

SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 9
MARCH 1, 2018

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Heights

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March 1, 2018



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY BOYO

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

64,000-dollar answers

The cost of Homeland Security flights

A year ago this month, then-secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly dropped into San Diego for a news conference to blast so-called sanctuary cities for harboring illegal immigrants. "I'm stunned when people say, 'Well, we're not going to cooperate with you' even in the event of convicted criminals," said Kelly, using the car lanes of the San Ysidro border crossing as a backdrop.



The high-flying John Kelly (left)

Then, last April 21, Kelly returned to the San Ysidro border — this time joined by attorney general Jeff Sessions and Republican senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — for a border-fence photo-op and an upbeat assessment of immigration enforcement.

"Our efforts are working," proclaimed Kelly in a Homeland Security news release. "As I reported back in March, we've seen a dramatic reduction in illegal migration across the southwest border," continued the secretary, who has since moved up to become White House chief of staff.

Now an audit released February 16 by the Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General has revealed that air transportation provided Kelly for his February trip, which included a stop in Nogales, Arizona, set taxpayers back \$64,951. The air tab for Kelly's April excursion, in which he also touched down in El Paso, Texas, was \$62,345.

The numbers were considerably higher than the cost of a round-trip ticket on Southwest Airlines because Homeland Security chiefs must fly exclusively on government wings, per the report.

The secretary "requires instantaneous secure communications capability with the White House, the Department, and other agencies," says the document. He or she "must be able to return to Washington or proceed to other destinations on an expedited basis." Also, the secretary "has a heightened need for security because of his/her official duties and public visibility."

According to the document, auditors found 106 cases in which the Homeland Security chief or the department's deputy secretary traveled on government aircraft

between January 2016 and November of last year.

"The cost of these trips totaled approximately \$2.9 million, split approximately evenly across the two administrations covered by the review period. The majority of the trips (69 of the 106) were made using U.S. Coast Guard aircraft. Domestic trips ranged in cost from approximately \$330 to \$82,000. International trips ranged in cost from \$3,500 to \$133,750."

Despite the costly air travel, the audit — undertaken "in light of the heightened public and congressional interest in the misuse of government-owned, government-leased, and chartered aircraft" — found nothing amiss.

Matt Potter

U-T's new lowManchester apology was an attempted whitewash of *Washington Post* story

On February 17, the *Union-Tribune* tried to cleanse a *Washington Post* story the day before it ran — a move known as a whitewash.

The *U-T* headline proclaimed, "Manchester issues apology to any 'demeaned' employees." Manchester claimed that while he headed the *U-T*, he became aware of "egregious mistakes by staff members." When he learned of those actions by others, "I immediately took appropriate action."

The "U-T TV" station, born under Manchester, had a "fraternity-style atmosphere on some of its programs," said the *U-T*. The *U-T* fielded harassment complaints, but Manchester claimed that he immediately took action.

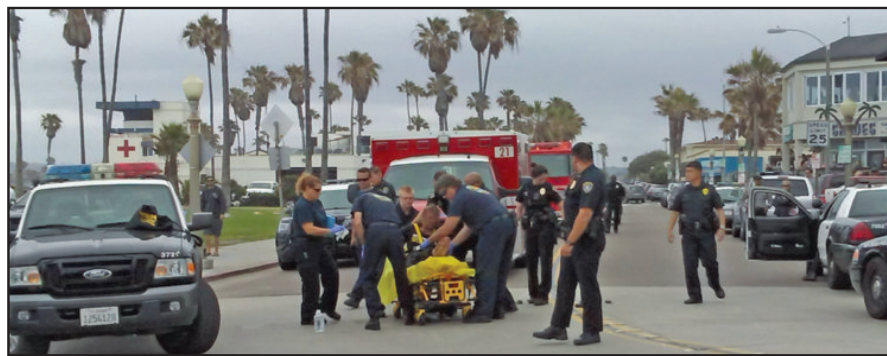


The apologetic Doug Manchester and family

Jeff Light, current editor and publisher of the *U-T*, conceded that Manchester "hired some people of low competence, and in some cases, low character." The *U-T* asked some of its reporters if they had been harassed or filed complaints and they all said no.

The headline in the February 18 *Washington Post* story was, "Trump ambassador nominee had unsettling management style, women say." (Manchester has applied to be named ambassador to the Bahamas, where he has a home: there has been no action for a year.) The story, by Robert O'Harrow Jr., tells a different tale. A caller to the paper

continued on page 26



EMTs/Paramedics attending to emergency call in O.B.

Ambulance service state of emergency

"In 21 years, I've never seen it this bad."

By Delinda Lombardo

In October 2015, American Medical Response acquired Rural Metro, one of the largest emergency (ambulance) providers in the nation. In October of 2017, the medical response company renegotiated with the City of San Diego a rate increase for the cost of transportation. According to one emergency medical technician willing to speak anonymously, "To say it's a mess in an understatement."

The mess referred to is a lack of available ambulances, overworked employees, and long delays in transporting victims to the hospital, while also creating a shortage of fire engines and emergency personnel in some areas.

"We are playing Russian roulette with our citizens," Todd Barry told me. "I just wanted to bring this to light. It needs to be heard and [American Medical Response] needs to be held accountable."

Barry has been a firefighter for 30 years, 15 of those years out of the Ocean Beach station, and a paramedic 10 of those years.

"To make up for the shortage [of ambulances], the city fire department has

been sending two engines/trucks to all medical calls that don't have a medic unit assigned," he explained in early January. "The impact is huge for the fire department, and for the citizens of San Diego.... [American Medical Response] ambulances use fire stations to do crew changes, but once their shift starts you never see them back at the station; they run non-stop...many of their paramedics are overworked, doing 12-hour shifts running from call-to-call. The last thing you want is tired and overworked paramedics transporting you to the hospital.... I have no idea why this is happening or know when it will stop. One call is too many not to have an ambulance available."

In December of 2016, NBC 7 San Diego investigated "level zero" — when no ambulances are available for 911 emergency calls — and noted that American Medical Response missed the city-mandated response times in six of the eight medical-response zones in San Diego for the month of October (2016). The company was fined \$291,000.

From January 1, 2017,

through June 30, 2017, AMR/Rural Metro accrued non-compliance penalties in the amount of \$75,500.

On January 22, 2018, an ambulance driver in Indiana was killed after falling asleep and crashing. "It's just a matter of time before it happens here," Barry says.

I spoke to multiple American Medical Response employees. Employee One, explained the situation: "We have multiple ambulances shut down — at least 20. It's gotten to the point where they've actually cut multiple ambulances out of the system, leaving us very short staffed. I think we are 31 or 32 medics short.... Add to that, call volume is up — 911 calls have increased significantly and it's having a domino effect on everyone.... We've had patients on the gurney sitting in front of the hospital for up to four or five hours because hospitals don't have any beds to move them to."

(Employee One noted that life-threatening injuries "are pushed forward" and don't have to wait on gurneys.)

This wait time is officially referred to as "offload" time. According to the San Diego County Transfer of Care report, dated December 2017, data separated by San Diego County ambulance-response zones indicates that the average offload time for San Diego County in total is 28 minutes, with 53.6 percent of patients offloaded in under 30 min-

utes. American Medical Response has an average offload time of 35 minutes.

“[American Medical Response] can’t even get people to apply for jobs anymore. Paramedic pay starts at about \$14 an hour; they can make more money bagging groceries at Costco.... There are two shifts, 12 hours and 24 hours.... It’s to the point where we start our shift and may not see the station [for breaks], rarely sleep, have no chance to even eat.... We get no breaks and literally run from one call to the other.”

Employee One took an informal survey among coworkers and found that out of the 200 responses received, only 12 of them said they have *not* worked while sick or injured. “We have crew members working sick, working hurt....



“The city fire department has been sending two engines/trucks to all medical calls that don’t have a medic unit assigned.”

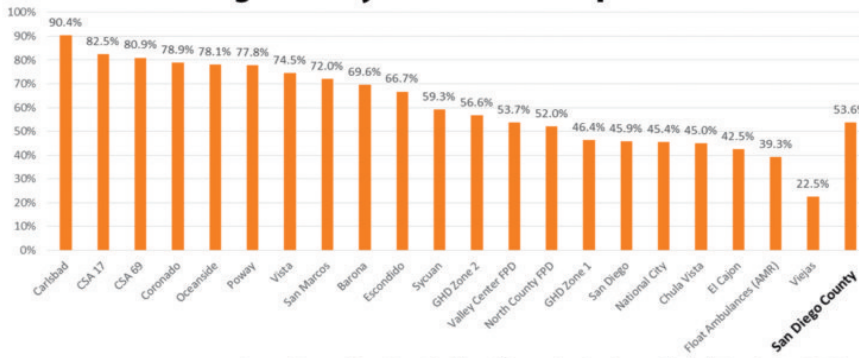
the crews, who are at their wits’ end.... I’ve been doing this for 21 years and have never seen it this bad. For a municipal system, it’s so backward at times we can’t even get supplies.... I actually carry a cache of hidden supplies so I can take care of my patients; they run out of oxygen almost weekly.”

Another emergency medical technician, Employee Two, told me: “I wouldn’t

pick and choose what shifts I want to work because they are so understaffed.... Last weekend [January 28th] there was only one ambulance available — almost every weekend is like that... units are pulled from North County to cover calls in downtown San Diego.”

In December 2017, attorneys from Pope, Berger, Williams & Reynolds began meeting with emergency

Percent of Offload Times Under 30 Minutes by San Diego County Ambulance Response Zone



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Medical Care Services Division, Emergency Medical Services, Transfer of Care Database (via FirstWatch), 2017-2018

working 36, 48, 60, and 72 straight hours with little breaks. We have 20 paramedic units they don’t have staffing for. Response time for us should be 12 minutes, but if you were to call 911, it could take 25 to 30 minutes to get to you — if you’re having a stroke or cardiac issue, or you were hurt significantly where time is critical, you may not make it to the hospital....

“Everyone that I know is starting to look for jobs elsewhere. They keep pushing

want to call 911 with this system, I love my job... been with Rural since 2012, but even working 80 hours a week, I still wasn’t earning enough, so I cut back my hours and got a second job. Like I said, I love being an EMT, but with the hours and pay, it’s not attracting new hires.”

“The situation is beyond belief,” another ten-year veteran (Employee Three) told me. “The [emergency medical] system in San Diego is so broken.... I can literally

medical technicians to represent them in a lawsuit that’s been filed in the U.S. District Court (Southern District of California). Plaintiffs contend that emergency medical technicians working for Rural Metro Ambulance et al. (including American Medical Response) were not given ten-minute rest periods, as required by law, because “they were not relieved of all duties at any time during their shift.” It is alleged “that ambulance-

continued on page 26

UNDER THE RADAR

Cosmo’s political science What does a self-financed multimillion-dollar bid for Congress get you? For starters, a profile by *Cosmopolitan*, the go-to magazine and website for fashionistas. The candidate in question is **Sara Jacobs**, a granddaughter of La Jolla billionaire and Qualcomm cofounder **Irwin Jacobs**, whose connections to Manhattan’s public relations mill have previously been tapped to bolster the political career of another Jacobs favorite, Republican-turned-Democrat **Nathan Fletcher**.

“It’s 5:30 p.m. at a trendy brewpub in Encinitas, California, with 25 beers on draft, and Sara Jacobs can’t have any of them,” begins the February 21 profile of the young Democrat, running in a crowded primary to fill the shoes of departing Republican congressman **Darrell Issa** in the 49th District. The story explains Jacobs forgot her California ID. “In a year when a record number of women are running for office, Jacobs, 29, stands out: If she wins her race, in California’s 49th district, she could be the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.” How likely is that? Despite coming up with \$1.1 million of her own money for the campaign

so far, Jacobs has polled well down in the current pack of 12 candidates, garnering just 5 percent in a recent *Union-Tribune*/10News survey. But *Cosmo* bears no particularly bad tidings. “Jacobs doesn’t try to hide the fact that she’s 29: She tells me she’s a Charlotte, likes to use the poop emoji, and is steeped in *America’s Next Top Model*. (When a photographer, also a woman in her twenties, encourages her to ‘smize,’ she delivers a self-assured gaze that would make Tyra Banks proud.) She is constantly connected to her iPhone to tweet and Snapchat.” Adds the story, “Here is an incomplete list of the suggestions Jacobs has fielded on how to be a better candidate for Congress:

Wear your hair straighter. No, add more curls. Actually, make it more ‘voluptuous.’ Inflect the end of your sentences down, not up — upspeak doesn’t inspire confidence. Shoot some ads on the beach in your bikini to corner the male vote. Stop being so obsessed with talking about your gender. Lose the frozen, forced smile. Speak like a grown-up, not a college kid. Don’t call voters after 8 p.m. — their wives might think you’re up to no good.” But the *Cosmo* piece blew up for Jacobs when foes began attacking her apparent allusion to rival Democrat Doug Applegate as a “crusty old Marine” and she was forced to apologize.



Sara Jacobs (in *Cosmopolitan*) says she’s a “Charlotte” — a term *Urban Dictionary* defines in so many ways, flattering and otherwise.

Watered-down Democrat Cadiz, the

controversial Mojave Desert water-mining outfit, came up with \$4400 for the 2020 reelection campaign of Democratic state senate pro tem **Toni Atkins** on December 29, per recent disclosure filings, and Cadiz

CFO **Tim Shaheen** kicked in \$1000 the same day. “Nearly all environmentalists concerned with the project warn of direct and devastating impacts to the regional watershed if Cadiz Inc. goes forward with pumping based on their own

recharge assumptions,” says a February 5

post by Los Angeles public TV station KCET. “A 2017 bill in the California State Legislature would have required the project to be reviewed by the State Lands Commission and Department of Fish and Wildlife, but never made it out of committee.” Atkins isn’t the only powerful politico financially backed by Cadiz, the report notes. “Several affluent California State Democrats, including former Governor **Gray Davis**, former Los Angeles Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa**, and others, have in the past received

continued on page 26



Toni Atkins and a pilot well on Cadiz Inc. property in the Mojave Desert





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- Marsha S., San Diego

LETTERS

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.

The hits keep coming

From the article on Horus Aged Ale's first bottle release, Oceanside 11 ["Horus Aged Ales gone in two seconds," San Diego Beer News, February 20], it does not seem accurate based on what was written to state that "50,000 vie for 480 bottles," as the subhead suggests.

The article clarifies in the body that "the bottle-sale page received 51,000 hits." If hits is what is being measured, then each of those hits does not represent a user vying for bottles. A hit is just a call for a file, of which each page often has multiple files being requested. One page-load is often multiple hits. With BPT struggling under the demand during Tuesday's sale, it leads to multiple "refresh" attempts from the different people trying to get bottles, each refresh resulting in multiple hits.

So if the metric measured is indeed hits, the number of people vying for bottles would certainly be far, far less than 50,000. Without knowing the number of hits each page view generates, and without knowing how many of those page views were unique users, it's impossible to say how many were vying for bottles.

Kyle's sale was a great success in any case, but with

what's given, we just don't know the demand.

Ian Osdale
 Carmel Valley

Egging people on

Greetings, I barely came across an article posted on your website in regard to the assaults that have been made on people while walking around the neighborhoods ["Egged in the City," Neighborhood News, February 10] of North Park and Normal Heights by having raw eggs being thrown at them.

I was a victim myself on February 2 around 8:15 p.m. while walking my dog along with my husband. At least three to four eggs hit the back of my head with such force that I initially thought it was a tree branch or palm tree that had fallen down on us.

I was in complete shock and in pain, and when my husband figured out what had just happened he gave chase on foot after the car but was unable to get the license plate number. Since I didn't have my phone with me at that time, I made my way back to the apartment and decided to file a police report...I was surprised to read that their statement said they "they hadn't heard of any reports," when I made mine.

Perhaps the purpose of this message is so you can encourage others to come forward and for police to start taking some of these events more seriously. The vehicle we described was a dark silver/grey 2003-2005 Toyota Corolla with tinted windows, and the event happened on Hamilton Street and Monroe, a few steps away from the apartment's entrance. We weren't able to see who or how many people were involved.

I do hope these events get stop soon, as now it is only eggs being used but next time it could be something worse. Again, I just wanted to comment on the article in hopes that it serves a purpose, and as always I thank the Reader for keeping people informed.

Yazmin A.
 North Park

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

TIJUANA

Irish reporters seek Trump's wall

Federales approached after a couple minutes of filming

"In Europe, all we hear is about Trump's wall," commented Eimear Lowe, an Irish reporter for RTÉ. "We came to Mexico to find out what people here have to say."

Lowe and Ken (her cameraman)

flew from Dublin to Tijuana to report on the situation with migrants, deportees, refugees, and President Trump's proposed border wall. Lowe found my Tijuana tours website and emailed me to guide her through the city, do translations if needed, and take them to their interviews.

I met the reporters on February 11th outside of Caesar's Hotel. Our first mission was to visit the eight 30-foot-tall border-wall prototypes east of the city in the Nido de las Águilas ("eagle's nest") neighborhood. The prototypes are closed off from the public on the American side of the border, but they are easily visible from the rundown neighborhood in the most eastern part of Tijuana. The neighborhood is also popular because it's where the border wall abruptly ends.

It's a 35-minute drive from Zona Centro to El Nido de las Águilas (close to Tecate) and it requires a four-wheel-drive vehicle for some parts. In my sister-in-law's Jeep and with expensive camera equipment, we headed out to see the prototypes. A few blocks before entering the neighborhood, the semi-paved roads cease to exist and it turns into rough terrain.

Curious neighbors popped out of their houses as Ken was setting up the camera and Lowe took notes and got ready with her microphone. We were approached by *federales* a couple of minutes after filming. The single pickup truck held about eight agents who asked for our identification and

told us not to record while they were there. I explained we were international journalists reporting on the prototypes; they told us to watch out since it was a heavy crime area and then they drove away.

We headed down the hill, closer to the several towering walls. To get a better view, old tires and garbage are piled up near the rusty old border. Besides a shirtless man separating garbage near us, the area was desolate. The *federales* went by us again and waved. A beat-up truck announcing on loudspeakers that they were selling tortillas also drove by.

After getting the needed shots of the



End of the day at the end of the border wall in Playas de Tijuana

prototypes, we went to the San Ysidro border so Irish viewers could see what the busiest border in the world looks like on an early Sunday afternoon. We ended the day filming on the western end of the border wall in Playas de Tijuana.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

POINT LOMA

Recycling center evicted

"I love Stump's. I love recycling. Can't we all just get along?"

On February 17, state assemblyman Todd Gloria hosted a town-hall meeting in Point Loma. Topics ranged from car-registration fee hikes to renewable energy, but the standing-room-only crowd was due to the controversy swirling around a recycling center next to Stump's market in Loma Portal.

Ever since a rally protesting Prince Recycling on February 10th, things have become more heated. According to one nearby resident, James Prince, owner of Prince Recycling, agreed to work with residents to relocate only if his moving costs were paid. Prince has been looking at moving to Ocean Beach, said one reliable source.

On February 12th, an eviction notice was served by the shopping center's

property manager to have Prince immediately vacate the premises, citing that Prince was never given permission to operate onsite. Prince opened in July 2014.

A conference call on February 14th between city and state officials, community leaders, and Prince didn't resolve anything, but there were discussions of eviction proceedings, a permit application to prevent the recycling center's encroachment into Stump's loading area, and plans for gutting a senate bill to turn it into a measure to reform statewide recycling practices.

Based on applause and cheers at the meeting, attendance seemed to be evenly split between those who want Prince to stay and those who want him to relocate. Prince said it takes 120 days to get licensed for a new location.

Gloria said facilities are closing across the state because something is fundamentally wrong with the system. He said this problem isn't unique to Point Loma, that he hears complaints from other local neighborhoods and from throughout the state.

Residents who live near Prince Recycling say they are fed up with homeless people loitering, littering, urinating, defecating, and doing drugs in their neighborhood. One resident said, "Until you live next to [a recycling center], you have no clue what's going on. Visiting one isn't living with one."

Nobody blamed Prince personally for the problems they see as a result of the recycling center's being in their neighborhood. There wasn't one person who didn't think recycling was important — it was all about location.

A 30-year resident across the street from Prince Recycling said, "I have seen a man come from the recycling center, one of [Prince's] clients, with his zipper undone and his penis hanging out going to pee in the bush on the street side of that short wall. I saw another man go in those bushes, pull his pants down, and defecate."

Dirk Stump, owner of Stump's Family Marketplace, said, "It scares the regular customers away, the elderly away, the moms of children away."



Heading down Voltaire Street to the recycling center

Prince denied the urination and defecation problem, which elicited loud rumblings from the audience. Prince said that homeless people are a tiny portion of his customers and that he shouldn't be blamed for what they do.

One gentleman said, "It feels like a lynch mob to me." He asked where it would end — pointing to liquor stores and bars that also foster negative consequences. "I love Stump's — I go there all the time. I love recycling — I love Prince. Can't we all just get along?"

JULIE STALMER

CARDIFF

Trash talk

"It's only a matter of time until she hurts or kills someone."

In the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood of Cardiff by the Sea, a middle-aged woman, well known for her mental illness and attacks on neighbors, was taken into custody last week by the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Deputy Allen Paez, posting on *Nextdoor.com*, notified neighbors of the arrest.

"We had a warrant, and we just executed the warrant," said Paez.

She was charged with California Penal Code 166(A)(4), contempt of court in violating a restraining order prohibiting her from throwing trash and feces on nearby neighbors' property. Her bail was set at \$15,000. She was home the next day, according to a resident.

The woman lives at the end of one of the neighborhood's 19 streets off Birmingham Drive, east of I-5. "We've been dealing with her for the past six years," said a resident who did not want to be identified for fear of reprisals.

Reprisals are understandable, since I may have also been a trash target last September 29 when I started asking questions about the 58-year-old woman on *NextDoor*; I live six blocks and four streets away.

After her most current arrest, it took several days of requests (posted on *NextDoor*) to get any resident familiar with the incidents to contact me. "She is retaliatory," said a 25-year homeowner. Based on our phone interview, he is knowledgeable about the incidents.

"She's a hoarder," the homeowner alleged. "She's very dangerous. I've seen her try to run kids over with her car while they were riding their Big Wheels down the street. She's been known to steal dogs and [is suspected of] killing them."

While code enforcement for the City of Encinitas is aware of the issue and the

continued on page 8

GOLDEN DREAMS

You are the lust that keeps me awake at night

San Diego Instagram model Julianne (@juli.annee) has 4.9 million followers on the social-media platform. Her posts regularly receive over 100,000 likes. Julianne favors lingerie and swimsuits and often includes teasing captions with her photos that invite comment. She rarely replies to those comments anymore, but when a viewer asks if she had ass implants, she is quick to deny it: "My ass isn't even big enough to have implants." A fan affirms, "She's too good for implants."

There are comments in French, Japanese, Russian, Arabic, and Spanish. Do they imagine she will take the time to translate? A January 27 bikini pic taken at Sunset Cliffs inspires poetry of self-pleasure; Google renders the Spanish thus: "You, you are the lust that keeps me awake at night. The one that triggers and releases sensations of vertigo, that like a roller coaster ascends me to heaven and lowers me to hell. Between agitated breaths, choppy, I'm barely out of breath... giving way to calm and tremors."

A local takes a more direct approach: "I live in O.B. Let's meet up for a cocktail."

That counts as a smooth line in this context. Many comments are full of praise: "Fit and very lit body of a gorgeous goddess."

Many others are frank expressions of sexual desire: "Respectfully,



you look so f**able in this photo, honey."

Others are more...holistic? A January 14 at-home selfie in black lace merits both "Will you marry me?" and "I swear to you, if you come to visit me in Hurgada, I will do my best to give you baby."

Someone else scolds, "Dudes, come on! Yeah, she's bangin', but look what you're saying. It's straight-up creepy." (I wonder what he would make of, "Get ready to go, I'll make you a princess. Go to Ukraine, Kharkiv city, airport. My phone

number is +380953925314.") A February 6 shot featuring a red dress with a plunging V in front and an even lower back provokes a variety of responses to feminine presentation. Controlling: "Red is the color I don't want you to use."

Comic: "When did you become a plumber? You have the world's most perfect butt crack!"

Profound: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." — Pablo Picasso"

Oblique: "See mother, I see love in you. I don't care how much body you show, your eyes are the best freakin' part."

Bitter: "Oh shit, she got a tit job. LOL. Last I saw, she had them perky ones. Nicer than fakes but oh well"

Other posts elicit concern: "You look so sad. I'll say prayers for better opportunities to come your way so you're not selling

your body."

Outrage: "Sickening. Pics like this are sacred for your One."

Critical assessment: "You look like a goat."

And, a touching sort of lonely longing. "When I look at your picture, I think of all the things I would give for just one day with you."

Were I a better Christian

It's Saturday morning and I'm helping my wife and daughters clean Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Little Italy. It would be purest folly for the church to hire cleaners when they can instead provide parishioners with an opportunity for charitable service, so I'm not complain-

ing out loud. My namesake's gospel includes a story in which a father asks two sons to go to work in the vineyard; the first says he will

not but repents and goes to work, while the second says he will but never actually goes. There is no mention of the son who said yes and also obeyed but then bitched and moaned about it the entire time. Besides, it's Lent, a time for Catholics to act like it.

My work wiping down the pews with Simple Green is sweaty

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Martha and Mary

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sheriff's department continues their investigation, asking residents to submit evidence and photos (she is suspected of striking in the early-morning hours), the only options residents see for resolving the problem is filing a civil lawsuit.

"No one has the money for that, to pay for a hundred hours of a lawyer's time," said the homeowner.

In the meantime, the sheriff's department will continue to file charges against her when and if she gets caught in an act; most of her past arrests have been reduced to misdemeanors.

KEN HARRISON

IMPERIAL BEACH

Is this news?

Latest sewage spill: 15 million gallons

The sewage stink from the beach south of Seacoast Drive in Imperial Beach started about a quarter-mile north of the Tijuana River mouth on February 17th, with the first hints marked by that pungent, green, overripe odor that can be the smell of new growth. But a few more southbound steps and it was clear that it was sewage.

The spill started flowing our way three days earlier, on February 14th, when pump station Cila shut down, temporarily stopping its mission of diverting river flow to treatment plants. From 9 p.m. February 14th to 3 p.m. the 15th, sewage, storm runoff, and whatever trash had accumulated in the channel flowed into the U.S. unchecked.

The river flow began with a dribble at 8 p.m. but two hours later it was rushing through at 1 cubic meter per second (cms). For an hour and a half, it pushed through at 1.5 cms, then slowed to 1 cms around 1:30 a.m. February 15th. It eventually fell to around .9 cms around 5 a.m. and continued to ease until the pump station came back on at 3 p.m., according to the gauge that measures the river flow, operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Consider that one cubic meter per second equals 264 gallons per second, or 950,400 gallons per hour: for 17 hours, the nasty mix blasted across the flatlands at the end of the river's concrete channel.

It takes a serious amount of spill — in the hundreds of thousands of gallons or more — before the stench is smelled at the ocean. It first floods the lowlands just west and then north of the end of the concrete river channel's painted yellow line. At the end of the concrete are acres of land that meander north to the Dairy Mart Road bridge.

Once it feeds under the bridge, the water courses through just less than six miles of river, parts of which are intermittently blocked by sediment and trash from previous flows.

Much of the time, sewage spills don't make it past the bridge — or they become trapped a mile or two down the channel that is the river. Then, it's only the residents, Border Patrol agents, hikers, and equestrians who know about the sewage. The county park staff can smell it, particularly east of Hollister, but the state-park staff can't.

But on the 17th, the smell told the story: 15 million gallons over 17 hours was enough to make the beach stink two days after the spill ended.

One of the problems of reporting on such spills is that the definition of news is a new or unusual event. This isn't that.

MARTY GRAHAM

TIJUANA

Night of the long knives Crying children alert vigilantes who nab intruder

Early on the morning of February 18, residents of the Hacienda Los Laureles neighborhood of Tijuana captured a suspected burglar, roughed him up, and tied him to a utility pole until police arrived.



Translation: "Neighbors Watching. If we catch you stealing, we will lynch you."

According to *El Sol de Tijuana*, at around 1:30 a.m., members of a neighborhood crime patrol heard children crying for help from inside one of the residences. When the neighborhood patrol members went to the home, they discovered a young man carrying two knives and trying to gain entry into the residence.

Once they had disarmed and subdued the suspected burglar (whom they said appeared to be under the influence of drugs), someone from the group called the police, but law enforcement was slow to respond.

"A witness who did not want to give his name reported that, even though they made the call to 911, 40 minutes passed and a police unit never arrived, so the same neighbors had to go in their cars to look for a patrol car on the closest boulevard so they would come for the criminal," *El Sol* reported.

The unnamed witness told the newspaper that the neighborhood self-defense group was formed about a week before the incident because over the past couple of months burglaries and car thefts were becoming more frequent and police presence in the neighborhood was practically non-existent.

Because of the high rate of crime and the inability of police to provide adequate protection, similar vigilante groups have formed across Mexico.

BOB MCPHAIL

CHULA VISTA

Doggone Game of Thrones... TV show sparks popularity of dogs — and dog-nappings?

"Lily was last seen being taken from our yard on Thursday [February 15] by a caucasian male, medium build, [in his] late 20s to early 30s," Ivan Kanzaki said. "He then led [our Siberian husky] into Emory Street and then towards Palm Avenue."

Kanzaki is a 36-year-old Navy reservist

from Imperial Beach. He and his roommates, Ryu and Joana, had been looking for Lily since "she was taken with a black belt (not to be mistaken for a leash)" from their house by 10th Street. Kanzaki was out of town for work, so it was up to his roommates to beat the streets and find the dog.

Joana, a 20-year-old Southwestern College student, was tipped off by another husky owner who had recently lost his dog; he said Lily might be

close by. She and Ryu were in Chula Vista at about 7 p.m. on February 16 when they received a Facebook message regarding their missing-dog post.

"Lily was [supposedly] spotted behind the Home Depot [at 525 Saturn Blvd off of Palm Avenue]," Joana said.

Ryu, a 25-year-old Navy reservist and SDSU student, said, "We pulled up [at around 8 p.m.] to the dark area in the back of Home Depot," he said. "I flashed my car lights and sure enough there was the guy with our husky."

Joana rolled down her window and yelled "Lily!"

"It was her, and I ran to her [because] I



The dog was shaking, hungry, and thirsty.

was so pissed. I was yelling at the guy, 'Why the hell did you take our dog?'"

Ryu had the sheriff's department on the phone when they pulled up.

"The first thing that [the suspected perpetrator] asked was, 'Where's my reward?'" Ryu said. "No, you stole my dog."

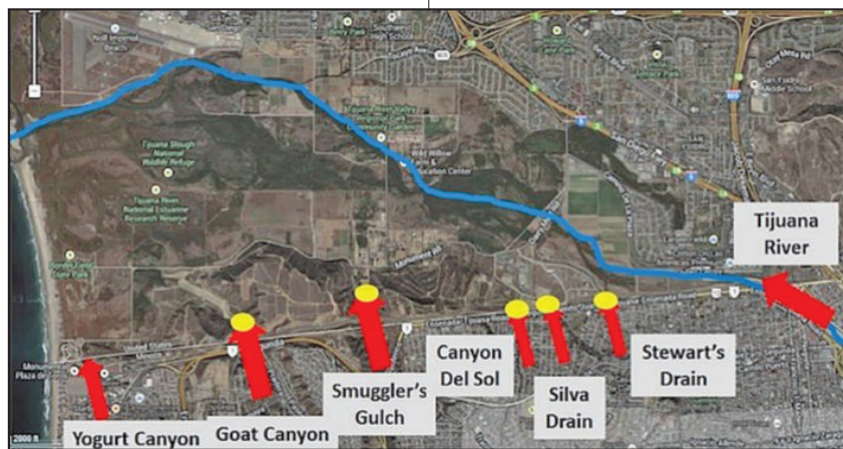
Ryu asked Joana to bring Lily back to the car as the two kept arguing about reward money for "about 15 minutes."

