

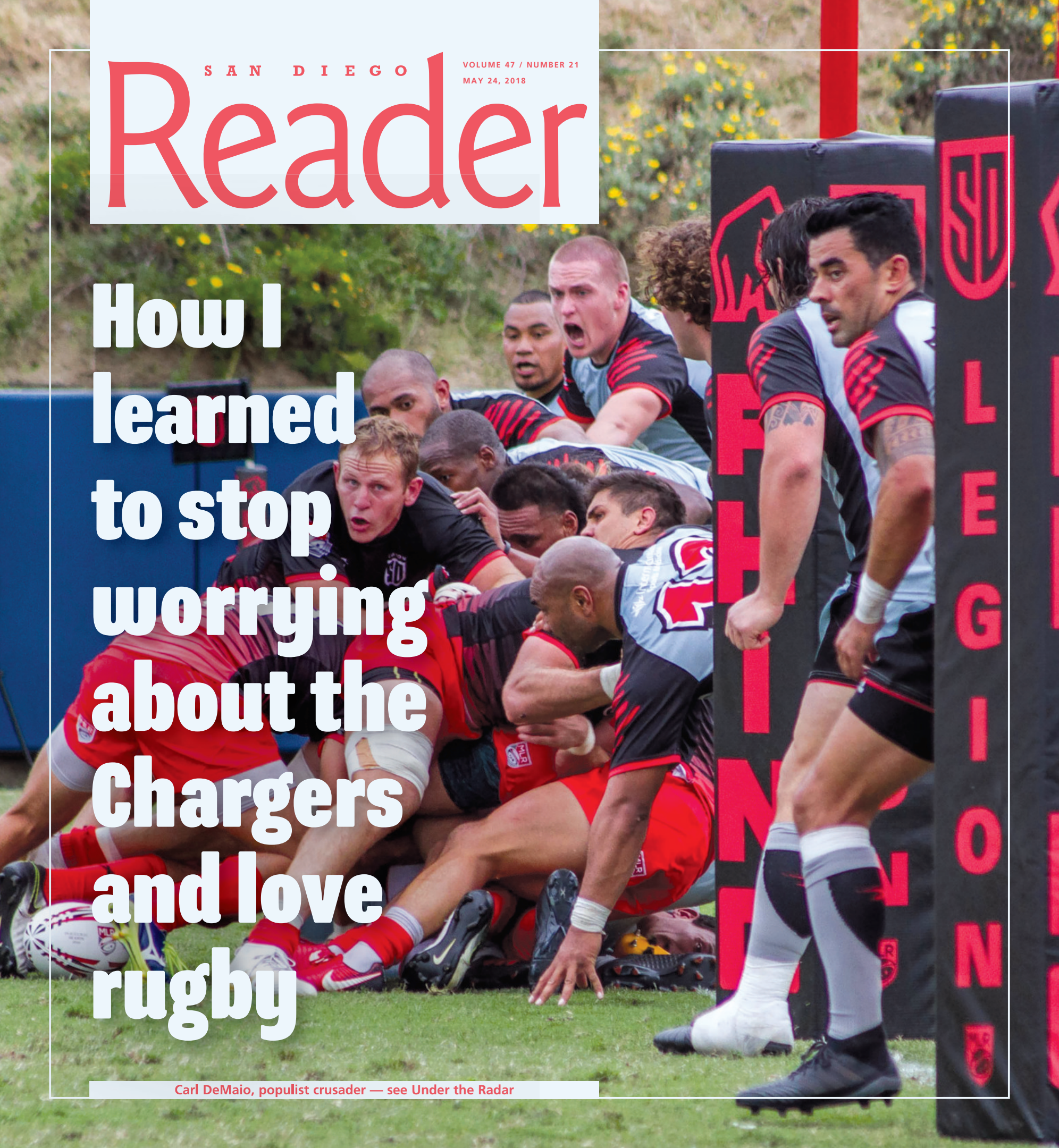
SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 47 / NUMBER 21
MAY 24, 2018

Reader

How I
learned
to stop
worrying
about the
Chargers
and love
rugby

Carl DeMaio, populist crusader — see Under the Radar



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PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUÁREZ

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Chargettes charged unfairly?

Cheerleaders urged to be sexy, then fired for same

According to *ESPN.com*, the Chargers' cheerleaders of the late 1970s got double-crossed. *Sidelined*, a movie about the episode, was shown late last month at the Tribeca Film Festival. The gist of the film is that the Chargers cheerleaders, then called *Chargettes*, were recruited on the basis of sex appeal, then thrown under the bus when they posed for *Playboy*.

The cheerleaders were expected to display their sex appeal when they tried out for the job, according to the film. Indeed, they were told so by letter. *Playboy* visited a practice. Many of the cheerleaders were



"The players gotta wear helmets, and the cheerleaders gotta wear shirts. Them's the rules."

persuaded to pose nude, or close to it. *Playboy* offered \$500 for posing topless and up to \$1500 for posing in the nude.

Although the team had told young women they should show their sex at tryouts, the Chargers fired the whole squad before the *Playboy* issue came out.

Don Bauder

Reader's HELL.A. writer enters eternity

Adam Parfrey wrote from LA but also covered San Diego

"Upsetting people is a beautiful thing," Adam Parfrey once told the *Los Angeles Times*, "because it gets people to think beyond their last visit to 7-Eleven."

Between New York and his final residence in Port Townsend, Washington, Parfrey lived in Los Angeles in the early nineties, where he ran the alternative publishing venture *Feral House*. Offerings included *Nightmare of Ecstasy: The Life and Art of Edward D. Wood, Jr.*, which served as the basis for Tim

Burton's 1994 film *Ed Wood*. While there, he penned a weekly column for the *San Diego Reader* — *HELL.A.: Places of Magic and Wonder in Smogland* — from 1991 through 1995. He skewered smothering smog and



Adam Parfrey, author, publisher, *Reader* writer. *Requiescat in pace.*

crippling traffic, trendiness and fashion obsession, and a culture of celebrity worship.

Parfrey also wrote longer *Reader* stories, including an account of the battle between Walter Keane and his ex-wife Margaret over who was the true creator of the "Big Eyes" portraits that had made Keane a world famous artist. (A jury had just sided with Margaret.) The topic would form fodder for a Tim Burton film in 2014, *Big Eyes*, 22 years after Parfrey broached the subject. He told the story of Budd Boetticher, a Western film director who retired from Hollywood to Ramona. He documented El Cajon's Unarius Academy of Science, the group awaiting the arrival of interplanetary beings in Jamul. He contributed to a picture of San Diego's noir locations and an interview with an Escondido woman obsessed with the last girlfriend of Elvis Presley.

Adam Parfrey died last Thursday, May 10 due to complications from strokes at an assisted care facility. He was 61 years old.

Dave Rice

GEO's plan for homeless mitigation

For private prison, people = profits

Thus far short of sufficient cash to pay the seven-figure price of the average San Diego initiative drive, the group seeking to raise



Here to help- GEO crew at U.S. Marshall's office in downtown San Diego

the city's hotel tax to fund a convention center expansion and accompanying homeless mitigation has tapped a controversial pri-

continued on page 26

Despite Jack in the Box's hypnotic tacos

It can't run Mexican restaurants, says Wall Street

By Don Bauder

Since its founding in San Diego in 1951, Jack in the Box has sold tacos. Indeed, the Jack taco has consistently been the chain's most popular product, even though one customer tweeted that it was a "wet envelope of cat food." The *Wall Street Journal* quoted a customer saying of Jack tacos: "There are two kinds of people: those

hamburger chain. Jack bought it for \$45 million in 2003. From \$45 million in 2003 to \$305 million in 2018 appears to be a good return. In 2003, Qdoba had 85 locations in 16 states, with revenues of \$65 million. When the sale was announced late last year, Qdoba was the second-largest Mexican fast-casual chain, with more than 700

stores open at least a year) declined 3 percent. Restaurant traffic dropped off, although price increases were successful and catering returns rose. This happened during a period in which fast-food chains generally were having troubles with higher wages and a declining demand for fast-food options. Even Chipotle, the Mexican chain that stormed



First Jack in the Box on 63rd and El Cajon Boulevard.

who think they're disgusting and those who agree they're disgusting but are powerless to resist them."

Despite its hypnotic taco, the company can't seem to run a Mexican restaurant — at least not to Wall Street's satisfaction. On March 21, Jack completed the sale of its Qdoba chain of Mexican restaurants to Apollo Global Management, a private equity buyout firm. The deal was for \$305 million in cash, with Jack making a prepayment of \$260 million to retire debt.

On the surface, it would appear that Qdoba had done reasonably well under Jack, the fast-food

locations in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada and with system-wide sales of \$820 million. That is good growth.

But then there are Wall Street and its "activist investors." These are money changers in the temple who believe they know more about running a business — any business — than executives who have been at it for many decades. It matters not if the business is a steel mill, brothel, candy store, tire manufacturer: Wall Street thinks it knows the business best.

In 2016 and 2017, Qdoba had problems. In 2017, its same-store sales (sales in

to the head of the pack and became a Wall Street darling, ran into troubles: a norovirus outbreak, a huge data hack, lawsuits, and Wall Street sniping.

Then came the Wall Street attack on Qdoba: Two activist funds bought significant stakes in the company: hedge funds Jana Partners and Starboard Value. The former, which earlier had tried to get Qualcomm to break itself up, had lost more than half its assets in two years as its performance waned. Starboard had taken over the restaurant chain Olive Garden, complaining that its pasta lacked saltiness. Starboard



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY BOND

“Wet envelopes of cat food.”

ousted the entire board of the parent company, Darden Restaurants.

Jack stock was weakening at the time this was going on. Management said that it might not be wise to run two different kinds of businesses: fast-food outlets and sit-down restaurants. But the stock bounced up on the revelation that Jana and Starboard were lurking. Wall Street is all about stocks going up. It doesn't care if top management is all thumbs or the books are being cooked. It just wants rising stocks.

Then Jack hired a Wall Street firm, Morgan Stanley, to study what it should do with Qdoba. The outcome of the so-called study was foreordained: Morgan Stanley would recommend a sale of Qdoba. It did. Jack wrote down the value of Qdoba by \$3.6 million. The sale was set up and reported to the media. No one was surprised when Reuters wrote, “Morgan Stanley & Co. L.L.C. is serving as financial adviser” on the deal. Hmmm.

Now for the bad — but totally unconfirmed — word. The publication *thestreet.com* said back in December that “it is also a serious possibility that Jana Partners and Starboard will stick around to try and pressure Jack in the Box to sell itself to a private equity

firm once the Qdoba sale is complete. A number of fast-casual chain restaurants have come under pressure by activists to sell themselves.” I couldn't get anything out of Jack on that.

Jack's previous stab at Mexican restaurants was a disaster. In 1968, founder Robert Peterson sold the company to Ralston Purina. But Jack's management was unhappy, and in 1985 the company piled up \$381 million of low-quality (junk) debt to buy itself back from Ralston.

Three years later, Jack bought Chi-Chi's, a Louisville-based Mexican chain for \$230 million. The rationale was that Jack was a fast-

of the company's strategy to sell Qdoba now.

To buy Chi-Chi's, Jack had to take on even more junk debt on its balance sheet. I can remember Jack Goodall, then Jack's chief executive, telling me he was conservative and disliked debt, but he thought Chi-Chi's was such a prize that it would throw off a bundle of cash to help work off the debt.

But then things turned south, and not south of the border. Studies came out that Mexican food was very fatty and a health risk. Chi-Chi's lost money before taxes between 1991 and 1993. Management admitted it wasn't keep-



SER AMANTIO DI NICOLAIO VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Interior of a Qdoba restaurant. Jack in the Box has sold the chain of Mexican-food restaurants.

food outfit and Chi-Chi's featured sit-down restaurants. That was supposed to be intelligent diversification, but as you have probably noticed, it is the opposite

ing up with consumer taste changes. Jack, which had almost gone bankrupt because of the deadly *E. coli* outbreak in 1993,

continued on page 26

UNDER THE RADAR

Gassed-up recall San Diego's **Toni Atkins**, leader of the state senate, has been digging deep into one of her campaign kitties in a rough-and-tumble effort to save the seat of fellow senate Democrat **Josh Newman** of Orange County. Republican **Carl DeMaio**, a former San Diego city councilman, now a radio talk show host, targeted Newman for recall last year after he voted for the bill to raise state gasoline taxes, which DeMaio and backers have since successfully petitioned to put before voters. The Newman recall vote qualified for the ballot last autumn but was delayed until next month's election after Gov. **Jerry Brown** and legislative Democrats wrangled new rules requiring more time to certify recall signatures.

On May 15 the Toni Atkins Ballot Measure Committee delivered \$100,000 to Newman's anti-recall committee. State disclosure records show that the Atkins ballot measure fund has been extra busy collecting special interest cash this spring to pay for her agenda, including \$10,000 from soda pop giant PepsiCo, lobbying hard against laws to limit so-called sugary drinks. Eyeglass giant National Vision, Inc., came up with \$16,200 in January. Motor Vehicle Software Corp, which sells electronic vehicle registration and titling services and has been a major legislative favor seeker, has given \$30,000 since February.

Unbecoming conduct A high-ranking nurse at the Navy's Balboa Park hospital has been found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and forgery, among other charges, per March trial results posted online by the Judge Advocate General's Corps. “At a Special Court-Martial in San Diego, California, LT **Mary A. Redden**, NC, USN,” was tried and received a verdict of

guilty for one specification of false official statement, two specifications of forgery, and one specification of conduct unbecoming of an officer and sentenced... to a reprimand and to forfeit \$2,398 per month for 3 months.” No other details were immediately available. In September 2015, the Navy Medical Center gave Redden its Good Catch of the Week award, per a write-up on its Facebook page. Recognizing that a trainee “had symptoms consistent with necrotizing fasciitis, she coordi-

nated efforts to ensure the trainee sought emergent care and was admitted for further management.”

X-ray exposé Overcharges, unprotected health records, and out-of-date pharmacy tracking are but three of the many issues plaguing the student health services department at Cal State San Marcos. According to a May 15 audit report by the California State University System, the school “was not providing onsite X-ray services but had a contract with an offsite third-party vendor for these services, [which] incorrectly charged students an additional fee for basic diagnostic X-ray service.” Per the audit, X-rays are “a basic health service that is already included in the mandatory student health fee.” Auditors also discovered that “oversight responsibilities in the sports medicine program needed improvement, primarily with

regard to security, credential review of volunteer community medical providers, and general administrative requirements. Further, the campus did not always enforce registration holds to ensure compliance with campus student immunization requirement policies and procedures.”

Among other problems, “the current pharmacy management system is outdated and unable to maintain a current inventory count. According to campus staff, the university is in the process of implementing an improved pharmacy management system that will be able to maintain a perpetual inventory, among other things.” Additionally, “medical records were stored in an unlocked cabinet inside the sports office, which was accessible to athletic directors and manage-



Josh Newman shouldn't be smiling.
Carl DeMaio wants his head.

CREATIVE COMMONS (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



Mary Redden went getting Balboa Navy hospital's Good Catch of the Week to getting caught for forgery, making false statements, and conduct unbecoming an officer.

ment, who had a key to the office, and the cabinet key was not always properly secured.”

— Matt Potter (@sdmattpotter)

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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. Include your name and neighborhood. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Got your goat, and sheep
In the last 3 times of the articles of “Sheep and Goats” it seems that you are getting into the religious cultic things that are all fiercely anti-Christ in the way it is reported. For example.....

The new age/new thought organization is a dangerous cult and pushes and keeps out GOD through and through and its all in denying the living lord by the way the man in it told about it.

The Buddhists in the previous weeks Reader are nothing more than spiritually dead people and the Holy Bible says that without God you are nothing at all and Jesus Christ said without me you can't do anything and they all think that these gods reside up in the realms of heaven as they claim. Uggghh NO! In heaven there is no other gods but the Lord God period and the truths be told about this in clear details as it is read and seen too.

John Jusko
Ocean Beach

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

City Heights' freeway-friendly bus stop
Cover Stories
May 2

In some ways it is good. But the Clairemont/Kearny Mesa area routes need to be overhauled. The Clairemont/Kearny Mesa has no less than 10 routes. The ironic thing this area probably has one of the highest density of workers

yet the worst bus service. One top of all this the MTS is spending \$2.4 billion to extend blue line trolley to Sorrento valley. The trolley expansion by UCSD looks like a massive freeway interchange system. The worst part is that the MTS now claims they are short of money and are cutting back the bus service and routes. This is what happens when the politicians get hold of our tax dollars.

— Shimizu Randall

Charettes urged to be sexy
News Ticker
May 14

I remember listening to “Buckets of Money” Ray Lucia on the radio when his daughter came into the studio to ask him for money. She was a cheerleader with the Chargers. 2000 ish? And she had no money to fill up her empty tank so she had to walk to the studio to ask Dad for cash. Luckily the Chargers training facility and KOGO's studios were (are?) pretty close together near Aero Drive. And Ray, or his on-air buddy, said “pretty girl but not good with money”. I remember thinking, wow if he can't get his daughter to follow his strategy, how can he teach me? Later, through the Chargers she met and married our hometown-pick-up-football-hero-while-on-injured-reserve Ryan Leaf. And even though Ray brought him on the radio, Ryan too appeared to be immune to the Lucia financial coaching charm.

— daveabb94

Cursed Encinitas bluff
Neighborhood News
May 14

Yep, the insane radical environmentalists are out in force to stop a capitalist venture. Despite environmentalists screaming that they protesting to save a gnat. Their true purpose is to mandate a Marxist agenda. What's amazing is that local politicians agree with them.

— Clive Peters

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers

NORTH PARK

Willing to take the RISK Where University met F Street and Tobacco Rhoda's

While the commercial area of University Avenue on both sides of 30th Street has prospered over the past several years, the west end of North Park has not. University Avenue from Florida Street to Arizona Avenue in North Park has long been sketchy.

Until it was finally sold, F Street adult video at the corner of University and Florida reigned as the street's king of sleaze. That building, at 2004 University, later became the General Store North Park, plus offices and apartments. Then the store closed for renovations, and the building underwent a rainbow-like paint job by an internationally established street artist named RISK. While the store will still sell consumer clothes including Levis, it will concentrate now on chef wear and work wear, and plans to offer cooking classes using its newly built kitchen. Owner Kenneth Yufe said in a statement that "we know retail is changing."

Several old houses are used as small businesses along this corridor, and might be considered ripe for a tear-down: Jack's Mufflers on University between Mississippi and Alabama and A to Z Handyman next door. Another house on University between Mississippi and Louisiana, which Pleasures & Treasures once occupied, had reverted to being a residential house. (Pleasures & Treasures moved to a larger space at 2525 University Avenue between Arizona and Arnold.) But this May, the dated wooden house again became a business, a MetroPCS phone store. With minimal parking, it seems an iffy location for that sort of business. Just east of that house, a palm-reading business located in a house at on University Avenue (across from Jack's Mufflers) for the past 40 years, continues to cater to a niche clientele.

Louisiana Purchase, a bar/restaurant from Grind and Prosper Hospitality, will soon open on the ground floor of The Louisiana apartments at University and Louisiana Street. As a gourmet himself, Thomas Jefferson might have approved of this second Louisiana Purchase. The restaurant will offer New Orleans cuisine and a full bar, in a woody and plant-rich environment. Architect Jeff Svitak said the eatery "should be ready end of August/September, I believe." Svitak added



Will the RISK-y rainbow lead to a pot of gentrified gold?

that the Louisiana lofts "are all leased." Existing ground floor businesses there are The Wineding Shoe — a Salon & Lounge, and Fivespace, which offers old vinyl records/cassettes and vintage clothing. Rachel Cohen, co-owner with husband of Fivespace, said that their "move down the block [from near Carnitas Snack Shack] has helped us reach a more diverse group of customers." She added: "We are excited for the improvements that are taking place on our block, and we look forward to seeing the corridor that connects North Park and Hillcrest thrive."

Angela Landsberg, executive director of North Park Main Street, a business improvement district, is bullish, "Within the next six to eight months, there's going to be a lot happening there." Landsberg said the former dive bar Tobacco Rhoda's space will become a restaurant at the corner of Villa Terrace and University. The infamous bar was closed in June 2016, pleasing local businesses who were fed up with crime there. Landsberg stated there's considerable interest, but property owners are demanding "top dollar" to sell out.

DAVID BATTERSON

MISSION VALLEY

Lowkey LoJack Mother's Day malgoers unmolested during vehicle recovery

At about 5:20 p.m., on Mothers Day, May 13, four San Diego Police Department patrol vehicles pulled up in front of Michael's at the Westfield Mission Valley mall. The police officers exited their vehicles, passed Michael's on the left and Starbucks on the right, then proceeded into the mall. One officer stayed back by the patrol cars, and couldn't say what was going on. Via email, police spokesman Joshua Hodge explained what was happening: "It was a LoJack stolen vehicle [that] was located [there]," he said. (LoJack is a battery-operated tracer that can, if a car is within the LoJack coverage area, respond to radio signals sent by law enforcement.)

"All the mothers and their kids were calm," said "Jane," a Michael's employee. "I thought their K9s were barking at me (from inside the vehicles) and then I saw a

lil' chihuahua and the owner walk by. While the policemen looked for the suspect in our store, I was helping one of the mothers with a handprint keepsake set."

At Starbucks, across the way, I noticed two women sipping on their drinks and pointing at the patrol cars. "Let's go that way," said one of them as they scuffled the opposite direction



Cops amid the shops in Mission Valley Center

towards Macy's. "I had to remain calm," said a male barista manning the counter. "I was contemplating locking up, but I didn't want my customers to panic." There were a handful of shoppers sitting on the benches and tables in between Nordstrom's and Michael's who didn't seem concerned by the police presence.

Hodge said "No one was taken into custody [and] the vehicle was recovered."

In 2017, California was listed as the top state for recovered vehicles using the \$695-\$995 LoJack systems.

MIKE MADRIAGA

ENCINITAS

Was bluff builder bluffing? Or does "single-residence" = "senior care"?

Early last fall, a developer named Weston Harmer hosted a meet-and-greet with neighbors who live adjacent to a bluff known as The Gateway to Encinitas. The property is just south of La Costa Avenue and to the east of Interstate 5. The nearby communities had received mailers for the event. Harmer set

up on the bluff with a catering truck and some drinks. "A lot of people did show up because something didn't seem right," resident Jason Riggs explained. "No one was eating his food. No one was drinking his drinks. He was basically saying, 'We're gonna develop this.' I asked him, very specifically, 'What are you going to

build?' He said, '21 single-family homes.' There was no fault in his message at that time. That's what he wanted to build. He looked everybody in the eye and said that."

According to a letter of opposition authored by the local non-profit Save Our Bluffs, "Mr. Harmer met with the City of Encinitas on May 10, 2017 regarding their

plan to build 21 two (2) story residential homes with a clubhouse and swimming pool." It continued, "On May 22, 2017, a press release from SLIG (Strategic Legacy Investment Group) indicated that W. Designed Developments and the newly formed Strategic Legacy Realty San Diego, a subsidiary of SLIG, are planning to develop this prominent 'La Costa neighborhood' land, as well as one in Vista, with the intention of building 'assisted living and memory

care' homes. In 2015, according to public records, Mr. Harmer proposed a similar type development in Carlsbad, described as a plan for senior care facilities — homes with up to six (6) bedrooms each — to be considered as single family residential homes. The Carlsbad

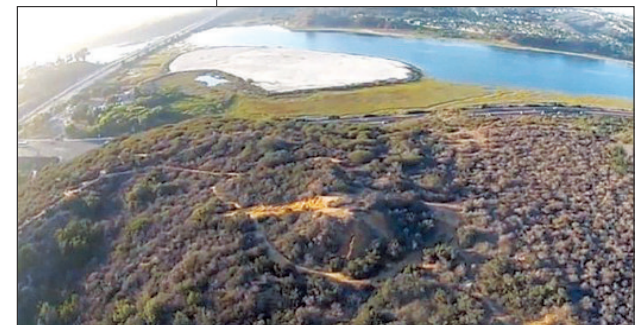


PHOTO CREDIT: SAVE OUR BLUFFS

Will memory care turn the Gateway into a memory?

Planning Commission denied the permits."

Besides the issue of whether or not a six-bedroom assisted-living facility can be considered a single-family home for zoning requirements, the land comes laden with environmental hurdles that must be overcome. "The bluff itself has the endangered gnatcatcher, for one," said Save Our Bluffs member Dolores Welty. "The gnatcatcher is embattled. They're always trying to pretend

continued on page 8

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that we don't have to save it here because they've got some in Mexico, but that's not the point, of course. The point is that the whole community on the bluff is endangered. It's protected because it's endangered." Besides the gnatcatchers, the bluff is home to coastal sage scrub (which is occupied by the gnatcatchers) and rare southern maritime chaparral and coastal flora. Add to this the fact that installing lawns, trees and other plants on the property could impact the stability of the bluff, since the water utilized to keep this vegetation alive could cause erosion.

The requirements (and the money required to deal with them) have stopped most developers in their tracks. According to Save Our Bluffs member Sheilo Locko, the developer of a proposed 2014 project gave up because it was not "economically feasible." In 1986, locals swayed the city into voting down a hotel proposed for the property.

Since 2014, Save Our Bluffs has partnered with the City Of Encinitas in an effort to buy the land themselves. Together, they got a 1.9 million dollar land grant to buy the property, and hired a land conservation broker to try to strike a deal. "Meanwhile, these guys came in from the back door and bought it at 5.9 million," Locko said.

Now the big question is: what happens if the project is shot down? "I definitely wonder what the endgame is," Riggs (a member of Save Our Bluffs) said. "Let's say they drain their resources, and they finally get to a point where they stop throwing good money after bad. I have to wonder how they spread those losses out among their investors." Riggs hopes that the developers "realize that developing on this is not going to be possible, for any number of reasons. That they realize the cost of developing on it will far outweigh anything their investors will tolerate, and they give us an opportunity to buy it and preserve it at a reasonable market rate. Then they at least recoup some of that money. I think cur-

rently that's in the 2-2.5 million dollar range, because you can't really develop on it."

DREW KELTZ

VARIOUS AND SUNDRY Dumping grounds What do City Heights and Point Loma have in common?

At about 1:30 am on Saturday, April 28th, Lizzie Rodriguez heard noises coming from outside her casita in Memorial Park. The next morning, she found an old couch and a bike dumped along the sidewalk of her street. For Rodriguez and her neighbors, waking up to illegal dumping is a weekly experience. Rodriguez, a loan officer at the nonprofit microlender Accion, explained, "People will just bring couches, bikes, refrigerators, ovens, building materials, all sorts of stuff, and just dump it here." She added that most dumping occurs in the middle of the night. "It's expensive to pay to get rid of stuff," she said, noting that communities experiencing illegal dumping tend to face challenges such as lack of transportation and inadequate education as to what resources exist for disposing of items. "You can sit in an office and you can have these meetings and come up with these awesome ideas, but something is happening between that and the ground. They're not connecting."

The San Diego Environmental Services Department is in charge of addressing illegal dumping complaints. Last year, they identified nine hotspots that tended to receive the largest volumes of trash: Point Loma, City Heights, Logan Heights, Paradise Hills, Ocean Beach, Mission and Pacific Beaches, Webster & Mt. Hope, San Ysidro and the South Bay. Mario Sierra, director of Environmental Services,

explained in an interview that back in May 2017, the the department launched a pilot program called Litter and Graffiti Abatement. The program cost \$800,000 and teamed up with the nonprofit Urban Corps of San Diego to increase trash removal. Instead of having



An alley in San Ysidro (but it could be Mission Beach)

collectors go out to hot spot areas only once to three times a week, the city had teams go out four or five times a week. They then tracked the volume of trash collected each month.



A popular Point Loma canyon dumping spot

"The objective was: if we take a pro-active approach, go out to these areas and remove any illegal dumping that's occurred, then we're going to remove unattractive nuisances

and people are going to be more reluctant to dump, knowing that it's being kept clean." However, Sierra said during the course of the pilot program the tonnages were going up. Over 80 percent of collected materials were large, bulky items.

In March 2018 Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced that the city was increasing the maximum fine for illegal dumping to \$1,000. Sierra supported the Mayor's initiative, saying, "Moving forward, we know that part of the solution is to hold people accountable... We need to catch them and make an example out of them to let people know you don't want to get caught doing this." But while the city receives many citizen complaints, when asked who might actually be doing the dumping, Sierra said it was probably a broad range. What's more, it's extremely difficult to catch someone in the act of illegal dumping. In order to issue a citation, citizens need to film or photograph the offender in the act, noting the street and either the name of the person or their vehicle license plate number.

Carlos Lacarra, community relations officer for the San Diego Police Department, explained in a phone interview, "The problem with illegal dumping is that it happens very quickly and then they're outta there. For the SDPD to issue a citation for illegal dumping, we would have to witness it as officers." Lacarra said in his 15 years with the SDPD Southern Division he's never heard of a citation for illegal dumping.

BARBARA ZARAGOZA

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The Stuff of Nightmares

— Frank Lyko is a biologist at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg with a narrow field of study: the marbled crayfish. But as Dr. Lyko and his colleagues report in a study published Feb. 5, there's more to the 6-inch crustacean than meets the eye. Until about 25 years ago, this species didn't exist, The New York Times explains. One single, drastic mutation created a whole new species of crayfish — one that could clone itself. Since then, it has spread across Europe and to other continents and threatened native varieties. The

eggs of the crayfish all produce females, which do not need to mate to produce more eggs. Dr. Lyko's DNA research offers new insights into why most animals have sex, because there are so few examples of sex-free species (they don't last long). He admits that the marbled crayfish may last only 100,000 years. "That would be a long time for me personally, but in evolution it would just be a blip on the radar," he said.

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Dear Hipster:

I have no opinion on the chicken song, but I sort of wonder, why doesn't the US have something like the Eurovision Song Contest?

— DENNY

Beats the heck outta me. I would love to see Alabama's contribution to a 50-state feel-good pop song throwdown. California could kick in the occasional gangsta rap-surf-punk-norteño fusion number. As for, say, Montana, I can't even... songs about buffalo? Whatever it is, I would eagerly tune in every year to see what kind of weirdness the several states produced. Of course, by "tune in" I mean "watch the recaps and read the angry online think pieces," but that's close enough for rock 'n' roll. Therein lies the problem. Anything a hipster like me would giggle over with ironic delight is virtually guaranteed to land far afield of mainstream American sensibilities.

Dear Hipster:

It seems like just last week the sun was below the horizon before I got out of work, but already the daylight stretches on late enough for me to catch a sunset patio drink even after a full day in the office. For my part, the arrival of the long days of summer is cause for celebration. I like the warmth, the endless sunlight, the beach days, the cookouts and yard parties, and pretty much anything there is to like about summer. On the other hand, I like the cool of winter (no need to pay for air conditioning but you still get to gloat at the



rest of the icy cold world), the substantial reduction in tourism, the improved surf, and the chance to catch up on much needed rest during the cool evenings with their early sunsets. Now, I idly wonder whether any particular season is the most hipster season, the "coolest" season, if you will. Enlighten us.

— ANNA

In a very general sense, most hipsters consider themselves above the plebeian changing of the seasons. At the very least, they dislike them all equally. Summer too hot, winter too cold, spring too springy, et cetera. Further, very few traditionally hipster pastimes and activities rely on any particular season. One can, for example, drink gallons of hoppy IPA in March just as well as December. Non-hipster stuff, on the other hand, can be very season-dependent, like how pumpkin spice lattes are only available in the fall, or how those sleepaway camps for adults are kind of a summer phenomenon.

As an aside, in case anyone thought "summer camp for grownups" sounds like a hipster thing to do, it totally isn't, at least not in practice. The adult summer camp scene usually involves lots of dance music, flip-cup games, and guys named "Bryson" with tribal tattoos. It's basic bro central.

The only real hipster consideration *vis-a-vis* the seasons is, when are there fewer tourists around? Hipsters take great pleasure in achieving status as "locals," whatever that means in 2018, when it seems like everybody lives everywhere, and the only thing locals agree on is how annoying tourists and other non-locals are. Thus, gathering with other hipsters to bemoan the ingress of tourists during the hot tourism season fills hipsters with a sense of smug superiority that almost looks like happiness if you kind of squint your eyes and shake your head back and forth.

— DJ Stevens



Eurovision chicken dance

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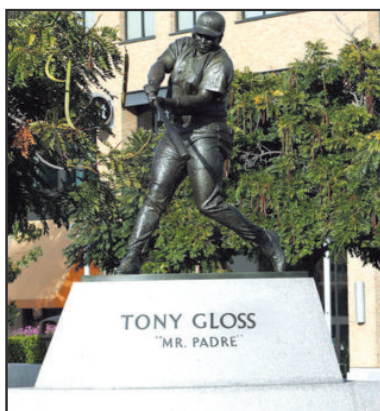
Your daughter, shielding her face from a peeping drone (shadow in upper left corner). "Soon, this sort of thing will be a thing of the past," says Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao. "The San Diego experimental program will relax restrictions on things like flight elevation. Going forward, this young lady will have no idea she's being filmed, because the drone will be far too high in the sky for her to see. That's what we mean by integration into the community: what you can't see can't upset you."



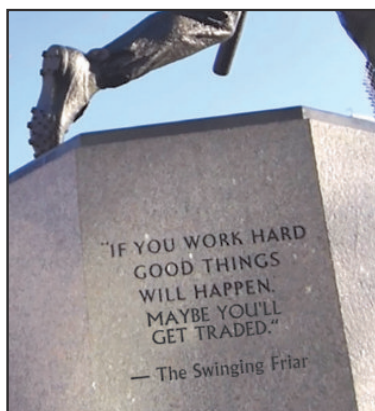
Your scalp, as seen from space by a ML-116 Google Drone. "You really should do something about your dandruff," says Secretary Chao. "And now that the Google Drone knows that, it can make sure that you are presented with the appropriate advertising during your daily online experience. Heck, it can even partner with an Amazon Drone to bring some Head & Shoulders right into your shower! Truly, we live in an age of wonder."

