

SAN DIEGO
Reader

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JULY 19, 2018



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COMIC-CON

Forget farm-to-table and embrace farm-to-fork – see page 1



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July 19, 2018



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDY BOYD

I bet she's not a natural turquoise — page 36



Succubus meet succulent — page 14



Farm to Fork to Stomach — page 16

ADVERTISING

Display Ads

Automotive	78
Career Training	74
Health and Beauty	23
Help Wanted	73
Legal Solutions	11
Music	52
Rentals	74
Research Studies	17
Services	75

NEWS & FEATURES

City Lights

The insanity of convention center expansion; and News Ticker	2
Under the Radar: Murder at the Meridian?; Pete Wilson goes green	3

Letters

.....	4
-------	---

Neighborhood News

Ask a Hipster

Ironic appreciation for Gilded Age social conventions	9
---	---

SD on the QT

Almost factual news	12
---------------------------	----

Golden Dreams

Cosplay is Mom's thing	14
------------------------------	----

Unreal Estate

A La Jolla three-on-one	15
-------------------------------	----

Forget farm-to-table

Embrace farm-to-fork	16
----------------------------	----

Comic-Con 2018

The Experience; Non-con events; Line tribes	36
---	----

News of the Weird

.....	78
-------	----

Crossword

.....	80
-------	----

Sudoku

.....	80
-------	----

Brainstorms

.....	81
-------	----

CALENDAR

Events

Art, Book-signings, Classes & Workshops, Comedy, Dance, Discussion Groups, Food & Drink, For Kids, Lectures, Outdoors, Special Events, Spoken Word, Sports & Fitness	29
--	----

Roam-O-Rama

Rolando Village catwalks	30
--------------------------------	----

Poetry

You vote each day for monopolies	31
--	----

Religion

The church needs a Sacagawea	32
------------------------------------	----

Water Front

Six months of near drowning	34
-----------------------------------	----

Restaurants

The unofficial South African embassy in San Diego	46
Feasters' delights (and disappointments)	47

San Diego Beer News

The need for mead	50
-------------------------	----

Music

Blurt: A band from OB, but not an OB band	51
Just Announced: Paula Abdul looks a little dazed	54
Immortal Beauty: Long-form internet may help classical music	60

Theater

Vienna Sausages don't get that kind of love	68
---	----

Movies

.....	70
-------	----

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NEWS TICKER

By Reader staff writers

Citizen Cox

Candidate's Quixotic California crusades
California's gas tax repeal initiative will be on the November 6 general election ballot as Proposition 6. If approved by voters in November, the measure would amend California's Constitution to require any gas and car tax added after January 1, 2017 be approved by voters, and would repeal SB 1, the gas tax and vehicle fee hike passed by the California legislature and signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2017.



Cox's stickers could have made things sticky for purchased pols.

California candidate for governor and Rancho Santa Fe resident John Cox was a major donor to the drive to get Prop 6 on the ballot. It is not his first political rodeo. A recent *L.A. Times* article depicted Cox as a Don Quixote figure in California politics, given his relentless effort to pursue his Neighborhood Legislature initiative each of the past four election cycles. Ballotpedia reports Cox has spent \$2.3 million of his own money on this initiative, which has never qualified for the ballot.

That initiative was presented as a non-partisan effort to reduce the influence of money in California politics by increasing the number of state legislators to about 12,000; 8000 in the state assembly and 4000 in the state senate. Cox wrote in a February 2017 op-ed in the *Sacramento Bee*, "With 80 assembly members and 40 senators, the [California] Legislature has the largest districts in the world and is considered one of the least representative bodies in the world. The size of the Legislature was set in 1879, when the state had fewer than a million residents."

Under Cox's plan, each of the state's assembly districts and senate districts would be divided into one hundred smaller neighborhood districts, 12,000 in total. The increase in legislators would decrease the number of residents each one represents. Instead of each assembly candidate campaigning to get the attention of around 500,000 people, each would only need the attention of about 5000 people. According to the proposal, this would free candidates from the demand for personal wealth and special interest funding. A good candidate could campaign solely through personal encounters with voters and

skip the high cost commercials, advertising, and special interest endorsements.

One may ask how 12,000 legislators can meet together and get anything accomplished. Last year, Cox explained in a Facebook post: "Yes, it creates larger numbers of legislators, but they all stay home and carry on their lives while the same number as now - 120 - goes to Sacramento." This group of 120 would be composed of an 80-member Assembly working committee and a 40-member Senate working committee, elected from among the neighborhood legislators. The working committee members would receive full-time salaries, and the other legislators would essentially volunteer (they would get paid \$1 a year.)

Cox also often speaks of weeding out political corruption or "cleaning out the barn" as his current gubernatorial campaign slogan goes. In 2016, Cox worked to get the Name All Sponsors California Accountability Reform (NASCAR) initiative on the ballot. It would have required legislators and statewide officeholders in California to display the identities of their ten biggest donors on vests, similar to those worn by Nascar drivers. The donor names or logos would be displayed on their person with stickers or badges during committee meetings and on the senate and assembly floors. The donors would be identified in campaign advertisements.

Eric Bartl

Don't Bogart that half mil

Highlander brought low by Fellner's fattie fib
On July 2 in federal court, Carlsbad's Andrew Fellner and his Strategic Global Investments got sued for securities fraud. The company is a penny stock trading on Over-the-Counter pink sheets, the financial industry's equivalent of the Wild West.

The plaintiff, Highlander Holdings, also of San Diego County, holds three million shares



There's gold in them thar greens!

of Strategic. In 2014, Highlander sank half a million dollars into Strategic, believing its claim that it would soon enter the Colorado marijuana business. But Strategic did not have the licensure, funding or infrastruc-

continued on page 26

Convention Center expansion makes no sense

The market is glutted

By Don Bauder

The push for an expansion of the Convention Center is said to be a "citizens' initiative." It is actually a government initiative drawn up to feed money to downtown plutocrats — the hotel industry. The word "citizens" is used to suggest that this public push was initiated by the citizenry. Thus, it would need to garner only half the vote to win. But since this is an initiative launched by government on

line up behind the push. According to the buzz, Congressman Scott Peters wants to leave Washington, D.C., and become mayor in 2020. He is expected to favor the expansion. Councilwoman Barbara Bry may run for mayor, says the buzz.

She may favor the expansion but has a mind of her own. If Councilmember David Alvarez takes a crack at the job, he will probably oppose the expansion, as he has in the past. The current mayor, termed-out Kevin Faulconer,

has long championed an expansion, among a number of issues that he has fought for and lost. He desperately needs a win to bolster his chances in a run for Congress in Peters's 52nd district, according to the buzz.

The unions (construction, hospitality, etc.) will favor an expansion along with the downtown oligarchs. That juggernaut of unions side by side with business — both lining politicians' pockets — is the main reason that publicly subsidized buildings

continue to sprout downtown while the infrastructure rots throughout the city and county.

After years of legal wrangling, the city and port in June bought out Fifth Avenue Landing, a group that controlled the property contiguous to the center and wanted to build a hotel there. Fifth Avenue, led by local businessmen

Ray Carpenter and Art Engel, will get \$33.2 million for the five-acre parcel on the waterfront, with certain rights if an initiative fails. That's up from \$14 million in 2015, and skeptics suggest Carpenter

and Engel snookered San Diego. However, retired University of California San Diego political science professor Steve Erie, now doing full-time consulting, says the city wasn't taken to the cleaners. Carpenter and Engel, who had gone to court over the matter, "hired people to do the [economic impact report], architecture. They got all the approvals, got inde-

pendent third-party evaluations. They were close to getting the environmental impact certification on the hotel," says Erie. Fifth Avenue expected a solid future revenue stream from the hotel, says Erie,

who was a consultant for Fifth Avenue. Erie's defense of Fifth Avenue may not convince the skeptics, who have seen the city fleeced before when trying to push a project desired by the overlords.

The campaign's backers want the transit occupancy (hotel) tax, now at 12.5 percent, boosted by anywhere from 1.25 to 3.25



Scott Peters is expected to run for mayor.



Barbara Bry is said to be considering a mayoral run.



David Alvarez will likely not support center expansion.



Kevin Faulconer has long championed expansion.



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO

per cent, depending on hotel location. Of the \$6.4 billion estimated to be collected over the 42-year lifetime of the tax increase, \$2 billion would go for the homeless and \$600 million for road repair. The irony is that San Diego needs to spend heavily for the homeless and infrastructure, not center expansion. And the business community would gain from such improvements.

“People don’t want to vote for bond issues except for school bonds,” says Erie. One political insider says it would take only \$70,000 to knock down any bond issue requiring a two-thirds vote. That’s particularly true if that issue is to raise money for a convention center expansion, which would produce barrels of red ink. According to the center’s latest annual report, 2017 was a banner year. Occupancy was 76 percent, compared with the national average of 50 percent. But that same report shows that long-term debt soared 201,819 percent as



Steve Erie: voters don’t want bond issues.

Flouting the law of supply and demand, local pols and hoteliers crave convention center expansion.

the result of a loan from the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank to make needed repairs, such as at the Sails Pavilion. The interest rate on that loan is 3.6 percent. “It is unclear whether there will be sufficient funding in the [fiscal year] 2019 budget to undertake the \$7.9 million of capital and [operations and maintenance] projects called for in [fiscal year] 2019,” wrote Andrea Tevlin, independent budget analyst, in her report of May 3. “It may be... difficult for [the Convention Center] to meet all of its fiscal needs,” she said, because of such factors as possible declining revenues and rising expenditures, lower payments from the city, and service on that debt. “Going forward, it is unlikely that the Conven-

tion Center will be able to grow events/attendance and revenues enough to meet its reserve goal and also cover all of its capital, [operations and maintenance], and debt service expenses,” although an expanded center could help with meeting capital needs.

But is there any certainty that an expanded center would attract that much new business? No. In the year 2000, the total number of attendees at United States convention centers was 31.8 million. By 2017, that number had only grown to 34.1 million. But in that period, convention center space rose 37 percent, as Heywood Sanders, the national expert on convention centers, points out. There is such a supply/demand imbalance that centers are slashing prices by 50 percent, and some are actually paying groups to hold a convention there. Centers cut prices with a gimmick called “rent credits,” or, more euphemistically, “negotiating incentives.”

continued on page 26



Heywood Sanders: expansion plans: seriously open to question.

UNDER THE RADAR

Murder at the Meridian? Downtown’s Meridian condo tower on Front Street is getting some help from San Diego cops in covering up the details of a mysterious death at the building, fueling growing speculation that the incident is linked to influential members of the local establishment who own luxury units there. “The woman does not appear to be a resident of the approximately \$4 million condo she was found in, based on available public records,” KNSD reported July 4. “It doesn’t appear her husband or any of her relatives lived there,” the TV station said.

According to TV reports, the victim, 29-year-old **Allyson Mary Rieg**, was found “unresponsive” by her husband Saturday afternoon June 30, but there the trail ends, at least for public consumption. On July 9, the cops turned down a request made under the California Public Records Act for police incident reports. According to the city’s response, “**Lt. Anthony Dupree**, Investigations II - Homicide, on behalf of **Capt. Michael Hastings**, Investigations II,” is keeping the documents under wraps, asserting that “public interest in disclosure is outweighed by other factors.”

Violent death, scandals, and an array of criminal players are no strangers at the Meridian, whose well-heeled condo owners have often turned to San Diego cops for both physical and social protection. In May 2015, ailing Phoenix jeweler **Donald Raskin** was found shot to death in his 26th-floor corner unit. Raskin’s daughter subsequently sued his widow, charging she was “physically, verbally, emotionally, and financially abusive to her husband, which led to his death. She alleges that Defendant and Decedent’s care giver were having an affair at the time and that both were present when he died.”

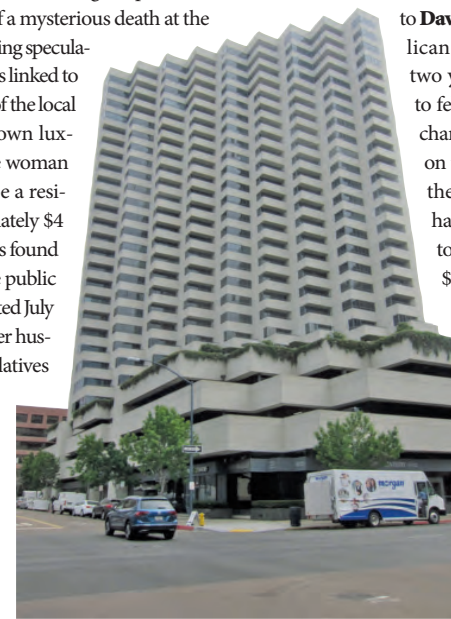
Last summer the Raskin residence became the city’s most costly condo listing, then on the market at \$4.7 million, well under its 2005 peak of \$5.5 million. Other infamous residents have

included ex-Padres owner **John Moores**, first wife Becky, and daughter Jennifer, who in September 2004, sold her unit for \$3.1 million to **David Malcolm**, the Republican political kingpin who two years earlier pled guilty to felony conflict-of-interest charges related to his tenure on the port commission. In the past decade, Malcolm has given a total of \$41,980 to city politicians, including \$5550 to Mayor **Kevin Faulconer** and \$1050 to City Attorney Mara Elliott. Democrat Valerie Stallings, the San Diego city councilwoman forced to resign in January 2001 due to gifts of stock she got from Moores during the run-up to voting on his massive public subsidy package, subsequently took up residence at the Meridian. Physician **Phillip Rand**, whose first wife Tamara was gunned down in a suspected 1975 mob hit at their Mission Hills home, liked the Meridian so much his memorial service was held there following his death at age 94 in May 2015.

Wilson goes green Sounding more like a tree-hugger than the button-down, anti-regulation Republican who once was San Diego mayor, U.S. Senator, and California governor, **Pete Wilson** took to the op-ed page of the *Los Angeles Times* last week to condemn a Native American tribe for too much real estate development. “The Santa Ynez Chumash, a tribe of fewer than 140 enrolled members, reportedly earn \$300 million a year from their reservation-based casino near the town of

Santa Ynez,” stormed Wilson. “The tribe also owns more than 20 off-reservation properties: hotels, restaurants, gas stations, apartments — and a 1,427-acre parcel of open space nearly two miles from the casino. Now the Chumash want to build 143 new homes for tribal members and a 12,000-square-foot community center with

continued on page 26



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS WOO

The Meridian — violent death, scandals, and an array of criminal players.



Pete Wilson is ticked at fellow Republican Doug LaMalfa.

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LETTERS

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

Racist tongue?

I find it quite appealing (sic) that you have a blatantly racist film reviewer on the payroll. Scott Marks gives 0/5 stars to any movies starring black people. A direct quote from Marks' review of "Sorry to Bother You", "The whitespeak-from-black-lips...". As if black people should only talk in gang speak or something? What does skin colour have to do with the way people speak. Despicable that this allowed in your publication. Shame.
Greg

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

Mayor Faulconer's short-term rental idea — pro and con Neighborhood News July 13

This is the biggest housing story in San Diego right now — and sadly most people don't realize it. It's time to wake up and smell the destruction of our housing stock.

Anyone in San Diego who currently rents a single family home — in any neighborhood — is at imminent risk of eviction if the Mayor's proposal passes. And ALL renters will end up paying higher rents as the inventory of rentals shrinks to make room for mini-hotels. In so many ways, the Faulconer Eviction Machine will make the housing crisis far worse.

Call the Mayor's office, call every council-member — and tell them to vote NO on this terrible proposal. Then tell them to say YES to enforcing the current zoning law to protect our communities from being sold out to

Airbnb.

—Matt Valenti

Of course there's this massive loophole built into Kev-boy's con. It's a not a bug — it's the feature. It's intended to keep things unsettled long enough for enough LLCs and corporations to crowd out homeowners so that later the former can claim "unfair restraint of trade" if anyone tries to get serious about STVRs. Again, we have to adopt the simple, clear, and certain rules that Los Angeles and San Francisco have — requiring owner occupancy for individual room rentals and limiting to 120 days a year rentals of whole residences by primary homeowners. There simply is no other solution. And for what it's worth, I believe that Gernium is right, that there is a method to Kev-boy's madness: by allowing STVRs to worsen the housing crisis, it makes it easier for him to continue to sacrifice neighborhoods to his developer donors.

This is a two-front war against all the residents of San Diego; and if we don't treat it as such, we're going to end up either as refugees or the few left in Raqqa-by-the-Sea.

—Cassander

It is happening. Soon to be no possibility for locals to buy in beach areas. My new next door neighbor stopped me first time I met her to tell me she wanted my trees trimmed that were hanging over the fence. I'm going to let her do it. New tenants are other different people who park in front of my house where I always park. I just got a flyer in the mail telling me I should ask my council-member to support this shit "short-term rentals benefit our community" with "opportunity" - can rent any home for extra income "equality" - generate taxes to help build parks and improve streets "fairness" - allow all San Diegans to be treated the same no matter where you live. Ridiculous!

continued on page 79

EDITOR

Jim Holman

NEWS & FEATURES EDITOR

Ernie Grimm

SENIOR EDITOR

Matt Potter, Matthew Lickona

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Chris Woo

CONTRIBUTORS

Ian Anderson, Don Bauder, Ed Bedford, Robert Bush, Joe Deegan, W.S. Di Piero, Barbara Fokos, Dave Good, Mary Grimm, Moss Gropen, Dorian Hargrove, Dryw Keltz, Thomas Larson, Ken Leighton, Deirdre Lickona, Bill Manson, Cherie Peacock, Elizabeth Salaam, Jay Allen Sanford, Jeff Smith

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR

Chris Reed

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Mercia Daughn

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Eduardo Bravo, Brett Flynn, Stephen Hatch, Holly Micelli, David Phillipich, Randy Rice, Todd Westfall, Traci Mendoza

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Jessica Milewski, Allison Ryan, Graeme Storey

MARKETING SPECIALIST

Andy Boyd

AD/MARKETING COORDINATOR

Alyssa Prestidge

DIGITAL AGENCY COORDINATORS

Natalie Andrews, Courtney Browne, Matthew Dodd, Veronica Garcia-Gomez, Brandon Keller, Daniela Penkova, Miranda Potmesil, Eric Solomon

ADVERTISING SUPPORT STAFF

Amanda Stevens, Amanda Tascher

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Mike Brown

ART DIRECTOR

Jessica Wentzel

STAFF ACCOUNTANTS

Ruta Stecher, Rosa Villareal

I.T. ENGINEER

Michael Wayne

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Marina Bahena

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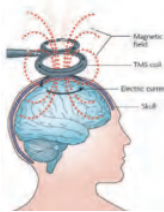
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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

By Reader stringers



Siminou subdued: that's some heavy-duty police work for a misdemeanor.

DOWNTOWN LOVE TRUMPS HATE

But sometimes, you just gotta steal an old guy's sign and push him down

When 75-year-old Dan Russell isn't cleaning up trash from the side of highways, he participates in civil demonstrations, mostly by holding his "Build the Wall, Enforce the Law" sign. On June 30, he brought his sign to the Families Belong Together demonstration at Waterfront Park next to the County Administration building downtown.

Video of the event showed Russell presenting his message as anti-Trump protesters walked by, yelling and cursing at him. Then 36-year-old San Diego attorney Benjamin Siminou took Russell's sign and ran away with it. Russell gave chase. Siminou dropped the sign, and as Russell reached down for it Siminou pushed him to the ground. When Siminou picked up the sign and continued his flight, San Diego deputy sheriffs apprehended and arrested him.

A sheriff's department spokesperson says Siminou was booked into San Diego central jail for robbery done with force, which is a felony. Bail was set at \$100,000, and he bailed himself out.

Russell began making phone calls to press charges. He says he spoke to Mike Duffek, a manager at the County Administration building, and was told someone would get back to him about how to press charges. Russell called the sheriff's department and was told he had plenty of time to file charges, and to wait until July 11 for someone to call him back. He later learned through a second-

hand source that Siminou was scheduled to be arraigned on July 9.

On July 9, Russell called the D.A.'s office and was told they decided not to file a felony charge against Siminou (the arraignment that day was cancelled), and would transfer the case to the City Attorney's office to be reviewed for a misdemeanor charge. City attorney Mara Elliott's chief of staff Gerry Braun responded to my request for comment by accusing me of advancing the positions of a hate group. Braun later gave a second

response, stating the City Attorney's office received the case from the D.A.'s office July 12 and their criminal division is reviewing it for possible misdemeanor charges.

ERIC BARTL

FALLBROOK The horrors of WAR Fallbrook once brooked racists, but shows signs of rising above



Metzger's message unmissed by Mex-friendly masses.

On July 9, lifetime Fallbrook resident Ricardo Favela organized a rally to protest the proposed detention camp at Camp Pendleton, which reportedly would house up to 47,000. The assembled group did call-and-response chants against Immigration and Customs Enforcement/ICE such as, "How do you spell Nazi (I-C-E)...How do you spell racist (I-C-E)...How do you spell criminals? (I-C-E)."

While public protests against President Trump's immigration policies are not unusual these days, this one was in Fallbrook, long-time home of world-famous skinhead Tom Metzger, who lived here from the late 60s to the mid-90s. Metzger, a former Ku Klux

Klan Grand Wizard and founder of the White Aryan Resistance (or WAR), moved from Fallbrook to Indiana about 22 years ago. His hate-speak landed him in jail, and Metzger and WAR were bankrupted following a \$12 million civil judgment awarded by an Oregon jury who found WAR influenced the murder of an Ethiopian man.

Long before Trump, 41-year-old Favela had Metzger to motivate him to organize public protests. "When I went to high school, it was the height of resistance to White Aryans," recalled Favela. "Metzger and his group were considered the most racist in country. He instructed his people to go out and do beaver bashings. I lived through that in high school. My friend's dad got beat up. They went after people who were working in groves."

Favela was 16, he said, when he organized his first protest. "It was in 1993, over a kid getting beat up by the police. It started on Main Street at Builders Emporium [where Grocery Outlet is now]. Metzger was there filming it. People showed up with Confederate flags on their trucks. They yelled, 'Fuck you, go back to Mexico, beaners.'"

Although he claimed a Minutemen group tried to destroy a local migrant camp ten years ago, Favela said the Fallbrook hate fervor receded when Metzger moved. He said public reception was a lot nicer for his anti-Trump rally on Monday, and that he got support for the rally from the Fallbrook Democratic Club and a group called Indivisible Fallbrook. Favela said his first rally, held the week previous, drew only 30 people. "We doubled that this time. It shows that Fallbrook can move past the stigma it has been known for. This time Telemundo, Univision, NBC-7, and Channel 8 showed up to cover us."

Fallbrook's racist history was news to Luis, 32 and Rodrigo, 26. Both work at a local nursery and happened to be there for the rally. Neither spoke English. Through an interpreter, Rodrigo said that they were surprised to see white people standing up for people like them, Mexican nationals working in agriculture.

KEN LEIGHTON

OCEANSIDE Old Wood will not support anyone Beloved ex-mayor withholds his blessing

After serving 30-plus years as an Oceanside policeman, Jim Wood was elected to the Oceanside City council in 2002. Two years later, he was elected as mayor and was reelected three consecutive times. Wood

usually was seen as the peacemaker among the fractious factions on the Oceanside city council — even after stepping down as mayor last year following a stroke. He urged the council to avoid a costly election and appoint either city clerk Zack Beck or former city manager Peter Weiss. To the surprise of most everyone, Democrat Chuck Lowery took Wood's advice, and in January moved to appoint Weiss, a pro-development Republican. The two GOP councilmembers agreed and Weiss became mayor.

Wood's endorsement for the November election is considered valuable for the two council seats that are up for grabs in this, the first election cycle since district elections were approved two years ago. Councilmembers Lowery and Esther Sanchez are slugging it out for District 1 in the northwest quadrant, and northeast District 2 is wide open, since incumbent Jerry Kern is not running again.



Wood's good word will go unheard in district dustup.

On paper, it may seem Wood would side with either Lowery or Sanchez, since all three were once supported by the late Melba Bishop, a two-term pro-citizen councilmember. Sanchez is buoyed by the SOAR (Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources) group, which successfully collected 11,000 signatures to get an initiative on the November ballot which would mandate any zoning changes of Oceanside's agricultural land be approved by a vote of the public. Lowery is buoyed by his support for liberalizing marijuana laws and for helping the homeless with outreach and housing.

But someone close to the ex-mayor says Wood could not stomach Sanchez's open contentiousness (they didn't speak for over a year), and that Wood thought Lowery had voted too many times with pro-developer councilmembers Jerry Kern and Jack Feller. And on July 11, Wood announced he is taking a hiatus and is not endorsing anyone in the 2018 election. That includes the major candidates in District 2: 12-year councilmember Terry Johnson, whom Wood defeated for mayor in 2004; Christopher Rodriguez, a realtor and wounded combat veteran; and Dana Corso, a Fallbrook dog groomer. Corso is backed by Sanchez and the SOAR group.

KEN LEIGHTON
continued on page 8

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Neat-y Graffiti at the Arts Park.

LINCOLN PARK Blok beautified Graffiti gentrified?

In October of 2017, Reginald Jones, president and CEO of the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, announced that Writerz Blok, “one of the nation’s first public graffiti art parks,” was “closing for a redesign of the creative space.” It reopened in late June, and on July 3, I visited the new spot, Arts Park @ Chollas Creek.

“It’s not the same thing,” said Josh, who has been painting murals here since 2003. “They took out some walls, added a community garden and a new stage. It’s not a better place than what it was. More teardown is expected.” Josh works in City Heights as a prevention specialist in the mental and behavioral health field for children, youth and families. In the past, some kids that committed crimes were brought to Writerz Blok to perform community service hours, and “yes, the kids were provided with an alternative outlet to express themselves and pay their dues. But from what I saw, the root of the problems that some of them have/had were never addressed. And now we are saying it’s OK to do this type of art. But let’s not forget where it came from: back in the day, when we were their ages, we committed crimes to obtain the paint and our actions of spray-painting the walls and billboards were illegal.”

Josh was a middle schooler when he began to spray paint walls and billboards. “I grew up in east side (City Heights) in the early 1990s, and I had to go through a couple of hoods late at night to get to downtown. I had a bag of about 10 paint cans which I had to jack, because I couldn’t afford the stuff back then. So I get to the spot and start painting. I’m there trying to hurry it up and not

be seen by the police, local gang members, business owners, and whoever. Then by the next morning, I hoped that my piece hadn’t been painted over by a rival graff crew. Some

of these hipster artists that now spray paint,” Josh said, “I respect them, but they will never experience that kind of vulnerability [our type of] graffiti artists had to face when we went out.”

Unique from National City liked the venue’s revamp. “The aesthetic has improved with the added sidewalk that leads to the stage they had built,” she said. “There are rocks that have been laid out all over the ground, as opposed to the wood chips [and dirt] that were there recently.” Unique painted a mural that her friend helped design. “[It was an] outline that was drawn for me by one of my favorite freight train writers named Vogey, from Colorado,” she said.

Unique started doodling her name in 1994 when she was in middle school. She picked up her first spray paint can in 2011 and mixed it within her artistic repertoire. That Saturday, it took her 10 hours and about 12 spray paint cans to paint her mural, which was an uber-abstract rendition of her name.

“This particular kind of art comes with harsher criticism and non-acceptance,” said Unique, who is an account analyst by trade and in her late 30s. “Street art and graffiti tend to be categorized differently; there are different rules, graffiti politics, [and] bottom line is — be respectful of other artists.”

Irie Sesma is a 35-year-old peer support specialist who painted next to Unique. It took her about seven hours and a dozen cans to finish her piece. “My design was my name, breaking free from a few personal battles I’ve faced over the years, such as depression, self doubt and suicide,” Sesma said, “through the power of my faith in Jesus Christ.”

MIKE MADRIAGA

NORTH PARK Bandits burgle bikes

Sneakthieves skedaddle on scooters

Share bikes and scooters have been stolen and vandalized since day one. Steven is a 57-year-old cyclist who takes photos of suspicious share bike riders. He sees lots of them, because he cycles from his home in La Mesa to his job at a commercial printing facility in Hillcrest. “We see many [share bikes] that have been spray painted all over,” he said, “in white, black, and even multi-colored — I have pictures of a tan-painted Mobike out in front of the Vons in La Mesa.” He’s even seen one with a shopping cart attached to it like a sidecar.

“Two days ago, by Balboa Park, a homeless person was riding a stolen ofo bike.” Steven said, “and he was also stealing a Bird scooter.”

Steven then sent me a photo of another man on an ofo bike who was hauling a BBQ pit on wheels. “They either take them unlocked by the last user, or they break them until the lock opens up.”

“Most thieves break it with a rock or a brick, but in doing so, they can damage the rear tire and rim,” said Jay, a cyclist from Skyline. “The more sophisticated thieves use a special hollow-point tool that’s shaped like a star. The tool or bit attaches to a ratchet and removes the screws that hold together the plastic lock housing that you see on the rear wheel.”



7-11 employees say, “Oh no, ofo!”

Lately, they’ve also been serving as get-away vehicles. Jane, who requested her real name changed for the story, works at the 7-Eleven on University Avenue and Iowa Street. “They steal food and then run out,” she said. “I don’t follow them, because it’s dangerous, and they usually use the yellow bikes (ofos). Sometimes, they switch between the bikes and scooters.”

Melvin works at another 7-Eleven to the east of Jane’s store, on University Avenue and 35th Street. “Last week, a guy with a Lime S scooter hit a small girl in front of our shop,” he said, “then she came in and her face was all bruised up. We put ice on it and when we walked outside, the guy was gone.”

A week before that, when there were motorized scooters parked in front of their store, Melvin’s co-worker made me pay for a couple of hot dogs in advance before I headed to the condiments section. “I have to, unfortunately; it’s getting bad here,” he said.

MIKE MADRIAGA

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS Case catches Craigslist crook on Cleveland Online rental ruse also observed on Ohio

When G. Case’s landlord announced a monthly rent hike from \$1100 to \$1500, he felt desperate enough to brave the wilds of Craigslist. He says he culled through over 4000 online ads before finding a Craigslist notice for an apartment at 4420 Cleveland Avenue. The rent was just \$750 (plus a \$400 deposit). The landlord, Daniel



Case cracked the Case of the Mendacious Missionary.

Brent, said that was just half of what it had been going for, but emailed to explain that “I just traveled to Carson City, Nevada for a program called SERVING IN MISSION... I will be away for 3 to 4 years or more... I want you to keep [the apartment] tidy all the time so that I would be full of smiles whenever I come and above all, a good strong and tight relationship between us when I come for a check up.”

The email included a rental application, plus this oddity: “Do you agree to pay the payment before you move in?” and “Earliest possible date of deposit payment? Your quick response will be highly appreciated so that we can discuss on how to get the documents and the keys of my property to you via Express Delivery Services and you may drive by to view the building and its living environment.”

Case decided not to send any money before getting a key to the place. He asked when he could view the apartment and sent a phone number for the landlord to call him to discuss it. After hearing nothing, he went back online and found that Brent’s website had disappeared. Case went back to Craigslist and found an apartment advertised by a Bob Frank at 4655 Ohio Street in North Park: \$780 per month plus \$400 deposit. Trouble was, Bob Frank’s offer was stated in almost exactly the same words as Daniel Brent’s, including the bit about SERVING IN MISSION in Carson City, Nevada.

Case wrote Frank back, saying, “You must know Daniel Brent.”

JOE DEEGAN

continued on page 28

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Dear Hipster:

I've been following your advice about eating all the food in the house in order to make space, but its not been so easy. Why do I have all these cans of sun dried tomatoes in oil? How did I get so much tuna? I could see having one bag of lentils, but four?! These are the questions that boggle my mind on a daily basis of late, and, I must confess, have begun to vex me. What began as a fun project has turned into a chore. I'm nowhere near admitting defeat, but I could use a little further guidance on seeing this thing through.

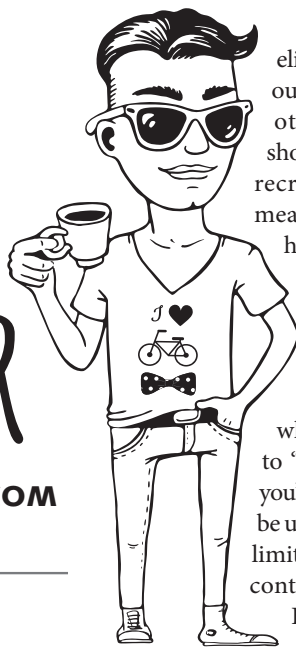
— BRADFORD

I'd like to make it three words, like Samuel L. Jackson would do, but I can't say the middle one here, so, two words it is: Dinner Party.

Why should you eat those undesirable provisions all on your lonesome? Make your friends help! Friends generally appreciate — and hipster friends particularly love — a home-cooked meal drowned in the sauce

of creative necessity and seasoned with a hint of social conscience. Because they've all been eating freshly procured meats and produce this past six weeks, none of them suffer your same sense of burnout in the face of endless pantry staples. They will scarf down your sixth attempt at lentil cassoulet without a second thought.

In general, whether eating down the pantry or merely eating to eat, you can't err with a hipster dinner party. Hipsters have combined their love of trendy foodstuffs with an ironic appreciation of Gilded Age social conventions, and breathed new life into the art of entertaining. Where yesteryear's social



elite flexed their might by out-ostentatiousing each other, today's hipsters show off to their peers by recreating mom's famous meatloaf recipe... but with homemade ketchup!

A word to the wise if you plan to rope your hipster friends into your pantry-reduction scheme. When they ask what they can bring, stick to "dessert" or "drinks." If you're incautious, you might be upstaged by someone not limited by the preordained contents of the cupboard.

Hipsters can be wily if challenged to any sort of implied cookoff.

Dear Hipster:

Is it possible to jump the shark in real life?

— DANA

Of course. I'll venture a guess it's even inevitable in many cases. For example, we've all seen plenty of hipsters jump the shark with their hipsterness. If anyone ever served you a burger on a flip-flop instead of a plate, that would be jumping the hipster culinary shark. If anyone ever brought his self-produced vinyl LP to a party and then got pissed there was no turntable by which party guests might be subjected

to Mr. Hipster's avante garde synthcore, that would be jumping the hipster musical shark.

I'm sure some hipster somewhere once went to a job interview wearing suspenders, wooden clogs, and one of those plastic clown bow ties that squirt

water on unsuspecting victims. That would be, well, honestly, jumping the hipster shark with an entire life.

Naturally, that kind of personal shark jumpery isn't limited to hipsters. Sooner or later, we all embody some parodied idea of who we are, or think we are. It isn't limited to individuals. Cultures, movements, and styles all eventually jump the shark, followed by a kind of ideological *perestroika*. Importantly, nobody ever recognizes a shark jump till after the fact. You could be jumping the shark in your life right now, and you'd never know it.

— DJ Stevens

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SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news



Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Dominatrix Deliciosa and Carmen Mirandy let their displeasure shine through the greasepaint upon hearing the news that the County HHS recommends shigellosis sufferers abstain from sex "for several days after you stop having diarrhea, to prevent spreading the illness to others." "The timing is pretty obviously suspect," says Mirandy. "This is Pride week. You don't just tell a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence to stop indulging for three days during the most fabulous time of the year. What part of 'Perpetual' don't these people understand?"

Sh*tlisted

Gays protest County HH-SA's "Bacterial Profiling" in wake of shigellosis warning

To hear San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency spokesperson Samantha Washands tell it, she just

that "a larger proportion of 2017 cases (63 percent) were among men, many of whom self-identified as gay or bisexual, compared to previous years," she included that group's increased risk in the agency's July 2nd advisory.

But Sister of Perpetual Indulgence Carmen Mirandy isn't buying that line. "This is a clear attempt to demonize the homosexual population, plain and simple," he says. "It's no surprise that the other group they single out for mention is the

homeless. Two communities they'd just as soon didn't exist. I'm just waiting for the sheriff's department to announce that we have to ring bells and shout 'Unclean!' during the Pride Parade."



"All this panic over a tiny pink rod," says Deliciosa. "I guess we can add germaphobia to the list of things that gays still have to fight against."

wants to help stop the spread of an extremely infectious disease that causes week-long bouts of bloody diarrhea. Cases of the disease, which is caused by the shigella bacteria, spiked 37% last year. And because she noticed

Comic-Controversy

Nerds, Geeks protest "Pop-cultural appropriation" at Comic-Con

Statement from Shoutin' Sam Excelsior, President of the Geek-Nerd Alliance: "Just like Elvis stole rock 'n roll from the blacks, Hollywood has stolen superheroes from the geeks and nerds. We admit that for a while, it didn't seem like a problem. It even felt good. We'd been outcasts and downtrodden for so long, it was nice to be welcomed and affirmed. After all, those were our childhood dreams coming true up there on the big screen: Spider-Man matching Doc Ock in both strength and intelligence, Iron Man busting out of

captivity in his original clunky suit, the Avengers learning to fight as a team. But over time, we realized that what felt like affirmation was really just exploitation. They took what was ours, stripped it of everything that made it meaningful, and used what was left to make themselves rich.

"The breaking point came in 2017's *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. At one point, Spider-Man gets stuck under a pile of rubble and must summon strength he didn't know he possessed in order to break free.



"We've been Comic-conned for too long," says Excelsior.

It's a clear homage to *Amazing Spider-Man* #33,

which is maybe the greatest comic book ever. Except in that story, Spider-Man is struggling because if he doesn't break free, his Aunt May will die because of his failure. Just like his Uncle Ben died because of his



Excelsior: "In 1996, *Friends* made a thousand fanboys swoon by having Jennifer Aniston dress up as Slave Leia for David Schwimmer, because that was his fantasy. And of course, it was ours, too. Fast-forward to 2016, where you've got every video game company on the planet trotting out a Booth Babe in order to snag our attention and dollars."

failure. And in *Homecoming*, he's struggling to prove to Tony Stark that he's worthy of a super-suit. Heroic sacrifice from a lonely geek vs. a golden boy's self-esteem challenge — pathetic. The artist behind ASM #33, Steve Ditko, died on June 29. I'm guessing he never saw *Homecoming*, or he wouldn't have made it that far. The time has come to say, 'Enough.' We don't need their money as much as we need our dignity."

WHO PLAYS WHO

TEACHERS (ALLEGEDLY) BEHAVING BADLY EDITION



In "Christine Sixteen" KISS singer **Gene Simmons** says he's "got to have" the schoolgirl who has "got me in her hands."

Numerous schoolgirls have accused former La Jolla High teacher **Martin Teachworth** of getting them in his hands.



In *Dragon Blade*, **Jackie Chan**'s character is accused of treason and sent to work at a desert trading post.

After being found responsible for harassing girls at Chula Vista's SCPA, **Anthony Atienza** found work at Lakeside Middle School



In the *Taken* movies, **Liam Neeson** plays a parent who does alarming things to the people who mistreat his daughter.

