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VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 10
MARCH 8, 2018

Reader



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Florencia and her fellow travelers begin a magical journey down the Amazon River, experiencing awakenings and transformations when fantasy and reality become enmeshed. Inspired by the magical realism writings of Gabriel García Márquez. Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain.

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March 8, 2018



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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Peter Navarro restart reported

New title might be “assistant to the president for trade policy”

White House trade advisor Peter Navarro, who was benched last year after arguing strenuously with President Trump’s more moderate economic advisors, is reported to be back in favor again. Media say he may get a job that would give him more influence



Peter Navarro’s DC stint not over

over trade policy. He has had two positions with fancy titles, but small staffs and little influence inside the White House.

In San Diego County from 1992 through 2001, Navarro ran unsuccessfully for mayor, county supervisor, city council, and Congress. He went on to become an economics professor at the University of California, Irvine. Trump, then a candidate for president, expressed strong approval of Navarro’s nationalist trade views.

In the days up to February 25, the *Wall Street Journal*’s headline read, “Trump Set to Promote Trade Hawk Peter Navarro.” The *New York Times* proclaimed, “Peter Navarro, a Top Trade Skeptic, is Ascendant.”

Navarro has penned extremely hawkish books on trade. His books include *The Coming China Wars* (2006) and *Crouching Tiger: What China’s Militarism Means for the World*. Conventional economists thumb down his views, and foreign-affairs experts quaver at his exploration of the possibility of an armed conflict between the United States and China.

His new title might be “assistant to the president for trade policy,” says *Politico*. The publication says Trump, who often inquires why Navarro isn’t at trade-related meetings, ordered the change, which as of last week had not yet been made. Trump likes Navarro’s tough-guy approach to trade.

On February 23, *Bloomberg* reported that Trump was pushing for the “harshes possible” global tariff of 24 percent on steel imports, defying retaliation threats by the Chinese. The apparent ascendancy of Navarro “indicates that the influence of Trump’s Wall Street–based globalist wing — Gary Cohn and Steven Mnuchin — is waning,” says columnist Tyler Durden of Zero Hedge.

Don Bauder

Doug Manchester vs. pizza oven

Mass evacuation of long-stalled Texas hotel after gas leak

On February 21, sickening levels of potentially deadly carbon monoxide gas leaked from a malfunctioning pizza oven at Doug Manchester’s yet-to-open Austin Fairmont hotel, per the *Austin Statesman*. The Texas newspaper reported that two people went to the hospital and dozens more were evacuated as a result of the leak, which “spewed carbon monoxide through several floors.”

“First responders found high levels of the colorless, odorless gas through the first seven floors of the building, and evacuated everyone from those floors,” said the account. “Division Chief Thayer Smith said firefighters ventilated the building to remove the remaining high levels of carbon monoxide.”

Not to worry, the hotel subsequently insisted to the *Statesman*, the latest of a lengthy series of setbacks for the Texas convention hotel project won’t cause yet another postponement of its grand opening, set for this month’s South-by-Southwest music and tech fest.

“Our developer confirmed...that the



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING

Hard-won completion of Austin Fairmont hotel at hand?

source of the issue was identified quickly following the job site evacuation,” Fairmont managing director Tom Voss said in a written statement cited by the paper.

“They were able to safely resolve the matter. After extensive testing, we received notification that all readings were back to normal and that the job site is safe for staff to continue work as usual. There were no setbacks or delays to the final steps of construction and we are still on course to welcome our

continued on page 26

Airbnb forcing you out?

Try La Mesa

By Don Bauder

It must be the noise — not higher rents and home prices — that people feel most strongly about.

I am referring to public indignation about short-term vacation-housing rentals — Airbnb and the like. People scream to the city council about the constant stream of new neighbors renting the house next door for days or a few weeks, particularly in the summer tourist season. Some short-term renters hold all-night parties.

So, the neighbors go to the city council for relief. A battle rages. San Diego’s council tackled the problem late last year, and there still has been no action, because many people say their ability to rent out their homes or granny flats short-term helps pay the mortgage.

“That’s why the city council has struggled with this issue — there are genuine upsides that work against the argument of a disruption in the community,” says Gary London of London Moeder Advisors. Plus



Gary London



Kelly Cunningham

the municipality rakes in tax income from companies such as Airbnb that connect people looking to rent out their homes, or part of them, to those looking for a short-term vacation spot that isn’t as busy or cold as a hotel.

By renting out a home or

granny flat part of the year, “Families that might not have been previously able to afford a house” may be able to do so with the additional income from short-term vacation rentals, says London. Last year’s move by city officials to speed up the construction of granny flats was very intelligent strategy, says London. What’s more, the noise complaints, which he believes are exaggerated, “can be mitigated,” he says. (One can always call the cops.)

One economist, asking not to be named, says, “The chorus of complaints largely comes from the beach areas” where millennials (aged 18 to 34) huddle, sometimes raucously. “If you buy a house in the beach area, what do you expect?”

Economists almost unanimously tell me that in a metro area the size of San Diego County, short-term vacation rentals don’t drive up home prices or rents significantly and don’t harm the hotel industry. Nationwide, “the impact [on

Neal Obermeyer**Obermeyer’s view 15 years ago, August 7, 2003**



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San Diego has wisely made it easier to build granny flats. This is the Leucadian model by Crest Backyard Homes.

housing prices, rents, and hotels] from the Airbnbs is a small drop in the bucket,” says Skylar Olsen, senior economist for *Zillow.com*. In December of 2016, Zillow polled economists on the topic. Only 5.1 percent of housing experts believed that the ability to rent entire homes for short periods would have a meaningful, large impact on the supply and affordability of longer-term rentals.



Skylar Olsen

Last year, three academic economists did a study of Airbnb's effect on home prices and rents in 100 zip codes around the United States. Result: for every 10 percent growth in Airbnb listings, rents rose 0.42 percent and home prices 0.76 percent. The authors admitted that these were hardly earth-shaking increases.

To be sure, smaller metro areas that depend heavily on tourism are in a bind. Arizona State University did a study on Ketchum, Idaho, which is near Sun Valley and is a haven for hiking, fishing, trail-riding, and other activities, along with skiing. (Gary Cooper and Ernest Hemingway vaca-



Mikaela Sharp

tioned there, and Hemingway committed suicide in that location.) The Arizona State study concluded that short-term rentals pushed up home prices, driving out residents. The population dropped from 3003 in the 2000 census to 2689 in 2010. Similarly, towns around Lake Tahoe complain bitterly. Only 35 percent of homes in skiing haven Truckee are available for permanent residents.

The rest of the homes are often vacant.

In a study, Sonoma County concluded that excessive short-term rentals created a problem. After the fire that swept the area last fall, the county's board of supervisors slapped a 45-day moratorium on new vacation rentals to facilitate housing for those displaced by the fire.

Tourism is big in San Diego, but it's not dominant. Kelly Cunningham of the San Diego Institute for Economic Research says that although many experts say tourism is San Diego's third-largest industry, he would

put it fourth behind technology, defense/military, and real estate. “Real estate is the reason for the city existing,” he says. He, too, believes that short-term rentals “are a small factor in housing affordability and rents.”

Last December, Alan Nevin of Xpera Group published a study focusing on the economic impact of short-term rentals in San Diego. The study was done for HomeAway, a vacation-rental marketplace, and Expedia, a travel-booking website. “We are talking at most about [short-term

rentals being] 1 percent of the city's housing units,” says Nevin. The effect of short-term rentals on housing and rents “is absolutely insignificant,” he says. Those rentals may make a dent in hotels and motels of a mere 0.1 percent.

His study points out that renter-occupied housing in San Diego “is typically bound by leases that prohibit subletting,” although some people cheat and secretly rent out their apartments when on vacation. There are bars to short-term renting in professionally managed condo projects and in higher-quality master-planned communities, too.

The direct and indirect



Alan Nevin

UNDER THE RADAR

Ethical small change San Diego's city ethics commission, suspected by many insiders of turning a blind eye to the question-

able timing of political contributions given elected officials by lobbyists, has slapped its first fine of 2018 on **Robert Chávez**, an appointed member of the city's Park and Recreation board. The chief executive officer of the nonprofit Urban Corps of San Diego, Chávez agreed to pay a \$1500 fine for failing to report his salary on his economic interest disclosure forms for 2016 and 2017. The omission occurred despite the fact that the organization provided “goods or services” to the Park

and Recreation Department, per a stipulated agreement with Chávez approved by the ethics commission February 8. According to the Urban Corps website, “Mr. Chávez was instrumental in securing a high-profile \$1.1 million contract from the City of San Diego for recreational improvements at Chicano Park which is showcasing Urban Corps' design-build services.”

Chávez, who left the park board last year, subsequently amended his disclosure filings to show he earned an annual salary of greater than \$100,000. Federal filings show that the nonprofit paid him a total of \$116,992 during the 12-month period from July 2015 through June 2016.

Soon-Shiong: obvious tightwad

As denizens of San Diego and Los Angeles await the pending takeover of their cities' respective newspapers by wealthy L.A. physician **Patrick Soon-Shiong**, speculation is rampant

regarding the future direction of local journalism. But those hoping for a significant infusion of cash into the papers by the pharmaceutical billionaire could be in for a disappointment, judging by a dispute in federal court over a losing patent battle by Soon-Shiong's NantKewst, Inc., a drug-

development outfit with a lab in San Diego. As reported by *Law.com* February 28, NantKwest is fighting against having to pay a paltry \$78,000 in

legal fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office after federal courts upheld the denial of the firm's patent claim for treating cancer with “natural killer cells.” The patent office had rejected the application on the grounds of “obviousness,” according to court records. Notes *Law.com*, “Section 145 of the Patent Act provides that the patent applicant must pay ‘all of the expenses’ of the district court proceeding regardless of outcome.” NantKest maintains the law is

overly vague and will soon present its case to the full federal circuit court of appeals in Washington. Meanwhile, a local anonymous ex-employee of NantWorks, Soon-Shiong's umbrella organization that also has a San Diego branch, posted a mixed review on *Glassdoor.com*. “I worked at NantWorks full-time (More than a year),” said the report. “Pros: Most of the colleagues were great. Cons: Entire office was laid off unexpectedly.”

Responded NantWorks: “We know this is a difficult time for all of us and especially for you. Our intent as an organization is to be as transparent as possible. Management evaluates the portfolio companies and determines which products and services will continue to drive our mission and vision of delivering next-generation therapeutic treatments and solutions to patients. Although you were not directly employed by NantWorks, we hope that you will keep us in mind as a future employer.”

Get out of jail, not free

San Diego mayor **Kevin Faulconer**,

who appears to have successfully survived the worst of the downtown homeless hepatitis crisis that hit the city last year, has lately been raising big money for his One San Diego nonprofit, sponsor of his annual Thanksgiving-turkey giveaway to the

continued on page 26

Mayor Faulconer, Urban Corps & Community Leaders Unveil Neighborhood Improvements at Chicano Park

Mayor Cuts the Ribbon on New Playgrounds, Skatepark & More Community Infrastructure in Barrio Logan



Thursday, November 5, 2015 - NEWS RELEASE

Urban Corps CEO Robert Chávez pulled in a salary of over \$100,000 a couple years ago and was fined this year for not declaring it in his economic interest disclosure forms while doing business with the city.



NantKwest

Billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong will fight the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office over legal fees of \$78,000.



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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.

Normal Hts. neon

Re: “We the People of Normal Heights,” cover story, March 1.
An update on the Normal Heights neon sign: Gary Weber and I met with Art Buckel and his sister Joy (Buckel) LeBus in May of 2011. They told us their memories of the Normal Heights neon sign. In 1944 Theodore (Ted) Buckel, Art and Joy’s dad, and Bert Vanderhayden opened T & B Auto Repair on the northwest corner of Hawley and Adams, 3426 Adams Avenue.

Ted’s son-in-law, Dick LeBus, had a sheet metal shop at the rear of 3422 Adams Avenue, where he built the sign. Martin Neon at 4714 Felton did the neon, and Joe Jackson of Jackson Electric did the electrical work and actually hung the sign one night. No permit or permission was given by the City, and probably no one bothered to ask.

The Buckel children told us this happened in late 1959 or early 1960 when they were living in Normal Heights and attending Hoover High. The late John Gibson owned Johnnie’s Barber Shop at 3506 Adams Avenue and remembered paying a monthly fee to the business association to pay for the sign but did not remember when that was or how much the sign cost.

Joy and Art also stated that there was a first Normal Heights sign before the present metal sign built by Dick LeBus, and that information has been confirmed by six other current and/or former residents. The search continues.

Suzanne Ledebor
Normal Heights

Gratified to read Scott Marks’s review

Re: “Ten reasons *Three Billboards* doesn’t deserve any

of its technical nomination,” movie review, March 1.

Dear Reader,

I was very disappointed in *Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri*, a film which could have been outstanding but failed because of the many absurd and unbelievable behaviors of the characters.

The last straw was when a law officer throws a citizen out of a second-story window without anyone in town showing the slightest concern. When the film garnered multiple Academy Award nominations, I began to question my judgment. Was I being too critical? The members of the Academy are film-industry professionals, after all.

So I was gratified to read Scott Marks’s review, which confirmed all of my doubts and concluded that the movie didn’t deserve any awards. Thanks, Scott, for demanding that a good story have some semblance of plausibility.

Andrew Crane
Oceanside

A ton of happy kids

Re: “Why Not City Heights?,” Cover story, February 15.
Oh, great question! Glad you asked.

If you ask any proud resident of City Heights what makes our neighborhood special and unique, I guarantee the restaurants and (non-existent) crime data will not rank high on the list. What would rank high on the list would be the close-knit community you get when you live in a neighborhood of families.

There aren’t a ton of young professionals here, but there are a ton of happy happy kids. You can see them at the Gathering Place, a community-lead art installation highlighting the four distinct communities in City Heights. You can see them petting goats and cows at City Farmers Nursery. You will definitely see them at one of the two brand new skate parks. You can see them running past the soon-to-open Ocean Discovery Center complex nestled in the heart of Manzanita Canyon.

Oh, the canyons? That might be the best part of City Heights... the six miles of trails

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

NATIONAL CITY

Teachers protest lack of supplies

Administrators eat and travel

“Your educators are falling apart,” Christina Benson, president of the National City Education Teachers Association, told district boardmembers last week. The union continues to protest an impasse in negotiations between the district and teachers.

On Wednesday, February 28, over 250 teachers, parents, and students rallied outside the National School District offices chanting and holding signs along the sidewalk. Once the board meeting began, they filled up seats, aisles, and hallways.

Teachers maintain that there has been a budget surplus for the past four years, but the district refuses to spend the money even though teachers have no curriculum for their students.

At the board meeting, assistant superintendent of business services Christopher Carson gave a presentation on the state of the economy in which he presented a different perspective: “There’s some economic factors that are potentially pointing to an economic downturn,” he said.

During the protest rally, teachers argued

that the state only requires districts to keep 2 percent in reserves, but Carson disputed the claim. Carson explained to boardmembers that caution in spending was needed because “when thinking about the ending balance, you need to think about it as your bank account. If I ask you for a dollar out of your bank account today, can you then spend that dollar tomorrow as well? Once you’ve spent it, it’s gone.”

A public records request showed that Carson and fellow assistant superintendent Paula Jameson-Whitney receive salaries of \$157,330 as well as a mileage stipend totaling \$3300 annually. Superintendent Leigh Angela Brady, who lives in Clairemont and was hired in October 2016, receives a salary of \$200,349.

Furthermore, purchasing-card expenses available at the district website showed that when boardmembers Maria Dalla, Maria Betancourt-Castaneda, and Barbara Avalos attended a National Association of Latino Elected Officials Conference in Dallas,

Texas, they stayed at the Sheraton Hotel for a total of \$917.47 per room.

In December 2017, Brady reported paying over \$5700 for airfare so boardmembers could attend a Department of Education board meeting in Sacramento as well as for meals at Pearl on the River (\$398.15), the Tin Fish (\$109.02), the Blond Burro (\$142.03), and Seasons 52 (\$368.08).

Meanwhile, teachers said repeatedly that they had to pay for curriculum materials out of their own pockets. During public comments at the board meeting, one teacher explained, “In first grade we have not had phonic curriculum to teach our students how to read. So, we used to have the green workbooks and then all of a sudden they said, ‘No they’re not aligned with Com-



Outside district offices on February 28



A budget surplus and administrative spending call into question the school board’s commitment

mon Core.’ Okay, so what did we do? We bought curriculum out of our pockets or created worksheets.”

Another teacher said, “I just wanted to let the boardmembers know that my students don’t have science books that are aligned with [Next Generation Science Standards]... The NGSS standards have been around for five years now. I don’t have a book to teach science.”

Countless public speakers — both at the podium and in interviews — described a district in crisis: low teacher wages, promises of raises that never came, a dramatic increase in teacher workload, a lack of counselors, no designated homeless liaison, and volunteer parents paying for student supplies.



Adams Avenue Elementary construction yard: “This really shows a lack of respect to the many area residents that use the park.”

BARBARA ZARAGOZA

NORMAL HEIGHTS

Solemn promise broken School improvements minimize park space

When angry Normal Heights residents and the planning group began fighting the latest “park” shrinkage at the joint-use Adams Elementary School, they expected some resistance. But, instead, they learned that the joint-use agreement between the city and the San Diego Unified School District had expired.

The school district had already taken the blacktop area (not part of the joint-use agreement) and put portable classrooms on it during the construction of a new school. While they were doing that, the district’s representatives and the planning group had struck an agreement that the construction wouldn’t encroach on the green space at the west end of the L-shaped park and playground, according to Scott Kessler, a planning-group member who also serves as executive director of the Adams Avenue Business Association.

“We had a solemn promise: no encroachment on the green after they took the basketball court and the blacktop,” Kessler said. “What we’re hearing is that bureaucrats from the school district talked to bureaucrats at [San Diego] parks and rec and made a deal without talking to the community.”

The fencing turned up about three weeks ago in the heavily used park. It is directly behind the Normal Heights Community Center on Hawley Boulevard.

The park is popular and well used by the community. (Disclosure: I know this because I go there.) During daylight hours after the school day ends, there’s often an all-ages group playing soccer on the green. Four seating areas with benches are often full of

people visiting, eating, or hanging out with friends and phones. Locals bring dogs there early in the morning and later in the evening.

“This really shows a lack of respect to the many area residents that use the park and shows a lack of proper planning and process on their part,” Kessler said.

The planning group has worked hard to

put parks into the park-starved neighborhood and many of those exist under the joint-use scheme with city schools. The agreement basically says that before and after school, the designated areas are for all the public to access.

The arrangement has theoretically opened space for residents, but the planning group has repeatedly found that the areas are locked up at night. In the past, there has been confusion about whether it’s the parks staff or schools staff that is supposed to unlock the gates.

When planning-group members took their complaints to councilmember Chris Ward and the school district, they decided their first step was to review the agreement. That’s when they learned the agreement had recently expired.

“No one was paying attention and no one let us know,” Kessler said.

MARTY GRAHAM

DOWNTOWN

The ooh, ahh strategy

Sail Pavilion lighting before hotel-tax-increase sales pitch

The San Diego Convention Center’s Sail Pavilion was lit up with new LED technology on February 22 at a ceremony to mark the grand re-opening of the 90,000-square-foot space.

Officials say renovating the pavilion and lighting up the sail — made up of 20 giant pieces of stitched-together, teflon-coated, fiberglass fabric in the middle of the nautical-themed convention center — will amplify the San Diego skyline and add flourish to the 30-year-old structure.

With a Fox 5 drone overhead to capture the scene, the sail scrolled through several solid colors while triumphant-sounding music played, and the “oohs” and “ahhs” may have given way to a snicker or two when the

continued on page 8

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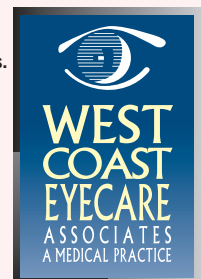
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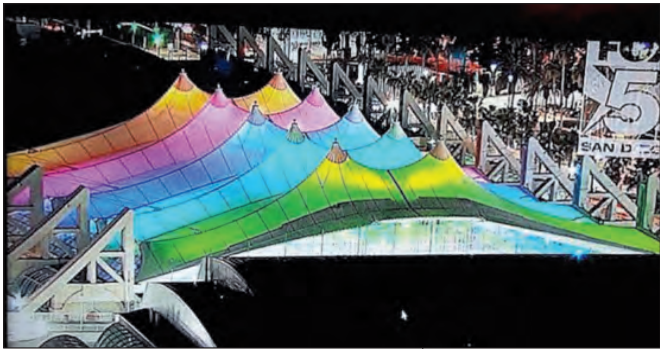
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display ended with a whimsical checkerboard of bright colors.

"Looks like a circus tent," an attendee playfully quipped.

Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe, the convention



FROM FOX'S DRONE

"Looks like a circus tent," said an attendee

center's president and CEO, said the lighting is another amenity to offer groups that use it and part of a strategy that includes a tax increase on hotel rooms to pay for a facility expansion. A coalition of supporters is now collecting signatures to place the measure on the ballot this November.

Renovating the pavilion cost \$16.7 million and required the removal of 32 tons of support material and 2400 tons of concrete. No group was forced to cancel a meeting on account of the year-long project, Rippetoe said.

"After 30 years of a little wear-and-tear, it was time for a serious upgrade," mayor Kevin Faulconer said to a crowd of industry officials and employees.

Without upgrades, Faulconer said, San Diego risks losing business to cities eager to take a larger share of the convention pie. "We want to do everything we can to get those dollars. We don't want to lose a single dollar to somebody else. That's how we roll."

Faulconer also made a pitch for the hotel-tax increase, calling it "the most important issue on the ballot this November" and pledged his "full, 100 percent support." If passed, he said the measure would fund homeless services and street repairs in addition to the convention-center expansion.

TONY DE GARATE

ESCONDIDO

False alarm, real bill Permit fee collectors raise ire of son

In 2004, Escondido passed an ordinance to charge an annual fee to register burglar alarms. When the program rolled out, affecting both homes and businesses, alarm owners

were confused and frustrated.

Five years ago, Wayne Louth hired Guardian Security to install a medical alarm for his elderly mother. While the city exempts personal medical alarms like the pendant she wears, the system also has buttons for burglary and fire, and he says he had no idea it had to be registered.

"I have never received an invoice or bill for an alarm permit," Louth says. Until now. He recently got a bill for \$25 from the City of Escondido for having a monitored alarm system. Only it wasn't from the city. The bill had a letterhead from the City of Escondido, Alarm

Department, and a local telephone number. But when he called the number, he found himself talking to someone in San Francisco.

"The woman stated that this is a relatively new program to help pay for emergency false alarms, and she was speaking from the San Francisco area, and furthermore, she had no idea where Escondido was.... Why is a city department being out-sourced?" he asks.

The amount owed, \$25, is the annual rate set by the city in 2004. But there are also increased fees for false alarms this year. As the city website notes, false alarms "are very costly and prevent police officers from responding to actual emergencies."

Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe



On January 1, the city began charging a \$25 fine for the second false alarm in a year if the system is permitted and \$50 if it lacks a permit. The first false alarm gets a pass.

But Louth says there have been no false alarms, and he and his mother are both eligible for the senior rate of \$15, which was listed, like the amounts for late penalties, in small print below.

"I'm just wondering how many automatically paid \$25 when \$15 would have worked, or were exempt in the first place."

The invoice doesn't mention that the city exempts personal medical alarms, like his 92-year-old mother's pendant, he says.

"If I had not called I would not have known it was exempt."

SHEILA PELL

CARDIFF

Post office to get new address

The 92007 zip code will not disappear

After it was announced that Cardiff by the Sea's post-office property had new owners, numerous rumors blew up on social media on February 23 over the possible eviction and end of use of the town's 92007 zip code.

The news posed a conundrum: the new owners of the property also happen to be the most charitable guys in town. Yet, angry social media postings included threats to start petitions and a suggestion of a boycott of Seaside Market and its owners.

Pete and John Najjar own Seaside Market, located at 2087 San Elijo Avenue. The brothers purchased two buildings behind the store on Newcastle Avenue; one is the post office and the other an older two-story building formerly co-owned by its occupants, Cardiff by the Sea Dentistry and Steele Real Estate. (The post-office property's Los Angeles owners have had the property listed for sale for years.)

The Najjars say their goal is to beautify the area by redeveloping the older buildings into a single-story commercial building and adding additional subterranean parking for their center and the village area.

"We want the post office gone?" questioned Pete in a February 26 interview. "No way. We want it to stay!"

John said it was their market that helped rally the community in 1986 to save the post office and the 92007 zip code. When Cardiff and other communities incorporated as the City of Encinitas, Caltrans removed Cardiff's freeway signage and Rand McNally removed the town from their maps. The United States Postal Service was also in a budget-reduction

Yes, the post office will have to move. But Jackson said that facility specialists are already in negotiations for possible sites in town. The 92007 zip code will not disappear.

KEN HARRISON

CHULA VISTA

Flopped novel

Ex-councilman Ralph Inzunza's book on prison life: meh

Former city councilman Ralph Inzunza's debut novel, *The Camp*, a semi-autobiographical account of his 21-month stretch in a federal prison camp for his efforts as a city councilor to change the law so patrons could touch dancers at strip clubs in San Diego, has not exactly caught fire among local readers,



Ralph Inzunza, c. 2003

if public library records are any indication.

So far, almost five months since the San Diego Public Library acquired 11 copies of Inzunza's opus on October 10, the book has been borrowed a total of 20 times, according to a February 28 record the library provided. In Chula Vista, where Inzunza settled after being released in April 2013, the public library did not own a copy.

And thus the tribulations of the new novelist, a job where few can make a decent living. But, as Inzunza told Chula Vista's *Star News*, "I think my name is being repaired through my literature."

Most reviewers on Amazon may not agree: 11 of the 12 of them had nice things to say, but even the "most positive" reviewer wrote, "What I still wonder is how much of Mr. Inzunza's own story is actually true."

At the other end of the range, another reviewer opines, "Most of us who hail from the same barrio area as the author would not characterize the author as an activist, victim, innocent, community advocate, etc — but rather as a self-serving, petty politician who rightfully got caught with his hand in the

public cookie-jar (yet again). The lack of honesty, culpability, or remorse shown in this book are consistent with the author's lifetime modus operandi. Maybe an interesting read, but almost pure invented fiction."

continued on page 37



"We want the post office gone? No way. We want it to stay!"

mood and threatened to close the Cardiff by the Sea branch and consolidate it with Solana Beach.

USPS spokesperson Eva Jackson said that the lease for the post office would expire on September 30th. Not to fear, says Jackson.

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Dear Hipster:

I have been thinking about the popularity of retro stuff recently, at least from a pop-culture standpoint. To me, it seems like people remember the past as distinctly better than it actually was. For example, everybody — especially hipsters — likes to talk about how great '80s music was. But for those of us who actually lived through the '80s, well, let me tell you, a lot of the tunes on the radio back then were utterly forgettable. Really! It was pretty much the same as it is now. If you're not convinced by that, look at how much more likely people were to die of various injuries and diseases only a few decades ago. Or, if that's not convincing enough, consider movies. Sure, there were plenty of good movies in the '80s (Blade Runner, amiright?), but what about Howard the Duck? If, as I suspect, nostalgia sanitizes the past, I think it becomes really hard — perhaps impossible — to be into retro, hipster-y stuff. But, then again, what if I'm wrong? What if retro stuff actually is cool because it pays homage to great moments in the past, heretofore unequaled? I guess the matter comes down to this: do you think the world really was legitimately better "then" (whenever that was), or do we now live in a better, more enlightened world?

— DANAE

Now, I'm not usually in the position of making value judgments about people's preferences for arts and entertainment, so... oh, wait, hold on. Scratch that. I



totally make value judgments all the time, with reckless impunity and wanton disregard for the feelings of others. It's kind of my thing, ergo:

You're totally right, after a fashion.

Only 32 years ago, "Kyrie" by Mr. Mister, topped the *Billboard* Hot 100 over better songs by better bands. Yup. You read that right, a synth-pop ode riffing on a Greek prayer outperformed "Manic Monday" and "West End Girls."

But we remember 1986 for "Papa Don't Preach" and "Sledge-

hammer" dropping as singles, not "Kyrie" dominating the airwaves. There are two ways you can unpack that fact. Either (a) we selectively cherry-pick the best of the past and discard the rest to the trash-heap of history; or (b) what looks like nostalgia is just the end result of the historical process, by which the cream rises to the top.