"As far as I know, you stole my dog and you match the exact description [provided by the neighbor]," Ryu said to the suspect.

Siberian huskies aren't always getting dog-napped, though.

"We know that the huskies are pretty notorious escape artists," said Dan DeSousa, director of the county's Department of Animal Services. "They can go over a fence in

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"Canyon collectors" are supposed to prevent the deleterious effects of Tijuana River overflows

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Nothing warms my heart in the dead of winter more than the random questions y'all propound upon me throughout the year. I refuse to believe you're just messing with me. Instead, I think of this as an adventure we go on together, exploring the strange worlds of obscure jokes and ironic humor. I save them up, compile a blunderbuss-load of errata, and answer them all at once. What will you all think of next?

Dear Hipster:

Who invented the mic drop?

— SARA

Dear Hipster:

When was the high-five invented?

— DENNIS

Dear Hipster:

Which came first, the shimmy or the shake?

— ANNA

Dear Hipster:

Is it a bigger waste of time to knit a sweater for a chicken or crochet socks for your cat?

— DELIA

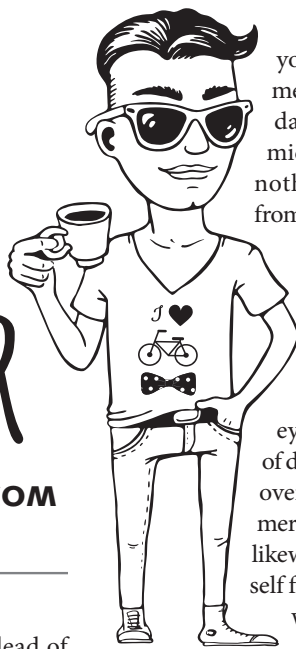
Dear Hipster:

Is hockey the soccer of winter, or is soccer the hockey of summer?

— ELVIS

OKAY! [cracks knucks] Let's do this.

They say, or, more accurately, one dude on *Salon.com* says, Eddie Murphy invented the mic drop. I don't know for sure, but I do know, generally speaking, people abuse the heck out of the mic drop. I'm looking at



you, random Instagrammer who thinks your Sunday brunch earns you a mic-drop emoji. Trust me, nothing could be further from show-stopping. *NEXT!*

Back in the day, when the first bro emerged from the primordial keg party, he extended his hand upwards, shielding his eyes from the harsh light of day, which hurt his hang-over and was a total bummer. The second bro, having likewise abiogenerated himself from the primeval bash, witnessed his brother's skyward-facing palm and could not help but

crush it in celebration of the number of Natty Lights they collectively demolished the night before. Thus, the high-five was born. *NEXT!*

Trick question. A shimmy is just a shake with sex appeal. Can't fool me. *NEXT!*

I fail to see anything wasteful about knitting chicken sweaters or cat socks. I mean, what self-respecting hipster wouldn't prioritize these magnificent activities over the crappy stuff — like paying taxes and getting root canals — that mainstream people always seem eager to do? Although, if I may put on my business-consultant trousers for a second, I'd advise potential petware yarncrafters to note the thriving Etsy market for chicken sweaters. There's a lot of competition out there. *NEXT!*

Finally, let's just say hockey is curling with more fights, and soccer is just warm, bouncy curling with fewer fights. In the cosmic scheme of things, everything is just curling when you strip away the pomp and circumstance, the six-figure salaries, the private jets, and the locker-room antics.

Well, that's all the randomness we have time for today, kids, but don't hesitate to send your inquiries. In this life, there's no query too obtuse, no question too droll, and no answer too useless to augment the world's reserve of hipster knowledge.

— DJ Stevens

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We the people of Normal Heights

Adam Deutsch and his wife Claire moved to Normal Heights in 2014. Shortly after their move, the couple went to a meeting of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group to see what was going on in the neighborhood. That

night they were two of four people in the audience listening to the group's boardmembers holding forth on stage. One of the attendees, "blew up at a particular issue," says Deutsch, who is 37, "and I enjoyed that intensity. So I

started showing up regularly and, after a while, told the leaders that I would like to be on their board. It turned out they were trying to rotate the secretary position because nobody wanted to write up the minutes anymore. Since I had



Adam Deutsch, right, is a poet and college professor who takes minutes at planning group meetings. "I think it's important to make the minutes readable, and to be readable, they should be human."

told them already that I teach English, they said I needed to be secretary."

Despite initial hesitation, Deutsch — a poet, community-college teacher, and publisher of Cooper Dillon Books poetry press — began

thinking that doing the meeting minutes of a neighborhood planning group might be rewarding. "I also write lots of poems, of course, and occasionally some scholarship in my academic field," he tells me over coffee, "but this would be

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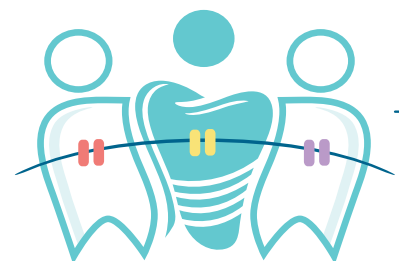
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writing that becomes part of a public record. I think it's important to make the minutes readable, and to be readable, they should be human."

Here was Deutch's take on a family squabble over whether a new auto-repair shop should be allowed "off-alley" behind Smitty's Service at the corner of Adams Avenue and Hawley Boulevard. In the November 7, 2017, planners meeting, a gentleman representing the potentially new garage owner launched into her family history. The speech, wrote Deutsch later in the minutes, was the "stuff of daytime melodrama, including characterization of a multitude of heroes, villains, death-bed signatures, mentions of a variety of unprovided paperwork, and one particular moment involving the brandishing of a pistol."



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

"The Normal Heights sign is the only original neon sign I'm aware of that still hangs in San Diego," says Scott Kessler

The lightheartedness of the description should not be taken as a lack of seriousness. Despite his short time in Normal Heights, Deutsch throws himself into the planning

work. He engages the normal issues of mid-city planning, more park space, cracks in streets and sidewalks, the spread of homelessness, and a need for housing on El Cajon Bou-



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

When actress Sylvia Thompson does her walking in Normal Heights, "There is always somebody to watch, and that's good for thinking about a character."

levard. Additionally, prior to the debate over another auto shop behind Smitty's, he spent four hours researching the Mid-Cities Community Plan and the City of San Diego Muni-

pal Code. His "deep dives" into the relevant minutiae of legalities and guidelines helped his colleagues make an informed recommendation to vote against the garage. "I love doing the

research," he tells me with a wink.

Veteran community planner Gary Weber tells me, "I encourage as much as I can any newcomer to the board who is as com-

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mitted as Adam. I'm getting too old to do much anymore." But Weber still serves yet another term on the Normal Heights Community Planning Group. He founded it in 1991.

Promenade

Of the neighborhoods that the San Diego Planning Department recognizes, Normal Heights is one of the smallest, contributing to its being highly walkable. Even a south/north hike from El Cajon Boulevard, the neighborhood's southern boundary, to the rim of Mission Valley, its boundary on the north, is manageable at 30 to 45 minutes for most walkers. The community's width, fixed by two freeways, I-15 on the east and I-805 on the west, is narrower. "On Adams Avenue, I can now walk easily from one edge of Normal Heights to



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

Ana Magaña-Ransom, owner of Mariposa ice cream shop, "was working as a social service caseworker assisting abusive families. Ice cream turned out to be much happier work."

the other," says Joe Perry, who recently recovered from a workplace back injury. "And I always meet three or four friends along the way."

For a different west/east route, the serpentine Mountain View Drive through the neighbor-

hood north of Adams is preferable to some promenaders for its jacaranda, magnolia, Brazilian pepper, and many other trees through a neighborhood rich in architectural styles. Homes from pre-World War II intersperse with the most contemporary. Many

participants in the yearly Rock 'n' Roll Marathon say Mountain View Drive is the most pleasant segment of the run.

People-watching helps this actress

When Sylvia Thompson does her walking in

Normal Heights, "There is always somebody to watch," she says, "and that's good for thinking about a character." Thompson has worked in San Diego as a professional actor for 30 years. She moved to Normal Heights ten years ago.

After an Old Globe Theatre performance, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle named Thompson its 2015 actor of the year. Thompson emails me that, on her 11th birthday, she was bitten by the theater bug when her mother took her to see *The King and I*.

Later, Thompson speaks with me in the Normal Heights Starbucks. She got her first local role at a dinner club in Spring Valley, where she performed in Agatha Christie's *Mouse-trap*. "Then I moved downtown to the Old Globe and the San Diego Repertory

Theatre. There's not one professional theater in San Diego I haven't worked at. Theater's been good to me here. No theater is making it on audiences, that's for sure. But I'm a union actor receiving union wages.... But during the day I also teach kids in Coronado and National City."

Stage fright is "one of the things I help them get rid of. I've never had that problem, not a single time. Not that I don't get nervous when performing. But I love performing for live audiences and getting their feedback. It's electric."

From Russia to Adams

Two Russian-American young women who tend bar at Triple Crown Pub, a sports bar on Adams Avenue, also like walking the avenue. They sometimes each take a turn pushing a stroller and showing off

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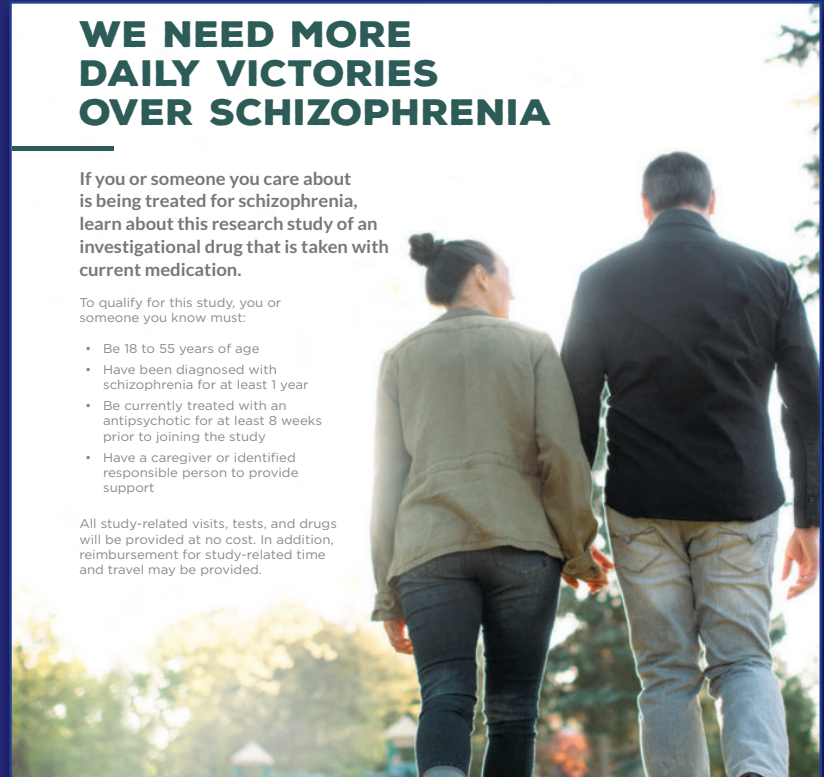
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a new baby girl. The child belongs to Ksusha Morgan, née Filipishina. To help me pronounce her first name, she tells me, “All letters are sounded in Russian.”

“Normal Heights feels like a very non-judgmental place in many ways,” says Ksusha. “For example, in this neighborhood you can wear anything you like and people won’t care.”

It may sound trivial, but much of her sentiment derives from a comparison to the way it was in Russia, the country of her birth, in the late 1990s. Suddenly, as a nascent capitalist economy was taking hold, consumer goods were proliferating and a one-upmanship set into people’s habits of buying clothes, a reaction against attitudes in the former Soviet Union when everyone was expected to wear the same things. Ksusha knows about those “bad



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

Back in the 1980s, Mahiyan (née Jim Savage) maxed out his credit cards to start the Jyoti-Bhanga vegetarian restaurant, which became an unlikely catalyst of Adams Avenue rejuvenation.

old days” largely through hearsay. She is 27 years old.

Ksusha’s close friend Anastasia (accent on the last *i*) Voroshilina, also 27, grew up in Saint Petersburg and studied for a while at

the Saint Petersburg State University of Economics, where she and Ksusha first met. Ksusha had been a country girl, coming to the big city to study from her home in Siberia.

Funny thing is, the girls say, a number of Triple Crown’s customers know about Siberia but have no idea where Saint Petersburg is.

How did two Russians end up tending bar at the

same time in a Normal Heights tavern on Adams Avenue? The question contains a bit of suspicion, but “that often comes up,” says Anastasia, laughing. Part of the answer is that the two girls had been roommates in Chula Vista until Ksusha married. Then a mutual friend helped them get jobs at Triple Crown, but it is the open-minded character of Normal Heights that keeps them in the neighborhood, where they both now live.

Why Normal?

In 2006, Normal Heights historian, and “sidewalk lady,” Suzanne Ledebor uncovered a viewpoint complementary to that of the two Russian Americans; it was expressed during a city-sponsored cultural retreat in January 2001. Some participants expressed complaints about Normal Heights,

and some praise. “But others noted,” writes Ledebor, “that, while largely underground, a thin vein of peaceful anarchy ran through some of its residents. Normal Heights was summed up best that day as ‘non-conformist.’”

The anecdote is found in Ledebor’s January 12, 2006, article in the *Journal of San Diego History*, “San Diego’s Normal Heights: The Growth of a Suburban Neighborhood, 1886–1926.” During that time, according to Ledebor, Normal Heights became one of San Diego’s “first ‘ring,’ or ‘streetcar,’ suburbs.” It picked up its name from the State Normal School built on Park Boulevard in 1899 along the trolley line coming north from downtown. Eventually, writes Ledebor, “a shuttle trolley from Park Boulevard and Adams Avenue served

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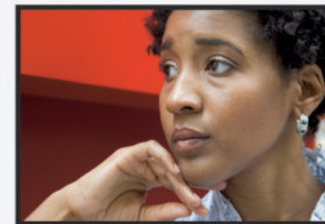
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Normal Heights in 1907, becoming a full-service line from downtown San Diego to Kensington at the end of the decade.”

Ledeboer’s article is a thorough and fascinating treatment of how real estate investors and

of Mission Valley. Eventually, “north of Adams,” and “south of Adams” reputations settled onto Normal Heights, creating in many residents’ minds a class divide.

How to get rid of

The planning meeting speech, wrote Deutsch later in the minutes, was the “stuff of daytime melodrama, including characterization of a multitude of heroes, villains, deathbed signatures...”

developers, such as David Collier, George Hawley and others, built Normal Heights from open land into a community of largely blue-collar workers who, in 1925, would vote in favor of annexation to the City of San Diego.

The area south of Adams Avenue was the first to fill, foreshadowing the urban density that it still displays today. During the 1970s, the apartment complexes (often labeled “Huffman six packs,” after developer Ray Huffman) compounded the density with their helter-skelter replacement of Craftsman single-family homes. The more numerous incidents of crime that followed, the police department maintained, were due to the apartment buildings having no front windows.

Meanwhile, housing north of Adams developed slowly and became more valuable, especially the homes situated on the edge

a squatter

Of course, crime happens north of Adams, too. Whether the property invasion Jim Hopper experienced three years ago on the Eugene Place lot he owns qualifies as a crime, he did not bother asking the police. But he was thinking much like two lines of “Pretty Boy Floyd,” the Woody Guthrie Dust Bowl-era song: “Some will rob you with a six gun/ And some with a fountain pen.” While Guthrie meant banks that foreclosed farmers’ mortgages, Hopper thought surely his property had come under a siege of adverse possession.

“At the time,” says Hopper, “I was in arrears on my property taxes, although minimally. I think the perpetrator had looked into that and assumed I was an absentee owner, perhaps not even living in the state, since I get my mail in a PO box. He found this place he

could put his junk on, an empty lot that overlooks the I-15 as it drops into Mission Valley. If I weren’t to pay attention for five years, he could state to the courts that he had his goods on the place long enough legally and his catching up on the property taxes would give him adverse possession.”

Hopper works as a carpenter on sets of local theater productions and is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 122. For years, he wrote reviews of science-fiction novels for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* until the paper curtailed its book reviews. He is a highly coveted participant in trivia contests at the Ould Sod bar on Adams.

“I first learned what was happening,” he tells me, “from a friend who called, saying, ‘There’s a guy here who says he bought your property.’ I rolled up there as quickly as I could and saw a ski boat in my yard behind the fence. There were many other things, too: a patio table, a crank-up umbrella, some teak deck furniture, a couple of tool sheds, and some valuable tools. I was more than a little annoyed.”

Neighbors Hopper had known there a while started giving him a variety of stories. “One said the guy told him he bought the property at auction for \$10,” says Hopper. “Another said I sold it to him because I was broke and needed to liquidate. The fellow said he was my younger cousin and that I had allowed him to put his goods on my property. In all, I got five different stories from five different people.”

The next Monday, says Hopper, “I drove my motorcycle inside the fence, which is opaque, and sat down to wait in one of the guy’s chairs.” A crowbar and a machete from the tool shed were within his arm’s

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reach, “but it didn’t occur to me that this would be threatening because I was reading a book and drinking a beer. The fellow came in, his eyes got wide, and his jaw dropped. I introduced myself and said that I understood he was so-and-so with California driver’s license number such-and-such. (He had engraved his name and phone number on the tool box.) ‘You’ve got until Thursday to get the boat and the rest of this shit off my lot.’”

“Can I rent it from you?”

“No. You will find a place to take care of this. Thursday til sundown.”

Hopper instructed the interloper not to contact him further but gave him a number to call if he had anything further to say.

“You’ve got this guy scared to death,’ an attorney friend told me after he was called. I don’t think of myself as a big scary guy but I guess I can be quite intimidating when I’m grumpy. Apparently, if you get into a place and last 30 days, it’s very difficult to get rid of you. That’s something my attorney also intimidated.”

Signs and storefronts



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

A squatter made the mistake of parking a boat and storing tools on Jim Hopper’s vacant lot on the north end of Normal Heights, which overlooks Mission Valley.

Many outsiders are likely to identify Normal Heights primarily as the neighborhood of the Adams Avenue Street Fair. “But even locals probably don’t realize that the Adams Avenue Business Association puts the street fair on,” says Scott Kessler, who is the organization’s executive director. The association is a business-improvement district serving Adams Avenue from Kensington, through Normal Heights, the northern part of North Park, and into University

Heights as far as Arizona Street.

“The street fair had its beginnings in 1982,” Kessler tells me, “as a celebration of the refurbishment and relighting of the historic Normal Heights neon sign that hangs over Adams at Felton Street. It was also the initiation of a community revitalization effort. Local residents had seen the business corridor getting pretty blighted and they went to work to turn around the neighborhood, which had gone into decline for 20

years or more. It wasn’t anything peculiar to Normal Heights. The whole mid-city area was pretty marginal; capital had fled. It’s just a cycle that happens, just like downtown went through.

“Then, in 1985, the Normal Heights fire got people really organized, and that helped give rise to the formation of a few community groups, such as the Normal Heights Community Association.

“The Normal Heights sign is the only original neon sign I’m aware of that still hangs in San Diego. It’s in good shape. We just repainted it right before the street fair last year and we redid the neon. One of the business association’s duties is to maintain that sign. The



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ.

Don’t look for meat in Jyoti-Bhanga’s “neatloaf.”

structure is sound, and the cables are sound; it’s not going to fall. The sign had been hung up for the first time in the 1950s, although there is uncertainty about exactly when.”

Trained years ago as a labor-union organizer, Kessler is now promoting small businesses. “Special events,” he says, “like the late-September street fair, Adams Avenue Unplugged (formerly the Roots Festival), and the Spirit Stroll have helped us market the area, to create economic opportunity and put money in people’s pockets. Over 300 vendors came to the 2017 street fair. One of the ways the street fair contributes to Normal Heights is to encourage entrepreneurs to come back and set up shop in the community.

“We used to do a lot of storefront rehab. The city has a program called the Storefront Improvement Program, a matching fund, and we had our own contracts with paint-

ers and electricians to go around and remodel the storefronts.

“Take the case of Mariposa Ice Cream. I think it cost Mariposa \$4000 to put in tile and redo the transom windows. That was a lot of money when they moved in. More recently, I think the Rabbit Hole restaurant spent \$750,000 opening their place.”

The Magaña-Ransoms, Richard and Anna, had been living in Mesa, Arizona, their strategic base for taking ice cream to street fairs throughout the Southwest, from New Mexico to California. “Before meeting my husband, I was working as a social-service caseworker assisting abusive families,” Anna tells me. “Ice cream turned out to be much happier work. I knew nothing about the business. But my husband had grown up on a dairy farm in Upstate New York, where he made ice cream as a youngster and learned all kinds of ice cream recipes.

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The street fair in 1999 “sealed the deal for us,” Anna tells me. “I had lived here before, so I talked Robert into the move. Once the storefront was fixed up, we put in a dipping cabinet in front and a

“Several times, Carlos Santana, one of his followers, joined him for long conversations.”

walk-in freezer in the back. We never had a storefront in Arizona.”

Richard Magaña-Ransom died in 2015. “I couldn’t even walk in here for the first six months after that,” says Anna. “He was the heart and soul of the business. He had a great sense of humor that made him the perfect front man for the business. I’m getting ready to retire now, although I have to say we’ve had such kind customers. My nephew, Tim Magaña, is buying the business. He’s gone to ice cream business seminars at the University of Wisconsin and has operated my sister’s business in Temecula.

“I used to say to my husband, ‘You’re the only white guy among seven business owners on this block [on the north side of Adams between Hawley and Mansfield]. There’s an Indian, Jordanian, Thai, Cambodian, and two Mexicans.”

Transformative vegetarian restaurant

“Normal Heights is now in an upswing,” says Scott Kessler a bit triumphantly.

It was not always so pleasant on Adams. By the middle of the 1980s, the avenue had descended into a haven for drug sales, gang hangouts, and prostitution. The hub of the deteriora-

tion was the intersection of Adams and Felton Street. It was at the same spot, however, where changes began that, over the past 30 years, have transformed the neighborhood into a prosperous and lively scene.

them to open a vegetarian restaurant in San Diego, and one of them, long known by now as Mahiyan, a name given him by the guru, led the group in looking for a suitable site.

Mahiyan explains how Normal Heights became the restaurant’s home as he and I sit in its colorful dining room one morning an hour before opening. “We always had a lot of confidence in Sri Chinmoy’s insight and wisdom,” he says. “So we would send him pictures of possible sites, mainly in La Jolla, and he kept saying, ‘No, not there.’ Finally he said yes and then the landlord said, ‘No, I don’t want a restaurant here.’”

One day, a small contingent of the meditators went to buy advertising at the *Holistic Living News*, then situated across Adams and west a few doors. From there, they “just happened to see the for-rent sign on


The turnaround started on July 23, 1986, with the opening of the Jyoti-Bihanga vegetarian restaurant on the southeast corner of the intersection. The establishment grew out of a relationship of Indian guru Sri Chinmoy with a group of his followers maintaining a meditation center in La Jolla during the 1980s. Chinmoy directed

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this building,” he says, “and it had been vacant for two years. It was a mess. It had a cracked cement floor, and the ceiling was orange and had silver flecks in it because, according to rumors, it had been a topless bar at one time. It was one long empty room, 75 feet down to the end. But at

ment was the plumbing,” he adds, laughing.

The work seemed to take forever and, soon enough, there were money problems. “For a year,” says Mahiyan, “we had a sign on our door saying, ‘Opening Soon.’”

Mahiyan maxed out his credit cards and says

[network] gave us recipes. We doubled our profits after two years and did well until after 2008, our busiest year. But then we started losing money at about 4 percent per year as a result of the big economic downturn, when restaurants of every kind started closing. But things slowly turned around.

“Sri Chinmoy came to San Diego occasionally and would sit in the back corner of the restaurant speaking with his students. Several times, Carlos Santana, one of his followers, joined him for long conversations.”

John Savage, Mahiyan’s birth name, owned a tennis shop in La Jolla at the time he met Sri Chinmoy. He had played varsity tennis at Fresno State and then at UCSD. “I once played in the French Open, but at a very low level,” he says. Sri Chinmoy was a great advocate of physical exercise, running marathons, and encouraging his followers to do it, too. Besides tennis, Mahiyan ran marathons for a number of years. “Running has similarities to meditation,” he says. “Think about runners’ high.”

For a long time, the Sri Chinmoy Center in



Ksusha Morgan, née Filipishina, and Anastasia Voroshilina took separate paths from Russia which converged in Normal Heights where they tend bar at Triple Crown Pub.

“I didn’t want to be the guy in the attic, years later, looking through my stuff and saying, ‘What if?’”

last we had stumbled onto a site.”

The lease was not affordable, but the landlord offered to drop its price by \$500. “It was still too much,” says Mahiyan. So the group decided to wall off a section in the back to create an apartment that Mahiyan and others have used over the years. “We also decided we had to do the renovation ourselves. Besides all the paperwork, my assign-

they were finally taken away. “I was in such an anxious state that my meditations were having no effect,” he says. But after an especially ineffective one, he fell into a deep sleep. “Afterward I meditated again, and that meditation was my best ever. I don’t remember how, but the money we needed turned up after that.

“When the business opened, my sister was our first cook, and other restaurants in Sri Chinmoy’s

back of Jyoti-Bihanga has offered free meditation classes. Mahiyan talks to me about meditation, not in a theoretical way, but rather emphasizing that it helps people “overcome personal limitations.”

Sound man

In 1997, Lestat’s Coffee House made its appearance on Adams across Felton from Jyoti-Bihanga, when fledgling entrepreneur John Husler bought an existing café called Paradigm. He was successful

quickly and, several years later, he took over the space next door, formerly the site of a game room. He called it Lestat’s West. The idea was to provide an all-ages music site connected to the coffee business.

Today Lestat’s West is arguably the most successful venue in San Diego for regular musical performances, comedy shows, poetry reading, and an open mic. Its manager is sound systems specialist Louis Brazier.

For seven years during

the 1980s, Brazier worked for Solar Turbines. “I had a great job,” he tells me. “Full union, full medical, full dental, and was making \$35 an hour. Then I quit at the factory in favor of a \$6.50-an-hour job in a music-rehearsal hall.

“When my family learned what I did, they freaked out. My grandfather had worked for Solar Turbines for 45 years. I could have stayed there until retirement. I could have been married with a house and family. But I

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didn't want to be the guy in the attic, years later, looking through my stuff and saying, 'What if?' And I had to find out if I could get to the level I craved in the music business."

In 1999, Brazier, 55, got an opportunity to work in the Los Angeles market. He moved to North Hollywood and, for four years, toured the country with a number of musical groups, such as Richard Marx and the Cuban singer/actress Martiqua, and ending up with Ricky Nelson's twins, Gunnar and Matthew. "I was the Nelsons' personal assistant and Gunnar's guitar tech," Brazier tells me. "Gunnar had 16 guitars, and I would change strings, tune the guitars, and then, during the show, I'd be that guy who walks out and trades one guitar for another."

"I came to Lestat's West in late 2003. Having grown up in Kensington, I had already done sound for a lot of the bands that played at the fabric store, when it was the Adams Avenue Theatre in the middle of our block, and was a music venue for a while." (Today's Discount Fabrics



Louis Brazier gave up a much higher paying job to be a sound man. His current gig is at Lestat's West. "I still sometimes yearn for the life I could have had working at Solar, but here I have control. As long as I'm doing music, I'm happy."

recently announced that it is liquidating and closing its doors.)

"When I asked myself what it would take to keep me here, I realized it was more about developing bands than anything else. I told John I would run the venue, but I wasn't going to be a guy who puts eight bands on the bill just to fill the place, because it's not about selling drinks. People come for quality music here, the good sound, and the owner has been behind

me on that ever since. I still sometimes yearn for the life I could have had working at Solar, but here I have control. As long as I'm doing music, I'm happy."

"We have great artists here and quality sound. In some other places, it can be just loud. I found out earlier from showcasing big acts that the sound guy is just as much a member of the band as performers. If you don't do your job, the music doesn't come across."

"And there have been

some great shows here that went late. I don't want to go late every night. But sometimes there's a good vibe when we've had big stars here, such as Minnie Driver, John C. Reilly, Greg Laswell, who's from San Diego, and they're spending the time to stay here with their fan base and talk. You want that. That's what brings people back. They remember that."

"For instance, Tyler Hilton played here and stayed around afterward. He played Elvis in the Johnny Cash movie *Walk the Line* and then he was on *One Tree Hill*. That night felt like a real Hollywood moment. There were so many pictures being taken, and he was

taking the time to sign everything. We didn't get done until one or two o'clock."

"But the music business is changing so much. In earlier days, labels would sign bands and then develop them, get them out on the road, work on their songwriting craft or get them with a songwriter. Young artists today hardly have a chance. Of course, there's YouTube, but nobody gets behind them, and it's hard to tour on your own without that help."

"I tell the kids they have to promote themselves as much as possible, and what I want to do here is help bands make the money they need to do more. I've wanted to create a place that, later on, down the years, people will say this was where those artists developed great shows."

Which artist does Brazier think has gotten the biggest career boost from performing at Lestat's West? "Raelee Nikole," he says without hesitation. "She's 22 right now and coming on strong. She's from East County and first came here when she was about 15."

Livability

I have been thinking about how the work of the Normal Heights Community Planning Group relates to the many personal idiosyncrasies and expres-

sions that play out in the neighborhood. In an email response, Adam Deutsch characterizes that work as concerned with "land use and implementing the community plan. The scope is less about guiding a cultural identity for the neighborhood and more about making sure the place as a whole is conducive to community and liveability, regardless of the demographics of who live in the neighborhood."

"Isn't it unusual," I had asked Deutsch earlier, "for a poet and a scholar of literature, such as yourself, to get involved in public community work?"

He doesn't think so, though he says nothing more about it. Instead, he gives me a poem he wrote called "Wife Says We Have Too Many Books." It was published in the Winter 2016 edition of *The Coachella Review*. Here are several lines from the poem.

And we have too many books, shelved, boxed up, writings about writers' writings, earlier editions. They live beside a leaking thing we never drive, and scrap wood in the rafters we'll burn, or reclaim to build a tiny house for a life's rest. ■

— Joe Deegan

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Under the radar

continued from page 3

substantial campaign contributions from the company.”

Official city grass

San Diego, besieged by burgeoning budget woes, is trying to sell naming rights for its grass-growing. “The City is looking for a corporate marketing partner to provide yearly monetary support in three areas,” says a January request for proposals. Between \$125,000 to \$200,000 in annual funding, cash and in-kind per the solicitation, is sought for the Toro Agronomy Scholarship Program and to cover the cost of “turf care products for all three city golf courses (Torrey Pines, Balboa Park, and Mission Bay).” Another requirement is “an annual monetary contribution to support City essential services including Parks & Recreation programs such as ‘Nature Play,’ ‘P.L.A.Y. Golf’ and ‘Kids to Canyons.’” In return, says the request, “the City will provide exclusive marketing opportunities to the selected sponsor as an official partner of the City. ... San Diego police chief **Shelley Zimmerman**, who must retire this year under terms of a generous pension program, otherwise known as DROP, has been chowing down on a final round of freebies, per her 2017 financial disclosure report, filed February 8. Gifts included a \$150 jersey from the San Diego Gulls and a \$100 dinner at the Major City Chiefs Conference from Nice Investigate of San Mateo, providers of “digital policing” software. San Diego steakhouse owner Dan Shea threw in a \$250 Salute to Champions dinner ticket. Among Zimmerman’s personal financial assets was a stake in cell-phone chipmaker Qualcomm, valued at between \$100,000 and \$1 million. In all, the Shelley Zimmerman Trust posted more than \$100,000 in annual income for the city’s top cop, who gets a \$176,500 salary as chief.