Win/Loss, Gwynn/Gloss

Tony Gwynn statue at Petco Park altered; management promises to investigate "with all the skill and determination that the team has been showing on the field this season."



What's in a name? "Some people are calling it an act of vandalism that dishonors the memory of a champion," says Padres General Manager B.J. Stellar. "But it's important not to get caught up in outrage, because outrage tends to blur one's judgment. For instance, it's important to remember that Tony Gwynn never actually won a World Series, so 'champion' is a bit of an overstatement. 'Regional champion,' would be better, but that doesn't deliver quite the same frisson, does it? As for the charge of dishonoring his memory, I'd be inclined to argue that the players on the field have done a better job of that over the past decade or so than any so-called 'vandal.'"



"Maybe we've got our own version of the Curse of the Bambino," says Manager Sandy Spleen. "The Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees and then went 86 years without a title. We traded [Hall of Fame shortstop] Ozzie Smith to St. Louis in '81. Of course, we've never won any titles, but it's more than that: we keep trading away talent. Stellar's 2015 frenzy was just a recent notable example, not really an aberration. So while I'm a little sad to see Charles Gwynn Senior's name disappear from the pedestal, I have a hard time arguing with the tweaked sentiment expressed by the Swinging Friar. It's gotten to the point where the coaches refer to me as Mama Bird — I get players ready to leave the nest, and then off they go."



Grimace and bear it. "What really has folks baffled," says San Diego Vandalism Detective Ray Spaint, "is exactly how they altered Gwynn's face from the serene countenance of a great batter in mid-swing to the pained expression of a former titan hobbled by injury and worn down by disappointment. This isn't some low-grade crank we're dealing with here. This is a true disgruntled fan. Someone who knew what it took to get the job done and went out and acquired the tools and the talent to make it happen. Maybe they should give him a job in the front office — whoever he is."

DATFIGHT!

Candidates for San Diego District Attorney have increasingly heated exchange during debate in Golden Hall

Interim DA Summer Stephan: "People should rise through their chain from deputy public defender to becoming a trusted team leader and making reforms that way, rather than really what is the Kardashian effect of, 'I can jump and be anybody even if I haven't paid any dues.'"

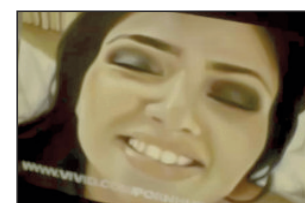
Public Defender Geneviève Jones-Wright: "It is completely demeaning and is utterly appalling that another professional woman who professes to stand with women would compare another professional woman to a person who leaked a sex tape."



Geneviève Jones-Wright, a public defender going for choke against interim DA Summer Stephan

Stephan: "It is both horrifically shocking and thoroughly regressive that a professional woman who professes to stand with women would denigrate another professional woman — a multi-millionaire, media giant, and savvy business owner — through cheap slut-shaming. Frankly, it's an insult to sex workers everywhere."

Jones-Wright: "It is gobsmackingly pig-ignorant and indubitably callous for a professional woman who professes to stand with women to compare the plight of often-entrapped sex workers — real professional women — to the calculated release of a salacious video by a privileged star-chaser."



Screen cap of a painting of a still from Ms. Kardashian's sex tape by Allie and Lexi Kaplan, created as part of their 2016 LA gallery show "Make Me Famous"

Stephan: "It is breathtakingly vicious and heart-breakingly selfish for a profess... At this point, the audio amplification in Golden Hall failed, possibly because a power cord had become entangled in the flailing mortal combat between the two candidates. As of press time, Kim Kardashian had not replied to a request for comment."

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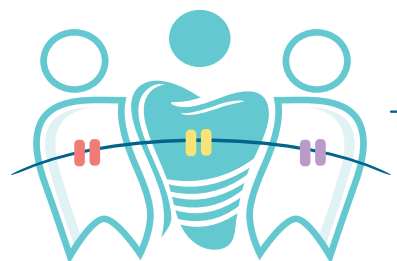
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PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSH GROOM

Chewbacca steps up

The funny familiar

Pulitzer-nominated political cartoonist Jeff Danziger once wrote that he wanted his panels to work like an icicle slipped down your back — funny in a way, but also discomfiting. Laughter tinged with the twinge that follows discovery: *Oh my, I hadn't seen the Palestinian conflict that way.*

Russell Beattie also wants to make you laugh, and odds are, most folks haven't seen Darth Vader his way: gender-switched, poured into black vinyl, and dancing on stage as part of his *Star Wars*-themed burlesque *The Empire Strips Back* (arriving in San Diego on

black helmet!

"*Star Wars* is a great theme for parody within burlesque, because it's so well known," says Beattie. "The characters are so iconic and



PHOTOGRAPH BY LESLIE LIU PHOTOGRAPHY

Well, of course.

so ingrained in popular culture that they do the setup for us. We just have to bring the punchline. So we can gender-switch Darth Vader, but we keep all the character traits: the strength, the intimidation. Or we can subvert The Emperor by having him go into a *Silence of the Lambs* dance, get fully 'naked' in a prosthetic suit, and ride a Death Star mini-ball across the stage to Miley Cyrus' 'Wrecking Ball.' That works only if you know the character."

(That goes for the performer as well. "If the girls understand the character," says Beattie, "they know how to embody the character, and also how far they can push it to the left or right to get the desired effect: which is, for us, a bit of fun.")

But when you're working with the familiar, you risk ruining the joke if something is off. In the show's first iteration (wrought as a gag for a bar-sized venue), Beattie made the costumes himself, and even played Chewbacca. "You could get who the characters were, but

as soon as I started spending time and effort and money on getting the costume closer to what people expected, it just worked so much better." Eventually, he obtained a professional costume, but he still lacked Chewie's towering height. Stilts made the dancing awkward, "and that's what made Chewbacca so good, was the dancing." (Subversion again.) His current Chewbacca is a 7-foot professional hip-hop dancer, outfitted by the guy who made the Wookiee suits for the *Star Wars* prequels. "People aren't distracted by the costume now; they just see him as Chewbacca. And our R2D2 may be a very expensive and temperamental prop, but when people see R2D2 on my stage, it's the same for them as when it's in a film. It feels like an extension of that universe."

Wait: they made you a genuine Wookiee suit? "First they asked if I had the money. But a lot of them are big kids — *Star Wars* is the reason why a lot of them got into the business. So they get a kick out of it: 'I've always wanted to make an R2D2!' And then we started having fun with it. Our R2D2 has strobing disco lights, and he also makes it rain: he can shoot 100 one-dollar bills up into the air."

The Sartorial Scientist

There's an elevator at the Pendry hotel on Fifth that runs from the underground Oxford Social Club, with its \$1500 Saturday night bottle service, up to the ground-floor Lionfish restaurant, home to *Eater* "Top-50 Young Guns" Chef Jose Ruiz, and then up again to the rooftop pool, with its...*well, what?* "A lot of people were like, 'It's just the pool at the Pendry,' and it's not just that," says our hostess Beth. "We have a happy hour up here that's not just for our hotel guests; we're local-driven. We want everyone to feel welcome to come up here. And the chef from

Lionfish does the menu."

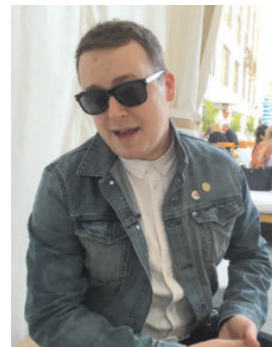
Tonight — a media night in May — that means bite-sized portions of four appetizers, including oysters in a very clever Mignonette (Chardonnay, shallots, and vinegar, left to sit until the vinegar is tangy but not sour). It also means journalist-sized portions of booze, a steady parade of plastic tumblers pinkly bearing the rooftop bar's Hot in Jalisco: blanco tequila, grenadine, grapefruit, and lime, with a habanero infusion to keep the palate awake and interested as the night wears on.

The Wife and I settle into a white canvas cabana to watch the world go by and discuss who wears what best. Eventually, the world stops in for a chat, in the form of Pearce Cleaveland, a Marketing Scientist for Clique Hospitality. (Clique has partnered with Pendry to operate the spots accessed by this particular elevator.)

Cleaveland has just finished a ten-year stint in Las Vegas, a place that, however lawless its reputation, still enforces certain standards. "There is a suit and tie for meetings in the day," he reports, "and a suit and tie for dinner, and a suit and tie for the night club" — a code oddly reminiscent of his days growing up in Atlanta, when "there was a suit for church, and a different church outfit for after."

The formality worked for him. "My great-grandfather was in the clothing business, and I've inherited a lot of stuff that's now completely trendy — the very skinny Mao-collared smoking jacket, the single-button tuxedo jacket, the three-button suit with the huge, wide lapels that is starting to come back." Not that he wears them much any more. "I have a closet full of suits, but a nice thing about San Diego is that you see a weird breadth of people: a

continued on page 61



Pearce Cleaveland



The pool at the Pendry, with happy hour revelers in background



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSH GROOM

R2D2 gets ready to make it rain

June 2nd for a one-night-only performance at Spreckels Theater downtown). But instead of an icicle, he's looking to draw guffaws from a warm bath of familiarity: *Hey, I recognize that*

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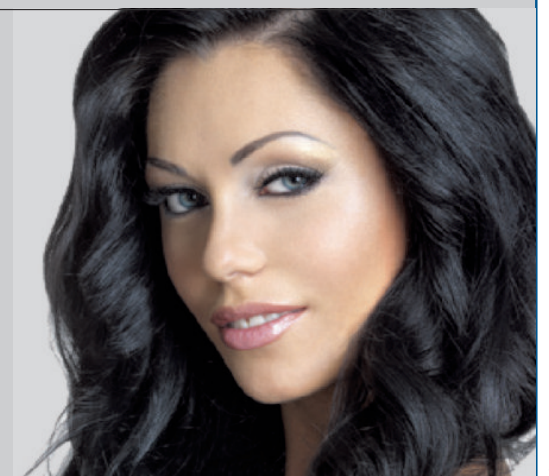
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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

Nestled into the side of Mt. Soledad about a half-mile from the coast in what listing materials describe as "the Hollywood Hills of La Jolla" sits the residence dubbed "Essencia." With six bedrooms and seven bathrooms spread across 9200 square feet of indoor living space, the 2006-built estate home "captures the stunning grandeur of modern organic architecture."

In addition to "280-degree unobstructed views of the coastline and the village of La Jolla,"



Essencia: for those who prefer their views of the La Jolla coastline unobstructed

the home features luxury amenities designed around the stylings of renowned British furniture designer Christopher Guy.

The "grand front entry" is appointed with "handcrafted, copper

clad doors" leading to a "dramatic split-level family room with sculpted ceiling," formal living room with a "handsome fireplace" (one of four throughout the estate), and a "gourmet center-

island kitchen with commercial grade appliances."

The master bedroom suite contains a 450-square-foot bedroom, private balcony, sitting area, and "spacious walk-in closets," which are also

advertised as a feature in each of the home's other five en-suite bedrooms.

Other rooms include an ocean-view dining room with seating for eight or more, a "distinctive wine cellar with integrated tasting alcove," and a "spectacular home theater with private balcony, game room, and wet bar." Luxury appointments include "state of the art, one-touch Crestron smart home automation systems," hand rails featuring custom lighting in stairwells, "low-profile, fully monitored security cameras throughout," ceilings with "soaring volumes and soffitted exotic wood" to go with eight-foot interior doors made of mahogany with "custom, inlaid glass panels," and a multi-zone climate control system with "hidden, in-wall sensors."

Bringing the outside in, "retractable curvilinear glass walls" open to the pool deck from many of the common rooms. There, visitors encounter a "rare, saltwater, vanishing-edge pool and spa with customized Spectra lighting" along with an outdoor kitchen with built-in barbecue facilities and a pool-side wet bar.

The listing plays up the involvement of Concepto Design Group International, billed as "an award-winning San Diego-based architecture, planning and development firm noted for its signature style of sweeping lines and flowing curves. The firm's approach to space design has been called 'evolutionary, organic architecture' by some of the industry's most prestigious critics, and has been featured

continued on page 61

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The quest for silky smooth legs

We Kellys are constantly running out of certain items, near-essentials of life: coffee, chocolate, toilet paper, and razors.

That last item is especially true, as the number of face and leg shavers in the house has climbed. Seems we're always running out of razors. Correction, there are plenty of them sitting around in the bathrooms, but nobody knows who used which to shave what. The last time I used one of these mystery razors, my legs ended up looking like I'd run through a mess of cactus. "Never again!" I vowed.

The experience made me recall my growing-up days, when my dad had a silver-colored razor that sat on the top shelf of his medicine cabinet. I can still feel the heavy weight of it in my hand as I sneakily used it to shave my legs. The cheap pink disposable razors my mom bought for us always left razor burn, but Dad's old school razor never did.

Dad's razor being unavailable now, I asked a few pals what razors they have good luck with. "Funny, I was just discussing this with someone else," offered Margaret. "I've only used lady razors a few times. Know what? They're not as good as my husband Pat's cast off razors. His triple-blade Gillette disposable-head razors he deems as too worn out for his face still have tons of use for my legs, and I rarely cut myself with them. Less money, less waste," she added. (Gillette Mach 3, base razor, \$8.79 at Walgreens)

"Silky smooth legs in the least amount of time possible and no nicks," offered Teresa. "This is what I'm looking for in a razor. I'll pay an extra few dollars for a razor that can keep up with my busy life without leaving my shower looking like a crime scene. Anyone else ever wonder how so much blood comes from such a little wound? I've spent hundreds of dollars experimenting with different razors, and here's what I've found. If the blades are too close to the skin, you might get that silky

"One quick stroke, even over knees — even over knobby knees — gets the job done."

smooth texture, but unless you are careful and meticulous in your strokes, you will inevitably get nicks, especially around those trickier areas. And some even cause mild inflammation and redness. The blades must be ever-so-slightly lifted. Also, the number of blades doesn't seem to matter as much as the quality of the blades, and only name brands pass the test."

Teresa's razor of choice: the Schick Quattro. "It's roughly the same price as other brand names, and one quick stroke, even over knees — even over knobby knees — gets the job done. And keep in mind that you will be saving money on special foams and creams, as this one doesn't require any special skin prep." (Schick Quattro, \$9.97

1 for 1 razor and 4 refill blades at Walmart) "I buy the Venus disposable razors from Costco," replied Sarah. "With four females shaving in the family, it's been a great option. With the Venus razors, you get a nice close shave but they are also easy on the skin. And they do seem to last longer than most other razors we have tried," she added. (Venus Disposable Razors, 14-count, \$21.99 at Costco)

Kathleen agreed. "I always use Venus," she said. "They can be rather pricey, but the razor stays sharp for ages."

"I like the Dorco Shai SoftTouch," explained Rose, "because it comes with extra blades, and they are easily replaceable, and I feel smooth after shaving, and it never nicks." (Shai

Softtouch 6 blade razor, \$22.99 on Amazon for one handle and 10 cartridges)

"I like the razors with built-in shaving cream, even though it can be pricey, because I'm too lazy to find and use shaving cream," answered Anne. "So I use the Schick Intuition." (Schick Intuition Pure Nourishment with coconut milk and almond oil, \$9.09 for 1 razor handle and 2 refills at Target).

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1: Schick Intuition Pure Nourishment With Coconut Milk And Almond Oil

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In the pitching of the ball, one sees American football's roots in rugby.



How I learned to stop worrying about the Chargers and love rugby

When the Chargers followed that red ribbon of brakelights leading to Los Angeles, our city's abandoned football fans responded by burning jerseys and searching for clever ways to repurpose their bolt tattoos. After an ugly split, we straightened our backs, dusted ourselves off, and moved on. We said so long to the NFL's culture of concussions, domestic abuse, and public subsidies, and hello to a future supporting other professional team sports.

Other professional team sports have responded in typical San Diego fashion. This year's Gulls minor league hockey team missed the playoffs by the slimmest of margins after a late season slump. The Padres parlayed a "rebuilding" 2017 season into a 2018 that, so far, has been a race to last place. As of May

15 they were already nine games out of first place.

No sooner had the Chargers announced their decision to leave, than a "SoccerCity" ownership group emerged to commence an extended flirtation with bringing a Major League Soccer team to San Diego.

**"Rugby is
very raw in
its nature."**

Unfortunately, the years of foreplay required to lure an MLS expansion franchise have started to feel distastefully similar to the public relations mess winding up to the Chargers' departure: demands for a new stadium, a fractious public vote, and that unsavory cocktail of politicians making deals with developers. Perhaps would-be San Diego soccer fans were experiencing a sort of pro sports franchise

fatigue last year when, responding to a promotional poll set up by SoccerCity, they voted to give this hypothetical soccer team the most absurd nickname available: Footy McFooty Face.

As the largest U.S. city that has never won a professional team championship, San Diego fanatics have learned to make self-deprecation a point of pride.

So it came as refreshing surprise when, seemingly out of nowhere, Major League Rugby appeared in February to announce that San Diego will be one of seven American cities to field a professional rugby team in 2018. And that — by the way — there's Major League Rugby now. Its first season is underway, it will be televised nationally, and its inaugural championship game will be hosted right here in San Diego this July.

Just like that, without any great teasing, debate, land grabs, or public funding, our city is the proud home of a new team: San Diego Legion. Fifteen men in red and black, playing without pads, without helmets, and without the seven-

figure paychecks. Just like that, contact sports fans around the city have been given a chance to perk up, high five, and ask the suddenly relevant question: do we like rugby now?

The short answer is: yes. We've liked rugby for 60 years.

Local rugby history

Most of rugby's history in San Diego involves club teams — night and weekend athletes playing in organized competitions against other regional clubs of the Southern California Rugby Football Union, which sends its top team to annual national tournaments.

First of the bunch is Old Mission Bay Athletics Club. Best known for organizing the annual Over the Line Tournament, the club established a Rugby Football Club in 1966, and has consistently ranked among the top echelon of American club rugby since. In 52 years, Old Mission Bay has 15 national championships.

Other local teams have sprung up over time, including the Oceanside Chiefs, North County Gurkhas (playing in Escondido), and San Diego Old Aztecs, which



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

The ball is inbound via a "line out" in which teams lift players to catch the ball.

was founded by San Diego State University alumni in 1978. Organized rugby at the university itself dates back to 1958, which is still relatively young compared to century-old rugby programs of northern California uni-

versities such as Stanford and Berkeley.

The United States isn't exactly viewed as a rugby powerhouse, but thanks to players from those colleges, we do hold an interesting distinction: the U.S. has more Olym-

pic gold medals for rugby than any other nation. We earned our first gold at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium, when the only other country to field a team was the heavily favored France. And we repeated in 1924, despite Romania joining the fray.

But the sport was dropped from the official Olympics program and did not return to medal competition for 92 years. The 2016 summer games in Rio featured a rugby sevens tournament — seven-player teams playing 14 minute games — for both men and women.

United States rugby did not medal in the 2016 Olympics, but its participation has had a massive impact on rugby in San Diego. That's because, in 2009, when the Olympic committee voted to return rugby to the summer games, the U.S. national rugby teams moved to San Diego to train at what was then called the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. Thanks to that lucky bit of geography, eleven players on the Legion's 27-man roster have played with Team USA.

You're not watching football anymore

The missing link between soccer and American football, rugby predates the American game by half a century, purportedly started in 1823 by an irreverent British teen who flouted the first rule of British football: don't use your hands. As the story goes, a student at the Rugby School in central England picked up the ball and ran with it until he was tackled, and two centuries later, watching men violently chase each other around a field is the one of the world's most popular and profitable pastimes.

Rugby enthusiasts have described it to me a number of ways: as football played at soccer's pace, or like basketball with tackling. Most of the action is similar to that one desperation play at the end of a football game, when clocks runs out and the team with the ball will lose the game if a player is tackled, so the players keep pitching the ball to each other as they scramble around the field. In that moment, we can clearly see how American football evolved from rugby.



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Rugby is responsible for the oblong ball, for example, which got its shape, prior to the advent of rubber, from practice of sewing inflated pig bladders inside the leather ball to give it some bounce. Hence the name, pigskin.

The word touchdown comes from rugby, in which a player literally has to touch the ball down on the ground beyond the goal line to earn points. Ironically, football doesn't require this literal touch down, and in rugby it's not called a touchdown at all. It's called a try. As in, the home team scored a try for five points. Or the visiting team scored two tries in the first half, but didn't make it into the try zone in the second.

Much of Rugby's distinctive glossary feels charmingly British. For

example, when a player breaks the rules it's called an infringement — though a serious infringement is still called a penalty.

As in soccer, a rugby game is called a match, the field is called the pitch, and there's no forward passing at all: throwing or even fumbling the ball forward is called a knock on, an infringement. So players toss the ball laterally to each other to find a break in the defense, sometimes on the opposite sideline — that is, the touchline.

The most fun rugby terms have to do with blocking and tackling, such as a protective ruck, or a maul. Rugby's best-known oddball term is the scrum, a choreographed pile of players pushing against each other to determine possession of the ball.

Another eye-popping set piece that bears zero resemblance to a football play is called a line out, which is similar to a soccer throw in, but each team hoists one of its players high above their own shoulders to capture the ball at its highest point.

The full set of rules and phrases can take a while to learn — for instance, there are three different ways to score points by kicking field goals — but full understanding isn't required to enjoy game viewing. Spectators can count on many of the same thrills football provides, including fast runners juking defenders to make them miss, and big defenders making hard hitting tackles when those jukes fail.

Critical mass

Each year since its return

to the Olympics was announced, rugby has gained popularity in the U.S., and the men behind Major League Rugby and San Diego Legion believe that number has reached the levels needed to support a professional league. In part, because some of them have been building the infrastructure to sustain it for over a decade.

"I think we're now at that point where there's enough critical mass," says Matt Hawkins, who should know. The Durban, South Africa native has been substantially involved with every level of local rugby culture since moving here 16 years ago. Hawkins played a huge role in making sure San Diego is a part of the new league, and is the Legion's president and general manager.

Hawkins grew up

dreaming about playing professional rugby, but fell hard for San Diego while visiting family here as a teen. He moved here permanently after college



Matt Hawkins

and pursued a career in advertising. He's now a US citizen, but he never got rugby out of his system, and eventually left his job to focus on rugby full time. "It's very raw in its nature, if that makes sense," explains Hawkins. "I can't get that same competition in a board room."

He went from playing in weekly pickup games on the beach in Del Mar, to winning championships at a semi-pro level with Old Mission Beach Athletic Club, to playing for the U.S. men's national team, a couple as team captain. He eventually became its coach and served on the board of its umbrella organization, USA Rugby. He's also coached local club teams, at San Diego State University, and for the U.S. Marine Corps rugby squad. If it has to do with rugby in San Diego, Matt Hawkins has probably had a hand in it.

That includes the San Diego Breakers, the city's last stab at a professional rugby team. Hawkins worked as an assistant coach for the Breakers, and also as San Diego director of operations

PHOTOGRAPH BY PARADIGM

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for the league it played in, PRO Rugby. The Breakers put in a 12-game season in 2016, but by the end of that year, the New York financier who solely owned PRO Rugby canceled player and coach contracts amid a convoluted dispute with USA Rugby, and the league disintegrated.

While nobody involved with Major League Rugby wants to offer an opinion why PRO Rugby flamed out so quickly, players and coaches insist any problems were organizational, not due to lack of fan support. They don't see it as a matter of whether pro rugby will succeed in the U.S., but when. Because while convincing former Chargers fans to come watch rugby would be great, the real target of this league is the next generation of sport fans.

The kids are into it Rugby has been declared America's fastest growing sport, and in a media environment where even some NFL players don't want their kids playing American football, youth rugby in particular is taking off. From Hawkins's perspective, San Diego has been a great part of this cultural shift. "The last ten years," he says, "[youth rugby] and high school is where I've seen the most explosion."

At the college level, American universities now field 800 to 900 teams, rostering 32,000 male and female student athletes. National organization USA Rugby reports more than 115,000 Americans playing organized rugby — up 40 percent from 82,000 in 2010.

But rugby has always been played at American colleges, and by people who used to play in col-



Rob Hoadley, holding the ball, played professionally in the UK before coming to the US to coach.

lege. What's making these numbers rise, says Hawkins, is that a new generation of kids have been growing up with the sport. He's been working to further the trend, running a rugby training academy in Carlsbad, and founding Encinitas youth

club, the Coastal Dragons.

Some estimates claim as many as 50,000 kids now participate in youth rugby programs nationwide. Locally, SoCal Youth Rugby oversees a system where boys and girls start playing in non-tackle U-8 leagues (under 8 years old), the growing into gradual contact U-10 and U-12 leagues. The genders split for U-14 teams and into high school.

Legion chief financial officer David Pool also serves as the president of SoCal Youth Rugby, where he says youth participation has more than doubled since 2010. He reports the number of kids playing rugby in that time has risen from 2900 to an expected 6000 this year, and that rugby is now played by over 100 local high schools.

Originally from Christchurch, New Zealand, Pool played youth rugby himself, starting in a touch league at five years old. He'd settled in Del Mar to raise a family by 2011, when he was recruited to coach his son's youth league team, the San Diego Mustangs, because he was the only parent who'd played

rugby before.

He's been coaching and administrating youth rugby since, and Pool cites two phenomena that he's seen attracting more kids to the sport in recent years: coverage of rugby at the 2016 summer Olympics, and coverage of concussion risk in American football.

"One of the big things a lot of parents talk to me about is to compare and contrast football," Pool says. There's a key difference between the two tackle sports, as he sees it. "Football is a game of collision where rugby is a game of evasion," he says. With pads and helmets on, football players tend to collide head on. With no pads on, rugby players are more likely to grab and grapple to tackle, keeping their heads relatively out of it. "One of the things our club really focuses on is those tackling techniques," Pool emphasizes, "It's making sure you keep your head out of the game."

When the Legion played a preseason match in early April, there were hundreds of children in the stands. At the moment, it seems much more likely they will grow

up watching live professional rugby in San Diego than professional football.

As David Pool notes, "We're closing the circle between youth rugby and professional rugby. My thing is to support the Legion, and that SD Legion will turn around and support youth rugby."

Who are these guys?

At a February press conference announcing the Legion's season, league commissioner Dean Howes echoed these sentiments, stating, "We want this generation of player to believe that they're at the highest level of rugby here in the United States, and we want the next generation to aspire to be them."

Professional sports thrive on the success of their star athletes, and there are few star rugby athletes in the U.S. As the league limits each team to no more than five international players, fielding quality local players is important to every team's success. Having members of the U.S. men's team right here in town gives the Legion a solid lead on featuring stars of the sport.

Matt Hawkins took the lead assembling the Legion squad, and recruited several Team USA players under the league's \$250,000 salary cap. That's not an absolute cap, but a pool of money meant to attract more accomplished players. Hawkins has discretion to apply that total to as many as he deems fit.

To round out teams, the league established a fixed associate player rate that Hawkins used to recruit from an emerging pool of local talent: club and student athletes he knows thanks to his close ties with Old Mission Bay Athletic Club, the Old

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Aztecs, and San Diego State. These are guys who will now have a chance to train and play at the elite level of professional athletes, and as the League progresses, so will America's chances in the highest level of competition, the international game.

"We're increasing the level of rugby that we have, as far as the individual rugby player and their rugby IQs," Hawkins suggests. "We now have more ability to develop better players, which will have great impact on the national team."

The team clearly improves the immediate prospects for some of the associate players. One is Gil Covey, a local dude from City Heights, who played for Cathedral Catholic High School, and the Aztecs. Covey graduated from San

Diego State in December, and has been working the door at a local bar, PB Shore Club, to make ends meet, while making time for the intensive training and nutrition regimen established by Legion coaching staff.

Nick Evans, an experienced young athlete with experience playing for semi-pro teams in Seattle and overseas, moved here to support his girlfriend, who plays for the women's U.S. national rugby team. He was picked up by Legion after a strong year playing for Old Mission Bay, and seeks to build on this pro experience..

"Four years ago there weren't that many paid roles, really, in America," says Legion head coach Rob Hoadley, "It's awesome to see how it's changing." A



PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHEW SUAREZ

Sione Tu'ihalama played college football at the University of Arizona.

London native, Hoadley played professionally in the U.K. for eight years prior to coming to the U.S. to coach at Stan-

ford, then with Hawkins on the Breakers.

Hoadley says the Legion has assembled a team that can play fast,

with intelligence, and yet still apply brute force as the pace of the game dictates. "Ultimately, it's a battle to find either physical dominance or space on the pitch," he explains, "You've got to be able to do both."

Among the team's star athletes is Mike Te'o, who scored the most tries during the Breakers opening game, and also plays for Team USA. Originally from Long Beach, his first experience watching rugby was here in San Diego in 2009, when his father brought him down to watch a sevens tournament at Petco Park. In one of the games they watched, the U.S. men's national team played against that of his dad's birthplace, Samoa.

"That was the first time I actually saw rugby, and I fell in love with it,"

Te'o recalls. "Three years later I was playing in that same tournament."

Te'o plays fullback, which is usually the first to touch the ball on offense, and the last line of defense. Before he started playing rugby, he weighed 250 pounds, and played defensive tackle for his high school football team. Today he's a leaner 210, despite gaining muscle. Compared to his football days, he says, "I'm definitely stronger."

Like many of Legion's potential fans, a lot of the players are football converts. An associate player on the Legion, Sione Tu'ihalama, played defensive end for the University of Arizona, and at 6'2", 280 pounds, he once aspired to play in the NFL. However, after college, he converted to rugby, and quickly wound

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up on the Breakers roster.

Tu'ihalama says the biggest adjustment coming to rugby from football is staying on the field all game, and running the whole time. "You don't get to tackle guys weighing 250," he says with a laugh, "but at the same time you're doing 80 minutes on a soccer field... it tests your character."

He plays a position called forward prop; a scrumming position. While rugby positions do sometimes specialize in areas such as kicks, returns, and set pieces, for the most part every player on the team must be able to throw the ball, catch the ball, tackle, and run. While he still excels at the tackling, Tu'ihalama particularly enjoys that rugby gives him chance to use all those other skills.

"You get to run the ball, you get to score a touchdown," he says, dropping into football parlance as a smile spreads across his face. "A big guy like me, you don't ever get to score a touchdown."

But not all our rugby athletes tried football first. Another of the team's top players exemplifies the potential future of American rugby. "I got into rugby because my dad played," says Ryan Matyas, "Some of my first memo-



No pads, no helmets, yet fewer concussions than in football.

ries as a kid was on the sideline of his games, running around tackling the other kids, playing with the ball on the sideline."

The Tucson native started playing touch rugby at 8, tackle at 12, and went on to be a state champion high school player in Arizona. He played at University of Arizona, but only after a season playing professionally in Wales. He previously played for the Breakers, and also played on Team USA.

"I always wanted to play rugby," Matyas says, and he relishes the chance to pay professionally in the U.S. "Even though you've got to be up at 5am, you've got to be in bed by 8. I love it," he says, "I wake up every day and I love what I do."

And, remember how

David Pool wound up coaching his youth club, the Mustangs, because none of the dads or moms had played the game? That's less of a problem now. In between tours with the national team, Matyas has taken time to coach the Mustangs, bringing a higher degree of understanding of the game to our next crop of local players.

Ownership appeal

In a way, those same Mustangs are responsible for there being a San Diego Legion.

Real estate developer Ryan Patterson did not grow up playing rugby, and when his young sons were ready for organized sports, he signed them up for football and volunteered to coach. A fellow football parent also

coached winter youth rugby, and after the football season ended, convinced father and sons to participate. "I helped out the first couple seasons," Patterson says, recalling he liked it. "But," he adds, "my kids fell in love with it!"



David Pool

His children involved their friends, who brought other friends to play. Over the past seven years Patterson has watched greater crowds of local children discover rugby with every season, following the U.S. national teams, and aspiring to play competitively in high school, college, and beyond.

So when Matt Hawkins and David Pool told Patterson about the chance to bring a new team to San Diego last July, Patterson saw enough long term potential in the opportunity to commit the \$570 thousand ownership fee required for the team to

join Major League Rugby.

It didn't hurt his calculations that San Diego was about to be left out of the professional football for the first time since 1961. "I certainly see the vacuum left by the Chargers," he says, "San Diego really wants a sports team and pro sports culture, and I saw the opportunity to fill that void."

Recent history suggests that \$570 thousand risk could yield big returns, in the long run. The fee to join Major League Soccer, after which MLR is modeled, is up to \$150 million. Major League Soccer has been around for 22 years now, and features teams now valued at a quarter billion dollars. But it wasn't always a sure thing either; the league reportedly lost



Ryan Patterson

a quarter billion during its first five seasons.

For the moment, Major League Rugby is committed to at least two seasons, and both ESPN and CBS Sports have committed to television broadcasts through 2019. The money for TV rights goes to the league, while Legion gets to sell allotted commercial time during local broadcasts to supplement the income from merchandising and ticket sales, which range in price from \$23 to \$34.

But Patterson speaks in terms of five to ten years or more before seeing a return on investment, and fully expects to wait it out. "We see long term viability

here in San Diego," he says. Since founding the Legion, Patterson has bolstered the team's finances by adding a second ownership group, led by former South African rugby pro Bob Skinstad. "We're committed financially to the team," Patterson says, "As long as the fans want rugby, we're committed to it."

