite that never came down. The station built a strong following in the community and at times employed as many as 14 workers, who repaired automobiles as well as pumped gas. All that changed in 1987 when the Mobil Oil Company decided it would stop selling gasoline to Bob Myers because his sales volume was too low.

Bob said, “They don’t want anybody with less than 100,000 gallons a week. You’re better off if you’re on a busy highway or freeway.”

BY CAROL BOWERS, DEC. 3, 1992



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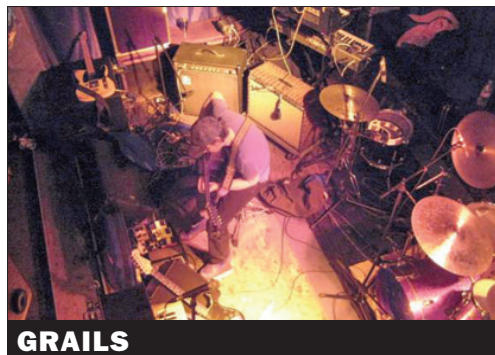
NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

Right about the point when you're thinking this is a band that should have never left the garage, Grails delivers. The band has a sound that is its own: in this case, nuanced, shadowy, ominous layers of rock and roll music that is greater than the sum of its parts. Not nearly as shape-shifty as prog rock, to the uninitiated Grails' unkempt songcraft is worthy of a road map. The concert experience is a bit like trying to learn to speak a foreign language — say, French, where the rules of pronunciation are all off. What you learned in grammar class no longer applies. But the words sound interesting and complicated in a good way. To say that Grails is one of those unique life experiences would be an underestimation.

Grails is a trio from Portland with a good number of years together as a band. Alex Hall, Emil Amos, and late-comer Zak Riles released *The Burden of Hope* back in 2003. There've been nine albums since. They were calling themselves Laurel Canyon in the beginning but switched to the present name at the release of their first full-length album. It's a loud-as-hell shoe-gaze kind of show, and the members are known to sometimes trade off instruments. The core trio travels with a couple of sidemen to help fill out the sound.

Otherwise, each of the core band members have so many side projects going that Grails is almost a side project in and of itself; it's been six years since their last studio recording. Now touring behind *Chalice Hymnal* (released last year), Grails is surely a cultivated taste. This is not a mainstream groove built for everyone, even though one may detect influences as wide-ranging as hip-hop, Western film scores,



GRAILS

and metal. It's earned Grails a dedicated following over the past decade, proving that even in a Bruno Mars world, there's always room for sludge.

Chuck Johnson also performs.

GRAILS: Monday, February 19, Soda Bar, 619-255-7224, 8:30 p.m., \$15

Find more Of Note columns online at SDReader.com/note

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

THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

1st Street Bar:

Thursday, 9pm — Imagery Machine.

Air Conditioned Lounge:

Wednesday, 9pm — Hip-Hop House. Free.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Thursday, 7:30pm — The Dave King Trio. \$21-\$26.

Balboa Theatre:

Sunday, 7pm — Beth Hart. \$43-\$75.

Bancroft:

Saturday, 8pm — Tim Saxton and Symbol 6.
Sunday, 3pm — Bob's Blues Jam.

Bang Bang:

Saturday, 8pm — Elderbrook.

Bar Pink:

Thursday, 9pm — Nicely and Dunekat. Free.
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 12pm — Awesome Fest. \$35.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Stephanie Brown & the Surrealistics.
Friday & Saturday, 8pm — The English Beat. \$25.
Sunday, 8pm — Betamaxx.
Monday, 8pm — Mike Gordon. \$30-\$53.
Tuesday, 8pm — Shovels & Rope. \$30-\$53.

Bernardo Winery:

Sunday, 2pm — Joe Bigham & Friends. Free.

Blonde Bar:

Thursday, 9pm — Doug Tuttle and Sam Kogon.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:

Thursday, 8pm — Vibrant Crew.
Friday, 8pm — Dox Ellis.
Saturday, 8pm — Overeasy.

Bread & Salt:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Fresh Sound: David Friend. \$10-\$20.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 8pm — Black Pussy and Well Well Well. \$5.
Friday, 7pm — Taz Taylor and Pet Shark. \$10.

Cafe 21:

Thursday, 7pm — Flamenco Night. Free.
Saturday, 7pm — Bossa Nova with Stephanie & Marcus.
Sunday, 7pm — Rhumba with Bruno Serrano.
Wednesday, 7pm — Sister Speak.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Sunday, 7:30pm — International Guitar Night. \$30-\$40.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

Friday, 8pm — Josie Day.
Saturday, 7:30pm — The Merge.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Mary Timony Plays Helium. \$16-\$18.
Friday, 8pm — Gameface and Weight of the Sun. \$14-\$16.
Saturday, 8pm — Ha Ha Tonka. \$12.
Sunday, 9pm — The Sleepwalkers and the Delta Bombers.
Monday, 8pm — Bully and Melkbelly. \$15.
Tuesday, 8pm — Clap Your Hands Say Yeah. \$20.
Wednesday, 8pm — Superchunk and Bat Fangs. \$20.

Casino Pauma:

Sunday, 5pm — Engelbert Humperdinck. \$60-\$80.

Chula Vista Brewery:

Thursday, 7pm — Purpleman. Free.

City Pub:

Friday, 7pm — Collin Ready and Blind Mountain Holler. Free.

Club M:

Thursday, 8pm — Sacha Boutros and Jonathan Karrant.
Friday, 8pm — Chinese New Year 2018. \$10.

Coronado High School:

Thursday, 7pm — Coronado

Concert Band: Date Night, Music for Lovers.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 6pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.
Friday, 6pm — NuVintage.
Saturday, 6pm — Gold Standard.
Sunday, 5pm — Jerome Dawson.
Wednesday, 6pm — Daring Greatly.

De Oro Mine Co:

Thursday, 8pm — Dead on Monday.
Friday, 8pm — Palos Verdes. Free.
Saturday, 8pm — 200 West. Free.
Monday, 8pm — Wayne Garner Band.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 8pm — FX5.
Saturday, 8pm — Nemesis.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Friday, 8pm — Bertram Turetzky 85th Birthday Celebration.

Downtown Café:

Saturday, 6pm — Brown Sugar.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, 12pm — Tiffany Jane & the Kicks.

Encinitas Library:

Sunday, 2pm — Song of the Angels Flute Orchestra. \$20.

Fallbrook Library:

Thursday, 7pm — Cowboy Jack & the North County Cowboys. Free.

Field Irish Pub and Restaurant:

Sunday, 8:30pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, 5:30pm — Mike Wofford, Tom Wakeling & Jim Plank. Free.

Harney Sushi:

Saturday, 6:30pm — DJ Ratty.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:

Saturday, 8pm — Air Supply. \$35-\$259.

Hostelling International:

Saturday, 6pm — Open House Session 002. Free.

Hotel Indigo Del Mar:

Tuesday, 7pm — Kathleen Murray. Free.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm — Ramon Ayala & Lorenzo De Monteclaro. \$50-\$85.
Friday, 7pm — Ghostmane and Horsehead. \$15.
Saturday, 8pm — G Perico.
Tuesday, 6:30pm — Theory Of A Deadman and Spirit Animal. \$20-\$45.
Wednesday, 7pm — Icon For Hire. \$15-\$18.
Wednesday, 6pm — Motionless in White and Every Time I Die. \$23-\$50.

Java Joe's:

Friday, 8pm — Gregory Page. \$20.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Billy



LIVE MUSIC & DANCING

Thu 2/15	Mercedes Moore
Fri 2/16	Funks Most Wanted
Sat 2/17	Bless Your Heart
Tue 2/20	Robin Henkel Band
Wed 2/21	San Diego Live
Thu 2/22	The Fremonts
Fri 2/23	Big Time Operator Orchestra
Sat 2/24	Sleepwalkers & Johnny Ramos, Jaalene De Leon & Kid Ramos
Sun 2/25	Jukebox Kings

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Galewood. \$15.
Tuesday, 6:30pm — Open Mic Nights. Free.

Kalabash School of Music and the Arts:

Saturday, 7pm — Máirtín de Cógáin. \$20.

La Valencia Hotel:

Friday, 6pm — Lady Dottie & the Diamonds.
Saturday, 6pm — Los Reyes.
Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, 6pm — McGonigle & Gladstone.
Wednesday, 6pm — Danny Green.

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:

Sunday, 1pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. \$5-\$15.
Lyceum Theatre:
Friday & Saturday, 8pm, Sunday, 2:30pm — Ritmos Latinos. \$35-\$50.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:

Thursday, 8pm — Alisan Porter. \$35-\$40.

Merrow:

Thursday, 6:30pm — Afton Presents. \$12.
Friday, 8pm — The Ziggens & Friends.

Mingei International Museum:

Sunday, 6pm — Camarada: Te Amo Tango. \$15-\$50.

Mission Trails Regional Park:

Sunday, 3pm — Amy Lynn Kanner. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Nemesis. Free.

Saturday, 9pm — Rockett Country. Free.

Moonshine Beach:

Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Redwood Black. Free.

Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church:

Saturday, 7pm — Fred Benedetti. \$5-\$10.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Steelehorse Country.
Friday, 8:30pm — Clapton Hook.
Saturday, 4pm — Adrienne Nims.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Lifelike.

Museum of Making Music:

Saturday, 7pm — Jack Tempchin. \$25-\$30.

Music Box:

Thursday, 7pm — Yacht Rock Revue. \$20-\$22.
Friday, 7:30pm — Como la Flor. \$20-\$22.
Saturday, 8pm — Dorothy. \$17-\$67.
Sunday, 8pm — Lotus and Marvel Years. \$22-\$24.
Wednesday, 7pm — Julian Lage Trio. \$28-\$30.

Navajo Live:

Saturday, 9pm — The New Normal. Free.

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint:

Friday, 7pm — Raney/Evans/Raney/Butler.
Saturday, 7pm — Serious Guise.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 7pm — Caifanes. \$75.
Friday, 8pm — Sweet & Tender Hooligans.
Saturday, 8pm — Gramatik and



 <p>WED, FEB 14</p>	 <p>THU, FEB 15</p>
 <p>FRI, FEB 16</p>	 <p>SAT, FEB 17</p>
 <p>SUN, FEB 18</p>	 <p>MON, FEB 19</p>
 <p>TUE, FEB 20</p>	 <p>THU, FEB 22</p>

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

3/3 — GOGOL BORDELLO	3/23 — MAKO
3/4 — STONE TEMPLE PILOTS	3/24 — THROUGH THE ROOTS
3/14 — FLOGGING MOLLY	3/25 — UMPHREY'S MCGEE
3/16 & 3/17 — HIPPIE SABOTAGE	3/26 — JAKE BUGG
3/21 & 3/22 — QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE	3/27 — QUINN XCII

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Haywire. \$30.
Monday, 7pm — Dan Auerbach.
 \$18-\$28.
Tuesday, 7pm — Tune-Yards.
 \$27.

Office:
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday,
 12pm — Awesome Fest. \$35.

Omnia San Diego:
Friday, 9pm — Porter Robinson
 DJ Set.
Saturday, 9pm — Vice.
Sunday, 9pm — Matoma.

**Poway Center for the
 Performing Arts:**
Saturday, 8pm — Cameron
 Carpenter.

**Proud Mary's Southern Bar
 & Grill at the Ramada:**
Friday, 7pm — Chickenbone
 Slim and the Biscuits.

**Queen Bee's Art & Cultural
 Center:**
Friday, 7pm — BOYO. \$8-\$10.

**Riviera Supper Club &
 Turquoise Room:**
Thursday, 8pm — Mimi Zulu.
Friday, 9pm — Johnny Deadly
 Trio.
Saturday, 9pm — Rosa's Cantina.

**Rockin' Baja Lobster —
 Oceanside:**
Wednesday, 5pm — James Wells.

**Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old
 Town:**
Friday, 5pm — Jim Allen.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Awesome
 Pre-Fest 11. \$10.
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 7pm
 — Awesome Fest. \$35.
Monday, 8pm — Grails. \$15.
Tuesday, 8pm — Palehound and
 Weaves. \$12-\$14.
Wednesday, 8pm — Alex
 Cameron and Molly Burch. \$13-
 \$15.

Soma:
Saturday, 7pm — You Are Going
 to Hate This Fest 3.

Space:
Thursday, 8pm — Mammoth
 Grinder. \$12-\$14.
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 7pm
 — Awesome Fest. \$35.

Spin Nightclub:
Saturday, 9pm — Overdrive.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church:
Sunday, 5pm — Sasha Boldachev.
 \$5-\$15.

**Sycuan Live & Up Close
 Theatre:**
Friday, 8pm — Little Anthony &
 the Imperials. \$59-\$69.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

Zukerman has lost his saltiness

The headline at the San Diego Symphony said, "Zukerman plays Tchaikovsky." While that was true in fact, it was untrue in essence at the February 3rd concert.

Pinchas Zukerman did play Tchaikovsky but it wasn't the famous violin concerto. No, Zukerman played a sleepy excerpt from *Mélodie, No. 3* from *Souvenir d'un lieu cher, Op. 42* (Arr. Glazunov) and then a piece entitled "Melancholic Serenade." The official title is *Sérénade mélancolique, Op. 26*.

The effect of these two pieces was to start the concert with appetizers begging for a certain zest. I'll just say it. They needed salt. A lot of salt. Maybe even the pink salt of the Himalayas. Is there a more grandiose product than Himalayan salt? I mean, it's just salt. Right?

Yet, if salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? This ancient rhetorical question should need no

answering, but just in case, the answer is that it can't be made salty again. You've lost it. It's over.

As unpopular as this may sound, Mr. Zukerman is losing his saltiness when it comes to playing the violin. At least it seemed so on this evening. As with Itzhak Perlman's appearance with the San Diego Symphony, Zukerman offered music that was severely limited in scale and had no *furiatura*, that is, fast notes.

While we might be expected to appreciate the *legato* and tone of Zukerman's playing, and I did, we might also expect the virtuosic Zukerman to make an appearance as well. Especially if the headline reads "Zukerman plays Tchaikovsky."

Following the soporific duo that started the concert was Tchaikovsky's *String Serenade*. This was famously written at the same time as Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*. Of the two, Tchaikovsky

expected the overture to live for about a week and the *String Serenade* to live forever. Perhaps he overestimated the human spirit just a bit.