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

The *Reader* offers \$25 for news tips published in this column. Call our voice mail at 619-235-3000, ext. 440, or sandiegoreader.com/staff/matt-potter/contact/.

Ambulance emergency

continued from page 3

crew members were on call during their entire shifts and that they were required to keep their pagers and radios on at all times and to comply with 60- or 120-second ‘out-the-chute’ times upon receiving a service call.”

A hearing is scheduled in federal court on March 16 to determine whether the case will be classified as a class-action matter.

“This is the worst I’ve seen it in five years,” Employee Three added. “There are less ambulances on the street than there were five years ago. It’s mind-boggling what’s going on, and the citizens of San Diego should be informed of this.... On a side note, we just had a second EMT have to be treated for irregular heartbeat because of drinking energy drinks just to function at work.”

On February 2nd, a fourth emergency medical technician messaged me: “It is horrible today. We are responding from Scripps La Jolla to the airport and another unit was responding from Rancho Bernardo to the Border.... Don’t get hurt or sick right now, it’ll take a long time to get an ambulance.... A lot of us are afraid to talk about it because we love our jobs and don’t want to be fired.”

Asked for comment, Madeline D. Baudoin, American Medical Response’s government and public affairs manager responded, “We are working diligently to recruit more employees and bolster our ability to add staff. So far this year, we have hired 21 caretakers into the City of San Diego system, including eight new paramedics and 13 EMTs with more to follow.” ■

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

said that there was “offensive behavior by Manchester and his team,” but the paper did little about it. O’Harrow talked with about two dozen former employees who did not want to be identified because of Manchester’s status in the community.

Manchester, former chief executive John Lynch, and Light claimed no one had accused Manchester of sexual harassment, “but the current staffers and former employees said the atmosphere was retrograde and often disrespectful toward women,” said the *Post*.

Cory Fish, a former U-T human resources executive, was quoted as saying of Manchester, “He’s an older man who has a history of liking young women.” (Manchester’s second wife, who came to the United States from Siberia, is about half Manchester’s age. They now have three babies.)

The *Post* story focused on the long-deceased U-T TV. Light is quoted saying, “The news staff was... repulsed by the sexist vibe of the programming.” The *Post* says, “One woman who was asked to wear a short dress and serve as host at newspaper events said she felt uncomfortable but that she went along with the requests because she was young and naive.” She was 22 at the time.

Don Bauder

Vulture funded

John Lynch in money troubles again

John Lynch, former chief executive officer of the *Union-Tribune* and previously a local radio executive, is in financial trouble again. He defaulted on his mortgage in December of 2016, and then woes cascaded in 2017 and this year. He has defaulted several other times in previous years, as the *Reader* has reported.

Last year, T.A. Marsh Roofing slapped a mechanics lien on his posh Rancho

Santa Fe home. The lien is still in effect. “We have had trouble collecting from him. He would not respond [to queries] until we put a lien on his property. He has paid some, but not what he owes,” says an executive of the company. Redfin says the house, not on the market, is worth \$3.5 million.

In December of 2017, Lynch failed to pay the first installment on his property taxes. He is short \$28,745.35, according to the last report of the county treasurer and tax collector.

Then this year, Lynch sold his mortgage to a Goldman Sachs subsidiary named MTGLQ Investors, according to assessor/recorder/county clerk records. MTGLQ buys nonperforming and severely delinquent loans and then grants principal reduction loan modifications on them.

MTGLQ, which could be called a “vulture fund,” has an interesting history. The prologue: Goldman Sachs was one major cause of the real estate derivatives crash precipitating the 2007–2009 Great Recession. Those crafty Wall Street rascals packaged toxic mortgages into bundles and sold them to clients as AAA-rated paper. But the firm, knowing there was garbage in those bundles, shorted them — or bet against the very bundles it had sold to customers as gilt-edged paper (nice folks there on Wall Street).

The government rescued Goldman and other big banks with massive infusions of funds. But in a settlement, Goldman was told it must help struggling homeowners; ergo, Goldman set up MTGLQ Investors to buy troubled mortgages. But Goldman is allegedly making money on this so-called magnanimous enterprise. It buys the troubled loans (many from the ailing Federal National Mortgage Association, or Fannie Mae) and then resells them when the borrowers resume monthly payments. If that can’t be done, Goldman forecloses



Accident scene on La Jolla Shores Drive

and sells the homes, according to financial media.

The *Reader* previously reported that in 2010, American Express Centurion Bank sued Lynch for failing to pay \$51,236 in outstanding credit-card debt. In September, November, and December of 2012, the *Reader* reported that Lynch’s home on Clubhouse Drive in Rancho Santa Fe was in default. Each time, he had excuses: poor accounting by his advisers and the county treasurer, bad practices by a lender. “My net worth is quite substantial,” he told the *Reader*.

I put in a good-faith effort to hear his explanation for his recent financial woes. I called seven phone numbers believed to be his with no luck and sent two emails that came back. His phone number is not listed.

“He always has a story — he is trying to get a deal done or something like that,” says the T.A. Marsh executive.

Don Bauder

SD crosswalks need cross-bones

Pedestrians killed in nearly half of all traffic accidents. Two claims were recently filed against the City of San Diego over dangerous pedestrian conditions.

The first was filed by the family of a 13-year-old boy who was critically injured while at the intersection of 32nd Street and Ocean View Boulevard in Logan Heights in September 2017. The boy’s guardians filed a claim to the city on December 12, 2017. Last week, the claim was denied and the family has decided to sue.

In a separate pedes-

trian and auto collision, Ruben Abagyan and his wife Margarita have filed a claim against the city for a dangerous condition on Shores Drive.

Abagyan, a pharmaceutical researcher at UC San Diego, was walking at the intersection of La Jolla Shores Drive and Downwind Way when he was struck by a car in October 12. Abagyan was listed in serious condition and, according to a summary of the claim, suffered a traumatic brain injury.

A spokesperson for San Diego Police Department says the driver was believed to be at fault. The intersection is known to be unsafe for pedestrians.

In December 2013, according to a message from former councilmember Sherri Lightner’s staff posted online, traffic engineers studied the intersection after complaints were made. Later, the city installed pedestrian warning signs and painted legends on the asphalt to warn drivers. But according to the staffer, the city was reluctant to add a lighted crosswalk because of the presence of a pedestrian bridge.

“Nevertheless, Traffic Engineering can evaluate for the addition of a lighted crosswalk, but it would be hard to justify installing a high-level pedestrian warning device such as in-road flashers when there is a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the crosswalk.”

In 2015 mayor Kevin Faulconer supported the adoption of the Vision Zero policy, which aims to end pedestrian deaths. .

According to Kathleen

CITY LIGHTS

Ferrier, spokesperson for Vision Zero Network, a national group dedicated to ending pedestrian fatalities and injuries, "San Diego has one of the highest rates of injury and death for pedestrians in the country, in terms of percentage of traffic deaths attributed to pedestrians. It reaches almost 50 percent, so that in and of itself is reason for alarm."

Dorian Hargrove

Spike three

Tanya and Charles Brandes file for third divorce (each) The financial publication *Fundfire* noted in a February 16 article that onetime social darlings of San Diego and Rancho Santa Fe, Charles Brandes and his wife Tanya, are now divorcing; this was the third marriage for each.

Both filed stories of mutual violence in court. According to *Fundfire*, Charles Brandes requested a domestic-violence restraining order against her on January 29. According to the publication, Brandes claimed "his wife struck him in the head with a flashlight, pointed a .45 caliber handgun at him, sprayed mace in his eyes and threatened to kill him using skills learned from Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) training." She punched, kicked, and choked him, he claimed. (He is a good deal older than she is.)

She, in turn, requested a domestic-violence restraining order against her husband, claiming he threw her to the floor twice, injuring her. She claimed she suffered bruises to her face, arms, legs, and right ankle.

Both lawyers say each person has agreed to withdraw claims against the other and are working for a prompt dissolution of their marriage.

The story misses some details covered locally. When they married, society columns were full of reports of their ideal marriage. They resided in one of the most expensive homes in the

CITY LIGHTS

county, in Rancho Santa Fe. He had a huge collection of automobiles that she loved. They were pictured at social soirées, such as on the late David Copley's yacht at Cannes; also at a David Copley-sponsored affair to honor His Serene Royal Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco. He was at one time a billionaire (I doubt if he still is) and listed among the *Forbes* 400, a compilation of the 400 richest Americans.

The article only mentions that Charles Brandes has taken a leave of absence from Brandes Investment Partners. It notes briefly that the firm's funds under management have declined sharply from above \$100 billion to \$31.2 billion.

The story mentions that Brandes divorced his second wife but doesn't note how tumultuous that was.

As reported in the *Reader* and *Union-Tribune*, in 2005 his divorce from second wife Linda divided assets like this: he got a home in Rancho Santa Fe and Borrego Springs. She got six homes, including a penthouse on Park Avenue in New York and a beachside home in Del Mar. He complained that the trial court gave her \$450,000 a month in spousal support. He said \$100,000 was sufficient. She protested the trial court's decision, too.

The *Reader* has followed the decline of Brandes Investment Partners over a period of 11 years. He was convinced he could choose stocks that the market was neglecting. The money under management was once as high as \$125 billion. His biggest mistake was jumping aboard newspaper stocks such as Gannett and McClatchy when they started to fall. He also jumped into bank stocks at an inopportune time. As Brandes Investment Partners fell, I continued to phone Charles Brandes for an explanation, but he never returned my calls.

Don Bauder

LETTERS

continued from page 4

Ready to go door-to-door for this cause

Re: "SDG&E, Edison take hit for us," News Ticker, February 8.

Dear SDReader:

As a SDG&E ratepayer turned ratepayer revolt proponent, I cannot give my blessing to any settlement which leaves us on the hook for any of San Onofre's problems.

Obviously, filing lawsuits is not going to curb the utility's propensity for thievery. Just take a good look at your monthly bill. I remember when all those fees and surcharges were only a few pennies each. These days, SDG&E customers are being charged the same amount on these fees as the electricity actually costs.

Why are there separate charges for Delivery, Distribution, and Transmission? These are all the same thing, and even the definitions given on the back of the bill are exactly the same. "Includes poles, transformers, power lines, etc." The distribution charge should be removed, especially in the city of Oceanside. I read a report about a smart-meter-compatible Omni Mesh Wi-Fi network where it mentions that the city is actually the one distributing our electricity through a network of cables hooked into those red blinking lights atop the streetlights. Is this money collected for delivery costs being repaid to the city, or is it just pocketed the same way the money for those replacement steam generators was?

There is a DWR revenue adjustment that is supposed to offset the delivery charge. Of \$17.79 on my bill, the delivery amounts to \$17.14. The DWR adjustment only amounts to 4 cents, so if SDG&E is collecting delivery fees for the city, they are making out like bandits.

There's a fee for Winter Care Electricity Generation and Winter Care Electricity. Aren't these the same thing?

continued on page 39

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT



culus flowers that make up the Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch are in bloom for six to eight weeks each year, literally bringing the famous fields back to life. This year brings new landscaping and renovations. See the display gardens developed by the San Diego Master Gardeners, walk through the fragrant sweet pea maze with new pathways, learn about composting and gardening in the new greenhouses with classes, and enjoy a new picnic area. The fields are a result of over 85 years of floral cultivation that began when Luther Gage settled in the area in the early 1920s. Gage introduced ranunculus seeds and began growing them in his fields next to Frank Frazee's small vegetable farm in south Oceanside. \$16 adults, \$8 children three to ten.

WHEN: Ongoing from Thursday, March 1, until Sunday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WHERE: The Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad. theflowerfields.com

JEFF DUNHAM

America's most famous ventriloquist is touring North America on his 60-city Passively Aggressive tour, and San Diego is one of the last stops. Jeff Dunham and cohorts Walter, Achmed the Dead Terrorist, Bubba J, and Peanut consider the ramifications of bringing a new member into their already dysfunctional family. \$50.

WHEN: Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard,



JEFF DUNHAM



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7-11: AMAZING ACRO-CATS

Midway District. valleyviewcasinocenter.com

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS.

Coming to the Belly Up on March 1, quirky duo John Flansburgh and John Linnell (aka They Might Be Giants) emerged in the early '80s with a series of homemade videos that illustrated their topical and humorous lyrics with what was then state-of-the-art videography and animation. Championed on TV shows such as *Night Flight*, it was their cover of a 1953 novelty song, "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" that provided not only their first widespread hit but also a permanent place in school classrooms, where the whimsical track doubles as an accurate, if open-ended, history lesson ("Istanbul was Constantinople, now it's Istanbul not Constantinople. Why did Constantinople get the works? That's nobody's business but the Turks").

Music, [page 45](#).

(actually two) roofs." Now in its 33rd year, the Spring Home & Garden Show returns to Del Mar Fairgrounds for three days of inspiring "garden masters" landscapes (using local plants, created exclusively for the show), over 400 home-improvement products and services exhibitors (from BBQs to security systems, baths to sunrooms),



SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW

demonstrations, seminars, plant sales, and one-on-one consultations. The 11 full-scale gardens installed for the show are judged by a panel and honored in several categories. \$8.

Thursday | 1

FLOWER FIELDS AT CARLSBAD RANCH

For over 60 years, Mother Nature has transformed the rolling hills of North San Diego County into a spectacular display of natural color and beauty. The 50 acres of giant Tecolote ranun-

Friday | 2

SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW

"Everything for your home-improvement needs, all under one

WHEN: Friday, March 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also on Saturday and Sunday.
WHERE: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard.
springhomegardenshow.com

Saturday | 3

SPRING BUSKER FESTIVAL

Seaport Village welcomes “strange and extraordinary acts” from around



SATURDAY, MARCH 3: SPRING BUSKER FESTIVAL



PHOTOGRAPH BY HEATHER VAN GALE

WHERE: Seaport Village, 849 W. Harbor Drive, downtown San Diego.
seaportvillage.com

CRSSD FEST

The bill includes Empire of the Sun, Gorgon City, Tchami, Cirez

D, Sasha, Nicole Moudaber, Jai Wolf, Malaa, Shiba San, Lee Burrige, MK, Bonobo, Little Dragon, Gryffin, The Presets, SNBRN, Alan Fitzpatrick, Mark Knight, Charlotte De Witte, and dozens more.

WHEN: Saturday, March 3, noon to late. Also on Sunday.

WHERE: Waterfront Park, 1600 Pacific Highway, downtown San Diego.
crssdfest.com

OUTRIGGER PADDLING. As noted by Magellan’s assistant in the 16th Century while in the Mariana Islands, outrigger canoes were faster and more maneuverable than any of the like-sized craft used by Europeans. Today, outside of the few small pockets that still rely on the outrigger for travel and fishing, the craft is mostly used for sport and cultural displays. If you’d like to give outrigger racing a shot, the San Diego Outrigger Canoe Club has Saturday sessions through the end of March at Campland by the

the world to its 12th-annual Busker Festival. The celebration brings colorful street performers — from jugglers on unicycles to stilt-walkers, contortionists, and acrobancers — to Seaport Village. From noon to 6 p.m., the cobblestone streets will be transformed into various stages for the buskers to compete for the People’s Choice Award. Popular across the globe, buskers are public street performers known for their unusual and fascinating acts. The Seaport Village Spring Busker Festival is the only festival of its kind in California and one of only a few in the U.S. While hundreds of performers from across the world apply, only eight to ten acts are selected each year. Come nightfall, performers also let loose for Buskers After Dark on Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. Catered toward the 18+ crowd, this untamed show will also feature a DJ, food-and-drink specials, and adult humor.

WHEN: Saturday, March 3, noon to 6 p.m. Also on Sunday.

Bay in Pacific Beach. Waterfront, [page 35](http://page35.com).

Sunday | 4

DANCING WITH THE STARS LIVE!: LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

This all-new production showcases ballroom and contemporary dances from ABC’s *Dancing with the Stars*, including group numbers, duets, and original pieces. For the first time, two celebrity finalists will be joining the tour — Jordan Fisher (*Hamilton*, *Grease: Live!*) and actor/race-car driver Frankie Muniz (*Agent Cody Banks*, *Malcolm in the Middle*) will reprise their season 25 performances alongside show favorites Lindsay Arnold, Emma Slater, Artem Chigvintsev, and Gleb Savchenko. \$41.

WHEN: Sunday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jacobs Music Center, 750 B Street, downtown San Diego.
sandiegosymphony.org

Wednesday | 7

AMAZING ACRO-CATS

The Amazing Acro-Cats, featuring Tuna & the Rock Cats, are a troupe of real performing house cats. Using clicker training (a stress-free, positive-reinforcement method), Samantha Martin and the cats take their abilities on the road and tour the nation’s stages in the infamous Acro-Cat bus. Includes cats riding skateboards and jumping through hoops and Alley, a rising star, who holds the record for the longest cat jump in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. A portion of the proceeds benefits mobile foster and rescue efforts. \$25–\$40.

WHEN: Friday, March 7, 7 p.m.

Runs through Sunday, March 11.

WHERE: Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Boulevard, Rolando.
circuscats.com

THREE BILLBOARDS. The movie is papered over with happenstance and loose ends, and yet writer-director

Martin McDonagh stands to take home a Best Original Screenplay keepsake at this Sunday’s Oscars. Scott Marks can’t help but reveal a few of the film’s cockeyed plot twists, starting with Molotov cocktails that go boom in the night that no one seems to hear. Movies, [page 50](http://page50.com).



THREE BILLBOARDS

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

SWEENEY PASS SOUTH LOOP (ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK)

Tectonic forces in play in the Elsinore Fault Zone

Driving directions: From Julian, drive east on SR-78, 11.8 miles to the junction with S-2 at Scissors Crossing. Turn south on S-2, drive 31.7 miles to the bottom of the Sweeney Pass Grade near milepost 49.9, parking along the straightaway. From Ocotillo, drive north 15.9 miles on S-2 to the bottom of the Sweeney Pass Grade and park along the straightaway. Allow two hours driving time from the San Diego metropolitan area. **Hiking length:** 6.8 miles. Allow four hours. **Difficulty:** Moderate. **Elevation gain/loss:** 430 feet. High point is 1286 feet.



Sandy entrance at Sweeney Pass



Tilted pegmatite dikes

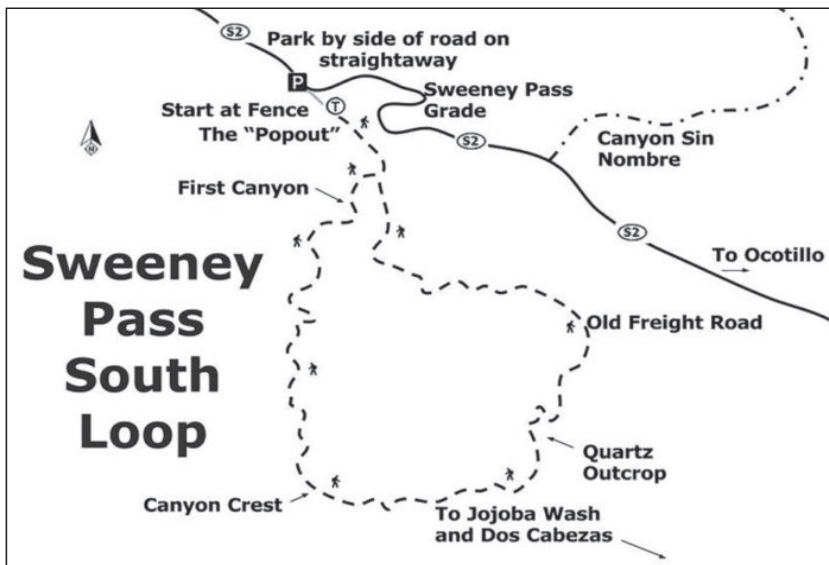
Sweeney Wash and Canyon is located in the Elsinore Fault Zone. Look forward to viewing twisted and turned pegmatite dikes along this hike that reflect Cretaceous tectonic forces in play. The wash may be part of an old freight road between Dos Cabezas, the Dolomite Mine, and the road to Julian that was used many years before the Sweeney Pass Road was constructed. The beginning of this hike was the "Popout" mentioned by guidebook author Horace Parker in his *Anza-Borrego Desert Guidebook*, originally published in 1957.

Sweeney Pass was always a barrier to most vehicles following the old Imperial Highway in the 1930s and 1940s. San Diego County engineers constructed the current route in 1952 that enables

conventional vehicles to negotiate the sinuous route that snakes up the hillsides.

There is some confusion as to the origin of the name of the pass. It was possibly named for Lt. Thomas W. Sweeney, who came to California after the Mexican-American War and was assigned to San Diego. He traveled the route over Sweeney Pass when he became the head of Camp Independence on the Gila River. If named for him, then the pass has been misspelled. Another possibility is that the pass was named for a member of the Sweeney family of Imperial County. Oscar Sweeney established the *Seeley Sentinel* in 1913 and other members of the family were involved in Imperial

continued on page 32



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 sdrreader.com/events/submit.

ANIMAL FRIENDS

North County Aviculturists

For pet bird owners and breeders. Eleanor Love was the Supervisor of Birds at the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida years ago and is a keeper of several endangered species now. She's back from a trip to study birds in Antarctica in January, and she's coming to talk to us. Saturday, March 3, 6pm; **free**. Vista Masonic Lodge #687, 761 Eucalyptus Avenue. (VISTA)

ART

50 to Watch: Preview This celebration of contemporary art in San Diego showcases some of the best visual artists in the region, first with a local exhibition in two galleries and an online gallery with direct links to the artists and second with a national publication sent to 1000+ galleries across the U.S. Saturday,

March 3, 6pm; **free**. Studio Door, 3750 30th Street. (NORTH PARK)

Acqua Musicale Art Reception Reception with Vista artist Krista Timberlake. Displayed work is a collection of watercolors exploring music and musicians, dancers, and creatures of the ocean. Paintings are on display in the conference room during chamber hours through early May. Saturday, March 3, 1pm; **free**. Vista Chamber of Commerce, 127 Main Street. (VISTA)

Bali High Inspired by her trips to Bali, Ms. Rubin is still under the blissful influence of a self described Bali High. Her watercolors have captured the verdant rice paddies, people, and more. Friday, March 2, 5pm; **free**. June Rubin Studio/Gallery, 2690 Historic Decatur Road #214. (LIBERTY STATION)

De Kooning Regrets: Opening Reception An exhibition of large-scale abstract paintings with homage to De Kooning. And in the small gallery, romantic works that commemorate St. Valentine. Thursday, March 1, 6pm; **free**. Symbologist Gallery, 2060 Logan Ave., Suite C. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Live Mural Painting To complement Seaport Village's Spring Busker Festival, Kesley Montague will create a live mural in the center courtyard of Headquarters for the third year in a row. She will be live painting Friday and Saturday and the mural will be ready for photos on Sunday. These murals specifically invite people into a piece and then invite them to share their experi-

ence online. Kelsey believes that art should not be separated from the human experience. Instead the human experience should have a hand in creating the art itself. The new piece will replace the current balloon mural. Kelsey's work has been featured by *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Entertainment Weekly*, MTV, Buzzfeed, and Refinery 29. Saturday, March 3, 12pm; Sunday, March 4, 12pm; **free**. Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Oceanside First Friday Art Walk This is the second year that the First Friday Art Walk Oceanside has been operated under new management from the Oceanside Friends of the Arts, and has seen increasing growth in attendance and local/regional participating artists for the events that run monthly from March to December. Oceanside Friends of the Arts raises funds for scholarships for kids that want to further their education at one of many local arts and culture schools from beginner to advanced. Info: susanbrown7@me.com. Friday, March 2, 5pm; **free**. Springhill Springs Marriott, 110 N. Myers Street. (OCEANSIDE)

Offerings The Southwestern Artists' Association presents this art exhibit featuring San Diego artists James Luckritz and Susanne Flowers. The exhibit runs March 1 to 15 in the Southwestern Artists Association gallery in Gallery 23, Spanish Village Art Center. Thursday, March 1, 10am; **free**. Gallery 23 in

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Spanish Village, 1770 Village Place.
(BALBOA PARK)

Universal Notes: Opening Reception The San Diego Watercolor Society presents an art exhibition juried by artist Stephanie Goldman. The exhibit runs 2/25 to 3/31. Opening reception with 95-100 original ready-to-hang paintings for sale. Friday, March 2, 5pm; **free**. San Diego Watercolor Society, 2825 Dewey Road #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Voluminous Art: Treasures from San Diego's University Libraries This spring, Mingei International Museum will shine a spotlight on the lesser-known libraries of UC San Diego, San Diego State University, and University of San Diego. This exhibition celebrates the art of the book by showcasing approximately 25 volumes from each library collection, a sampling that will hint at centuries-old practices of book design, typography, binding, and printing. The oldest work on view will be a manuscript volume on the art and science of spelling from the 1200s. Saturday, March 3, 10am; **free**-\$10. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

BEER

Glow Beer & 9 with Modern Times Beer and Thorn Street Brewing Includes golf, 6:30pm shotgun, on-course tastings, and glow gear. Friday, March 2, 5:30pm; \$40. Loma Club, 2960 Truxton Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

BOOK SIGNINGS

Andre Aciman: Call Me By Your Name Andre Aciman will discuss his new books *Call Me By Your Name* and *Enigma Variations*. He teaches comparative literature at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and lives with his wife in Manhattan. Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm; **free**. Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Obi Kaufmann: The California Field Atlas Anza-Borrego Foundation, nonprofit partner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, welcomes wilderness poet, artist, and advocate Obi Kaufmann for a day of activities tied to his new book, *The California Field Atlas*. Described as a love letter to the natural world of the Golden State, this is a handbook of conservation and an inventory of what is ours to protect. Kaufmann has been visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park his whole life, especially enjoying the desert palms, elephant trees, and bighorn sheep. Saturday, March 3, 10am; Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, 200 Palm Canyon Drive. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Tori Telfer: Lady Killers Author Tori Telfer will discuss her book *Lady Killers: Deadly Women Throughout History*. When you think of serial killers throughout history, the names that come to

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems by Joseph O'Brien

March's Lovely Asymptotes

The property line melts into forest, its late winter browns
Like a beast's pelt; oaks hunched like sleeping bear;

Beech and birch extend into ugly candid possum hair,
And elms and maples muster into a passel of woodchuck.

The air waited on first signs of spring, curling up like smoke
Through your lips — petals thin as pencils, yet capable of shape

And form; they're forced into a smile by a late March sleep
That's going too late for April showers. The ice is glassed

Over, bonding yesterday afternoon's puddles into a crust,
The gouged march of cattle habitual for bleak pasture;

The frozen prints are filmy, each a black and white fish-eyed fissure
That gazes up from feathery hooks to ultimate grey; outside

We've come to test the meadows and taste the weather, greyed
As tombs. Embraced by down and wool, we try hard to ignore

The vestiges of conversational winter, snow that quipped before
In patches defers now to gelid mud. The quiet of the fire

In the parlor stove lives on — but questions hang in the air
Beyond their usefulness — the organic smell of summer cotton

Released as a felt presence in the room by the heat of an iron.
So thickly dressed for outdoors, you, woman or man; your feet

Deliberate with feminine pause, your eyes have decided to fight
The urge to ever meet on the issue but maintain differences

Like valleys that separate the hills with everlasting distances.
With half-hearted barking, geese announce their return, bounding

The fields with pump-handled pinions rising, falling, finding
Their shadows threading like dolphins through a splintered sea.

mind are ones like Jack the Ripper, John Wayne Gacy, and Ted Bundy. But what about Tillie Klimek, Moulay Hassan, Kate Bender? Serial killers are thought to be so universally male that in 1998 FBI profiler Roy Hazelwood infamously declared in a homicide conference, "There are no female serial killers." But this book offers 14 gruesome examples as evidence. Thursday, March 1, 7pm; **free**. Book Catapult, 3010-B Juniper Street. (SOUTH PARK)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

LGBTQ Salon and Writing Workshop Performers will present a few stories to entertain and inspire you and then facilitate a group discussion, craft instruction, and generative free writing time to prepare your own submission for an upcoming LGBTQ+ showcase. And there'll be cake. Saturday, March 3, 3pm; **free**. Babycakes, 3766 Fifth Avenue. (HILLCREST)

Sketching at the Gallery Every First Thursday of the month, drop-in and sketch from live clothed models to objects in our gallery. All ranges of drawing experience are welcome, including visitors who

are picking up a sketchbook for the first time. Peer-to-peer advice and guidance on drawing techniques is always encouraged. Drawing materials are provided as well as music and drinks, all within the gallery showroom surrounded by talented artists to inspire you. Info: info@monarchfineart.com. Thursday, March 1, 6pm; **free**. Monarch Arredon Contemporary, 862 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

COMEDY

Comedy Hypnotist During the show you will hear two people speaking a completely made-up language and they will understand every word the other is saying, and more. Friday, March 2, 8pm; Saturday, March 3, 8pm; \$24-\$34. Ocean Beach Playhouse, 4944 Newport Avenue. (OCEAN BEACH)

Nick Thune He performs comedy to sold out crowds across the country and around the world and has been featured at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival, South Bay Southwest, Bonnaroo, The Moontower Comedy Festival, The Dublin Comedy Festival, and The Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Thursday, March 1,

You look up at them and their shadows across the valley.
Your smile relaxes, warms up, shares the sky and ground with no one.

Your glance takes in the entire landscape without love, but then
You allow that spring may overwhelm us any moment; I gather

Your silhouette by heart; it is the short memory of ice. The weather
Is turning chalky blue. (The day's vanishing point held us where we stood.)

A slight breeze stirs the sleeping forest from its impenetrable mood;
The cold air pushes our shadows together. We page through the horizon

To search for once-familiar trees, now a woodpile almost forgotten.

Persephone

Imagine time the place where shadows grow
Divine, and spread like fans that winnow noon
From dawn — and dusk from rotting bones in snow —
What marks the melting margins of the sun.

Then conjure thoughts of breadth: from apse
And nave to chthonic crypt, from heaven's womb
To Hades' tomb. What fires the cold synapse?
(What Aprils march to February's doom?)

The nothing left is less than chaff — a creed
Of stones. What's gone is everything that lasts:
The bittersweet and many-seeded need
To see beyond the light that darkness casts.

Where ice has borrowed, spring is lent away:
A princess comes to live in exile's realms,
Her pert magnificence at close of day —
Though holding fast, reveals — and overwhelms.