The first option appeals to the curmudgeonly old bastard in all of us, just sitting there on the metaphorical front porch, waiting to regale the neighborhood kids with stories of "back in my day" that none of them want to hear.

The second option speaks to the hipster within, the pop-culture cognoscente who take it upon themselves to separate all the world into two piles, one

cool, the other not. Knowing the difference is the whole battle.

Both of these things contain at least some truth...perhaps together they frame up a whole truth, or something close to it. In the end, it's just difference, devoid of any value judgment outside that which we impose on it in hindsight. What you see in the past is just a reflection of how you think about the present, and maybe what you speculate for the future. So, in another sense, I guess you've got it backward. Play around with that a little and get back to me, unless history swoops in to render us all irrelevant.

— DJ Stevens

If you purchased food and/or beverages at any Cabo Cantina, Baja Beach Café, Fiesta Cantina, PB Cantina, Jameson's Irish Pub or Sunset Trocadero Lounge between January 1, 2012 and May 31, 2017, a proposed Class Action Settlement may affect your rights.

A proposed class action settlement has been reached in a Class Action lawsuit called South v. RMG Sunset, Inc Case No. BC652905, claiming that certain restaurants in California added an undisclosed state living wage surcharge onto restaurant bills.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

You are a class member if you purchased food and/or beverages at any Cabo Cantina, Baja Beach Café, Fiesta Cantina, PB Cantina, Jameson's Irish Pub or Sunset Trocadero Lounge (collectively, the "Restaurants") at any time between January 1, 2012 and May 31, 2017, and paid an undisclosed state living wage surcharge.

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Class Members that have receipts will be eligible for a full refund of the surcharge paid. Class Members without receipts will be eligible to receive a voucher for 10% off a future purchase, or a \$3 check.

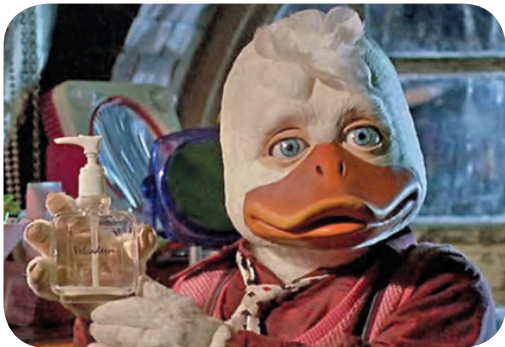
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If you are a class member, you must submit a claim online or by mail postmarked by May 21, 2018, to receive either the full refund, \$3 check, or 10% voucher. If you do not want to participate, you may exclude yourself from the class by April 30, 2018. If you exclude yourself, you will not receive any benefits, but you will keep your right to sue the Restaurants on your own for claims relating to the surcharge. You may also stay in the class and object to any part of the Settlement by April 30, 2018. If you do nothing, you will not receive benefits but you will still be bound by the Court's decision regarding these claims.

A final approval hearing will take place on June 18, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in Dept. 308 of The Los Angeles Superior Court located at 600 Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005, to determine the fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness of the settlement; whether to approve the settlement; and attorneys' fees and costs and class representative awards. The motion for attorneys' fees and costs will be posted on the website after they are filed. You may attend the hearing, but you don't have to.

This is only a summary. For more information or to file a claim, go to any of the Restaurants, or visit www.SouthSurchargeSettlement.com.

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Qualcommiseration

San Diego tech company stands in solidarity with victims of harassment in wake of Broadcom takeover bid

"Maybe it wasn't completely inappropriate for Broadcom to approach us with their initial bid," says Qualcomm Director of Feelings Emma Pathy, "even though their lowball first offer was a clear attempt to gaslight us into doubting our own self-worth. But when we answered them with a polite but definite 'No,' that should have been the end of it. Instead, they turned both aggressive and hostile, even going so far as to turn our own shareholders against us. When we tried to iron out our differences in good faith, they accused us publicly of 'feigned engagement.' And worst of all, by manipulating our stock price through a relentless campaign of harassment and badmouthing, they've started



touching our bottom line in ways that make us extremely uncomfortable. Now comes word that they're trying to penetrate our board. Let me assure you, that constitutes an unwanted level of personal contact."

Continued Pathy, "Broadcom seems to have forgotten that ever since Citizens United, corporations are people, too. We have rights, we have a voice, and we will not be ignored and abused by others who just happen to have more market share. We are going to fight this, and we are going to win. Unless, of course, they meet our terms of sale."

Shamu Skidoo

Departing Sea World CEO Joel Manby announces plan to take his favorite orca with him "It's not like you people are going to have any use for him."



Former SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby keeps a firm grip on Oreo, a juvenile killer whale, during a press conference announcing his departure from the company following dismal fourth-quarter earnings announcements. ("Frankly, it's a firmer grip than he kept on the company's public image," offered Jonas Snark, Sea World's head of plush toys and souvenir cups.) Manby would not say why he was taking the whale or what he planned to do with it. Instead, he murmured, "For each of us, there comes a moment, a defining instant in our lives, when we are changed forever. Anything is possible. Believe. Geloof. Acredite. Crea. Credere," while backing slowly out of the room. It was later determined that the words were taken from the pre-*Blackfish* Shamu show known as "Believe."



Full Court Press (Release)

USD Men's Basketball Coach Lamont Smith addresses domestic violence arrest in San Francisco

Victim says she was "intimately involved" with the married coach

WHO PLAYS WHO

HOMELESS EDITION



On *The Wire*, **Clarke Peters** played detective Lester Freamon, a dogged investigator who canvasses the homeless.

Dogged police investigation led to an arrest for the murder of O.B. homeless man **Walter "Ras" Riley**



Carson Daly has shown a knack for staying on camera on numerous television shows, including *TRL* and *The Voice*.

Noah Jackson was arrested for the murder of Walter Riley after being spotted on an ATM camera.



In *Boys Town*, **Mickey Rooney** played Whitey Marsh, a kid from the wrong side of the tracks who runs for mayor of Boys Town.

Homeless-hassling El Cajon mayor **Bill Wells** says he lacks "the pedigree to run for Congress" but is going up against Duncan Hunter anyway.

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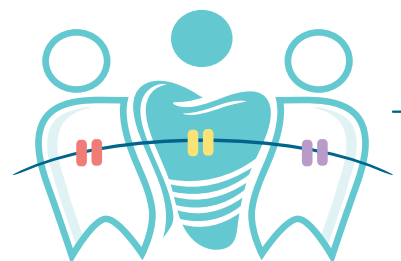
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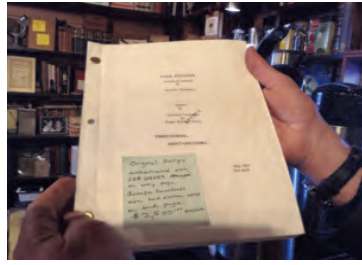
Pulp Fiction in Carlsbad

OMG: I'm holding it in my hand. A hand-typed script movie people would kill for.

I just ran across it in this rare and ancient bookshop and literati haven, in an alley off Carlsbad Village Drive, a couple of blocks toward the ocean from Interstate 5. It's a 1941 ex-garage, where kids come to play chess and their moms and dads come to drink coffee and exchange deep thoughts. And people sing, or watch art movies in the tree-dappled, small open-air stage between the garage and Sean Christopher's home.

Sean's the owner here. Calls it Lhoog Books & the Exrealism Project. (He explains the layers of meaning, but really, you'll have to ask him yourself.) He's scattered the inside and outside with everything from bird cages to helmets to arty thermometers, to loaded bookshelves to chess sets, scattered everywhere, ready for play. He also has arcane items like Raphael's ancient manuscript (meaning actually handwritten), a book of talismanic magic from the 1600s; a Colonial Registry from 1760; and this, a final draft for the movie *Pulp Fiction*, hand-typed by Quentin Tarantino himself. Probably worth everything else put together.

I may be the only dude in the land who didn't really go for that narcissistic celebration of violence, that paean to American nihilism, as some critic called it. But it was original, sure shook



Tarantino's last draft of *Pulp Fiction*



Sean Christopher



Browse, don't hurry

up the noir neighborhood, and according to Sean Christopher, is worth a lot of *plata*.

"Original script, authenticated with 20# 100054 stamped on every page," says the Post-It stuck to the title page. "Quentin Tarantino's own hand-written notes on back page. \$2,500.00 minimum."

Sean wrote that. But he says he's now been told that at auction it could fetch anything from \$10,000 to \$100,000 or beyond, seeing it is that actual typescript Tarantino bashed out on his typewriter in May 1993.

I flip through the pages. Oh, yeah...the famous adrenalin shot scene.

LIVING ROOM

Vincent is bent over Mia, talking softly to her, when Lance reenters the room.

VINCENT

room, hanging back from the action.

VINCENT

Does it have to be exact?

LANCE

Yeah, it has to be exact! I'm giving her an injection in the heart, so I gotta exactly hit her in the heart.

Interesting. But not as interesting as Sean. This guy is a short-story writer and script doctor, especially for academics. But more than this, he tells me he has penetrated underground cultures in places like Russia to interview writers that authorities there don't like. He does this dangerous work for well-heeled European literary magazines. "Kind of gonzo journalism. But I also write introductions for art books and help PhDs with their dissertations. Often, they're so drowned in their specialty they just can't get it out. When you're writing about complexity,

continued on page 56

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Listing materials for the massive 14,000-square-foot estate at 2681 Idle Hour Lane, one of a small handful of cul-de-sacs tucked away west of the UC San Diego campus between the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Torrey Pines Gliderport, bill the home as "The Ultimate La Jolla Family Estate property" that "offers incomparable luxuries of relaxation and recreation."

Built in 1996, the main residence and guest house combine to offer



A lake near the ocean's edge

seven bedrooms and a total of 14 baths. Interior appointments include the requisite chef's

kitchen with dual ranges, butcher-block island with bar seating for six, and a wall of roll-down doors

to conceal countertop appliances when they're not in use.

"Expansive, fresh,

beautifully appointed living areas" make extensive use of dark woods and stone finishes throughout in "taking a sleek, fresh approach to classic architecture," and the master suite sports a unique free-standing glass-and-gold shower in the center of the bath-slash-dressing room.

There's also a wood-paneled game room with library loft and a home theater.

The guest house, meanwhile, boasts another recreation room and a disco with mirrored ceilings, custom lighting, and full bar. The property also offers roughly 3000 square feet of "garage parking for your seven classic automobiles and your extended golf cart for heading to the beach," which is accessed via "a coveted Black's Beach

Gate Key for easy vehicle beach access."

Outside, the amenities continue throughout nearly three acres of gate-accessible "expansive lawns surrounded by layered foliage." There's a hedge-surrounded tennis court, koi pond, "rock-climbing arch, skateboard park, volleyball court, pool and outdoor fireplace, fire feature and barbecue kitchen gathering areas." The property features a private lake with stone rowboat dock.

Public records indicate the home was purchased by Avalon Capital Partners, LLC, in 2005 for a reported \$17.7 million. Avalon is a private investment firm owned by Ted Waitt, cofounder of the Gateway personal computer company that enjoyed

continued on page 29

BestBuys

—EVE KELLY

My friend Katie paid a visit and brought her beautiful golden retriever Molly — who, confided Katie upon arriving, “leaves mountains of poop. Let me know if you see any in your yard, and I’ll clean it up.”

Molly did, and I did, and Katie did. “I’ve got a few favorite tools for cleaning,” said Katie. “I’m a big fan of Flexrake; they make a Catch-All Swivel Scoop [\$24.99 at Dixie-line]. It has a large polyurethane scoop surface, which I totally need. You can use it with or without a waste bag, and it works really well on grass, soil, or gravel.” As the name implies, “the scoop swivels, which makes cleanup easy. And it flips up once it’s loaded, so you don’t have to worry about poo falling out as you walk. Finally, the handle of both scoop and rake telescope from one foot to three feet, which cuts down on bending. I also have the Flexrake Jumbo Jaws (\$20.99 at Dixieline). It’s like a claw pick-up tool, but the base is a scoop. The design makes it easy to use one-handed, and the heavy-duty spring helps make sure nothing falls out as you walk. You can tell that’s important for me; I’m big on not having to do double doodie duty.”

If Molly left mountains, my own Shih Tzu-terrier mix Mickey leaves mole-hills. But they’re still a problem, and the kids complain mightily when they get sent out armed with nothing more than a garden spade and a bucket. So I looked around. Petco carried a variety of scoop sizes by Sophresh. In the one-hander claw department, they offered a 12” extra small (\$14.99), a 24” small (\$24.99), and a 36” large capacity (\$29.99). No swivel-type buckets in sight, but they did have a rust-proof metal rake and scoop set that promised to be effective on grass (medium, \$24.99; large, \$29.99).

Across from the pooper-scoopers, Petco carried an array of pet-waste disposal bags, ranging in price from \$7.99 to \$24.99, depending on size, quantity, and brand. Naturally, the bags that promised less environmental impact cost more.

Katie had encouraged me to check out the Kong Handi Pod (\$12.99 at Petco). “It combines a pickup bag dispenser and a hand sanitizer,” she offered. “The poop bags are biodegradable and have very high quality tie handles. No worries about ripping. There’s



No matter how nifty the gadget, it’s still picking up an animal’s crap. I wondered if I could pay someone to do it.

even a convenient carabiner for easy attaching to clothes. It’s a must-have for dog-walking.

Kong also makes a Handi Pod flashlight dispenser [\$13.99], which has a super-bright flashlight built into the base instead of the hand sanitizer. Both are refillable, and I find both to be very useful.”

No matter how nifty the gadget use, it’s still picking up an animal’s crap. I wondered if I could pay someone to do it. “We take care of the least-favorite part of owning a dog or cat,” said Mike Miller, owner of San Diego Poop 911 (1-877-POOP-911). “First step is to coordinate scheduling. Some areas of San Diego we’re in every day; others will be once a week. One dog once a week costs \$10.95 per week; two dogs once a week is \$14.95. Prices go down if you need multiple services. Two dogs twice a week would be \$12.95 per visit. And of course, prices go up if you have more dogs. We can bag the waste and take it with us or put it in your general refuse can.”

San Diego Poop 911 also offers an initial service of “a big clean-up if your yard hasn’t been cleaned in a while. The price depends on how many dogs you have and how long it’s been. We get it all fresh and poop-free and maintain it from there.”

Poop 911 also changes cat-litter boxes: \$12.95 for the first box and \$4.95 per additional box. “We also have quite a few customers who have feral cats visiting their yards, or even just neighbors’ cats. We can service them as well.” Additional services (for additional fees) include deck and patio hosedown, deodorant spray, and water-bowl clean and refill.

Other pet-waste clean-up services around town: Ruff Doodie (619-289-7833), Paws to Pavement (619-870-0108), and Poobusters (619-741-2543). Check websites for prices.

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Bottom photo: Flexrake heavy-duty poop tools

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A shark-sized bite out of the real Coronado





The 114-year-old El Cordova Garage closed its doors after new landlord, Kleege Enterprises, told owner Rock Walton (with his wife Sheala) the garage didn't fit in their redevelopment plans.



It has that weird feeling, like *Dead Man Walking*. We're at the bar. Jimmy has got me my regular Arrogant Bastard. Tiger does a pretend growl. "That Arrogant Bastard." Miguel the chef sits with his evening *cerveza*, a Bud Light, swearing in Spanish at the ball game on TV. Guillermo, one of the bar trainees, passes by clinking a load of glasses. "Como estas?" he says, mainly to give me the chance to use the oh-so-cool answer he taught me, "De que me quejo?" — "Can't complain." James the wooden-boat builder, and Bob and Dorothy the retired couple who are famous for dancing lovingly whenever musicians play here, are already ensconced. Brian the Marine officer and Inga his Navy dentist wife pull up stools to eat and watch the game. Pete the surf-

Mediterranean coast, our own Middle East peace initiative.

So, yes, it is a real-life *Cheers* sort of situation. It quietly soaks into your bones that this is as important to your day, your week, your sanity as any work. And yet, tonight, it's got a hollow feel. Everything's good, except it's not.

"This is it for Costa Azul," Brant, the owner had told us. "We're closing at the end of the month. New owners. Going to up the rent. Want to turn this into a 'high-end boutique restaurant.' That's not Costa Azul. We're a cantina for locals."

This was last November. What was happening was that a company called Kleege Enterprises had bought the entire prime block of downtown Coronado in one giant real estate deal.

The 20 businesses operating on the block

board designer comes up ready to argue the latest wrinkle on the presidency. We both enjoy arguing, so that's the next half hour taken care of. We'll end up talking about his idea to start a surf school in Gaza, on the

include two restaurants (three, if you include MooTime Creamery), plus the local newspaper, the *Eagle & Journal* (headquartered in the second-oldest house on the island), cleaners, beauty salons, galleries, the famous

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Bay Books bookstore, and El Cordova Garage, reputedly the oldest operating garage west of the Rockies.

And the first shock: Kleege Enterprises told El Cordova to leave. They ousted the 114-year-old garage, which had been selling and servicing Coronado automobiles since 1904. El Cordova was about the only place on the island where you could get anything fixed, from your Bentley to your golf cart. El Cordova was such a fixture in the community, as a piece of working history, and a symbol of the "real," non-tourist Coronado, that it had become a tourist attraction itself.

Kleege Enterprises had decided to kick out El Cordova Garage in favor of an Italian pizza restaurant, Buona Forchetta.

As real estate bites go, this was shark-size. Overnight, a third of downtown Coronado had changed hands. And because ownership rights trump citizens' or local government or renters' rights, all eyes were turned to the new owners.

The block fills the space between Orange Avenue, Tenth Street, and C Avenue. Kleege won the bidding war by offering a reported \$23 million to Hartwell Properties Limited Partnership of Las Vegas. Hartwell was

actually very much a local Coronado concern run under the leadership of Nina Hartwell (whose house on Ocean Boulevard is still for sale at \$13,500,000; it's known as the Velcro Mansion, because Nina's husband Clark was an early investor in the rippy-sticky stuff). For decades, Ms. Hartwell ran the downtown commercial property with mostly month-to-month leases but, to compensate, a light hand and reasonable rents, until she became too old and infirm.

Suddenly, the Nina Hartwell era has taken on the golden haze of the Good Old Days. All the businesses received notes revealing the new address to send rents to, but, according to Rock Walton, that was pretty much it. Unspoken: an upcoming rise in the rents.

But for Walton, it was much more.

"I got a call. And [people from Kleege Enterprises] wanted to come in and meet with me. I took that as a positive, that at least there would be some kind of communication. Because they weren't returning calls; they won't talk to anybody. So we set up an appointment for the next morning. These two guys walked in here. One of them is some kind of vice president for the

company, and the other one is a consultant. And this young kid, the vice president, had a prepared speech that he'd practiced that was obviously written by someone else.

"And he said, 'We wanted to come down and speak with you, face-to-face. And we need to let you know that we have reached an agreement with a new tenant for this property. We understand that it will take some time for you to get your work done, and to get all of your equipment moved out of here, so we'll give you three or four months to get that done.'

"Because I was a little bit flabbergasted, I didn't really respond. It was just, *Are you frigging kidding me?* Because it was not what I was expecting at all. I'm one of the highest rent-payers on the block, and so for them to come in and kill us first was a surprise.

"Honestly, I was freaking crushed. I have spent \$2 million on this place. I spent 30 years of my life in this place. It's more than half my life. And I came to work [that] morning worth two million dollars and went home worth about 20 grand. The \$2 million represents the value of the business. Without the property, the business has no value. The only thing it has is its equipment."

Was there no way to stay? Like offering to pay more rent?

"They didn't even offer anything to us. There was no offer of 'If you pay this much.' After the fact, after that 30-day eviction notice, the guy said that even if he would allow us to stay here — which, again, we don't fit in his business model because, since he thinks it should be a strip mall, automotive doesn't belong in a strip mall — he wouldn't let us stay no matter what we paid. But he said he would have to get \$30,000-a-month rent for this building, for what [financial stake] he has in it, 'to make his bankers happy.' There is no possible way that this building is worth \$30,000 a month. I don't give a shit what you do with it. It is not worth \$6 a foot. Right now, I am paying \$10,000 a month."

Could he perhaps move to, say, I.B.? "There are consequences to moving. We would have to plan on half of our customer base going away if we leave the island. It's just the way business works. And we lose the towing [contract]. So that means we're going to go from a million dollars a year down to \$750K when we lose the towing. And then we're going to cut that in half [by leaving], so now we're at \$375K. And I've been hearing \$125,000 a year in rent down there, and when you're only doing \$375 grand, that's just hard to swallow. So the rent needs to be around \$3000 to \$4000, like what it's worth. It's hard enough to do what we do here at \$10,000. This has been a hard nut to crack every month. It costs me \$80,000 a month to keep these doors open. I come out at the end of the year

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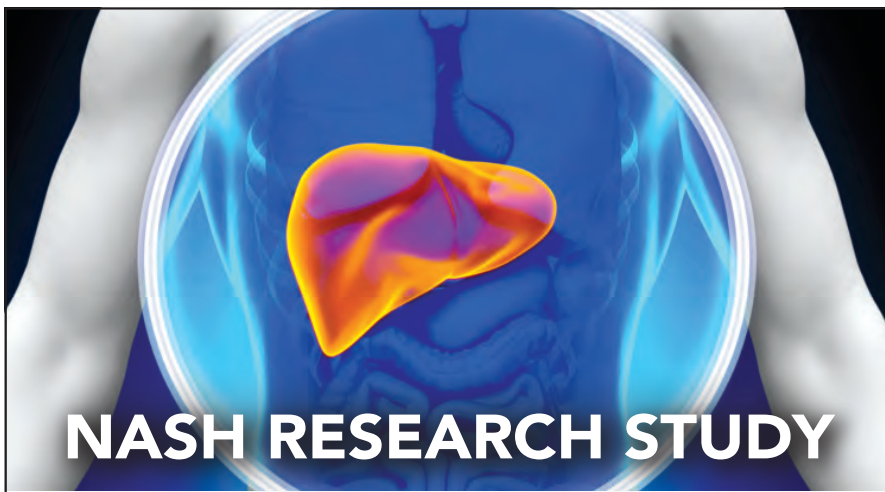
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with about \$50 grand, working as much as I do.”

This is nine on a Thursday morning, one of the business’ last days. We’re sitting in his office, beside one of the old cars he always exhibits in the corner window, just as they did back when this was a DeSoto dealership. All the time the phone is ringing and people are coming in. And his twin sons, John and Matt, who work in the business, come in and out with mechanical problems and dockets.

And beside him all the time, Kai, a malamute-like dog with Arctic-blue eyes.

Elderly lady comes in. “Just came to see Kai. How are you, boy?”

It’s Mrs. Kirschner from the chamber of commerce, across Tenth Avenue.



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUAN TROXEL, THE CORONADO TIMES

Walton, in his office prior to closing the garage, said, “It’s more than just me being gone, or El Cordova Garage being gone. This is the start of the destruction of Coronado downtown.”

“She’s here every morning,” says Walton. “Just to say hi to Kai.”

Phone rings.

“El Cordova Garage. Yep. How are you? So they

didn’t fix it? Tell me your address over there again. Give me your phone number so I can give it to the driver. Yep. And you are there now? I’ll send

him over.”

Walton, into intercom: “Hey, I need you over here.”

A pneumatic impact gun burps off, taking nuts

off a wheel.

It’s like this for the whole hour we talk.

“They’ve also gone after Costa Azul,” Walton says, getting back to the subject. “They have a set business plan. And it’s a La Jolla look. As far as I’m concerned, and I’ve said this from day one, [they’re] trying to make us Southern La Jolla. And nobody goes to La Jolla because it’s now a crap hole with a bunch of empty offices and places because nobody can afford it, and it’s too commercial.

“What the attraction has always been for Coronado is that it’s a small town. We don’t need to be what the tourists want. We need to be what we are so that the tourists will come.

“It’s kind of like the Italian restaurant

they want to put in here [Buona Forchetta]. How many Italian restaurants can you put in a town? We have half a dozen already. And they keep failing because there’s too many, and these people don’t understand that you cannot live off of [the tourist season] four months a year.”

So, has the City of Coronado tried to help Walton, especially given the status of his garage in the community?

“Nobody [from the city] has made a direct contact about this with me.”

And solidarity from other business people?

“No. They have all more or less talked to me. Most of these people are just trying to run their businesses. And most people don’t have the fire in the gut that I

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have. They're afraid to do anything. They're afraid that if they do anything then it's going to happen to them. So, they cower in a corner. I am not one to cower in a corner."

It's not that he doesn't have supporters. A Coronado resident, who wishes to stay anonymous, shows me an email exchange he had with Richard Bailey, mayor of Coronado.

"Richard, this email is my request for Coronado's City Council to support and facilitate El Cordova Garage staying in business in Coronado. El Cordova is a highly valued, well managed, and competent business, providing well-paying jobs and probably nice steady business tax revenue for Coronado. Plus, El Cordova is part of Coronado's true history. To me, Mr. Walton is running a busi-

ness that exemplifies the necessary, desirable, non-touristy aspects of living in Coronado."

From the mayor: Dear [Sir]: There is nothing we as a city council can do to get in between the relationship of a tenant and landlord. However, I have been in touch with Rock and the representatives of the new ownership to inquire about any other possibilities. Fingers crossed for a successful outcome but there is nothing within the control of the city council. Richard Bailey, Mayor.

Gent comes in named Toby.

"I just came, actually, to chat with you a little bit. Find out what's going on. How much longer do you think you're going to be here? I wish you were going to stay. We don't

need another damned pizza parlor."

Then a lady customer asks Walton, "What am I going to do when you're gone?"

Walton tells her, "Let's pray [son] John finds a place [off-island]. You know, my dream was, as a kid, to have a little two-bay garage in a gas station in the middle of freaking nowhere, where I was dealing with a small group of people. I wanted to be that — as goofy as this is, what was it? *The Andy Griffith Show*? Remember the tow-truck driver, the mechanic? That was my dream."

Now, he's worrying for the restaurant that's slated to replace El Cordova.

"[Customers] are saying things like no matter what [business] they put in here they will not come

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here. The guy who is renting this space, this Italian pizza shop, he doesn't know that he is getting into a building that people will hate him for being in. Just for being here. It's not his fault. But he's going to be boycotted back here. He's on the back of a block that nobody's going to see him; this location is not good for a restaurant. So, if he doesn't have the tourists, and the locals hate him, this guy's going to dump a shitload of money in here and not have a chance."

Another woman comes in, goes straight to Walton, and kisses him. As she reaches up, I notice she has stars tattooed on her neck, climbing up behind her right ear. Eleven, by my count.

"Each one is for a grandchild," she says. Her name's Sheala, Rock Walton's wife.

"This is where we're at," she says. "From having a life to everybody just closing everything. Rock was crushed. As difficult as it is for me, I can't even imagine the stress he's going through. It's not just us. It's [the crew]. They have lives,



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Brant Sarber, owner of Costa Azul, complains, "Everybody on the block says the same thing. [Kleege] won't communicate."

kicking my butt."

They can lie. They can cheat.

Around the block, Brant Sarber, owner of Costa Azul, is having his own dramas.

"When they first came in, all they did was give their address and say, 'Here's where you want to send your rent. Your lease is up at the end of November, so if you'd like to stay, send a proposal.' And so I did.

"We have been here 18 years. I first heard about these coming changes in August. I knew the block was for sale. We

still had some lease left, so we were feeling like everything was fine.

"It felt like they were going to give us a new lease, and we were going to continue on as we wanted.

"And then they came and said that they were probably going to be raising the rents. And they said, 'We are probably looking to do something different here.' They said they were looking more for a high-end boutique restaurant.

"I was feeling *I'm not changing it. So, what I'm going to do is let them know that I'm not going to operate a high-end boutique restaurant.* I want to keep Costa Azul Costa Azul. I have it here mostly for the locals; I have my price-point down so the locals can come, and maybe come a couple of times a week. The tourists are just a bonus for me.

"So I sent them a proposal around the end of August, and it was registered mail, and they received it. I never heard anything back.

"So I sent them [another] letter that said, 'I'm definitely not

MooTime Creamery's Coronado-raised owner David Spatafore believes the \$23 million Kleege paid for the Orange Avenue block his business sits in "is outrageous. It doesn't pencil out in any way."

too. You've got to think about the employees. And this man [Kleege] does not care about anybody."