The league launched on April 22nd — a loss to the Seattle Seawolves The Legion's first home game, played at the University of San Diego's Torero Stadium on April 29th, was a win over the the Utah Warriors. A home win over the Houston SaberCats and an away loss to the Glendale Raptors (of Colorado) have followed. Next up for the Legion, a May 25 away match against Austin Elite Rugby in Texas. The next home match is on June 17, also against Austin Elite.

The league championship game will be hosted here in San Diego on July 7th. Next year, a second season will run longer, beginning as soon as January.

The earliest San Diego could have a Major League Soccer team is 2020, which gives Major League Rugby a good couple of gap years to establish itself before any competition rolls into town. For the moment, it's not asking a lot — two or three thousand spectators coming to four home games in a stadium that can fit about six thousand. Maybe a little home team affection.

Time will tell whether San Diego embraces the sport. But if rugby doesn't capture our sporting imagination, don't lose hope. Rumor has it a Major League Lacrosse team is slated to debut here in November. ■

— Ian Anderson

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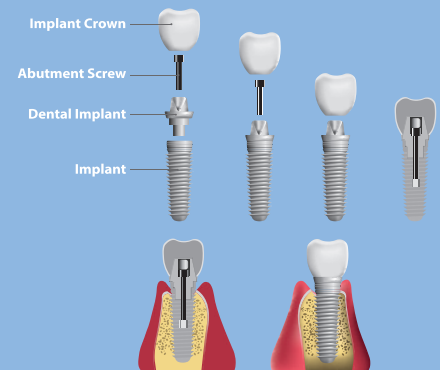
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Hypnotic tacos

continued from page 3

plunked Chi-Chi's into an Orange County company that included a couple of other dyspeptic restaurant chains. Jack owned 40 percent of this agglomeration, and Goodall headed both companies, each of which was loaded with junk debt. The Orange County outfit went bankrupt but kept operating.

Chi-Chi's went on, but in 2003, the Pittsburgh area suffered one of the worst outbreaks of hepatitis A in American history. It was traced to a Chi-Chi's; 4 died and 660 others contracted the disease from eating green onions at a Chi-Chi's in a mall. Chi-Chi's this time sold its assets out of bankruptcy to another restaurant chain, which wound up selling some of them to a real estate investment trust.

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

vate prison operator to pick up the slack. GEO Group of Boca Raton, Florida gave \$25,000 to Yes! For a Better San Diego on May 10, per a May 11 filing with the San Diego city clerk's office.

A national giant of the commercial incarceration business, GEO runs two facilities in San Diego, downtown's Western Regional Detention Center on behalf of the U.S. Marshals Service, and the San Diego Day Reporting Center at 3211 Jefferson Street in the Midway district.

The latter, funded by the California Department of Corrections, provides "intensive supervision and reentry services to offenders transitioning back to the community," according to GEO's website. "Participants report to the program and receive the ongoing treatment needed to help break cycles of criminal behavior.

Classes include cognitive behavioral therapy; employment readiness and career development; life skills and parenting classes; anger management; drug and alcohol classes and more."

In the wake of last year's downtown homeless meltdown, some have argued that GEO-like tax-funded rehabs could be part of the solution, but the programs are costly and unpopular with prospective neighbors, requiring heavy lobbying of city officials to overcome resistance against permits.

The tax hike proposal being circulated by convention center advocates does not specify how the funds earmarked for the homeless would ultimately be deployed, leaving the matter for city politicians to sort out later. But backers of the tax increase assert on their website that the measure would produce a generous amount of cash for social services. "Over the first five years

alone it will generate more than \$140 million for new efforts to reduce homelessness and raise more than \$2 billion to reduce homelessness over the life of the measure. This infusion of money will get people off the streets and into shelters. It will fund counseling and assistance to women, children, veterans and others who have no place to turn to today."

Elsewhere in the state, pushback against GEO-related privatization has come from social-service nonprofits, who argue that the firm is part of a "treatment industrial complex" that has grown sharply under the Trump administration. "Because these companies are paid per diem, per person, they have a motivation to do what we call 'net widening' — to get as many people under the boot of the system in the harshest form of control and surveillance, for the longest time," Dalit Baum of the American Friends Service Committee

told the *East Bay Express* in February. The paper reported that GEO Reentry's three-year contract with the California correctional authority for San Diego, Los Angeles, and Orange counties, set to expire in 2020, totals \$26 million.

Matt Potter

ing to take out its longtime nemesis, ex-Republican, one-time independent, and current Democrat Nathan Fletcher, according to a May 15 filing with the registrar of voters. On May 10, the GOP club funneled \$40,000 to a political fund it runs called

Hit him, Abe-y, one more time

Lincoln Club bashes Fletcher; other Democrats also attacked

Whether to settle past scores or anticipate future favorable votes from the county board of supervisors, a host of well-heeled special interests funded from outside county borders are pouring big money into the race to replace 4th District Republican Ron Roberts. Latest to show its hand is the Lincoln Club of San Diego County, which is aim-



The Lincoln Club's favorite target, circa 2013

Job Creators for a Strong Economy, which four days later spent \$26,848 on an anti-Fletcher hit piece, per its disclosure.

When Fletcher mounted his second losing effort for San Diego mayor back in October 2013, the club's series of attacks on his then-employer Qualcomm regard-

continued on page 28



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NEWS TICKER

continued from page 26

ing Fletcher's alleged make-work executive gig drew a pained response from the cell-phone chip firm's then-chairman Paul Jacobs. "I was outraged to learn that the Lincoln Club of San Diego — a supposedly pro-business political group — would fund a political hit piece that unfairly and incorrectly attacks one of San Diego's largest employers," blasted Jacobs. "Is the Lincoln Club so desperate and out of constructive ideas that they are resorting to attacks on private employers, forsaking their supposed principles and lying to serve a political agenda? I demand a full apology and a retraction of this slanderous attack on our company and its more than 13,000 local employees."

No apology was forthcoming, and Jacobs, who has since left the board of Qualcomm, founded by his father, soon gave up

the battle.

By funneling its money through its so-called job creators committee, the Lincoln Club avoids direct disclosure of the cash behind its Fletcher attacks, but the club's separate fund filing yields a bevy of sources. They include a total of \$20,000 from New York City-based Rancho Guejito, the vast North County expanse of real estate owned by Manhattan heiress Theodate Coates. Martin Garrick, the ex-GOP Assemblyman and San Diego county real estate guru best known for leading police on a chase into the Capitol garage before his drunk driving arrest in 2011, came up with \$10,000, as did Mission Valley developer Tom Sudberry and the Sycuan gambling tribe.

Meanwhile, a labor union-financed, pro-Fletcher committee aiming its fire at rival Democrat Lori Saldaña picked up \$15,000 on May 14 from the Sacramento-based Califor-

nia Medical Association Independent Expenditure Committee, which records show usually spends its money on state races. That includes recently sinking \$23,100 into an attack on the gubernatorial bid of Democratic state Treasurer John Chiang, a proponent of so-called single-payer health care that is bitterly opposed by the doctor- and hospital-funded group. Saldaña has expressed support for single-payer proposals. Fletcher's wife, Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, is an Assembly Democrat. Additionally, Manhattan-based hotel workers union Unite Here came up with \$50,000 for the Saldaña attacks May 15, reports show.

Matt Potter

Maybe this time, David Sao Marcos will strike gold

With a reality TV show about...gold mining One can google all kinds of information on Rivers of Gold,

a limited partnership which intends to mine for gold in Nome, Alaska and put on a reality TV show about gold mining in that frigid atmosphere. (Environmentalists are protesting the project.) The general partner, Intelligent Practices, has other plans, such as selling merchandise related to the show. According to the information online, the producer of the TV show will be Kupcinet Productions, which has had such successes as *Judge Judy*, *That's Incredible!*, *The Dating Game*, and *Entertainment Tonight*. This is a special offering with lots of risks — including gold mining and producing reality TV shows — the investment material confesses. The minimum investment is \$50,000.

The person with the titles of Partner in Communications and TV Show Talent Director is San Diegan David Sao Marcos. Says the promotional material, "David has worked closely with the principals, developing the Rivers of Gold Reality TV Show personnel...he will be on our Alaska operations site for extended periods during the gold mining," and will obtain celebrity talent and help out with the marketing of merchandise.

But for somebody in the communications business,

he is no bubbly personality. I called for more information about the mining and reality TV show. Sao Marcos: "We are not discussing our business with anybody other than investors." Then he hung up.

Sao Marcos attended Southwestern College 1986-1988. Before going into the gold mining/reality TV business, he was with several brokerage houses. According to records of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, he had two black marks. In one case, he was charged with fraudulent misrepresentation, negligence, breach of fiduciary duty and violation of New York Stock Exchange Rules. The complainant asked for \$3 million and got \$750,000. "It was settled without my allowing to clear myself," he said at the time. In another case, the complainant asked for \$7580 and got \$4999. The brokerages he worked for had problems. FINRA shut down GunnAllen Financial for lack of capital. Brookstreet Securities closed its doors after suffering heavy losses. Later, a judge ordered the brokerage's chief executive to pay \$10 million in a securities fraud case. After Brookstreet had closed down, FINRA charged six of its former brokers for selling complex mortgage-backed

securities to naive investors who were unaware of the risks.

Don Bauder

Divorced Fletchers call on Dr. Love for assistance

But they really want to discuss money and children. The public persona of Nathan Fletcher, the Republican-turned-Independent running for county supervisor as a Democrat, is embodied in the photo atop his Facebook page. It's a portrait of a happily blended family: Fletcher and second wife, Assembly Democrat Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, flanked by their smiling children, two each.

Off-stage, though, the story is more complicated. Superior court records show that Fletcher, his annual income slashed when he was let go as an executive by Qualcomm, sought in October of last year to reduce spousal and child support payments to ex-wife Mindy Tucker Fletcher, once a high-ranking aide to GOP President George W. Bush.

"Respondent and I were married on September 19, 2003. We separated on December 11, 2014. Since the date of separation, I have been paying support to Respondent," says Nathan Fletcher's October

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NEWS TICKER

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25, 2017 declaration in support of the switch. "On December 7, 2016, Respondent and I entered into a Marital Settlement Agreement that required that I pay each month to Respondent \$5,250 in spousal support and \$3,000 in child support for a total monthly support obligation of \$8,250," per Fletcher. "I have been paying this amount since January of 2017. At the time that these support obligations were established, I was employed by Qualcomm, Incorporated and University of California, San Diego. I advised Respondent at that time that Qualcomm was planning to eliminate my position, thereby reducing my income substantially. She responded that she expected to obtain paid employment soon. On March 31, 2017, my position with Qualcomm, Inc. was eliminated,"

Per his statement,

Fletcher's current service as a so-called professor of practice at UCSD, which ex-dean of social sciences Jeffrey Elman once considered funding with contributions from billionaire Qualcomm founder and Fletcher political backer Irwin Jacobs, is only modestly compensated. ("I concede that I have the capacity to earn more than my current monthly pay of \$2,095.33 from the University of California, San Diego," the statement says.) But in spite of his modest income, according to Fletcher, he has been the broken family's sole support. "Respondent has been a partner of Crux Partners, LLP, a San Diego consulting and public relations firm," Fletcher says of Mindy.

"Despite Respondent channeling all of her professional efforts into this business for years, Respondent has earned no income from this endeavor."

But things may be chang-

ing, according to the filing. Mindy "has been offered and plans to accept a position paying her \$150,000 per year," says Fletcher's declaration. "Her income has increased and mine has decreased, creating a significant change in our financial circumstances."

At the time of their divorce in December 2016, the couple agreed to adjust their future support obligations, based on changes in their respective earnings, according to Fletcher's statement. "Our marital settlement agreement contains an 'Automatic Spousal Support Modification' provision that reduces my obligation to pay spousal support based on Respondent's income," he declares. "This was done with the expectation that Respondent would become self-supporting. It appears that our financial circumstances have now made that a reality." With Mindy making \$12,500

per month, the declaration states, "this would call for a reduction in spousal support of \$8,125, thereby reducing my spousal support obligation to zero. I propose that my child support obligation be that which is required by law, given the calculation of our respective current monthly incomes."

Per his declaration, supervisory candidate Fletcher anticipates a successful race getting him a handsome county salary next year which he would count as income for use in determining the couple's respective support obligations. "I am currently seeking a seat on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The election for that seat is in November of 2018. If elected, the income I would earn from that position would be \$172,451, but that income would not be received until January of 2019." "Nonetheless, I am willing to have my child

support and spousal support obligations calculated now on that imputed income. If I am unsuccessful in obtaining this position, I am confident that I will find other employment at a comparable salary."

In addition to money, custody and visitation rights are also at issue in the case, court records show. Per a document filed January 5 of this year by Tucker's attorney Sharon Blanchet, the couple has agreed to retain the services of Dr. Lori Love to conduct a child custody evaluation. Topics include "Mindy's request to relocate to Dallas, Texas with the minor children," and a "custody and visitation schedule that is in the children's best interest." Blanchet declared in an April 28 filing that Irvine-based expert witness W. Russell Johnson may be called to testify for Mindy regarding "all child custody and visitation issues and relating

issues and information as contained in the Custody Evaluation Report(s) prepared by Lori A. Love, Ph.D."

Matt Potter

Board backs booting Big Utility

City could choose community choice energy Recommendations from an advisory board to San Diego's city council and Mayor Kevin Faulconer that a clean energy plan from San Diego Gas & Electric be rejected could clear the way for the city to form its own utility to compete with the energy giant. "The Sustainable Energy Advisory Board for the City of San Diego cannot support SDG&E's proposal for a 100% Renewable Energy Program as presented at this time," reads a decision from the board issued last week.

In late 2015, the city adopted a climate action plan, calling for 100% of San Diego's energy consumption

continued on page 70

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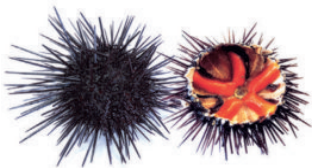
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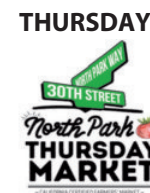


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Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

Thursday | 24

BEING THE CHANGE

Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate

Revolution is written by Peter Kalmus, an atmospheric scientist at Caltech and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The book delves into Kalmus' experience, which enabled him to cut his fossil fuel use to 1/10th of the average American, while raising a family in a typical California suburb.

WHEN: Thursday, May 24, 7:30 pm

WHERE: Warwick's Bookstore, 7812 Girard Avenue, La Jolla. warwicks.com



PETER KALMUS

D. Garrett, Professor of Gerontology at San Diego State University

WHEN: Friday, May 25, 6 to 8 pm

WHERE: Museum of Photographic Arts, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. mopa.org

Saturday | 26

CALIFORNIA'S FALLEN SOLDIERS

The Santee Street Fair & Craft Beer Festival will feature an exhibit, Fallen Soldiers of California, which

has toured other cities in the state. The photo memorial includes military and personal photos. The festival includes live music and entertainment, more than 300 food and craft vendors, and carnival rides

WHEN:

Saturday, May 26, 10 am to 6 pm

WHERE:

Santee Trolley Square Town Center, 9884 Mission Gorge Road, Santee. santeestreetfair.com



FALLEN SOLDIERS OF CALIFORNIA

Asia. Reportedly, some Dutch thought strawberries from Vista were a different fruit because they were so large. Vista now hosts of San Diego County's only celebration of the strawberry. Live entertainment, local craft brews, food, carnival rides, contests, 400 vendors, some selling strawberry desserts, food, crafts. Contests include Little Ms. Strawberry Shortcake, strawberry costume, Strawberry Idol, pie-eating.

WHEN: Sunday, May 27, 8 am to 6 pm

WHERE: Vista Chamber of Commerce, 127 Main Street, Vista. vistachamber.org

FIREFLY DREAMS

Friday | 25

FIREFLY DREAMS

This Japanese film tells the story of a troubled teenager sent to the country for the summer. There, she is asked to care for an aging neighbor with Alzheimer's disease. The friendship that develops highlights the importance — for both parties — of taking people as they are now. Film introductions and Q+A moderation by Mario



SUNDAY, MAY 27: VISTA STRAWBERRY FEST

Sunday | 27

VISTA STRAWBERRY FEST

Vista was the strawberry capital of the world in the 1960s and 1970s. There were daily shipments to Europe and

Tuesday | 29

POE BALLANTINE READS FROM HIS NOVEL

Part of *Whirlaway's* plot: Eddie Plum, who insists he's been unjustifiably committed to a California psychiatric hospital, manages to escape. He holes up on a bluff above the Pacific Ocean owned by his wealthy but unsympathetic father. There he meets Sweets the telepathic dog, laments the loss of Sofia, his madhouse lover, and plays the horses at the Del Mar Racetrack. Eventually, he meets up with an old friend, Shelly Hubbard, a fellow horseplayer who tells him about his brother, Donny, dead at the age of eighteen from a tragic dive off a thirty-foot La Jolla sea cliff known as The Clam.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 29, 7 pm

WHERE: The Book Catapult, 3010-B Juniper Street, South Park. thebookcatapult.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE JANETTA



POE BALLANTINE

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

COYOTE MOUNTAINS WIND CAVES (“DOMELANDS”)

This hike has stunning vistas, fossil-laden marine beds, sandstone wind caves, and otherworldly rock and mud formations.

Driving Directions: Drive east on I-8 into Imperial County and exit at Ocotillo. Turn left, passing under the freeway, and drive through the townsite of Ocotillo, following S-2 for 7.2 miles to BLM dirt road 093 on the right (east). Look for the informational kiosk and parking area. If you pass the border patrol checkpoint on S-2, you’ve gone too far. High clearance or 4-wheel drive vehicle is needed. Follow the dirt road toward the mountains for 2 miles to its dead-end parking area, designated by posts and chains. NOTE: Some use this BLM land as a shooting range, mostly around the parking areas. Hiking Length: 6 miles. Allow 5 hours for this hike. The trail is not marked or maintained and user-made trails readily branch from the main route. GPS and a good map and compass are advisable. The trail is open to mountain bikers and hikers. **Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous. Elevation gain about 1000 feet with steep climbs and deep canyons. No facilities, no water, and no shade. Not recommended for dogs, even though pets are not excluded from the area. Start early in the morning and bring plenty of water for this exposed desert hike. Best to visit during winter months. Exposure makes this area hotter than many other areas. In winter, the temperature can still register 90 degrees.



The wind-carved caves make a shady resting place

The Coyote Mountains are part of a larger area known as the Colorado region of the Sonoran Desert. Here two plates meet, the Pacific Plate to the west and the North American Plate to the east. Molten rock, rising from deep under the earth’s crust is pushing these plates apart. It is this spreading that caused the formation of the Gulf of California as ocean waters spilled into the subsiding rift valley. About 7 million years ago (MYA) the Gulf extended as far north as San Geronimo Pass in Riverside County. These warm and shallow waters supported a variety of marine life, traces of which are found here today. Look for, but leave in place, the fossils of sand dollars, oysters, sea biscuits, conch shells, scallops (pectens) and tube worms.

Beginning about 5 MYA the ancestral Colorado River began to deposit massive quantities of sediment into what was then the head of the Gulf. These sediments were the byproduct of this major river cutting its way down through the Colorado Plateau of Arizona and producing features such as the Grand Canyon. The deposits of sand and clay were thousands of meters thick, eventually pushing the head of the Gulf further south. This retreat left behind the sculpted sandstone and mudstone formations seen today, including mud caves, some large enough for a person to sleep in.

The landscape, sparsely dotted with ocotillo and creosote, supports some unique plants including the malevolent looking devil’s spine flower, desert

holly, rush milkweed, and showy cotton-top or Mojave mound cactus. Look for the large reddish-topped hedgehog clusters of cactus with bright yellow flowers and barrel cactus-like spines near the wind caves.

With a steep climb up a mud hill, this hike into the BLM’s Coyote Mountains Wilderness gets your heart pumping from the start. For the first mile plus, the route follows a deeply-eroded jeep road. After that, the trail can be difficult to find, so use your GPS and map.

continued on page 35

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

Farm Animal Encounter Join San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum on the last Friday of every month and meet some farm animals. The hands-on workshop includes a special storytime, meeting animals, and a themed craft or activity. Each of the workshops has a different theme and features different farm animals. Friday, May 25, 10:30am; \$8. San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum, 320 N. Broadway. (ESCONDIDO)

ART

Fred Hardy Straight Ahead Jazz Thursdays, 7pm; through Tuesday, July 31, free. Turquoise Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

John Dombroski: To Open Gallery Hours: 21-25 May 2018, 12-5 pm Reception: 25 May, 6-8pm Visual Arts Gallery, Structural Materials Engineering Building Lyman Ln., La Jolla To Open is an exhibition of new experiments in sound and site-dialogic installation which imagines and illustrates poetic interconnections between ideas of inside and outside in relation to architectural space, the social realm, the physiological, and the temporal. Thursday, May 24, 12pm; Friday, May 25, 12pm and 6pm; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Kokedama Workshop Kokedama is a traditional Japanese art form where moss is used as a container for a plant. In this interesting and hands-on workshop, you will learn the skills behind kokedama how to make your very own kokedama. Led by Kanako Yamada, owner of Kodama Forest. All of the supplies needed to make your unique Kokedama, including: two plants from Kanako’s selection, moss, soils, and all other materials needed. (Please bring your apron and grove if you want.) A unique, fun-to-make Kokedama that you can take home and enjoy, or give as a wonderful living gift. Thursday, May 24, 10am; \$38. Kodama Forest, 8305 Vickers Street Suite 106. (KEARNY MESA)

Michael Manares: Depth & Dimension Distinction Gallery is pleased to present: Michael Manares “Depth and Dimension.” The exhibition will run from May 12 - June 2. The opening reception with Michael Manares, many local artists, live music, ArtHatch open studios, Stone Beer, and BK Cellars

wine will be on Saturday May 12, 2018 from 6-10pm. Free. Distinction Gallery, 317 E. Grand Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

Opening Reception: A Method for Reaching Extreme Altitudes Celebrate the opening of our newest exhibit and meet those who created it. A Method for Reaching Extreme Altitudes features the work of eight San Diego artists exploring space art ranging from scientific to science fiction and otherworldly curiosities. Artists Adam Belt, Matthew Bradley, Sheena Rae Dowling, Andrew McGranahan, Arzu Ozkal, Cheryl Sorg, Jones von Jonestein, and Melissa Walter traverse the outermost reaches of space through diverse mediums and concepts. Their creativity, paired with their search for knowledge, exemplifies the human desire to understand the world and universe we live in. Open to all, admission free. Saturday, May 26, 12pm; free. Central Library, 330 Park Boulevard. (EAST VILLAGE)

Rosarita Art Fest: Steve Aoki & Trippie Redd Saturday, May 26, 3pm; Sunday, May 27, 3pm; Rosarito Beach Hotel, Boulevard Benito Juárez #31. (BAJA)

BEER

Ales & Acoustics: Mike Officer & Carissa Schroeder On the last Saturday of every month, a local brewery hosts four beers on tap in the bar and lounge areas, in addition to a live musical performance. This month, Ales & Acoustics features Mason Ale Works providing a variety of local artisan beers, all of which pair perfectly with the bites from the Oyster Hour menu. Local musicians Mike Officer and Carissa Schroeder will be performing live blues and rock tunes. Saturday, May 26, 2pm; free. Herringbone, 7837 Herschel Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Bacon & Beer Pairing Come out and experience a pairing unlike any other. That’s right BACON & BEER! We’ve partnered with Slater’s 50/50 to make it a night to remember. Tickets are \$15 per person and limited so purchase yours today. We have two sessions, one at 7PM Session and another at 8:30PM Session. You will get four 5 oz. tasters and pair them each with two slices of bacon. The flavors are out of this world! Friday, May 25, 7pm; free-\$15. 21 and up. Indian Joe Brewing, 2123 Industrial Court. (VISTA)

Derby Dolls Pizza & Beer Fundraiser Woodstock’s Pizza is hosting a one-night fundraiser for the phenomenal women of the San Diego Derby Dolls after they complete their beach skate. The Derby Dolls will be in-store for derby fans and pizza lovers to meet and mingle. For any in-store sales between 7 pm and 11 pm (dine in, take out, and pick-up) that mention the San Diego Derby Dolls, Woodstock’s will give a percentage towards the total funds raised. The money raised will go toward creating a new training facility for the Dolls and their partner programs.

They will have a special tapping of the Mike Hess and San Diego Derby Doll collaboration Solis IPA #84 at their bar that night. Friday, May 25, 7pm; Woodstock’s Pizza Pacific Beach, 1221 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

BOOK SIGNINGS

A New Reality: A Vision of Hope for a World in Transition In the new book, “A New Reality: Human Evolution for a Sustainable Future,” Jonathan Salk and David Dewane take a look at the problems presented by population growth and changing human values. The book is a revised version of an earlier publication Jonathan wrote with his father, visionary scientist Jonas Salk, who developed the polio vaccine. At the event, Salk will discuss how we’re transitioning from a time of competition to a time of cooperation. A book signing will follow the talk and copies of the book will be available for purchase from the publisher. Thursday, May 24, 5:30pm; free. UC San Diego Library, Geisel Library, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

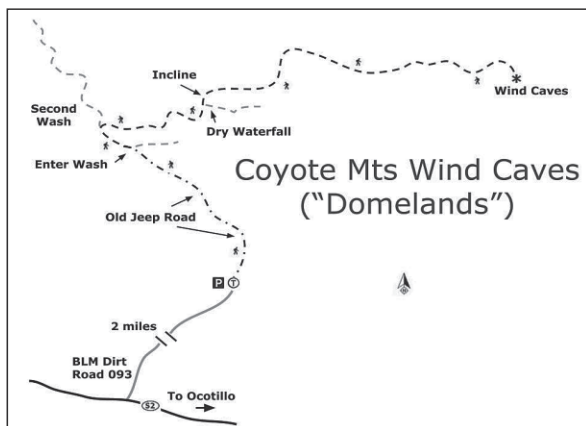
CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Break Dancing Class This class is designed to develop all parts of breakdance such as, footwork, floorwork and power moves. Learn cypher and battle tactics. Thursdays, 7:30pm; through Monday, June 25, \$10-\$16. Facility Dance Studio, 1414 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Free Healthier Living with Chronic Conditions Workshop (Spanish) San Diego County, Aging & Independence Services (AIS) is offering free workshops for individuals dealing with chronic conditions and the symptoms associated with them! For more information call (858) 495-5500 or visit HealthierLivingSD.org Please note: This workshop is taught in Spanish Fridays, 9:30am; through Wednesday, June 13, free. San Ysidro School District 4350 Otay Mesa Rd. San Ysidro

Hip-Hop Social An 8-class session designed to teach you a progressive routine, you will be able to perfect the routine each dance class with a small performance at the end. After the class each night you get to partake in an outing with your class-mates at different local eateries where you will receive discounts on food and drink. Fridays, 7:30pm; through Friday, June 22, \$175-\$200. 18 and up. Facility Dance Studio, 1414 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

How-To Festival: Learn Something New! Mission Hills Library 11:00 am How To Crochet 12:00 pm How To Build a Vision Board 1:00 pm How To Wear a Head Wrap 1:30 pm How To Web Search Better 2:00 pm How To Be a Peaceful Parent Mission Hills Library



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



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SanDiegoInternationalBoatShow.com



619-692-4910 925 W. Washington St. San Diego 92103 <https://www.facebook.com/missionhillslibrary/> Saturday, May 26, 11am; **free**. Mission Hills Library, 925 W. Washington Street. (MISSION HILLS)

Intro to Hip-Hop Dance An introductory level class for the dancer who has never danced before or for those wanting to review their foundational skills. Each class focuses on basic hip hop dance movement. Thursdays, 6:30pm; through Monday, June 25, \$10-\$16. 18 and up. Facility Dance Studio, 1414 Garnet Avenue. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Kokedama Workshop House plant Kokedama making! **ÀÀ**Date: May 26th, Saturday. 9:30am ~ 10:45am. Location: Walter Andersen Poway / 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway, CA 92064 Reservation: Please call directly to store to make reservation. (858) 513-4900 Description: \$28 with 1 house plant kokedama. The class is limited to 15 people and there is a \$28 materials and instruction fee. Call 858-513-4900 to RSVP and pre-pay for the class. Participants will have access to the supplies (moss, soils, materials, and plants) needed to make a moss ball and are welcome to bring gloves and an apron to wear. Saturday, May 26, 9:30am; \$28. Walter Andersen Nursery - Poway, 12755 Danielson Court. (POWAY)

Make Mozz & Ricotta @ DEL MAR SHOP 2650 Via de la Valle in Flower Hill Promenade Cheesemonger & renaissance man Paul will stretch fresh curd & teach you all about making fresh cheeses like mozzarella & ricotta at home. Then YOU get to join him & stretch some curd of your own! Learn tips & tricks to make fresh fromage yourself & the many ways to use these classics. You'll be sampling yummy treats, enjoying a complimentary glass of wine & taking some fresh creations home with you. Also enjoy a 10% discount off any in-store purchase the night of the class. Thursday, May 24, 6pm; \$50. Velissimo Cheese Del Mar, 2650 Via de la Valle, #C140. (DEL MAR)

Soap Garden Class Cultivating, Drying, and Adding Herbs to Soap Soap Garden 224 is a gardening and ingredient preparation class. Students learn techniques for growing their own herbs and plants to use as soap ingredients. Then they learn how to dry, crush, and grind the dried herbs and how much of each dried plant to add to the soap for color and texture. Attend in person. Prerequisite: None. Classroom hours: 2-Ω hours. Class fee: \$38. Materials fee: \$11. Register for Soap Garden 224: <http://soap-makingstudio.com/registration/soap-garden-224.html> Sunday, May 27, 1pm; \$49. Soapmaking Studio, 7301 Mount Vernon Street. (LEMON GROVE)

Yoga Basics: A Gentle Approach Come explore the fundamentals of yogic postures & breathing techniques in this mindful movement class designed to gently tone & strengthen the body, improve balance & flexibility, & enhance mind-body aware-

ness. Students are encouraged to embrace their limitations with compassion in this non-judgmental environment. Class led by Michelle Mackey. Thursdays, 10:15am; through Tuesday, January 1, \$10-\$16. PB Yoga & Healing Arts, 961 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

COMEDY

An Evening of Music & Clean Comedy Hosted by Jane and Jeff Schmitz with guests the Sinclair Family. Friday, May 25, 6:30pm; \$10. Spacebar Cafe, 7454 University Ave., Suite A. (LA MESA)

Comedy Heights Thursdays, 7:30pm; through Thursday, April 11, 21 and up. Midnight Jack Brewing Company & Echo Room, 3801 Oceanic Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Comedy Hypnotist Michel Briar is a certified master hypnotist who has performed his hypnotic stage show all over the country, from Las Vegas, Nevada to Orlando, Florida, to Maui, Hawaii, and now he is here in San Diego. During the show, you will hear two people speaking a made-up language, and they will understand every word the other is saying. Friday, May 25, 8pm; Saturday, May 26, 9:30am; \$28. Walter Andersen Nursery - Poway, 12755 Danielson Court. (POWAY)

Dana Carvey Emmy-award winning comedian Dana Carvey has maintained an illustrious career. While a student at San Francisco State University, he won the San Francisco Stand-Up Comedy Competition. After graduation and countless club appearances, he became a regular on "Saturday Night Live" in 1986. Carvey left SNL after seven very successful seasons, establishing his best known characters; The Church Lady, Hans and Franz, Grumpy Old Man and Garth, the most Excellent Co-Host to Mike Myers in the immensely popular "Wayne's World." Thursday, May 24, 8pm; Friday, May 25, 8pm; Saturday, May 26, 7:30pm and 9:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

Red Room Bit Burlesque & Music Dances are inspired by burlesque, exotic, samba, and bellydance. Friday, May 25, 8:30pm; \$8-\$15. 18 and up. Turquoise Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Sounds Like Four Jazz Ensemble To all the swing dancers of San Diego, the social dance meeting every Sunday is for all the ones that dance lindy hop and balboa or any kind of swing. You don't know how to dance? Don't worry, there is going to be people there willing to teach you the basics. Sundays, 5:30pm; through Tuesday, July 31, **free**. Turquoise Café-Bar Europa, 873 Turquoise Street. (PACIFIC BEACH)

Rhyme & Verse

Two poems by Carine Topal

Over the Town

Chagall looks down at the work he's done, 1918

In Liozna— the town at the end of the world— blossoms spread to the edge of heaven, the little River Moshna weeps over its banks, orange windows stare back at us as we float across the Kirov.

In the town at the end of the world, a bearded man in a black suit rides a bicycle. He is selling trousers. Loaves of rye. You, my Bella in blue, wave farewell and *do svidanya* to Pokrovskaya Street, beyond the bridge and the milky sky,

beyond the railroad tracks at Smolensk. *Adieu* to the end of a soft wind and our childhood's pogrom. Adieu ruination, though we move through the narrow lanes of love, the bridled and the groomed, the Baltic handing us to another country in another time.

In the town at the end of the world, an unbearable weight floats up, a man in love wearing green, a woman in azure, feet sky-writing in delicate smoke above the town— leave, along with the laddered roofs to heaven, the lone horse, the carriage on the goat path, and the distant trains. *We leave.*

In Order of Disappearance

Because I feared losing sight of them, I watched closely as they moved, eyed their reels looking for small, unlikely revelations.

They knew the insects working their way up the flanks of birches and linden. Knew the pine,

maple, beech and oak. Knew where they stood, how tall and what, in spring, would change.

The rod, the line, the hook stretched from the small boat. The pond a trove of prehistoric swimmers.

My brothers dressed in rubber shoes and fishing vests. Pockets bulged with colored trinkets—tackle stock— our dinner.