Joseph O'Brien lives on a homestead with his wife and nine children in rural Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin. He is poetry editor and staff writer (Set 'Em Up, Joe! and Sheep and Goats) for the *San Diego Reader*.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

8pm; Friday, March 2, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$18. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Contra Dance Modern American folk dancing to live music. No partner necessary, no experience necessary. Live music by Crooked and calling by Frannie Marr. Beginner's

lesson at 7:30, open dancing from 8 pm. Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; \$10. Trinity United Methodist Church, 3030 Thorn Street. (NORTH PARK)

Dance Auditions Kruciala Element training teams return. Since our inception in 2002, we have specialized in training all levels of dancers, from beginning to advanced. On March 4, we're opening our studio to look for adults who want to become better dancers and join the family. Info: info@kedance.com. Sunday, March 4,

6:45pm; \$15. Dancehouse, 1466 F Street. (EAST VILLAGE)

University Dance Company SDSU's top dance performance ensemble presents their culminating performance of the year highlighting work choreographed by faculty and special guest artists. SDSU Dance Studio Theatre, ENS 200. Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm; Sunday, March 4, 2pm; \$10-\$20. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

FOOD & DRINK

Coffee Hub & Café Turns One It has been one year since Point Loma welcomed its first bike-themed café. In celebration of this anniversary, owner Sandy Hanshaw and staff invite bike lovers, coffee addicts, and San Diegans seeking a unique weekend outing. Kicking off at 10am, guests can expect locally roasted coffee and conversation, live music, a complimentary slice of homemade anniversary cake, and discounts throughout the store. A funky bike relay race is set to commence around the café involving two wheels, four people, a full cup of coffee, and a mission to spill the least amount, one-handed, for a prize. Saturday, March 3, 10am; **free**. Coffee Hub & Cafe, 2907 Shelter Island Drive #107. (POINT LOMA)

Winery Tasting Grand Opening Twin Oaks Valley Winery invites you to the Grand Opening of our Tasting Room. We have been making wine since 2013, but now are opening up a tasting room of our own. Located in San Marcos, we only source our grapes from San Diego County farmers. We are local, local, local. Two-for-one tastings, games, and music: Saturday, 2-4 pm, reggae beats by E. Lamour and Mystik Duo; Sunday, 2-4 pm, R&B by James Ian. Saturday, March 3, 1pm; Sunday, March 4, 1pm; **free**. Twin Oaks Valley Vintners, 1575 Mulberry Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

FOR KIDS

Festival of Science & Engineering: Expo Day The 10th annual San Diego Festival of Science & Engineering, presented by the Illu-

America's Premier Jewelry & Bead Faires

GEM FAIRE

MARCH 2, 3, 4

DEL MAR
Del Mar Fairgrounds
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SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Kaleo Church

Contact: First Baptist Church of El Cajon, 190 E. Douglas Avenue, El Cajon; kaleochurch.com

Membership: 100

Pastor: Tim Cain

Age: 40

Born: Wheaton, IL

Formation: Moody Bible Institute, Chicago; Westminster Seminary West, Escondido

Years Ordained: 14

San Diego Reader: How long do you spend writing your sermon?

Pastor Tim Cain: I try to go book-by-book through the Bible, and typically spend Thursdays, half a day Friday, and half a day Saturday — approximately two full days. If the sermon is not going well, I have to get up ear-

lier to make sure it's where it needs to be. Our church meets on a Saturday night at the First Baptist Church of El Cajon, so I have to have my sermon done by around 2 p.m. on Saturday. We're a church plant and we're small, so we want to focus giving our money to our staff who take care of the people of our church and on mission to reach the lost and take care of the poor around the world and in El Cajon. We divide our budget into those two areas and try to spend as little as we can on a building. First Baptist lets us meet at their church for a very reasonable rate, and since they're set up as a church we can give the

majority of our money to these other priorities.

SDR: What's the mission of your church?

PC: Our name, Kaleo, comes from the Greek of the New Testament. It means the "called ones" or the "called-out ones." I take it from I Peter 2:9, which talks about God's people being called out of darkness into his marvelous light to proclaim the excellence of the one who called us out of that darkness in the first place. We at Kaleo see ourselves as being called out of that darkness. Among the things we do which we're thankful for as a church, we invite the homeless of El Cajon to our house. My wife makes dinner for them. We

don't see it as a soup kitchen; we call it feasting with the poor. We eat together and then we do a little Bible study. That's been happening for about nine years. The walls it has broken down and the friendships we made from that — some of my best friends are people we met on the streets on a Friday night, and some of them are off the streets now and doing very well. One of our children is adopted from a mom we met on a Friday night.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PC: The Bible teaches that there are two paths. One is all sorrow and hate and misery, and all the worst experiences we had in life are a



Daughter Tayla, wife Abbey, Tim Cain, and son Malachi

drop in the bucket of what that world is without any of the balancing joy and beauty we have experienced in this world. That's the world we all deserve because of our rebellion against God, and because we thought we could do better than God. But that's what makes the Gos-

pel so beautiful. God sent his son to endure that terrible world of hell for us, and to take our place and die on the cross the death we deserve so he can offer us the world he deserves, a world of love, peace, joy and beauty. The

greatest experiences we had in this world are a little taste of what that world will be like for all eternity.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

mina Foundation. Expo Day is the official kick-off celebration for festival week featuring hundreds of exhibitors and gives attendees a major preview of what's to come to area businesses, schools, libraries, and museums throughout the county during Festival Week, eight days of learning, hands-on activities, innovation, and behind-the-scenes opportunities for students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adults and families to ignite their passion for STEM education. Saturday, March 3, 10am; free. Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

LECTURES

Neighborhoods History Conference The Congress of History of San Diego & Imperial Counties will hold the 53rd Annual History Conference: *Believe It or Not - It Happened in My Neighborhood! Adventures in Local History.* This conference goes local with the comical, tragic, poignant histories of neighborhoods throughout our region. Info: historicsandiego@aol.com. Friday, March 2, 8:30am;

Saturday, March 3, 8:30am; \$15-\$35. Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal. (POINT LOMA)

Reid Lecture Series in Mathematics Distinguished author and mathematical historian William Dunham of Bryn Mawr College will deliver a lecture entitled *Your Humble Servant, Isaac Newton.* He will discuss interesting examples of Newton's letters. From his earliest known letter (where he scolded a friend for being drunk), through exchanges with Leibniz, Locke, and others, and up to documents written when he ran the Mint in London, these writings give glimpses of Isaac Newton at his best and his worst. In the process Professor Dunham will discuss Newton's first great mathematical discovery: the generalized binomial theorem and its use in approximating square roots. In the Student Union. Thursday, March 1, 5:30pm; free. CSU San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Sierra Talks Sierra Club: Anza-Borrego Desert Region Guide For almost 40 years this resource book has been the most comprehensive guide for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, and the surrounding region including federal Bureau of Land Management desert lands. The new expanded 6th edition includes: 200 trails for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians; expanded park areas in the Laguna Mountains; new interpretive panels and cultural preserves; and an updated pocket map. Trader Joes. Info: 858-569-6005. Friday, March 2, 6:30pm; free. Joyce Beers Uptown Community Center, 3900 Vermont Street. (HILLCREST)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Buskers After Dark When the sun sets, Seaport Village lets the street performers loose for *Buskers After Dark*. As part of the 12th annual Spring Busker Festival, *Buskers After Dark* will return for a night of remarkable street performances — from fire breathers to sword swallowers — to wow and delight guests. The untamed show will feature a DJ, food and drink specials, and busker acts best suited for those over 18. Saturday, March 3, 7pm; free. Seaport Village, 849 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Franchouillards & Francophones Picnic Make new friends, eat, play football and the famous French petanque! Bring your beach toys and children, and eat and drink with us! Info: catherine-blackrealtor@gmail.com. Saturday, March 3, 10am; free. Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)

SPOKEN WORD

Poetry Party: The Poetical Party of Choice Read your favorite poetry, listen, and make the scene. Be bold, adventurous, and experience first hand the power of the spoken word. We are also looking to create a performance poetry group. Free admission, free spirits, and free coffee. In the Santa Fe Room. Friday, March 2, 2:30pm; free. Balboa Park Club & Ballroom, 2144 Pan American Road West. (BALBOA PARK)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Finish Chelsea's Run 5K Run/Walk 8th Annual Finish Chelsea's Run in honor of Chelsea King. The event will take place in Balboa Park where Chelsea loved to visit and where she practiced with the San Diego Youth Symphony. The event will feature a competitive 5K race and fun run/walk, family festival, children's activities, team competition, entertainment, and refreshments. Saturday, March 3,

7:30am; Sixth Avenue and Palm. (BALBOA PARK)

Mickey Cafagna Memorial Golf Classic The Farmers Insurance/Cathy Peterson 5th Annual Mickey Cafagna Memorial Golf Classic, presented by the Poway Chamber of Commerce, gets underway with a shotgun start at 8:30 am (scramble format), followed by an awards luncheon at 2 pm. The day includes a chance to win prizes. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Poway Chapter of Soroptimist International, which works to empower women and children. Friday, March 2, 7:30am; \$150. Rancho Bernardo

Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Drive. (RANCHO BERNARDO)

Undy Run/Walk During the San Diego Undy Run/Walk, participants run in underwear-themed outfits to get people talking about the often tabooed disease of colon cancer. The Undy Run/Walk is a unique, family-friendly run/walk created by the Colon Cancer Alliance. Participants receive a pair of boxer shorts and are encouraged to run in underwear-themed outfits to get people talking about this often tabooed disease. Saturday, March 3, 7am; Mission Bay Park, Vacation Isle, off Ingraham Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

ROAM-○-RAMA

continued from page 30

County businesses and were active in the historical societies.

Begin the hike in the sandy wash at the fence, which is at the bottom of the Sweeney Pass Grade, and head southeast. Follow the first canyon to the right that heads south. The canyon will narrow, twist, and turn, and eventually head east where it will crest and open up to Jojoba Wash, which leads to Dos Cabezas. Boulders, a small dry waterfall, and rocks in the canyon will slow progress. As the canyon opens up, look to the left (northeast) for a low point on the ridge.

After you work your way up the ridge from the canyon, the route leads to a mesa and an overview of Jojoba Wash. Begin working your way northeast over the mesa and down to a small wash that will lead to the north over a pass and back down to Sweeney Wash. Look for a highly visible quartz-covered outcrop to the north that marks the direction of the route leading back to Sweeney Wash. Carefully work your way down boulders and dry waterfalls to the wash below. You are now following another possible route of the old freight road. Continue west and then northwest to where it opens up. You will note your original entry into the canyon on your left. Follow the wash back out to the fence and your parked vehicle.

Typical plants that may be encountered on this

hike include brittlebush, teddy-bear cholla, cat-claw acacia, creosote, ocotillo, desert tobacco, chuparosa, desert lavender, white-stemmed milkweed, thick-leaved ground cherry, and both species of purplish-cast krameria with their grayish green leaves and orchid-like flowers — white rhatany and pima rhatany. Check the spherical fruit of krameria to identify the species of this semi-parasite. The fruit of both plants looks like a medieval mace. The white rhatany fruit is round and has barbed-tipped spines while the pima rhatany is more heart-shaped and its spines are erect with no barbs at the end.

Look closely at the various pegmatite dikes found on this hike — twisted and turned in every direction by earth movement in the Elsinore Fault Zone. The dikes are formed underground when igneous rock is cooling and forms cracks allowing molten material to squeeze into the cracks. Sandwiched between cooler rocks, the molten material takes longer to cool, allowing like minerals to develop. Look for common minerals like quartz, mica, feldspar, and black tourmaline (schorl) in these pegmatite dikes.

Canyoneers are San Diego Natural History Museum volunteers trained to lead interpretive nature walks that teach appreciation for the great outdoors. For a schedule of free public hikes, refer to the San Diego Natural History Museum website. Hike descriptions are also found in Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors.

GOSPEL COMEDY JAM
Saturday, March 10 @ 7pm
\$15 Advance Donation
\$20 Donation @ The Door

Hosted by comedian Edwonda White,
featuring Rubyn Warren II &
headliner McClintan Beal

The Church of Yeshua Pa Manifest

1819 Englewood Drive
Lemon Grove, CA 91945



Reader

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The Search for the Best Taco
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 OB Brewery • Modern Times Beer • SouthNorte Beer Co
 Home Brewing Co • Circle 9 Brewing
 Latchkey brewing company • Bitter Brothers Brewing Co
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VENDORS

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 Mascarpone Cheesecake by Chef Turok • Cruiser Taco • Farm Fresh To You • Taco Factory
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 Tacos "El Cabron" • Tortillas de Lola • The Duck Dive • Tacos El Rorro • Tury's Tacos
 Rasta Taco Catering • King and Queen Cantina • Tocaya Organica • Fish Pit
 Los corines • Boogie's Tacos • Aqui es Texcoco • Ephes Tacos • Curadero • Teriyaki Grill
 Spunky Makings • Lucha Libre Taco Shop • Corazon de torta guisados and grills • TakoBar SD
 Enchilamesta Catering La Fuente Mexican food • Eat Your Heart Out Kitchen + Bar
 Chiquita's Mexican Restaurant • San Telmo • Argentine Cafe Tortilla N' Emily's Tacos and Birria
 The Smoking Gun • Dave & Buster's San Diego • The Holy Moly Guacamole Gourmet truck
 Patron's Corner • The Local Downtown • Fred's Mexican Cafe • Backyard Kitchen & Tap • Tacos Mimi
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WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, MAR 1	2:16	0.6'	3:03	-1.5'	8:23	6.8'	9:20	5.3'
FRI, MAR 2	3:00	0.4'	3:39	-1.1'	9:06	6.5'	9:55	5.4'
SAT, MAR 3	3:44	0.3'	4:13	-0.6'	9:49	6'	10:30	5.4'
SUN, MAR 4	4:30	0.4'	4:47	0'	10:32	5.4'	11:06	5.3'

Waves (HORSESHOE)

Height	Direction	Interval
1'-2'	SW	16 seconds
1'-2'	WSW	5 seconds
1'-2'	W	7 seconds
1'-2'	W	7 seconds

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

EVENTS

Famosa Slough Nature and Bird Walk

Monthly nature and bird walks are hosted by the Friends of Famosa Slough and are held on the third Saturday of each month at 1 pm. The main goals of Friends of Famosa Slough are to help restore the slough and to promote public awareness of the importance of wetlands. Meet at the kiosk by the corner of Famosa Blvd. and W. Pt. Loma Blvd. Saturday, March 3, 1pm; **free**. Famosa Slough, West Point Loma Boulevard and Famosa Boulevard. (OCEAN BEACH)

Full Moon SUP Paddle: San Diego Bay

Enjoy the full moon rising over the San Diego skyline with Happy Healthy Existence and California Paddle Board Tours. Reservations required. Paddlers will be provided with all basic paddle boarding equipment (board, paddle, life jacket). Thursday, March 1, 4:45pm; \$35. California Paddle Board Tours, 1450 Harbor Island Drive

Grunion Run Times 2018

The times given for each date reflect the probable two-hour interval during which a spawning run may occur. The second hour is usually better. The best runs normally occur on the second and third nights of a four-night period. March, June, July, and August, grunion can be harvested by hand only. Those 16 years of age and older need a California Fishing License. The runs during the months of April and May are observation only, and grunion cannot be harvested. Where the forecast run starts at or after midnight, the date of the previous evening is shown. Thursday, March 1, 9:30pm; Friday, March 2, 10pm; Saturday, March 3, 10:35pm; **free**. Beaches throughout Southern California

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, March 3, 2pm; **free**. Mangelsen Images of Nature Gallery, 7916 Girard Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

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. Info: 619-222-3800. Thursdays, 10am; **free**. Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Tidepooling Adventure with Birch Aquarium

Visit a local tide pool to learn how these amazing habitats and their inhabitants truly survive between a rock and a hard place. The optimal season for tidepooling is December to March when minus tides reveal wider beaches and tide pools teeming with life. During those months, you can sign up for a Tidepooling Adventure where our trained naturalists will show you how to tread lightly during your visit and help you discover the wonderful world of tide pools. Ages 2+. Under 15 must be accompanied by a paid adult. Location determined based on date. Saturday, March 3, 4pm; \$13-\$16. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (LA JOLLA)

Waterski and Wakeboard

The Convair Waterski Club is active year-round on Mission Bay. The club provides two ski boats for water-skiing and wakeboarding, with instruction and equipment available on request. Nominal fee per run. Meet at the south end of Crown Point Beach, 3500 Crown Point Drive. Guests of any skill level are welcome. Info: convairwaterski-club@gmail.com. Thursdays, 5pm; Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, December 23, Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)



Joshua Beneventi: "The ocean is kind of a part of me."

Longboard first

NAME: JOSHUA BENEVENTI

AGE: 24

FROM: OCEAN BEACH

LOCATION: OCEAN BEACH, NEAR THE JETTY

Joshua Beneventi has been surfing Ocean Beach since he was a kid.

"I've been surfing on and off throughout my whole life and I'm just getting back into it. The ocean has always been very important to me. I've always been in the ocean in one way or another; it's kind of a part of me. It just makes me feel good."

Beneventi also surfs PB and Scripps, but Ocean Beach is "just home." On this particular day, Beneventi is surfing with a longboard, which he recommends for beginner surfers.

"The board I have is a Chris Ruddy. It's a mini drifter, so it's like a longboard but it handles with a little more

shortboard-ness. I would definitely recommend a longboard for new surfers. They have these foam boards that you can get at Costco that everyone has. Unless someone has experience already with snowboarding or skating, longboards are always recommended."

"Once you get a handle of the board and start to pop up, feel your weight around on the board a little bit, then the shortboard is better, because it has a lot more maneuverability."

— Evelyn Grimm

Highly acidic bird poop

The 39-foot-tall whale statue that greets visitors at Birch Aquarium just got a mini-makeover. Sea air, sun, chlorine, and "especially bird poop" have taken a toll on the bronze *Legacy*, a life-size breaching gray whale, calf,

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

LIFEGUARDS AND SALTY DREAMS TO THE RESCUE

From San Diego city lifeguards

Jan 25
-10:00 Swimmer: Request for Air unit to search for missing person in water that fell from Crystal Pier on 1/21/18. Air and boat units on scene. Nothing found.
-14:16 Medical: 79 year-old male with cardiac emergency at OB Pier. Lifeguard, emergency and medical

units on scene. CPR in progress, AED deployed but no shock given. Patient transported to UCSD.
-15:35 Medical: 79 year-old female fall on the beach at Tourmaline. Lifeguards, medical on scene. Patient transported to Zion.
-17:30 Other: 3 people stuck in Cave Store stairwell, no injuries. Lifeguards

on scene. Access made and all people released.

Jan 24

-12:30 Swimmer: Lifeguards respond to 911 call for cliff jumper at Sunset Cliffs. Jumper found on shore, uninjured.

Jan 23

-10:15 Other: Lifeguards respond to Point Loma Tide Pool area for 50 gallon drum in the ocean. "Tube" is anchored, unable to retrieve.

-12:37 Medical: Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond to Ocean Beach Pier for 16 year-old male with difficulty breathing. No aid.

-17:25 Medical: Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond to man down, fall on rocks. Medical transports patient to Scripps La Jolla.

Jan 22

-05:05 Other: US Coast Guard helicopter reports a white floating

object a quarter mile south of Crystal Pier. Lifeguards respond and locate a dive light in the surf off Thomas St. Apparently light was lost off Crystal Pier during the previous night's search.
-07:10 Diving: Dive recovery Incident Command established.
-12:39 Medical: Lifeguard requests medics to evaluate a 29 year old female suffering from withdrawal. Fire and medics respond and transport patient to UCSD.

Water Conditions

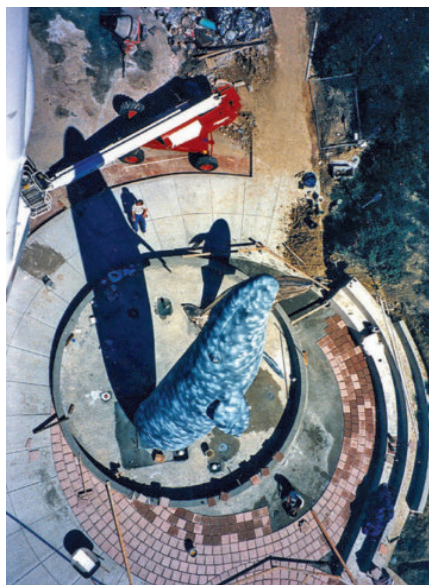
SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **58**°F HIGH **61**°F

VISIBILITY
5'-15'

Another breezy beginning to the week will push in a bump on Tuesday from waist to head high, though it will be a bit sloppy for surfing. As it drops but is still pushing a bit on Wednesday morning, it should clean-up to a more manageable wave in the expected lighter south wind. Small surf, cold air temps in the 50s, moderate breezes, and on and off rain is expected for Thursday through the weekend. Visibility should be decent, though tides and wind should keep the water a bit cloudy inside. 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



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KEVIN STEPHENS

A life-like paint job for Legacy was scrapped not long after installation in 1996.



Sculpture Conservation Studio of Los Angeles recently completed maintenance of the Legacy whale statue at Birch Aquarium.

and tail.

When the statue was installed in 1996, it was the only life-sized statue of a large whale in the world, and the second largest cast bronze sculpture in the United States. At first the artist began to apply life-like paint colors to the surface, but that idea was scrapped.

So artist Randy Puckett and his assistants created a green patina for the statue, accelerating a natural process that would normally take 30 years to change the outer color of the bronze.

“Bird poop is highly acidic — it can etch into the patina [the outer layer of the metal] and discolor it,” explained Elizabeth Patt of Sculpture Conservation Studio, also responsible for maintaining public art for the Port of San Diego. Mineral deposits from hard water in the fountain cause a white residue over the surface.

“The bright red patches you see on the whale are cuprite, a copper oxide that forms when bronze is exposed to moist air,” Patt said. “It can grow under the patina and make it pop right off.”

To remove the guano and red patches, the crew used several gentle methods. Scrubbing with Ph-balanced, biodegradable soap and distilled water broke up the acid. They used dull wooden sticks — metal tools would scratch the bronze — to flake off the cuprite. Mineral spirits helped dissolve grime and build up. A lift took two crew members to the top.

Elizabeth and the crew used a propane torch to heat the metal before applying the finishing touch: a fresh layer of hard carnauba paste wax, the same used in bowling alleys.

“An industry secret,” Elizabeth smiled.

— *Leorah Gavidor (an employee of Birch Aquarium)*

Moon Calendar

	THUR 1	SAT 3	MON 5	WED 7
MARCH				
SUNRISE	6:17	6:14	6:12	6:09
SUNSET	17:46	17:47	17:49	17:51
LENGTH OF DAY	11H 29M	11H 33M	11H 37M	11H 42M



Today's outriggers, a little faster than those first noted in the 16th Century

Human-powered speed

As first noted by Magellan's assistant in the 16th Century while in the Mariana Islands, outrigger canoes were faster and more maneuverable than any of the like-sized craft used by Europeans. The narrow canoes were fitted with an *ama*, or stabilizing float extended to the left side, and a simple sail cut for speed. And though centuries of vessel evolution brought the Europeans across the oceans, the Polynesians had been traveling by sea in the same craft as far back as their known history would allow.

Though modern outrigger canoes made of fiberglass or composite materials are faster than those the Europeans first saw, they still rely on human power when paddling. There are now some 37 outrigger racing clubs in California alone.

One such club is the San Diego Out-

rigger Canoe Club, founded in 1983 by Ex-Navy SEAL Dee VanWinkle. The club sends teams to compete in races up and down the coast of California. Today, the club membership consists of men, women, and youth whose ability levels range from Olympic-class athletes to the recreational paddler, and they welcome new prospective members or individuals of all experiences, abilities, and ages to experience canoe racing. The club is opening their Saturday sessions through the end of March to those who would like to give the sport a try. Dress accordingly.

WHEN: Saturdays through March 31, 8:30-10 a.m.

WHERE: Campland on the Bay, 2211 Pacific Beach Drive, Mission Bay

COST: Free

— *Daniel Powell*

REMEMBER ALBACORE? IS THIS THE NEW NORMAL?

Dock Totals Feb 18 – Feb 24: 791 anglers aboard 38 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 521 yellowtail, 124 calico bass, 322 sand bass, 880 rockfish, 22 whitefish, 6 lingcod, 18 bonito, 5 halibut, 475 sculpin, 156 sanddab, 1 finescale triggerfish, 9 sheephead, 4 rubberlip seaperch, 1 gray smoothhound shark, 22 California lizardfish, and 40 spiny lobster.

Saltwater: Yellowtail showed quite well at the Coronado Islands for the boats that made it there during a week that featured off and

on blustery conditions and oft-unfriendly seas. Still, by week's end, over 500 of the jacks from 10 to 25 pounds had been boated by a relatively light angler load of under 800 for the seven days. Most of the yellowtail were caught on yoyo and surface irons, while fly-lined and weighted live bait had poor results. That some of the fish are up in the water column is a good sign, even if some boats were reporting water temps less than 60 degrees in the area.

The rockfish bite south of the border has been great and that should translate to our local bottom-fishing spots as the season reopens this week on March 1st after a two month closure in US waters from Point Conception south to the border. With that, the

angler loads and rockfish counts should increase quite a bit over the next couple weeks, weather permitting.

Though no bluefin tuna made the count this past week, a few spots of fish were metered and spotted off the Baja coast within 1.5 day range by some of the boats working back up the line on multi-day trips. There are still spots of them outside in US waters near San Clemente Island, and again, weather permitting, boats are scheduling 1.5 day trips to both areas and we should see them in the counts again soon. That said, bluefin have been known to turn tight-lipped as the water cools, and even if spotted, this time of year can be tough to get them to bite.

From the captain

“And the eyes. The fatty deposits at the back of the sockets are delicious. Use your chopsticks.”

Eight bucks,” says my friend Jim. “For a fish’s head?” I ask. “You’d be surprised how much meat’s on it.”

He tells me about sitting next to a Kenyan couple in Saiko, the sushi place in Coronado (with a branch in North Park), who asked for this deep-fried yellowtail’s head and got it at half the price of all the other sushi offerings. “Such a deal!” he said. “I paid \$13 for our sushi roll.”

So, I’m heading into Saiko, this Arctic Monday evening. Inside, it’s toasty-warm. And crowded. I’m glad. Need company. And turns out Mondays they have an all-night happy hour.

I sit up to the sushi bar. Different-colored slabs of fish sit at eye level behind glass. Up on the wall, a samurai sword and a foot-high Godzilla fill a shelf.

On my right, a row of guys and gals are talking skiing. Sounds like they’ve hit every resort west of the Rockies.

To my left, this kid and his mom. Except this ain’t no ordinary kid.

“Let me have Saiko salmon and yellowtail belly, with white soy,” he says to the sushi chef behind, Dan. “And we’ll make up our own poke.”

He does it with the authority of some sushi chef from Osaka.

“How old are you, kid?” I ask.

“Ten, but I’ve been eating this stuff for five years.”

“This is Shane,” says his mom, Michelle. “We call him our sushi ‘fish-a-nado.”

Oh, good one. ‘Cause here we are in ‘Nado.

I check the HH menu. It goes from edamame for \$2.50 to Saiko (with salmon and yellowtail) for \$8.50.

“But do you have fish heads?” I ask Caroline, the waitress.

“Aah,” she says. “Depends. Let me check.”

She comes back. “Yes, *kabuto*, the head, and we have *kama*, too. The collar. Yellowtail.”

Twenty minutes later, the head of a yellowtail tuna, deep-fried, hollow-eyed, grimac-

ing rather than grinning, arrives with a slice of lemon in his mouth. I feel two ways about this guy, because yellowtails are warm-blooded, like us. And these suckers can sheer through the water at up to 50 mph. Who’d cut down such a performer?

One of the sushi chefs, Amberly, sees me hesitate. “Start off with the cheek. It’s especially rich and tender.” She tweaks at the space above the left jaw with a hook and pulls out a round wad of pinkish meat. I take it, try it, and, yes: rich and tender.

“Just pick at it, anywhere,” she says. “The meat at the back of the *kabuto* and on the *kama* is thick. And the fins: you can chew them. And the eyes. The fatty deposits at the back of the sockets are delicious. Use your chopsticks or your fingers.”

Uh-huh. Feel positively cannibalistic poking into the blackened eyes and breaking off fins. Then again, they are so tasty. Squirting lemon helps, and so does dipping into the soy sauce and sipping from the green tea I got a pot of (\$2.75, refillable), and taking the odd swatch of sticky rice.

“From Japan?” I ask Amberly, pointing to my yellowtail.

“No, San Diego, actually. I purchased it from the captain of a local fishing boat called *Plan B*, two days ago, 6:30 in the morning, down at the Tuna Harbor dockside market. He caught it right off San Diego. Most of our fish is local.”

Huh. I tuck back in. Even the bony-looking parts of this fish head have edible skin. And Amberly’s right. The shoulder collar is thick with the most delicious seared meat. Tender, moist, goes on for forever. And the fins are not as tough as they look.

“The irony,” says Amberly (who trained at Nobu in Denver), “is a lot of people can’t handle a fish head. More fish heads get thrown away, and all because, I guess, they look too much like fish heads.”

Shane and his mom Michelle, meantime, have been getting through their Saiko roll with New Zea-



Michelle, Shane. At 10, he knows sushi



My yellowtail head. Kinda gruesome, kinda delicious.



Surprising combo: vanilla ice cream with tuna *chicharrones*



Sushi: blood-orange chutney makes the difference

land salmon, yellowtail belly, and imitation crab meat (\$13.50). “Micro cilantro on top,” says Shane, “plus avocado and blood-orange chutney. Awesome.”

“Hey, Shane. Would you like some eel sauce and ice cream?” asks Amberly. “I have a new idea for it.”

“They love him here because he’s insatiably curious,” says Michelle.

“Awesome,” says Shane.

“Eel sauce, ice cream?” I say.

“Don’t worry,” Shane says.

“Eel sauce is really just a sweetened soy sauce. And it works great with the vanilla,” says Amberly. “Okay, Shane, try this.”

She shakes what seem like little brown granules onto the top of the spoonful samples of ice cream they brought around the counter. For all three of us.

“My invention,” she says. “It’s like crumbled *chicharrones*, but made of smoked fish flesh, not

pork.”

Oh, yes. See what she means. The savory twang on the vanilla and sweet soy is terrific.

But the icing on this cake? I go to pay my bill. This giant fish head, with rice, cost me all of \$10. With the tea, total’s \$12.75. And I’m totally bloated.

Awesome. And, hey, turns out “Saiko” means just that: “best,” “perfect,” “awesome.”

Bottom line: fish heads are my new go-to. Even if you have to get used to looking at it while it looks back at you. Your job: ask for one at every sushi joint you go to. You know they’ve got them out back, for a song. ■

The Place: Saiko Sushi, 116 Orange Avenue, Coronado, 619-435-0868; and at 2884 University Avenue, North Park, 619-677-3907

Coronado Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.; 4:30–9 p.m. (till 10 p.m. Friday); Saturday, noon–10 p.m.; Sunday, noon–9 p.m.; North Park hours: 4 p.m.–10 p.m. daily, till 11 p.m., Friday, Saturday

Happy Hour (Coronado only): 4:30–6 p.m. daily. All night Mondays

Prices: Happy-hour appetizers include edamame, \$2.50; shrimp shumai (dumplings), \$5.50; seaweed salad, \$3.50; pork gyoza (potstickers), \$5.50; California roll, \$5.50; Saiko roll (salmon, yellowtail), \$8.50; spicy albacore (lunchtime), \$12.50; ginger chili pork wings, \$13; grand roll (with avocado, mango, tempura shrimp, goat cheese, macadamia nuts), \$14; yellowtail fish head, market price (around \$10)

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Burger literature

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New York's In-N-Out answer

Shake Shack, 675 Camino de la Reina, Mission Valley. Shake Shack has landed in San Diego and appears to be multiplying. The East Coast burger chain launched in the UTC mall last summer and opened its second Mission Valley location at the end of 2017, just before announcing future locations in Del Mar and Little Italy. And it all started with a New York City food stand.

When Shake Shack emerged in the 2000s, it was like New York finally had its answer to In-N-Out. The Shack offered everything In-N-Out had been denying the Big Apple by refusing to expand east of the Mississippi: distinct branding, winky “secret” menu items, and a legion of fans hyping its burgers with cult-ish devotion.

Some New Yorkers have even suggested their burger chain is better than ours. We’ve politely disagreed.

There’s been enough written on the topic since that it’s practically become its own literature. Google search results show articles and videos debating which burger is better have proliferated on the web going back to at least 2008.

Just as New Yorkers have heard about West Coast burgers forever, word of Shake Shack has made it out here in recent years. Last time I visited New York, I took time out of my rigorous pastrami-and-Chinese-food schedule to stop by a Shake Shack to see how it compared.

And no sooner had I taken a seat in the new Mission Valley location that I heard the party at the next table compare the two burger joints.

But we might be comparing Shake Shack to the wrong California restaurant chain. Back in 2015, Union Square Hospitality Group, the company that founded Shake Shack, bought a minority stake in Tender Greens, a Los Angeles fast-casual chain that has thrived in Southern California during the same time frame.