Former San Dieguito High math teacher **Donn Boyd** was accused of mistreating people's daughters, alarming at least one parent.

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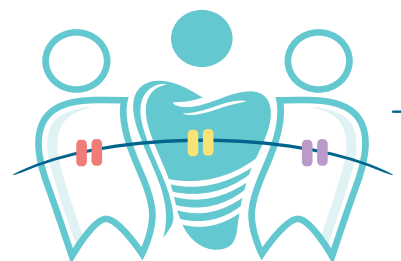
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Cosplay is Mom's thing

Sheila Szilagyi-Noseworthy is getting the upstairs bathroom remodeled in her pretty Poway home. "It'll be nice," she muses. "But I always joke that we need a smaller house and a bigger garage. That's my dream, ultimately, to have play space, creative space. My hubby is really good about letting me go in the garage at night for hours and hours, and the kids don't come in. I have my country music, which they hate, so it's a good way to keep them out." Besides, cosplay is Mom's thing, not theirs.

HBO is skipping this year's Con, but the undead Night King from its hit show *Game of Thrones* will still be in attendance — or at least, a genderbent version of him, with Szilagyi-Noseworthy's warm heart beating underneath the frozen-bone exterior. "The zombie stuff is my favorite thing to do," she says; it's how she discovered her delight in making herself monstrous. Every Halloween, nearby Creekside Elementary does a haunted trail fundraiser for its STEM programs called Creepside. One side is for the kids, the other is intense enough to offer early exits for adults who can't take any more. When Szilagyi-Noseworthy was asked to help out, she bought a wedding dress at a thrift store and a zipper from JoAnn Fabrics, dyed and painted the dress, and applied the opened zipper to her face to create the effect of removable skin.

"Nobody knew it was me, which I loved," she recalls. "It just gives you this license to be really creepy and get out of character. I think that's why a lot of people do cosplay. You're shy or uncomfortable in the real world, and then you get to put on this persona. It's so easy to switch, because you don't recognize your-



INSTAGRAM/ @GHOSTRIDERMAMA

Ghost Rider

bald blue pate. A paintable foam latex prosthetic seemed the best option, but wasn't readily available, because "the *Night Queen* isn't actually a character. I make all my own props, because they're hard to find for female characters," including spiky, clay-over-wire shoulder guards that help her feel secure amid the Con's close-quarters hurly-burly. But the bone crown proved daunting.

Salvation came, in appropriately terrifying fashion, via makeup artist Jonahntan Aspittle. "When you hide in your garage late at night, or paint your face in the bathroom mirror, it can be isolating," says Szilagyi-Noseworthy. But she found a tribe in the makeup effects community. "I follow Jonathan on Instagram. He was doing a demo for the International Makeup Artist Trade Show in Los Angeles this January, and his model fell through. I was like, 'Please make me a monster! And in return, just teach me; narrate what you're doing.'" What he was doing was a riff on the theme of tryphobia, the fear of small



INSTAGRAM/ @GHOSTRIDERMAMA

Tanya Trypophobia

community and more work-bench ingenuity. In episode six of last season, the wintry Night King heaved a spear tipped with an enormous icicle toward a fire-spewing dragon. Inspired, Szilagyi-Noseworthy wrapped a PVC pipe with metallic thread, and then used a heat gun and moldable plastic to transform a \$4 Walmart lightsaber into a glowing icy spearhead. The heavy handle "got me kicked out of Wonder-Con, so now I'm thinking pool noodles and duct tape to lighten it up. I think I have a 50-50 chance of getting it in" past the Con's weapon-wary gatekeepers. "Though last year, as Ghost Rider, I had a very light plastic chain, and they zip-tied it to me."

Even so, she estimates that she posed for "hundreds and hundreds" of photographs during the Con, which is part of what justifies all the time and expense. And there is time and expense. "I try not to count how many hours; if I did, I would be horrified." What's more, "one ounce of body paint is \$14. I'm 43; I have two decades on most of these girls who cosplay, which is intimidating and, um, kind of badass. You always joke that the paint hides the wrinkles, but you can't really practice; you can't throw away \$50 just to see how it goes. So when my husband asks, 'What's your goal?' I say, 'If I could get just one thing of free paint...' The younger girls with the massive Instagram accounts who do sexy photoshoots, they get stuff all the time. Sometimes, it's a little frustrating. But I do it for fun. I don't have cards to hand out or anything, which I notice a lot of cosplayers



INSTAGRAM/ @GHOSTRIDERMAMA

The Night Queen



INSTAGRAM/ @GHOSTRIDERMAMA

Zipperface zombie bride

do. I would feel really self-conscious about it. If I'm saying, 'Yeah, this is me,' then I revert back to myself," which defeats the purpose.

The Con's other big no-show is Marvel Studios, which is skipping its usual Hall H megapanel this year. Here again, Szilagyi-Noseworthy will help to stand in the gap, this time by contributing a piece of stained glass based on Captain America's shield to La Bodega Gallery's *Marvelous* art exhibition on July 21. It's not her first treatment of the subject. Glass is almost prohibitively expensive, but one deep dive on Craigslist yielded word of a giveaway at an abandoned thrift store in Oceanside. "I spent days in there, filthy, getting sheet after sheet of vintage glass with depth and color that can't be replicated. I got this gorgeous opalescent white with tiny age cracks on its surface. It would have made great angel ornaments, but I saw Vibranium," the mystical metal that makes up the First Avengers's dynamic disc. "I sized my piece to exactly the amount of glass that I had. But vintage glass is very thick and uneven and hard to cut... and I broke it. I was so upset, because it's one-of-a-kind glass. But you know, Captain America's shield does get battle-worn. So I changed the leading a little, and now my son says, 'We have to keep that one.'"



INSTAGRAM/ @GHOSTRIDERMAMA

Bodega Gallery submission



Battle-damaged stained-glass shield

self in the mirror. Last year, I was chairing it, so I wasn't allowed to be too scary, because I had to manage things. But I just wanted to be a zombie and hide in my haunted house."

The Night King was a bigger challenge, as he sports a natural crown: a series of bony protuberances sprouting from his

holes clustered together. "I sat in a makeup chair for two and a half hours, and the crowd watched" as he transformed her. When she later requested custom facial and chest prosthetics for the Night Queen, Aspittle was happy to oblige.

Other bits required less special-effects

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UNREAL ESTATE

by Dave Rice

This week we look at “a unique opportunity to own a collection of three meticulously restored, award-winning historic homes” in La Jolla’s Barber Tract, adjacent to Windansea Beach.

Home to some of La Jolla’s oldest structures, the neighborhood is named for Phillip Barber, a wealthy New York heir who bought up a swath of land along the coast and sold off French Normandy and English Tudor-styled homes to aspirational San Diegans



The Rhoads House, home to the business manager of the *San Diegan-Sun* during the heady heyday of printed newspapers at the turn of the 20th century.

on newly subdivided lots. Barber’s daughter Florence Buchanan Palmer, one of only four female architects active in San Diego in the 1920s and

1930s, was posthumously awarded a “master designer” designation by the city in 2015.

The properties offered for sale predate

Palmer’s career, and all were moved to the third-acre lot at 7210 La Jolla Boulevard from their original construction sites around town.

First up is the Rhoads House, a 1917 craftsman bungalow-style duplex. The home was relocated from Wall Street near La Jolla Cove to its current situation in 1928 by newspaperman Horace Rhoads and converted to a single-family residence. Expanded and updated over the years, it now includes nearly 3100 square feet of living space, with four bedrooms, three baths, and a semi-attached guesthouse.

Five domestically stable decades followed until 1979, when Rhoads’ onetime home was joined by the Galusha B. Grow Cottage — an 1895-built Victorian also known as the Yellow Cottage, with roughly 1000 improved square feet, two bedrooms, and one-and-a-half baths. The house originally served as a

vacation cottage for Grow, a downtown banker.

Finally, the Corey House, another Victorian, built in 1909 and the smallest of the trio at an estimated 745 square feet, arrived in 2003. Martha Dunn Corey, the original owner, was La Jolla’s first female doctor and used the property, originally sited a block to the east on Draper Avenue, as both her residence and office.

Collectively known as Heritage Place La Jolla, the residences were the collection of Bob and Patricia Schaelchlin. Mrs. Schaelchlin was also involved in arranging another Heritage collection in Old Town, a seven-acre park featuring seven Victorian homes saved from the wrecking ball and relocated from downtown.

continued on page 74

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FORGET FARM-TO-TABLE

Embrace farm to fork

Two Forks Farm, Terra American Bistro, and the pleasures of provincial produce

Watlington's farm

Trish Watlington reaches into a bed of bright red-orange nasturtiums and picks off a couple of whitish green seedpods about the size of wasabi peas. "Here, try it." She hands one to me and one to chef Jeff Rossman.

"Have you ever tried pickling them?" she asks Rossman. He shakes his head.

I take the pod between my fingers. Watlington looks at me expectantly. "It's spicy," she warns. "Like horseradish. Not like painfully spicy."

As my teeth bite down, the seedpod breaks open and lets loose its bright fresh flavor. It is spicy, but it's a cool spicy, not at all unpleasant. Rossman eats his, too.

"Oh, it's good," he remarks. "You can pickle them?"

"Yeah. They're kind of like a caper," Watlington says. "You hot brine them and I think I let them sit in the brine for two days, then you put any pickling solution you want in there."

"Wow. Cool," Rossman says. "I gotta try that. They grow wild on my hill."

Rossman has invited me along to Two Forks Farm to pick up his week's order for Terra American Bistro in

East San Diego, the El Cajon Boulevard restaurant where he is owner and executive chef. Although Rossman gets his produce from a number of local farms, Two Forks is the newest and most conveniently located — in Mount Helix, less than six miles east of Terra.

The farm itself isn't new. Watlington used its harvests at Red Door, her own restaurant in Mission Hills, for many years until she finalized its sale

earlier this year. Today, the farm supplies local private chefs, small catering companies, and now Terra, its first restaurant outside Red Door.

Watlington and Rossman have known each other through the restaurant industry for many years, and once Watlington stepped away from her restaurant, their relationship evolved naturally into a partnership between farmer and chef.

Most weeks, Watlington sends her list of available vegetables by email on Monday or Tuesday. Rossman chooses items from the list to use for his daily specials and for what he calls the “plate veg,” or vegetables that accompany the entrees. Watlington usually delivers around mid-week, but occasionally, Rossman drives a couple of exits over on the 8 and picks up the order himself.

Today, we’re here to pick up French Gold beans, summer squash, kale, fennel, and some edible flowers for this week’s menu. But Watlington is also giving us a tour of the garden so we can see what else is ready to harvest, or will be soon. The sun is bright, and a slight breeze rustles through the greenery. Hummingbirds and slow fat bees go about their business around us.

This suburban farm occupies approximately a half-acre of what used to be a mustard field on Watlington’s 1.75-acre property. Currently, she’s growing more than 50 varieties of vegetables, fruits, and edible flowers and herbs, including five types of tomatoes with names such as Pineapple, Big Beef, and Sweet 100; a small purple eggplant called Japanese Millionaire, and a cucumber called Diva. Some of the plants, strawberries for instance, grow close to the ground,

while others such as the Burgundy and Mammoth Sunflowers grow as high as three feet over Watlington’s 5’0” frame. The fruiting trees on the property include naval orange, Meyer lemon, Anna apple,

pomelo, four varieties of figs, avocado, grapefruit, persimmon, pomegranate, and lime.

“It produces pretty heavily,” she says of the farm. “If we take care of it well and plant efficiently,

we can get about six or seven thousand pounds of vegetables per year, not counting the citrus fruits.”

We take a moment to listen to the birds and the wind in the trees and to marvel at the bounty.

“It really is magical,” she says. “I am a crazed nut for root crops, because it’s so much fun to pull them out of the ground and see what you get. It’s like a birthday present every time you harvest. Carrots

and beets and even fennel root.”

As we walk up and down the rows, Watlington scans the area for small tasks that need doing. She pulls the bottom leaves off a row of kalette plants,

RESEARCH STUDIES

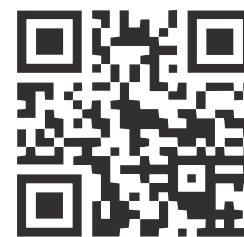
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a kale-Brussels sprouts hybrid. She messes with an irrigation hose. She picks a vegetable off a stem or a vine and hands it to me to smell or taste. Under her guidance, the farm becomes a series of sensations. The crunch and sweetness of a French Gold bean. The pungent floral-herbal fragrance of Cleveland sage. The licorice flavor of fennel pollen straight from the flower.

At one point, she hands Chef Rossman a small container and tells him to gather any edible flowers he'd like. She points to the purple-veined leaves and dark purple fruit of Japanese Millionaire eggplant and warns him that although the bright purple flowers are pretty, they're in the nightshade family and highly poisonous.

Within a few minutes,



Trish Watlington picks French Gold beans.

Rossman has filled the container with two flat-topped clusters of pale yellow fennel flowers, three golden yellow disc-like calendula flower heads, 10 or so orange-yellow and red-orange nasturtium flowers, a few teeny tiny purple and yellow Johnny Jump

Up violets, and a small cluster of lacy white carrot top flowers.

"We could make a salad just with flowers," Rossman says.

"I love flower salad," Watlington responds.

Knowing where the

food comes from

"It's all about knowing the farmer and knowing where the food comes from," Rossman says.

The collaborative nature of Rossman and Watlington's relationship becomes apparent when he says, "I want to do

some of those leaves you were talking about," clearly continuing a conversation they'd started earlier. "That sounds super intriguing."

"Oh, you mean the sunflower leaves?" Watlington says, turning toward a tall row of sunflower stalks nearly eight feet high. When he confirms, she adds, "Yeah, this is the perfect time to get them because a month from now they'll be not tender enough."

"To eat?" I interject.

"To stuff 'em," Rossman says in a lusty voice.

"You can make them like you would a grape leaf, like dolma?" Watlington says. "You can stuff them with whatever you want and roll them up and eat them. They're delicious."

"That'd be awesome," Rossman says.

The length of time during which the leaves

are tender enough isn't very long, she explains, informing Rossman that he should probably get them this week or next if he wants to use them. He says he'll probably want three dozen or so next week, which if he uses three per order will give him about 12 orders, just the right for a daily special.

"When you partner with a farmer," Watlington says, "you get to try new things that nobody else has on their menu."

"Like sunflower leaves and carrot flowers," he says, pointing to tall weedy looking plant topped with tiny white clusters of flowers.

The single plant is the only thing currently growing in the 10-by-4-foot raised bed, and Watlington explains that there's likely an improperly formed carrot beneath the

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soil that gave all its energy to flowering.

"I left it because white flowers encourage beneficial insects," she says. "For example, there's a beneficial wasp that lays its eggs in the body of destructive caterpillars. It's a predatory wasp, and it obviously kills the caterpillar."

"That's cool," Rossman says.

The rest of the bed that contains the carrot

flowers is empty except for four black 5/8-inch John Deere drip irrigation tubes running over the top of 2.5 cubic yards of soil composed of a 60% compound/topsoil mix. Watlington is saving the bed for Terra.

"We're going to have a meeting next week to talk about what Chef might want to plant here for fall," she says. "But in terms of the bigger space, we can also talk about what

I might grow for him that he might want on his menu every week. So, that'll be a fun collaboration."

Rossman explains that it's not just about telling Watlington what he wants but also consulting her about what will grow best. Then, he can plan his fall menu around it. And if she can guarantee that she'll have enough of whatever it is to carry him through the season's menu, he'll be

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able to print “Two Forks Farm Brussels sprouts” or whatever it is, on his menu.

“But this is the part that gets tricky about menuing,” he says. “If I can’t get Two Forks Farm Brussels sprouts and I have to go to Specialty Produce, now it’s a misnomer. And I have to change my menu, which costs money.”

The items on the menu at Terra come from local farms, but the seasonal menu says, “Local vegetables,” and then he tells the servers on a daily basis what the vegetables of day are, and which farms they’re from. It doesn’t always change, though. Some things will stay the same for a few days, depending on how much of any given item he has.

Some of the obstacles to running a farm-to-table restaurant, Rossman says, “include availability, sea-



Chef Michael Rubalcava, Terra's lead line cook, employs yellow-flowered fennel in his dishes.

sonality, and product utilization. Unfortunately, there are a lot of farms that do the same things. A lot of farms do lettuces, herbs, tomatoes. So you want to find more obscure farms that are doing other things, or someone like Trish,

where they're like, 'I'll grow for you.' That's super cool.”

Watlington points to the wide leaves of a bed of tromboncino squash, and says, “I’m trying to convince Jeff that he wants to use tromboncino squash this year instead

of zucchini.”

“For sure,” he says.

The fight against farm-to-table fraud

Although Terra is the only restaurant Watlington’s farm is currently supplying, she’s hoping

to continue to expand her relationship with other restaurants that have expressed interest.

“Smaller ones,” she specifies. “Big restaurants are harder to work with because, A, they’re not very flexible with their menus, and B, I don’t have the amount that will cover what they need.”

Beyond the relationships her own farm has with local restaurants, Watlington fights what she calls “farm-to-fable” or “farm-to-table fraud” in San Diego. So she began working on the Farm to Fork initiative, an organization that allows farmers to verify farm-to-table restaurants.

The requirements for verification include at least one consistent weekly or biweekly relationship with a local farm. At this point, Watlington is the organi-

zation, and the only way for a restaurant to verify its relationship with a farm is for the farmer to tell her directly.

“As much as I love chefs and restaurants, I don’t take anybody’s word for it,” she says.

Rossman laughs.

Having a relationship with Specialty Produce, the wholesale distributor that provides restaurants with local produce, does not count, though. This decision wasn’t one the organization came to easily.

“There’s no way to completely 100-percent supply a restaurant from local farms. And sometimes you just want something that isn’t on a local farm,” Watlington says. “[Specialty Produce] also gives farmers an outlet for their produce, especially farmers who don’t want to sell directly to local chefs

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These Japanese millionaire eggplants are among the over 50 varieties of fruits and vegetables at Two Forks Farm.

of this organization would be the relationship building between farmers and chefs," she says.

On the Farm to Fork Week website, restaurant partners promise to include a special *prix fixe* meal or a specially priced dish that includes items from partner farms during the semi-annual Farm to Fork Weeks, social media engagement around Farm to Fork Week with other restaurants, farms, and media partners, and a \$150 fee for website maintenance and other organizational expenses.

The organization began when Watlington reached out to a group of "tiny restaurant friends" who came together to support each other rather than participating in (and paying the fee for) San Diego Restaurant Week. They decided to create special

because it's a pain in the butt. You have to invoice people. You have to make sure you collect from them. Not all chefs are wonderful at paying."

But after multiple meetings discussing the

topic, the organization decided that purchasing local fruits and vegetables through Specialty Produce does not fulfill the farm-to-fork verification requirement.

"We felt like the point

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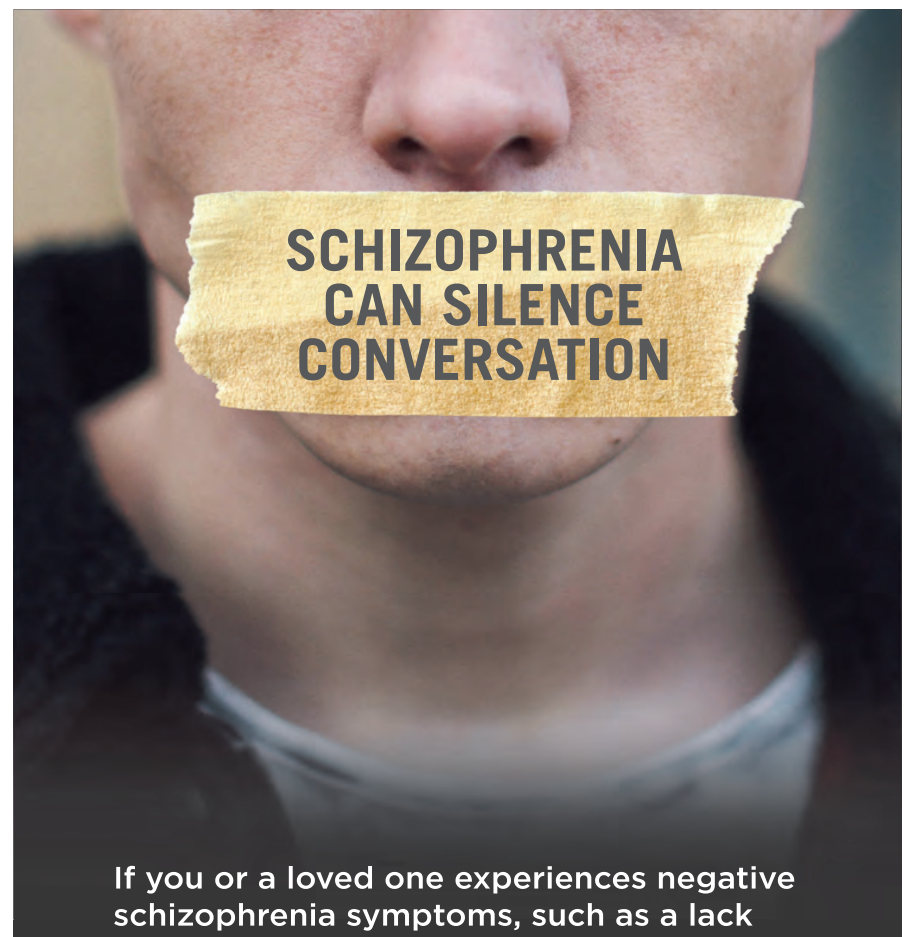


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menus, promote each other, and promote the fact that they were locally sourced. They decided to hold the first Farm to Fork week during the Restaurant Week in January 2016, which stirred up some controversy and subsequently increased restaurant interest and participation in the small group's mission.

Ten to 12 restaurants participated in the first Farm to Fork Week, and the number went up to 23 in January of this year, but as of this writing, it's back down to 20, because some of the previous participants no longer fulfill the requirements.

The Farm to Fork San Diego organization is still evolving and growing based on the input of farmers, chefs, wineries, media partners, Farm Bureau representatives, and industry non-profit organizations.

Currently, their Facebook page has a survey link to gather input about the organization's structure, membership requirements, and benefits.

Watlington says she spends approximately 30 percent of her time in the garden, 30 percent working on Farm to Fork tasks, and the other 40 percent split between family time and advisory boards.

Rossman's Fork

Before we leave, Watlington walks us back through the garden gate that leads to a fenced-in yard between the house and the farm. As we pass a 12-by-4-foot chicken coop that houses five Orpington chickens, which she calls "the golden retriever of chickens," she tosses the kalette leaves in. The chickens scramble



This Terra American Bistro salad was made using Two Forks Farm veggies and flowers.

over and start pecking at them. She leads us through another gate onto a large patio with a swimming pool and an outdoor kitchen where she opens a large refrigerator stuffed full of harvested vegetables and

retrieves a cardboard box of large dark green kale leaves, a garbage-bag sized plastic bag full of fennel, and two smaller bags, one holding bright yellow summer squash and the other full of French Gold beans.

Rossman puts the fennel in his crate with the smaller box of edible flowers and piles the box of kale on top of the crate. Before heading to the car, we follow Watlington back into the farm so she can double check the weight

of the squash and beans on a small scale sitting on a garden table. She confirms four and a half pounds of beans and four pounds of squash, which she will add to Terra's invoice for the week.

Back in La Mesa, we enter the restaurant through the kitchen's back door, and Rossman places the box of fennel, squash, and beans on a stainless steel table. Chef Michael Rubalcava, Terra's lead line cook, heads over and sticks his hand in the bag of beans, pulls one out, snaps off its ends, and takes a bite. Rossman unpacks the crate and shows all his bounty, and the two begin to talk specials.

"I also got a whole bunch of really cool flowers," Rossman says, "and I thought we could take some of the squash..."

"I think I have some

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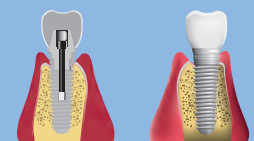
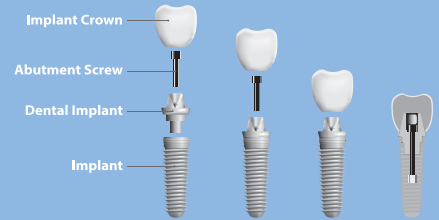
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carrot-top pesto,” Rubalcava says, chewing on the bean and reaching his hand into the bag for more, “and we could maybe toss the veggies and the squash.”

“We could do that,” Rossman says. “Or we could use some of that chili lime watermelon vinaigrette, and we could do a small plate. We could even take a mandolin, and shave the radish, and maybe do a little fennel on top of that with the flowers.”

For the next couple of minutes, the two chefs go back and forth, discussing the evening specials based on what’s come in from the farm and what’s already available in the kitchen. Rossman suggests using the carrot-top pesto on tuna and Rubalcava counters with a coconut-miso broth. Rossman likes the idea, suggests adding fennel on top, and then moves on to the day’s special pasta. When Rossman heads to the office to type up the specials, Rubalcava, who has been munching on the beans during the whole conversation, says, “At every job I’ve worked, when I’ve had these at my station, I usually run out. Not because we sell



“We could make a salad just with flowers.”

them, but because I eat them. When I’m waiting for orders, I just snack on them.”

Rubalcava sets up his station by placing a bowl of julienned jicama and purple pickled cabbage next to his square green, high-density polyethylene plastic cutting board. Beside the bowl, he places a beaker holding a lemon and a small bunch of micro cilantro, which does not have the soapy quality of mature cilantro that some people despise. He places a cup containing three 8- to 10-inch summer squash beside the cilantro.

“*Mise en place*,” he explains: everything in place.

After washing a large bunch of fennel in a sink

a few steps away, he lays it across the cutting board and uses a 10-inch Miyabi chef’s knife to remove the tops. These he puts aside for garnish.

“One thing we try to do here is to utilize the whole product,” he says while he cuts into the fennel bulb. He puts a large piece aside and informs me that he’ll shave it with the mandolin to go in the salad. He cuts the rest into wedges, removes the core from each, and begins to slice and julienne them for the slaw.

Rossman comes over with the day’s specials menu printed on a half sheet of paper bearing the Terra logo up top. He places it beside the cutting board and reads it aloud to

Rubalcava who continues working the fennel.

pork shoulder taco
jicama-fennel slaw,
pickled cabbage
remoulade, micro
cilantro 3

farmer’s salad
two forks farm shaved
summer squash &
fennel
stehly organics green
strawberries, kumquats
chile-lime watermelon
vinaigrette 8

**togarashi seared line
caught yellowfin tuna**
coconut-miso broth,
chille oil 11

brandt beef ribeye pasta
pan seared ribeye, pork
belly bites, white beech
& shitake mushrooms,
feuttuccini, kale,
French gold beans
smoked gouda cream
sauce 19.95

“So, you just did that just now?” I ask him.

“Well, we’ve been talking about it for the last two hours,” he says, laughing.

Rubalcava moves on from the fennel to the cilantro, giving it a



Nasturtium seedpods — spicy, but a cool spicy. Not at all unpleasant.

rough chop and tossing it into the bowl with the jicama, cabbage, and now the fennel. Around us, the kitchen bustles with preparations. Every couple of minutes, someone new comes in through the back door, tying on an apron and announcing their presence with a general greeting for all. The dining room will open for service in about a half hour. Sarah Gonzalez, the bartender, comes into the kitchen, opens the ice machine and scoops ice into the bucket she carries. Someone whistles.

“I think this one came from someone’s farm or someone’s house,” Rubalcava says, holding up a lemon. “Hey, Chef! Where did this come from?”

“What is that?” Rossman says, squinting from the other side of the kitchen.

“A Meyer lemon,” Rubalcava responds.

“Is that from Tobey?” Gonzalez asks at the same time that Rossman says, “Oh, it’s from Tobey. Same with the kumquats.”

“Yeah, so people donate produce sometimes,” Rubalcava tells me.

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Chef Jeff Rossman

“Tobey comes in every week on Sunday,” Gonzalez says, still shoveling ice into her bucket. “They’ve been coming in every week for years. So one day, she came in and she said, ‘Can you use these?’ It was lemons, kumquats, and blood oranges. Some days, I’ll use them for drink specials and I’ll name them after her.”

“We have an abundance of kumquats [from Tobey],” Rubalcava says. “So what I’ll probably do is

maybe make a jam out of them for Sunday brunch.”

After tossing the slaw ingredients together he puts some in a small container for me to taste.

“It’s just simple and fresh,” he says. “There’s no recipe. We just use what we have.”

He leans over to consult the specials menu.

“So I’ll get this into a container, put it on the line, and then get to work on the farmer’s salad,” he says. I watch as he adds a container of green straw-

berries, a small cup of kumquats, and the prepared fennel bulb next to the summer squash.

“*Mise en place*,” he says again. “We live and die by it.”

He places a stainless steel MIU France mandolin slicer on top of the cutting board and begins the process of shaving the fennel. It falls from the mandolin onto the cutting board in thin, translucent slices that he places in a cup of water and ice to help retain their crunch.

Rossman, who has just helped his catering team finish up an order headed for a yacht down by the Sheraton, brings the container of flowers over to the work table and begins to pull them out one by one, washing them gently in a small bowl of water and then laying them out to dry. They make a bright display against the stainless steel.

During the rest of the dinner prep process, Rossman and Rubalcava both go about their business around me, discussing the preferred thickness of the squash slices, pulling the petals off of flowers, shaving fennel, and handling other kitchen duties. While they work, they



Watlington calls these Orpingtons “the golden retriever of chickens.”

offer me small tastes of the sweet-on-the-outside-sour-on-the-inside kumquats, super thin slices of fennel, and more of those freshly picked yellow wax beans cut into thirds.

Rubalcava confirms

with Rossman that the salad will be composed, rather than tossed, and then explains to me that this means it will help maintain the “integrity of the vegetables.”

“The next part is the

plating,” Rossman says, going on to explain that he doesn’t usually know what he’ll do with the dishes presentation-wise. He plays with the first one a little bit, fiddles with it until it looks good, and then uses that as the template for the dish for the rest of the evening.

Out in the dining room 30 minutes later, I order the pork shoulder taco, the farmer’s salad, and the pasta. Trese Conklin-Johnson, the floor manager, brings my salad first. The eighth-inch thick squash circles have been arranged in a circle around a small pile of shaved fennel topped with two halves of green strawberry and adorned with flower petals and equally thin slices of kumquat. It’s a bright, summery, and highly instagrammable dish. So I take a photo. And then I dig in.

— Elizabeth Salaam

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Convention expansion

continued from page 3

San Diego is expected to chalk up \$6.8 million of such credits in 2019. Rental income excluding those credits should be only \$9.5 million. Revenues minus expenses are expected to be a negative \$6.7 million for the San Diego center in 2020, according to the center's forecast. Major cities up and down the West Coast, along with Las Vegas, are planning to expand, or have expanded, their centers. San Diego's claim that it can overcome the glut "is seriously open to question," says Sanders. ■

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

Under the radar

continued from page 3

parking for 200 cars on the open-space parcel — known as Camp 4 — which is supposed to remain largely agricultural land with only 14 residences under the valley plan." The ex-senator blames fellow GOPer **Doug LaMalfa**, a congressman "whose district is 430 miles north of the valley," for championing a bill to advance the project. "I find it just plain wrong that through special-interest meddling, Washington would open the door to unregulated development in one of California's most special places." Wilson currently works at Wilson Walsh George

Ross, a consulting outfit that specializes in "passage, amendment or defeat of legislation, or the modification by agencies of rules, to assist the client's projects and objectives," per the firm's website. His first clash with the Santa Ynez Chumash came in 1998 when as governor he joined his big money donors and Las Vegas casino owners in a failed campaign against Proposition 5, a California initiative approved by voters to allow expansion of Native American gambling. The ever-volatile Wilson kicked up a campaign con-cretemp when he said a lawyer for the measure should "lose his scalp."

— Matt Potter
(@sdmattpotter)

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

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 2

ture to produce marijuana, according to the suit.

In 2016, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed suit against Strategic over the same matter, saying that at no time did Strategic have the ability to produce marijuana in Colorado. In 2017, the agency won partial summary judgment against Strategic. The agency pointed out that in 1982, Fellner pleaded guilty to conspiracy and mail fraud in a real estate scam and spent approximately three years in prison.

Don Bauder

Commander commandeers cash for combat coiffure

Uribe's ethical irregularities investigated
An ex-Marine Corps Inspector General, currently serving as deputy commanding general of the First Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, has been called out for breaking ethics rules by using a female officer aide to handle personal chores — including meal and snack delivery, bedsheet cleaning, correspondence, and work-



General Uribe: the inspected Inspector General.

out reservations — during his tenure in Iraq from 2016 through early 2017.

Per the July 5 report by the Pentagon's Office of Inspector General, Brigadier General Rick A. "Rico" Uribe "violated the Joint Ethics Regulation when he requested or permitted his Aide to use official time" to pick up the general's laundry, "remove and turn in" the general's bedsheets for laundering, fetch meals and snacks, draft "unofficial correspondence," reserve gym equipment for Uribe's use, arrange delivery of Uribe's prescription toothpaste to

Iraq, and gather financial and personal information "to complete required military paperwork."

Added the report, "During our investigation, we also identified two emerging allegations that [Brigadier General] Uribe solicited and accepted gifts from employees who received less pay than himself" — including a loan for haircuts and toiletries and use of paid Wi-Fi. The total value of improper gifts to Uribe from subordinates was \$782, per the report.

Before deploying to Iraq in 2016, the report says Uribe "served as the Inspector General of the Marine Corps. In that position, he had the responsibility to investigate ethical violations involving misuse of subordinates, and to set a personal

example of compliance with applicable standards." In an April 2018 response to the charges, Uribe wrote, "Although I believe that some of the substantiated allegations are not justified, I realize that I improperly employed my aide and that I improperly accepted small convenience loans from my aide. Where I would never think to engage in these activities in garrison, in the fog of the combat zone, it seemed acceptable somehow. I have learned a great deal from this process and will be much more attentive to these issues in the future. At the end of the day as a Senior Leader, the only thing I am entitled to is to be held accountable for my actions."

Auditors said they "considered the circumstances of [Brigadier General] Uribe's duties, which included reviewing and approving actions during combat operations. However, his predecessor — who also had these combat responsibilities — never requested or allowed his aide to use official time to perform unofficial duties for him."

"We stand by our overall



Kinky! Chief of staff Braun puts on the red light.

conclusions that he misused his officer aide and solicited and accepted gifts from employees who received less pay than himself." The report recommends that "Uribe's supervisor take appropriate action" against the general, without providing specifics. In addition, Uribe should "reimburse the lieutenant colonel who gifted him \$150 in chocolate and coffee." The document also recommends that the Pentagon draft ethics guidelines regarding the role of officer assistants.

Matt Potter

ACE-y doozy

"Kinks" in the city attorney's complaint categories
If you call the city attorney's hotline, 619-533-5600, a recorded message tells you that if you have an environmental complaint, you should call Nuisance Abatement. Huh? If you have a consumer fraud complaint, you are told to call the Civil Litigation Division. Civil? Suppose your complaint is over a criminal matter? The city attorney's office handles some misdemeanor criminal matters.

On March 21, the city attorney's office abolished its Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit with little if any media coverage. The office put out a news release that the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit (Called ACE) was being created to prosecute civil crimes against consumers and polluters. But it made no mention of killing of the old Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.

Thus, confusion reigned.

People calling with consumer fraud and environmental complaints got shifted around by operators. Bill Newsome, who was the head deputy city attorney in the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit from 1985 to 2000, called with a consumer complaint. "I was transferred about five or six times," he says. Several operators knew nothing about ACE. He finally got to a deputy city attorney in the office who conceded he was confused, too.

"Our receptionists should understand where to direct callers, but there are always kinks to work out," says Gerry Braun, chief of staff in the office. "We are designing new website pages to help direct the public to the units that will handle their issues."

Don Bauder

Local public radio gets less local

KPBS stops reading Reader aloud, prefers Post
Last week, San Diego State University's KPBS broadcasting operation quietly put an end to its practice of providing local content on its Radio Reading Service, a special radio subchannel featuring volunteers reading newspaper and periodical content for those who can't read.

"People think of us as a service for the blind," explained Amy Bosler, a longtime volunteer for the service who served as programming coordinator from 2015 to 2017. "But a lot of listeners are elderly people who just can't read the small print in a newspaper,

continued on page 28

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* Insurance restrictions apply.
* Cannot be combined with any other offer.



Soft Touch
DENTAL

NEWS TICKER

continued from page 26

or they might be amputees who have difficulty turning pages.”

While the station will continue to carry readings of national interest from sources such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *Washington Post*, the station's roughly 100 volunteer readers were told last month that their services would no longer be needed after June 29. “It was a very impersonal email that basically stated that because KPBS listeners are turning more toward internet and digital devices for listening, it seemed there wasn't a need for live readings any more,” Bosler recounts. “They did say they

appreciated our service, but I've been doing this for 25 years and there are people who have been involved longer than I have. Volunteers have been reading material to the community for over 40 years, because they felt like they were filling a need. And the cost to KPBS was really minimal – all they had to cover was parking for the volunteers while they were onsite at SDSU reading.”

Over the years, Bosler says KPBS has allowed the service to shrink through attrition, eliminating or simply not filling open staff positions until a single part-time staffer, released at the end of June, was left coordinating local content. “You can listen to newscasts on

radio or TV, but you're not getting the in-depth coverage that you'd get from reading a paper,” she says in defense of the service. “We'd read the *Union-Tribune*, selections from the *Reader* and *North County Times*, *Voice of San Diego*, a broad range. Around election time, we'd try to read the election pamphlets.”

Dave Rice

Don't trust your gut

Corporations check cerebrums

Frank Partnoy, law professor at the University of San Diego, writes in the June issue of *The Atlantic* that corporations are once again relying on tests to assess possible hires and



Partnoy's Report?

even their own top managements. In the middle of the last century, “employees up and down corporate organizational charts were routinely given IQ tests,” writes Partnoy. But “courts found that employers were using discriminatory tests to keep racial minorities out of the workplace,” and usage declined.

Now, surprisingly inclusive tests are showing up. One particular test attempts to assess technical and social skills and at the same time gauge analytical and leadership potential, but that's a big order. “Many new workplace tests are designed to measure raw cognitive ability,” writes Partnoy.

A professor at Yale School of Management believes a small number of tests can predict future performance. According to Partnoy, the professor believes certain questions “are reliable measures of cognitive reflection, or the ability to overcome an incorrect gut response.” Here's an example: “If a bat and a ball cost \$1.10 total and the bat costs \$1.00 more than the ball, how much does the ball cost?” Partnoy keeps the reader waiting until the end of the article for the right answer: “The bat costs \$1.05. The ball costs a nickel.” Relying on an incorrect gut response, I flunked.

Don Bauder

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Continued from page 8

TIJUANA

Watching Mexico in Tijuana Celebrating El Tri with beer and kimchi



If at first you don't succeed, Tri Tri again.