"We've got nine guys that work for us," says Rock.

"So," says Sheala, "we're going to Oklahoma."

Why Oklahoma? Sheala's relatives are there, and they can find pasture for the three horses they've kept down on Hollister. Plus: Oklahoma's way cheaper.

"The cost of living here is outrageous. And

then to have some guy say that if we wanted to stay, he's going to triple the rent, we had to go."

"He wants to make this a restaurant for now, but potentially, he wants to make this a mall," Rock says. "I truly believe that his intention is to plow this block. I've looked at all his other properties, and he's plowed them all and turned them into strip malls."

"He appears to be a nice guy," says Sheala, "but look at what he's

done to us. I had planned on being here, with my husband and my kids."

"The boys," says Rock. "They've been working here for years, and my intent was that they would take this place over and continue it on for another 30 years..."

His voice wavers. I can see he's trying to hold back his emotions.

"As I told the *Eagle*, to let El Cordova Garage go out of business on my watch, after it has survived 114 years, that's

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going to change Costa Azul. We're here for the locals. So, I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to quit. And I'll be out November 30.' On the 3rd of November, I got a call from Mr. Kleege himself. And he said, 'I understand that you're getting ready to leave.' And I said, 'Yeah, I just really haven't heard much back about any of my correspondence.' And he asked me to resend that August letter. So, I emailed him the letter, and about an hour later, he called and said, 'Would you be interested in staying until the end of August?'

"I said, 'That would interest me.' But, bottom line, I would not take an increase in rent. And he said okay. So, reprieve. But after August, who knows? Almost everybody on the block is month-to-month. Everybody's like [Bay Books], who are wondering if they can order [books] for Christmas. It's the uncertainty."

Sarber's main beef with the new owners: "Everybody on the block says the same thing: they won't communicate."

Not that this makes any difference from a legal standpoint.

"My attorney has basically told me, 'There's nothing you can do. They can lie, they can cheat, they can do whatever they want, because they are owners of the property.'"

Sidewalks rolled up

"The price is outrageous," says David Spatafore. "It doesn't pencil out in any way, but it was a unique opportunity and that's why he bought it."

He's talking about Kleege Enterprises paying \$23 million for this block where Spatafore has two businesses operating, Mootime Creamery and Leroy's Kitchen

+ Lounge. Spatafore is one of Coronado's great hometown-success stories. The Coronado High School grad started off creating MooTime Creamery in 1998 and has since expanded under the corporate title Blue Bridge Hospitality to create a dozen restaurants. We meet at his latest, the ramen-leaning West Pac Noodle Bar, across Orange Avenue from the block Kleege purchased. It's still reverberating from a jam-packed opening week. The morning sounds of pot clangs and flatware jiggling are our background music.

For Spatafore, the sale of the block signaled the end of the unsatisfactory but financially easy times.

"The party's over. Because the old landlord was old-money and they never did anything to the

block. They never gave us any money for tenant improvements, they didn't ever fix anything, they didn't do a damned thing. But, the rent was cheap. So it was a give-and-take. You never called them if you had issues with certain types of things. Look at the parking lot at the back. It's completely destroyed. They never repaved it. It's been there for 18 years. But, the rent was cheap."

Could Coronado devolve into La Jolla South? Spatafore believes the new owners can't actually change much.

"Mixed use is banned in Coronado now. Living above and commercial below. Parking was an issue. Residential density. [Kleege] can't do that. So I think that the town will dictate what can be done there within the

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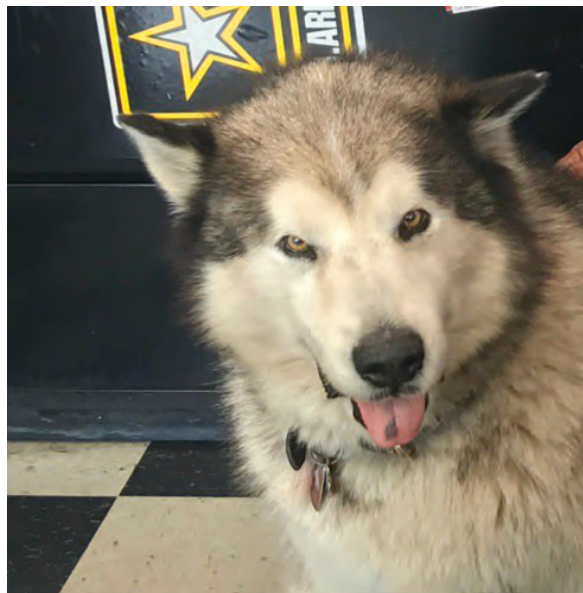
current codes. It can be pretty limiting.”

But how fair are sudden jumps in rent and the kicking out of tenants who may make great contributions to the character and well-being of the community?

“Well, when you rent, that’s the risk you take. When we had the low rents, they never gave long leases. So, again, it was a risk. Like in this place [West Pac Noodles] we have 13 years of a lease. In Maretalia we have 15 years of a lease. At Stake we have 12 years of a lease. Well, they never did that [at Leroy’s]. That was one of the reasons we got low rent. So, to say that Kleege this, or Kleege that, I understand, emotionally, but you don’t have any rights. You’re just renting. If you don’t secure a long lease, then you’re taking a risk. So it’s kind of hard to blame [the owners].

Spatafore says he met with Bruce Kleege before he closed with escrow.

“He told me from the very moment he met me that he likes our operation [at Leroy’s]. We put a lot of money into remodel-



PHOTOGRAPH BY LUAN TROXEL, THE CORONADO TIMES

People used to stop into El Cordova just to see Walton’s dog Kai.

ing that whole space, so he’s not really concerned. There’s no blight. It didn’t excuse us from paying higher rent in future, but it doesn’t subject us to being removed.

“Unfortunately, there are some uses in the block that economically no longer make sense, when you pay that kind of money for a block. Actually, it’s more the bigger places that are subject to the issue. So, Bay Books and the [El Cordova] garage are the two biggest spaces on the whole block. [And

they pay the lowest rent! We pay way more rent than they pay. But how much rent can a bookstore pay? They’re in competition with Amazon and Costco. It’s a feel-good business. It’s tough. Margins are thin. Everybody loves to go in there and looky-loo, and all that inventory costs them a ton of money. And then they turn around and they go buy the book on Amazon five dollars cheaper. But these guys are stuck with the rent. You can’t have it both ways.

“Things are tough in the restaurant business, too,” Spatafore says. “Minimum wage is up, like, a dollar. That’s a 5 percent increase to our cost basis. If your margin is only 10 percent, how do you absorb a 5 percent increase in cost? When I started in 1998, we paid, like, \$60 to \$70 for a keg of beer. Now, beers are better, but they cost \$150 to \$200. So, the price [we charge for] a beer hasn’t doubled in 20 years, but the cost [to us] of a beer has doubled.

“I just think that all these things, including the rise in value of real estate, which reflects a rise in rent costs, are going to [reach a point where] eventually, there’ll be some cross-hairs that are just going to take people out at the knees.”

He says the new owners would like to put some money into the block to make it more aesthetically pleasing. “And being what he paid and what he’s going to put into it, the rents are going to go up.”

But what about, say, Manny Granillo’s much-loved Island Surf, another Coronado institution for generations of wave-riders? He has closed down already, for a reported fear of a tripling of his rent.

“Manny was ready to close. I loved Island Surf. It was a great store. But

[closing] wasn’t even a decision if you’re already just barely making the rent. If it’s just kind of subsistence level, whether the rent goes up 20 percent or 100 percent, it can’t [realistically go on].”

But did the El Cordova Garage — surely the ultimate symbol of the “real” Coronado — have to go? It’s clear that an oily garage wouldn’t fit into the new owners’ vision of an “upgraded” downtown. But don’t the people of Coronado also have a say?

“I’ve warned [Kleege Enterprises] that Coronado is a unique, odd market,” says Spatafore. “Because it’s got this false sense: it’s an affluent community, but a lot of the affluence that’s here is part-time residents, number one, and transient residents, visitors. You see the sidewalks here? Four o’clock in the afternoon in, say, December, they’re rolled up. Leroy’s tries and stays open late and have a late-night presence, and, man, it’s crickets!

“So, I don’t think people have to worry about [developers] trying to La Jolla-ize Coronado. When I hire people, particularly for management, I always tell them, ‘There’s a difference between Coronado, La Jolla, and Rancho Santa Fe. The people who come and buy homes in Coronado

have the same amount of zeros in their checking account, but they like to wear flip-flops and get out of their Maseratis. Here it’s a bit of a more small-town mindset. The sale of one block is not going to change that.”

Destruction of Coronado

But don’t tell that to Rock Walton.

“It’s more than just me being gone or El Cordova Garage being gone. This is the start of the destruction of Coronado downtown,” says Walton. “It has already started to roll into the adjoining blocks. I talked to a gentleman who has a business down the street whose landlord has already contacted him, saying that he understands that the rent values in Coronado are going up. This guy still has three years left on his lease, but his landlord, at the end of that three years, wants to match the rents that this guy [Kleege] wants. So, we’re going to run out some more small businesses. This is not going to stop on this block. It’s going to ruin Coronado downtown. And frankly I’m glad I’m not going to be here to see it. It’s already starting to ripple out. It hasn’t even happened yet, and it’s rippling out.” ■

— Bill Manson

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Under the radar

continued from page 3

poor. Among \$5000 donors so far in 2018 having business at city hall have been Pardee Homes, Vulcan Materials, Affirmed Housing, AMR Management, Mission Valley developer Sudberry Properties, Sycuan, and the GEO Group Foundation, sponsored by a Boca Raton, Florida, company that runs private jails.

Another \$5000 donor was the Deason Foundation, run by **Doug Deason**, son of controversial part-time La Jolla billionaire **Darwin Deason**. The younger Deason authored an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* in favor of criminal justice reform, backed by the foundation. "Like many 17-year-olds, I did something stupid. It was 1979, and I threw a party at the home of neighbors while they were out of town. (Their son had given me a key.) The party got out of hand, ultimately getting the attention of

the police. I was charged with felony burglary," wrote Deason. "I ultimately pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor criminal trespass charge — a significant step down from felony burglary. My punishment included a six-month probationary sentence and a fine. When my probation was complete, my youthful indiscretion was expunged from my record. I was given a second chance."

— 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/.

Airbnb forcing out

continued from page 3

effect for the city of short-term rentals was \$500 million and 3000 jobs last year, says Nevin. The business generated \$700,000 in tax

revenue for the city.

Nevin says that, overwhelmingly, the short-term rental industry is based near the water — such as Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, and La Jolla. The average daily rate in San Diego is \$163, says AirDNA, which provides data on the short-term rental industry. The growth rate is 44 percent a year, and that frightens some San Diegans. Short-term rentals may make a small dent now, but if they keep growing at a big rate, they could push up rents and housing prices, driving even more people out of the county. (Economists point out, however, that the 44 percent is coming from a small base. The growth percentage will decrease as the numbers get larger.)

Mikaela Sharp of Irvine's John Burns Real Estate Consulting says she hasn't made a study of the topic, "but in

my opinion more short-term rentals will increase rents because it causes a decrease in the supply of spaces available for long-term rentals." But, says Sharp, she is not sure of the magnitude of the effect. One reason: "Renting out a property short-term on Airbnb is much more work than a long-term rental." It involves, for example, much more cleaning. ■

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

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

final guests in early March."

The project has been at the center of a vortex of legal claims and counter-claims lodged by feuding contractors, the *Statesman* has reported.

"What's important for people to know is that Fairmont Austin remains on track to open in early

August," Manchester's son (also named Douglas) told the paper in March of last year.

"Delays that were incurred have been accounted for, and we'd be opening even earlier had they not happened. We look forward to delivering a stellar project in approximately five months."

Matt Potter

Watchtower done looking the other way?

Final lawsuit in sex-abuse case settled

The lawsuits over sexual molestation by Jehovah's Witness elders in San Diego are officially over.

On February 18, former parishioner Osbaldo Padron, one of several children molested by former church elder Gonzalo Campos, agreed to a settlement.

The agreement comes a month after another of Cam-

pos's victims, José Lopez, settled his lawsuit against the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses.

As reported by the Reader, Campos became a Jehovah's Witness in 1979, shortly after arriving in San Diego from Mexico. Not long after, Campos was put on a track to become an elder. He was promoted to a "publisher," a person who visits homes in hopes of spreading the religious doctrine.

In 1982, Campos and his mother were staying at a fellow member's home. Campos was sharing a room with a young boy. That night the boy allegedly woke up to find Campos pulling down his pajamas. He then felt Campos kiss his buttocks. The boy grabbed a bat and then woke up the household. Campos and his mom were

continued on page 28

HEALTH AND BEAUTY

MARCH SPECIAL

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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 26
told to leave.

Despite the incident, Campos remained serving as a publisher for the Linda Vista congregation. Elders continued to allow him to work with children and lead Bible-study classes. Campos allegedly began to groom those children.

According to lawsuits and testimony provided by Campos's alleged victims, he would take them to work at his landscaping job and pay them to help. After work he would encourage the kids to shower and then on several occasions sodomize them. He would then buy them gifts and take them to fast-food restaurants in order to keep them happy.

In 1993, parents discovered what had happened. They complained to elders at the Linda Vista congregation. The elders, how-

ever, failed to act for three years. During that time the abuse continued.

In 1995, Campos was expelled from the congregation. It wasn't long before Campos was allowed back in the church.

In December 1999 then-elder Eduardo Chaves wrote to the Watchtower headquarters about wanting to allow Campos back in the church.

"In our meeting with him he said he was very repentant for what he did," Chaves wrote in a letter. "He stated that he wanted to return to Jehovah. He is willing to face the victims and ask their forgiveness..."

"Ever since his expulsion he has not abused anyone. He has read articles of the publications regarding his sin. He says he does not see or read pornographic information. He stated that ever since expulsion he has worked on having a relation-

ship with Jehovah and the expulsion has served to strengthen him spiritually. He does not miss meetings, and he even takes notes of the program. He also said that he is willing to continue accepting Jehovah's discipline."

Campos remained in the church until 2009. It was that year that five of his victims, then adults, filed a lawsuit against the Watchtower and the Linda Vista congregation. Campos fled to Mexico, where he has remained ever since. That case settled for an undisclosed amount in 2012.

Later that year, another victim, José Lopez, filed a lawsuit. Months later, Osbaldo Padron filed his.

The Watchtower has done its best to fight turning over documents that would show the scope of sexual abuse by elders. The final blow came last year when an appellate court affirmed a lower

court's decision to fine the Watchtower \$4000 a day for not turning over documents to the victim's lawyers.

In January, Watchtower settled with Lopez. One month later, on February 18, the church settled with Campos's final victim, Padron.

Attorney Irwin Zalkin confirmed the settlement. The amount, however, will remain confidential.

Dorian Hargrove

Social Security sapped

Mexican stole American's identity 37 years ago
Tijuana's Andres Avelino Anduaga pleaded guilty March 1 to stealing the identity of an American citizen and collecting his Social Security benefits for 37 years. He admitted to illegally entering the country and stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal, state, and local govern-

ment benefits.

He swiped the identity in 1980 and used the victim's birth certificate to apply for Social Security benefits and later disability payments. He received around \$362,000 in Supplemental Security Income and health benefits during the period, along with CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance from San Diego County.

In 2015, he lied to federal agents, claiming he was a U.S. resident. He admitted that he freely traveled between the United States and Mexico using a passport he had stolen from the victim.

Don Bauder

Pot delivery services optimistic

"We're kind of 'out of sight, out of mind.'"
After being rebuffed by San Diego's city council, marijuana-delivery businesses

seeking legitimacy may have found a savior to the south in Chula Vista.

"Local permitting provides a path to a state license, which is what we're fighting for," explains Manny Biezunski of the San Diego Cannabis Delivery Alliance. "Before the state issues a license you need to be licensed locally, and there's nowhere within San Diego, city or county, where you can get a local delivery license, even though the state offers one."

Things may be changing soon in Chula Vista. Following four contentious hours of commentary and debate on February 27, the city council there voted to move forward with a proposal to regulate cannabis sales and cultivation within the community, ultimately passing a measure on a 4-1 vote that would allow up to 12 dispensaries within the city — at

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



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CITY LIGHTS

least four of the licenses up for grabs are reserved for delivery services.

"We're filling a niche, focusing more on the medical side of operations," Biezunski says. "This includes people who either can't or don't want to go into a storefront for a lot of different reasons. We also believe delivery is the future of the industry — when everything becomes branded and pre-packaged, as it will in July, people won't necessarily have to go into a store to inspect what they're purchasing."

Biezunski's group was less effective in arguing for a change in classification that would have likened delivery services to cultivation and manufacturing facilities.

"They're treating delivery services like we're retail storefronts, but we'd like to be taken out of that category because we have no public location. We're kind of 'out

CITY LIGHTS

of sight, out of mind' and can operate in a location without anyone even realizing we're there."

Chula Vista's council went in with no regulatory cap on the number of marijuana processing facilities, the type the alliance would like to be grouped with. But in political horse-trading following a protracted debate, the proposed law's language ended the night with limitations allowing no more than ten such facilities within city limits.

While city recognition allows the delivery services to legally establish a home base somewhere, the state license is key in establishing legitimacy for operators who have been operating in a legal limbo since the passage of Prop 64 in 2016. It also allows them to conduct business just about anywhere they'd like, with a driver leaving Chula Vista

CITY LIGHTS

permitted to make drops in other cities or in unincorporated county territory, with the exception of cities that have specifically prohibited delivery drivers from doing business with city residents.

Even that may soon change.

"There are some outright bans within the county such as in Escondido and Carlsbad, but a bill was just introduced that would block cities from stopping deliveries," says Biezunski. "Basically, you can stop businesses from locating within a municipality, but you can't tell your residents that they can't receive a delivery from a licensed facility."

Despite accepting regulatory language in concept, considerable roadblocks — including a lengthy review process — remain before any type of pot shop can open for business in Chula Vista.

Dave Rice

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 14

a peak in popularity in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Waitt was instrumental in relocating the company's home base from Sioux City, South Dakota to La Jolla in 1998 — the firm then moved to Poway in 2001 before departing San Diego for Orange County in 2004 and eventually seeing its operations absorbed by the Taiwanese company Acer.

This isn't the first time on the market for the Idle Hour estate — in late 2015 the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Waitt had listed the home for sale shortly after purchasing a Beverly Hills mansion for



A shower in the middle of the room

\$10 million that he intended to demolish and replace. The home spent nearly a year on the market before the listing was withdrawn in October 2016 without attracting a buyer with

its \$22,900,000 price tag. After another year off-market, the home was re-listed in mid-February with a reduced asking price of \$19,980,000 that remains unchanged to date. ■

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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 8

TASTE OF THIRD

Sample signature dishes from Chula Vista eateries on Third Avenue. New this year for the 21-and-up crowd, a ticket includes tasters at participating breweries, cocktail lounges, and bar-restaurants. Favorites La Bella Pizza Garden, California Sushi, and



TASTE OF THIRD

Italianissimo Trattoria return, while Groundswell Brewing Co., Bar Sin Nombre, Thr3e Punk Ales, and the Gentle Penguin are new for 2018. In all, samples from over 20 places. Musicians and magicians fill the trek with entertainment. \$25-\$30.

WHEN: Thursday, March 8, 4 to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Third Avenue Village Association, 353 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. thirdavenuevillage.com

Friday | 9

YOGA FESTIVAL

“A holistic health party” created by Shawna Schenk. Features nonstop yoga and holistic healing classes held on the beach until sunset for four days, offering almost every style of yoga known to modern yogis. The main part of the festival is Saturday and Sunday with calming yoga and meditation classes, classes with live DJs or music, and beginner-friendly to advanced classes in hatha, vinyasa, kundalini, bowspring, shakti naam, acro-yoga, yoga nidra, and partner yoga, plus workshops on holistic topics such as plant medicine and fermentation/gut health and surf lessons.

WHEN: Friday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Runs through Monday, March 12.



FRIDAY, MARCH 9: CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

WHERE: Imperial Beach Pier Plaza, 10 Evergreen Avenue, Imperial Beach. sandiegoyogafestival.com

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

This year marks the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego’s 13th-annual cherry blossom celebration. Enjoy the Japanese custom of *hanami*, appreciating the beauty of cherry blossom flowers. Last year the cherry blossoms attracted over 12,000 people, and this will be their second year holding the festival over three days. Includes cultural performances and demonstrations and over 40 food and merchant vendors. New for 2018: a children’s area with an inflatable jump-house and crafts. \$12.

WHEN: Friday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also on Saturday and Sunday.

WHERE: Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park. niwa.org

COMPANY. Robert turns 35 today. He’s still single, and he wonders why. So do his friends — five couples — who suspect he has major commitment issues. In an attempt to find out (or confirm bachelorhood forever) Robert visits each couple. Runs March 9 to 17 at the Experimental Theatre, SDSU. Theater, [page 55](#).

Saturday | 10

DAFFODILS IN JULIAN

It’s Julian’s 14th-annual daffodil event, with over a thousand blooms on display. American Daffodil Society experts will be on hand to answer any question. The Julian Daffodil Project was started by Sally Snipes in 1990 as a memorial to her father. All profits from the sales



of bulbs and items at the show are put back into the project. School children are involved in the area plantings, and now there are four million bulbs across Julian. Bring all daffodils for display and judging on Friday, from noon to 5 p.m.

WHEN: Saturday, March 10, noon to 5 p.m. Also on Sunday.

WHERE: Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street, Julian. visitjulian.com

ROCK STAR BEER FESTIVAL

“Craft beer, live music, and killer eats” are the draws. Unlimited samples of 50 beers from regional and national breweries while raising money for charity. VIP gets you in an hour early to sample ten limited-release selections. Music from Offspring Tribute, DJs, and Pop Punk Mayhem. The event is both indoors and out. \$35–\$50.

WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 6 to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Humphreys by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive, Shelter Island. rockstarbeerfestivalsd.com

BEST COAST BEER FEST

This one says it has beer “from nearly 100 West Coast craft breweries, local bands, and a food-truck alley. Every ticket sold helps a cancer patient.” VIP here also includes early entry, plus Glenmorangie Scotch tastings and executive-restroom access. If



SUNDAY, MARCH 11: SAN DIEGO HALF MARATHON & 5K

you have a designated driver, you could take the party to the Rock Star Beer Festival afterward (info above). \$60–\$115.

WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 1 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Embarcadero Marina Park South, 200 Marina Park Way, downtown San Diego. bestcoastbeerfest.com

Sunday | 11

SAN DIEGO HALF MARATHON & 5K

The route begins between Petco Park and the San Diego Convention Center on Harbor Drive and continues with views of the USS Midway Museum, San Diego Bay, San Diego’s downtown skyline, Harbor Island, and Spanish Landing Park. You then make your way through Liberty Station, up Washington Street through Mission Hills and Hillcrest, and finally coast gradually downhill past Balboa Park, back into downtown for an “epic finish celebration” inside Petco Park. Distances include a half marathon, relay, 5K, or kids’ race. \$25–\$120.

WHEN: Sunday, March 11, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Petco Park, 100 Park Boulevard, East Village. sdhalfmarathon.com

A WRINKLE IN TIME. Oprah — sorry, Mrs. Which — raises a warning finger to anyone who dares question director Ava DuVernay’s vision for Madeleine L’Engle’s classic book. In an occurrence rarer than the recent



A WRINKLE IN TIME

super blue blood moon, both *Reader* film critics, Matthew Lickona and Scott Marks, will attend the screening. Afterward, each will attempt to get the other to do the review. Will the loser face the wrath of Oprah? Movies, [page 52](#).



ROCK STAR BEER FESTIVAL

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

THE CROSSINGS AND VETERANS PARK TRAILS (CARLSBAD)

This golf-course trail connects to undeveloped habitats and parklands

Driving Directions: From I-5, exit at Palomar Airport Road and drive east 1.3 miles to the Crossings Drive. Make a left and continue up the hill to the Crossings at Carlsbad Golf Course, on your right. The parking spots at the most northwest end of the Crossings lot are available for trail hikers and other visitors. The well-marked trailhead is up a dirt road about 50 yards west. **Hiking length:** 2.5 miles out and back. Allow 1.5 hours. **Difficulty:** Easy. Elevation gain/loss 400 feet. Leashed dogs and bicycles allowed. Construction will continue near the trailhead for several months, but the trail is open.



The bridge crossing Macario Creek (upper left)

The Crossings at Carlsbad Golf Course was designed by Greg Nash with the preservation of habitat and the city's trail system being an important consideration in creating a challenging course. The holes for this city-owned golf course are tucked into diverse ridges and flats within the rugged Macario Creek Canyon, creating an unusual juxtaposition of lush green lawns separated by native coastal sage scrub or the riparian corridor of Macario Creek itself. The greens are connected by 7 miles of paved trail on which golfers use carts to reach each hole. Note: only the Crossings Trail section of the golf course is open to hikers.

The Crossings Trail section of the paved golf course trail is an official City of Carlsbad hiking trail and connects a tributary canyon with coastal sage scrub habitat on the northwest side of the golf course with the undeveloped Veterans Park on the other side of Faraday Drive.

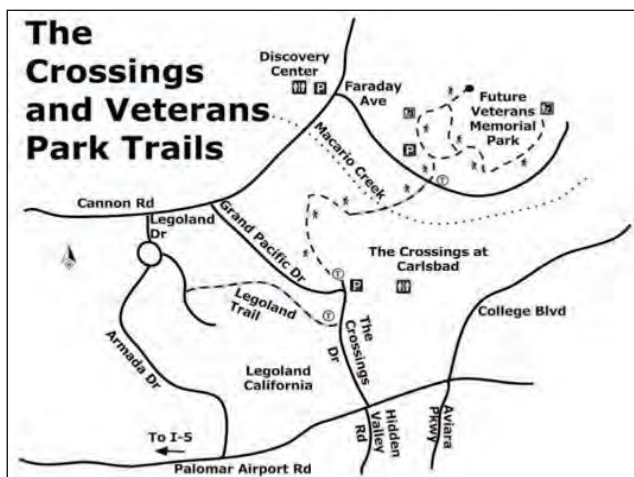
From the trailhead, hike down a dirt road on the

east-facing slope of this tributary canyon. You are likely to create a flurry of activity in the vegetation along the canyon bottom as flocks of California quail are flushed from their shrub cover. In about a third of a mile the well-marked trail makes a hairpin turn and proceeds parallel to the Macario Creek bed. This part of the trail takes you through a transition zone between coastal sage scrub and riparian habitat, with mulefat and arroyo willows competing with coyote baccharis, California sagebrush, black sage, laurel sumac, sugar bush, and other typical coastal sage scrub species.

Macario Creek only has flowing water after rain storms, when its waters empty into the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. In addition to frequent trail markers, you will also see occasional signs for the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center. You cannot reach the Discovery Center via these trails unless you continue on the sidewalk bordering Faraday Road (for some reason the City of Carlsbad counts sidewalks as part of its "trails"). The Discovery Center is well worth a visit, but don't be misled by these signs.

In about another third of a mile the dirt trail joins the paved golf-course trail. Follow it to the left, crossing the dense growth of black and arroyo willows, California sycamores, and some coastal live oaks. The trail is partly on a bridge about 12 feet above the creek wetlands

continued on page 34



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

HOW TO SEND US YOUR LISTING: Have an event? We want it! Festivals, lectures, sporting events (including surfing, kayaking, and sailing), Meetups, conventions, book signings, art gallery openings, conferences, dance performances, expos, poetry readings, classes & workshops — all are welcome. You can submit an event at sdrreader.com/events/submit.