Even as Shake Shack has started to colonize Southern California, the people of New York are starting to get their first taste of Tender Green restaurants, beginning with a Union Square location opening last weekend. And I think they got the better end of that trade.

It was my opinion, and my roommate’s, and the unanimous conclusion of a large group of teenagers seated around us at the Mission Valley Shake Shack, that In-N-Out burgers are better. No argument. We’re hard-wired to crave the Double-Double’s signature flavor; something the Shack can’t match.

Meanwhile, my single-patty Shake Burger with American cheese cost \$5.69. The equivalent In-N-Out cheeseburger goes for \$2.60, just down the road. While a Double-Double costs \$3.75, the Shack’s two-patty answer goes for \$8.49.

The big difference is you’re getting a cleaner product. Shake Shack pledges that its beef is 100 percent natural, with “No hormones and no antibiotics ever.” While In-N-Out made a promise a couple years ago it would transition away from antibiotic-treated beef, it has yet to follow through. Or adjust prices as a result.

Thing is, natural ingredients is the selling point for Tender Greens, too. That chain’s brought chef-

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The new Shake Shack location (not located at the mall) in Mission Valley.

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driven, locally sourced food to four locations in San Diego, and I see them all adding value to our fast-casual market, at prices equivalent to a Shake double-patty burger and fries (also, order a shake).

And now Tender Greens will do the same in New York, while we get a burger joint in return.

If you ask me, we’re all set with burger chains. If New York City was going to send us one of its famous eateries, I can think of a few Manhattan spots that fill a greater need in San Diego. For example, Union Square Hospitality also owns Gramercy Park, which has both a Michelin star and a James Beard medal. One of those would go over really well around here.

by Ian Anderson

Authentic in ten ways

The *Pad Thai Stand*, at weekly farmers’ markets. Look near the top of any Thai restaurant menu in America, and you’re sure to find one Thai dish in particular: pad Thai. However, as chef Nattapon “Nat” Thitathan explained to me in a recent email, there’s not just one style of Pad Thai. The popular street food — rice noodles stir-fried with egg and



Three takes on Pad Thai (left to right: Chaiya, Ayutthaya, and Chiang-Mai).

vegetables in a sweet and tangy sauce — varies depending which part of Thailand you visit.

This might come as news to some fans of Thai restaurants in the U.S., where Thitathan has heard customers complain that their pad Thai isn’t “authentic” because it doesn’t match their past experiences with the dish. He contacted me to say, yes, that pad Thai probably is authentic, but that “The cooks probably just came from a different region of Thailand.”

Different from, say, Bangkok in central Thailand, where the tamarind paste, meat, and vegetable takes of pad Thai we typically see in San Diego may be found.

Central style is just one offering of the Pad Thai Stand, which serves a variety of pad Thai dishes at weekly farmers’ markets. Thitathan operates the stand, and when I paid an anonymous visit

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to his Hillcrest booth, he was downright evangelical in telling customers the varied pad Thai experiences. "I want you to dream about pad Thai all week," he told my friend as a pile of noodles, chicken, and vegetables sizzled on a flat-top grill.

While he can list no fewer than ten pad Thai styles, here he offers a mix of four: Northern, Central, Southern, and Ayutthaya, which is a city 50 miles north of Bangkok. All are available with vegetables, chicken, or shrimp.

His northern take hails from Chiang Mai, in the north of Thailand near the border of Myanmar, incorporating peanut oil and massaman curry into the tamarind-sauce base. The southern take — inspired by the town of Chaiya, on the long, slender Malay peninsula Thailand shares with Malaysia — pairs the tamarind with chili peppers, shallots, and roasted coconut milk.

The Ayutthaya takes a different approach altogether, replacing tamarind with a mixture of dates and cranberries. Thitathan says either northern or southern styles can be made with the base Ayutthaya sauce, but I went for the standard ver-

sion with vegetables, which include cabbage and water chestnuts. To experience the difference, I tried a tamarind base for both northern and southern styles, with chicken. All three featured copious amounts of mung-bean sprouts.

I found the Ayutthaya pad Thai to be most intriguing. Due to the inclusion of cranberries, I went in thinking it might prove more tart than those with a tamarind base, but the dates were prevalent, giving it an earthier quality. All three included a touch of cane sugar to lend sweetness, but the Ayutthaya wound up the least sweet, which I liked.

The northern style tasted both the sweetest and most tart. The curry paste and peanut flavors did add complex midrange flavors to balance the tamarind, particularly noticeable in the bits of fried egg, but fans of brighter Southeast Asian dishes will likely gravitate to this version.

The southern Chaiya gets my vote. The coconut came through subtly, the chili peppers less so. The balanced spiciness aided the dish in my opinion. I might be more likely to order pad Thai in restaurants if it tasted like this.

But pad Thai's most commonly a street food, so ordering at a farmers' market seems just about right.

The Pad Thai Stand may be found at Oceanside's sunset market on Thursdays, Del Mar on Saturdays, Hillcrest on Sundays, and one at the Lawrence Welk resort on Monday afternoons.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK

BrunchCon San Diego The food + drink festival all about brunch, now in its third year, is kicking off its 2018 tour in America's Finest City. Your ticket includes one brunch bite from each of 30 vendors + an open mimosa bar and Bloody Mary bar provided by Ketel One. Sunday, March 4, 9am; \$45-\$85. Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier, 1000 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Coffee Hub & Café Turns One

It has been one year since Point Loma welcomed its first bike-themed café. In celebration of this anniversary, owner Sandy Hanshaw and staff invite bike lovers, coffee addicts, and San Diegans seeking a unique weekend outing. Kicking off at 10am, guests can expect locally roasted coffee and conversation, live music, a complimentary slice of homemade anniversary cake, and discounts throughout the store. A funky bike relay race is set to commence around the café involving two wheels, four people, a full cup of coffee, and a mission to spill the least amount, one-handed, for a prize. Saturday, March 3, 10am; free. Coffee Hub & Café, 2907 Shelter Island Drive #107. (POINT LOMA)

Winery Tasting Grand Opening

Twin Oaks Valley Winery invites you to the Grand Opening of our Tasting Room. We have been making wine since 2013, but now are opening up a tasting room of our own. Located in San Marcos, we only source our grapes from San Diego County farmers. We are local, local, local. Two-for-one tastings, games, and music: Saturday, 2-4 pm, reggae beats by E. Lamour and Mystik Duo; Sunday, 2-4 pm, R&B by James Ian. Saturday, March 3, 1pm; Sunday, March 4, 1pm; free. Twin Oaks Valley Vintners, 1575 Mulberry Drive. (SAN MARCOS)

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Golden Dreams

continued from page 7

and tedious but almost noiseless. Were I a better Christian, I could probably make it an occasion for prayer. My wife, however, is manning a vacuum cleaner that sends a mechanical howl into a space built to hold silence, sermons, and song. But what can you do? She's vacuuming for the same reason I'm wiping: the house of God is a place for His people, and people are dirty even when they're clean. They leave dead skin and dust wherever they go, the corruptible hoping to overcome corruption. (My daughter runs a duster over the statues of saints, the ones who managed it. There are many of them here.) Small wonder that there's so much about good hygiene in the Mosaic law. Cleanliness really is next to godliness. It sure ain't natural.

The howl of the vacuum blends with the whine of machinery slipping in through the open stained-glass window. Outside, Little Italy is finishing up its metamorphosis into a memorial of itself, and the church is no exception. Soon, there will be no carpet to vacuum. See, money makes

everything new. I'm not a part of the grand restoration, just as I wasn't part of the original construction. I'm just maintaining, noticing the tourists as they stop in and admire the painting of the Crucifixion up front. They also point to the Virgin Mary, arriving in heaven on the ceiling. But they don't come in far enough to notice the Last Judgment in back.

But whatever else happens, the church is still a church, serving the unclean, untouristy souls that Christ said He came to save. Confessions have begun in the back under the Judgment, while a lector prepares for Mass below the Crucifixion. A heavyset man with matted hair has been here since I arrived; now he leaves, taking his huge backpack and two overstuffed grocery bags with him. A couple of developmentally disabled people wander about in sweats, while an aging, splendidly coiffed Italian in pressed jeans, bright white sneakers, and a close-fitting sportcoat sits and crosses himself rapidly, over and over.

"Thanks," says an old man in passing as I start in on the last pew. "My pleasure," I reply without thinking. Strangely, it is. ■

LETTERS

continued from page 27

Why is there always Winter or Summer Care? Is SDG&E aware that there are two other seasons? I get charged Summer rates in November and Winter rates in March (plus their generation costs, so I actually pay twice).

The reason there is a separate charge for generation is so that when they give you the low-income discount, they do not actually have to subtract it from your bill. They charge you twice, then subtract the discount so the utility company does not end up owing you and you really are not getting any discount at all.

The local generation charge it is defined as a fee "to recover the costs associated with generation power suppliers that the CPUC has determined shall be recovered from all benefiting customers." Where are these generating power suppliers, and how do they benefit me? Are we paying for Edison-

owned nuclear power plants in other states? I hope not, but given the way SDG&E customers seem to always foot the bill for whatever Edison cannot get away with charging their customers for, I do not doubt it.

San Onofre has not generated anything since 2012, and I do not recall any great benefits when it did. My friend would want me to mention that leukemia is not actually beneficial. Neither is nuclear waste on the beach. Dead whales washing up are not beneficial to beach goers or the tourism industry. That is why boat crews now go out looking for floaters in the water before their corpses get a chance to wash up on the beach.

The ocean environment will further deteriorate now that the decision has been made to bury the nuke waste on a seaside cliff without even strengthening the sea wall. Thanks, Coastal Commission! What would we do without you? Thanks for hand-selecting this bunch,

Governor Brown. Thanks for appointing those winners at the CPUC.

"CPUC" stands for California Public Utilities Commission, but SDG&E is not a public utility. They are privately owned, so the CPUC actually has no authority to bill us for anything. We San Diego Gas & Electric customers pay the highest rates anywhere in the USA, and this illegal rubber-stamping commission appointed by the governor is the reason. The CPUC benefits the governor, his family members, and the board of directors at the utility — which are also all the same thing, by the way.

What we need to do is to collect signatures for a petition to make the CPUC and Coastal Commission elected bodies, not hand-selected ones. That is only fair if they will be the ones making decisions that affect everyone. We should also outlaw 1) Having former utility board members on the CPUC or Coastal Commission, as this is a blatant conflict of inter-

est and enables a monopoly and 2) the practice of billing ratepayers for bad decisions made by private companies. This would take care of all the injustices SDG&E delivers if voters supported this ballot initiative.

Is there anyone out there who is on good terms with the California Secretary of State who might want to back such an initiative? It's not that I am unappreciative of the lawyers who work hard to get these settlements, but unless there is a law in place to outlaw the theft from utility customers the lawyer fees just get added to our SDG&E bill by the CPUC.

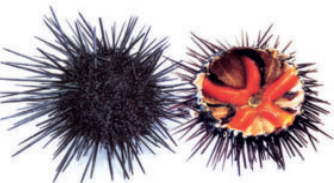
I am ready to go door-to-door for this cause, but I'm going to need some back up and some help gathering signatures. I will do it alone, if necessary, but would have to wait until certain important political officeholders have changed, and I hopefully will not get wildfired in the meantime.

Laurel Kaskurs
Oceanside

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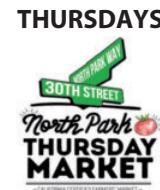


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The Boathouse: *Daily, 2:30-5pm:* \$4 house margarita, chips & salsa, \$5 Cuervo Gold margarita, Karl Strauss, sangria, \$6 Cuban mojito. \$6 nachos, shrimp cocktails, jalapeno poppers,

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Horus Aged Ales gone in two seconds

One of Oceanside's newest beer companies sold its first bottles of beer to the public last week, but you probably didn't get one.

Horus Aged Ales doesn't have a public tasting room, nor even the familiar stainless steel brew tanks visible at most brewing facilities. What it does have are a hundred oak barrels filled with beer and a prolific brewer who's worked with some of the industry's best, despite working full-time as an aerospace-industry accountant.

According to Kyle Harrop, he's not giving up his accounting work anytime soon. "I want to continue my day-job," he insists. "I love it. This brewery thing is more of a side project."

With a satisfying career and

a young family at home, Harrop couldn't make the commitment to brewing he deemed necessary to justify investing in a costly 15-barrel brewhouse. Instead, he's assembled a small-barrel house, just big enough to store beers aging in oak that once contained the likes of bourbon, brandy, gin, and both red and white wines.

Prior to the bottle-release, Horus Aged Ales had only served beer at beer festivals — and only since December. Nevertheless, 2017 proved an active year for its brewer: Harrop participated in 55 beer collaborations.

Several of these beers were made locally, at breweries such as **Pizza Port**, **Rip Current Brewing**, and **Abnormal Beer Co.** However, the majority were brewed out of town, as Harrop traveled 16,000 miles to visit beer companies throughout the U.S. including **Alvarado Street Brewing** in Monterey, California; **Great Notion Brewing** in Portland, Oregon; and **J. Wakefield Brewing** in Miami, Florida.

"Most of them are friends from the past that I've run into at different beer festivals and industry events," Harrop says. Active in both homebrewing and bottle-share networks over the past decade-plus, Harrop has developed relationships with an international cadre of brewers. With no brewhouse of his own, he's worked as a gypsy brewer, visiting contacts at their breweries and working together to develop

and produce beer recipes.

Since Horus doesn't have the equipment to make fresh beer, Harrop continues to brew this way and hopes to release fresh pastry stouts and IPAs in conjunction with fellow San Diego



Brewer Kyle Harrop stands before a rack of barrels at his brewery, Horus Aged Ales

PHOTOGRAPH BY REVAN SOLARES

brewers over the course of the year. But thus far, the focus has been filling those barrels.

For Horus's first bottle-release, Harrop reproduced 11 of his collaboration beers, which he blended and aged in a Pappy van Winkle bourbon barrel. Dubbed Oceanside's 11, this specific blend is composed of stouts and barley wines.

Announced via Instagram, 480 bottles went on sale on BrownPaperTickets.com at noon on February 20th. In the time it took you to read this sentence, the bottles were gone.

"I never thought that this would sell out in literally two seconds," Harrop posted to social media. He later told the *Reader* he was "blown away by the response" and that the bottle-sale page received 51,000 hits.

He plans to release more beers beginning in March, and the bulk of Horus releases will be the style of beer he's best known for: mixed fermentation ales. Harrop's sours are principally brewed using a wild yeast he cultivated from berries in his backyard and has developed over the past 12 years by harvesting the dregs of lambics and other Belgian sour ales. He says it possesses a lot of citric character, some stone fruit, and plenty of funk.

Stay tuned. These could be gone in one second. ■

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

\$7 spicy wings, quesadilla, chicken strips with fries, ceviche, \$9 fish tacos.

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

HILLCREST

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

Pardon My French Bar & Kitchen: *Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm:* Half price on house wines, well cocktails, and draft beer. Discounted hors d'oeuvres. *Sunday, 5-6pm:* Half price on house wines, well cocktails, and draft beer. Discounted hors d'oeuvres.

IMPERIAL BEACH

SEA180 Coastal Tavern: *Daily, 2:30-5pm:* \$6 beers, sangria, margaritas, and wines by the glass.

The Salty Frog: *Monday-Friday, 2-7pm:* \$2 domestic drafts and \$3.50 wells.

JAMUL

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

KEARNY MESA

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

Quantum Brewing Company: *Monday-Friday, Noon-2pm:* \$4 pint craft beer.

LA MESA

BO-beau Kitchen + Garden: *Tuesday-Friday, 4:30-5:30pm:* \$4 beers, \$5 wines, \$6 select cocktails, half off appetizers.

Hoffer's Cigar Bar: *Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm:* \$1 off all draft beers, house wine. *Sunday, 1-7pm:* \$1 off all draft beers, house wine.

LEMON GROVE

Dirk's Niteclub: *Daily, 10am-4pm:* \$2 shot of select liquor with your first drink. 4-7pm: \$.50 off domestic beer, well drinks, mid-shelf liquor, \$1 off domestic beer.

LEUCADIA

Fish 101: *Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$2.75 fish tacos, \$1 oysters. \$5 canned beers and wines on tap. \$4 Dos Equis on tap.

LINDA VISTA

Clutch Bar: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$1 off all drinks.

LITTLE ITALY

M Winehouse: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$6 house wines, sangria, \$1 off all beers.

Puerto la Boca: *Monday-Saturday, 4:30-7:30pm:* \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers. Bar only. *Sunday, All day:* \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers. Bar only.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Triple Crown Pub: *Monday-Friday, 3-7pm:* \$1 off select pints and bottles. *Saturday-Sunday, Noon-5pm:* \$1 off select pints and bottles.

OCEAN BEACH

The Arizona Cafe: *Daily, 4:30-6:30pm:* \$3 for 20oz domestic beers, wells, house wine. 1/2 price pitchers, \$3 sliders and bar bites.

Sunshine Co.: *Daily, 5-6pm:* Half-price pitchers.

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

PACIFIC BEACH

JRDN: *Monday-Friday, 4-7pm:* \$6 drafts, wells, select wine.

Moray's Lounge: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$5 drafts, \$5.50 wells, \$6 wine. \$10 appetizers.

The Patio on Lamont Street: *Monday, All day:* Drafts \$5, selected well drinks and wine \$6. *Tuesday-Sunday, 3pm-6pm, 10pm-close:* Drafts \$5, selected well drinks and wine \$6.

Bottle service specials: \$30 Champagne, \$150 Sky or Espolón, \$200

Kettle One. *Sunday, -11am-1pm:* \$5 Micheladas and Smirnoff bloodies.

POWAY

Kaminski's BBQ & Sports Bar: *Monday-Friday, 3-6pm:* \$1 off wells, beers, and wine by the glass. \$6 cocktails. \$10 baby back sampler.

SORRENTO VALLEY

Karl Strauss Brewing Company: *Monday-Thursday, 3-6pm:* \$5 all beers, flights. \$5 all appetizers.

SOUTH PARK

Del Sur: *Monday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$3 beers, \$5 sangria (\$25 pitcher), \$6 margaritas (\$30 pitcher), \$7 cocktails. \$7 apps.

SPRING VALLEY

The Bancroft: *Monday-Friday, 10am-7pm:* \$3 domestics and wells.

De Oro Mine Co: *Monday-Friday, Noon-7pm:* \$3 wells, \$5 beer and shot. *Saturday-Sunday, 10am-7pm:* \$3 wells, \$5 beer and shot.

TALMADGE

Romeo and Julieta's Wine Cafe: *Tuesday-Friday, 4-6pm:* \$5.50 drafts (Renegade Blonde, Nelson the ImPaler, Dubbel Fisted), \$6 house wine (cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, pinot noir). *Saturday, 4-6pm:* \$5.50 drafts (Renegade Blonde, Nelson the ImPaler, Dubbel Fisted), \$6 house wine (cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, pinot noir). *Sunday, 3-6pm:* \$5.50 drafts (Renegade Blonde, Nelson the ImPaler, Dubbel Fisted), \$6 house wine (cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, pinot noir).

UNIVERSITY CITY

Drift: *Daily, 4-7pm:* \$5 for 16 oz drafts, \$10 craft cocktail of the day, \$4 off wine carafes, \$10 shares and flatbreads.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

The Lancers Cocktails: *Daily, 10am-2am:* \$3.50 well drinks and domestic beers.

Madison: *Tuesday, 4-7pm:* \$10 burger and beer (fries \$3 extra).



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Friday, March 2nd

Sue Palmer
Saturday, March 3rd

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blurt the inside track

The ticklings will continue. “A hundred years ago, almost every household in America had a piano,” mused Kenneth Rexrode, the driving force behind the Piano Project, a local organization that aims to pair unwanted acoustic pianos with new homes in elementary schools and other public places.

“Back then there were 300,000 instruments being manufactured every year. Now it’s down to less than 24,000.”

Rexrode got the idea for the Piano Project from watching a YouTube video featuring French pianist Henri Herbert rocking a boogie-woogie performance on a public access instrument at Heathrow Airport in London. “I was inspired by the idea of having pianos in public places in San Diego,” said Rexrode.

“Since then, the idea has



Paige and Rexrode are on a mission

evolved into what we’re doing with the public schools, which makes these donations even more meaningful. The problem wasn’t getting the pianos for free — I put the idea out there — and it turns out that there is a plethora of instruments that people would love to find a good home for.”

Rexrode started out as a one-man operation, one piano at a time, but soon realized he needed help.

“The real challenge was managing it. It was more than one person could handle, so I brought on Kimberly Paige

as a program director and I have this fellow who is retired from the Army with a truck and trailer who helps me transport the instruments. We try to move about three pianos every time we make a run, from the donation site to a warehouse owned by the Chula Vista Elementary School District.”

This partnership turned out to be fortuitous for the organization on many levels.

“We didn’t have a place to store the instruments while we found a new home for them,” says Rexrode. “Now we have a partner with the school district. They have 47 elementary schools, and our goal is to present each school with a piano by the end of the year. That will serve almost 30,000 students. They have invested in hiring music teachers but they really lack the instruments, so this is a good fit.”

There’re a lot of practical advantages for both parties in this donation arrangement, Rexrode maintains.

“There’s a ton of instruments that are not being used, and they are very expensive to get rid of. Just moving one can cost about 500 bucks. Even taking one to the dump may cost a few hundred because they are so heavy.”

Looking to donate? Email rexrodeproductions@gmail.com
— Robert Bush

Holding pattern soon to lift. The January demolition of the Ocean Beach



Band of Gringos (Kasey Dring, Spence Noble, Cody Sherman), born and raised in O.B.

bar/music venue named the Holding Company helped put its owner in the social-media crosshairs.

Was Steve Yeng, also the co-owner/operator (with his brothers) of the OB Noodle House and other O.B. businesses, ruining the town’s laidback vibe with his plans to replace the beach bar previously known as Gallagher’s with a three-story café/entertainment megaplex?

The three-member guitar-based power trio Band of Gringos — all born and raised in O.B. and still residents — say they would happily play at the new Holding Company once it is rebuilt.

“I can see both sides,” Gringos guitarist/singer Cody Sherman says. “Many OBceans don’t like big party crowds. The Holding Company already tried to hire big bands. When they reopen I think they are really going to go for it. Right now Winstons is the only other killer place to play music in O.B.”

Life has been good for the Gringos since they formed two years ago, driven by Sherman’s appreciation of Hendrix- and John Mayer-inspired guitar leads.

“We’re not a reggae band like 95 percent of the bands that come out of O.B.,” says Sherman. He says he and bassist Kasey Dring soaked up their appreciation of classic rock from their parents’ vinyl collections. “Transcending generations is our goal.”

While they have yet to release original recordings or

go on tour, their local popularity led to a recent sold-out show at Winstons. “People could not get in,” says Dring. “A lot of our fans were turned away, but they were happy for us.”

“There’s very few musicians who actually make it out of O.B.,” says Sherman. “A lot of great musicians seem to get stuck in O.B. Slightly Stoopid was one of the first and only bands to break out.”

Ted Wigler has booked Winstons for two decades. He confirms there was a line down the block to see the Gringos January 20th. “Their personal connections pack ‘em in. They are big right here right now.”

Wigler says many O.B. residents wonder how big the new Holding Company restaurant/music venue will be once it opens, or how high it will aim to get bigger names. Yeng and talent buyer Jake Skolnick did not respond for a request for comment.

Band of Gringos, including drummer Spence Noble, appear Friday, March 2, at Winstons and March 16 at Music Box.

— Ken Leighton

Record Roundup.

Earthless will return to the first stage they ever played for a two-night release party at the Casbah on March 2 and 3, to launch their *Black Heaven* album. “Expect a sensory overload,” says

guitarist Isaiah Mitchell. “The music will be loud, the visuals from Mad Alchemy will be loud, the smell of sweat, booze, and weed will be loud. It’ll be packed, so you will be loudly touched.” Produced by Dave Catching (Eagles of Death Metal), the album’s first single, “Gifted by the Wind,” is available online.

AJ Froman’s single, “Goo,” premieres at Winstons on March 9, where singer Sarah Norwood says, “Expect to be paralyzed after the set.”

The release party for cellist Sophie Webber’s *Escape: Bach’s Six Suites for Solo Cello* takes place March 10 at the same venue where it was recorded last year, St. Paul’s Cathedral & Episcopal Church.

Enrique Madico of Marujah has a new band called Los Chido whose debut album *Puro Paisa Power* drops March 10 at the Ken Club. Madico describes the first single, “We Have to Be Whores,” as “the

response to the generation X drug culture.”

Sparkle-pop rockers Bird-bath will play a release show at Soda Bar on March 23, for a bill that includes local cat-pop rockers Mittens and the Havnauts.

March 24 sees Temecula-based female-fronted alt-rockers Mettle releasing an EP recorded with Grammy-winning producer Erich Talaba — *27 Ghosts*, which singer Megan Rice says was named after some whimsical calculations. “There would be about 27 ghosts per person alive today, based on today’s population versus all of the people who have died since human existence...every inch of the world should be haunted by now.”

On March 31, all-girl rockers the Fictitious Dishes premiere their second EP, *Frontier Insurance*, at Bar Pink, which will serve the Supreme Court Sour, a cocktail named after a lyric on the track “Counting Coup.”

Also new this month is a Dirty Water Records single from ‘60s-inspired psychedelic rockers the Loons “Blue Ether” b/w “Saturday’s Son,” the latter originally recorded long ago by garage-rockers the Sons of Adam (which included future members of Love and Blue Cheer).

Stone Temple Pilots have a self-titled album due featuring new singer Jeff Gutt

Jazz drummer Nathan Hubbard’s project Ogd_S(11) Translation Has Failed will release a full-length called *Isolation Clause*;

Hot Snakes return with their first studio album in 14
(continued on page 42)



Earthless purvey the LOUD (Isaiah Mitchell, Mike Eginton, Mario Rubalcaba)

years, *Jericho Sirens*, coming March 9 via Sub Pop Records.
— Jay Allen Sanford

Clubbed. Tara Cardenas ran an all-ages venue in Lemon Grove called Mesopotamia in the mid '90s. Two decades later, her ongoing support of local music led her to open a bar featuring local bands. Her tenure as a bar owner lasted exactly one day: February 16. "I had my grand opening and my grand closing on the same night," says Cardenas.

The story begins in 1995. "I had a coffee house when this band asked us if they could play. I didn't have permits but I didn't want to tell them no." Word spread and soon other bands heard about Mesopotamia. "Soon we had the Chula Vista straight-edge scene playing.... I had a 45 [RPM single record] from the [North County band] Boilermaker. I sent them a letter

to their P.O. Box telling them I had a café and I'd like them to play even though I didn't have a P.A. They got back to me. They told me my letter was the only letter they ever got in their P.O. Box. They

brought a huge North County following down. They helped me book a bunch of other bands. We got bands from back East?"

The problem, she says, is that she was more of a music fan than an entrepreneur. "A lot of times they wanted to do free shows. People were asking for cups of ice water. We weren't making any money."

After two years... "One night I came and there was a note on the door from the City of Lemon Grove telling me to cease-and-desist or face fines, penalties, or imprisonment" Mesopotamia was over.

"As it turned out, a number of parents wrote letters to the city saying we provided a safe place for their kids," says Cardenas. "The city wanted to negotiate to keep me open. But I didn't have the money

OVERHEARD IN SAN DIEGO: CITY HEIGHTS

JAY ALLEN SANFORD



OVERHEARD? EMAIL JAS2669@AOL.COM - IF WE USE YOUR TIP, YOU GET THE ARTWORK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAYALLEN.SANFORD

business. ("I'm the Weenie Queen of the Spring Valley Swap Meet.") Recently, while looking for a home base for her hot dog business, she discovered the Copacabana bar. "The owner used to come to the swap meet. He wanted

The Copacabana, she says, is mostly known for Mexican karaoke and DJs. "I thought we needed bands in here. I went up with a pad and magic marker to a rehearsal space in Kearny Mesa and wrote signs saying I was looking

but they came up with this really cool poster that had Barry Manilow, so I decided to keep it." But the "hideous colors" had to go. "It was lime green, yellow and turquoise. We repainted it grey and red." That first night only drew

months. Plus, they wanted a \$7000 deposit. This was all not what we had agreed on. They got mad because we painted, so we all agreed to just give them an extra \$2500 and just walk away. We decided not to sue because it was too much stress. We just decided to let it go.... We don't know if it was a scam. [The owner] doesn't speak English and for sure he can't read it. But I guess it could have been an honest mistake."

She says Copacabana is still open with the old owner. Meanwhile, the old Mesopotamia is now a hair-and-nail salon. "There are six hair-and-nail salons on the same Lemon Grove street. It's the hair-and-nail capital of East County."

— Ken Leighton

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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



Opening (and final) night had two bands on the bill



Barry convinced Cardenas to keep the Copacabana name



Tara Cardenas, still the Weenie Queen of the Spring Valley Swap Meet

they wanted me to spend to purchase permits. Besides, by that time I was exhausted. Sometimes we were open five nights a week."

Cardenas continued her successful food-concession

to sell the business. It's on the same block as the Mesopotamia. I saw that this brewery called 13 Point was opening. I thought maybe Lemon Grove was changing and we should give it a try."

for bands."

That triggered a call from the band Hyperactive Slackers, who offered to play her first night.