On July 2, my friend Joey drove at dawn from Little Italy to downtown Tijuana to watch Mexico's round of 16 World Cup match against Brazil. Joey was planning to skip work to join the crazy celebrations that happen in the city after a victory by El Tri. Four years ago, after Mexico's win versus Croatia, fans climbed the statue of Cuauhtemoc in *Zona Río*, leading to a man falling 12 feet from the statue's shield.

And the 2018 World Cup had already brought a fair share of drama to Tijuana. After the victory against Germany, a video went viral of a Mexican fan who stole a tourist's German flag and lit it on fire. Korean Barber, a trendy barber shop in *Colonia La Postal*, got egged after the Mexican victory over South Korea in the second game. Mexico lost the third game 3-0 against Sweden, but

made it through the next round thanks to South Korea's victory over Germany. The city celebrated as if Mexico had won and thanked South Koreans living in the city, hoisting them on their shoulders, raising the South Korean flag, and eating kimchi.

There were over a hundred people inside El Copeo on Avenida Revolución for the 7 am start of play, plus a couple dozen watching from the sidewalk. There was a cover charge of 50 pesos (\$3 USD), but beers inside were going for 15 pesos (less than \$1). I caught up with Joey, who was watching the game near the entrance at the last table available. The bar went dead silent when Brazil scored in the fifth minute of the second half, and gasped at the late second goal which sealed Mexico's doom. It was the end for El Tri in the 2018 World Cup: eliminated in the round of 16 for the seventh time in a row.

More than half the people left the bar after the defeat; Joey decided to go back to San Diego and not skip work. But I stayed in El Copeo to watch the match between Belgium and Japan. The other early partygoers who stayed celebrated as if Mexico had won. People danced while chanting “Mexico,” blew on vuvuzelas, and sprayed beer all over the place. Eventually, the drunken “Mexico” cheers turned into “AMLO” cheers, as the celebration turned political over the Mexican president-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known as AMLO.

MATTHEW SUÁREZ

OCEAN BEACH

Nati's is no more

Realtor relieved, liquor license lingers

On June 3, longtime Nati's Mexican restaurant employee “Dick” was shocked to learn that the place would be closing for good just four days later. (He's using an alias because receiving four weeks of severance required a promise “not [to] talk bad about Nati's.”) “We were told we would get a two-week notice, and when we complained, we were told, ‘Well, that's business.’” He wishes the employees had been given the same chance to take over that co-owners Marilyn Thomas and Dennis Kerr got after starting there as teenagers. He said some customers also would have made an offer if they had known.

At a hearing on June 28, the city denied historic designation to the building that Nati's Mexican Restaurant called home for nearly 60 years before its June 7 closing. Amie Hayes, a historic resources specialist with Save Our Heritage Organisation, was there, but she said no one from OB attended. There was one email on record, calling Nati's a landmark and lamenting anything that might replace it and so chip away at the “quirky charm and character” of Ocean Beach.

The consultant hired by the new owners argued that Nati's structure wasn't unique in style and no person or event associated with Nati's was considered historically significant. They cited the workmanship as average, and noted that it doesn't share any common themes with structures in the immediate area, nor does it do any-

thing to improve the area, aesthetically or historically.

About those new owners: Melissa Ryan from California's alcohol beverage control said SQFT Investments, LLC took possession of Nati's stock shares earlier this year. Jason Elbers, Michael Donovan, and Russell Strom are listed as officers. Escrow closed in June. Ryan wasn't aware that Nati's had shut down. “I'll have someone swing by and surrender the [liquor] license,” she said.



Neighborhood noshery Nati's last day.

A representative from the city said they have no idea what Donovan's plans might be. Current zoning allows for heavy commercial and residential uses with a maximum density of one dwelling unit for each 1500 square feet of lot area. Realtor Tony Franco, who handled both sides of the sale, posted on Facebook that he was happy to put the deal behind him. He's been given a hard time by locals over this, and also the deal he did for the old Antique Center, soon to be a Target. Some locals call him “Mr. Target.” He might prefer to be called “The Man Who Changed OB.”

JULIE STALMER

Calendar

Your Week

AND WELCOME TO IT

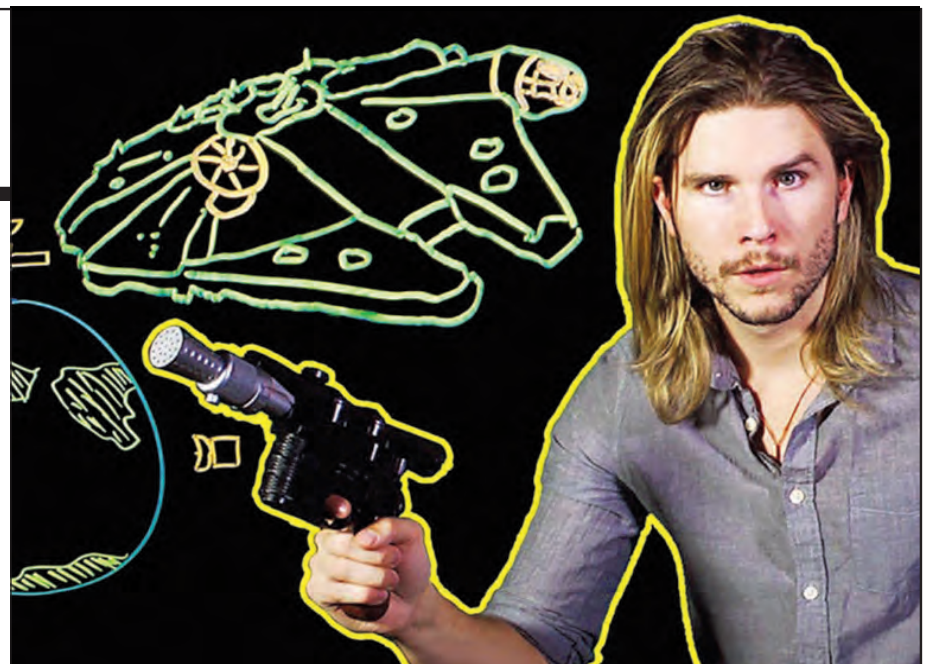
Thursday | 19

SCOOTER CHRONICLES RELEASE PARTY

The Scooter Chronicles is set during the local mod revival of the mid-1980s, spinning the tale of how one teen's quest to buy



SONA, a party for the 200th episode of *Bizarre States*, and live editions of shows such as *Nerdist News*, *Because Science*, and *Talkin' Toons*. Meet and greets feature authors V.E. Schwab, R.A. Salvatore, and Cory Doctorow, plus *Talkin' Toons* host Rob Paulsen



THURSDAY, JULY 19: LIVE EDITION OF *BECAUSE SCIENCE* AT NERDIST HOUSE



BART MENDOZA

a Vespa turned into a nightmare. It's written by Shahriar Fouladi, with rare photos of the local mod scene and an essay from Shambles frontman Bart Mendoza. Legendary San Diego bands name-checked in the book include the Crawdaddys, the Odds, and Tell Tale Hearts. The release party takes place at local scooter central, Vespa Motorsport on Pacific Highway, where Mendoza's reunited 1980s mod band Manual Scan will perform.

WHEN: Thursday, July 19, 6 pm

WHERE: Vespa Motorsport, 3955 Pacific Highway, San Diego. scooterwest.com

NERDIST HOUSE

All during Comic-Con, enjoy free admission to nearby Sparks Gallery for entertainment, hang-outs, live *Nerdist* shows, a VR experience based on the sci-fi series



with guests Maurice LaMarche and Randy Rogel.

WHEN: Thursday, July 19, 10 am through Sunday, July 22, 5 pm

WHERE: Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Avenue, downtown San Diego. outsidecomiccon.com

SAN DIEGO ARTIST PORTRAITS

Jennifer Spencer has photographed 50 well-known artists: San Diego legends like Cindy Zimmerman, Jim Hubble, Anne Mudge, and Philipp Scholz Rittermann. Spencer shares her notes from photography sessions, notes that reveal the unique style, vulnerability, and quirkiness of each artist.

WHEN: Thursday, July 19, 7:30 pm

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



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY JENNIFER SPENCER



SAN DIEGO ARTIST PORTRAITS (TOP TO BOTTOM): ANNE MUDGE, JEAN CORNELL, MARIO TORERO

DISNEY'S NEWSIES

In 1899, William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer paid their delivery boys practically zip. Most of them came from poor immigrant families and were, in effect, a child labor force. On July 18, 1899, led by Kid Blink, newsies turned over a distribution wagon for the *New York Journal*, then went on strike for two weeks. They even stopped traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge. The strikers won, and received more money for their work.

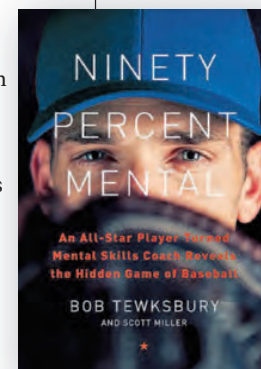
WHEN: Wednesdays through Sundays, 8 pm, through August 4
WHERE: Moonlight Amphitheatre,

1250 Vale Terrace Drive, Vista. moonlightstage.com

Monday | 23

NINETY PERCENT MENTAL

Scott Miller is the national baseball columnist for *BleacherReport.com*. He will sign *Ninety Percent Mental*, the book he co-authored with Bob Tewksbury, and



explain how players use techniques of imagery, self-awareness, and strategic thinking to maximize performance, and how a pitcher's strategy changes throughout a game. Includes intimate anecdotes from former stars such as

Mark McGwire, Craig Biggio, and Greg Maddux; managers and executives like Joe Torre, Bruce Bochy, and Brian Sabean; and current star players Jon Lester, Anthony Rizzo, Andrew Miller, and Rich Hill.

WHEN: Monday, July 23, 7:30 pm

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



San Diego Reader | July 19, 2018 29

SCOTT MILLER

ROAM-O-RAMA

San Diego Outdoors with the Museum Canyoneers

ROLANDO VILLAGE CATWALKS (EAST COUNTY)

These walkways and staircases rival La Mesa's "Secret Stairs" for a cardio workout.

Driving directions: (San Diego) Take I-8E to exit 11 for 70th Street/Lake Murray Blvd., and turn right on Alvarado Road. In 272 feet turn left/south onto 70th Street at the traffic light. Drive 0.9 mile south on 70th Street to Alamo Way and turn right/west, following Alamo Way 0.5 mile to Alamo Drive and turn left. In 121 feet turn left onto Vigo Drive. In 115 feet turn left again in the Rolando Park parking area. The walk begins at the entrance to Rolando Park near the sign. **Hiking length:** 2.4 miles. Allow 1 hour to complete the butterfly-wing loops. **Difficulty:** Moderate to difficult (because of the steps and rolling hills). Highest elevation over 1000 feet; lowest elevation less than 400 feet. Dogs on leashes allowed on city streets. Facilities in Rolando Park.



Long steps to the next street.

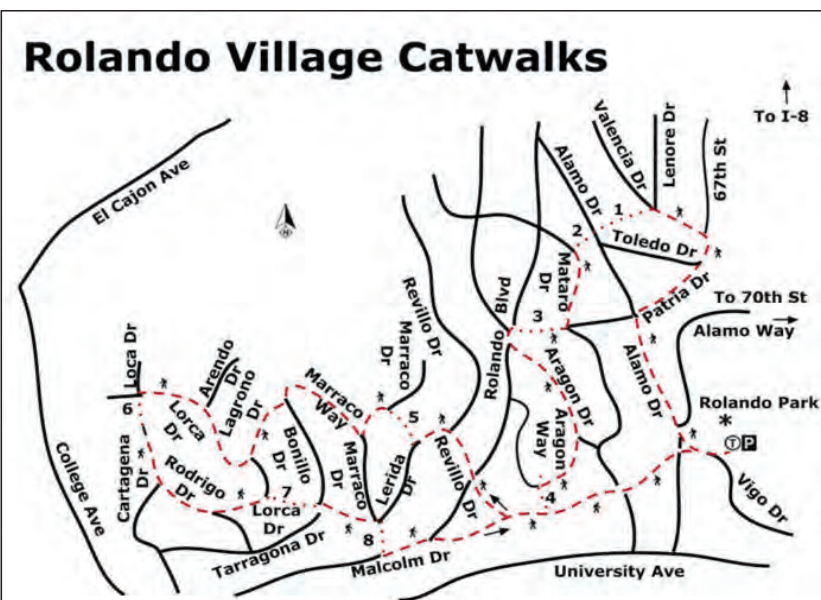


Roses add color to this walkway

La Mesa and adjacent Rolando Village stand out as one of the few areas in the county that offer a system of public walkways and stairways. Probably best known are the "Secret Stairs" of Mt. Nebo with 489 steps in seven segments (see Roam-O-Rama 7-4-2018). The Rolando Village area of San Diego, adjacent to La Mesa, also has walkways and stairways, called "catwalks" by area residents. There are 256 steps in eight segments, with more walkways than stairways. A double loop, like butterfly wings, begins at Rolando Park on Vigo Drive. The body of this butterfly is the fourth "catwalk." Walking fast or running this route would provide a major workout. Do the walk in reverse for more uphill stairs.

Rolando Village tract homes were developed after World War II to meet the high demand for housing in the rapidly growing post-war San Diego. The close-knit homes offer interesting architecture, with many bungalow-style homes in this rolling landscape. In fact, the rolling landscape is the reason behind the name of this development. The "catwalks" provide a way of connecting the many tree-lined streets that are found at different elevations. The idea for these pathways may have been influenced by those found in the hilly landscape of adjacent La Mesa — staircases there were first built in 1927. An added interesting feature for the Rolando area

continued on page 32



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

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

ANIMAL FRIENDS

Seashore Splash Life is tough in the tidepools! With the guidance of Living Coast Discovery Center, children will discover some of the crazy ways tidepool animals are adapted for the rocky shores. With hands-on interaction, students will be able to touch, see and discover what it takes to cling to a slippery home. After the presentation, the Conservancy will lead an optional, easy, 4-mile hike around the San Dieguito Lagoon. Space is limited to 50 people. This event is free and generously underwritten by The Solana Beach Fund at Coastal Community Foundation and SDG&E. This event is held at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom. Directions at registration. <https://sdrvseashoresplash.eventbrite.com> Saturday, July 21, 10am; **free.** Birdwing Open Air Classroom at the San Dieguito Lagoon, 2775 Via De La Valle. (DEL MAR)

ART

A Marvelous Art Exhibit A Marvelous Art Exhibit features art from Marvel comics and films, created both by industry pros and local amateurs, with a free all-ages opening reception. Saturday, July 21, 7pm; **free.** Bodega Studios and Gallery, 2196 Logan Avenue. (BARRIO LOGAN)

Artist Reception: Jeff Yeoman It's summertime, and that means a new exhibition of Jeff Yeoman's beautiful paintings of water and our local coast will be on display at the store. Sunday, July 22, 2pm; **free.** La Playa Books, 1026 Rosecrans Street. (POINT LOMA)

Chicano-Con The 4th annual Chicano-Con showcases illustrations, comics, sculptures, costumes, and cartoon themed work by Latino artists. Events include taco specials, live music, and "superhero piñata breaking." Friday, July 20, 12pm; Saturday, July 21, 12pm; Sunday, July 22, 12pm; Border X Brewing, 2181 Logan Avenue. (LOGAN HEIGHTS)

Comic-Con International: San Diego Thursday, July 19, 10am; Friday, July 20, 10am; Saturday, July 21, 10am; Sunday, July 22, 10am; San Diego Convention Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Dine With Comic Artist Joe Jusko Friday, July 20, 6pm; Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse, 668 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Funko FunDay Friday, July 20, 8pm; \$140. Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Girls Drawin' Girls Comic-Con Extravaganza Join us for Girls Drawin' Girls Comic-Con Extravaganza at The Bell Marker Brewery & Kitchen hosted by the founders and artists of GDG! Enjoy a special signing artist area, food and drink specials plus \$5 pints of our collaboration beer, and much more. We will be hosting a VIP event from 7-9pm. Ticket includes, meet and greet with the GDG artists and founders, sips & bites, and swag bags. Thursday, July 19, 7pm; \$30. 21 and up. Bell Marker, 602 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

San Diego Comic-Con: International Art Show Thursday, July 19, 12pm; Friday, July 20, 12pm; Saturday, July 21, 12pm; Sunday, July 22, 12pm; Manchester Grand Hyatt, One Market Place. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

The Adventure Zone: Here There Be Gerblins Meet the creators of *The Adventure Zone: Here There Be Gerblins*. Friday, July 20, 7:30pm; \$45. Observatory North Park, 2891 University Avenue. (NORTH PARK)

BEER

First Annual Agave Festival If there's anything the Bagby Beer team loves almost as much as beer, it's tequila. Join in on their love of agave spirits at Bagby's First Annual Agave Festival on Sunday, July 22. Don't worry, tequila's favorite cousin mezcal won't be left out of the fun! Sip on and learn about agave spirits from several hand-picked distilleries. Guests will be able to hear about the entire tequila and mezcal making process from plant to bottle, while trying different kinds of both liquors. In addition to direct pours, Bagby Beer will be mixing agave-based cocktails and grilling traditional Mexican foods (think: tacos) to complement each sip. The Agave Festival will take place at Bagby Beer from 4pm-7pm. Guests can purchase the tasting package upon arrival, no advance ticket purchase necessary. The package will include a combination of spirits tastings, cocktail samples, and food. The first 30 people will get a specialty event tasting glass. Sunday, July 22, 4pm; Bagby Beer Co., 601 S. Coast Hwy. (OCEANSIDE)

Hop-Con 6.0 Comic-Con Party We've been proud beer geeks since 1996, so it's only natural for us to celebrate when our hometown becomes the center of the nerd universe during San Diego Comic Con. Join us at Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens - Liberty Station on July 19 for Hop-Con 6.0! This year's celebration will be on Thursday night for the first time and have a few extra surprises in store. **YOUR \$75 TICKET INCLUDES:** - Fifteen 3oz tasters (5 of which count for w00tstout pours) - 3 specialty casks of w00tstout - Commemorative glassware to take home - Gourmet food stations with unlimited tastings - Mostra coffee samples - Lawn games including giant jenga, bocce ball, connect 4 - Photo booth - Churros for dessert Designed driver tickets are available for \$35.

Ticket includes all the awesomeness of General Admission, minus the beer and commemorative glassware. Thursday, July 19, 7pm; \$35-\$75. 21 and up. Stone Brewing Liberty Station, 2816 Historic Decatur Road #116. (LIBERTY STATION)

Saint Archer's Party in the Plaza Start your weekend off the right way with Saint Archer's Party in the Plaza at Del Mar. Enjoy half-off all of Del Mar's carefully-crafted signature cocktails and a special Saint Archer small batch brew unique to Del Mar during Happy Hour Fridays from 2 - 6pm Then stay for live musical performances throughout the evening, ending with the Friday headliner performance starring some of the music industry's biggest artists. Come welcome the weekend with a delicious Del Margarita, a cool ocean breeze and all the sights, sounds and thrills of the racing season. Friday, July 20, 2pm; **free.** Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, 2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard. (DEL MAR)

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Bilingual Drawing Workshop We invite you to open the door of imagination and let your creativity break on through with your own artistic work. Bilingual. All ages, all levels, no materials needed. Thursday, July 19, 4pm; **free**-\$20. Front, 147 W. San Ysidro Boulevard. (SAN YSIDRO)

Find Antibiotics at Home (Ages 10-Adult) Have you heard that scientific and health agencies are worried about the growing lack of effectiveness of antibiotics on multi-drug resistant bacteria? In this workshop, learn how YOU can help find new antibiotic properties at home—in your garden, in the sea, in your aunt's famous remedies, or even from plants and insects. Join us in the search for the next amazing antibiotic, take home your own specialized kit, and make new discoveries! Recommended for ages 10—Adult. Limit 20. Register for this program at <http://sandiego.librarymarket.com/find-antibiotics-home-workshop-illiad-project-ages-10-adult> Saturday, July 21, 3pm; **free.** La Jolla Riford Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Perfect your Pitch, Query, & Synopsis "What's your book about?" We get asked that question all the time, but most of us spend very little time figuring out how to effectively answer it. Pitching your book is key to selling it, whether you're an author-publisher or are sending query letters to agents or publishers. You also need to know how to summarize your story in a longer form if you're asked to write a synopsis. Jennifer Redmond, long-time acquisitions editor and popular "Pitch Witch" will lead a hands-on workshop on pitching, querying and writing a synopsis. Sunday, July 22, 2:30pm; \$45-\$54. Ink Spot, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16 #202. (LIBERTY STATION)

Rhyme & Verse

A poem by Ben Doller

Turbocharged Direct Injection

times poetry seems insufficient,
say in the morning, swaddled

in poly, contorting to prove your
recollections exist in alphabetical

order, or distinguishing you, you
are free and capable of feeling total

betrayal, not from a being but
from a conglomerate, one who

has deluded not only you, but
has recognized and capitalized

on the cliché of you, fingerprinted
and isolated the demographic

you, you crave the instant pick-up
but also a breathing destination,

at least the gesture towards it,
the semaphore waving off smoke,

the hygienic growl that you
ache to pay for, a target for

the money you make, the way
you vote each day for monopolies

to stamp your organs with insignias,
representative republic you,

into the cell wall it goes, it goes
deep, a personal tenth of a ton

and counting of NOx, branded
by loyalty and counting, particulates

and participles and how does
one weigh black gas, you guess

you invest, you ingest, you just
get it, you look (it) up, I guess

I need poetry to call terrible
things by longer lovelier names.



Ben Doller's most recent book of poems is *Fauxhawk* (Wesleyan University Press). Together with the poet Sandra Doller, he wrote the collaborative memoir, *The Yesterday Project* (Sidebrow Books). He is an Associate Professor in the Literature Department at UCSD.

Find more poetry online at SDreader.com/poetry

Strike Back and Clerks 2. Now you can see them live at The Hollywood Improv recording their comedy podcast Jay & Silent Bob Get Old. Ranked #1 on iTunes Comedy podcasts, this is a sometimes touching, always hilarious, look at what happens when two people grow up in Hollywood's gaze. These limited engagements will be recorded as the stories evolve live in front of the audience, and released for free on www.smodcast.com. This is what fans everywhere have been waiting for - an opportunity to see their heroes on stage doing what they love, telling stories. Thursday, July 19, 10pm; \$30. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

DANCE

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)

Suicide Girls: Blackheart Burlesque Friday, July 20, 9:30pm; \$28-\$73. 21 and up. Music Box, 1337 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Read Like A Girl: WMC Book Club Read Like A Girl - WMC Book Club is a book club created by the Women's Museum of California in San Diego, CA. The club reads one feminist book each month. Discussion meetings take place every 3rd Friday at 5:30 PM at the Women's Museum of California. The book for July is *Story of My Life* by Helen Keller. Join us for snacks, new friends, and great discussions on our monthly book picks and feminism. Friday, July 20, 5:30pm; free. Women's Museum of California, 2730 Historic Decatur Rd., Barracks 16, #103. (LIBERTY STATION)

FOOD & DRINK

Carry On My Wayward Cocktails Party Devotees of the never-ending TV show *Supernatural* will meet up at Analog Bar on Thursday for the third annual Carry On My Wayward Cocktails Party, named for the Kansas song that opens the program, which just wrapped its 13th year. All ages are welcome until 9:30pm, with promoters promising exclusive giveaways and a Hunter's Banquet offering "a selection of hot food for all the hungry hunters, angels and demons, and of course pie!" There will be *Supernatural*-themed cocktails such as the Single Man Tear, Angel Grace, and the

COMEDY

Brian Posehn Thursday, July 19, 7:30pm; \$25. 21 and up. Casbah, 2501 Kettner Boulevard. (LITTLE ITALY)

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

Doug Loves Movies: Comic Con Edition Comedian Doug Benson ("Super High Me" and Comedy Central's "The High Court") hosts a podcast where he talks to his hilarious special

surprise guests about his first love, movies! To have a chance at winning some prizes, bring a movie themed name tag! Saturday, July 21, 7pm; \$18. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Fatman on Batman Marc Bernardin and Kevin Smith talk about all the news in movie make believe, terrific TV and anything that squeaks in Geek! Thursday, July 19, 8pm; \$30. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Hollywood Babble-On Kevin Smith and Ralph Garman take a twisted look at showbiz news and bite the Hollywood hand that feeds

them. Sometimes, they feel bad and give Hollywood a tetanus shot and some Neosporin, but, even then, they usually just turn around and bite Hollywood's other hand. They can't help it. It's their nature. It's like that "scorpion and frog" story. But, deep down, they're just two nice East Coast boys... who happen to have a heavy dependence on drugs and alcohol, respectively. Saturday, July 21, 10pm; \$30. 21 and up. American Comedy Company, 818 Sixth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Jay & Silent Bob Get Old The hilarious duo Jay & Silent Bob are back. Film icons Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes made history and fans

all over the world with the characters Jay & Silent Bob from the movies Clerks, Mallrats, Chasing Amy, Dogma, Jay and Silent Bob

SWIM NUDE! DANCE NUDE!
DRINK NUDE! RELAX NUDE!

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w/ this ad.

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MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

WIN CLASSES



Win a month of fitness classes at Cirque-It Fitness.
Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, July 25 at 1pm.

WIN A GAME



Win an escape game for five people at Exit Game.
Deadline to Enter: Wednesday, July 25 at 1pm.

WIN TICKETS



Win two Turf Club tickets to Del Mar Racing.
Deadline to Enter: Thursday, August 2 at 1pm

Enter to win at sdreader.com/contests

SHEEP AND GOATS

I ANSWERED THE CALL

Grace Presbyterian Church

Contact: 1450 E. Vista Way, Vista 760-724-0077

www.gpcvista.org

Membership: 100

Pastor: Mike Wallman

Age: 66

Born: Burbank

Formation: Santa Monica College; California State University-Northridge; Fuller Seminary, Pasadena; Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

Years Ordained: 39

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

Pastor Mike Wallman: Being a pastor for almost 40 years, I've seen life change for the church in the U.S. and particularly in Southern California. The church was at one time the center of family

life and the community, but has since been pushed out to the margins. The tasks of trying to find relevancy for the people who are churchgoers and sparking an interest in Christ and a relationship with him have become challenging.

SDR: What is the mission of your church?

PW: To be a winsome witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ for the community of Vista.

SDR: Excepting the Bible, what book are you reading these days?

PW: In *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Unchartered Territory*, Tod Bolsinger explains the situation of church leadership today by using the metaphor of Lewis and Clark's expedi-

tion, canoeing up the Missouri River to the headwaters, which is where the Colorado Rockies are. They were looking for the Northwest Passage. Tod's book tries to teach us that the church today is facing the Rocky Mountains. None of us have been here before, in terms of how to lead the church in its mission, sharing the gospel with people in our world. Lewis & Clark figured out a way to get over the mountains because they found a pregnant Indian woman — Sacagawea — who happened to speak the language of the peoples along the way to help Lewis and Clark in trading and food and so forth to survive and make the journey. They accomplished their mission, but they had to

adapt to a new environment. Similarly, Tod is helping Christians — and pastors especially — to figure out how we need to change our thinking to be adaptive to the environment we find ourselves in.

SDR: Where's the strangest place you found God?

PW: I was on a mission trip to China, way up in the northeastern corner of China, right on the border with North Korea. We were invited there to do a mission, helping orphans. While we were there, we would have encounters with secret Christians because they were in a communist country where it was dangerous to be a Christian. It was unbelievable—we met these people and their eyes lit up when we spoke



Mike Wallman and wife Joni

about the gospel, what God was doing, and the miracles taking place. Then they made a request: "Don't forget about us—pray for us." It was so hard for them. All I wanted them to do is pray for us. Their faith was so strong in the midst of incredible challenges. I was blown away by God's activity in the midst of what I thought would be a dark world.

SDR: Where do you go when you die?

PW: I absolutely believe that to be in Christ is to be with everything that God is — love, joy, and belonging, and to be free of sin and death. To not choose God and not be with him is the common definition of hell — separation from God, which means separation from love, joy, and belonging to God—all these things we long for. I can't imagine life like that for eternity. So I choose heaven. That's why I'm in ministry — to proclaim the good news that life doesn't end and we can live eternally with God.

— Joseph O'Brien

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

FOR KIDS

Assassin's Creed Fan & Cosplay Meetup Friday, July 20, 1pm; **free.** Children's Park, Martin Luther King Promenade. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Harry Potter & Fantastic Beasts Costumers Meetup

Friday, July 20, 10am; **free.** Children's Park, Martin Luther King Promenade. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Insect & Ladybug Festival Insect and Ladybug Festival 2018 July 21 – 22 9am – 5pm This one-of-a-kind event features thousands of fascinating creepy-crawlies including live insects, lizards, snakes, and the famous "Madagascar hissing cockroaches." Children can practice bug collecting, hands-on insect arts and crafts, and even taste cooked mealworm larva (in various flavors such as mesquite, teriyaki, and barbecue!). Entomologists and other bug experts will be available for questions and more than 20 informational booths will teach and entertain children and adults alike. Cost: Free for members. Non-members free with paid admission Saturday, July 21, 9am; Sunday, July 22, 9am; **free**-\$16. San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Lego Build Event The Lego Building event will be located just outside the model train exhibit. Saturday, July 21, 12pm; **free.** Grossmont Center, 5500 Grossmont Center Drive. (LA MESA)

Snapology Hands-On Learning LEGO Experience Build with LEGO bricks as you learn about the world. Topics and subjects change with each class and may include science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), as well as robotics and animation! Registration is required. If all spots are full and you'd like to attend, you may come the day of to see if there are last-minute cancellations. Saturday, July 21, 10:30am; **free.** Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway. (MISSION VALLEY)

Syfy Channel Fan Experience Thursday through Saturday, the New Children's Museum in East Village will be home to the Syfy Channel's Fan Experience, where competitive games include a

human claw machine, bingo trolleys, and an on-site karaoke bus. Related merchandise will be on sale, including a "Mystery Box" containing a random selection of unnamed trinkets, and evenings feature DJs and dancing. Thursday, July 19, 12pm; Friday, July 20, 12pm; Saturday, July 21, 12pm; New Children's Museum, 200 W. Island Avenue. (EAST VILLAGE)

NATURE

Bird Lake Murray Join Mission Trails Regional Park birders, Jeanne Raidmond and Millie Basden, for a birding adventure. Summer months yield fewer species of birds but water sources are the most productive. We'll also enjoy butterflies and dragonflies at this time of the year. Meet in the far south end of the parking lot off Kiowa Drive. Saturday, July 21, 8am; **free.** Lake Murray Reservoir, 5540 Kiowa Drive. (SAN CARLOS)

Scat and Adaptations Cool morning air along the trail, looking down one might see scat left by the animals of Mission Trails Regional Park. Hike with a Trail Guide who will help you figure out what animal traveled the path you are on. See how the plants are adapting to hotter days of summer. Meet inside the Visitor Center. Saturday, July 21, 9:30am; Sunday, July 22, 9:30am; **free.** Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SAN CARLOS)

Summer Twilight Walk Experience the park at dusk; observe stars, plus sights and smells as the night envelops the park. This walk is led by one of our intrepid Mission Trails Regional Park Trail Guides. Meet at the Bushy Hill Parking Lot. Saturday, July 21, 7:15pm; **free.** Kumeeya Lake Campground, Two Father Junipero Serra Trail. (SANTEE)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Bob's Burgers Meat-Up Friday, July 20, 2pm; **free.** Embarcadero Marina Park South, 200 Marina Park Way. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Comic-Con Costume Party Saturday, July 21, 7pm; Sunday, July 22, 7pm; Mee Shim Fine Arts Gallery, 1943 India Street. (LITTLE ITALY)

Conan O'Brien Goes to Comic-Con Thursday, July 19, 6pm; Friday, July 20, 6pm; Saturday, July 21, 6pm; Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Public Vehicle Auction Open to the public, free entrance. cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, and more starting at \$300-\$500. Saturdays, 9am; through Sunday, September 2, **free.** 18 and up. Otay Auto Auction, 8968 Siempre Viva Road. (OTAY MESA)

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

Sunday Gathering You are invited to join us as we gather together to celebrate a Positive Approach to Living! Our friendly and inclusive congregation invites you to visit and find out if the "Science of Mind and Spirit." 9:30 - 9:50 am Meditation 10:00 - 11:00 am Sunday Service email: truthliving@aol.com www.CSLCarlsbad.org Sundays, 10am; through Sunday, December 30, **free.** Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street. (CARLSBAD)

Wayward AF, as well as exclusive Hunter's swag, and nougat for everyone. Thursday, July 19, 6pm; \$14-\$333. Analog, 801 Fifth Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

Demolition Man Experience Taco Bell is celebrating the return of Nacho Fries, along with the 25th Anniversary of Warner Bros. Pictures' film Demolition Man, by recreating the iconic Taco Bell

restaurant from the movie. Join us for a futuristic and upscale Taco Bell dining experience July 19-21 in San Diego just outside the holy-grail of science fiction. Entry is free and no reservations are needed. Just be there and be ready to dine like it's 2032. Thursday, July 19, 6pm; Friday, July 20, 6pm; Saturday, July 21, 6pm; **free.** Taco Bell, 658 5th Avenue. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)

ROAM-O-RAMA

continued from page 30

are acorn-style lampposts found on many streets. Unlike the La Mesa "secret stairs," the "catwalks" are not signed, so use cross streets as references.

Begin the walk by heading north on Alamo Drive from Vigo Drive, turning right on Patria Drive and then left on Valencia Drive. At the intersection of Valencia and Lenore Drive, look left for the first "catwalk" at 0.5 mile next to the street light. This "catwalk" consists of four sets of stairs with a total of 45 steps. Directly across Alamo Drive is the second "catwalk," which has no steps but heads uphill. Turn left and head down/south Mataro Drive to where Patria Drive intersects and look left to see the third "catwalk" at mile 0.7. There are only 7 steps but it climbs uphill to Rolando Boulevard. Take an immediate left on Aragon Drive following it down to Aragon Way. Turn right on Aragon Way at 0.8 mile and look for a yellow fire hydrant. The fourth "catwalk" is here and has two sections of steps for a total of 37 steps. This completes one-half of the butterfly loop with the fourth "catwalk" as the connecting body. This part of the butterfly wing will be complete when you head back to Rolando Park after finishing the second wing-loop.

From Malcolm Drive after passing through the fourth "catwalk" at mile 1.0, head west and then north on Revillo Drive and cross Rolando Boulevard. Head downhill and then go left on Lerida Drive and look to the right for the fifth "catwalk" at 1.2 miles. This "catwalk" is all uphill, with four sets of stairs for a total of 30 steps. At Marraco Drive at the top of the stairway, turn left onto Marraco Way, walking uphill where Bonillo Drive joins in on the left. At this point Marraco Way changes its name to Lagrono Drive. Follow it around to the right where it merges with Lorca Drive. Pass Arendo Drive on the right

and at the corner of Lorca Drive and Loca Drive, look south where Loca Drive would head if it were not the sixth "catwalk" at mile 1.6.

The sixth "catwalk" is the only one that has some wood steps followed by cement steps, for a total of 38 steps down to the Cartagena Drive cul de sac. Walk down Cartagena and take Rodrigo Drive to the left and then Lorca Drive to the left. At mile 1.9 will be the seventh "catwalk" on the right, which has a series of 4 step sections for a total of 65 steep steps that almost tumble down to Bonillo Drive. Cross Bonillo Drive and head up Lerida Drive. Where Marraco Drive joins Lerida Drive, look right for the eighth and final "catwalk" at mile 2.0, which has three sets of steps for a total of 34 steps. At the bottom of the "catwalk," turn left on Malcolm Drive and cross Rolando Boulevard. Continue on Malcolm Drive where you will see the bottom of the fourth "catwalk" at mile 2.2, completing one of the wings of the butterfly loop. Continue on Malcolm Drive to Alamo Drive and turn right on Vigo Drive to complete the second butterfly loop and to finish the walk at 2.4 miles.

Since this is an urban trek within a close neighborhood, be respectful of residents whose homes are next to the stairways and "catwalks" and refrain from excessive noise. Like the "secret stairs" of La Mesa, you may be hard pressed to find native plants along this trek. Largely, you will be encountering a variety of planted cultivars including roses, various succulents, and bougainvillea. For the best variety of colorful blooms, visit in Spring.

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.

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Gold members may participate once per day. Red and Black card members may earn an additional entry per tournament day for a total of 2 times they can participate. Seating is limited.

Management reserves the right to change or alter promotion at any time without prior notice.

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WATER FRONT

Tides

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	AM	HT.	PM	HT.	AM	HT.	PM	HT.
THU, JULY 19	9:23	0.99'	10:58	1.59'	3:06	4.29'	4:16	5.41'
FRI, JULY 20	10:23	1.53'	--:--	--:--	4:39	3.78'	5:14	5.60'
SAT, JULY 21	12:18	1.11'	11:25AM	1.91'	6:14	3.63'	6:07	5.81'
SUN, JULY 22	1:19	0.60'	12:23	2.14'	7:31	3.73'	6:54	6.02'

Waves (PONT LOMA)

Height	Direction	Interval
2'-3'	SW	16 seconds
2'-3'	SW	16 seconds
2'-3'	SW	17 seconds
2'-3'	SW	16 seconds

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

EVENTS

Coastal Habitat Restoration Come help save and restore one of the last remaining Coastal Dune and Wetland Habitats in San Diego. Please join us from 9:00am to noon. Over 95% of these habitat areas no longer exist in California. Home to many endangered birds, fish and mammals this area needs your help to remain as a viable habitat area. An educational walking tour will be included. Activities include: invasive plant removal, native plant rescue, watering and care of recent plantings, trail maintenance and litter removal. All tools and supplies are provided. Community service hours can be verified for those that need them. Be sure to dress in clothes that can get a little dirty and wear closed-toe shoes, no sandals or flip-flops allowed for safety reasons. Volunteers will meet in the grassy area just inside the Dog Beach parking lot in Ocean Beach at the western end of Voltaire Ave. For more info or to RSVP call 619.297.7380 or email volunteer@sandiegoriver.org Saturday, July 21, 9am; Dog Beach Ocean Beach, West Point Loma Boulevard and Voltaire Street. (OCEAN BEACH)

Headwaters Habitat Restoration Enjoy the great outdoors and help the River Park Foundation to restore an oak woodland along a free-flowing mountain stream. Volunteers can help create habitat for wildlife and keep water clean by removing invasive plants, watering native plants, and more. This event takes place at Boulder Creek Preserve, near Descanso (about 1.5 hr drive from central San Diego). Please wear long pants, closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes or hiking boots) and layers. Bring AT LEAST 32 oz. of water to drink and a snack. Please be aware that this is a remote location with no cell service. Also be aware that you may be working near poison oak. This event occurs on the 1st, 4th, and 5th Saturday of every month from 8:30am to 2:30pm. All supplies will be provided. Community service hours may be verified. For full location information and to RSVP please contact volunteer@sandiegoriver.org or call (619) 297-7380. Saturday, July 21, 8:30am; **free.** Boulder Creek Preserve, 14652 Boulder Creek Road. (DESCANSO)

Over-the-Line Tournament The Old Mission Beach Athletic Club (OMBAC) is calling all players, beach-goers, and sports enthusiasts to the biggest summer event in San Diego! The 65th Annual World Cham-

pionship Over-the-Line (OTL) Tournament will take place on July 14-15 and July 21-22 at Fiesta Island on Mission Bay. Over 1,200 teams will hit the sand at sunrise on Saturday morning, July 14, with their bats, balls and most creative team names to kick off 65 years of San Diego tradition. New this year, attendees can enjoy "Over-the-Line Lager," a limited release craft beer by Second Chance Beer Co. available at the brewery's tap rooms in North Park and Carmel Valley, select bars and stores across San Diego and at the event. For more information, visit www.ombac.org. Saturday, July 21, 7am; Sunday, July 22, 7am; **free**-\$120. Fiesta Island, 1500 Fiesta Island Road. (BAY PARK)

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)

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

Whale Watching Adventures San Diego is one of the best places to whale watch - especially in the summer when the legendary Blue Whales (the largest animals on Earth) feed offshore of the San Diego coast. Catch amazing views of these spectacular creatures aboard a comfortable Hornblower Yacht, featuring live narration from expert captains and volunteer naturalists from The NAT, a full snack bar, and views of over 50 local landmarks. Mondays, 9am; through Monday, September 3, \$55. Hornblower Cruises, 970 N. Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO)



Matt Nolan - "I watched a lot of YouTube videos."