The *String Serenade* is a legitimate masterpiece but one that could be played to considerable effect without a conductor. I'm being a bit dickish but the first half of the concert could have existed without Zukerman even being there.

But what do I know? I wasn't at the rehearsals. Perhaps the process of working on the repertoire with a master of Zukerman's status was highly beneficial for the orchestra.

Moving on... Our friend Ludwig Wittgenstein said in a collection of his essays entitled *Art and Culture*, "Mendelssohn is Brahms, without the rigour."

Ouch. With that in mind, Mendelssohn's *Symphony No.*

BY GARRETT HARRIS



Pinchas Zukerman is losing his saltiness.

4: Italian was the second half of the program. The outer movements have plenty of rigor but the inner two movements kind of supported Wittgenstein's salty opinion.

The orchestra provided plenty of rigor as did Maestro Zukerman in the role of conductor. However, the pre-intermission sections of the concert were limited in scope, and Mendelssohn's lovely but brief excursion to Italy did nothing to balance that out. Put two and two together and you get a concert that was limited in scope from start to finish.

The last time Zukerman played and conducted it was a similar concert with Zukerman playing a short Bach concerto and then conducting Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosis for 23 solo strings* and Mozart's *Haffner Symphony* along with his wife playing the Schumann *Cello Concerto*. That was a

full concert.

I want to make it clear that I was disappointed in the programming of the concert, not the performance of the San Diego Symphony. They delivered but there was precious little to deliver.

The orchestra strings were beautiful in the *String Serenade*. I could hardly wish for a finer performance. I'll take a moment to remind everyone that Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* is coming up on May 12. Based on what I heard in the Tchaikovsky, the Barber is going to be special.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Tio Leo's:
Thursday, 8pm — Mercedes
 Moore Band. \$5.
Friday, 8pm — Funk's Most
 Wanted.
Wednesday, 8pm — San Diego
 Live.

Tower Bar:
Wednesday, 9pm — Tiger Sex
 and the Dodges.

U-31:
Friday, 7pm — Tim Yancey.
 Free.

Valley View Casino Center:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Lana Del
 Rey. \$39-\$125.
Monday, 3pm — Boomshaka
 Music Festival. \$25-\$95.

Viejas Arena:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Miranda
 Lambert.

West Coast Tavern:
Friday, 8pm — Eddie Cutlass.
Saturday, 8pm — Brett Bodley.
Sunday, 8pm — DJ Billy the Kid.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Friday, 9pm — Fking in the
 Bushes.
Saturday, 9pm — '80s vs '90s.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, 9pm — C-Money &
 the Players Inc.
Saturday, 9pm — GrooveSession.
 \$8-\$10.

Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste
 Band. \$5.
Wednesday, 8pm — Sure Fire
 Soul Ensemble and Euphoria
 Brass Band.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Saturday & Sunday, 3pm —
 Tribute to the Reggae Legends.
 \$30-\$60.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Amy Lynn Kanner Amy Lynn Kanner will perform a Celtic harp concert featuring Pachelbel's "Canon" and Debussy's "Clair de Lune," and Praetorius' "Terpsichore." The program also features popular music like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "A Thousand Years," "Stairway to Heaven," and more. Sunday, February 18, 3pm; free.

Mission Trails Regional Park,
 One Father Junipero Serra Trail.

Camarada: Te Amo Tango Where music meets dance, embrace your passion with the Tango Alma and Camarada. Todd Martin and Marizabel Arango, well-versed in the art of the tango, have traveled across the continent with fellow tango dancers. Their mastery of technique, emotion, and nuance will bring the music of Astor Piazzolla and Rual Jaurena's band-doneon to life. Sunday, February 18, 6pm; \$15-\$50. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado.

Cameron Carpenter Organist Cameron Carpenter's repertoire, from the complete works of J. S. Bach to film scores, his original compositions and hundreds of transcriptions and arrangements, is large and diverse. In 2012 he was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Award, is the first solo organist ever nominated for a Grammy Award, and has appeared with international orchestras around the world. Saturday, February 17, 8pm; Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Road.

Emmet Cahill Sony Music recording artist and Celtic Thunder lead singer Emmet Cahill returns to San Diego to perform songs from his debut orchestral album, *Emmet Cahill's Ireland*. Saturday, February 17, 7:30pm; \$30-\$45. St. James by-

the-Sea Episcopal Church, 743
 Prospect Street.

**Hutchins Consort: All's Fair
 in Love and War** A brand new arrangement of Biber's *Battalia* (battle) is paired with the motets of Don Carlo Gesualdo, and other works of love. Such is the versatility of the Consort that not only do they make it work, but they pull it off with style. This unique violin octet performs on eight scaled violins from the tiny treble violin, tuned one octave above the standard violin, to the large bass violin, tuned one octave lower than a cello. That broad palette of instruments helps the ensemble produce an astonishing range of sounds. Friday, February 16, 8pm; \$15-\$35. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Encinitas, 890 Balour Drive.

UPCOMING SHOWS

AMSDconcerts:
Friday, Mar. 2 — John Gorka.
Friday, Mar. 9 — The Mammals.
 \$20-\$30.

Air Conditioned Lounge:
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — De La
 Flow. Free.

Alpine Library:
Thursday, Mar. 22 — Gregory
 Page. Free.

**Athenaeum Music and Arts
 Library:**
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Ben Allison

& Think Free. \$21-\$26.
Thursday, Mar. 1 — San Diego
 New Music: Displaced. \$5-\$25.
Friday, Mar. 2 — Claudia Villela
 & Kenny Werner. \$21-\$26.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Ron's Garage
 Band.

Bahia Resort Hotel:
Saturday, Mar. 10 — Six String
 Society Mardi Gras Cruise. \$45-
 \$90.

Balboa Theatre:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Abba
 Mania.

Bang Bang:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Blackgummy.

Bassmnt:
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Krane.

Bel Vino Winery:
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Shoot 4
 Tuesday.

Belly Up Tavern:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — The Wood
 Brothers. \$26-\$46.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Bahamas.
 \$20-\$32.

Saturday, Feb. 24 — Dr. Seahorse
 and Grinnell Trio. \$18-\$20.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Steve Poltz
 9th Annual 50th Birthday Party.
 \$30-\$53.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Herb Alpert &
 Lani Hall. \$65-\$114.

Monday, Feb. 26 — Snarky
 Puppy and Banda Magda. \$46-
 \$81.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — The
 Coathangers and Death Valley
 Girls. \$20-\$35.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Spafford.
 \$17-\$30.



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Black Cat Bar:
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Powerballs.

Blonde Bar:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Tribute To Jeff Buckley.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Mindz Alike.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — The Hangtight.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Sunday Hangover.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Dunekat.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Wax Wednesday.

Brick by Brick:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Eyehategod and Final Conflict. \$22-\$26.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Septicflesh and Dark Funeral.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Loose Cannon and SlaveSound. \$10.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Exhumed and Incantation. \$18-\$22.
Monday, Feb. 26 — Year of the Cobra.

Cafe 21:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Flamenco Night. Free.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Bossa Nova with Stephanie & Marcus.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Rhumba with Bruno Serrano.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Sister Speak.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Black Violin. \$20-\$45.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Jesse Cook. \$25-\$60.

Casbah:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Willie Watson. \$20.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Missing Persons. \$20-\$25.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Bruno Major. \$12.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Busty & the Bass. \$12-\$15.
Monday, Feb. 26 — Janiva Magness. \$23-\$25.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Emo Nite. \$12.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Thurston Moore Group. \$22.

De Oro Mine Co:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — DJ Bingo. Free.

Friday, Feb. 23 — League of Liars. Free.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Gutter Candy. Free.
Monday, Feb. 26 — Wonder. Free.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Joshua White Solo Reflections. \$20.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Bob Magnusson & His All Star Quartet. \$20.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — The Benedetti Trio: George Harrison Tribute. \$15.

Folk Arts Rare Records:
Monday, Feb. 26 — Tom Brosseau and Shelley Short.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Mike Wofford, Tom Wakeling & Jim Plank. Free.

House of Blues:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Keys N Krates and Promnite.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Ron Pope. \$18-\$45.

Saturday, Feb. 24 — Dark Star Orchestra. \$27-\$55.
Monday, Feb. 26 — Jacob Sartorius. \$25-\$50.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Birthday. \$10.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Exodus and Municipal Waste. \$24.

Irenic:
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Enter Shikari. \$20-\$22.

Jacobs Music Center:
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Ray Brown & Oscar Peterson Tribute.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Beat Quest: A Musical Journey through Rhythm, Time & Place.

Java Joe's:
Friday, Feb. 23 — The Atta Boys and Clint Davis. \$15.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Billy Galewood. \$15.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Anya Marina. \$20.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Open Mic Nights. Free.

Loft:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Jeff Parker & the New Breed. \$15.

Marrow:
Thursday, Mar. 1 — Goodnight Caulfield and Taller Younger Brother. \$5.

Mission Trails Regional Park:
Sunday, Mar. 4 — Gregory Page. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Wildheart Country.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Custard Pie.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Shinebox.

Music Box:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Mike Pinto, Josh Heinrichs, Skillinjah. \$18-\$20.

Friday, Feb. 23 — Rob Garza DJ Set. \$15-\$20.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — The Aggrolites and Psydecar. \$20-\$22.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Real Estate and Bedouine. \$27.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Dengue Fever and Winter. \$20-\$25.

Observatory North Park:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Sevdaliza. \$18.

Omnia San Diego:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Markus Schulz.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Savi.

Pala Events Center:
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Styx. \$55-\$75.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Bill Magee Blues Band.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Nathan James.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Downbeat Big Band. \$10.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Brennon Orndorff.
Friday, Feb. 23 — Vinyl Pirates.

Saturday, Feb. 24 — Black Market III.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Adan Jodorowsky and Rudy De Anda. \$15-\$20.

Friday, Feb. 23 — All Pigs Must Die and Baptists.
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Crooked Colours. \$13-\$15.
Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Wage War. \$16-\$18.
Wednesday, Feb. 28 — I The Victor. \$8.

Soma:
Friday, Feb. 23 — X Ambassadors. \$28-\$139.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Datsik.

Space:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — 1000mods and Telekinetic Yeti. \$15.

Friday, Feb. 23 — The Spits and Cruz Radical. \$15.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — The Spits and Beehive & the Barracudas. \$15.

Sycuan Live & Up Close Theatre:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Warrant and Quiet Riot. \$59-\$69.
Thursday, Mar. 22 — Rick Michel: Sinatra Forever.

Tio Leo's:
Friday, Feb. 23 — Big Time Operator.
Saturday, Feb. 24 — Sleepwalkers and Johnny Ramos.

Tower Bar:
Thursday, Feb. 22 — Jon Cougar Concentration Camp and the Raging Nathans.

Friday, Feb. 23 — United Defiance and Skipjack.

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:
Sunday, Feb. 25 — Middle Earth Belly Dancing Show. \$5.

Viejas Arena:
Monday, Feb. 26 — Demi Lovato. \$29-\$149.

Waterfront Park:
Saturday, Mar. 3 — CRSSD Festival.
Sunday, Mar. 4 — CRSSD Festival.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, Feb. 23 — DJ Williams Projekt and Agent 22.
Monday, Feb. 26 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

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The Shakes

Sat Feb 17
Broken Stems
Electric Elms
Mario Esteban
& The Blessed Hellhounds

Solid acting

Ten years ago, the Academy Award for Best Picture went to *No Country for Old Men* — a solid choice, even though I would have gone with *There Will Be Blood*. (Not that you asked.) These are the Best Pictures from the years that followed: *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The Hurt Locker*, *The King's Speech*, *The Artist*, *Argo*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Birdman*, *Spotlight*, and *Moonlight*. Reader, ask yourself: how many of those do you consider to be great movies to these several years later? Some, perhaps; greatness is a notoriously slippery notion, almost as slippery as “Best.” But certainly not all. Some of them probably aren’t even memorable. A few are downright baffling. One thing is certain: the Academy sure does like movies about movies (*The Artist*, *Argo*, *Birdman*). So is another thing: the Oscars are marketing masquerading as aesthetics. Everybody knows this; it’s almost too commonplace to mention. But I’m mentioning it, if only to salve my conscience for jumping into the fray. Or at least, the very remotest edge of the fray: the short-film

category, currently on display at the Landmark Ken.

Live Action

What Will Win: *My Nephew Emmett*, writer-director Kevin Wilson, Jr.’s oblique portrait of Mose Wright, one of the heroes to emerge from the awful moment in American history that was the Emmett Till murder. Till was a black teenager from Chicago visiting family in Mississippi, including his Uncle Mose. After he was accused of whistling at and propositioning a white woman, he was taken from Wright’s house by two white men, brutally beaten, and murdered. Till’s mother famously insisted on an open-casket funeral for her son, and a photograph of the corpse became an icon of the civil rights movement. Wright, for his part, was the man who identified Till’s abductor in court, an act of astonishing bravery. He also recorded his account for a newsreel, and that’s the moment that ends Wilson’s short. What comes before is a skilled exercise in mood and

MOVIES



My Nephew Emmett: Writer-director Kevin Wilson Jr. captures the dread before the horror.

mounting fear, from the moment Wright (L.B. Williams) hears tell of the whistling, through his late-night vigil with a shotgun in his lap, to the moment he is roused from bed (but not sleep) by a pounding on the door. Wilson knows he has a great face in Williams and he makes the most

of it, especially through minimal, thoughtful lighting — Mose is a man overshadowed by dread. The final, futile confrontation between Wright and the murderers bears a smudge of Hollywood drama, but it is quickly erased by the sight of Wright on his porch, staring in broken horror after

the vanishing pickup.

What Should Win: Surprise: *My Nephew Emmett*. The other real contender is Katja Benrath’s *Watu Wote* — *All of Us*, which dramatizes the story of the 2015 Al-Shabaab bus attack in Kenya. Jua, a Christian woman who has lost both hus-

JASON BATEMAN RACHEL MCADAMS

This is not a game.

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band and child to Muslim terrorists, boards a bus full of Muslims to go visit her ailing mother. Needless to say, she is feeling less than neighborly. The police escort breaks down, but it turns out that civilization consists of something more than the rule of law. The storytelling isn't subtle, but considering the heroism that eventually goes on display, maybe it doesn't need to be. The acting helps, too.