"I wanted to change the name [from 'Copacabana']

wanted to sign the lease for weeks but they kept blowing us off. When the leasing agent finally gave it to us, it turned out it was only for 14 months, not three years. The rent was to go up after two

WEDNESDAY • FEB 28
THURSTON MOORE GROUP
ROGUE SQUARES

THURSDAY • MAR 1
THE DEARS
DREW THAMS

FRIDAY • MAR 2
SATURDAY • MAR 3
EARTHLESS
KIKAGAKU MOYO
JJUJJUU

SUNDAY • MAR 4
MATT COSTA

TUESDAY • MAR 6
PIMPS OF JOYTIME

THURSDAY • MAR 8
KYLE CRAFT

FRIDAY • MAR 9
THUNDERPUSSY
ANDREW MCKEAG BAND
MITTENS

SATURDAY • MAR 10
SAN DIEGO FREAKOUT
FRANKIE AND
THE WITCHFINGERS
WILD WILD WETS
THE MAD WALLS
CREPSEED

SUNDAY • MAR 11
KATE BUSH DANCE PARTY

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MONDAY • MAR 12
CHAI • WITH AGE

TUESDAY • MAR 13
SDMA SHOWCASE
SARAH PETITE
THE HIROSHIMA
MOCKINGBIRDS
EUPHORIA BRASS BAND
BAD KIDS

WEDNESDAY • MAR 14
THE MOWGLI'S • MAINLAND

THURSDAY • MAR 15
MAINSAIL • AVENUE ARMY

FRIDAY • MAR 16
THE REDWOODS REVUE
REBECCA JADE AND
THE COLD FACT
BIRDY BARDOT
DANI BELL AND
THE TARANTIST
THE HEAVY GUILT
THE MIDNIGHT PINE

SATURDAY • MAR 17
GRAMPADREW'S
SUPER DELUXE
SATURDAY NIGHT
FLIM FLAM REVUE

SUNDAY • MAR 18
ART UNITES PRESENTS
WSPRGRL
MATIZE
SEMPRA SOL

MONDAY • MAR 19
SAN DIEGO MUSIC
AWARDS AFTERPARTY
ZIGGY SHUFFLEDUST
AND THE SPIDERS
FROM MARS - FREE

TUESDAY • MAR 20
DJ ARTISTIC'S HIP HOP
BATTLE BOT

WEDNESDAY • MAR 21
LUCY DACUS

THURSDAY • MAR 22
MONTALBAN
QUINTET
THE COLOR
FORTY NINE
THE REDFOXTAILS
THE SHANTYANNES

THU., MAR. 1
ACT OF DEFIANCE
Shattered Sun, Shawshank
Redeemed, Blackcast

SAT., MAR. 3
MURKOCET
Motive, The No Name Gang,
The Killing Word, Defy The Tyrants

FRI., MAR. 9
AMERICAN NIGHTMARE
Torso, Fireburn, Spiritual Cramp

SAT., MAR. 10
DOYLE
Society 1, Chemical Warfare,
Steeltoe, Bunch of Heathens

SUN., MAR. 11
WOLVES IN THE THRONE ROOM
Chrch, Abyssal

THU., MAR. 1
BRICK X BRICK

FRI., MAR. 16
EYE OF SOLITUDE
Marche Funèbre, Dhatūra,
October Flame

SAT., MAR. 17
UP THE IRONS
Hardwired, Priest Unleashed

SUN., MAR. 18
MICHAEL GRAVES
Fishing For Chips, Dusty Mitchell
Midnight Track

WED., MAR. 21
ROYAL THUNDER
Pinkish Black, Beira

FRI., MAR. 23
DIRKSCHNEIDER
Elm Street, Helsott,
Warpath, Alchemy

SAT., MAR. 24
DOGWOOD
No Innocent Victim,
The Beautiful Mistake, Bossfight

MON., MAR. 26
RUSSIAN CIRCLES
King Woman

THU., MAR. 29
3TEETH AND HO9909
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MUSIC BOX



WEDNESDAY

BURGER RECORDS PRESENTS
DENGUE FEVER ★
WINTER, SUMMER TWINS, ROYA

FEB
28



THURSDAY

**SUICIDEGIRLS:
BLACKHEART
BURLESQUE**

MAR
01



FRIDAY

AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH
LANGHORNE SLIM ★
SPECIAL GUEST TWAIN

MAR
02



SATURDAY

ROB STONE
STONE COLD TOUR
ANT BEALE

MAR
03



WEDNESDAY

K. MICHELLE
THE PEOPLE I USED TO KNOW TOUR
DAMAR JACKSON

MAR
07



THURSDAY

SPAWNBREEZIE
KENNYON BROWN, DONNELL LEWIS
DJ NOIZ, KAIMI HANANOEAU
KL NOIZÉ MAKERZ

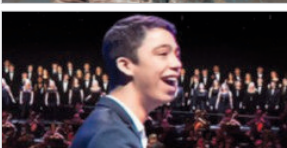
MAR
08



FRIDAY

TALIB KWELI
THE RADIO SILENCE TOUR
NICO IS FT. DJ SPINTELECT
BAR1NE THE AUX CORD LORD

MAR
09



SUNDAY

KPBS PRESENTS
ETHAN BORTNICK
GENERATIONS OF MUSIC
ASSIA AHHATT

MAR
11

JUST ADDED

The Polish Ambassador 3/18
Art of Elan Presents: Kontras Quartet w/ Branford Marsalis 4/8
She Wants Revenge 6/8 - pre-sale 3/1

COMING SOON

3/3 CRSSD After Dark - Tiga, Mark Knight - Late Show - Sold Out!	3/24 Funk Soul Social presents: Sir Mix-A-Lot	4/13 The Steely Damned 2 (Steely Dan Tribute)
3/4 CRSSD After Dark - This Ain't Bristol - Sold Out!	3/25 Tom Gun Live! A Maverick's Homage	4/18 Altvays
3/10 Billie Eilish: Wheres My Mind Tour - Sold Out!	3/28 El Haragan y Cia	4/20 Big K.R.I.T.: Heavy is the Crown Tour
3/14 Gaby Moreno w/ Sean Watkins	3/29 Declan McKenna	4/21 The Deep End presents DJ Sneak
3/15 Emancipator Ensemble: 'Baralku' Tour	3/30 Whiskey Myers	4/22 La Santa Cecilia
3/16 Band of Gringos and The Delta Saints w/ Electric Mud	3/31 The Oh Hellos	5/1 Watsky: low visibility tour
3/17 DSB (Journey Tribute)	4/5 Stanton Warriors w/ Omega Squad	5/9 The Weepies: Hideaway 10 Year Anniversary
3/22 Moon Hooch	4/6 Autograf	5/10 Ekolu
3/23 RID2	4/7 Joshua Radin w/ William Fitzsimmons	5/11 Echosmith: Inside a Dream Tour
	4/11 Bilal	5/26 The Winehouse Experience (Amy Winehouse Tribute)
	4/12 Angel Olsen	6/1 Mark Farina

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SPAFFORD

THE HIGGS
WEDNESDAY 2/28



ZACH DEPUTY
OUT OF HIBERNATION TOUR

STEPH JOHNSON
SUNDAY 3/4



ANTIBALAS

HERE LIES MAN
THURSDAY 3/8



DEAD MAN'S PARTY
(OINGO BOINGO TRIBUTE)

MANGANISTA, DJ RICHELIE
FRIDAY 3/9



G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE

RON ARTIS II & THE TRUTH
SUNDAY 3/11



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL:
A NIGHT OF LAUGHING
AND DANCING FOR
TEMPLE SOLEL

ANGELICO AND THE BAND OF DEMONS
MONDAY 3/12



OH SEES

PRETTIEST EYES
WEDNESDAY 3/14



RACHAEL YAMAGATA

CRAIG STICKLAND
THURSDAY 3/15



MORGAN LEIGH BAND
AND WISH & THE WELL

SHANE SHIPLEY
FRIDAY 3/16



FT. ABBEY ROAD &
JUMPING JACK FLASH
SATURDAY 3/17



WALTER TROUT

THE BLITZ BROTHERS
SUNDAY 3/18



D.T.O. AND KIYOSHI

FT. NICKY GENESIS AND
JON GOODHUE
TUESDAY 3/20



THE PARAGRAPHS

THE HA, THE BAD VIBES
WEDNESDAY 3/21



BRETT DENNEN
LET'S...TOUR

W/ DEAN LEWIS
SUNDAY 3/25



SCHIZOPHONICS
SOUL REVUE

SHAKE BEFORE US,
TIGERS OF BENGAL
WEDNESDAY 3/28

JUST ADDED! Mud Slide Slim 4/8 • Common Sense 4/13 • Tank & the Bangas 4/17
Kinky Friedman 4/18 • Taimane Gardner 5/9 • Easy Wind 5/11
Vaud and the Villains 5/18 • Xavier Rudd 5/29 & 5/30
JD McPherson 6/12 • Jenny and the Mexicats @ Casbah 7/25
Punch Brothers @ Observatory 8/25

Upcoming Shows:

3/1 They Might Be Giants - Sold Out!	4/11 The California Honeydrops	5/7 Keb' Mo' - Seated Show
3/2 Margo Price - Sold Out!	4/14 Pine Mountain Logs	5/8 Rogue Wave: Asleep at Heaven's Gate Tour
3/2 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	4/16 Ibeyi	5/12 & 13 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!
3/3 Anderson East - Sold Out!	4/19 Jessie Ware	5/14 Nada Surf: 15th Anniversary of 'Let Go'
3/4 Stone Temple Pilots @ Observatory - Sold Out!	4/20 & 21 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond Tribute)	5/15 & 16 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!
3/6 The Psychedelic Furs - Sold Out!	4/22 Los Lonely Boys	5/17 Pedro The Lion
3/7 Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band - Sold Out!	4/23 Bebel Gilberto - seated show	5/24 Rufus Wainwright
3/22 & 23 Phillip Phillips - Sold Out!	4/25 Less Than Jake and Face To Face - Sold Out!	5/25 Cash'd Out (Johnny Cash Tribute)
3/23 The Main Squeeze @ Casbah	4/26 The Robert Cray Band	5/26 Kimbra and Son Lux
3/29 Galactic	4/27 Date Night for a Cause ft. Atomic Groove	5/28 Madeleine Peyroux
3/30 Yonder Mountain String Band	4/27 The Pettybreakers (Tom Petty Tribute)	5/31 The Dead Milkmen
3/31 The Mother Hips	4/29 The Weight Band ft. members of The Band, Levon Helm Band, Rick Danko Group	6/1 Greg Laswell
4/3 Arlo Guthrie: The Re:Generation Tour	5/3 Baths	6/3 Calexico
4/4 Brian Fallon & The Howling Weather	5/4 Khruangbin w/ The Mattson 2	6/6 The Yardsbirds
4/7 Jefferson Starship - Sold Out!	5/5 Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers	7/7 Tainted Love
	5/6 Keb' Mo' - Sold Out!	7/13 Jefferson Starship
		7/15 Paul Thorn
		7/25 Dave Alvin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore
		7/28 Wayward Sons

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JUST ANNOUNCED

Josh Radin would be hard-pressed to deny that he's still cruising on the fumes of his 2008 breakthrough, *Simple Times*, as those are the songs that his audience will probably always expect, if not demand, in concert. The big hit, "I'd Rather Be with You," turned up in TV programs, as did tracks like "You Got Growin' Up to Do" and "Brand New Day," especially on hypochondriac-porn shows such as *House*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and even *Scrubs*, which was already using his music in multiple episodes two years before his debut 2006 album. In fact, he had only taught himself to play guitar around 2002, and it was landing his first composition, "Winter," on *Scrubs* that pretty much got him into the studio and putting his muse on tape. In addition to getting his songs into over a hundred movies and TV shows since then, he's released five albums after *Simple Times*, with the most recent from last year, *The Fall*. They may not have set



JOSHUA RADIN AT MUSIC BOX ON APRIL 7

the charts on fire, but cuts like "Beautiful Day," featuring Sheryl Crow, from 2015's *Onward and Sideways*, have become staples of MOR radio and adult-contemporary satellite stations. His many appearances on the daytime TV show hosted by Ellen DeGeneres (who hired him to sing at her wedding) have helped keep his profile high enough that he's likely to sell out the Music Box on April 7, for a bill that includes Illinois-based "whisper rocker" William Fitzsimmons.

Murder City Devils didn't invent horror-punk in the mid-1990s (you can probably thank, or blame, the Dead Boys and the Misfits for that), but the Seattle-based quintet just about perfected what was up until then an inconsistent recipe. Over the course of three albums and one EP, from 1996



MURDER CITY DEVILS AT THE IRENIC ON APRIL 14

through 2001, the five founders earned the respect of hard-rock fans with beefy riffs, as well as courting underground scenesters with clever satirical lyrics, drawing repeat crowds thanks to irresistible setlist staples such as "Dancin' Shoes" and "Dance Hall Music," numbers that never fail to get everyone onto their feet. Not that they were ever a "singles" band, although "Every Day I Rise" picked up a surprising amount of airplay and TV exposure in 2011–2012, as well as being heard later in an improbably chipper TV advert for bathroom deodorizer (that single's flipside would actually have been better suited, "Ball Busters in the Peanut Gallery"). They went away for a few years in the early aughts, with bassist Derek Fudesco forming his own band, Pretty Girls Make Graves, but he and the other four founding players have reunited for a tour set to include Spencer Moody, Dann Gallucci, Nate Manny, and Coady Willis. (Few are likely to miss shortlived keyboardist Leslie Hardy, whose brief latter-day tenure with the band is looked at by fans the same way baby boomers look at *Brady Bunch* episodes with Cousin Oliver.) They play the Irenic on April 14.

It's been around three years since the **Dead Milkmen** last came to town to play the Belly Up, and their just-



THE DEAD MILKMEN AT THE BELLY UP ON MAY 31

announced tour will be heavy on tracks from their first new release since then, last year's *Welcome to the End of the World* EP. It seemed for a while that the Philly band would always be remembered as little more than a novelty punk act from the mid '80s, mostly known for their first college-radio hit "Bitchin' Camaro" and the MTV staple "Punk Rock Girl," with few expecting to hear from them again after their mostly unnoticed 1995 split.

When bassist Dave Schulthise became the first literally dead Milkman, thanks to an intentionally fatal drug overdose, that seemed to be the final coffin nail. However, they reappeared in 2011 with their first studio album in 16 years, *The King in Yellow*, an alt-psychedelic gem with nary a bad track that features Dan Stevens (whose old Philly band the Low Budgets included Dead Milkmen singer/guitarist Joe Genaro) replacing the late Schulthise. Stevens will accompany the surviving founding trio on May 31 at the Belly Up.

They say that, without **Anvil**, there never would've been a Spinal



ANVIL AT BRICK BY BRICK ON JUNE 1

Tap. These hard-luck hard rockers toiled in obscurity through years of dismal tours of subterranean clubs before a documentary film about their long road to nowhere actually brought them somewhere: rock stardom! Even though few seemed to take the Canadian trio any more seriously than the aforementioned parody band whose schtick borrowed liberally from Anvil's real-life tales of bad breaks and blunders, two of the three members have been at it non-stop since 1978, with well over a dozen

albums to their credit. So you've gotta give them at least as much respect as Slayer, if not AC/DC and ZZ Top, for finding a formula that works so well that there's never been a need to deviate more than a few notes or measures from that tried-and-true equation. The tour that brings them to Brick by Brick on June 1 is in support of their 17th album, *Pounding the Pavement*, released in January and named for the career choice that has kept them wearing out vanloads of boots, britches, and fingerless gloves for 40 years now.



DUA LIPA AT OPEN AIR THEATRE ON JUNE 29

If you knew little about British pop singer **Dua Lipa** and searched her images on Google, you may think at first that she's some kind of model for dental hygiene, given how often she likes to be photographed sticking her tongue out. The 22-year-old singer-songwriter basically started out in her teens as a model, though she was already posting her homemade covers of songs by others on YouTube at the time, a hobby that exploded into a career when millions of page-views turned into a contract with Warner Brothers Records. Now officially credited as the youngest female solo artist to hit one billion

Youtube views (for her single "New Rules"), she's been blowing up in Britain for a while now, but her recent appearance on the *Saturday Night Live* episode hosted by Natalie Portman has afforded her the kind of instant U.S. career boost likely to spur brisk ticket sales for her June 29 appearance at SDSU's Open Air Theatre. She's also currently heard on the *Fifty Shades Freed* film soundtrack with "High" (a collaboration with EDM producer Whethan), though there's certainly no reason to hold that against such a promising young talent.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find JUST ANNOUNCED online at SDReader.com/music

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

710 Beach Club:

Thursday, 8pm — Live Band Karaoke.

Friday, 8pm — Faux Fighters and Oceans. \$5.

Saturday, 8pm — The Voices and the Bird Rockers.

AMSDCconcerts:

Friday, 7:30pm — John Gorka.

Air Conditioned Lounge:

Sunday, 8pm — Techno Church.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Thursday, 7:30pm — San Diego New Music: Displaced. \$5-\$25.

Friday, 7:30pm — Claudia Villela & Kenny Werner. \$21-\$26.

Aztec Brewing Company:

Friday, 6pm — Cougar & the Snaxx.

Saturday, 6pm — Will Locken.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:

Friday, 6:30pm — Event Horizon.

Saturday, 6:30pm — Whiskey Ridge.

Balboa Theatre:

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Celebrating David Bowie.

Wednesday, 7pm — Herbie Hancock. \$30-\$99.

Bancroft:

Thursday, 8pm — CatsMelvin.

Friday, 8pm — New Crimes.

Saturday, 8pm — J. Andrew & the Bermuda. \$8.

Bang Bang:

Friday, 9pm — DJ Harvey.

Saturday, 9pm — Shiba San and Klatch.

Sunday, 10pm — Gorgon City. \$10-\$20.

Bassmnt:

Friday, 8pm — Luca Lush.

Saturday, 9pm — Coone.

Bel Vino Winery:

Friday, 6pm — Sexteto Sonero Del Caribe.

Saturday, 12pm — Tralain Band.

Sunday, 12pm — Guilty Conscience.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 9pm — They Might Be Giants. \$30-\$53.

Friday, 8pm — Margo Price. \$22-\$39.

Saturday, 8pm — Anderson East. \$18-\$32.

Sunday, 8pm — Zach Deputy. \$13-\$15.

Tuesday, 8pm — The Psychedelic Furs. \$40-\$70.

Wednesday, 8pm — Kenny Wayne Shepherd. \$46-\$81.

Bernardo Winery:

Sunday, 2pm — Whitney Shay.

Blonde Bar:

Thursday, 9pm — HELLA and Strictly Hyphy.

Friday, 9pm — Dance From Above.

Friday, 9pm — T is 4 Techno.

Saturday, 10pm — Honey Dijon and Heidi Lawden.

Bluefoot Bar and Lounge:

Thursday, 8pm — Black Rhino.

Friday, 8pm — Cuffin'. Free.

Saturday, 8pm — Saturday

NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

"Life is confused," Langhorne Slim sings, "and people are insane." Slim's a 37-year-old singer/songwriter oft-branded as alt country. "Can we be happy for a while/ Can we just sit down and shut up and smile?" Slim favors acoustic guitar, string bass, and pedal-steel guitar. Those are sounds that take you to a place from which there is no escape. Beards and felt hats. Denim jackets. I keep waiting for the yodel that does not come.

Then again, I don't think of Langhorne Slim much as a country act. It's a sound he wears, and it's a good fit, and the show is captivating. You can't not look at Langhorne; you can't un-hear his voice.

So, who is this guy? His real name is

Sean Scolnick, and he's from Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He graduated high school and landed in New York for a little college and a lot of open mics. He worked out of the Sidewalk Café, one of those make-or-break places like Java Joe's in San Diego. The Trachtenburg Family Slide-show Players dug his act and took him around the country, and Europe, too. After, Slim giggered as an opener for arena acts he had little in common with, like Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. He moved to Northern California. I wondered if Langhorne Slim was a character that Scolnick played, or if the two were one.

There've been nine albums since 2004. The rock press practically oozed love in their reviews, comparing Slim to Leadbelly or Dylan. Now out with a five-piece in support of last year's *Lost at Last Vol 1*, Langhorne Slim is a headliner. Some might complain that early Dylan was about social change, about ending



LANGHORNE SLIM

a war, but no matter. The music industry continues to subsist by reliving the past, even if it's without cause. There is not a thing wrong with good music done just for the heck of it. Twain also performs.

LANGHORNE SLIM: Friday, March 2, Music Box, 619-795-1337, 6:30 p.m., \$27.

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

Rewind.

Sunday, 7pm — VJ Bang.

Tuesday, 8pm — JayCee.

Wednesday, 8pm — Thug Wave.

Boar Cross'n:

Thursday, 8pm — Comeback Kings.

Bodega Studios and Gallery:

Tuesday, 7pm — Descarga Cubana. Free.

Booze Brothers Brewing Company:

Friday, 7pm — L.A. Edwards.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, 8pm — Act of Defiance and Shattered Sun.

\$15-\$18.

Friday, 7pm — Warpath and Theosis. \$12-\$15.

Saturday, 8pm — Murkocet and the No Name Gang. \$10-\$12.

Cafe 21:

Thursday, 7pm — Flamenco Night. Free.

Saturday, 7pm — Bossa Nova with Stephanie & Marcus.

Sunday, 7pm — Rumba with Bruno Serrano.

Wednesday, 7pm — Sister Speak.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Wednesday, 4pm & 7pm — Brogue Wave. Free.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

Friday & Saturday, 7:30pm — Lemon Squeezers.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Murray Lightburn. \$15.

Friday & Saturday, 8pm — Earthless, Kikagaku Moyo, JUUUUU. \$20-\$22.

Sunday, 8pm — Matt Costa. \$12.

Monday, 8pm — Lo Moco. \$10-\$12.

Tuesday, 8pm — Pimps of

Joytime. \$16-\$18.

Wednesday, 8pm — Hot Snakes. \$29-\$35.

Club M:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Dueling Pianos. \$10.

Coronado Playhouse:

Friday & Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, 2pm — Songs for a New Year. \$20.

De Oro Mine Co:

Thursday, 8pm — Varela & Los

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Thu 3/8	Tommy Price and The Stiletos
Fri 3/9	The Siers Brothers
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SAT, MAR 24	SUN, MAR 25

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

3/26 — JAKE BUGG	4/6 — LUKE COMBS
3/27 — QUINN XCII	4/7 — WHAT SO NOT
3/29 — J BOOG	4/9 — MATT AND KIM
3/30 — SENSES FAIL	4/11 — HAYLEY KIKYOKO
3/31 — ROY WOODS	4/12 — KATE NASH

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Zebrahead. \$45-\$75.
 Tuesday, 7pm — 311 and Save Ferris. \$45-\$75.
 Wednesday, 7pm — Marmozets. \$15.
 Wednesday, 8pm — VÉRITÉ and Eden.

Java Joe's:
 Friday, 8pm — Digital Lizards of Doom. \$15.

Kraken:
 Saturday, 9pm — Dante Fire. Free.

Landing:
 Saturday, 8:30pm — Sonic Tonic and Kes O'Hara.

Landings at Carlsbad:
 Friday, 6:30pm — Clapton Hook.
 Saturday, 6:30pm — Too Rude for Sunday.
 Sunday, 11am — Arnie & Friends.
 Wednesday, 5:30pm — Jim Gibson.

Larry's Beach Club:
 Saturday, 5pm — Gone Blonde. Free.

Lestat's Coffee House:
 Friday, 8pm — Lee Coulter.
 Wednesday, 7pm — One Sultry Day. \$7.

Martin's Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
 Thursday, 8pm — Chadwick Johnson. \$25.

Marrow:
 Thursday, 9pm — Goodnight Caulfield and Taller Younger Brother. \$5.

Mission Trails Regional Park:
 Sunday, 3pm — Gregory Page. Free.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
 Friday, 9pm — Alter Ego. Free.
 Saturday, 9pm — Bree Jones Band. Free.

Moonlight Amphitheatre in Brengle Terrace Park:
 Saturday, 7:30pm — Daebreon Poema: The Reason Why I Sing. \$20-\$60.

Moonshine Flats:
 Thursday, 9pm — Jerry Jacobs. Free.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
 Friday, 8:30pm — Elastic Waste Band.
 Saturday, 8:30pm — Grey Illusion.

Museum of Making Music:
 Thursday, 7pm — Chris Smither. \$25-\$30.
 Sunday, 7pm — Velvet Caravan. \$25-\$30.

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

"Here the composer died"

Because I am in the chorus for San Diego Opera's production of *Turandot*, I will not be reviewing the show. However, I will visit the love life of the composer Giacomo Puccini.

Imagine a trainwreck and then imbue it with operatic emotions and then add some doom and you're in the ballpark of what Puccini's personal life was like.

Puccini was the most successful opera composer in history. At the time of his death in 1924 he was worth, in today's dollars, in excess of \$150 million. That fortune was based on three operas, *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*.

Puccini wrote those three operas over the course of eight years. *Butterfly* was finished in 1904. His next opera, *The Girl of the Golden West*, wasn't completed until 1910. Following that, *La Rondine* was finished in 1917. Both these operas are inferior to the previous three masterpieces. We are accustomed to seeing composers evolve

toward their ultimate masterpiece. Puccini stepped back. Why?

Drama. Puccini never had anything close to a traditional domestic life but, to be fair, few of the great composers did. In 1884 he began an affair with a married woman named Elvira Bonturi. In 1886, Elvira gave birth to Puccini's son Antonio. The couple would remain together but unmarried until 1903. Divorce was illegal in Italy at the time.

Elvira's husband was a serial womanizer and was killed by a vengeful husband in 1903 just one day after Puccini and Elvira were in a car crash that nearly cost the composer his life. With her husband dead, Elvira and Puccini were free to marry, which they did.

Do not get it twisted, though. This was not a happy marriage. Puccini routinely teased and taunted Elvira about his "little gardens." The "little gardens" were women within whom Puccini found his inspira-

tion. Each of *Boheme*, *Tosca*, and *Butterfly* had its own little garden.

For her part, Elvira kept letters that Puccini wrote to one of his mistresses and kept them as potential evidence. In 1909, she accused the household maid, Doria Manfredi, of having an affair with Puccini. Elvira made her accusation in public, with witnesses, and used some choice terms in her description of Doria.

Doria committed suicide after the public shaming and the autopsy revealed that she was a virgin. Elvira was found guilty of slander and sentenced to five months in prison. Puccini paid Doria's family to drop the charges and Elvira avoided prison.

For almost a hundred years the story of Doria Manfredi was tragic but simple. She was falsely accused and killed herself under the pressure. In 2007, one Nadia Manfredi revealed a trunk full of Puccini's correspondences with her paternal grandmother Giulia



Puccini morte

Manfredi. Giulia was the cousin of the doomed Doria Manfredi. Doria had been the "go-between" for Giulia and Puccini. When accused of the affair, Doria had to either accept the false accusation or reveal the truth of Puccini's affair with her cousin Giulia. She chose suicide.

Fast-forward to 1926 and the posthumous premiere of Puccini's final opera, *Turandot* at Milan's La Scala conducted by Arturo Toscanini. In the third act, the slave girl Liu must choose between torture or revealing the name of her beloved master. Liu chooses

suicide instead thus freeing herself of the torture while protecting her master.

When Liu's death aria was complete at the premiere, an emotional Toscanini set down his baton, turned to the audience, and said, "Here the composer died." This tragic convergence of life and art is one of the transcendent moments in Western art. All stories are based on a true story.

Liu is being sung by Angel Blue in the San Diego Opera production, which wraps up its four-night run Friday, March 2 and Sunday, March 4.

See more CLASSICAL MUSIC at SDReader.com/classical

Music Box:
 Friday, 6:30pm — Langhorne Slim and Twain. \$27.

Saturday, 11:59pm — CRSSD After Dark.
 Saturday, 6pm — Rob Stone. \$18-\$20.

Sunday, 9pm — This Ain't Bristol. \$165-\$185.
 Wednesday, 7pm — K. Michelle and Damar Jackson. \$35-\$37.

Observatory North Park:
 Saturday, 7pm — Gogol Bordello and Lucky Chops. \$30.
 Sunday, 7:30pm — Stone Temple Pilots. \$38-\$41.

Oceanside Museum of Art:
 Friday, 7pm — Shay & the Hustle. Free.

Olive Peirce Middle School:
 Saturday, 7:30pm — Golden Bough.

Omnia San Diego:
 Friday, 9:30pm — ATB.

Pacific Islander Beer Company:
 Saturday, 6:30pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Palomar College Performance Lab:
 Sunday, 2:30pm — Big Brass, Boom & Beauty Concert. \$10-\$15.

Panama 66:
 Friday, 7pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Papagayo:
 Saturday, 7pm — Bviolin.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
 Friday, 7pm — Missy Andersen.
 Saturday, 7pm — Sue Palmer.

Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church:
 Sunday, 4pm — Roger Anderson Chorale. \$20-\$25.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:
 Thursday, 7pm — Liz Grace &

the Swing Thing.
 Friday, 9pm — Upshots.
 Saturday, 9pm — Baja Bugs.

Seven Grand:
 Thursday, 7:30pm — Dante Elephante and Segó.

Soda Bar:
 Thursday, 8pm — Money Chicha. \$15.
 Friday, 8pm — Theo Katzman. \$12-\$14.
 Saturday, 8pm — Whitney Rose. \$12.

Sunday, 8pm — Ex-Cult and Kids In Heat. \$10-\$12.
 Tuesday, 8pm — Of Ennuui.
 Wednesday, 8pm — The Academic. \$12.

Soma:
 Sunday, 6pm — Starset and Palisades. \$17.
 Wednesday, 7pm — Of Mice & Men and Blessthefall.

Space:
 Thursday, 8pm — Soft Kill and Choir Boy. \$12.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
 Tuesday, 7pm — U.S. Navy Sea Chanters. Free.

St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church:
 Saturday, 7pm — Rob Thorsen Jazz Trio. \$25.

Til-Two:
 Friday, 9pm — Bloodshot Bill and Jittery Jack.
 Saturday, 9pm — New Skeletal Faces and Ritual Obsidian.

Tio Leo's:
 Friday, 8pm — Dennis Jones.
 Saturday, 8pm — Full Strength Funk Band. \$7.
 Wednesday, 7pm — Lenny "Fuzzy" Rankins and the Bayou Brothers.

Tower Bar:
 Saturday, 8pm — Decent Criminal and Gentlemen Prefer Blood.

Waterfront Park:
 Saturday & Sunday, 12pm — CRSSD Festival.

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

Whistle Stop Bar:
 Saturday, 9pm — '80s vs '90s.

Zel's Del Mar:
 Saturday, 7pm — Big One Riffy. Free.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Bach Collegium: Soundscape - Musical Architects of the Baroque Scott Allen Jarrett, guest conductor, presents a collection of vocal masterpieces displaying exceptional musical architecture, centering on Domenico Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater*, a work displaying grandeur and a depth of expression, and Bach's supremely crafted

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 Saturday March 3
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motet Jesu, meine Freude. An ensemble of 10 singers and basso continuo brings this exciting program to life. Friday, March 2, 7:30pm; All Saints' Episcopal Church, 625 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Bach Collegium: Soundscape - Musical Architects of the Baroque Scott Allen Jarrett, guest conductor, presents a collection of vocal masterpieces displaying exceptional musical architecture, centering on Domenico Scarlatti's Stabat Mater, a work displaying grandeur and a depth of expression, and Bach's supremely crafted motet Jesu, meine Freude. An ensemble of 10 singers and basso continuo, led by guest conductor Scott Allen Jarrett, brings this exciting program to life. Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm; \$15-\$50. Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 3459 Manchester Avenue.

Big Brass, Boom & Beauty Concert Three Palomar College ensembles will be featured in performance at the college's Studio Theatre. Performing at the Big Brass, Boom and Beauty concert will be the Palomar/YPO Percussion Ensemble, Palomar Brass Ensemble, and Palomar Saxophone Ensemble. The ensembles are directed by Heather Barclay and Paul Kurokawa. Sunday, March 4, 2:30pm; \$10-\$15. Palomar College Performance Lab, 1140 W. Mission Rd., Room D-10.

Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma & Leonidas Kavakos Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma, and Leonidas

Kavakos will be exploring the piano trios of Johannes Brahms. Saturday, March 3, 8pm; Jacobs Music Center, 750 B Street.

North Coast Symphony The North Coast Symphony Orchestra, directed by Daniel Swem, will perform "Master Impersonators" featuring solo violinist Jisun Yang, assistant concertmaster of the San Diego Symphony. Yang will be featured on Symphonie Espagnole by Edouard Lalo, and the orchestra will perform the Italian Overture by Franz Schubert and Symphony No. 4 (Italian) by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. The orchestra is funded in part by the City of Encinitas and the Mizel Family Foundation. Sunday, March 4, 2:30pm; \$8-\$10. Carlsbad Community Church, 3175 Harding Street.

Pierre-Laurent Aimard Grammy Award-winning French pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard opens his program with the 1915 work Revelation by Russian mystic Nikolai Obukhov, paired with Chopin's Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Major, Op. 35 "Marche Funèbre" (Funeral March) and Beethoven's powerful and colossal Piano Sonata No. 29 in B-flat Major, Op. 106, the "Hammerklavier." Thursday, March 1, 8pm; Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Avenue.

Roger Anderson Chorale The Roger Anderson Chorale will perform African-American Spirituals, contemporary composers, classical excerpts, and world beat. The chorale will be accompanied with dance, visual

media and percussionists. The Grammy award winning song, "Baba Yetu," will be among the selections. Saturday, March 3, 7pm; \$20-\$25. Encinitas Library, 540 Cornish Drive.

San Diego New Music: Displaced San Diego New Music presents Displaced, a program curated by clarinetist Robert Zelickman, with Batya MacAdam-Somer, violin and viola, Paivikki Nykter, viola, and Elizabeth Brown, cello. San Diego New Music is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the public performance of notated music of the highest integrity and artistic caliber from the 20th and 21st centuries. "We seek to advance the art form by promoting music composed with conceptual rigor, passionate energy and singular artistic vision." Thursday, March 1, 7:30pm; \$5-\$25. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street.