I haven't been yelled at too much

NAME: MATT NOLAN

AGE: 33

FROM: MISSION HILLS

LOCATION: TOURMALINE SURF PARK

Matt Nolan has been surfing for three years. His main beaches are Tourmaline and La Jolla Shores, places that are good for beginner surfers.

"First time I started surfing, a friend gave me the equipment and took me out there and didn't give me any instructions. After that, I watched a lot of YouTube videos. I haven't been yelled at too much, but it probably took about six months of near drowning."

"If I were to tell anyone who's starting," Nolan adds, "I would probably suggest taking a lesson. It would have saved me a lot of time and energy. Start on the right board and go with friends."

Nolan's injuries have been minor but many. "Your feet get cut up a ton when you first start, by the fins and the rocks. Everything's just in the wrong place when you start out."

The 33-year-old's coolest surf experience was down in Baja. "You just fly down there in no time. There are no crowds and there's warmer water, better weather."

Nolan is originally from Boston, but when he moved to San Diego he knew he had to try his hand at surfing. "It's part of the lifestyle here. If you live here and don't try it out, you're missing out on what makes San Diego so unique."

— Evelyn Grimm

Other people's stuff

The OPS standard has been used for as long as I can remember. Other People's Stuff. As in "I smoke OPCs" or "The cheapest boat to fish from is an OPB." Investors like to use OPM. The one item belonging to others that is most left alone is litter.

From the beginning, mankind has left a trail of litter wherever mankind has trod.

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

HARBOR POLICE REPORT

Narcotics found by crew on the Red Rooster go unclaimed, and are impounded for destruction.

June 24

Harbor Police responded to Marina Cortez for a diesel fuel spill. Harbor Police and the US Coast Guard located the suspect vessel and will be investigating for possible prosecution.

June 22

Harbor Police issued a citation to a boater in the A-1 Anchorage for anchoring without a valid permit and being in possession of narcotics. Harbor Police assisted a kayaker back to land who was attempting to make it back

to shore prior to darkness.

June 21

Harbor Police were dispatched to the Red Rooster fishing vessel as it arrived back in port. The vessel's management contacted Harbor Police due to them locating some narcotics aboard the vessel. According to the vessel's crew, no one aboard admitted ownership of them so Harbor Police impounded the found narcotics for destruction.

June 20

Harbor Police responded to a call to investigate phone threats that were made to a subject in America's Cup Harbor. Harbor Police responded to Cabrillo Isle Marina for a fuel spill.

June 19

Harbor Police issued a citation to a boater who was in a slip at the guest slips without a valid permit. Harbor Police investigated a petroleum

spill within the Pier 32 Marina in National City. The US Coast Guard arrived to assist with the investigation.

June 17

Harbor Police responded to the Harbor Island fuel dock to assist a vessel arriving at the dock with a child having difficulty breathing. Harbor Police officers took the child off the vessel upon arriving and carried him to a waiting ambulance.

Water Conditions

SURFACE TEMPERATURE:

LOW **72°F** HIGH **74°F**





VISIBILITY

10'-20'

The water temperature has been edging up for water activities, though small, longboarders will be able to find some fun. SUPs and kayaks will have optimum conditions in the mornings, turning to moderate 10 mph on most afternoons. As the tide swing flattens out, and with the small surf and light wind, visibility should be good for those wishing to peer under the water.

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

				
JULY	THUR 19	SAT 21	MON 23	WED 25
SUNRISE	5:54	5:55	5:56	5:58
SUNSET	7:55	7:54	7:53	7:51
LENGTH OF DAY	14H 01M	13H 58M	13H 56M	13H 53M



Volunteer crews fill up for the coastal projects more than for those held further inland.

Due mostly to development, only five percent of natural wetland habitats in California remain, yet maintaining their natural state is a struggle. This is mostly due to litter filtering in through the wetland tributaries and invasive plants crowding out native species.

San Diego River Park Foundation clean-up volunteers have logged over 2.5 million pounds of trash collected since their efforts began in 2001.

Yet not all of that effort is for clean-up. Invasive species such as tamarisk, Mexican fan palm, pampas grass, and giant reed shoulder out the native plants. These invaders need be removed and replaced with natural vegetation.

Volunteer opportunities tend to fill up for the coastal projects more than those held further inland. This Saturday, though, the clean-up scheduled for the river mouth near

Dog Beach in Ocean Beach is full, from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm, the San Diego River Park Foundation is looking for volunteers to help to restore the oak woodlands along a free-flowing mountain stream at Boulder Creek Preserve near Descanso. If you want to help and can't make it this weekend, this event also occurs on the 1st, 4th, and 5th Saturday of every month from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. 619-297-7380.

— Daniel Powell

The Girls of Summer

Right after the Fourth of July, a series of perfect days unrolled across San Diego County beaches. Sun sizzled away the coastal low clouds by no later than eleven, and girls from local high schools began spending entire blue days at Pacific Beach and La Jolla Shores. Nearly naked in two-piece bathing suits, with flawless,



Sitting on her towel on Pacific Beach, Karen sang a snatch from the Beach Boys' "California Girls."

smooth browned bodies that might have been turned and sanded and varnished in advanced woodshop, in trios and pairs, the girls began to drift down the stairs next to Pacific Beach's Crystal Pier and onto La Jolla Shores' wide flat beach as early as ten o'clock. Bathing suits were cut high on the thigh, and the girls appeared preternaturally long-legged. Karen and two friends had settled a few hundred feet south of Crystal Pier. "Summer is the time to go to the beach, and kick back, meet new people, just get crazy and banzai," said seventeen-year-old Karen, who in less than two weeks will be a junior at Madison High. Tall and slender and blue-eyed and tanned to a ginger brown, her streaky blond hair falling down her back in a braid, Karen sat cross-legged on a striped towel, lamenting the loss of an earring. "I'm bummed," she said. Two friends flanked Karen on either side. They commiserated.

Madison was like most high schools, said Karen (whose name, as all the other girls' in this story, has been changed). "You've got rockers, punkers, stoners, and squids." Squids, she explained, are nerds. Probably, she demurred, speaking in tones as round and even as matched pearls, squids are very nice. But she doubted that squids come to the beach. "They probably sit home and watch *Leave It to Beaver* on TV." When squids turn on the radio, "they probably listen to symphonies or Walker-Scott music." The rockers listen to KGB-FM (101.5) and XHITZ-FM (90.3). Punkers like to dye their hair green. Stoners, well, they stay stoned. Karen and her friends are "normals." They listen to 91X and XHRM-FM (92.5).

From "The Girls of Summer," by Judith Moore, San Diego Reader, Aug. 28, 1986

LARGE AREA OF TIGHT-LIPPED TUNA OFFSHORE

Dock Totals July 8 – July 14: 5,420 anglers aboard 197 trips out of San Diego landings this past week caught 498 bluefin tuna, 613 yellowfin tuna, 17 dorado, 1,957 yellowtail, 15 white seabass (13 released), 3,871 calico bass, 97 sand bass, 909 rockfish, 42 whitefish, 3 lingcod, 339 bonito, 59 barracuda, 1,070 sculpin, 32 sheephead, 12 halibut, 1 mako shark, 1 leopard shark, 105 sanddab, 2 treefish, and 1 opah.

Saltwater: All in all, it was another good week offshore, with more anglers on the water, and more yellowfin, bluefin and dorado caught per angler. The yellowtail bite slowed quite a bit but for a few lucky boats early in the week. There are lots of spots of fish in a large area out about 30 to 40 miles off Point Loma, centered on the 43 Fathom spot, and that's where the

majority of the full day to 1.5 day boats are fishing. The yellowtail are also still biting off the Coronado Islands, but as that had slowed, some of those boats decided to fish the bite basically due west of Point Loma in US waters, negating the need for a passport.

If heading out to look for the tuna, the area, in general, runs from the "Corner" where the US – Mexico boundary makes the turn southwest, and west-northwest in a thirty-mile swath from there to San Clemente Island. Closer in, The 9 Mile Bank has schools of tuna on it, too, so a trip generally westward from either Mission Bay or San Diego Bay will put you in the game. The trick is getting them to eat whatever you are presenting. Most boats are trolling while looking, focusing on the edges of the high spots.

Occasional 'foamers' of fish pushing bait to the top are popping up in a pulse-quickenning displays, though at times the fish are slow to hit the lures or baits tossed into the flurry. In spite of the amount of fish, the counts have been very low on tuna in general,

with most boats getting a scratch of fish, while an occasional trip hits good numbers with limits, or near limits of at least one species. All estimates are that the season should 'blow up soon' with thousands of tuna in the weekly counts, so don't be discouraged if your bait or lure is being ignored in a boil.

Inshore, the calico bass continue to rule the scene along the kelp beds, while yellowtail and white seabass are biting at a 'slow pick' pace. With the large amount of bait in the water and the temp coming up nicely, I would expect there to be more surface action just off the kelp edges soon. Sand bass and halibut have been biting well on the flats, with the halibut holding from about 20 feet out to 60 feet or so, especially in the slots between reefs, while the sand bass have been running in 40 to 80 feet in the San Diego Bay channel and the flats off Imperial Beach.

Fish Plants: July 27, Lake Poway, catfish (TBD), Santee Lakes, catfish (1,000), July 30, Jennings, catfish (1,000)



It's that time of year again...

COMIC-CON

JAY ALLEN SANFORD

YOU DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' BADGES

What's a poor unlucky muggle to do now that Comic-Con badges have become more expensive than Batmobile rims and harder to pick up than Thor's hammer? Not to worry, mortals without badges can still spend the week enjoying Con-themed events around town, some

officially part of the show and open to the public, and other less authorized shindigs.

Tuesday

The retro-resurgent **El Cortez Hotel** (702 Ash Street, Cortez Hill) will host a **Throwback Pre-Con Meetup** in the Barra Barra Saloon on Tuesday, July 17, geared for those who

either remember or wish they'd been around for the olden daze of the 70s and 80s. Discussions will focus on how the dealers' room used to be filled with comic books instead of Hollywood shills, the autographs and sketches were always free, and there was never, ever a line for the ladies room.

Wednesday

The San Diego Symphony presents its annual **Movie Music of John Williams** concert at **Jacobs Music Center** (750 B Street, downtown) on Wednesday, July 18, with songs from the *Harry Potter*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Jurassic Park* films, and of course selections from *Star Wars*. Arrive early for a Star Wars cocktail party

and costume contest,

Also on Wednesday, July 18, **Fluxx** (500 Fourth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter) hosts Ready Party One, paying tribute to the *Ready Player One* book and film franchise with Nerds Like Us, Damn Good Shindig, Nerdbot, and the Flux Capacitors.

The annual fundraiser for the **Hero Initiative** (helping comic creators in need) happens at **Bar Basic** (410 Tenth Avenue, East Village), with cartoonists on hand doing live art and premium rarities to be raffled from collectible manufacturers such as Dark Horse comics, Funko toys, and Blizzard games.

Thursday

Thursday, July 19, features hard rock heroes Testament (soon to be the subject of an unau-

thorized comic book bio) playing **Nuclear Blast's Comic-Con Afterparty** at **House of Blues** (1055 Fifth Avenue, downtown), where locals Carnifex will open. As a backup plan, there's always **Rave of Thrones** at the nearby **Omnia** nightclub (454 Sixth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter), where Hodor from *Game of Thrones*, actor Kristian Nairn, will be doing a live DJ set for the third consecutive year, as well as trying to avoid breaking his non-disclosure contract when fans barrage him with questions about the program's upcoming final episodes.

Devotees of the never-ending TV show *Supernatural* will meet up at **Analog Bar** (801 Fifth Avenue, Gaslamp Quarter) on Thursday for the third annual **Carry On My Wayward Cocktails Party**, named for the



Harleypalooza Meetup and Cosplay Shoot at Convention Center steps on Saturday

Kansas song that opens the program, which just wrapped its 13th year. All ages are welcome until 9:30 pm, with promoters promising exclusive giveaways and a Hunter's Banquet offering "a selection of hot food for all the hungry hunters,

angels, and demons, and of course pie!" There will be Supernatural-themed cocktails such as the Single Man Tear, Angel Grace, and the Wayward AF, as well as exclusive Hunter's swag, and nougat for everyone.

The 5th annual **Her**

Universe Geek Couture Fashion Show will be staged Thursday at the **Manchester Grand Hyatt** (1 Market Place, Marina District) with fashion designers competing for a chance to create a new collection for Hot Topic. Actress Ashley Eck-

stein hosts and a cast of human coat hangers will parade the competing clothing on a catwalk in the Harbor Ballroom for a "celebrity panel" of so-far unannounced judges.

Thursday's **Hop-Con 6.0** at **Stone Brewing Liberty Station** (2816 Historic Decatur Road) delivers three specialty casks of w00tstout beer, Mostra coffee samples, unlimited treats and tastings, lawn games (including giant Jenga, bocce ball, and Connect 4), and commemorative glassware to take home for those who purchase the deluxe ticket package.

Comic Book Men TV star Kevin Smith will stage two shows at **American Comedy Company** on Thursday, *Fatman on Batman* and *Jay & Silent Bob Get Old*. For *Fatman on Batman*, he's joined by Marc Bernardin to "talk about all

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DC Cosplay Photoshoot at Convention Center steps on Saturday

the news in movie make believe, terrific TV, and anything that squeaks in Geek." During *Jay & Silent Bob Get Old*, he'll reunite with frequent cinematic costar Jason Mewes (*Clerks*, *Mallrats*, etc), to riff in character for an improv-heavy performance that will be recorded and later made available free at smodcast.com. Smith returns to American Comedy Company on Saturday night for a panel discussion, *Hollywood Babble-On With Kevin Smith and Ralph Garman*.

Friday

Several cosplay and fan gatherings are planned around town, including a **Harry Potter & Fantastic Beasts Costumers Meetup** in **Children's Park** at 10am (across from the Marriott Marquis), followed at 1 pm in the same locale by an **Assassin's Creed Fan and Cosplay Meetup**. Devotees of the Fox cartoon **Bob's Burgers** will "Meat-Up" at 2 pm at **Embarcadero Marina Park South**, where men in aprons can feel free to hold intimate conversations with

inanimate objects, and BYOBH (Bring Your Own Bunny Hat) cosplay is encouraged.

Toy company **Funko** is known for producing limited edition playthings, with this year's newest collectibles debuting Friday at the **Manchester Grand Hyatt**. The party includes food, drinks, and photo ops with life-size toy characters. All guests who pony up the \$140 ticket fee receive one of the company's coveted Boxes O' Fun, usually containing extremely limited edition



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creations only available via this event.

If you're determined to meet a genuine comic book superstar for a little one-on-one time, you can **Dine With Comic Artist Joe Jusko** at **Fogo de Chao Brazilian Steakhouse** (668 Sixth Avenue, *Gaslamp Quarter*) on Friday. Hosted by local publisher IDW, mainly known for licensed comic properties such as *Star Trek* and *Doctor Who*, the event runs \$500 per ticket. But the 25 attendees will each get a custom created 11x14 piece of artwork featuring a character of their choice, drawn by the

famed cover painter in advance of the dinner. The meal comes with a gift bag of goodies such as a rare *Captain America* variant cover edition and a complete collection of the artist's 2016 trading card set.

Hang out at **Observatory North Park** (2891 University Avenue, *North Park*) on Friday with the creative team behind the graphic novel *The Adventure Zone: Here There Be Gerblins*, inspired by a podcast co-created by three brothers and their dad. The event includes a panel discussion and live reading of the fan-tastic comic chronicling

the unlikely adventures of Tres Horny Boys, and your ticket fee includes a free signed copy of the book.

"The most creative, sexy, and all-around fun show has been revamped and re-imagined for the Comic-Con audience," according to the ladies of the **Suicide Girls Blackheart Burlesque** show planned for the **Music Box** (1337 India Street, *Little Italy*) on Friday. "This geek fantasy spectacular will amaze, as the girls perform... numbers filled with pop-culture references."

The costumed villains of **Galactic Empire**

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will play heavy metal mashups of *Star Wars* music at **Brick by Brick** (1130 Buenos Avenue) on Friday night, where fellow musical cosplayers **MadNES** open.

Multiple photo shoots are planned outside the Convention Center on Friday, most held on photogenic staircases and sidewalk expanses that are usually (though not always) accessible to the general public (it helps to carry a serious looking camera and to play nice with sure-to-be overtaxed security staffers). Expect a giant superhero team-up of cosplayers to pose for a **Marvel Fan Photoshoot** at 11:30 am representing nearly 80 years of colorful *Iron*, *Spider*, *Ant*, *Sand*, and *X Men*.

A **Rick & Morty Fan Meetup and Cosplay Photoshoot** for aficionados of the violently funny cartoon happens at the Convention Center at 2 pm Friday, followed at 4 by a gathering of Negan cosplayers whose ability to clobber the Walking Dead will be impeded by the fact that only plastic bats with fake barbwire will be allowed.

The streets of downtown are invaded from 7 to 8pm by the dead men (and women) walking of this year's **ZombieWalk**.

Saturday

Saturday's theme, **Walking Through an Undead Wonderland**, includes interactive pop-up TV show sets, related pop exhibits, and a costume contest.

Early Saturday risers can join the Scooby gang around the Convention Center for a **Buffy the Vampire Slayer Vampire Hunt**, where the unavoidable dearth of daylight vampires will mean plenty of zom-

bies, werewolves, robots, cyborgs, evil nerds, and other beastly baddies will ferret out hidden vampire nests around downtown, in hopes of winning rare promo items from 20th Century Fox Consumer Products and Funko toys.

Stick around the Convention Center until noon to watch the goggles and brass doo-hickeys come out for the 10th annual **Steampunk Meetup**, this year including the Starburner Awards. "Beginning in 2009," according to their website, "members of the steampunk community have been singled out at Comic-Con in San Diego and presented with achievement medals (Starburner Awards)."

Batmaniacs and Jokerholics will gather around the Convention Center at 1 pm on Saturday to pay tribute to the Joker's beloved psycho squeeze Harley Quinn for the 8th annual **Harleypalooza Meetup and Cosplay Shoot**. The Dark Knight's longtime comic publisher will be showcased again at 5 pm for a **DC Cosplay Photoshoot**.

Head up the road to **Balboa Park** at sunset on Saturday for the **United League of Fighters Lightsaber Battle**, planned to run from 8 pm through 11 all around, and probably within, the main fountain. Over at **House of Blues**, costumed TV rockers the **Aquabats** play their annual Comic-Con show, this year bringing rapper **Froggy Fresh** (formerly and litigiously known as Krispy Kreme) to the party.

The Horror Writers Association 3rd Annual Social, to be held Saturday at the **Hilton San Diego Bayfront** (1 Park Boulevard, Marina District), invites all writers of

speculative fiction to the Odysea Lounge, whether or not you're an association member.

A **Marvelous Art Exhibit** at **La Bodega Gallery** (2196 Logan Avenue) features art from Marvel comics and films, created both by industry pros and local amateurs, with a free all-ages opening reception.

The musical comedy TV show *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* will be staged live at the **Balboa Theatre** by Rachel Bloom and other cast members on Saturday.

Sunday

The Convention wraps up on Sunday when all lovers of the House of Mouse are invited to gather near the Convention Center at 2pm for a **Disney Fan Cosplay Photoshoot**.

(Go to sandiegoreader.com for more activities during Comic-Con week)

MIKE MADRIAGA

"I WILL NOT SPEND A SINGLE MOMENT IN LINE AT COMIC-CON 2018"

So said John Shand. "Never again."

It's safe to say that most Comic-Con International: San Diego 2018 attendees will be stuck in long lines; some will sleep in 24-hour-plus lines. But not Shand. He has been attending the annual pop-culture multimedia show at the San Diego Convention Center since 1996, when it was more of a comic book and sci-fi show. For the week of July 18-22, he's chillin' in his air-conditioned store in La Mesa called Toy Addicts.

"If I need something at the Comic-Con 2018," he said, "I can just pick up my phone."

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AN EXPERIENCE BECOMES THE EXPERIENCE

LAST SEPTEMBER, movie news website *TheWrap.com* listed “5 Reasons *It* Became Horror’s Biggest Box Office Success Ever.” Number three on that list was “an immersive haunted house set up on Hollywood and Vine.” That house, modeled after the crumbling manse that appears in the film, was the creation of Grandesign, a marketing company headquartered in the old Wonder Bread factory on 14th Street in the East Village.

“The first thing we did,” explains Grandesign’s Robert Ridgeway “is find the guy who owns the parking lot there, and see if he’s willing to rent it out for 90 days. Then you’ve got to get it permitted, which is tough in Hollywood. We were getting ‘No’s all the way up, but we went to the mayor of Los Angeles, and he gave the thumbs up. But we had to build it to code. We did it in ten days.”

It helped that they were old hands at the whole “never-been-done-before” marketing thing. “We were doing this ten years ago, before ‘experiential’ was really a word,” says owner Aaron Gaeir. Cool campaigns, like King Kong leaving giant footsteps and a trail of destruction along the beach in Santa Monica. That kind of large-format out-of-home ad work “was a good genesis for moving into large-format experiential engagement, things Millennials resonate with and want to share and be a part of. That’s where marketing is going.”

In a way, Comic-Con is already just that: a giant ad for pop culture that attendees pay to be part of. “In four days, it brings to a brand what some locations would take a year to get,” says Gaeir. Attendees, “are going to share, and people worldwide are listening. It’s crazy: 98 percent of people who go to an experience are going to take pictures or video of it, and of those, 83 percent are going to share it with their network. For the *It* house, 35,000 people waited up to eight hours to go on the tour, and we wound up with over a billion social shares. And Lisa Gregorian, marketing chief at Warner Brothers, was recently quoted saying that her movies [and shows] are impacted to the tune of \$30 million as a result of Comic-Con.”

So it’s not surprising to learn that Grandesign had 15 executions at last year’s Con, including the IMDboat and the #WRECKED island tied up in the Embarcadero Marina. About that island: TBS was looking for something to promote season two of their desert island comedy *Wrecked*. Grandesign producer Morgan Cassell spoke up for “an island that says ‘Wrecked’ that sails down the coast of California past all the beaches, so people can take pictures of it.” TBS jumped at the idea, then asked about bringing people onto the island.

Grandesign director of creative services Sean Pedefloux: “We’d never done an island before, but we’ve learned what questions to ask.... Can we paint it? Can we drill into it? Can we use gasoline generators? How do we build giant letters that won’t act as sails?”

From there, it was on to décor. “Our fabricators knew of a place in Arizona where we could get a ruined plane fuselage. And one of our New York employees had to find a stuffed boar. Add the rock-climbing-type palm trees, the mechanical boar, the skee-ball, and the beer garden with personalized coconut shell cups, and you have the makings of a sharable experience.

Last year, brands were hosting interactive activations in the Petco Park parking lot (including Grandesign’s *It*-themed school bus/VR installation), “but it was really fragmented. No one made the effort to bring these brands together.”

So this year, an experience becomes The Experience, a coordi-



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a lot with costumes, and a band from TV made up of a bunch of actors.” Ridgeway is high on the structure’s versatility: the containers that give the platform its height “can be used for VR displays,” and the bar below the LED screen sets the stage for a VIP gathering above the fray.

Ridgeway runs through a partial list of the activations: Samsung’s air-conditioned trailer with a motorsports game, Fandom’s escape room, Sony’s *Ghostbusters* mobile game (lorded over by the Stay-Puft marshmallow man), Nestlé’s DC-themed ice cream... and hey, *Cloak & Dagger!* I remember them from my comic-book days in the 80s. Runaway teens — she’s white, he’s black — who wind up injected with some nasty experimental drug which gives them superpowers: she can throw daggers of light, while he becomes a creature of soul-numbing shadow.

Now it’s a Freeform TV show. “We’ll have a church here, and a New Orleans backdrop,” says Ridgeway. The Marvel press release promises to “recreate the iconic moment between the two leads, Tyrone and Tandy, when their powers interact. Participants are harnessed to a bungee that will propel them backwards from the force of their powers. A slow-motion recording will capture the moment, which will also include an overlay effect that shows both the light and dark energy emitting from the participants.” And of course, “fans will have the opportunity to share their videos on social media.”

Theresa Travis, Freeform’s director of marketing strategy, sounds the experiential bell. “Grandesign pitched the idea, and two members of our team, who regularly go to Comic-Con, got so excited that we knew this was the idea to fight for. We worked with the production team for the series to make sure the light and dark energy look as close as possible to what’s actually seen on the show. This is not the audience where we want to take liberties with anything that comes from the series.... As a Marvel fan, I would wait in line to get this video.”

And goodness knows how many Marvel fans would go online to see it. Goodness and Grandesign. ■

—Matthew Lickona

I first met Shand in 1998 when we traded toys until the wee hours of the morning; then later that week we attended Comic-Con. My niche at the time was die-cast metal robots; Shand's was 1980s G.I. Joe figures which garnered him the "G.I. John" moniker.

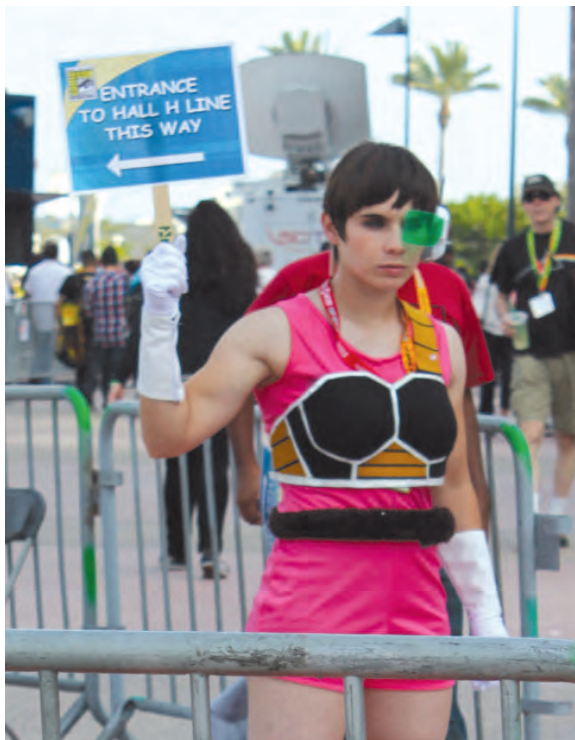
From 2003-2008, Shand capitalized on the exclusive lines at the Mattel, Hasbro, Magic the Gathering, and Lego booths. He would sit in lines for hours to purchase the hottest retro-remakes of his 1980s toys and newly released products. Many of the releases were exclusive only to the con attendees, and Shand had overseas collectors wiring his PayPal accounts top-dollar for such.

"I wheeling and dealing in the lines that sometimes took me four

hours. Others would be arguing [about cutting in line] on preview night, (Wednesday) because it's a bottleneck and there's hundreds of collectors shoving and pushing; a fight even broke out."

After preview night at about 9 pm, he'd haul a truckload of exclusives back home, then flip the stuff via eBay's "Buy it now" option for up to a thousand percent markup.

Shand accumulated much of his toy collection from the profits of the con-hustle, by reinvesting on more items purchased on Craigslist, swap meets, community yards sales, auctions, other collectible shows, and estate sales. At times we'd bump heads at the same venue, and we'd flip a coin to determine who'd purchase the vintage items that were usually priced at pennies on



PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE MADRAGA

Cosplayer directing people to Hall H line

the dollar.

Shand's toy collection grew so much that it attracted the likes of six-figure executives that were kids in the 1980s

and watched Saturday morning cartoons.

"I met my Comic-Con connections at [City of Industry's] Frank & Son [Collectible Show]

in 2009," he said. "It was a good hookup, because now I had free reign and unlimited access to Comic-Con."

When Shand met his Comic Con International connects, whom he wouldn't identify, his G.I. John moniker changed to "Toy Addict." Other dealers started calling him the "Toy Godfather."

"Having Comic-Con badge hookups means everything," he said, "I would get as much exclusive merchandise as I possibly could." Shand couldn't go into detail about the number of badges he would obtain, because he said some of his "higher-ups" still work for the non-profit organization.

Personalized badges are provided to attendees, dealers, press, volunteers, artists, and Comic-Con staff — to access the convention. A different

type of badge is worn by the San Diego convention center staff and employees of companies that lease within the convention floor grounds (ie. Starbucks, Fedex, etc.), or provide services (security, maintenance, booth set-up, etc.)

"John's badges were legit bro, with our names, the plastic pouch, the necklace, and everything," said Paul, one of Shand's associates. "In 2010, [Shand] hooked us up with like 12 badges; the year after, he gave us more."

"Back then I had runners left and right," Shand said. "We had up to 40 runners, because everyone wants to go to Comic-Con. I'd give some like \$1000 to go to Hasbro and they'd buy the exclusives. Then my boy The Enforcer" would check the merch and OK the purchase; then the

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runner would be able to roam the Comic-Con for the remaining days. I would go pick up the product at the Hilton and my homeboy would have people go back and forth for the exclusives.”

Exclusive toys are released for specific occasions is lower print runs. Comic-Con exclusives that are released during the five days are sometimes an alternate color variation to a previously released toy, and the packaging will sometimes state “Comic-Con Exclusive.” Some exclusives are limited to 20 counts, which combined with a high-demand in the thousands; will drastically increase the resale price.

“The con exclusives started when Mattel released the *He-Man* stuff,” Paul said, “it was in the early 2000s... then they redid the castle.”

I asked Shand what would happen if the badge holder bounced with the money or merch. He laughed and said it would never happen. “They were usually friends of friends,” he said.

“...and he’d take it out on the ones who vouched



Mattel He-Man Castle

for the shyster,” said PJ, who was standing by during our conversation at Shand’s stash house in Spring Valley, which is less than five miles away from his retail store on La Mesa Boulevard at University Avenue.

PJ is one of Shand’s toy-runners and was waiting for Shand to approve his *New Mutants* #87 comic book to trade against Shand’s four boxes of vintage toys and Nintendo (8-bit) video games.

“I once waited in the Comic-Con line at 6 am,” PJ said, “and there were already 300 people in the mezzanine lined up to get a Hasbro ticket to gain access to the Hasbro line inside of the hall.”

After a total of four hours waiting in both lines, PJ wasn’t able to buy the G.I. Joe/Transformer crossover exclusive that he longed for, because the booth had sold out. “That was a total waste of time,” he said.

PJ is a 54-year-old South San Diegan that’s been attending Comic-Con since the first *Star Wars* hit the big screen in 1977; he’s been a vendor at the con since 1989 when the 10-by-10-foot booths “cost less than a grand; now our booth costs \$2700.”

When Shand scores exclusives, he sometimes leaves them at PJ’s booth at aisle 900 to free up his hands, and shop for more.

“One time, I had to get there at 4 am to line up and get the exclusive Hasbro tickets,” Shand recalled, “and once the Comic-Con doors would open at around 9 am, we would make mad dash to the Hasbro booth. I paid about \$20 for each of the G.I. Joe Zerana (action figures) with color variations, and after sold them for \$200 apiece.”

Line tribes

I met Emily Savage sitting on the grass on the Tuesday of the 2016 convention. She was the first person in line for that year.

“Being the first on the floor was kinda like a bucket list thing for me,” she said.

Savage at the time, was a 23-year-old recent criminal justice graduate from Oxford University. She’s been coming to the con since she was 12-years-old and is an avid autograph collector.

“Every year the lines get longer and longer and it gets tougher to find things and see things,” she said. At about 8 pm, I sat next to her on the grass by the doors of Hall H, as she waited for preview night to open in 21 hours (at 5 pm on Wednesday).

“I’ve got a camping pad to sleep on,” she said as she pulled out items from her pile, “an



Jorge Guevara

umbrella for the sun, because last year the girl in front of me in line got so sunburned and she was peeling on the last day, a change of clothes and many portable chargers.”

I had to ask, “What do you do when you have to go to the bathroom?”

“[You] make friends with people in the line with you and ask them watch your stuff,” she replied.

A male attendee with a large camping style backpack sat behind her. “You form line tribes with the people in front and behind you,” Savage said. “I’ve made friends in line from years and years ago who I’m seeing again this year.”

The closest available bathroom for them was about 100 yards east at the Hilton.

“And with Starbucks now allowing everybody including non-customers to use their bathrooms,” PJ said, “the one at the Hilton’s going to be used too.”

Chantal Barajas, a 29-year-old cosplayer from Tijuana, understands the bathroom all too well — so she utilizes the Hard Rock Hotel (across the street)

bathrooms to get dolled up, because it’s less congested. In 2016 she dressed as female version of Vegeta, a *Dragon Ball Z* character. Her costume has shoulder and waist armor pieces that jut outwards which make it difficult to walk around with the 130,000-plus roaming fans — but more so if she has to use the bathrooms which at times, can be an hour wait.

“It is extremely difficult to go to the bathroom with any cosplay outfits,” she said. “When I have worn armor, I keep my water levels to a minimum only enough to be hydrated. One time, my armor did not allow me to sit down in the stall and I had to take it off.”

It takes Barajas about three hours to cross the border and another hour-plus to dress up in her homemade costumes. Her favorite characters to cosplay in are Black Cat, a *Spider-Man* villain and Psylocke from *X-Men*. She doesn’t cross the border as Psylocke, because the character utilizes a *katana*, a Japanese sword, which she doesn’t want to explain to the U.S. immigration officer.

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Come the third week of July, she's cosplaying as a female version of Batman.

In 2016, Jorge Guevara, a 30-year-old writer from Tijuana, was detained at the San Ysidro point of entry for carrying a plastic gun which accompanied his The Winter Soldier outfit from the 2014 *Captain America* film. "The [U.S. immigration officers] did not like that at all," he said, "but after an inspection they let me through. Usually, they joke around and are polite when they see us [cosplayers]."

Guevara's been attending Comic-Con since 2009. He stays the night at his relatives' house for the four days. He, like many con-goers, park their cars for free near trolley stops and take the trolley in to the Convention Center stop on K Street.



Chantal Barajas

Parking fees by the convention center can cost con-goers up to \$50 during Comic-Con.

"It's become very crowded and more expensive," Guevara said, "and it's almost impossible to get tickets."

Last year Guevara attended as press, because he used to write

for a movie magazine. He camped out overnight to gain access to the Hall H — where even wearing the coveted press badge doesn't guarantee access inside the hall.

This year Guevara is dressing as Deadpool, a red-and-black masked Marvel comic book character.



Caitlin "Kit" Findley

"Jay Pacheco" — not his real name — is a San Diego school teacher that's been accessing Hall H since the early millennium.

"In order to survive the long lines at Comic-Con it needs to be a group effort," he said. "One person cannot do this solo. About 10 years

ago I formed an alliance with some women I met in line, and we've been keeping it every since. One of our women is super organized, and she brings her mom every year. They bring blankets, pillows, etc. We all take turns waiting in line in shifts. I usually take the night shift [by]

sleeping on the ground to hold our place in line."

In the last couple of years, Pacheco has posted photos on his social media, of himself waiting in line by the boat docks east of Joe's Crab Shack, which is about a quarter mile from the Hall H entrance.

Hall H is the 64,800-square-foot, easternmost hall where the new movie trailers are shown and movie panels are held in which the fans can ask celebrities questions. Its Twitter account reads: "I am the longest, nerdiest, most demoralizing line at any convention ever made, and that's just how you like it. Come get in me."

Pacheco wouldn't comment on how he's accessed the show for the last 17 years. But there are alternatives to enter the con if one doesn't have the clout

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like Shand, a byline like Guevara, or the patience like most who attempt to purchase online — where tickets sell out faster than Clark Kent disrobes to become Superman.

“I started volunteering in 2008,” said Caitlin “Kit” Findley, a cosplayer that’s been attending the con since 2003 and volunteering since 2008. “It’s a fascinating system [to access the con for free of charge]. Basically, around the end of the year/beginning of the new year, emails will go out to folks who have volunteered the previous year. There are sign ups for new volunteers but due to a lot of repeats, those opening can close up awfully fast. After the emails go out, then the sign ups roll out. You register through the Comic-Con website using your personal Member ID. Once registered, you await the week of the con for your assignments.”

Kit’s volunteering duties include line management, art show security, prize room assistant, schedule change poster, portal check helper, freebie table assistant, and masquerade staffer — for three hours a day. When she’s put in her time; she has access to the con for the rest of the day.

“They give you printed out slips that



In line for Ballroom 20

you keep in your badge pocket that you turn back in after your shift,” she said, “and your supervisors rate your performance. They’re not thrilled by apathetic folks or people who slack off, considering the cost of around \$125 for a badge, it is absolutely worth helping out for three hours a day.”

Being a volunteer, Kit didn’t have to wait in line to access the Hall H, she simply volunteered to assist in that part of the convention. “I did manage to catch the end of a Joss Whedon panel,” she said, “then the *South Park* season 20 panel and finally the *Preacher* panel.”

Pacheco’s favorite Hall H experience was

the 2017 “Women who Kick Ass” panel led by Charlize Theron; for 2018 he’s thinking twice about returning because “it’s a mess... people check Twitter and freak out, and so people then come rushing into the line.”

Attendees used to wait the grueling Hall H lines to get a glimpse of the movie previews, but lately, Pacheco noticed that the production companies have been showing the previews online around the same time as the Comic-Con.