Small bits of bait stuck to their fingers. Soon, freshwater fish would be in my hands. Trout squirm in the silver seat box.

Soon, our voices carrying through a hedgerow of linden lining the dirt drive to an old farm house. I was crying or laughing,

impossible to tell one voice from the other, calling me, but, I was busy with things: rod rings, night crawlers, minnows,

and I should have watched while the boys emptied their pockets: white and red cork bobbers, coils of line. The barbs.

Russell threw a lit match into the brush to start the fire. Brian blew until the rocks glowed. Night was coming on,

bringing early signs that this was the last light they'd make, they who passed long ago into the thousand lakes of Maine, vest pockets alive with lures.



Carine Topal, a transplanted New Yorker, lives in the Southern California desert. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies such as *The Best of the Prose Poem*, *Scrivener Creative Review*, *Caliban*, *Greensboro Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, and many others. Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, she was awarded residency at Hedgebrook, and

a fellowship to study in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2005. She won the 2007 Robert G. Cohn Prose Poetry Award from California Arts and Letters, from which a special edition chapbook, *Bed of Want*, was published. Her 3rd collection of poetry, *In the Heaven of Never Before*, was published in December, 2008, by Moon Tide Press. In the same year she was honored with the Excellence in Arts Award from the City of Torrance, California. In 2015 Carine was the recipient of the *Briar Cliff Review* Poetry Award, and weeks later, won the Palettes and Quills 4th Biennial Chapbook Contest for *Tattooed*, poems in the voices of the perpetrators, victims, and survivors of Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Her latest collection, *In Order of Disappearance*, from which these poems were taken, was just published by the Pacific Coast Poetry Series in January, 2018. She teaches poetry and memoir in the Palm Springs and Los Angeles areas.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

FOOD & DRINK

Alpha Lacrosse X IL NCAA Final 4 NCAA Final 4 Watch Party presented by Alpha Lacrosse and Inside Lacrosse. Free food and drinks, raffle, and product testing. Alpha Lacrosse will be launching their NEW 2019 Product Line. Exclusive pre-orders and on site first time viewing. Family friendly atmosphere so bring the kids too. Saturday, May 26, 9am; **free**. Chief's Burgers and Brew, 124 Lomas Santa Fe Drive #108. (SOLANA BEACH)

Dinner & a Concert A different band plays every week. Fridays, 6pm; through Friday, May 11, **free**. Prescott Promenade, 201 E. Main Street. (EL CAJON)

French Kiss French Kiss features Rosé all day, local DJs, French Riviera menu, and drink specials. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, May 26, Pardon My French Bar & Kitchen, 3797 Park Boulevard. (HILLCREST)

Issa Ball: SDM One Year Anniversary San Diego Melanin is celebrating its first anniversary

this Memorial Day Weekend with flowing libations, hors d'oeuvres, music, and more. So pull out your fancy dress, polish those shoes, and dance the night away. Sunday, May 27, 8pm; \$60-\$75. 21 and up. Joe and Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Avenue. (EMERALD HILLS)

FOR KIDS

Botany for Kids Releases Lady Bugs Botany for Kids has been planting and transforming the garden at the lily pond in the heart of Balboa Park for three and a half years. On May 26 the Fiesta Botanica celebrates the Balboa Park plants and gardens while giving special recognition to the 150 year anniversary of the park founding. The family friendly fiesta will begin with the Fiesta Botanica Wagon Parade on El Prado. As the day continues, there will be horticultural theme lectures and demonstrations, entertainment, tours, plant sales, food vendors and more. Botany for Kids will participate in the Wagon Parade, have a booth and release Lady Bugs. Saturday,

May 26, 12pm; **free**. Balboa Park Visitors' Center, 1549 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

LECTURES

Asian Pacific Historic District Walking Tour The San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and the Asian Pacific Historic Collaborative are offering a docent-led tour of San Diego's Asian Pacific Historic District on the second Saturday of each month. Visitors will walk through the Gaslamp Quarter and Asian Pacific Historic District to see the sites of Asian Americans who populated the area beginning in the 1850s and explore the Chinese, Japanese and Filipino districts that once filled the area. Reservations are required and can be made by phone at (619) 338-9888 or by email at info@sdchm.org. Admission is \$10 and includes museum admission. For questions or more information call: (619) 338-9888 or email: info@sdchm.org Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, December 8, **free**-\$10. San Diego Chinese Historical Society and Museum,

404 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

History of Camp Pendleton May is National Military Appreciation Month and San Diego Oasis, in conjunction with the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, will be offering a free class on May 24 from 11:00am to 12:00pm at the Escondido Senior Center discussing the history of Camp Pendleton and stories of the land and Marines in Southern California. For more information, call 760-796-6020 or visit www.sandiegooasis.org Thursday, May 24, 11am; **free**. Park Avenue Community Center, 210 Park Avenue. (ESCONDIDO)

NATURE

Birding Basics Increase your enjoyment of nature by learning 5 simple techniques to identify birds at a glance. Taught by experienced birder and trail guide Winona Sollock you'll also get tips on field guide use. Bring yours if available. Visitor Center Classroom A. Saturday, May 26, 1pm; **free**. Mission

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Santee Church of Christ

Contact: 10761 N Woodside Ave K, Santee, 619-449-6855, www.santeechurchofchrist.org

Membership: 150

Pastor: Erik Borlaug

Age: 29

Born: Forrest Lake, MN

Formation: Winona State University, Winona, MN

Years Ordained: 7

San Diego Reader: What's your main concern as a member of the clergy?

Pastor Erik Borlaug: My biggest concern in my own life and for others is that we all come to understand who God truly is. Sometimes, the more you get to know some people, the less you like them; and sometimes the more you get to know other people, the more you like them.

God is the kind of being that the more you understand who he is, the more you fall in love with him.

SDR: Why did you become a minister?

PB: I didn't grow up in a Christian family, and so I wouldn't have been supported by my family to do any kind of ministry work. But I did grow up in a family that had dinner together, and when I was thinking of becoming a preacher, I brought it up one night at dinner. It changed the whole atmosphere of the room. My family had a hard time understanding why I might want to do that, but now they're at a point where they're not as antagonistic about it, and have accepted

that this is what I'm doing. I became a Christian when I was 19, when I was in college. I was already pursuing a degree. When I became a Christian, the guy that helped to ground me and understand the Bible was the one who told me I should think about preaching.... I had a heart to try to help others know God. Today, as part of my ministry work, I like one-on-one studies, meeting at coffee shops and things like that. I've been helped by others in those same ways, and I want to pass that forward.

SDR: What's the mission of your church?

PB: Our mission is to build up the Christians who are here so we can become more mature and more like Christ. Then we



Erik Borlaug, with his wife Samantha, daughter Abigail, and son Asher, says, "The short answer is you go to heaven when you die. But there are some nuances to that."

try to be inviting and welcoming to anyone who is seeking that same thing, and in that way we help one another in adversity.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PB: The short answer is you go to heaven when you die.

But there are some nuances to that. I believe when people die, there's an afterlife and consciousness, whether it's heaven or hell, and that it's eternal – it lasts forever—again, whether it's heaven or hell. An obedient faith in the Lord will lead people to be with him forever;

and those who tried to find value and security in other things besides the Lord will ultimately not be with him. God is so loving that he would not force something on someone that person didn't want. So if someone didn't want to pursue the Lord on earth, he's not going to force it on that person in eternity. Hell becomes the full extension of someone's negligence of God. If you didn't want him on earth, he's not going to force himself on you for eternity, while people who go to heaven are seeking the Lord, wanting to honor and please him.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

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

Experience Nature's Variety Birds and butterflies are abundant in May. From the ever-present California towhee to the colorful western tiger swallowtail, what will be your chance sightings on your fun and informative walk in nature with your naturalist guide? Meet inside Visitor Center. Saturday, May 26, 9:30am; Sunday, May 27, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Family Discovery Walk Share in nature's spring magic as a family experience. With fresh blooms dotting the landscape both the plant and animal world are enlivened. Chance animal sightings are increased after winter inactivity. Our trail guide interactive outing focuses fun, childhood enrichment, and memorable moments in nature. Meet at the Visitor Center. Sunday, May 27, 3pm; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Palm, Cycad, Bamboo & Tropical Plant Sale This one-of-a-kind event features rare and

exotic species of palms, cycads and other tropical plants provided by exceptional Southern California Nurseries. This event is co-hosted by the Palm Society of Southern California and San Diego Botanic Garden. Free with paid admission or membership. Saturday, May 26, 9am; **free.** San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Step into History Explore nature's variety in traveling the environs of the San Diego River and expansive grasslands with your Trail Guide. Learn Kumeyaay lifestyles of long ago and the significant role Old Mission Dam played in San Diego's rich history. Meet by flag poles at Campground Entry Station. Saturday, May 26, 8:30am; **free.** Kumeyaay Lake Campground, Two Father Junípero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Historical True Crime Tour Join Murder n' Mayhem for a 1 hour Historical True Crime Tour

of the Gaslamp Quarter in downtown San Diego. You will walk through several eras in time as you explore interesting stories of true crime. You will also learn some of the darker history of the Gaslamp Quarter and the area formerly known as the Stinger. Fridays, 10:30pm; Saturdays, 10:30pm; Sundays, 7:30pm; through Monday, December 31, \$15. Gaslamp Quarter, Fifth Ave., between Broadway and Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

SPORTS & FITNESS

Free Yoga in the City Enjoy free yoga in our outdoor courtyard brought to you by Scripps Health, Downtown San Diego Partnership and Yoga One. Bring your mat and water bottle and we will see you there. Visit The Headquarter website to register. Saturday, May 26, 9am; **free.** Headquarters, 789 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

TBC Free Boxing Bootcamp This bootcamp will be one hour and all level. Have friends and fam-

ily interested in trying boxing? Try to come early and bring gloves if you have them. Saturday, May 26, 10am; **free.** 18 and up. Liberty Station NTC Park, 2455 Cushing Road. (LIBERTY STATION)

WORSHIP

Jazz Vespers Each Jazz Vespers service begins with a 30-minute set of live jazz, blues, and gospel, featuring the Archie Thompson & the Archtones and guest musi-

cians. Saturdays, 4:30pm; through Sunday, December 30, **free.** First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ROAM-○-RAMA

continued from page 32

Where the first wash enters the main wash, stay left. Upon reaching a second wash, turn into the drainage and follow it to the end. Now look to your left and climb the clear path up the incline to the well-defined route along the slope. You will start noticing shells in the rocky terrain. There are two small canyons to cross, and then the trail turns up the mountain at a very steep pitch. Reaching the top is worth the climb. The views of the Carrizo Badlands and Salton Sea from the "castle rock" wind caves are sweeping.

The trail continues southeast around the ridge to another dome-shaped wind cave. Here you can

relax in the shaded hollow of an ancient sand dune, weathered by wind and water and sculpted into rounded formations and sheltering caves.

After exploring the area around the wind caves, the easiest way to return is back the way you came (beware, the trail is just as difficult to follow on the way out). Or follow a more difficult trail down into a slot canyon and up a wash to complete a longer loop back to the parking area.

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

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
IN MAY • 5PM – 9PM
Every card is a winner with up to
\$100 in Free Play!
Earn 50 points each to receive your scratch card.
Must scratch card in front of a Player's Gold representative.
One scratch card per eligible guest, per day. While supplies last.
Management reserves the right to alter or change promotion without notice.

GOLDEN ACORN CASINO
TRAVEL CENTER
GoldenAcornCasino.com • I-8 at Crestwood, Exit 61 •

FOLLOW US ON:
f t

WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, MAY 24	12:50	1.14'	12:42	0.22'	6:34	4.45'	7:16	5.76'
FRI, MAY 25	1:43	0.47'	1:24	0.48'	7:35	4.44'	7:51	6.09'
SAT, MAY 26	2:28	-0.07'	2:02	0.77'	8:28	4.41'	8:24	6.30'
SUN, MAY 27	3:08	-0.47'	2:36	1.07'	9:15	4.34'	8:54	6.40'

Waves (POINT LOMA)

Height	Direction	Interval
3'-4'	SSW	15 seconds
2'-3'	SSW	14 seconds
1'-3'	SSW	13 seconds
2'-3'	W	7 seconds

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

EVENTS

Cortez Racing Association Beer Can Series More than 100 sailboats will take over San Diego Bay each Wednesday from May 21 through August 1 (excluding the 4th of July) in the annual Beer Can Summer Series presented by the Cortez Racing Association. Sailors from all over the country and beyond compete in ten different classes. Harbor Island is a great spot for spectators, though most bay-side areas offer a view. Spectators free, entry fees start at 10.00 per race. Wednesday, May 30, 6am; **free**-\$250. Harbor Island Park, 1910 Harbor Island Drive. (HARBOR ISLAND)

Grunion Run Times 2018 The times given for each date reflect the probable two-hour interval during which a spawning run may occur. The second hour is usually better. The best runs normally occur on the second and third nights of a four-night period. March, June, July, and August, grunion can be harvested by hand only. Those 16 years of age and older need a California Fishing License. The runs during the months of April and May are observation only, and grunion cannot be harvested. Where the forecast run starts at or after midnight, the date of the previous evening is shown. Tuesday, May 29, 9:15pm; Wednesday, May 30, 10:10pm; **free**. Beaches throughout Southern California

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)

Memorial Day BBQ Brunch Cruise Browse Hornblower's collection of events for your sunny Memorial Day weekend. From an exclusive cruise with BBQ-inspired brunch to a special sunset cruise, there is something for everyone. No matter which event you choose you can expect dynamic San Diego views, on-board entertainment and seriously delicious eats. Monday, May

28, 11am; \$69. Hornblower Cruises, 970 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Sabor on the Bay: Dress In White Cruise Dress all in white for this Latin-themed cruise aboard Hornblower's luxury yacht the Inspiration. A 3 hour cruise featuring 3 floors of music (live Cumbia band, club DJ's + Salsa dancing on the Rooftop) 5 fully stocked bars, a massive outdoor deck w/ Cigar + Hookah lounge, and laser light shows. Saturday, May 26, 9pm; \$70-\$100. 21 and up. Hornblower Dinner Cruises, 1800 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

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)

Spirits at Sunset Take in a gorgeous summer sunset on San Diego Bay with a gentle sea breeze and drink in hand. Locals and tourists alike can cruise in style aboard Flagship's stunning 82-foot yacht, with open-air deck, luxurious furnishings, and incredible waterfront views. The two-hour cruise includes boarding champagne and light hors d'oeuvres, with local craft beer, wine and specialty cocktails available for purchase. Spirits at Sunset runs Friday and Saturday evenings through Labor Day weekend. Fridays, 6pm; Saturdays, 6pm; through Saturday, September 29, \$37-\$42. Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Sunday Champagne Brunch Cruise All-you-can-eat buffet includes made-to-order omelets, carved meats, fresh seafood, pastries, breakfast favorites, vegetarian options, and bottomless champagne and mimosas. All food is prepared onboard. The two-hour cruise will take a tour past scenic sights along the San Diego and Coronado waterfront. Sundays, 11am; through Sunday, December 30, \$39-\$65. Flagship Cruises & Events, 990 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)



Johnny V.: Every morning, he prays for swell.

Black's felt like being in a prism

NAME: JOHNNY V.

FROM: PACIFIC BEACH

LOCATION: MISSION BEACH JETTY

OCCUPATION: PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

Johnny V. was coming out of the water by the Mission Beach Jetty when I saw him. He'd had the waves all to himself at 5 p.m. on this chilly spring day.

"Today was kinda messy," he said, "I pulled a couple cutbacks, but mostly, I was just trying to stay in the pocket." Johnny's trying to surf as much as he can before summertime, because "it's not going to be as good.... I like it here because even on small days like today (two-footers), it's got a side wave that meets with the main wave, makes this big bowl, and then jacks up."

Every morning, Johnny prays for some swell. He's surfed everywhere in the county, and his most memorable waves were out at Black's one day. "They were four-five footers and crystal clear tubes," he said, "you could see the glass bottom, and you could see out of the wave....

bro, it was like being in a prism."

— Mike Madriaga

Everyone's dream

SKIPPERS SEEKING CREW

The listings come from sandiegosailing.com:

Name: Micheal Hardin

Phone: (714) 614-0285

Email: mdhardinphd@yahoo.com

Crew Type: Racing

Details: Looking for all crew positions for a Beneteau 40.7 in San Diego. All skill levels and beginner skill levels consider

Name: Stan Irish

Phone: (858) 249-8855

Email: gstanirish@gmail.com

Crew Type: Day Sailing

Details: I rent a Capri 22 out of Harbor Island Yacht club and am looking for another sailor to join me (I cover cost of rental, but bring your

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

SEAL MOLESTERS SLIP AWAY – LIFEGUARDS BUSY IN APRIL

From San Diego city lifeguards Apr 15

- 08:24 Enforcement: SDPD requests Lifeguards to stop traffic under Ventura Bridge while they diffuse an M80 found on rocks.

- 11:22 Boating: Person calls Lifeguards reporting two PWCs speeding in the Ski Beach area. Lifeguard vessel stops

multiple PWCs in the area, educating and warning.

- 15:08 Medical: 21 year-old male with ankle injury at Monaco and Sunset Cliffs after jumping off cliff into water. Lifeguards and Fire respond. Medics transport patient to Sharp Hospital.

- 16:20 Swimmer: Lifeguard vessel assists inflatable raft while crossing

busy water way at Crown Point.

Apr 14

- 07:46 Medical: Medics and Lifeguard respond to Tower 5 in Ocean Beach for 33 year-old male with multiple ailments. Lifeguards cancel as medical unit arrives on scene early.

- 12:37 Swimmer: Multiple lifeguard units respond to reported jumpers

at North Ingraham Bridge. Unable to locate.

Apr 13

- 12:46 Medical: Man seizing at Tower 30, La Jolla Shores, Lifeguard, emergency, and medical units respond.

- 13:50 Medical: Male with chest pain/shortness of breath on a kayak off Marine Room. Lifeguard PWC picks up patient and brings to medics on beach.

- 16:13 Swimmer: Lifeguards rescue

swimmer in distress after falling off a raft in Mariners Cove.

- 18:22 Enforcement: Call of three men assaulting seals at La Jolla Cove. Lifeguards/San Diego Police investigate and are unable to locate individuals.

- 20:10 Other: Concerned citizen calls for someone standing at the foot of the water for a while at Santa Cruz cross Bacon. San Diego Police contact the individual and determine no aid necessary.

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **64°F** HIGH **66°F**





VISIBILITY

10'-20'

With the water warming, though slightly, and the windy conditions slacking off a bit, this weekend should be decent for diving and snorkeling in the San Diego area. Afternoon breezes should provide enough push for some light windsurfing but the wind won't be howling. Surf will be smallish and not too clean, though it should be fair to improving by early next week, primarily on SSW breaks.

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

				
MONTH	THUR 24	SAT 26	MON 28	WED 30
SUNRISE	5:44	5:43	5:42	5:42
SUNSET	7:46	7:48	7:49	7:50
LENGTH OF DAY	14H 02M	14H 04M	14H 06M	14H 08M



Lagoon 380. Want to sail from Tahiti to Australia?

own food/bev). Going Friday, April 27, leaving dock 10 am.

Name: Michael and Bree

Phone: (858) 847-5796

Email: breecourtney@hotmail.com

Crew Type: Cruising

Details: Hi there, we are looking to sail a Lagoon 380 from Tahiti to Australia from mid July with arrival early September and are looking for crew to assist us!

Name: Bill Filsinger

Phone: (951) 375-6503

Email: wfilsinger@aol.com

Crew Type: Day Sailing

Details: Have a 38ft Catalina at Marina Village San Diego

CREW SEEKING SKIPPER

The following come from sdwaterfront.com:

Brian Lawton (916) 802-7998

Lawtondds@hotmail.com

Crew Type: Racing Boat Type: Sail

Position(s): Any position

Experience Level: Advanced

Resume: I've been racing my Benetau 350 in Naples Florida for the last five years. We've been racing SW Florida as true cruising/non-spinnaker racing classes. I'll be living in Vista from June through October now. Florida gets too hot. I'm available any time for free sailing, practice, or racing.

Alireza Khodamoradi (916) 458-2611
ar.khodamoradi@gmail.com

Crew Type: Racing Boat Type: Sail

Position(s): Foredeck Mast Pit Tactician
Any position

Experience Level: Some

Resume: I have US Sailing keelboat and cruising certifications with experience in both racing and recreational sailing.

Sanford (Sandy) Leon (619) 990-8728

leoncpa@cox.net

Crew Type: Racing Boat Type: Sail



Night fishing continues all summer through Labor Day.

Position(s): Jib trimmer

Experience Level: Some

Resume: I've been racing PHRF/CRA in San Diego the past twelve years on boats up to around 32'. My preference is for the smaller boats. I'm usually assigned jib/spinnaker trim. I've also raced a Victory 21 with my club the past 12 years. I'm looking to join a crew for the Beer Cans and I'm often available on weekends.

Henry McCann

henry.mccann75@googlemail.com

Crew Type: Racing Boat Type: Sail

Position(s): Any position

Experience Level: Advanced

Resume: Hello, I am an experienced offshore sailor with over 12k sea miles of coastal and offshore experience in tidal waters. Most of my experience was gained sailing in the UK while working towards my professional yacht qualifications.... I'm very interested to join a crew in the local area and be sailing again before sailing to Tokyo in early July.

The swimming tongue

Channel catfish are the most commonly caught freshwater fish in the country. They can survive in brackish water and are easy to farm. That their firm flesh prepares wellm baked or friedm doesn't hurt their popularity. Still, some eschew the catfish as its diet mainly consists of refuse. When a piece of rotting fish or a chunk of chicken liver entices a fish to bite, that fish must not be too picky.

But it is the amino acid in the chicken blood or fish that entices catfish. Chunked or stripped mackerel — high in amino acids — is popular bait when targeting whiskerfish. Dubbed the "swimming tongue" by researchers, a channel catfish's entire body is covered in taste buds sensitive enough to detect amino acid traces.

Late afternoons into the night are active hours for the mostly nocturnal feeders, and Memorial Day weekend Lake Jennings will kick off their night-fishing season with 2000 pounds of stocked channel catfish. Ends after Labor Day.

— Daniel Powell

TIME TO GET YOUR 'BUTS IN THE SURF

Dock Totals May 13 – May 19: 1,947 anglers aboard 93 boats out of San Diego landings this past week caught 111 bluefin tuna, 442 yellowtail, 205 calico bass (1,003 released), 36 sand bass, 2,808 rockfish, 440 whitefish, 8 lingcod, 22 bonito, 160 sculpin, 241 sanddab, 12 sheephead, 45 bocaccio, 10 halibut, 4 barracuda, 15 white seabass (released), 1 smoothhound shark, and 1 thresher shark.

Saltwater: Boats are picking away at the bluefin tuna and

yellowtail within overnight range and though the bite has been sluggish, the signs are positive for a good season ahead. As Summer arrives, I expect the counts will more equally reflect the actuality offshore. Back inside, sardine, mackerel and staging grunion are plentiful, and occasional frenzies of yellowtail action feeding on the surface just off the kelp edge for the kayakers and boaters off La Jolla and Point Loma. Calico bass have been biting well on the kelp edge, and in a decent size. A few spots of barracuda and bonito have shown up on the bait as well and those counts should increase.

Halibut are biting well along the reefs in the sandier areas in 20 to 60 feet of water, and up to just outside the surf line on the weeks during the grunion runs. This is the time of year when catching a legal 'but from shore while surf fishing is most possible. Try early mornings after the peak grunion run. You want to fish the cuts and holes that are reachable while the tide is at the bottom. Another option is to fish directly 'behind' the grunion at night during the runs.

Fish Plants: May 25, Santee Lakes, catfish (1,000), Jennings, catfish (2,000)

She craves chicken feet and raw crab

Almost didn't make it out of Kearny Mesa Friday night. Caught the last bus by a hair.

I blame the Koreans. Came up here looking for Korean food. BBQ. And conversation. Because I'm kinda curious about what Korean-Americans are thinking about this whole Trump/Kim buddy movie going on. Also, what they think of North Korean food.

So I arrived at Convoy and Armour around 8:30. And, wow, looked like every place was packed. Manna Korean BBQ? Line out the door. *DduriBa*, *Chon Ju Jip*, ditto. The one hopeful place is Grandma's. It's crowded too, but the line waiting for tables looks shorter right now.

Lickety-split, I'm shuffling towards Grandma's welcome desk behind a bunch of student-looking Korean guys. I ask them if they know any North Korean dishes. Uh-uh. "From what I hear, they hardly have any food at all," says one of them.

Pretty soon, I've got me a table, and it has the BBQ area in the middle. Except, BBQ? The cheapest, chicken *bulgogi* ("fire meat"), is 18 bucks, and it goes up to \$26 for "spicy *galbi jjim*, braised beef short rib with bone." Combo for two costs \$59.99.

The waitress comes along. "Number 47 is the most popular," she says. I look. "*Dolsot bibimbap*. Mixed vegetables, beef, and egg over rice in a hot stone pot, \$13.99."

Things don't get much cheaper elsewhere on the menu. So I order it, and a Korean beer, "Cass" (\$6.99 for a 22-ounce bottle).

Menu says the *bibimbap* is served "with traditional Korean side dishes," called "*banchan*." And the waiter turns up with eight of them. I'm impressed. I see a fish cake, a savory-smelling lump of potato, seasoned bean sprouts, seaweed, cucumber kimchi, and a neat white cake of, uh, something.

Some are hot, some cold. Flavor-wise, I get tangy, savory, but also sweet.

"Korean people like sweet," says one of the gals at the next-door table. Mimi. Korean. Biology

grad, UCSD. She and her friend Serena, who's Chinese, always come here when one of them flies in from somewhere. Serena's just landed from New York. Mimi's eating *seolleongtang*, ox bone soup, (\$11.99), and Serena's got a spicy shredded beef soup, *yukgaejang* (\$12.99).

But now: wow. Here's my thick black stone bowl, sizzling, loaded with smokin'-hot *bibimbap*. I'm seeing a big fried egg cooking on top, carrots, bean sprouts, some white noodles curled in a ball, seasoned cucumber chunks, spinach, looks like, and underneath, a dome of marinated beef, and underneath that, rice, and who knows what-all else.

I'm just about to start poking away with my chopsticks when Serena speaks up. "You are supposed to mix everything together, just before you eat it."

Turns out *bibim* ("mix") *bap* ("rice") is a big collision of rice and *namul*, sautéed and seasoned vegetables. It has a long history in Korea. They say the dish evolved over many-a lunar new year's eve, when people would throw their leftover food into a bowl of rice and eat it all so they could start their new year with a clean slate.

I mix mine into the sizzling black pot. "Maybe some *gochujang*?" says Mimi. Oh yeah. The Korean red chili paste. It makes a glorious mess. Every now and then I reach for a *banchan*. The golden potato has this surprising savory-sweet taste. Other faves: the rich, sexy, unfishy fish cake slices, the cucumber kimchi, and something I've never had before, slabs of, uh, acorn jelly. Actual chunks made from acorns! Just like the Kumeayaay *shawee*. So it's made on both sides of the Pacific? Huh.

Plus, turns out there's a lot of color symbolism in *bibimbap*. Black or dark colors (think shiitake



The main dish: My *dolsot bibimbap*. Chat on! Stone bowl's hot, for hours.

mushrooms or bracken ferns) represent North, and, hey, your kidneys, too. Red or orange (chili, carrots, jujube dates) represent South, and the heart. Green (e.g. cucumber and spinach) is East, and the liver. White (e.g. bean sprouts, radish, rice) is West, and the lungs. And yellow (pumpkin, potato, egg) represents the center, or the stomach. So hey, eat this dish, you're doing a symbolic tour of the universe, and your gut.

North Korean food? Just less sophisticated, says Serena. Good noodles, less flavorful. Generally less spicy than southern food. But the name "*bulgogi*," the BBQ dish's name, came from Pyongyang, the north's capital.

Turns out Mimi has been really involved in the South Korean peaceful revolution that sent their recent lady president, Park Geun-hye, to jail. Mimi was actually out on the streets of Seoul, demonstrating, day after day, despite armies of police. Wasn't she afraid?

"I was angry. We're trying to end the corruption

and have a fair democracy. And we won!"

She says she's astonished that Trump and Kim look like upending 60 years of cold war. But reunification? She's wary. "Look at how West Germany got drained when it reunited with East Germany," she says.

We talk a lot, and the great thing is this *dolsot* — stone hot pot — has kept my *bibimbap* totally heated and just as good to eat as when we started yapping half an hour ago. And all that for \$13.99, plus \$6.99 for my Cass. Plus those eight *banchan*.

Mimi says honestly she feels more at home in California. But she still gets cravings for 'Seoul Food' in the middle of the night. "Mainly for chicken feet, and *chon ju jip*, marinated raw crab," she says.

Hmm. *Chon Ju Jip*. Isn't that the name of the restaurant nearby? Should check out their crab. Whatever, these gals are way too interesting. Ten minutes and a 100-yard sprint later, I scramble aboard the last #44 bus, sit down, and then, oh man: realize I forgot to scrape the bottom of the *dolsot*. The burned rice (*nurungji*) at the bottom of the hot pot is a favorite Korean delicacy.

Oh well. Great excuse to come back.



My acorn jelly *banchan*. The Kumeayaay are not alone!

The Place: Grandma Tofu and BBQ, 4425 Convoy Street, #218, Kearny Mesa, 858-277-2220

Hours: 10am - 11pm daily, (till 12am, Sunday night; till 10pm Monday)

Prices: Mulmandu boiled or fried pork dumpling (7 pieces), \$6.99; *japchae*, stir-fried clear noodles, \$13.99; *kimchi soondubu* (kimchi with pork tofu soup), \$11.99; *dolsot bibimbap* (veggies, beef, egg, rice in a hot pot with 8 sides), \$13.99; *kimchi jjigae* (stew, pork, tofu), \$11.99; *beef bulgogi* (BBQ), rice, sides, \$17.99

Buses: 27, 44, 60

Nearest bus stops: Convoy and Armour (44); Balboa and Convoy (27, 60)

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Dinner on demand

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Delivery only

It's tough to believe, but only ten years ago, if you wanted dinner from your favorite restaurant, you had to go to said restaurant in person. Those were primitive times, when home delivery was the domain of pizza joints, and the occasional Thai or Chinese spot. Then came the delivery apps. Today, no fewer than five operate in San Diego, bringing the food of any restaurant that offers to-go containers right to your doorstep.

Now, a new kind of local restaurant has emerged. It's got a web site where you may order food, but no dining room. Dabbawala takes orders for delivery only.

Dabbawala is affiliated with a traditional eatery, the Point Loma Indian restaurant Sundara, and its menu is nearly identical. However, Dabbawala operates out of a commercial kitchen in Balboa Park, delivering hot food to households within a few minutes' drive.

The name Dabbawala refers to a common boxed lunch delivery practice in Mumbai. But lunch isn't an option for this service. At the moment, at least, hours run 5 to 9pm nightly. The cost of delivery strikes me as reasonable, with a \$15 minimum and a fee that doesn't go to the restaurant, or any middleman. Dabbawala specifies, "We have a 15% delivery service charge instead of tipping. This service charge goes to the delivery drivers and cooks."

Dabbawala mentions that commercial kitchen is equipped with a clay tandoor oven, so ordering its 24-hour-marinated-roasted-at-700-degrees tandoori chicken (\$9.75) was my first priority. While there were a good number of vegan options that looked enticing, I supplemented with lamb samosas (\$6.75) and the spinach and cheese dish, *saag paneer* (\$11.75, including rice).

I was given an hour estimate, but the food

showed up much more quickly than that. It was packaged in recyclable plastic containers in a paper bag. I opted out of receiving disposable utensils, which all home delivery orders should allow, because we all have our own knives and forks.

The food was terrific, all around. The tandoori chicken had been roasted tender, with the occasional crispy edge. The spinach leaves in the *saag* had almost gelatinized, disintegrating with each bite, around the semi-soft texture of the paneer.

The samosas could have used more lamb, but, loaded with peas and minced veggies, it ate like a curried shepherd's pie.

The meal adequately served two large appetites, and I will be ordering again, when I'm too tired to go out, and too put off by the fluctuating costs of delivery apps, which now charge between six and nine bucks per order on weekend nights, not including tip. Based on my Dabbawala experience, I would not be opposed to more delivery-only eateries.

I can't see a restaurant having the gumption to try such a business model in the past, but at this point in San Diego history, we've reached a critical mass of homebodies accustomed to getting our movies, groceries, and dinner on demand. If Sundara can furnish food for customers

without having the costs or headaches of table linens, silverware, dishwashing, or managing waitstaff, I can see a lot of businesses pursuing the same model.

by Ian Anderson

Skewers a la carte

Espettos Brazilian Skewers, 3803 Fifth Avenue, Hillcrest. When I think about Brazilian skewers, my first thought is always of all you can eat *churrascarias*, such as downtown restaurants Rei Do Gado and Fogo de Chão, where you pay a flat rate to sit at a table while servers bring all manner of grilled meats on demand.

I hadn't encountered a casual version of this



Tandoori chicken thighs, stewed spinach saag, lamb samosa, rice, and condiments; delivered

until I walked into Espettos Brazilian Skewers, in Hillcrest. The small counter shop serves skewers at three bucks a pop, meaning you can gorge on Brazilian *churrasco* without committing to a full evening of gluttony for \$40 and up.

You may complement the grilled meats with other Brazilian specialties. I ordered yucca fries, and a six-piece *coxinha*, which is a croquette of chicken and cream cheese, stuffed in a ball of fried mashed potato. Both were tasty — crispy on the outside and soft within — though I suspect they were made from packaged products, as was a

sausage skewer made from store-bought kielbasa.