Really, the acting is solid all 'round, even in the lesser entries. *DeKalb Elementary* uses the school's main office as a stage for its two players: a secretary of unusual composure and compassion and a mentally unstable schlub with an assault rifle. It turns out that it, too, is based on a real incident, but the rest of reality was the enemy here: I couldn't stop thinking of all the shootings where conversation wasn't even possible, where the shooter arrived and started firing and didn't stop until stopped. It isn't often that I think a film should start with "Based on actual events" — this might be an exception.

The Eleven O'Clock is a delightful adventure in insanity, as a psychiatrist meets with a patient who believes he is a psychiatrist, undermined by a failure to think its scenario all the way through. And even *The Silent Child*, which turns out to be a PSA in support of sign-language education in schools, begins promisingly with its presentation of a loving, high-achieving family that doesn't mean to fail its most needy member but does anyway.

Animation

What Will Win: Dave Mullins' *Lou*, the story of a sentient Lost & Found collection at a school playground and its efforts to rehabilitate a budding bully. The creature is adorable, all springs and socks and discombobulated resourcefulness. And the message is admirable: bullies may themselves be victims of one sort or another, and the best way to remove a vice is through opposing acts of virtue. Sure, it feels like a happy fantasy of childhood, but that's what Pixar's all about, right? No? Pixar made its bones by getting at the sad truths of childhood? Well, I guess things change.

What Should Win: Florian Babikian and Vincent Bayoux's *Garden Party*, for its gradual reveal of setting, for its almost uncomfortably lifelike frogs, and for its sly tribute to the circle of life.

As for the rest: the animated treatment of Roald Dahl's *Revolt Rhymes* feels like one of those instances where an idea that was original when it first appeared in print (a dark twist on a

shared fairy-tale universe) feels sadly and weirdly derivative when it finally shows up onscreen. Think *John Carter of Mars* or *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets*. *Negative Space* is an extended sweet 'n' sour joke, and *Dear Basketball* feels like a Kobe Bryant vanity project, even though it probably isn't.

— Matthew Lickona

Freed at last!

Fifty Shades Freed at last, that is, as moviedom's favorite boy-beats-girl franchise draws to a halting climax. This viewer needed closure after having survived the first two, so it just makes sense that I cast a little shade on the windup. Besides, if the alternatives are comic-book franchises or the latest CGI-driven action-adventure fantasy, I'll choose S&M (smut & moronity) every time.

It's rare that I put in for combat pay, but it's tough being the only

one in the multiplex not tipping a plastic wine glass between visits to the Red Room. My fellow theater-mates at both evening previews of *Fifty Shades of Grey* and *Fifty Shades Freed* were alcohol-energized. (No trace of booze was detected at the opening morning presentation of *Fifty Shades Darker*.) Remember the escalating squeal that surged through a *Saved by the Bell* studio audience whenever hunky Slater planted a wet one on Jesse? A similar screech was frequently heard wheeling throughout the tipsy preview audience at AMC Mission Valley.

Audience reaction (participation?) was key to making it through the first two. This time, the laughably consensual tawdriness and corresponding bad-acting-at-its-finest generally associated with the series wasn't enough to mollify viewers. *Freed* begins with Christian (Jamie Dornan) and Ana (Dakota Johnson)

tying the knot, but fans anticipating auto-eroticism are soon asphyxiated by 90 minutes of panoramic pans of exotic locales. Add to this a few yawn-generating softcore spankings before closing on a note of unmitigated violence.

Marriage has made quite the prude of Christian, who now winces at the amount of skin his wife flashes on a nude beach. And with an eye-rolling Ana wise to his whips-and-chains schtick, there's little excitement left to the couple's S&M couplings. Submissive moviegoers might need a safeword — try "storytelling" or "structure" — to unambiguously communicate the profoundness of their emotional discomfort and intellectual detachment.

As for the filmmakers, when all else fails and S&M simply will not do the trick, reintroduce an ex-boyfriend to kidnap and brutalize one character and stomp the pregnant

stomach of another. Better to pass the time thinking about your parents having sex than sitting through this.

— 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 unrereviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

12 Strong — In the aftermath of 9/11, the United States sent a Spec Ops team into Afghanistan to assist with the country's resistance to the Taliban. In 2012, Alex Quade made a short documentary about it called *Horse Soldiers of 9/11* — so named because the operation marked the first time in decades that U.S. soldiers rode horses into battle(!) In 2017, Greg Barker made a longer documentary about it called *Legion of Brothers* — so named because of the camaraderie that held among the team even as everything else fell apart. Those were movies about war.

FILM FESTIVALS

BREAD & SALT

1955 Julian Ave., Logan Heights
619-851-4083

Cynthia Maughan and Lissa Corona

Space Time presents a rare screening of video works by Cynthia Maughan, created from 1973-79, and a new performance by San Diego artist Lissa Corona. **Saturday, February 24, 8:00pm**

CENTRAL LIBRARY

330 Park Bl., East Village
619-236-5800

Body/Bag and dancedance/ReVolution with Filmmaker Mark Freeman

Join us for a screening of two short films, *Body/Bag* and *dancedance/ReVolution*. There will be a post-film discussion with filmmaker and SDSU professor Mark Freeman. *Body/Bag*: South African choreographer Gavin Krastin's performance explores the limits and boundaries of movement while trapped in a transparent sheath. 3 minutes.

2017. *dancedance/ReVolution* is an introduction to the vibrant diversity of contemporary dance in South Africa. Rooted in both tradition and the idioms of modern movement, this half-hour documentary introduces new audiences to work ranging from site-specific solos to multi-media physical theater. 27 minutes. **Monday, February 26, 6:30pm**

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

4190 Front St., Hillcrest
619-298-9978

Jews Step Forward *Jews Step Forward* is a documentary — diverse Jewish Americans share their evolving views of Israel, telling why they are standing up for the basic human rights of Palestinians still living under the Israeli occupation. The film was shown at the recent San Francisco and Berkeley Film Festivals. Filmmaker Marjorie Wright will be present for both films — also February 25 from 2-4 pm at Point Loma Library, 3701 Voltaire. **Saturday, February 24, 7:00pm**

GROSSMONT CENTER

5500 Grossmont Center Dr., La Mesa

Film Discussion Class: Rebel in the Rye

Debut director Danny Strong offers a window into the life and times of the controversial and enigmatic J.D. Salinger. The film brings to life young Salinger's (Nicholas Hoult) struggles to find his voice, his love affair with a famous socialite, his leaving for the front lines, the publishing of *Catcher in the Rye*, and his withdrawal from the public eye. Co-stars Kevin Spacey and Sarah Paulson. 2017. 106 minutes. "Film on the Fringe" with instructor Ralph Delauro at San Diego OASIS Lifelong Learning Center, Suite #325 in Grossmont Center. Ages 50+. Info: 619-881-6262. **Tuesday, February 27, 1:00pm**

JOYCE BEERS UPTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER

3900 Vermont St., Hillcrest

PlantPure Nation

This groundbreaking follow-up film to *Forks over Knives* is based on the work of renowned nutrition researcher T. Colin Campbell, author of *The China Study*. *PlantPure Nation* is an investigative documentary that tells the story of three people on a quest to spread the message of one of the most important health breakthroughs of all time. Please join us beforehand for our prescreening reception and whole-food, plant-based cooking demonstration with samples. \$15 includes film screening and refreshments of local vegan food, fresh juice, and kombucha plus Q&A with local food-justice, environmental, and plant-based nutrition experts. Doors open at 1 pm for a reception and food demo featuring Tracy of veg-appeal.com and Marina of soulintheraw.com. The film will begin at 2 pm. **Saturday, February 24, 1:00pm**

LAWRENCE FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla

Jewish Film Festival This is billed as "the largest Jewish cultural event in San Diego," with 37 feature films and 21 short films screened in five locations across the county. The 28th-annual event runs February 8 to 18 with San Diego premieres, international guest filmmakers, and juried and audience-choice awards featuring contemporary Jewish-themed films from around the world. This year there are four "San Diego Connection" films, directed by or starring local talent. Venues include Edwards Mira Mesa and San Marcos Stadium 18, The Lot, Wavelength Brewing Company, and the David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre. \$16; festival passes available. **Thursday, February 15, 5:00pm, Friday, February 16, 5:00pm, Saturday, February 17, 5:00pm, Sunday, February 18, 5:00pm**

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-238-7559

Above the Tin: Private Screening and After Party

Join us for our private screening at the MOPA and VIP after-party at the Bellefontaine. *Above the Tin* tells the story of 11 students from some of San Diego's poorest neighborhoods who, with all odds stacked against them, went on to become Ivy League graduates and professional athletes. And it all started with the unlikely sport of squash. **Saturday, February 24, 5:30pm**

LIBERTY HALL THEATER AT PARADISE VILLAGE

2700 E. 4th St., National City

Film Discussion Class: Take Me Home

This comic meditation on marriage features Sam Jaeger as an unemployed photographer moonlighting illegally as a NYC cab driver. When he picks up a distraught woman (Amber Jaeger) with her marriage in shambles, the two strangers set off on a cross-country odyssey to leave their problems behind. 2012. 97 minutes. Discussion after film. Film discussion class in Liberty Hall, on the second floor of Paradise Village. Info: 619-475-5040. **Wednesday, February 21, 7:00pm**

MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY

2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley
858-573-5007

Hemlock Society: Right-to-Die Film



Series The Hemlock Society of San Diego presents two movies in its Right-to-Die Film Series: *Mary Kills People* (Season 1, Episode 1). This is a serious and highly rated TV program about two doctors who, in their extra time, help suffering people end their lives. This does not romanticize or minimize the dangers and risks of doing this. (40 minutes, followed by a discussion.) *Eyewitness*. A documentary by Dutch psychiatrist Boudewijn Chabot in which we hear from loved ones of people who have chosen various methods of self-deliverance. **Sunday, February 18, 1:30pm**

POINT LOMA LIBRARY

3701 Voltaire St., Point Loma
619-531-1539

Jews Step Forward In this documentary, Jewish Americans share their evolving views of Israel and why they are standing up for the basic human rights struggle of the Palestinians. Discussion with filmmaker follows. **Sunday, February 25, 2:00pm**

SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
760-602-2049

Carlsbad Film Series: Moneyball Given a lean budget, Bill Jean, general manager of the Oakland A's, turned a failing team into success. He utilized analytic and data driven techniques to acquire new players changing the culture of player selections within baseball. Special features begin at 5:30pm followed by film at 6pm Stay afterward for a post-show discussion

of the film. February selections reflect themes represented in the works of author Daniel Pink, who has been selected as the feature author for the Carlsbad Reads Together 2018 program.

Wednesday, February 21, 6:00pm

SEASIDE CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

1613 Lake Dr., Encinitas
760-753-5786

White Like Me: Film Event & Social Healing

This first-time networked live online event features ministers and leaders from multiple New Thought centers around the U.S. Local groups will gather after Sunday services to view the film together, share their insights in a facilitated discussion, and then be connected to the live online event so that their minister can reflect the group's views. Documenting the issues of white privilege and their psychological effects on societal norms, the film aims to change the national discussion about race and racism so that current realities might more closely align with our cherished American principles. **Sunday, February 25, 12:30pm**

ULTRASTAR MISSION VALLEY AT HAZARD CENTER

7510 Hazard Center Dr., Mission Valley
619-685-2841

Black Panther Experience A private screening of Marvel's new superhero film, *Black Panther*. This is a Black Carpet experience, so make sure you are picture-perfect in your African-inspired attire. Happy hour gathering at the theater's reserved lounge at 6pm; seating at 7pm \$15.50. Sponsored by San Diego Melanin, "Connecting the community of young professionals of color in the greater San Diego area." **Thursday, February 15, 6:00pm**

UNITY CENTER

8999 Activity Rd., Mira Mesa

White Like Me Churches and spiritual communities throughout the country will gather after Sunday services to view and talk about their experience of the film *White Like Me*. These discussions will begin locally and then expand nationally. Individual communities across the country will be connected during a live online event where they can share their personal experiences with others throughout the United States. **Sunday, February 25, 12:30pm**

VALLE VERDE MOBILE ESTATES, 1286 DISCOVERY, SAN MARCOS

Healing Phenomenon The film chronicles the worldwide activities of the Bruno Groening Circle of Friends, documenting the events that happened after 1959. Helps & Healings which have occurred by just watching the film. RSVP: scott.gr@icloud.com. **Saturday, February 24, 10:00am**

Calendar

MOVIES

12 Strong is a war movie, complete with men promising their women that they'll come home, leaders insisting they won't lose a single man, a bad guy executing schoolgirls (as if that has anything to do with the mission against him), oracular pronouncements from the wise native ("Your mission will fail because you fear death," "I don't have soldiers, only warriors," etc.), and oh yes, Chris Hemsworth picking off enemies with an assault rifle from atop a charging horse at full gallop. But even if all that sounds grand, the film fails in other, more intrinsic ways: combat scenes seem more interested in the faces than the fracas, missions are undertaken with no apparent outcome, and great difficulties loom and then dissolve like mist. Still: it was a helluva mission, there are at least nods in the direction of complexity, and the bomb strikes convey something of what must have been meant by "shock and awe." Directed by Nicolai Fuglsig. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The 15:17 to Paris — Director Clint Eastwood goes from flying first class (*Sully*) to riding the rails in unreserved coach for another real-life tale of transitory heroism. And this time, instead of relying on Oscar-winner Tom Hanks to land his Airbus in the freezing waters of the Hudson River, he turns to the actual heroes in question to tell the story of three men who foiled a terrorist attack in 2015. It might be tempting to think of it as stunt casting, except it's hard to imagine professionals doing it any better. The big action payoff is spectacular, but the film's minor plot disturbances might have been smoothed a bit by less travelogue footage of the boys touring Germany and Amsterdam and a few more childhood flashbacks, especially since the boys' formative years — with parents who worked hard to raise good kids — contributed to their valorous behavior as grownups. And short of blasting Dino's all-pervasive "That's Amore," there couldn't be a more stereotypical choice of tunes to underscore time spent in Italy than "Volare." 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Black Panther — Director Ryan Coogler enters the Marvel Cinematic Universe via the African nation of Wakanda, and tells a story about the turbulent reign of its new king, T'Challa. Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Call Me By Your Name — Director Luca Guadagnino's sunnily seductive ode to *eros* tells the story of a summer romance between 17-year-old Elio (Timothée Chalamet, looking 15) and 24-year-old Oliver (Armie Hammer, looking 30). Or rather, it explores the dynamics between them, operating at a cool remove from its own frank depiction of desperate teenage longing and volcanic sexual passion among brilliant Jewish outsiders in gorgeous Catholic Italy. There are people involved, sure, but the main thing you need to know about them is their wanting and being wanted, so that you may consider what that might mean. (The title is telling on this score.) Elio's dad (Michael Stuhlbarg) is an archaeology professor who swoons over the sensuality of Greek statuary even as his son swoons over Pop's statuesque grad student/houseguest. Mom serves up fresh-squeezed apricot juice, which Oliver guzzles before explaining how we got "apricot" from the Latin *praecocia* — "early ripen." Everyone is terribly sophisticated and sensitive,