“Yes, it’s nice to get photos of the stars, but I’m over it,” he said. “I’m gonna try Ballroom 20 this year.”

Ballroom 20 is a 40,000-square-foot room

that’s on the upper level of the convention center and east from Sails Pavilion. Here, there have been appearances by Harrison Ford and Sarah Michelle Gellar, and the wait to get inside, although long like Hall H downstairs, is mostly within an air conditioned hall and on a plush carpet.

Last year I saw volunteer Andrew by Ballroom 20 guiding the foot traffic.

“There are so many people here,” he said. “I have to make sure that these kids and adults don’t run and clog up the pathways.”

While we spoke, a cosplayer dressed as a seven-foot Megatron robot from the Transformers franchise drew a crowd. “You need to keep on moving,” he told them.

Kit was downstairs guiding her line though the traffic and holding up a sign that read “Line starts here.”

When freebies are given out or a celebrity makes a surprise appearance, the crowds can be overwhelming unless lines are formed, directed, and cut off with another volunteer holding up a sign that reads “Line ends here.”

Con hustles

“One of the most dick-headed things you can do is somehow get a handicap badge if you’re not handicapped,” John Shand said. “There’s people that go to the doctor and say, “For the next week I need a handicap pass or letter.” Then they enter the Comic-Con in wheelchairs or crutches. Now if you have a handicap badge, you can go straight up to the front of the line with probably 5-10 people waiting and get your stuff. And the handler, the guy pushing



Grandesign does cool shit

the wheelchair, he can get stuff too. If you’re handicapped, they cannot tell you “no.”

“Then you got the ice cream vendors selling to the con-goers sitting in the hot sun,” PJ said. “Or the cosplayers selling water bottles for a buck on the Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge.”

At PJ’s shared booth, he and his partner sell vintage 1980s toys like Shand. They don’t mind the lines of people coming into their booth to spend money. They do dislike it when lines of people for other booths, stand in front of their booth. “It’s hard to get in and see our stuff when all of those people block us,” he said.

Jenny managed one of the 15 San Diego Pretzel Company carts at the convention center for five years. “Comic-Con to us was like Christmas,” she said. “In 2013, my cart would make between \$5000-\$7000, and the customers, sometimes in a line of more than 20, wouldn’t complain about the 15-minute wait or our prices.”

Jenny sold pretzels for \$4 and pretzel-hotdogs for \$5. One year she was stoked to see Rihanna, the actual singer and not

a cosplayer, walking around, but she couldn’t get her autograph because it’s against her company’s policy. Everything else at the venue was pretty much fair game for her.

“We are given a badge which was from the convention center,” she said, “and it would have the name of the company that you worked for and your photo. With that badge we can access anywhere including Hall H and we don’t have to wait in lines.”

PJ is given four dealer badges for his booth. If he needs extra dealer badges, they cost “\$425 apiece and \$250 apiece for regular badges,” he said. “The difference is: dealers get to go inside the halls an hour earlier and stay an hour later; while people with regular badges are constrained to the set hours and are escorted out when closing time happens.”

Shand has been known to use dealer badges to get in early and bypass the lines, then swap it out with a regular badge when he’s the first in line at the booth, because “dealers aren’t allowed to purchase certain con exclusives.” ■

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Out of South Africa

"I made 300 pounds of sausages for the Fourth of July. We sold out."

Just think about it," says Perky. Graham Perkett, actually, but his friends call him Perky. "Four, five hundred years ago, the Cape of Good Hope was where every ship from Europe had to stop in on their way to India and China. Get fresh water, limes for scurvy, fruits, meats, livestock, flour for bread. So, they started bringing fruit trees to grow in the Cape, to guarantee their supply.

And planted veggies, and crops for grains, and grapes for wine — the French Huguenots started growing their vines there in 1652."

We're standing in this tiny shop, up here in Kearny Mesa, near the Superior Court. "Then," Perky goes on, "when they came back from India and the Far East, they brought tropical fruits and plants, not to mention Indian laborers to be cane cutters and Malays to be servants. And they all brought their own eating habits. So five hundred years later, no surprise South Africa has developed the largest original cuisine in the world."

Wow. Have to confess, I can't think of one actual South African dish. Now I'm glad I noticed this banner saying "Perky's," with a South African flag, hidden in a business park. Inside, two chairs for customers. That's it. Plus, a laughing portrait of Nelson Mandela, a South African flag, and this guy Roscoe, at a little counter with a hot-food display cabinet on top. It has a lot of labels — "chicken curry pie," "steak and mushroom," "ground beef curry," but not much actual stuff inside, except for three pies.

"We've just about sold out," says Roscoe. "I only have those Cornish Pasties left."

It seems I've landed at the unofficial South African Embassy in San Diego. It is where all the ex-pats — not just from South Africa, but Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, all southern Africa, plus Australia, New Zealand, the UK — come to get a taste of home.

"Mostly, it's the pies they come for," says Roscoe.

Roscoe's dad appears. Perky. Says he actually makes trips to Phoenix, Arizona, L.A., and San Francisco to deliver "care" packages of pie supplies to South Africans and others living there.

But it's past four o'clock. Wanna eat before they close at five. I'd better go for whatever's in the hot cabinet.

Meanwhile, Perky hands me a couple of small bits of what looks

like black sausage meat. I take a bite. Mm. Is that cloves I'm tasting?

"This is called *biltong*. Like jerky. It is what the Dutch Vortrekkers took when they made their great trek north to escape British rule in like 1837," says Perky. "Coriander and cloves and salt and drying in the sun were how you preserved meat." He makes this *biltong* himself. My problem: he only sells it by the pound, so that'd be \$24. But cost doesn't seem to matter to his customers. "I made 300 pounds of sausages for Fourth of July," he says. "We sold out."

A cheaper alternative (\$20 for 2 pounds) is the *boerewors*, a curled sausage of beef and pork, or just beef ("for non-pork eaters"). Or a great sentimental favorite for his customers: sausage rolls (\$15 for 6). And it turns out that South Africa has the largest population of Indians outside India itself. So natch he does a bunch of curries. Prices come to \$8-10 per person.

Honestly, a lot here makes me think of English food. Stuff like cottage pie (\$8.50).

But the pride of place goes to something pretty different, called the *bobotie*.

It looks like a big shepherd's pie, but actually it's a mix of sweet and savory ground beef mixed with walnuts, raisins and apricots under an egg topping. It's baked and served with yellow rice. Costs \$25 for a three-person pie. "It's from the Dutch Afrikaans tradition," says Perky, "but it came from Malays brought in as cooks and house servants. Now it's our national dish."

Note to self: this is what you'll come back for. Meanwhile, I start in on my hot Cornish



Perky and his hero



Steak and kidney pie



Bunny Chow: Indian ingenuity



Folk art from Durban, made from sands of the Indian Ocean

pastie. Good. Lots of veggies like corn. And that pastry cover: so flaky, so light, so buttery.

Later, I heat up the frozen steak and kidney pie I got (\$7.95). And it truly is great. Plenty of kidney inside, but again, it's that arty, hand-made pastry top that sells it.

And when I ask for a drink, Perky points me to a chilled drinks cabinet. I clink around, come across this "Preston's Ginger Beer" made by Perky's South African buddy, Harry Preston, right here in San Diego. All-organic. Real ginger, and man, you can tell. As you get to the bottom it becomes cloudy, just like my grandma's homemade ginger beer when I was a kid.

Perky grew up in Durban. Back in the bad old days of Apartheid. Because his father was European and his Mom from Mauritius, he was classified as "Colored." No wonder he wanted out.

There's so much more I wanna come back and try, including "bunny chow," basically a hollowed-out loaf of bread filled with curry, one of the early fast-food experiments by the Indians (probably from the Bania commercial caste), of Durban.

Then there's *putu*, or *putu pap*, Zulu food, a kind of crumbly porridge of maize. Perky makes a dish of it with gravy and meat on the side.

But the biggest kick? At the end I buy a \$6 bag of caramel fudge that Perky makes. With condensed milk. And the thing is, it's not sticky, gloopy. It's crumbly. Falls off like chunks of glacier into your mouth.

"It's in the timing," says Perky. "Take it out of the oven too soon, and it's sticky, like most commercial fudge. Too long and it burns. You've got to find that sweet spot."

It's sweet alright. I leave knowing I'm going to have to come back. Even if it's just two chairs in a room in a business park in a bus desert.

The Place: Perky's South African Food, 8280 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite 117, 619-370-8085

Hours: 10:00am - 5:00pm Monday to Friday; 9am - 2pm, Saturday; Closed Sunday

Prices: Sausage rolls, \$15 for 6; samosas, \$20 for a dozen; cottage pie, \$8.50; bobotie (ground beef pie with nuts, fruits), \$25 for 3 people; pies, including chicken curry, pepper steak, Cornish pastie, steak and kidney, steak and mushroom, \$7.95 each; lamb curry (for 3 people), \$30; samosas, \$20 for a dozen; Lammingtons (marble cake soaked in chocolate, rolled in coconut), \$15 for 6; fudge, \$6 for small bag

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Fruits and vegetables and superfoods, oh my!

Fresh, 250 North City Drive, San Marcos. Can healthy food be franchised? That's the question I ask myself while waiting for my order at Fresh, a fast-casual eatery that recently opened within the North City development of San Marcos. It's the latest Fresh in a growing franchise of "healthy cafés" that has two dozen locations in North America and nowhere else in the world except (I was surprised to learn) Lebanon and United Arab Emirates.

The menu testifies to its professed healthiness with breakfasty "power bowls" built around marketable superfoods such as acai and pitaya (a.k.a. dragon fruit), which also find their way into super smoothies, blended with the likes of kale or wheatgrass. And Fresh backs up the idea that its food is the opposite of stale with a "fresh squeeze" juice menu, and suggests combining such things as avocado, blueberries, and hemp hearts.

There's a real demand for something like this, especially considering its shiny new location mere footsteps from the Cal State San Marcos campus. It's an affordable place to eat your fruits, vegetables, or smoked tofu, and it doesn't ask you to be 100 percent vegan, or even vegetarian. The menu offers antibiotic, cage-free chicken, turkey, and egg options for most salads, wraps, and quinoa bowls, in addition to a panini menu bolstered by albacore tuna, bacon, and cheese.

I went for a panini, appreciative that I could order a half sandwich for \$6.19 (versus a \$9.39 whole). This freed up room to try the seasonal special: a \$6.99 turmeric soup, loaded with kale, quinoa, cabbage, tomatoes, green onions, and lentils.

I can vouch for turmeric as an effective natural anti-inflammatory, but when the restaurant touts it as "detoxifying," I suspect it really just means generally good for liver health. It takes a fair amount of turmeric to really experience these benefits, more than you see in most curries or spice blends where it's used for flavor. I tasted plenty in this broth, but without a supporting cast of strong seasoning, I wouldn't choose the earthy spice as a great way to spruce up organic veggie stock. It tasted thin and uninspiring.

Seeing the word *organic* describe that broth called my attention to the fact *organic* doesn't appear often on the menu. Nor do other bankable health food terms such as *local farms* or *pesticide free*. It's possible Fresh sources this way and doesn't advertise the fact, but this is a chain that makes it a point to mention, "We grill a perfect panini every time — the proof is in the grill marks!" If you'd brag about grill marks, you wouldn't miss an opportunity to crow about local or organic sourcing. You'd put it in bold letters under the words *Fresh* and *Healthy*.

The plentitude of bland veggies packed into my soup at Fresh were definitely brightly colored and crispy, and pretty much remained all three things long after they had been submerged in broth.

Most restaurants manage to keep their ingredients fresh, so I don't want to pat this place on the back for serving crisp vegetables. But I know

FEAST!



It's important to let customers know a restaurant is healthy and wholesome.



A half panini and "turmeric soup bowl"



Salmon cooked on cedar planks, over an open wood flame, at the farmers market.

there are logistical limitations to what a fast casual franchise can do, and I applaud this one's effort to incorporate more vegetables than you'll find at any traditional fast food restaurant. But I admire it more in chains like Tender Greens and Mendocino Farms, where the regionally sourced produce is at least honest enough to wilt from time to time.

by Ian Anderson

A-frame over an open flame

Flamin' Salmon, Hillcrest, Oceanside, Poway. Though the cooking technique dates back countless centuries to natives of the Pacific Northwest,

here in latter day America, cedar plank salmon has largely become the provenance of upscale dining venues.

But don't tell that to Flamin' Salmon, a casual fired fish specialist serving Oceanside, Poway, and Hillcrest farmer's markets. In what may be the best use of a market stall in the county, Flamin' Salmon sets up a custom grill, where long strips of fileted salmon are staked to cedar planks that lean against one another to make an A-frame, allowing the fish to rest at an angle over the top of an open flame.

In the case of my Sunday visit to Hillcrest, the salmon was cooking over a flame of birch, though

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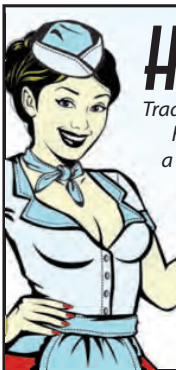
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Having snacked around the
market already, I just wanted a
taste, so I opted for a \$10 order
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pasta, tossed with garlic, oil, and
parmesan.

It's pretty simple stuff, offered
with a side of herbed sour cream
or honey mustard, but it wants

for nothing. The
fish pulls light fla-
vor from a paprika
and sea salt glaze,
and of course the
wood. But for the
most part you get
a delicate taste
of salmon, flak-
ing beautifully
from its deliber-
ate preparation,
with succulence
to spare.

The garlicky pasta paired
perfectly, though I suppose the
rice and/or leafy salad options
would make this among the
healthiest meals available at a
farmer's market. Either way,
it has to be counted among
the best.

by Ian Anderson

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BEER NEWS

BY IAN ANDERSON

The need for mead

If I tried to tell you everything going down at Miralani Makers' District, reading this article would take an hour. Let this suffice: in a pair of neighboring Miramar business parks, nine individual beer and booze companies have formed a *de facto* co-op of tasting rooms. There's sake, wine, vodka, and organic beer to try, so summon a car share and don't schedule anything important for the rest of the day.

And consider at least one stop in particular: 8665 Miralani Drive, Suite 100. That's where you'll find a restaurant, a cidery, and one of the country's best

young mead producers: **Lost Cause Meadery**.

Craft mead is still gathering momentum in San Diego, and given the heat wave, I wondered how popular a lineup of meads measuring around 12-percent alcohol by volume would fare during summer. But before settling in to order a six-mead taster flight, I already had my answer.

The Sunday afternoon crowd filled both sides of a squared off bar: Lost Cause mead pouring on one side, **Serpentine Cider** on the other. Larger groups of friends gathered around tables throughout the space, sampling both beverages. When a barstool opened up, I squeezed between two parties of mead enthusiasts, including one gentleman who'd brought his own decorative drinking horns.

The bartender encouraged me to sample Buck It All, a traditional mead aged in oak barrels, and to focus on the character of buckwheat blossom honey and the wood. I tried to focus, but I got caught up appreciating the balancing act between sweetness and lightness in this San Diego International Beer Competition gold medal winner.

I continued the \$12 flight with a new release: Uncharted Watermelons, flavored with watermelon and mint. The mint aroma struck first,

and lingered after each sip. The subtle melon left room for the orange in the orange blossom honey to distinguish itself from the buckwheat.

The perceived sweetness, and light carbonation, make it easy to overlook these meads'



Meads, from left to right: strawberry and black currant, blueberry and lemon, cherry and black pepper, buckwheat honey, toasted coconut and chocolate, watermelon and mint.

potency, so things started to move a little quicker as I got deeper into my flight, and didn't slow down as I pored over several fruited meads. The tart combo of a strawberry and black currant

mead reminded me of a dry punch. One of the meadery's most popular is Bolt Fan Blues, which bring together blueberries and lemon to contribute a meringue-like sweetness.

The flight took a U-turn when I got to Mounds Rushmore, a nitro mead flavored with cacao nibs, vanilla, and toasted coconut. The sensationally creamy mead lives up to its candy bar potential, all smooth, sweet, and dessert. But my favorite has to be the silver medal winner from this year's Mazer Cup (the world's biggest mead contest). Called Devilish Grin, the tart cherry mead stands out thanks to a zip of black pepper, just at the point the cherry cordial and cola might start to taste heavy. Fruit and spice make an entertaining duo. Even on a hot day.

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

Turf Supper Club: Friday-Sunday, Noon-4:30pm: \$1 off all drinks. \$2 off selection of steaks, burgers, and sandwiches.

HILLCREST

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

KEARNY MESA

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada: Daily, 4-6pm: \$5 all draft beers, bourbon slushies, premium wells. \$5 appetizers including porky grilled cheese, smoky chicken wings, BLT sliders,

fried cornmeal green tomatoes, loaded fries, fried mac-n-cheese.

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, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only. Sunday, All day: \$4 house wine, \$4.50 wells, drafts, \$8 house martinis. 30% off appetizers, \$2.50 bread and chimichurri. Bar only.

MIDWAY DISTRICT

Georgia's Greek Cuisine: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: \$3 bottled beer,

\$5 California wine. \$5 appetizers: dolmades, falafel, feta and olives, tzatziki.

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

Cannonball: Monday-Friday, 4-6pm: discounted drinks, sushi, and shares.

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

MISSION HILLS

The Patio on Goldfinch: Monday, All day: \$5 drafts, \$6 wine by the glass, house spirits, cocktails, \$4 off Agave spirits. Tuesday-Sunday, 3-6pm, 10pm-close: \$5 drafts, \$6 wine by the

glass, house spirits, cocktails, \$4 off Agave spirits.

NORMAL HEIGHTS

The Ould Sod: Monday-Friday, 2-7pm: \$3.50 Fireball shots and well drinks, \$5 draft beer.

NORTH PARK

Bar Pink: Daily, 4-8pm: \$3 wells, \$2 PBR, \$1 off drafts and calls.

Berkeley Pizza North Park: Daily, Noon to 8pm: Discounted craft beer.

OCEAN BEACH

Mother's Saloon: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off craft cocktails, \$2 drafts \$3 wells, half off appetizers.

Newport Pizza & Ale House: Daily, 3-6pm: \$1 off all pints, \$3 off all pitchers.

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

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

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

PACIFIC BEACH

Café Athena: Daily, 3-6pm: All bottled beer \$3.75 to \$4.25, wine by the glass \$5 to \$5.50. Small plates \$3.75 to \$9.50.

Dirty Birds: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm: Half price select pitchers and half price wings.

Latitude 32: Monday-Friday, 11am-6pm: \$3 glass of wine.

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.

SOUTH PARK

Eclipse Chocolate Bar & Bistro: Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 3-7pm: \$5 beers and wine by the glass. Tuesday, 3-close: \$5 beers and wine by the glass.

Hamilton's Tavern: Daily, 5-8pm: \$1 off local drafts.

Piacere Mio Ristorante Italiano: Monday-Thursday, 5-6pm: \$3 draft beers, \$5 wines, \$5 appetizers.

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

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

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blurt the inside track

The OB lane Although they admit to some “talking” over Instagram, the boys in Fashion Jackson say a full-fledged proxy war has not erupted over the use of their name.

“We claimed dibs,” jokes bassist Sterling Gietzen.

“The other Fashion Jackson is just a fashion blog by a girl named Amy Jackson,”

OB but we’ve never really felt truly accepted as an OB band,” admits Allen. “The OB music consumer is older and more conservative. They like hearing the same thing they’ve heard before. That’s why I think other OB bands like Slightly Stoopid [reggae-rock] and The Gringos [classic rock-ish] get more hometown acceptance. They



Fashion Jackson: from OB, but not an OB band.

explains guitarist/lead singer Eddy Allen.

But wasn’t she using it first? “That blog is just not as interesting as us,” says Allen. “We’re the real Fashion Jackson.”

The name came to them in OB’s Te Mana Café in 2016. “We wrote down names we thought were catchiest,” says Gietzen. “We were Electric Maria for two shows. For one show we were The Jones. We were sick of not having a name.”

Fashion Jackson, aged 20-23, also include guitarist/vocalist Jake Nuffer and drummer Shawn Gardner. “We’re all from Ocean Beach,” says Gietzen. “We all went to Point Loma High except Jake who went to Francis Parker.”

“I think of us a band from

stay in the OB lane.”

Not staying in any one lane is exactly what drives Fashion Jackson, creating their own gumbo that mixes in R&B, garage rock, and funk.

It’s worked. The fact that they grew a strong fan base led the Che Café cooperative to invite them to headline the first Che show in over a year when that all age UCSD venue reopened in April.

The band came up at the same time that the Snykes, Fake Tides and Bad Kids formed in the wake of the Fright’s successful surf-punk formula they unleashed four years ago.

“We appreciate what the Frights did,” says Allen. “We were kind of an antithesis to all that. We come from a very, very different place. We

are about blowing up genres. We appreciate all those bands, but if anything, we are a response to surf punk. We think every band should do its own thing. You don’t have to have a genre. People are starting to experiment. I think the scene is flourishing now.”

On Monday, July 23 Fashion Jackson releases a new single, “Cinnamon Burn.” Like their three EPs and two singles before, they were all home-studio produced by Allen, who also produced an album for local Nu-rockers Nikola.

“I learned how to do it by trial and error,” Allen says about he learned to be a producer. “You make mistakes if you over think it and try to come up with some intricate form of cultivation. On the other hand you can’t just hit ‘record’ and go.”

Fashion Jackson appears Friday, July 20 at Soma with JARA, Kid Cadaver, PVKE (pronounced puke), Disco Shrine, Nikola, and Wizærd. They also appear Monday July 23 at The Casbah.

— Ken Leighton

Would Mozart do karaoke? There are currently around two

dozen recurring open mic events around town, including at Navajo Live, Java Joe’s, Midnight Jack’s Echo Room, Capri Blue, Spacebar Café, Pal Joey’s, the Merrow, 1st Street Bar, Mr. Peabody’s, and Lesta’s. But not everyone is welcomed to the stage with open arms. Especially not songwriters.

“Today, I was told that my songs are driving the customers out,” says Puttin’ on the Fritz frontman Fritz Jensen, who has been playing solo at open mics for around a year. “The bartender told me people ask when I’m playing and avoid the bar until my show is done. Which is kind of odd, because no one knows when I’m going to play until I put my name on the list. But she swore to me I have dimin-



“I was told that my songs are driving the customers out,” says Puttin’ on the Fritz frontman Fritz Jensen.

ished the profits of the bar by singing my songs.” Jensen has over a quarter century of local stage experience, having played with Collage Menage everywhere from San Diego Comic-Con to Jack Murphy Stadium.

“I’m not claiming to be the greatest artist, but I come with full heart. My songs are not offensive... I come in with my songs rehearsed. I have other original compositions, but you can’t teach that [to other open mic musicians] on the spot.

Which was a second complaint, that I have a limited list of songs, since I’m an original artist and refuse to play others’ music... would Picasso color in a coloring book? Would Mozart do karaoke?”

Happy Ron Hill has played original music at over a thousand open mics, but still recalls his terrifying first. “A group of people that we didn’t know were getting bent out of shape, because the show was starting late. One of them pointed straight at me and said, ‘We paid good money to be here, you get up there and sing something!’”

Some performers never

do earn their audience’s support, like the guy Hill recalls from Cosmos coffee shop. “His name was Beats Of Hearts, without the vowels. He showed up a couple of times in a sombrero, a ski mask that he never took off, a beating red electronic heart on his chest, an American flag draped over his butt, and purple gloves. One time, he sang a song, in front of kids, where the chorus went ‘Fucking pain, fucking me, fucking pain, it’s really unfair fucking pain,’ and on the



The new group Endcastle leans on the experimental rock side, but they try to keep songs under 10 minutes.

second ‘fuck.’ someone in the audience screamed in pain.”

Longtime event host Isaac Cheong offers a view from his side of the open mic. “My colleagues and I toil weekly in near anonymity as the guy or gal who makes sure

the people can hear you, keeps track of who’s playing when, and gets to hear the litany of complaints about how they need to play that night, even though they showed up two hours late for the signup because their girlfriend’s cousin is in town, or how I should cut the EQ a few dB at 4KHz because it’s too sibilant.”

“Or how someone needs to take 20 minutes to set up their laser light show, for a ten minute set.”

—Jay Allen Sanford

Overthinking too much Dennis Sheridan

attended many shows in the Louisville DIY punk circuit while he was in high school, but never picked up an instrument until he was in college. When he finally did, it was an odd choice for a punk rocker.

“I had a friend at the time who played in the marching band. She left a trumpet at our house. I never knew how to play an instrument before then and the trumpet that she left there was all beat up and no one cared about it — so it just stayed there. I made some sounds out of it, and one day, on a whim, I was probably 19 years old at the time, I decided I was going to learn to play the trumpet. I went into a local music shop and I accidentally met

the chair of the Louisville orchestra who taught there. He gave me lessons,” Sheridan said.

What followed was a somewhat meteoric rise up the musical ladder. He was

(continued on page 52)

quickly offered a stipend to join Bellarmine University's pep band. Not long after that, the great Louisville horn player shortage paid dividends once again when Sheridan was enlisted by locals Skam Impaired. He soon grew tired of the instrument, primarily due to the fact that "it's very obtrusive to practice" and started down the long road of guitar playing. With Sheridan now in the songwriting driver's seat, two more projects followed — the experimental Blue Goat War, and the shoegaze-leaning Follow That Train.

The latter had solid regional success and ended up signing to (now Vista-based) Darla Records in the mid-2000s. They opened shows for My Morning Jacket in 2007 (Sheridan is a high school chum of MMJ's Jim James) but flamed-out quickly as Sheridan was juggling raising kids and touring for the first time. A handful of years passed and Sheridan settled into a comfortable career as a freelance software developer. An old itch to move to California still needed to be scratched though.

"I think it started because one day when I was 20 or 21, I got done snowboarding and rented *The Endless Summer*

II. I think it had just come out. I watched it and I just fell in love with the whole idea of just sort of living your life based on catching these waves and living and working around that," Sheridan Said.

He now lives in Oceanside, surfs weekly, and has a new band, Endcastle, playing gigs around town. The new group leans on the experimental rock side. Sheridan credits his bandmates with helping him to prevent all his songs from "being 10 minutes long."

"It's that balance of not over-thinking it too much," Sheridan explained.

—Dryw Keltz

Sharon Katz

travels around the world with her band, The Peace Train, putting on musical events to promote peace and cross-cultural understanding. The South Africans "Transcending Barriers" program, scheduled for July 21st, starts at the WorldBeat Cultural Center, then moves south of the border for a concert at Centro Cultural Tijuana. She was kind enough to take some questions over email.

What were your impressions of San Diego before this event?

"We visited San Diego

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JAY ALLEN SANFORD



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in May 2017 to show the documentary *When Voices Meet* about the impact of The Peace Train in South Africa. It's a beautiful city. Chicano

"My favorite place in San Diego is the WorldBeat Center, which is a center for African music. I feel at home there and have become good

We were about to stage The Peace Train in Northern California. While we were in San Diego we realized how important it would be to work across the border. The idea was initiated by The Peace Train team, and we then applied for funding to the San Diego Peace Makers Fund for support."

Who are your partners in this event, both sides of the border?

"Our partner in San Diego is the WorldBeat Center. We went to see them and we immediately clicked this past May 2018. They have offered us space for rehearsals and they are staging our concert to honor Nelson Mandela on July 18th.

"Our partner in Mexico is Promotora de las Bellas Artes. They were introduced to me by the Synergy Foundation in San Diego. Promotora is a non-profit

that trains vulnerable youth to sing together in choirs. The children in their project will be performing a concert with us in Tijuana on July 21st. Our other partners in Tijuana are Centro Tijuana Cultural, which is the beautiful state of the art performing arts center... The idea was to get people to understand one another learn to enjoy one another's different cultures so we could live peacefully together in a new real democracy. We realize that our role in bringing communities together is important in other countries around the world where there are divisions."

—Andrew Hamlin



PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROLYN MILLER

The Peace Train rolling at World Cafe.

Park has amazing murals that tell the story of the oppression of Latino people and their struggles."

What are your favorite places you've in San Diego?

friends with the director." *How did you go about organizing this "Transcending Barriers" event?*

"The project grew out of our 2017 visit to San Diego.

Find Blurt online at SDReader.com/blurt

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

FRI. JUL 20 GALACTIC EMPIRE Super MadNES, Sight Unscene, Mandala	BRICK X BRICK	SAT. AUG 4 SHOT OUT HOODS Powerflo, Authentic Sellout, Jinx
SAT. JUL 21 STAN BUSH Random Gibberish, Wither, The Midas Touch		SUN. AUG 5 ALTERBEAST Reaping Asmodeia, Silence The Prince, Reaction Phase
FRI. JUL 27 BRUME Mustard Gas and Roses, Beira, Nebula Drag	MON. JUL 30 BUTCHER BABIES A Hero Within + Special Guests	FRI. AUG 10 CHILDREN OF THE KORN BYOB
SAT. JUL 28 OFU Motorbäbe, Madman	TUE. JUL 31 THE FACELESS Lorna Shore, Dyscarnate, The Convalescence	SAT. AUG 11 TIME MACHINE R.i.p., Side Hustle
SUN. JUL 29 TAIPAN Hand of Fire, Contortion, Death Therapy, Convent	FRI. AUG 3 PATHOLOGY Within Destruction, Parasitic Ejaculation, Orphic Eye	WED. AUG 15 POWERGLOVE Cage, Monarch, Sergulath, Nightshadow
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JUST ANNOUNCED

For a while, it didn't look like San Francisco punk rockers Swingin' Utters would survive into the new century. Founded in the late 80s (though not named **Swingin' Utters** until 1994), their glory days included well-regarded



SWINGIN' UTTERS AT CASBAH 8-25

chainsaw classics such as *The Streets of San Francisco* (which earned them a slot on the first Vans Warped Tour) and *A Juvenile Product of the Working Class*. High-profile tours with the Damned, Rancid, and Dropkick Murphys seemed to place them at the brink of a mass market breakthrough, but then, just a couple of years into the 2000s, the band imploded. Founding singer Johnny "Peebucks" Bonnel and longtime guitarist-singer (since 1989) Darius Koski still seemed to play well together in the band Filthy Thievin' Bastards, but the duo didn't seem interested in milking any more Utters until a 2010 tribute album revived both interest in the band and the band's own interest. The next few years of reunion releases saw more original members splitting off, leaving Bonnel and Koski as the band's only pre-21st century players taking the Casbah stage on August 25. They're touring in support of their fourth compilation album, last year's *Drowning in the Sea, Rising with the Sun*, sporting 33 tracks, including several previously unreleased.

It's been a long time since anybody on the charts aspired to be the next John Denver, but Colorado troubadour **Gregory Alan Isakov** seems to think he's the guy. He began self-releasing soft wil-



GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV AT MUSIC BOX 10-14

derness rock in 2003, taking his acoustic guitar on the road with RIYL compadres such as Nathaniel Rateliff, Blind Pilot, and Iron & Wine, soon amassing a loyal among the NPR and coffeehouse crowds. 2013's *The Weatherman*

remains his high water mark to date (it debuted at number one on the iTunes Singer-Songwriter chart), at least as far as his solo act goes, but he picked up a lot of new listeners in 2016 with a symphonic album featuring the Colorado Symphony backing him on a greatest hits performance. *Evening Machines*, his fourth studio album

and first in five years, is due October 5, with a support tour bringing him to the Music Box October 14. The first single, "Chemicals," has

been released, and a video is streaming online for "Liars." Listening to the former and watching the latter, it's evident that his orchestral experience has inspired him to beef up his high Rocky Mountain sound with less mountain and more high, piling on added layers and textures, including somewhat Pink Floydian undercurrent clutter, all recorded at a converted barn studio on Isakov's Colorado farm.

Brick by Brick is mostly known for hard rock and heavy metal, so it's always interesting when they bring in something as far off their back-beaten path as electronic duo **Dance With the Dead**, who'll stage a night-before-Halloween show on October 30 certain to be filled with dancing dead. Orange County oddballs

Justin Pointer and Tony Kim have a new album due in mid-August, *Loved to Death*, which sounds for all the world like the soundtrack to a movie never made by Dario Argento, John Carpenter, and Brian Eno, at least judging from the half-dozen preview tracks so far released. To put on the headphones and press play is to induce a total 8-track flashback of analog synths, robot talking guitars, and oh so much corduroy and cowbell on the dance floor. Which is what makes synthwave acts such a novelty in a concert setting like Brick by Brick, where you'll find the unusual pairing of open shirt partiers dying to dance staring face-to-beard with leather-clad metal heads who'll bang their heads into a concussion, but wouldn't shake their booties if you threatened to jam a gun between their butt cheeks.

She wasn't always all judge-y. Back in 1990, when I was still writing cartoon bios for Rock 'N' Roll Com-



PAULA ABDUL AT JACOBS MUSIC CENTER 11-13

we went through with our plans. And yet, out of around 150 music comics that we published, the Abdul issue remains one of the fastest selling titles we ever released, eventually becoming one of the company's biggest books. Remember, long before *American Idol*, *X-Factor*, and *So You Think You Can Dance*, Abdul had huge hits with tracks like "Straight Up" and "Opposites Attract," the latter becoming immortal if only for the 'toontown video co-starring an animated MC Scat Cat. Both videos were highlighted by the same sort of diva choreography since popularized by next-gen models like Beyonce and Nicki Minaj, so the time may indeed be ripe for the comeback tour that brings her first solo outing in a quarter century to Jacobs Music Center on November 13. Her half-dozen or so hits also included "Rush Rush," "Cold Hearted," "The Promise of a New Day," and "Forever Your Girl," but it's the deep cuts from her 1988-1995 back catalogue that hold the most promise. Obscure gems she wasn't able to pull from the vault for last year's pop package tour with New Kids on the Block and Boyz II Men would include "Knocked Out" (co-written and produced by Babyface and L.A. Reid) and left field but well-conceived covers she's recorded over her career, such as Prince's "U" and John Hiatt's "Alright Tonight." Abdul also appears at Pechanga on November 9.

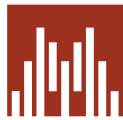
— Jay Allen Sanford

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DANCE WITH THE DEAD AT BRICK BY BRICK 10-30

ics, we announced that issue 41 would chronicle the life and career of 28-year-old pop star **Paula Abdul**, and you wouldn't believe how utterly that seemed to freak people out. Coming between issues on NWA and Metallica, readers and reviewers complained that Abdul was too lightweight to take seriously, and some even threatened to boycott the line if



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THE SCHIZOPHONICS

JUL 21



SUNDAY

RECKLESS KELLY
NANCARROW

JUL 22



TUESDAY

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(SEATED SHOW)

JUL 24



WEDNESDAY

MT. JOY
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JUL 25



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SAN DIEGO CITY SOUL CLUB DJs

JUL 26



FRIDAY

THE PETTYBREAKERS
FOOZ FIGHTERS

JUL 27



SATURDAY

COMO LA FLOR BAND
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JUL 28



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SHAWN MULLINS SOUL'S
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MAX GOMEZ
(SEATED SHOW)

JUL 29

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Protoje 9/8 • Azealia Banks 9/12 • Desert Dwellers 9/14 • Gregory Alan Isakov 10/14
SuicideGirls - Blackheart Burlesque 11/16 • La Santa Cecilia 12/13

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7/30 King Princess	8/23 Katastro	9/27 Jedi Mind Tricks
8/1 The Plastic Revolution	8/24 Cash'd Out	10/2 Ghostland Observatory
8/2 Mya	8/29 Tyrone Wells (seated show)	10/3 Chelsea Wolfe & Russian Circles
8/3 Little Jesus	8/31 Collie Buddz	10/4 Mexrissey Mexico goes Morrissey
8/4 Lies N Roses (Guns N Roses tribute)	9/1 The B-Side Players & The Routine Funk Soul Social	10/21 Alex Clare
8/9 Quinto Sol	9/2 The Steely Damned 2 (seated show)	10/24 Lisa Stansfield <i>The Deeper Tour</i>
8/11 CK4 Benefit with Electric Mud, Rhythm and The Method, Broken Stems, Funk Shui Planet	9/6 CloZee	10/26 Beats Antique
8/15 SALES	9/9 Yacht Rock Revue	10/27 The California Honeydrops
8/16 Flora Cash <i>91X Inspired by Music Series</i>	9/11 Bad Gyal	11/4 The Menzingers
	9/22 Macy Gray	11/10 The Crystal Method
		11/12 Dermot Kennedy

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TOAD THE WET SPROCKET

MEGAN SLANKARD
WEDS 7/18 & THUR 7/19 SOLD OUT



DENNIS QAID & THE SHARKS

THE BLITZ BROTHERS
FRIDAY 7/20



THE TESKEY BROTHERS

SHANE HALL
TUESDAY 7/24



DAVE ALVIN & JIMMIE DALE GILMORE
(BACKED BY THE GUILTY ONES)

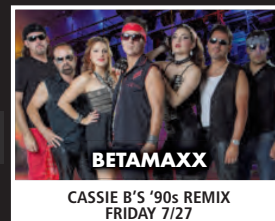
JON LANGFORD'S FOUR LOST SOULS
WEDNESDAY 7/25



SEATED

HENRY KAPONO
WELCOME TO MY PARADISE! TOUR

DUKES ON SUNDAY BAND
SPECIAL GUEST JOHNNY VALENTINE
MANGO MELODY
THURSDAY 7/26



BETAMAXX

CASSIE B'S '90s REMIX
FRIDAY 7/27



WAYWARD SONS

RADIO THIEVES
SATURDAY 7/28



BANDING TOGETHER PRESENTS
COREY LEAL DUO
JUNGLE POPPINS
(ALBUM RELEASE)

RYAN HILLER SOLO
TUESDAY 7/31



AN EVENING WITH EASY WIND
JERRY GARCIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

PERFORMING CORNELL '77
WEDNESDAY 8/1



FEMI KUTI & THE POSITIVE FORCE

THURSDAY 8/2



DEAD MAN'S PARTY
(OINGO BOINGO TRIBUTE)

THE BLACK 52's (B-52's TRIBUTE)
DJ RICHIE
SATURDAY 8/4



THE CHAIRMAN & THE BOARD
ULTIMATE RAT PACK TRIBUTE
DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS

SUNDAY 8/5



SHOOTER JENNINGS

HELLBOUND GLORY
WEDNESDAY 8/8



ACE FREHLEY

THURSDAY 8/9



PATO BANTON

HAZMATT
FRIDAY 8/10



Tape Heads, Secret Lynx, Sweet Tooth 8/15
Wish & The Well and The Jankeys 8/22 • Jon Cleary - 9/18
Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets 10/4 • Keller Williams & the Keels 10/6
Mason Jennings (Seated Show) 10/16 • KT Tunstall 10/21
Lucero @ Observatory North Park 11/7 • Dick Dale 12/20

Upcoming Shows:

7/20 Atomic Groove Happy Hour	9/6 The Original Wailers performing the album Legend	10/28 Jesse Colin Young (seated show)
7/22 X - Sold Out!	9/7 JJ Grey & Mofro	10/29 Eric Hutchinson & The Believers
8/11 Super Diamond	9/8 Lee Fields & The Expressions	10/29 Dawes @ Observatory
8/12 Shawn Colvin (seated show)	9/9 & 10 Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band	11/2 The Motet
8/14 Mimi Zulu	9/11 Murder By Death	11/4 Willie K
8/16 Rodrigo y Gabriela	9/12 Todd Snider (seated show)	11/9 Spafford
8/17 Tribal Theory	9/13 ROSTAM	11/9 Greensky Bluegrass @ Observatory
8/18 Mustache Harbor & GRACEBAND	9/14 Rayland Baxter	11/10 The Record Company @ House of Blues
8/19 Songs of Merle Haggard with Brawley & Friends	9/15 Tainted Love	11/12 Blitzen Trapper <i>Furr</i>
8/23 The Alarm	9/16 Whitney Shay (album release)	10/29 The Dean Ween Group
8/24 Karl Denson's Tiny Universe	9/16 Common Sense	9/22 J Roddy Khan & The Business
8/25 Pivit, Buckfast Superbee and Kut U Up	9/16 Liz Phair	9/27 Loudon Wainwright III (seated show)
8/25 Punch Brothers @ Observatory	9/17 Marc Broussard	9/29 Pigeons Playing Ping Pong
8/26 Israel Vibration & Roots Radics	9/17 Pigeons Playing Ping Pong	10/10 Shannon and the Clams
8/28 & 29 Rodrigo y Gabriela - Sold Out!	9/17 Too Many Zooz	10/14 King Khan & The Shrines
8/30 The Expendables	9/17 The Spazmatics	10/21 Dead Man's Party (Oingo Boingo tribute)
8/31 Black Uhuru	9/17 Vernon Reid's Band of Gypsies Revisited @ Casbah	10/26 Justin Hayward (seated show) - Sold Out!
9/1 Midge Ure & Paul Young	10/21 Tab Benoit	10/27 Jesse Colin Young (seated show)
9/2 One Drop	10/21 Tommy Castro & The Painkillers	11/19/19 Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday
9/4 The Marcus King Band	2/23/19 Steve Poltz 10th Annual 50th Birthday	3/21/19 Ladysmith Black Mambazo (seated show)
9/5 Justin Hayward (seated show) - Sold Out!		