The other skewer options include top sirloin beef, chicken thighs, and a vegan skewer of onion, zucchini, red bell pepper, and eggplant. For a little extra, you can try peeled shrimp or *picanha*, the prized sirloin cap of South American barbecue.

I went for *picanha*, chicken, and vegan. True to form, the meats and vegetables were unseasoned save for salt, and cooked well done. Of these ingredients, I think the eggplant could have used a little more grill time.

Now, the sirloin flavor holds up on its own.



If you don't want this food delivered, visit sister restaurant Sundara in Ocean Beach

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But, if you're thinking the chicken and vegetables wanted a little more seasoning, you're not alone. Espettos provides *farofa* (fried yucca flour) for added flavor and crunchy texture, and gives you a pick of four different sauces to embellish the skewers: BBQ, honey mustard, aioli, and chimichurri. I went with the latter two. While the oily and herbal chimichurri worked well with chicken and beef, the garlicky aioli better served the vegetables. Neither were exceptional, but I do dig that *farofa*.

Overall, the experience was like that: everything good, nothing exceptional. I did notice most of my fellow customers were speaking Portuguese, so at least some in the Brazilian community are finding the place well.

Espettos offers reasonable daily lunch specials, but I like it best as a quick snack option. Drop in for a couple of skewers for six bucks, after a drink nearby, in between browsing the block's thrift stores, or before catching a movie up the street. Maybe add a piece of bread to make your skewer into a sandwich. Basically, I'm glad I can eat Brazilian *churrasco* without feeling the pressure to stuff myself silly.

by Ian Anderson

FOOD & DRINK

Alpha Lacrosse X IL NCAA Final 4 NCAA Final 4 Watch Party presented by Alpha Lacrosse and Inside Lacrosse. Free food and drinks, raffle, and product testing. Alpha Lacrosse will be launching their NEW 2019 Product Line. Exclusive pre-orders and on site first time viewing. Family friendly atmosphere so bring the kids too. Saturday, May 26, 9am; free. Chief's Burgers and Brew, 124 Lomas Santa Fe Drive #108. (SOLANA BEACH)

Caesar's Restaurant & Downtown Tijuana Tour Join Wild Foodie Tours and treat yourself to a special evening with a 4-course dinner at the legendary Caesar's Restaurant, birthplace of the Caesar salad. Great for date night and first-time visitors. Trip length of 3-4 hours with a walking distance of about 1 mile. \$89. Fridays and Sundays at 5:00 pm. Everything included: 4-course dinner of choice with drinks, a narrated history of Tijuana, sightseeing, shopping, all transportation in Tijuana, and a

tour guide. Fridays, 5pm; Sundays, 5pm; through Sunday, December 30, \$89. San Ysidro Trolley Station, 700 E. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)



Brazilian street food in Hillcrest

Dinner & a Concert A different band plays every week. Fridays, 6pm; through Friday, May 11, free. Prescott Promenade, 201 E. Main Street. (EL CAJON)



Left to right: vegan, sausage, chicken, and picanha skewers

French Kiss French Kiss features Rosé all day, local DJs, French Riviera menu, and drink specials. Saturdays, 11am; through Saturday, May 26, Pardon My French Bar

& Kitchen, 3797 Park Boulevard. (HILLCREST)

Memorial Day Weekend Poolside Pig Roast Kicking off summer pool season at Level Four is a rooftop Pig Roast hosted by Curadero. Executive Chef Brad Kraten is preparing a Mexican-style pig roast at Level Four, the Rooftop Pool Deck + Lounge on Hotel Palomar's 4th floor. The party starts on Saturday, May 26 at 1pm. Ticketholders will get a welcome drink to enjoy while noshing on all you can eat carnitas with all the taco fixings and rice and beans. You'll also be able to take a swong at a piñata while grazing poolside. Saturday, May 26, 1pm; \$20. Hotel Palomar San Diego, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

The Patio at Night Pop-up The Patio at Night Pop-up at KITCHEN 1540 offered May 2 through September 29; Wednesday through Saturday from 6 to 9:30pm. KITCHEN 1540's patio invites guests to enjoy ocean breezes, private dining cabanas, fire pits, a waterfall, and alluring hanging lanterns. For reservations for The Patio at Night Pop-up at KITCHEN 1540, please call 858-793-6460. Thursdays, 6pm; Fridays, 6pm; Saturdays, 6pm; through Saturday, September 29, \$8-\$26. L'Auberge Del Mar, 1540 Camino Del Mar. (DEL MAR)

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

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

CARLSBAD

Barrio Eat Mexican: Monday-Friday, 2-6pm: \$5 draft beer, house margarita, wells, \$2 off house wine. \$2 off appetizers.

CARMEL VALLEY

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

CHULA VISTA

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

CITY HEIGHTS

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

DEL MAR

Pacifica Del Mar: Monday, Sunday, 4pm-close: \$2 off beers, wine by the glass, featured cocktails, Ocean Bar Bites, half off small plates. Tuesday-Saturday, 4-6pm: \$2 off beers, wine by the glass, featured cocktails, Ocean Bar Bites, half off small plates.

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

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

BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

Where the wild ales are

It feels sort of like walking into a microbrewery fifteen years ago, when some of us still called them that: **California Wild Ales** (4202 Sorrento Valley Boulevard) is a bit of warehouse space, inside an old Sorrento Valley business park, beer being poured out of jockey boxes behind a long bar fashioned from a conference table that's been sawed in half. Tying the room together, a wall of repurposed wood is populated by painted creatures reminiscent of the beasts in children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The low-key atmosphere is less due to lack of effort than a lack of startup cash. Embracing discarded furniture and low-cost components, the partners behind California Wild Ales have pieced this brewery



A flight of sour wild ales.

together over the past couple years without traditional financing or debt accumulation. Part of the reason they could do so is they haven't had to invest in the stainless steel brewing vessels most breweries bank on.

Instead, this room is stacked with oak barrels. California Wild Ales doesn't make fresh beer, at all. Instead, it acquires wort from local breweries, trucking it here to produce mixed fermentation ales, made with wild yeasts, bacteria, and sometimes fruit. In other words: sour beer.

You really have to be a fan of sour flavors to appreciate what these guys do. And patient. These beers take from months to over a year to produce, and though they've had this space for two years, California Wild Ales only started serving in its tasting room for the first time on

a weekend this April.

They've been keeping weekend hours since, and when I rolled in on a Saturday afternoon, I didn't find the usual, young, front-of-house hires pouring drinks. The bar was manned instead by owners Zack Brager, Bill DeWitt, and Cameron Pryor (who is also head brewer). They were pouring beer or chatting with friends, customers, and industry colleagues, a dozen or so customers including men and women, some accompanied by a baby, a toddler, or dog (full disclosure: the dog was mine). As I drank, people came and went, including an impeccably dressed young man picking up a couple bottles to take to a wedding, and a couple celebrating their own anniversary with a leisurely beer crawl.

First on the board was a salted yuzu sour the brewery had just released in bottles. Yuzu, a Japanese lemon, melds well with a sour ale, and the addition of Maldon's sea salt contributes to a pleasant lemon candy experience. A guava sour, also featured in bottles, bore more of a white wine tartness around a fruit-forward sour with low carbonation. Inspired by a dessert he



Brewer Cameron Pryor engages with customers, while a dog watches the door.

experienced on a trip in Mexico City, Pryor made a cinnamon variant of the guava beer, lending greater complexity that seemed to add more than a simple layer of spice.

Less successful was the beer called Flandersish, which sought to make the best of a Flanders style red sour ale that hadn't come through as planned. I'm a little more acid-sensitive than most, but the acid balance struck me as out of whack, overborn by a base flavor that, I only later realized, reminded me of Laffy Taffy.

The vibe at California Wild Ales may feel more like earlier days of San Diego beer, but the flavors you'll encounter will definitely not.

ESCONDIDO

Brigantine: Monday, 3:30pm-close: \$1 off drafts, well drinks, featured wine; house margarita \$5.75. Tuesday, 3:30-6pm: \$1 off drafts, well drinks, featured wine; house margarita \$5.75.

HILLCREST

Martinis Above Fourth | Table + Stage: Daily, 4-7pm: \$10 8-oz martinis, \$6 sweet potato fries.

KEARNY MESA

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: Daily, 4-6pm \$5 all Draft Beers, \$5 Bourbon Slushies \$5 premium wells and \$5 appetizers like Porky Grilled Cheese, Smokey Chicken Wings, BLT Sliders, Fried Cornmeal Green Tomatoes our Loaded Fries and Fried Mac-n-Cheese

LA JOLLA

Duke's La Jolla: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$5 select craft beer on tap, \$7 barrel to glass wine, \$8 cocktails (Mai Tai, Prospect Margarita, Wind-n-Sea Breeze, and Kahanamoku Kick), \$2 off all pupus, \$4 off local favorites.

LA MESA

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.

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.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Phil's BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$5 all draft beer, all wine, all signature cocktails and preferred spirit brands. Also available are food specials featuring a new BBQ wings recipe.

MISSION BEACH

Coaster Saloon: Monday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$4 Bud draft, Bud Light draft, and well drinks.

MISSION HILLS

Brooklyn Girl: Monday-Friday, Sunday, 4-6:30pm: \$6 tap beer, \$7 wine, \$7 BG standards cocktails. \$7 BG famous hummus, \$9 shrimp tacos, margherita pizza, \$12 Michael's choice pizza, oysters on the half shell \$10 half dozen \$20 dozen.

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NORTH PARK

Bar Pink: Monday-Friday, 4-7pm: \$3 wells, \$2 PBR, \$1 off drafts and calls. Saturday-Sunday, 12-8pm: \$3 wells, \$2 PBR, \$1 off drafts and calls.

True North Tavern: Monday-Friday, 12-7pm: \$1 off all beer, wine, liquor.

Waypoint Public: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$6 drafts, \$7 wines.

OCEAN BEACH

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

OLD TOWN

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

PACIFIC BEACH

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

POINT LOMA

Jimmy's Famous American Tavern: Monday-Friday, 3pm-close: \$7 margaritas and wines. \$2 off drafts. \$10 sliders.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Phil's BBQ Rancho Bernardo: Monday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$5 all draft beer, all wine, all signature cocktails and preferred spirit brands. Also available are food specials featuring a new BBQ wings recipe.

SAN MARCOS

Phil's BBQ San Marcos: Monday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$5 all draft beer, all wine, all signature cocktails and preferred spirit brands. Also available are food specials featuring a new BBQ wings recipe.

SANTEE

Phil's BBQ Santee: Monday-Friday, 3pm-6pm: \$5 all draft beer, all wine, all signature cocktails and preferred spirit brands. Also available are food specials featuring a new BBQ wings recipe.

SPRING VALLEY

Cali Comfort BBQ: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: \$1 off well drinks, house wines and tall drafts. Half-off all starters.

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blurt the inside track

Tweakers and random desert people New band pages are added each week to the *San Diego Reader* Local Music Database. It now numbers over 4900 entries, each with custom written bios, discographies, videos, MP3s, upcoming gigs, and more. We listened to the newest music from them all, and found these to be among the most promising up and coming acts.

Based in La Jolla and formed last year, Plunderbund (defined in the dictionary as “a league of commercial, political, or financial interests that exploits the public”) is a power trio playing alternative and power pop tunes. Their bare bones video for “Home” is built around a Foghat-style blues riff, with their female bassist-singer confessing how she will “overstay my welcome and never make the bed,” building up a nice head of steam until launching into a scorching guitar solo.

Also recommended is Plunderbund's *Reverbnation* track “New Age Parody,” which kicks off the hilarity with its opening line “Come out of that basement, ‘cause way down there, you’ll lose your hair,” following up with a rising chorus of Beatlesque harmonies that, though somewhat crudely recorded, clearly show a love and command of the sort of pop psychedelia trafficked in by likeminded and far more well-funded ensembles such as Tears For Fears and XTC.

Düüns is a psychedelic rock band formed in 2016 by North County natives Marc Montez, Mikey Sykes, Nathan Gentry, and Luke Cottrell, later joined by Alex Garcia.

Coming of age together listening to the likes of CAN, the Velvet Underground, and Pink Floyd, Düüns says they are “informed heavily by reflection of the past, and a limitless desire to explore the future.”

The quartet recorded their *Saturated* EP over three nights straight to tape on a Tascam 388 at Lavender House Records in Vista,



Düüns on the cliffs.

with members alternating instrument positions for each song. A new single appeared in April, “Escape/AWOL,” previewing their upcoming album *U.S.S. Death Express*, which sports a cover painted by singer-bassist Luke Cottrell.



Plunderbund hopes to exploit the public's interest in power pop.

“Our first gig ever was for this DIY festival in the desert near Joshua Tree called Gran Roca,” Cottrell tells the *Reader*. “We camped out the night before and through the day of, and as the day went on, we got restless and got too high before we went on. We played a pretty fucked up set to the most bizarre crowd of tweakers and random

desert people.

“I guess we were entertaining enough to get invited back to play the next year.”
— Jay Allen Sanford

Lestat's West may rise from its coffin

John Husler admits his much-loved acoustic showcase in Normal Heights called Lestat's West has not been profitable for six years. “We've been losing from \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year,” says co-owner Husler about the fifteen-year-old showcase adjacent to his coffee house on Adams Avenue. “That had to be addressed. I am not made of money. I could not sustain that level of loss we were losing on [Lestat's West]. With the money we lost, you could have bought a condominium in San Diego.”

There was one whole month of no music at Lestat's West. Longtime soundman/booker Louie Brazier indicated on social media two months ago it was curtain's for Lestat's West and live music.

And although Husler admits, “We were prepared to close it up,” he says there's been a change of plans and a new business model in play that he hopes will keep Lestat's West open.

Lestat's West is no longer booking shows for which it hires the bands and is on the hook to cover the performer's guarantee. Brazier has in essence become an in-house promoter and must survive by the success of his bookings and the profits each show produces. Brazier works out door revenue proceeds with each artist and must now make sure each headliner draws a crowd.

“It's a new collaboration,” Husler tells the *Reader*. “Louie is now paid by the success of each show. We are now just the venue.”

Brazier will be responsible for the two or three nights a week Lestat's West hosts

featured shows which have a cover charge. Lestat's West once had live music seven nights a week. Husler says he is open to hosting more showcase nights should Brazier get the business back on track. The two weekly open mic nights (one music, one comedy) will continue at Lestat's West.

“I believe Louie is now motivated and will make sure each show is promoted more effectively,” Husler says. He hopes the fact that Brazier is highly appreciated by local artists will help him orchestrate successful live gigs. “He is loved by everyone. Things like that are valuable... This should have happened since the beginning.”

Husler says he just wants Lestat's West to break even. “I've never tried to make money off the artist. I've always just wanted it to be cost neutral. I am still willing to pay the rent and insurance and keep the lights on. I am willing to take a smaller loss. I think this way my losses will be greatly reduced.”

It's harder than it was a decade ago for an acoustic-centered venue like Lestat's West to thrive, says Husler. “The big change is that people now get their music on their phone. Millennials see less benefit to go to a show when they can get their music on their phone any time they want.

“But I honestly think Louie can make this work. As long as he stays focused, I don't think he'll let this collapse.” Husler points out it was Brazier's hands-on, pro-artist commitment to Lestat's West that made it a regular haunt for such noteworthy locals artists as Gregory Page, Jason Mraz, Anya Marina,



Lestat's West: one more thing ruined by Millennials and their fondness for music on the telephone. Can Louie Brazier bring it back?

and Greg Laswell.

Meanwhile Husler continues to operate his three coffee houses, including Hillcrest and University Heights locations, which employ some 50 staffers. He says he is looking to opening other Lestat's, possibly in North County.

— Ken Leighton

Tommy Ragen has nothing against public school In fact, he loved his last principal. “Miss Tripi was really nice to me,” says Ragen of La Jolla Elementary's Donna Tripi. “She was really supportive of Tommy and

Tommy was 9 when he was tapped to be the understudy of Zach in Andrew Lloyd Weber's touring production of *School of Rock*. Tommy says the production reached out to him. “There were thousands of kids who tried out,” says Tommy of his L.A. auditions.

From August of last year through March, Tommy and the *School of Rock* production toured the country, playing one- or two-week stints at Chicago, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Cincinnati, Houston, Austin and Oklahoma City and other cities. He is being



Tommy Ragen will always be able to tell people that he dropped out of school to attend the *School of Rock*.

allowed him to spend time on his his music,” says dad Frank about his son, who just turned 10.

But the pre-teen singer/guitarist/songwriter had to pull out of the public school system after third grade when his career started blowing up.

looked at to take over the main role of Zach in the next Broadway version of *School of Rock*, when the current actor leaves this summer. “I made some really good friends there,” says Tommy.

Tommy continues to be

(continued on page 46)

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home schooled as he prepares to appear in an independent movie, *Chasing*, about a reincarnated rock star, which is set to begin filming this summer in Vancouver. The film is directed by Sean McNamara (*Soul Surfer*, *A.N.T. Farm*, *That's So Raven*).

The four-foot-eight performer with the plaintive voice likes to keep his chops up. He's recently played at The Pour House bar in Oceanside and at a street fair in Encinitas. He appears Thursday, May 24 at Lestat's West and Sunday, May 26 at Riffs Studio in La Jolla.

"It's a difficult industry," admits Tommy's father Frank Ragen about children in show business. "Once they get cast, kids can lose the gig if they get too tall or their voice changes."

Frank says his son has a New York-based theatrical agent and a Southern California-based manager.

Tommy says he knows what to avoid going forward. "If I wanted to fill my lungs with smoke I'd stand over a BBQ all day," jokes Tommy. "I've seen people use drugs, people in San Diego. Once they get addicted, their careers are over."

"We try and make it fun for him when he's on the road," says the elder Ragen.

"The hardest part for him is to not be around his older sister and younger brother. When they see each other after months, they hug and cry."

Frank tries to make sure Tommy sets aside time to write songs. "What About Me" was about kids at lunch who were mean to me so I wrote a song about it," Tommy tells the *Reader*. "Tokyo" is about a friend of ours who had a lot of issues with her family and had to leave home."

Tommy wrote 'Chasing' when he was eight. That song will be included in the soundtrack in the upcoming McNamara-directed movie, which was named for Tommy's song. His album, *Tommy Ragen 9*, is available on CD Baby and iTunes.

—Ken Leighton

Spice Girls songs Sex Pistols-style "Spike" Mike Muellenberg has been a musician in Southern California for nearly his entire life. He has played in bands for most of that time period, and knows first-hand how difficult it is to draw a crowd.

"There's so much music going on in Southern California that it's really hard to develop a following unless you're doing something different that's unpredictable," Muellenberg explained. "I was looking at my fat, hairy beer belly going, 'How the hell can I make this thing an

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asset?" I had been stewing on that idea for a couple of days and then had a conversation with a couple of female musician friends on Facebook. They were talking about wanting to put together an all-girl punk rock band. I mentioned 'Well, why don't you guys do Spice Girls songs, Sex Pistols-style and call yourself the Spice Pistols? One of the girls came back with a comment saying 'I would never play those guys' music. They suck.' Then I went, 'Screw you guys. I'm gonna do it in drag, then.'

"The image was born in my head. I saw myself in leopard print and high-heels, playing Spice Girls songs Sex Pistols-style. It was an epiphany."

It was at this moment that

Hairy Scary Spice was born. She united with Ginger Binger Spice, Maybe Baby Spice, Slosh Posh Spice, and Shorty Sporty Spice to actually form the Spice Pistols — a Spice



No, seriously: never mind the bollocks, here come the Spice Pistols.

Girls/Sex Pistols mash-up that tackles songs by each band, along with some of their very own creations.

"One of the things we also do is we write from the

perspective of if the Spice Girls and the Sex Pistols sat down and wrote together. The title track from our record *Life's A Drag* is really about gender-identity and the difficulty people are having in our society at this time," Muellenberg said.

So far the Spice Pistols have played around town at venues such as the Casbah and the Brick By Brick. Muellenberg sent a video of the Pistols playing at the Whiskey in Los Angeles to producers of *America's Got Talent* with the hope that the band could score some national air-time. The

producers bit and told them to come up to LA in February to audition for the show. They were armed with only acoustic instruments and a drum machine for this per-

formance. The first song they played for the eight producers present was "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls.

"We were all dressed up, we killed it, and they loved it. They asked us if we had any other material prepared and we had two other songs. They said, 'Please do those,'" Muellenberg said.

The acoustic audition paved the way for the official, competition appearance, which was taped on March 11. Muellenberg has to keep mum about the details until the show airs, so tune in on May 29th to see what Simon Cowell (who famously passed on the Spice Girls) and Mel B. (an actual Spice Girl) think of Hairy Scary and his Spicy cohorts.

—Dryw Keltz

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

CONTRIBUTORS

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

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SAT. JUN 2 JONAH MATRANGA (FAR) The Pauses, No Sympathy	THU. JUN 7 INSOMNIUM Oceans Of Slumber, Helsott, Convent	SAT. JUN 23 GARY HOEY Pet Shark, Graveyard Witch, Planet Shred, Da Vang
SUN. JUN 3 AUTHORITY ZERO Bunch Of Heathens, Skipjack	FRI. JUN 8 ULI JON ROTH Brett Ellis Band, Taz Taylor Band, Bunch Of Heathens	TUE. JUN 26 FLOTSAM AND JETSAM Wolfpack Black, Nukem, Monarch

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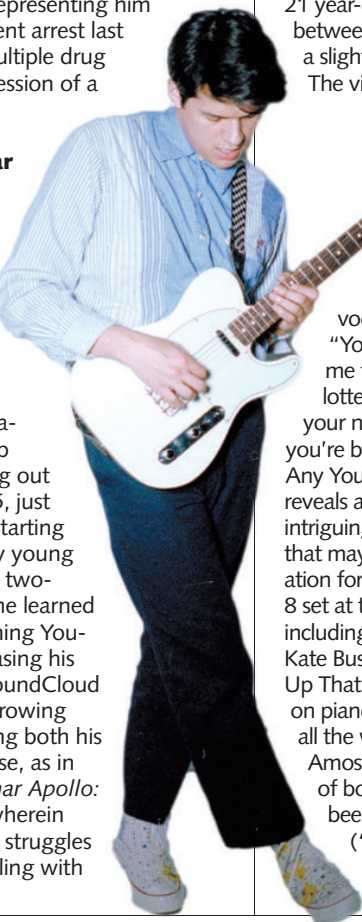
JUST ANNOUNCED

J. Cole's KOD Tour pulls into Viejas Arena on August 22, promoting a same-named full-length released in April with a title said to either stand for Kill Our Demons, Kids on Drugs, or King Overdosed, 'pending which subtitle you choose to identify with. The album, his fifth number

one-seller in the U.S., covers all those topics, with a title track that basically broke Spotify when it was streamed over four million times on the day it debuted. It's a curiously self-aware record for the 33 year-old born Jermaine Lamar Cole, eschewing the usual hip-hop tropes to instead examine that culture's tendency toward glorifying drug use, guns, and elevating the pursuit of cash to near religious obsession. The two music videos released so far lighten up the tone somewhat, harkening back to classic MTV with flashy low-attention-span cutting for "ATM" (co-directed by Cole), and with "Kevin's Heart" featuring a guest turn from — who else? — comedian Kevin Hart. Opening act Young Thug will hopefully avoid jail long enough to last out the tour, in order to pay the lawyers representing him over his most recent arrest last September, on multiple drug charges and possession of a firearm.

20-year-old **Omar Apollo** is a first generation Mexican-American singer from Indiana who first began writing and recording his own mix of jazz, R&B, funk, alternative, soul, and pop music on dropping out of college in 2015, just two weeks after starting classes. Like many young performers of the two-thousand-teens, he learned guitar from watching YouTube videos, releasing his initial songs on SoundCloud and amassing a growing fan base by sharing both his music and his muse, as in the short film *Omar Apollo: Figuring It Out*, wherein he talks about his struggles as a musician dealing with

J. COLE AND YOUNG THUG AT VIEJAS ARENA ON AUGUST 22



OMAR APOLLO AT HOUSE OF BLUES ON AUGUST 25

ADHD. Even his manager was hired via Twitter. The tunes are easy enough to preview online, where most music seems to live nowadays, though he's apparently reworking his recordings (originally done with just bass and guitar) for an upcoming release due sometime around when he appears at House of Blues on August 25. His debut EP, *Stereo*,

features lyrics sung in both English and Spanish, along with surprisingly adept and even innovative guitar solos that belie his youth and lack of direct training. He's a performer with enough chops and diverse interests to potentially be the next Prince, or even a contender for the DIY pop throne first usurped by young Beck. Check back with this column in a few years to see if we're singing similar praise for some up-and-comer as The Next Omar Apollo.

British singer-songwriter **Jade Bird** first crossed most people's radar last year while she was touring with country star Brent Cobb, or when she earned brief but uniformly glowing press over her SXSW performance. A debut EP called *Something American* was released last summer via Glassnote Records, demonstrating the 21 year-old's gritty vocal style, somewhere between Bonnie Raitt and Lorde, with a slight tendency toward rock and roll.

The video for "Lottery" was filmed on a single bare set, in one lone shot, with the only camera moves being a spin and a rotation, thus laserizing all

the focus on her soulful vocals as she sings "You used to tell me that love was a lottery, but you got your numbers and you're betting on me." Any YouTube search reveals a sidebar full of intriguing concert covers that may be in consideration for her September 8 set at the Casbah, including a version of Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill" with her on piano that sounds for all the world like a Tori

Amos tribute, a dream mashup for fans of both pop-prog princesses. She's also been known to cover Johnny Cash ("I've Been Everywhere"), Dua Lipa ("New Rules"), and even



JADE BIRD AT CASBAH ON SEPTEMBER 8

the Pixies ("Where Is My Mind"), hinting at a genre-hopping future akin to each of those influential progenitors.

Timbiriche began in the early '80s as a Mexican pop group made up of, and intended for, kids. They were kind of an entry-level Menudo, eventually evolving (like that band) into an adult ensemble with a constantly shifting lineup of next generations. They split multiple times, first in the early '90s, though their momentum continued with sales of compilation albums and reissues of greatest hits like "Princesa Tibetana," "Tu y Yo Somos Uno Mismo," "Juntos," "Y la Fiesta Comenzó," "Corro Vuelo Me Acelero," and "Somos Amigos." The version of Timbiriche formulated over the course of a poorly received TV reality show fell apart in 2009, somewhat tarnishing the group's otherwise sterling legacy with longtime fans, but last year's 35th anniversary tour featured enough returning mem-

bers from their various classic lineups to please devotees, with founders Sasha Sokol, Benny Ibarra, Alix Bauer, and Mariana Garza joined by longtime bandmates Erik Rubin and Diego Schoe-



TIMBIRICHE AT VIEJAS ARENA ON OCTOBER 4

ning. Photos released for their upcoming tour indicate the same lineup will grace Viejas Arena at SDSU on October 4.

The phrase "Canadian punk" sounds to not-quite-as-North American ears like a contradiction akin to a quiet shout, since the perception of our overhead neighbors as overly polite and not easily angered is perpetuated by references in TV shows, movies, and standup comedy routines. Truth be told, the Canadian hardcore

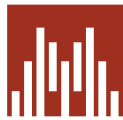


FLATLINERS AT BRICK BY BRICK ON OCTOBER 4

scene dates back at least as far as its U.S. counterparts, particularly in Vancouver and Toronto, thanks to prototypical acts like Teenage Head (who surely never liked, but benefitted from, being often-referred to as Canada's Ramones) and the Skulls, which included future members of Subhumans and DOA. From this fabled lineage came the **Flatliners** in the early 2000s, whose steady series of EPs and albums have increased their profile to the point where they earned a nomination at the 2014 Juno Awards (aka the Canadian Grammys), for Metal/Hard Music Album of the Year. When they play Brick by Brick on October 4, the bill includes Santa Rosa pop-punk rockers Decent Criminal, whose own momentum was somewhat jump-started when their songs were accidentally pressed onto the flipside of a vinyl Kendrick Lamar album. Local openers Western Settings is a melodic-punk band featuring vocalist/bassist Ricky Schmidt and drummer Adam Kissell (both from Man Eats Man), alongside guitarists Dylan Walters (Deadhorse) and Will Castro (Threefoot), who also owns La Escalera Records.

— Jay Allen Sanford

Find *JUST ANNOUNCED* online at SDReader.com/music



MUSIC BOX



FRIDAY

GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC

MAY 25



SATURDAY

THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE
(AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE)
AFTER PARTY WITH DJ RATTY

MAY 26



SUNDAY

PURPLE DISCO MACHINE
ERIC MEDINA & CALIPARIS
DUBBEATS (STAYBAD / OH SO KOY DEEPLOMATIC)



MAY 27



WEDNESDAY

AN EVENING WITH
JOHN MAYALL

MAY 30



FRIDAY

MARK FARINA
CRIS HERRERA
ARIELLE Z B2B ERIC MEDINA



JUN 01



SATURDAY

BETAMAXX
HIGH TIDE SOCIETY

JUN 02



SUNDAY

TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS
SUN DRIED VIBES
THICKER THAN THIEVES

JUN 03



THURSDAY

THE MAINLY MOZART FESTIVAL PRESENTS
MAK GRGIC
MARTIN CHALIFOUR

JUN 07



FRIDAY

SHE WANTS REVENGE ☾
LOVE, ECSTASY AND TERROR

JUN 08

JUST ADDED

91X Inspired By Music Series: Flor 6/21 • Kina Grannis 7/10
Juliette & The Licks 7/21 • 91x Inspired by Music Series: Mt. Joy 7/25
Kelly McGarry presents Up the Irons 8/4 • Alex Clare 10/21

COMING SOON

6/9 Aterciopelados	7/12 OUT to End Gun Violence feat. Justin Tranter	7/28 Como La Flor Band (Selena tribute)
6/10 Lorena Isabell Album Release (seated show)	7/13 Random Rab	7/29 Sean Mullins Soul's Core Revival Tour (seated show)
6/16 The Viceroy's with Wayne Wade	7/14 Strangelove (Depeche Mode Experience)	8/15 SALES
6/17 Day26	7/15 Mud Slide Slim The Music of James Taylor and Carole King (seated show)	8/17 Stepping Feet (Dave Matthews Band Experience)
6/22 Super Diamond (Neil Diamond tribute)	7/20 SuicideGirls Blackheart Burlesque	8/29 Tyrone Wells (seated show)
6/27 Slum Village	7/22 Reckless Kelly	9/2 The Steely Damned 2 (Steely Dan tribute) (seated show)
6/28 Shwayze & Cisco Adler 10th Anniversary Summer Tour	7/24 Judith Owen ft. the legendary Leland Sklar (seated show)	9/9 Yacht Rock Revue
6/29 Cold Cave	7/26 Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra	9/27 Jedi Mind Tricks
6/30 Dread Mar I	7/27 The PettyBreakers (Tom Petty tribute)	10/4 Mexrissey: Mexico goes Morrissey
7/1 Katchafire		
7/6 Cazztek w/ Nicky Genesis		
7/7 40 Oz to Freedom & No Duh		

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NATE DONNIS
WEDNESDAY 5/23



CASH'D OUT
(JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE)

NANCARROW'S BUCK OWENS TRIBUTE
FRIDAY 5/25



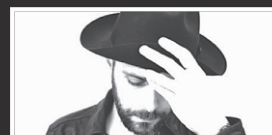
AN EVENING WITH
MADELINE PEYROUX

MONDAY 5/28



THE DEAD MILKMEN

THE BOMBPOPS
THURSDAY 5/31



GREG LASWELL

TOLAN SHAW
FRIDAY 6/1



NICKI BLUHM

MAPACHE
TUESDAY 6/5



THE YARDBIRDS

WEDNESDAY 6/6



NATHAN JAMES & SHARIFAH

ATTA BOY AND MORE
THURSDAY 6/7



B-SIDE PLAYERS

AFROLICIOUS, NEW LEAF
FRIDAY 6/8



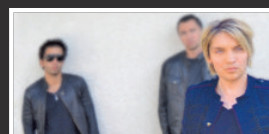
THE SWORD

ATOMIC BITCHWAX
SATURDAY 6/9



JD MCPHERSON

NICOLE ATKINS
TUESDAY 6/12



THE CALLING

THE TEARAWAYS
WEDNESDAY 6/13



THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW

WAYLON JENNINGS BIRTHDAY
(THE HIGHWAYMEN TRIBUTE)

SHANE SHIPLEY BAND
FRIDAY 6/15



BEATLES VS STONES
ABBEY ROAD (BEATLES TRIBUTE),
JUMPING JACK FLASH
(ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE)

SATURDAY 6/16



GREG DOUGLASS BAND
THE MUSIC OF STEVE MILLER BAND,
VAN MORRISON, HOT TUNA, MORE!

FATHERS DAY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY 6/17



JUST ADDED!