Early Man: Eddie Redmayne continues his string of astonishing physical transformations for the sake of his art.

so the drama surrounding the romance must be mostly self-generated: "Is it better to speak or to die?" Overall, the film throbs with feeling, but the pulse of felt life is faint. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Commuter — The opening may have you wondering if you've walked into the wrong theater as it presents the same household morning scenario again and again with minimal variation: *is this some kind of arty drama about the perils of middle-class existence?* Nah, it's just director Jaume Collet-Serra playing around with a pretext of context before he puts Liam Neeson through his violent paces for a fourth time, swapping out *Non-Stop's* plane for a commuter train and tossing in some financial anxiety for motivation. It's fun for a while, as Neeson's ex-cop starts to shake off 10 years of insurance work and get back to his real self: observant, resourceful, and inhumanly tough. (Go ahead, knock him silly as many times as you like. He'll be right as rain in two ticks.) The mystery is less a whodunit than a whogotit, the "it" being a bag containing something stolen that the owner is desperate to recover. If you don't think too hard about why Neeson gets brought in or how the bad-dies operate or what the point is, you may be able to enjoy yourself. At least until the final act, when the film goes off the rails. Like a train might do. 2018. — M.L. ★ (REGAL RANCHO DEL REY)

Darkest Hour — A cup of weak tea indeed from director Joe Wright, one that sorely needs a shot of something stronger to brace it for the unenviable task of manufacturing drama out of the question of whether Prime Minister Winston Churchill will take Britain into war with Germany or sit down for peace talks with Adolf Hitler. Gary Oldman, visually unrecognizable but vocally present, plays the British Lion as mostly toothless: doddering, doubtful, and deeply dependent on his adoring wife, his sympathetic sovereign, and (oh, the hilarity!) his plucky public. Because how else will you know to cheer at the end if the butterfly doesn't emerge from its sarcophagal chrysalis, waving its newfound wings in the morning air? But it's the script that is the real stinker here, laden with insipid humor ("We're broke." "I'll economize; only four cigars a day!"), ginned-up drama (can we possibly sacrifice 4000 soldiers to save

300,000?), and gobs and gobs of painful exposition. Personal exposition, philosophical exposition, political exposition. And yet for all that telling about how it was, the film feels much more like happy fantasy than detailed history, a fond look back on the lead-up to a moment of moral righteousness. 2017. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Early Man — Clearly and weirdly blind to the limitless potential afforded by an animated feature set during the dawn of man, the usually imaginative Nick Park (*Chicken Run*, *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*) squanders 90 minutes sketching a wearisome soccer match between the Stone Age and the Bronze World. Add to this a host of repulsively designed characters (Shrek & Co. are Disney bunnies compared to Park's cookie-cutter band of stop-motion Neanderthals), and you're stuck with a feature that makes *The Flintstones* look like the Rite of Spring passage in *Fantasia*. The pun-fueled dialogue is a perfect match for the visual ugliness, making it only fitting that *Early Man* steals from *Youngman*. There are jokes here — the Chief's demand that his underlings start mining ore is met with, "Or what?" — that would make Henny gag. It's not only destined to top this year's 10 Worst list, it also qualifies as one of the most unendurable cartoons ever to come from a major animator. 2018 — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Fifty Shades Freed — Reviewed this issue. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Hostiles — Director and co-writer Scott Cooper re-teams with his *Out of the Furnace* star Christian Bale to tell the story of Captain Joseph J. Blocker, a man of war facing a violent transition — physically and otherwise — to peacetime living. After a lifetime spent killing people because those were his orders, he is ordered to preserve the life of his bitter enemy, an ailing Cheyenne who wants to die on his home turf and needs protection for the journey. To complicate matters, the caravan picks up a pioneer woman (Rosamund Pike) who has just endured the slaughter of her family by the natives. Bale nails the portrayal of Blocker's cold hatred, a condition honed by experience, bound by a strict code, and tempered — perhaps in both senses — by a fierce intelligence and a tenacious faith.

Throughout, a great deal is communicated even as very little is said, and much of it concerns the possibility of being human in inhuman circumstances. By turns deliberative and chaotic, brutal and merciful, definitely bleak and just maybe hopeful, *Hostiles* could have ended with its penultimate scene, but it would have been a very different movie. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Insult (L'Insulte) — "I wish Ariel Sharon had wiped you all out." Is it an insult, a humiliation, a hate crime, or perhaps all of the above? If you're curious as to the answer, it will cost you two hours of your time to find out what happens when a Palestinian refugee (Kamel El Basha) takes a Lebanese Christian (Adel Karam) to court after falling victim to the titular affront. Courtroom dramas are not generally my genre of choice, because while the characters get to leave the courthouse, too often, we don't. And you can toss jurisprudence out the window here when the opposing attorneys turn out to be father and daughter. The end involves a surprise star witness: a documentary that the prosecuting attorney appears to have managed to whip together (complete with narration) the night before the trial. The rest of the proceedings cling closely to Hollywood's basic reconciliatory pattern. The more they argued, the more I was convinced that this was not worth my time. Directed and co-written by Ziad Doueiri (*Lila Says, The Attack*). 2017. — S.M. ★ (ANGELIKA FILM CENTER)

In the Fade (Aus dem Nichts) — A day at the spa ends in tragedy for Katja (Diane Kruger) when she returns home to find her husband and young son have been blown to hamburgers by a Nazi-rigged explosive device. (What is the respected grieving period before it's okay for a widow to start plotting her revenge with a nail-bomb?) For a third of his movie Fatih Akin (*Head On, The Edge of Heaven*) painstakingly walks us through Katja's superabundant grieving process — highlighted by an unforgettable botched bathtub suicide. Cocaine gives her the courage to stand up to her in-laws, but all the drugs in the world aren't enough to keep audiences awake during the drawn-out second act court proceedings that eventually give way to a predictably climactic revenge thriller. Even the agonizingly pitched desperation of Kruger's

performance isn't enough to prop up the slow pace and visual clichés (Hitchcock's patented zoom-in/dolly-out dusted off for the reading of the verdict). 2017. — S.M. ★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Lady Bird — There's much to admire in indie darling Greta Gerwig's first solo venture behind the camera, particularly for those willing to overlook colorless screen direction, dialog that thrives on pop culture references, and a pair of running time-padding skits — an anti-abortion pep rally gone wrong and a gym coach assigned to oversee the high school drama club — that play like outtakes from a Christopher Guest satire. Copious critical accolades already abound, but don't let the comparisons to *Terms of Endearment* keep you from the picture. (No Kleenex needed.) The raves that bear attention are the ones championing the daughter and mother combatants played by her generation's gift to acting, Saoirse Ronan, and the criminally underused Laurie Metcalf. Their precision-engineered salvos of overlapping dialog are the film's highlights and a sure test of the limits of Dolby Atmos. And kudos to the dizzyingly-denominated Beanie Feldstein for her performance as Ronan's brilliant flake of a BFF. 2017. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Oscar Nominated Short Films: Animated — Reviewed this issue. 2018 — M.L. ★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Oscar Nominated Short Films: Live Action — Reviewed this issue. 2018 — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Paddington 2 — It may be difficult to find a review of director and co-writer Paul King's followup to his first take on Michael Bond's émigré bear from darkest Peru that does not employ some form of the word "charming." This is right and just, and the achievement is surely harder than the devoted cast makes it look. (How tempting it must be to slum in a kids' movie, thinking that the little blighters either don't care or don't know the difference. But there's none of that here.) But there's something else as well, something more: a sweet but solid decency underlying the charm the way good bread underlies marmalade. It's Paddington's great gift from his Aunt Lucy: personal integrity, good manners, and the grace to persist in faith, hope, and love when all signs indicate otherwise. And it's his desire to make some return for what he's been given that drives the story here, as he sets out to acquire a rare and expensive pop-up book of London so that his aunt may finally see the city of her dreams. But someone else is interested in the book, and for less altruistic reasons: Hugh Grant, magnificent (and magnificently attired) as a washed-up actor seeking funding for a comeback show and conversing with the great roles of his past as he carries out his dastardly plan. He very nearly steals the show as well, but he's thwarted there by Brendan Gleeson's grumpy prison cook. A gentle, genuine delight all 'round. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Peter Rabbit — An affectionate note of Tex Avery mayhem opens the story — in an instant, a bucolic chorus of Disney-esque birds in flight is rendered utterly *ooft-magoofty* — and for the next 90 minutes, I looked on in amazement as the studio that regularly begot cartoon child abuse in the form of *Alvin* squeakuels finally found the winning formula for combining live-action characters and anthropomorphized rodentia. I've yet to be fooled by CG humans, but damned if this blue-jacketed upright cottontail and his woodland pals don't exude the

illusion of both life and charm. In terms of textured character design and movement, this is right up there with the best of Pixar, and when it comes to storytelling in animation, it outclasses everything its competitor has produced since *WALL-E*. Credit the combined creativity of screenwriter Rob Lieber (*Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*) and director Will Gluck (*Fired Up!, Easy A*) for contemporizing the Beatrix Potter classic in such a way that even the compulsory fart jokes play as decorous. 2018. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Phantom Thread — Actor Daniel Day-Lewis has played any number of difficult, even unpleasant men over the course of his remarkable career. And he is famously exacting and disciplined in his approach to his art. So perhaps it's fitting that his (self-proclaimed) final role is that of Reynolds Woodcock, a difficult, even unpleasant man who is also exacting and disciplined about his art — designing ladies' couture in '50s London. The film opens on the face of his muse and lover Alma (Vicky Krieps), who purrs that he has made her dreams come true before noting, "And I've given him what he desires." Just what exactly that means — some pleasures are decidedly more rarefied, or at the very least less obvious, than others — is writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's subject here. It's a mystery that doles out its first clue in Woodcock's opening-scene dismissal of his final pre-Alma paramour: he simply doesn't have the time for her. The level of control all 'round — director, actor, script, character — borders on oppressive; if Anderson's *The Master* was a swirling miasma, *Phantom Thread* is an unforgiving dress. It presents an ideal and even inspires wonder, but it does make breathing difficult, and heaven help you if all you want is to have a good time. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Post — Characters speak across office desks and restaurant dining tables as Janusz Kaminski's camera lackadaisically encircles them in what could be Steve Spielberg's stagiest work to date. And not since *1941* has the director slathered on the comic relief with such a leaden hand. Meryl Streep is superb as usual playing publisher Katharine Graham while the generally reliable Tom Hanks yanks at, but can't quite get a firm grip on Ben Bradlee's Boston accent. The

CENTRAL

AMC Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Rd (888-262-4386)

AMC La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Dr, Ste 129 (888-262-4386)

AMC Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)

ArCLight La Jolla
4425 La Jolla Village Dr (858-768-7770)

Digital Gym Cinema
2921 El Cajon Blvd ((619) 230-1938)

Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Ave (619-298-2904)

Landmark Ken
4061 Adams Ave (619-283-3227)

The LOT La Jolla
7611 Fay Ave (858-777-0069)

The LOT Liberty Station
2921 Thruxton Rd (619-566-0069)

Reading Town Square
4665 Clairemont Dr (858-274-9994)

Regal Horton Plaza
Horton Plaza (844-462-7342)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

San Diego Natural History Museum - Kaplan Theater
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

UltraStar Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Dr #100 (619-574-8684)

United Artists Horton Plaza 8
475 Horton Plaza (844-462-7342)

filmmakers can't resist belaboring the topicality. While the Trump allusions are inevitable, did novice screenwriters/brick-throwers Liz Hannah and Josh Singer have to include the word "collusion"? Why not tag as "fake news" the injunction sought by the Justice Department against "The New York Times"? We end at the Watergate Hotel, which makes this a prequel of sorts to Alan J. Pakula's *All the President's Men*, a film Spielberg can only aspire to. 2017. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Shape of Water — Gather 'round, allegory fans, and behold this fish-out-

Vintage Village Theater

820 Orange Ave, Coronado (619-437-6161)

EAST COUNTY

Reading Grossmont
5500 Grossmont Ctr Dr (619-465-3040)

Regal Parkway Plaza 18 & IMAX
405 Parkway Plaza (619-462-7342)

Regal Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Rd (844-462-7342)

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Ave (619-448-7447)

SOUTH BAY

AMC Chula Vista 10
555 Broadway #2050 (619-371-9105)

AMC Otay Ranch 12
Otay Ranch Town Center (619-216-7545)

AMC CLASSIC Palm Promenade 24
770 Dennerly Rd (619-662-2698)

AMC Plaza Bonita 14
3050 Plaza Bonita Rd (619-475-2200)

Regal Rancho Del Rey 16
1025 Tierra del Rey (844-462-7342)

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Ave (619-423-2727)

NORTH INLAND

AMC Poway 10
13475 Poway Rd ((858) 679-3887)

AMC CLASSIC River Village 6
5256 S Mission Road, Bonsall (760-945-1365)

of-water tale of man's inhumanity to what he deems inhuman from director and co-writer Guillermo del Toro. The action is recalled as a sort of adult fairy tale, and concerns a woman (Sally Hawkins, mesmerizing) without a voice and the mysterious creature who captures her heart (among other things). On the one side, you have love, sexual indulgence, science, art, magic, racial harmony, fidelity, kindness, great movies, and lonely but decent gays (Richard Jenkins, transporting). On the other, you have hatred, repressed sexuality (corn flakes!), politics, commerce, religion, racism, betrayal, cruelty, crap television, and married but wretched

AMC Temecula 10

27531 Ynez Rd (951-699-2205)

Krikorian Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Dr (760-945-7469)

Angelika Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mtn Rd (858-207-2606)

Regal Escondido 16 & IMAX
350 West Valley Parkway (844-462-7342)