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Seaside Splash The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, in partnership with the Living Coast Discovery Center, presents Seashore Splash. With the guidance of the Living Coast Discovery Center, children will learn that life is tough in the tidepools and discover some of the crazy ways tidepool animals are adapted for the rocky shores. With hands-on interaction, students will be able to touch, see, and discover what it takes to cling to a slippery home. After the presentation, the conservancy will lead an optional, easy, two-mile roundtrip hike at the San Dieguito Lagoon. Space is limited to 50 people. Directions will be provided upon registration. Saturday, March 10, 10am; **free.** Birdwing Open Air Classroom at the San Dieguito Lagoon, 2775 Via De La Valle. (DEL MAR)

ART

50 to Watch: Reception A prestigious biennial exhibit with national exposure. 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 a national publication sent to 1,000+ galleries across the U.S. Saturday, March 10, 5:30pm; **free.** Escondido Arts Partnership Escondido Municipal Gallery, 262 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Circle of Art Show & Sale Enjoy the original artwork of 60 selected fine artists and craftspersons while experiencing the unique beauty of "California's secret desert" at the 29th annual event with works in a variety of media including fine arts, oils and watercolors, photography, sculpture, pottery/ceramics, jewelry, fabric art. Saturday, March 10, 9am; Sunday, March 11, 9am;

free. Christmas Circle, Palm Canyon Drive at Borrego Springs Road. (BORREGO SPRINGS)

Daniel Dust: Opening Reception A solo exhibition featuring hyper-realism paintings by Seattle-based artist Daniel Dust. The exhibition will include a variety of paintings including figurative works and his gun/flower works ranging in size from 12x12 inches to large-scale works as large as 6 feet across. The reception will include live music, ArtHatch open studios, BK Cellars Wine, and Stone Brewery Beer. Saturday, March 10, 6pm; **free.** Distinction Gallery, 317 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Imaginary Pets: New Works Solo exhibition opening reception featuring new works by local artist Evgola. Saturday, March 10, 5pm; **free.** Thumbprint Gallery, 920 Kline Street #104. (LA JOLLA)

Kim Ogburn: Sculpture Public-art sculpture that moves with the wind and can be touched by the viewer. With DJ Shakatek, Energia Entertainment samba performance, wine/cheese reception. Saturday, March 10, 5pm; **free.** Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place. (BALBOA PARK)

Louis Hock Lecture Lecture in USD's Mother Rosalie Hill Hill Hall by Louis Hock, UCSD professor emeritus, whose border and immigration works have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and other international venues. Thursday, March 8, 7pm; **free.** University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

BEER

Hops in the Hills A craft beer festival in San Elijo Hills, at San Elijo Park Hilltop Field. 25+ breweries. Featuring a wine bar. Unlimited beer and wine. Saturday, March 10, 3pm; \$45-\$50. San Elijo Park, 1105 Elfin Forest Road. (SAN MARCOS)

Rock Star Beer Festival "Craft beer, live music, and killer eats" — enjoy unlimited samples of 50 craft beers from regional and national breweries while raising money for charity. VIP gets you in an hour early to sample ten limited-release selections. Music from Offspring Tribute, DJs, and Pop Punk Mayhem. The event is both indoors and out. Saturday, March 10, 6pm; \$35-\$50. Humphreys by the Bay, 2241 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

Saint Archer Beer Dinner Savor five courses of Chef de Cuisine Jason Winton's casual Californian cuisine — each paired with a local Saint Archer craft brew. Thursday, March 8, 7pm; \$50. Clubhouse Grill, 5200 Grand Del Mar Way. (DEL MAR)

San Diego Homebrew Festival & Competition Do you love beer? Do you love talking about and making beer? Then the SD Homebrew Fest & Competition is for you. Enjoy unlimited tastings of 35 unique home brews in a festival-like setting. Among the home brews will be ten breweries in San Diego pouring their beer as well. Proceeds benefit Friends of Jefferson, a parent-run non-profit providing enrichment programs and scholarships for students at Jefferson Elementary in North Park. Saturday, March 10, 12pm; \$10-\$35. Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

Two Scientists Walk into a Bar: Women in Science In conjunction with the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, we are proud to welcome two top-rated scientists to The Casual Side Bar for a unique opportunity to answer all your burning science- and technology-related questions. Look for the sign that reads, "We are scientists. Ask us anything!" No purchase necessary. Thursday, March 8, 5:30pm; **free.** WineSellar and Brasserie, 9550 Waples Street #115. (SORRENTO VALLEY)

BOOK SIGNINGS

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. Saturday, March 10, 1pm; **free.** Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Flower Crown Workshop Bring out your inner springtime goddess with AHR Florals. Learn the ins and outs of floral design and walk away with your own creation (perfect piece for music festival season). Ticket includes all tools, supplies, fresh flowers, and choice of mimosas or hot tea. Saturday, March 10, 10am; \$75. En Concordia, 1021 Rosecrans Street. (POINT LOMA)

GOSPEL COMEDY JAM
Saturday, March 10 @ 7pm
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Hosted by comedian Edwonda White, featuring Rubyn Warren II & headliner McClinton Neal!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Geometric Punch-Needle Workshop Create your own punch-needle piece of art with fiber-artist Chelsea Virginia. You will learn the fundamentals of this technique that can be used for wall hangings, pillows, or rugs. No experience needed. Each student will receive a kit that consists of an oxford punch needle, 10"x10" wood frame pre-stretched with monks cloth, wool yarn, and a punch-needle handbook. Workshop taught by Chelsea Virginia. Light snacks and coffee provided. Thursday, March 8, 6:30pm; \$100. Keep Studios, 3180 Adams Avenue. (NORMAL HEIGHTS)

Miso-Making Workshop Learn about the history of miso, its many different forms, and then make a large batch using various legumes. We will taste a one-year (or older) miso. You'll get to see the results of this long fermentation process. Then we'll enjoy one of the most popular miso dishes — homemade miso soup! You'll get to pack a mason jar full of miso to take home (but you'll have to wait a year to eat it). Sunday, March 11, 1pm; \$40-\$45. Coastal Roots Farm, 441 Saxony Road. (ENCINITAS)

COMEDY

Aries Spears As a principal cast member on Fox's hit sketch comedy show *Mad TV*, Aries brought a fresh, hip style to the already-edgy program from the third through the tenth season. Thursday, March 8, 8pm; Friday, March 9, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; Saturday, March 10, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$20. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

BrewHaha Comedy Presents Evan Cassidy Join us for a night of comedy with headliner Evan Cassidy. The night will also feature Kevin Tienken, Steven Briggs, Craig Sutton, Aaron Frescas, and host Richard Provencio. Tickets available online for \$10 or at Bear Roots Brewery for \$15. Saturday, March 10, 8:30pm; \$10-\$15. Bear Roots Brewing Co., 1213 S. Santa Fe Avenue. (VISTA)

Leslie Jordan: Exposed Jordan will share his life's journey from Chattanooga native with a show pony named Lemon Drop to Emmy winner to one-man showboat with a recurring guest role on *Will &*

Grace. Thursday, March 8, 8pm; \$50. Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage, 3940 Fourth Avenue #200. (HILLCREST)

DANCE

Giselle With City Ballet. *Giselle* is one of the greatest ballet love stories of all time. Friday, March 9, 8pm; Saturday, March 10, 8pm; Sunday, March 11, 2pm; \$34-\$89. Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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 9, 7:30pm; Saturday, March 10, 7:30pm; Sunday, March 11, 2pm; \$10-\$20. San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive. (COLLEGE AREA)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

A Plastic Ocean This 2016 documentary by Australian journalist Craig Leeson investigates the devastating impacts that plastic has caused to our environment, especially our marine life. With an international team of scientists and researchers he travels to 20 locations around the world to explore the fragile state of our oceans, uncovers alarming truths about plastic pollution, and reveals working solutions that can be put into immediate use. Discussion and resources will be available about what we can do locally after the film. Info: oceanbeachgreencenter@gmail.com. Thursday, March 8, 7pm; free. Green Store, 4843 B Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

FOOD & DRINK

Pechanga Wine Festival and Chocolate Decadence Friday, Chocolate Decadence. Enjoy an array of chocolates and pastries while sampling a variety of wines, domestic sparkling wines, champagnes, spirits, and dessert wines

Rhyme & Verse

Three poems by Patty Seyburn

Ode to My Grecian Urns

Fake, faux, ersatz and what's more, there are two of them. Keats said the sonnet wouldn't do. Wrong tone. No Pindarics — not the right form for philosophy. The poem must transform the art, ekphrastic creed. Mine would require some spell or wand or sleight of hand, dire magic. Both claret with a vine. Mouth, bronze. One flared at the top, slim neck like a swan's, tall and narrow. The other wide and low, built-in handles. From not-so-long ago, some California school, copies to the core. One, a column-crater; one amphora — Not ancient Greek. Can everything inspire? Yes, wrote C. Rossetti: *a flint holds fire*.

At King Taco

Where the Santa Ana Freeway (the 5) inherits the Long Beach (the 710) and I wonder if I'll ever arrive while Herbie Mann notches the bedpost of jazz with a flute on station KLON. Yea, Lord, having driven through the chasm of the valley of the shadow not of death fearing no evil but oblivion, I hear "why are you so mean to me," rubato. The alternative to sex songs are love-songs on mainstream frequencies, and my mien turns upbeat to match the freeway's motto: all wounds healed by a vehicle and speed. (Save those caused when leaving is the deed.)

along with live music. Saturday, 9th Annual Wine Festival. The most notable wineries from Napa Valley, Sonoma County, Temecula, France, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Chile, Australia, and New Zealand offer a few hundred of their finest vintages along with live music. Sip and savor as you sample a variety of distinguished dishes from the award-winning chefs of Pechanga Resort & Casino. Friday, March 9, 7pm; Saturday, March 10, 1pm; Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway. (TEMECULA)

Taste of Third Sample signature dishes from assorted Village eateries. New this year for the 21-and-up crowd, a ticket includes tastings at participating breweries, cocktail lounges, and bar-restaurants. Favorites La Bella Pizza Garden, California Sushi, and Italianissimo

Trattoria return, while Groundswell Brewing Co., Bar Sin Nombre, Thr3e Punk Ales, and the Gentle Penguin are new for 2018. In all, samples from over 20 places. Musicians and magicians fill the trek with entertainment. Thursday, March 8, 4pm; \$25-\$30. Third Avenue Village Association, 353 3rd Avenue. (CHULA VISTA)

Tomatomania Join California's largest tomato seedling sale featuring hundreds of heirloom and hybrid tomato varieties, expert advice, and the accessories you'll want to grow great-tasting tomatoes in your own backyard. Saturday, March 10, 9am; Sunday, March 11, 9am; free. Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West. (RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

In My Land: we have

artisanal danish. The quality of light a cross between Biarritz and the perishables room at Costco. The Sunset Psychic. My favorite cousin (almost a sister) (we always forgive). Brow bars. The Santa Ana riverbed trail. Newport Dunes. Madame Helena Modjeska. (Modrzzejewka.) Second wishes.

When they turned the country on its side, I was watching *Lucy*. I rolled into the sea, but am shaped like a surfboard. The berm found me. Since then I have become a Hass avocado, an orange, a clove of garlic. A strawberry. Second wishes.



Patty Seyburn has published four books of poems: *Perfecta* (What Books Press, 2014), *Hilarity* (New Issues Press, 2009), *Mechanical Cluster* (Ohio State University Press, 2002), and *Diasporadic* (Helicon Nine Editions, 1998). She is a professor at California State University, Long Beach, and co-editor of *POOL: A Journal of Poetry* (poolpoetry.com). Currently, her favorite words are "cruller" and "compote."

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

Water Bill Dinner with Liberty Call Distilling Four courses of fare incorporating Cyclops Farms' seasonal produce and paired with cocktails using Blue Ridge 4-Grain Whiskey, Old Ironsides Single Malt, Gin, and Spiced Rum from Liberty Call Distilling — all crafted by head bartender Albert Allison. Farm-to-table chef Miguel Valdez of the future Liberty Call Distilling Kitchen will create the evening's menu. Liberty Call Distilling's founder and President of the San Diego Distillers Guild, Bill Rogers, will guest host and provide inspiring insight into the world of craft spirits. Cyclops Farms is a local, sustainable farm located in Oceanside that specializes in growing organic, non-GMO fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flow-

ers. Saturday, March 10, 5pm; \$50. Cyclops Farms, 1448 Avocado Rd., (OCEANSIDE)

Wine Dinner Featuring Schramsberg Winery "Schramsberg Vineyards focuses on producing the finest and most complex hand-crafted sparkling wines in California. Preserving century-old traditions, many of our viticultural and winemaking practices are still carried out by hand. Chef Alex Emery has created a five-course pairing menu that compliments the flavors of Schramsberg Winery's most iconic wines." Thursday, March 8, 6pm; \$125. La Valencia Hotel, 1132 Prospect Street. (LA JOLLA)

ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 32

and leads to one of the golf-course greens. Shortly after reaching hole #12 on your left, you will see a tunnel on your right that goes under Faraday Road and leads to the Veterans Park trail.

After passing through the tunnel, you have two choices: you may take the trail to the east (right), leading up to an excellent spot for views of the golf course; or the west (left) trail, which will take you to a place providing excellent views of the lagoon and, on a clear day, out to the ocean beyond. Until recently these two trails were connected, forming a loop, which made for an appealing hike. However, the piece of land containing the connecting trail is not part of the city property set aside for the future Veterans Park. So, avoid the section comprising the loop and treat both the left and right trails as separate

out-and-back segments of this hike.

The lower slopes of Veterans Park may once have been open grassland, perhaps used to graze domesticated animals. In recent years, the land has been mowed regularly in summer and may be almost denuded of vegetation at the time of your hike. The upper slopes of both the east and west trail branches are covered with coastal sage scrub.

When you have completed your exploration of Veterans Park trails, return to your vehicle the way you came.

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.

St. John the Evangelist Church hosts Theology On Tap

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VENDORS

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SHEEP and GOATS

Asanga

What is a person who has only a single interval? It is a person who is a once-returner who reaches the end of suffering by living only among the gods. What is a person who attains Nirvana in the intermediate state? It is a person who, when

the fetters of rebirth are destroyed but when the fetters of continuity (to advance) are not yet destroyed while advancing towards the intermediate existence confronts the Path and puts an end to suffering; or who, having advanced in the intermediate existence while thinking of going to a

rebirth existence, confronts the Path and puts an end to suffering; or who, having reflected and set out towards a rebirth existence, without however arriving at the rebirth existence, confronts the Path and puts an end to suffering.

— from the Abhidharma-samuccaya of Asanga

Asanga (4th Century) was an Indian philosopher and leading figure in the Yogacara tradition in India, considered with his half-brother Vasubandhu to be the founder of this school of Buddhist thought. The Yogacara school sought to understand perfection through a study of being

and the study of how one comes to know. In the *Abhidharmasamuccaya* ("A Compendium of Abhidharma"), Asanga sought to analyze and systematize the mental processes by which one followed the path to perfection.

Find more excerpts online at SDReader.com/worship



LECTURES

Healing America Tour *Healing America* is a new documentary film and grassroots movement organized around the far-reaching benefits of a plant-based diet. The movement hopes to empower you and your community to take back control of your health and in the process to establish a new social action platform with the power to heal our nation. Research shows that a plant-based diet can not only prevent and sometimes reverse chronic health issues, it can also address the environmental issues surrounding animal agriculture which has been shown to be the single biggest contribu-

tor to global warming. The most important facet of the movement is to provide all Americans from every walk of life the ability to take back control of their health. Saturday, March 10, 4pm; **free**. Unity Center, 8999 Activity Road. (MIRA MESA)

NATURE

Cherry Blossom Festival This year marks the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego's 13th-annual Cherry Blossom celebration. Enjoy the Japanese custom of *hanami*, appreciating the beauty of cherry blossom flowers. Last year the cherry blossoms attracted over 12,000 people, and this will

be their second year holding the festival over three days. Includes over cultural performances and demonstrations and over 40 food and merchant vendors. New for 2018: a children's area with an inflatable jump house and crafts. Friday, March 9, 10am; Saturday, March 10, 10am; Sunday, March 11, 10am; \$12. Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Daffodils in Julian It's Julian's 14th-annual daffodil event, with over a thousand blooms on display. American Daffodil Society experts will be on hand to answer any question. The Julian Daffodil Project was started by Sally Snipes in 1990 as a memorial to her father. All profits from the

sales of bulbs and items at the show are put back into the project. School children are involved in the area plantings, and now there are four million bulbs across Julian. Bring all daffodils for display and judging on Friday, from noon to 5pm Saturday, March 10, 12pm; Sunday, March 11, 12pm; **free**. Julian Town Hall, 2129 Main Street. (JULIAN)

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 Ranunculus 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. 2018 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. Through Sunday, May 13, \$8-\$16. Flower Fields, 5704 Paseo del Norte. (CARLSBAD)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Yoga Festival "A holistic health party," created by Yoga with

Shawna's Shawna Schenk. Features nonstop yoga and holistic healing classes held on the beach until sunset for four days, offering almost every style of yoga known to modern yogis. The main part of the festival is Saturday and Sunday with calming yoga and meditation classes, classes with live DJs or music, and beginner-friendly to advanced classes in hatha, vinyasa, kundalini, bowspring, shakti naam, acro-yoga, yoga nidra, and partner yoga, plus workshops on various holistic topics such as plant medicine and fermentation/gut health and even surf lessons. Friday, March 9, 10am; Saturday, March 10, 8:30am; Sunday, March 11, 8am; Imperial Beach Pier Plaza, 10 Evergreen Avenue. (IMPERIAL BEACH)



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Win a pair of tickets to see Jake Bugg at Observatory North Park.
Deadline to Enter: Monday, March 12 at 1pm.

**WIN
PASSES**



Win a pair of 4-day passes to the Joshua Tree Music Festival.
Deadline to Enter: Monday, March 19 at 1pm.

Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

Meanwhile, Inzunza's nearly two years of mingling with non-violent drug offenders serving Draconian time showed him how mandatory sentencing is "absolutely nuts."

BRUCE KAUFFMAN

PARADISE HILLS

Trash-can salvage 101 The drill-hole method, the plastic wrap, the zip-tie...

Last year, NBC 7 San Diego reported that "The San Diego City Council decided [June 27] that residents will still have to pay to replace damaged trash bins, despite a county Grand Jury recommendation that the city replace the trash bins free of charge. According to the March 22 Grand Jury report, complaints about damaged trash bins have increased 25 percent over the last two years."

"I think the city and its employees are at fault for the cracking and breaking [of the black trash bins]," says Damien Abrams. "They should have some kind of insurance policy or warranty with the manufacturer to

replace them."

Trash cans cost up to \$95 apiece (\$70, plus \$25 delivery), so, many residents are repairing their damaged bins.

Abrams, a 39-year-old auto-customizer from Paradise Hills, says, "I see the trash-collecting trucks [and their drivers] slam the bins and constantly drop them when returning them to the curb, and that's why most of them are broken. When I come home from



"They picked it up, but my trash can freakin' fell apart afterwards."

work, my trash bin is almost always on its side or back side and residents are being fined for stuff their own city workers are doing, and it's not right."

He recently saw a photo of David's somewhat-normal-looking trash bin. "I've seen people drill multiple holes along the crack

and use zip-ties crossing over in an X pattern, kinda like a stitch to hold them together."

David, a Kensington resident in his 60s, didn't have zip-ties in his 3/8" drilled holes at each end of a crack. An engineer by trade, he said, "[The holes] will stop the crack from spreading, and drilling at the ends of the crack spreads that stress out."

Last year, John S. from south San Diego tried to fix the middle section of his bin with duct tape and epoxy.

"We had a problem with our trash [bin] because the claws were too powerful," he says. "We sent photo proof to [the Environmental Services Department of the City of San Diego] and they said they will not give us a free trash can."

Instead of driving about 25 miles north to the city office at 8353 Miramar Place for a replacement, John went to Home Depot.

"I got some of their plastic wrapping [stretch film wrap] and black spray-paint and came back home to fix my trash can," he said.

He wrapped the bin tightly with the wrap and then spray-painted it. "The paint didn't stick," he said, "so that was a waste of money."

The following Thursday, the truck driver



Screws on the outside, wood on the inside keep this one together

picked up John's bin and when the claw mechanism put it down, the fracture line spread even more, "almost breaking it in half."

The next week, John tried his quick-fix again (without the paint) but the weight of the trash made the bin "look all lopsided." At 6 a.m. he was up and heard the trash truck. He said he ran outside in his pajamas to watch how the driver would handle his bin. "[The trash collector] drove right past our driveway and trash bin, and he laughed at me."

MIKE MADRIAGA

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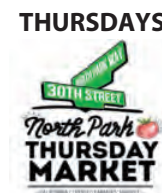


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WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, MAR 8	8:47	1.2'	7:28	2.5'	1:17	4.5'	3:21	2.8'
FRI, MAR 9	10:28	1'	9:22	2.8'	2:29	4.3'	6:03	3.1'
SAT, MAR 10	11:39	0.6'	10:59	2.7'	3:53	4.3'	7:47	3.4'
SUN, MAR 11			1:23	0.3'	6:02	4.6'	8:10	3.7'

Waves (MOONLIGHT BEACH)

Height	Direction	Interval
1'-2'	SSW	15 seconds
2'-3'	W	6 seconds
2'-3'	W	6 seconds
1'-2'	SSW	17 seconds

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

EVENTS

Bahia Point Paddle Protest Support retaining public access to Bahia Point, including the public road and parking. Supporters of Bahia Point believe that public access should be primary, and hotel expansion should be secondary. Join the kick-off and paddle-out at 9am or simply come to enjoy the park. At Bahia Point on Mission Bay, past the Bahia Hotel. Saturday, March 10, 9am; **free**. Bahia Resort Hotel, 998 West Mission Bay Drive. (MISSION BEACH)

Fishing Seminar at Lake Poway This is a free trout-fishing seminar for first-time anglers of all ages, held on the deck at the concession stand. Sunday, March 11, 8am; **free**. Lake Poway Recreation Area, 14644 Lake Poway Road. (POWAY)

Grunion Runs with Birch Aquarium at Scripps Get ready for a true Southern California experience! Watch hundreds of small silver fish called grunion ride the waves onto La Jolla beaches to spawn. Our naturalists will highlight the fascinating lives of these mysterious fish, help you hatch grunion eggs before your eyes, and then lead you to the beach to search for grunion in the wild. Prepare for cool, wet conditions and bring a flashlight. Minors must attend with a paid adult, recommended for ages six and up. Monday, March 12, 10pm; \$15-\$17. Birch Aquarium at Scripps, 2300 Expedition Way. (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. Ample free parking. If you're late, drive down the island and join us along the way. Take the #28 bus and walk approximately three blocks to the Bali Hai. Optional eats afterward. Info: 619-222-3800. Thursdays, 10am; **free**. Bali Hai, 2230 Shelter Island Drive. (SHELTER ISLAND)

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

WSA West Coast Sponsored by Western Surfing Association, this is a make-up competition for the cancelled September 2017 tour event #2 in the 2017-2018 season. The season events count toward qualifying for the West Coast Championships, U.S. Championships, Prime Event, and any World Team Event. Viewing the competition is free and open to the public. Saturday, March 10, 8am; Sunday, March 11, 8am; **free**. South Harbor Jetty, (OCEANSIDE)

Waterski and Wakeboard The Convair Waterski Club is active year-round on Mission Bay. The club provides two ski boats for waterskiing 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: convairwaterskiclub@gmail.com. Thursdays, 5pm; Sundays, 8am; through Sunday, December 23, Crown Point, 3700 Crown Point Drive. (PACIFIC BEACH)



Kian Barker: "My bicep hit the fin and it broke off."

Nice bruise

NAME: KIAN BARKER

AGE: 13

FROM: NORTH PARK

OCCUPATION: 7TH-GRADE STUDENT

At dusk, I saw Kian Reese Barker loading his six-foot Mitsven surfboard into his dad's truck parked by the South Mission Beach jetty. It was the first weekend of 2018 and Kian's first time riding the board his dad had just given him.

"When it was windier, at six miles per hour, the swell was a bit bigger," Kian said, "and it died down when the wind died down."

Kian said he learned almost everything about surfing from his father. "He did influence my very laid-back style," he said, "but [at times] I like to hack around on the wave."

This was a good day for that because the waves had "six-foot faces and four-foot backs." He appreciated the "nice left for cutbacks [and when] I'm going down [the

line]and then popping up and hitting the top [of the wave]."

Kian and his dad travel to Hawaii almost once a year to surf. "In 2017, we biked down to the beach and we were holding our boards."

He's been surfing for five years, and his favorite spot is the jetty. "I like it here the most because it's got the best left along this whole coastline," he said.

Kian's eaten it here a few times; one time, "It was a smaller wave day and I was riding these training fins," he said, "so I pearl-dived, like, when my nose goes [under, and] I fell over, then my bicep hit the fin and it broke off. It didn't cut me but definitely hurt a lot and it gave me a nice bruise."

— Mike Madriaga

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

FOOTLOOSE AFIRE, LIFEGUARDS AND SALTY DREAMS TO THE RESCUE

From San Diego city lifeguards Jan 27

-09:47 Medical: dislocated shoulder at Blacks Beach, patient is a 23 year-old male. Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond. Medical transports patient to Scripps La Jolla.
-10:19 Medical Shortness of breath at 1950 Abbott St. 65 year-old male

Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond. Medical transports patient to Scripps Mercy.
-12:02 Boating: Boat fire on 57 ft. cabin cruiser Footloose, reporting black smoke on board below deck via US Coast Guard. Lifeguard boat and air units respond. Good Samaritan boat Salty Dreams and lifeguard rescue boat take passengers

aboard from Footloose. When fire is extinguished, lifeguard rescue boat hooks and tows cruiser to San Diego Bay where tow turned over to vessel assist.
-14:28 Medical: 45 year-old male with breathing issue at 3855 Oceanfront way. Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond. Lifeguards cancelled, fire to handle.
-16:47 Kayak adrift north side of South Jetty in the channel. Lifeguard Jet and Boat units respond. Lifeguard boat puts kayak

under tow. Kayak broke off a 35 ft. Yawl heading for San Diego Bay. Lifeguard takes pictures. Coast Guard notified. Owner comes back to pick up kayak.
-16:55 Medical: 28 year-old male stomach flu. Lifeguard, emergency and medical units respond. Patient transported to UCSD Hillcrest.

Jan 26

-10:00 Swimmer: Lifeguard requests SD Fire Department copter for a missing

person search from Bird Rock to Santa Cruz and up to 1mile out. Unable to locate missing person.
-12:08 Medical: Ocean Beach lifeguards request medics for a 29 year-old male complaining of general weakness. Lifeguards, fire and medics respond. Medics transport patient to UCSD.
-12:19 Boating: 911 call of a vessel in distress off Ocean Beach. Lifeguard boat unit responds and states the skipper doesn't need help and is learning to sail. Clear.

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **58**°F HIGH **61**°F





VISIBILITY

10'-20'

For the surfers, not much swell energy is expected this week other than a 2 to 4 foot bump out of the west late Friday-early Saturday. The rest of the week will be better for long boarders and paddle-boarders. The visibility should be good as the winds will be calm to moderate, and though cool in the water and air temps near or below normal, a light tide swing and swell should equal great conditions for those peering under the surface. Lobster season is open now, so boaters should especially keep an extra eye out for divers near the reefs and channel edges and divers always mark yourselves and area appropriately.

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

Moon Calendar

	 THUR 8	 SAT 10	 MON 12	 WED 14
MARCH				
SUNRISE	6:08	6:06	7:03	7:00
SUNSET	17:51	17:53	18:54	18:56
LENGTH OF DAY	11H 43M	11H 47M	11H 51M	11H 56M



If you beach start close to shore on a minus tide, "Mission Bay Muck" and eel grass are almost impossible to avoid.



John Ashley checking the lines behind his 29-foot sport-fishing boat. Extra-beefy reels are needed when fishing for striped marlin, which range from 100 to 400 pounds.



Onshore flow

The following comes from the San Diego Windsurfing Association website:

Site Name: The Hilton Beach

Location: East side of Mission Bay in San Diego

Water Conditions: Flat water sailing with minimal chop even in storm winds. Reaches are only about 200 yards because of the proximity to Fiesta Island, although if the wind clocks around to the NW the reaches get longer since you can parallel the beach. A few hundred yards south of the Hilton Hotel Launch is Enchanted cove (aka Stinky Cove), which sometimes gets a couple of knots more wind, so it's not unusual for people to head downwind to check it out. Slogging back upwind to the Hilton Beach can be a drag, though. Water traffic by Enchanted Cove can get busy due to the proximity of the Boy's Club (lots of canoes, small boats, etc.) as well as kite-boarding here. This is a 5 mph boating area, so there isn't much interference by powerboats or personal watercraft, though

there is a PWC area just North of the Hilton Hotel and PWC's occasionally ignore the 5 mph zone.

Wind notes: As with most of Mission Bay sailing sites, the wind is driven by a standard coastal onshore flow. However the occasional storm in the late fall/winter/spring can bring good winds from the south that clock around as the storm approaches and turn to the North West. Storm winds tend to be gusty, so it's not unusual for people to be slogging around on a 7.5 one minute and then barely hanging on to a 5.0 ten minutes later as a squall line comes through.