Shooter Jennings 8/8
Tribal Theory 8/17 • Shannon and The Clams 10/10
Dead Man's Party 10/26 • The Motet 11/2

Upcoming Shows:

5/24 Rufus Wainwright - Sold Out!	7/4 & 5 moe.	8/10 Pato Banton
5/25 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	7/6 Metalachi	8/18 Mustache Harbor & Graceband
5/26 Kimbra & Son Lux - Sold Out!	7/7 Tainted Love	8/23 The Alarm
5/27 J Boog - Sold Out!	7/8 Sully & The Blue-Eyed Soul Band	8/25 Pivit w/ Buckfast Superbee
5/29 & 30 Xavier Rudd - Sold Out!	7/11 Bob Schneider	8/25 Punch Brothers @ Observatory
6/3 Calexico - Sold Out!	7/12 Monarch	8/31 Black Uhuru
6/10 Turnpike Troubadours - Sold Out!	7/13 Jefferson Starship - Sold Out!	9/1 Midge Ure & Paul Young
6/18 This Will Destroy You Concert Benefiting the Tony Hawk Foundation	7/14 DJ Williams' Shots Fired and Brothers Gow	9/4 The Marcus King Band
6/19 Stars	7/15 Paul Thorn	9/5 Justin Hayward (seated show)
6/20 Donavon Frankenreiter	7/16 Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters	9/6 The Original Wailers performing the album Legend
6/22 Los Beautiful Beast	7/18 & 19 Toad the Wet Sprocket	9/7 JJ Grey & Mofro
6/24 Seu Jorge	7/20 Dennis Quaid & the Sharks	9/9 & 10 Kenny Wayne Shepherd
6/24 Shakey Graves @ Observatory	7/22 X	9/11 Murder By Death
6/26 Beres Hammond	7/24 The Teskey Brothers	9/13 ROSTAM
6/27 Aaron Neville Duo (seated show)	7/25 Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore (backed by The Guilty Ones)	9/14 Rayland Baxter
6/29 The Milk Carton Kids	7/25 Jenny & the Mexicats @ Casbah	9/16 Whitney Shay
6/30 MAGIC GIANT	7/26 Henry Kapono & Friends	9/24 Liz Phair
7/1 The Young Dubliners	7/28 Wayward Sons	9/27 Loudon Wainwright III (seated show)
7/3 80's Heat	8/1 Easy Wind (Grateful Dead tribute)	9/29 Marc Broussard
	8/2 Femi Kuti & The Positive Force	10/27 Tab Benoit
	8/4 Dead Man's Party (Oingo Boingo tribute)	11/10 The Record Company @ House of Blues
	8/9 Ace Frehley	11/19 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers

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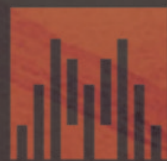
MUSIC BOX

PRESENTS

JOHN MAYALL



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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

710 Beach Club:

Tuesday, 9pm — The Tones.

All Saints' Episcopal Church:

Saturday, 7pm — WILLAN WEST 2018: Missa Brevis no. 14 St Alphege. Free.

Auditorium at the Scripps Research Institute:

Tuesday, 7:30pm — Chano Dominguez. \$30-\$35.

Avant at Rancho Bernardo Inn:

Sunday, 6pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

Aztec Brewing Company:

Saturday, 6pm — Freemartin.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:

Saturday, 6:30pm — Flipside Burners. Free.

Bancroft:

Friday, 9:30pm — Veins of Wires. Free.

Beaumont's:

Thursday, 7:30pm — BPeace.
Friday, 9pm — Dave Booda & the Leftovers.
Saturday, 9pm — dB Jukebox.
Sunday, 11:30am — Setting Sons Duo.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Rufus Wainwright. \$46.
Friday, 8pm — Cash'd Out.

Saturday, 8pm — Kimbra and Son Lux. \$20-\$35.
Sunday, 8pm — J Boog and i-Octane. \$28-\$49.

Monday, 8pm — Madeleine Peyroux. \$46-\$80.

Tuesday & Wednesday, 8pm — Xavier Rudd. \$35-\$62.

Bolt Brewing:

Thursday, 5pm — Family Fun Fest. \$5-\$20.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Friday, 7:30pm — Natalia Lafourcade. \$20-\$80.

Casbah:

Thursday, 8pm — Draemings, Le Ra, Belladonna. \$10.

Friday, 8pm — Jesse Dayton. \$12-\$15.

Saturday, 8pm — Girls Girls Girls. \$8.

Sunday, 8pm — Booty Bassment. \$10.

Monday, 8pm — Subhumans. \$15.

Wednesday, 8pm — DJ Artistic's Hip-Hop Battle Bot. \$10.

Cheers Bar & Grill:

Saturday, 9pm — New Dogs/Old Tricks. Free.

Ché Café:

Friday, 7pm — Tim Woulfe and Love Triangle. \$6.

Saturday, 7pm — Stray Monroe and Freaks. \$5.

Club M:

Saturday, 8pm — Mobsters' Ball. \$10.

David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre:

Saturday, 6pm — Concert of Philippine Dances & Music. \$20-\$30.

! OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

When Madeleine Peyroux comes around this time, she'll be travelling light. It's a trio gig with guitar, acoustic bass, and her voice to support the jazz-and-blues singer's 20 years of recordings. I think her own folkish guitar is little more than a prop, a replacement, perhaps, of the ukulele she grew up learning to play music on. Peyroux can pull it off — the minimal, bare bones stage without much in the way of gloss. It's a café set, better suited for a coffee house or a street corner, but she brings it to the big stage and it works.

Her band otherwise is a prominent presence that rests just behind her and her voice. As a singer, Peyroux slips around the watery roots of a song like an electric eel. Every so

often, as is proper jazz form, she cuts her band mates loose so they can re-shuffle the deck with their own instrumental ideas. The interchanges are not unlike those of Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie from back in the day.

The American-born singer calls her mother and father hippies. She says she learned music in the time honored way, by listening to their old vinyl. Her mother moved her to Paris during Madeleine's teen years, who had chops enough by then to gig with random buskers. At 16, she'd enrolled in a school of a different kind, by touring Europe with a street jazz-blues band. Hers would ultimately be a life of right time, right place, and the right friends, drawn in by Peyroux's craft and the resemblance to Holiday that music critics claimed they heard in her voice. Or maybe some Edith Piaf, way before cigarettes dark-



MADELEINE PEYROUX

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHERWIN LANEZ

ened that French star's vocals. But that's where comparisons end. Peyroux is the anti-Billie, the anti-Edith. She's a window on them both, luminous, with husky little bits of funk, country, gospel, even gypsy jazz in the mix.

MADELEINE PEYROUX: Monday, May 28, Belly Up, 858-481-8140, 7 p.m., \$46/47

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

De Oro Mine Co:

Friday, 8pm — The Naked I.

Saturday, 8pm — Raggabond. Free.

Monday, 7pm — Big Boss Bubeleh. Free.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 9pm — Brixton 76.

Saturday, 8pm — Wild Rumour.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Friday, 8pm — Thelonious Monk

Institute of Jazz Touring Sextet. \$10-\$15.

Saturday, 8pm — Peter Sprague & Larry Koonse. \$20.

Don's Cocktail Lounge:

Saturday, 8pm — Brown Sugar. Free.

Downtown Café:

Friday, 8pm — Ramshackle.

Farmer & the Seahorse:

Friday, 5pm — Robin Henkel & Whitney Shay.

Fast Times:

Saturday, 7pm — Gregory Page. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, 5:30pm — Bob Boss Jazz Trio. Free.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:

Thursday, 8pm — Billy Idol. \$68-\$118.

Friday, 8pm — Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo. \$49-\$119.

Headquarters:

Monday, 2pm — Joe Rathburn. Free.

Herringbone:

Saturday, 2pm — Ales & Acoustics: Mike Officer & Carissa Schroeder. Free.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill La Mesa:

Observatory NORTH PARK SAN DIEGO, CA



MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

6/6 — THE KOOKS

6/20 — ERIC PASLAY

6/22 — BELLE & SEBASTIAN

6/23 — LONG BEACH DUB ALLSTARS

6/24 — SHAKEY GRAVES

6/28 — FEAR

6/29 — FARRUKO

6/30 — SIR

7/5 — CELSO PINA

7/14 — NEUROSIIS / CONVERGE

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Friday, 9pm — Paul & Margie.
Saturday, 9pm — Heart Band.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill

Rancho San Diego:

Friday, 8:30pm — Tony Cummings.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Jimmy Lewis.

Hornblower Dinner Cruises:

Saturday, 9pm — Sabor on the Bay: Dress In White Cruise. \$70-\$100.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7pm — Lanco. \$20-\$55.

Thursday, 7pm — The Brevet and Stray Monroe. \$12.

Friday, 6pm — CHON and Polyphia. \$20-\$35.

Friday, 6pm — Hawthorne Heights and Sienna Skies. \$20.
Saturday, 7pm — Pouya. \$25-\$50.

Sunday, 6pm — Ruslan, Jon Keith, Jet Trouble & Friends. \$15-\$45.

Tuesday, 7pm — Making Movies and Alex Cuba. \$10.

Jacobs Music Center:

Thursday, 7:30pm — San Diego Symphony & Audra McDonald.

Java Joe's:

Sunday, 8pm — Becca Jay, Lindsay White, Emma Bird. \$10.

La Jolla Community Center:

Friday, 7pm — Danny Green, Julien Cantelm, Justin Grinell. \$18-\$23.

La Jolla Riford Library:

Saturday, 4:30pm — Amateur Pianists Recital. Free.

La Valencia Hotel:

Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.

Friday, 6pm — Rick Ross.

Saturday, 6pm — Roman Palacios.

Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.

Tuesday, 6pm — Sam Hosking.

Wednesday, 6pm — Danny Green.

Lafayette Hotel, Swim Club & Bungalows:

Sunday, 12pm — Hello Summer Pool Party. \$40.

Landing:

Saturday, 9pm — 10,000 Dudes and Mario & the Blessed Hellhounds. Free.

Loews Coronado Bay Resort:

Friday, 8pm — Durell Anthony & Ian Patrick Cler. Free.

M-Theory Music:

Saturday, 3pm — Manganista. Free.

Market Creek Plaza:

Saturday, 2pm — Jazz at the Creek: Legends Show. \$40-\$90.

Martinis Above Fourth I

Table + Stage:
Thursday, 8pm — Amy & Freddy. \$20-\$25.

Maurice Car'rie Vineyard & Winery:

Saturday, 6pm — Crimson Crow.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:

Friday, 9pm — Turned Up. Free.

Moustache Bar:

Sunday, 8pm — Matt Hollywood.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:

Thursday, 8:30pm — Dayna Lane.

Friday, 8:30pm — Black Cherry Lightnin'.

Saturday, 4pm — Celeste Barbier.

Saturday, 8:30pm — Shrimper Dan & the Bottom Feeders.

Music Box:

Friday, 7pm — George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic. \$50-\$55.

Saturday, 7pm — The Winehouse Experience and DJ Ratty. \$20-\$22.

Sunday, 9:30pm — Purple Disco Machine. \$17-\$27.

Wednesday, 8pm — John Mayall. \$32-\$35.

Nate's Garden Grill:

Saturday, 12pm — Robin Henkel.

Saturday, 9pm — The Sea Monks. Free.

Navajo Live:

Friday, 9pm — Sonic Moonshine.

Saturday, 9pm — Serious Guise.

Sunday, 8pm — Evans & Friends.

Wednesday, 8pm — 9 Volt Murder.

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint:

Friday, 6pm — Street Heart.

Saturday, 7pm — Smith & Western.

Observatory North Park:

Thursday, 6pm — G.B.H. \$25.

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Glitch Mob and Elohim.

Sunday, 7:30pm — Sofi Tukker. \$21.

Monday, 7:30pm — Tory Lanez.

Open Air Theatre:

Thursday, 6pm — Phantogram and Tycho. \$26-\$41.

Pacific Islander Beer

Company:

Monday, 4pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Pounders:

Friday, 9pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Saturday, 9pm — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Poway Center for the

Performing Arts:

Friday, 8pm — Back to the Garden: The Beatles, Alone/Together.

Ramona Mainstage

Nightclub:

Saturday, 8pm — Southern Reign.

Riviera Supper Club &

Turquoise Room:

Saturday, 9pm — The Sleepwalks and the Taryn Donath Duo.

Rosarito Beach Hotel:

Saturday, 7pm — Jenni Rivera Tribute Concert.

San Diego French-American

School:

Saturday, 3pm — Breizh Amerika Collective. Free.

Sandbox:

Saturday, 8pm — Mark Hosler & Wobbly (Negativland). \$5-\$7.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Colouring and Nightly. \$12-\$15.

Friday, 8pm — Primitive Man and Infernal Coil. \$14-\$16.

Saturday, 8pm — The Posies and Terra Lightfoot. \$20-\$25.

Sunday, 8pm — MC Chris and Bitforce. \$15.

Monday, 8pm — Todd Albright and Hotel Ten Eyes. \$12-\$14.

Tuesday, 8pm — Lauren Ruth Ward. \$10-\$12.

Tuesday, 8pm — Sur.

Space:

Thursday, 9pm — BrokenBeat Night. Free.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:

Saturday, 1pm & 2pm — Fiesta Botanica. Free.

Spreckels Park:

Sunday, 6pm — Cool Fever.

Stout Public House:

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Breizh Amerika Collective. Free.

Tower Bar:

Friday, 9pm — Punk Yacht Club and the Midnight Block. \$5.

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:

Friday & Saturday, 6pm — Mario Marauak. Free.

U-31:

Monday, 9pm — Boom Bap 2K18 DJ Battle. Free.

USS Midway Museum:

Saturday, 7:30pm — Freedom Concert Featuring Gin Blossoms. \$25-\$65.

Urban Healing Center:

Saturday, 7pm — Moorea Masa.

VFW Post 3787:

Friday, 6pm — Brown Sugar.

Valley View Casino Center:

Monday, 7:30pm — Pink. \$47-\$207.

Veterans Museum and

Memorial Center:

Thursday, 7pm — Westwind Brass: Brass in the Park.

Village Faire Shopping

Center:

Monday, 12:30pm — Adrienne Nims. Free.

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 8pm — The Higgs and Shakedown String Band. \$7.

Friday, 8pm — Odessa Kane and Locness. \$10.

Saturday, 8pm — The Routine and Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.

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

Tuesday, 8pm — Indyca and MRDN History.

Wednesday, 9pm — Boostive.

UPCOMING SHOWS

1st Street Bar:

Thursday, June 21 — Bonneville 7. Free.

710 Beach Club:

Friday, June 8 — Sonic Moonshine and the Fooz Fighters.

Saturday, June 16 — Chugboat.

Friday, June 22 — Electric Mud.

Saturday, June 30 — The Roman Watchdogs.

Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade:

Sunday, June 24 — The Six String Society.

Athenaeum Music and Arts Library:

Saturday, June 16 — Vincent Herring Quartet.

Thursday, June 21 — Thomas Strönen & Time Is a Blind Guide.

Aztec Brewing Company:

Saturday, June 2 — Aviator Stash.

Friday, June 8 — The Sea Monks. Free.

Saturday, June 9 — Lost Monarchs.

BNS Brewing & Distilling:

Saturday, June 23 — Sonic Tonic.

Balboa Park Club & Ballroom:

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Thursday, May 31 — A Taste 4 Sports Gala. \$60.

Bang Bang:

Saturday, June 30 — Neon Indian.

Bates Nut Farm:

Saturday, June 2 — VC MusicFest. Free.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, May 31 — The Dead Milkmen. \$23-\$41.

Friday, June 1 — Greg Laswell.

Sunday, June 3 — Calexico and Julia Jacklin. \$25-\$44.

Tuesday, June 5 — Nicki Bluhm. \$20-\$22.

Wednesday, June 6 — The Yardbirds. \$32-\$35.

Thursday, June 7 — Nathan James & Sharifah. \$16-\$28.

Friday, June 8 — B-Side Players.

Saturday, June 9 — The Sword and the Atomic Bitchwax. \$21-\$37.

Sunday, June 10 — Turnpike Troubadours and Charley Crockett. \$25-\$44.

Tuesday, June 12 — JD McPherson. \$20-\$35.

Wednesday, June 13 — The Calling and the Tearaways. \$20-\$22.

Friday, June 15 — The Highwayman Show. \$20-\$35.

Saturday, June 16 — Beatles vs Stones. \$20-\$35.

Sunday, June 17 — Greg Douglass Band.

Monday, June 18 — This Will Destroy You. \$25-\$75.

Tuesday, June 19 — Stars. \$25.

Wednesday, June 20 — Donovan Frankenreiter. \$30-\$32.

Friday, June 22 — Los Beautiful Beast and Dead Feather Moon. \$12-\$14.

Sunday, June 24 — Seu Jorge. \$75-\$80.

Tuesday, June 26 — Beres Hammond and Maka Roots. \$30-\$53.

Wednesday, June 27 — Aaron Neville Duo. \$65-\$114.

Friday, June 29 — The Milk Carton Kids.

Saturday, June 30 — Magic Giant

IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

The Adagio for Strings isn't a prelude

The San Diego Symphony gave a concert on May 11, 12, and 13 with music director emeritus Jahja Ling conducting the music of Samuel Barber, Leonard Bernstein, and Ludwig van Beethoven. The programming was puzzling.

Samuel Barber's famous *Adagio for Strings* opened the proceedings. That piece of music often opens a concert, but it's not a starting pitcher. Barber's poignant music belongs at the conclusion of the concert or, at the very least, at the end of the first half of the concert.

Why? Because of what happened at the performance I attended. The piece was tossed off in about seven minutes and devoid of any conviction. It was bizarre. The *Adagio for Strings* isn't a prelude.

Later in his career, Barber set this music to the text of Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, signifying that this music was indicative, in the composer's mind, of the passion of Jesus on the cross dying for the redemption of all humanity. Even if you consider Jesus to be a fiction, there is no denying that the stakes are quite exalted. The performance I heard was less than exalted.

Following the perfunctory *Adagio* was Leonard Bernstein's *Symphony No. 1: Jeremiah*. The concluding movement includes text from *The Book of Lamentations* which was sung by mezzo-soprano Kelly O'Connor.

I'd never heard this music before and I found it to be both dramatic and lyrical. I will admit the rendition of

Barber's *Adagio* continued to nag at me during most of the first movement. I couldn't let it go.

Kelly O'Connor did a fine job of singing. Symphony Hall does singers no favors, yet her voice was present and beautiful throughout the concluding section of the symphony.

The second section of the concert was Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5: Emperor* as performed by pianist Martin Helmchen. I thoroughly enjoyed Helmchen's approach. There was a buoyancy in his playing which made it feel as though he were levitating the piano in a fantastic feat of mental metaphysics. Yet when required, Helmchen could smash the keys with the best of them.



Jahja Ling

The second movement, which contains some Beethoven's most tender music, was much like the Barber *Adagio*. It felt as though maestro Ling was rushing through and trying to avoid any hint of *rubato*.

It's an approach conductors take from time to time — you know, a "the notes are enough by themselves" approach. I, for one, don't care for it. Imagine an actor removing all inflection from a performance of Hamlet because the words

are enough by themselves. They're a lot by themselves, but not enough.

Now, I have no idea if that was indeed Ling's philosophy, but I found it to be a complete break from the slow movement of Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* in the previous concert Ling conducted. In that performance, Ling squeezed every drop of emotion he possibly could out of the music. That was not the case with his treatment of Beethoven and Barber on this night.

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and Young Rising Sons. \$16-\$25.
Sunday, July 1 — The Young Dubliners. \$20-\$35.

Birch Aquarium at Scripps:

Wednesday, June 20 — Green Flash: Steve Poltz. \$33-\$44.

Black Cat Bar:

Thursday, June 14 — Uptown Rhythm Makers. Free.

Blackthorn Irish Pub & Grub:

Friday, June 1 — Kevin Thomas Band.

Bolt Brewing:

Saturday, June 30 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Bread & Salt:

Thursday, June 28 — Quintron and Ms. Pussycat. \$12.

Brick by Brick:

Thursday, May 31 — D.O.A.
Friday, June 1 — Anvil. \$23-\$25.
Thursday, June 7 — Insomnium.
Friday, June 8 — Uli Jon Roth and Taz Taylor. \$25.

Tuesday, June 26 — Flotsam & Jetsam.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Sunday, June 17 — Chris Thile. \$25-\$49.

Cannonball:

Thursday, May 31 — Durell Anthony & Bryan Whelan. Free.
Thursday, June 14 — K. Emeline Duo.

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero:

Saturday, June 23 — Robin Henkel & Whitney Shay.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

Friday, June 22 — Miss Demeanor. Free.
Saturday, June 23 — Miss Demeanor. Free.

Casbah:

Thursday, May 31 — Wand. \$12.
Friday, June 1 — The Paladins. \$20.
Saturday, June 2 — Curtis Harding. \$15-\$18.

Monday, June 4 — The Lexicons and Nothing Special. \$6.

Tuesday, June 5 — Iceage and Mary Lattimore.

Thursday, June 7 — A Place To Bury Strangers. \$12-\$14.

Friday, June 8 — Maps & Atlases and Prism Tats. \$15.

Saturday, June 9 — Kate Bush Dance Party with Baby Bushka. \$10.

Sunday, June 10 — Justin Townes Earle and Lydia Loveless. \$27.

Monday, June 11 — Ezla and Moon. \$6.

Thursday, June 14 — Har Mar Superstar Sings Sam Cooke. \$15.

Friday, June 15 — Brownout. \$20.

Saturday, June 16 — Veronica Earle and the Golden Hour. \$10.

Sunday, June 17 — Burna Boy. \$25.

Tuesday, June 19 — The Get Up Kids and Casket Lottery. \$26-\$30.

Wednesday, June 20 — Men I Trust. \$12-\$15.

Friday, June 22 — Dirty Sweet

and Night Horse. \$15.

Saturday, June 23 — The Creepy Creeps and Creepseed. \$10-\$12.

Monday, June 25 — Featherstone and Loom. \$7.

Wednesday, June 27 — Willie Nile. \$20-\$25.

Friday, June 29 — Chuck Ragan. \$16.

Saturday, June 30 — Schizophonic and Alice Bag Band. \$12.

Sunday, July 1 — Transviolet and Magic Bronson. \$12.

Cheers:

Thursday, May 31 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Saturday, June 23 — Steal Dawn.

ChuckAlek Biergarten:

Friday, June 8 — Kathryn Cloward Band. Free.

Friday, June 15 — Evan Bethany. Free.

Ché Café:

Thursday, May 31 — Generifus, Wolfgang Strutz, Gift Machine. \$7.

Saturday, June 2 — The Return of the Che Café.

Sunday, June 3 — Dream Haze and County Fair. \$5.

Sunday, June 10 — Yeek and Sloan Evans. \$12.

Wednesday, June 13 — Sunflower Bean and Jesse Jo Stark. \$12-\$14.

Friday, June 15 — Bad Kids and Battery Point. \$5.

Saturday, June 16 — Clear Focus and Drug Control. \$8.

Saturday, June 30 — The Regrettes and Mt. Eddy. \$12-\$14.

City Pub:

Friday, June 29 — The Rap Contest. \$20.

Club M:

Saturday — Dueling Pianos. \$10-\$35.

Sunday, June 10 — Sunday Session. Free.

Saturday, June 23 — Francoise & the Groove Squad. \$10.

Saturday, June 30 — Denim. \$10.

Coronado Playhouse:

Friday, June 22 — The Songs of Burt Bacharach. \$20.

Saturday, June 23 — The Songs of Burt Bacharach. \$20.

Sunday, June 24 — The Songs of Burt Bacharach. \$20.

Coronado Yacht Club:

Sunday, June 24 — The Kingston Trio. \$50-\$2000.

Coyote Bar & Grill:

Sunday, June 10 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Crown Dance Studio:

Saturday, June 16 — Hot Rhythm Lounge. \$5-\$15.

David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre:

Wednesday, June 6 — The Ancient Law (1923, Live Music Score). \$18-\$20.

Wednesday, June 27 — Andy Statman. \$29-\$48.

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 Friday, June 8 — Nosis. **Free.**
 Saturday, June 9 — EXIT 6. **Free.**
 Friday, June 15 — Skyler Lutes Band. **Free.**
 Friday, June 22 — Devan M. Band. **Free.**
 Saturday, June 23 — Funk Manifisto. **Free.**
 Saturday, June 30 — Steal Dawn. **Free.**

Del Mar Fairgrounds:

Friday, June 1 — James Barre.
 Friday, June 1 — Noah Cyrus.
 Saturday, June 2 — Sugarland and Brandy Clark.
 Sunday, June 3 — Banda el Recodo.
 Wednesday, June 6 — Refugee.
 Wednesday, June 6 — Capital Cities.
 Thursday, June 7 — Bill Haley Jr. & the Comets.
 Thursday, June 7 — Kansas.
 Thursday, June 7 — Village People.
 Friday, June 8 — Hanson.
 Friday, June 8 — Metalachi.
 Friday, June 8 — Sonic Tonic.
 Saturday, June 9 — Christian Nodal. **Free.**
 Sunday, June 10 — Calibre 50.
 Sunday, June 10 — James Barre.
 Sunday, June 10 — Band In Black. **Free.**
 Wednesday, June 13 — The Cult.
 Wednesday, June 13 — Herb Alpert & Lani Hall.
 Thursday, June 14 — The New York Bee Gees.
 Thursday, June 14 — Barenaked

Ladies.

Friday, June 15 — Little Big Town.
 Sunday, June 17 — Battle of the Bands.
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 Wednesday, June 20 — The Orphics. \$12-\$19.
 Wednesday, June 20 — Cheat Codes. **Free.**
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 Thursday, June 21 — Crystal Gayle.
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 Thursday, June 21 — Who's Bad.
 Friday, June 22 — Nancy Wilson. **Free.**
 Saturday, June 23 — Gospel Festival.
 Sunday, June 24 — Banda Sinaloense.
 Wednesday, June 27 — Banda Machos.
 Thursday, June 28 — Frankie Avalon.
 Thursday, June 28 — Jason James.
 Friday, June 29 — Spirit West Coast.
 Saturday, June 30 — James Barre.
 Sunday, July 1 — James Barre.
 Sunday, July 1 — Sin Bandera. **Free.**

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:

Friday, June 1 — Jeff Denson. \$20.

Downtown Café:

Saturday, June 16 — Brown Sugar. **Free.**

El Camino Memorial Park, 5600 Carroll Canyon Rd., Sorrento Valley. :

Sunday, June 3 — Classic Car Show. **Free.**

Embarcadero Marina Park South:

Friday, June 29 — San Diego Symphony: Star Spangled Pops. \$18-\$95.
 Saturday, June 30 — San Diego Symphony: Star Spangled Pops. \$18-\$95.
 Sunday, July 1 — San Diego Symphony: Star Spangled Pops. \$18-\$95.

Encinitas Library:

Sunday, June 24 — From Rags to Riches: A Musical Journey with Jacquelyne Silver. **Free.**

Felicita Park:

Saturday, June 16 — Ship in the Woods Music Festival.
 Sunday, June 17 — Ship in the Woods Music Festival.

Ferry Landing Marketplace:

Sunday, July 1 — Miss Demeanor. **Free.**

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, June 1 — Joshua White Jazz Trio.
 Friday, June 8 — Alan Eicher, Dave Marr, Tim McMahon.
 Friday, June 15 — Coral McFarland Thuet Jazz Trio.
 Friday, June 22 — Larry Koonse & Darek Oleskiewicz Jazz Duo.
 Friday, June 29 — Lower Left Jazz Trio CD Release.

Harry Griffen Regional Park:

Sunday, June 10 — San Diego Concert Band. **Free.**

House of Blues:

Thursday, May 31 — Lord Huron.
 Friday, June 1 — Logan



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Solo: Half a good Star Wars story

I played an awful lot of *Star Wars* when I was a kid. My snowy backyard in upstate New York was the ice planet Hoth. My jungle gym was The Millennium Falcon. And my best friend Andy Kozlowski was Han Solo. I was always Luke, the dutiful kid with the stars in his eyes and the Force in his blood. (No, not physically; thank the Maker, nobody had heard of midichlorians back in 1980.) I knew Han was cooler, but that's part of why Andy was always Han. *He* was cooler: more daring, more mischievous, more ready to take on life and, when it laid him out, to get back up, bruised but grinning.

I repeat, my best friend was my Han Solo. So perhaps the highest compliment I can pay *Solo: A Star Wars Story* is that it didn't make me want to travel back in time and kill anybody with a shovel, especially not original directors Chris Lord and Phil Miller, but also not even credited director Ron Howard.

Patton Oswalt fans will get the reference. On his 2007 comedy album *Werewolves & Lollipops*, Oswalt confesses that while he loves actual history, the first thing he thinks of doing when he imagines going back in time is killing George Lucas with the aforementioned garden tool before

Lucas can make the prequel trilogy.

Oswalt then takes the time to imagine a little conversation first — the lifetime fan approaching Lucas on the street and thanking him for Episodes IV, V, and VI. (Prequel spoilers follow, I guess.)

"Oh, you like *Star Wars*?" answers Lucas. "I got some good news. I'm working on the three prequels. Do you like Darth Vader?"

"I love Darth Vader!" answers Oswalt, swooning.

"In the first movie, you get to see him as a little kid."

Oswalt pauses. "Uh...is he like a little Damien *Omen* kid? Like, evil and killing people with his mind and shit

MOVIES



Solo: When it's fun, it's really fun!

like that?"

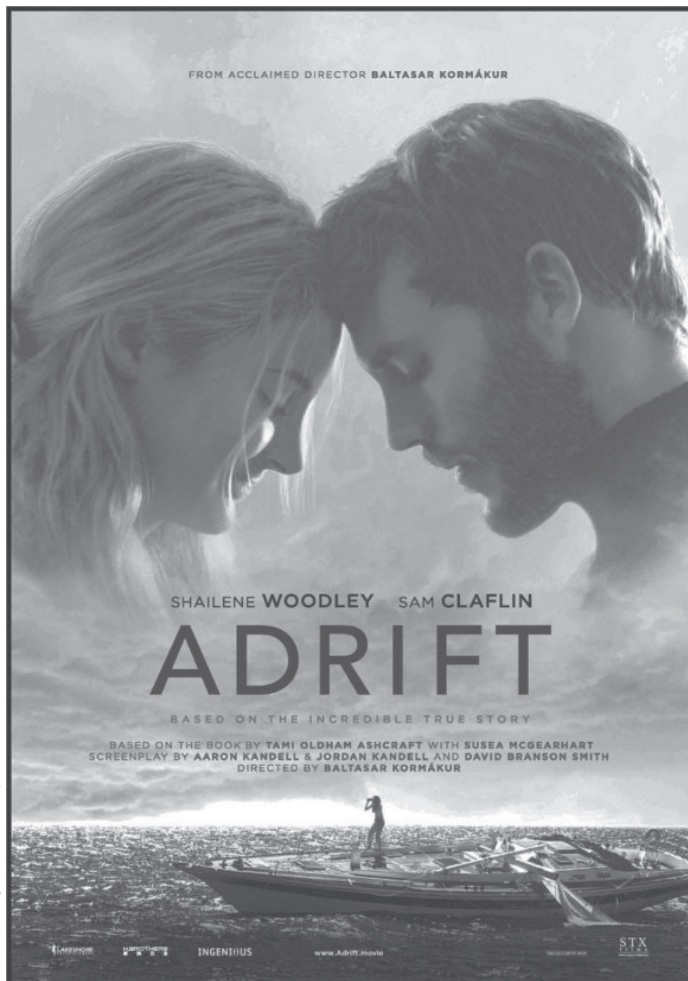
"No," answers George, "he's just like this little kid and he gets taken away from his mom and he's very sad."

Pause again. "Ah, I don't really care about him as a little kid, at all. At all. At. All. I just like the helmet and the sword and the cape. That's what was

kind of cool about him."

Then Boba Fett gets the same treatment in the second movie. "You get to see him as a little kid. He's like this little kid and then his dad dies and he's very sad." The third film features a baby Death Star, under construction and doing not much of anything.

Again (and again), Oswalt does not care. Lucas notices that he's disappointed, offers him some ice cream, and then gives him a big bag of rock salt, because that's part of how ice cream comes to be. Oswalt snaps: "I don't give a shit where the stuff I love comes from! I just love the stuff I love!"



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IN THEATERS JUNE 1

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So hey, kudos to *Solo*. Because while it seems that the teenage Han we meet at the film's opening has lost both mother and father (hey, "solo"!), he's not a bit sad. He's a cocky, lovestruck Oliver Twist, stuck in service to "the foul Lady Proxima." She's the alarming, Muppetesque Fagin who runs the home for runaways that's kept him going this far, but he's already working the angles and making plans to strike out on his own. Well, not quite on his own: he's got the fetching Qi'ra by his side. But other than that, Young Solo is a lot like Old Solo, which is fantastic for a guy who just loves the stuff he loves.

Does star Alden Ehrenreich pull off "juvenile Harrison Ford"? He ain't bad — now and then, his voice drops into a buttery purr that stirs the memory, and the slow-spreading grin is every bit as blissfully self-assured. But here's what's great about the first half of *Solo*: Ehrenreich's imitation doesn't matter much, because the movie is having too much fun for you to pause and consider such questions. (Maybe just say this: his performance didn't get in the way of my enjoyment, and that's no small thing.) It zips, zooms, careens, and caroms — through war, through heists, through death and disaster, through love lost and friendship won, through ingress and egress, through danger and certain doom — with a lightness and dexterity that border on thrilling. It feels like what it is: a kids' adventure flick, wildly kinetic and occasionally silly, packed with derring-do and free of the ponderous profundity, pseudo and otherwise, of what's come before (or rather, what's coming after). Yes, there's a crusading droid who longs to deliver her kind from bondage, and yes, she's entirely serious about it. But this part of *Solo* manages to make even political activism into a rollicking good time at the movies.

Everyone involved seems to know exactly what's expected of them, and everyone delivers, especially Woody Harrelson as Han's reluctant mentor Beckett and Donald Glover as smarmy smooth operator Lando. Not even the de rigueur prequel box-checking (hey, there's his gun; hey, there's the bet with Lando; hey, there's the Kessel run) was enough to stop me smiling.