Regal Mira Mesa 18 & IMAX
10733 Westview Parkway (844-462-7342)

Edwards San Marcos 18
1180 W. San Marcos Blvd (844-462-7342)

NORTH COASTAL

Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Del Mar
12905 El Camino Real (858-794-4045)

Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas La Costa
6941 El Camino Real (760-827-6700)

Digiplex Mission Marketplace
431 College Blvd (760-631-5700)

La Paloma Theater
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)

Regal Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (844-462-7342)

Regal Carlsbad 12
2501 El Camino Real (760-720-5392)

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Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri — Writer-director-producer Martin McDonagh's (*Seven Psychopaths*) presents the story of a heartbroken but otherwise rarin' to go woman (Frances McDormand, billy-club blunt) who plasters the titular roadside ads with a direct question to the local police chief: why haven't you caught the guy who raped and killed my daughter? She's gotta do something to stave off the feeling that "there ain't no God and the world's empty and it doesn't matter what we do to each other," and the billboards are close at hand. It doesn't matter that the chief (Woody Harrelson, laconic) is a good man who is dealing with cancer, or that a violent man-child cop (Sam Rockwell, alarming) is out to stop her. She's suffered to the point where suffering holds no more terror for her. Yessir, shit gets real. Or does it? For starters, McDonagh works way too hard to inject nearly every scene with his patented solution of acid wit and dark-roast comedy: *go ahead, laugh in the face of horror, I dare you*. It's jarringly effective until it starts to feel like shtick, at which point it works only as a numbing agent. For another, his fondness for the outlandish and over-the-top doesn't mesh well with his effort to tease out the ordinary humanity in his creations. And finally, there's a serious over-reliance on coincidence and under-portrayal of consequence. Good acting, though. 2017. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Winchester — Aw, it sounded so promising. Helen Mirren bringing a little Hammer glamour to the role of Sarah Winchester, the real-life heir to the Winchester rifle fortune who built a real-life Mystery Mansion in San Jose, supposedly at the behest of a spiritual medium. Jason Clarke as the skeptical Man of Science whose perceptions of reality may be clouded by both his grief over a lost spouse and his bottle of laudanum. And a deadly curse born from the fortune made from dealing in death-dealing devices. (The Winchester was a significant enough rifle to get its own Jimmy Stewart movie.) Let the guilt and dread and spooky atmospherics and oh, yes, ensuing madness commence! Wait, no? Jump scares? Child possession? Great chunks of dialogue from a star who doesn't seem altogether present? An exceedingly tenuous invocation of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906? More jump scares? Oh well. Directed by the Spierig Brothers. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

MOVIE SHOWTIMES & TRAILERS AT SDREADER.COM/MOVIES



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.

A Raisin in the Sun

UCSD Department of Theatre & Dance presents Lorraine Hansberry's American classic. Walter Younger and his family in Chicago feel confined by their home and the social roles they've been assigned. When an insurance payout offers an opportunity to improve their lives, priorities come into question. MANDELL WEISS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-4574. 7:30PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, FEB. 17.

The Addams Family

The Coronado Playhouse presents the musical, book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, music and lyrics, Andrew Lippa, based on characters Charles Addams. Rayme Sciaroni directs and choreographs. Michael Anthony is musical director. CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Bliss (or, Emily Post Is Dead)

Moxie Theatre opens its 2018 season with Jami Brandli's comedy about life for women in 1960. "Housewives are dutiful. Husbands are brawny, and Emily Post's guide to etiquette is keeping America 'great.'" Then along comes a stranger with a new way of thinking. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directs.

MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Cake

The La Jolla Playhouse presents Bekah Brunstetter's drama about Jen and her wish to have Della, legendary baker, do the honors of making the wedding cake for Jen's ceremony. But "there's not just one bride, but two, forcing Della to reexamine deeply held beliefs." Casey Stangl directs.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Cardboard Piano

Northern Uganda, New Year's Eve, 1999. Teenaged Adiel (agile Andrea Agosto) plans a secret wedding with her American lover Chris (Kate Rose Reynolds) in a church. But 13-year-old Pika (John Wells III) bursts through the doors. He's running from Ugandan police, who severed his right ear. Then a soldier (prominent Wreckless Watson) enters, and the two-act play unleashes fierce energy in the confines of a sanctuary, and gunfights puncture the drone of a constant rain. Wearing military uniforms and traditional Ugandan costumes, the four committed actors perform on a minimal yet evocative

ANTI-REVIEW MICHA BARNES

Hamilton hopes

Sitting in a sold-out Civic Theatre, 15 minutes till showtime of the undisputed theatrical event of the season, and as the seats begin to fill it dawns on me: I'm not the only one attending with a teenager.

My 14-year-old niece is the reason I'm seeing *Hamilton* for the first time. She's attached herself to this cultural phenomenon the way I did Tim Burton's *Batman* movie at her age. She's more graceful about it — her closet isn't full of T-shirts bearing the *Hamilton* star logo, as mine was the bat signal.

But when I'd considered getting her a *Hamilton* for piano book for Christmas, I was told not to bother. She's been playing from it for months.

There are younger seated around us. A family with a couple of tweens fill the seats to our left. Three older teens sit directly behind, and two more behind them, none likely out of high school. Is this an audience, or an assembly?

Her giddiness proves infec-

tious as we see the musicians begin to take their seats in the orchestra pit below. There's been a lot building up to this moment. All of her friends have



Teenagers dig this guy.

ted against love and virtue in this sweeping gothic musical. (Contains mature content.) CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGE CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. 7PM SATURDAY, FEB. 17.

and excite, but much like going to a strip club the overall experience leaves you at the end of the night with less money and little satisfaction. Review by Jon Reimer. HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

I Love You Because
OB Playhouse stages a modern, musical twist on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. A young, uptight greeting card writer's life changes when he meets a flighty photographer. Along with their eccentric friends and siblings, they learn to love each other not in spite of their faults, but because of them. Justin Tuazon directs, with musical direction by Michelle Gray.

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Old Globe Theatre opens 2018 with Oscar Wilde's "trivial comedy for serious people." Jack and Algernon are free-style bachelors. "But when Algernon discovers that Jack's been posing as a man named Ernest to escape the city, he poses as the fictional figure himself." Maria Aiken directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical
Canyon Crest Academy presents a musical based on Robert Louis Stevenson's antithetical characters. "Murder and chaos are pit-

ted against love and virtue in this sweeping gothic musical. (Contains mature content.) CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGE CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. 7PM SATURDAY, FEB. 17.

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Mystifque Theater: a Macabre Masquerade

Canyon Crest Academy presents "the wild, wondrous world of Edgar Allan Poe" in a fusion of theatre, puppetry, and music, co-created in collaboration with Canyon Crest students. CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGE CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS.

Nonsense

The Star Theatre Company presents a musical comedy about nuns at the Order of the Little Sisters of Hoboken. When the cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, accidentally kills the other fifty-two residents of the convent with her tainted vichyssoise, the seven remaining sisters hold a fundraising variety show to raise money to bury their dearly departed sisters. STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Outside Mullingar

In a co-production with Oceanside Theatre Company, Scripps Ranch Theatre stages John Patrick Shanley's rustic comedy about Anthony and Rosemary, lovelorn farmers in rural Ireland. "These hopeless singletons will need to overcome a bitter land feud, familial rivalries, and their own romantic fears to find happiness." Kathy Brombacher directs. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATUR-

DAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

This Random World

The North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Steven Dietz's drama/comedy about intersecting lives: "A mother determined to maintain her independence, a daughter longing for adventure, two sisters seeking common ground, and an internet prank gone awry." David Ellenstein directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM WEDNESDAYS.

Uncle Vanya

The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere translation (by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky) of Anton Chekhov's great drama. Vanya and niece Sonya care for the estate of Vanya's brother-in-law. But the celebrated professor (maybe only in his mind?) wants to sell. Richard Nelson directs. SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

The Vagina Monologues

InnerMission Productions celebrates the 20th anniversary of V-Day with a performance of Eve Ensler's heralded monologues about consensual and non-consensual sex, body image, reproduction, and other subjects as told by women of all ages, races, and creeds. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 7PM FRIDAY, SATURDAY, FEB. 17, & SUNDAY, FEB. 18.

Vietgone

The San Diego Repertory Theatre stages Qui Nguyen's "love story like no other." At the end of the Vietnam War, Quang and Tong fall in love in a refugee camp in Arkansas, then take a life-changing trip across America. Jesca Prudencio directs the piece, performed with a mash-up of comic book aesthetics, martial arts, and hip-hop. SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS.

UPCOMING SHOWS

The Addams Family

The Coronado Playhouse presents the musical, book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, music and lyrics, Andrew Lippa, based on characters Charles Addams. Rayme Sciaroni directs and choreographs. Michael Anthony is musical director. CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

Akeelah and the Bee

A spunky 11-year-old girl's razor-sharp mind just might take her all the way from the Chicago projects to the finals of the National Spelling Bee. Akeelah has a crazy passion for words: the more abstruse and labyrinthine, the better. But this gift is almost overwhelmed by the challenge of her daily life in a tough, Chicago neighborhood. CASA DEL PRADO THEATRE, 1650 EL

PRADO, SUITE 208, BALBOA PARK, MAR. 2 THROUGH MAR. 11.

Bliss (or, Emily Post Is Dead)

Moxie Theatre opens its 2018 season with Jami Brandli's comedy about life for women in 1960. "Housewives are dutiful. Husbands are brawny, and Emily Post's guide to etiquette is keeping America 'great.'" Then along comes a stranger with a new way of thinking. Delicia Turner Sonnenberg directs. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

The Cake

The La Jolla Playhouse presents Bekah Brunstetter's drama about Jen and her wish to have Della, legendary baker, do the honors of making the wedding cake for Jen's ceremony. But "there's not just one bride, but two, forcing Della to reexamine deeply held beliefs." Casey Stangl directs. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. FEB. 22 THROUGH MAR. 4.

Camping with Henry and Tom

Lamb's Players presents Mark St. Germain's historical piece. To escape their hectic lives, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and President Warren G. Harding went on a camping trip to the Maryland Woods in 1921. "What they couldn't escape was each other." LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. FEB. 23 THROUGH MAR. 25.

Cardboard Piano

Northern Uganda, New Year's Eve, 1999. Teenaged Adiel (agile Andrea Agosto) plans a secret wedding with her American lover Chris (Kate Rose Reynolds) in a church. But 13-year-old Pika (John Wells III) bursts through the doors. He's running from Ugandan police, who severed his right ear. Then a soldier (prominent Wreckless Watson) enters, and the two-act play unleashes fierce energy in the confines of a sanctuary, and gunfights puncture the drone of a constant rain. Wearing military uniforms and traditional Ugandan costumes, the four committed actors perform on a minimal yet evocative stage and *Cardboard Piano* speaks of faith, reconciliation, and forgiveness in the midst of so much bloodshed. **Critic's Pick.** Review by Binh H. Nguyen. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

Review by Nikki Katz. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245.

Cloud Tectonics

Take 90 minutes, three characters, an apocalyptic Los Angeles, rain on stage, foot massages, a large vertical bed, and "time that doesn't add to itself," and you have a rough glimpse of the captivating love story that is *Cloud Tectonics*. Veteran Nadia Guevara is haunting as the innocent Celestina del Sol, a pregnant woman living beyond the boundaries of time. Jose Ballestrini is brilliant in his debut professional theater role as Anibal der La Luna, who falls in love with Celestina over the course of a single night that spans two years in "real" time. Of the Sun ("sol") and the Moon ("luna") these actors demonstrate the power of living each moment and making the most of every connection. **Critic's Pick.** Review by Nikki Katz. NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD, 760-433-3245. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

Company

SDSU stages Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's classic musical. On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor Robert contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks, and even a wedding, his friends explain the pros and cons of taking a spouse. Stephen Brotbeck directs.

SDSU'S EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 619-594-6884. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Daebreon Poema: The Reason Why I Sing

Actress Daebreon Poema makes her cabaret debut sharing life stories and songs at ClubM, the Moonlight Amphitheatre's intimate and indoor concert space offering food and beverage service.

MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE IN BRENDA TERRACE PARK, 1200 VALE TERRACE, VISTA. 760-724-2110. MAR. 3.

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center stages the popular story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, a young prince trapped by the spell of an enchantress. "If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out."

LAWRENCE FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, 4126 EXECUTIVE DR., LA JOLLA. MAR. 3 THROUGH MAR. 18.

The Full Monty

Out-of-the-job factory workers decide to take up stripping as a way to make money. An Americanized adaptation of the hit British film of the same name, the Buffalo men in this musical version come across as misogynistic and unlikeable. Dated notions of masculinity dotting the script, particularly ideas of what makes a "real man," insult rather than entertain. Individual, scantily-clad performances impress and excite, but much like going to a strip club the overall experience leaves you at the end of the night with less money and little satisfaction. Review by *Jon Reimer*.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

I Love You Because

OB Playhouse stages a modern, musical twist on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. A young, uptight greeting card writer's life changes when he meets a flighty photographer. Along with their eccentric friends and siblings, they learn to love each other not in spite of their faults, but because of them. Justin Tuazon directs, with musical direction by Michelle Gray.

OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. FEB. 22 THROUGH FEB. 25.

IMPRO Theatre: Play UnScripted

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NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. MAR. 5.

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Old Globe Theatre opens 2018 with Oscar Wilde's "trivial comedy for serious people." Jack and Algernon are free-style bachelors. "But when Algernon discovers that Jack's been posing as a man named Ernest to escape the city, he poses as the fictional figure himself. Maria Aiken directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. FEB. 22 THROUGH MAR. 4.

Mystifique Theater: a Macabre Masquerade

Canyon Crest Academy presents "the wild, wondrous world of Edgar Allan Poe" in a fusion of theatre, puppetry, and music, co-created in collaboration with Canyon Crest students.

CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGE CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. FEB. 23 THROUGH MAY 19.

Night, Mother

Lamplighters Community Theatre stages Marsha Norman's multi-award-winning drama. A mother and daughter spend a high-stakes evening together. Their debate "ultimately gives rise to some of our deepest, most personal questions about the value of a life." James P. Darvas directs.

LAMPLIGHTERS COMMUNITY THEATRE, 5915 SEVERIN DR., LA MESA. 619-303-5092. MAR. 2 THROUGH MAR. 24.