Smetana Trio Founded in 1934, Smetana Trio is today's foremost Czech chamber ensemble. Currently comprised of Jitka Jãechová (piano), Ji=óí Vodifãka (violin), and Jan Pãlenifãek (cello), the trio perpetuates the interpretational ideals created by their illustrious predecessors as well as other superlative 20th-century chamber music soloists. Program: Alexander Zemlinsky: Trio in D Minor, Op. 3; Dmitri Shostakovich: Piano Trio No. 1, Op. 8; Felix Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49. Friday, March 2, 8pm; \$40-\$54. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive.

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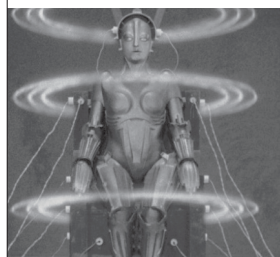
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SILENT
FILMS

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY
TO ENJOY THESE CLASSIC MOVIES THE
WAY THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SEEN



METROPOLIS (1927): SILENT FILM WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT*

SAT, MAR 17 | 8PM

German expressionist director Fritz Lang's colossal Silent Era sci-fi masterpiece *Metropolis* is timelier than ever, with its depiction of class struggle and the dangers of society's servitude to technology. Organist Russ Peck accompanies this involving, dramatic work on the mighty Fox Theatre Pipe Organ.



THE PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC*

SAT, MAY 19 | 8PM

Carl Theodor Dreyer's *The Passion of Joan of Arc* is often cited as one of the most remarkable films ever made. Its series of mesmerizing close-ups and the yearning, hypnotic performance of Renée Jeanne Falconetti as Joan are simply unforgettable. The film's sense of religious transcendence will be heightened by a unique collaboration with San Diego art music collective **Luscious Noise**, who will perform **John Luther Adams'** stunning *In the White Silence* live as the film plays.

TICKETS & INFORMATION | SANDIEGOSYMPHONY.ORG

*The San Diego Symphony Orchestra does not appear as part of these presentations.

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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.

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, BALBOA PARK. 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

The Cake

Bekah Brunstetter's new play exudes relevance. Though the premise seems to be taken directly from the headlines, it was apparently written long before a similar incident took place in Colorado. A young woman comes back to her Southern home town to marry her female lover and faces prejudice and conflicting emotions when the baker declines to cook their wedding cake. This is a delicately concocted script, with many real life situations woven into the context. The dialogue, in both

comedic and dramatic elements, is especially effective. Directed seamlessly by Casey Stangl, the production is beautifully performed by an excellent cast, headed by the downright adorable Faith Prince, and is played on one of the best set designs seen this year, courtesy of David F. Weiner. The storybook pink cake shop is on a hydraulic platform that can move several feet upstage to accommodate two other unit sets. **Critic's Pick.** Review by Larry Steckling.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

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. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Daebreon Poiema: The Reason Why I Sing

Actress Daebreon Poiema 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 BRENGLER TERRACE PARK, 1200 VALE TERRACE, VISTA. 760-724-2110. 7:30PM SATURDAY, 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. 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM & 4:30PM SUNDAYS.

I Ought to be in Pictures

Patio Playhouse Community Theatre presents Neil Simon's comedy about Herb. He's a Hollywood scriptwriter whose estranged, teenaged daughter comes all the way from Brooklyn to become a movie star. Herb decides to try being a father again. Who has the better odds? PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 E. GRAND AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

IMPRO Theatre: Play UnScripted

"You walk into the theatre, take a seat, and the lights go down. What play are you seeing? No one knows... not even the actors." With Play UnScripted, Impro Theatre starts with audience suggestions and improvises a contemporary two-act play from scratch with no pre-set genre, no guidelines and no safety net. Every performance is unique. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 7:30PM MONDAY, MAR. 5.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Full of witticisms, wordplay, and bit-

ANTI-REVIEW GARRETT HARRIS

Why you shouldn't villainize screen time

UNCLE VANYA BY ANTON CHEKHOV runs through March 11 at The Old Globe in Balboa Park. It is a devastating story based on not having an iPhone.

You think I jest? I am as serious as a Russian winter. Go see *Uncle Vanya* and then try to complain about the loss of our hallowed agrarian past and how technology is ruining our ability to interact with each other. You're assuming we were masters of interaction in the past. Chekhov says we weren't, and I'm of a mind to agree with him.

Imagine your life surrounded by only a handful of people, some of whom you hate and some of whom return the favor. No problem. You have the internet. You can explore limitless amounts of interesting topics (cat videos) and make friends with people tens of thousands of miles away. You can even speak to them face to face.

Imagine your life surrounded by hateful people but now you have no tech to help you. That's

the plight of the characters in *Uncle Vanya*, and I have never been so happy to have a smartphone.

The 120 years since Chekhov



The cast of Uncle Vanya. They're smiling because they have wifi.

wrote *Uncle Vanya* have been the most transformative in known human history. *Vanya* was set in the contemporary Russia of Chekhov, but it could have been set a thousand years earlier without changing a single word of the script. The lives of the characters would have been unchanged.

Bring the characters to our day and the internet would

erase much of their dis-ease. The environmentalist doctor might be able to find a willing ear for his concerns regarding the deforestation of the district.

The idle but attractive young bride of the aging professor could find some relevance as an Instagram influencer in the beauty field. Uncle Vanya himself would be an effective blogger with the handle @oldmanregretful.

Now we experience a play such as *Vanya* and can't imagine people living in such circumstances. Their lives are almost unrecognizable, because they have no opportunity to change their content. In our culture there are infinite ways to escape one's circumstances, and those options are supplied by technology, but we continue to villainize tech and "screen time."

Yes there is inane content on the internet but better to have it stored there, in the cloud, than having an inane existence stored in your soul until the day you die. ■

ing social commentary, Oscar Wilde's most well-known play doesn't need any cleverness. Director Maria Aitken recognizes this and provides a straightforward, lavish period production at the Old Globe. In *Earnest*, two bachelors invent fictitious characters to escape their responsibilities, but soon find themselves tangled in their own lies. The comedy skewers Victorian ideals, especially the notion of style over substance. The production has style in spades — including a smart, fun set design and sumptuous costumes — while deftly handling the play's more, ah, earnest subject matter, including marriage, class conflict, love, and lies. A top-notch cast brings Wilde's humor to the fore with impeccable timing. But Kate Abbruzzese as Gwendolyn and Helen Cespedes as Cecily prove especially entertaining frenemies. **Critic's Pick.** 1 Review by Jennifer Chung Klam.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS.

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.

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. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. 7:30PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, MAR. 3.

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. 217 NORTH PACIFIC COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

San Diego, I Love You #SwipeRight

Circle Circle dot dot's annual, site-specific romantic comedy — conceived by Kristin McReddie, written by Soroya Rowley — features "a gender-swapping story line and an extra comedic twist!" The guided tour of romance at North Park begins at the Thorn Street Brewery. Crystal Brandan directs. THORN STREET BREWERY, 3176 THORN ST., NORTH PARK. 619-501-2739. 1:30PM, 2PM, & 3PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

The Secret Garden In Concert

The Barn Stage Company closes out its 2017/2018 season with a concert

version of the musical based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's popular children's novel. The production features the Temecula Valley Symphony and a cast of 22.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATRE, 42051 MAIN ST., TEMECULA. 866-653-8696. 7:30PM THURSDAY & SATURDAY, MAR. 3, 2PM SUNDAY, MAR. 4.

Seussical the Musical

San Elijo Middle School Rising Stars present the musical — by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty — based on the works of Dr. Seuss (with much of the plot coming from his short story "Horton Hears a Who!").

SAN ELIJO MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1600 SCHOOLHOUSE WAY, SAN MARCOS. 760-290-2800. 7PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY, MAR. 3.

Smoke on the Mountain

Lamb's Players have moved its popular version of Connie Ray's bluegrass gospel musical to the Avo Playhouse for a limited run. Using mostly old hymns, familiar to many but not all members of the audience, the production's a rousing, energetic romp on traditional Christmas themes. Set in a Mount Pleasant, North Carolina Baptist church in 1938, it focuses on the Sanders Family Singers, a colorful, lively clan that's a mite accident prone. Each character has a monologue and a featured song, and the Lamb's cast performs with gusto. The drawback is music unfamiliar to someone without a Christian church-going background, and some of the monologues suffer from inferior writing and awkward placement. Musical director Jon Lorenz does an impressive job coaching the cast on vocals and playing various instruments. *Worth a try.* Review by Larry Steckling.

LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 4PM

Critic's Choice
"Spectacular—one of the most exquisite renderings of *Uncle Vanya* I've encountered."

Los Angeles Times



UNCLE Vanya

Final Weeks!
Must Close March 11

By Anton Chekhov
Translated by
Richard Nelson,
Richard Pevear,
and Larissa Volokhonsky
Directed by
Richard Nelson

THE OLD GLOBE

(619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623)
TheOldGlobe.org

Jesse Pennington and Jay O. Sanders. Photo by Jim Cox.

& 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS,
7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Stomp

Broadway/San Diego hosts the internationally acclaimed percussionists (they've performed in over 50 countries), who "make a rhythm out of anything we can get our hands on that makes a sound."
BALBOA THEATRE, 868 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7:30PM FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY, MAR. 3, 1PM & 6:30PM SUNDAY, MAR. 4.

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 THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS.

Three Sisters

The Old Globe and University of San Diego's Shiley Graduate Theatre Program present Libby Appel's new version of Anton Chekhov's masterpiece about the Prozorov family. Stuck in a provincial town, they dream of Moscow, city of their childhood and their dreams. Scott Ripley directs.
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 5998 ALCALÁ PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM SATURDAY, MAR. 3, 2PM & 7:30PM SUNDAY, MAR. 4.

Uncle Vanya

Nothing much happens in Anton Chekhov's bleak and bitter *Uncle Vanya*, and that's by design. The characters, on an estate in rural Russia, are stuck in their boredom and inaction. It seems appropriate, then, that this Old Globe production feels subdued in its staging and acting. The set consists largely of simple wooden tables and chairs. Costumes are equally muted, reminiscent of drab, Depression-era clothing. To foster a sense of realism, director Richard Nelson has his actors deliver lines at a low, intimate volume, and their restraint puts a fine point on the characters' awkwardness and simmering rage, but often leads to dullness. Microphones and speakers above the stage (and optional headsets) help audiences catch the dialogue. The new translation, by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, is poetic and conversational, a useful balance for a play whose characters dream of soaring but only tread water, and tread water, and tread more water. Review by *Jennifer Chung Klam*.

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.

Wonder of the World

For its inaugural production, Stir the Pot Productions presents David Lindsay-Abair's "wacky tale of two women who run away to Niagara Falls: one with a bucket list and one with a barrel!"
CITY HEIGHTS PERFORMANCE ANNEX, 3791 FAIRMOUNT AVE., CITY HEIGHTS. 619-641-6103. 8PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAR. 3, 2PM SUNDAY, MAR. 4.

UPCOMING SHOWS

A Bench in the Sun

PowPAC presents Ron Clark's comedy-drama about "the seasons and the sacrifices one makes in life, and reflections on the way the world is changing." Lifelong friends Burt and Harold share a bench at Valley View Gardens, a home for the aged. Then retired actress Adrienne Bliss wants a seat. Mary L. Smith directs.
POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. MAR. 9 THROUGH APR. 8.

A Jewish Joke

Roustabouts Theatre stages Phil Johnson's "drama about comedy." It's "one man's journey during the 1950's Hollywood blacklist, and careers were ruined by a whisper. Screenwriter Bernie has to make the most serious decision of his life." David Ellenstein directs.
MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. MAR. 14 THROUGH APR. 8.

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 Brotebeck directs.
SDSU'S EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. 619-594-6884. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical

Canyon Crest Academy presents a musical based on Robert Louis Stevenson's antithetical characters. "Murder and chaos are pitted 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. MAR. 16 THROUGH MAR. 31.

Musical Theatre Showcase

For two evenings only, 14 members of Point Loma Playhouse's Winter Musical Theatre Workshop will perform favorite songs from Broadway musicals. Jordan Miller directs.
POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 11.

Mystifiqué 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. MAR. 9 THROUGH JUNE 8.

New Play Festival

The San Diego City College Drama Arts Program presents the third annual Festival of New Plays. "Several talented students realize their hard work in the spring semester with a fully-produced ten-minute play" in the black box theater.
SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE, 1313 PARK BL., EAST VILLAGE. 619-388-3400. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 18.

Of Sound Mind and Dead Body

The Experts in Mystery Entertain-

ment are now performing live public and private interactive murder mystery dinner shows in San Diego and surrounding areas throughout California. Join us for a night of intrigue, deception, and delicious food in this comedic thriller! Please Visit Our Website: The Murder Mystery Company in San Diego
OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 275 FIFTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-233-4323. MAR. 15.

Rent the Musical: School Edition

Point Loma High School performs the "school edition" of Jonathan Larson's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical about East Village artists doing their work and keeping a roof over their heads.
POINT LOMA HIGH SCHOOL, 2335 CHATSWORTH BL., POINT LOMA. 619-223-3121. MAR. 16 THROUGH MAR. 17.

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 scrumdiddilyumptious 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.

San Diego, I Love You #SwipeRight

Circle Circle dot dot's annual, site-specific romantic comedy — conceived by Kristin McReddie, written by Soroya Rowley — features "a gender-swapping story line and an extra comedic twist!" The guided tour of romance at North Park begins at the Thorn Street Brewery. Crystal Brandan directs.
THORN STREET BREWERY, 3176 THORN ST., NORTH PARK. 619-501-2739. MAR. 10 THROUGH MAR. 11.

The Skriker

UCSD Department of Theatre & Dance stages Caryl Churchill's "fantastical story of love." An ancient fairy transforms itself into objects and people as it pursues two teenage mothers it will manipulate, seduce, and entrap. Jon Reimer directs.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, 9500 GILMAN DR., UCSD. 858-534-2230. MAR. 14 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Ten Minute Madness XI

The North Park Vaudeville presents its annual — and popular — production of ten minute plays by playwrights from around the country, including seven new plays presented by an ensemble cast."
NORTH PARK VAUDEVILLE AND CANDY SHOPPE, 2031 EL CAJON BL., NORTH PARK. 619-220-8663. MAR. 9 THROUGH MAR. 25.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

a lickety-split."

The roommates disagreed, saying Lily never leaves their yard, even when their wooden fence is left open.

"There were five Siberian huskies missing in South Bay in the last month," Kanzaki said. "This is bigger than just our situation. [The perps] clearly did some scouting because our house is in an alley."

Many are saying that Siberian huskies are more popular because of the direwolves portrayed in the *Game of Thrones* television series that first aired on HBO in 2011.

"So, if we go back to fiscal year 2010–2011 [July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011]," DeSousa said, "we had 252 Siberian huskies come into our shelters. I [then] ran the numbers for the last three fiscal years: 2014–2015, we had 355 huskies come in; 2015–2016, we had 461; and then 2016–2017, that number jumped up to 563...."

"We see that in animal shelters whenever there's a really popular breed on TV or in a movie. People want to breed them and sell them and make money on them."

MIKE MADRIAGA



Joe Mosca and Matt Bosse and their sons

ENCINITAS

Santa Fe Christian School criticized

"We wouldn't consider sending our child there now."

Both Matt Bosse and Joe Mosca, an Encinitas couple, grew up Catholic and want to share their faith with their children. So when they started to think about a middle school for their older son Garrett, it made sense that they'd look at one of the top private schools in the area, the Santa Fe Christian School.

The Solana Beach K–12 school has a reputation for high academic standards,

strong sports, and wholesome campus life. Garrett had been coached during the summer by one of the school's lacrosse coaches and he enjoyed the learning experience. Friends from the Episcopalian congregation they belong to spoke well of it, too.

But when they met with admissions director Vicki O'Rourke late last year, they said it didn't go well.

"She told us we weren't a match for the school and made it clear we were not welcome to apply," Bosse said. "The problem was that Garrett has two dads."

In January, Bosse said, a member of the

school's board affirmed that the school is not open to same-sex couples — or their children.

"They didn't give our son a chance," Bosse said. "Their idea of Christian is not our idea of what it means to be a Christian. That's not how I was raised."

The school's interim head of school Jim Adare said in a written statement that the school does not "attempt to persuade or dissuade prospective families from applying. At the same time, as part of the admissions process, we make clear to prospective applicants that they will be joining a Bible-based community designed to disciple [*sic*] students to embrace biblical truth."

The statement ends with the note that the school is privately funded through tuition, donations, and by its "endowers."

Encinitas mayor Catherine Blakespear mentioned the "unfortunate incident" in her most recent email to constituents — Mosca serves as deputy mayor in the city and is an attorney who works for San Diego Gas & Electric.

"We are not seeking anything," Mosca said. "We hope they will look inward and think about their policy and realize it's a policy of discrimination. That's not part of the values of people in our community."

MARTY GRAHAM

Cursed weaknesses

Perhaps my admiration for Martin McDonagh's previous films (*In Bruges*, *Seven Psychopaths*) made my disappointment with *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* that much more acute. I waited as long as possible before publishing this, but the Oscars are this Sunday. If you have not seen the movie, stop reading here. There be spoilers.

For the first hour, McDonagh was firing on all cylinders.

His characters were fresh and the dialogue,

for the most part, was as appealing as it was appalling. Had a little animated devil appeared on my shoulder at the 56-minute mark whispering, "Leave now and make up your own ending," I'd have swatted it away with a cartoon *Poof!*

Let the Academy bestow upon the picture as many acting awards as they see fit. All the nominees are deserving. It's the script and direction that come up *bupkes*. Here are ten reasons why the film doesn't deserve any of its technical nominations, let alone potential awards.

1. Didn't jokes about cops eating donuts go out around the same time

as gays being depicted as limp-wristed, poodle-carrying interior decorators and/or hairdressers? Another easy target: pedophile howls ensue when Mildred comes home to find the town priest consoling her son.

2. For the sake of ease and clumsy, over-theatrical foreshadowing, the Ebbing Advertising Company is staged directly across the street from the Ebbing Police Department.

3. This qualifies as half-a-knock: on top of being a world-class alkie, Dixon (Sam Rockwell) is homophobic and a virulent racist. How he's held down a job as a peace officer is questionable, but in Trump's America, anything is possible. Some object to the lack of retribution meted out in the end, going so far as calling it redemptive. This isn't the '30s where crime didn't pay and anyone breaking the law was going to meet with a long stretch in the pokey or, worse, a bullet. Being torched isn't enough punishment for Dixon, but let's face it: assholes change overnight only in movies. If Mom is any indication, her boy's incivility is eternal.

4. Willoughby (Woody Harrelson)

and Mildred (Frances McDormand) go way back. Considering how well-versed the two are in each other's backstories why, when first they meet, does he address her with the more formal "Mrs. Hayes"? And in a town as small as Ebbing, how is it possible that Mildred and Anne Willoughby (Abbie Cornish) have never met?

5. The unsolved murder of her daughter apparently gave Mildred the right to use a drill to clean her dentist's thumb and solve a problem at her son's school by twice introducing her foot to a student's crotch. In a real-life universe — which I assume is what McDonagh is working hard to authenticate — actions such as this would never go unpunished.

6. There is no coincidence in having a set of spare billboard covers in case of emergency. That's far more logical than Dixon and Red (Caleb Landry Jones) winding up as bunk mates in the same hospital room.

7. By way of comic relief, the script calls on Mildred's ex (John Hawkes) to shack up with a stereotypical 19-year-old, the type who's too stupid to pour piss out of a boot with the instructions



Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri: The ad campaign that inspired the movie.

printed on the heel. (Thank you, Lyndon Johnson!) Keeping alive Hollywood's penchant for goofing on dumb blondes is one thing, but McDonagh seems to have a score to settle with young women. Why else would Dixon later coldcock Red's secretary? The unexpected blow neither deepens nor

advances our understanding of his character and as such is included solely to elicit shock. Or, in the case of the matinee audience I saw it with, laughter.

8. Here's where it really began to lose me: Dixon pummels Red and his secretary, going so far as to toss the former out a second-story window. All of





Reader

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LOVE, SIMON

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VISIT **SDREADER.COM** AND CLICK "CONTESTS."

DEADLINE TO ENTER IS SATURDAY, MARCH 3 AT 1:00 PM.
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LOVE, SIMON HAS BEEN RATED PG-13 BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA FOR "THEMATIC ELEMENTS, SEXUAL REFERENCES, LANGUAGE AND TEEN PARTYING." Passes received through this promotion do not guarantee admission - seating is first come, first served. 20th Century Fox, San Diego Reader, Allied Integrated Marketing, and their affiliates accept no responsibility or liability in connection with any loss or accident incurred in connection with use of a prize. Tickets cannot be exchanged, transferred or redeemed for cash, in whole or in part. We are not responsible if, for any reason, winner is unable to use his/her ticket in whole or in part. Void where prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. NO PHONE CALLS!

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this is witnessed by a new character, an African-American gentleman standing outside the station, with morning coffee cup in hand. Dumbfounded by what he has just witnessed, he ruffles his suit coat and the gesture reveals a badge belonging to Willoughby's replacement (Clarke Peters). It's one thing to demand that Dixon be fired on the spot. After what he just witnessed, shouldn't Dixon have been booked for assault and battery?

9. When Willoughby dies, the picture goes with him. Officers return with news of his suicide, but Dixon doesn't hear them, what with Abba's "Chiquita" blasting in his ears. The moment office furniture begins to be tossed, off come the headphones. If Dixon can detect the admittedly amplified sound of his fellow officers grieving, surely he would be able to hear three Molotov cocktails exploding outside the police station within feet of where he stands?

10. A mysterious drifter who may or may not be the actual killer of Mildred's daughter pays an unexpected visit to the gift shop. That's almost as easy as having the next-door neighbor turning into a homicidal homophobe just like that. Then again, it worked for *American Beauty!*

— Scott Marks

SD Film Festival Oscar party helps a human thing

Most years, I watch the Oscars from the comfort of my bed, clad in my finest thrift-store pajamas and swilling El Jimador like they're going to stop

importing tequila when they build Trump's wall. That way, I can hurl abuse at the Academy and curse my own weakness for watching the sparkly charade without bothering anybody besides my wife, who is used to it by now. But this year, I'm thinking I may put on both pants and my best set of manners and mosey up to Rancho Santa Fe for the San Diego Film Festival's Oscar party. (See sdfilmfest.com for details.)

Festival CEO and artistic director Tonya Mantooth was tickled to see that two of this year's Best Picture nominees, *Call Me By Your Name* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, were among her picks for last year's festival. "We follow Toronto, which is only three weeks before us, and they get the world premieres," says Mantooth. "So when I'm out there pitching the studios, nobody's seen the films yet. It's all about researching, seeing if all the puzzle pieces will fit together. Who is the director? Who is the writer? Who's in the cast? What's the story? The morning after they premiere at Toronto, I'm reading the reviews, seeing how the films I've secured measure up." (*Billboards* was a relatively easy call: she premiered writer-director Martin McDonagh's last film, *Seven Psychopaths*, at the 2012 festival, and was happy to see that Sam Rockwell was back in front of McDonagh's lens. "And when I saw that Frances McDormand was in it and read the background, I saw it had all the pieces for being a brilliant film. It's a tough subject, but McDonagh

always brings a kind of human, dark humor to things.")

So, in one small way, the Oscar party serves as a quiet reminder of the festival and what it offers San Diego filmgoers. But its main function is as a fundraiser for the SD Film Foundation's Focus on Impact Film Tour. "I feel that film can help people find a sense of commonality, instead of how things are now, where everybody looks for the divide," says Mantooth. "And I feel like kids today don't get to see documentaries; they control what they watch in a different way than previous generations, and there are things they're not made aware of. We need that next generation to care."

To that end, she partnered last year with filmmaker Thomas Morgan to bring his documentary *Storied Streets* to five San Diego high schools. "It shows the side of homelessness that most people don't see: people who work a full-time job but can't afford a place to live, who ride public transit all night, then get off the bus and go to work in the morning. Families who lost their health insurance and then had their medical bills push them to lose everything." Morgan came along to talk about his work, and the tour also brought in Giuseppe Pizan, a young man featured in the film.

"We surveyed all the students on their opinions about the homeless issue before the film," explains Mantooth. "And we surveyed them afterwards to see if it changed their perception." (It did.) "I made sure to bring it to half

affluent schools and half Title I schools," the former because "these kids are going to go to college, they're going to do urban design, they're going to run for office and make laws. They need to see this as a human issue."

Mantooth says she plans to make the film tour an annual event, taking on "big issues that need to be looked at." This year, the Tour will feature *River Blue*, David McIlvride and Roger Williams's look at conservationist Mark Angelo's investigation of the fashion industry's impact on the environment.

— Matthew Lickona

MOVIE LISTINGS

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

The 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)

Annihilation — Writer-director Alex Garland continues his assault on human specialness (and humanity in general), this time going so far as to loop in the self among the parts of us subject to genetic malleability. He does a neat job of it, noting that we die naturally because of a fault in our genes, and that we behave in self-destructive ways because of a fault in our...selves. "These aren't decisions; they're impulses," observes the film's psychologist — you know, a person who studies the soul. (Read: the ruin is built right in!) Further, the particular threat borne by the film's rocky messenger from the heavens — not so much an angel of death as an agent of change — works to remove us from the drama of our own obsolescence. (At least in his previous feature, *Ex Machina*, humanity had a hand in crafting its replacement, even as that was presented less as a moral choice and more as an evolutionary necessity.) The story concerns the efforts of a soldier-scientist (Natalie Portman) to undo the damage done by her own self-destructive tendencies by going into The Shimmer, the mysterious and metastasizing region around ground zero. She's joined by a team of equally damaged experts — all women, because all the all-male teams never came back — and together, they seek to unravel the mystery of a land where nature seems to have gone berserk at the intracellular level. This gives Garland a chance to go a little berserk himself with the visuals — you may have a hard time looking at molds and fungi for a while, even if you grant the unsettling appeal of his landscapes — while he slows the action to something approaching stately, presumably to give the meaning (or maybe the lack of it) time to sink in. The result is a film that is fascinating (in the sense of "bewitching") but a bit hard to watch. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

FILM FESTIVALS

CENTRAL LIBRARY
330 Park Bl., East Village
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Shutout! The Battle American Women Wage to Play Baseball The San Diego premiere of a new film by filmmaker Jon Leonoudakis, *Shutout! The Battle American Women Wage to Play Baseball*. The feature-length documentary chronicles over a century of gender discrimination infecting the national pastime, the women who've succeeded in spite of it, and considers the path forward to make baseball more available to women. Starring Ila Borders, Justine Siegal, Jennifer Ring, Lilly Jacobson, Jean Hastings Ardell, Lisa Nehus Saxon. Ardell, Ring, and Fox 5 Sports anchor Tabitha Lipkin will join the filmmaker for Q&A. Ardell, Ring, and Leonoudakis will also sign their latest books at the event. **Saturday, March 10, 1:00pm**

CHULA VISTA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY
365 F St., Chula Vista
619-691-5069

Film Forum: The Man Who Invented Christmas A madcap biographical fantasy that puts a fresh spin on Charles Dickens' creation of A Christmas Carol. Under pressure from a declining career and financial desperation, Dickens (Dan Stevens) is inspired to write and self-publish his beloved Yuletide classic. With Christopher Plummer as Ebenezer Scrooge. 2017. 104 minutes. PG. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Chula Vista Library and made possible in part through the City of Chula Vista Performing and Visual Arts Grant. **Wednesday, March 14, 6:00pm**

DAVID AND DOROTHEA GARFIELD THEATRE
4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla
858-362-1348



Giants of Jazz With a vast archive of more than 12,000 films and clips, music-maven Mark Cantor's collection of jazz and blues performances is widely considered one of the world's premier collections of American popular music on film. Cantor screens rare clips and shares detailed documentation and lively commentary. "Mark Cantor has one of the very best collections of jazz films in the world." — Ken Burns. **Wednesday, March 7, 7:00pm**

EVE ENCINITAS
575 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas
760-230-2560

Movie Night Join us every first Friday for an independent film from across the world. **Friday, March 2, 7:00pm**

MISSION VALLEY LIBRARY
2123 Fenton Parkway, Mission Valley
858-573-5007

Small Fry: Drive-In Movie Rev your engines and get the popcorn! In this program, children will make their own "cars" from cardboard boxes. After the decorating is done, kids can

sit in their new vehicles to watch a movie. Cardboard boxes are limited, and registration is required for those who would like a box to decorate. All are welcome to enjoy the movie. Recommended for ages three and older. **Saturday, March 10, 2:30pm**

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS
1649 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-238-7559



San Diego Film Week The Second Annual San Diego Film Week is a ten-day-long celebration of film in America's Finest City. Over 100 local, national, and international films will be showcased along with workshops, parties, and panels at the Museum of Photographic Arts and other locations across San Diego County. The 2018 San Diego Film Week culminates with the 5th Annual San Diego Film Awards, held April 8. **Thursday, March 1 to Sunday, March 11, 10:00am each day**

San Diego Film Week San Diego Film Week is a week-long celebration of local film and is replacing the Film Consortium Fall Film Festival and Winter Film Showcase. **March 2-March 4 and March 6-March 11, 6:00pm each day**

SEACREST VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
211 Saxony Rd., Encinitas

Film Discussion Class: I Confess Alfred Hitchcock directed this tale of deception and secrets. A priest (Montgomery Clift) finds himself at a moral crossroads when he hears a German refugee's confession of murder. Will he break his sacramental seal or allow himself to become the prime suspect? Co-stars Anne Baxter and Karl Malden. 1953. 95 minutes. Film discussion class with instructor Ralph DeLauro. **Tuesday, March 13, 1:30pm**

SEACREST VILLAGE AT RANCHO BERNARDO
12730 Monte Vista Rd., Rancho Bernardo
858-485-0700

Film Discussion Class: The 39 Steps This film from Alfred Hitchcock set the standard for the master's "wrong-man" thrillers. Richard Hannay (Robert Donat) is hurled into a web of intrigue and espionage when he stumbles upon a conspiracy and into a romance with the cool Pamela (Madeleine Carroll). 1935. 85 minutes. Film discussion class with instructor Ralph DeLauro. Sponsored by the Continuing Education Center of Rancho Bernardo. **Wednesday, March 7, 1:30pm**

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Film Discussion Class: Strangers on a Train Alfred Hitchcock delivers an intoxicating merry-go-round that entangles two men — a tennis champion (Farley Granger) and an unstable rogue (Robert Walker) — in a web of "criss-cross" murders. With Ruth Roman, Leo G. Carroll, and Patricia Hitchcock. 1951. 101 minutes. Film discussion class with instructor Ralph DeLauro in the Rolling Hills Theater on the second floor. **Thursday, March 8, 1:30pm**