Rigging and Launching Notes: There is a nice grassy rigging area with plenty of room to rig even on the busiest days. The launch itself is a sandy beach, though there is a 2 foot "bluff" to negotiate between the rigging area and the beach low tide means dealing the "Mission Bay Muck" and eel grass. If you beach start close to shore on a minus tide, it is almost impos-

sible to avoid.

Almost a marlin

John Ashley meets me at the gate of the Kona Kai Club marina. It's 4:00 a.m. Ashley leads me to his sport-fishing boat called *Tenacious*. Today, he and I are going to compete in the San Diego Marlin Club Small Boat Marlin and Tuna tournament.

At 6:00 a.m., light filters through the low cloud cover. We're making 19 to 20 knots traveling with the swells — "Going downhill," John calls it. South Coronado Island looms two miles off the starboard side.

At 7:45 a.m., John slows the boat down to a crawl, hops into the cockpit, and starts setting up the lures (also called jigs), artificial bait.

The port-side reel starts screaming. John guns the boat for a few seconds, backs off the throttle, and practically jumps the six feet down into the cockpit. "That's a marlin!" he yells over the

zzzzzzzzzz of the reel. "Look at him!"

Just then, the marlin surfaces off the starboard rail in a flash of electric blue. He's just out of range of the eight-foot gaff. The line swings around to the back. "He's coming up again," John yells. I run to the stern with the gaff just as the fish pokes his bill out of the water. I reach with the hook, but a big swell lifts the boat, wrenching the jig out of the marlin's mouth, and it swims away.

Because we had the leader — the ten or so feet of heavier line used at the hook end of an angler's line — in the boat, our marlin can be considered a catch-and-release. However, rules for the tournament state that to release a marlin and receive credit for a 130-pound catch, you must radio your intention to release within five minutes of hooking it up. We hadn't.

— from "Good Spot, Mate," by Ernie Grimm, first published in the *October 1, 1998, Reader*.

43 POUND HALIBUT WINS ANGLER \$2,950

Dock Totals Feb 25 – Mar 3: 1,114 anglers aboard 55 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 518 yellowtail, 67 calico bass, 53 sand bass, 3,065 rockfish, 247 whitefish, 13 lingcod, 10 bonito, 13 halibut, 234 sculpin, 425 sanddab, 43 sheepshead, 127 bocaccio, 10 California lizardfish, and 16 spiny lobster.

Saltwater: Opening day for rockfish was nestled nicely between two cold fronts and was somehow calm, warmish and with light seas. The groundfish cooperated as well as the weather, and the sand bass

and sculpin got a break from the pressure as boats scattered to their favorite spots where the deeper reefs and canyons hold large reds, vermilion and lingcod. The ¾ to 1.5 day boats going south of the border scratched up some yellowtail at a 2 or 3 fish per rod pace, but most of the effort was concentrated on the bottom. Still, when found biting, the yellowtail are eating yoyo iron and surface jigs.

The ongoing Wednesday halibut tournament on the Dolphin out of Fisherman's Landing ended on February 28th with a bang: Angler Mike Lagrisola used a 'bounce ball' type setup with a live sardine to catch the largest two fish of the eight week long winner-take-all tournament. Mr. Lagrisola took home \$2,950 for his winning 43

pound halibut...that was caught just 20 minutes after landing a 23 pound halibut, which was the leading fish to that point. That is the true testament of the bounce ball success when targeting halibut.

Typically, a three-way swivel is used with about two feet of leader going to the weight and a three foot leader to the hook. A baitfish, live or dead, is pinned on the hook and with the weight large enough to drag or 'bounce' along the bottom causing a bit of 'commotion', the halibut is attracted to the bait that is trailing along, just above the ocean floor. The bounce ball is the most common technique used by anglers in the northeastern Pacific while targeting the larger Pacific halibut that grow to several hundred pounds and live in deeper water.

Golden advice

“Just pay for the chicken, not the other stuff. How many times do I have to tell you?”

Three armed guys come through the door. They're all chunky hardbodies, wearing what look like bulletproof vests. Write across their backs, one word: PROBATION.

They head for the counter. Maria, Rosana, and Carmen face them at their cash registers.

“Chicken combo,” says the first officer.

“Same,” says the second guy

“Same,” says the third guy.

“For here?”

“Absolutely,” says the first guy.

It's a fresh, cold, hard-sunned Carlsbad lunch-time. We're on what's really a residential street. I spotted this place from Carlsbad Village Drive. Red umbrella tops peeping over a hedge. And was that a sign on a low wall? Also, laughs and a murmur of voices?

Now I gotta find out. I pass all these bungalows till I come to one more, except this has its front lawn converted to tables and umbrellas for the people sitting here.

The sign says “Pollos Maria. Mexican Broiled Chicken.”

So, in a world of KFC and Taco Bell (there's one down the road), what's one more chicken place? On the other hand, a chick in hand is worth two in the bush, as my grandma used to say. And besides, even in the cool of this sunny garden, you get drawn in. You want to be part of it. And the way some folks are gouging into their steaming chunks of chicken, I'm starting to salivate.

I come inside into what must have been the house's living room, before Maria came along. It's warm out of the breeze, and the decor's warm. Forest-green wall tiles, vines hand-painted along cream ceiling beams, a salsa area with bowls sitting on a bed of ice, and behind the timber counter, a big, smoking rack of chicken breasts, thighs, and drumsticks grilling away, ranging from light to deep golden. These people are expecting company! I like that they have the whole cooking operation in full view.

And clean.

All the crew are wearing red golf shirts, except for the big guy at the cash register. He's in green.

Juan, the manager. Waiting for my order. I lift my eyes to the rack of menu boards above. Hmm... Thought this was going to be simple. But I see they have a zillion ways of filling you up. All-day breakfasts like an egg-and-cheese burrito, with corn tortillas and

red-skin potatoes or frijoles for \$4.29. Or a plate of bacon, egg, and cheese, same sides, for \$6.89. Good prices. Then, the whole panoply of traditional Mexican: quesadillas (\$5.99; \$7.29 with carne asada), beef tacos (\$3.49) fish tacos (\$3.99), *adobada* (pork) street taco (smaller, probably), \$1.79. Chicken *tostadas* are \$5.69; *carne asada* tortas, \$6.99; and savory *tamales* — using lard! — \$2.69 for chicken or pork, \$2.29 for sweet.

Oh, man.

“What's most popular?” I ask Juan.

“Number 3 or number 11,” he says.

Number 3 is the “Casa Mini” combo plate of two chicken pieces plus tortillas, rice, and refried beans. Costs \$7.79. Deal. But as I stare at the board, it strikes me that #5, Medio Especial, basically the same dish, but with four pieces of chicken, is the better deal at \$10.19, just \$2.40 more.

Then I'm hearing the voice of the beautiful Carla.

“Bedford! KISS! Keep It Simple, Stupid. You want chicken? So, eat chicken. Just pay for the chicken, not the other stuff. How many times do I have to tell you?”

Uh, ho-kay. Juan is looking at me, and now people are behind, making shuffling sounds. One more quick look at “Maria's Casa Especiales.”

“#1: Whole chicken, \$16.79.” No way.

“#2: Half chicken, \$8.79.” Way.

“Number 2,” I say, and go for corn tortillas, part of the deal. And I get a bottle of Negra Modelo (\$3.99). Almost got the house white, 'cause wines are all only \$3.50.

And just as I'm sitting is when the Probation



Maria and Carmen



Juan, the manager, and latest batch of the house specialty

guys arrive. By the time they've sat down with their #3s, I'm getting curious, about their job.

“Does it ever get physical?” I ask.

“Not usually, but let's just say some people are not thrilled to see us,” says one.

And that's it. They're not supposed to talk work with civilians like me. And besides, they want to chomp into their steaming pollo combos.

Me, too. And Carla was right. All I want is chicken meat and more chicken meat. The golden skin is dee-lish. I try some of the fixin's, like the salsas, but actually the taste on its own is the best. Total umami. Have to ask Juan what the secret is.

“Mainly we let it marinate in lemon and lime, and some orange juice, with white pepper and garlic. That hasn't changed since Marie opened, 32 years ago.”

I do put some of the dark red smoked-jala-



My half chicken, spread out



Chris, picking up his smoked jalapeño salsa

peño salsa on. So smoky. Guy next to me, Chris, is scooping up a little bucket's worth of the stuff.

“They've always made all these salsas fresh every day,” he

says. “That's why I get my salsa here for my carne asada that I make at home. Can't beat fresh.”

Chris's bill today: \$1.93.

“I've been coming here since they opened in 1985,” he says. “Nothing has changed.”

“Well,” says Juan, “back then we only charged \$3.75 for the #3 chicken combo. But the food is exactly the same. Marie makes sure.”

Turns out Marie is the Maria the place is named after. She and her friend Janice have been coming here every day till recently when they opened a second place in Oceanside.

I'm so glad I just went for the chicken. This lot totally fills me up. Thanks, Carla.

But, uh...listening to voices? No prob. Glad for the company. ■

The Place: Pollos Maria, 3055 Harding Street, Carlsbad, 760-729-4858; also, at 125 Old Grove Road #8, Oceanside, 760-435-9071

Hours: 9 a.m.–9:30 p.m., daily (till 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays)

Prices: Breakfast egg-and-cheese burrito (with potatoes or frijoles and corn tortillas), \$4.29; bacon, egg, cheese, same sides, \$6.89; quesadilla, \$5.99 (\$7.29 with carne asada); beef tacos, \$3.49; fish tacos, \$3.99; adobada (pork) street taco, \$1.79; chicken tostadas, \$5.69; carne asada tortas, \$6.99; “Casa Mini” combo plate (two chicken pieces, tortillas, rice, frijoles), \$7.79; Medio Especial combo plate (four pieces of chicken), \$10.19; whole chicken, \$16.79; half chicken, \$8.79; savory tamales, \$2.69 (chicken or pork); sweet tamales, \$2.29

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Carnivore lures

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Vegan Americana

Anthem Vegan, 2611 El Cajon Boulevard, North Park. The distinctive A-frame storefront design of 2611 El Cajon Boulevard gives it the appearance of a mid-century motor lodge or roadside diner, and a diner is what it has been for decades, even as the pylon sign standing over its parking lot has changed. For ages it was Johnny's Family Restaurant; more recently Lil B's Urban Eatery.

To bolster its "urban eatery" concept, Lil B's used bright colors and funky design elements to embellish the Johnny's true-to-form infrastructure — a lunch counter and family-friendly dining room. But at its heart, it was still a diner, offering all-day menus full of familiar items: hot sandwiches, big salads, breakfast meals.

The same can be said of the new tenant, though it's given a twist to the diner concept that feels more legitimately 21st Century: a 100 percent vegan menu.

Anthem Vegan has built a following the past several years as a farmers' market stand offering vegan takes on cheesesteaks, tacos, and wraps. With the move into a permanent restaurant, Anthem offers all of these as part of a deep menu that looks like a replica from any roadside diner in America. It just swaps out any kind of meat or dairy product and replaces it with a no-animals-were-harmed-in-the-making-of-this-meal substitute.

Thus, its burger section features the "bleeding" patties of Beyond Meats (and it's rumored Impos-

sible burgers could be on the way). Some dishes use Follow Your Heart vegan cheese, others use jackfruit to mimic pork, and many incorporate Anthem Karne, the house beef substitute made with wheat and soy proteins. The latter appears in a variety of Anthem's most successful dishes: carne asada tacos (\$9), au jus French dip sandwich (\$10.50), and the aforementioned cheesesteak (\$11.50).

FEAST!

If you're interested in closer inspection of such meatless alternatives, take a look at the front of the restaurant, which operates as a small vegan market, retailing many of the same items. A counter deli will even offer the chance to go home with karne and other meat substitutes Anthem introduces as it grows into its new space. Think lunch meats, without the meat.

But it wasn't the karne options that caught my attention while visiting the restaurant last week, rather something fishy: the tuna melt (\$11.50). A tuna melt might be the quintessential diner order. It's almost like the sandwich exists only as an ode to nostalgia, and if a vegan diner is going to be worth its salt, it should get this one right.

Anthem definitely nailed the melt part of the sandwich. The bread toasted to a beautiful crisp — not too greasy — and the faux cheese melted into the same texture that makes American cheese a popular choice for cheeseburgers. Thinly sliced tomatoes and roasted Anaheim chili pepper contributed something for the teeth to dig into, and I generally found the mild flavor of the Anaheim a fine addition to the tuna-melt concept, one I'll probably copy in future actual-tuna melts.

I'm not entirely sure what all goes into Anthem's

mock tuna salad, but I know the secret weapon that makes it work: kelp. Some broken-down form of the seaweed is added to give the mock fish that inimitable-of-the-sea brininess. The texture's a little lacking, but with the vegetables making up for it, I'd eat this alongside any tuna melt in the country without once complaining about the lack of fish.

And that's where Anthem is going with this: making comfort food to lure part-time carnivores as well as vegans, for a familiar experience without having to rely on animal fat for flavor. I wouldn't trust the small burrito menu (I'd also counsel against ordering a burrito at a diner in general), but for the most part, Anthem Vegan provides an appealing vision of Americana, without the beef.

by Ian Anderson



Somali dishes including goat and potatoes plus salad, rice, and pasta

mates ranging up to 20,000 people — making it one of the few cities in America where trying Somali cuisine is an option.

Chalk it up to a lack of awareness. While a fellow customer claimed to have been a regular of Faridas for over a decade, I never realized it was an option until I found myself hungry, in the neighborhood, and searching for affordable eats.

Specifically, Faridas is in the Chollas Creek part of City Heights. My first visit, I shared my lack of experience with the young server behind the counter. She pointed out several dishes from the *halal* menu, first directing me to a variety of sambusas and ultimately steering me to the goat.

The word "sambusa" instantly rang familiar, and with good reason. It shares the same heritage as India's samosa. Both are triangular pastries stuffed with spiced meat or vegetables. Unlike many Indian restaurants, Farida's offers beef as an option, as well as chicken, potato, and spin-



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Homestyle Somali

Faridas *Somalian Cuisine*, 1754 Euclid Avenue, City Heights. To my knowledge, I had never eaten Somali food prior to walking into Faridas *Somalian Cuisine* a couple weeks ago. Had anyone bothered to ask, I would not even have been able to identify a single dish.

What was I thinking? Since the 1990s, the Somali population in San Diego has reportedly become the second largest the U.S. — with esti-

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ach. Each go for a buck, and you cannot go wrong.

The goat may be a different story. From what I've read, goat ranks at or near the top of the list of preferred meats in Somalia, and here I was told it's a signature dish. Listed on the menu as "goat meat," it's braised until tender, then sautéed with bell peppers, onions, and spices.

I got a little cumin and subtle curry as well. But the goat flavor itself came through the most. Unlike the rest of the world, we don't eat a lot of goat in the U.S., so it always comes off as a bit exotic to the American palate. If you're a fan of lamb or grass-fed beef, you're far more likely to enjoy this soft, aromatic preparation.

If you're not there yet, start with the beef or chicken *suuqar*. Also sautéed with peppers and onions, the cubed meats in this dish offer a more accessible introduction to the flavors of *xawaash*, the Somali spice blend including the likes of cumin, fenugreek, coriander, cardamom, cinnamon, and turmeric.

All of these dishes come with salad and a unique potato dish

POUR OVER

BY IAN ANDERSON

In lieu of Rebecca's scones, Communal's granola

When the new year began, South Park found itself trending downward in the coffee department. The end of 2017 brought with it the closing of longtime community hub, **Rebecca's Coffeehouse**. For a quarter century, Rebecca's scones, open-mic events, and charmingly shabby space stood as a fixture in the community. But as property values in the neighborhood have shot ever upward in the past 25 years, the owner of its building reportedly received offers for triple the rent Rebecca's was paying and decided to end the coffee shop's lease.

Along with the closing of the similarly beloved **Claire**

de Lune Coffee Lounge in North Park two years back, the sort of spacious, upholstered, folk-music-and-poetry-styled coffeehouse is becoming a relic of the 20th Century.

But South Park will not have to wait long or look far for a replacement. Two new specialty coffee shops are set to open in 2018, bringing relatively new but familiar brands to the neighborhood.

First up will be a second location for **Communal Coffee**, the North Park café recognizable to many as the Coffee + Flowers shop, due to the large painted sign fronting the building Communal shares with the florist, **Native Poppy**.

Slated to open March 13th, Communal will be taking over the 2000-square-foot vacant lot a half block south of the old Rebecca's location (2221 Fern Street, South Park). Communal has converted a 1959 Shasta trailer to operate as an espresso bar, which will sit on the lot serving its regular lineup of coffees brewed with beans from Bay Area roaster **Sightglass Coffee**.

While the outdoor coffee shop won't exactly replace Rebecca's in the hearts and minds of many South Parkers, Communal founder Jen Byard lives in the neighborhood and has set out to build a community-friendly space. Equipped with flowers from Native



Communal Coffee will open an outdoor café in South Park, serving drinks out of this vintage Shasta trailer.

17th, where Byard plans to celebrate the opening with an open house featuring live performances and free coffee.

That Walkabout should also provide South Park's first introduction to incoming coffee roaster **Seven Seas Roasting Co.**

Seven Seas currently serves coffee at weekly farmers' markets in both Pacific Beach and North Park and sells beans online through its own website as well as *Amazon.com*. Owner Eric

Poppy, Communal is developing a garden-like space around a spacious patio. The lot is also being fashioned with a small stage for acoustic performances, speaking events, and movie nights.

In lieu of scones, Communal will offer granola bowls, toasts, and pastries, including bagels and donuts from North Park's **Nomad Donuts**.

Communal's opening will come just ahead of the spring rendition of seasonal neighborhood event, South Park Walkabout, on March

Dobbs reports Seven Seas is entering the design phase at a location just a few blocks south of the Communal location, also on Fern Street (1947 Fern St #4, South Park) and hopes to open the space to the public within the next six months.

Seven Seas will offer a different customer experience and signature drinks than Communal, and between the two Dobbs envisions South Park coming back to thrive as a coffee neighborhood. "The property values are rising," he says, "and the coffee game is rising, too." ■

made with green beans, corn, peas, and raisins. You also get a choice of a lightly flavored basmati rice pilaf, colored yellow and orange with saffron and possibly more turmeric, or pasta. Somalia may be thou-

sands of miles from Europe, but few nations escape Italy's culinary influence. The spaghetti noodles feature a thin coat of tomato-based sauce.

Can't decide between rice and noodles? They served me

a mix of both. But if you stick to rice alone, you may be offered a banana. Apparently, the Somali thing to do is to slice one up and mix in with the rice.

That would have made a unique experience. But ulti-

mately, Faridas served food that felt more comforting and familiar than I expected from a new experience. Credit the restaurant's approachable, homestyle cooking. The spice blends may be new to me — and I'm

pretty sure I'd never had raisins and potatoes in my mouth at the same time before — but the hearty, 11-dollar meals I've eaten here have all hit the spot.

by Ian Anderson

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

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

Maryjane's: Daily, 4:20-7pm: \$4.20 beers and cocktails. \$5.20 wells.

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

EASTLAKE

Savoie Eatery: Daily, 4-7:30: \$4 beers, \$5 wines, \$7 specialty cocktails. \$2 off appetizers.

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.

KENSINGTON

Bleu Bohème: Daily, 5-6pm: \$ Champagne cocktails, \$12 moules frites, \$12 gnocchi.

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

LA JOLLA

Eddie V's: Daily, 4-7pm: \$8 handshaken cocktails and wine by the glass, \$2 oysters, \$7-8, other appetizers.

Nine-Ten: Monday-Friday, 3:30-6:30pm: \$5 select wines, \$2 off all beers, half-price bar bites.

LA MESA

Centifonti's Bar & Restaurant: Monday-Saturday, 3-7pm: \$3 wells and beer.

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Acoustic out, Latchkey in at Mission Brewery Plaza

The brewhouse at 1795 Hancock Street (at the foot of Washington Street between Interstate 5 and Lindbergh Field) has produced a lot of beer for a number of breweries over the past two decades, and as of late it's changed hands once again.

Part of the historic Mission Brewery Plaza, where the original Mission Brewery brewed from 1913 to 1918, it had most recently been the home of **Acoustic Ales Brewing Experiment**, which launched there in 2013.

However, as the *Reader* reported last spring, Acoustic Ales put the 15-barrel turnkey brewhouse on the market as part of a planned expansion. In Feb-

ruary, a new business, **Latchkey Brewing**, took over the facility. Latchkey enjoyed its first brew day February 23rd and expects to soft-open sometime this month, once the taproom has been updated and beers are ready to pour.

The steam brewhouse they've inherited has received piecemeal updates from various brewery tenants over the years, and Latchkey has added a new piece, installing a water-filtration system. Most other changes will involve the serving space.

"The taproom is going to be completely renovated," says Latchkey cofounder Matt West. "We really want to make this a taproom destination." West has been planning Latchkey for three years along with partner and brother-in-law Gerald Dollente, a former **Ballast Point** brewer.

With Dollente heading up brewing operations, West anticipates Latchkey will serve a variety of beer styles, not just the IPAs San Diego beer fans have come to expect. "We definitely will have them, but it's not where our passion is," West says. "We'll focus on much more easy-drinking beers. Nuanced beers: lagers and kolsches, sours, Belgians, lighter pales."

While Acoustic Ales has left the building, its beer will remain for now. Part of the deal struck with Latchkey includes contract-brewing Acoustic beers, so the five-year-old business may continue to sell beer to its regular accounts

while it establishes a new, larger brewery in North County.

Acoustic is heading to a 24,000-square-foot property near Palomar Airport in Carlsbad,



Mission Brewery Plaza

where it's building a 30-barrel capacity brewhouse it hopes to open later this year.

"We're in the process of painstakingly starting over again," says Acoustic owner Tommaso Maggiore. "The Mission Brewery location has been awesome to cut our teeth and get things off the ground, but it's time to move on to bigger and better things, like people who have been here in the past."

The location has been a home or incubator for quite a few breweries, including the now-defunct **Five Points Brewing** and **La Jolla Brewing**; plus the current **Mission Brewery**, **New English Brewing**, and **Coronado Brewing**.

Coronado passed the lease on to Acoustic, and now Acoustic is passing it on to Latchkey, which will inherit eight years left on a long-term lease dating back to days its central location, just off the freeway at Mission Hills, could be booked for under two bucks per square foot.

"They're getting a pretty screaming deal for a turnkey location," says Maggiore.

West agrees. Having looked at other turnkey options at up to nine bucks a square foot for a ten-barrel system, he says Latchkey is happy to be the next brewery to add a chapter to the old brewhouse. "It would be nice to be one of those brand-new Premiere systems," he says, "but I am a hundred percent satisfied in the direction that we went." ■

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

OCEAN BEACH

The Hills: Monday-Friday, 2-5pm: \$4 drafts, \$6 specialty cocktails.

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.

LITTLE ITALY

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.

LOGAN HEIGHTS

Border X Brewing: Tuesday-Wednesday, 4-6pm: \$5 pints. Thursday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$5 pints.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The Ould Sod: Monday-Friday, 2-7pm: \$3.50 Fireball shots, \$4.50 all 16-oz drafts.

Mother's Saloon: Monday-Friday, 12noon-5pm: \$11 burger, beer & fries. 3-7pm: \$3 wells, \$1 off drafts, half off appetizers.

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

SAN CARLOS

Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant: Daily, 3-5:30pm: \$5 house wine glass, \$11 Ravenswood merlot carafe, \$6 Estancia glass, \$4 Coors pint, \$8 Coors pitcher, \$6 draft beer pint, \$14 draft beer pitchers. \$5 plates: buffalo wings, bruschetta, mozzarella sticks, small torpedo, cannoli, pizza fries.

UNIVERSITY CITY

Apollonia Greek Bistro: Daily, 3-6pm: All bottled beer \$3.75 or \$4.25. Small plates starting at \$3.75.

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

Green Acre Restaurant Campus Pointe: Thursday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$5 craft beer bottles (Saint Archer White Ale, Anthem Cider, more), \$5 Toluca No Oak Chardonnay and Cabernet,

\$5 Mule and Mimosa. \$5-\$10 small-plate specials (shitso peppers, sausage platter, more).

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

Cueva Bar: Tuesday-Saturday, 5-6:30pm: \$4 craft beer on tap, \$5 select wines, sangria, \$5 tapas. Sunday, 5-6:30pm: \$4 craft beer on tap, \$5 select wines. \$5 tapas.

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

Park & Rec: Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm, 10pm-2am: \$5 PBR or Tecate with tequila or bourbon shot, \$6 house wines, P&R old fashioned, margarita, P&R Pimm's cup, daiquiri, Moscow mule, cucumber gimlet, champagne.

VISTA

Flying Pig Pub & Kitchen: Monday-Friday, 4:30-6pm: \$6 wells, \$1 off wines by the glass and 16-oz. pints.

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blurt the inside track

Rocket tat man Mike Stobbe of North Park's Avalon Tattoo started inking San Diego's most famous rock stamp 25 years ago.

"I did at least 100 to 150," he says of the Rocket From the Crypt rockets he started tattooing on fans in 1993. The legend said if you had one of the rockets you would get in to any RFTC show for free, forever.

"I started off doing Pete and John from the band," says Stobbe. "I became the official guy who did the Rocket tattoo." But does the rocket tat still get free admission? "I heard of people flying in from Europe [with tattoos] who would still get VIP treatment...but I don't think it's still a thing like it used to be."

Stobbe is not the only tattoo pro who built up his clientele through rock. Justin Cota now plays in Bosswitch, Dream Burglar, Deep Sea Thunderbeast, and has been in at least eight other bands over the past ten years.

"The last rock portrait I did was a watercolor paint splatter stencil of [the Doors']

plenty of competitors. "Right now I'm booked non-stop; other weeks, it's crickets.

He says it's not as easy to launch a career as a tattoo artist as it was when he started 15 years ago. "I just interviewed a guy with 30 years' experience and he's having a heck of a time finding a place to work."

Dave Warshaw, guitarist with the Creepy Creeps, is famous for his one-winged



People like Dave Warshaw's Creepy Creep connection

community, "...whether I was playing with them or tattooing them."

His tattoo illustrations led to him branching out into creating graphics for the Bali Hai restaurant and Cutwater Spirits through his storefront Warshaw's Provisions, which makes tikis and designer fireplaces. "People like it that there's a connection with a Creepy Creep."

Warshaw says he does everything to his days as a tattoo artist, but... "I wouldn't tell anyone to get a job [as a tat artist] today. It is completely oversaturated. There is far too much supply [of artists] and not enough demand. And today, people's expecta-

tions are all about a good price. Instead of good art, people now want a \$30 tattoo in pink that says 'shit.'"

Bosswitch appears Saturday at the Black Cat.

— Ken Leighton

All is black. "Heaven is thought of as this beautiful paradise in the clouds, which may very well be true, but all I see is black," says Earthless guitarist Isaiah Mitchell of the title to the band's upcoming full-length, *Black Heaven*.

"When you look up at the sky, you're gazing upon heaven. But, outside of the celestial beings that light up the night, all is black"

Their first album in five years (due March 16), *Black Heaven* was recorded at Rancho de la Luna in Joshua Tree, with producer Dave



Earthless (Mitchell, Rubalcaba, Eginton) goes traditional — vocals!

Catching (Eagles of Death Metal). The first single, "Gifted by the Wind," is one of four tracks on the album to include vocals by Mitchell, a departure from their previous concentration on long and trippy instrumentals. "It's an enjoyable and refreshing process, having to consider vocals being in the mix," says Mitchell. "If we have the capability in integrating vocals, why not?"

Drummer Mario Rubalcaba points out, "We've done a few songs with vocals in the past for various splits and comps. Like Isaiah said, why not? It was kind of a fun challenge to make a record in a more traditional format." Currently a trio, Earthless includes former Electric Nazarene bassist Mike Eginton. "On the older records, Mike was responsible for a lot of the riffs that would start these jams, but on this one, Isaiah really brought his own pizzazz."

Inspired by Krautrock and Japanese psychedelic bands, Earthless was launched in 2001, while Mitchell (Nebula, Lady Dottie & the Diamonds) was teaching guitar lessons at Moonlight Music in Encinitas and Rubalcaba and Eginton

co-owned Thirsty Moon Records. They scored a 2007 San Diego Music Award (Best Hard Rock Album), played SXSW in 2008, CMJ in 2010, and have gone on multiple tours of Australia, Europe, and Japan.