Nunsense

The Star Theatre Company presents a musical comedy about nuns at the Order of the Little Sisters of Hoboken. When the cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, accidentally kills the other fifty-two residents of the convent with her tainted vichyssoise, the seven remaining sisters hold a fundraising variety show to raise money to bury their dearly departed sisters.

STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. FEB. 23 THROUGH FEB. 25.

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OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 275 FIFTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-233-4323. MAR. 15.

Othello

UCSD Department of Theatre & Dance presents Shakespeare's soaring tragedy about Othello, the Moor of Venice, his new bride, Desdemona, and the green-eyed monster abetted by the equally monstrous Iago. Dylan Key directs.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-2230. FEB. 23 THROUGH MAR. 3.

Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again

UCSD Department of Theatre & Dance presents Alice Birch's "feminist alarm" that "scrutinizes the language, actions, and hidden biases of our society that unfairly favor men over women." The play advocates

dismantling or sabotaging "anything that is complicit" in the oppression of women. Sean Graney directs.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-2230. MAR. 8 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ presents "a scumdidlyumptious musical" that follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding five golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever finds these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory as well as a lifetime supply of candy. But four of the five winning children are insufferable brats.

MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 4070 JACKDAW ST., MISSION HILLS. 619-296-2169. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 18.

Safa's Story

Blindspot Collective and Bocon present the world premiere of Catherine Hanna Schrock's drama, designed for young audiences and inspired by a local teenager's experience as a Zimbabwean immigrant. The piece, which will tour several San Diego schools, is done in the style of Forum Theatre ("during the show, audiences are challenged to explore tangible ways to support and empower the central characters"). Schrock has directed.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. FEB. 23 THROUGH FEB. 25.

Stand-Up Jesus: Workshop

The North Coast Repertory Theatre hosts a workshop by satirical comic Tom Dulac — *The Male Intellect*, *The Book of Moron* — for his latest show, tentatively titled *Stand-Up Jesus*.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. FEB. 26 THROUGH FEB. 27.

This Random World

The North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Steven Dietz's drama/comedy about intersecting lives: "A mother determined to maintain her independence, a daughter longing for adventure, two sisters seeking common ground, and an internet prank gone awry." David Ellenstein directs.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. FEB. 22 THROUGH MAR. 18.

Troll 2

For one night only, Backyard Renaissance Unleashed presents an "all-star staged reading of one of the worst B-movies ever made" (Never saw *Troll 1*? No Problem. It has nothing to do with it!).

LAFAYETTE HOTEL, SWIM CLUB & BUNGALOWS, 2223 EL CAJON BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-296-2101. FEB. 26.

Uncle Vanya

The Old Globe Theatre stages the world premiere translation (by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevar, and Larissa Volokhonsky) of Anton Chekhov's great drama. Vanya and niece Sonya care for the estate of Vanya's brother-in-law. But the celebrated professor (maybe only in his mind?) wants to sell. Richard Nelson directs.

SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. FEB. 22 THROUGH MAR. 11.



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UNCLE Vanya

Jay O. Sanders. Photo by Jim Cox.

THE OLD GLOBE (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623) TheOldGlobe.org

website have varying ideas. One commented that the 1927 theater was “old and under-used and it’s time for a change.” Another said: “We need to stop tearing down perfectly good structures.... Downtown has become unrecognizable.”

Mike Moser, the Solana Beach-based agent who oversaw the sale, says he couldn’t disclose a lot of details unless cleared with the new owners. He says a brewery and/or restaurant are in the mix and that the building itself will not be torn down.

Moser says the new owners want to restore the theater to its “old glory” and that live entertainment and cultural events are hoped to be part of the new project.

“It’s a shame,” says Sue Ladoucer, a former member of Carlsbad’s Historic Preservation Commission.

She hopes that the new owners will take a cue from Pizza Port, which opened the successful beer-and-pizza restaurant in 1995 in another historical building.

“They bought the old Wonder Bread building,” says Ladoucer about the Pizza Port building on [former Elm Avenue] Carlsbad Village Drive. “They kept the entire façade. We were all very proud of what they did. That was an example of doing a good job with an old building.”

Laurie Batter was once president of the Carlsbad Arts Commission. “They could have made it an arts movie theater like the La Paloma Theatre in Encinitas,” says Batter. “This is just what we need. Another brewery.”

KEN LEIGHTON

POINT LOMA

Rally to boot recycling center “She whacked my clerk and cracked her head open”

A rally on February 10th was held to protest the recycling center behind Stump’s Market in



“It’s not in Point Loma and it’s not in Ocean Beach.”

Loma Portal. When Prince Recycling opened up in 2014, there were protests then, too. It’s the only recycling center within a mile of Ocean Beach and Point Loma residents. Others are five or more miles away.

The petition that nearby resident Margaret Virissimo put out to oust the recycling center got more than 425 signatures within 24 hours. The petition is headed for the desk of state assemblymember Todd Gloria.

Point Loma native and owner of Prince Recycling, James Prince, said he isn’t keen on moving to the Midway District because of the homeless issues there. “I feel like where I put it is a good place: not where tourists are, and I can serve both communities. It’s not really in Point Loma and it’s not really in Ocean Beach.”

He said getting rid of him won’t get rid of the homeless problem. He said a recycling center is better than having an empty lot. Prince has a point — after a Clairemont shopping center got rid of its recycling center, transients took over the parking lot. The laundromat was the magnet there.

The consensus among neighboring tenants is they would prefer Prince go. Dirk Stump, owner of Stump’s Market, has been trying to make that happen for some time. He said Prince thinks everything is fine. Stump told Prince if he spent more time at the recycling center he would see what was going on and might not be so shocked about the rally.

Stump doesn’t understand why some

areas are getting a pass. “They closed the recycling in the Midway District, behind Ralphs, and the one in Old Town. We get all of those crazies now.”

Case-in-point is the homeless woman who came into Stump’s last August swinging a steel bar.

“She was swinging it and knocking stuff off the shelves, swinging a case of wine bottles,” said Stump.

“I tackled her into the shopping carts. She whacked my clerk and cracked her head open.”

JULIE STALMER

WEBSTER

Homeless dwellings of some permanence

“The fire department knows about all of these guys.”

Matt Armstrong and Cindi Lapio have been noticing more permanent structures being built in their neighborhood canyons and ridges.



Matt Armstrong: “Someone sweeps around here.”

Armstrong is a 51-year-old martial arts instructor who cleaned out more than 2000 pounds of trash from Manzanita Canyon last year. Lapio is a 57-year-old retired contractor who partnered with Armstrong to clean about 1000 pounds of trash from Swan Canyon last month. Both are homeowners in City Heights, but they are now pushing their cleanup efforts further south.

On February 6th, the two showed me some of the abandoned encampments that are harder for them to clean out because of

the larger and heavier pieces of metal and wood debris left behind.

The first stop was on Home Avenue, about 50 feet east of the 805 freeway entrance. “If you feel like you need a yank up, grab the handle on this [trash can] and I can pull you,” Armstrong said as we ascended a steep hill to the first set of encampments.

“Hey, wassup...is there anyone else here?,” Armstrong asked a woman as we reached the top of a ridge.

The woman replied, “No.”

We walked about 50 feet and saw trash in a small valley to the left that was opposite from the ridge overlooking the Arco gas station at 4333 Home Avenue down below.

“Who’s here?” yelled Armstrong before entering the encampment area.

No one responded, but there was a plush toy tiger guarding the area with a three-foot structure made with metal fences stacked and tied down together. A few feet away, there was another structure made of

PVC pipes.

A lady came out of a tent-like structure that measured about six feet tall and said, “I understand” to Armstrong and Lapio as they picked up around her area. “See, someone sweeps around here to try to clean up,” Armstrong said. “They sweep it into a pile to the side.”

After the two filled up their trash bags, we descended and went to the next spot down Home Avenue over the 94 freeway where it turns into a dead end.

“This is behind Costco on Market Street,” Lapio said.

The two took me to what Armstrong called “the Shire Hut” or “the Hobbit house.” It’s a mountain of dry brush that stands about seven feet tall and has a steel fence structure underneath. Someone cut a three-foot entrance into it and they placed a red tarp as a doorway.

MIKE MADRIAGA

GOLDEN DREAMS

continued from page 14

John Derian Picture Book, named one of the best gift books of the year by numerous outlets, including *Garden & Gun* magazine — placed beneath a potted plant on a bureau.

But everyone knows that kids should read, so there are books aplenty at Pottery Barn Kids, including seasonal fare and a *Moby Dick* board book(!) But maybe since girls read more than boys, they leave the books out of the girls’ bedroom display, while the boys’ side gets *Goodnight*, *Goodnight Construction Site* and *My First Superman Book*. For more girly fare, head to Fiveloaves Twofish for Osborne book versions of classic fairy tales such as *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

There’s nary a tome to be found in the Gap, but if you take just one step up the Gap Inc. style scale to Banana Republic, you become a proper *fashionista*. Books get their own easels above the garments and include *The Fashion Book*, *Vanity Fair: 100 Years*, *Vogue: The Covers*, *Harper’s Bazaar: 150 Years: The Greatest Moments*, and *Avedon*. Gap’s athletic store, Athleta, displays just two titles: *Unplug: A Simple Guide to Meditation for Busy Skeptics and Modern Soul Seekers* and *Shining Bright: Quotes and Images to Inspire Optimism, Gratitude & Belief in Your Limitless Potential* — because active people don’t have much time to read. (Less active people, on the other hand, may simply lack the inclination, which may explain the presence of just one

book, *Beach Cocktails*, at Tommy Bahama.)

J. Crew wants to affirm your sense of yourself as art aficionado. Robert Longo’s *Men in the Cities* gets table space; other stuff is stacked or displayed up high: *Elizabeth Peyton: Portrait of an Artist*, William Eggleston’s *Guide to the Museum of Modern Art New York*, *Picasso: Guitars 1912–1914*, *Gerhard Richter: Red Yellow Blue*, *Abstract America*, et al.

Restoration Hardware opts for a mix of straightforward and cheek. There’s decor theory on end tables: *Monochrome Home*, *The Curated House*, *A Life Less Ordinary: Interiors and Inspirations*. But there are also a great many blank white bindings in the cabinets, a few of which are stamped with titles that are actually categories: *Master Photographers*, *Designer Influ-*

ences, *Private*, *Modern Architecture*, *Polaroid’s 1958–1987*. Cute.

Anthropologie sells aspiration: *Martha Stewart’s Newlywed Kitchen*, *52 Lists to Happiness*, *111 Places in New York That You Must Not Miss*. Papyrus sells whimsy: *Pocket Coco Chanel Wisdom*, *Farts Around the World*, *Sh**ty Mom for All Seasons*. Johnny Was sells an exotic dream: *Surfer’s Blood*, *The Wild Horses of Sable Island*, *Havana Modern*. But it’s Room & Board — and to a lesser extent, Arhaus — that really sells the booky lifestyle: piling them, shelving them, color-coding them, tucking them into this nook and that cranny, flaunting all sorts of volumes, and affirming the fine old notion that having a home means having a place to put your books. ■

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This might sound crazy, but you are about to spill a can of beer. This seemingly trivial accident will cause a small, yet profound, ripple in the greater time-space continuum.

No doubt this ripple would lead to dire consequences for future humanity?

Ha! Guilty as charged.

Hahaha...I can barely wait.

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Earn a competitive stipend caring for an adult with a developmental disability in your home. Minimum requirements: Spare bedroom, proficiency in English, driver's license and high school diploma/ GED. Call today! www.MentorsWanted.com. 858-694-0120.

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES & KITTENS

Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.

FOUND PROPERTY

US currency found on 11/4/17 at 112 Plaza St, Solana Beach. Please contact Detective Hebel with the San Diego Sheriff's Department to identify. 760-966-3534 or email at colin.hebel@sdsheriff.org.

FREE PSYCHIC HEALING/LECTURE CLINIC

Free Psychic Healing /Lecture Clinic. Free Readings for new visitors. 7:30pm Wednesdays: 2/28/18, 3/28/18, 4/25/2018, 5/30/2018 by Vessa's Clairvoyant Intuitive Program graduates. 4455 Morena Blvd, Suite 108. 858-509-7582

FUND RAISER EL CAPITAN H.S. BAND

Auction, Band Performances, FUN!! \$10.00 for all(\$5.00 w/ no meal) Feb 24, 2018 at 5-8:00 pm, Lakeside Pdeo Banquet Room 12584 Mapleview St., Lakeside For info: Jamilee 619-247-9317 or jptrille@cox.net

SPORTS

MEN & COED SOFTBALL LEAGUES.
Games start after Labor Day. Accepting teams now. All teams go to playoffs. E-mail: johng@softballsd.com. Web: www.softballsd.com.

COMPUTERS

DELL
complete desktop dual core, Windows 7, DVD, monitor, WIFI, keyboard and mouse, all for \$140. Call or text: 619-630-8020

WANTED / TRADE

WANTED:
Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altac, McIntosh, Marantz and more! Call 619-303-8031; 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.

WANTED.
CASH for Walt Disney autographs and items, original animation art, Disneyland items, any type(superhero) Comics, all before 1970. No videos or prints. 619-465-3090

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Rock & Roll I buy 1950's-1980's, concert posters, flyers, handbills, used- unused tickets, programs. please call 619-522-0283. Private party.

SERVICES**L MASSAGE**

Full Body Massage Hot Stone & Oil \$35/hr (Reg. \$40/hr) with coupon

Foot Massage Combo \$20/hr (Reg. \$25)



6933 Federal Blvd, Lemon Grove (by 94 Fwy, Exit College Ave) 619-466-7777 www.lmassagespa.com

MESA SPA

Full Body Couples Massage Hot Stone & Oil \$70/hr (Reg. \$80) with coupon

Foot Massage Combo \$20/hr (Reg. \$25)

Full Body Massage Hot Stone & Oil \$40/hr



4089 Genesee Ave, San Diego (At Balboa, next to 7-Eleven) 858-277-6666 www.mesaspamassage.com

Fletcher Massage

Full Body Massage Hot Stone & Oil \$40/hr

Foot Massage Combo \$20/hr (Reg. \$25)

Couples Massage \$70/hr (Reg. \$80) With hot stone and oil.



8182 Parkway Dr, La Mesa (On Fletcher Pkwy, COSCTO shop east) 619-589-8888 www.fletchermassage.com

E MASSAGE

Full Body Massage Hot Stone & Oil \$40/hr

Foot Massage Combo \$20/hr (Reg. \$25)

Couples Massage \$70/hr (Reg. \$80) with coupon With hot stone and oil.