And then...remember the scene in *Empire Strikes Back* where Han is being chased by both Star Destroyers and TIE fighters and he gets ready to make the jump the hyperdrive and declares "Watch this," only to have the Falcon's machinery slip into whining failure? Something very similar happens in *Solo*, both literally and dramatically. In *Empire*, Han the master escape artist finds a way out by flying into an asteroid field. But that's Old Han, sea-

soned by experience. Young Han can only watch helplessly as the gravity of the Star Wars children's crusade overwhelms him — yes, there's a sad kid involved — and the wondrous fun run gives way to a joyless slog that actually undermines the heroism of *A New Hope* even as it seeks to foreshadow it. Small wonder that the man Young Skywalker finds drinking in Mos Eisley is a money-minded, faithless cynic.

—Matthew Lickona

MOVIE LISTINGS

All reviews are by Scott Marks, Matthew Lickona, and Duncan Shepherd. Priorities are indicated by one to five stars and antipathies by the black spot. Unrated movies are for now unreviewed. Thousands of past reviews are available online at SDReader.com/movies.

Avengers: Infinity War — There is much that needs forgiving in the Russo brothers' gargantuan final chapter(?) of this particular book of the Marvel Superhero Chronicles, and not just easy stuff like the 160-minute runtime or the overabundance of overlong punch-ups (now with extra energy bolts!) No, there's also the frequent and annoying matter of Variable Power, i.e. when your bad guy opens the film by beating The Hulk into unconsciousness, pretty much any punch he lands on anyone else from there on out should be lethal. But no, because punching is crucial. And when he possesses a gauntlet outfitted with a stone that lets him alter reality at will, he really shouldn't have to do any more fighting. (Massive heart attacks all 'round, and that's that!) But no, because energy bolts are crucial. (Really, the most interesting conflict comes once our heroes go after his soul.) More seriously, there's the more frequent problem of undermining dramatic moment after dramatic moment with a patented Marvel-brand quip or gag. Mighty blacksmith to Thor: "You're about to take the full force of a star. It will kill you." Thor: "Only if I

die!" Smith: "Yes...that's what 'killing you' means." Hyuck! Let's get on with the heroic self-sacrifice! But maybe the quips and the punch-ups are there because they have to be, what with the film's steady parade of failure and even death, right from the outset. Plans fail. Character fails. (Alpha dog Tony Stark squares off with his spiritual bastards, Snarky Doc Strange and Cocky Star Lord, and can't be super pleased with what he hath wrought. Small wonder the perpetually defeated Bruce Banner has trouble summoning his raging green alter ego, what with all of the other ego on display.) Sometimes, even sacrifices fail. It's not exactly refreshing, but it is bracing, and even gratifying. And while we've heard this bad guy's patter before — overpopulation is a problem, and what's needed is someone with the power and will to do something about it — Josh Brolin manages to give Thanos' evil plan a mad, sad air of nobility. So perhaps forgiveness is possible. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Beast — Incomer Michael Pearce's crude-around-the-edges approach to writing and editing is a perfect fit for this tale of a disturbed young woman (Jessie Buckley) who is slowly being sucked under by the toxic quicksand of her relationship with Mom. She finds comfort in the arms of a drifter (Johnny Flynn), who seems nice enough except for the fact that he's a prime suspect in a series of local murders. The story could have played out as just another "susceptible girl meets winsome outsider with a gun" romantic melodrama. We have, after all, seen these family dynamics before, and there's not much in the way of advancement over past iterations in that department. What sets it apart is that, this time, our distressed dam-sel has a sociopathic secret or two of her own lazing in the closet. (Beasts might have been a better title.) Not since Sissy Spacek fell in with Martin Sheen in *Badlands* has an actress taken us through the process of swapping home and hearth for a homicidal maniac with the manic intensity Buckley displays here. 2017. — S.M. ★★ (ANGELIKA CARMEL MOUNTAIN, LANDMARK HILLCREST)

The Big Gundown — One of Quentin Tarantino's favorite spaghetti westerns screens at the Digital Gym. 1966. (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

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 miserably 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)

Blockers — Just passable gross-out comedy, in which three obsessive parents (Leslie Mann, John Cena, and Ike Barinholtz) — all far more repulsed by the thought of lost virginity than their respective begats — combine forces to cockblock their daughters on prom night. As it must in all Seth Rogen/Evan Goldberg productions, the air is steeped in pot smoke, blithe insouciance on the part of the screenwriters (in this case, Brian & Jim Kehoe), and an obligatory penis cameo. Unless one counts Mann's random

discovery of her daughter's college acceptance letter while ostensibly in search of an evening wrap, there's not much in the way of structured storytelling. Mann and Barinholtz are old pros when it comes to this type of raunchy shenanigans, while Cena proves he's more of a good sport than a likely actor. On a positive note, this will probably best be remembered for giving the lusty trio of female offspring the ultimate power of post-formal hotel room-veto. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Book Club — The doctored picture that kicks things off — four badly photographed heads to represent 40 years of friendship — sets a tone of fierce laziness for an impotent sex comedy about four yentas committing to reading the *50 Shades* trilogy. Our lettered leading ladies — Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Mary Steenburgen, and Candice Bergen — have become so accustomed to sycophants that they fail to realize that people don't talk this way unless they've found work on a sitcom. (Bergen's re-virginized fustpot of a Chief Justice handily steals every scene.) Director and co-writer Bill Holderman would have been lost were it not for smutty sexual innuendo. Had this type of crotch-grabbing, pussy-joking schtick been performed by a younger cast, it's a safe bet that so-called "mature audiences" would have shunned it like a lactose intolerant diabetic would eggnog. The rookie director, fresh from producing a quartet of Robert Redford stinkers, must have been eager to make a comedy in the worst way. Unfortunately, that's exactly how it turned out. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Deadpool 2 — Director David Leitch and star Ryan Reynolds know why you're here: to hear the merc with a mouth revel in smug-smart impieties (about other characters, about superhero movies, about narrative in general, *ad infinitum* but not quite *ad nauseam*) and to watch him kick ass despite enduring mind-blowing (bone-breaking, flesh-rending, blood-spurting) amounts of abuse, thanks to a healing factor that makes him look like Wolverine on steroids (and maybe also meth). And they give it to you. What's more, they do it with effortless style: instead of seeking to top the over-the-top antics of the first film, they're content to

ANNETTE SAOIRSE COREY ELISABETH MARE JON GLENN MICHAEL BILLY AND BRIAN
BENING RONAN STOLL MOSS WINNINGHAM TENNEY FLESHLER ZEGEN HOWLE DENNEHY

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Calendar

MOVIES

simply groove with what they've already established and just have fun. The result is less exhausting and more entertaining. And speaking of Wolverine, this installment opens with an explosive middle finger aimed at last year's very fine R-rated superhero story, *Logan*, then proceeds to riff on its story: a mutant kid in need meets a mutant grownup who needs to help him — for both their sakes. It's a much stronger pole from which to fly one's freak flag than the original's sad-sack pity-party. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Disobedience — Director and co-writer Sebastián Lelio's story of a black sheep's return to the pen (though not the fold) hits three notes of a religious chord: faith rejected, faith endured, and faith tested. The first sounds clean and clear, embodied with captivating grace and power by Rachel Weisz as a rabbi's daughter who goes home to her orthodox community to mourn his passing. The second wobbles only a little, as Rachel McAdams plays Weisz's way-back-when lover, the suffering soul who chose community over desire. But the third — Alessandro Nivola as the pair's childhood friend, now married to McAdams and looking to succeed Weisz's dead dad as rabbi — is sadly neglected, to the point of sounding false. The film gets the exterior structures of religion, and even gets the idea of belief, but fails to grasp its content. Humanity's glory may lie in its power to accept or reject its maker, but choice relies on understanding. Otherwise, as the film is careful to note at the outset, it's just animal instinct. Of course, such considerations are easy to overlook when a decade's worth of repressed sexuality is bubbling over. 2017. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Filmworker — Valued assistant or obsequious stooge? Tony Zierra's documentary answers the question. On the surface, Leon Vitale was to Stanley Kubrick what Jilly Rizzo was to Frank Sinatra: a camp-following aide-de-camp, always eager to empty the boss's ashtrays or gratefully accept another twenty lashes from his master's flailing tongue. (According to Vitale, the proper approach is to not absorb to abuse, but to simply wait patiently for the outburst to end.) It had long been Vitale's dream to work for the famously exacting director, and when the call came, he didn't hesitate to abandon a promising career in front of the camera to play the real-life role of the Kubrick's human chopping block/gofer/archivist/what-have-you. But after a 30-year working relationship with the maverick maestro, Vitale proved that he wasn't just preparing to serve as a corporate spokesman for the Kubrick archives. Turns out, he paid attention: next time you watch a Kubrick movie, take note of the high-contrast black and white, or of how consistent the colors have remained over the decades. Thanks, Mr. Vitale! 2017. — S.M. ★★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Howl's Moving Castle — Hayao Miyazaki, the doyen of anime, creates here a dreamworld that doesn't so much pull the spectator into it as push him towards his own: more snore than howl. It certainly doesn't lack for imaginative detail. On the contrary, it could have made do with a little less. The titular castle, for the prime example, is an amalgam that might symbolize the entire project: a fused junkpile of architectural odds and ends lifted from Medieval



Beast: "But I love him!"

fortresses, 19th-century factories, Spanish galleons, WWII battleships, countryside cottages, boiler rooms, God knows what all, walking around on giant chicken's feet and dragging a dinosaur's tail, the residence of a glam-rock wizard called Howl (voiced, in the English-dubbed version, by Christian Bale) and a Casper-the-Friendly-Ghost fire demon called Calcifer (expressing himself with the Borscht Belt shtick of Billy Crystal), and the refuge of the demure heroine, a young milliner transmogrified into a hunchbacked crone by the multiple-chinned Witch of the Waste. It looks — and this is not meant as a compliment — like something you might encounter in a live-action Terry Gilliam film, right down to the computer animation that so contaminates Miyazaki's hand-drawn purism. What the film most definitely does lack, on the other hand, is adequate mundanity to ground the runaway whimsy (the breakfast of bacon and eggs stands out as an exception), and, more importantly, adequate narrative drive — an adequate narrative motor — to propel the viewer through the long, slow couple of hours (the very vague Orwellian war in the distance never acquires any clarity or urgency). There is nevertheless a lot to like: the pogo-sticking scarecrow, the wheezy little pooch, the authentically dreamlike bit of the hero and heroine walking on air to escape a mob of faceless tar-blob creatures, the comical bit of a snail-paced race up a mountain of stairs between the corpulent witch and the hunchbacked crone, the temporary smoothing-out of the crone's wrinkles at moments when she recaptures her youthful ardor. Miyazaki maniacs, of which there are more than a few, will doubtless find much else to like, besides. With the voices of Jean Simmons, Emily Mortimer, Lauren Bacall, Blythe Danner. 2005. (LANDMARK KEN)

I Feel Pretty — A cosmetic company employee (Amy Schumer) with subterranean self-esteem sees herself going from "not" to "hot" after a blow to the head deludes her into thinking she's Aphrodite. One of two things is needed for this single-joke premise to work: a seven-minute running time (as in a cartoon) or a stockpile of material from which to resourcefully build. Alas, without a similar knock to the noggin, there's no way for viewers to find enough laughs to justify the 110-minute length, just a superabundance of skits that screenwriters and nascent directors Abby Kohn

and Marc Silverstein (*Never Been Kissed*, *Valentine's Day*) cobble together and pass off as a narrative. It's Schumer's third feature: the second in which she didn't take writing credit, and the first to receive a PG-13 rating. Playing against core audience expectations at this early stage in her film career could prove fatal. Don't squander Schumer in generic rom-coms. Years of character work lie ahead. For the time being, it better to stick to a trusty R-rated arsenal. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Isle of Dogs — A delight, albeit one that is red in tooth and claw. Wes Anderson's stop-motion Japanese folk tale about dogs and their people opens with a Japanese folk tale about dogs and their people (and also, cats and their people). And midway through, there's a display of Kabuki theater that almost begins to approach Anderson's own level of stylized staging here. In pushing as far East as he can go, he may have reached a kind of aesthetic apotheosis. His control of the frame is absolute and it shows, often to spectacular effect, and sometimes to the point where the narrative fades into the background. But it doesn't matter overmuch, because he's got his dogs to keep us warm: Chief, Rex, King, Boss, Duke & Co., exiled along with the rest of Megasaki's canine population to Trash Island by an ailurophilic mayor. (If you've ever thought Anderson's characters didn't talk quite like real people, rejoice: they don't talk like real people here, either, and it's wonderfully effective, because they're dogs.) The pack is sick, starving, and on the verge of collapse until a boy shows up looking for his lost pooch and the dogs find purpose. Speaking of *A Dog's Purpose*, this film is happily that one's opposite in nearly every way, especially when it comes to death, pain, and love. I suspect *Isle of Dogs* would make most dog-loving kids (of an appropriate age) cry. I also suspect they'd be glad they saw it. 2018. — M.L. ★★★ (AMC MIS- SION VALLEY; LA PALOMA; READING CINEMAS TOWN SQUARE)

Life of the Party — Melissa McCarthy slips into her blithe, doe-eyed, over-talking, PG-13 mode for a comedy about a freshly divorced soccer mom who dropped her daughter off at college and decided to stick around and complete her degree. When Rodney Dangerfield went back to school he did so in an obnoxiously amusing and unpredictable

manner. McCarthy clearly majored in sitcom sketch improvisation — a glossophobic sweats her way through an oral midterm; partygoers unknowingly show down on marijuana-laced chocolate bark; the dull divorcee crashes her ex's wedding. (MM must have been sick the day the class covered building to a satisfying comedic payoff.) Matters worsen as her sorority sisters are each assigned but one comic trait that they proceed to bludgeon to death. It might just as well have been rated R because according to McCarthy and her hubby/director/actor/co-screenwriter Ben Falcone, the foulest words in the English language are structure, character development, and timing. Co-starring the generally honorable Gillian Jacobs and Maya Rudolph as willing contributors to the ghastriness. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Overboard — I'm all for improving a bad movie, but why remake matters worse? A bloody stool joke gets things rolling. The mechanical whir of the elongating power recliner promised somatic comfort, while my dampened spirits prepared to be bored over again. Director Rob Greenberg's first big-screen undertaking is being marketed as a "fresh take" on the "iconic" 1987 romantic comedy of the same name. In point of fact, the Garry Marshall film that introduced Goldie to Kurt is more cultish stinker than celluloid benchmark. As for freshness, a ten year supply of chlorophyll and retsyn couldn't purify plot devices as old as role-reversal — the part of the carpenter is played by Anna Faris, with the role of billionaire loafer going to Eugenio Derbez — or the one disease recommended most by network dramatists, amnesia. The stars are capable of treading just so much water before drowning in the wake of a leaden script. And what a waste of Swoosie Kurtz! 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Pope Francis: A Man Of His Word — Forgive me Father, for I have sinned. Yes, I have received and do value the word of Pope Francis, in particular his holiness's unwillingness to duck tough issues like gay rights, the Holocaust, and what he perceives to be, "today's globalization of indifference." (Though he asks that people make eye-contact in daily conversation, even Francis has difficulty looking directly

into the camera when the topic shifts to pedophiles in the church.) But what left the greatest impression was the manner in which his directorial eminence, Wim Wenders reimagined the life of the current Pope's namesake, Francis of Assisi, in silent film form. It took a moment to sink in that this wasn't archival footage from one of DeMille's biblical epics, but new material filmed expressly for the documentary, flicker and all. Whether you worship at the altar of Pope Francis or long to wash and kiss Wenders' divine tootsies, there's something for everyone in this spiritually uplifting transdenominational documentary. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

A Quiet Place — For reasons never made clear, a roving posse of sightless and sharp-eared but otherwise cookie-cutter-quality Hollywood aliens zeros in on a pleasant young couple and their three children, looking to emulsify anything that makes a sound. A note on an eraser board establishes the existence of but three of the spindly-legged creatures with the impressive auditory range. No matter: within seconds of the littlest boy's toy plane emitting a beep, it's monster-on-the-spot and splat! No more Junior. Flash-forward about a year: the couple is once again with child. (Did it ever dawn on these two that now might not be the best time to bring another heir to adversity into the world?) Bland characters and jump-scares get it moving until an eleventh hour inconsistency has the monster coming down with a slight case of selective-hearing. John Krasinski writes, directs, and stars opposite his off-screen wife, Emily Blunt, but when it comes to pure storytelling, deaf actress Millicent Simmonds' face silences the competition. 2018. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Rampage — Director Brad Peyton's latest "Let's smash a city with Dwayne Johnson" feature may be based on a video game, but it plays like a live-action cartoon, one that doubles as a fantastical journey into the imagination and sensibility of a 10-year-old boy, complete with rude hand gestures and goofy declarations of badassery: "You mess with me, you mess with my friend, mother..." It's not that the result is good, exactly, but it is kind of impressive to see adults so in touch with their inner child. Anyway, there are monsters loose in Chicago: genetically juiced and edited versions of an alligator, a wolf, and a gorilla named George. Is there any way to stop them, short of dropping the Mother of All Bombs? Nobody onscreen seems to be trying all that hard, at least performance-wise: the normally charming Johnson looks positively weary, while Jeffrey Dean Morgan looks (and sounds) like he's parodying Tommy Lee Jones' character from *Men in Black*. But the effects team — they were giving it their all. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

RBG — She may look like a sparrow going dressed as Woody Allen for Halloween, but when Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks, she has the power to change the world. Currently the only serving female Supreme Court justice, her accomplishments are too abundant for one feature, perhaps especially this one. Once looked upon as an escape from reality, movies have now assumed the role of escape from television. So what incentive is there, really, for the public to plunk down a sawbuck or more for a ticket to a CNN-produced documentary? I've yet to see a CNN production that suffered from a small-screen

viewing, and it seems more than likely that the network will find a slot for this one in its permanent rotation. Directors Julie Cohen and Betsy West do earn some points for bringing to light the great love affair between Ginsburg and her heart's dearly departed desire: husband Martin. But the rest is about as visually stimulating as paging up and down through her Wikipedia page. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (ANGELIKA FILM CENTER & CAFÉ; LANDMARK HILL-CREST; REGAL SAN MARCOS)

Ready Player One — Steven Spielberg goes back through the future with the story of Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan, looking not unlike a young version of the director), a Willy Wonka for his time. He's a poor kid from the stacks in 2045 Columbus, but he's super-good at gaming, so there's hope that he'll be the one to find the golden ticket — in this case, the three keys that will gain him ownership of the world's biggest company, which just happens to control the virtual world in which he (and everyone else) spends his time. (Why? Because, as Watts puts it, "Reality is a bummer.") That world, the OASIS, is the brainchild of a pop-culture junkie with a taste for the classics, and so much of the movie's fun amid the relentless action comes from spotting old favorite stuff — hey, it's the old Batmobile! or the sphere of annihilation from Dungeons & Dragons! — and rejoicing in the appearance of old favorite characters. Life in the OASIS is exciting and wondrous to behold through your avatar's oversized anime eyes, but it doesn't *mean* much without some real-world stakes, and that's where the film stumbles, badly. It seems the evil boss wants to...place ads in virtual reality? And that he runs a hi-tech (and apparently legal) debtor's prison right under his executive offices? And that reality, bummer or otherwise, is the only place where you can get a decent meal? Well, okay then. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The Rider — Director Chloé Zhao's predilection for casting non-professionals made for a better fit in her debut feature, *Songs My Brothers Taught Me*. It's true that, when left alone on a screen to bring in a horse or rehab a busted bronco buster friend, Brady Jandreau's naturalism proves eminently watchable. But the rest of this grim and purposeful drama about an irreparably damaged rider considering a return to the saddle has to make do with cast members who, in re-creating their real-life selves, simply don't have in their possession the shading needed to bring to their characters something more than the ability to read lines. Poetic face-of-God landscapes serve here to bridge motivational dialogue scenes. But if giving up your dream entails something other than a surgeon installing a zipper in your skull after a 2000 pound horse waltzes over it, by all means, check out a career in aluminum siding sales. 2017. — S.M. ★★ (ANGELIKA FILM CENTER & CAFÉ)

Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero — The career of Sgt. Stubby — the most decorated dog in American history — serves as the basis for the first CG feature based on a true story. Complaints against contemporary animation have become rote, starting with the flat, cookie-cutter characterizations: instead of flesh and blood creations, the pencil-neck WWI doughboys suggest polyvinyl chloride windsocks. (Purists will find more to explore in the rolling hills of French ally Gaston's boundless face.) The big question: why animate when the story would have worked just as well

with actors? (Possible answer: writer/director Richard Lanni wanted to reach an entirely different audience through animation.) The smaller question: isn't this just a kiddie-sized recruitment film? (Considering the time period, it would have been disingenuous to hammer home an anti-war message.) Still: just because an animated feature doesn't carry the Disney/Pixar stamp of approval doesn't mean it's bad. I'm glad to report that I not only saw the tale of a soldier and his loyal pooch through to the end; at one point, I used a shirt cuff to blot away the wet eyes. 2018. — S.M. ★★ (REGAL SAN MARCOS)

Show Dogs — Growing up viewing innumerable airings of Tex Avery's *Speaking of Animals* shorts established a permanent place in my heart for talking animal movies. So I went in ready to enjoy the story of Max, a macho police canine voiced by Ludacris and sent undercover at a dog show to expose a ring of panda smugglers. It's true that technology has come a long way since Tex first added animated mouths to real-life animals, but what good is

scientific know-how without the imagination needed to power it? I just hope the careless displays of anal fetishism go sailing over the heads of younger, more impressionable viewers. Director Raja Gosnell (*Scooby Doo I & II*, *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*) has killed more talking-dog movies than parvo. Co-star Will Arnett sounds like he spent his time between takes dragging on unfiltered Camels while gargling thumb tacks in order to achieve just the right Dirty Harry tone for barking out his dialogue — and he's not even providing one of the poochy voices. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Solo: A Star Wars Story — Reviewed this issue. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Top Gun — The title, we are told in a tersely written preamble, is the nickname for the elite Fighter Weapons School, where the top one-percent of Naval aviators keep alive the noble art of aerial combat. In what follows, director Tony Scott attempts to keep alive the noble art of movies about it. This means

CHULA VISTA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

365 F St., Chula Vista
619-691-5069

Film Forum: The Other Son 2012. 105 minutes. PG-13. Director Lorraine Levy tackles Israeli-Palestinian tension via this emotionally charged tale of two Middle-Eastern teens — one raised as an Israeli and the other as a Palestinian — who discover they were switched at birth. In French, Hebrew and Arabic, with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chula Vista Library and the City of Chula Vista Visual and Performing Arts Grant. **Wednesday, June 13, 6:00pm**

DIGITAL GYM CINEMA

2921 El Cajon Bl., North Park
619-230-1938

The Escape Gemma Arterton and Dominic Cooper (PREACHER, MAMMA MIA!) star in this emotionally complex drama about the rocky path to self-discovery. In the film, Arterton gives a dynamic performance as a dissatisfied woman who leaves her husband and children behind to start a new life in Paris. Friday, May 18: 12:50, 4:45 Saturday, May 19: 12:50, 4:45, 8:40 Sunday, May 20: 11:00AM, 2:55, 6:50 Monday, May 21: 12:50, 4:45, 8:40 Tuesday, May 22: 12:50, 4:45, 8:40 Wednesday, May 23: 11:00AM, 2:55 Thursday, May 24: 11:00AM, 2:55 **Thursday, May 24, 11:00am**

FLEET SCIENCE CENTER

1875 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-238-1233

Pandas Pandas are beloved around the world, and now they're coming to the big screen in the IMAX original film *Pandas*, a breathtaking documentary adventure and amazing experience for the whole family. At Chengdu Panda Base in China, scientists are dedicated to protecting the species by breeding adult Giant Pandas in order to introduce cubs into the wild. *Pandas* follows a cross-culture collaboration between an American biologist, a scientist from Inner Mongolia, and a very curious female cub named Qian Qian. Join Qian Qian on an exciting new adventure in the mountains of Sichuan as she takes her first steps outside her protected habitat, discovering her true animal nature even as she faces the challenges of the unknown. Rated G. **Thursday, May 24, 12:00pm**

Fleet Night of Science MAY 24 PRIVATE SCREENING OF *SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY* He's a smuggler. A scoundrel. A hero. And you can be among the first to see him! Join the Fleet Science Center and our event partner, Old Harbor Distilling Co. for an exclusive private screening of *Solo: A Star Wars Story*. We kick off with a pre-screening party at Sandbox in Downtown San Diego, starting at 6:30pm Come in costume and you just may win a prize! Hang with Stormtroopers from the 501st Legion and take a selfie with R2D2. Find out what scientific secret the colors of lightsabers hold. Experiment and see if you have what it takes to make materials float using the Force like Rey. Explore the

FILM FESTIVALS

"Worlds of Star Wars" in a fascinating discussion with Dr. Lisa Will and Dr. Shane Haggard. Discuss whether Han Solo shot first with fellow Star Wars fans. Plus, you can bust and confirm myths in MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition. Enjoy all of these fun, Star Wars-themed science activities before departing Sandbox for



a private screening of *Solo: A Star Wars Story* at the UA Horton Plaza theater in downtown San Diego at 10:15pm Event timeline: * 6:30pm: Pre-screening party begins at Sandbox, 325 15th St., San Diego, CA 92101 9:30pm: Hop in your Millennium Falcon or call an Uber and navigate to the UA Horton Plaza theater in downtown San Diego (three-hour complimentary parking at Horton Plaza included) 10:15pm: *Solo: A Star Wars Story* begins 12:45am: Film ends Tickets include the pre-party with themed science activities and a seat in the theater for the private screening. Tickets are available for \$39 and seating is limited! Purchase your tickets early to avoid the Dark Side of disappointment. This is a 21+ event **Thursday, May 24, 6:30pm**

LEMON GROVE LIBRARY

3001 School Lane, Lemon Grove
619-463-9819

America's Untold Story on Film The Lemon Grove Historical Society continues Film Night in the Library with the compelling four-part series, *America's Untold Story: Secrets of the Dead*, revealing settlements in Germany as early as 1565 by Italians, Africans, Germans, Irish, Spanish, and converted Jews, all of whom integrated with indigenous tribes. Jimmy Smits narrates this award-winning series from NYC's Channel 13. **Wednesday, May 30, 6:00pm**

MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT

One Market Pl., Downtown San Diego
619-232-1234

Baby Driver at Rooftop Cinema Club One of the great draws of the Rooftop Cinema Club is the awesome selection of food and drink that moviegoers have the choice to pick from. San Diegans love their street food and craft beers and RCC delivers at every turn. The street-fare at the Rooftop Concession Stand will tempt everyone's taste buds with a diverse menu that features Ahi Poke Nachos, Fish Tacos, Carne Asada Tacos and Nachos, and several

that the hero will have to be someone the MTV generation can identify with — someone who proves that you can be the biggest screw-off and wise-ass and yet still be the best pilot, most irresistible sex object, most esteemed friend, etc., etc. And of course it means there will be plenty of rock music in the background, and the sound effects will be earsplitting, and the visuals will be repulsively prettified (yet strangely, grayly obscure, as if viewed through a frosted window). It means also that Howard Hawks and William Wellman, who knew flying as well as they knew filmmaking, must be spinning in their graves. Maybe not over everything: Tom Skerritt has a great manner and great haircut as one of the veteran instructors; the storyline respects the age-old traditions of male camaraderie; and the climactic dogfight, though not terribly lucid, is pretty exciting — or anyway the participants in it are pretty excited. Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer. 1986. — D.S. ★ (LA PALOMA)

Tully — With two toddlers and a newborn to ride herd on, stressed-

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

1788 El Prado, Balboa Park
619-232-3821

Reel Science Film Series: The Matrix The Reel Science Film Series screens its last cult science-fiction movie for this month in collaboration with San Diego Natural History Museum (The Nat), Digital Gym Cinema, and the Film Geeks San Diego. Introduction and contextualized and corrective commentary will be provided by USD physicist Daniel Sheehan. A theatrical blockbuster at the time of its release in 1999, *The Matrix* proved to be a mind-blowing advancement in cinematic visual effects. Set in the 22nd century, *The Matrix* tells the story of a computer hacker (Keanu Reeves) who joins a group of underground insurgents fighting the vast and powerful computers who now rule the earth. In addition to amazing effects, the stellar cast, including Laurence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss, Hugo Weaving, and Joe Pantoliano, helped make *The Matrix* a modern sci-fi classic. **Friday, May 25, 7:00pm**

SCHULMAN AUDITORIUM AT CARLSBAD CITY LIBRARY

1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
760-602-2049

Carlsbad Film Series: Goodbye Christopher Robin (2017, PG, 107 min.) A.A. Milne retreats to the English countryside to write and heal from his experience with war. Instead, Milne became inspired by his son, Christopher Robin, and his imaginary friends, publishing *Winnie-the-Pooh*. The book brought joy to many around the world, but strained their relationship. Join us for previews and additional information about the film beginning at 5:30pm Film will begin at 6pm Seating is first come, first served. Stay afterward for a post-show discussion of the film. Film screening is made possible by the Carlsbad Library and Arts Foundation's Robert H. Gartner Cultural Endowment Fund. Admission is free. **Wednesday, May 30, 6:00pm**

VINTAGE VILLAGE THEATRE

820 Orange Ave., Coronado
619-437-6161

Coronado Film Festival: Breaking Away Join us at Coronado's Vintage Village Theater for a special screening of *Breaking Away* (1979) starring Daniel Stern (*Home Alone*), Dennis Christopher (*Fade to Black*), and Dennis Quaid. There will be a special introduction for those in attendance. This film is part of the Coronado Island Film Festival's monthly Classic Movie Series. All movies start at 5pm with introductions by festival staff and occasionally industry professionals including actors, directors, cinematographers, and others who provide an insiders look into the production of these classics. Purchase tickets at the Village Theatre Box Office during box office hours. Adults, \$10.50; Children under 12 and Seniors 62+, \$7.50 **Wednesday, May 30, 5:00pm**

Women, directed

“Like a compass needle that always points north, a man’s accusing finger will always find a woman.”

When they first meet, Mariam can’t stand young Laila. With good reason: in her early 30s, Mariam’s the dutiful wife of Rasheed, an abusive control freak. To him, she’s lower than a house cat. Now he wants young Laila, mid-teens, to be his second wife, a fairly common practice in Kabul, Afghanistan. He’ll do anything for Laila: fine clothes, gifts, her favorite flowers. The words alone shock

Mariam; Rasheed’s never talked like this in their almost two decades of marriage. Stolid Mariam calls Laila a “whore.”

“If [Mariam] were a car,” says Rasheed, “she’d be a Volga” (the rage in Russia, but known elsewhere for being sturdy, dependable, and that’s all). Laila would be “a brand new, first-class shiny Benz... the queen of the house.” But, he adds, Benz’s demand special treatment, and special rules: she can’t leave the house without him; she must always wear a burka (“for your own protection, naturally”). And when he’s out, Mariam must watch her every move. To Mariam, Rasheed’s demands rain “down on them like the rockets on Kabul.”

Mariam’s battered mother, Nana, sums up the treatment of women in Afghanistan: “like a compass needle that always points north, a man’s

accusing finger will always find a woman.”

Khaled Hosseini’s novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, follows the evolving relationship of Mariam and Laila for over 30 years. It tells the story of Afghanistan in detail, from the Mujahideen battling the Soviets, to the Afghani warlords slaughtering each other (the “Afghan Civil War”), to the Taliban takeover around 1996, to the arrival of U.S. troops and bombers after

9/11. Hosseini shows how the sweep of history affects the lives of the two women to great effect.

One of the book’s — and Ursula Rani Sarma’s new play at the Old Globe’s — most arresting scenes: the Taliban conquers Kabul; red Toyota trucks seek out “clean-shaven faces to bloody.” They institute new laws. Among them: pray five times a day or be beaten; no singing, dancing, card-playing, books, movies, or be beaten. “If you keep parakeets, you will be beaten. Your birds will be killed.”

Women have around two dozen bonus restrictions: no jewelry, cosmetics, laughter, education, or work. Caught alone on the street, you will be beaten; if found guilty of adultery, stoned to death. Rasheed adores the new regime. The Taliban, he says, “will clean up this place” and bring peace and order. In fact, he will “shower them with rose



Nadine Malouf as Laila in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, at the Old Globe

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Ursula Rani Sarma, based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini.

Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

Directed by Carey Perloff; **cast:** Nadine Malouf, Denmo Ibrahim, Antoine Yared, Lanna Joffrey, Nikita Tewani, Joseph Kamal, Jason Kapoor, Haysam Kadri; **scenic design,** Ken MacDonald, **costumes,** Linda Cho, **lighting,** Robert Wierzel, **sound,** Jake Rodriguez, **original music,** David Coulter, **choreographer,** Stephen Buescher.

Playing through June 24: Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 pm Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm, www.theoldglobe.org

petals.” Small surprise: he’s treated his wives this way all along.

Like the book, which takes at least 100 pages to warm up, the play meanders for many scenes. It improves when Mariam and Laila bond in spite of differences to resist stifling oppression. At the same time, Rasheed unleashes evil like a Taliban of one. The result, Mariam and Laila display a near-epic courage — but modestly, with no claim to fame. They do what they must.

The script centers on the two women and shoves historical events to the background. This is a shame, but necessary, because the playwright must fit a 400-page book into two and a half hours (and more on opening night) on a stage. Sarma sticks to the high points of the story, but stays on the surface, with no room for depth or layering.

The adaptation works for the most part. The surprise is the production, a joint effort from the American Conservatory Theatre and the Theatre Calgary. The actors have just two vocal levels: soft-spoken or full-bore. And they make stock, predictable choices, almost as if they too are hemmed in.