The album-release party takes place over two nights at the Casbah, March 2 and 3. "Every hometown show is wild," says Rubalcaba. After the Casbah dates, the band embarks on a U.S. tour through March, followed by three weeks on the road in Europe, wrapping up April 19–21 at the Roadburn Festival in the Netherlands, where they recorded a 2008 live album.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Dedicated derelicts

survive. The opportunities for local artists to get TV face-time just got slimmer with the news that *Tonight in San Diego* has suspended production.

The *Tonight Show*-style program was most visible in February and March of last year when CW6 carried the weekly hourlong show. Local bands such as the Schizophonics, the Verigolds, Dead Feather Moon,

Wicked Tongues, and the Casey Hensley Band played live and were interviewed on the show. The program relied on the internet after KFMB/Channel 8 swallowed CW6 and dropped it from its schedule last spring. Country-punkers Behind the Wagon appeared on the last episode, taped in November.

"The show has ceased production and I don't think it's coming back," says a key member of the *Tonight in San Diego* production team.

"If we do come back, it will be later this year," says executive producer Fale Luis. "I spent every dollar I had, and didn't have to keep it going." The show was shot before a studio audience at the Gaslamp's Geoffrey Off Broadway Theater. "We are looking for a new venue that could accommodate us better. That was more of a community arts theater."

Meanwhile, two other San Diego weekly half-hour rock shows — *SoundDiego* and *Unherd* — still air late Saturday night.

"We're in our seventh year," says Eric Page, executive producer of KNSD/Channel 7's *SoundDiego*. The show relies on a stable of nine local personalities who interview local bands and touring bands playing San Diego. "We just added two new faces [as co-hosts]. Alysha Nett is a social media star and J-Mar, who is a member of [local bands] Some Kind of Lizards and Ethics"

Page says there was "no discernible" decrease in *SoundDiego* ratings when late last year KNSD started airing *Saturday Night Live* in real

(continued on page 46)



Warshaw's one-winged locust tat

locust tat for fans of the Locust. "I used to play in Tarantula Hawk and we played at the parties Avalon Tattoo used to have at the Casbah." He says that crossover led to a healthy connection with the rock



Alex Zaragoza of *Unherd* in the viewfinder

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time from 8:30–11:00 p.m. and then again as a rerun at 11:30. *SoundDiego* follows that second, rerun broadcast at 1:00 a.m. and relied on its lead-in audience. (*Unherd* airs earlier, at 11:45 p.m.)

Ratings for the important November sweeps period shows that during one week *SoundDiego* logged a 1.2 rating compared to 1.1 for *Unherd*; another November week showed *SoundDiego* had a 1.1 rating while *Unherd* showed 1.0. (Each rating point represents about 10,000 San Diego County viewers.)

“We’re hosting our 58th free *SoundDiego* music event March 30 at Bar Pink with the Aquadolls, the Heavy Guilt, and Jason Hannah and the Bullfighters,” says Page.

Unherd spends less time at local venues and instead relies on existing artist videos and talking-head segments from its three co-hosts, Alex Zaragoza, Jeff Terich, and Mike Halloran, who write most of their own material.

Unherd executive producer Scott Richison says the show started two years ago in his garage with a green screen, his video equipment, and a camera. Richison says production of *Unherd* has moved into a more sophisticated independent studio but is still a much smaller operation

than *SoundDiego*’s.

“They have more cameramen than we have on our entire staff,” says Richison about *SoundDiego*, which he says can rely on the production facilities of KNSD, an NBC-owned-and-operated station. Richison says he launched *Unherd* on his own dime. “Now it pays for itself... Everyone [on *Unherd*] has a day-job. We’re a small group of dedicated derelicts who put out what we want to watch.” On Saturday, *SoundDiego* airs a new show featuring Anthrax and the Allah-Las, while *Unherd* focuses on *Midnight Pine*, *Car Seat Headrest*, and the San Diego Music Awards.

— Ken Leighton

No welcome from the Machine. On March 1st, San Diego’s all-music station known for three years as “Energy 97.3” was “blown up,” as they say in the radio business. The upshot: there is one less local station playing the hits by DJ Khalid and Selena Gomez.

Beto Perez and Tonya Gonzalez, both born and raised locally, lost their DJ gigs on Energy and were replaced by a Seattle-based talk show called *The Men’s Room*. Energy is now called “97.3 the Machine,” specializing in lifestyle-based talk aimed at male listeners.

Some insiders point to a couple reasons why “The Machine” may be a bad idea.



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For starters, talk radio on FM has failed twice before locally: once when news-talk KOGO was simulcast on 95.7 FM and again when “Free FM” was carried on 103.7 FM. Also, while the afternoon

Shelly, and *Chainsaw* (DSC) ensemble leaves KFMB-FM and joins the Machine, as is rumored.

When asked if DSC is in fact planning to jump ship in September when its current

one among all listeners 25–54 and even stronger among men in that age group. (The 25–54 age range is considered the most desirable to advertisers.)

Since broadcasting con-

carry Padres games. Last season the games were carried on modern rocker FM-94/9 (now called Alt 94/9), which took a dip in its ratings once it started mixing live baseball and modern rock.

Both Alt 94/9 and 97.3 the Machine are owned by Entercom. Attempts to get comments from Entercom general manager Bob Bolinger were not successful.

In mornings, 97.3 will air classic rock mixed with taped comedy bits until comedian-turned-DJ Kevin Klein arrives March 29.

— Ken Leighton



Tonya Gonzalez and Beto Perez, victims of the Energy 97.3 detonation

Men’s Room show does well in Seattle, covering subjects such as women, sports, beer, and cars, it may not translate well to a San Diego audience.

Other industry long-timers, however, say that 97.3 the Machine may make sense in the long term once the *Dave*,

contract expires, DSC ring-leader Dave Rickards replied “...it’s not September. Much sooner than that.” While he did not directly divulge if DSC is in fact leaving KFMB-FM for the Machine, he pointed to recent ratings that indicate their show is number

glomerate Tegna (formerly Gannett) took over the KFMB radio and TV stations last month, Rickards has regularly carried on (in a Frankenstein voice) about how Tegna won’t tolerate certain parts of the DSC show.

The Machine will also

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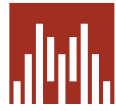
CONTRIBUTORS
Robert Bush, Chad Deal, Dave Good, Andrew Hamlin, Dryw Keltz, Ken Leighton, Jay Allen Sanford

FRI., MAR. 9 AMERICAN NIGHTMARE Torso, Fireburn, Spiritual Cramp	BRICK X BRICK	SAT., MAR. 24 DOGWOOD No Innocent Victim, The Beautiful Mistake, Bossfight
SAT., MAR. 10 DOYLE Society 1, Chemical Warfare, Steeltoe, Bunch of Heathens		MON., MAR. 26 RUSSIAN CIRCLES King Woman
SUN., MAR. 11 WOLVES IN THE THRONE ROOM Chrch, Abyssal	SUN., MAR. 18 MICHAEL GRAVES Fishing For Chips, Dusty Mitchell, Midnight Track	WED., MAR. 28 SASQUATCH Amigo, The Focke Wolves, Mortar
FRI., MAR. 16 EYE OF SOLITUDE Marche Funèbre, Dhatūra, October Flame	WED., MAR. 21 ROYAL THUNDER Pinkish Black, Beira	THU., MAR. 29 3TEETH AND HO9909 Street Sects
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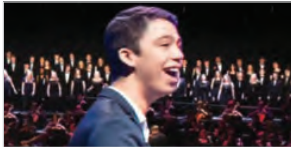
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MAR
09



SUNDAY

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ETHAN BORTNICK
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MAR
11



WEDNESDAY

GABY MORENO
SEAN WATKINS
ROSBY

MAR
14



THURSDAY

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BARALKU TOUR
LITTLE PEOPLE

MAR
15



FRIDAY

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MAR
16



SATURDAY

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MAR
17

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3/18 The Polish Ambassador	4/6 Autograf	4/22 La Santa Cecilia
3/22 Moon Hooch	4/7 Joshua Radin w/ William Fitzsimmons	5/1 WATSKY: low visibility tour
3/23 RID2	4/8 Art of Élan presents: Kontras Quartet w/ Branford Marsalis	5/9 The Weepies: Hideaway 10 Year Anniversary
3/24 Funk Soul Social presents: Sir Mix-A-Lot	4/11 Bilal	5/10 Ekolu
3/25 Tom Gun Live! A Maverick's Homage	4/12 Angel Olsen	5/11 Echosmith: Inside a Dream Tour
3/28 El Haragan y Cia	4/13 The Steely Damned 2 (Steely Dan Tribute)	5/26 The Winehouse Experience (Amy Winehouse Tribute)
3/29 Declan McKenna - Sold Out!	4/18 Always	6/1 Mark Farina
3/30 Whiskey Myers	4/20 Big K.R.I.T.: Heavy is the Crown Tour	6/8 She Wants Revenge
3/31 The Oh Hellos		

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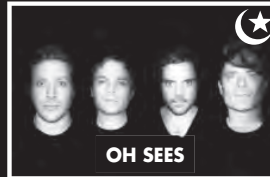
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SUNDAY 3/11



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AND DANCING FOR
TEMPLE SOLEI

ANGELICO AND THE BAND OF DEMONS
MONDAY 3/12



OH SEES

PRETTIEST EYES, DJ HOFMANN,
DJ PERI LEVIN
WEDNESDAY 3/14



RACHAEL YAMAGATA

CRAIG STICKLAND
THURSDAY 3/15



MORGAN LEIGH BAND
AND WISH & THE WELL

SHANE SHIPLEY
FRIDAY 3/16



WALTER TROUT

THE BLITZ BROTHERS
SUNDAY 3/18



DTO 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



GALACTIC

SOUTHERN AVENUE
THURSDAY 3/29



YONDER MOUNTAIN
STRING BAND

OLD SALT UNION
FRIDAY 3/30



THE MOTHER HIPPS

TROUBLE IN THE WIND
SATURDAY 3/31



AN EVENING WITH
ARLO GUTHRIE

THE RE:GENERATION TOUR

TUESDAY 4/3



Circles Around The Sun 4/6
The Chairman and the Board (Rat Pack Tribute) - seated show 4/15
John Doe & Exene - seated show 5/2 • The Brothers Comatose 5/19
The Highwayman (The Highwayman Tribute) 6/15
Femi Kuti & Positive Force 8/2

Upcoming Shows:

3/7 Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band - Sold Out!	4/23 Bebel Gilberto - seated show	5/17 Pedro The Lion
3/9 Clay Colton Band Happy Hour	4/25 Less Than Jake and Face To Face - Sold Out!	5/18 Vaud and the Villains
3/9 Dead Man's Party - Sold Out!	4/26 The Robert Cray Band	5/24 Rufus Wainwright
3/10 G. Love & Special Sauce - Sold Out!	4/27 Date Night for a Cause ft. Atomic Groove	5/25 Cash'd Out (Johnny Cash Tribute)
3/17 Beatles vs. Stones - Sold Out!	4/27 The PettyBreakers (Tom Petty Tribute)	5/26 Kimbra and Son Lux
3/22 & 23 Phillip Phillips - Sold Out!	4/29 The Weight Band ft. members of the Band, Levon Helm Band, Rick Danko Group	5/28 Madeleine Peyroux
3/23 The Main Squeeze @ Casbah	5/3 Baths	5/29 & 30 Xavier Rudd
3/24 Brett Dennen - Sold Out!	5/4 Khruangbin w/ The Mattson 2	5/31 The Dead Milkmen
4/4 Brian Fallon & The Howling Weather	5/5 Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers	6/1 Greg Laswell
4/7 Jefferson Starship - Sold Out!	5/6 Keb' Mo' - Sold Out!	6/3 Calexico
4/8 Mud Slide Slim (James Taylor Tribute)	5/7 Keb' Mo' - Seated Show	6/6 The Yardbirds
4/11 The California Honeydrops	5/8 Rogue Wave: Asleep at Heaven's Gate Tour	6/12 JD McPherson
4/13 Common Sense	5/9 Taimane Gardner	7/7 Tainted Love
4/14 Pine Mountain Logs	5/11 Easy Wind	7/13 Jefferson Starship
4/16 Ibeyi	5/12 & 13 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!	7/15 Paul Thorn
4/17 Tank & The Bangas	5/14 Nada Surf: 15th Anniversary of 'Let Go'	7/25 Dave Alvin and Jimmie Dale Gilmore
4/18 Kinky Friedman	5/15 & 16 Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite - Sold Out!	7/25 Jenny and the Mexicats @ Casbah
4/19 Jessie Ware		7/28 Wayward Sons
4/20 & 21 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond Tribute)		8/25 Punch Brothers @ Observatory
4/22 Los Lonely Boys		

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JUST ANNOUNCED

It's been a couple of years since singer-guitarist Mitchy Collins decided to drop things like his previous band Oh Honey and using capital letters to start up his L.A. indie pop group **lovelytheband**; their debut EP, *everything I could never say*, dropped late last year. The trio seems cut from the same cloth as contemporary synthpop outfits like MGMT or granddads like the Pixies, with a knack for catchy radio-friendly riffs that was evident from their first single, "broken," a pop gem layered like the best of the Beach Boys that spins a forlorn tale of meeting another lonely soul during a party while waiting to use the bathroom at "some trust fund baby's Brooklyn loft." Backed by guitarist Jordan Greenwald and drummer Sam Price, Collins is reaching for a cynical emotional and philosophical depth in his songwriting uncommon to short and jangly pop tunes (certainly not the usual stock for someone who grew up in New Jersey), and something like



PRONG AT BRICK BY BRICK ON APRIL 8

ed out of the gate in the late '80s with a crunchy debut EP that sent them on tour around the world and landed them a major label deal with Epic Records, which immediately made bank on their investment with the 1990 *Beg to Differ* album. By the mid '90s, the lineup had shifted to include Paul Raven and John Bechdel (both also of Killing Joke and Ministry, the latter a band Tommy Victor also played with briefly), for what turned out to be their most successful album, 1994's *Cleansing*. Two tracks from that disc, "Snap Your Fingers, Snap Your Neck" and "Broken Peace," were staples on MTV for years, but a follow-up two years later

failed to impress Epic, which dropped the band three weeks after its release. That was pretty much it for Prong until around 2002, when Victor began assembling a rotating array of musicians to assist him in playing Prong's old music, as well as recording new albums like last year's *Zero Days*. The lineup scheduled to play Brick by Brick on April 8 features Victor backed by bassist Mike Longworth (who played with the band in the early 2000s and rejoined in 2016) and drummer (since 2014) Art Cruz. The bill includes L.A. heavy-metal group Powerflo, whose self-titled debut last year was promoted over lengthy tour slots with P.O.D. and Brujeria.



LOVELYTHEBAND AT MUSIC BOX ON MARCH 27

three million Spotify visitors have so far given it a spin, propelling sales to number eight on *Billboard's* U.S. Alternative chart. The fact that the single made its exclusive premiere on the *Billboard* site didn't hurt its ranking, but the rest of the EP (with nary a capital letter in sight) holds up just as well, offering more songs about problematic (and always temporary) relationships, contemplating suicide (the title track), and one about snorting drugs off someone's chest at Coachella that certainly captures the trippy-sounding conditions under which it was probably composed. Although "broken" is pretty much the only thing that appears to qualify lovelytheband for a headline slot at the Music Box on March 27, attendees may be lucky enough to see future chart champions on the entrance ramp of their career.

San Diego music journalist and former *Reader* contributor Richard Meltzer handed future folk-rock star **Jackson Browne** some of his earliest ink with a 1968 article in *Crawdaddy* magazine, where he praised Browne's "ethereally sublime" art. Published by future San Diegan Paul Williams, it was pretty much the world's first serious rock mag, predating *Rolling Stone*, for whom Meltzer also wrote about

Browne in a June 1972 article, where he apparently forever earned the enmity of the singer by calling him "one hell of a prototype sex symbol for the gay rock underground." Meltzer would later allege that his comment caused the head of Browne's label Asylum Records, David Geffen, to demand that

Meltzer be booted off *Rolling Stone's* contributor list. Almost 50 years later, neither Meltzer nor Browne has deviated far from the formulas they distilled back in their earliest days drifting in and out of the coastal California rock scene. With over a dozen albums in his discography, Browne is now a Rock and Roll Hall of Famer who maintains a constant presence on tour, leaning heavily on evergreen classics but still dipping into mildly divergent endeavors from time to time, including several children's music tracks created for benefit albums, such as a cover of "Silver and Gold" from *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. For his July 11 appearance at San Diego Civic Theatre, Browne will be backed by longtime bandmates Bob Glaub (bass), Val McCallum (guitar), Jeff Young (keyboards), Greg Leisz (steel guitar), Alethea Mills and Chavonne Stewart (vocals), and Mauricio Lewak (drums).

Life has been good to "Jesse's Girl" singer **Rick Springfield**. So good that, despite not charting a U.S. hit since Ronald Reagan was president, the Australian rocker is headlining a two-night



JACKSON BROWNE AT SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE ON JULY 11



stand at Embarcadero Marina Park South on July 13 and 14, part of this year's Bay-side Summer Nights concert series. After a shortlived experiment with country pop music a couple of years ago, he just released an all-blues album called *The Snake King* that, while nothing to make Clapton quake in his loafers, is at least as authentic a stab at the genre as you're likely

to find this side of the Black Crowes or Joe Bonamassa. By that, I mean it's a rocker's approach that eschews roots for riffs, with barnburners like "The Devil That You Know" paired with soulful wailers such as "God Don't Care" and gospel-tinged ballads like "In the Land of the Blind."

It was guitar fetishists who first propelled **Joe Bonamassa** to mass notice by posting his fiery, jaw-dropping guitar solos on Youtube, especially one from the title track to his 2007 album *Sloe Gin*. That song was originally written by Pink Floyd/Alice Cooper behind-the-scenes wizards Bob Ezrin and Michael Kamen for *Rocky Horror* star Tim Curry, whose late-'70s/early-'80s solo albums full of similar New York-style sax-rock remain overlooked and out of print. In Bonamassa's



JOE BONAMASSA AT HUMPHREYS BY THE BAY ON JULY 26 AND 27

hands, "Sloe Gin" becomes as anthemic as "Comfortably Numb," so much that most people seem to think he wrote it (after all, who names their album after a Tim Curry cover tune, when Curry himself never had a hit outside the 1979 novelty track "I Do the Rock"?). Bonamassa's appearances at Humphreys by the Bay on July 26 and 27 are part of a gradually growing concert season at the outdoor Shelter Island venue that so far includes Fleet Foxes (April 15), Alt-J (April 19), Mike Nesmith & Micky Dolenz (June 3), Toto (August 7), and Joan Baez (October 30).

— Jay Allen Sanford

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<p>May 26 Huey Lewis And The News</p>		<p>June 30 Russell Peters</p>	
<p>June 2 Brian Setzer's Rockabilly Riot!</p>		<p>July 6 Kenny Loggins</p>	
<p>June 9 The Isley Brothers</p>		<p>July 28 Toga, Food & Booze Party with Otis Day</p>	
<p>June 2 Brian Setzer's Rockabilly Riot!</p>		<p>Aug 4 TajMo: The Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo' Band</p>	
<p>June 9 The Isley Brothers</p>		<p>Aug 25 Jo Koy</p>	

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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Musical March madness

Let's take a look at March and the three concerts within its springish confines that hold some promise.

The first set of concerts is from the Mainly Mozart Festival's Spotlight Chamber Series. The repertoire for the concert on March 9 is Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue for strings in C minor* and Schubert's *String Quartet in C major*. The second concert on March 10 replaces Mozart's *Adagio and Fugue* with his *String Quartet No. 6*.

The Henschel Quartett (the double T is correct) is an award-winning foursome hailing from Germany and

playing in San Diego the 9th and 10th. They will be joined in these concerts by cellist Lynn Harrell. Both concerts include wine receptions one hour before the music starts.

The venue for March 9 (7:00 p.m.) is the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club; the venue for March 10 (7:30 p.m.) is the Scripps Research Institute. Both these locations are designed to bring the audience up close to the music and the musicians.

Also on March 9 is the San Diego Symphony's performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 1: Titan* as conducted by Edo de Waart. I,

for one, am not convinced of the titanic status of this symphony when compared to what Mahler followed it up with. However, it is a dreadfully popular symphony, and Mahler is *Mahler*.

There is a tune in the final movement that you all know, so please try to avoid doing the recognition hummy thing that so often accompanies a famous melody. Why? Because we're better than that.

There are two performances: Friday, March 9, 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 11, 2:00 p.m. Both concerts are at the Jacobs Music Center-



The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell

Copley Symphony Hall.

Is there a more famous orchestra than the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields? Yes, there are. However, this is the orchestra that played all the music in *Amadeus* and was founded in 1958 by the late Sir Neville Marriner. Virtuoso vio-

linist and *Asteroids* video-game champion Joshua Bell is the new music director for the Academy.

The La Jolla Music Society is presenting the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields on Friday, March 16, 8:00 p.m., at The Jacobs Music Center-Copley Symphony Hall.

the Heavy Guilt.
Monday, 9pm — Electric Waste Band. \$5.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

A Celebration of Leonard Bernstein Celebrate the centenary year of Curtis alumnus Leonard Bernstein with a program of American music. Acclaimed Curtis alumni David Shifrin (clarinet) and Dominic Armstrong (tenor) joins the Zorá String Quartet (quartet in residence) and student Jiacheng Xiong (piano) in a concert as vibrant and diverse as America itself. Sunday, March 11, 2pm; Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 1008 Wall Street.

Diva DeDe Morse Diva DeDe will sing Broadway's "The Impossible Dream," Latin's "Sway," jazz favorite "Speak Low," and Franz Schubert's "Ave Maria," with guests like Carlos Velasco and tenor Daniel Hendrick. Sunday, March 11, 1:30pm; \$15. La Jolla Community Center, 6811 La Jolla Boulevard.

Jacobs Masterworks: Bach & Mahler Back & Mahler features Edo de Waart (conductor) and Jeff Thayer (violin) performing Bach's Violin Concerto in A minor and Mahler's Symphony No. 1. Friday, March 9, 7pm; Sunday, March 11, 7pm; Jacobs Music Center, 750 B Street.

Sunday, 10am — Fast Heart Mart. Free.

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint:

Friday, 4pm — Private Domain.
Saturday, 7pm — The Farmers.

Observatory North Park:
Wednesday, 8pm — Flogging Molly. \$40-\$105.

Omnia San Diego:
Friday, 9:30pm — Lil Jon DJ Set.
Saturday, 9:30pm — BRKLYN.

Poway's Irish Pub:
Saturday, 9pm — Outta Sync. Free.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, 7pm — Fred Heath & the Slidewinders.
Saturday, 7pm — Tacos Deluxe.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Oceanside:
Tuesday, 5pm — James Wells.
Wednesday, 5pm — Boo Stubbs.

Rockin' Baja Lobster — Old Town:
Friday, 5pm — Nitro Express.

Rustic Root:
Monday, 6pm — Tolan Shaw.

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library:
Sunday, 2:30pm — Billy Lee & the Swamp Critters. Free.

Smith Recital Hall at SDSU:
Tuesday, 7pm — Schwartz, Thuet & Payton. Free.

Soda Bar:
Thursday, 8pm — U.S. Girls. \$10-\$12.
Friday, 8pm — Mt. Joy. \$12.
Saturday, 8pm — Dick Stusso and Faith Healer. \$8-\$10.
Sunday, 8pm — Halfnoise and the Gloomies. \$12-\$15.
Monday, 8pm — He Is We and Vendetta Red. \$14.
Tuesday, 8pm — Hibou. \$10-\$12.
Wednesday, 8pm — Luke Rathborne. \$10.

Space:
Thursday, 8pm — Protomartyr and Shame. \$15.
Friday, 8pm — Palm and the Spirit Of the Beehive. \$10.

Spin Nightclub:
Friday, 9pm — Dieselboy.

Sycamore Den:
Sunday, 7pm — The Big Decisions. Free.

Tango Del Rey:
Saturday, 7pm — Danyavaad & the Shimmy Sisters. \$15-\$20.

Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park:

Friday, 7:30pm — Cindy Lee Berryhill and CiCi Artimisia. \$15-\$18.

Til-Two:
Friday, 8pm — Deterioration, Girth, HKFU.
Saturday, 8pm — Midnight Track.

Tio Leo's:
Thursday, 8pm — The Stilettoes.
Friday, 9pm — Siers Brothers.

Saturday, 9pm — Detroit Underground.

Wednesday, 7pm — Whitney Shay and Mercedes Moore.

Tower Bar:
Friday, 9pm — Curta and Cars & Trains.
Saturday, 8pm — Horror Squad and Se Vende.
Tuesday, 9pm — The Sheekies and the Touchies. \$5.

University of San Diego:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Mariachi Showcase with Orchestra. \$10.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Mariachi Showcase. \$20.

West Coast Tavern:
Friday, 8pm — DJ Grimm.
Saturday, 8pm — Wet Hand Dan.

Winstons Beach Club:
Friday, 8pm — AJ Froman and

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 JAKE BUGG MON, MAR 26	 QUINN XCII TUE, MAR 27

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

3/29 — J BOOB	4/7 — WHAT SO NOT
3/30 — SENSES FAIL	4/8 — MATT AND KIM
3/31 — ROY WOODS	4/11 — HAYLEY KIVOKO
4/4 — JADEN SMITH	4/12 — KATE NASH
4/6 — LUKE COMBS	4/13 — GRUPO CODICIADO

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Oscar the man

Jimmy Kimmel opened by calling for a night for positivity, so I will begin my coverage of the 90th Annual Academy Awards accordingly. (Not surprisingly, threats of controversy never materialized.)

Dept. of Happy Memories

While accepting this year's Best Supporting Actor award, Sam Rockwell remembered the day his dad showed up in the principal's office "looking very sulen." "We've gotta go," he recalled Dad saying. "It's grandma." As he closed the car door behind him, the eight-year-old Rockwell asked, "What's wrong with grandma?" "Nothing," smiled Pop. "We're going to the movies!"

Other than being Disney pictures, what do *Pinocchio*, *Moon Pilot*, and *Mary Poppins* all have in common? Though the extraction wasn't carried out with quite the same sense of drama as old man Rockwell brought, they represent at least three absent marks when Babe pulled little Scooter out of class for a day pass to see a movie.

Jane Fonda can only wish that her last few scripts were as well structured as her white Balmain gown. She looked beyond glamorous. When Fonda and Helen Mirren took to the stage to present the Best Actor award, both women far outclassed the evening's chintzy production design. The set answered the burning question, "What would *Logan's Run* look like if it had swal-

lowed Superman's Fortress of Solitude whole?" Fonda took one look and likened the decor to the orgasmatron in *Barbarella*.

Eva Marie Saint moved the crowd with remembrances of her husband of 65 years — and regular Oscar night companion — who died last last year. She also stirred memories of a stunning black skirt with red roses stitched across it designed for her character in *North by Northwest* by Edith Head. And you can call him "Al," or you can call him "Hitch," but Ms. Saint is the first person I've ever heard refer to Alfred Hitchcock as "Fred."

Two gown references in a row?! Let's make it three: Rita Moreno was the only presenter to strike a dramatic pose when she took to the stage. It helped that the svelte Ms. Moreno was wearing the same black-and-gold dress she wore in 1962 when accepting her best supporting actress award for *West Side Story*. How many of us can still fit into an outfit we wore almost 45 years ago?

I was curious where the show would place Jerry Lewis in this year's necrology. Whaddya know: they gave Julius Kelp the final word!

Okay, enough with the making nice. On to the gripes:

Kimmel joked about Oscar's lack of manhood, but if the Academy really had balls they'd let Dave Chappelle and Tiffany Haddish co-host next year's giveaway.

MOVIES



One billboard over Hollywood, California

I had but one horse in the 2018 Oscar derby. What with all the talk of female empowerment and equal rights surrounding this year's ceremony, *Faces Places* appeared to be a shoo-in for best documentary. What better way for Academy voters to honor a Grande Dame of cinema, one of the architects of the French New Wave, than by bestowing their award upon Agnès Varda (and co-director JR). The golden doorstop instead went to the Netflix sports doc, *Icarus*.