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THIS WEEK'S SHOWS

Arts District Liberty Station, North Promenade:

Sunday, 5pm — Earl Thomas and Rebecca Jade.

Balboa Theatre:

Saturday, 7pm — Crazy Ex-Girlfriend Live.

Bar Pink:

Friday, 8pm — Club Hemlock.

Beach House Grill:

Sunday, 1pm — Coral Bells.

Beaumont's:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Mike Myrdal.

Friday, 9pm — PK.

Saturday, 9pm — Slower.

Belching Beaver Brewery:

Tuesday, 6:30pm — Karaoke Tuesdays. Free.

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, 8pm — Toad the Wet Sprocket. \$45-\$79.

Friday, 8pm — Dennis Quaid & the Sharks. \$28-\$49.

Sunday, 8pm — X. \$35-\$62.

Tuesday, 8pm — Teskey Brothers and Shane Hall. \$12-\$21.

Wednesday, 8pm — Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore. \$25-\$44.

Bird Rock Coffee Roasters:

Sunday, 10am — Clinton Davis. Free.

Brick by Brick:

Friday, 8pm — Galactic Empire and MadNES. \$20.

Saturday, 8pm — Comics Online Afterparty: Stan Bush. \$15-\$20.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:

Friday, 7pm — Rosa's Cantina.

Friday, 2pm — Adrienne Nims & Spirit Wind. Free.

Carnitas' Snack Shack — Embarcadero:

Sunday, 12pm — Robin Henkel & Whitney Shay.

Carvers Steak & Chops:

Saturday, 7:30pm — The Lemon Squeezers.

Casbah:

Friday, 8pm — Stephen Malkmus & the Jicks. \$25.

Saturday, 8pm — San Diego Freak Out: Wild Wild Wets, more. \$8-\$10.

Sunday, 8pm — Slares and Bomb Squad. \$6.

Monday, 8pm — Fashion Jackson and MDRN HSTRY. \$6.

Tuesday, 8pm — Now, Now. \$15.

Wednesday, 8pm — Jenny & the Mexicats and Marujah. \$15-\$17.

Cheers Bar & Grill:

Saturday, 9pm — FX5. Free.

Crown Dance Studio:

Saturday, 8pm — Hot Rhythm Lounge. \$5-\$15.

Cygnnet Theatre:

Monday, 7pm — Musical

Monday: Fabulous Flops. \$30-\$60.

De Oro Mine Co:

Thursday, 8pm — Eldren. Free.

! OF NOTE

BY DAVE GOOD

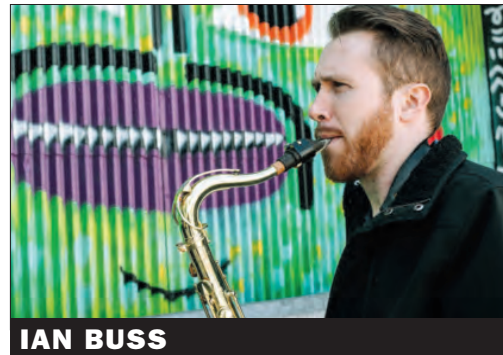
"There are more people playing jazz music at a higher level than ever before in the history of jazz." That's Ian Buss's answer when I ask him about choosing a career playing straight-ahead jazz music for an audience that, according to industry sales figures, is disappearing. "But yes, I'd say more people are playing jazz than making a living at it." Anymore, the gig as he describes it is something like fighting the good fight just to keep the music alive.

Buss is 26. He plays saxophone and he composes. "I moved here last February from New York. I originally grew up in San Diego." Buss left for New York to study at the New School. "After I graduated, I stayed and played there for years." Buss has a big tone, as if

his tenor sax is powered by something other than breath. "I love warm, dark saxophone sounds." The intimate and almost conversational feel of his style comes from a mix of skills and substance gained early in the game.

"You have to consider how what you play sounds to people who aren't jazz musicians. It comes down to the story, what the song is about." But jazz is not his generation's music. What convinced him to go that route? Cannonball Adderley, he explains. "I'd put on Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* while I was doing homework for background music, and Cannonball's sax solos stuck out. He just really made the horn sing."

For Dizzy's, Buss handpicked four locals to back him: pianist Danny Green, Matt DiBiase on vibes, bassist Mackenzie Leighton, and percussionist Julien Cantelm. Buss says the show is mapped around favorite songs borrowed from the American Songbook with additional



IAN BUSS

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT SANCHEZ

material from composer Leonard Bernstein and the Beatles. "I'll be playing some of my original music as well," he says. His formula? "It's about writing music that speaks to people in a certain way."

IAN BUSS: Saturday, July 21, Dizzy's, 858-270-7467, 8 p.m., \$20.

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

Del Mar Thoroughbred Club:

Friday, 4pm — The Psychedelic Furs.

Saturday, 4pm — Iration.

Dirk's Niteclub:

Friday, 8pm — Cover

Conspiracy.

Saturday, 8pm — DJs Jersan & K-Reed.

Ebullition Brew Works:

Saturday, 5pm — The

Originators.

Encinitas Community and Senior Center:

Saturday, 2:30pm — N. Coast Symphony Orchestra: Give My Regards to Broadway. \$8-\$10.

Forum Shopping Center:

Saturday, 1pm — Back to the Garden. Free.

Go Lounge:

Saturday, 9pm — 8 East Band.

Free.

Goodbar:

Saturday, 8pm — The Kaeli Earle Trio. Free.

Hacienda Casa Blanca:

Saturday, 6pm — David Maldonado. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:

Friday, 5:30pm — Richard

Thompson Trio. Free.

Headquarters:

Friday, 6pm — Salsa Under the Stars. Free.

House of Blues:

Thursday, 7:30pm — Testament and Carnifex. \$35-\$85.

Saturday, 7pm — Covet and Vasudeva. \$12.

Saturday, 7pm — Easton Corbin. \$11-\$13.

Saturday, 12pm — The

Aquabats. \$18-\$80.

Sunday, 11am — Gospel Brunch.

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**ROSA'S CANTINA
EVERFORWARD
LUCYANNA • CALAMITY**

THURSDAY • JULY 19
BRIAN POSEHN

SATURDAY • JULY 21
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- WILD WILD WETS
WELL WELL WELL
CREEPSEED • ETHICS
DJ ANDREW
MCGRANAHAN**

SUNDAY • JULY 22
**SLARES • BOMB SQUAD
CHUG BOAT**

MONDAY • JULY 23
**FASHION JACKSON
MDRN HSTRY
SECRET LYNX**

TUESDAY • JULY 24
NOW NOW • WENS

WEDNESDAY • JULY 25
**JENNY AND THE
MEXICATS • MARUJAH**

THURSDAY • JULY 26
**STEPHANIE
BROWN AND THE
SURREALISTICS
THE STRAWBERRY
MOONS
DREAM PHASES
MISS NEW BUDDHA**

FRIDAY • JULY 27
**THE WEIRDOS
EGRETS ON ERGOT
EXECUTIVES**

SUNDAY • JULY 29
**FAUST • FEATHERSTONE
DUUNS**

MONDAY • JULY 30
**DJ ARTISTIC'S HIP HOP
BATTLE BOT**

TUESDAY • JULY 31
LOUDSPEAKER 30 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
**LOW VOLTS
NE1 • ROB CROW
PALL JENKINS
CHRIS COTE
PONY DEATH RIDE
PANTS KARAOKE**

WEDNESDAY • AUG 1
RIVER WHYLESS

THURSDAY • AUG 2
**SUPERSUCKERS
HENCHMEN**

FRIDAY • AUG 3
**REBECCA JADE AND
THE COLD FACT
EUPHORIA BRASS BAND
STEPHEN EL REY**

SATURDAY • AUG 4
VACATIONER

SUNDAY • AUG 5
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**ZAC CLARK
BOB OXBLOOD**

THURSDAY • AUG 9
**FOREST GROVE
GLOOMSDAY • HOURS
LO AND BE TOLD**

FRIDAY • AUG 10
BEN NICHOLS

SATURDAY • AUG 11
LEMURIA

WEDNESDAY • AUG 15
BORIS

THURSDAY • AUG 16
AMERICAN AQUARIUM

FRIDAY • AUG 17
**JONNY WAGON AND
THE TENNESSEE SONS
JESSE LAMONACA AND
THE DIME NOVELS
YPSITUCKY**

SATURDAY • AUG 18
**ROONEY
MATING RITUAL**

SUNDAY • AUG 19
MONDAY • AUG 20
TIMBER TIMBRE

WEDNESDAY • AUG 22
MYSTIC BRAVES

THURSDAY • AUG 23
FLOR DE TOLOACHE

SATURDAY • AUG 25
SWINGIN' UTTERS

SUNDAY • AUG 26
JARED & THE MILL

TUESDAY • AUG 28
EMO NITE SAN DIEGO

THURSDAY • AUG 30
**MRS. HENRY
SACRI MONTI
SCARY PIERRE**

SUNDAY • SEP 2
BOOTY BASSMENT

WEDNESDAY • SEP 5
SAMANTHA FISH

THURSDAY • SEP 6
PINBACK

FRIDAY • SEP 7
**BIG SANDY AND HIS
FLYRITE BOYS**

SATURDAY • SEP 8
JADE BIRD

SUNDAY • SEP 9
**KATE BUSH DANCE
PARTY**

WEDNESDAY • SEP 12
**LOST DOG STREET
BAND**

SUNDAY • SEP 16
FOXING

MONDAY • SEP 17
**GRINGO STAR
THE LUCY RING**

THURSDAY • SEP 20
YUNGBLUD

FRIDAY • SEP 21
ISLAND

SATURDAY • SEP 22
**SCHIZOPHONICS SOUL
REVUE
THE MAGNIFICENT**

SUNDAY • SEP 23
ELEANOR FRIEDBERGER

MONDAY • SEP 24
YUNO

TUESDAY • SEP 25
LINCOLN DURHAM

WEDNESDAY • SEP 26
THE BOXER REBELLION

THURSDAY • SEP 27
THE DIVINE HERSEMEN

SUNDAY • SEP 30
NATALIE PRASS

TUESDAY • OCT 2
**DALE WATSON
WAYNE THE TRAIN
HANCOCK**

WEDNESDAY • OCT 3
THE CORONAS

FRIDAY • OCT 5
ROKY ERICKSON

SATURDAY • OCT 6
SHONEN KNIFE

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NAKED GIANTS



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Sunday, 7pm — Graham Gillot Band. **Free.**
Monday & Wednesday, 7pm — Chad & Rosie. **Free.**

Humphreys by the Bay:
Friday, 7:30pm — Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.
Monday, 7:30pm — George Thorogood & the Destroyers.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Roger Hodgson.

Irenic:
Saturday, 6:30pm — Surf Curse and LunchLady. \$13-\$15.

Kraken:
Saturday, 3pm — Flipside Burners. **Free.**

La Jolla Cove Hotel & Suites:
Thursday, 5pm — Casey Turner.
Friday, 5pm — Ben Powell.
Wednesday, 5pm — Justin Froese.

La Mesa Wine Works:
Saturday, 6:30pm — The Jamacha Project. **Free.**

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, 6pm — Keni Yarbro.
Friday, 6pm — Rick Ross.
Saturday, 6pm — Los Reyes.
Monday, 6pm — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, 6pm — Bobby Wade.
Wednesday, 6pm — Danny Green.

Liberty Public Market:
Saturday, 1pm — The Sea Monks. **Free.**

Linksoul Lab:
Saturday, 6pm — Papercuts Zine Show. **Free.**

M-Theory Music:
Tuesday, 6pm — The Rock 'n' Roll Hi-Fives.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Thursday, 8pm — Branden & James. \$25-\$35.

Mattress Firm Amphitheatre:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Paramore and Foster the People. \$29-\$89.
Friday, 7pm — Brad Paisley.
Saturday, 7:30pm — Thirty



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Thu 7/26 Johnny Deadly Trio
Fri 7/27 Big Time Operator
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IMMORTAL BEAUTY

BY GARRETT HARRIS

Could long-form Internet content help save classical music?

Could it be that the tide is beginning to swing back to classical music? With the demise of network television and radio, a new space is beginning to open up which could shift musical taste back to "long form."

A recent development in the world of YouTube and podcasting is the rise of the Intellectual Dark Web. I don't want to get into who and what that is, but rather the how and the why.

From what I can observe, "the why" of the Intellectual Dark Web is that traditional media and academic structures are failing. Traditional media has been dissolved by the internet. It's over.

Entities such as NBC, CNN, or Fox still exist, but so do Roman aqueducts. They no longer function and have no relevance in the current context. After 1200 years, traditional academic structures are failing. This can be attributed to a combination

of elements but one of them is the internet.

With the demise of network media and academia at the hands of the internet, what are we to do about informed discourse? We turn to the internet. How the Intellectual Dark Web operates is long-form discussion. Their discourses run between one and three hours without any commercial interruption. This is where I think classical music can benefit.

As millions of people watch three-hour conversations about epistemology or Jungian archetypes, the chances of them sitting through a 35-minute Beethoven symphony must be increasing. Right?

That's pure conjecture on my part. However, a rising interest in intellectualism must certainly go hand in hand with a rise in the interest of intellectual music. Long-form Internet personalities such as Jordan Peterson

often make eloquent arguments for the importance of art and beauty from a point of view which surpasses the tired "high culture" approach.

The high culture argument usually goes something like this: the music of Beethoven and Mozart is the best of Western Culture so we should respect it and admire it. There is often a caveat regarding admiration for their genius and ability.

Never does the high culture approach essay what happens when we interact with Beethoven and Mozart. The existential value of art is never explored. We are limited to admiring "the best" — generally speaking.

A thinker such as Peterson is taking a mass audience beyond the elements of high culture and identifying the existential value of art to both the individual and society. According to Peterson,



St. George and the Dragon.

the artist ventures into the unknown and brings order out of chaos which gives us a glimpse of our transcendent nature.

This idea of bringing order out of chaos is lodged deeply into our species. Every hero movie is about a hero facing an unknown menace which is creating chaos. The hero defeats the enemy and restores order or balance.

Why does Gotham need Batman? Crime is creating chaos in the city and the

authorities can't handle it, so a hero goes into the night and confronts the chaos on our behalf. This is the St. George and the Dragon Tale told over and over again.

This could be the key factor which explains why we fail to respond to contemporary art and music in the same way we do to the great masters of the past. Contemporary art appears to express chaos and skip the order part.

We don't like that. It is a victim narrative that removes the heroic element.

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Seconds to Mars. \$24-\$54.
Sunday, 8pm — Jeff Beck and Paul Rodgers. \$25-\$350.
Tuesday, 7:30pm — Logic and NF. \$25-\$84.
Wednesday, 7:30pm — Five Finger Death Punch and Breaking Benjamin. \$25-\$95.

Mission Hills Library:
Saturday, 3pm — Philip Lipton. **Free.**

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, 9pm — Still Around. **Free.**
Saturday, 9pm — Southern Exposure. **Free.**

Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church:
Saturday, 7pm — Odeum Guitar Duo. \$5-\$10.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Steelehorse Country.
Friday, 8:30pm — Mirage.
Saturday, 4pm — Adrienne Nims.
Saturday, 8:30pm — Tower 7.

Music Box:
Thursday, 8:30pm — Omega Squad and Fleetwood Smack. \$10-\$15.
Saturday, 9:30pm — Juliette & the Licks and the Schizophonics. \$25.
Sunday, 7pm — Reckless Kelly. \$20-\$22.
Tuesday, 6:30pm — Judith Owen

& Leland Sklar.
Wednesday, 7pm — Mt. Joy. \$15.

Navajo Live:
Thursday, 10pm — Roger!
Friday, 9pm — The New Normal.
Saturday, 9pm — The Farmers.
Sunday, 8pm — Virtual Image.
Wednesday, 8pm — Barbwire.

Nick & G's:
Friday, 7pm — Tim Yancey.

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint:
Friday, 6pm — Rozz & the Renegades.
Saturday, 7pm — Journeymen.

Observatory North Park:
Thursday, 7:30pm — Rhye & Lawrence Rothman.
Saturday, 7pm — The Adicts. \$25.

Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market & Deli:
Sunday, 11am — Tinkersmith. **Free.**

Ol'fashioned Lumber:
Saturday, 6pm — Summerwood: Music, Beer, Food & Art Festival. \$20-\$55.

Old Town Temecula Community Theater:
Thursday, 7pm — Danny Green. \$15.

Omnia San Diego:
Thursday, 9pm — Kristian Nairn: Rave of Thrones.

Panama 66:
Friday, 6pm — Uptown Rhythm Makers. **Free.**

Park & Rec:
Saturday, 10pm — The Durell Anthony Collective.

Petco Park:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 12pm — Experience at Comic-Con. **Free.**

Plaza Fiesta:
Saturday, 6pm — Transcending Barriers: Sharon Katz & the Peace Train.

Poinsettia Village:
Friday, 6pm — Bradley Leighton. **Free.**

Point Loma Community Park:
Friday, 5:30pm — Kenny Metcalf: Elton - the Early Years. **Free.**

Pour House:
Thursday, 8pm — Water Seed.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, 7pm — Fred Heath & the Slidewinders.
Saturday, 7pm — Robin Henkel Band.
Wednesday, 6:30pm — Weekly Blues Jam.

Resounding Joy, Inc.:
Saturday, 6pm — Eve Selis and Back to the Garden. \$35-\$40.

Riviera Supper Club & Turquoise Room:
Friday, 9pm — Clinton Davis. **Free.**

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum:
Friday, 6pm — Israel Maldonado.

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MATISYAHU

FRI AUG 3

ALOE BLACC

FRI AUG 10

ZIGGY MARLEY

SAT AUG 11

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& THE NIGHT SWEATS**

FRI AUG 17

TRIBAL SEEDS

FRI AUG 24

CAFÉ TACVBA

FRI AUG 31

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Thursday, 11:30am — Adrienne
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Sleep Bedder:

Saturday, 9pm — Parker Edison.
\$5-\$10.

Soda Bar:

Thursday, 8pm — Sacred Hearts
Club. **Free.**

Friday, 8pm — Wye Oak. \$18-
\$20.

Sunday, 8pm — Cicada Rhythm.
\$8.

Monday, 8pm — Con•tact and
Asmodeus. \$6.

Wednesday, 8pm — Dent May
and Shannon Lay. \$10-\$12.

Soho Gastropub:

Saturday, 9pm — Tribe 20:4
Music Showcase. **Free.**

Soma:

Saturday, 7pm — Car Seat
Headrest.

Space:

Thursday, 9pm — Foodman and
Meishi Smile. \$10.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:

Monday, 7:30pm — International
Summer Organ Festival. **Free.**

Spreckels Park:

Sunday, 6pm — Caliber.

Stag and Lion:

Friday, 8pm — Kaije. **Free.**

**Standley Park and
Recreation Center:**

Sunday, 5pm — Sully & the Blue
Eyed Soul Band. **Free.**

**Sycuan Live & Up Close
Theatre:**

Tuesday, 8pm — Artrageous.
\$29-\$39.

Til-Two:

Monday, 8pm — Cardiac Kidz
and the Executives.

Tower Bar:

Sunday, 6pm — Cardiac Kidz.

**Town Center Community
Park:**

Thursday, 6:30pm — Fortunate
Son. **Free.**

Turquoise Café-Bar Europa:

Saturday, 9pm — Now Time Jazz
Quartet. **Free.**

U-31:

Friday, 8pm — Tim Malley.

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

Vespa Motorsport:

Thursday, 6pm — Scooter
Chronicles Release Party.

**Viejas Casino Concerts in
the Park:**

Friday, 7:30pm — Little River
Band. \$45-\$55.

Westgate Hotel:

Saturday, 8pm — Allison Adams
Tucker Trio. **Free.**

Winstons Beach Club:

Thursday, 8pm — Authentic
Sellout.

Friday, 9pm — Simpkin Project
and New Leaf.

Saturday, 9pm — Dynohunter.

Saturday, 2pm — Heatwave.

Free.

Sunday, 5pm — The Kaeli Earle
Trio. **Free.**

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

Tuesday, 6pm — Anthony
Deferitas and Alexis.

Wednesday, 6pm — Open Mic
with Jefferson Jay. **Free.**

**UPCOMING
SHOWS**

Air Conditioned Lounge:

Friday, July 27 — Summer Twins
and Twin Ritual.

**Athenaeum Music and Arts
Library:**

Sunday, July 29 — Andrea Motis
Quintet.

Belching Beaver Brewery:

Saturday, July 28 — Tim Yancey.
Free.

Tuesday, July 31 — Karaoke
Tuesdays. **Free.**

Belly Up Tavern:

Thursday, July 26 — Henry
Kapono and Johnny Valentine.
\$25-\$44.

Friday, July 27 — Betamaxx.

Saturday, July 28 — Wayward
Sons.

Tuesday, July 31 — Corey Leal
Duo and Jungle Poppins. \$9-\$16.

Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Easy
Wind's Jerry Garcia Birthday
Celebration. \$12-\$14.

Thursday, Aug. 2 — Femi Kuti &
the Positive Force. \$22-\$39.

Saturday, Aug. 4 — Dead Man's
Party. \$20-\$35.

Sunday, Aug. 5 — The Chairman
& the Board. \$16.

Wednesday, Aug. 8 — Shooter
Jennings. \$18-\$32.

Thursday, Aug. 9 — Ace Frehley.
\$38-\$67.

**Bethany Lutheran Church/
Holy Trinity Anglican
Church:**

Friday, Aug. 3 — Songwriters
Acoustic Nights: Jerry Burgan.

Brick by Brick:

Saturday, July 28 — OFU and

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| AUG 18 | Starlight Food & Wine Festival |
| AUG 25-26 | Jo Koy |
| <hr/> | |
| SEP 07 | Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds |
| SEP 14 | KC and The Sunshine Band |
| SEP 22 | Ken Jeong |
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| OCT 06 | Billy Ocean |

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**ROGER DALTREY AND MEMBERS OF
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LESLIE MENDELSON***

AUG 15

Music icon Roger Daltrey performs WHO hits, rarities and songs from his new album in this special appearance with members of THE WHO touring band.

Motorbäbe.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Shot Out Hoods and Powerflo. \$15-\$20.

California Center for the Arts, Escondido:
Friday, July 27 — Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Darryl Williams.

Casbah:
Thursday, July 26 — The Surrealistics and the Strawberry Moons. \$6.
Friday, July 27 — The Weirdos and Egrets On Ergot.
Saturday, July 28 — Swindle, Agent 51, Classified. \$20.
Sunday, July 29 — faUST. \$22-\$26.
Tuesday, July 31 — Low Volts and N-E-1. \$8-\$10.
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — River Whyless and Adam Torres.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Supersuckers and Henchmen. \$15.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Rebecca Jade & the Cold Fact. \$10.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Vacationer and Segó. \$15-\$17.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Vinyl Junkies Record Swap. \$5.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Morricone Youth and Hexa. \$10-\$12.
Wednesday, Aug. 8 — Zac Clark and Bob Oxblood. \$12-\$14.

Cheers:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Miss Demeanor. Free.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Bonneville 7. Free.

Civita Park:
Saturday, July 28 — San Diego Concert Band. Free.

Club M:
Sunday, July 29 — Sunday Session. Free.

Coyote Bar & Grill:
Sunday, July 29 — Flipside Burners. Free.

Del Mar Thoroughbred Club:
Friday, July 27 — Steel Pulse.
Saturday, July 28 — Switchfoot. \$6-\$10.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Matisyahu.

Dirk's Niteclub:
Saturday, July 28 — DJs Jersan & K-Reed.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Nemesis.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — DJs Jersan & K-Reed.

Dizzy's/Musicians Union Hall:
Sunday, July 29 — Chase Morrin. \$10-\$15.

Embarcadero Marina Park South:
Thursday, July 26 — Godfathers of Latin Jazz: Dizzy Gillespie and Chano Pozo. \$18-\$95.
Friday, July 27 — Marc Cohn and the Blind Boys of Alabama. \$18-\$95.
Saturday, July 28 — Patti LaBelle. \$18-\$95.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Burt Bacharach. \$18-\$95.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — SD Symphony: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. \$18-\$95.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — SD Symphony: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. \$18-\$95.

Field Irish Pub and Restaurant:
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Sonic Tonic.

Forum Shopping Center:
Saturday, July 28 — Israel Maldonado & Puente. Free.

Four Points by Sheraton:
Friday, July 27 — Delfonics Revue. \$45.

Full Circle Saloon:
Friday, July 27 — West of 5. Free.

Gaslamp Fish House:
Friday, Aug. 3 — Tim Yancey. Free.

Handlery Hotel's 950 Lounge:
Friday, July 27 — Allison Adams Tucker. Free.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Chase Morrin Trio. Free.

Harrah's Resort Southern California:
Thursday, Aug. 2 — The Drunken Hearts.
Thursday, Aug. 9 — Paul Cauthen.

Hooleys Irish Pub & Grill Rancho San Diego:
Saturday, July 28 — The Jamacha Project. Free.

House of Blues:
Thursday, July 26 — RAW Artists Showcase. \$22.
Thursday, July 26 — Evaride.
Friday, July 27 — School of Rock All Stars. \$10.
Friday, July 27 — Emo Night Brooklyn. \$12-\$20.
Saturday, July 28 — Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls Student Showcase.
Saturday, July 28 — Snow Tha Product. \$18-\$40.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Vansire, Boyo, Loving. \$12-\$15.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Camilo Septimo. \$20-\$25.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Saved by the 90s. \$15-\$35.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Chuponcito. \$35-\$75.

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Thursday July 19: **Classic Car Night** 5pm
Rhythm Turner 7pm

Friday July 20: **Bob Buccarelli** 6pm
LA E 8:30pm

Saturday July 21: **Mike Slaysen & Jessie** 12pm
Flamingo Pink 6pm
Mudflap 8:30pm

Sunday July 22: **Sarah Roge** 12pm
Brunch 10am-3pm **3 Guys in a Corner** 7pm

Monday July 23: **Allen & Watts** 7pm
Happy Hour All Day!

Tuesday July 24: **Gusto** 7pm

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Sunday, Aug. 5 — Trinidad Cardona. \$15.

Humphreys by the Bay:

Thursday, July 26 — Joe Bonamassa. \$149-\$224.
Friday, July 27 — Joe Bonamassa. \$149-\$224.

Sunday, July 29 — Adam Ant.
Monday, July 30 — The Decemberists.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons. \$95.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — The Gypsy Kings.
Tuesday, Aug. 7 — Toto. \$67-\$142.
Wednesday, Aug. 8 — Hippiefest.

In Gallery:
Saturday, July 28 — Rhythm Nation 1 Year Anniversary. \$10-\$20.

Irenic:
Friday, July 27 — Rob Vicious featuring Da\$\$. \$15.
Saturday, July 28 — Sleeping With Sirens. \$25.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Hop Along and Thin Lips.

Jacobs Music Center:
Thursday, July 26 — American Idol Live.

Junior Seau Oceanside Pier Amphitheatre:
Friday, July 27 — Supergirl Pro Concert Series.
Saturday, July 28 — Supergirl Pro Concert Series.
Sunday, July 29 — Supergirl Pro Concert Series.

Karl Strauss Brewing Company:
Saturday, July 28 — Well Well Well and Little Hurricane.

La Jolla Cove Hotel & Suites:
Thursday, July 26 — The Heart.
Friday, July 27 — K. Emeline.

La Valencia Hotel:
Thursday, July 26 — Keni Yarbrow.
Friday, July 27 — Rick Ross.
Saturday, July 28 — Los Reyes.
Monday, July 30 — Javid & Naoko.
Tuesday, July 31 — Elliott Lawrence.

Lakehouse Hotel & Resort:
Saturday, July 28 — Zeppelin USA. \$30.

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center:
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Songs for a New World.

Lestat's Coffee House:
Friday, July 27 — Everything Undone and JARA. \$8-\$10.
Saturday, July 28 — Gayle Skidmore.

Lhoq/Exrealism:
Thursday, July 26 — Warm Drag and Wax Chattels. \$10.

Mainstream Bar and Grill:
Saturday, July 28 — Sonic Tonic and Xanadoodz.

Martinis Above Fourth I Table + Stage:
Tuesday, July 31 — Breakthrough Revue 2018. \$20.
Monday, Aug. 6 — Marya Grandy. \$20-\$25.
Tuesday, Aug. 7 — Ben Vereen. \$35-\$40.
Wednesday, Aug. 8 — Ben Vereen. \$35-\$40.

Mattress Firm Amphitheatre:
Sunday, July 29 — 311 and the

Offspring. \$27-\$85.
Tuesday, July 31 — Foreigner and Whitesnake. \$20-\$500.
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — G-Eazy and Lil Uzi Vert. \$29-\$79.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Chris Brown. \$25-\$149.

Merrow:
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Ash Williams and Roger!

MiraCosta College:
Saturday, July 28 — Awakening 2018 with Jonathan Butler. \$25-\$100.

Molly Malone's Waypoint Saloon:
Friday, July 27 — Alter Ego. Free.
Saturday, July 28 — Steelehorse. Free.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Steal Dawn. Free.

Moonlight Beach:
Sunday, Aug. 5 — New Leaf. Free.

Moonshine Beach:
Friday, July 27 — Craig Wayne Boyd.

Mr. Peabody's Bar & Grill:
Thursday, July 26 — Rick Elliott.
Friday, July 27 — Elastic Waste Band.
Saturday, July 28 — Celeste Barbier.
Saturday, July 28 — Cougar & the Snaxx.

Music Box:
Thursday, July 26 — Western Standard Time Ska Orchestra. \$17.
Friday, July 27 — The PettyBreakers and Fooz Fighters. \$10-\$15.
Saturday, July 28 — Como La Flor. \$20-\$22.
Sunday, July 29 — Shawn Mullins. \$24.
Monday, July 30 — King Princess and Donna Missal. \$18-\$20.
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — The Plastics Revolution. \$5.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Mya. \$24-\$27.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Little Jesus. \$16-\$20.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Up the Irons and A Perfect Tool. \$10.
Thursday, Aug. 9 — Quinto Sol and SM Familia. \$12-\$14.

Navajo Live:
Friday, July 27 — Roni Lee.
Saturday, July 28 — Sonic Moonshine.
Sunday, July 29 — Grand Nova.
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Marujah.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Side Hustle and Black Crowes Revival.

Nicky Rottens Bar & Burger Joint:
Friday, July 27 — FX5.
Saturday, July 28 — Serious Guise.

Observatory North Park:
Friday, Aug. 3 — American Football and Phoebe Bridgers. \$25.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — A Midsummer's Masquerade Ball. \$40-\$65.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Beach House. \$37.

Old Venice:
Saturday, July 28 — Dante Fire. Free.

Open Air Theatre:
Friday, Aug. 3 — Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle, & Dwight Yoakam. \$29-\$129.

Pala Casino:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Taj Mahal & Keb Mo.

Piazza della Famiglia:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Marine Band San Diego.

Poinsettia Village:
Friday, July 27 — Evan Marks. Free.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Will Sumner. Free.

Point Loma Community Park:
Friday, July 27 — Young Guns. Free.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Full Strength Funk Band. Free.

Pour House:
Thursday, Aug. 9 — BlackWater and Red Wizard.

Proud Mary's Southern Bar & Grill at the Ramada:
Friday, July 27 — Chris Fast Band.
Saturday, July 28 — Len Rainey.

Pure Platinum:
Saturday, July 28 — The Yucks, Focke Wolves, Social Spit. \$8.

Queen Bee's Art & Cultural Center:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Summ Music Fest. \$13-\$15.
Monday, Aug. 6 — David Liebe Hart. \$10-\$12.

Rosie O'Grady's:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Bonneville 7. Free.

SDCCU Stadium:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Island Vibe Music Festival. \$10-\$35.

Salty Frog:
Friday, July 27 — Pinkeye and Sweetie Darling. Free.

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum:
Friday, Aug. 3 — Ruth & Emilia.

Santee Lakes Recreation Preserve:
Saturday, July 28 — Polyester Express. \$40-\$65.

Soda Bar:
Friday, July 27 — Mrs. Magician. \$12-\$14.
Saturday, July 28 — Night Nail and Creux Lies. \$5-\$10.
Sunday, July 29 — The Body and Lingua Ignota. \$10-\$12.
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Givers. \$13-\$15.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Wimps. \$8-\$10.
Friday, Aug. 3 — Buyepongo. \$10-\$12.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Levitation Room. \$10-\$12.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Whiskerman and AJ Froman. \$8.
Tuesday, Aug. 7 — Them Evils. \$10-\$12.

Space:
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Dentist. \$8.
Thursday, Aug. 9 — The Ataris. \$16-\$18.

Spacebar Cafe:
Saturday, July 28 — Happy Ron Hill.

Spreckels Organ Pavilion:
Monday, July 30 — International Summer Organ Festival. Free.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — The San Diego Concert Band. Free.
Monday, Aug. 6 — International Summer Organ Festival. Free.
Tuesday, Aug. 7 — Raúl Prieto Ramirez. Free.

Spreckels Park:
Sunday, July 29 — AbbaFab. Free.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Gilbert Castellanos Latin Jazz Review.

Stag and Lion:
Friday, Aug. 3 — Plunderbund. Free.

Standley Park and Recreation Center:
Sunday, July 29 — Rachel Aldous & the Long Road Home. Free.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Full Strength Funk Band. Free.

Sunset Temple Theater:
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Peter Sprague & Randy Phillips.

Sunshine Brooks Theatre:
Saturday, July 28 — Trouble in the Wind and the Red Fox Tails. \$15-\$20.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Night of the Living Dead: Live Soundtrack by Morricone Youth. \$15.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Mad Max: Live Soundtrack by Morricone Youth. \$15.

Thornton Winery:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — The Rippingtons, David Benoit & Marc Antoine. \$85-\$160.
Sunday, Aug. 5 — Robert Cray Band. \$85-\$160.

Tiger! Tiger!:
Saturday, July 28 — Reggae Night.

Tio Leo's:
Sunday, Aug. 5 — The Hurricanes.

Tower Bar:
Friday, Aug. 3 — Jason Lee & the R.I.P. Tides.

Town Center Community Park:
Thursday, July 26 — Ultimate Stones. Free.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Sully & the Blue Eyed Soul Band. Free.

Veterans Museum and Memorial Center:
Sunday, July 29 — The Downbeat Big Band. \$5-\$10.

Viejas Arena:
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Darryl Hall & John Oates. \$49-\$129.

Viejas Casino Concerts in the Park:
Saturday, July 28 — Loverboy. \$40-\$50.

War Horse Ranch, 3712 Valle Del Sol, Bonsall.:
Saturday, July 28 — Justin Paul Sanders. \$15.

Water Conservation Garden:
Saturday, July 28 — The Gregory Page Trio. \$25-\$42.

Westgate Hotel:
Saturday, July 28 — Allison Adams Tucker Trio. Free.
Thursday, Aug. 2 — Lorraine Castellanos. \$25.
Saturday, Aug. 4 — Allison Adams Tucker Trio. Free.

Whistle Stop Bar:
Wednesday, Aug. 1 — Swearin' and Mike Krol.

Winstons Beach Club:
Thursday, July 26 — Pink Floyd.
Friday, July 30 — Sure Fire Soul Ensemble.
Monday, July 30 — Electric Waste Band. \$5.
Tuesday, July 31 — After Funk. \$10.

WorldBeat Cultural Center:
Saturday, July 28 — The Abyssinians. \$15.

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8/19 — X	8/29 — THE EXPLOITED
8/20 — AJJ + KIMYA DAWSON	8/30 — INSPECTOR
8/22 — MURA MASA	9/4 — JEREMIH
8/23 — ATTILA W/ SUICIDE SILENCE	9/18 — THE DISTILLERS
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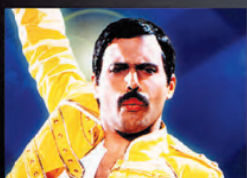
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Reigning from below

Instead of a heartfelt hug, Inna fires a hard right cross to Reina's chin.

Martyna Majok's ambitious *Queens* plays like a prospector who has found a giant gold nugget in the wilderness. Problem is: the prospector hasn't a wagon big enough to carry it out, or an axe to chip it down.

Queens couldn't be more topical. The basement of a large building on 1713 Putnam Avenue, Queens, NYC, is a half-way house for undocumented female immigrants. Like the famous Underground Railroad, only stationary, the basement apartments provide temporary sanctuary for women from around the world. They seek jobs, most often cleaning houses. "Us kinds of people," says one, "we take care house, take care children. Rest of country handles rest of country. But us, we do homes."