The techno-flair design work becomes a show in itself. Humble props hold the foreground: tables, beds, and mobile translucent portals set the local scene. But behind is a scene-stealing work of art. Mountains on the rear wall loom over snippets of clouds. A drop, black with mysterious, golden, never-explained symbols, lowers on occasion — to reflect on stage emotions? But where’s the claustrophobia? Most of the novel takes place indoors. At the Globe, it’s a panorama. Lit by Robert Wierzel’s bombarding lights, the busy, dazzling “surround” dominates. The scenic design is gorgeous. And that’s a problem; it gives strife-torn Afghanistan a Vegas glitz.

A highlight: David Coulter’s original music

evokes authentic atmosphere and tension. That he makes all the sounds himself — playing a saw, guitar, various drums, and “found” instruments — evokes admiration. But the music needs a better sound mix, since it tends to drown out the actors.

When the play warms up, the pacing slows down. Actors call the spaces between words, and between exchanges of dialogue, “air.” Though some is necessary, the less — especially in act two, when things need to move — the better. The Old Globe’s opening night second act was downright airy. The pacing became solemn, pauses lengthened. The goal was apparently to build emotion for a scene, but the pauses ended up lagging forward movement even more. In sum: director Carey Perloff overstated the silence.

In the book, Mariam’s sufferings rival Job’s. Then she finds peace and becomes “a person of consequence at last” — maybe even a saint. But in the final scenes, Nadine Malouf (Laila) and especially Denmo Ibrahim (Mariam) slow their speeches down, often in monotonous, and put “air” in between them. The effect doesn’t serve the cause. They are obviously acting as directed, not as unleashed hearts.

Find more stories and blogs by Jeff Smith online at SDReader.com/smith/

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 sweeping and deeply moving theatrical adaptation of the best-selling novel by Khaled Hosseini (*The Kite Runner*)

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

By **Ursula Rani Sarma**
Based on the book by **Khaled Hosseini**
Directed by **Carey Perloff**
In association with American Conservatory Theater

Now Playing through June 17

Tickets start at \$30

THE OLD GLOBE

Contains adult content.

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TheOldGlobe.org

Haysam Kadri, Denmo Ibrahim, and Nadine Malouf. Photo by Jim Cox.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

The Old Globe Theatre, in association with American Conservatory Theater, presents Ursula Rani Sarma's drama, adapted from Khaled Hosseini's best-selling epic novel about three generations of Afghan women and their remarkable resilience. Carey Perloff directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Avenue Q

New Village Arts stages the "triple threat" Tony Award-winning musical (best musical, best score, best book). Hand puppets tell how a community can unite diverse people. "Their lives may suck, but not when they are together." A.J. Knox directs.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS THEATRE, 2787 B STATE ST., CARLSBAD. 760-433-3245. 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 7PM SUNDAYS.

Fefu and her Friends

Oracle Performing Arts stages Maria Irene Fornes' Obie Award-winner about eight women gathered for a weekend party in a country home, "only to find that one has fallen victim to a mysterious force." The play, which takes place in several rooms, is performed inside a 19th century Victorian house. Each audience, which will move from room to room, is limited to 20 people.

OLIVEWOOD GARDENS AND LEARNING CENTER, 2525 N AVE., NATIONAL CITY. 619-336-2250. 2PM & 5PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

For Better

Scripps Ranch Theatre stages Eric Coble's "romantic comedy for the digital age, where the intricacies of overlapping calls, three-party conferencing, and concurrent instant messages substitute for good old fashioned human interaction." Eric Poppick directs.

SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Les Miserables

Broadway/San Diego hosts the revised production of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's Tony Award-winning musical phenomenon, which had a two-and-a-half-year return to Broadway. Favorite songs include: "I Dreamed A Dream," "On My Own," "Stars," "Bring Him Home," and "One Day More."

SAN DIEGO CIVIC THEATRE, 1100 THIRD AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-570-1100. 7PM TUESDAY, MAY 29 & WEDNESDAY, MAY 30.

The Madres

Moxie Theatre stages the world premiere of Stephanie Alison Walker's drama about the military junta's "dirty war" in Argentina, 1979. "People are disappearing right off the street," as Carolina and her mother Josefina search for Josefina's pregnant granddaughter, Belem, missing for 12 weeks. Maria Patrice Amon and Jennifer Eve Thorn co-direct.

MOXIE THEATRE, 6663 EL CAJON BL., SUITE N, ROLANDO. 858-598-7620. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Nathan Gunn - Flying Solo

The San Diego Repertory Theatre hosts Hershey Felder's new piece of theater, based on "the extraor-

ANTI-REVIEW

CHERIE PEACOCK

I like Southerners

I WENT TO COLLEGE IN DALLAS, which is not really in the South, but is a sort of first cousin. We had our share of Southern Belles on campus, including one of my roommates. One day, she and I were standing in front of the fridge, peering anxiously at the broccoli in the veg drawer.

"I think it's gone south," I said, disappointedly.

"You mean west," she corrected.

"West? No. The expression is 'gone south,'" I said, amused. (She was biology. I was English. I thought she was being unidiomatic.)

"Well, why in heaven's name would you say it's gone south?" she asked, indignantly.

"I dunno. I never thought about it. I suppose because south is down, and down is where Hell is."

Hmm. That didn't land so well, I thought, so I added: "Why would you say it's gone west? What does the west have to do with going bad?"

"Well, I'm sure I don't know," she said, in a tone that made it clear: if I was that obtuse, she surely wasn't going to stoop to explain.



"Bless your heart!" — not as sweet as it sounds.

I may not be a Southern Belle, but I knew enough to reply, "Well, bless your little heart!"

And then we both had a good laugh and ordered take-out.

I like Southerners. Their culture remains closer to the land, and it shows in their language, their attitudes, and their expressions. Southerners and farmers are the best poets, because the land gives them so many metaphors — "running

around like a chicken with its head cut off."

I cringe at how often Southerners (and farmers) are portrayed in film, theater, and popular culture as backward bigots. So I came to PowPAC's production of *Steel Magnolias* with a bit of trepidation. Who are these westerners playing southerners? Are they gonna act like the sun comes up just to hear them crow?

To my relief, it turned out to be a two-hour breath of fresh air. This story is one of real woman-power, and it was superbly acted and deftly directed. I laughed and cried with those believable Belles, and cheered for the steel that undergirded their petticoats.

And didn't that just dill my pickle!

Steel Magnolias runs at Poway's Community Theater through June 10.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GILL SAVAGE

inary life" of Grammy Award-winning singer Nathan Gunn, who has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House, and Paris Opera.

LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 8PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

Next to Normal

The Goodmans appear to be a typical American family, yet their lives are anything but. The Coronado Playhouse performs the musical about "a suburban family and how they handle mother's 16-year battle with bi-polar disorder." Chad Oakley directs.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Sisters Rosensweig

Patio Playhouse stages Wendy Wasserstein's comedy, which won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play, is about three Jewish sisters who meet in London to celebrate the birthday of Sara, the oldest.

PATIO PLAYHOUSE THEATRE, 116 S. KALMIA ST., NONE. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Smokey Joe's Cafe

OnStage Playhouse presents "the soundtrack of a generation," a tribute to the songwriting duo, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller. Among the 30 popular tunes are: "On Broadway," "Yakety Yak," "Charlie Brown" — "he's a clown, that Charlie Brown" — "Elvis" "Jailhouse Rock" and "Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9," and "Stand by Me."

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Smokey Joe's Cafe

OnStage Playhouse presents "Broadway's longest running musical

revue," a tribute to Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller. The songwriting duo created "the soundtrack of a generation," writing for Elvis, Ben E. King, The Coasters, and The Drifters. Shirley Johnston directs and choreographs.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

South Pacific

This classic musical intertwines the themes of romance, duty, and prejudice, and each is well-defined in Kirsten Chandler's seamless direction for San Diego Musical Theatre. The piece was ahead of its time in 1949, yet viewed by today's standards, it retains some stereotypical ideas of race relations and women's role in society. While Carolyn Agan as Nellie displays a fine voice, the hick side of her character is overdone. Robert J. Townsend offers a genuine portrayal of Emile de Beque, and has a believable rapport with Nellie. Augustine Wells entertains as Luther Billis, but can sometimes be too broadly comic. Though opportunities for women have come a long way since World War II, the play still packs an emotional wallop. The score is as glorious as ever under the astute musical direction of Don LeMaster. *Worth a try.* Review by Larry Steckling.

HORTON GRAND THEATRE, 444 FOURTH AVE., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-234-9583. 7PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Steel Magnolias
POWPAC, Poway's Community Theatre, stages the hugely popular tale about Truvy's beauty salon, where women gather on Saturday mornings to discuss — everything. And Truvy advises. Things change when they have a sudden realization

of their mortality. Brent A. Stringfield directs.

POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

That Championship Season

The La Jolla Ensemble Theatre presents a staged reading of Jason Miller's stark drama about the competitive side of the American success story "and the wounds it can inflict on those who compete." Four basketball players from a championship team 20 years ago reunite to celebrate the victory.

LA JOLLA COMMUNITY CENTER, 6811 LA JOLLA BL., LA JOLLA. 858-459-0831. 7PM THURSDAY.

Who Dunit? Seaport Village

Who Dunit? Seaport Village hosts a scavenger hunt style Murder Mystery Adventure that lasts approximately 2 hours. The "interactive, self-guided tour" has check-in points along the way. Audience members will collect clues, crack codes, decipher riddles, and participate in crazy challenges.

SEAPORT VILLAGE, 849 W. HARBOR DR., DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-235-4014. 4PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS.

The Wind and the Breeze

Cygnat Theatre concludes its 15th season with the world premiere of Nathan Alan Davis' poetic slice-of-life drama about Sam, the greatest emcee in Rockford, Illinois. He's on a bridge waiting for a sign, "while his friends and their outsized dreams challenge him to a battle he cannot win." Rob Lutfy directs.

CYGNAT THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS,

7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

GOLDEN DREAMS

continued from page 14

person in a three-piece suit with an ascot, and they're with a person in board shorts and flip flops, and that's just normal. I adapted easily. I change the cedar in my suit bags regularly, and I let them sit. I know they're there if I need them."

And the loss of exterior standards has not occasioned a surrender to the forces of California Whatever: Cleaveland's ensemble is casual but still carefully curated. The

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 16

in several regional and national publications."

Prior to the housing crash and ensuing

closure proceedings having been filed against the property between 2008 and 2014. Today the owner is listed only as "7455 Note LLC," alluding to the property's address at 7455 Hillside Drive.

A handful of attempts



Evolutionary organic architecture at work

recession, this seems to have been the case, with Concepto receiving accolades from regional lifestyle magazines. In more recent years, the group has fallen on harder times — a home on Plum Street in Point Loma sat unfinished for years before falling into foreclosure, eventually netting a handful of misdemeanor charges for Concepto principal Francisco Mendiola.

La Jolla's "Essencia" suffered a similar fate — the property appears to have bounced between a series of investor-owners since it was built, with ten documents related to fore-

have been made to sell the property, none publicly successful. In 2007 a listing at \$18-20 million failed to attract a buyer, same with a 2008 attempt that ranged from \$19.5 down to \$14.95 million. A six-month stint on the market for \$17.9 million in late 2015 did not result in a sale, nor did 2016 attempts at \$16,750,000 and \$14,600,000. An attempt to rent the mansion for \$20,000 per month also met no takers.

The property sat off-market for more than a year before it was re-listed in April, this time carrying an asking price of \$14,500,000, the lowest reported to date.



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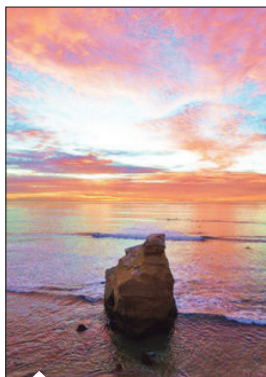
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Reader

MISCELLANEOUS

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EVENT LISTINGS

READER BURGER'S & BEER 2018
Join us in our continued search to find the best burger at the 3rd Annual Reader Burgers & Beer at Golden Hill Park on Saturday, September 8, 2018. Try unlimited gourmet burgers from more than 20 of the best restaurants as they compete to win the "Best Burger" award. No burger is complete without some great beer! Enjoy unlimited beer tastings from 40+ local breweries. Curated exclusively by our food writers, this event brings together the very best burger and beer vendors and you decide who will ultimately win.

ROOFTOP BBQ WITH LOCAL CHEFS, BREWS & SPIRITS
At Topside Terrace Kitchen & Bar atop Hotel Republic, three beloved San Diego chefs—Shane McIntyre (Herb & Wood), Kenzie Allen (JRDN at Tower 23), and Amol Thanky (Patio Marketplace)—will join Executive Chef JC Colon for a pit-prepared BBQ celebration of epic proportions. Modern Times brewery will be pouring a few special brews, and Casamigos tequila will be shaking up margaritas. The \$20 all you can eat menu will feature a whole local pig, free range chicken, whole smoked salmon, and California-inspired sides from the Little Italy farmers market. Enjoy live music throughout the event as you toast to summer at Topside Terrace. Friday, May 25, 4:30pm: \$20. Hotel Republic San Diego, 421 W. B Street. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

SANTEE STREET FAIR & CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL
Join more than 30,000 visitors for the 10th Annual Santee Street Fair and Craft Beer Festival featuring live music and entertainment, more than 300 food and craft vendor booths, carnival rides and more! Additionally, military families will be honored with the annual "Heroes Stage." For adults 21 and over, pre-sale tickets are available online for \$25 and include 10 beer tasters and a meal. Wristbands can also be purchased at the door for \$25 for 10 tasters and \$15 for 5 tasters. Cost: FREE For event information: www.santeechamber.

com www.santeestreetfair.com Media Contact: Ivana Ramirez 619.546.5390 ivana@brownmarketingstrategies.com Saturday, May 26, 10am; Santee Trolley Square Town Center, 9884 Mission Gorge Road. (SANTEE)

MARGARITA MONTH
Throughout the month of May, guests can enjoy discounts on refreshing ice-cold margaritas to help beat the SoCal heat. The month-long special features four fan favorites for \$2 off: The Frozen Margarita, Margarita on the Rocks, Mangorita and Strawberry Margarita. Each drink is expertly prepared with Sauza Gold Tequila and a big splash of south-of-the-border flavor. Make the deal sweeter by pairing any of the above with Island tacos, a signature burger or plate of Island Cheddar Fries. Thursdays, 10am; Fridays, 10am; Saturdays, 10am; Sundays, 10am; through Thursday, May 31, Islands Restaurant, 2441 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND POOLSIDE PIG ROAST
Kicking off summer pool season at Level Four is a rooftop Pig Roast hosted by Curadero. Executive Chef Brad Kraten is preparing a Mexican-style pig roast at Level Four, the Rooftop Pool Deck + Lounge on Hotel Palomar's 4th floor. The party starts on Saturday, May 26 at 1pm. Ticketholders will get a welcome drink to enjoy while noshing on all you can eat carnis with all the taco fixings and rice and beans. You'll also be able to take a swong at a piñata while grazing poolside. Saturday, May 26, 1pm: \$20. Hotel Palomar San Diego, 1047 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

PETS

FREE PET ADS:
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ALL OTHER ADS:
Call 619-235-8200.

DEADLINE: Monday 3pm.



BART (A1833641) is an 8 year old neutered male shepherd blend. He is an active dog that loves to go out for walks and hikes, and just had a lot of dental work done, so he is ready for his new home! Cliff is available for adoption at the San Diego County Animal Shelter in Bonita, 5821 Sweetwater Rd. Bonita CA 91902. Adoption fee is \$35 and includes microchip, vaccinations, flea treatment and spay or neuter. Please call 619-498-2311 for more information. Check our website for more info. Ai www.sddac.com

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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.

The Continuing Crisis

— Donna Walker of Linthwaite, England, just wanted a nice night out to celebrate her 50th birthday; she wasn't anticipating a trip to the emergency room. Walker, along with her husband, Carlton, 45, and their two sons, was waiting for takeout food at the Atlantis restaurant in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, early on Feb. 18 when a brawl broke out. The Walkers don't know what started the fight, but Carlton told Metro News: "When the fight spilled out of the take-away, I said to Donna to stay inside. When I turned round my wife was at the doorway being attacked and was covered in blood. My son was being strangled." Donna sustained a 2-inch gash on her forehead and was bitten on the arm by the young woman who attacked her, calling for a tetanus shot and antibiotics. "I wiped my eye and saw all the blood," Donna said. "I had no idea I had been struck." Police were still looking for the attackers at press time.

Weird History

— Union College in Schenectady, New York, excitedly announced on Feb. 13 that a librarian flipping through the brown pages of a 1793 almanac found a real historical treasure: a lock of President George Washington's hair. Librarian John Myers came upon an envelope with "Washington's hair" written in script on it, and inside, tied with a thread, were several strands of grayish hair. Keith Beutler, associate professor of history at Missouri Baptist University and the author of a book called *Washington's*

Hair, told *The New York Times* that in Washington's day, it was not uncommon to exchange locks of hair as remembrances. "Exchanging locks of hair were like the selfies of the day," Beutler said. Experts are examining the almanac and its provenance to determine whether the hair likely belongs to our first president, but in the meantime, college officials are learning how to preserve it.

Animal Antics

— At 10 Downing Street in London, Larry the cat is an institution, charged with chasing away mice and offering pet therapy to any willing caressers. Meanwhile, at the Foreign Office, Palmerston the cat serves the same purpose. But Larry and Palmerston have a long-running feud, according to *The Telegraph*, and on Feb. 16, they went at it again. *Jezebel* reported that fur was ripped and a collar torn off as the two cats duked it out in the street. Nick Dixon of "Good Morning Britain" said it appeared that Palmerston won this round: "Palmerston seemed to strut out of Downing Street. Larry seemed a bit dazed and confused after the fight."

While You Were Sleeping

— As the medal ceremony for the men's 1,000-meter speedskating competition concluded on Feb. 23 at the Gangneung Oval in Pyeongchang, South Korea, "serial streaker" Mark Roberts, 55, of Liverpool, England, jumped the wall and took to the ice. Roberts peeled off his tracksuit to reveal a pink tutu, a "penis pouch"

with a monkey face on it, and "Peace + Love" scrawled on his torso. Although he might have lost points for an initial fall, he jumped up and continued performing a dance routine. Metro News recounts that Roberts has streaked at Wimbledon, the French Open and soccer matches, along with dog shows and other large events. He "retired" in 2013, saying "gravity's against me," but apparently he couldn't resist the global exposure of the Olympics.

Ironies

— As the 2018 Winter Olympics got underway, and athletes from Russia were forced to compete under the Olympic flag and be designated as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" (OAR) as punishment for systemic doping at the 2014 Games in Sochi, Russian bobsledder Nadezhda Sergeeva proudly wore a T-shirt that read "I Don't Do Doping." But on Feb. 23, Sergeeva became the second Russian athlete to fail a doping test. (Russian curler Alexander Krushelnitsky also failed a drug test earlier in the Games.) Sergeeva was a vocal critic of the Olympic policy toward Russian athletes, telling *Yahoo Sports*, "If we are here, and we are clean, we should be able to walk under our flag."

Suspicious Confirmed

— District Judge Joseph Boeckmann, 72, took a personal interest in the young men who came through his courtrooms in Cross and St. Francis counties (Arkansas) from 2009 to 2015 with traffic citations or misdemeanor criminal charges. *The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

reported that Judge Boeckmann routinely dismissed those charges pending "community service," which Boeckmann would set up through private phone calls with the men, assigning them to provide sexual favors or allow Judge Boeckmann to take pictures of them in "embarrassing positions; positions that he found sexually gratifying," a court document revealed. Boeckmann, of Wynne, Arkansas, admitted to the charges in October and was sentenced Feb. 21 to five years in prison. Prosecutors had agreed to a lesser sentence in light of Boeckmann's age, but U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker ordered the maximum sentence, saying, "(H)e acted corruptly while serving as a judge. That sets his crime apart."

Compelling Explanations

— On Feb. 9, the Texas 3rd Court of Appeals upheld the four-year prison sentence Ralph Alfred Friesenhahn, 65, of San Antonio received after his fourth DWI conviction in 2016, rejecting arguments from his lawyer, Gina Jones of New Braunfels, that the state's legal limit for alcohol concentration discriminates against alcoholics, who have a higher tolerance for liquor. "You're not being punished for being an alcoholic," Sammy McCrary, chief of the felony division for the Comal County criminal district attorney's office told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "It's the driving that's the problem."

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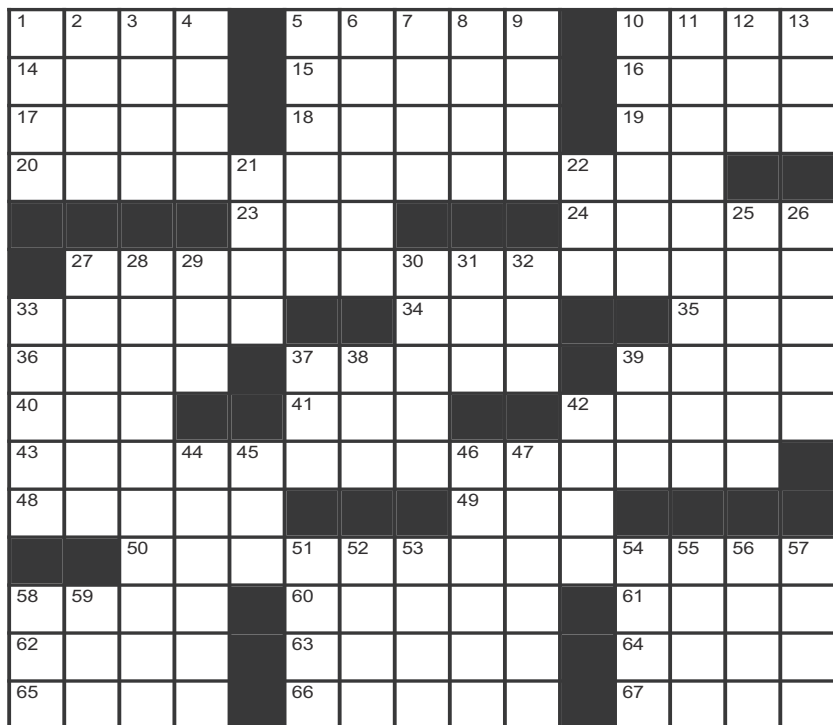
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CROSSWORD

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Across

1. Movie in which Brad Pitt plays Achilles
48. Superman, notably
5. New York Times pieces since 1970
10. Mario ____ (Nintendo racing series)
14. Fontana di Trevi locale
15. Hamilton, to Burr
16. Falsetto-voiced Muppet
17. A bit cracked
18. "Same with me"
19. "Anything ____?"
20. "Sorry about that -- I need some practice kicking a football?"
23. In history
24. Celebrated Bombay-born conductor
27. "Got any other Salamandridae family members in your pet shop?"
33. Almost an eternity
34. "Happy Days" diner
35. ____-com
36. Prefix meaning "half"
37. Person in the headlines ... or a two-word clue to this puzzle's theme
39. Olivia ____ of "The Wonder Years"
40. Uber app abbr.
41. QB's try: Abbr.
42. U.S. military vets
43. State motto for those who

want to eat what they want, when they want?

48. Superman, notably
49. PlayStation competitor
50. Like an eagle who lets a rainbow fish slip from its talons?
58. R.E.M.'s "The ____ Love"
60. String bean's opposite
61. Some early computers
62. Sheep's coat
63. ____-de-lis
64. Sound on Old MacDonald's farm
65. Handmade products website
66. Some subs
67. General ____ chicken

Down

1. Mouth, slangily
2. Red, as a Spanish wine
3. Vizquel with 11 Gold Gloves
4. Ending with brick or stock
5. Popsicle choice
6. It may be drawn
7. Cole Porter's "Well, Did You ____?"
8. Title for Helen Mirren
9. Freudian mistake
10. One of the Wayans brothers
11. Hot
12. Hotel capacity: Abbr.
13. Bathwater tester
21. Honey Bunches of ____

22. Conversation fillers
25. Small-time
26. Greek for "vapor"
27. Crop-destroying beetle
28. Some camcorder recordings
29. Singer DiFranco
30. Pan-frying instruction
31. Wand material in the Harry Potter books
32. Verizon FiOS, e.g., for short
33. Time and ____
37. Roofing material
38. Postal abbr. for a rural address
39. 511, to Caesar
42. Make some changes to
44. How one person might resemble another
45. To's opposite
46. Says "My bad!"
47. Hardships
51. Fizzling sound
52. Wan
53. Thingamajig
54. ____ gear
55. Geishas' sashes
56. "Let me think ... yeah, that's stupid"
57. Judgmental sounds
58. Fall behind
59. "Let's ____ and say we did"

RULES OF THE GAME

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 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader Puzzle*, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

C	S	I	M	A	I	N	E	C	E	N	S	U	S		
L	A	V	I	N	B	O	X	A	M	O	U	S	E		
A	L	A	F	T	L	E	E	R	O	O	M	B	A		
M	A	N	S	F	I	E	L	D	P	A	R	K			
S	A	K	I			R	A	F	A	T	O	W			
M	A	S	Q	U	E	R	A	D	E	P	A	R	T		
M	A	A	N	D	P	A	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
O	P	U	S												
M	A	N	A	G	I	N	G	P	A	R	T	N	E	R	
A	R	T	E	S	A	U									
T	S	H	I	R	T	A	D	I	E	U	L	M	N		
A	K	I	N	T	O	N	A	L	D	I	L	E	G		
H	I	C	K	O	K	A	S	S	E	T	Y	D	S		

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.

- Evelyn Bowser, San Diego, 13.
- Ron Meyer, Santee, 13.
- Tyler Weiss, Julian, 4.
- Greg Bergeron, Tierrasanta, 3.
- Mike Russell, La Jolla, 2.

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

HARD:

	7			2	9	4		5
						6		
		8	3					9
9			7					5
		2		1		8		
	8				4			9
	3				7	1		
		1						
2	4	1	5					8

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Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

City: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

HARD:

4	5	8	9	3	2	1	6	7
2	1	7	5	6	4	8	9	3
3	9	6	7	8	1	2	4	5
9	2	4	1	5	8	3	7	6
8	6	3	4	9	7	5	2	1
5	7	1	6	2	3	9	8	4
7	4	5	8	1	9	6	3	2
6	3	9	2	4	5	7	1	8
1	8	2	3	7	6	4	5	9

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.

- XP Liang, San Diego, 11.
- Thomas LaFleur, San Diego, 10.
- Jean Bradley, Spring Valley, 9.
- Karen Cassimatis, San Diego, 4.
- Stephen Wu, San Diego, 3.

BRAINSTORMS

BY DON RUBIN

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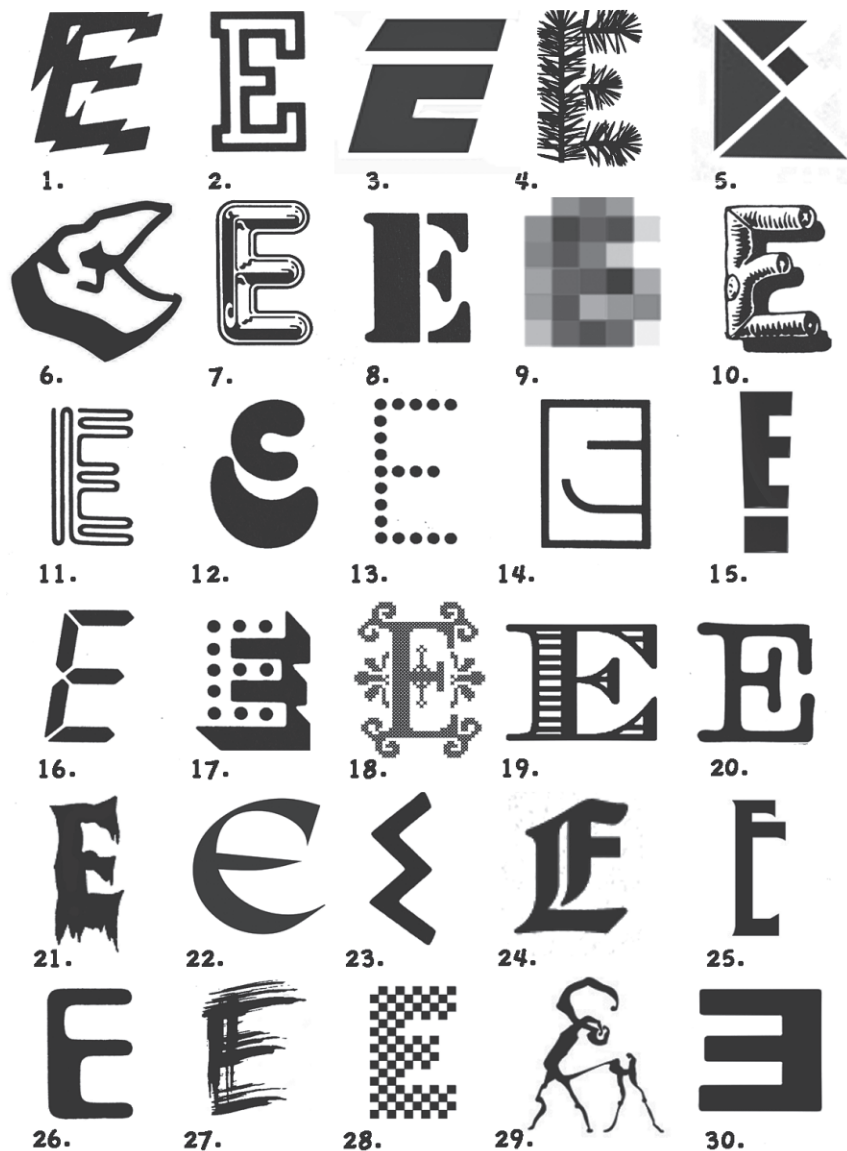
With E's

Each of the E's at the right is in some way identified below.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| ___ Gutenberg | ___ Celtic | ___ Shatter | ___ Tangram |
| ___ Croissant | ___ Checkers | ___ LCD | ___ Xerxes |
| ___ Ivy League | ___ Eminem | ___ Data | ___ Currency |
| ___ Stencil | ___ Graffiti | ___ Sampler | ___ Blade Runner |
| ___ Smiley | ___ Neon | ___ Rustic | ___ Typewriter |
| ___ Led Zeppelin | ___ Pinball | ___ Halloween | ___ Marquee |
| ___ Christmas | ___ Chromium | ___ Low Res | ___ Dali |
| ___ Dry brush | ___ E! News | | |

Last Week's Solution Right?

Only the bolt and table setting were right. Everything else—the Statue of Liberty, guitar, Nike swoosh, turntable, Apple logo, grand piano, scissors, Big Dipper, bike and Twitter logo—was reversed in some way.



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no qualifying winners this week

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 City: _____

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\$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.

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*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.

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*134a Freon additional *additional repairs maybe required for proper system operation, leak detection and diagnostic service available at additional cost

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 per axle.

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CITY LIGHTS

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 30

sumption to be sourced from renewable sources by 2035. According to the board, SDG&E has been aware of criteria needed to meet this goal for “nearly three years,” but its proposals have been light on details. Last month, the board sent its latest request to the utility to respond to questions, including ratepayer fees to fund the transition to renewables or to allow them to opt out of utility service. The latter option would be available should San Diego turn to community choice energy, a system under which SDG&E would retain ownership and maintenance responsibility for power infrastructure, but the electricity flowing through the lines would be purchased by a non-profit entity and then sold to ratepayers. Similar programs in Northern California have resulted in lower rates for customers.

A feasibility study completed last July and approved by the board in November found that community choice would be a viable option for the city, providing ratepayer savings even if the cost of wholesale solar power doubles as compared to current market rates. “As noted in the Peer Review, ‘the main challenge associated with SDG&E’s proposal is the requirement to obtain [California Public Utilities Commission] approval for any program...other chal-

CITY LIGHTS



SDG&E- ready to ride into the sunset?

lenges include how SDG&E would address potential cost shifts to non-City customers,” notes the board report’s conclusion.

Dave Rice

Who’s Biozoomin’ who?

Carlsbad resident James Panther Jr. charged in stock fraud
The Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday (May 15) charged Carlsbad’s James P. Panther Jr. (also known as Jaime or James Suqui) and three accomplices with fraudulent sale of a penny stock, using offshore havens in the process.

The name of the stock suggested a manipulation: Biozoom. Hot biotech stocks are frequently manipulated upward, and the word “zoom” certainly suggests an upswing.

According to the securities commission, Panther and his fellow defendants “hid their ownership and sales of Biozoom shares by using offshore bank accounts, sham legal documents, a network of nominees,” and other falsification techniques. The defendants are charged with generating almost \$34 mil-

CITY LIGHTS

lion of unlawful stock sales, harming investors.

The complaint was filed in the Southern District of New York. Panther’s alleged companions in the fraud were Guillermo Ciupiak, last known to have lived in Barcelona, Spain; Francisco Abellan Villena, also believed to be in Barcelona, and Fayyaz Dean of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Don Bauder

County unemployment dips below 3 percent

But times still tough in Bostonia
County unemployment broke below 3 percent in April, coming in at 2.9 percent, down from a revised 3.2 percent in March.

The April rate was down from 3.9 percent a year ago, and down from the April unadjusted rate of 3.8 percent for the state and 3.7 percent for the nation

Professional and business services jobs reached a highest-ever total of 244,800, up 4500 from March. Construction added 2000 jobs — higher than normal. Once again, tiny Bostonia near El Cajon had the highest rate in the county in April, 5.8 percent.

From April of last year, nonfarm jobs rose by 32,100, or 2.2 percent. Professional and business services jobs rose by a robust 6.1 percent over the year.

Don Bauder



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