Dept. of Equal Time

James Franco and Casey Affleck were sorta disinvented from Sunday's cer-

emony based on reports of conduct unbecoming, while accused rapist Kobe Bryant and Gary Oldman (his first wife accused him of domestic abuse) both took home Oscar gold. Just saying. And while I'm on the subject of deservedness: Alfred Hitchcock, Jean-Luc Godard, and Jean Arthur never won an Oscar, but Kobe Bryant did. Blow out the pilot light.

If Vegas bookmakers had been setting odds on whether Donald Trump or Harvey Weinstein would be the first to feel the wrath of Kimmel, a wise gambler would have rightfully wagered their life savings on the billionaire game-show host. Sure enough, before

the two-minute mark our host got off a crack that he felt certain would unleash a "tweet storm from the President's toilet." Trump has enough critics, and while I appreciate the sentiment, Hollywood had best tend to cleaning up its own shithole.

Kimmel was generally amusing, with many of the recipients playing along with his "shortest acceptance speech wins a Jet-Ski" schtick. His best line of the night came when referencing Barbra Streisand's recent cloning of her dead dog: "In L.A., even our pets are remakes."

The evening's most gratifying moment came when — with 13 nominations to his credit — cinematographer Roger Deakins finally took home a golden statue with his name engraved on it for his work on *Blade Runner 2049*.

It almost became as fashionable to salaam fans as it did to slam Weinstein. When accepting his best original screenplay Oscar, Jordan Peele thanked everyone who bought a ticket to see *Get Out*. Kimmel went so far as interrupting a prearranged screening of *A Wrinkle in Time* being held in the adjacent TLC Chinese. What could have been an innovative moment on Oscar history fell flat due to faulty presentation. Like Scorsese's entry to the Copa in *Goodfellas*, the brief trek from one location to the next should have been executed in one take and without commercial interruption. (That's the difference between screen direction and blocking for the small screen, I guess.) Kimmel and a passel of stars barged into auditorium #6 (talk about shitholes) at around the 7 p.m. mark. Why didn't they simply wait and

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—A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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THE NEW YORK TIMES Critics' Pick

start the movie after the surprise? Then again, what movie lover worth their popcorn salt attends a film on the one night of the year the Academy invites itself into their living room? Still, if I'm in mid-movie mode and all of a sudden the house lights go up and in comes Armie Hammer armed with a hot dog cannon, you can bet your life I'm going to be pissed.

Kimmel observed that the smell of recreational marijuana permeated the auditorium in which the Disney family film was being screened. And speaking of pot jokes, did you see the look on Steve Spielberg's face when asked if he was carrying any herb? Can this guy roll with a joke or what?

They saved the biggest laugh of the night for the end. When Guillermo Del Toro took to the stage to accept the Best Picture Oscar, the director grabbed the envelope from Warren Beatty's hand to make sure it had *The Shape of Water* printed across it and not *La La Land*.

— Scott Marks

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd.

Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

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)

Before we Vanish — Director and co-writer Kiyoshi Kurosawa presents a very unusual sort of invasion of the body snatchers. Review forthcoming at sandiegoreader.com. 2017 (DIGITAL GYM)

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. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Call Me By Your Name — Director Luca Guadagnino's sunnily seductive ode to *eros* tells the story of a summer romance between 17-year-old Elio (Timothée Chalamet, looking 15) and 24-year-old Oliver (Armie Hammer, looking 30). Or rather, it explores the dynamics between them, operating at a cool remove from its own frank depiction of desperate teenage longing and volcanic sexual passion among brilliant Jewish outsiders in gorgeous Catholic Italy. There are people involved, sure, but the main thing you need to know about them is their wanting and being wanted, so that you may consider what that might mean. (The title is telling on this score.) Elio's dad (Michael Stuhlbarg) is an archaeology professor who swoons over the sensuality of Greek statuary even as his son swoons over Pop's statuesque grad student/houseguest. Mom serves up fresh-squeezed apricot juice, which Oliver guzzles before explaining how we got "apricot" from the Latin *praeocia* — "early-ripen." Everyone is terribly sophisticated and sensitive, so the drama surrounding the romance must be mostly self-generated. "Is it better to speak or to die?" Overall, the film throbs with feeling, but the pulse of felt life is faint. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Death Wish — For those looking to score a front row seat in a shooting gallery comes a remake of the unthinkable. The original vigilante fable was directed by rape connoisseur Michael Winner and if there's one good thing to be said for this

otherwise undesired remake, it's director Eli Roth's decision to do without the graphic plot-motivator. By day Dr. Paul Kersey (Bruce Willis) lives in accordance with the hippocratic oath, while at night he's a hippocratic oaf decimating dozens in search of the thugs who murdered his wife and beat his daughter to a vegetative pulp. So much for praising Roth's restraint, particularly when chunks of this are played for laughs. And is Willis really as bored as he looks or is his narcoleptic approach to acting a deliberate tribute to Charles Bronson? Timing is everything and the release of this wedge of NRA porn in the wake of yet another unimaginable school shooting should hopefully put a crimp in business. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Early Man — Clearly and weirdly blind to the limitless potential afforded by an animated feature set during the dawn of man, the usually imaginative Nick Park (*Chicken Run*, *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*) squanders 90 minutes sketching a wearisome soccer match between the Stone Age and the Bronze World. Add to this a host of repulsively designed characters (Shrek & Co. are Disney bunnies compared to Park's cookie-cutter band of stop-motion Neanderthals), and you're stuck with a feature that makes *The Flintstones* look like the Rite of Spring passage in *Fantasia*. The pun-fueled dialogue is a perfect match for the visual ugliness, making it only fitting that Early Man steals from Youngman. There are jokes here — the Chief's demand that his underlings start mining ore is

FILM FESTIVALS

AMC FASHION VALLEY
7037 Friars Rd., Mission Valley
888-262-4386

San Diego Latino Film Festival Media Arts Center San Diego celebrates the 25th anniversary of the San Diego Latino Film Festival March 15 to 25. The festival will occupy five screens for eleven days and will present over 160 films from Latin America, the United States, and Spain as well as Opening Night and Closing Night Parties, the 3rd Annual Sonido Latino Food, Beer & Wine Festival, Q&A sessions with visiting filmmakers, free student outreach screenings, and more. Audiences will have the rare opportunity to meet filmmakers and actors from all over the world. Info: pilar@mediaartscenter.org or ethan@mediaartscenter.org. **Thursday, March 15, 10:00am, Friday, March 16, 10:00am, Saturday, March 17, 10:00am, Sunday, March 18, 10:00am, Monday, March 19, 10:00am, Tuesday, March 20, 10:00am, Wednesday, March 21, 10:00am, Thursday, March 22, 10:00am, Friday, March 23, 10:00am, Saturday, March 24, 10:00am, Sunday, March 25, 10:00am**

CENTRAL LIBRARY
330 Park Bl., East Village
619-236-5800



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**

GREEN STORE
4843 B Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
619-225-1083

A Plastic Ocean This 2016 documentary by Australian journalist Craig Leeson investigates the devastating impacts that plastic has caused to our environment, especially our marine life. With an international team of scientists and researchers he travels to 20 locations around the world to explore the fragile state of our oceans, uncovers alarming truths about plastic pollution, and reveals working solutions that can be put into immediate use. Discussion and resources will be available about what we can do locally after the film. Info: oceanbeachgreencenter@gmail.com. **Thursday, March 8, 7:00pm**

HOTEL DEL CORONADO
1500 Orange Ave., Coronado
619-435-6611

Spring Movies on the Beach Snuggle up on Del Beach for our favorite movies in a theater under the stars. Guests may cuddle up around a private bonfire with s'mores and relax in a beach daybed or rent beach chairs. **March 17: Toy Story**. **March 31: Hop**. **Saturday, March 17, 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**

SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY
1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
760-602-2049

Carlsbad Film Series: The Glass Castle A young girl comes of age in a dysfunctional family of nonconformist nomads with a mother who's an eccentric artist and an alcoholic father who would stir the children's imagination with hope as a distraction to their poverty. Join us for previews and additional information about the film beginning at 5:30pm Film will begin at 6pm Stay afterward for a post-show discussion of the film. **Wednesday, March 14, 6:00pm**

SEACREST VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
211 Saxony Rd., Encinitas

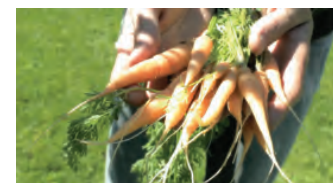
Film Discussion Class: I Confess Alfred Hitchcock directed this tale of deception and secrets. A priest (Montgomery Clift) finds himself at a moral crossroads when he hears a German refugee's confession of murder. Will he break his sacramental seal or allow himself to become the prime suspect? Co-stars Anne Baxter and Karl Malden. 1953. 95 minutes. Film discussion class with instructor Ralph DeLauro. **Tuesday, March 13, 1:30pm**

TEMPLE EMANU-EL
6299 Capri Dr., Del Cerrito

Film Discussion Class: Take Me Home A wild and romantic ride on the road less traveled. This clever and comic meditation on

marriage features Sam Jaeger as a unemployed photographer moonlighting illegally as a NYC cab driver. When he picks up a distraught woman (Amber Jaeger) with her marriage in shambles, the two strangers set off on a cross-country odyssey to leave their problems behind. 2012. 97 minutes. Discussion after the film. Film discussion class with instructor Ralph DeLauro at College Avenue Center, located at Temple Emanu-El. Sponsored by Jewish Family Service. Members free; all others \$2. **Monday, March 19, 1:00pm**

UNITY CENTER
8999 Activity Rd., Mira Mesa



Healing America Tour Healing America is a new documentary film and grassroots movement organized around the far-reaching benefits of a plant-based diet. The movement hopes to empower you and your community to take back control of your health and in the process to establish a new social action platform with the power to heal our nation. Research shows that a plant-based diet can not only prevent and sometimes reverse chronic health issues, it can also address the environmental issues surrounding animal agriculture which has been shown to be the single biggest contributor to global warming. The most important facet of the movement is to provide all Americans from every walk of life the ability to take back control of their health. **Saturday, March 10, 4:00pm**

WESTMONT LIVING AT SAN MIGUEL RANCH, 2325 PROCTOR VALLEY ROAD, CHULA VISTA

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. Discussion with instructor Ralph DeLauro after the film in the Rolling Hills Theater on the second floor. **Thursday, March 8, 1:30pm**

met with, “Or what?” — that would make Henny gag. It’s not only destined to top this year’s 10 Worst list, it also qualifies as one of the most unendurable cartoons ever to come from a major animator. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Fantastic Woman — A pre-op transsexual’s (Daniele Vega) word begins caving in after the death of her divorced, much-older boyfriend, mostly because it gives his largely intolerant family the opportunity to make her life miserable. Vega’s performance is riveting, but writer and co-director Sebastián Lelio’s use of sex and gender to shape his narrative is straight out of a ‘50s melodrama. There’s even a quotidian subplot involving a mysterious key that just happens to show up every time the pacing needs a swift kick in the ass. The plethora of tracking shots following a character from behind may be intended as a tribute to Gus Van Sant, but they’re wasted here. And short of dropping bricks on our heads, it’s hard to imagine anything as painfully, thuddingly obvious as having Aretha Franklin’s “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman” playing at a car wash. I’m shocked that anything this hackneyed could come from the same filmmaker who gave us *Gloria*. Now there was a fantastic woman! 2017 — S.M. ★ (ANGELIKA CARMEL MOUNTAIN)

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 tolerable 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)

Gringo — Director Nash Edgerton sends David Oyelowo over the border and possibly over the edge in this comedy-action thriller. Review forthcoming at *sandiegoreader.com*. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Lady Bird — There’s much to admire in indie darling Greta Gerwig’s first solo venture behind the camera, particularly for those willing to overlook colorless screen direction, dialog that thrives on pop culture references, and a pair of running time-padding skits — an anti-abortion pep rally gone wrong and a gym coach assigned to oversee the high school drama club — that play like outtakes from a Christopher Guest satire. Copious critical accolades already abound, but don’t let the comparisons to *Terms of Endearment* keep you from the picture. (No Kleenex needed.) The raves that bear attention are the ones championing the daughter and mother combatants played by her generation’s gift to acting, Saoirse Ronan, and the criminally underused Laurie Metcalf. Their precision-engineered salvos of overlapping dialog are the film’s highlights and a sure test of the limits of Dolby Atmos. And kudos to the

CENTRAL

AMC Fashion Valley 18
7037 Friars Rd (888-262-4386)

AMC La Jolla 12
8657 Villa La Jolla Dr, Ste 129 (888-262-4386)

AMC Mission Valley 20
1640 Camino Del Rio North (888-262-4386)

ArCLight La Jolla
4425 La Jolla Village Dr (858-768-7770)

Digital Gym Cinema
2921 El Cajon Blvd ((619) 230-1938)

Landmark Hillcrest
3965 Fifth Ave (619-298-2904)

Landmark Ken
4061 Adams Ave (619-283-3227)

The LOT La Jolla
7611 Fay Ave (858-777-0069)

The LOT Liberty Station
2620 Thruxton Rd (619-566-0069)

Reading Town Square
4665 Clairemont Dr (858-274-9994)

Regal Horton Plaza
Horton Plaza (844-462-7342)

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
1875 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-238-1233)

San Diego Natural History Museum - Kaplan Theater
1788 El Prado, Balboa Park (619-232-3821)

UltraStar Mission Valley 7
7510 Hazard Center Dr #100 (619-574-8684)

United Artists Horton Plaza 8
475 Horton Plaza (844-462-7342)

dizzily-denominated Beanie Feldstein for her performance as Ronan’s brilliant flake of a BFF. 2017. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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 FILM CENTER & CAFÉ)

Oh, Lucy! — A forlorn office worker (Shinobu Terajima) takes an English class (taught by Josh Hartnett) where role-playing proves to be the key to unlocking her titular second self. We open an on elevated platform where a man standing behind our

Vintage Village Theater
820 Orange Ave, Coronado (619-437-6161)

EAST COUNTY

Reading Grossmont
5500 Grossmont Ctr Dr (619-465-3040)

Regal Parkway Plaza 18 & IMAX
405 Parkway Plaza (619-462-7342)

Regal Rancho San Diego 15
2951 Jamacha Rd (844-462-7342)

Santee Drive In
10990 Woodside Ave (619-448-7447)

SOUTH BAY

AMC Chula Vista 10
555 Broadway #2050 (619-371-9105)

AMC Otay Ranch 12
Otay Ranch Town Center (619-216-7545)

AMC CLASSIC Palm Promenade 24
770 Dennerly Rd (619-662-2698)

AMC Plaza Bonita 14
3050 Plaza Bonita Rd (619-475-2200)

Regal Rancho Del Rey 16
1025 Tierra del Rey (844-462-7342)

South Bay Drive In
2170 Coronado Ave (619-423-2727)

NORTH INLAND

AMC Poway 10
13475 Poway Rd ((858) 679-3887)

AMC CLASSIC River Village 6
5256 S Mission Road, Bonsall (760-945-1365)

heroine whispers a goodbye before jumping into the path of an oncoming train. Fore-shadowing, ain’t it a bitch? Normally, I’d have spent the entire running time waiting for this introductory action to boomerang in the form of a dramatic payoff. But first-time director Atsuko Hirayanagi — here expanding her 2014 short into a feature — pitches her characters and situations so quirkily and from so deep in left field that by the time the presaging bounces back, it does so with genuine surprise. At its best, it’s a comedy of miscommunication, one that hits an occasional rough spot when the location shifts from Tokyo to SoCal and a chase ensues between Lucy and her mother and sister. 2017 — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Peter Rabbit — An affectionate note of Tex Avery mayhem opens the story — in an instant, a bucolic chorus of Disney-esque birds in flight is rendered utterly *ooftymagoofy* — 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 rodents. 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)

AMC Temecula 10
27531 Ynez Rd (951-699-2205)

Krikorian Vista Village
Highway 78 at Vista Village Dr (760-945-7469)

Angelika Carmel Mountain
11620 Carmel Mntn Rd (858-207-2606)

Regal Escondido 16 & IMAX
350 West Valley Parkway (844-462-7342)

Regal Mira Mesa 18 & IMAX
10733 Westview Parkway (844-462-7342)

Edwards San Marcos 18
1180 W. San Marcos Blvd (844-462-7342)

NORTH COASTAL

Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas Del Mar
12905 El Camino Real (858-794-4045)

Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas La Costa
6941 El Camino Real (760-827-6700)

Digiplex Mission Marketplace
431 College Blvd (760-631-5700)

La Paloma Theater
471 South Coast Highway 101 (760-436-7469)

Regal Oceanside 16
401 Mission Avenue (844-462-7342)

Regal Carlsbad 12
2501 El Camino Real (760-720-5392)

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Phantom Thread — Actor Daniel Day-Lewis has played any number of difficult, even unpleasant men over the course of his remarkable career. And he is famously exacting and disciplined in his approach to his art. So perhaps it’s fitting that his (self-proclaimed) final role is that of Reynolds Woodcock, a difficult, even unpleasant man who is also exacting and disciplined about his art — designing ladies’ couture in ‘50s London. The film opens on the face of his muse and lover Alma (Vicky Krieps), who purrs that he has made her dreams come true before noting, “And I’ve given him what he desires.” Just what exactly that means — some pleasures are decidedly more rarefied, or at the very least less obvious, than others — is writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson’s subject here. It’s a mystery that does out its first clue in Woodcock’s opening-scene dismissal of his final pre-Alma paramour: he simply doesn’t have the time for her. The level of control all ‘round — director, actor, script, character — borders on oppressive; if Anderson’s *The Master* was a swirling miasma, *Phantom Thread* is an unforgiving dress. It presents an ideal and even inspires wonder, but it does make breathing difficult, and heaven help you if all you want is to have a good time. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK HILLCREST; REGAL SAN MARCOS)

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 pervy 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)

The Shape of Water — Gather ‘round, allegory fans, and behold this fish-out-of-water tale of man’s inhumanity to what he deems inhuman from director and co-writer Guillermo del Toro. The action is recalled as a sort of adult fairy tale, and concerns a woman (Sally Hawkins, mesmerizing) without a voice and the mysterious creature who captures her heart (among other things). On the one side, you have love, sexual indulgence, science, art, magic, racial harmony, fidelity, kindness, great movies, and lonely but decent gays (Richard Jenkins, transporting). On the other, you have hatred, repressed sexuality (corn flakes!), politics, commerce, religion, racism, betrayal, cruelty, crap television, and married but wretched straights (Michael Shannon, terrifying). It’s a testament to the storyteller’s skill that he manages to cram all that into his narrative with nary a lump and still keep his characters dancing with only one or two minor missteps. What’s it all about? Well, our heroine lives above a movie theater that happens to be showing *The Story of Ruth* — you know, the Biblical woman who famously declared, “Whither thou goest, there goest I.” And Del Toro’s religious rascality doesn’t stop there: Samson and Delilah help to drive the drama, as does a certain someone drawn from amid the bulrushes. 2017. — M.L. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Strangers: Prey at Night — Director Johannes Roberts presents the second installment in the *Strangers* series, this time setting the terrorized-family fun in a trailer park. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Submission — Writer-director Richard Levine adapts Francine Prose’s novel *Blue Angel*, which is itself an adaptation of the 1930 Marlene Dietrich film about the danger of desire. Starring Stanley Tucci and Addison Timlin. Review forthcoming at *sandiegoreader.com*. 2017 (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Thoroughbreds — Writer-director Cory Finley serves up Olivia Cooke and Anya Taylor-Joy in a story of murderous teens in suburban Connecticut. Review quite possibly forthcoming at *sandiegoreader.com*. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Wrinkle in Time — Director Ava DuVernay tackles Madeleine L’Engle’s YA classic about an awkward girl who goes looking for her lost father. Review forthcoming at *sandiegoreader.com*. 2018 (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Young Karl Marx — aka *When Karl met Friedrich*. Review forthcoming at *sandiegoreader.com*. 2017 (DIGITAL GYM)

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith unless otherwise noted. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A 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. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. 8PM WEDNESDAY, MAR. 14.

A Little Night Music

Cygnets Theatre stages one of Ste-

phen Sondheim's most beloved works, inspired by the Ingmar Bergman film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*. Desiree Armfeldt has always captured the hearts of men. Then both of her lovers and their wives show up on a midsummer night's eve. Sean Murray directs. CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

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. LAWRENCE FAMILY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, 4126 EXECUTIVE DR., LA JOLLA. 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM & 4:30PM 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.

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. 7:30PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

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.

Macbeth

Trinity Theatre Company and the San Diego Shakespeare Society present the Bard's tragedy of inflamed ambition. Just because three witches predict that something strange and wonderful will happen, it doesn't

mean that collateral damage won't result. Thomas Haine directs. TENTH AVENUE ARTS CENTER, 930 TENTH AVE., EAST VILLAGE. 619-920-8503. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. 8PM FRIDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

New Play Festival

The San Diego City College Dramatic 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. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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.

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.

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. 7:30PM THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 2PM & 7:30PM SATURDAY.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ presents "a scrumdillyumptious 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. 7PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

San Diego, I Love You #SwipeRight

Circle Circle dot dot's annual, site-specific romantic comedy — con-

ceived 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. Cystal Brandan directs. THORN STREET BREWERY, 3176 THORN ST., NORTH PARK. 619-501-2739. 1:30PM, 2PM, & 3PM SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS.

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 FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 1PM SUNDAY.

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. 7:30PM WEDNESDAY, MAR. 14.

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 & 7:30PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Spike Heels

OnStage Playhouse presents Theresa Rebeck's comedy/drama. The updated take on Shaw's *Pygmalion* "explores the power play between the sexes, the American class system, feminism, sex, and the possibility of a four-sided love triangle." Charley Miller directs. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

This Random World

The North Coast Repertory Theatre stages Steven Dietz's drama/comedy

about intersecting lives: "A mother determined to maintain her independence, a daughter longing for adventure, two sisters seeking common ground, and an internet prank gone awry." David Ellenstein directs. NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 8PM WEDNESDAYS.

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 Pevar 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.

Wonder of the World

For its inaugural production, Stir the Pot Productions presents David Lindsay-Abaire'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 SATURDAY, 2PM SUNDAY.

UPCOMING SHOWS

A Dance With Death

The Experts in Mystery Entertainment are now performing live public and private interactive murder mystery dinner shows in San Diego and surrounding areas throughout California. Their newest show is a "night of intrigue, deception, and food, in this comedic thriller!" OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 275 FIFTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-233-4323. APR. 12.

American Mariachi

The Old Globe Theatre, in association with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theater Company, presents the world premiere of Jose Cruz Gonzalez' comedy about Lucha's need to break a monotonous routine. How about an all-girl mariachi band? Come on. These are the 1970s. There's no such thing. But can there be? James Vasquez directs. OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. MAR. 29 THROUGH APR. 29.

"A big-hearted musical play, gorgeously executed!"

The Denver Post



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Heather Velazquez, Jennifer Paredes, Natalie Camunas, and Crissy Guerrero. Photo by AdamsVisCom.

Calendar THEATER

Anna in the Tropics

SDSU Theatre Department stages Nilo Cruz's 2003 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Passions and ill-fated love ignite when a charismatic new lector comes to the Ybor City cigar factory to Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* to the workers." The scandalous lives of Tolstoy's characters become dangerously intertwined with the lives of his listeners." CJ Keith directs. DON POWELL THEATRE AT SDSU, 5500 CAMPANILE DR., SDSU. APR. 20 THROUGH APR. 29.

Antigone

Canyon Crest Academy stages Sophocles' great tragedy about obedience to higher laws. "What happens when idealism conflicts with societal responsibility? When what we vehemently believe is right is against the law? Where is the line between protest and anarchy?" CANYON CREST ACADEMY, 5951 VILLAGE CENTER LOOP RD., CARMEL VALLEY. 858-350-0253. MAR. 15 THROUGH MAR. 30.

Anyone Can Whistle Gala Concert

As a fundraiser for the company, Roustabouts Theatre presents a concert performance of Stephen Sondheim's rarely produced musical. Residents of a beleaguered town face difficult choices: sanity or madness, individualism or conformism, love or bigotry? "Corrupt cronies, traveling pilgrims, and Nurse Fay Apple (whose patients live in the 'Cookie Jar') get caught up in the knotty mess." Ruff Yeager directs, with musical direction by Patrick Marion. MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. APR. 2 THROUGH APR. 3.

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. 15 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Fuddy Meers

The Carlsbad Playreaders perform David Lindsay-Abaire's comedy-drama about Claire. Her rare form of amnesia erases her memory whenever she goes to sleep. This morning, like all mornings, she wakes up a blank slate. "It's a world where nothing is as it seems, and trusting the wrong person can get you locked in the basement or hit over the head with a frying pan." SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY, 1775 DOVE LANE, CARLSBAD. 760-602-2049. MAR. 19.

The Happiest Place on Earth

Diversionsary Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of Philip Dawkins' one person show about "a magical kingdom built on the founding principles of dreams, American idealism, and our wildest hopes." The piece moves from 1955 to 2005, and stars Jacque Wilke, Jonathan L. Green directs. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. MAR. 24 THROUGH APR. 15.

ANTI-REVIEW CHERIE PEACOCK

Loving is hard. Being flattered is easy

"I AM NOT YOUR FRIEND!" Thomas Edison tells Henry Ford early on in *Camping with Henry and Tom*

"Of course we're friends," Ford protests. "Why else would we spend time together?"

"Because we each enjoy being in the company of someone who's not afraid of us," Edison replies.

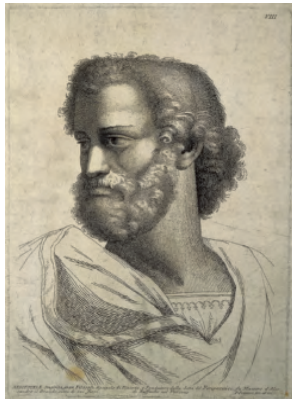
Friendship among the powerful.

Aristotle defines friendship as reciprocated goodwill. He says perfect friendship occurs when two good people who are similar in virtue desiring each other's good. Seems right.

But most friendships aren't like that. We're lucky if we get one in a lifetime. That doesn't mean all the other things we call friendship aren't worthwhile, of course. Aristotle calls these less-than-ideal relationships "friendships of utility." Imperfect friends enjoy the benefits they get from the friendship: It's useful or pleasant to them, and the friendship lasts as long as the usefulness or pleasantness lasts.

It seems like that's what Edison is describing, and it's easy to see why two titans such as Edison and Ford would find their friendship both pleasant

and useful. Then we get President Warren G. Harding thrown in for good measure. Henry wants to get the president alone to make a deal. The president just wants



Why doesn't Henry Ford have true friends? Aristotle could answer that.

to escape from being president for a few hours. Edison simply wants to be with men who aren't intimidated by him. The impression left is that, for Edison and Ford, their very imperfect friendship is as good as it gets for either of them. This is sad especially for Ford, who so desperately wants to be a good man as well as a great man. And what man can be good who lacks a true friend?

There are certainly historical precedents: Achilles and Patroclus, King David and Jonathan, Ruth the Moabite and her mother-in-law, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. American founding parents John and Abigail Adams were good friends with Thomas Jefferson and Mercy Otis Warren, respectively. These were all high-achievers who were able to develop true friendships.

So, why doesn't Ford have true friends? The first clue is that he can't stop being the industrialist, even on a camping trip. He uses the occasion first to try to persuade and then to blackmail the president — for the sake of one of his great causes, of course. The second clue is a barb from Edison: "You talk about loving humankind all the time, but I've never heard you say a kind word about your son." Ouch.

Maybe being a friend is too hard for most people. Aristotle says most of us prefer to be loved rather than love, because loving is hard and being flattered is easy. To do it, you have to take the long view, rather than settling for instant gratification.

Camping with Henry and Tom runs at Lamb's Players in Coronado through March 25.

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. 16 THROUGH MAR. 17.

Sweeney Todd: School Edition

The Patio Playhouse Youth Theatre stages Stephen Sondheim's brash musical about "The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." He makes pies, but doesn't fill them with custard or the occasional pecan. Laurissa Rudgers directs. PATIO PLAYHOUSE, 201 E. GRAND AVE., ESCONDIDO. 760-746-6669. MAR. 23 THROUGH APR. 15.

Write Out Loud: Voices of Ireland

Write Out Loud, the popular group that performs "story concerts" ("short stories and literature read by trained actors") celebrates Ireland with an evening of Irish stories, dance, song, and music. 619-437-6000. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-437-0600. MAR. 19.