Those lucky enough to have jobs estimate the value of, say, a dress, by the number of work hours it took to buy it. For young Isabella, each hour is another one away from her seven-year-old daughter and ailing mother in Honduras. "I work," she says. "I don't know the history of five minutes ago."

Much as they would wish it otherwise, they are behind enemy lines, an inspector's whistle away from life on the streets, or deportation. Like prison inmates, they stifle vulnerability: trust no

one, even mark the level of a milk container to see if someone's sipped. "These days you don't know who people could be."

Queens is, in effect, notes from an underground few would know, and it opens with a punch to the jaw. Though her name means "queen" in Spanish, Reina is from Poland. She came to the safe house just after 9/11 and stayed for 16 years. Now she owns the building.

Young, bruised Inna, from Ukraine, came to America to find her mother, who abandoned her many years ago. Reina says just enough for Inna to believe she's found her mother at last. Instead of a heartfelt hug, Inna fires a hard right cross to Reina's chin. As the play proceeds, and goes back and forth in time, we learn that Reina has embraced the materialistic wing of the American Dream. In 2017 she's the queen of her palace, and Inna isn't the only one who wants to deck her.

The play flashes back to Reina's first days at the basement. In David Israel Reynoso's set for the La Jolla Playhouse, the rooms are just wooden frames, as in-between as the inhabitants. Old clothes, hanging or in stray piles, dominate the scene, save for an opening look at the entire building, which then rises like the Mother Ship to expose the skeletal interior.

THEATER

JEFF SMITH



Queens: Notes from an underground few would know.

Queens, by Martyna Majok.

La Jolla Playhouse, 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla.

Directed by Carey Perloff; **cast:** Jolly Abraham, Leslie Fray, Rae Gray, Brenda Meaney, Melissa Miller, Xochitl Romero; **scenic design,** David Israel Reynoso, **costumes,** Deinta Bliznakova, **lighting,** Lap Chi Chu, **sound design/composer,** Mark Bennett, **dialect coach,** Christine Adaire.

Playing through July 29: Sunday at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. **Matinee** Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Disillusioned to the core Pelagiya, from Belarus, runs the place. "Moving means to forget sometimes," she tells Isabella, choosing which clothes to pack for Honduras. Pelagiya and Isabella came to America to become something. Aamani, the play slowly reveals — details are sketchy throughout — was something in Afghanistan. A renowned poet/artist, she left before the Taliban seized control. She hoped the world would "find value in what I have to offer." It didn't. Now she must find new ways to express herself: "If I don't say who I am, I don't exist."

The group begins as wary strangers, eager to withhold personal specifics. The long first act rises to a surprising bond (building a bond needs time; nonetheless, act one could use a trim). Each opens up. Aamani locates several stashed bottles of hard liquor to lubricate tales of hopes and horrors. Though from diverse backgrounds, they share the fact of an uncertain odyssey. Act one ends with them donning their best outfits and heading out for the clubs.

Though most of the characters are impressionistic, Denitsa Bliznakova's costumes reveal them to a T. The go-to clubbing choices suggest that, though they'd love to sashay in chic finery, these mostly humble outfits cost many a work hour.

Queens resembles a giant gold nugget because the vitally important subject is so rich. But it needs shaping, a clearer presentation. The first act takes time to introduce the women, but not to round them out. They are their issues, pretty much. When the play leaps forward to 2017, the women disappear, and new ones appear — so, four new ones too get to know. The jump's inevitable, given the structure, but frustrating since we barely know the originals.

Queens is simply hard to follow. The nonlinear back and forth works against coherence, even though switching to a new group of immigrants allows the playwright to make sharp, telling observations ("do they think I'm having fun in America?"; are they running from turmoil or heading into it, or both?). Lead by Brenda Meaney's almost soulless Reina, the cast performs with

Critic's Choice
"A wholly rewarding treat of a show, with plenty of Seuss-ian visual wit and a gifted ensemble cast!"
The San Diego Union-Tribune

the LORAX

Based on the book *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
 Adapted for the stage by David Greig
 Music and lyrics by Charlie Fink
 Directed by Max Webster
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THE OLD GLOBE

The cast of Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*. Photo by Dan Norman.
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 — THEATERMANIA

MUST CLOSE JULY 29

QUEENS

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

LaJollaPlayhouse.org

BY MARTYNA MAJOK DIRECTED BY CAREY PERLOFF

obvious skill and versatility. But their accents — well coached by Christine Adaire — are at times so accurate, the words are hard to grasp.

Queens is fascinating and frustrating. The subject deserves a huge canvas. Though filled with the playwright's tough compassion and packed with insights, the complexities often get in the way. At present it follows the rise and/or fall — depending on one's perspective — of Reina. If so, then the ending could stress that there may be a light at the end of the black hole. ■

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith unless otherwise noted. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask at the box office.

A Bench in the Sun

The La Jolla Theatre Ensemble presents a staged reading of Ron Clark's comedy about Harold and Burt. They live in a retirement home and all they do is bicker, until a once famous actress shows up.

LA JOLLA COMMUNITY CENTER, 6811 LA JOLLA BL., LA JOLLA. 858-459-0831. 7PM MONDAY, JULY 23 & WEDNESDAY, JULY 25.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

The North Coast Repertory Theatre concludes its 36th season with Stephen Sondheim, Burt Shevelove, and Larry Gelbart's Tony Award-winning musical about Pseudolus, a Roman slave who will do anything to win his freedom and bring two lovers together. David Ellenstein directs.

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE, 987-D LOMAS SANTA FE DR., SOLANA BEACH. 858-481-1055. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

A Man of No Importance

This musical, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty, book by Terrence McNally, tells of Alfie Byrne, "a bus conductor with a poet's heart, who has secrets he can't share with anyone but his imagined confidant, Oscar Wilde. Manny Bejarano directs the Coronado Playhouse production.

CORONADO PLAYHOUSE, 1835 STRAND WAY, CORONADO. 619-435-4856. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Alice: A Wonder-Full Musical

Patrick Henry High School presents a contemporary musical version of Lewis Carroll's famous story. Set in a modern day high school, Alice takes a musical journey down the rabbit hole as she meets unforgettable characters and embarks on an adventure

ANTI-REVIEW MICHA BARNES

Vienna Sausages don't get that kind of love

AS THE STORY GOES, pork shoulder was a tough sell in 1920s America, so a scion of the Hormel Foods empire devised a way to blend the cheap meat with ham and preservatives, and in 1937 the first cans of SPAM were sold.

It's supposed to be a portmanteau, mashing together the words *spiced* and *ham*, though aside from salt and sugar, the closest thing to spice in spam is the sodium nitrate that gives it a shelf life of somewhere between two and five years, depending who you ask.

The stuff has become something of a processed food legend, almost despite itself. A frequent subject of kitschy magazine features, SPAM history and myths have proliferated to the point there is now a museum and annual festival dedicated to it. You don't see Vienna Sausages getting that kind of love.

Back in the 1940s, a group of 60 women known as the Hormel Girls used to tour the country with an orchestra to evangelize SPAM. The United States reportedly sent millions of cans to feed the Russian army during World War Two, where it may or may not have been interpreted as a virtue of capitalism. *Adweek* has alleged that, in current-day Southeast Asia, gift packs of the

stuff are deemed "popular wedding gifts."

All this attention for a processed meat allegedly cooked within its own can on the assembly line.



Spamalot at Cygnet Theatre cast members Anthony Methvin, Sean Murray, Jonathan Sangster, Trevor Cruse, James Saba, and Donny Gersonde.

Of course, another definition of spam has almost eclipsed the original: unwanted email. Hormel blames the British sketch comedy show, *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, for SPAM eventually being adopted as a term for unwanted email. In the 1970 sketch, characters repeat the word "spam" so often that the word effectively renders the rest of language meaningless. Similarly, in its mode of communication, spam email represents noise rather than signal, and prevents any legitimate message from getting through.

Wired magazine reported that Hormel recently attempted to trademark the word "spam," hop-

ing to keep the gelatinous pork product from being associated with bogus emails. But in the end, the corporation settled for insisting that any public references to the actual canned product should be written in all caps and always followed by the words, "Luncheon Meat."

So it's a tad ironic that the story of SPAM Luncheon Meat only seems to prove the adage there's no such thing as bad publicity. Whether attributable to Hormel Girls, wedding registries, the cult status of Monty Python comedy, or excessive emails, the proliferation of spam has only increased since the Russians got ahold of it.

Four or five years ago, Hormel made the claim 8 billion cans of SPAM Luncheon Meat had been sold in 44 countries. Hormel hasn't updated that number, but the official SPAM web site claims the world consumes 12.8 cans every second, so the actual count could now be approaching 10 billion.

Nearly a century after its inception, SPAM has become a bona fide American cultural export. And the Monty Python musical *Spamalot* plays at the Cygnet Theatre in Old Town until August 12.

instead of righting wrongs and rescuing damozels in distress, they confront a Trojan Rabbit, knights who say "ni," and all manner of untoward opposition. The Tony Award-winning musicals in fine hands at Cygnet Theatre, thanks to standout work by Sean Murray (King Arthur) and Christine Hewitt (Lady of the Lake with glowing vocal chops). Bryan Banfield, James Saba, and David S. Humphrey excel in multiple roles, and the rest of the cast, directed by Murray, dances, cavorts, and pratfalls with élan. Mostly played loud, the production could use more calmer sections, and the videos are long in the tooth, but the Monty Python spirit reigns supreme. **Critic's Pick.** CYGNET THEATRE, 4040 TWIGGS ST., OLD TOWN. 619-337-1525. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 3PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Once

The musical, based on the 2007 sleeper hit film, tells a classic boy-meets-girl story. Set in Dublin, he's an Irish busker who's lost his way. She's a Czech immigrant inspired by his songs and intent on fixing him. They've both been battered by love, but fall nonetheless. Kerry Meads leads this intimate and impressive production at Lamb's, with lighting and choreography well serving the various moods and music, from folk rock and ballads to Czech and Irish folk songs. As the would-be lovers,

Michael Louis Cusimano and especially Katie Grady, lend their lovely, soulful voices and stand out among a multi-talented cast who play many instruments on stage. There's some corniness and humor that doesn't hit the mark. But never mind. *Once* is more concert than story, and Lamb's puts on one helluva concert. **Critic's Pick.** Review by Jennifer Chung Klam. LAMB'S PLAYERS THEATRE, 1142 ORANGE AVE., CORONADO. 619-443-0600. 7:30PM THURSDAYS, 8PM FRIDAYS, 4PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS, 2PM & 7:30PM WEDNESDAYS.

Out on a Limb

Scripps Ranch Theatre presents its seventh annual festival of "New Plays From America's Finest City." The plays are: *Monsters of the American Cinema*, by Christian St. Croix; *Desert Oasis Garden Club*, by Gabino Cabanilla; and *Anomaly.Exe*, by Salomon Maya. For days and times of each, consult the theater's website. SCRIPPS RANCH THEATRE, 9783 AVENUE OF NATIONS, SCRIPPS RANCH. 858-578-7728. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Queens

The La Jolla Playhouse stages 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner Martyna Majok's latest work. A young immigrant comes to a tenement in Queens. She befriends the landlord. "The old brownstone reverberates with the fierce, proud voices who preceded them." Carey Perloff directs. LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE, 2910 LA JOLLA VILLAGE DR., UCSD. 858-550-1010. 8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM SATURDAYS, 7:30PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS.

Romeo and Juliet

PowPAC and Pickwick Players' co-production stages Shakespeare's tale of star-crossed lovers, feuding families, and fate. Tyler Hewes directs. The production is also Creating Community to benefit Urban Street Angels, host of the only emergency shelter for homeless youth in San Diego County. POWPAC, 13250 POWAY RD., POWAY. 858-679-8085. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Shrek the Musical

"Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand, an ogre named Shrek, who proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre."

JOAN B. KROC THEATRE, 6611 UNIVERSITY AVE., ROLANDO. 619-269-1552. 10AM THURSDAYS, 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Tempest

In the Old Globe Theatre's fine production, Prospero is "Prospera," played by Kate Burton. Director Joe Dowling has peopled Prospera's island with a multi-racial cast, giving the original a 21st century update. Burton's Prospera was a passive leader, lover of books, and gentle soul. As the play progresses, anger grows in her like a virus. Will it consume her? The question's in doubt until she makes the choice. Excellent design work's a hybrid between the theatrical and the actual, the two often blurring. Robert Foxworth heads the cast as Alonso, King of Naples, and gives a master class on acting Shakespeare. **Critic's Pick.** OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM

THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, & SUNDAYS.

Village Church Summer Theater Camp

Our Camp this year has a common theme of self-sacrifice and giving to others, and this will be reflected in our two plays. Our Youth Camp will prepare *Once Upon A Parable* by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote, retelling parables and the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus in a beautiful musical, and the Teen Camp will rehearse *What's Up, Zak?* by Kim Ingram and Joe Milton, using the story of the tax collector Zaccheus to show how everyone and anyone can have a personal encounter with Jesus. You will find detailed camp information at our website: VILLAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6225 PASEO DELICIAS, RANCHO SANTA FE. 858-756-2441. 9AM MONDAY, JULY 23, TUESDAY, JULY 24, & WEDNESDAY, JULY 25.

Wally's Cafe

Point Loma Playhouse stages Sam Bobrick and Ron Clark's comedy about Wally, his wife Louise, and their roadside cafe 40 miles from Las Vegas. Enter Janet Cheshire, Hollywood starlet, "and the adventure really begins." Deanna Driscoll directs. POINT LOMA PLAYHOUSE, 3035 TALBOT ST., POINT LOMA. 619-800-5497. 8PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

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.

Wicked Wizards

From the group that brought you *The Phantom of the Empire* and *Into the Walker Woods* comes the long awaited mash-up of the mega hit musical, *Wicked*, and the world's most beloved book and movie series, *Harry Potter*. Featuring songs such as "No One Names the Wizard," "Azkaban Life," and "A Wizard Am I." LYCEUM THEATRE, 79 HORTON PLAZA, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO. 619-544-1000. 6PM THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & SUNDAY.

Xanadu

OnStage Playhouse presents a musical "based on one of the worst movies ever made." "A beautiful Greek muse descends from the heavens of Mt. Olympus to Venice Beach on a quest to inspire a struggling artist to build his greatest creation." Teri Brown directs. ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE, 291 THIRD AVE., CHULA VISTA. 619-422-7787. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

The Zoo Story

Backyard Renaissance Theatre Company stages Edward Albee's taut drama about Peter and Jerry. Peter just needs some quiet time in the park. Jerry needs to talk. No, he really needs to talk. Rosina Reynolds directs. DIVERSIONARY THEATRE, 4545 PARK BL., UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS. 619-728-7820. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

of self discovery.

PATRICK HENRY HIGH SCHOOL, 6702 WANDERMERE DR., SAN CARLOS. 7PM FRIDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SATURDAYS, 4PM SUNDAYS.

Catch Me if You Can

The Star Theatre Company presents a musical comedy based on the movie, starring Leonardo DeCaprio and Tom Hanks, "about chasing your dreams and not getting caught. Seeking fame and fortune, precocious teenager Frank Abagnale, Jr., runs away from home to begin an unforgettable adventure."

STAR THEATRE, 402 N. COAST HWY., OCEANSIDE. 760-721-9983. 7:30PM FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS, 2PM SUNDAYS.

Disney's Frozen Jr.

A 60-minute musical adapted & developed for middle-school students. When their kingdom becomes trapped in perpetual winter, fearless Anna joins forces with mountaineer Kristoff and his reindeer sidekick to find Anna's sister, Snow Queen Elsa, and break her icy spell. With music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. 4126 EXECUTIVE DR., LA JOLLA, CA 92037. 8PM SATURDAYS, 12PM SUNDAYS.

Disney's Newsies

Moonlight Stage Productions offers the regional premiere musical based on the two-week newsboy strike of 1899. Tony Awards went to musical score (Alan Menken, lyrics by Jack

Feldman) and book (Harvey Fierstein). Larry Raben directs. MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE IN BRENLE TERRACE PARK, 1200 VALE TERRACE, VISTA. 760-724-2110. 8PM THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS, & WEDNESDAYS.

Forever Plaid

Welk Resort Theatre stages the popular musical revue about Sparky, Smudge, Jinx, and Frankie, who harmonized the pop hits of the 1950s until, on the way to their first big gig, were broadsided by a school bus and killed instantly. Now they have just one chance to prove their stuff. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 1PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 1PM SUNDAYS.

Hard Day's Night

The Welk Resort Theatre hosts a touring production of "Southern California's #1 Beatles Tribute Show." Wearing early black suits, Sgt. Pepper's regalia, and Abbey Road attire, and speaking in a "Liverpudlian dialect," the Fab Four sings "Penny Lane," "Day in the Life," "Yesterday," and many others, with video scenes on a backdrop. WELK RESORT THEATRE, 8860 LAWRENCE WELK DR., ESCONDIDO. 888-802-7469. 7PM WEDNESDAYS.

Monty Python's Spamalot

You could call it King Arthur's nightmare. As he and his mates of the Round Table quest for the Holy Grail,

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.

1945 — Beware of Jews bearing perfume. August 9, 1945 is the day America bombed Nagasaki; in another part of the world, the magistrate of a small Hungarian village (Péter Rudolf) is about to have his son's nuptials torpedoed by a pair of unexpected guests. His missus is a druggie, his wimpy son is cuckolded on his wedding day, and to make matters worse, a surprise pair of money-lenders are parading their goods through town. Can I get an "Oy, gevalt!" Normally, a complex, multi-character melodrama that finds its diffuse cast converging on one location for a climactic reveal is this critic's Shangri-La. But the second the strangers refused to hop a ride on the cart was the very moment their destination (and the contents of the mysterious boxes) became obvious. Worth seeing for cinematographer Elemér Ragályi's fine-grained black-and-white frames and László Rajk's meticulous production design. Too bad they weren't in service of a better picture. Ferenc Török directs 2017. — S.M. ★★ (DIGITAL GYM)

2001: A Space Odyssey — Much of its reputation comes from exposing the masses to special effects that had been done much more excitingly, not to mention economically, in experimental shorts. Only where money really counts — the finicky construction of model spaceships — does it move into new territory. Kubrick's paranoid spoofs on modern technocracy have never been very sharp — not then, not before (*Dr. Strangelove*), and not after (*Clockwork Orange*). Nonetheless a definite feeling of awe creeps in now and then during this incomprehensible chronicle of mankind from birth to rebirth. 1968. — D.S. ★★★★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA)

Ant-Man and the Wasp — "Amiable" is the big aim here for director Peyton Reed. Pleasant rather than pleasurable. Amusing rather than funny. Diverting rather than delightful. Having gone full Gotterdammerung with *Avengers: Infinity War*, Marvel gets modest and zings to the opposite extreme for the featherweight tale of Hank Pym (Michael Douglas), a man seeking to rescue his wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) from her 30-year exile in the Quantum Realm. But to succeed in his quest, he needs help from Scott Lang (Paul Rudd), the man who effectively ruined his post-wife life by stealing his size-shifting supersuit and heading off to Germany to break a treaty in Captain America: Civil War. Not only that, Lang's decision also squelched his romance with Pym's daughter Hope (Evangeline Lilly). Lots of potential for small-scale (hey-o!) interpersonal drama here, but you'd never know it from the principals, who skip over the emotional depths like so many water bugs skittering on the surface of a pond. The setup may be for a love story, but the story is pure caper flick, with multiple parties scrambling to get their hands on Pym's shrinkable laboratory while simultaneously dodging the law. Which would be okay and maybe even fun were it not for the frequent presence of a gruesome ghost haunting the proceedings: a woman in constant physical and emo-

tional agony who is trying desperately not to die. A weirdly disturbing fly in the amiable ointment. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

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)

Book Club — The doctored picture that kicks things off — four badly photo-shopped 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 fussy spot 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. ● (REGAL RANCHO SAN DIEGO)

Cries and Whispers (Viskningar och rop) — Not without its impressive points (the decayed parchment-gray of Harriet



The King: Elvis Presley's Rolls Royce tours America

Andersson's skin and the grunting exertion of her performance), Bergman's film about three sisters and their excruciating memories is nonetheless one of his shallowest. The characters make unproven declarations that they are in a dream or in misery or in hell, but it looks merely like a familiar, wonderless Bergman set-up rather than any of those other states. 1972. — D.S. ● (LANDMARK KEN)

Deadpool 2 — Director David Leitch and star Ryan Reynolds know why you're here: to hear the merc with a mouth reveal 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 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)

Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot — Friends don't let friends drive drunk, lest they wind up spending the rest of their lives paralyzed and in a wheelchair. With a title like this, can it get any cuter? It can — when the viewer finds Gus "I Traced *Psycho*" Van Sant at his well-intentioned best. From the man who brought us *Drugstore Cowboy* — one of the few narrative films to actually explore the reasons behind America's love affair with taking drugs — comes a cautionary tale of "Just say no." It's based on the book by John Callahan (Joaquin Phoenix), who turned what many would view as a life-halting handicap into a career as a cartoonist. Jonah Hill is in full

Dr. Braino mode, fer sure, as the puffed up AA guru dismissively flipping his hair while carting around a cigarette holder as a fashion accessory. The film also doubles as a lesson in 12-step filmmaking: instead of filming group encounters in eye-gouging closeup, maybe try moving the camera at least 12 steps back from the characters' nostrils. 2018. ★ (ANGELIKA CARMEL MOUNTAIN, LANDMARK HILLCREST)

The Equalizer 2 — Add a fourth to the angelic trio of Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael — Denzel Washington reprises his role as McCall, the former CIA operative who now spends his time helping people in need: old Jewish men, middle-aged Muslim ladies, young black men, younger white girls, and oh yes, his friends. Much of the time, he doesn't even need to get violent, but when he does, the old fellow turns into an ageless agent of divine retribution. Time slows for him; the most minute details present themselves for his consideration; and he brutally dispatches hosts of baddies without breaking a sweat. Heck, the climax pits him against a team of fellow Black Ops vets in a hurricane, and he doesn't even get wet. Some folks might call that lazy filmmaking from director Antoine Fuqua, but maybe it's just in keeping with McCall's supernatural character. It's not much of a movie — more a parade of rah-rah triumphs obscuring a batch of logical oddities — which makes Washington's committed performance stand out like the heavenly host in the night sky over Bethle-hem. 2017 — M.L. 2018. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Ferdinand — Author Munro Leaf's beloved children's book is a pacifist primer intended to advise kids on how not to follow in the kamikaze footsteps of jingoistic bovines eager to lay down their lives on the field of honor. Disney's 1938 short will forever remain the definitive adaptation, but that wasn't enough to stop the gluttons at 20th Century Fox Animation from blowing it up into a 107 minute holiday blockbuster. If one must expose children to fables in which testosterone-fueled picadors gets their jollies by stabbing animals to death in the name of sport as thousands look on, there isn't a better starting and stopping point than *Ferdinand*. The film is rife with

anachronistic pop-culture throwaways. Changing our hero's nickname from "Ferdinand the Fierce" to simply "F-Bomb" bombed, but I did have to chuckle when a decumbent nag whinnied, "I've fallen and I can't giddyap!" 2017. — S.M. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The First Purge — After the series opener, I vowed to *Purge* no more. Funny how air conditioning on a 105 degree day has a way of changing one's mind. White devils brainwash blacks into spending a governmentally sanctioned extended grace period killing other blacks. Describing three dudes on a stoop as, "Moe, Larry, and Jheri Curley" is about as scintillating as the discourse gets in this otherwise gray and violent stockpile of insignificant social commentary. They're calling it a horror film for the Trump era which in this case amounts to once alluding to a Russian by name and having a female character fend off a male combatant with, "Hey! Stop grabbing my pu**y." Marisa Tomei stars as the woman whose idea it was to turn ethnic cleansing into a giant block party. She brings nothing to the role but indifference. The Academy has every right to rescind her supporting actress Oscar and give it to Vanessa Redgrave. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Hearts Beat Loud — A fairy tale for grownups? A grown-up fairy tale? Either way, don't be fooled: the setting of writer-director Brett Haley's father-daughter dramedy — a failing vinyl record store in Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood, with frequent stops at a local bar that stays in business thanks to its reputed "authenticity" — augers prickly hipster irony. But the story is barrel-proof earnest sentiment, straight no chaser. How to keep the eyes from rolling in response? Well, it helps to have Nick Offerman at the center of things as a single dad facing the closing of his beloved business and the departure of his even more beloved daughter — the latest sorrows in a life already darkened by a dead wife and a failed dream. Besides being supremely likable, he is capable of expressing simple, direct emotion (verbally and otherwise) in a way that makes cleverness, irony, and ironic detachment look like childish poses. (For that matter, so is his impossibly sweet co-star, Kiersey Clemons.) But for all the sadness and

struggle on display, the film itself is never heavy hearted. Haley's touch is too light for that, and besides, there are so many Good Fairies about: from the Spotify algorithm that picks their one track for an indie playlist, to the sweet landlady (Toni Collette) who wants to save the store, to the laid-back barman (Ted Danson) who's quick to bust out The Good Stuff when needed. And happily ever after doesn't have to mean getting everything you want. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (LA PALOMA)

Hereditary — Writer-director Ari Aster's debut feature is not coy about its intentions: it opens on an obituary and then gives us mourning(?) daughter Toni Collette at her mother's funeral, noting all the strange new faces present and also, oh yes, Mom's "secret rituals." (Some mention should be made of Collette's go-for-broke performance here as a woman processing her pain by recreating it in miniature, her face continually contorting under the triple strain of grief, horror, and mental overload.) Rather, having announced itself, it works as a bravura technical exercise in the slow reveal — on both the micro and macro levels. Cameras are forever following terrified gazes to the source of the terror, and revelation builds on revelation until an awful culmination begins to seem inevitable. But "awful" should not be confused with "astounding." Sometimes, the banality of evil is the point: the transcendent lengths to which people will go to achieve their mundane ends. And "technical" should not be confused with "clinical" or "unfeeling" — because the gradual accumulation of sorrow and dread is integral to the technique. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation — Sony's episodic, dialogue-driven, animated series on vampirism for youngsters rolls on with a third installment, this one set aboard a 20-story ocean liner. Hideous background and character design ahead, captain: the animation is so claustrophobic, one would swear that it was filmed entirely on a Hollywood soundstage. Were those Gremlins from the Kremlin? Did I get an earful of the "oggly-oggly-oggly" sound-effect? Quoting *Love Boat* is inevitable; cribbing Termite Terrace in this company is unthinkable. Adam Sandler returns as the voice of Dracula and Mel Brooks deserves every penny they paid him for the five inaudible moments of schtick he contributed to this debacle. (Can father-and-daughter matching fart jokes be near-at-hand?) And when all else fails, since there is no formal conclusion in sight and no loose plot ends to cinch, let's close with the characters joining in song — in this case the ear-emulsifying *Macarena*. Don't insult your children by letting them hear this. Genndy Tartakovsky wrote and directed. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Incredibles 2 — Writer-director Brad Bird picks up right where he left off 14 years ago in terms of both narrative and theme. Narrative: the arrival of The Underminer to ruin the peace and happiness of the Parrs, a family of superheroes that has finally gained those things after years of unhealthy repression. Except not really: it turns out The Underminer just wants to rob a bank. And that brings us to theme: the real underminer, then as now, is us normies, the bean-counters who made superheroes illegal in the first place. Even the big-time villains are just bitter regular folks: in the first, you had Syndrome, a wannabe super who devoted his life to the notion of "If you can't join 'em, beat 'em." In the second, you have The Screenslaver, who

hates supers because they make the rest of us passive and weak — damsels in distress awaiting salvation from our betters instead of taking matters into our own hands. It's especially bad when we sit around on our lazy backsides and watch them on TV. Which, it turns out, is exactly the supers' plan for gaining legitimacy: a change in public perception through good televised PR. The obvious counter to the Screenslaver's argument is the notion of inspiration: that we can strength from the example of the Incredibles and become super in our own lives. Instead, Bird gives us a superhero movie that rebukes its audience for showing up to watch it. On top of that, it's talky, chunky, and clunky, and relies heavily on the slapstick deployment of super-baby Jack-Jack's rainbow of powers to distract from all that. Only the story of teen super Violet's frustrated romantic yearnings achieves the blend of action, wit, and intelligence that the original so expertly managed. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom — Golly, life really will find a way, even in a franchise whose last installment played like a zombified version of the original entry from Steven Spielberg. Director J.A. Bayona's most recent feature was titled *A Monster Calls*, and featured a child dealing with painful news about his mother. Bayona weaves a remarkably similar storyline into a tentpole film about dinosaurs, and even more remarkably, he makes it work to genuine emotional effect. The film asks the question, "Having created monsters, do we have the right — perhaps even the obligation — to

destroy them?" The answer comes from the little girl who spends so much of the film screaming, running, and hiding from the monsters in her house. And the dinos *are* monsters here, make no mistake. It's not just the (admittedly absurd but still chillingly creepy) scene where the moppet cringes in bed while the bloodthirsty beastie crawls closer and closer. The biological definition of "monster" is "a grossly anomalous fetus or infant," and the word is taken from the Latin *monstrum*, which may be translated "unnatural event." Like Victor Frankenstein's awful experiment, these critters were cooked up in a lab, and the deviation from the natural order — expounded upon so delightfully by Jeff Goldblum at the film's beginning and end — has very real, concrete consequences. (Short version: babies need a mother, and monsters will take care of their own.) Some very fine visuals here — silhouettes and shadows — which unfortunately have to do battle with a very intrusive score. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

The King — Director and co-writer Eugene Jarecki's documentary tells the story of Elvis Presley in America — or rather, Elvis Presley as America. A youthful phenomenon, the likes of which the world had never seen, rocketing up from humble, hardscrabble beginnings into the stratosphere on the strength of talent, energy, and a troubling relationship with black labor. Still: a wonder to behold, until the money takes over, the war takes its toll, and decadence takes hold. And there's more, lots of it: the push West, the obsession with image, the loss of way, the death of the Dream. Jarecki isn't coy about the parallel; at one point,

he actually discusses it with a member of his crew, one of the guys helping him tour Presley's gorgeous old Rolls Royce around the nation, stopping along the way to pick up a host of musicians, actors, and commentators on King and country. Nor is he subtle, or gentle, or modest in his ambition: toward the end, he juxtaposes the Shock and Awe of the Iraq War with Elvis' last-hurrah performance of "Unchained Melody." Still, there's enough there to make it worth seeing and chewing over. 2018. — M.L. ★★ (LANDMARK KEN)

Leave No Trace — Homeless by choice — due in large part to the emotionally crippling time Dad spent serving his country — a veteran with PTSD (Ben Foster) and his teenage daughter (Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie) live peaceably for years in the woods of Portland. The girl's curiosity about life in the forbidden zone eventually gets the best of her and the two are placed in the care of social services. It does a heart good to see a movie about decent people. Newcomer McKenzie hands in a star-making performance and as the father forced to make the hardest decision of his life, Foster allows tones of quiet defiance to oozing inner-anger. Debra Granik (*em>Winters Bone*) directs with a touch that's as gentle on the audience as bees are to her teen lead. Don't let the title fool you: Leave No Trace will make an everlasting impression on all who see it. 2018. — S.M. ★★★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Let the Sunshine In (Un Beau Soleil Intérieur) — There's a very good chance that the love of Isabelle's (Juliette Binoche) life will always

be someone else. The divorcee goes through men quicker than Billy Jack could kick apart a patient procession of would-be attackers, and that includes her ex-husband (Laurent Gréville). There's the piggish banker (Xavier Beauvois), whose cruel arrogance she finds a self-destructive turn-on. Her fling with a broodingly handsome actor (Nicolas Duvachelle) plays out, fittingly enough, on a stage. Then there's Gerard Depardieu who, not unlike a hulking latter-day Brando, plays his part from a seated position, bathed entirely in shadow. To reveal his character's occupation would take some of the sting out of the film's hilarious curtain scene. Audacious auteur Claire Denis never once feels the need to criticize her lead character; Isabelle does a good enough job of it as is. Color me guilty of woefully lacking the sufficient amount of Denis in my cinematic diet. They're saying this is the closest Denis has come to a romcom. If this is a romantic comedy, WTF has Katherine Heigel been getting away with all these years? 2017. — S.M. ★★★★★ (DIGITAL GYM CINEMA)

Mountain — After what seems like a good 10 minutes' worth of blissfully (boasting?) unmotivated aerial camera movements, writer-director Jennifer Peedom sets her documentary to doing what it does very well: detailing the history of (and fascination with) mountaineering. A mere three centuries ago, people believed that only lords and lunatics dwelled in the heights, and deliberately setting out to climb a mountain would have been considered an act of insanity. All due respect to our beloved Ken, but it was just as crazy to eschew filming this in IMAX. Then again, IMAX houses have always

FILM FESTIVALS

AMICI PARK

State Street and Date St., Little Italy

Little Italy Summer Film Festival Every Saturday night of the summer, San Diego locals can travel to Italy through a movie screen. From June 23 to August 25, the Little Italy Association and Cinema Little Italy will host their annual Little Italy Summer Film Festival where Italian films with English subtitles will show at 7:30pm at the Amici Park Amphitheater. \$5 donation. **Saturday, July 21, 7:30pm, Saturday, July 28, 7:30pm, Saturday, August 4, 7:30pm**

ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA

4425 La Jolla Village Dr., Suite H60, University City
858-768-7770



The Ito Sisters The Women's Film Festival San Diego, in partnership with Women In Entertainment and Arclight Cinemas, is proud to present their first Summer Film Series. A Q&A with the director will follow the film screening. Tickets are 17.50 and can be purchased at womensfilmfestivalsandiego.com **Wednesday, July 25, 7:30pm**

CARLSBAD VILLAGE

2930 Roosevelt St., Carlsbad
760-720-9161

Flicks at the Fountain The Carlsbad Village Association (CVA) will host its annual Flicks at the Fountain, a weekly series of family-fun films at Carlsbad Village's prominent fountain. The movies scheduled to play this year are: July 19 - *Coco*, July 26 - *The Neverending Story*, August 2 - *The Lion King*, August 9 - *Wonder Woman*. For more information, please visit <http://www.carlsbad-village.com/events/flicks>

at-the-fountain **Thursday, July 19, 6:00pm, Thursday, July 26, 6:00pm, Thursday, August 2, 6:00pm**

CHULA VISTA CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

365 F St., Chula Vista
619-691-5069

Film Forum: In a Lonely Place 1950. 94 minutes. The story of the dark places in a man's soul and a woman who thinks she can heal them. Humphrey Bogart is "Dix Steele", a bitter, alcoholic screenwriter suspected of murdering a young woman, until his lovely neighbor Laurel (Gloria Grahame) clears him. Afterwards, she begins to have doubts. Discussion after the film with Ralph DeLauro. Sponsored by the Friends of the Chula Vista Library and the City of Chula Vista Visual and Performing Arts Grant. **Wednesday, July 25, 6:00pm**

DIGITAL GYM CINEMA

2921 El Cajon Bl., North Park
619-230-1938

En el séptimo día In this film a group of undocumented workers in Sunset Park, Brooklyn work hard all week and play soccer on Sunday afternoons. Showtimes extended an extra week. **Thursday, July 19, 11:00am**

Fireworks The producer of *Your Name* presents *Fireworks*, an exciting animated feature about teenage star-crossed lovers with the power to reset time every time their plans to run away together are foiled. **Thursday, July 19, 11:00am**

Last Chance Indies: Let the Sunshine In The incomparable Juliette Binoche stars in Claire Denis' *Let the Sunshine In*, a film about a divorced middle-aged woman looking for romance, and who, along the way, learns about the profoundities of love. **Thursday, July 19, 11:00am**

1945 In this Hungarian film, the unexpected arrival of an Orthodox man and his son to a rural Hungarian village results in a reckoning for the townspeople, many of which benefited from the deportation of the Jewish population during WWII. **Friday, July 20, 11:00am, Saturday, July 21, 11:00am, Sunday, July 22, 11:00am**

LINKSOUL LAB

530 S. Coast Hwy., Oceanside

Oceanside Takes on: Straws Come by The Hill Street Country Club on July 27 for *Oceanside Takes on: Straws* film screening. **Friday, July 27, 7:00pm**

MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT

One Market Pl., Downtown San Diego
619-232-1234

Rooftop Cinema Club: The Sandlot **Thursday, July 19, 6:30pm**

Rooftop Cinema Club: Pulp Fiction **Friday, July 20, 6:30pm**

Rooftop Cinema Club: The Notebook **Saturday, July 21, 6:30pm**

Rooftop Cinema Club: Cool Runnings **Tuesday, July 24, 6:30pm**

Rooftop Cinema Club: The Breakfast Club **Wednesday, July 25, 6:30pm**

POWAY COMMUNITY PARK AND AUDITORIUM

13094 Civic Center Dr., Poway
858-395-3950

Summer Movies in the Park: Coco The City of Poway presents free Summer Movies in the Park! Bring a blanket and enjoy *Coco* under the stars. The movie will be shown on a giant, cinema-quality screen shortly after sunset. A free, family-fun recreation area opens 90 minutes before the movie begins. Food vendors will be selling concessions. Parking at Poway Community Park is free but can fill up fast; come early and get a good seat! **Information: 858-668-4671 or www.poway.org Saturday, July 21, 6:30pm**

Summer Movies in the Park: Cars 3 The City of Poway presents free Summer Movies in the Park! Bring a blanket and enjoy *Cars 3* under the stars. The movie will be shown on a giant, cinema-quality screen shortly after sunset. A free, family-fun recreation area opens 90 minutes before the movie begins. Food vendors will be selling concessions. Parking at Poway Community Park is free but can fill up fast; come early and get a good seat! **Information: 858-668-4671 or www.poway.org Saturday, August 4, 6:15pm**

RUOCCO PARK

585 Harbor Lane, Downtown San Diego

Street Food Cinema: The Goonies It's more than just a movie! Street Food Cinema features cool outdoor movies, picnic-ready food trucks, live music from emerging artists, interactive games and more! Doors 5:30pm. Live Music 6:30pm. Movie 8:30pm. **Saturday, July 28, 5:30pm**

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

6299 Capri Dr., Del Cerro

Film Discussion Class: My Words, My Lies - My Love (Original Title: "Lila Lila" - 2010, 107 minutes) Daniel Bruhl and Hannah Herzsprung headline this breezy, bubbly crowd-pleasing romantic comedy. David (Bruhl), a sad-sack waiter becomes a literary sensation when he passes off a found manuscript as his own to impress a lady. Complications ensue when the true author blackmails his way into David's life. In German with English subtitles. Discussion after the film with instructor Ralph DeLauro at College Avenue Center at Temple Emanu-El. Sponsored by Jewish Family Service. Members free, all others \$2. **Information: 858-637-3270. Monday, July 23, 1:00pm**