1464 Graves Ave #106, El Cajon (67 Fwy @ E. Bradley, next to DMV.) 619-579-9999 www.emessagespa.com

SERVICES

Everyone deserves a family like yours

BECOME A MENTOR

California
MENTOR
Family Home Agency

Ask about our Referral Program!

California MENTOR is seeking loving individuals just like you to support an adult with special needs.

Receive ongoing support and \$1100 to \$2000 a month (to cover the cost of care) for your spare bedroom.

Call Heather or Vanessa Today!
858-694-0120
MentorsWanted.com

MISCELLANEOUS

LATERAL TRAINER, \$2000
HELIX HLT 2500 Lateral Trainer for sale. Like new. Original price \$2899 + tax \$253.66. Asking \$2000 or best offer. Call (714) 488-7176.

LEATHER JACKET
Genuine leather, black, men's large. Excellent condition. \$50, OBO. Lemon Grove, 619-464-4026.

USEFUL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS FOR SALE, reasonable prices. Call 619-588-2467.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW STORE OPENING
Gemstone Gallery has opened a 2nd location in The Lexus Center in Escondido. Featuring exquisite Jewelry and extensive Wedding Rings. Gemstone Gallery also has rare Mineral Specimens from around the world. 760-735-5700

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. (State intention.)
Say the above novena sincerely nine times a day for eight consecutive days, and promise to publish it or otherwise distribute it to others. It has never been known to fail.

EVENT LISTINGS

ART SHOW: FEBRUARY IN THE RAILROAD EARTH
Friday, February 23rd, 6:30-9:30pm, Broker's Building, 402 Market St., Gaslamp, San Diego. Twenty-six year Retrospective of ZBO (Peter Karel Suczek). FREE

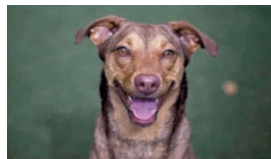
READER TACOTOPIA 2018
Join the San Diego Reader in our continued search to find the best taco at the 4th Annual Reader Tacotopia in Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 12th, 2018. Try signature tacos from more than 60 of the best restaurants in San Diego, TJ and LA as they compete to win the "Best Taco" award. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best taco vendors and you decide who will ultimately win. I ReaderTacotopia.com

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.



BROOKLYN
(A1819014) is a 3 year old, spayed female, shorthaired cat. Brooklyn is an easy going, not much trouble pet, who will be waiting for you when you come home after a long day!

Adoption is at the San Diego County Animal Shelter in Bonita, 5821 Sweetwater Rd. Bonita CA 91902. Adoption fee is \$35 and includes microchip, vaccinations, flea treatment and spay or neuter. Please call 619-498-2311 for more information. Check our website for more info, WWW.sddac.com

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES & KITTENS

Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.



GREYHOUND ADOPTION
Looking for a 45 mile per hour couch potato? Adopt a retired greyhound. Call 1-877-HOUNDSAVERS, email info@houndsavers.org or visit www.houndsavers.org.

SERVICES

\$10 Off Massages!

Body massage \$35/hr.
Regular 45/hr.

Combo Massage

30 Minute Foot & 30 Minute Body \$30! Reg. \$45/hour.



SUNRISE SPA GRAND OPENING!
5208 Jackson dr#112 La Mesa ca 91942 • (619) 304-3509

DIAMOND SPA
8304 Parkway Dr. La Mesa CA 91942 • (619) 675-7358

Cajon Massage

Body Massage
\$40/hr

Includes Free Shower and Hot Stone
with coupon

Foot Massage
\$19⁹⁹/hr

Free Hot Stone
with coupon

1246 East Main St #102
El Cajon 92021
619-588-8888



HAPPY FOOT SPA

Foot Massage
\$14⁹⁹/hr

(Reg. \$20/hr)
Only Tuesday

Couple Massage
\$70/hr

(Reg. \$80/hr)
with coupon

6956 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego 92115
619-724-6464



Blue Sky Spa

Full Body Massage
\$35/hr

(Reg. \$40) (10am-12pm)

Couple Massage
\$70/hr

(Reg. \$80/hr)

includes FREE Hot Stone, or
Salt Scrub (Only with Full Price)
with coupon

6506 El Cajon Blvd. #A
San Diego 92115
(College Area)
619-888-3999



Foot and Body Care

Full Body Massage
\$40/hr

Includes FREE Hot Stone, or
Coco Oil, or Salt Scrub
with coupon

Foot Massage
\$20/hr

Free Hot Stone
with coupon

9676 Campo Rd #A
Spring Valley 91977
619-303-9300



Relax your Mind, Body, and Soul

\$35 1-Hour
Body Massage

\$15 1-Hour
Foot Massage

Valid for new customers only through March 8, 2018.

Yeliya Spa

4722 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, 92117

858-581-6699

Lakeside Reflexology

9610 Winter Gardens Blvd.
Lakeside, 92040

619-906-1798

yu spa
Jjim-jil-bang

20% OFF
Any Body Scrub or Massage
With this ad. Expires 3/24/18

Korean-Style Sauna

- Red Clay Sauna
- Himalayan Salt Sauna
- Ice Room
- Dry & Steam Saunas
- Hot & Cold Tubs
- Body Scrub
- Massage
- Yoni Steam
- Restaurant

Grand Opening
9am - 11pm
Every Day

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yelp

Leisure Spa

FREE TABLE SHOWER with Full Body Massage
(858) 505-8626
7878 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego
FULL BODY MASSAGE
Anytime with this Coupon • Valid at all 3 locations

\$10 OFF

Grand Opening

Spring Valley Spa
2615 Sweetwater Springs Blvd
(619) 724-6628

Relaxation Spa
7408 University Ave. • La Mesa
(619) 319-4739

BRAINSTORMS

BY DON RUBIN

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

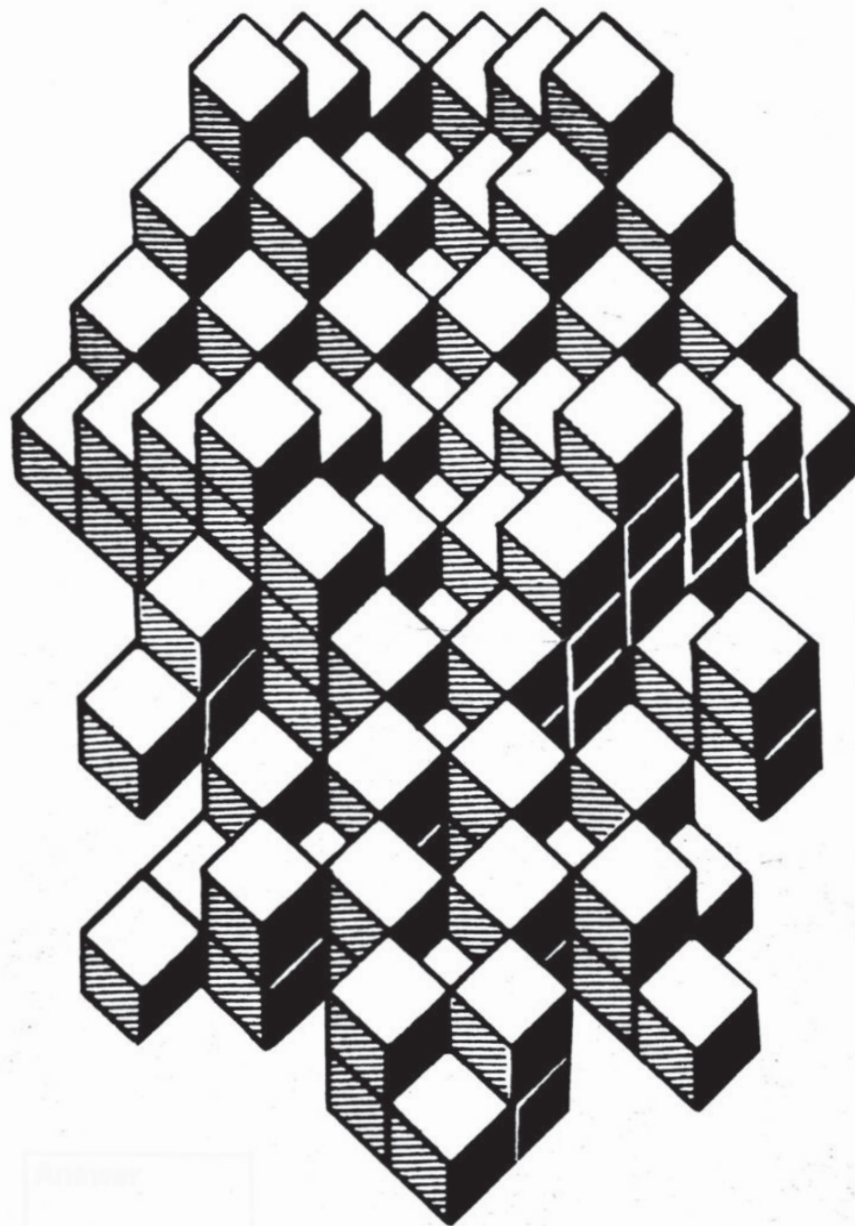
Blockbuster

How many blocks are in this pile? You sure? Fewer than fifty percent of the folks who try to count them get it right. Assume the worst: that all of the hidden blocks that might be present are present. The back walls and bottom of the pile are flat.

Last Week's Solution

Handy work

- 11 Yer out!
- 10 Put up your dukes!
- 9 I give up.
- 13 ...one nation under God....
- 1 ...with Allstate.
- 4 Hook 'em horns!
- 2 I hope.
- 7 I found this in the mousetrap.
- 5 Giddyup!
- 14 Bravo!
- 8 ...two potato....
- 6 How's the frosting?
- 3 Abracadabra!
- 15 That's perfect.
- 12 And that's final!



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THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

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- Lili Mooneyham, Santee, 1.
- Jim Ostling, San Diego, 1.
- Randy Paddock, San Diego, 1.
- K.J. Rayner, San Diego, 1.
- Charles Torbert, San Diego, 1.

Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

**Check Engine Light
Diagnostic Service
\$25 Off**

- *Perform scan test and retrieve codes
- *Provide the cause of a system(s) failure and a corrective action plan.
- *Repairs, monitor drive cycles and additional test at additional cost.

**Smog Check
\$15 Off**

- *Cars, light truck and Diesel. (Plus \$8.25 for certificate)
- *Motorhome & full size Van: See manager.

**Oil Change Service
from \$15⁹⁵**

- *Recommended every 3 months/ 3000 - 7500 miles. Service includes up to 5 quarts multi grade 10w30 motor oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.
- *Vehicles requiring 5w20 or 5w30 are \$19.95
- *canister filters and synthetic oil @ additional cost.

**A/C system \$79⁹⁵
Recharge**

- *includes system evaluation, evacuation, 15 minute vacuum hold test and recharge to specification

*134a Freon additional *additional repairs may be required for proper system operation, leak detection and diagnostic service available at additional cost

Brake Service \$30 Off
per axle.

*Life time Brakes Available

*We do not advertise brake coupon prices because every vehicles requirements are vehicle specific.

**2 Wheel Alignment
\$49⁹⁵**

- *includes toe adjustment of the front axle *4 wheel alignment \$20.00 additional cost, includes toe adjustment of front and rear axles. *camber, caster adjustment at additional cost. See consultant for details.



**Precision
Tune
AutoCare**

**OPEN
7 DAYS
A WEEK**

For more specials visit: Precisiontune.com
Shuttle Service Available



**Sports Arena
/Pt. Loma**

3425 Midway Dr. (Behind Shell station)

619-450-1262

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm • Sat 8am-5pm • Sun 9am-4pm



**24/24
WARRANTY**

El Cajon



**12/12
WARRANTY**

1191 East Main St.

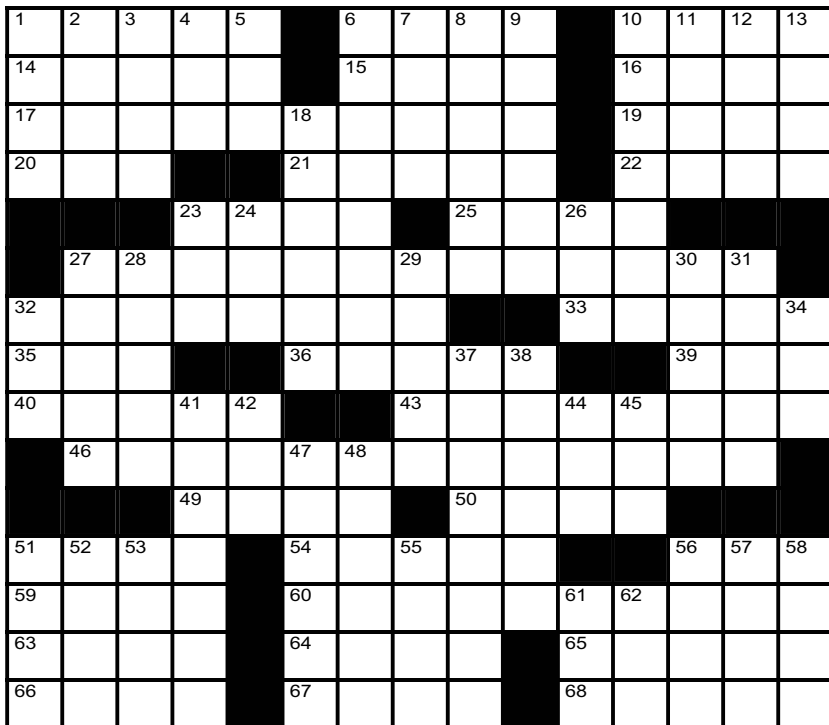
619-308-6164

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm • Sat 8am-5pm • Sun 8am-4pm

Discounts off regular price, At participating location. Not valid with other offers. Other restrictions may apply, see manager for details. Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. All coupons expire 3/1/18.