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Calendar MOVIES

Black Panther — The first entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe to feature a black superhero feels more like the first black Bond film, minus the cavalier attitude toward women and plus some supernatural elements. You've got your central drama over who gets to get their hands on the advanced technology. Your tour of the gadget lab prior to embarking on a mission. Your slightly creaky humor — in this case, a “What are those?” shoe joke and a reference to whipping one's hair back and forth. Your entanglement with the CIA and punch-up with an evil black-marketeer in a casino. And most importantly, your bad guy bursting with dreams of world domination — the violent creation of a new world order to replace the current, admittedly miserable one. It's also a bit ponderous (Bonderous?), and prone to answering profound political questions via mortal combat. That's one thing when you've got a licensed-to-kill operative trying to stop a countdown, but it's another when you have it as the accepted method for legitimate political rivals to determine a nation's foreign policy. Credit to director and co-writer Ryan Coogler for envisioning an epic and assembling the requisite elements: a struggle for the throne, a nation on the brink of transformation, a compelling juxtaposition of father-son relationships, a brilliant array of women determined to aid their king in his hour of need, and a daring mix of the ancient and the very new. Points off for poor pacing, action, and dialogue; goofy physics (including a charging rhino stopping on a dime for laffs); and an overall failure to make his dramatic beats register in regions below the brain. Ultimately, it's more interesting to think about than it is to watch. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story — Mention her name, and anyone who has seen *Blazing Saddles* will smile and say, “That's Hedley!” But if it was Mel Brooks who brought the actress eternal fame and instant recognition, Bombshell is out to set the record straight. At 18, actress Hedy Lamarr grabbed headlines when she appeared nude in the Czechoslovakian film *Ecstasy*. MGM put her under contract based on her looks, but what they (and everyone else) overlooked was that as an actress, Lamarr was a brilliant inventor. “Wifi and Bluetooth — that's my mother's technology,” attests her son, Anthony Loder. Oh, and during World War II, she came up with a way of frequency hopping that made it impossible for the Germans to jam the signals of radio controlled missiles. But perhaps the film's biggest revelation is that Hedy Lamarr was Jewish. Not surprisingly, this documentary based on her real-life exploits proved to be more fascinating than many of the scripts she was saddled with by Metro's story department. 2017 — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Death Wish — Eli Roth sends Bruce Willis on a revenge spree in this remake of the 1974 film that made Charles Bronson a franchise star. Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Game Night — From John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein, the team that crapped out the saddening remake of *Vacation*, comes something a bit more tolerable. As the competitive couple whose weekly game-playing ritual turns deadly after an even more cutthroat participant brings a corpse to the party, Rachel McAdams and Jason Bateman spark and maintain enough comedic chemistry to make things toler-

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able even when Mark Perez's (*The Country Bears*) script lets them down. (McAdams hasn't fully tapped into her funny side since playing mean girl Regina George and try as I might to like one of Jason Bateman's big screen comedies, the laughs — providing there are some — have been few and far between.) An infectious moment where the gag-reflexing pair exchange hacks found me hocking up popcorn hulls and even more unexpectedly awesome was a one-take, CG-embroidered indoor chase scene. Credit Kyle Chandler and Jesse Plemons with many of the film's laughs. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

I, Tonya — Director Craig Gillespie (*Lars and the Real Girl*) finds his signature image in a cigarette butt bouncing to a halt on the ice before being snuffed in two by a skate blade. The real villain in the piece is screenwriter Steven Rogers who too often deems his audience as dumb as his red-neck characters. How many times must the cast stop dead in their tracks to directly address the camera? At one point, we find the appallingly brilliant Allison Janney lamenting, “Well, my story line is disappearing now.” Margot Robbie never once resorts to camp, transforming what could easily have been just another grotesquerie in a grand guignol into a fully rounded, albeit unremittently unsympathetic, character. Given all of the emotional and physical violence these characters heap on each other, it's frequently difficult to find humor in them. The filmmakers spend so much time focusing on the freakshow side of the story that it might be difficult to find room in your heart to laugh. 2017. — S.M. ★★ (AMC FASHION VALLEY; ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Jabberwocky — An almost unexportable English comedy, one which takes its pleasure in the common schoolboy practice of fantasizing about the pippen

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conditions of life in the oldendays. Even for viewers who've received a proper English education in Arthurian legends, it is probably not awfully intelligible. In the slough of messy atmospheric and murky lighting, you have to fish around for the jokes; and what you dredge up, oftener than not, is a handful of garbage, dung, or gore. The funniest bits have to do with a countryside-terrorizing dragon which has sprung out of a bottom-drawer Japanese monster movie. Starring Michael Palin and directed by Terry Gilliam, both of the Monty Python group. 1977. — D.S. ★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Mohawk — As with last year's *The Void*, *Mohawk* is wonderfully long on setting, mood, and practical effects, and woefully short on storytelling and drama. It concerns a Mohawk woman named Oak (Kanietiio Horn), her two lovers — one Mohawk, one English — and their efforts to rally her people to fight against the Americans in the War of 1812. Naturally, the Americans object, in particular, a scouting party made up of Fop, Steam-punk, Grizzle, Grizzle Jr., and Bigfoot. (Those aren't their names, just their personas.) Few of the actors seem to be going for a period feel, which is weird the way the synth-heavy soundtrack is weird, but it does give Grizzle (Ezra Buzzington) a chance to spatter his standout performance all over the landscape in entertaining fashion. And what a landscape! “The blood soaks into the ground,” intones Oak. “It seeps into the roots. The trees can't sleep, and the whole forest goes mad.” Maybe so, but it looks great doing it. Alas, what appears to be a revenge-driven piece of slightly supernatural horror gradually morphs into a politically minded action movie, complete with punch-'em-up show-down. It maybe could have worked as one or the other, but in its effort to be both, it winds up an unsatisfying mush. 2017

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—M.L. ★ (DIGITAL GYM)

Nostalgia — There have been movies named after feelings before — *Contempt*, *Repulsion*, *Happiness*, even *Fear and Loathing* (if only in Las Vegas) — but they tended to focus on the characters *having* those feelings. Here, director Mark Pellington seems to be aiming at a portrayal of nostalgia itself, with the people feeling it serving as necessary but ultimately unimportant vessels, the way a doctor researching cancer needs to see it working on a patient. The result is weirdly awful, much of it involving extended musings over stuff lost or left behind. Sample: “These are the remainders of our lives, of many forms — emotional, physical. These are our artifacts, our scars, our objects, memories, items that are tangible, memorable. We live our lives, and ask, ‘What do we leave behind? What's the value of any of this?’” Well, *okay* then. Eventually, the film rustles up something approaching a story, and sharpens the pang of loss. It's slightly more personal, but still baffling to behold — a campaign of sorrow in the service of... what? What's most remarkable is the cast: Bruce Dern, Ellen Burstyn, John Hamm, Catherine Keener, Ron Offerman, Patton Oswalt, et alia. (Maybe they all liked writer Alex Ross Perry's *Queen of Earth* as much as I did, and signed on before reading the script?) Hamm, at least, has a solid future reading people's old letters aloud. 2018 — M.L. ● (AMC FASHION VALLEY, ANGELIKA CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

The Party — Like a soap bubble, writer-director Sally Potter's arch sendup of the English intelligentsia (plus the odd coked-up banker) is brief, diverting, and laden with impending doom from its very first moments. (We open on a distraught and undone Kristin Scott Thomas, filmed in delicious black and white, opening her front door and raising a gun at her

visitor.) Unlike a soap bubble, it is likely to leave you feeling just a bit dirtier than before you encountered it. The titular party is being held in celebration of Thomas' rising from the ranks of the rational, public-minded Opposition to become a Minister of Health, so of course the evening will include loopy mysticism, private privilege, and terminal illness. Goodhearted, right-thinking liberals will be unveiled as grasping, frightened primitives. Everyone is accomplished but awful, nothing is sacred, and apparently the great privilege of being privileged is that you get to dispense with anything resembling polite conversation. Potter's writing hand is heavy, but her fantastic cast — Timothy Spall, Bruno Ganz, Patricia Clarkson, Cherry Jones, Emily Mortimer, and Cillian Murphy — manages to lend the script a conversational lightness. Aleksei Rodionov's camera work helps as well, lending an almost comedic air to the dire goings-on. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (ANGELIKA FILM CENTER; ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Peter Rabbit — An affectionate note of Tex Avery mayhem opens the story — in an instant, a bucolic chorus of Disneyesque birds in flight is rendered utterly oofy-magoofy — 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)

Red Sparrow — Lurid but not quite trashy thriller from director Francis Lawrence, who puts his *Hunger Games* star Jennifer Lawrence through trials that never made it into their previous, PG-13 collaboration. It's not just the rape and torture — though there is that, along with a nude scene that serves nicely as Ms. Lawrence's rejoinder to everyone who enjoyed her hacked iCloud photos online. There's also the storyline, which involves a pery Russian official (Matthias Schoenaerts, just one of the fine actors having a lark here) who seems more than happy to force his beautiful niece into a life of sexual spycraft. He sends her to Sparrow school, where she learns to profile her targets in order to determine what they most desire, then give precisely that in order to establish the kind of intimacy that yields useful information. (Plus boring stuff like how to pick locks and handle a weapon.) “Learns” might be a little strong, however; it's more than she gets the chance to really show her skills. Not so much in the bedroom — contra her instructor's (Charlotte Rampling) teachings that her body is State property and sex is essentially impersonal, the film derives a good bit of its drama from the question of when and how our heroine yields herself — but definitely in the headspace. She is always thinking ahead, and following that thinking is the real fun here, the thing that keeps you going through the sexual ickiness, the 140-minute runtime, the slummy accents from Jeremy Irons and Ciarán Hinds, and the many plot twists. 2018 — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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Canada- La Jolla. Ai Sciforma seeks a Sales Manager Canada. Duties: Direct & coordinate sales activities, resolve customer complaints, determine price schedules, confer w/ potential customers re PPM \$/w are needs & advise customers on service to purchase, draft & organize proposals/demos/presentations, work w/ prospects & provide best pricing, develop Sciforma influence on Canadian mkt. Mng a Sales Account Exec. BA in internat'l business/Project mgmt + certification/training/academic credits in project mgmt. Mail resume to HR Job #0206, 4880 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 102, San Jose, CA 95129.

TRADES / LABOR

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN WANTED

I am seeking UTI graduates (or similar education experience) with 2 years minimum work experience and/or those with 4 years of on-the-job training and ASE certifications. This individual must be self-motivated and able to perform basic repairs (timing belts, head gaskets, brake services, and alignment and maintenance services), diagnostic skills a plus, Smog License a plus. Must be able to multitask and perform within a team environment. You will need proof of qualified work experience and / or copies of ASE certifications. I will need a minimum of 4 references when you are called in for an interview. Precision Tune Auto Care. Call 619-226-7822. ATTN Clarence 3425 Midway Dr. San Diego CA 92110

COMPUTER/ TECHNICAL

QUALITY ENGINEER

Leica Biosystems Imaging, Inc. (Vista, CA) to provide Quality Engineering

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support for software and hardware development projects. Req's: Master's degree in Biomedical Eng., Medical Imaging, or related (foreign edu. equivalent accepted) & 3 yrs exp. performing in a quality engineering role in FDA regulated medical device or IVD industry environment, or alternatively, a Bachelor's degree & 5 yrs exp. as stated above. Resume to: LBS-PI@leicabiosystems.com. Reference code "LeicaGS".

SR. DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

(Req# IIC1194) Admin of SQL Server (diff versions) databases (production & lower environ). MS+3orBS+6yrs exp. Mail resumes to Peter Korzen, Illumina, Inc, 5200 Illumina Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Ref title & req#.

REAL ESTATE

Miscellaneous

HOTEL OWNER WILL BUY property anywhere. Small houses, big houses, condos, apartments, commercial, vacant land and notes. Call 619-204-0610, bkr.

ROOMMATES

Beaches

BAY PARK, \$695

Upstairs furnished room; bed, chest of drawers, T.V., Utilities/wifi included. Located on cul-de-sac. Quiet, employed, polite, no smoking or drugs, single occupancy only. 858-272-1534/692-9325

OCEAN BEACH/POINT LOMA, \$975

Shared electricity less than \$25, utilities included w/ cable and wifi included. Private BD+BA for one active person, full-time employment out of home. Club house, swimming pool, sauna, BBQ area. Coin laundry onsite and street parking. Walking distance to beaches and all. No pets. Available to view in February. khini23flossy@yahoo.com.

East County

EL CAJON, \$800 - \$1000

2 rooms available in 3BD house. Large room, \$1000 deposit/rent and small room \$600 deposit/rent. Furnished/ unfurnished with flat screen tv, mini fridge, microwave, with shared bathroom. Washer/dryer. Cable, wifi, utilities included. New flooring/paint. No pets. Kids welcome. Available now, call/text 619-715-2840.

RENTALS

Commercial Rentals

DOWNTOWN, \$150-650.

Gaslamp creative space! 100-600 sqft. Artists, painters, sculptors, writers, photographers, fiber, design, etc. High ceilings, tall windows. Gallery venue for shows. Uniquely affordable. 402 Market Street. 619-471-7054 call or text - by appointment only.



DOWNTOWN, \$250-495.

Artist work spaces: Office or work spaces and retail available. 636 C Street, 92101. Inquire inside (C Street Inn front desk) or call 619-234-4165 or 619-269-9076. www.jspropertymanagement.com.

GASLAMP RESTAURANT SPACE for lease. Excellent ground level, corner spot. 4300 square feet, \$3 per square foot. 619-471-7054.

Beaches

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1325.

1BD+1BA; downstairs end unit; stove, refrigerator; coin laundry; parking; cat OK with extra deposit; on the Southwest corner of Jewell and grand; convenient location; close to shopping; EZ freeway access; available 3/1/18;

1669 Grand Avenue. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$1375.

1BD+1BA unit. Quiet, gated entrance. Ceiling fans, laundry, off-street parking, pool. Building well maintained. No pets. Available now. Call or text 202-851-9478; e-mail akarnazes@gmail.com.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2600.

2BD+1BA remodeled front unit in a duplex, a stone's throw from the ocean; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; washer/dryer; shared garage; cat OK with extra deposit; available now; 4894 Dixie Drive. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$2600.

2BD+2BA; large downstairs end unit; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave; coin laundry; parking; 7 blocks to ocean; 1/2 block to bay; no pets; available 3/1/18; 1346 Pacific Beach Drive. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

PACIFIC BEACH, \$3600.

3BD+2BA house with refinished hardwood floors; large kitchen with breakfast area; fireplace; laundry hookups; deck; 2 car garage with new door and opener; also 2 parking spaces in driveway; no pets; 2 blocks to ocean; available now; 4236 Bayard Street. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

Downtown

BANKERS HILL, \$1195.

STUDIO+1BA. Downstairs unit. Stove, refrigerator, hardwood floors, laundry room. No pets. Near Balboa Park. 2254 5th Avenue #4. Agent, 619-232-6811.

DOWNTOWN, \$525-655

Clean rooms, very comfortable, convenient location. Historic building near C Street Trolley. Choice of common or private bathrooms. Utilities included. Free cable TV, on-site laundry, vending machines, modern elevator. Southern Hotel, 1159 6th Avenue at B. 619-239-3808.

DOWNTOWN, \$525-880.

Under new management! Renovated, furnished Gaslamp rooms for rent. Elevator. Close to Horton Plaza, restaurants, shops and laundry. Cable TV, telephone and utilities included. 720 4th Ave. 619-233-7594.

NEAR DOWNTOWN, \$1900.

3BD+2BA lower duplex apartment, small complex, fenced/gated, two huge patios, parking, in-unit w/d, new remodel. 408 N 30th St. Agt. 619-477-2966.

East County

LA MESA, \$1890-2090.

3BD+2BA (\$2090) and 2BD+1BA (\$1890) apartments. Welcome to Mt. Helix Gated Community! New kitchen. Stainless steel appliances. Spacious. Clubhouse. WiFi. Air conditioning. Laundry. Garages. Balconies. Pool. Hablo Espanol. 619-646-8670.

LA MESA, \$1990-2190.

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Central San Diego

BANKERS HILL, \$1295.

1BD+1BA large upstairs unit. Stove, refrigerator, plank floors, near Balboa park. No pets. 334 Kalmia St. Agent, 619-232-6811.

COLLEGE AREA, \$1525.

2BD+2BA apartment. Fireplace. Central heat/ air. Microwave, dishwasher. Gated. On-site laundry. Elevator. Centrally located, easy freeway access. No pets. Water and trash included. 4828 Art Street #15. Agent: 619-298-7724.

MISSION VALLEY, \$1400.

1BD+1BA condo. 500sqft. Bright, airy, spacious. Pool and spa, refrigerator, stove, garbage disposal. Heat and A/C. On-site laundry. Night security. No pets. Water and trash included. Move-in special: 1/2 off 1st month with 1-year lease. 6394 Rancho Mission Rd Unit 126. Agent: 619-298-7724.

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Make your reservations now and Get \$200 OFF every month. Studio-1BA available. Monthly and Weekly rentals available, starting at \$350 a week. Call for Monthly, Weekly and daily specials, up to 15% OFF. Includes: weekly cleaning service, daily continental breakfast, all utilities, cable (HBO), heated pool/ spa, on-site laundry. High-speed Internet available for additional charge. (*Rates subject to change/ tax.) California Suites Hotel, 5415 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. (858)799-0219. www.californiasuiteshotel.com.

Old Town & Uptown

CITY HEIGHTS, \$825.

Unfurnished studio alcove apartment. No SDG&E deposit or hookup fee required. Near 52nd and University. 5111 Towle Court. Close to SDSU. Laundry room. Off-street parking. Low deposit. Call 619-281-9451.

NORTH PARK, \$1225.

1BD, large downstairs unit; stove, refrigerator, dishwasher; new carpet; air conditioned; coin laundry; parking; EZ freeway access; CAT OK with extra deposit; available now; 4152 Utah St. Del Sol Property Management, Broker. www.delsolpm.com. 858-270-2071.

NORTH PARK, \$1295.

1BD+1BA updated downstairs apartment with private patio. Small, gated community. 1 assigned parking space. Water and trash included. No pets. Easy freeway access/bus. Available now. 3753 Cherokee. Agent, 619-298-7724.



Services Directory



Home

Glass and Mirror

Shower doors. Mirror. Windows. Screens. Patio and Mirror doors. Dual pane and tempered glass. Glass railings. Installs/ Repairs/ Sales. <http://akaglassguy.com>. Jeff, 858-576-4321.

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with coupon

Foot Massage Combo
\$20/hr (Reg. \$25)



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www.lmassagespa.com

Fletcher Massage

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Hot Stone & Oil**
\$40/hr

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Couples Massage
\$70/hr (Reg. \$80)
With hot stone and oil.



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(On Fletcher Pkwy, COSCTO shop east)
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www.fletchermassage.com

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with coupon

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**Full Body Massage
Hot Stone & Oil**
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(At Balboa, next to 7-Eleven)
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www.mesasparamassage.com

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**Full Body Massage
Hot Stone & Oil**
\$40/hr

Foot Massage Combo
\$20/hr (Reg. \$25)

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With hot stone and oil.



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A haute flourishing holistic eclectic buzz. Flower explosions infused with 100% exotic essential oils. Indulge your senses in an exhilarating state of euphoria. Underground secret of the elite. Lucid dreams! Ephemeral passage! Mystic realms! 90 minutes 90 dollars. Outcalls! Hotel visits. (HHP-0075/CMT-4327). www.aphroditessmassage.com. 858-481-6661.

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An Oasis of calm and spiritual well-being. Euphoric sensations. Be dazzled with private matters. Experience balance, nourishment in earth's element. Sublime delight! Blends of styles- Waves of melodies flow through you. Pleasures of warmth, alluring therapies, fingertips massage and holistic spa treatments. Seven days of unending bliss. In/ out calls. Hotel visits. (HHP-0075 CMT-4327). Krizia, 619-298-6661.

MASSAGE

Yu Spa Grand Opening 20% Off Any Massage or Body Scrub*

Come see what Yu Spa has to offer: Red clay sauna, Himalayan salt sauna, ice room, dry and steam saunas, hot and cold tubs, body scrub, massage, restaurant. 3927 Convoy Street, San Diego, 92111. 858-987-0476. YuSpaSD.com. *With this ad. Expires 2/10/18.

HEALTH & FITNESS

TAI CHI AND QI GONG CLASSES,
Health and Tranquility. First class is free. Taoist Sanctuary of San Diego, 619-692-1155 or www.taoistsanctuary.org.

NOTICES

Have a Spare Bedroom?

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.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.

Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OASandiego.org.

WANTED / TRADE

WANTED:
Speakers, amps and other old stereo gear! The most cash paid always! Brands like JBL, Altec, 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.

GARAGE SALES

The Thursday Club Rummage Sale

Largest in San Diego! Balboa Park Activity Center. Saturday, 3/10, 9am-4pm, and Sunday, 3/11, 10am-2pm. Free admission/parking. Great bargains - bring cash! New and gently used merchandise from antiques, art, clothes, furniture, electronics, jewelry, linens, sporting goods, pet items, toys and more. All proceeds benefit local charities from health, veterans, arts, life skills, animals and education. www.TheThursdayClub.org.

Grand Opening - Special Offer!



**1 Hour
Body
Massage \$35**

**90 Minute
Massage \$50**

(Just mention this ad. Not to be combined with other offers)

i Massage

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**Open
7 Days
a week**

i Massage

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619-929-5258
imassagesd.com



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- Body Scrub
- Massage
- Yoni Steam
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9am - 11pm
Every Day**

20% OFF
Any Body Scrub or Massage
With this ad. Expires 4/7/18



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**\$35 1-Hour
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\$40/hr

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Foot Massage
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Free Hot Stone
with coupon

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El Cajon 92021
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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 Coco Oil, 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



Leisure Spa

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FULL BODY MASSAGE
Anytime with this Coupon • Valid at all 3 locations

\$10 OFF
Grand Opening

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Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.

OIL CHANGE

up to 4 quarts & oil filter
Most 4 cylinder cars,
Trucks extra.

\$16⁹⁵
+tax

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee

PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
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- Turn Rotors / Drums
- Premium Pads
- Most 4 cylinder Cars + tax

\$129
Free Inspection

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20% OFF
Call for quote

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Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

\$149
regularly \$200

Plus tax & hazardous waste fee. 4 cylinder, most cars, prices may vary depending on make & model.

TUNE-UP & OIL CHANGE

- Drain and replace up to 4 quarts of oil
- New oil filter
- New spark plugs
- Visual inspection
- 4-cyl. Most cars

\$54⁹⁵

+ \$5 hazardous materials fee
Prices may vary depending on make & model.

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Most cars



\$34⁹⁵

ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

\$39

AXLE REPLACEMENT

4 cylinder, includes parts & labor, most cars.

\$139

AC SERVICE

\$29

Most cars, freon extra

12,000 mile,
1 year
warranty

GENERAL AUTO REPAIR

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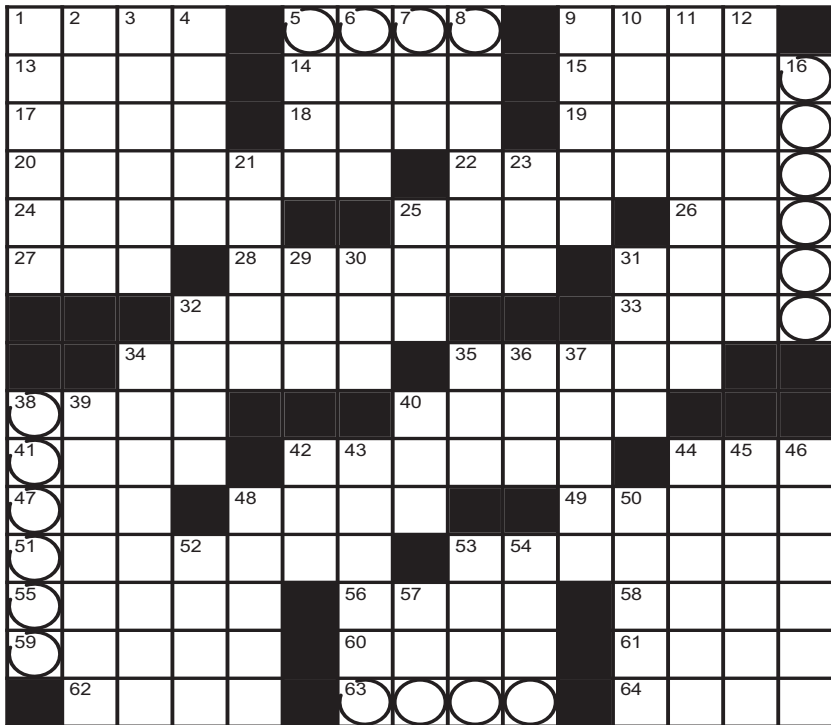
Just off the I-5 near Petco Park

Must present ad prior to service. Expires 4-2-18



CROSSWORD

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt



© 2016 DAVID LEVINSON WILK

Across

1. Faulkner's "Requiem for _____"
5. 53-Across component
9. Duettist with Elton on 1976's "Don't Go Breaking My Heart"
13. Ristorante bottle
14. Campbell of "Party of Five"
15. 1985 John Malkovich film
17. Eight, to Dieter
18. "I smell _____!"
19. TV's Griffin and others
20. With 34-, 35- and 53-Across, idiom that applies to this puzzle's grid?
22. Bulb cover
24. 11-time NBA All-Star Iverson
25. Part of a crib
26. Greyhound stop: Abbr.
27. Celebrity chef Rachael
28. Celebrity chef Jamie
31. Celebrity chef Paula
32. Big mistake
33. Lacking width and depth, for short
34. See 20-Across
35. See 20-Across
38. Celebrity chef Bobby
40. Lascivious looks
41. Hollywood's Howard and Perlman
42. Celebrity chef Gordon
44. "More or less"

Down

1. 2009 Best Picture nominee set in the 22nd century
2. Sacco of Sacco and Vanzetti
3. Wicked
4. "You're looking at the wrong guy"
5. _____ even keel
6. Quite
7. Actress Longoria
8. Rub the wrong way
9. Combed, as hair
10. #1 best-selling author Greg _____

11. Jet fuel component
12. One asked to RSVP
16. 53-Across component
21. "That's _____!" (parent's admonition)
23. Paddle
25. "Law & Order: _____"
29. "Mighty _____ a Rose"
30. Hypotheticals
31. Homer Simpson outbursts
32. High-protein beans
34. Thermos alternatives
35. -y pluralized
36. Org. concerned with Common Core
37. Plot point in many a soap opera
38. 53-Across component
39. Siren luring sailors to shipwreck
40. "I want to be kept informed," in textspeak
42. Moscow's land: Abbr.
43. Outbursts that provoke blessings
44. Like some noisy cats
45. Pack in a ship's hold
46. Itch (for)
48. Longs (for)
50. Plot elements?
52. Café au _____
53. Gung-ho
54. Escapes injury
57. Soft & _____ (Gillette brand)

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader Puzzle*, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw 5 names from weekly puzzle winners.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

F	I	V	E	R	S	R	P	M	P	I	A	F					
O	H	I	S	E	E	O	A	F	A	S	T	A					
A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T	C	A	R	R	I	E	R			
M	T	G	E	N	A	C	T	O	T	T	E	R					
			L	A	C	I		C	A	V							
			B	O	R	D	E	R	T	E	R	R	I	E	R	S	
			L	E	N	O	S		Y	V	E	S		N	I	A	
			I	R	A	N		T	A	P	E	D		W	E	S	T
			A	R	I		K	A	L	E		P	O	R	E	S	
			M	A	R	G	I	N	F	O	R	E	R	R	O	R	
						O	R	G		O	B	O	E				
			P	R	E	G	O		D	H	A	B	I		M	A	E
			R	E	A	R	V	I	E	W	M	I	R	R	O	R	S
			E	L	S	A		D	A	Y		N	A	I	L	I	T
			Z	O	E	Y		O	R	S		G	Q	T	Y	P	E

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- Mary Arana, Encinitas, 1.
- Dennis Butterworth, San Diego, 1.
- Bennett Goodman, San Diego, 1.
- Patrick Loehr, San Diego, 1.
- Kathy Ojeda, San Diego, 1.

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

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

RULES OF THE GAME

- 1) Submit your completed puzzle to the *Reader* each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.
 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader Puzzle*, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw 5 names from weekly puzzle winners.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SEE YOUR RANKING ONLINE!

Now you can go online to check your ranking and communicate with each other! Simply visit: www.SDReader.com/puzzle. The new ranking is posted each Wednesday. To use the "comments" feature, you must be a registered site member.

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

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

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- Dianna Cruz, San Diego, 1.
- Allen Dueber, La Mesa, 1.
- Andy Freeburn, San Diego, 1.
- Susan Hunt Williams, San Diego, 1.
- Daniel Thompson, San Diego, 1.

BRAINSTORMS

BY DON RUBIN

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

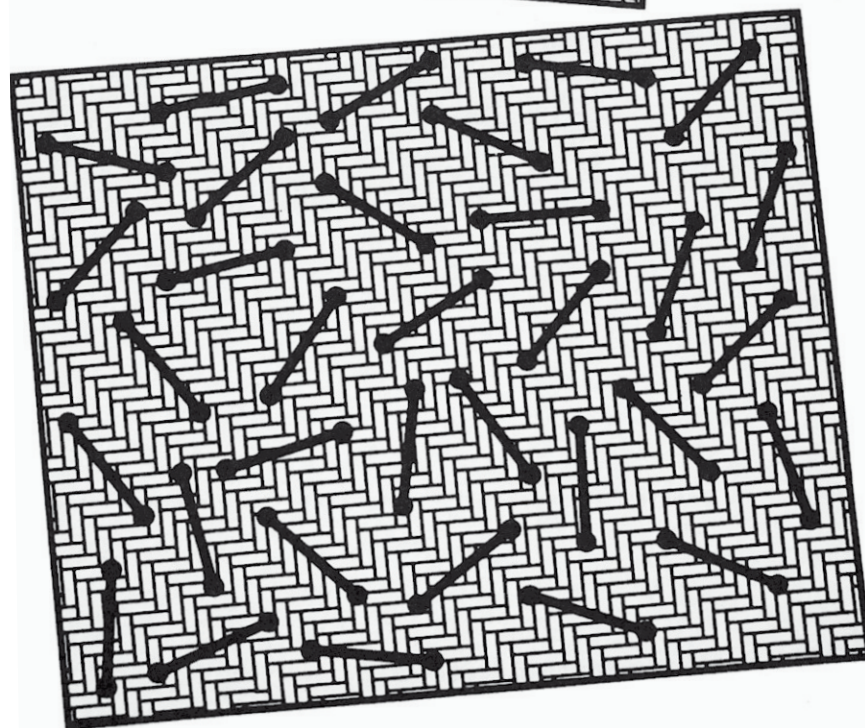
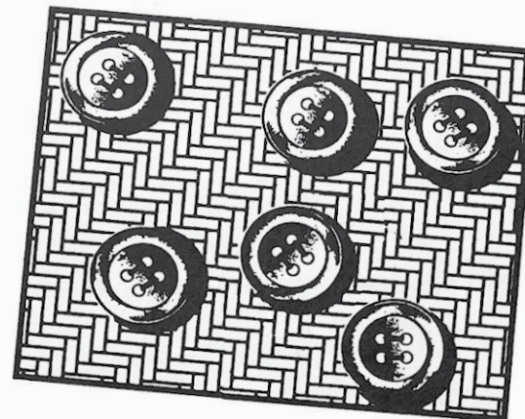
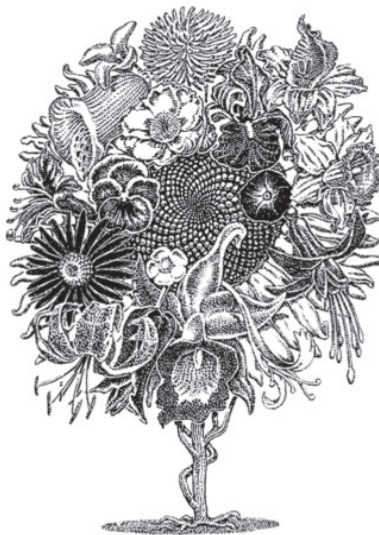
Button, button

If you placed the larger piece of fabric over the smaller piece so that all of the buttons were aligned with buttonholes, which six holes would be filled? Circle them.

Last Week's Solution

Glad

- 5 forsythia
- 6 honeysuckle
- 9 tulip
- 12 dahlia
- 7 fuchsia
- 3 tiger lily
- 2 morning glory
- 16 sunflower
- 18 aster
- 8 pansy
- 13 iris
- 11 peony
- 14 gladiola
- 15 narcissus
- 17 orchid
- 1 buttercup
- 4 rhododendron
- 10 foxglove



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THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

Prizes will be available for pickup at the Reader offices front desk from the Thursday your name appears in print to the following Thursday at 5 p.m.

- Jean Bradley, Spring Valley, 1.
- Jonathan Koelle, San Diego, 1.
- Walt Meier, Carlsbad, 1.
- Denise Nelson, San Diego, 1.

Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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