Yo, Vikings!

The Theatre School at North Coast Rep presents the musical, book and lyrics, Marcus Stevens, music Sam Willmott, about the time spunky, 10-year-old Emma Katz gave her World Discovery Day report on Erik the Red — and began to channel her "inner Viking." NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. MAR. 29 THROUGH APR. 1.

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.

Jesus Christ Superstar

OB Playhouse presents a concert version of the Webber/Rice rock opera about the last week in the life of Jesus Christ. Told entirely through song, the story explores the personal relationships and struggles among Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, his disciples, his followers, and the Roman Empire. OCEAN BEACH PLAYHOUSE, 4944 NEWPORT AVE., OCEAN BEACH. 619-795-9305. MAR. 23 THROUGH APR. 8.

King Charles III

The Coronado Playhouse offers Mike Bartlett's drama about "the British royal family, seen through a modern, Shakespearean lens. Queen Elizabeth II is dead. After a lifetime of waiting, Prince Charles prepares to ascend to the throne. But what do Prince William, Princess Kate, and Prince Harry really think about their father's ascension?" CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. MAR. 23 THROUGH APR. 22.

Love Never Dies

In Andrew Lloyd Webber's sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*, it's 1907. Ten years after his disappearance from

the Paris Opera House, the Phantom has escaped to New York. "In this new electrically charged world, he has finally found a place for his music to soar. All that is missing is his love — Christine Daaé." SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. MAR. 27 THROUGH APR. 1.

Of Sound Mind and Dead Body

The Experts in Mystery Entertainment 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

GOLDEN DREAMS

continued from page 14

simplicity is the rule."

This bookshop-cum-cultural haven has long been a dream of his. And for all its apparent casualness, it has fascinating collections. Not that it's all rare or ancient. Unless Harry Potter's that already. Kid comes in, runs to a table. Grabs a fat, gnarly, Harry Potter paperback. "Mom, please?"

Lhooqcrealism.com is Christopher's website.

They're not pets

Has anybody seen the Birdman of East Village lately? Okay, that's just what I call him. I met Victor Vasquez, 53, taking his three birds: Sydney, 30 years old, a medium sulphur-crested cockatoo from Papua New Guinea; Coocoberry, 20-25, a red-lored green Amazon parrot; and Ginger, 10, a Goffin's cockatoo from Australia, walking them in his three-tiered backpack cages around Park and Market in East Village. It's like a walking coffee klatch.

"Where are you going? Yes or no?"

That's Coocoberry, the green one, with the biggest



Victor Vasquez with (from top) Sydney, Coocoberry, Ginger

vocabulary, Victor says.

"Hi. Hi. Hi!"

That's Sydney, the one with the biggest heart.

"These birds are equal to dolphins and chimps in intelligence," says Victor. "They have dignity. They have solidarity. They need your company."

Of course, there's a price to pay for all this sociability. Victor's roommate moved out. "Couldn't stand the constant back-and-forth," he says.

"They're great company but high maintenance."

He didn't have to tell me. I'd been at an exotic pet hospital in Mission Valley when this gent brought in his green parrot. The parrot spotted another in a waiting-room cage. He insisted they go to the cage, and the two birds went crazy, crying out expletives and great "Woahh!" and "Wow!" sounds and flapping and laughing.

"They haven't seen each other for ten years," said the gent. "They have always loved each other."

Victor's birds were quiet but giving commentary as he bounced along Market with them on his back the day I spotted them. "They have to chat," he tells me. "They're not pets. They use their eyes. They want people to know they understand."

"I know, I know," says Sydney.

"Sydney's buddies are nearly extinct in the wild," says Victor. "There are fewer than 2000 left."

"I know, I know," says Sydney.

"And they love *Ratatouille*."

"I know, I know,"

says Coocoberry.

"Jububerry?" says Victor.

"No! Coocoberry."

He says Sydney is truly

compassionate. "If he sees someone sad, he cries. I have an autistic grandson, and every time he saw him, Sydney would say 'Hi! Hi! Hi!' We'd go to their house, and Sydney would knock on their door with his beak. And the boy became responsive. He'd say, 'Hi Sydney!' And Sydney was so proud."

Victor starts lowering his voice as we approach his apartment building.

"I have to be discreet.

I'm worried the management will kick me out if there's too much noise."

His other worry: that his birds will live longer than him.

"They can last 40, 50, 60 years, even longer. Bird Rescue would take them. But they wouldn't be happy. They have to belong. They don't want to be free. So I worry."

I left Victor and the birds near where I met them around Market and 13th. I haven't seen them around there lately. So I worry.

If you see them, say "Hi, hi, hi" for me. ■

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CALIFORNIA COLLEGE SAN DIEGO

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.

Dazzled by Krizia!

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.

Allured by a Goddess...

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.aphroditesmassage.com. 858-481-6661.

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

CANNABIS PATIENTS ACT

Association Cubensis Therapeuatics. Seeks doctors psychotherapists researchers, persons interested. Forming discussion groups / effectiveness of cubensis therapy for depression and PTSD? 619-528-0907

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.

HOOVER HIGH CLASS OF '68

50th REUNION
Friday, Sept. 21, 2018
6:30-11:30pm

BAHIA RESORT HOTEL on MISSION BAY
Cocktail Hour & Buffet
DJ & Dancing
Questions? Contact:
david.searle@cox.net
Ph:619-890-1426

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS.

Is food a problem? Binge or purge? No dues or fees. Contact Overeaters Anonymous: 619-521-2538. www.OAsandiego.org.

BICYCLES

15 SPEED MAGNA

With helmet, rack and pac. front and rear light, water bottle and holder, plus other accessories. \$30.00, in good shape. 858-484-5695

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.

ELECTRONICS

500MW GREEN LASER

Battery operated, in perfect condition. Ideal for uses in photography and astronomy applications. \$300.00, 619-282-3657. Leave message.

500MW GREEN LASER

Battery operated. In perfect condition. Ideal for uses in photography and astronomy applications. \$300.00 619-282-3657. leave message.

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, March 10, 8-12:00, 7081 Hilton Place, San Diego, 92111 multi-family - furniture, bikes Plasma TV (42"), Yamaha piano, bags, good clothes, frames & framed art, custom jewelry, cat carriers, household items, desk chair, free stuff. Advance sale of bikes, TV, piano possible Friday: contact: magninmc@gmail.com.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. (State intention.) Say the above novena sincerely nine times a day for eight consecutive days, and promise to publish it or otherwise distribute it to others. It has never been known to fail.

PETS

FREE PET ADS:

Selling a pet for under \$200? Email your wording & photo to pets@SDReader.com.

ALL OTHER ADS:

Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.

FOSTER ORPHANED PUPPIES & KITTENS

Get your puppy or kitten fix by providing a temporary home for orphaned pets! Helen Woodward Animal Center provides all supplies and medical care while you provide love & transport for 2-3 weeks! Call 858-756-4117 x366 to learn more.



GREYHOUND ADOPTION

Looking for a 45 mile per hour couch potato? Adopt a retired greyhound. Call 1-877-HOUNSAVERS, email info@houndsavers.org or visit www.houndsavers.org.

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

PET SERVICES

Dogwalker/Dogsitter aka (The Dog Woman). Love all breeds, professional, responsible, caring, experienced farm girl. Contact:619-380-4861.

EVENT LISTINGS

READER TACOTOPIA 2018

Join the San Diego Reader in our continued search to find the best taco at the 4th Annual Reader Tacotopia in Golden Hill Park on Saturday, May 12th, 2018. Try signature tacos from more than 60 of the best restaurants in San Diego, TX and LA as they compete to win the "Best Taco" award. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best taco vendors and you decide who will ultimately win. ReaderTacotopia.com

AUTOMOTIVE



Relax your Mind, Body, and Soul
\$35 1-Hour Body Massage
\$15 1-Hour Foot Massage
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Lakeside Reflexology
9610 Winter Gardens Blvd.
Lakeside, 92040
619-906-1798



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wcautoglass.com



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California MENTOR Family Home Agency
Ask about our Referral Program!
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California MENTOR is seeking loving individuals just like you to support an adult with special needs.

Receive ongoing support and \$1100 to \$2000 a month (to cover the cost of care) for your spare bedroom.

Call Heather or Vanessa Today!
858-694-0120
MentorsWanted.com



SMOG CHECK \$19.95
With coupon only. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest free when repair done on site. VIP service, 2 machines. No appointment necessary. Most 4-cyl. cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

STAR Certified \$29.95
with coupon. Plus \$8.25 for certificate. Retest Free when repair done on site. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra. Most 4-Cyl cars only. 2000 and newer cars only. European & older cars extra.

ALIGNMENT \$39.95
Most 4-cyl. Cars

TRANSMISSION SERVICE \$89.95
Most 4-cyl. Cars

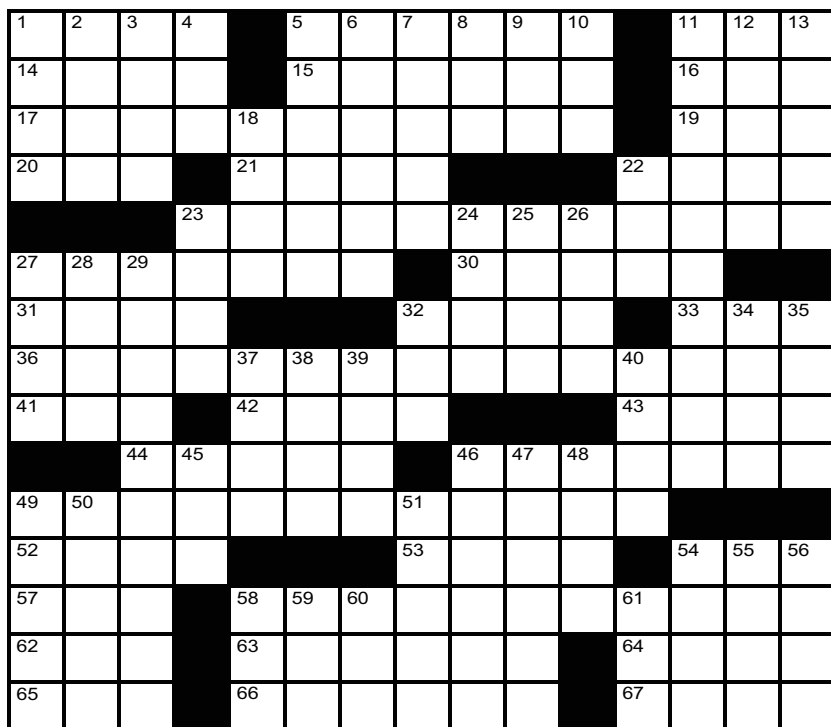
PREMIUM BRAKES \$119
Most 4-cyl cars Front or Rear Brakes Parts or Labor

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSTIC with repair on site

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WELCOME ALL FLEET ACCOUNTS • AAA APPROVED
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M-F 8am-6pm • Sat 8am-3pm • All Coupons Expire 3/22/18

CROSSWORD

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt



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RULES OF THE GAME

- 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.
 - Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 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.
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

A	N	U	N	O	V	E	N	K	I	K	I		
V	I	N	O	N	E	V	E	E	L	E	N	I	
A	C	H	T	A	R	A	T	M	E	R	V	S	
T	O	O	M	A	N	Y	T	O	P	S	O	I	
A	L	L	E	N	S	L	A	T	S	T	A		
R	A	Y	O	L	I	V	E	R	D	E	E	N	
			S	N	A	F	U	O	N	E	D		
			C	O	O	K	S	I	N	T	H	E	
F	L	A	Y			L	E	E	R	S			
R	O	N	S	R	A	M	S	A	Y	I	S	H	
I	R	T	P	U	C	K	S	A	N	T	A		
D	E	E	L	I	S	H	K	I	T	C	H	E	N
G	L	E	A	N	O	D	E	S	R	E	E	K	
E	E	N	I	E	O	R	E	O	E	A	V	E	
I	S	T	S	S	I	N	K	S	T	E	R		

Across

- Have a great night at the comedy club
- Attack vigorously
- Layover locale, perhaps
- Love letters?
- Amateur
- Opposite of "Dep." on a flight board
- Really get the grit off some fruit?
- Slugger's stat
- Triumph
- Gardener, at times
- "Thirteen" actress _____ Rachel Wood
- Healthy routine of some reef material?
- Tries to rip open
- What egg whites aren't
- "Four little letters, three billion little people": Stephen Colbert
- _____ facto
- "Why, can you possibly mean me?!"
- It's been left on 17-, 23-, 49- and 58-Across
- 18%, maybe
- Like someone whose photographs are all selfies
- Wallach and Whitney
- Signs of things to come
- Address
- Snacker's discarded item in ancient Peru?
- Two-time NBA All-Star Vandeweghe
- Cambodia's Phnom _____

54. "So THAT'S it!"

- Bridal bio word
- Like a TV lover uninterested in cutting the cord?
- Leaf-peeping mo.
- Grande with the 2014 hit song "Love Me Harder"
- Atypical
- Director Craven who said "Horror films don't create fear. They release it"
- Benghazi native
- Singer with the 1988 album "Y Kant Tori Read"

Down

- Annual Austin, Texas music/film festival named for its loc. in the U.S.
- Centers of activity
- Neural conductor
- Whom Uncle Sam wants
- Sweater material
- Angry with
- Traffic problem
- Fruit Ninja, e.g.
- Red state?
- Part of UCLA
- 2014 U.S. postage stamp honoree depicted with the colors of the gay pride flag
- Kind of legend or **sprawl**
- Pickler's need
- They precede sigmas
- Room in an apt. big enough to accommodate a dining table, in real estate ads
- Animal always spelled out in Scrabble?

- Syringe, for short
- Ned who, in 2015, became the manager with the most victories in Kansas City Royals history
- Icky stuff
- Diplomat's asset
- Actor Morales who plays Elian Gonzalez's dad in a 2000 TV movie
- Causes of sudden altitude drops
- Charged particle
- Doing the job
- "Don't take _____ seriously!"
- Pizza _____
- Half of Mork's goodbye
- _____ bump
- Authentic
- It follows Avril in Paris
- "For Your Eyes Only" singer Easton
- Author
- K-12
- "Tell me about it!"
- Whitney Houston, to Dionne Warwick
- Spread out
- Driver of "Girls"
- "My _____!"
- Drinks at sidewalk stands
- Baseball's Ripken
- Jackie's second husband
- A little kid might drool over it
- Org. from which George H.W. Bush resigned his membership in 1995

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.

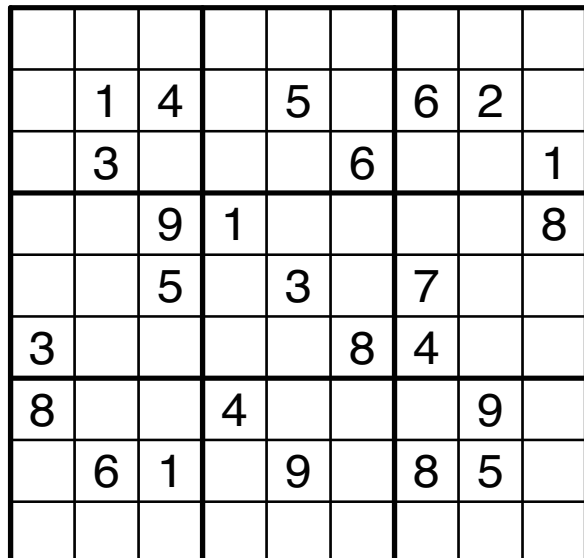
- Joseph Ciprian, San Diego, 6.
- Juan Ruiz, Chula Vista, 5.
- Jon Christianson, El Cajon, 4.
- Jenny Blackwood, Ocean Beach, 3.
- Peter Soria, Encinitas, 1.

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:



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Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

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

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS:

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- XP Liang, San Diego, 5.
- Mike Savin, San Diego, 4.
- Ralph Levy, La Jolla, 2.
- Heywood Zeidman, La Jolla, 2.
- Celeste Vargas, San Diego, 1.

BRAINSTORMS

BY DON RUBIN

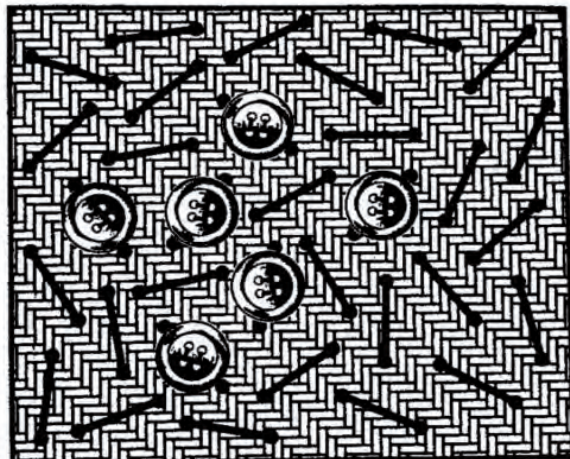
Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

You rule

How long is each ruler in inches (the larger numbers)?

A ___ B ___ C ___

Last Week's Solution Button, button



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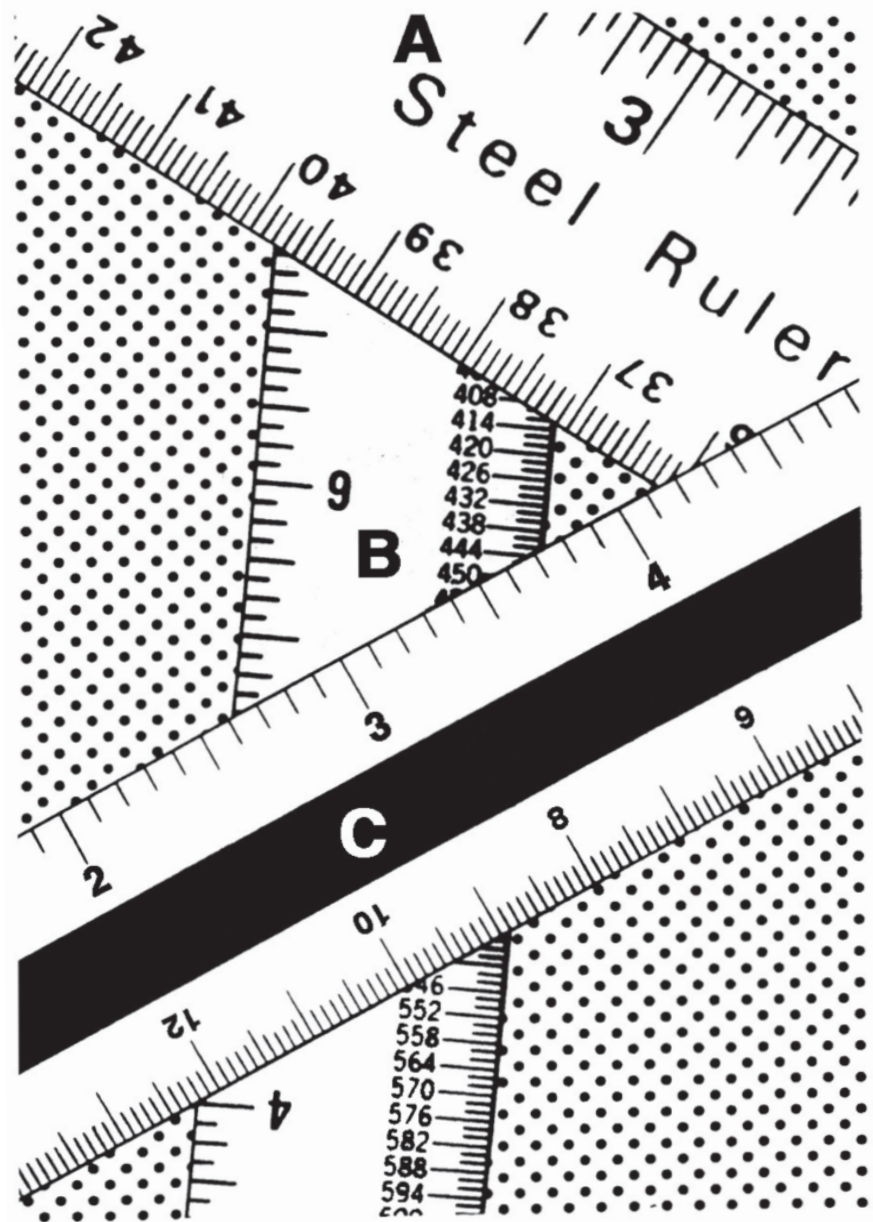
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John Strauch, San Diego, 3.
Michael Fry, Poway, 1.

Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____



**Check Engine Light
Diagnostic Service
\$25 Off**

*Perform scan test and retrieve codes
*Provide the cause of a system(s) failure and a corrective action plan.
*Repairs, monitor drive cycles and additional test at additional cost.

**Smog Check
\$15 Off**

*Cars, light truck and Diesel. (Plus \$8.25 for certificate)
*Motorhome & full size Van: See manager.

**Oil Change Service
from \$15⁹⁵**

*Recommended every 3 months/ 3000 - 7500 miles. Service includes up to 5 quarts multi grade 10w30 motor oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.

*Vehicles requiring 5w20 or 5w30 are \$19.95

*canister filters and synthetic oil @ additional cost.

**A/C system \$79⁹⁵
Recharge**

*includes system evaluation, evacuation, 15 minute vacuum hold test and recharge to specification

*134a Freon additional *additional repairs maybe required for proper system operation, leak detection and diagnostic service available at additional cost

Brake Service \$30 Off
per axle.

*Life time Brakes Available

*We do not advertise brake coupon prices because every vehicles requirements are vehicle specific.

**2 Wheel Alignment
\$49⁹⁵**

*includes toe adjustment of the front axle *4 wheel alignment \$20.00 additional cost, includes toe adjustment of front and rear axles. *camber, caster adjustment at additional cost. See consultant for details.



**Precision
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7 DAYS
A WEEK**

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/Pt. Loma**

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WARRANTY**

El Cajon

STAR Certified



**12/12
WARRANTY**

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Discounts off regular price, At participating location. Not valid with other offers. Other restrictions may apply, see manager for details. Coupons must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offer or discount or for prior service. All coupons expire 3/22/18.

OIL CHANGE \$14.95
Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts most cars 10w/30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl.

SMOG CHECK \$11.75
Sedan only, NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only, SUV and Trucks extra. +18" cert +11" DMV transfer fee

BRAKES \$49
Front or rear
*Plus Labor. Prices may vary depending on make and model.

30K 60K 90K \$65
Scheduled Services
*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

RADIATOR \$45
or Transmission Services
*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

TIMING BELT \$75
Parts & Labor
*Prices may vary depending on make and model.

STARTERS, RADIATORS, OR ALTERNATORS \$95
Plus labor.
most cars. 4 cyl.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT
96 and up.

We'll beat any price!

B.T. Auto Wrench
Walk ins welcome. No appointment necessary!
8027 BALBOA AVE. #B&C
1-858-565-4634

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!
SMOG CHECK \$11.75
Most cars. Vans, trucks, & European cars \$10 extra. 2000 & up. + \$8.25 Cert.

BRAKES \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor
FREE Shuttle Service w/ repair

OIL CHANGE & FILTER \$13.95
Up to 5 qts., new filter, 10 point checkout. +\$1.00 Waste Fee.

TIMING BELT \$75
Starting price, Labor + Parts.

COMPUTER DIAGNOSIS \$30
Service engine soon light, check engine light, hesitation, hard starting, running rough, poor gas mileage, dead battery...

AXLE SPECIAL \$99
Includes Parts & Labor

MUFFLER \$29
From + labor

PREMIUM SHOCKS \$70
From Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

PREMIUM STRUTS \$130
From Monroe or KYB + Labor per pair

STARTERS OR ALTERNATOR \$95
From + Labor
*Prices may vary depending on make, model & condition
*Must present this ad at time of service for discounted pricing

Brandon Auto
6670 Miramar Rd. # C
San Diego, CA 92121-2559
858-452-9999

LETTERS

continued from page 4

that my family and I hike every weekend, with trash bag in hand, along with dozens of other City Heights folks who run the CanyonLands project.

My favorite part of City Heights is that it takes someone with a real interest in the community to unlock the community. Otherwise how would you know about the amazing tamales and arroz con leche on 41st? Or Burly & the Bean? Or the wild tomatoes in Swan Canyon?

You wouldn't. If you didn't ask the right question, you'd miss it.

Jarod
City Heights

The storyline is regrettably familiar

Dear Reader,

Three weeks ago you ran an

article about a young woman accusing a pastor of rape ["Pastor accused of sexual healing," News Ticker, February 1].

The article has caused quite a stir in the small circles in which we live. We thank the Reader for running the piece and for giving a platform to a woman whose voice needs to be heard.

Our hearts and spirits are crushed by the news. The storyline is regrettably familiar. It makes perfect sense why people would say they never want to step foot in a church

again. We felt the same way. Silence of church leaders to such violations within the church is shameful. Any shaming of victims must be stopped.

This is not just the failure of one person; it is the consequence of a broken system. We are part of a broken system, part of the problem, when our silence leaves victims standing alone. We are part of the problem when we don't demand accountability from those in power. We are part of the problem when we don't use whatever influence we might have

to challenge leaders who are coercive, change systems that are abusive, and contribute to causes that are redemptive. We grieve for and with all victims.

This particular victim has been courageous and strong. She has inspired us to seek the same courage and strength so that we might be agents of change in our circles of influence.

Selden Dee Kelley III,
Melissa Tucker, Matt Wilson:
Pastoral Staff of San Diego
First Church of the Nazarene
Point Loma

Top Quality Cannabis with Top Quality Service
RAMONA'S FIRST LICENSED MEDICAL DISPENSARY
SERVING RAMONA, POWAY, JULIAN AND THE BACKCOUNTRY

FIRST TIME PATIENT
5 Gram 1/8th for 1 cent
With Any Donation

\$100 OUNCE SPECIAL

\$20 OFF
Your \$40 Minimum Donation with this coupon

Huge Selection of Flower • Knowledgeable & Friendly Staff to assist you
No Medical Rec? No Problem! Get your Rec IN-House today for FREE!
(*Requires debit card, Reimbursed in Bud Room)

(760) 687-9700 736 Montecito Way
OPEN DAILY FROM 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Ramona, CA 92065

Window Tint \$98
Tint removal from \$29. **COMPUTER CUT** Any shade, up to 5 rear windows.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION
Pads & Labor From \$78

FREE SHOCKS & STRUTS
BUY 2, GET 2 FREE
Most Cars

ELECTRICAL REPAIR
Power windows, door locks, automotive control modules: BCM, ECM, PCM, TCM.

FREE Check Engine Light Diagnostic

QwikAutoCenter.com 858-256-7977
2707 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach 92109
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm *Must present ad prior to purchase. Installation required
Pictures are for illustration only. Some cars require extra parts and labor at additional cost. Must present coupon at participating locations. Most cars. Prices subject to change without notice.

WINTER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$21.75*
AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49
Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks. + \$8.25 cert

Smog Test or **STAR Certified** All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through March 31, 2018.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41.75
+ \$8.25 cert. Most vehicles. Trucks, vans & European cars extra. Must bring DMV renewal notice Limited time offer. Cars 1999 and older

OIL CHANGE & OIL FILTER \$24.95
from
Up to 5 qts. oil. Most vehicles to 1995. Limited time offer.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(both locations)

FREE EXHAUST INSPECTION & ESTIMATE
(Cliff Brown location)

ENGINE STEAM CLEAN \$69.95
Most vehicles. With ad. Limited time offer.

30,000-MILE SERVICE SPECIAL
from \$179.95 4-cyl. Most vehicles.
Service includes: • Maintenance tune-up
Oil and filter change • Lube chassis
Radiator coolant change
Air filter replacement • Fuel injection cleaning
Check brakes, suspension

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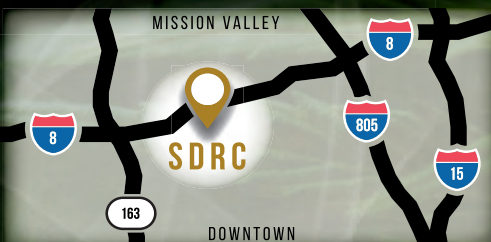
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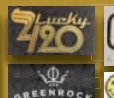
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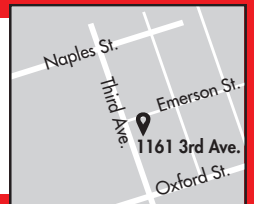
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