CROSSWORD

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt



© 2016 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

Across

1. Subject of the 2001 TV movie "61"
6. Opposite of fem.
10. Hee-haw
14. "Yu-Gi-Oh!" cartoons genre
15. Pine (for)
16. Contact lens care brand
17. Post by someone trying to find an online business review site?
19. Newsweek, e.g., now
20. Put off paying
21. Director Lee
22. ____ E. Coyote
23. Celebrity chef Matsuhisa
25. Grandson of Adam and Eve
27. Where to hang your clothes inside a Mongolian tent?
32. Cross
33. Early riser's hour
35. Political writer Matt who appears as himself in "House of Cards"
36. A long time
39. "Not ____ shabby!"
40. Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
43. Was on the wrong side (of)
46. Road that truckers take where they end up TALKING LIKE THIS?
49. "Put ____ on it!"
50. Steel-____ boots

51. Sudden shock
54. Like some tragedies
56. Iconic figure in a Warhol work
59. The 45th state
60. "Private Benjamin" was such a boring movie?"
63. It's always underfoot
64. It may be a stretch
65. "Tengo ____ hambre" ("I'm very hungry," in Spanish)
66. "____ she blows!"
67. School on the Thames
68. Observe secretly

Down

1. It's sometimes held at a deli
2. From square one
3. Tick off
4. Little devil
5. Darn things
6. Accessory popularized by a "Seinfeld" episode
7. Opening on Broadway
8. Kibbutz cash
9. Five-time 1970s Gold Glove winner Cesar
10. Cold one
11. Notes after do
12. Way too uptight
13. Trumpian adjective that applies to this puzzle's theme
18. "Greetings from ____

- Park, N.J." (Bruce Springsteen's debut album, 1975)
23. Calif. neighbor
24. "____ Como Va" (1971 hit)
26. Where future mil. leaders are trained
27. Garbage
28. Country with 10 million people living on a third of a Caribbean island
29. Like some goodbyes
30. Sing the praises of
31. "The Thief of Baghdad" director Walsh
32. Not yet posted, on a sked
34. Actress Gretchen
37. Betrayed
38. Reality TV star Nicole Polizzi, familiarly
42. Sharks' and Jets' org.
44. Matey's yes
45. Gave a lot of bologna, say
47. ____ room
48. Dexterous
51. Fair-minded
52. Texter's "That being said ..."
53. In ____ land
55. Redhead on kids' TV
56. Gray of R&B
57. What Horton heard
58. ____ empty stomach
61. Grp. with defibrillators
62. "Sure thing"

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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

H	S	B	C	S	C	U	S	A	N	I	S	I	
U	H	O	H	R	U	T	H	S	A	H	A	S	
H	I	D	E	F	O	Z	Z	I	E	S	A	M	E
S	H	E	A	R	P	A	S	T	D	U	E		
T	B	T	T	O	K	Y	O	G	I	G	O	L	O
A	R	E	I	L	E	E	E	N	R	I	C	H	
P	I	T	C	R	E	W	A	H	E	A	D	O	F
A	G	R	E	E	R	C	T	R	M	E	L	O	
S	H	A	M	P	O	O	H	A	I	R	A	T	O
T	H	A	R	B	I	N	G	E	D				
P	E	E	K	O	U	T	B	E	F	I	T		
E	N	D	E	B	U	I	L	D	A	B	E	A	R
P	U	R	R	E	S	T	A	R	R	E	N	O	
S	P	A	S	R	E	A	P	S	A	S	S	N	

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- Evelyn Bowser, San Diego, 2.
- Chad Griffith, Poway, 2.
- Craig Smith, San Diego, 2.
- Sandy Merkling, San Diego, 1.
- Michael Shea, San Diego, 1.

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

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

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Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

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

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- Claiborne Alford, San Diego, 3.
- Joe Selig, San Diego, 3.
- Wang Tang, San Diego, 3.
- Greg McBride, Escondido, 2.
- Aaron Neville, San Diego, 2.

OIL CHANGE \$14.95
Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl. most cars.

SMOG CHECK \$11.75
Sedan only. NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only. SUV and Trucks extra. +18¢ cert +11¢ DMV transfer fee. most cars.

BRAKES \$49
Front or rear. *Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars.

30K 60K 90K Scheduled Services \$65
*Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars.

RADIATOR \$45
or Transmission Services. *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

TIMING BELT \$75
Parts & Labor. *Prices may vary depending on make and model. most cars 4 cyl.

STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS \$95
Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 and up.

We'll beat any price!

B.T. Auto Wrench
Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C
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GOOD PRICE IN TOWN!

OIL CHANGE \$10
4-cyl., most cars. Up to 5 qts. 10w 30

USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION \$499*
From Labor. Most 4 cyl. cars.

Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat

SMOG CHECK \$11.75
Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a sale station. From 2000 & up.

TIRES ON SALE!

BRAKES \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor

2 Wheel Alignment \$35
most 4 cyl cars

HEAD GASKET \$399
4-cyl., & most cars & machine extra.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE \$96 & up.
Most cars.

AC SERVICE \$75
Most cars.

REPAINT BUMPER \$150
OR FENDER each. From.

30K SERVICE \$75
4-cyl., most cars.

TIMING BELT \$75
4-cyl., most cars.

AXLE SHAFT \$99 each
4-cyl., most cars.

Save Auto ASE
9280 Kearny Mesa Rd., SD 92126
(By I-15 off Miramar Rd. next to Holiday Inn)
858-586-6666

LETTERS

continued from page 4

radio station by then Jacor (then Clear Channel), which tore newsrooms apart. We got less local news and independent talk radio. Yes, we have dozens of syndicated talk hosts out there who seem to trade what talking points they use daily (now that's real radio programming).

Way back, I got the *San Diego Tribune* (afternoon paper delivered), and the morning copy of the *LA Times*. It was a great way to see juxtapositions on news and opinion as the *San Diego Union-Tribune* was more conservative (then).

— Darren G. Sarvis

It will be interesting to see what his end game is (long-

range plan).

— Mike Murphy

A *U-T* staff member says that his colleagues are basically shrugging, noting that the paper has had so many new owners in recent years that the staff is accustomed to possible turmoil coming with another new owner.

"The general perception that most people have is that because of all the turmoil at the *Times*, they (Tronc management) have kind of left us alone.

He says Soon-Shiong trumpets artificial intelligence and other advances that could bring more money on the internet side.

— Don Bauder

Fortune magazine says Soon-Shiong has hobnobbed with Joe Biden and President Donald Trump.

"Soon-Shiong inspires

some strong emotions among the investor and life sciences crowd," says *Fortune*. "The dismal returns of his biotech companies, NantHealth and NantKwest (part of what Soon-Shiong calls an 'ecosystem' for cancer research including diagnostics and drug development) have elicited investor ire...shares of NantHealth, which debuted in the summer of 2016, have plummeted 84 percent since its inception. On a similar note, NantKwest stock has plunged 87 percent since its 2015 initial public offering."

It sounds like he got cheap shares and dumped some while the stocks roared. I don't know that at this time, but San Diegos have made bundles selling off cheap shares of biotech at high prices before a collapse.

At the end of last year,

Soon-Shiong was listed as having a net worth of \$8.5 billion. That is less than half of the \$20.6 billion listed net worth of Elon Musk. Interestingly, in 2016 Soon-Shiong's net worth was almost double what it is now.

— danfogel

danfogel: That may be because of the sharp decline of the biotech stocks in his portfolio. I suspect he sold a bunch before the collapses, but he is still left with many shares. But that's only a suspicion based on how so many so-called entrepreneurs pile up money... getting penny shares in an IPO, helping to drive it up with wild claims, dumping stock as the price soars, and sitting pretty for life after the company fails.

— Don Bauder

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LEAD STORY

— Tennis instructor Osmailer Torres, 30, of Miami, was arrested in July 2016 after hitting a 5-year-old with the child's pint-sized tennis racket and causing a bruise on the boy's arm and a lump on his eyebrow, reports the *Miami Herald*. But now Torres believes he has a grand-slam defense: Florida's Stand Your Ground self-defense law. Defense lawyer Eduardo Pereira told the *Herald* the child was the "initial aggressor" who had participated in "various violent altercations" against other children, and Torres had acted "reasonably in trying to prevent harm" to others. Miami-Dade circuit judge Oscar Rodriguez-Fonts will consider the claim in an upcoming hearing.

Least Competent Criminals

— Teller County (Colorado) sheriff Jason Mikesell listed his SUV for sale on Craigslist in November, and he was a little perplexed when he received a response from Shawn Langley, 39, of Vail, offering to trade the SUV for four pounds of marijuana. Langley even provided photos of his black market booty and boasted about its quality, reported the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. "I saw that text, and I started giggling," Mikesell said. Detectives set up a meeting and arrested both Langley and Jane Cravens, 41, after finding the promised four pounds of marijuana in their car. Sheriff Mikesell has removed his SUV from Craigslist.

Hiding in Plain Sight

— On Nov. 27, 27-year-old Corey Hughes, who was due to be released from prison in February after serving most of a weapons charge, walked away from a San Joaquin County sheriff's work crew in Stockton, California, according to the *Fresno Bee*. It took police almost a month to track him to a home in Stockton, where they surrounded the dwelling and apprehended him without incident -- which might not be so remarkable were it not for the distinctive, whole-face tattoo Hughes sports, which makes his face look like a human skull. He was booked into the San Joaquin County Jail.

Good Deed, Punished

— Malcolm Whitfield of Rochester, New York, was only trying to help when he ordered a Lyft car to deliver a drunk woman home from a bar

in November. But when the woman vomited in the car, Whitfield was hit with a \$150 fine to cover the damage. "For a second, I was, like, 'Never do anything nice again!'" Whitfield told 13WHAM. Lyft's terms and conditions include damage fees, which most people don't see in the fine print. Update: Lyft later refunded Whitfield's fine and added \$100 to his Lyft account for future rides. "Mr. Whitfield absolutely did the right thing by helping someone get home safely," said Scott Coriell, a Lyft spokesperson.

Oh, Deer

— It was just another early December day at the Horsetooth Store, Gas and RV Park outside Fort Collins, Colorado, as employee Lori Jones conducted inventory and restocked shelves. Suddenly, she looked up to see "Mama," a doe deer, inside the store, "looking at the sunglasses. Then she looked at the ice cream and over at the chips," Jones told CBS Denver. "I kind of did a double take." When shooing the deer away didn't work, she broke out a peanut bar and lured the doe into a nearby field. Jones then returned to work, but soon looked up to find Mama was back, this time with her three fawns in tow. It took another peanut bar to draw the family away from the store, and Jones said she has learned her lesson. "You should never feed the deer because they're going to keep coming back."

Sweet Revenge

— A mom in Hillsboro, Oregon, came up with the perfect retaliation for a porch pirate who nabbed her baby son's Christmas pajamas package off the front porch. Angie Boliek told KATU she wanted to get her own "passive-aggressive revenge," so she taped up a box full of 10 to 15 dirty diapers with a note reading "Enjoy this you thief!" Boliek left the box on her porch on Dec. 3, and by the evening of Dec. 4 it was gone. Boliek alerted Hillsboro police, but they don't have any leads in the investigation. "It was fun to come home and see that it was gone," Boliek said.

New World Order

— Taisei Corp., a construction company based in Tokyo, announced in December that it will use autonomous drones, taking flight in April, to combat *karoshi*, or overwork death, reported

The Independent. The drones will hover over desks of employees who have stayed at work too long and blast "Auld Lang Syne," a tune commonly used in Japanese shops getting ready to close. A company statement said: "It will encourage employees who are present at the drone patrol time to leave, not only to promote employee health but also to conduct internal security management." Experts are skeptical: Scott North, professor of sociology at Osaka University, told the BBC that "to cut overtime hours, it is necessary to reduce workloads."

Smoke 'Em If You Got 'Em

— Christians in a Portuguese village carry on a curious tradition during Epiphany: they encourage their young children to smoke cigarettes. Vale de Salgueiro locals told Fox News that nobody is sure what the smoking symbolizes, but the centuries-old tradition persists. And Portuguese authorities don't intervene, despite the fact that the legal age to purchase tobacco in Portugal is 18. Writer Jose Ribeirinha researched the tradition and said that since Roman times, villagers in the region have done things that were out of the norm during winter solstice celebrations.

The Litigious Society

— Siera Strumlauf and Benjamin Robles of California, and Brittany Crittenden of New York, saw their complaints go up in steam on Jan. 5 when U.S. district judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers dismissed their lawsuit against Starbucks for underfilling its lattes and mochas. According to Reuters, the judge cited lack of evidence brought by the plaintiffs, who accused the coffee chain of fraud by making its cups too small and instructing baristas to skimp on ingredients and adhere to low "fill-to" lines on milk pitchers. The suit also claimed milk foam should not be counted toward advertised volumes, an opinion Rogers said reasonable customers do not hold. Starbucks and the plaintiffs had no comment.

Family Values

— Mazen Dayem, 36, of Staten Island, New York, obtained a restraining order against his father-in-law, Yunes Doleh, 62, in September after Doleh repeatedly tormented him by waving his hairpiece at Dayem, provoking Dayem's

greatest phobia -- the Tasmanian Devil of Looney Tunes fame. Not easily deterred, Doleh was arrested on Nov. 5 for violating the order after he "removed his wig [and] made hand gestures" at a funeral the two attended, Dayem explained to the *New York Post*. "It's just a very large fear of mine, his damn wig.... I have nightmares." Court papers say Doleh "proceeded to grimace, snarl, gurn, and gesticulate." He was charged with criminal mischief in Staten Island County court and then sued his son-in-law for defamation after photos from the arrest appeared on social media.

Weird Science

— Researchers have discovered that 99 percent of green sea turtles born in the northern parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef are now female. Sea turtles' gender is determined by the temperature at which the eggs are incubated, and warmer temperatures reduce the number of male hatchlings. The author of a new study, marine biologist Michael Jensen, told the *New York Times* the shift in gender suggests climate change is having a more dramatic effect on sea turtle populations than scientists realized. "We're all trying to wrap our heads around how these populations are going to respond to those changes," he said. Researchers warn that continued global warming will threaten the persistence of these populations.

Animals Gone Wild

— Postal workers in the Rocky River suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, were unable to deliver mail to about two dozen homes for three weeks in December and January after being attacked by aggressive wild turkeys. Local ordinances prevented the city from eliminating the birds, so residents were asked to pick up their mail at the post office. Rocky River mayor Pam Bobst encouraged residents to stop putting out bird food, hoping that would discourage the turkeys from hanging around. "There's a lot of bird feeders over there, so there's a food source in that area," she told *Cleveland.com*. The USPS said several carriers were pecked, but no serious injuries had been reported.

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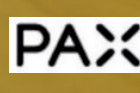
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