VINTAGE VILLAGE THEATRE

820 Orange Ave., Coronado
619-437-6161

Coronado Film Festival: Yankee Doodle Dandy Join the fun July 25 at Vintage Village Theatres in Coronado where we present *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) starring James Cagney, Joan Leslie, and Walter Huston. 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. For information about the 2018 Coronado Island Film Festival and Classic Movie Series, please visit our website at www.coronadoislandfilmfestival.com. **Wednesday, July 25, 5:00pm**

Calendar MOVIES

been more concerned with profiting off of busloads of children, skipping out on school to watch classroom films writ large. It's a pity, because I can't imagine a better film, with a narrative both illuminating and artful, to see in a domed setting than this one. And gosh only knows when you'll ever have another chance to see a blooper reel of spills set to Vivaldi. Willem Dafoe narrates. 2017. — S.M. ★★★ (LA PALOMA)

Princess Mononoke — Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki lays out a rudimentary quest myth and deliverance myth, on an appropriately epic scale, in a fairy-tale realm of ungodly beasts and beastly gods, of swords and sorcery, of warriors and weasels. (More specifically, a monstrous mad boar with a coat of live nightcrawlers is slain at the very outset by a young prince in feudal Japan, the last of his line, who himself receives a fatal, flesh-rotting wound in the combat. What made the boar-god go bad? What is the meaning of his dying curse? — “Soon all of you will feel my hate, suffer as I have suffered.” What can be done to undo it?) And the central conflict between civilization and nature — an iron-mining, weapons-manufacturing frontier outpost, to be exact, and the adjacent Forest Primeval — is as contemporary and timeless as you could want. Some of the elements of New Age kitsch, mush-brained mysticism, and make-it-up-as-you-go fantasy do not go down so easily. And the pixie-ish pertness of the principal characters — too much like the efficient housewife in a 1950s floor-wax ad — seems a little unimaginative, a little cookie-cutter, amidst a supporting cast as human and motley as any in a Kurosawa film. Then, too, the animation *per se*, quite separate from such static ingredients as the painstaking detail of the drawing or the pastel subtlety of the color, lacks something in smoothness. But then again, it is never so slick and slippery, in the latter-day Disney manner, as to blur and obscure the faster action. Very much to the contrary, the best thing about the movie is its simulation of Golden Age Hollywood technique: its classical, economical construction of a scene and its orderly sequencing of shots, its solid compositional sense, its firm-handed control of pace. (Two and a quarter hours sound like a lot for a cartoon, but they feel like less than the Disney standard of one full hour shorter.) The shifts in locale are particularly artful. A scene will build and build in intensity, then drop off to a fresh start somewhere else, so that the dramatic flow develops a kind of wavelike rhythm, rising in the closing moments to the grandeur of a tsunami. And the resolution attains a rare maturity (rare in live action as well as in animation), with all the components of conflict still in place, no easy elimination of troublemakers, no Happily Ever After, only Happily For Now. 1997. — D.S. ★★★ (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. ★★ (ARCLIGHT LA JOLLA; LA PALOMA; LANDMARK HILLCREST)

Sicario — Usually, director Denis Villeneuve (*Prisoners*) knows how to stick the landing. Any nagging dissatisfactions are dispatched with elegance and aplomb by his directorial *denouement*. Not so, *Sicario*, his exploration of the brutal violence and moral complication surrounding the war on drugs. Critics looking to get a pull-quote on the poster would likely call it “a stunning visual ride, full of suspense and intensity,” and they would not be wrong. But oh, that slip on the landing. This time, it's the opening that really astonishes: an FBI raid on a suburban Arizona home, led by star that's been converted into a cartel outpost and storage facility. Here and throughout, Villeneuve excels at approaching the carnage to come from a great, safe distance, and the message seems clear: here is a problem of vast scope and scale, being engaged by huge and complicated forces, and here are its intimate, bloody effects. And further, while you dare not look away, the looking may serve to render the horrific as commonplace. What can one person hope to do in the midst of such a struggle, especially when she finds herself reduced from elite squad leader to confused observer? Well, she can stick to her guns, literal and otherwise. Villeneuve knows this, but gets distracted by his eagerness to acknowledge the moral muck that stains us when we wrestle with monsters. Starring Emily Blunt, with Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro. 2015. — M.L. ★★ (LOT: LIBERTY STATION)

Sicario: Day of the Soldado — As if in imitation of the ruthless Mexican drug cartel its heroes go after, director Stefano Sollima's sequel decapitates, disembowels, and castrates Denis Villeneuve's beautiful, tough, and sad 2015 original. Head: what had been a smart take on the difficulty of doing right even when you're righteous — particularly when it comes to drug wars — here becomes an action movie that merely uses the border as a setting, full of talking heads (televised and otherwise), coincidental meetings, and inexplicable motives. (Why exactly does the young feller from a loving home sign on with the murderous bad guys?) Guts: the stony-hearted operatives from the first go-round — Josh Brolin's government heavy and Benicio Del Toro's cartel agent — go weirdly, uncharacteristically soft. (The first film established what Del Toro's character thinks of cartel kiddies.) Cojones: never mind having the courage of the first film's convictions, how about just having the courage of your executions? There's plenty of gore and sentiment to cover over the flaws, but nothing approaching the horror of the first film's house with walls full of bodies,



1945: A sort of homecoming

or the heartbreak of the heroine's final confrontation. 2018. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Skyscraper — Good news: Dwayne Johnson's take on *Towering Inferno* is at least better than his *Earthquake* update, *San Andreas*. The pleasures here come from watching an extraordinary physical specimen go through a lo-tech workout routine thousands of feet above the ground as he tries to rescue his family from a burning skyscraper. Ladder climb (up a crane tower), monkey bars (along the crane arm), pull ups (at the edge of a building), sit ups (inverted, natch), rope climb — you get the idea. Oh, and just to hammer home the “extraordinary” part, he does it all while missing the lower half of one leg. He's further hampered by his reluctance to pick up a gun — after the botched FBI operation that took his limb, he's laid his weapon down for some reason. And of course, the bad guys responsible for the fire use his familial attachments against him. But none of these deterrents matter much, not when our man has plenty of duct tape, a thorough technical knowledge of the building's system ops, and his own marvelous muscles. It's not a good movie, exactly — the action is clumsy, the structure creaks, the plot is an afterthought, et alia — but it's not unpleasant, either. The sort of thing you might watch if you came across it while channel surfing. *Just look at that man work*. Written and directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber. 2018. — M.L. ★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Sorry to Bother You — The whitespeak-from-black-lips and coitus-interruptus garage door gags having been tipped in the trailer, precious little is left to laugh at in this edition of amateur night at the multiplex. Telemarketers as targets from which satire flows eternal were spigotted about the same time as mall cops, and that's not all this jammed-scattergun approach to comedy has in common with the terminally incoherent *Paul Blart*. It helps, when making a satire, for the filmmakers to clearly define and develop the subject to be ridiculed. But the majority of what we're told about the futuristic, government-run Worry Free Living slave labor program comes from a television commercial. In an attempt to say something important about the human condition,

rapper-turned-director Boots Riley spends most of the time landing face-first on the canvas. Lakeith Stanfield plays the part with all the apprehension of a pup caught scarfing dinner from off the table. His time in the star's circle will soon come. Your time would be better spent downloading *Putney Swope*. 2018. — S.M. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Tag — Just awful story of arrested development mistaken for preserved youth. Clips of the real-life game of grownup tag between friends that served as inspiration here are shown at the end, and have the no-doubt unintended effect of revealing what is missing in director Jeff Tomsic's take: joy, friendship, humanity, and a sense of play. Maybe the parade of exxtreme hijinks would be better enjoyed under the influence of something that would numb the horror, or at least keep you from hopping off the bus driven by this band of Unmerry Pranksters for a little longer. (Next stop, waterboarding?) The cast — dry Jon Hamm, frantic Ed Helms, bemused Hannibal Burrell, chill Jake Johnson, and psycho-intense Jeremy Renner, plus Isla Fisher in full female force — is talented and game. But the game itself is grotesque, largely because of the characters they're forced to play. 2018. — M.L. ● (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Uncle Drew — Leave *Jurassic World* to the kiddies and spend a few hours in the dark with *these* irresistible dinosaurs. A schnook promoter (Lil Rel Howery) who barely knows which end of a basketball to hold, convinces a group of over-the-hill streetballers — all played by court legends buried beneath layers of wrinkle-inducing latex — to exchange dribbling in their soup for one last bounce at a championship tip-off. This warm, all-inclusive buddy comedy wisely plays shared experience over the race card; there's no place for the ‘n’ word in Jay Longino's affectionate screenplay. (I'm guessing a few curse words and a shot of Shaquille O'Neal's exposed *tuchas* is what earned the film its PG-13 rating.) Everyone rises to the occasion, but none more than WNBA player Lisa Leslie, who brings a home court advantage to every frame she commands. The laughs are steady, capped by a hilarious Frederick Douglass throwaway line that pushed a bubbling gulp of Coca-Cola

through my nose. Directed by Charles Stone III. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Whitney — “It will take an act of Congress to keep this woman from becoming a mega-star.” So sayeth Merv Griffin as he introduced a then-unknown Whitney Houston to his legion of TV viewers. Little did the prescient talk show host know that her meteoric rise would end in suicide by substance abuse. Two takeaways, one humorous, the other tragic: Cissy Houston named her daughter after Whitney Blake, the alabaster-skinned actress who played a slave-owner of sorts on TV's *Hazel*. As for the tragic reveal, let's say there's good reason why Aunt Dionne Warwick turned down an invite for a talking-head testimonial. Kevin Macdonald's snorts-and-all documentary buckles only twice, around a series of bridging montages, the overt symbolism of which floats too close to the surface. (How many shots of Nancy “Just Say No” Reagan did we need to establish a time frame?) For much of its two-hour running time, we watch the life slowly being sucked out of a legend; the last thirty-minutes are consumed by ineffability. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

Won't You Be My Neighbor? — After answering his calling as an educational television host, Fred Rogers quickly set about establishing a personal philosophy concerning his medium: “The space between the television screen and the person viewing it was considered holy ground.” If this sounds more like something Jean-Luc Godard might say, that's because in his own way, Mr. Rogers uncorked a new wave of children's television programming. Gone were the exaggerated clown costumes and slap shoes most on-screen talent in his profession hid behind when trying to relate to their target audience. Instead, a simple sweater, a vulnerable soul, and sound words spoken from the heart were all Rogers needed to win over children and parents alike. Morgan Neville's farsighted documentary earns its PG-13 rating; parents looking to impart to their children the same feelings of warmth and relatability Fred Rogers instilled in them would be better off downloading one of the many available volumes of his work. 2018. — S.M. ★★★ (IN WIDE RELEASE)

CLASSIFIED ADS

TO PLACE AN AD: Call 619-235-8200 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday.

WALK-IN: 2323 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92102

DEADLINE: 3:30pm Monday for all ads.

HELP WANTED

Domestic Service

HOUSE CLEANER/HOUSE-KEEPER

Part-time, live-out, Tuesday-Friday. Childcare, light housekeeping. Must be nonsmoker, able to interact with children, speak English. \$800 weekly, 6-7 hours daily. References required. Contact Ms. Claudia: claudiapredacoop1960@gmail.com

Education

PRE-K TEACHER.

Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm. Must have a minimum of 3 years experience plus core ECE units and fingerprint clearance on file. Dana, 619-295-4147; e-mail director@hillcrestpreschool.org.

Health Care

CAREGIVERS.

Needed from all areas. 1 year experience. Hourly and live in. Must have reliable transportation. Assertive Care at Home, Inc., 3774 Grove Street, #L-1, Lemon Grove. 619-466-6890.

CERTIFIED CAREGIVER WANTED

IHSS County certified caregiver wanted in Escondido: Flexible hours. \$11.50ph, paid by County. Reliable transportation needed. Must be responsible. Stacy 760-294-0822

HOME CARE ASSISTANCE - CAREGIVERS NEEDED

Come work for the best! Home Care Assistance is San Diego's leading home care agency. We offer 12 hour shifts and competitive wages. For more information please call 858-842-1346 or stop by our office at 7521 Fay Avenue in La Jolla 10am-4pm Monday - Friday or call our North County office at 760-635-3646. Get started by applying online at <http://www.HCMatch.com>

JOB COACH IP.

Assist adults with developmental disabilities placed in supportive employment at various job sites throughout San Diego County. Full time, excellent benefits, \$13.25/hour. Call Erica, 619-562-8393.

JOB COACH/ GROUP.

Supervise adults with developmental disabilities on a janitorial crew. Must be able to drive company vehicle to and from job sites, starting with our Lakeside site. Full time, excellent benefits, \$12.25/hour. Call Kimberly at 619-562-8393.

LVN

Work with adults with disabilities in day program in Chula Vista. Full time, excellent benefits, \$20/hour. Unyeway Chula Vista, 619-691-6346.

SUBSTITUTES.

Direct Care Substitutes needed for our day program in Lakeside working with adults with developmental disabilities. Part time, up to 29 hours/week, \$11/hour. Call Unyeway, 619-562-6330.

Miscellaneous

ACTIVITY COMPANIONS

Route Assistants / Tour Guides Wanted in Tecate, California. I am starting a tourist operation business based in Tecate, California with service to San Diego, California as well as a

connection starting in Tecate, Mexico with service to Tijuana, Mexico. My website is www.walkastravellerservices.com and I am hoping to have the operation started by December 1st, 2018. I can be reached at (406) 314-2101 and I am offering a 75% split to the helper doing the titled positions. I will need a full-length good photo with the female in a skirt, heels and a nice top looking business-like and the male in nice shorts, nice short sleeve shirt and covered toe beach shoes (not sandals) sent to timothywachholz3@gmail.com of which chosen photos will be put on the "Gallery Page" of my website for possible clients to view and choose who they want to hire. Thank you for your time and attention and I hope for success for all involved as well.

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South West Lubricants, Inc. has the following opening in Santee, CA. Marketing Specialist (#MS). Resumes can be sent to Attn: Danny (Job Code #), South West Lubricants, Inc., 9266 Abraham Way, Santee, CA 92071.

JOBS WANTED

NOTICE TO READERS: This category is for individuals seeking employment, so employers can contact them with available job openings.

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REAL ESTATE

Miscellaneous

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\$350 security deposit. Non smoker, ample street parking, utilities included, no pets. Wifi and cable, close to bus lines and shopping in the heart of Clairemont. Available August 1st. Call Stella (702) 466-3994, (619) 508-2030

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East County

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South Bay

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RENTALS

Commercial Rentals



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RENTALS REGION MAP

BEACHES

La Jolla • Mission Beach • Ocean Beach
Pacific Beach • Point Loma

DOWNTOWN

Balboa Park • Banker's Hill • Downtown
East Village • Golden Hill • Little Italy
Logan Heights • Sherman Heights
South Park • Stockton

EAST COUNTY

Alpine • Borrego Springs • Boulevard
Campo • El Cajon • Imperial Valley • Jamul
Julian • La Mesa • Lakeside • Lemon Grove
Mount Laguna • Potrero • Ramona
Rancho San Diego • Santee
Spring Valley • Warner Springs

CENTRAL SAN DIEGO

Allied Gardens • Bay Park • Clairemont
College Area • Del Cerro • Grantville
Kearny Mesa • Linda Vista • Mira Mesa
Miramar • Mission Valley • San Carlos
Serra Mesa • Sorrento Valley • Tierrasanta • UTC

NC COASTAL

Cardiff • Carlsbad • Carmel Valley • Del Mar
Encinitas • Leucadia • Oceanside • Solana Beach

OLD TOWN & UPTOWN

City Heights • Hillcrest • Kensington-Talmadge
Mission Hills • Normal Heights • North Park
Old Town • University Heights

NC INLAND

Bonsall • Carmel Mountain • Escondido
Fallbrook • Poway • Rancho Bernardo
Rancho Peñasquitos • Rancho Santa Fe
San Marcos • Scripps Ranch • Temecula
Valley Center • Vista



SOUTH BAY

Bonita • Chula Vista • Coronado
Imperial Beach • National City • Otay Mesa
Paradise Hills • San Ysidro

SOUTHEAST SD

Alta Vista • Bay Terraces • Chollas View • Encanto
Emerald Hills • Jamacha-Lomita • Lincoln Park • Mount Hope
Mountain View • Shelltown • Southcrest • Valencia Park



Patio, suitable for perusing the morning paper, just like Horace Rhoads might have done long ago.

UNREAL ESTATE

continued from page 15

The homes have undergone considerable modernization efforts and feature luxury interior appointments while retaining their historic appearances. The Rhoads residence offers an updated open kitchen with an adjacent dining area seating ten, master suite with private sitting room and sun deck, and refinished exposed-beam ceilings. The Corey home has a covered front porch, vaulted ceilings, and a loft-style bedroom.

All three of the historic properties are currently used as rentals, netting a prospec-

tive buyer in excess of \$20,000 per month in income. Due to a Mills Act historical designation, property taxes are advertised at just \$11,300 annually, corresponding to a value of about \$900,000.

It'll take a bit more than that to land Heritage Place in your portfolio, however. First listed in 2007 following the death of Mrs. Schaelchlin at an asking price of \$5 million, the homes have been on and off market for more than a decade without attracting a buyer. The current asking price of \$4,350,000 has remained unchanged throughout four listing attempts dating to 2015, including the most recent listing posted in late February.

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Central San Diego

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Directory



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619-589-8888
www.fletchermassage.com

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Couples Massage
\$70/hr (Reg. \$80) with coupon
With hot stone and oil.
Full Body Massage • Hot Stone & Oil
\$40/hr
Foot Massage Combo
\$20/hr (Reg. \$25)

1464 Graves Ave. #106, El Cajon
(67 Fwy @ E. Bradley, next to DMV)
619-579-9999
www.emassagespa.com

I Am Not Dead Yet!

— Constantin Reliu, 63, appealed unsuccessfully to a court in Barlad, Romania, in March to overturn a death certificate that his wife had obtained after not hearing from him for more than a decade. According to *The Guardian*, Reliu left Romania for Turkey in 1992 to look for employment, but neglected to keep in touch with his family. In 2003, Reliu's wife, believing he had died in an earthquake in Turkey, argued in court for a death certificate, which didn't come to light until Reliu was deported back to Romania because of expired papers in Turkey. Upon his arrival, immigration officers explained to Reliu that he had died in 2003. His appeal failed, as the court maintained he was too late, and the ruling is final, leaving Reliu in an odd state of limbo. "I am officially dead, although I'm alive," Reliu told Romanian media outlets. "I have no income and because I am listed dead, I can't do anything."

Public Service Announcement

— Police in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, appealed to the public for help in late March tracking down a most unusual perpetrator. "Over the past year and a half," the department posted on its Facebook page, "someone has been clogging the women's toilet (at the Deland Community Center) with a 20-ounce soda bottle. This is very strange ... and gross." *The Sheboygan Press* reported that the string of more than 25 incidents began in 2016. Joe Kerlin, the city's parks and forestry superintendent, says the suspect is likely an adult male, based on security camera

footage from outside the restroom. The city's resulting plumbing bills have totaled between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Oops

— A man playing with a baseball on the roof of a parking structure in Honolulu on March 23 had to be rescued by firefighters after he fell into the space between two buildings and got stuck, KHON2 TV reported. Security guard Ray Rodrigues was dispatched to the roof to run the 55-year-old off, but found the man had fallen into a 7- to 9-inch-wide space between the cement walls. When pulling him out with a rope failed, firefighters resorted to using drills and saws to cut through the concrete to free him. He was taken to a hospital in serious condition.

Questionable Judgments

— Shoppers at the Miracle Mile Shopping Center in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, got more than they bargained for on April 8, 2017, as model Chelsea Guerra, 22, of Indiana Borough and photographer Michael Warnock, 64, of Point Breeze conducted a nude photo shoot around 11 a.m. According to the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, as Warnock took photos and families looked on, Guerra walked around and posed wearing only thigh-high black stockings and high-heeled shoes. In early March of this year, Guerra and Warnock pleaded guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct after other charges were dropped, and paid a \$300 fine. "My nude modeling is honest work," Guerra said, "and I use it mostly to fund my college career."

Bright Ideas

— The Snell Family Park ficus tree, a sprawling giant that has shaded the park in Fort Myers, Florida, for more than a century, played the part of groom to several brides on March 24 as Karen Cooper and others tried to save it from being cut down. The *News-Press* reported that while its roots are on the park property, some of the limbs in the tree's 8,000-square-foot canopy extend to an adjacent property that is for sale, and potential buyer Jeff Romer was concerned about his liability for the tree's upkeep. In December, Fort Myers' public works officials approved the removal of the tree, prompting protests from Cooper and others. She got the idea of marrying the tree from women in Mexico who have been protesting deforestation. "I thought, 'Oh, we should marry the ficus tree' - kind of giggle, giggle." A city spokeswoman said the city is moving ahead to save the newlywed tree, but Cooper is worried that the decision is not final. "If they cut down this tree, I'm going to be a widow."

Inexplicable

— Eastern Michigan University student Andrew (who didn't give a last name), 22, wasn't making any kind of statement or protesting any government action (or lack thereof) on March 12 when he filled a pothole in Trenton with a whole box of Lucky Charms and a gallon of milk. Andrew then lay on the road with a spoon and ate the cereal out of the pothole. "I don't know where the inspiration came from, but

when it hit me, I knew it was a good idea," Andrew told *MLive.com*. "It tasted great. If I was blindfolded, I wouldn't know if it was a pothole or a bowl."

International Relations

— Italian chef Fabio Picchi has offered three American exchange students in Florence a four-hour cooking lesson after the women tried to cook pasta in a pot without water on March 18. The pasta burst into flames within minutes, and firefighters were summoned to put out the fire. "We thought it was cooked like that," one of the students told *La Nazionale*. "They will have lunch in our restaurant with two of my extraordinary cooks," Picchi said. "I think this can be useful to them, but also to us. Understanding is always ... what is beautiful and necessary."

Anger Management

— Maghan LeGlue, 25, of Bridge City, Louisiana, shifted her rage into high gear on March 24 when she used her 2004 Ford Expedition to pin her 27-year-old boyfriend up against his Ford Crown Victoria, according to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office. The *Times-Picayune* reported that the couple, who have three children together, had been arguing when LeGlue hit him, shattering his leg. Doctors performed emergency surgery on the victim. LeGlue was taken into custody and was held without bond.

Send your weird news items to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversal.com.

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Vans and trucks extra. Free retest when we do the repair.

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up to 4 quarts & oil filter
Most 4 cylinder cars,
Trucks extra.

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+tax

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PREMIUM BRAKES

- Front or Rear Axle
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Call for quote

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Includes: New spark plugs, engine oil, oil filter, air filter, 1 gallon antifreeze, suspension lubrication, tire rotation, 24 pt vehicle inspection from

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regularly \$200
Plus tax & hazardous waste fee. 4 cylinder, most cars, prices may vary depending on make & model.

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Most cars **\$34⁹⁵**



ALIGNMENT

4 wheel, toe adjustment only, most cars.

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from **\$69** Most cars

AC SERVICE

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LETTERS

continued from page 4

Paid for by Share San Diego funded by HomeAway and Airbnb.

—shirleyberan

Shared bikes and scooters used for crimes

Neighborhood News

July 13

Homeless fellow who lives in a box culvert off of Home Ave. behind my residence steals dockless bikes and chops them for parts. I tried to make San Diego Police report, They refused to take my report when they heard the word “homeless” The sad truth homeless not arrested because it costs \$\$\$\$.. no profit for city.

—Lily Sanchez

There's a gaggle of homeless guys who work chop shops. I see them and recognize their faces. They move around the East Village area mostly. They've never stopped doing this, and were the only homeless who remained in

one corner of the area after Hep A chased everyone else out. The good news in all this is that they're now stealing bikes from some pretentious start-ups with cutesy lingo, as opposed to cutting private bike locks or stealing them from people's homes and yards.

—petezanko

Build the Wall sign attracts Waterfront Park scuffle

Neighborhood News

July 13, 2018

“City attorney Mara Elliott’s chief of staff Gerry Braun responded to my request for comment by accusing me of advancing the positions of a hate group.” Not that the City Atty’s Office has a position on either Trump or the Border Wall, right? “Wink wink!”

—Wabbitsd

When an elderly man who has spent his life in public service is the victim of an attack why would law enforcement officials treat him such that he feels he is being given the runaround?

When a reporter questions the City Attorney, the top law enforcement official for misdemeanors in the City of San Diego, about whether the perpetrator of an attack against an elderly man will face charges, why would her spokesperson’s first reaction be to make a serious accusation against the elderly victim? and against a reporter who sees the need to tell his story? It’s a completely false accusation by the way. Telling the story of an elderly man who was peacefully demonstrating before he was robbed and injured is not advancing a hateful position. I don’t advance positions of any hate group and I believe Russell when he says he is not part of a hate group and does not hate his political opponents. “The people yelling at me and attacking me are the hateful ones,” he said.

—ebartil

Tom Metzger has moved to San Jacinto

Neighborhood News

July 12

I attended a meeting with

Tom Metzger and a number of his “staff” at a home in El Cajon back in the 80’s. Tom was well spoken and had leadership skills. The people at the meeting were middle class blue collar workers with only high school education. None of them could articulate why they hated “other” people other than “they” were not like them. The KKK was a combination of white supremacy and Christian religion. The saddest part of all this is that Tom Metzger could have used his leadership skills for good but chose evil. At 80 he must be frustrated that all of his work has been for naught. I am sure he loves Trump but he will again be disappointed. (No I was not a member of the KKK but was embedded by an agency that shall remain unnamed.)

—AlexClarke

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Plus tax, haz waste, & engine cover shield removal fee. Up to 5qts most cars 10w30 oil. 4 cyl. prices slightly higher on 6 & 8 cyl.

SMOG CHECK \$117⁵
Sedan only, NON STAR Smog inspection for 2000 & up only. SUV and Trucks extra. +18⁰⁰ cert +11⁰⁰ DMV transfer fee

BRAKES \$49
Front or rear
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30K 60K 90K \$65
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Plus labor. most cars. 4 cyl.

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USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSION \$499*
From Most 4 cyl. cars. + Labor

Low Prices On Body & Frame Work, Paint, Mufflers & Cat

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Most cars, plus \$8.25 cert. Fast & convenient. *Not a star station. From 2000 & up.

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BRAKES \$50
Front or rear. Most cars. + Labor

2 Wheel Alignment \$35
most 4 cyl cars

HEAD GASKET \$399
4-cyl. & most cars & machine extra.

FREE CHECK ENGINE LITE
96 & up. Most cars.

AC SERVICE \$75
Most cars

REPAINT BUMPER OR FENDER \$150
each. Most cars.

30K SERVICE \$75
4-cyl., most cars.

TIMING BELT \$75
4-cyl., most cars.

AXLE SHAFT \$99 each
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SUMMER SMOG CHECK SPECIAL \$217⁵*
AC TOP UP SPECIAL \$49 Includes 12oz R134 Freon, check system and test for leaks. + \$8.25 cert

Smog Test or STAR Certified All Cars 2000 and Up Same Price. Good through August 31, 2018.

STAR Certified SMOG CHECK | TEST ONLY \$41⁷⁵
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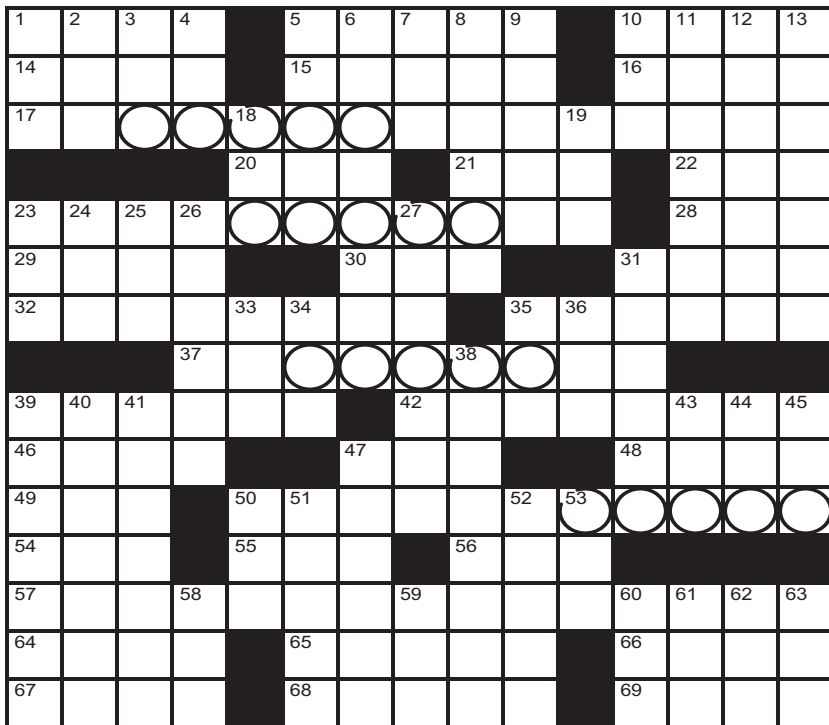
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Across

1. "Buh-bye!"
5. Capital of Ghana
10. Computer ____
14. Rickman of the Harry Potter films
15. Grp. whose flag has 12 stars
16. Golden Globe winner Dunham
17. 1996 Christmas comedy starring Arnold Schwarzenegger
20. Publicize
21. Alley ____
22. Airport alternative to JFK or LGA
23. 1994 Arthur Miller play
28. Actor Billy ____ Williams
29. Call from a crib
30. "Boy, am ____ trouble!"
31. Heaps
32. Made a loud sound
35. Become lenient (on)
37. Turn into Central Park while driving south on Central Park West, say
39. Mary-Kate and Ashley's sign, fittingly
42. Punch-Out!! maker
46. Like white panthers
47. Ore-____ (frozen taters brand)
48. Like much of Arizona
49. Suffix with real or social

50. It's for drivers who get around

54. "Lady Marmalade" Grammy winner of 2001
55. I love, in Latin
56. Bounding main
57. 1999 Brandy hit song ... or this puzzle's theme
64. "That's fine with me!"
65. Surgeon's insertion
66. Newswoman Paula
67. Worshiper of C-3PO in "Return of the Jedi"
68. Hymns, e.g.
69. How many TV shows are shown nowadays

Down

1. ____ Mahal
2. "If you even dream of beating me, you'd better wake up and apologize" speaker
3. Color of coffee ice cream
4. Director Lee
5. Dined watching Netflix, say
6. Using plastic, say
7. Disney Store collectible
8. Make further advances?
9. VW and 23-Down, e.g.
10. The Browns, on a scoreboard
11. Followed closely, as a set of rules
12. Amazed by

13. Lease, with "on"

18. Port city from which Amelia Earhart last flew
19. Some office printers, for short
23. Z3 maker
24. Singer Carly ____ Jepsen
25. Every, to a pharmacist
26. ____ Lee Gifford (morning TV host)
27. Bonding molecules
31. What bargain hunters look for
33. More than a moratorium
34. Singer DiFranco
35. ____-X
36. Frequent, to a poet
38. Serving as a go-between
39. Possible reaction to bad news
40. "Slow down, tiger!"
41. Nearsighted cartoon character
43. Publisher of American Hunter magazine, for short
44. Racket
45. Words of homage
47. Sees through
50. Chum
51. Off
52. Fledgling launching spots
53. [This tastes awful!]
58. Yellowstone grazer
59. ____ mother
60. Action film weapon
61. 007 creator Fleming
62. "Lower your voice, please"
63. Goal

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 - 2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.
 - 3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to *Reader* Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.
- And now for the really small print:
- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
 - 2) Late entries will not be considered.
 - 3) We will draw 5 names from weekly puzzle winners.
 - 4) One entry per person per week or you will be disqualified.
 - 5) Employees of the *Reader* and their immediate families are not eligible.

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE:

K	U	N	I	S	J	A	D	A	S	L	A	B		
I	R	A	T	E	A	V	I	D	T	E	L	E		
M	I	S	O	C	A	N	A	D	A	P	O	E	M	
			R	E	N		V	A	N	N	A			
M	I	S	F	I	T	T	O	B	E	T	I	E	D	
M	A	N	T	I	S		N	E	T					
A	G	U	A	S	B	A	T	E	A	L	D	A		
M	I	S	C	H	I	E	F	O	F	S	T	A	F	F
A	C	E	Y		M	I	T	E		A	S	Y	L	A
			T	O	G		O	N	E	E	A	R		
M	I	S	T	A	K	E	T	O	H	E	A	R	T	
A	D	H	O	C		V	I	M						
R	E	A	R		M	I	S	L	E	A	D	I	N	G
L	A	Y	S		A	G	E	E		M	I	S	H	A
A	L	S	O		L	O	T	R		I	N	A	L	L

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.

- **Martin Soblick, Del Mar, 21.**
- **Robert Ott, Mira Mesa, 15.**
- **Paula Henderson, La Jolla, 8.**
- **Anita Lane, El Cajon, 2.**
- **Scott Tomasi, San Diego, 2.**

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SUDOKU

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

EVIL:

1			5					2
			8				9	
9			1	6				5
				9			2	4
		2					3	
3	6		2					
	4		6	1				3
		3		8				
6			4					8

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Name: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU PUZZLES:

EVIL:

2	9	8	1	7	3	4	6	5
7	1	6	4	2	5	3	9	8
3	5	4	6	9	8	1	7	2
9	4	7	2	3	6	8	5	1
6	8	3	5	1	9	7	2	4
1	2	5	8	4	7	9	3	6
8	7	2	3	6	4	5	1	9
4	6	9	7	5	1	2	8	3
5	3	1	9	8	2	6	4	7

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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.

- **Sheila Brown, Golden Hill, 21.**
- **Joseph Ciprian, San Diego, 20.**
- **Henry Romero, San Diego, 12.**
- **Bob Baumgarten, San Diego, 4.**
- **Richard Johnson, La Jolla, 4.**

BRAINSTORMS

BY DON RUBIN

Win a Reader hat or t-shirt

Dates

The "use by" dates on most canned foods are pretty straightforward. July 4, 2018, for example, would be encoded 07/04/2018 (MM/DD/YYYY), or something like that. It's called "open code" dating.

"Closed" dating—the code manufacturers use to indicate when a product was actually produced—is trickier. Some companies might stamp 0478 (DDMY) on the can, or 8185 (YDDD) or 1858 (DDDY), assigning each day of the year a number from 1 to 365 (or 366), or use another, more complicated code. All of which could confuse consumers. But maybe that's the idea.

The codes on this can represent the following dates among many others.

Try to match them.



Roger Jones

8185
8 = 2018 day of year

1858
day of year 8 = 2018

0478
day month year

- _____ June 21, 2002
- _____ June 21, 2012
- _____ June 22, 2012
- _____ July 30, 2012
- _____ June 10, 2012
- _____ July 31, 2002
- _____ July 21, 2002
- _____ July 20, 2012
- _____ July 21, 2012
- _____ Aug. 14, 2002

Last Week's Solution Food types

Solutions:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. 6 | 7. 11 |
| 2. 7 | 8. 4 |
| 3. 10 | 9. 3 |
| 4. 1 | 10. 2 |
| 5. 9 | 11. 5 |
| 6. 8 | |



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1) Submit your completed puzzle to the Reader each week for our ongoing contest. We keep track of each puzzle you successfully complete, and the results are posted online each week to SDReader.com/puzzle. But your submission will only be counted when you successfully complete a puzzle AND get it to us by 7:00 a.m. Monday.

2) Submit the correct answers to the puzzle along with your name.

3) Entries must be faxed to **619-231-0489** or mailed to Reader Puzzle, 2323 Broadway Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92102; or scanned and emailed to puzzles@sdreader.com. Submissions by email must be attached in JPG format, maximum file size of 1MB. Submissions that don't fit the format will not be counted or viewed. One win per person within a 4 week period.

And now for the really small print:

- 1) All answers must be legible and entered in the spaces provided.
- 2) Late entries will not be considered.

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.

- Thomas McVeagh, Lakeside, 6.
- Craig Smith, San Diego, 6.
- John Concepcion, San Diego, 1.
- Marilyn Muerth, Spring Valley, 1.
- Linda Stolp, Chula Vista, 1.

Name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

**Check Engine Light
Diagnostic Service
\$25 Off**

*Perform scan test and retrieve codes
*Provide the cause of a system(s) failure and a corrective action plan.
*Repairs, monitor drive cycles and additional test at additional cost.

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*Cars, light truck and Diesel. (Plus \$8.25 for certificate)
*Motorhome & full size Van: See manager.

**Oil Change Service
from \$15⁹⁵**

*Recommended every 3 months/ 3000 - 7500 miles. Service includes up to 5 quarts multi grade 10w30 motor oil, new oil filter, and maintenance inspection.
*Vehicles requiring 5w20 or 5w30 are \$19.95
*canister filters and synthetic oil @ additional cost.

**A/C system \$79⁹⁵
Recharge**

*includes system evaluation, evacuation, 15 minute vacuum hold test and recharge to specification

*134a Freon additional *additional repairs may be required for proper system operation, leak detection and diagnostic service available at additional cost

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per axle.

*Life time Brakes Available

*We do not advertise brake coupon prices because every vehicles requirements are vehicle specific.

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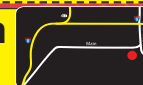
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WARRANTY**

El Cajon



**12/12
WARRANTY**

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Strains:
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**Teddy Kush
Candy**

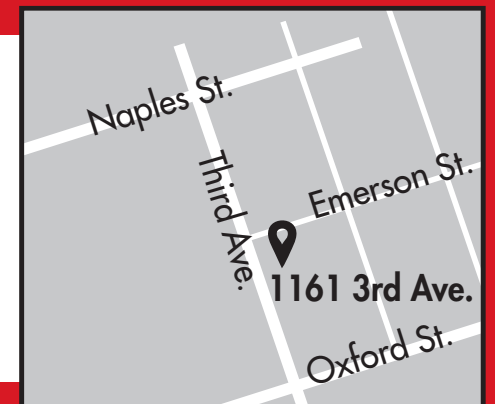
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VAPE CARTRIDGE | **\$60**

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outco | (2) 1/2G CARTRIDGES
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ACES | 300MG
DISPOSABLE VAPE | **\$30**

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CRU | \$150 1/2 OZ.
CANNABIS | \$280 OUNCE

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1 oz Kief, 1 oz mixed nug and shake

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LIMIT 10 PER PATIENT. *WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

\$10 TURANTULA PRE ROLL
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\$10 HOUSE HASH GRAM
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LIMIT 2 PER PATIENT. *WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

\$25 PUNCH WAX GRAM
LIMIT 2 PER PATIENT. *WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

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\$140 ANY MID SHELF OUNCE
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7 GRAMS \$50 CHOOSE FROM 25 DIFFERENT STRAINS!

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Many different flavors!

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Best flower in the store!

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RELIXE \$45 (1G VAPES)	RELIXE \$15 (1G VAPES)	FLAVY HITTERS \$55 (1G VAPES)	DELTA 9 \$50 (1G VAPES)
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